

March 2012

News from the MCSEEP Director



Attention All High School

Science Teachers: We were able to pilot our new high school Green Careers lesson at Crystal Lake Central HS.

We thought it went very well and are now ready to teach the lesson in all McHenry County high schools. A memo went out to all high school principals recently offering grant money to fund the lesson to the first 5 schools that sign up.

This lesson would be perfect to target the sophomore/junior age group, so they still have time to pursue a career path in one of the many green career sectors. We introduce them to a few, and give them other resources to explore. Call our office to schedule a class/classes at 815-334-4054.

Earth Day is coming—get your forms sent in!

I sent out the letters for your school to participate in the Earth Flag Ceremony for Earth Day 2012 held at Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd., Crystal Lake from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on April 21st. I am receiving forms back, but the deadline is fast approaching. The ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. in the barn and you will need to have your form filled out by the March 5th due date in order to participate. Flags are given to schools that have never received one, and a set of environmental books are awarded to schools that have already received a flag. Our MCSEEP teachers will be present once again to work with children on craft projects, which has always been a favorite event for them. Also at this event will be live music, puppet shows, guided nature hikes, ways to earn an Earth Day 2012 patch, games, crafts, storytelling, environmental exhibitors, food and beverage, and a household recycling drop-off. Hope to see you all there!

We only have about 2 months left of teaching in the schools. If your school would like to schedule a presentation, please give us a call so we can fit it in before school lets out. Please call our office if I can assist you in any way at 815-334-4054.

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Current Events

- **MCCD Festival of the Sugar Maples** – Held Feb. 27-Mar. 2, and Mar. 5-9. Coral Woods Conservation Area. Free tours will be offered for school groups. Teachers can call 815-479-5779 to plan their outing. Public tours will be given 10 a.m.-3 p.m. March 3rd and 4th and March 10th and 11th. Call 815-479-5779 for information. See more detail on the MCSEEP webpage under “Announcements”
- **Earth Day at MCCD**—reserve the date of Sat., Apr. 21st, from 11 a.m.– 4 p.m. for a fun filled day with your family at the Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd, Crystal Lake.
- **Spring Break Day for Children at MCCD**—March 31st from 1 p.m. –4 p.m. at the Prairieview Education Center will be a day filled with refreshments, outdoor activities, games, crafts and more.
- **Coral Woods, Marengo**—April 29th, from 12 p.m.-4 p.m. will be a celebration of wildflowers and art. There will be children’s outdoor art studio, wildflower seed planting, build a flower craft station, hikes, storytelling, food, music and more.
- **McHenry/Woodstock Recycling Drives**– Woodstock drives are held the 2nd Sat. of each EVEN numbered month and is held in front of the Farm Bureau, 1102 McConnell Rd. from 9 a.m.-noon. The McHenry drives take place on the 2nd Sat. of ODD numbered months at the Metra Station Parking lot, 4005 Main St. from 9 a.m.-noon. McHenry site will pay for aluminum, brass and copper. Items collected are: fluorescent tubes, rechargeable batteries, car batteries, button batteries, and block white Styrofoam. Packing peanuts and reusable bubble wrap may be dropped off for no charge. Certain items require a donation to the Defenders. Call to check.
- **Styrofoam Drop-off**—The Village of Lakewood is taking Styrofoam at their Village Hall and Public Works garage.
- **Make Resources Trunks Reservations Now**—Borrow a resources trunk, including hands-on materials, posters, books and other items to support your teaching. 10 topics available. (from IDNR). Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/teach.htm> and click on the link to each trunk’s website where you’ll find a content list, targeted grade levels and contact information for the lending sites. You may have the materials for 2 weeks on loan.
- **Register for ENTICE workshops from IDNR:** These workshops offer background information, hands-on activities, lessons, supplemental resources, CPDU’s and opportunity to work with natural resource professionals. Check website for workshop titles and dates: <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>

LESSON LIBRARY

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

We will be offering the Lesson Library to any school in McHenry County and you can join by clicking on the link on the main page of our MCSEEP.com website and filling out and returning the lending agreement. If your school currently has MCSEEP lessons, you can start using our Lesson Library, as payment is included in the lesson fee that your school has to pay. Check out the website to see some samples of lesson units that are available for check out.

Remember, we're here for you—please keep us busy and order your Lesson Library resources today! Email: mcseep@co.mchenry.il.us

[More Current Events](#)

- **Rain barrels and composters for sale:** The Vlg. Of Algonquin's ECO Community along with The Land Conservancy of McHenry Co. will sell these items. Residents can purchase an item by visiting: www.conservemc.org. Orders must be placed by April 27. Call Katie Parkhurst for more information at 847-658-4184.
- **MCCD's Summer Programs:** Learn to canoe, explore wetlands, camp under the stars and more. 9 summer day camps for ages 6-15. Early bird registration with discounts are available through Apr. 30. Camp info. and registration is online at www.MCCDistrict.org or by calling 815-479-5779.
- **Defenders Celebrates 42nd Anniversary:** The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County will have their annual meeting and Theta award ceremony at 5 p.m., Mar. 11 at the Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus at 2710 S. Country Club Rd. in Woodstock. The cost is \$40 for non-members, which includes a 1-yr. membership for the full event.; free for 7 p.m. program only with advance reservations. There will be social time, a raffle and silent auction before dinner at 5:30. After dinner is the Theta Award ceremony. The program for the evening begins at 7 p.m., with speakers on the importance of watershed planning, etc. To purchase tickets call 815-338-0393 or visit: mcdef@owc.net

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[Current Events \(cont.\)](#)

- **Habitat for Humanity ReStore** - ReStore is a re-use center for building materials located at 800 North State St. in Elgin. Their hours are Wed.-Fri. from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat. from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Homeowners can donate surplus items (tax deductible). Call first before delivering items that may not be acceptable. (847) 742-9905.
- **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. A new topic each month!
- **MCC Continuing Education offers Exploring Local Food Workshops**—There will be workshops offered in March. Easy Dye Plants—Mar. 1; Easy Seed Saving—March 8; and Creating Edible Landscapes—March 15. To register call 815-455-8588. Contact Claudia Terrones at 815-455-8782 for more information. See MCSEEP's main webpage & click on link for details.
- **Ace Hardware and Home Depot recycle CFL bulbs** –compact only, no tubes. No charge.
- **Defender's "The Lorax" movie field trip**—tentatively set for March 14
- **2012 Illinois Electronics Summit: Perspectives on the Landfill Ban & Recycling Opportunities**—co-sponsored by the IEPA & IL Counties Solid Waste Management Assoc., Thurs., Mar. 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Northfield Inn, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL. Registration fee: \$35. www.ilcswma.org/training
- **Free State Parks Magazine:** This publication is free and available in cases of 100 copies. Shipping is free also. Visit the Publications page at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/educationSmartBoardintro.htm>.
- **MCCD Lost Valley Visitor Center**—located in Glacial Park, has family exploration program including a nature lesson, game & activity based around the month's topic. This program is for families but you can call 815-479-5779 if you have a youth group that would like to schedule a program. Topic for March=Wetland Birds, April=Life in a Log
- **MCCD Outdoor Programs:** March 2: Discovery Days; March 9: Drips and Drops; March 17: Nature Tales; March 18: Welcome Home Cranes; March 18: Tree of Life Call 815-479-5779 for more information and cost.
- **Pioneer Farm-Hampshire:** Throughout the month of March, they will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat. and Sun. to allow families to hold newborn lambs, baby goats and baby chickens, and to see sheep being sheared. \$5 a person or \$11 max. for families. Call 847-683-2863 for info.