



Vol. 32 No.4 Fall 2010



Grand Island Trip—August 2-6, 2010

Grand Island is a National Recreation Area managed by the U.S. Forest Service. It lies in Lake Superior, just off the coast of Munising and Pictured Rocks. It has a mixture of high cliffs and sandy beaches similar to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. This past August, the Huron Valley Group took a 5-day backpack trip on the island. Below is Ed Steinman's report on the trip.

Four of us went on the Grand Island trip led by Nancy Shiffler, a very well-organized leader and, more importantly I'd argue, a very good camp cook.

It was very hot in southern Michigan and I dreamed of the cool U.P. temperatures and the quiet of camping. Unfortunately it was just as hot in the U.P., and to top it off, along with high humidity, it was also raining lightly as we hiked the four miles with 35-lb. packs from the ferry dock to the campground. Did I mention it was uphill? But that made arriving at the campground all the more a happy event along with an added sense of accomplishment. I also badly needed the exercise. It also made the already good camp dinner taste like a gourmet meal.

It was still hot the second day, but the short walk to the beach on the west side of the island and a long dip in Lake Superior were a soothing finish to that day's hike. The west side beach is a very nice sandy beach with smooth pebbles in the water in some areas and a smooth sandstone shelf otherwise - almost like

the bottom of a pool but much prettier with swirls of different colors. The water was refreshing but not as cold as Lake Superior can sometimes be.

On the third day we moved to Murray Bay campground on the south side of the island. Munising can be seen across the bay. By now it was a little cooler and moving to a new campsite wasn't as exhausting. We had left the beer in the car at the ferry dock on the Munising side. We could see the dock from the beach and had a plan to swim the 1/2 mile or so across to get the beer, with an air mattress as a beer barge, but the plan was never implemented.

Ken Morley took a walk in the old nearby

By
Ed Steinman with
Introduction by
Nancy Shiffler

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Grand Island continued from page 1



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cemetery and came upon a surprise - one of about 10 black bears that live on the island. He didn't stay long after that. Speaking of bears, the rangers there are very serious about keeping a clean campsite and putting everything with an odor in a bear box. The rangers walk through the campsites regularly to check. [prob. the bears do too]

The Murray Bay beach is large and all sand - also a very pretty and comfortable beach. We had hiked up to the north side of the island the previous day - the beach there was equally nice, so Grand Island is a good place for beach lounging and swimming as well as hiking.

From Murray Bay we hiked to Trout Bay across a tombolo (a kind of sand bar), the site of another beautiful beach. From there you look northward across Lake Superior. It was windy with white caps that day and a couple of boaters had to wait until the wind died down before moving on.

After breakfast on Friday it was two miles to the dock to catch the 11 am ferry - the end of a fun and memorable time on Grand Island.

SFTE Updates

Please help reduce the inventory of these *Shopping for the Earth* cards:

Ann Arbor Brewing, \$25

Border's Books & Music, \$25

Busch's, \$25, reloadable

Hiller's, \$50, reloadable

Order them using the order form on page 12.

You can now order, pay for, and print eCards, and use them within minutes, all while benefiting HVG's Shopping for the Earth program. ScripNow! is currently available for Home Depot, Amazon.com, O'Charley's, 99 Restaurants, Stoney River and CVS. Additional brands will be added in weeks to come. For information go to <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm> and <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/scripnow.htm>.

Air Leakage Reduction Due to Wood Window Repair and Weather-stripping

Founders of www.Greenovation.TV, Matt and Kelly Grocuff own a 110-year-old home in Ann Arbor's Old West Side Historic District. The Grocuffs' folk-Victorian home includes sixteen original single-pane, wood-frame windows. They knew that the windows were a major source of cold, wintry drafts that made the house uncomfortable. GreenovationTV and Clean Energy Coalition (CEC) were interested in understanding how repairs to original wood windows would affect air infiltration in old homes. CEC agreed to perform blower-door tests before and after the repairs to his windows.

The original blower-door test was conducted with the windows in their original state of disrepair. The sashes of several windows refused to close completely, and in some cases the original hardware was missing or damaged. The blower door measured air leakage of 4,400 cubic feet per minute (CFM) at 50 Pascals. This rate of air flow was equivalent to leaving a 241-square-inch window open year round (that is the size of a rectangular opening 1' x 1'8"). Under

normal conditions, just over 100% of the air in the Grocuffs' house was replaced with outdoor air every hour. These figures describe a house that has high, uncontrolled air infiltration.

A second blower-door test was performed after the wood window repairs were completed by Lorri Sipes and Maggie Hostetler of the Wood Window Repair Company in Ann Arbor, MI. The repairs included re-glazing the original single-pane glass; repairing any damage to the wood sashes; installing bronze spring weather-stripping on both jambs (Image 1); and cutting a kerf (saw-cut) and installing silicone tube seals (Image 2) in the head of the upper sash, at the meeting rail of the lower sash, and at the sill of the lower sash. The hardware was repaired or replaced and adjusted to draw the two sashes tightly together, push the top sash up and the lower sash down, effectively sealing both sashes all the way around.

This second test revealed a substantial reduction in air infiltration. The blower door measured air leakage of 1,530 CFM at 50 Pa. By comparison, the effective leakage area was 84 square inches (a rectangular opening 1' x 7"). Now under normal conditions, 35% of the air in the Grocuffs' house should be replaced with outdoor air every hour. Effectively 65% of the air infiltration was eliminated by the repairs to the original 110-year-old wood windows, and the addition of two types of weather-stripping.

By Nick Helmholdt
Project Manager, Clean
Energy
Coalition



IMAGE 1: Bronze spring weatherstripping installed in both jambs.



IMAGE 2: Silicone tube seals in kerf in the head of the upper sash, at the meeting rail of the lower sash, and at the sill of the lower sash.

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Wood Window Repair continued from page 3

The Grocoffs also had low-e storm windows installed to replace the wood-framed versions that came with the house. The low-emissivity (low-e) coating on these storm windows reflects heat back to its origin: to the outdoors in summer and indoors in winter. A third blower-door test was performed, and again air infiltration was reduced noticeably - down to 1,330 CFM at 50 Pa. This resulted in an effective leakage area of 73 square inches (an opening 1' x 6"). The combined effect of the storm windows and the

repaired windows resulted in a 69.8% reduction in air leakage.

It is clear that the wood-window repairs performed here resulted in an impressive air infiltration reduction. This case should be evidence that repairs to windows may be a potential energy-saving measure to consider for homes in historic areas. What's more, the storm windows were able to further reduce infiltration by a noticeable fraction.



Storm windows with Low-E glass installed over original restored windows, creating a well-sealed secondary glazing

Resources:

Wood Window Repair Company in Ann Arbor:

<http://woodwindowrepair.biz/Home.html>

Trapp Storm Windows (SE Michigan Family Business):

http://www.trappdoors.com/storm_windows.htm

Robertson's Storm & Screen on Maple in Ann Arbor:

<http://screensandstorms.com/default.aspx>

Clean Energy Coalition <http://www.cec-mi.org/>

Summary of Findings:

Gauss/Grocoff House

Year built: circa 1901

Location: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Conditioned space: 2,055 sq. ft.

Living space: 1,300 sq. ft.

Bedrooms: 3, Baths: 2



Restored original 110 year old wood windows with draught proofing - 66% air leakage reduction

	Pre-Window Repair	Post-Window Repair	Post-Storm Windows
Cubic Feet per Minute of Airflow @ 50 Pa (CFM50)	4400	1530	1330
Effective Leakage Area (square inches)	241.6	84.0	73.0
Air Changes per Hour @ 50 Pa (ACH50)	15.70	5.46	4.75
Natural Air Changes per Hour (ACHn)	1.02	0.35	0.31

Courtesy of Matthew Grocoff, Esq.

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<http://environmentreport.org/search.php?query=grocoff>

<http://www.greenovationtv.com/2010/04/old-is-the-new-green-forget-the-prius-renovate-that-old-house/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKYUeAyfPiM>

Natural Gas Drilling and Hydraulic Fracturing in Michigan

by Nancy Shiffler

A new gas rush is taking place in Michigan. The potential for natural gas reserves embedded in Collingwood and Utica shale led to a record-setting state lease sale in the northern Lower Peninsula last spring, with more sales to come.

The technique for extracting this gas, hydraulic fracturing (or 'hydrofracking'), involves high-pressure injection of a mixture of water, chemicals, and sand into fissures in the shale, widening them sufficiently to extract the gas. While this general technique has been used for many years in Michigan Antrim shale drilling, its use in the Collingwood/Utica deposits introduces new concerns:

- These deposits are much deeper – 9,500 feet, compared to 1,000-2,000 feet for the Antrim shale, and they will involve horizontal drilling.
- The drilling will require much larger volumes of water (millions of gallons), and the process is exempt from Michigan's requirement for water withdrawal permits.
- A broad list of chemicals, many of them toxic, is added to the water as part of the process. The drilling companies consider the exact mixes to be proprietary, and currently are not required to make the list public.
- The wastewater flow-back for the process includes these chemicals, plus naturally occurring dissolved chemicals including hydrocarbons and heavy metals. These are disposed of in injection wells and, as fluids designated as oil and gas waste, they have fewer protective requirements, and the wells are exempt from local zoning.
- Variation in local hydrogeology and the potential

for spills and leaks add to the uncertainty. Incidents of surface and groundwater contamination have been reported in other states, including Pennsylvania, New York, and Colorado.

- Due to an exemption negotiated and approved under the Bush administration, the EPA is prohibited from regulating hydraulic fracturing under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Last spring the EPA announced that under direction from Congress it was undertaking a new life-cycle analysis of the impact of hydraulic fracturing, expected to be completed in 2012. The state of New York has called a moratorium on new permits until the study is completed. Bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to rescind the exemption from Safe Drinking Water Act regulation and to require disclosure of the chemicals (but not the proprietary formulas) used in the process. Industry spokesmen have asked that no action be taken on these bills until the EPA report is completed. Stay tuned.

For information about national Sierra Club activities related to hydrofracking, check out the listserv ACTNET-FRAC-NEWS@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG or the Federal Regulatory Action Center (FRAC) <http://www.sierraclub.org/naturalgas/rulemaking>. Other sources of information include Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council: (www.watershedcouncil.org) and ProPublica (www.propublica.org).

Conservation Corner by Dorothy Nordness

We were rather singularly focused in the two months leading up to the November 2nd elections. In September we discussed what we could do to promote Sierra Club endorsed candidates vying for seats at both the state and federal levels. Sierra Club endorsed candidates have gone through a somewhat rigorous process of evaluation at the local level by the local group political committee as to their awareness and concern for environmental issues and their likelihood of taking leadership roles to promote those issues if elected. The local recommendations for endorsement also had to be approved by the Chapter Executive Committee before candidates can claim Sierra Club endorsement. A candidate can then publicize this endorsement which can help them win the votes of environmentally conscious citizens. [For more details, see "How the Sierra Club Endorses Political Candidates" in the Summer, 2010 edition of The Lookout.]

By the end of September, some Conservation Team members were already volunteering for these candidates. In addition, some of us also began distributing literature promoting the millage renewal for Washtenaw County's terrific Natural Area Preservation Program (which thankfully won passage). In October, as the date of our regular meeting approached with the election only a week away, a group decision was made to help Mark Schauer (one of our endorsed candidates who was defending his seat in Congress) by doing phone calls on his behalf instead of holding our regular meeting. Six of us spent the time calling and engaging and informing those we reached in hopes of helping Mr. Schauer's chances on Nov 2nd. Unfortunately, he lost the seat. However, several of the local endorsed candidates did win their races, and, as a result, at least two very strong environmentalists from our local area – Rebekah Warren and Jeff Irwin – have promised to take leadership roles in the Michigan Senate and House respectively on issues that matter to us "tree-huggers".

A Little Taste of Oktoberfest in Michigan

This past October, Jeff and I went to a burger and Short's beer tasting at Sidetracks in Ypsilanti. We love their food and would go any time, but the lure of Short's was just too much to resist. Short's brewery is in Bellaire, about 45 minutes outside of Traverse City. One of the first things you will see on their website is the pronouncement that Short's beer is "brewed by people who care in Northern Michigan". It is clear that they do care—about Michigan, about their community and about beer. The beer is delicious, as was the food. Without further ado, here is what we sampled that night:

The appetizer was acorn squash baked with apple cider paired with Autumn Ale. This beer was an ESB with a delicious malty mouth feel and a bitter aftertaste. It went perfectly with the squash. I normally do not care for squash but when I took a bite and then swished beer in my mouth, I found it quite enjoyable.

Next, we tried a mac'n'cheese "burger", which was Sidetracks' mac'n'cheese (mmmmm) with ground up beef in it. This was paired with Short's Bloody Beer that I have heard a ton about but never tried. It was good, but not at all what I expected. I think I expected it to taste more like Mike O'Brien's chips'n'salsa beer (released at our local Corner Brewery). This beer had a nose that was all tomatoes, but not a huge tomato-y taste. I could pick out a hint of the dill, peppercorn and horseradish that was also used in the recipe.

The third course was Short's Black Cherry Porter with a black cherry and goat cheese burger. Do not be scared off of this beer, thinking it's a "fruit" beer because it doesn't taste like what you might be thinking of. It is made with pureed black cherries and does have a nice cherry aftertaste. The overwhelming taste, however, is that of a robust and delicious porter.

Next, we had Abnormal Genius and a peanut butter and bacon burger. Peanut butter and meat, who'd have thunk it? Again, the beer was a perfect match. Made with honey and sunflower seeds, brewed in 2006 and named after Joe Short himself, this beer is incredible. It smelled like a mead, but tasted like a beer. There was a nice hit of honey up front that quickly mellowed into a nutty flavor.

Lastly, we had a baked pear with ginger crème paired with Ginger in the Rye. This beer was my favorite of the night, much to my surprise. I am not a huge fan of ginger (unless it's Vernors) and so I didn't expect to like it as much as I did. Brewed in 2007, this beer has Hefe yeast and (of course) plenty of rye and ginger. It was on the lighter side, without the heavy ginger flavor that I don't care for.

By the way, I did bring my camera but I was starving and thirsty and everything got eaten and drank up too quickly for pictures. But you all are smart and can use your imagination. Or heck, take a drive up to Short's and try some of these beers for yourself!



By Patti Smith

The Future of Huron Hills

By James D'Amour

The Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club has been on the forefront to preserve and protect our open spaces and parks in our communities.

In the City of Ann Arbor, we have observed a disturbing trend—monies specifically dedicated by millage (and law) to parks operations and maintenance have been diverted to general funds.

And to add insult to injury, city administrator Roger Fraser has proposed the sale (or long-term lease, a de facto permanent sale) of 20 city parks and facilities, all in the auspices of budgetary reasons.

From the building of a parking garage (in the name of a unicorn called a "train station"), to the proposed sale of neighborhood pocket parks where children will no longer be able to play, our parks are under assault.

While the sale and lease of these lands could result in short-term economic gains (clearly desirable in these tough economic times), it is our view that this decision will only weaken the quality of life of a great city. The latest example of this is the proposal to lease a portion of Huron Hills Golf Course.

Now you may ask, why would the Sierra Club be interested in the welfare of a golf course? Critics have argued that golf courses are not always the most environmentally friendly uses of land. Why would we care?

The important matter to consider here is that Huron Hills, like

Gallup Park, Bird Hills, Veterans Park, or any of the many significant or smaller parcels, has been acquired and retained as an open space in perpetuity for the benefit of the general public at large.

The proposed piecemeal leasing of a portion of the golf course to a private entity is the beginning of the end of Huron Hills. Industry experts have said that par-three courses are the "dinosaurs" of the golf industry, not economically viable. Were the city to lease the course (again, without a public vote), it would be the first step towards dissolution of a major city asset.

The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group is opposed to this lease as, once again, the city is violating its pledge to protect the parks. Instead, the city de facto proposes to dispose of or re-purpose this land without a public vote. This violates as well the long term safety of this parcel as city parkland.

Even if the course were to be closed, it would be an excellent addition to Gallup Park, with its steep slopes and fantastic vistas of the Huron River Valley. We ask the city to get out of the rough and listen instead to its citizens, who have been begging to keep this course open.



Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar

Participants in Sierra Club outings will be asked to sign a liability waiver. If you wish to read the waiver before coming to an outing please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630. When carpooling is used to facilitate logistics for an outing, participants assume the risks associated with this travel, as well. Carpooling, ridesharing and the like are strictly a private arrangement among participants. Park fees may apply. **For up to date information, visit our website at <http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/>**

Tuesday December 14, 2010 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "The Wilderness World of John Muir", edited by Edwin Way Teale -- some of John Muir's best writing. Contact: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157.

Sunday December 19, 2010 - 1:00 pm - Cassidy Road Bog Hike-or-Ski, Waterloo Recreation Area. Identify six native Michigan conifers on this 2.5 mile Winter Solstice hike in the Waterloo Recreation Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. We'll hike and/or ski, depending upon conditions. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or at 1:45 pm at the trail. From Ann Arbor take I-94 west to M-52. Go north through Chelsea and turn left on Waterloo Rd. Go west 1 mile and turn right onto Cassidy Road. Follow Cassidy Road 1.5 miles to the trailhead. Free. Non-members welcome. Contact: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday December 21, 2010 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "Great Adventure Trips From Around The Globe". Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). This program will offer short photographic stories about a diverse set of outdoor adventures. In years past, we've seen pictures of hiking, biking, canoeing, skiing, hanging-out, and bird-watching in fabulous places from Alaska to Hawaii, the Upper Peninsula to Utah, the Everglades to Isle Royale, and Africa to Canada. Even the wilds of southeast Michigan! Every year the list of adventures is a surprise. Contact: 734-665-0248 or esteinma@umich.edu.

Saturday January 8, 2011 - 11:00 am - Crooked Lake Hike/Snowshoe, Pinckney Recreation Area. Hike/Snowshoe around Crooked Lake in the Pinckney Recreation Area. Meet at Silver Lake parking lot at 11:00 am. For more details, contact Ewa Roszczenko at ewarosz@yahoo.com or 734-756-5362. Free. Non-members welcome.

Tuesday January 11, 2011 - 7:15 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "Diet for a Hot Planet: The Climate Crisis at the End of your Fork and What You Can Do About it", by Anna Lappe. Contact: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157. Note: shift to winter hours.

Monday January 17, 2011 - 7:00 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings - Monthly Business Meeting. REI Community Use Room (970 West Eisenhower Parkway Ann Arbor, MI). Washtenaw Inner City Outings (ICO) is a Sierra Club community outreach program providing opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world for those who would not otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with agencies such as community centers, churches and neighborhood youth groups. ICO plans outings and provides equipment and trained leaders who are enthusiastic to share their love of the natural world. Contact: vhernan@umich.edu.

Tuesday January 18, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "Topic: TBA". Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). Check website for more details. Free. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 or esteinma@umich.edu.

Friday January 21, 2011 through Sunday January 23, 2011 - MacMullan Cross Country Ski Weekend. We will be going to the DNR MacMullan Conference Center on north Higgins Lake. The trip is open to 12 people on a first-come first-serve basis. We will ski at Higgins Lake State Park, Hanson Hills, Hartwick Pines or the Mason Tract Pathway, possibly Ogemaw Hill on the way home. See page 11 for detailed information. Contact: 734-730-7209 or lanehotchkiss@comcast.net.

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Sunday January 23, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Stinchfield Woods Hike-or-Ski. Ski or hike five miles through deciduous and coniferous trees in Stinchfield Woods, a University of Michigan preserve with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. We'll hike and/or ski, depending upon conditions. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or at 1:45 pm at the trail: Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd west through Dexter; turn right (north) onto Dexter-Pinckney Rd; turn left (west) on N. Territorial Rd, park in the office building lot on the south side. Free. Non-members welcome. Contact: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Monday January 24, 2011 - 7:00 pm - HVG Conservation Team Meeting. Zingerman's Next Door (422 Detroit St Ann Arbor, MI). We meet the 4th Monday of every month except August at Zingerman's Next Door. Get yourself a treat on the first floor and join us for lively discussions about how we can help the environment locally and regionally. Contact: 734-668-6306 or dorothyk@umich.edu.

Saturday February 5, 2011 through Sunday February 6, 2011 - Pigeon River Weekend Backpacking Trip. Weekend winter backpacking trip in Pigeon River State Forest, Michigan. For more details, contact Ewa Roszczenko at ewarosz@yahoo.com or 734-756-5362.

Sunday February 6, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Juniper Ridge Ski/Hike, Pinckney Recreation Area. Ski or hike on the gorgeous 2.5 mile Juniper Ridges Trail in the Pinckney State Rec. Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Intermediate ski ability recommended. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or at 1:45 pm at the trail: Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd west through Dexter; continue west on Island Lake Rd 3-miles to Dexter Townhall Rd; turn right (north), cross N. Territorial Rd, go 1-mile north, turn on Silver Hill Rd, park near tollbooth. Free. Non-members welcome. 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Monday February 21, 2011 - 7:00 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings - Monthly Business Meeting. REI Community Use Room (970 West Eisenhower Parkway Ann Arbor, MI). Washtenaw Inner City Outings (ICO) is a Sierra Club community outreach program providing opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world for those who would not otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with agencies such as community centers, churches and neighborhood youth groups. ICO plans outings and provides equipment and trained leaders who are enthusiastic to share their love of the natural world. Contact: vhernan@umich.edu.

Tuesday February 22, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "Topic: TBA". Matthaei Botanical Gardens. [see January 18 entry for details]

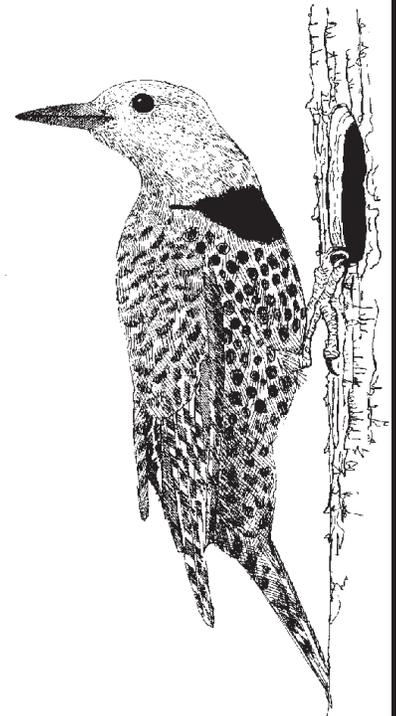
Monday February 28, 2011 - 7:00 pm - HVG Conservation Team Meeting. Zingerman's Next Door. [see January 24 entry for details]

Monday March 21, 2011 - 7:00 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings - Monthly Business Meeting. REI Community Use Room (970 West Eisenhower Parkway Ann Arbor, MI). [see Feb 21 entry for details]

Tuesday March 22, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "Topic: TBA". Matthaei Botanical Gardens. [see January 18 entry for details]

Monday March 28, 2011 - 7:00 pm - HVG Conservation Team Meeting. Zingerman's Next Door. [see January 24 entry for details]

Friday September 2, 2011 through Sunday September 11, 2011 - Rocky Mountain National Park Backpacking Trip. Week-long backpacking trip in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, with an option to climb Longs Peak (not technical). For more details, contact Ewa Roszczenko at ewarosz@yahoo.com or 734-756-5362.

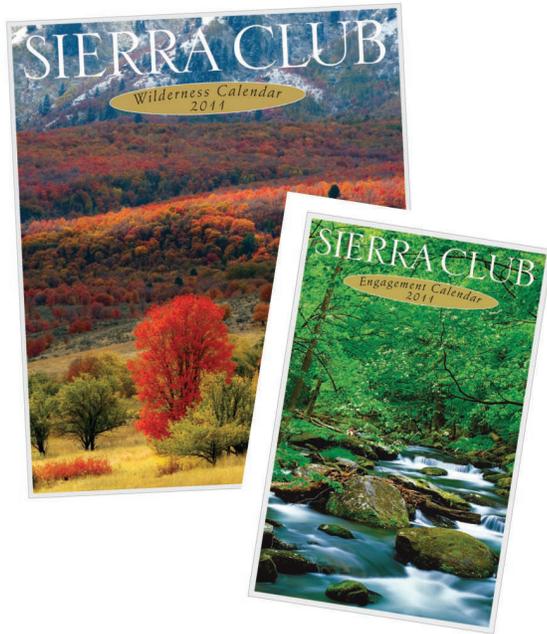




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Thank you!

CLEAN CAR UPDATE

By Alan Richardson

Here is the running total of the economic and environmental consequences of my choice to purchase and drive a Honda Civic GX fueled by natural gas.

Period covered: 18 October 2000 (purchase date) to 14 October 2010

Distance driven:	135,120 miles
Fuel purchased:	4,161 gallons gasoline equivalent (GGE)
Fuel economy:	32.5 miles/GGE
Fuel cost of CNG used:	\$5,671
Average fuel cost:	\$1.363 per GGE
Cost economy:	23.8 miles per dollar
Savings over gasoline:	\$3,087 (\$1,092 over payback amount)
Payback mileage*:	86,905
Payback date*:	15 April 2006

* Payback of \$4,500 purchase premium for natural gas fuel option reduced by \$2,000 Clean Cities cash rebate and \$2,000 federal income deduction at 28% marginal tax rate in effect at time of purchase.

Estimated exhaust emissions of different passenger vehicles driven 135,120 miles

Pounds of:	Average car on road in 2000	CA LEV**	Civic GX
Hydrocarbons	833	22.3	0.89
Carbon monoxide	6,220	1011.9	47.6
Oxides of nitrogen	414	59.5	5.95
Total (pounds)	7,467	1,093.7	54.44

** Standard for 'Low Emission Vehicle' passenger car required by California starting in 2001

David Douglas, Plant Collecting, and Misnomers

By Ruth Graves

When I was at Mt. Rainier National Park I gave a short talk which started with the question "Who likes to walk?" When writing in the "Lookout" that's almost a superfluous question, but what originally intrigued me, and caused me to read more about David Douglas, was that he was referred to as the "patron saint of backpackers": in 1825-26 he traveled 6,037 miles in WA and OR, and then in 1827 went over the Canadian Rockies to Hudson Bay, plus many other travels in his short lifetime.

You need to picture this part of North America in the early 19th century, not all that long after Lewis and Clark: wet forests and waterlands west of the Cascades and dry steppe prairies to the east. All this was sparsely populated by Indian tribes, mostly hunter-gatherers living off land and water. Mix in a Europe (especially Britain) eager for plants and slightly less so for animals (especially for their furs) from around the world (particularly from America), working a trade which had already started in the 18th century. Much of the imperialism of the time was carried on by companies, not nations: the Hudson Bay Co. and East India Co. for England, and the VOC for Holland. They had the ships, the doctor/naturalists, and the factories or forts. There was no border yet between the U.S. and British Canada (not till 1846).

One of these factories was Ft. Vancouver, a special place near the mouth of the tremendous

Columbia River: its purpose was fur trade but more people were engaged in agriculture, and it served to build the bonds between Brits, French Canadians, Chinooks, etc. that helped make America possible. It was the central location for David Douglas during his collecting endeavors.

David Douglas was a remarkable man with insatiable curiosity especially for flora and fauna, but also for astronomy, surveying, and geology. He rose from humble beginnings, largely self-educated, but won the respect of major figures in the botanical world of Britain in his youth. He had incredible stamina, was willing to put up with all kinds of discomforts and hardships. He was a friend to many people he encountered in his life, including the native people, though he was always alert and wary of danger. He was so homesick he would walk miles for a letter from home but also driven to stay away for long periods for his work. For example, to get the cones of the sugar pine, our largest pine with cones measuring up to 18 inches, he tried shooting them down, risking a confrontation that endangered his life, but ultimately won the help of the natives. He considered this his prize "find" among those 7,000 of the then known 92,000 plant species he is credited with discovering.

One tree he actually did not "discover," though he sent its seeds home, is the Douglas-fir (actually first introduced to Europe by Archibald Menzies, the doctor/naturalist on Captain Vancouver's ship in its very early exploration of the Pacific Northwest). This very important tree is doubly misnamed, because it is also not a fir, but belongs to a Pacific Rim genus with three congeneric species. This is but one of the species misnamed by the European settlers, perhaps because of the need to make connections with their homeland. So they used names of plants and animals familiar to them in Europe, but not scientifically accurate. Among them were:

DEER: European settlers mistook them for the red deer hunted by, say, Robin Hood - actually not a deer.

ELK: a bigger subspecies of the European red deer than the European version which we call an elk.

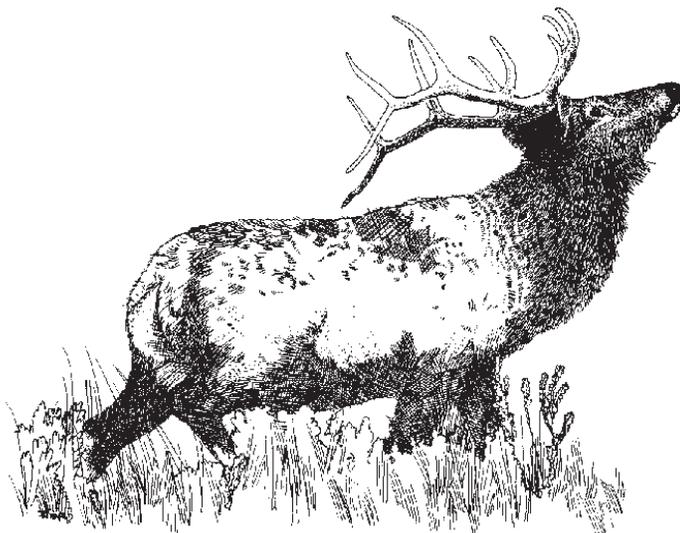
MOOSE: a subspecies of the European elk.

WESTERN RED-CEDAR and ALASKA-CEDAR: not cedars as in the east, but closer to cypress.

HEMLOCK: not the poisonous parsley-like herb that killed Socrates.

By the way, when a tree has a name that is not scientifically correct, its name is hyphenated.

Resources: "The Collector" by Jack Nisbet; "Cascade-Olympic Natural History" by Daniel Mathews; "The Brother Gardeners" by Andrea Wulf.



You're invited: January Cross-Country Ski Trip



We will be going to the DNR MacMullan Conference Center on North Higgins Lake again in 2011. The dates are January 21-23 (Friday-Sunday). The trip is open to 12 people on a first-come first-serve basis.

We ski at the DNR Center in Higgins Lake State Park on Saturday morning to get warmed up. After lunch at the DNR Center, we head to another ski area such as Hanson Hills, Hartwick Pines or the Mason Tract Pathway along the Au Sable River. After breakfast on Sunday, we head to a ski area like Ogemaw Hill (near West Branch) on our way home.

The cost is \$130.50 per person double occupancy (additional \$50.00 for single occupancy if available) and must be paid in advance. Transportation is by car but Lane will arrange car pooling. Three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday (at the DNR Center) are included in the trip cost.

You can request a sign-up form from Lane to send in with your check. Contact Lane by email for the form. Checks should be made payable to Sierra Club Huron Valley Group.

Trip leader Lane Hotchkiss can be contacted at lanehotchkiss@comcast.net or cell phone at 734-730-7209.

"Can I Help HVG?" Yes YOU Can!

The local Huron Valley Group needs YOUR help. We are a completely volunteer-run organization. There are no paid staff working on HVG's behalf. Here are several ways that you can help out HVG in the coming weeks/months (or years, but why wait that long)...

- Lobby Day (Go to Lansing, meet yer makers--lawmakers, that is.)
- Conservation Team (Wanna protect something? Talk to these folks)
- Political Team (Help elect good environmentalists--makes lobbying a lot easier)
- Outings Leader (Wanna hike? Let's go! Where can you take us?)
- Executive Committee, "ExCom" (Help decide what we do and why.)
- Monthly Public Meeting (Got any ideas for presentations? refreshments?)
- Event Outreach (Info booth at Art Fair, Huron River Day, etc.)
- Washtenaw Inner City Outings, "WICO" (Help get kids outdoors!)
- Fundraising--Coffee/tea (sales, marketing, ordering, keeping records)--Shopping for the Earth, "SFTE" (sales, marketing, ordering)--Calendars (sales, marketing, ordering--notice any trends?)
- HVG Newsletter, "The Lookout" --Advertising--Final proofreading--Write an article--share your photos/graphics
- Fold-n-Tab (Can you fold a piece of paper or stick on a label? Then you can help!)

If you would like to help, or maybe just find out more, contact the appropriate person listed in the HVG directory on page 13 or come to a meeting or outing and let us know what interests you.



You can help the earth at no cost to you — through your regular shopping!

- Over the past decade, the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** program has generated thousands to preserve natural areas and farmland.
- You can help us do more by buying **Shopping for the Earth** cards for the stores where you already shop.
- For every \$20 of cards you buy, you get the full \$20 in store credit—and earn from \$0.80 to as much as \$3, depending on the merchant, for the local Sierra Club.

"We donated \$140 last year to prevent sprawl and protect wildlife. It was easy, and it didn't cost us anything extra."
-Gwen Nystuen

"A bonus for nature for every grocery purchase I make- even chocolate!"
-Rita Mitchell

Two ways to order cards:

1. **Mail-In Order Form** for local stores -- see below.
2. **Online ordering** for national stores and some local stores including Amazon, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Land's End, Sears, and hundreds more - department stores, restaurants, hotels, and more.
Visit <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm> to learn more & get started!

Great for:

- ✓ Regular purchases like grocery shopping
- ✓ Giving as gifts
- ✓ Planned purchases like appliances
- ✓ Making online purchases



Mail-in Order Form

Please fill out the number of cards you'd like for each store below (maximum \$500 total per order).
Your total order: \$ _____

Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Arbor Brewing Company **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	
Arbor Farms *	_____ cards @ \$20 each	
Borders Books & Music **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Busch's *	_____ cards @ \$5 each	
Hiller's Markets *	_____ cards @ \$50 each	
Kroger *	Obtain card at Kroger's and register it at www.krogercommunityrewards.com so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads.. see http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/kroger.htm for instructions	
Produce Station **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Whole Foods **	_____ cards @ \$50 each	_____ cards @ \$100 each
Meijer	A rebate program - please see: http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/SFTE_Meijer.pdf	

* Reloadable cards! The Sierra Club receives a contribution each time you reload, so only one card is needed per person.
** Not reloadable—consider ordering several!

Name: _____

Please send me local Sierra Club email updates

Address: _____

Please send me the local Sierra Club newsletter

Phone: _____ Date _____

Email: _____

Mail with your check payable to "Sierra Club - Huron Valley Group" to:
Ed Steinman (esteinma@umich.edu)
621 5th St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Your information will not be shared with any group.



**Huron
Valley
Group
Directory**

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

- Chair
Doug Cowherd* 662-5205
- Vice-chair
Nancy Shiffler* 971-1157
- Treasurer
Ginny Maturen 730-2947
- Secretary
Joel Dalton* 945-8132
- Chapter Representative
Nancy Shiffler* 971-1157
- Conservation Chair
Dorothy Nordness 668-6306
- Inner City Outings Chair
Outings Chair
Kathy Guerreso 677-0823
- Inner City Outings Liaison
Membership Chair
Ed Steinman** 665-0248
- Political Chair
James D'Amour*
- Publicity
Joel Dalton* 945-8132
- Program Co-Chairs
Doug Cowherd* 662-5205
Rita Mitchell 665-0248
- Shopping for the Earth
Ed Steinman** 665-0248
- Fund Raising Chair
Jay Schlegel* 477-5715
- Website
Ed Steinman* 665-0248
- Newsletter Team
Jay Schlegel*, Editor 477-5715
Mary Roth
Kim Waldo 971-1941
Gwen Nystuen 665-7632
Ed Steinman* 665-0248
- Executive Committee
Ron Sell*
- * = HVG Excom Member

How to Get HVG reminders via email!

At each HVG general meeting, there is an email sign up list. For those who missed it, or haven't joined us at a meeting, here's how you can get our general meeting reminders.

If you would like to receive email notices of each month's Huron Valley Group general meeting and occasional notices about other local Sierra Club activities send an email to Doug Cowherd at dmcowherd3@comcast.net with your name and "HVG email list" in the body of the message.

Are You A New Member?

Welcome to the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club. When you join the Sierra Club you are automatically a member of a local group, as well as a state chapter and the national organization. Membership entitles you to this newsletter as well as all editions of the state and national member publications. Check this page for our Directory with contacts on conservation, outings, political action, and the Inner City Outings program. Check the calendar in the middle of this issue for announcements of Monthly Public Program topics and our calendar of activities. We will be glad to see you at our next meeting or answer any questions if you care to call. Please take advantage of your membership as an opportunity to enjoy, preserve and protect our natural environment!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



**With your help,
we can clean up our water.**

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



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

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

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

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

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F940 W _____

Candidates and Ballot for the Election of the



Ron Sell

We have an abundance of great natural areas, parks and recreation in our area. Groups like the Sierra Club are important in protecting and enhancing our natural environment. If elected, I look forward to serving another term on the Executive Committee, doing my part to keep this area a great place to live.



Ed Steinman

I'm running for another term on the Huron Valley Group Executive Committee because of the knowledge and strong environmental focus of our local Sierra Club board. I enjoy working with the Sierra Club at the local and state level and will continue to contribute to the efforts of HVG as membership chair, Chapter representative and coordinator of the Shopping for the Earth program. Other environmental work: volunteer pilot with Southwings and Lighthawk environmental aviation organizations covering CAFOs, mountain-top removal, coal plants, and illegal logging in national forests, among other problems.

I'm running for another term on the Huron Valley Group Executive Committee because of the knowledge and strong environmental focus of our local Sierra Club board. I enjoy working with the Sierra Club at the local and state level and will continue to contribute to the efforts of HVG as membership chair, Chapter



James D'Amour

Those are my issues.

After earning a degree in political science from the University of Michigan, I became active in the political process. In more recent times my civic involvement has included serving on the Ann Arbor Parks Advisory Commission and the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission. In both these bodies I made important recommendations and decisions regarding land use and preserving open space. I made sure that ALL voices were involved in the process, including when they asked for a downtown greenway, or when citizens asked that the city preserve the last open spaces in the city and beyond.

In my time on the Executive Committee, I've served as Political Chair locally and have actively spoken on behalf of the chapter at City Council meetings, University of Michigan Regents meetings, and various local events defending our parkland. I also serve on the Michigan Chapter Political Committee representing the HVG. Last year, I testified before the Michigan House Committee on Great Lakes and the Environment on the now approved bill safeguarding funding of our state parks.

We have a lot of challenges ahead, with short-sighted cities threatening to sell parks to balance budgets, while the quality of our environment hangs in the balance with economic challenges locally and statewide. The Sierra Club can make the difference. Let's make that difference together.

I'm seeking a second term on the HVG Executive Committee because I want to see us be proactive on several important issues.

Preservation of our parks and open space in and surrounding our communities continues to be a top priority. We may be in tougher economic times, but the mission of preserving, protecting, and enjoying our natural areas becomes if anything stronger. We need the comfort and health our natural open spaces provide.

I want to spend the next two years leading the charge to get more members involved in the chapter (that's my "day job" by the way, working as operations manager for People Power Unlimited – a business that works with organizations wanting to get members more involved). Our community needs a stronger voice for the environment now more than ever. We need people to be excited about enjoying the outdoors. By involving more members, we can make this happen.

I've loved the environment for as long as I can remember... I'm an avid open-water swimmer (with U.S. Masters Swimming), and the issues of preserving our water quality, and the accompanying land use (be it the dunes around our Great Lakes, or preserving open space around the Huron River watershed) really hit home with me.

Huron Valley Group Executive Committee



Joel Dalton

I have enjoyed my first couple of terms on the HVG Executive Committee and wish to become even more involved in protecting the Michigan natural places my family and I enjoy. We regularly hike and camp in wilderness areas, canoe the Huron River, and run in Ann Arbor green spaces. We also support a new Ann Arbor Greenway.

My professional experience is rooted in innovation and sustainability, with extensive knowledge of alternative fuels and new vehicle technologies and policies - including biofuels, hybrid electric vehicles and plug-ins.

I believe environmental groups have been unfairly labeled "special interests" by actual special interests, when there can be no more common good than preserving the environment. I believe that we must protect true wilderness not only for conservation reasons but also to remind us of what we have lost and what will remain perpetually at risk.

Many environmental threats used to be a result of personal and corporate ignorance. But today's more urgent threats are a result of purposeful actions combined with an overwhelmed public's confusion and disengagement. I believe the Sierra Club has the ethical and political standing to be a leader in re-energizing the environmental debate not just nationally but locally.

Going forward, I hope to help the HVG collaborate more with local organizations to inform and recruit members, motivate volunteerism and actions on parks protection and energy choices, and provoke thoughtful and practical discussions of our local, intertwined sustainability issues – including local food, Great Lakes water, and various development issues.

Ballot for Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee 2010

The Huron Valley Group Executive Committee (ExCom) is selected by you. Ballot instructions and anonymity guarantee:

1. Please mark up to four votes on the ballot provided. Only those ballots with a membership number on the attached mailing label are eligible.
2. After marking your ballot, **remove this entire back page from the newsletter.**
3. Fold the bottom third up to conceal your votes, and fold the top third over to show your mailing label.
4. Return your ballot in a sealed envelope either by hand at the December 21st HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o Nancy Shiffler, 2877 Sorrento, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Mailed ballots must be received by December 21, 2010 to be counted.

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2010

Four to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2011 - Vote for four.

Second column of boxes is for second voter in same household.

Ron Sell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James D'Amour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed Steinman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Huron Valley Group Newsletter
The Sierra Club
621 Fifth Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Non-profit Org.

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Ann Arbor, MI

Fall 2010 Inside:

- Grand Trip to Grand Island - page 1-2
- Fixing Window Drafts - page 3-4
- Calendar of Events - page 7-8
- HVG Elections - Ballot - pages 14 -15



DID YOU KNOW... that this newsletter is ENTIRELY volunteer-written, volunteer-edited, and volunteer-assembled? The Huron Valley Group could really use your help on future issues of "The Lookout" with any of the following tasks:

- *ad wrangler*
- *article writer*
- *photography/graphics*
- *proofreading*
- *folding/assembling/mail-preparation*

And, no, you do not have to do something "every issue" (unless you want to!); just help out as you can. If you are interested in helping us out, or if you have any questions, please contact us at hvgnews@yahoo.com