

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SPRING/SUMMER 2018

Hope for Our Great Lakes in 2018

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

Every year at about this time, my nose reminds me of the precarious state of clean water in Michigan. When the wind is just right, manure odors waft into my urban Grand Rapids backyard, signaling that weather and soil are warm enough for factory farms to spread the waste of thousands of animals on fields outside the city.

This toxic slurry of manure, chemicals, and pathogens can run off into local waterways and end up in our Great Lakes, feeding algae blooms like that which poisoned Toledo's water in 2014. In fact, the water quality in portions of Lake Erie is "unacceptable," according to a recent report by the International Joint Commission (IJC), on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada.

Sierra Club has made protecting the Great Lakes a top priority, and we daily tackle threats to it. In 2018, these opportunities give us hope for progress towards cleaner water:

- The IJC report concluded, as we have known for a long time, that voluntary measures to end agricultural nutrient runoff have failed, and it bolsters our efforts to educate decision makers about action needed in a year when massive hog factories are on the rise statewide and the federal Farm Bill is up for renewal. Learn more on p. 6.



Last year, hundreds of concerned citizens showed up at rallies and took other actions to make their voices heard about the need to shut down Enbridge's Line 5, an aging oil pipeline that runs through the Straits of Mackinac. A spill could have catastrophic consequences for Lakes Huron and Michigan as well as the region's tourist economy.

- Urban storm water runoff is a pollutant. Erb Family Foundation support is enabling us to continue to promote green infrastructure in Detroit with the help of our new Green Storm Water Infrastructure Organizer, Quentin Turner (p. 7).
- Our addiction to fossil fuels transported by aging pipelines threatens our Great Lakes with potentially devastating spills. Our new Great Lakes Regional Organizer, Allison LaPlatt, is supporting our work to decommission Enbridge Line 5 (p. 8), and Jordan Chrispell, our new West Michigan Clean Energy Organizer, is amplifying our work to push beyond fossil fuels (p. 9).
- During the Flint water crisis, human error, race and politics combined to eliminate access to clean water for thousands. Our new Michigan Environmental Justice Action Group is helping us address water affordability and access across the state (p. 3).

The foundation for success in these efforts is our political program, which strives for an environmental majority in the state legislature. As you'll read on p. 11, our new political organizer, Sarah Tresedder, has increased our capacity to do just that in this key election year.

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THE MACKINAC

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MI-newsletter



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Chapter's Environmental Justice Focus Deepens

By Mona Munroe-Younis, Chair, Environmental Justice Action Group

I'm excited to introduce you to Sierra Club Michigan's Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG)! We are Detroit and Flint resident leaders actively working to address environmental justice issues in our communities, who have come together as a regional body of volunteers to strengthen the Chapter's capacity to:

- address environmental justice issues in affected communities, starting by building or supporting a regional coalition related to Detroit/Flint water quality and affordability;
- discuss and explore the linkages between environmental quality and social justice in Michigan, and to promote dialogue and increased understanding; and,
- serve as an advisory body to Sierra Club Michigan's Executive Committee (ExCom).

In 2017, the Michigan Chapter's ExCom voted in favor of establishing EJAG to help deepen and sustain the Chapter's environmental justice work. This decision followed a collaboration between Michigan and national Sierra Club staff to address the Flint water crisis when the situation was revealed. Detroitier Rhonda Anderson has been a steadfast environmental justice advocate in Detroit for more than 15 years through her Sierra Club national staff position. Since there isn't an environmental justice-focused position within Sierra Club Michigan, the ExCom's decision to form EJAG represents an intentional effort to more proactively address these issues and infuse EJ as a priority throughout the Chapter.

I'm honored to serve as the co-chair from Flint, and thank Tom ("Mike") Haley from the Nepeensing Group for

encouraging me to serve. We will be identifying a co-chair from Detroit soon. Our volunteers bring expertise from a variety of fields - including community organizing, medical, and science – combining the strengths of grassroots and academia. We care deeply about people living in healthy environments, social justice and self-determination for communities living with injustice.

EJAG is guided by the chapter's strategic environmental priorities, with a current emphasis on drinking water quality and affordability in Detroit and Flint. It takes all of us to create a world where environmental justice is the norm, and we hope to work with you to make it a reality throughout our great state.



Annual Awards Honor Those Volunteers Who Have the Most Impact

Sierra Club Michigan's 2017 Annual Chapter Awards were given out after our first Executive Committee meeting of this year on Jan. 20 in Lansing. The awards recognize exemplary individuals who are making a difference for Michigan's environment and public health.



Recipients ranged from grassroots activists like Theresa Landrum, (above right) who is fighting for clean air and a healthier community in Detroit's 48217 zip code, to State Rep. Sam Singh, who played a key role in our battle for good energy legislation last year. Rep. Singh is pictured (right) receiving the award from Chapter Political and Legislative Director Mike Berkowitz.

You'll find the complete list of award-winners and pix from our party on our website at: sierraclub.org/michigan/chapter-awards-2017

For more information, please visit the EJAG website at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/environmental-justice>.



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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2500
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

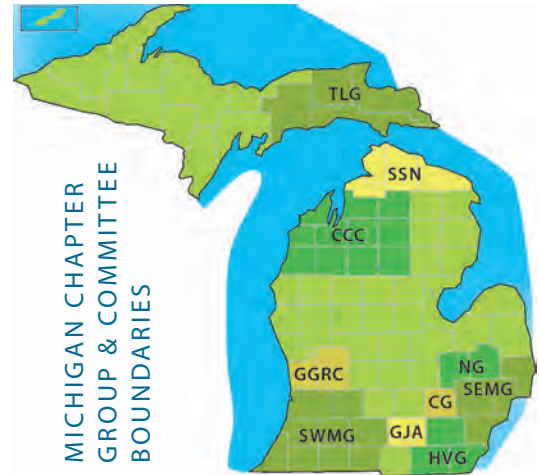
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THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP!

Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's 10 regional Groups and Committees host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings —everyone is welcome! For inquiries about activities in your area, you can also contact gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.



Clearwater Conservation Committee / CCC

COUNTIES: Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford
FACEBOOK: Clearwater Conservation Committee
TWITTER: @NCMIClearwater
EMAIL: sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com
CHAIR: Rebecca Skeels • clearwater.chair@michigan.sierraclub.org

Greater Jackson Committee / GJA

COUNTIES: Jackson
CONTACT: gja@michigan.sierraclub.org
MEETS: 10 AM first Sat monthly
FACEBOOK: Greater Jackson Area Sierra Club
EMAIL: SierraClubJackson@gmail.com
CHAIR: Elaine Wolf-Baker • e.wolf@Michigan.SierraClub.org

Crossroads Group / CG

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

Greater Grand Rapids Committee / GGRC

COUNTIES: Kent and Ottawa
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Greater Grand Rapids
EMAIL: ggrcom@michigan.sierraclub.org
CHAIR: Angie Bruder • angelabruder@sbcglobal.net

Huron Valley Group / HVG

COUNTIES: Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe
MEETS: in Ann Arbor
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
EMAIL: HVGSierraClub@gmail.com
CHAIR: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or nshiffler@comcast.net
VICE CHAIR: James D'Amour • hvg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org
OUTINGS CHAIR: Kathy Guerreso • kathyguerreso@hotmail.com

Nepessing Group / NG

COUNTIES: Genesee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland
MEETS: in Flint
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Nepessing
CHAIR: Robert Aguirre • rsaguirre@msn.com
VICE CHAIR: Laurie Tata • greendem@yahoo.com

South of the Straits Network / SSN

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

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

COUNTIES: St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne
MEETS: at Elks Club in Royal Oak
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club South East Michigan Group
CHAIR: Dave Richards • rodaverich@gmail.com

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

COUNTIES: Berrien, Branch, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry
MEETS: in Kalamazoo
WEBSITE: <https://swmgsierra.org>
FACEBOOK: SWMG Sierra Club
TWITTER: SierraSwMiGroup
CHAIR: Roz Linsea • rozlinsea@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Kristi Lloyd • auntkiki@yahoo.com

Three Lakes Group / TLG

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



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How Bad Can it Get?

By Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

I used to play a game with my colleagues from around the country when we would get together at meetings. It was called “My DEQ Director is worse than your DEQ Director”. We would share anecdotes about the most egregious things our various DEQ Directors had done.

I would wait a while, then bring out a news article I carried. It was about a proposed Michigan statute which would have helped keep invasive species out of the Great Lakes by requiring freighters from overseas to dump ballast water before entering the Great Lakes. This would have expelled exotic species into the ocean rather than in the Great Lakes.

Russ Harding, the Michigan DEQ Director, was quoted to say that the DEQ would “vigorously oppose any measures which might be detrimental to the shipping industry.” Now, mind you, this was the Director of the **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality**, not an economic development agency. His sole concern regarding exotic species in the Great Lakes was an inconvenience to shipping interests.

I almost always won that game.

Why is this relevant now? In the above example, Michigan legislators recognized the outstanding value of the Great Lakes, and the threat posed by exotic species. They had the foresight to impose regulations to protect that resource from that threat.



Great Lakes freighter loading iron ore in Marquette.
PHOTO CREDIT: MARVIN ROBERSON

Those protective regulations were necessary because federal regulations did not go far enough to protect Michigan.

However, **HB 4205** (You can read the entire bill at <http://bit.ly/2puE02Y>), would change all that. In a stunning abrogation of responsibility, Michigan legislators are proposing to prohibit any environmental regulations in Michigan from being “stricter” than federal regulations.

In other words, after decades of whining about federal regulators “in Washington” setting regulatory standards for Michigan, our legislators are willing to concede that they have no better ideas regarding what protections Michigan needs than the federal regulators in Washington DC.

The Michigan legislature is throwing up its hands, prohibiting locally appointed experts from deciding what protections Michigan needs, and leaving that up to the feds. The party which bleats “local control” every time they don’t like a federal rule is now abandoning any pretense that locals know best.

In a long history of sad actions by the Michigan legislature, this ranks among the saddest.

Contact your State Representative or State Senator and tell them to oppose **HB 4205** and let Michigan decide what rules are best for Michigan.

2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION SCHEDULE

Sierra Club is the largest democratically-run environmental organization in the world, with the election of our leaders from among our members. The Michigan Chapter Executive Committee governs our statewide work with nine (9) at-large elected members and representatives of each regional group. The schedule for nomination and election of five (5) at-large members this fall is on this webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/2018MCECElection>

Contact Nominating Committee Chair Anne Woiwode at anne.woiwode@michigan.sierraclub.org with questions.



Coming Soon to a Favorite Place Near You....?

By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

Ever since the Clemens Food Group announced construction of a pig processing facility in Coldwater last year, we've seen an uptick in the number of new hog factory farms, a.k.a. CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations). Just three months before this slaughterhouse opened in September 2017 to process up to 16,000 pigs a day, a proposal for the Little Bend Piggery came to light in Jackson County. The facility will house 5,000 animals near a wetland. This prompted immediate pushback from members of our Greater Jackson Area Committee.

Then just weeks after the Clemens plant opened, a proposal for the 3,675-hog Marsh Swine CAFO in Claybanks Township near Montague blindsided local residents, who quickly organized to oppose it. The group, ROAD (Reviving Our American Democracy), set up a Facebook page and turned out people for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's public hearing in January and submitted comments.

We've been on the front lines of the battle to end factory farm pollution for more than two decades, and we've seen this story unfold many times. When an industrial-scale animal facility comes to a community, much of the official decision-making has already taken place, leaving shocked local residents little time to learn their options, if any, and understand a huge amount of information about the state's permitting system and agency processes. They are often dumbfounded to learn what the law allows (the right to generate far more animal waste than there is land to safely absorb it) and what it discourages (citizen input and acknowledgment of the unfair burden neighbors bear when these facilities move in).

Fortunately, Sierra Club has compiled information on our website to help people starting from scratch understand this threat (sierraclub.org/michigan/stopping-cafo-pollution).



Newly proposed hog factories in Michigan will cram thousands of animals together in warehouses with no access to the outdoors or pasture. PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF VANUGA, USDA NRCS

Through our Less=More sustainable agriculture coalition, we've also tackled the role federal subsidies play in keeping factory farms in business and released several reports at sierraclub.org/michigan/lessmore-reports.

In 2018, we're building on these efforts and working with partners to develop a plan of attack that combines regulatory, legal and legislative approaches with grassroots engagement.

Sign up for our CAFOs 101 activist training on May 19. Details at sierraclubmichigannews.blogspot.com/2018/03/factory.html

Against the Grain: Farming Sustainably in an Industrial System

Our Less=More coalition of sustainable farmers, advocacy groups and concerned citizens came together five years ago to tackle the issue of federal Farm Bill supports and how they prop up polluting factory farms. Since then, we've produced three short documentaries, including our most recent series of interviews with Michigan farmers, *Against the Grain: Farming Sustainably in an Industrial System*. The Traverse City residents pictured here recently had the chance to view all of our films and hear from experts about problems with the food system and solutions.



About 50 people showed up for the Less=More film screenings.



Sierra Club volunteers Mark Cannon and Nicola Philpott (left to right) listen to panelist Kelly Lively, policy and outreach partner for Cherry Capital.

Watch the films online at tinyurl.com/LessMoreDocs.

Partnerships Continue to Advance a Green Detroit!!

By Erma Leaphart-Gouch, Associate Organizer, Great Lakes Program

The story of a new Detroit continues to unfold. Just a few years ago, the big news coming out of Detroit involved financial crisis, today's story involves visions of rebirth, renewed passion, collaboration, sustainability and resilience.

Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter plays its part through the actions of volunteer activists, partnerships, staff, and programming to ensure a healthy environment for healthy people. One of our newest partnerships is between the chapter's Detroit-based Great Lakes Great Communities program and the Detroit Future City think tank and policy advocates in an initiative called Land + Water Works (L+WW). The coalition of 10 community and faith-based non profit groups is "embarking on a journey to help Detroit become a greener, more sustainable city."

The premise is that Detroit's approximately 25 square miles of vacant land presents an opportunity to create green spaces; managing stormwater, providing habitat, restoring biodiversity, and improving water and air quality in the process. Developing green infrastructure is standard practice in many cities. Now, Detroit is doing the same using its vast land resources.

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is awarding credit to eligible customers who install green infrastructure on their property to manage stormwater flow. The goal is to keep it from entering aging sewer lines, potentially overflowing into local rivers and ultimately Lake Erie, which is still plagued with harmful algal blooms and dead zones.

Some customers will get help from DWSD's new Capital Partnership Program that allocates \$5 million/year to fund installation of



Detroit rain garden.



Bioswale promotes drainage.

approved green stormwater infrastructure projects for non-residential property owners. Up to 50 percent of design, installation and capital costs will be reimbursed, up to a maximum \$50,000 (subject to DWSD discretion).

One of the best features of the L+WW, is recruiting Community Ambassadors who will be armed with information to spread the word about the benefits of green infrastructure, why it is important for healthy water and how people can be stewards in the movement towards a healthier community. Ambassadors are expected to reach thousands of residents.

L+WW coalition members are also hosting a summit with national, regional/ local experts; seven community forums, and seven demonstration rain garden workshops including plantings, one in each of the Detroit city council districts.

I end with the same question as in the article I last wrote. Will these efforts result in Detroit becoming the "Greenest City in America?" I believe they will! I happily say, at least, we are moving in the right direction!

Sierra Club Michigan Adds New Staff in Detroit

Renewed support from the Erb Family Foundation for our partnership with Friends of the Rouge and our work elevating green solutions to the urban storm water runoff issue in Detroit will continue for another three years. Quentin Turner has been hired to be our new Green Stormwater Infrastructure Organizer working with Erma Leaphart to spread the gospel of rain gardens and rain barrels in local communities and advocate for green infrastructure at the city level.

Quentin grew up in Detroit and studied Biology and Conservation Science at Eastern Michigan University, where he honed a love for community outreach and environment service work. During his college education he traveled far to do habitat restoration work, renovating sections of the Cumberland Trail in Tennessee, conducting population surveys for endangered Michigan butterflies, and coordinating neighborhood volunteers for Ann Arbor municipal parks and natural areas. Join us in welcoming him to the Sierra Club fold!



Grand Haven BLP Recommends Sims Plant Retirement

By: Jan O'Connell, Development Director and Energy Issues Organizer

Might the days of producing electricity from the J.B. Sims coal-fired power plant in Grand Haven be drawing to a close? Sierra Club has been working with concerned community members in the city of Grand Haven for two years to advocate for retiring the municipally operated power plant, and now the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power (GHBLP) staff has recommended the retirement of Sims. The proposal came during the February meeting of the GHBLP, where the staff made an in-depth presentation laying out the case for retiring the Sims plant by June 2020.

There are many benefits for the area if the plant is shut down. Burning coal pollutes both the air and the water. Retirement of this plant will protect residents' health and protect the Grand Haven harbor. Another big issue is the economics of running the plant.

It is estimated to cost \$15-\$30 million just to keep this dirty fossil-fuel plant operational.



February meeting of Grand Haven Board of Light & Power.

The next step is a board vote later this spring. Prior to that vote, a broader community discussion needs to take place regarding how to replace the plant with a more economical, sustainable and diversified mix of energy resources, including renewable energy and energy efficiency.

We encourage the people of Grand Haven to call on both the Board of the GHBLP and the City Council to approve the staff's recommendation by voting to

retire the Sims Plant by June of 2020 for a swift transition from coal to clean renewable energy.

If you would like to be kept up to date on this issue and attend important community discussions, contact jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or 616-956-6646

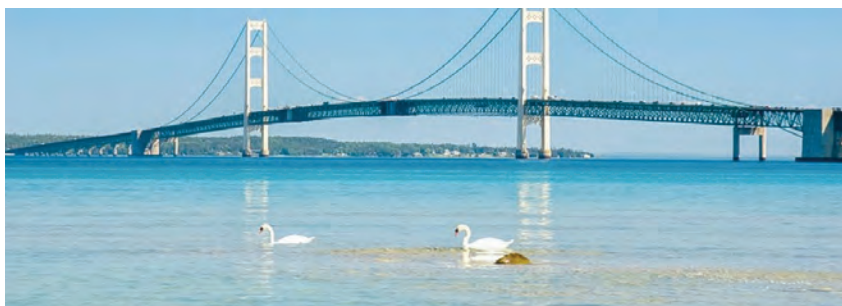
Host a Line 5 Retirement Party!

By Allison LaPlatt, Great Lakes Regional Organizer

This April, the dangerous Line 5 will officially turn 65. Line 5 is a pair of twin pipelines that lie along the bottom of the Mackinac Straits. The company that owns the pipeline, Enbridge, is responsible for several major oil spills, including the disastrous Line 6B Kalamazoo spill. About 23 million gallons of oil flow through Line 5 every day, putting the safety of the Great Lakes at risk. The question of a leak is not if, but when.

This summer, the Sierra Club will host and participate in a variety of events to spread awareness about Line 5. The kickoff to a Summer of Action on Line 5 will be a series of Line 5 retirement parties on April 23, the 65th anniversary of the pipeline. Oil and Water Don't Mix, a coalition that Sierra Club is a part of, will host these house parties across the state to recruit new volunteers and train activists to get involved in their communities.

We're looking for volunteers to host house parties on Monday, April 23rd from 6-8pm. All you need is wi-fi and a gathering place. Parties can either be private and only open to guests you invite, or public and open to fellow activists in your community. If you are interested in learning more, please email allison.laplatt@sierraclub.org.



Lake Michigan with swans under the Mackinac Bridge, where there is a risk of a Line 5 spill. PHOTO CREDIT: TIM BURKE/MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

New Staff Lead for Line 5 Campaign

The Michigan Chapter expanded its capacity to work on shutting down Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac when Allison LaPlatt joined the staff in January, thanks in part to funding from Patagonia. She is our new Great Lakes Regional Organizer, based in Lansing, who will pick up where ace volunteer David Holtz left off when he decided to take a break from leading the effort since 2014.



Allison LaPlatt - Great Lakes Regional Organizer

Allison will also help us respond to other regional Great Lakes issues as they arise.

A Detroit native, Allison graduates from Central Michigan University in May with a double major in Environmental Studies, and Public and Nonprofit Administration and will become a Certified Nonprofit Professional. In school, she spent time advocating and working with the administration to end the sale of single-use plastic water bottles on campus as well as volunteering across the nation with the Alternative Breaks program focusing on the root causes of different social justice issues.

Clean Energy Effort Expands in West Michigan

On the flip side of our fight to shut down pipelines and keep fossil fuels in the ground is our push to build a clean energy future for Michigan. We created a new position in West Michigan to amplify our efforts to make that happen, which Beyond Coal Campaign organizer Jan O’Connell has been doing singlehandedly thus far. In February, Jordan Chrispell joined our staff as the West Michigan Clean Energy Organizer to work with our Beyond Coal and Ready for 100 campaigns to build support for clean energy.

Jordan graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2016, with a degree in Political Science and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She realized her passion for movement and grassroots political organizing for social justice causes. She interned with Planned Parenthood Advocates and Affiliates of Michigan developing a background for political organizing.



The Time is Right to Install Solar in Michigan!

Federal tax legislation passed last December preserving the solar income tax credit that makes home solar more affordable, and Michigan's net metering program is still in effect. However, changes in the future could remove incentives, so the time has never been better to put your solar project in place! Through our partnership with these Michigan solar businesses—McNaughton-McKay, Michigan Solar Solutions, and Solar Winds – our members get a discount and we get a donation for every project.

Learn more at:
sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership

Infrastructure Overbuild Follows Fracked Gas Drilling

By Nancy Schiffler, Volunteer, Beyond Natural Gas and Oil Committee

Expansion of fracked gas drilling in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio is accelerating the construction of infrastructure to transport the gas and convert it to electric power. In Michigan, the NEXUS and the Rover gas pipelines will be crossing Ohio and Michigan on their route to Canada. Rover has already accumulated wetland violations from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Nexus is currently focusing on its endpoint in Ypsilanti Township. Pending is Nexus’s petition to the Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Agency to waive the requirement to odorize gas in pipelines in densely populated areas (many thanks to the more than 100 Sierra Club members who submitted comments to the agency).

New gas-fired power plants are proposed in Michigan – St Clair County, Fowlerville, Lansing, Jackson County, Marshall, Niles – certainly a case of overbuild. We need to continue to make a strong case for the alternatives of efficiency and renewable energy.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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

Give online at www.tinyurl.com/supportMISC

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

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

Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,
109 E. 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: _____

Fighting for Clean and Affordable Water at the Capitol

Over the past three years, we've been tracking 450 bills at the state capitol, but water-related legislation has been a major point of focus. During that period, despite anti-environmental control of Michigan's state government, we helped pass legislation to:

- **Allocate \$28 million for emergency response to the Flint Water Crisis (HB 5220)**
- **Allocate \$100 million for lead line replacement in the Flint Water Crisis (HB 4329)**
- **Allocate \$30 million to pay for residential drinking water bills for Flint residents (SB 136 which pays for 65% of residential drinking water bills – we lobbied for 100% coverage of bills)**
- **Require quicker notification of lead in drinking water (HB 5120)**

While these victories are a step in the right direction, there are still many threats to our drinking water, and the rest of our priority legislation remains on the bench. We've been fighting for:

- **A ban on the application of agricultural waste on frozen and snow-covered soil (SB 639 and HB 5185)**
- **A ban on aquaculture (fish farming) in inland bodies of water and the Great Lakes (SB 423)**
- **A ban on any future pipelines in Michigan's Great Lakes waters and a risk analysis for Line 5. If the analysis showed high risk, Line 5 would be shut down (SB 292),**
- **Protections against water shutoffs and decriminalization of reconnection (HB 4393, 4389-4390)**

If you want to help lobby our elected officials, email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org to get involved.

A Letter from your SC Michigan Political Committee

Are you fed up with President Trump's relentless attack on clean air, clean water, and environmental justice? Are you angry and disgusted that Michigan's government allowed toxic lead to poison the city of Flint? So are we! That's why we are raising money to fund our political program that will help elect candidates that care about protecting our priceless environment and our democracy in this year's elections. Please consider making a donation using the form below to help pay for our work to get pro-environment candidates elected in 2018.

Every election year, our political committee travels all over Michigan giving public presentations to educate people about environmental issues and the importance of voting. We organize political training programs for activists, produce an election guide used by 30,000 people, and contact over 500,000 voters. We also run an expansive internship program which has become a national model for the Sierra Club to train the next generation of environmental/political organizers. Our political work sets the stage for achieving conservation policy victories for our air, water, land, forests, energy and public health, but we can't do these things without your financial support.

This year's elections are right around the corner and we need to prepare for the battle ahead. Our Political Committee's goal is to raise \$20,000 before October. We can only reach this goal with your help.

Please make a donation to our Political Committee using the format the bottom of p. 11.

Thank you for everything you do!



The Michigan Chapter State Political Committee

Chair Richard Barron (Ann Arbor), Vice Chair Robert Gordon (Ann Arbor), Political Director Mike Berkowitz (Lansing), Tom Turner (Detroit), Vicki Dobbins (River Rouge), Jean Gramlich (Fenton), Tim Minotas (Rochester), Craig Ressler (Caledonia), Laurie Tata (Davison), Mark Meadows (East Lansing), David Holtz (East Lansing), Gwen Nystuen (Ann Arbor), Dave Richards (Royal Oak), Kate DeRosier (Hartland), James D'Amour (Ann Arbor), Charlie Stefanac (Kalamazoo), Joe Breech (Traverse City), Jeremy Johnson (Howell), and Marty Habalewsky (Port Huron).

Sierra Club Looking for Political Interns This Summer and Fall

Are you interested in gaining professional experience with government relations and politics? If so, consider applying for a Sierra Club Political Internship! We provide extensive training and are looking for interns in every corner of the state. Work hours are flexible and can be arranged to fit your schedule. You'll learn how to run political campaigns and work side-by-side with government policy experts all while helping elect politicians who vote to protect Michigan's environment. Find more details and application instructions here: <https://goo.gl/GFYtxK>.

Clean Up Our Political Environment in the 2018 Election

By Political Chair Richard Morley Barron

2018 is an election year which means you have an opportunity to make a positive impact on our planet. The primary election will be on Tuesday, August 7, and the general election will be on Tuesday, November 6. The polls will be open from 7am-8pm for both of these elections or you can request an absentee ballot ahead of time.

What can you do as a concerned Sierra Club member?

First, become aware of the races that you are able to vote in and determine which of the candidates in each contest is the most environmentally responsible. The Chapter will make this easy for you by carefully screening candidates of all parties and endorsing the best ones. Our endorsed candidates will be posted on our Chapter political website and regularly updated throughout 2018: <http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/endorsed-candidates>. We'll be updating the website in March/April, June/July, and August/September as we work through our endorsement process. To look up your district information, polling location, make sure you're registered, and to see what your ballot will look like, visit <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote>.

Second, help support environmentally minded candidates with your time. Candidates need help with their campaigns and you can get involved by contacting them and signing up to volunteer. If you need information on how to do this and which candidates to help, email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or call the Lansing office at 517-999-1305.

If you don't have time to volunteer but still want to make a difference, the easiest way to do that is by donating to our political program. All of the money we raise goes toward helping our endorsed candidates for federal, state and local office win their races. To donate, use the form on the previous page.

Third, we need you to educate your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about Sierra Club's endorsed candidates. Research shows that if you have a relationship/friendship with someone, you are 30% more likely to be able to impact their voting behavior than anyone else. You should assure these people that Sierra Club is a non-partisan organization that carefully investigates the environmental responsibility of all candidates.

Make your voice heard. After all, our biosphere is at risk!

Welcome Sarah!



Sarah with her dog Blizzard.

We welcome Sarah Tresedder, our new political organizer, to the Sierra Club. She is working in Lansing with Mike Berkowitz, our Legislative/Political Director, to magnify our power this election year. Sarah was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula in a small town called Negaunee that was a mere 10 minutes from Lake Superior's shoreline. It was in the UP that she learned to appreciate and love the outdoors and our environment. She graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Biochemistry and a minor in Environmental Studies. In her spare time, she enjoys hanging out and going for walks with her dog, Blizzard, a rescue greyhound. If you are interested in meeting Sarah or her dog Blizzard, they will be at the Lansing office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays!

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB'S PAC

- 1) Donate online with a credit card at tinyurl.com/q42nfob or write a check for the amount of your choosing
- 2) Make it out to "Michigan Sierra PAC"
- 3) Fill out this form (required by the Secretary of State)
- 4) Mail your check and this form to:
Michigan Sierra PAC
109 E. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

Corporate checks are not permitted. Contributions to Michigan Sierra PAC are not tax-deductible. Paid for by Michigan Sierra PAC, 517-999-1305.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

When was the last time you played in nature? Turn off the news, turn off your phone, forget about work and give yourself an amazing opportunity to connect with yourself and nature in the tranquility of Camp Miniwanca. This historic camp, located on a mile of private Lake Michigan beach and nestled among 360 wooded acres, is the perfect place de-stress from the toils of everyday life. Join us August 24th-August 26th!

Exploring Nature's Playground

by Cecilia Garcia-Linz, Retreat Co-Chair

Nature therapy is a vital component of self-care and society is beginning to realize just how important exposure to nature and playfulness are to the human spirit. Join us for a weekend of fun and laughter while exploring nature's playground. Come by yourself or bring family and/or friends. You'll find it easy to connect with this wonderful group of people.

Intergenerational Activities, Workshops and Presentations

Whether you're flying solo or making it a family weekend, people of all ages and abilities will find something to enjoy. Kids love running free in a safe, friendly, natural environment.

**kayaking • tubing • sailing • guided hikes • swimming
high ropes course • scavenger hunt • crafts • campfires
music • yoga • kite flying • live animal presentations
educational presentations & workshops • and more**

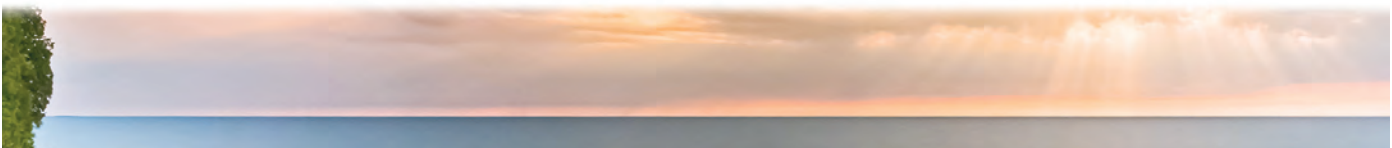
Saturday night's live music and auction are the highlight of the weekend. Bring new, handmade or unusual items to donate to the auction and be sure to join in the fun of bidding. The annual retreat is funded through registration fees, auction funds, and merchandise sales so that Sierra Club Michigan can use our operating budget to protect the environment and work on issues threatening the Great Lakes State.

Unwind, recharge, take stock and build hope for the future. Learn how to create lasting change, individually and together, that will protect and conserve the resources of our beautiful state. Educational workshops and presentations will give you the tools to become a knowledgeable environmentalist and an effective activist, organizer and ally. More information about this event can be found at www.michigan.sierraclub.org. Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1958457991148188/>.

Register Now!

The modest retreat fee covers activities and workshops, five meals, two nights' lodging and memories to last a lifetime. Some workshops may have a small materials fee which will be noted on the retreat presentation schedule sent to registrants prior to event. For more information, including camp location and registration information, contact Cecilia Garcia-Linz, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372. Don't wait—space is limited.

See you in August!





2018 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

8/24/2018-08/26/2018



*PLEASE NOTE: A credit card processing fee will be added to online registrations. To avoid this fee, please print and mail your registration form with check to:

Sierra Club Michigan Annual Retreat
109 Grand River Ave.
Lansing, MI 48906

All workshops, activities, five meals and two nights lodging are included in each of the rates listed below. Workshops with materials fee will be noted in workshop descriptions, provided prior to the retreat.

Names (include age if under 18):	Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total
_____	<3 yrs old	All	Free	Free
_____	3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$90	_____
_____	3-12	Beach Dorm	\$100	_____
_____	Adult	Cabin or B.Y.O. Tent (circle one)	\$160	_____
_____	Adult	Sorry, Inland Dorms Not Available This Year		_____
_____	Adult	Beach Dorm with roommate	\$195	_____
_____	Adult	Beach Dorm, no roommate	\$235	_____
		Donate to retreat scholarship fund?		_____
		TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email address: _____
(Save resources- your address will not be shared)

Please list roommate(s) names, if applicable:

Special needs, dietary restrictions, comments, questions, suggestions:

How many times have you attended the MI Chapter SC Retreat? _____

How did you hear about the Retreat? (circle answer) Website Mackinac Friend Past Attendee Email Notices Facebook Other
Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/sierra-club-michigan-chapter-9847342230>

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 Michigan Chapter.
Contact Cecilia Garcia-Linz with registration questions, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY AUGUST 17th, 2018. Check-in begins Friday, August 24 2018 at 3 pm.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund on or before August 13th, 2018 No refunds after August 17th.

Would you agree to share a room with someone you do not know (same sex)? Circle one: Yes No



Support Your Chapter

Our Vital Michigan Legacy Council

John Muir once said, “Any fool can destroy trees.” In contrast, it takes special people to protect trees...people like you, who donate time, expertise or financial gifts to help support and move our work forward protecting and preserving Michigan. We try to do our best to thank all of you, with a personal thank you, an award, but that’s not enough!

We also want to express our extreme gratitude to our very vital Michigan Legacy Council. This Council honors individuals or groups who give \$500 or more per year for either our citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs that are non-deductible to our educational and policy programs that are tax-deductible. It is our Legacy Council who continuously propels our programs and work making us a leading organization across the state. See page 16 for our current listing of Michigan Legacy members.

We sincerely thank ALL of you for your generous support of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.

For more information on Chapter giving and the other options of support, contact Jan O’Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Care for the environment today and tomorrow! By including the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter or the National Sierra Club in your will or trust today you can preserve the environment for generations to come. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need and you can change your beneficiaries at any time. For more information, contact Jan O’Connell at (616) 956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org



What is EarthShare?

Thirty years ago EarthShare was founded by its member charities to connect people to environmental non-profits through workplace giving, environmental education and volunteer opportunities. Helping employees discover and support the issues that matter to them in their workplace means more engaged, higher level of productivity and innovation.

Caring for our air, water, land and wildlife rank as top priorities with today’s workforce.

Join us in accelerating the pace of positive environmental change. Support the work of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter through EarthShare in your workplace—where you can make small, incremental gifts through your paychecks that add up to a big impact.

Don’t have a giving program at work? Or is EarthShare’s member network not included in your current program?

Contact Jan O’Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org



2017 Annual Report

A Look Back at the Michigan Chapter's 50th Year

By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

CLIMATE CHANGE/CLEAN ENERGY

After a long fight, Sierra Club secured a commitment from the Lansing Board of Water and Light to shut down its last Lansing area coal burning power plant by 2025! Volunteers Nancy Shiffler and Frank Zaski led efforts to fight the NEXUS and ET Rover pipeline. Our Ready for 100 campaigns sought commitments from local municipalities to use clean renewable electricity, and the mayors of East Lansing, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Ferndale and Traverse City stepped up.

LEGISLATIVE/POLITICAL

We organized two citizen lobby days with 200+ participants and over 400 meetings with state legislators and inspired 75,000 people to contact lawmakers. We helped pass laws enabling more energy efficiency financing for schools and community colleges and introduced legislation to improve environmental protection in schools and to mitigate winter Great Lakes pollution. Our political program helped re-elect Southfield Mayor Kenson Siver and Royal Oak Mayor Mike Fournier and elect city councilpersons in Royal Oak, Sterling Heights, Huntington Woods, and Ann Arbor. In Jackson, the home of Consumers Energy, we helped elect energy progressive Derek Dobies as mayor.

PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES FROM POLLUTION

Our Less=More Coalition released A Watershed Moment, a mapping project of Michigan factory farms, subsidies and pollution and released a video series about sustainable livestock farmers in Michigan, Against the Grain: Farming Sustainably in an Industrial System. Our Rain Gardens to the Rescue Program in Detroit led by Erma Leaphart promoted green storm water infrastructure to residents

and city officials as a solution to pollution and runoff. Since 2015, Sierra Club and its partners have facilitated the installation of 50 city rain gardens that treat over 15,000 gallons of rain water per one-inch event. Public demand for shutting down Enbridge Line 5, which crosses the Straits of Mackinac, grew dramatically thanks to the Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition and Chapter Chair David Holtz. We put pressure on Gov. Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette to exercise legal authority to revoke the Straits easement in light of revelations about missing supports and pipeline coating gaps.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

We established the Sierra Club Michigan Environmental Justice Action Group led by Mona Munroe-Younis, a Flint community activist, guiding the Chapter's policies and strategies where environmental issues intersect with social justice.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson continued to ensure Sierra Club's voice was heard at the state and federal levels through sound scientific input and advocacy for good forest management. Issues included a proposal to introduce wolves to Isle Royale, our challenge to a fish farm in the Au Sable River, and the management of state forests for an overabundance of white-tailed deer.

OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

Three-hundred-fifty members and supporters celebrated the Michigan Chapter's 50th Anniversary on June 10 in Ann Arbor. US Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow as well as Sierra Club's national director, Michael Brune, inspired the crowd, and we raised more than \$60,000 to establish the Anne Woiwode Fund.

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

EXPENSES TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

In 2017, the Chapter spent \$577,320 to advance its conservation priorities. Of that, 71% went directly to pro-environment activities you care about. The remaining 29% went to administrative aid for our programs and activities and helped secure funds to ensure the sustainability of the Chapter's critical work.



Great Lakes Protection 13%
Forests & Natural Resources 14%
Clean Energy Solutions 14%
Political Engagement & Lobbying 12%
Environmental Justice 8%
Membership, Outreach & Education 10%
Administration 13%
Fundraising & 50th Anniversary 16%

INCOME TO SUSTAIN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In 2017, the Chapter's income was \$663,248, and 3% came from a portion of your annual membership dues. The majority of our support comes from diverse fundraising activities such as direct and online mail appeals that yield vital donations and grant requests to foundations. In 2017, our income total included more than \$60,000 to establish the Anne Woiwode Fund in honor of our 50th Anniversary.



Allocations 23%
• Tax-deductible 7%
• Tax-deductible bequests 6%
• Non-deductible 3%
• Non-deductible bequests 2%
• Non-deductible lobbying 5%
Donations 46%
• Tax-deductible 15%
• Non-deductible 31%
Nat'l SC Shared Project Grants 6%
Other Grants / Misc 25%



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 3 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and

the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #1434
Mailed From 46802

Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals, groups and organizations making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. This list is current as of our publication date. Please join us in thanking the current listing Michigan Legacy Council members:

FENS & SAPLINGS

\$500-\$999

- Shirley Andrews
- Steve Babson & Nancy Babson
- Peter Bailey
- Martin & Brenda Berkowitz
- Peggy Bocks
- Vicki Boyd
- Lee Burton & Roberta Shaw-Reeves
- Joanne M Cantoni
- Amanda Carlson
- Jon Cohn & Daniela Wittmann
- Barbara Cooper
- Patricia & James Croom
- Janet Davis
- Gerald Demaire
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- Lannie Fisher
- 5 Lakes Energy, LLC
- Betsy Foote
- John Ford
- Susan Ford
- Mike Fournier
- David & Kathy Friedrichs
- Stacey Garrison
- Frank & Emily Gobright
- Carol Graham-Banes
- Thomas (Mike) Haley
- Lynn Hartung
- Joseph Herbst
- Magda Herkhof
- Ms. Toni Herrick
- Gladys Anna Holden
- Ann Holmes
- Mauricio Jimenez
- Mike Johnson & Karen Briggs
- Larry Junck & Robbi Duda
- Stephanie Karisny
- Albert Koegel
- Jay Korinek
- Shelly Koyl

- Joseph & Anna Lauer
- Lisa Lemble & Robert Gordon
- Lawrence & Mary Lockhart
- Paul Maracle
- David Martel
- Amanda Miller
- Gayle Miller
- Mindy Miller
- Mitch Mitchell
- Donald Munski
- Michael Newberry
- Thomas & Jill Newhouse
- Kent Newman
- Nancy Newman
- Northstar Investment
- Johnny Orow
- Andrea Palmer
- Dale Petty & Jeannine Palms
- Jane Pettinga & David VanDoorne
- Ralph & Barbara Powell
- Dr & Mrs Nathaniel Rowe
- John & Janice Rebers
- In Memory of Joyce Scott
- William Secrest
- Lorraine Sigle
- Irene Sidor Smith
- Jerry Stewart
- Barbara Stowell
- Elias G Strangas
- Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
- Timon P Tesar
- Paul Thielking
- Fred & Alyce Townsend
- Carola Vogel
- Kim Waldo
- Oliver & Joan Warner
- Regina & John Wilson
- Cathy Cromer Wood
- Trish Young
- Anonymous Donor (3)

STREAMS & WHITE PINES

\$1,000-\$2,499

- Catherine Badgley & Gerald Smith
- Randall G Baidas
- Lorne Beatty
- Bell's Breweries
- Kenneth Betz
- Richard & Susan Bingham
- Sherri Brom
- John Colina
- Kathleen & William Davis
- Estate of Esther Dean
- John Purdon Donley
- Nancy Lamb Dotlo
- EarthShare of Michigan
- John & Gail Einhaus
- Kathleen & Alvin English
- Daniel Farough & Manjola Cabej
- Luke Goodenough
- Beverly & James Haas
- Denise Harris
- Mrs. Pat Hartsoe
- Paul & Judy Kindel
- Sue Kelly
- Wendy Lawton, MD
- Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman
- Jan & Dennis O'Connell
- Annie Ormandy & Mike Gallagher Event
- Margaret M. Phillips
- Bill & Ann Salot
- Loretta Sheehan
- Claudia Sills
- Kay Stremler & Ron Sell
- Julie Ann & Steven Wang
- Henry M Wellman
- Todd S. Wilkinson
- Anonymous Donors (2)

RIVERS & GROVES

\$2,500-\$4,999

- Richard Barron
- Ms. Mary Anne Beltzman
- James & Cynthia Berkey
- Lydia Fischer
- Margaret Flynn
- Henry (Hal) Newnan III
- Gwen & John Nystuen
- Stanley & Connie Rajnak
- Spartan Sierra Club
- Anonymous Donor

DUNES & SHORELINES

\$5,000-\$7,499

- Mike Keeeler & Sherry Hayden
- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Jean Gramlich
- Mr. John R. Hunting
- Gail & John Philbin
- Kathleen Phillips & MacNeil Smith
- Nancy Shiffler
- Carol E Ward

MARSHES & PRAIRIES

\$7,500-\$14,999

- Pat & Debra Egan
- Ceci Bauer & Tim Flynn
- Samuel & Patricia Lacina
- Patagonia

GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS

\$15,000+

- Thomas Buhr
- Erb Foundation
 - Detroit Future City
 - Friends of the Rouge
- Wege Foundation
- Anne & Tom Woiwode

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.