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Edition #1 June 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".

Nature Speaks. Are You Ready To Join the Conversation?
By Judy Stapone

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Welcome to our first monthly NCEC e-Newsletter. We thank you for your interest and hope to get to know you and your goals for a sustainable, healthy environment in Newaygo County. Learn more about our mission, focus areas, and how you can get involved.

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Newaygo County Environmental Coalition is proud to coordinate MI Green Schools for Newaygo County. On January 18th, NCEC Board member, Katie Clark, presented Scott Sherman, principal of Fremont High School, and Julie Anderson, FHS MI Green School Coordinator and orchestra teacher, the school's Michigan Green Schools Emerald Award and EGLE Green Schools flag to display.

Michigan Green Schools in Newaygo County
By Katie Clark

Environmental Ally Spotlight

What Are Vernal Pools Any How? And Who is MNFI?

By Katie Clark

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The Vernal Pool Patrol, organized by Michigan Natural Features Inventory (Michigan State University – Extension), is among one of the first statewide vernal pool monitoring programs in the country. The program's ongoing success is due to the hardworking and dedicated community scientists who are fueled by a passion for nature and want to help protect unique places in Michigan. The Vernal Pool Patrol is also part of a larger effort called the Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership that is comprised of a team of dedicated educators, researchers, naturalists, and volunteers who strive to advance vernal pool research and conservation across Michigan.

Vernal Pool Definition:

Vernal pools, also known as ephemeral pools, autumnal pools, and temporary woodland ponds, typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rainfall and rising groundwater and remain ponded through the spring and into summer.

Vernal Pools Are Important to Our Ecosytem>>>

Vernal pools are naturally occurring, small, temporarily flooded wetlands found in shallow depressions across the landscape. Vernal pools are often called the coral reefs of the forest as they are hosts to incredible biodiversity! Vernal pools can occur in various ecosystems around the world but are primarily found in forested ecosystems across Michigan. These pools are isolated and do not have continuous connections with other large bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, or streams. Due to isolation, vernal pools lack fish and therefore are advantageous breeding grounds for many amphibian and invertebrate species. Evidence of breeding by a group of specific species, known as 'indicators', helps identify if a vernal pool is present. In Michigan, these indicator species include Fairy shrimp, Wood frog, Spotted salamander, and Blue-spotted salamander.

How Can I Help?

Newaygo (Algonquin for "much water") has 48-square-miles of land covered by water: 230+ lakes, 356 miles of river, not to mention loads of ponds, swamps, and bogs. Over ¼ of its 853-square-miles is Manistee National Forest. While it is evident Newaygo County has many vernal ponds, few if any are recorded at this time. Just by hiking along the 68 miles of the North Country Trail that runs through Newaygo County, one will easily find several vernal ponds. In line with the NCEC's mission is to "to support the beauty and sustainability of the Newaygo County environment', we are partnering with the MNFI to survey and preserve the health of vernal pools in Newaygo County as one facet of our mission. We look to involve as many Newaygo Environmental Allies (community members and organizations) in this endeavor, both on public and private lands.



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 June



Click on the individual event to get more details.

Youth & Young Adult Environmental Advocates

>>>Family friendly: NCT Guided Hike (Foraging & Plant ID Guide) June 10th @ 10 am

>>>Insect Identification June 22 @ 6-8pm

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

>>>Family friendly: NCT Guided Hike (Foraging & Plant ID Guide) June 10th @ 10 am

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

3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

>>>Newaygo County Tire Collection, June 10th, 8am-12pm

Healthy Habitats

>>>Microplastics Webinar, June 8, 12pm

>>>NCT Trail Work Day, June 10, 9am

>>>NCT Trail Work Day, June 24, 9am

>>>NCT Trail Work Day, June 24, 9am

Environmental Resources

Of Newaygo County and Nearby

Newaygo County Environmental Allies Click for List

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!

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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