

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • AUTUMN / WINTER 2012-13

Do Your Duty: Vote for the Environment

by Richard Barron,
Political Committee Chair

The State of Michigan and our nation face unprecedented threats to our air and water quality. Climate change imminently threatens our entire biosphere. Whether the danger is Asian carp, fracking, petroleum spills, animal factory waste, or toxic emissions from coal-fired power plants, we need informed leaders in Congress and our Legislature to take sensible but aggressive action to protect our environment. Candidates who do not support environmental protection, or who resist any safeguards against pollution in the name of an untrammelled free market economy, clearly endanger the health and welfare of our planet and our children.

In a perfect world, every voter would take the time to research and interview each candidate, but that doesn't always happen. Fortunately, the Sierra Club has done this time-consuming work for you so you can quickly determine those candidates who are committed to the preservation of our irreplaceable natural resources. You can see our endorsements on pp. 6 and 7 of this issue.

Every Sierra Club member should actively support and vote for candidates that the Club has determined, on a non-partisan basis, to be environmentally responsible. Failure to be actively involved in the electoral process is a tacit approval of the current pollution and environmental degradation.

So please, make use of this electoral edition of *The Mackinac*. Make note of



JAN O'CONNELL

the endorsed candidates in your district (pp. 6-7), support them and VOTE on Nov. 6. As the proverb says, "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

VOTING INFORMATION

- Confirm your electoral district! Yours might have changed since they were redrawn by the Michigan legislature for this year. To look up your district information and polling location, make sure you're registered, and see what your ballot will look like, visit www.michigan.gov/vote.
- Polling locations are open Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 7am-8pm.

- Questions about the election? Want to help campaign for our endorsed candidates? Email our Political Director, Mike Berkowitz, at mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or call 517-484-2372, ext. 13.

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VOTE! It's the most important thing you'll do this year. **Save this issue** of *The Mackinac* for the election guide on pp. 4-7 for info on national, state and local elections and p.14 for Michigan Chapter election details.



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

THE MACKINAC

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Sign up for our twice monthly, online update at www.tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate.



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TheMackinac

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In the Spotlight

Get the Dim Bulbs Out of Office: Vote for Our Endorsed Candidates!

by Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

How do elections matter? Let me count the ways. Just when I thought anti-environmentalists couldn't think up more schemes to undo time-honored protections, they found new ways to wreak environmental havoc during the state legislature's 2011-2012 session. A look at Sierra Club's Legislative Scorecard tells the story. A sampling of the bad bills passed or introduced include legislation to:

- Weaken water protections by sheltering polluting livestock facilities from any enforcement action, so animal poop in your drinking water is OK! — Passed.
- Prohibit the executive branch from adopting stricter than federal rules for protecting our waters — Passed but vetoed by Gov. Snyder.
- Limit the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) from imposing compensatory wetland mitigation in certain roadwork projects — Passed.
- Allow Michigan manufacturers to sell inefficient incandescent bulbs (the "dim light bulb" bill).
- Eliminate the need for a second liner on landfill research,

development and demonstration projects, increasing potential soil and groundwater contamination— Passed.

- Eliminate the requirement that yard waste be separated from trash — this would put out of business small composting operations that are a source for gardeners and landscapers.
- Require MDEQ to determine in 30 days if a permit application is administratively complete or pay a fee — part of a long-term scheme to weaken the agency through budget cuts and rules that punish it for not having enough staff to do the work.

The good news is our Group and Chapter Political Committees have carefully considered candidates for the legislature and other offices in the Nov. 6 elections, and you'll find their endorsements on p. 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

PLEASE VOTE for these candidates and get the dim bulbs out of office! Learn more at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/politics/articles/2012Endorsements.html.



Jean Gramlich



© BRUCE POWER

A proposed nuclear waste burial site would be located immediately adjacent to the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station near Kincardine, Ontario on Lake Huron 50 miles from the Michigan shoreline and would collect waste from the Bruce plant.

A Nuclear Update from the SEMG

by Kay Cumbow, SEMG member

The SE Michigan Group's Nuclear Threats Committee has begun an active campaign to publicize the hazards and hidden costs to our communities of the entire nuclear fuel cycle and especially a new proposed reactor for Monroe: Fermi 3. In March, the committee sponsored an organizing workshop in Detroit led by Lois Gibbs and Anne Rabe of the nationally known Center for Health, Environment and

Justice. In May, several members of the Nuclear Threats Committee attended Sierra Club's first National Nuclear Summit in Washington D.C. and came away excited, energized and connected to a much greater network. To learn more, contact Hal Newnan at HNewnan@SBCGlobal.net.

Close to home, underground studies have already been done near Kincardine, Ontario for a permanent deep geological

burial site for radioactive wastes from 20 Ontario reactors on land less than a mile from Lake Huron. An environmental impact review period is well underway, with a public hearing likely in 2013. It is critical that all who depend on these important waters get involved in this process and speak now — before a dump is built.

A serious accident with these dangerous wastes could contaminate Great Lakes drinking water and fisheries far into the future. A network of concerned groups, which includes Sierra Club of Canada, have information at bruce-nuclear-waste-burial.weebly.com.

DemocracyInAction

Now's Your Chance to Make a Real Difference: Vote on Nov. 6!

Voting in the Nov. 6 election is the most important thing you can do for the environment in 2012. Who gets elected (or kicked out) will determine how well our legislature safeguards the state's natural resources and environmental health moving forward. Our elected officials will decide our energy and resource priorities and our approach to polluters. Chapter Political Director **Mike Berkowitz** recently sat down with Political Committee Chair **Richard Morley Barron** to ask a few questions about Michigan politics and the environment as we near November.

MB: HOW ARE THE 2012 ELECTIONS LOOKING IN GENERAL?

RMB: In Michigan, we have a regressive legislature that redistricting could make worse, but we are fighting to change that. The Political Committee is going to work as hard as we can with the limited resources we have. If we had more money, the outcome would look more favorable. We're going to try to keep the forces of pollution and unrestricted industrial growth in check. For a number of reasons, many candidates are more conservative and less environmentally concerned than before.

MB: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE GROUP OF CANDIDATES YOU'VE ENDORSED?

RMB: We're excited. They are hard working, smart, and reasonable people that care about the environment. Our volunteers will be knocking on doors and calling people on behalf of these candidates because they know it's important. For the candidates that are in a tight race, if Sierra Club gives them volunteers, they don't forget that. If they win, you know you had something to do with it.

SEE PP. 6 - 7 FOR OUR ENDORSEMENTS or visit michigan.sierraclub.org/politics/articles/2012Endorsements.html.

MB: WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CANDIDATES ARE TALKING ABOUT?

RMB: One of the biggest concerns is fracking, which is short for hydraulic fracturing, a deep-injection method of extracting natural gas. It's a concern all over the state. I think part of it is realizing that "I drink water, my children drink water, and I don't want anything mucking it up."

MB: WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROPOSALS SHOULD VOTERS EXPECT ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER?

RMB: Proposal 3, the "25x25" Renewable Energy Standard would require the state's utilities to get 25% of their energy from clean and renewable sources by 2025. A problem with ballot proposals is that people go into the voting booth to vote for President but don't flip the ballot over to vote for the proposals on the back. People need to think about

these proposals beforehand. If "25x25" is approved as a constitutional amendment, Michigan will be committed to a healthier, more rational energy policy that creates good, local jobs.

MB: WHERE CAN PEOPLE FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR VOTING DISTRICT?

RMB: For district information, polling locations, make sure you're registered, and see your ballot, visit <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote> and search for yourself in the system.

MB: WHAT CAN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

RMB: Everyone can do something — write a check to our Political Action Committee or volunteer for a campaign. We need to get all people concerned about the environment personally involved. For details, email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or call 517-484-2372, ext. 13.

Michigan Chapter Political Committee





Barack Obama for President

Sierra Club has endorsed President Barack Obama for re-election due to his leadership and commitment to America's environment by creating thousands of jobs in the clean energy industry and developing standards and programs to improve the quality and health of our environment.

The first-ever mercury standards were enforced under his direction, preventing dangerous toxins from coal-fired power plants from polluting our skies and lungs. He also enacted the largest expan-

sion of land and water conservation and protected wilderness in over a generation.

The President made an agreement with auto manufacturers to improve the fuel economy of the nation's auto fleet to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025, which will cut greenhouse gas pollution from vehicles in half.

He also supported approval of the first-ever offshore wind farm in the Atlantic Ocean and approved the construction of solar, wind and geothermal projects on public lands.



Vote for the Clean Energy Proposal 3 Ballot Initiative – “25x25”

Sierra Club has endorsed the Clean Energy ballot proposal because it will create jobs, protect the environment, and boost public health. The proposal requires the state's utilities to get 25% of their energy from clean and renewable sources such as wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower by 2025.

Currently the state standard is 10% by 2015, which we're on track to meet. Extending it to “25x25” will create 94,000 new Michigan jobs that can't be outsourced and stimulate more than \$10 billion in new investments.

The Clean Energy proposal will benefit the environment and public health by decreasing our dependence on dirty polluting fossil fuels. This will result in cleaner air and water and reduce the incidence of pollution-caused asthma and lung disease, which is why the proposal has been endorsed by the Michigan Nurses Association and numerous other health care professionals.

The proposal also limits the ability of utility companies to raise rates on consumers to only 1% in any year, which equates to no more than \$1.25 per month for the average Michigan household.

PLEASE VOTE FOR THIS PROPOSAL, and if you'd like to help before the election to campaign for it to pass, visit tinyurl.com/SC25x25.



Debbie Stabenow for U.S. Senator

Because Sen. Debbie Stabenow has been a dedicated advocate for the environment nationally and in Michigan, Sierra Club supports her re-election. Sen. Stabenow realizes the importance of the Great Lakes and Michigan's waterways in both our economy and as a fresh water supply and has worked on legislation to prevent invasive Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.

She also helped author an act to make plug-in vehicles more affordable for businesses and consumers, while keeping Michigan the leader in the nation for advanced batteries and plug-in electric vehicles.

DemocracyInAction

Find Your Endorsed Candidates

These pages list endorsed candidates by general geographic area. The districts were changed since the last election so you could be in a new district. To look up your district information, polling location, make sure you're registered, and see what your ballot will look like, visit webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote. You are welcome to tear these pages out and take them with you when you vote.

STATEWIDE

President

BARACK OBAMA (D)

312-698-3670 / barackobama.com

US Senate

DEBBIE STABENOW (D)

313-961-4330 / stabenow.senate.gov

Ballot Initiatives

CLEAN ENERGY / PROPOSAL 3: SUPPORT

www.mienergymijobs.com

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING / PROPOSAL 2: SUPPORT

protectourjobs.com

SUPERMAJORITY TAX / PROPOSAL 5: OPPOSE

defendmidemocracy.com

REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 4 – THE EMERGENCY MANAGER LAW / PROPOSAL 1: OPPOSE

www.rejectemergencymanagers.com

METRO DETROIT

Wayne, Macomb, Oakland,
and St. Clair Counties

US Congress

CD 9 / SANDER LEVIN (D)

Detroit / 586-576-1636 /
levin.house.gov

CD 11 / SYED TAJ (D)

Canton / 248-513-4150 /
tajforcongress.com

CD 13 / JOHN CONYERS (D)

Detroit / johnconyers.com

CD 14 / GARY PETERS (D)

Detroit / 313-926-8840 /
petersforcongress.com

Michigan House

HD 2 / ALBERTA TINSLEY-TALABI (D)

Detroit / 313-333-2023 /

003.housedems.com

HD 6 / RASHIDA TLAIB (D)

Detroit / 313-550-8222 /

012.housedems.com

HD 8 / DAVID NATHAN (D)

Detroit / 313-300-0353 /

011.housedems.com

HD 10 / PHIL CANANAGH (D)

Redford / 313-213-5022 /

philcavanagh.com

HD 11 / DAVID KNEZECK (D)

Dearborn Heights / 313-451-4586 /

voteknezek.com

HD 15 / GEORGE DARANY (D)

Dearborn / 313-274-0414 /

daranystaterep.victorydiy.com

HD 18 / SARAH ROBERTS (D)

St. Clair Shores / 586-909-6820

HD 21 / DIAN SLAVENS (D)

Canton / 734-416-0599 /

dianslavens.com

HD 23 / TOM BORITZKI (D)

Trenton / 734- 626-1006 /

tomboritzki2012.com

HD 25 / HENRY YANEZ (D)

Madison Heights / 586-321-3058 /

votehenryyanecz.com

HD 26 / JIM TOWNSEND (D)

Royal Oak / 248-342-5253 /

026.housedems.com

HD 27 / ELLEN COGEN-LIPTON (D)

Huntington Woods / 248-399-9342 /

027.housedems.com

HD 28 / JON SWITALSKI (D)

Warren / 586-939-1704 /

025.housedems.com

HD 29 / TIM GREIMEL (D)

Pontiac / 029.housedems.com

HD 32 / SHERI SMITH (D)

Columbus / (586) 817-2658 /

VoteSheriSmith.net

HD 35 / RUDY HOBBS (D)

Southfield / voterudyhobbs.com

HD 37 / VICKI BARNETT (D)

Farmington Hills / 248-478-0942 /

037.housedems.com

HD 39 / PAM JACKSON (D)

Walled Lake / 248-767-4240 /

pamjackson4statehouse.com

HD 41 / MARY KERWIN (D)

Troy / 248-879-7909 /

winwithkerwin.com

HD 45 / JOANNA VANRAAPHORST (D)

Rochester / 248-652-3954 /

joannaforrochester.com

HD 46 / DANIEL SARGENT (D)

Oxford / (248-462-2584) /

dansargentforstaterep.com

Macomb County

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSIONER / JOHN FLOYD

DISTRICT 1 / TONI MOCERI (D)

DISTRICT 4 / DAVID FLYNN (D)

DISTRICT 5 / ROBERT MIJAC (D)

DISTRICT 7 / JAMES WINNE (D)

Wayne County

DISTRICT 1 / TIM KILEEN (D)

DISTRICT 2 / JEWEL WARE (D)

DISTRICT 3 / MARTHA SCOTT (D)

DISTRICT 8 / DIANE WEBB (D)

DISTRICT 14 / RAY BASHAM (D)

Oakland County

COUNTY EXECUTIVE / KEVIN HOWLEY

COUNTY WATER RESOURCES
COORDINATOR / JIM NASH

DISTRICT 4 / PHILLIP REID (D)

DISTRICT 7 / PAUL CARADONNA (D)
DISTRICT 9 / GWEN MARKHAM (D)
DISTRICT 13 / MARCIA GERSHENSON (D)
DISTRICT 16 / TIM BURNS (D)
DISTRICT 18 / HELAINE ZACK (D)
DISTRICT 19 / DAVID WOODWARD (D)

ANN ARBOR & MONROE AREA

Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe Counties

Michigan House

HD 52 / GRETCHEN DRISKELL (D)
Saline / 734-707-7150 /
votegretchen.com

HD 53 / JEFF IRWIN (D)
Ann Arbor / 734-834-7152 /
voteirwin.com

HD 54 / DAVID RUTLEDGE (D)
Ann Arbor / 734-646-5954 /
housedems.com

HD 55 / ADAM ZEMKE (D)
Ann Arbor / 734-645-3186 /
adamzemke.com

Ann Arbor City Council

WARD 1 / SUMI KAILASPATHY
WARD 2/ SALLY PETERSEN
WARD 4/ JACK EATON
WARD 5 / VIVIENNE ARMENTROUT

SAGINAW VALLEY AREA

Genesee, Saginaw, Midland & Bay Counties

US Congress

CD 5 / DAN KILDEE (D)
Flint / 989-450-2534 / dankildee.com

Michigan House

HD 34 / WOODROW STANLEY (D)
Flint / 034.housedems.com

HD 48 / PAM FARIS (D)
Flint / 517- 282-1178 /
PamFaris.com

HD 49 / JIM ANANICH (D)
Flint / 810-238-8680 /
049.housedems.com

HD 50 / CHARLES SMILEY (D)
Burton / 810-742-5784 /
050.housedems.com

HD 95 / STACY ERWIN OAKES (D)
Saginaw / 517-373-0152 /
095.housedems.com

WEST AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan, and Barry Counties

US Congress

CD 3 / STEVE PESTKA (D)
Grand Rapids / (516) 455-9122 /
votepestka.com

CD 6 / MIKE O'BRIEN (D)
Douglas / 269-397-0543 /
mikeobrienforcongress.com

Michigan House

HD 60 / SEAN MCCANN (D)
Kalamazoo / 517-373-1785 /
060.housedems.com

HD 62 / KATE SEGAL (D)
Battle Creek / 269-979-9767 /
katesegal.com

HD 63 / BILL FARMER (D)
Battle Creek / 269-823-8855

HD 66 / RICHARD RAJKOVICH (D)
Mattawan / 269-668-4225

HD 75 / BRANDON DILLON (D)
Grand Rapids / 616-295-6563 /
brandondillon.com

HD 91 / COLLENE LAMONTE (D)
Muskegon / 231-733-4003 /
collenelamonte.com

HD 92 / MARCIA HOVEY-WRIGHT (D)
Muskegon / 231-726-4929 /
electmarcia.com

Kent County Commission

DISTRICT 4 / HAROLD MAST (R)
DISTRICT 14 / CAROL HENNESSEY (D)

DISTRICT 16 / DAVID BULKOWSKI (D)
DISRICT 19 / LANCE PENNY (D)

MID-MICHIGAN

Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton, Shiawassee, Isabella, Gratiot, and Livingston Counties

Michigan House

HD 64 / BARB SHELTON (D)
Jackson / 517-945-8579 /
barbshelton.com

HD 67 / TOM COCHRAN (D)
Mason / 517-202-1382 /
votetomcochran.com

HD 68 / ANDY SCHOR (D)
Lansing / 517-618-1666 /
andyschor.com

HD 69 / SAM SINGH (D)
East Lansing / 517-515-1078 /
votesamsingh.com

HD 71 / THERESA ABED (D)
Grand Ledge / 517-627-3290 /
theresaabed.com

HD 85 / PAUL RAY (D)
Lansing / 989-865-0985 /
paulray85thmi.com

Ingham County

DRAIN COMMISSIONER / PAT LINDEMANN
TREASURER / ERIC SCHERTZING
COMMISSION DISTRICT 11 / DIANNE HOLMAN

Meridian Township

TREASURER / JULIE BRIXIE
TRUSTEE / JOHN VEENSTRA

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

US Congress

CD 1 / GARY MCDOWELL (D)
Rudyard / 231-224-6120 /
mcdowellforcongress.com

Michigan House

HD 103 / LON JOHNSON (D)
Grayling / 231-518-4552 /
lonjohnson.com

HD 108 / SHARON GRAY (D)
Rapid River / 906-474-6545 /
votesharongray.com

Great Forests Wild Places

State Forest Planning Moves Forward

by Marvin Roberson, Michigan Chapter Forest Policy Specialist

Michigan has almost 4 million acres of state forest. For decades, planning for the management of those forests has been done on a local basis, with local foresters who were intimately familiar with the area in their charge. Having significant input from those most familiar with the area is a good thing.

However, the big picture was missing from this process. The state had no plan for how many acres of each species the state should have and where they should be located. The numbers of acres of each species was simply the sum total of acres of those species managed for

by local foresters. This made it hard for conservationists to have discussions with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) about the big picture, since the planners only had their area to talk about. It also made it harder for industry to plan supply on a broad scale, as many forest products plants get wood from a larger region than just the local area.

In 2008, the state released a State Forest Plan, which did, in fact, address how many acres of which species were desired. It also addressed statewide standards for management such as rotation age. While the Michigan Chapter did not agree with all of the targets, we were very pleased that a plan was in place. For the first time, we had a forum to discuss how many acres of aspen, white pine, and other species were appropriate statewide.

However, because of the wide area of coverage for the plan — the entire state forest system — significant details weren't covered. Specifics such as where the actual acreage would be distributed, for instance, were left for later, as were other details such as distribution of some recreational facilities and some variations in local timber management. This was appropriate for such a broad-scale document.

A moose in the Porcupine Mountains



BEVERLY BENSON WOLF

BREAKING NEWS!

Sierra Club and Anglers of Au Sable win nine-year battle to protect Mason Tract and Au Sable River from oil and gas drilling.

Full story on our news blog at sierraclubmichigannews.blogspot.com.

For the past couple years, the MDNR has been crafting first drafts of eco-regional forest plans. These plans will address the medium-scale issues not addressed in the statewide plan. They include specifics about where the acreage of each species will be placed, how many miles of snowmobile trails are appropriate, and whether there are duplications in recreational facilities.

There will be three eco-regional plans — one each for the northern lower peninsula, the eastern upper peninsula, and the western upper peninsula. More information can be found at tinyurl.com/mdnr-ecosystem-management.

The public input portion of this process should kick off this fall. Check back frequently at the link above to see when public input is solicited.

FOR MORE INFO or assistance in participating, please contact Marvin Roberson at marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.



MICHIGAN WILDERNESS ACT "TOUR" T-SHIRTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE IN LARGE

For only \$15, you can have something that commemorates the 1987 legislative victory in which the Chapter played a lead role.

To order your shirt, email cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org. For more on the celebration, see p. 17.

Chapter Announces Winner of Michigan Wilderness Essay Contest: Nancy Hulka of Muskegon

JURIED BY MILTON J. BATES, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF ENGLISH AT MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

WILDERNESS ACT RIPPLE

Drop a stone in a calm lake and the circular ripples radiate outward gently touching objects in their path; a floating leaf, fallen feather or scampering insect. Like a dropped stone labeled “preservation,” the ripple effect of the 1987 Michigan Wilderness Act has positively touched Michigan’s most fragile eco-systems, encircling landscapes, flora, and fauna with a growing protective shield that will float through time.

The ripple of the Wilderness Act also reaches the people who seek to peacefully recreate or revitalize in a natural landscape free of human-made attractions or distractions.

The protected setting having touched me the most is the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area, where I’m always thankful a place exists to enjoy Lake Michigan and irreplaceable sand dunes without being surrounded by vacation homes or commercial establishments.

At Nordhouse I laced up my hiking boots, feeling comfortable and safe enough to pursue solo backpacking trips, and with the ripple of each successful adventure, carried confidence back to the developed world.

Wanting to share my love for Nordhouse, I introduced my future husband to the area where the sights and sounds of a protected environment encircled

us. We learned about one another while exploring woodlands that transition to towering golden dunes kissed by Lake Michigan.

We hiked through maple, beech and oak forests with eyes soaking in the color of native wildflowers, such as orange wood lily, white trillium and yellow trout lily. We were treated to hooting owls, scampering chipmunks, leaping deer and stately Great Blue Heron gliding overhead.

The deep blue trailside huckleberries and shimmering blackberries offered our palette a taste of nature’s confectations. Our ears delighted at hearing a symphony of waves rumbling in a strong west wind or the hypnotizing under song of water lapping at the shore in a gentle breeze. Fine grains of beach sand gently tingled our bare feet as we walked for miles and talked about the future on a sun-lit shore. In the evenings the sky seemingly put on a show just for us by painting sunsets in fiery reds or in oranges outlined by purple hues.

On the shore we searched for striking pieces of colorful beach glass, broken glass with edges polished smooth by Lake Michigan waves and sand. The pieces of polished glass are a reminder that given an opportunity nature can begin to reclaim the damage done by humans.

READ MORE!

See all the Wilderness Essay Contest entries at michiganwilderness.blogspot.com.



Wilderness essay winner Nancy Hulka.

Embraced in the spreading circle of Nordhouse’s beauty my husband and I have been touched to now advocate for land conservancy, habitat preservation and energy conservation. We hope our efforts will radiate to help plants, animals and humans, as all life depends upon a healthy eco-system.

The radiating preservation ripple of the Wilderness Act grows bigger with each person who is gently touched by the quiet splendor of natural places. Thanks to those forward-looking individuals from 25 years ago dropping the “preservation stone,” future generations can also discover, explore, learn, and pass on their love for locations such as the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area.

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE

Learn about Sierra Club’s Environmental Justice program through the eyes of intern Ryan Stock at www.tinyurl.com/8lfmzdo.

CleanEnergySolutions

Five Years After 2008 Success, Michiganders Still Fighting for Clean Energy

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director

The last five years were critical in setting Michigan's electric energy future, and Sierra Club leaders have been involved every step of the way. A combination of citizen engagement, policy advocacy, litigation, education and communications has been central to building Michigan's momentum toward a clean energy future. Five years ago, eight new or expanded coal plants were proposed in Michigan, more than in any other state. Sierra Club led efforts by a broad coalition of health, faith, community and environmental groups to block all of these plants, and the likelihood is high that the remaining two proposed plants will be dropped within a year.

Sierra Club's legislative program, with hundreds of volunteer lobbyists, played a large part in passing state laws in 2008 requiring electric utilities to get 10% of their power from renewable sources by 2015 and achieve 1% per year energy efficiency goals by 2012. Not only are Michigan utilities on track to meet these clean energy requirements, these investments are cheaper than building new coal plants. Meanwhile, the cost of coal is climbing fast and electric rates have been increased repeatedly because of the utilities' dependence on fossil fuels and nuclear power.

The state's clean energy programs are protecting Michiganders' pocket-books, health, environment and future, and expansion of clean energy investments here would create an enormous increase in jobs that can't be outsourced. Michigan's largest utilities are

even touting their clean energy success through advertising campaigns, despite spending millions to oppose expansion of the renewable energy requirement. Five years into efforts by thousands of Sierra Club members and tens of thousands of clean energy advocates across the state, Michiganders want to keep moving their state beyond coal and to become the clean energy leader.

See the updates on Sierra Club's Michigan Beyond Coal to Clean Energy Campaign and become part of it by going to www.sierraclub.org/coal/mi.

HOLLAND

Holland residents are urging their City Council to choose efficiency and renewable energy over coal or natural gas for future power generation needs. For four years Hollanders have demanded the Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) drop plans to expand the James DeYoung coal plant. A recent study for the HBPW makes it clear the new coal plant is likely to be dropped, and shutting the existing

plant is a strong possibility. However, the study failed to take a serious look at renewable energy and efficiency and unexpectedly proposes a large, natural gas plant instead. Sierra Club leaders in Holland argue that a 114 megawatt natural gas plant would continue the city's dependence on a fossil fuel with pollution from drilling, fracking, processing and transport, and with potentially volatile costs. Hearings in early September drew large crowds and many written comments as Holland residents urged the City Council to focus on the best interests of the people of Holland by choosing clean energy over fossil fuels.

ROGERS CITY

Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative's proposed Rogers City coal plant is expected to be cancelled this year after the Co-op claimed EPA emission requirements would make it difficult to build. This spring Wolverine began discussions with WE Energies about potential collaboration on upgrading the Presque Isle plant in Marquette instead. WE Energies announced in 2011 it would close that plant to avoid paying to upgrade pollution equipment. The Presque Isle plant provides half the power in the UP with 80% of its output going to the iron mines west of Marquette. Among alternatives under consideration to replace that power are running massive power lines from Wisconsin coal plants or from Manitoba water power sources, however

James DeYoung coal plant, Holland Board of Public Works.



JAN O'CONNELL



JERRY HASSPACHER

Wind farm near Alma in Gratiot County

the impacts on wildlands and the vulnerability of such long distance transmission raises major concerns. Sierra Club and our allies argue that attention should focus on meeting the UP's electric needs through integrated resource planning emphasizing efficiency and renewable sources rather than simply choosing between massive investment to prop up a dirty coal plant or long distance transmission. Wolverine and WE were expected to complete their discussions sometime this fall.

HARBOR BEACH

Sierra Club applauded DTE Energy's announcement in July that it will close the 55-year-old coal-fired Harbor Beach Power Plant sometime in the next three years, but the decision highlighted our continuing concerns that the state's largest utility is not preparing for smooth economic transitions for the communities and workers that depend on their aging coal-fired fleet today. There are more than two dozen coal-fired power

plants in Michigan, many of which are fifty or more years old and fail to meet new or existing air quality requirements. However, the state's electric utilities are not required to help assure the communities are prepared for massive declines in taxes and loss of jobs. Consumers Energy, by contrast, spent several years preparing the community of Luna Pier for their planned mothballing and potential retirement of the Whiting coal plant. With grants and support from Consumers, Luna Pier had already prepared a redevelopment plan for the plant site when Consumers announced in December that Whiting would be mothballed. Many communities where the oldest coal plants are located are already suffering from manufacturing and other job loss and will be hard pressed to absorb the shock of power plant retirement. Sierra Club and our allies have urged the boards of DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, Michigan's two largest electric utilities, to adopt protocols to assure communities

and workers are not left behind when coal plants close.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Attention will be focused on Michigan State University's Simon coal plant this fall as an implementation study group for the energy transition plan adopted last spring continues its work. Sierra Student Coalition is represented on the study group and will press hard for clean energy options to be on the table as the process moves forward.

LANSING

Lansing Board of Water and Light is expected to begin planning for the future energy needs of the largest municipal utility in Michigan sometime next winter. Sierra Club energy activists are looking forward to collaborating with the utility, which has demonstrated its commitment to work with community members and experts on crafting a sound future for energy needs in Lansing and surrounding communities.

CELEBRATE THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A DONATION!

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter:
 \$250 \$120 \$45 \$_____ Other

Give online at www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport

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

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

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

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

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

Beyond Dirty Food to Farms Without Harm

by Gail Philbin,
Chapter Assistant Director

For 13 years, the Michigan Chapter has tackled the pollution side of animal factories, and our Water Sentinel Lynn Henning has gained international recognition for her work, earning the 2010 Goldman Environmental Prize for North America, an *O Magazine* profile in 2011 and a spot on HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher* this year.

Now we're poised to launch a new campaign, with the working title Beyond Dirty Food, that takes a unique approach to this problem. It brings together an exciting coalition of diverse groups and individuals with different perspectives but the same goal — to stop making taxpayers pay for polluting animal factories,

also known as CAFOs, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.

Beyond Dirty Food targets the federal subsidy system that rewards CAFOs for polluting practices and gives them an unfair advantage over sustainable farms that work in harmony with nature. Lynn's research shows that many CAFO operators in violation of state and federal regulations STILL get substantial federal subsidies, undercutting the very farmers more and more of us choose to support through farmers markets and CSAs.

The campaign's working title signals our recognition that it's not enough to "just say no" to the polluting animal factory system. We need to be a part of the solution. What's beyond dirty food? The answer is sustainable agriculture — farms that do no harm to people, the planet and animals — and this campaign aims to foster the growth of such agriculture in Michigan.

In the coming months, you'll hear more about this campaign. In the meantime, you can get involved in a



Michigan Chapter's award-winning CAFO Water Sentinel, Lynn Henning, appeared on the HBO talk show *Real Time with Bill Maher* in April. Her country charm worked on this often acerbic host — she was told by his staffers that he NEVER gets his picture taken with guests.

number of ways — monitoring water near CAFOs, doing research for us, and hosting house parties to educate friends about the issue. If you're interested, contact Lynn at lynn.henning@sierraclub.org or Gail Philbin at gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.

TO LEARN MORE, visit the campaign website at www.farmswithoutharm.org.

CAFO COALITION

- Food & Water Watch
- Socially Responsible Agricultural Project
- Michigan Farmers Union
- Humane Society of the United States
- Michigan Young Farmers Coalition
- Greater Grand Rapids Food Systems Council
- Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan
- Tyler Creek Golf and Camp (next to a CAFO in Alto)
- Crane Dance Farm, Middleville
- Creswick Farms, Ravenna
- Groundswell Farm, Zeeland

Michigan Chapter Wish List

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter works hard to reduce overhead costs and waste when possible, but our office has the same basic needs as any other office. Donations of supplies and other items on our wish list greatly reduce operating expenses, allowing us to use more of your dollars on programs that will help us accomplish our goals.

There are several ways to help. Consider holding a "wish list drive" for us at your work, church or school. The next time you're at the post office or the store, consider picking up a little extra of whatever you're getting for yourself to share with the Michigan Chapter.

Your kindness will create a positive impact on the environment that will remain long after your gift is used.

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE for an updated wish list at michigan.sierraclub.org.

CURRENT NEEDS

- Energy-efficient refrigerator
- Digital camera
- Postage stamps, highlighters, notepads and other basic office supplies
- Greeting cards (holiday, thank you, birthday, sympathy)
- New ink cartridges (HP#26) and used ink cartridges (we recycle them to receive store credit at local office supply stores)

SIGN UP FOR THE WATER SENTINEL E-NEWSLETTER

Sierra Club Water Sentinels work to protect, improve, and restore our waters by fostering alliances to promote water quality protection and monitoring, public education, and citizen action.

You can keep up with what the Sentinels are doing and find out about river and other water events through our new Water Sentinel electronic newsletter.

Sign up to find out what we're doing to protect this essential resource at tiny.cc/kz0pu. Once a month you'll receive up-to-date information about Sierra Club and our Water Sentinels program.

New Water Agenda Aims to Protect & Improve the Detroit River and Lake Erie

by Melissa Damaschke,
Sierra Club Great Lakes Regional Representative

Environmental, business, and civic leaders in Detroit have released the first "Detroit Water Agenda 2012." The document is the result of a community-driven process to create sustainable development policies to improve and protect the quality of the Rouge and Detroit Rivers and Lake Erie.

That process was spearheaded by the Water Subcommittee of the Detroit City Council Green Task Force. The Task Force was founded and is chaired by Councilmember Kenneth V. Cockrel Jr. and the Water Subcommittee is co-chaired by Khalil Mo-gassabi from the City's Planning and Development Department and Melissa Damaschke from Sierra Club.

The Detroit Water Agenda 2012 is a stand-alone document that provides recommendations to the City and its departments for water resource conservation and protection, water efficiency, wastewater and storm water best management practices, and education for water users.

Increasingly, the Agenda notes, communities including Detroit are embracing green infrastructure techniques to allow the landscape to absorb storm water to prevent water pollution. The Detroit Water Agenda 2012 offers recommendations for businesses, residents and the City to install rain gardens, vegetative roofs and pervious pavement to prevent storm water from overwhelming city sewers.

VISIT bit.ly/OOvZou for more on the Detroit Water Agenda.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN WATER SENTINELS START NEW PROJECT

by Rita Chapman,
Water Sentinels Project Coordinator

Several Northern Michigan activists recently took Michigan Chapter staff on a visit to two gas wells on public lands in the Pere Marquette State Forest in Kalkaska County. Upon arrival, the group detected an odor of petroleum and dust mixed with a heavy chemical smell. They photographed a startling amount of gas extraction and processing infrastructure on the site.

Because the headwaters of several prized Michigan trout streams are located near the operations, one volunteer requested to be trained as a Water Sentinel, so that he could monitor the waters for any impacts by the drilling and "slickwater" hydraulic fracturing activities. Slickwater fracking blasts millions of gallons of chemical-laced water and sand down the well to force open shale fissures thousands of feet below the surface to free up natural gas. The process has been linked to water and air pollution in other states.

This fall we will hold two workshops on monitoring surface waters located around oil and gas extraction sites. Also, the Chapter's Beyond Natural Gas Committee will host seminars to look at how to decipher oil and gas drilling permits, how local communities can use health and safety regulations to help protect residents, and how to weigh in on US EPA deep injection well permits.

TO LEARN MORE, contact Rita Chapman at rita.chapman@sierraclub.org. Check out more about what the Chapter is doing to move us Beyond Natural Gas at tinyurl.com/MISCfrack.

Gas well in Excelsior Township, Kalkaska County.



RYTA CHAPMAN

Chapter Elections

VOTE! MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The seven Michigan Chapter Sierra Club members listed below are competing for four at-large spots on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom). 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 75 words or less.

Vote for no more than four candidates. 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). The ballot is on page 15. **Ballots must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by Dec. 1, 2012.**

Lorne Beatty

I have been a Sierra Club member for almost thirty years and an active member of my local Crossroads Group. I have served on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee as an “at-large” member, Outings Chair and on the Development Committee. I enjoy a variety of outdoor activities and building alliances with Michigan’s sportsmen’s groups. I will continue to support the current environmental priorities of the Chapter with my time and financial contributions but I need your vote for another term as an “at-large” member of the Chapter ExCom.



Carol Graham

I’m the fund-raising chair for the Michigan Chapter, a member of the Nepessing Group and helped organize this year’s Michigan Wilderness Act Celebration. I’ve attended events across the state that highlighted how a group of determined individuals worked to make sure all generations could enjoy the beauty and wonder of wilderness! The Michigan Chapter is involved in many vital fronts, addressing the state’s most important environmental issues. Our future depends on Sierra Club’s work, and it’s where I want to put my time and skills.



Jim Egged

I am a retired firefighter with two undergraduate degrees in science. I have been a lead lobbyist for the Michigan Chapter for four years. For six years I represented Livonia Fire on the Western Wayne Hazardous Incident Response Team. I learned how to approach and analyze hazardous materials incidents. Protecting the environment is akin to preventing hazardous incident releases and spills. Sierra Club activism is a continuation of my public service for future generations.



Jean Gramlich

Sierra Club is a unique grassroots organization that has considerable influence in local and national politics and gives you and me a structure to work on local conservation issues and achieve pro-environment laws. I have worked with other conservation organizations, SEMG and the Chapter to pursue our defense of the earth with vigor the last six years as Chapter Chair. I love the Club and wish to continue serving my fellow members on the ExCom.



ExCom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities.

David Holtz

I want to ensure that the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is strong enough to reverse the state's declining support for protecting our water, air and land.

I was Executive Director of Progress Michigan and also worked as Michigan Director for Clean Water Action and Media Coordinator for the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.

In the Florida Keys I helped win the first comprehensive coral reef ecosystem protections in North America. For that, the Clinton Administration honored me with an Environmental Hero Award.



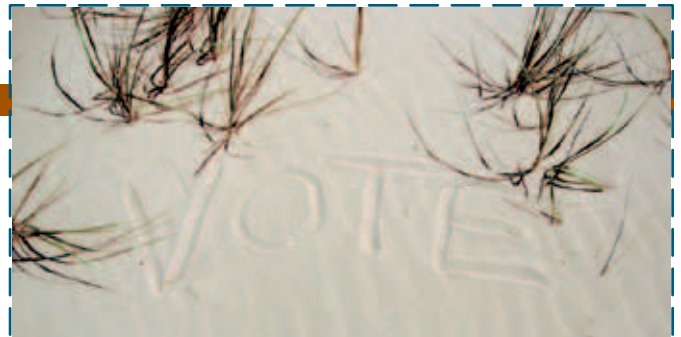
Ed McArdle

I'm currently an ExCom member. I've been a Detroit-area Sierra Club member and activist since 1981 and I'm a veteran outings leader. As Conservation Chair of both the SEMG and Chapter, I've gained knowledge of a range of environmental issues. I began the Chapter and SEMG political program in 1988 and am still a PolCom member. I have a good working relationship with fellow board members and staff and believe I still have much to contribute to the Club.



Lee Sprague

I'm asking for your support to be a member of the Michigan Sierra Club ExCom. I have served as the Clean Energy Campaign Manager, 2008-10, for the Michigan Sierra Club fighting coal-fired power plants, supporting renewable energy. I enjoy camping, canoeing, kayaking and bicycling in the great outdoors. I am currently serving on the Tribal Council of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.



SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

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

LORNE BEATTY



JIM EGGED



CAROL GRAHAM



JEAN GRAMLICH



DAVID HOLTZ



ED MCARDLE



LEE SPRAGUE



Clip out and mail your ballot to:

Michigan Chapter Sierra Club
attn: Chapter Elections
109 East Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

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

Your ballot must be received on or before December 1, 2012.

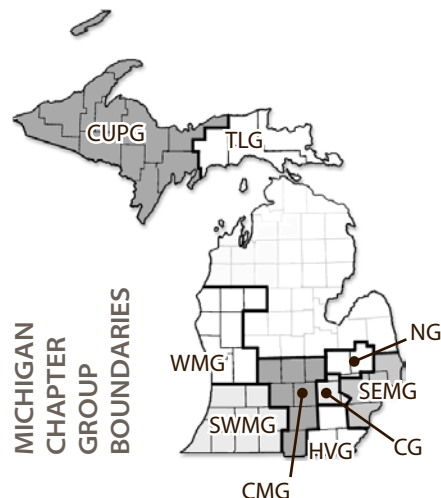
Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country.

GroupInfo&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 of the Michigan Chapter's 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.



Central Michigan Group / CMG

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

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.com/cm

CMG CHAIR: Mark Muhich, 517-787-2476 or markmuhich0@gmail.com

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

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, 906-250-0442 or jrebers@gmail.com

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

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

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

SEMG CHAIR: Julie Ann Wang, 248-854-2195, jawang1@comcast.net

Crossroads Group / CG

Livingston County and western Oakland County / meets in Brighton

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.com/crossroads

CG CHAIR: Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

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

SWMG CONTACT: Cecilia Garcia, 517-484-2372 ext. 10 or cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org

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

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, 906-635-2431 or threelakesgroupsierraclub@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 thaley01@att.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

ACTING CHAIR: Craig Brainard, 269-945-8871 or boomerbob1@gmail.com



Elise Thompson and friend on an HVG hike led by Barry Lonik in Stitchfield Woods near Pinckney in Fall 2011.

AH, WILDERNESS!

Throughout 2012, the Michigan Chapter has been celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Act, which protected 90,000 acres of spectacular old-growth forests, lakes and dunes around the state.

We held special events at (photos top to bottom, below) **Nordhouse Dunes**, **Sylvania Wilderness** and **Horseshoe Bay Wilderness** and also honored **Congressman Dale Kildee** for his work to get the legislation passed in 1987. A highlight of the Horseshoe Bay Wilderness event on Aug. 18 was a visit by Senator Carl Levin.

A final presentation about the history of getting the Act passed will be given by Chapter Director Anne Woiwode in Ann Arbor on Oct. 16 (see p. 18).



DIANE MEYER

Thrice-Blessed, TLG Fights to Protect the Eastern UP

The Three Lakes Group (TLG) in the UP gets its name from the fact that it's surrounded by Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan, a claim no other Chapter Group can make. The spectacular natural beauty of the area, which boasts Tahquamenon Falls and a section of the Niagara escarpment, has something to do with the longevity of TLG, which celebrates its 20th anniversary with a special dinner event Oct. 6 (see p.18 for details).

Even from its early days when the group was forming under volunteer Mike Wagner, interest was high. TLG had about 50 members in 1992 and a core of five active volunteers, according to Diane Meyer, Conservation Chair since its inception. Today, she estimates there are about 100 members and a dozen hard-core volunteers, including charter members Annemarie Askwith, Sharlene Myers, and Carl Meyer.

"Living in the heart of the Great Lakes, you're immersed in forests and a water wonderland. You're nourished by it, and you realize you have to speak up and act to protect and preserve what you're privileged to enjoy," she said.

To that end, TLG has done much in two decades, including helping to get the Coast Guard to cancel plans for a live fire training program in Whitefish Bay that would have introduced tons of lead into the Great Lakes and helping establish household hazardous waste collection in Chippewa County. They've commented on projects and at hearings for Hiawatha National Forest and halted a US Forest Service project that would negatively impact the Whitefish Bay Scenic Byway along Lake Superior.

Currently, TLG is working with Chapter Forest Policy Specialist Marvin Roberson to educate residents about the Mascoma Biofuels Refinery in Kinross, an inefficient, ill-conceived project that would use more energy than it would produce. TLG is always looking for new volunteers to help with their good works.

TO VOLUNTEER, contact Annemarie Askwith at askwitha@lighthouse.net or visit the TLG website at michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/ThreeLakes.html.

Group Info & Outings

Sierra Club Outings are for Everyone!

Michigan Chapter and Group volunteers lead a variety of outings throughout the year, so there's sure to be one that suits you.

Listings are updated regularly on the Michigan Chapter calendar at michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar.

Every outing — whether it's 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.

Sierra Club outing participants are required to sign the standard liability waiver found on our website, or call us to receive a print version at 415-977-5528.

Below you'll find a sampling of outings led by Group and Chapter leaders. Please confirm outing information with the leader in advance because time and location can change!

Group Outings

Oct 6, 1 pm (SEMG) Polly Ann Trail Bike Ride.

Ride about 25 miles total (10-12 mph) on a gently-graded, rails-to-trails trail. Both sunny and wooded, it has had spectacular autumn colors. Bring helmet, water, trail snack and basic bike repair kit. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (NE end of lot). Possible optional restaurant stop after. Call if weather is questionable. Joanne: 248-932-5370.

Oct 20, 11 am (SEMG) Maybury State Park

Moosetracks Hike. Let's enjoy the rolling hills, fields of wildflowers, mature beech tree woodlands and the historic TB sanatorium sites as we hike 3-4 miles at a moderate pace. This early fall hike will go rain or shine, dress accordingly. Meet at the park concession bldg, Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1-1/2 miles west of Beck Rd. (and

Northville); 5 miles west of I-275. Restaurant and ice cream stop after (that's where the moosetracks are). Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782 or tgriebel@sbcglobal.net. Web: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg.

Oct 28, 5 pm (CG) Sandhill Cranes at Phyllis Haehle Memorial Sanctuary, Jackson County.

The Haehle Sanctuary is well known as THE staging area for Sandhill Cranes. Every autumn, thousands of these birds gather here in preparation for their southern migration. The Greater Sandhill Crane, often recognized as the oldest living bird species, has a wingspan eclipsing six feet. Join the Crossroads Group for an evening of viewing these birds as they abandon their nesting areas, to gather in their migration staging area, in preparation for their 1,000-mile southward journey. Bring a blanket, and binoculars or viewing scope. Bring a picnic if you like. Hot cider and cocoa will be available. This outing is free and fun for all ages, members, nonmembers, families, beginners and experienced. Meet at the Sanctuary parking lot off of Seymour Rd. Take Exit 147 (Race Rd) from I-94 to Seymour Rd (West on Seymour). John Wilson: 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 day of outing) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Dec 2, 1 pm (CG) Brighton Recreation Area Early Winter Hike, Penosha Trail. The trail is 5 miles, approximately 2-2 1/2 hours, through woods and meadows. Trailhead for the Penosha Trail is at the Bishop Lake parking lot, Brighton Recreation area, 6360 Chilson Road, Howell, MI. The outing is free but requires an annual or daily Michigan State Parks pass (or passport pass) for entry. Open to members and nonmembers, families, and beginners who can hike this distance. Hiking boots and appropriate warm clothing recommended, trails may be muddy. John Wilson: 734-954-0429 (734-355-3822 cell day of outing) or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org.



Election details pp. 4-7.

Indoor Adventures

Oct 6, 6 pm (TLG) 20th Anniversary of the Three Lakes Group. Presbyterian Church, 555 Bingham, Sault Ste. Marie next to the Power Canal. Harvest Dinner featuring local food and guest speaker Natasha Lanz presenting "Mindful Eating: Eating Healthy for Ourselves and the Planet." Entrance by donation. RSVP by Oct 2. Diane Meyer: dhobmeyer@gmail.com or 906 635-1003. Web: michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/ThreeLakes.

Oct 16, 7:30 pm (HVG) "Ah, Wilderness! The 25th Anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Act." Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor. A presentation by Anne Woiwode, director of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, that takes a behind-the-scenes at the making of a historic piece of legislation that protected 90,000 acres of old growth forests, spectacular dunes and remote lakes in Michigan in 1987. The law created 10 now-familiar wilderness areas: Big Island Lake, Delirium, Horseshoe Bay, Mackinac, McCormick, Nordhouse Dunes, Rock River Canyon, Round Island, Sturgeon River Gorge, and Sylvania. The remarkable victory came after a suspense-filled, 10-year political battle that Woiwode, who was a young environmentalist at the time, recounts in detail. Rita Mitchell: 734-665-0248 or ritamitchell@gmail.com. Web: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron.

THREE EASY WAYS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ONLINE!

- 1 Sign up for our twice-monthly Michigan Chapter Update email — register at www.tinyurl.com/Michupdate.**
- 2 Follow the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter on Facebook.**
- 3 Follow us on Twitter @michigansierra.**



CRAIG RESSLER

A group of six youths from Grand Rapids enjoyed an Inner City Outing to the Upper Peninsula last summer. Their goal during the four-day adventure was to find a pool at the base of a waterfall to jump into and swim. They didn't make the leap at the location pictured here, but they had success later at Dead River Falls. Group leader Craig Ressler also led them on a hike in Seney National Wildlife Refuge.

Inner City Outings Program Expands to Detroit

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Assistant Director

Sierra Club has offered Inner City Outings (ICO), a national outreach program for urban youth, since 1976. Of the Club's 50 volunteer-run ICO groups, Michigan boasted two of them — in West Michigan and Washtenaw County — until this year. Now a third program has been established in Detroit thanks to Maggie Davenport, a recent transplant to Michigan who previously lead trips for ICO in both Atlanta and Philadelphia.

The goal of Inner City Outings is to promote interpersonal skills and self-esteem in youth ages 6-18 through teamwork and to teach self-reliance outside an urban setting while encouraging an active role in protecting the environment.

"We show them birds, the trees, flowers, teach them what it is to enjoy and care for nature... not to step on bugs — that's my favorite part," Maggie says with a laugh. "The kids have a good time. For many it's the first time

they're out in the woods."

Not long after moving to Michigan, Maggie got to work, identifying two youth-serving agencies in metro Detroit with whom to work. She recruited a core group of volunteers, and in June, with the help of Cecilia Trudeau of the Washtenaw ICO, provided ICO Leadership Training 101. On Aug. 18, the Detroit ICO held its first youth trip with the Woodbridge Community Youth Center. They traveled via the Center's van to the University of Michigan at Dearborn for a hike, activities and a six-minute movie at the Nature Conservancy.

Outings are free to participants; Maggie plans to offer them monthly and to include more agencies. In order to do that, the Detroit ICO will hold fundraisers to cover costs and continually recruit volunteers age 18 and over to help with all aspects of the program.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Detroit: Maggie Davenport, mdaven1@msn.com
 Washtenaw County: Joan Wolf, washtenawico@yahoo.com
 West Michigan: Craig Ressler, craig_ressler@yahoo.com



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

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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.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Supporting Your Chapter

In Memoriam

DIETRICH BERGMANN

Dietrich was a man with great intellect, knowledge (technical and legal) and doggedness that made his immeasurable efforts crucial in working on environment and public transportation problems in the US and Canada.

He was modest about his abilities. Dietrich said several times how little he knew about computers so it was a surprise to hear a nephew say Dietrich had helped him set up very complex spreadsheets. When it was mentioned to him what Dietrich said, his nephew replied, "He probably meant that he couldn't build a computer himself ... from sand." Thinking back, Dietrich never did ask for computer help. He became a good friend. We miss him and are happy to have known him for all too short a time.

Contribution to the Michigan Sierra Club was made by Ed Steinman and Rita Mitchell.



TERRY YOSHIKO KIHARA

In memory of our friend, Terry Yoshiko Kihara, an artist and patron of the Sierra Club, Doctors Without Borders, programs for social justice, and arts programs such as The Prison Creative Arts Project and the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, where the Terry Y. Kihara Scholarship Fund was established. Contribution to Michigan Sierra Club was made by Ed Steinman and Rita Mitchell on behalf of Terry's foundation.



Marie Weigold (pictured far left) at a Michigan Chapter Lobby Day Meeting with State Rep Fred Miller.

IN MEMORY OF MARIE WEIGOLD

Marie was active in Michigan politics for most of her life and for the last decade, she set her sights on the political fight for a cleaner, healthier environment. She participated in many Sierra Club Lobby Day events and she also was a member of the Michigan Sierra Club Chapter Political Committee, where she provided expertise from her many years of experience in state politics.

Marie passed away on April 2 and memorials to the Michigan Sierra Club were suggested. The printed program featured this beautiful paragraph by John Muir:

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.

*Nature's peace will flow into you
as sunshine flows into trees.*

*The winds will blow their own freshness into you,
and the storms their energy,*

*While cares will drop away from you
like the leaves of Autumn. ”*

CHARLES BERC

In memory of my cousin, Charles S. Berc who spent a lifetime sailing on Lake Michigan and surrounds. Contribution was made to the Michigan Sierra Club by Marjorie Abrams, Ph.D., a member of the Florida Sierra Club.

WILFRED BROOKS

Memorial contribution to the Michigan Sierra Club from Roger and Ronnie Brooks in memory of Wilfred Brooks.



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Leaving a Legacy

For over 120 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

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IS SIERRA CLUB IN YOUR WILL?

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Planning now may make your gift more meaningful, give us the ability to thank you in your lifetime and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many options available including leaving a legacy to stay here in the state to protect Michigan's environment.

For details, contact Jan O'Connell at the Michigan Chapter at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org, or contact National Sierra Club's Gift Planning Department at 800-932-4270 or gift.planning@sierraclub.org.

EarthShare Michigan Helps You Do Your Share to Protect the Environment



**Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN**

EarthShare Michigan is part of a national, non-profit federation of environmental charities with nearly 25 years of experience connecting employees and workplaces with effective ways to get support behind critical environmental causes. Employees have the opportunity to give to a pool of the 28 groups in our state including Sierra Club Michigan Chapter. Donors can also individualize their support to one or more of the participating groups.

Michigan Chapter work is supported through tax-deductible gifts to The Sierra Club Foundation

through EarthShare Michigan.

If your employer doesn't currently have a connection with EarthShare, ask if the workplace giving options allow you to designate a write-in option. If so, write in EarthShare Michigan in the space provided on the pledge card along with this address: EarthShare Michigan, 11127 Mandale Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48312.

TO LEARN MORE and see the listing of EarthShare groups in Michigan, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org. **FOR QUESTIONS** or to create a giving program at your workplace, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

Michigan Chapter's EVERGREEN Program!

by Jan O'Connell, Chapter Development Director

Your annual membership dues help support Sierra Club's work at the national, state and local level but only provide about 1/10th of the Michigan Chapter budget. Additional contributions sustain our work on water, energy, citizen engagement, forests and wildlands.

If Michigan's economic realities have put a strain on your ability to donate this year, the EVERGREEN Program may be for you. To make it easier for you to budget, invest in our work and save the Chapter time and money, consider using our

online donations form to make automatic monthly, quarterly or annual donations on your credit card. These add up quickly and are an easy way to ensure our programs remain supported and EVERGREEN even in challenging economic times.

TO MAKE AN EVERGREEN GIFT TODAY, go to www.michigan.sierraclub.org and click on the orange donate button, or mail your check or credit card information to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906. You can also use the donation form on p.11.



Chapter Awards

Volunteer and Community Leaders are Recognized

Protecting the planet (or even just a small piece of it) takes dedication, smarts and a lot of hard work. Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and each year the Michigan Chapter and national Sierra Club recognize exemplary individuals to express our appreciation to them for all they have done to make Michigan a better place. We highlight a few 2012 Award Winners below and encourage you to learn about all the honorees by going to tinyurl.com/MISCaward.

ANNIVERSARY AWARD

Special award in this anniversary year.

Nancy Shiffler is a grassroots activist who embodies what is best about Sierra Club leaders and volunteers. She joined Huron Valley Group outings and made the connection between loving wilderness and working to protect it. An exceptional leader and passionate advocate for protecting open space, forests and waterways, as well as the communities we live in, Nancy has advanced the work of the Sierra Club in Michigan in many ways over her three decades of engagement.

MARLENE FLUHARTY AWARD

Recognizing leadership at two levels of the Sierra Club.

Moving Michigan beyond coal into clean energy is **Frank Zaski's** job description, and he does it like no one else. With unparalleled research skills, Frank demystifies and explains what is really going on in Michigan's electric utilities. His analyses are valued by clean energy advocates nationwide for showing that clean energy is not only good for the planet, but smart for our economy as well.

JOURNALISM AWARDS

Recognizing those who have done an exceptional job of bringing critical environmental issues to the public's attention

In the Information Age, real people need excellent reporting to know what's right and what's spin. Two journalists are being honored in 2012 for their reporting on critical environmental issues. **Thomas Buhr** edits *The Riverwatch*, the publication

of the Anglers of Au Sable, and is being honored for the Winter 2011 "Special Report on Oil and Gas."

Jeff Alexander is being honored for his in-depth coverage of environmental issues as a contributor to *Bridge*, the online magazine of the Center for Michigan. Jeff's article covering the controversy over the Michigan Department of Natural Resources management of publicly owned forests is cited in particular.

BUNYAN BRYANT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AWARD

Recognizes outstanding leadership in the field of environmental justice.

Paul Mohai of the University of Michigan is recognized for his work documenting the disproportionate impact of pollution on people of color and poor communities, particularly in southeast Michigan.

BURTON V. BARNES AWARD

Established in 2004 to recognize academic excellence.

Rolf Peterson, now an emeritus professor at Michigan Technological University, has run the longest predator prey study in history, with 40 years of hands-on research on the wolf-moose relationship on Isle Royale.

CHAIR'S AWARD

Honors a Michigan Chapter leader for exceptional work in support of Sierra Club.

Richard Barron



JAN O'CONNELL

Michigan Chapter's Ed McArdle received the Environmental Alliance Award from National Sierra Club in August.

WHITE PINE AWARD

Given to a non-member, organization or group that has shown extraordinary dedication to protection of the environment.

The **Genesee Audubon Society** and the **Lone Tree Council**

VINCE SMITH AWARD

For outstanding contributions to Outings in Michigan.

Lorne Beatty

ALEX SAGADY CYBER PUNK AWARD

Recognizing outstanding efforts by a volunteer activist to raise awareness by the use of electronic media.

Rebecca Hammond for Sierra Club's Great Lakes program blog

SYLVANIA AWARD

Recognizing a volunteer who is new on the scene but as already demonstrated great enthusiasm, hard work and dedication.

Mark Muhich

SERVICE AWARDS

Given to Chapter and Group volunteers and leaders who have contributed a significant amount of time and effort to the Club.

Crossroads Group: **Rick Pearsall**
Central Michigan Group: **Jerry Schuur**
Central Upper Peninsula Group: **Kathy & Bill Davis**
Michigan Chapter: **Robert Gordon**
Southeast Michigan Group: **Julie Ann Wang**

Chapter Directory

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Member Change of Address address.changes@sierraclub.org

For updates and leadership changes due to elections, please visit our online directory at www.michigan.sierraclub.org



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The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 1.3 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together

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Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

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- Thomas Buhr

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