

TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF MICHIGAN'S SIERRA CLUB • SUMMER 2006

Sulfide Mining What is It? What Could It Do?



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- **What is Sulfide Mining?**
- **Ecological Masterpiece in Danger from Proposed Mine**
- **Kennecott Mining Permit Application Submitted**



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TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF MICHIGAN'S SIERRA CLUB
SUMMER 2006



OntheCover

Scott Dye, the national Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program Manager from Columbia, Missouri, works on the East Fork of the West Branch of the Salmon-Trout River. Scott was along on the Sentinels' outing because he loves Michigan's Upper Peninsula and he especially loves Lake Superior.

ThePhotographer

Dr. John Rebers, chair of the Central U.P. Group, took our cover photo. John teaches molecular biology at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

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From the Chair

Anti-Affirmative Action is also Anti-Environment

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OPPOSES THE SO-CALLED "MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE," WHICH COULD STRIP ADVOCACY TOOLS FROM COMMUNITIES MOST IN NEED OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

by Nancy Shiffler

Citizen advocacy has always been a hallmark of the Sierra Club. From John Muir persuading Teddy Roosevelt to protect Yosemite, to the many examples in this issue of *The Mackinac*, we have used the tools and opportunities available to us to fight for clean air, safe drinking water, healthy communities, and for the wild places of the earth. An article in the Engaging Citizens and Democracy section of this issue describes a decision by our chapter that recognizes just how important those tools and opportunities are.

At our January meeting, the chapter Executive Committee voted to oppose the so-called Michigan Civil Rights Initiative ballot proposal, which would amend the state constitution to ban public institutions from using affirmative action programs. Initially there was some puzzlement as to why we would take a stand on this proposal. Does it really have anything to do with the environment? One only has to glance through the pages of this newsletter to understand that it does.

We are fighting so many battles simply to have a say in what happens in our communities and to our surrounding environment. Whether it is a concentrated animal feeding operation appearing next door, the ownership of mineral rights overriding the protection of the land above, laws that would prohibit communi-

ties from protecting organic farms from the spread of genetically engineered seeds, or the siting of waste incinerators, we are continually struggling to be sure our public voice is heard.

It is no secret that those with the least power bear the greatest burden of polluting industries in their communities; this has particularly been the case for racial and ethnic minorities. The health impacts alone of the cumulative effects of air and water pollution in these communities make it clear that this is not a level playing field. These are the communities most in need of the tools and opportunities to advocate for their right to a healthy environment. Nonetheless, this ballot proposal would reduce access to these tools and would potentially have a chilling effect on attempts by the government or other public institutions to address the problem.

Is this an environmental issue? It sure is. It's part of the battle we fight everyday.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Nancy Shiffler at nancy.shiffler@michigan.sierraclub.org.



CHARLES ST. CHARLES

In the Spotlight

What is Sulfide Mining?

AND HOW IT CAN HARM THE ENVIRONMENT?

by Marvin Roberson

During the 19th century in Michigan, mining for copper and iron ore was the primary driver of the state's economy. During the 20th century, as ore bodies played out and new sources were found in other countries, most of the mines in Michigan closed. Since there had been little if any regulatory oversight of the mining industry during this period, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is scattered with the harmful remains of this industry. The problems left include toxic stamp sands in waters and on land, contaminated groundwater, deformed fish, and sinkholes caused by underground cave-ins from old mines.

It has been many decades since there has been a serious proposal for a new mine in Michigan; the last new mine opened long before the era when the state began passing laws which regulate potentially environmentally harmful activities. Consequently, a few years ago when rumors of new mineral exploration began surfacing, it quickly became apparent that Michigan lacked the regulatory framework to adequately protect our land, water and health from this potential threat.

This was especially true since most of the exploration was taking place in sulfide mineral deposits. In this type of mineral deposit, the ore is bound up in rock containing sulfides. When

these sulfide rocks are exposed to air or water (such as after being brought to the surface during mining), they create sulfuric acid. When this acid migrates into the environment, it is called acid mine drainage (AMD). This type of mining has rarely been practiced in Michigan.

In 2004 and 2005, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality convened a working group to write a statute and regulations to determine how, and under what conditions, this type of mining could occur in the state. The group consisted of environmental groups (including the Sierra Club), conservation groups, local officials from potentially affected areas, and the mining industry.

After two years of negotiation, Michigan now has extremely stringent legislation and regulations governing this industry. The true test of these regulations is about to come, as Kennecott Minerals has submitted an application to mine in northern Marquette County (see related story on page 6).



To learn more or get involved, please contact Marvin Roberson at marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.

As Weather Warms, Water Sentinels Slip Back into Streams

MONITORING CONTINUES, HELPING TO PROTECT YELLOW DOG RIVER FROM PROPOSED MINE

by Rita Jack

Gathering background information about the water quality of the rivers that could be adversely affected by the proposed Kennecott Minerals Company mine is critical to protecting these pristine waterways. The Upper Peninsula's Yellow Dog Sentinels are now meeting monthly to measure water chemistry at our monitoring sites using handheld meters to measure dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductivity, water temperature, and to estimate flow.

The Sentinels, led by John Rebers and Dave Allen, began this water-monitoring project two years ago to collect baseline information about the Salmon Trout

and the Yellow Dog rivers, before major mining activities. This year, the project starts up again with a water chemistry outing in late April, and then on Sunday, May 21, the Sentinels also return to twice-yearly benthic macroinvertebrate surveys (the next macroinvertebrate survey will be this fall).



To learn more or get involved, please contact Rita Jack at rita.jack@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.



A Water Sentinel volunteer collects samples on the Salmon Trout River.

JOHN REBERS

Ecological Masterpiece in Danger from Proposed Mine

HELP PROTECT THE YELLOW DOG PLAINS

by Charles St. Charles

Last fall I visited the Yellow Dog Plains to photograph some of the Water Sentinels at work and also to record some of the beauty at stake in this area. A couple of months ago I returned to camp and photograph the area in winter. In Marquette I found about ten inches of snow on the ground. About 30 miles further north from Marquette I was surprised to find up to five feet of snow on the river.

The second morning I left camp about an hour before dawn to wade across the river to a waterfall that I wanted to photograph. When I got to the other side of the river I found that the snow on the bank was so deep that the only way that I could get out of the river was to stab the tripod legs into the snow bank and then pull myself up from the water.

After two hours of snowshoeing I reached the waterfall. Sort of. I could hear the falls, but not see them under the snow. The river and the land around it were basically locked in snow. I would guess that two-thirds of the river was under snow. Runs of the river that I had photographed in the fall were now long stretches of snow bridge. Occasionally the flowing water of the river could be seen as it freed itself momentarily from winter's grasp, only to disappear a few yards later under fingers of snow.

For five, maybe six months of the year the Yellow Dog Plains are locked in snow. Eventually all of the frozen water flows into the watershed where it tumbles down hill and returns to the river's flow.

Think about this: snow is an inevitable fact of life in the Yellow Dog Plains. If sulfide mining goes forward, then every pound of dust and every rock that falls off each of the 40 daily truckloads of ore will be locked in the snow ... each day, for six months. And when spring thaw comes, 6 months of accumulated sulfuric acid will be unlocked to flow into the watershed in a matter of days.

If sulfide mining goes forward, then every pound of dust and every rock that falls off each of the 40 daily truckloads of ore will be locked in the snow.... And when spring thaw comes, six months of accumulated sulfuric acid will be unlocked to flow into the watershed in a matter of days.

I always believe that we have the power to make things better through small, conscious steps. Sulfide mining has not yet begun, and we still have an opportunity to make things better in Michigan. If you'd like to learn how, please contact Rita Jack at rita.jack@sierraclub.org.

Charles St. Charles is a nature and wildlife photographer in northern Michigan trying to share what he observes and learns about nature, and maybe pass on a little of his reverence for the world around him. He can be reached at CharlesStCharles@NatureOfTheWild.com or 231-862-3317.

The Yellow Dog River emerges from an ice bridge, flows around a boulder encased in five feet of ice and snow, and then the river disappears under the ice again.



CHARLES ST. CHARLES

In the Spotlight

Kennecott Mining Permit Application Submitted

SIERRA CLUB, OTHERS, SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN PERMITTING PROCESS; MANY VOICED CONCERNS OVER PROTECTION OF SALMON TROUT RIVER

by Marvin Roberson

Kennecott Minerals Corporation has submitted an application to mine for nickel and copper in northern Marquette County. The mine would be located on the Yellow Dog Plains, with the ore body itself under the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River. The Salmon Trout, one of the most pristine rivers in the state, was recently named as the fourth most endangered river in the U.S. by American Rivers as a result of this proposal. The river is also home to the last native spawning population of coaster brook trout on the south shore of Lake Superior. (See related article, p.10.)

The mining application is nearly 7,000 pages long and filled with technical information. Since most concerned citizens would have no way of adequately analyzing (or even reading) an application of this magnitude and complexity, the Sierra Club, Michigan Environmental Council, and the National Wildlife Federation held a training event in Marquette on Saturday, April 8. The purpose of this event, which was held with support from the C.S. Mott Foundation, was to explain the permitting process, opportunities for public involvement, and how to make effective comments. Over 50 people attended, and the response was extremely positive.

On April 18, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) held a public meeting in Marquette to disseminate information about the proposal and take public comments on the application. In two sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, over 700 people attended. Of the over 100 who testified, the overwhelming majority (which included the Sierra Club) urged MDEQ to reject the Kennecott application.

The concerns voiced included lack of adequate protection against acid leaching, lack of leak detection, inadequate contingency plans, and lack of analysis of any alternatives. While MDEQ held the comment period open for an hour longer than planned, there were still over 20 people signed up to comment who were not allowed to do so.

Twenty-eight days after the end of the public comment period on May 16, MDEQ will issue a draft decision on the application. A public hearing on that proposed decision will be held along with a second public comment period. The schedule for the permit consideration is detailed on the next page.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Marvin Roberson at marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.

The Salmon Trout, one of the most pristine rivers in the state, was recently named as the fourth most endangered river in the U.S. by American Rivers as a result of this proposal.

This road to a drill site on the Yellow Dog Plains is only 116 feet from the Salmon Trout River.



YELLOW DOG WATERSHED PRESERVE

Kennecott Permit Application “Administratively Incomplete”

by Rita Jack

According to Michigan’s nonferrous metallic minerals mining law and rules, for Kennecott’s mining permit to be approved all additional environmental and natural resources permits must be obtained. A groundwater discharge permit submitted at the same time as the mining application has been sent back by MDEQ to Kennecott for more information because it was “administratively incomplete.”

In addition, a permit application has been submitted to MDEQ for air pollution, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has received an application for surface occupancy

on state forest lands in the Yellow Dog Plains to provide access to the mining site. All permit applications will be subject to public comment.

For more MDEQ information on the Kennecott Eagle Project permit applications, go to www.michigan.gov/deq, click on Inside DEQ (left side), then click on Office of Geological Survey (left side), then scroll down to click on Eagle Mine.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Rita Jack at rita.jack@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.

EXPECTED TIMELINE FOR KENNECOTT EAGLE MINERALS COMPANY PERMITS ALL DATES APPROXIMATE!

The timeline is based on the “Administratively Complete” Permit Application Date of March 10, 2006.

22 February 2006: all permit applications submitted first time

Kennecott applied for Part 632 mining permit, Part 55 Air permit, Part 31 Groundwater Discharge permit for the Eagle Mine Project. As part of the mining permit, Kennecott also submitted a surface land use permit to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, since the mining plan calls for using Eagle Rock Monument as the gateway to the mining shaft that will go deep underground. The State of Michigan owns Eagle Rock Monument, and the MDNR has never received a surface-use permit application that would be for over 40 years! There will be a public hearing on this issue. Kennecott’s Mining Plan will determine if there are other permits to be applied for, Kennecott has stated there are no others.

Part 55 Air Quality Permit

MDEQ Air Quality Division (AQD) determined this permit application is administratively complete. At this time it is unknown when the public comment period will begin and when the public hearing will be held. However, when these dates have been set, the AQD will provide this information directly to the Sierra Club and will post it on the MDEQ calendar (www.michigan.gov/deq) and will publish it in The Mining Journal.

- Air Quality Permit Administratively Complete (or before)—March 3—done.
- Public comment period: must be public noticed prior
- Public hearing date: must be public noticed 30 days prior

Part 632 Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit

- 14 days: Decision due on administrative completeness, March 8 (per MDEQ website)—done.
- 42 days after administratively

complete hold public meeting on the application: April 18

- 28 days following public meeting, public comments due on permit application: May 16
- 28 days after public meeting, MDEQ makes decision to grant/deny permit: approximately June 13
- Public hearing on decision to grant/deny permit: date TBA with decision announcement
- 28 days after hearing date: public comments due on permit grant/deny decision

Part 31 Groundwater Discharge Permit

Before public notice and after the department is satisfied the application is complete, the staff of the department shall make preliminary determinations on the application, including proposed determination to issue or deny discharge permit. As of April 4, 2006: Permit application was sent back to Kennecott as administratively incomplete. It has not yet been resubmitted.

Engaging Citizens In Democracy

Capitol Watch

CAFO DEBATE ENTERS LEGISLATURE

by Anne Woiwode

Competing bills on animal factories were introduced into the Legislature in February: one package to improve environmental controls; the other to gut existing laws. Senator Liz Brater and Representative Frank Accavitti spearheaded the AG-SAFE Package to strengthen regulation of air and water pollution from massive concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The Senate bills (SB 1063–1072) and the bipartisan House package (HB 5801–5810) have not been scheduled for hearings yet.

The Animal Factory Polluter Bills (HB 5711–5716) seek to roll back the hard fought progress made protecting public health, the environment and property values from CAFO pollution. Not only would many CAFOs be exempt from all environmental laws under these bills, citizens who complain about the pollution to MDEQ would lose anonymity and could be fined. The House Agriculture Committee passed the bills despite extensive testimony in opposition. In addition to environmental organizations, MDEQ Director Steve Chester and the Farmers Union, family farmers, business owners and health professionals who live near CAFOs spoke of lost property values, destroyed waterways, and devastating health impacts under current law. They urged no weakening of already inadequate standards.

Water Use Legislation Passes, Gap Filling Legislation Introduced

During Earth Week, legislation to plug a hole in Michigan's newly passed water use law was introduced into the Michigan House. Clean Water Action, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation and the Sierra Club joined with key lawmakers to urge that all diversions of Michigan water out of the Great Lakes basin, including in containers less than 5.7 gallons, be required to receive approval of the Legislature through a constitutional amendment.

The proposal builds on historic legislation establishing Michigan's first water use regulations that was signed into law by Governor Granholm in February. The Great Lakes, Great Michigan coalition, with more than fifty businesses and organizations committed to a platform for protection of Michigan's water resources, brought unprecedented public pressure to bear on the Legislature. "The new law was a huge leap forward," said Gayle Miller, Michigan Sierra Club legislative director. "And this new legislation is the essential next step to provide permanent protection for our precious Great Lakes and inland waters."

Bills Exempt GMOs from Local Control

Communities' efforts to provide organic farmers with protection from cross pollination with genetically modified organisms would be squelched by legislation under consideration in the



Seventy-nine citizen lobbyists attended the Sierra Club's spring Lobby Day on April 26. In addition to networking with like-minded environmentalists, teams of volunteer lobbyists met with 116 legislators and/or aides. Lobby Day is a fun and empowering exercise in democracy that raises the profile of the Sierra Club and educates legislators on the Chapter's most important issues.

The Animal Factory Polluter Bills seek to roll-back the hard fought progress made protecting public health, the environment and property values from CAFO pollution.

House. Claire O'Leary, a Michigan Sierra Club member on the national Genetic Engineering Committee, has led the extensive statewide opposition to SB 777.

Senate Bill 777 passed the Legislature despite strong, organized opposition from native plants growers, organic farmers and scientists regarding the health and ecological threats posed. Genetically engineered crops pose risks to public health and the environment, including the risk of allergic reactions, the creation of superweeds and the contamination of neighboring crops. Biopharmaceuticals, such as soybeans or corn genetically engineered to produce blood clotting agents or contraceptives, have had more than 750 open-air field test sites of experimental crops in Michigan alone, and contamination of food crops in the U.S. has already occurred in more than one instance. Governor Granholm signed the bill into law in early May.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Anne Woiwode at anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org.

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Urges Members to Vote “No” on Anti-Affirmative Action Proposal

NOVEMBER BALLOT INITIATIVE NEEDS INFORMED VOTERS

by Lydia Fischer

After failing in their effort to ban affirmative action through the courts, anti-affirmative action forces are seeking an amendment to the Michigan Constitution to prohibit all state and local governmental entities from giving preferential treatment to any individual or group based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

Under the deceptive name of “Michigan Civil Rights Initiative,” their proposal has already secured a place in the November 2006 ballot. If adopted, state and local governmental entities’ affirmative action and outreach programs would cease. Furthermore, a victory in Michigan is likely to spawn similar initiatives across the country.

In the spirit of Sierra Club guidelines which state that “the Club will involve itself in issues of social concern where there is a logical connection between our environmental aims and a given social concern,” the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) voted unanimously to oppose the anti-affirmative action ballot proposal and advise members to vote


against it. The ExCom concluded that the amendment would make it more difficult for communities of color to fight the siting of polluting facilities as well as to require safer and healthier technologies.

The Sierra Club’s “Principles of Environmental Justice” (2001) affirm “the right to a clean and healthful environment for all people” and “the right of all people to participate in the development of rules, regulations, plans and evaluation criteria and at every level of decision-making.” By reducing outreach, public participation initiatives and funding for programs, the proposed amendment would make it more difficult for people of color to exercise such rights.

The Michigan Chapter is also an active member of the Campaign for a State Directive on Environmental Justice, urging the Michigan Governor to declare that “it is the public policy of the State to avoid, prevent and remedy environmental racism and disproportionate environmental burdens.” When Governor Granholm signs the initiative, the proposed ban on affirmative action would make government

programs serving environmental justice communities difficult to implement and problematic; it would have a chilling effect on government action to study or address the unfair accumulation of polluting facilities in communities least able to stop them. It would close an effective way to achieve a more just, more sound environment in our state.

John Muir recognized years ago that “when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.” Vote “No” on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative this November. A healthful environment for all living things is at stake.



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MONTHLY UPDATES DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX

The Michigan Sierra Club Legislative Program now publishes a monthly e-newsletter. This is our way to keep you informed about important legislative initiatives that affect the environment. Sierra Club members and citizen lobbyists receive short, educational articles as well as opportunities for action. To become a Citizen Watchdog, sign up for the Mackinac Action Network at www.mackinac.sierraclubaction.org.

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

Protection for Coaster Brook Trout Now Underway

SIERRA CLUB PARTNERS WITH HURON MOUNTAIN CLUB TO PROTECT SPECIES

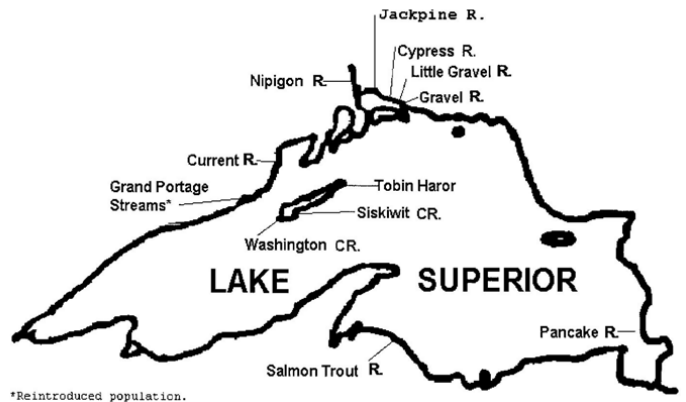
by Marvin Roberson and Rita Jack

On February 23, the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter and the Huron Mountain Club (HMC) jointly petitioned the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to list the Coaster brook trout as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Prior to European settlement in Michigan, coaster brook trout were the predominant fish species in the lower reaches of most streams which flow into Lake Superior. They are called “coasters” because, unlike most brook trout, which spend their entire lives in streams, coasters spend most of their time in Lake Superior (along the coast), returning to streams only to spawn.

Current research indicates that along the south shore of Lake Superior there is only one stream, the Salmon Trout River in Marquette County, which contains a resident, native, breeding population of coaster brook trout, and that less than 200 individuals remain. The entire stretch of the Salmon Trout that is used by coaster brook trout is on the property of the HMC. The HMC has been protecting the coaster habitat on this stream for over a century, and has recently supported research into the status of the population. Data from these studies, just completed, indicates how fragile the situation is. With only one population, less than 200 individuals, and no interbreeding with other coasters or other trout, this is certainly one of the most endangered species in the world.

Many forces could endanger the Salmon Trout coaster population. Now, Kennecott Eagle Mineral Company proposes to mine sulfide minerals from directly underneath Salmon Trout headwaters, risking polluting of the river with sulfuric acid and/or dissolved heavy metals that are highly toxic to all species of trout. With the ESA petition filing, the two groups seek to ensure Kennecott’s proposed mine, and all Salmon Trout watershed activi-



*Reintroduced population.

LOCATION OF EXISTING COASTER POPULATIONS

Current research indicates that there is only one stream, the Salmon Trout River in Marquette County, which contains a resident, native, breeding population of coaster brook trout, and that less than 200 individuals remain.

ties, will be evaluated with due regard for the unique and invaluable environmental resources that the mine could impact—in particular, the rare and extraordinary Coaster.

The Sierra Club is proud to partner with the Huron Mountain Club in their ongoing efforts to ensure the coaster brook trout does not go to the same watery grave of the Michigan grayling, another wonderful fish now lost to us in Michigan.

With new threats from a potentially acid-generating mine at the Salmon Trout headwaters, and with data from new studies now available, Sierra Club has determined the Coasters need and deserve protection under the ESA, and is urging the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to act quickly on this petition.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Rita Jack at rita.jack@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372, or Marvin Roberson at marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.

COASTER TROUT FACTS

- Coaster brook trout are larger than normal brook trout, and unlike stream-resident brook trout in the lake Superior watershed, they spend most of each year in Lake Superior.
- Prior to European settlement, coasters were the predominant near-shore trout species in Lake Superior streams, inhabiting over 30 streams along the south shore of Lake Superior.
- Currently, the only South-shore stream containing native coaster brook trout is the Salmon Trout River ("STR") in Marquette County, Michigan.
- The spawning population of STR coasters is less than 200 individuals, making it likely the most endangered fish in the United States.
- The Huron Mountain Club, a Michigan not-for-profit organization, owns the land encompassing the entire stretch of the Salmon Trout River used by coasters for breeding.
- The Huron Mountain Club has protected the coasters' STR breeding habitat for over 100 years.
- Starting in 2000, a long-term population, genetics and ecology study of STR coasters was commenced, with the support of the Huron Mountain Club and the Huron Mountain Wildlife Foundation.
- The coaster study has yielded data that demonstrate how rare this species is.
- In addition to other factors that have reduced the STR Coaster population, there is now also the potential threat of a sulfuric acid generating mine underneath the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River.

Victory! Granholm Calls for 90% Mercury Reduction

Mercury emissions from coal fired power plants will be reduced 90% by 2015, under action taken by Governor Jennifer Granholm during Earth Week. Sierra Club members have joined with virtually every environmental and health organization in Michigan to call controlling mercury from coal-fired power plants. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that particularly threatens children and pregnant women. Every lake and stream in Michigan has fish advisories warning against the over consumption of fish because of mercury contamination.

The governor's proposal is significantly more protective of Michigan's fisheries, waters and public health than the Bush administration Clean Air

Mercury Rule already in place. Granholm now joins governors all over the country, including Illinois and Wisconsin, who have also committed to 90% mercury reductions. In an April 17 letter to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Director Steve Chester, Granholm directed MDEQ to develop a rule to reduce emissions of the potent neurotoxin from coal-fired power plants. The governor made a commitment during the election in 2002 to support the 90% reduction. The next steps by MDEQ will oversee development of a draft rule for public comment through a stakeholder process, which is expected before the end of 2006.

Beach Clean-Up in Benzie County

ADOPT-A-BEACH DAY SEPTEMBER 16

On September 16 the Traverse Group will host a special annual service outing by cleaning up a stretch of beach in Benzie County as part of the Alliance For the Great Lakes' Adopt-a-Beach day, which is held yearly on the third Saturday of September. Starting at one of Benzie County's most treasured landmarks, the Point Betsie Lighthouse, we'll comb the beach and collect trash along 4 1/2 miles, ending at the Frankfort beach. As part of the Alliance's beach clean-up program, we'll record our findings, which the Alliance uses for education and prevention purposes. Spend the day wandering the shoreline of beautiful Lake Michigan with Sierra members and make a difference cleaning up the beach at the same time.

Join the Traverse Group on adopt-a-beach day, Sept. 16, on the shoreline of Lake Michigan.



PRISCILLA WALMSLEY

GreatForests, WildPlaces

Sierra Club Fighting to Protect State Forests

TIMBER INDUSTRY SEEKS CONTROL OF LOGGING

by Anne Woiwode

Topping the list of troubling legislation regarding Michigan's state forests this past winter is legislation to hand decisions on logging Michigan's state forests to the timber industry and send state timber revenue to local governments. HB 5453 and 5628, as introduced by Rep. Tom Casperson of Escanaba, threaten the state's recent certification by the Forest Stewardship Council because it overrides management based on sustainability and the diverse interests of Michigan's public forest owners. The bills seek to punish the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for not drastically increasing logging as

demanding by the industry. Discussion also began in the House about mandating timber harvest levels in the DNR's budget, also a threat to certification.

The timber industry has put more than 1.5 million acres of forestlands on the market since 2002 but is lobbying for drastic increases in logging of the state forest lands to stop the loss of forest products plants in the state. Other bills would bolster the industry through economic development and tax benefits. Plant closing decisions, however, are driven by global markets, and industry lobbyists acknowledge high fuel and labor costs in

The timber industry has put more than 1.5 million acres of forestlands on the market since 2002.

Michigan are major factors in the loss of jobs. Almost two-thirds of forestlands in Michigan are in private ownership, and state forests are being cut at about twice as fast as these private land owners, despite high prices for timber.

Sierra Club, Hunters and Anglers, Oh My!

COMMON CAUSE OF HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FORGING STRONG ALLIANCE

by Melissa Damaschke

Sierra Club greeted over 30,000 hunters and anglers that attended Michigan United Conservation Clubs' Outdoorama Expo in February. The Crossroads Group and the Sierra Club Oakland County BEC (Building Environmental Communities) office teamed up in early January. The result was a great success.

Many expo participants brought with them the misperception that Sierra Club means anti-hunting and anti-angling. Not so. Pro-environment is Sierra Club's message, and to reinforce that message, the Crossroads Group had t-shirts made for over thirty volunteers that helped with the event. The message: Clean Water & Safe Fish. As participants in the Outdoorama approached our table, they saw the t-shirts and the pictures on the display of members who are hunters and anglers. The conversations that we had across the table that day is one way Sierra Club is reaching out to communities with which we have a common end result.

The event also helped to change the misperceptions some Sierra Clubbers have towards hunters and anglers—that they don't care about Michigan's water. Volunteers quickly found out that hunters and anglers are our natural allies! And it is because of this natural alliance that Ron Smith of the Crossroads Group gave



Sierra Club members and volunteers Lorne Beatty and Jan Eathorne provide information to attendees at the Outdoorama.

Sierra Club's first ever workshop at the expo. "Working With Anglers to Protect Water Quality" was well attended. Additionally, Sierra Club collected close to one thousand postcards that were sent to Governor Granholm demanding better water quality—specifically: stronger mercury rules. Some participants were not aware that most of Michigan's fish are contaminated with mercury. Becky Hammond, a Sierra Club volunteer at the expo, said, "I like being able to give information to people who didn't have it. I was surprised that a number of people didn't know fish were contaminated."



To learn more or get involved, please contact Melissa Damaschke at melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org or 248-435-5277.

Members Taking Action

Earth Day Extravaganza Eclipses E-Waste Estimates

SIERRA CLUB HELPS CENTRAL UPPER PENINSULA GROUP CLEAR TECHNOLOGICAL TRASH FROM U.P.

by Greg Peterson

Upper Peninsula Sierra Club members volunteered at collections sites on Earth Day 2006 as over 300 tons of old and broken computers, televisions, cell phones and other electronic waste was collected across northern Michigan during the second annual Earth Keeper Clean Sweep.

"The Watershed Partnership would like to thank the 350-plus volunteers who helped collect hundreds of tons of electronic waste in just three hours," said Carl Lindquist, director of the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership.

Despite numerous rain showers and temperatures in the 40s, thousands of U.P. residents arrived at 27 official collections sites with cars, vans, and pickup trucks full of a wide variety of electronic waste, commonly called "e-waste."

For the first time, the Sierra Club provided volunteers to staff drop-off sites.

"This is really a great opportunity to have cooperation between the faith-based groups and the environmental groups to help keep the earth clean and I am really glad that the Earth Keepers organized this and we're happy to help out," said NMU biology professor Dr. John Rebers, the chair of the 441-member Central U.P. Group of the Sierra Club.

"I think this is a great model (for other communities), and it's really good that they made arrangements to have this e-waste recycled instead of going off to a landfill somewhere," Rebers said. "The overall process is something that would be really great to see other groups follow through on."

The project involves the congregations of over 120 churches and temples representing nine faith communities—Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist, Bahá'í, Jewish, and Zen Buddhist. Volunteers ranged from

age 9 to 90, including Boy Scouts and university students.

Sierra Club member Herbert Grenke compared the interfaith clean sweep to his 30 years with the Northern Michigan University football program—including eight years as head coach.

"I have coached championship teams, and these volunteers give the same kind of effort and have the same kind of enthusiasm as those teams," said Grenke, the winningest head football coach in NMU history. "People of many faiths, Boy Scouts, Sierra Club members, college students, children, older adults all unite in this effort."

Like an excited sports announcer, Grenke described the action as residents arrived with carloads of e-waste in the parking lot of his own house of worship—Marquette's Messiah Lutheran Church—one of 27 official drop off sites across the U.P.

"Before they open their car door they are greeted by five volunteers. A young child who grasps an old computer that is too heavy, so he is helped by a Boy Scout leader."

Then, Grenke says, "two other volunteers, who have just met; decide what is the best way to move the rest of the equipment."

Horses pulling drays were used to transport the e-waste from hotels and businesses on Mackinac Island, and then sent by ferry to St. Ignace, and trucked to a nearby official site.

The annual clean sweep is sponsored by the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, nine U.P. faith communities with 130,000 members, the nonprofit Cedar Tree Institute and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

The waste was taken to an EPA-approved recycling facility, Technology Asset Disposal (www.tadservices.com), in



Clean Sweep collection of e-waste on Earth Day in the Upper Peninsula.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Greg Peterson at 906-475-5068 or earthkeeper@charter.net.

BRUCE ZIMMERMAN (3)

Members Taking Action

SIERRA CLUB STUDENT COALITION NEWS

Climate Challenge or Green Cruise? How about Both!

What if you could do something that would make our country more safe and secure, safeguard the health of your community, protect the environment, and promote a more peaceful world? Oh, and what if it also helped stop catastrophic global warming, one of the greatest threats to our generation's future? You can by taking the Campus Climate Challenge and/or participating in Sierra Club's Green Cruise!

Take the Campus Climate Challenge! Stopping global warming will require nothing less than a complete transformation of our economy and society. As centers of innovation, education and activism, college campuses have long been a driving force in large-scale social change. Students are leading the way, transforming our campuses and challenging our leaders to wake up to the challenge. If you are interested in taking the Campus Climate Challenge to incorporate renewable energy on your campus, contact me for more information (melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org).

In the meantime, join us at an event that's sole purpose is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions: the Green Cruise.

Green Cruise

The parade begins August 12 at 1 p.m. Meet in Ferndale on 9 Mile, west of Woodward at 12:45 p.m.

The Green Cruise is an event that Sierra Club organizes to celebrate people walking, canoeing, biking, running, rollerblading, hiking, swimming, and any other form of transportation that doesn't burn fossil fuels. The event celebrates these forms of transportation and the people that use these alternatives (a.k.a. Lean Green Cruisin' Machines).

Take the Green Cruise Pledge, "In an effort to save money, keep myself personally fit, and make our air safe to breathe, I promise to walk, rollerblade, hike, run, canoe, kayak, and/or ride



STEPHEN ALLEN

"Lean green cruisin' machines" burn a different fuel... calories.

my bike at least once a week." By agreeing to use green forms of transportation at least once a week, you will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, save money, keep yourself physically fit, and have fun! Go to the Green Cruise website for more information and to download the Green Cruise Pledge: www.sierraclub.org/community/oakland/green_cruise.asp.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Melissa Damaschke at melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org or 248-435-5277.

Clean Sweep, from page 13

downstate Livonia, MI.

Examples of e-waste are personal computers plus related hard-drives, keyboards, monitors and printers; plus cell phones, faxes, televisions, compact disc players and other common household entertainment-related items.

The 2005 clean sweep garnered about 46 tons of household poisons like pesticides, herbicides, mercury, car batteries and lead-based paints. More

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) was collected in 2005 in only three hours than U.P.'s three county landfill hazardous waste collection sites gather in two years.

One of the landfill sites took in more HHW from the 2005 clean sweep than the it had received in the prior seven years. The 2007 clean sweep may return to the HHW theme.

The 27 free drop-off sites—plus a half dozen remote unofficial sites like Mackinac Island—were open to the general public, church members, small

The 2005 clean sweep garnered about 46 tons of household poisons.

businesses and schools.

For more information call Carl Lindquist, director of the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, at 906-228-6095.

Is Your City Cool? Is Your Lawn Safe?

TWO WAYS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT IN YOUR HOMETOWN

by Leigh Fifelski

So you have replaced all your incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescents, you've replaced your old dishwasher with an Energy Star one, and you've even started taking the bus to work once a week. Looking for the next step?

Write your mayor and ask him or her to sign onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and make your city a "Cool City!" In the agreement, mayors commit to lowering the amount of energy a city uses by investing in green building, greener vehicle fleets, and city planning that promotes less energy use. So far 220 mayors in 39 states have signed onto the agreement to help curb global warming and save taxpayers money. In Michigan, mayors from Southfield, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Berkley have already signed onto the agreement. To learn more about the Sierra Club Cool Cities cam-

paign, go to www.sierraclub.org/coolcities.

But that's not all.

You've also stopped using harmful pesticides and fertilizers containing phosphorus and want to spread the word to your neighbors who are still applying these harmful substances to their lawns. Not sure how to tell them about the harms? If you belong to a homeowners' association you can let the president know how you feel, then ask if you can provide information for the community newsletter or an upcoming meeting. For more information call Leigh or Melissa at 248-435-5277.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Leigh Fifelski at leigh.fifelski@sierraclub.org.

Inaugural Activist Night a Success

YOU CAN JOIN US THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

by Amanda Hightree

The Michigan Chapter's first Activist Night on April 12 was a great success! Activist Night is an opportunity for citizens, activists and volunteers to work with Sierra Club staff in a fun environment (as well as a filling one—pizza and pop are provided to all who help!). Examples of things that we will be working on during Activist Night are mailings, labeling, sorting environmental newspaper articles, and data entry. If you have ideas or suggestions for ways to help Sierra Club help others explore, enjoy and protect the planet, you're invited to bring them to an upcoming meeting.

Activist Nights take place at the Chap-

ter office the second Wednesday of every month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you have questions or would like more information please contact Amanda Hightree, 517-484-2372 or amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org. Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Amanda Hightree at amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org.

- CLEAN LAKE
- TOXIC DUMPSITE



Humans have a choice when it comes to protecting our water. Nature doesn't.



Join us!

Join today and receive a **FREE** Sierra Club Weekender Bag



My Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my Mastercard Visa
 Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
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"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968
 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

2006 Annual Retreat

Register Now for the Michigan Chapter's Annual Retreat

AUGUST 25–27

by Lisa Wickman

It's hard to believe that the retreat has been in place since 1989, with the first retreat held at Yankee Springs in southeast Michigan. Back then, local Sierra Club groups cooked the meals, and lodging was rustic at best. Since then we have found another beautiful spot in Michigan that has won the hearts of those that attend the retreat and become a perennial favorite.

A Great Location

Camp Miniwanca is set along the landscape of Lake Michigan and adjacent to Stoney Lake in Shelby, Michigan. Enjoy the "Stairway to Heaven" that will offer you an expansive view of the dunes and Lake Michigan, or hike through the woods to Stoney Lake and canoe or kayak its peaceful waters. It's no wonder the camp is called Camp Miniwanca—"many waters"—it's an incredible combination of sand dunes, more than a mile of Lake Michigan beach front, woods, wonderful unique structures and frontage on Stoney Lake within 360 acres.

A Choice of Lodging

We offer a reduced weekend rate for those wishing to pitch a tent or stay in one of the rustic shelters (no electricity, heat or screens on the windows) with nearby bathrooms and showers. Limited upgraded rustic accommodations with electricity and screens are available on a first come basis. We also offer comfortable lodging in dorm buildings with shared bathrooms on each floor (bed linens provided). These are private rooms with two options of

Left: "Wings of Wonder" founder and director, Rebecca Lessard, educates Retreat participants about birds of prey. Right: Jan Sigit's folk quartet entertained at the Tipi Lodge and later that night on the beach.



2005 Keynote speaker Representative Alexander Lipsey poses with political committee members Lydia Fischer and Anna Holden.

lakeside (at a slight premium) or dorms a short hike away.

Sierra Activism

This will be the second year of combining the Sierra Activism 101 along with the retreat. With this as your focus, you will learn the steps to bringing success to local and state conservation campaigns. Led by the Chapter's Legislative Subcommittee, the Conservation Committee, you will be working with members who will share their experience and knowledge in getting things accomplished! You will also have an opportunity to participate in workshops focused on current issues taking place in our state.

Enjoying the Outdoors

There is always a variety of fun, educational outdoor activities from planned hikes, canoeing on Stoney Lake, art workshops, wall climbing, or stargazing on the beach around the evening bonfire! Workshops are planned with everyone in mind. Work-



LISA WICKMAN (3)

shop descriptions can be found in more detail at our website. It has been an ongoing goal of ours to provide a diverse offering to expand our knowledge and understanding of our surroundings.

Saturday Evening

This year, we are pleased to present Harold Glasser as our keynote speaker with the challenge of “Walking the Environmental Talk.” Dr. Glasser is a professor at Western Michigan University and will inspire us to be more mindful of the environment in our daily lives. An entertaining evening follows with a live auction by Mike Keeler, treasures from the silent auction, and live music performed by a great ensemble of talent sure to please!

Reservations and Questions

Mail in your payment with the registration form below, or use our convenient online registration—new this year! You’ll find a detailed description of workshops and accommodations, as well as lots of pictures at www.SierraRetreat.org. Please feel free to contact either Lisa Wickman at 517-332-5346 or Wanda Bloomquist at 517-655-3380 with any questions you may have. Email us at lisa@sierraretreat.org or wanda@sierraretreat.org.



WANDA BLOOMQUIST

Family activities and crafts are always a fun part of the Retreat.

We look forward to
seeing you on the beach!

2006 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Names (include age if under 18): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

(Saves postage and paper, your address will not be shared.)

Special needs, comments, questions, suggestions:

Lodging

Fee/Person Total

0-2 All Free Free

3-12 Cabin or Tent \$55 _____

3-12 Lakeside or Inland Dorm \$70 _____

Adult Cabin or Tent \$105 _____

Adult Inland Dorm Room \$130 _____

Adult Lakeside Dorm Room \$140 _____

Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)* _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

* Each year, Sierra Club Inner City Outings (ICO) brings a group of children to enjoy the Annual Retreat. Your donation ensures that we’ll be able to continue providing this wonderful experience for some of Michigan’s inner-city children.

Will you attend the training workshop Activism 101?

Yes No

Print and mail with remittance to Sierra Club Retreat, c/o Lisa Wickman, 1623 Colorado, East Lansing, MI 48823.
Make check payable to **Sierra Club**.

Group Info, Meetings & Outings

Outings, political and conservation activities and general meetings are hosted regularly by groups throughout the state. There are numerous ways to get involved in your local group. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you would like to start one, please call 517-484-2372 for more information.

In the Outings listings below, [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [T] = trail maintenance, [S] = service. Trips begin at the trail-head. Fees are a suggested donation. Outings are open to everyone. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver, please visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

Up-to-the-minute outings and activities may be found on group websites or on the Mackinac Chapter website at michigan.sierraclub.org.

CG: Crossroads Group

Livingston, southern Genesee & western Oakland Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads

CHAIR: Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm on 3rd Wed, odd-numbered months. Brighton Library, 200 Orndorff Drive.

HELP WANTED: Conservation chair, outings leaders. Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org.

OUTINGS: Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464 or cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org.

CMG: Central Michigan Group

Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson & Shiawassee Counties

GROUP CHAIR: Ann Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871 or annmarie.rachman@michigan.sierraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 3rd Mon each month, East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Rd. East Lansing, MI. 5:30pm supper (small donation requested), 6:15 meeting.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Maria Lapinski-Lafaive, 517-374-4444 or mlapinsk@mich.edu.

HELP WANTED: Webmaster, publicity, outings leaders, information/merchandise tables. Ann Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871 or annmarie.rachman@michigan.sierraclub.org.

OUTINGS: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

CUPG: Central Upper Peninsula Group

Alger, Baraga, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee & Ontonagon Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/cupg.shtml

GROUP CHAIR: John Rebers, john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org, or 906-228-3617.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Community Room of the Peter White Library, 217 North Front Street. General meetings are not held from June through August—join us for an outing!

5/24 Gwaii Haanas: Sea Kayaking a Place of Wonder. Sam Crowley paddled this Canadian national park last year and has a great show for us.

OUTINGS: Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com. Join us for a Little Presque Isle cleanup or one of our other outings.

Water Sentinels Water Monitoring Trips will meet at the Huron Mountain Realty in Big Bay at 10am. For more information contact Dave Allen, 906-228-9453, dallen@nmu.edu; or John Rebers, 906-228-3617, jrebers@nmu.edu.

Trap Hills Events are still in the planning stage. For more information contact Dave Allen, 906-228-9453, dallen@nmu.edu; John Rebers, 906-228-3617, jrebers@nmu.edu; &/or Doug Welker, 906-338-2680.

CUPG FEATURED OUTING

From May to October, the CUP group cleans up beaches and trails in the Little Presque Isle tract of the Escanaba River State Forest. Meet at 10 am in the Little Presque Isle parking lot turn off of County Road 550. Cleanup takes about 2 hours; we shall walk about in the track after the cleanup, weather permitting. For more information contact Dave Allen, 906-228-945 or dallen@nmu.edu. See below for specific dates.

5/20 [S] Little Presque Isle Tract Clean-Up. Perhaps a walk after.



SHERRY ZOARS

CUPG Featured Outing: Service trip led by Sherry Zoars.

5/21 [C] Water Sentinels water sampling on the Yellow Dog Plains. Yellow Dog R, various branches of the Salmon-Trout R, & Cedar Creek.

5/26-31 Backpack Expedition: Lower Agawa Canyon (Ontario). More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

5/27-29[C] Hike in the Trap Hills over Memorial Day Weekend. Three days of walks.

6/24 [C] Water Sentinels Water Sampling on the Yellow Dog Plains. Yellow Dog R, various branches of the Salmon-Trout R, & Cedar Creek.

6/25 [S] Little Presque Isle Tract Clean-Up. Perhaps a walk after.

7/1-9 Canoe Trip: Lake Superior Provincial Park (Ontario). More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

7/29 [S] Little Presque Isle Tract Clean-Up. Perhaps a walk after.

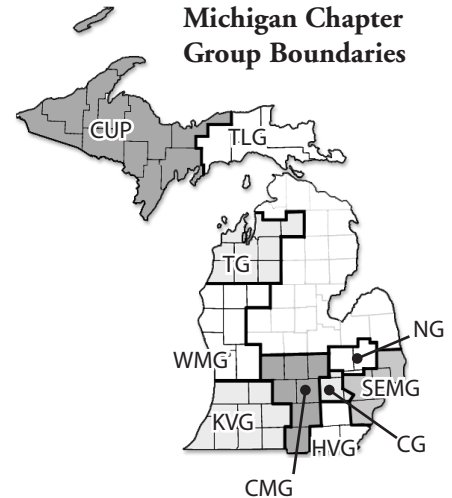
7/30 [C] Water Sentinels Water Sampling on the Yellow Dog Plains. Yellow Dog R, various branches of the Salmon-Trout R, & Cedar Creek.

8/6-12 Backpack Expedition: Porcupine Mountains State Park (west U.P.). More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

8/26 [C] Water Sentinels Water Sampling on the Yellow Dog Plains. Yellow Dog R, various branches of the Salmon-Trout R, & Cedar Creek.

8/27 [S] Little Presque Isle Tract Clean-Up. Perhaps a walk after.

Michigan Chapter Group Boundaries



9/1-7 Backpack Expedition: Upper Agawa Canyon (Ontario). More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

9/2-4 [C] Hiking in the Trap Hills over Labor Day Weekend. Should be warm, not too many bugs.

9/23 [S] Little Presque Isle Tract Clean-Up. Perhaps a walk after.

9/24 [C] Water Sentinels Water Sampling on the Yellow Dog Plains. Yellow Dog R, various branches of the Salmon-Trout R, & Cedar Creek.

10/6-9 Canoe Trip: Fox River (east U.P.). More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

10/21 [S] Little Presque Isle Tract Clean-Up. Perhaps a walk after.

10/22 [C] Water Sentinels Water Sampling on the Yellow Dog Plains. Yellow Dog R, various branches of the Salmon-Trout R, & Cedar Creek.

11/3-6 Backpack Trip: Hiawatha National Forest (east U.P.). More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

12/1-4 Backpack Trip: Northern Pigeon River Country State Forest (north L.P.). More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

HVG: Huron Valley Group

Lenawee, Monroe & Washtenaw Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

HVG HOTLINE: 734-480-7751

CHAIR: Doug Cowherd.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 3rd Tue each month, 7:30pm. UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor. Free & open to the public.

5/16 Shooting Nature: Creative Techniques to Improve Your Photography. Julia Gordon, Evergreen Images.

6/20 When Republicans were Green: Michigan's Golden Age Under Governor Milliken. Dave Dempsey, author of William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate.

7/18 Trekking the Himalayas: Kathmandu to Everest & Beyond. Heather O'Neal, Global Interest Adventure Travel.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157; Bill Rodgers, 734-769-0163.

BOOK CLUB: 7:30pm, 2nd Tue each month at

Nicola's Book in Westgate Shopping Center, Ann Arbor. Discussion books to be announced. Call 734-332-0207.

OUTINGS: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823.

HVG FEATURED OUTING

[E] Inner City Outings. 7pm, 2nd Sun. each month, Room 302 Halle Library on the EMU campus. Sierra Club Inner City Outings (ICO) is a community outreach program providing opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world for those who would not otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with agencies such as community centers, churches & neighborhood youth groups. ICO plans outings & provides equipment & trained leaders who are enthusiastic to share their love of the wilderness. We are always looking for more folks to help us with our outings & have a special need for more male volunteers. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners, & contributors are always welcome. Call Vera Hernandez, 734-665-8118, www.ICO.sierraclub.org/washtenaw.

5/14 Olsen Park Hike. Mod 7mi hike near Black Pond Woods, Leslie Park, across Argo Dam, Bandemeer Park & back. For meeting time/place, call Norm Roller, 734-426-5737.

5/25-29 [S] North Manitou Island Service Trip. Ferry to island Fri, work on Sat, play on Sun, ferry back Mon. Trip limit: 16; cost: \$/person includes ferry, meals (Fri breakfast through Sun breakfast). Contact Denny Burr for cost and other info, 734-482-9686.

6/4 North Ann Arbor Three Parks Hike. Hike from Bandemeer through Kuebler Langford park, the Bluffs & back. About 5mi. Call Norm Roller, 734-426-5737. 7/8 Adopt-a-highway Cleanup [C]. Meet 9:15am at Big Boy parking lot, north

HVG Featured Outing: Children from Ann Arbor take a canoe trip on the Huron River in Gallop Park.



RALPH POWELL

side of Plymouth Rd between US 23 & Green Rd in Ann Arbor. Bring gloves if you have them. Refreshments & snack provided. 2mi at a leisurely pace. Finish about 12:30. Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823.

7/24-8/1 Isle Royale Backpack Trip. Trip limit 10; \$360 includes ferry, fees & meals. Some equipment provided. Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157.

KVG: Kalamazoo Valley Group

Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph & Van Buren Counties

CHAIR: Paul Haas, 269-664-5417 or paulhs@aol.com.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm monthly 3rd Wed except May. Kalamazoo Public Library, Oshtemo Branch, 7265 W Main. Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 (eve), 269-488-4268 (days) or vmills@kvcc.edu.

OUTINGS: Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 or vmills@kvcc.edu.

NG: Nepessing Group

Genesee, Lapeer & northern Oakland Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

CHAIR: Linda Berker, 810-653-8242.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 2nd Wed each month (except Jul & Dec). Mott Community College, Genesee room, Prah Center (New Student Building), E Court St, Flint. 7pm committee reports, followed by environmentally themed program. Light snacks provided. Public always welcome!

5/27 Hike & Conservation Committee Meeting Hike or Bicycle Rowden Park in Lapeer. 10M-24, east side by water tower (north of Lapeer). Marian Listwak, 810-688-3192, 810-241-9864 (cell), listwak@usol.com. Committee meeting at 11:30,

Group Info, Meetings & Outings

Coffee Tree Cafe on M24.

6/14 Sierra Club Monthly General Membership Meeting. 7:30pm Mott Community College, 1401 E. Court St., Flint, Prah Center, Genesee Room. John Johnson will present a slide presentation of his trip on the Pacific Coast Trail. He will also bring his gear to show. Refreshments served.

7/22 Conservation Committee Meeting Hike, Hadley-Metamora State Park Hike. 10am Camp Store parking lot. Committee Meeting 12 at the Coffee Tree Cafe on M24, Marian Listwak. 810-688-3192, Cell 810-241-9864, listwak@usol.com.

8/9 Sierra Club Monthly General Membership Meeting. 7:30pm Mott Community College, 1401 E. Court St., Flint, Prah Center, Genesee Room Hunting & what aspects positively impact our environment. Refreshments served.

9/9 7-Ponds Nature Center. 10am. What life was like when Laura Engels lived on the Prairie. Admission fee \$3 adult, \$1 children. M24 to Dryden 6mi east to Calkins, south 1.25. Lois Rheume, 810-796-3200.

9/16 Hike & Conservation Meeting Hike, Sutherland Nature Center. 10am. Located at 3960 Diehl Rd. Committee Meeting at 11:30 at the Coffee Tree Cafe. Marian Listwak, 810-688-3192, 810-241-9864 (cell), listwak@usol.com.

OUTINGS: Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldd@chartermi.net. Please check our website for outings listings.

5/14 Sutherland Nature Center. 3pm. Take mom on a wildflower walk. Located at 3960 Diehl Rd. South of Pratt Rd, East of Hadley, West of M-24. Naturalist Linda Hoogperp. Contact Ed Dunsmore, 820-797-4643.

5/20 Clinton River Kayak/Canoe. Easy. Meet noon at Clinton River Crossing on Elizabeth Lake Rd, Waterford. Bring your own kayak/canoe or rent one by May 10. Bring your own food for a cookout. Lynn Livingston, 586-795-1678, lynn.livingston@michigan.sierraclub.org.

5/27-29 Manistee River Trail Backpacking. Saturday at 9:30am at Seaton Creek Campground trailhead; 8mi on Sat; 12mi on Sun; 3mi on Mon. Barb Niemi, 810-441-4048 (cell), 586-783-8968 (home), barbara.niemi@sbcglobal.net.

6/3 Service Outing At Ligon Outdoor Center. 10am-2pm. Ligon Outdoor Center, 5213 E. Farland Rd., Clio. M-57 to Genesee Rd. north to Farland Rd. East 1/2 mile to Ligon on north side of Rd. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038.

6/4 Sutherland Nature Center. 2pm. Bike trails with Neil Rerche. Located at 3960 Diehl Rd. South of Pratt Rd, East of Hadley, West of M-24. Ed Dunsmore, 820-797-4643.

6/10 7-Ponds Nature Center Service Outing [S]. 10am. Workday pulling invasive bittersweet. M24 to Dryden 6mi east to Calkins, south 1.25. Lois Rheume, 810-796-3200.

6/17-18 Hoist Lakes Backpacking. Saturday at 9am at trailhead. Hoist Lakes foot area parking lot on M-65, 7mi north of Glennie. \$5.00 recreation fee permit required. Barb Niemi, 810-441-4048 (cell), 586-783-8968 (home), barbara.niemi@sbcglobal.net.

6/24 Flushing Twp Nature Park Hike. 10am. Easy. McKinley Rd 1/2 mile north of Mt. Morris Rd, west side. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038.

6/24 7-Ponds Nature Center. 10am. Pond dipping, many creatures live under water come & get hands-on experience. Admission fee \$3 adult, \$1 children. M24 to Dryden 6mi east to Calkins, south 1.25. Lois Rheume, 810-796-3200.

7/4 Clio Bike Trail Hike. 10am. Easy. Clio City Park on Clio Rd, 1/2 mile north of Vienna Rd. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038 for info.

8/5 General Squire Park. 10am. Explore this Climax Forest From the town of Dryden turn South off Dryden Rd onto Mill St. than West on Casey Rd. Meet in Forest Hall Parking Lot. Larry Rumley 810-796-3788 – Marian Listwk 810-688-3192

8/8 Election Day, Fight Urban Sprawl, Preserve Farmland & Parks in Lapeer County. Work polls. Contact Marian Listwak, 810-688-3192.

8/19 Lapeer Days Parade. 9:30am. Easy. 1 Mile. Come join the Sierra Club with your friends & kids. Walk in the Lapeer days parade. Rotary Park parking lot. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242 or 810 348-8664.

8/20-26 Isle Royale Backpacking Trip. Barb Niemi, 810-441-4048, 586-783-8968 or barbara.niemi@sbcglobal.net; Don Persson, 810-257-7441 (days), 810-695-0516 (nights) or donald.persson@delphi.com.

8/26 Murphy Lake Hike. 10am 6.5mi. Difficult. M-15 to Millington. East 4mi on Millington Rd. (only stop light in Millington). Trailhead is across from Mt. Kotarski sign. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038.

8/27-30 Tenth Annual Two-Hearted River Cruise. 5pm Sunday Reservations required by Aug 10. Campsite is \$10/night, may be shared. Outings fee \$2. Lynn Livingston, 586-795-1678,

lynn.livingston@michigan.sierraclub.org

9/8-10 North Manitou Island Backpacking. Reservations required. Meet at 9:15am Fri at Manitou Island Transport Ferry Dock at Fishtown in Leland, MI. Barb Niemi, 810-441-4048 (cell), 586-783-8968 (home), barbara.niemi@sbcglobal.net

9/9 Holly South Hike. 10am. Dixie Hwy. to Grange Hall Rd. East on Grange Hall Rd. to McGinnis Rd. Right on McGinnis Rd. to park entrance. Meet in Overlook Parking Lot. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

9/23-24 All Women's Backpacking Trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes. 9am. Platte River Campground office. National Park entry & backcountry campsite fees. Barb Niemi, 810-441-4048 (cell), 586-783-8968 (home), barbara.niemi@sbcglobal.net.

9/30 Flushing Riverview Trail Hike. 10am. Easy. Meet behind Bueche's Market in Flushing. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038

SEMG: Southeast Michigan Group

Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair & Wayne Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

CHAIR: Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or carol.izant@michigan.sierraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6:30/7pm, 1st Thu each month Sep-Jun. Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. Social time 7pm. Business meeting 7:30pm. Program 8-9pm. Carol Izant, cogknot@yahoo.com or 248-352-6137.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 3rd Thu each month. Sierra Club BEC office, Tri-Centre Business Complex, 100 N Crooks Rd, Ste 105, Clawson, MI. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645 or ecoed@netzero.net.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: 6:30pm, last Thursday each month (no Oct). Jimi's Restaurant, Washington, Royal Oak. All welcome! Tim Killeen, Chair, 313-526-4052 or timk@bikerider.com.

OUTINGS: Chair Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil3@netzero.net. Coordinator Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370. Please visit our website for outings listings.

TG: Traverse Group

Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Antrim

& Otsego Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

CHAIR: Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 4th Tue each month, at Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington Street, Traverse City. Monica Evans, 231-325-6812, or check our website. Note: June meeting will be 3rd Tue of the month.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Monica, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Jim Stricko, 231-275-7596; Peggy Fry, 231-218-2587.

HELP WANTED: Outings leaders, fundraising, monthly mtg program coordinator. Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

OUTINGS: Andrea Dean, 231-231-947-9344.

5/13 Wildflower Hike with Botanist Dick Fidler. 2pm. Meet at trailhead off Norkonk Rd., first road off M-22 after Wilco Road. Please call or email Andrea Dean for reservations, 231-947-9344, andreadean113@msn.com.

5/20 Meet at Ransome Lake Parking Area. 9am. Call Jim Stricko, 231-275-7596, or jstricko@glec.com for directions and more information.

6/3 North Country Trail Hike. 11am. 4mi hike along the North Country Trail from the High Bridge Trailhead along the Manistee River. For more information, contact Priscilla Walmsley, priscilla@walmsley.com, 231-929-1658.

6/17 Skegemog Swamp Pathway. 10am. Meet at Tom's Market—Acme (6353 US31 North). We will car pool to the property. RSVP to Dave, 616-669-6355, for directions and to confirm.

6/24 The Boardman Lake Trail [S]. 11am. Easy 2mi trail in the heart of Traverse City that hugs the east side of Boardman Lake. We'll clean the trail, have lunch at Logan's Landing, and hike back to the starting point. Meet at the gazebo behind the Traverse Area library. Contact Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344, andreadean113@msn.com.

7/15 Sunset Beach Party at Good Harbor Bay. 7:30pm. Meet at the end of 669 on the shores of Lake Michigan. Call Monica for more information, 231-325-6812.

7/22 Canoe the Manistee River along the North Country Trail. Meet at Honor Family Market at 3pm to car pool. Call Monica to sign up and for more information, 231-325-6812.

7/29 Hike Whaleback Natural Area. 10am. Hike begins with a mod climb, but rest of walk is easy. Meet at trailhead just south of Leland. Call Dave, 616-669-6355, for directions, possible carpooling, and to confirm.

8/19 The TGSC 6th Annual Birthday/Reincarnation Celebration. 1pm to whenever! At home of Peggy Fry, on the shores of Grand Traverse Bay. Potluck. Veggie and regular burgers and liquid refreshments provided. Check the TG website or call Monica, 231-325-6812.

8/26 Canoe Trip on the Betsie River. 1:30pm. Alvina's canoe livery on Betsie River Road in Karlin. Call or email Andrea Dean for reservations, and carpooling if desired, 231-947-9344 or andreadean113@msn.com.

9/9 Road Clean-Up [S]. Just west of Interlochen. Meet at Ric's parking lot at 3pm. Pizza and beer afterwards at Hoffbrau in Interlochen. Call Monica for more information, 231-325-6812.

TG FEATURED OUTING

9/16 Adopt-A-Beach day: Beach Clean-Up in Benzie County. See page ____ for more info.

9/30 Jordan River Canoe Trip. Meet at Glen's parking lot on 8th Street at 10am in Traverse City to carpool, or call Monica, 231-325-6812, for directions or more info.

TLG: Three Lakes Group

Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac & Schoolcraft Counties

CHAIR: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm Thu, each month, Sep-May. Crawford Hall, Lake Superior State University.

HELP WANTED: Webmaster, publicity, monitor environmental alerts. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu.

OUTINGS: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu. Monthly hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc 9am 1st Sat each month, Oct-Apr, Michigan Welcome Center.

7/17-25 Quetico Provincial Park Canoe Trip. A leisurely trip for viewing wildlife, viewing native American pictographs, photography, fishing, swimming & exploring on Beaverhouse and Quetico Lakes. Roger Blanchard, rblanchard@lssu.edu, 906-253-9316.

8/14-19 Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Backpack Trip. We'll backpack the length of

the national lakeshore from Munising to Grand Marais. Roger Blanchard, rblanchard@lssu.edu, 906-253-9316.

WMG: West Michigan Group

Kent, Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola & Ottawa Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

CHAIR: Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or craig_ressler@yahoo.com.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Generally once/month. Everyone welcome. Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org.

HELP WANTED: 2006 is an election year. We would very much like help from someone in or around Muskegon who pays attention to politics. We would like to use this person as a resource in determining who to endorse for State level offices. Occasional trips to Grand Rapids will be necessary.

INNER CITY OUTINGS: Sierra Club members provide outdoor experiences for nonmembers who might not otherwise have them. Most participants are young people from urban communities. Increase the environmental awareness, interpersonal skills & self-esteem of the participants through active involvement with nature. Interested volunteers welcome to attend meetings or email us suggestions. John Pulver, 616-457-5999 (days), 616-453-2480 (eve); Paula Ballast, 231-861-6548 or logcabinballast@aol.com.

OUTINGS: Lisa Symons, 616-942-6549 or greensymons@yahoo.com.

5/13 Hike Aman Park with the GR Audubon Club. 8am. Easy. ID plants and animals. Contact Lisa Symons for more details, 616-942-6549.

5/23 Edible Hike. 6:30pm. Easy. Hike through the Grand River Park near GVSU's Allendale campus and discuss wild edible plants. Contact Lisa Symons for more information, 616-942-6549.

5/27 Hemlock Crossings Hike. 10am. Mod. Hike trails along the Pigeon River, about 5mi. Meet at Hemlock Crossings Park in Ottawa County. Bring a sack lunch & water. RSVP to Mary Jane Lamse, 616-942-1837, mjlamse@iserv.net.

8/25-27 Sierra Club Retreat at Camp Miniwanca. See article this issue for details.

9/23-24 Women's Backpack Trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes. Mod. Contact Lisa Symons for more details, 616-942-6549.

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