

Crossroads

Sierra Club

Summer 2016



Balloonfest + Crossroads Lemonade Stand = Fun

Once again the Crossroads Group will set up its ever-popular lemonade stand at the annual Michigan Challenge Balloonfest to be held the weekend of June 24-26 in Howell. Our stand at this event provides funding for all the activities that make our group such an important part of the community including our outings, programs, newsletters and our conservation work.

For many years, we have been preparing hotdogs, brats and our trademark fresh-squeezed lemonade for the crowds that come each year to enjoy the festival. It is generally our only fundraiser of the year. But it does not happen without the help of all of our Crossroads supporters.

By volunteering to help at the lemonade stand, members get a free pass to the festival. It provides a great chance to get involved and meet other members of Sierra Club, to make new friends and support our important work.

We have shifts all weekend long to meet anyone's schedule with experienced people always at hand. People often come early or stay late to enjoy all the activities and spectacles surrounding the festival. Shifts will take place as follows but feel free to modify them as needed to fit your schedule:

Thursday setup: Evening

Friday: 12-6 PM, 4 PM until closing

Saturday: 10 AM- 3 PM, 12 noon-6 PM, 5 PM until closing

Sunday: 10 AM- 3 PM, 12 noon-5 PM, 3 PM until closing

One cannot say enough about the sight of dozens of hot air balloons lifting off into the summer sky...and there is no better vantage point than our booth which enjoys the best view of the launch field! But the biggest reward is knowing that by giving even a few hours of your time, you help make Crossroads an active voice for a better environment and a better community.

Anyone interested in volunteering or just learning more can call or email Paul Thielking, our fundraising chair. We look forward to seeing you in June! Phone: 810-588-6077 Email: sierraclublemonade@hotmail.com

Thanks in advance to those of you who are able to give us a hand with the lemonade stand and help the Crossroads Sierra Club remain a vital part of our community.

Thank you to our donors!

Thank you to all the people who sent donations to our group after the appeal in our last newsletter. We appreciate all of our generous members, and promise your money will be put to good use!

Executive Committee Chairs

Chairperson: Lee Burton
Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org

Vice Chairperson: Sue Kelly
cg.vicechair@michigan.sierraclub.org

Treasurer: Julie Griess
cg.treasurer@michigan.sierraclub.org

Secretary: Laurie Mercure
cg.secretary@michigan.sierraclub.org

Chapter Group Rep.: Mary Andersson
cg.grouprep@michigan.sierraclub.org

Fundraising: Paul Thielking, Paula Gruszka
Paul.Thielking@michigan.sierraclub.org

Media: Katie Parrish
cg.media@michigan.sierraclub.org

Membership: Pam Medelis
cg.membership@michigan.sierraclub.org

Newsletter: Terry Gannon
cg.pubs@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings: John Wilson
crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political: Julie Griess
cg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org

Programs:
Mary Novrocki, Andrea McKenzie
cg.programs@michigan.sierraclub.org

Webmaster: Laurie Mercure
cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org

Conservation: Sue Kelly, Ron Kardos
cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org

VISIT US AT:
www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads



Let's be Active in Shutting Down Line 5!

Last summer, based on recommendations from his own task force, Michigan's Attorney General admitted that the Line 5 pipeline under the straits of Mackinac would not be permitted in today's climate, and that "its days are numbered". Yet no action has been taken! For this reason, communities and organizations across Michigan are taking a stand on this issue. As of this writing, twenty-six municipalities have passed resolutions asking Governor Snyder to shut it down NOW! For example, the Ingham County Commissioners recently passed Resolution 16-076 demanding that Line 5 be shut down.

The Crossroads Group's Conservation Committee, cooperating in an initiative by Food and Water Watch, is ready to help concerned citizens in Livingston and Oakland Counties make their voices heard. Do you ever attend your village, township or county meetings? Are you on a first name basis with any local elected official? Are you involved with any professional organization that might be concerned with Michigan's economy or environment? We would be thrilled to assist you in presenting material for such a resolution. We could provide sample language and talking points. We could attend meetings with you, and possibly find other Sierra Club members who live near you and might participate. In the case of geographically large entities, such as the county, we could help coordinate efforts. If you want to help protect our Great Lakes, contact the Crossroads Conservation Committee at cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org. Let's not sit by helplessly waiting for this disaster to happen!

Great Lakes, Bad Lines

On April 25th, Julie Griess and I attended the "Great Lakes, Bad Lines" film at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. It is a story of two Michigan adventurers and their 500-mile, fossil-fuel-free journey across the Upper Peninsula along the route of Line 5 – a 63-year-old pipeline – that threatens our inland waters and Great Lakes. Every day nearly 23 million gallons of oil flow through Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline located on the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac just west of the Mackinac Bridge. They described the beauty of the land and water that it passed through and what a travesty it would be to see it damaged by a spill. A travesty indeed!

I found the film entertaining and although it didn't offer any new revelations for those of us who have studied this issue, it did provide a lot of good information for those who were less informed. There was a full house in the Screening Room (seating capacity of 200) and based on the questions that were asked at the end, the knowledge base of the viewers was rather diverse.

Ron Kardos, Crossroads Conservation Committee Co-Chair



Wouldn't this be nice beneath the straits?

Political Committee Progress for this Election Cycle

We have completed the early endorsements phase for this year's elections. In the Crossroads Group, we have endorsed Melissa Gilbert for Congress in the 8th District. We cooperated with the Central Michigan and Southeast Michigan groups who share a part of this district. Gilbert completed our National Questionnaire and was also interviewed last December by all three groups.

Our findings were that Gilbert is broadly supportive of the Sierra Club's environmental positions, and has a particular interest in clean air and wildlife issues. Her opponent, Mike Bishop, scored a 4% positive vote chart on the most current analysis. While this is a difficult district for a democrat to win, we hope that her substantial name recognition and adequate funding will help her campaign.

Sierra Club members are encouraged to volunteer for this campaign! Since she is officially endorsed, wear your Sierra Club t-shirts and buttons when you work for her!

It is possible that there will be additional endorsements in our area as candidates submit state questionnaires for review. You will be notified of all endorsements, or check the chapter web page at www.sierraclub.org/michigan/endorsed-candidates.

Crossroads: Building Bridges Through Partnerships

Recently the Crossroads Group collaborated with Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton (CUUB) in the showing of the film *This Changes Everything*, a film about climate change. Future collaborations are in the works. One might ask what a church and an environmental group have in common. In this case, it is a concern for the environment.

The purpose of collaborating with other local organizations is to create bonds of friendship and camaraderie when common ground unites us in our goals and values. This will help us further our reach into our community and make us more effective in the work we do. Such partnerships may be limited, but there is added strength when disparate groups unite for a common purpose.

If you are a member of an organization in our area and would like to explore a collaboration with the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at: cg@michigan.sierraclub.org



Fern unfurling April 28th

Crossroads Outings

Outings are subject to conditions. To check for cancellations or changes, or to find out more information about any outing, see our website (www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads) or contact John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org. All outings are open to Sierra Club members and non-members.

Huron Meadows Wildflower and Nature Hike - Saturday May 14th, 1 PM

Location: Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton;

meet at the Cedar Ridge picnic area / boat launch parking lot

Skill Level: novices to advanced; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

We will hike approximately 3 miles on the scenic Moraine Fen and Hidden Lake Bend trails. Our knowledgeable guides will point out wildflowers and other examples of natural beauty along the way.

Highland State Recreation Area Hike - Sunday May 22nd, 1 PM

Location: 5200 Highland Rd, White Lake;

meet at the trailhead parking area in front of the historic barn (follow main road from park entrance 1.4 miles).

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for a 5-mile hike through hardwoods and wetlands in a park that is one of lower Michigan's best kept secrets.

Pinckney State Recreation Area Bird and Nature Hike - Sunday June 5th, 9 AM

Location: Pinckney State Recreation Area, Cedar Lake Rd just south of M-36, Pinckney

Skill Level: easy to moderate, no experience necessary; Cost: free

Join us on a scenic 2-mile hike through some beautiful wetlands and hilly terrain in Pinckney State Recreation Area. Our guides will point out birds and other interesting flora and fauna.

We will start where the Lakelands Trail crosses Cedar Lake Road just a short distance south of M-36. To get there, take M-36 1 mile west of downtown Pinckney and turn left on Cedar Lake Rd. Park at the trail crossing parking lot, or along Cedar Lake Rd.

Waterloo Recreation Area Bog and Orchid Hike - Saturday June 11th, 10 AM

Location: Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center, 17030 Bush Rd, Chelsea

Difficulty: Easy; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

We will hike 1.5 miles each way from the Discovery Center to the floating bog. The trail features forests, unusual wetland formations, carnivorous plants, and orchids. After the bog hike, visit the Discovery Center to learn about the fascinating glacial formation of the area.

For anyone interested, we will meet for lunch at a restaurant after this outing.

Island Lake Recreation Area Trail Day Service Outing - Sunday June 12th, 9:30 AM

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton;

meet at the Kent Lake beach parking lot

Skill level: beginner. Difficulty moderate to heavy; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Island Lake is putting in a new 5-mile trail for hikers only! Spend a few hours and come help us build this new trail.

Work will mostly involve clearing brush and vegetation from an old existing trail along the Huron River, and cutting some new trail along sloped embankments. This will be a great addition to Island Lake Recreation Area for hikers!

Kensington Metropark Summer Solstice Weeknight Hike - Wednesday June 22nd, 7 PM

Location: Kensington Metropark, park entrance is off Kensington Rd just north of I-96, Brighton;

meet at the Nature Center

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Join us to take advantage of our beautiful summer nights in Michigan. This will be a 3-mile hike around Wildwing Lake and other trails.

Highland State Recreation Area Service Outing & Lunch (optional) - Sunday July 10th, 9 AM

Location: 5200 Highland Rd, White Lake; meet at the Gate House right inside the park entrance

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport (lunch cost not included)

Join us for a volunteer work day with the Friends of Highland Recreation Area. This is a great opportunity to continue the work and restorations that the Friends Group has accomplished, and make a contribution to one of the most scenic parks in our area!

For anyone interested, we will have lunch at a local restaurant after our service outing.

Brighton Recreation Area Weeknight Hike - Wednesday July 20th, 7 PM

Location: Kahchin Trail, Bishop Lake trailhead parking lot, Howell; park entrance is off Bishop Lake Rd, 1.4 miles east of Chilson Rd. For more specific directions see our website or contact our outings leader.

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for a weeknight hike on the Kahchin Trail. The trail is 2 miles through woods and meadows. A great hike near our own back yard!

Canoe / Kayak Trip on the Huron River - Saturday July 23rd, 10 AM

Location: Heavner Canoe Rental, 2775 Garden Rd, Milford (near Proud Lake State Recreation Area)

Skill Level: some experience; Difficulty: moderate

Cost \$40 for 2-person canoe or 1-person or 2-person kayak rental, plus state park entry fee or passport

Join us for a 3-hour paddle on a classic section of the upper Huron River. The paddle will begin at Proud Lake State Recreation Area and end at the Kensington Metropark Group Camp, where you will be returned to your vehicle at Proud Lake. Pre-registration encouraged so they know how many boats to reserve. Mention Crossroads Sierra Club when you register. You can register online at www.heavnercanoe.com/proud-lake. If you are interested and would like to volunteer, we might have the opportunity to pair with a special needs or underprivileged child or adult. See www.heavnernatureconnection.org for more information on this “No Child Left Inside” program.

West River Trail Bike Ride - Sunday August 14th, 10 AM

Location: Hudson Mills Metropark - 8801 N Territorial Rd, Dexter; meet at the Activity Center

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Join us for an easy 10-mile pedal on the West River Trail along the Huron River. We will make stops to examine the various habitats that we pass through on our journey. The trail runs along the west bank of the Huron River, and ends (with our turn-around point) at Mill Creek Park in Dexter.

For anyone interested, we will have lunch at a local restaurant after our ride.

Chelsea Park Lyndon North Fen Prairie Nature Hike - Saturday August 20th, 10 AM

Location: 18801 N Territorial Rd, Chelsea; Park Lyndon North parking lot

Skill level: beginner, Difficulty: Easy; Cost: free

Join us on a 2-mile hike through upland glacial terrain, wetland depressions, swamp, fen, bog, marsh, and meadow with over 500 species of plants and a variety of animal residents. Park Lyndon North is known for its unique geology and wetland areas that support beautiful wildflowers. We will identify ferns and other plants along the way. Be sure to wear waterproof footwear – hike will be wet!

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Annual Retreat - August 26th – 28th

An affordable all-inclusive weekend retreat at historic Camp Miniwanca, a private Lake Michigan gem just north of Muskegon. Located among 360 wooded acres on a stretch of gorgeous Lake Michigan beach front, Miniwanca offers lodging options from tent camping, to rooms located steps away from the beach, to cabins among the pines. A fun-filled weekend of activities, workshops, educational presentations, and our famous auction. Join us for swimming, hiking, campfires, kayaking, woodworking, ropes course, crafting, yoga, tubing, and more. See www.sierraclub.org/michigan/chapter-retreat for more information.

Sierra Club Crossroads Group 25th Anniversary Celebration! - Sunday Sept. 18th

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, Hickory Picnic Shelter

We will have games and activities including volleyball, horseshoes, and disc golf. Bring the whole family! A variety of main dishes provided, bring a dish to share if you like.

Crossroads Programs

Crossroads Sierra Club presents these free programs, open to the public:

Gaswork: a new film by Josh Fox – Wednesday May 18th, 7 pm
Brighton District Library 100 Library Dr, Brighton



"Gaswork" highlights how destructive oil and gas companies, specifically fracking companies, can be to their workers. The ET Rover and NEXUS pipelines are two unnecessary proposed pipelines that would carry fracked gas from Pennsylvania and West Virginia – and would use Michigan as a shortcut to export to Canada. Join us for this screening and take action in your community to help stop the ET Rover and NEXUS pipeline proposals. Screening courtesy of Food & Water Watch.

Politics of the Environment - Wednesday September 21st, 7 pm
Brighton District Library 100 Library Dr, Brighton



A program by Political Chair Richard Barron and Political Director Mike Berkowitz of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Find out what the Michigan legislature has been up to in regard to environmental issues, how your lawmakers voted on those issues, what the 2016 election is going to look like, how the political races in our area are shaping up, and how they will impact our environment. There will be time for Questions & Answers after the program.

Community Unitarian Universalists of Brighton (CUUB) presents:

Monarch Butterflies - Sunday May 15th, 12 pm
Community Unitarian Universalists of Brighton 3333 S Old US Hwy 23, Brighton

Debbie Jackson from Monarch Venture will give a presentation on Monarch butterflies, exhibiting Monarchs in their various stages of development. Event is free (donations welcome)
For more information call 810-225-2882 or see www.cuub.org

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

May 21st Howell

July 30th Green Oak

October 15th Howell

All events are held on Saturdays between 9 am and 12 noon.
Please call 517-545-9609 for a REQUIRED appointment and to confirm location.
Materials for Kitchen and Bath, Workshop and Garage, Garden and Outdoor
See www.livgov.com/dpw for more details about what is accepted.

Democracy Awakening Event



Our Crossroads Group was represented at the Democracy Awakening event in Washington D.C. which took place April 15th-17th this year. Organizations involved in this event included the Sierra Club, NAACP, Greenpeace, Black Lives Matter, LGBT groups, and over 200 others. The main focus of the event was keeping money out of politics, by protesting the Supreme Court ruling in favor of Citizens United which allows for-profit corporations to contribute to political candidates. Over 300 protestors were arrested at this event, including National Sierra Club president Aaron Mair. Their arrests were part of a pre-planned act of non-violent civil disobedience in order raise awareness. The Sierra Club will continue to chip away at issues that threaten our environment.



We would like to extend our thanks to Mark Hagerty and Michigan Solar Solutions for their support of the Crossroads Group. MSS installs solar electric systems using domestically made solar panels. They also help customers with other energy saving applications to reduce energy usage. Their financial sponsorship supports the ongoing activities of the Crossroads Group.

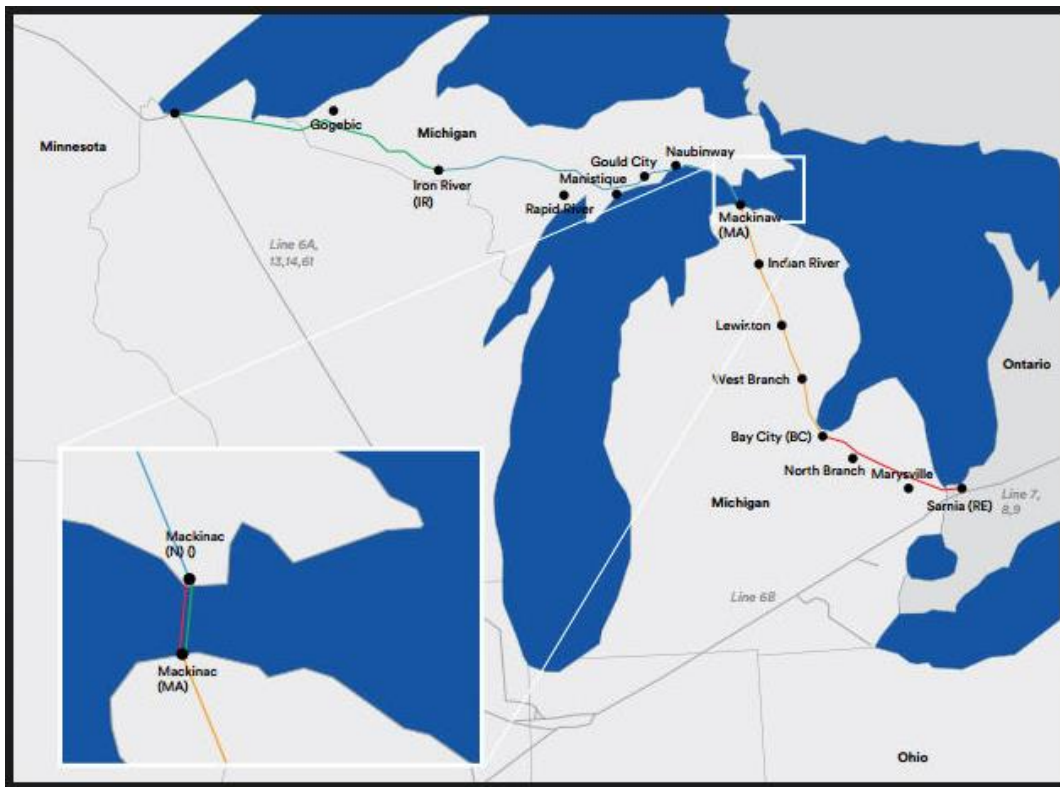


Since 1963 the Howell Conference & Nature Center has developed a one-of-a-kind mission: providing a comprehensive wildlife rehabilitation, environmental and outdoor education, and outdoor recreation facility to individuals and groups. Features of the 270-acre location include: seven spacious, modern lodges; miles of trails; a nationally-recognized wildlife rehabilitation program; the Midwest's only Heifer Global Village site; the area's only zip course; Michigan's tallest outdoor climbing tower; two high ropes courses; Livingston county's only zoo; and more. Moreover, the Center's Wildlife Rehabilitation program celebrated 30 years in service to injured and orphaned animals in 2012. It is the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in Michigan, and is recognized across the country for its specialization in raptors, or birds of prey.



Sierra Club—Crossroads Group
P.O. Box 306
Brighton, MI 48116

Thanks to our friends at Big PDQ printing for their support. 810-229-2989 <http://www.bigpdq.com/>



Line 5 runs through the upper and lower peninsulas, crossing the Straits and St. Clair River