



# S.A.V.E. NOTES

News from the Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 2

FALL 2025

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## Baking for Good

Two of my Sister friends had just arrived to live in Sylvania and I invited them to the Sylvania Senior Center for the Open House on Saturday, Sept. 9. The Town Crier opened the event, they met the Director and we toured the facility. The last stop was the dining room, where two young fellows behind one of the exhibit tables caught my attention. They had one cookie left on their table and I walked over to talk with them.

One of the young men greeted me by saying, “You are from the S.A.V.E. organization. I know you because when I was a sophomore you gave the Eco-Secondary School Award for my Northview High School because of a cookie project I began there.”

His name was Gavin Ballard and he was so excited to tell me how this award has motivated him to move forward with the project in just two years.

During the first half of his junior year, a trade name was established and a logo was designed for “[Cookies for Better](#).” The project became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the second half of his junior year with the help of Carol Sobczak (no relation to me).

The organization’s mission “is to empower and enable people of all ages and backgrounds to give back to their community through their shared love for baking.”

Now in his senior year, Gavin gave up band and track and field to continue his baking. He accepts invitations to bake for donations, and he shares the proceeds with others in the community. He LOVES helping others and his excitement is contagious!

Gavin’s future plans are to link with the American Legion for Veterans, the Five Lakes Church and the Boy Scouts of America.

**What one SAVE Award did to energize this young man to pursue his passion of helping others made my “S.A.V.E. SPIRIT” soar!** Visit [cookiesforbetter.org](https://cookiesforbetter.org) to learn more about this organization or to support their work.



*(Gavin Ballard, left and Logan Dane, a Boy Scout work a table for Cookies for Better.*

**Sister Rosine Sobczak, OSF**  
S.A.V.E. President

S.A.V.E. was established in August 1990 by a group of concerned citizens who wanted to make a difference and promote a love and appreciation for our natural world. It is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

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#### Treasurer

David Sobczak

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Cynthia Nowak

#### Graphic Design for Lecture Flyers

Carla Leow

#### Website/Newsletter

Laurie Bertke

#### Board Affiliates

S.A.V.E. Members

#### Co-Founders

Sr. Rosine Sobczak, OSF  
Charlene Czerniak, Ph.D  
Linda Penn (deceased)

**S.A.V.E. Notes** is published quarterly in January, April, August and October. Submit newsletter items to [save@lourdes.edu](mailto:save@lourdes.edu).



## Membership Renewals

S.A.V.E.'s new fiscal year began in September, and this is when we request membership dues. Thanks to all who have renewed! For those who have not, **there is still time to send in your renewal.** These dues support S.A.V.E.'s free lecture series and environmental programs and scholarships. Thank you for your support! *Membership is from September 1st of current year to August 31st of following year.*

## Financial Report

For the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31 these are the most significant financial points to detail:

- ◆ Sluggish honey sales only reached 53 percent of last year's volume.
- ◆ Corporate membership achieved 100 percent but only as a result of two renewing
- ◆ members (Budget Blinds of Sylvania and Lake Erie Waterkeepers). One did not renew (Lubriplate).
- ◆ Of the 47 paid individual members we had last year, 39 renewed; 13 did not; and eight rejoined who did not pay last year. We also added three new members.
- ◆ Memorials and Donations were the largest revenue source for the year.
- ◆ Expenses for lectures and Awards exceeded \$2,300.
- ◆ Donations to other organizations totaled \$450.
- ◆ Scholarships from the Linda Penn Fund equaled \$2,400.
- ◆ At the end of the year our accounts in total were \$50 greater than last year.



The IRS Form 990 required annually has been filed and accepted. No funds are required to accompany the return. The Secretary of State filings are not due until October, 2026 and May, 2030.

Our return from the Kroger Rewards Program has been very minimal indicating our members either do not shop at Kroger or have not signed their account to benefit SAVE. Please help SAVE by doing both.

Memberships paid via Pay Pal have increased and while this may be convenient, it causes a lower return to S.A.V.E. because Pay Pal discounts the amount contributed as a fee for processing.

-David Sobczak, Treasurer

# So Many Ways to Support S.A.V.E.!

## Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards

Don't forget to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards! This won't cost you anything and it will help S.A.V.E. Customers must have a free, registered Kroger rewards card account to participate. Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com). Log in to your Kroger account and go to the bottom of the page. Under the COMMUNITY title see COMMUNITY REWARDS. Search for SCIENCE ALLIANCE FOR VALUING THE ENVIRONMENT either by name or HQ539 and click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card. Every time you shop and use your Kroger Rewards card, SAVE will receive a contribution from Kroger.



## Buy Local Honey

All Good Things Art & Gifts on the campus of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania sells pure honey (\$11) produced by our community partner, Nature's Health Food. A portion of the proceeds go to support S.A.V.E. Call the store directly at 419-824-3749 for current hours.



Photo courtesy Jimages Inc.

## Handmade Doggie Bandanas



S.A.V.E. has doggie bandanas for sale as part of our fund-raising efforts. Two different styles are available: red (Love That Dog! Scarf with hearts and bones) and black with tiny white paw prints. The painted scarves are sized for a small- to medium-sized dog and sell for \$7.50 each. They are available for sale by contacting 419-824-3691 or [save@lourdes.edu](mailto:save@lourdes.edu).

## S.A.V.E. Corporate Sponsorship



The S.A.V.E. organization is thankful for the continued support of our corporate sponsors. Their generosity allows

S.A.V.E. to fulfill our mission and commitment to promoting spirituality and environmental sustainability. We are proud to recognize these sponsors in each issue of our quarterly newsletter (see page 13) and our [our website](#).

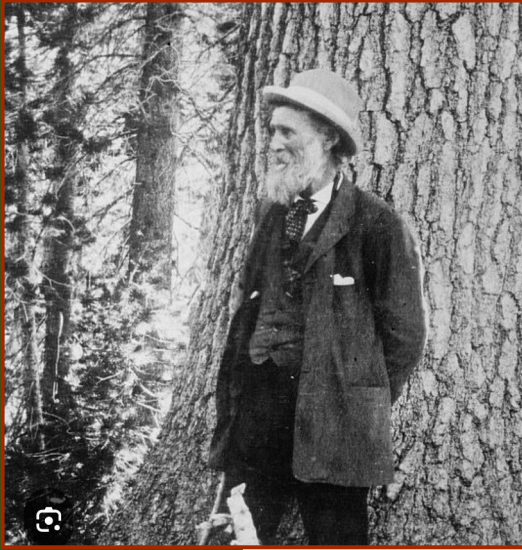
We welcome like-minded groups that share our commitment to a sustainable future to join us in this effort. Please contact Sister Rosine Sobczak for more information about becoming a S.A.V.E. sponsor at 419-824-3691.

**JOIN S.A.V.E.  
TODAY!**

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, fliers for upcoming lectures and events, announcements concerning local opportunities, scholarship opportunities and more. Fill out the application on page 12 or [submit your application online today!](#)

*Earth Saints***John Muir, Environmental Champion**

With the passing of Dr. Jane Goodall, we are reminded that any progress in the promotion of environmental causes is built on the backs of individuals following their passion, many whom we have never heard of or have a passing



recognition. In the next several newsletters, we will be featuring some of these champions. Our source is a Special Edition of the [\*EarthLight Magazine of Ecology and Spirituality\*](#), *Earth Saints*.

John Muir (1838-1914), known as “Father of the National Parks,” was an early champion of preserving our national wilderness. He wrote, *“In God’s wilderness lies the hope of the world— the great, fresh, unblighted, unredeemed wilderness.”* (pg. 5, *Earth Saints*. John Muir, introduction by Richard C. Austin) He became a naturalist, author, botanist, zoologist and environmental philosopher. His books describing his adventures in nature brought the glory of our country’s natural areas to millions.

You often see John Muir pictured with his beloved sequoia trees. He wrote, *“Walk the sequoian woods at any time of the year and you will say they are the most beautiful and majestic on earth. The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.”* (pg. 5, *Earth Saints*) His travels brought him to Yosemite, where he studied the glaciers and proposed the theory that they carved the park’s valleys. Muir advocated for the establishment of Sequoia, Yosemite, and other national parks.

Perhaps we are most familiar with the Sierra Club, the organization John Muir co-founded in 1892 to advocate for the protection of wilderness areas and the establishment of our national parks. His legacy lives on: *“No synonym for God is so perfect as Beauty. Whether seen as carving the lines of the mountains with glaciers, or gathering elements into stars, or planning the movements of water, or gardening— all is Beauty!”* (pg. 4-5, *Earth Saints*)

-Susan Perzynski

**Did You Know?**

- A giant sequoia tree can live up to 3,000 years.
- A giant sequoia tree's largest branches can be eight feet in diameter and its bark can be up to three feet thick.
- Giant sequoias can only grow along a narrow, 260-mile strip on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

## 2024-2025 S.A.V.E. Lecture Series

## New Lecture Season Begins with Spotlight on Treasured Oak Openings Region



Rick Bryan explains the many treasures of the Oak Openings Region. (Photo courtesy of Jimages Inc.)

Almost everybody in northwest Ohio has enjoyed the Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. Fewer people, though, realize that the popular hiking, bird-watching and picnicking venue is just one part of the much larger Oak Openings Region. In September, S.A.V.E. hosted two speakers — Matty Watkins and Rick Bryan — as they shared the extraordinary story of this familiar yet often misunderstood area.

The Oak Openings Region is a globally rare ecosystem composed of over 1,300 square miles in parts of Michigan and Ohio. Lucas County alone is home to a third of all Ohio's rare species. The Nature Conservancy considers the Oak Openings Region to be as ecologically important as the Florida Everglades, both of which are on their list of the 200 "Last Great Places on Earth."

Matty and Rick are longtime veterans of the Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI), a consortium of conservation groups united to protect the natural beauty and biological diversity of the Oak Openings Region. The partners include Metroparks Toledo, The Nature Conservancy, the Black Swamp Conservancy, Wild Ones Oak Openings Chapter, and the Ohio Division of Natural Resources.

Starting their talk with the region's geology, Rick and Matty outlined how topography was formed after the last ice age, when the glacier that covered much of North America melted, leaving behind a large body of water that geologists call Lake Warren. Over time, this lake gradually receded to become present-day Lake Erie. The process left behind a large tract of sandy soil to the west where trees took hold. That sandy area had frequent wildfires, which only the thick-barked oak trees could survive. Pioneers who first encountered the formidable Great Black Swamp were startled to reach what they called "Oak Openings" in the thick swamp.

Today, the Oak Openings Region, like so many other natural treasures, faces challenges from climate change, draining and development, invasive species and habitat loss. Matty and Rick encouraged the audience, which demonstrated their familiarity with the region's flora and fauna during an interactive quiz, to get involved with GRI, and to take part in the many related educational programs offered in our area. In particular, Blue Week — which occurs yearly in May — is an event that offers activities for every age group. Check Facebook for the Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative. The Oak Openings Region, they reminded the audience, is a regional treasure worth preserving.



A recording of this and other previous lectures may be viewed on our [YouTube Channel](#) or on the [S.A.V.E. website](#).

-Cynthia Nowak

## *In Loving Memory*

Let us remember these people in our prayers, and let these persons who are on their continued cosmic journey remember us, too!

### **Anne Lindsley**

*Nancy Simon*

### **Timothy Yeager**

**(Sr. Paula's brother-in law)**

*S.A.V.E. Board*

### **Valerie Obloza**

*Janina Douglas*

### **Jan Sandys**

*Garry/Marsha Kudlinski*

### **Carolyn Rittner**

*Teresa Rose Keller*

### **Kevin Kerner**

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*Victoria Jacobson*

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*Beatrice Wolfe*

*Carol & Donald Wiczynski*

*Richard & Kathryn Malone*

*Joanne Buckenmeyer*

*Sr Janice Peer*

*Sr Mary Thill*

*Patricia Kerner/Kristen Turco*

*Sr Karen Zielinski*

## 25th Annual Great Lakes Water Conference

The University of Toledo College of Law and its affiliated Legal Institute of the Great Lakes are sponsoring a virtual conference, "Water Security and the Great Lakes Region," on Friday, Oct. 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Water Security can be described as the availability of water of a quality and quantity sufficient to sustain human health and well-being, livelihoods, ecosystems, and economic production. Water Security, therefore, includes a population's ability to protect it from both man-made and natural threats. Panelists will explore questions of water security, including water treatment cybersecurity, aging water infrastructure, and climate-related natural disasters. This year's conference will be conducted virtually as a live webinar.

[Online registration is required by Oct. 29.](#) The conference is free for the general public or \$55.00 for attorneys seeking 2.5 hours of Ohio CLE. Visit [utoledo.edu/law/events/great-lakes](http://utoledo.edu/law/events/great-lakes) for more information.

## Toledo Repair Café Dates

**Toledo Repair Café** is a multifaith ministry in which volunteer offer free assistance to individuals with items in need of repair.

**Upcoming Dates:**  
(10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

**October 25**  
King Road Branch Library

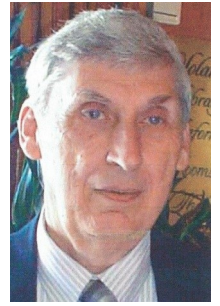
**November 22**  
Mott Branch Library



*-John Krochmalny*

### *In Memoriam*

## William Schumaker 1934-2025




Bill Schumacker was a loyal S.A.V.E. Member for five years who died Sept. 26, 2025. He had a passion for electronics and a passion for belonging that probably led him to our organization through his good friend, David Sobczak. Bill was also involved in the Red Cross and Toledo Fire and Rescue, volunteered with the Sylvania Police as a dispatcher and served eight years in the U.S. Naval Academy stationed in Pearl Harbor. His career life included 38 years at AT&T and he supported many churches, such as Westgate Chapel and Perrysburg CMA. He and his late wife Carol loved to travel. Bill was preceded in death by his wife and his son, Douglas, and is survived by three grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.


## Commemorative Donations Memorials and Tributes


Celebrate someone's special occasion in Tribute or Memory of a person or loved one by protecting the environment in their name.


A contribution to S.A.V.E. will honor them and will assist us to continue educating others to care and appreciate the environment on our beautiful planet, Earth.

 Donate online through PayPal listing this as a Tribute or Memorial.

*OR*

 Send your information and donation to:  
S.A.V. E. Inc.  
Sr. Rosine Sobczak, OSF  
6832 Convent Blvd.  
Sylvania, OH 43560

 Call 419-824-3691 with questions.

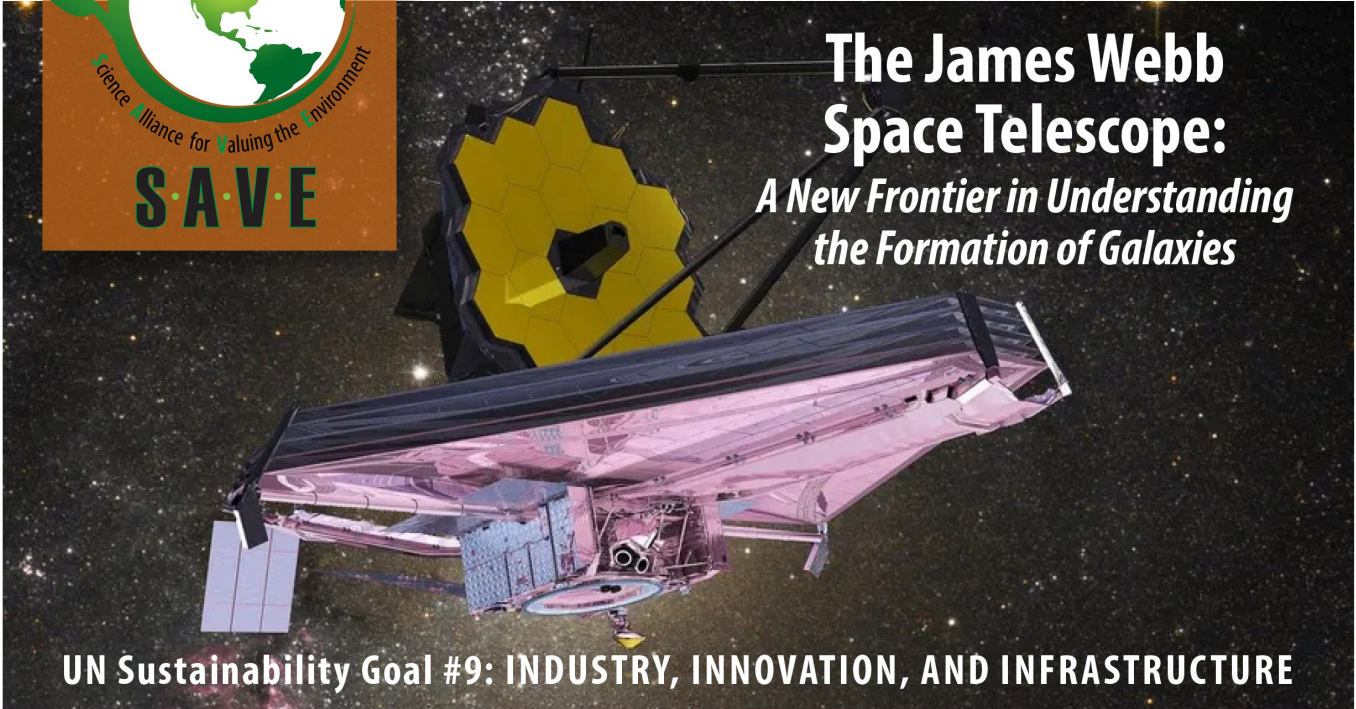
 A response card will be sent to you and to any person designated as the recipient.





**2025-2026 FREE Public Lecture Series**  
**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED • LIVE-STREAM ON CAMPUS AND ZOOM**

**The James Webb  
 Space Telescope:**  
*A New Frontier in Understanding  
 the Formation of Galaxies*



**UN Sustainability Goal #9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2025 • 7:30 - 9:00 PM (ET)**

*Franciscan Center Board Room*

**T**he James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is the most advanced telescope ever built, designed to peer deeper into space and further back in time than any before it. With its powerful infrared vision, JWST is revealing how galaxies like our own Milky Way form, evolve, and interact across billions of years.

Since its launch, JWST has captured stunning images and data that are reshaping our understanding of the universe—from witnessing the birth of ancient galaxies to detecting chemical elements that hint at the potential for life. This presentation will highlight its most exciting discoveries and share how this groundbreaking mission is inspiring research and exploration right here in the Toledo area.



**Dr. Rupali Chandar,**  
 PhD,  
*Department of Physics  
 and Astronomy,  
 The University of Toledo*

Scan to join Zoom lecture ▶▶▶



**Meeting ID: 803 467 5336**  
**Passcode: 338114**

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For more information, contact:

**Sr. Rosine Sobczak, OSF**  
**419-824-3691**  
 OR  
[save@lourdes.edu](mailto:save@lourdes.edu)



# S.A.V.E.

Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment, Inc.

**2025-2026**

## FREE Public Lecture Series

All presenters are **(LIVE)** and **on ZOOM** held in the Board Room in the Franciscan Center at Lourdes University in Sylvania, OH.  
For ZOOM Links go to [www.sciencealliancesave.org/events/calendar](http://www.sciencealliancesave.org/events/calendar).

**September 9, 2025** 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. **(Tuesday)**

**“The Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI) and the Oak Openings.”**

By: Matty Watkins and Rick Bryan, both UT graduates with a Bachelors in Art Education and years in Environmental Education.

➤ UN Sustainability Goal #4: Quality Education.

**November 11, 2025** 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. **(Tuesday)**

**“The James Webb Space Telescope: A New Frontier in Understanding the Formation of Galaxies.”**

By: Dr. Rupali Chandar, PhD, Department of Physics and Astronomy, The University of Toledo.

➤ UN Sustainability Goal #9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

**January 20, 2026** 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. **(Tuesday)**

**“The Role of Hydrogen in a Sustainable Future: An Overview of Production, Delivery, Uses and Required Workforce.”**

By: Dr. Mark Mason, PhD, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, The University of Toledo.

➤ UN Sustainability Goal #7: Affordable and Clean Energy.

**March 24, 2026** 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. **(Tuesday)**

**“ Environmental and Climate Justice in 2025: Challenges and Opportunities for Environmental Justice Advocacy”.**

By: Dr. Nicholas Schroeck, PhD., Dean, Professor of Law University of Detroit Mercy, School of Law

➤ UN Sustainability Goal #13: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

**April 21, 2026** 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. **(Tuesday)**

**“Hidden Lake Gardens: The Gem of Michigan’s Irish Hills”.**

By: Paul Pfeifer, Managing Director of Hidden Lake Gardens, Michigan State University.

➤ UN Sustainability Goal #15: Life on Land.



# S.A.V.E. Membership Application

## 2025-2026

*Membership is from September 1st of current year to August 31st of following year.*

Please complete the following application and mail to: S.A.V.E., Inc. Lourdes University 6832 Convent Blvd. Sylvania, Ohio 43560. Application may also be completed online at [www.sciencealliancesave.org](http://www.sciencealliancesave.org). Dues may be paid [online via Paypal](#) or by check made payable to S.A.V.E. Inc.

Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.
Affiliation:	Position:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone: (business)	(home)	
Email:	Fax:	

Membership:            New             Renewal

Types of Membership: Annual Dues

- Student Member                      \$10.00
- Senior Member                         \$10.00
- Active/Supporting Member         \$20.00
- Family Membership                    \$30.00
- Corporate Member \*\*                \$100.00 (please include a high resolution logo (.jpg., gif, .png, etc.)
- Sustaining Member                    \$200.00

*Members receive a quarterly newsletter, fliers for upcoming lectures, events and scholarships, volunteer opportunities and more.*

I would like to help in one of the following areas:

- Membership                               Newsletter                               Board Member
- Fundraising                               Lecture Series
- Phone Committee                       Award Reception & Dessert Buffet

Please help us increase the effectiveness of S.A.V.E activities by becoming involved.

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Learn about S.A.V.E. corporate sponsorship opportunities online

or contact [SAVE@lourdes.edu](mailto:SAVE@lourdes.edu) or 419-824-3691.



S.A.V.E. Inc.  
6832 Convent Blvd.  
Sylvania, OH 43560

Phone: 419-824-3691  
Fax: 419-824-3526  
E-mail: [SAVE@lourdes.edu](mailto:SAVE@lourdes.edu)

An Educational Consortium for  
Environmental Sustainability

## VISION STATEMENT

S.A.V.E. is a catalyst for individual and community action for sustainability.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment (S.A.V.E.) fosters a personal awareness and respect for the interrelatedness of ecology, spirituality and sustainability. S.A.V.E. creates formal and informal life-long learning opportunities in collaboration with organizations at all levels — local, national and global. S.A.V.E.'s activities are designed to empower individuals to values-based action for a just and sustainable world.

## FIND US ON THE WEB

[www.ScienceAllianceSAVE.org](http://www.ScienceAllianceSAVE.org)



[www.facebook.com/SAVEScienceAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/SAVEScienceAlliance)

## S.A.V.E. CALENDAR

**Nov. 11, 2025**

S.A.V.E.. Lecture  
*The James Webb Space Telescope: A  
New Frontier in Understanding the  
Formation of Galaxies*

**Jan. 20, 2026**

S.A.V.E.. Lecture  
*The Role of Hydrogen in a  
Sustainable Future*

**March 24, 2026**

S.A.V.E.. Lecture  
*Environmental and Climate Justice in  
2025: Challenges and Opportunities*

[Follow S.A.V.E. on Facebook](#) or  
access S.A.V.E.'s [Google  
Calendar](#) under the Events tab of  
[www.sciencealliancesave.org](http://www.sciencealliancesave.org) for an  
up-to-date events listing.



## Electronics Recycling with S.A.V.E.

S.A.V.E. needs your help in keeping the environment a little bit cleaner. Don't toss that older laptop or cell phone, allow S.A.V.E. to recycle it for you!

We partner with the Jaco Corporation and their "Cartridges For Kids" program to collect and recycle items that would normally end up in a landfill. We accept cell phones, laser and ink jet cartridges, including inkjet cartridges from home printers, laptops, MP3s, PDAs and tablets, readers and notebooks. Items for recycling can be brought to a S.A.V.E. lecture and given to any board member. **Recyclable materials can also be dropped off at the office in St. Agnes Hall (SAH 166) on the campus of Lourdes University.**

If your employer or business would be willing to accumulate materials and donate them for recycling, S.A.V.E. will provide a receptacle for the deposit of recyclable items. Pick up of quantities can be arranged. If you can assist in this effort, contact the S.A.V.E. office at 419-824-3691.

