

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SPRING/SUMMER 2012



JOHN REBERS

Sylvania Wilderness

A Year of Celebration

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

As I hiked into Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness last summer, an animated group of 20-somethings was heading home after camping in the dunes. Their exuberance caught my attention, and it dawned on me they likely weren't born when Sierra Club, other groups and dedicated individuals won the long fight to protect Nordhouse "in perpetuity" as wilderness.

Twenty-five years ago, Congress enacted the Michigan Wilderness Act, designating Nordhouse and nine other areas in the state's three national forests as federal wildernesses. Thousands of Sierra Club members helped win this 10-year fight. Some volunteered time to survey the proposed areas and lead outings. Many wrote letters and opinion pieces to newspapers, responding to hostile editorials and distorted reports. Others lobbied members of Congress, even traveling to Washington DC to make their pitch.

Without Sierra Club, these areas wouldn't be protected from logging and road building today --and not just be-

cause of the 1987 victory. For 120 years Sierra Club members have led efforts to "protect, explore and enjoy" places like Nordhouse around the country, as well as the communities in which we live. They've enlisted neighbors and worked with Sierra Club members nationwide to improve our lives and create a better future.

Forty-five years ago, a handful of Sierra Club members formed the statewide Mackinac (now Michigan) Chapter to take on the fight to protect our natural heritage, communities, health and future in the Great Lakes State. Their efforts continue to impact us every day — from bottle deposits and cleaner air to Ann Arbor's Green Belt and the glory of Michigan's National Lakeshores. From our growing clean energy industry to

cleaner lakes and streams, we're all better off because of Sierra Club's legacy.

Watching the campers enjoy Nordhouse reminded me we need to celebrate and share the progress of the past 25, 45 and 120 years made by Sierra Club, its members, volunteers, partner organizations, legislators and everyone who helped get us where we are today. I hope you find time to celebrate with us at one of the many activities planned in our anniversary year. For details, see the story on p. 4 and our Outings on pp. 16-19.

IN THIS ISSUE

Election Season is coming! Get the lowdown on your legislators, info on a new ballot initiative and learn how to support our PAC in the Democracy in Action section, pp. 8-10.



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

THE MACKINAC

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter
109 E Grand River Avenue
Lansing MI 48906

Phone: 517-484-2372

Email: michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org

michigan.sierraclub.org

MACKINAC EDITORS

Gail Philbin

gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

Anne Woiwode

anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org

DESIGN

Davina Pallone

davina@designwrench.com

The Mackinac, Volume 45 Issue 1, (ISSN 0744-5288) is published two times every year by Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E Grand River Ave, Lansing MI 48906. Annual dues for the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to *The Mackinac*.

Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author and are not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Michigan Chapter.

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



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOY INKS

TheMackinac

SPRING/
SUMMER 2012

IntheSpotlight 1, 3

A Year of Celebration / Fighting the Good Fight for 45 Years /
Sierra Club: 120 Years Young

GreatForests, WildPlaces 4

Small Victory In Biomass Fight / Celebrate the Michigan Wilderness Act's
25th Anniversary With Us! / Happy Birthday to Michigan's Wilderness!

CleanEnergySolutions 6

The Move Beyond Coal in Michigan Gains Momentum / Tell Your Lawmaker
to Support the Frack Pack! / A Wind-Powered Revolution in Gratiot County
/ Work Begins for a Clean Energy Ballot Proposal in November

DemocracyInAction 8

Michigan Legislative Scorecard Shows Abysmal "Green" Voting Record
for Republicans / Help Clean Up Our (Political) Environment /
Lobby Day: You Can Make a Difference / A Personal Letter from Your State
Political Committee / Gwen Nystuen: Political Activist Extraordinaire

FocusOnMichigan 11

Landmark EPA Mercury Protection Under Attack in Congress /
Life Without the Sierra Club / Detroit Home Water Audit Program

Clean&HealthyGreatLakes 12

Tackling the Elephant in the Room / Water Sentinels Program Plans Three
New Projects in Michigan / Gasland / Thank You, Earth Share Donors!

AnnualRetreat 14

GroupInfo&Outings 16

Think Globally, and Get Active with Your Local Sierra Club Group! /
Celebrate Earth Month with the Sierra Club! / Ken Salzman Works a Little
Magic on Lobby Day / Essay Contest: What Does Wilderness Mean to You? /
Sierra Club Outings are for Everyone!

SupportingYourChapter 20, 24

In Memory of Max Klein / In Memoriam: Laura Louise Graham / Help! /
Creating a Lasting Legacy / Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

AnnualReport 22

ChapterDirectory 23



FRED TOWNSEND

In the Spotlight

Fighting the Good Fight for 45 Years

by Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

We celebrate three anniversaries in 2012: 120 years since John Muir's founding of Sierra Club, 45 years of the Michigan Chapter, and 25 years since the passage of the Michigan Wilderness Act preserving 10 pristine areas. Reviewing our list of victories, I noted many were achieved through political means on the local, state and federal levels. We've been preserving lands for public use, protecting the Great Lakes and sand dunes, working for laws promoting energy efficiency and renewables, and pushing the state Department of Environmental Quality to enforce rules on polluting animal factories. We truly have fought the

good fight for 45 years.

The Chapter has been at the forefront of Sierra Club's drive to prevent the building of new coal plants, and so far, we've been successful. Now, we hope to shut down old, polluting generators and replace them with clean energy sources. Yet, just as we felt a sense of accomplishment on this issue, deep hydraulic fracturing reared its ugly head, potentially polluting land, water and air, and causing an earthquake or two. (See p. 6 for more on this issue.)

From 2006 to 2010, Chapter Forest Policy Specialist Marvin Roberson worked with the Department of Natural



Jean Gramlich

Resources and others on "Michigan's Living Legacies," the most comprehensive biodiversity protection plan in the world. Under a new governor, the project was scaled back to the point of meaninglessness last year. Politics and elections truly matter.

So, let's congratulate ourselves on past accomplishments but not rest on our laurels for even a moment in this election year. As someone once said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."



JOHN SCHMIT

GVSU grads Mariea Luisa Macavei and Chris Kotcher attended a recent screening of *Gasland*, a documentary about the deep natural gas extraction process known as "fracking," hosted by the West Michigan Group and GVSU's School of Communications. The pair came at the invitation of film professors John Philbin and John Schmit, both long-time Club supporters who are helping bring the message of "explore, enjoy and protect" to new audiences on campus. They hope to take students on an outing to Nordhouse Dunes in May.

Sierra Club: 120 Years Young

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

We don't inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children. And those "children" are calling in their loans and holding older generations accountable!

MSU Beyond Coal is mobilizing students and young alumni to shut down the biggest campus coal plant in the country, and get MSU to 100% clean energy. Twenty-somethings in Michigan know that getting the 25% by 2025 Renewable Energy requirement on the

ballot in November and passed is critical to growing the jobs and the communities they need to stay here in the Great Lakes State. Michigan's cities are home to many young adults devoted to environmental justice, clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and protection of wild places and the Great Lakes — all Sierra Club priorities.

Sierra Club is 120 years young this year because we change and grow every year, giving you new ways to be effective and engaged. The Michigan Chapter invites you to help shape the next generation of Sierra Club. Join our Lobby Days and election year activities; fight fracking and protect Michigan's forests; work to stop animal factories and promote local, healthy foods; lead outings and have fun!

Already active? Pass this along to a young environmentalist you know and invite them to join us!

LEARN MORE!

Read about children's "nature deficit" in Chapter Membership Chair Mark Muhich's guest column in the Jackson Citizen Patriot: michigan.sierraclub.org/mark.pdf

Great Forests, Wild Places

Small Victory In Biomass Fight

by Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Policy Specialist

For 45 years, the Michigan Chapter (formerly the Mackinac Chapter) has been fighting to restore the state's once-grand forests. From the Michigan Wilderness Act to establishment of national lakeshores to participation in countless individual management decisions, Club activists and staff have worked tirelessly to bring our forests back to the majesty they once possessed.

Unfortunately, we're facing another challenge to this natural resource in the form of woody biomass, which I talked about in the last Mackinac. Fortunately, the same tireless dedication of staff and volunteers that helped us protect the state's forests for nearly five decades has kicked into high gear, just in time for our first small but important victory in the battle against the ill-conceived Mascoma project in the eastern UP.

As I wrote in my last article, woody biomass is a process that uses (mostly) live cut timber to produce energy either by direct burning to generate electricity or using it as feedstock to create ethanol, much like corn ethanol. In the case of the Mascoma project, Frontier Resources, the company behind this bad idea, plans to turn standing timber into ethanol and mix it with gasoline to form E85 gas for cars.

To do this, the company initially plans to take about seven percent of Michigan's annual forest growth and use it to produce

a tiny fraction — two-hundredths of a percent! — of our annual gasoline usage. At this ratio, we don't have enough wood in all of Michigan to make any meaningful reduction in our fossil fuel usage, and the number of direct jobs created per unit of wood harvested makes this project likely the worst in the history of the forest products industry.

To stop this proposal from becoming reality, Sierra Club filed suit in December 2011 over a proposed Department of Energy (DOE) grant of almost \$60 million to Frontier Resources, which has asked for over \$150 million in public money, through direct grants and tax abatement. The suit alleges the environmental analysis was incomplete and biased in favor of the project. (DOE paid Mascoma, the grant recipient, to write the assessment for the DOE!)

Among the handouts Frontier has sought is \$2 million from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), which it asked Chippewa County to request. The county tried to approve the project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), but only federal agencies can issue such decisions. This fact was pointed out by our local activists in the eastern UP. Thanks to the watchful eye and sleuthing of this wonderful group of dedicated residents, the MEDC withdrew the request for \$2 million from consideration! A small, but telling victory in the fight against a ridiculous project.

Naturalist John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, knew the value of forests and set a precedent 120 years ago of dedicated advocacy for the natural world that has been followed in Michigan for 45 years.



PHOTO COURTESY SIERRA CLUB LIBRARY

CELEBRATE THE MICHIGAN WILDERNESS ACT'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH US!

In this year of Sierra Club celebrations, why not give yourself a gift and enjoy one of these unique and wonderful wilderness areas? Join us at one of these special events.

May 18-20: Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Campout and Hike. About 3,500 acres between Ludington and Manistee including three miles of dunes on Lake Michigan and 20 miles of trails in dunes and forests. To register, contact Lorne Beatty at 810-632-7766 or lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Sat, May 19, 10 am-Noon: Special presentation and hike at Nordhouse Dunes. Featur-

ing Anne Woiwode and others involved in the fight for the Wilderness Act.

July 12-15: Sylvania Wilderness Camp-Out and Canoeing. This is the place to canoe or kayak — 34 different lakes, many connected by portages, so you can link together several lakes on a day paddle or move from lake to lake on a three-four day trip. To register, contact John Rebers at 906-250-0442 or jrebers@gmail.com.

Sun, July 15, Noon-2 pm: Special presentation and picnic at Sylvania. Featuring Anne Woiwode and others involved in the fight for the Wilderness Act. Meet at Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center in Watersmeet for

presentation followed by a catered picnic at Day Use Building on Clark Lake just outside Sylvania Wilderness.

Aug. 17-19: Horseshoe Bay Wilderness Camp-Out and Hike. Horseshoe Bay Wilderness north of St. Ignace contains seven miles of spectacular Great Lakes frontage on Horseshoe and St. Martins Bays in northern Lake Huron. Contact Pat Egan at pegan@up.net or (906) 437-5526.

Sat., Aug. 18, 10 am-Noon: Special presentation and hike at Horseshoe Bay. Featuring Anne Woiwode and others involved in the fight for the Wilderness Act.

Happy Birthday to Michigan's Wilderness!

by John Rebers, CUP Group Chair

Along with its 45th anniversary, the Michigan Chapter is celebrating the 25th of the Michigan Wilderness Act. Passed in 1987 after a 10-year political battle, the historic legislation protected 90,000 acres of old growth forests, lakes and dunes in 10 wilderness areas: Big Island Lake, Delirium, Horseshoe Bay, Mackinac, McCormick, Nordhouse Dunes, Rock River Canyon, Round Island, Sturgeon River Gorge, and Sylvania. Five other wildernesses have been created, for a total of nearly 250,000 acres: Isle Royale (most of the park), Beaver Basin in Pictured Rocks, part of Seney National Wildlife Refuge, the Huron Islands and Michigan Islands Wildernesses.

Wilderness with a capital "W" usually refers to designated wilderness areas on federal lands which are established by acts of Congress. The original 1964 Wilderness Act (Public Law (88-577) had a remarkably poetic description, considering the dense language often found in legislation: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

The Wilderness Act also says that designated wilderness areas: 1) generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; 2) have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; and 3) contain ecological, geological, and other features of scientific, educational, and scenic value. Human activities are limited to non-motorized recreation; scientific research, and other non-



Lobby crew for Michigan Wilderness Act in front of a House office building, June 1985. L to R: Steve Uptegraft, John Mitchell, Brian Hazlett, Kathy Mitchell, Larry Haack, Anne Woiwode, Chuck Meyer, Betsy St. Pierre, Bill Robinson and Larry Lemanski.

invasive activities. Generally, the law prohibits logging, mining, mechanized vehicles, road-building, and other development (pre-existing mining claims and grazing ranges are permitted through grandfather clauses).

LEARN MORE

To read Chapter Director Anne Woiwode's reminiscences of the battle to protect Michigan wilderness, visit her blog at annewoiwode.wordpress.com/2010/01

CleanEnergySolutions

The Move Beyond Coal in Michigan Gains Momentum

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

Michigan is beginning to reverse course on coal as its primary source of power. In December, Consumers Energy cancelled expansion plans at the Karn Weadock coal-fired power plant in Essexville and announced plans to mothball seven existing coal-fired units at three plants. Your efforts to demand that Michigan get Beyond Coal are starting to pay off!

The announcement by Michigan's second largest utility is a preview of the fate of the state's last two proposed new coal plants. Holland residents and Hope College students delivered a message of "Clean Energy Love" on Valentines Day to the city council in the latest call for the Tulip City to go coal free. That fol-



DTE Monroe Power Plant

MICHELLE MARTINEZ

lowed a Sierra Club study released in December that modeled sulfur dioxide emissions from the municipal utility's existing coal plant and found unsafe levels of the pollutant in the business district and surrounding areas. A Community Energy Planning process will conclude in coming months, and increasingly Hollanders are urging their city to opt for a clean, fossil fuel-free future.

On the other side of the lower peninsula, the Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative is discovering more good reasons to drop plans for their expensive and unneeded Rogers City coal plant. In

January, the company announced "a significant roadblock" when they were unable to find vendors to guarantee the new plant would meet federal clean air quality standards. In a sign that the cooperative power provider is looking for a graceful way to drop the proposal, it is in discussions with a Wisconsin utility that might lead to an investment to upgrade environmental controls at an existing plant in Marquette as an alternative.

MSU Beyond Coal, a student-led campaign to shut down the largest coal-fired power plant on a university campus, delivered over 9,000 signatures to President Lou Anna K. Simon and the Board of Trustees calling on the university to commit to a 100% clean energy future for the school. The group called on officials to reject a disappointingly weak energy transition plan and instead plug into a "living, learning process" that would allow students access to the tools and time to develop a true, clean energy alternative. MSU Beyond Coal is also garnering support from alumni who are calling on the Board and President Simon to become truly green.

TELL YOUR LAWMAKER TO SUPPORT THE FRACK PACK!

Deep hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a process of extracting natural gas that has caused thousands of incidents of environmental contamination nationwide and now threatens Michigan's water and air.

As stewards of the greatest freshwater system in the world, Michiganders need to be ahead of the curve on this issue, which is why the Sierra Club and a group of Michigan lawmakers introduced "The Frack Pack" last fall. This package of bills aims to protect our state from fracking pollution. To tell your legislator to support it, visit tinyurl.com/frackingbills.

Want to do more? Email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org.



LEARN MORE

Find current updates on the Michigan Beyond Coal campaign and join our efforts by going to www.sierraclub.org/coal/mi.



This wind turbine is part of Michigan's 30,000-acre wind farm in northeast Gratiot County.

A Wind-Powered Revolution in Gratiot County

by Erin Smigielski, Legislative Intern

Gratiot County recently became the home of Michigan's largest wind farm. The 133 turbines in the northeast part of the county will generate enough electricity to power over 50,000 homes for at least 20 years. The project, funded by the Chicago-based Invenery and DTE Energy, is projected to pay out about \$50 million in tax revenues to schools, townships, and the county.

Wind provides Michigan with safe, clean energy. Wind turbines are less expensive to operate than coal plants and provide a predictable flow of power. In addition, the Gratiot County wind farm provides the community with positive economic payback. Bethany Township is expected to collect at least \$55,000 in tax capture per year, about a quarter of the township's budget. The wind farm project has created about 10-15 long-term jobs, and provided construction jobs to about 150 people. Farmers with wind turbines on their land are estimated to earn about \$1,000 or more per month on a lease, with more than 240 landowners agreeing to lease their land.

For Michigan to move forward as a state that cares about its natural resources, we need to harness the spirit of a good idea like the wind farm in Gratiot County and increase energy production from sustainable sources in other parts of the state. That's why Sierra Club helped pass Michigan's current energy law (Public Act 295, 2008), which supports the development of wind and other renewable sources.

WORK BEGINS FOR A CLEAN ENERGY BALLOT PROPOSAL IN NOVEMBER

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

Want to protect your family's health, preserve the Great Lakes, create thousands of Michigan jobs, help end dirty energy AND limit costs to your electric bill in coming years? Then join us in putting a clean energy proposal on the ballot in November by collecting signatures this spring!

The Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs initiative proposes a state constitutional amendment that would require DTE, Consumers Energy and all of Michigan's electric providers to get 25% of their power from renewable energy sources by the year 2025. It also caps the added cost to ratepayers at about \$1.25 per month. The timing couldn't be better. Utilities are on track to provide 10% of their power from renewable sources by 2015, as required by law. When state regulators looked at the cost of that new, clean power generation, they found that it's dramatically cheaper than the cost of new, dirty coal or nuclear power plants! (More info at mienergymijobs.com.)

To keep the momentum going and catch up to the 20 states with stronger clean energy requirements than us, we need to put "25 x 25" in place this year! The initiative provides a strong incentive for clean energy to be produced with jobs here in Michigan instead of shipping them to mining states in exchange for coal that pollutes our air, poisons our fish, and adds to climate change.

The ballot proposal is in the form of a constitutional amendment because our legislature can't be trusted to move Michigan to clean energy. Right now legislators are trying to do away with the current renewable energy requirement! We need your help so Michiganders can speak loud and clear in support of clean energy this fall.

To find out how to help get this critical measure on the ballot, email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or call our Lansing office.

Michigan Legislative Scorecard Shows Abysmal “Green” Voting Record for Republicans

ALL BUT FOUR SCORED 0%, MOST DEMOCRATS TOPPED 75%

by Mike Berkowitz, Legislative and Political Director

In preparation for the upcoming election season, the Michigan Chapter released its 2011-2012 Legislative Scorecard for the Michigan House of Representatives based on eight roll call votes on legislation that impacts the environment. The document, which can be found at www.michigan.sierraclub.org, demonstrates that Democrats generally voted to maintain and/or strengthen environmental protections, while Republicans most often voted to weaken or eliminate them.

Of the 62 Republican State Representatives, 58 scored 0% for votes on environmental bills, demonstrating Republican House leadership has completely failed at protecting clean air and clean water for Michigan citizens. Taken together, the Republican House average for pro-environment voting was 1%, while House Democrats scored an average of 78%. Six Democratic lawmakers scored a perfect 100%.

The only Republican who crossed over to vote with Democrats on more than one bill on the scorecard was Rep. Matt Lori (R-Constantine). Nine Democrats scored less than 65%, two of whom scored as low as 38%. The scorecard containing the full list of Environmental Champions (those with scores of 100%), Environmental Stewards (80-99%), and Pollution Promoters (0-25%) is on our website at michigan.sierraclub.org/news/docs/2011-2012_SC_Scorecard.pdf.

“We focused on votes that our members and our Legislative Committee voiced major opinions about,” said Lydia Fischer, chair of the Chapter’s Legislative Committee. “Overall, votes were selected that clearly showcased the true environmental intent of the legislators.”

Aside from the partisan nature of the voting, the number of anti-environment bills that were advanced also increased. Almost

2011-12 ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

(100% SCORE)

DISTRICT	NAME	PARTY
5	John Olumba	D
9	Shanelle Jackson	D
11	David E. Nathan	D
25	Jon M. Switalski	D
27	Ellen Cogen Lipton	D
53	Jeff Irwin	D

every single environmental bill considered over the last year was an attack on Michigan’s environmental protections. Pro-environment bills that we lobbied for — such as bills to protect Michigan residents from the dangers of fracking — never even received public hearings in committee.

“Why does our legislature have the wrong priorities when it comes to protecting Michigan’s environment?” asked James D’Amour, a Sierra Club member who was once active in the Republican Party. “Clean air and clean water should not be partisan issues. We were the best progressive leaders in making conservation a top priority. This so-called ‘new’ GOP is disappointing and disheartening for Republicans like me who care about the environment.”

If you’re as disappointed as James in Michigan legislators’ voting records, then why not work for change? Contact me to find out what you can do to make a difference in this election year at mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or call 517-484-2372.

2011-12 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

(80-99% SCORE)

DISTRICT	NAME	PARTY
1	Timothy Bledsoe	D
6	Frederick C. Durhal Jr.	D
7	James Womack	D
8	Thomas Stallworth III	D
12	Rashida Tlaib	D
15	George T. Darany	D
17	Phil Cavanagh	D
21	Dian Slavens	D
26	Jim Townsend	D
35	Rudy Hobbs	D
39	Lisa Brown	D
50	Charles Smiley	D
54	David Rutledge	D
68	Joan Bauer	D
69	Mark S. Meadows	D
75	Brandon Dillon	D
92	Marcia Hovey-Wright	D

Help Clean Up Our (Political) Environment

by Richard Morley Barron, Chapter Political Committee Chair

If you've grown increasingly upset about the recent political and corporate assaults on our environment, there's good news — this is an election year, and you'll have real opportunities to make a positive impact on our planet. The primary election will be Aug. 7, and the general election takes place Nov. 6.

What can you do as a concerned Sierra Club member? First, become aware of the races you're able to vote in and determine which of the candidates in each contest is the most environmentally responsible. The Chapter will help with this by carefully screening candidates (of all parties) and endorsing the best ones. This will eventually be posted on our Chapter Political website — michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/michiganpolitics.html.

Naturally you need to be registered in advance to vote. It is very important that you vote in the primary as well as the general election. Due to redistricting, you need to make sure you know which electoral districts you're in this year, because they may have changed. To find out, visit webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote.

Secondly, help support "green" candidates with your time, money or both. One easy way to do this is by contributing to the Michigan Sierra PAC, or you may give direct financial support to candidates. If money is tight, volunteer to assist candidates with your time. For information on how to do this, email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or call the Lansing office. Remember, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Thirdly, promote Sierra Club-endorsed candidates to your family, friends, and co-workers! You can use social media to do this. Assure these people that Sierra Club is a non-partisan organization that carefully investigates the environmental



Richard Barron talks with Mike Berkowitz before the morning session of the Fall 2011 Lobby Day.

responsibility of all candidates.

Finally, you should inform yourself about and support the Clean Energy Ballot Initiative known as "25 x 25." This proposed Constitutional Amendment would mandate that Michigan produce one-quarter of its energy from renewable

sources by 2025. The initiative needs volunteers to help circulate petitions to gather enough signatures to get it placed on the November ballot. Contact Mike Berkowitz at mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org to find out how you can help.

Be involved. Our biosphere is at risk!

LOBBY DAY: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Mike Berkowitz, Legislative and Political Director

Every year, the Michigan Chapter organizes Lobby Days at the Capitol where members like you come from all over the state to make your voices heard in Lansing. This year we'll be asking legislators to support a group of bills that will protect Michigan citizens from the dangers of hydraulic fracturing. Also known as fracking, this method of natural gas extraction has quickly become one of the hottest environmental issues our country has ever faced. Fracking has caused incidents of contaminated drinking water, massive air pollution, and even earthquakes nationwide.

We need your help to make sure this doesn't happen in Michigan! Please sign up to join us at Lobby Day by visiting michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/Lobby_Day.html or call the Mike Berkowitz at 517-484-2372 ext. 13 or email him at mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org.

A Personal Letter from Your State Political Committee

Are you sick of reading about how Michigan's legislature keeps attacking the environment? So are we. That's why our state political committee is raising money to help elect candidates that care about our state's great natural bounty and the health of its residents to the Michigan legislature in 2012. These funds will boost the campaign of candidates we endorse by helping them contact more voters. The committee has already run a successful fundraising event in East Lansing, and we'll be organizing others around the state, but we need your help to continue our success.

The state political committee is asking you to consider making a donation to help pay for our work to get "green" candidates elected.

If you've ever attended one of our Lobby Days in Lansing or visited your legislators in your district, then you understand the importance of having strong, eco-friendly lawmakers in the capitol. You understand the vast difference between environmental champions like Reps. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Jon Switalski (D-Warren) and the pro-coal lawmakers who spent all of 2011

attacking Michigan's natural resources. We need you to donate and help us raise money in order to get more environmental champions in the state legislature!

With just months to go to the November general election, we need to prepare for the battle ahead. Our political committee aims to raise \$15,000 before October in order to help campaign for good environmental candidates and inform our members about these candidates. We can only reach this goal with your help.

Please consider making a donation to our political committee or signing up to help us raise money.

Thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,

Richard Barron
Flushing

James D'Amour
Ann Arbor

Craig Ressler
Caledonia

Laurie Tata Flushing

Ken Rosenman
Okemos

Jack Minore Flint

Dave Erickson
Lansing

Robert Gordon
Ann Arbor

Sue Kelly Milford

Ed McArdle
Melvindale

Gwen Nystuen
Ann Arbor

Dave Richards
Royal Oak

Hal Newnan Warren

Julie Griess
Whitmore Lake

Pat Egan Brimley

Alaina Pemberton
Lansing

Mike Berkowitz
Lansing



GWEN NYSTUEN: POLITICAL ACTIVIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

An Ann Arbor resident, Gwen got involved with politics in the late 1980s near the end of the Reagan administration. In 1990, she became the Michigan Chapter's Political Chair and did such a great job that in 1992, she was invited to join Sierra Club's National Political Committee.

Her favorite memories from serving on the national committee were meeting "political stars" like Vice President Al Gore. When asked how the Sierra Club can make a difference in politics, Gwen pointed to two elections, saying, "The Sierra Club was instrumental in electing Bill Clinton in 1992 as well as helping Debbie Stabenow win her Senate seat in 2000."

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB'S PAC

- 1) Write a check for the amount of your choosing
- 2) Make it out to "Michigan Sierra PAC"
- 3) Fill out this form (required by the Secretary of State)
- 4) Mail your check and this form to the following address: Michigan Sierra PAC
109 E. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Corporate checks are not permitted. Contributions to Michigan Sierra PAC are not tax-deductible. Paid for Michigan Sierra PAC, 517-484-2372, ext 13.

FocusOnMichigan

Landmark EPA Mercury Protection Under Attack in Congress

by Tiffany Hartung, Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer

In December 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the first national standards to protect Americans from mercury and other toxic air pollutants such as arsenic, nickel, selenium, cyanide and acid gases. These strong new standards will ensure that more than 90% of the mercury from coal-burning plants is cleaned up, and each year will prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths, 4,700 heart attacks, and 130,000 asthma attacks.

Last year, more than 10,000 Michiganders submitted comments in support for these mercury protections and another 40 rode a bus to the Chicago EPA hearing to testify in support of this life-saving protection. However, now this historic environmental and public health achievement is under a polluter-led assault in Congress.



MICHELLE MARTINEZ

Detroit residents Charles McLean and his family showed support for strong clean air protections last summer.

We need your help to defend this landmark protection! To find out what you can do, contact Tiffany Hartung at tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org or (231)747-7489.

LIFE WITHOUT SIERRA CLUB

In honor of its 45th anniversary in 2012, we solicited testimonials about what the Sierra Club means to you. To see them all, visit www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

PHIL CROOKSHANK DETROIT AREA, SEMG OUTINGS CHAIR

Sierra Club means family to me. Twenty-five years ago I saw an announcement in the paper and I tried to join a Sierra Club hike but didn't know my way around enough to find the group. When I finally did, I was warmly welcomed at the Group Outings scheduling meeting. And they promptly put my ideas for two canoe trips on the calendar! Now, as I look back as Outings Chair for the Southeast Michigan Group, I reflect that, if not for the overwhelming family feeling this group gave me, I would've wound up mis-spending my youth elsewhere. I credit my good health to the Outings Committee that has been so supportive and keeps me outdoors doing what I love every week.



Detroit Home Water Audit Program

by Melissa Damaschke, Great Lakes Regional Representative

Just as we work to improve energy efficiency in our homes, we also need to improve our water efficiency.

Sierra Club kicked off a new program last year in Detroit that trained ten interested members and supporters on how to perform water audits in homes. Trainers organized house party-style events and educated over 280 participants on how to check for leaks, update hardware such as shower heads and aerators and connect rain barrels to downspouts or plant rain gardens outside to prevent storm water pollution.

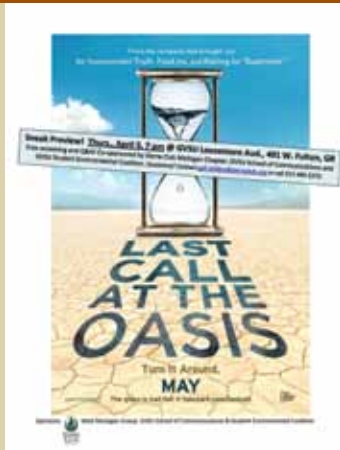
To learn more about this program and how it's going forward this year, go to www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes/detroit.



MELISSA DAMASCHKE

Erma Leaphart-Gouch is part of Sierra Club's Detroit Water Team. She installed a new showerhead to save water. She also leads the home water audit program.

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes



Last Call at the Oasis, a new documentary (and book!) about the global water crisis, featuring an interview with Sierra Club Water Sentinel Lynn Henning, opens nationally May 5 and comes to Detroit May 25.

It examines the critical issue of our dwindling clean water options through stories highlighting water quantity and quality problems and spotlights Lynn's work tracking animal factory pollution. The West Michigan Group held a sneak preview of the film April 5 at GVSU's Grand Rapids campus.

Check our website for details about screenings in Detroit and Chicago at www.michigan.sierraclub.org. And track what Lynn is doing out in the field by following her on Twitter @CAFOCrusader.



Tackling the Elephant in the Room

by Gail Philbin, Assistant Director

Michigan has more than 230 animal factories lurking off the radar in rural areas. Out of sight, out of mind, maybe, but they have a real, negative impact on our daily lives, whether or not we get our food from small, sustainable farms. These livestock warehouses generate millions of gallons of manure annually and are poisoning our water and air while sucking the life out of our local economies. Even when they violate federal and state regulations, these operations get rewarded with the lion's share of federal subsidies (our tax dollars!), undercutting the very farmers we're supporting with our shopping habits.

For more than a decade, the Michigan Chapter has tackled head-on the pollution side of the CAFO issue (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) — tracking manure run-off, alerting the authorities to violations, lobbying for better laws and oversight, educating citizens, and suing operations when necessary. Our own Lynn Henning has gained international recognition for her work documenting the pollution of these "farms" (See sidebar about her new film.)

Now, we're taking it to the next level. In the coming months, you'll hear about a new campaign to ratchet up our efforts

as the state's CAFO watchdog while being more aggressive in our support of sustainable agriculture. We'll involve diverse groups that address various aspects of the animal factory issue to build a coalition that can apply real pressure to these corporate polluters from many sides.

We're excited about this campaign, but it won't be effective without your involvement! You can join the fight for a better food system in a number of ways:

- Start a water monitoring crew to track animal factory pollution near you. Contact lynn.henning@sierraclub.org.
- Become a community spokesperson and talk to the media and table at events. Email gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.
- Host a house party to educate friends and family about this issue. To get more info, contact gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.
- Buy from local, sustainable farms near you. Visit www.localharvest.org.
- Support our CAFO work with a donation to the Michigan Chapter. Contact jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

Finally, stay up to date on the progress of our new campaign, learn about events and things you can do to help by signing up to be on our email list. You'll learn about the campaign's blog and website where you can share thoughts and ideas with like-minded people and help build the movement with us! Just contact gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.



Lynn Henning spoke to a group of 45 people in Grand Rapids who attended "An Evening with Lynn Henning: The Scoop on the Poop in Our Food System" on March 7. The event, co-sponsored by Crane Dance Farms, Creswick Farms, FarmLink and the Michigan Chapter, attracted foodies from around West Michigan who came to learn more about Lynn's work and how to fix our broken food system.

WATER SENTINELS PROGRAM PLANS THREE NEW PROJECTS IN MICHIGAN

by Rita Chapman, Water Sentinels
Project Coordinator

New threats to Michigan's waters from activities like hydraulic fracturing (fracking) — which involves new unpaved roads, hundreds of heavy trucks, construction activity and possible chemical spills — when added to preexisting conditions such as animal factory pollution and combined sewer overflows — will diminish our water quality even more.

Because of this, we need to keep a close eye on this vital resource by monitoring our rivers and lakes and providing the information we gather to decision-makers. We also need to educate our neighbors about the issues.

To accomplish this, the Michigan Water Sentinels are setting up monitoring sites at waterways endangered by nearby polluting activities in northern Lower Michigan, southern Michigan, and West Michigan, and we need volunteers to help gather the data. If you've been looking for an outdoor volunteer activity, this could be it! All you need to spare is most of a weekend day once a season.

To find out more, contact Rita Chapman at rita.chapman@sierraclub.org.

SIGN UP FOR THE WATER SENTINEL E-NEWSLETTER

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

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

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



Gasland Screenings

The Chapter's West Michigan Group and Grand Valley State University's School of Communications co-hosted a screening of *Gasland*, the Emmy-winning documentary by Josh Fox about deep hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on Feb. 16.

This brutal method of extracting deep-seated natural gas has come to Michigan and has caused earthquakes and flaming faucets in other states. The film drew 65 people, many of whom stayed after to learn more from Chapter Water Sentinel Rita Chapman. WMG volunteer Craig Brainard is pictured introducing the movie.

If you missed this free screening, we're offering another on Apr. 24 at 6:30 pm at Spring Lake District Library, 123 E. Exchange St., Spring Lake. For details, email rita.chapman@sierraclub.org.



Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

THANK YOU, EARTH SHARE DONORS!

We wish to thank all the individuals who support our work each year through payroll deduction via Earth Share of Michigan.

If you have just completed your annual payroll deduction campaign at work and Earth Share of Michigan was not listed as an option, please call 800-386-3326 to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support Sierra Club Foundation, Michigan Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations.

For more information, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org.

Annual Retreat

23rd Annual Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Retreat

JOIN US AUG. 24-26 AT CAMP MINIWANCA ON LAKE MICHIGAN!

by Marty MacCleery, Retreat Committee Chair

If you haven't come to the annual Sierra Club Chapter retreat before, then you've missed out on a fun, relaxing, and inspiring weekend!

Open to the public and Sierra Club members alike, the annual retreat takes place at beautiful Camp Miniwanca on Lake Michigan. This is a family-friendly camp of 360 acres running along Lake Michigan located between Muskegon and Ludington near Shelby. In honor of the three anniversaries we are celebrating all year, the theme of the 2012 retreat is: "Celebrating Our Environment: Past, Present, Future."

This annual Chapter retreat is whatever you want it to be, including an opportunity to get outdoors, enjoy the environment, and learn what you can do to celebrate our environment. We're nostalgic about the location because Camp Miniwanca is where most of our 23 Chapter retreats have taken place since the start of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter 45 years ago.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Families and individuals can pick and choose among a variety of activities. For example, does your family like outdoor sports? Then enjoy kayaking, sailing, river tubing, swimming, a high ropes course, guided hikes, scavenger hunts, or camp fires. Kids will enjoy lots of crafts and nature activities including an opportunity to interact with the live bats of the Organization for Bat Conservation, constructing their own bird or bat box, kite-flying, making beautiful envelopes and origami from recycled Sierra Club calendars!

Want to learn more about environmental issues and develop some grassroots organizing skills? Then choose from a selection of environmental and activist workshops such as enjoying

Charles St. Charles' amazing presentation highlighting the return of trumpeter swans to Michigan or being entertained by Steve Waller, the consummate interpreter of John Muir, the naturalist who founded the Sierra Club 120 years ago. Participate in yoga classes, attend a non-denominational service on Sunday morning, learn more about hydro-fracking or how to knit with yarn created from old shirts!

LOTS OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday night is one of the highlights of the weekend with our live auction and live entertainment. Please bring your new, used, handmade and unusual treasures to donate to the auction and be sure to bid because it's fun! On Friday night we'll have orientation tours for families or folks who are new to Camp Miniwanca including games, movies and snacks.

How about a break from cooking? The meals in the dining hall are all healthy and delicious and include vegan, vegetarian and omnivore choices...just follow the dinner bell! If you want some alone time, take a book and walk down to the shore of Lake Michigan and feel the wind on your face, watch and listen to the waves.

REGISTER NOW

The modest retreat fee covers all workshops and activities, five meals, two nights lodging, and one memorable time. For more info including camp location and registration, contact Cecilia Garcia, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org, or 517-484-2372 x10. Our registration website will soon be up and running. In the meantime, check out michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html to view a listing of our workshops from last year.

See you this summer!

Painting bird boxes.



CAPT. J. PORTER



Sunset at Camp Miniwanca

2012 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

All workshops, activities, five meals and two nights lodging are included in each of the rates listed below.
(Some crafts may require a small materials fee.)

Names (include age if under 18): _____	Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total
_____	< 3	All	Free	Free
_____	3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$75	_____
_____	3-12	Lakeside or Inland Dorm	\$90	_____
Address: _____	Adult	Cabin or Tent	\$135	_____
_____	Adult	Inland Dorm Room	\$165	_____
Phone: () _____	Adult	Lakeside Dorm Room, no roommate(s)	\$185	_____
Email Address: _____	Adult	Lakeside Dorm Room, with roommate(s)	\$175	_____
<i>(Saves resources—your address will not be shared.)</i>		Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)*		_____
Special needs, comments, questions, suggestions:		Add \$5 for registration after August 6		_____
_____		TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____

* Visit www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html to learn more about Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO) program

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

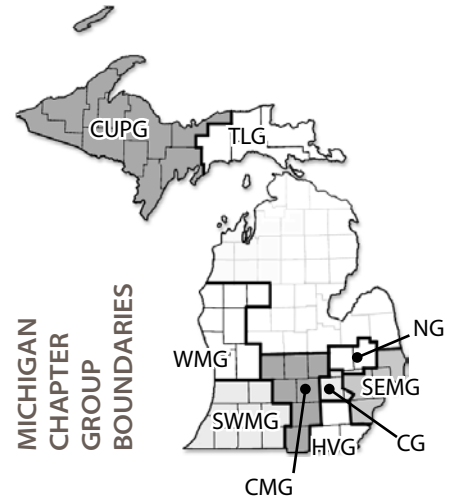
Register online at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/retreat.html or send this form with a check to: Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, ATTN: MI CHAPTER RETREAT, 109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Make check payable to Sierra Club. Contact Cecilia Garcia with registration questions, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or (517) 484-2372 x10. **ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED & CLOSES ON AUGUST 17.** Check-in begins Friday, August 24 at 4pm.

Group Info & Outings

Think Globally, and Get Active with Your Local Sierra Club Group!

Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's nine regional Groups or committees are a vital link for getting active with Sierra Club! Groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Sierra Club members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—everyone is welcome! The Michigan Chapter website has a comprehensive calendar with current and upcoming outings, programs and events listed for each Group (go to michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar).

Below is a list of the Michigan Chapter's regional groups, the counties they cover, and where their meetings usually take place. Group Chairs, their contact information and links for Group websites are also listed below, or go to michigan.sierraclub.org/groups.



Central Michigan Group / CMG

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

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.com/cm

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

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

Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties / meets in Marquette

GROUP CHAIR: John Rebers, 906-250-0442 or jrebers@gmail.com

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

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

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/sem

SEMG CHAIR: Julie Ann Wang, 248-646-5650, jawang1@comcast.net

Crossroads Group / CG

Livingston County and western Oakland County / meets in Brighton

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.com/crossroads

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

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

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

SWMG CONTACT: Brad Parsons, 269-492-4437 or bradparsons4@gmail.com

Huron Valley Group / HVG

Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe Counties / meets in Ann Arbor

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

HVG CHAIR: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or nshiffler@comcast.net

Three Lakes Group / TLG

Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft Counties / meets in Sault Ste. Marie

ONLINE: www.michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/ThreeLakes.html

TLG CHAIR: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or threelakesgroupsierraclub@gmail.com

Nepessing Group / NG

Genesee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland County / meets in Flint

ONLINE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

NG CHAIR: Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038 or thaley01@att.net

West Michigan Group / WMG

Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mason, Lake, and Osceola Counties / meets in Grand Rapids

ONLINE: www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

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



SHERRY ZOARS

Michigan Chapter volunteers headed to northern Wisconsin last year to help the state's Department of Natural Resources remove invasive species, refurbish campsites and perform other tasks. For details about this year's service outing, see May 13-18 listing on page 18.

CELEBRATE EARTH MONTH WITH THE SIERRA CLUB!

Here's a sampling of our activities in April.
For more events, visit michigan.sierraclub.org.

Sat, Apr 21 (NG): Celebrate John Muir's Birthday. 9 am-4 pm. Flint Farmer's Market, 420 E Boulevard, Flint. Honor the Sierra Club founder's birthday by making summer plans to enjoy, protect and preserve your native Michigan environment. Join Sierra Club and WildOnes at the market —first come/first served for free, white pine tree seedlings (the Michigan State Tree) and for Michigan native plant seeds! Contact Sue Lossing, 810-735-6303 or SLossing@umflint.edu.

Sun, Apr 22 (SEMG): 12-Mile Bike Tour of Detroit's Green Water Infrastructure. 1pm starting at Rivard Plaza, 1340 E. Atwater, Detroit. Bring your bike or rent one for this moderately paced ride. We will see the Riverfront, Midtown, east side and constructed wetlands, rain gardens, permeable pavers and other examples of green water infrastructure. Helmet required. Rain/shine. Rentals at the Plaza: Wheelhouse Detroit, 313-656-2453. Guide: Melissa, 313- 965-0055. Leader: Cindy, 248-336-2984.

Sun, Apr 22 (CUPG): 25 Years of Michigan Wilderness With the Central Upper Peninsula Group. 5-9 pm. Marquette Federation of Women's Clubhouse, 104 West Ridge Street, Marquette. Bring a dish to pass and beverage (wine or non-alcoholic only). If you have pix of Michigan Wilderness, bring those to share, too. Contact: jrebers@gmail.com.



Renaissance man and Chapter volunteer Ken Salzman makes a pen fall off a table from five feet away at the Fall 2011 Lobby Day.

Ken Salzman Works a Little Magic on Lobby Day

In the current political climate, it seems the only way environmentalists will get anything done is by magic. Good thing we have Ken Salzman on our side. This long-time Sierra Club member and Renaissance man — a psychologist, computer programmer, Tai Chi instructor and amateur carpenter/plumber/electrician — is a magician, who often does benefit shows for groups. He dabbled with it as a youth, but it really took hold when his wife bought him lessons for his 50th birthday.

“All of magic is endlessly fascinating. It’s amazing what you can get past people,” said Salzman, who is as likely to perform a trick as say “hi” when he meets you. “The ‘trick’ of magic, though, is in some ways trivial. The performance is the thing of value. Anyone can trick someone, but to deliver a sense of wonder, to see someone’s face light up in amazement... that’s the real payoff.”

Salzman’s ability to create illusions that inspire wonder along with his understanding of the human mind come in handy during the Chapter’s Lobby Day, which he has participated in for a decade.

“I am intrigued by and enjoy the task of delivering a message without arguing, but also without letting misinformation slide in,” explained Salzman, who loves solving puzzles and conflict resolution. “It’s less about convincing the legislator or their staff, often a lost cause, than it is collecting intelligence for Sierra Club so they can better chart the next steps.”

Salzman says he is thankful to Sierra Club for affording the opportunity to “feel like a part of a bigger solution,” but we believe we’re the lucky ones.

ESSAY CONTEST: WHAT DOES WILDERNESS MEAN TO YOU?

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Act, historic legislation that protected 90,000 acres of old growth forest and pristine lakes and dunes we all enjoy today.

The Michigan Chapter, which is celebrating its 45th anniversary, has played a significant role in protecting many special places in Michigan since 1967.

Tell us in **500 words or less** about your experience in a protected area such as Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Grand Island, or Pictured Rocks.

Stories will be judged on their effectiveness in communicating the special qualities of the place and how those qualities affect the visitor. The winning submission will appear in the next *Mackinac*.

DEADLINE: AUGUST 15

Email submissions to gail.philbin@sierraclub.org with subject line of “Essay Contest,” and please include your name and contact info in the body of the email.

The winner will be chosen by Milton J. Bates, author of books and articles on American literature and history.

His new book, *The Bark River Chronicles: Stories from a Wisconsin Watershed*, comes out this fall.

Group Info & Outings

Sierra Club Outings are for Everyone!

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

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

Every outing — whether it's a stroll in the park or a week-long backpacking adventure on Isle Royale — starts at the trail head,

and some include fees to cover expenses.

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

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

Michigan Chapter Outings

To register or for more details on these two Chapter Outings contact Lorne Beatty, Chapter Outings Chair, at 810-632-7766 or lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org.

May 18-20: Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Hike & Camp-Out. Spend a weekend celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Act, which protected Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness & 9 other areas throughout the state. Nordhouse encompasses about 3,500 acres between Ludington & Manistee, including 3 miles of dunes on Lake Michigan's shoreline & 20 miles of dunes & forest trails. Base camp in a large, group site in the Lake Michigan Recreation Area & take day hikes & enjoy the beach. Saturday night we'll be treated to dinner by Chapter Chef Cecilia Garcia. Participants supply their own camping gear & food for all other meals. Pack for varying weather conditions & bring appropriate footwear for hiking. Campers share the cost of camp fees & Saturday night dinner.

Sept 8: Au Sable River Clean-up & Tree Planting. 10 am. Join the Anglers of the Au Sable, Cedars of the Au Sable & the Michigan Chapter for this popular annual event. Meet at Gates Au Sable Lodge, 471 Stephan Bridge Road in Grayling to organize. Members & non-members welcome. We'll plant cedar saplings or maintain previously planted cedars, so bring gloves, shovels, trowels, etc. Afternoon BBQ at Au Sable Lodge will follow. Overnight camping is optional.

Group Outings

April 15 (CG): Spring Hike at Pinckney Recreation Area. 1 pm at 8555 Silver Hill Rd., Pinckney. The Crooked Lake Trail is a 5-mile trail through rolling wooded hills. Approx. 2 ½ hour hike suitable for beginners & families with stamina to hike the distance. Hiking boots recommended.



JOHN REBERS

Snow-lovers got outside for a rare ski trip in this snow-challenged winter to White Deer Lake in the McCormick Wilderness on Feb. 25. The event was part of the CUPG's contribution to the Michigan Chapter's year-long celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Act. More anniversary events listed on p. 5 and on our website at michigan.sierraclub.org.

Free to members & non-members but requires an annual or daily Michigan State Parks pass (or passport pass) for entry. Early spring plants will be coming up! Trail head is at the parking lot at Silver Lake, Pinckney Recreation Area. Contact John Wilson, 734-954-0429 or john.wilson@michigan.sierraclub.org.

May 7 (NG): Full Moon Paddle. 6:30 pm. Linden Mill Pond in downtown Linden. An easy paddle while you enjoy a full moon paddle & a "restaurant option." Paddlers will start at the Linden Mill Pond & travel upstream on the Shiawassee River. Cost: \$1 donation to the Club. Contact Maggie Yerman, 810-735-9570 or yerantmag@yahoo.com.

May 13-18 (CUPG): Women's Northwoods Service at Northern Highland State Forest Boulder Jct, WI. Join us for 4 days of work with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff removing exotic invasive species, refurbishing lakeside campsites & helping with various projects. Stay in a lakeside cabin with canoes at the door; bird & hike during off hours. Cost is \$25 plus you bring an evening meal for 6. Contact Sherry Zoars, 906-358-1110 or zoars@copper.net.

May 20 (HVG/SEMG): Hike Humbug Marsh. 1-3 pm at Refuge Gateway of Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, 5437 W Jefferson Ave, Trenton. Join us for an afternoon hike along the last untouched mile of national shoreline along the Detroit River. Observe plants & animals that use this unique habitat & learn how it was saved from development by thousands of dedicated residents, government agencies & nonprofit organizations. Meet at the Refuge Gateway on the east side of Jefferson Avenue, south of Van Horn Street & north of Vreeland Ave. Contact 734-665-0248 or ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Indoor Adventures

Tues, Apr 24 (WMG): Screening of Gasland. 6:30 pm at Spring Lake District Library, 123 E. Exchange St., Spring Lake. This Oscar-nominated, Emmy-winning film by Josh Fox offers a first-person account of the filmmaker's quest to find out more about deep hydraulic fracturing — a.k.a. "fracking." Contact rita.chapman@sierraclub.org.

Thurs, Apr 26 (CMG): Martha Bates, acquisitions editor at MSU Press, discusses the film "John Muir in the New World" 7 pm at East

THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER ONLINE

Our twice-monthly Michigan Chapter Update is your email source for Sierra Club news and events.

Register with us online and we'll keep you informed and engaged.

Go to www.tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate.

Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. In honor of the 120th anniversary of the Sierra Club, the Central Michigan Group presents excerpts & a discussion of this beautiful, biographical film about the life & times of founder John Muir & a group reading of one of his books. Contact markmuhich0@gmail.com.

May 3 (SEMG): Ah, Wilderness! 7:30 pm at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. In honor of the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Act, Chapter Director Anne Woiwode offers an insider's look at the decade-long political battle that went into creating this historic legislation.

Nov 16 (CG): Kayaks: A Program by Gerry Neumeier. 7pm at the Brighton District Library. Gerry Neumeier loves kayaks, knows their history & builds them from scratch in the style of the ancient seal hunters. He'll tell you all about it, discuss the beautiful, wild places he's paddled & answer your questions about kayaks. Join the Crossroads Group for a fascinating program & an opportunity to see a variety of kayaks including Gerry's own handmade creations. Free admission. More info: crossroads.sierraclub@gmail.com or michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads.

Nov 16 (CUPG): A presentation by Sue Browne of the Blue Green Alliance & re-enactment of

John Muir's life. 7-9pm. Browne offers a 15-minute discussion of how labor unions & environmental organizations are working together followed by "The Life of John Muir," a 45-minute portrayal of Sierra Club founder by Steve Waller. Free & open to the public. More info: 906-250-0442 or jrebers@gmail.com.

Inner City Outings

Inner City Outings (ICO) is a Sierra Club community outreach program in Washtenaw County providing opportunities to explore, enjoy & protect the natural world for those who wouldn't otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with local organizations to plan outings & serve as event leaders to share their love of the natural world. For more information, contact:

Washtenaw County

Brandon Nascimento,
washtenawico@yahoo.com

West Michigan

Craig Ressler, craig_ressler@yahoo.com



Friend or Foe?

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals - not to mention being the largest source of toxic ammonia air pollution in the U.S. The air around factory farms is contaminated with suspended dust particles, which have been linked to asthma, bronchitis and other diseases. Our government wants to pass legislation which would exempt factory farms health and environmental laws. Support Sierra Club's effort to keep our water clean and our air friendly. The hogs have gone wild, now it's our turn.

Cause a stink. JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

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.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



F94Q W 2100 1



Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

Supporting Your Chapter

In Memory of Max Klein

by John Klein

Max was unexpectedly taken from us on Nov. 28, 2011. He loved the woods, the water and being outdoors. And most of all he loved his family. Max is immensely missed by all his family, friends and those friends he met from Sierra Club. Thanks for the joyful memories, Max.

Memorial Contribution made by Ed Steinman and Rita Mitchell.



JOHN KLEIN

Max doing his owl imitation.



ANNE WOJWODE

HELP!

The Michigan Chapter is tackling many environmental challenges, but we can't succeed without your support. Sierra Club is a volunteer-driven organization with opportunities to fit almost any interest.

We're seeking motivated, enthusiastic people who enjoy exploring, enjoying and protecting our natural resources.

We have a wide range of opportunities available to work with our exceptionally dedicated staff and members of Sierra Club on a diverse array of projects, from light office work to water monitoring and service projects in the field.

For a list of our current needs, contact Cecilia Garcia at cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or call 517-484-2372, ext. 10.

Thank you!

In Memoriam: Laura Louise Graham

by Carol Graham

My mom was a kind lady who loved people and who people loved. She was the favorite aunt and the favorite neighbor. She could talk to anyone like she had known them forever. My mom was a homemaker, scout leader, community volunteer and worked the elections every year. She passed away on Dec. 8, 2011.

Memorializing wonderful people like my mom, Laura Louise Vliet Graham, can be done in a meaningful way when several Sierra Club members combine their giving. So far over \$500 has been raised in my mom's name for Sierra Club because, like her, its members care about people and animals, being good citizens and taking care of our home — the planet.



Creating a Lasting Legacy

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Michigan Sierra Club in your will. When you create a charitable bequest to benefit the Michigan Chapter, you control your assets during your lifetime and help protect our state's environment in the years to come. Contact the Sierra Club's Gift Planning office (see ad on this page) to create a lasting legacy to protect Michigan's future.

If you have already included the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter in

your will, please let us know so we can thank you in your lifetime!

Commemorative and memorial gifts help you celebrate important events and occasions or remember a loved one by supporting protection of Michigan's environment. To discuss any of these legacy gifts or for suggestions on how to commemorate important events, contact Michigan Chapter Development Director Jan O'Connell at jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or 616-956-6646.



FRED TOWNSEND

Create an Environmental Legacy.



Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

**Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program**
 85 Second Street, Second Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

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

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

Give online at www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport

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

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

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

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

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

2011 Annual Report

Highlights & Accomplishments

Jan O'Connell, Development Director

In 2011, more than 1,300 individual contributions were made to support the Michigan Chapter's work. Hundreds more people gave their time, talent and passion in collaboration with our hard-working and motivated staff to protect Michigan and move critical environmental issues forward. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for making the work of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter possible! We closed 2011 with 24,000+ members and supporters in the state.

The Chapter's extraordinary volunteers, with assistance from our dedicated staff, led the way in tackling many important issues. Highlights include:

- Sierra Club's in-district lobbying program was bigger than ever, including meetings with over 50 legislators on both peninsulas thanks to the work of the Legislative Committee and staffer Mike Berkowitz.
- Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson has been instrumental in Sierra Club challenging a \$60 million federal grant to build an ill-conceived biofuels plant in the eastern UP that would consume more resources and energy than it would produce.
- Chapter Executive Committee member and volunteer Nancy Shiffler and Clean Water Program Director Rita Chapman have been a leading force in battling the latest threat to our water and air — hydraulic fracturing, a.k.a. fracking.
- Michigan Water Sentinel Lynn Henning continues to make a mark with her work tracking animal factory pollution in Michigan and nationwide. She was featured once again in *O Magazine* in the November 2011 issue and was showcased in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *Sierra Magazine*.
- Chapter Director Anne Woiwode has been instrumental in managing the

Coal to Clean Energy efforts across the state while directing the work of the staff and chapter.

- Jan O'Connell continues to work in Holland moving the community Beyond Coal and, as our development director, searches for ways to present opportunities for members to support the Chapter's work.
- Our new Assistant Director Gail Philbin has taken the reins as news-

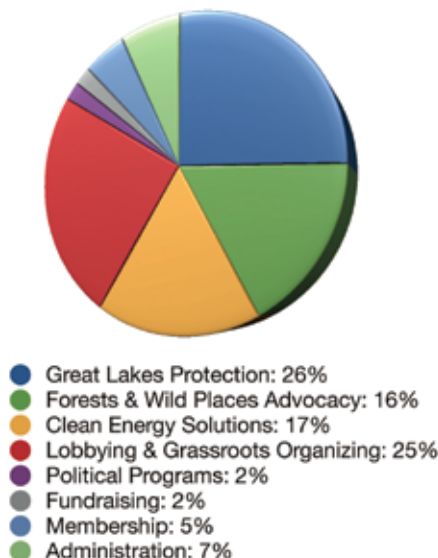
letter editor and is coordinating the Chapter's 45th anniversary events and publicity, as well as doing foundation research and developing the Chapter's new CAFO campaign.

- Cecilia Garcia, our administrative assistant, has reorganized the office and found cost-saving procedures to keep us running efficiently.

We are very proud of the work the Michigan Sierra Club has been able to accomplish in 2011 to protect and restore our state's health, environment and heritage. Your support and generosity has made an enormous difference. Thank you!

EXPENSES TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

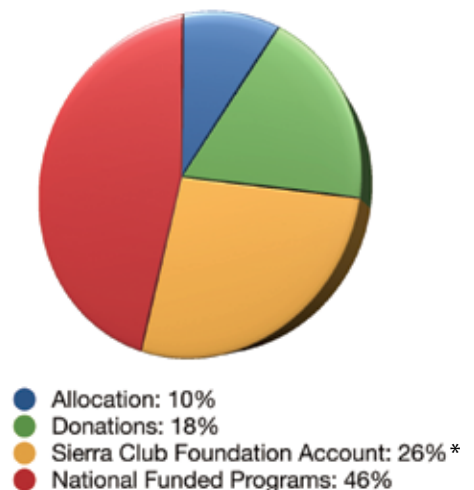
In 2011, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter spent \$565,707 to advance our conservation priorities in our Great Lakes state. Of that, 91% went directly to the pro-environment actions that you care about in Michigan. The remaining 9% went to administrative aid for our programs and activities necessary for securing funds to ensure the Chapter's critical work can continue as long as necessary.



INCOME TO SUSTAIN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In 2011, only 10% of the Michigan Chapter's income came from a portion of the membership dues you pay to Sierra Club each year. To support the environmental work you care about here at home, the Michigan Chapter engages in diverse fundraising activities including direct mail appeals to our members, house parties hosted by volunteer leaders and writing grant proposals to foundations.

Our total income was \$555,400.



* Includes donations to MI Chapter

Chapter Directory

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OFFICE

109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-484-2372 Fax: 517-484-3108
Website: www.michigan.sierraclub.org

State Director

Anne Woiwode anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org

Assistant State Director

Gail Philbin 616-805-3063, gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

Michigan Chapter Organizer

Mike Berkowitz mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org

Development Director and Energy Issues Organizer

Jan O'Connell 616-956-6646, jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org

CAFO Water Sentinel

Lynn Henning 517-605-7740, lynn.henning@sierraclub.org

Forest Policy Specialist

Marvin Roberson 906-360-0288, marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org

Clean Water Program / Water Sentinels Project Coordinator

Rita Chapman rita.chapman@sierraclub.org

Administrative Assistant

Cecilia J. Garcia cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB DETROIT OFFICE

2727 Second Avenue Suite 320, Detroit, MI 48201

Environmental Justice Organizer

Rhonda Anderson 313-965-0052, rhonda.anderson@sierraclub.org

Great Lakes Regional Representative

Melissa Damaschke 313-965-0055, melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org

Clean Energy Solutions Organizer

Michelle Martinez 313-974-6547, michelle.martinez@sierraclub.org

Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer

Tiffany Hartung 231-747-7489, tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB CENTRAL REGION OFFICE

400 W Front Street, Suite 204, Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-922-2201

Central Regional Staff Director

Alison Horton alison.horton@sierraclub.org

Administrative Coordinator

Shelly Campbell shelly.campbell@sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

85 Second Street, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415-977-5500

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



MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Members

CHAIR Jean Gramlich jean.gramlich@michigan.sierraclub.org

VICE CHAIR Lorne Beatty lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

TREASURER Helen LeBlanc helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org

SECRETARY Nancy Shiffler nshiffler@comcast.net

5TH OFFICER John Rebers jrebers@gmail.com

At-Large Representatives

Dorothy Nordness dorothyk114@gmail.com

Nancy Shiffler nshiffler@comcast.net

Cynthia Husarchik cahusarchik@sbcglobal.net

Jean Gramlich jean.gramlich@michigan.sierraclub.org

Ed McArdle ecoguy2@netzero.net

Lorne Beatty lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

Pat Egan pegan@up.net

Craig Brainard boomerbob1@gmail.com

Richard Morley Barron rmorleybarron@charter.net

Local Group Representatives

CG Mary Andersson mandersson@charter.net

CMG Helen LeBlanc helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org

CUPG John Rebers jrebers@gmail.com

HVG Ed Steinman lighthawk.pilot@gmail.com

NG Mike Haley 810-686-6354, thaley01@att.net

SEMG Nancy Davis nancyolk@yahoo.com

SWMG Brad Parsons bradparsons4@gmail.com

TLG Roger Blanchard 906-253-9316, rblanchard@issu.edu

TLG Carol Ward saltpt@lighthouse.net

WMG Craig Brainard boomerbob1@gmail.com

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

Awards Committee

Craig Ressler craig_ressler@yahoo.com

Communications Committee

Ed Steinman lighthawk.pilot@gmail.com

Carol Graham cmgt2010@gmail.com

Conservation Committee

Ed McArdle ecoguy2@netzero.com

Fall Retreat Committee

Marty MacCleery eric.piehl@gmail.com

Finance Committee, History Committee

Al Beeton abeeton@netzero.net

Fundraising Committee

Carol Graham cmgt2010@gmail.com

Inner City Outings

West MI: Craig Ressler craig_ressler@yahoo.com

Washtenaw: Brandon Nascimento washtenawico@yahoo.com

Legal Committee

Cynthia Husarchik cahusarchik@sbcglobal.net

Legislative Subcommittee

Lydia Fischer lydfisch@mindspring.com

Membership Committee

Mark Muhich muhich0@gmail.com

Outings Committee

Lorne Beatty lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political Committee

Richard Morley Barron rmorleybarron@charter.net

Sexual Harassment Committee

Pat Egan pegan@up.net

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SIERRA CLUB, 109 EAST GRAND RIVER AVE, LANSING, MI 48906.



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

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

STANDARD
NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Lansing, MI
PERMIT NO. 154

Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. Please join us in thanking current members:

FENS & SAPPLINGS

\$500-\$999

- Kenneth & Judy Betz
- Jon Cohn & Jeanne Raisler
- David Elliott
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- Lannie Fisher
- Margaret A. Flynn
- Carol M. Graham
- James & Beverly Haas
- Thomas (Mike) Haley
- Denise Harris
- Steven Hoekman
- Anna Holden
- Mr. John Hunting
- Murray & Jeanie Kilgour
- Albert & Barbara Koegel
- Samuel & Patricia Lacina
- Lawrence & Mary Lockhart
- John & Mary Matle
- Max McKee
- Gayle Miller & Doug Krieger
- Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman
- Jane Myers
- Thomas & Jill Newhouse
- Nancy Newman
- John & Janice Rebers
- Cheryl Rogers

- Barbara Stowell
- Fred & Alyce Townsend
- Julie Ann & Steven Wang
- John & Regina Wilson
- Anonymous Donors

STREAMS & WHITE PINES

\$1,000-\$2,499

- Alfred & Ruth Beeton
- James D. & Cynthia L. Berkey
- David & Carol Diephuis
- Lydia Fischer
- Sarah Winans Newman
- Hal Newnan
- Jan O'Connell
- Margaret M. Phillips
- Bill & Ann Salot
- Carol E. Ward
- Anonymous Donor

RIVERS & GROVES

\$2,500-\$4,999

- Lorne & Kathi Beatty
- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Gwen & John Nystuen
- Nancy Shiffler



FRED TOWNSEND

DUNES & SHORELINES

\$5,000-\$7,499

- Patrick Egan
- A. E. & Deborah Igleheart
- Anonymous Donor

GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS

\$7,500+

- Ceci Bauer & Tim Flynn
- Thomas Buhr
- Jean Gramlich
- Anne & Tom Woiwode

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.