

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SPRING 2011

Fighting For Michigan's Future

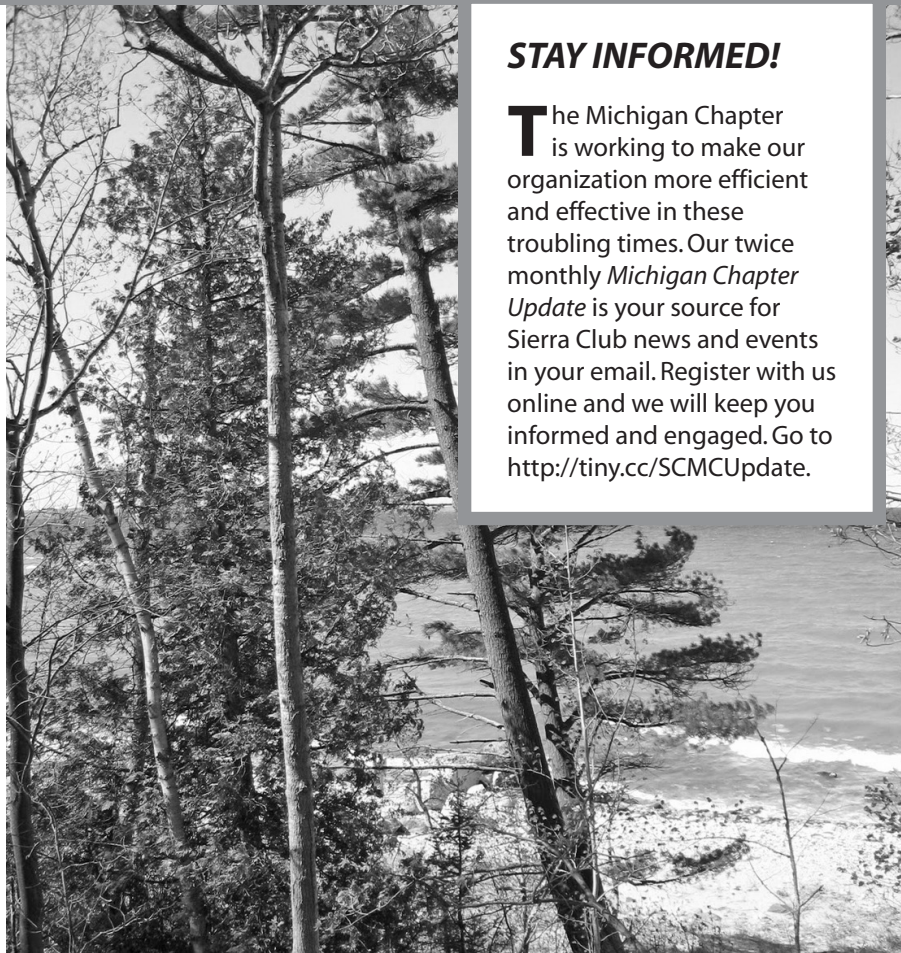
by Anne Woiwode

Elections have consequences, often ones not intended by the voters. Last November, voters told pollsters that they were not voting for a wholesale assault on state and federal environmental laws. Recent polls have confirmed that Americans overwhelmingly support the laws and agencies whose job it is to give our children a future with clean air, healthy land and clean water.

But in 2011 many politicians have turned their back on Michiganders' deep commitment to a clean, healthy and sustainable future. Just five weeks after taking office Governor Rick Snyder issued a permit for an unneeded, expensive, dirty coal plant expansion, charting a course that threatens to derail Michigan's growing renewable energy and energy efficiency sector. Michigan Congressman Fred Upton, once considered a moderate on energy and environment, has become a notorious climate change denier, leading efforts to eliminate the US Environmental Protection Agency's authority to enforce our nation's environmental laws. And the Legislature passed and Governor signed a law replacing clean water protections with voluntary agricultural practices that leave the health of downstream communities and fisheries at risk.

Our elected leaders' shameful disregard for the public's desire to protect our environment is a wake up call that we can't take a clean environment for granted. The public's complacency is beginning to fall away as the threats to the Great Lakes, our children's health and our very future become increasingly clear.

Sierra Club members know an engaged



ANNE WOIWODE

Little Traverse Bay, along the tunnel of trees north of Harbor Springs.

and informed public is essential to protecting our air and water quality, and our democracy. Michigan Sierra Club members are reaching out to their neighbors within and outside of the environmental community to defend the protections we have won over many decades, and take back the initiative.

This issue of *The Mackinac* examines many threats, but also spells out ways

STAY INFORMED!

The Michigan Chapter is working to make our organization more efficient and effective in these troubling times. Our twice monthly *Michigan Chapter Update* is your source for Sierra Club news and events in your email. Register with us online and we will keep you informed and engaged. Go to <http://tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate>.

YOU can help get our future back on track. Michigan needs you — future Michiganders need us all to step up to the challenges today. Please join us today to do what you can to protect Michigan's future! Find out more inside.

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THE MACKINAC

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Sierra Club members and colleagues meet with Congressman Gary Peters.

TIFFANY HARTUNG

In the Spotlight

Volunteers Unite!

by Jean Gramlich

When the pendulum swings, duck! The pendulum swung mightily in the last election, and environmentalists are trying to minimize current losses while preparing to build a better future.

Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club is 25,000 members and supporters strong, and these trying times necessitate that we mobilize our volunteer ranks to communicate with legislators, especially face-to-face, and let them know where we stand on important issues. We will be informing you about issues through our email alert system (please sign up to receive our semi-monthly electronic newsletters) and asking you to contact government officials to prevent environmental abuses.

Unfortunately, bad agricultural water quality legislation has already been enacted,

so we need to be vigilant and report pollution from animal factory farms. We also need to stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends in the labor movement who share our environmental concerns.

FAREWELL TO GAYLE MILLER. WELCOME MIKE BERKOWITZ!

Legislative Director Gayle Miller has decided to leave our staff for personal reasons. She has been a superb lobbyist for the last several years — even the opposition admits she is effective.

In the light of the election, we have decided to expend more staff time on grassroots organizing and less on direct lobbying. We have renamed the position and hired Mike Berkowitz as Michigan Chapter Organizer. Mike impressed us with his enthusiasm, energy and experience as a campaign organizer. We, the volunteer membership, will have to work hard to do more lobbying and help Mike to motivate more activists on the local level. Now, more than ever, we need you!



JAN O'CONNELL

Best wishes & many thanks to Gayle Miller!

KATINA SHAW ♥ GREAT LAKES!

Do you? The first 5 people to email their picture with the subject line "Sierra Club Mackinac" will receive a FREE "I ♥ Great Lakes" bumper sticker! Go to www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes/map.aspx for directions on how to email us your photo, and contact Melissa, (313) 965-0055, with questions.



BECOME A MICHIGAN CHAPTER LEADER!

You can become part of the team that helps guide the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter!

We invite Sierra Club members to nominate themselves and others who are interested in serving on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee guides the Michigan Chapter's work by setting priorities, assisting with raising the funds and recruiting the volunteers critical to our success.

If you would like to learn more about running for the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee, please contact Nominations Committee Chair Dorothy Nordness at dorothyK@isr.umich.edu.

This election can have positive consequences — for you!

Democracy In Action

You Have the Power to Make a Difference

IN-DISTRICT LOBBYING AND LOBBY DAY

by Mike Berkowitz

Last November's election left something to be desired for the environmental community. Many of our closest allies in the Michigan Legislature were either term-limited (meaning they could not run for the same office again) or got voted out of office. We are faced with an expansive group of new lawmakers operating in a vastly different political landscape than we had last year. While most of the progressive community sees this as a disaster, I prefer to view this as an opportunity. A possibility for us to become better. A chance to get in touch with the grassroots philosophy that guides our organization.

The changing landscape in Lansing reminds us that as a constituent of your local lawmakers, YOU are the most powerful lobbyist for protecting the environment. The Sierra Club has always valued your participation in the legislative process and now more than ever, we call upon you to fight for the issues you believe in.



BEVERLY WOLF WWW.BEWOLFFINEARTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

IN-DISTRICT LOBBYING

The first way you can make a difference is by becoming a Sierra Club In-District Lobbyist. The goal of an In-District Lobbyist is to meet local elected officials when they are home, along with some of your fellow Sierra Club members, neighbors, and friends. You'll educate the legislator on issues and develop a relationship with them by attending "coffee hours" or calling his/her office to set up a meeting. Policylink, a national research and action institute, found that "face-to-face contact with legislators is key to humanizing the problem, demonstrating a commitment to solving it, and developing relationships for the long haul."

This may sound intimidating, but you will find elected officials are often humble, down-to-earth people who are excited to meet their constituents. You hold the power in this situation because your vote controls their ability to get reelected. Chapter Legislative Committee members and staff are eager to help you through this process, so you won't be left to take this task on by yourself. This is a phenomenal opportunity for those who are interested in developing familiarity with the political arena, or just want to have their voice heard.

To become an In-District Lobbyist, contact Mike at mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or (517) 484-2372.

LANSING LOBBY DAY, MAY 18TH

The second way you can make a difference is by joining us on Wednesday, May 18th for Lobby Day at the Capitol. Sierra Club volunteers come from all over the state to talk to legislators about key environmental issues. You'll meet Sierra Club members from different regions of the state and volunteers from other environmental groups. You'll learn to effectively communicate with lawmakers and see how you can directly impact the legislative process. We hope to make this upcoming Lobby Day the biggest and best one yet in order to show the new legislature the strength of our organization and the passion of our members. This is a truly empowering experience that we look forward to every year, and we invite everyone out for this wonderful event.

To sign up for Lobby Day, visit www.tiny.cc/lobbyday or call our Lansing office at 517-484-2372 for more information.

BlueGreen Alliance

Attacks on the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) ability to protect your health, politicians abandoning our clean energy future, and corporations trying to destroy worker rights. Never before has it been more important for Sierra Club and other environmental groups to join with our colleagues in labor to fight back. Labor unions not only brought us the weekend, they also work with environmentalists to protect our wild places, clean up toxic work places, and move toward clean energy jobs.

Sierra Club and the BlueGreen Alliance are working to hold back attacks on our future. This includes stopping legislative efforts to take away collective bargaining that can ensure emissions from workplaces don't hurt workers or the community. It includes making sure that staff with the US EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



Sierra Club's Gloria Miller (L) and Carol Graham (R) stand with workers at a March 17 rally.

CAROL GRAHAM

are funded and allowed to do their jobs. And it means working to continue building our clean energy future, to deliver jobs and a cleaner, healthier, sustainable future for our state and country.

Rebuilding Green: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and

the Green Economy, a report by the BlueGreen Alliance, talks about the success of federal legislation that has helped move our country forward with good jobs and a clean environment.

Find out more about the BlueGreen Alliance at www.bluegreenalliance.org.

Rep. Upton Chooses Corporate Polluters Over Public Health

by Tiffany Hartung

US Rep. Fred Upton, from Southwest Michigan, recently proposed HR 910. Dubbed the Upton Dirty Air Act, this series of detrimental amendments to the Clean Air Act places the financial interests of some of our nation's largest polluters ahead of American families' health and well-being.

As the new chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman Upton has begun doing Big Polluters' bidding by leading the attack on the US Environmental Protection Agency. Upton used to be a moderate that the Sierra Club could work with, sponsoring energy efficient light bulb legislation. It is extremely disappointing that he is now proposing legislation that attacks the health of Michigan families.

Representative Upton's decision to side with corporate polluters over the health and safety our community shows how out of touch he is with the families in his district. His new bill strikes at the heart of the Clean Air Act, a landmark piece of legislation that has enjoyed strong, bi-partisan support since 1970. Over the past 40 years, the Clean Air Act has been instrumental

Upton's decision to side with corporate polluters over the health and safety our community shows how out of touch he is with the families in his district.

in protecting the health of our communities, preventing over 400,000 premature deaths and hundreds of millions of cases of respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

It's extremely important that our US Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, don't let polluters roll back years of thoughtful, scientifically-based clean air laws. We need our elected officials to block the Upton Dirty Air Act and work to keep our air clean and Michigan families healthy. Congress should stand aside and let the US EPA do its job of protecting public health and enforcing pollution safeguards. You can help: contact Tiffany Hartung, tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org or (231) 747-7489.

GreatForests, WildPlaces

Sierra Club Takes On Michigan's Biofuel Boondoggle

by Anne Woiwode

At a time when government spending at all levels is being cut, the massive proposed taxpayer subsidies for a wood to ethanol plant in the eastern Upper Peninsula stick out like a sore thumb. Sierra Club is raising questions about the proposed Frontier Renewable Energy project in state and federal agency proceedings, with particular attention to impacts on Michigan's forest ecosystems and global warming.

Based on submissions for the air pollution permit application, Sierra Club's Three Lakes Group found that Frontier's complete production process, including logging and wood transport to the plant, will consume 1.6 times more energy to make the ethanol than will be contained in the ethanol produced. The state-issued permit says the plant will use natural gas to fuel the boilers, but the project information submitted for federal funds says Frontier will burn lignin from the wood pulp instead. State officials have said the plant must apply for a new air permit to install if they change boiler fuels.

Sierra Club also documented severe deficiencies in the environmental review submitted to the federal Department of Energy (DOE) as part of an application for a \$58.5 million grant. Concerns were heightened when Sierra Club discovered that the environmental analysis, prepared by Mascoma, a partner in Frontier, was also paid for by DOE. The analysis is incomplete and inadequate, and "in many places it is self-contradictory, and in others simply incorrect" according to Sierra Club's Michigan Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson, who prepared the comments.

A stated goal of the project is to demonstrate that cellulosic ethanol can "reduce fossil fuel consumption in the US by 20% within 10 years." Sierra Club points out that "based on wood use and fuel production at this facility, if all wood

growth statewide were used to make cellulosic ethanol, we could produce 2% of Michigan's annual fuel needs." That number would mean cutting forest growth from Michigan's 19 million acres of forestlands, including protected wilderness and natural areas, state and federal park lands and privately owned forest

lands, and would end all wood products production from Michigan trees.

Cellulosic ethanol has been promoted as a way to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) compared with gasoline based on a contention that carbon dioxide from the production and use of

Continued on next page

Michigan's forest ecosystems are at risk from proposed biofuels and biomass projects.



STAY INFORMED!

In March, more than 450 Sierra Club members and supporters told their elected officials to stop funding the wood-to-ethanol boondoggle in the UP after reading our online Michigan Chapter Update. Visit www.tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate to sign up for this twice monthly newsletter and keep current with critical issues in Michigan.

ANNE WOIWODE

Southern Michigan's Biodiversity Stewardship Areas

MICHIGAN'S LIVING LEGACIES

by Rita Chapman

This June, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Southern Michigan Core Design Team (CDT) will complete its review of areas to be recommended for inclusion in the state's Living Legacies Initiative. The Sierra Club has been part of this painstaking process since it began. A place that is labeled a "biodiversity stewardship area" (BSA) means that place is home to a distinctive ecological community.

Did you know there are vertical clay bluffs along the Lake Michigan shore where wetland plants grow upside down? Michiganders know our Great Lakes are globally important freshwater ecosystems. Our Great Lakes marshes are also important, both ecologically due to their species, and because they cleanse waters that flow into the lakes. From our mesic southern forests and dry-mesic northern forests, to our wet prairies, bogs, and marshes — dozens of communities exist in relatively good health, and together represent the ecosystems of our state's natural heritage.



ANNE WOIWODE

A wetland in Okemos, Michigan.

Watch for more information on protecting these important areas. After the southern Michigan CDT is done, and after the Department of Natural Resources has completed its review, the public will be asked for input, too. For more information, visit our website at www.tiny.cc/SierraClubBSA.

Boondoggle, continued from page 6

ethanol will be entirely absorbed by the growth of new trees. However, Sierra Club points out "there is no question that over the life of this project (40 years) there will be a net increase in greenhouse gases. That time frame is shorter than that needed to replace 50 million green tons of wood. The project will be removing sequestered carbon faster than it replaces it in the short term." In addition, a study by Michigan Technological University shows that total GHG would increase by 8% over a 'no action' scenario if natural gas fuels the boilers.

Mascoma, a New Hampshire based biofuel company, and their partner, JM Longyear, a forest products company in the UP, have lined up over \$160 million of government subsidies and tax breaks to get the project off the ground, and will also benefit from an additional \$1.45

There is no question that over the life of this project — 40 years — there will be a net increase in greenhouse gases. That time frame is shorter than that needed to replace 50 million green tons of wood.

per gallon federal subsidy for ethanol. The source of the additional \$200 million projected to be needed to bring the facility into full operation has not been identified. Frontier plans to employ 70 people at the plant, with 150 temporary jobs during construction. While the company claims additional jobs will be created in the forest industry, Sierra Club has been contacted by forest products companies who believe this project will put them out of business by competing for the wood they purchase today.

Hundreds of Michiganders have already contacted Michigan's US Sena-

tors and Congressman Dan Benishek, who represents the UP and northern Michigan, asking them to tell DOE to drop plans to fund the Frontier Renewable Energy boondoggle. Congressman Benishek, despite campaign promises to oppose earmarks, including to his own district, supports the plant, claiming it will create 800 jobs in the area.

Find out more on the Michigan Chapter's website at www.tiny.cc/mibiofuel.

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

Sierra Club Tackles Hydrofracking in Michigan

by Rita Chapman

Michigan residents are calling the Sierra Club with concerns about new gas and oil developments in state that use a drilling technology called hydraulic fracturing (see box for explanation). In Michigan hydrofracking has been done for decades in the shallow Antrim shales, but the recent surge in interest in deep shale formations, including the Utica and Collingwood shales, is driving new concerns.

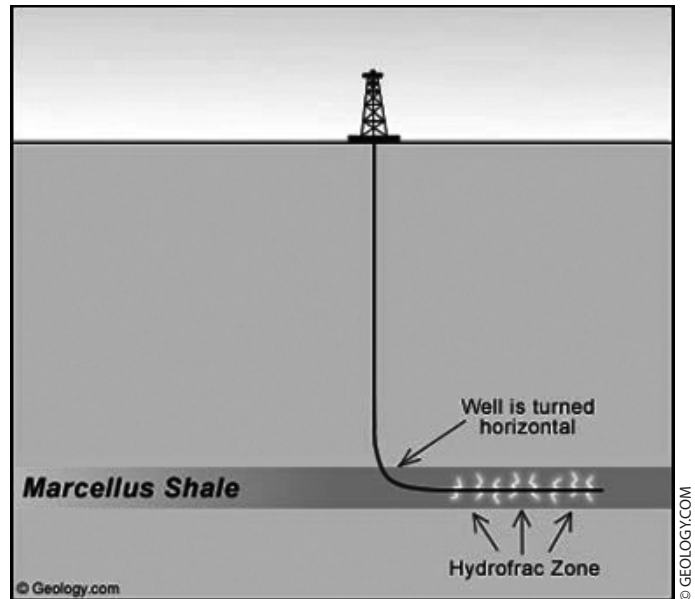
Hydrofracking is linked to many water and air pollution incidents in other states. The movie *Gasland*, by producer Josh Fox, is raising awareness across the country of hydrofracking problems in places like Dimock, PA, where methane and chemicals have contaminated drinking water wells. In response to concerns about water pollution, both Buffalo, NY and Pittsburgh, PA have banned hydrofracking. Michigan regulations protect our water from some of the possible sources of pollution, but there is much room for improvement.

Because of a loophole in current federal laws the oil and gas industry is not required to disclose the chemicals used in the hydrofracking process since that information is considered proprietary.

Congress is debating the “Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act” (FRAC Act) which would regulate hydrofracking under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and require that the types of chemicals used be made public.

At this time, Michigan doesn't require disclosure of the chemicals, either. Environmental organizations, including Sierra Club, have asked the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to change this policy. In response to environmentalists concerns about the huge volume of water used, drilling companies planning to use hydrofracking must now go through the state's water withdrawal assessment process to determine if the withdrawal might cause harm to nearby streams. Sierra Club and our allies are working for other regulatory changes, too.

To learn more, visit the Michigan Chapter website at michigan.sierraclub.org or contact Rita Chapman, rita.chapman@sierraclub.org.



Simplified diagram of a natural gas well that has been constructed with horizontal drilling through the Marcellus Shale and hydraulic fracturing on the horizontal portion of the well.

WHAT IS HYDROFRACKING?

“Hydrofracking” is a process for extracting oil and natural gas from shale formations that uses millions of gallons of water mixed with thousands of gallons of chemicals and sand, which is pumped under great pressure into oil or gas wells to force tiny rock fissures to open up.

The increased pressure inside the shale formation blasts open the small rock fissures, allowing the gas or oil to flow more freely. The chemicals, many of them toxic and all of them secret, do several things, and the mixture used depends on the drillers individual blends.

The US EPA has even found drillers using diesel fuel, which is highly toxic to humans and animals that ingest it. Other chemicals may include lubricants, biocides, corrosion inhibitors, friction reducers, acid to dissolve minerals and initiate cracks in the rock, and surfactants, among others.

To learn more, see our website at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

Legislative Score 2011: Polluters 2, Environment 0

by Anne Woiwode and Lynn Henning

In a disturbing start, the first bills our new Legislature and Governor Rick Snyder enacted moved Michigan's water quality protection backwards. Public Acts 1 and 2 of 2011 allow agricultural operations discharging under the voluntary Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) to meet lower water quality standards than other industries, and reduces agency authority to hold operations accountable. While water quality permits and regulations for large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) will remain unchanged for now, operations just one animal smaller could qualify for exemptions.



LYNN HENNING

New laws threaten fish kills and drinking water contamination from agricultural pollution

Sierra Club and its environmental partners worked with the US EPA and Governor Granholm's DEQ to bring dangerous pollution from livestock operations under the federal Clean Water Act. Tragically, the new administration is reversing that progress and ignoring the damage industrial agriculture has done to our lakes, streams and the Great Lakes.

Sierra Club is asking for your help to expand our efforts to grow a clean, healthy, sustainable agricultural future for all Michiganders. As our first step, the Michigan Chapter is petitioning the US EPA to review the new laws for violations of the federal Clean Water Act. In 1999

Sierra Club challenged the Engler administration's dismantling of water quality laws protecting our state from CAFO wastes, and ultimately forced the state to come into compliance.

You can help fight back against the efforts of agribusinesses to pollute at will by supporting the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter. Find out more about the work of our CAFO Water Sentinel and Goldman Environmental Prize winner Lynn Henning by visiting our Stopping CAFO Pollution website at www.tiny.cc/stop-CAFO.

Your contribution of time and funds will help us continue this critical work!

When Will Lake Erie Stop Being Metro-Detroit's Toilet?

by Melissa Damaschke

Detroit's Wastewater Treatment Plant, serving all of metro-Detroit, pollutes the Rouge and Detroit Rivers with billions of gallons of raw and partially treated sewage, which then pollutes Lake Erie. The plant, run by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), is the largest in the nation at peak flow and is one of the Great Lakes' biggest sewage polluters. While the Clean Water Act requires the facility to have a permit to control the pollution, the permit is not strong enough to protect the quality of our rivers and lakes. As a result, Sierra Club recently joined forces with several local, state, and Great Lakes regional groups to ask the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to require the following:

FULL TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER

The permit currently requires technology which only partially treats sewage instead of fully treating it. If millions of dollars are going to be spent to comply with the Clean Water Act, solutions should include only those that fully treat this wastewater and prevent it from polluting our rivers and lakes.

STRENGTHEN AND FULLY DISCLOSE THE PROVISIONS

OF THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The permit mentions implementing a Green Infrastructure Program that disconnects downspouts, plants trees, installs rain gardens, and more to absorb rainwater before it goes down a storm drain. However, the permit does not adequately explain this program. Nowhere in the permit is there a time table for implementation or benchmarks to identify when each element is completed.

DETAIL MDEQ'S PLAN TO ASSURE THAT DWSD COMPLIES WITH ALL PROVISIONS OF THE PERMIT

There is a noticeable lack of benchmarks, timetables for compliance, and enforcement provisions in the permit. MDEQ must detail the specific enforcement actions that are in place or will be put in place to ensure that DWSD complies with all provisions in the permit.

Sierra Club believes both DWSD and MDEQ must do better to protect our water. To find out more about green infrastructure solutions to sewage and stormwater pollution, go to www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes/detroit.

CleanEnergySolutions

Sierra Club Members Making Clean Energy Work in Michigan

by Jan O'Connell

Sierra Club members have long advocated to move our state off fossil fuels and to a resilient clean energy based economy. Many are already applying these principles at home, as well! Let us introduce you to Sierra Club members in Michigan who have made solar power and wind energy an everyday part of their lives. See more photos on the Chapter website, michigan.sierraclub.org.



◀ TOM & JILL NEWHOUSE

Tom Newhouse was thinking about sustainability long before it became trendy. In 1978 Tom designed and built his own “eco-house” — an earth sheltered, passive solar residence and design studio in Grand Rapids. Tom, the owner and principal of Thomas J. Newhouse Design, brags that he has a 13-step commute to work at his design studio. The Newhouse’s home (at left) is covered with local vegetation planted over a waterproof membrane. It took diligence to get the green roof established for the first four or five years, but the vegetation has been maintenance-free for the last 27 years. Jill and Tom aspire to live as holistically as they can by recycling, composting, driving two hybrid vehicles, and installing a composting toilet 10 years ago. The combined home and business won Tom a national design award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Environmental Protection Agency.

KENNETH & JUDY BETZ ▶

Energy issues are close to Judy and Ken’s hearts. This Kent County couple wants to see reliance on energy from other countries broken, and have taken on ambitious initiatives to install renewable energy projects. At their home just North of Rockford, Ken and Judy installed two large solar panels (at right) in 2008 and two more this past winter. They have intentionally used Michigan companies to promote a clean energy economy for Michigan. In the first year, their two solar panels provided 6500 watts or 6.5 KW. The Betz’s are also part of the Consumers Energy Net Metering program to feed excess energy back into the grid for others to use. Judy and Ken also installed a 45-foot wind turbine for their cottage up north on Lake Michigan.



◀ CAROL WARD

Wonder if solar energy can work in the UP? Carol Ward answers with an emphatic “yes.” Carol has lived off the grid on Whitefish Bay, off Lake Superior near Brimley, for 20 years. Photovoltaic panels provide all the power for her elegant home nestled next to the big lake. Carol has expanded and improved her power system over time, after starting with one panel and golf cart batteries for storage. Today, four solar panels grace Carol’s beautiful woodshed (at left), which was built out of old win-

Continued on next page

Boondoggle, continued from page 10

dows when she upgraded windows on her house. In recent years, after her cell phone routed phone calls through Canada, Carol added a land line — her only concession to the grid. Carol's example has encouraged at least one neighbor to use solar panels as well.

▼ LINDA BERKER & DON JAMES

Linda and Don had a wind turbine-raising event last fall, where Sierra Club members and friends gathered to see the blades set in motion. Their wind turbine, a Vertical Axis 5.5 Falcon Turbine located on their land in Lapeer County (**below**), is not what folks are used to seeing. They purchased the 30-foot tower and turbine for \$30,000, then spent \$10,000 to construct a cement base to anchor it into the ground. Linda and Don's next endeavor is to install a battery bank to store excess energy on-site, and to tie into the electric grid through DTE to send excess electricity to other users as well.



SNYDER ADMINISTRATION ABANDONS CLEAN ENERGY, GOES PRO-COAL

by Anne Woiwode

Despite his campaign promise to support clean energy, Governor Rick Snyder has reversed Michigan's course on energy policies.

Former Governor Jennifer Granholm's policies fostered \$10 billion of investments and over 100,000 jobs in clean energy in Michigan, and helped derail plans for up to eight new coal plants. Governor Snyder, by contrast, supports new coal plants and is walking away from building on the state's clean energy opportunities.

Rick Snyder's course is not what Michiganders want, goes against economic goals for the state, and runs against the grain nationwide where 150 coal plants have been cancelled since 2001.

Governor Snyder's administration issued an air pollution permit to the Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) in February for a proposed expansion of its downtown coal plant. HBPW sued to overturn the permit denial by Granholm's DNRE and it was sent back to the state for additional consideration.

Although state officials challenged the court decision at first, Snyder issued the permit despite its gross deficiencies and an admission by the HBPW that cleaner alternatives would save Holland's residents and ratepayers more than \$100 million over 20 years. A speech by Snyder in March confirmed his support for building new coal plants in Michigan.

The Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative air permit for a proposed coal plant in Rogers City was also denied by Granholm's DNRE

because cleaner alternatives are available, the power was unneeded and the plant will boost co-op members' electric rates by at least 60%. The permit was remanded to the Snyder administration after a state court told the state it needed to spell out the reasons for their denial. Snyder's decision on the Wolverine permit is expected in the summer, with the possibility that public hearings will be held this spring.

Snyder is also removing "energy" from the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) and dispersing energy programs to other agencies. DELEG under Granholm had become a primary booster of clean energy in every sector of the state. In contrast, Snyder told utility officials that energy is not on his agenda in 2011, incongruously saying that he is focused instead on the economy and jobs.

With the exception of a stated interest in moving the Great Lakes off-shore wind issues forward, Snyder has put all clean energy issues on the back burner.

Governor Rick Snyder needs to hear from all of us that clean energy is a top priority for Michigan's future. Our state has a narrow window to build on the progress made in renewable energy and efficiency, or we will lose out to other states and countries.

Visit www.michigan.sierraclub.org to get updates and take action.

Annual Retreat

22nd Annual Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Retreat

JOIN US! AUGUST 26- 28 ON LAKE MICHIGAN AT CAMP MINIWANCA

by Amanda Hightree

If you're looking for that one vacation this summer that will get you outdoors so you can enjoy our environment AND give you the opportunity to do something good for the world we live in, the Michigan Chapter Retreat is the place for you! Join like-minded Sierra Club members and supporters for a weekend of recreation, rest and relaxation. The Retreat is located at beautiful Camp Miniwanca in Shelby, right on Lake Michigan.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

You'll learn about key environmental issues, develop grassroots organizing skills, and be outdoors where our hearts truly are. And this weekend is not just for adults: there will be plenty of crafts and nature activities for kids, including a family friendly Raptor presentation by Wings of Wonder, featuring live birds.

LOTS OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday night is a highlight with our live auction and live music. Bring your new, used, handmade and unusual items to donate, and don't forget to bid on the auction yourself! But not all the fun is on Saturday — we will have games, movies, and other group activities on Friday after registration.

REGISTER NOW

The modest Retreat fee covers all workshops and activities, five meals, two nights lodging and one heck of a good time! For more information, camp location, registration or to contact the Retreat Committee, visit www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html or contact Amanda Hightree, michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372. See you there!

Michigan Chapter 2010 Retreat at Camp Miniwanca, on Lake Michigan.



MELISSA DAMASCHKE



Lynn Henning leads a workshop on CAFO monitoring at the 2010 Retreat.

2011 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

CALIFORNIA SELLER OF TRAVEL LAW: CST2087766-40 REGISTRATION AS A SELLER OF TRAVEL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

All workshops, activities, five meals and two nights lodging are included in each of the rates listed below.
(Some crafts may require a small materials fee.)

Names (include age if under 18): _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email Address: _____

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

Special needs, comments, questions, suggestions:

Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total
< 3	All	Free	Free
3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$65	_____
3-12	Lakeside or Inland Dorm	\$80	_____
Adult	Cabin or Tent	\$125	_____
Adult	Inland Dorm Room	\$155	_____
Adult	Lakeside Dorm Room, no roommate(s)	\$175	_____
Adult	Lakeside Dorm Room, with roommate(s)	\$165	_____
	Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)*		_____
	Add \$5 for registration after August 8		_____
	TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____

* Visit www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html to learn more about Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO) program

> Is this your first MI Chapter SC Retreat? Yes No
 If no, how many times have you attended? _____

Register online at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html or send this form with a check to: Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, ATTN: MI CHAPTER RETREAT, 109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Make check payable to Sierra Club. Contact Amanda Hightree with registration questions, michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372. **ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED & CLOSES ON AUGUST 19.** Check-in begins Friday, August 26 at 5pm.

FocusOnMichigan

Great Lakes Nuclear Proposals & Clean Energy Alternatives

SEMG CO-SPONSORS MAY 14TH FORUM

by Kay Cumbow

The nuclear power disaster unfolding in Japan following the massive earthquake and tsunami are a stark reminder that things can go catastrophically wrong at these facilities, with dire consequences for millions of people. Currently, several proposed nuclear projects that could impact the watersheds of both Michigan and the Great Lakes are being proposed or pursued.

On May 14, Sierra Club's Southeast Michigan Group (SEMG) will cosponsor an international forum on current Great Lakes nuclear proposals and clean energy alternatives.

The May 14th forum will feature former Michigan State Representative Kathleen Law, who introduced the first European-style renewable energy program in North America; Gordon Edwards, PhD, President of Canadian Coalition of Nuclear Responsibility and winner of the 2006 Nuclear-Free Future Award (Education); Brennain Lloyd, community organizer with Northwatch, an Ontario environmental coalition whose focus includes uranium mining, water and energy issues; and Kevin Kamps, Nuclear Waste Watchdog at Beyond Nuclear in Takoma Park, MD and a long-time Board Member for Don't Waste Michigan.

SEMG leaders have been heading up Michigan Chapter ef-



© BRUCE POWER

Bruce Power proposes to send 16 100-tonne radiation-contaminated nuclear steam generators from the Bruce Peninsula to Sweden through the St. Lawrence Seaway.

orts to move Michigan and the Great Lakes region away from threats posed by current and proposed nuclear power facilities. These include a proposed deep underground dump beneath Lake Huron's shores at the Bruce Nuclear Complex near Kincardine, Ontario; the proposed shipment of radioactive steam generators from Bruce Power via the Great Lakes to Sweden; and DTE's proposed, unneeded, untried Fermi 3 reactor near Monroe, Michigan. Forum presenters will discuss what is needed to transition to clean electric generation, including current state and federal energy bills. Location and registration details will be posted at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg.

GREAT LAKES & CLEAN WATER TEAM UPDATE

Keeping Asian Carp out of our Great Lakes, and keeping tabs on new oil and gas developments that use hydrofracking. Those top the agenda for the new Great Lakes and Clean Water Team (GLCW), a group of volunteers working with the Sierra Club's Great Lakes Program and Michigan Water Sentinels. Team members are giving presentations about the two issues, and contacting decision makers with concerns. One go-getter is pursuing action by his city and county government, to keep hydrofracking out of his watershed.

On the GLCW Team listserv you'll learn about additional opportunities to protect our Great Lakes and Clean Water, and receive notices of the quarterly Team meetings. Join the listserv here: www.tiny.cc/JoinMichiganWaterTeamList. To learn more, contact Chapter Clean Water Program Director Rita Chapman at rita.chapman@sierraclub.org, or Sierra Club Great Lakes Program Representative Melissa Damaschke at melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org.

THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER ONLINE

Kee up with Sierra Club Chapter and Group outings, events and more by signing up for the bimonthly Michigan Chapter Update at www.tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate.

In addition, you can find out more about Michigan Chapter committees, news and at michigan.sierraclub.org.

See you there!

Head spinning about the Sierra Club?

by Amanda Hightree

We all love the Sierra Club; it is the nation's oldest and biggest grassroots environmental organization! With grassroots work there are always many layers and sometimes that can leave your head spinning. But wait - there is relief. Below are some of the questions that we hear the most, along with their answers. While reading these if you have other thoughts or questions please write them down and then ask me about them by writing to michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org. We are always happy to explain the Sierra Club the best we can!

Q: If I am a national Sierra Club member, do I also have to pay dues to the Michigan Chapter?

A: Sierra Club is One Club, with just one membership fee. You are a Sierra Club member across the board, with no separate fee to belong to Chapters or Groups.

Q: What is the difference between a Sierra Club Chapter and a Group?

A: The Michigan Chapter is the statewide governing body

in Michigan, and most Sierra Club Chapters are statewide. The Michigan Chapter includes 9 regional Groups that are organized and run by Sierra Club members, and there is a lot of overlap. Groups connect their members with the local community through outings, programs and work on local issues, such as transportation, urban development and local parkland protection. Group Representatives make up half the leadership of the Chapter, with the other half of the Chapter Executive Committee elected statewide. The Chapter works at the state level on issues that affect the whole state

such as clean energy policy, forest health and clean water. The Chapter engages members in legislative lobbying as well. As a member and supporter you can be active in both your Chapter and your Group. See pages 16 through 18 for the activities of our regional Groups.

Q: I donate to the Michigan Chapter every year with my membership. Why do I receive notices asking for additional donations?

A: We are grateful that you have chosen to be a Sierra Club member! Paying your membership fee provides a portion of the costs of running a 700,000 member organization, including providing you SIERRA magazine and your chapter newsletters. The Michigan Chapter receives just a portion of your membership dues, which makes up less than 8% of the Michigan Chapter budget. Your generous donations to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter stay right here at home to help protect Michigan's future. See page 20 OR 21 for our Annual Report about our sources and uses of funds.

Get the Mercury Out!

by Michelle Martinez

Did you know that DTE's Monroe Power Plant is the 11th largest emitter of mercury in the nation?

Mercury is a particularly harmful air toxin that builds up in the environment, with human exposure most commonly caused by consumption of contaminated fish. A potent neurotoxin especially dangerous to children and fetuses, mercury exposure affects the ability to walk, talk, read, write and learn. As many as 1 in 6 American women have enough mercury in their bodies to put a baby at risk.

Sierra Club joined with the Dearborn Sustainability Collaborative to test for mercury contamination through hair samples on March 23. The US EPA is considering requiring coal plants, the largest emitter of mercury, to reduce their emissions to protect public health.

Contact Michelle Martinez at michelle.martinez@sierraclub.org or (313) 974-6574 to find out more about supporting ef-



Mercury Hair Testing: Thanks for participating! Volunteer hairdressers Anna Frusti and Elizabeth Regan snip a hair sample from Sierra Club member and Dearborn Sustainability Coalition Leader Mary Ann Baier to submit for mercury testing.

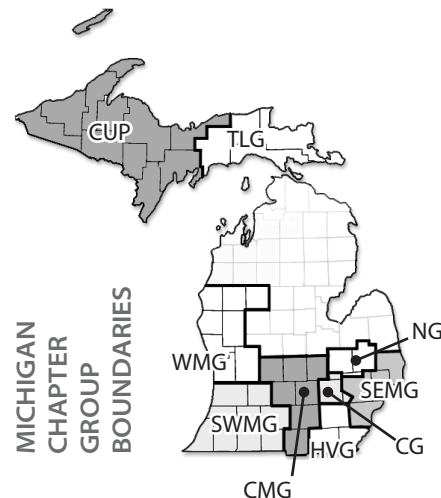
orts to clean up toxic emissions from coal plants, and move our state to clean energy instead!

Group Info & Outings

Think Globally, and Get Active with Your Local Sierra Club Group!

Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's nine regional Groups or committees are a vital link for getting active with Sierra Club! Groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Sierra Club members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—everyone is welcome! The Michigan Chapter website has a comprehensive calendar with current and upcoming outings, programs and events listed for each Group (go to michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar).

Below is a list Michigan's Sierra Club Regional Groups, the counties they cover, and where their meetings usually take place. Group Chairs, their contact information and links for Group websites are also listed below, or go to michigan.sierraclub.org/groups.



Note: If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you're interested in starting one, please contact Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at Amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.

Central Michigan Group / CMG

Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee Counties / Meets in Lansing area

ONLINE: cmgsierraclub.yolasite.com

CMG CHAIR: Paul Kindel, 517-332-3091 or kindel@msu.edu

Huron Valley Group / HVG

Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe Counties / meets in Ann Arbor

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

HVG CHAIR: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or nshiffler@comcast.net

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry Counties / meets in Kalamazoo

SWMG CONTACT: Brad Parsons, 269-492-4437 or bradparsons4@gmail.com

Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties / meets in Marquette

GROUP CHAIR: John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or jrebers@gmail.com

Nepessing Group / NG

Genesee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland County / meets in Flint

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

NG CHAIR: Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038 or dmcispell@yahoo.com

Three Lakes Group / TLG

Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft Counties / meets in Sault Ste. Marie

ONLINE: www.michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/ThreeLakes.html

TLG CHAIR: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu

Crossroads Group / CG

Livingston County and western Oakland County / meets in Brighton

ONLINE: sites.google.com/site/crossroadssierraclub

CG CHAIR: Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties / **NEW MEETING PLACE:** Huntington Woods Library

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

SEMG CHAIR: Hal Newnan, 586-758-6461 or hnewnan@sbcglobal.net

West Michigan Group / WMG

Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mason, Lake, and Osceola Counties / meets in Grand Rapids

ONLINE: www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

WMG CHAIR: Michigan Chapter Office, 517-484-2372 or michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org

Michigan Chapter members attend a workshop at the 2010 Annual Retreat.



JAN O'CONNELL

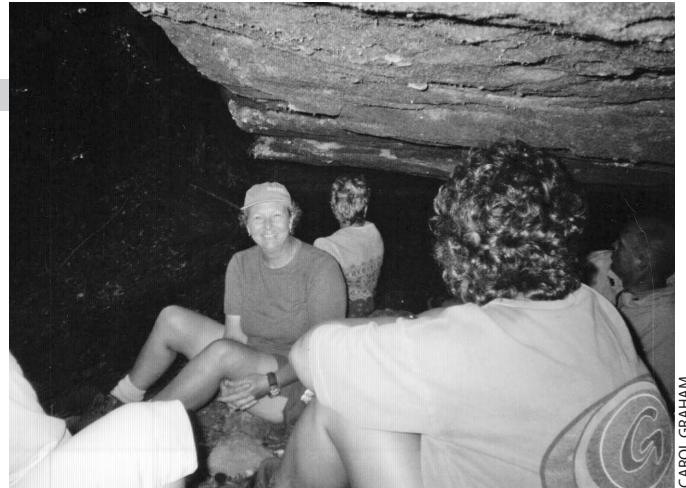
The Nepessing Group Explores and Enjoys Wild Places. So Can You!

by Carol Graham

The Nepessing Group covers some beautiful terrain in Genesee, Lapeer, and Northern Oakland Counties. Much of it is visited on a regular basis by members and friends of the Sierra Club as part of the most robust hiking program in the state.

It all began in October 1996 when newly appointed Nepessing Group (NG) Outings Chair, Cindy Engelmann, had an idea. She called a meeting at the local library where an ambitious, once-a-week hiking schedule was organized by the 40+ people present. Each pledged to lead a single favorite hike, and Cindy and new member Denny Crispell filled out the calendar for the rest of the year as hike leaders. And so it began.

In 2011, the hiking/outings schedule has grown to about two events per week. It's compiled in a massive, seven page Nepessing Group Outings Schedule in fine print. Long-time member Don James has contributed to the success of the program by instituting the weekly, online "Nepessing Hiker" eNewsletter. This vital link to exploring and enjoying Michigan goes out to 170 members and friends of the Sierra Club.



CAROL GRAHAM

Cindy Engleman leads an early Nepessing Group outing.

Anyone who has ever come to a hike can sign up to get weekly reminders about opportunities to enjoy wild places and meet up with old and new friends. Don announces monthly NG meetings and programs, community events/festivals, and trainings such as the Nepessing Group's long-term stream monitoring and storm drain stenciling efforts. It's all part of caring for our wilderness for the involvement and interest of all.

The Nepessing Group Hiking Schedule can be obtained at the monthly meeting at Mott Community College, local festivals where the Sierra Club is present and from Outings Committee members. Sign up to receive the "Nepessing Hiker" via email by contacting Don at nepessinghiker@aol.com and requesting to be put on the list. Now dust off those boots and grab your walking stick! We're heading OUT!



JOHN REBERS

Jan Rebers paddles on Crooked Lake in the Sylvania Wilderness.

HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY CROSSROADS GROUP!

Twenty years ago a handful of Sierra Club members in Livingston County formed a regional Sierra Club group to address environmental challenges in the fastest growing county in the state. Like thousands of other Sierra Club members, they took action to protect their community from destruction and pollution, and to get outdoors to enjoy Michigan's wonderful natural resources.

From successful fights to protect parklands to selling lemonade at the Howell Balloon Fest to a crazy canoe outing down the Huron River in February each year, Crossroads Group members embody the best of Sierra Club's goals to "explore, enjoy and protect" our planet! Learn more about the history of the Crossroads Group at www.tiny.cc/CGHistory.

Group Info & Outings

Everyone is welcome to participate in Sierra Club Outings!

The Michigan Chapter and Group volunteers lead outings year round. Current outings are updated continually on the Michigan Chapter calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/scmcoutings>. Every outing, whether it is a stroll in the park or a week-long backpacking adventure on Isle Royale, starts at the trail-head, and some include fees to cover expenses. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver, which is linked to our website, or call the Sierra Club

Outings department at 415-977-5528 to have a print version sent to you.

Here we introduce you to a small cross section of outings led by Group and Chapter leaders. Details and contact information are available at www.tinyurl.com/scmcoutings. *Please confirm outing information with the leader in advance because time and location may change.* Get out and enjoy the places we all work so hard to protect!

Michigan Chapter Outings

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter volunteers will help The Cedars of the Au Sable help protect and restore two of Michigan's finest rivers by planting native cedars along the banks. Join us for these fun and important outings!

May 21 & 22: Upper Manistee River Cedar Planting and Camping. Join us to help The Cedars of the Au Sable plant cedars along the Upper Manistee River, west of Frederic in the Deward area. We'll meet 10am at Cameron Bridge on Saturday, May 21 for a day of cedar planting. Saturday night we'll camp at a nearby state forest campground on the Manistee River. If necessary, we'll finish our tree planting on Sunday, May 22. This free outing is open to members and nonmembers. There is a small fee at the campground. Each participant is responsible for their own tools, camping gear and food. To volunteer and for more information, contact Lorne Beatty, Chapter Outings Chair, 810-632-7766 or lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org.

September 10: Annual Au Sable River Clean up and Cedar Tree Planting. Michigan Chapter volunteers will join Anglers of the Au Sable and Cedars of the Au Sable volunteers 10am at the Gates Au Sable Lodge to organize teams, trees and equipment before proceeding to designated stretches of the beautiful Au Sable River. Bring work gloves, shovels, insect repellent, sun screen, canteens, etc. and plan to spend a few hours planting trees. An enjoyable afternoon picnic at the Gates Au Sable Lodge will follow. This service outing is free to both members and nonmembers. For more information and to volunteer, contact Marvin Roberson, 906-360-0288 or marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org, or Lorne Beatty, 810-632-7766 or Lorne.Beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org.



PHOTO CREDIT

Volunteers at a recent Au Sable Tree Planting.

Group Outings

April 23 SEMG Sterling State Park Marsh Trail Hike. Hike 5-6 miles, moderate pace, around a lagoon with 11 interpretive stations & shelters with spotting scopes to view waterfowl and birds. The trail has an observation tower for viewing the entire 320 acre restored Great Lakes marsh. Hike light rain or shine. Bring water & snack; also binoculars & bird guides, if you have them. Mary Slumpff, 734-558-8797.

May 1 SEMG Beginner Birding at Maybury State Park. Bring binoculars & field guide for a slow, quiet birding hike concentrating on identifying common birds by sight and sound. Meet at the park concession building at Eight Mile Rd.

entrance. Trip goes rain or shine. Entrance fee. Optional restaurant stop after hike. Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782 or tgriebel@sbcglobal.net.

May 7 NG Sutherland Nature Sanctuary Bird Walk. Leisurely stroll on nature center trails looking & listening for spring birds. Bring binoculars & field guides, no dogs. Limit 20. Fred Townsend, 248-627-3587 or fttownsend@aol.com.

May 8 SEMG Maybury Mothers Day Wildflower Walk. Let's start early, leaving time for dinner. We'll do a slow paced, 3-mile walk to usher in Spring & honor Mother Earth & Earthly Mothers! We'll stop often to identify 17 species of wild-



flowers (guaranteed) as we explore trails. Bring cameras, magnifiers, field guides. Meet at the park concession building at Eight Mile Rd. entrance. Entrance fee. Restaurant stop after. Phil Crookshank, 248-797-2885.

May 15-18 CUPG Women's Northwoods Service Outing. 4 days work with Wisconsin DNR staff removing exotic invasives, refurbishing lakeside campsites, etc. Stay in a lakeside cabin with canoes; bird watching and hiking during off hours. \$25. Bring an evening meal for six. Sherry Zoars, 906-358-1110 or zoars@copper.net. Specify full name and mailing address in emails.

May 15 HVG Lakelands Trail "Secret Hike." Explore the northernmost section of Pinckney State Recreation Area on old railroad grades and various hiking trails. 5-mile meander with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Directions on website. Jay Schlegel, 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

May 21 SEMG: EL Johnson DNR fishing event at Bloomfield Hills Nature Center. Enjoy a family catch and release fishing day! Come early to get set up with fishing skills on our own private pond. Children must be with a parent or guardian. Bring a fishing pole if you have one, a picnic lunch and drink, dessert provided. Docent tour afterward. Reservation required. JulieAnn, 248-854-2195. Sierra Club facilitator Anita D'Souza, 248-561-5019 or manitadsouza@gmail.com.

Sept 2-11 HVG Rocky Mountain National Park Backpacking Trip, Estes Park, CO. Week-long backpacking trip with option to climb Longs Peak (not technical). Ewa Roszczenko, ewarosz@yahoo.com or 734-756-5362.

BE A SOLUTION: STOP POLLUTION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2011

You can help volunteer at the 2011 Sierra Club Green Cruise! Join the Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group in celebrating the many forms of human-powered transit that help keep you and the planet healthy.

Our 2010 Green Cruise, held in Ferndale, was the best ever — over 300 people participated in our bike rides and over 600 people came to our Green Alley events.

To attend our next meeting, receive Green Cruise updates, or sponsor the Sierra Club Green Cruise, email Doug Christie at greencruise@michigan.sierraclub.org.



Friend or Foe?

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals - not to mention being the largest source of toxic ammonia air pollution in the U.S. The air around factory farms is contaminated with suspended dust particles, which have been linked to asthma, bronchitis and other diseases. Our government wants to pass legislation which would exempt factory farms health and environmental laws. Support Sierra Club's effort to keep our water clean and our air friendly. The hogs have gone wild, now it's our turn.

Cause a stink. JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____
 Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.



F94Q W 2100 1

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

Supporting Your Chapter

7 Ways to Support Sierra Club's Work in Michigan!

Sierra Club has long been one of the most versatile defenders of the environment. This versatility gives you many options for supporting our work, from educational programs to citizen lobbying to electoral engagement. Here's how!

1 Become a Sierra Club member!
Use the form on page 22 of this issue, or go www.michigan.sierraclub.org and become a member online.

2 Donations to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter support our citizen engagement work, including the Chapter's twice yearly citizen Lobby Days and on-going, in-district legislative work. Because these funds support our effective citizen based advocacy efforts, gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

3 Tax-deductible gifts to the Sierra Club Foundation help support Michigan Chapter educational and administrative policy work at the state and federal level, including litigation, forest biodiversity, water quality protection, and energy work.

4 You can truthfully say "I gave at the office" if your workplace participates in **EarthShare of Michigan's Workplace Giving** program. Contact Carol Graham, our Chapter's EarthShare representative, at c.graham.thompson@juno.com or visit www.earthsharemichigan.org to learn more.

earthsharemichigan.org to learn more.

5 With Sierra Club's **Gift Planning Program**, you can designate funds to support the Michigan Chapter in a variety of ways, including bequests and charitable gift annuities. Call 800-932-4270 or email gift.planning@sierraclub.org to learn more.

6 **Commemorative and memorial gifts** help you celebrate important events or remember a loved one by supporting protection of Michigan's environment. Jan O'Connell can offer suggestions on how to commemorate these important events.

7 Members can **donate to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Committee**, our state registered political action committee. These funds support state and local candidates endorsed by our Chapter. For more information, contact Anne Woiwode, 517-484-2372 or anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org.

For more information on how you can help, contact Michigan Chapter Development Director Jan O'Connell, 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.



Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

THANK YOU, EARTH SHARE DONORS!
We wish to thank all the individuals who support our work each year through payroll deduction via Earth Share of Michigan. If you have just completed your annual payroll deduction campaign at work, and Earth Share of Michigan was not listed as an option, please call 800-386-3326 to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support Sierra Club Foundation-Michigan Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work. For more information, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org.

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 <http://tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport>

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

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

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

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

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Continue the Legacy of Conservation

For over 115 years, Sierra Club volunteers and donors have provided a solid base of support for turning environmental dreams and goals into reality.

By including Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club chapter in your future plans, you will help ensure Sierra Club will have the financial resources to carry on its environmental activities well into the future.

For confidential assistance, contact:

**Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program**
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

LEAVING A LEGACY

By creating a charitable bequest to benefit the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, you control your assets during your lifetime and help protect our environment in years to come. Contact Sierra Club's Gift Planning office (above) to create a legacy to protect Michigan's future.

If you have already included the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter in your will, please let us know so we can "Thank You" in your lifetime! Contact Michigan Chapter Development Director Jan O'Connell, jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or 616-956-6646.

A gift from the Estate of Elizabeth Ann Sagady, D.O.

by Anne Woiwode

The Michigan Chapter is deeply grateful to the Estate of Elizabeth Ann Sagady, D.O., for the gift of three beautiful paintings to The Sierra Club Foundation to be sold to support the Chapter's educational work.

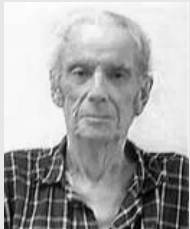
Elizabeth was one of only 2 women in the first 1974 graduating class of the then newly established MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, the first public university osteopathic school in the U.S. She was also an honors graduate in biology at the University of Detroit.

Elizabeth was a Sierra Club and NRDC member and was a retired osteopathic physician at the VA Outpatient Clinic/Hospital in Phoenix, AZ.

She was permanently and completely disabled as a survivor of post polio syndrome and other health problems. According to her brother, Alex Sagady, long time Michigan Chapter volunteer, "despite these disabilities, I was once surprised to hear that my sister had printed up a bunch of flyers from Sierra Club and NRDC information on mercury emissions from power plants, and she spent some time leafletting the entrance of the Phoenix Zoo while in her Amigo electric cart."

Our sincere condolences to the Sagady family.

IN MEMORY OF RITCHEY O. NEWMAN



We were saddened to learn from the Newman family of Ritchey's passing in February. Ritchey was a proud part of the Michigan Chapter Legacy Council since 2007.

The Michigan Chapter thanks Ritchey Newman's family and friends for remembering him through memorial gifts to support Sierra Club's work.

2010 Annual Report

Highlights & Accomplishments

We closed 2010 with 25,000+ Sierra Club members and supporters strong in Michigan. There were more than 1,350 individual contributions made to support the Michigan Chapter's work in 2010. Hundreds more have given their expertise, volunteer hours, as well as their motivation and enthusiasm to strengthen and reinforce our hardworking staff in moving our important environmental work forward.

It is because of the many volunteers who have stepped forward initiating activism and supporting the staff, that the Chapter is able to tackle so many important issues.

Below are some highlights from last year:

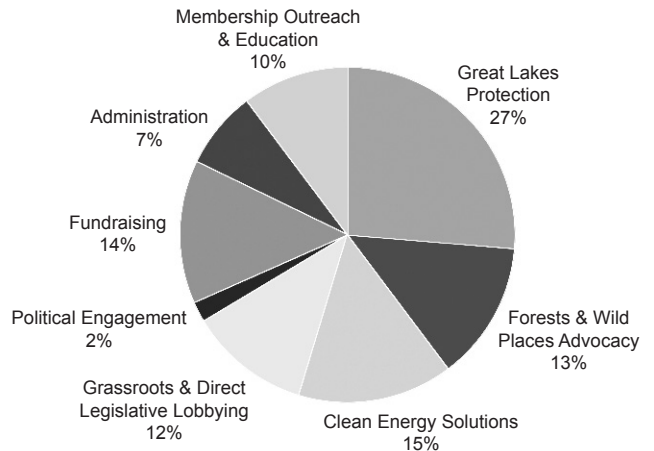
- Michigan Chapter's Lynn Henning was named the 2010 Goldman Environmental Prize winner for North America, the Nobel Prize equivalent for grassroots environmentalists, for her work to stop concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) pollution.
- The last of 8 proposed new coal-fired power plants in Michigan were put on hold or stopped, in part due to the work of the Michigan Chapter's Jan O'Connell. Unfortunately, recent reversals mean the coal plant fight in Michigan continues (see page 10).
- Clean Water Program Director Rita Chapman helped plan the Grand River Expedition (GRE) 2010 and set up a water sampling and testing plan for trained volunteers on the trip. The good news: water quality on the Grand River today is pretty darn good and a far cry better than during the first two GREs in 1990 and 2000.
- Hundreds of Sierra Club volunteers participated in legislative lobbying and campaigns for pro-environment candidates as a result of the work of the Legislative and Political Committees and staffer Gayle Miller.
- Michigan Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson documented impacts of a proposed wood biomass plant in Traverse City, helping convince the municipal utility to drop its plans to build the plant.
- Michigan Chapter Director Anne Woiwode celebrated 25 years as Michigan Chapter staff.

For 43 years, Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter has organized the bold action of citizens working together to protect and restore our Great Lakes State's health and heritage. We are very proud of the work we have been able to accomplish in 2010. Your generosity and support has made a tremendous difference.

We thank you!

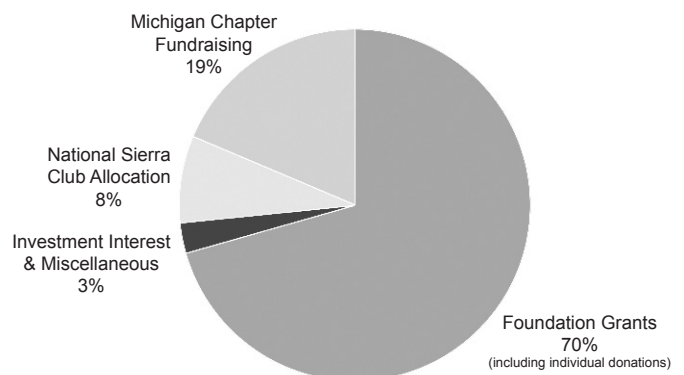
Expenses to Advance Conservation Priorities

In 2010, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter spent \$596,576 to advance our conservation priorities in our Great Lakes State. Of that, 79% went directly to the pro-environment actions that you care about in Michigan.



Income to Sustain Conservation Programs

In 2010, just 8% of the Michigan Chapter's income came from the membership dues you pay to the Sierra Club each year. The Michigan Chapter meets our additional funding needs through donations to the Chapter and the Sierra Club Foundation, joint projects with national Sierra Club programs, and foundation grants. Sierra Club receives no government funding. Our total income was \$605,752.



Chapter Directory

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ANNE WOIWODE

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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 making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. Please join us in thanking current members:

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