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NEWAYGO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
NCEC NEWS

The Environmental Resource Hub for Newaygo County



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Supporting the beauty and sustainability of the Newaygo County environment through Information, Education, and Advocacy.

NCEC Events



Late Spring Vernal Pool Patrol Field Training
Saturday, May 10th
11am - 3 pm
Nichols Lake Campground
4305-4860 W 11 Mile Ave
Bitely, MI, 49309

Carpooling from Newaygo can be arranged by emailing Katie here

Click to Register



Workdays at McDuffee Creek
Every Thursday in May
10 am - 1 pm
11310 N. Walnut Ave
Bitely, MI

Please email Marie here for details and parking info



TLC Workdays

Keep up to date with TLC May Workday information on our Facebook Events Page

Returned And Restored

Written by Julian Barrett



A cloud of road dust blanketed the car behind me from my excited acceleration as I passed the Newaygo Prairie Nature Sanctuary. Ignition time was in less than an hour. This was my very first burn.

Conservation work has been a lingering build for myself and like a backlog fire, my growth was against the wind and current of my life. A backing fire is the name of the first fire you create. You walk and ignite the end of the property where the movement of the fire is against the wind, it's a slow burn. I began with volunteering. Originally I used volunteering to meet new people and find some purpose. I then moved into some more label heavy roles on boards with requests for my knowledge. Through this I was exposed to many new subjects, skills and trades I'd never heard of before. Because of this I was able to find in myself just how much I enjoyed the concept of prescribed burns. A ritualistic medicine for the land once performed by the original peoples. Prescribed fires are used today to manage woody encroachment and unwanted species while also aiding with fire dependent plant germination. New growth is encouraged and a clearing of the forest floor is an additional boon.

I attended a burn informational event put on by the Newaygo County Environmental Coalition and led by Michigan Nature Association staff. This is where my own flanking fire began. Flanking fires run parallel to the wind, steadily burning the boundary along the sides of a property. If in a perfect situation the parcel to be burned was a square that is. I started building black in my own mental prairie with people, opportunities and knowledge. The "black" by the way, is the term for areas already burned and it's a safe place to be. There is no fuel in the black, as it's already been consumed by a fire passing over it.

Keep reading

If you're interested in receiving updates on upcoming prescribed burn trainings you can contact Rowan at rowan.k@tnc-ec.org

Environmental Ally

Events

Newaygo County Trail Ribbon Cutting
Saturday, 5/3 9 am - 11:30 am
105 River St, Newaygo, MI 49337

NCD Native Plant Sale
Saturday, 5/10 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Newaygo County Fairgrounds
815 S Stewart Ave, Fremont, MI 49412

More Information

Penoyer Creek Macroinvertebrate Sampling
Saturday, 5/10
10 am - 1 pm
Park @ Resonate Church
302 E 48th St,
Newaygo, MI 49337
Families welcome. Please note that sampling areas require walking on uneven surfaces. Waders available. Questions? Contact: Amanda Paige amanda@tnc-ec.org

Internet Form

Home is Where the Habitat is: Guided Hike
Tuesday, May 13 6pm-8pm

Upriver Nature Preserve 5315 N Walnut Ave, Bitely 49309

Newaygo Conservation District's Forrester will lead the hike, sharing about the local ecosystem and the plants and animals that call it home.

Click to Register

Newaygo County Hazardous Waste Collection Day
Saturday, May 31 8am-12pm

Newaygo County Road Commission
935 E 1 Mile Rd, White Cloud

Learn More

Welcoming NCEC's New Habitat Restoration Heros!



Welcome Marie!

We are thrilled to announce that Marie Wilson has joined the Board of Directors at the Newaygo County Environmental Coalition (NCEC). Marie brings an impressive background that perfectly aligns with our mission to protect and preserve the natural environment.

Growing up in southeastern Michigan, Marie developed a profound love for the outdoors, an affinity that has guided her both personally and professionally. Her passion for nature is evident in her extensive volunteer work, which has been ongoing since 1999. This includes leading river cleanups and combating invasive species in wetlands. These initiatives have not only contributed to the betterment of our natural habitats but have also inspired countless others to take action.

Marie's professional career is equally commendable, with over 25 years of experience at Ford Motor Company. There, she made significant contributions in packaging engineering, focusing on reusable auto parts containers, and played an important role in vehicle emissions regulatory work.

Now residing in Bitely, Michigan, with her husband and their golden doodle puppy, Marie has chosen to dedicate her retirement to environmental conservation. Her commitment to making a positive impact on the environment is an inspiration to us all. After completing the Conservation Stewards Course, Marie is focusing on helping to improve the McDuffee Creek Nature Preserve Trail (owned by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan) and helping with prairie habitat restoration in lower Newaygo County with the Michigan Nature Association.

Marie's wealth of experience, passion for environmental advocacy, and leadership skills make her an invaluable addition to the NCEC board. We look forward to the expertise, energy, and enthusiasm she brings to our organization.

Welcome aboard, Marie!

Welcome Rowan!

We are thrilled to introduce Rowan as the newest addition to the Newaygo County Environmental Coalition team, serving as our Healthy Habitats Program Coordinator. With a diverse background in Anthropology, Biology, Natural Resource Management, and more, Rowan brings a unique perspective to our organization's mission of protecting native ecosystems and promoting environmental stewardship.

Originally from Michigan, Rowan was drawn to Newaygo County in 2021 by a desire for a more rural lifestyle and more connected way of life. Their passion for human-environment relationships and sustainability is evident in their academic pursuits and personal interests, making them a perfect fit for leading our Habitat Restoration Team and Clean Boats, Clean Waters initiative.

Outside of work, Rowan finds joy in spending time with their family, both near and far, and immersing themselves in nature through hikes, bushcraft projects, and quiet moments in the woods. Their commitment to biodiversity and community-based solutions is evident in everything they do, and we are excited to have them on board to help us further our mission of restoring balance to the natural world.

Please join us in welcoming Rowan to the NCEC team. We look forward to their undoubtedly positive impact on our organization and the Newaygo County community as a whole.

Read More about Marie and Rowan by clicking here!

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Naturally Newaygo!

Thank you to all the families and friends who came out to the first Naturally Newaygo event to celebrate Earth Month, on Saturday, April 26. Our own Susie Hall and Mary Morgan, along with our friends at the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly and Newaygo Conservation District had a blast looking at stream bugs, talking about recycling, pretending to be birds, and making bird feeders.



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Reduce Your Environmental Impact

Newaygo County Hazardous Waste Collection Day - May 31st

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What Else Can I Do?

This is our home. Help us protect our shared environment.

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 the button below to submit your event.

Ally Event Form

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!**

Contact NCEC

Your Support Makes A Difference

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.

Donate

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