

October 2011

## News from the MCSEEP Director

I can't believe that it is October already. Our teachers have been teaching environmental education classes in several schools to date. We have had positive feedback from the new and revised lessons. I am very pleased



to see the number of schools that were able to get their schedules completed early. It has been a real help to me, as I'm always needing time to make changes in schedules. I am happy to work with your school when this need arises. Please note that I will do the best I can when finding alternate dates for your school for lessons if your chosen dates do not work. If your school follows the guidelines MCSEEP has set for creating a schedule, it will work well for our teachers, as well as your teachers and students. For those of you that have not sent in your schedule request, please do so as soon as possible, so I have time to work out any possible issues.

Our newest teacher, Larry Fischer, has started teaching. His first classes were at Lundahl Middle School. He is excited to be back in the classroom again after retiring from full-time teaching. It is nice having a male teacher join the MCSEEP staff!

We are working on completing a Green Career lesson that will be offered to high schools upon request.\* It looks at career fields in renewable energy; internship opportunities; and identifies the solutions and opportunities that will allow us to emerge stronger and more sustainable. Call our office to arrange a date to have this high school lesson, as well as get details about the lesson fees. . 815-334-4054. \**The Green Career lessons were sponsored by the McHenry County Cooperative for Employment Education (MCCEE). Funding was provided through the State of Illinois, CTEI Grant.*

### Current Events

**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](mailto:pdieckho@mchenry.edu)—look under announcements .

**”Nature Preserve and Land & Water Reserves: An Enduring Vision.”** - The McHenry County Conservation District invites the public to view the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission’s traveling photography exhibit. It commemorates 500 protected sites. 22 photographs are on display. All of the entries represented Illinois’ extraordinary geographic range of biodiversity. The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 30 at Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park. It is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For further information, call the Visitor Center at 815-678-4532.

**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!

**IDNR Publications Webpage**—You can find a variety of posters, activity books, books and other publications available about the state’s diverse natural resources at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids>.

**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.

**Governor signs legislation banning items from IL landfills:** - as of Jan. 1, 2012 no computers, monitors, printers and TV's were added to the current list of electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, digital video disc players, video game console players, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, and satellite receivers.

**Project WET Teachers’ Workshop at Volo Bog**—Nov. 16, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. For grades K-12 instructors, including some outdoor time. \$10 fee also includes refreshments and materials. Register at [dnr.volobog@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.volobog@illinois.gov) or call 815-344-1294.

**Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant** for \$1,000. Deadline Nov. 30, 2011. Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm> to access the application form—available to teachers!

## LESSON LIBRARY

Our library continues to grow as we add articles, videos and an assortment of unique environmental resources. The feedback from teachers who used our library this past school year 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](http://MCSEEP.com) website and filling out and returning the lending agreement. If your school currently has MCSEEP lessons, you can use our Lesson Library, as payment is included in the lesson fee that your school has to pay.

We already have schools ordering resources from the library this school year and hope that your school will place your order too. Don't miss out on the wonderful resources you can get from us. 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](mailto: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 MCSEEP's Sue Burke a call 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.



[Current Events—continued from page 1](#)

**Illinois Conservation Foundation Offers Conservation Achievement Scholarships for High School Seniors:** A \$5,000, \$3,000, and \$2,000 scholarship is available. For information and application form see: <https://www.lilcf.org/scholarships/default.aspx>. Applications must be received by Nov. 30, 2011.

**ENTICE Workshops from the IDNR:** Native American and Nature in Illinois (online), Oct. 10-23, 2011 –Registration closes 8 a.m. Oct. 6. Avian Ecology: Bird-brained Lessons for Educators, Nov. 5, 2011, Ballard Nature Center, Altamont. The Effects of Climate Change on Illinois Plants (online), Nov. 7 -20, 2011. Illinois Birds: Raptors, Nov. 17, 2011, Sugar Grove Nature Center, McLean. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>

**Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant:** Can provide funding for you and your students to visit the natural wonders of our state. Teachers may apply for up to \$500. Application deadline is Jan. 31, 2012. Instructions and application form at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>

**GreenTown:** Oak Park, Oct. 12, 2011, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Unity Temple, 875 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL. Hear inspiring speakers, learn from been-there case studies and discuss actionable ways to make communities greener, healthier and more prosperous. Information at: [www.greentownconference.com](http://www.greentownconference.com)

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