

# Crossroads Sierra Club

Winter 2013



## Elections 2013- Crossroads Executive Officers

This year there are four 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 four of the candidates. The second column is for use by those with joint membership. Ballots must be returned by January 31, 2013.

### Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2013 Official Ballot

	Member	Joint Member
Lee Burton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim Delcamp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terry Gannon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Novrocki	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Schneider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please:**

1. Vote for up to four 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.**

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# Crossroads Candidate Statements

## **Lee Burton Candidate Statement**

I have been a lover of the outdoors all of my life and active in the Crossroads Group for over 8 years. Presently I serve as group chair. I seek reelection to the executive committee so that I might remain group chair and continue to work on recruitment for our leadership team. At present, Crossroads provides high quality services to the community including newsletters, programs, outings, conservation work and political involvement. By bringing in new leaders to our ranks we can continue to provide these services and even expand upon them. All of these efforts are on behalf of preserving and protecting the beautiful area in which we live and helping others to discover the riches of nature.

## **Jim Delcamp Candidate Statement**

Please consider voting for me for 'excom' member at large for Crossroads Sierra Club.

Over the last year as a new member I have participated in a host of club events and activities including Lobbying day in Lansing, meeting with Bill Rogers over fracking, 'oil spill' demonstration at the State Capital, and outings, meetings and programs. In addition I ran for local office, emphasizing environmental issues in my campaign and though I did not win I brought into focus issues that are of serious concern to residents, including residents who consider themselves conservative. In the future I want to help the club increase our presence, influence, and effectiveness on behalf of the natural world. And, I would like to put more emphasis on our outings and programs that enhance our enjoyment of and connections to nature.

## **Terry Gannon Candidate Statement**

I am seeking to be elected to the Crossroads group EXCOM. I have an interest in the environment, outdoor activities, and a fascination and wonder at the complexities of nature. I also bring a deep concern about the ongoing environmental degradation this locality, this country and our world faces, and a determination to do my part to decrease that degradation. I am currently active in my church as Vice President and am President of the neighborhood association where I play an active role in maintaining and restoring the quality of our lake and woodland. I am a member of the Crossroads Group and the Detroit Audubon Society. I maintain membership in the national Nature Conservancy and the Livingston Nature Conservancy. I am current editor of the Crossroads newsletter

## **Mary E. Novrocki Candidate Statement**

I have been passionate about protecting the environment since I was a child. This passion has guided my life and my actions since. I believe that all species, their habitats, and their supporting environments must be protected – at any cost. As an adult, I am an avid natural habitat gardener, a birdwatcher, and a longtime supporting member of the Sierra Club. As a lawyer, I have a strong interest in environmental justice. Furthermore, I often use my legal skills to research environmental issues and inform other environmental activists. Currently, I am an active member of the Crossroads Group of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club where I participate in its Conservation and Political Action committees. My hope and my goal is that someday our country, this United States of America, will become unified within itself and with the world in order to protect our earth and all of its ecosystems.

## **Thomas A Schneider Candidate Statement**

A famous artist once said, "Intelligence without ambition is like a bird without any wings". For nearly 50 years I have made it my ambition to learn and to share everything I possibly can about our natural heritage here in Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes Basin. Picking up a camera instead of a gun at 12 years old, I took aim at educating a worldwide public with photography about those wild places and those wild creatures I have so intimately come to know and so passionately wish to share with those who need to hear it as well as those who love to hear it. I wholeheartedly endorse the basic pledge of the Sierra Club "to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth"; and I will continue in our Crossroads Group to warn of the polluters and destroyers of the health and well-being of this precious earth we call home. Count on me to do it with joy, passion, and a clear sense of duty to all our members.

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## Executive Committee, Committee Chairs

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

**Vice Chairperson:** Sue Kelly  
Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org,

**Past Chairperson:** Rick Pearsall  
810-844-1199 Rick.Pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Treasurer:** Terry Gannon  
terry.gannon@yahoo.com or  
248-345-1143

**Secretary/Education:** Roberta Shaw-Reeves, Roberta.Shaw@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Chapt. Group Rep.:** Mary Andersson, Mary.Andersson@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Fundraising:** Paul Thielking  
Paul.Thielking@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Media:** Lorne Beatty  
Lorne.Beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org,  
810-632-7766

**Membership:** Nancy Schneider,  
nschn@hotmail.com

**Newsletter:** Terry Gannon  
terry.gannon@yahoo.com or  
248-345-1143

**Outings:** John Wilson, 734-355-3822  
Gerry Neuemeir, 734-891-5545  
Bob Jack, 734-255-8835  
Mary Andersson, Mary.Andersson@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Political:** Julie Griess, jgriess@chartermi.net, 734-434-1569  
Mary Novrocki  
mary.Novrocki@michigan.sierraclub.org

**Programs:** Mary Novrocki,  
mary.Novrocki@michigan.sierraclub.org  
Andrea Rude McKenzie

**Webmaster:** Laurie Mercure,  
lauriemercure@gmail.com  
Amy Rochelle, arochster@gmail.com

**Conservation:** Thomas Schneider, wildblueexplorations@gmail.com, 734-772-2826

**Visit us on the Web** at  
Michigan.SierraClub.org/

## Enjoy Life: Join the Crossroads Leadership Team

Are you a person who enjoys the outdoors and is concerned with the state of the environment? Are you interested in meeting like-minded people who wish to contribute to the betterment of our community? Then consider playing a more active role with the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club.

We invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings where we can get to know each other and you can learn about our organization and what we do. There are many ways you can contribute to Crossroads and our community and we are certain we can accommodate your interests. One thing for sure we can guarantee: Joining the leadership team will bring you new friends and experiences that will enrich your life.

## When Will the Coal, Oil, Gas, and Nuclear Industries Stand On Their Own Feet?



The American Wind Energy Association released an analysis on Wednesday, detailing how the wind industry could phase out reliance on federal tax credits over a six-year time period. In contrast to the wind industry's bold move, there is no end in sight for the fossil fuel subsidies that polluting industries have enjoyed for almost 100 years.

Indeed, while the fledgling wind industry was able to develop a plan for moving off of subsidies after just two decades, the fossil fuel industries continue adding to our national debt by taking billions of taxpayer dollars to pollute our air and water. The wind industry has taken the first steps toward moving off of federal subsidies, and it is past time the fossil fuel industry did the same.

A recent letter from Rep. Ed Markey to President Obama and Speaker Boehner says that ending special tax treatments and loopholes for oil and gas companies would generate more than \$50 billion for the country over the next ten years. Similarly, research conducted by Senator Bernie Sanders' office, pegged the sum of all federal fossil fuel subsidies at more than \$113 billion over ten years.

*This is an excerpt from an article taken from Sierra Club Compass. The full article can be found on the website.*

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## Crossroads Outings

### 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. Winter outings are subject to conditions. Always check with trip leader for cancellations or changes.

### Annual Owl Walk Outing

Home of Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves

**Difficulty: Easy**

Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> 5 PM

Join the Crossroads Group for its annual owl walk. It will be hosted by Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves (6277 Cowell 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](mailto:lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org).

### 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](mailto:kfb@provide.net) or call for information at 734-913-4764

### Huron Meadows Metropark Ski Outing

Meet at the Ski Center in Huron Meadows Metropark

**Skill level: Novice to Advanced, Difficulty: Easy to Moderate**

Sunday, January 20, 1 PM

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 at 1 PM. 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. Ski and boot rental 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. Metropark website: [http://www.metroparks.com/parks/index\\_all.aspx?ID=4&R=0](http://www.metroparks.com/parks/index_all.aspx?ID=4&R=0).

Outing dependent on snow conditions. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 day of outing) or [john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org)

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## Crossroads Outings

### Brighton Recreation Area XC ski outing

Brighton Recreation Area

Corner of Schafer and Chambers Road

**Skill Level: Intermediate, Difficulty: Moderate**

Sunday, February 10, 1 PM

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, 1 PM. 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](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](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org)

### Winter Paddle Outing

Huron River below the Kent Lake Dam

**Skill Level: Intermediate, Difficulty: Moderate**

Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Noon

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 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 (personal flotation devices) 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](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org)

### Brighton Recreation Area late Winter Hike

Brighton Recreation, Penosha or Kahchin Trail

**Skill Level: Beginner, Difficulty: Moderate**

Sunday, March 10, 1 PM

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for an afternoon hike on the Penosha Trail. March, 10, 1 PM. The Penosha trail is 5 miles, approximately 2-2 1/2 hours, through woods and meadows. Or for a lighter option the Kahchin trail is 2 miles, approximately 1 hour. The trailhead for the trails 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](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org)

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## Crossroads Outings

### Outings Initiative and Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, March 30, 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 Sat. March 30, 2-4 PM in Pinckney. Learn more about committee functioning, training requirements, leader expectations, and Q & A. We will be planning outing for the spring and summer 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](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org)

### Brighton Recreation Area Trail Hike

Brighton Recreation Area

Chambers Road equestrian trail

*Skill Level: intermediate, Difficulty: Moderate*

Saturday, April 20, 1PM

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club on an exploration of some of the lesser known trails in Brighton Recreation Area. The trail is located east of Chambers Road, near Pinckney, Mi., at the west end of Brighton Recreation Area. It is hilly, and approximately 3 miles long. It offers a great opportunity to explore. Meet on Chambers road midway between Swarthout and Schafer Roads at 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 hiking boots as the trail might be muddy. Map at: [http://www.michigandnr.com/Publications/PDFS/RecreationCamping/brighton\\_map.pdf](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](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org)

### Waterloo-Pinckney Hiking Trail

Waterloo Recreation Area

*Skill Level: intermediate, Difficulty: Moderate*

Saturday, April 27, 1 PM

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club in hiking a 2-5 mile section of the Waterloo-Pinckney Hiking Trail. We will meet at the Green Lake Campground Trail head, just off M52, south of North Territorial Rd., Chelsea, Mi., 1PM. From there, choose your distance. One or two miles to Cassidy Road, three or so miles to Waterloo Road, or 5 miles to the Gerald Eddy Discovery Center. The trail starts with beautiful open meadows, and gradually transitions into heavily wooded, glaciated terrain with steep hills. Parts of the trail follow the crest of glacial eskers. Sturdy boots recommended for the longer hikes. This is a beautiful section of the trail, with widely varied terrain. For information call John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 cell day of outing) or [john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org)

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## Crossroads Present

### **Reptiles & Amphibians of Michigan**

by David Mifsud

Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 PM, Brighton District Library

Free Admission

David Mifsud- aka TurtleDave- knows his reptiles and amphibians. He is a herpetologist, a professional wetland scientist and a professional ecologist. At this program you will learn about Michigan reptiles and amphibians and come face to face with some living creatures. You will also learn about efforts to map populations of these creatures across the state. And David will explain what is being done to protect and conserve these marvelous animals and what you can do to help. This is bound to be a fascinating program for the whole family.

David A. Mifsud, herpetologist, is owner and founder of Herpetological Resource and Management. Learn more about him and his work at <http://www.herprman.com/>

### **Crossroads Supports Documentary on Mining**

Last year the Crossroads Group voted to provide financial support for a film project by Spotted Horse Studios. The film, entitled Trust, will be a feature-length documentary that examines the effects of mining on Great Lakes ecosystems and lifestyles. It will look at politicians who work with mineral companies to rewrite environmental legislation, and since so much Native American land is affected it will explore how treaty rights can serve to strengthen environmental protections.

At least 44 active mines and exploration sites are in operation in the Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota portion of the Lake Superior watershed. Thirty-nine of these are in territory protected through peace treaties between the U.S. and indigenous nations.

The United States is home to 565 federally recognized tribes. These nations have tools available to them that can help them protect their lands. These include the ability of tribal nations to enact their own water and air quality standards. The documentary will explore these avenues and what prevents some tribes from enacting them.



Trust will follow four principal characters for approximately one year, getting to know and understand their lives and their culture as well as tracking their respective battles with the mining industry. The story will begin with introductions to the activists, the key mining issues in their states and the connections created by treaties. Footage will show existing damage from the mining industry and contrast it with pristine resources that remain untouched.

Trust is directed by Shana McKay Burns, and co-produced by Shana and Jason Lucero. Shana and Jason have worked together for 19 years, in both film and theater, and will benefit from the guidance of Emma Morris, an award-winning producer/director/editor.

For more information about Spotted Horse Studio and the project, visit their website: <http://www.shanamburns.com/TrustTheDoc.html>

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

