

TheMackinac

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Certainty in Uncertain Times

By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

This time last year, we were in the final months of the Snyder Administration, which spent nearly a decade putting polluters over people and chipping away at environmental protections and government transparency. Now we're in the first lap of a new administration led by Governor Gretchen Whitmer that has taken important steps to reverse this disturbing course.

One of the first things Whitmer did was bring Michigan into the U.S. Climate Alliance and create the Offices of Clean Water Public Advocate and Environmental Justice Public Advocate, recruiting Regina Strong, our regional Beyond Coal Campaign manager, for the latter role. Whitmer's executive budget is strong on water issues, her agencies have shown signs of greater transparency, a willingness to fight for stronger environmental protections in permits, and expand citizen access to information. Meanwhile, Attorney General Dana Nessel has put legal muscle behind the push to shut down Enbridge's Line 5, which threatens the Straits of Mackinac.

What a difference an election makes.

Of course, Whitmer hasn't been perfect, and the Michigan legislature remains pro-industry and anti-environment. And we need more than a year to change the trajectory of Michigan and our planet. Climate change is generating greater rainfall events that impact water quality by increasing the agricultural pollution feeding algae blooms and exacerbating urban flooding. Michigan tree species and ecosystems are under assault from increased heat, drought and pests caused by climate change.

Sierra Club staff and volunteers have seized the opportunities created by the change of the guard in Lansing. You can read about our work in the pages of this



Sierra Club members are at the forefront of the fight to shut down the Line 5 pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac. Chapter ExCom member David Holtz (pictured speaking) has led the charge.

newsletter. However, we're not just taking on what's in front of us now. The Michigan Chapter Executive Committee's year-long strategic planning process is focusing on what's ahead in the next decade and how we can prepare for it.

Because it's not just the climate and politics that are changing—we're changing. We recently lost two staff members—longtime Legislative and Political Director Mike Berkowitz, who took Regina Strong's position with the national Beyond Coal Campaign, and Jordan Chrispell, our West Michigan energy organizer. Other staff and volunteer changes are on the horizon; administrations will change, and new environmental issues will emerge.

The only thing certain is that we can achieve great things with the continued support of people like you. Our 52 years of environmental wins are built on the engagement of thousands of Michiganders who give time, talent and financial support. That constancy keeps us going in these uncertain times.

Every year's
an election year at
Sierra Club!

See who's running for the
Chapter ExCom and vote
on pp. 12-13.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

The Mackinac

FALL/ WINTER
2019-2020

In the Spotlight

1 Certainty in Uncertain Times/ Find Us Online **3** Michigan Can be a Green New Deal Leader / Support the Work Of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

Group Info 4

Protect & Restore Michigan's Biodiversity

5 Sierra Club Fights to Protect Michigan's Forests and Waters / Sierra Club Staff Plans Campaigns and Priorities at Overnight Retreat

Protect & Restore Great Lakes Ecosystem

6 Progress on Michigan's Factory Farm Permit / Water Infrastructure Efforts Flow On
7 Sierra Club Tackles the PFAS Crisis

Mitigate Climate Change

8 Sierra Club Continues the Line 5 Fight / Go Solar Today / **9** Consumers Energy: Close the Campbell Coal Plant / Want to Join The Fight Against Coal-Powered Plants?

Democracy In Action

10 Growing Our Political Power / **11** Join Sierra Club for Lobby Day, October 2nd

2019 Chapter Elections / Environmental Justice

12 Vote for Michigan Chapter Executive Committee Members **13** Michigan Chapter 2019 Executive Committee Ballot **14** Michigan Sierra Club Introduces New Environmental Justice Organizer

Supporting Your Local Chapter

15 In Memoriam: Sherry Lynn Seelhoff, Scott Allen Braspeninx / What Will Your Legacy Be? / EarthShare at Work **16** Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Update Your Address Book! The Michigan Chapter office in Old Town Lansing is in the same place as always but our street address has changed (everything else is the same). Please update your files to: 109 E. César E. Chavez Avenue (formerly 109 E. Grand River Avenue)

SIERRA CLUB CONTACT DIRECTORY

MICHIGAN CHAPTER STAFF

109 E César E. Chavez Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517-484-2372

Website: sierraclub.org/michigan

State Director

Gail Philbin616-805-3063, gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

Development Director and Energy Issues Organizer

Jan O'Connell616-956-6646, jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org

Forest Ecologist

Marvin Roberson906-360-0288, marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org

Healing Our Waters Coalition Michigan Co-Lead

Erma Leaphart313-475-7057, erma.leaphart@sierraclub.org

Administrative Assistant

Cecilia Garcia-Linz 517-484-2372, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org

Legislative and Political Coordinator

Tim Minotas 808-726-5325, tim.minotas@sierraclub.org

Great Lakes State Organizer

Christy McGillivray 808-726-5325, christy.mcgillivray@sierraclub.org

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Organizer, SC Great Lakes Program

Quentin Turner 313-909-6092, quentin.turner@sierraclub.org

NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB STAFF

2727 Second Avenue Suite 112, Detroit, MI 48201

Regional Organizing Manager

Rhonda Anderson313-965-0052, rhonda.anderson@sierraclub.org

Beyond Coal Representative

Mike Berkowitz248-345-9808, mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org

Organizing Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign

Andrew Sarpolis248-924-4857, andrew.sarpolis@sierraclub.org

Healthy Communities and Environmental Justice Organizer

Justin Onwenu313-405-5900, justin.onwenu@sierraclub.org

Inspiring Outdoor Connections, Detroit

Garrett Dempseygarrett.dempsey@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

2101 Webster Street Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 415-977-5500

Member Change of Addressaddress.changes@sierraclub.org

MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anne Woiwode, At Large, Chairanne.woiwode@michigan.sierraclub.org

Deitra Covington, At Large, Vice Chairdlcporter09@gmail.com

Helen LeBlanc, Emeritus, Treasurerhelen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org

Richard Barron, Secretary At Largermorleybarron@gmail.com

Craig Brainard, At Large, Fifth Officerboomerbob1@gmail.com

David Holtz, At Large, Council of Leaders Delegatedavid@davidholtz.org

Chris Back, At Largechrisback@gmail.com

Vicki Dobbins, At Largevdobbins29@gmail.com

Kate Madigan At Largemadigank8@gmail.com

Sarah Tresedder, At Largestresedder@gmail.com

Jean Gramlich, SEMG Repjean.gramlich@michigan.sierraclub.org

Kathleen English, TLG Repenglishka4169@gmail.com

Sarah Keith, CG Repsmoskeith@gmail.com

Erica Ackerman, HVG Reperika.ackerman@gmail.com

Carol Graham-Banes, NG Repcraigbanescpa@yahoo.com

David Benac, SWMG Repdbenac24@gmail.com

Emeritus ExCom members (Non-Voting):

Pat Eganpegan@up.net

Helen LeBlanchelen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org

Nancy Shifflernshiffler@comcast.net

ExOfficio ExCom members (Non-Voting):

Mona Munroe-Younis, MI Environmental Justice Action Group

.....mona.munroe.younis@gmail.com

Elaine Wolf-Baker, Greater Jackson Area Committee

.....e.wolfbaker@gmail.com

Charlie Weaver, Clearwater Conservation Committee ctejedor@copper.net

Rose Fitzgerald, South of the Straits rosefitzgerald183@gmail.com

Marialyce Zeerip, Greater Grand Rapids Committee zeeripmaz@yahoo.com

THE MACKINAC

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter
109 E César E. Chavez Avenue

Lansing MI 48906

Phone: 517-484-2372

Email: michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org

sierraclub.org/michigan

EDITORS

Michael Thomas

m.john.thomas@gmail.com

Gail Philbin

gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

DESIGN

John Klein

john@winpublishing.com

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Sign up for our twice monthly Michigan Chapter update at www.action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter



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Michigan Can be a Green New Deal Leader

By Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Chair

Aaron Mair served as the 57th president of the Sierra Club and is a current member of the Sierra Club board of directors. He met with the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee in July to strategize about gearing up for 2020 and beyond. Below is Aaron's inspirational talk following our discussion. Look for ways you can join this effort in coming months in our Michigan Chapter Update and social media posts.

Michigan is ground zero for the Green New Deal and the Green America Campaign. We have an opportunity here in the state known as the touchstone for the labor movement. Where better can Sierra Club be of use than in arguing for clean energy jobs, green union jobs that build America up, restoring our economy, restoring our grids to things like clean energy and move us away from dirty fuel. This is a union state. This is a state where the notions of fair play and justice include all.

I am the son of a General Motors employee and a UAW shop steward out of the Tarrytown, NY, plant. Michigan is one of the places that gave my dad a future and a living wage job, a job where he was able to own a home and send his children to college. I am bringing that message back now, as a Sierra Club member and a Sierra Club activist, that Michigan can again be

that cornerstone of the environmental and labor movement.

We have an opportunity to restore our democracy

by coming together with the unions, the Sierra Club and social justice efforts. We can push for a clean Green New Deal. We cannot only save the planet, we cannot only save Michigan's economy, but we can also guarantee the average worker and the average student something my generation had: hope in the future, a job that gives them dignity, and more importantly the ability to live out the American Dream while saving the planet.

So I am here to make my commitment that I will be joining in solidarity with your Congresspeople as well as your state and local legislators and local green activists in this Chapter to lead that fight so that we can take back our economy, take back our democracy, and save the planet.



Anne Woiwode
Michigan Chapter Chair



Aaron Mair

“We have an opportunity to restore our democracy by coming together with the unions, the Sierra Club and social justice efforts. We can push for a clean Green New Deal.”

~ Aaron Mair ~

Sierra Club national board member and former board president

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

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. Cesar Chavez Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

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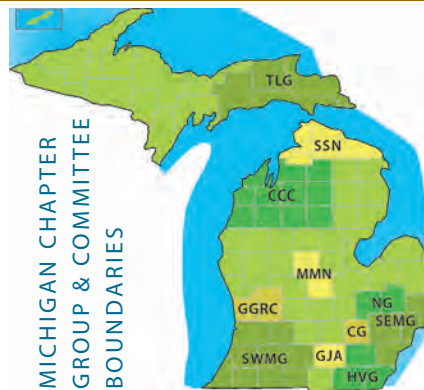
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THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP!

Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's 11 regional Groups and Committees 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.



Clearwater Conservation Committee / CCC

COUNTIES: Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford
FACEBOOK: Clearwater Conservation Committee
TWITTER: @NCMIClearwater
EMAIL: sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com
CHAIR: Charlie Weaver • ctejedor@copper.net

Greater Jackson Area Committee / GJA

COUNTIES: Jackson
CONTACT: e.wolf@michigan.sierraclub.org
MEETS: 1:30 PM, 2nd Saturday monthly at Jackson Coffee Co. downtown
FACEBOOK: Greater Jackson Area Sierra Club
EMAIL: SierraClubJackson@gmail.com
CHAIR: Elaine Wolf-Baker • e.wolf@michigan.sierraclub.org

Crossroads Group / CG

COUNTIES: Livingston and western Oakland
MEETS: at group leader homes in Livingston County (first Thurs of month)
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads
FACEBOOK: Crossroads Group Sierra Club
CHAIR: Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org
VICE CHAIR: Sue Kelly • sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org

Greater Grand Rapids Committee / GGRC

COUNTIES: Kent and Ottawa
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Greater Grand Rapids
EMAIL: ggrcom@michigan.sierraclub.org
CHAIR: Marialyce Zeerip • zeeripmaz@yahoo.com

Huron Valley Group / HVG

COUNTIES: Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe
MEETS: in Ann Arbor
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
EMAIL: HVGSierraClub@gmail.com
CHAIR: Dan Ezekial • dan.ezekiel24@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Jaime Magiera • jaime@jaime4a2.org
OUTINGS CHAIR: Anya Dale • anyaaudubon@gmail.com

Mid-Michigan Network / MMN

COUNTIES: Isabella and Gratiot
CHAIR: John Mitchell mitch1jb@cmich.edu

Meetup With the Sierra Club

Meetup is a great way to check on the latest events sponsored by your local Sierra Club entity. Find the meetup page for your local group or committee below:

- www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Jackson-Area/
- www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Southwest-Michigan/
- www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-South-of-the-Straits/
- www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Three-Lakes-Group/
- www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Huron-Valley/

Nepessing Group / NG

COUNTIES: Genesee, Lapeer, Northern Oakland and Southern Saginaw
MEETS: in Flint
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Nepessing
CHAIR: Carol Graham Banes • craigbanescpa@yahoo.com
VICE CHAIR: Laurie Tata • greenem@yahoo.com

South of the Straits Network / SSN

COUNTIES: Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet and Presque Isle
MEETS: Petoskey District Library, 500 East Mitchell Street
 (3rd Tues of month, 5:30-6:45pm)
FACEBOOK: South of the Straits Sierra Club
CHAIR: Rose Fitzgerald, SouthofStraits@michigan.sierraclub.org

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

COUNTIES: Wayne, St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland
MEETS: Elks Club, 2401 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group
CHAIR: Dave Richards • rodavidrich@gmail.com
 The Southeast Michigan group is holding an election for the Executive Committee. Elected candidates will take office in January 2020. Go to our website (www.sierraclub.org/michigan/southeast-michigan) for candidate statements and the ballot. Voting deadline is December 2, 2019.

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

COUNTIES: Berrien, Branch, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry
MEETS: in Kalamazoo
WEBSITE: <https://swmgsierra.org>
FACEBOOK: SWMG Sierra Club
TWITTER: SierraSwMiGroup
CHAIR: Roz Linsea • rozlinsea@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Kristi Lloyd • auntkiki@yahoo.com
 STOP EXCESSIVE EXPENSE for the SWMG and LESSEN YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT by letting us know that you'd like to eliminate all notifications and ballots for elections via US Postal Service. All you need to do is notify us through our website at www.swmgsierra.org and click on the contact us tab or email_admin@swmgsierra.org

Three Lakes Group / TLG

COUNTIES: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft
MEETS: in Sault Ste. Marie
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes
FACEBOOK: Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club
CHAIR: Roger Blanchard • blanchardclimate@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Carol Ward • saltptcew@gmail.com

- www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Greater-Grand-Rapids-Committee-Meetup/
- www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Nepessing-Group-Michigan/
- www.meetup.com/Metro-Detroit-Outdoors-Hiking/ (SEM Group)
- www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group/
- www.meetup.com/SierraClubClearwaterGroup/

Sierra Club Fights to Protect Michigan's Forests and Waters

By Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

Michigan's forest management plans desperately need revision to account for the long-term effects of climate change and threats to the state's water supply.

Michigan has three national forests, which together total almost three million acres and are home to Congressionally-designated Federal Wilderness Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Congress mandated that each forest have a plan that addresses long-term goals and management options. The need for these plans is critical since national forests in Michigan provide two crucial, but less visibly obvious benefits: pure drinking water and mitigation of climate change.

According to Mike Dombeck, former chief of the National Forest Service, over 80 percent of the drinking water in the upper Midwest comes from sources located in national forests. The trees, wetlands and lakes in these national forests filter and purify our drinking water. Meanwhile the trees and soils in forests absorb carbon from the atmosphere, keeping it in solid form and reducing its effects on the climate.

Managing forests to provide clean water and mitigate climate change is a slow, long-term endeavor. Many of the decisions we make today will not yield the results intended until after our lifetimes, literally for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

Given the importance of our forests, the National Forest Management Act states that each forest plan shall be revised at least every 15 years to take into account new knowledge, management techniques and public needs. Michigan's national forest plans were last revised in 2006, meaning the law requires revision within two years from now. Since forest planning takes time and is expensive, it should begin now in order to meet that deadline.

But there's a problem with this scenario.

In the 2019 Forest Service Appropriations Bill, Congress exempted national forests from this 15-year deadline as long as none of the many factors involved in a plan still apply. As described above, planning is expensive and at this time over 50 percent of the



Managing Michigan's forests, like these Hemlock trees, depends on updated national forest plans.

Forest Service budget goes to fighting mainly climate change-induced forest fires in the western forests. Consequently, there are no plans to begin forest plan revisions in Michigan.

However, the same law which required plans to be revised every 15 years allows (but does not require) the Forest Service official responsible for planning on each forest to determine that there are grounds for revision even if the 15-year deadline is excused. Plans may be revised if there is "new information" or "changes in circumstances" which are not addressed in the current plans.

None of the forest plans in Michigan address (or even mention) climate change. In addition, increased development and population has increased the stress on our drinking water supply.

Sierra Club believes that these two issues (among others) must be addressed in management of our national forests, and we will be working with the three national forests in Michigan to assure that this happens.

Sierra Club Staff Enjoys Camping Retreat at Detroit's Rouge Park



The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter held an overnight staff retreat last summer at Rouge Park in Detroit's only campground, which was reactivated two years ago by Sierra Club's Detroit ICO (Inspiring Connections Outdoors) program in collaboration with Detroit Parks and Recreation Department and YMCA of Metro Detroit. Staff and volunteers from all over Michigan came



together to talk about chapter and national campaigns and priorities such as environmental justice, and pitched tents to camp overnight. They also took time to enjoy the scenery and made friends with a family of Hooded Mergansers at the adjacent Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association.

Protect & Restore Great Lakes Ecosystem

Progress on Michigan's Factory Farm Permit

By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

For the first time in at least a decade, the state agency that regulates factory farms in Michigan has taken concrete steps to strengthen the water quality permit for industrial livestock facilities known as CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations). During a four-month stakeholder process last spring, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) pushed for a revised permit with important changes to address animal waste runoff and the Great Lakes algae problem. As of this writing, the public permit hearings and comment process were scheduled for September, with a finalized permit to go into effect April 1, 2020.

Sierra Club and its partners in the Great Farms, Great Lakes Coalition participated in the stakeholder process from March-June and hired a CAFO organizer, Amanda Robert, to educate



In August, about 80 people turned out for a Sierra Club presentation about the environmental and public health threats to the local community posed by Peacock Pork, a hog finishing facility proposed in Shepherd. Concerned residents included farmers as well as members of Sierra Club's Mid-Michigan Network like John Mitchell, who spoke at the meeting at Veterans Memorial Library in Mt Pleasant.

local residents about the need for an improved permit. We partnered with ROAD (Reviving Our American Democracy) to present on the issue July 18 in Montague, where they've been fighting the 4,000-hog Flower Creek Swine CAFO, and presented on the issue again on Aug. 1 in Mt. Pleasant where locals are battling the newly proposed Peacock Pork facility. (Residents also formed the new Sierra Club Mid-Michigan Network to bolster their efforts--see contact info in p. 4 directory.)

In the stakeholder meetings, the Great Farms, Great Lakes Coalition pushed for a permit that values people and the environment over agricultural polluters. We are advocating for an even playing field that is fair to small sustainable family farms while protecting the waterways of the state. In particular, EGLE staff proposed key changes to the 2020 Michigan CAFO permit that we sought during the stakeholder process, including:

- A ban from January-March on the application of waste on frozen and snow-covered ground (sno-fro), a practice that leads to animal waste leaching into underground tiles or running off melting or rain-soaked fields and ending up in local waterways.
- A monthly requirement that CAFO operators upload to the public MI Waters Database "waste manifest" forms that document what happens to their waste (how and where it is applied) when they give it to someone else rather than disposing of it themselves. This is a triumph for transparency—before this, these forms were kept on site by the CAFO operator and only viewable at the agency's request.

Watch for updates on the CAFO permit process in our next Mackinac issue as well as through our bi-monthly Chapter Update emails. The Great Farms, Great Lakes Coalition includes Food & Water Watch, Socially Responsible Agricultural Project, Public Justice, and Sierra Club. Learn more about CAFOs at <https://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/factory-farms>.

Water Infrastructure Efforts Flow On

by Quentin Turner, Green Water Infrastructure Organizer, Detroit

Our Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) work this year has focused on education and outreach as well as the physical work of rain garden plantings and rain barrel installations.

Rain Gardens to the Rescue workshops began in May for five weeks at Eastside Community Network in Detroit. Our 10 residential rain garden recipients learned about urban water cycle flows, the benefits of rain gardens, the importance of pollinators and how to design rain gardens. Planting dates for these gardens will take place throughout September.

Additionally, as a part of our partnership with the Land + Water Works Coalition, our chapter has been creating educational materials on GSI and seeking new organizational recipients for rain garden workshops. We also hosted a bike tour around Detroit's Midtown and conducted a large-scale rain barrel workshop.

From April to June, we worked with our long-time community partner, Friends of the Rouge, to conduct a workforce development course on Detroit's west side. The location was the

St. Suzanne Cody Rouge Resource Center, which is also our third partner in this endeavor. The course instructed people on the skills necessary for basic GSI maintenance contracts in order to earn a living wage and benefits while doing environmentally important work. Nine people graduated from the course. Friends of the Rouge plans to utilize our graduates for GSI maintenance work on future projects.

As the Healing Our Waters (HOW) Coalition Michigan co-lead with Ducks Unlimited, Erma Leaphart recently attended the River Network's "River Rally" in Cleveland to learn and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cuyahoga River fire that led to passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA). While great improvements have occurred, sewage and pollution still flow into rivers and streams from Toledo to Flint. HOW prioritizes enforcement of a strong CWA that's essential to protecting our freshwater resources. For more information visit: <https://www.healthylakes.org>

Sierra Club Tackles the PFAS Crisis

By Christy McGillivray, Great Lakes State Coordinator

Michigan is in the spotlight for widespread PFAS contamination and the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club is at the forefront of citizens' demands to deal with the crisis. PFAS refers to a class of chemicals that are included in thousands of consumer products, from food packaging to waterproof outdoor clothing. Yes, your GoreTex-treated boots and rain jacket were made with PFAS and so is that microwave popcorn in your cupboard.

The PFAS crisis in Michigan is the latest symptom of our broken chemical regulatory system—one in which chemicals are innocent until proven guilty and the burden of proof rests on the health of citizens instead of corporations that profit from the sale and manufacture of dangerous chemicals. We must fix this system and demand that chemical manufacturers prove their products are safe before they put them on the market. Until then we have to fight to hold polluters accountable for the health effects caused by their pollution.

Sierra Club volunteers travelled to Washington D.C. to speak with congresspeople about including PFAS as a hazardous substance under the Superfund law and to phase out its use in the military. Our volunteers have pushed at the state level to ban the use of PFAS fire-fighting foam. We are working on setting a drinking water standard that will help hold polluters accountable for the dire consequences of PFAS exposure seen in places like Rockwood, Mich. We have a dedicated team of volunteers working to bring attention to the gendered aspect of PFAS exposure—it has the most harmful impacts on developing fetuses and small children and is linked to endometriosis as well as mammary gland development. We still have a lot of work to do. To get involved please contact Christy McGillivray: christy.mcgillivray@sierraclub.org.

*“Yes, your
GoreTex-treated boots
and rain jacket were made
with PFAS and so is that
microwave popcorn in
your cupboard.”*



Sierra Club staff are hard at work informing communities about the PFAS crisis.



Kent Lake in Michigan's Kensington Park has been polluted with PFAS. For more than a year now fishermen have been warned against eating fish caught in the lake.

Sierra Club Continues the Line 5 Fight

by Christy McGillivray, Great Lakes State Organizer

Sierra Club members have kept up pressure on lawmakers to shut down the leaky and dangerous 66-year-old Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline. Sierra Club members flooded both Governor Whitmer's office and Attorney General Dana Nessel's office with calls and emails in support for the governor's request for an opinion on the legality of the proposed Line 5 tunnel.

Since January, AG Nessel has faced an uphill battle. Sierra Club members have worked closely with the Oil and Water Don't Mix coalition to counter the millions of dollars that Enbridge is spending in an unprecedented public relations



Sierra Club volunteers continue to work on the efforts to not only shut down Line 5 but also to prevent Enbridge from leaving the pipeline and building a tunnel around Line 5. Volunteers carried protests to the Straits of Mackinac and Lansing.

campaign. In May, over 70 activists descended on the Mackinac Policy Conference to stage a silent protest against Line 5. We have kept up a steady drumbeat of phone calls and emails to

state legislators and Governor Whitmer. In June, the Blue Water Group held a pipeline hike along the shoreline of the St. Clair River where Line 5 crosses back into Canada. Following the pipeline hike, 17 Sierra Club members attended the Marysville City Council meeting to voice opposition to the construction of a second Line 5 tunnel to be built under the St. Clair River to pump millions of gallons of oil to refineries in Sarnia.

We have made major progress in our fight to shut down line 5, but the work is far from over. Enbridge is pulling out all the stops to make sure they get their Line 5 oil tunnel. Now more than ever we need Sierra Club members to hold leaders accountable to their campaign promises to protect the Great Lakes.



Affordable Quality Solar Electric
Provided by Local Firms Vetted by Sierra
Club Michigan.

Click on the link below to find out how
you can join the many SC Members and
Supporters with solar installed through
our program.

Carbon Offsets of Sierra Club Michigan's
Solar Partnership Since 2015:

- 227,000 lbs of Coal Burned
- 76 Tons of Landfill Waste
- 504,000 Miles Driven by Average Vehicle
- 5400 Tree Seedlings Grown for 10 Years

<https://sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership>

Mitigate Climate Change

Consumers Energy: Close the Campbell Coal Plant

by Jan O'Connell, Energy Issues Organizer and Development Director

The Sierra Club in Michigan is raising concerns over the contamination of drinking water from wells in neighborhoods around Consumers Energy's Campbell Coal Plant along the shore of Lake Michigan in West Olive. Recent testing of four homes detected arsenic and lead in two homes with one of these homes showing arsenic at 2.5 times the safe drinking water limit. Other potentially dangerous metals were found in other homes along with readings of Radium. These findings are cause for further investigation to protect human health throughout the West Olive area.

In 2017, records show that the Campbell Plant discharged over 12,000 pounds of toxic metals into our waterways while in 2018 Ottawa County, the plant's location, was given an "F" grade for air pollution by the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report. Charlotte Jameson, Energy Policy Director from the Michigan Environmental Council said, "In 2017 & 2018 groundwater monitoring results showed that all of the coal ash pits at Campbell have contaminated groundwater above safe drinking limits for heavy metals including arsenic, selenium & thallium." The Campbell Plant is also the number one polluter in West Michigan, contributing to our unhealthy air and climate change.

These findings are direct signs that the Campbell Coal Plant has been harming the environment and the health of the surrounding communities. Campbell's plan to keep this complex open to 2040 is unacceptable. The Sierra Club initiated a petition this past winter pushing Consumers to close Campbell Units 1 & 2 by 2023 and Campbell Unit 3 by 2030 which moves the retirement schedule up by 8 and 10 years respectively. In early

May, the Sierra Club sent three representatives to the Consumers Energy Annual Shareholders Meeting and presented to their CEO Patti Poppe as well as the Consumer Energy's Board of Directors 1,247 signatures on the Club's petition. The three Sierra reps were also able to speak briefly about key points at the Shareholder meeting.

In early summer Consumer Energy's long-term plan received the green light from the Public Service Commission to make a significant increase in energy efficiency, make major investments in renewable energy totaling 40% of the company's energy by 2030, and retire part of its coal fleet, which is good news from Consumers Energy. Although Consumers made a commitment to retiring the Karn Coal plant in Bay City, Sierra Club is calling on the utility to quickly retire the rest of its coal fleet, which are major sources of carbon emission & other pollutants in Michigan.

As a result of the Sierra Club's recent water testing we had a billboard put up in downtown Grand Rapids (see below). We also joined with local residents, medical and scientific experts for an event to announce the results of tests conducted by the Sierra Club showing that drinking water is contaminated in the neighborhoods around the Consumers Energy J.H. Campbell Coal Plant in West Olive. These results are cause for further testing to determine if toxins are coming from the adjacent Campbell Plant to nearby wells.

These are just additional reasons that Campbell's plan to keep this complex open to 2040 is unacceptable! Please see the green box below to sign the petition as we plan on presenting additional signatures to Consumers Energy CEO Patti Poppe this Fall.

COAL ASH AND DRINKING WATER DON'T MIX

It's time to clean up coal ash in West Michigan

SIERRA CLUB
Beyond Coal

Want to join the fight against coal-powered plants?

If you are a Consumers Energy customer and have not yet signed the petition to close the Campbell Plant earlier, visit the link below and add your name to the next batch of petitions to be delivered to Consumers Energy CEO Patti Poppe. <https://sc.org/2knWZOr>

For information on Michigan's Beyond Coal efforts go to:
<https://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/beyond-coal>

DemocracyInAction

Growing Our Political Power

By Mike Berkowitz, Former Legislative and Political Director



For those of you who recognize my name it is likely because I emailed, called, mailed or texted you at some point over the last eight years, asking you to contact your lawmakers or vote for our endorsed candidates. I'm starting a new adventure working for the Club's Beyond Coal Campaign as the region's campaign representative, but I will still be active as a volunteer for the Michigan Chapter's Political Committee. Reflecting on my time running our legislative and political programs, we have truly become a powerhouse at the state capitol since I started with the Club in 2011 (see more of my reflections here: <http://bit.ly/MikeBerkowitzBlog>.)

Last year, we broke all the records! You can see our election report here: <http://bit.ly/SCMI2018ElectionReport>! But the work didn't stop with the election. In 2019, we have already organized over 450 meetings with state legislators for our grassroots lobbying program. We stopped numerous terrible proposals and passed a few proactive environmental bills. For example, we got our Republican-dominated legislature to create incentives for rooftop solar, fund the implementation of our state's new Lead and Copper Rule, and increase penalties for poaching lake sturgeon. But it has not always been that way.

I joined the Sierra Club after the tumultuous 2010 elections. Pretty much every single progressive environmental candidate lost. My first day on the job, I sat down with Anne Woiwode, our former director. She told me "Mike... we need more political power in Lansing. Lawmakers don't listen and they need to fear and respect us more. We need to recruit younger people to become leaders within our chapter. But we need a fresh perspective and new ideas for how to do that. Good luck and figure it out!"

In 2012, we instituted a stronger political program featuring a thorough endorsement process, created a nationally renowned internship program, started giving public presentations across the state, developed mail and phone bank campaigns, and started seriously raising money to influence elections. This program grew steadily through 2018 and gave us exponentially more power at

the state capitol, especially with Democrats but also some key Republicans who proved instrumental in negotiating a progressive state energy policy in 2016.

Since the implementation of our chapter internship program, we've recruited, trained and deployed 220 young people to become a part of our movement. About 180 of those young people continued taking action with the Sierra Club after their internships, with 45 going on to become long-term Sierra Club volunteer leaders. More than 70 of those interns now work in the legal field, serve as staff for state/federal lawmakers, run political campaigns, or work for progressive non-profits. For example:



Mike Berkowitz

- Former political interns Jeremy Johnson and Jessica Isler work for Governor Gretchen Whitmer's administration. Jeremy previously served as the youngest member of our chapter Executive Committee.
- Former political intern Courtney Bourgoïn went on to create our communications internship, build the Spartan Sierra Club, and become a staffer for the national Sierra Club's Communications Department.
- Former political interns Jack Levy and Carly Grace did such a great job that they were hired as staff organizers for Sean McCann and Mallory McMorro's state Senate campaigns. Jack now serves as Senator Sean McCann's district director in Kalamazoo and Carly works in the district office for Congresswoman Haley Stevens.

Growing Our Political Power From Page 10

- Amanda Adams ran one of the most competitive state representative campaigns in 2016, was a field manager at Clean Water Action, and now works for one of the best environmentally-minded state representatives in Michigan, Abdullah Hammoud.

Examples abound and it shows how we restructured the levers of power in Michigan politics.

As we reflect on how far we've come over the last eight years, it is more important than ever to invest in the Michigan Chapter's political program for 2020. If you believe in the work we are doing to train the next generation of environmental and political organizers, we need your support. If you believe in the work we are doing to elect progressive environmentalists to local, state and national offices, please help. Consider making a donation using the form below or via credit card on our website here: <http://tinyurl.com/q42nfob>. Not able to donate but want to help us with this work? Email our legislative/political coordinator, Tim Minotas, at tim.minotas@sierraclub.org. Join our 2020 internship program here: <http://bit.ly/SCMI2020PoliticsIntern>.



Sierra Club members are making their voices heard from Lansing to Washington D.C.

Get Involved and Make Your Voice Heard

The Sierra Club's goal is to pass progressive environmental laws in the Michigan legislature, stop legislative attacks on clean air, clean water, natural resources, land and clean energy, and elect strong environmentalists to public office. There are plenty of opportunities for you to make a difference at the capitol and help us get important issues addressed through our legislative tools. You can take action by:

- **Checking out our legislative action guide which we update every week <https://goo.gl/3YjUN1>**
- **Visiting lawmakers when they hold coffee hours or town hall meetings in your district. Use this link to find out when you can meet with your state lawmakers in your home area. <https://goo.gl/HXrxBE>**
- **Checking out our legislative priorities for this session and sharing this document with your lawmakers: <https://goo.gl/aXMGuc>**
- **And signing up to volunteer with any of these activities: <http://bit.ly/SCMILegislativeVolunteerForm>**

SUPPORT THE WORK OF SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN

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

Give online at <http://bit.ly/SCMILegFund>

Your donation helps support our Legislative work at the Capitol and across the state.

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

VOTE FOR MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The six Michigan Chapter Sierra Club members listed on these two pages are running for four at-large spots on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. ExCom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country. Please note that due to space constraints, we asked the candidates to limit their statements to 100 words or less. (If a statement runs longer than 100 words, the full statement can be found on the election web page at <http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot>). Two lines on the ballot are provided for write-in candidates as well.

Vote for no more than four candidates. You can cast your vote in one of two ways:

-Go online to our election web page and ballot at <http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot>.

-Mail in the ballot in this newsletter on p.13.

If you're voting by snail mail, you must write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope in which you return your ballot or your vote will be disqualified. Your membership number is above your address on the back cover of this newsletter. This information will also be required for online voting. Paper ballots must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by Dec. 1, 2019 (online voting deadline is the same).

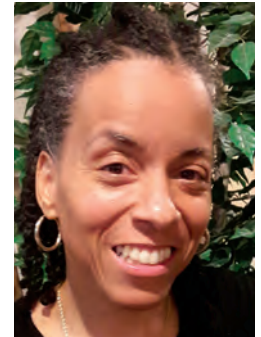
Marty Habalewsky

When I became a Sierra Club citizen lobbyist in 2015, I looked for ways to serve the Chapter. I am an at-large member of the state Political and Legislative committees and hold in-district meetings with my state representatives and state senator. In Port Huron, I am chair of the Blue Water Committee of the Southeast Michigan Group and the Public Affairs committee chair of the Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2018, my wife Ruth and I became plaintiffs in a Sierra Club lawsuit against the Michigan Public Service Commission. If elected, I will represent the environmental interests of Michigan's Thumb.



Deitra Covington

My name is Deitra Covington and I am honored to have served on the Michigan Executive Board for the last six years. Recently, I was appointed to the Council of Club Leaders to represent the State of Michigan. The Council of Club Leaders provides the grassroots leaders' voice to the National Sierra Club Board of Directors. I am looking forward to continuing to bring awareness to the wonders of our environment and making sure that it is protected. Being elected for another term on the Michigan Executive Committee would allow me to do this work at a greater capacity. Thank you.



Anne Woiwode

When Sierra Club began, we focused on saving wild places. Today, 127 years later, we are about saving the planet. What hasn't changed is the conviction that we only succeed by engaging our members and supporters as advocates for a clean, healthy and diverse future for all people and our environment. That is what has motivated me to be active in Sierra Club for almost 40 years as both a volunteer and a staff member. I am deeply honored to be able to serve in this way and I ask for your vote to let me continue in that role.



Robert Aguirre

I was born and raised in South Bend/Mishawaka, Indiana and graduated from Michigan State University. My career spans 50 years from police officer to administrator, consultant/contractor, to Michigan Parole Board, and from Michigan to Afghanistan. I've served on two Boards, the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency as chairperson, and the Sierra Club-Lake Nipissing Group Executive Committee and as chair for two years. I participated in the New York and Washington D.C. climate marches. My deepest concern is our environment and the long term impact on our home - Earth.



2019 Chapter Elections

Abby Clark

After moving back to Michigan from Washington D.C. last year, I've been looking for ways to give back to our beautiful state and protect it for future generations. It would be my honor to serve on the Executive Committee and focus my energy and experience on helping the Chapter grow stronger and more impactful in our rapidly changing world. I've spent over a decade working on political and advocacy campaigns across the country, including the last three Democratic presidential campaigns here in Michigan, as well as for Elizabeth Warren, Van Jones, and the Pew Charitable Trusts. I'm eager to earn your vote!



Craig Brainard

In eight years on the Chapter ExCom, I have served on the Beyond Natural Gas & Oil, Group Support, and Fifth Anniversary Committees, been 5th Officer and alternate delegate to the Council of Club Leaders, published the online journal The Fracking Linkletter©, and made dozens of presentations on fracking all over the state. If re-elected, I intend to work to help strengthen groups all over Michigan, and to take my new Clean Energy presentation on the road. My goal is to spur membership growth and activate current members by telling the hopeful story of the clean energy revolution.



SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

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

MARTY HABALEWSKY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANN WOIWODE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEITRA COVINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROBERT AGUIRRE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ABBY CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRAIG BRAINARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clip out and mail your ballot to:

Michigan Chapter Sierra Club
 attn: Chapter Elections
 109 E Cesar Chavez Avenue
 Lansing, MI 48906

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

Your ballot must be received on or before December 1, 2019.

Rhonda Anderson Receives Milliken Award for EJ Work

Sierra Club Detroit Regional Organizing Manager Rhonda Anderson was honored by the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) for her steadfast environmental justice advocacy efforts spanning two decades in Detroit. She accepted the Helen and William Milliken Distinguished Service Award at MEC's 21st Annual Environmental Awards Celebration at the Rattlesnake Club in Detroit on Sep. 26.

Rhonda has worked for the Sierra Club for nearly 20 years, fighting for the rights of low income and communities of color overburdened with pollution, particularly in southwest Detroit. A commitment to pursuing environmental justice (EJ) has been at the core of her work, and she is hailed as a leader in Michigan's movement.

The MEC award is named after former Michigan Governor William Milliken and his wife, Helen, both of whom were involved in implementing inspired environmental policies. The Milliken Award, MEC's highest honor, is presented each year to a person who has shown outstanding leadership, enduring commitment and extraordinary public service in protecting natural resources at the local, state and national levels. Past winners include Michigan State University scientist Joan Rose, Flint pediatrician Mona Hanna-Attisha, environmental advocates Andy Buchsbaum and Lana Pollack, renewable energy pioneer Rich Vander Veen, Detroit Riverfront champion Faye Nelson,



Rhonda Anderson has encouraged and inspired many local residents to engage on issues in their communities throughout her two decades of EJ work with the Sierra Club. She's pictured here on the right with fellow Detroit activists (from left to right): Theresa Landrum, Deitra Covington, Vicki Dobbins and Dr. Dolores Leonard.

Congressman John Dingell, state legislator Mary Brown and land preservation leader Marty Fluharty.

Rhonda shared the stage at the awards ceremony with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who gave the event's keynote address, and Rockford activist Lynn McIntosh, who received the evening's second award, the Petoskey Prize for Environmental Leadership.

Sierra Club Introduces New Environmental Justice Organizer

Please welcome Justin Onwenu, who started as Sierra Club's Detroit Healthy Communities and Environmental Justice Organizer last summer. Environmental Justice organizer this summer. Justin is a fourth-generation Detroiter returning from Houston where he received his undergraduate degree in International Health and Policy at Rice University. During his time as a student, he organized a number of campaigns on a campus, city and national level centered on sexual assault prevention, gun violence prevention and college affordability.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, and during his time as Rice University Student Body president, Justin organized over 1700 students, faculty and staff to volunteer and help rebuild in



Justin Onwenu - Environmental Justice Organizer

some of Houston's hardest hit areas. After graduating, he continued working on these issues as an organizer to bring light to the long-term mental health, physical health and housing impacts of the hurricane.

Since starting his work as a Healthy Communities organizer with Sierra Club, Justin has been working on a number of campaigns related to the public health impact of emissions from local industry in Detroit's 48217 community: working with partners on economic development

of Detroit and downriver communities impacted by the closing of the River Rouge coal-fired power plant and helping to lead "Frontline Detroit," a collaborative effort aimed at uplifting the voices and experiences of communities on the frontlines of environmental injustice.

"Being a black tree hugger has taught me that we must engage all citizens to fight climate crisis"

Read Justin Onwenu's recent excellent OpEd in The Guardian about the intersection of climate change and environmental justice here: <https://tinyurl.com/guardiantreehugger>



In Memoriam



Sherry Lynn Seelhoff

Dec 8, 1964 – January 1, 2019

Sherry was a dedicated, loving wife and mother who gave herself fully to her family and friends. Her kindness and generosity touched everyone she met, leading to recognition for her service with volunteer organizations. Sherry loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking, camping and canoeing. She also won awards for her involvement with outdoor leadership, taking youth to such places as the the Adirondacks, the Smoky Mountains and Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Sherry passed away quietly and unexpectedly in her sleep as the new year began. She would want to be remembered by those she loved by continuing to participate in her favorite activities and striving for the ideals and compassionate causes in which she believed. Because of Sherry's love of the wild outdoors, the family requested donations in Sherry's name to the Michigan Sierra Club.

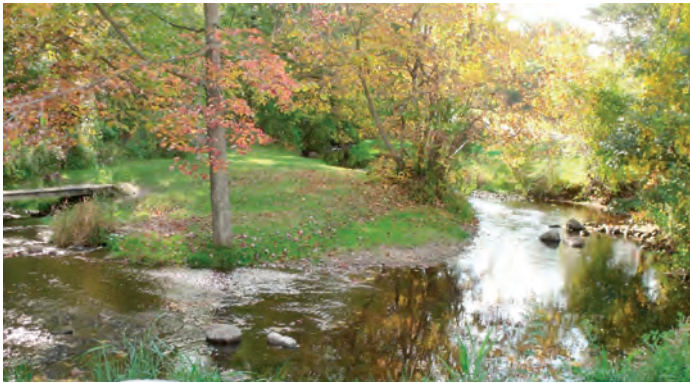
Scott Allen Braspeninx

April 15, 1965 – June 30, 2019

Scott was an outdoor enthusiast, often recalling the numerous summers as a child spent outdoors at his family's cabin on Hamlin Lake. He attended Michigan Technological University where he majored in Chemical Engineering and he applied his knowledge obtained at Michigan Tech to advance his career and to improve processes in the leather and wastewater industries.

One of Scott's big concerns was climate change and he spent a lot of time researching the issue and what could be done to positively change its trajectory. In accordance with Scott's love of nature and the outdoors the family set up memorial contributions to benefit the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.

You Can Preserve the Future?



When the renowned marine biologist, author and conservationist Rachel Carson died over 50 years ago at age 56, she left a substantial bequest to Sierra Club, including royalties from future sales of her book "Silent Spring," which inspired the modern-day environmental movement. Her legacy led Sierra Club to create the Rachel Carson Society, designed to honor and recognize individuals who make a commitment to the environment by including the Sierra Club in their estate plans.

You, too, can make a difference by remembering the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter and/or National Sierra Club in your will or estate plans. Bequests to the Michigan Chapter support the conservation work in the state in which you reside. This funding enables the Chapter to continue protecting and preserving the natural splendor of Michigan for years to come.

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

EarthShare[®] AT WORK

Today's employees seek purpose at work. Helping employees discover and support the issues that matter to them is connected to increased engagement, higher levels of productivity and innovation, and bottom line business benefits. Caring for our air, water, land and wildlife rank as top priorities with today's workforce.

That's why the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is a proud benefiting member of EarthShare, a national coalition that gives businesses and employees across America effective ways to care for our natural resources and contribute to a sustainable future. EarthShare works with the corporate sector to create dynamic and relevant engagement and philanthropic experiences for employees, businesses, and the communities where they live and work. Join us in accelerating the pace of positive environmental change!

To learn more and see the listing of EarthShare groups in Michigan, visit <http://www.earthsharemichigan.org>. You can specifically support the work of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter through workplace giving. Just contact jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or call Jan at 616-956-6646 to learn how to get started!





The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 3.5 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. This list is current as of our publication date. Please join us in thanking the current listing of Michigan Legacy Council members:

FENS & SAPLINGS \$500-\$999

- Patrice Aaron
- Catherine Badgley & Gerald Smith
- Lee Burton & Roberta Shaw-Reeves
- Karl Butterer & Delanie Pope
- Larry & Gloria Byle
- Joanne M Cantoni
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- Kathleen & William Davis
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- Oliver & Joan Warner
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- Cathy Cromer Wood
- Anonymous Donors (2)

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- Estate of Esther Dean
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- Henry (Hal) Newnan III
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DUNES & SHORELINES \$5,000-\$7,499

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- Jean Gramlich
- Greenwald Family Foundation

MARSHES & PRAIRA \$7,500-\$14,999

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- Mr John Hunting
- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Patagonia
- Margaret M Phillips
- Anne & Tom Woiwode

GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS \$15,000+

- Thomas Buhr
- Erb Foundation
- Detroit Future City
- Friends of the Rouge
- Wege Foundation