

TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SUMMER 2008

Sierra Club Safeguards Great Lakes on Many Fronts

by Anne Woiwode,
Michigan Chapter Director

Sierra Club members and staff have been at the forefront of protecting the Great Lakes for over forty years. Today Michigan's Sierra Club leaders are leading the fight to clean up toxic pollutants and livestock wastes that contaminate the lakes and harm our health. We help stem the tide against invasive species, and fight to stop mercury contamination of Great Lakes fish from coal fired power plants. We work to protect the waters themselves from diversion, overuse, and global warming at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Your friends and colleagues in Sierra Club pound the halls of Congress and the Michigan Legislature with a clear message that our Great Lakes will stay great only if our leaders act to protect them. We also organize and educate our neighbors, giving them tools to change bad habits and bad laws.

As a Sierra Club member, you are already playing an important role in these efforts. But if you want to do more to protect our great lakes heritage, you will find many opportunities in the pages ahead. Read about some of the major challenges facing the Great Lakes in this edition's Spotlight articles, and then contact Sierra Club about getting involved. Our Great Lakes Representative Melissa Damaschke can be reached at 313-965-0055 or melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org and our Michigan Clean Water Pro-



Keweenaw Waterway Upper Entrance Light as seen from the Houghton to Isle Royale ferry.

RYTA JACK

gram Director Rita Jack can be reached at 517-484-2372 or rita.jack@sierraclub.org. And check our new website www.michigan.sierraclub.org/issues/greatlakes/ for regular updates about Sierra Club's work to restore Michigan's Great Lakes heritage for your family and your future.



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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*How Sierra Club's
priority conservation
issues protect the health
of our Great Lakes*

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

THE MACKINAC

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TheMackinac

SUMMER 2008

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Another Easy Way for You to Help Protect Michigan's Environment; Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

PROBLEM: INVASIVE SPECIES

Each day, over 184 invasive species like the zebra mussel and sea lamprey cause damage to the Great Lakes.

Over the years, Jan O'Connell has organized Great Lakes Vessel Outings on Lake Michigan. Taking Sierra Club members out on the boat to do tests and learn about Great Lakes restoration has been very beneficial. Go to the Chapter's website to see when the next Great Lakes Vessel outing takes place.



In the Spotlight

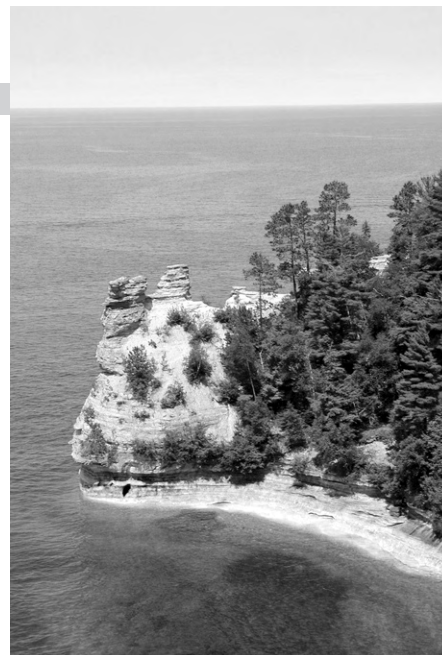
Michigan's Great Lakes, a Heritage Worth Protecting

by Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

Michigan is defined by the Great Lakes—geographically, economically and spiritually—and even by name. With our mitt and our beautiful Upper Peninsula, we touch and are shaped by four of the five lakes. The earliest settlers and their followers valued Michigan for its life-giving waters and settled along the shores of the lakes and the rivers and streams that feed into the lakes. They savored and were nourished by the bountiful fish and wildlife, and used the waters to irrigate their varied crops. The lakes provided a highway to transport people and goods for trading. And the lakes were treated with reverence as a part of Mother Earth, of God's creation.

How can we, in the 21st century, restore our Great Lakes to their previous

condition? We learned through hard lessons that the lakes are not as vast as we thought (and neither are the oceans and the earth itself), and that actions intended for good, like dredging to promote shipping, can have long-term, unintended consequences. Nutrients from lawns, sewers, farm fields and CAFOs have changed the whole ecosystem. We once thought that effluent from smokestacks went up into the air and harmlessly away, but now we know that mercury and other pollutants fall into the lakes and contaminate the very fish that provided sustenance to our ancestors. Shippers heedlessly dumped alien species into the lakes, further degrading the ecosystem. And global warming may even alter the shape of Michigan through changes in precipitation and in-



BRITA JACK

Castle Rock, Lake Superior, Upper Peninsula

creased evaporation.

Let us pledge to protect our lakes and to support political candidates and institutions that will work with us to restore our Michigan heritage. In this issue of *The Mackinac*, you will learn how your investment in Sierra Club is helping to protect our Great Lakes.

Great Lakes Compact Good First Step, But Michigan Needs Strong Water Withdrawal Legislation to Ensure Public Oversight and Protection of Headwater Fisheries

by Melissa Damaschke, Great Lakes Representative

In 2005, the governors of the Great Lakes states (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York) and the premiers of Ontario and Quebec negotiated an agreement to better manage and protect the Great Lakes. They signed a draft interstate compact to limit access to Great Lakes water and set standards for those taking water from the Lakes. But before it can go into effect, each Great Lakes state must pass the Compact and then it must be ratified by U.S. Congress.

When *The Mackinac* went to print, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and New York had passed the Compact. This May, Wisconsin's legislature passed the Compact and is now awaiting their Governor's signature. Both chambers of the Michigan legislature have also passed the Compact, but we await passage of additional, more stringent laws. (We hope to see the Compact move

in Ohio and Pennsylvania by the end of this year.)

Here in Michigan, Sierra Club is working in close collaboration with the Great Lakes, Great Michigan Coalition, Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited, Anglers of the Au Sable, and many others to pass water withdrawal legislation that goes beyond the Compact to fully protect Michigan's water resources. We know Michigan's groundwater needs strong, specific public trust protections and laws to protect sensitive headwater fisheries.

This year, the Senate passed a weak bill, setting aside as much as 25% of stream flow for withdrawal (which would harm fish habitat) without any public oversight or input. Sierra Club supports the current House bill package (its passage is expected the first week of June), which would provide economic certainty and adequately protect Michigan's water resources. To learn more, you can visit www.greatlakesgreatmichigan.org.

In the Spotlight

You Can Be Part of the Solution: Ways To Help Sierra Club Defend Your Great Lakes Heritage

MISMANAGED FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Healthy forest ecosystems are nature's water purification systems, functioning as virtual sponges holding water in the land. Most streams and rivers that feed the Great Lakes in the U.S. rise on public forest lands. Logging and land clearing in Michigan destroyed significant forest ecosystems, harming water quality and aquatic species. Today, our forests are beginning to recover, but wood-based bio-fuels, development, logging and minerals exploitation continue to pose threats.

Sierra Club leaders advocate for strong laws and policies to restore native ecosystems and manage state and national forests sustainably. For the first time, thanks to Sierra Club's ongoing work, Michigan's four million acres of state forests are now going through comprehensive planning (including identifying areas for protective designations) and the public can join the process.

TAKE ACTION!

- Explore and enjoy Michigan's seven million acres of public forests on foot, in a canoe or on skis.
- Learn how to protect special places in Michigan's public forests. Email Marvin Roberson at marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.

TOXIC POLLUTION

The Great Lakes are home to a \$4.5 billion sport fishing industry. Great Lakes anglers enjoy world class fishing for walleye, lake trout and other fish. However, toxins in the water mean many of those fish have toxins, making them unsafe to eat in large quantities.

All of the Great Lakes and their tributaries have fish consumption advisories for one or more toxic pollutants. Forty-three designated "Areas of Concern" in Canada

and the U.S. are so polluted that beaches are closed, habitat is lost, and warnings are posted.

Sierra Club is working to convince Congress to re-authorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act, which provides funds for cleanup and restoration. Modern technologies can safely remove contamination, giving us safer fish to eat and reducing human health risks.

TAKE ACTION!

- Thank U.S. Senators Levin and Stabenow for sponsoring S.2994, the Great Lakes Legacy Act.
- Learn how to convince other Congressional Representatives to support Great Lakes restoration. Email Melissa Damaschke at melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org.

LIVESTOCK WASTES

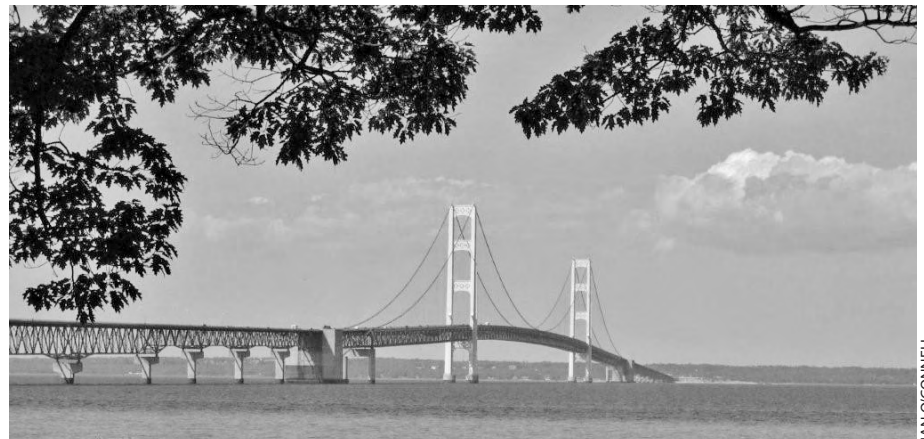
Livestock numbers have dropped in recent decades, while pollution from livestock waste increased. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) spread over 2 million tons of untreated manure on Michigan land each year. At 25 to 100 times more concentrated than human sewage, CAFO waste contains over 160 chemicals. The amount of waste,

poor disposal practices, and badly designed facilities mean animal sewage flows into our rivers and ultimately the Great Lakes. Nutrients from livestock wastes are believed to be a significant contributor to the Saginaw Bay beach muck and the dead zone in Lake Erie.

Since 2001, Sierra Club's Water Sentinels have tested water to expose the extent of CAFO pollution. Sierra Club pushes state and federal agencies to force CAFOs to clean up or shut down. We've made progress, but the CAFO industry and Farm Bureau spend millions to convince lawmakers, agencies, and the courts to undo clean water protections.

TAKE ACTION!

- If you eat meat, dairy or eggs, ask for non-CAFO products at your store (note: an "organic" or "free range" designation doesn't guarantee it's CAFO-free).
- Learn how to monitor for water pollution in your area. Contact Lynn Henning at 517-605-7740 or lynn.henning@sierraclub.org.
- Sign up for our email alert system at www.michigan.sierraclub.org to get updates on Michigan's CAFO legislation.



JAN O'CONNELL

Hands On U.P. Water Monitoring: Learn How!

by Rita Jack, Clean Water
Program Director

The past few years the western half of our U.P. has been peppered with drill holes as mining companies search for minerals like nickel, zinc, copper, gold, and uranium. The region has a long history of mining copper and iron. But these new ventures would be different, because the target ores are embedded in sulfides, which react chemically with air and water to form sulfuric acid, and that can wreak havoc on watersheds.

The Shakey Water Sentinels monitor small streams west of Stephenson in Menominee County while the Yellow Dog Sentinels test streams in Marquette County every month. These Sierra Club volunteers monitor water to learn as much



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RITA JACK

as they can about their watersheds.

This fall Sierra Club Michigan Chapter will host a workshop in the U.P. on how to put together a baseline water monitoring project. We'll talk about how monitoring helps, how to design a project, the importance of quality assurance planning, different approaches to monitoring, who

ask for help, and how to ask funding.

There will be a modest fee to cover materials and some scholarships will be available. Plan for either September 6 or 13 in a central location. Check our new website at www.michigan.sierraclub.org or contact me at rita.jack@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372 for more information.

YOU HAVE POWER

by Mary Meehan, Great Lakes Volunteer

I'm not a scientist, but a citizen. And like many of us in Michigan, I love the Lakes.

After completing the Great Lakes Training event held in Mount Pleasant in February, I went to Washington, D.C. to participate in Great Lakes Day 2008. It was sponsored by Healing Our Waters, a coalition of more than 90 organizations (including Sierra Club) that represent millions of Great Lakes residents. Current legislation is pending in both the state and federal governments, which could make or break the recovery effort of the national treasure where I've wiled away summer days since I was a child.

When I arrived the day before the event for another training—this one focused on pending federal legislation—there was a sense of urgency in the air. There was

also a sense of unity. More than 250 people from eight states and two Canadian providences were planning to descend on lawmakers, providing education and urging them to support four pieces of legislation that will affect the future of our Great Lakes.

There was a lot of information to assimilate. We were thoroughly briefed on all of it. Then we broke into teams to visit with representatives from our own states, to voice our concerns and ask for their support. (Or in my case, to thank them for their support and ask what more could be done.) Our meetings with lawmakers were generally led by directors from various non-profits who were experienced advocates. When I returned home nearly 48 hours later, I was tired, but hopeful and happy to be working towards a solution.

As I found out, one citizen can make a difference. Maybe not alone, but I found I'm not alone. Now is the time to act. Call your legislator. You too can be a part of the solution.

CleanEnergySolutions

Climate Change and How It's Affecting Our Great Lakes

by Jan O'Connell, Energy Issues Legislative Organizer and Great Lakes Activist

Temperatures in the Upper Great Lakes region are expected to warm by 2 to 4 degrees by the end of the 21st century; at the same time our precipitation levels could increase by 25%. Despite this increase in precipitation, by 2100 our Great Lakes levels are expected to fall 1.5 to 8 feet because of these higher temperatures. In the last decade alone, we lost over 3 feet in water levels from Lake Michigan, Erie and Huron. Just last summer, Lake Superior water levels reached an all time low in over 80 years.

So what does all this mean? Just how low can we go and still keep our Great Lakes ecosystem in balance for both natural and manmade functions of our lakes?

As our warm seasons lengthen, the lake temperatures increase and their seasonal mixing of oxygen layers are reduced. The lack of oxygen mixing will affect how biologically productive the lakes will be, which means losses in both the phytoplankton and zooplankton that make up the aquatic food chains critical to the survival of many species of fish that live in our Great Lakes. States like Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin could lose over half of their existing cold-water habitats. And in Indiana and Ohio these habitats could be totally wiped out as the warmer water temperatures inch northward.

Coal-fired power plants produce 40% of the nation's carbon dioxide (CO₂), one of the main contributors to global warming.



JAN O'CONNELL

South Pierhead Lighthouse in Grand Haven

This is one reason why Sierra Club and 45 other organizations are calling on Governor Granholm to immediately reduce our state's carbon footprint. She needs to direct the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to regulate CO₂ from coal-fired and other power plants. The Administration should also direct the MDEQ to factor in CO₂ emissions for all air quality permit decisions for coal plants. You can help us by signing the petition at www.michigancleanenergy.com.

Stopping the Michigan Coal Rush: Sierra Club Volunteers Needed!

by Lee Sprague, Clean Energy Campaign Manager

Stopping the Michigan Coal Rush is critical to many issues Sierra Club members care about, including: protecting our Great Lakes, reducing CO₂ emissions to stop global warming, lowering mercury levels in our fish, implementing clean energy policies, protecting electric ratepayers, making renewable energy a reality, and generating the kind of green jobs that will take our economy in the right direction. The fact is that stopping the coal industry will make a real difference in each of our lives.

In the coming months, we anticipate MDEQ will be sending out public notice(s) on one or more coal-fired power plants in Michigan before the end of the summer. To help keep Big Coal out of Michigan, Sierra Club will need 40,000 hours of volunteer time. So today, I'm asking each of you for one to five hours of time, more if you can, to join us in stopping the coal rush.

By volunteering, you will help: local grassroots efforts to keep Big Coal out of their communities; bolster Sierra Club's

Stopping the coal industry will make a real difference in each of our lives.

ability to respond rapidly to MDEQ; and convince Governor Granholm to support efforts to stop climate change. To volunteer, please send your name, email address, phone number, and the number of hours you can donate to Lee Sprague at lee.sprague@sierraclub.org, Tiffany Hartung at tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org, or Jan O'Connell at jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

To win this fight, it's clear that we need the full strength of our Club behind us.

Great Forests, Wild Places

Coaster Brook Trout One Step Closer to Protection Thanks to Sierra Club Petition

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

The Sierra Club has made significant progress in our attempt to protect one of the rarest and most magnificent fishes in Michigan, the Coaster Brook Trout. Michigan's Coaster population is facing threats from logging, road building, and especially a potentially devastating proposed sulfide mine. Consequently, in 2006, the Sierra Club and the Huron Mountain Club teamed up to file a petition to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to declare the Coaster as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

In March, after Sierra Club brought a lawsuit against the Bush Administration for failure to act on our petition, the USFWS announced a "Positive 90-Day Finding" on our petition. (In this political climate, very few petitions make it past this milestone, which proves ours was substantive enough to convince the USFWS that the listing is warranted.) The USFWS accepted public comments on the petition until May 20 and now has until December 15 to make a final decision regarding whether or not to list the Coaster.

The Coaster Brook Trout (or "Coasters"), are very different from the common brook trout with which most people are familiar. Most brook trout live their entire lives within the stream where they were spawned. Coasters, however, leave the streams where they were spawned and spend most of their lives in Lake Superior, in much the same way as salmon. (This led to many early settlers calling the Coasters "salmon-trout," because they were trout that acted like salmon.) Coasters are much larger than in-stream resident brook trout, attaining sizes up to 28". In addition, since they must chase prey in the lake rather than waiting for it to float by in a river, they are much more muscular fish.

Prior to European settlement, the Coaster Brook Trout were present in almost every tributary of Lake Superior. By the 20th Century, the Coasters had been severely over fished, and their gravel spawning grounds had been filled in by sand and silt from logging and road building.

By the late 20th century, there was only one stream on the entire south shore of Lake Superior which had a self-sustaining, breeding population of Coasters – the Salmon-Trout River in northern Marquette County. The entire reach of this river used by the Coasters is owned by

the Huron Mountain Club (HMC), a very old and large landowners association. Credit for the survival of the fish goes to the Huron Mountain Club, who have conserved and protected the Coasters in this river for over a century.

In addition to protecting the Coasters in the Salmon-Trout, the HMC has sponsored significant research into the Coasters' life cycle, breeding, feeding, and other characteristics. Currently, HMC researchers believe that there are fewer than 200 Coasters breeding in the Salmon-Trout.

To learn more, contact Marvin Roberson at marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.

The Salmon-Trout River is home to the last remaining breeding population of Coaster Brook Trout. Sierra Club is working to protect the river and fish from a proposed sulfide mining operation in northern Marquette County.



CHAUNCY MORAN

Democracy in Action

Citizen Lobbyists Push Energy Bills Towards Passage

HELPING SIERRA CLUB SPREAD THE WORD THAT INVESTMENT IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IS CHEAPER THAN BUILDING NEW COAL PLANTS

by Gayle Miller, Legislative Program Coordinator

Sierra Club Lobby Days are always exciting, but our event on April 16 was especially so. Sixty-five citizen lobbyists visited House and Senate offices, distributing and explaining to lawmakers powerful new financial data that shows how investing in non-polluting energy efficiency and renewable energy is actually cheaper than building polluting coal-fired power plants.

Sierra Club received special permission to distribute a “cost of energy” analysis produced by Lazard, one of the world’s largest financial advisory and asset management companies (Lazard.com). Lazard’s numbers clearly supported the message carried by Sierra Club’s citizen

lobbyists: lawmakers should pass legislation that will steer Michigan toward a clean, cost-effective energy future.

As Sierra Club citizen lobbyists were talking to lawmakers, last-minute deals were being cut at the Capitol prior to the imminent passage of the package. Sierra Club was able to prevent additional trash incineration from being included as a “renewable resource” in the renewable energy bill with the help of another critical document: a resolution passed the previous day by the City of Detroit outlining their intention to stop burning their valuable recyclable trash in the expensive Detroit incinerator.

Sometimes it is difficult to see the con-

nection between Sierra Club’s citizen lobbying efforts and tangible progress toward our goals. However, the day after our Lobby Day, a comprehensive package of energy legislation passed the House with strong bi-partisan support. The package is far from perfect, but is a critical step in the right direction.

Kudos and “thank you” to all of Sierra Club’s wonderful citizen lobbyists who visited with lawmakers, sent emails to legislators, and wrote dozens of letters and opinion articles to local papers to help build public support for clean energy. With your help, we will continue our efforts to get the bills improved and passed in the Senate.

Citizen Lobbyists Lynn Hartung, Stephanie Kribs, Kerrin O’Brien, Sue Norman, and Steve Montle were among the 65 volunteers who came to Lansing this April to help Sierra Club convince lawmakers to support strong clean energy legislation.



GAYLE MILLER

SIERRA CLUB'S HARD WORK PAYS OFF: ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS ON THE MOVE IN LANSING

by Gayle Miller, Legislative Program Coordinator

CLEAN ENERGY PACKAGE PASSES HOUSE

After nearly a year spent in work groups and committee hearings, the House passed a comprehensive package of energy bills on April 17 with broad bi-partisan support. The legislation creates a statewide energy efficiency program, requires at least 10% of Michigan's electricity to come from clean and renewable sources (called a Renewable Portfolio Standard or RPS) by 2015, and re-regulates the electric utility industry. The Sierra Club supported the bills moving forward in the House, but will work to strengthen them in the Senate energy committee. (The biggest threats to the package are Senate leaders who oppose mandates;

the RPS becomes irrelevant if it is non-mandatory.)

ANIMAL FACTORY POLLUTION BILLS STALLED

After months of discussions and negotiations, reform of state laws governing polluting animal factories stalled while work on the house energy bills took everyone's attention. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Jeff Mayes (D-Bay City) wants to continue work on the bill package, but so far Sierra Club has seen little in the proposed language to get excited about. An acceptable interim step would be to give the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality the authority to shut down animal factories that continue

to pollute our waters and threaten public health.

BURGEONING BIOFUELS DEBATE HEATS UP

Rising gas prices, along with federal and state incentives to produce bio-fuels from crops and forest products, are driving up food prices, threatening forest ecosystems, and driving previously protected lands back into crop production. Over the next few months, the Michigan Chapter Conservation Committee will dig in to the issue of biofuels so that the Chapter has a clear policy on this emerging issue. You can contact Conservation Committee Chair Dave Llewellyn for more information (dllewell8@comcast.net).

Detroit City Council Supports New Garbage Business Model

PLANS UNDERWAY TO PHASE OUT TRASH BURNING IN EXPENSIVE DETROIT SOLID WASTE INCINERATOR

by Anna Holden, Michigan Chapter Conservation Committee

On April 14, the Detroit City Council voted 6-2 to support a "New Business Model for Garbage in Detroit," paving the way for a transformation of the City's solid waste disposal to a materials recovery system beginning July 1, 2008. The Council's action is based on a budget strategy to tie city funding of waste disposal to several conditions that are critical to a major change in trash handling, including: confirmation from the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority (GDRRA) that it will phase out the Detroit solid waste incinerator; a plan to recover and reuse "waste" as a City resource; and ramping up recycling initiatives in FY 2008-09.

The Council is also considering several projects suggested by its Environmental Justice Task Force in their budget proposal for the coming fiscal year: a citywide curbside recycling pilot, awarding dollar coupons for local stores to recyclers, and a model neighborhood recycling convenience center.

The Council's Environmental Justice Task Force (chaired by Councilwoman JoAnn Watson) and a coalition of environmental and community organizations jointly crafted the "New Business Model for Garbage." Developed with input from experienced

The Council is also considering several projects suggested by its Environmental Justice Task Force in their budget proposal for the coming fiscal year.

consultants, the model includes goals for a future waste system that incorporates monetary incentives for recyclers, green collar jobs, and business and economic development linked to the reuse and sale of recovered materials.

Sierra Club is an active participant in the coalition, which includes Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Ecology Center, the faith-based MOSES organization, Rosedale Recycles, and Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision. The coalition is successfully promoting its vision for a major overhaul of Detroit's trash system at meetings with City Council members, Council Committees, and GDRRA, and through public hearings, neighborhood meetings, and local rallies. By mid-May, the Detroit Free Press, MetroTimes, and Michigan Citizen were on record calling for an end to trash burning in the Detroit incinerator.

Group Info & Outings

Local Sierra Club groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and general meetings throughout the state. Outings and meetings are open to the public – everyone is welcome! If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you're interested in starting one, please call Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at 517-484-2372.

Most outings begin at the trailhead, and some have fees associated with them. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. [To read the liability waiver before you participate, please visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a print version.] You can find more details on outings and recent additions online at the groups' websites or at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

June

6/7 NG Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. 10am. Easy hike.

6/8 SEMG Canoe the Lower Huron River. 8:45am. Moderate 4 hour paddle (some experience required).

6/13-6/15 TG Lake Michigan Recreation Area. Camping trip and short hike on Porter Creek Trail.

6/14 NG Flushing Twp Nature Park. 10am. Easy hike.

6/21 NG Ligon Outdoor Center. 10am. Easy hike.

6/22 WMG Bicycle Outing. Moderately paced scenic bike ride through local trails.

6/27-6/29 CG Howell Balloonfest. Family-friendly 3 day event and fundraiser.

July

7/6 SEMG Brighton Recreation Area. 12pm. Moderate 5 mile hike.

7/11-7/14 SEMG North Manitou Island Backpack Adventure. Moderate 21 mile backpack.

7/12 SEMG Morning Hike at Maybury. 9am. Moderate 3 mile hike.

7/18 NG Holly North Night Hike. 8pm. Moderate 6 mile hike.

7/21-7/25 HVG Isle Royal Backpack Trip. Moderately strenuous backpacking (limit 10 people).

7/26 SEMG Heritage Park Hike and Picnic. 9:30am. Moderate 4 mile hike through forests, meadows, and rivers edge of this Farmington Hills park.

August

8/2 NG Canoe/Kayak Sturgeon River. 12pm. Difficult 3-4 hour paddle.

8/3 SEMG Addison Oaks Park. 12pm. Moderately paced 4-5 mile hike.

8/9 NG Hike Ausable River. 11am. Moderate hike.

8/9 WMG Grand Haven Beach. Family friendly beach outing.

8/9-8/17 SEMG Isle Royal Backpack Adventure. Challenging 40-mile hike on the Greenstone Ridge Trail (limit 6 people).

8/10 SEMG Greenmeade Historic Park. 1pm. Short easy hike and tour of historic buildings.

8/16 NG Hike Lapeer Days Parade. 9:30am. Family-friendly 1 mile hike.

8/17 SEMG Lake Erie Metropark Lotus Hike. 9am. Moderate 5-mile hike in celebration of the American Lotus' remarkable comeback.

8/24 SEMG Hickory Hills Trails. 9:30am. Moderate 5-6 mile hike.

8/24-8/27 NG Canoe and Camp Two-Hearted River Cruise. 5pm. Moderate hiking and paddle on the Two-Hearted River.

8/30 SEMG Proud Lake Hike. 11am. Moderate 5 mile hike.

8/TBA CG Huron Meadows Metropark. 12pm.

Moderate paddle from Cedar Ridge River picnic area to Zukey Lake Tavern.

September

9/13 NG Hike Hadley Hills. 10am. Difficult hike.

9/20 NG Hike Bald Mountain. 11am. Moderate 2 hour hike.

9/20 SEMG Wolcott Mill Hike and Quilts. 11am. Moderate 5 mile hike and visit to the mill for antique quilt display.

9/20-9/21 SEMG Manistee River Trail Backpack. Moderate 20 mile hike and camping on the Manistee River.

9/27 NG Kayak/Canoe Flint River. 1pm. Easy paddle in the beautiful Flint River.

9/27 SEMG Maybury State Park Hike. 11am. Moderate 3-4 mile hike.

You can spot colonies of these native mayapples (*Phodophyllum peltatum*) as you are walking through Michigan's open woodlands. Single white flowers appear in early May and their "apple" is found tucked under the leaves later in the summer.



ANNE WOJWODE

Chapter Outings

7/21—7/25

ISLE ROYALE BACKPACK

Hosted by HVG

From July 21st to 25th, the Huron Valley Group will lead a backpacking trip through one of the most remote and beautiful areas in Michigan. Food will be provided and tents will be shared; the outing is limited to ten people, so register soon. Contact Outings Leader Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 or at nshiffler@comcast.net for trip details, costs, and transportation schedules.

9/6 TREE PLANTING AND AU SABLE RIVER CLEAN UP

Meet at 10am on Saturday September 6th at Gates Au Sable Lodge, 471 Stephan Bridge Road (north of East M-72) in Grayling, MI to join Sierra Club, Anglers of the Au Sable, and Cedars of the Au Sable for the annual river clean up and tree planting. You can help restore the native diversity of Michigan forests by planting cedar saplings along the Au Sable River and enclosing them to prevent deer browsing as they mature. Gloves and waterproof shoes are recommended. An afternoon barbecue at Gates Au Sable Lodge is provided after the clean up. For more details, contact Sierra Club's Forest Policy Specialist Marvin Roberson at 906-360-0288 or marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.

Sierra Club volunteers at last year's Au Sable River tree planting.



HOWARD JOHNSON

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GROUP

Your local Sierra Club group is run by volunteers who host educational programs and organize actions on environmental issues important to your community and family's health.

CMG = Central Michigan Group

Group Chair: Anne-Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871 or arachman@comcast.com

Outings Chair: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796

CUPG = Central Upper Peninsula Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org

CG = Crossroads Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads

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

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

HVG = Huron Valley Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/index.asp

Group Chair: Doug Cowherd, doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823

KVG = Kalamazoo Valley Group

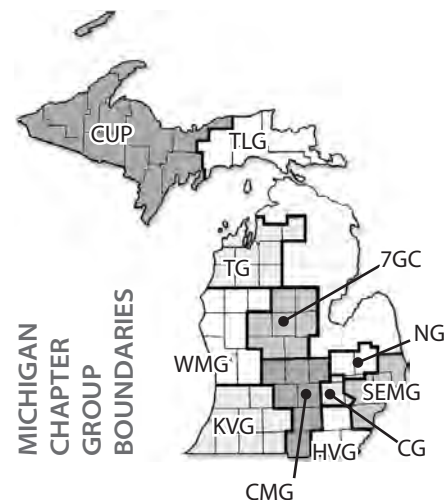
Group Chair, Outings Chair: currently seeking new local leaders, call the Chapter Office at 517-484-2372 for details

NG = Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

Group Chair: Linda Berker, 810-653-8242

Outings Chair: Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldd@chartermi.net



SEMG = Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

Group Chair: Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or cogknot@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil1@yahoo.com

TLG = Three Lakes Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@Issu.edu

TG = Traverse Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

Group Chair: Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or justimagine@centurytel.net

Outings Chair: Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344 or andrea.dean@michigan.sierraclub.org

WMG = West Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

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

Outings Chair: Sharon Wilson, 616-532-0753

7GC = Seventh Generation Committee

Local Contact: Joel Welty, 989-561-5037 or jwelty@power-net.net

Annual Retreat

Bring Your Kids and Join Your Friends at Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's 19th Annual Retreat

FRIDAY AUGUST 22 TO SUNDAY AUGUST 24

by Phil Rairigh, Fall Retreat Committee Chair

While I still feel like the new kid on board, I'm honored to be chairing a wonderful tradition embraced by the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club – our annual retreat. The American Youth Foundation's "Camp Miniwanca" has been our weekend home away from home for several years now, and to borrow a sports adage, "the fans love it!" Past years had us moving about the state, effectively taste-testing the diverse geographical areas that Michigan has to offer. Once we experienced Camp Miniwanca, however, it seemed to strike a mutual chord amongst attendees both experienced and fresh to the scene. Retreat goers enjoy views of Lake Michigan, trails through the dunes, walks along the undeveloped shoreline, and the nighttime stellar clarity of our galactic community—the Milky Way.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF PROVIDE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY NEW OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

For first time retreat attendees, it may seem a bit unusual to attend a youth camp. Trust me, it has distinct advantages that families will relish. The experienced camp staff provide us with many services: kayaking, wind surfing, river tubing, swimming lifeguard, high ropes course, hiking, outdoor games, meals, and even cleanup. They also handle the logistical needs for our educational workshops. The retreat is many things to many people—some use it as a mini-vacation, others for the learning sessions, but all enjoy the relaxed atmosphere because of the great staff. Suffice it to say, parents can take a break from being the entertainment director and appreciate camp staff that

understand how to work with and entertain kids.

A NEW TRADITION IN THE MAKING: ORGANIC MINI-POTLUCK

Despite the fact that we are all Sierra Club, we are nonetheless a diverse bunch. This is made all the more apparent when it comes to attendee feedback. Since I author the summary, it's not just rhetoric when I say I've read every evaluation. From year to year, our diversity ensures a broad mixture of comments and suggestions, especially on food. Our tastes cover the range from omnivores to pure vegans, kids wanting mac 'n cheese and everything in between. Trying to please everyone is a juggling act to be sure, but it keeps it interesting.

As stewards and residents of the planet, we want to produce meals that are sustainable, healthy, and tasteful without breaking the budget. Organic food's popularity has seen a steady increase in recent years and will definitely be an important focus this year. In fact, we'd like to draw on a tradition from our early years of retreats—the mini-potluck. This will be a tasty enhancement to the regular meals the camp caters, so Organic Chefs of Sierra Club unite! Bring your favorite eco-dish and recipe to show your fellow Sierrans how to eat healthy with a small footprint. Coordinate your offerings with Sue Norman (registration), and we can refrigerate or reheat as needed.

BRING YOUR GOODIES FOR THE RETREAT AUCTION AND REQUESTS FOR MUSICAL FAVORITES

Speaking of traditions, no retreat would be complete without our own Sierra Club volunteer Mike Keeler auctioneering on Saturday evening. It's always great fun as he helps us part with our money and sup-



DIANE COLVIN

port the Michigan Chapter's great work at the same time. So bring some goodies from home for the live and silent auction – give them a fresh start in life! The good times keep rolling after the auction. Due to popular demand we're bringing back bouncing chair Tommy Foster and Bob Motycka for the evening's musical entertainment. Between the two of them, they seem to nail most of the popular hits from the 50's on. Be prepared for hilarious fun when Tommy's musical montages suddenly get triggered with certain requests.

Finally, I really want to give credit to veteran organizers Wanda Bloomquist and Lisa Wickman, whose time and talents

in years past have rendered marvelously memorable retreats. Ever the devotees, they just couldn't let go of Friday night entertainment. So look forward to a movie, snacks, campfire, open microphone, and whatever fun activities they'll spring on us. As well, any event this large relies on many dedicated volunteers – very much appreciated as we share the workload and associated sleep deprivation.

You can get more details about the cabins and retreat programs (as we add them) on our website, www.sierraretreat.org. Got any workshop ideas? We're all ears, so let us know via the contact link.



2008 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

All workshops, activities, five meals and two nights lodging are included in each of the rates listed below. (Some crafts may require a small materials fee.)

Names (include age if under 18): _____	Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total
_____	< 3	All	Free	Free
_____	3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$60	_____
_____	3-12	Lakeside or Inland Dorm	\$75	_____
Address: _____	Adult	Cabin or Tent	\$115	_____
_____	Adult	Inland Dorm Room	\$140	_____
Phone: (____) _____	Adult	Lakeside Dorm Room, no roommate(s)	\$155	_____
Email Address: _____	Adult	Lakeside Dorm Room, with roommate(s)	\$150	_____
<i>(Saves resources—your address will not be shared.)</i>		Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)*		_____
Special needs, comments, questions, suggestions:		Add \$5 for registration after August 10		_____
_____		TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____

* See description of Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO) program at www.sierraretreat.org.

> **Would you like to bring a dish for our mini-potluck? If so, please coordinate with Sue Norman.**

> **Is this your first MI Chapter SC Retreat?** Yes No
If no, how many times have you attended? _____

Cut out this form and send with your check to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, ATTN: RETREAT, 109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Make check payable to **Sierra Club**. If you have any questions about registration, email Sue Norman at pbsue@designis.us or call 616-891-0769. Check-In begins Friday at 5pm.

Chapter Directory

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Sue Kelly sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org

Find Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy at www.mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp or call the Chapter office.



WENDI TILDEN

Supporting Your Chapter

Another Easy Way for You to Help Protect Michigan's Environment

ASK YOUR EMPLOYER TO JOIN EARTH SHARE OF MICHIGAN'S WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAM

by Wendi Tilden, Development & Communications Director



Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

Sierra Club's environmental achievements in Michigan would not be possible without the generous support of you and our other members.

With Sierra Club, you know that going on local outings or volunteering to help on conservation campaigns means you get to have fun while learning more about Michigan's environment and educating our lawmakers. Whether it's restoring our great forests, building a clean energy future, or safeguarding our Great Lakes, Sierra Club volunteers are there to stand up for your family's health and heritage. Many of you also make generous gifts directly to the Michigan Chapter to support the staff and program work that amplifies your volunteer actions and conservation goals.

Today I'd like to tell you about another easy way for you to help Sierra Club

and other environmental nonprofits in Michigan. Ask your employer—or other businesses you have a connection with—to join Earth Share of Michigan, a workplace giving program that supports the health and preservation of our environment.

Now, I know what you're thinking—you've never even heard of Earth Share of Michigan, right? Well, that's why I'm writing this piece—read on!

Earth Share of Michigan is an alliance of Michigan's leading non-profit environmental and conservation charities. It was created to represent its members in employee workplace giving campaigns, similar to United Way—except that it's all environmental groups.

Participating in Earth Share of Michigan is easy to do, and everyone wins. Sierra Club likes Earth Share because it provides us with an efficient and secure way to manage workplace donations. Employers like Earth Share because it provides them with a giving



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

DAVID LESSENS

option that demonstrates their corporate support for the environment and addresses their employees' interests and concerns. Employees like Earth Share because it allows them to make tax-deductible donations to environmental causes through a simple payroll deduction. They also like it because they can designate their contribution to a specific organization or choose to share it between all of Earth Share's member organizations.

If you want to add environmental choices to your current workplace giving program, or create a new giving program at your workplace, please contact me at 517-484-2372 or wendi.tilden@sierraclub.org. To learn more about Earth Share of Michigan, including a complete list of participating organizations, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org.

EXERCISE YOUR POWER TO PROTECT MICHIGAN'S ENVIRONMENT... SEND A GIFT TODAY

Enclosed is my/our gift of:

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

I want to support Sierra Club's effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs in Michigan, which is not tax deductible. **My check to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is enclosed.**

I prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to the Michigan Chapter, which supports monitoring, public education, and precedent-setting litigation. **My check to The Sierra Club Foundation is enclosed.**

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

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

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. Please join us in thanking current members:

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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SIERRA CLUB, 109 EAST GRAND RIVER AVE, LANSING, MI 48906.



The Sierra Club's
members are 700,000
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 grass-
roots environmental organization.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.