

CROSSROADS

SIERRA CLUB

SPRING/SUMMER 2015



Balloonfest Lemonade Stand

Once again the Crossroads Group will set up its ever-popular lemonade stand at the annual Michigan Challenge Balloonfest to be held the weekend of June 26-28 in Howell. Our stand at this event provides funding for all the activities that make our group such an important part of the community including our outings, programs, newsletters and our political and conservation work.

For many years, we have been preparing hotdogs, brats and our trademark fresh-squeezed lemonade for the crowds that come each year to enjoy the festival. It is generally our only fundraiser of the year. But it does not happen without the help of all of our Crossroads supporters!

By volunteering to help at the lemonade stand, members get a free pass to the festival. It provides a great chance to get involved and meet other members of Sierra Club, to make new friends and support our important work. And beyond that, it's a lot of fun!

We have shifts all weekend long to meet anyone's schedule, and people often come early or stay late to enjoy all the activities and spectacles surrounding the festival. Shifts will take place as follows but feel free to modify them as needed to fit your schedule:

Thursday setup: Evening

Friday: 12-6 PM, 4 PM until closing

Saturday: 10 AM- 3 PM, 12 noon-6 PM, 5 PM until closing

Sunday: 10 AM- 3 PM, 12 noon-5 PM, 3 PM until closing.

One cannot say enough about the sight of dozens of hot air balloons lifting off into the summer sky...and there is no better vantage point than our booth which enjoys the best view of the launch field! But the biggest reward is knowing that by giving even a few hours of your time, you help make Crossroads an active voice for a better environment and a better community.

Anyone interested in volunteering or just learning more can contact Paul Thielking, our fundraising chairperson, at 810-588-6077 or sierraclublemonade@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you in June!

Our New Meetup Group

Meetup (meetup.com) is the world's largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. Meetup groups exist for just about any hobby or interest you can think of.

We began a Meetup group for Crossroads on March 10th of this year, and already we have nearly 100 members! Our Meetup members get emailed a few times per month to remind them about our upcoming outings and programs. It enables us to interact with people before our events; members can ask questions and let us know they will be attending, and we can notify our members of any changes to events. Check us out at meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group.

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: Laurie Mercure
cg.secretary@michigan.sierraclub.org

Chapter Group Rep.: Mary Andersson
cg.grouprep@michigan.sierraclub.org

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

Media: Kate DeRosier
cg.media@michigan.sierraclub.org

Membership: Pam Medelis
cg.membership@michigan.sierraclub.org

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

Outings: John Wilson, Mary Andersson
crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political: Julie Griess
cg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org

Programs:
Mary Novrocki, Andrea McKenzie
cg.programs@michigan.sierraclub.org

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

Conservation: Sue Kelly
cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org

VISIT US AT:
sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads



Monarchs Need Our Help Plant Milkweed!

Within a few weeks, I will have plugs of *Asclepias Incarnata* (swamp milkweed) to sell at upcoming Sierra Club events or you can contact me directly by phone (248-676-0196) or email (dianepruden@gmail.com) to order or for more information. Cost for these plugs is \$3.00 each.

The plugs are well rooted plants of approximately 6" which can be expected to bloom this year. The plants have been organically grown and are the native genotype for our eco region. This species does not require wet ground, contrary to its common name. It will adapt readily to ordinary garden conditions in full sun. You will need to keep it well watered for the first week or two. This milkweed does not spread or become invasive; rather each plant increases the number of stems each year and eventually becomes a clump. I suggest planting on an 18" center if possible.

Diane Pruden



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, please contact our webmaster at cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org. If you sign up for e-delivery, you will be notified via email when a new newsletter is available to view on our website and we will stop sending you the paper copies of the newsletters unless you specifically request to receive both. See our website sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads (click "Newsletters" tab) for more information.

ET Rover Pipeline Reroute

As many of you may know, the route for the ET Rover Pipeline line has changed...again. The reroute will eliminate 110 miles of pipe that would have gone through previously undisturbed property. For those who will not have to endure the disruption of their property and lives, consider yourselves very fortunate.

The new plan will still disrupt the many property owners who live in Lenawee, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. I'm truly sorry for those affected, and want you to know that we will continue to do everything we can to oppose the pipeline.

Let me back up a bit and provide some background. For me and my wife Marjorie, it has been a roller coaster since this all began. The original plan was to take that same route (Lenawee, Washtenaw and Livingston) and then follow the Enbridge/Vector line east into Canada. This route would have gone through our property in Oceola Township with the easement being 60 feet from our front porch. With the first reroute, which took the pipeline north from the point of intersection west of Howell, it took us out of the picture.

So that takes us back to the original route but without new pipe through most of Livingston County and to the east. On the surface that sounds really good, but it is still clouded by the fact that ET Rover could still "expand their capacity" by installing a "loop" pipeline along the existing line. Their statement which says that they have no plans to do so "at this time" makes many of us uneasy. As Jeff Insko says in his "Line 6B Citizens' Blog", "Landowners along the Vector line are now, as a friend of ours put it, living with a second shoe dangling over their heads, waiting to drop."

The four Sierra Club chapters in southeast Michigan plan to continue to oppose the pipeline by holding a series of meetings with Federal legislators. Our hope is to present information to them that they would certainly not have learned from the pipeline companies' biased advice.

The following is a brief summary of the issues we intend to present to our legislators:

There is little in this proposal that reflects a "balancing of public benefits with residual impacts." There is no demonstrated need for additional natural gas capacity in Michigan or in the region in general, while the impact on the safety, economic value, and environmental health of local property owners and communities would be considerable.

The ET Rover pipeline is one of many similar projects which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) should view in the context of their cumulative impacts. There are at least eight existing pipelines crossing between Canada and the Eastern US, and six new or expanded pipelines planned. Rather than considering these projects individually, FERC should consider them in their entirety in order to assess their full cumulative impact on the environment.

FERC's assessment of the environmental impacts of these pipelines should consider the entire process from production to delivery, including the environmental and public health damage from increased drilling and production in the Marcellus shale region, the combined greenhouse gas and VOC emissions, and the impact of pipeline construction and maintenance on rivers, wetlands, natural areas, farmland soil and drainage, forests, and threatened and endangered species.

FERC should rein in the heavy-handed approach pipeline companies use with landowners and local communities. Numerous comments submitted by individual landowners indicated that lack of consistent communication, misinformation, and threats of legal action and use of eminent domain were common practice by the ET and their representatives in their attempts to obtain easements for the pipeline routes.

Ron Kardos

Rover Pipeline Sues Michigan Landowners

By - *Associated Press - Monday, April 13, 2015*

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) - A company behind a proposed natural gas pipeline that could run through parts of Michigan has sued several landowners to gain access to their property for surveys.

John DeVries, a lawyer for Rover Pipeline LLC, told The Ann Arbor News (<http://bit.ly/1GD0Jya>) that 17 lawsuits have been filed in Washtenaw, Lenawee and Livingston counties. Eleven of the lawsuits were filed in Washtenaw County Trial Court.

ET Rover said the lawsuits are a reluctant action taken by the company so crews can conduct civil and environmental surveys. The filings cite Michigan law allowing surveyors and those supervised by surveyors to enter onto property for the purpose of a survey. "This is critical data we need in order to determine the best location for the proposed pipeline with the least impact on the surrounding area," said ET Rover spokeswoman Vicki Granado. "We are pleased that the majority of landowners have been responsive to our request for survey permission and that we had to take this action with a very small group."

DeVries estimated a total of about 350 landowners had been contacted.

The pipeline's route is planned through Lenawee, Washtenaw and Livingston counties and would connect with other pipelines. It had initially been proposed to go through some other Michigan counties, but the route was modified following resistance to the project from some residents.

Crossroads Outings

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. **Outings are subject to conditions. Always check our website (sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads) for the latest information, or check with the trip leader for cancellations or changes.**

Backpacking Service Trip to North Manitou Island, Memorial Day Weekend

Friday May 22 to Monday May 25

Participant limit 15. Hurry...registration required by May 15th!

See full description of this trip on our website or contact John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Pinckney State Recreation Area Bird and Wildflower Hike

Pinckney State Recreation Area, Cedar Lake Rd just south of M-36, Pinckney

Saturday May 30, 10 AM

Skill Level: easy to moderate, no experience necessary

Join us on a hike through some beautiful wetlands and hilly terrain in Pinckney State Recreation Area. This scenic trail is easy to moderate and is about 2 miles in length. Our guide, Lee Burton, will point out wildflowers and birds. There is the possibility of seeing spring migrants as well as orioles, tanagers, nesting warblers and vireos. In the wetlands we may see wood ducks, hooded mergansers, cranes and herons. Pack water and some snacks and wear sturdy walking shoes. We will start where the Lakelands Trail crosses Cedar Lake Road just a short distance south of M-36. To get there, take M-36 1 mile west of downtown Pinckney and turn left on Cedar Lake Rd. Park at the trail crossing parking lot, or along Cedar Lake Rd. For more information contact Lee Burton at lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org or John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Huron Meadows Metropark to Zukey Lake Paddle Trip

Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton

Sunday, June 7, 10 AM

Skill level: intermediate to expert; Difficulty: moderate

Join us for the annual Zukey Lake paddle trip. Meet at the boat launch parking lot at Huron Meadows Metropark. This is a scenic trip down the Huron River past Ore Lake, through Strawberry Lake, to Zukey Lake. Approximately a 2-hour paddle followed by optional lunch at Zukey Lake Tavern (not provided). Some paddling experience required. The outing is free but requires an annual or daily Metropark pass. For more information contact John Wilson or Gary Neumeier at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Kensington Metropark Hike

Kensington Metropark, park entrance is off Kensington Rd just north of I-96, Brighton

Sunday, June 14, 1 PM

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate

Choose from 2 hiking options on the wooded trails at Kensington Metropark: a slower-paced 2 mile hike around Wildwing Lake where we will identify trees and wildflowers with knowledgeable outing leaders; or a faster-paced hike around Wildwing Lake followed by additional trails in the area – total approximately 4.5 miles. Meet at the Nature Center at Kensington Metropark. The outing is free but requires an annual or daily Metropark pass. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Huron River Paddle, Hudson Mills to Delhi Metropark

Hudson Mills Metropark, 8801 N Territorial Rd, Dexter

Sunday July 12, 1 PM

Skill level: beginner to intermediate; Difficulty: easy to moderate

Join us for a fun afternoon on the beautiful Huron River! We will meet at the Rapids View picnic area/boat launch area at Hudson Mills Metropark. We will be paddling to Delhi Metropark. It is 8 miles and should take approximately 3-4 hours, depending on swimming and snack breaks. It's a fun day for all ability levels! The outing is free but requires an annual or daily Metropark pass. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

Crossroads Outings (continued)

Highland State Recreation Area Hike

Highland State Recreation Area, 5200 Highland Rd, White Lake

Saturday, July 25, 1PM

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate

Meet at Goose Meadows Picnic Area parking lot at the Highland State Recreation Area for a hike of 2 to 5 miles around Haven Hill Lake. This area 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. We will explore the Haven Hill Natural Area, which has all of southern Michigan's principal forest types within one small area, including cedar, beech-maple, oak-hickory, mixed hardwood, and swamp forest of tamarack. The area has remained largely undisturbed for the past 75 years and has retained its natural character as well as some unusual flora and fauna. 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. A great hike for our Oakland County members! For more information contact John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

Huron Valley Rail Trail / Island Lake Pathway Bike Ride

McHattie Park, 201 S Warren St, South Lyon

Sunday, August 9, 9 AM

Skill level: novice to experienced; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Family-friendly.

Join our bike ride on traffic-free, tree-lined, paved trails beginning and ending at McHattie Park in South Lyon. Choose from mileages of 11 miles, 32 miles, or 40 miles. The 11 mile route will be a slower pace, taking the Huron Valley Trail to the Lyon Township Park (the James F. Atchison Memorial Park). The 32 mile route will continue onto the Island Lake Pathway to Island Lake State Recreation Area. The 40 mile route will add a loop around Kensington Metropark. Meet at McHattie Park at 9 AM, and choose your distance. Access McHattie Park from S Warren St. Take 10 mile road (West Lake St) 2 blocks west of Lafayette (center of downtown). Turn south onto S Warren St, go 0.3 miles to park entrance. Bring your own water and snacks. Open to members and nonmembers. Outing is free. For more information contact John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.

SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard) Outing

Pinckney Recreation Area, Halfmoon Lake, 8555 Silver Hill Rd, Pinckney

Saturday, August 15, 10 AM

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate

Limit 12 participants, reserve by August 1

Stand up paddling (SUP) is the fastest growing water sport in Michigan. Have you ever wanted to try it out, find out what it is all about, or try out equipment? Here is your chance. Come join us with "SUP Edu", Mary Radke, owner/instructor. She is Paddle fit pro level 2 certified for beginner to elite racer lessons. Mary has the title 4 years in a row as the fastest woman in the Mid-West Race Series Elite races. She has been doing SUP for 7 years, teaching and racing for 5 years. The 2 hour class will include water safety and equipment, proper stroke, learning to paddle from your core, and water rescue with the board. Other topics are available for the more advanced. \$40 per person. Meet at the Halfmoon Lake Boat Launch Parking lot, Pinckney Recreation Area. Contact John Wilson by August 1st to reserve a spot or for more information at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

Crossroads Program

Modern Living: Life as a Honeybee

A Program by beekeepers Randy and Sandy Graichen of *Heart of the Hive*

Wednesday May 20th, 7:00 PM

Brighton District Library

Free Admission

Our presenters will show us a live observation hive, and give us a description of honey making, tastings of several local honeys, and a discussion of the challenges our most valuable insect faces in the modern world. This will be a fascinating program for the whole family!





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

Thanks to our friends at Big PDQ printing for their support. 810-229-2989 <http://www.bigpdq.com/>



Proposed ET Rover Pipeline Route in Our Area



- ET Rover Pipeline (proposed)
- Vector Pipeline
- Panhandle Eastern
- ANR Pipeline