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TheMackinac

Quarterly Publication of Michigan's Sierra Club • November 2004 - January 2005



MICHIGAN'S TOXIC LEGACY
Fixing the Past, Protecting the Future

Reversing Michigan's Toxic Trends

by Mike Keeler, Mackinac Chapter Co-Chair

My high school history teacher, Mr. Ayre, used to tell his classes about the Flint River of the early 1960s. “We walked past the Flint River every day on our way to school and would take bets on what color it would be

that day,” he said. “Some days it was bright red, or green or yellow.” His school was downstream from the DuPont and Buick paint shops, and the riverbank provided a handy disposal method for paint sludge and other toxic chemicals.

Today when I pass the Flint River on my favorite bike path, I can see that the water is clean enough to support bass and pan fish. Although I wouldn't eat the fish, the cleaner water is proof that we can make effective choices to prevent contamination from destroying rivers and lands they flow through.

Much of this issue of the Mackinac is about Michigan's toxic history, what has been done to address it, and what we still need to do to reverse pollution and restore our health.

Dave Dempsey writes about Michigan's history of pollution from the lumbering era. Decades after companies left, health problems with contamination revealed themselves. In the late 1970s, with more than 800 contamination sites listed, the state began funding cleanup that would become the federal Superfund program.

Yet as Rita Jack writes, Superfund is in danger of losing funding. We are dealing not only with a toxic legacy, but a state legislature bent on creating its own toxic legacy by passing irresponsible bills while it neglects those that would protect the environment. But Sierra Club volunteers are not content to let the legislature rest. Dozens of members met with legislators on Lobby Day to speak out on issues important to our families and our environmental future. We have moved from frustration to action.

Meanwhile, Sierra Club activists are working to clean up sites such as the Kalamazoo River that harbor PCBs and other toxins from past paper mills. Deteriorating dams along the Kalamazoo are in danger of giving way and releasing huge amounts of toxic materials. Similar problems plague the Pine River because the initial Superfund “fix” didn't stick at Velsicol Chemical contamination site in St. Louis.

Still other members are assessing our progress by looking at the way the state does business with polluters. Currently, polluting facilities are considered one-by-one for operating permits in Michigan. One result is 200 toxic spots within a two-mile radius of the Detroit incinerator. The surrounding population that bears the health burden of this pollution is predominantly African-American and low-income. In this issue, Anna Holden writes about the need to ensure environmental justice in Michigan's state programs.

We can't do anything about the toxic history. But as you read the stories, remember that we can reverse its trend, restore Superfund and prevent future contamination from occurring. What we do makes a difference, and we offer a vision that can be accomplished.

This issue celebrates other visionaries as well. The Mackinac Chapter's annual awards recognizes people and institutions that have made significant contributions to the Sierra Club and to Michigan's environment. You also will find a couple of pages for the chapter Executive Committee election. I urge you to read the candidates' statements carefully. What you will see is the positive vision that volunteers are offering to give you, for the Club. After you read them, please vote.

Consider this an invitation to make the small differences in your personal life that make a huge difference collectively. Our choices matter. We can choose to support companies that eliminate toxic materials in their manufacturing of goods. We can choose to engage our decision-makers and challenge them to use our resources responsibly. We can get active and empower ourselves, our families and our communities. We can choose to use good old American know-how to protect our most valuable resources—fresh water, clean air, and our children's health and developmental well-being so they are everything they can be.

And we can pass our favorite rivers and see that they are the color of clean water, day after day, and celebrate the work of all of us who care about them.



NATE WOIWODE

A warning at the Velsicol Superfund site.

We can choose to engage our decision-makers and challenge them to use our resources responsibly. We can get active and empower ourselves, our families and our communities.



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COURTESY RON SMITH

The Crossroads Group takes a winter paddle down the Huron River.

Cover: The Velsicol Chemical Superfund site in March 2004, as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was gearing up for this year's warm-weather cleanup season.

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NEXT DEADLINE: JANUARY 1

SEND ARTICLES & PHOTOS TO: Eric Lagergren, 517-896-5321, eric@eblwrite.com
621 Brooks Street, Apt. 1, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

SEND MEETINGS & OUTINGS TO: Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464, mcconnell_cheryl@yahoo.com

Capitol Watch 2004

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

Fifty-two Sierra Club volunteers from throughout Michigan traveled to the State Capitol on September 22, one of the handful of days both the House and Senate were meeting in September and October. The diverse group effectively advocated for some of the Mackinac Chapter's top legislative issues:

sulfide mining regulation, controls on pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations, and cleanup of lead contamination.

Michigan Legislative leaders routinely schedule a lame-duck session after general elections are held, and the volunteer lobbyists were laying the groundwork for some of the critical issues that may come up after the election. These lobbyists, from early teens to septuagenarians, met with more than half of the legislators or their staffs as well as top environmental officials in the Granholm administration. They also dropped off background materials at most of the remaining legislative offices.

LEGISLATIVE DERELICTION OF DUTY

A report compiled by Michigan Environmental Council, with assistance from many other individuals—including Kim Hunter, Sierra Club's Media Coordinator in Southeast Michigan—enumerates what many environmentalists in Michigan know: the Michigan Legislature is derelict in its duty to protect our environment. The report, which can be found in its entirety at www.mecprotects.org/dereliction2004.pdf, details "some of the most egregious attacks on Michigan's water quality during the current session of the Legislature" in an attempt to inform citizens of how their elected officials' actions are at odds with most Michiganders' environmental values. An excerpt from the introduction:

The 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s were a time of monumental and nationally significant advances in the protection of Michigan's vast water resources. Spurred on by a public outraged by gross pollution, Michigan officials dealt aggressively with the sources of the problem, toughening laws and stiffening penalties for violations of them. Meanwhile, voters approved significant tax investments in protecting water, including an historic \$335 million clean water bond in 1968.

Michigan's leadership was won with such reforms as a "truth-in-pollution" law, enacted in 1970, requiring polluters to disclose the types and amounts of hazardous materials they were discharging or storing; a 1977 rule strictly limiting phosphates (that cause severe lake degradation) in laundry detergent; and the 1979 wetlands protection act that provided a shield for one of the state's most important habitats, which protect water

quality by filtering pollution. In the 1980s, Michigan took the lead in fashioning agreements with our neighboring states to protect the water quality and quantity of the Great Lakes.

Michigan is no longer an environmental leader. There is little innovation in water policy. Instead, majorities in both houses of the legislature are working hard to roll back protections for Michigan's water resources. Out of touch with the public will for stronger water cleanup, these lawmakers are failing their responsibility to the people of this and future generations.

[The Dereliction of Duty report] details some of the most egregious attacks on Michigan's water quality during the current session of the Legislature. In publicizing these assaults on the public interest, we are trying to inform citizens of the sometimes outrageous behavior of their elected officials because we believe it is inconsistent with Michiganders' core environmental and conservation values.

STATE BUDGET ISSUES

The Legislature completed work on the state budget in late September, just days before the 2005 Fiscal Year began. Governor Granholm vetoed several items in the MDEQ budget passed by the Legislature, including \$800,000 earmarked for a dioxin bioavailability study associated with the Dow Corporation's contamination of the Tittabawassee River (see August 2004 *Mackinac*).

The Governor has also stated publicly her intention to push the Legislature in the lame duck session to seek permanent solutions to the declining state revenue streams that have put all state programs at risk. Funding declines have led to a drop in the MDEQ General Fund budget from more than \$100 million in FY2001 to less than \$30 million in FY 2005, with alternate sources of funding, such as permit fees, falling far short of the need.

While most programs within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are funded through dedicated funding sources and are not dramatically effected, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for state lands has been the center of controversy in this year's budget discussion. Payment of PILT offsets the loss of property taxes on state lands, and declining state funds have reduced funding to local units of government that have state lands within their boundaries. While the DNR Budget authorized payment of PILT from a combination of general revenue and dedicated funds, the debate has increased pressure to sell some state lands.

Sulfide Mining Work Group is Successful

by Marvin Roberson,
Michigan Forest Policy Specialist

From May until September 2004, a widely divergent group met for numerous day-long meetings to

craft a regulatory structure for sulfide mining in Michigan. This group, convened by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), consisted of mining companies, environmental groups, local governmental units, Upper Peninsula legislators and the MDEQ. Much to the surprise of most participants, the end result was a framework everyone could agree to.

The group was convened because Michigan currently has no regulatory structure to oversee sulfide mineral extraction, which is potentially a very harmful mining technology. When minerals are bound in sulfide deposits, extracting them requires extracting the sulfide as well. When these deposits are exposed to air or water, they produce sulfuric acid. Until recently, there were no proposals for this kind of mining in Michigan, but over the past few years a number of companies have purchased mineral rights and expressed interest in sulfide mining in the state.

The group reached consensus by means of something that normally isn't shared by these disparate interests: trust. Through the long negotiating sessions, personal relationships were built that fostered the trust necessary to believe that each member was negotiating in good faith. As Phil Power, a member of the group, wrote in his newspaper column, "somehow, a bearded, pony-tailed tree-hugger found a way to negotiate with a lawyer from Kennecott in his suit and tie."

Much of the credit for the successful framework goes to the MDEQ personnel who ran and facilitated the meetings. Thanks to Hal Fitch, Linda Sandborn, Joe Maki and Skip Pruss. Throughout the grueling sessions, these folks managed to keep participants' tempers from flaring, found common ground when things seemed at an impasse, and generally helped maintain the good humor of the group.

The final recommendation of the group went to the U.P. legislators who attended the sessions and was introduced into the legislature in September.

Forest Policy Update

WWW.MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/ISSUES/FORESTS

ANGLERS AND SIERRA CLUB COLLABORATE TO PROTECT THE MASON TRACT

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

A little over a year ago, the Mackinac Chapter's Marvin Roberson brought his knowledge of USDA Forest Service policies and law to bear in forcing the Huron-Manistee National Forest to withdraw

a proposal to allow an oil and gas well-drilling platform to be located on National Forest lands. The proposed drilling location was adjacent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's Mason Tract, site of the Mason Chapel and in the heart of trout fishing's "Holy Waters" along the Au Sable River. Since that time, Marvin has worked with the Anglers of the Au Sable to prepare for the anticipated Forest Service revision and re-releasing of the project.

Both Sierra Club and the Anglers have submitted comments on the revised proposal, pointing out the failure of the Forest Service to abide by its own regulations. Most noteworthy in the re-release is the failure of the Forest

Service to consider viable alternatives for the location of the well-drilling platform, including placing the wellhead at the production facility, which is along a roadway. Moving the wellhead to the production facility would likely increase the drilling distance by only 10 percent, but it would protect one of the most remote and revered areas in Michigan's lower peninsula.

The Mackinac Chapter is the recipient of a grant from the Sierra Club Partnerships Program, which has helped provide support for this collaborative effort. The grant has also allowed Marvin to travel to meet with six chapters of Trout Unlimited—from Marquette to Flint—to provide workshops on National Forest planning and management activities.

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING ISSUES AND THIS PARTNERING EFFORT, CONTACT MARVIN ROBERSON AT MARVIN.ROBERSON@SIERRACLUB.ORG OR 734-662-8011.

HELP PROTECT MICHIGAN'S PRISTINE AREAS: SUPPORT HB 6243

Upper Peninsula Representatives Tom Casperson, Rich Brown, Steve Adamini and Scott Shackleton were joined by seven of their downstate colleagues in introducing House Bill 6243, which is

based on the consensus language adopted by the Sulfide Mining Working Group convened by MDEQ. HB 6243 has the support of Sierra Club and other environmental groups, mining interests, local units of government in the U.P., and the MDEQ as it was introduced. The bill is expected to be taken up in the House and Senate during the lame-duck session. Sierra Club members are urged to call their representatives and voice support for passing this bill as introduced with no amendments. Sign up for the Mackinac Action Network at mackinac.sierraclubaction.org to stay on top of the progress of this bill.

Conservation & Litigation Update

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

SIERRA CLUB FILES CONTESTED CASE PETITIONS AGAINST THREE CAFO PERMITS

Sierra Club filed three petitions on August 9 for contested cases against Michigan Department of Environmental Quality-issued water quality (NPDES) permits, demanding the agency fix or revoke the permits. The Sierra Club's challenges to the "General NPDES permit for New, Large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations," and the state's first two individual CAFO NPDES permits have been consolidated. A hearing schedule will be set in early November. Attorney Scott Jerger from Oregon has taken on the cases for the Sierra Club.

For years the Sierra Club has led the campaign in Michigan to bring CAFOs under proper water quality permits, and the Club gives credit to the Granholm Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for making significant progress in this arena. Because of past progress made, the Chapter was sorely disappointed with MDEQ's decision to issue such poor permits, despite extensive comments pointing out the deficiencies.

MDEQ's permits approve plans and practices at new or expanding Michigan CAFOs even though agency staff are not allowed to review the plans prior to issuing the permit, and the neighbors and other members of the public will never be allowed to see those plans. Additionally, CAFO operators can give away or sell their animal wastes, and the disposal of these wastes will not be addressed at all in these permits. The MDEQ permit decisions mean that Michigan rural communities will still have to wait until the manure hits the stream before any action is taken, but now these CAFOs have the advantages of permit coverage. These and other violations of the Clean Water Act and Michigan environmental law led to Sierra Club's decision to challenge these permits.

Sierra Club and several other national environmental organizations have brought challenges in federal court to the Bush administration rules under which the state's new permits were drafted.

MANISTEE POWER PLANT LITIGATION UPDATE

In September the Sierra Club filed a motion to intervene in a massive takings lawsuit brought against the City of Manistee by a Houston-based corporation denied a permit to build a huge coal-fired power plant in the city. Sierra Club members from as far away as Traverse City participated actively in the fight to turn down the power plant proposal.

In addition to defending a community's right to make land use decisions, the Sierra Club also saw the connection between the Bush administration's failed energy policies and this proposed power plant. The Bush administration has promoted an aggressive expansion of coal-burning plants while failing to protect communities from toxic mercury and other noxious pollutants. Tondu Corporation wants to build a large coal-fired power plant in tiny Manistee. Yet after extensive public input, the town turned down Tondu because this plant would violate local zoning laws and run counter to the interests of its citizens. Tondu reacted by filing a \$100 million lawsuit, 10 times the city's annual budget—a clear effort to intimidate Manistee.

Tondu planned to burn 1.8 million tons of coal annually, shipped into Michigan from Wyoming's Powder River Basin, a coal source promoted by Vice President Cheney's secret energy plan. Tondu pushed this plan aggressively, even though Michigan has excess power capacity. Every year, the proposed plant would emit eight million pounds of sulfur dioxide, four million pounds of nitrogen oxide and dangerous amounts of toxic mercury. Pollution emitted by coal-fired power plants is linked to asthma, respiratory problems and chronic bronchitis, as well as increased levels of smog and haze. Tondu was able to propose getting away with this kind of pollution under federal law only because the Bush administration has resisted imposing newer, stricter pollution standards on coal plants.

An increase in mercury, smog and haze pollution is not Sierra Club's only concern with this issue. The region's lucrative sport-fishing industry is also at risk from fish kills

caused by the plant. The facility would suck in huge quantities of cold water from Manistee Lake, killing eggs and fish caught in enormous cooling-water intake pipes. Here, again, the Bush administration has failed by recently issuing a weak rule on power plant cooling pipes that fails to protect vital fisheries from severe damage.

The Little River Band of the Ottawa Indians, which also seeks to intervene in the lawsuit—along with local group Citizens for Responsible Development—is proposing a renewable energy plant instead of the polluting coal plant. Sierra Club is represented by the law firm of Jenner & Block LLP in Chicago, and will participate as an amicus in the case if not granted intervention status.



Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Help us protect our friends & their homes

When you sell Sierra Club raffle tickets, you help fund our work this year to protect Michigan's air, water, forests, and all our species.

Last year 870 members sold 7356 tickets.

This year we need 1000 members to participate to make this a success.

If you can help us sell raffle tickets, please contact me with your name, complete address and phone number at any of these:

Email: mikekeeler@tir.com

Phone: 810-767-9904

Mail: 813 Maxine St., Flint, MI 48503

New this year: **When you sell or donate \$45 or more to the raffle fundraiser, we'll send you a Sierra Club cap if you wish!**



\$1000 First Prize
\$500 2nd • \$100 3rd
\$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5
Make checks to: **Sierra Club**

The drawing will be held January 15, 2005.
Thanks for supporting your Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club.

Mike Keeler
Raffle Coordinator



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Special thanks to Edwin Leonard, Wildlife Artist from Farmington Hills for donating his original art work of Downey Woodpeckers.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Electoral endorsements.
Outings. **L**awsuits. **L**egislative lobbying. **A**utumn Retreat. **P**artnerships...

The articles in this issue of *The Mackinac* give you a clear idea of the exciting and ambitious work undertaken by Sierra Club volunteers and staff in Michigan in just the last few months.

Your generous support as a member and donor to the Sierra Club not only helps bring these activities to life, but your donations also allow us to report on these activities by bringing you *The Mackinac*, as well as posting vital information on the Chapter webpage at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Mackinac Chapter and your local group through your donation of time and money. In addition to donations from members like you, we want to thank the Americana Foundation for its continuing support of our Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program; the Beldon Fund for support through a collaborative project overseen by the Michigan Environmental Council; and support from several internal programs of the Sierra Club for the Water Sentinels, Partnerships, and Wildlife programs. We would also like to thank those attorneys and consultants who have donated their services for free or at reduced rates. Thank you all very much!

The heart of the Sierra Club is the astonishing commitment of people like you who have chosen to get involved because you care about the world in which you live and how we will leave it to our children and grandchildren. And because that work is ongoing, the need to continue to grow our funding base is also ongoing.

Whether it is through a gift in response to our direct mail solicitations, a decision to write a bequest into your will, or a spontaneous purchase of a raffle ticket or silent auction item at the Autumn Retreat, your gifts are helping to strengthen the Sierra Club in Michigan.

Please contact me if you would like more information about the ways to support the Mackinac Chapter's work. And again, thank you for caring about our environment!

— ANNE WOIWODE, MACKINAC CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee Election

by Sue Kelly, Nominations Committee

The following candidates have agreed to accept nomination to run for five At-Large member positions on the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee running from January 2005 through December 2007. Their willingness to run exemplifies what makes the Sierra Club the most effective environmental group

in the country—its serious grassroots activism. All of these candidates have great gifts to share and we are proud to have them as part of the environmental effort in Michigan.

The Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee consists of nine At-Large members—representing all Sierra Club members in Michigan—as well as 10 representatives from the regional Michigan groups. Their responsibility is to establish and manage the Chapter's budget, set and implement conservation priorities and policies, fundraise to support our programs, oversee Chapter staff, as well as address member concerns. These Executive Committee members are expected to participate on some committees and to attend Chapter functions. The Executive Committee meets quarterly; meetings are open to all members.

Please vote for the five candidates you feel will best represent the interests and concerns of Michigan Sierra Club members. The ballot is located on page 9. In order to validate your ballot, please write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope in which you return your ballot. Your membership number can be found on the mailing label of this newsletter. **Ballots must be returned by December 10, 2004.** Election results will be announced at the January 2005 Executive Committee Meeting.

LORNE BEATTY

I have been a Sierra Club member for over 20 years. As an active member in Michigan, I have served the Crossroads group many times as Outings, Fundraising, Media and Membership Chairs, as well as Group Representative, Treasurer and Vice Chair. My interests include clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, wilderness and public land use issues. I am also very concerned with issues that affect our Great Lakes and the world's oceans. With urban sprawl developing 10 acres of Michigan's land per hour, every woodland and wetland we can preserve is precious, every mile of river or shoreline we protect really counts. Wilderness and wildlife are both comforting and spiritual experiences for me. I enjoy their beauty and wildness. We have a sacred responsibility to the Earth and to future generations. Environmental activism is something that I must make time for—not just locally, but statewide as well. I ask for your support and your vote as an "at-large" candidate for the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee.

MIKE JOHNSON

For many years I was a dues-paying, *Sierra* magazine-reading member only. Then about eight years ago the Kalamazoo Valley Group newsletter urged my type to get involved, and I did. Since that time I have been active in the KVG, helping to plan meetings and outings, doing presentations, and writing articles for its newsletter. I have served on the Chapter Executive Committee and Steering Committee and have written for the *The Mackinac*. Currently I am the Chapter Delegate to the national Sierra Club. The issues most

important to me are Great Lakes and wilderness protection. I've been to Washington D.C. six times to lobby and done presentations around the state on their behalf. I've also written the Great Lakes issues series in *The Mackinac*. My vision for the Chapter's future isn't greatly different from what I see it as now—a group of people working hard to protect our state, nation and planet. Please join us with your voice and effort so that the Club can accomplish more of what must be done!

HELEN LEBLANC

Positions held: Current, Chapter Executive Committee member and Chapter Treasurer; Central Michigan Group executive committee and treasurer; member National Sierra Club Task-force to simplify and improve reporting between National and Chapters and Groups. Past Secretary of Mackinac Chapter; Chair, City of Lansing Planning Commission. My primary environmental interest is in urban sprawl. I truly believe that the way to prevent sprawl is to improve life in our urban areas (and to improve people's perceptions of life in our urban areas). My vision for the Chapter is for it to be financially stable. Unfortunately, it takes money to accomplish all the great things we have done and want to do in the future!

DAVID LLEWELLYN

As a Sierra Club member for 12 years, I have been active locally for the past 2.5 years: SEM Group ExCom for 2 years; Mackinac Chapter ExCom for 2 years; Chapter Steering Committee for 6 months. My earliest involvement was to enjoy, explore and

protect the outdoors by participating in Service Outings in exotic places. My local involvement was motivated by a desire to do something about energy conservation, especially in motor vehicles. This is still on my "to-do" list, since I have been drawn into fundraising and political activities at the group and chapter level. I am amazed at the talent and dedication of the SC volunteers and staff that I have met, from the grassroots in SE Michigan, all the way to San Francisco. It is often a humbling experience working with them because I am older than most of them, but have accomplished little in comparison. My plans for future involvement include helping the groups develop local "causes" that will motivate and involve our next generation of leaders.

BILL RODGERS

While I have been a dues-paying member of the Sierra Club for many years, I have been an active member for just two years. I am on the Executive Committee of the Huron Valley Group, and co-chair of its Conservation Team. At the chapter level, I am on the Legislative Committee, and have participated in the last three Lobby Days. My involvement reflects a growing awareness of the vulnerability of our environment and of the low priority given to environmental concerns by most of our elected representatives and their appointees. Far too often, economic concerns and short-term solutions trump respect for the environment. Those of us who are aware of the threats to our environment have an ethical obligation to act, for example through educating and mobilizing the general public and by countering the lobbying efforts of groups that stand to profit from policies and behaviors that threaten our environment. Examples include Michigan's failure to regulate factory farms; local zoning ordinances that encourage sprawl; and over-subsidization of highway construction relative to alternative modes of transportation.

ROBERT SIMPSON

Dear members: I would like to serve on the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee. I have little formal training in environmental sciences, but have an inquiring mind and am well read on many issues. My area of expertise is radiation of all types as I have worked with and taught radiologic sciences for 40 years. I have been passionate about environmental issues since before the first Earth Day, after encountering ecosystem degradation in Hawaii while on my honeymoon. I joined Greenpeace around 1980 and soon after was involved with Cousteau, Sierra Club and others. I have been active with SC activities locally for 10 years and served as the Nepessing Chair for two years, as well as other offices. I feel accomplishing our goals at the Chapter level requires us to have increasing influence with our legislators. For that we must have the capacity to inform members and receive rapid responses and I will work toward that capacity.



Members of the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee met this past October at the Urban Options Energy House in East Lansing.

MACKINAC CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB 2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOT

Please vote for no more than five (5) candidates.

The second column of boxes is for the second member of a joint membership only. The last row of boxes is for a write-in candidate.

Write your Sierra Club membership number on the return address section of your envelope to validate your ballot. Your membership number is on the mailing label of this newsletter.

LORNE BEATTY

MIKE JOHNSON

HELEN LEBLANC

DAVID LLEWELLYN

BILL RODGERS

ROBERT SIMPSON

Your ballot must be received by December 15.

Mail your ballot to:

**Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club
attn: Chapter Elections
109 East Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906**

2004: Activism at Warp Speed

by Gayle Miller, Conservation Program Coordinator

What an extraordinary year! Never in recent history have so many people worked so hard on behalf of the environment. Thousands of Sierra Club members around the country became active in efforts to turn out voters

in the presidential and other elections. The level of commitment—the time, energy and resources that poured into efforts to gain votes—was stunning.

In Oakland County, more than 1,000 volunteers created a firestorm of activity by knocking on doors, making phone calls, holding parties, participating in protest rallies, writing letters to the editor and more—all to raise awareness of the Bush administration's environmental crimes—in one of Michigan's most politically important counties.

In addition to fabulous volunteers, Oakland County organizers Bruce Hoeft, Melissa Damaschke and Leigh Fifelski were truly heroic—working unbelievable hours, donning smokestack costumes and doing anything to get people's attention.

Perhaps not as exciting, but just as important, were the efforts of Sierra Club political committees in the difficult and sometimes agonizing process of endorsing candidates for presidential, state and local races. Individual members also stepped forward to help the Club's cause. Sierrans from around the state called Sierra Club members in their communities reminding these environmentalists to vote and encouraging support for Sierra Club's endorsed candidates.

But, election activism wasn't the only record breaker this year. More members than ever got involved in the Chapter's legislative programs. The Legislative Committee worked diligently to produce the Legislative Scorecard for Michigan's House of Representatives. This valuable document helped inform endorsement decisions for incumbents running for re-election, and provides our members with insight into the environmental mindset of their elected officials. (Available online at www.michigan.sierraclub.org)

More than 50 members attended each of two Lobby Days in Lansing. Our Fall Lobby Day was the most exciting because our home base was the State Capitol. Both the House and the Senate were under the gun to finish business and vote on critical bills. Volunteer lobbyists

learned about the Club's focus issues and lobbied hard, speaking with legislators and aides about factory farms, lead, and a groundbreaking piece of proposed legislation controlling sulfide mining.

Finally, more than 170 Sierra Club members have already signed on to our new web and email based Mackinac Action Network (mackinac.sierraclubaction.org). Members use the Action Network to receive and respond to alerts on environmental bills as they move through the Michigan legislature. The new system allows activists to communicate with their elected officials with a click of their mouse. The goal is to have 300 participants by Christmas, so please sign up.

With the election behind us, it's important to focus on building strong relationships with those in power here at home. More Lobby Days are in the hopper, and the Club will be working to mobilize members to make in-district visits to newly elected (or re-elected) representatives and senators. Similar to Lobby Day activities, Sierra Club members will meet, greet and lobby their elected officials on important legislation affecting the environment.

If your first dip into environmental activism happened this year, don't let the lack of political campaigns slow you down. Join us state-side; if we can transfer even 10 percent of the energy of this year's elections into legislative activities, we'll be an even more powerful force for the environment in Michigan!



MELISSA DAMASCHKE

Gayle Miller and Bruce Hoeft at an April 2004 rally addressing toxic waste sites. Bruce's signs says "Make Polluters—not taxpayers—pay to clean up toxic waste."

With the election behind us, it's important to focus on building strong relationships with those in power here at home.



Contact Gayle Miller, 517-484-2372 or gaylemiller@sierraclub.org, to learn about ways you can make a difference!

by Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Coordinator

U.P. AND SULFIDE MINING UPDATE

Sierra Club members in Menominee County and other counties where sulfide mining exploration is occurring are invited to contact me to put together additional Water Sentinels project areas to begin baseline bio-assessments in 2005. As readers know, efforts are already underway by the Central U.P. Group of the Sierra Club to perform baseline water quality monitoring in the Yellow Dog Plains, although this is not the only area where sulfide mining may occur.

Sierra Club has learned that sulfide mining exploration is underway in many locations in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula; however, the exact locations won't be known until the mining companies apply for permits, or unless activities are observed. Several of the companies

involved in exploration activities are Kennecott Minerals, Minerals Processing Corporation, Bitterroot Resources, PrimeMeridian, and Trans Superior Resources.

If you observe mining exploration activities and want to begin a Water Sentinels project to monitor potential changes in water quality, contact Rita Jack (see right).

TITTABAWASSEE RIVER UPDATE

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Dow Chemical Company agreed to an October 31 end date for discussions on "Interim Response Activities." These discussions address dioxin contamination downstream from Dow Chemical in the City of Midland, in the Tittabawassee River and its floodplain, as well as in the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay. The controversial issue has sparked much debate, including "How clean is clean?"

If you are a Sierra Club member in any of the affected areas and interested in participating in a Water Sentinels project on the Tittabawassee or Saginaw Rivers, contact Rita Jack. We will coordinate our efforts with the Campaign for a Clean Watershed. (Visit their website at www.trwnews.net. Then check out the ad at www.trwnews.net/Documents/TRW/Audio/ccw0904.ram.)



Rita Jack, the Mackinac Chapter's Water Sentinels Project Coordinator, can be contacted at rita.jack@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.

State Environmental Justice Policy Needed

by Anna Holden, Chapter Conservation Chair

An official Michigan state policy on environmental justice is a new goal of the Mackinac Chapter.

The Chapter Executive Committee adopted a policy in July 2004 asking state government "to avoid, prevent, and remedy environmental racism and disproportionate environmental burdens and to seek environmental justice." Sierra Club is calling for coordinated action from the highest levels of state government to ensure that "[n]o single group of people, and particularly no group identifiable by race, ethnicity, economic class, or social standing should bear a disproportionate share of the negative consequences from industry, commerce, or government actions and policies."

Why is an official state initiative needed? Currently Michigan departments approve the siting and operation of polluting facilities one by one, ignoring the combined effects from many sources. Research shows that more sources releasing harmful toxins are found in neighborhoods of racial, ethnic and low-income populations. There are, for example, 200 sources of toxic releases within a two-mile radius of the trash incinerator in mid-town Detroit. The incinerator alone can legally release 3.6 million pounds of air toxins per year, and the GM Poletown plant, just across I-94, discharged 834,000 pounds of air pollution in 2002. African Americans and other residents in the area suffer from high rates of asthma and respiratory diseases. The last permit hearing on the incinerator was held miles from their neighborhood, away from bus

lines, effectively denying residents a voice on the proposal.

How can a state environmental justice policy help? Sierra Club is asking for state agencies to:

- collect and analyze information on human health, fish and other wildlife in the vicinity of polluting sources;
- make the health effects of toxins a top priority in decisions, requiring the proposing source to prove its plans are safe;
- give residents more information and a meaningful opportunity to participate in decisions; and
- coordinate the actions of different agencies and departments to reduce pollution from all sources.

Other states and cities are beginning to consider and adopt environmental justice executive orders or laws. New Jersey's governor, for example, issued an executive order in February 2004 asking state agencies to consider the health and environmental impacts of their decisions on communities of color and low-income communities.

Since environmental justice is a Chapter priority, members will be asked to give active support to the proposed policy.

Shifting the Toxic Trend: Decades from

by Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Coordinator



In our fast-paced modern society, perhaps it's too much to worry about one more thing, to worry about the price paid for living with toxic substances in Michigan's water, air and soil. The disease and abnormalities

from toxic exposure often do not appear for years or even decades, and because of this, the potential health consequences of our exposure to these toxics can be—and often are—disregarded.

But there is a better and healthier way. We can reduce toxic exposures by assuring that environmental laws are not rolled back by the politicians in power, and by cleaning up the messes left from decades of irresponsible toxics disposal practices in Michigan. Our state was bequeathed a toxic legacy by many of the 20th century's irresponsible industrial practices. We must now ask and answer the question: What legacy do we want to leave future generations?

CLEANUPS OFTEN AREN'T

We usually assume that “cleanup” means a contaminated site will become safe, healthy and clean. But that impression is wrong. Although the word “cleanup” is used when discussing contaminated sites, it no longer means contamination is removed and disposed of. During the next few months and years, as remedies are chosen for three contaminated sites in Michigan, the sad fact is that these sites will not become clean. The remedy chosen for the Kalamazoo River, contaminated with PCBs, will likely involve a combination of “monitored natural recovery” and some toxic hotspot removal; the Pine River's Velsicol Chemical Superfund site, contaminated with DDT and a host of other toxics will likely be buried under yet another layer of clay and topsoil, with some hotspot removal. It is unknown what will be done in the City of Midland and in the Tittabawassee River and floodplain, all of which are contaminated with dioxin from Dow Chemical processes. There is also the question of dioxin in the Saginaw River and Bay.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

The USEPA now focuses much of their energy (and our tax dollars) on “risk reduc-

tion,” and rarely on real cleanup. According to USEPA Region V, in the case of the Allied Paper / Portage Creek / Kalamazoo River Superfund Site (first listed on the Superfund National Priority list in 1990) this translates directly to “reducing the risk of eating fish caught from the river.” Reams of data describe the contamination, and yet we will now wait at least another year for the results of a new USEPA requirement—that of “modeling” various remedies to measure the cost effectiveness of each potential remedy to “reduce the risk of eating contaminated fish.”

Meanwhile, USEPA is putting off the most effective method to reduce the risk of eating contaminated fish: cleaning up the PCBs. Removing and disposing of toxic sediments is expensive and it is likely that they will instead recommend bank stabilization and other actions, thus leaving the contamination in place for decades to come.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Concerned citizens must be involved at every stage in the process, and this means not waiting until the public comment periods to be heard. In fact, by then most of the important decisions have already been made. Citizens concerned about their health and the health of their children must pay close attention to every step in the remedy selection process for contaminated sites in their communities—attend cleanup status meetings, get and read every report, and ask important and pressing questions of the agencies in charge of the cleanups. Cleanup decisions are mandated by Congress to be acceptable to the community, but community members need to let USEPA know what is acceptable and what isn't.

People concerned about these sites also can support reauthorization of the Superfund tax so that USEPA has the financial wherewithal to force cleanup by recalcitrant companies. Because the Superfund tax on polluting industries was allowed to expire in 1995, the “triple-damages” hammer the USEPA once

The Velsicol Chemical Superfund site in St. Louis, MI, was “cleaned up” in the early 1980s, only to start leaking again in 1998.

now, what will our toxic legacy be?

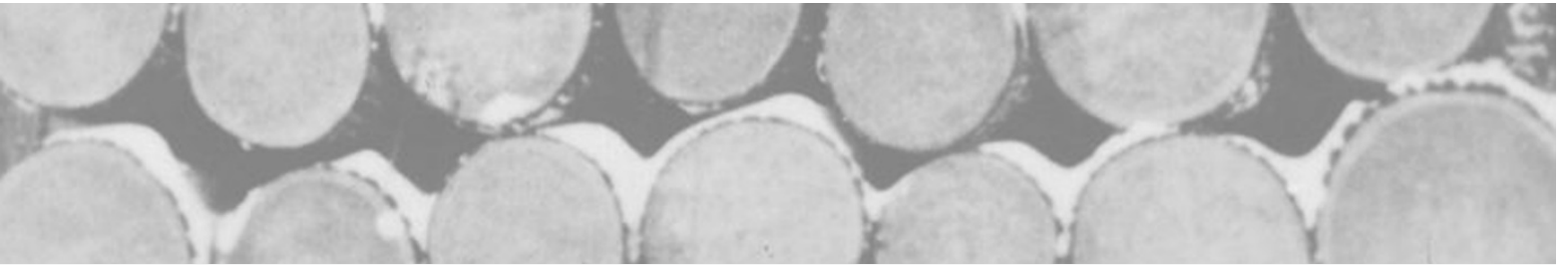
used is no longer available to force recalcitrant polluters to clean up pollution. In the past, if polluters would not cooperate and clean up their pollution, then USEPA would perform the cleanup and bill the polluter for three times the cost. While it's true that the Clinton administration failed to renew the Superfund tax in 1995, the Bush administration now has the power to do so. Yet they have failed Americans by refusing to renew the tax. And the money is running out; taxpayer dollars are the only source of funds for Superfund.

No matter who is paying for it, too little money in Superfund coffers means USEPA is forced to go cheap—or to bargain with polluters—on their remedy selections. Too little money means contaminated communities are forced to live with short-term solutions designed to last only 30 years—only a few generations. Then what? Begin again? It isn't so easy. Take for example the case of the Pine River/Velsicol Chemical Superfund Site in Gratiot County, where the containment system remedy selected in 1982 has failed miserably. Taxpayers today are footing the bill

for a second remedy that will cost between \$60 and \$300 million.

The solutions are clear: renew the Superfund tax, be involved in cleanup decisions, know the laws and use them, and demand real cleanup.

To learn more, contact the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter at 517-484-2372 or email Rita Jack at rita.jack@sierraclub.org.



TOXIC CONTAMINATION IN MICHIGAN: HOW DID WE GET INTO THIS MESS?

by Dave Dempsey, Michigan Environmental Council & Clean Water Action

When state cleanup program and federal Superfund critics chafe at the fact that decades will pass before all contamination sites are under control, they forget that thousands of Michigan's toxic messes were created during more than a century of industrialization. Michigan's toxic legacy began in the 1800s.

At Cadillac in northwestern Lower Michigan, a sawmill and chemical works that made wood byproducts like turpentine and charcoal between the 1870s and the 1930s left behind deposits of tar-like waste that oozed up from the ground. In 1999, the state began a \$1.4 million publicly-funded cleanup to remove 10,500 tons of soil.

At Cheboygan on the coast of Lake Huron just southeast of Mackinaw City, a water-powered sawmill that operated from 1840 to 1930 left 80,000 tons of sawdust behind. It was described as "the world's largest sawdust pile" by a supervisor for the Depression-era Federal Writer's Project and as "a monument to the Cheboygan lumbering era" by a local newspaper. In 1917, according to one account, children played on the pile, whose south end was as steep as a cliff. Testing in the 1990s showed groundwater near the enormous pile contained mercury, copper, nickel, lead and zinc discharging to the Cheboy-

gan River at unsafe levels. In 1999, the state began spending millions to clean up the mess.

At Kingsford—a town along the Wisconsin border on the Menominee River in the Upper Peninsula—Ford Motor Company produced wooden automobile body parts between 1921 and 1951. Ford built a carbonization and distillation plant to consume the approximately 400 tons of scrap wood produced at the plant every day. The carbonization plant manufactured charcoal and briquettes, while the distillation plant produced methanol, acetates, alcohols and ketones. Ford and Kingsford Chemical, who bought the property in 1951, discarded the plant wastes into a tar pit and "Riverside Dump." In 1995, more than 30 years after the plant closed, a nearby homeowner removing clothes from his basement dryer generated static electricity and ignited a massive buildup of methane that had seeped into his house from the soil surrounding his basement.

see Toxic Mess, page 17

Shop to Stop Sprawl!

"What a great idea! Local grassroots action to preserve nature is what the Sierra Club is all about. I encourage every Sierra Club member in Michigan to participate in Shopping for the Earth."

- Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director

Through the Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** program, your next shopping trip could help stop sprawl! Up to 20% of what you spend will be donated to the Sierra Club.

We'll use the funds to fight the out-of-control development devastating Michigan. Each year, you can contribute hundreds of dollars to stop sprawl - at no cost to you!

To join the program, just mail in the



order form below with your check. You'll get EarthCash vouchers of equal value for the stores you select. Then you spend the vouchers (accepted nationwide) just as if they're cash. You can return unused vouchers for a refund if you're not completely satisfied.

For more information, please contact Michael Sklar by phone at (734) 717-8040 or by email at mssklar@comcast.net.

Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group "Shopping for the Earth" Order Form

Indicate the number of EarthCash vouchers you want by dollar amount for each store below, and enclose your check payable to "**Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group**." Total order (\$500 maximum): \$ _____.

	\$5	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$100
Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op						
Arbor Brewina Company						
Arbor Farms						
Borders Books & Music						
Busch's						
Farmer Jack (and affiliated stores)						
Hiller's Markets						
Holiday Market (Royal Oak)						
Kroger (and affiliated stores) - Limit 1*						
Whole Foods (and affiliated stores)						

* Kroger uses a reloadable electronic cash card that comes with an initial balance of \$10. You can reload the card (up to \$500) at any Kroger store by cash, check, or credit card.

If you shop at **Meijer**, you can also contribute through the Meijer Community Rewards program. To enroll, please contact Michael Sklar -- or go to www.meijer.com/rewards, and designate 100% of your donation to go to organization code **883330**.

Your Name: _____
 Your Address: _____

 Your Phone number: _____
 Your email address: _____

Mail to:
 Michael Sklar
 10404 Kingston Avenue
 Huntington Woods, MI 48070
 (Your data will not be shared)

What Do We Owe Future Generations?

by Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club Student/Conservation Organizer

Imagine you are walking on the beach. You stop, look back and see the mark your foot has left in the sand. Now picture the mark—or the impact—that your daily life makes on the earth each day. How big is the footprint you leave behind?



MICHIGAN TRAVEL BUREAU, COURTESY USEPA

A couple takes a walk along the Lake Michigan beach at Elberta, Michigan.

To calculate your ecological footprint, visit www.lead.org/leadnet/footprint.

This is what I asked high school students from Roeper High School in Birmingham during their celebration of the environment in early October. We were figuring out their ecological footprints. “What is an ecological footprint?” they asked me. I told them to think about everything in their lives—including what they eat, how large their homes are, how far they travel each day, where they go on vacation, and what happens to the waste they produce. All of these items, I told them, utilize land and contribute to the size of their ecological footprints.

I then gave the students a worksheet to complete, and together we figured out our footprints in acres. I asked them to share the sizes of their footprints; 22, 19, 34, 28, 15, and 41 were some of the numbers I heard. Although the numbers seemed random to the students, they agreed that their footprints were rather large. Yet they still didn’t quite understand the impact.

But when they learned that if the available land and water on earth was divided equally by the global population of six billion each person would be entitled to just four acres—not 28, not 41, not even 15—the students truly realized their impact on the planet. I looked out into a discouraged room. “No way.” “We’re pigs.” “Wow.” “We must have miscalculated something.” “Is this right?” “How do we make it smaller?”

When I heard “How do we make it smaller?” I began the conversation of hope! After all, these students are our future and I didn’t want them to leave the room without hope.

We analyzed the way the footprint is calculated to see what made our footprints so big. Together we determined it was a combina-

tion of travel, waste, energy and food. We discussed ways to decrease the size of their footprints—using their bikes, walking more often, turning the lights off when not needed, and growing food in a garden were some of the suggestions. They also came up with ideas such as convincing their parents to purchase food from local farmers, to stop consuming so much, and to just keep in mind how they impact the planet with the choices and decisions they make each day.

If high school students get it—that we should be considerate of future generations—then why don’t adults get it? Why do we continue to dirty the air and water, leave toxic dump sites uncleaned, log old growth trees in our national forests, and adopt energy plans that focus on dirty coal-fired power plants and not renewable clean energy?

Why are we leaving future generations a toxic legacy? We have the technology and the ability to change; therefore it is our choice whether to leave a toxic legacy or not. Let’s not leave a toxic legacy but a legacy of change and hope. Mike Keeler is right in his introduction to this issue of *The Mackinac*—it’s time we turn our frustration into action. Just as the Roeper students spoke of the individual changes they will make in their personal lives, we need to do the same. Grow a garden, purchase food from local farmers, use our cars less. But then we need to take it one step further. We need to write letters to the editor and lobby Congress to reflect the choices and decisions that are healthy for future generations. We need to make choices every day with future generations in mind. We need to make sure that the footprints we leave on this planet are like footprints in the sand: soft and able to disappear.



Melissa Damaschke is the Mackinac Chapter’s Sierra Club Student/Conservation Organizer.

For more information on the Building Environmental Community Campaign or the Sierra Student Coalition, Contact Melissa at melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org or 248-435-5277.

Mackinac Chapter Recognizes 2004

by Sue Kelly, Nominations Committee

At September's Autumn Retreat at Camp Miniwanca on the shores of Lake Michigan, the Mackinac Chapter presented the Annual Mackinac Chapter Awards to those who have been instrumental in

furthering efforts to protect, preserve and enjoy Michigan's natural heritage.

Service Awards were presented to Jean Gramlich, Lynn and Dean Henning, Marian Listwak, Beth Laug, Suzie Heiney, Bill Pierce and Pam Smith.

- **Jean Gramlich** has been an active participant on the Legislative Subcommittee since its organization, including the Conference Calls, Lobby Days and responses to alerts to notify legislators of pending bills Sierra Club supports.
- **Lynn and Dean Henning** have worked with the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan. They have personally documented over 50 violations of the Clean Water Act by large livestock factory farms. Lynn and Dean have been consistent in the effort to hold these farms accountable, despite the personal risk to them and their family.
- **Marian Listwak** is active in all phases of the Nepessing Group, including conservation issues and Earth Day events. She also writes, prints and mails the Nepessing Newsletter.
- **Beth Laug** is active in the West Michigan Group where she has served as newsletter editor for the past six years. As an ExCom member, Beth attended nearly every program, arriving early for setup and staying to clean up. She also implemented the Eastown Street Fair lemonade stand, which typically yields around \$500 each year.
- **Suzie Heiney** is involved in the Northfield Neighbors group fighting sprawl in Northfield Township. She contributes to a variety of Huron Valley Group tasks, including recruiting people to staff the art fair booth as well as emceeing the September newcomer's meeting. Suzie is also the new editor of *The Lookout*, the HVG's newsletter.
- **Bill Pierce** currently serves as the Crossroads Group Treasurer, participates on outings and programs, and can always

be counted on to be there to support the Club's political programs and conservation efforts.

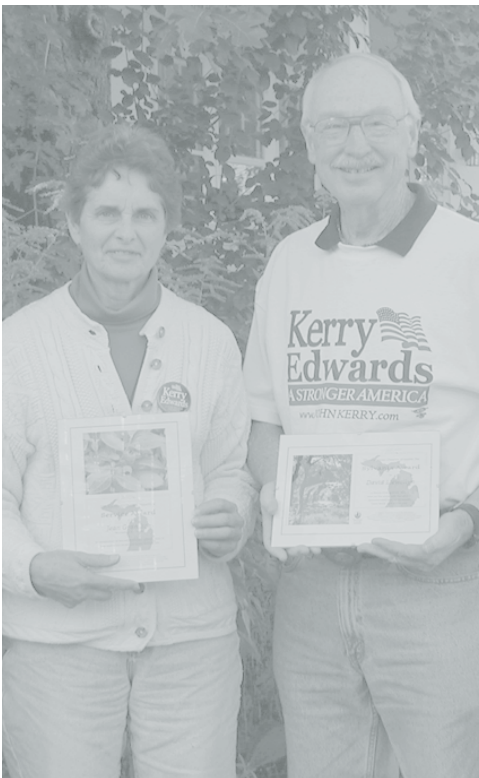
- **Pam Smith** has been on the Traverse Group ExCom for almost the entire four years since that group's reactivation. She leads hikes, as well as conducts research on issues such as wetland destruction, the Boardman Lake and River Valley, threatened and endangered plants on South Fox Island.

Mary La France received the Virginia Prentice Award, given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the preservation of wilderness and the protection of public lands. Mary was an important leader on the effort to preserve the Sibley Prairie and Humbug Marsh.

Paul Gielegem received the Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year Award, given to a political leader who demonstrates a commitment to protecting the environmental heritage of Michigan and the nation. Representative Gielegem has consistently supported environmental legislation throughout his three terms in the House with an environmental voting record for 2003-2004 of 100 percent (Sierra Club's 2004 Legislative Scorecard).

Stop the Burn Coalition Leadership: Cheryl Graunstadt, Westland City Council; Brad van Guilder, Ecology Center Wayne County Organizer, and Ed McArdle, SEMG Conservation Chair were presented with the White Pine Award. This award is given to an organization or individual demonstrating outstanding dedication to protection of Michigan's environment. These three people were leaders in the second phase of the struggle to shut down the Central Wayne municipal solid waste incinerator.

Wanda Bloomquist and Lisa Wickman received the Life of the Party Award, given to gratefully acknowledge volunteers who take seriously the Sierra Club's credo "to enjoy the wild places of the Earth." Wanda and Lisa have cheerfully organized the Annual Retreat for the past two years,



GAYLE MILLER



RITA JACK

Top: Jean Gramlich, left, received a Mackinac Chapter Service Award; Dave Lewellyn received the Sylvania Award.

Above: A cake celebrating the 15th year of the Mackinac Chapter's Annual Fall Retreat.

Awards Recipients

offering an educational and fun event for many Sierra Club members.

David Holtz received the Chairman's Award, given by the Chapter Co-Chairs to honor a Mackinac Chapter member. David left the Chapter as a staff person only to return to us as a volunteer and Chapter Steering Committee member. His reasoned voice is truly an asset.

Marc Schollett of TV 7 & 4 News received the Environmental Journalism Award for Broadcasting. Marc's "Water Watch" on the 11 pm newscast has run for two years, and will continue to run every other week on Fridays year-round. His show focuses on our watersheds, wetlands, water quality, lakes and streams and the threats they face in Northern Michigan, as well as what people can do to help protect them.

Traverse City Record-Eagle received the Environmental Journalism for Print Award. The Record-Eagle has done an excellent job covering such major northern Michigan environmental issues as the Hartman-Hammond bypass bridge, the South Fox Island land swap proposal, the Crystal River acquisition—a major wetlands filling issue—and the Tondu Coal Plant proposal in Manistee.

Dave Llewellyn received the Sylvania Award, which recognizes a Sierra Club volunteer new on the scene but already demonstrating great enthusiasm, hard work and dedication. Dave has assumed responsibility for the Southeast Michigan Group and a variety of Chapter positions and tasks. He takes these responsibilities seriously and carries them out with thought and competence.

Burton V. Barnes received the first Burton V. Barnes Award. This award was created to recognize academic excellence. Dr. Barnes is a professor at the University of Michigan where he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in forest ecology, landscape ecology, ecology, biology, and identification of woody plants.

Bunyan Bryant received the first Bunyan Bryant Award. This award is to recognize outstanding leadership in the field of environmental justice. Dr. Bryant is the director of the Environmental Justice Initiative and was instrumental in establishing the University of Michigan's Environmental Justice Program, which focuses on the differential impact of environmental contaminants on people of color and low-income communities.

Toxic Mess, cont. from page 13

Other toxic sites killed Michiganians. In January, 1982, workers at a chemical incinerator named Liquid Disposal, Inc. in Macomb County were preparing to transfer a tanker load of sodium hydroxide solution shipped from Kalamazoo into the incinerator. The solution came in contact with acids from an unidentified source, releasing deadly hydrogen sulfide gas. "Then pandemonium [sic]," the Detroit News reported. "Men in a nearby building were falling over, gasping for air, their lungs seared, no longer functioning . . . A leak of lethal gas had felled two workers who would die. Would-be rescuers were also thrown back, gasping for air from lungs filled by the gas . . ." In addition to killing the two men, the chemical reaction sent an estimated two dozen workers to the hospital.

When the state released a list of over 800 contamination sites in the late 1970s, pressure grew for state funding to supplement what would become the federal Superfund program. In 1982, the Legislature passed Act 307, a law that ranked contamination sites by hazard, but carried no cleanup with it. In 1984, when groundwater contamination threatened the city drinking water supply in Battle Creek, Governor James J. Blanchard and legislative leaders agreed on the state's first appropriation for Act 307. Four years later, voters approved \$425 million in public

see Toxic Mess, page 21

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Group Meetings & Programs

[HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/GROUPS.HTML](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/groups.html)

Outings, political and conservation activities and general interest meetings are hosted regularly by groups throughout the state. There are numerous ways to get involved in your local group. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Contact group chairs (page 23) or those listed below. Up-to-the-minute outings and activities may be found on group websites or on the Mackinac Chapter website at www.michigan.sierraclub.org. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus.

2004-05 Executive Committee Meetings

The Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee (Ex-Com) meets quarterly at locations around the state. Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz at the Chapter office for details. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

WINTER: January 15-16, 2005 at the University of Michigan Biological Station in Pellston

AG: Algonquin Group

Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

CMG: Central Michigan Group

GENERAL MEETINGS: 5:30pm for supper (small donation requested), monthly meeting at 6:15, 3rd Monday. East Lansing Library, 950 Abbott Rd, East Lansing. Pete Pasterz, pasterz@msu.edu or 517-676-3339.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 5:30pm monthly, 2nd Tuesday. Maria Lapinski-LaFaive, 517-374-4444 or mlapinsk@wmich.edu.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Monthly, 1st Tuesday. Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

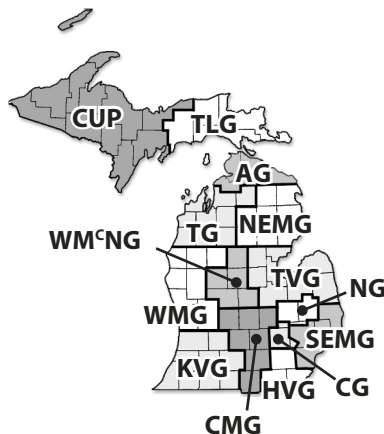
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Webmaster: Establish & maintain website for CMG including listings of meetings & outings. **Publicity Coordinator:** Publicity for General Membership Meetings. **Outings leaders:** Lead local hikes, canoe/kayak or camping trips. **Also need** volunteers to staff information & merchandise tables at local events. Pete Pasterz, pasterz@msu.edu.

Interested in getting involved with CMG and not sure how? Here are some easy things you can do: Come to a general meeting—they're a fun way to meet other like-minded people! Volunteer to bring a meal to a general meeting. Lead an outing—you don't have to be an expert! Help fold newsletters—it only takes two hours of your time! Write an article for the newsletter or help with newsletter creation. Contact Maria Lapinski-LaFaive, mlapinsk@wmich.edu, or 517-374-4444 to learn about other options.

CUP: Central Upper Peninsula Group

GENERAL MEETINGS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7pm in Community Room, Peter White Library, Marquette. John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or jrebers@nmu.edu.

10/27 The Trap Hills: A Wild Treasure in the Upper



Group boundaries of the Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

Peninsula. Doug Welker will give a presentation showing the beauty of the Trap Hills in the Ottawa National Forest of the western UP. Learn about places to hike & backpack. Learn about efforts provide protection for this area.

11/17 Kayaking in Finland. In the summer of 2004, Nancy Uschold & Sam Crowley spent 16 days paddling from Helsinki, Finland to Stockholm, Sweden. They crossed part of the Baltic Sea & passed through 2 different archipelagoes containing over 100,000 islands. Remote villages, modern urban centers & a rich maritime heritage are some of the many highlights.

Dec: No general meeting.

CUP GROUP NEWS & OUTINGS: Mail \$5 for newsletter subscription to Sierra Club, 338 West Crescent, Marquette, MI 49855.

OUTINGS: Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Webmaster: Establish & maintain website for CUP including listings of meetings & outings. **Newsletter parties:** Help fold, staple, label newsletter prior to mailing. Requires about 2 hrs 4x/year. Prepare newsletters for mailing. Requires 2-3 hrs 4x/year. **Cleanups:** Come pick up trash at Little Presque Isle Tract north of Marquette monthly May-October. Contact Dave Allen, dallen@nmu.edu, to be notified of dates. **Publicity Coordinator:** Post publicity flyers in Marquette & other locations. Takes 30-60 min

each month. John Rebers, jrebers@nmu.edu.

CG: Crossroads Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm 4th Wednesday, Brighton Public Library, 200 Orndorff Dr, Brighton.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Meets monthly. Emily Gobright, emily@ismi.net or 517-548-0595.

OUTINGS: Cheryl McConnell, mcconnell_cheryl@yahoo.com or 517-552-1464; Ron Smith, rsmith9999@aol.com or 734-878-3689.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Meets monthly. Rick Pearsall, rick@pearsall.com or 810-227-6298; Karen Pierce, 810-227-8521 or pierce@hartland.k12.mi.us.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Lorne Beatty, lbeatty@bluechip-tech.com or 810-632-7766.

HVG: Huron Valley Group

www.mirror.org/groups/mi-enviro

HVG Hotline at 734-480-7751

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7:30pm monthly, 3rd Tues. UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor. Free & open to public. Non-members welcome!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: 1st Thursday monthly. 7pm. Doug Cowherd, 734-662-5205.

HVG BOOK CLUB: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Tuesday at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, Ann Arbor. Small group book discussion about nature or the environment. Parma Yarkin, 734-332-0207.

INNER CITY OUTINGS: 7pm, 2nd Sunday monthly. Rm 302 Halle Library on EMU campus. ICO volunteers introduce urban children in Washtenaw County to outdoor & environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners & contributors welcome.

CONSERVATION TEAM: 5/24 Conservation Committee Meeting. 7pm. Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157; Bill Rodgers, 734-769-0163.

KVG: Kalamazoo Valley Group

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm monthly, 3rd Wednesday, Kalamazoo Public Library, Oshtemo Branch, 7265 W Main. Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 (evenings), 269-488-4268 (days) or vmills@kvcc.edu.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Wed. Paul Haas, 269-664-5417 or paulhs@aol.com.



MACKINAC CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MEET IN LANSING THIS PAST OCTOBER. GAYLE MILLER

NG: Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

GENERAL MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday monthly, 7pm. Mott Community College, 1401 E Court St, Flint, Prah Center, Genesee Room. Guest speaker each month. Refreshments served. Public welcome.

11/10 General Membership Meeting. Dave Mansfield will talk about winter camping & backpacking.

12/4 2005 Outings Scheduling Meeting. Flint Public Library, 11am.

12/8 No membership meeting in December.

12/11 Sierra Club Christmas Party at Ligon Outdoor Center. Noon-5pm. Ligon Outdoor Center, 5213 E Farrand Rd, Clio. Pot-Luck. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038.

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

NEMG: Northeast Michigan Group

Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

SEMG: Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6:30 or 7pm monthly Sept-June, 1st Thursday at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or cogknot@yahoo.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Thursday at 2727 Second Avenue, Detroit. Jim Nash, 248-471-3759 or nashlibdem@msn.com.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Monthly meetings at 2727 Second Avenue, Detroit. Mary LaFrance, 734-282-6935.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: Quarterly planning meetings. Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil3@netzero.net; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

12/11 Outings Scheduling Meeting. 5pm. Interested in leading or learning about leading outings? Come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck in Berkley. Non-leader members are welcome. Bring dish to pass & plan Feb-June outings. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: 6:30pm monthly, last Thursday, at Jimi's Restaurant on Washington, 1 block north of Lincoln (10-1/2 Mile), Royal Oak. Tim Killeen, 313-526-4052 or timk@bikerider.com.

TLG: Three Lakes Group

GENERAL MEETINGS: Monthly Sept-May, 1st Wednesday at Walker Cisler Center on Lake Superior State University campus. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@LSSU.edu.

BUSINESS MEETINGS: Monthly in Sault Ste Marie. Floyd Byerly, 906-632-0218.

OUTINGS: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@LSSU.edu.

TVG: Thumb Valley Group

Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

TG: Traverse Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held 4th Tuesday, 7-9pm at the Traverse Area District Library. Our group is frequently involved in community forums, informational meetings concerning local environmental issues & special educational events. Monica, 231-325-6812.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED! Outings leaders: Lead local hikes, canoe/kayak or camping trips; volunteers to staff information & merchandise tables at local events.

Publicity Coordinator: Handle publicity for General Membership Meetings. **General Membership Meeting Program Coordinator:** Set up speakers, reserve library room, handle publicity. Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Meetings are held 2nd Sunday monthly at Horizon Books.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Monica, 231-325-6812.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Jim Stricko, 231-275-7596.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: Andrea Dean, 213-947-9334.

WMcNG: Wakelin McNeel Group

Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

WMG: West Michigan Group

www.westmichigansierraclub.org

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6pm monthly, 2nd Thurs. Downtown YMCA, 33 Library NE, Grand Rapids. Craig Ressler, craig_ressler@yahoo.com or 616-891-9055; Marty Lore, naturelore@comcast.com or 616-682-1316.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: Lisa Symons, Greensymons@yahoo.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Outings leaders: Lead local hikes, canoe/kayak or camping trips. Members also encouraged to participate in outings.

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CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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MackinacChapterOutings

[HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/OUTINGS.HTML](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/outings.html)

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map, page 16, to determine a group's location. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [T] = trail maintenance. Trips begin at the trailhead. Fees are a suggested donation. Outings are open to everyone. More detailed outing descriptions may be found at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org> or at individual group websites. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to: www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

November

11/14 SEMG Paint Creek Hike. 10am. Many interesting stops along meandering creek pathway. 10mi loop, mod to brisk walk to Lake Orion for lunch & return. Bring snacks/water. Meet in Troy behind Std Fed Bank, 14 Mi Rd. E of I-75. Michael Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

11/20 NG Holly North Hike. 10am. 6 mi, mod. Meet at Groveland Twp Hall, 4695 Grange Hall Rd between Mt. Holly & Ortonville. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242 or cell, 810-348-8664.

11/21 SEMG Pontiac State Rec Area Hike. Noon 6mi through densely wooded, rolling terrain, mod to brisk pace. Meet Bloomfield Twp Costco, Telegraph Rd. Call if weather doubtful. Opt restaurant stop. Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326.

11/21 NG EMU Kresge Environmental Ed Center. 1pm. Mod 5mi. Dogs allowed. 2816 Fish Lake Rd, Lapeer. Potluck at my house. Gloria Bublitz, 810-664-0304 or glorypepper@yahoo.com.

11/26 SEMG [E] Proud Lake Turkey Trot. 11am. Brisk pace. Explore little-used trails, 5-6mi loop. Meet at Southfield Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

11/27 NG For-Mar Nature Preserve Hike. 10am. 5mi, easy. Meet in main parking lot. No dogs. Restaurant stop. 2142 N Genesee Rd, Burton. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

11/28 SEMG Independence Oaks Hike. Noon. 6 forested miles, rolling terrain, mod pace, rain or shine. Meet at Troy Std Fed Bank, 14 Mile Rd. Opt restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

December

12/3-6 CUPG High Country Pathway, Gaylord. Off-trail winter backpacking for fit, equipped, intermediate level, minus 10 degree winter camper. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

12/4 HVG Hidden Lake Gardens Hike. Meet Cottage Inn, Saline Shopping Center 2pm. Brief 4mi hike in the gardens; enjoy free music & refreshments at the Christmas holiday festival. Ron Killebrew, 734-429-0671 or rikillebrew@provide.net.

12/5 SEMG [E] Ojibway Prairie (Ontario) Wildflower Walk. Bring flower guides & hand lens. 2 hrs slow walking in open prairie. Meet at Dearborn Centennial Library. Bring passport or birth certificate plus photo ID for border crossing. Call if weather is questionable. Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

12/12 SEMG [C,T] Crooked Lake Trail to Pickerel Lake. 10am. Hilly, wooded, 6mi, moderately-paced hike north of Chelsea. Enjoy giant pines along the trails. Bring a trash bag for trail clean-up as we walk. Meet in Livonia between Wal-Mart & Jiffy Lube. Possible restaurant stop after. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645.

12/18 NG Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 10am. 5mi, mod pace. Meet at Big 7 shelter parking lot, Fish Lake Rd. State Park vehicle permit required. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldd@chartermi.net.

12/18 SEMG Holly Holiday Urban Hike. Noon. 4mi hike in Holly, gift hunting the old fashioned way. Medieval street performers, unique shops in Battle Alley & model railroad club. Dinner at Village Restaurant. Meet behind CVS Bloomfield Hills. Dress for outdoors. Return 6pm. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

12/19 SEMG Stony Creek Hike. Noon. 5mi mod pace on nature trails & perimeter trails. Watch for animal tracks in the snow. Meet SMART parking lot, Sterling Hts at Metro-Pkway. Opt restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

12/26 SEMG Brighton State Rec Area Hike. Noon. 7mi, moderate to brisk pace on wooded trails. Dress in layers for weather, call if weather is questionable. Meet at Marathon Station at Tel-12 Mall, Southfield. Opt restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-773-3104.

January

1/? HVG Sleeping Bear Dunes Ski Trip (Call for date). Ski or hike trails of national lakeshore. Warm cabins at night. All experience levels welcome. Joan Paskewitz, 734-428-0887; Ruth Graves, 734-483-0058.

1/1 NG Hadley Hills Hike. 10am. 6mi. Difficult. Ortonville Recreation area. 1mi W of Fox Lake Rd. Meet at Parking lot, north side of Fox Lake Rd. Gloria Bublitz, 810-664-0304, or glorypepper@yahoo.com.

1/1 SEMG Annual New Year Feast/Hike. 11am. 5th Annual New Year's Day event. Bring a dish to share, our hosts will provide the turkey. 3mi hike afterwards. Meet at Marathon Station, Tel-12 Mall, Southfield. Pat & Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.

1/2 SEMG U of M-Dearborn Nature Area Hike. 11am. Easy stroll to welcome the new year. Explore the grounds & 3mi of wooded, flat trails. Visit the environmental center. Meet at Ford Fairlane Mansion parking lot. Opt restaurant stop. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

1/8 NG Murphy Lake Hike. 10am. 6.5mi. Difficult. Off Millington Rd. Trailhead is across from Mt. Kotarski sign. Restaurant stop. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406, or mansfieldd@chartermi.net.

1/8 SEMG Ski (Hike) at Independence Oaks. 11am. Easy/advanced level. Great vistas from the trails overlooking Crooked Lake. Ski rentals available at park (call 248-625-0877). If no snow, 5mi hike around lake. Bring lunch/drink. Dress for weather. Meet in Meijer parking lot, Rochester Hills. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

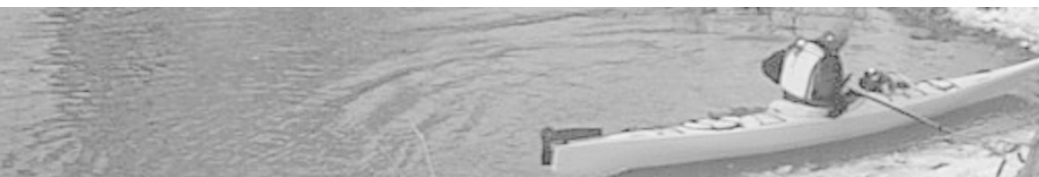
1/9 SEMG [E] Maybury Wildflower Walk. Noon. Dress warmly for walking slowly, stopping to ID winter wildflowers for about two hours. Meet at Maybury State Park concession building, 8 Mile Rd entrance. Opt restaurant stop after. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

1/13-18 CUPG Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore & Kingston Plains area (Munising). Winter camping via sleds & snowshoes for the fit, equipped, advanced level; minus 20-30 degree winter camper. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

1/16 SEMG Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 1pm. 6mi hike through rolling terrain, woodlands & high meadows. Meet behind CVS, Bloomfield Hills or at park contact station at 1:45pm. Rain or shine. Opt restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

1/22 SEMG [E] Ortonville State Rec. Area Hike. 9am. 4mi, mod pace, some bushwhacking. Call if weather is questionable. Opt restaurant stop after. Meet in Costco parking lot, Bloomfield Twp. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

1/28-30 HVG McMullen Conference Center Ski Trip. Spend 2 nights at conference center on Higgins Lake



A WINTER CANOER ADJUSTS GEAR WHILE PADDLING ON THE HURON RIVER. RON SMITH

near Roscommon. Ski numerous trails. Good food/accommodations in beautiful setting. Trip limit 20. Barb Schumacher, 734-994-5456.

1/28-30 KVG Cross Country/Downhill Ski Weekend. Outdoor fun at Crystal Mountain, west of Cadillac. #1-rated cross-country trails in MI. Some new downhill terrain. Leave Friday afternoon/evening. Reservations required. Paul, 269-664-5417 or paulhs@aol.com.

1/28-30 SEMG Grayling Area X-C Ski Weekend. 2 full days of winter fun. Ski at Forbush Corners, Hanson Hills, & Hartwick Pines. Meet in northern suburbs 4pm Friday. Grayling motel w/pool, Jacuzzi, continental breakfast. Return 9pm Sun. Reservation & \$20 deposit required by 1/21. Trippers responsible for motel, meals, ski fees, ride sharing. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370 or joannecantoni@netzero.net; Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil3@netzero.net.

1/29-30 NG Winter Camping/Backpacking. Vanderbilt, MI. Pigeon River Area. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldd@chartermi.net.

1/29 SEMG Maybury State Park Hike. 11am. Mod hike, varied terrain. Dress in layers. Trip goes rain or shine. Opt restaurant stop after. Meet at park concession, 8 Mile Rd entrance. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

February

2/13 CG Annual Crossroads Group Winter Paddle. Noon. Paddle the Huron River from Kent Lake Beach, Island Lake Rec Area. Canoe rental available from Heavner's. RSVP Ron Smith, 734-878-3689 or Rsmith9999@aol.com; Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464 or mconnell_cheryl@yahoo.com.

2/5 SEMG [E] Maybury in the Moonlight. 6:30pm. Evening hike lighted by the moon at Maybury. Safe, moderate pace. View constellations overhead as we go approx 4mi. Dress in layers. Meet at Maybury State Park horse stable parking lot. Restaurant stop after. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

2/13 SEMG Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 1pm. 6mi hike through rolling terrain, woodlands & high meadows. Enjoy the grand vistas. Meet behind CVS in Bloomfield Hills or at park contact station at 1:45pm. Rain or shine. Opt restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

2/10-15 CUPG 18th Annual Canadian Snowshoe Expedition. Old Woman Lake (Lake Superior Provincial Park, Ontario). Winter camping via sleds & snowshoes for the fit, equipped, expert-level, minus 40-50 degree winter camper. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

2/27 SEMG [E] 14th Annual Ice Hike-Pointe Pelee. 9:30am. Dress warmly for 2-3 hours of outdoor fun, exploring interior trails of Pointe Pelee, climbing snow

piles on the pointe. Meet at Ontario Info Center in Windsor. Bring passport or birth cert/picture ID. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

March

3/3-8 CUPG Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (Munising). Winter camping & caving (ice caves & wilderness caves; helmets required) via sleds & snowshoes for the fit, equipped, advanced level, minus 20-30 degree winter camper. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

3/12 TG Brown Bridge Quiet Area Hike. 10am. Hike diverse area with white cedar, black spruce, tamarack & balsam fir trees. Abundant wildlife. Dress for weather/wet trails. Register by 3/11. Andrea, 231-947-9344; Monica, imagine@betsievalley.net.

3/26 TG Pyramid Point. 10am. Rolling meadows, beechwood forests & incredible bluffs on shores of Lake Michigan. 2.7mi, easy/mod. Trailhead on Point Oneida Rd N of Glen Arbor. Register by 3/25. Andrea, 231-947-9322; Monica, imagine@betsievalley.net

April

4/9 TG Treat Property Trail Hike, Empire. 11am. Family farm now part of National Park. Hike hills & meadows. Incredible Lake Michigan shoreline views. Register by 4/8. Andrea, 231-947-9344.

4/23 TG Celebrate Earth Day & John Muir's Birthday. 7pm. Full moon bonfire at the home of Monica Evans, weather permitting. Bring your own drinks, campfire snacks. Birthday cake provided! RSVP. Monica, 231-325-6812.

OUTINGS LEADERS: Join an email discussion list for Mackinac Chapter Outings Leaders. Go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives>. Click on the List name (MI-OUTINGS-LEADERS-FORUM), then click "join."

OUTINGS PARTICIPANTS: Receive once-a-month email announcements of upcoming outings by joining the Mackinac Chapter Outings News List. Go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives>. Click on the list name (MI-OUTINGS-NEWS) then click "join."

Toxic Mess, cont. from page 17

funds for cleanup via a bond issue on the November ballot. And in 1990, Blanchard signed into law a "polluter pay" law, establishing strict liability for parties that owned contaminated land. The law scored some initial successes, resulting in the awarding to the state of more than \$51.6 million in cleanup costs and fines in its first four years. But Governor John Engler successfully called for its repeal in 1995, arguing that it unfairly placed cleanup responsibilities on innocent landowners, and scared off developers of urban lands that might be poisoned. The state continues to struggle to find funding to deal with thousands of remaining contamination sites.

How did we get into this mess? An engineer who worked at Whitehall Leather on the west side of the state, Paul Parks (who would later become a crusader for protection of Lake Michigan from oil drilling) put it succinctly: "The company was not going to spend money on pollution control, something where there was no return on investment, unless it had to." So until government came along after passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to demand such spending, the mess was ignored, brushed aside, or regarded as the public's problem. In some ways it still is.



Dave Dempsey is author of *The Great Lakes in the 21st Century and Ruin & Recovery: Michigan's Rise As a Conservation Leader*.

Taking Action: Your Words Count!

[HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/ACTION.HTML](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/action.html)

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President George W. Bush
The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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

U.S. Congress

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

or U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Capitol switchboard:
202-224-3121

Michigan

Governor Jennifer Granholm
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400

The Honorable _____
Michigan House
or Michigan Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909

Resources for Activists

- Get your free copy of "A Citizen's Guide To State Government" to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Rick Johnson at 517-373-1747, tell him you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask him to send you a copy!
- 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, email majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).
- Sierra Club's National Website is at www.sierraclub.org. Check out the regular *W Watch* postings.
- Visit our Mackinac Chapter Website: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>
- Get a free subscription to *The Planet* by promising to write at least three 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.
- Email Activists Needed! Join the Sierra Club's Mackinac Action Network. Members receive periodic legislative updates and respond to alerts when critical environmental bills are being acted upon in the Michigan House and Senate. When the Sierra Club needs you most, we'll contact you via email through the Mackinac Action Network. To respond to alerts, simply follow the web link, customize a suggested message to the targeted legislators, and press Send. It's that easy! Sign up at <http://mackinac.sierraclubaction.org> (note that there is no "www" in the address). For more information, send an email to gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

UnClassifieds

ENJOY FUNDRAISING? You can help your local group raise money by selling Sierra Club calendars, recycled paper stationery and t-shirts. Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

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Mackinac Chapter Directory

HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/DIRECTORY.HTML

MACKINAC CHAPTER MAIN OFFICE

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Gayle Miller.....gayle.miller@sierraclub.org

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Marvin Roberson.....marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org

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Amanda Hightree.....amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org

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Southeast Michigan Media Coordinator

Kim Hunter.....313-965-0055, kim.hunter@sierraclub.org

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Shelly Campbell.....shelly.campbell@sierraclub.org

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Student Community Organizer

Melissa Damaschke.....melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org

Community Organizer

Leigh Fifelski.....leigh.fifelski@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

85 Second Street, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 Phone: 415-977-5500

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please include old mailing label and send to: PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80321-2968

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Anne Woiwode Marks Her 20th Anniversary with the Mackinac Chapter

by Sue Kelly, Mackinac Chapter Co-Chair

Anne's guidance and respect for both the volunteer leadership and the chapter staff has been the reason that the Mackinac Chapter is simply a terrific and highly effective working environment. Her realistic insight into what it is that our Chapter needs and her ability to pick superbly qualified staff people cannot be underestimated.



COURTESY RITA JACK

Anne is a wonderful role model for activists, both staff and volunteer; after setbacks she gets back up and keeps on working and her sense of humor and common sense are reassuring.

Anne Woiwode has been a Sierra Club member for 23 years. She first became involved as a member of the local group in mid-Michigan around 1982, and soon after began volunteering at the chapter level, eventually serving as Chapter Chair. In 1985 she accepted the job of Chapter Director, serving in this capacity for a total of 12 years. Under Anne's direction, the Mackinac Chapter membership has increased to 20,000 members and the staff has increased to nine.

The Mackinac Chapter has become a force to be reckoned with in the political arena, thanks in large part to the tireless work of Anne. She has a wonderful talent for arguing cogently on an issue in front of the legislature, and lobbyists for other organizations speak of her with a great deal of respect.

Anne Woiwode has served on local, state, regional and national Sierra Club committees, and is widely regarded as the best and most influential chapter director in the Sierra Club. She has built a respected relationship with the major media outlets in Michigan, and the press know her to be a reliable, consistent contact on environmental issues.

There is simply no way to describe how much Anne has done for the environment, her volunteers and her employees. Simply put, Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter would not be what it is today without her leadership. Thanks, Anne! And congratulations.



AMANDA HIGHTREE



COURTESY ANNE WOIWODE

To read what just a few of Anne's friends, colleagues and admirers have said about Anne, visit <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/about/woiwode.html> for an online tribute to Anne's 20 years of service with Sierra Club in Michigan.

ADVERTISE IN THE MACKINAC AND REACH 20,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN MICHIGAN! CALL 231-352-4931 FOR OUR RATE CARD, OR EMAIL SHELDONJULIE@HOTMAIL.COM.

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The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.