

# *Crossroads Group*

## *Sierra Club*

FALL 2017



### **Elections 2018 - Crossroads Group Executive Committee Members**

It may seem to some of you that we just held elections not that long ago. Our January elections put them at the tail end of the window established by national and this made it difficult to report changes of leadership in a timely manner. In the future, elections will be part of our fall newsletter.

We have enlarged our executive committee and so there are more positions to fill. Of the 7 positions to be filled, the top 6 vote-getters will fill 2-year terms. The other term will be for one year.

Please read the candidate statements on page 3 and use the enclosed ballot to vote for up to 7 of the candidates. The second column is for use by those with joint membership. Ballots must be returned by December 1, 2017.

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### **Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2018 Official Ballot**

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Joint Member</b>
<b>Mary Andersson</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Lorne Beatty</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Kate DeRosier</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Penny Goldstein</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sue Kelly</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Andrea Rude McKenzie</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Laurie Mercure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please:**

- 1. Vote for up to seven people (their statements are page three).**
  - 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**
-

## Coming Together

### Executive Committee Chairs

Chairperson: Lee Burton  
[Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Vice Chairperson: Sue Kelly  
[cg.vicechair@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.vicechair@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Treasurer: Julie Griess  
[cg.treasurer@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.treasurer@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Secretary: Laurie Mercure  
[cg.secretary@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.secretary@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Chapter Group Representative:  
Penny Goldstein, Lorne Beatty  
[cg.grouprep@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.grouprep@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Fundraising:  
Paul Thielking, Paula Gruszka  
[Paul.Thielking@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:Paul.Thielking@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Media: Nancy Schneider,  
[cg.media@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.media@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Membership: Pam Medelis  
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Newsletter: Terry Gannon  
[cg.pubs@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.pubs@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Outings: John Wilson  
[crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Political: Mary Andersson  
[cg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Programs:  
Mary Novrocki  
[cg.programs@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.programs@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Webmaster: Laurie Mercure  
[cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org)

Conservation: Sue Kelly, Ron Kardos  
[cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org)

VISIT US AT:  
[www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads)



The Crossroads Group has become a recognized source of environmental education and activism in the Greater Livingston County area and beyond. The leaders and members of the Group work effectively to advance the Sierra Club goal to “explore, enjoy and protect the planet”. This work involves long hours, a steady stream of volunteers and activists, and dogged determination. Crossroads is one of several organizations in our area that share many common goals. This includes the Livingston Land Conservancy, Recycle Livingston, Howell Nature Center, Huron River Watershed Council, local Audubon clubs, and more. Recently, the executive committee of Crossroads voted to reach out to our fellow organizations to pursue the formation of a Greater Livingston County Area Environmental Coalition.

The benefits of the coalition would be many, including mutual support of like-minded groups in order to establish an even greater presence in our area. By establishing communication links and promoting ongoing activities we can expand our community involvement and influence. The idea is to share the workload and promote the value of the good work being done in our communities every day. By sharing our resources, ideas, objectives and energy, a Livingston County Environmental Coalition would increase our visibility and lead to even more accomplishments.

The Greater Livingston County Area continues to grow and change rapidly. Decisions are being made almost daily that will affect our communities now and into the future. The Crossroads Group will continue to act as a progressive force to help ensure that the decisions that weigh on our quality of life have a positive impact. We will work to educate and assist our friends and members as they explore, enjoy and protect our piece of the planet and beyond. As the effort to build a countywide environmental coalition moves forward, we will keep you informed of our progress. Please contact Karen Pierce at [Crossroads.Sierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:Crossroads.Sierraclub@gmail.com) if you would like to know more about this exciting endeavor!

### Conservation Committee Update

The Act On Climate coalition has invited us to join them at events to speak to Rep. Mike Bishop regarding his inaction on climate change and environmental rollbacks. The goal is to raise public awareness by dramatizing the urgency of the issue through social and traditional media.

If you want to participate, contact [cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org).

We are meeting monthly and welcome all Sierra Club members to join us in this important work. Check out our website for updates on the issues we are engaged in at this time.

### Serving Our Community with Crossroads

Are you concerned about environmental issues? Do you enjoy our parks and natural areas? Are you ready to lend a hand in making our community a better place to live? Then consider playing a role with the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club while meeting like-minded people and making new friends.

We invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings where we can get to know each other. You will learn about our organization and the things that we do. There are many ways you can contribute to Crossroads and our community and we are certain that we can accommodate your time constraints and interests. When you join the Crossroads leadership team, you will be part of a dynamic organization that makes a difference in the lives of people. Working together we will build a better community. With Crossroads, you will find that you will get as much as you give. To learn more about the Crossroads Group and how you can contribute, contact Lee Burton at 810-231-9045 or [Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org).

# Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee Candidates

(see ballot on page 1)

## **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've been a Sierra Club member for 22 years. Currently I serve on our Outings Committee and Conservation Committee as well as being our Political Chair. 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 15-20 people who regularly attend and our meetings are open to everyone!

## **Lorne Beatty**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 30 years and one of the founding members of the Crossroads Group 25 years ago. In the past I have served on the Crossroads Group ExCom as Vice Chair, Treasurer, Fundraising Chair, Media Chair, Outings Chair and Group Rep to the State Chapter. I was also the Outings Chair for the Michigan Chapter for several years. I love the Great Outdoors, enjoy many outdoor activities and I am a strong advocate for protecting wild places, wildlife habitat, clean water and clean air. Our environmental activism must start locally to be effective statewide and nationally. I am asking for your vote to serve on the Crossroads Group ExCom again.

## **Kate DeRosier**

My first engagement with the Crossroads Group was on a fall outing at Kensington Metropark in September 2014, a week after riding on the Sierra Club bus to the People's Climate March in NYC. I joined Crossroads for the many outings (hiking, biking, paddling), discovered the educational programs, and then attended monthly Leadership meetings (open to all members). I was Media Chair in 2015 and now participate in the Conservation and Outings Committees. I'm passionate about political redistricting, shutting down Enbridge Line 5, and banning fracking in Michigan and proud and grateful to know, learn from, and be inspired by the dedicated and vibrant members of our SC Crossroads Group.

## **Penny Goldstein**

I am a writer and artist, but somehow keep finding myself on the boards of churches, community and professional organizations, probably because I like to help make good things happen and enjoy the friendships that often ensue from the work. Always a nature lover and frequent check-writer to environmental causes, I must confess to being content painting, gardening and camping in retirement – until November 2016. Realizing this was an “All Hands on Deck” moment, I chose to get more involved with the Sierra Club, and began serving as your representative to the Chapter Ex-Com this past January. I'm still on a learning curve with the many facets of the S.C., but enjoy being part of the Crossroads team and would like to continue in the year ahead.

## **Sue Kelly**

An active Sierra Club member since 1991, I have served in many capacities including Group Chair, Group Conservation Chair & Group Political Chair. At the Chapter I served as Chapter Chair & Political Chair. I am proud of the work we have done on the preservation of Lady Bird Johnson Park, the regulation of emissions from Thompson McCully, the establishment of Deerfield Hills Natural Area, and the ill-fated Brighton Township Tree Ordinance.

The issues I am most passionate about are moving into a renewable energy economy and protection of our wild places and waters. If re-elected to the Crossroads Group Executive Committee, I hope to continue work to shut down Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac and support local communities in Livingston County confronted with the ET Rover and Line 6B pipelines.

## **Andrea Rude McKenzie**

Now more than ever, staying aware of what's going on with our environment is incredibly important. Sierra Club keeps up on potential threats both nationally and locally. I am proud to be a part of our local Crossroads group, which is a wonderful group of people made up of activists and nature lovers. I would like to continue to be involved with this great group of well-informed, caring and fun individuals to help make a difference in our children's future.

## **Laurie Mercure**

I have been volunteering with the Sierra Club Crossroads Group for four years, as the webmaster and secretary, and assisting with our outings and newsletters. As the Meetup organizer, I have helped to greatly increase our attendance at outings and to recruit new members. It has been fun and rewarding to associate with this nice group of people who care about nature and the planet as much as I do. I would like to continue to help the Sierra Club by renewing my position as an Executive Committee member.

## Crossroads Group Outings

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

**\*\* Please arrive 15 minutes early for sign in, outings will start promptly at the stated time**

### **Highland State Recreation Area Hike & Optional Lunch - Sunday September 17th, 10 AM\*\***

**Location:** 5200 Highland Rd, White Lake; meet at the trailhead parking area in front of the historic barn (go straight past toll booth 1.4 miles, look for barn on right side). GPS coordinates: 42.6345, -83.5512

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

### **West River Trail Bike Ride with stop at Dexter Creamery - Saturday September 23rd, 1 PM\*\***

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

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

Join us for an easy 15 mile pedal on the West River Trail along the Huron River. This is a beautiful paved trail surrounded by trees, wildflowers, and meadows. The trail runs along the west bank of the Huron River, and ends (with our turn-around point) at Dexter-Huron Metropark. **HELMETS ARE REQUIRED!**

### **Kensington Waterfowl/Hawk Migration Hike - Sunday October 1st, 10AM\*\***

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

Meet at the Nature Center parking lot

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

Join us to on a 3 mile hike around Wildwing Lake to witness one of nature's amazing shows - the migration of hawks, ducks, geese and other wildfowl heading south for the winter. Bring binoculars or viewing scope.

### **Howell Nature Center Wild Wonders Wildlife Park - Saturday October 14th, 1 PM\*\***

**Location:** Howell Nature Center, 1005 Triangle Lake Road, Howell

**Skill Level:** beginner; **Difficulty:** easy; **Cost:** \$5 admission to the Nature Center, tour is free

Join us for a guided tour of The Wild Wonders Wildlife Park. The Wildlife Park provides an up-close view of many native Michigan birds and mammals, including coyote, beaver, porcupine, bobcat, bald eagle, owls, and much more. This educational zoo space is designed for all ages.

### **Sandhill Cranes at Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Audubon Sanctuary - Saturday October 28th, 5 PM\*\***

**Location:** Haehnle Sanctuary, Seymour Rd & Fairlane Dr, Grass Lake. Take I-94 to exit 147/Race Rd. North 2 miles, then west (left) on Seymour Rd for 1.5 miles. Meet at sanctuary parking lot - entrance is at the intersection of Fairlane Dr on the north side of Seymour Rd. GPS coordinates: 42.3214, -84.2882

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

The Haehnle Sanctuary is well known as THE staging area for Sandhill Cranes. Every autumn, thousands of these birds gather here in preparation for their southern migration. Join us for an evening of viewing these birds as they abandon their nesting areas to gather in their migration staging area, in preparation for their southward journey. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, binoculars or viewing scope, and a picnic or snacks if you like.

### **Island Lake Recreation Area Hike - Saturday November 11th, 1 PM\*\***

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

meet in the Kent Lake parking lot (go straight past toll booth, 1st lot on left) near the boat launch area (west side)

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

Join us for a 5-mile hike (shorter options available) on the new hikers-only Hickory Ridge trail.

## Crossroads Group Outings, continued

### **Black Friday “OptOutside Hike” at Island Lake Recreation Area - Friday November 24th, 1 PM\*\***

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

meet in the Kent Lake parking lot (go straight past toll booth, 1st lot on left) near the boat launch area (west side)

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

Avoid the malls and #OptOutside on Black Friday with Crossroads and the Friends of Island Lake!

This is a 5-mile hike (shorter options available) on the new hikers-only Hickory Ridge trail.

### **Brighton Recreation Area Penosha Trail Hike - Sunday December 3rd, 1 PM\*\***

**Location:** Bishop Lake parking lot, Howell; meet at the trailhead parking lot: From the intersection of Bishop Lake Rd and Chilson Rd in Howell, go east on Bishop Lake Rd 1.4 miles, turn right at Bishop Lake Complex sign then quick right after toll booth into trailhead parking lot. GPS coordinates: 42.501, -83.835

**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 through woods and meadows. A great hike near our own backyard!

### **Pinckney Recreation Area Crooked Lake Trail Hike - Saturday December 16th, 1 PM\*\***

**Location:** Pinckney Recreation Area, 8555 Silver Hill Rd., Pinckney; meet at the trailhead parking lot for the Silver Lake, Potawatomi, and Crooked Lake trails. GPS coordinates: 42.4169, -83.9642

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

Join us for a 5 mile fall hike on one of Michigan’s premier trail systems. The area is covered with glacial moraines, kettle lakes, and swampy lowlands.

### **Huron Meadows Metropark Ski Outing/hike if no snow - Saturday December 30th, 1 PM\*\***

**Location:** Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton; meet at the Ski/Golf 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. Celebrate the New Year early! We will hike if there is no snow.

### **Annual Owl Walk and Potluck Dinner - Saturday January 13th, 5 PM**

**Location:** Home of Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves, Brighton

**Difficulty:** easy; **Cost:** free

A fascinating way to spend a winter evening in Michigan, hosted by our Crossroads Sierra Club leader Lee and his wife Roberta at their home in Brighton. We will begin with a potluck dinner and drinks and an introduction to owls and owl calls. At about 7:00 we will venture into Brighton Recreation Area - just a short walk from the house - and call for screech owls and great horned owls, both of which will be nesting at the time. Bring a flashlight, a dish to share, something to drink and warm clothes. Your hosts will provide cider, juice, books about owls and the warmth of a wood fire. For more information and directions see our website or contact Lee at 810-231-9045 or [lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org).

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See our website [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads) for additional outings including events sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Friends of Island Lake State Recreation Area.

## Crossroads Group Programs

Free Admission at the Brighton District Library



### Michigan has Rattlesnakes

Wednesday September 20th, 7:00 PM

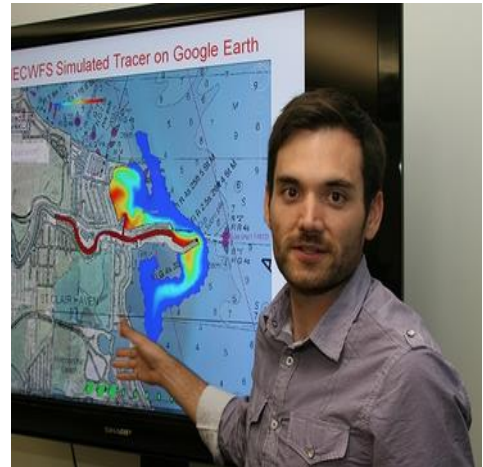
PhD Candidate Stephanie Shaffer conducts research on the Massasauga Rattlesnake, Michigan's only venomous snake; including its habitat, movements, and our ability to locate them in their habitat. She will present the fascinating background and findings of her conservation-based research.

### The Great Lakes: Understanding Weather, Ice, Algae, Currents, and Line 5 Oil

Wednesday November 15th, 7:00 PM

By Dr. Eric Anderson, Oceanographer, National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA), Great Lakes Research Lab.

In the first of two programs about the Great Lakes, Dr. Eric Anderson of the Great Lakes Research Laboratory will talk about his work including the challenges of predicting weather and understanding currents in the lakes. His computer modeling of currents near the Mackinac Bridge will guide the Coast Guard in the event of an oil spill from Line 5. His studies of algal blooms shed light on the danger to drinking water.



### Using Technology to Probe the Great Lakes

Wednesday January 17th, 7:00 PM

By Steve Ruberg, Project Leader, National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA), Great Lakes Research Lab

In the second of two programs about the Great Lakes, Steve will talk about his work. His team probes the lakes with underwater acoustic technology, video imagery and sensor arrays to uncover mysteries and protect the water, the plants and us from harm. One of the fascinating discoveries: the deep holes in Lake Huron that harbor unique life forms.

*Happy 50th Birthday Sierra Club Michigan Chapter!  
from Crossroads Group, 2017*



These photos of our Crossroads Group leaders were taken for a slideshow shown at the 50th Anniversary banquet of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club. The banquet, which was held in June, demonstrated the strength and influence of the organization at the national, state and local levels. Attended by over 350 people - including many members of the Crossroads Group - it was an uplifting affair. Among the attendees: Senator Gary Peters, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Representative Debbie Dingell, and Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune. One thing that became eminently clear at the banquet, if you want to be part of a dynamic organization that gets things done, join the Sierra Club! For more information or to get involved, contact us at [crossroads@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:crossroads@michigan.sierraclub.org).



Sierra Club—Crossroads Group  
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