

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • FALL/WINTER 2022-23

Sierra Club Faces New Challenges With The Same Dedication

By Anne Woiwode, Executive Committee Member, At Large and Secretary, Alternate Council of Club Leaders Delegate

"Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all."

Ban Ki-moon, former United Nations Secretary General

Sierra Club leaders have always advocated for and educated people about the importance of wild places. We have successfully engaged millions to demand an environmentally sound future. Today, our greatest challenges are different. We must overcome misinformation and deliberate efforts to undermine public engagement in the face of the dual crises confronting the climate and our democracy.

Sierra Club staff and volunteers are engaged today in the fight to win *solutions for all*. The top priority is to make sure voters turn out and cast votes that will directly impact creating that better future. The election in November presents stark choices. Take time to learn about the candidates and issues, review the Michigan Chapter endorsements and vote with the planet's future in mind. This election will have consequences for generations: we can't afford to elect climate deniers or those who seek to undermine our democracy.

But there is no need to wait until election day to act. Right now, Sierra Club staff and volunteers are dramatically moving the needle. Michigan's utilities are being forced to shut down coal-burning plants many years earlier than planned, thanks to the Beyond Coal Campaign. Green infrastructure is expanding in our



Volunteers are the heart and soul of Sierra Club and help make scenes like this possible for Michigan residents.

PHOTO BY GAIL PHILBIN.

urban areas through Sierra Club's work in southeast Michigan and Grand Rapids. Toxic contamination exposed through the work of volunteers and staff motivates us to advocate for real cleanups, ending historic environmental injustices in urban and rural communities. And our voices are being heard in the fight to ensure public lands and wildlife are managed to protect and restore biodiversity.

Fighting against despair and misinformation is the secret weapon of the Sierra Club. We succeed because of members like you. Thank you for your commitment and support.

Every year's an election year at Sierra Club... See who's running for the Chapter ExCom and vote on p. 12 - 13.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

TheMackinac

FALL/WINTER
2022-23

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Anne Woiwode: A Force of Nature

By Abby Clark, Michigan Chapter Chair



Abby Clark
Michigan Chapter Chair

Anne Woiwode went to her first Sierra Club event in 1980, looking for something to balance her new life as a young mother. Forty-two years later, the Michigan Chapter still provides the “fulfillment and stimulation of working on a good cause with good people” - the same appeal it’s had for so many of us. Anne served for more than three decades as the Michigan Chapter director before retiring in 2015. She has generously remained

engaged in various leadership roles, currently serving as Chapter secretary on the Executive Committee.

While Anne was leading the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club, her husband, Tom, became equally influential in the state’s environmental community. After leading The Nature Conservancy of Michigan and co-founding EarthShare of Michigan, he developed the GreenWays Initiative and programs on land use, green infrastructure and urban revitalization for the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

On July 21st, friends, family and colleagues gathered at Detroit’s Eastern Market to celebrate this environmental power couple’s combined 80+ years of service to the Great Lakes state where they received the Helen and William Milliken Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC).

Anne played a critical role in achieving an incredible mix of enduring protections and policies with the Sierra Club, including:

- building a successful coalition effort that blocked every proposed new coal-burning power plant in Michigan in the late 2000s;
- securing congressional designation of 90,000 acres of National Forest lands as wilderness and establishing the Chapter’s forest biodiversity work;
- striving to bring massive livestock factories into compliance with environmental laws and
- launching the chapter’s effective electoral program and lobbying work, engaging hundreds of citizens led by exceptional professional staff.

Anne’s work on air pollution issues, including the fight against the Detroit incinerator in the 1980s and 90s, helped begin Sierra Club’s transformation from solely a protector of wild places to an organization advocating for people suffering environmental injustices due to racist policies.



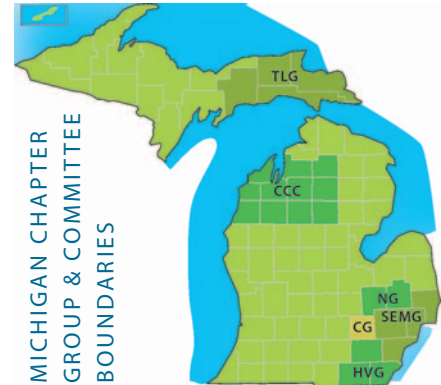
Anne Woiwode, the force of nature who led the Michigan Chapter as director for three decades and continues to serve on its Executive Committee, accepted the Helen and William Milliken Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Environmental Council along with her equally influential husband, Tom, on July 21. Demonstrating why the chapter has been so effective on so many issues, Anne gave a powerful acceptance speech about the need to speak truth to power at the ceremony honoring the couple’s collective 80+ years of visionary environmental leadership.

Anne has spent years speaking truth to power and July 21 was no different. During her award acceptance speech, she called out event sponsor DTE and Enbridge, which owns the Line 5 pipeline, for the millions they spend trying to convince the public that they aren’t dangerous polluters.

The fight to protect Michigan’s air, water and people continues and Anne isn’t backing down from it after decades of tireless work. Please consider honoring her legacy by supporting the continuation of our work by donating to the Michigan Chapter at <https://bit.ly/WoiwodeFund>.

THINK GLOBALLY AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP!

Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country and the Michigan Chapter's 6 regional Groups and Committees host outings, political and conservation activities and informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings — everyone is welcome! For inquiries about activities in your area, you can also contact sarah.tresedder@sierraclub.org.



Sometimes people participate in a Chapter Group other than the one serving the county in which they live. If this is true for you, it's important we have this information because 1) Groups get funds based on their member numbers and 2) Groups send info to their members through lists based on their member home addresses. To change your designated Group, please contact Sierra Club National's Member Care 415.977.5653 or member.care@sierraclub.org

Clearwater Conservation Committee / CCC

COUNTIES: Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford
FACEBOOK: Clearwater Conservation Committee
TWITTER: @NCMIClearwater
VICE CHAIR: Charlie Weaver • ctejedor@copper.net

Crossroads Group / CG

COUNTIES: Livingston and western Oakland
MEETS: at group leader homes in Livingston County or West Oakland Counties (first Thurs of the month)
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads
FACEBOOK: Crossroads Group Sierra Club
CHAIR: Lee Anzicek • leeanzicek@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org

Huron Valley Group / HVG

COUNTIES: Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe
MEETS: in Ann Arbor
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/huron
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
EMAIL: HVGSierraClub@gmail.com
CHAIR: Jason Frenzel • a2jasonfrenzel@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Anne Brown • aasbrown@gmail.com
OUTINGS CO-CHAIR: John Metzler • johnmetz@applecon.com
OUTINGS CO-CHAIR: Shonda Thoms • sktohm@gmail.com

Nepessing Group / NG

COUNTIES: Genesee, Lapeer, and North Oakland
MEETS: at Mott Community College in Flint
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/nepessing
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Nepessing Group - MI
CHAIR: Mike Buza • theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com
VICE CHAIR: Suzanne Lossing • slissing@hotmail.com

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

COUNTIES: Wayne, St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/semg
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group
CO-CHAIR: Garrett Dempsey • garrett.dempsey@sierraclub.org
CO-CHAIR: Jerry Hasspacher • jhasspac@gmail.com
The Southeast Michigan Group is holding an election for the Executive Committee. Elected candidates will take office in January 2023. Go to our website www.sierraclub.org/southeast-michigan for candidate statements and the ballot. Voting deadline is December 5, 2022.

Southwest Michigan Group - In Process of Restructuring

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is planning on updating its structure and is reviewing the status and structure of the Southwest Michigan Group. If you are interested in being a part of the discussion, please contact Mary Ann Renz at or 269-743-7023.

Three Lakes Group / TLG

COUNTIES: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft
MEETS: in Sault Ste. Marie
WEBSITE: tlgsierraclub.org
FACEBOOK: Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club
CHAIR: Roger Blanchard • blanchardclimate@gmail.com

Meetup With the Sierra Club

Meetup is a great way to check on the latest events sponsored by your local Sierra Club entity. Find the meetup page for your local group or committee below:

www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Three-Lakes-Group/
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Huron-Valley/
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Nepessing-Group-Michigan/

www.meetup.com/Metro-Detroit-Outdoors-Hiking/ (SEM Group)
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group/
www.meetup.com/SierraClubClearwaterGroup/

Fires Threaten Michigan Forests

By Marvin Roberson, Forest Ecologist

*“Got me burnin', got me burnin'”
-Ohio Players, “Fire”*

The forests of the western United States are on fire. Forests are in the middle of a historic drought with record high temperatures while significant river systems like the Rio Grande are going dry. Major reservoirs are so low that the water levels are in danger of falling below the intake tubes which run the electric generators.

But that's out west, right? We don't have to worry about forest fires here in Michigan, do we? The Great Lakes surround us, there are inland lakes and rivers everywhere.

Think again.

The Northern Lower Peninsula is already a dry system, primarily sand and gravel left by the glaciers. Water drains very quickly, leaving the area dry and prone to burning.

One of our dominant forest types is Jack Pine. These trees have resinous cones that require high temperatures to open and release their seeds, meaning this area is already prone to fires and needs fires.

Climate change causes heat and drought, making the threat of fires worse. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Drought Monitor Map shows the Northern Lower Peninsula in drought conditions (as of July 2022).

Maple-beech is another major forest system in Michigan. These forests are so wet and burn so rarely that Forest Ecologist Dave Cleland called them “asbestos forests.” However, even that system is in danger from fire.

Beech trees are susceptible to Beech Bark Disease spread by insects. Warming winters have lengthened the active season for these insects, which means more beech trees die. As a result, instead of a forest full of live, wet fire-resistant trees, there are now dead fire-prone beech trees throughout the forest.

While we are not yet in the dire situation western forests face, we are not immune to climate change and its impacts on Michigan forests.



Forest fires like this one near Portland are a distinct possibility in Michigan.

PHOTO BY KARSTEN WINEGEART, UNSPLASH

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter:

_____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 \$_____ Other

Give online at www.tinyurl.com/supportMISC

Your donation helps provide the flexible funding Sierra Club needs to successfully advocate for Michigan's Great Lakes, wild heritage and clean energy future.

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to support our work, contact Gail Philbin at gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.

Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,
109 E. Cesar Chavez Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Instead of a check, please charge my credit card (VISA or MC) \$_____.

Card # : _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mitigate Climate Change

Moving Beyond Coal Despite The Supreme Court

By Mike Berkowitz, Sierra Club's Senior Michigan Beyond Coal Campaign Representative

Last summer, the Supreme Court dealt a major blow to EPA's ability to fight climate change, holding in *West Virginia v. EPA* that the Agency may not use its most effective tool under the federal Clean Air Act to reduce climate-disrupting carbon pollution from the electric power sector. But as damaging and backward as this decision is, it isn't going to slow our progress toward decarbonizing Michigan or the country's economy. Just prior to the ruling, the Sierra Club and our allies struck a settlement with Consumers Energy to retire the utility's last remaining coal plant in 2025, 15 years earlier than previously planned. This is the 23rd coal plant in Michigan to announce retirement over the last two decades, even in the absence of EPA standards for power plant carbon emissions. This was the result of long-term grassroots organizing by dedicated activists with Sierra Club and our allies, the failing economics of coal and dramatic advances making renewable energy cheaper and more reliable. The same economic realities and public advocacy are forcing DTE to actively consider shortening the life of its last two remaining coal plants (Belle River and Monroe), regardless of additional action on climate by EPA.

Learn more about how we made this happen, the history of our Beyond Coal Campaign and what else we're working on here: <https://tinyurl.com/56p2kd39>

Earth Day In Oakland County Demonstrates Strong Support For Climate Justice

By Andrew Sarpolis, Senior Organizing Representative Southeast Michigan and Lansing Beyond Coal Campaign

Each year, local groups and governments celebrate Earth Day in Michigan with projects, events and informational fairs. However, these events sometimes fail to focus enough on climate change and the urgency of our current situation.

This year, Turn Oakland County Green, of which Sierra Club is a founding member, sought to flip the narrative. For the first time, Oakland County's largest Earth Day event was devoted almost exclusively to raising awareness about global warming, educating the public about climate justice and creating a platform for organizations to connect with new volunteers.

Several community leaders and renowned scientists spoke to an enthusiastic crowd from the stage. Kimathi Boothe, chair of the North Oakland Branch of the NAACP's Climate Justice Program said, "We know now that (climate change and climate justice) not only affects you all but everyone. I think about a single, solid true commitment to address climate change. And that means a single, solitary solid commitment to correcting the systems that promote and sustain the economies we are currently living under."

Dr. Jonathon Overpeck, dean of the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability and coordinating lead author of the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment said, "Climate change isn't just happening. It's raging. And, it's a crisis. This is happening faster than the climate science community thought it would."

Over 40 organizations and businesses had tables. An estimated 700 - 1,000 people attended over the course of the event. Overall, this demonstrates a strong commitment to climate action in Oakland County. With Oakland County's much-anticipated climate action-plan process preparing to ramp up, it is critical that citizens stay engaged. While Oakland County remains ahead of the pack compared to other Michigan counties, the county could still risk failing to meet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2030 targets. To achieve a promising future for the county, citizen volunteers must take significant and robust action.

Andrew Sarpolis, one of the organizers of Turn Oakland County Green and the 2022 Earth Day March, Rally and Fair, pointed out, "While citizens have made enormous progress in getting Oakland County to pass funding initiatives and the county remains a leader in Michigan, it is important that people continue to contact their commissioners to push for more. For those living in other counties, the time to introduce resolutions in their counties is at hand. Local governments remain some of our best venues for implementing climate-friendly policies, particularly in the wake of the wave of grant dollars that will enter our communities from recent federal legislation."

To learn more about Turn Oakland County Green and possibly start a climate campaign in your community, visit turnoaklandcountygreen.com.



Volunteers and activists take part in the 2022 Oakland County Earth Day March.

PHOTO CREDIT: ANALICIA HAZELBY

Sierra Club Fights For The Rule Of Law To Stop Line 5

By Christy McGillivray, Legislative and Political Director

In direct violation of Tribal treaty rights and Governor Whitmer's shut down order, Enbridge continues to operate the Line 5 pipeline. Clearly the full weight and authority of the United States federal government is required to hold one of the most powerful global fossil fuel companies accountable to the first ever shut-down order for an existing pipeline. Enbridge knows what is at stake. The company continues to spend millions in advertising and PR to defy the shutdown order. We are at a tipping point. Will we be able to enforce the rule of law or will the power of our democracy be outweighed by the industry that has brought us into climate chaos?

Sierra Club Michigan has pulled out all the stops to get across the finish line and we need your help. <https://bit.ly/SupportSCMI> We have dramatically escalated our work to bring national and international attention to the fight to shut down Line 5 and built an all-hands-on-deck international mobilization to escalate communications and grassroots organizing. As a result of our advocacy, Sierra Club's Dirty Fuels campaign has hired an organizer to work on Line 5 as a national campaign. Our federal policy team has included a federally mandated shutdown of Line 5 in high-level talks with the Biden administration. Furthermore, the Michigan Chapter is spearheading work to re-establish a Great Lakes Program within Sierra Club nationally. At the heart of that program is a regional campaign to coordinate across chapters to enforce the Line 5 shutdown. We've also brought in Sierra Club Canada, building relationships with French-speaking activists taking on Enbridge in Montreal. We are halfway towards meeting our fundraising goal for a full-time bilingual organizer to help



Sierra Club is continuing the fight to shut down Line 5.

PHOTO BY SOPHIE FAYBAN

coordinate these efforts. We need your help too by contributing to the effort! <https://bit.ly/SupportSCMI>

We are inspired to do this work for so many reasons but we are particularly inspired by one of the most dramatic accomplishments in Sierra Club history. In 1966, Sierra Club grabbed national headlines when it rallied the nation just in time to stop the flooding and destruction of the Grand Canyon. Today, the Great Lakes are a national treasure in imminent danger. The Great Lakes face many complex threats like legacy pollution, invasive species and climate impacts but the oil-spill threat posed by Line 5 has a simple solution: enforce treaty rights and shut it down. This campaign is also marked by a legacy shift from Sierra Club conservation leadership in 1966. In driving the shutdown of Line 5, Sierra Club will be grounding conservation efforts in support of First Nations/Tribal treaty rights, not in spite of Tribal treaty rights.

Making Waves In Grand Haven

By Jan O'Connell, Energy Issues Organizer

Grand Haven is a city known for its sandy beaches, picturesque lighthouse and sunsets. Now Grand Haven is charting a path towards becoming a sustainable city in the fight against climate change. In August 2021, facing strong opposition from the community to a new power plant, the Grand Haven City Council pushed "pause" on a proposed fossil-fueled gas plant on Harbor Island by not voting on the proposal. Two days later, the local utility, Grand Haven Board of Light & Power, abandoned its plans.

Responding to pressure from local activists, less than a year later the City Council unanimously approved the establishment of a Sustainability and Energy Committee. One month later, the appointed committee of nearly a dozen individuals including Sierra Club members came together for its first official meeting to chart a course to move Grand Haven to a sustainable future.

Since the implosion of the coal plant on Harbor Island in 2021, there are still big issues surrounding the contamination of the coal yard, coal ash pollutants, PFAS and other hazardous chemicals that have been identified on the island that the city and the Board of Light & Power need to come to agreement on how to address.

Along with Grand Haven, a sustainable plan should also include Grand Haven and Spring Lake Townships, the City of Ferrysburg and possibly Crockery and Robinson Townships. More activists are needed for this regional transformation and to push for clean-up of Harbor Island. For more information and to get involved in sustainability issues and planning along the West Michigan Lakeshore, email jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.



Grand Haven pier and lighthouse.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAND HAVEN.

Fair And Honest Elections Reign In Michigan

By Abby Clark, Michigan Chapter Chair

All elections are important and this November's election is no exception. However, to make an informed decision this year, voters heading to the ballot box must wade through a swamp of misinformation and distortions.

Examples include claims of election fraud and tampering with voting machines. In Michigan, clerks are required to subject tabulators to extensive assessments to ensure their accuracy before every election. These tests are open to the public. So far, there have been no significant problems reported across the state.

Despite the spread of misinformation, Michigan has initiated election reforms to include all citizens in fair elections. In 2018, Michigan voters passed Proposition 3 which expanded citizens' rights to vote in Michigan. The provisions include the right to an absentee ballot for all citizens, same-day voter registration and online voter registration options.

Unfortunately, local officials have lacked the resources to fully educate voters about these changes and instruct them on how to register, request and turn in their ballots and troubleshoot issues leading up to and on election day.

Confusion about voting is real. As if the new changes to our voting process weren't enough, voters now have to learn new districts due to the redistricting process. Voters need to educate themselves and combat misinformation and confusion. Here are a series of tips to help navigate elections.

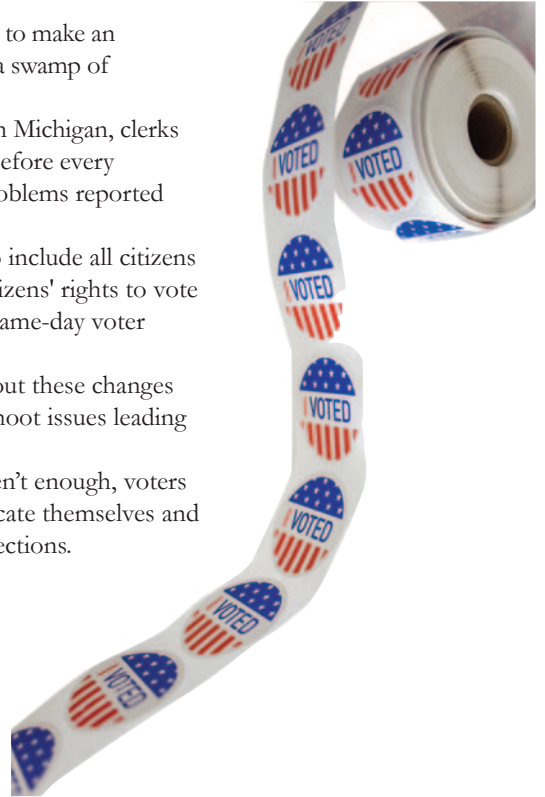
Visit mi.gov/vote:

- To verify your voter registration
- To register to vote (until 15 days before an election)
- To see your polling place and sample ballot
- Visit your city or township clerk's office
- To vote absentee in person (until the day before an election)
- To resolve any issues with your absentee ballot
- To return your absentee ballot, or use any official dropbox posted by your city or township.

Ways you can help protect our democracy in your community:

- Volunteer to be a poll worker at mi.gov/DemocracyMVP
- Flag misinformation on social media and always be mindful of informational links that you share with friends
- Offer to help neighbors get to the polls.

For information on the Club's endorsements, see the insert included in this issue.



SUPPORT THE WORK OF SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter:
_____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 \$_____ Other

Give online at bit.ly/SCMILegFund

Your donation helps support our Legislative work at the Capitol and across the state.

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

**Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,
109 E. Cesar Chavez Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Sierra Club Fights For The Environment And Democracy

By Christy McGillivray, Legislative and Political Director

2022 has been a demanding but productive year in the Michigan Chapter's legislative work, led by Christy McGillivray and Tim Minotas. Since January 2022, Sierra Club hosted a successful virtual lobby day with more than 100 participants, organized more than 40 meetings with state legislators and helped hundreds of people contact their lawmakers. Our legislative staff is tracking more than 230 bills in the Michigan Legislature. We have prioritized meeting with key lawmakers, especially caucus leaders, committee members and leaders of relevant committees.

The Sierra Club rallied the newly formed Environmental Justice caucus to successfully stop support for bills included in the solid waste reform package that would allow plastic burning (pyrolysis and gasification) to be classified as recycling. We worked hard to support the bill to remove the 1% cap on rooftop solar (HB 4236) and community solar (HB 4715-4716). We continue to lead the opposition to the aggregate mining bill (SB 429-431), which is not off the table yet.

The Michigan Chapter worked closely with the Michigan House and Senate Democrats on drafting and promoting an eight-bill package on climate resiliency. We also worked with House Democrats on legislation to require paying prevailing wages on clean energy projects. Christy and Tim engaged heavily on a budget supplemental bill that will allocate over \$4.8 billion to water infrastructure needs in Michigan, which was signed into law this spring.

Quick work by Tim in concert with our partners Michigan Environmental Council and League of Conservation Voters helped stop support for a terrible ethanol bill that was on the table during late-night budget negotiations. This bill process is still ongoing in the House and we continue to strengthen it.

At the end of the session, the Sierra Club was the only group to go on the record in committee in opposition to an NDA (Non Disclosure Agreement) backed corporate tax bill package. Sierra Club joined a progressive public statement opposing the NDA-backed corporate tax bills. Rep. Rahbi noted Sierra Club's statement in committee during an in-district meeting with constituents. Our position supporting broader progressive budgeting priorities helped move the conversation about how we pay for the needed environmental protections and infrastructure enforcement.

Sierra Club Michigan earned praise for explicitly linking our work to protect democracy with our legislative advocacy. This spring, we released our first scorecard that focused entirely on democracy. See 2021-2022 scorecard here: sierraclub.org/michigan/legislative-scorecards.

We focused on democracy bills for two reasons. First, our country is facing an existential threat to democracy and we must double down on our efforts to help members understand that our work to advocate for pro-environment policies is only possible in a functioning democracy. Second, if we scored the floor votes on bills that moved this session, we would be painting a negative picture of arguably more pro-environment and pro-democracy elected officials as we head into a tough election year. We will be scoring environmental votes in our end-of-the-year scorecard when the legislative session has ended for members who want that breakdown of environmental votes.



Protect & Restore Great Lakes Ecosystem

SUCCESS? YES! But There's More Work To Do!

By Erma Leaphart-Gouch, Healing Our Waters Coalition Michigan Co-Lead

News flash! Water bodies throughout the nation, including the Great Lakes region, are experiencing threats. Water temperatures are rising due to climate change and toxic substances are either dumped into bodies of water or flow over land or via groundwater. Septic systems fail, sewage pipes age, sewers overflow and polluted stormwater runs off. Invasive species threaten Michigan's native species. All of these factors contribute to habitat loss and degradation. When I hear about massive amounts of microplastics in oceans, rivers and lakes that kill aquatic species and contaminate drinking water, I am immediately distressed (to put it nicely). People ask why I continue to work despite promises to retire years ago. The issues listed provide the answer because, despite progress, there is more work to do.

Thankfully, the Sierra Club and the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition partners strategize and work together to fight for programs, policies and funding to reduce and cleanup contaminated sites, prevent invasive species, slow the growth of toxic algal blooms, obtain funding to replace aging water infrastructure, restore and protect wetlands and assure clean water protections.

Our work prioritizes equity and environmental justice. Environmental threats disproportionately harm low-income, Indigenous, rural, African American and other communities of color. These communities have fewer resources to address environmental dangers and rarely cause the problems. Community voices must be heard and their needs must be addressed. Retired or not, I look forward to joining community members and activists at city halls, public advisory council meetings, public hearings and the halls of Congress until we stop pollution and everyone has access to clean and affordable water. For more information:

Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition: www.healthylakes.org

Great Lakes Areas of Concern – Public Advisory Councils – Get Involved: <https://tinyurl.com/344yrcmt>

The Storm Water Specialist Training Program Celebrates Its Third Cohort

By Elayne Elliott, Green Stormwater Infrastructure Organizer, SC Great Lakes Program

In Detroit, managing stormwater is not just important for reducing flooding and runoff - it is critical for houses of worship, small businesses and nonprofit organizations looking to save money. In addition to water-use rates, all users pay sewer drainage fees billed at \$677 per impervious acre per month (as of June 2022). For houses of worship with large buildings but dwindling membership, the burden is too costly to bear. Sierra Club Michigan Chapter has worked with houses of worship through Rain Gardens to the Rescue and the Sacred Grounds program to install large-scale rain gardens that help reduce the fees through the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's green credit program.

In order to ensure the rain gardens continue to thrive both aesthetically and functionally, the Michigan Chapter partnered with Friends of the Rouge to launch the Storm Water Specialist Training (SWST) Program in 2019. Rain garden maintenance requires highly specialized knowledge often unknown to commercial landscapers. As nongovernmental organizations and cities install more green infrastructure, the need for this skill set is becoming more evident.

Now in its third year, the SWST program is gaining momentum. In 2022, five participants successfully completed the program and two participants have secured contracts with St. Suzanne's Cody Rouge Community Resource Center and the Friends of the Rouge to maintain green stormwater infrastructure installations in southeast Michigan. The 2022 cohort was trained to properly identify plants in rain gardens, evaluate and create solutions to failures in these structures, develop site logs to aid in the transfer of knowledge, effectively run and manage their own businesses and communicate with site owners. To learn more about this workforce development program and how you can get involved, please email glgc@michigan.sierraclub.org.



Graduates of the Stormwater Specialist Training Program: Row 1 (L-R): Amethyst Crawford, Nathalie Wood, Noreen Gillmann, Venita Thompkins, Phazhe Jackson Row 2 (L-R): Elayne Elliott (Sierra Club), Dallas Ford (Friends of the Rouge)

PHOTO CREDIT: ELAYNE ELLIOTT

Sierra Club Identifies PFAS Polluters

By Christy McGillivray, Legislative and Political Director

Sierra Club Michigan helped launch groundbreaking reporting from MLive linking PFAS contamination at the Valley View Pork facility in Walkerville, Mich. to land application of waste from an automotive leather producer. Read the MLive article here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdeeu832>

Records show that Eagle Ottawa Leather, headquartered in Grand Haven, spread 13,000 tons of tannery waste on farmland annually between at least the mid-1990s and 2007, using a loophole in federal EPA safeguards meant to prevent chemical contamination, not encourage it.

PFAS has been used in tannery processes since the 1950s. Michigan's PFAS Action Response Team, MPART, identified this contaminated hotspot. PFAS chemicals pose a unique concern due to their intense toxicity, their incredible persistence in the environment and their mobility which allows them to be taken up by plants or wash into rivers and streams. The state's own "Beneficial Reuse" policy for industrial wastes allowed for the spread of PFAS-containing waste into the food production system.

Sierra Club applauds MPART for leading the country in finding contamination hotspots, but we need an upstream solution. Farmers shouldn't have their livelihoods threatened because of contamination from other industries and the public shouldn't be worried how this impacts our food supply. We must ban the sale and use of PFAS and we should stop spreading industrial waste on agricultural lands. Other states should learn from Michigan to identify places where tannery or other industrial wastes have been land-applied and stop these practices that threaten our food supply and nearby water sources.



PFAS foam released in the environment can end up on farms and in food.

SIERRA CLUB PHOTO

Join the Clean Energy Sentinels

By Jan O'Connell, Energy Issues Organizer, MI Beyond Coal and Clean Energy Campaign

"Never depend upon institutions or government to solve problems. All social movements are founded by, guided by, motivated and seen through by the passion of individuals." - Margaret Mead

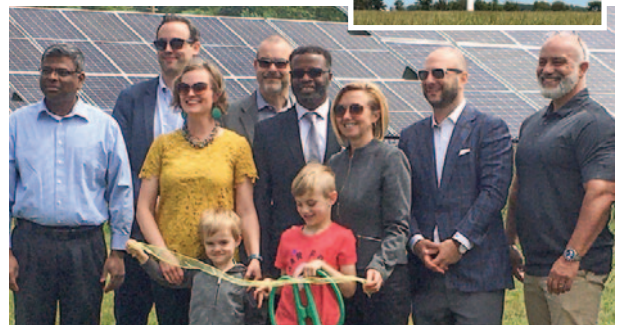
Do you want to help Michiganders quickly and successfully move away from fossil fuels to clean energy so our state can continue the fight against climate change? To make progress happen, people like you from all across Michigan need to join efforts to promote and support clean energy projects.

The Michigan Chapter is calling on members and supporters like you to join this effort because we know there are a number of challenges, including too often a lack of understanding about how this transfer of "power" works. Clean Energy Sentinels will be provided materials and receive training and information through webinars and in-person presentations to get you up to speed and ready to help bring about this critical transition.

Sierra Club volunteers, members and supporters who are interested in learning more about how to become a Clean Energy Sentinel can contact the leaders of the process below based on your location.

- West side of the lower peninsula: Jan O'Connell at jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or (616)956-6646.
- East side of the lower peninsula and the Upper Peninsula: Mike Buza at theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com or (810)444-8564.

There are various activities you can be involved in, including some right from your own home. Small acts add up! Volunteering to become a Clean Energy Sentinel can fit in with your time constraints and talents because the Michigan Chapter works at many levels to fight global warming. Join this important effort today!



Top photo: Sierra Club's Clean Energy Sentinels can help make projects like the new Montcalm Wind Project outside of Carson City Michigan a reality. Bottom Photo: Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss at the city's three-acre solar array at the city's Water Filtration Plant, another example of the projects that Clean Energy Sentinels can work on.

PHOTOS BY JAN O'CONNELL

VOTE FOR MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The seven Michigan Chapter Sierra Club members listed on these two pages are running for five at-large spots on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. ExCom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country. Please note that due to space constraints, we asked the candidates to limit their statements to 100 words or less.

Vote for no more than five candidates. You can cast your vote in one of two ways:

-Go online to our election web page and ballot at sierraclub.org/michigan/executive-committee-elections

-Mail in the filled in ballot on p. 13 of this newsletter.

To vote by USPS mail you must write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope in which you return your ballot or your vote will be disqualified. Your membership number is above your address on the back cover of this newsletter. Membership numbers will also be required for online voting. Only joint memberships can cast two votes, or the ballot will be disqualified. Paper ballots must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by Dec. 1, 2022 and votes online must be cast by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 1, 2022.

Questions or concerns about the ballot should be directed to ExComElectionCommittee@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Androni Henry

Our dependence on fossil fuels and the continued destruction of our natural resources is a continued driver of environmental injustice and systemic racism. As a physician and current Michigan Executive Committee member, I have enjoyed advocating for health equity and the responsible use of our wild places. With a degree in Environmental Geosciences from the University of Michigan, I have continuously supported environmental education and safe opportunities to explore the natural world for young people in Michigan. I hope to continue these efforts during a second term on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee.



Martin Habalewsky

Marty Habalewsky has been an at-large executive committee member for three years. In 2021, he received the Michigan Chapter's Theodore Roosevelt Award for political leadership. A former journalist, he worked in public relations for more than 30 years and in sales and marketing for ten years. Four Michigan governors have been his clients. Others were national and international automotive, technology, professional firms, higher education, government and nonprofit organizations in Detroit. He has been a citizen lobbyist for seven years and chair of Sierra Club's Blue Water Committee in Port Huron since 2016. Marty and his wife Ruth have served the Beyond Coal Campaign as witnesses or plaintiffs in lawsuits.



Aghogho Edevbie

I joined the ExCom two years ago with the unique perspective of having argued before the Michigan Public Service Commission and being the director of a statewide non-profit. I have used these experiences to help our chapter approve crucial environmental legal actions and hire new staff members. My passion for the work we do stems from my father who worked for the Detroit Water Department for 35 years protecting our water. From kayaking in our Great Lakes to climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, I know how wonderful nature is and I want to work with you to preserve it for future generations.



Felicia Eshragh

Felicia Eshragh has a Masters in Public Health and law degree and currently manages the Flint Registry, a federally funded study of the long-term effects of the Flint Water Crisis and impacts of lead exposure. She has extensive experience with program management at the federal, state and city government levels including writing policy and regulations. She has long been dedicated to helping communities navigate social, economic and environmental impacts to public health. Felicia is a Spartan and Grand Rapids native and takes any opportunity to visit a new state park. In her free time, she enjoys cooking Persian food and gardening.



2022 Chapter Elections

Yousef Rahbi

As a long time Sierra Club member and lifelong environmental activist, I have devoted my life to the struggle for a better and more just planet. In my current role as the Democratic floor leader in the Michigan House of Representatives, I have been a consistent progressive voice at the Capitol with a track record of putting the interests of the people before lobbyists and corporations. Among other initiatives, I have drafted and introduced legislation to put all groundwater in the public trust, force polluters to pay, increase access to home solar, set aggressive renewable energy standards and ban chemicals like PFAS in consumer products.



Randall Young

My professional background aligns well with the mission of the Sierra Club, with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Health and graduate degrees in Marine Environmental Science and Coastal Oceanography. I worked at the U.S. EPA before moving to a career in academia. After teaching college-level environmental science and biology courses over 25 years, I became Associate Dean of Science at Macomb Community College, directly supervising approximately 120 faculty and staff.



I served on the board of the Clinton River Watershed Council, including as board president and interim executive director. I serve on the Clinton River Area of Concern Public Advisory Committee and the Green Macomb Urban Forest Initiative committee.

I look forward to putting my experience to work for the Sierra Club!

Vicki Dobbins

No statement submitted



SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

Vote for no more than five (5) candidates. The second column of boxes is for the second member of joint membership only.

ANDRONI HENRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AGHOGHO EDEVBIE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MARTIN HABALEWSKY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELICIA ESHRAGH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YOUSSEF RAHBI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RANDALL YOUNG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VICKI DOBBINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clip out and mail your ballot to:

Michigan Chapter Sierra Club
 Attn: Chapter Elections
 109 E Cesar Chavez Avenue
 Lansing, MI 48906

Write your Sierra Club Membership number on the outside of your envelope to validate your ballot (membership number is above address on the back cover of newsletter).

Your ballot must be received on or before December 1, 2022.

Local Spotlight: Zoning Creates Disposable Neighborhoods And Disposable People

By Jeffrey Bulls, Co-founder of Community Alliance for the People (CAP) and a member of Sierra Club Michigan.

I'm from Saginaw, Michigan. It's an old, Midwestern industrial town. If you are from Michigan, you know the story: industry settles in and the tax base and the town flourish. Then industry leaves for a tax break somewhere else, wealthier white residents flee and the town faces crumbling infrastructure because 70% of the tax base is gone. For those of us left, city services and investments are cut to compensate for the loss in tax base. Elected officials insist these cuts were inevitable but they aren't. The cuts result from specific public policy choices that benefit some people at the expense of others. Meanwhile, the residents still in the city are told we are undeserving of these services because of assumptions about our personal choices.

Many policy choices build this predictable story. However, one shares more blame than others and is still going strong in Saginaw: zoning. When we look at indicators of systemic racism and environmental injustice, almost all indicators lead back to the government-sanctioned zoning policies

Here is how it is working now in Saginaw. One part of town is all Black and like so many other majority-Black neighborhoods it was abandoned by industry. Our City Council decided that this area is irredeemable and disposable, giving it a special label: the Green Zone.

Green Zone sounds good, right? We think of trees, shade and beautiful landscapes. Not in this case. In municipal government, rezoning a neighborhood as a Green Zone means it's left alone to return to nature. It means no city services, no investment and no cleanups.

It also means that no bank will sign off on a home improvement loan if you have a home there, meaning your property slides into disrepair. You can't buy the empty lot next door when you're in the Green Zone. You can't even count on trash pickup. If a tree falls, good luck because you are on your own. If a water main breaks, workers come and fix it but they won't replace the road the work damaged. Now there's a dirt patch where there used to be a road.

These zoning decisions label neighborhoods and people as disposable. Homes are relabeled as unwanted, access to funds to

maintain these homes is denied and the people living in them are conveniently forgotten.

Furthermore, once rezoned like this, polluters can take advantage of a community because the zoning laws have declared that no one lives there. A stamping plant and another polluting entity like an asphalt plant right in these folks' backyard. Why? Nobody cares, right? These people DON'T MATTER.

The push to "Green Zone" Black neighborhoods in Saginaw has a long legacy. It's the same trend that has erased Black neighborhoods for decades. There were the zoning decisions that created the highway system. New, bustling highways ripped apart Black neighborhoods like the North Saginaw section, the Black Bottom in Detroit and historically Black neighborhoods in Oakland, California and countless others across the country.

The message is the same. These people don't matter.

Whether it's redlining in Detroit, Royal Oak, Pontiac, Inkster, etc — or switching the water supply intentionally and leeching ungodly amounts of lead into the water supply in Flint or Benton Harbor, or rezoning land to industrial and polluting urban communities in Flint or Saginaw -- the legacy of redlining and municipal government disrepair is a legacy that sadly continues today.

And because of this intentional neglect, we cannot truly heal.

Environmental justice is a huge stain on the fabric of this country and until we address it our laundry will never come clean and cycle after cycle we will continue to wonder why we waste time in the spin cycle of racial denial.

We cannot move forward unless we address the pains of the past and their present remnants.

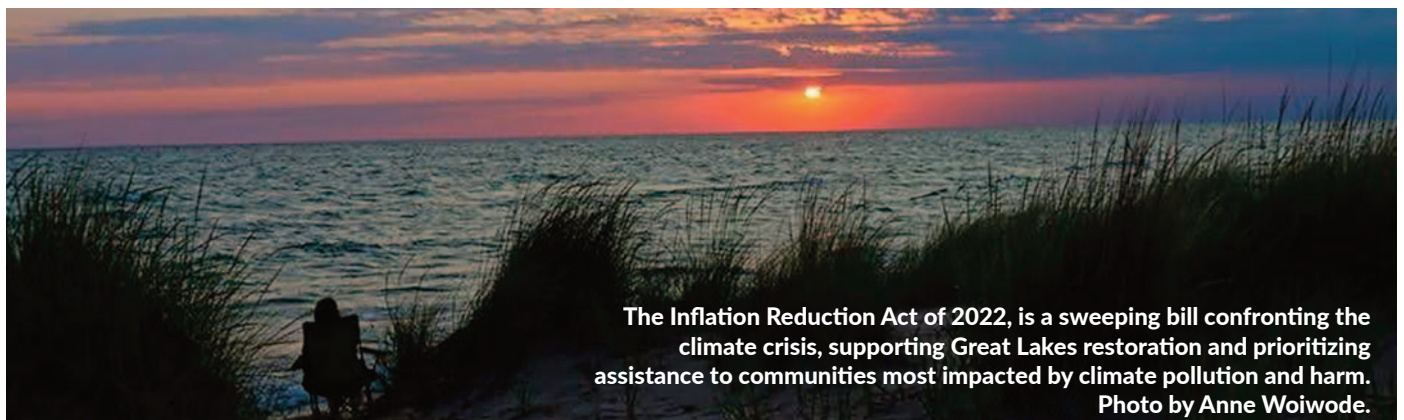
That's not an easy task. It's not supposed to be and saying that doesn't absolve us from trying.

It just means there's work to be done.

Our humanity is at stake.

Or do we care enough about those with a legacy of being forgotten?

Time will tell.



The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, is a sweeping bill confronting the climate crisis, supporting Great Lakes restoration and prioritizing assistance to communities most impacted by climate pollution and harm.
Photo by Anne Woiwode.

In Memoriam

Magdalena Herkhof



Ann Arbor resident Magdalena Herkhof was a member of the Michigan Chapter's Huron Valley Group. Born in the Netherlands, she lived in Indonesia for several years before emigrating

with her parents and siblings to the United States and settling in Ann Arbor. She worked at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for over 40 years. She had a lot of friends and was very active with line dancing, Zumba, tai chi and ukulele.

Magda greatly enjoyed the outdoors, nature, hiking and traveling and did much volunteer work for organizations including Ten Thousand Villages, the Kiwanis and the Huron River Watershed Council. She made sure that her love of the environment would live on with a generous bequest to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, for which we are very grateful.



Dorothy MacKay



Dorothy MacKay was an idealist who "spent more of her life than the average person trying to make the world a better place," according to daughter Linda Smith-Purdy.

Dorothy passed

away on May 20, 2021 and is remembered for her grassroots activism, including working to desegregate Detroit restaurants in the 1950s and co-founding the Eastside Women for Peace during the Vietnam War.

Dorothy connected with animals and nature and became familiar with Sierra Club's work through her aunt, who was active in the 1950s and '60s. She was very artistic and expressed her love of nature through art such as plates, baskets and wall hangings made with the impressions of plants.

Dorothy not only worked to make the world a better place when she was alive, she remembered the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter in her estate plans. The Chapter was fortunate to receive a sizable gift to preserve and protect the nature in Michigan she so loved.

John Nystuen



John Nystuen, one of the first Michigan Sierra Club members and a great supporter of the Chapter, passed away last summer at his Ann Arbor home. He and his wife, Gwen, were

instrumental in the formation of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club, initially known as the Mackinac Chapter. John, a geography professor, was also an enthusiastic hiker and camper and good at recruiting members, especially students and faculty.

The first Sierra Club meeting in Michigan was held on a cold February evening of 1962 in the Pittsfield Village apartment of John and his wife, Gwen. The group started meeting for outings and camping trips and working on conservation matters such as road building in the Porcupine Mountains and eventually became the Michigan Group. The name Mackinac Chapter was selected when there were enough members to form an official chapter entity in 1967. Virginia Prentice was a Chapter leader at the time along with Cindy Thomson who led the long and hard campaign to establish the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park, the chapter's first significant win.

The Sierra Club in its many forms were a happy and fulfilling part of John and Gwen's lives. Over the years John continued his work on local and state issues contributing to our local natural features inventory and supporting Gwen in amphibian surveys in local ponds. John also contributed his photography and sketching skills to many newsletters and slide shows. He will be greatly missed.



PHOTO: ANNE WOIWODE

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for the future by remembering the Michigan Sierra Club and/or national Sierra Club in your estate plans or will. Bequests to the Michigan Chapter support the conservation work here in our state. This funding enables the Chapter to continue protecting the natural splendor of the Great Lakes State for years to come.

Members who have named the Michigan Sierra Club and/or national Sierra Club as a beneficiary or would like to explore this idea further, please email Gail Philbin at gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 3.8 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet.

The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

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Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals, groups and organizations making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. This list is current as of our publication date. Please join us in thanking the current listing of Michigan Legacy Council members:

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\$500-\$999

- Carrie Aikman
- Bradley Arvin
- Charles Stephen Baum Endowment
- David & Joyce Benjamins
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