

Crossroads Sierra Club

Fall 2013



Requesting Information on Conway Township Oil Well Activity

Crossroads Group Conservation Committee members have noted DEQ Permit Application A130128 on 7/25/2013 for an oil well called 'The Sherwood', east of Fowlerville Rd and north of Killenger Rd. The permit type is 're-entry' (apparently there was a previous well on the site that came up dry in 1988). The permit description says 'WELL MAY BE COMPLETED USING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING'. The proposed depth is 9229 feet, targeting the A-1 Carbonate formation. The company is Geosouthern Operating LLC of Texas. So far there is no visible activity at the site.

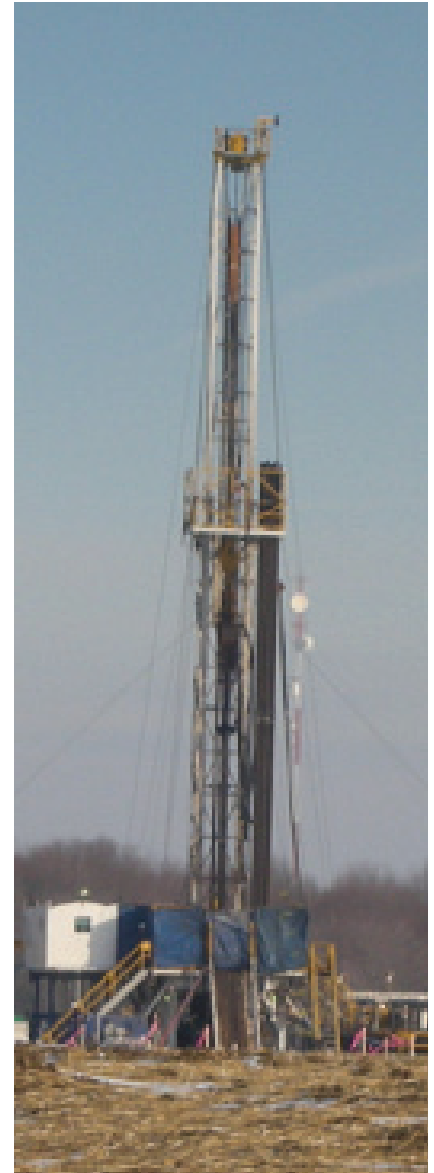
This would be Livingston County's first high-volume well, to our knowledge. We are also told that Geosouthern has signed leases with other property owners in the area. Our group would like to stay informed on this issue, so we are requesting that anyone with knowledge contact us at sukelly77@gmail.com. Let's hope this is relatively benign, but better to not be caught unprepared!

A-1 Carbonate

The A-1 Carbonate is essentially dark colored limestone, dolomite, or both. On the margins of the basin it is generally dolomite. In the interior of the basin it can be all limestone, all dolomite, or both. In the immediate vicinity of reefs, it may be completely or partially dolomitized. The unit is thinnest in the basin interior and thickest around the inner margin of the basin where it may reach a thickness of 125 feet. It is generally absent over tall reefs and in areas high on the flanks of the reef complex. Like the underlying evaporite unit, the A-1 Carbonate appears to have been deposited entirely within the basin....

The A-1 Carbonate produces oil, gas, and salt water in various parts of the basin. Where production is obtained, A-1 reservoir rocks are generally dolomite. Because of this, the A-1 is generally called A-1 dolomite by the oil and gas industry....

From "Michigan's Silurian Oil and Gas Pools", by Garland D. Ells.



Fracking tower coming to a field near you?

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VISIT US AT:

Michigan.SierraClub.org/Crossroads



Making a Difference-Making New Friends

Lee Burton- Crossroads Chair

The greater Livingston County area is a special place, filled with beautiful landscapes and many good people. The lakes, the rivers, the forests, the wetlands...these are places that are so attractive and loved by so many, and where they go to recreate.

It is no accident that these special parklands and other beautiful habitats are here. They were set aside and preserved by forward-thinking people who understood the value of protecting our natural environment. But that job is not done and never will be.

That's why organizations like the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club are so important. The leadership is made up of your neighbors, good people who care about the environment and want to make a difference. But it takes a team to make a difference.

And that's where you come in.

Without the efforts of our leadership team we could not offer programs and outings, all of which are free to the public. We would not be able to support environmental causes. We would not be able to educate the public about the importance of protecting our natural world for all to enjoy. It's a lot of work that brings a lot of rewards. To continue our success we need a good team. We need people like you.

What are the rewards from being part of the Crossroads team? You will make a difference in our community by helping to make it a better place. Beyond that, you will make new friends; other people-like yourself- who care about the world around them and are willing to help make a difference. And for all that you give for the good of the cause, you will receive much in return.

There are many ways to participate in Crossroads. We are sure we can find something to match your interests and time constraints. To learn more, please contact Sue Kelly, at Sue.Kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org or Lee Burton at lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org
Phone: 810-231-9045.



Meet the Crossroads Group

We spoke with John Wilson, who has expanded our Outings program dramatically in the past two years. *What is your history with Sierra Club outings?*

I have been Outings Chair for the Crossroads Group for two years. However, I have been involved in Sierra Club outings for close to 30 years, both leading and participating in them. I met my wife on a Sierra Club outing! We were both on a Sierra Club backpacking trip in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in the UP – a great way to meet someone who shares common interests.

How did you get your love of the outdoors?

I grew up in a small town at the highest populated elevation in the US mountains. Camping and climbing were natural in that environment. I particularly love winter camping, and in Michigan I do ice climbing near Munising. I often say that I would live outdoors if I could!

Describe the current Crossroads Group outings program.

We have had some great day outings, generally on either Saturday or Sunday. I think they have been enjoyed by everyone who attended. There have been hikes, bike rides, cross-country skiing, and river trips by canoe or kayak. Mostly they are not strenuous, and are suitable for all ages. Kids are welcome and encouraged, accompanied by an adult. In fact, I think it is most important to involve kids and families in these events. The description of the outing shows the skill level and difficulty involved. There is a responsible leader from our group on each outing, and leaders are up to date with First Aid certification. All trips are posted on our web page and Facebook page, and listed in the newsletter. It's good to check the web for any last minute changes or additions.

What is your wish list for future improvements to our program?

I would like to add overnight trips eventually, such as small backpack trips, or overnight canoe/kayak trips. I'd like to feature classes such as beginning backpacking. Also, service trips are a good way to coordinate fun and the outdoors with our conservation goals, and I think they are very important. It's good to get lots of input for planning outings, so we have several people who meet to do this. I'd love to hear from anyone who has an idea for a trip or would like to lead an outing.

Final thoughts?

We live in a wonderful area for outdoor recreation, and should be outdoors enjoying it every day!



For any questions about specific outings or to get involved (YES!) you can contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 day of outing) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Crossroads Fall Outings, Part One

General Outing Notice

All Sierra Club outings start at the trail head, and some include fees to cover expenses. Sierra Club outing participants are required to sign the standard liability waiver found on our website, or call us to receive a print version at 415-977-5528. Outings are subject to conditions. Always check with trip leader for cancellations or changes.

Volunteer opportunity, North Country Trail

Chief Baw Bees Chapter, North County Trail Association
Hillsdale County
Second Saturday of every month, 9:30 AM

Join other Sierra Club members (and non members) doing rewarding trail work on the North Country Trail, in and around the Lost Nation State Game area in Hillsdale County. Contact Kevin Bell at kfb@provide.net or call for information at 734-913-4764

Deerfield Hills Hike, Trash Cleanup

Deerfield Hills Township park
Saturday Sept. 28, 1PM
Skill level: Novice to Expert, Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for a hike, and cleanup at Deerfield Hills Township Park at 1 PM. This quiet, hilly and partially wooded trail system is located in northeast Livingston County on the south end of Bennett Lake, at the east end of Cohoctah Road and the north end of Green Road. Members, nonmembers welcome. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Pinckney Recreation Area “Paddle to Hell For Lunch” Fall Paddle

Halfmoon Lake, Pinckney Recreation, to Hell Michigan for lunch and back.
Canoes, kayaks, and SUPs (standup paddle boards)
Saturday, Oct. 5, 10:30 AM
Skill level: Beginner, Difficulty: Easy to Moderate
Hazards: Deep water, possible motorized boat traffic.

Join the Crossroads Group on a fall paddle with a relaxing alternative to the usual river trip. The summer crowds will have dissipated, and with them, most of the motorized boat traffic. A reasonable Paddle through Halfmoon lake, Portage Creek, and Hiland Lake to the Dam Site Inn in Hell for lunch. Then paddle back. Meet at the Pinckney Recreation Area Halfmoon Lake boat launch and day-use area. North Territorial Road to Hankerd Road (about 2 miles north). This outing is free, but requires a state park passport or day pass sticker for Halfmoon Lake. Lunch not provided. Members, nonmembers, families, beginners and experienced welcome. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 day of paddle) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org or Gerry Neumeier at Gerry.neumeier@avl.com.

Fall Color Photo Workshop

Waterloo Recreation Area
Saturday, Oct 19, 10 AM
Skill level: Beginner, Difficulty: Easy

Join the Crossroads Group for a digital nature photography workshop with Naturalist and expert Nature Photographer Thomas Schneider on a fall color driving tour in Waterloo Recreation Area. Just in time to get some great photos to enter in the 1st annual Sierra Club Crossroads Group Photo Contest (see our website for details). This outing is free and fun for all ages, members, nonmembers, families, beginners and experienced. Meet at the Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center parking lot located off Pierce Road, Chelsea Michigan. Please RSVP to Thomas Schneider at wildblueexplorations@gmail.com. For more information contact Thomas Schneider at wildblueexplorations@gmail.com or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org
Waterloo Recreation Area website: <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/details.aspx?id=506&type=SPRK>

Crossroads Fall Outings, Part Two

Kayaking for Cranes at Deerfield Hills

Deerfield Hills Nature Area

Sunday, Nov. 3, 2 PM

Skill level: Beginner, Difficulty: Easy

A kayak/canoe outing from the Deerfield Hills Nature Area boat launch to view close-up migration of the Sandhill Cranes. Join the Crossroads Group for an afternoon/evening of viewing these birds as they gather to their at their migration staging area, on an island in Bennett lake, in preparation for their 1,000 mile southward journey. Bring binoculars and a picnic if you like. This outing is free and fun for all ages, members, nonmembers, families, beginners and experienced. Meet at the Deerfield Hills Nature Area boat launch. The Greater Sandhill Crane, often recognized as the oldest living bird species, has a wingspan eclipsing six feet. Please RSVP to Thomas Schneider at wildblueexplorations@gmail.com

Outings Initiative and Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, Nov 16, 2-4 PM

Outings Committee

No experience required

The outings committee wants to add new leaders to sustain a wider variety of outdoor activities. To learn more about this opportunity, please join the Outings Committee Saturday, November 16, 2-4 PM in Pinckney. Learn more about committee functioning, training requirements, leader expectations, and Q & A. We will be planning outings for the winter newsletter and would like to hear from YOU. Call or email for directions. John Wilson at 734-954-0429 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Annual Winter Ducks Outing at Kensington Metro Park

Kensington Metro Park Nature Center

Sunday Nov 17, 1PM.

Skill level: Beginner, Difficulty: Easy

Join the Crossroads Group to witness one of nature's amazing shows--the migration of ducks, geese and other wildfowl heading south for the winter-- at this 4,481 acre park featuring wooded, hilly terrain surrounding beautiful Kent Lake. This popular outing is free (but requires a Metro Park pass for entrance) and fun for all ages, members, nonmembers, families, beginners and experienced birders. Bring binoculars or viewing scope, and meet at the Kensington Metro Park Nature Center parking lot. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 day of outing) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Brighton Recreation Area Early Winter Hike

Brighton Recreation, Penosha Trail

Sunday, Dec 1, 1PM

Skill Level: Beginner Difficulty: Moderate

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for an afternoon hike on the Penosha Trail. The trail is 5 miles, approximately 2-2 ½ hours, through woods and meadows. The trailhead for the Penosha trail is at the Bishop lake parking lot, in Brighton Recreation area. 6360 Chilson Road, Howell, Mi. The outing is free but requires an annual or daily Michigan State Parks pass (or passport pass) for entry. Open to members and nonmembers, families, and beginners who can hike this distance. Hiking boots and appropriate warm clothing recommended, trails may be muddy. A great hike near our own back yard! For information call John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 cell day of outing) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Huron Meadows Metropark Ski Outing

Meet at the Ski Center in Huron Meadows Metropark

Sunday, December 29, 1PM

Skill level: Novices to Advanced, Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for an afternoon cross country ski outing at Huron Meadows Metropark. Meet at the Ski Center in Huron Meadows Metropark. Enjoy miles of groomed trails both on the golf course and through the woods. Groomed skate ski trails also. Heated warming shelter and indoor bathrooms available. Members, nonmembers, novices and expert Nordic skiers are welcome to enjoy this outing. Outing is free except a Metropark annual sticker or daily pass required for entry. Celebrate the New Year early! Outing dependent on snow. Contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 cell day of outing) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Crossroads Fall Outings, Part Three

Annual Owl Walk Outing

Home of Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves

Saturday, January 18th, 5PM

Difficulty: Easy

Join the Crossroads Group for its annual owl walk. It will be hosted by Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves (6277Cowell Road, Brighton 48116) and will begin at 5:00 at their house 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. Please join us for this fascinating way to spend a winter evening in Michigan. Bring a flashlight, a dish to share, something to drink and warm clothes. Your hosts will provide cider, juice, sparkling water, books about owls and the warmth of a wood fire. For more information and directions call Lee and Roberta at 810-231-9045. Please note that computer maps do not accurately show the exact location of their house because they live on a private drive. lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Brighton Recreation Area XC Ski Outing

Brighton Recreation Area

Corner of Schafer and Chambers Road

Sunday, Jan. 26, 1PM

Skill Level: Intermediate, Difficulty: Moderate

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for a backcountry ski on some of the lesser known trails in Brighton Recreation Area. The trail we will ski is a loop trail, approximately 2 miles long, and is un-groomed. It offers a great opportunity to explore some of the equestrian trails at the west end of the recreation area. The trail is located in the North East corner of Schafer and Chambers Roads near Pinckney, Mi. Meet at the intersection of the roads, 1PM. The outing is free but may require an annual or daily Michigan State Parks pass (or passport pass) for entry. Open to members and nonmembers. Wear appropriate warm clothing. If snow conditions are not good, we may hike.

Map at: http://www.michigandnr.com/Publications/PDFS/RecreationCamping/brighton_map.pdf

For information call John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 cell day of outing) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Winter Paddle Outing

Huron River below the Kent Lake Dam

Skill Level: Intermediate, Difficulty: Moderate

Sunday, February 16th, Noon

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for their Annual Winter Paddle on the Huron River. This popular outing starts at noon below the Kent Lake Dam in the Island Lake State Recreation Area and takes out at the Placeway Bridge Site picnic area where a warm fire and warm refreshments will be served. This outing is free except for the State Park entry fee. Members and nonmembers are welcome. This is a cold weather paddle and P.F.D.'s are required for all paddlers. Dress appropriately (no cotton allowed), clothing and outerwear must be adequate and will be subject to inspection. Bring a full change of clothes in a dry bag (required). No children or pets are allowed on this outing. Come for the refreshments, or be a shuttle bunny if you are not paddling. For more details contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Crossroads and the Sierra Club Present

“Wild Utah: America’s Red Rock Wilderness”

***Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Brighton District Library,
Free Admission.***

The program is presented by Clayton Daughenbaugh, conservation organizer with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and Chairperson of the Sierra Club’s National Wildlands and Wilderness Committee. Mr. Daughenbaugh will provide us with a video journey, narrated by Robert Redford, through America’s red rock canyonlands wilderness, located in southern Utah. The red rock canyonlands is the largest network of undesignated wilderness lands remaining in the lower 48 states. These lands currently face threats from off-road vehicle activity and oil/gas exploitation.

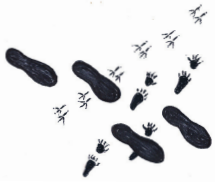


“Bats of the World”

***Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Brighton District Library,
Free Admission.***

Step into the world of bats with this unique and exciting multimedia presentation complete with music, digital pictures and live bats. You will learn about sound waves, ecosystems, food webs, and conservation. You will see live U.S. bats, South American bats, and rare African bats with 4-foot wingspans! This award-winning program is being presented by Michigan’s own Organization for Bat Conservation. Don’t miss it!





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

Crossroads Photography Contest

Do you enjoy taking photos of the beautiful scenery around your hometown? Do you like winning prizes? Then enter our 1st annual Sierra Club Crossroads Group Photo Contest! We are looking for nature photos of the greater Livingston County area. Judges will select the three winners on November 1st, 2013.

1st prize: \$100 Visa gift card, plus a private half day digital photography workshop in a beautiful Michigan nature area, courtesy of Wild Blue Explorations;
2nd prize: \$50 gift card;
3rd prize: \$25 gift card.

To enter the contest, email your photo(s) to our webmaster at cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org. Please include:

- Name
- contact information
- a brief description of your photo, i.e., title
- location where it was taken.

To submit photos, view all of the entries, and see detailed rules, visit our website at Michigan.SierraClub.org/Crossroads..