



SPRAWL HAS SWEEPED THE NATION

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Sprawl for sale near Gaylord, 1998.

PHOTO BY ANNE WOIWODE

THE MACKINAC QUARTERLY

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Alison Horton, Sept. 28, 1998

CLINTON AND GORE TAKE NEW STEPS TO STOP SPRAWL AND PROTECT LAND

BY ALISON HORTON

Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

The announcement of two environmental initiatives by the Clinton Administration in early January sent a strong message on the environment. With initiatives to combat sprawl and protect our natural heritage, the Administration proposed a funding commitment larger than any other in the 1999 budget except that to defense.

Vice President Al Gore's "Livable Communities Initiative" is a one billion dollar commitment to combating the harmful effects of urban sprawl. This proposal is constructed so as to provide new financial support for towns, cities, counties, states, and land trusts that are attempting to acquire open space or institute "smart growth" projects. A request for funds in the areas of mass transit, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program under TEA-21, local

Vice President Al Gore's "Livable Communities Initiative" is a one billion dollar commitment to combating the harmful effects of urban sprawl.

partnerships which pursue smart growth strategies without jurisdictional limitations, and new schools created in community centers are just some of the proposed ideas that mitigate the environmental disturbances of urban sprawl.

President Clinton's "Lands Legacy Initiative" provides funding to preserve America's national heritage: land.

Clinton's proposal recognizes the need to adjust the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), providing higher spending power for federal land acquisition. The proposal also increases fund allotment to states and regional entities acquiring open space and planning for open space. Specifically, the LWCF would receive increased funding for projects that include adding 100,000 acres to national forests and refuges in New England, acquiring 450,000 acres in the Mojave Desert, land acquisitions in the Everglades, protecting the Lewis and Clark Trail, and acquiring lands for Civil War Battlefields. Further, Clinton's proposal would protect and restore oceans and coastlines, coastal wetlands, fisheries, coral reefs, marine habitat, and farmland on national and local levels. The new funding and a commitment to secure permanent funding increases for land acquisition and parks (for federal, state, and local agencies) demonstrate a new level of involvement from the Administration in land protection.

The Sierra Club has applauded these two initiatives. Sierra Club recognizes that controlling sprawl is essential to preserving our quality of life, protecting the environment, and preserving natural habitats. Sierra Club's Executive Director, Carl Pope, observed that the Vice President's proposal has reversed a fifty year trend of federal policies and programs that helped create sprawl. Also, the Administration has taken steps to stop the annual loss of 400,000 acres of American land to development. These two budget proposals are the largest new spending proposals in the President's Budget, except for Defense—which reveals the high priority given to these initiatives. The "Livable Communities Initiative" and "Lands Legacy Initiative" will have to face Congressional scrutiny, but with support from the conservation community and from municipal, county, and state leaders, the proposals have a strong chance of approval. •

MACKINAC CHAPTER TARGETS FORESTS, SPRAWL, TOXIC POLLUTION, AND THE STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FOR 1999-2000

BY ALISON HORTON
 Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

As we prepare to usher in the new millennium, the Sierra Club is seeking to restore a true sense of environmental responsibility and stewardship to Michigan. Sierra Club leaders have seen our state—the state of great lakes, great times, and pleasant peninsulas—buffeted through most of the nineties by an extraordinary contempt and disregard for the need to protect the natural values and environmental quality on which we all depend for a healthy, safe, livable future. The Mackinac Chapter's agenda for 1999-2000 is geared to addressing some of Michigan's most pressing environmental problems.

Every two years the Mackinac Chapter's conservation committee and executive committee map out the chapter's priority campaigns. In January, leaders from across the state met at Nettie Bay Lodge in northern Michigan to set the course and discuss plans for the work ahead. Four campaigns were identified as the focus for the Sierra Club's work in Michigan for 1999 and 2000.

MACKINAC CHAPTER 1999-2000 CAMPAIGNS

FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

In the wake of turn-of-the-century leveling of Michigan's great northwoods forests and succeeding decades of resource management practices, securing restoration and protection of our forests' biological diversity means rethinking the ways we manage our public and private forest lands. The Mackinac Chapter has undertaken a long-term campaign to achieve exactly that.

Over the next two years, the Chapter's Forest Biodiversity Project is continuing work to transform our state forest land management—so it is guided by citizen input into timber harvesting and other intensive resource-use decisions; environmental impact reviews of activities; and planning that considers ecosystems, wildlife, and plant species in their entirety. For Michigan's national forests, the project and its forest activists work continually to influence specific actions—such as timber sales—and, on the broader level, to shape forest management plans and regional policy.

CURBING URBAN SPRAWL

It is widely acknowledged that sprawl has become one of the fastest growing problems we face in Michigan and, in fact, across the country. Sprawling development is causing air pollution, rapid loss of valuable farmland and open space, loss of important habitats, higher taxes, increased traffic congestion, and a decline in the vitality of cities. Michigan lags behind many areas of the country in adopting state and local strategies to curb sprawl. The state legislature and local governments

need to make it a priority to tackle sprawl with innovative, smart growth initiatives such as land acquisition programs, growth management strategies, comprehensive planning, and funding for revitalization of urban core areas.

In Michigan, the Sierra Club will work in key communities across the state for adoption of growth management and open space protection initiatives at the local level. The curbing sprawl campaign will also work statewide for legislative action to set a course for smart growth planning in Michigan. Public education about sprawl issues and solutions will be a key element of the Mackinac Chapter's campaign to fight sprawl.

HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM

Ironically, our health care industry generates toxic pollutants and waste that can cause cancer, respiratory diseases, and environmental harm. Improving air quality in our communities and reducing airborne toxins—which affect everything from our lakes' water quality to the health of our children—is central to our environmental well-being. Bringing reforms to the health care industry that eliminate or reduce both toxic emissions and the use of wasteful practices and products will set an important example for other industries, signaling that our society expects no less of those charged with our health care.

The Mackinac Chapter has joined with Health Care Without Harm efforts across the nation and with partners here in Michigan to address this pollution problem, which is associated with many hospitals in communities across the state. The campaign will work with the health care industry, the communities around health care facilities, and government agencies to se

see *CHAPTER CAMPAIGNS* page 7

MACKINAC CHAPTER EDITORIAL

OUR CROSSROADS OF OPPORTUNITY

Michigan is at a crossroads. Last fall, many of us who watch environmental politics observed with interest—and a touch of envy—as environmental champions in Congress and state capitols beat back challenges from pro-polluter candidates; as some 200 anti-sprawl ballot measures were adopted across the country; as the environment played out as an important issue in many races nationwide. Victories for the environment were not so clear in Michigan elections. A multitude of forces unrelated to the environment were at work here, drowning out and undercutting environmental concerns. Those forces, however, did nothing to diminish either the need or public sentiment for environmental protection in Michigan.

We are at a crossroads of opportunity. A new Michigan legislature has the opportunity to make a mark for itself—distinguishing itself from the lackluster and frequently disappointing performance of its recent predecessors—by legislating into play smart growth initiatives to curb sprawl, budgeting for and insisting on enforcement of the state's environmental laws, reforming our archaic drain code, rolling back provisions that allow pol-

Michigan's decision-makers can put us back on the road to environmental stewardship, or can allow us to continue down a path which puts our environment increasingly at risk.

lutters to foul our air and water in secret, and re-opening government so citizens can participate fully in environmental decisions. A new attorney general has the opportunity to build upon and re-energize Michigan's long tradition of holding environmental lawbreakers accountable—to establish our reputation as a state that demands polluters adhere to pollution permits and that developers operate within the framework of laws enacted to protect our wetlands, forests, and open spaces.

Michigan media, community leaders, environmental advocates, and concerned citizens all have an opportunity to rise and call for solutions to environmental problems facing our state. We cannot afford to squander these opportunities. Each of us can make a difference, giving voice to the importance of safeguarding the environment for our families and our future. Michigan's decision-makers can put us back on the road to environmental stewardship, or can allow us to continue down a path which puts our environment increasingly at risk. This is a critical crossroads—it is imperative that we make the right turn. 🍁

SHAME ON DEQ

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) should be ashamed of itself. It is now proposing to broaden the reach of its "Clean Corporate Citizen" program—a badly conceived, badly named, badly applied program that awards air polluters special benefits, to include surface and groundwater polluters. This move comes in the wake of DEQ's recent designation of Marquette's Presque Isle Power Plant, operated by Wisconsin Electric Power Company, as a Clean Corporate Citizen—a perfect example of just what is wrong with this DEQ seal-of-approval program. When the Presque Isle Power Plant was announced as a Clean Corporate Citizen (CCC), it may well have been taking steps to cut pollution at the plant—as well it should be, ranking as one of the dirtiest coal-fired power plants in the state when it comes to nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide. But the state has no business certifying industrial facilities as clean until they are clean, and no business abrogating its responsibility to set pollution limits, ensure that they are met, and make pollution information available to the public.

...the state has no business certifying industrial facilities as clean until they are clean.

Once an industrial facility is given CCC status, it automatically sets its own pollution permit limits based on its own "best professional judgment"; it avoids regular monitoring and reporting requirements, thus making much less information available to the public about reported pollution; and is virtually guaranteed no more than one agency inspection every five years. Clearly, there is no way to tell if a company is truly cleaning up its pollution and succeeding at pollution prevention once it has been given clean corporate citizenship.

It's no wonder Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) released a report last year written by DEQ employees, blasting the agency for its top-level refusals to carry out its enforcement responsibilities for wetlands protection in Michigan. And it's no wonder that when PEER conducted a survey inviting anonymous response from every single DEQ employee last fall, they found a stunning percentage of the state's environmental agency staff dismayed and appalled by the direction the agency has taken since the very first day Governor Engler put it in business.

Those who have set the course for what we euphemistically call the Department of Environmental Quality should be ashamed of the road they have taken. It is a truly sad commentary on the state of environmental stewardship in Michigan that they are not. 🍁

GUARDIANS, PROTECTORS, AND DEFENDERS OF THE PENINSULAS: THANK YOU!

The Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club gratefully acknowledges contributions to the 1998 Defenders, Protectors, and Guardians of the Peninsulas. These generous donations are put to work to support the Sierra Club's campaigns here in Michigan—advocating for protection of our forests and other natural areas, for our Great Lakes and water quality, and for fighting harmful pollution and the damage caused by urban sprawl and ill-conceived development.

Our Peninsula donors directly support the Mackinac Chapter's dedicated staff and talented volunteers who are taking action every day—at the state capitol, in communities, and in the field—to protect the environment through lobbying, research, public education, and litigation.

Please join us in expressing our sincere gratitude to each of these individuals for their generous support for, and commitment to, Michigan's environment and natural heritage. •

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MICHIGAN NEEDS TO GET WATER POLLUTION REDUCTIONS MOVING

BY ALISON HORTON

Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

In Michigan and across the country, lakes, streams, and rivers are being evaluated to determine whether they meet water quality standards set under the federal Clean Water Act—and, if they do not, what needs to be done about it. This undertaking is a critical step towards cleaning up dirty and contaminated waters. It has taken several lawsuits across the country, filed under the Clean Water Act by environmental organizations, to jump-start a process which was being essentially ignored by the states and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Citizens concerned about cleaning up lakes and rivers now have an opportunity to demand that work to cut pollution in contaminated waters gets done.

The Clean Water Act requires the US EPA to identify polluted waters and determine the total load of specific pollutants a water body can take, on a daily basis, to meet water quality standards. The EPA has, in turn, required states such as Michigan—which have been delegated the responsibility of administering clean water programs—to develop a list of state waters that do not meet current standards. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) submitted its list, known as the 303(d) list for Section 303 of the Clean Water Act, to the EPA in March 1998. The next step toward cleaning up these “impaired” waters is to develop a TMDL—Total Maximum Daily Load—which must then be met by pollutants entering that water body.

Once a TMDL is set, pollution entering that water body must be regulated so as to not exceed the load specifications. Sierra Club activists concerned about Michigan’s waters can play an important role in the TMDL process, as advocates for real pollution reductions. The Mackinac Chapter office in Lansing can help interested activists get involved in this work.

When the state DEQ released its biennial report on Michigan’s water quality last fall, as required by the Clean Water Act, some interesting data made it clear why a rigorous and far-reaching TMDL process needs to be put in place for Michigan. Here are a few of the findings reported by the Department of Environmental Quality:

Due to public health fish consumption advisories, none of Michigan’s 3,250 miles of Great Lakes shoreline meet water quality standards for the so-called “designated” uses—support of aquatic life and wildlife; agricultural, industrial, and municipal water supply; navigation; or total body contact recreation (such as swimming).

No significant increases or decreases in average fish contaminant concentrations have been noted since 1990.

Because of the statewide public health fish consumption advisory for mercury, none of Michigan’s 11,000 inland lakes fully support all of the designated uses described above. The DEQ, however, points out that some individual lakes tested have mercury contamination levels that do not require fish consumption advisories.

Approximately 20% of the inland lake acres monitored in Michigan—some 97,000 acres—either do not support designated uses, such as swimming or fishing for human consumption, or are plagued by nuisance conditions.

There are 43,820 acres of inland lakes in Michigan that have levels of bioaccumulative toxic substances in fish high enough to warrant site-specific fish consumption advisories.

In 1998 43,820 acres of lake were found that did not meet standards for designated uses because of elevated mercury, chlordane, and other organic compounds. In 1996 only 25,036 acres were identified in this category. DEQ attributes this to increased monitoring efforts.

The primary pollutants causing inland lakes to be dirtier than water quality standards are, in the following order: heavy metals, priority organic compounds, pesticides, nutrient enrichment/nuisance plant growth, organic enrichment/dissolved oxygen, and pathogens. The leading source category of pollutants is “unknown and atmospheric deposition.”

Of Michigan rivers monitored in 1997, 566 out of 2,695 miles (21%) did not support designated uses as described above.

The primary pollutants causing rivers to be dirtier than water quality standards in 1997 were organic compounds, sedimentation/siltation, metals, nutrients, flow alterations, and pathogens.

The major sources of pollution in rivers which caused them to be dirtier than standards in 1997 were, in the following order: agricultural nonpoint sources, unspecified, unknown, industrial point sources, agricultural nonpoint sources from non-irrigated crops, and industrial nonpoint sources.

NEW CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED

On January 9, 1999 the Mackinac Chapter welcomed newly elected At-Large members to the board. They are: Gary Semer of Plymouth, Helen LeBlanc of Williamston, Lydia Fischer of Detroit, Mike Keeler of Flint, and Mike Johnson of Hastings. Their terms began in January 1999 and will end January 2001.

The new At-Large members will be joining continuing At-Large members John Rebers of Marquette, Judy Thompson of Ann Arbor, Fred Townsend of Ortonville, and Sue Kelly of Brighton. The 1999 slate of Chapter Officers are: Lydia Fischer, Chair; Sue Kelly, Vice Chair; Fred Townsend, Secretary; and Helen LeBlanc, Treasurer.

The Chapter Executive Committee (Ex-Comm) is composed of the At-Large members, elected by the Chapter membership and serving two year terms, and Representatives from each local Group within the Chapter, serving one year. The Executive Committee meets quarterly at locations around the state. Ex-Comm meeting dates for the upcoming year are: April 10, July 10&11, October 9, and January 22&23, 2000. The Steering Committee, composed of the Chapter Officers, meets monthly between Executive Committee meetings to conduct the Chapter's business. Sierra Club members are welcome to attend all meetings. ❧

MACKINAC CHAPTER CALENDAR - MAJOR DATES

- March 13..... Conservation Committee Meeting, Lansing
- April 10.....Executive Committee Meeting, Lansing
- July 10-11.....Executive Committee Meeting, Northern Michigan
Conservation Committee Meeting
- September 18-19... Autumn Retreat
- October 9..... Executive Committe Meeting

CHAPTER CAMPAIGNS

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cure alternatives to and eliminate the incineration of medical wastes that generate harmful pollution.



RESTORING STATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State government in Michigan has turned its back on the environment. Meaningful citizen involvement in state decisions about regulating or permitting pollution and about enforcing Michigan's environmental laws has been stifled. Public access to information about polluting or environmentally damaging activities has been restricted. Important environmental statutes have been rewritten, rolled back, and weakened by pro-polluter legislators—and the Michigan courts are issuing an increasing number of anti-environment decisions which undermine protection for everything from wetlands to a neighborhood's right to clean, healthy air.

The Michigan Sierra Club is making it a priority to expand its environmental watchdog role, to press the state's environmental and natural resource agencies to enforce the law and fully implement regulatory programs, and to build renewed interest in real environmental protection among Michigan's new and veteran legislators. With a focus on water quality, wetlands, and Great Lakes protection, the Sierra Club will seek to assure that the state starts meeting its obligations to its citizens to crack down on pollution and destruction of environmentally sensitive resources. ❧

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WASHTENAW COUNTY LAND PRESERVATION PROPOSAL LOSES TO DEVELOPERS' GREENSCAM CAMPAIGN

— BATTLE AGAINST SPRAWL CONTINUES —

BY MIKE SKLAR
AND DOUG COWHERD
Huron Valley Group Co-Chairs

Despite efforts of a broad-based coalition of environmentalists, farmers, business interests, and other civic groups—including the much-appreciated time, money, and encouragement of Sierra Club members from other groups and the skilled assistance of the Mackinac Chapter staff—the Washtenaw County Comprehensive Land Preservation Proposal (Proposal 1) was defeated on Election Day. Since then, members of the land preservation coalition have been wrestling with three questions:

- Why was Proposal 1 defeated?
- What have we learned from the campaign?
- Where do we go from here?

Why Was Proposal 1 Defeated?

Three factors contributed to Proposal 1's defeat. First, the proposal faced a stiff headwind due to other items on the ballot. Engler's landslide in the governor's race suppressed voter turnout among likely supporters. At the same time, the physician-assisted suicide proposal brought out a large number of single-issue voters who were inclined to vote against ballot proposals in general. Our county ballot contained four tax issues, diminishing support for each—both proposals for new local taxes lost badly. The presence of a competing statewide pro-environment proposal also probably siphoned off some votes.

Second, our opponents—homebuilders and construction-related businesses and unions—ran a well-funded, effective greenscam campaign. They created a fake "citizens" group to oppose Proposal 1, which flooded Washtenaw County with television, radio, and print ads. These ads succeeded in confusing voters about whether Proposal 1 would help preserve open space and help farmers stay in business. The homebuilders spent over \$300,000 (\$6 for each vote they won), which set a new county record for spending on a ballot issue.

Finally, our own campaign struggled to overcome several handicaps. As our efforts through mid-June were focused on getting the proposal on the ballot, we had little time to educate local residents about the problems of suburban sprawl, to explain the proposal to voters, and to convince them that its complex, innovative provisions were appropriate.

What Have We Learned From Our Campaign?

We have learned several important lessons from this campaign that will help us as we go forward, and that may be helpful to others trying to implement land preservation proposals. Most importantly, it takes a lot of time to educate the public about the problems associated with urban sprawl and the solutions being proposed. It may take years to complete this education effort.

We learned that having the right proposal from a policy standpoint is less important than having a proposal that is easy to sell to the public. We learned the hard way that complex tax proposals are hard to sell to the general public through the ballot initiative process. Timing is essential, because other items on the ballot determine the type of voters who go to the polls. Also, the proposal must be written clearly enough so people who read it in the ballot booth for the first time are not put off by legalistic jargon or confused about what the proposal will cost and what it will achieve.

We learned that while you need a broad-based coalition and endorsements from many different parts of the community to win, it is not enough to just get their support—you have to use these allies and endorsements effectively. The same goes for volunteers. You can never have too many volunteers, but you have to use their time and energy effectively. Two key questions to ask yourself are: "How many votes are we getting per hour of volunteer time? Are these volunteer tasks going to motivate people or discourage them from coming back?"

Finally, we learned that a strong, sharply-defined message is essential in order to cut through the clutter of commercial and political advertising with which citizens are bombarded. It is important to define your own message and not just respond to your opponents' definition of what the campaign is about. It is also important to respond quickly and directly to your opponents' media campaign.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Despite the outcome of the election, the campaign was not a failure. We succeeded in placing land use issues firmly on the local agenda and educating thousands of

continued on next page

EXCERPT FROM THE SIERRA CLUB'S MONOGRAPH

THE DARK SIDE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM: THE COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF SUBURBAN SPRAWL

Sprawl is low-density development beyond the edge of service and employment, which separates where people live from where they shop, work, recreate, and educate - thus requiring cars to move between zones.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SPRAWL:

- Traffic congestion.
- Longer commutes that steal time from family and work.
- Worsening air and water pollution.
- Loss of farmland, open fields, forests and wetlands.
- Increased flooding.
- Raised taxes to pay for services, police and fire departments, and infrastructure—new schools, roads, water, and sewer structure.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE SIBLEY

HOW DOES SPRAWL HURT CITIES?

- Sprawl erodes the city's tax base as people flock to the suburbs, forcing cities to raise taxes on remaining taxpayers to pay for city services.
- Sprawl destroys downtown commerce by pulling shoppers from once-thriving locally owned stores and restaurants to large regional malls.
- Sprawl increases unemployment and concentrates poverty in urban centers.
- Sprawl undercuts property values and investment opportunities.
- Sprawl robs cities of character as abandoned factories, boarded-up homes and decaying retail centers dominate the landscape. ❧



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE SIBLEY

Writers: Ann Brown, Carrie Collins, Tim Frank, Kim Haddow, Ben Hitchings, Sam Parry, Ginger Vanderpool, Lisa Wormser

Sierra Club sprawl experts and consultants: Glen Besa, Larry Bohlen, Barbara Boyle, Tim Frank, Brett Hulsey, Joy Oakes

Access the complete monograph on the Sierra Club's National website:
www.sierraclub.org/transportation/sprawl/sprawl_report.

WASHTENAW SPRAWL *continued from page 8*

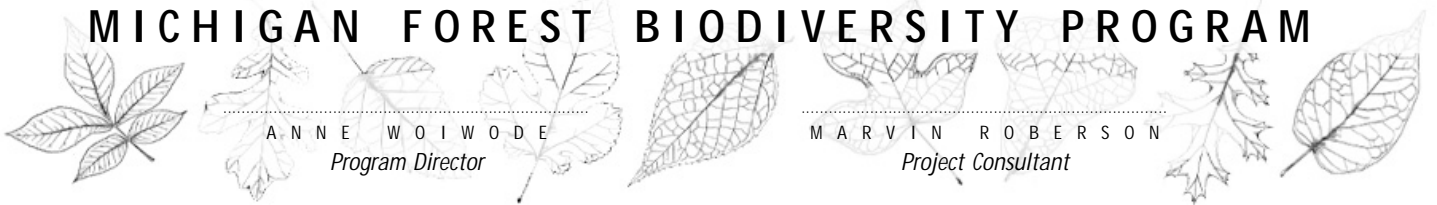
residents about the problems sprawl creates. We made people aware that sprawl is not inevitable, that there are things we can do to stop it. The campaign also helped unite the local environmental community around the issue of land use and galvanized dozens of people into becoming new or more dedicated environmental activists. The dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment of campaign volunteers—including those from outside Washtenaw County—were the strongest elements of our campaign. Had we found additional ways to utilize the passion of our volunteers, the outcome on November 3rd might have been different. Their continued commitment to the cause of preserving our county's open spaces, farms, and natural areas is the main reason we believe

we will prevail the next time around.

And there will indeed be a next time. The anti-sprawl movement is sweeping the country. From coast to coast, proposals to control sprawl were endorsed by the voters. In Washtenaw County and elsewhere in Michigan, the struggle to protect our most irreplaceable resource—land—has just begun. ❧

If you are considering pursuing a land preservation strategy in your area, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss our experiences in more detail. Doug Cowherd can be reached by email at <aheise@orchard.washtenaw.cc.mi.us> or by phone at 734-662-5205; Mike Sklar can be reached by email at <tiger3@provide.net> or by phone at 734-995-1831.

MICHIGAN FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM



ANNE WOIWODE
Program Director

MARVIN ROBERSON
Project Consultant

FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING

In November 1998, the Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program (MFBP) of the Sierra Club began its sixth year as a designated program of the Mackinac Chapter. During its first five years, the Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program built on Sierra Club traditions in Michigan and nationwide to move the management of Michigan's forests toward protection and restoration of functioning, healthy forest ecosystems. Our work has involved training scores of forest activists, doing cutting edge research and analysis on the management and status of Michigan's forests, monitoring and helping to shape forest management policies on all forest lands in Michigan and the upper Great Lakes region, and striving to increase public awareness and understanding of these critical issues. The MFBP has made significant progress, but much work lies ahead. Please join us in our efforts to secure a rich, biologically diverse future for Michigan's citizens by working with our Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program to protect and restore the magnificent forests of the Great Lakes state! Fill in the coupon on page 11 and return it to the Mackinac Chapter office for more details.

•

THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS OF THE MICHIGAN FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

On October 31, the Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program completed its fifth year of project support from the C.S. Mott Foundation of Flint, Michigan, and began a new two year grant from the foundation. The C.S. Mott Foundation has long been one of the premier supporters of the environmental program's non-government organizations throughout the world, but with particular emphasis on their home state of Michigan. The Sierra Club greatly appreciates the variety of programs the C.S. Mott Foundation has supported, from international environmental policies to protection of the Great Lakes and Michigan's forested ecosystems.

In addition, we wish to thank the many individual donors and supporters of the Mackinac Chapter whose contributions have matched and supplemented the Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program. Even more importantly, we wish to thank the dozens of dedicated activists who have taken time to volunteer their efforts to secure protection for our precious natural resources. Thank you all for your support and extraordinary commitment. •

WHOSE WOODS ARE THESE?

Seven million acres of forested lands in Michigan are owned by all of us—the millions of citizens of Michigan and the United States. These lands have come a long way since being deemed “the lands nobody wanted,” as they lay burned and

sterile after being stripped bare by lumberjacks and homesteaders at the turn of the last century. Today the recovering woodlands of this state are starting on the path toward restoration to their full ecological complexity and wonder. At the same time, these woods are in the middle of a tugging match among growing numbers of competing interests, most of whom are focused more on today's wants and demands than the future sustainability of these ecosystems.

Michigan is at a critical stage in deciding the future of its forests. For most of the 20th century, the dominant forces in management of our state public forest

lands have been the game managers and the timber industry. During the last thirty or so years, oil and gas development has become a major issue, and a growing demand for recreation and economic development has put increasing pressure on these lands. In the last two decades all of these pressures have grown, while the agencies have been in a downward spiral. Both DNR and the US Forest Service, who between them manage almost all of our public forests, have been told increasingly to make the land pay by selling the public's assets and by charging the public fees to recreate on their own lands. Simultaneously, in Lansing and Washington politicians have focused more on catering to private interests than to public needs, willingly subsidizing destructive activities and feathering corporate nests while the woods have continued to suffer.

Ironically, the public forests of Michigan have gone from “the lands nobody wanted” to “the lands nobody noticed” in the last several decades. These forests get an enormous amount of use from people throughout the Midwest, but most of us think nothing about the management of these lands when we go home. More and more often, Sierra Club's office hears from heartbroken people who went back to their favorite glen, to the campsite their family has used for decades, to the hunting area where they spent every fall since the sixties, or even into their backyards—only to find the trees cut and the place they knew forever changed. With the growing pressure from the timber industry in particular, it is not safe to assume that those lovely woods you have long admired and enjoyed will be there next

More and more often, Sierra Club's office hears from heartbroken people who went back to their favorite glen, to the campsite their family has used for decades, to the hunting area where they spent every fall since the sixties, or even into their backyards—only to find the trees cut and the place they knew forever changed.

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MFBP

continued from page 10

time you visit.

1999 might well be a watershed year for Michigan's public forests, with policy decisions expected that will shape these woodlands for decades, if not centuries. These decisions will be made whether or not those who believe in our need for healthy native forest ecosystems speak up. Each of us who understands the value of these precious public woodlands must let elected and agency officials know that we care about the future of the forests.

You can do something, however, and for the sake of the woods you should. The Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program is here to help you become an effective voice for the forests you love. Contact us to find out how you can learn what is in the works for our forests, and how you can raise your voice to speak for Michigan's woods. These woods are ours, they belong to all of us. It is up to each of us to speak for them so that their magnificent presence lets them speak for all generations to come. ❧

STATE FOREST TIMBER FIGHT EXPECTED

As 1999 dawns, little has changed on the political landscape in Michigan with regard to forest protection and restoration. The Department of Natural Resources Budget, therefore, is almost guaranteed to contain another mandated minimum level of timber marking for Michigan's publicly owned State Forests. Startling rumors from within the agency suggest propose timber cutting on state lands may be doubled, tripled, or even quadrupled over the current, already high level of cut. Such a massive increase would mirror last year's testimony in the legislature by the Michigan Association of Timbermen, claiming the DNR could cut more than three times as much wood on state lands than it currently does.

Some DNR Forest Management Division staff have stated their belief that the State Forests are already at the maximum level of cut that will allow for sustaining the health and productivity of the forests. That view is not universally shared. One argument raised in discussions within DNR that seems to favor a drastic increase in logging on the State Forests is that statewide forest inventory numbers show the amount of wood cut statewide is less than half the amount growing. To quote one DNR Forest Man-

To quote one DNR Forest Management official, Michigan's forests are being "undercut."

agement official, Michigan's forests are being "undercut."

Michigan Forest Biodiversity activist Tim Flynn notes that the statistics cited claiming greater growth than harvest on Michigan's forests include ALL forest ownerships. Looking only at State Forest lands, Sierra Club contends that large amounts of Michigan's State Forest land, particularly in the lower peninsula, has already been overcut relative to the public's diverse demands on these lands. Sierra Club points out that the current cut levels are being set without full surveys of

the State Forests for presence of rare and endangered species and communities, and without the long overdue designation of old growth or other protected areas. The DNR has promised both sustainable forestry initiatives and ecosystem planning efforts will begin to take hold on Michigan's public lands over the next several years, but these would be rendered meaningless by timber production levels mandated with no regard to impact on ecological resources.

Pressure from the timber industry to emphasize timber production on public forest lands above all other forest values will continue in 1999, and the DNR Budget is expected to be a focal point of that fight. As we go to press, the schedules for DNR Budget consideration in the Michigan House and Senate have yet to be set, but subcommittee meetings are expected to begin early in February. For more information about this or other issues, contact Anne Woiwode, Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program Director: phone (517) 484-2372, email <anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org>, or Marvin Roberson, Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program Project Consultant: phone (414) 332-6553, email <lorax@up.net>. ❧

Join the Forest Activist Network

If you would like information about the Michigan Forest Activist Network, fill in and send this form to F.A.N., Sierra Club, 300 N. Washington, Suite 411, Lansing, 48933, or email <anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org> with the same information:

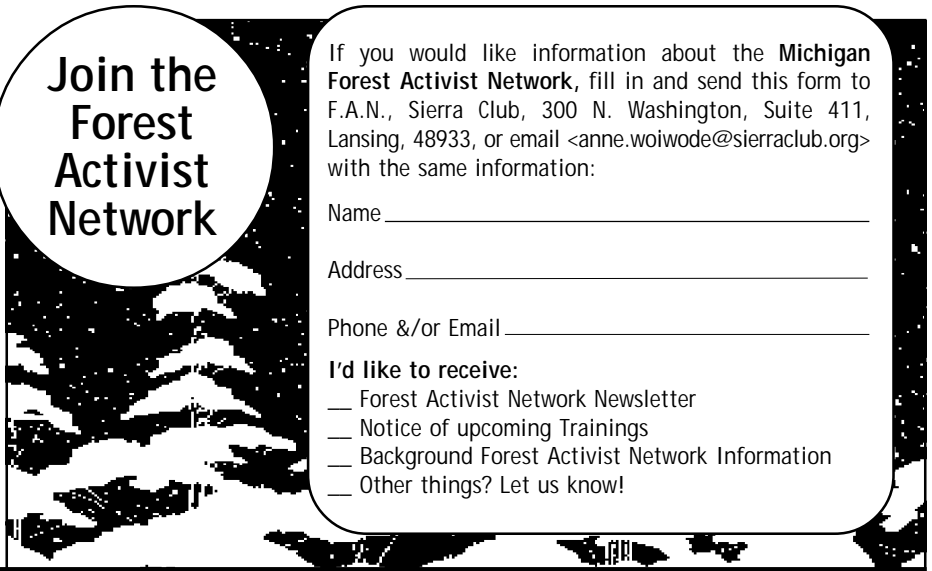
Name _____

Address _____

Phone &/or Email _____

I'd like to receive:

- Forest Activist Network Newsletter
- Notice of upcoming Trainings
- Background Forest Activist Network Information
- Other things? Let us know!



COULD YOU SURVIVE AN UNEXPECTED NIGHT IN THE WOODS?

BY MICHAEL A. NEIGER, P.H.D.

Central Upper Peninsula Group

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If a damaged GPS navigational unit left you stranded late in the day, could you survive a cold, wet night in the wilderness? Or what if a badly sprained ankle on a day-hike prevented you from returning to the safety of your vehicle? If you are anything like the average person, you may not be as equipped and prepared for the challenge as you should be. Do you carry a pocket survival kit?

What about a rucksack containing rain gear, warm clothing, extra rations, a first aid kit, and a survival kit? If not, then treating a sprained ankle, improvising a shelter against the freezing, windblown rain, and starting a warming fire may be difficult at best. Preparing a hot drink, pinpointing your location, and emergency signaling will probably be equally challenging.

If you are not prepared to spend an unexpected night in the woods, then now is the time to spend an evening or two assembling a foul weather survival kit. The first item you will need is a small to medium sized daypack or rucksack. Ideally, it should have padded shoulder straps as well as a waist belt. If the back of the pack is not padded, then make a pad out of a piece of 1/2" thick closed cell foam (here is a good place to recycle that old sleeping pad). This pad will make the pack more comfortable to carry and when removed, it can serve as insulation from the cold, damp ground in an emergency bivouac.

To keep the contents of the pack dry in foul weather, line the pack with two garbage compactor bags (not fragile trash bags), one inside the other. This three-layer waterproof system works like this: the outer pack fabric and the innermost bag protect the middle bag against punctures from either the outside (sharp sticks or rocks) or the inside (abrasive gear). By twisting the neck of each bag shut, folding them over on themselves, and securing them with a rubber band or short piece of cordage, you will have a pack which is waterproof. This will come in handy when your canoe capsizes or you are forced to ford an unexpectedly deep river. Air trapped within the pack will also provide emergency flotation if you should happen to break through thin ice while skiing or snowshoeing—and you will appreciate the dry clothing when you reach safety.

Do you carry a survival kit? If not, then treating a sprained ankle, improvising a shelter against the freezing, windblown rain, and starting a warming fire may be difficult at best.

A couple of seven-bushel-size, heavy duty, plastic contractor bags and a roll of duct tape can be used to create a waterproof bivouac sack by simply taping them end-to-end and cutting an opening at one end to climb in through.

Regular inspection and replacement of this middle waterproof barrier is the key to keeping your gear dry, trip after trip. Keep in mind that in the outdoors, dry clothing translates to warm clothing. In an emergency bivouac situation, these heavy duty bags will also come in handy for any number of uses.

In terms of clothing, you will need to pack several items: a rainsuit (parka and pants); two wool sweaters or fleece jackets; a warm hat; a pair of thick mittens; extra socks; and a layer of polypro underwear (top and bottom).

A 5' by 7' PVC tarp, piece of plastic, or poncho, along with 100 feet of 1/8" nylon cordage will allow you to improvise a shelter from the wind, rain, and snow. The cordage can also be used for repairing equipment and constructing a pair of emergency snowshoes.

A couple of seven-bushel-size, heavy duty, plastic contractor bags and a roll of duct tape can be used to create a waterproof bivouac sack by simply taping them end-to-end and cutting an opening at one end to climb in through. These same oversize bags can also be used as a rainsuit by cutting head and arm holes in one and a waist hole in the other.

Stuffed with leaves, ferns, and other forest debris, these bags can be made into comfortable ground mattresses or warm, 8" thick blankets which are both waterproof and windproof. For starting and maintaining a warming fire, include the following: a butane lighter with an adjustable flame (very important in cold weather), a compact folding saw (pocket-size), a plumber's candle, waterproof fire starters, and waterproof matches. Include a AA flashlight—with extra batteries and a bulb—along with a 3" by 5" signal mirror for light and emergency signaling.

To maintain your energy and stay well hydrated, include an assortment of long-lasting, high energy snacks as well as tea bags and hot chocolate. Also include a large coffee can with a wire bail, small cup, one-quart water bottle, water purifying tablets, assorted fishing gear (100' of fishing line, sinkers, hooks, imitation bait, and flies), and some snare wire or line.

continued on next page

SURVIVE

continued from page 12

For basic first aid, include: an elastic ankle wrap, moleskin, field compress, waterproof first aid tape, butterfly bandages, adhesive bandages, antiseptic cream, aspirin, sunscreen, and sunglasses. During the bug season, carry a head net and insect repellent (deet works very well).

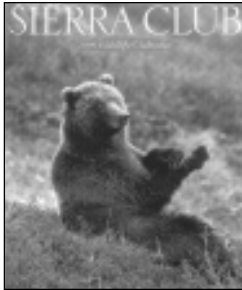
For determining your location and finding your way back to safety, carry a map (topographic maps are best, but county maps will do) which is water-proofed with Thompson's Water Seal(r) or another commercial map sealer. Maps should be carried in clear plastic, heavy duty, zip-lock bags.

With the exception of the clothing items, shelter ma By getting in the regular habit of always carrying your pocket survival kit when you venture into the wilderness, you will increase your chances of returning safely when the unexpected happens.

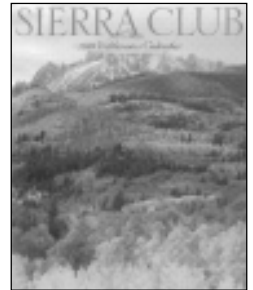
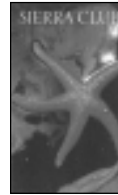
When you have assembled your rucksack outfit and pocket survival kit, practice using them. Venture out on a wet, blustery day and rig your tarp for protection against the elements. While you are at it, build a small fire and boil up some tea or hot chocolate in your cook pot. When you are finished enjoying your hot drink, practice your "leave no trace" skills. Disassemble your shelter and police the area up, making sure no litter or other signs of your visit remain. After making sure the ashes of your small fire are cool to the touch—through and through—scatter them in the surrounding brush. If you built your fire on a mound of mud or sand to protect the ground from scarring, then return this mineral soil to area from which you obtained it. Now you can head home, confident in your ability to weather any number of wilderness mishaps which may confront you in the future.

Michael Neiger is Central Upper Peninsula Group trip leader and an avid wilderness tripper who welcomes your comments and suggestions. Write to him at 309 South 3rd Street, Suite 202, Marquette, Michigan, 49855, or via e-mail at <mneiger@hotmail.com>.

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GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW LEGISLATURE

BY ALISON HORTON
Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

The Michigan Environmental Council (MEC), the Sierra Club, and many other MEC member organizations sponsored a legislative breakfast in Lansing towards the end of January, shortly after the legislature got down to business. With a majority of state legislators new to their jobs this year, it was a particularly important time to introduce them to environmental groups and constituents who are members of those groups.

The environmental breakfast was a real success, with dozens of legislators and their staff members showing up to meet with representatives of environmental organizations from across the state. The Lansing event was just one small part of what the Mackinac Chapter seeks to do to bring constituents and

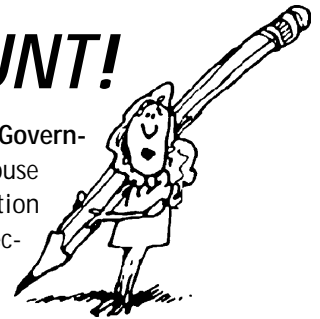
Becoming a personal emissary to your legislators on behalf of environmental protection is one of the most important and effective things you can do.

their legislators together to talk about the environment. The Mackinac Chapter staff in Lansing are eager to work with Sierra Club members—in any corner of the state—to help set up opportunities to meet with and talk to State Representatives and Senators, both in their districts and in Lansing. The chapter staff can give you the tools to make such meetings easy. Already this year, leaders in the Central Michigan Group and the Southeast Michigan Group are organizing meetings with local legislators. Southeast Michigan activists expect to organize several trips to Lansing this year to talk with legislators about key issues. And the Mackinac Chapter is coordinating a series of meetings which will bring environmental activists and activists from the faith community together to talk with their legislators.

Becoming a personal emissary to your legislators and other elected officials on behalf of environmental protection is one of the most important and effective things you can do to protect our environment. If you want to know how you can become a "Citizen Lobbyist for the Environment," contact the Mackinac Chapter staff at (517) 484-2372 or <mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org>. •

TAKING ACTION: YOUR WORDS COUNT!

Get your free copy of "A Citizen's Guide To State Government" to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Chuck Perricone at (517) 373-1774, mention that you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask him to send you a copy!



THE WHITE HOUSE

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1414

White House Fax Line: (202) 456-2461
White House Comment Line:
(202) 456-1111
White House email:
president@whitehouse.gov

US CONGRESS

US Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable _____
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

MICHIGAN

Governor John Engler
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517) 373-3400

To Call State Legislators:
Call the State Capitol Switchboard:
(517) 373-1837

The Honorable _____
Michigan Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

The Honorable _____
Michigan House
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

SIERRA CLUB RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS

Sierra Club National Legislative Hotline: (202) 675-2394

- **ENVIRO-MICH** is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, send email to: majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).

- **Sierra Club's National Web Page** is at: <http://www.sierraclub.org>. Check out the daily *War On the Environment* postings.

- Find our **Mackinac Chapter Web Page** by Rick Pearsall at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mi/>

- Get a free subscription to "**The Planet**" by promising to write at least 3 letters a year to your elected officials in support of the environment. Send your name and address to **Sierra Club Planet Subscription Request**, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

- **Free resources for global warming activists:** 7 publications about the causes and effects of global warming, solutions, and what individuals can do to make their voice heard! If you would like copies, email steve.pedery@sierraclub.org or contact **Sierra Club's Global Warming & Energy Team** at (202) 547-1141.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION: PRIVATE SETTLEMENT REACHED TO CLEAN UP SAGINAW RIVER

BY CHRIS BZDOK

One of Michigan's most intractable environmental problems is the pollution of lake and stream bottoms. When bottom sediments become contaminated with toxic materials, they can harm an entire ecosystem, for many reasons. Some toxins cling to sediment particles for years without degrading into less harmful chemicals. They are difficult and expensive to clean up, and they may enter the water from more than one source. Perhaps most importantly, some of these contaminants can spread efficiently through a food chain, passing into tiny invertebrates and then up through fish to birds, humans, and other animals.

The recent settlement of a case involving polluted sediments in the Saginaw River sets an important precedent for dealing with this difficult issue. The case was brought by the federal government, the state, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe against General Motors Corporation (GM) and the cities of Saginaw and Bay City. The parties settled the suit when the defendants agreed to commit over \$28 million to cleaning up sediments, restoring wildlife habitat, and environmental monitoring. According to a Department of Environmental Quality press release, this was the largest amount ever paid to settle a natural resource damages claim in Michigan.

The lawsuits that led to the settlement were filed in federal district court. The government alleged that the cities and three General Motors plants released substances containing polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, into the river. The plaintiffs asked that GM and the cities be held liable under a federal statute often

referred to as the "Superfund law," the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. That statute allows the government to recover money not only for clean-up costs, but also for damages to natural resources, such as fish and wildlife. Essentially, to collect costs and resources damages under the Superfund law, the plain-

If the Saginaw River precedent can be applied to the beds of other polluted rivers and harbors, perhaps our state could gradually start to reverse the effects of years of damage and neglect.

tiffs only needed to prove that GM, Saginaw, and Bay City owned or operated sites where the PCBs had been released, and that those releases polluted the river bottom.

Rather than go to court, however, the parties reached a settlement in the form of a proposed consent judgment—a written agreement which is to be approved by the court and can then be given the effect of a court order. The parties filed the proposed consent judgment, a 232-page document, in federal court on November 24, 1998.

The terms of the settlement call for a host of measures to clean up the river bottom and repair damaged habitat. The defendants agreed to pay nearly \$11 million for dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments. Another \$3 million will go to monitor the progress of the clean up, and \$2.5 million for restoring damaged habitat and wildlife. In addi-

tion, property along the river will be given or leased rent-free to the plaintiffs and used to re-establish coastal wetlands, lakeland prairies, and fish habitat. The plan is expected to take six years, and agencies involved in implementing the work include the Army Corps of Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality, and the Tribe.

While environmentalists have criticized certain aspects of the clean up plan, such as the disposal of dredged sediments at a facility near the river, most everyone agrees that the settlement is nevertheless a positive step. If the Saginaw River precedent can be applied to the beds of other polluted rivers and harbors, perhaps our state could gradually start to reverse the effects of years of damage and neglect.

Club Member Chris Bzdok is an attorney with Olson, Noonan & Ringsmuth, P.C., a Traverse City firm with a statewide practice in environmental law. •

IT JUST TAKES A LITTLE WILL POWER...

If you do not have a will, the state decides how your property and other affairs are handled. Decisions made now can later provide financial security for your family, friends, and the Sierra Club. You can even direct your bequest to a specific Club program or your home chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Sierra Club Planned Giving
85 Second St., Second Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5538

Group Meetings & Programs

AG Algonquin Group

The Algonquin Group has been reactivated! The Group serves Charlevoix, Emmet, Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties. If you are a member of our Group, you should have recently received a mailing inviting you to get involved in the Group's activities.

2/10 A Wednesday meeting has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the offices of Little Traverse Conservancy/Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council off M-119 between Petoskey and Harbor Springs. One item for discussion will be the beltway planned around Petoskey. Please bring other discussion topics with you. If you have an environmental issue that affects your area, we'd like to hear about it!

For more information, contact Debbie Messer, Chairperson, at (616) 347-2550 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or write P.O. Box 14, Petoskey, MI 49770.

We hope to see you all at the meeting!

CMG Central Michigan Group

The general meetings are held the third Monday of the month at the Harris Nature Center, off of Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Come at 5:30 for supper (small donation requested) or at 6:15 for the meeting. Call Pete Pasterz at (517) 676-3339 for information.

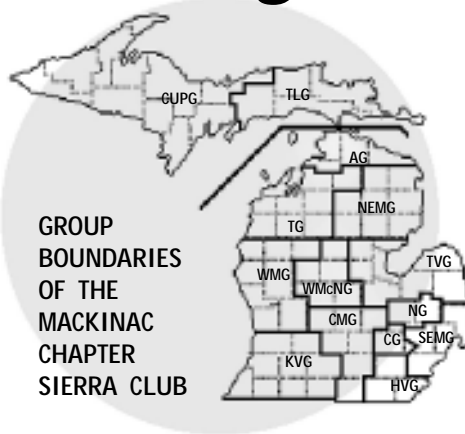
The Conservation Committee usually meets the second Monday of the month in Wells Hall on the MSU campus. Call Maria Lapinski at (517) 569-3302 for information.

The Executive Committee meets the first Monday of the month. Call Jerry Schuur at (517) 351-7796 for information.

CUP Central Upper Peninsula Group

Sierra Club members in the central and western counties in the Upper Peninsula are invited to participate in CUP group activities. General membership and executive committee meetings are held in West Science, Room 270, on the Northern Michigan University campus at 7 p.m. For information call John Rebers, (906) 228-3617.

To receive news about outings or other Sierra Club activities in the Central Upper Peninsula, send \$5 for a subscription to the CUP newsletter to Sierra Club, 338 West Crescent, Marquette, MI, 49855.



CG Crossroads Group

The Sierra Club members of Livingston, southern Genesee and western Oakland Counties meet monthly at the Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorff Dr., Brighton, for informative and entertaining programs.

These meetings begin at 7 pm and are open to the public. The Conservation Committee also meets monthly to discuss and address local issues; call Emily Gobright (517) 548-0595 or David Wright (810) 229-1685 for dates and locations. The Executive Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month ^ call Rick Pearsall (810) 227-6298 for details.

2/10 Skins and Skulls: Laura Western from the Howell Nature Center presents this program on predator and prey animals. Excellent family program.

3/10 Recycle Livingston: Phil Smith from Recycle Livingston will discuss the recycling process as it happens locally. Bring your questions and concerns.

HVG Huron Valley Group

The General Meetings of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. For more information call (734) 480-7751.

2/16 General Meeting. Local architect John Barrie will speak on "Human Factors in Environmental Design".

3/16 General Meeting. Topic to be announced.

4/20 General Meeting. Topic to be announced.

KVG Kalamazoo Valley Group

General membership meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The Executive Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and all members are welcome. Contact Verne and Cindy Mills at (616) 344-4279 for more information.

2/22 (Mon) Natural History of Trees. This program is a joint meeting with the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo. Jim Richmond will present the program, which will describe the evolution and ecological progression of the trees we enjoy today. Note that this meeting is being held on a Monday night, at Peoples Church, 1758 North 10th Street. Refreshments & socializing at 7:00 p.m., with the speaker's presentation starting at 7:30 p.m.

NG Nepessing Group

General membership meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Prah Center, Genesee Room of Mott Community College, 1401 E. Court St., Flint. We have special speakers at 6:30 followed by refreshments. An environmental program starts at 7 p.m., followed by a business meeting. Non-members are encouraged to attend. For more information call Carol Graham at (810) 659-4965.

For Conservation meeting information, call Mike Keeler at (810) 732-7385.

The Nepessing Group 1998 weekly hiking series schedule is available at (810) 743-0335, or on-line at <http://gfn.org/sierrang>.

NEMG Northeast Michigan Group

This group is currently inactive. Please call Melanie Nance at the chapter office at (517) 484-2372 for information or if you are interested in helping with reorganization.

SEMG Southeast Michigan Group

General membership meetings are held 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, Sept. through June, at Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy (southbound M-10 service drive) be-

continued on next page

GROUP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS*continued from page 16*

tween Southfield and Evergreen roads, and Nine and Ten Mile roads in Southfield. For meeting information contact Cindy Gunnip at (248) 557-7768.

The Executive Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, Woodward and 11-mile Rd, Royal Oak. Contact Anna Holden, Chairperson, for information at (313) 331-0932.

Conservation Committee meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church. Parking in back of the church, south of 11 Mile Road. For information call Ed McArdle, (313) 388-6645.

Outings Committee. Contact Phil Crookshank if you are interested in planning or leading outings. (313) 562-1873.

Political Action to support pro-environment legislation, state and national. Contact Tim Killeen, Chair, Political Action Committee. (313) 526-4052.

2/4 Natural Landscaping: What Is It? Is it planting perennials instead of annuals or what kind of trees to plant in your yard? Dr Orin Gelderloos, a professor in the Dept. of Natural Sciences at the University of Michigan - Dearborn will give everyone more to think about than which flowers to plant. He'll sneak to the heart of the issue — that is ... why? Why, "Natural Landscaping!"

3/4 What's Happening In and Around Lake St. Clair? Come find out, and learn about who's responsible for cleaning it up. Doug Martz is the chairman of the new Macomb County Water Quality Board, the watchdog panel which monitors Macomb Co.'s antipollution efforts. Doug will inform us on the health of our closest "Great Lake."

3/13 Outings Scheduling meeting. This is open to everyone interested in doing or learning about outings. Bring a pre-St. Patrick's Day potluck dish to pass at 5 p.m., then participate in the planning meeting for the next quarter that follows. We will meet at Liz' house, 7250 Bingham, East of Schaefer, North of Warren, in Dearborn. Call Liz at (313) 581-7579.

4/1 Have you ever been to Timbuctu? John Kolam is one of the few Europeans who has. Come and learn about all of his many adventures. This meeting is no joke. There really is a Timbuctu!!

5/6 Now all the snow is melted, it's time to get in gear for Michigan camping. A representative >from Raupps or REI will clue us in as to what's new in equipment and clothing.

TLG**Three Lakes Group**

Sierra Club members in the Upper Peninsula counties of Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft are welcome to attend meetings of the Three Lakes Group. Business meetings are held monthly at various locations in Sault Ste. Marie. Programs are held on the first Wednesday of the month from Sept-through May at the Walker Cisler Center on the campus of Lake Superior State University. For information call Floyd Byerly at (906) 632-0218.

TVG**Thumb Valley Group**

We would appreciate any input on potential meeting options, especially ones as centrally located for the TVG as possible. Additional leaders and programs desired. Please contact Craig and Janis Kendzioriski (517) 631-5170 if interested in being on leadership team, and/or arranging an event.

We are not having group meetings at this time, but see "Outings" on page 19 of this newsletter for TVG activities (Xskiing, Potluck, Earthday, Hikes, etc).

3/17 7p.m. Leadership Meeting. Leaders and others interested in helping to plan TVG activities. We especially need to plan for the March Newsletter and Earth Day activities. Contact Craig and Janis (517) 631-5170 for details.

TG**Traverse Group**

General membership meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Northwestern Michigan College in the Oleson Center. For more information call Mark Fowler at (616) 275-2389.

2/11 Anne Woiwode, Program Director with the State Chapter, will be giving a presentation on Michigan's Forest Biodiversity Program.

No March meeting. See "Outings," page 19 of this newsletter.

4/8 Randy Smith, Grand Traverse County Solid Waste Coordinator, will be giving a presentation on recycling and composting.

WMcNG**Wakelin McNeel Group**

The Wakelin McNeel Group is currently in reorganization. Individuals who are willing to help with the reactivation efforts are being sought. We hope to hold start-up discussions at a meeting in late Febru-

ary or early March. Contact Paul McKelvey at (517) 779-8271 (weekday evenings) or by email at <paul.mckelvey@cmich.edu> if you would like to help or have questions.

WMG**West Michigan Group**

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the East Grand Rapids Administration Building board room, beginning at 7 p.m. Contact Elaine Goodspeed at (616) 364-4704. •



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PLANS TO RESTORE SIERRA CLUB GROUP IN MT. PLEASANT AREA

BY PAUL MCKELVEY

Wakelin McNeel Group

It's a real pity when our state doesn't have in place all local chapters of an organization dedicated "to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environments."

That's why some of us are coming together at a meeting—to be held in late February or early March—to reactivate the Wakelin McNeel Group.

The Wakelin McNeel Group is located in the heart of Michigan. Its boundaries include the counties of Clare,

Mecosta, Isabella, Montcalm, and Gratiot, and it possesses a remarkable range of habitats—from rich flat farmlands to rolling, wooded hills; from rapidly developing cities and towns to isolated and natural areas. In addition to being the home of many small lakes, the area is crisscrossed by the Muskegon, Cedar, Tobacco, Chippewa, Pine, and Maple Rivers.

There is an ever-increasing potential for environmental concerns in this region. The area is feeling the pressures of urban sprawl. Farmland and livestock runoff and municipal and industrial wastewater outfalls threaten the quality of many streams and lakes. Old and currently-producing oil and gas

wells often give cause for concern. Summer and weekend cabins may not have properly functioning septic systems and water wells. These and other issues need addressing.

This is why we plan to restart the Wakelin McNeel Group. Local members of the Sierra Club, those knowledgeable about and involved in local issues, and those affected by the problems being caused must be the ones who come together on a regular basis to try to bring about positive changes on behalf of our environment. Rita Jack, the Mackinac Chapter's Member Programs director, said recently, "It will be wonderful to have Sierra Club activists standing guard in the heartland of Michigan once again."

If you are interested in helping the Wakelin McNeel Group get up and running again, or if you have questions about the reactivation efforts, please contact Paul McKelvey at (517) 779-8271 (week nights) or by email at <paul.mckelvey@cmich.edu>. WMcNG was once a strong and important group in the Mackinac Chapter. It can and should be doing its part to "explore... enjoy... protect... practice... promote... educate... enlist... and restore" once again. Please join us! ❧

"It will be wonderful to have Sierra Club activists standing guard in the heartland of Michigan once again."

Learn how to build with logs and stone!

The Michigan School of Log Building and Stone Masonry offers 5-day hands-on workshops in early June.

Call (517) 734-4688 for information now!

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(517) 734-4688
nettiebay@george.lhi.net

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MACKINAC CHAPTER

SIERRA CLUB

Outings



TO EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group that is planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map on page 17 to determine a group's location. Trips begin at the trailhead. Outings are open to everyone.

FEBRUARY

2/4 HVG (Thurs.) Indoor Rock Climbing. Rock climb inside at the REI store in Northville, 7-9 p.m. Beginners welcome, equipment provided, liability waiver required by REI. Please call Alan Richardson at (734) 332-0207 for reservations, directions and information.

2/5 HVG (Fri.) Moonlight Snowshoe or Hike. This event will take place at Gallup Park and surrounding parks. Dress appropriately. Bring your own snowshoes. Meet at City Hall parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Call 663-9634 for more information.

2/6 NG (Sat.) Higgins Lake Cross Country Skiing. For beginners & advanced, light to moderate, distance optional. I-75 to exit 239. Turn left to first right (CR103). 2 miles to blinking red stop (CR100). Turn right 1/4 mile to Cross Country Ski Headquarters on left. (Groomed trails, flat & hills.) Night skiing for those who want to stay until after dark \$14.00 ski rental. Restaurant stop. No snow shoes or hiking allowed. Car pooling from Clio car pool lot at 10:00 am. Charlie Warner (810) 635-8184.

2/6 CUP Ski Outing to Little Presque Isle near Marquette. This will be a moderately long outing with both on and off trail skiing. Lunch inside one of the heated cabins. Call Dave Allen at (906)228-9453.

2/7 SEMG Island Lake Hike. Join us for a fast paced 8 mile hike on the rivers edge, through the rolling hills and woods of beautiful Island Lake State Rec. area. Wear lug sole shoes, dress for the weather. Bring trail lunch and water. Meet at 11 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Oil

Dispatch, Southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Restaurant stop after? Leaders: Mary Solano (313) 584-5351, Max Nemazi (734)421-4397.

2/11 HVG (Thur.) Indoor Rock Climbing. Rock climb inside at the REI store in Northville, 7-9 p.m. Beginners welcome, equipment provided, liability waiver required by REI. Please call (734) 332-0207 for reservations, directions and information.

2/12-2/15 NG Black Mountain & High Country. Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe. Black Mountain on Saturday; High Country Pathway Sunday & Monday. Reservations needed. Limit 12. Overnight at Bill Somers' log cabin in Atlanta. I-75 north to exit 202 (Alger). M-33 north to Atlanta. North on M-33 about 5 miles to Rouse Road, turn west. Turn north on CR622. 2 miles on right. Arrive anytime Friday or by 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Meals will be arranged. Colette Mendel (810) 233-7052 and Bill Somers (810) 653-0867.

2/12-2/14 HVG Tawas Cross Country Ski Trip. Ski the scenic Corsair trails near Tawas City or on the high bluffs overlooking the AuSable River. Housekeeping cabins. Common commissary. All ages welcome! Call Ruth Graves at (734) 483-0058 for more information.

2/12-2/15 CUP Wintercamping Ski/Snowshoe Tour: Lake Superior Provincial Park Area (Canada). 4-day loop tour (100% bushwhacking with some lake and portage trail travel) with bivouacs on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. This non-smoking trip is suitable for the adventurous, advanced level winter camper who is fully equipped, physically fit, and minus 40°F experienced. Info: Michael Neiger (906) 226-9620.

2/13 CUP Craig Lake State Park Ski Outing. Explore beautiful lakes in a remote area of Baraga County. Long, strenuous, off trail. Call Richard Posey at (906)226-7934.

2/13 KVG (Sat.) Social gathering at Kraftbrau Brewery. Join your fellow Sier-

rans for a get-together and musical entertainment. Plan to meet at the brewery at 8:00 p.m. We'll all pitch in for pizza, beer (or the non-hops beverage of your choice), and conversation and enjoy the music, which starts at 9:00. For more info call Mike at (616) 948-8840.

2/13 SEMG (Sat.) Maybury Moonlight Stroll. Wish for a clear sky and full moon to enjoy a night walk with your Sierra friends. We will walk the trails and listen for the resident owls. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Maybury State park horse stable parking lot. (2 miles W. of Northville) Entrance sign is on Beck Rd., 1/4 mile south of 8 Mile Rd., then 1/4 mile in. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Ed McArdle (313) 388-6645.

2/13 NG (Sat.) Holly North Hike. 10:00 a.m. 6 miles. Meet in parking lot behind the Groveland Township Hall, 4695 Grange Hall Road, Holly, east of I-75 between Mt. Holly & Ortonville. Restaurant stop following. Terry Lemmer (810) 732-9902.

2/27 TVG 10:30 am. Sanford Lake Cross Country Skiing. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Meir road (10 miles northwest of Midland in Black Creek area). Take highway 10 west through Sanford, exiting at West River Road. Turn north for 1.4 miles, then west on Meir road. Meir road dead ends in 1/4 mile at the parking lot just outside of Stockholm Forest Village. This is an easy ski on unmarked trails. We'll ski for an hour or so and stop for a hot dog roast (dogs/buns provided). Contact Craig Kendziorski (517) 631-5170 for more details.

2/20 NG (Sat.) Corsair Cross Country Ski, Tawas City. 8:30 a.m. Length varies. Meet at the Clio/Vienna Road I-75 exit car pool area across from the Big Boy restaurant. We will decide which sections to ski then caravan to Corsair. Bring a lunch and beverages to tailgate. \$3.00 donation requested at trailhead for trail maintenance. Restaurant stop. Bev Howes (810) 239- 7204.

see *OUTINGS* page 20

OUTINGS*continued from page 19*

2/20 CG Cross Country Skiing. Leisurely cross country skiing at Huron Meadows Metro Park. Lacking snow, we will hike. To begin at 9 a.m. Contact Sue McMahon (734) 449-0907.

2/20 CUP Donnelly Wilderness Tract Snowshoe Outing. We will snowshoe near Marquette along the Little Garlic River, cross a large beaver meadow, and climb some rock outcrops with good views. Moderate five miles. Call Richard Posey at (906) 226-7934.

2/21 SEMG Kensington Metropark Hike. End winter with a pleasant hike through Kensington's lovely hills. Wear boots and appropriate layers. Meet at 11 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield, or 11:45 at Kensington Nature Center. Restaurant stop after. Leaders: Bev. & Marshall Fogelson (248) 280-4975.

2/26-2/28 NG Schuss Mountain - Shanty Creek. 6:00 p.m. Friday until noon Sunday. Weekend of downhill & cross country skiing. Reservations needed. Limit 12 people. \$75 a person covers chalet rental. A map will be provided upon request. We will discuss meals. Denny Crispell (517) 624-5038.

2/27-2/28 CUP Wintercamping Ski Tour: Grand Island (Munising area). After a half-mile crossing of Lake Superior ice to reach this gem of an island, we'll ski on an old two-track (snowmobiles usually keep it packed) around the perimeter. Spectacular 200' high cliffs along the north half of the island will offer outstanding views of Lake Superior and Pictured Rocks. Saturday night, we'll bivouac at the north end of the island, near where the North Point Lighthouse (private property) is located. USFS regulations prohibit fires. This non-smoking trip is suitable for the adventurous, intermediate level wintercamper who is fully equipped, physically fit, and minus 30°F experienced. Info: Michael Neiger (906) 226-9620.

2/27 SEMG (Sat.) Pointe Pelee Ice Hike. Join the 8th annual Ice Hike in Canada. Let's hope that "La Niña" will provide the Winter Wonderland that "El Niño" failed to give us in 1997. Dress warmly for those Lake Erie winds that push huge piles of snow and ice up on the point. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Ontario Tourist Center on Route 3 (Huron Church Rd.) in Windsor, 3/4 mile from the bridge. Bring border crossing ID. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Liz

Allingham (313) 581-7579.

2/27 CUP Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Ski Outing. We will ski a loop using the trails around Chapel Lake and Chapel Rock. Moderate six miles. Call Richard Posey at (906) 226-7934.

2/28 SEMG Highland Fling & Ski. Bundle up and we will ski or tromp across the moors west of Pontiac (OK, so they're really moraines!). Bring a snack, a smile, skis, (for snow) or hiking boots (for not), moderate skiing ability needed. Meet at 10 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Lydia Fischer (313) 863-8392.

MARCH

3/5-3/7 Mackinac Chapter Ski Trip in UP. Ski in national forest and/or national lakeshore near Munising. Annual Taste and Glide event on Saturday. Contact Ralph Powell, 2887 Dalton, Ann Arbor 48108. Telephone 734-971-9013.

3/5-3/7 HVG Munising Ski Weekend Trip Ski near Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Munising. Taste and Glide event on Saturday. Contact Ralph Powell at (734) 971-9013 for details.

3/6-3/7 CUP McKeever Cabin Overnight Trip. Spend the night in a US Forest Service cabin. One mile from the plowed highway, 13 miles south of Munising. Lots of good ski trails. Dinner and breakfast provided. Trip fee \$20. Limit: six. Call Richard Posey at (906) 226-7934.

3/6 NG (Sat.) Bald Mountain Recreation Area (North Unit). 10:00 a.m. hike. 6 miles. Take M-24 south to Lake Orion. Left on Flint Street to Orion Road to left on Stoney Creek Road to left on Harmon Road. Parking lot at corner of Harmon and Predmore. State Park vehicle permit needed. Restaurant stop. Dick Groomes (810) 724-7812.

3/6 TG Snow shoe hike at the Sleeping Bear Dunes. Meet at the visitors center at 1:00 p.m. Some one at the park service will give us a guided tour. Snow shoes will be provided for those who want to come and do not have any. The trip will take about 2 1/2 hours with stops along the way. Bring your own snack and thermos and come on out and have some fun. You will also need to have a Park pass. The cost is \$7.00 for a daily pass or \$15.00 for an annual pass. For further information, contact Mark Fowler at (616) 275-2389.

3/7 SEMG Proud Lake Perimeter. Let's take the outside edge and explore the Marsh area, Moss Lake and woods for a six mile hike in the March mush. Meet at 10 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Philip Crookshank (313) 562-1873.

3/13 CUP Yellow Dog River Ski Outing. Ski downstream from the 510 bridge near Big Bay. Moderate. Call Richard Posey at (906) 226-7934.

3/13 NG (Sat.) Lansing River Trail. Light (Paved) hike. 6 miles. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, Morrish Road in Swartz Creek for car pooling. Small zoo along trail (fee charged). Bring lunch. Sue Morris (810) 232-3532.

3/13 SEMG (Sat.) Outings Scheduling Meeting. This is open to everyone interested in doing or learning about outings. Bring a pre-St. Patrick's Day potluck dish to pass at 5 p.m., then participate in the planning meeting for the next quarter that follows. We will meet at Liz' house, 7250 Bingham, East of Schaefer, North of Warren, in Dearborn. Call Liz at (313) 581-7579.

3/13 TVG 6 p.m. Potluck. Bring a dish to pass. Kendziorski's house, 4209 Linden Dr. Midland. Contact Craig or Janis (517) 631-5170 with any questions.

3/14 CG Cross Country Skiing/Hiking. Come and ski/hike the trails at Kensington Metro Park at 2 p.m. Call Sue McMahon (734) 449-0907.

3/14 SEMG Independence Oaks Ski or Hike. Keep your fingers crossed that La Niña delivers the long, snowy winter as promised. We will cross country ski 2-3 hours through this North Oakland county park. Intermediate ability and equipment needed. No snow? We will hike! Wear layers for conditions, bring trail snack. Restaurant stop after. Meet at 10 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Leader: Joanne Spatz (248) 932-5370.

3/14 HVG (Sun.) Stinchfield Woods Hike or Ski. Welcome early spring. Be prepared to ski if snow otherwise we'll look for signs of spring. Meet at the Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 1:00 p.m. to carpool. Call Nancy Shiffler at 971-1157.

3/20 CUP McCormick Wilderness Ski Outing. Explore a new route in the area of Lake Gordon. Moderately long with on and

continued on next page

OUTINGS*continued from page 20*

off trail skiing. Call Richard Posey at (906) 226-7934.

3/20 NG (Sat.) Lapeer State Game Area. 10:00 a.m. 4 mile hike. Meet at parking lot at Five Lakes Road on top of the hill. From intersection of M-24 and M-21, go north on M-24 3.5 miles to Daley Road. Turn right and go 3 miles to Fish Lake Road. Turn left (north) go 2 miles to Vernor Road. Turn right and go 1 mile to Five Lakes Road. Turn left (north) and go 1 mile to parking lot on top of hill. Restaurant stop. Gordon Schneider (810) 664-6180.

3/21 SEMG Highland Rec. Area Hike. Join us for a moderately paced hike through the beautiful woods of this park with perhaps cold winter weather behind us. Dress in layers, bring trail snack, restaurant stop after. Meet at 11:30 a.m. in the shopping center parking lot behind McDonalds on Telegraph just North of Square Lake Rd. Leader: Lee Becker (248) 294-7789.

3/25 HVG (Thurs.) Indoor Rock Climbing. Rock climb inside at the REI store in Northville, 7-9 p.m. Beginners welcome, equipment provided, liability waiver required by REI. Please call (734) 332-0207 for reservations, directions and information.

3/26-3/28 CUP Backpacking: Pigeon River Country State Forest (Otsego & Cheboygan Counties). Keeping an eye out for the majestic but elusive elk, we'll backpack the foot trails and bushwhack the backcountry of this 93,000-acre Forest. This loop route, non-smoking trip is suitable for the adventurous, intermediate level backpacker who is fully equipped, physically fit, and foul weather experienced. Info: Michael Neiger (906) 226-9620.

3/27 NG (Sat.) Hadley Hills Hike. 10:00 a.m. Take M-15 one mile south of Goodrich to Green Road. East on Green Road 2 miles to Washburn Road. South on Washburn Road less than 1 mile to Fox Lake Road. East on Fox Lake about 1/2 mile. Trailhead on north across from "ranch". State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Jean Gaffney (810) 236-1721 and Mary Downey (810) 664-4917.

3/27 CUP Mulligan Highlands Ski Outing. We will ski to a remote area north of filled with small lakes. North of Ishpeming. Call Richard Posey at (906) 226-7934.

3/28 HVG (Sun) Lost Nation State Game Area Hike. Explore a potential route for the North Country Trail in a very scenic area of southern Michigan. Car pool from Fox Village Theater at 12 noon or parking area at SW corner of Michigan 34 and Reading Road in Pittsford at 1:30 p.m. Contact Kathy Guerreso at (734) 994-7183 for more information.

3/28 SEMG Paint Creek Hike. This is a gentle, 6 mile hike following the old railroad from Rochester on the multi-use trail to Lake Orion. Bring water & snack, call if weather is doubtful. Meet at Noon behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd. and I-75 (South edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Mike Scanlon (313) 884-2214.

APRIL

4/3 NG (Sat) High Banks. Hike or snowshoe Lumberman's Monument, flat & steps. 11:00 a.m. 4 - 5 miles. River Road - Oscoda. Rent shoes at Nordic Shop in East Tawas. Restaurant stop. Call Stan for snow conditions. Stan Orlikowski (810) 658-9621.

4/10 NG (Sat.) Metamora - Hadley State Recreation Area. 10:00 a.m. 4 1/2 mile hike. Located in Lapeer County between Metamora & Hadley. Take M-15 to Hill Rd near Goodrich. East on Hill Rd./Pratt Rd. (Hill turns into Pratt) 7 miles to Hurd Rd. South on Hurd 1/2 mile. Or take M-24 to Pratt Rd. Go west on Pratt 2 1/2 miles to Hurd Rd. South on Hurd 1/2 mile. State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Charlie Warner (810) 635-8184.

4/11 NG (Sun.) Seven Lakes State Park-Holly. 10:00 a.m. About 5 miles. I-75 to Grange Hall Rd (exit 101). Go west about 3.5 miles to Fish Lake Rd. North 1 mile to park entrance. Meet at Big 7 Shelter parking lot (just past overlook parking lot.) State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Holly Lubowicki (810) 750-6838.

4/11 SEMG Cass Benton County Park Hike. Another first for Sierra! This park on Hines Drive is surrounded by civilization, but retains beautiful hilly, wooded, panoramic views. We will hike 5 miles of variegated terrain, including a branch of the Rouge River. Rain or shine, restaurant stop after. Meet at 1 p.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Leader: John Kalam (248) 681-9160.

4/11 HVG (Sun.) Island Lake Warm-up Hike. This is our annual 14 miler (with a seven mile option) in anticipation of the big hike coming up in 2 weeks. Meet at the Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or the Riverside parking lot at 9:45 am. Bring lunch and water. Call Ron Killebrew at (734) 429-0671 for more information.

4/16-4/18 NG Hiking at Mike Keeler's Cabin near Manistee. Fun! Length varies. ? time. Camp in yard. Map will be provided. Meet at Mike's cabin on Fri. Apr. 16. Hiking Saturday & Sunday. Provide own food. Car pooling—maybe. Mike Keeler (810) 732-7385.

4/16-4/18 CUP Backpacking: Mackinac Wilderness Tract (Mackinac County). We'll brush up on our orienteering skills as we explore the north half of this non-motorized wilderness area. This loop route will involve bushwhacking as well as travel along overgrown two-tracks and the North Country Trail. Our night bivouacs will most likely include a pack of howling coyotes. This non-smoking trip is suitable for the adventurous, intermediate level backpacker who is fully equipped, physically fit, and foul weather experienced. Info: Michael Neiger (906) 226-9620.

4/18 SEMG Proud Lake Hike. Celebrate the completion of your 1040 tax form with a 5 mile hike over varied terrain in this interesting park. Woods, marsh, hills, stream, it's all there to enjoy! Meet at 10 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Leaders: Bev. and Marshall Fogelson (248) 280-4975.

4/22 NG (Thur.) Earth Day. Support your local Earth Day events!

4/22 TVG Earth Day at Northwood University. The TVG will have a booth at Northwood University's Earth Day activities. Contact Bill Mudgett 835-3454 to participate.

4/24 NG (Sat.) Flint River Trail Service Hike. 10:00 a.m. 8 miles. Meet at City Farmers Market parking lot at 420 East Boulevard Dr., Flint. Bring stiff bristled brooms to sweep glass off trail, work gloves, and water. Restaurant stop after hike. Cindy Engelmann (810) 743-0335.

4/24 SEMG (Sat.) 7 Lakes Hike at Holly. Let's enjoy a scenic 5 mile hike through this beautiful area as we welcome the budding Spring. Bring trail lunch, and meet at

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11:30 behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Leaders: Liz Allingham (313) 581-7579, Joanne Spatz (248) 932-5370.

4/24 TVG Earth Expo. The TVG will have a booth again this year at Midland's Earth Expo. Last year 2,500 people showed up, and we needed additional support. Contact Jan Zender-Romick 631-0755 to participate.

4/25 NG (Sun.) Flint River Trail Bike Ride. 1:30 p.m. 8 miles. Meet at City Farmers Market parking lot at 420 East Boulevard Dr., Flint. Ride the freshly swept trail. Plan on going around twice. Helmets required. Restaurant stop after bike ride. Cindy Engelmann (810) 713-0355.

4/25 HVG (Sun.) Annual Potawatomi Trail Hike. Hike all 17 miles of this winding trail through glacial terrain, by lakes and over hills for great views and camaraderie. Bring a lunch and water. Meet at the Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. Call Ruth Graves at (734) 483-0058 for more info.

4/25 SEMG Paint Creek Hike. A fast paced -but level hike of 6 miles from the City Park in Rochester to the Cider Mill and back. Meet at Noon behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd. and I-75 (South edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy. Call Leader if raining, Restaurant stop After. Leader: June Cox (248) 435-9522.

MAY

5/1 HVG (Sat.) Adopt-a-Highway-Cleanup. Come help pick up trash from 2 mile of M-14 as part of this Michigan DOT program. Meet at the Big Boy Restaurant on the north side of Plymouth Road between US-23 and Green Road in Ann Arbor at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast or at 9:15 a.m. to carpool. Bring gloves. Call (734) 994-7183 to confirm date and time.

5/1 NG (Sat.) Campfire/Frog Hike. Picnic/hike. 8:00 p.m. (hike 9:30 p.m.) 3 miles. Ortonville Recreation Area equestrian campground. North side of Fox Lake Rd. about 1 mile west of Hadley Rd. (4 miles south of Hadley). Bring flash light, rain gear, foot wear for muddy trails. State Park vehicle permit required. Picnic before hike. Bring weenies, buns, marshmallows, beverages, etc. Fred Townsend (248) 627-

3587.

5/2 NG (Sun.) Pinckney State Park (Losee Lake Trail). 11:00 a.m. 4 miles or more. US-23 south to N. Territorial Rd. (west) right. About 7 miles to Town Hall Rd. north. State park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Meet at Silver Lake car pool lot (Fenton) off US-23 at 10:30 a.m. Mike Keeler (810) 767-9904.

5/2 SEMG May Day Potawatomi. Come celebrate May Day on a fast paced, hilly 14 mile hike in the most beautiful park in S.E. Michigan. This is an all day trip, we usually hike about 3 miles per hour. Wear sturdy shoes, and dress for the weather. Trip goes rain or shine. Bring lunch and drinks for entire day. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind 'Oil Dispatch', South West corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Possible restaurant stop after. Leader: Cindy Gunnip (248) 557-7768.

5/7-5/9 CUP Backpacking: McCormick Wilderness Tract—Northern Half (Northwest Marquette County). If winter's six-foot snowpack has melted, we'll explore waterfalls, rocky overlooks, and pockets of old growth timber located in one of the remotest, wildest sections of the U.P. Just driving to this remote area is a trip in itself. We'll live by our compasses as we bushwhack through this rugged, trail-less area which is home to wolves, moose, coyotes, and bear. This non-smoking trip is suitable for the adventurous, intermediate level backpacker who is fully equipped, physically fit, and foul weather experienced. Info: Michael Neiger (906) 226-9620.

5/8 NG (Sat.) Chippewa Nature Center, Midland-Badour Street. Hike & bike. 10:00 a.m. I-75 north to US-10 west to Bus. 10. Follow Bus. 10 to Poseyville Rd. Turn left on Poseyville Rd., over bridge, to St. Charles Street. Turn right, follow signs 3 miles to CNC. Hike in the morning, lunch local eatery in Midland. Bike the Pere Marquette Rail Trail (start at Tridge) in the afternoon (in downtown Midland). Up to 40 miles available. Colette Mendel (810) 767-4004.

5/9 NG (Sun.) Michigan Nature Association Properties. Flower & natural history hike. 1:00 p.m. 1-3 miles (2 1/1 hrs.) US-23 south to Thompson Rd, turn west (right) 1.5 miles to Linden, south (left) 1.5 miles to Lahring, west (right) 3 miles to Seymour Rd., south (left) 1 mile to Rolston Rd., east (left) 1/4 mile to MNA driveway on north side of road. Drive to end of road. No dogs allowed. Sharon Johnson (810) 655-4595.

5/9 SEMG Mothers Day Wildflower Walk. A three hour stroll in the Holliday Nature Preserve (Cowan Rd. Entrance) will reveal 21 flower species - with a few surprises. Flower lists are provided, bring flower field guides, magnifiers, cameras, etc. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the North end of the Service Merchandise parking lot (facing the preserve) 1/4 mile West of Wayne Rd., 1/4 Mile North of Warren Ave. in Westland. Leader: Philip Crookshank (313) 562-1873.

5/9 TVG Pictured Rocks Mothers Day Hike. Moderately easy 4.6 mile hike with lunch at Chapel Rock on the shore of Lake Superior. Take H-58 to Melstrand, turn north on Chapel Road for 6 miles. Contact Nancy Kressler for more info (906) 452-6465 or (517) 689-4864 (mornings).

5/14-5/16 HVG Manistee National Forest Trip First Camping Trip of Spring (or stay in a motel if you prefer). Hike this scenic area of the North Country Trail for signs of spring flowers and wildlife. Contact Ralph Powell at (734) 971-9013 or Ron Killebrew at (734) 429-0671 for more information.

5/15 SEMG (Sat.) Raisin River Wilderness Canoe. The headwaters of the Raisin are described as the most wild and the "crookedest" river in Mich. A tricky, twisty, but gentle 4-5 hour float through wild forests, an old mill pond, to downtown Manchester. Some canoe experience necessary. Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Dearborn Civic Center, (S.W. corner of Michigan Ave. and Greenfield, East end of parking lot) in Dearborn. Fee of \$16 must be received by 5/8. Leader: Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, Mi. 48125. (313) 562-1873.

5/15 NG (Sat.) Stony Creek Metro Park Nature Trails Hike. 10:00 a.m. 4 miles. Take I-69 east to M-53 south to 26 Mile Rd. Go west to park entrance. Follow signs to Nature Center. Metro Park vehicle permit or \$3.00 per vehicle. Restaurant stop. Dick Groomes (810) 724-7812.

5\15 TVG 10 a.m.. Wildflower Hike. View wildflowers and mushrooms on this leisurely hike. Meet at Jan Zender-Romick's house (581 E. Olson Rd., Midland). Contact Jan Z-R (631-0755) or Bill Mudgett (835-3454) for details.

5/16 SEMG Island Lake Hike. We will do a moderately paced 5 mile loop at this great State Park. The hills are gentle, the trails serene. Meet at Noon behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield,

continued on next page

OUTINGS

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or 12:45 at the Riverbend parking lot in Island Lake State Park. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Inge Bricio (248) 557-5865.

5/16 Mackinac Chapter Base Camp in Manistee National Forest. Explore the North Country Trail along the Manistee River in Wexford County. Contact Ralph Powell at 734-971-9013 or daltonpowell@yahoo.com or Ron Killebrew at (734) 429-0671.

5/17-5/21 CUP Pictured Rocks Backpacking and Light Service Outing. Help "open" trails while exploring Beaver Basin. Canoe and backpack to campsite on Trappers Lake, with day-hiking to nearby sites. Quiet lakeside backcountry camp, with sandy beach nearby. Canoes and personal camping equipment available. Food and group gear provided. Fee: \$40, limit 8 people. Contact: CUPoutings@excite.com, or send SASE to: Dave Bos, 337 E. Crescent, Marquette, MI 49855.

5/23 SEMG Pointe Pelee Hike. Hike through one of our areas most diverse natural habitats with a wide variety of plants, birds, and animals. Bring binoculars, water, good hiking boots for a rain or shine walk. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Ontario Information Center on Route 3 (Huron Church Rd.) just 3/4 mile from the bridge in Windsor. Bring border crossing ID. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Mike Scanlon (313) 884-2214.

5/28-5/31 SEMG Lake Hope Memorial Weekend. We will basecamp at this Ohio park, an hour S.E. of Columbus, and hike some of the 26,000 acre forest nearby. We will explore the fantastic narrow gorges and cliff edge trails at Hocking Hills the second day, and canoe Raccoon Creek. Also nearby are swimming, and Kayak or horse rentals. Cost of \$75 covers camping and entrance fees, canoeing, breakfasts and lunches for three days. Suppers at local restaurants not included. Limit 12. Send \$75 by 5/12 to Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, Mi. 48125. Leaders: Philip: (313) 562-1873, and Joanne Spatz: (248) 932-5370.



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Fred Townsend, Secretary 248-627-3587
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Mike Johnson, 5th Officer..... 616-948-8840

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Mike Keeler..... 810-767-9904

**NEXT DEADLINE:
APRIL 8**

Send your Group Meetings and Outings to:
Bob Volz, Mackinac Calendar Editor
414 Sleepy Hollow Dr.
Flushing, MI 48433
<hvolz@gfn.org>

Submit articles & photos to:
Davina Pallone
754 E 300 S #2
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
phone: 801-961-9939
<deeni@bigfoot.com>

REI JOINS CROSSROADS GROUP IN SUPPORTING INTER CITY OUTINGS PROGRAM

BY SUE KELLY

Vice Chair, Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee



John Pulver and Grand Rapids Inter City Outings group participants show off some of the much-needed new equipment donated by REI and the Crossroads Group at Camp Miniwanca.

Inter City Outings (ICO) is a program in which Sierra Club outings leaders offer kids who may not have any other chance to encounter nature the opportunity to experience outdoor activities like camping, back packing, and canoeing. At this time there are ICO programs in several places around Michigan—the Detroit area, the Grand Rapids area, and one in progress near Ann Arbor. These groups are in need of equipment to enable them to camp, backpack, etc. The Crossroads Group Executive Committee decided to assist these efforts by providing necessary equipment. They asked REI to join their efforts, and between the two groups will be donating over \$1000 of camping gear to this worthy cause! 🌲

Take Action!

Please show your appreciation to REI by patronizing their store at 17559 Haggerty & Sixth Mile Rd., Northville, MI 48167, (248) 347 2100—and tell them how much you appreciate their support of Sierra Club's Inter City Outings program!

WHAT DOES THE SIERRA CLUB WORK TO DO?

To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SIERRA CLUB, 300 N. Washington Sq., Lansing, MI 48933