

THE MACKINAC

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A lone timber wolf prowling the rocky north shore of Lake Superior greets sea kayakers near Red Sucker Cove, Ontario.

PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL NEIGER, CENTRAL UPPER PENINSULA GROUP

THE MACKINAC QUARTERLY

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—Alison Horton, Nov. 9, 2000



A PERVERSE FORM OF RECYCLING?

FORMER SENATOR ABRAHAM CHOSEN TO HEAD DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

BY DANIEL FAROUGH

Public Education Campaign

If past positions are any prediction of future results, Americans should brace themselves for extremely shortsighted energy policies to accompany the appointment of former Senator Spencer Abraham to head the Department of Energy. "President-elect George W. Bush made an extremely divisive choice to head the Department of Energy," said Alison Horton, Director of the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club. "Bush has selected a Senator whose energy policy has centered on leading the fight for more gas-guzzling SUVs on one end and then finding the oil to keep them running on the other. Abraham has promoted dependence on oil at exactly the time we need to be breaking the nation's addiction to fossil fuels."

As head of the Department of Energy, Abraham will be expected to fulfill the agency's mission of "increasing efficiency and productivity of energy" and "fostering a secure and reliable energy system that is environmentally and economically sustainable." Yet Senator Abraham, in obvious disagreement with this mission, voted twice to abolish the very department he has now been nominated to head.

In the course of his failed reelection bid, the former Senator made increased domestic drilling for oil the centerpiece of his energy platform. While out on the stump he specifically called for drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a move that Senator Ted Stevens (R, AK) said ultimately "cost him the election" (Associated Press). While in Congress, Abraham co-sponsored legislation on two separate occasions that would have opened this pristine area to exploitation. In a blow to research that could provide a more secure and reliable energy system, Abraham voted to kill an amendment that would have added a modest \$62 million to the Energy Department's solar and renewable energy programs. And in 1999, Abraham led the Senate's efforts to prevent the Clinton Administration from increasing fuel efficiency in cars and light trucks. "When one considers the mounting challenge of global warming and our nation's urgent need to break dependence on oil, Abraham's positions reflect a head-in-the-sand approach to energy," said Horton.

An examination into Abraham's campaign war chest reveals an avalanche of support among special interest groups like Big Oil and mining. Final numbers indicate Abraham received over \$725,000 from polluters (up from \$625,000 at last report), \$458,161 of which came from industries that contribute to global warming (like Big Oil and mining), making him the number one recipient of campaign cash from these sources. In a not so surprising nod to his fans, Senator Abraham voted to delay reforming the way oil companies pay royalties for drilling on public lands.

"Michigan voters rejected Senator Abraham in November in large part because of an abysmal record on clean air and water," Horton said. "Faced with an energy crunch, Abraham fought for more gas-guzzling SUVs, to let oil companies drill public lands at fire-sale prices, and to open pristine areas to exploitation. Americans' broad support for clean air and water, and an energy system that protects them, makes the environment the perfect test of President-elect Bush's pledge to heal the nation's wounds. If you're looking to unify the nation, the vanquished Senator Abraham is absolutely the wrong choice to guide our energy policy. Tapping Abraham to head the Energy Department is a perverse form of recycling."

**Senator Abraham
voted twice to abolish
the very department
he has now been
nominated to head.**

ELECTION YEAR 2000

HOW DID MICHIGAN'S SIERRA CLUB-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FARE?

BY GWEN NYSTUEN
Political Committee Chair

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Michigan was a key state to have a Gore victory. We did our part, and Michigan turned out for Gore — the Sierra Club had a major Environmental Voter Education Campaign effort here. You know the rest of the miserable national story. We have said over and over that every vote counts — and this election proved that to be true.

ONE HUGE VICTORY



First and foremost was Debbie Stabenow's US Senate victory, defeating incumbent Spencer Abraham despite his financial advantage and major efforts by the Republican Party to reelect him. Many factors were at play in this race. One was the environment, and the Sierra Club worked non-stop to expose Abraham's dread-

ful environmental record and the fact that he was the number one polluter money recipient in the Senate.

We endorsed Debbie Stabenow early in the election cycle, and supported her with a Southeast Michigan Group fundraiser in May and with volunteer help throughout her campaign. In the last two weeks of the race, Sierra Club president Robbie Cox came to Michigan for a press conference to highlight Stabenow's fine environmental record. In the final week, Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope visited Michigan to boost all the campaigns.

Stabenow took the Senate seat 49% to 48% by 50,000 votes. Some post-election polls showed that negative personal ads run by the Abraham campaign were not successful, and that Debbie was much more successful in communicating with voters. With a much smaller war chest, she held off on TV spending until very late, and made a

come-from-behind finish. As we all know now, this outcome was a major national event. With a 50-50 split in the US Senate, our new senator is one Very Important Person for the environment.

The Senate is a six-year term. How wonderful to have two strong environmentalists, Senators Stabenow and Levin, as our voices in Washington!

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: FIVE OUT OF SEVEN

We made 7 endorsements at the congressional level. Five of these were for incumbent environmental leaders whom we depend on in Congress: Representatives David Bonior, John Conyers, Sander Levin, Dale Kildee, and Lynn Rivers. Although there was speculation early in the election cycle that either Bonior, Rivers, or Levin would become a special target for defeat, this did not happen — they all won their races handily. Strong challengers did not emerge, and the big spending went into the US Senate and Presidential campaigns.

We also endorsed State Senator Diane Byrum in the 8th District seat (Ingham County - Lansing, Brighton), opened when

US Representative Debbie Stabenow became a candidate for the US Senate. This district is considered a nearly 50/50 split politically, and it proved to be exactly that. Both Mike Rogers and Diane Byrum were State Senators, both raised well over one million dollars, both ran good campaigns, and both received almost the same number of votes. But not quite — after a recount, Rogers won by 111 votes!

It is very difficult to unseat an incumbent, even one with a very poor record, and this was the case in the 11th Congressional District (northern Oakland County). We endorsed an able and energetic environmentalist, Matt Frumin, who ran against Knollenberg, owner of one of the worst League of Conservation Voters environmental scores. While Frumin ran a strong campaign on environmental issues, he was unable to overcome the advantage of the incumbent.

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: 23 OUT OF 33

That sounds pretty good, but the bad news is that zero of the targeted contested races (most of which we were active in) went our way, and the Republican anti-environment leadership in the Michigan House remains in control by 58 to 52. Due to term limits, we have lost some of our staunchest friends, but several of the newcomers we supported are strong environmentalists.

The Michigan Supreme Court remained in the hands of Engler-appointed incumbents. This means that Governor Engler, the Republican-controlled Michigan Senate and House, and the Supreme Court will have control over the redistricting that will begin in the next few months.

This will have a major impact on the outcome of political campaigns in Michigan for the next ten years.

LOCAL RACES: GOOD NEWS

On the local front, almost all of our endorsed candidates — two county drain commissioners from Washtenaw and Ingham counties, Ann Arbor's new Mayor John Hieftje, and a "smart growth" Meridian Township Board slate, were winners. The Meridian slate included Mackinac Chapter Program Director Anne Woiwode, and Member Involvement Director Dan Farough managed its campaign.

On the ballot measure front, a number of Sierra Club activists in Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and townships) worked hard for successful passage of a ballot measure to fund acquisition of open space. It passed!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR WORK AND YOUR VOTES!

Great work was done by a multitude of Sierra Club members across the state — voter education work, political campaign work, and fundraising. Mackinac Chapter activists and leaders should be proud of all the work and the great results.

Although there was speculation that Bonior, Rivers, or Levin would become a target for defeat, this did not happen — they all won handily.



BY ANNE WOIWODE
Program Director

SIERRA CLUB SUES ALLEGAN COUNTY ANIMAL FACTORY

The Sierra Club filed a citizen's suit against Walnutdale Farms in Allegan County on November 29, 2000 as part of their multifaceted efforts to bring animal factory pollution problems under control in Michigan. Walnutdale Farms is a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) with a long history of water quality violations that have contaminated the Little Rabbit River and its tributaries in the Kalamazoo River watershed.

The Walnutdale Farms lawsuit is the first one filed following the Sierra Club's issuance of Notices of Intent to Sue under the federal Clean Water Act against five Michigan CAFOs last summer. The lawsuit was brought in the Federal District Court of Western Michigan and assigned to Judge David McKeague in Lansing.

The Sierra Club complaint spells out in graphic detail the impact of water pollution being caused by Walnutdale Farms, which has degraded the waters downstream to the point that they are unusable for swimming, wading, and fishing. 5.5 million gallons of manure and waste are produced annually by Walnutdale, which is the equivalent in phosphorus production to that produced by about 12,000 to 15,000 people, and significant amounts of

pollution from this facility have entered the Little Rabbit River and drains which feed into it.

"The Walnutdale CAFO has a long history of serious discharges of manure and other pollutants to Michigan waters," according to the Sierra Club's complaint: "In 1992, defendants allowed manure to overflow from a slurry pit for two months. As a result, Red Run Drain became black and septic, with an odor of manure. In July 1992, MDEQ [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality] directed defendants to prevent discharges to Red Run Drain. In April 1993, defendants allowed manure water to overflow from a slurry store and flow into Lettinga and Red Run Drain. Defendants were directed to develop a management plan and to prevent discharges to Michigan waters. In October 1997, an unsafe manure application by the defendants once again caused a serious discharge of silage leachate and manure into Red Run Drain and Lettinga Drain, severely depleting the dissolved oxygen in the stream. A state official witnessed Lettinga Drain siphoning runoff from Walnutdale fields. An MDEQ official stated that Walnutdale CAFO has caused more harm to Little Rabbit River than any other potential source of pollution."

In addition, Walnutdale Farms has been cited for water quality violations since the Notice of Intent to Sue was filed. In October, Mackinac Chapter Program Director Anne Woiwode filed a complaint with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality after spotting a liquid running around an earthen berm on the Walnutdale property. The berm had been erected under an order from MDEQ to address previous violations.

In investigating the complaint, MDEQ staff found that Walnutdale Farms was failing to comply with many provisions of their 1998 administrative consent order. The DEQ also learned in the course of investigating this complaint that Walnutdale farms had increased their dairy herd from 500 head to 900 in the spring of 2000 without any adjustments in their waste management plans. The operation also has recently sold 145 acres of land that were included in the waste management plans as farm fields upon which the manure was to be spread for disposal.

5.5 million gallons of manure and waste are produced annually by Walnutdale, which is the equivalent in phosphorus production to that produced by about 12,000 to 15,000 people, and significant amounts of pollution from this facility have entered the Little Rabbit River and drains which feed into it.

The Sierra Club is seeking both to bring the Walnutdale Farms CAFO into compliance with the Clean Water Act and to require that this facility seek and obtain a federal water quality permit (NPDES permit) in order to operate. The State of Michigan continues to refuse to require NPDES permits for any CAFOs (see article on EPA Petition, p5). As *The Mackinac* goes to press, Walnutdale Farms has yet to respond to the lawsuit, and court action is not yet scheduled.





CAFO UPDATE: WITHDRAWAL PETITION STILL UNDER REVIEW

A year after the Sierra Club, two other environmental groups, and two individuals submitted petitions to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to withdraw the State of Michigan's delegated authority under the Clean Water Act, the State continued to delay or defy efforts to bring them into compliance with the law regarding regulation of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). There is speculation that the State may simply be waiting to see if the Bush Administration will let them off the hook. However, EPA Region 5 staff are continuing to review the petition and to vigorously pursue inspections of CAFOs throughout Michigan. Meanwhile, the Sierra Club and its colleagues continue to press for completion of action by the EPA on the petition.

As reported in the fall issue of *The Mackinac*, on September 15 the EPA Region 5 issued an interim report responding to the environmentalists' petition to withdraw. A letter from the EPA Region 5 Administrator to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), which accompanied the interim report, directed the MDEQ to respond by mid-October with a "written description of the actions it has taken or will take to fix" the serious problems found with the State's program.

An October 16 letter to EPA Region 5 Administrator Francis Lyons, jointly signed by MDEQ Director Russell Harding and Agriculture Department Director Dan Wyant, expressed "disappointment" that the report had been issued prior to their review. The State officials claimed that "the interim report mischaracterizes Michigan's commitment to environmental protection, and ignores our recent efforts to further protect water quality." The letter goes on to say the agencies and Department of Attorney General have been working to address many of the issues raised in the interim report and that "we must be sure we understand what the EPA considers to be deficiencies and the overall goals regarding environmental protection and animal

feeding operations." The state officials contended that the EPA's approach "seems to be changing over time" and asked to "discuss these inconsistencies, options to meet current requirements, and what potential regulatory changes mean to both agencies' programs." The two Michigan officials then asked to meet with the EPA to discuss the interim report.

Upon learning of the response from the State, the petitioners submitted a letter to both Lyons and Harding requesting permission to observe the meeting between EPA and the State. The November 9th letter — signed by the Sierra Club, Michigan Land Use Institute, Michigan Environmental Council, and the individual petitioners Larry

There is speculation that the State may simply be waiting to see if the Bush Administration will let them off the hook.

and Neva Bailey — noted the substantial interests of the petitioners in the discussions between the EPA and the State. "We believe granting us observer status is reasonable because any notes or products from the meeting itself would automatically be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests, either under the laws of Michigan or the laws of the United States, and because Open Meetings Act provisions might also apply," the petitioners claimed.

In a December 5th response letter to the petitioners, Harding wrote "given the legal aspects of this matter and the need for frank discussions with the EPA, the MDEQ does not believe that the presence of observers at the meeting will further our efforts to resolve this issue." The EPA also declined in a letter dated December 28, while expressing appreciation for the petitioners' interests and stating that they "afford special status" to the petitioners. A meeting was held between EPA and State officials on January 3, but no official details of those discussions have yet been released. A meeting between the EPA and the petitioners is currently being planned for late January.

EPA INSPECTIONS PROMPT CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION

As attention to Michigan's CAFO issues has grown, in particular with the EPA's stepped-up inspections of Michigan livestock operations initiated this past fall, Michigan members of Congress are evidently paying more attention to the issue. At the very end of the Congressional Lame Duck Session, Congressman Nick Smith (R-Addison) offered legislation which seeks to allow states to define what CAFOs are. With Michigan the only remaining state in this EPA region that is resisting placing reasonable controls on CAFOs, the legislative proposal was clearly tailored for the Engler Administration's defiant stance on this issue. As with all legislation, the bill expired when Congress adjourned last year, although it may well resurface in the new session.

A WILL IS A WAY... to make a substantial gift to protect the environment. Continue your involvement by including the Sierra Club in your will. There are several ways to include the environment in your long-range plans — we can even help you plan a gift to support your local Chapter. For information and confidential assistance, contact:

Sage Kuhn
Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

MICHIGAN'S GREAT FORESTS: THEY DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE

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A N N E W O I W O D E
Program Director

M A R V I N R O B E R S O N
Project Consultant

DNR DIRECTOR FREEZES OLD GROWTH ACTION

At the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting on January 11, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director K.L. Cool announced actions that effectively tabled indefinitely the public release or consideration of the DNR's proposed old growth policy. The Director also declined to take any action to protect the approximately 12,000 acres of old growth red and white pine forest stands the agency proposes to cut, despite a letter from respected ecologist Dr. Reed Noss, who asked Cool and NRC Chairman Keith Charters to "please consider absolute protection of all natural red pine and white pine forests in Michigan. That is the only scientifically defensible strategy." (See Old Growth Update, next page.)

Cool's announcement came after the agency had already delayed release of the DNR Old Growth Committee report throughout the fall of 2000. In the late summer, the Old Growth Committee — made up of DNR staff and representatives from the Huron Manistee National Forests, The Nature Conservancy, and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory — had completed work on and transmitted to upper-echelon DNR officials a report entitled "Developing and Implementing the Old Growth and Biodiversity Stewardship System on Michigan State Forests and other State-owned Lands." Just days before the September 2000 NRC meeting, DNR Deputy Director George Burgoyne pulled the report off an NRC subcommittee agenda after unspecified concerns were raised by DNR upper-level executive members of the Statewide Management Team. The release was pushed back to the November NRC subcommittee on Lands Management meeting.

However, Director Cool sent a letter in mid-October to Sierra Club Program Director Anne Woiwode explaining that he was delaying release of the report until the NRC's January meeting because the Sierra Club had brought an entirely unrelated lawsuit against the state and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding Pittman Robertson Act wildlife habitat management funding (see November 2000 *Mackinac*). Claiming that the November release date for the old

growth report was committed to "without even a hint of your pending legal action," Director Cool expressed "disappointment" in the actions of the Sierra Club, and claimed that staff time needed to be reprioritized to respond to the legal filing.

Woiwode responded in a letter to Cool pointing out that the Sierra Club had been in negotiations with DNR officials for five years on the Pittman Robertson issue; that in August 1999 they had given the USFWS notice of intent to sue on this issue; and that in July 2000 she had personally presented testimony to the NRC, explaining that the DNR was at risk of being sued based on their failure to undertake corrections that the USFWS had directed they make in their Pittman Robertson program. The old growth issue, in addition, had been under consideration by the DNR for nine years, and action to complete this process should not be treated as a favor to the Sierra Club, but as the agency's obligation to the people of Michigan. Woiwode's letter ended, "I wish I could muster disappointment at this point, Mr. Cool. In-

stead, you have simply demonstrated why those of us who chose the harder path of trying to work with DNR staff for years in good faith to restore the public trust in your agency might as well have just gone to court from day one."

When Sierra Club representatives Tim Flynn and Marvin Roberson rose to address the NRC at their November and December meetings, each was verbally assaulted — by Commission members or Cool — regarding the lawsuit,

alluding to the old growth process as if it was being pursued as a favor to the Sierra Club. In January, with no old growth update listed on the NRC agenda, Anne Woiwode again testified asking for action to move the process along.

At the end of the NRC January meeting, Director Cool reported that he and other DNR staff had met the week before with the supervisors of the three Michigan National Forests and learned that they do not have a single old growth definition. Claiming that this was the first time the DNR was learning about

***DNR Director K.L. Cool
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wildlife habitat
management funding.***

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STATE FOREST OLD GROWTH UPDATE

An internationally renowned ecologist is asking Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reconsider the decision to log up to 12,000 acres of old red pine and white pine forests "based on the global rarity of these forest types."

In his November 6th letter to Natural Resource Commission Chairman Keith Charters and DNR Director K.L. Cool, Dr. Reed F. Noss cites a 1995 report, "Endangered Ecosystems of the United States," published by the National Biological Service of the US Department of Interior, in which Noss and his co-authors "identified red pine and white pine forests as some of the most highly endangered ecosystems in the United States. For example, data suggest that high quality, mature to old-growth white pine and red pine forest has declined by more than 99% in Michigan since European settlement. In Min-

Data suggest that high quality, mature to old-growth white pine and red pine forest has declined by more than 99% in Michigan since European settlement.

nesota, total acreage of white pine and red pine has declined by at least 86%, with much of the remainder in red pine plantations that do not simulate natural stands."

"The extreme decline and rarity of natural red pine and white pine forest, particularly in mature and old-growth condition, today suggests that concerted efforts be made to restore this forest type in Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes states and provinces. I cannot imagine any legitimate ecological rationale for logging red pine or white pine stands, with the possible exception of thinning plantations to hasten the development of old-growth characteristics. Please consider absolute protection of all natural red pine and white pine forests in Michigan. That is the only scientifically defensible strategy."

At this time, DNR officials have provided no public response to Dr. Noss's concerns.

FREEZE

continued from page 6

Forest Service old growth issues, Cool said that the federal agency is really no farther along in developing an old growth protection strategy than is the DNR. As a result, Cool announced that he is creating an internal DNR committee, headed by Deputy Director Burgoyne, to pursue setting up meetings with the National Forests on creating a common old growth plan across the states. Surprised NRC members asked what would happen to all the work that had gone into the process so far, and the Director said that information would be incorporated into this new effort. Later, questions asked privately indicated that the DNR has no intention of releasing the Old Growth Committee's report, and seem poised to seek to block its release through Freedom of Information Requests. Director Cool also reiterated that the agency has no intention of taking any steps to protect the old growth red and white pine that are currently on the list for cutting.

The Sierra Club's review of the work of all three National Forests on old growth protection and designation contradicts the claims made by Director Cool. Forest Service officials point out that the three Michi-

gan National Forests do have a common definition of old growth, but have different strategies for implementation — common in National Forests, each of which have developed Forest Plans based on unique issues within their areas. In fact, the Huron Manistee and Hiawatha National Forests both addressed old growth protection in their Forest Plan settlement agreements that were signed in 1986, and the DNR was a signatory to both of those agreements. All three National Forests have spent significant time and effort developing their old growth protection strategies, and have put areas under consideration as potential old growth off-limits to management until the plans are completed. In addition, the process for consideration of old growth on both Huron Manistee and Hiawatha have involved extensive public involvement and input throughout, in stark contrast to the DNR's secretive efforts to date.

The Sierra Club is seeking copies of the Old Growth Committee's report and intends to publicize their recommendations. Sierra Club members and others interested in joining the fight to protect and restore old growth on Michigan's public lands are asked to contact Anne Woiwode at the Mackinac Chapter office, or by email at anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org.



HELP WANTED: HAMTRAMCK MEDICAL INCINERATOR

BY ANNA HOLDEN
Southeast Michigan Group



PHOTO: BARBARA YARROW

Ed McArdle and Anna Holden at a Hamtramck incinerator hearing.

The Coalition to Close the Hamtramck Medical Waste Incinerator is initiating contacts with user hospitals following Hamtramck plant CEO Norm Aardema's recent refusal to discuss alternative treatment technology. In a first attempt to persuade hospitals to stop contracting with the Hamtramck plant, the Coalition scheduled a mid-January meeting with the Detroit Medical Center (DMC), a group of eight hospitals which are among the trash burners' best customers. The DMC system includes Karmonos Cancer Institute; Children's, Grace-Sinai, Harper, and Hutzel Hospitals; and Detroit Receiving, a teaching hospital associated with Wayne State University's School of Medicine. The Coalition hopes to persuade the DMC consortium and other Michigan hospitals to begin shipping medical waste to

disposal companies using a safer method of sterilizing infectious waste.

Sierra Club groups and members can help the Coalition identify Michigan hospitals that send waste to the Medical Waste Services plant in Hamtramck. Information about the waste practices of local hospitals and medical centers can be forwarded to the Ecology Center; contacts there are Mary Beth Doyle and Tracey Easthope, 734-663-2400. Pertinent information includes the name and address of the hospital, a hospital waste management contact, and the hospital's current waste disposal arrangement — on-site (incineration or other method) or off-site. If the hospital sends its waste off site, find out where the waste goes and the technology used for waste treatment. For example, the trash goes to Michigan Waste Services in Hamtramck to be incinerated, or to the Stericycle (former BFI) plant in Toledo to be autoclaved.

Sierra Club SEMG welcomes help from Michigan members who are willing to investigate hospitals in their area and circulate post cards to owner Aardema protesting his plant's continued pollution. For more information, contact Anna Holden at 313-331-0932 or by e-mail at mqk@umd.umich.edu.

CHAPTER AWARDS SEVERAL GROUP CONSERVATION GRANTS DURING 2000

BY JUDY SHAZER
Conservation Committee Chair

The Chapter awarded two grants during 2000 under the new Conservation Grant Program. A \$500 grant was awarded to the Huron Valley Group for the 4th annual Tour de Sprawl. A summary of the Tour, including media outreach, budget, etc., is available at the Chapter office. Despite overcast skies and rain on September 23, 117 people participated in the Webster Township event, the largest turnout for the Washtenaw county tours. The Tour organizers, which included the Association for Preservation of Rural Open Neighborhoods, were especially successful in garnering media attention to the event. Postcards distributed to participants expressed support for control of sprawl and were sent to Webster Township officials and Governor Engler. At least 5 articles appeared in local papers. Congratulations to all involved!

A \$1000 grant was made to the Southeast Michigan Group for their medical waste incinerator campaign. Funds will be used to support the Hamtramck Coalition educational brochure, as well as associated ex-

continued on next page

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BUILDING BRIDGES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN DETROIT

BY ALISON HORTON
Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

The Sierra Club's Environmental Justice (EJ) Project in Detroit has been fostering new connections with communities in Detroit since the project started up last fall. As our environmental justice organizer, Rhonda Anderson has been hard at work introducing herself and the Sierra Club to neighborhood groups and communities concerned about the places in which they live. The EJ Project is intended to help communities succeed in efforts to take on and resolve identified problems that affect their quality of life. The focus of our environmental justice work is to address unfair burdens of pollution and other environmental damage that economically disadvantaged and minority communities are often faced with.

The Detroit EJ Project is building on work done over the years by the Club's Southeast Michigan Group (SEMG) to fight industrial air pollution problems affecting southeast Michigan communities, particularly municipal and medical waste incinerators which have been operating near residential neighborhoods.

Over the past several months, Rhonda Anderson has developed and expanded the Sierra Club's relationships with groups of people across Detroit who are faced with environmental problems. On the eastside of the city, she is working with the Riverbend Association — an association of neighborhood block clubs — to unravel and get action taken on illegal dumping activity and to determine whether some dumping involves toxic waste. Elsewhere, she is working with the Historic Northwest Goldberg Project as they seek to clean up contamination at abandoned buildings and industrial sites, fight illegal dumping, and address concerns about the destruction of neighborhoods that would result from expansion of Interstate 94 through the heart of the city.

In the months ahead, the Detroit EJ Project expects to be coordinating "toxic tours" as opportunities for community residents, Sierra Club volunteers, the media, and others to look first-hand at sites in Detroit where pollution cleanup is most urgently needed. Rhonda Anderson is also looking to develop informational and educational opportunities that Detroit schools can use to teach children more about their environments close to home.

As the Sierra Club EJ Project builds relations with communities, it is also collaborating with the SEMG — including efforts to close the polluting Hamtramck medical waste incinerator — and with other groups active on environmental fairness issues in Detroit, such as Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice and the organizations involved in the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition. The Sierra Club is also playing a role in helping to organize a nationwide gathering in Detroit in May on environmental justice issues, coordinated by a coalition of black organizations and activists.

What you can do: If you are interested in finding out more about the Sierra Club's community project on environmental justice in Detroit, or if you want to get involved, you can reach EJ Organizer Rhonda Anderson through the main chapter office in Lansing while she is in the process of setting up a new office in Detroit. Call 517-484-2372.

CONSERVATION GRANTS *continued from page 8*

penses in the effort to close the Hamtramck Medical Waste Incinerator and follow-up on the closing of the Henry Ford Incinerator. A summary report will not be available until the end of the funded activities next year.

Applications were also received from the Western Michigan Group for \$100 to support a lecture series on climate change. For various reasons, an award for the activity was made from general conservation funds, rather than the grant program. An application from the Nepessing Group for \$1400 to fund the preservation of the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum was referred back to the group for consideration of revisions to the budget. This application is still pending.

At the January Chapter Conservation and ExCom meetings in Pellston, the funding level and procedures for program will be reviewed. Announcements regarding the 2001 program funds and procedures will be sent to group leaders early in the year.

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THANK YOU!

At this time we'd like to acknowledge the Guardians, Protectors, and Defenders of the Peninsulas for 2000. These generous contributors support the Sierra Club's campaigns here in Michigan. The contributions provided funding for a wide variety of projects, including advocacy for Michigan's great forests, battling urban sprawl, and the continued fight for clean waterways in Michigan, from the Great Lakes to local rivers and streams.

Our Peninsula donors directly support the Mackinac Chapter's dedicated staff and talented volunteers who are taking action every day — at the state capitol, in communities, and in the field — to protect the environment through lobbying, research, public education, and litigation.

Please join us in expressing our sincere gratitude to each of these individuals for their generous support for, and commitment to, Michigan's environment and natural heritage.

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GREAT LAKES REPORT: OIL & GAS DRILLING IN THE GREAT LAKES

BY MICHAEL JOHNSON
Chapter Executive Committee



Although Michigan is not an Alaskan North Slope, it does have oil and natural gas deposits sufficiently large to attract the oil and gas industry to our state — and to our Great Lakes, under which deposits exist. To date, 13 wells have been drilled under the Lakes from Michigan's shores using directional drilling.

Directional, or slant, drilling involves drilling at an angle. In the case of drilling under the Lakes, the well head is on shore while the bottom of the well may be thousands of feet offshore. Compared to vertical drilling, directional drilling reduces the risk of oil or gas leakage into the Great Lakes. This doesn't mean that directional drilling is without risk.

In 1997, Governor John Engler directed the Michigan Environmental Science Board to study the impact of directional drilling on the environment and human activities. The Board concluded that state policy does not adequately protect one of the world's special environments from the impact of oil and gas drilling.

AMONG THE BOARD'S FINDINGS

- The risk for contamination of the Lakes from wells is "small but not zero."
- Impacts of drilling could result in "anything from a localized loss of land . . . to irreparable loss of a given resource, i.e. a unique species of animal or habitat type," or contamination of a groundwater aquifer.
- Drilling may conflict with "quality of life parameters like noise, odor, congestion, vistas and undisturbed landscapes, recreation and tourism," therefore livelihoods, "and residential use."
- Lake Huron "floodplains and coastal wetlands . . . can extend for miles inland. Setback (of the wells from the shore) will not address the issues of environmental protection" in these areas.
- "The coastal areas of the Great Lakes are characterized by permeable soils and high water tables." — so oil spills may easily migrate, traveling to groundwater and streams which flow into the Lakes.

THE GREAT LAKES ARE UNIQUE IN THE WORLD

They contain one-fifth of the planet's fresh water. They, and their shores, provide habitat for numerous endangered and threatened species. They are home to one-tenth of Americans and one-third of Canadians. They are the source of drinking water for 25 million people. They provide jobs, and are an economic resource worth billions of dollars.

The Lakes are slow in healing from pollution. It takes 190 years for the waters of Lake Superior, and the pollutants suspended in them, to travel through the Lake; 100 years for Lake Michigan; 20 years for Lake Huron. Pollutants that settle to the Lake bottoms may stay for centuries.

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may stay for centuries.***

IS IT WORTH PUTTING THE GREAT LAKES IN JEOPARDY?

The Engler Administration says yes. Meeting minutes from the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission — an organization made up of the governors of oil and gas producing states) — show that Governor

Engler's representative to the Commission sponsored and got passed a resolution supporting oil extraction from under the Great Lakes. He stated the Engler Administration believes the benefits of drilling "far outweigh" any damage drilling may cause.

Who would these benefits go to? Primarily the oil industry and their stockholders. The amount of oil available would not contribute significantly to lowering gasoline prices or protecting our national security.

Others say no — including people whose income depends on the Great Lakes being clean, whose property might be damaged, whose recreation could be affected; those concerned that their drinking water may be polluted, people who eat Great Lakes fish, all creatures that depend on Great Lakes habitats

being healthy, and all who believe these creatures are entitled to a healthy environment; The Detroit Free Press, which editorialized "the Lakes and coastal areas should be the last places on Earth to be put at environmental risk"; Michigan State Senator Gary Peters and US Representative Bart Stupak, sponsors of legislation in Lansing and Washington that would ban oil and gas drilling beneath the Lakes.

WHAT TO DO

Write Governor Engler telling him he is wrong to put so much at risk. Tell him a healthy Great Lakes is worth immeasurably more than the small benefit that would come from drilling. Write your state senator and representative asking them to support a ban on drilling. Write your US representative and senators asking them to do the same.

When you write, explain why the health of the Great Lakes is important to you. If your state senator or US representative have already cosponsored Senator Peter's or Representative Stupak's legislation, thank them (see lists below, compiled 12/01/00).

COSPONSORS OF SENATOR PETER'S BILL:

Young, DeBeaussaert, Alma Smith, Virgil Smith, Vaughn, Dingell, Miller, Hart, Murphy, Cherry, Byrum, Emerson, Koivisto.

COSPONSORS OF REPRESENTATIVE STUPAK'S BILL:

Bonior, Conyers, Rivers, Kilpatrick, Stabenow, Upton.

The Mackinac Chapter has a Great Lakes Subcommittee. If you have an interest in Great Lakes Issues, please join us. No experience necessary! Call Mike Johnson at 616-948-8840.



CONSUMERS DEMAND CLEAN CARS FROM DETROIT

MACKINAC CHAPTER REPRESENTED
IN CLEAN CAR RALLY

BY DAVID WRIGHT
Crossroads Group Representative

A coalition of 18 environmental organizations and consumers rallied outside the North American International Auto Show in Detroit to send the “Big Three” a clear message — Build Cleaner Vehicles. Honda Insight and Toyota Prius owners drove their convoy of hybrid cars in a continuous loop in front of Cobo Hall, while representatives from the Michigan Environmental Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists and Environmental Defense called for automakers to step up to the challenge.

MACKINAC CHAPTER REPRESENTED IN DETROIT

Representing the Mackinac Chapter, West Michigan Group’s Syed Naqvi drove his new Toyota Prius in the rally and spoke at the press conference. Syed’s Toyota has both an internal combustion engine and an electric motor. This powertrain combination provides an increase in efficiency while not sacrificing performance. The Prius can seat four to five adults while achieving a fuel economy of 50 mpg in city and highway driving.

According to Syed, “I do not have any second thoughts about owning the ‘green’ car. It feels good that at least I am doing my share in safeguarding the environment. I truly wish others would too.”

“The automotive industry is clearly in the midst of a major transition,” said Jason Mark, director of the Union of Concerned Scientists’ Clean Vehicles Program. “Ultimately we will move beyond pistons, beyond petroleum, and beyond pollution.”

“Today’s hybrids demonstrate that Detroit runs the risk of falling behind in the race to meet consumer demand for more environmentally-friendly vehicles,” said Lana Pollack, president of the Michigan Environmental Council.

The coalition collectively represents over 1 million members. Utilizing the Internet, mailings, and volunteers, the coalition combined their efforts to collect pledges from con-

sumers interested in purchasing more environmentally friendly vehicles. More than 150,000 pledges were brought to the rally, stating that consumers want to buy cleaner cars and they want Detroit to build them. The pledges call for automobiles that deliver 50 percent better fuel efficiency when compared to other vehicles in the same class, meet California’s super-ultra low emission vehicle (SULEV) standard for smog-forming pollution, and are cleanly manufactured using non-toxic recyclable materials.

During their efforts to collect pledges, the organizations discovered that many potential customers were unaware of new, cleaner technologies that offer greater value at an affordable cost. To increase awareness, the environmental coalition also called upon automakers to increase their promotions.

The Mackinac Chapter is a supporting member of the Clean Car Coalition.

DETROIT, LANSING, AND WASHINGTON NEED TO HEAR FROM MICHIGAN

President Elect Bush unveiled his energy plan this past fall in Saginaw. The Bush/Cheney energy plan is straightforward and simple — drill for oil anywhere and everywhere. It is clear that Bush/Cheney and Energy Secretary designate Spencer Abraham will work hard to open our public natural lands to further exploration and energy industrializa-

tion. While the Sierra Club works to have the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) designated a National Monument, the Mackinac Chapter must join with Syed in pressuring Detroit to produce significantly more efficient vehicles.

Until Detroit can learn to produce and sell energy efficient vehicles, Big Oil pressure to exploit the world’s remaining natural areas for industrialization will only intensify. Today Big Oil wants to exploit the ANWR coastal plain. Where’s the next stop? Possibly under the Great Lakes.



PHOTO: DAVID WRIGHT

Syed Naqvi, from the West Michigan Group-Sierra Club, addresses the press and other Clean Car Rally participants on the media day opening at the North American International Auto Show. Joining Syed is Lana Pollack, Michigan Environmental Council President. In front of Lana are half a dozen mail bags containing more than 150,000 pledges from individuals wanting the automobile manufacturers to build cleaner cars.

TRAVERSE GROUP REACTIVATED!

BY DAN FAROUGH

Mackinac Chapter Member Involvement Director

January 13 witnessed an important gathering of Sierra Club members and activists in the Traverse City area, with the goal of restarting the local group in the region. Turnout was phenomenal, with well over 50 participants. During the meeting, members heard from State and local environmental leaders on issues facing Michigan and the Traverse region, discussed opportunities to utilize the talents and interests of members, and began planning activities for the coming year.

By all measures, the Traverse Group covers a large geographic area — with boundaries stretching from Manistee in the Southwest to Petoskey and Gaylord in the Northeast. It covers Traverse City, Cadillac, the Leelanau Peninsula, and surrounding areas. “There are so many opportunities to enjoy and develop a connection to the great outdoors in this area. It is truly spectacular,” said Monica Evans, Interim Chair of the Traverse Group. “There are also enormous challenges to the region — such as sprawl, Great Lakes water quality, and public lands issues that require public vigilance and activism.”

The group has already formed an interim leadership, begun publication



PHOTO: DAN FAROUGH

A packed house for the reactivation meeting of the Mackinac Chapter's Traverse Group.

of its newsletter, and scheduled winter hikes for Jan 27 and February 17 (See Outings, p18). “People get involved in the Sierra Club for a variety of reasons. Some become active to take advantage of opportunities to enjoy our outdoors with like-minded people. For others, it is to work together to make a difference protecting the environment on the local, state, and national levels. For still others, it is an opportunity to build leadership skills, share talents, or simply make friends and meet neighbors. Whatever the reason, everyone should feel welcome,” said Trina Ball, Traverse Group member.

Special thanks to guest speakers Alison Horton, Director of the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Arlin Wasserman of the Michigan Land Use Institute; and to local group organizers Monica Evans, Trina Ball, Kelly Boyce, Andrea Dean, and Lynn Livingston. Additional thanks to volunteers Kendra Kimbirauskas and Erin Veliquette for their diligence in working the phones and helping to contact Traverse members.

If you would like to get involved with the Traverse Group, please contact Monica Evans at 231-325-6812.

MACKINAC CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WELCOMES AT-LARGE MEMBERS

BY DAN FAROUGH

Mackinac Chapter Member Involvement Director

Congratulations go out to Mike Keeler (Flint), Bob Duda (Detroit), Lydia Fischer (Detroit), Anna Holden (Detroit), and Helen LeBlanc (Williamston) as the top five vote getters in our recent Mackinac Chapter Election. They will be joining Fred Townsend (Ortonville), Judy Shazer (Ypsilanti), Barbara Yarrow (Detroit), and Sue Kelly (Brighton) to serve on the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee as At-Large Members.

The Chapter Executive Committee is composed of the At-Large members — elected by the Chapter membership and serving two-year terms — and Group Representatives from the 12 regional groups in Michigan. The Executive Committee meets quarterly. The Steering Committee, consisting of the Chapter Officers, meets monthly. Sierra Club members are welcome to attend all meetings.

Sincere thanks to Nancy Shiffler, Mike Johnson, Julie Janeszko, David Wright, and Rita Jack for accepting the nomination to run for the Executive Committee. Their past environmental work is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to working with them in other capacities at the Chapter level.

Thanks also to Karen Briggs and Barbara Yarrow for serving on the Nominations Committee, and to Fred and Alyce Townsend for serving on the Elections Committee.

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WILDERNESS SKILLS: KEEPING THE “WILD” IN WILDERNESS

BY MICHAEL A. NEIGER
Central Upper Peninsula Group
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On your last wilderness trip, did discarded cigarette butts, scarred trees, or trash-filled fire rings spoil the view? Did pieces of toilet paper — or possibly even unburied feces — compel you to pass up an otherwise pristine spot?

If so, make sure you're not unknowingly contributing to the problem. Always practice low-impact, leave-no-trace techniques when in the wilderness. By adhering to some relatively simple guidelines, you'll be able to preserve the wilderness experience for the generations of trekkers who will follow in your footsteps.

IF YOU PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT.

Cans, bottles, aluminum foil, and other non-burnable items should always be packed out. Don't bury them or leave them in a fire ring. Try to leave an area cleaner and neater than you found it. Pack out any trash you see.

TAKE ONLY PICTURES; LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS.

Avoid scarring trees with nails or “constructing” rustic camp furniture. Don't cut standing trees or browse. Avoid “trenching” around your tent. Artifacts, plants, trees, and rocks should remain undisturbed. Avoid marking your route with blazes, surveyor's tape, or fluorescent tacks.

BURY FECES, TOILET PAPER, & SOAPY WASH WATER.

Feces (including dog waste), toilet paper, and soapy wash water should be buried in a six-inch-deep cat hole dug 200 feet (or 75 paces) away from campsites, trails, water sources, and any area likely to be visited by others. Use biodegradable soap and avoid the temptation to rinse off in a river or lake. If you're looking for a great selection of biodegradable soaps, contact REI at 1-800-426-4840, or point your Internet browser to www.rei.com. Keep in mind that sand, leaves, and pine needles are great natural alternatives to soap for all but the greasy pot. To further reduce your impact on the environment, use biodegradable toilet paper like the RV-type available from Wal-Mart and other camping outlets. Avoid burning toilet paper in snow-free areas, as many a disastrous fire has been started this way.

USE A STOVE; KEEP FIRES SMALL.

To avoid scarring rocks, depleting wood resources, and creating unsightly charred areas, carry a lightweight backpacking stove. In the evening, try socializing around a candle lantern or two instead of a campfire. If you decide to build a fire, protect the ground from scarring by laying down a six-inch-thick layer of sand or mud. Keep the fire small, and burn every piece of wood completely so no unsightly charred logs are left behind. Always extinguish your fire so that after stirring, the coals are cool to the touch. Next, pulverize the coals into fine ash and broadcast them where they're not likely to be spotted by others. To ensure that you leave no trace of your fire, return the protective layer of sand or mud to its original location.

By adhering to these simple, low-impact, leave-no-trace techniques, you can help keep the “wild” in your favorite wilderness area. See you in the bush!

TO LEARN MORE:

Good information about low impact camping and travel can be found by contacting Leave No Trace, Inc., at 1-800-332-4100, or by pointing your Internet browser to www.lnt.org.

TO READ MORE:

Pick up a copy of one of these books: “Leave No Trace — A Guide to the New Wilderness Etiquette” by Annette McGivney (1998, \$10.95, ISBN 0898865247); “Soft Paths — How to Enjoy the Wilderness Without Harming it” by Bruce Hampton (1995, \$14.95, ISBN 0811730921); “Leave No Trace — Minimum Impact Outdoor Recreation” by Will Harmon (1997, \$6.95, ISBN 1560445815); or “The Basic Essentials of Minimizing Impact on the Wilderness” by Michael Hodgson (1991, \$5.99, ISBN 0934802785).

Editor's Note: Michael Neiger of Marquette is an avid wilderness tripper and Central Upper Peninsula Group (CUPG) trip leader who welcomes your comments and opinions via e-mail at mneiger@hotmail.com.

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For more information, please contact Michael Sklar by phone at 734-995-1831 or by e-mail at tiger3@provide.net. You can also visit our website at www.mirror.org/groups/mi-enviro.

Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group Shopping for the Earth Order Form

Please indicate the number of EarthCash vouchers of each denomination you want for each store in the table below, and list the total value of your order (\$500 maximum) here: \$ _____. Please be sure to enclose your check, made payable to "Huron Valley Group — Sierra Club."

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Meijer (store and gas station)		_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20	_____ @ \$50
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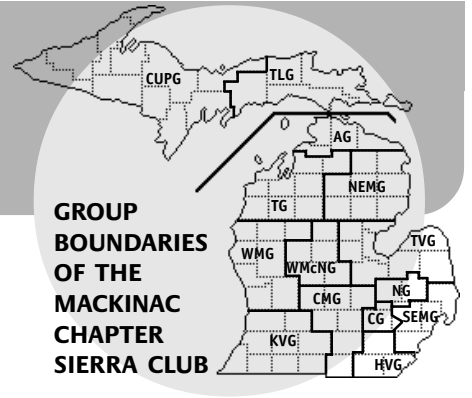
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GROUP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS



GROUP BOUNDARIES OF THE MACKINAC CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

AG Algonquin Group

If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Dan Farough at the Mackinac Chapter office, 517-484-2372.

CMG Central Michigan Group

General meetings are held the 3rd Monday each month at the Harris Nature Center, off Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Come at 5:30pm for supper (small donation requested) or at 6:15 for the meeting. Call Pete Pasterz, 517-676-3339.

The Conservation Committee usually meets the 2nd Monday each month in Wells Hall on the MSU campus. Call Maria Lapinski, 517-569-3302.

The Executive Committee meets the 1st Monday of the month. Call Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

CUP Central Upper Peninsula Group

Sierra Club members in the central and western counties in the Upper Peninsula are invited to participate in CUP group activities. General membership and executive committee meetings are held 7pm in West Science, Room 270, on the Northern Michigan University campus. Call John Rebers, 906-228-3617.

To receive news about outings or other Club activities in the Central UP, send \$5 for a subscription to the CUP newsletter to Sierra Club, 338 West Crescent, Marquette, MI, 49855.

CG Crossroads Group

The Sierra Club members of Livingston, southern Genesee, and western Oakland Counties meet monthly at the Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorff Dr, Brighton, for informative and entertaining programs. These meetings begin at 7pm and are open to the public.

The Conservation Committee also meets monthly to discuss and address local issues. Call Emily Gobrigh, 517-548-0595 or David Wright, 810-229-1685.

The Executive Committee meets the last Wednesday of the month. Call Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298.

HVG Huron Valley Group

The General Meetings of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club are held 7:30pm the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor. Non-members welcome. Call 734-480-7751 or visit our website at www.mirror.org/groups/mi-enviro.

2/20 General Meeting: HVG outings and program leader, Norm Roller, will talk on "Don't Hit the Tree, and Other Tips for Cross Country Skiers."

3/20 General Meeting: Robin Smith presents, "This Land is Your Land: The Future of Publicly Owned Wildlands."

4/17 General Meeting: David Mindell presents, "Bringing the Prairie Home: Residential Native Landscapes."

KVG Kalamazoo Valley Group

General membership meetings are usually held 7:30pm the 3rd Thursday of each month at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Twp Campus, Room 4370. Call Mike Johnson, 616-948-8840.

The Executive Committee meets 7:30pm the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome. Contact Verne and Cindy Mills, 616-344-4279.

2/15 General Meeting: "Pedaling Coast to Coast." Darrell Davies, trip coordinator and biologist, presents a slide program with highlights of this remarkable 3400 mile trip.

3/15 General Meeting: "Kalamazoo River Watershed Initiative." Dr. Charles Ide, director of Western Michigan University's Environmental Institute.

NG Nepessing Group

Meetings are held 7pm the 2nd Wednesday each month at Mott Community College in the "New Students" Pahl Building, Genesee Room, 1401 E Court St in Flint. These meetings are free and refreshments are available. Non-members are welcome, and parking is free of charge. Find out what local volunteers are doing and hear our featured speakers. Call Carol Graham, 810-659-4965.

Our current projects include working to get curbside recycling in Flint, water testing in the Flint River watershed, fundraising, trail

repairs, and great outings. Come help us and meet some fun and interesting people! Check the Nepessing web page at www.gfn.org/sierran.

The Nepessing Group weekly hiking schedule is available at 810-743-0335 or on our web page.

NEMG Northeast Michigan Group

If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Dan Farough at the Mackinac Chapter office, 517-484-2372.

SEMG Southeast Michigan Group

General meetings are held 7pm the 1st Thursday of each month, Sept - June, at Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy (southbound M-10 service drive) between Southfield and Evergreen roads and Nine and Ten Mile roads in Southfield. Social time: 7-7:30pm; Business meeting: 7:30-8pm; Program: 8-9pm. Contact Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

The Executive Committee meets 7:30pm the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Royal Oak Senior Citizens' Center, 3500 Marais, in Royal Oak. Contact Anna Holden, Chairperson, 313-331-0932.

Conservation Committee meetings for the remainder of 2000 will be held 7:30pm on Oct 16, Nov 13, and Dec 18 at the Royal Oak Senior Citizens' Center, 3500 Marais, in Royal Oak. Call Bob Duda, 734-464-0076 or Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645.

The Outings Committee holds quarterly planning meetings. If you're interested in planning or leading outings, contact coordinators Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370 or Philip Crookshank, wanderphil3@netzero.net / 313-562-1873.

Political Committee meetings to support pro-environment candidates and legislation

continued on next page

GROUP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

continued from page 16

at the state and local levels are held 6:30pm the last Thursday of each month (no meeting in October) at Jimi's Restaurant on Washington, one block north of Lincoln (10-1/2 Mile) in Royal Oak. All are welcome! Contact Tim Killeen, Political Chair, 313-526-4052.

2/1 General Meeting: Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Program Director will speak on Michigan's Forest Biodiversity Program.

3/1 General Meeting: Sierra Club member Bill Craig will give a slide show about his participation in a Club Service Trip to the Grand Canyon.

4/5 General Meeting: Enviro-faire. Several representations from enviro-friendly organizations will be present. Surprise quiet speaker.

TLG

Three Lakes Group

Sierra Club members in the Upper Peninsula counties of Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft are welcome to attend meetings of the Three Lakes Group. Business meetings are held monthly at various locations in Sault Ste Marie. Programs are held the 1st Wednesday each month from Sept-May at the Walker Cisler Center on the Lake Superior State University campus. Call Floyd Byerly, 906-632-0218.

TVG

Thumb Valley Group

No group meetings planned at this time, but see Outings, page 18, for group activities. Call group chairs Craig and Janis Kendzioriski, 517-631-5170 for updated information or if interested in participating on the leadership team or leading an outing.

TG

Traverse Group

At this time, no general membership meetings or programs are scheduled. See Outings, page 18, for special Traverse Group activities.

WMcNG

Wakelin McNeel Group

If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Julie Janeczko at 517-539-1676.

WMG

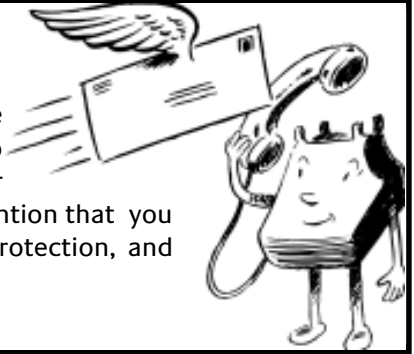
West Michigan Group

Meetings are held 7pm the 2nd Thursday each month at Kent Community Hospital meeting room. Everyone welcome! Call Marty Lore, 517-682-1316.

TAKING ACTION:

YOUR WORDS COUNT!

Get your free copy of "A Citizen's Guide To State Government" to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Chuck Perricone at **(517) 373-1774**, mention that you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask him to send you a copy!



THE WHITE HOUSE

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1414

White House Fax Line: 202-456-2461

White House Comment Line:
(202) 456-1111

White House E-Mail:
president@whitehouse.gov

U S C O N G R E S S

US Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

The Honorable _____
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

M I C H I G A N

Governor John Engler
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909
517-373-3400

The Honorable _____
Michigan Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

The Honorable _____
Michigan House
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

R E S O U R C E S F O R A C T I V I S T S

Sierra Club National Legislative Hotline: 202-675-2394

- **ENVIRO-MICH** is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, send e-mail to: majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).
- **Sierra Club's National Web Page** is at: www.sierraclub.org. Check out the daily *War On the Environment* postings.
- Find our **Mackinac Chapter Web Page**, by designwrench information arts, at: michigan.sierraclub.org
- Get a free subscription to **The Planet** by promising to write at least 3 letters a year to your elected officials in support of the environment. Send your name and address to **Sierra Club Planet Subscription Request**, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.



MACKINAC CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

TO EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group that is planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map on page 16 to determine a group's location. Trips begin at the trailhead. Outings are open to everyone.

FEBRUARY

- 2/3 (Sat.) Fairgrounds Hike.** Cummings Activity Center. 10am. Four easy miles. Meet at entrance on E Mt Morris Rd between Genesee Rd and Irish Rd, Genesee Twp. Restaurant Stop. Tim Gundlach, 810-232-0917.
- 2/3 (Sat.) NG Sock Hop!!!** Holly, 810-424-3609.
- 2/4 HVG Hudson Mills Day Ski or Hike.** Dress for weather. Hike if not enough snow. 734-483-0058.
- 2/4 SEMG Heritage Park Hike.** Let's take advantage of this rolling, urban, 211-acre park in nearby Farmington Hills. Hike 2-2.5 hours at a moderate pace, depending on conditions. Meet 12 noon in Heritage Park Visitor Center lot. Turn west off Farmington Rd (between 10 & 11 Mile) & left at 1st road. Restaurant stop after. Tom LaFromboise, 734-464-7899.
- 2/8 NG For-Mar Full Moon Hike.** 8pm. 3 easy miles. 2142 N Genesee Rd, Burton, just north of Davison Rd. Bring flashlight. Restaurant Stop. Tim Gundlach, 810-232-0917.
- 2/9 HVG Platform Tennis Outing.** In cooperation with the Huron Valley Tennis Club. Join us & the HVTC at Club in Dixboro from 7-10pm for games & comraderie. Instruction available. Wear sneakers & dress in layers. All adults welcome. Equipment provided. No fees. 734-663-9634.
- 2/10 NG Crim Hike.** 10am. 10 moderate miles. Meet at Coney Island, 401 W Court St, Flint, corner of Grand Traverse. Follows route of annual Crim Race. Restaurant stop. Dan Bremer, 810-232-6231, 810-767-9366, or D1982768@aol.com.
- 2/10 SEMG (Sat) Maybury State Park Moonlight Stroll.** Wish for a clear sky so we can see the moon, only 2 nights past full. Our easy pace will let us listen for resident owls hooting. Meet 7pm at horse stable parking lot. Take 8 Mile Rd to Beck Rd (2 miles west of Northville); go south 0.5 mile to gravel entrance on west side. Drive in to horse barns (another 1/8 mile) & park. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645.
- 2/11 KVG (Sun) XCountry Ski at Yankee Springs.** We'll meet 12 noon at US-131/D Ave ride-share lot. Our ski route will follow a 10k loop in the Yankee Springs Rec Area. The area is wonderfully forested with a variety of terrain. We'll stop at Sam's Joint for refreshments after the trip. A State Park sticker or day pass is required. Paul Haas, 616-664-5417
- 2/11 SEMG Lake Erie Metropark.** Bring your binoculars, as We'll be looking for shore birds, long eared owls & possibly bald eagles as we hike this easy, 5-mile trail. Dress for weather; we go rain or shine. Meet 12:30pm at the Nature Center in Lake Erie Metropark; south of Gibraltar, east off Jefferson Rd. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.
- 2/16 HVG Friday Night Hike.** Hike will be within Parker Mill. Meet 6:30pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens parking lot on Dixboro Rd. 734-484-4906.
- 2/16 NG MDNR Fisheries Assessment Program on the Health of the Flint River.** 10am. UM-Flint, University Center, Michigan Room or Kiva. Joe Leonardi will present fisheries study to Flint River Watershed Coalition. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242.
- 2/17 CUP XCountry Ski Outing to McCormick Wilderness Area.** Come explore the lakes & swamps of the McCormick track in Marquette County while they're frozen over & not a bug is to be seen. If we're lucky, we may see otter tracks across the snow. This will be a moderately strenuous outing, with mostly off-trail skiing. Meet 9am at Peninsula Medical Center in Marquette if interested in arranging a carpool. Dave Allen, 906-228-9453.
- 2/17 TG (Sat) Snowshoe Hike at Empire Bluff Trail.** Meet 2:30pm in trail parking lot. If approaching Turn left onto M-22 in Empire by Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes Visitor Center. Go 2-3 miles, turn right on Wilco Rd; parking lot is on left. The hike is somewhat hilly, but not too difficult & includes old growth forest with a surprise at the top of the dunes! The visitor's center in Empire can provide additional directions & a map of the area. Optional restaurant stop after. Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344.
- 2/18 NG Murphy Lake Hike.** 1pm. 6.5 difficult miles. Take M-15 to Millington. East 4 miles on Millington Rd (only stop light in Millington). Trailhead is across from Mt Kotarski sign. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.
- 2/18 SEMG Woodland Hills Nature Park Hike.** Come see if we can squeeze in about 5 moderate miles in this lovely Farmington Hills Park. With a pond, a stream, meadows & lots of forest, any doubling-back won't even be noticeable! Be prepared for possible mud or wetness on narrow meadow paths. Meet 12:30pm in the parking lot, west side of Farmington Rd, just south of 12 Mile (opposite OCC entrance). This is 1 mile west of the I-696 Orchard Lake exit. Optional restaurant stop after. Tom LaFromboise, 734-464-7899.
- 2/18 TVG (Sun) Pine Haven XCountry Skiing.** 1pm. Meet in Pine Haven Recreation Area parking lot, about 10 miles NW of Midland. Craig Kendziorski, 517-631-5170.
- 2/24 NG Holdridge Lakes Mt Bike Trails Hike.** 10am. 6 moderate miles. I-75 to Grange Hall Rd (exit 101). West 0.5 mile to Hess Rd. North 1.5 miles to parking lot on left. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.
- 2/24 SEMG (Sat) Independence Oaks Ski.** There are a variety of trails at this county park, from beginner to advanced. Let's try them all for several hours. Ski rentals available. Bring a lunch to eat in warming hut at break time. If there is no snow, we'll do a 5-mile hike to the Nature Center. Meet 11am in Troy on west side of Meijer parking lot (near Rochester Rd & Auburn), just north of M-59. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.
- 2/25 SEMG Pointe Pelee Ice Hike.** Join the 10th annual ice hike in Ontario. We are hoping for mounds of breaking-up ice pushed onto the Pointe by winter winds. If we get it, the vista will be spectacular! Dress warmly for 2-3 hours of outdoor fun. This all-day activity starts 9:30am at Ontario Tourist Info Center, 0.7 mile south of Ambassador Bridge on Route 3 (Huron Church Rd), Windsor. Optional restaurant stop after. Bring border-crossing ID. Bridge fees, park admission fee @ \$12/car. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

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OUTINGS

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MARCH

3/2-4 NG Black Mt High Country XCountry Ski/Snowshoe. Lodging at Bill's Broken Blade Ranch log cabin north of Atlanta, Michigan. Directions in 1999 hike schedule. Limit 12. Reservations required. BBR fees \$1 per night. Rated easy. Bill Summers, 810-653-0867; Holly Lubowicki, 810-424-3609.

3/3 NG North Holly Hike. 10am. 7 moderate miles. Meet in parking lot behind Groveland Twp hall at 4695 Grange Hall Rd between Mt Holly & Ortonville. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

3/4 NG Clio Bike Trail Hike. 10am. 5 easy miles. Meet in parking lot on Clio Rd, 0.5 mile north of Vienna Rd in downtown Clio. Tim Gundlach, 810-232-0917.

3/4 SEMG Indian Springs. Let's spring into Spring with a moderately paced, 5-mile hike in this beautiful Metropark. We'll do one 3.5-mile trail, followed by a 1.5-mile cooldown. Meet 10am in Bloomfield Twp Costco parking lot near McDonald's on Telegraph (east side), north of Square Lake Rd. Call if weather is doubtful. Restaurant stop after. June Cox, 248-435-9522.

3/8-11 NG Munising XCountry Ski. All types of skiing available. Michigan's most beautiful & exciting XC skiing. Rooms will be booked at Munising Days Inn for Thu, Fri & Sat nights. Reservations required by Jan 15: 810-653-8242, 9am-5pm. \$107/room (2 queen beds) with 1st night paid in advance. Ski Fri, Sat, & Sun. I-75 north, cross bridge. 28 miles west to Munising, Days Inn on right. Some trail fees. Eat in restaurants. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242 or 810-653-0142.

3/9-11 CUP Snowshoe Winter-camping: Tahquamenon Falls Area (Luce & Chippewa Counties). Join us as we explore the Betsy Lake Natural area & a section of the North Country Trail in big snow country. This non-smoking, off-trail trip is suitable for the experienced cold-weather backpacker who is very physically fit, adventurous, & fully equipped, including rations. Wilderness bivouacs — no campgrounds. Trip starts 8am Fri; ends 2pm Sun. \$5 Club Donation. Michael Neiger, 906-226-9620, 906-228-2683, or mneiger@hotmail.com.

3/10 CUP Grand Island Ski Trip. Come ski around the lower half of Grand Island. Good views overlooking Lake Superior; dramatic ice formations in Trout Bay. Meet 10am at parking area across from Williams landing, near Munising. We'll ski across the ice of Munising Bay & visit some scenic ice structures. Richard

Posey, 225-0016.

3/10 SEMG (Sat) Proud Lake Hike. A quick- to moderate-paced 5-mile hike around this popular state recreation area. Wear hiking boots, dress in layers & bring water bottle. We'll be looking for the 1st signs of spring, no matter what the weather. Meet 12 noon at the park (6 miles north of I-96, exit 159) on Wixom Rd. Follow state park signs, trailhead parking lot is 0.5 mile east of Headquarters building. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

3/11 SEMG Mystery Hike. It's still a mystery to your leaders where We'll hike, so be prepared to spend the whole afternoon with the group. Our hiking will be moderate in length, speed & difficulty. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet 11am in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & 12 Mile Rd. Lee Becker, 810-294-7789; Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370.

3/17 NG Brant Service Hike. 10am. Holly Rec Area. We'll trim branches & remove windfall to increase the length of this popular trail. Bring branch cutters & saws. Hopefully the rope swing will still be there! M-15 to Grange Hall Rd in Ortonville. West 2 miles. North on Brandt Rd 0.3 mile. Trailhead parking on left. Restaurant stop. Cindy Engelmann, 810-743-0335.

3/17 SEMG (Sat) Belle Isle Browse. We'll be criss-crossing the forest on the island looking for the deer herd. There are almost 100 head — let's see if they have been browsing on the woody bushes during the harsh winter. We'll trek about 5 miles on this Detroit park. Meet 9:30am on east end of island in the Nature Center parking lot. Greektown Restaurant stop after. Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

3/17 SEMG (Sat) Outings Scheduling Meeting. If you are interested in leading or learning about leading outings, come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Non-committee members are welcome. Bring a St Patrick's Day potluck dish to pass at 6pm, then participate in the next quarter's planning meeting that follows. We'll meet at Liz's house, 7250 Bingham (east of Schaefer, north of Warren) in Dearborn. 313-581-7579.

3/18 HVG Stinchfield Woods Hike or Ski. Join us for hiking or XCountry skiing if snow. Bring your skis. Meet at City Hall parking lot at the corner of 5th & Huron at 1pm to carpool. 734-971-1157.

3/18 SEMG Seven Lakes Vernal Equinox Hike. Well, almost the equinox. A 7-mile hike to observe the fields, woods & many lakes for the 1st signs of spring. Waterproof boots a must; hike goes in any weather. Bring binoculars & trail snacks. Meet 11am in Troy behind Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd, just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). John Herrgott,

810-735-9313.

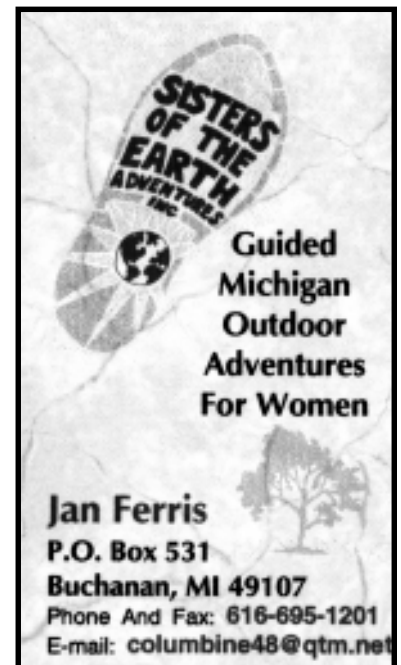
3/24 KVG Dinner & Concert. We'll meet 6pm for dinner at First Wok, NW corner of Sprinkle Rd and Gull Rd. Then we'll head over to the Colt Center in Comstock for a Kzoo Folklife concert with the band Heartland — a great evening of traditional & contemporary bluegrass. If not interested in dinner, please join us at the 8pm concert. Concert tickets: \$9 adults, \$3 children under 12. Confirm dinner by 3/20 with Cindy, 616-344-4279.

3/24 (Sat) Clio Bike Trail Hike. 10am. 5 easy miles. Meet in parking lot on Clio Rd, 0.5 mile north of Vienna Rd in downtown Clio. Tim Gundlach, 810-232-0917.

3/24 SEMG (Sat) Mason Tract Day Hike. A 9-mile linear hike along the scenic South Branch of the Au Sable River. Bring a daypack with lunch, munchies, water & rain gear. You'll need a good pair of boots. Dress in layers for cool weather. We'll leave 7am from NW corner of I-75 & Sashabaw Rd. Travel time is 2 hours. Return around 7pm. \$3 fee. Ride sharing; car shuttles. Call by 3/10 to reserve a spot & get details. John Calandra, 248-391-8973 or johndcal@gmail.com.

3/25 NG Lapeer State Game Area Hike. 10am. 4 moderate miles. Meet at parking lot on top of hill. From intersection of M-24 & M-21: go north on M-24 3.5 miles to Daley Rd. Turn right, 3 miles to Fish Lake Rd. Turn left (north), 2 miles to Vernor Rd. Turn right, 1 mile to Five Lakes Rd. Turn left (north), 1 mile to parking lot on top of hill. Restaurant stop. Gordon Schneider, 810-664-6180.

see OUTINGS page 20



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Guided Michigan Outdoor Adventures For Women

Jan Ferris
P.O. Box 531
Buchanan, MI 49107
Phone And Fax: 616-695-1201
E-mail: columbine48@qtm.net

OUTINGS

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3/25 SEMG Holliday Hike. Holliday Nature Preserve is the quiet realm of Mother Nature right in the middle of bustling Wayne County. We'll take a leisurely 2-hour stroll, checking to see that the inhabitants are waking up & getting busy with their Spring work. Bring a trail lunch, we'll eat in the quiet of the preserve. Meet 10:30am in Livonia between WalMart & Oil Dispatch on SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96 (Jeffries Fwy). Or meet 11am at Koppernick entrance trailhead, Koppernick Rd between 1-275 & Hix Rd and Joy Rd & Warren Rd, Canton. Bob Duda, 734-464-0076.

3/31 NG Beaver Hike, Lapeer State Game Area. 10am. 1 easy mile. Lois Rheume, Seven Ponds Nature Center Naturalist, will teach about the ecology of a beaver pond including benefits, drawbacks & problem solving for beaver stream blockage. Handouts included. \$2 per person (half of fees to naturalist). No dogs. M-24 to Daley Rd east, Daley to Fish Lake north, turn left on Beyers Rd. Road curves to left. 1st parking lot on right. Bring camera. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242 or 810-853-0142.

3/31 (Sat) Dinner & Blues at Memphis Smoke. 7pm. Limit 10. Reservations by 3/26. Corner of 11 Mile and Main St, Royal Oak. Car pooling recommended as parking is extremely hard to find. Lynn Livingston, 248-541-6830 or redwingnut@sprintmail.com.

3/31 SEMG (Sat) Ortonville Explorer Hike. This was called a "Get lost with Liz Hike" until she used her exploring skills to define a 5-mile loop trail in this wild state recreation area. Be part of the group to finalize this route! Meet 10:30am in Troy behind Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). Bring trail lunch, restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579; Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

APRIL

4/1 SEMG Bald Mountain Fools. Don't be fooled — Lee will be taking us on a slow- to moderate-paced 5-mile hike over wooded trails at Bald Mountain South. Meet 12 noon in Troy behind Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). Restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 810-294-7789.

4/6-8 CUP Backpacking with Elk: Green Timbers Wilderness Tract (Otsego County). If you enjoy hiking XCountry in search of the majestic but elusive Elk, join us. This non-smoking off-trail trip is suitable for the experienced foul-weather backpacker who is very physically fit, adventurous & fully equipped, including rations. Wilderness bivouacs — no campgrounds.

Trip starts 8am Fri; ends 2 pm Sun. \$5 Club Donation. Michael Neiger, 906-226-9620, 906-228-2683, or mneiger@hotmail.com.

4/7 HVG Island Lake Hike. Join us on our annual 14 miler in anticipation of the Potawatomi hike. Meet 9am at City Hall parking, corner of 5th & Huron, to carpool. 734-429-0671.

4/7 NG Hogbacks Moonlight Hike. 7pm. 5 difficult miles. Campfire. Meet at fishing parking lot near 12406 E Stanley Rd, 3 miles east of M-15. Gloria Bublitz, 810-664-0304 or glorypepper@yahoo.com

4/8 NG Otter Lake Hike. 1pm. 5 moderate to difficult miles. From corner of M-57 & M-15 in Otisville, go north on M-15 2.8 miles to Willard Rd. Go east 2.6 miles. Left at fork, 0.1 mile to trailhead parking on left. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

4/8 SEMG Kensington Hike. We'll be looking for early spring wildflowers as we go 5 moderately-paced miles on trails near the nature center. Meet 12:30pm in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & 12 Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Jeanne Mercier, 313-581-6648.

4/13-14 SEMG (Fri-Sat) Hoist Lakes Backpack Trip. A 15-mile overnight backpacking trip (northeast of Mio) that offers rolling terrain with hills & ridges topping 1200ft, 7 lakes formed by glacial processes, sink holes, wildlife & beautiful backcountry campsites. The trails are well groomed & easy to hike. Bring backpack, cooking gear, water filter, food for 3 meals & munchies. Limit 6. \$5 fee. Ride sharing. Call by 4/1 to reserve a spot & get details. John Calandra, 248-391-8973 or johndcal@go.com.

4/14 (Sat) Murphy Lake Hike. 10am. Take M-15 to Millington. East 4 miles on Millington Rd (only stop light in Millington). Trailhead is across from Mt Kotarski sign. Denny Crispell, 517-624-5038.

4/15 SEMG Easter Hike at Maybury. We'll celebrate this holiday by hiking the back trails at Maybury State Park. We'll watch for bluebirds as we hike 3 moderately-paced miles. Dress in layers for the weather; restaurant stop after. Meet 12 noon at the park concession bldg, 8 Mile Rd entrance, just west of Beck Rd & Northville; 5 miles west of I-275. Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782.

4/20 HVG Friday Night Hike. Spring has arrived. Meet 6:30pm at the main bridge in Gallup Park. Dress for weather. Cancelled if rain. 734-994-7030.

4/21 NG Help at Earth Day Booth. Daytime. Earth Day Celebration at Mott Community College. Lots of great activities planned. Bring the

family. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242.

4/21 NG Elba Equestrian Complex Hike. 10am. 5 moderate miles. Located on Genesee/Lapeer County line north of Elba. I-69 to Elba Rd exit. North 4-5 miles to entrance on west side. Colette Mendel, 810-233-4239.

4/21 SEMG (Sat) Pontiac Lake Hike. Let's have a hill-hopping hike as we welcome the coming of spring & the fresh green leaves popping out on the trees. This State Rec Area has lots of trails for a nice 6-mile, moderately-paced hike. Meet 10:30am in Bloomfield Township in Costco parking lot near McDonald's on Telegraph (east side), north of Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

4/22 (Sun) EARTH DAY. Support your local Earth Day events.

4/22 SEMG Brighton Rec Area. Come join us on a 5-mile moderate- to fast-paced hike. See the greening of the woods as Mother Nature brings the wildlife & wildflowers to life. Dress for weather. Restaurant stop after. Meet 12 noon in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & 12 Mile Rd. Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

4/23 HVG Joint Meeting with Audobon Society of Kalamazoo. Come hear Dr. Howard Tanner, former director of the Michigan DNR (1975-83), speak on "Environmental Policy during the Administration of John Engler." Topics of interest include great lakes water quality & rights issues, natural resource allocation & management, & integration of resource management & economic development goals. Coffee (bring a mug), snacks & socializing at 7pm, program starts 7:30pm. People's Church, N 10th St, Kalamazoo.

4/28 NG Flint River Trail Clean-up. 9am to 1pm. Meet at Vietnam Veterans Park on James P Cole just south of Hamilton Ave & north of Longway Blvd, west of the river, Flint. We've adopted a section of the trail to maintain. Other adopting groups will also be working on their sections. Bring drinking water, work gloves, stiff-bristled brooms, dust pans, shovels, leaf rakes, receptacles for broken glass, leaf blowers, edgers, brush cutters, wagons, carts & wheelbarrows. Lunch plans TBD. Cindy Engelmann, 810-743-0335.

4/28 or 5/5 NG Benthic Organism Sampling. All day. Help the Flint River Watershed Coalition gauge the health of our streams by sampling small insects that live in streams & taking them back to the lab for identification. Training provided. Call Rita for reservations & directions. Bring a car. All other equipment, including waders, provided. Rita Jack, 810-767-6490.

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OUTINGS

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MAY

4/28 NG Frog Hike. Ortonville Rec Area Equestrian Campground. 7pm. 3 moderate miles. Depending on weather, especially temperature, wind & humidity, we hope to hear spring peepers, grey tree frogs & American toads. Campfire & picnic at 7pm. Hike at 8:30 (dusk). On north side of Fox Lake Rd about 1 mile west of Hadley Rd, 4 miles south of Hadley. Bring flashlight, boots for muddy trails, rain gear, hot dogs, buns, marshmallows, chips & beverages. State park vehicle permit required. Must vacate campground by 11pm. Fred Townsend, 248-627-3487 or fhtownsend@aol.com

4/28 SEMG (Sat) Holly in Spring. The wildflowers should be blooming, the trees budding, with lots of pollen in the air on this slow paced, 5-mile hike. Dress in layers, with lug soles for wet trails. Meet 12 noon in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Pat & Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.

4/29 HVG North Country Trail — Yankee Springs Rec Area. Tom Funke, Head Education Specialist at Binder Park Zoo & member of the Chief Noonday Chapter of the North Country Trail Association, will lead this hike. We'll explore a section of the trail that runs through Yankee Springs. Lots of people aren't aware that the Trail runs through this part of Michigan, so this is a good opportunity to check it out! Meet 12:30pm at US-131/D Ave ride share lot for drive to Yankee Springs. Or, meet us 1pm at the Chief Noonday Outdoor Center parking lot on M174 (Chief Noonday Rd) in Yankee Springs. Plan to spend most of the afternoon on the trail. Cindy, 616-344-4279.

4/29 HVG Annual Potawatomi Trail Hike. Hike all 17 miles of this winding trail through glacial terrain, by lakes & over hills for great views & camaraderie. Bring lunch. Meet 8am at City Hall parking lot, corner of 5th & Huron. 734-483-0058.

4/29 NG Hadley Hills Jasmond Rd Hike. 1pm. 6 difficult miles. Ortonville Rec Area. Meet at dead end of Jasmond Rd, south off Hegel Rd, 4.5 miles east of M-15 near Goodrich. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

4/29 SEMG Potawatomi Trail Hike. A fast-paced, hilly, 14-mile hike on the most beautiful trails in SE Michigan. An all-day trip; we usually hike about 3mph. Wear sturdy shoes & dress for weather. Trip goes rain or shine. Bring lunch & drinks for entire day. Meet 8:30am in Livonia between WalMart & Oil Dispatch on SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96 (Jeffries Fwy). Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

5/2 NG Bald Mountain Hike. North Unit, Lake Orion. 10am. 6 moderate miles. No dogs. M-24 to Lake Orion. Left on Flint St to Orion Rd, left on Stoney Creek Rd, left on Harmon Rd. Trailhead parking lot at corner of Harmon & Predmore. Restaurant stop. Barb Niemi, 248-693-5785 or niemirb@msn.com.

5/3-7 CUP Remote Backpacking: McCormick Wilderness Tract (Marquette & Baraga Counties). We'll be exploring one of the remotest, non-motorized, trail-less tracts in the Upper Peninsula. Lots of waterfalls, lakes, old growth & rocky outcrops. Moose & wolf tracks too. This non-smoking, off-trail trip is suitable for the experienced, hardcore foul-weather backpacker who is very physically fit, adventurous & fully equipped, including rations. Wilderness bivouacs — no campgrounds. Trip starts 8am Thu; ends 12 noon Mon. \$5 Club Donation. Michael Neiger, 906-226-9620, 906-228-2683 or mneiger@hotmail.com.

5/5 NG Sawdust Corners Hike. Lapeer State Game Area. 10am. 5-6 moderate miles. I-69 to M-24. North about 7.5 miles. West on Sawdust Corners Rd to parking lot on north side of road (go past "Road closed" sign). Restaurant stop. Greg & Mary Downey, 810-664-4917 or marydowney@blclinks.net.

5/5 NG Benthic Sampling. See April 28.

5/5 SEMG (Sat) 2001 Earth Day Service Event. Let's celebrate the 31st Earth Day at Kensington Metropark by literally weeding Nature's Gardens. Bring the family, wear sturdy boots & bring work gloves to help remove invasive weeds that are taking over this pristine area. Take I-96 to exit 151 (Kensington Rd) to park entrance. Meet 10:30am at Nature Center. Potluck lunch afterwards (bring dish to pass) at East Boat Launch picnic grounds. Bob Duda, 734-464-0076.

5/6 NG Hadley Hills Lookout Mt Hike & Wiener Roast. 6 difficult miles. Campfire & wiener roast after hike at Old Bloomer. Bring food to cook, beverages & folding chair. State park vehicle permit required. See Jan 21 directions. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902

5/12-13 SEMG (Sat-Sun) Manistee River Trail/North Country Trail Backpack Trip. Hike the Manistee River trail the 1st day & its parallel segment of the North Country Trail on the opposite (west) side the 2nd day. This is a demanding hike — 20 miles in 2 days — but the Manistee River valley vistas from the high bluffs on both sides of the river will make the distance more than worthwhile. Trip starts at 9am at the south trailhead, 25 miles east of

Manistee. Bring your backpack, cooking gear, water filter, food for 3 meals & munchies. Limit 6. \$5 fee. Ride sharing. Call by 4/28 to reserve a spot & get details. John Calandra, 248-391-8973 or johndcal@go.com.

5/13-19 CUP Women's Sylvania Wilderness Canoe/Service Trip. Join other paddling women for trail & campsite maintenance in Michigan's premiere canoeing area. We'll camp in the wilderness, paddling or hiking to our work site. We'll work 4 days & have 1 day off. Fee: \$95 including food, administrative expenses, Sierra Club fee, etc. Canoe rental is \$51/person or bring your own. Sherry Zoars, 906-358-1110 or zoars@skynet.net; Kate Cunningham, 502-339-1381 or katecunningham@juno.com.

5/6 SEMG Sharon Hollow Wildflower Walk. See this jewel of the Nature Conservancy's preserves SW of Ann Arbor during Spring blooming. Trilliums, Dutchman's Breeches, Jack in the Pulpits & others on display. Bring flower guidebooks & mud shoes for this slow, naturalist's walk. Meet 9am in Livonia between Wal Mart & Oil Dispatch on SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96 (Jeffries Fwy). Restaurant stop after. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

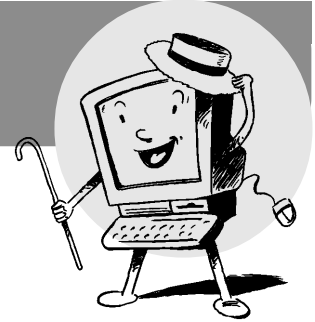
5/12 SEMG (Sat) Raisin River Wilderness Canoe. The headwaters of the Raisin are described as the most wild & the "crookedest" river in MI. A tricky, twisty, but gentle 4-5 hour float through wild forests & an old millpond to downtown Manchester. Some canoe experience necessary. Bring river lunch; meet 8:30am behind Dearborn Centennial Library at west end of parking lot, south side of Michigan Ave, just east of Southfield Fwy. Fee of \$18 must be received by 5/6. Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, Mi. 48125, 313-562-1873.

5/13 SEMG Mothers Day Wildflower Walk. A 3-hour stroll in Holliday Nature Preserve (Cowan Rd entrance) will reveal 21 flower species with a few surprises. Flower lists are provided, bring flower field guides, magnifiers, cameras, etc. Meet 9am in Westland at north end of Service Merchandise parking lot (facing preserve), 1/4 mile west of Wayne Rd, 1/4 mile north of Warren Ave. Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

5/13 TVG (Sun) 5th Annual Pictured Rocks Mothers Day Hike. 9:30am. 4.6 mile hike with lunch at Chapel Rock on shore of Lake Superior. Take H-58 to Melstrand, turn north on Chapel Road for 6 miles. Moderately easy hike, but come prepared for wet or chilly weather. Bring water, snacks & lunch. There is NO water at trailhead. Hike will be canceled in event of pouring rain. Don't forget your camera. Nancy

see OUTINGS page 23

WEBWATCH: VIRTUAL BIRDING



BY MICHAEL A. NEIGER
Central Upper Peninsula Group
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Whether you've just taken up birding or have been at it for years, the Internet is an excellent source for birding information.



For example, to find in-depth background information on Michigan birds, point your Web browser to Northern Michigan Birding (NMB) at www.northbirding.com. Its "a great resource for Michigan birders," according to Melinda Stamp of Marquette. In addition to "serving as a gateway to birding sites across the Internet," she says, it "includes an active message board where people can share bird sightings and request information on local birding topics." The site also offers educational features such as bird species profiles, bird identification training, and a question-and-answer column.

To enjoy interactive bird tours or chase rarities, Melinda recommends Virtual Birder at www.virtualbirder.com. If you're looking for bird identification tutorials based on the Peterson System, go to Peterson Online at www.petersononline.com.

To learn more about conservation and environmental protection as they apply to birding, Mary Powell of Flint recommends Birdsource — Birding with a Purpose. Managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory



of Ornithology, birdsource.cornell.edu promotes conservation and environmental learning. This site is a favorite of Mary's due to its hands-on projects, many of which harness the power of individual birders and promote wide-scale data collection.

To see nesting and feeding birds — such as eagles, owls, and peregrine falcons — check out the real-time webcams at Yahoo. Simply go to www.yahoo.com and sequentially select the following: Science > Biology > Zoology > Animals, Insects, and Pets > Birds.

For additional information about birding in Michigan, point your Internet browser to Wings Over Michigan or Michigan Birder, located at www.geocities.com/Heartland/Cottage/8090 and www.personal.umich.edu/~auntyem/michigan.html respectively.

If you haven't put out a seed feeder yet, hang one today to help your local birds through this unusually harsh winter. Don't just hang the feeder and forget it, either — clean it regularly and discard seed that gets wet or moldy.

Editor's Note: If you've got an interesting, wilderness-related Web site, e-mail it to Michael Neiger of Marquette, Michigan at mneiger@hotmail.com.

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The Michigan School of Log Building and Stone Masonry offers 5-day hands-on workshops in early June. Call (517) 734-4688 for information now!

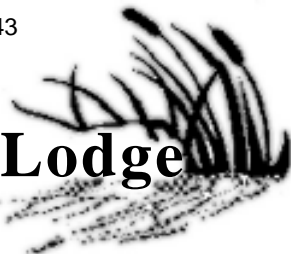
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NettieBay Lodge



OUTINGS

continued from page 21

Kressler, 517-689-5500; Esther Smith, 517-689-4864.

5/17 TVG (Sat) Potluck. 6:30pm. Bring dish to pass. Kendziorski's house, 4209 Linden Dr, Midland. Craig or Janis, 517-631-5170.

5/19-28 SEMG Algonquin Canoeing. We're going to Algonquin Provincial Park, 150 miles north of Toronto, a Premier canoe park. One full week of canoeing lake to lake, with a casual schedule. The interior we are headed for can only be reached by canoe, so loons, wolves, bears, moose & others anxiously await our visit. Portaging canoes & gear are required to experience this remote, regulated wilderness. A somewhat strenuous trip — canoes & packs are 48 lbs each. Canoeing experience & humor a must! You only need average strength, but a large sense of adventure. Limit 8. Fee: \$405 with \$100 deposit by 5/1. Cost will cover transportation, canoe & equipment rentals, park fees, camp fees & food on the trip. Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

5/23-28 CUP Remote Backpacking via Canadian Bush Train: Agawa Canyon area (Ontario, Canada). Join us as we explore this awesome canyon area — old growth, waterfalls, lakes, Kawagama Mountain, moose & wolves. This non-smoking, challenging off-trail trip is suitable for the experienced, hardcore foul-weather backpacker who is very physically fit, adventurous, a swimmer & fully equipped, including rations. Wilderness bivouacs — no campgrounds. Trip starts 9am Wed; ends 3pm Mon. \$10 Club Donation. Michael Neiger, 906-226-9620, 906-228-2683 or mneiger@hotmail.com.

5/26 SEMG (Sat) Lower Huron Metropark Biking. Bike through the 3 Lower Huron Metroparks. Paved trail runs 27 scenic miles round-trip from Lower Huron through Willow to Oakwoods & back. Bring bike, lunch & beverage for all or part of trail. Meet 9:30am at Tulip Tree picnic area in Lower Huron Metropark. Take I-94 west to 1st exit past I-275. Left on Haggerty Rd to park entrance. Tulip tree is 2nd parking area after you enter North end of park. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

AUGUST

8/6 TVG (Sun) Pictured Rocks Friendship Day Hike. 9:30am. Hike a moderately easy 2.8 mile loop to Mosquito River with lunch break at Mosquito Falls. Take H-58 to Melstrand, turn north on Chapel Road for 6 miles. Good for children. Bring water, snacks & lunch. There is NO water at trailhead. Don't forget your camera. Nancy Kressler, 517-689-5500; Esther Smith, 517-689-4864.

SIERRA CLUB MACKINAC CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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Washtenaw: Megan Beardsley.....734-996-5615

Legal: Open

The Mackinac Newsletter + Website

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Gwen Nystuen.....734-665-7632

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Bob Duda.....734-464-0076

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Raffle

Mike Keeler.....810-767-9904

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Lydia Fischer.....313-863-8392

Sierra Club Council Delegate

Mike Keeler.....810-767-9904

Sierra Club Delegate to MRCC

Sarah Houwerzyl.....616-361-5943

Next Deadline: April 8

SEND YOUR ARTICLES, PHOTOS,
GROUP MEETINGS & OUTINGS TO:

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Lansing, MI 48906

517-484-2372
joyce.mcintosh@sierraclub.org



CONSUMERS DEMAND CLEAN CARS FROM DETROIT

*MACKINAC CHAPTER REPRESENTED
IN CLEAN CAR RALLY*

story on page 12



Syed Naqvi, from the Sierra Club's West Michigan Group, drove his new Toyota Prius in the Detroit Clean Car Rally on the opening media day of the North American International Automobile Show. Syed took the Clean Car Pledge, and you can too: Fill out the insert at the center of this issue and return it to the Mackinac Chapter to get the Big 3 to notice you too!

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SIERRA CLUB, 109 East Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI 48906

WHAT DOES THE SIERRA CLUB WORK TO DO?

To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.