

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

November 2013

On the web at <http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org> Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com



Ecology Action Center Honored for Achievement in Environmental Protection

The Ecology Action Center (EAC) was recognized today at the Governor's Sustainability Awards presented by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC). The EAC's 2012 fundraising and public awareness campaign for the first-ever locally funded Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection for McLean County residents received an honorable mention. The nearly year-long effort resulted in tremendous community collaboration, significantly increased visibility of the issue of HHW disposal, and a highly successful September 2012 collection event.

Since 1987, the ISTC has presented Governors awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices. Winners are selected through a rigorous process of review and examination by ISTC technical assistance experts.

The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit environmental agency with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening and preserving a healthy environment. The EAC acts as a central resource for environmental education, information, outreach, and technical assistance in McLean County.

Upcoming BN Green Events:

- *Tuesday, November 5, 2013: [Green Drinks](#)*
- *Friday, November 8, 2013: [Greenways Workshop](#)*
- *Saturday, November 16, 2013: [America Recycles Day MEGA Recycling Event](#)*



Greenways Workshop
at Davis Lodge





Partnership Brings National Recycling Celebration to Bloomington–Normal

Ecology Action Center & IWU Wellness host
MEGA Recycling Event to celebrate America Recycles Day

This November 16, the Ecology Action Center and Illinois Wesleyan University Wellness will host a Mega Recycling Event at the IWU Hansen Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event is one of thousands across the country to celebrate America Recycles Day, the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. With support from State Farm and Midwest Fiber/Confidential Onsite Shredding, the second annual America Recycles Day MEGA Recycling event continues to grow to reach more people each year.

While most families recycle the usual – plastic food containers, glass bottles, newspapers, and such, what about other items? Well, for one day, residents can recycle “the other” recyclables all in one place, all at the same time.

On America Recycles Day at IWU, residents can recycle:

- Electronics (computers, TVs, radios, cellphones, ipods, VCRs, DVD players, etc.) Compact fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs)
- Household Batteries (alkaline, watch batteries, rechargeable batteries) Clothes and textiles (usable or not)
- Shoes (usable or not)
- Plastic Garden Pots
- TerraCycle items (see list at www.ecologyactioncenter.org)
- And as a free added bonus, free confidential paper shredding!

All items will be properly recycled by licensed recyclers where applicable. **Household hazardous waste items will NOT be accepted** – *chemicals, paints, automotive fluids, car batteries, tires, pesticides, fertilizers, etc.* These items cannot be accepted at this event but must wait for a future household hazardous waste collection event. This event is for residential materials only – no business materials accepted. Residents with questions about acceptable items or household hazardous waste, can contact the Ecology Action Center at (309) 454-3169.

About America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day is a national program of Keep America Beautiful, and is the only nationally recognized day and community-driven awareness event dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the U.S. Since its inception in 1997, communities across the country have participated in America Recycles Day every November to educate, promote environmental citizenship, and encourage action. Learn more at AmericaRecyclesDay.org.



Important Dates



Sun.Nov.3 – DST ends – turn clocks back 1 hr (more daylight in the morning)

Mon.Nov.4 –Spaghetti Supper and Music performance at NC West High School / 5-8 p.m.

Wed.Nov.6 – Unit 5 – late start

Mon.Nov.11 –Spaghetti Supper and Music performance at Normal Com. High School

Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4H club will meet on Tuesday November 19th at 6:30 at the Towanda Community Building. The program for the evening will be "Pondering Pizza". Come find out what yummy treat will be served! Guests are always welcome. The club will also meet on November 9th for the annual fall library clean up at the Towanda District Library. The club members will rake leaves and do fall landscape projects beginning at 10 am.



In Memory

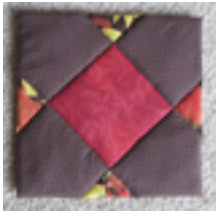
A bench has been installed along the Rt 66 walkway in honor and memory of our beloved Helen Mogill. Feel free to visit the bench and spend some time thinking of Helen if you so desire.



Towanda HCE

The Towanda Unit of the McLean County Association for Home and Community Education will meet on Monday, Nov 11, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Pat Pulokas will present the program on creating a family emergency book entitled "The Grab & Go Book". The fact find is on celery/lovage. Hostesses Lu Payton and Cherry Trent welcome guests. For more information: Cindy Kelley, 309-663-4796 or Robin Pearson, 815-8579-1650.

Other HCE Programs and Workshops are as follows:



Nov 11, 1-4pm, "9 patch" potholder workshop (RSVP and pay class fee by Nov 4, 309-533-1135) HCE members - \$2, non HCE member - \$4; if you want to get the kit of squares the total cost is \$5 - HCE member, \$7 - non HCE member.

Nov 12, 9-12 noon, Card Making class, free, 309-242-6187 with questions. Cards are sent to the overseas service men and women.

Nov 18, 9-noon, Comfort Quilts; 1-4 p.m., Children's Dresses and Shorts; 2-3:30 p.m., Read & Share, "The Necklace" by Cheryl Jarvis to be discussed, 309-661-6391. All free programs.

Nov 25, 1-3p.m. "Caring for Tropical Plants", 309-310-9205; free program.

All the county programs are held at Evergreen FS Auditorium, 402 N. Hershey Rd, Bloomington and are open to the public.

Towanda 4H

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 5th at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. Our theme for 2013-2014 year is Animal Science and Health and Fitness. Our monthly meeting event will be a Dietician speaking about healthy lifestyles.

The 4-H club has ranges of ages that can join - Cloverbuds are kids 5 (by September 1st) to 8 years old, and members 8 (by September 1st) to 18 years old.

If you need more information contact Kathy Schultz at 309-728-2137 or Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852.

We welcome all new members, and look forward to seeing you!



Classified

For Hire:

Lauren and Myles Smith, will provide child care and pet care - call 728-2930

Grace Rients and Emma Rients will babysit for you! Both would be willing to babysit while you run errands, mow the lawn or have a date night. Both are certified by the Red Cross and have CPR training too! Grace and Emma Rients are also experienced pet caretakers. Please call them at 728-2178. In addition to dogs, we have experience with hermit crabs, hamsters and rabbits too!



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



Fall has arrived and our garden is looking like it is ready for a winter rest. The pretty container plants are looking tired or some just plain dead. Time to pull the annuals out and put them in the compost pile. If you haven't had a compost pile, now is a good time to start one. Place your tired plants and kitchen peelings in it. No meat or dairy. You can also add your fallen leaves.

One important thing about your containers, is do not empty the soil. For years, when we replaced the soil in the containers, we could use "potting soil" now we have to replace it with "potting mix", which is just peat moss and no soil. Peat is organic, so it will break down in time. It will also burn if a lighted cigarette is left in it. Next spring when you are ready to replant your containers, add some organic mulch or some manure. The bags of manure have aged enough that they have broken down into nice soil and do not have an odor. It will also contain a lot of nutrients so you will not need as much synthetic fertilizer.

Now that you are getting your wood for the winter, remember not to move firewood across the county line. It could be a \$500 fine. The Ash borer has been known to hitch a ride on firewood and spread it over the area.



With the colder weather, the mice are looking for a warm place to spend the winter. If you don't want to share your home with them, you will need to be sure all of the cracks are filled. Mice can get thru a crack as small as 1/4 inch. Check around where pipes come into the house, they can be filled with steel wool or foam insulation. If mice have already gotten into your home, you can use a mouse trap or a cat to catch them. Place the trap next to the wall where the mice usually travel. A snap trap can be baited with peanut butter or meat or cheese tied to it. The glue traps, which you dispose of trap and mouse, is supposedly already baited, but you can also add peanut butter to the middle. The mouse poison contains warfarin that thins their blood and takes longer for it to die. It is best to use them in outside buildings, placed where children and pets cannot get to it.

Now is the time to give your houseplants the last fertilizer before winter. Most plants do not grow much during the winter, so they will not use the extra food. Wait until mid-February to feed again.

October is time to plant spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils and crocus. Plant them in full sun with the pointed side up. If you are unsure which side is up, lay them on their side. Bury them 3 times the diameter. Plant your garlic in October. Don't separate the cloves until you are ready to plant. Again, plant pointed side up. Stop deadheading the roses and let them form hips.

Young and newly planted trees can be girdled by mice and rabbits during the winter. To prevent the damage, you can surround the lower trunk with closely woven wire. You can also use a plastic wrap made to wrap the trunk or with paper tree wrap or duct tape. Start at ground level and wrap up to the lower branches. That would also help prevent the bark from cracking in January, when the warm January sun tells the tree to send moisture up to the tree. When the sun sets, the temperature drops faster than the moisture does. When the moisture freezes, the bark will split. Be sure to remove the wrap in the spring, so the bark can get air and the insects don't try to make a home under the wrap. The spiders have reached adulthood, mated and are laying eggs for next summer.



The garden spider or argiope is a large spider with a 2 inch leg span that builds a 2 foot diameter web with zigzag strips of white silk. The web is very strong and it is attractive when covered with frost. The spider will feed on flies, insects, grasshoppers, wasps and other flying insects that get caught in its web.

Another common spider is the wolf spider with a 2 inch leg span. It does not build a web to catch its prey. It will run it down and overpower crickets, earwigs and other insect prey without using a web. It is hairy, black and usually has brown markings on its back. The wolf spider lives among fallen leaves and ground covers in protected areas. They enter the house through cracks and crevices in the foundation. They can bite, but usually only if they are being crushed. Their venom is not very toxic to us. Spray the outside foundation and soil next to it with an insecticide. As always, read and follow the directions on the container.



We were happy to see the leaves come out in the spring, because we knew winter was over. During the summer we enjoyed the shade the leaves provided. We also liked the fact the leaves cleaned the air and gave us oxygen. Then early fall they showed us their pretty colors. Now they are tired and we need to put them to bed. There are many options or ways to dispose of them. Some places offer curb side pick up. You can bag them and some one will pick them up. Some places have you rake them to the curb and they will vacuum them up and haul them away. The bagged leaves usually end up in landfills. Some places allow burning leaves, either curbside or in the yard. If you burn them at curbside, be careful not to burn on the asphalt, and if you burn in the grass, the heat could damage the grass. If you burn leaves, wait until late afternoon, after the leaves have had time to dry. When you burn leaves in the morning they are wet with dew and produce a lot of smoke that causes air pollution and respiratory problems for people with allergies and asthma. Also, you don't want to burn when it is windy. The ideal way is to run the mower over them and break the leaves into small pieces. The shredded leaves make a good mulch, they decay faster and do not easily blow away. The shredded leaves can be used in vegetable garden pathways, incorporated into the soil or left on top of the soil. They can also be applied as mulch for asparagus rhubarb and raspberries. Leaves can also be added to the compost piles. They are dry so you might need to press them down and layer with soil or household waste. There are many options to use the leaves in the home landscape.

Towanda American Legion



The Legion will have a pork chop dinner on Friday November 8th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, fries, baked beans, dessert and drink for \$9.

All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available. Thank you for supporting our troops and Veteran's.

There won't be a breakfast in November. Watch for the next breakfast in December

Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday November 21st at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available for rent for reunions, parties and meeting. For more information contact Mike Potts at 7258-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.

Towanda Library

November 2 = Artist/Vendor Christmas Tea: FRIENDS of the Library host the 4th Annual *Cup of Christmas Tea* from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, November 2nd. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a homemade treat while shopping for holiday gifts. Please join us and our artist/vendors:

- One-of-a-kind Jewelry designed by Linda Garbe
- Yarn Crafts
- Original Beadwork by Betsy Thompson
- Stampin Up!
- Tastefully Simple
- Pampered Chef
- 31 Gifts
- Scentsy Candles
- Norwex
- Tupperware
- Usbourne Books

November 12 - TOWANDA READS Book Discussion: TOWANDA READS is an open Book Discussion Group that meets the 2nd Tuesday of alternate months from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Towanda District Library. November's selection is – *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain. The discussion is open to all community members.

November 12 - Learn a New Stitch: Deana Branaman returns to teach us the afghan stitch for making a coffee cup cozy. Bring yarn and a crochet hook to the 5:00 workshop.

November 13 - 4th & 5th Grade Book Club: Bulldog Book Club meets right after school to discuss *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. Two active participants will win Avanti gift cards.

November 14 - Elementary Teachers' Lunch @ Library: Teachers are invited to view the books purchased with the Back to Books Grant: *Building Collections to Make Connections* – while enjoying a light lunch from 11:30 to 12:30.

November 19 - Library Board Meeting at 7:00 pm

November 21 - Family Reading Night: Families are invited for refreshments right after school. Children who have seen other family members reading this fall will reward their "Reading Role Models" with *Caught Reading* stickers and have their photos taken for display at the library. Let the contest begin! Kids - catch an adult you love reading and tell us about it at the library.

Story Hours for November: Preschoolers sing, dance, learn finger plays, listen to stories, make crafts, socialize, and play. Younger brothers and sisters join them for snacks and book checkout.

November 6: Barnyard Animals and Turkeys
November 13: Barnyard Animals and Ducks
November 20: Barnyard Animals and Chickens
November 27: Barnyard Animals and Pigs