Edition #14 July 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.

ALL THE BUZZ WITH NCEC!
NCEC

Links to all the essential NCEC Happenings.

Click for NCEC Special Events Info

- Wild Food Wisdom: Foraging Workshop

Email Address
buzz@nc-ec.org

Mailing Address:
432 Quarterline St,
Newaygo, MI 49337
Available by Appointment

(231) 519-3419

Contact US

How nice to walk our wagons across the grass to our new office. Thanks to Martin Hall, we also packed a couple of loads into his truck bed.

We've Moved!

We've Moved! NCEC Finds a New Home at Newaygo UCC

Volunteer With NCEC

The Newaygo County Environmental Council (NCEC) is thrilled to announce our recent move to a new office at 432 Quarterline, Newaygo, MI 49337, within the welcoming arms of the Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ. This move marks a significant milestone in our journey to foster environmental awareness and action within our community.

Last week, with the invaluable help of volunteers, we successfully relocated our operations to this new site, signifying a fresh chapter for NCEC. Our new hosts have welcomed us with open arms and hearts full of enthusiasm for future collaborations. Pastor John, Secretary Dorothy, volunteer janitor Janet, and Ken, the church's volunteer maintenance person and treasurer, have all shown immense support, making us feel at home from the moment we arrived. Their hospitality and the shared vision for a better community have already sparked discussions on potential joint initiatives that could amplify our impact on environmental conservation.

Our new location not only offers us a space for our office but also opens up fantastic programming opportunities both within the church and in its outdoor spaces. We are excited about the prospects this move brings, from educational workshops to community gardening projects, all aimed at fostering a deeper connection with our environment.

Learn About Us

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Brooks Township Hall for their support over the years. Their generosity gave us a launchpad, allowing us to grow and extend our reach within the community. Though we have moved, our connection remains strong, especially as we continue to develop the new pollinator-native garden at the township hall's entrance. This project symbolizes our ongoing commitment to environmental education and community engagement, and we plan to enhance it with educational signage about the native plants and their importance to our ecosystem.

The move itself, pushed from a two-day schedule to one day due to the storm-related power outage, turned into a memorable event filled with community spirit and camaraderie. Despite the challenges, the energy and willingness of everyone involved, including the surprise refreshments from Flying Bear Bookstore (check out the strawberry fresca-so refreshing!) made the day productive and enjoyable.

As we settle into our new home, we invite the community to participate in NCEC's endeavors. While our address has changed, our mission remains steadfast: to protect and improve the natural environment in Newaygo County through education, advocacy, and action. We are excited about the opportunities this move presents and look forward to engaging with more community members.

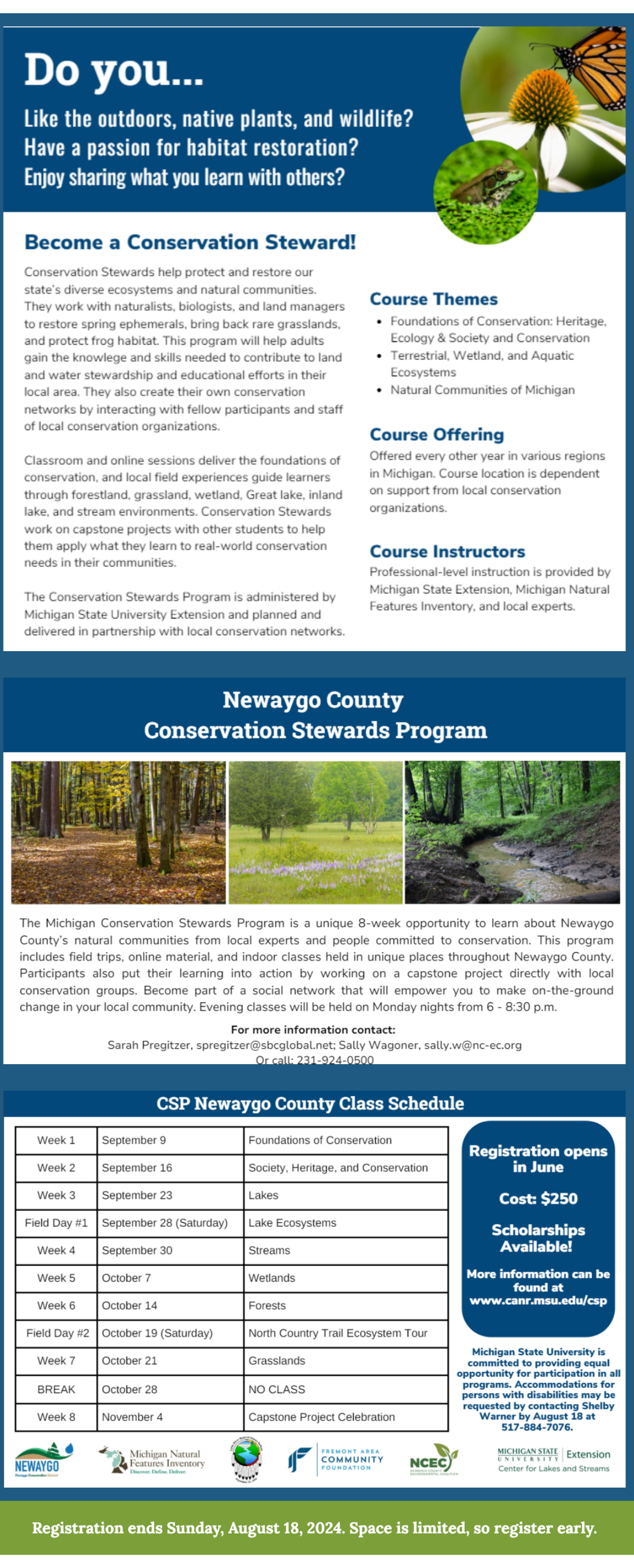
Our new office is a beacon of hope for a greener future. We are eager to explore the possibilities this partnership holds and are confident that together, we can make a significant impact. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming programs and events, and remember, while our office is now at a new location, our door (by appointment) and hearts are always open to those who share our passion for the environment.

For those interested in getting involved or learning more about our initiatives, please feel free to reach out. Let's embark on this exciting new journey together, fostering a sustainable community for generations to come.

Look for good things to come!

For more information or to schedule an in-person appointment, please visit our website or contact us directly. Together, let's make a difference.

Register for the Conservation Stewardship Program



Do you...

Like the outdoors, native plants, and wildlife?
Have a passion for habitat restoration?
Enjoy sharing what you learn with others?

Become a Conservation Steward!

Conservation Stewards help protect and restore our state's diverse ecosystems and natural communities. They work with naturalists, biologists, and land managers to restore spring ephemerals, bring back rare grasslands, and protect frog habitat. This program will help adults gain the knowlege and skills needed to contribute to land and water stewardship and educational efforts in their local area. They also create their own conservation networks by interacting with fellow participants and staff of local conservation organizations.

Classroom and online sessions deliver the foundations of conservation, and local field experiences guide learners through forestland, grassland, wetland, Great lake, inland lake, and stream environments. Conservation Stewards work on capstone projects with other students to help them apply what they learn to real-world conservation needs in their communities.

The Conservation Stewards Program is administered by Michigan State University Extension and planned and delivered in partnership with local conservation networks.

Course Themes

- Foundations of Conservation: Heritage, Ecology & Society and Conservation
- Terrestrial, Wetland, and Aquatic Ecosystems
- Natural Communities of Michigan

Course Offering

Offered every other year in various regions in Michigan. Course location is dependent on support from local conservation organizations.

Course Instructors

Professional-level instruction is provided by Michigan State Extension, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and local experts.

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

CSP Newaygo County Class Schedule

Week 1	September 9	Foundations of Conservation
Week 2	September 16	Society, Heritage, and Conservation
Week 3	September 23	Lakes
Field Day #1	September 28 (Saturday)	Lake Ecosystems
Week 4	September 30	Streams
Week 5	October 7	Wetlands
Week 6	October 14	Forests
Field Day #2	October 19 (Saturday)	North Country Trail Ecosystem Tour
Week 7	October 21	Grasslands
BREAK	October 28	NO CLASS
Week 8	November 4	Capstone Project Celebration

Registration opens in June

Cost: $250

Scholarships Available!

More information can be found at www.canr.msu.edu/csp

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Shelby Warner by August 18 at 517-884-7076.

NEWAYGO
Michigan Natural Features Inventory
FREMONT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
NCEC
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
Center for Lakes and Streams

Registration ends Sunday, August 18, 2024. Space is limited, so register early.

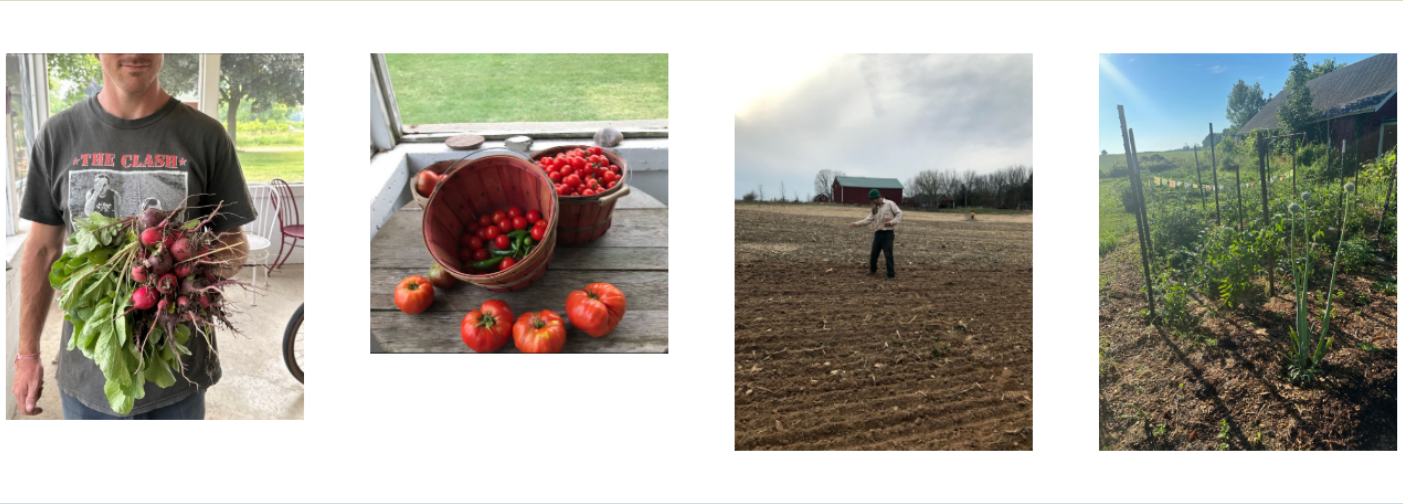
Register for the Conservation Stewardship Program

For cohort and content-related questions, please reach out to Sarah Pregitzer at spregitzer@sbcglobal.net, or Sally Wagoner at sally.w@nc-ec.org.

For general questions and registration assistance, please contact Shelby Warner at warner80@msu.edu or (517) 884-7076.

Scholarships are available. Apply via registration link.

Spotlight on Our NCEC Small Farmer/Grower Team



Close Encounters of the Food Kind

Written by Kathy Morrison of Morrison Orchards, Fremont, MI

There is more to buying local, fresh foods than meets the mouth. Of course, our first reaction to good food is to love the taste. But the benefits of buying local go far beyond love at first bite.

Be it fresh greens or sweet corn, tomatoes or asparagus, strawberries or cherries - all of our fabulous local Michigan produce, freshly picked and eaten within hours of harvest, is love at first bite. There is a very significant taste difference between freshly harvested versus picked days ago, shipped hundreds or thousands of miles, and hanging out at grocery stores for days. However, the benefits of local buying don't end with taste.

Does your food travel more than you do?

Many vegetables and fruits begin to lose nutritional value as soon as they are harvested. Studies show the average piece of produce will lose 30% of its many key nutrients within 3 days. Spinach can lose 90% of its nutrients within 24 hours of harvest. Produce that needs to travel more miles in a week than you might in a year, need a longer shelf life. Sometimes that means harvesting them in a very green/unripe state, further reducing their nutrient content. Freshly harvested, local produce doesn't just taste better, it is better for you. Choosing food that is produced a few miles away versus hundreds or thousands of miles away is a better choice.

What goes around, comes around

When you purchase from a local food producer, be it fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy or eggs, you are putting your money right back into our local economy. Much of the money I make as a local farmer gets spent right back here in Newaygo County - car repairs, restaurants, plumbers, builders, farm purchases, antique shops, massages, doctor's visits, purchases at local farm markets/roadside stands, grocery stores, greenhouses, and on and on. Not so with profits made on produce raised out of state or out of country. Those profits are spent miles away with little to no effect on supporting businesses and livelihoods here in our county. The closer to your home the produce is raised and purchased, the more likely it is that your money will be spent by your local farmer close to home, supporting other local businesses, maybe your own or one you work for, in a beneficial, circular economy. It's a win-win for helping local area businesses thrive.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE >>>

FOOD FOREST

Written by Mark Heying

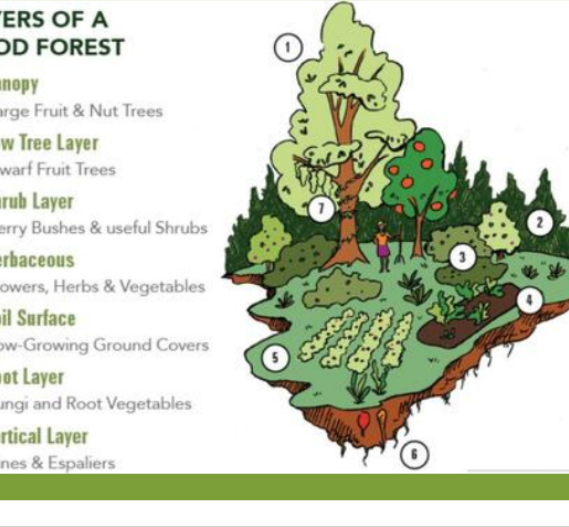
Imagine having your very own grocery store where the food is fresh, clean, and delicious. There are no nasty chemicals to worry about. You simply pick out what you want, take it home, and enjoy it. And don't bring your wallet; once you've gotten started, the food is free.

Where can you find such a grocery store? You can find it in your very own yard.
People have been growing their own grocery stores for thousands of years in the form of a food forest. There's one in Morocco that's been providing delicious fruit, including bananas, pomegranates, figs, and olives, for 20 centuries. Your food forest likely won't include such things, but plenty of fruit, nut, and perennial vegetable plants will grow here and will grow well.

It's not hard to do. There is no tedious, never-ending weeding to be done and no daily watering schedule. You don't have to plant every year. And you don't need a lot of room to do it; it can be as large or as small as you want it to be.

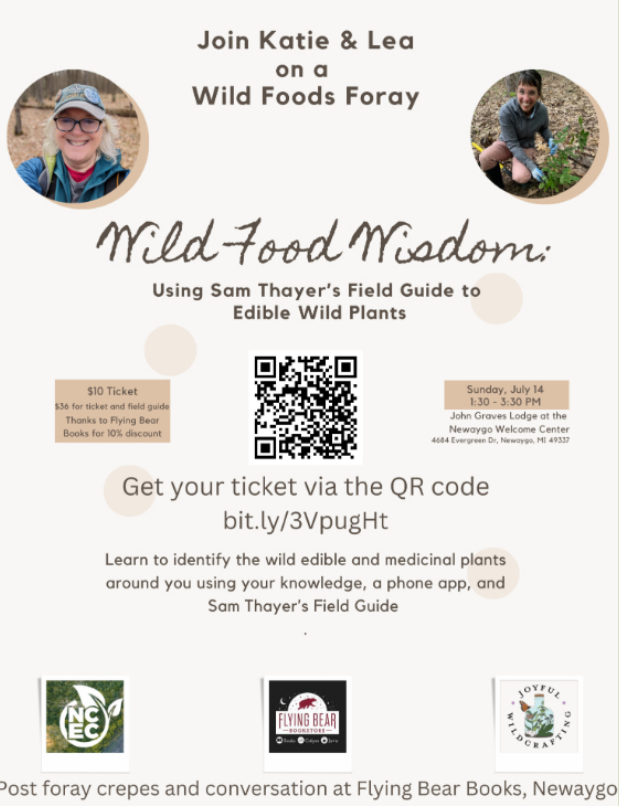
What's a food forest? It's a collection of plants of various sizes and shapes, all crammed in together, much like those you see in the Manistee National Forest. No one waters the trees in the forest; no one fertilizes them or weeds them. And they've grown happily together that way for many, many years. The plants feed themselves by dropping their leaves onto the forest floor, where hordes of little animals eat them and turn them into rich soil. The leaves and plants protect the forest floor from the sun's harsh rays, which keeps the soil moist.

Image Credit and Citation Request: Illustration by Corey Jameson Design for Fair Amount Food Forest



Read the Full Article>>>

Look for our upcoming page for our small farmers/Growers Team on our nc-ec.org website in the next week or so. We will provide an extensive Newaygo County Farmer/Grower list for the community to reference.



Join Katie & Lea on a Wild Foods Foray

Wild Food Wisdom:

Using Sam Thayer's Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants

Sunday, July 14 1:30 - 3:30 PM
John Graves Lodge at the Newaygo Welcome Center

Get your ticket via the QR code
bit.ly/3VpugHt

Learn to identify the wild edible and medicinal plants around you using your knowledge, a phone app, and Sam Thayer's Field Guide

Post foray crepes and conversation at Flying Bear Books, Newaygo

Wild Food Wisdom: A Foraging Workshop with Lea of Joyful Wildcrafting and Katie of Newaygo County Environmental Coalition

As the season unfolds, the landscapes around us burgeon with untapped resources – wild edible and medicinal plants that have nourished generations and healed countless ailments. This richness beckons the curious and the eco-conscious to explore and learn. Answering this call, an inspiring workshop is on the horizon, poised to transform how we interact with the natural world around us.

Register

A Journey into Wild Edibles and Medicinals

Hosted at the scenic Newaygo Welcome Center, this unique workshop offers an immersive experience into the world of foraging, led by two passionate experts, Lea Sevigny of Joyful Wildcrafting and Katie Clark, a dedicated board member of the Newaygo County Environmental Coalition. The event promises a blend of theory and hands-on practice aimed at equipping participants with the skills to identify, responsibly harvest, and utilize the bounty nature offers.

Meet Your Guides to the Wild

Lea Sevigny, from Joyful Wildcrafting, brings her extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for connecting people with the edible and healing powers of plants. Her workshops are known for their engaging and practical approach, making the art of wildcrafting accessible to all.

Katie Clark, with her deep roots in environmental education and personal journey into foraging, embodies a wealth of knowledge and a passion for sharing it. Her experiences, from the serendipitous encounter with a loon that led her to call Newaygo County home, to her innovative teaching methods that connect students with nature, highlight her commitment to fostering a deeper bond between people and the environment.

Sam Thayer's Field Guide: Your Companion in Exploration

A cornerstone of the workshop will be Sam Thayer's Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants of Eastern & Central North America. This guide stands out not only for its comprehensive coverage of over 700 edible species but also for its innovative identification system. Thayer's accessible language and detailed descriptions, supplemented by sharp color photos and range maps, make foraging accessible to beginners and enrich the practice for seasoned foragers. Participants will learn to navigate this treasure trove of information, turning every outdoor walk into an opportunity for discovery and connection.

Why You Should Join

This workshop is more than just a learning opportunity; it's a gateway to a sustainable lifestyle and a deeper appreciation for our natural world. By understanding how to identify and harvest wild plants, we take a step towards self-sufficiency and contribute to the conservation of our local ecosystems. Moreover, the workshop offers a chance to be part of a community of like-minded individuals, passionate about nature and eager to share their knowledge and experiences.

The event will conclude with a gathering at the Flying Bear Bookstore for coffee, tea, and crepes, where discussions on developing a foraging community in Newaygo County will continue. This is your chance to join a movement toward sustainability with a discussion of creating an organized foraging community through the NCEC.

Don't miss this opportunity to transform your walks in the wild into a journey of discovery. Register now and unlock the secrets of the natural bounty that surrounds us. Let's embark on this adventure together, guided by the wisdom of Lea, Katie, and Sam Thayer's indispensable field guide.

Newaygo County Environmental Events, Activities, Education, & Awareness

Keep Informed & Get Involved

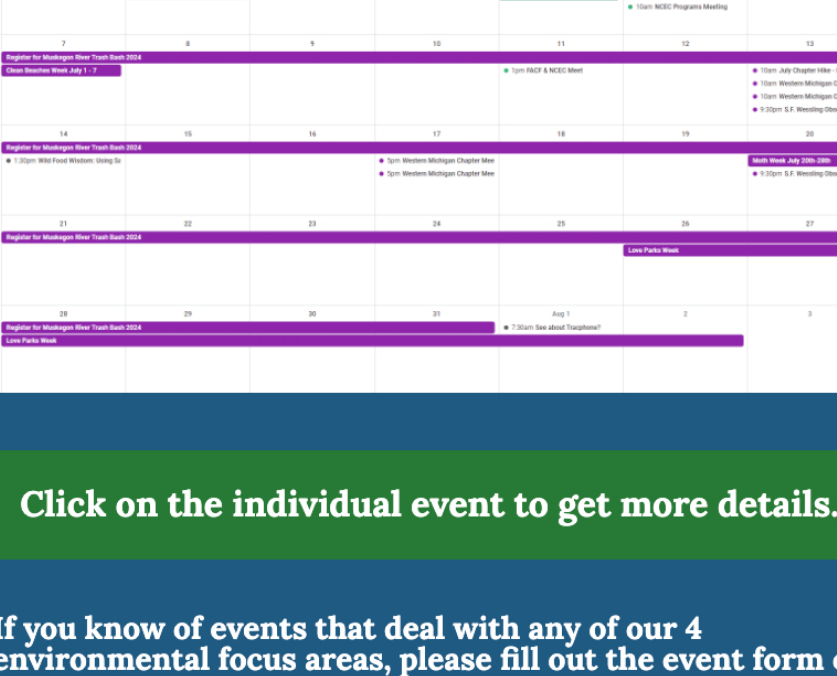
How Can We Get Our Environmental Event Amplified by NCEC?

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.

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

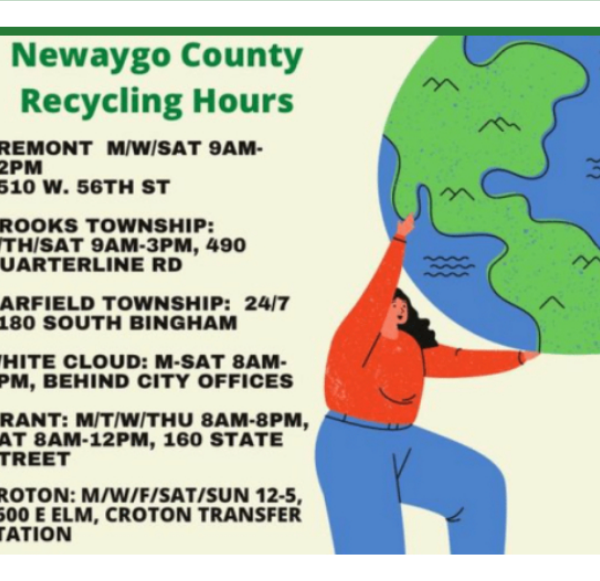


Click on the individual event to get more details.

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

Click to Fill Out NCEC Event Form to Submit to our Calendar

3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Newaygo County Recycling Hours

FREMONT M/W/SAT 9AM-12PM
5510 W. 56TH ST

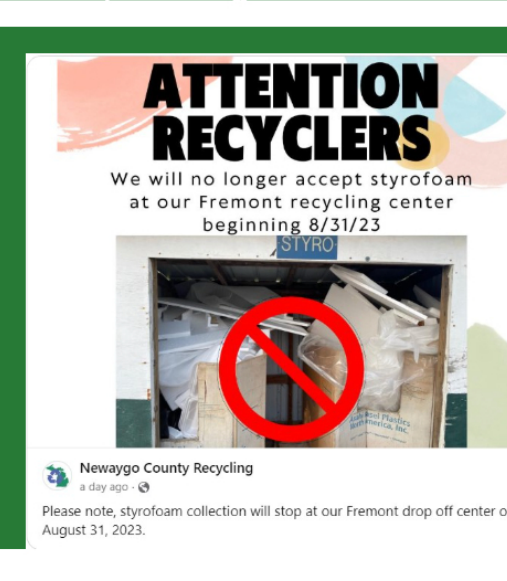
BROOKS TOWNSHIP: T/TH/SAT 9AM-3PM, 490 QUARTERLINE RD

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP: 24/7
7180 SOUTH BINGHAM

WHITE CLOUD: M-SAT 8AM-4PM, BEHIND CITY OFFICES

GRANT: M/T/W/THU 8AM-8PM, SAT 8AM-12PM, 160 STATE STREET

CROTON: M/W/F/SAT/SUN 12-5, 5600 E ELM, CROTON TRANSFER STATION



ATTENTION RECYCLERS

We will no longer accept styrofoam at our Fremont recycling center beginning 8/31/23

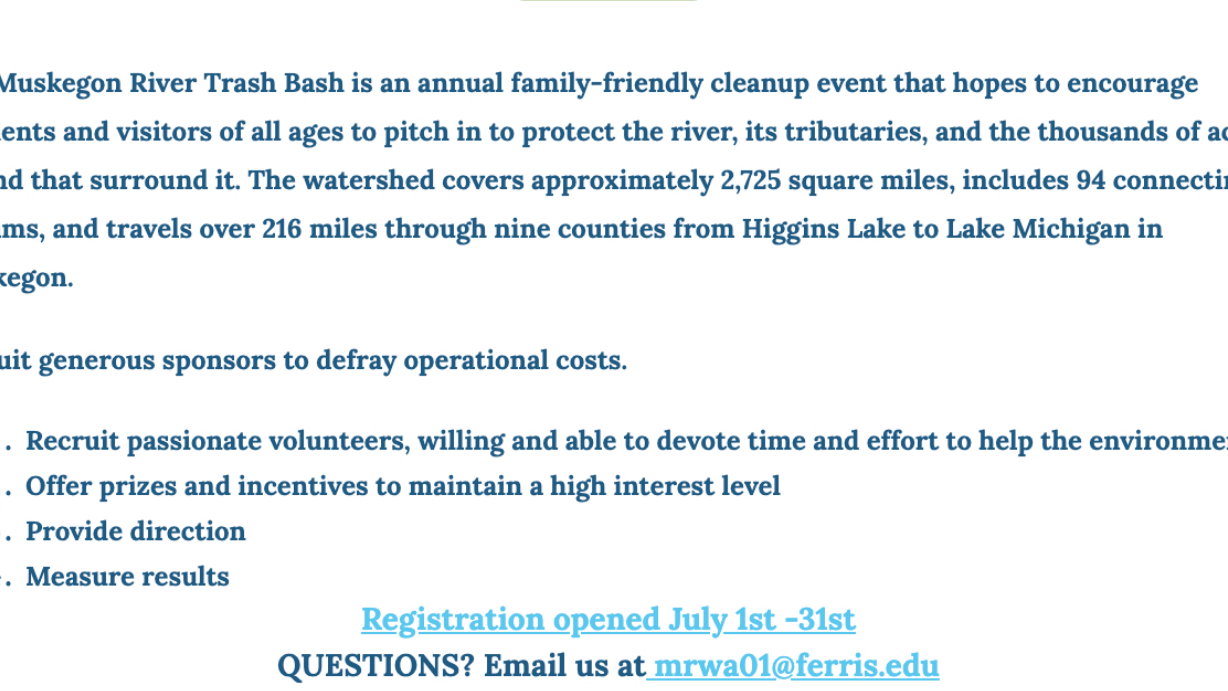
Newaygo County Recycling

Please note, styrofoam collection will stop at our Fremont drop off center on August 31, 2023.

White Cloud: 12 N Charles (Behind City Office) Open 24/7
Fremont: 5510 W 56th St. Open 24/7
Grant: 160 State St. Open 24/7
Newaygo (Brooks): 490 Quarterline Rd. Open 24/7
Newaygo (Garfield): 7180 Bingham Open 24/7

Healthy Habitats on Private and Public Lands: Waters, Forests, Meadows and native eco-systems

Interested in Working Together to Restore Native Ecosystems of Newaygo County? LET US KNOW HERE


MUSKEGON RIVER TRASH BASH
River clean up: August 1st - 31st
REGISTER AT: WWW.MRWA.ORG/TRASHBASH

Register

The Muskegon River Trash Bash is an annual family-friendly cleanup event that hopes to encourage residents and visitors of all ages to pitch in to protect the river, its tributaries, and the thousands of acres of land that surround it. The watershed covers approximately 2,725 square miles, includes 94 connecting streams, and travels over 216 miles through nine counties from Higgins Lake to Lake Michigan in Muskegon.

Recruit generous sponsors to defray operational costs.

1. Recruit passionate volunteers, willing and able to devote time and effort to help the environment
2. Offer prizes and incentives to maintain a high interest level
3. Provide direction
4. Measure results

Registration opened July 1st -31st
QUESTIONS? Email us at mrwa01@ferris.edu

Youth & Young Adult Environmental Allies

LOBO: Love Our Beautiful Outdoors

>>> Western Michigan Chapter Guided Hike, July 13th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
>>>Wild Foods Wisdom, July 14th, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
>>> Western Michigan Chapter Meeting, July 17th, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
>>> S.F. Wessling Observatory Star Party July 13th, 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm
>>> S.F. Wessling Observatory Star Party July 20th, 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm

Nature's calling: will you answer?

Join Our Efforts

How Can I Get Involved?

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

2. Join an NCEC Team! Bring your skills and knowledge to the NCEC.

Current NCEC Teams to join: 3R, Prescribe Burn, Michigan Green Schools, Vernal Pool Patrol, Native Plant Enthusiasts (or help to create a team that fits your environmental passion.)

3. Would you like to get involved in the nuts and bolts of our organization? Contact us about attending our bi-monthly work sessions or apply to be on our NCEC Board.

4. Donate!

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:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe