

News from the MCSEEP Director

May 2011



Saturday, April 30th, we celebrated Earth Day at the Prairieview Nature Center in Crystal Lake. The MCSEEP teachers (and our Librarian) were there to do their annual craft projects with the children. The children made reusable gift bags and tissue paper Earths. I was present for the Earth Flag Award Ceremony where schools receive awards for participating in an environmental activity at their school. First time flag awards were presented to Verda Dierzen Elementary and Crosby Elementary. Book set awards were given to Creekside Middle, Chesak Elementary, Briar-gate Elementary, Fox River Grove Middle, Harrison Elementary, Northwood Middle, Bernotas Middle, Dean Elementary and Conely Elementary. The end of the school year is almost upon us and the MCSEEP

Staff is already planning for the new 2011-12 school year. We hope to have a new 6th grade lesson entitled, "Working Towards Sustainability", focusing on Green Careers. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year and at our Lesson Library event on June 15th. Have a great summer!

- - - Sue



Sue with the 2011 Earth Day award recipients

Current Events

Learn About Charging Electric Vehicles at McHenry County College—Scott

Turik from Eighty Twenty Power Corp. in Crystal Lake will give a presentation on Electric Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging technology Wed., May 11 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the MCC Conference Center, 8900 U.S. Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake. Free to the public.

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:

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 or 312-814-7098. Here is the next date for the upcoming session:

- May 18, 19, 21—Chicagoland—TBD

Moral Ground: Discussion of Global Environmental Ethics—Monday, June 20, 7 p.m. at the MCC Conference Center, 8900 U.S. Hwy. 4, Crystal Lake. Kathleen Dean Moore will be signing her book, leading a discussion, and there will be displays by co-sponsors. Refreshments provided by MCC Culinary Management Program students. For more info contact (815) 479-7817.

U of I's Extension Four Seasons Gardening Program—"Invasive Trees and Shrubs" will be held May 12. The cost per session is \$5. Registration can be done online at www.extension.illinois.edu/mchenry or call 815-338-3737.

4th Annual Conference, Bioneers at MCC & Green Living Expo—will be held Sat., Nov. 5, 2011. "Journey to a Greener Tomorrow-Thoughtful & Inspiring Information. Call Pat Dieckhoff for more information at (815) 479-7817 or email at: pdieckho@mchenry.edu

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. On June 15, from 8:30—11:30 a.m. at the Administration Building at 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock we will be offering a free teacher workshop on how to best utilize the resources in our library. Once again, we will be offering 3 CPDU's for those attending. We're confident you'll enjoy your morning with us as you explore ways to enrich your curriculum.

You can use the email below to let us know you will be attending. A flyer will be going out shortly to all teachers so watch for it!

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

Green Guide—This publication has a wealth of information on where to recycle items, and much more. This publication was recently published as an insert in the Northwest Herald. To get an online version of this guide you can go to:
<http://www.mchenry.edu/recycling/greenguide.pdf>



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



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 so your school can get recognized in the next “School Spotlight” newsletter column.

Current Events (continued):

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 May, the topic will be *nesting time*. The Lost Valley Visitor Center is located just west of Route 31 and Harts Road intersection, north of Ringwood.

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!

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 20110-11 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 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/>

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