

Crossroads Sierra Club

Winter 2014



Dear Readers,

As you know doubt know by now, we have produced a condensed version of the newsletter hardcopy mailing as a cost saving measure. We are appealing for donations to help us with this time of crisis. Details can be found on page 5 of this document.



Elections 2014- 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, 2014.

Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2013 Official Ballot

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

Please:

1. Vote for up to four people (Candidate 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.

Executive Committee, Committee Chairs

Chairperson: Lee Burton
leejurton@charter.net

Past Chair: Rick Pearsall
rick.pearsall@gmail.com

Vice Chairperson: Sue Kelly
suekelly77@gmail.com

Treasurer: Terry Gannon
terrygannon@yahoo.com

Secretary:
Roberta Shaw-Reeves,
robbiesr@charter.net

Conservation: Thomas Schneider
wildblueexplorations@gmail.com

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

Fundraising, Grants: Paul Thielking
Paul.Thielking@hotmail.com

Group Representative: Mary Andersson
Mary.Andersson@charter.net

Media, Chapter Outings: Lorne Beatty
lbeatty@blue-chip.us 810-632-7766

Membership: Nancy Schneider
nancycs@med.umich.edu

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

Outings: John Wilson,
john_wilson288@yahoo.com 810-632-7766

Political: Julie Griess
jgriess@chartermi.net

Programs (Co chairs):
Andrea Rude McKenzie
andrea@amckenziephoto.com
Mary Novrocki
menovrocki@charter.net

Webmaster: Laurie Mercure
cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org

VISIT US AT:
Michigan.SierraClub.org/Crossroads



Crossroads Candidate Statements

Sue Kelly

The greater Livingston County area is faced with challenges from development pressure and the threat of budget cutting that will likely affect environmental protection in our townships and cities. The Crossroads Group must continue to support local municipalities on the enforcement of environmental regulations, offer assistance to citizens encountering questionable land-use decisions, hold educational and informative programs and lead outings in this beautiful part of Michigan. We must have environmental protection guaranteed under the law and work for candidates who reflect this priority. If returned to a position on the Crossroads Executive Committee I will continue to add my voice and energy to these efforts.

Andrea McKenzie

I have been donating to the Sierra Club for years because I've felt that conservation is incredibly necessary and the Sierra Club is one of the most important organizations to give strength to. What pushed me to get involved further is the the new process of drilling for gas referred to as "Fracking". I feel the strong need to educate others about the detrimental effects to the water, air and land by this destructive process. Now that it's come to Livingston County and has the potential to effect my friends and family, the urge to take action has intensified. With the knowlege, strength and support of the Sierra Club, I feel I can make a difference and create change before it is too late.

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. By joining the executive committee I can continue to learn about current environmental issues and how I can do my part to support them.

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. For the past year, I have been the webmaster for the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club, responsible for keeping our website and Facebook page updated. It has been great working with this nice group of people who care for the environment as much as I do. I would like to do more for the Sierra Club, and hope to do this by becoming a member of the executive committee.



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.

Crossroads Winter Outings

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

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 (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

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

Brighton Recreation Area Winter Hike

Brighton Recreation, Penosha or Kahchin Trail
Sunday, Feb. 9, 1PM
Skill Level: beginner Difficulty: Moderate

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for an afternoon hike on the Penosha Trail. Sat. Feb. 9, 1PM. 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

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 on Sunday, February 16th 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 or Gary Neumeier at Gerry.neumeier@avl.com.

Highland State Recreation Area Early Spring Hike

Highland State Recreation Area, Oakland County
Saturday, March. 15, 1PM
Skill Level: beginner Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for an afternoon hike in Oakland County's, Highland State Recreation Area. Saturday March 15, 1PM. This was the former country retreat of Edsel and Eleanor Ford in the 1920/30s. The artificial Haven Hill Lake and grounds surrounding the nature center were designed by noted Landscape Architect, Jens Jensen. The Nature Center is the highest point in Oakland County. Meet at Park Entrance at 1 PM for a hike of 2-5 miles around Haven Hill Lake. 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 for our Oakland County members! For information call John Wilson at 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 cell day of outing) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org or Carol Dobos at cdobos@att.net.

Deerfield Hills Hike

Deerfield Hills Township park
Sunday, March 30, 1PM
Skill level: Novice to expert, Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for a hike at Deerfield Hills Township Park at 1 PM on Sunday March 30, 1PM. 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, are welcome to enjoy this free outing. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Butterflies Are Blooming at Meijer Gardens

Frederik Meijer Garden and Sculpture park
Saturday, April 12 1PM
Skill level Novice, Difficulty Easy

Butterflies Are Blooming is Meijer Gardens' most popular annual exhibition and the largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibit in the nation. March 1–April 30, visitors can escape the Michigan winter and mingle with more than 6,000 tropical butterflies flying free in the 15,000-square-foot Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory. Meet at the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory. Car pooling can be arranged from Brighton area. We can then meet for lunch at the Taste of the Gardens café at Noon. Members, nonmembers, are welcome to enjoy this free outing. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-954-0429 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org or Mary Andersson mandersson@charter.net.

Waterloo–Pinckney Hiking Trail

Waterloo Recreation Area

Saturday, April 27, 1PM

Skill Level: intermediate, Difficulty: Moderate

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 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

Coming: NEW outings in the Spring and Summer

Wildflower and tree hike

A hike featuring wildflower and tree identification

Explore the new West River Trail.

An afternoon bike ride to explore the scenic West River Trail. The West River Trail is part of the Border-to-Border Trail, provides an important connection between Hudson Mills Metropark and downtown Dexter (a suburb of Ann Arbor). The path is primarily paved as it follows the west bank of the Huron River; a section through wetlands is boardwalk. Parking is available at the southern end of the trail off Main Street in Mill Creek Park and at the northern end of the trail in Hudson Mills Metropark (8801 North Territorial Road).

Argo Cascades on the Huron River

Whitewater kayaking or rafting on the new Argo Cascades. The city of Ann Arbor has won the 2012 Michigan Recreation and Park Association's Park Design Award for the Argo Cascades feature along the Huron River. The Argo Cascades on the Huron River is a popular destination for kayakers.

Support Crossroads

Fracking education- Programs- Outings- Conservation- Grants- Newsletters

This year, for the first time in our 23-year history, we are asking for your help to fund the important work that we do. For years, the Crossroads Group has relied on our lemonade stand at the Howell Balloonfest to raise the money we need to cover the cost of our newsletters, our programs and outings, grants to schools and conservation work. But poor weather this year reduced the crowds and drastically cut into our earnings.

This comes at a challenging time. With hydraulic fracturing ongoing in Livingston County, we need resources to maintain our programs as well as to inform citizens and community leaders about the dangers of fracking. With a contribution of \$25, or whatever you are comfortable with, you can support our critical role in keeping our air and water safe and our families healthy. 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 _____

Crossroads Sierra Club Presents

A Journey to the Past - Hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu A Program by Roy Schwarz



Roy Schwarz, PhD is a consultant, photographer, college instructor, entrepreneur, traveler AND an active member of the Michigan Sierra Club Crossroads Group. His photography business, Roy Schwarz Photography LLC www.royschwarzphotography.com, focuses on nature, landscape and travel photography. His journeys have taken him to many places, including the famed Inca Trail and Machu Picchu in South America. Through his beautiful photographs, Roy will take us there, too.

Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 PM
Brighton District Library
Free Admission

For more information on the Crossroads Sierra Club go to: MichiganSierraClub.org/Crossroads



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