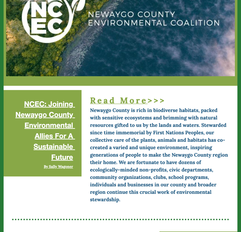
Edition #2 July 2023

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"



NCEC: Joining Newaygo County Environmental Allies For A Sustainable Future

By Judy Shapton

Read More>>>

Newaygo County is rich in biodiverse habitats, packed with sensitive ecosystems and brimming with natural resources gifted to us by the lands and waters. Stewarded since time immemorial by First Nations Peoples, our collective care of the plants, animals and habitats has co-created a varied and unique environment, inspiring generations of people to make the Newaygo County region their home. We are fortunate to have dozens of ecologically-minded non-profits, civic departments, community organizations, clubs, school programs, individuals and businesses in our county and broader region continue this crucial work of environmental stewardship.

<<<Read More

Nature's Best Hope by Douglas W. Tallamy is a carefully researched and thought-provoking book that has the potential to transform the way we think about the environment. This book is for anyone who is passionate about the environment and looking for practical ways to make a positive impact. Tallamy, a well-known ecologist and entomologist, is a trusted source when it comes to creating sustainable landscapes that support biodiversity. He is known for his research on the role of insects in the ecosystem, and how we can protect and preserve our local natural areas.

Bringing Nature Home-Creating Homegrown National Park

By Katie Clark

Environmental Ally Spotlight

A Trail Runs Through Newaygo County: Intro to North Country Trail Association

By Katie Clark

How cool is it that we, in Newaygo County, can basically step out of our homes and onto secluded forest trails that pass by rivers, streams, and lakes? On top of that, we have 67+ miles of established, well-groomed North Country Trail running through some of the most scenic areas of Michigan, connecting us to six other states: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota!

Read More>>>

Newaygo County NCT Trails

22 Mile Road
Croton Dam Trailhead
56th Street
58th Street
60th Street Trailhead
Alley Lake Trailhead
M-20 Trailhead
4 Mile Road
Pierce Road
Nichols Lake North Trailhead
18 Mile Road
76th Street Trailhead

NCT: Western Michigan Chapter>>>

Lake/Newaygo county line west of 87 ½ in the Kent/Barry county line northeast of Middleville

The Western Michigan (WMi) Chapter has over 450 household memberships, representing over 700 individual members. We are a fun and diverse group of people of all ages who love the outdoors. The WMi Chapter organizes activities for our members and volunteers, such as trail workdays, hikes, and events. We have a "working" volunteer board, consisting of up to 11 members who coordinate operations of the Chapter. There are designated volunteer Trail Coordinators on the Board for Kent County and Newaygo County. They oversee trail development and workdays, and about 50 dedicated Trail Adopters. In past years, our members have received awards from the NCTA for trail building group hikes, communications, and leadership. Enjoy your hikes through the WMi Chapter sections of the NCNST! We hope you become a member and share your experience and skills with our Chapter and the NCTA.

NCT Western MI Chapter & NCEC Collaboration: Foraging Guided Hike, June 10th

By Katie Clark

Driving down the dirt road, 18 mile/96th Avenue, which is the dividing road between northern Newaygo County and Lake County, plumes of dust were kicked up by the 11 hiking attendees. We met at the power station "parking area" for a 30 minute presentation by Katie Clark about edible and medicinal plants and fungi. She showed examples of turkey tail, dryad's saddle, mullein, wide-leaf plantain, and more.





Jim Charvat, a NCT trail maintenance crew member for the Western MI chapter, offered to help us over the years he's learned many of the native plants of the woods. Along the way, he helped Katie to point out wildflowers and other interesting plant ID and factual information. Katie actually found some viable oyster mushrooms, a miracle due to the drought. A couple of the attendees gladly took it home with ideas for how to cook it.

Due to all the looking and discussion, the 6.6 mile hike to 16 mile road took an hour longer than planned (including the preliminary presentation). However, everyone who attended was happy to learn more. Those who signed up received a digital document that reviewed what they had seen and gave them additional information for further learning about foraging.

If you would like to learn more about foraging or get connected with the Western MI NCT Chapter, send Katie a message, and she'll get back to you.

Next month's 2nd Saturday hike will feature a wildlife photographer. See link below if you'd like details about the hike.

Click here to contact Katie if you'd like to join us.

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

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



Click on the individual event to get more details.

Youth & Young Adult Environmental Advocates

>>>Local Birder, Terry Grabill, presents A Bird In The Hand: Stories from the Road , July 11th, 7pm-8pm

>>>Star Gazing- Waxing Moon, Constellation Tour July 22, 9:30pm-11:30pm

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 hnorine-ec.org

LOBO: Love Our Beautiful Outdoors

>>>NCT Group Hike, with special guest, Nature Photographer July 8, 10am-2pm

>>>Making Lake Life Great: Webinar, June 30th 11:30am-12:30pm

3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Healthy Habitats

>>>Muskegon River Trash Bash- Team Registration Starts July 1st

>>>Native Plant Sale-Newaygo Conservation District, July 8th 9am-1pm

>>>NCT Trail Work Day-Western MI Chapter, July 15 9am-1pm

>>>NCT Trail Work Day, July 16th, 9am-1pm

>>>NCT Trail Work Day, July 24th, 9am-1pm

>>>Pollinators Workshop, July 27th-31st, 10am-3pm (Click link to register before hand)

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 Team! about invasive species, native landscapes, and restoration opportunities.

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 organizations, 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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