

# TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • WINTER 2007

## Spotlight on Michigan Energy

YOU CAN HELP STOP THE MICHIGAN COAL RUSH

Imagine the amount of carbon dioxide emissions, a key contributor to global warming, that would be prevented if every household in the U.S. changed out a 60-watt incandescent light bulb for a compact fluorescent light bulb. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from just two medium-sized coal plants would eliminate this entire gain.

Despite growing evidence of changing climate in Michigan, including a milder and shorter winter with less ice on the lakes, the state is entirely unprepared to deal with the at least seven new coal plants proposed in our state today.

In this issue's Spotlight you can read about what Sierra Club is doing to help stop more coal plants in our state, and you can find out how you can join this critical fight and help convince our legislators to invest in clean power and energy efficiency. See page 3.



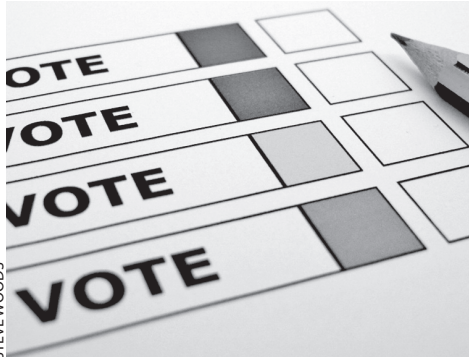
## Michigan Chapter Elections

YOUR VOTE NEEDED BY DECEMBER 19

Four of the nine At-Large Executive Committee positions for the Michigan Chapter are up for election this year.

See pages 8 and 9 to read the personal statements of the seven candidates vying for these four positions.

Fill out your ballot and send it in by December 19.



STEVE WOODS



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# From the Chair

## Volunteers? Check. Staff? Check. So... Let's Achieve Our Goals in 2008

by Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

Looking back on our 40 years as a Chapter of the Sierra Club, it becomes clear that 2008 will be a crucial year in the Michigan Chapter history. The last seven years have proven how much damage can be done to the environment by a militantly pro-business anti-regulation Bush administration managed by ideologues who ignore and twist scientific findings to justify their actions and further their political agenda.

Over the years the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club has built credibility and clout in the political arena, and under the leadership of Sue Kelly and the Political Committee, we are perfecting our system of endorsing candidates and getting the timing right. All of our political committees and groups must adhere to the time-

line so that we can have a maximum effect on the elections. When we have completed the endorsement process, we will need committed volunteers to do the legwork of politics: mailings, literature drops, calling, etc. Please be ready to work in your neighborhood on behalf of endorsed candidates on the local, state and national levels. We can make a difference.

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization, but we need to celebrate the competence, energy and dedication of our staff as well. Under the able leadership of Anne Woiwode, they are out in the field meeting with community groups and legislators to get support for environmental protection, negotiating mining legislation and regulation, protecting our forests, testing water for pollution from

Please be ready to work in your neighborhood on behalf of endorsed candidates. We can make a difference.

manufacturers, CAFOs and other sources, monitoring pollution clean-up sites, organizing communities on local issues, raising money to make us more effective, and working to increase membership and activism. They organize volunteers to lobby the legislature, test water and act as watchdogs in their communities. They write position papers and work on developing policy with volunteer leaders. They form coalitions with other groups to achieve specific goals.

So let us begin the new year by celebrating our volunteers and staff and working together to achieve our goals.

### THE MACKINAC

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# In the Spotlight

## Help STOP the Coal Rush

by Anne Woiwode

Seven new or expanded coal-fired power plants are proposed in Michigan, bucking a growing trend of states shelving plans for coal-generating facilities. The proposals range from a 10 megawatt (MW) coal- and wood-burning facility for Northern Michigan University (NMU) to an 800 MW plant proposed by Consumers Energy in Bay City. Although Michigan has many aging coal power plants, none of these new plants are intended to replace existing power plants. As of November 15, four proposed plants had submitted air quality permit applications to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and hearings on the NMU proposal were scheduled for November 27.

Nationwide, coal plant promoters have tried to get approvals to build new plants before the anticipated imposition of mandates to slow global warming. Many states, however, have stopped the Coal Rush in its tracks in recognition of potential harm to the planet and the existence of viable alternatives. In some states the fast-growing cost of coal or nuclear power plants have also conspired to shake investor confidence, leading to proposed plants being dropped.

But Michigan lags behind 25 other states in enacting legislation to promote energy efficiency and renewable electric energy sources. Overbuilding of electric generating capacity can wreak havoc on electric bills, yet there is no requirement for an integrated resource plan for electricity in Michigan. Without an enforceable plan for electric generation, and with no requirements for a demonstration of need for new electric capacity to be built, many electric customers could end up paying for coal and nuclear power plants that aren't needed.

A package of electric energy legislation is expected to see action in the Michigan House before the end of the year. A coalition of local, state and national organizations called Clean Energy NOW have launched a petition demanding the Legislature put the brakes on any new or expanding coal plants in Michigan unless the state at least:

- Enacts a strong renewable energy standard requiring energy providers to generate 20% of their electric power from renewable sources by 2020.
- Enacts aggressive, statewide, utility-funded energy efficiency programs reducing energy consumption in the state by at least 1% per year.
- Protects consumers from having to absorb the skyrocketing future costs of coal burning.
- Implements a long-term energy plan guaranteeing energy efficiency and renewable power are used before any more outdated coal plants are built.
- Develops new standards for controlling the emission of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Sierra Club is working with local, state, student and national organizations in opposing the issuance of environmental and land use permits for the proposed plants, starting with the NMU proposal. In Kansas, the decision to deny permits to two proposed coal plants this fall sprung from concerns about the impact of carbon dioxide on health and the environment. Prior to the Kansas decision two separate petitions were filed with MDEQ demanding they regulate carbon dioxide from power plants, in keeping with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last spring.

Time is of the essence and your help is needed. Please join the opposition to the Michigan Coal Rush by going to [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org) and visiting, signing, and linking to the online petition.

### **GO ONLINE AND SIGN TO PROTECT MICHIGAN'S ENERGY FUTURE**

[WWW.NOCOALRUSH.COM](http://WWW.NOCOALRUSH.COM)

Michigan's energy future is in the crosshairs. Our state is threatened with an onslaught of at least seven new dirty coal-fired power plants that will keep Michigan locked in the energy dark ages, dependent on imported fossil fuels and producing more dangerous global-warming pollution. More outdated dirty coal plants will hamper the development of clean energy and the good-paying jobs that come with it.

It's time for Michigan's leaders to put old-fashioned, dirty, global-warming coal power aside and point the

state to a new, clean, jobs-rich future that protects the Great Lakes. Sierra Club is part of a coalition that is urging Michigan legislators to invest in clean power and energy efficiency in order to eliminate the need for more dirty coal plants, build Michigan's energy independence, stem our loss of billions of energy dollars and attract 21st-century companies.

Visit [www.nocoalrush.com](http://www.nocoalrush.com) to read the text of the petition and to sign.



# CleanEnergySolutions

## Granholt Seeing Green For Michigan's Energy Future

by Anne Woiwode

*"Citizens across the country are grappling with the impact of global warming, the nation's reliance on foreign oil, the rising costs of fuel, and the impact those things have on both our environment and our economy. Working to reduce global warming can both put people to work and protect our environment."* – Governor Jennifer Granholm, 11/14/07

**D**uring November, Governor Granholm publicly turned the corner on energy issues and global warming, with several actions committing her administration to moving the state forward aggressively on global warming:

- Granholm signed the Midwest Governors Regional Greenhouse Gas Accord along with seven other midwestern governors and one provincial prime minister, setting emissions reductions targets and timeframes and calling for the establishment of a regional cap-and-trade system;
- Granholm created and appointed the Michigan Climate Action Council, which is mandated to inventory the sources of Michigan's greenhouse gases and draft a plan for reduction by the end of 2008;

- Granholm signed Executive Directive 2007-42 ordering reductions in state government energy consumption of 20% by 2015 from a base of 2002, including electric, motor vehicle and other energy consumption arenas;
- Granholm toured and promoted numerous alternative energy related industries in Michigan to promote the importance of adopting a renewable energy portfolio standard for bringing good jobs to Michigan; and
- Granholm stated her personal goal of achieving 25% renewable sources of electricity by 2025.

Sierra Club applauds Governor Granholm for committing to moving Michigan forward in this critical arena!

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## Michigan's Road to Energy Independence

by Jan O'Connell

**T**he Blue Green Alliance is a public policy partnership between the United Steelworkers (the largest manufacturing union) and the Sierra Club (the oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization), came together formally in 2006, bringing together labor and environment to promote industry and standards that protect and promote good-paying union jobs and a healthy environment.

A new report released by the Blue Green Alliance shows the thousands of new jobs that can be created in the Renewable Energy Component Manufacturing sector in our state.

According to the report, Michigan is well positioned to capitalize on a move to alternative (green, home-grown) energy and at the same time revitalize our Michigan economy if a strong National Renew-

able Energy Standard is passed. "Why order wind turbines from Denmark that are to be put up in the Midwest when we know that Michigan has the workers and the factories to make them right here in the state?" said Sue Browne, a USW member of 19 years and organizer for the Blue Green Alliance. Michigan could have over 2,000 businesses benefiting from an influx of 34,777 new jobs the state so desperately needs.

Michigan now spends about \$20 billion per year to import our coal and fossil fuel from other states and countries, which means building new coal plants is like building an incinerator in which to burn money, not to mention that coal is very destructive to the environment and terrible for public health. Mark Gaffney, the president of Michigan's AFL-CIO, stated that coal-fired power plants are

not a technology we should be investing in; instead, he believes we need to move to alternative/renewable energy that will move Michigan to a new clean energy and bright economic future.

The Blue Green Alliance report, developed by the Renewable Energy Policy Project, shows the top counties in Michigan that will benefit from the increase in jobs. Kent County in Western Michigan is first on the list, followed by Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Grand Traverse, Monroe, Saginaw, Muskegon, Berrien and Ottawa. Michigan has rapidly been losing manufacturing jobs, and renewable energy manufacturing could restore various communities across the state that have lost jobs by generating an entire new growing industry of good-paying manufacturing jobs.

# Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

## Great Lakes, Great Michigan: Protect Michigan's Water!

by Rita Jack & Gayle Miller

The State Senate is considering a package of bills that would let large water users drain huge percentages of some of Michigan's finest rivers and streams, according to analysis by the Great Lakes, Great Michigan (GLGM) coalition. The Sierra Club, a coalition member, helped to formulate the GLGM campaign platform. The Senate bills are on deck for quick passage by early to mid-December.

Senate bills 212 and 721-729 rely on a newly developed computer-based water withdrawal assessment tool that doesn't allow for input from local communities, other information sources, or even experts. As described in the Senate bills, a water withdrawal approved by the assessment tool could reduce stream flow in the Au Sable River, known as the Holy Water by anglers, by 22% in some stretches. The Sierra Club believes that because the water withdrawal assessment tool is so new, and as yet has not been peer-reviewed, it must initially be implemented as conservatively as possible and used only for screening

purposes.

The proposed Senate bills, relying on the assessment tool, would allow the following stream-flow reductions:

- 42% Betsie River
- 22% Pere Marquette River
- 25% Sturgeon River
- 22% Manistee River
- 25% Boardman River
- 16% Pigeon River
- 25% Jordan River

The GLGM coalition supports the contrasting Michigan House package of bills, HB 4343 and 5065-5073. The House bills would extend Public Trust to all Michigan waters, assuring all waters are held in trust for the public, including surface water, wetlands, streams and groundwater. Other important features of the house package are preventing damage to water and wetlands, protecting whole ecosystems, promoting efficient use of water and conservation. Requiring water use permits for large-scale withdrawals

**Important GLGM goals are to prevent damage to water and wetlands, protect whole ecosystems, promote efficient use of water and conservation.**

would let the state monitor and assess impacts, and could be modified if unexpected impacts occur. All water users should join efforts to protect and restore degraded waterways.

House bill 4343 and Senate bill 212 both would give approval of the Great Lakes Compact, an eight-state agreement banning major diversions from the lakes. The GLGM campaign is scheduling in-district meetings with legislators now. To help protect Michigan's water, please contact Gayle Miller at [gayle.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:gayle.miller@sierraclub.org).



# Great Forests, Wild Places

## Michigan Sierra Club Holds First Hunter/Angler Conclave

by Marvin Roberson

**H**ave you ever noticed that sometimes it seems easier to focus on small disagreements and overlook large areas of agreement? That's often what happens with hunting and angling groups and environmentalists. We'll argue over whether old-growth is better than aspen habitat for deer, forgetting that either is better than a shopping mall. We'll argue over whether exotic species such as salmon is better than a native species, forgetting that clean water for fish is more important than which fish live there.

Overall, the Sierra Club and hunting/angling groups agree on about 95% of what we advocate, but all too often we focus on the other 5%. Following some of Sierra Club's successes in partnering with these groups (such as stopping oil and gas drilling on the Mason Tract), we decided it was time to do something about where we focused our attention.

On Saturday, November 3, the Michigan Chapter held its first ever Hunter/Angler Conclave. We sent invitations to our members who identify themselves as hunters and anglers and invited them to a gathering where we could listen to their concerns see what issues reached across the seeming gap between the hunting/angling community and the environmental community.

Rusty Gates, proprietor of Gates' Au Sable Lodge and president of the Anglers of the Au Sable, kindly lent us his "Board Room" meeting facility, and he was on hand all day to join the discussion. Also present at the conclave was Glen Shepard, long-time conservation hero and legendary publisher of the North Woods Call.

We began the session by asking our hunting/angling members, many of whom had never been to a Sierra Club meeting, what issues they felt impacted both the hunting/angling community as



ERIC LUBBERS

well as the environmental community. Topping the list was Global Climate Change, with the specter of new coal-fired power plants in Michigan seen as one of the major threats.

As one member put it, "If water in trout streams gets raised by 3 degrees, the trout are gone. Our beloved outdoor activities are all endangered by climate change." This was clearly indicative of sports persons' concerns. The very next week Eric Sharp, outdoor writer for the Detroit Free Press, wrote a featured editorial explaining why hunters and an-

glers should be concerned about climate change. (This is only part of the reason those "sportsmen for Bush" bumper stickers make so little sense.)

In the future, we'll be having occasional "Hunting and Angling Corner" pieces in The Mackinac and on the web site. Look also for more gatherings designed to bridge the small gap between these interests.

For more information, or if you have ideas, please contact Marvin Roberson at [marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org](mailto:marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org).

### FROM SIERRA CLUB POLICY

**//** Within both modified and natural ecosystems, the Sierra Club believes that acceptable management approaches include regulated periodic hunting and fishing when based on sufficient scientifically valid biological information and when consistent with all other management purposes and when necessary total protection of particular species or populations. Because national parks are set aside for the preservation of natural landscapes and wildlife, the Sierra Club is opposed to sport hunting in national parks and national monuments."

Read the full policy at [www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/wildlife.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/wildlife.asp).



# Democracy in Action

## 2007 Legislature in Review

by Gayle Miller

Expectations were high last November when 52 Sierra Club-endorsed candidates won seats in the Michigan legislature. It was a huge victory and we had reason to hope for a major reversal in Michigan's environmental fortune. For years we've played defense against an onslaught of attacks on Michigan's environmental programs.

Yet in 2007, as most of us know, Michigan's budget crisis hit home and the legislature turned its energies on a state in serious crisis. Most legislative committees (other than Appropriations) didn't meet, most bills didn't move. Sierra Club and other environmental groups spent time and energy fighting to keep environmental funding from being slashed to fix the monstrous budget shortfall.

This isn't to say that nothing was done in 2007. Sierra Club and our allies valiantly fought against a miserable package of Senate bills that deregulated animal factories. Fortunately, those bills are now dead in the House.

As of the writing of this article, the legislature has yet to finalize a replacement for the beleaguered service tax, which continues to keep other issues from moving forward. A major package of bills to protect the Great Lakes from large water withdrawals and a crucial energy package await a final budget resolution. Bills addressing the problem of animal factories and a package on biofuels may also be in the mix. Action on all these bills is likely during the first three weeks in December.

So hold on to your hats for a year-end marathon! House committee chairs Accavitti (Energy), Warren (Great Lakes & Environment) and Mayes (Agriculture) have all expressed a desire to get these bills out of committees, through the full House and into the Senate before Christmas.

Consider this an "all hands on deck" call—we will need your help! Citizen

**Citizen lobbyists and our vocal members are critical to making sure bills pass in a form that truly protects Michigan's environment.**

lobbyists and our vocal members are critical to making sure these bills pass in a form that truly protects Michigan's environment. Your visits to the Capitol, your letters to local newspapers, your conversations with friends and your responses to email alerts are absolutely crucial to our success. To help, and to keep informed of our progress, please sign up to the Mackinac Action Network at <http://mackinac.sierraclubaction.org>.



BENJAMIN EARWICKER

## **BILL STATUS**

### **ENERGY BILLS**

A bogging array of bills addressing energy efficiency, renewable energy, re-regulation of the utilities and more are in the House Energy Committee. Hearings will likely take place 9am on Wednesday mornings the first three weeks of December. The Sierra Club is encouraging the committee to adopt a renewable energy standard of 20% by 2020. Sierra Club position statement available at [www.michigan.sierraclub.org/positionstatements/energy.pdf](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/positionstatements/energy.pdf).

### **WATER BILLS**

The House version of this package of bills would put Michigan in alliance with other Great Lakes States by ratifying the Great Lakes Compact, the "treaty" that will help protect our lakes from being sold to the highest bidder. Additional House bills will regulate groundwater withdrawals, protect aquatic resources and more. Sierra Club's position statement available at [www.michigan.sierraclub.org/positionstatements/water.pdf](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/positionstatements/water.pdf).

### **CAFO BILLS**

Sierra Club is entering into serious negotiations with other stakeholders to try and find a solution to the controversial issue of animal factories and their pollution. No bills have yet been drafted. Sierra Club position statement available at [www.michigan.sierraclub.org/positionstatements/cafos.pdf](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/positionstatements/cafos.pdf).

# Chapter Elections

## Vote for Michigan Chapter Leaders!

**C**ritical decisions regarding Sierra Club's work in Michigan are made by the Michigan Chapter's elected Executive Committee. These leaders set the Chapter's priorities, decide on our policies and how we work through budgetsetting and other key decisions. The Executive Committee is made up of nine At-Large members and a representative from each of the Chapter's regional Groups. Four of the nine At-Large Executive Committee positions are up for election this year, with the winners serving from January 2008 to December 2009. Your vote is critical in the selection of those candidates who you feel best represent the interests of Michigan Sierra Club members. Ballots must be received on or before December 19, 2007. Write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of your envelope to ensure ballot validation. Your membership number is above your address on the mailing label for this newsletter. The ballot is on page 9. Please follow the instructions and vote for no more than four candidates.

### AL BEETON

I started research on the Great Lakes in 1955. My initial intent in joining the Executive Committee was to share my knowledge with the Sierra Club in dealing with issues in rehabilitation of the Lakes. For example, in the 1980s I served as expert witness in major legal action against steel mills and petroleum companies which were polluting Lake Michigan. Upon joining the Executive Committee I soon discovered and learned about a broad range of problems Michigan Sierra Club is dealing with. Issues of potentially destructive mining in the U.P., development in areas which endanger especially sensitive environments, and the challenges inherent in dealing with climate change. The Sierra Club has been especially effective in protecting the citizens of Michigan and I wish to continue to be part of this effort.

### CAROL GRAHAM-THOMPSON

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1984. I look forward to again being active in such an important organization. The need for activists to serve as voices for those that have none is critical. The need for activists to serve as voices for our physical Earth may be even more so. Having served at the chapter level as Volunteer Chair, Fundraising Chair and Group Representative, I know there is always much to be done. So now that the kids are in college and the new dog is house-broken, it's time to get back to working with the incredible volunteers and terrific staff that make up the best Chapter ever—the

Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club.

### DAVID HOLTZ

As 2008 approaches, Sierra Club is Michigan's strong voice for solving the global warming crisis. A priority focus for me will be to continue and strengthen Sierra Club's leadership in fighting proposed new dirty coal plants in our state and championing energy alternatives and efficiency.

For the past four years I have served on the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Executive and Steering Committees and I am currently Chapter Vice Chair. Previously I worked as Sierra Club's media coordinator in southeast Michigan and have been Michigan director for Clean Water Action since 2003.

Among the environmental issues I have recently championed are campaigns to strengthen Michigan's weak water withdrawal laws; make children's and other consumer products safe from lead and other toxins; and, to keep up to eight new dirty coal plants from being built in Michigan.

My vision for the Michigan Chapter is to strengthen implementation of our organization's priority strategic goals through continued development of our fundraising, conservation, political and legislative programs. Over the past two years and more, these efforts have brought more resources to bear and greatly enhanced the Michigan Chapter's political power in Lansing and at the group level.

### SHIRLEY L. KALLIO

I am an independent accountant by voca-

tion, and, in recent years, a political and environmental activist by avocation.

It is my conviction that citizen education, motivation and mobilization has never been more urgent than it is today. For two years I acted on that conviction as lead organizer for the Democracy for America group in Kent County, a group with a broad spectrum of issue interests and a particular interest in environmental challenges. Since the relinquishment of that responsibility, I have continued to build a large and growing network of fellow citizens through event creation and e-newsletters with a heavy emphasis on environmental issues, particularly energy.

It was my good fortune to attend in May of 2006 the Smart Energy Solutions for Michigan Workshop in Royal Oak, where I was inspired to organize two subsequent events on energy in Kent County, both full day events with noteworthy presenters, one in downtown Grand Rapids and the other in Cannon Township.

Since then, I have relished my opportunities to lobby with other Sierra citizen lobbyists and have encouraged my contacts in other groups to capitalize on this extraordinary opportunity to broaden knowledge and build their own advocacy skills.

Service on the Executive Committee at a time when renewable energy is a primary focus for the Sierra Club seems particularly opportune, for both me and the Chapter.

### SUE KELLY

I have served as Mackinac Chapter Chair (and Co-chair) for four years and more



recently have served as Chapter Political Chair. I've served on the Crossroads Group Executive Committee in many capacities, including Group Chair from 1994–1996.

Public opinion is shifting: global climate change and respecting the earth is now trendy. Our role as Sierra Club leaders should be focused on harnessing this new energy to elect strong, committed environmentalists, and boldly addressing the challenges of our times. The stakes have never been higher; climate change is happening faster than was anticipated, we are fighting for Great Lakes protection, national and state public lands are under assault from the extractive industries and we have leaders at all levels of government that do not understand the basic concept that nature is the infrastructure on which all life depends.

I am a Sierra Club environmentalist because the Sierra Club has the resources, reputation and grassroots connections that make advocating for environmental protection at the local, state and national levels effective. If reelected to the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee my goals will be to continue to build a vibrant, effective political component into our work, institutionalize a reliable funding strategy to support our programs and engage more Sierra Club members as activists and leaders.

**MICHAEL SKLAR**

As the Sierra Club in Michigan celebrates 40 years of exploring, enjoying and protecting Michigan's environment, we stand at a crossroads. The broader society is gradually recognizing what we have long known: that our current way of life is not sustainable, and that business as usual is a recipe for ecological disaster. Our challenge is to seize this moment to shape the future—to reach beyond our usual allies, to communicate a compelling vision of a sustainable future in terms that galvanizes the broader public, and to engage citizens from all walks of life in the transition to an environmentally rational future. If

you decide to reelect me to the Executive Committee, these will be my priorities.

I ask for your support as an at-large candidate for the Chapter Executive Committee. Thank you.

**NANCY SHIFFLER**

I have served as a member of the Huron Valley Group Executive Committee for several years and as our group representative to the Chapter Executive Committee. I have been active on a variety of conservation issues and as an outings leader.

After serving as Chapter Chair in the mid-90s, I had the opportunity to come back to the position in 2006. I found that the battles we face now are as big, if not bigger than what we faced then, but

our capacity to address those issues has increased tremendously. We have a terrific staff that is the envy of other Sierra Club chapters around the country. We are on a sound financial footing. We are developing more opportunities for our members to become involved, as evidenced in the turn out for our Lansing lobby days, the Building Environmental Communities program in Oakland County, and our new working group on energy issues. If elected to the Executive Committee, I will support the club's efforts to provide a place for members to grow and be effective as activists. We have many challenges and opportunities ahead of us, and I hope to be a part of our efforts to meet them.

**VOTE TODAY! SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOT**

Vote for no more than four (4) candidates. The second set of boxes is for the second member of a joint membership only.

**AL BEETON**

**CAROL GRAHAM-THOMPSON**

**DAVID HOLTZ**

**SHIRLEY L. KALLIO**

**SUE KELLY**

**MICHAEL SKLAR**

**NANCY SHIFFLER**

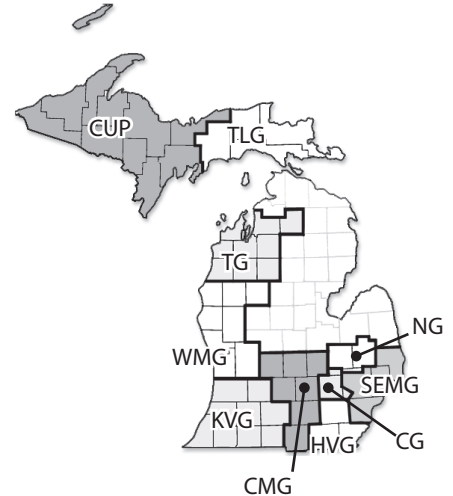
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**Mail your ballot to:** Michigan Chapter Sierra Club, attn: Chapter Elections, 109 East Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of your envelope to validate your ballot. **Your ballot must be received on or before December 19, 2007.**

# Group Outings

In order to accommodate a smaller print version of *The Mackinac*, we will no longer be able to run detailed descriptions of the outings. You can find descriptions of all outings listed here, as well as contact information and up-to-the-minute outings & activities on the Michigan Chapter website at [michigan.sierraclub.org](http://michigan.sierraclub.org).

**O**utings, political & conservation activities & general meetings are hosted regularly by groups throughout the state. Meetings are open to the public & everyone is welcome. If you live in an area that does not have a local group & you would like to start one, please call 517-484-2372 for more information. In the Outings listings below, [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [T] = trail maintenance, [S] = service. Trips begin at the trailhead. Fees are a suggested donation. Outings are open to everyone. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. To read the liability waiver before you participate in an outing, please visit [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms), or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.



## December 2007

12/15 TG North Country Trail

## January 2008

1/16 TG Platte Plains Trail Snowshoe/Ski,  
Benzie County

1/19 TG Snowshoe the Platte River  
Watershed Swamp

1/25-27 HVG MacMullen Ski Weekend Trip

## February 2008

2/2 TG Annual Pierce Stocking  
Scenic Drive Snowshoe/Ski

## March 2008

3/1 TG Old Indian Train, Sleeping Bear  
Dunes National Lakeshore

3/16 HVG Stinchfield Woods Hike or Ski

## April 2008

4/13 HVG Brighton Recreation Area

4/20 HVG Brighton Recreation Area

4/27 HVG Waterloo Recreation Area

## May 2008

5/4 HVG Annual Potawatomi Trail Hike

5/11-17 CUPG Women's Northwoods Service  
Week May

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER GROUP BOUNDARY MAP

**CMG:** Central Michigan Group  
**CUPG:** Central Upper Peninsula Group  
**CG:** Crossroads Group  
**HVG:** Huron Valley Group  
**KVG:** Kalamazoo Valley Group  
**NG:** Nepessing Group  
**SEMG:** Southeast Michigan Group  
**TLG:** Three Lakes Group  
**TG:** Traverse Group  
**WMG:** West Michigan Group



## MICHIGAN CHAPTER LEADERS RECEIVE AWARDS

by Anne Woiwode

**M**ichigan Chapter leaders Anna Holden and Jan O'Connell were recognized with major awards by the national Board of Sierra Club for their outstanding volunteer leadership. Holden received the Service Award in recognition of her long and impressive service to the Club, particularly in her work on environmental justice and in fighting incineration. O'Connell was honored with the William E. Colby Award, the second highest award given by Sierra Club, in recognition of her extraordinary service on the Board, as both Sierra Club's treasurer and as vice president of conservation, and her long service as a national leader. Congratulations to both Anna and Jan, and thanks for your remarkable dedication to the work of Sierra Club!

Jan O'Connell and Representative Ehlers in front of the Blue Green Alliance/Sierra Club booth at Step It Up.

# Supporting Critical Work

## Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. Please join us in thanking current Michigan Legacy Council members and the Michigan Chapter's 40th Anniversary Celebration Sponsors (in bold):

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**Anne & Tom Woiwode**

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_\_ Please do not publish my name as a donor.

Leave your environmental legacy today—join Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council by making a larger gift for your family's future:

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000+:        Great Lakes & Great Forests

I want to support Sierra Club's effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs in Michigan, which is not tax deductible. **My check to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is enclosed.**

I prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to the Michigan Chapter, which supports monitoring, public education, and precedent-setting litigation. **My check to The Sierra Club Foundation is enclosed.**

Instead of a check, please **charge my credit card** for the full amount of my gift today \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
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Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Do you like what you've seen in this edition of *The Mackinac*? You can help! Support Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's critical work by sending a donation today. To learn more about your giving options, please contact Wendi Tilden (517-484-2372 or wendi.tilden@sierraclub.org). Your gifts and partnership makes our work possible—thank you!



# MemberActionOpportunities

## Great Lakes Training

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 FROM 11 A.M. TO 6 P.M.  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY IN MOUNT PLEASANT  
LUNCH PROVIDED

The time is now to protect our Great Lakes! The Great Lakes hold one-fifth of the world's fresh water supply and provide drinking water to over 30 million people. Yet each day, the Great Lakes are damaged economically and ecologically by untreated sewage, industrial pollutants and invasive species. Unless we invest in a solution today, the price we pay tomorrow will be much higher and future generations may never experience the Lakes as we know them. Fortunately there is a solution—you!

You can help Sierra Club protect the Great Lakes by learning how to effectively communicate Great Lakes concerns to all Michiganders. In late February, Sierra Club will host a Great Lakes Training that will provide you with the tools you need to be successful in protecting our Great Lakes.

At the Great Lakes Training, you will learn how to:

- Talk to your neighbors and friends about specific Great Lakes concerns
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper
- Pitch stories to reporters and editorial boards
- Make presentations to faith groups, community service organizations, angling groups, knitting circles, etc.
- Host a house party (a fun yet educational approach to talking to your friends)

Please contact [melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org](mailto:melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org), or 248-549-6213 to RSVP for this training! You won't want to miss it. Deadline to RSVP is Friday, February 8, 2008.

## GREAT LAKES DAYS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27  
AND THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Great Lakes Days is coordinated by Healing Our Waters (HOW), a regional collaborative of many groups from the Great Lakes states including Sierra Club. At Great Lakes Days, we have the great opportunity to speak to our public officials in Washington, DC, about the importance of protecting and restoring the Great Lakes.

Last year we had over 100 participants from all of the Great Lakes states! Please consider joining our efforts in 2008. Some travel scholarships are available upon request.

Please contact [melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org](mailto:melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org) or 248-549-6213 for more information. Please RSVP by Friday, February 1, 2008.

## Volunteer Photo Editor Needed!

Have a good eye? Have good organizational skills? Does cataloging digital photographs from a wide range of photographers and keeping track of them appeal to

you? If so, the Michigan Chapter needs you. We seek someone to manage the entries for our annual photo contest. If you're interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact [amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org](mailto:amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org).

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SIERRA CLUB, 109 EAST GRAND RIVER AVE, LANSING, MI 48906.



The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 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.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.