

CROSSROADS

SIERRA CLUB

WINTER 2016



Michigan Ban Fracking ballot initiative resumes collecting signatures

The Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, a statewide ballot initiative campaign (www.letsbanfracking.org), has resumed collecting signatures through May 2016 to put the ballot proposal on the November 2016 ballot. The approximately 150,000 signatures already collected in 2015 will also be used to reach the goal of 252,523 valid signatures before the state's June 1, 2016 deadline. Campaign director LuAnne Kozma said "We're halfway there. We call on all Michiganders who want to make the effort a success to get involved immediately, by donating to and/or volunteering for the campaign. When we have volunteers out there collecting, people sign." To volunteer with the Committee: register on the campaign's website (www.letsbanfracking.org), take the required training, and use only official petitions printed by the Committee. Find out how/where you can sign the petition on our website www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads or email cg.programs@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Remembering Gerry Neumeier

For those of you who have gone on Crossroads outings, particularly those on water, you may recall having the company of Gerry Neumeier. Gerry was an outdoor enthusiast and avid biker, runner and kayaker. With Gerry along on an outing, you knew you would be well prepared to meet any challenge. In addition, you would have the company of a kind and caring individual whose warmth and enthusiasm was infectious.

Gerry had been active in the Crossroads Group for several years, helping on outings, giving a presentation on building kayaks and supporting the efforts of others, when he was struck by a series of health issues that took his life in November. He had been on the road to recovery when he succumbed to a sudden and shocking downturn.

Gerry was emblematic of the kind of volunteer that makes the Crossroads Group a dynamic organization. He was a friend to all and always willing to lend a hand. It did not take long after meeting Gerry to know that this is the kind of person who can make your community a better place. He will be dearly missed.



Executive Committee Chairs

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

Vice Chairperson: Sue Kelly
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VISIT US AT:
www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads



Crossroads Needs Your Help

Programs- Outings- Conservation- Newsletters Community Outreach

The Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club needs your help. We have been hard at work this past year providing quality programs to the public free of charge, offering more outings than ever before, issuing newsletters 3 times a year, organizing and educating local citizenry in the face of challenges from fracking and pipeline construction, and backing efforts to safeguard the environment.

These activities all cost money and our major fundraiser, our lemonade stand at the annual Howell Balloonfest, has fallen short these last two years when poor weather resulted in reduced attendance.

With a contribution of \$25, or whatever you are comfortable with, you can support our vital role in making our community a better place to live. We are an all-volunteer organization so you will have the comfort of knowing that **every penny you give will go directly towards supporting our activities.**

With a strong and vibrant Crossroads Group, area residents will have a voice to speak for them to help protect the things we find so important: clean air, clean water, and the preservation of natural areas; a group that works hard and cares.

Please make your check out to Crossroads Group- Sierra Club and send it to: Crossroads Group, Box 306, Brighton, MI 48116. You may use the same envelope to send in your elections ballot.

Your leadership team thanks you for your support. Please note: Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible due to the work we do protecting the environment.

Name_____

Amount enclosed_____

Address_____

Phone_____

A Cure for the Winter Blues

The colder weather and fewer hours of daylight in the winter months can sap energy and cause depression. One cure is to get some exercise outdoors. Even on cold or cloudy days, outdoor light can help. And physical activity helps to relieve stress and anxiety.

We are lucky to live in a part of Michigan that has many beautiful parks filled with hiking and skiing trails. See page 6 of this newsletter for a list of our winter outings – join us and help to alleviate your winter blues.

Elections 2016- Crossroads Group Executive Officers

This year there are five vacancies to be filled on the Executive Committee of the Crossroads Group. Please read the following candidate statements and use the enclosed ballot to vote to vote for up to five of the candidates. The second column is for use by those with joint membership. Ballots must be returned by January 31st, 2016.

Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2016 Official Ballot

	Member	Joint Member
Mary Andersson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrea McKenzie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pam Medelis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laurie Mercure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please:

- 1. Vote for up to five people (their statements are on the following page).**
- 2. Cut off the ballot.**
- 3. Place the ballot in an envelope.**
- 4. Write your membership number (from address label) on the outside of the envelope.**
- 5. Mail the ballot to:**
Sierra Club Crossroads Group
P.O. Box 306
Brighton MI 48116

2016 Crossroads Executive Committee Candidate Statements

Mary Andersson

I grew up in Utica, Michigan with the Clinton River in my backyard. Summers were spent swinging from grapevines, swimming and going for a family walk in the woods on Sundays! I love our great state of Michigan and I'm committed to protecting our air and water. I serve on our Outings Committee, Political Committee, Conservation Committee as well as a coordinator for the Let's Ban Fracking in Michigan Campaign. I also serve as Crossroads Group Representative to the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. I would appreciate your vote to continue serving you. Come join us! Email any one of us to find out where our next monthly meeting will be. We have 12-15 people who regularly attend and our meetings are open to everyone!

Sue Kelly

As an active Sierra Club leader since 1991, I am proudest of the Crossroads' continued work on the preservation of Lady Bird Johnson Park near Target in Brighton, the regulation of emissions from Thompson McCully in Whitmore Lake, the ill-fated Brighton Township Tree Ordinance, and our work on the Sherwood fracking well in Fowlerville.

If re-elected to the Crossroads Group Executive Committee, I would like to continue working on local environmental protection. My personal goals are the protection of our community from the risks of hydraulic fracturing to the fullest extent and moving us closer to a renewable energy economy.

Andrea McKenzie

I have been a Sierra Club supporter for years, donating what I could because I've felt that conservation is incredibly necessary and the Sierra Club is a very strong and important organization that gets things done. When I learned about the "Fracking" going on in our beautiful state, I felt the need to get involved further. I am proud to have been part of the Crossroads group, who has played an important part in educating our community about the detrimental effects to the water, air and land by this destructive process. I would like to continue to be involved with this great group of well informed, nature loving individuals and make a difference for my children's future.

Pam Medelis

I enjoy being outdoors whether it is just sitting in the warm sunshine listening to the birds or hiking in the woods or boating on one of many lakes in Michigan. I love wild animals and have always wanted to preserve their environment so that our children and their children can enjoy the outdoors and all it has to offer for many years to come. I recycle and buy local as much as possible. For the past year, I served as the membership chair and I was thrilled to see our membership grow each month. If returned to the Executive Committee, I look forward to increasing my knowledge and support of current issues that are endangering our environment.

Laurie Mercure

I have been a nature lover for my whole life, enjoying activities such as camping and bicycling throughout Michigan. For many years I have tried to do my part in protecting our planet. I reduce, reuse, recycle, and buy eco-friendly products whenever possible. I have been volunteering with the Crossroads Group for two years, as the webmaster and secretary, and helping out with our outings and newsletters. It has been great working with this nice group of people who care about the environment as much as I do. I would like to continue to help the Sierra Club by renewing my position as an Executive Committee member.

Super Group...Super Leaders

The Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club has long been recognized as a group that gets things done. Our leaders- all volunteers- are dedicated and conscientious and take care of business while also finding time to enjoy the company of their Crossroads companions and the environment that they work hard to protect.

This year two of our leaders were recognized for exceptional contributions. Laurie Mercure, our secretary and webmaster, received a Michigan Chapter Service Award. She has updated our websites and keeps them all current. Recently she registered us with Meetup which has increased participation at our outings and programs. She also helps edit our newsletters and provides timely minutes of leadership meetings. Her efforts have resulted in a stronger group with greater outreach.

Ron Kardos, who joined our leadership team a little over a year ago, was recognized by the Michigan Chapter with the Sylvania Award which recognizes a "Sierra Club volunteer who is new on the scene but who has already demonstrated great enthusiasm, hard work and dedication." Ron's focus has been the oil pipelines that threaten communities with serious disruption. He has spent a great many hours researching this topic and attending meetings across the county. His efforts have helped to activate and educate local citizens in the ongoing effort to protect our communities from the damage brought on by pipeline construction.

It is leadership such as provided by Laurie and Ron that continue to make the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club an effective agent for good in the greater Livingston County area. We invite you to join our team and meet the people that make things happen. In doing so, you will make new friends and have the opportunity to contribute to the good things we do. Meeting times are posted on our website. For more information, contact Lee Burton (lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org or 810-231-9045) or Sue Kelly (sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org).

Putnam Township Ballot Initiative

Crossroads members were able to call 500 Putnam Township residents to encourage them to vote in favor of a ballot initiative which, if passed, would have created funds to provide legal assistance to oppose the ET Rover Pipeline through the township. Volunteers from the ET Rover Go Home group called the remainder of the registered voters. Although the initiative failed, 578 in favor to 851 against, we did well considering the odds. Residents would have seen a property tax increase and when you consider the percentage of residents directly affected by the pipeline compared to those who would not be directly affected, it is more understandable. Although the logic which suggests "since the pipeline does not cross my property, I am not affected" is faulty, many individuals came to that conclusion. A thank you is in order to all the volunteers who made the calls.

At this time, the permit for the pipeline is still in the process of being reviewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Contact Ron Kardos at ron.kardos@michigan.sierraclub.org for more information.

Effort to Shut Down Line Five

As many of you know there has been a great deal of conversation recently about the aging Enbridge Line 5 pipeline through the Straits of Mackinac. Efforts are being made to encourage Governor Snyder and Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette to have the pipeline shut down. Since the Great Lakes contain 21% of the surface fresh water by volume on the earth and their health is critical to our lives in Michigan, it is imperative that we protect them. This pipeline is 63 years old, the currents are constantly reversing through the Straits and there is a major concern if there was a winter rupture. To that end, Sierra Club members have been working with Food and Water Watch to encourage municipalities to pass resolutions asking for a shutdown of this dangerous pipeline. The Sierra Club and many other environmental groups are meeting with our state legislators to educate them on the hazards the pipeline poses. To take action and learn more, go to: www.oilandwaterdontmix.org

You may also contact Ron Kardos at ron.kardos@michigan.sierraclub.org for additional information.

Crossroads Group Conservation Committee

Interested in local environmental issues? We meet most months to discuss and strategize on issues the Crossroads Group takes on in our area and how we can provide support to Michigan Chapter efforts as well. Contact sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org to find out about the next meeting. You must be a Sierra Club member to participate.

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 Metropark Cross Country Ski Outing/hike if no snow - Sunday January 31st, 1 PM

Location: Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton; meet at the Ski Center

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

Join us for an afternoon cross country ski outing. Ski and boot rental available. Enjoy miles of groomed trails both on the golf course and through the woods. Heated warming shelter and indoor bathrooms available. We will ski on shorter and longer distance trails depending on experience levels.

Highland State Recreation Area Hike - Saturday February 20th, 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.

Island Lake Recreation Area Hike - Sunday March 13th, 1 PM

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton; meet at the trailhead parking lot

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

Join us for a 5 mile hike through hardwoods and meadows on the east/yellow loop.

Kensington Metropark Nature Hike - Saturday April 2nd, 1 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

A slower-paced 2 mile nature identification hike around Wildwing Lake.

Brighton Recreation Area Tax Relief Hike! - Saturday April 16th, 1 PM

Location: Penosha Trail, Bishop Lake parking lot, off Bishop Lake Rd, Howell; see more details below

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

Join us for an afternoon hike on the Penosha Trail. The trail is 5 miles, approximately 2 ½ hours, through woods and meadows. See our website or contact our outings leader for specific directions to the trailhead parking lot. A great hike near our own back yard!

See our next newsletter or website for these upcoming events in the spring & summer: Zukey Lake Paddle trip, Deerfield Hills service trip, "No Child Left Inside" program with Heavner's Canoes.

Crossroads Programs

Crossroads Sierra Club Presents these 2 programs at the Brighton District Library
Free Admission

The Greened House Effect – January 20th, 7 pm
A Program by Jeff Wilson, author & HGTV host



How can you save 50-90% on your energy bills while solving the problems of our economy, environment, and energy security? With the “weatherization on steroids” of a Deep Energy Retrofit (DER), HGTV host Jeff Wilson tells the story of his family’s DER of their 70 year old home to slash their energy bills by 85% while making their home a more comfortable and healthier place to live. Jeff’s multi-media presentation is drawn from his recent book, *The Greened House Effect*, published by Chelsea Green.

The Future of Energy – March 16th, 7 pm

This powerful documentary that explains the clean energy revolution happening right now and how we can do our part to bring the cleanest, safest, and cheapest energy to our communities. Following the 60-minute film, representatives of the Alliance to Halt Fermi 3 will be on hand to discuss this enlightening and inspiring summary that arose out of The Solutions Project led by Dr. Mark Jacobson of Stanford University



Sierra Club – Crossroads Group
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Brighton, MI 48116

Thanks to our friends at Big PDQ printing for their support. 810-229-2989 www.bigpdq.com



Elections 2016- Crossroads Group Executive Officers
PLEASE VOTE (see Ballot – page 3; Candidates – page 4)



Michigan Solar Solutions: Our Newest Sponsor

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.