Edition #13 June 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.

NCEC CELEBRATES Our 1 Year Anniversary!

- Look At Us Grow! Welcome Our New Board Members
- Join Us in LOBO of Newaygo County
- Check Out Our Coming Events
- Join Us! Continue the Momentum

ALL THE BUZZ WITH NCEC!

Links to all the essential NCEC Happenings.

Click for NCEC Special Events Info

- NCEC Wild Ones Event: Protecting Newaygo County's Natural Treasure: The Karner Blue Butterfly

MI Conservation Stewards Program in Newaygo County for the 1st time!

Join us this fall for the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program. This is a unique opportunity to learn about Newaygo County's natural communities from local experts and organizations who are committed to native habitat protection and restoration.

Over the course of 10 weeks, this intensive program will immerse you in the foundations of conservation through a mix of classroom, online, and most importantly, hands-on field sessions. These experiences will give you a deep understanding of our local forests, grasslands, wetlands, lakes, and stream environments.

This certification program will help you gain the skills needed to contribute to land and water stewardship and educational efforts in our Newaygo region.

Join us in creating a network of Newaygo region environmental stewards as we work together to protect our vital native habitats! Work scholarships are available to help with tuition costs.
Read more about the Conservation Stewards Program: MSU Conservation Stewards Program Info

You can also contact Sally Wagoner from NCEC for more information: sally.w@nc-ec.org.

NCEC is proud and excited to be part of the collaboration to bring the MSU Conservation Stewards Program to our Newaygo region, along with the Fremont Area Community Foundation, Newaygo Invasive Plants Project, Newaygo Conservation District, and the Little River Band of Odawa Indians.

You can be at the top of the registration list if you fill out this interest form here.

Conservation Stewards Program Interest Form

Welcoming Fresh Faces to Newaygo County Environmental Coalition: Meet Susie Hall and Linda Shively

Welcoming Fresh Faces to the Newaygo County Environmental Coalition: Meet Susie Hall and Linda Shively

The Newaygo County Environmental Coalition (NCEC) is thrilled to introduce two remarkable individuals, Susie Hall and Linda Shively, as the newest members to join our board. Their passion for the environment and commitment to conservation aligns perfectly with our mission to protect, restore, and enhance the natural beauty and biodiversity of Newaygo County. At NCEC, we believe in fostering a community that values and actively participates in the preservation of our unique environmental heritage. Through education, advocacy, and hands-on projects, we strive to make a tangible impact on our local ecosystems.

Susie Hall: A Lifetime of Environmental Advocacy

Susie's journey to Newaygo County was serendipitously marked by the sight of Bald Eagles and Red Headed Woodpeckers, symbols of our area's natural splendor. Raised in Ohio with a profound respect for nature instilled by her parents, Susie has always advocated for the environment. Her extensive experience in special education and involvement with the Michigan Green Schools project brings invaluable expertise to our team, especially in engaging the younger members of our community. Susie's passion for birding and her dedication to environmental restoration make her an exemplary addition to the NCEC board.

Linda Shively: A Vision for a Biodiverse Future

Linda's connection to Newaygo County runs deep, with roots tracing back to a childhood spent amidst the natural wonders of Fremont Lake. Witnessing the decline in biodiversity firsthand, Linda is motivated by a desire for her grandchildren and future generations to experience the rich, diverse environment she once knew. Her work in native plant restoration, particularly with milkweed to support Monarch butterflies, exemplifies the kind of hands-on, impactful environmental work NCEC champions. With a wealth of experience in non-profit leadership, Linda's expertise and passion for native plant benefits, especially in shoreline environments, will greatly contribute to our mission.

NCEC Continuing Board of Directors

The Newaygo County Environmental Council (NCEC) is proud of its committed Board of Directors. Sally Wagoner, with her deep-rooted connection to the natural world and extensive background in health and environmental advocacy, brings a holistic approach to our initiatives. Jason DeKuiper, a local business leader and active community member, leverages his professional and personal networks to support and promote our environmental efforts, demonstrating a commitment to the health and beauty of Newaygo County. Katie Clark, a former educator with a profound love of nature and an interest in using technology, bridges the gap between the natural world and digital communication, ensuring our message and programs reach a wider audience. Together, they continue to drive our mission to protect and enhance Newaygo County's environment, inspiring community engagement and fostering a love for nature among residents.

You, Too, Can Join Us in Our Mission

The addition of Susie Hall and Linda Shively to the NCEC board represents an exciting new chapter in our ongoing efforts to safeguard Newaygo County's environmental treasures. Their stories remind us of each individual's critical role in environmental conservation and the power of community involvement. We invite you to join us, along with Susie and Linda, in our various projects and initiatives to make Newaygo County a haven for biodiversity and natural beauty. Whether you're passionate about wildlife, native plants, or sustainable living, there's a place for you at NCEC. Together, we can make a difference for our environment today and for generations to come.

Visit the Newaygo County Environmental Coalition website to learn more about our mission, upcoming projects, and how you can get involved. Let's work together to create a sustainable, vibrant future for Newaygo County.

Sally, Jason, & Katie have been with the NCEC since its inception. They are thrilled to welcome Susie and Linda.

Volunteer With NCEC

Saturday, June 29 · 2 - 4:30 pm EDT

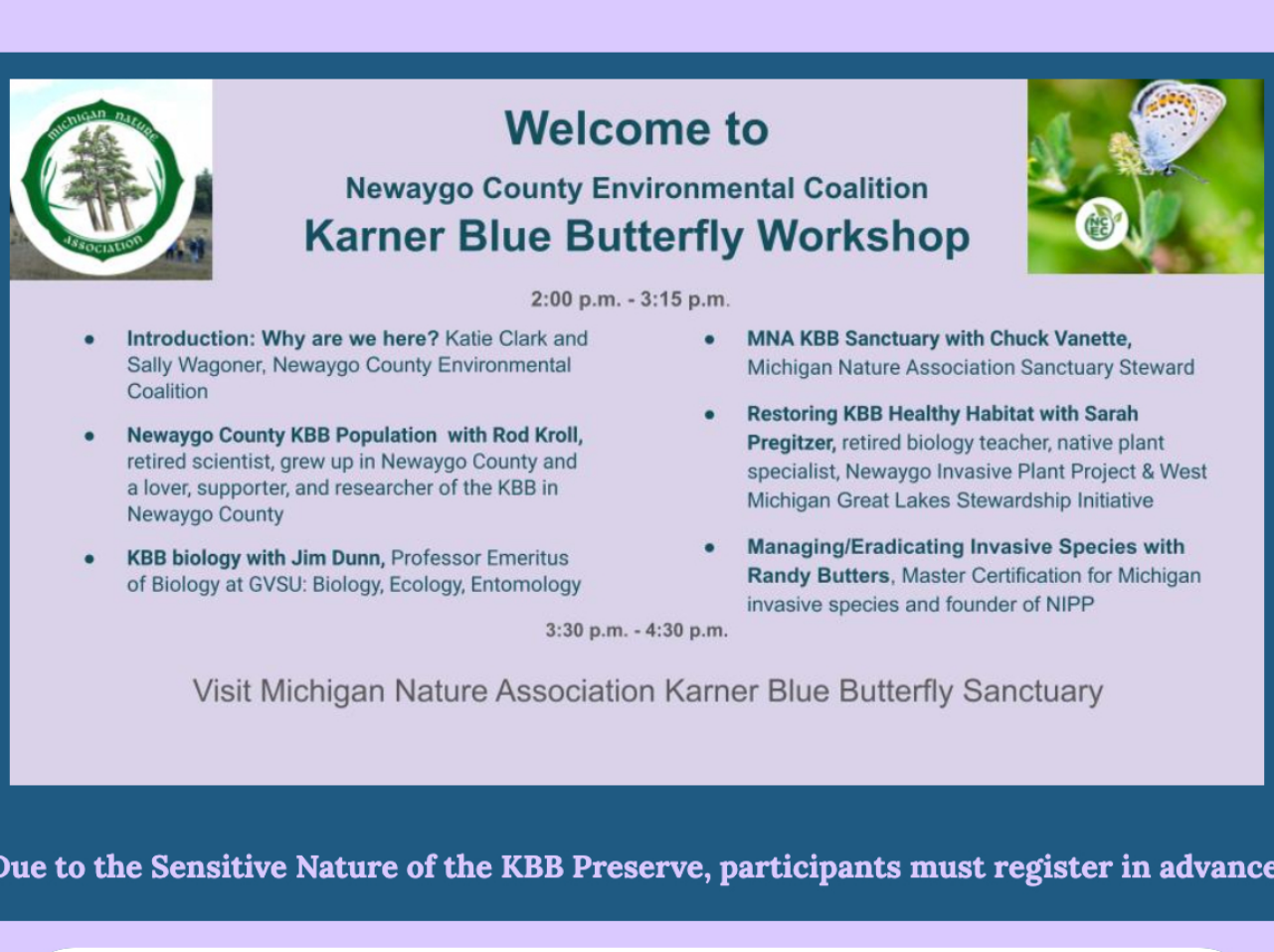
James P Dunn, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, GVSU

Come join the Newaygo County Environmental Coalition at the Croton Twp Library for an event dedicated to preserving the beauty of the Karner Blue Butterfly! Learn about the importance of conservation efforts in our prairie-oak opening habitats and how you can help protect this endangered species. Connect with fellow nature enthusiasts and discover the wonders of our unique local ecosystem. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in Newaygo County's natural heritage!

The caterpillars of Karner blue butterflies (KBB) feed exclusively on wild lupine (Lupinus perennis), and thus, the Karner blue's range is restricted to our sand prairies and oak-pine savanna that support lupine. Unfortunately, much of the lupine's habitat has been destroyed by human development and or degraded by the invasion of trees, shrubs, and invasive plants that occur when sites are not managed. The Karner blue was listed as endangered in 1992, and by then, the number of Karner blue butterflies throughout its once immense Eastern geographic range had declined by 99%. Michigan and Wisconsin now have the largest remaining numbers of KBB.

Thanks to the recent efforts by local conservation groups and concerned citizens, habitats that support KBBs which remain in Newaygo County. However, their survival is still at stake, and they need our immediate help!

This exciting event will feature several local Karner and prairie enthusiasts who will discuss their love and experiences working with the Karner and its habitat in the Newaygo area. We will also discuss opportunities for you to help, and afterward, we will visit the Karner Nature Preserve. So come on out, meet some great people, and learn about our natural treasure, the Karner blue!



Welcome to
Newaygo County Environmental Coalition
Karner Blue Butterfly Workshop

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

- **Introduction: Why are we here?** Katie Clark and Sally Wagoner, Newaygo County Environmental Coalition
- **Newaygo County KBB Population with Rod Kroll,** retired scientist, grew up in Newaygo County and a lover, supporter, and researcher of the KBB in Newaygo County
- **KBB biology with Jim Dunn,** Professor Emeritus of Biology at GVSU: Biology, Ecology, Entomology
- **MNA KBB Sanctuary with Chuck Vanette,** Michigan Nature Association Sanctuary Steward
- **Restoring KBB Healthy Habitat with Sarah Pregitzer,** retired biology teacher, native plant specialist, Newaygo Invasive Plant Project & West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative
- **Managing/Eradicating Invasive Species with Randy Butters,** Master Certification for Michigan invasive species and founder of NIPP

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Visit Michigan Nature Association Karner Blue Butterfly Sanctuary

Due to the Sensitive Nature of the KBB Preserve, participants must register in advance.

Click Here to Register

Read More About Efforts to Save the KBB

Spotlight on LOBO (Love Our Beautiful Outdoors): Newaygo County

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NANCY PRESENTS "HIKING THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL"

- Grant District Library: June 4, 6:00 p.m.
- White Cloud Community Library: June 22, 10:00 a.m.
- Fremont Area District Library: June 25, 7:00 p.m.

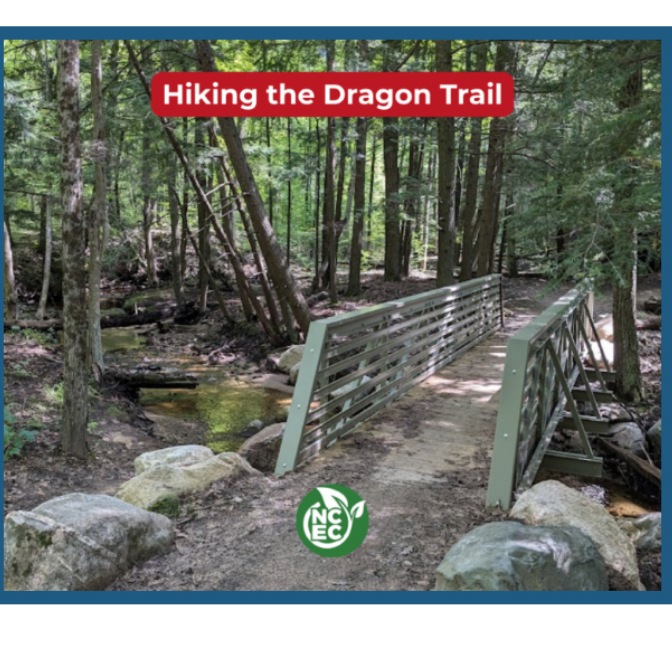
Catch The Blue Fever: Join Nancy DeJong On An Inspiring Journey Along The North Country Trail

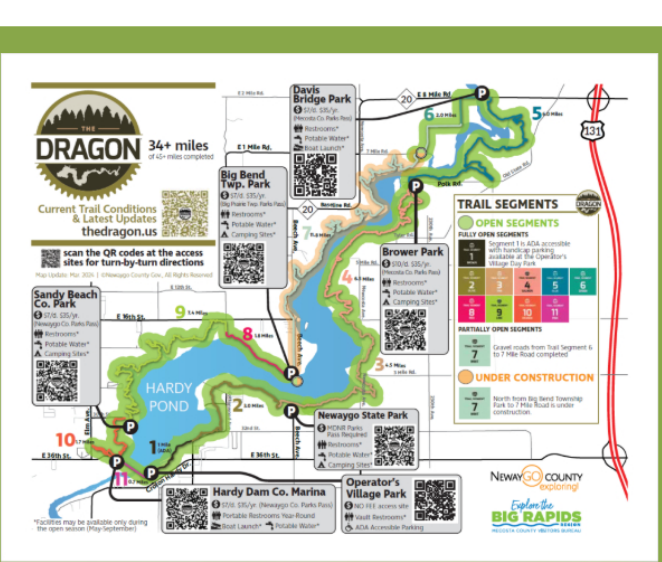
In the heart of Newaygo County, Michigan, lives a remarkable woman who, at 72, has proven that adventure knows no age. Nancy DeJong's footsteps have traced over every inch of Michigan's 1,164 miles of the North Country Trail (NCT). Nancy's story isn't just about hiking; it's a testament to the power of community, the joys of nature, and the boundless capabilities that lie within us, regardless of age.

Nancy's journey on the NCT began with a desire to honor her father's memory. It evolved into a remarkable adventure that led her to complete the entire Michigan stretch of the trail. "It feels really good," Nancy shared, reflecting on her accomplishment. Yet, the camaraderie and the connections forged along the path truly highlight her experience. "I made so many friends through this," she added, emphasizing the importance of the community that supported her every step of the way.

From her initial goal of accomplishing the 100-mile NCT Challenge to conquering the entire NCT in Michigan, Nancy's story is one of gradual but determined progress. "I knew of the North Country Trail as a kid; my Dad hiked it with my brothers," Nancy recalled. Since accomplishing that initial goal, Nancy has set and completed some miles in each of the eight states with the NCT, 1,000 unique NCT miles, and BEFORE completing all of Michigan's NCT.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE >>>





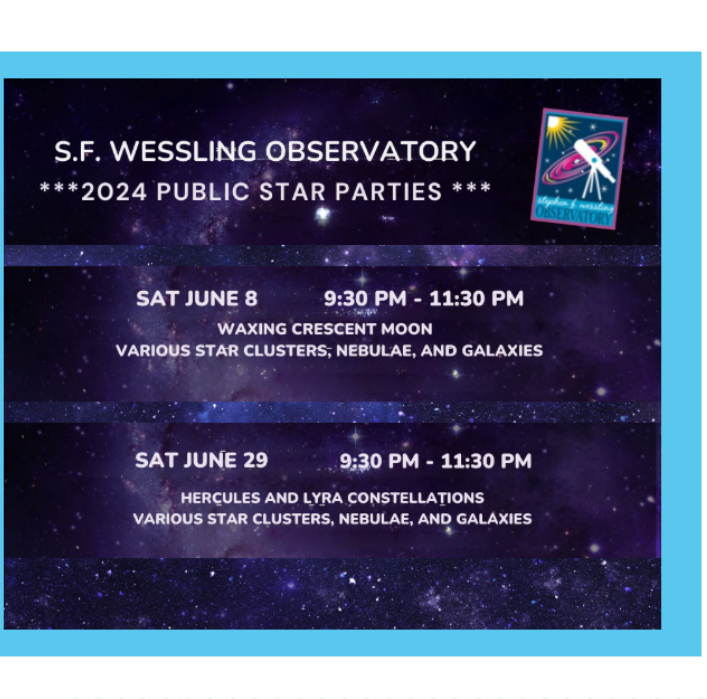
Check Out the Nearly Finished Trail!

Click Here to EXPLORE Outdoor Opportunities in Newaygo County

Read the Full Article

Sally Forth Hike Challenge 2

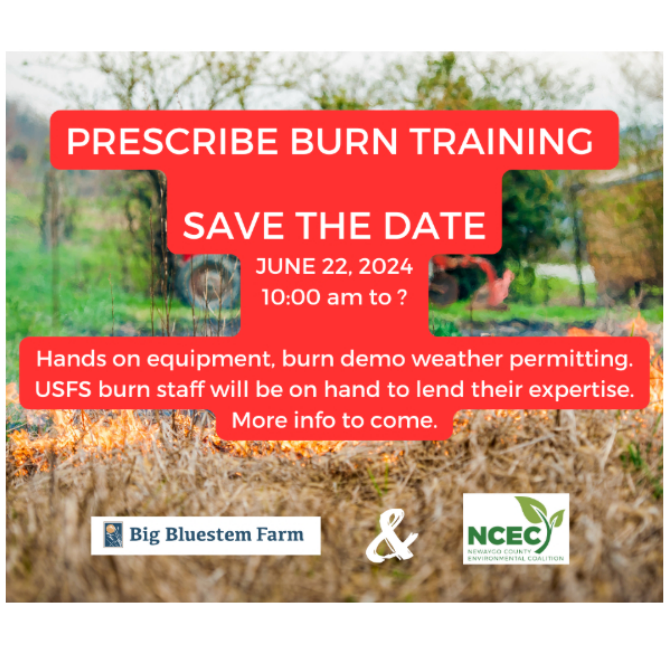
We had a great turnout for this year's Second Annual Sally Forth Hike Challenge. Women participated from Newaygo County and as far away as Lansing and Ludington. We started in a light rain but ended in glorious sunshine. The women were excited to stretch their boundaries to hike longer distances, which is what this event is all about. Women discover a great deal of camaraderie, spending time together trekking through the woods.



S.F. WESSLING OBSERVATORY
***2024 PUBLIC STAR PARTIES ***

SAT JUNE 8 9:30 PM - 11:30 PM
WAXING CRESCENT MOON
VARIOUS STAR CLUSTERS, NEBULAE, AND GALAXIES

SAT JUNE 29 9:30 PM - 11:30 PM
HERCULES AND LYRA CONSTELLATIONS
VARIOUS STAR CLUSTERS, NEBULAE, AND GALAXIES



PRESCRIBE BURN TRAINING
SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 22, 2024
10:00 am to ?
Hands on equipment, burn demo weather permitting. USFS burn staff will be on hand to lend their expertise. More info to come.
Big Bluestem Farm & NCEC

Newaygo County Environmental Events, Activities, Education, & Awareness

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Keep Informed & Get Involved

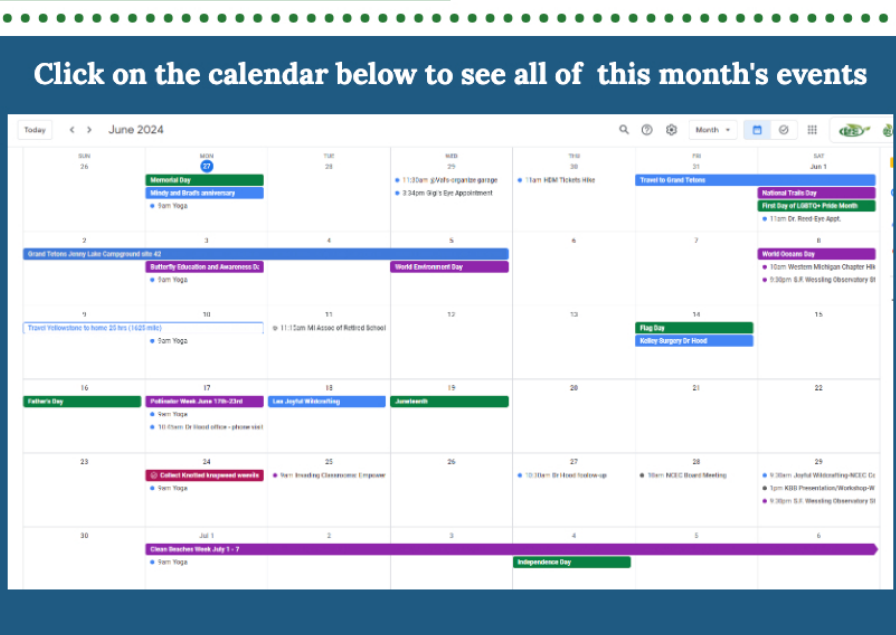
How Can We Get Our Environmental Event Amplified by NCEC?

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

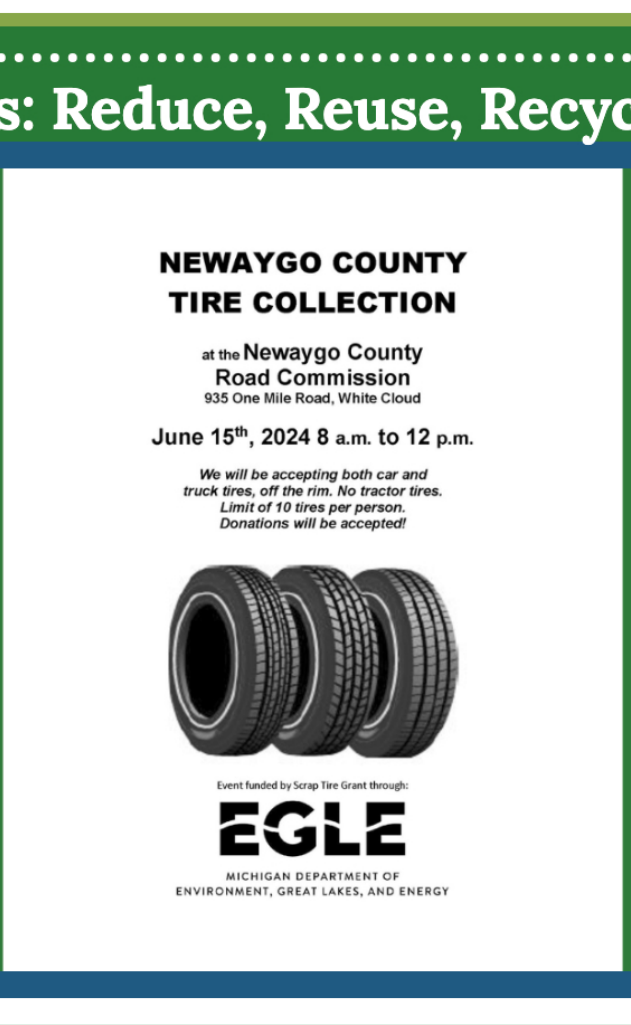


Click on the individual event to get more details.

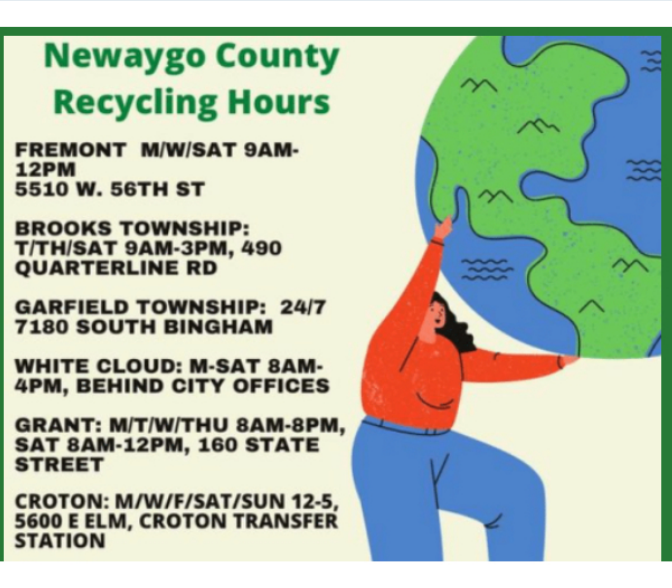
If you know of events that deal with any of our 4 environmental focus areas, please fill out the event form or email us the specifics at buzz@ne-ec.org

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

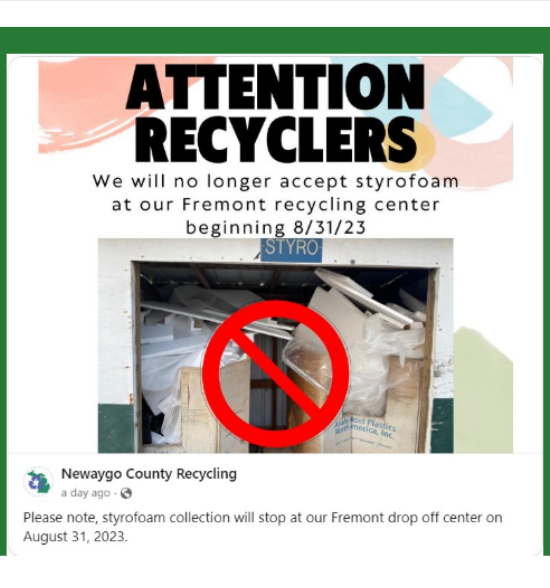
3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



NEWAYGO COUNTY
TIRE COLLECTION
at the Newaygo County Road Commission
935 One Mile Road, White Cloud
June 15th, 2024 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
We will be accepting both car and truck tires, off the rim. No tractor tires. Limit of 10 tires per person. Donations will be accepted!
Event funded by Scrap Tire Grant through:
EGLE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



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

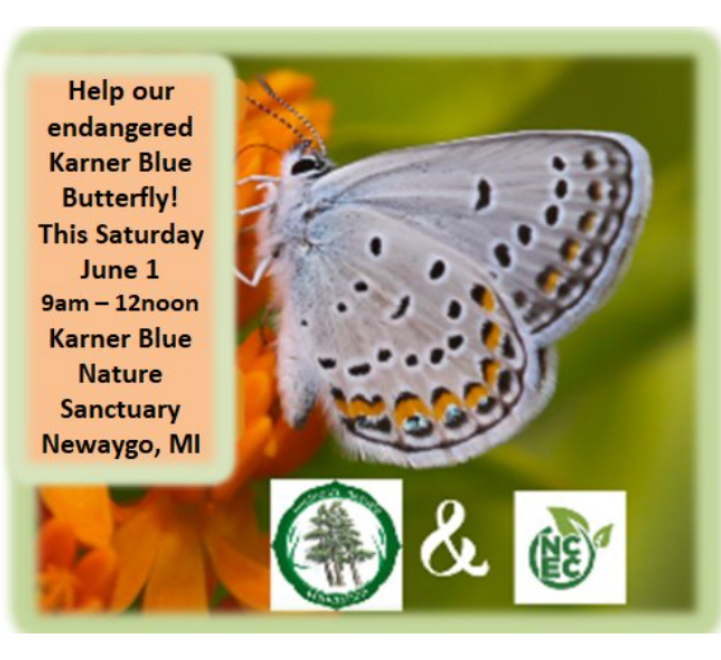
White Cloud: 12 N Charles (Behind City Office) Open 24/7
Fremont: 5510 W 56th St. Open 24/7
Grant: 160 State St. Open 24/7
Newaygo (Brooks): 490 Quarterline Rd. Open 24/7
Newaygo (Garfield): 7180 Bingham Open 24/7

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

>>> Tire Recycling Newaygo Co, June 15gh, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

>>> White River Watershed Partnership Board Meeting, June 27th, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm



Help our endangered Karner Blue Butterfly! This Saturday June 1 9am – 12noon Karner Blue Nature Sanctuary Newaygo, MI

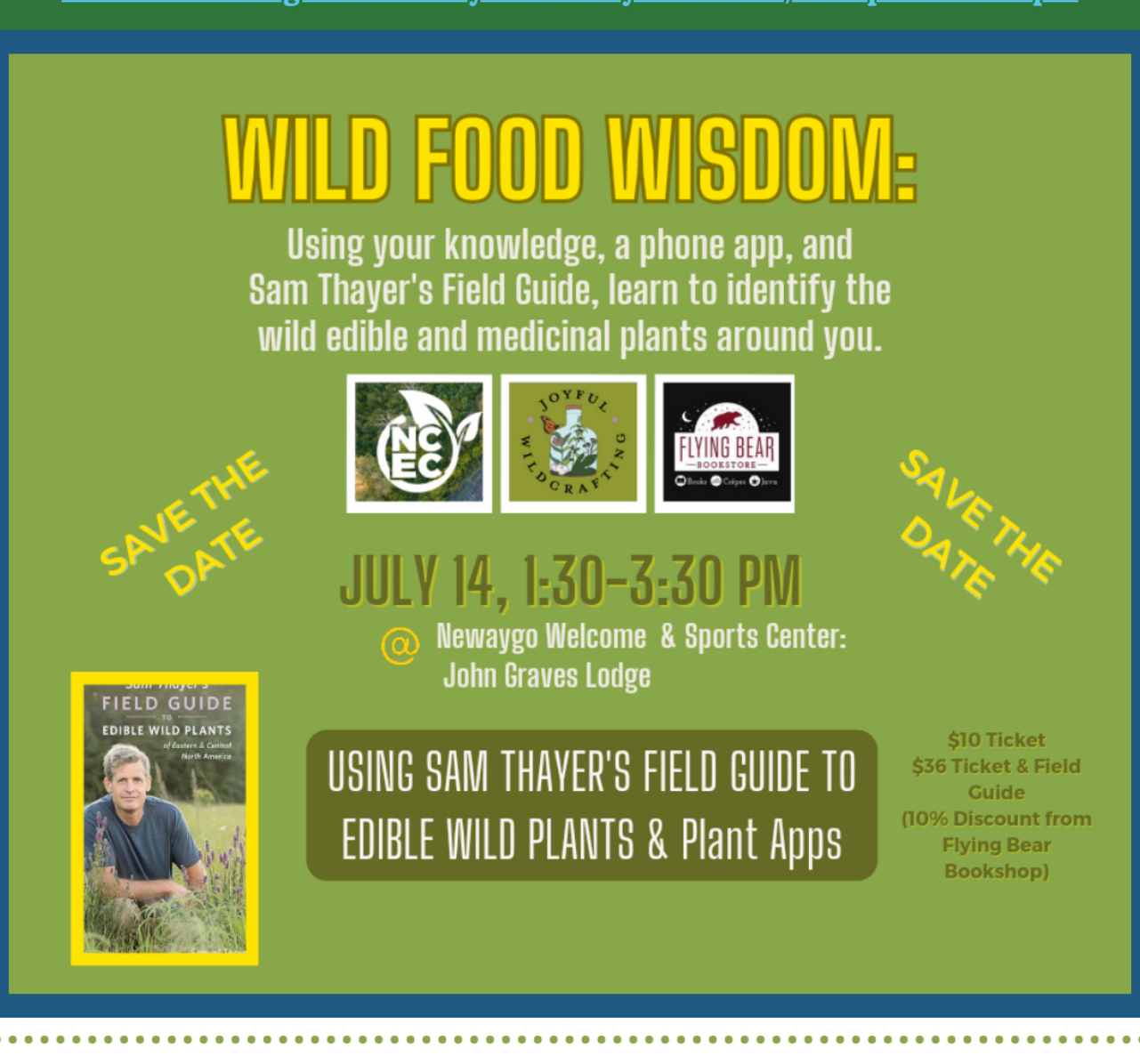
Youth & Young Adult Environmental Allies

LOBO: Love Our Beautiful Outdoors

>>> Western Michigan Chapter Guided Hike, June 8th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

>>> S.F. Wessling Observatory Star Party June 8th, 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm

>>> S.F. Wessling Observatory Star Party June 29th, 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm



WILD FOOD WISDOM:
Using your knowledge, a phone app, and Sam Thayer's Field Guide, learn to identify the wild edible and medicinal plants around you.
SAVE THE DATE
SAVE THE DATE
JULY 14, 1:30-3:30 PM
@ Newaygo Welcome & Sports Center: John Graves Lodge
USING SAM THAYER'S FIELD GUIDE TO EDIBLE WILD PLANTS & Plant Apps
$10 Ticket
$36 Ticket & Field Guide
(10% Discount from Flying Bear Bookshop)

Nature's calling: will you answer?

Join Our Efforts

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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