

## News from the MCSEEP Director

### Did you know?...

- 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 topic still available is:

1. April 5: Sustainable Building and Decoration materials. Code: 11328.
  2. The fifth and last 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, 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

### Current Events

**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: 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*.

#### **Free Teacher Training Session from Seven Generations Ahead**

Seven Generations Ahead is an Oak Park, IL based non-profit whose mission is to promote ecologically sustainable and healthy communities. Using a fun, and hands-on approach to learning, *Fresh from the Farm* threads together ecology, healthy eating, organics, and local farming through year-round curriculum lessons and activities. Some of the curriculum activities include: local organic farm tours, school-based composting, and classroom food tastings and curriculum lessons. For registration or more information, email or phone Emily Doering at [emily.doering@illinois.gov](mailto:emily.doering@illinois.gov) or 312-814-7098. Here are the dates for the upcoming sessions:

- March 21—Benton, IL, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- April 4—Springfield, IL, 9 a.m. -3 p.m.
- May 18, 19, 21—Chicagoland—TBD

**2011 Sustainable Schools Symposium**—The Governor and Lt. Governor's Offices invites you and your organization to participate as an attendee, sponsor or exhibitor at the 3rd Annual K-12 Schools Symposium, hosted by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council and Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences in Chicago on Friday, April 1, 2011. This is an opportunity to exchange ideas with participants such as school and district administrators, regional superintendents, school board members, facilities managers and custodial staff, teachers, school health practitioners, facility planners and architects, school-related non-profits and agencies, and high school students environmental leaders. Speakers and workshops will cover topics such as sustainable school facility planning and siting, green facilities management, sustainable renovation and construction, energy efficiency and

## LESSON LIBRARY

Our library continues to grow as we add articles, videos and an assortment of unique environmental resources. The feedback from teachers using our library has been so positive—thank you for your support!

Looking ahead, we've started planning for next year and are excited to share that Siemens has agreed to fund us for the 2011/2012 school year. We are so thankful for their generosity, especially in these very trying economic times. In June, we will be offering a free teacher workshop on how to best utilize the resources in our library. Once again, we will be offering CPDU's for those attending. Registration information will be available in May. We're confident you'll enjoy your morning with us as you explore ways to enrich your curriculum.

Remember, we're here for you—please keep us busy!  
Email: [mcseep@co.mchenry.il.us](mailto:mcseep@co.mchenry.il.us)

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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.



Has your school done something or is planning to do something this year to "go green"? If so, we want to know about it! Give Sue Burke a call with MCSEEP at 815-334-4054 or email her at: [slburke@co.mchenry.il.us](mailto:slburke@co.mchenry.il.us) so your school can get recognized in the next "School Spotlight" newsletter column.

### Continued from Page 1— Current Events:

conservation, environmental education and service learning, water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable school transportation. To register for the symposium, visit:

<http://admin.usgbc-illinois.org/widget/calendar?eventId=271493&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

**Youth Conservation Congress 2011**—The IDNR is hosting the 2nd annual Youth Conservation Congress on Sunday, May 15, 2011, at Brookfield Zoo. Participation will be awarded to conservation-related school and youth groups in Illinois. Students must be enrolled in an Illinois High School during the 2010-11 school year. A maximum of 2 group leaders and 5 students may register from each organization. Students and leaders will have the opportunity to showcase their achievements as well as learn about many youth-related conservation activities. Apply online at: <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/nrab/ycc.htm>. A 500 word paper outlining the group's conservation achievements is required to apply. Questions? Call 217-524-4126.

**Illinois Birds: Volume I, Raptors Poster**—Order your copy of this poster from the IDNR and the Illinois Audubon Society. This 24" x 36" poster depicts 24 species of hawks and owls, showing most of them in both perched and silhouette views. The back contains information about the species and their adaptations. Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids> to place your order today!

**Illinois Birds and One Bird—Two Habitat Lessons**—This is from the IDNR and has been revised. You can access them at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/birds/index.htm>. For grades 4-8, these lessons can help students understand and gain interest in birds.

## 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. The following are what sessions are still available:

- 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)

## “Celebrate the Earth” on April 30

This year’s Earth Day celebration will be held at the Prairieview Nature Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Exhibitors and activities will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Schools that have completed their Earth Flag applications will be receiving either an Earth Flag (depending on whether or not they received one in the past) or an environmental book set award at the 1:00 p.m. ceremony. Your school has until March 11th to send in their completed Earth Flag application.

The event will have the following:

- Held indoors & out—will go rain or shine
- Live music - OFF Square music and more
- Puppet show—12:30 and 2:30
- Guided Nature Hike—11:30 and 2:30
- Help out on a restoration service project
- Games and storytelling
- Craft projects for children-led by our MCSEEP teachers!
- Food and beverage vendors or bring a no-waste picnic lunch
- Household recycling drop-off including athletic shoes, batteries, computer monitors. (possible drop-off fees)

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## Current Events-Continued from page 1

**Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month**—May is Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month. If you are planning an event to educate the public about any invasive species in the state, please visit the following site and register your event.  
<http://www.illinoisinvasives.org/>

**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 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.

**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.

**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>