

# TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SPRING/SUMMER 2015

## Re-Energizing Michigan

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

To re-energize something is to infuse it with vitality or enthusiasm, which is what happens whenever you give your time, talent or financial support to Sierra Club's work to protect the environment in Michigan. You keep us going through good times and bad.

Re-energize also means to re-supply with energy, and in the case of the state of Michigan that means reinventing how we power our cars, our homes, our lives. The staff and volunteers of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign are working hard to make this happen by moving the state beyond its dependence on dirty fossil fuels to clean, renewable sources of energy like solar and wind. You can read about our progress on p. 6.

The Michigan Chapter revitalizes government when it pushes agencies to rethink how they do business when it comes to fossil fuel extraction and transportation. In this issue, you'll read about activist trainings we've developed with volunteer Nancy Shiffler to build a role for citizens in the state approval process for oil and gas leasing and drilling. And thanks to the work of Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson, we're forcing the US Forest Service through legal action to revisit its failure to do an environmental assessment before renewing a permit for a 60-year-old Enbridge Line 5 pipeline in the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

The Michigan Chapter is also reinvigorated when it reviews how it carries out its mission. That's why our volunteer Executive Committee put mitigating climate change at the top of our conservation priorities for the next



JAN O'CONNELL

These Sierra Club volunteers understand that protecting the environment is good for jobs.

15 years. Our work to shift Michigan to clean energy has an obvious role in addressing the premier environmental issue of our time, but really, everything we do relates to climate change.

The new Michigan School Siting Task Force that volunteer Deitra Covington-Porter writes about on p. 8 is tackling, among other things, the close proximity of SO<sub>2</sub>-spewing power plants to Wayne County schoolchildren. Our Less=More campaign seeks to end Farm Bill subsidies for polluting animal factories, which generate significant greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, our political and legislative committees with volunteers like Shirley Kallio toil to get "green" candidates elected who will take legislative

action on issues affecting climate change.


In these and countless other ways, Sierra Club staff and people like you are re-energizing Michigan — renewing a commitment to protecting our great natural resources and quality of life, at a time when it can be easy to get discouraged, and rebuilding hope for a better future.

## FIND US ONLINE

 [www.facebook.com/SierraClubMichigan](http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubMichigan)

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

 Sign up for our bimonthly Chapter email update at [action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter](http://action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter)



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**IntheSpotlight** PAGE 1: Re-Energizing Michigan  
PAGE 3: Help Us Rewrite Michigan's Future

**GroupInfo** PAGE 4 **GetInvolved** PAGE 5

**BeyondClimateChange** PAGE 6: Michigan Must Move to Clean Energy  
PAGE 7: Craig Brainard: Michigan Fractivist Spreads the Word / Free Oil and Gas Activist Training / Rita Chapman: From Staff to Volunteer Activist

**EnvironmentalJusticeForAll** PAGE 8: Making Environmental Health a Priority for Schools / Don't Let Your Zip Code Become A Life Sentence / Give at the Office with EarthShare @ Work

**StrengtheningOurDemocracy** PAGE 9: Snyder Needs to Improve His Failing Track Record / Activist Spotlight: Robert Takes Lansing

**SafeguardingOurGreatLakes** PAGE 10: Less = More / Re-Energize with Outings

**ProtectingWildMichigan** PAGE 11: Club Sues to Force Environmental Study of Enbridge Pipeline / DNR Approves Controversial Graymont Land Sale / Support the Work of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

**AnnualRetreat2015** PAGE 12: Unplug and Let Nature Charge You Up

**SupportingYourChapter** PAGE 14: Creating a Legacy / In Memoriam: Andrea Dean / In Memoriam: Rena Soifer  
PAGE 16: Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

**AnnualReport2014** PAGE 15: Summary of an Empowering Year

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## Help Us Rewrite Michigan's Future

by David Holtz, Michigan Sierra Club Chair



**W**e live in a place of natural beauty where people have a strong tradition of caring about each other and their connection to the world around them. In Michigan, we celebrate our wild places, take pride in our Great Lakes, and pass landmark laws and enforce them to protect our air, land and water. Or do we?

Any environmental narrative about Michigan also has to include that we live in a state with big corporate polluters and powerful business lobbies who often get what they want. Just ask the parents of kids going to Salina School in south Dearborn where the air is more toxic because of dozens of clean air rule violations from a nearby steel plant.

We've always had a ways to go. But it's also true that for many years we have steadily, slowly, improved things. For a time this environmental consensus ebbed and flowed, but forward progress seemed settled as the Michigan way. Now I am not so sure. When a Michigan governor's most noteworthy environmental achievement of 2014 is being forced to veto radical legislation banning biodiversity protection as state environmental policy, you know the momentum has clearly shifted. You are strictly playing defense.

Polling tells us the public still wants strong environmental laws and enforcement. Where the consensus breaks down is in the political realm. There are probably many reasons for this and often the explanations focus on the specifics of a particular case. But I believe there is also something larger at work: As environmentalism became more professionalized, it lost much of its punch and power as a movement of citizens.

This isn't a new idea, of course, but within Sierra Club there's a growing recognition that we need to change to do better. The focus is where it should be—on expanding our outreach and growing and diversifying our volunteer and staff leadership. Which is where you can make the biggest difference.

On another part of this page is information on how you can become a candidate for the Michigan Sierra Club Chapter Executive Committee. Read it and please consider whether you or someone you know might be interested in finding out more about volunteering as a Sierra Club leader. Or maybe you want to start by getting involved in some other way, perhaps in your local Sierra Club group near your home.

Now is the time to consider whether you are able to make a commitment to Sierra Club as a volunteer leader. Do it while Michigan's environmental narrative is still being written.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

**T**he Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is a volunteer-led organization governed by an Executive Committee including at-large members elected by the Sierra Club's Michigan membership. This fall, five Sierra Club members will be elected to at-large seats on the Executive Committee. Any member may apply to be nominated.

For questions or to apply, please contact Nominating Committee Chair David Holtz at [david@davidholtz.org](mailto:david@davidholtz.org) or Sierra Club's office at 517-484-2372.



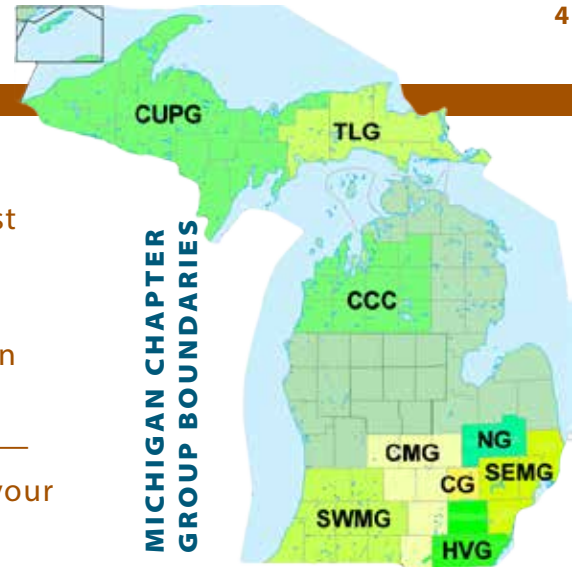
### NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR OUR POLITICAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Did you know that the Michigan Chapter's Political Program is one of the strongest in the country? Major credit goes to our groundbreaking Political Internship Program, which trained over 50 young interns last year.

To learn more, check out the National Sierra Club feature article on our Political Internship Program at [tiny.cc/MiPoliticalInternship](http://tiny.cc/MiPoliticalInternship).

Political Director Mike Berkowitz trains interns on how to make a difference in elections.





**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 eight regional Groups and one Committee host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—everyone is welcome! For inquiries about activities in your area, you can also contact [gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org).

### Clearwater Conservation Committee/CCC

**COUNTIES:** Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford  
**FACEBOOK:** Clearwater Conservation Committee  
**TWITTER:** @NCMIClearwater  
**CHAIR:** Becca Skeels, [sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com](mailto: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/cmj](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/cmj)  
**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club Central Michigan Group  
**CHAIR:** Dave Errickson, 517-648-9115 or [dacenur@yahoo.com](mailto:dacenur@yahoo.com)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Paul Kindel, 517-332-3091 or [kindel@msu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:jrebers@gmail.com)

### Crossroads Group / CG

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

### Huron Valley Group / HVG

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

### Nepessing Group / NG

**COUNTIES:** Genessee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland  
**MEETS:** in Flint  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing)  
**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club Nepessing  
**CHAIR:** Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038 or [thaley01@att.net](mailto:thaley01@att.net)

### Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

**COUNTIES:** St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne  
**MEETS:** at Elks Club in Royal Oak  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg)  
**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club South East Michigan Group  
**CHAIR:** Art Myatt, 248-548-6175 or [almyatt@yahoo.com](mailto:almyatt@yahoo.com)

### Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

**COUNTIES:** Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry  
**MEETS:** in Kalamazoo  
**WEBSITE:** [www.sierraclubswmg.org](http://www.sierraclubswmg.org)  
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### Three Lakes Group / TLG

**COUNTIES:** Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft  
**MEETS:** in Sault Ste. Marie  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes)  
**FACEBOOK:** Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club  
**CHAIR:** Roger Blanchard, [blanchardrd@yahoo.com](mailto:blanchardrd@yahoo.com)

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

### WEST MICHIGAN GROUP UPDATE

The West Michigan Group of the Michigan Sierra Club has become inactive in recent years and is a candidate for dissolution by the Executive Committee. We intend to continue organizing in the region and are exploring

flexible alternatives to the Group structure, such as a local activist network or issue-based conservation committee. If you'd like to help build our presence in West Michigan or comment on the status of West Michigan Group, please contact [david@davidholtz.org](mailto:david@davidholtz.org).

# 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

- **GET OUTSIDE THIS SPRING AND CELEBRATE EARTH DAY EVERYDAY BY GOING ON A NATURE OUTING OR ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.** Find out about activities in your area by checking with your local group or looking at [michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar).
- **JOIN ONE OF OUR MANY VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND COMMITTEES AROUND THE STATE.** See page 4 for a listing of locations and contact information or visit [michigan.sierraclub.org/groups](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/groups).
- **COME PLAY AND LEARN WITH US AT THE CHAPTER'S ANNUAL RETREAT.** All members and families are welcome. See pages 12-13 for more information.

## Protect

- **EDUCATE CITIZENS ON ECO-ISSUES AND LEGISLATION!** Our Political and Legislative Committees are working hard to educate Michigan citizens about the democratic process in our state and how it impacts our environment and legislative efforts. For more information, see page 9.
- **SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES** to stay informed on the issues affecting our Great Lakes State and actions you can take. Visit [action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter](http://action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter).
- **SUPPORT THE IMPORTANT WORK WE DO.** See page 11 for a donation form or visit [tinyurl.com/supportMISC](http://tinyurl.com/supportMISC) 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](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/joingive).



REBECCA HAMMOND

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## Blowing in the Wind

It's time for America to get smart about energy and become less dependent on fossil fuels. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

**Giving's a Breeze. JOIN Sierra Club.**

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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
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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:

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or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

## CLIMATE CHANGE: TOP PRIORITY IN 2030 PLAN

The Michigan Chapter elevated mitigation of climate change to the top priority in our 2030 Strategic Plan because, to paraphrase Sierra Club's founder John Muir, it is "hitched to everything else in the universe." Below is an overview of our work to fight climate change by promoting renewable, clean energy and moving Michigan beyond fossil fuels.

## Be Bold: Michigan Must Move to Clean Energy and Beyond Fossil Fuels

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Conservation Chair

John Ford beams when he talks about the solar panels installed on his home last year under DTE Energy's Solar Currents program. "My utility bills are already lower and I feel good knowing I'm doing my part to protect our planet. Utilities should continue expanding their renewable energy programs and our legislators should increase Michigan's renewable energy standard to make sure that happens."

John is part of the overwhelming majority eager to see Michigan move faster toward clean energy and off fossil fuels. They are urging state elected officials to take leadership in this effort. Now is a critical time for Michigan to commit to expanded clean energy.

By the end of 2015, Michigan utilities will be in 100% compliance with the renewable energy and energy efficiency standards set in 2008. These investments have actually come in cheaper than any proposed fossil fuel plants, Governor Snyder's plan announced in March is to set a voluntary goal of 30 to 40% combined efficiency and renewables by 2025. Sierra Club applauds the goal, but it is clear that only enforceable standards will get Michigan on that path.

Federal air quality rules that Sierra Club has fought for are going into effect and the state's electric utilities acknowledge the need to retire a substantial portion of Michigan's coal-burning plants. Decades of pollution from coal-burning power plants put climate-changing carbon into the atmosphere; contributing to increased asthma in children, while also

depositing acid rain and mercury in our waterways. Environmental protections are going into effect that should force these plants to either clean up or shut down.

Unfortunately, key House and Senate leaders are working to derail Michigan's successful clean energy laws through legislation proposed this spring. Michigan's utilities have spent millions in advertising to undermine new, enforceable renewable and efficiency standards. They want Michigan's energy future to emphasize massive natural gas burning power plants

dependent on dangerous and unsustainable fracking, not renewable energy or reduced energy waste.

The push to expand natural gas has led to proposals for massive pipelines from the Marcellus shale region of western Pennsylvania that would run through southeastern Michigan and into Ontario. Michigan is a focal point in the fight to keep tar sands oil in the ground as debate rages over the threat to the Great Lakes posed by a 60-year-old pipeline carrying crude oil across the Straits of Mackinac and St. Clair River.

Sierra Club volunteers and staff are fully engaged in all aspects of these critical fights to protect our state's future. Find out more and how you can help at [michigan.sierraclub.org](http://michigan.sierraclub.org).

Shirley and Gene Kallio soak up the sun and look forward to all the clean energy their new solar array will generate.





## BREAKING NEWS

### SIERRA CLUB CALLS FOR MICHIGAN FRACKING BAN: HIGH-VOLUME FRACKING TOO RISKY, CONTRIBUTES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

As we prepared this newsletter for publication, the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter officially announced its support for a complete ban on high-volume, hydraulic fracturing in Michigan. Read the press release at [www.tinyurl.com/MIfrackingban](http://www.tinyurl.com/MIfrackingban).

## Craig Brainard: Michigan Fractivist Spreads the Word

by Rachael Monosson, Dec. 16, 2014, from Sierra Club's blog *The Planet*

“Somebody’s gotta do this,” says Craig Brainard, Sierra Club volunteer and member since 2004. “Well, I know a guy that can.” And with that simple motto, Craig started up the *Fracking Linkletter*,<sup>®</sup> an information exchange and resource for the “fractivist” community in Michigan and beyond.

In the words of Anne Woiwode, [former] director of the Sierra Club’s Michigan Chapter, Craig has “gone well above and beyond the call of duty in his work to fight fracking.” First alerted to the dangers of fracking in 2010 by the movie “Gasland,” Craig has been sending out the *Linkletter* since 2012, the year he realized that oil and gas companies owned at least three leases within a mile of his home...

> To read the full story, visit [tinyurl.com/craigbrainard](http://tinyurl.com/craigbrainard)

## Michigan Chapter Offers Free Oil and Gas Activist Training

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

With fracking and other fossil fuel extraction-related activities increasing in our state, many people are concerned about the impact on the environment and public health, but what can you do? The state approval process for oil and natural gas leasing and drilling historically has been shrouded in mystery, taking place largely out of sight and with no public input.

The Michigan Chapter aims to crack open this process and make it more available to concerned citizens. We’re offering free activist trainings to help residents have a voice in the decision-making that determines where, when and how oil and natural gas drilling activities take place in Michigan. We work with small groups of local citizens to help them understand what’s involved in the state’s process, what to look for when reviewing parcels that are up for mineral rights leasing or drilling permit applications and how to write effective comments to educate agency staff about the impact of proposals in your community.

To learn more, check out our two-part Citizen’s Guide at [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/michigan-oil-gas-activism](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/michigan-oil-gas-activism). It contains information on the steps private companies must take to be awarded leasing rights to exploit oil and gas holdings of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and explains the Department of Environmental Quality’s drilling permit application process.

To sign up for an introduction to our oil and gas activist training, contact [gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org).



### RITA CHAPMAN TRANSITIONING FROM STAFF TO VOLUNTEER ACTIVIST

From whales to caddis fly larvae, Rita Chapman’s love for aquatic critters has driven her to be a part of Sierra Club for over 20 years. Rita became Michigan’s membership and administrative coordinator in the 1990’s after volunteering with the Crossroads Group. She remained a Sierra Club volunteer as she completed her education at UM Flint and worked for the Flint River Watershed Council.

In the early 2000’s Rita created Michigan’s first Water Sentinels project around the cleanup of the Velsicol Chemical Superfund site in St. Louis on the Pine River. From there, Rita helped fight pollution from large-scale livestock operations and protect sensitive waterways from sulfide mining in the Upper Peninsula. Rita organized, trained and supported the Chapter’s Beyond Natural Gas and Oil Committee work to stop fracking, and helped win stronger energy efficient building codes last year.

Unfortunately, funding reductions at the Chapter for 2015 led to Rita leaving our staff. But she continues to bring her passion and expertise as a volunteer both in Michigan and with the Sierra Club Grassroots Network. Rita’s expertise and passion for protecting Michigan’s waters from pollution helped move many of the Michigan Chapter’s priorities over the past two decades. Thanks Rita Chapman!

## Making Environmental Health a Priority for Michigan Schools

by Deitra Covington, Chapter Conservation Committee Chair

**E**nvironmental factors compromise the health of students in some school districts in Michigan, such as:

- 1) Location: Some schools are in areas where the outdoor air quality is poor. For example, Wayne County has a large geographic area that has high levels of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is not in attainment of USEPA clean air standards.
- 2) School Structure: There are school structures located on contaminated grounds, therefore water and indoor air quality are unsafe for the students and teachers.

The Michigan School Siting Policy Task Force was created by University of Michigan professors and community activists to focus on these issues across the state. The goal is to create a policy that inspects the existing schools and takes a look at new school construction. This will be done by bringing the “voices” of the people to the table: state policy makers, school administrators, city officials, students, parents and other stakeholders.

To continue to bring forth the best and the brightest from our schools, the environmental health of our children must be a priority. Therefore, a policy that considers environmental factors and health in siting schools in Michigan is vital.



## Don't Let Your Zip Code Become A Life Sentence

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Conservation Director

**I**n Michigan, your zip code predicts your chances of dying, being hospitalized or missing time from school and work as a result of asthma. Emissions of sulfur dioxide and other pollutants from coal-burning power plants and other industries are concentrated in urban areas and too often given a pass on meeting standards protective of health. In Lansing, asthma hospitalizations from zip codes around the Board of Water and Light (BWL) Eckert coal-burning power plant are the highest in the three-county region, while more than 3,500 air quality violations at BWL coal plants have not been addressed.

Detroit has three times the asthma hospitalization rate of the rest of Michigan. Asthma educator Elizabeth Milton reports that 50% of the truancy from Detroit's schools is the result of asthma, with sick children annually missing 10-20 days of school. Five industrial facilities in Wayne County emit so much sulfur dioxide that they exceed safe levels for human health. In Dearborn, community members have rallied to fight pollution from the AK Steel (formerly Severstal Steel) plant. That plant's permit renewal standards were drastically weakened after the Michigan Economic Development Corporation became involved in permit negotiations with state environmental regulators.

The US Environmental Protection Agency is requiring Michigan officials to submit a plan to remedy the situation. Eighty-five percent of the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from three DTE Energy-owned facilities: the River Rouge and Trenton Channel coal-burning power plants and EES Coke.

Sierra Club is tackling the excessive health and environmental burden these communities carry simply because they are near dirty, polluting, and poorly regulated facilities. Through public education, empowering community members to speak up, submitting comprehensive legal and technical comments, and, where necessary, litigation, Sierra Club volunteers and staff are working to end the idea that your zip code is your destiny. Find out how you can help at [www.michigan.sierraclub.com](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.com).

### GIVE AT THE OFFICE WITH EARTHSHARE AT WORK

**E**arthShare at Work makes it easy for employers to give back to communities and address important environmental issues while helping charities like the Sierra Club develop a stable, regular funding source with little or no administrative costs.

Employees simply pledge a small amount of each paycheck to support member organizations or make a one-time gift. You can also designate your contribution for the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter (we receive 100% of these donations).



If you'd like to create a new giving program at your workplace, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org). For more information, visit [www.earthsharemichigan.org](http://www.earthsharemichigan.org).



## Snyder Needs to Improve His Failing Track Record

by Mike Berkowitz, Chapter Political Director

This year, Governor Snyder is tasked with passing a new state energy policy and dealing with numerous public land and natural resource management decisions. Sierra Club is urging the governor to dramatically improve on his environmental track record. His first term was inadequate.

Over the past four years, Michigan's chief executive got a failing grade on Sierra Club's Scorecard, scoring just 31% on the most important actions we rated. Unfortunately, most of the decisions where it was important to protecting Michigan's environment, Gov. Snyder took actions that support polluting the state's water, air and land while undermining public health

and good government.

"Michigan used to be a leader in making conservation a top priority, but not anymore," said James D'Amour, a member of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's Political Committee. "Gov. Snyder's environmental record is disappointing and disheartening for people who care about clean air and water."

On the positive side, Snyder's biggest environmental accomplishments over the past four years included vetoing legislation that would have prevented the Department of Natural Resources from protecting Michigan's biodiversity. He also signed legislation that expanded financing for residential energy efficiency projects, and pushed through a new law that established a regional transportation authority for southeast Michigan.

Check out our scorecard to see how Snyder is performing during his second term at [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/legislative-scorecards](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/legislative-scorecards).

## Activist Spotlight: Robert Takes Lansing

A few years ago, Robert Gordon learned about attacks on Michigan's environmental protections and decided to fight back. A Sierra Club member from Ann Arbor, Robert started attending Lansing hearings for environmental legislation and educating lawmakers about the importance of protecting natural resources. He didn't stop there. In 2014, he volunteered for political candidates endorsed by Sierra Club, including U.S. Senator Gary Peters, State Representatives Kristy Pagan and Theresa Abed, gubernatorial candi-

date Mark Schauer, congressional candidate Pam Byrnes, and many more.

"Sierra Club gave me the opportunity to protect Michigan's future and the tools I needed to do it successfully," said Robert. "I've learned new skills that empower me to fight for clean air and water. I'm making a difference for Michigan's future by volunteering, and I urge everyone to do what they can and join this fight."

We need more citizen activists like Robert! Michigan's current legislative session is poised to be more hostile to environ-



Anne Woiwode, State Representative John Kivela from Marquette, Robert Gordon and Tim Minotas meet to discuss clean energy and natural resource protection.

mental concerns than we've seen in the past decade. Get involved right now by signing up at [www.action.sierraclub.org/milegactivists/](http://www.action.sierraclub.org/milegactivists/)

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



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

- 1) Write a check for any amount
- 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  
Michigan Sierra PAC, 109 E. Grand River  
Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

or simply visit [www.sc.org/MichiganVoteEnvironment](http://www.sc.org/MichiganVoteEnvironment)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LESS=MORE

### WORKING WITHIN THE SYSTEM FOR CHANGE

The interests of Michigan consumers and farmers who want a level playing field for sustainable farming now have a place at the table where decisions are made about Farm Bill subsidy recipients. On March 4, three Less=More members attended a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Michigan Technical Committee meeting — Lynna Kauchek of Food & Water Watch, Cynthia Price of the Greater Grand Rapids Food Systems Council, and Michigan Sierra Club Director Gail Philbin. Last year, four Less=More members were appointed to the committee, which advises NRCS State Conservationist Garry Lee about which Michigan farming practices to support with subsidies, which currently favor industrial agriculture practices.

The meeting is an important step in the long-term effort to persuade Mr. Lee and his committee of the environmental and economic value of shifting subsidies to local, sustainable agriculture. The link between subsidies and factory farm pollution in Michigan is documented in Less=More's 2013 report *Restoring the Balance to Michigan's Farming Landscape*, available at [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/lessmore](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/lessmore).

### SEEDS FOR A BETTER FOOD SYSTEM PLANTED

Over 140 farmers and food advocates turned out for Less=More's March 9 conference, Farming Our Future: The Forces and Faces of 21st Century Agriculture, presented during Michigan State University's Agriculture and Natural Resources Week. Experts discussed the state of agriculture today, specifically how we got to the point where the way we raise our food can endanger our health, rather than promote it.

Speakers spotlighted emerging trends, encouraged citizen engagement in agency processes determining who gets to farm and how, and began to chart a path beyond our polluting industrial food system. For more info, visit [www.facebook.com/MoreforMichigan](http://www.facebook.com/MoreforMichigan).

Farming Our Future conference panelist Michelle Jackson speaks about her work to educate youth through Small Ville Learning Farms. Also pictured (l-r): Cynthia Price of the Greater Grand Rapids Food Systems Council; Joe Maxwell of The Humane Society of the United States; and Michael Vanderbrug, a West Michigan farmer.



Sierra Club leads bike tour outings in Detroit

## RE-ENERGIZE WITH OUTINGS

by Melissa Damaschke,  
Sierra Club Great Lakes Program Director

Outings are very important to Sierra Club. The Club's founder, John Muir, believed that by getting people outside to explore and enjoy the places we love — whether it's a Great Lake or a neighborhood park — we would be energized to protect those places.

To that end, Sierra Club organizes bike tour outings in Detroit every spring, summer, and fall. These outings are unique in that they not only get people to enjoy the outdoors but they also educate riders about green infrastructure techniques that protect rivers from polluted runoff. By design, these rides encourage people to get off their bikes to interact with the actual solutions.

We start at the river to explain the problems of polluted runoff and combined sewer overflows and how that pollution threatens the health of Detroit's rivers and Lake Erie. Then we ride to other locations in the city to see rain gardens, green roofs, rain barrels, swales, native plantings, and other community-based initiatives that help solve the problem and make our communities more resilient to climate change. At the end of the outing, we take a group picture and ask participants to sign Sierra Club's pledge to protect the Great Lakes. The pledge lists a few individual actions one person can take to improve water quality: use less water, plant a tree, install a rain barrel, use non-toxic cleaners, and landscape with a rain garden.

We hope you will join one of our Detroit bike tour outings or find another outing near you to re-energize and help us protect our natural resources and communities. For more information about the Great Lakes Program in Detroit, visit [sites.google.com/site/detroit20/home](http://sites.google.com/site/detroit20/home).

## Club Sues to Force Environmental Study of Enbridge Pipeline

by Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

The Sierra Club filed suit against the US Forest Service (USFS) to require an environmental assessment of the controversial Line 5, a petroleum pipeline owned and operated by Enbridge. Enbridge also owns and operates Line 6B, source of the largest inland oil spill in US history. In 2010, that spill contaminated a Kalamazoo River tributary, with cleanup still underway.

Line 5 carries oil from North Dakota and Montana and runs from Superior, WI across the length of the Upper Peninsula, under the Straits of Mackinac, and down the Lower Peninsula to Sarnia, ON. It crosses significant amounts of public lands and numerous waterways, including the Au Sable River.

It was constructed and first permitted in 1953. Since then, numerous studies have indicated that a breach of the pipeline could be catastrophic. A US Coast Guard report indicated that a rupture beneath the Straits would be beyond the federal agency's ability to respond. Despite these concerns, there has never been an environmental study done on Line 5.

That should have changed in 2014 when Enbridge's 30-year permit to use USFS land near Mio expired, but it did not. Line 5 crosses the federal Huron-Manistee National Forest (and the Au Sable River) in the Luzerne area, between Mio and Grayling.

The company applied for and

received a new, 30-year federal permit that should have triggered an environmental analysis (EA). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires environmental review of any "major federal action," like issuing a permit for an 1100-mile-long pipeline to cross federal land. To be clear: the USFS did not do a review and then determine that there were no ill effects. Instead, they simply said they "declined to" do any EA at all.

The USFS said that because Line 5 has existed since 1953, the new permit did not need analysis. The claim is that since the pipeline was built long before environmental analysis was required by law, it will never be required. Yet if built today, this section of Line 5 would require an EA. Sierra Club claims that issuance of a new permit requires compliance with the law as it stands now, not with the law as it was in 1953. We have sued to require an EA be done for the entirety of Line 5.

Sierra Club is asking for the EA to cover the whole pipeline for two reasons. First, the USFS admits that without this permit, the entire pipeline would shut down; therefore, this permit is essentially for the whole pipeline. Second, NEPA requires that EAs cover the "cumulative effects" which come about from a federal action, such as this.

We filed in January, 2015, and the case is ongoing. For more information, check out our website at [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org).

### DNR APPROVES CONTROVERSIAL GRAYMONT LAND SALE

**Despite extensive objections from Sierra Club and other conservation organizations, on March 19th, DNR Director Keith Creagh approved the sale of substantial amounts of state lands in the eastern Upper Peninsula to the Canadian limestone mining company Graymont.**

**Political pressure on the DNR to sell Michigan's public lands has been growing, and Sierra Club is fighting back against this assault on Michigan's natural heritage. Find current updates on our website.**

### 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.tinyurl.com/supportMISC](http://www.tinyurl.com/supportMISC)**

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

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

**Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,  
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: \_\_\_\_\_



**COME FIND YOUR MICHIGAN SUMMER MOMENT** at an affordable weekend retreat August 21-23 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.

## Unplug and Let Nature Charge You Up

by Amanda Hightree Carlson, Retreat Committee Chair

**S**ummer in Michigan: what two things come to mind? Beaches and camping. The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's annual retreat at camp Miniwanca has both! Join us on August 21-23 for this fun, family friendly weekend.

This retreat brings adults and youth together in celebrating the outdoors, in a beautiful, safe, fun environment. We all need to recharge and there is no better place to do it. In between hiking, swimming and campfires you can also attend workshops to learn about current conservation issues and learn ways you can take action to improve the world around us.

Some of the many activities include:

- swimming • campfires • kayaking
- kid's woodworking • ropes course
- guided and solo hikes • kids crafts
- yoga • our famous auction

Our famous auction happens on Saturday night after our awards ceremony and keynote speaker! Please bring your special treasures to pass on to others, or be ready to bid on your favorite new findings! And there is a special auction area for kids so this is the perfect time for your kids to go through their rooms or make creative crafts to bring them to the retreat.

While you will be able to learn about various conservation issues our main topic for the weekend will be health and the environment. We all want a healthy family and a healthy environment, so come learn how we can have both!

The fee for the retreat covers lodging for two nights, five meals, activities and speakers. Please check [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org) periodically for more info on the retreat, and you can contact Cecilia Garcia with questions at [cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org](mailto:cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org) or 517-484-2372.

Whether you have been to the retreat several times or if you are new this year, we all look forward to camping with you!

**See you in August!**





## 2015 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM: AUGUST 21-23

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: _____ _____ _____	<table border="0"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Age</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Lodging</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Fee/Person</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Total</th> </tr> <tr> <td>&lt; 3</td> <td>All</td> <td>Free</td> <td>Free</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3-12</td> <td>Cabin or Tent</td> <td>\$80</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3-12</td> <td>Beach or Inland Dorm</td> <td>\$90</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>Cabin or Tent</td> <td>\$150</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>Inland Dorm</td> <td>\$175</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>Beach Dorm, with roommate(s)</td> <td>\$185</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>Beach Dorm, no roommate(s)</td> <td>\$230</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td>Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)*</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td>Add \$25 for registration after August 10</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td>TOTAL ENCLOSED</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total	< 3	All	Free	Free	3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$80	_____	3-12	Beach or Inland Dorm	\$90	_____	Adult	Cabin or Tent	\$150	_____	Adult	Inland Dorm	\$175	_____	Adult	Beach Dorm, with roommate(s)	\$185	_____	Adult	Beach Dorm, no roommate(s)	\$230	_____			Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)*	_____			Add \$25 for registration after August 10	_____			TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____
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*Cancellation policy: Full refund on or before August 10, 2015*

*\* Visit [www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html) to learn more about Sierra Club's Inspiring Connections Outdoors (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](http://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. Contact Cecilia Garcia with registration questions, [cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org](mailto:cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org) or 517-484-2372, x10.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY AUGUST 17.** Check-in begins Friday, August 21 at 3pm.

## Creating a Legacy!

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during your lifetime but you can protect Michigan's environment for years to come by remembering the Michigan Sierra Club in your will. By including the Michigan Sierra Club in your future plans, you are helping ensure the financial resources to carry on protecting our state's environment.

There are a number of ways you can make a financial commitment from your

will, living trust, or other estate plans to protect the environment.

### COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS

Offer a unique way to honor a special event, such as a wedding, anniversary or birthday, in the life of someone important to you. An attractive note is sent to the individual being honored informing them of the gift and the identity of the donor.

### MEMORIALS

By giving a memorial gift in memory of a family member or friend, you not only affirm your environmental values but also recognize that these values were

shared by the individual being honored. If you choose, we will send a card in your name to a friend or loved one close to the individual being honored, informing them of the gift.

To arrange your gift, contact Jan O'Connell at the Michigan Chapter, 616-956-6646 or [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org); contact the National Sierra Club's Gift Planning Department at 800-932-4270 or [gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org), or visit the Michigan Chapter's Memorial and Honoree gift site at [www.tinyurl.com/donateSCMC](http://www.tinyurl.com/donateSCMC).



## In Memoriam

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”  
— *Rachel Carson*



### ANDREA DEAN

DECEMBER 14, 1940 - DECEMBER 26, 2014

Her favorite memories were a few weeklong summer trips to the Boundary Waters between Minnesota and Canada, where Andrea and her sons would canoe and camp. Andrea was an active member of the Sierra Club and led many hikes around Northern Michigan.



### RENA SOIFER

APRIL 9, 1921 - JANUARY 29, 2015

Rena was a longtime Sierra Club member from the Ann Arbor area. She was a woman of seemingly limitless energy. She possessed a passionate love of the outdoors, and was an indefatigable advocate for women's rights, immigrant workers, and the underprivileged. In an increasingly skeptical and suspicious world, she was an indomitable and joyously enthusiastic spirit.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Create an Environmental Legacy.



Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

**Sierra Club**

**Gift Planning Program**

85 Second Street, Second Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org) • (800) 932-4270



# 2014 Annual Report

## EXPENSES TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES 15

### Summary of an Empowering Year

A host of challenges to environmental protection in 2014 didn't dampen the spirits of Sierra Club volunteer leaders and staff nor did it hinder success. In fact, it only renewed our resolve to work even harder for the planet in 2015. Some highlights:

#### CLEAN ENERGY

- Michigan adopted an updated energy building code that will reduce fossil fuel pollution and save homeowners money.
- Beyond Coal citizen activists traveled from River Rouge to DTE Energy's annual meeting in Pennsylvania with a message to stop polluting their community and to move to renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- After we publicized that Lansing Board of Water and Light had installed but never used pollution controls for mercury at their Erickson coal-fired power plant, public pressure forced the utility to act, reducing its toxic heavy metal emissions by 90%!

#### FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

- With the help of the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, Sierra Club blocked a water pollution permit issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to a commercial fish farm on the Au Sable River.
- We launched an aggressive effort to get the US Forest Service to do an environmental review of a 61-year-old Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline under the Huron Manistee National Forest. As part of the Oil & Water Don't Mix Coalition, we worked to educate the public about the threats posed by Line 5.
- We tackled the growing trend of proposed sales of Michigan public lands for limestone mining, potato farming and other private ventures.
- Congress celebrated the Wilderness Act's 50th anniversary by designating 32,500 acres of wilderness in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

#### BEYOND NATURAL GAS AND OIL (BNGO)

- Sierra Club trained dozens of "fracktivists" in the well permit process for hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas.
- Comments on DEQ proposed rules for fracking submitted by Michigan BNGO Committee members like Charlie Weaver highlighted the weaknesses in state regulations and environmental threats.
- The Huron Valley, Crossroads, Nepessing and Southeast Michigan Groups organized opposition to a pipeline carrying fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania to Ontario by way of Michigan.
- Comments were submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the proposed ET Rover pipeline.

#### GREAT LAKES

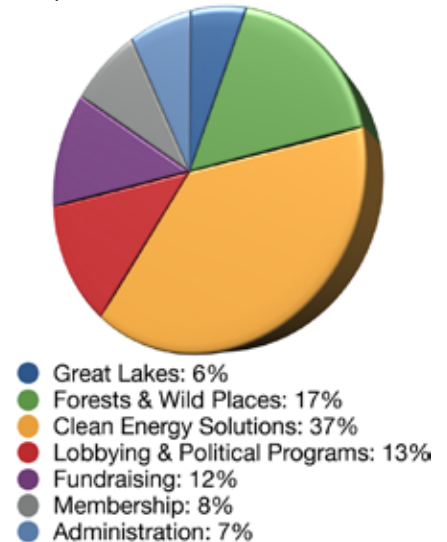
- The Less=More Coalition expanded Sierra Club's campaign to stop factory farm pollution and support sustainable agriculture with the release of the short documentary, "Local, Healthy Food: The Real Bargain," and video testimonials.
- The Great Lakes Program led efforts to clean up the Detroit Waste Water Treatment discharge, fighting privatization of the city's water system and educating on green infrastructure and storm water containment.
- Sierra Club joined a lawsuit to block an abysmally weak air pollution permit issued to Severstal Steel (now AK Steel) after emails and documents showed that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation pressured the DEQ to weaken the permit.

#### CHAPTER

- All of the wins by the chapter this year couldn't have been done without the financial support and many volunteer hours donated by our members!

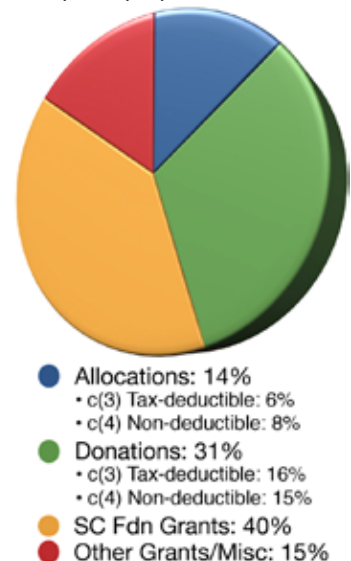
*NOTE: This Annual Report has not been audited. It includes only financial information about the Michigan Chapter's work, not from the affiliated Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Committee.*

In 2014, the Chapter spent \$632,806 to advance its conservation priorities. Of that, 81% went directly to pro-environment activities you care about. The remaining 19% went to administrative aid for our programs and activities and helped secure funds to ensure the sustainability of the Chapter's critical work.



### INCOME TO SUSTAIN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In 2014, the Chapter's income was \$599,383 and less than six percent came from a portion of your annual Sierra Club membership dues. The vast majority of our financial support is derived from diverse fundraising activities including direct and online mail appeals that yielded vital donations from members like you as well grant requests proposals to foundations.





The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 2.4 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

- Ms. Mary Anne Beltzman
- Martin & Brenda Berkowitz
- Mike Berkowitz
- Jonathan Cohn
- Gerald Demaire
- David Diephuis
- Ms. Kristin Dunn
- John H. Edlund
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- Katherine Fairley
- Barb Griffin & Clay Stauffer
- Thomas (Mike) Haley
- Chris & Tamela Hamilton
- Ann Holmes
- Nan & Peter Holmes
- Larry Junck & Robbi Duda
- Edward Keane
- Paul & Judy Kindel

- Nancy Lambert
- Jeff Lapinski & Bev Bonning
- Lawrence & Mary Lockhart
- Mark Makulinski
- Max McKee
- Thomas McQuade
- Carla W. Morse
- Thomas & Jill Newhouse
- Nancy Newman
- Sarah Winans Newman
- Roger & Coco Newton
- Rolland O'Hare
- Dr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Rowe
- Robert F. Rudd
- Jon & Christine Saari
- Loretta Sheehan
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