

# TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • FALL/WINTER 2018-19

## The Value of a Four-Letter Word

By Gail Philbin, Director Michigan Chapter Sierra Club

There's a time and a place for everything, including a four-letter word. With the U.S. president, Michigan's governor and other leaders reversing decades of environmental progress and favoring industry and polluters over people and the planet, now is the time. So here goes....

## VOTE!

Other four-letter words might be more satisfying, but only the V-word offers a path toward a better future. This fall, each of us can use this power to cast our vote for thoughtful pro-environment candidates. We can also give these candidates our volunteer time and money.

Sierra Club makes it easy to be informed about 2018 candidates in this special Mackinac election issue. On p. 9-12 you'll find our Election Guide spotlighting our endorsements in key federal and state elections. Take it with you when you VOTE on November 6.

Throughout this newsletter you'll find information about issues we work on and how to get involved:

**Energy**—Our push to shut down the aging Line 5 oil pipeline through the Straits of Mackinac keeps pressure on Gov. Snyder to not do the wrong thing until we get new



Sierra Club's Political Internship program has trained hundreds of young people to work on the campaigns of political candidates we have endorsed over the last seven years. They gain valuable experience while increasing our ability to get pro-environment people into office. This year, we've trained 55 students who collectively put in an average of 400 hours of volunteer work per week in support of our endorsed candidates and ballot proposals.

leadership in Lansing. Our Beyond Coal campaign is making big progress towards closing coal plants in West Michigan and elsewhere (p. 5-7).

**Water** -- Our Environmental Justice Action Group connected frontline activists in Flint and Detroit on access and affordability issues and planned the water justice track for the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition 2018 summit in Flint. Staff and volunteers are tackling nutrient runoff in our Great Lakes through our "CAFO Busters" network of factory farm activists and our green stormwater infrastructure work in Detroit (p. 10-11).

**Forests** -- Michigan has the largest system of public forest lands east of the Mississippi, and we're working to protect them and preserve our unique sense of place (p. 9). Our mission isn't only to protect but to "explore and enjoy." Our volunteer groups offer many ways to do this (p. 4).

The stakes are high in this election year -- if we all VOTE and stay engaged beyond November 6, there is reason to HOPE, another four-letter word we could all use right now.

### Vote!

Every year is an election year at the Sierra Club! Candidates for the Chapter ExCom and this year's ballot are on pages 12-13. Please Vote!

### Check Us Out on the Interwebs



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[sierraclub.org/michigan](http://sierraclub.org/michigan)



Sign up for our twice monthly Michigan Chapter update at [www.action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter](http://www.action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# TheMackinac

FALL/WINTER  
2018-2019

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Update Your Address Book! The Michigan Chapter office in Old Town Lansing is in the same place as always but our street address has changed (everything else is the same). Please update your files to:109 E. Cesar Chavez Avenue (formerly 109 E. Grand River Avenue)

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**MI-newsletter**



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## Sierra Club Evolves with the Years

By Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Chair

The Sierra Club's ability to adapt and grow in challenging political times without compromising our values is a testament to our strength and evolution over 126 years. Despite enormous changes in Sierra Club, our founder, John Muir, would recognize the fundamental values that still guide us today. People

have always been at the heart of Sierra Club, both as beneficiaries of the work we do and, more importantly, as the advocates for the laws and policies to protect our increasingly fragile planet.

Muir's observation that "when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe" describes the course Sierra Club has taken. When Rachel Carson spotlighted DDT's role in killing birds, we could no longer simply work to protect wild lands. When air borne toxins showed up in lakes on Isle Royale, we could no longer ignore their impact on the Great Lakes. When scientists rang the alarm about climate disruption, we rose up to fight for a fossil fuel free future. When politicians began dismantling environmental laws, we committed to elect environmentalists to all levels of government. When factory farms began harming rural communities, we weighed in.

And when communities of color demanded an end to the intentional targeting of their communities by polluting industries, Sierra Club leaders began to look at ourselves and our role, actively and passively, in this injustice. Almost 20 years ago, Rhonda Anderson started working for Sierra Club in Detroit on environmental justice issues afflicting hundreds of thousands of people in our region. We were slow to recognize that



Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Chair

equity and inclusion within our own organization is essential if we are committed to environmental justice. The Snyder administration's disastrous handling of the Flint water disaster shows how far we must go.

Sierra Club is still evolving and learning, adapting as we go. I am particularly grateful that we continue to push ourselves to be better here in Michigan and across the country. Join with us. You'll find many ways to be involved in the pages of this Mackinac.



Sierra Club Founder John Muir at Muir Woods National Monument.

Photo /National Park Service

### 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](http://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, call Development Director Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 to learn how.

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) \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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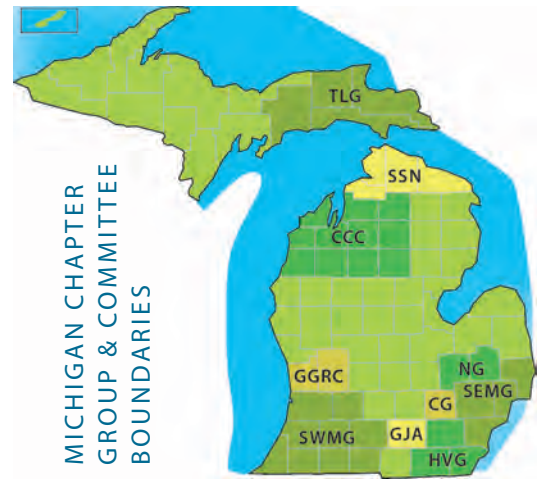
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**THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP!** Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's 10 regional Groups and Committees host outings, political and conservation 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 [gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org).



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## Nepessing Group / NG

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## Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

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**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group  
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**VOTE:** The annual election for SEMG ExCom runs through Dec. 15, 2018. Voting information is posted at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/southeast-michigan>

## Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

**COUNTIES:** Berrien, Branch, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry  
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## Sierra Club Steps Up Work on Line 5

By Allison LaPlatt, Great Lakes Regional Associate Organizer

We worked hard this past summer to ratchet up the pressure on Gov. Snyder to do the right thing and shut down Enbridge's Line 5 rather than support a proposed tunnel for the pipeline. Multiple studies were released over the summer regarding the lack of necessity to have Line 5 provide propane to the Upper Peninsula. The research revealed evidence of the economic and environmental damage a Line 5 pipeline leak would cause to Michigan. A conservative estimate is that 400 miles of Great Lakes shoreline would be covered in oil and 2 billion dollars' worth of damage to Michigan's economy.

Sierra Club continues to work on shutting down Line 5 and educating government officials and community members about the pipeline. In April, for the 65th anniversary of the construction of the pipeline, the Sierra Club along with Oil and Water Don't Mix held Line 5 Retirement Parties across the state of Michigan. More than 2,000 people either attended in person at the main event in Traverse City or attended one of the 30-plus house parties across the nation, or watched the event online. Participants were recruited to join an Oil and Water Don't Mix action team: focusing on tabling

initiatives, governor and attorney general accountability, and working with gubernatorial and attorney general candidates to support the decommissioning of Line 5. Several actions were taken

to educate the public at local fairs and events, including the Schuette Shut Down Rally in July..

Sierra Club is working to get volunteers more involved with the issue of Line 5. Sierra Club members were informed of public comment opportunities regarding the proposed tunnel that would either surround the pipeline or create a utility tunnel. The tunnel would expose the Great Lakes to dangerous tar sands oil and continue use of the old damaged pipeline while the tunnel is being built. In addition, building the tunnel would ignore public outcry, promote climate

change, and continue to put the Great Lakes at risk. Sierra Club helped Oil and Water Don't Mix gather more than 3,000 signatures for a petition to the governor against the tunnels.

If you're interested in learning more about what you can do to help shut down Line 5, join the Line 5 action team, attend Line 5 activist trainings, write letters to the editor, join the AddUp campaign at [bit.ly/2OJQQ8u](http://bit.ly/2OJQQ8u).



To get involved further on Line 5 or learn more you can contact Allison, Great Lakes Regional Organizer at [allison.laplatt@sierraclub.org](mailto:allison.laplatt@sierraclub.org)



More than 2000 people attended Line 5 Retirement Parties across the state in April.



Volunteers spoke out in favor of decommissioning Line 5 at the Schuette Shutdown rally in July.

## Consumers Energy Set to Retire Karn Coal-fired Power Plant in 2023

### Sierra Club Continues Work to Accelerate JH Campbell Coal-fired Plant Retirement

The Karn coal-burning power plant will retire in 2023. According to Consumers Energy, retirement of the Karn plant, which emits nearly three million tons of carbon pollution each year is part of the company's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The plan was submitted to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in June. The IRP also included the addition of 5,000 megawatts (MWs) of solar along with increased wind, battery storage, and efficiency.

"This is great news for the people of Michigan. Consumers Energy took a step in the right direction by setting a retirement date for the Karn coal-fired power plant and planning to increase clean energy. It is way past time for this antiquated technology and dirty fossil fuel to go," said Regina Strong, Michigan Director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign. "We've heard Consumers CEO Patti Poppe talk about being forward-thinking and this announcement represents a positive move towards a clean energy future. However, the job is not done. We will continue to organize Consumers' customers to ensure that workers and the community around the Karn plant are taken care of. We will also continue to organize until all Consumers customers can be free of fossil fuels, with the retirement of the Campbell coal-fired power plant."

"Coal is becoming less economically viable every day. Consumers Energy's prudent decision to retire the Karn coal plant recognizes that reality," said Shannon Fisk, Managing Attorney for Earthjustice's Coal Program. "Fossil fuels like coal have too many risks and too few benefits to have a long-term place in our nation's energy sector. We hope that this announcement will be accompanied by a real effort by Consumers and the state to provide a just transition to Karn employees and the surrounding community so that all will benefit as we move to clean, reliable, low-cost energy."

The future of Consumers' largest polluter, the JH Campbell



The Karn retirement is the 270th coal plant retired or announced to be retired nationwide since the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign began in 2010.

coal-burning plant in West Olive remains in question. Campbell is the third largest source of carbon pollution in Michigan, after the DTE Monroe and Belle River plants, according to U.S. EPA data. Sierra Club is working to secure an earlier retirement date for the Campbell plant, which the Consumers' IRP recommended for a 2031 retirement. According to the U.S. EPA's Toxic Release Inventory, the plant released over 2.3 million pounds of toxic chemicals in 2016. In the American Lung Association's 2018 state of the air report, Ottawa County (the location of the Campbell plant) received an F grade for ozone and particulate matter pollution. Toxic metals from the plant's wastewater are polluting nearby Lake Michigan and Pigeon Lake.

*"Coal is becoming less economically viable every day. Consumers Energy's prudent decision to retire the Karn coal plant recognizes that reality."*

## Tune In to Solar and Turn on to Savings

There's no better time to go solar. Net metering is still in place, as is the \$3,000 federal credit, but time is running out for these incentives. If you've been considering solar, explore your options through Sierra Club's Solar Partnership. Our partners, McNaughton-McKay, Michigan Solar Solutions and Solar Winds Power Systems are here to help. Installers provide a discount to Sierra Club members, and the Michigan Chapter receives a donation based on the total wattage of systems installed. Details at: [sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership](http://sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership)

Learn about the future of net metering and what you can do to preserve a fair solar rate for homeowners, visit [tinyurl.com/y86l22ok](http://tinyurl.com/y86l22ok).



## Getting Closer to Closing Grand Haven's Sims Coal Plant

By Jan O'Connell, Development Director and MI Beyond Coal ~ Clean Energy Campaign

This past summer, the Grand Haven City Council and the Board of Light and Power (BLP) held a facilitated meeting regarding an analysis and assessment by Black & Veatch (an 11-member consulting team that was also the original design engineer of the Sims Plant). The Black & Veatch assessment team findings determined that \$35 million would be required to continue safe and reliable operation of Sims. The report stated that the plant is basically old and worn out and that

operating it in its current antiquated condition for an extended period doesn't make economic sense. According to BLP staff and the union president, it will be good timing to close the plant in June of 2020 since employee numbers will be considerably lower due to staff attrition and remaining workers could transition to other departments or roles at the BLP.

In addition, there were two town hall meetings regarding the Sims Plant retirement sponsored by the City Council. The community presented over 400 cards supporting the plant



Local activists standing under the billboard.

closure to the Mayor and City Council. As of this writing, the City Council vote continues to be delayed, and Grand Haven seems to be caught in a political conundrum of sorts, with what appears to be an unwillingness of the City Council and BLP to work this out together as a team.

It is time for the Grand Haven City Council to support the recommended Sims Plant retirement for June of 2020 and to move the city toward a new energy future by transitioning to a more sustainable, economical

and diversified power supply portfolio. Through a forward-thinking transition, the BLP and City of Grand Haven will be able to meet the electric utility needs for the Grand Haven community for the next 122 years!

**For more information on how you can help move Grand Haven beyond coal to cleaner and greener energy, contact [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org) or call her at 616-956-6646.**

## Ready For 100 Takes Off in Michigan

The Ready for 100 (RF100) campaign is a community-centered campaign advocating for clean energy commitments at a local level. It asks communities to come together and develop plans for a sustainable energy future that includes everyone's voices: residents, businesses, elected officials, nonprofits, and utilities. In many ways, the Ready for 100 campaign is fighting for democracy by taking the power back from corporations and giving it to individuals and communities. The RF100 campaign has been active across the state as part of the movement to end dirty energy and transition into a renewable energy future. It is getting off the ground in West Michigan with some active and excited volunteers in Grand

Rapids and Holland ready to advocate for clean energy. Currently, the cities of Grand Rapids, Traverse City, and Ann Arbor have committed to 100% renewable energy in their municipal-owned buildings. The campaign is working to expand this commitment to all residents and businesses. Mayors in East Lansing, Ferndale, and Kalamazoo have also signed the pledge. The more communities on board, the closer we will get to leading states like Vermont and Texas.

More information:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100>. Get

involved, contact Andrew Sarpolis for Eastern Michigan [andrew.sarpolis@sierraclub.org](mailto:andrew.sarpolis@sierraclub.org) and Jordan Crispell for Western Michigan

[jordan.chrispell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jordan.chrispell@sierraclub.org).



On August 14th, Traverse City became the first city in Michigan to set a community-wide goal for renewable electricity. Read more about what this commitment includes from their Mayor at: <https://tinyurl.com/TCMI100>.

## Interview with Richard Morley Barron, Chapter Political Committee Chair

*Chapter Political Organizer Sarah Tresedder recently sat down with Political Committee Chair Barron to ask a few questions about Michigan politics and the environment as we near November 6.*

### How are the 2018 elections looking in general?

In Michigan, our current Governor, House, and Senate are making tearing down environmental regulations a priority, ignoring public outcry and the expertise of scientists and environmentalists. The good news is there is a good chance of changing the makeup of the Michigan Legislature and the Governor's office for the better in this election cycle. We have many competitive races in Michigan where strong environmental voices are running campaigns against candidates, both new and incumbent, who side with corporate polluters.

Our Political Committee is working hard to endorse, and then help elect, strong environmentalists to our Legislature with all the resources we have, including our robust political internship program. I predict that we will have more environmental leaders at all levels of government once this election is over.

### **Make a Real Difference: Vote on Nov. 6!**

Voting in the election is the most important thing you can do for the environment in 2018. The Michigan Legislature is set on passing bills that directly attack the environment, threaten our water and air quality, and endanger our forests and wildlife. Who gets elected (or defeated) will determine how well our legislature safeguards the state's natural resources and environmental health for the next two years. Make sure to check out our Election Guide (included in this newsletter) or go here to see it online: [tinyurl.com/SCMIEndorse](https://tinyurl.com/SCMIEndorse).

### How is the Michigan Chapter Political Program doing this year?

I'm happy to report that we are strong and more determined than ever! We have raised more funds to use in this election than any previous election cycle. We are giving public presentations throughout the state including the UP. Our nationally-renowned Political Internship Program continues to be a huge success. We have trained over 55 interns to work on races all over our state, focusing on 30 key races for Congress, the Michigan legislature,



Citizen lobbyists exercise their rights at the Michigan Legislature

statewide offices, and ballot proposal. Our political interns are bringing environmental issues to their campaigns and to Michigan voters who have watched in horror as both the federal and Michigan government have begun to destroy vital environmental protections.

### What are the biggest environmental issues candidates are talking about this election cycle?

Michigan is facing several critical environmental issues. Our endorsed candidates understand that human-caused climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing our state, country, and world. They also understand that a protected environment and strong economy are one and the same. The green energy market is one of the fastest growing and will bring new, good-paying jobs right



Richard Morley Barron and Mike Berkowitz here to Michigan. We've heard lots of our candidates discussing Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline, Nestle's egregious water withdrawal, and the widespread contamination of PFAS. Finally, our candidates are ready to fight for social and environmental justice for all communities, especially in light of the Flint water crisis.

### Where can people find more information about their voting district?

Check out our Election Guide (included in this newsletter) or go here to see it online: [tinyurl.com/SCMIEndorse](https://tinyurl.com/SCMIEndorse).

### What can Sierra Club members do to make a difference?

The most important thing every person can and should do is vote in November. Being actively involved in our democracy is the best way to have your voice heard.

The other thing you can do is donate to the Michigan Sierra Club Political Committee (donation info is in the election guide) and/or volunteer for one of our endorsed candidates. Every dollar donated helps us contact more voters, train interns, and elect environmental champions. For details or to get involved or support our program, email [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org) or call 517-999-1305.

## How Green is Your State Legislator?

2018 is a key election year with an opportunity to make real change and bring a "green wave" to Michigan. Now, more than ever, it is important to know where your state legislators stand on environmental issues. We've put together a new and improved environmental scorecard so you can find out if your current state legislator is an environmental champion or a pollution promoter.

Find out how your lawmakers voted on environmental legislation during the 2017-18 session here (<https://tinyurl.com/ybn36twb>) and see our full scorecard with more details at <https://tinyurl.com/ycnyz1hr>.



## Michigan Is Not Just A State, It's A Place

By Marvin Roberson, Michigan Chapter Forest Ecologist

I live in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and although I have for almost 30 years, this does not qualify me as a "Yooper". That title comes only to those born here. Recently, for various reasons, I considered moving from the UP. I eventually decided to stay, and a large part of the reason is that I love the physical place that is the Upper Peninsula.

This has led me to think about "Sense of Place". This is not a concept I developed - many people have thought and written about it for a long time (I highly recommend "Home Place" by Stan Rowe as a good introduction). This is the reason I moved to the UP in the first place. Sense of place came back to my mind and was a major factor in my decision to stay.

We are lucky, living here in Michigan. Michigan is a real place, not just a state. What do I mean by that? Most states are defined by a map. Sure, some of them follow rivers, or other "real" geographic features, but for the most part, what defines a state is an arbitrary boundary. When you cross from Ohio to Illinois, you'd never

know if not for the highway sign.

Now think about Michigan. Except for the southernmost border and the westernmost border, when you get to the end of Michigan, you know it. Why? Because the land ends. Michigan stops. Not just Michigan, but the very land upon which you are standing. It's over. Finis.

The way Michigan was shaped by the glaciers is also unique. A friend of mine used to say that after she took a class about the geology of Michigan, driving north on I-75 showed her an entirely different place - around Flint she passed end moraines, at Grayling she crested a sandy outwash plain, and south of the bridge she threaded through interlobate moraines.

Now, Michigan is not the only state with some of these features. But it is the only state with all of them, and the only state which is defined by them.

I urge you to investigate the landscape geography of the portion of Michigan in which you live. And when you vote this fall, keep in mind which candidates recognize the unique nature of our state.

*I urge you to investigate the landscape geography of the portion of Michigan in which you live. And when you vote this fall, keep in mind which candidates recognize the unique nature of our state.*



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1 % of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

**Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:  
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 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

**F94Q W- 2100 1**

or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



Horseshoe Harbor, the northern point at which Michigan ends.

## Who Ya Gonna Call? CAFO Busters!

By Gail Philbin, Michigan Chapter Director

In the last two years, Michigan has seen an uptick in proposals for industrial livestock facilities (a.k.a. CAFOs or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations), prompted by a new hog slaughterhouse in Coldwater, a new dairy processing facility approved for St. Johns and others proposed for the Grand Rapids area. Just within the last year, we've seen Montague and Jackson both rocked by proposals for 4,000+ hog factories. When these polluting operations come to town, they typically blindsides residents, hurt quality of life, lower land values and burden local communities with road repair and other costs. The animal waste generates odors and makes its way into our streams, in-land lakes, and eventually our Great Lakes, feeding the recurring algae blooms we see around the state.

Sierra Club Michigan is fighting back. More than 40 concerned folks from around the state gathered in Lansing earlier this year to learn everything there is to know about factory farms in Michigan at our first-ever CAFOs 101 Training. Experts educated people about the environmental impacts of factory farms, the regulatory and legal environment that enables them to operate, and effective ways to oppose them.

These CAFOs 101 attendees are now part of our CAFO Busters army of activists mobilizing against the factory farm threat to our Great Lakes, inland bodies of water and public health. One of the major hurdles is the lack of transparency in the process leading up to facility approval by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Very often, impacted neighbors are the last to know about a factory farm proposal and by the time they find out, it's too late for any meaningful pushback.

So, Sierra Club is developing a CAFO Early Warning System (CEWS) to gather vital information about new proposals as early as possible to help alert and mobilize affected communities. If you'd like to help, contact Gail Philbin at [gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org).



When a factory farm comes to town, neighbors are often the last to know about it and often unaware of the impacts of a large-scale livestock facility on their community and quality of life.

Photos /Lighthawk



Waste lagoon leaks like this one impair local waterways, not to mention air quality.

Check out our latest short documentary spotlighting the first-hand experience of residents in communities where CAFOs have been built as well as all of our other food system documentaries at [tinyurl.com/SCMCagvideos](https://tinyurl.com/SCMCagvideos)

## Michigan Chapter Hosts Doris Duke Scholars

For the second year in a row, Sierra Club Michigan hosted two students from the University of Michigan's Doris Duke Scholars Conservation Program this past summer. They worked with staff on green storm water infrastructure and our Great Lakes, Great Communities Program in Detroit, documenting three years of rain garden installation around the city. The scholars were Gabbie Buendia, a senior at Rollins College in Orlando, and Emily Rau, a senior at University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Environmental Sciences with a Sustainability certificate. Read about their experience at <https://tinyurl.com/dorisduke2018>.



Emily Rau and Gabbie Buendia

### Join Our Great Lakes Committee

If you're interested in issues that threaten water quality in Michigan, you may have a place on our Great Lakes Committee! It's the newest subcommittee of our Chapter Conservation Committee, and we're looking for concerned, dedicated folks who want to help us fight to protect our Great Lakes. For details, contact Dan Darland at [ddarland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddarland@sbcglobal.net).

## Rain Gardens in Detroit Help Improve Water Quality

By Erma Leaphart-Gouch, Associate Organizer, Great Lakes Program

It's been a few years since we reported on our Rain Gardens to the Rescue program, and we are thrilled to provide an update. Phase 1 of the program was a three-year collaboration between Friends of the Rouge, Keep Growing Detroit and Sierra Club's Great Lakes Program in which we planted over 50 (primarily residential) rain gardens. The amazing thing is that this program touched hundreds of people who participated in rain garden workshops, assisted with rain garden installations, and attended a rain garden bus/bike tour or community forum.

Rain gardens are one variety of green infrastructure practices that also include green roofs, vegetated bioswales, trees, planter boxes, and permeable pavement. A rain garden, also referred to as a stormwater garden, is a shallow depression designed to store and absorb rainwater runoff that flows from impervious areas such as roofs, walkways, driveways, parking lots, patios, or compacted lawns. Rain gardens are planted with native shrubs, grasses, perennials and flowers, which absorb stormwater making it available to groundwater rather than flowing into storm drains or, in Detroit and other older cities, into combined sewer systems. When planted they provide a beautiful landscape, however their primary purpose is to improve water quality in area waterways.

Due to aging infrastructure and more intense storms due to climate change, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's system, now operated by the Great Lakes Water Authority, has discharged billions of gallons of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the Detroit and Rouge Rivers. But, the good news is the amount of CSOs has been significantly reduced through



Coneflowers and butterflies in a Detroit rain garden add beauty while the garden helps clean water.

upgrades to the system including more recent additions of costly grey infrastructure improvements. With the addition of less costly green infrastructure, it is anticipated that the trend of reducing polluted overflows will continue.

Rain Gardens to the Rescue is one of several programs in the city designed to contribute to the change. Our next step is to elevate the expertise of Rain Gardens to the Rescue program graduates to increase city-wide support and installation for these multi-beneficial sustainable practices. Stay tuned for more!

## EJAG Awarded SC Grassroots Network Grant!

By Mona Munroe-Younis, Chair, Environmental Justice Action Group

The Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG) thanks Sierra Club national's Grassroots Network for a \$11,000 grant to support our environmental justice programming. The grant will support:

- Sierra Club Michigan's state-wide capacity-building to address environmental injustices. The EJAG will create trainings on environmental justice with/for Chapter staff and volunteers. The trainings will increase our collective knowledge about what environmental justice is, environmental justice issues in our state, and tools and strategies to address them.
- Development of a regional power map of organizations located or engaged in Detroit and Flint on water quality, affordability, and policy issues. Having a better gauge of which organizations are influential and trusted will help to identify strategic partnership opportunities.
- EJAG's commitment to supporting S.C. Michigan's strategic goal to "Advocate for sound, transparent agency planning processes to achieve ecologically sustainable management practices for the many uses of Michigan's water."

We look forward to hearing from you as we move forward with developing the trainings! What do you want to know about environmental justice? What environmental issues do you recognize in your area of the state? If you have thoughts you want to share now, please email them to Mona Munroe-Younis at [mona.munroe.younis@gmail.com](mailto:mona.munroe.younis@gmail.com) with subject heading "Sierra Club EJ Training."

**Hundreds of activists converged** in Flint for the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition Summit on Sep. 8. The Michigan Chapter's Environmental Justice Action Group helped develop the Water Justice track for the summit. To read EJAG Chair Mona Munroe-Younis' thoughts about the summit, visit: [tinyurl.com/MEJSummit2018](https://tinyurl.com/MEJSummit2018).

## VOTE FOR MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The six 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 75 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 <https://goo.gl/forms/uxPfeXGkknNTbYD3>. Online voting closes at midnight on **December 1, 2018**.
- Mail in the ballot in this newsletter on p.13. Your mailed ballot must be received no later than **December 1, 2018**.

All voters must provide your Sierra Club membership number to vote. Your membership number is the eight-digit number above your address on the back page of this newsletter. If you vote by postal 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.

### David Holtz

Being an unpaid Sierra Club volunteer leader is a privilege that allows me to currently contribute as Michigan Chapter Conservation Chair and Vice Chair of the Council of Club Leaders, representing chapters with the national organization. From 2013-2017, I served as Chapter Chair. If elected to the Chapter Executive Committee I plan to focus on winning victories for our Great Lakes environment and strengthening volunteer engagement, improving chapter programs and building a stronger Michigan democracy.



### Tim Minotas

The Sierra Club makes me feel as though I am a part of something truly bigger than myself. My involvement with the Sierra Club took off through the political internship program, which led to the opportunity of becoming the Michigan Chapter's legislative intern and later recipient of the chapter's Cougar award. I currently sit on the State Political Committee and would love to continue serving the organization on the Executive Committee. As a young person, I intend on bringing a fresh young voice and perspective to the committee. It's my hope that you will consider me for the Executive Committee.



### Vicki Dobbins

I am a resident of River Rouge, Michigan 48218, a substitute teacher in the public school system and a member/volunteer of the Michigan Sierra Club since 2015. I have the greatest ability to effectively serve the community and other organizations because of knowledge gained from the SEMG, Political Committee and the Executive Committee. As an Educator, EJ Activist and Elected Precinct Delegate for 20 years, I look forward to spreading the message to individuals to Enjoy, Explore, and Enhance the experience of the Sierra Club. Therefore, I am asking for your vote for the Executive Committee. Thank You!



### Jeremy Johnson

I'm Jeremy Johnson and I'm running for my second term on the Chapter Executive Committee. I have served on the nominations and political committees and previously as a communications intern. I am currently an organizer with the Gretchen Whitmer for Governor Campaign to put a strong progressive champion in the governor's office. After getting my bearings with the Executive Committee this term, I hope to take on several leadership roles in my next term with the Club.



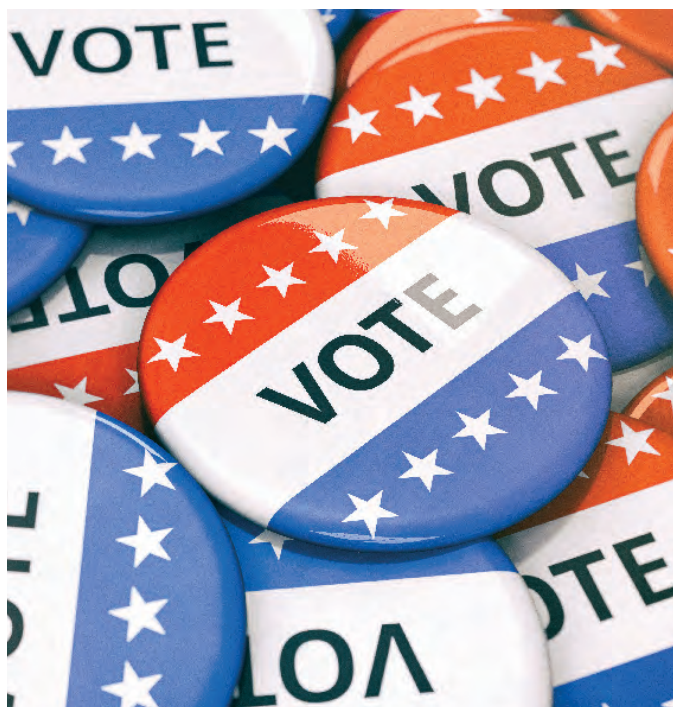
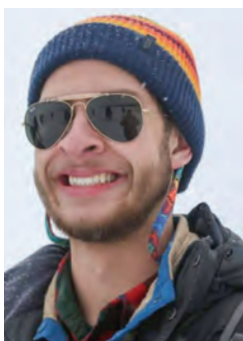
## Levi Rickert

Levi Rickert is the publisher and editor of Native News Online, one of America's most read daily American Indian publications. In addition, he serves as the editor-in-chief of the Tribal Business Journal. Rickert is a tribal citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and is the former executive director of the North American Indian Center of Grand Rapids. Rickert has written dozens of stories on the Standing Rock Tribe's fight to stop the Dakota Access pipeline, including spending time at Standing Rock in the American Indian fight to protect water.



## Chris Back

The outdoors have always been a big part of my life. The connection that I established with the outdoors prompted me to want to protect it at all costs. For the past two years, I have been the Michigan Chapter's communications intern. I am the President of the Spartan Sierra Club on the campus of Michigan State. Being active in environmental activism has been the most fulfilling part of my life so far, so it would be an honor to be a part of the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.



### SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2018 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.

<b>DAVID HOLTZ</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TIM MINOTAS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>VICKI DOBBINS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>JEREMY JOHNSON</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>LEVI RICKERT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CHRIS BACK</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<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, 2018.**

## Honoring Those Who Make a Difference Every Day

The 2018 Michigan Chapter Awards honor volunteers and organizations that have made valuable contributions to environmental protection. They will be presented in a ceremony after the January 2019 Chapter Executive Committee meeting in Lansing. For details, contact [gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org).

The highest honor the Chapter bestows is the **Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year Award**, which recognizes exceptional leadership in environmental protection. This year, it went to **State Rep. Stephanie Chang**, who has a perfect rating on the Chapter's environmental voting scorecard and worked with us to introduce legislation to protect against toxic air pollution, make water a human right, expand clean energy, and restore citizen oversight to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Other 2018 Chapter Awards include:

**Mary Andersson--Marlene Fluharty Award** for multiple levels of Sierra Club service. She's a longtime member and volunteer who has held numerous positions including Outings Chair, Political Chair and Executive Committee representative for the Crossroads Group. She is a Chapter Political Committee member and has attended service outings at the group and national level.

**Mona Munroe-Younis--Bunyan Bryant Award** for environmental justice work. Mona helped establish the Michigan Chapter's Environmental Justice Action Group in 2017, which has quickly developed into a cohesive, democratically organized alliance of residents on the frontlines fighting environmental injustice in the Flint/Detroit region. Learn more at [sierraclub.org/michigan/environmental-justice-action-group](http://sierraclub.org/michigan/environmental-justice-action-group)

**Change Media--Ed Steinman Digital Excellence Award.**

Change Media is a Michigan firm that has created sophisticated social media campaigns that helped the Chapter target supporters and environmentalists on Facebook in past elections and built our social media presence. Their efforts include the Chapter's groundbreaking political ad and video program in 2016 and our work to support Gretchen Whitmer's campaign and other endorsed candidates in 2018.

**Pegg Clevenger--Sylvania Award** for new volunteers. Pegg quickly emerged as a leader and budding expert on factory farms when she and others in Jackson learned about a proposal for a massive hog factory in their area last year. Pegg led the effort to mobilize the community and get the facility's state permit modified to lessen the impact on a nearby wetland.



State Representative Stephanie Chang, winner of Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year.

**Bridge Magazine--Environmental Journalism Award.** The mission of the online Bridge Magazine is "to inform Michigan citizens through fact-based, nonpartisan journalism that identifies critical issues." With one of the state's few environmental reporters on staff, it has become a critical, "go to" investigative journalism forum, helping to promote transparency in government through its "Truth Squad" reporting on candidates and in-depth articles on Michigan democracy issues. [bridgemi.com](http://bridgemi.com)

**Service Award--Roz Linsea.** As the new chair of the Southwest Michigan Group, Roz has worked hard to build a strong group that educates and engages local residents about important environmental issues. She is a big solar energy booster in West Michigan as a partner in Solar Winds, the business she runs with her husband that participates in the Sierra Club Solar Partnership. [sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership](http://sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership).

**Chris Back--Trillium Award** for outstanding student contributions. Chris began as a Sierra Club political intern on Gretchen Driskell's campaign in 2016 and has served as the Chapter's communications intern since January 2017 and an active Spartan Sierra Club member since 2016.

**Mining Action Group -- White Pine Award** for extraordinary dedication to environmental protection. This Upper Peninsula-based volunteer group has assumed a lead role in reviewing and challenging mine expansions and new proposals such as the expansion of the Eagle Mine near Marquette and the final permitting of the Back Forty mine in Menominee County.



Chris Back, winner of the Trillium Award.

**David Holtz -- Theodore Roosevelt Political Leadership.** For more than five years, David served on the Chapter's Political Committee, which has benefited from his decades of experience in the political and communications arenas. He has elevated democracy-related issues within the Chapter's strategic priorities and coordinated the Chapter's work with the Gretchen Whitmer gubernatorial campaign.

## In Memoriam: Three Loved Ones



Charon Caye Chase



Marjorie Vliet Chase (middle)  
her two sisters Jeanette (left) and Laura (right).



Jane Marie Morris

In the recent past, three members of my Mother's family have passed on. My two cousins and aunt left lots of love and gentleness on this Earth. The outdoors was special to them all. My cousin Charon's sister remembers her love of camping and walking her dogs through the woods near her home. My Aunt Marge's grandsons remember her love of gardening and cooking. My cousin Jane, a cat lover, enthusiastically kayaked in rivers all over Michigan and the Georgian Bay. For me, the best way to honor them is with a donation to the Sierra Club in its mission to explore, enjoy and protect the planet for a clean, green outdoors for us all. Rest in Peace: Charon Caye Chase; Marjorie Vliet Chase; Jane Marie Morse

by Carol Graham-Banes  
Nepessing Group

## Create an Environmental Legacy



Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your estate plans.

Bequests to the Michigan Chapter support the conservation work in the area in which you reside. This funding enables the Chapter to continue to protect the natural splendor of the state of Michigan for years to come. Planned gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they can provide significant resources to allow continued conservation activities over an extended period of time. For more information, contact Jan O'Connell: [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org) ~ (616) 956-6646.

## Every Gift Matters

Sierra Club has long been one of the most versatile defenders of the environment! This versatility gives you many options for supporting our work, from citizens lobbying, preserving wild places to electoral engagement. Here are 9 ways to support our work.

- 1) BECOME A SIERRA CLUB MEMBER or give a gift membership.
- 2) MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION to our effective, citizen-based advocacy efforts.
- 3) SUPPORT US WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT
- 4) EARTHSHARE – GIVE AT THE OFFICE thru a Workplace Giving Program.
- 5) PLANNED GIVING from bequests to charitable gift annuities.
- 6) MI SIERRA PAC to help elect environmentally-minded candidates.
- 7) THE ANNE WOIWODE FUND – To sustain & build young people in political & legislative work.
- 8) DONATE-A-VEHICLE you no longer need to support the charitable programs of the Chapter.
- 9) PLANNED GIVING through a variety of ways including bequests to charitable gift annuities.

We sincerely thank ALL of you for your generous support of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.

For more information on Chapter giving click into <https://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/9-ways-support-our-work>, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org)



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 3.5 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:

#### FENS & SAPLINGS

**\$500-\$999**

- Anderson Middle School Student Council
- Steve Babson & Nancy Babson
- Randall G Baidas
- Gail Barber
- Martin & Brenda Berkowitz
- Peggy Bocks
- Vicki Boyd
- Lee Burton & Roberta Shaw-Reeves
- Karl Butterer & Delanie Pope
- Larry & Gloria Byle
- Joanne M Cantoni
- Jon Cohn & Daniela Wittmann
- Clarence & Lillia Constantakis
- Barbara Cooper
- Patricia & James Croom
- Kathleen & William Davis
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- Betsy Foote
- John Ford
- Susan Ford
- David & Kathy Friedrichs
- Lynn Hartung
- Joseph Herbst
- Magda Herkhof
- Gladys Anna Holden
- Ann Holmes
- David Holtz
- Mike Johnson & Karen Briggs

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- Doug Kik
- Paul & Judy Kindel
- Albert Koegel
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- Wendy Lawton, MD
- Lawrence & Mary Lockhart
- Gerald Lyne
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- Amanda Miller
- Mitch Mitchell
- Thomas & Jill Newhouse
- Nancy Newman
- Northstar Investment
- David Ohmart
- Johnny Orow
- Dale Petty & Jeannine Palms
- Diane Penix
- John & Janice Rebers
- William Secrest
- Elvera Shappirio
- Irene Sidor Smith
- Donna & Stuart Snyder
- Jerry Stewart
- Elias G Strangas
- Timon P Tesar
- Fred & Alyce Townsend
- Rita Vadasz
- Oliver & Joan Warner
- Regina & John Wilson
- Trish Young
- Anonymous Donor (3)

#### STREAMS & WHITE PINES

**\$1,000-\$2,499**

- Catherine Badgley & Gerald Smith
- Richard Barron
- Bell's Breweries
- James & Cynthia Berkey
- Kenneth Betz
- Richard & Susan Bingham
- Sherri Brom
- Estate of Esther Dean
- John Purdon Donley
- EarthShare of Michigan
- Kathleen & Alvin English
- Lydia Fischer
- Margaret Flynn
- Luke Goodenough
- Carol Graham Banes
- Mary Haakenson
- Beverly & James Haas
- Denise Harris
- Mrs. Pat Hartsoe
- Sue Kelly
- Samuel & Patricia Lacina
- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Gayle Miller
- Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman
- Jan & Dennis O'Connell
- Bill & Ann Salot
- Loretta Sheehan
- Henry M Wellman
- Todd S Wilkinson
- Anonymous Donors (1)

#### RIVERS & GROVES

**\$2,500-\$4,999**

- Lorne Beatty
- Mary Anne & David Beltzman
- Ms. Toni Herrick
- Henry (Hal) Newnan III
- Gwen & John Nystuen
- Stanley & Connie Rajnak
- Spartan Sierra Club

#### DUNES & SHORELINES

**\$5,000-\$7,499**

- Mike Keeler & Sherry Hayden
- Jean Gramlich
- Gail & John Philbin
- Kathleen Phillips & MacNeil Smith
- Nancy Shiffler
- Carol E Ward

#### MARSHES & PRAIRIES

**\$7,500-\$14,999**

- Pat & Debra Egan
- Ceci Bauer & Tim Flynn
- Patagonia
- Margaret M Phillips

#### GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS

**\$15,000+**

- Thomas Buhr
- Erb Foundation
- Detroit Future City
- Friends of the Rouge
- Mr John Hunting
- Wege Foundation
- Anne & Tom Woiwode