

Crossroads Group Sierra Club

FALL 2019



Elections 2020-2021

Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee Members

Once again, the time has come to elect our Crossroads leaders to carry us through the next two years. This will complete our roster of eight Executive Committee members.

Please read the candidate statements on page 2 and use the enclosed ballot to vote for up to four candidates. Ballots must be returned by December 1, 2019.

Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2020-2021 Official Ballot

	Member	Joint Member*
Lorne Beatty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paula Gruszka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laurie Mercure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Both parties of a joint membership are entitled to vote. This column is for use by the second person of a shared membership.

Please:

1. Vote for up to four people (their statements are page 2).
 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
-

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: Julie Griess
cg.secretary@michigan.sierraclub.org

Chapter Group Representative:
Penny Goldstein, Sarah Keith
cg.grouprep@michigan.sierraclub.org

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

Media: Paula Gruszka
cg.media@michigan.sierraclub.org

Membership: Cathy Sayre
cg.membership@michigan.sierraclub.org

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

Outings:
crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political: Lee Anzick, Tiffany Stewart
cg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org

Programs: Mary Novrocki
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:
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Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements (see ballot on page 1)

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 28 years ago. In the past I have served on the Crossroads Group Executive Committee 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 Executive Committee again.

Paula Gruszka

I've always loved camping which gave me the great appreciation of nature. I decided to join the Sierra Club in 2010. It wasn't until I moved to Livingston County that I became an active member with the Crossroads in 2015. This group has shown me ways to help make a better environment. I worked a short time with the Conservation Committee. Now, as our fundraiser co-chair, I help bring in some funds through our Sponsorship Program. Also, as media chair I notify various media outlets about our fun hikes and programs for Crossroads. I would like to join the Crossroads Group Executive Committee to help even more. What an important organization with good people!

Sue Kelly

Being an environmental activist has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my adult life. I have been active in the Sierra Club Crossroads Group since its founding, currently serving as Vice-Chair for the Group and Co-Conservation Chair with Ron Kardos. The issues that most concern me are water and climate change. In the state with all of this fresh water, drinking water is at risk, the Great Lakes are threatened by Line 5, and industry criminally pollutes our waterways, most recently seen in the local PFAS crisis. Climate change must be the number one issue in our upcoming national election – right after cleaning house of the corrupted leaders who don't believe in science.

I would like to return to the Crossroads Executive Committee to continue to work on local conservation concerns and to help elect strong environmental candidates. I would appreciate your vote.

Laurie Mercure

I have been volunteering with the Sierra Club Crossroads Group for seven years as the webmaster and for four years as one of our outings leaders. My webmaster tasks include updating our website and Meetup site, and helping with our Facebook page. As an outings leader, I help to plan and lead our many hikes and other activities. Our outings are always lots of fun, and a great way to recruit new Sierra Club members. It has been fun and rewarding to connect 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.

Treasurer Report – Lemonade Stand

This summer the profits from our Lemonade Stand at the Balloonfest were the best ever! After several years of low sales, this year the weather was perfect, yet hot enough to make everyone thirsty for a lot of lemonade and hot dogs and veggie burgers to accompany it. All the balloons went up, and Crossroads Group is also flying high! Our finances are solid for the next year, thanks to the many great volunteers who worked hard at our booth. Thank you, everyone!

Recycle Livingston



Meet Recycle Livingston, the only non-profit, recycling center serving the residents of Livingston County and surrounding area since 1989. We are committed to reducing the flow of solid waste to local landfills today, even expanding our program to include many hard to recycle items.

Recycle Livingston is totally self-sustaining and receives no support from the State of Michigan or local governments. Since our beginning, we have relied on volunteer support so we can provide our services at a minimal cost and be available to everyone. We love our volunteers! If you commit to volunteering ten site days a year, you will receive a free yearly membership to Recycle Livingston.

Many of the items we accept are difficult and expensive to recycle and are not accepted at curbside programs; items such as Styrofoam, latex paint, household batteries, clothing, shoes, confidential document shredding, televisions, and much more!

Recycling is experiencing some tough and serious challenges but we all can help. To start we must do something as simple as changing how we view and talk about solid waste. We need to shift to a materials management planning process rather than disposal-only thinking.

More than 70% of our waste stream is readily recyclable...and Michigan has one of the lowest recycle rates in the Great Lakes States. Let's do more, Michigan! It is estimated we could experience a positive economic impact of \$400 million annually, if we would all recycle.

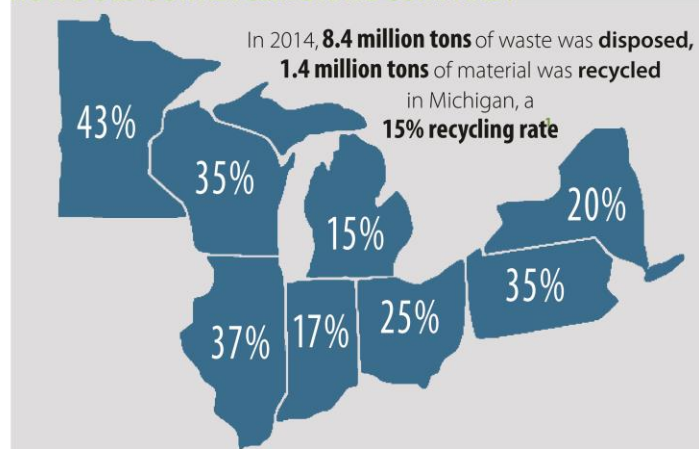
See www.recyclelivingston.org for a complete list of accepted items, hours, and more information.

Phone: 517-548-4439

Email: recycleliv@sbcglobal.net

Address: 170 Catrell Street, Howell (near downtown Howell)

HOW DOES OUR RECYCLING RATE COMPARE ?

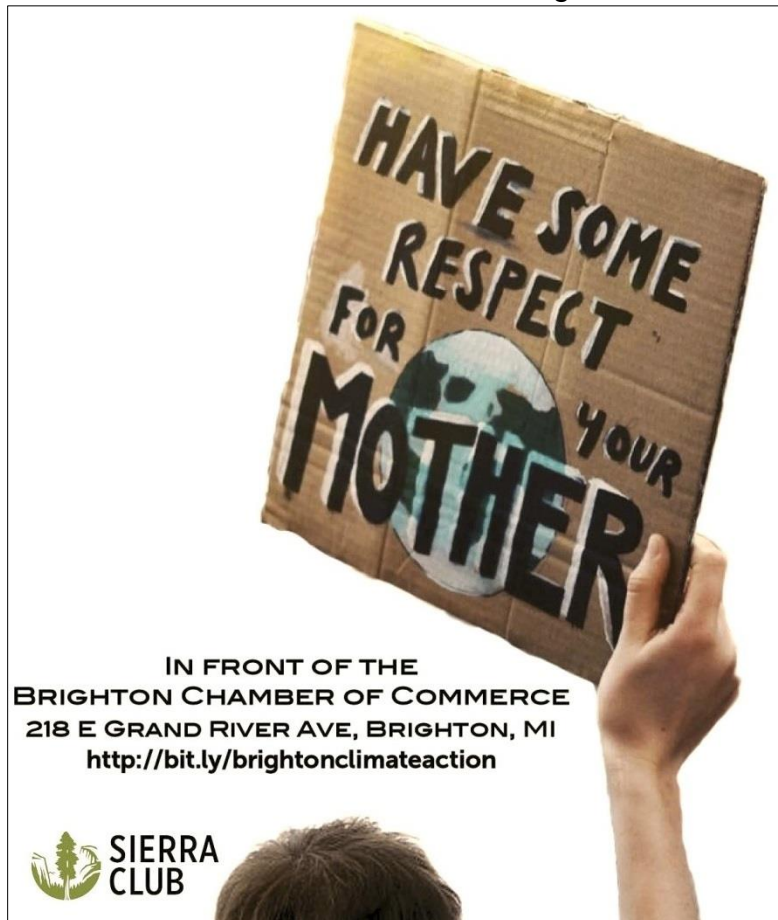


Join us in our efforts to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
Keep Michigan Beautiful!
Resolve to do more, Re-imagine, Rethink Consumption

Guest Editorial by Julie Cribley- Director of Recycle Livingston

Join Us for a Positive Climate Action Event

Sunday September 22, 12-2pm
218 E Grand River Ave, Brighton



Join us for a positive, family-friendly climate action event. We will have speakers to help educate you on local issues as well as share the great progress we're seeing in our community. Bring your positive and fun climate signs to help bring awareness to our climate issue. Plus, there will be fun activities for the kids!



Recycle Station: Bring your old glow sticks, used toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes, floss containers and empty deodorant containers to be recycled.

Use Your Feet...to Give Crossroads a Hand

Among the many ways Crossroads brings good things to our community is through our outings. In a typical year we offer close to 40 that are attended by over 1000 total people. Our outings are successful because of our leaders who make sure all goes well.

In order to continue offering as many outings as we do we need some helping hands...or feet. If you like to hike or bike or paddle, this is a great opportunity to contribute. The amount of time involved is determined by each individual and the work involved is mostly play.

We hold three outings meetings a year and at each one we plan for the coming four months. Then each leader picks some outings to attend.

Responsibilities? Learn about Crossroads and the Sierra Club in order to answer questions, and walk or paddle or bike along with the attendees, perhaps as a sweep to keep the group together. There will always be an experienced person present so new leaders need not worry about knowing what to do. It couldn't be much simpler, or more enjoyable. To learn more, please email Laurie at crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.

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) or Meetup page (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group) or contact us at crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.

All outings are open to Sierra Club members and non-members. Bring water and snacks.

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

Huron Meadows Metropark Hike - Sunday September 15, 10 AM**

Location: Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton; meet at the Cedar Ridge picnic area parking lot

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

Join us for a 5-mile or 3-mile hike through the diverse habitats of the Moraine Fen and other trails in the park.

Yoga on the Beach - Island Lake Recreation Area - Saturday September 21 and Sunday October 6, 9 AM**

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

meet near the Kent Lake beach bathhouse building (go straight past toll booth, first lot on left)

Skill Level: beginner to advanced; **Difficulty:** easy to moderate; **Cost:** \$5, plus requires state park entry fee or passport.

Join us for yoga on the beach. Welcome your day with relaxing poses, stretches and meditation. Bring your own mat (and optional towel to put under mat). All levels welcome. Led by an experienced yoga instructor.

Orienteering Field Day/Competition at Brighton Recreation Area - Saturday September 21, 12 PM

This will be the second part of our Orienteering Program. Attendees must attend the training program on Wednesday September 18 (7 PM at Hamburg Library) to join this event. See page 7 of this newsletter for more information.

Island Lake Recreation Area Weeknight Hike - Tuesday September 24, 5 PM**

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

meet in the Kent Lake parking lot (go straight past toll booth, first 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 2.5-mile hike on the Hickory Ridge trail.

West River Trail Bike Ride with Cider Mill Stop - Sunday October 13, 1 PM**

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

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

Join us for an easy 12-mile pedal on the scenic, paved West River Trail from Hudson Mills to Dexter-Huron Metropark and back. We will stop for treats at the Dexter Cider Mill along the way.

Island Lake Fall Color Kayak/Canoe Paddle - Saturday October 19, 1 PM **

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

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

Skill Level: any; **Difficulty:** easy to moderate

Cost: Optional boat rental/return transport fees listed below, plus state park entry fee or passport

Join us for a 3-mile or a 5.4-mile fall color paddle on the Huron River. The 3-mile paddle is 1 to 1.5 hours to the Riverbend picnic area; the 5.4 mile paddle is 2 to 3 hours to the Placeway Road takeout area.

Heavner is offering special rental rates for this event: \$15 for kayaks and \$20 for canoes. Return transport for people bringing own boat is \$5. Boat reservations suggested at www.heavnercanoe.com or 248-685-2379 (mention the "Fall Color Paddle").

Brighton Recreation Area Fall Color Hike - Sunday October 27, 1 PM**

Location: Bishop Lake trailhead parking lot, Howell;

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: 42.5008,-83.8350

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

Join us for an afternoon hike to enjoy the beautiful fall colors on the Penosha Trail (5 miles) or the Kahchin trail (2 miles).

Crossroads Group Outings, continued

Kayaking/Canoeing for Cranes at Deerfield Hills - Saturday November 2, 5 PM**

Location: Deerfield Hills Nature Area, Green Rd & Cohoctah Rd, Fenton; meet in the parking lot. GPS: 42.764, -83.824

Skill Level: some experience; **Difficulty:** moderate; **Cost:** free

Join us for a kayak/canoe outing to the islands in Bennett Lake for some amazing views of hundreds of Sandhill cranes. The cranes gather in this migration staging area in preparation for their 1,000-mile southward journey. No boat rentals are available, must bring your own. Also bring binoculars, warm clothes (not cotton), and snacks.

Proud Lake State Recreation Area Hike Sunday November 10, 1 PM**

Location: Proud Lake Foot Path Trailhead, Commerce Twp; From I-96 & Wixom Rd, go north on Wixom Rd 7.2 miles, turn right on Park Headquarters Rd, go 0.2 miles, see trailhead parking lot on left. GPS: 42.5707, -83.5548

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

Join us for a 5.7-mile hike on the River Trail (with an option to break off early for a shorter hike). This scenic trail runs through a variety of landscapes including forests, marshlands, and parts of the Huron River.

Kensington Metropark Hike - Saturday November 23, 1 PM**

Location: Kensington Metropark, 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

Choose from a 5-mile or 2-mile hike around Wildwing Lake and other nature trails.

Black Friday #OptOutside Hike at Island Lake Recreation Area - Friday November 29, 1 PM**

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

meet in the Kent Lake parking lot (go straight past toll booth, first 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(REI) on Black Friday with the Friends of Island Lake and Crossroads!

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

Waterloo Recreation Area Hike - Sunday December 8, 1 PM**

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

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

Join us for a 5-mile or 3-mile hike through some hills and forests with scenic lake views.

Highland State Recreation Area Hike - Saturday December 21, 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 or a 2.5-mile hike through hardwoods and wetlands.

Huron Meadows Metropark Ski Outing/hike if no snow - Sunday December 29, 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. Optional ski rental \$15.

Join us for an afternoon cross country ski outing. Ski / boot rental available. Enjoy miles of groomed trails both on the golf course and through the woods. We will ski on shorter and longer distance trails depending on experience levels. We will hike if there is no snow.

See our website (www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads) for additional outings including events sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club.

See our Meetup page (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group) for additional outings including service outings (trail work, highway cleanup, etc.) and last minute "pop-up outings"

Crossroads Group Programs

Crossroads Group Sierra Club presents these programs free to the public:

Orienteering

Part 1 - Lesson:

Wednesday September 18, 7:00 PM

Hamburg Township Library: 10411 Merrill Rd, Whitmore Lake

At this lesson we will learn orienteering map techniques, then everyone will plot map points to be found on the field day.

Part 2 – Field Day/Competition:

Saturday September 21, 12 PM - 4 PM

Brighton State Recreation Area: Bishop Lake lot

At this field day event, we will have teams navigate to the points they plotted during the lesson. The team that returns with the most points will be the winning team. There will be prizes for the winning team.

This event is only open to members who attend the indoor orienteering lesson listed above.

Our instructor, Michael Garnick, is a Squad Leader within the 1776 Military Police Company. In 2012, he was the primary land navigation instructor for Michigan units deploying to Afghanistan.

For more information about these events, see our website (www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads) or Meetup page (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group) or contact us at crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.



The Secret Lives of Skunks

Wednesday November 20, 7:00 PM

Brighton District Library: 100 Library Dr, Brighton

Program by Laurel Zoet of *Nature on the Go!*

Through a visual PowerPoint presentation, discover fun facts about this misunderstood mammal: where they live, how they survive, and ideas for minimizing conflict with humans. A LIVE skunk will be observed as part of this informative, one-hour program.

COMING IN 2020 to Brighton District Library:

Wednesday January 15: “LET THY FOOD BE THY MEDICINE” – Hippocrates

A Presentation by Tatiana Pushman of W.I.T. Sanctuary. Ms. Pushman is a graduate of the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. Her presentation will focus on how the food we choose to eat not only affects our health but impacts our environment. Eating a more plant focused diet can improve our well-being AND reduce our environmental footprint. Tips, recipes and taste testing will be included.



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

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greater brighton area chamber
environmental council

www.brightonccc.org/environmental-council

Our Vision: to lead the community in environmental stewardship, education, and awareness

Newsletter E-Delivery: Help us reduce costs and save some trees! If you would like to sign up for electronic delivery of our quarterly newsletters, email us at cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org with the word “e-newsletter” as the subject and your full name and address in the body