

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • AUTUMN/WINTER 2017/18

Explore, Enjoy and Resist

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

Today, it is not enough to aspire to protect Michigan's natural heritage, per Sierra Club's mission statement. Since last year's elections, we've had to go into overdrive in our thinking, strategies and activities to resist constant assaults on what we hold dear.

The good news is that, for every attack, there has been an equally inspiring push back on the part of people like you. From the shocking announcement of our withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement to actions of Michigan's polluter-friendly legislature and agencies, threats to the environment are inspiring grassroots resistance.

- In the wake of Trump's climate accord folly, a host of cities, mayors, governors, universities businesses and individuals in Michigan and nationwide took a stand, saying, "We're staying the course to build a safer, saner future."
- After the release of a flawed report for the state on alternatives to Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline produced by a firm with ties to Enbridge, thousands of ordinary citizens, mobilized by Sierra Club and others, attended hearings around the state and submitted about 23,000 comments calling for a shutdown of Line 5 (see p. 3 for more).

Thousands have joined our ranks since the election of the most anti-environment president in history. People like Angela Rogensues, who donated her fundraising expertise to help us pull off our 50th



Left to right: US Senator Gary Peters, US Senator Debbie Stabenow, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune and Michigan Chapter Excom Chair David Holtz at the Chapter 50th Anniversary Dinner.

Anniversary party (see p. 8 for pix). Or Vicki Dobbins, a Detroit volunteer, and Jeremy Johnson, a recent Alma College graduate, who are the newest members of Sierra Club Michigan's Executive Committee (info on this year's candidates on pp. 12-13).

"We are going to persist. We are not going away."

Truly, 2017 has been the worst of times but has inspired the best from our members and supporters. Environmental threats are being challenged by a citizens'

movement that includes Sierra Club and thousands of Michiganders. Attacks on our state and global climate future are being resisted.

As U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow told a jam-packed crowd celebrating Sierra Club Michigan's 50th anniversary June 10: "The good news is we're marching... you're marching... we're not going to stop marching. We're not going to stop emailing, we're not going to stop calling. We are going to persist. We are not going away."

Vote!

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

TheMackinac

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SIERRA CLUB CONTACT DIRECTORY

MICHIGAN CHAPTER STAFF

109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-484-2372
Website: sierraclub.org/michigan

State Director

Gail Philbin616-805-3063, gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

Legislative and Political Director

Mike Berkowitz517-999-1305, mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org

Development Director and Energy Issues Organizer

Jan O'Connell616-956-6646, jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org

Forest Ecologist

Marvin Roberson906-360-0288, marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org

Conservation Organizer, Sierra Club Great Lakes Program

Erma Leaphart313-475-7057, erma.leaphart@sierraclub.org

Administrative Assistant

Cecilia J. Garcia 517-484-2372, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org

NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB STAFF

2727 Second Avenue Suite 112, Detroit, MI 48201

Senior Organizing Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign and Environmental Justice Program

Rhonda Anderson313-965-0052, rhonda.anderson@sierraclub.org

Michigan Beyond Coal Director

Regina Strong313-974-6547, regina.strong@sierraclub.org

Associate Organizing Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign

Andrew Sarpolis248-924-4857, andrew.sarpolis@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

2101 Webster Street Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: 415-977-5500

Member Change of Addressaddress.changes@sierraclub.org

THE MACKINAC

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter
109 E Grand River Avenue
Lansing MI 48906
Phone: 517-484-2372
Email: michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org
sierraclub.org/michigan

EDITORS

Leslie March

lesliemarch@hotmail.com

Gail Philbin

gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

DESIGN

John Klein

john@winpublishing.com

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MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Members

CHAIR David Holtzdavid@davidholtz.org
VICE CHAIR Pat Eganpegan@up.net
TREASURER Helen LeBlanchelen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org
SECRETARY Jean Gramlichjean.gramlich@michigan.sierraclub.org
5TH OFFICER Brad Van Guilderbrad.vanguilder@michigan.sierraclub.org
EMERITUS (non-voting) Nancy Shifflernshiffler@comcast.net

At-Large Representatives

Richard Morley Barronrmorleybarron@gmail.com
Craig Brainardboomerbob1@gmail.com
Deitra Covingtondlcporter09@gmail.com
Vicki Dobbinsvdobbins29@gmail.com
Pat Eganpegan@up.net
David Holtzdavid@davidholtz.org
Jeremy Johnsonjeremy.johnsom248@gmail.com
Tom Turnertcmturner@gmail.com
Thomas Zerafamusicalchairstrz003@gmail.com

Local Group Representatives

CG Penny Goldsteinpennypg@gmail.com
CMG Helen LeBlanchelen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org
CUPG John Rebersjrebers@gmail.com
HVG Ed Steinmanlighthawk.pilot@gmail.com
NG Ellen Waaraellenwaara@gmail.com
SEMG Jean Gramlichjeangramlich@msn.com
SWMG Roger Taylorwildbirdkalamazoo@gmail.com
TLG Kathy Englishenglishka4169@gmail.com

In the Spotlight



Line 5 Shutdown Bittersweet

by David Holtz, Michigan Chapter Chair

There's no doubt Enbridge's aging, dangerous Line 5 oil pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac will be shut down. Good news for the Great Lakes, right? Not necessarily.

If state officials continue their high-stakes gamble that has delayed action for more than four years, it may be that what eventually shuts off the flow of oil through the Straits is a major pipeline rupture that spills thousands of gallons of oil along the Lake Huron and Michigan coastlines.

I'm writing this as Labor Day approaches and a summer winds down that saw more than 23,000 people take action to tell Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette to shut down Line 5 oil in the Great Lakes. The studies that prompted these public comments to the state—studies that were supposed to guide Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette's decisionmaking on Line 5—were a disaster. One was canned because a key researcher was discovered working for Enbridge. The other was hopelessly flawed by oil industry firms in charge of the study.

To say that Snyder and Schuette have mishandled the Line 5 issue would be an understatement. Adding to Snyder's

dismal legacy of false fraud charges, drinking water poisoning and prisoner abuse is his studied indifference to the threat to Michigan and the Great Lakes from these dangerously neglected oil pipelines in the Straits.



Thus far, the best that Schuette has given us is a false promise. Remember Schuette's boldly declared statement in 2015 that Line 5's "days are numbered"? On Labor Day 2017 that was 783 days ago. Even if the clock eventually strikes for Schuette, the politically ambitious attorney general seems more enamored with a replacement for Line 5 that would put crews to work digging a tunnel through the Straits than he is with eliminating the threat of oil in the Great Lakes.

Sierra Club will continue to help lead the broad coalition of organizations, tribes and businesses advocating for decommissioning Line 5. Battling Big Oil in Michigan isn't for the weak of

heart, but this isn't our first fight to protect the Great Lakes and it won't be the last. Big water means big fights, and there's no bigger fresh water to fight over than our lakes.

It's increasingly likely that next year Michigan voters will end up deciding whether oil pipelines belong in the Great Lakes. When you are evaluating candidates, ask this: Where do you stand on Line 5? Sierra Club will be asking it, and all of us should be sure of the answer before we vote for governor

and attorney general.

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sierraclub.org/michigan

Sign up for bimonthly Chapter email update at action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter:
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Give online at www.tinyurl.com/supportMISC

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

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to support our work, call Development Director Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 to learn how.

Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,
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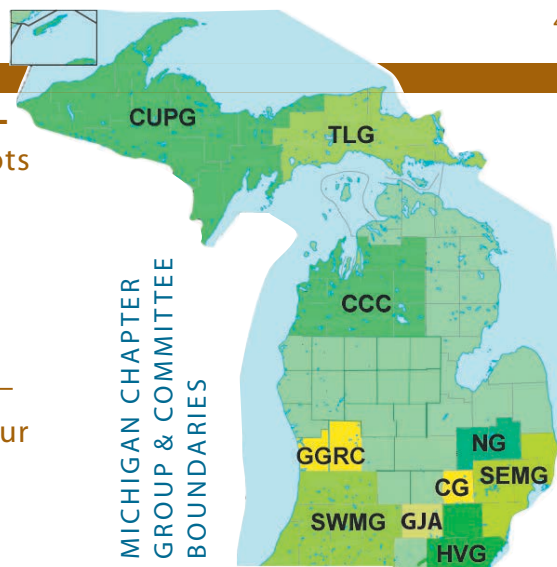
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THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL

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



Clearwater Conservation Committee / CCC

COUNTIES: Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford
FACEBOOK: Clearwater Conservation Committee
TWITTER: @NCMClearwater
EMAIL: sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com
CHAIR: Rebecca Skeels • clearwater.chair@michigan.sierraclub.org

Greater Jackson Committee / GJA

COUNTIES: Jackson
CONTACT: gja@michigan.sierraclub.org

Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

COUNTIES: : Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon
MEETS: in Marquette
FACEBOOK: Central Upper Peninsula Club
GROUP & OUTINGS CHAIR: John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or jrebers@gmail.com

Crossroads Group / CG

COUNTIES: : Livingston and western Oakland
MEETS: at group leader homes in Livingston County
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads
FACEBOOK: Crossroads Group Sierra Club
CHAIR: Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org
VICE CHAIR: Sue Kelly • suekelly77@gmail.com

Greater Grand Rapids Committee / GGRC

COUNTIES: Kent and Ottawa
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Greater Grand Rapids Committee
EMAIL: GGrc@michigan.sierraclub.org
CO-CHAIRS: Angie Bruder • angelabruder@sbcglobal.net
CO-CHAIRS: Julie Watkins • nativeyel@gmail.com

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Executive Committee intends to dissolve the CUPG group and reorganize it as a new Upper Peninsula Sierra Club network in the greater Marquette area. To become involved in our new UP network or for more information please contact chapter Chair David Holtz at david@davidholtz.org.

Huron Valley Group / HVG

COUNTIES: Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe
MEETS: in Ann Arbor
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
EMAIL: HVGSierraClub@gmail.com
CHAIR: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or nshiffler@comcast.net
VICE CHAIR: James D'Amour or hvg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org

Nepessing Group / NG

COUNTIES: Genesee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland
MEETS: in Flint
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Nepessing
CHAIR: Robert Aguirre • rsaguirre@msn.com
VICE CHAIR: Dennis Crispell • denniscrispell@yahoo.com

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

COUNTIES: : St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne
MEETS: at Elks Club in Royal Oak
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club South East Michigan Group
CHAIR: Dave Richards • rodaverich@gmail.com
VOTE: *The annual election for SEMG ExCom runs through Dec. 15, 2017.*
Voting information is posted at:
<http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/southeast-michigan>.

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

COUNTIES: Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry
MEETS: in Kalamazoo
WEBSITE: www.sierraclubswmg.org
CHAIR: Shannon Haupt • shannon.haupt12@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Mark Miller • mark.edward.miller55@gmail.com

Three Lakes Group / TLG

COUNTIES: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft
MEETS: in Sault Ste. Marie
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes
FACEBOOK: Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club
CHAIR: Roger Blanchard • blanchardrd@yahoo.com
VICE CHAIR: Carol Ward • saltptcew@gmail.com

Growing Our Political Power

By Mike Berkowitz
Legislative and Political Director

The Michigan Chapter has become a powerhouse at the state capitol since 2011. This year, we've already organized over 350 meetings with state legislators for our grassroots lobbying program, which stopped numerous terrible proposals and passed a few positive bills. Last year, we got a Republican-dominated legislature to increase the state's renewable energy standard and energy efficiency program. But it has not always been that way.

I joined the Sierra Club after the tumultuous 2010 elections. Pretty much every single progressive environmental candidate lost. My first day on the job, I sat down with Anne Woiwode, our former director. She told me "Mike... we need more political power in Lansing. Lawmakers don't listen, and they need to fear and respect us more. We also need to recruit younger people to become leaders within our chapter. But we need a fresh perspective and new ideas for how to do that. Good luck and figure it out!"

In 2012, we instituted a stronger political program featuring a thorough endorsement process; we created a nationally renowned internship program; we started giving public presentations across the state and developed mail and phone bank campaigns, and we started seriously raising money to have more clout in elections. This program grew steadily through 2016 and gave us exponentially more power at the state



Hundreds of future activists have taken Sierra Club's political training.

capitol, especially with Democrats, but also some key Republicans who proved instrumental in negotiating a progressive state energy policy last year.

Since the implementation of our chapter internship program, we've recruited, trained, and deployed 160 young people to become a part of our movement. About 140 of those young people continued taking action with the Sierra Club after their internships; 35 have gone on to become long-term Sierra Club volunteer leaders, and more than 50 of those interns now work in the legal field, serve as staff



Political interns in our 2017 Summer Program.

for state/federal lawmakers, run political campaigns, or work for progressive non-profit organizations. For example, former political and communications intern Jeremy Johnson is a field organizer for a statewide

political campaign and is currently the youngest member of our chapter executive committee. Our former political intern Courtney Bourgoin went on to create our communications internship, establish the Spartan Sierra Club, and become a staffer for the national Sierra Club's communications department. Former political intern Amanda Adams ran one of the most competitive state representative campaigns in 2016 and now works for one of the best environmentally-minded elected leaders in Michigan, Abdullah Hammoud. Examples abound, and it shows how we have restructured the levers of power in Michigan politics.

We need your help to get to the next level in 2018. If you believe in the work we are doing to train the next generation of environmental and political organizers, we need your support. If you believe in the work we are doing to elect progressive environmentalists to local, state, and national offices, please help. Consider making a donation using the form below or via credit card on our website here: <http://tinyurl.com/q42nfob>. Not able to donate but want to help us with this work? Email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org. Join our 2018 internship program here: <https://goo.gl/GFYtxK>.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB'S PAC

- 1) Donate online with a credit card at tinyurl.com/q42nfob or write a check for the amount of your choosing
- 2) Make it out to "Michigan Sierra PAC"
- 3) Fill out this form (required by the Secretary of State)
- 4) Mail your check and this form to:
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109 E. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

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ET Rover Plagued with Problems Before It's Built

By Nancy Shiffler, Chair, Beyond Natural Gas and Oil Committee

Last summer, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) notified the company building the E.T. Rover natural gas pipeline that a moratorium imposed in May would be partially extended on the company's use of horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The use of HDD, a tunneling technique to run pipelines under waterways and roadways, led to two major spills of drilling fluids in Ohio last spring and the collapse of a road in Franklin Township in August.

The Ohio spills occurred in April and resulted in the release of more than two million gallons of drilling fluids into wetlands. The massive pipeline will bring natural gas from Pennsylvania and West Virginia across Ohio into Michigan, where it will cross Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Livingston Counties.

Ninety homes and a YMCA camp on Silver Lake in the Pinckney Recreation Area will be cut off from safe evacuation routes if the pipeline is built as currently planned. According to a letter from Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, the

approval process used by the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) was flawed and "undermined transparency and hindered local stakeholders from providing input."

All of which calls for increased scrutiny of the proposed Nexus pipeline, a joint project of DTE Energy and Enbridge, and the second massive pipeline approved by FERC to transport natural gas from the Marcellus shale region of Pennsylvania and West Virginia into Michigan. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission wasted no time in approving the proposed Nexus natural gas pipeline after two Trump appointees restored the quorum of commission members in August.

On Sep. 22, Appalachian Mountain Advocates (Appalmad), on behalf of the Sierra Club, filed a request for rehearing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission calling for a new and comprehensive examination of whether the NEXUS gas pipeline is necessary.

Shut Down the Sims Plant for a Safe and Beautiful Grand Haven

By Jan O'Connell, Michigan Chapter Development Director & Energy Issues Organizer

On Grand Havens' Harbor Island, the sprawling J.B. Sims Coal Plant looms large over the horizon and impacts every view from the beautiful harbor. Boaters, visitors and residents who enjoy Chinook Pier, Linear Park, the landmark musical fountain, riverfront shops and boardwalk do so in the shadow of the plant.

This municipally owned coal plant affects the health of residents and tourists, from the air they breathe to potential water contamination in the Grand River and Lake Michigan, less than a mile down river. Air pollution includes sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxides and fine particulate matter which can harm the respiratory system among other effects.

The Sims Plant also has two coal ash ponds located adjacent to the coal plant on Harbor Island with the pond boundaries in close proximity to the Grand River. Coal ash contains dangerous contaminants such as mercury, cadmium, arsenic, and lead, and initial findings on the Sims coal ash ponds have raised concerns.

The Sierra Club along with interested individuals, groups and businesses are working to change the situation in Grand Haven and West Michigan by moving away from burning coal toward a clean renewable energy future. For a year and a half, staffer Jan O'Connell and dozens of local residents have been attending meetings, walking in parades and generally educating the general public as well as local decision-makers about the need to get Grand Haven to re-think the future of Harbor Island...and to move away from producing energy from fossil fuels.

The existence of the Sims Plant is a visual, environmental as well as an economic burden to Grand Haven in a town that depends heavily on clean water and air for its tourist support and shutting it down will likely provide significant economic

benefits. Our recent billboard campaign vividly depicts the plant's impact on the waterfront. To learn more, visit Friends-4-A-Beautiful-Grand-Haven.org and get involved! Contact jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or call her at 616-956-6646.



Sierra Club Michigan members protest the J.B. Sims Coal Plant.

PHOTO: JAN O'CONNELL

Go Solar with Sierra!

Clean energy is a win/win -- good for the environment and great for the nation's economy. In 2016 more renewable power was put on line than any other type of electric generation. In addition the renewable energy industry is generating jobs 12 times faster than the rest of the economy.

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter offers members the chance to join this growing clean energy movement with its Solar Partnership program in Michigan. Through partnerships with select solar companies, we offer members the chance to make an investment in solar energy for their own homes. These companies will evaluate a home's solar power capabilities, help identify financing, and install the solar power systems that work for a particular home.

Solar panels work everywhere in Michigan, and the state's new energy law allows home owners to do net metering, a billing system that credits homeowners for electricity they generate through technologies like solar power.



For more information about Sierra Club Michigan's solar program, visit: sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership

LBWL Agrees to Retire Erickson Coal Plant by 2025

By Regina Strong, Director, Michigan Beyond Coal Campaign

The Lansing Board of Water and Light (LBWL) will stop burning fossil fuels at its coal-fired Erickson Generating Station by December 2025 and under a recently announced settlement agreement with the Sierra Club commits to specific clean energy investments. The agreement settles claims of Clean Air Act violations at LBWL's Erickson and Eckert Generating Stations in Lansing.

The agreement makes enforceable LBWL's previously announced plans to retire the Eckert plant by December 2020. LBWL has also committed to adding at least 106 megawatts of new wind and solar energy generation by December 31, 2020.

"This will go a long way in moving Lansing area residents toward the clean energy future they deserve, one that puts public health first."

LBWL is required to achieve a combined renewable energy-efficiency goal of 30 percent of their total retail sales by December 31, 2020, and 35 percent by December 31, 2025. LBWL will establish a sustainability program designed to promote energy waste reduction or pollution prevention in the City of Lansing and surrounding community, with funding of at least \$300,000.

"As an asthmatic who has suffered from the health impacts of burning coal for decades, I celebrate the positive impact today's announcement will have on public health in our region," said Anne Woiwode, Michigan Sierra Club Chapter Conservation Chair. "This settlement clears the way for Lansing and LBWL to live up to their potential to be Michigan's leading city in reaching clean energy and climate goals in coming decades."

Last year, Sierra Club conducted an opinion poll showing that Lansing voters are strongly in favor of renewable energy and



Lansing citizens show support for clean energy.

energy efficiency. Citizens think their part of Michigan should be using more renewable energy (76%) and energy efficiency (75%).

"This announcement is a positive step toward prioritizing Michigan's clean air and water, as well as protecting public health in the Lansing area. We have an opportunity now to avoid environmental and health risks in a way we did not have when coal-burning power was the only option," said Regina Strong, director of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign in Michigan. "This will go a long way in moving Lansing area residents toward the clean energy future they deserve, one that puts public health first."

The Erickson plant retirement commitment accounts for the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign's 257th announced coal plant closure since 2010.



Sierra Club's Executive Director Michael Brune came to Michigan to honor the Chapter's 50th Anniversary. Below is an excerpt from his inspiring speech. See the entire talk at

<http://tinyurl.com/Brune50th>

This is a celebration of activists here in Michigan, and around the country, and around the world, who for generations have resisted and persisted. Have been stared down, shouted down and in many cases beaten down. People who have been told to be quiet, to be reasonable. People who have been hung out and strung out. People who have been out-spent and out-gunned, and who have never given up.

Were it not for activists—or by another name, patriots, or citizens, or dreamers, or doers—without these activists we wouldn't be here in this room together today. Without activists there would be no Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club. Without activists there would be no Sierra Club here in the United States of America. Without activists there wouldn't be a United States of America.

Without activists there would be no Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Without activists there would have been no Underground Railroad, or vote for women. Without activists we wouldn't have protected 90,000 acres of forest wilderness here in Michigan. Without activists there would be no 40-hour work week, there would be no weekends, there would be no child labor laws.

Without activists the River Rouge coal plant would be operating for decades upon decades into the future. Without activists the EPA would be shut down.

So this is a celebration of activists. Why? Because we make magic together.

Hundreds Celebrate Sierra Club Michigan's 50th and Raise Funds for the Next 50

Three-hundred fifty Sierra Club members and supporters joined the celebration of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's 50th Anniversary on June 10 in Ann Arbor. The crowd cheered and rose to its feet throughout the night as our illustrious speakers spoke about the Chapter's past, present and future. The event also surpassed our fundraising goal with more than \$60,000 collected to establish the Anne Woiwode Fund.

U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow spoke about current environmental fights in Congress, and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell presented chapter leaders with a framed copy of her comments commemorating the anniversary from the Congressional Record. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune energized the crowd with a rousing speech (see excerpts this page). Chapter Chair David Holtz was the master of ceremonies and Legislative and Political Director Mike Berkowitz anchored a live Facebook broadcast.

Many thanks go to the volunteer planning committee who worked on the celebration for two years, led by State Director Gail Philbin: Richard Barron, Lorne Beatty, Mary Anne Beltzman, Craig Brainard, Cecilia Garcia, David Holtz, Ginny Maturen, Jan O'Connell, Angela Rogensues, and Ed Steinman.



U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow addressing the crowd.



Vicki Dobbins and U.S. Senator Gary Peters.



Gail Philbin and Craig Brainard enjoying the event.

More pix from the 50th anniversary can be found at:
<http://tinyurl.com/SC50th>

Gwen Nystuen Receives Special 50th Honor



A special 50th Anniversary award was presented to Gwen Nystuen of Ann Arbor during the celebration. Gwen and her husband, John, were part of the small band of Sierra Club members who launched a new statewide Sierra Club chapter in Michigan in 1967. Gwen has served in both state and national volunteer roles with Sierra Club's political program since then. Today, she continues to serve as a Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Committee member.

Partial Victory in Au Sable Hatchery Case

By Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

A permit to operate an industrial-scale fish farm in the Au Sable River has been remanded to the administrative law judge for reconsideration, which is a partial victory in our appeal of the permit. We have reported previously that in 2015 a fish hatchery operator applied for and received a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to operate a massive commercial fish hatchery directly in the Au Sable River.

Sierra Club challenged that permit. One of our primary concerns was that the addition of hundreds of thousands of Rainbow Trout into the river system could greatly increase the chances of native fish in the system becoming infected with Whirling Disease. Whirling Disease is fatal to trout. Rainbow Trout are the primary vector for spreading this disease.

The challenge was heard by an administrative law judge, who then made a recommendation regarding the permit to DEQ Director Heidi Grether, who has final authority. The challenge involved tens of thousands of pages of exhibits, transcripts, and 21 full days of trial. The judge's recommendation said that he could not order monitoring or control measures for Whirling Disease, that the Clean Water Act did not give him that authority to order it, so he could not order it, whether he wanted to or not (he did not say whether he wanted to).

On July 5, Grether issued a decision. She addressed only the question of his ability to order the monitoring and control measures and held that he did in fact have the authority to order the measures under the Clean Water Act. She remanded the

decision to him for reconsideration, with the decision indicating that he could in fact order the monitoring and control. She did not actually direct him to order these measures, she simply directed him to reconsider the recommendation with the understanding that he could order them.

So now we wait again for the judge's revised recommendation. He may choose to ask the parties for more briefs, testimony or other information or he may not, at his discretion. He may issue a recommendation indicating that while he can order the monitoring, he does not think it is necessary to do so (both the DEQ and the hatchery operator argued that due to precautions being taken, there is no need to do so). We argued that since those precautions are not part of the permit, then the monitoring should be required).

This is significant in a larger sense, since it is the first time the DEQ Director has ever held that the DEQ has the authority to order monitoring for biological pollutants (like fish diseases) under the Clean Water Act. It may be very significant to this case, since the hatchery operator indicated that there is no practical way to monitor for the disease. We responded that this was in and of itself reason to deny the permit.

As we go to press, the ALJ has issued a recommendation which includes some monitoring, but we do not think it is sufficient, and we will be filing a formal response.



50th Anniversary Supporters

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter gratefully acknowledges the financial support of our 50th Anniversary Sponsors. Thank you for helping us establish the Anne Woiwode Fund, to sustain and build the numbers and skill of young people within the Chapter through our legislative and political programs.

Environmental Leader: \$10,000

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Anne & Tom Woiwode

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Gail & John Philbin
Carol E. Ward

Guardian: \$2,500

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Kay Strempler & Ron Sell

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West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

Individual or Business: \$100

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Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

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Green and Sustainable Actions in Detroit

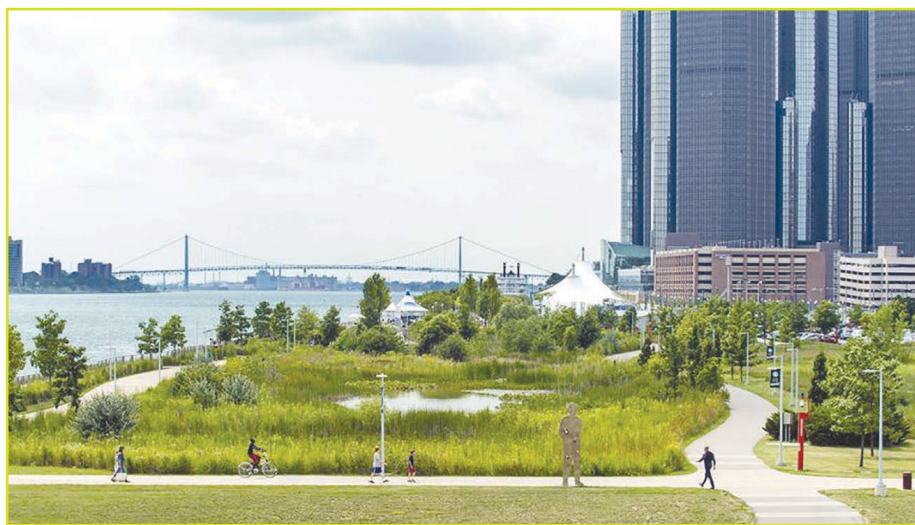
By: Erma Leaphart-Gouch, Associate Organizer, Great Lakes Program

A recent study reported that there are currently over 90 groups in the city of Detroit involved with green infrastructure (GI) projects or initiatives in the city. This is a substantial increase over just a few years ago and a decidedly exciting turn of events. “Green” infrastructure is the practice of using nature-based systems such as rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, and wetlands to manage storm water, keeping it out of our combined sewer system and preventing sewage/storm water overflows into local rivers.

Many of these groups meet monthly to share information and collaborate on projects. The Detroit City Council Green Task Force Blue/Green Infrastructure Subcommittee is co-chaired by the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter – Great Lakes Program and the Alliance for the Great Lakes. Subcommittee members are comprised of GI practitioners, environmentalists, business members interested in GI practices, government representatives, landscape architects, engineers and others. A similar group hosted by the Erb Family Foundation, the “Blue/Green Infrastructure Workgroup,” includes related groups in addition to decision makers and policy influencers.

Some of the incentive behind this budding movement towards green and sustainability is coming from Detroit’s Water and Sewerage Department’s recent policy change that rewards ratepayers who use GI practices to manage the flow or volume of stormwater that falls on their impervious surfaces (roofs, driveways, parking lots...) from entering the combined sewer system.

The amount of polluted stormwater/sewage runoff including phosphorus from Detroit’s Wastewater Treatment Plant has declined but is still above desirable levels. Reducing phosphorus loading into Lake Erie from the Detroit and Rouge Rivers is



A constructed wetlands along the Detroit Riverfront near Milliken Park. Constructed wetlands are a green infrastructure “best management practice.”

PHOTO: IMAGES BY KEN COBB

motivating groups to act. The water advisory caused by the microcystin toxin in Toledo in 2014 is still fresh on many people’s minds. Avoiding a recurrence is a top priority to all within the Great Lakes Watershed.

Will these efforts result in Detroit becoming the “Greenest City in America?” It can happen and there are many who are working to make it so.

Doris Duke Conservation Scholars



Ryan Anderson

College students Ryan Anderson and Marvin Bell spent the summer in Sierra Club Michigan's Detroit office learning about our Great Lakes, Great Communities work to build green infrastructure in the city. Anderson and Bell were Doris Duke Conservation Scholars at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, which strives to increase the diversity of the environmental field. You can read about their experiences over the summer in their two blog posts here.

<https://mi-environmental-news.blogspot.com/2017/07/sierra-clubs-great-lakes-great.html>



Marvin Bell

Factory Farm Subsidies Flow and Algae Problem Grows

by Gail Philbin, Director Michigan Sierra Club

The Less=More Coalition's newest report, *A Watershed Moment*, documents how Michigan industrial livestock operations received millions of dollars in federal subsidies to prevent pollution over the last two decades. However they continued to rack up environmental violations and failed to prevent factory farm-fed algae blooms. The blooms grew to crisis-level hazards in public waters. This groundbreaking interactive mapping report released earlier this year pulls together essential information about all of Michigan's industrial-scale livestock facilities: 21 million animals which generate 3.3 billion gallons of waste annually and receive \$104 million in subsidies and have caused 644 environmental violations over two decades.

A Watershed Moment provides data that has never been available before. It is a vital informational tool for public understanding of factory farms and their impact in Michigan. Sierra Club, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan

*Factory Farm Facts in Michigan:
21 million animals; 3.3 billion gallons of waste
\$104 million in subsidies;
644 environmental violations in two decades*

and Socially Responsible Agricultural Project lead the Less=More Coalition, which seeks to level the playing field for sustainable farming in Michigan.

The report attracted significant attention--Michigan Public Radio and the Grand Rapids Press both did pieces on the report when it came out.

Check out A Watershed Moment at: sierraclub.org/michigan/michigan-cafo-mapping-report

DEQ Phosphorus Action Plan Needs More Teeth

By: Gail Philbin, Director Michigan Chapter Sierra Club

Michigan committed to reduce its phosphorus loadings in Lake Erie by 40% no later than 2025 to address hazardous algal blooms as part of a Western Lake Erie Basin Collaborative agreement signed with Ontario and Ohio in January 2016. Michigan has taken the step of declaring the western Lake Erie basin an impaired waterway under the federal Clean Water Act. Unfortunately, the Domestic Action Plan released by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality last summer doesn't set a meaningful course toward meeting its reduction goal. Read the plan at <http://tinyurl.com/ybkt27n3>

Agriculture, both crop and livestock, has been identified as the main source for phosphorus in Lake Erie, which can run off into nearby waterways when farm waste is applied to fields. A key weakness in the DEQ's draft plan is that it relies on current best management practices for industrial-scale livestock facilities that are ineffective for keeping dissolved phosphorus out of waterways and Lake Erie.



Against the Grain

Along with *A Watershed Moment*, Less=More released a companion video series, *Against the Grain: Farming Sustainably in an Industrial System*, featuring interviews with five Michigan sustainable livestock farmers about the challenges and rewards of their approach to animal agriculture.

Watch it at: <http://tinyurl.com/AgainsttheGrainseries>

As part of a coalition of environmental organizations, Sierra Club submitted comments pointing out these and other concerns as well as offering recommendations to improve it that can be viewed at: <http://tinyurl.com/DAPcomments>. Specifically, the coalition noted that the plan:

- Fails to provide any estimates or analysis that the proposed actions add up to the 40 percent reductions needed for Lake Erie
- Relies on voluntary agricultural programs that will not get the job done
- Downplays concerns about industrial agriculture practices of applying manure and fertilizer on frozen, snow-covered, or saturated ground that inevitably ends up as runoff into local waters; and lacks concrete detail on how the state will reduce dissolved phosphorus runoff.

**Michigan's DEQ Domestic Action Plan doesn't set a meaningful course toward meeting its reduction goal.
Read the plan at <http://tinyurl.com/ybkt27n3>**

VOTE FOR MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The seven Michigan Chapter Sierra Club members listed on these two pages are running for four at-large spots on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. ExCom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country. Please note that due to space constraints, we asked the candidates to limit their statements to 100 words or less. (If a statement runs longer than 100 words, the full statement can be found on the election web page at <http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot>.) Two lines on the ballot are provided for write-in candidates as well.

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

- Go online to our election web page and ballot at <http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot>.
- Mail in the ballot in this newsletter on p. 13.

If you're voting by snail mail, you must write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope in which you return your ballot or your vote will be disqualified (your membership number is above your address on the back cover of this newsletter). This information will also be required for online voting. **Paper ballots must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by Dec. 5, 2017 (online voting deadline is the same).**

Sarah Tresedder

I'd always been anxious about the environment. It wasn't until I started volunteering with Sierra Club that I was given an outlet to do something about it though. I was an intern for the Less=More campaign and have gotten involved in promoting environmental legislation. Most importantly though, I've been connected with an amazing group of individuals who want to better our state and protect our planet. Being a part of the Executive Committee would provide me the opportunity to continue serving the Sierra Club, a group I plan to be a part of for the rest of my life.



Deitra Covington

My name is Deitra Covington and I am very honored to have served on the Michigan Executive Board for the last four years. It has afforded me the opportunity to serve as a volunteer leader of the Sierra Club and the State as the State Conservation Committee Chairperson and as a recent appointee, as the State Outings Chairperson. I am looking forward to continuing bringing awareness to the wonders of our environment and making sure that it is protected. Being elected for another term on the Michigan Executive Board would allow me to do this work more effectively. Thank You.



Robert Gordon

I would like to join the Executive Committee of the Michigan Sierra Club Chapter as I already represent the Chapter as its lead lobbyist, and political activist. I have been a member of the Sierra Club, off and on, since the 1980's. I have had difficulties at the Group level as I adhere to Chapter goals in areas of Clean Energy, Water and Air purity, and related matters. My being named to ExCom would bring an "insider's voice" on legislative matters, no doubt a handy voice to have. I hope you will consider voting for me in this fall's election.



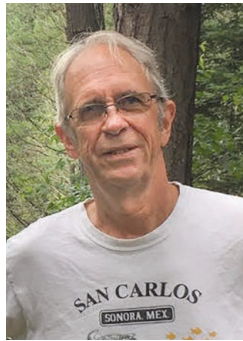
Brother Thomas Zerafa, OFM III

I am a native Southwest Detroiter presently living in the ring-suburb of Oak Park. Having spent years pursuing three degrees at three colleges Marygrove (Detroit), Notre Dame (South Bend), and Oakland County Community (Orchard Ridge), I worked in church music ministry for 48 years as well as being an advocate/activist for social justice causes in that same span. The environment is the one cause that most deeply touches my soul as we get one chance per life to do something to preserve the gift of creation that we as earth's citizens enjoy. (See full statement online at <http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot>)



Richard Barron

I am a life member of the Sierra Club and an incumbent ExCom member who has served our Chapter in many capacities. I have actively served on the Executive Committee for several terms. I have served as Chair of the Chapter Political Committee for many years. I am a member and former chair of our Legal Committee. I have previously served on our Nominating Committee and our 50th Anniversary Committee. I am a member of the Huron Valley Group. I am committed to conservation and aggressively resisting global warming.



Anne Woiwode

As the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, Sierra Club is a critical defender of Michigan’s public health, our natural resources, the Great Lakes and our democratic institutions. I’ve been honored to be part of the Michigan Chapter since 1980, as both a volunteer and staff member. For three and a half decades I’ve sought to uphold Sierra Club’s motto of “protecting, enjoying and exploring” Michigan, using every tool available to forward our shared goals of a clean, healthy and sustainable future for everyone. Thank you for considering voting for me for the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee.



Craig Brainard

In six years on the Chapter Executive Committee: served on the Beyond Natural Gas & Oil, Group Support, and 50th Anniversary Committees. Published the online journal *The Fracking Linkletter*© and did dozens of presentations on fracking all over the state. If re-elected, I intend to use my experience to help strengthen Groups all over Michigan, and to take my new presentation, Embracing Our Clean Energy Future, on the road. My goal is to spur membership growth and activate current members by telling the hopeful story of the Clean Energy Revolution.



Go online to our election web page and ballot at <http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot>



SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

Vote for no more than four (4) candidates. The second column of boxes is for the second member of joint membership only.

SARAH TRESEDDER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROBERT GORDON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEITRA COVINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROTHER THOMAS ZERFAFA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RICHARD BARRON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANNE WOIWODE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRAIG BRAINARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clip out and mail your ballot to:

Michigan Chapter Sierra Club
 attn: Chapter Elections
 109 East Grand River Avenue
 Lansing, MI 48906

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

Your ballot must be received on or before December 5, 2017.

Honoring Those Who Make a Difference Every Day

Chapter Chair **David Holtz** received the **Marlene Fluharty Award** for his service at multiple levels of the Club including the Chapter's Executive Committee and Political Committee and the national Council of Club Leaders. He has led up our efforts to shut down Line 5 and is the main reason we are a leader in this effort on a state and regional level.

Longtime volunteer **Theresa Landrum** has been awarded the **Bunyan Bryant Award** for her environmental justice work. As a resident of 48217, Michigan's most polluted zip code, Theresa has worked with Sierra Club's Rhonda Anderson and Dr. Delores Leonard to address community health issues resulting from the Marathon Oil refinery and other industries surrounding her community. She is on the Community Advisory Panel board for Marathon and sits the state's Environmental Justice Work Group.

Dorceta E. Taylor, Ph.D., director of diversity, equity and inclusion at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment, is winner of the **Burton V. Barnes Award** for her research into the racial, gender, class and cultural disparities among environmental organizations. Her 2014 report, "The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations," examines discrepancies within 293 environmental organizations nationwide and has inspired the Club's long-term commitment to greater diversity, equity and inclusion.

Pat Egan, a member of the Three Lakes Group, received the **Chair's Award**. Pat is currently Vice Chair of the Chapter ExCom and chair of our Finance Committee as well as a generous supporter, and his leadership has greatly improved our budget and financial accountability, emphasizing the Chapter's long-term stability.

The **Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year Award** went to **State Representative Sam Singh** for helping negotiate a statewide energy bill in the last days of the 2016 lame duck session. His efforts helped increase Michigan's renewable energy standard and efficiency program and protected net metering. Rep. Singh received 100% on our environmental voting scorecard for 2015-16.

MLive reporter **Garret Ellison** received the **Environmental Journalism Award** for his in-depth coverage of Enbridge's Line 5 oil pipelines and reporting on Nestle's bid to double its water withdrawal in Michigan. His journalism was thorough and



Theresa Landrum has been awarded the Bunyan Bryant Award for her environmental justice work.

groundbreaking at a time when news media outlets often downplay or ignore environmental stories. The **Environmental Journalism Broadcast Award** goes to One Detroit, Detroit Public Television and producers Bill Kubota, Scott McCartney and Zosette Guir for the 2017 documentary "48217: Detroit's Most Toxic Zip Code," which spotlights efforts of Sierra Club and local residents to tackle pollution in this southwest Detroit community.

Nepessing Group member **Denny Crispell** was named winner of the **Vince Smith Award** for leading service outings at

Pictured Rocks and other places for years and using them to recruit new volunteers.

Southwest Michigan Group member **Bruce Brown** has been awarded the **Ed Steinman Digital Excellence Award** for his work on the group's website, which has increased attendance and participation in the last three years.

Everyl Yankee received the **Sylvania Award** for newcomers for her enthusiastic work around the office as well as helping with our Spring Lobby Day and Line 5 campaign.

Sarah Tresedder, a recent Michigan State University graduate, was named recipient of the **Trillium Award (formerly Cougar)** for volunteering in her last semester of college. She worked on our agriculture, legislative and political programs and has stayed engaged since graduation.

The **White Pine Award** goes to **FLOW (For the Love of Water)** for leadership and excellence in providing scientific and legal resources to defend the Great Lakes against a catastrophic oil spill from Enbridge's Line 5 pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac.

Richard Barron is recipient of the **Theodore Roosevelt Political Leadership** for serving as Chapter Political Committee Chair since 2011, facilitating countless meetings, recruiting new members and helping develop standing rules for clarity.

Crossroads Group Chair **Lee Burton** received the **Life of the Party Award** for spreading the gospel of how to have a fun meeting to other Sierra Club groups and committees through webinars and a group support webpage.

These awards will be presented on Jan. 20, 2018 in Lansing. For details, contact gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.



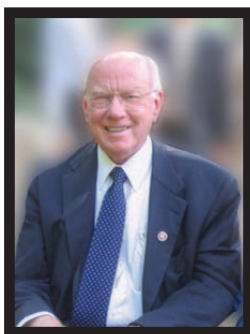
Today's employees seek purpose at work. Helping employees discover and support the issues that matter to them is connected to increased engagement, higher levels of productivity and innovation, and bottom line business benefits. Caring for our air, water, land and wildlife rank as top priorities with today's workforce.

That's why the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is a proud benefiting member of EarthShare, a national coalition that gives businesses and employees across America effective ways to care for our natural resources and contribute to a sustainable future. EarthShare works with the corporate sector to create dynamic and relevant engagement and philanthropic experiences for employees, businesses, and the communities where they live and work.

Join us in accelerating the pace of positive environmental change! Support the work of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter through workplace giving. Just contact jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or call her at 616-956-6646 to learn how to get started!

**In Memory of
Former U.S. Congressman Vernon “Vern” Ehlers
February 6, 1934 – August 15, 2017**

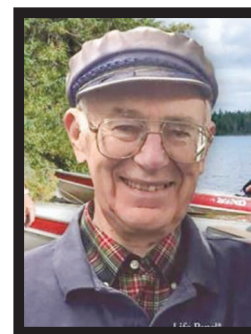
Vern was a college physics professor for 16 years, served as Kent County Commissioner, State Representative, State Senator and U.S. Congressman for 17 years, representing the 3rd District in the Grand Rapids area until 2011. He was a moderate Republican, known for being a public servant with a strong work ethic, an educator and scientist, and the first physicist elected to Congress. Scientists were, and remain, a rarity in elected politicians in America, and he was also endorsed by the Sierra Club in all of his elections for Congress.



He was aware that climate change is an issue, that it's man-made and we've got to deal with it. He was also in favor of vehicle fuel-efficiency standards, a pretty tough issue at that time in Michigan with the auto industry, and he opposed drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Vern was known for his love of the Great Lakes, and he became a champion for our sweet water seas. His personal mantra, “Leave it better than you found it,” reflected how he lived his life, treated his students, constituents, friends and the bills he supported.

**Memoriam:
Roscoe (Rock) Colingsworth
1939 – 2017**

A Holland activist with the Sierra Club who worked with us and the City of Holland on an energy project promoting energy efficiency through Holland's Home Energy Retrofit Program. Rock was passionate about human rights and ecology, and was a doctoral candidate at the University of



Minnesota in aquatic biology. He volunteered with the International Student Exchange Program as a way to build a better world. In accordance with Rock's love of nature and concerns about taking care of the environment, memorial contributions were set up to benefit the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, and the family also donated his treasured Ford Explorer to Sierra Club's car donation program.

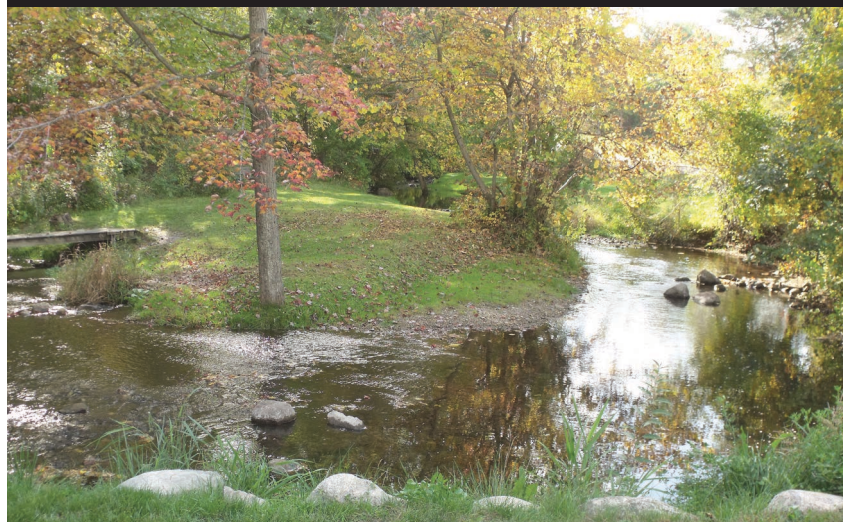
**Memoriam:
Judy Louise Betz
1946 - 2017**



Judy's love for the natural world got her to traveling to the wild places where she mingled with the Blue-footed Boobies on the Galapagos Islands, sneaked up on hippos in Africa and hiked among mountains and rivers in Alaska. Each trip heightened her belief that people were all the same and the world was truly a magical place. Judy and her husband, Ken, fully promoted clean energy where they installed a wind turbine at their cottage and a large solar array at their home. Judy was very generous in supporting organizations that she believed were doing good, and Judy and Ken have been long-time members and supporters of the Michigan Sierra Club. Judy was also very optimistic and despite her valiant fight against cancer, the quote below found on her Facebook page says how she took on life.

Hear blessings dropping their blossoms around you! - Rumi

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



**CREATE AN
ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY**

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

Just imagine how much good and change could be done if each one of us remembered a favorite charity or cause in our will or estate plans. This would create an immeasurable impact!

For more information, contact Jan O'Connell:
jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org • (616) 956-6646

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



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

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Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

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

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\$500-\$999

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GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS

\$15,000+

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- Priorities Michigan
- Estate of Harold Stokes
- Wege Foundation
- Anne & Tom Woiwode

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