

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • AUTUMN 2010

Our Imperative: Vote for the Environment

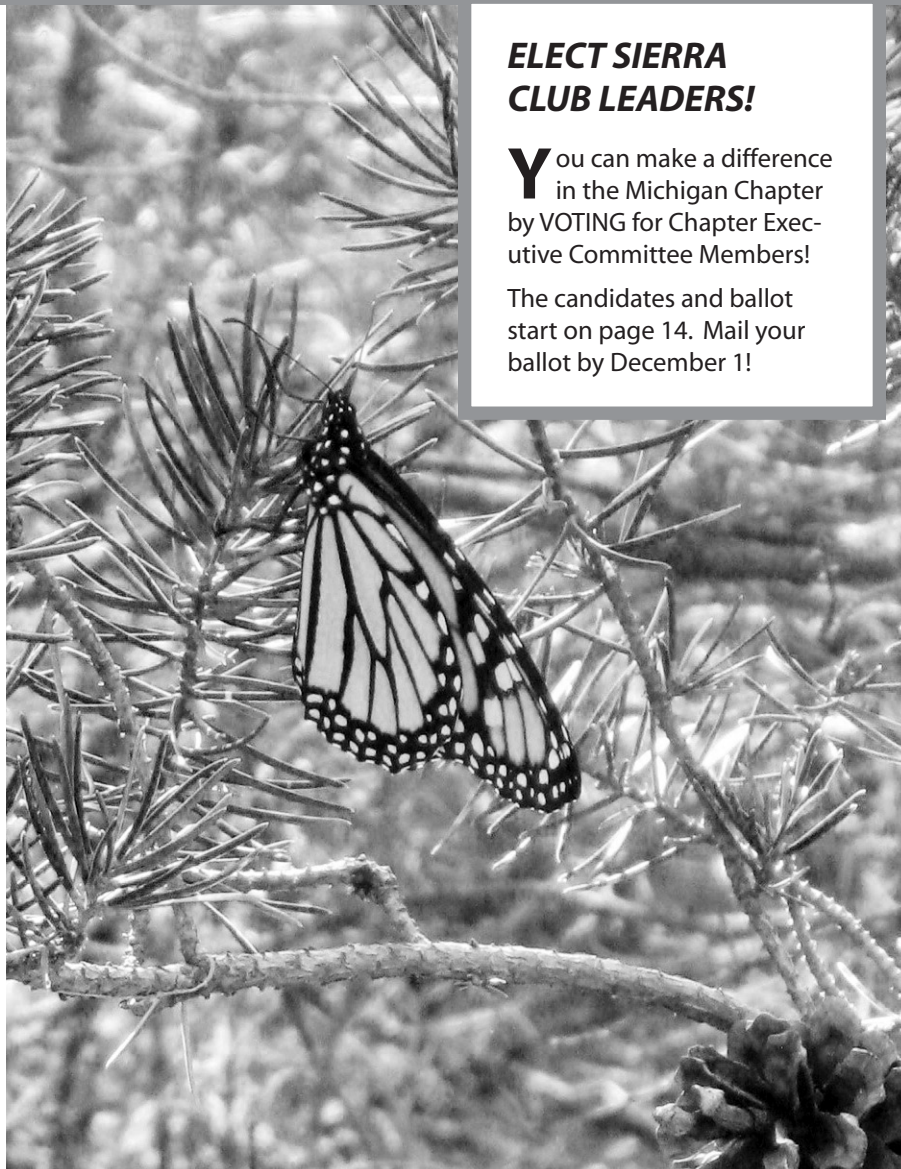
by Richard Morley Baron,
Chapter Political Committee Chair

Michigan and our nation face unprecedented threats to our air and water quality. Global warming imminently threatens our entire biosphere. Whether it is Asian Carp, large-scale water withdrawals, petroleum pollution, CAFO waste, or emissions from coal-fired power plants (see pages 8-11), our Legislature and our Congress need informed leaders to take sensible but aggressive action to protect our environment. Candidates who do not support environmental protection, or who resist any regulation of pollution in the name of a free market economy, clearly endanger the health and welfare of our planet and our children's future.

Ideally, every voter would take the time to research and interview each candidate on their ballot. But the Sierra Club has done this time consuming work so you can quickly determine those candidates who are committed to the preservation of our irreplaceable natural resources.

I hope that every Sierra Club member believes that they have a duty to actively support and vote for candidates that the Club has determined to be environmentally responsible. Our failure to be actively involved in our electoral process is a tacit authorization to allow the spoiling of the natural resources in this state.

So please, make use of this electoral edition of *The Mackinac*. Make note of the endorsed candidates in your district (see pages 6-7), and VOTE on Nov. 2. As the famous Chinese proverb says, "It



ANNE WOJWODE

A Monarch butterfly alights on a branch at Ludington State Park.

is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

ELECT SIERRA CLUB LEADERS!

You can make a difference in the Michigan Chapter by VOTING for Chapter Executive Committee Members!

The candidates and ballot start on page 14. Mail your ballot by December 1!

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THE MACKINAC

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter
109 E Grand River Avenue
Lansing MI 48906

Phone: 517-484-2372

Email: memberquestions@michigan.sierraclub.org

michigan.sierraclub.org

.....
MACKINAC EDITOR

Anne Woiwode

anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org

DESIGN

Davina Pallone

davina@designwrench.com

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TheMackinac

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2010 Michigan Chapter Annual Retreat at Camp Miniwanca on Lake Michigan.

MELISSA DAMASCHKE

In the Spotlight

SUPPORT YOUR MICHIGAN CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

Getting information into your hands as a Sierra Club member is a top priority of the Michigan Chapter. That's because you are the most powerful force for protecting our air, water, land and communities. Information about the best environmental candidates and how we can create a cleaner, brighter future for our state are the fuel that makes this organization run. That's why we bring you *The Mackinac* two times a year, and the on-line *Michigan Chapter Update* twice a month.

Support the environmental organization that believes in you! Find out more on pages 20-21, or go online at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

Voting for Michigan's Future

by Jean Gramlich, Chapter Chair

Michigan stands at an important point in our political history. Next year, based upon the results of the 2010 Census, the newly elected legislature, governor and courts will re-district the state, re-drawing the lines that define our electoral districts.

Because Michigan has been losing population, we will most likely lose at least one seat in Congress, reducing our state's influence at the federal level. After the last census, one of our environmental champions, Congressman David Bonior, lost his seat through redistricting. At the state level, redistricting will likely result in significant changes to Michigan's political landscape.

Those who win this election will control re-districting—and where they draw the lines will have significant influence over election outcomes for the next ten years. Never doubt that the corporate polluters, dirty energy producers, water hogs and others will come out in force to elect people who will vote their way

Those who win this election will control re-districting—and where they draw the lines will have significant influence over election outcomes for the next ten years.

in both the legislative arena and in re-districting. We can't afford to sit on our hands—a lot is at stake.

Our group and chapter Political Committees have worked hard to vet candidates on all levels—national, state and local—who will vote for the environment and re-district Michigan in a fair and balanced way. This issue of *The Mackinac* lists all of our endorsed candidates. They all need our help. Please consider getting involved in a campaign by making phone calls, walking a neighborhood or contributing money to a candidate of your choice. Your involvement can make a difference!

Democracy In Action

Do One Thing!

by Mitch Mitchell, Southeast Michigan Political Committee Chair

These are tough economic times. Families are hurting, and so are organizations that depend upon “disposable income” for donations and membership. The Sierra Club, including our Chapter’s political program, is not immune to those factors.

The economy is affecting everything, including the outcome of the November election. But who we elect will determine how well our legislature will safeguard the health and beauty of the Great State of Michigan. They will guide our use of energy, water and alternative fuels, and hopefully make sure that unscrupulous corporations do not slowly poison our children.

There are some who are cynical about the prospects for progressive candidates whom the Sierra Club supports. I am not one of those people. I believe that there is an opportunity here that we cannot afford to miss. I believe our Sierra Club members can make a difference. We have

strength in our membership, a grass roots power that comes from having truth on our side and the love of nature in our hearts.

I’m challenging every member who reads this article to do at least ONE thing to help a Sierra Club endorsed candidate win their election. Offer to make phone calls for ONE night. Volunteer to walk door-to-door in a district that is not your own for ONE afternoon. Enter data, stuff envelopes, put up a candidate’s yard sign. If you can’t spare your time, write a check to a Sierra Club endorsed candidate.

If everyone does just ONE thing, we will be successful. The days of thinking “I’ll let someone else do it” are over. It all starts when you contact the campaign office, letting them know you’re a Sierra Club member and want to help. It may turn out to be the most rewarding thing you have ever done.

VOTE SMART!

Go to Project Vote Smart at www.votesmart.org and use the website’s 9 digit zip code search function to find your state and congressional district numbers and the candidates running for office in your districts.

Contact your County Clerk’s office for complete information about your ballot.

VISIT SIERRA CLUB’S POLITICAL PAGE

Learn more about the Sierra Club’s endorsement process and endorsed candidates by clicking the Michigan Politics link on our home page.



SAMANTHA CELERA



Virg Bernero for Governor

As our next Governor, Virg Bernero will bring a powerful commitment to protect Michigan's air, water and natural places to our state's highest office.

As Lansing's mayor, Bernero has become a national leader on energy issues, having worked to reduce the City's energy use while increasing the use of renewable energy. Virg has helped make Lansing more pedestrian and bike friendly, and has been forceful and effective at improving the city's water quality while reducing pollution in the Grand River.

Virg will stand strong to protect our Great Lakes from water diversions, offshore or slant drilling, and invasive species like the Asian Carp. He understands Michigan is uniquely blessed with natural resources and beauty, and that we have a responsibility to care for and preserve our environment for future generations.

Sierra Club supports Virg Bernero for Governor due to his proven leadership in environmental protection.



David Leyton for Attorney General

David Leyton has a strong record of standing up for the environment. As a township official he discovered that land donated for recreational use had been used as a toxic dump. Leyton fought to force the polluter to clean up the land before one single child stepped on the site.

Leyton will take that same passion to defend and protect our environment statewide. He knows that the Attorney General can play a critical role in protecting the environment. Leyton also understands that the Attorney General should be an advocate for regular citizens, not powerful corporate interests.

David Leyton will ensure that corporate polluters don't compromise our land, air and water resources. His efforts to sustain, encourage and enforce conservation efforts in Michigan will be a hallmark of Leyton's legacy as Attorney General.

Sierra Club supports David Leyton as Michigan's next Attorney General.

DemocracyInAction

Find Your Endorsed Candidates

The next few pages list endorsed candidates by general geographic area. Please be aware, however, that many House and Senate districts do not fit neatly into any specific geographically-defined area. To find your House and Senate district numbers and the candidates running for office, go to www.votesmart.org. Project Vote Smart's 9-digit zip code search function will help you find a list of your current elected officials and the candidates running for office in your districts.

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Wayne, Macomb and Oakland County

US Congress

CD 9 / GARY PETERS (D)

Bloomfield Hills / 248-737-2692 / petersforcongress.com

CD 12 / SANDER LEVIN (D)

Warren / 586-576-1636 / levinforcongress.com

CD 13 / HANSEN CLARKE (D)

Detroit / 313-971-2455 / hansenclarkeforcongress.com

CD 14 / JOHN CONYERS (D)

Detroit / johnconyers.com

Michigan Senate

SD 1/ COLEMAN YOUNG (D)

Detroit / 313-671-3972

SD 2 / BERT JOHNSON (D)

Detroit / 313-549-8243 / bertjohnson4michigan.com

SD 6 / GLEN ANDERSON (D)

Westland / 734-402-7067 / andersonforsenate.com

SD 7 / KATHLEEN LAW (D)

Gibraltar / 734-676-9761 / kathleenlawforsenate.com

SD 8 / HOON-YUNG HOPGOOD (D)

Taylor / 313-510-4358

SD 9 / STEVE BIEDA (D)

Warren / 586-979-5387 / stevebieda.com

SD 10 / PAUL GIELEGHEM (D)

Clinton Township / 586-954-4815 / paulgieleghem.com

SD 12 / CASSANDRA ULBRICH (D)

Rochester Hills / 248-805-3070

campaignwindow.com/casandraforsenate

SD 13 / AARON BAILEY (D)

Royal Oak / 248-275-3720 / voteaaronbailey.com

SD 15 / PAM JACKSON (D)

Walled Lake / 248-767-4240 / pamjackson4statesenate.com

Michigan House

HD 1 / TIM BLEDSOE (D)

Grosse Pointe / 313-355-2846 / changemichigan.org

HD 6 / FRED DURHAL (D)

Detroit

HD 12 / RASHIDA TLAIB (D)

Detroit / 313-297-8800 / rashida4rep.com

HD 17 / PHIL CAVANAGH (D)

Redford Township / 313-286-3324 / philcavanagh.com

HD 20 / JOAN WADSWORTH (D)

Northville / 248-348-5881 / joanwadsworth.com

HD 21 / DIAN SLAVENS (D)

Canton Township / 734-416-0599 / dianslavens.com

HD 23 / DEB KENNEDY (D)

Brownstown / 734-479-1360

HD 24 / SARAH ROBERTS (D)

St. Claire Shores / 586-585-1488 / sarahroberts24.org

HD 26 / JIM TOWNSEND (D)

Royal Oak / 248-629-0415 / votejimtownsend.com

HD 27 / ELLEN LIPTON (D)

Huntington Woods / voteforellen.org

HD 31 / MARILYN LANE (D)

Fraser / 586-871-2730 / votemarilynlane.com

HD 32 / JENNIFER HAASE (D)

Richmond / 586-716-5099 / repjenniferhaase.com

HD 35 / RUDOLPH HOBBS (D)

Lathrup Village / 248-470-3450 / voterudyhobbs.com

HD 37 / VICKI BARNETT (D)

Farmington Hills / 248-855-1220 / electvickibarnett.com

HD 39 / LISA BROWN (D)

West Bloomfield / 248-953-1050 / lisabrown4michigan.com

HD 47 / GARRY POST (D)

Brighton / 734-323-8179

HD 56 / KATE EBLI (D)

Monroe / 734-735-2078

Macomb County Commission

DISTRICT 1 / TONI MOCERI (D)

DISTRICT 4 / DAVID FLYNN (D)

DISTRICT 8 / BRIAN BRDAK (D)

DISTRICT 9 / FRED MILLER (D)

Oakland County Commission

DISTRICT 5 / MIKE MCGUINNESS (D)

DISTRICT 6 / MIKE SMITH (D)

DISTRICT 9 / KAREN ZYCZNSKI (D)

DISTRICT 11 / TIM GRIEMEL (D)

DISTRICT 13 / JON LEVIN (D)

DISTRICT 14 / STEVEN SCHWARTZ (D)

DISTRICT 15 / JIM NASH (D)

DISTRICT 16 / KATHY HAGOPIAN (D)

DISTRICT 17 / MARCIA GERSHENSON (D)

DISTRICT 18 / DAVE WOODWARD (D)

DISTRICT 19 / TIM BURNS (D)

DISTRICT 25 / CRAIG COVEY (D)

Wayne County Commission

DISTRICT 1 / TIM KILLEEN (D)

DISTRICT 3 / MARTHA SCOTT (D)

DISTRICT 5 / ILONA VARGA (D)

DISTRICT 6 / IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN (D)

DISTRICT 9 / DIANE WEBB (D)

DISTRICT 12 / JOAN GEBHARDT (D)

DISTRICT 15 / RAY BASHAM (D)

ANN ARBOR & MONROE AREA

including Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe Counties

US Congress

CD 7 - MARK SCHAUER (D)

Battle Creek / (517)783-1265 / markschauer.com

MI Senate

SD 18 / REBEKAH WARREN (D)

Ann Arbor / 734-662-0268 / rebekahwarren.com

MI House

HD 52 / CHRISTINE GREEN (D)

Ann Arbor / 734-585-5059 / votechristinegreen.com

HD 53 / JEFF IRWIN (D)

Ann Arbor / 734-834-7152 / voteirwin.com

Local Candidates

ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL / JOHN FLOYD (R)

MID-MICHIGAN

including Mt. Pleasant, Alma and Lansing areas, plus Barry, Jackson, Hillsdale, Shiawassee & Livingston Counties

MI Senate

SD 22 / CHUCK FELLOWS (D)

South Lyon / 586-381-6043 / chuckfellows.com

SD 23 / GRETCHEN WHITMER (D)

Lansing / 517-372-5454 / gretchenwhitmer.com

MI House

HD 65 / JANET ROCHEFORT (D)

Pleasant Lake / 517-769-6157 / janetrochefort.com

HD 68 / JOAN BAUER (D)

Lansing / 517-372-9810 / joanbauer.org

HD 69 / MARK MEADOWS (D)

Lansing / 517-332-2004 / meadowsforrep.org

HD 85 / PAMELA DRAKE (D)

Bancroft / 517-214-0608 / drakeforrep.com

HD 87 / MIKE CALLTON (R)

Nashville / 517-652-3827 / mikecallton.com

HD 99 / TONI SESSOMS (D)

Mt. Pleasant / 989-824-3174 / tonisessoms2010.com

EASTERN MICHIGAN

including Flint, Saginaw, Midland & Bay City areas

US Congress

CD 5 / DALE KILDEE (D)

Flint / 810-845-3024 / dalekildeeforcongress.com

MI Senate

SD 26 / PAULA ZELENKO (D)

Burton / 810-742-2004 / pzelenko4senate.com

SD 32 / DEBASISH MRIDHA, MD (D)

Saginaw / 989-980-5089 / mridhaforsenate.com

MI House

HD 34 / WOODROW STANLEY (D)

Flint / 810-239-7981

HD 49 / JIM ANANICH (D)

Flint / 810-238-8680

HD 50 / CHARLES SMILEY (D)

Burton / 810-742-5784 / csmiley4staterep.com

HD 51 / ART REYES (D)

Grand Blanc / 810-877-2901 / voteartreyes.com

WEST MICHIGAN

including Traverse City, Greater Grand Rapids, Muskegon & Kalamazoo areas

US Congress

CD 7 / FRED JOHNSON (D)

Holland / 616-334-6766 / fredjohnsonforcongress.com

MI Senate

SD 20 / BOB JONES (D)

Kalamazoo / 269-544-9330 / robertbjonesforsenate.com

SD 29 / DAVID LAGRAND (D)

Kalamazoo / 616-454-9790 / davidlagrand.com

SD 34 / MARY VALENTINE (D)

Muskegon / 231-798-3111 / maryvalentine.org

MI House

HD 60 / SEAN MCCANN (D)

Kalamazoo / 269-381-9671 / seanamccann.com

HD 62 / KATE SEGAL (D)

Battle Creek / 269-979-9767 / katesegal.com

HD 65 / BRANDON DILLON (D)

Grand Rapids / 616-295-6563 / brandondillon.com

HD 91 / BEN GILLETTE (D)

Muskegon / 231-767-9629 / bengillette.com

HD 92 / MARCIA HOVEY-WRIGHT (D)

Muskegon / 231-726-4929 / electmarcia.com

HD 101 / DAN SCRIPPS (D)

Northport / 231-271-0314 / danscripps.com

Clean Energy Solutions



PHOTO COURTESY ANNE WOIWODE

Lansing Can Do Better members celebrating the Lansing Board of Water and Light's decision to drop their proposed coal plant.

VICTORY! Michigan Coal Rush Brought to a Halt

by Anne Woiwode

Just three years ago Michigan was looking at more proposed new or expanded coal plants than any other state. Today, after a smart, aggressive campaign by Sierra Club and our partners in Clean Energy Now and leadership from Governor Granholm and her staff, all eight proposed new or expanded coal plants in Michigan have been denied, cancelled or put on hold.

In the last six months alone four coal plant proposals saw the brakes put on. Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) denied the air permit for the Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative proposed Rogers City plant in May, citing the lack of need and available alternatives. A week later, Consumers Energy announced it was indefinitely shelving their Karn-Weadock plant expansion near Essexville. In July the Lansing Board of Water and Light announced they would drop their proposed coal plant and go with combined cycle natural gas, a more flexible option that pairs well with renewable energy generation. And in August, the DNRE found that the Holland Board of Public Works failed to demonstrate a need or the lack of alternatives to their proposed coal plant expansion and their

air permit was denied.

There is still more to do to assure that Michigan is moving away from coal and toward clean energy sources that produce jobs and energy right here in the Great Lakes State. But all of you who helped stop the Michigan Coal Rush should celebrate, and then prepare to sustain our momentum to move Michigan toward clean energy and beyond coal.

HELP CRUSH COAL IN MICHIGAN

Learn more about the fight to move Michigan Beyond Coal at www.sierraclub.org/coal/mi.

Or contact our Beyond Coal staff:

Tiffany Hartung tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org
Anne Woiwode anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org
Jan O'Connell jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org

Kicking Coal Ash in Chicago

by Tiffany Hartung and Michelle Martinez,
Clean Energy Organizers

Coal ash is the poorly regulated toxic by-product of burning coal that poses documented health risks to people living near disposal sites. Prompted by a disastrous spill in Tennessee two years ago, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering new rules that could provide strong federal standards for coal ash, over the vehement objections of the coal industry.

In mid-September sixty-five Michiganders got on buses to attend an EPA hearing in Chicago and urge stronger coal ash regulations. Michigan is home to at least eighteen coal ash sites that raise concerns in communities statewide. Attendees from Detroit to Holland told EPA it is time to protect communities from toxic coal ash pollution. Their voices joined with 400 other Midwesterners, including many that have been harmed by lax ash disposal.

Terry Miller of the Lone Tree Council in Bay City provided testimony about Consumers Energy's Karn Weadock coal ash sites which leak contaminants into Saginaw Bay. Miller's words



Michigan Sierra Club Members in Chicago for the Coal Ash Hearing. JOHN BLAIR

were read at the hearing, describing the unsuccessful efforts to get state action to clean up this site, and telling EPA “We urge you to issue a strong rule. We need help in Michigan, help only the resources of the federal government can provide.”

You can find out more about coal ash at www.sierraclub.org/coalash, including how to submit your own comments to the EPA.

JENNIFER GRANHOLM'S CLEAN ENERGY LEGACY

by Anne Woiwode

When she packs up her desk in early January, ending eight years in one of the most challenging jobs in the country, Governor Granholm can take credit for the most dramatic shift in state energy policy in the nation. The Governor and her advisors have been aggressive advocates for expanding Michigan's clean energy industries, one of the few bright spots in Michigan's economy. And, through the Governor's bold action, she has prevented the construction or expansion of numerous unneeded coal fired power plants.

In the face of a pro-coal legislature and laws written by the utility industry to foster coal plant

expansion, Governor Granholm's accomplishments are particularly impressive. However, the two coal plants whose air permits were denied are appealing those decisions. Consumers Energy, who received a permit but later decided to put their plant on hold, has declined to cancel their Karn Weadock plant expansion outright. Finally, while the state's aging fleet of existing coal plants need to be replaced with cleaner sources of power, many utilities are working to extend the operating life of polluting plants instead of investing in more renewable energy.

When the new governor and legislature take office in January,

major pieces of unfinished energy policy work will remain. Despite Granholm's efforts, Michigan's energy efficiency and renewable energy standards are the weakest in the Great Lakes region, leaving the state less competitive than its neighbors. While both candidates for governor are campaigning on a platform of clean energy, public demand for Michigan's elected officials to speed up the transition to clean energy will be critical. You can help by telling candidates and newly elected officials to prioritize clean energy in 2011. Help the Sierra Club build upon Governor Granholm's legacy to create a new energy future for Michigan!

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

Kalamazoo River Oil Spill Disaster: Our Oil Addiction Hits Close to Home

by Rita Chapman

On July 25th a 30-inch pipeline owned and operated by Enbridge Energy Partners burst and spewed as much as 1,000,000 gallons of crude oil into Talmadge Creek, a Kalamazoo River tributary near Marshall. Damage to Talmadge Creek, the Kalamazoo River, local residents and wildlife came quickly as oil spread for miles downstream, contaminating the water, floodplains, islands and backyards. Stench from the oil sickened people near the river, requiring evacuation of homes. Concerns about drinking water contamination led to warnings about drinking well water, while fishing and recreational use of the rivers came to a screeching halt. Although the official “emergency response” phase of the clean up was declared “complete” on September 27th, impacts of the oil spill are expected to linger for a long time.

After the spill, Michigan residents learned that our state is crisscrossed by pipelines, including some under the Great Lakes and many in need of repair

or replacement. Enbridge recently applied for permits to add supports under a pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac that was constructed in 1953. The Sierra Club and other environmental groups asked regulators to require Enbridge to shut down and empty that pipeline before they begin work.

During past pipeline inspections hundreds of dents and pipeline defects were found on the same pipeline that ruptured. Most have not been repaired despite federal requirements to repair or replace problem sections within months. Instead, at a Sept. 16 Congressional investigation hearing, Enbridge asked for 2 ½ years to repair a defect in a pipeline under the St. Clair River.

Sierra Club is tackling America’s addiction to oil in many ways, including calling for better protection of public health and the environment, improving our transportation options, and fighting tar sands development in Alberta, Canada.



WATER COMMITTEE UP & RUNNING

by Rita Chapman

Many of our members in Michigan are familiar with the Chapter’s Conservation Committee. These dedicated volunteer activists meet on the phone every month to discuss and take action on a whole slew of different environmental issues.

Over the summer, the Chapter began recruiting members to focus exclusively on the issues that concern our greatest asset—our fresh water. Water is important to us here in Michigan, and we want to keep it fishable, swimmable, and drinkable.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Start by sharing your water-related interests at our on-line survey at www.tiny.cc/MichiganWaterSurvey.
- You can see more about what we’ll be working on at www.connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Michigan_Water_Committee.
- To learn more about this effort, please contact amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org or rita.chapman@sierraclub.org, or call 517-484-2372.

We hope to hear from you!

Warning sign on Kalamazoo River following the Enbridge Energy oil spill.



LUCAS EVANS

Cleaning Up CAFOs

by Lynn Henning

In July 2001, what was to become the largest, most polluting animal factory in Michigan was cited for its first environmental violation. Nine years later with hundreds of additional environmental violations, hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines and penalties owed to the state, and more than half a million in unpaid local taxes, an Ingham County judge has ruled in favor of the State of Michigan in its lawsuit against the Vreba Hoff Dairy concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO).

The work of the Michigan Chapter CAFO Water sentinel Lynn Henning has been a bright light in bringing tools to bear on this dirty industry, but progress has been slow and vested industrial agribusiness interests have fought aggressively against every step. During the Granholm Administration, Sierra Club, our partners at Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM) and Lighthawk's volunteer pilots helped bring a dramatic change to Michigan's approach to CAFO pollution. Former DEQ Director Steve Chester was particularly instrumental in raising the profile of this environmental threat by identifying it as one of the most serious inadequately addressed issues in Michigan. Efforts are continuing to bring long overdue resources to address air pollution and public health threats from CAFO wastes.

Despite exceptional efforts, extensive documentation and



Thanks to Carol and Dave Diephuis (back), who honored Goldman Prize Winner Lynn Henning and her husband Dean with an event in their home in August.

compelling scientific information, however, CAFO air pollution is unregulated, adequate funding for DNRE has been blocked by Legislators, and public health agencies continue to be limited in their ability to respond. Recent comments by gubernatorial candidate Rick Snyder show an astonishing lack of awareness of the problems from this industry as well.

Going forward, Lynn Henning's designation as the 2010 Goldman Environmental Prize winner for North America offers hope as international attention is brought to her work to clean up CAFOs. Also, the US Environmental Protection Agency has made it clear that they intend to act to protect public health and the environment from CAFO pollution. To find out more about the Michigan Chapter's work and Lynn Henning go to the Michigan Chapter website.

ASIAN CARP: GODZILLA OF THE LAKES?

by Melissa Damaschke

"Monster fish devastating local rivers and lakes."

That is a headline that none of us in the Great Lakes region wants to see, but it is what may be in store if Asian carp establish breeding populations in the Great Lakes ecosystem. A live Asian carp was found in June just 6 miles from Lake Michigan in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal, beyond the electronic barriers that were intended to be the last line of defense. These massive invaders put the entire Great Lakes ecosystem, its \$7 billion recreational, commercial and tribal fishing industry,

and our way of life at risk.

YOU CAN HELP

Urge President Obama to speed up the process of protecting the Great Lakes. Visit www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes to send your comments to the White House. You can also join Sierra Club's Asian carp Action Team! Sign up on our website by clicking on the "Volunteer" tab and putting Asian carp Action Team in the comment box, or email us at sierraclubgreatlakes@gmail.com.

YOUR ACTION IS CRITICAL TO PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES FROM THIS THREAT

Asian carp have devastated the Mississippi River ecosystem, harming people, local economies, property, and native fish and wildlife. We cannot afford to let history repeat itself in our vast, yet very vulnerable Great Lakes.

MORE INFORMATION

Keep up to date on issues facing the Great Lakes at www.sierraclubgreatlakes.blogspot.com. Got Questions? Contact Melissa Damaschke, Great Lakes Program Organizer in Detroit at melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org

GreatForests, WildPlaces

Michigan's Visionary Forest Challenge

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Ecologist

The state of Michigan is poised to take a globally unprecedented step towards ecological protection. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is finalizing decisions to designate a network of "Biological Stewardship Areas" (BSAs) across the state. These BSAs represent a classification and designation of each and every forested community type across all landscapes in our state.

The designation process started with the division of the state into "Ecological Subsections" according to landform, glacial geology, climate, soils, potential vegetation, etc. (see accompanying map of the Lower Peninsula, below). The DNRE then looked at the entire list of 76 "Natural Communities" as determined by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI), a non-profit

The Biological Stewardship Areas represent a classification of every forested community type in our state.

group associated with the MSU Cooperative Extension Service. Here is where the state got visionary: after looking at the state's natural ecological subdivisions, they cross-referenced this with the natural communities list, and determined which communities do, did, and could exist in which subsections. The agency then decided to designate BSAs for each community in each subsection in which it occurred.

For each region of the state (northern and southern Lower Peninsula, east and west upper peninsula), the state convened a "Core Design Team" (CDT) comprised of stakeholders and DNRE staff, including environmental, hunting, timber industry, tribal, and other experts. The CDT members used their field knowledge to build a consensus on where the best areas were to represent Michigan's natural communities in each region.

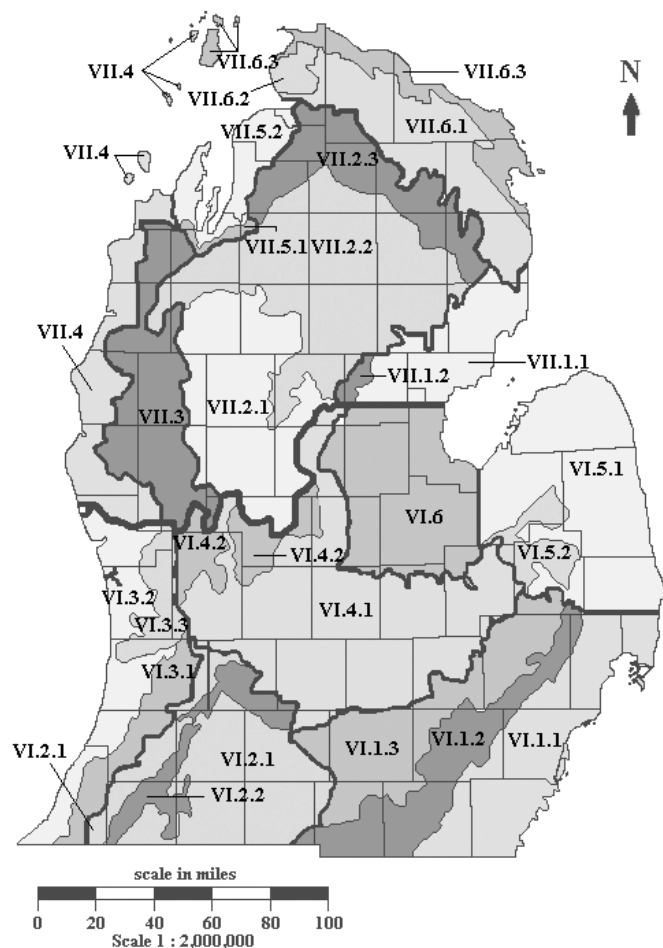
The Northern Lower Peninsula CDT was the first to finish, and DNRE will finalize the designations this winter. The Northern Lower Peninsula CDT members looked at all possible areas over 15 full day meetings before coming to agreement, and have made excellent recommendations. One senior DNRE official remarked that this was "the most important thing the DNRE has done since the creation of the Forestry Commission in 1913".

Despite the scientifically based, consensus recommendation of the CDT, there has been resistance both within and outside the DNRE. It is very likely that the final set of BSAs proposed by DNRE staff will be significantly reduced from the agreed upon CDT recommendations.

TAKE ACTION

You can help make sure that the BSA network includes the complete network recommended by the Northern Lower Peninsula CDT! There will be public comment opportunities this fall, and your input will show support for Michigan completing this visionary effort. We also invite you to join the Southern Lower Peninsula BSA process that is under way now.

Contact Amanda Hightree, amanda.hightree@sierclub.org, to find out more, or check the Chapter website for updates.



Full, interactive map available online at www.ncrs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/other/gtr-nc178/michmap1.htm.

Emerging Issues

by Anne Woiwode

The Michigan Chapter adopts priorities that guide our environmental advocacy, but emerging issues occasionally demand attention and action. Here are two such issues.

HYDRO-FRACTURING FOR NATURAL GAS

Natural gas burns cleaner than coal, producing fewer conventional air pollutants, generates no toxic ash, and releases about half the greenhouse gases of coal per unit of energy produced, while allowing for flexibility to pair with renewable energy sources like wind. As a result, natural gas has become an attractive alternative to coal in the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. But as easily accessed natural gas reserves have disappeared, concerns about dirty ways of getting natural gas are raising many concerns. Proposed hydro-fracturing (fracking) of shales found deep underground in Michigan are raising red flags. Companies seeking natural gas leases in shale formations in northern and south central parts of the Lower Peninsula are bidding at higher rates than ever before for these leases, and a rush appears to be on to develop these resources.

Sierra Club and our colleagues in conservation and environmental organizations are calling for Michigan to adopt comprehensive regulations to deal with real threats to water quality, water supply, and the impact on forests and wildlands from the infrastructure to develop these supplies. The Michigan Chapter has long monitored oil and gas development, including working with the Anglers of the Au Sable to protect the Mason Tract along the Au Sable River proposed from drilling next door. Sierra Club is working around the country as well to assure that the move to clean energy doesn't mean destroying water quality, harming our communities and polluting our state.



MAVIS FARR-SMIENKOWSKI

NUCLEAR WASTE SHIPMENTS ON THE GREAT LAKES

Sierra Club has long asked a critical question of those who promote nuclear power as a supposedly clean source of energy: what do we do with the waste? Now there is a dramatic example of why knowing the answer that question first is critical. The proposed decommissioning of nuclear power plants on Ontario's Bruce Peninsula calls for putting the highly radioactive wastes on ships that would travel through Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario on their way down the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Atlantic Ocean. Sierra Club Canada and Sierra Club Michigan Chapter are working in parallel on either side of the international border to call for comprehensive environmental review of this plan, including full assess-

ment of the risk it poses to millions of people who use and depend on the Great Lakes.

The Michigan Chapter joined with several organizations concerned with the environment and nuclear power in asking that the US Department of Transportation require a complete environmental impact statement with full public disclosure and input regarding this proposed shipment on the Great Lakes. Hearings held in Canada in September brought out extensive concerns about this plan as well, and demands for the Canadian government to provide an appropriate forum to hear from the public and conduct of proper assessment of this plan. Stay tuned to find out more about this emerging issue on the Michigan Chapter website.

Chapter Elections

VOTE! MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

by Byline

The seven Michigan Sierra Club members listed below are competing for five At-Large spots on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom). 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 120 words or less.

Vote for no more than five candidates. 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). The ballot is on page 15. **Ballots must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by Dec 1, 2010.**

Lorne Beatty

As a Sierra Club member for over 25 years, I have served as Crossroads Group Fundraising, Media, Membership and Outings Chairs, as well as Group Rep, Treasurer and Vice Chair. I have been an At-Large member of the Michigan Chapter ExCom for the past four years. I have served on the Chapter Development Committee and have been the Chapter Outings Chair for the past two years. I enjoy fishing, canoeing, camping, boating, scuba diving and skiing. I am proud to help the Chapter protect Michigan's waterways, air and water quality and wilderness. I will continue to assist with building alliances with Michigan sportsmen's groups such as the Anglers of the Au Sable, of which I am also a member. To accomplish this and more, I am asking for your vote to continue as an at-large member of the Michigan Chapter ExCom.



Jean Gramlich

Our planet and state face major challenges, and the Chapter must be in the forefront to educate others to value the environment and to protect the earth from those who would exploit and pollute with no thought for the health of our communities or the legacy we leave for future generations. We must strengthen our citizen activism on conservation and in the political arena where many important issues are decided.

Raising money to support our work is essential. I have served on the SEMG and Chapter ExComs for several years, the last 4 years as Chapter Chair. I also sit on the Legislative and Strategic Planning Committees. Locally I work as a master gardener, conservation steward and land conservationist.



Robert Simpson

I am cautiously optimistic that even though it seems at times we are spinning our wheels, we are winning small victories. A coal plant doesn't get approved, a CAFO is denied a license, a mining company is forced to start over. All we can do is keep working at it and hope for public opinion to catch up with the realities of our long suffering environment and support our work.

In that effort, I am working with my local cable provider to get environmental films onto public access television, and I will continue to support other initiatives statewide.



Leigh Fifelski

Hardworking, dedicated, experienced, energetic, current executive committee member, social media using, worked for the Sierra Club, coal-fighting, water loving, urban environmentalist seeks re-election to Sierra Club's Executive Committee. Will work hard to stop coal plants, increase renewable energy, elect progressive environmental candidates, ensure communities are protected from Big Corporations that pollute and increase Sierra Club's under 40 active membership. If this is the change you seek, vote for me!





**SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN
CHAPTER 2010 EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE BALLOT**

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

LORNE BEATTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEIGH FIFELSKI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JEAN GRAMLICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JUDY HAINAUT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CYNTHIA A. HUSARCHIK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ED MCARDLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROBERT SIMPSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<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 1, 2010.

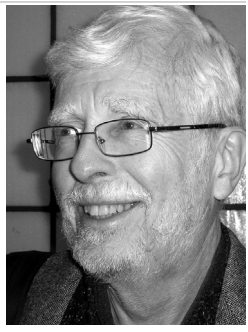
Judy Hainaut

Judith Hainaut has lived in Pontiac for ten years and is a Senior Designer at General Motors Powertrain. Her special interest is urban agriculture using environmentally sound methods. She is also involved in promoting local food production and marketing. Another environmental issue she has been involved with is the promotion of planting native plants in order to protect our native plant and animal relationships. She loves reading, knitting and camping.



Ed McArdle

As a Sierra Club member since 1981, I have seen the club grow along with the environmental movement. I have served in many volunteer positions on both the group and state chapter levels, including Group, Political, and Conservation Chairs. Currently, I am serving as Group and Chapter Conservation Chair and am a member of the Legislative and Political Committees. I have been involved in issues such as air pollution, incinerators, recycling, coal and nuclear, and have seen successes like closing all Michigan medical waste incinerators and saving Humbug Marsh. I have wonderful experiences working with the many volunteers and staff who help me grow along with the Club. I hope to propose ideas and programs that inspire and empower a younger and more diverse cadre of volunteers and members.



Cynthia A. Husarchik

Sierra Club provides me with the platform to engage in my passion—environmental activism. My commitment to protecting our natural resources inspired me to run for Chapter ExCom. I enjoy hiking and participating in Huron Valley Group conservation committee and Southeast Michigan Group in-district meetings. I've attended Environmental Leadership Training seminars and participated in Lobby Day and Hands Across the Sand events. As a trial attorney, I advocate

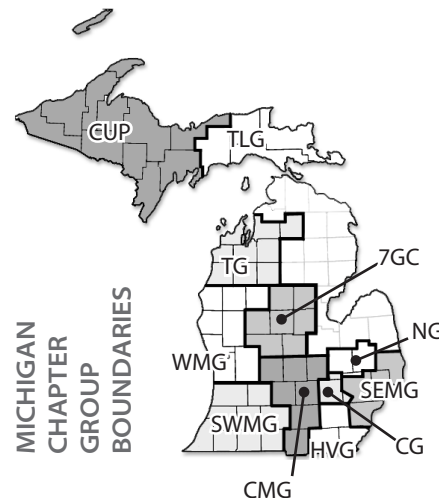


for environmentally friendly and protective legislation and work with pro-environment political leaders to ensure the sustainability of our ecosystem. I am involved with grass roots programs that sponsor clean energy, urban organic farming, and recycling. With your your vote, I will help Michigan become a progressive legislative leader for energy efficiency, environmental protection and sustainable, healthful food production.

Group Info & Outings

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 ten regional Groups or committees are a vital link for getting active with Sierra Club! Groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Sierra Club members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—everyone is welcome! The Michigan Chapter website has a comprehensive calendar with current and upcoming outings, programs and events listed for each Group (go to michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar). Below is a list Michigan's Sierra Club Regional Groups, the counties they cover, and where their meetings usually take place. Group Chairs, their contact information and links for Group websites are also listed below, or go to michigan.sierraclub.org/groups.



Note: If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you're interested in starting one, please contact Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at Amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.

Central Michigan Group / CMG

Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee Counties / Meets in Lansing area

ONLINE: cmgsierraclub.yolasite.com

CMG CHAIR: Leigh Fifelski, 248-321-4579 or lfifelski@gmail.com

Nepessing Group / NG

Genesee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland County / meets in Flint

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

NG CHAIR: Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038 or dmcispell@yahoo.com

Three Lakes Group / TLG

Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft Counties / meets in Sault Ste. Marie

ONLINE: www.michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/ThreeLakes.html

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

Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties / meets in Marquette

GROUP CHAIR: John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or jrebers@gmail.com

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties / NEW MEETING PLACE: Huntington Woods Library

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

SEMG CHAIR: Hal Newnan, 586-758-6461 or hnewnan@sbcglobal.net

West Michigan Group / WMG

Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mason, Lake, and Osceola Counties / meets in Grand Rapids

ONLINE: www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

WMG CHAIR: Craig Brainard, 616-451-4603 or boomerbob@netscape.com

Crossroads Group / CG

Livingston County and western Oakland County / meets in Brighton

ONLINE: sites.google.com/site/crossroadssierraclub

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

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry Counties / meets in Kalamazoo

SWMG CONTACT: Brad Parsons, 269-492-4437 or bradparsons4@gmail.com

7th Generation Committee / 7GC

Montcalm, Gratiot, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, Gladwin and Clare Counties / meets in Mt. Pleasant

7GC CONTACT: Joel Welty, 989-561-5037 or jwelty@power-net.net

Huron Valley Group / HVG

Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe Counties / meets in Ann Arbor

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

HVG CHAIR: Doug Cowherd, 734-662-5205 or dcow2@yahoo.com

Michigan Chapter members attend a workshop at the 2010 Annual Retreat.



JAN O'CONNELL

Group and Chapter Award Winners for 2010 Announced

by Anne Woiwode

Following Sierra Club tradition, Group and Chapter members are asked each year to submit names of Sierra Club leaders for recognition of their outstanding work within the Sierra Club. The Chapter Executive Committee reviews and selects award winners at the Chapter and Group level among those nominated. During the Michigan Chapter's Annual Retreat, Chapter and Group award winners are announced by the Awards Committee Chair, along with our awards recognizing other individuals and organizations for their efforts to promote protection of Michigan's environment (see page 23).

Please join us in thanking these award winning Sierra Club Michigan Chapter and Group leaders for their exceptional dedication and efforts.

CHAPTER CHAIR AWARD AND CYBERPUNK AWARD

The Chapter Chair Award honors a Michigan Chapter leader for exceptional work in support of Sierra Club's work in Michigan. The CyberPunk Award recognizes outstanding efforts by a volunteer activist to raise awareness by the use of electronic media.

Ed Steinman is active in the Huron Valley Group and serves as their representative to the Chapter Executive Committee. Michigan Chapter Chair Jean Gramlich selected Ed for the Chair's award to recognize his exceptional efforts in many areas, from upgrading the Chapter website to documenting pollution from CAFOs. Ed was also the clear choice for the Chapter Cyberpunk Award because of his support for our electronic outreach.

MARLENE FLUHARTY AWARD

Recognizing leadership at two levels of the Sierra Club.

Shirley Kallio of the West Michigan Group was acknowledged for her tireless efforts with the West Michigan Group and with Chapter and Group level Legislative and Political work.

SYLVANIA AWARD

Recognizing a volunteer who is new on the scene but as already demonstrated great enthusiasm, hard work and dedication.

Lauri Tata was the clear choice for this award, as she brings her energy and excitement to both the Nepessing Group and the Chapter Political Committee as a new Sierra Club leader.

VINCE SMITH AWARD

For outstanding contributions to Outings in Michigan.

Denny Burr was recognized for 20 years of leadership in outings



AMANDA HIGHTREE

Jeff Kart, winner of the Michigan Chapter's 2010 Print Journalism award, with Michigan Chapter director Anne Woiwode. See page 23 for more on Jeff's award-winning work.

with the Huron Valley Group and the West Michigan Group.

SERVICE AWARDS

Nepessing Group

The Executive Committee is the backbone of the Nepessing Group. Its spinal cord is the list server Nepessinghiker@aol.com. Since advent of the Wednesday Hikes in 2006, **Don James** has maintained and sent out all notices of group activities.

Southeast Michigan Group

Mitch Mitchell is chair of the SEMG political committee and also serves on the Chapter political committee, which reviews over 100 candidates for possible endorsement. Mitch devotes enormous amounts of time and effort to working with candidates and Sierra Club election volunteers.

West Michigan Group

For more a year and a half, **Jill Henke** has immersed herself in getting Holland Beyond Coal, hosting house parties and film showings, staffing booths and attending countless meetings. Jill has also written formal comments, testified and presented statements to state and local entities regarding Michigan's coal issues.

Chapter

Aaron Nelson volunteers with the Chapter putting together several volunteer tracking databases and creating outreach materials. Her big effort now is a database showing water monitoring projects throughout the state, there where they are located, what they are, who is doing the monitoring, and giving contact information. The information will provide map overlays to help connect the dots on water pollution.

Group Info & Outings

Everyone is welcome to participate in Sierra Club Outings!

The Michigan Chapter and Group volunteers lead outings year round. Current outings are updated continually on the Michigan Chapter calendar at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar. Every outing, whether it is a stroll in the park or a weeklong backpacking adventure on Isle Royale, starts at the trailhead, and some include fees to cover expenses. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver, which is linked to our website, or call the Sierra

Club Outings department at 415-977-5528 to have a print version sent to you.

Below we introduce you to a small cross section of outings led by Group and Chapter leaders, and as well as other Sierra Club activities in Michigan! Details and contact information for signing up for upcoming outings and events are available at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/index.html. Get out and enjoy the places we all work so hard to protect!

Outdoor Adventures

Oct 23 NG Dauner-Martin Nature Sanctuary Hike. In the mood for a different kind of outdoor adventure? Then join the Nepeessing Group for a hike after dark for a full-moon hike! Bring a flashlight and join us at the Michigan Nature Association's Dauner Martin sanctuary in Genesee County. Join other adventurers on this easy approximately four mile hike. A one dollar outings fee helps cover costs. Find all the details on the web, or call Terry at 810-732-9902.

Oct 24 CMG Picnic & Ledge Walk. Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge is home to The Ledges—300-million-year-old, 60-foot, majestic sandstone sedimentary rock outcroppings lining the shores of Grand River. The Central Michigan Group invites you to bring a picnic lunch and hike along this amazing geological feature into Grand Ledge. Eaton County Parks charges a \$2 admission fee for entry. Details on the CMG website, or contact Jerry at 517-351-7796.

Oct 24 SEMG Kensington Metro Park Hike. Southeastern Michigan has a remarkable resource in the Metro Parks that provide a green ring around Detroit and suburban communities. Join the Southeast Michigan Group for a fall hike full of color as the thick forests at Kensington Metro Park are changing their looks. We'll enjoy a moderate, 4-mile hike on the nature trails, including the boardwalk around Wildwing Lake over leaf-covered trails. Keep an eye open for the resident deer, waterfowl and osprey. Trip goes rain or shine. Dress in layers. Park entrance fee. Find out more on the website. Your Outings leader is Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

Nov 21 CG Annual Migratory Ducks Outing at Kensington Metro Park. The Crossroads Group invites you to witness one of nature's amazing shows, the migration of ducks, geese and other



RALPH POWELL

A volunteer hauls tools during a Service Trip on the North Country Trail.

wildfowl heading south for the winter. Meet at the Kensington Nature Center parking lot for a short hike to observe the migratory waterfowl on Kent Lake. Bring binoculars, bird books, etc. Members and nonmembers, birders and non-birders are welcome to attend. Check out information on the Crossroads Group website or contact Outing Leader Dan Minock at 248-685-2411 or dan.minock@michigan.sierraclub.org for more details.

Nov 21 HVG Cedar Lake Esker Hike. Join the Huron Valley Group for our annual autumn Cedar Lake Esker hike in the Waterloo Recreation Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Hike

the tallest esker in our area with stunning views of three lakes. This four mile hike is on trails off-limits to hunting. Find out the details of this wonderful trip on the website or contact Jay at 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net

Dec 11 SWMG Winter Walk at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Long time volunteer at the Nature Center, William Strong will show you places and unique wildlife spots. Bring lunch and Nordic walking poles if you want. Contact William Strong 269 372-3642

Dec 19 HVG Cassidy Road Bog Hike-or-Ski. Huron Valley Group will help you identify six native Michigan conifers on this 2.5 mile Winter Solstice hike in the Waterloo Recreation Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. We'll hike and/or ski, depending upon conditions. Details are on the website or contact Jay at 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net to find out more.

Indoor Adventures

Nov 9 & December 14 at 7:30 pm Huron Valley Group's Sierra Club Book Club. Book: Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming, by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway. Ann Arbor, check the webpage or contact Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157 for details

Nov 12 & Dec 10 Second Friday Artwalk: Buckham Gallery. Meet other Sierra Club members at Buckham Gallery to enjoy a fun night enjoying art and the company of others. The non-profit art space is located 134 1/2 W Second Street in Flint and Mike Haley, your guide, can tell you more at 810-686-6354 or thaley@gfn.org.



ANNE WOIWODE

Sierra Club Water Sentinels co-sponsored the Grand River Expedition, a 12 day paddle down Michigan's longest river. Here paddlers have a stop over in Old Town Lansing.

YOU CAN BECOME A LEADER: HELP OTHERS ENJOY MICHIGAN'S GREAT PLACES!

FIRST AID TRAINING FOR OUTINGS LEADERS

If you love the outdoors and want to lead Outings to your favorite places, this one day session will train you in Basic First Aid certification and Outdoor Leadership Training 101, required for all outings leaders by the National Sierra Club. Outdoor Leadership Training 201 and CPR are required for those who lead outings that are more than an hour's hike away from the car.

The training session, taught by Cheryl McConnell, will be held Saturday, November 20 at 11am at the Ralph A. MacMullen Center on Higgins Lake in Roscommon. Lunch is included. Deadline for registration: October 20. Cost: \$35 each.

INNER CITY OUTINGS: EAST AND WEST

Inner City Outings (ICO) is a Sierra Club community outreach program providing opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world for those who would not otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with agencies such as community centers, churches and neighborhood youth groups. ICO plans outings and provides equipment and enthusiastic trained leaders who share their love of the natural world.

- Washtenaw County ICO holds monthly business meetings November 15 and December 20, 7PM in Ann Arbor at the REI Community Use Room, 970 West Eisenhower Parkway.
- West Michigan ICO leader Craig Ressler invites you to find out more about the Grand Rapids program. Contact Craig at craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Supporting Your Chapter

Another Way for YOU to Be a Part of Protecting Michigan's Environment



**Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN**

profit environmental and conservation organizations, working to promote environmental education and charitable giving through workplace giving campaigns. EarthShare is an opportunity, a system, and an answer for environmentally conscious employees and workplaces to support dozens of environmental groups at once through a charitable giving drive.

EarthShare's goal is to continue expanding opportunities for working people to have an easy and effective way

**ASK YOUR EMPLOYER TO JOIN EARTHSHARE
SO YOU CAN GIVE AT THE OFFICE!**

EarthShare of Michigan is part of a nationwide network of America's leading non-

profit environmental and conservation organizations, working to promote environmental education and charitable giving through workplace giving campaigns. EarthShare is an opportunity, a system, and an answer for environmentally conscious employees and workplaces to support dozens of environmental groups at once through a charitable giving drive.

To create a new giving program at your workplace, please contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org. To learn more about EarthShare and to see a full listing of all the MI participating organizations, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org. In the meantime, ask if your workplace giving options allow you to designate a write in option. If so, write in "EarthShare of Michigan" in the space provided on your pledge card, along with the address: P.O. Box 363, 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath, MI 48808-0363.

CONTAGIOUS GIVING

by Jan O'Connell,
Development Director

Just last week in church, I was listening with interest because the topic of the sermon was GIVING! The lector spoke about how Bill Gates stepped down from Microsoft to devote his energies to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Gates' dramatic action got Warren Buffet in the mood to give away 85% of his wealth. Warren Buffet then convinced Oracle founder Larry Ellison, a silent philanthropist for years, to go public. The reason Larry Ellison went public was because he learned that one person giving, especially when noticed and recognized, can excite others to give as well.

A BIG thanks to all Sierra Club Michigan Chapter GIVERS, whether you are anonymous or recognized!

Michigan Chapter's Evergreen Program

YOUR REGULAR GIFT HELPS SUSTAIN THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Thank you for being a Sierra Club member! Your annual membership dues help support Sierra Club's work at the national, state and local level, providing almost 1/5th of the Michigan Chapter budget. Additional contributions from supporters like you are at the heart of supporting our work on energy, water, wildlands and citizen engagement.

The past year has been a whirlwind with exciting successes! The Michigan Coal Rush is at a complete stop because of our work, but we must continue to push clean energy for our state's future. Our public wild lands are better protected today than ever because of our Forest Biodiversity Program, but we will long be fighting threats to our forests like biofuels. Our decade long fight against pollution from CAFOs is making progress and drawing national attention through recognition of Lynn Henning's work, but every day efforts to reverse our progress are underway. The Michigan Chapter's citizen engagement efforts are recognized as among the most effective in the state, turning out

citizen lobbyists and support for environmental candidates, and organizing those voices takes resources and staff time.

Your support for the work of the Michigan Chapter through automatic monthly gifts is an easy way to ensure that these programs are sustained, even in challenging economic times. And your gift can add up fast. For the cost of a fancy coffee each month, you can cover our CAFO Water Monitoring for a day. For the price of five gallons of gas a month, you'll cover the fees for two online Michigan Chapter Updates. Or how about paying for our expert Forest Ecologist's time and travel over a few days on the road to protect some of Michigan's most sensitive waters and wildlands—that's the cost of taking a family of four to an Imax show once a month (without the popcorn!).

Please consider making a sustaining monthly, quarterly or one-time gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter today. You can go online to www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport right now to sign up, or contact Jan O'Connell for more details!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Preserve the Future

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others and preserve the intricate balance of nature.

**Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program**
85 Second St, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270 • gift.planning@sierraclub.org



Michigan Legacy Council

OUR MEMBERS' BOLD ACTIONS SUPPORT THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF OUR GREAT LAKES STATE

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter created the Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals and families making crucial, major gifts to support our environmental work.

Through the Michigan Legacy Council, you can directly support the Michigan Chapter's effective citizen-based advocacy & lobbying programs as well as make tax deductible gifts to support qualifying educational and policy programs that protect and restore the environment.

Michigan Legacy Council members receive special acknowledgement based on giving level starting at \$500 per year. Turn to the back page of this issue to see a listing of current members of our Michigan Legacy Council.

For more information or to join, please return the donation form below, or contact Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's Development Director Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

IS THE SIERRA CLUB IN YOUR WILL?

If you have placed the Michigan Sierra Club in your will or would like information on how to do that, please let us know.

Sierra Club's Gift Planning Program can ensure your intent is spelled out correctly and completely, including leaving a legacy to protect Michigan's environment. Your interest in learning more about our Gift Planning Program is very welcome, for the long-term ability of the Sierra Club to defend our natural environment depends on the financial reinforcement provided by bequests, charitable gift annuities and other life-income gifts.

Future generations will thank you for your thoughtfulness!

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Enclosed is my/our gift of:
_____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 \$_____ Other

Give online at <http://tiny.cc/supportSCMC!>

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

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

**Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,
109 E. 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: _____

GetInvolved

Michigan Chapter Recognizes Environmental Leadership

Each year, the Michigan Chapter acknowledges the exceptional efforts of individuals and organizations who advanced the protection of Michigan's environment. The 2010 Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Award Winners are extraordinary leaders making a positive impact in our state.

JANE ELDER ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presented in recognition of exceptional leadership in environmental protection in Michigan. This is the highest award presented by the Michigan Chapter.

Within days of becoming DEQ Director in 2003, **Steve Chester** told his staff that he expected them to do their jobs. This simple concept was a radical departure from the DEQ under the prior administration. For seven years as the Director of the DEQ, Steve Chester worked to put the state's environmental agency back on track in the face of diminishing funding and a hostile legislature. Steve is particularly recognized for his commitment to addressing some of the most important but difficult environmental issues in our state: pollution from CAFOs, global warming and making environmental justice a reality for Michigan citizens.

WHITE PINE AWARD

Given to a non-member, organization or group that has shown extraordinary dedication to protection of the environment.

Under the direction of **Sam Flanery**, the Building Sciences Academy has quickly become a strong and vocal proponent of clean energy policies, particularly the expansion of energy efficiency in Michigan. Sam has done extraordinary work organizing the graduates, clients and businesses connected to the Academy in advocating for stronger energy efficiency standards at the state capitol in collaboration with Sierra Club.

BURTON V. BARNES AWARD

Established in 2004 to recognize academic excellence.

Dr. Henry Pollack has been a major force in documenting the impact of climate change. As a member of the Interdisciplinary Panel of Climate Change (IPCC), Dr. Pollack and his colleagues shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore. Dr. Pollack's recent book, "A World Without Ice" crystallizes the unthinkable impact on the world caused by global warming. An emeritus professor of geophysics at the University of Michigan, Dr. Pollack has spent many years studying the Antarctic and has conducted research on all seven continents.

JOURNALISM AWARDS

Recognizing those who have done an exceptional job of bringing critical environmental issues to the public's attention

ONLINE JOURNALISM

Eartha Meltzer, along with her colleagues at the **Michigan Messenger**, have



JAN O'CONNELL

Steve Chester accepts Environmentalist of the Year Award from Anne Woiwode at the 2010 Chapter Retreat.

taken on some of the most difficult environmental stories in Michigan. Eartha is particularly recognized for her reporting on coal plant fights and the continuing fight to clean up dioxin contamination along the Tittabawassee River.

PRINT JOURNALISM

As the former environment beat reporter at the **Bay City Times**, **Jeff Kart** tackled a wide range of issues with a particular focus on Great Lakes and energy. Jeff's reporting on the proposed Consumers Energy coal plant expansion near Bay City was comprehensive and compelling. Michigan is fortunate that Jeff is continuing to report on environmental issues on-line at TreeHugger, Planet Green and other outlets.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER RETREAT 2010 REPORT

by Amanda Hightree, Chapter Coordinator

Late August weather in Michigan can be pretty unpredictable, but who could have asked for a better weather weekend than the one we had for the 21st Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Annual Retreat!

Thanks to all of you that came out to help us learn and celebrate our wonderful environment. We had another great retreat filled with smiles, laughs and good times—from our group photo to our youngest Sierra Club Tiara winner yet, and of course our eternally-entertaining live auction.

Special thanks to all of our workshop presenters who truly make the retreat fun as well as extremely informative. And a warm thank you to Camp Miniwanca, which has really become the symbol of our retreat.

If you'd like to help with planning the 2011 Retreat, please contact Amanda Hightree at Amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.

Chapter Directory

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OFFICE

109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517-484-2372

Website: www.michigan.sierraclub.org

Director

Anne Woiwode anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org

Chapter Coordinator

Amanda Hightree amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org

CAFO Water Sentinel

Lynn Henning 517-605-7740, lynn.henning@sierraclub.org

Development Director and Beyond Coal Organizer

Jan O'Connell 616-956-6646, jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org

Forest Ecologist

Marvin Roberson 906-360-0288, marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org

Legislative Director

Gayle Miller gayle.miller@sierraclub.org

Clean Water Program Director

Rita Chapman rita.chapman@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB DETROIT OFFICE

2727 Second Avenue Suite 320, Detroit, MI 48201

Phone: TBD

Environmental Justice Organizer

Rhonda Anderson 313-965-0052, rhonda.anderson@sierraclub.org

Great Lakes Regional Representative

Melissa Damaschke 313-965-0055, melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org

Clean Energy Solutions Organizer

Michelle Martinez 313-974-6547, michelle.martinez@sierraclub.org

Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer

Tiffany Hartung 248-933-2451, tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB CENTRAL REGION OFFICE

400 W Front Street, Suite 204, Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-922-2201

Midwest Regional Staff Director

Alison Horton alison.horton@sierraclub.org

Administrative Coordinator

Shelly Campbell shelly.campbell@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

85 Second Street, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415-977-5500

MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Members

CHAIR Jean Gramlich jean.gramlich@michigan.sierraclub.org

VICE CHAIR Al Beeton beeton@att.net

TREASURER Helen LeBlanc helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org

SECRETARY Nancy Shiffler nshiffler@comcast.net

5TH OFFICER Carol Ward saltpt@lighthouse.net

At-Large Representatives

Lorne Beatty lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

Leigh Fifelski lfifelski@gmail.com

Tom Karas logman39@hotmail.com

Shirley Kallio shirleykallio@msn.com

Dorothy Nordness dorothyk@umich.edu

Robert Simpson rjsimpson944@hotmail.com

Nancy Shiffler nancy.shiffler@michigan.sierraclub.org

Jean Gramlich jean.gramlich@michigan.sierraclub.org

Al Beeton beeton@att.net

Local Group Representatives

CG Mary Andersson mandersson@pcs.k12.mi.us

CMG Helen LeBlanc helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org

CUPG John Rebers jrebers@gmail.com

HVG Ed Steinman esteinma@umich.edu

NG Carol Graham-Thompson c.graham.thompson@juno.com

SEMG Ed McArdle ecoguy2@netzero.com

SWMG Brad Parsons bradparsons4@gmail.com

TLG Carol Ward saltpt@lighthouse.net

WMG Craig Brainard boomerbob1@gmail.com

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

Communications and Fundraising Committee

Carol Graham-Thompson c.graham.thompson@juno.com

Conservation Committee

Ed McArdle ecoguy2@netzero.com

Fall Retreat Committee

Amanda Hightree amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org

Finance Committee

Al Beeton beeton@att.net

Inner City Outings

West MI: Craig Ressler craig_ressler@yahoo.com

Washtenaw: Vera Hernandez vhernan@umich.edu

Legislative Subcommittee

Lydia Fischer lydfisch@mindspring.com

Member Programs Committee

Leigh Fifelski lfifelski@gmail.com

Outings Committee

Lorne Beatty 810-632-7766, lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political Committee

Richard Morley Barron rmorleybarron@charter.net



MAVIS FARR-SWENTKOWSKI



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 1.3 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together

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

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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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Mary Andersson and Ed McArdle hug a tree in Tahquamenon Falls State Park.

- Gwen & John Nystuen
- Nancy Shiffler

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\$5,000+

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