



A stream in Clinton County, prior to drain work.



Same spot on stream (drain) in Clinton County, after "improvement"—more sedimentation, flood potential, and massive habitat destruction.

ARE CLEAN AIR AND WATER TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR?

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PHOTO COURTESY SUE JULIAN

CLEAN AIR ADVOCATES CALL ON ENGLER TO STOP WORKING FOR DIRTIER AIR

BY ALISON HORTON

Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

The Michigan Sierra Club and 18 other public health and environmental advocates are calling on Governor John Engler to stop his shortsighted protection of the utility industry. In a February letter to Engler, the groups—working with the Michigan Environmental Council—urged that the governor “put the health of Michigan families before coal and utility interest.” Signers of the letter called for an end to the State of Michigan’s legal and political maneuvering and for the state to prepare a workable smog reduction plan.

The groups contend that by crafting an incomplete state ozone smog transport rule and by bringing a lawsuit to block US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) efforts to reduce ozone smog and its transport, Governor John Engler and Russ Harding, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, are ignoring the health and well-being of their own state’s citizens. Transport is not only an issue for northeast states, as they contend. It is an issue for every west Michigan citizen who knows firsthand that pollution from Chicago, Gary, and Milwaukee blows across the lake and into their lives, every day.

“Nearly one million Michigan residents have a respiratory illness that is exacerbated by air pollution,” the groups reminded Governor Engler. “These individuals deserve to breathe air that

is free of ozone smog and other harmful pollut-

ants that cause suffering and, in extreme cases, death. The Environmental Protection Agency set this new smog standard in order to address these important health concerns.”

The message from the Michigan groups to Engler was clear: “The time has come for leadership, not lawsuits.” However, the state lawsuit is now in the courts, where a hearing is not expected until next fall. Rather than working to find innovative ways to meet the 2003 deadline for smog reduction programs to be in place, Michigan is spending its time and resources on disrupting the process. Some industry observers see the state lawsuit against the EPA, spearheaded by Michigan, as adding mind-boggling complexity and uncertainty to the process by

which the nation’s new, healthier smog standards will be put in place.

Governor Engler and Director Harding would like Michigan’s citizens to believe that the new ozone smog transport rule unfairly assesses Michigan’s contribution to ozone smog transport, and that it will only benefit states in the northeast. In fact, Michigan has a lot of clean air to gain from this rule. Instead of writing a rule that will address Michigan’s share of ozone smog transport, the Governor and Director Harding are only offering to reduce Michigan’s pollution by about half the amount required.

While Governor Engler would have us believe Michigan’s air quality is improving, smog pollution is in fact getting worse. According to David Wright, Policy Specialist with the Michigan Environmental Council, “Michigan’s air is getting dirtier, not cleaner as claimed by the Governor. During the summer of 1998, Michigan exceeded the smog air quality standard on at least 123 occasions, compared to 91 times the previous summer—a 35% increase in dirty air.” ❁

Take Action!

You can help. Let others in your community know that Governor Engler is fighting against cleaner air for our families. Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper urging Engler to stop his legal and political maneuvering and start putting the nation’s smog cleanup standards to work for us—in Michigan—now.



THE MACKINAC QUARTERLY

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CORRECTION:

The article “Clinton and Gore Take New Steps to Stop Sprawl and Protect Land” in the February-April issue of *The Mackinac* was written by Jeremy McCallion, Chapter intern. We inadvertently put the wrong byline on the article.

FIGHT TO SAVE HUMBUG MARSH PROFILED IN NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB REPORT

FAITH COMMUNITY JOINS IN PUBLIC OUTREACH IN MICHIGAN

BY ALISON HORTON
Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

The Sierra Club featured Humbug Marsh in a national report—issued in conjunction with Earth Day—that highlighted the growing threats to America’s natural wild places. The need to protect fragile and fast-disappearing Michigan wetland places from destructive development is apparent to people in community after community, across the state, who have seen important natural areas disappear—as the controversy over proposed development of Humbug Marsh demonstrates.

The Sierra Club released its re-

port, “SPARE America’s Wildlands: The Sierra Club Plan to Protect Our National and Neighborhood Wild Places and Open Spaces,” to underscore national movement and neighborhood action to save America’s wild places from an increasing array of threats, and to emphasize the solutions needed to protect these wildlands.

Hand-in-hand with the release of the Earth Day report in Michigan, the Mackinac Chapter launched a project with faith community participants from around the state to ask individuals to speak out for stewardship of the special natural places they know and love. Thousands of handout cards are going to congregations of many faiths, urging recipients to send in postcards supporting protection for Humbug Marsh on the Detroit River and the national Land Legacy and Liveable Community efforts.

From Wyandotte to Charlevoix, churches have been circulating Michigan sprawl information cards and fact sheets. They are also collecting signed post-

cards calling for action, which the Sierra Club is delivering to President Clinton, Governor Engler, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Sierra Club’s report is part of the group’s national wildlands campaign

see *FAITH* page 12



Front of the Michigan SPARE postcard. The top left photo features the Arctic Refuge; the bottom left is Humbug Marsh.

PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB

THE FATE OF HUMBUG MARSH STILL IN THE BALANCE

BY ALISON HORTON
Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club
AND JOE LYSTAD
Chapter Intern

The question of whether to safeguard the natural values of Humbug Marsh—the last remaining mile of natural, vital marshland and shoreline on the Michigan side of the Detroit River—remains to be answered. The US Army Corps of Engineers and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) must decide whether to approve an application for a permit to turn this fragile wetland and upland area into a luxury home and golf course development.

MAY 5TH PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD TODAY!

The Army Corps of Engineers and the DEQ will conduct a joint public hearing on the Humbug Marsh development application in Wyandotte on Wednesday, May 5 and will accept written comments regarding the proposal until May 20. Michigan citizens have an important opportunity to make their voices heard regarding yet another threat to Michigan’s dwindling natural wetland resources by large-scale home and golf course developments. Please see the Take Action section below for information on how to participate.

This public hearing follows one held last fall, at which over 800 people turned out in opposition to the development of Humbug Marsh. At that time, a conservation easement which had been established across this property was the focus of attention as the DEQ reviewed the initial application submitted by the developer. The modified application, which was resubmitted in April, reduces some of the impact on the conservation easement itself. The current propo-

posal, however, is essentially the same magnitude as the original proposal.

A SANCTUARY IS AT STAKE

Made In Detroit proposes a \$350 million residential development covering 409 acres along the Detroit River in Gibraltar and Trenton, including Humbug Island. The development would significantly alter the landscape. The proposal includes filling several acres of wetland, construction of roads, a bridge, and stormwater detention ponds. Increased boat traffic, herbicide and fertilizer use, change in water runoff, and vegetation removal—as well as on-site contamination during building—would doom this last re-

see *HUMBUG* page 14

MACKINAC CHAPTER EDITORIAL

OPPORTUNITY LOST

The question is—as the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America comes to town in Detroit the first week of May—are the real sustainability issues going to see the light of day in this forum?

The President's Council on Sustainable Development and the Global Environment and Technology Foundation—cosponsors of the National Town Meeting—have welcomed and wooed big corporate and governmental voices to this forum,



but have given a pretty cold shoulder to the community and grassroots organizations that fight for the environment every day. It's an embarrassment that the Town Meeting has set such a high price tag on joining the dialogue it claims to be hosting—for instance, \$250 for one individual ticket, or \$250 to have a

single stack of your group's publication available for pick up.

Prominent individuals and groups from the grassroots advocacy sector were turned down when they applied to conduct some of the hundred or so "Learning Sessions" to share strategies that promote sustainability. By contrast, big business voices will have center stage when it comes to showcasing their products, tools, and services. The "town meeting" is so skewed against hearing from grassroots advocates that they will have to go outside the convention hall to make their voice heard. Characterizing it as pitting David against Goliath, a coalition of grassroots groups—led by Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice—are hosting an alternative town meeting to talk about how environmental issues affect neighborhoods and individual lives in Metro Detroit, and to counter the overwhelmingly corporate look of the mega-conference. The Sierra Club is taking a sustainability pledge for business leaders, government officials, and individuals into the National Town Meeting, looking for signers.

It is indeed an opportunity lost that an event promoted as a dialogue about some of the most pressing problems facing our society is turning out to be yet another expense-account business conference masquerading as a town meeting. ❁

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

As another Earth Day—the 29th one—came and went, those of us who report to work daily at an environmental organization were given a chance to reflect. No doubt everyone who represents an environmental group finds that they get asked by the media, by their elected officials, or perhaps by friends and neighbors: What does Earth Day mean to you? What do you do to celebrate Earth Day? And, like as not, many of us say we find ourselves writing the same letters, making the same phone calls, organizing the same events, involving people around the same issues—clean air, clean water, and protecting natural areas—as we do the rest of the year.

If we are lucky, though, we take time to reflect on how much important work is being done by all the people who devote time and energy to saving a piece of the earth—just because they care. One could get discouraged about the state of environmental protection if one spends a lot of time at the state or nation's capitol these days.

But the good news and great work being done are all around us. People who care are making an asphalt plant in Green Oak Town-

ship clean up its act; getting inner city kids into the outdoors for experiences that change their lives; insistently pressing large hospitals, like Henry Ford Hospital, to stop toxic pollution from their incinerators; creating educational materials on pollution for local officials; cleaning up

sections of the Grand River; developing a workable plan for restoring the Flint River. The list goes on.

Hats off to all, inside and outside of the Sierra Club, who are making such a difference—day in and day out! ❁

No doubt everyone who represents an environmental group finds that they get asked by the media, by their elected officials, or perhaps by friends and neighbors: What does Earth Day mean to you? What do you do to celebrate Earth Day?

STAFF CHANGES IN THE CHAPTER OFFICE

We are excited to be welcoming a new addition to the staff in the Lansing office. Dan Farough is joining the staff as Member Involvement Coordinator and Conservation Organizer. He will be working to foster involvement of Sierra Club members in both the chapter and groups, as well as organizing public education campaign activities for the Sierra Club in Michigan. Dan brings an activist and organizing background with him from his work in environmental advocacy, political campaigns, social justice issues, and volunteer work overseas. Please join us in welcoming Dan as he gets around the state to meet and work with chapter and group leaders and activists in the months ahead.

At the same time, we regret to report that Rita Jack has departed from her position as Member Programs Director, as she continues to pursue her academic goals full time. We will miss Rita and wish her the very best in her pursuits—and hope she will stay involved in the Sierra Club family. ❁

LIVESTOCK FACTORIES IN MICHIGAN



ANNE WOJWODE

Director, Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program

Massive “confined animal feeding operations” (CAFOs) have drawn the attention and concern of Sierra Club members from North Carolina to Utah during the last few years. The facilities of greatest concern are operations housing thousands of swine, fowl, or cattle in enclosed facilities, where the manure is collected in a slurry, placed in a lagoon, and then sprayed onto farm fields for disposal.

In the 1980’s, Michigan’s “hog hotels” became an issue of concern, as ground and surface water contamination and the overwhelming stench of these facilities made headlines and drew state-level concern. Action by the Air Pollution Control Commission, the Michigan Environmental Review Board, and the Attorney General brought about a sound resolution of the concerns and protection of the environment, and it appeared the issue was resolved.

Recently, concerns about Michigan CAFOs have begun to rise again as citizens in at least 10 different Lower Peninsula locations face proposed new CAFOs or expansion of existing facilities. In the 1990’s, however, the regulatory framework has changed. In an effort to protect Michigan’s agricultural community from nuisance challenges from new neighbors unaccustomed to the sights and smells of traditional farming, broad protections were provided to farming operations in amendments to the MI Right to Farm Act. Concerns about the impact of sprawling suburban developments edging up to farm operations had prompted sweeping provisions intended to protect farmers from undue harassment.

But the Right to Farm policies actually create huge loopholes that allow the construction of industrial scale CAFOs with no environmental permitting requirements, and overshadow the rights of neighbors to these facilities. The Right to Farm Act calls for voluntary best management practices, with the primary responsibility of enforcement falling first to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA)—and ending up in DEQ hands only by referral from MDA. The law requires that no discharge of waste to Michigan waters occurs—however, there are no environmental permits required for construction or operation of these facilities, even those that produce as much waste as a city of 10,000 people. Enforcement of the voluntary standards is triggered only by complaints, and

even when a violation is found, it can take years for a resolution of the problems. In February, the Michigan Land Use Institute published a report documenting some of the most egregious cases of violations drawn from the files of the state agencies. While the MDA disputed some of the findings, this report has helped trigger a long overdue debate at the state level about Michigan’s approach to CAFOs.

One of the greatest concerns about the current situation is that the rights of neighbors have been virtually ignored

by Michigan’s regulatory framework. Although communities currently have the right to adopt zoning ordinances that regulate CAFOs, relatively few have done so—and often the issue doesn’t come up until a facility is already being constructed in their area. As a sign of heightened concern from the agricultural community about these issues, even this provision under the law is under attack. Senator Joel Gougeon has introduced a bill (SB 205) that would prevent townships from imposing any zoning restrictions on farming operations of any sort. Another bill—SB 29, introduced by Senator Bill Schuette—proposes to create agricultural security areas. While designed to help protect legitimate agricultural activities from encroaching sprawl, concerns exist about how far this proposal may go.

Senator George McManus—Chairman of the Senate Farming, Agribusiness and Food Systems Committee—has appointed a Task Force on Agriculture Preservation that will be holding hearings this spring and summer. Among the topics to be addressed is CAFOs. After these hearings are held, movement on a number of bills addressing land use issues and agricultural areas is expected.

At the federal level, in reaction to growing concern nationwide about CAFOs, the USEPA and USDA adopted a Unified Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations this winter after extensive public input. While the Sierra Club has found some portions of the Strategy to be weak, one element gives a handle-hold to getting Michigan and other states to bring the largest CAFOs under a common regulatory framework. As of March 9, according to the final Strategy, all facilities of over 1000 animal units (2,500

...there are no environmental permits required for construction or operation of these facilities, even those that produce as much waste as a city of 10,000 people.

The Michigan Senate Agriculture Preservation Task Force has set four dates and places for hearings, and two more are yet to be scheduled:

- April 26, 10 a.m., Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Station, 6686 South Center Highway, Elmwood Twp., Leelanau County
- May 1, 9 a.m., Menominee County Extension Office, 904 South US 42, Stephenson
- May 21, 9 a.m., Lowell Twp Hall, 2910 Alden Nash, Lowell Twp., Kent County
- June 29, 11 a.m., Michigan State University, Livestock Pavilion, East Lansing

see *LIVESTOCK* page 18

A DRAIN BY ANY OTHER NAME?

MICHIGAN'S WATER POLICY NEEDS REVISION, YET DISCOURAGES INVOLVEMENT

BY SUE JULIAN

Nepessing Group

People flooded from homes. Wetlands gobbled up by development. Fish unable to live in polluted streams. Disappearing natural rivers. Is this life along the Mississippi? No, it is the Great Lakes State—our own Michigan—and it is the result of our own lack of water policy based on sound ecological principles. And why doesn't anyone pay attention? Because Michigan's water policy is called the Drain Code—an ugly sounding name that conjures up sewers and septic tanks.

This document is up for revision in the legislature, and it will pass this time and perpetuate Michigan's backward water management efforts. It will pass because no one but bureaucrats wants to deal with "drains." Sierra Club members unknowingly leave water policy in the hands of drain commissioners while they decry floods and choking sedimentation in the hands of the Army Corps of Engineers along the Mississippi.

Who manipulates lake levels in Michigan? Drain commissioners. Who designates natural streams as drains? Drain commissioners. Who manages flood plains? Drain commissioners—those obscure elected county officials that hold exceptional personal power, but are not required to have a shred of knowledge of hydrology, ecology, or natural resource management. If five people claim a water problem, the drain commissioners may respond by taxing thousands for a ditching or damming scheme—designed behind closed doors, with no citizen input or oversight from the Department of Natural Resources or the Department of Environmental Quality. Unbelievably, pollution in Michigan drains is exempt from Clean Water Act provisions. Unbelievably, the Michigan Association of Drain Commissioners is appealing the hard-won ruling that they must abide by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act provisions when turning a previously untouched stream into a widened, deepened, and straightened drain.

Channelization and levee building has been shown not to work around the world, not just along the Mississippi. Our water managers are stuck in the "Panama Canal" mentality of the past—dig it deeper and pass the problem on downstream. Wetlands that purify water, recharge ground water and hold back flood water are simply nuisances under the drain code. Restrictions under the Goemere-Anderson Wetlands Protection Act do not apply to drain work for agricultural purposes or public health. Thus, a developer can claim a heron rookery in Oakland County is a public health problem and apply to drain it. Another developer in Macomb County can claim an old agricultural drain should be deepened to make way for 14 new homesites—

Count me in on drain code reform! Send my name on to decision-makers in the legislature.

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and so on across the state. Parcel by parcel, natural systems are gobbled up and people are surprised when flooding occurs; when rainwater overwhelms sewer systems, dumping sewage into rivers; and when species of fish, invertebrates, and amphibians simply cease to be found in manipulated areas.

Michigan needs a new way of thinking about living with nature. A big leap forward can be made with drain code reform. Your help is needed to counter the special interests that want to retain the old system. Clip the coupon above and send it to the Michigan Drain Code Coalition, a group of taxpayers, farmers, landowners, and environmentalists who see eye-to-eye on reform. Your voice will be heard at the negotiating table and you will help shape the proposals for greatly expanded "watershed management," so the outmoded policies of the current drain code will not prevail. ❁

CRYSTAL RIVER WETLANDS AT RISK AGAIN

BY ALISON HORTON
 Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

The threat of development of the Crystal River wetlands, adjacent to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, was resurrected earlier this year when Homestead Resort filed a request for a new development permit. The fight to protect the Crystal River from condo and golf course development has gone on for more than a decade, and has been in and out of the courts. Efforts have been made more than once to negotiate acquisition of the land for protection, but no resolution has ever been reached with Kuras Properties, owner of The Homestead.

Now, Homestead has filed for a US Army Corps of Engineers wetlands development permit, once again signaling its intentions to attempt to proceed with its project. The proposed development would go in along a state-designated trout stream widely used by the public for fishing, canoeing, and scientific and educational activities. The 267-acre project area is centered around the unusual ridge-and-swale forested wetlands area that the Crystal River winds through on its way to Lake Michigan. Friends of the Crystal River—a local group based in the Sleeping Bear Dunes area—and many state and national environmental groups, including Sierra Club, have opposed development because of the loss of wetlands, impacts on water quality, and other environmental concerns involved. The groups argue that there are other very feasible alternative locations in the vicinity on which The Homestead could develop a golf course without the same sorts of environmental impacts.

The Army Corps of Engineers has begun its review of the permit application, which it must make a decision on under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Environmental groups are seeking the sort of open, comprehensive review of this application that it merits due to the significance of the Crystal River area. Groups are calling for a public hearing in the local area. And—very importantly—environmental groups are calling for an environmental impact statement to be completed before decisions are made on the permit, although the Army

Corps usually only completes a less comprehensive environmental assessment as part of its permit process. Environmentalists argue that the significance of this project clearly qualifies it for the fullest environmental review. The project, for instance, is in close proximity to national park lands and resources. It would have a direct impact on ecologically critical areas. There are many unanswered questions about impacts on water quality. The project is also at the center of a protracted controversy that has attracted statewide and national attention.

Kuras Properties has aggressively sought ways to bring political pressure to bear in their quest to de-

velop their Crystal River project throughout the years. They also have a confrontational track record at The Homestead when agency environmental regulators have sought to get environmental problems corrected. They can be counted on to pressure the Army Corps of Engineers to grant the Section 404 permit, which would clear the way for the golf course and condominium project. ❁



Take Action!

You can help protect the pristine Crystal River and its forested wetlands. Your letters will make a difference. You can write your US Senators and urge them to make sure that the Army Corps does the right thing by the Crystal River. Tell them that, at a minimum, there needs to be a local public hearing and a full environmental impact statement prepared as part of the permit review process for The Homestead's Section 404 permit application for the Crystal River in Glen Arbor Township. Send your concerns to: The Honorable Carl Levin, US Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 and The Honorable Spencer Abraham, US Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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WILDERNESS SKILLS: SWIFT-WATER CANOEING SAFETY

BY MICHAEL A. NEIGER, P.H.D.

Central Upper Peninsula Group

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As ice-out time approaches on your favorite river, take some time to review swift-water safety skills, inventory safety equipment, and check the outfitting of your canoe. Make sure your river outfit will be an asset—not a liability—when (not if) you capsize. Remember, there are only two kinds of paddlers: those that have gone for a swim, or “scouted for trout,” and those that are going to go for a swim.

The most important thing you can do is wear a life vest, especially around moving water. As a swift-water paddler, your life vest pulls triple duty for you: it floats you, protects your vital organs from impact, and insulates your torso from the cold water. For maximum effectiveness, it’s critical that it fits properly. Fit-check your vest by pulling upward on it where it crosses over the top of the shoulders. If it rides up much at all, it won’t float your head above the water. To correct this problem, tighten the waist belt or any side adjustments. For maximum effectiveness, consider installing a crotch strap (a loop of webbing and a quick release buckle attached to the bottom of the vest in the front and the back) to keep the vest from riding up.

Drowning victims wearing life vests often appear to be decapitated at first glance because the vest is riding up so high their head is not visible above the water.

In case you get separated from your canoe and emergency gear, always carry a small survival kit on your person. This kit should contain a map of the area waterproofed with Thompson’s Waterseal and stored in a zip-lock bag; compass; waterproof matches; waterproof firestarters; magnesium firestarter with flint striker; sturdy knife; a pea-less whistle; and an emergency blanket.

You can further reduce the hazards of swift-water paddling by properly outfitting your canoe. Everything in the canoe should be tied in with 1/8-inch 50-pound-test cordage. Avoid stronger rope, as it may be too strong to break if it snags your canoe on an object. If your gear is secured well, nothing should dangle from the canoe when you turn it upside down on land. Bow and stern lines should be coiled and secured under loops of heavy shock cord on each deck plate. Loose ropes can permanently trap a canoe mid-river or—worse yet—drown you by entangling your arms, legs, or neck.

In the canoe, secure a rescue throw bag (rope), spare paddle, bailer, sponge, and a waterproof emergency pack containing a rain suit, water bottle, food, flashlight, tarp, cook pot, wood saw, first-

aid kit, and an extra change of clothing.

If you end up in the water, keep the following safety tips in mind. Always stay upstream of your canoe to avoid getting crushed between it and another immobile object in strong current. In rocky rapids, always float on your back with your head pointed upstream and use your legs to fend off big rocks as you approach them. In areas where logs, brush, or other debris choke the river, do exactly the opposite. Float on your stomach with your head pointed downstream. Use your arms to quickly pull yourself up and over any dangerous strainers or sweepers—objects that the water flows under or through. If you approach these hazards feet first, you may become entangled and drown if you’re not lucky enough to wash out the other side as the current takes you underwater and into the mess. All too many paddlers have died this way.

In either case, don’t passively let the current determine your fate. Instead of waiting for someone else to save you, use your arms and legs to aggressively swim into slower-moving water. Use the backstroke to slow yourself down and “ferry” out of heavy current into the safety of an eddy or the inside of a river bend. Avoid the strong current located at the outside of a river bend, as this is the location where deadly undercut banks, strainers, and sweepers are most common.

While a discussion of advanced rescue techniques is beyond the scope of this article, don’t unintentionally invite disaster when conducting a rescue. Never, ever, stand up in strong current that rises above your knees. If your foot happens to become entrapped, the current may fold your body downstream against the river bottom, drowning you underwater as so many others have. Also, if you’re trying to reach a pinned canoe or a stranded paddler, never, ever, tie a rope to yourself even if you are wearing a life vest. If the current is strong enough it will push you underwater and hold you against the bottom. Only trained rescuers using a quick release rescue harness should be secured to a rope.

Dozens of rescuers have drowned this way. If you’re ever in this unfortunate situation, cut the rope with your river knife. For maximum effectiveness, mount your knife in an inverted position high on the front of your life vest, opposite your strong arm. (Avoid double-edged knives, as they may be illegal in certain jurisdictions.)



continued on next page

SKILLS*continued from page 8*

Also, avoid low-head dams, weirs, and other uniform, man-made, in-current structures like the plague—as they have claimed the lives of dozens of rescuers as well as fun-seeking but unsuspecting paddlers and swimmers. One last thing: make it a rule to always keep track of the canoe in back of you, not the one in front. You'll always come upon a boat that's in trouble ahead of you, but it's very easy for a canoe behind you to go unnoticed when it gets into trouble. Your group will never get spread out using this technique either.

To learn more about wilderness canoeing safety, read: *Whitewater Rescue Manual* by Charles Walbridge and Wayne Sundmacher (Ragged Mountain Press, 1995); *Canoeing* by the American National Red Cross (1985); *Canoeing Safety & Rescue* by Doug McKown (Rocky Mountain Books, 1992); *River Rescue (2nd Edition)* by Les Bechdel and Slim Ray (Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 1989); or *Basic River Canoeing* by Robert McNair, et al., (American Camping Association, 1985).



Michael Neiger is a Central Upper Peninsula Group trip leader and an avid wilderness tripper who welcomes your comments and opinions. You can write to him at 309 South 3rd Street, Suite 202, Marquette, Michigan, 49855, or via e-mail at <mneiger@hotmail.com>. ❁

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A POCKET-SIZED SURVIVAL KIT IS YOUR LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

BY MICHAEL A. NEIGER, P.H.D.

Central Upper Peninsula Group

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In addition to assembling a comprehensive rucksack survival kit, you should also put together a compact, pocket-size survival kit. While two survival kits may appear to be overkill at first glance, think again. This backup kit will serve as a "last line of defense" should you become separated from your main rucksack kit.

For example, if you leave your pack at your lunch spot while you go in search of water, your rucksack kit is not going to do you any good if you happen to get injured or lost. Similarly, if you are paddling your favorite river and your canoe—along with your rucksack survival kit—disappears under a logjam after an upset, you will be left to make do with what you have in your pockets, nothing more.

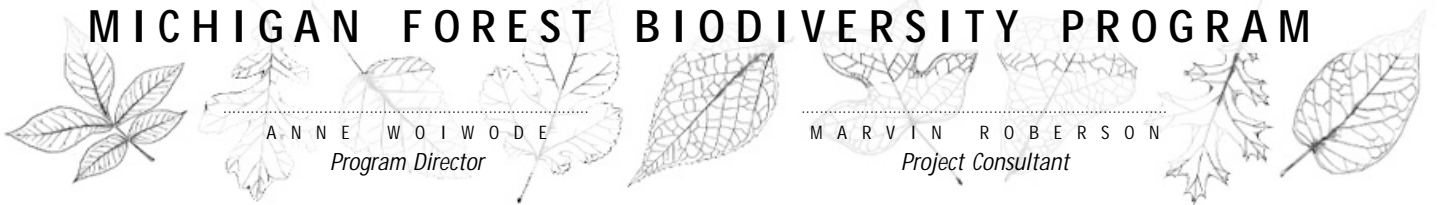
A pocket survival kit should consist of the following items:

- a high quality compass,
- sturdy folding knife or sheath knife,
- loud whistle (high impact plastic, pea-less designs are best since they won't freeze to your lips in cold weather and they are not as apt to become fouled by snow or sand),
- magnesium fire starter with flint striker,
- waterproof matches with a waterproof striker on box,
- and waterproof fire starters (plastic dental floss containers with lanyard holes work well for carrying fire starters and protecting fragile cardboard matchboxes).

Securely tether these items together by stringing a piece of cordage through their respective lanyard holes. Carry these items in an inner shirt pocket or pants pocket and secure them against accidental loss by threading the lanyard through a belt loop or buttonhole. To avoid becoming separated from your backup survival kit, don't carry it in something that may be shed during the day—such as a parka, life jacket, or belt pack.

By getting in the regular habit of always carrying your pocket survival kit in addition to your rucksack survival kit, you'll increase your chances of returning safely no matter what happens to you or your gear.

MICHIGAN FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM



ANNE WOIWODE
Program Director

MARVIN ROBERSON
Project Consultant

HURON MANISTEE OLD GROWTH PROPOSAL: GET OUT IN THE WOODS AND HELP PROTECT WILDLANDS IN MICHIGAN!

The Huron-Manistee National Forest (HMNF) will be seeking input this summer and fall into a proposed old growth plan, and the Sierra Club Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program would like to invite you to assist in evaluating this proposal. Old growth designation is an important element of protecting rare habitat, plants, and animals in Michigan—as well as providing opportunities for recreating in forests evocative of Michigan before the logger barons and settlers cleared the native forests.

The HMNF covers a little less than 1 million acres of the northern Lower Peninsula, making it a public treasure. In 1986, the Land and Resource Management Plan was adopted for the HMNF, committing the agency to designate 173,000 acres of old growth during the 10 to 15 year life of the plan. After many fits and starts, the HMNF is finally planning to release their proposed old growth system in May, and will be seeking public input into the process during the summer and fall.

The process and delays in developing the old growth proposal for the HMNF reflect both the political and the scientific circumstances that are driving National Forest management these days. With declining revenue from Congress for National Forests in the eastern region of the Forest Service, the old growth planning has taken much longer than originally envisioned. Ironically, a hold placed by Congress on revising the Plans for most National Forests has given a window of opportunity for the HMNF to proceed with completing the old growth designation process.

The 173,000 acres identified in the HMNF Plan was originally based on habitat needs for the pileated woodpecker, one of the Management Indicator Species for the Forest. At the time the HMNF Plan was adopted, the focus for old growth was on finding stands of trees that were beyond the rotation age (older than the age at which foresters recommend cutting trees for wood products) to provide at least a minimum amount of food and habitat needs for pileated woodpeckers. In the last 15 years, a scientific revolution has dramatically changed understanding of the importance of older forests to a wide array of Michigan species. Part of that revolution has also shifted attention from simply the number of acres to awareness of the importance of the spatial arrangement and size of blocks and connections among older forests and the rest of the landscape.

The Michigan Forest Biodiversity Program would like your help in identifying and commenting on the old growth plan for the HMNF when it is released. You don't have to be an expert to contribute to this effort! A one-day training session will be held during the summer, in the vicinity of the HMNF, to talk about the proposed plan and give a basic introduction to the critical components of a functional old growth system. During the following weeks, volunteers will be asked to visit portions of both the proposed old growth system and/or

previously identified areas proposed to be dropped, to give an assessment of the proposal from an on-the-ground perspective. Because the HMNF old growth system proposal has not yet been released, the date for the training has not yet been set—although it is expected to be on a weekend in late July or early August. If you are interested in participating, contact Anne Woiwode at the Chapter office—you will be notified when the date and location are set. ❁

MICHIGAN LEGISLATORS USE APPROPRIATIONS BOILERPLATE TO CHANGE POLICIES

Learning a trick from their colleagues in Washington, DC, Michigan officials are using appropriations bills to direct policy actions by the states' environmental and resources agencies. Just as the "riders" on the federal budget bills circumvent proper debate and attention to sometimes significant policy questions, so the use of "boilerplate" language in Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) appropriations bills can have a drastic impact on management of precious resources. The DNR Budget will be up for debate in the House in May, and boilerplate language will be targeted by environmentalists.

Timber Marking Mandate is Back Again

For the third year in a row, language in the Department of Natural Resources budget bill for FY2000 (SB 370) seeks to mandate a minimum level of timber marking for logging on the state's 4 million acres of State Forest lands. The language was carried over from the FY99 budget so that the bill, as introduced, included a mandate for 855,000 cords to be marked on State Forest lands.

In March, a lobbyist for the Michigan Association of Timbermen argued before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that because Michigan's State Forests constitute about 20% of the forestland in the state, the Legislature should mandate the state be required to produce 20% of the wood cut in Michigan each year, calling it

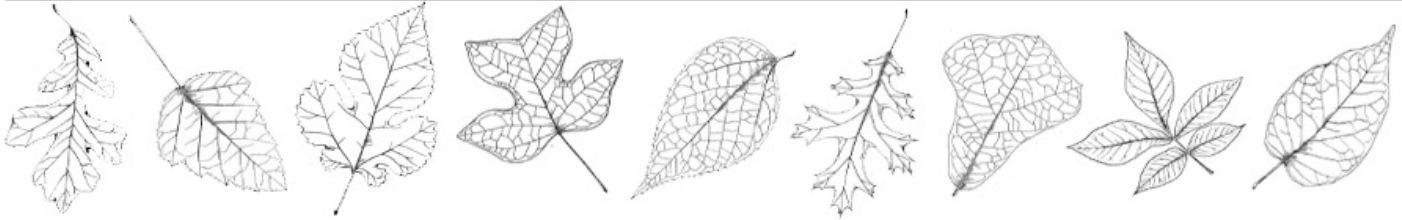
the state's "proportionate share." For 1998, that number would have been 920,000 cords, an increase of 14% over harvest levels of 1996, and significantly above what some DNR officials consider sustainable management levels.

Hunting organizations are among those opposing any mandated minimum timber marking levels on the State Forests. Groups like the Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association cite such a mandate as a violation of the intent of Proposal "G," passed by voters in 1996. Proposal "G" requires the state's wildlife resources be managed on the basis of sound science, and the legislatively mandated minimum marking level takes away the authority of wildlife managers to make scientific decisions.

Other concerns about the mandated minimum marking level are tied to recreational and ecological considerations. Forest activists point out that the industry is asking for a "proportionate share" of timber production, but private forest owners have shown little will-

In the last 15 years, a scientific revolution has dramatically changed understanding of the importance of older forests to a wide array of Michigan species.

continued on next page



MFBP

continued from page 10

ingness to produce a “proportionate share” of native forest, old growth, or wilderness—or to provide recreational access. There is growing concern as well that reduced staff levels and use of an out-of-state consulting firm to do timber marking may further diminish the ability of the DNR to meet its multiple use mandate for the State Forest system.

“The timber mandate says Michigan’s legislature views these forests as belonging only to the timber industry,” according to Anne Woiwode, the Mackinac Chapter’s Michigan Forest and Biodiversity Project Director. “Hunters, anglers, skiers, hikers, campers, mushroom and berry pickers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, snowmobilers, etc., depend on our state forests. This language sends a loud and clear message to DNR staff—Job #1 is marking timber.”

Michigan Natural Features Inventory in Crosshairs

The power of boilerplate language in setting policy shows up in Senator Loren Bennett’s effort to end what he characterizes as a “perceived conflict of interest” in the state’s relationship with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and its affiliate, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). For almost 20 years, the MNFI has been the centralized data collection site for information about Michigan’s rare and threatened species and ecosystems. TNC, the largest non-profit land conservation organization in the world, created similar inventories in every state in the country—both to assist in protection efforts and to provide information to agencies and businesses to assist in compliance with state and federal environmental laws. While most states have actually incorporated their respective inventories into their resource agencies, in Michigan the state rebuffed TNC’s entreaties that they assimilate the MNFI throughout the 1980’s. Today, the two dozen staff of the MNFI are housed in the DNR’s offices, but work for TNC and provide services under contract to state and federal agencies and many private firms and individuals.

Drawing on his experiences following a permit application for a golf course, Senator Bennett argues that having permitting decisions made using the scientific advice provided by an arm of TNC might present a conflict of interest. Mr. Bennett contends that because the MNFI provides scientific information to the permitting agencies, there is a possibility that the MNFI might attempt to block a permit on lands that TNC is interested in acquiring. While everyone familiar with both TNC and the MNFI has dismissed such a contention as preposterous, Senator Bennett has aggressively pursued boilerplate language to address this “perceived conflict of interest.”

SB 370, the DNR Budget bill, is again the focus of most attention, though two other

bills have inconsequential changes as well. SB 370 was amended in the Senate—at Senator Bennett’s behest—to require that by the end of FY 2000, on September 30, 2000, the DNR must terminate its contracts with any non-profit organization that both acquires land and performs surveys for threatened and endangered species. With a caveat to assure that universities were not included in this prohibition, the language is pointed solely at TNC and the MNFI.

Both TNC and the DNR have indicated they are not opposed to the MNFI being spun off to either an academic institution or to the DNR itself, and that

discussions to achieve such a transition had begun during the last six months, independently of Senator Bennett’s concerns. However, concern that the proposed transition period is too short—and could result in undermining critical functions performed by the MNFI—is growing among many agencies and organizations that depend on information from them. Keeping the MNFI intact is critical, according to those familiar with its role, and the lack of flexibility in the deadline for terminating contracts could undermine that need. While funding for a transition plan to be developed is provided in the supplemental appropriation for the DNR, the date for termination of contracts in SB 370 has no flexibility to address the results of that study.

Many environmental organizations—including the Sierra Club, the Michigan Natural Areas Council, and the Michigan Environmental Council—are working to modify the language of SB 370 in the House to assure Michigan’s capacity to identify and protect rare species is not torpedoed. The appropriations process is expected to run into mid or late May. ❁

For more information on these issues, contact Anne Woiwode at the Chapter office.

“The timber mandate says Michigan’s legislature views these forests as belonging only to the timber industry”

Join the Forest Activist Network

If you would like information about the **Michigan Forest Activist Network**, fill in and send this form to F.A.N., Sierra Club, 300 N. Washington, Suite 411, Lansing, 48933, or email <anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org> with the same information:

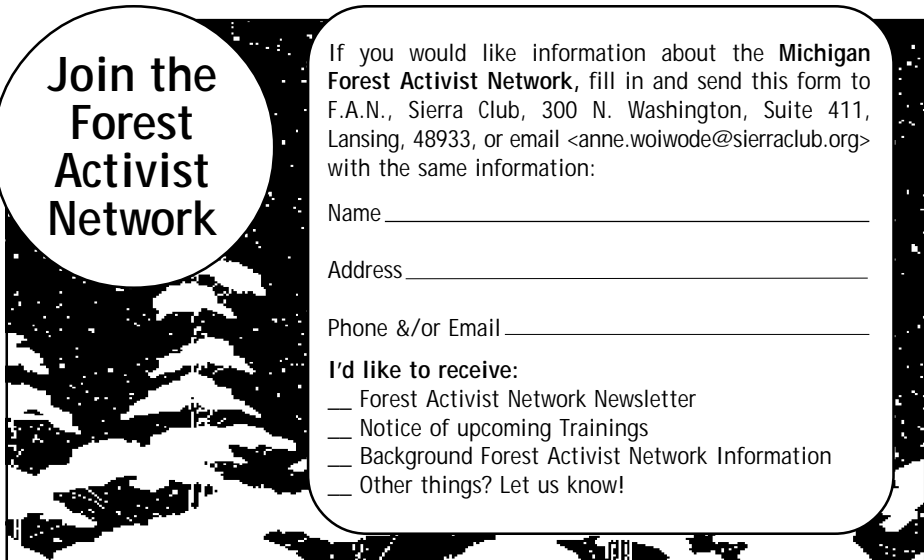
Name _____

Address _____

Phone &/or Email _____

I’d like to receive:

- Forest Activist Network Newsletter
- Notice of upcoming Trainings
- Background Forest Activist Network Information
- Other things? Let us know!



FAITH

continued from page 3

aimed at saving our natural heritage. "SPARE America's Wildlands" describes in vivid detail the current threats to 52 beautiful and threatened neighborhood treasures—like Humbug Marsh—as well as six spectacular national landscapes: the Arctic Refuge, Maine Woods, Everglades, Northern Rockies, Utah Wilderness, and Sierra Nevada.

A national poll conducted for the Sierra Club in early April found broad-based support for wild area conservation—a majority of voters support buying and protecting wildlands, rather than using the money to increase military spending. As Sierra Club President Chuck McGrady observed, "These poll numbers formally recognize a growing trend. Americans are going wild... On both the national and neighborhood levels, Americans have joined together in this wilderness revival movement to save the places they love."

The Sierra Club poll of 1000 registered voters—conducted by pollsters Lake Snell Perry & Associates—found respondents solidly favor environmental protection over defense spending, 50 percent to 34 percent. More than three-

quarters of those polled, regardless of political affiliation, support the billion dollar Land Legacy Initiative to protect natural and historic sites, farmlands, and urban parks. Seventy-one percent support the Liveable Communities Program, which would spend one billion dollars on preserving green and open spaces and curbing urban sprawl.

Americans want to permanently protect natural places close to home as well as our national treasures. This increased interest in wildlands protection seems to be in direct proportion to the increase in threats to these special places. Add development, suburban sprawl, pollution, and off-road vehicles to the historic threats of logging, mining, oil and gas drilling, and overgrazing—and it's no wonder the rate of wildlands destruction is accelerating across America; the list of wild places in peril exploding. ❁

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PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB

Back of the Michigan SPARE postcard.

Take Action!

If you are interested in participating in public outreach on sprawl issues through the faith community, contact Alison Horton at the Mackinac Chapter office at (517) 484-2372 or <mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org>.

**It takes a lot of these:
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$**

**To save a few
of these:**



**Please help us raise funds
for Michigan conservation.**

**Volunteer to sell tickets for the
MACKINAC CHAPTER 1999
"SPRAWL COSTS US ALL" RAFFLE**

**WIN \$1,000
FIRST PRIZE!**

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Cost: \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5**

Proceeds benefit conservation in Michigan, and your local Sierra Club earns up to \$1.00 per ticket when you write its initials on the back of the stub!

**Sure! I'll try to sell _____ raffle tickets
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.....
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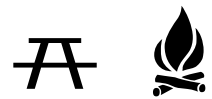
Mail to: Fred Townsend, 3851 Granger Road,
Ortonville, MI 48462-9103

When you return tickets stubs, please include a check made out to Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter and mail it to the above address.

Drawing Sept. 18, 1999, 7 p.m., Camp Miniwanca, 8845 W. Garfield, Shelby, MI 49455. Need not be present to win. Lic.# R53714 Org. I.D. 106921



RETREAT TO LAKE MICHIGAN! SEPTEMBER 17-19



By popular demand, the Sierra Club's 10th annual Autumn Retreat is scheduled for beautiful Camp Miniwanca on Lake Michigan's shoreline.

From forested hills to streams and lakes, Miniwanca invites Sierra friends, family, and guests to relax and enjoy the great outdoors from September 17-19. Miniwanca is located just north of Muskegon, on Michigan's west coast.

As in past years, participants can choose from rustic camping in cabin-like shelters, to more modern dorm lodging. Food and lodging are included in the registration fee (see attached registration form).

Each year, the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club hosts the Autumn Retreat to encour-

age its members and friends to gather, attend optional educational workshops, or just relax and get away from day-to-day stresses.

Activities range from adult, to teen, to "kid" outings and workshops. A more complete schedule of activities will appear in the August issue of The Mackinac.

If you have questions, please contact Cathy or Gary Semer at 734-453-4443. ❁

  1999 AUTUMN RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM  			
NAME(S): PLEASE INCLUDE ALL NAMES IN YOUR GROUP, INCLUDING AGES FOR CHILDREN.	AGE CATEGORY	FEE	TOTAL
_____	0-4 YEARS OLD	FREE	_____
_____	5-17 YEARS OLD	\$35	\$ _____
_____	ADULT RUSTIC SHELTER	\$55	\$ _____
ADDRESS:	ADULT REGULAR DORM	\$70	\$ _____
_____	ADULT LAKESIDE DORM	\$90	\$ _____
PHONE:	TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____		

VEGETARIAN MEALS? (CIRCLE ONE): YES NO			
Send Registration Form with payment <i>before September 2!</i> Make checks payable to: Sierra Club	SEND TO: Sierra Club Autumn Retreat c/o Cathy Semer 449 Pacific Plymouth, MI 49170		

IT JUST TAKES A LITTLE WILL POWER...

If you do not have a will, the state decides how your property and other affairs are handled. Decisions made now can later provide financial security for your family, friends, and the Sierra Club. You can even direct your bequest to a specific Club program or your home chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Sierra Club Planned Giving
85 Second St., Second Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105

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HUMBUG*continued from page 3*

maining sanctuary rich in fish and wildlife.

The natural values of the Humbug Marsh area cannot be dismissed lightly. Threatened or endangered plants and animals that have been located in the marsh include the fire pink, shellbark hickory, eastern fox snake, and swamp rose-mallow. Bald eagles and osprey, both threatened in Michigan, use the marsh and surrounding woods for feeding and resting. The area is a stopping place for many migratory birds: some 17 species of raptors and 48 species of other birds have been seen. In addition, this stretch of the Detroit River is an important spawning and nursery area for many species of fish.

Humbug Marsh is part of the last remaining mile of undeveloped shoreline of the 32-mile Michigan mainland between Lake St Clair and Lake Erie. It is the last piece of the Great Lakes coastal marshes, which once were present along both sides of the Detroit River and most of the Western Lake Erie shoreline. In the last 70 years, shoreline development and high water levels have destroyed 97% of these marshes. ❁

Take Action!

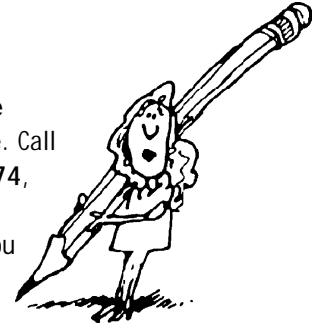
If you want to be heard regarding what should be done with Humbug Marsh:

- You may appear at one of three public hearing sessions on Wednesday, May 5, 1999. The hearings will be held at the Yack Recreation Center, 3131 Third Street, Wyandotte, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, from 1 to 4 p.m., and from 6 to 9 p.m.
- You may submit written comment regarding your concerns about the permit application for the Humbug Marsh development to the Army Corps of Engineers. The deadline for comments is May 20.
Address:
Mr. David Gesl
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, MI 48231-1027
- You may also send your comments to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
Address:
Mr. Russell Harding, Director
MI Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48926

For more information about the proposed development or how to get involved in protecting Humbug Marsh, contact the Sierra Club office in Lansing at (517) 484-2372 or via email at <mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org>.

TAKING ACTION:**YOUR WORDS COUNT!**

Get your free copy of "A Citizen's Guide To State Government" to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Chuck Perricone at (517) 373-1774, mention that you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask him to send you a copy!

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1414

White House Fax Line: (202) 456-2461

White House Comment Line:
(202) 456-1111

White House email:
president@whitehouse.gov

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RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS

Sierra Club National Legislative Hotline: (202) 675-2394

- **ENVIRO-MICH** is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, send email to: majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).
- **Sierra Club's National Web Page** is at: www.sierraclub.org. Check out the daily *War On the Environment* postings.
- Find our **New, Improved Mackinac Chapter Web Page**, by Davina Pallone + designwrench information arts, at: www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mi
- Get a free subscription to "**The Planet**" by promising to write at least 3 letters a year to your elected officials in support of the environment. Send your name and address to **Sierra Club Planet Subscription Request**, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION: TAKINGS BATTLE RAGES OVER MINDEN BOG

BY CHRIS BZDOK

Despite some recent legal victories by conservation and community groups, the "takings" struggle goes on. "Property rights" organizations and special interests continue to use the courts to try and win a campaign they cannot win among public opinion. The result is a host of lawsuits claiming the government must compensate industries and developers for the effects of environmental and land use regulation.

One of the most ominous of these battles is currently raging in Michigan's Thumb. There, in Sanilac County, is the Minden Bog—a 3,000 acre "raised bog" containing one of the most unusual natural communities in the state. According to a report prepared for the state by botanist Barb Madsen, "Minden Bog is a unique ecosystem in Michigan and possibly in North America, providing both habitat for plant and animal communities and opportunities for scientific research in many fields. It is also an enormous and vital part of the hydrology of the region."

Seventy percent of the bog is owned by a Texas company called Michigan Peat. The state owns the rest, as part of the Minden City State Game Area. Michigan Peat began mining peat from the bog in the late 1950's. This process involves digging long drainage ditches across the bog, clearing vegetation, and then removing peat as deep as 10 feet below the surface. According to Dr. Madsen's report, the mining not only destroys the unique flora and fauna of the bog; by lowering the bog's surface elevation, the large-scale peat removal actually reverses the hydrology of the entire area, as well, including the state lands.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began investigating Michigan Peat in the late 1980's, in response to a complaint that the company was piling its spoils on neighboring state land. The DNR required Michigan Peat to apply for a wetland permit to

continue mining, which the company did grudgingly, arguing all the while that it was not subject to state regulation.

Receiving fierce opposition to expanded mining from the public and several federal agencies, the DNR issued a limited permit in 1995. The DNR declared some of Michigan Peat's acreage exempt from the Wetlands Act because it was mined before the Act was passed,

The DNR required Michigan Peat to apply for a wetland permit to continue mining, which the company did grudgingly, arguing all the while that it was not subject to state regulation.

gave the company an after-the-fact permit for other areas which were already mined, and prohibited any mining on the remaining 1800 acres. The DNR cited the unique bog ecosystem, impacts on habitat, and pollution of the Black River as reasons for denying expansion.

Michigan Peat did not accept the permit. Instead, it appealed the DNR's decision, and filed a \$300 million takings lawsuit in the Court of Claims. In 1997, after two years of litigation, the state reversed course and issued a permit for mining on all of Michigan Peat's lands. The new permit stated that it did not give the company the right to do anything under the wetlands provisions of the federal Clean Water Act, which the state normally administers through a joint program with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers. The permit also required Michigan Peat to give up its lawsuit against the state. According to high-ranking Department of Environmental Quality officials, the sole purpose of the permit was to avoid being hit with a multi-million dollar takings judgment.

Michigan Peat refused to accept the new permit, which its allies called a "sham" in court papers. Instead, the company filed a lawsuit against the EPA in federal court to prevent the EPA from taking actions against it under the Clean Water Act. Federal Judge Avern

Cohn dismissed the suit, which is now before the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. The EPA then brought an enforcement action against Michigan Peat for violations of the Clean Water Act, including pollution of the Black River from the Company's mining activities.

While the EPA claims that the purpose of the federal enforcement suit is simply to bring Michigan Peat under the permitting system of the Clean Water Act, that suit may also buttress the defenses of both the state and the feds against the takings claim. The reason is a

1992 US Supreme Court decision, which held that the government does not need to compensate a private landowner when it prevents her from doing something on her land that harms adjacent properties.

The Minden Bog case showcases two of the worst aspects of the war being waged against the environment in the courts. The first is the fear that developers and industries have been able to generate by threatening litigation and demanding huge amounts of money whenever regulators try to do their jobs. The second and more recent phenomenon is that of a government agency deliberately abandoning its regulatory responsibility for the express purpose of escaping a takings lawsuit. Despite these troubling precedents, the environmental community has thus far been largely silent about the Minden Bog. It appears that only time will tell what becomes of this strange and beautiful place.

Club member Chris Bzdok is an attorney with Olson, Noonan & Ringsmuth, P.C., a Traverse City firm with a statewide practice in environmental law. Jim Olson and Karen Ferguson wrote the report on which this article was based, with support from the Michigan Land Use Institute. Any opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author. ❁

Group Meetings & Programs

AG Algonquin Group

The Algonquin Group has been reactivated! The Group serves Charlevoix, Emmet, Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties. If you are a member of our Group, you should have recently received a mailing inviting you to get involved in the Group's activities.

For more information, contact Debbie Messer, Chairperson, at (616) 347-2550 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or write P.O. Box 14, Petoskey, MI 49770.

CMG Central Michigan Group

The general meetings are held the third Monday of the month at the Harris Nature Center, off of Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Come at 5:30 for supper (small donation requested) or at 6:15 for the meeting. Call Pete Pasterz at (517) 676-3339 for information.

The Conservation Committee usually meets the second Monday of the month in Wells Hall on the MSU campus. Call Maria Lapinski at (517) 569-3302 for information.

The Executive Committee meets the first Monday of the month. Call Jerry Schuur at (517) 351-7796 for information.

CUP Central Upper Peninsula Group

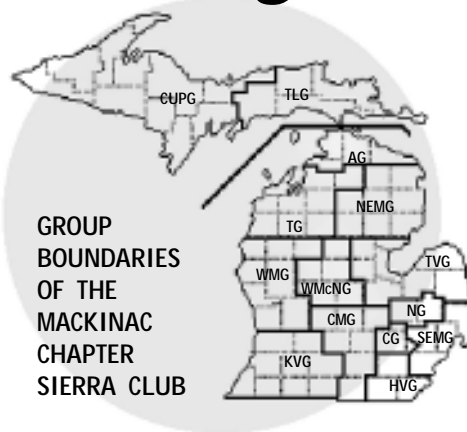
Sierra Club members in the central and western counties in the Upper Peninsula are invited to participate in CUP group activities. General membership and executive committee meetings are held in West Science, Room 270, on the Northern Michigan University campus at 7 p.m. For information call John Rebers, (906) 228-3617.

To receive news about outings or other Sierra Club activities in the Central Upper Peninsula, send \$5 for a subscription to the CUP newsletter to Sierra Club, 338 West Crescent, Marquette, MI, 49855.

CG Crossroads Group

The Sierra Club members of Livingston, southern Genesee and western Oakland Counties meet monthly at the Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorff Dr., Brighton, for informative and entertaining programs. These meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

The Conservation Committee also meets monthly to discuss and address local



issues; call Emily Gobrigh (517) 548-0595 or David Wright (810) 229-1685 for dates and locations.

The Executive Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month. Call Rick Pearsall (810) 227-6298 for details.

HVG Huron Valley Group

The General Meetings of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. For more information call (313) 665-7345.

5/18 General Meeting. Art Vander from the Peace and Environmental Coalition for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons will present a talk entitled "The Case for Abolishing Nuclear Weapons."

6/15 General Meeting. Topic to be announced.

7/20 General Meeting. Topic to be announced.

KVG Kalamazoo Valley Group

General membership meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The Executive Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and all members are welcome. Contact Verne and Cindy Mills at (616) 344-4279 for more information.

5/20 7:30 p.m. Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Twp campus, Room 4370. "Michigan Forest Issues" with Anne Woiwode as our invited speaker. Anne will talk about the significant threats facing

Michigan's forests. She will also discuss opportunities available to Michigan's citizens to bring about better management of the state and federal forests in Michigan. Call Mike Johnson at (616) 948-8840 for more info.

NG Nepessing Group

General membership meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Prah Center, Genesee Room of Mott Community College, 1401 E. Court St., Flint. We have special speakers at 6:30 followed by refreshments. An environmental program starts at 7 p.m. followed by a business meeting. Non-members are encouraged to attend. For more information call Carol Graham at (810) 659-4965.

For Conservation meeting information, call Mike Keeler at (810) 732-7385.

The Nepessing Group 1999 weekly hiking series schedule is available at (810) 743-0335, or online at <<http://gfn.org/sierrang>>.

NEMG Northeast Michigan Group

This group is currently inactive. Please call Melanie Nance at the chapter office at (517) 484-2372 for information or if you are interested in helping develop an active group.

SEMG Southeast Michigan Group

General membership meetings are held 7:30 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month, Sept. through June, at Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy (southbound M-10 service drive) between Southfield and Evergreen roads, and Nine and Ten Mile roads in Southfield. For meeting information contact Cindy Gunnip at (248) 557-7768.

The Executive Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, Woodward and 11-mile Rd, Royal Oak. Contact Anna Holden, Chairperson, for information at (313) 331-0932.

Conservation Committee meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church. Parking in back of the church, south of 11

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GROUP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS
continued from page 16

Mile Road. For information call Ed McArdle, (313) 388-6645.

Outings Committee: Contact Phil Crookshank if you are interested in planning or leading outings. (313) 562-1873.

Political Action to support pro-environment legislation, state and national: Contact Tim Killeen, Chair, Political Action Committee. (313) 526-4052.

5/6 Now that all the snow is melted, it's time to get in gear for Michigan camping. A representative from Raupps or REI will clue us in as to what's new in equipment and clothing.

No meeting scheduled for August.

TLG
Three Lakes Group

Sierra Club members in the Upper Peninsula counties of Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft are welcome to attend meetings of the Three Lakes Group. Business meet-

ings are held monthly at various locations in Sault Ste. Marie. Programs are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month from September through May at the Walker Cisler Center on the campus of Lake Superior State University. For information call Floyd Byerly at (906) 632-0218.

TVG
Thumb Valley Group

Additional leaders and programs desired. Please contact Craig and Janis Kendzioriski at (517) 631-5170 if interested in being involved.

7/14 6:30 p.m. Leadership Meeting. Leaders and others interested in helping to plan TVG activities. 4209 Linden Drive, Midland. Contact Craig and Janis at (517) 631-5170 for details.

TG
Traverse Group

At this time, no general membership meetings or programs are scheduled. See Outings for special Traverse Group activities.

WMcNG
Wakelin McNeel Group
This group is currently in reorganization. Please call Paul McKelvey at (517) 779-8271 (weekday evenings), or email <paul.mckelvey@cmich.edu> if you are interested in helping with the group or have questions.

WMG
West Michigan Group
Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Kent Community Hospital meeting room beginning at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Call Marty Lore at (517) 682-1316 for further details. ❁



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Come visit us at our newly expanded Web Page!

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You can find us by pointing your browser to:
www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mi

LIVESTOCK*continued from page 5*

hogs) “must have an NPDES permit to discharge and are subject to enforcement action if they discharge without such a permit.” On April 9 the Sierra Club sent a letter to all state water quality enforcement agencies pointing out this requirement, explaining that the Club will closely monitor compliance, and report any non-compliance to the USEPA for enforcement actions. Michigan is seeking to be exempted from the provisions of the Strategy by having USEPA and USDA declare that the state program is “functionally equivalent” to the one described in the Strategy. Environmentalists are asking to be included in any negotiations between the state and federal agencies on this determination.

For more information about these issues, contact Anne Woiwode at the Chapter office. ❁

**Keep Those Windows Shut**

John and Laurie Gorsuch of Midland County have learned the hard way about the lack of protection of neighbor's interests under Michigan's Right to Farm law. The Gorsuch's home backs up to farmland and they lived happily with the farming operations until the

owner proposed to build a 2000 head CAFO just 800 feet from their property line. The Gorsuch's efforts at the local zoning level to get the facility moved farther away were fruitless. Once built, the odors from the facility have totally eliminated their ability to use the outdoors. When they filed a complaint with the MDA, the investigator concluded that there was no violation, and as a result no corrective action would be ordered. Unable to sell their house—as a last resort—the Gorsuch's went to the Michigan Tax Tribunal asking that their assessment be reduced by 50% to compensate for the diminution of the value of their property. In a ruling last November, the Tax Tribunal agreed that the location of the CAFO had an adverse affect on both their use of their outdoor property and their ability to sell the property, and ruled that the assessment and true cash value should be reduced by 20%. Despite their victory and with no change in the CAFO operations, their township has again raised their assessment, and the Gorsuch's are now returning to the Tax Tribunal for another challenge.

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Outings



TO EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group that is planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map on page 16 to determine a group's location. Trips begin at the trailhead. Outings are open to everyone.

MAY

5/1 HVG (Sat.) Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up. Come help pick up trash from our 2-mile section M-14 as part of this Michigan DOT program. Meet at the Big Boy Restaurant on the north side of Plymouth Road between US-23 and Green Road in Ann Arbor at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, or at 9:15 a.m. to carpool. Bring gloves. We expect to be finished around noon. Call Kathy Guerreso at (734) 994-7183 for more information.

5/1 NG (Sat.) Campfire/Frog Picnic/Hike. 8 p.m. (hike 9:30 p.m.). 3 miles. Ortonville Recreation Area Equestrian Campground. North side of Fox Lake Rd. about 1 mile west of Hadley Rd. (4 miles south of Hadley). Bring flashlight, rain gear, footwear for muddy trails. State Park vehicle permit required. Picnic before hike. Bring weenies, buns, marshmallows, beverages, etc. Fred Townsend (248) 627-3587.

5/2 SEMG May Day Potawatomi. Come celebrate May Day on a fast paced, hilly 14-mile hike in the most beautiful park in SE Michigan. This is an all day trip; we usually hike about 3 miles per hour. Wear sturdy shoes, and dress for the weather. Trip goes rain or shine. Bring lunch and drinks for entire day. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind the 'Oil Dispatch', SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Possible restaurant stop after. Leader: Cindy Gunnip (248) 557-7768.

5/2 NG (Sun.) Pinckney State Park (Losee Lake Trail). 11 a.m. 4 miles or more. US-23 south to N. Territorial Rd. (west) right. About 7 miles to Town Hall Rd. north. State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Meet at Silver Lake carpool lot (Fenton) off US-23 at 10:30 a.m. Mike Keeler (810) 767-9904

5/2 HVG Fifth Annual Freedom High

Potluck & Wildflower Hike. Bring a dish to share. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes to explore the ravines and marshes for trillium, trout lilies, and spring beauties on this private property in Freedom Township. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 11 a.m. to carpool. Call Joan Paskewitz or Tom Tuer at (734) 428-0887 for information.

5/7-5/9 CUP Backpacking: McCormick Wilderness Tract-Northern Half (NW Marquette County). Rating: Moderate pace over difficult terrain. Route: 20 km (100 percent off-trail). We'll explore waterfalls, rocky overlooks, and pockets of old growth timber located in one of the remotest, wildest sections of the UP. We'll live by our compasses as we bushwhack through this rugged, trail-less area which is home to wolves, moose, coyotes, and bear. This non-smoking trip is suitable for the adventurous, intermediate-level backpacker who enjoys getting off the beaten path in remote areas. You must be fully equipped (including rations and stove), physically fit, and prepared for foul, wet weather. Advanced land navigation skills helpful but not required. Limit 6. \$10 donation. For trip details, equipment list, and registration form, contact Michael Neiger at (906) 226-9620 or via e-mail at mneiger@hotmail.com.

5/8 NG (Sat.) Hike & Bike Chippewa Nature Center, Midland (Badour Street). 10 a.m. I-75 north to US-10 west to Bus.10. Follow Bus.10 to Poseyville Rd. Turn left on Poseyville Rd., over bridge, to St. Charles Street. Turn right, follow signs 3 miles to CNC. Hike in the morning, lunch at local eatery in Midland. Bike the Pere Marquette Rail Trail (start at Tridge) in the afternoon (in downtown Midland). Up to 40 miles available. Colette Mendel (810) 767-4004.

5/8 HVG Mallet Creek Hike. Come discover the wetlands and flood plans and other natural features of this area. Pace will be leisurely. Bring a tree ID book and come learn about ways to support the protection of this site. Meet at Sheffler Park at 10:30 a.m. Call Jennine Palms at (734) 971-5870 for information.

5/9 SEMG Mothers Day Wildflower Walk. A three-hour stroll in the Holliday

Nature Preserve (Cowan Rd. Entrance) will reveal 21 flower species—with a few surprises. Flower lists are provided. Bring flower field guides, magnifiers, cameras, etc. Meet at 9 a.m. at the north end of the Service Merchandise parking lot (facing the preserve) 1/4 mile west of Wayne Rd., 1/4 Mile north of Warren Ave. in Westland. Leader: Philip Crookshank (313) 562-1873.

5/9 NG (Sun.) Michigan Nature Association Properties Flower & Natural History Hike. 1 p.m. 1-3 miles (2.5 hrs.) US-23 south to Thompson Rd, turn west (right) 1.5 miles to Linden, south (left) 1.5 miles to Lahring, west (right) 3 miles to Seymour Rd., south (left) 1 mile to Rolston Rd., east (left) 1/4 mile to MNA driveway on north side of road. Drive to end of road. No dogs allowed. Sharon Johnson (810) 655-4595.

5/9 TVG Pictured Rocks Mothers Day Hike. Moderately easy 4.6 mile hike with lunch at Chapel Rock on the shore of Lake Superior. Take H-58 to Melstrand, turn north on Chapel Road for 6 miles. Contact Nancy Kressler for more info (906) 452-6465 or (517) 689-4864 (mornings).

5/9 HVG Crosswinds Eagle Hike. Explore one of our newest natural areas and look for nesting bald eagles, and other birds and waterfowl. This will be a leisurely 5-mile hike through Crosswinds Marsh Wetland Interpretive Preserve. Bring bird books and binoculars. Meet at the Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 1 p.m. to carpool. Call Bill Minard at 734-697-3851 for more information.

5/13 TG (Thurs.) Natural History Walk. 6-8 p.m. Participants will enjoy a natural history walk at the 140 acre Kehl Lake natural area with Chris Grobbel of the Leelanau Conservancy. This natural area contains rich diversity and one of the last undeveloped lakes in Leelanau County. Participants are to meet at the parking lot at Kehl Lake. Walk will take place rain or shine. For further information or directions contact Mark at (616) 275-2389 or Jackie at (616) 929-9341.

5/14-5/16 Mackinac Chapter Base Camp in Manistee National Forest. Explore the North Country Trail along the

see *OUTINGS* page 20

OUTINGS

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Manistee River in Wexford County. Contact Ron Killebrew, (734) 429-0671 or Ralph Powell, (734) 971-9013.

5/15 SEMG (Sat.) Raisin River Wilderness Canoe. The headwaters of the Raisin are described as the most wild and "crookedest" in Michigan. A tricky, twisty, but gentle 4-5 hour float through wild forests and an old millpond to downtown Manchester. Some canoe experience necessary. Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Dearborn Civic Center, SW corner of Michigan Ave. and Greenfield (east end of parking lot) in Dearborn. Fee of \$16 must be received by 5/8. Leader: Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125. (313) 562-1873.

5/15 NG (Sat.) Stony Creek Metro Park Nature Trails. Hike. 10 a.m. 4 miles. Take I-69 east to M-53 south to 26 Mile Rd. Go west to park entrance. Follow signs to Nature Center. Metro Park vehicle permit or \$3.00 per vehicle. Restaurant stop. Dick Grooms (810) 724-7812.

5/15 TVG Wildflower Hike. 10 a.m. View wildflowers and mushrooms on this leisurely hike. Meet at Jan Zender-Romicks house (581 E. Olson Rd., Midland). Contact Jan Z-R (631-0755) or Bill Mudgett (835-3454) for details.

5/15 KVG "Afternoon with a Naturalist" Benefit Outing for SW Michigan Land Conservancy. 1 p.m. Naturalist Janet

Farnsworth will lead Sierra Club members and friends on a wild foods hike at Asylum Lake. The hike starts at 1 p.m., will last about 2 hours, and will run rain or shine. The cost is \$10.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for children 17 years and younger. Meet at the Asylum Lake parking area on the east side of Drake Road, just south of Stadium Drive. For more info call Verne & Cindy Mills at (616) 344-4279.

5/16 SEMG Island Lake Hike. We will do a moderately paced 5-mile loop at this great State Park. The hills are gentle, the trails serene. Meet at noon behind the Marathon Station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile R d. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield, or 12:45 at the Riverbend parking lot in Island Lake State Park. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Inge Bricio (248) 557-5865.

5/16 HVG Losee Lake Trail Hike. Come hike this 3+ mile trail within the Pinckney Recreation Area. Bikes are prohibited on this trail. Meet at the Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 1 p.m. Call Milton French at (313) 295-6321.

5/17-5/21 CUP Pictured Rocks Backpacking and Light Service Outing. Help "open" trails while exploring Beaver Basin. Canoe and backpack to campsite on Trappers Lake, with day hiking to nearby sites. Quiet lakeside backcountry camp, with sandy beach nearby. Canoes and personal camping equipment available. Food and group gear provided. Fee: \$40, limit 8 people. Contact: CUPoutings@excite.com, or send SASE to: Dave Bos, 337 E. Crescent, Marquette, MI 49855.

5/22 NG (Sat.) Canoe Flint River. Meet at 10 a.m. at Flushing Riverside Park (downtown). Canoe about 4 hours to Montrose. Reservations required—limited number of canoes. Restaurant stop. Jim Ledtke (517) 624-9195.

5/22 HVG Lost Nations State Game Area Service Trip. Time to do some spring cleaning on this section of the North Country trail about an hour SW of Ann Arbor. Bring a sack lunch and water, gloves, trimming tools and wear boots. Meet in front of the Fox Village Theater (Maple Village Shopping Center) at 9 a.m. Call Kevin Bell at (734) 913-4764.

5/23 SEMG Pointe Pelee Hike. Hike through one of our area's most diverse natural habitats with a wide variety of plants, birds, and animals. Bring binoculars, water, and good hiking boots for a rain or shine walk. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Ontario Information Center on Route 3 (Huron Church Rd.) just 3/4 mile from the bridge in Windsor. Bring border crossing ID. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Mike Scanlon (313) 884-2214.

5/23 NG (Sun.) Paint Creek Trail. Bike trip. 10 a.m. 18 miles. Trailhead in downtown Lake Orion behind parking lot of LS Family Food on M-24, just south of Atwater St. Trail surface is packed gravel, best suited for fat bike tires. Holly Lubowicki (810) 750-6838.

5/28-31 SEMG Lake Hope Memorial Weekend. We will basecamp at this Ohio park, an hour SE of Columbus, and hike some of the 26,000 acre forest nearby. We will explore the fantastic narrow gorges and cliff edge trails at Hocking Hills the second day, and canoe Raccoon Creek. Also nearby are swimming and Kayak or horse rentals. Cost of \$75 covers camping and entrance fees, canoeing, breakfasts, and lunches for 3 days. Suppers at local restaurants not included. Limit 12. Send \$75 by 5/12 to Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125. Leaders: Philip: (313) 562-1873, and Joanne Spatz: (248) 932-5370.

5/28-31 NG Backpack Manistee River Trail & North Country Trail. 32 miles. Start at 9 a.m. at Red Bridge campground. I-75

north to US-10, west to M-115, north to M-55 to M-37 north. West on 30-Mile Rd. to the end. Bear left at curve onto Warfield Rd. South about 1.5 miles to Coates Hwy. Right to Red Bridge campground. Colette Mendel (810) 233-7052.

5/28-5/31 CUP Backpacking: Grangousier Mountain, Lake Superior Provincial Park (Ontario, Canada). Rating: Moderate pace over difficult terrain. Route: 25 km (50 percent off-trail and 50 percent on-trail). Some legs of this journey will require cross-country travel through rugged, thickly forested trail-less terrain. Night bivouacs on Grangousier Mountain as well as along Lake Superior (no campgrounds). This non-smoking trip is suitable for the adventurous, intermediate-level backpacker who enjoys getting off the beaten path in remote areas. You must be fully equipped (including rations and stove), physically fit, and prepared for foul, wet weather. Advanced land navigation skills helpful but not required. Limit 6. \$10 Donation. For trip details, equipment list, and registration form, contact Michael Neiger at 906-226-9620 or via e-mail at mneiger@hotmail.com.

5/29 NG (Sat.) Sleepy Hollow, Laiingsburg (Clinton County). 6 p.m. Moonlight hike. Bring lights. Swartz Creek St. Mary's parking lot just south of I-69 on Morrish Rd. to car pool. State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer (810) 732-9902.

JUNE

6/2 NG (Wed.) Cummings Activity Center. Light hike. 7 p.m. 5 miles. Meet at entrance of Cummings Activity Center, 6130 E. Mt. Morris Rd. (between Genesee & Irish Roads). Restaurant stop after hike. Sue Morris (810) 232-3532.

6/4-7 NG Backpack Shawnee State Forest—"Ohio's Little Smokies." Actual hike starts noon on Friday. 25 miles. 6-7 hours driving time. US-23 south to I-75 south of Toledo. At Findlay take 15 east to US-23 south. At Columbus take 270 east to 71 south to 70 west to US-23 south to Portsmouth. Take 52 west to 125 south. Very hilly-more rugged than the Porkies, possible creek fording necessary. Reservations required. Limit 10. Car pooling: yes. Colette Mendel (810) 233-7052.

6/4-6 HVG Annual AuSable River Canoe Trip. Canoe downstream both days and camp at the same spot both nights for a relaxing weekend on this beautiful river. A good trip

continued on next page

OUTINGS*continued from page 20*

for the beginner. Call Joan Paskewitz at (734) 428-0087.

6/5 TG (Sat.) National Trail Day. We will be helping to build an aviary viewing platform at the Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve. The aviary platform would provide visitors to the Nature Reserve with an opportunity to view wildlife while at the same time protecting the environment. For further information contact Mark at (616) 275-2389 or Jackie at (616) 929-9341.

6/5 SEMG (Sat.) Evening Picnic & Moonlight Hike. Bring your own entrée to cook, a beverage, and a dish to pass. Your leader will provide a grille fire to roast your hotdog or tofu tube on. After a leisurely meal and conversation, we will go for a 4-mile hike, leaving at dusk and returning when the moon is high (10 p.m.). Bring a flashlight, and meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Proud Lake State Park parking lot off Wixom Rd., 8 Miles North of Rte. 96 (exit 159). Leader: Philip Crookshank (313) 562-1873.

6/5 HVG Oak Openings Hike. Join us for a leisurely 5-6 mile hike amongst an oak savannah ecosystem. Meet at Briarwood Mall at JCPenny's parking lot at 11 a.m. to carpool. Call Kevin Bell at (734) 913-4764 or Ron Killebrew at (734) 249-0671 for information.

6/6 SEMG Waterloo Green Lake Hike & Eat. We will hike the 6 miles of beautiful trail starting at the Geology center and ending up with a cookout at Green Lake. Leaders will provide food and we will share costs (\$4 each). Wear sturdy shoes and bring eating utensils. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind the 'Oil Dispatch', SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Leaders: Gloria Scicli (248) 642-3069, Lydia Fischer (313) 863-8392.

6/9 NG (Wed.) Hadley Hills Lookout Mt. Hike. 9 a.m. 6-7 miles. Take M-15 one mile south of Goodrich to Green Rd. East on Green Rd. 2 miles to Washburn Rd. South on Washburn less than 1 mile to Fox Lake Rd. East on Fox Lake about 0.5 miles. Trailhead on north across from "ranch." State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Cindy Engelmann (810) 743-0335.

6/11-13 NG Nordhouse Dunes Car Camping. 2 p.m. Camp at Lake Michigan Recreation Area north of Ludington in the dunes. Campsite details to be determined. Day hikes, bike trails, beautiful sunsets, lots to explore. Reservations needed by June 4. US-31 north 11.5 miles from its junction with US-10 at Scottville. Left on Forest Trail 5629 for 8

miles. Kathy Dockter (810) 767-6405 and Jean Gaffney (810) 236-1721.

6/12 TVG (Sat.) Potluck. 6pm. Bring a dish to pass. Kendziorski's house, 4209 Linden Dr. Midland. Contact Craig or Janis (631-5170) to coordinate food.

6/12-6/18 WMG Hike the North Country Trail from White Cloud to Seaton Creek in the Manistee National Forest. We'll be spotting cars daily, so backpacking in not a necessity unless you so choose. Call Elaine Goodspeed for more information at (616) 364-4704.

6/13 SEMG Proud Lake Day Hike. We will explore a different area of Proud Lake as we ramble along the little used trails west of Wixom Road. Meet at 11 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Liz Allingham (313) 581-7579.

6/13 HVG Maybury State Park Hike. An easy warm weather hike across open fields and hardwood forest. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 1 p.m. to carpool. Call Milton French at (313) 295-6321 for information.

6/19 NG (Sat.) Grand Ledge, Fitzgerald Park & Lincoln Brick Park. Hike. 8:30 a.m. 5-6 miles. Will provide map at meeting place at St. Mary's Church on Morris Rd. in Swartz Creek. There is a parking fee if we park inside the park. Restaurant stop. Carpooling. CJ Stanford (810) 743-4305.

6/20 SEMG Maybury Walk and Look. We will walk about 5 miles in this great little State Park and keep our eyes open for early summer wildflowers. The gentle terrain has a bit of everything: hills, meadows, woods, and streams. Bring flower guides, etc., and meet at 9:30 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield, or 10:15 at the concession building lot (8 Mile Rd. entrance, 3 miles west of Northville). Restaurant stop after. Leader: Joanne Spatz (248) 932-5370.

6/20 HVG Lower Huron Bike Ride. Cycle 25 miles through 3 Metroparks along the Huron River. Last summer the final leg of this bike trail was completed, creating a 12 mile bike-hike trail. Appropriate for all bikes. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot. Call Bill Minard at (734) 697-3851 for information.

6/21-28 NG Isle Royale. Backpack 40 miles. Must have previous backpacking experience. Reservations by March 1. Limit 10. Car pooling: yes. Denny Crispell (517) 624-

5038.

6/26 SEMG (Sat.) Upper Huron Day Canoe. We will cruise down the Huron River, on Proud Lake, and back up the river on this easy all day excursion. We will rest, and eat lunch at the park beach. This is a great trip for beginners and some instructions, as needed, will be given. Cost of \$15 rental per person is due by 6/17 to Don Dahlin, 3556 Tothill, Troy, MI 48084. Kayaks available for additional \$10. Bring lunch and beverage, and meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Leader: Don Dahlin (248) 644-2746 (after 6).

6/26 NG (Sat.) Elba Equestrian Complex hike. 10 a.m. 4-5 miles. Meet at Elba Equestrian Complex sign on west side of Elba Rd. 4-5 miles north of I-69 and 1 mile south of Coldwater Rd. Sack lunch. Paula & Bonnie (810) 767-8326.

6/27 SEMG Kensington Nature Exploration. We will hike 2 hours in this Metro Park, looking for summer birds and other diversions. Perhaps we will see a sandhill crane, as we circle Wild Wing Lake, follow the chickadee and fox trails, and natural areas. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Parks' Nature Center (Rte. 96, exit 151, through the park's west entrance). Leaders: Ken and Stephanie Jacobsen (248) 684-8844.

6/27 HVG Bird Hills Hike. Hike the hills of Bird Hills Park in Ann Arbor while enjoying the shade of woodlands during the summer. Meet at the Newport Road entrance at 11 a.m. Call Kathy Guerreso for information at (734) 994-7183.

JULY

7/3 NG (Sat.) Crim Hike. Urban hike. 10 a.m. 10 miles. Meet in parking lot on Bradley Street across from the Sunset Village Apartments located at the corner of Sunset Ave. and Bradley Ave., Flint. Shuttleing will be available for those who wish to hike 5 miles. Restaurant stop at the 5 mile mark. Mike Haley (810) 686-6354.

7/5-7/16 NG Glacier National Park, Montana. Three 3-day hikes. Some backpacking & some day hiking. Plan on additional traveling time, depending on how you plan to get to the park. Make reservations for lodges by 1/1/99 (6 months in advance) and for camping by 4/1/99. Informational meeting 4/1/99. Jim Ledtke (517) 624-9195.

7/10 NG (Sat.) Mason Tract Pathway Hike. 10 a.m. 11.5 miles. I-75 north to exit

see OUTINGS page 22

OUTINGS*continued from page 21*

239, Roscommon. East on M-18 6 miles to Chase Bridge Rd. North 9 miles to M-72. East 3 miles to Mason Tract Pathway parking lot. Lot is on south side of road and marked with brown DNR signs. Trail follows north branch of AuSable. State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Carpooling from Clio Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m.. Mike Ugorowski (810) 235-7365.

7/11 SEMG Stalk the Wild Chanterelles. Join the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club on a two hour hunt for shrooms, then a potluck following where we will sauté the found treasures. Bring paper bags or basket for gathering the woodsy loot, water, hat, whistle and a potluck dish to pass for the feast afterwards. Optional swimming after. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Highland Rec. Area Goose Meadows picnic shelter, follow signs from the park entrance on M-59, 3.5 miles east of Milford Rd. or 11 miles west of Telegraph. Leader: Ann Putti (313) 533-5519

7/11 NG (Sun.) Ligon Outdoor Center Picnic. 1-6 p.m. 5213 E. Farrand Rd., Clio. Summer picnic takes place of July membership meeting. Denny Crispell (517) 624-5038.

7/11 HVG Barton Park to Silver Lake Ride and Swim. Come enjoy the ride and then a refreshing plunge into the Lake. Meet

at the Barton Park parking lot at 12 noon. Bring a snack and swimsuit. Call Milton French at (313) 295-6321.

7/17 SEMG (Saturday) Newburgh Lake Circled. A 6 mile walk that will circle the edges of the NEW lake. The lake was drained, excavated, contoured for fish and plant habitat, and is now growing back. This will be a “naturalist walk”—pausing to identify plants blooming, animals scurrying, and birds singing. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Newburgh Point Nature Area in Livonia—on Hines Drive between Newburgh Road and I-275. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Max Nemazi (734) 421-4397.

7/18 SEMG Sleepy Hollow State Park. This is one of the newest Sierra hikes-NE of Lansing-has variegated terrain, woods, open fields, and a lake for a pleasant 5-6 mile hike. This will be a fairly level, but interesting, hike- dress for the weather. Meet at 10 a.m. in the shopping center parking lot behind McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) just North of Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Leader: John Kalam (248) 681-9160.

7/18 HVG Pickerel Lake Hike and Swim. Wear your suit (no changing area) and refresh yourself after the Art Fair. Meet at the Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 12 noon. Call Ron Killebrew at (313) 734-0671 for information.

7/20 NG (Tues.) Richfield Park. Hike. 10 a.m. 4 miles. 6550 N. Irish Rd., Davison. About 6 miles north of I-69. Park behind BMX buildings at park entrance. Restaurant stop. Cindy Engelmann (810) 743-0335.

7/23-25 NG Canoe/Hike Trip. Wilderness canoe trip/hike from cabin base camp with swimming, fishing, and campfire. Cabin sleeps 12. Tent camping in yard. Limit 25. Mackinaw County, UP. Bring your own canoe. Cook meals in cabin, bring own food. Jim Blanton (810) 230-8705.

7/24-8/1 NG Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina. Backpacking. Plan on 1 additional day driving each way. Day hikes on Sunday. Linville Gorge-2 nights, 3 days on Monday-Wednesday—the rest to be determined. (“May be the most rugged, lung-buster hike in the East” according to 10/98 Backpacker Magazine). Call for directions. Reservations needed. Limit 10. Car pooling: yes. Colette Mendel (810) 233-7052.

7/24 HVG Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup. Come help pick up trash from our 2 mile section of M-14 as part of this Michigan DOT program. Meet at the Big Boy on the north side of Plymouth Road between US-23 and Green Road in Ann Arbor at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, or 9:15 a.m. to carpool. We expect to be finished around noon. Call Sue Stickel at (734) 485-0948 for information.

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OUTINGS

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7/25 SEMG Huron River Canoe. We will do the upper Huron, from Island Lake State Park below the dam, to see the river critters, birds and flora along the way. Some canoe experience necessary. Canoe cost of \$16 must be received by July 11. Send to Lee Becker, 32856 Harmon Dr., Roseville, MI 48066. Meet at 10 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Bring river lunch, dry clothes, etc. Leader: Lee Becker (810) 294-7789.

7/28 NG (Wed.) Wildwood & Valley Lakes (Holly). 6:30 p.m. 2 miles. Meet at Scenic Overlook, Holly Recreation Area then climb Mt. Holly to watch sunset & full moon rise if permission available. State Park vehicle permit required. BYO snacks & beverages. Sue Morris (810) 232-3532.

7/31-8/1 SEMG Overnight Campout. (Saturday) Close-by campout at Green Lake, in Waterloo Recreation area, NW of Chelsea. We will set up camp at this rustic spot Saturday, hike in the afternoon, an evening cook-out supper, camp overnight, and hike a different trail Sunday morning before breaking camp. The \$30 fee includes camping fees, trail lunches Saturday and Sunday, Saturday camp dinner, snacks and Sunday breakfast (but don't expect eggs Benedict!). \$30 trip fee due by July 20 to Joanne Spatz, 29640 Middlebelt Rd. #2604, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Limit 10. Co-leaders: Joanne (248)-932-5370 and Liz Allingham, (313) 581-7579. See 8/1 write-up for directions to camp area.

7/31 NG (Sat.) Seven Ponds Nature Center, Dryden. 10 a.m. Trail maintenance service hike. Bring brush cutters & a smile. I-69 to M-24. South on M-24 about 5.5 miles. East on Dryden Rd. 6 miles to Caulkins Rd. South 1.5 miles to 3854 Crawford Rd. Lunch and beverage provided. Bonnie Reno, Paula LaFountain, Annette Northrop (810) 724-2077.

7/31-8/1 HVG Lake Hudson Recreation Area Bushwhack Hike. Camp overnight or come for a day to explore the area for potential trail building. Early morning departure. Call Ralph Powell at (734) 971-9013 or Kevin Bell at (734) 913-4764 for details.

Check out some great August Outings on the Mackinac Chapter website: www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mi

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Mike Keeler..... 810-767-9904

**NEXT DEADLINE:
JULY 8**

Send your Group Meetings and Outings to:
Bob Volz, Mackinac Calendar Editor
414 Sleepy Hollow Dr.
Flushing, MI 48433
<hvolz@gfn.org>

Submit articles & photos to:
Davina Pallone
754 E 300 S No.2
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
phone: 801-961-9939
<deeni@bigfoot.com>



Central Upper Peninsula Group Trip backpackers Colette Mendel, Jess Harding, Linda De Kock, Gary De Kock (photographer), and Michael Neiger (not pictured) "check-in" at a first come, first serve remote log cabin overlooking the Sturgeon River Valley in the Pigeon River State Forest's Green Timbers Tract. Before a March snowstorm moved in, they enjoyed a spectacular night sky and the periodic howling of a pack of coyotes in the valley below.

PHOTO BY GARY DE KOCK, COURTESY MICHAEL NEIGER

1999 MACKINAC CHAPTER CALENDAR: MAJOR DATES

May 11.....	Steering Committee Meeting: Lansing
June 8.....	Steering Committee Meeting: Lansing
July 10 - 11.....	Executive Committee Meeting; Conservation Committee Meeting: Ossineke State Forest Campground
September 18-19.....	Autumn Retreat, Camp Miniwanca
October 9.....	Executive Committee Meeting, Ann Arbor

WHAT DOES THE SIERRA CLUB WORK TO DO?

To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SIERRA CLUB, 300 N. Washington Sq., Lansing, MI 48933