Crossroads Group Sierra Club



FALL 2018

Elections 2018-2019 - Crossroads Group Executive Committee Members

Once again, the time has come to elect our Crossroads leaders to carry us through the next 2 years. This will complete our roster of 8 Executive Committee members.

Please read the candidate statements on page 2 and use the enclosed ballot to vote for up to 5 candidates. The second column is for use by those with joint membership. Ballots must be returned by December 1, 2018.

Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee 2018 Official Ballot

	Member	Family Membersi	пр
Lee Burton			
Terry Gannon			
Sarah Keith			
Mary Novrocki			
Cathy Sayre			
Please: 1. Vote for up to five people (their statements are page 2). 2. Cut off the ballot. 3 Place the ballot in an envelope. 4. Write your membership number (from address label) on the outside of the envelope. 5. Mail the ballot to: Sierra Club Crossroads Group P.O. Box 306 Brighton MI 48116			

Executive Committee Chairs

Chairperson: Lee Burton

Lee.Burton@michigan.sierraclub.org

Vice Chairperson: Sue Kelly

cg.vicechair@michigan.sierraclub.org

Treasurer: Julie Griess

cg.treasurer@michigan.sierraclub.org

Secretary: Julie Griess

cg.secretary@michigan.sierraclub.org

Chapter Group Representative:

Penny Goldstein

cg.grouprep@michigan.sierraclub.org

Fundraising: Paul Thielking, Paula Gruszka, Paul. Thielking@michigan.sierraclub.org

Media: Paula Gruszka

cg.media@michigan.sierraclub.org

Membership: Cathy Sayre

cg.membership@michigan.sierraclub.org

Newsletter: Terry Gannon cg.pubs@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings:

crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political: Kate DeRosier, Matt Mercure cg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org

Programs: Mary Novrocki

cg.programs@michigan.sierraclub.org

Webmaster: Laurie Mercure

cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org

Conservation: Sue Kelly, Ron Kardos cg.conservation@michigan.sierraclub.org

VISIT US AT:

www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads facebook.com/Crossroads.Group.Sierra.Club meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group



Sierra Club Crossroads Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements

(see ballot on page 1)

Lee Burton

All of my life I have enjoyed the outdoors, from wilderness traveling to exploring my own backyard. As someone who loves nature, I feel a responsibility to do my share to help protect and preserve our environment. One way to do this is by serving as a leader in the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club. For several years I have served as group chair. By maintaining my position on the executive committee I can continue to take part in a strong and committed leadership team.

Terry Gannon

I have an interest in the environment, outdoor activities, and a fascination and wonder at the complexities of nature. I also bring a deep concern about the ongoing environmental degradation this locality, this country and our world faces, and a determination to do my part to decrease that degradation. I am currently one of two editors of our Crossroads Newsletter.

Sarah Keith

I am a retired Ann Arbor public school teacher who has lived in Hamburg Twp for 25 years. My hobbies include biking, hiking, kayaking, bird watching and reading. We moved up here because we loved the outdoors and nature. The beauty out our front door never fails to amaze me.

When I retired in 2016, it became clear that I needed to join people who were committed to protecting the environment. I found my people when I joined Crossroads. Thank you for considering my candidacy for a position on our executive committee.

Mary Novrocki

I am an avid natural habitat gardener, a birdwatcher, and a longtime supporting member of the Sierra Club. As a child, I was a passionate protector of everything living. This has guided my actions ever since. I believe that all species and habitats must be protected. I believe that 100% sustainable energy use is an achievable and necessary path to ending the climate change crisis. I believe that our environmental justice policy must guarantee the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens for all living things. Finally, it is my hope that our country, this United States of America, will become unified within itself - and with the world – to stop the Earth's destruction.

Cathy Sayre

I am fairly new to Sierra Club. I became a monthly donor online shortly after November 2016. After I received an email request for Lobby Day volunteers, I decided I wanted to help out and be with like-minded individuals. This is when I was made aware of a local Sierra Club group - Crossroads - through Lee Burton. I am happy to be a member of this energetic, well-informed, organized group. I have since attended a second Lobby Day and am currently serving as the Membership Chair for Crossroads. I would be honored to help further if chosen to be a member of the Executive Committee.

Sierra Club Endorses Two Statewide Ballot Proposals

VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS grassroots organization proposes to end gerrymandering in Michigan by ballot initiative. Proposal 2 takes redistricting out of politicians' hands and ends conflicts of interest that intensify when politicians have the power to choose their voters by redrawing district lines. Proposal 2 amends the Michigan Constitution to establish an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to take charge of drawing the lines. The proposed 13-member Commission with representation from across the state is made up of 8 voters split evenly between the top two parties and 5 voters who affiliate with neither party. With the 2020 census looming, the ballot outcome will be pivotal.

Citing Article 1, Sec. 1 of the Constitution of Michigan of 1963 ("All political power is inherent in the people."), the Michigan Supreme Court, in a 4-3 split, upheld allowing the proposal on the ballot for Michigan voters to decide. However, it's likely that the Michigan Chamber of Commerce will continue efforts to thwart the proposal. For ballot language and more details, see www.votersnotpoliticians.com

Sierra Club endorses a YES on Proposal 2 to establish an INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.

PROMOTE THE VOTE is a coalition of individuals and nonprofit organizations working to safeguard voters' rights by amendment to the Michigan Constitution. More than 430,000 signatures were delivered to the state on July 9 and the Board of Canvassers has 60 days to certify. The amendment would "Protect the right to vote a secret ballot, Ensure military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time for their votes to count, Provide voters with the option to vote straight party, Automatically register citizens to vote at the Secretary of State's office unless the citizen declines, Allow a citizen to register to vote anytime with proof of residency, Provide all registered voters access to an absentee ballot for any reason, and Ensure the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results" (promotethevotemi.com) .

➤ Sierra Club endorses PROMOTE THE VOTE ballot initiative

Sierra Club Candidate Endorsements

After reviewing candidates' positions on environmental concerns and social justice issues, candidates across the state received Sierra Club endorsements. A complete list of endorsements is available through our website; see Issues > Political. SC-endorsed candidates in districts with a significant number of Crossroads members:

Governor: Gretchen Whitmer US Senate: Debbie Stabenow

US Congress: Elissa Slotkin (8th); Haley Stevens (11th)

State Senate: Adam Dreher (22nd District); **Julia Pulver** (15th); **Phil Phelps** (32nd);

Rosemary Bayer (12th); **Renee Watson** (14th)

State House: Mona Shand (42nd); Colleen Turk (47th); Laura Dodd (44th); David Lossing (51st);

Kelly Breen (38th); Jenny Suidan (39th); Donna Lasinski (52nd)

For the latest information about endorsements and ballot proposals, see the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter website.

Crossroads Group Outings

Outings are subject to weather conditions. To check for cancellations or changes, or to find out more information about any outing, see our website (www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads) or Meetup page (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group) or contact us at crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org.

All outings are open to Sierra Club members and non-members. Bring water and snacks.

** Please arrive 15 minutes early for sign in, outings will start promptly at the stated time

Yoga on the Beach - Island Lake Recreation Area - Saturday September 15, 9 AM**

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton;

meet near the Kent Lake beach bath/shelter building (go straight past toll booth, 1st lot on left, east side of lot)

Skill Level: beginner to advanced; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: \$5, plus requires state park entry fee or passport.

Join us for yoga on the beach. Welcome your day with relaxing poses, stretches and meditation. Bring your own mat (and optional towel to put under mat). All levels welcome. Led by an experienced yoga instructor.

Kensington Metropark Nature Hike - Sunday September 16, 10 AM**

Location: Kensington Metropark, park entrance is off Kensington Rd just north of I-96, Brighton; meet at the Nature Center **Skill Level**: beginner; **Difficulty**: easy; **Cost:** free, but requires Metropark entry fee

This will be a 2 to 3 mile slower-paced nature hike around Wildwing Lake and other trails.

National Public Lands Service Day - Kensington/Island Lake - Saturday September 29, 10AM-1 PM

The Friends of Island Lake are partnering with REI and Kensington Metropark to host a large National Public Lands service day. There will be work projects throughout both Kensington and Island Lake Recreation Area, and REI-sponsored lunch after. Registration required. See our website for meeting location, project details, and registration information.

Lakeland Trails Bike Ride - Sunday September 30, 1 PM**

Location: Parking lot is across the street from Hamburg Pub, 10668 Hamburg Rd, Hamburg

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free

Join us for a ride on the Lakeland Trail. We will ride from Hamburg to Pinckney and back, about 20 miles total (or you can turn around anytime for a shorter ride). This scenic trail is paved and partly shaded. Helmet required.

Fall Canoe / Kayak Paddle on the Huron River - Sunday October 7, 10 AM **

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton; meet at the boat launch area (Kent Lake beach parking lot) **Skill Level**: medium to experienced; **Difficulty**: moderate to difficult;

Cost: Optional boat rental/return transport fees listed below, plus state park entry fee or passport

Join us for an 11-mile paddle (4 to 6 hours) from Island Lake State Park to Huron Meadows Metropark, or a 5.4-mile paddle (2 to 3 hours) to the Placeway Road takeout area.

By special arrangement, Heavner canoe/kayak rental is \$43 for the longer trip or \$37 for the shorter trip. Return transport for people not renting boats is \$5. Boat rental and transport to be paid to the trip leader. Deadline for payment is September 30.

Bring your own lunch. We will stop at Placeway for lunch and a break (and stopping point for those doing the shorter trip).

NOTE: The longer paddle to Huron Meadows is not a beginning paddle due to the uncertain condition of the river. The possibility of cold weather and of downed trees blocking the river adds significant risk. Life jackets and extra non-cotton clothes in a sealed, waterproof bag are required. See our website for payment information and more details.

Yoga on the Beach - Island Lake Recreation Area - Saturday October 13, 10 AM**

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton; meet at Spring Mill Pond near the shelter/bath area (turn right after toll booth, go 2.7 miles, left at sign for Spring Mill Pond) GPS 42.4882 -83.7231

Skill Level: beginner to advanced; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: \$5, plus requires state park entry fee or passport.

Join us for yoga on the beach. Welcome your day with relaxing poses, stretches and meditation. Bring your own mat (and optional towel to put under mat). All levels welcome. Led by an experienced yoga instructor.

Brighton Recreation Area Fall Color Hike - Saturday October 20, 1 PM**

Location: Bishop Lake trailhead parking lot, Howell;

From the intersection of Bishop Lake Rd and Chilson Rd in Howell, go east on Bishop Lake Rd 1.4 miles, turn right at Bishop Lake Complex sign then quick right after toll booth into trailhead parking lot. GPS: 42.501, -83.835

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for an afternoon hike to enjoy the beautiful fall colors on the Penosha Trail (5 miles) or the Kahchin trail (2 miles). The Penosha Trail was voted one of the "Most Scenic Hiking Trails in Michigan" by Pure Michigan!

Silent Hike - Ann Arbor Saginaw Forest - Sunday October 28, 1 PM**

Location: Meet at parking lot for 242 Community Church: 648 S Wagner Road, Ann Arbor. Saginaw Forest entrance is next to the church. Note that parking is not permitted in front of the access gate for Saginaw Forest.

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy for some, hard for others (the silence part); Cost: free.

Join us for a contemplative COMPLETELY SILENT 2 to 3 mile hike. No phones allowed. No dogs allowed. No talking. No ear buds. No cameras. Unplug & recharge yourself! Rediscover peace! The hike will be at a slow pace and last about one and a half hours. We will pause a few times to soak in views of the pine stands and Third Sister Lake, but we will not talk when we do so.

Kayaking/Canoeing for Cranes at Deerfield Hills - Saturday November 3, 4:30 PM

Location: Deerfield Hills Nature Area, Green Rd & Cohoctah Rd, Fenton; meet in the parking lot. GPS: 42.764, -83.824

Skill Level: some experience; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free

A kayak/canoe outing to view close-up migration of Sandhill cranes. Join us for an evening of viewing these magnificent birds as they gather to their migration staging area on islands in Bennett Lake, in preparation for their 1,000-mile southward journey.

No boat rentals are available, must bring your own. Also bring binoculars, warm clothes, and snacks.

Annual Winter Ducks Outing at Kensington Metropark - Sunday November 18, 1 PM

Location: Kensington Metropark, park entrance is off Kensington Rd just north of I-96, Brighton;

Meet at the Nature Center parking lot

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Join the Huron Valley Audubon Society to witness one of nature's amazing shows - the migration of ducks, geese and other wildfowl heading south for the winter. Bring binoculars or viewing scope.

Black Friday "OptOutside Hike" at Island Lake Recreation Area - Friday November 23, 1 PM**

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton;

meet in the Kent Lake parking lot (go straight past toll booth, 1st lot on left) near the boat launch area (west side)

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Avoid the malls and #OptOutside(REI) on Black Friday with the Friends of Island Lake and Crossroads!

This is a 5-mile hike (shorter options available) on the hikers-only Hickory Ridge trail.

Pinckney Recreation Area Hike - Saturday December 1, 1 PM**

Location: Pinckney Recreation Area, 8555 Silver Hill Rd., Pinckney; meet at the trailhead parking lot for the Silver Lake,

Potawatomi, and Crooked Lake trails. GPS coordinates: 42.4169, -83.9642

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for a hike on the Crooked Lake Trail (5 miles) or the Silver Lake Trail (2 miles). These trails are part of Michigan's premier trail systems, passing by glacial moraines, kettle lakes, and swampy lowlands.

Indian Springs Metropark Hike -Saturday December 15, 1 PM**

Location: 5175 Indian Trail, White Lake; meet at the Environmental Discovery Center lot. GPS: 42.7063, -83.4842

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Join us for a 3 to 5 mile hike on various nature trails. These trails meander through wet woodlands, meadows and fields, and by one of the last great natural areas in Southeast Michigan known as the Huron Swamp, where the Huron River originates.

Huron Meadows Metropark Ski Outing/hike if no snow - Sunday December 30, 1 PM**

Location: Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton; meet at the Ski/Golf Center

Skill Level: novices to advanced; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Celebrate the New Year early with an afternoon cross country ski outing. Ski and boot rental available. Enjoy miles of groomed trails both on the golf course and through the woods. Heated warming shelter and indoor bathrooms available. We will ski on shorter and longer distance trails depending on experience levels. We will hike if there is no snow.

Annual Owl Walk and Potluck Dinner - Saturday January 5, 5 PM

Location: Home of Lee and Roberta, Brighton

Difficulty: easy; Cost: free

A fascinating way to spend a winter evening in Michigan, hosted by our Crossroads Sierra Club leader Lee and his wife Roberta at their home in Brighton. We will begin with a potluck dinner and drinks and an introduction to owls and owl calls. At about 7:00 we will venture into Brighton Recreation Area - just a short walk from the house - and call for screech owls and great horned owls, both of which will be nesting at the time. Bring a flashlight, a dish to share, something to drink and warm clothes. Your hosts will provide cider, juice, books about owls and the warmth of a wood fire. For more information and directions see our website or contact Lee at 810-231-9045 or lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org.

See our website www.sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads for additional outings including events sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Line 5 Fate to Be Decided Soon, How to Take Action

Governor Snyder has said that he will make a decision by the end of September regarding the fate of Line 5, the pipeline that crosses under the water at the Straits of Mackinac and travels through Michigan before returning to Canada with most of its 22,500,000 gallons of daily oil flow. Increasingly there is talk of replacing the 65 year old, failing pipeline with a new line in a tunnel. However, this option has not faced true environmental scrutiny, would violate treaty rights, and would still be in the "worst place in the Great Lakes to have an oil spill" because the water flow through the Straits is 10 x what goes through Niagara Falls - and it reverses direction every few days. This means that oil spilled could quickly transform our Pure Michigan into Putrid Michigan.

Recently there have been a couple of studies showing the enormity of the risk Line 5 poses to the largest lake in the world by surface area (the combined Michigan-Huron water system). The most recent was led by Dr. Guy Meadows and over a dozen scientists from all over the state. Their more conservative "worst-case spill" would release 2,436,000 gallons of oil into the Straits, and impact 441 miles of shoreline. The best case cleanup scenario is 40% surface oil recovery. The executive summary and full draft report are at https://mipetroleumpipelines.com/document/risk-analysis-straits-pipelines. The final report will be released Sept. 15, 2018.

The good news is that increasing public pressure is bringing Line 5 into the spotlight in this very political season where votes really matter. We need to keep mounting the pressure until it results in action. Either Attorney General Schuette or Governor Snyder could revoke the easement which allows Line 5 to operate with a *single signature*. They get weekly summaries as to the number of people who call and why. So please call to say "Immediately end the risk Line 5 poses by completely decommissioning it. No tunnel!", and talking to every political candidate you can about Line 5.

Attorney General (517) 373-1110 and Governor (517) 373-3400.

Terri Wilkerson is a new member to our group. She posts the latest news on Line 5 on her Retire Line 5 Facebook page. You needn't be a Facebook user to access it.

Livingston County Master Plan

The Livingston County Planning Department and the Planning Staff with input from the local units of government recently released their draft 2018 plan. Comments on the plan are due on September 6, 2018.

The Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club saw a need to respond to the Master Plan and to review the 224 page document. We chose to acknowledge the diligent work that was put into the plan and point out where we saw positive impacts to the county residents and the environment. There were however areas that were either weak or entirely omitted so we also commented on Land Management, Parks and Land Preservation, Alternative Energy, Hazard mitigation, and Agriculture and Rural Development.

We encourage the County and Planning Commissions to create a County Environmental Advisory Board tasked with reviewing environmental impacts of future developments and, when needed, assisting the townships with their environmental impact statements. This Board would support implementation of Best Practices and bring specific focus to environmental concerns.

Equally important, we believe that County Commissioners and elected leaders from the 20 local governments must be informed decision-makers if they are to be able to make the best final decisions.

The link to the Master Plan is at: https://www.livgov.com/plan/Pages/2015-16 County Master Plan.aspx

What are PFAS chemicals and have we been exposed?

PFAS or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances have been found in the Huron River watershed in our area calling for additional testing and immediate warnings about eating fish caught in those waters. Although this contamination has been found in many areas in the state, with the recent discovery of the toxin in local fish we now know that Oakland, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties have been affected as well. The source is unknown at this time.

PFAS are substances used in fire suppression, stain and grease repellants, and other industrial uses. Exposure has been linked to low infant birth weights, cancer, thyroid disorders, and adverse effects on the immune system. They are odorless and accumulate over time in the body.

We will be following this developing issue closely and will make every attempt to update our website with the most current information.

From MLive: https://www.mlive.com/expo/news/erry-2018/07/00699c24a57658/michigan_pfas_sites.html

Crossroads Group Programs

Crossroads Group Sierra Club presents these programs at the Brighton District Library Free Admission

Politics of the Environment

Wednesday September 19, 7:00 PM

By Richard Barron & Mike Berkowitz of Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter.

Find out what the Michigan legislature has been up to in regards to our environmental issues, what the 2018 election is going to look like, how the political races in our area are shaping up, and how it will impact us and the environment.



Climate Change in the Great Lakes: Challenges and Opportunities

Wednesday November14, 7:00 PM

A Program by Kris Olsson: Participant in Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Program

In the face of rising temperatures, intense storms (and other weird weather), and rising sea levels, Earth's population is facing some daunting challenges in dealing with a changing climate. Our presenter, Kris Olsson, watershed ecologist at the Huron River Watershed Council, will talk about climate change and how we can move Michigan towards a sustainable future through solar, wind, and energy conservation.



Preparing for November 6: Informative Public Programs

See "Politics of the Environment" above, plus these programs co-sponsored by the Brighton/Howell League of Women Voters:

Sept 21, 7PM, Historic Howell Theater. The Bridge Truth Tour: a screening of the documentary "Michigan Divided" with a follow-up discussion. Bridge spent the past year chronicling the lives of Michigan voters across the political spectrum. From the Upper Peninsula, to Lansing, to Flint, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Jackson, the resulting, hour-long "Michigan Divided" documentary captures our deeply divided culture, but also brings partisans together and illustrates how, at heart, there are also some values that are shared. 315 E Grand River Ave. Howell 48843

Oct 9, 6-8 PM, Howell Carnegie Library. "What's on Your Ballot? 2018 State Ballot Proposals: Pro and Con." A guest speaker will review proposals, including **Proposal 1: Marijuana Legalization Initiative** and **Proposal 2: Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Initiative.** Several other proposals may be discussed. 314 W. Grand River Ave., Howell 48843

Oct 18, 6:30-9:30 PM, Hartland Education Services Center. General Election Candidate Forum & Debate in the auditorium of the old Hartland High School. Candidates to the 8th Congressional District and candidates for State Senate District 22 and State House Districts 42 and 47 have been invited to participate. 9525 Highland Rd. Doors will open at 6 PM.



Sierra Club—Crossroads Group P.O. Box 306 Brighton, MI 48116

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