Edition #15 August 2024

NEWAYGO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

NCEC NEWS

The Environmental Resource Hub for Newaygo County

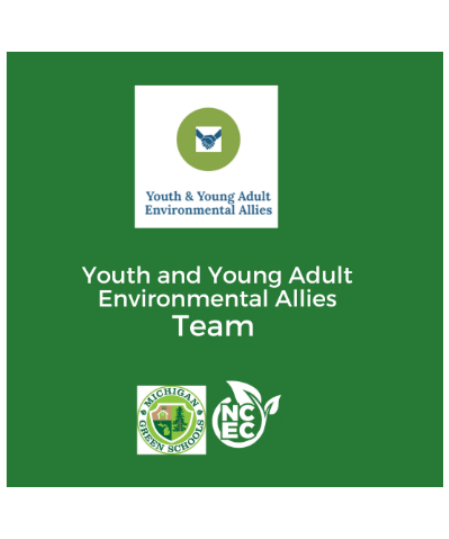
Supporting the beauty and sustainability of the Newaygo County environment through Information, Education, and Advocacy".

Newaygo County Environmental Coalition
for the healthy environment and sustainable future for our lands, waters, and skies

NCEC
TEAMS
Youth & Young Adult Environmental Allies
LOBO: Love Our Beautiful Outdoors
3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Healthy Habitats on Private and Public Lands: Waters, Forests, Meadows and native eco-systems

Newaygo County Vernal Pool Patrol

Greater Newaygo Area Prescribed Burn Association Development Team


Youth and Young Adult Environmental Allies Team

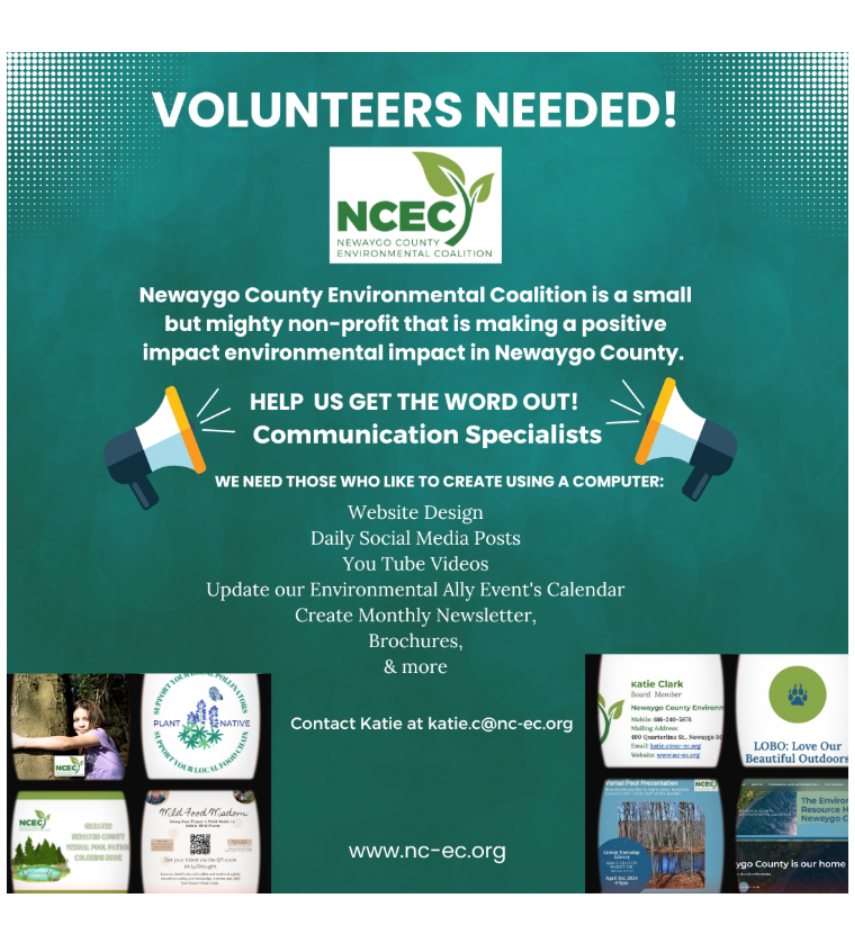
Creating Community with Environmental Focus

The Newaygo County Environmental Coalition (NCEC) is thrilled to share the progress and initiatives of our dedicated teams, each focusing on a unique aspect of environmental conservation within our four main focus areas: Environmental Youth, LOBO, 3R, and Healthy Habitats.

Our teams, including the Newaygo Area Local Growers, the 3-R Team, the Vernal Pool Patrol, the Wild Ones Newaygo Region Seedling Chapter, and the NCEC Habitat Restoration Team, are making significant strides in promoting sustainability, conservation, and environmental education in Newaygo County. These groups are the heart of our efforts, working passionately to produce, provide, and promote locally grown products, reduce waste through innovative recycling projects, protect critical habitats, and foster a deeper connection with nature through the preservation of native plants and landscapes.

We are calling upon our community members to join these dynamic teams, each offering a unique opportunity to contribute to our environmental goals. Whether you are interested in supporting local agriculture with the Newaygo Area Local Growers, tackling waste reduction with the 3-R Team, conserving wetlands with the Vernal Pool Patrol, promoting native plants with the Wild Ones, or restoring habitats with the NCEC Habitat Restoration Team, your involvement is crucial. These teams are not only a platform for environmental stewardship but also a network of support and community engagement, providing meaningful ways to connect with fellow members and the broader community.

Moreover, the NCEC Communications Team seeks individuals passionate about digital creation and communication to help amplify our efforts. By joining this team, you'll play a vital role in engaging the community through various digital platforms, keeping everyone informed, involved, and inspired. This is an excellent opportunity for those with skills in website design, social media management, video production, and more to make a difference. We're offering free training on essential tools to ensure you're equipped to contribute effectively.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

NCEC NEWAYGO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

Newaygo County Environmental Coalition is a small but mighty non-profit that is making a positive impact environmental impact in Newaygo County.

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT!
Communication Specialists

WE NEED THOSE WHO LIKE TO CREATE USING A COMPUTER:

Website Design
Daily Social Media Posts
You Tube Videos
Update our Environmental Ally Event's Calendar
Create Monthly Newsletter,
Brochures,
& more

Contact Katie at katie.c@nc-ec.org

www.nc-ec.org

Together, we can make a tangible impact on our Newaygo County ecosystems. Join us in our mission to protect and enhance our local environment. Your support, whether through direct involvement in our teams or by spreading the word, is invaluable to our collective efforts.

Find out more about each team and who to contact by going to our TEAM PAGE.

Visit our Team Page>>>

Join Us in Welcoming Larry Messing as the Acting President of the New Wild Ones Newaygo Region Seedling Chapter!

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as the Acting President
of the New Wild Ones
Newaygo Region Seedling Chapter!

Wild Ones Newaygo Region (Seedling) Chapter is based in Newaygo and serves communities in and adjacent to Lake, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo and Oceana counties.

Click to see our new seeding listed on the national Wild Ones website.

NOT THIS
THIS
Yards With Diverse Native Planting Support Biodiversity

The Newaygo County Environmental Coalition (NCEC) is excited to introduce Larry Messing as the acting president of our newly established Wild Ones Newaygo Region Seedling Chapter.

Larry, a dedicated environmental advocate and a beloved member of our NCEC community, has taken on this role with enthusiasm and a deep commitment to nurturing our local ecosystems. After retiring and experiencing the loss of his beloved wife, Larry sought to deepen his engagement with environmental causes, leading him to spearhead the formation of our local Wild Ones chapter. His passion for Mother Earth and his conviction on the necessity of environmental preservation have been the driving forces behind his involvement.

Larry's journey with the Wild Ones began amidst personal challenges, including adapting to new technology and managing his own significant property restoration project. Despite these hurdles, his determination to eradicate invasive grass species on his property and promote the growth of native plants showcases his dedication to the NCEC's mission and that of Wild Ones National Organization. As he navigates the learning curve of using a new Chromebook and Google apps, Larry's goal remains clear: to energize Newaygo Region residents about the importance of biodiversity and sustainable landscapes, growing this new seedling into a fully active chapter.

The Wild Ones Newaygo Region Seedling Chapter represents a significant milestone for our community and environmental enthusiasts in Lake, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo, and Oceana counties. Under Larry's leadership, we aim to foster a deep connection with nature through the promotion and preservation of native plants and natural landscapes. Our chapter is dedicated to offering educational programs, hands-on projects, and community events designed to enhance our local ecosystems and inspire individuals of all ages to participate in conservation efforts.

We warmly invite you to join us in supporting Larry and the Wild Ones Newaygo Region Seedling Chapter as we embark on this exciting journey together. Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a nature lover, or simply someone looking to make a positive impact on our local environment, there's a place for you in our chapter. Together, we can create a greener, more biodiverse Newaygo region.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact Larry Messing at larry.m@nc-ec.org or reach out to NCEC at buzz@nc-ec.org. Let's grow together!

Environmental Ally Spotlight

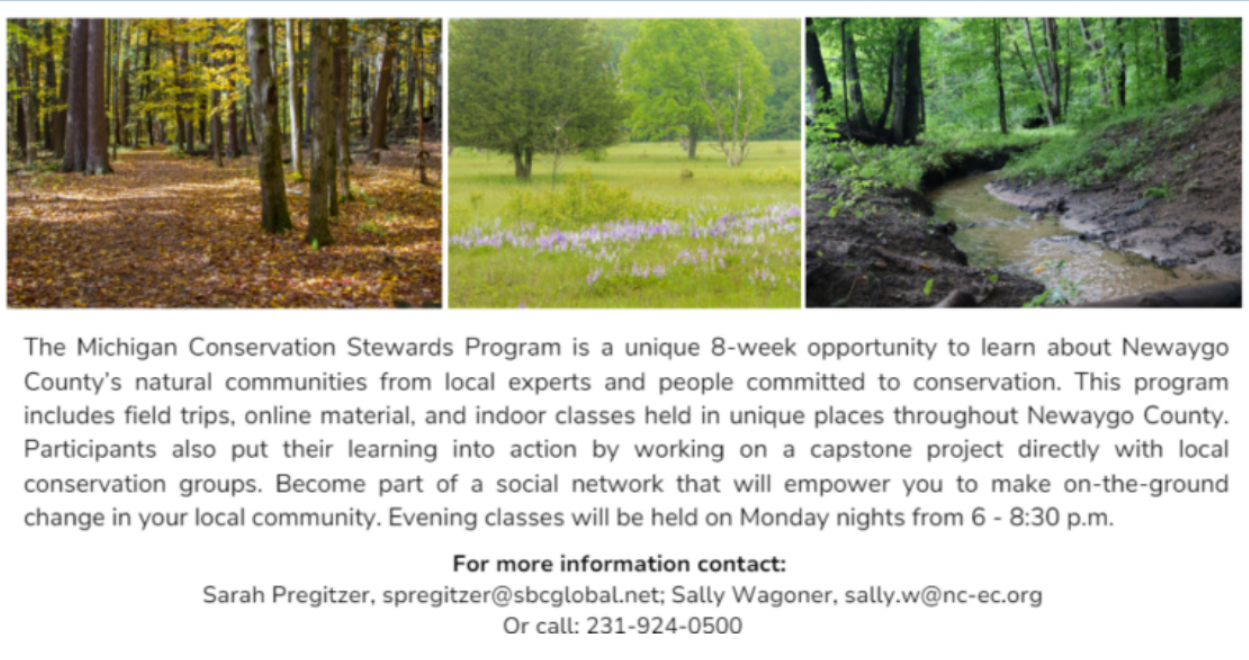
Fall 2024 Enrollment
Michigan CONSERVATION STEWARDS Program
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

Time and Spots Are RUNNING OUT!

This fall, Newaygo County is proud to host a new cohort of the Michigan State University Extension's Conservation Stewards Program (CSP), a comprehensive training initiative designed for individuals who are eager to learn about the science behind ecosystem management and conservation principles.

The program is set to deliver an enlightening 8-week journey from September through November 2024, blending virtual learning with in-person experiences that promise to deepen your connection to our local environment.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Newaygo County
Conservation Stewards Program

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program is a unique 8-week opportunity to learn about Newaygo County's natural communities from local experts and people committed to conservation. This program includes field trips, online material, and indoor classes held in unique places throughout Newaygo County. Participants also put their learning into action by working on a capstone project directly with local conservation groups. Become part of a social network that will empower you to make on-the-ground change in your local community. Evening classes will be held on Monday nights from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

For more information contact:
Sarah Pregitzer, spregitzer@sbcglobal.net; Sally Wagoner, sally.w@nc-ec.org
Or call: 231-924-0500

Read More>>>

The Power of Local Trust-Based Economies

Written by Karis Wojakowski-Bird
(A member of our NALG Team & Communications Team)

Recent movements to "buy local" and embrace a more "self-sufficient" lifestyle highlight how many people are beginning to reimagine how individuals and communities can support themselves, rather than relying on global supply chains. In his book, "Debt: the First 5000 Years," anthropologist and social activist David Graeber explores what human economies looked like before money. He suggests that contrary to the "myth of barter," these economies probably did not involve people saying to one another "I'll trade you these potatoes for those chickens." Instead, Graeber believes the anthropological evidence supports a view of pre-monetary economies as involved networks based on long-term relationships, trust, and mutual aid.

One modern-day example of an economy built on trust is how my community came together to collaborate on raising 50 meat chickens. My roommate and I asked a friend to help design and build a cattle panel chicken coop. Most of the materials including the greenhouse plastic and lumber we needed were given to us by friends, neighbors, and coworkers free of cost. 5-6 of us spent a day building the coop ourselves. Although there wasn't a formal "trade" made upfront, everyone who helped with the coop build received a portion of the meat birds at cost.

The weekend after building the chicken coop, my roommate and I repaid the favor by helping a friend innoculate mushroom logs at his farm. We drilled holes into hardwood logs cut the previous winter, filled them with sawdust spawn containing the mycelium of edible mushroom varieties, and painted wax overtop as a seal. The mushrooms will begin fruiting next season. We also continue to help and support the friends who helped us with the chicken coop project by pitching in on weeding for those of our friends with farms, pet sitting for one another, and re-gifting the materials left over from the coop build.

In trust-based economies, the emphasis is not on making a profit, or even on making a singular trade. Rather, it is about and ethic of reciprocity and doing your part to contribute to something that benefits everyone. It is also about finding creative solutions that address the needs of more than one person at a time. One farmer we know hasn't had the time to set-up a large enough composting system on their farm, so we used his excess and damaged produce to feed our chickens.

After butchering, we gave all the non-meat chicken parts to a different friend who will use them as dog food and as fertilizer in his Hügelkultur mounds. Even our chicken coop will convert to an overwinter veggie-growing operation heated by the decomposing bedding and manure. In this way, we'll continue to reap the benefits of this shared community effort even now that the chickens are gone.

The biggest thing I have taken away from this collaborative experience is shifting my thinking away from a commodity-based mindset to a community-based mindset. We could have tried to raise chickens for a small profit. We even could have used the finished chickens as a currency for trading with friends. But instead, we chose to ask for help and "indebt" ourselves to everyone who helped us.

Debt in an economy of trust is really just another way of saying we'll never be finished paying each other back. In a commodity-based mindset, it can be terrifying to owe someone, but in a community-based mindset, owing one another can actually be the glue that holds us together.

To join the Newaygo Area Local Growers community, contact Kathy at ftbrunswick@gmail.com or NCEC at buzz@nc-ec.org.

Newaygo County Environmental Events, Activities, Education, & Awareness

Keep Informed & Get Involved

How Can We Get Our Environmental Event Amplified by NCEC?

We will gladly add your organization's environment-related activity to our Calendar, and promote it on our Social Media. Complete the below form to add an event to our calendar which we will also share on our social media.

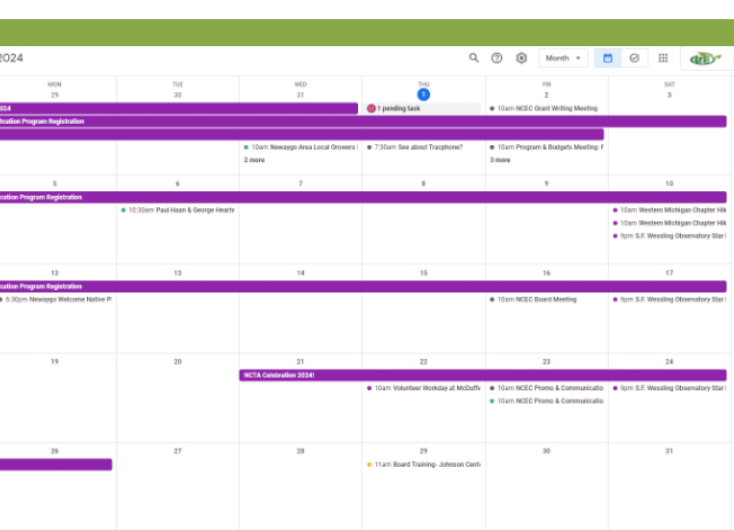
Need volunteers for a special event? Let us know! We will inform our community through social media and E-news!

Fill out this Event Form via our website.

Event Form

"All children need nature. Not just the ones whose parents appreciate nature. Not only those children of a certain economic class or culture or set of abilities. Every child."
-Richard Louv

Click on the calendar below to see all of this month's Events



Click on the individual event to get more details.

Youth & Young Adult Environmental Advocates

>>>Muskegon River Trashbash BEST Video Contest August 1-31st (due August 31st)

>>>Western MI NCT Guided Group Hike August 10th, 10am-1pm

>>>S.F. Wessling Observatory Star Party, August 10th 9 pm-12 am

>>>S.F. Wessling Observatory Star Party, August 24th 9 pm-12 am

If you know of events that deal with any of our 4 environmental focus areas,
please, fill out the event form or email us the specifics at buzz@ne-ec.org

LOBO: Love Our Beautiful Outdoors

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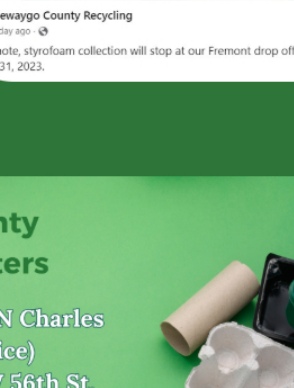
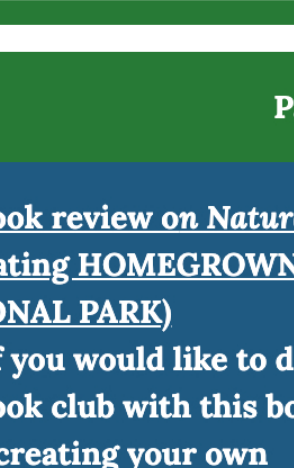
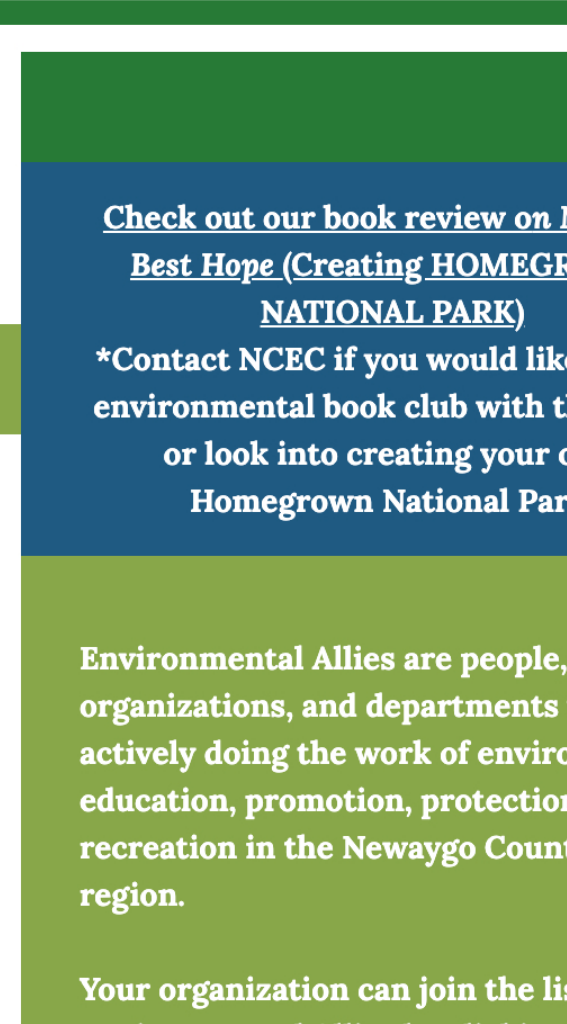

I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues
- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Taking care of environment is not an obligation – Our environment is our life.


ATTENTION RECYCLERS
We will no longer accept styrofoam at our Fremont recycling center beginning 8/31/23
Newaygo County Recycling

Newaygo County Recycling Centers
Open 24/7
Please, recycle responsibly.♻
NCEC



Newaygo County Recycling Centers

- White Cloud: 12 N Charles (Behind City Office)
- Fremont: 5510 W 56th St.
- Grant: 160 State St.
- Newaygo (Brooks): 490 Quarterline Rd.
- Newaygo (Garfield): 7180 Bingham

Healthy Habitats

>>>Muskegon River Trashbash BEST Video Contest August 1-31st (due August 31st)

Environmental Resources

Of Newaygo County and Nearby

How Can I Get Involved?

1. Share our website, posts, E-news with Newaygo Community members and Organizations.

2. Join a NCEC Environmental Team!

Check Out Our TEAMS

3. Get involved with Environmental Advocacy.

4. Bring your skills and knowledge to NCEC.

5. Donate!

Check out our book review on *Nature's Best Hope* (Creating HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK)
*Contact NCEC if you would like to do a environmental book club with this book or look into creating your own Homegrown National Park.

Environmental Allies are people, organizations, and departments who are actively doing the work of environmental education, promotion, protection, and recreation in the Newaygo County region.

Your organization can join the list of Environmental Allies by clicking here: Environmental Ally Application.

NCEC will promote your organization, events, activities and volunteer needs! Click here if you'd like to add an event that you would like us to promote: Environmental Ally Events Submission Form.

Support our Efforts

Donate

NCEC is a small but mighty 501c3 non-profit organization! We depend on your tax deductible donations to continue our work, and to help us grow with our Newaygo County Environment needs.

Stay Connected

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Our mailing address is:

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