

TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • AUTUMN 2008

Saving Michigan's Wild Places

by Jean Gramlich,
Michigan Chapter Chair

We all have some special Michigan places in our hearts. For me, two experiences come to mind immediately: running down Lake Michigan sand dunes which feels like being on the moon, and watching fluffy cedar waxwing fledglings on a branch in the Pigeon River area begging for food over our campsite at lunchtime.

So how do people like you and I make sure that these special places are still there even unto the seventh generation? First, we make sure that we leave nothing but footprints and take nothing but pictures, and we clean up after those who leave litter. But after that, what?

We must leave the beautiful places we love and go to the state legislature and courtrooms, even go so far as the federal government and courts at times, if we want to fully protect them from developers and polluters.

The Michigan Chapter works to save wild places on many fronts. We joined with the Anglers of the Au Sable to preserve the pristine Mason Tract from an oil and gas drilling proposal nearby. Our staff spent countless hours negotiating the rules for mining sulfide ores in the western Upper Peninsula. We asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the rare Coaster brook trout (found only in the Salmon Trout River) as an endangered species and then sued when USFWS didn't act within the required timeframe.

Officeholders at every level of government have the power to protect Michigan's wild places or open them to devel-



JOHN REBERS

Hiking Grand Sable Dunes in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore along Lake Superior. Sierra Club helped prevent shoreline road development in this pristine park in 1981.

opers and polluters. Local governments often are the first line of defense against poor land use choices. State legislators, the governor and judges make decisions that affect our whole state. The President and Congress have inestimable power to protect or despoil our land, water and air.

You and I, who care about wild places, have to educate and rally our communities to elect people who share our values

and will work hard to defend them. Sierra Club's local groups, state chapter and national political committees endorse candidates who will further our causes.

In the next few months, I hope you will join other Club members in helping to get these pro-environment candidates elected.

IN THIS ISSUE

Sierra Club is at the forefront of battles to defend Michigan's public lands



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

THE MACKINAC

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TheMackinac

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VICTORY! SIERRA CLUB WINS MASON TRACT CASE

On July 10, 2008, the Honorable Judge David M. Lawson, of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District Court Michigan, rendered his long-awaited final decision in the Mason Tract court case. He determined that, just as we claimed, the U.S. Forest Service acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in allowing oil and gas drilling next to this treasured state land along the Au Sable River, and had acted illegally in not considering all the alternatives we had proposed.

When word of this proposal got out, the Sierra Club, the Anglers of the Au Sable, and Tim Mason (representing his family) teamed up to appeal, and later sue, to stop the project and protect the wild area. It took years, but we were pleased to receive a positive verdict that stops the Forest Service from moving forward with the project. While an appeal to a higher court is still a possibility—the Forest Service has until September 8 to appeal—this seems unlikely.

In the Spotlight

Michigan's Public Lands: National Jewels, Or Open To Plunder?

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

There is a growing sentiment in private industry that Michigan's public lands are a treasure chest to which they should be granted exclusive rights. And too many public officials are being convinced that industry has a better claim to these gems than the public values we all appreciate.

Michigan's state forest system has nearly 4 million acres of woodlands, lakes, streams, and shorelines—the largest in the continental U.S. The forests clean our air and shelter the headwaters of our fresh water. Michigan residents treasure these public lands for hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and other recreational activities.

Many proposals have been made in recent years that allow private industry the

sole, for-profit use of our state lands. And these companies aren't just after the timber, oil and gas, or minerals—more and more, the actual land base is being seen as a resource for private development.

In one case, Kennecott Minerals Corporation asked for the exclusive use of 105 acres of state forest lands in Marquette County for 42 years. The company wants the land fenced off from public use so they can put their proposed mine's surface facilities there. Kennecott asked for public land despite the fact that they owned land nearby, which by their own criteria, was perfectly suited for their surface use. (If you were going to engage in a potentially polluting activity, wouldn't you want to use someone else's land, too?) The Michigan Department

In today's political climate, it will take a concerted effort on all our parts to safeguard public lands for future generations to enjoy.

of Natural Resources (MDNR) approved the land lease earlier this year.

In a second recent case, an alleged developer wants to purchase 1,800 acres of state land for an amusement park near Grayling. The project has no funding, little chance of being built, and is unlikely to be successful even if built. Nonetheless, local and state officials are acting as though sale of this public land shouldn't even be questioned. MDNR is giving serious consideration to this proposal, which now appears dependant on the developer securing funds for the project.

In both of these cases, successful opposition from Sierra Club and allied groups has so far managed to stall the actual private use of these public lands. But, in both cases, there is no guarantee of continued success.

In today's political climate, it will take a concerted effort on all our parts to safeguard public lands for future generations to enjoy. Please contact your legislators today and tell them that you want public lands to remain public, and ask that private companies not be permitted to squander them for personal profit.

Sierra Club defends your right to explore Michigan's wild places, like Muskallonge Lake State Park, pictured here.



JOYCE MAVIS FARR

In the Spotlight

It's Not Too Late To Stop Proposed Mine

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PERMITS

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

For five years, Sierra Club and allied groups fought to stop a proposed a nickel mine in a sulfide mineral deposit in Marquette County. If it goes through, the sulfuric acid by-product could pollute ground and surface waters, ruin wildlife habitat, and endanger human health.

Despite our efforts, Kennecott Minerals Corporation has already received most of the permits needed from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). But, it's not too late to stop the mine. Kennecott was not totally honest in their application for mining permits, and now they're required to revise the existing permits and at least one new permit.

In its initial permit application, Kennecott claimed that they would be shipping ore to Sudbury, Canada for processing, and would not need a permit in Michigan. Yet after receiving MDEQ's permit to mine, however, Kennecott revealed they had been negotiating to buy a processing facility in Humboldt, MI. Kennecott now needs a permit for this new

processing facility, which is good news as it provides us with more public input opportunities.

It also looks like Kennecott needs to make two major amendments to its current permit, which should require the public input process on the entire permit to start over. Kennecott's original application claimed that they would generate electricity on site and would not need to bring power in. This was not correct. Kennecott had been haggling with a power company to bring electric lines in even as the permit application claiming otherwise was being processed. The second major change in the application is due to Kennecott's failure to mention the new 24-mile road they need to build for trucking ore to the new Humboldt processing site.

We will post these extra opportunities for public comment on our website as they become available. If you need help writing or submitting comments, email marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.

In 1987, a ten year fight led by Sierra Club secured passage of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act; it included 14,729 acres in the Upper Peninsula's Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness. Recent land acquisitions complete protection of the Gorge. See details online.



JOHN REBERS

You Can Help Beaver Basin Achieve Wilderness Designation

by John Rebers, Central Upper Peninsula Group Chair

The National Park Service is seeking Congressional support for federal wilderness designation of the Beaver Basin area in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. This area is already managed as wilderness, following a consensus reached when the General Management Plan was revised in 2004. Designation of Beaver Basin as wilderness would ensure a continued high level of protection.

If Beaver Basin is designated as wilderness, the Little Beaver campground and access road will remain open, and electric motors will continue to be allowed on Little Beaver and Beaver Lakes. The shoreline zone of Lake Superior adjacent to Beaver Basin is not included in the wilderness proposal, so its management will not be affected. The area will remain open to all forms of current use after wilderness designation, including canoeing, hiking, backpacking and backcountry camping, as well as fishing and hunting in compliance with state law and park service regulations.

U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow have introduced legislation to designate Beaver Basin as wilderness. Unfortunately, U.S. Representative Bart Stupak is not currently supporting this bill. Please contact Representative Stupak and your own U.S. Representative and urge them to support the Beaver Basin Wilderness Act.

Endangered Species Act a Huge Success

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

This year, the Gray Wolf and Bald Eagle were removed from the Endangered Species List in Michigan (the Eagle was de-listed nationwide). These two species are success stories for the Endangered Species Act, as is the Kirtland Warbler. Sierra Club applauds the recovery of all three species, and sees them as great achievements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Kirtland Warblers were one of the most endangered songbirds in the world, with less than 100 pairs worldwide. Decades of fire suppression caused the loss of young jack pine in northern Michigan, the only place the warblers nest. The Kirtland Warbler Recovery Plan, one of the first under the federal ESA and written with Sierra Club's input, restored young jack pine forests. The warblers are now close to the 2,000 pair mark.

The Bald Eagle has also recovered to levels well above goals, thanks to a sig-

nificant reduction in pesticide use near water bodies where eagles nest. After Sierra Club and others pressed for bans on harmful pesticides, eagle numbers rebounded and are again a familiar sight soaring above Michigan's lakes and rivers.

Gray Wolves were hunted and trapped to extinction in Michigan by the 1970s. After being placed on the Endangered List, wolf populations in Minnesota recovered and began expanding their territories into our Upper Peninsula. Michigan now has over 500 wolves in the U.P. (far above recovery goals), and the wolf was removed from the ESA. One of the requirements for delisting was an acceptable state Wolf Management Plan, which Sierra Club, tribal representatives, conservation and hunting groups helped to create for Michigan.

A recent victory for Sierra Club provides additional evidence that the ESA still works as planned. Coaster Brook



ERIC LUBBERS

Trout, a distinct population of brook trout once everywhere in the U.P., now only exists as a self-sustaining population in Marquette County's Salmon Trout River. This population is down to under 200 fish and is at risk from roads, logging, and mining. In 2006, the Sierra Club and the Huron Mountain Club petitioned the US Fish & Wildlife Service to declare the Coasters as Endangered. This spring, the USFWS gave a preliminary decision indicating that our petition had merit. And thanks to errors found by Sierra Club in the original notice, USFWS has re-opened the Coasters' public comment period until September 8. We expect the final decision in December 2008.

Sierra Club Wrangles Over Public Land for Proposed Amusement Park

APPLAUDS MDNR DIRECTOR HUMPHRIES' RECENT DECISION

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director

A controversial proposed sale of 1,800 acres of state owned forest land near Grayling for an outlandish amusement park appears to be getting derailed.

Sierra Club applauds Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Director Rebecca Humphries' August 14th decision to set ironclad requirements and firm deadlines for Axiom Entertainment's proposed amusement park. Axiom has six months to show it has secured complete funding, obtained all

required permits at state and local levels, and met all other MDNR conditions, or the opportunity to purchase this land will be terminated.

Director Humphries' decision comes after repeated delays and excuses by Axiom Entertainment for failure to meet deadlines and commitments to the MDNR over the years of discussion on this project. While supported by Grayling area state legislators and local governments, investigations by Sierra

Club and others—including the Detroit Free Press and the Traverse City Record-Eagle—into many aspects of Axiom Entertainment and this proposal cast substantial doubt on the project's viability.

Environmental concerns with the proposed sale include the potential impact on the Au Sable River as a result of water use at the amusement park, and the possibility that the land would be used for sprawling housing and commercial development if the park is not built. Opposition to the project has grown statewide as more details have become known.

More details, including testimony presented by Sierra Club's Forest Policy Specialist Marvin Roberson before the Natural Resource Commission on the proposed project is available on the Michigan Chapter website.

In the Spotlight

Ontonagon County's Trap Hills Need Protection

by Doug Welker, Trail Volunteer, Environmental Activist, and former Wilderness Ranger

The Trap Hills are a series of high rock ridges formed from volcanic rocks, extending from near Bergland to Mass City. There are too many special aspects of the Trap Hills to list here, but among them are the highest sheer rock bluff in Michigan (350'), miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail with many scenic overlooks, rare plants, some areas of old-growth forest, waterfalls, both designated and study rivers in the national Wild and Scenic River System, motorized trails, and a rich history of both historic and prehistoric copper mining.

At over 50,000 acres of both Ottawa National Forest and private lands, there is plenty of room for protected areas, recreation-intensive areas, and timber production areas. The Trap Hills Conservation Alliance, including Sierra Club, is advocating a



JOYCE MAVIS FARR

National Recreation Area status for the Trap Hills. That status would allow for protection of part of the area as wilderness, designated wild and scenic rivers, and areas with other forms of protection, motorized and non-motorized trails, promotion of sites of historical interest, and enhanced recreational opportunities for the motoring public. NRA status would only mandate management activities on public lands; management of private lands would remain the right of the individual landowner.

If you want to help this ongoing project, please contact me at dwelker@up.net or 906-338-2680.

Michigan's Forest Resources: Should We Burn Them?

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

What would you say if you were asked "what is the absolute worst economic return you could get on a forest resource?" I'm guessing that "burn it" would never even occur to you, although that's the answer.

Yet Michigan is aggressively moving forward with initiatives to do just that. Unfortunately, in their haste to get away from coal, state officials are pursuing policies that upon closer examination turn out to be poorly thought out and ill-advised. (Can you say ethanol for gasoline?) Coal, of course, has many disadvantages as a fuel for electric generation: it pollutes, it contributes to climate change, and it's not renewable or a Michigan-based resource.

So if we could find a fuel that's renewable, emits less greenhouse gas, and is local, that would be perfect, right? Wood seems to fit the bill, doesn't it?

Well, not really. As with ethanol, there

are unintended consequences. While the actual burning of wood seems less problematic than coal, there are effects on our forests that are very undesirable.

Michigan's forests are still quite young, both in terms of tree age and in species composition. The entire state was cut over in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As the forests recover, young, fast-growing species like aspen come in first, and then are replaced by species that grow more slowly and live to an older age, like white pine and oak.

These older, successional trees should be the ecologically dominant species after our state forests fully recover. The trees also have more economic value: they're used for furniture and other value-added products that require more labor for harvesting and making the product. This means more jobs per tree. These species' timber also cost more than younger, early successional species – meaning the forest

owner gets more money, too.

What all this means is that burning wood is bad for our forests and bad for Michigan's economy. If we cut all this timber now, (1) the forests won't develop to an older, more valuable stage, (2) we create demand for fast growing trees and prevent forests from recovering, and (3) Michigan will get less income and fewer jobs from its forests.

Michigan only has 19 million acres of forest in all ownerships. A single, medium-sized power plant (like the 600 MW plant proposed for Rogers City, MI) that relies entirely on wood would require a million acres of forest to provide wood fuel on a sustainable, ongoing basis. Michigan would be better served by safeguarding our forest heritage and fully utilizing more sensible, clean alternatives like energy conservation, wind, and solar, which would also provide new jobs for our manufacturing base.

CleanEnergySolutions

Michigan Poised to Turn Its Back on Future Generations

8 NEW COAL PLANTS PROPOSED STATEWIDE
MEANS MORE POLLUTION, FEWER CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

by Jan O'Connell, Energy Issues Legislative Organizer

As you know, stopping the onslaught of unnecessary new coal plants in Michigan is one of Sierra Club's biggest priorities right now. Unfortunately since our last update in *The Mackinac*, another coal plant proposal by the Lansing Board of Water and Light has surfaced, bringing the total number of newly proposed coal-fired power plants in Michigan to an astounding "eight." Michigan now has more coal plant proposals than any other state—10% of all the active proposals in the United States.

Michigan already has 19 coal plants that account for 12,000 megawatts of power. The eight proposed plants seek an additional 3,000 megawatts. If any new coal plants are constructed, they will increase carbon dioxide (CO₂)—a climate change pollutant—to the atmosphere, increase the cost of electricity to ratepayers, and compete with clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

Sierra Club is working hard across the state to stop the "Michigan Coal Rush." But we can't do it alone. Already, teams of activists are forming in areas with proposed coal-plants and they need your help. In Holland, for example, Sierra Club volunteers Shirley Kallio, Fred and Paula Kathi, and Tammy Icelles are educating community members at events ranging from the local farmers market to utility-sponsored open houses, hoping to stop the unnecessary expansion of the Holland Board of Public Works coal plant. We want to thank them and everyone else that has already joined our "Clean Energy Now" Campaign.

No matter where you live, your help can make a big difference. To find out how to get involved, contact Sierra Club at 517-484-2372 or email lee.sprague@sierraclub.org

If any new coal plants are constructed, they will compete with clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

sierraclub.org, tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

You can find out more online at www.michigan.sierraclub.org, including a petition that you can circulate asking Governor Granholm to reduce global warming pollution by regulating CO₂ emissions from coal plants.

NEW GREEN POWER POLICY IN MICHIGAN

In July, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's Executive Committee approved a policy to support voluntary Green Power programs that generate, purchase, and distribute renewable energy based on rates that exclude the cost of generating energy from fossil fuels or nuclear sources.

Consequently, Sierra Club supports the City of Ann Arbor/Ecology Center proposal to Detroit Edison to develop a voluntary green power program. The Club also supports the Traverse City Light & Power Green Rate program, which generates and distributes energy from wind power.



GREEN CRUISE: Senator Carl Levin, Ferndale City Council members Tomiko Gumbleton and Kate Baker, and volunteers Deb Olsen and Shelly Bavonese lead off the 4th Annual Sierra Club Green Cruise in August. This nationally renowned event promotes people-powered transportation options to reduce your carbon footprint.

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes



JAN O'CONNELL

Sierra Club's Volunteer Water Sentinels Document Water Quality in U.P.

by Rita Jack, Clean Water Program Director

On Oct. 3 and 4, the Shakey Water Sentinels will conduct their sixth water quality monitoring session in Stephenson, Menominee County. The all-volunteer group—including Dr. Keith West from the University of Wisconsin-Marquette, the Conservation District, and members of the Front Fortys—has demonstrated their knowledge of macroinvertebrate collection procedures, including the sorting, indentifying, and counting of organisms that leads to a stream health score. The group also measures pH and stream flow.

The information gathered by Shakey Water Sentinels will help them respond to water quality issues in any forthcoming permit applications from Aquila Resources, which is prospecting for gold and zinc in Stephenson and nearby. New volunteers are always welcome, contact Ron Henriksen at 906-753-2966 or

roncarol67@aol.com to help. (You can also contact Rita Jack at 517-484-2372.) Monitoring days are fun, lunch is provided, and all volunteers receive free Water Sentinels T-shirts!

The Shakey Water Sentinels are the second volunteer group in the Upper Peninsula to undertake baseline water monitoring because of potential sulfide mining in their area. They join the Sierra Club's Central Upper Peninsula Group, which has been monitoring water quality for over four years on the Yellow Dog Plains in northern Marquette County. The Sierra Club cited their monitoring results in official comments on the Kennecott sulfide mine proposal. Contact Dave Allen, dallen@nmu.edu or 906-228-9453, to learn more and help out.

Many thanks to our long-time, dedicated water monitoring volunteers—your efforts are making a difference!

Victory! Water Withdrawal Protections Signed By Governor

After a five-year effort, Sierra Club and allied groups convinced state lawmakers to pass a package of bills designed to protect Michigan's waters from withdrawals. The bills included the critical Great Lakes Compact, an agreement between the eight Great Lakes states and Canada to protect the Great Lakes from thirsty states and countries. Governor Granholm signed the bills into law in July.

The package didn't include strong enough protections of Michigan's groundwater. Large agricultural interests and industry interests succeeded in blocking efforts to extend "public trust" protections to groundwater, leaving open the potential for abuse and overuse.

The new laws are a significant step forward and an important



JOYCE MAVIS FARR

policy success, but Sierra Club and others will continue to seek improvements in watershed protections so that future generations have access to clean and abundant water.

To learn more, you can contact Gayle Miller (gayle.miller@sierraclub.org) or Rita Jack (rita.jack@sierraclub.org).

GREAT LAKES COMPACT PASSES U.S. SENATE, ACTION NOW REQUIRED BY U.S. HOUSE

As this issue of the Mackinac goes to print, the Great Lakes Compact has passed the U.S. Senate. The Compact must now pass the U.S. House of Representatives before being signed into law by President Bush.

The Great Lakes Compact is the result of four years of work by the Great Lakes Governors and interest groups representing industry, agriculture and the environment (including the Sierra Club). The Compact establishes standards to govern the Great Lakes Governors' approval or veto over any diversions of water from the Great Lakes Basin. For the first time, the Compact establishes a uniform standard to apply to in-basin uses of water, but allows each jurisdiction to set the withdrawal level at which this standard will apply.

ACT: Please call your U.S. Representative and ask for their support of the Great Lakes Compact.

GREAT LAKES LEGACY ACT NEEDED TO CLEAN-UP TOXIC HOTSPOTS

The Great Lakes Legacy Act reauthorizes a highly successful program to clean-up toxic hotspots in the Great Lakes and increases the funding to \$150 million per year. Over the past five years, the Great Lakes Legacy Act has proven to be an effective tool in cleaning up and restoring our Great Lakes. Experience shows we can use modern technologies to safely remove and dispose of contamination, such as with the clean-up of the Detroit River Black Lagoon.

This is a two step process. Our first step is to get the U.S. Senate and House to reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act. The second step will be to get funds appropriated to fully fund the program.

ACT: Please call and urge your U.S. Representative and Senators to reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act.

To learn more or get involved in Sierra Club's efforts to protect the Great Lakes, contact Great Lakes Regional Representative Melissa Damaschke at 313-965-0055 or melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org.

Sierra Club Celebrates Progress: Less Pollution from Animal Factories

**MDEQ DENIES WATER PERMIT FOR DAIRY CAFO,
MOVES TO SHUT DOWN POLLUTING HOG CAFO**

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director

Two dramatic actions by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) prove that Sierra Club and our partners' work to clean up animal factories in Michigan is making headway. In June, MDEQ denied its first water permit for a proposed concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO), finding the negative impact of its pollution would outweigh its economic and social benefits. And a 4,000 head hog facility will be the first CAFO required by MDEQ to shut down after failing to address air pollution problems over its five years of operation.

The precedent setting denial of the Bustdorf Dairy CAFO showed the value of nine years of monitoring, research and documentation by the Michigan Chapter and many partners. CAFO Water Sentinel Lynn Henning's objective information and support for citizens concerned about the environmental and public health threats posed by this proposed facility helped to build the case against this proposal. Leonidas Township Supervisor Eric Verhey engaged a diverse coalition to effectively document the risk this proposed facility posed. The Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development LLC, which sought the permit, has appealed the denial.

**In November, State Line Farms CAFO will be
the first Michigan CAFO ordered to shut down
operations because of air pollution.**

In November, State Line Farms CAFO will be the first Michigan CAFO ordered to shut down operations because of air pollution. Built five years ago between two houses and across the road from a third, State Line caused horrendous air pollution within months of beginning its operations. Sierra Club worked closely with the neighbors to document the problems and seek enforcement of clean air laws, a process complicated by split oversight between the MI Department of Agriculture and the MDEQ. In addition to paying a \$28,000 fine, State Line Farms will be the first CAFO in Michigan required to obtain an air pollution permit if they seek to reopen.

Sierra Club applauds MDEQ for their actions on both cases and looks forward to assisting in ongoing efforts to stop animal factory pollution in Michigan.

Your 2008 Elections

Help Out, Get Out, Vote!

by Sue Kelly, Michigan Chapter Political Committee Chair

Sierra Club members take their responsibility to vote very seriously. 92% of our members are registered voters and **we must all get out and vote in the general election on Tuesday, November 4.**

However, there is much work to be done before Election Day. We need to educate voters about candidates' environmental positions and work hard to get those folks elected. More of us need to get involved in the candidates' campaigns: we are an educated, skilled group of people, and just a small amount of time helps a great deal. What can you do in this important election season?

- **Register to vote.** Check to see if you're already registered at <https://services2.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>. The last day you can register before the election is October 6th—so act today!
- **Volunteer with one of the great environmental candidates that Sierra Club has endorsed.** Candidates always need help with things like stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, entering data, going door-to-door, and holding house parties. Need some help deciding where your time should go? Email me at sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org and I'll be happy to advise you.
- **Donate money to support pro-environment candidates.**



In many cases, they are up against the deep pockets of industry and special interests contributing to their opposition.

- **Vote absentee.** If you are eligible, vote by absentee ballot because the lines are expected to be long this year. Also, remind **college students** to get their absentee ballots—they can only vote in the precinct of the home address on their driver's license, not at the college they attend. **First time voters** must either vote in person at the polls or visit their local clerk in person to request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available one month before the election. If you want your absentee ballot mailed to you, your request must be received by the clerk no later than 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 1.

Change Not Just Light Bulbs, But Leadership in America

by Gayle Miller, Legislative Program Director

Be still my beating and re-energized heart! Last night I listened to Al Gore on C-SPAN talk about the We Can Solve It campaign (www.wecansolveit.org)—an aggressive plan to address global warming while solving America's economic and energy crises. The goal: to transition to a carbon free economy in 10 short years.

Gore talked about the urgent need to make sweeping changes in the way we use energy to avoid catastrophic climate change, which will turn millions of people into climate refugees. (We all know this, right?) According to Gore, plug-in electric cars, an improved electricity grid and a massive shift toward wind, solar and geothermal energy are the keys to saving

not only the US economy, but society as we know it. Gore is convinced that all of this is possible, both scientifically and economically, but that one major challenge stands in the way: our utterly broken political system.

Gore spoke about the need to get involved—and the need to change not just light bulbs, but leadership in America. We need to make changes from the highest levels of government to the lowest. We can do this—but it will take all of us engaging, working, and doing more than just our part.

Please get involved and learn about who is running for office in your districts. Then let's throw out the bums who can't see the forest through the trees on climate

change. We CAN solve the massive problem of global warming—and come out better for meeting the challenge.

Make changes in the way you use energy, and then help make changes in leadership. Elect candidates who will protect the environment, and take bold steps toward solving climate change.

You know, it would be nice if the Sierra Club and the environmental community had millions of dollars in special interest money to spend influencing lawmakers. But we don't—we influence public policy the hard—and honest—way. We educate the public and we ask you, interested citizens, to respond and demand action. This is the way democracy is supposed to work!

2/3 of Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates Win Primaries

by Sue Kelly, Michigan Chapter Political Committee Chair

In the August 5th primary, two-thirds of Sierra Club's endorsed candidates in Michigan won their races, and will now go on to the General Election on November 4th. (See accompanying box.) Sierra Club will make further endorsements in Michigan races before the General Election on November 4th.

How does a candidate get a Sierra Club endorsement? Dozens of Sierra Club volunteers throughout the state analyze many sources of information when considering endorsements, including: environmental voting records of incumbents, leadership on priority issues, environmental questionnaires, public service, and interviews. Sierra Club's local Group Executive Committees, the state-level Chapter Political Committee and the Chapter Executive Committee all must vote to approve local and statewide endorsements. Sierra Club's National Political Committee must vote to approve our Chapter's recommended candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Sierra Club will make further endorsements in Michigan races before the General Election on November 4th.

The Sierra Club only considers environmental issues when making endorsements—we do not take into account a candidate's position on unrelated policies. And the Sierra Club does not make an endorsement in every race. Most of our endorsed candidates have a public record of pro-environment service. For candidates who have not yet held public office, there may not be enough information on which to base an endorsement. It is also customary for Sierra Club to not make an endorsement when more than one qualified environmental candidate is running for a primary race; these races get reviewed again after the primary.

ENDORSED PRIMARY WINNERS IN MICHIGAN

For a complete list of Sierra Club endorsed candidates and winners (including county seats) in Michigan, go to www.michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/michiganpolitics.html.

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HD 23: Deb Kennedy
HD 24: Sarah Roberts
HD 26: Marie Donigan
HD 31: Fred Miller
HD 52: Pam Byrnes
HD 53: Rebekah Warren
HD 54: Alma Wheeler-Smith
HD 55: Kathy Angerer
HD 56: Kate Ebli
HD 68: Joan Bauer
HD 69: Mark Meadows
HD 101: Dan Scripps

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CD 05: Dale Kildee
CD 07: Mark Schauer
CD 09: Gary Peters
CD 12: Sander Levin
CD 13: Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick
CD 14: John Conyers

US SENATE

Carl Levin

US PRESIDENT

Barack Obama

WHO CONTRIBUTES TO POLITICAL CANDIDATES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

The Michigan Secretary of State has an online searchable database of donors to candidates, and several other websites have emerged to help you research candidates:

- miboecfr.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/cfr/can_search.cgi
- www.opensecrets.org
- www.followthemoney.org
- www.c-span.org/congress/campaignfinance.asp

Group Info & Outings

Local Sierra Club groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and general meetings throughout the state. Outings and meetings are open to the public—everyone is welcome! If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you're interested in starting one, please call Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at 517-484-2372.

Most outings begin at the trailhead, and some have fees associated with them. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. [To read the liability waiver before you participate, please visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a print version.] You can find more details on outings and recent additions online at the groups' websites or at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

September

9/7 HVG Bird Hills Hike. 10am. Moderate 3-4 mile hike.

9/13 NG Hike Hadley Hills. 10am. Difficult hike.

9/14 SEMG MetroBeach MP Hike. 12pm. Moderate 5 mile hike.

9/20 NG Hike Bald Mountain. 11am. Moderate 2 hour hike.

9/20 SEMG Wolcott Mill Hike and Quilts. 11am. Moderate 5 mile hike and visit to the mill for antique quilt display.

9/20-9/21 SEMG Manistee River Trail Backpack. Moderate 20 mile hike and camping on the Manistee River.

9/21 HVG Waterloo Recreation Area Hike. 1pm. Moderate 3-4 mile hike.

9/27 NG Kayak/Canoe Flint River. 1pm. Easy paddle in the beautiful Flint River.

9/27 SEMG Maybury State Park Hike. 11am. Moderate 3-4 mile hike.

9/28 SEMG Bald Mountain N. Hike. 12:30pm. Moderate 5-6 mile hike.

9/28 HVG Mitchell Field Through Arboretum Hike. 1pm. Moderate 3 mile hike.

October

10/4 NG Hike Holly North. 11am. Moderate 5 mile hike.

10/5 SEMG Crooked Lake Hike. 9:30am. Moderate 5 mile hike.

10/5 HVG Stinchfield Woods Hike. 1pm. Moderate 3-4 mile hike.

10/8 SEMG Matthaei Botanical Garden and Nichols Arb. Hike. 10am. 5-6 mile hike.

10/11 NG Hike Flushing Riverview Trail. 10am. Easy 4 mile hike.

10/12 NG Hike Lapeer State Game Area. 11am. Moderate 5 mile hike.

10/12 SEMG Circle Belle Isle Hike. 12pm. Moderate 5 mile hike.

10/19 SEMG Brighton Rec. Area Hike. 12pm. Moderate 5-7 mile hike.

10/19 HVG Brighton Recreational Area Hike. 1pm. Moderate 3-5 mile hike.

10/25 NG Hike Ligon Outdoor Center. 10am-12pm. Easy Hike.

10/25 SEMG Proud Lake Hike. 11am. Moderate 5 mile Hike.

10/26 HVG Waterloo Recreation Area Hike. 1pm. Moderate 3-4 mile hike.

November

11/2 NG Hike and Clean Up of VA Memorial Park. 10am-2pm. Easy Hike.

11/2 SEMG Independence Oaks Hike. 12pm. Moderate 5 mile hike.

11/8 NG Hike Crim. 10am. Easy hike with restaurant stop along the way.

11/9 SEMG Bald Mountain Rec. Area Hike. 12pm. Moderate 5 mile hike.

11/15 SEMG Stony Creek Hike. 12pm. Moderate 6-7 mile hike.

11/15 NG Hike for Mar Nature Preserve. 10am-12pm. Easy hike, no dogs allowed.

11/20 SEMG Brighton Rec. Hike. 10am. Moderate 5 mile hike.

11/22 SEMG Morning Hike at Maybury. 11am. Moderate 3 mile hike.

11/23 SEMG Hike Our Heritage. 10am. Moderate 4 mile hike.

11/28 SEMG Proud Lake Turkey Trot. 11am. Moderate 5-6 mile hike.

11/30 SEMG Pinkney Rec. Area Hike. 9:30am. Moderate 10-12 mile hike.

Summer view of Hack Site Bluff from Upper Cascade Falls trail.



DOUG WELKER

Volunteer Leaders Needed!

by Amanda Hightree,
Chapter Coordinator

We all want clean and healthy air, water, and land but sometimes don't know how to make these things a reality. The Sierra Club is one of the largest and oldest grassroots environmental organizations because we help people come together and lead others to work on important issues facing them in their communities. We've found that the best way to make positive change is to get involved.

I want to invite you to get more involved by becoming a volunteer leader in your local group. You can help with an issue campaign, lead an outing, organize educational meetings in your group, track members' interests, or send out newsletters and mailings. If becoming a leader sounds like a good way for you to get involved and help protect Michigan's environment, please contact me at 517-484-2372 or amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org. To learn more about the Sierra Club and ways you can make a difference, go to www.sierraclub.org/101.

Mushroom in Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area.



JAN O'CONNELL

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GROUP

Your local Sierra Club group is run by volunteers who host educational programs and organize actions on environmental issues important to your community and family's health.

CMG = Central Michigan Group

Group Chair: Anne-Marie Rachman,
517-336-7871 or arachman@comcast.com

Outings Chair: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796

CUPG = Central Upper Peninsula Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: John Rebers,
906-228-3617 or john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org

CG = Crossroads Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads

Group Chair: Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298
or rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Cheryl McConnell,
517-552-1464 or cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org

HVG = Huron Valley Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

Group Chair: Doug Cowherd, doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823

KVG = Kalamazoo Valley Group

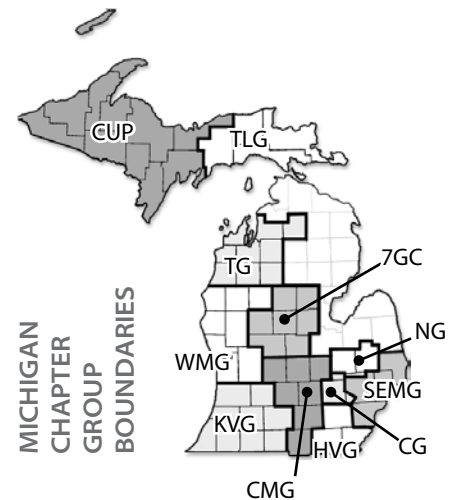
Group Chair, Outings Chair: currently seeking new local leaders, call the Chapter Office at 517-484-2372 for details

NG = Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

Group Chair: Linda Berker, 810-653-8242

Outings Chair: Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406
or mansfieldd@chartermi.net



SEMG = Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

Group Chair: Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or
cogknot@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873
or wanderphil1@yahoo.com

TLG = Three Lakes Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: Roger Blanchard,
906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu

TG = Traverse Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: currently seeking new local leaders, call the Chapter Office at 517-484-2372 for details

WMG = West Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

Group Chair: Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055
or craig_ressler@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Sharon Wilson, 616-532-0753

7GC = Seventh Generation Committee

Local Contact: Joel Welty, 989-561-5037
or jwelty@power-net.net

Democracy in Action

Michigan Senate Dims State's Energy Future

In passing the worst energy legislation in the country, the Michigan Senate blocked renewable energy and efficiency standards. The Senate rejected a bipartisan House energy package, choosing instead to pass a bill that cuts the House-passed requirements for renewable electricity and efficiency from 15.8% by 2015 to just 7% and allowing a coal-fired technology to count toward that goal.

In response, Sierra Club members made 4,000 contacts to Senators demanding they get back on track within days of the Senate's vote, and have written dozens of letters to the editor. A 20' tall inflatable power plant and enormous puppet drew attention to the Senate debacle in an event on the State Capitol steps, and a wide array of groups are applying pressure from all sides.

Governor Granholm says she will veto any weakening of the House-passed package. Despite progress in the House and Senate negotiations, however, Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop canceled the senate meetings in mid-August needed to take move this critical legislation forward. As *The Mackinac* goes to press, the earliest any action could occur is September 9th.

Contact Gayle Miller (gayle.miller@sierraclub.org) or Jan O'Connell (jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org) for more details.



An inflatable coal plant and 13' puppet help environmental and faith-based groups make the case against the Michigan Senate's abysmal energy bills passed in July. We're now working towards an improved version of the Senate energy package this fall.

KATIE SWEDBERG

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Are you ready to make history with the Michigan Chapter? Please consider running for the Chapter Executive Committee and helping shape Sierra Club's future in Michigan while enjoying time with fellow environmentalists.

Four of the nine at-large representatives will be elected for two-year terms starting in January 2009. Due to the resignation of David Holtz, who is moving out of the state, a fifth representative will be elected to fill that vacancy, a term that expires at the end of 2009. Candidates are expected to attend four quarterly Executive Committee meetings a year and to become involved with one or more of the Chapter's key activities.

If you or anybody you know would like to run for one of these at-large seats, please contact Nominations Chair Lydia Fischer, lydfisch@mindspring.com, by October 15, 2008.

Detroit Trash Campaign

RECYCLING RAMPS UP, INCINERATION UNCERTAIN

Twenty years trying to move Michigan's largest city toward recycling and away from waste incineration are paying off. The City of Detroit opted out of leasing or buying the nation's largest solid waste incinerator and the authority that oversees waste handling is seriously discussing recycling options. For the first time, the Detroit City Council and the City Administration are actually deliberating the future of solid waste handling.

A coalition of Detroit activists, including Sierra Club, started the debate by insisting on an open public discussion of solid waste disposal after all major contracts and bond obligations for the Detroit Incinerator end in 2009. Detroit City Council, led by Joann Watson, laid the groundwork for change by passing a resolution supporting a "New Business Model for Solid Waste" that includes curbside recycling and green economic development. Deputy Mayor Anthony Adams's Stakeholders Forum helped expose the incinerator's huge costs and health impacts.

While the fate of the Incinerator is uncertain, activists are cheering their progress. For a complete update, read Anna Holden's story on the Michigan Chapter website.

Chapter Directory

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OFFICE

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Great Lakes Regional Representative

Melissa Damaschke melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB OAKLAND COUNTY FIELD OFFICE

1723 14 Mile Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48073

Phone: 248-549-6213

Conservation Organizer

Tiffany Hartung tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org

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Administrative Coordinator

Shelly Campbell shelly.campbell@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

85 Second Street, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105

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MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Al Beeton, Vice Chair abeeton@netzero.net

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Robert Simpson rjsimpson944@hotmail.com

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Craig Ressler (WGM) craig_ressler@yahoo.com

Ed Steinman (HVG) esteinma@umich.edu

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Finance Committee

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Fundraising Committee

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Washtenaw: Vera Hernandez vhernan@umich.edu

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Lorne Beatty 810-632-7766, lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political Committee

Sue Kelly sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org

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Enclosed is my/our gift of:

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Your donation helps provide the flexible funding Sierra Club needs to successfully advocate for Michigan's Great Lakes, wild heritage, and clean energy future.

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to support our work, call Development Director Wendi Tilden at 517-484-2372 to learn how.

**Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,
109 E. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906**

Instead of a check, please charge my credit card

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Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. Please join us in thanking current members:

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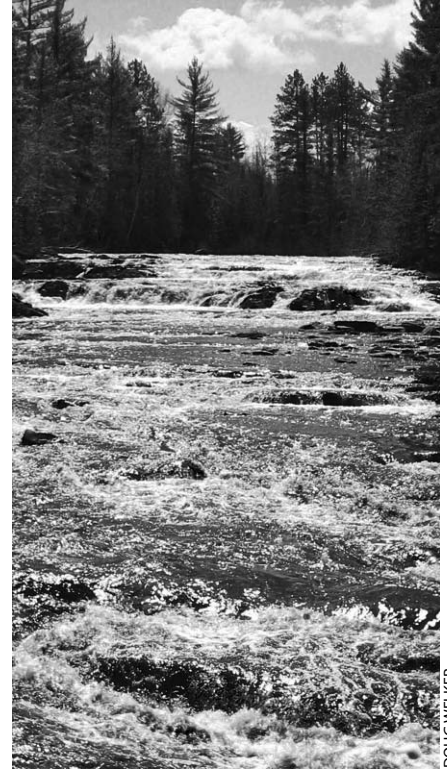
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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SIERRA CLUB, 109 EAST GRAND RIVER AVE, LANSING, MI 48906.



The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together

to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grass-roots environmental organization.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.