

4-H Club officers training session

A special training for 4-H club officers will be held Thursday, Jan. 17 at the Extension Office.

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4-H Club Officers will be taught the procedures to run club meetings, how to fill out secretary and treasurers' books, how to take notes, etc. The 4-H Federation Youth will be helping to teach and lead the sessions. All club officers are expected and encouraged to attend this training beginning at 7 p.m. Anyone not currently an officer but would like to attend, is welcome to participate. Parliamentary procedure will also be covered. Please register by Jan. 10.

University of Illinois Extension Kendall County 4-H is offering a New Family Orientation on Jan. 22. It will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Kendall County Extension office at 7775B IL RT #7, in Yorkville. There will be a short program and make ice cream sundaes. Older 4-H youth will be available to supervise younger children. The program will cover enrollments, projects, deadlines, entering and showing at the fair, and all aspects of 4-H. Participants can meet Kim Eisnangle and Linda Fitzgerald, the Kendall County 4-H staff. Please RSVP by calling 630-553-5823 by Jan. 15, anyone who needs special accommodation to attend should notify officials when registering. For more 4-H information visit our website at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/kendall>.

Aux Sable Watershed web site

A web site was recently established in an effort to get information out to all the citizens in the Aux Sable Creek Watershed as quickly as possible. The web site is www.auxsablecreekwatershed.org.

"We want everyone to be able to know what's going on," states Brook McDonald, president and CEO of The Conservation Foundation, a not-for-profit land and watershed protection organization with an office in Kendall County. The Foundation serves Northeastern Illinois and is facilitating the watershed plan update through a grant provided by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) Section 319 program.

"Watershed plans, such as the one being updated for the Aux Sable watershed, are the backbone of voluntary water quality improvement projects in Illinois. Local citizen involvement in the planning and implementation efforts and an interested and committed sponsor, such as The Conservation Foundation, are vital to the success of this project and the protection of our lakes and streams," says Amy Walkenbach, Non-Point Source Unit Manager at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

What happens in any watershed can affect others, whether flooding, drought, poor water quality, or other issues. Watershed management plans can promote environmentally and economically healthy watersheds to benefit all who live or work in the watershed. In Kendall and Grundy Counties, there are several watershed-based groups that have been active: Aux Sable Creek, Big Rock Creek, Blackberry Creek, Mazon River, Nettle Creek, and Waubesa Creek. Locally-led watershed partnerships are very effective in improving water quality, since those individuals are most affected by the results.

The update is a collaborative project, with advisory committee members aiding in the update and representing a variety of interests including: landowners in the watershed, members of the volunteer Aux Sable Creek Watershed Coalition, local units of government, Kendall and Grundy County Farm Bureaus and the Kendall and Grundy Soil and Water Conservation Districts. When complete, the updated watershed plan will include recent data, ideas for voluntary projects consistent

with current conditions of the watershed, and suggestions for educational outreach. The plan should be a resource for the coming years. It will also meet the TEPA's nine watershed-based planning criteria, opening the door to up to 60 percent of any future watershed project's funding being federal dollars (if consistent with the updated plan), thus, saving local communities money and maintaining one of our most valuable resources—clean water.

The Aux Sable Creek Watershed web site contains a variety of information. Link on "History" to learn what is a watershed?; what is a watershed plan?; what is non-point source pollution?; what's in the original Aux Sable Creek watershed plan?.

This link also includes access to the Watershed-Based Planning Guide Plan (created by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning) which is the outline the Aux Sable Creek Watershed plan update is following. From this point you can also link to other watershed plans recently updated.

Selecting the 319 Project link provides access to information specific to the Aux Sable Creek Watershed plan update, such as 319 Project Info, Watershed Map, Project Components, Funding, Meeting Schedule, Meeting Documents, and Contact Info. All project information handed out to the advisory committee is available on the website under the Meeting Documents link including presentations, handouts, committee work results, and activities.

The web site's purpose is not only to provide information about the watershed plan update, but also to serve as the central source for all Aux Sable Creek Watershed-related information or activities. Eventually the site will provide educational information on stormwater, projects occurring in the creek, projects and public land acquisition for preservation, and resources for schools. These parts are not active on the website yet, but should be integrated within the next year.

Area residents can visit www.auxsablecreekwatershed.org whenever they wish to know the newest information about Aux Sable Creek. Suggestions or questions about the site may be directed to Stephanie Sheetz of The Conservation Foundation. (630) 553-0687, ext. 304.



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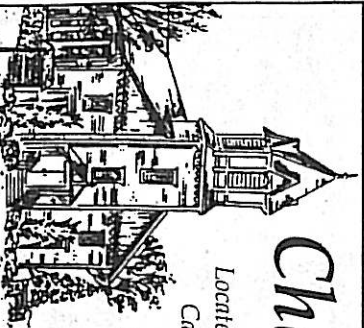
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