

# TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • AUTUMN/WINTER 2013-14

## It's Up to Us to Make the Future We Want

by Anne Woiwode,  
Michigan Chapter Director

**W**hat future do you want for Michigan 30 years from now? Healthy Great Lakes with clean water you can fish and swim in without worry? Clean cities and towns with good jobs, healthy people, renewable energy, and great options for getting around on foot, bike and public transportation? Thriving native forest and wetland ecosystems where you can enjoy quiet recreational options and abundant wildlife and birds? Farmlands producing food and fiber without polluting the air or water, and bringing fresh Michigan-grown foods to your community?

I ask this not as a daydreaming exercise. This is a challenge to you to help envision the future we want, because that's the only way we will get there.

These are difficult times, and with climate change showing its muscle and too many politicians showing no guts, there has never been a more urgent need for Sierra Club to embrace the future we want and fight to make it happen. Michiganders have a deep love for our amazing state, and giving future Michiganders a chance to enjoy what we love is worth the fight. What we do here also helps shape the future of everyone on the planet.

Thirty years ago, my sons Nate and Pete were very young, and I was reminded constantly why Sierra Club was working to clean up pollution and protect wild places. Today, Nate's own son, Owen, is a new inspiration to continue



JENNIFER SKILBRED

Nate and Owen Woiwode

that fight and give it our all. Each of us sees in our own lives the people whose future we are fighting for - including your own!

As a Sierra Club member, you know the Michigan Chapter doesn't shy away from the hard fights. We also don't give up. Sierra Club leaders are by nature pragmatic optimists, with confidence that the future can be bright - if we work smarter, engage more of our neighbors, and bring science, passion and determination to the effort. Our combined vision for the future has the greatest chance of becoming reality through this formula.

Where will Michigan be 30 years from now? With your willingness and engagement, we'll be proud of the legacy we have left. Find out in this newsletter and on our website how you can be part of building the future Michigan deserves. Thanks in advance for working to make that future a reality!

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**It's Chapter ExCom election time!** Now you can VOTE ONLINE at [www.tinyurl.com/VoteMichChapter](http://www.tinyurl.com/VoteMichChapter). For paper ballot and candidate details, see pp 14-15.



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CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

## THE MACKINAC

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*The Mackinac*, Volume 46 Issue 2, (ISSN 0744-5288) is published two times every year by Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E Grand River Ave, Lansing MI 48906. Annual dues for the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to *The Mackinac*.

Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author and are not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Michigan Chapter.

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# TheMackinac

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WINTER 2013-14

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GAIL PHILBIN

# In the Spotlight

## When Progress Seems Like a Game of Whack-a-Mole

by Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

As I write this, the nation is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. On the day of that march, we did not know that years later it would be viewed as a triumphal step toward equality. Indeed, some of the worst atrocities against the civil rights advocates were committed after that day. And even now, we see legislators trying to limit the right to vote, and it seems like a giant game of whack-a-mole, but we are farther along the road.

The environmental movement has many victories to look back on: the national park system, regulation to prevent

disasters like burning rivers, the Wilderness Act, Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. In Michigan we have our precious wilderness areas, no new coal plants, and the Au Sable River is still pristine and quiet, a haven for wilderness lovers and trout fishermen. We hope that through our efforts the Mascoma project is dead, thus saving millions of trees and the whole environment in the eastern upper peninsula.

Clean energy and energy efficiency are the law of the state, though both standards need to be raised.

But just as we were defeating new coal

Jean Gramlich



plants, along came hydraulic fracking, a threat to our air, land and water; and a plan to store nuclear waste less than a mile from Lake Huron that threatens the drinking water supply for 40,000,000 people. Whack-a-mole again.

We need every member to share our vision: to be there in town hall meetings, in demonstrations, in the political process and in the courts to protect our air, land and water — whacking moles as they raise their ugly heads.

### REMEMBERING TOM CHURCH

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

Many of the most extraordinary wild places are still wild today because of the work of one or two individuals who stayed out of the limelight but spent years or decades working behind the scenes to assure future generations could share their joy in it. We mourn the passing of one such individual: Tom Church, who will forever be linked with the Sylvania Wilderness in the Ottawa National Forest.

Tom Church's love for the Sylvania Wilderness near Watersmeet started when his family vacationed in what was then Sylvania National Recreation Area, paddling and hiking the extraordinarily beautiful tract of land. As a young teenager, he convinced his parents to drop him and his younger brother off for a week alone in this 18,000+ acre complex of lakes and forests, just the first indication of the deep bond Tom had with Sylvania. Tom worked with Sierra Club and other groups to pass Wilderness designation in 1987.

Perhaps the best testament to Tom's skill and dedication was the virtual elimination of motorboats on Crooked Lake last year, fixing an unfortunate compromise in the

Tom Church was a huge help to Chapter staff in organizing an event at Sylvania Wilderness celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Act last year. The festivities included a program at the Ottawa National Forest Visitors Center as well as outdoors activities like camping, hiking and canoeing.



TIM AND JILL SCHMIDT

law. Lobbying the Forest Service and Congress, helping found Friends of Sylvania, working with private owners along the lake, and becoming an elected member of the township board, Tom was always a thoughtful, effective advocate who used every legal tool to protect the future of this place.

Last year Tom joined with Sierra Club to lead the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sylvania Wilderness designation under the Michigan Wilderness Act. We were fortunate to be able to honor his extraordinary work before his passing in June of this year. Read Tom's obituary online at [www.tinyurl.com/m2yxh5p](http://www.tinyurl.com/m2yxh5p).

# CleanEnergySolutions

## GOV. RICK SNYDER IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT HIS COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MICHIGAN'S ENERGY FUTURE IN DECEMBER.

The process is intended to assist policymakers with new decisions about our "energy framework that will enhance Michigan's adaptability, reliability, affordability and environment." The Sierra Club has worked hard engaging our members in the information-gathering phase of the governor's process. We need to assure that our future energy sources are clean and renewable and that we use them efficiently.

## DTE Energy Hurts Michigan

by Patrick Geans, Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer

**D**TE Energy's aging coal-burning power plants hurt the health of our families, communities and pocketbooks. They emit dangerous pollutants like nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury and soot that leads to increased rates of asthma, heart disease, and cancer, and pollute our air and water. They are the largest emitter of carbon pollution in the power sector, contributing to climate change that is already affecting our state and the world.

Most people have heard the phrase, "With great power comes great responsibility." That maxim is all the more relevant when the failure to live up to it belongs to a corporate powerhouse like DTE. As Michigan's largest utility, DTE Energy has one of the most coal-dependent energy portfolios in the country, getting nearly 75% of its energy from coal, while the national average is 37%. DTE has a strong financial interest in keeping Michigan dependent on coal.

It is among the nation's top three North American coal marketers and transporters, moving nearly 40 million tons of coal across the country in addition to the 21 million tons it burns.

At the same time, DTE hurts its ratepayers. DTE residential customers were hit harder with rising energy costs than any others in our region, with average monthly bills rising by 42% in the past five years. DTE is also proposing an expensive and risky \$20 billion new nuclear plant, Fermi 3, which is virtually guaranteed to raise rates even higher in the future, and hurt our economy even more.

DTE Energy clings to the past by operating outdated, expensive coal plants. Emissions from its Trenton Channel, River Rouge, St. Clair and Belle River plants collectively contribute to 267 deaths, 434 heart attacks, and 4,180 asthma attacks every single year — hurting Michigan's children, seniors and workers and holding back our future.

In March of 2013, the Sierra Club sued DTE in federal court for the more than 1,400 violations of the federal Clean Air Act from emissions at DTE's Belle River, River Rouge, St. Clair and Trenton Channel plants. These communities bear the impact of cumulative environmental pollution from hosting heavy industrial polluters like DTE. Each of the coal plants listed in the suit threatens the health and safety of Michigan families across the state, and the Sierra Club is working to hold DTE accountable for skirting their legal obligations and operating one of the nation's oldest coal fleets.

DTE is a bad neighbor in Southeast Michigan. The time for corporate responsibility is now — it is time for DTE to stop hurting Michiganders. Clean, renewable energy is here. It's viable, cheaper and something many other utilities in other states are embracing, allowing their communities to benefit with controlled energy costs, cleaner air, and booming clean energy industries. DTE can and must invest — significantly — in that same potential in Michigan.

### GET INVOLVED

To join our DTE campaign, contact Patrick Geans at 313-974-6547 or [patrick.geans@sierraclub.org](mailto:patrick.geans@sierraclub.org).



DTE's coal plants contribute to:

8,990 Asthma Attacks

916 Heart Attacks

572 Deaths

**EACH YEAR.**

TELL DTE TO STOP HURTING MICHIGAN FAMILIES.  
SIGN THE PETITION AT [sc.org/DTEhurts](http://sc.org/DTEhurts).

Sierra Club billboard in Southeast Michigan locations.



Toxic waters from the ash settling ponds of DTE Energy's Monroe power plant, the third largest coal-fired power plant in the western hemisphere.

## PROTECTING MICHIGAN WATERS FROM POWER PLANT WASTEWATER

by Brad van Guilder, Beyond Coal Campaign Organizing Representative

**S**team electric power plants are responsible for more than half of all toxic pollutant water discharges into waterways for all industrial categories regulated by the Clean Water Act. The US EPA is proposing new, stronger rules for this wastewater, which were last updated in 1982. If enacted, these rules will prevent more than 470 million pounds of toxic pollutants from going into our national waters and reduce water use by at least 50 billion gallons.

The rules will affect wastewaters used to clean equipment and transport wastes (primarily coal ash) from power plant pollution controls. These toxic wastewaters include some 65,000 pounds of lead and 3,000 pounds of mercury that impair the cognitive development of children and about 80,000 pounds of arsenic that increases cancer risks. As guardians of the Great Lakes, Michiganders understand the importance of this, and a coalition including the Sierra Club submitted well over 10,000 comments in support of the rule formally known as the Effluent Limitation Guidelines for Steam Electric Power Plants.

Several of DTE Energy's coal plants were featured in a recent report, *Closing the Floodgates* ([www.tinyurl.com/ClosingFlood](http://www.tinyurl.com/ClosingFlood)). The cover photo shows the coal ash settling ponds of the massive Monroe coal-fired power plant on the western shore of Lake Erie. In the foreground is the settling pond for the bottom ash and at left is the fly ash settling pond. Toxic pollution dissolved in the water overflows the ponds under normal operations into a channel that flows directly into Lake Erie.

## Outpouring of Public Support for Clean Energy at Governor's Regional Energy Forums

by Tiffany Hartung, State Lead  
Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer

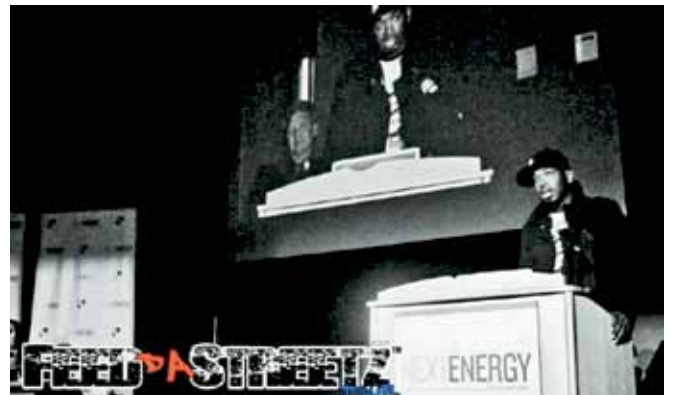
**I**n the spring of 2013, under the direction of Gov. Rick Snyder, the Michigan Public Service Commission and Michigan Energy Office held seven public energy forums around the state to take public input on Michigan's energy future. From Detroit to Marquette, more than 130 Sierra Club volunteers gave testimony and showed support for expanding renewable and energy efficiency standards. Another 1,500 comments were submitted online. Together with our allies we sent a strong message that Michigan supports clean energy and is ready to move forward.

John Rebers, Central Upper Peninsula Group Chair, testified at the Marquette forum, saying, "as we look at all types of energy used in the state we need to carefully measure the cost/benefits of each type we're using, and if we do that we need to consider the direct economic costs and the indirect costs. Coal power would include coal's costs of mercury in our fish."

Thom Reinke of Fowlerville testified in Detroit that Michigan is at a competitive disadvantage. Expanding Michigan's renewable energy standard to be equal or comparable to other states will "create jobs that cannot be outsourced — crane operators, mechanical, civil and electrical engineers, heavy equipment operators, building and safety officials, general labor, skilled labor, equipment service technicians, parts supply companies, distribution companies, trucking and logistics, mechanics, and maintenance personnel."

Gov. Snyder will put forward energy policy recommendations to the legislature in early 2014. To learn how you can get involved as a citizen lobbyist, contact Mike Berkowitz at [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org).

Douglas Myers of River Rouge discussed the health effects of DTE's coal-fired power plant on his community and his family and called for a clean energy future at the Detroit Energy Forum.



# Why Michigan Needs to Stop Fracking Now

by Rita Chapman, Beyond Natural Gas and Oil Campaign Coordinator

Earlier this year, the Sierra Club renewed its call for a statewide moratorium on fracking. There are too many questions about safety and not enough information. Unfortunately, the verbal assurances by the oil and natural gas industry and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) do little to allay concerns. The MDEQ doesn't conduct statistical analysis or study well drilling, construction, or production data, relying instead on observation and staff institutional memory.

Sierra Club learned that Encana Corporation plans to drill 500 new natural gas wells in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. They have already drilled 20 and "fracked" eight of them, with eight more permit applications pending.

Encana is here not just for natural gas, but because we have the water to frack their wells. Fracking entails blasting mil-



RTA CHAPMAN

Halliburton and Encana Corporation, along with many other oil and natural gas companies, have brought industrial hot zones to our rural landscapes.

lions of gallons of water laced with chemicals and sand thousands of feet down into a wellbore to break open methane-bearing rock so it flows up the well. Encana then leaves the fluids to "soak" for 60 days to increase productivity.

We don't know if we have enough water to support Encana's fracking plans. Moreover, the MDEQ believes our waste disposal capacity is limitless. We're not so sure. Regardless, the state is poised to go full steam ahead, assessing each well only as it's proposed, with no overall plan for managing the water or the waste.

Meanwhile, as we expend much of our precious water to extract methane up

north, in Jackson and Washtenaw counties oil well operators flare off the methane because "it's not economically viable to build a pipeline to capture the gas" that comes up with the oil. This makes no sense, yet MDEQ regulations allow it.

It doesn't have to be this way. Gov. Snyder can stop Michigan fracking now, and consciously design an energy policy that is strong on energy efficiency first and makes as much use as possible of wind and solar power. This will protect our environment and our health and protect us from climate change. It will also boost our economy, because producing clean energy produces jobs.

# Yucca Mountain on the Great Lakes: A Nuclear Update

by Ed McArdle,  
Chapter Conservation Chair

Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) proposal for a deep underground nuclear repository at the Bruce Power nuclear complex is less than a mile from Lake Huron. Bruce Power, a private operator, claims it's the world's largest nuclear station with eight operating reactors. The repository would take all of Ontario's low-level and intermediate waste and entomb it for 100,000 years, with the possibility of high-level and decommissioning wastes in the future.

OPG claims most waste will be low level such as rags, mops and protective clothing, but intermediate wastes include



J.P. MOCZULSKI/CANADIAN PRESS

The Bruce Power Plant is surrounded on three sides by Lake Huron and is upstream from our water intake.

virtually all other reactor wastes except fuel rods. Even low and intermediate categories are dangerous, as they contain or emit the same isotopes as high-level wastes.

This is Canada's decision, but thanks go to State Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood for a show of support by passing SR 58 with unanimous consent last spring. State Rep. Sarah Roberts introduced an even stronger resolution in the House, but no action was taken. Macomb, Wayne, and St. Clair Counties and Lynn Township have also passed resolutions. In

October, Hopgood and Roberts spoke at the Canadian public hearings along with Sierra members and allied groups.

A final decision by the Canadian government is expected by February 2014.

## TAKE ACTION

Contact your state and federal elected officials!  
Take action at [www.stopthenucleardump.com](http://www.stopthenucleardump.com).

## Sierra Club LOVES the Great Lakes!

by Melissa Damaschke, Great Lakes Program Director

For nearly 40 years through its Great Lakes Program, Sierra Club has applied its particular strengths in grassroots organizing, lobbying, advocacy and, when needed, litigation to address the most pressing issues facing the Great Lakes ecosystem and the region's communities. Our current program priorities are focused on the intersection of Great Lakes protection and climate change mitigation/adaptation, including:

- Advancing the use of green infrastructure techniques in places such as Detroit to help alleviate flooding associated with climate change-induced severe weather events and reduce pol-



[www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes](http://www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes)



luted runoff/sewage overflows into the Great Lakes.

- Ensuring implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We're a founding member of the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition and work collaboratively to build support for restoration.
- Working collaboratively with Alliance for the Great Lakes, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council and others to develop a large-scale campaign to win permanent protections from invasive species including hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes from other ecosystems and ballast water controls.

Learn more and volunteer at [www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes](http://www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes). Follow us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/ilovegreatlakes](http://www.facebook.com/ilovegreatlakes) and Twitter, @SC\_Great\_Lakes.

### CONGRATULATIONS, RHONDA ANDERSON!

Sierra Club Environmental Justice Organizer Rhonda Anderson received the Virginia Ferguson Award at the 2013 Sierra Club Employee Awards last May for her "consistent and exemplary service" working in the most polluted zip code of Michigan for the last 12 years.

In the 48217 neighborhood of Detroit, River Rouge and Ecorse, Rhonda has assisted communities in re-imagining themselves even while surrounded by some of Michigan's most polluting industries, including an aging coal-fired power plant and the state's only oil refinery, which receives Canadian oil sands through the Enbridge pipeline.

Rhonda is helping create a new regional vision not reliant on heavy industry and polluting facilities but based on new ideas of clean energy, good jobs and vibrant neighborhoods. To this end, Rhonda and lead environmental justice volunteer, Delores Leonard, recently worked with allies on the Detroit Digital Justice Project to provide internet and bring educational and career opportunities to a bypassed community.

Sierra Club Environmental Justice Organizer Rhonda Anderson spoke during a march on Detroit Renewable Power, the world's largest solid waste incinerator, to demand its closure. The 2010 event in front of the Detroit Main Library followed the U.S. Social Forum and included environmental justice advocates from across the U.S., the Teamsters Union, and neighborhood residents.



LANGELLE/GJEP

## JOIN THE FIGHT

To help stop these legislative attacks on the environment and fight for responsible policies, go to [action.sierraclub.org/milegactivists](http://action.sierraclub.org/milegactivists) to learn more.

## State Legislative Update: Lawmakers Attack Environment, Sierra Club Fights Back

by Mike Berkowitz, Chapter Political and Legislative Director

So far in 2013, our state legislature has put a great deal of effort into attacking the laws that protect our environment. The Michigan Chapter's all-volunteer Legislative Committee has spent much of its time tracking bad bills impacting the issues we care about and stopping them from progressing through the Michigan legislature. We've seen over 60 such bills, and that number continues to grow. Here is a short sample of some of the terrible ideas proposed in the Michigan legislature this session:

**SB 163:** This bill (passed and signed into law) overhauls Michigan's wetlands program by reducing protections. It weakens wetland recovery requirements, changes which wetlands are regulated, and creates permit delays. On top of that, legal experts believe it may violate the federal Clean Water Act!

**SB 78:** Popularly nicknamed the "Anti-Science Bill," this would ban the Department of Natural Resources from considering "biodiversity" when managing state forest lands, thus doing away with an important scientific indicator for ecological health. The legislation would hurt our state's wildlife and natural resources, diminish the value of Michigan public lands, and turn back Michigan several generations by ignoring current science.

**HB 4637:** This bill weakens legislation we helped pass in 2012 establishing a Regional Transit Authority to support public transportation among Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw Counties. HB 4637 allows a county not to participate and undermines the law's intent to better connect the

region while reducing automobile emissions that contribute to harmful respiratory health problems.

**SB 266:** This dilutes the state's ballast water standards, which are important for keeping invasive species out of the Great Lakes. Michigan's current standards are some of the strongest in the region, protecting a recreational boating and fishing industry worth more than \$7 billion. This bill would make the Great Lakes more susceptible to invasive species like the zebra mussel, Asian carp and sea lamprey.

**SB 288:** In 2012, a law passed that made Grey Wolves a game species for hunting purposes. In response, a group of concerned citizens ran a successful petition drive to put a referendum to repeal the law on the 2014 Michigan ballot, much like what was done by opponents of the 2006 dove hunting law. However, SB 288 overrides whatever decision voters make on that issue, directly opposing the will of the people. SB 288 has passed both chambers and was signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

To counter these negative attacks on the environment and be proactive, we've been on the offensive in meetings with lawmakers all over the state and two Lobby Days this year. Over 160 people came to Lansing for our spring and fall lobby days to push their legislators to support two crucial priorities: to "press pause" and establish safeguards on fracking, and to increase our state's energy efficiency standard.

### HOW TO DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB'S PAC

- 1) 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 the following address: Michigan Sierra PAC  
109 E. Grand River Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48906



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Corporate checks are not permitted. Contributions to Michigan Sierra PAC are not tax-deductible.**





Activists Laurie Tata, Denny Crispell, Andy Everman and Bob Simpson at the Sierra Club's Political Fundraiser last July. The fundraiser was a wild success, with over 70 people attending and almost \$8,000 raised.

## Statewide Political Committee Gearing Up for 2014 Elections

by Richard Morley Barron, Political Committee Chair

Your Michigan Sierra Club Political Committee is already preparing for the fast approaching and vital 2014 election. The committee works hard to find, endorse, and elect pro-environment candidates at the local, state and federal level in Michigan.

We will be working on both the August primary and November general elections in 2014, so keep an eye out for our voting recommendations next year. In the meantime, there are things you can do now to help assure environmentally favorable results in those elections:

**1 MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.** Go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) to see if you are already registered. If you are, you're set to vote in 2014! If not, use the website to register. Remember that you need to re-register every time you move. And don't forget — **you'll need a picture ID to vote** next year, so get one now if you don't already have one!

**2 LEARN WHO YOUR LOCAL, COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES ARE.** Contact them by website, e-mail, phone, letter or a visit to their office and tell them you are a Sierra Club member in their

district who is deeply devoted to protecting our environment. If they have demonstrated a commitment to defending our natural resources, thank them and offer to help them get elected or reelected. If not, check out their opponent.

**3 INFORM YOURSELF ABOUT THE MANY SERIOUS THREATS TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.** Start by checking out the Chapter website at [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org).

**4 CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN THE CHAPTER POLITICAL PROGRAM IN 2014.** Do you want to help get environmentally friendly legislators elected? If yes, go to [www.action.sierraclub.org/milegactivists](http://www.action.sierraclub.org/milegactivists) to find out how you can help and sign up to get involved.

**5 CONSIDER HELPING FUNDRAISE FOR OUR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE.** Our committee does many different things to help pro-environment candidates get elected, such as getting volunteers for and donating money to their campaigns, and mailing endorsements to our members in their districts. In order to support activities like these, we need money. If you are willing to stand up to polluters by donating or by helping us raise

### MEMBERS OF THE 2013-2014 MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB POLITICAL COMMITTEE

**Richard Barron, Flushing**  
*Chair*

**James D'Amour, Ann Arbor**  
*Vice Chair*

**Gwen Nystuen, Ann Arbor**  
*Treasurer*

**Craig Ressler, Caledonia**

**Laurie Tata, Clio**

**Ken Rosenman, Okemos**

**Jack Minore, Flint**

**Dave Errickson, Lansing**

**Robert Gordon, Ann Arbor**

**Sue Kelly, Milford**

**Ed McArdle, Melvindale**

**Dave Richards, Royal Oak**

**Tommy Turner, Detroit**

**Julie Griess, Whitmore Lake**

**Pat Egan, Brimley**

**John Rebers, Marquette**

**Charles Stefanac, Kalamazoo**

**Jean Gramlich, Fenton**

**Mike Berkowitz, Lansing**  
*Staff Political Director*

**Alaina Pemberton, Lansing**  
*Compliance Officer and  
Fundraising Consultant*

money, please email our political director, Mike Berkowitz, at [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org). If we do not fight back, candidates funded by and under the influence of polluters will get elected.

# Great Forests, Wild Places

## Mascoma Teetering on the Brink?

by Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

As many members know, the Michigan Chapter with leadership from our Three Lakes Group has spent years opposing the Frontier Energy project, located near Kinross in the eastern Upper Peninsula. The project, which would implement a process invented by the Mascoma Corporation of Massachusetts, would use bioengineered bacteria to turn massive amounts of green wood into a miniscule portion of Michigan's gasoline usage.

Now, it appears this ill-conceived project is in trouble on multiple fronts.

Sierra Club has challenged an \$80 million federal Department of Energy grant to the project. The initial court decision was not in our favor, but we are appealing from a very strong position. Several recent developments have cast doubt on the project's viability.

The project had been granted a reported \$15 million in tax abatements by Chippewa County, where the project is located. These tax abatements were contingent on a number of factors. One of these was a deadline to begin construction by a certain date. Reportedly, Frontier has missed that construction deadline, thereby forfeiting the tax abatements.

The federal grant, if awarded, would have funded only a portion of the \$220 million project. Private financing will be required for the completion of the project. Last year, Valero, the nation's largest oil refinery company, announced an investment of enough to complete the project, along with a commitment to purchase the entire output of the plant.

In a 2012 filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mascoma indicated that the funding from Valero was essential to the completion of the project. "Our definitive agreements with Valero are critical to the success of our hardwood CBP business and our ability to achieve and maintain profitability," according to the document.

However, on Aug. 26, *Midwestern Energy News* reported that Valero had severed all ties with the project. According to the report, Valero spokesman Bill Day confirmed in an email that the company "is no longer involved in the Mascoma cellulosic ethanol project." Thus, private funding and a guaranteed market appear to have disappeared.

Between loss of private investment, loss of an assured market, loss of tax abatements, and a challenge to federal funding, this project appears to be creaking towards collapse. If so, good riddance.

The project has reportedly received \$73 million in funding from the state and federal governments. In 2011, the company admitted that 93% of its revenue was from government sources. If this project is such a good idea, why are private funders not

Between loss of private investment, loss of an assured market, loss of tax abatements, and a challenge to federal funding, this project appears to be creaking towards collapse.

flocking to invest?

With \$73 million of taxpayer dollars already spent on this boondoggle, here's hoping these developments signal the end and that we throw no more good money after bad.

Marvin Roberson and his dog, Ruger.



### LEARN MORE

For more information, contact Marvin Roberson at [marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org](mailto:marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org).

### SUPPORT MARVIN'S WORK

If you want to support Marvin's work with the Sierra Club, contact Chapter Development Director Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org).

## Sierra Club's Secret Weapon: Chapter Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Assistant Director

When Savoy Energy in Traverse City abandoned its nine-year effort to drill in an old growth area of Huron-Manistee National Forest next to the Mason Tract along the Au Sable River a year ago, Sierra Club had more than one reason to rejoice.

For the first time in nearly a decade, a rare, truly wild stretch of the state's premier trout stream was free from the threat of oil and gas drilling.

And, for the umpteenth time, Chapter Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson had played a quiet but integral part in the protection of a valued natural resource in Michigan. He did what he's been doing for 20 years—working behind the scenes and with other organizations and volunteers, using his knowledge of the issues and how federal and state agencies work for the benefit of the environment.

"Marvin is our secret weapon—he works quietly but packs a lot of punch," says Anne Woiwode, Chapter director. "He combines insight and strategic policy analysis with his scientific training to bring an extraordinarily effective set of knowledge and skills to his work."

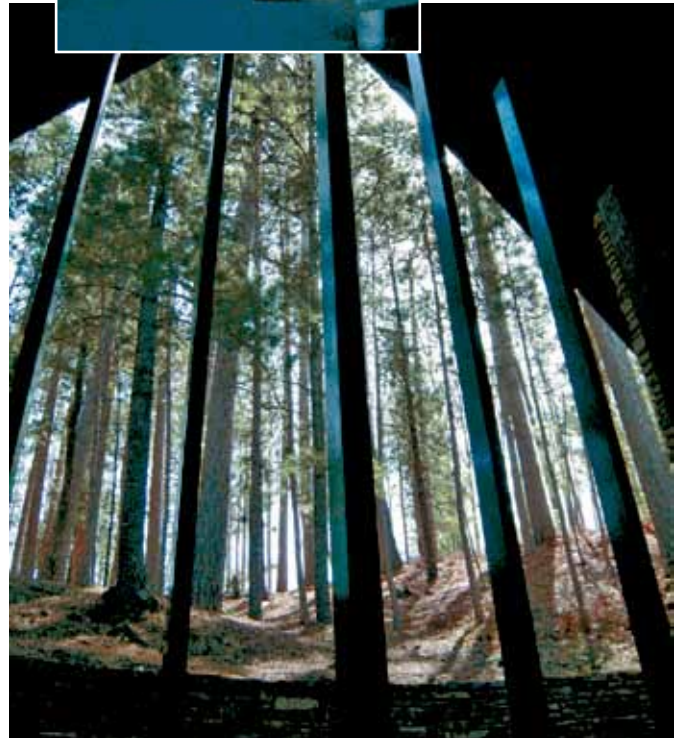
Marvin has played a leading role in developing strong policies for protection of the wolf and the strongest state law and regulations on sulfide mining in the country. He regularly crisscrosses the state to visit lands involved in proposed state forest plans and the sites of proposed oil and gas drilling projects in order to submit informed comments and recommendations to agencies. He has gained respect from agency staff, sportsmen's groups, tribal representatives and environmental colleagues because of his skill, fairness and the attention to detail he brings to these issues.

In the case of the Mason Tract, Marvin received invaluable help from Nancy Shiffler, a long-time Sierra Club member and volunteer who first noticed that Savoy Energy's proposed well was on national forest land designated as old growth in 1986, and adjacent to the Mason Tract. She alerted Marvin, who began the slow, detailed process of tracking the project to determine if correct application approval procedures to the US Forest Service (USFS) were followed.

They weren't, so Sierra Club, with the Anglers of the Au Sable, actively fought the proposal, using tactics that included a successful lawsuit against the Huron-Manistee National Forest after the USFS failed to adequately assess all viable alternatives to the proposed well-pad site. Sierra Club submitted a



The Mason Tract was designated "Forever Wild" by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources 50 years ago and boasts spectacular fishing, hunting, canoeing, cross-country skiing and hiking. The Savoy Energy drilling pad would have been located near the Mason Chapel (pictured), an open-air, non-denominational space beloved by fisherman and other river users.



suggestion for another location that would have kept the Mason Tract safe from the impacts of drilling, but it was rejected. Ultimately, a federal judge agreed with Sierra Club and the Anglers and remanded the case to the USFS, requiring a full environmental impact assessment be conducted. The agency was completing this year-long process when Savoy withdrew the project.

The Mason Tract victory represents a powerful mix—a uniquely knowledgeable staffer working with a dedicated (and sharp-eyed) volunteer in teamwork with another environmental organization committed to fighting an important battle for the long term. It demonstrates why Sierra Club Michigan Chapter has remained an effective environmental advocate for nearly five decades.

## Polluting Factory Farms “Milk the System,” Thrive on Taxpayer Dime

LESS=MORE RELEASES UPDATE TO ITS FEBRUARY REPORT ON FACTORY FARM POLLUTION AND SUBSIDIES

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Assistant Director

On Sep. 12, Sierra Club and its partners in the Less=More Coalition unveiled research that shows factory farms in mid-Michigan are “milking the system,” receiving taxpayer-funded subsidies even when violating environmental laws and unfairly competing against sustainable livestock operations. The research updated the coalition’s February report, *Restoring the Balance to Michigan’s Farming Landscape*, that explored the relationship between subsidies and factory farm pollution in Michigan.

The coalition updated *Restoring the Balance* with an in-depth case study examining the Mibelloon Dairy, LLC, a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO), and four affiliated businesses in Gratiot and Midland Counties. From 2001 to 2012, they received \$744,941 in federal farm subsidies and tax-subsidized loans of \$5,000,000. During that same time period, Mibelloon Dairy, LLC, was cited by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for environmental violations in 2004, and in a 2008 administrative consent order with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), it was assessed fines and fees of \$45,344 related to five separate incidents. Incidents for which Mibelloon Dairy, LLC, was cited included discharge of wastes into county drains, improper storage of wastes and stockpiling of wastes near a road.

“The Mibelloon operations are another example of the unfair advantage our tax dollars give to CAFOs,” said Anne Woiwode, director of the Michigan Sierra Club. “Michigan’s sustainable livestock producers shouldn’t have to compete against massive animal factories like these that receive hundreds of thousands of

dollars in taxpayer subsidies and subsidized loans, even while polluting water in violation of the law.”

Less=More, a coalition of farmers, food safety, environmental and animal welfare organizations, is calling on federal and state officials, in particular the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Michigan State Conservationist, to fix the unfair bias in farming subsidies toward CAFOs.

“We released our report in February, and nothing has changed, especially in Gratiot and Midland Counties, home to 24 CAFOs,” said Lynn Henning, Michigan Chapter CAFO Water Sentinel. “Together, factory farms in these two counties raked in \$11,243,026 in subsidies from 1995-2012.”

Since 1996, 14 of these Gratiot and Midland County facilities have been cited for environmental violations, includ-

ing the Mibelloon Dairy discussed above. Yet from 1995 to 2011, owners and operators of these facilities in violation received \$4,793,488 in taxpayer-funded subsidies.

“A single factory farm generates millions of gallons of waste annually, the equivalent of 16,000 people, but unlike a city with as many residents, these facilities aren’t required to treat the waste,” said Tia Lebherz, Michigan organizer for Food & Water Watch, a Less=More Coalition member. “This is not your garden-variety animal manure — factory farm waste contains antibiotics, chemicals, pathogens, and other contaminants. This waste inevitably runs off into local rivers and streams, polluting our water. Taxpayer dollars should not be used to prop up these polluting factory farms.”

*Restoring the Balance* explores how federal tax dollars create an uneven playing field for sustainable livestock operations in Michigan by overwhelmingly favoring grants of subsidies to polluting CAFOs. In particular, it examines how one Farm Bill program, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), encourages

*continued on page 13*

Less=More released an update to its *Restoring the Balance to Michigan’s Farming Landscape* report on Sep. 12 in a press conference at the public library in Alma. Two dozen area residents who are experiencing the impacts of large-scale industrial animal factories on their quality of life joined reporters at the event.



## TELL GARRY LEE TO TAKE THE CRAP OUT OF FARM SUBSIDIES!

Nearly 4,000 concerned consumers have signed petitions and postcards to Garry Lee, the Michigan State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to tell him they want their tax dollars to support sustainable agriculture, not polluting factory farms. Lee, working with the State Technical Committee, has the power to reappropriate how farm subsidies are distributed in Michigan, and right now, they heavily favor massive animal factories that cram thousands of animals into warehouses and pollute our water and air.

Thanks to those of you who have contacted Mr. Lee already. **If you haven't, take time to sign the petition, and share it with your friends and neighbors today!** [www.tinyurl.com/CAFOpetition](http://www.tinyurl.com/CAFOpetition)



COURTESY OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Female breeding pigs on a factory farm are confined to tiny spaces, unable to turn around for their entire lives.

*continued from page 12*

unsustainable agricultural practices that threaten public health and the environment, while putting Michigan's independent and local producers at a severe competitive disadvantage.

The report highlights opportunities to reverse this inequity through NRCS Michigan State Conservationist Garry Lee's authority to change priorities set for EQIP in Michigan. It also recommends measures of accountability in the application process to ensure funds are awarded

to environmentally responsible farmers. The Less=More Coalition presented the report and its concerns and recommendations to Lee on Feb. 14.

"We call upon Mr. Lee once again to take action on our recommendations," said Woiwode. "It's time to take tax-funded profit away from polluting factory farms, and level the playing field for sustainable farmers in Michigan."

**To read *Restoring the Balance* and the update to the report, visit [www.tinyurl.com/L-Mreport](http://www.tinyurl.com/L-Mreport).**

Lynn Henning and Joe Maxwell led an eye-opening driving tour of six factory farms in Gratiot and Midland Counties. Massive silage "bunkers" where cut corn for animals is stored and compacted can leak, contaminating waterways with fermented silage leachate.



## BECOME A VOLUNTEER WATER MONITOR!

**We need folks who can give a bit of time each month to take water samples at locations impacted by factory farm run-off. Contact [cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org](mailto:cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org) for details on our next webinar.**



## LESS=MORE KEEPS GROWING!

### JOIN THE COALITION

An ever-expanding list of folks, farmers and groups have signed on to our coalition to voice support for sustainable agriculture and ending subsidies to polluting factory farms.

**To add your name, visit [www.tinyurl.com/LessisMoreCoalition](http://www.tinyurl.com/LessisMoreCoalition).**

### DONATE ONLINE

Would you like to support the important work the Less=More Coalition is doing to protect the quality of our water, land, air and food? If so, do it online today! **Visit [www.tinyurl.com/l-mdonate](http://www.tinyurl.com/l-mdonate).**

# Chapter Elections

## VOTE FOR MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The five Michigan Chapter Sierra Club members listed on these two pages are running for five at-large spots on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. ExCom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country. Please note that due to space constraints, we asked the candidates to limit their statements to 100 words or less. Two lines on the ballot are provided for write-in candidates as well.

**Vote for no more than five candidates.** 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 at <http://tinyurl.com/VoteMichChapter>. The paper ballot is on page 15. **Ballots must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by Dec. 1, 2013 (online voting deadline is the same).**

### Richard Morley Barron

I am a mediator and retired attorney interested in energy policy and global warming. I serve on the Chapter Executive Committee and am the Chair of the Chapter's Legal and Political Committees as well as participating for several years as a lead lobbyist for Lobby Days. I believe that atmospheric and water pollution pose a huge and imminent threat to our state and planet. I believe that the mobilization of the Sierra Club is absolutely necessary to prevent our species from threatening its own sustainability.



### Craig Brainard

Elected Executive Committee member in 2011. Former Chair of WMG, now Conservation Chair for SWMG. Serve on Beyond Natural Gas Campaign. Operate an online journal which collects and circulates news reports on fracking, pipelines and clean energy to 50 subscribers. Have organized or taken part in 17 environmental movie screenings in the last 15 months. Creating a mobile road show for fracking which can travel the state to educate the public, activists and legislators. Coordinated with Green Groups statewide to create events for Global Frackdown in October. I would very much like to continue the work I've begun as an Ex-Com member.



### Dietra Covington-Porter

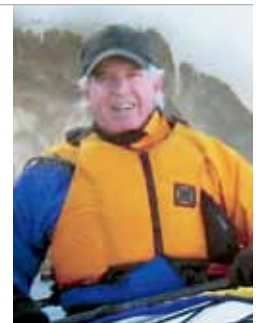
At an early age, I recognized that many individuals were developing respiratory ailments/cancer in the area where I live in Southeastern Michigan. Thanks to a Sierra Club environmental justice tour and three years of collaboration, I have been enlightened on the link between oil/coal refineries and my community's health. As a sustainability educator and community activist, it is my desire to serve on the Executive Committee to help ensure that communities around the state are educated and made aware of their right to clean air, water and land; our planet depends on it.



### Pat Egan

For a long time I've been encouraged by the honesty, heart and thought that Sierra Club members give to a number of projects protecting Michigan and its communities. In the U.P. the fight is the forests and the worlds within our forests. That effort is never over. All our efforts start in the neighborhood, but push out, to Lansing, the Great Lakes, Washington.

I have been a newspaper writer and finally, publisher. I work with a forestry-based manufacturer and have learned that responsible stewardship works. I truly appreciate being a part of this giving organization.



## Nancy Shiffler

I chair the Huron Valley Group and am on the Chapter ExCom. I lead outings and work on various conservation issues. My most recent focus has been hydrofracking. I co-chair the Chapter's Beyond Natural Gas and Oil committee and serve on the national Club's Natural Gas Leadership Team.



In today's political and economic climate we have to fight just to get our voices heard. We must marshal our grassroots volunteer base and excellent staff to protect the Great Lakes resources we all value. As an ExCom member, I'll work to implement the strategic and financial planning needed to support these efforts.

### NEW! ONLINE VOTING OPTION FOR CHAPTER EXCOM ELECTIONS

At its last meeting, the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) voted to authorize the creation of an online voting option to make it easier for you to cast your vote in our annual elections.

If you are a Sierra Club member, just visit this link to make your selections of the candidates on the ballot:

[www.tinyurl.com/VoteMichChapter](http://www.tinyurl.com/VoteMichChapter)

### KEEP UP WITH SIERRA CLUB ONLINE

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

 TWITTER: [@michigansierra](https://twitter.com/michigansierra)

 FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/SierraClubMichigan](https://facebook.com/SierraClubMichigan)



### SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

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

<b>RICHARD MORLEY BARRON</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CRAIG BRAINARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DIETRA COVINGTON-PORTER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PAT EGAN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NANCY SHIFFLER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Clip out and mail your ballot to:

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

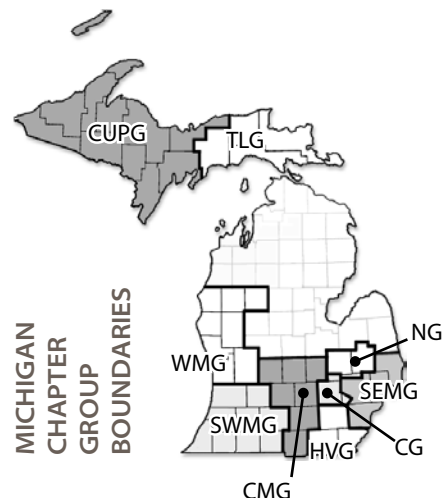
**Write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of your envelope to validate your ballot** (membership number is above address on the back cover of newsletter).

**Your ballot must be received on or before December 1, 2013.**

# 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 nine 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!

**VISIT ONLINE AT [MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/GROUPS](http://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/GROUPS)**



## Central Michigan Group / CMG

**SERVING:** Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee Counties

**MEETS:** in Lansing area and Jackson

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/cmig](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/cmig)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Club-Central-Michigan-Group](https://facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Club-Central-Michigan-Group)

**CHAIR:** Dave Errickson, 517-648-9115 or [dcenur@yahoo.com](mailto:dcenur@yahoo.com)

**VICE CHAIR:** Paul Kindel, 517-332-3091 or [kindel@msu.edu](mailto:kindel@msu.edu)

## Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

**SERVING:** Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties

**MEETS:** in Marquette

**GROUP & OUTINGS CHAIR:** John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or [jrebers@gmail.com](mailto:jrebers@gmail.com)

## Crossroads Group / CG

**SERVING:** Livingston County and western Oakland County

**MEETS:** at homes of group leaders in Livingston County

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/Crossroads.Group.Sierra.Club](https://facebook.com/Crossroads.Group.Sierra.Club)

**CHAIR:** Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or [lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org)

## Huron Valley Group / HVG

**SERVING:** Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe Counties

**MEETS:** in Ann Arbor

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/SierraClubHuronValleyGroup](https://facebook.com/SierraClubHuronValleyGroup)

**EMAIL:** [HVGSierraClub@gmail.com](mailto:HVGSierraClub@gmail.com)

**CHAIR:** Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net)

**VICE CHAIR:** James D'Amour, [hvg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:hvg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org)

## Nepessing Group / NG

**SERVING:** Genesee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland County

**MEETS:** in Flint

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/sierraclubnepessing](https://facebook.com/sierraclubnepessing)

**CHAIR:** Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038 or [thaley01@att.net](mailto:thaley01@att.net)

## Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

**SERVING:** St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties

**MEETS:** at Birmingham Unitarian Church

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/ClubSEMG](https://facebook.com/ClubSEMG)

**CHAIR:** Julie Ann Wang, 248-646-5650, [jawang1@comcast.net](mailto:jawang1@comcast.net)

## Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

**SERVING:** Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry Counties

**MEETS:** in Kalamazoo

**SWMG CONTACTS:** William Strong, [williamstrong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:williamstrong@sbcglobal.net) and Joe Ziolkowski, [zzjoes@aol.com](mailto:zzjoes@aol.com)

## Three Lakes Group / TLG

**SERVING:** Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft Counties

**MEETS:** in Sault Ste. Marie

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/ThreeLakesGroupOfSierraClub](https://facebook.com/ThreeLakesGroupOfSierraClub)

**CHAIR:** Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or [blanchardrd@yahoo.com](mailto:blanchardrd@yahoo.com)

## West Michigan Group / WMG

**SERVING:** Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mason, Lake, and Osceola Counties

**MEETS:** in Grand Rapids

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan)

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/SierraClubWestMIGroup](https://facebook.com/SierraClubWestMIGroup)

**ACTING CHAIR:** Craig Brainard, 269.954.8871, [boomerbob1@gmail.com](mailto:boomerbob1@gmail.com)

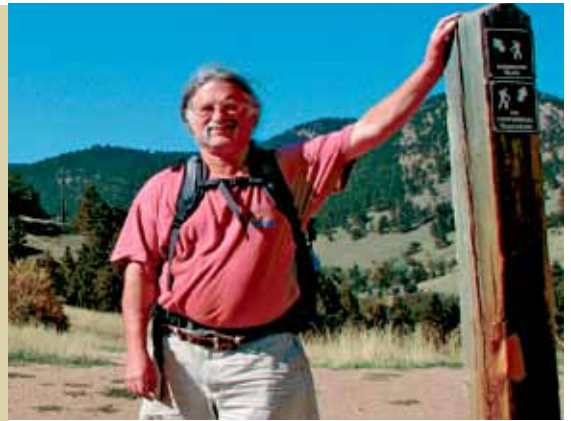


## CHAPTER GROUP UPDATE

### NEW MOMENTUM AROUND THE STATE

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Assistant Director

**M**ichigan Chapter Groups often serve as the first exposure folks have to Sierra Club. Through Group outings and programs, people get opportunities to explore nature, learn about the issues and meet others interested in protecting the environment. We have nine Groups — two in the UP and seven in the lower peninsula — featuring hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly for change through public education, citizen lobbying and other efforts, but there's room to grow. Staff has been working with Chapter leaders, including Outings Chair Lorne Beatty and Membership Chair Carol Graham, to lay the groundwork for new Groups and strengthen existing ones.



Ed Steinman, Sierra Club's tech guru and savior, equally enjoys cyberspace and the real world (pictured here in Boulder, Colorado).



KATHRYN LOVINGS

**TRAVERSE CITY:** A growing number of residents meet the third Wednesday of each month to discuss local issues and plan outings and programs. Fracking is a hot topic, but folks also get out and enjoy nature, as they did on this July hike at Sand Lake Quiet Area. Newcomers and new ideas are welcome! **Contact Sally Barber at [barber.sally@gmail.com](mailto:barber.sally@gmail.com).** Pictured: Chapter Outings Chair Lorne Beatty, Lisa Angell, Allan Kelly and Ruth and Rick Lenz.

#### SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN:

The SWMG has been around for years, so Chapter staff and volunteer leaders were happy to lend a hand to help revitalize it, starting with a screening of *The Sky is Pink* that attracted 150 people last December, and continuing with outings and meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Members also attended an Aug. 13 rally at the Kalamazoo office of U.S. Rep. Fred Upton to push for sustainable energy. **Contact [williamstrong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:williamstrong@sbcglobal.net) or [zzjoes@aol.com](mailto:zzjoes@aol.com).**



CHARLES STEFANAC



Lorne Beatty, Chapter Outings Chair (and CMU graduate). **To learn more, contact Jody at [family@seeling.org](mailto:family@seeling.org).**

**MID-MICHIGAN:** We held our first organizing meeting at Central Michigan University on Sep. 12 in conjunction with a presentation on factory farming presented by the Less=More Coalition (see pp. 12 & 13). Local volunteer Jody Seeling (pictured center) helped organize and publicize the event. Pictured (right) helping Jody is

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### Ed Steinman Weaves the Web for Sierra Club

by Ellen Waara, Volunteer, Nepessing Group

**T**he Michigan Chapter website weaves an illuminating and inspiring story week by week. It spins a connective web, linking individual filaments of light that shine statewide.

“It disturbs me when people have little regard for the environment. You have to step lightly if you care about nature,” reflects Ed Steinman, a Sierra Club member for nearly 30 years who volunteers over 120 hours monthly as the Chapter's webmaster. “The Michigan Chapter is probably the most effective in the country. It's great to work with it and its Groups.”

In addition to his Chapter website work, Ed is a Huron Valley Group officer, membership chair and fundraiser, and Chapter Executive Committee member. “Ed is our go-to guy for tech questions,” says Chapter Assistant Director Gail Philbin. “He's a wonderful person. If I could, I'd buy him a lifetime supply of potato chips, his favorite treat — but his wife, Rita, would kill me.”

Ed's dream is that everyone realizes environmental issues are serious. “My vision is a sustainable world where reason and education have more force than greed, power and fear. People have to realize that they depend on the earth to live and can't plunder its resources without harming themselves,” he explains. “The website is public education. It gets thousands of hits. If people know the problems, they are more likely to do something about them.”

“If you don't have safe water and healthy food you cannot survive. People also depend on nature for emotional health. The flora, wildlife, water and air are precious and essential.”

# Group Info & Outings

**SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS ARE FOR EVERYONE!** Michigan Chapter and Group volunteers lead a variety of outings throughout the year, so there's sure to be one that suits you. The Michigan Chapter website has a comprehensive online calendar with current and upcoming outings, programs and events listed for each Group at [www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar). Here's a sampling of outings led by Group and Chapter leaders.

**E**very outing — whether it's a stroll in the park or a week-long backpacking adventure on Isle Royale — starts at the trail head, and some include fees to cover expenses. Sierra Club outing participants are required to sign the standard liability waiver found on our website, or call us at 415-977-5528 for a print version. **Please confirm outing information in advance because time and location can change!**

## Outdoor Adventures

**Sun, Nov 17, 2pm (NP): Dog-Friendly Hike at Linden County Park.** Park is located south of Linden and north of Owen Road. Meet at Clover Beach Parking Lot, 15349 S. Linden, Linden. Will walk along paved trails to the beach and then cross the street to paved trails through the county park. Walk encompasses both woodland and open field. Dogs welcome. Contact Sue Lossing, 810-735-6303.

**Sat, Nov 23, 11am-1pm (CMG): Hike along the Grand River at Burchfield Park.** Meet at Burchfield Park, 881 Grovensburg Rd., Holt, for a 4.3 mile loop hike through 3 parks along the Grand River. A pretty hike featuring rivers and fields in the fall. Be prepared for cold weather and wet feet. Contact [dcenur@yahoo.com](mailto:dcenur@yahoo.com), 517-648-9115.

**Sat, Jan 18, 5pm (CG): Annual Owl Walk Outing.** Home of Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves, 6277 Cowell Rd., Brighton. Begins with a potluck dinner, drinks and an introduction to owls and owl calls. At about 7:00, we will take a short walk into Brighton Recreation Area to call for screech owls and great horned owls, both of which will be nesting. Bring a flashlight, a dish to share, something to drink and warm clothes. Your hosts will provide cider, juice, sparkling water, books about owls and the warmth of a wood fire. Contact Lee and Roberta, 810-231-9045 or [lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org).



John Wilson, Outings Chair for the Crossroads Group (pictured left), has been involved with Sierra Club outings for nearly 30 years, so it's little surprise he met his wife, Gina, on a backpacking trip at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore 22 years ago. He loves to winter camp and ice climb; but for CG, he plans hikes, bike rides and river trips by canoe or kayak and hopes to add overnight trips, such as small backpack trips or overnight canoe/kayak trips. For details on CG Outings, contact John at 734-954-0429 or [john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org).

**Sun, Feb 16, Noon (CG): Winter Paddle Outing.** Huron River below the Kent Lake Dam, Island Lake State Recreation Area. Join us for this popular annual outing. Free except for State Park entry fee. All welcome. Dress appropriately: life vests required, no cotton allowed, clothing and outerwear must be adequate and will be subject to inspection. Full change of clothes in dry bag required. No children or pets. Come for refreshments or be a shuttle bunny if not paddling. Contact John Wilson, 734-954-0429 or [john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org).

## Indoor Adventures

**Mon, Nov 11, 6:30-8:30pm (CMG): Michigan's HerpAtlas: turtles, snakes, amphibians and salamanders.** Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch, 244 W. Michigan Ave, Jackson. Dave Mifsud, founder of Michigan's HerpAtlas, will discuss the many varied species of reptiles and amphibians found in Michigan. Contact [mark-muhich0@gmail.com](mailto:mark-muhich0@gmail.com) or 517-787-2476.

**Tue, Nov 19, 7:30-9:30pm (HVG): Isle Royale: Lake Superior Protects a National Treasure.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd,

Ann Arbor. Vic Foerster, arborist and author of "*Naked in the Stream, Isle Royale Stories*," presents his "peculiar insights" on Isle Royale National Park from over 30 years of visits to the archipelago. Both protected and battered by Lake Superior, the remoteness of Isle Royale, with its isolated moose population and wolf pack, provide a wilderness preservation story that is a fascinating blend of people, wildlife and object lessons. Free to all. Refreshments provided. Contact [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com) or 734-665-0248.

## Inner City Outings

**Inner City Outings (ICO) is a Sierra Club community program for outreach to youth.** ICO provides opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world for those who wouldn't otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with local organizations to plan outings and serve as event leaders to share their love of the natural world.

**ICO programs depend on help and donations from folks like you.** Our Southeast Michigan ICO needs compasses and binoculars, and the newly formed Greater Lansing ICO could use anything



INTERN PROFILE

**JOSHUA DZIEWIATKOWSKI CONNECTS YOUTH TO NATURE WITH LANSING ICO**

Joshua Dziewiatkowski joined the Chapter as an intern in July through The Mission Continues, a non-profit that awards community service fellowships to post-9/11 veterans.

Josh (shown here with his son, Kaleb) has already made a difference in his short time with Sierra Club. He's taken his interest in getting young people out in nature and focused that energy to help build connections with youth through our Inner City Outings (ICO) program. In particular, he helped form a new ICO group in the greater Lansing area, which kicked off with a camp-out in Mason Oct. 13.

**If you'd like to help the Lansing ICO or find out about programs in your area, contact Josh at [joshuadz.sierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:joshuadz.sierraclub@gmail.com) or go to [www.sierraclub.org/ico](http://www.sierraclub.org/ico).**

you can provide — from big items like day packs, tents, and a dining fly to small goods such as first aid kits, water bottles, storage containers, cook sets and tri-pods. Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated — ICO programs survive on the support of volunteers like you!

**For questions or to donate, contact your local ICO group:**

Southeast Michigan ICO

Mary Dunn, [mjd70bc@msn.com](mailto:mjd70bc@msn.com)

Washtenaw County ICO

Joan Wolf, [joanwolf@umich.edu](mailto:joanwolf@umich.edu)

Greater Lansing ICO

Joshua Dziewiatkowski, [joshuadz.sierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:joshuadz.sierraclub@gmail.com)

Western Michigan ICO

Craig Ressler, [craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org)

General ICO information

[www.sierraclub.org/ico](http://www.sierraclub.org/ico)

**Greater Lansing ICO**

**Sat, Nov 2, 10am (CMG ICO): Day Hike**

**along the Grand River at Burchfield Park.**

881 Grovensburg Rd. Holt. A hike running along the Grand River. A hike featuring rivers and fields in the fall as youth experience team building skills. Contact Joshua Dziewiatkowski, [joshuadz.sierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:joshuadz.sierraclub@gmail.com) or 517-994-8102.

**Sat, Jan 11, 1-3pm (CMG ICO): Sledding/ Cross Country Ski at Burchfield Park.**

881 Grovensburg Rd. Holt. An afternoon of fun, snow permitting. As the cold weather sets in, there will be hot cocoa and donuts for all to enjoy. Contact Joshua Dziewiatkowski, [joshuadz.sierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:joshuadz.sierraclub@gmail.com) or 517-994-8102.



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

Add your voice to protect the planet.  
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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) **F94Q W 2100**

# Supporting Your Chapter

## 7 Ways to Support Our Work!

### SIERRA CLUB HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF THE MOST VERSATILE DEFENDERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

This versatility gives you many options for supporting our work, from educational programs to citizen lobbying to electoral engagement. Here's how!

**1 BECOME A SIERRA CLUB MEMBER** or give a gift membership. Use the form on p19, or go to [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org) and become a member online.

**2 DONATIONS TO THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER** support our citizen engagement work, including the Chapter's twice yearly citizen Lobby Days and ongoing, in-district legislative work. Because these funds support our effective citizen-based advocacy efforts, gifts to Sierra Club are not tax-deductible. To make an online contribution to the Michigan Chapter visit [www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport](http://www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport) for monthly, quarterly and other gift options.

**3 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS TO THE SIERRA CLUB FOUNDATION** help support Michigan Chapter educational and administrative policy work at the state and federal level, including litigation, forest biodiversity, water quality protection, and energy work. Checks need to be made payable to The Sierra Club Foundation and should be mailed to the Michigan Chapter Office, 109 E. Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI 48906.

**4** You can truthfully say "I gave at the office" if your workplace participates in **EARTHSHARE OF MICHIGAN'S WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAM**. For questions or to create a giving program at your workplace contact, Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646

or [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org). To learn more visit [www.earthsharemichigan.org](http://www.earthsharemichigan.org).

**5** With **SIERRA CLUB'S GIFT PLANNING PROGRAM**, you can designate funds to support the Michigan Chapter in a variety of ways, including bequests and charitable gift annuities. Call the Chapter at 616-956-6646 or the national Sierra Club at 800-932-4270, or email [gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org) to learn more.

**6** **COMMEMORATIVE AND MEMORIAL GIFTS** help you celebrate important events or remember a loved one by supporting protection of Michigan's environment. Jan O'Connell can offer suggestions on how to commemorate these important events at [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org).

**7** Members can **DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA PAC**, our state registered political action committee. These funds support state and local candidates endorsed by our Chapter. For details, contact Mike Berkowitz at 517-484-2372 or [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org).

### SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter:  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

**Give online at [www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport](http://www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport)**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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# In Memory of Angie Vander Woude

by Jan O'Connell, Chapter Development Director

Memories are like threads of gold  
They never tarnish or grow old  
Tenderly we treasure the past  
With Memories that will always last.

**M**y mother was an avid outdoorswoman, hunter and skeet shooter as well as a long-time angler who loved to dip her fishing line in any fishable waters. She was a pioneer of her day and a professional photographer for more than 50 years. She enjoyed bird-watching, cross-country skiing, hiking, volunteering and would often be found out on the golf links.

My mother passed away May 1, after a long, difficult journey battling dementia and Alzheimer's Disease for over a decade. In accordance with her love of nature and the outdoors, memorial contributions were set up to benefit the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter. Sincere thanks go out to friends, relatives, Sierrans and my co-workers, who graciously made memorial gifts to the Sierra Club of Michigan in memory of my mother.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## *Preserve the Future*

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 Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

**Sierra Club**

**Gift Planning Program**

85 Second St, Second Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

## Thank you, EarthShare donors!



**W**e want to thank all the individuals and businesses who support our work each year through payroll deduction via Earth Share of Michigan.

If you have just completed your annual payroll deduction campaign at work and EarthShare of Michigan was not listed as an option, please call 616-956-6646 to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support the Michigan Chapter through the Sierra Club Foundation at work. **For more information on the program in Michigan, visit [www.earthsharemichigan.org](http://www.earthsharemichigan.org).**

## **THANK YOU, PIERCE FAMILY FOUNDATION!**

For the second year in a row, the Michigan Chapter has been awarded \$5,000 by the Pierce Family Foundation to support our work protecting Michigan's environment. We are honored to be one of their select grantees.

# Chapter Awards

## Chapter Award Winners Announced at 2013 Annual Retreat

More than 100 Sierra Club members gathered at Camp Miniwanca for the 24th Annual Michigan Chapter Retreat, and one of the highlights was the Michigan Chapter Awards ceremony. Each year we recognize exemplary individuals to express appreciation for all they've done to make Michigan a better place. Here are the 2013 award winners — also available online at [michigan.sierraclub.org/aboutus/chapterawards.html](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/aboutus/chapterawards.html).

### CHAIR'S AWARD

Honors a Michigan Chapter leader for exceptional work in support of Sierra Club.

**Craig Brainard** is making a major difference reaching out and educating the public about the threat hydraulic fracturing poses to the Great Lakes State. He is an active member of the Chapter's Beyond Natural Gas Committee, talking with people all over the state with his fracking "road show." Craig's passion for protecting our water and land has also led to him helping with the formation of the new South West Michigan Group.

### SYLVANIA AWARD

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

**Dave Errickson**, Central Michigan Group Chair, is making a big difference after a short time as a Sierra Club leader. Dave's work on the Political Committee helped turn Eaton County's State Representative seat green. He meets with local and state officials on Sierra Club's issues and concerns. After meeting his wife on a national Club outing seven years ago, Dave now organizes and leads outings for the Central Michigan Group.

### WHITE PINE AWARD

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

**Heather Miller** of Alden has a deep commitment to a clean energy future and democratic process. She is helping create

a clean energy voting block in her electric co-op and sending a strong message that their members are not happy with the current fossil fuel-dependent trajectory. Since 2011 she has worked to recruit and elect clean energy candidates for her electric cooperative to fight a proposed coal plant in Rogers City.

### CYBER PUNK AWARD

Recognizing outstanding efforts by a volunteer activist to raise awareness through the use of electronic media.

**Matt Wandel, Paul Brady, and Jacque Rose** of Kalkaska County have created a monumentally important website to meet the needs of Michigan's burgeoning "fracktivists," people fighting hydraulic fracturing. The innovative site, [www.respectmyplanet.org](http://www.respectmyplanet.org), provides Michigan-ans with all the information available to help them understand and take action to protect our water and communities as this technology becomes increasingly common. The Respect My Planet team is a deserving recipient of our award honoring those using on-line techniques to advance environmental protection.

### JOURNALISM AWARDS

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

**Keith Matheny** of the *Detroit Free Press* has written a comprehensive and insightful series of articles on Canadian oil transport company Enbridge's pipeline system and plans to ship tar sands oil from a



JAN O'CONNELL

Amanda, Abby and Todd Carlson enjoying the 2013 Michigan Chapter Retreat where the Chapter Awards were announced.

proposed facility in Superior, WI, via tanker or pipeline to facilities in Detroit and Cleveland. In a time of decreased coverage of the environment in the mainstream press, Mr. Matheny's reporting is a welcome exception.

### SERVICE AWARDS

Given to Chapter and Group volunteers and leaders who have contributed a significant amount of time and effort to the Club.

**Terry Reechko**, member of the **Nepessing Group**, has been an active participant in Flint River clean-ups and Pictured Rocks service outings. He also installed rock signs on the bridges crossing the Flint River and is willing to volunteer at Sierra Club Nepessing's booths when needed.

**John Ford's** enthusiasm and dedication has made him a welcome addition to the **Huron Valley Group**. This year he stepped up to organize buses to take activists to the February "Forward on Climate Rally" in Washington, DC, assuring that more than 100 people from Michigan could attend. John has been an active participant in Lobby Day and his personal knowledge of water contamination makes him a compelling citizen lobbyist for our issues.

# Chapter Directory

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER OFFICE

109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517-484-2372

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

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### Great Lakes Program Director

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### Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer

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## SIERRA CLUB CENTRAL REGION OFFICE

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### Administrative Coordinator

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Phone: 415-977-5500

Member Change of Address ..... [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)



## MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Steering Committee Members

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VICE CHAIR David Holtz ..... [david@davidholtz.org](mailto:david@davidholtz.org)

TREASURER Helen LeBlanc ..... [helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org)

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NG Laurie Tata ..... [greenem@yahoo.com](mailto:greenem@yahoo.com)

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## CHAPTER COMMITTEES

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### Personnel

..... Steering Committee

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### Sexual Harassment Committee

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David Holtz ..... [david@davidholtz.org](mailto:david@davidholtz.org)

For updates and leadership changes due to elections, please visit our online directory at [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org)



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 2.1 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together

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

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# Supporting Your Chapter

## Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

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

### FENS & SAPLINGS

\$500-\$999

- Alfred & Ruth Beeton
- Estate of Esther M. Dean
- Jonathon Cohn
- Lannie Fisher
- Stacey Garrison
- Thomas (Mike) Haley
- Denise Harris
- Douglas Jester & Colleen Barry
- Mike Johnson & Karen Briggs
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### Generous Gifts from Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Groups

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\$15,000+

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