Edition #12 May 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!

Links to all the essential NCEC Happenings.

Click for NCEC Special Events Info

- Wild Ones! Native Plants Seedling Chapter Of The Newaygo Region, 5/18, 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

Volunteer With NCEC

In 2001, the MRWA and Brooks Township developed a guiding plan to help preserve the natural beauty, health, and diversity of Newaygo County's forests, prairies, skies, and wetlands. However, the plan needs to get out of the office and into the hands of the wider Newaygo County landowner.

Below are just two of the 8-page documents you can get by clicking the images or the button given button.

This is NEWAYGO COUNTY!

Prairies and forests...lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands...abundant wildlife and public natural lands...

Preserve The Natural Beauty Of Newaygo: A Call To Action For Landowners

Nestled in the heart of Newaygo County, Brooks Township (just one of Newaygo County's 24 townships) is a testament to nature's splendor, boasting over 81% of its land adorned with forests, prairies, lakes, streams, and a rich tapestry of wildlife. This natural beauty not only defines our community but also draws people from far and wide, making it imperative to preserve the very essence that makes Newaygo County unique.

However, the rapid population growth—from 1,330 residents in 1970 to over 3,670 in 2000—and a significant increase in residential land use pose a looming threat to our cherished natural landscapes. Projections suggest continued growth and development, risking further encroachment on our natural lands unless we take decisive action.

Brooks Township realized this in 2001 and embarked on a proactive journey to safeguard its portion of Newaygo County's environment for future generations. Their plan focused on key water resources and aimed to minimize environmental impact and maintain natural habitats, demonstrating their commitment to preserving the township's rural and natural character and ensuring all residents' high quality of life.

However, that was 23 years ago, and Newaygo County has seen continued growth throughout. More than ever, private landowners from each of the 24 townships are needed to help with environmental management, and preservation is imperative.

The path to sustainable growth and environmental stewardship must extend beyond governmental planning. The real change-makers are you—the private landowner. Your property is vital to the larger ecological puzzle, providing essential habitat for diverse plant and wildlife species. By embracing the role of a natural steward, you have the power to make a lasting impact.

We invite you to explore the various management options available for your forest, prairie, or barrens lands. Every action counts, whether maintaining open spaces, preventing sprawl, protecting significant natural features and wildlife habitat, or simply preserving the county's rural charm.

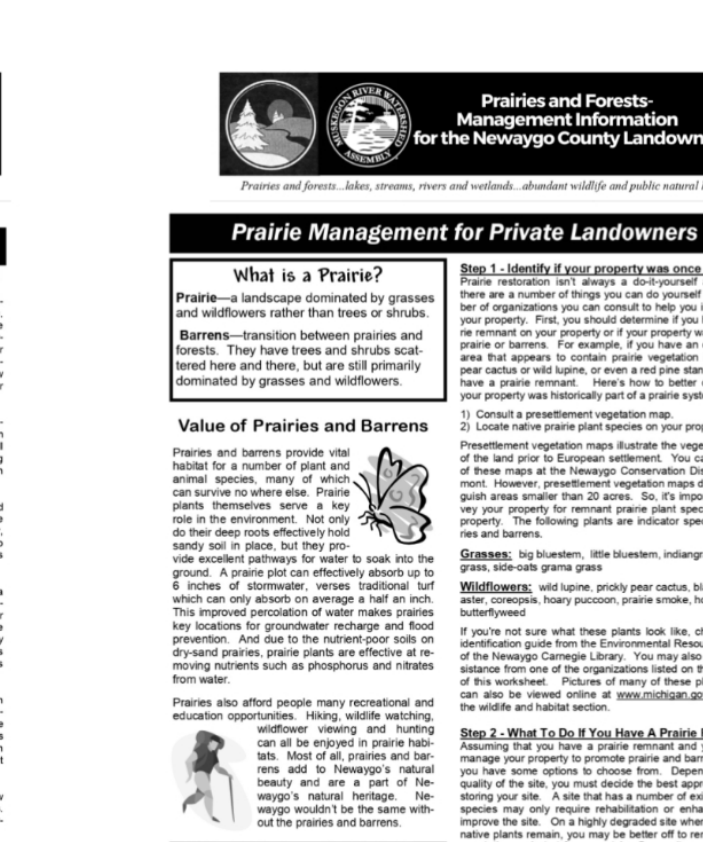
This is not just about preserving land; it's about preserving a way of life. By working together, we can ensure that Newaygo County's natural beauty and biodiversity remain intact for generations to come. Let's unite in this noble cause and make a difference in our community. Turn the page, and let's embark on this stewardship journey together.

Your involvement can help prevent the loss of our natural landscapes and maintain the high quality of life we cherish. Please reach out for more information on how to contribute to this vital effort. Together, we can protect the natural wonders of Newaygo County for ourselves and future generations.

Click to Obtain the Original PDF from MRWA

Prairies and Forests- Management Information for the Newaygo County Landowner

Forest Management for Private Landowners



Prairies and Forests- Management Information for the Newaygo County Landowner

Prairie Management for Private Landowners

Our Earth Historians Return: the 17-Year Cicadas

By Sally Wagoner, NCEC Board Chair

I was four years old when I first met the 17-year Cicadas in northeast Illinois. We lived in the woods, and that late spring and early summer, the cicadas were all over them—chaotic, cacophonic, mesmerizing! Their gossamer wings and beady red eyes were a somewhat scary fascination, and I loved them. I carried them in my pockets and cared for them in leafed shoeboxes, only to have them delightfully let loose in the house.

I missed their return at ages 21 and 38, living elsewhere. At age 55, I was back at the place of my birth in the Oaks to help care for my mother. While living there again, I was honored and awed to reconnect with the great-great-great grandchildren of that tribal community I met when I was just four years old.

They are called Brood XIII, or the 17-year Cicadas.
But I call them Earth Historians, the Wisdom Keepers.

Read the complete blog post >>>

Singing Cicadas 2007-The Oaks

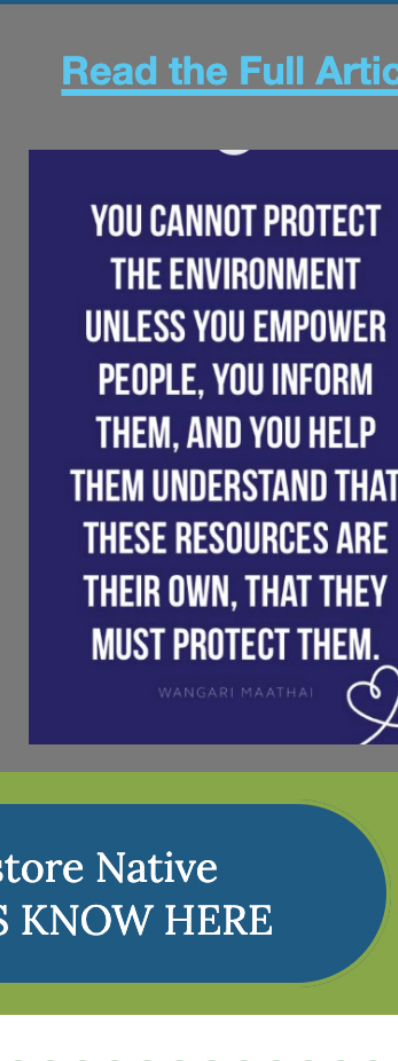
Champions of the Wild: Celebrating Sarah Pregitzer and Randy Butter's Legacy and the Future of Newaygo's Natural Habitats

Champions Of The Wild: Celebrating Sarah Pregitzer And Randy Butter's Legacy And The Future Of Newaygo's Natural Habitats

In the heart of Newaygo County, a remarkable story of dedication and environmental stewardship unfolds—a story that deserves to be celebrated and continued. Sarah Pregitzer and husband, Randy Butters, after dedicating years to education and environmental conservation, embarked on a mission that would redefine the natural landscapes of Newaygo County. Their work, through the Newaygo Invasive Plant Project (NIPP), has not only combated the spread of invasive species but has also ignited a community-wide movement toward environmental awareness and action.

Sarah, a retired middle school science teacher, and Randy, her equally passionate partner, have always been driven by a love for nature and a commitment to preserving it. Their journey into environmental stewardship began with their involvement in The Stewardship Network (TSN), which led them to establish NIPP in partnership with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. Their efforts were fueled by a grant from the Fremont Foundation, enabling them to host workshops, acquire equipment and supplies, and conduct invasive species removal events. Their main goal has always been to educate the community about the importance of native flora and fauna and the dangers of invasive plants.

Read the Full Article



YOU CANNOT PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT UNLESS YOU EMPOWER PEOPLE, YOU INFORM THEM, AND YOU HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THAT THESE RESOURCES ARE THEIR OWN, THAT THEY MUST PROTECT THEM.
WANGARI MAATHAI

Next Event: May 18th, 2024
11:00 am-1:30 pm
at490 Quarterline Street, Newaygo, Michigan 49337
WILD ONES! NATIVE PLANTS SEEDLING CHAPTER OF THE NEWAYGO REGION

Wild Ones!
Native Plants Seedling Chapter of the Newaygo Region

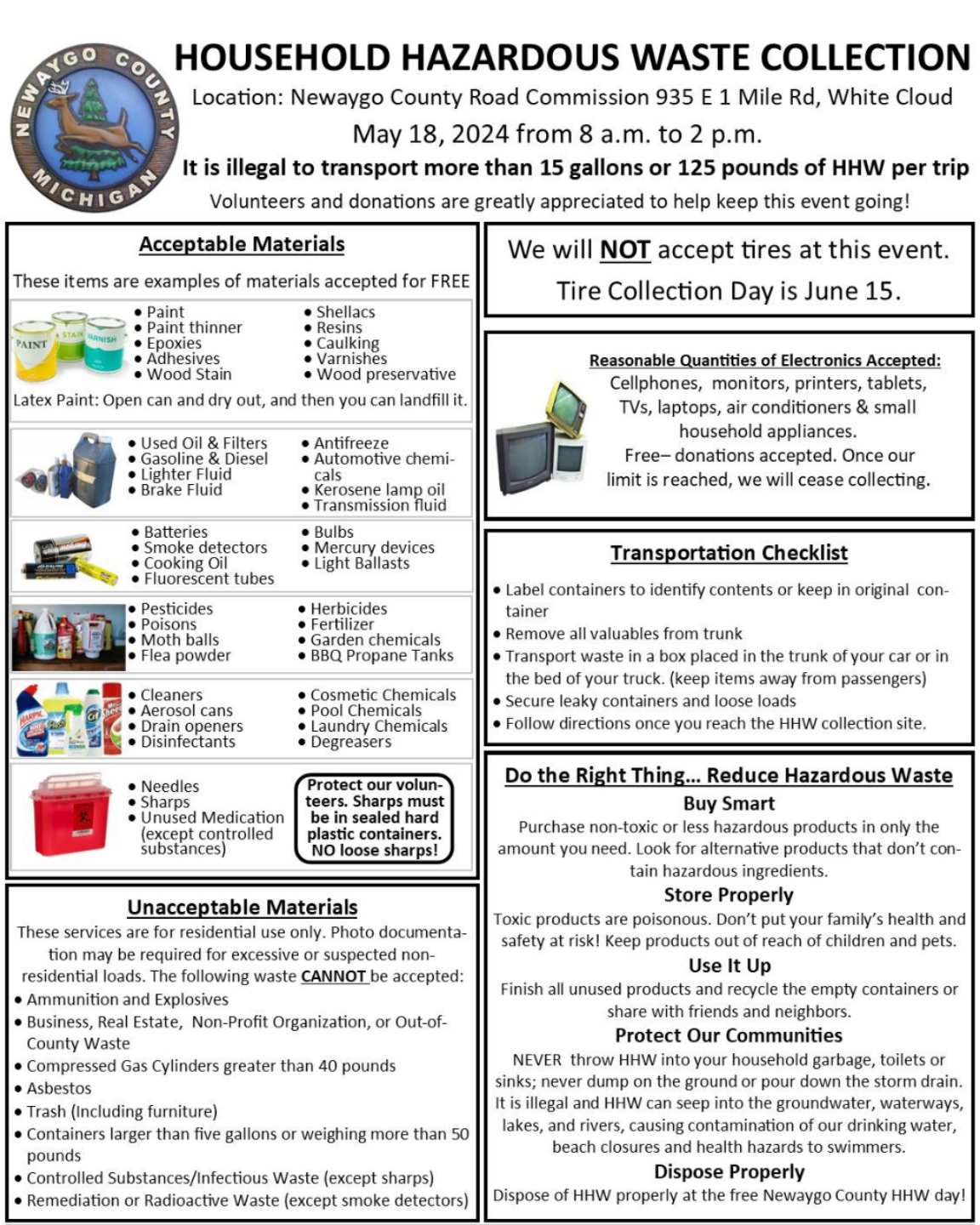
Join with other lovers of Native Plants.
Our Wild Ones! Native Plant Seedling Chapter is ready to sprout, and we have a great gathering planned:

Click to Register

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

Spotlight on Newaygo County Environmental Event

Page 1



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION
Location: Newaygo County Road Commission 935 E 1 Mile Rd, White Cloud
May 18, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
It is illegal to transport more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of HHW per trip
Volunteers and donations are greatly appreciated to help keep this event going!

Acceptable Materials

These items are examples of materials accepted for FREE

- Paint
- Paint thinner
- Epoxies
- Adhesives
- Wood Stain
- Shellacs
- Resins
- Caulking
- Varnishes
- Wood preservative

Latex Paint: Open can and dry out, and then you can landfill it.

- Used Oil & Filters
- Gasoline & Diesel
- Lighter Fluid
- Brake Fluid
- Antifreeze
- Automotive chemicals
- Kerosene lamp oil
- Transmission fluid

- Batteries
- Smoke detectors
- Cooking Oil
- Fluorescent tubes
- Bulbs
- Mercury devices
- Light Ballasts

- Pesticides
- Poisons
- Moth balls
- Flea powder
- Herbicides
- Fertilizer
- Garden chemicals
- BBQ Propane Tanks

- Cleaners
- Aerosol cans
- Drain openers
- Disinfectants
- Cosmetic Chemicals
- Pool Chemicals
- Laundry Chemicals
- Degreasers

- Needles
- Sharps
- Unused Medication (except controlled substances)

Protect our volunteers. Sharps must be in sealed hard plastic containers. NO loose sharps!

Unacceptable Materials

These services are for residential use only. Photo documentation may be required for excessive or suspected non-residential loads. The following waste CANNOT be accepted:

- Ammunition and Explosives
- Business, Real Estate, Non-Profit Organization, or Out-of-County Waste
- Compressed Gas Cylinders greater than 40 pounds
- Asbestos
- Trash (Including furniture)
- Containers larger than five gallons or weighing more than 50 pounds
- Controlled Substances/Infectious Waste (except sharps)
- Remediation or Radioactive Waste (except smoke detectors)

We will NOT accept tires at this event.
Tire Collection Day is June 15.

Reasonable Quantities of Electronics Accepted:
Cellphones, monitors, printers, tablets, TVs, laptops, air conditioners & small household appliances.
Free– donations accepted. Once our limit is reached, we will cease collecting.

Transportation Checklist

- Label containers to identify contents or keep in original container
- Remove all valuables from trunk
- Transport waste in a box placed in the trunk of your car or in the bed of your truck. (keep items away from passengers)
- Secure leaky containers and loose loads
- Follow directions once you reach the HHW collection site.

Do the Right Thing... Reduce Hazardous Waste

Buy Smart
Purchase non-toxic or less hazardous products in only the amount you need. Look for alternative products that don't contain hazardous ingredients.

Store Properly
Toxic products are poisonous. Don't put your family's health and safety at risk! Keep products out of reach of children and pets.

Use It Up
Finish all unused products and recycle the empty containers or share with friends and neighbors.

Protect Our Communities
NEVER throw HHW into your household garbage, toilets or sinks; never dump on the ground or pour down the storm drain. It is illegal and HHW can seep into the groundwater, waterways, lakes, and rivers, causing contamination of our drinking water, beach closures and health hazards to swimmers.

Dispose Properly
Dispose of HHW properly at the free Newaygo County HHW day!

Any questions regarding Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day and/or volunteering please contact the Newaygo County Drain Office M-F 7:30am to 4pm at 231-689-7213

Keep Our Community Safe and Clean: Participate in the Newaygo County Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Information gathered and presented by Lindy Colombini, NCEC Volunteer

The Newaygo County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is more than just an annual event; it's an opportunity for us to come together as a community to protect our health, preserve our environment, and ensure a safer world for future generations. By participating, we rid our homes of potentially dangerous substances and contribute to a larger environmental stewardship effort. Let's all mark our calendars for May 18th, 2024, and make a significant difference in our community. Together, we can create a safer, cleaner Newaygo County.

For more information and to stay updated, please visit the @Newaygo County Drain Office Facebook page and check out the provided video link for tips on preparing your hazardous waste for collection day. Remember, we are all doing our best for our community and the planet. See you there!

READ THE FULL ARTICLE>>>

It's Not Too Late to Join the NCEC Vernal Pool Patrol

Click to learn more about this community science effort.

You can still be a part of the NCEC Vernal Pool Patrol Team.
Why would I want to officially join?

- Connect with other area VPP team members.
- Share finds and questions with one another.
- Have access to a FREE MI VPP Kit provided by the MNFI.
- Receive cool NCEC VPP Team BLING!
- If you only want to locate and map and NOT spend the time to monitor, you CAN do that!
- You can only map/locate/monitor your own NC property if you want.
- If you need training or help with the SURVEY 123 App, we will provide it.
- You may monitor with the paper form or the SMART phone APP: Survey 123

Curious? Contact us!

Click to join the NCEC VPP Team

Newaygo County Environmental Events, Activities, Education, & Awareness

Page 2

Keep Informed & Get Involved

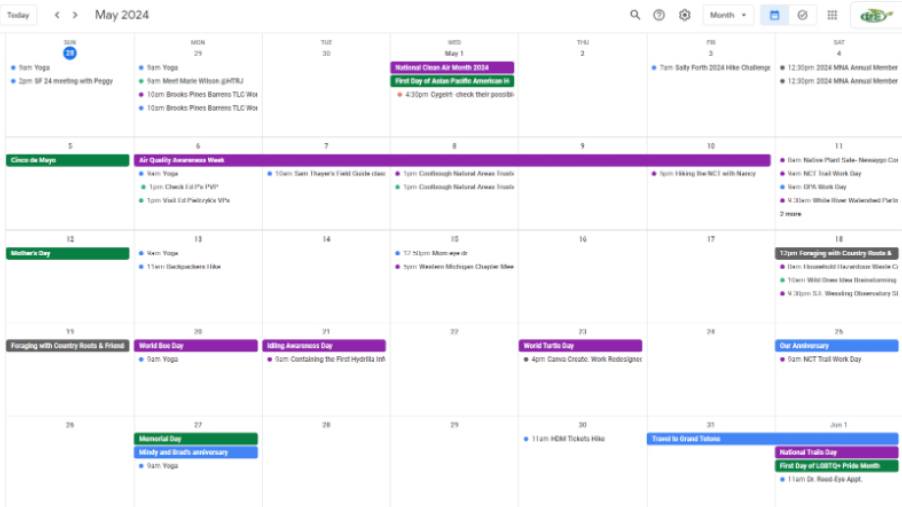
How Can We Get Our Environmental Event Amplified by NCEC?

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

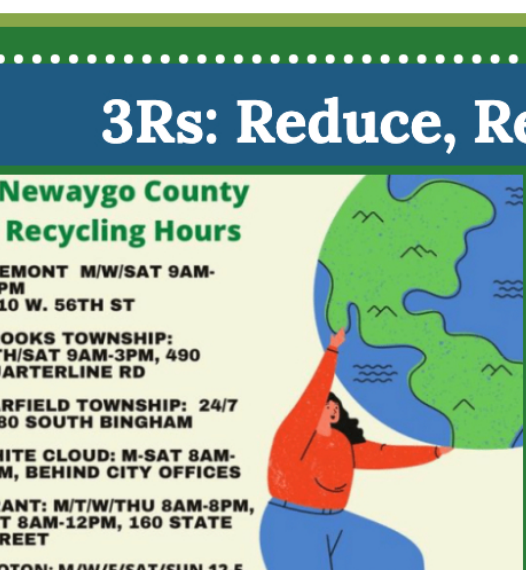


Click on the individual event to get more details.

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

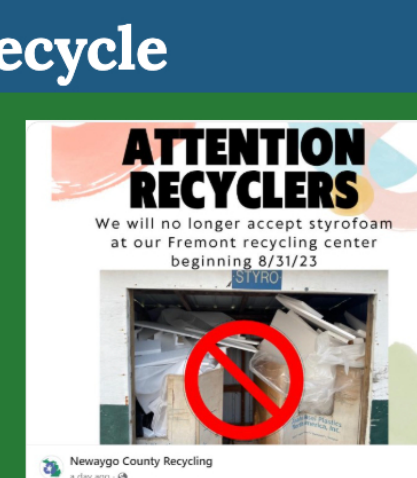
BROOKS TOWNSHIP: T/TH/SAT 9AM-3PM, 490 QUARTERLINE RD

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
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

>>> Household Hazardous Waste Annual Collection Event, 5/18/24, 8:00am to 2:00pm

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

>>>MNA ANNUAL Membership Meeting , May 4th (Click the link to Register)

>>>Native Plant Sale: Newaygo Conservation District, May 11th, 2024 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

>>>NCT Trail Work Day, 5/11/24, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

>>> Spring Macroinvertebrate Sampling: WRWP & Kropscott Farm, 5/11, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

>>>Coolbough Nature Area Trustees Meeting (Public Welcome) 5/8/24, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

>>>Wild Ones! Native Plants Seedling Chapter of the Newaygo Region, 5/18, 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

LOBO: Love Our Beautiful Outdoors

>>>NCT Guided Hike, 5/11/24, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

>>>Foraging and Crafting Wkshp w/Country Roots 5/18-19

>>>NCT Western MI Chapter Meeting (Public Welcome), 5/15, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

>>>S.F. Wessling Observatory Star Party, 5/18, 9:30 pm to 11:30pm

Youth & Young Adult Environmental Allies

>>>NCT Guided Hike, 5/11/24, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

>>> Spring Macroinvertebrate Sampling: WRWP & Kropscott Farm, 5/11, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

>>>S.F. Wessling Observatory Star Party, 5/18, 9:30 pm to 11:30pm

Give your kids ADVENTURES, not things. Give them stories to tell, not stuff to show.

Nature's calling: will you answer?

Join Our Efforts

Page 3

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

Copyright (C) 2024 Newaygo County Environmental Coalition. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

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