

TheMackinac

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Look Around You: Change is Underway

By Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

“Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice.”

— *Motto of the State of Michigan*

Turning the dream of a cleaner, healthier Michigan into reality is going to require some significant changes in the way our state does business. But as Michigan's motto says, “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you.” You'll see Sierra Club volunteers and staff building the momentum needed to bring forth a change for the good.

Sometimes it's hard to see how much progress is occurring in communities statewide when the news focuses on conflict and controversy in Lansing. One example: Michiganders are embracing clean energy and working to make it a reality in growing numbers, building demand and becoming impatient with the lack of leadership in Lansing. Two-thirds of our fellow citizens already support setting much more ambitious goals for wind, solar, efficiency and other clean energy.

Examples of communities building their own clean energy options are found across the state, from increasingly well designed, technologically cutting-edge wind projects like in Gratiot County, to the oversubscribed community solar project in Traverse City, to the City of Holland embracing an aggressive campaign against energy waste. Look around you... change is already underway, and Sierra



Mouth of the Pinnebog River

REBECCA HAMMOND

Club members you'll meet in the pages of this newsletter are leading the way. Like David Holtz and Jean Gramlich, Richard Morley Barron and Lydia Fischer, Marty MacCleery and Ed McArdle... the list goes on and on.

Sometimes we forget, as we shake our fists at the do-nothing politicians, that the vast majority of progress comes about when elected officials try to run to the front of the parade that is public opinion. The primary barrier to positive environmental change today is a lack of imagination and political will. Working for change through Sierra Club isn't a slogan designed to cover up a paucity of leadership — it is a formula for moving the planet forward. Thanks to all of you

Sierra Club members who support our efforts, whether you join our legislative and electoral work, or clean up trails and streams, or advocate to protect our amazing natural resources, or take action to reduce your own footprint on the planet. Share this newsletter with others who support change for a cleaner, healthier future. There's room for everyone!

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Celebrate a quarter century of retreating to the environment at the 25th Annual Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Retreat Aug. 22-24 at Camp Miniwanca on Lake Michigan. Details on pp. 12 and 13.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

TheMackinac

SPRING /
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THE MACKINAC

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SWMG Kim Gabriele kcgabriele@comcast.net

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The Fuel That Drives Sierra Club

by David Holtz, Chapter Executive Committee Chair

At Sierra Club we are all about the enjoyable job of safeguarding our Great Lakes State. We are also, I believe, Michigan's best hope for achieving meaningful, authentic change in protecting our natural world, our health, our future. But hope without action is mostly just a get well card, and what Michigan's environment needs is less sentiment and soothing words and something more akin to health insurance.

So this is a straightforward pitch to get involved. Here's why: Sierra Club is powered by hope coupled with action and both need constant nourishment to survive and thrive. You can be that nourishment. You can become Michigan's environmental insurance. Your time, your talent, your ideas, your financial support. It is the fuel that drives Sierra Club and our best hope for progress.

We constantly need new voices, new energy and new people to support Sierra Club's deep legacy of organizational democracy and to join its reservoir of

experienced, talented staff and volunteers. Building more people power is the formula — the only one — for achieving authentic environmental protection in Michigan. Whether you are concerned about climate disruption, healthier food, widespread, deep fracking, aging oil pipelines under the Great Lakes, or loss of biological diversity, there's a long list of environmental and public health threats in Michigan that government is failing to adequately address. Progress only comes when people like us get involved.

Progress comes because of people like Deitra Covington-Porter, an educator from Harper Woods who joined Sierra Club to fight for cleaner air in her community and in January became our newest state Chapter Executive Committee member. Progress is also achieved through the wisdom of longtime volunteers like Jean Gramlich, an Oakland County retiree who led the Chapter as Chair for seven years and continues

guiding Sierra Club as Vice Chair. Or sometimes it's someone like Rebecca Estelle-Skeels, a Kalkaska resident who with a handful of other locals is organizing Sierra Club's Clearwater Conservation Committee. It's also the dozens of people like them who write letters, lobby their elected officials, attend hearings or volunteer to stuff envelopes. These are the folks who lead Sierra Club.

Environmental and conservation organizations of many types continue to do important work and there's lots of work to do. But in Michigan — particularly at the State Capitol — it's the insider class of lobbyists/environmentalists who politicians currently in power prefer to cut deals with when it comes to legislation that affects our land, air, water and public health. That means citizens are too often outsiders in their own government, and makes it even more important than ever for citizen-led, grassroots groups like Sierra Club to continue building power on behalf of their members.

You may not be able to end gridlock in Washington, or eliminate secret corporate money in politics. But in Michigan, with Sierra Club, you can make a difference for the things we care about. If you want to find out how, just email me at david@davidholtz.org.

Rebecca Estelle-Skeels, chair of the newly formed Clearwater Committee, speaks with Chapter Chair David Holtz at the January Executive Committee meeting in Roscommon.



New and re-elected members at January's ExCom retreat. Back row, left: Pat Egan, Richard Morley Barron, Craig Brainard. Front row: Deitra Covington-Porter — the newest member of the Chapter's Executive Committee — and Nancy Shiffler.

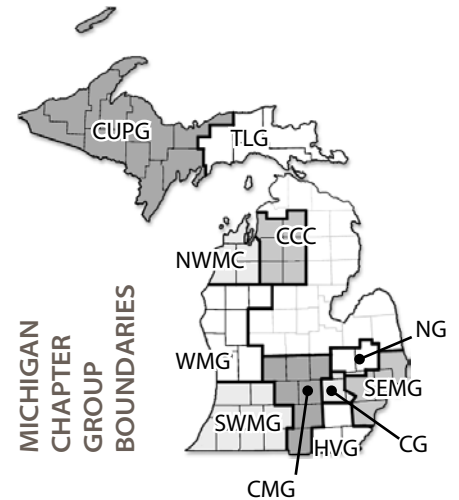


WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

Consider running for a position on the Executive Committee! For details, email Richard Morley Barron at rmorleybarron@charter.net.

THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP! Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's nine regional Groups and two Committees host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—everyone is welcome!

VISIT ONLINE AT MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/GROUPS



Clearwater Conservation Committee/CCC

COUNTIES: Antrim, Crawford, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Otsego and Roscommon
FACEBOOK: Clearwater Conservation Committee
TWITTER: @NCMIClearwater
CHAIR: Becca Skeels, sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com

Central Michigan Group / CMG

COUNTIES: Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee
MEETS: in Lansing area and Jackson
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/cmig
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Central Michigan Group
CHAIR: Dave Errickson, 517-648-9115 or dacenur@yahoo.com
VICE CHAIR: Paul Kindel, 517-332-3091 or kindel@msu.edu

Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

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

Crossroads Group / CG

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

Huron Valley Group / HVG

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

Nepessing Group / NG

COUNTIES: Genesee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland
MEETS: in Flint
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Nepessing
CHAIR: Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038 or thaley01@att.net

Northwest Michigan Committee/ NWMC

COUNTIES: Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Wexford, Manistee
MEETS: in Traverse City
WEBSITE: northwestmichigan.sierraclub.org
CONTACT: Sally Barber, nwmichsierraclub@yahoo.com

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

COUNTIES: St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne
MEETS: at Birmingham Unitarian Church
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club South East Michigan Group
CHAIR: Jean Gramlich, jeangramlich@msn.com

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

COUNTIES: Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry
MEETS: in Kalamazoo
WEBSITE: www.sierraclubswmg.org
SWMG CONTACTS: Kim Gabriele, kcgabriele@comcast.net and Joe Ziolkowski, zzjoes@aol.com

Three Lakes Group / TLG

COUNTIES: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft
MEETS: in Sault Ste. Marie
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes
FACEBOOK: Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club
CHAIR: Annemarie Askwith, askwitha@lighthouse.net

West Michigan Group / WMG

COUNTIES: Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mason, Lake, and Osceola
MEETS: in Grand Rapids
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club West MI Group
ACTING CHAIR: Craig Brainard, 269.954.8871, boomerbob1@gmail.com



GetInvolved!

AT THE CORE OF SIERRA CLUB IS OUR MISSION TO EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE WILD PLACES OF THE EARTH. Here's how we do it and how you can join in the fun!

Explore and Enjoy

- **GO ON A NATURE OUTING OR ATTEND AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM!** Find out about activities in your area at michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar.
- **JOIN ONE OF OUR MANY VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND COMMITTEES AROUND THE STATE.** See p. 4 for a listing of locations and contact information or visit michigan.sierraclub.org/groups.
- **ATTEND OUR ANNUAL RETREAT** on the shores of Lake Michigan this summer. Details on pp. 12 and 13.

Protect

- **EDUCATE VOTERS ON ECO-ISSUES AND LEGISLATION!** In this election year, our Political and Legislative Committees are working hard to get out the word about enviro-friendly candidates and legislative efforts. For more info, see pp. 6 and 7.
- **SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES** to stay informed on the issues affecting our Great Lakes State and actions you can take. Visit www.action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter.
- **SUPPORT THE IMPORTANT WORK WE DO.** See p. 11 for details or visit michigan.sierraclub.org/joingive to make an online donation.
- **JOIN SIERRA CLUB!** Become a member by filling out the form at right or join at michigan.sierraclub.org/joingive.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Moo-ve to End Factory Farms

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals. Factory farms are also the largest source of toxic ammonia air pollution in the U.S. The Sierra Club opposes all permits for new or expanded factory farms. Support Sierra Club's efforts to keep our water and air clean.

Go Free Range & Join Sierra Club

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:
Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
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or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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DemocracyInAction

Gov. Snyder Fails to Protect Environment

by Mike Berkowitz, Chapter Legislative and Political Director

In early 2014, Sierra Club released its first-ever gubernatorial scorecard, which evaluates Gov. Rick Snyder's performance on energy, environment, democracy and related issues to serve as a substantive, detailed guide to his record on issues important to Sierra Club members and all residents of the Great Lakes State. Michigan's chief executive received a failing grade, scoring 29% on the most important actions taken during his first three years in office on Sierra Club issues. The full scorecard is available at tinyurl.com/snyderscore.

Gov. Snyder's biggest environmental accomplishment in office has been to establish a regional transportation authority for southeast Michigan. However, more than 70 percent of the Governor's decisions ranked by Sierra Club contribute to polluting Michigan's water, air and land or undermining public health and democracy. When he was elected there was optimism that as governor of the Great Lakes State Governor Snyder would be a leader on clean energy, pollution protection, and water quality. With the exception of transportation policy he's offered no substantive leadership on these issues, and in a majority of cases Michigan has moved backward.

Total Decisions 35
Environmental Decisions 10
Score.....29%

"Michigan used to be a leader in making conservation a top priority under Republican governors such as Bill Milliken, but not anymore," said James D'Amour, vice chair of Michigan Sierra Club's political committee. D'Amour, a self-identified Republican, voted for Snyder in 2010 but says, "I regret that decision now. Governor Snyder's environmental record has been disappointing and disheartening for Republicans like me who care about clean air and water."

Sierra Club's scorecard analyzes 36 key decisions made by Gov. Snyder: 29 bills signed into law; two bills vetoed; and five administrative actions regarding permits and programs of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Natural Resources. Of the bills the Governor signed into law, 17 were direct attacks on environmental protection while only eight were designed to protect the environment. One vetoed bill attacked environmental protections, while

YOUR CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK

Over the past three years, there have been countless legislative attacks on environmental protections, but Sierra Club provides you with opportunities to fight back!

In May and June, Citizen Lobby Days will be held at the state capitol for members like you to make your voices heard in Lansing. The May Lobby Day will focus on energy issues, and in June the focus will be on natural resources. To sign up, email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or call 517-484-2372 x13.

If you can't come to Lansing but still want to get involved, visit action.sierraclub.org/milegactivists for details.

another vetoed bill and three signed were direct attacks on democracy. The five administrative actions weakened access to clean air, water and land.

Policies that undermine democracy in the United States have crippled our ability to pass progressive environmental protections. To learn more about why democracy issues are important to Sierra Club, read Executive Director Mike Brune's blog at tinyurl.com/mbruneblog.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB'S PAC

- 1) Write a check for the amount of your choosing.
- 2) Make it out to "Michigan Sierra PAC."
- 3) Fill out this form (required by the Secretary of State).
- 4) Mail your check and this form to the following address: Michigan Sierra PAC
109 E. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Corporate checks are not permitted. Contributions to Michigan Sierra PAC are not tax-deductible.
Paid for Michigan Sierra PAC, 517-484-2372, ext 13.



Members of the 2014 State Political Committee (left to right): Political Director Mike Berkowitz (Lansing), Jack Minore (Flint), Laurie Tata (Clio), Robert Gordon (Ann Arbor), Charlie Stefanac (Kalamazoo), Tom Turner (Detroit), Julie Griess (Whitmore Lake), Dave Richards (Royal Oak), Treasurer Gwen Nystuen (Ann Arbor), Vice Chair James D'Amour (Ann Arbor), Mark Meadows (East Lansing), Chair Richard Barron (Flushing), Craig Ressler (Caledonia). Not pictured: Fundraising Consultant and Compliance Officer Alaina Pemberton (Lansing), Ken Rosenman (Okemos), Pat Egan (Brimley), John Rebers (Marquette), and Jean Gramlich (Fenton).

Help Clean Up Our Political Environment

by Richard Morley Barron, Chapter Political Committee Chair

If you've become increasingly upset about the recent political and corporate assaults on our environment, there is good news — this is an election year, and you have real opportunities to make a positive impact. The primary election takes place Aug. 5, and the general election is Nov. 4. What can you do as a concerned Sierra Club member?

1 FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE RACES YOU'RE ABLE TO VOTE IN AND DETERMINE WHICH OF THE CANDIDATES IN EACH CONTEST IS THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE. The Chapter will make this easy for you by carefully screening candidates of all parties and endorsing the best ones. Our endorsed candidates will be posted on our Chapter political website with regular updates throughout 2014: michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/michiganpolitics.html. To look up your district information and polling location, and to make sure you're registered, and to see what your ballot looks like, visit webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote.

2 DONATE SOME TIME TO THE CAMPAIGNS OF ENVIRONMENTALLY-MINDED CANDIDATES. They need help! You can get involved by contacting the candidate's office and signing up to volunteer. For information on how to do this and which candidates to help, email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or call the Lansing office at 517-484-2372 x13.

If you don't have time to volunteer but still want to make a difference, the best way is by donating to our political program. All of the money we raise goes directly toward helping our endorsed candidates for federal, state and local office win their races. The money you donate helps us educate more voters about

who the best environmentalists are on the ballot. To donate, go to sc.org/MichiganVoteEnvironment or fill out the form on p. 6.

3 EDUCATE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND CO-WORKERS ABOUT THE SIERRA CLUB'S ENDORSED CANDIDATES. Research shows that if you have a relationship/friendship with someone, you are 30% more likely to be able to impact their voting behavior than anyone else. You should assure people that Sierra Club is a non-partisan organization that carefully investigates the environmental responsibility of all candidates. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. Be involved! Our biosphere is at risk!

SIERRA CLUB SEEKS POLITICAL INTERNS FOR THE SUMMER AND FALL

Do you know a student, recent graduate, or anyone interested in gaining professional experience while helping elect environmental politicians?

If so, have them email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org and ask for a full internship description and application instructions. We need interns in every corner of the state! Work hours are flexible and can be arranged to fit their schedule.

Growing Support for Sustainable Agriculture

by Gail Philbin, Assistant Chapter Director

Factory farms warehouse thousands of animals and generate millions of gallons of waste that threaten our environment and health, yet they receive significant support from taxpayers through federal Farm Bill subsidies. This gives them an unfair competitive advantage over sustainable farmers that a growing number of Michigan consumers support with their wallets.

Last year, Sierra Club joined farmers and other groups to form Less=More, a coalition that seeks to level the playing field for sustainable farmers by changing how subsidies are distributed in Michigan. The coalition released a groundbreaking report, *Restoring the Balance to Michigan's Farming Landscape*, and presented it to Garry Lee, the Michigan State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service who

oversees subsidy distribution. More than 3,600 consumers and farmers sent a message urging Mr. Lee to support sustainable agriculture, not polluting factory farms. And Less=More welcomed two new members: the Michigan Small Farm Council and Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition.

This year, Less=More is ramping up to work for change within the system. Three coalition members are now on the Michigan Technical Committee that works with Mr. Lee to set priorities for practices eligible for subsidies. Don't worry — we still need you to testify for sustainable agriculture at public hearings, on social media and in videos. Join the growing chorus of consumers who want to get the crap out of Michigan farm subsidies! To get involved, email gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.

Wendy Banka raises rare Salmon Faverolle chickens to harvest fresh eggs in her Ann Arbor backyard. When proposed changes to rules giving farmers like her protection under the Right to Farm Act threatened her ability to keep these birds, she helped found the Michigan Small Farm Council, Less=More's newest member, to protect and extend the rights of urban, suburban and rural small-scale farming operations. Learn more at michigansmallfarmcouncil.org.



LESS = MORE

Less support for polluting factory farms means a more sustainable Michigan. www.MoreforMichigan.org

Challenging Unsafe Fracking

by Rita Chapman, Beyond Natural Gas Program Coordinator

Sierra Club activist Craig Brainard wants you to know about the hazards of extreme drilling for natural gas and oil, and new, high-volume hydraulic fracturing process, a.k.a. fracking. He's scheduling presentations of his informative *Fracking Roadshow*© for groups. Contact him at Boomerbob1@gmail.com. You can also sign up for Craig's weekly email compilation of fracking-related news stories, *The Fracking Linkletter*©. He scans the web for the best media coverage and provides concise synopses of each.

To date, the MDEQ has given 53 permits for fracking. The agency touts its more than 60-year history regulating the

oil and gas industry with "no incidents of contamination," yet in October, it proposed new rules to address several defi-

Craig Brainard presents his Fracking Roadshow to groups around the state.



ciencies: to make the permitting process more transparent, to address potential problems caused by the withdrawal of massive quantities of groundwater, to require water monitoring, among others. Sierra Club submitted extensive written comments on the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's new, lackluster oil and natural gas rule package and proposed additional rule changes. To submit your own comments and keep up to date on these issues, visit www.tiny.cc/FrackRulesComments.

Coming this spring: New oil and gas permits in your county and a workshop series, Promoting Meaningful Public Participation in the Michigan Oil and Gas Permitting Process. For details, contact Rita Chapman at rita.chapman@sierraclub.org.

CleanEnergySolutions

Moving Michigan Forward

by Tiffany Hartung, Beyond Coal Campaign Representative

Even though Michigan political leaders are dragging their feet on increasing clean energy, the ground has shifted dramatically toward cleaner energy in the last six months. Recent decisions by three Michigan utilities cleared the way for cleaner, cheaper, job-creating renewable energy investments. Meanwhile, state energy officials released reports showing that Michigan could easily increase renewable power to 30% by 2035 and dramatically ramp up efficiency.

Last December both the Holland Board of Public Works and the Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative announced termination of plans to build new coal plants and moved away from existing coal power, while laying groundwork for clean energy options. Just a few weeks later in January, Consumers Energy dropped plans to build a large, expensive natural gas plant and opted instead to purchase a smaller, cheaper unit, but it still has not committed to increase renewables beyond its mandates or to retire all of its dirty, outdated coal-fired plants.

Reports prepared for Gov. Snyder last fall with input from thousands of Michiganders concluded that the state's existing efficiency standard is saving more than \$3 for every \$1 invested and that wind power is now cheaper than coal power and competitive with natural gas. While supporting a reduction in energy waste, moving away from coal and increasing renewable energy in concept, the Governor is unfortunately delaying updating the



GLENN KUJANSU

More than 120 Oakland County businesses have called on DTE to transition away from coal and to a clean energy economy. Pictured are southeast Michigan volunteers who held a press conference to announce the news.

state's energy policies until after the 2014 elections.

Although clean energy is a clear winner, DTE Energy resists making decisions about the future of its aging coal-fired power plants and the communities that have hosted them for half a century, instead doubling down on dirty energy with its non-utility businesses. Sierra Club volunteers are finding growing support from businesses and community leaders throughout southeast Michigan for DTE to invest in more clean energy and move off polluting coal.

Michigan's elected officials can take actions to speed Michigan's progress toward a clean, efficient energy future, but Sierra Club is helping move our state forward even when those leaders refuse to act. Join the team of volunteers around the state working for a sound energy future by going to www.michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy.

Lansing community members discuss energy planning for their utility during a Community Clean Energy Dialogue about Lansing Board of Water and Light.



LANSING BOARD OF WATER & LIGHT: MUNICIPAL UTILITY STILL THE BEST FOR CLEAN ENERGY

by Brad Van Guilder, Beyond Coal Campaign Organizing Representative

While Michigan's largest municipal utility, Lansing Board of Water and Light (LBWL), stumbled and fell in the immediate aftermath of the December 2013 ice storm, it is still the best bet for leading the way on clean energy.

The utility has to invest more in planning that involves the community it serves. If they had done so, establishing a robust emergency plan would have come out of community values. This is why the Sierra Club started energy dialogues in the area in August 2013. The LBWL

has closed seven coal-fired units, and we expect to hear about the closing of three more units. The utility recognizes the value of solar power to create a more efficient and resilient distribution grid. It recently bought into a wind farm and has the opportunity to invest a lot more in the next few years if we make it clear that renewable energy is a high-priority community value.

Join other LBWL ratepayers in helping bring about these changes by contacting Brad Van Guilder at brad.vanguilder@sierraclub.org.

Great Forests, Wild Places



State Entertains Proposal to Sell 10,000 Acres in Eastern UP

by Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

The State of Michigan has been approached by a mining company to sell over 10,000 acres of eastern Upper Peninsula forest land. Incredibly, the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is giving serious consideration to the idea!

As proposed by Graymont, Inc., the DNR would sell a contiguous block of over 10,000 acres, both surface and subsurface, for the purpose of mining limestone, creating between five to 10 jobs over 50 years, according to reports. The company's original proposal only requested acquisition of subsurface

rights, which is where the limestone mining would take place. According to sources at the state, however, the office of Sen. Tom Casperson intervened, convincing the company to also ask for surface rights.

DNR staff has described the 10,000-acre parcel as the most productive timber land it owns in the eastern UP. In fact, DNR officials previously vetoed proposals to manage this land for biodiversity, claiming the state could not afford to give up such valuable land for biodiversity, and that it should be man-

aged for timber. Sen. Casperson has since tried to outlaw management for biodiversity on DNR lands.

No one at the DNR or Graymont has explained why 10,000 acres of prime surface forest land should be sold for a subsurface limestone mining project that would generate few jobs. Sierra Club vigorously opposes even giving this proposal serious consideration. Rich, productive, public forests are one of the things that makes this state great, and Michigan should never permanently give up a huge block of such a precious resource. Once sold, the state will never get it back.

Focus On Michigan

Protect the Great Lakes from Asian Carp!

by Melissa Damaschke, Great Lakes Program Director

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has finally completed its Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study, which analyzes the threat of 39 invasive species between the Great Lakes and their tributaries and the possible actions that can be taken to protect the basin's waterways from devastation by these species.

The study proves that physical separation is the most effective solution to prevent Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species from moving between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River ecosystems. It's now time to move from studying separation to planning and implementing it, and Sierra Club needs your help to deliver this message to Michigan's public officials.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure, and economically support a \$7 billion fishing industry, \$16 billion boating industry, and 1.5 million jobs. The introduction of Asian carp and other species puts the well-being of many communities, wildlife, and waters at risk.

The Chicago Waterways System, which feeds into Lake Michigan, has been identified as the most likely route for the



Members of the Southeast Michigan Group show their support of efforts to protect our Great Lakes from Asian carp.

carp to enter the Great Lakes. The study leaves no doubt that the most effective way to stop invasive species from wreaking environmental and economic havoc is through the construction of a physical barrier.

National and state officials must act now to protect the Great Lakes, moving forward on interim steps while working together as a region and nation towards a permanent solution.

Please share this information with your family and friends, and call your public officials or write a letter to the editor to explain the importance of a permanent and physical barrier between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River ecosystems.

7 Ways To Support Our Work

SIERRA CLUB IS ONE OF THE MOST VERSATILE DEFENDERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, so there are many ways to support our work!

1 BECOME A SIERRA CLUB MEMBER or give a gift membership. Use the form on p. 5 or join at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/joingive.



2 MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION to Sierra Club Michigan's effective, citizen-based advocacy efforts. Donations to support our citizen engagement work, including twice-yearly citizen Lobby Days and in-district legislative work are not tax-deductible but vital to our success. Just send a check with the form below or visit tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport.

3 SUPPORT US WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT to The Sierra Club Foundation. This supports our educational and administrative policy work at the state and federal level, including litigation, forest biodiversity, water quality protection, and energy work. Make checks payable to The Sierra Club Foundation and mail to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906.

4 GIVE AT THE OFFICE! Donate through your workplace via EarthShare of Michigan's Workplace Giving program. Contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org. Learn more at www.earthsharemichigan.org.

5 PLAN YOUR GIVING. With Sierra Club's Gift Planning Program, you can designate funds to support the Chapter in a variety of ways, including bequests and charitable gift annuities. Call the Chapter at 616-956-6646 or the



national Sierra Club at 800-932-4270 or email gift.planning@sierraclub.org.

6 CONSIDER COMMEMORATIVE AND MEMORIAL GIFTS. Celebrate important events or remember a loved one with a donation that supports protection of Michigan's environment in their honor. Contact jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

7 DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA PAC. Giving to our state-registered political action committee is an excellent way to support state and local candidates endorsed by our Chapter. To donate, fill in the form on p. 6 or visit www.sc.org/MichiganVoteEnvironment.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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

Give online at www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport

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

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

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

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

Card # : _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Annual Retreat 2014

COME FIND YOUR MICHIGAN SUMMER MOMENT at an affordable weekend retreat August 22-24 at historic Camp Miniwanca, a private, Lake Michigan gem just north of Muskegon. Located among 360 wooded acres, beautiful Camp Miniwanca offers everything from tent camping to rooms near the lake or among the pines.

Celebrating the Magic of Michigan for 25 Years

by Kristen Dunn, Retreat Publicist

Join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of this special Sierra Club weekend, which is open to the public. Year after year, the magic of this beautiful, pure Michigan setting brings people together. Invite your friends to this easy introduction to the community of people from all over the state.

INTERGENERATIONAL PLAY AND LEARNING

Whether you come by yourself or with your kids, grandkids or friends, there are activities and attractions galore to keep everyone happy.

kayaking • sailing • river tubing
swimming • high ropes course
guided hikes • scavenger hunts
campfires • yoga • kite flying

Saturday night's auction is a highlight as our treasures find new homes. This is your chance to share what you love so please bring your new, used, handmade and unusual items to donate to the auction and then be sure to join in the fun of bidding!

As we play together we can also build up our hope for the future by learning what we can do, individually and together, to protect and preserve our beautiful state. Workshops are available for activism, organizing or just learning more. More information about this event as it becomes available can be found at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

REGISTER NOW!

The modest retreat fee covers all activities and workshops, five meals, two nights' lodging and memories and connections to last beyond the weekend. For more information, including camp location and registration, contact Cecilia Garcia, Cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or at 517-484-2372, x10. Don't wait — space is limited.

See you in August!





2014 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM: AUGUST 22-24

All workshops, activities, five meals and two nights lodging are included in each of the rates listed below.

Names (include age if under 18): _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email Address: _____

(Saves resources—your address will not be shared.)

Please list roommate(s) names, if applicable:

Would you agree to share a room with someone you do not know (same sex)? Circle one: Yes No

Special needs, comments, questions, suggestions:

Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total
< 3	All	Free	Free
3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$75	_____
3-12	Beach or Inland Dorm	\$90	_____
Adult	Cabin or Tent	\$135	_____
Adult	Inland Dorm	\$165	_____
Adult	Beach Dorm, with roommate(s)	\$180	_____
Adult	Beach Dorm, no roommate(s)	\$225	_____
Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)*			_____
Add \$25 for registration after August 15			_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED			_____

Cancellation policy: Full refund on or before August 15, 2014.
 * Visit www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html to learn more about Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO) program

> **How many times have you attended the MI Chapter SC Retreat?** _____

> **How did you hear about the retreat? (Circle answers)**
 Website The Mackinac Friend Past Attendee
 Email Notices Facebook Other _____

Register online at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html or send this form with a check to: Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, ATTN: MI CHAPTER RETREAT, 109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Make check payable to Sierra Club. Contact Cecilia Garcia with registration questions, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372, x10. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY AUGUST 20.** Check-in begins Friday, August 22 at 3pm.

Supporting Your Chapter

Where there's a WILL....there's a WAY!!!

by Jan O'Connell, Chapter Development Director

When author Rachel Carson died 50 years ago at age 56 she left a substantial bequest to Sierra Club, including royalties from future sales of her book "Silent Spring," which inspired the modern-day environmental movement. Her legacy led Sierra Club to create the Rachel Carson Society, designed to honor and

recognize individuals who make a commitment to the environment by including either Sierra Club or the Sierra Club Foundation in their estate plans.

You, too, can make a difference by remembering the Michigan Sierra Club in your will. It's an excellent way to make a commitment to the next generation

and protect the environment for years to come. There is NO MINIMUM gift amount, and changes can be made at any time. Sierra Club also offers options like commemorative gifts that can be used to celebrate important events and occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc. With memorial gifts you can remember a loved one by supporting protection of Michigan's environment. To discuss any of these gift options, contact me at jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or 616-956-6646.

MICHIGAN LEGACY COUNCIL

A special thank you goes out to Michigan Chapter members, supporters and volunteers, who donate their time, expertise or money to help our work.

The Michigan Legacy Council was created to honor those who have donated a significant sum to support Sierra Club's citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs or made a tax-deductible gift to support qualifying educational and policy programs.

Members of the Michigan Legacy Council receive special acknowledgement based on their giving level starting at \$500/year, which also can be given in monthly installments through our EVERGREEN program. The Michigan Legacy Council spotlights this crucial support. See the back page of this issue for a current listing of the Michigan Legacy Council members.

For more information, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

Care for the Environment Today and Tomorrow

By including Sierra Club in your estate plans today you are creating a way for future generations of Sierrans to steward the earth tomorrow.

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

Sierra Club Gift Planning Program

85 Second St, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270 • gift.planning@sierraclub.org



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

Wouldn't it be great if your entire workplace supported a sustainable future? It's easier than you think!

Workplace giving allows employees across America to donate to their favorite environmental charities by contributing as little as \$1 per paycheck. It's the most convenient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to give back.

EarthShare Michigan, part of a national non-profit federation of environmental charities, offers employees the opportunity to give to a pool of 29 organizations, including the Sierra Club Michigan

Chapter. You can also individualize your tax-deductible support to one or more of the participating groups like the Michigan Sierra Club.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MICHIGAN'S EARTHSHARE PROGRAM and see the listing of EarthShare groups in Michigan, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org. For information on how to create a new giving program at your workplace, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

2013 Annual Report

A Pivotal Year in Review

Chapter volunteers and staff confronted challenges and celebrated victories in an environmental and political landscape both static and shifting in 2013. Despite a state legislature awash in anti-environmentalism threatening Michigan's natural heritage and the integrity of the democratic process, the Chapter saw big "wins" on a few fronts.

- Chapter Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson again helped prevent oil and gas drilling along the "Holy Waters" of the Au Sable River and had significant input in the Department of Natural Resources first-ever forest plans for three state regions. His work also brought us close to a possible defeat of a wood-to-ethanol plant proposal in the eastern Upper Peninsula.
- Beyond Natural Gas Program Coordinator Rita Chapman and a strong volunteer committee developed a plan to address fracking for natural gas and oil and worked with other groups to obtain Wege Foundation funding to set up tools to protect communities from fracking's impacts.
- The Chapter launched Less=More, a sustainable agriculture coalition aiming to level the playing field for sustainable livestock farmers in Michigan by tackling farm subsidy inequities, and issued a report, *Restoring the Balance to Michigan's Farming Landscape*, about the relationship between farm subsidies and factory farm pollution. In December, the coalition presented 3,600 consumer and farmer signatures on petitions and postcards to Garry Lee, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's State Conservationist in Michigan, asking him to stop giving taxpayer subsidies to polluting factory farms.
- More than 150 Sierra Club citizen lobbyists came to Lansing to talk with legislators, and about 2,000 people contacted their lawmakers asking for more clean energy and to stop fracking. Political Committee Chair Richard Morley Barron worked with Chapter Political and Legislative Director Mike Berkowitz and volunteers on strategies to support or defeat seven bills, from environmental attacks that stripped protections for wetlands to positive investments like increasing fishing and hunting fees to fund more DNR officers.

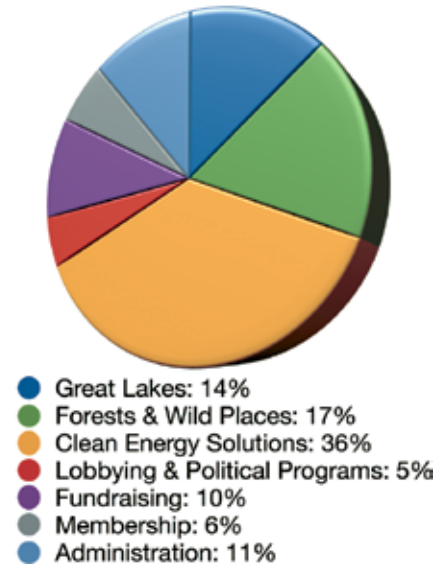


- In December, Michigan's energy future changed dramatically as Beyond Coal Campaign Representative Tiffany Hartung and activists celebrated these victories: Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative dropped plans for a new coal-fired power plant in Rogers City and withdrew from plans for one in Marquette. And after six years of local pressure by Energy Issues Organizer Jan O'Connell and volunteers, Holland Board of Public Works settled litigation with Sierra Club that ended a proposed expansion of the James DeYoung coal plant and means the city will cease burning coal by 2024.

NOTE: This Annual Report has not been audited. It includes only financial information about the Michigan Chapter's work, not information from the affiliated Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Committee nor from the SCORE Michigan Ballot Question Committee.

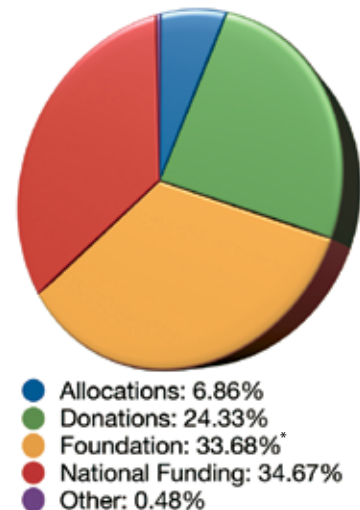
EXPENSES TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

In 2013, the Chapter spent \$682,344 to advance its conservation priorities. Of that, 79% went directly to pro-environment activities you care about; the remaining 21% went to administrative aid for our programs and activities that helped secure funds to ensure the sustainability of the Chapter's critical work.



INCOME TO SUSTAIN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In 2013, the Chapter's income was \$715,167, and less than seven percent came from a portion of your annual Sierra Club membership dues. The vast majority of our financial support derived from diverse fundraising activities including direct mail appeals and grant requests that yielded vital donations from members like you as well as other supporters including foundations.



*INCLUDES DONATIONS TO MI CHAPTER



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

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

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Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

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

FENS & SAPLINGS

\$500-\$999

- Lorne & Kathi Beatty
- Jonathan Cohn
- Kathleen & William Davis
- Estate of Esther M. Dean
- David Diephuis
- John Edlund
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- Lydia Fischer
- Lannie Fisher
- John Ford
- Stacey Garrison
- Barb Griffin & Clay Stauffer
- Lynn Hartung
- Mary Z. Johnson
- Edward Keane
- Paul & Judy Kindell
- Albert & Barbara Koegel
- Chris & Mary Lampen-Crowell
- Lawrence & Mary Lockhart
- Thomas McQuade
- Matt Mooq
- Larry Nelson
- Thomas & Jill Newhouse
- Nancy Newman
- Rolland O'Hare
- Gilbert Omenn
- Dr & Mrs Nathaniel Rowe
- Robert F. Rudd
- Marilyn Smith

- Kathy Sneden
- Fred & Alyce Townsend
- Carol E. Ward
- Anonymous Donors (2)

STREAMS & WHITE PINES

\$1,000-\$2,499

- Richard Barron
- James D. & Cynthia L. Berkey
- Kenneth & Judy Betz
- Margaret Flynn
- Frank & Emily Gobright
- Carol Graham
- Thomas (Mike) Haley
- Denise Harris
- Douglas Jester & Colleen Barry

- Samuel & Patricia Lacina
- Murray & Jeanie Kilgour
- Paul Maracle
- Max McKee
- Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman
- Sarah Winans Newman
- Henry (Hal) Newnan III
- Jan O'Connell
- Margaret M. Phillips
- Stanley & Connie Rajnak
- Loretta Sheehan
- Barbara Stowell
- Julie Ann & Steven Wang
- Todd S. Wilkinson
- Anonymous Donor



RIVERS & GROVES

\$2,500-\$4,999

- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Gwen & John Nystuen
- John & Janice Rebers
- Nancy Shiffler

DUNES & SHORELINES

\$5,000-\$7,499

- Jill Baker
- Mr. John R. Hunting
- Pierce Family Foundation

MARSHES & PRAIRIES

\$7,500-\$14,999

- Ceci Bauer & Tim Flynn
- Jean Gramlich
- Anne & Tom Woiwode

GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS

\$15,000+

- Thomas Buhr
- Patrick Egan
- Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation
- Wege Foundation



Generous Gifts from Michigan Chapter Groups

\$1,000-\$2,499
» Crossroads Group

\$2,500-\$7,499
» Nepessing Group
» Southeast Michigan Group
» Three Lakes Group

\$7,500-\$14,999
» Huron Valley Group