



September 2010

## News from the MCSEEP Director

Hello and welcome back to a new year of teaching in the schools. I am pleased to see that so many of the schools have already scheduled their environmental education lessons using our online program. You can go to our website at [mcseep.com](http://mcseep.com) and click on "lesson schedule" to access the online calendar to go to your scheduled date/dates and print out copies of your schedules. If you haven't created your lesson schedule yet, please do so soon so that I can get your schedule posted on the calendar for my teachers. If you need to make a change, you can contact me and I will edit your schedule before we come out to teach. I do not have many dates open, so hopefully, the dates I assigned to your school will work out. If not, please let me know ASAP. My contact information is listed below:

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I recently emailed out to Principals/Recycling Coordinators a registration form for our Lesson Library launch and if you did not get this information, send me an email request and I will send you out a registration form to fill out. We have already received registration forms/requests from several that



want to take part in this event being held September 30th from 8:30-11:30 a.m. CPDU's will be given for attending, so if you are a teacher, you might want to find a sub for your morning schedule. (See Lesson Library article for more information.) Our Lesson Library has just gone "live" on our website, so you may want to check it out before you come to the launch in case you have some questions for us.

Our teachers will be leaving an evaluation form for each classroom teacher that they visit this school year. We have changed it slightly, providing you with our new address and website. There is a bottom tear off section that you will be filling out and sending back to us. Please give this feedback to your school recycling coordinator and she/he will send them to me when all of your teachers have had our lessons. There is also a portion on the form that allows you to inform us of your plans for follow-up lessons from our lesson library.

...Susan Burke

## 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>

**Defender's McHenry Recycling Drive**—The Defenders will be collecting fluorescent tubes, household batteries and clean white block Styrofoam. They will also do a buy-back of aluminum, copper & brass at this drive. This will be held on Sat., Sept. 11 from 9 a.m.-noon. At the Metra Station Parking Lot, 4005 Main St., McHenry. Also: Ace Hardware and Home Depot recycles your CFL bulbs (no tubes) at no charge!

**Annual Fall Used Book Sale**—Friday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. –7 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. –3 p.m. at the Algonquin Township Road District Garage, 3702 US Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake.

**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. 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](http://www.mcbioneers.com)

**Drug Take-Back Event**—The following McHenry County Police Departments are taking pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications on Sept. 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. -Village of Algonquin, 2200 Harnish Dr., and City of Woodstock, 656 Lake Ave. The program is anonymous. Intravenous solutions, injectables and needles will not be accepted. Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative. See the website for more detailed information: <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/takeback/>

## LESSON LIBRARY

Hopefully you have received the registration form and information for the MCSEEP Lesson Library Launch on the 30th of this month. Our library site is now “live” and ready for you to use! Just visit our website, *mcseep.com*, and click on *Lesson Library*.

At the workshop, in addition to learning how to access the library resources, we will offer several ideas on how to best use these materials. Many of the items can be grouped to create week long units of study. Individually, the resources could be used as a quick half hour lesson to follow up on the MCSEEP lesson we provided, or in response to a classroom discussion you had with your students. However you choose to use us, the important thing is to USE US!!



Just a reminder, all in attendance will earn 3 CPDU's, be eligible for raffle prizes, can pick up some free items and enjoy a piece of cake. Looking forward to seeing you there!



### MCSEEP LESSON UPDATES

We are very excited to be teaching our revised 5th grade lesson, *Endangered Species/Biodiversity-Let's Take Care of Each "Otter"*. We've shifted our focus slightly in order to include a discussion of the challenges facing five habitats: the Arctic, Tropical Rainforest, Wetlands, Prairie, and the Oceans. We will also look at the species struggling to survive in those ecosystems. The students should enjoy taking part in our matching activity as they try to identify each habitat, place the endangered species where they belong, and finally, realize there are many small steps 5th graders can take to make a big difference. Our research for a new video on biodiversity is ongoing, as we've yet to find one better to replace what we have. Please take advantage of the space provided on our new evaluation form to let us know what you think of the lesson changes.



### SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



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:

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