

Crossroads

Sierra Club

Winter 2015



Elections 2015- 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, 2015.

Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2015 Official Ballot

	Member	Joint Member
Lee Burton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terry Gannon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Novrocki	<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.**

Executive Committee Chairs

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

Vice Chairperson: Sue Kelly
cg.vicechair@michigan.sierraclub.org

Treasurer: Julie Greiss
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: Lorne Beatty
Lorne.Beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VISIT US AT:
Michigan.SierraClub.org/Crossroads



Crossroads Board Candidate Statements

Lee Burton's candidate statement:

All of my life I have enjoyed the outdoors, from wilderness traveling to exploring my own backyard. As someone who loves nature, I feel a responsibility to do a share to help protect and preserve our environment. One way to do this is by serving as a leader in the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club. For several years I was the program chair and vice chair and I presently serve as the chair. By maintaining my position on the executive committee I can continue to take part in a strong and committed leadership team

Mary Novrocki's 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 am its Program Co-Chairperson and where I am also a member of the Crossroads 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.

Terry Gannon's Candidate Statement

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 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.

John Wilson's Candidate Statement

My interest and experience in the Sierra Club has been primarily in forestry and recreational issues. I have remained active in the Forest Planning process. Currently, my interest is in outings, and the continued development of a strong outings program. I believe that a love of the environment starts simply with outings, and the education and values they can provide. My vision for the local Sierra Club is to have a larger, younger, environmentally aware group of members, willing to share their values with the community. I believe that outings provide an important means of achieving that goal.

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 ([Michigan.SierraClub.org/ Crossroads](http://Michigan.SierraClub.org/Crossroads)) for latest information, or 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

Huron Meadows Metropark Ski Outing

Huron Meadows Metropark, Brighton
Saturday, January 24, 1PM
Skill level: novices to advanced; Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Join us for an afternoon cross country ski outing at Huron Meadows Metropark. Meet at the Ski Center at 1PM. 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: www.metroparks.com. Outing dependent on snow conditions. For updated information see our website, or call John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Winter Paddle Outing

Island Lake State Recreation Area, Brighton: boat launch/rental area
Sunday, February 15th, Noon
Skill Level: Intermediate; Difficulty: Moderate

Join us for our Annual Winter Paddle on the Huron River. This popular outing starts at noon at the Island Lake State Recreation Area, at the boat launch/rental area - below the Kent Lake Dam. It ends 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 volunteer as a shuttle bunny if you are not paddling. For updated information see our website, or call John Wilson at [734-355-3822](tel:734-355-3822) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Winter Camping Outing

Hoist Lake Foot Travel Area, Oscoda: start at Hoist Lake Trailhead Parking lot
Saturday, February 21 to Sunday, February 22
Skill Level: Intermediate; Difficulty: Moderate

Ever wanted to try winter camping? It is an exhilarating experience! Join us for an overnight camping trip to Hoist Lake foot travel area. Hoist Lake foot travel area encompasses almost 10,000 acres of pine, aspen and hardwood forest. Hoist Lake is a semi-primitive non-motorized Forest Service area near Oscoda, Michigan. We will ski, snowshoe, or hike in about a mile and make camp at a site overlooking the lake. We will use special sleds (provided) to pull our equipment. If

Crossroads Outings (page 2)

you have never done this, and are interested, we may provide an instruction class in advance, and perhaps a local trial camp. Three season tents are adequate. Three/four season tents and sleeping bags can be made available. There are 19 miles of looped trail. Hiking trails and back-country skiing are permitted; however, there are no groomed trails. Cross country skiing ranges from moderate to more difficult/most difficult due to length of trails. Trip specifics will depend on the number of people interested, and their skill level. There is a \$5 day use fee, and we will share expenses for food and supplies. If interested please call John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org for information.

Brighton Recreation Area late Spring Hike

Brighton Recreation Area, Penosha or Kahchin Trail, Howell

Sunday, March 29, 1PM

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: Moderate

Join us for an afternoon hike on the Penosha or Kahchin Trail. The Penosha trail is 5 miles, approximately 2-2 ½ hours, through woods and meadows. Or for a lighter option the Kahchin trail is 2 miles, approximately 1 hour. The trailhead for both trails is at the Bishop Lake parking lot in Brighton Recreation Area - 6360 Chilson Road, Howell. 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 see our website, or call John Wilson at 734-355-3822 john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Howell Nature Center

Between Howell and Pinckney, 1005 Triangle Lake Road, Howell

Saturday, April 18, 1 PM

An outing for families and kids!

No experience required

Join us for a family visit to the Howell Nature Center. We will have a tour of The Wild Wonders Wildlife Park. The Wildlife Park provides an up-close view of many native Michigan wild birds and mammals, including coyote, beaver, porcupine, bobcat, bald eagle, owls, and much more. This educational zoo space is designed for all ages. Other adventure activities, such as zip line Eco-Tour and climbing tower are available. Pre-registration, pre-payment, and signed waivers are required for all adventure programs. For information see our website, or call John Wilson at 734-355-3822. Information on the Howell Nature Center available at: <http://howellnaturecenter.org/>

McGraths Nature Discovery Center, "Spring Frogs and Identifying Their Calls"

McGraths Nature and Discovery Center, Williamston

Sunday, May 3, 2 PM

An outing for families and kids!

No experience required

This is a great family outing! With over 40 species of Michigan snakes, turtles, lizards, frogs and salamanders, Nature Discovery is home to the **largest collection of live** Michigan Reptiles and Amphibians in the state. We will tour the inside Nature Center and the reptile and amphibian exhibit, and have a guided tour on the trail, where we will identify the calls of spring frogs. There is a fee for this program of between 5 and 10 dollars. We will help arrange car pooling from the Brighton area. A great way to spend the day with your kids! For information see our website, or call John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org

Crossroads Programs

Solar Electricity Generation: Power into the Future

A Program by

Michigan Solar & Wind Power Solutions, LLC

Wednesday January 21st, 7:00 PM

Brighton District Library

Free Admission



Backyards Birds

A program by Lee Burton

Wednesday March 18th, 7:00 PM

Brighton District Library

Free Admission

Modern Living: Life as a Honeybee

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

Wednesday May 20th, 7:00 PM

Brighton District Library

Free Admission





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

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Citizen Oversight Needed for our Metroparks!

The Metroparks are contained in five counties in Michigan (Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Wayne). The 13 individual parks total about 25,000 acres and are located along the area's main waterways, the Huron and Clinton Rivers, Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. They are a valued community asset, used by many visitors for their nature centers and outdoor recreation, including water sports, golf, and extensive hike/bike and nature trails. In the 1990's, following public outcry, efforts by conservation groups such as the Michigan Botanical Club, the Sierra Club, and Audubon groups helped to encourage great progress in the Metroparks' stewardship of its natural areas, protecting crucial habitat for wildlife, especially birds. However, recent management decisions raised concerns regarding that progress.

Recently the Metroparks Board of Commissioners fired their 5th director in 6 years. The current Assistant Director, George Phifer, is also the Metroparks Police Chief. In July 2014, Mr. Phifer directed the mowing of a number of the established no-mow areas consisting of native wildflower and grass meadows, grassland bird habitat, and the newly constructed bioswales for storm water retention at Lake St. Clair Metropark. The mowing caused not only loss of wildlife habitat including milkweed for monarchs, but killed a number of birds, fledglings, snakes and frogs. Local volunteers reported that many of the additional mowing areas did not have invasive shrubs, and that mowing would result in damage by spreading seeds of thistle and other invasives to areas under stewardship. Crossroads Group has joined other organizations in expressing concerns over the mowing plan.

The Metroparks Board of Commissions meets monthly, usually the second Thursday of the month, 10:30 AM. Location varies among the parks, but Nov. through Mar. are usually at the Administration Office near Kensington. The meeting location, agenda and board packet are posted on the Metroparks.com website before the meeting. Public comments are at the beginning of the meeting and are limited to two minutes (about one type-written page). Your oversight and participation would be most welcome!

Please check the Crossroads web page for a lengthier version of this article and links to resources.

Campaign Thanks

I'd like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You!" to everyone who supported Shari Pollesch for State Senate in the November election! We called, sent literature, went door-to-door and you responded with your vote. So many of you also made financial donations, spent hours and hours canvassing and making phone calls! I was very proud of all your involvement and happy to see so many Sierra Club Activists.

Mary Andersson, Campaign Manager