



News from the MCSEEP Director

Hello and Happy Fall! I hope that everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall season and that classes are going well. Some of you have begun to check out some of the wonderful educational resources that our new Lesson Library has to offer. I hope that you will check our website on a regular basis to see some of the featured lesson units that we will be putting there to give you some excellent examples of what you can get from us if you are a participating school (have MCSEEP lessons taught at your school). New items are being added weekly.

Here are a few items that I found that may be of interest to you:

Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant - provides teachers with funds to help in the development of enhancement of wildlife habitat on the school grounds. The application maximum is \$600. All funds for this program are administered by the Illinois Conservation Foundation. Major support is provided by the Jadel Youth Fund. Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 30, 2010.

Illinois Rain Garden Initiative Grant - provides up to \$1,000 to successful applicants to establish a rain garden. Teachers are eligible to apply. Funding is possible through a grant to the Illinois Conservation Foundation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 30, 2010.



To access application forms visit:

<http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>.

Contact for more information: IDNR Education Section at: dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov or 217-524-4126.

Illinois Conservation Foundation Offers Conservation Achievement Scholarships for High School Seniors

The Illinois Conservation Foundation will honor high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding efforts to preserve, protect, enhance and/or promote Illinois' natural resources with the awarding of 3 Conservation Achievement Scholarships. (1-\$5,000; 1-\$3,000; 1-\$2,000) The applicant must be an Illinois resident and a senior in an Illinois high school during the 2010-2011 school year. Voluntary, effective contributions to Illinois' natural resources throughout the applicant's high school enrollment must be documented. See application form:

<https://www.ilcf.org/documents/YouthSchlrshp2011final.pdf>

Current Events



Green Drinks –gathers the first Wednesday of every month upstairs at Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen, 110 N. Main St., Crystal Lake, IL. Come talk about “greening” the future with others. Bring any information about your green products and services to share. For more local green drinks information contact:

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County at 815-338-0393.

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>

Bioneers Conference & Green Expo—Nov. 6 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at MCC, 8900 US Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake. The event will feature breakout sessions that focus on local and organic food, how to be a locavore, energy efficiency resources and global climate change. There will be a green living expo from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. that is free and open to the public. MCSEEP will have a booth representing the Lesson Library, so be sure to stop and check it out! Admission to the conference is \$30 for adults and \$20 for students. CPDU's are available for teachers, and the fee includes a local organic food prepared lunch. To register go to: www.mcbioneers.com

Climate Change Exhibit at Field Museum—Through Nov. 28, 2010; 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago. Uncover the natural evidence for climate change and examine its impact on our atmosphere, oceans, land, and societies. Discover how even small changes can add up to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and find out more about our best hopes for alternative energy sources. For more info:

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/climatechange/#index>

LESSON LIBRARY

Our Lesson Library Launch was a great success! We are so excited to now have this resource available to you. Pictured at the right are the Siemen's representatives and our MCSEEP/Library staff that made it all possible.

If you were not able to attend our Lesson Library Launch in September, you can still contact us to set up a date for a presentation at your next staff meeting. We will instruct your faculty on how to best use the MCSEEP Lesson Library, an environmental tool kit. Contact us to set up a "free" presentation at your school. Remember, you must have MCSEEP Environmental Education lessons taught at your school to be able to check-out all resources. PDF files are available to anyone for educational purposes. Call us at 815-334-4054 or email us at: mceseep@co.mchenry.il.us and start using our Lesson Library tool kit. You will not be disappointed with all that we have to offer.



Front row, MCSEEP Lesson Library Staff, left to right: Peg Pappa, Suzanne Heagney, Sue Burke, and Deb Brown
Back row, Siemen's Reps., left to right: Becky Werra, Ken Detina, and Doug McMahan

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Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 30, 1010. Contact: Kathy Wheeler at kathy.wheeler@illinois.gov or 217-785-2003.



Revised Biodiversity of Illinois CD-Rom's



The Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 1: Aquatic Habitats, Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume II: Woodland Habitats and Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume III: Prairie and Edge Habitats CD-ROMs have just been revised. There are more than 1,000 species with information for educators and students to use. Order your copy with a written request on school letterhead and mail to: IDNR-Education, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702.

ENTICE Workshop Registration

There are six workshops that the IDNR are sponsoring that give you background information, supplemental resources, and networking opportunities. CPDU's are available to all participants. Visit the following site to see topics, dates and to enroll:

<https://www.enticeworkshops.com>

America Recycles Day – November 15, 2010

Help spread the message by hosting an America Recycles Day event at your school. Need ideas? Go to:

http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ARD_Event_Ideas



Does your school have an environmental story or picture that you'd like to share? We'd love to hear what your school is doing to help the environment. Please send a brief story and a picture if you have one and I will use it in this section to recognize your school. Send any articles and/or pictures to:

Susan Burke, Director
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