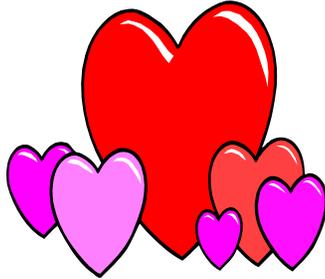


## News from the MCSEEP Director

I have some information to pass along that I thought might be of interest to you:

- As part of a commitment to help keep people and the environment safe, **Walgreens** launched the first nationwide safe medication disposal program. You can pick up a postage-paid envelope at the Walgreen's pharmacy counter for a cost of \$2.99 and then you place your expired prescription and OTC medications inside and mail them at any post office box for safe, eco-friendly disposal. It will be sent to an approved medication incinerator. Ashes from the incinerated envelopes can be used for making "green" related building materials rather than going into a landfill.
- The **Village of Algonquin** will be offering green home design tips seminars for adults. You need to register for this program and can do so online at <https://rec.algonquin.org>. It is listed on page 27 of the Events and Recreation Guide. The January session has passed, but there is still time to register for the upcoming sessions. The seminars will be held at Historic Village Hall and you must be 18 or older to register. The sessions



run from 5:30-9:30 p.m. The fee per session is \$35 for residents of Algonquin and \$37 for non-residents. The topics are as follows:

- Feb. 3: Energy Efficiency in the Winter Months. Code: 11326.
  - March 3: Day Lighting and Natural Ventilation. Code: 11327.
  - April 5: Sustainable Building and Decoration materials. Code: 11328.
  - The fifth session will take place in May, and details will be announced after May 1.
- You can contact the instructor directly at [jsompolski@comcast.net](mailto:jsompolski@comcast.net) or at 815-603-2735 if you have questions.
  - Algonquin Township Highway Dept.** is now accepting electronic items at their "Limited Electronics Recycling" bin at their recycling center site, located at 3702 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake. They will be open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for drop-off. The accepted items are as follows: Computers and Computer Components,

### Current Events

**Earth Day in the Parks— Registration Opens January 1, 2011.** Get yours students involved with natural resources stewardship through the Earth Day in the Parks program from the IDNR. Participating state parks will offer students the opportunity to get their hands dirty and experience nature as they perform duties such as removing invasive exotic plants, planting native trees and wildflowers and building and installing bird nesting boxes. The list of participating parks and their associated projects will be posted at <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/EDITPinstruct.htm> in mid-December. Instructions and the application form are also available at that Web address. Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1-Feb. 28, 2011. For more information, contact the IDNR Div. of Education at [dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov) or 217-524-4126.

**ENTICE Workshop Registration.** Register soon for ENTICE (Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) educator workshops from the IDNR. Visit: <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> and enroll now. You won't want to miss the background information, supplemental resources, networking with other educators and opportunity to work with natural resources professionals. CPDU's are available to all ENTICE participants. Upcoming workshops are listed below: Feb. 14-27, 2011, *Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat Development, Online*; Mar. 14-27, 2011, *Illinois Frogs and Toads, Online*; Mar. 25-26, 2011, *The Greater Prairie-chicken, Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Newton*; Apr. 30, 2011, *Prairie School Gardening, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe*; May 21, 2011, *Illinois Butterflies, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago*; June 18, 2011, *Identifying Trees and Making Leaf Collections, The Morton Arboretum, Chicago*.

**Exploring Local Food Workshops—**MCC will be having workshops in February. Feb. 3: **Local Food: Preserving Foods Year Round and Much More**; Feb. 10: **Edible Landscapes: Vegetable Garden Strategies**; Feb. 17: **Local Food Production for Businesses and Schools**; Feb. 24: **Eating Healthier at Home and School**. The fee is \$19 a class. For more information, call Pat Dieckhoff at 815-479-7817. To register, call 815-455-8588. You will need the Class ID number, which can be found in the Spring 2011 MCC Continuing Education catalog. The catalog gives you a description of each workshop. <http://co.mchenry.il.us/departments/MCSEEP/pdfDocs/Explore%20Local%20Food%20Spring%202011.pdf>

Continued on Page 3—Current Events

## LESSON LIBRARY

It's been a busy month for the lesson library. We have had the opportunity to present at faculty meetings and have enjoyed speaking with the teachers that will be using our library. Also, we continue to add to our inventory and have purchased several new items.

On our home page under **announcements** is a *featured unit* bullet point. This is our way of letting you know what some of our new items are and also how to combine different resources to create a unit. Not only do we list by number and title each resource, we also include a picture of the items. Hopefully this will give you ideas for your classroom. Remember, if you have an idea for a unit but would like help choosing items from our library inventory, send us an email. We'd be happy to help create a unit custom fit to your needs. We're here for you—please keep us busy! Email: [mcseep@co.mchenry.il.us](mailto:mcseep@co.mchenry.il.us)

### Continued from page 1: News from MCSEEP Director...

- Printers, Faxes, Scanners, Monitors, TV's, DVD's, Stereos, VCR's, Video Game Consoles, PDA's, Cell Phones, Phones, MP3's and iPods. This is open to residents of Algonquin Township. There is no charge for any of these items!
- **Midwest Organics Recycling**— is producing a high quality compost as a substitute to chemical lawn fertilizers. It is called "Organimix" and it is odor free, pathogen free, weed seed free and is an environmentally friendly solution to chemical fertilizers that "green" homeowners request. Go to: [www.compostmatters.com](http://www.compostmatters.com) for more information.
- **Earth911.com**—this website lets you find recycling centers for a specific item that you want. You just need to type in your zip code and it will give you a location to recycle your item that is closest to where you live.



### Johnsburg Junior High Applies for Pepsi \$50,000 Refresh Grant Program

Johnsburg Junior High, under the direction of Andy Reinhard, recently applied for the \$50,000 grant through Pepsi to build an environmentally friendly greenhouse and outdoor classroom. The following excerpt was taken from the Pepsi website listing their school's entry:

We would love to build a true four season, GREEN greenhouse on our school grounds. As a free standing building, the greenhouse will generate it's own power using a combination of renewable energy sources. This energy will allow the greenhouse to be cooled in summer and heated in winter. Students will be active in the development of the greenhouse and will construct a classroom project to determine what energy sources (solar, geothermal, wind) will power the greenhouse. The end project will be an environmentally sustainable greenhouse that will offer unique learning opportunities for our students for years to come.

An outdoor classroom adjacent to the greenhouse will provide a space for students in all subjects to learn outside. This outdoor area will be an amphitheatre design made of natural materials such as stone and mulch.

Their school ranked 53rd and came in the top 100 of projects in all categories. In order to become a recipient of the grant monies, you needed to be voted within the top 10, so they were unable to get the grant, but placed well!

We commend your school for making the effort to apply for such a worthwhile project.



## How to Be a Green Teacher



This workshop was developed specifically for teachers K-6th grade and is eligible for 2.5 CPDU's. As a teacher, are you feeling a sense of responsibility for your students and their future? Scientists report that we only have a few years left to transform our society to a renewable energy economy to avoid catastrophic climate change. What is the role of educators in creating this transformation? At the appropriate grade levels, our student need to develop a deep bond with a rest of nature, learn how life works on Earth, work together on creative solutions to environmental problems, and become practitioners of sustainable development, with understanding of its principles and practice its processes, if they are going to contribute to the necessary societal transformation. In this workshop, you will become familiar with the Growing Green Movement including an overview on sustainability, environmental issues, initiatives, solutions and concepts as well as leave with a set of valuable tools which can be utilized in classroom lessons and activities.

Class ID: QGT C01 001  
 Scheduled: Wed., March 2  
 Time: 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
 Location: Room B168, McHenry County College  
 Fee: \$79

To register, call 815-455-8588 (Use class ID when registering.)

### Is the Drive for “Green” Destroying the American Dream?

McHenry County College will be hosting their 2nd annual spring 2011 Speaker Series. There will be thought-provoking discussion and debate about one of the hottest issues today—the drive for green. Explore the definition of green, as well as hear multiple perspectives on how to “green” your homes and business. Free admission to all sessions. All sessions will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the MCC Conference Center.

- Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011—Kick-off Panel Discussion with MCC Faculty and showing of “The Green Machine” from PBS series,
- Tuesday, Mar. 1, 2011—Chris Steiner—Forbes Writer and Author of “\$20 Per Gallon”
- Tuesday, Mar. 15, 2011—Special Free Screening of “Earth Days”
- Tuesday, April 12, 2011—Panel Discussion with Regional Green Experts Mike Jackson, Mark Kaindl, and Jack Pizzo
- Tuesday, April 26, 2011—Green Debate with area leaders
- Saturday, April 30, 2011—Tour of the Center for Green Technology in Chicago (tour and transportation fees may apply)

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## Current Events-Continued from page 1

**Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park**— Every Saturday in from 2 to 3:30 p.m., they will having a family exploration program that will include a nature lesson, game and activity based around the month's topic. In February, the topic is *maple syrup and winter tree identification*. There will be an outdoor exploratory hike, weather permitting. No registration is required, and all ages are welcome. In March, the topic will be *squirrels*. In April, it will be *signs of spring*, and in May, *nesting time*. The Lost Valley Visitor Center is located just west of Route 31 and Harts Road intersection, north of Ringwood.

MCCD's Visitor Center demonstrates the latest in green technologies, including geothermal heating and cooling, permeable pavers, rain gardens, natural daylight, harvesting and more. The behind the scenes tour will be from 1 to 2 p.m., Feb. 5. Tours cover the building's renovation, how the district reduced its environmental impact, and what “green” technologies and products were incorporated. The tours also provide ideas on how the green technologies can be implemented in a residential setting. No registration is required. All ages are welcome, but the tour is geared toward older children and adults. For more information, call 815-687-4532 (MCCD)

**Green Drinks** –gathers the first Wednesday of every month upstairs at Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen, 110 N. Main St., Crystal Lake, IL from 5-7 p.m. Come talk about “greening” the future with others. Bring any information about your green products and services to share. Feb. 2nd's topic will be Community Supported Agriculture. Pat Inman, Sr. Research Assoc. at the Center for Govt. Studies at NIU will be the speaker.

**Green Guide** –This publication has a wealth of information on where to recycle items, and much more. To get an online version of this guide you can go to:  
<http://www.mchenry.edu/recycling/greenguide.pdf>