

TheMackinac

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Sierra Club Celebrates Creation of Biodiversity Stewardship Areas in Michigan

TRAINS ACTIVISTS STATEWIDE TO HELP PROTECT DIVERSITY IN STATE FORESTS

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Ecologist

For over 20 years, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter has been fighting for a system of reserves on State Forest lands to preserve, enhance, and restore the native diversity of Michigan's older forests. Today, we're celebrating the culmination of this effort with the state's establishment of "Biodiversity Stewardship Areas" in Michigan. Throughout the next four years, a group of "Core Design Teams" will be taking recommendations from the public and agencies for which areas to include for protection, and Sierra Club will be a key member on each of these teams.

Since our advocacy began, the response from Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) response has been mixed, with budget reductions and personnel changes contributing to delays in designing an old-growth management system for the state. Yet Sierra Club never stopped pushing, and recently a number of factors have come together to finally make this a reality. First and foremost, changes in MDNR leadership (especially in the Forest Minerals and Fire Management Division) brought together a group more sympathetic and committed to this important goal.

Second, Michigan's state forests have



At a Michigan Chapter outing in the Pigeon River Country, citizens learned about identifying and nominating "Biodiversity Stewardship Areas" to preserve and regenerate state forest lands. Of primary concern to Club members are protection of existing old growth forests and expansion of habitat for at-risk wildlife species (like Red-shouldered hawks and Canada Lynx) that need older, closed-canopy forest types with few open areas nearby to survive.

become "certified" by the Forest Stewardship Council. This Certification is a third-party set of standards that the MDNR must meet in order to be declared "sustainable." One of these standards requires exactly the type of forest reserves system advocated for by Sierra Club.

These reserves on state lands will be called "Biodiversity Stewardship Areas." We're pleased to report that Sierra Club was a key player on the team that designed the criteria for inclusion in this system. One of these criteria is size,

which may range to over a million acres. Another important criterion is the primary management objective of the area must be conservation of biodiversity.

To date, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter has trained over 50 activists in how to identify and nominate areas for inclusion in the Biodiversity Stewardship Area Network. If you want to participate in this on-going process, contact amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org or marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.



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Sierra Club protects wild places, gets more kids outdoors, advances clean energy

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

THE MACKINAC

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TheMackinac

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ANNE WOJWODE

In the Spotlight

Your Mission: Explore and Enjoy

by Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

As we engage in the numerous controversies like coal plants, nuclear plants, renewable energy, water quality and animal factories in our efforts to protect our planet, we sometimes forget the “explore and enjoy” part of our Sierra Club mission. Most of Sierra Club’s volunteers like me discovered a desire to protect our Michigan environment because we explored and enjoyed it, perhaps over many years before we understood the threats to our beloved state and became activists.

I have the great privilege of seeing the world through the eyes of my grandchildren, who are 3 and 5 years old. We put on our boots and go “swamping,” wading in the vernal ponds to find snails and watch frogs plop into the water on our approach. The snails are returned to the pond before we go home because all life is precious and should be protected. We eat violets for our pretend dinner in the tree house. We listen for the different kinds of frogs and toads singing and watch birds take worms to their nestlings. Given half a chance, every little kid is a scientist, experimenting, observing and enjoying life around him or her, and with years and wisdom we hope will come the desire to pro-



KATE MADIGAN

tect and engage in activism.

We activists need to renew our exploration and enjoyment in nature, and a great way to do that is through the Sierra Club’s Outings program. There, we can be a part of a community of folks who love the outdoors, many of whom have special knowledge to share about flowers, birds, and ecology. When people like you join us for a hike, we hope that they catch our contagious passion for the environment and keep joining us to explore, enjoy and protect our precious Michigan.

GIVE BACK, GET OUTDOORS, HONOR MICHIGAN’S WATER RESOURCES

by Rita Jack, Clean Water Program Director

Michigan citizens are lucky to live surrounded by water. We have enough for recreation, like boating, fishing, canoeing, and swimming, and enough for agriculture and industry.

I’m peaceful when I’m near water, especially moving water – the sound renews my spirit. The critters that live there also bring renewal, especially the sounds of frogs. I witness the circle of life manifest when mayflies lift themselves up from the water, and fish rise, too, to grab them. This is why it’s important for me to give back to that resource, and why I’m a Water Sentinel. Sierra Club’s Water Sentinels give back by taking and making opportunities to hold river cleanups, do water monitoring, and educate others about clean water.

Again, Michigan citizens are lucky, because we have lots of ways to give back. Sierra Club’s Water Sentinels Program hosts several water monitoring and river cleanups

each year. We also identify sources of animal factory pollution and advocate for enforcement of clean water laws. Sierra Club’s Great Lakes Program does storm drain stenciling to let people know that storm drains usually flow straight to rivers and lakes. Michigan’s varied watershed councils, the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, and the Isaac Walton League, among others, organize volunteer water monitoring and river clean-ups, many several times a year. The Au Sable River Watershed Project will hold their second monitoring day on the Upper Au Sable River in early June, and the next this fall.

To find out more about Michigan’s many water monitoring and protection opportunities, see the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter website at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>, email rita.jack@sierraclub.org, or call 517-484-2372. I hope you take time this summer to join me in giving back to protect Michigan’s clean water legacy.

In the Spotlight

Volunteer Leaders Honored for Getting More Youth Outdoors

SIERRA CLUB'S INNER CITY OUTINGS PROGRAM IN WASHTENAW COUNTY CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL 10 YEARS

by Vera Hernandez,
Washtenaw Inner City Outings Chair

This year marks the Washtenaw Inner City Outings tenth year of operation. They have completed nearly 100 outings since 1999, serving hundreds of at-risk youth. These outing leaders and volunteers have donated countless hours of their time getting young people outdoors and experiencing the natural world. On May 16, they offered their very first outing with Bryant Community Center in Ann Arbor: a hike and campfire at Pinckney Recreation Area. If you're interested in volunteering on outings or helping out behind-the-scenes, please contact Vera Hernandez at vhernan@umich.edu. Check the Washtenaw Inner City Outings website for more upcoming outings and details at: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/ico/washtenaw/home.html>.

In January 2009, four certified leaders with Washtenaw Inner City Outings (WICO) received recognition from the national Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program. Each leader received a pin marked "ICO 5" which means they have been consistently leading ICO outings for five years or more. Recognized leaders



In Washtenaw County, four volunteers have been honored for their commitment to providing youth access to the outdoors on safe and fun wilderness excursions through Sierra Club's Inner City Outings Program.

include: Matt Vernier, Michelle Nawal, Vera Hernandez, and Barbara Powell (who has been leading outings for ten years). Matt, Michelle and Barbara have all escorted youth to the Michigan Chapter retreat for many years. (See pages 12-13 for details on this year's retreat, which is open to all Sierra Club members!)

Both Matt and Michelle also received special recognition from the Sierra Club's Huron Valley Group in December 2008 for their contributions to the Washtenaw Inner City Outings program.

"Recreational Passport Proposal" to Help Stop Park Closures

by Gayle Miller, Legislative Director

Michigan's State Parks and other recreation areas are often referred to as the "crown jewels" of our state. From the Porcupine Mountains to Brighton Recreation Area, these facilities provide value without measure to Michigan residents and visitors alike.

Regrettably, this doesn't always translate into financial support. For years, state funding for Michigan's recreation system has been shrinking; twelve State Forest Campgrounds have already been closed. More closures are imminent if a stable funding source isn't implemented.

Two similar packages of bills now

moving in the Michigan legislature (HBs 4677-4678 and SBs 388-389) could solve this funding challenge. Dubbed the "Recreational Passport Proposal," the bills establish a \$10 fee that would be added to vehicle license plate renewals each year (\$5 for motorcycles). The annual "passport" would give all Michigan drivers access to state recreation facilities, excluding camping or rentals.

The annual passport would replace the existing \$24 per year/\$6 per day vehicle sticker fees. For most park users, the change would result in an annual savings of \$14. Low income residents or those

who don't use the facilities would have the ability to "opt out" of the charge when renewing their plates. The proposal, modeled after Montana's successful funding system, was put forth by the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks.

James D'Amour, Sierra Club Citizen Lobbyist from Ann Arbor, testified on behalf of the Sierra Club in support of the bills in early May. The bills may be voted on at any time. To be notified when it's time to contact your lawmakers urging them to support this legislation, sign up at <http://tiny.cc/Watcdog>.

SUCCESS! Beaver Basin Wilderness Area Designated in Pictured Rocks; Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Expanded

by John Rebers, Central Upper Peninsula Group Chair

In March 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, protecting more than 11,000 acres in Pictured Rocks as the Beaver Basin Wilderness. The Beaver Basin Wilderness includes 13 miles of stunning Lake Superior shoreline from Spray Falls on the west to Sevenmile Creek on the East.

Sierra Club activists, allied conservation groups, concerned citizens, and government agencies have been working since 2004 to designate this section of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore as Wilderness. This was the result of a long-term public planning process that represented a national, state, and community consensus on how different areas of the park should be managed. Its new federal

wilderness designation ensures the Beaver Basin area will be managed for wilderness values into the future.

We're also pleased to report that in August 2008, the U.S. Forest Service expanded the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness by acquiring 2,000 acres of land to help preserve the Sturgeon River Falls. This Wilderness area is located in the Ottawa National Forest, north of Lake Gogebic near Bergland, Michigan. Land surrounding the river was designated as federal wilderness in 1987, providing outstanding recreational opportunities as well as protecting habitat for plants and animals. Sturgeon River Falls, a popular area to visit, was still in private hands at the time of the wilderness designation.

Immediately adjacent to the Sturgeon



ANNE WOIWODE

River Gorge Wilderness is Prickett Lake. This year, the U.S. Forest Service has an opportunity to acquire 1,258 acres of land surrounding Prickett Lake in the Ottawa National Forest. This would help protect wildlife habitat and one of the last remaining spawning areas for lake sturgeon in the Lake Superior watershed. To find out how you can help move this effort forward, contact john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org.

COASTER BROOK TROUT ENDANGERED SPECIES PETITION DENIED

As we go to press, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has denied Sierra Club's petition to list the Coaster Brook Trout as Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Coaster Brook Trout are brook trout which breed in streams, but live most of their life in Lake Superior. They are larger, faster, and have different morphological characteristics than resident in-stream brook trout. Logging, road building, and over fishing have decimated their ranks. The only breeding, self-sustaining population in the mainland U.S. is in the Salmon Trout River in northern Marquette County.

In February, 2006, the Sierra Club and the Huron Mountain Club petitioned the USFWS to declare the Coasters endangered. This was due to threats from roads, logging, and the proposed Kennecott mine, which would be located under the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River if

it goes through. The USFWS failed to act in a timely manner, forcing us to sue them in order to reach a decision. On March 20, 2008, the agency issued a very preliminary decision that found there was credible scientific evidence favoring our petition.

Yet in May 2009, the agency issued a final decision claiming that the Coaster listing is not warranted. They acknowledged that the Coaster population in the Salmon Trout River is morphologically and behaviorally very different from other brook trout. Incredibly, they then claimed that this is not due to either genetics or habitat. This of course begs the question: if not genetics nor habitat, what is the cause for these differences?

The Sierra Club and our co-petitioner, the Huron Mountain Club, are at this time weighing options for a possible appeal.

CleanEnergySolutions

Clean Energy Victory! Sierra Club Helps Stop Two Proposed Coal Plants in Michigan

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

Two of Michigan's eight proposed coal plants were cancelled in May, a major victory for clean energy advocates. Sierra Club, with Clean Energy Now (CEN) coalition partners, effectively used community and grassroots pressure, financial arguments, and legal tools to convince Northern Michigan University (NMU) and LS Power to drop their respective plant proposals. The remaining applicants must complete needs assessments and consideration of alternatives before MDEQ can issue any permits, a process expected to start in early summer.

Working closely with Midland CARES and other CEN partners since 2007, Sierra Club helped support local opposition to the MidMichigan Energy proposal. Meanwhile, Sierra Club campaigned nationwide to convince LS Power's partner, Dynegy, to drop dirty coal and invest in clean renewable sources instead. In February 2009, Dynegy announced it was pulling out of its partnership with LS Power. In addition, the environmental coalition's legal team briefed MDEQ on developments around the country, leading to a requirement for all applicants to revisit their mercury pollution controls. LS Power refused to meet MDEQ's requirement, leading to an impasse. On May 1st, LS Power announced suspension of the MidMichigan Energy plant.

On May 7th, NMU asked MDEQ to "void" its air permit issued in 2008 for a coal/wood heating plant. An appeal by Sierra Club to the federal government of the failure to address greenhouse gas controls in the permit led to a remand and



ANNE WOIWODE

decision to put reconsideration of the permit on indefinite hold until the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acts on these issues. Following discussions between NMU and Sierra Club, the university decided to drop coal entirely and will likely seek a permit to burn only

wood, while it also pursues wind and solar applications for the campus as well. While Sierra Club has continued concerns about the source of the wood to be burned and its potential negative impacts on Upper Peninsula forests, we applaud NMU for moving beyond coal.

REENERGIZE MICHIGAN! NEW COALITION PROMOTES INVESTMENTS IN CLEAN ENERGY TO CREATE JOBS, STRENGTHEN ECONOMY

In 2008, the Michigan legislature passed a package of energy bills that started Michigan down a path of cleaner, more sustainable energy sources. However, that was only the beginning. This year, the Sierra Club is playing a lead role in the ReEnergize Michigan! Campaign, which advocates for progressive clean energy policies that will create new jobs and grow Michigan's economy.

The ReEnergize Michigan! Coalition represents a diverse collection of organizations that recognize that Michigan's future depends on energy independence and establishment of strong solar and wind power industries in Michigan. By investing in clean energy today, we can create the jobs that Michigan needs now, grow energy security for our state, and keep our energy prices low.

The Coalition launches its campaign on June 15 with press conferences across the state. For more information on participating or joining the Coalition, contact Gayle Miller at gayle.miller@sierraclub.org or (517) 484-2372.

Help Strengthen Federal Clean Energy Legislation, Help Grow Jobs in Michigan

Sierra Club is fighting against the financially powerful coal & oil interests that are holding President Obama's "Clean Energy Jobs Bill" hostage while demanding bailouts, loopholes and concessions that taxpayers across the U.S. will have to pay for. We're working hard to stop the dirty energy advocates from weakening the bill when it comes to the House floor, which will most likely happen before the 4th of July recess.

This is the most important opportunity you have to fight the climate change crisis and help propel our economy here in Michigan and across the U.S. You can help Sierra Club convince lawmakers to do the right thing. Contact your U.S. Congressman today by phone, email, or visit their district office and ask them to:

- Strengthen the Waxman/Markey

Energy/Climate bill to promote more clean energy. Wind and solar creates more than twice as many jobs as oil & coal.

- Hold polluters accountable and restore the EPA's authority given to them under the Clean Air Act to crack down on global warming pollution from power plants.
- Secure a system to effectively cut emissions, rather than placing the focus on unproven and expensive technologies.

After the House Floor vote, the next step is to pass it through the Senate. To learn how you can continue to help pass this critical Clean Energy/Climate legislation, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org



AREL SHAW

Sierra Club Opposes Southeast Michigan Nuclear Power Plant

PROPOSED FERMI 3 POSES GRAVE RISKS TO TAXPAYERS AND THREATENS HEALTH OF LAKE ERIE

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director

Costs, environmental impacts, and no real need for additional power production in Michigan all argue for the Detroit Edison Company (DTE) to drop plans for a proposed new Fermi 3 nuclear power plant. So says a bi-national coalition including Sierra Club that is currently opposing the Fermi 3 proposal before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The coalition is represented by attorney Terry Lodge of Toledo in its intervention in the licensing process before the NRC. A strong case against the DTE proposal was made in a May 5th hearing in Monroe before the Atomic Safety Licensing Board, as well as in voluminous filings before the agency.

The coalition cites environmental concerns including thermal and other impacts on Lake Erie's vulnerable western basin, along with the cumulative damage of 33 operating atomic reactors present in the Great Lakes Basin. The lack of permanent storage for the radioactive waste from a plant expected to operate for sixty years was called "environmentally, economically and mor-

ally bankrupt" by Michael Keegan of Don't Waste Michigan.

In the May 5th hearing, attorney Lodge and the coalition witnesses also made a compelling case for the lack of need for the power DTE proposes to produce from this plant. "Efficiency and renewables, especially wind power, are whipping nuclear power in the marketplace," Lodge explained. Declines in electric demand announced by DTE and Consumers Energy and requirements to meet energy efficiency and renewable portfolio standards in Michigan have been cited as reasons why more power from coal or nuclear power plants are not needed.

"The only way DTE can finance Fermi 3 is to transfer many billions of dollars of financial risk onto the back of the American taxpayer," said Southeast Michigan Group leader Ed McArdle, a named plaintiff in the intervention. "Wind power and energy efficiency deserve investment, not dirty and dangerous atomic reactors."

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

Court Orders Vreba-Hoff Dairy CAFO to Pay Penalty for Violating Water Laws

SIERRA CLUB 8-YEAR DOCUMENTATION OF THE ANIMAL FACTORY'S POLLUTION HELPS MDEQ WIN CASE

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director

Ingham County Judge James Giddings ordered Vreba-Hoff Dairy CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) to pay \$223,500 in penalties to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) after the massive livestock operation repeatedly violated a 2007 court settlement with the agency. Michigan Chapter CAFO Water Sentinel Lynn Henning applauded the MDEQ and the court for holding Vreba-Hoff accountable. The decision is a bright spot in efforts to turn around Michigan's laws regarding water and air pollution from these massive facilities.

For eight years, the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan and Sierra Club have documented water pollution caused by Vreba-Hoff. This effort helped MDEQ cite the CAFO for dozens of environmental violations and take court action against the polluter. Judge Giddings rejected Vreba-Hoff's request to expand its facility before paying fines after MDEQ objected

to this additional delay.

Henning points out that Vreba-Hoff's penalty is a fraction of the cost to the state for enforcement since the the operation has been cited for many additional violations, including at least four in 2009. Laws on CAFO water and air pollution continue to favor polluters instead of protecting families and communities hurt by these operations, but Sierra Club's efforts to increase awareness of the problems they cause are helping turn the tide.

MDEQ is now revising the state's general water quality permit for CAFOs, inviting Sierra Club, health and fishing interests to the table. Air pollution from CAFOs is also being discussed by MDEQ staff, health agency staff, agricultural interests, and environmental groups in response to growing concerns. Keep track of Sierra Club's work on animal factories or find out how you can help by contacting lynn.henning@sierraclub.org or rita.jack@sierraclub.org.

Water quality tests by volunteers, university researchers, and state officials have linked animal waste run-off from factory farms to alarming increases in E. coli, phosphorus, nitrogen, heavy metals, and pharmaceuticals in rivers and streams that drain into our Great Lakes. It's a critical reason why Sierra Club is fighting so hard to stop animal factory pollution.



ANNE WOIWODE

STAY CONNECTED TO SIERRA CLUB'S GREAT LAKES PROGRAM

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES

Sierra Club's Great Lakes Program recently developed "A Citizen's Guide to Protecting the Great Lakes." The guide identifies current threats to the Great Lakes that need immediate attention. Also included in the guide is a "Take Action" section listed after each threat, where you can find out what you can do to protect our beautiful Lakes for future generations. Read the guide at www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes.

SIERRA CLUB GREAT LAKES BLOG

You can visit Sierra Club's Great Lakes blog during the week to read up-to-date, critical information about the Lakes. Also, read what Sierra Club members in Michigan and the region are doing to protect the Lakes including: installing rain barrels, building rain gardens, using phosphorus-free fertilizers, and much more. View the blog at www.sierraclubgreatlakes.blogspot.com.

ALSO ON THE WEB...

Facebook Group = "Sierra Club Great Lakes Program"

Do you tweet? Follow us on Twitter, @SC_Great_Lakes

Democracy in Action

The Detroit Incinerator: Mayor Must Act to End Burning

by Anna Holden, Michigan Chapter Conservation Committee

Detroit once again faces a crucial decision on the future of trash disposal. . . sound familiar? While campaigning, Detroit's new Mayor David Bing said that he would not burn the City's waste. But Bing inherited a \$24 million 2009-10 budget proposal from Detroit's waste authority for another year of incineration. Unless the Mayor makes ending incineration a priority, the waste authority will likely contract with its current operator, Covanta, to burn garbage at a higher price than the recycling/materials recovery plan advocated by the Coalition for a New Business Model for Detroit Solid Waste. This Coalition is made up of 10 environmental and community organizations, including Sierra Club.

On May 26, Detroit's City Council defeated an amendment to adopt the New Business Model's cheaper proposal which would have cost the city less money. This action reversed a 2008 resolution to stop incineration, begin citywide curbside recycling, and attract businesses and jobs using recovered material. Mayor Bing's leadership is needed to adopt the less polluting, costly trash disposal option, which will also capture waste for new economic activity. The New Business Model alternative costs \$1.7 million less than continuing incineration, saving the City money and laying the foundation for future revenues from the sale of commodities collected.

A pilot curbside recycling project for 30,000 households, proposed by the New Business Model Coalition in 2008, begins this July. City drop off recycling locations will be expanded with 10 monthly neighborhood recycling sites in 2009, and drop off collection in 6 Department of Public Works yards. RecycleHere!



ANNA HOLDEN

As part of the Coalition for a New Business Model for Detroit Solid Waste, Sierra Club helped bring an international Zero Waste Communities Conference to Detroit earlier this year. 50 students from Hope of Detroit Academy and University Preparation Academy demonstrated at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center and visited Interim Mayor Cockrel's office to deliver over 100 handmade picture post cards asking for clean air, recycling, waste reduction and an end to incineration to protect children's health.

in Midtown will continue to accept recycled goods two days a week.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER LAUNCHES IN-DISTRICT LOBBYING PROGRAM

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter has launched a new In-District Lobbying Program, and you're invited to participate. This new initiative will help us build stronger relationships with lawmakers, while helping lawmakers better understand the environmental threats facing Michigan today. But we need your help.

Our trained volunteer "District Leaders" will be scheduling meetings with legislators in many districts over the next few weeks in locations convenient to you. In-District meetings are generally informal and more productive than hurried meetings at the Capitol. Meetings take place in coffee shops, libraries or other locations with

a handful of Sierra Club member constituents. District Leaders will schedule the meeting with the lawmaker, send out email invitations to Sierra Club members in the district, and make follow-up phone calls to invite YOU to attend.

In-District Meetings are great opportunities for you to get to know the people who represent you in Lansing. The first round of meetings will take place in May, June and July, depending on the lawmaker's availability. To see if there is a District Leader in your House or Senate district, visit our In-District Lobbying Webpage at <http://tiny.cc/indistrict>.

Group Info & Outings

Local Sierra Club groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and general meetings throughout the state. Outings and meetings are open to the public—everyone is welcome! If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you're interested in starting one, please call Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at 517-484-2372.

Most outings begin at the trailhead, and some have fees associated with them. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. [To read the liability waiver before you participate, please visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a print version.] You can find more details on outings and recent additions online at the groups' websites or at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

June

6/18 NG: Barber Memorial Park, Montrose WALK. 6 pm, easy paved river walk trail, also learn about kayaking from the Flint Area Paddlers and fly-fishing from the Muddler Minnows. Dogs with leashes welcome. Call Sue 810-767-9491 for details.

6/20 SEMG: Mayberry State Park HIKE. 9 am, moderate 3 mile hike through some less-traveled trails in lovely rolling park, see rebirth of the living farm. Entrance fee to state park required. Optional restaurant and ice cream stop after hike. Call Tom 248-349-8782 for details.

6/24 NG: For-Mar River WALK. 10 am, easy walking along peaceful trails. Call Sue 810-767-9491 for details.

6/27 NG: Flint River CANOE/KAYAK. 12 pm, bring your own boat for easy 3 to 4 hour paddle from Holloway Dam to park headquarters, a beautiful and pristine section of the Flint River that's home to bald eagle and heron. Call Linda 810-348-8664 for details.

6/28 SEMG: Bald Mountain State Park North HIKE. 10:30 am, moderate 5 to 6 mile hike to view lakes, ponds, and mid-summer foliage on the rolling, wooded trails. Bring water for hydration and trail snack, optional restaurant stop after. Call Jo Ellen 586-431-3104 for details.

July

7/4 NG: Coldwater Road/Hogbacks HIKE/PICNIC. 10 am, easy 3 mile hike, then potluck picnic and swimming in pond after. Call Linda 810-348-8664 for details.

7/11 NG: Holly State Recreation Area HIKE. 10 am, moderate 6 mile hike around Wildwood and Valley Lakes. Call Terry 810-732-9902 for details.

7/11 SEMG: Ortonville State Recreation Area HIKE. 11 am, moderate 6 mile hike through hilly, wooded, well-marked, wide trails. Optional restaurant stop after. Call Joanne 248-932-5370 for details.

7/12 HVG: Washtenaw County Inner City Out-

ings MEETING. 7 pm, volunteer chaperones, sponsors, planners welcome, help introduce urban kids to outdoors. Call Vera at 734-665-8118 for details.

7/12 SEMG: Island Lake State Park, Upper Huron River CANOE. 10 am, moderate 3 hour canoe down the river, chance to see trout, kingfishers and great blue herons. Some experience necessary, instructions provided. Reservations required by 7/3, \$21 fee for canoe rental. Dress for weather, bring your own picnic lunch and dry bag for extra clothes. Call Phil 248-797-2885 for details.

7/15 NG: Clio River Trail WALK. 10 am, easy walking on paved trails through diverse river habitat. Call Sue 810-767-9491 for details.

7/17—7/20 SEMG: North Manitou Island BACKPACK. 4 day, 21 mile adventure starts in Leland with ferry ride to the island. Hike maximum 8 miles per day on pleasant trails, enjoy beautiful vistas, historic sites, and camping near inland Lake Manitou and shoreline of Lake Michigan. Plenty of time for relaxing, birding, swimming, and exploring habitats. Reservations required, space is limited. Call John 248-766-9575 for details and estimated costs.

7/18 NG: Seven Lakes State Park CANOE/KAYAK. 1 pm, bring your own boat for easy paddle around Big Seven Lake, enjoy clean water, fishing and swimming. Call Linda 810-348-8664 for details.

7/18 SEMG: Proud Lake Park HIKE. 11 am, moderate 5 mile hike through wooded park along the Huron River. Bring water & boots; goes rain or shine. Interesting bogs and river views skirting old farmland and lake. Optional restaurant stop after. Call Tom 248-349-8782 for details.

7/22 NG: Hogback Water Trail HIKE. 10 am, hike on dirt trails through meadows and woodlands, with wetland overviews near Holloway Reservoir area. Optional swimming, fishing, or boating before or after hike. Call Sue 810-767-9491 for details.

7/24—7/26 NG: Carp River National Forest CANOE/CAMP. Stay in wooded rustic campground and bring own kayak or canoe for 4 hour paddle

on wild and scenic river Saturday, prepare for sun and insects. Saturday night campfire and s'mores, Sunday explore Lake Huron or relax at campground. Call Lynn 586-795-1678 for details.

7/25—7/26 HVG & SEMG: Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area BACKPACK. Easy 7 mile total hiking, enjoy sand dunes, sunsets over Lake Michigan, swimming and relaxing. Camp in hardwood forest at night. Call Ewa 734-756-5362 for details.

August

8/8 NG: Saginaw Valley Rail Trail BICYCLE. Enjoy 15 mile bike ride. Call Denny 989-624-5038 for details.

8/9 HVG: Washtenaw County Inner City Outings MEETING. 7 pm, volunteer chaperones, sponsors, planners welcome, help introduce urban kids to outdoors. Call Vera at 734-665-8118 for details.

8/12 NG: Richfield Park River WALK. 10 am, meet at Pavilion #4 walk on maintained trails of grass, dirt, and old stone-inlaid steps. Bring your own picnic lunch (optional).

8/16—8/19 NG: Two Hearted River State Forest CANOE/CAMP. Moderate hiking on North Country Trail and canoeing river, time for relaxing and enjoying outdoors near Lake Superior. Rustic campsites at river mouth, canoe rentals available. Bring your own food and gear, potluck dinner on Monday night. Call Lynn 586-795-1678 by 8/10 to RSVP, get details and costs.

8/22 NG: Kearsley Park HIKE. 10 am, easy hike on Kearsley Park Trail. Call Mike 810-686-6354 for details.

September

9/4 NG: Cummings Activity Center HIKE. 8 pm, easy 5 mile full moon hike through fairgrounds. Bring flashlight. Call Terry 810-732-9902 for details.

9/12 NG: Ligon Outdoor Center HIKE. 10 am, easy hike. Call Susan 810-658-6408 for details.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OUTING: SEPT. 12 HELP PLANT CEDARS & CLEAN-UP AU SABLE RIVER

Join the Anglers of the Au Sable, Cedars of the Au Sable, and Sierra Club Michigan Chapter for the Annual Au Sable River clean-up and tree planting on Saturday, September 12th.

You can meet us at 10 a.m. at Gates Au Sable Lodge, 471 Stephan Bridge Road, Grayling, MI (east of Grayling on M-72 and north on Stephan Bridge Road) to get organized. Sierra Club members and nonmembers are encouraged to participate. We will be planting cedars and/or picking up litter so bring gloves, shovels, etc. A free afternoon barbecue for participants will follow at Gates Au Sale Lodge.

For more outing details (or for local camping information), please contact Marvin Roberson at marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org or 906-360-0288, or Lorne Beatty at lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org or 810-632-7766.

9/13 HVG: Washtenaw County Inner City Outings MEETING. 7 pm, volunteer chaperones, sponsors, planners welcome, help introduce urban kids to outdoors. Call Vera at 734-665-8118 for details.

9/16 NG: For-Mar Nature Preserve, HIKE. 10 am, easy 5 mile hike. Call Terry 810-732-9902 for details.

9/19 NG: East and West Graham Lakes CANOE/KAYAK. 1 pm, paddle and enjoy outdoors. Call Linda 810-348-8664 for details.

9/26 NG: Bald Mountain North Unit, HIKE. 10 am, moderate 6 mile hike. Call Terry 810-732-9902 for details.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GROUP

Your local Sierra Club group is run by volunteers who host educational programs and organize actions on environmental issues important to your community and family's health.

CMG = Central Michigan Group

Group Chair: Leigh Fifelski, 248-435-5277 or lfifelski@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796

CUPG = Central Upper Peninsula Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org

CG = Crossroads Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads

Group Chair: Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org

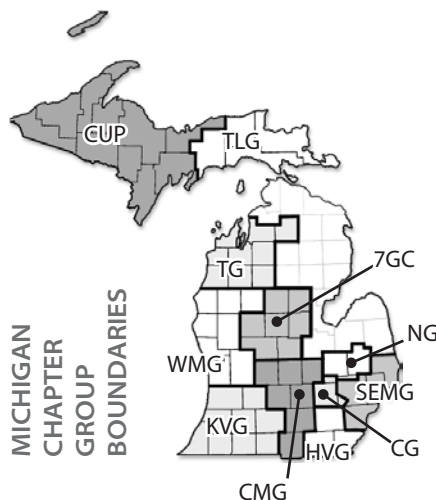
Outings Chair: Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464 or cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org

HVG = Huron Valley Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

Group Chair: Doug Cowherd, doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823



KVG = Kalamazoo Valley Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: currently seeking new local leaders, call the Chapter Office at 517-484-2372 for details

NG = Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

Group Chair: Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038

Outings Chair: Terry Lemmer, 810-407-7271 or terrylemmer@yahoo.com

SEMG = Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

Group Chair: Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or cogknot@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil1@yahoo.com

TLG = Three Lakes Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu

TG = Traverse Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: currently seeking new local leaders, call the Chapter Office at 517-484-2372 for details

WMG = West Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

Group Chair: Shirley Kallio 616-874-7571 or shirleykallio@msn.com

7GC = Seventh Generation Committee

Local Contact: Joel Welty, 989-561-5037 or jwelty@power-net.net

Annual Retreat

20th Annual Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Retreat

JOIN US! AUG 28 – 30 ON LAKE MICHIGAN AT CAMP MINIWANCA

by Phil Rairigh, Annual Retreat Committee

With the 20th anniversary of Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's annual retreat now upon us, my mind is whirling to keep up with the new Obama administration. For the frequent readers of *The Mackinac*, you know this newsletter to be full of stories about citizen activists and remarkable Sierra Club staff who fight every day for the environment and our collective well-being. Many of these people have been battling passionately for years and have had more than their fair share of frustration at slow change (if any). Now however, hardly a day goes by when I don't hear about President Obama enacting yet another positive change for social and environmental issues. Yet, as Jean Gramlich put it succinctly in the Spring issue of *The Mackinac*, "...we cannot afford rest on our laurels for even a moment." If all the world's a stage, then I would liken this administration to the producer, and we are all indeed the actors. The producer helps create opportunities, opens doors, and removes barriers so that our collective efforts as a troupe are not for naught.

As actors, we must remain ever vigilant in learning our lines and sharpening our skills, so that we might continue to intelligently enlighten others on important issues.

So, if this playwright can bring the analogy full circle back to the Sierra Club Retreat. We have, these many years, effectively created an environmental "actors" camp. It has become a place to learn about key environmental issues and grassroots organizing skills, to relax and have fun with like-minded friends and meet new people, and to commune with nature for an emotional recharge. It's difficult for even the true-blue environmentalists among us to continue putting nature first, when we're struggling to put food on the table and pay the bills. That's why this year the theme of our educational workshops centers around Michigan's economy and what individuals can do to make it stronger.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
SKIP PRUSS, DIRECTOR,
MICHIGAN DEPT. OF ENERGY**

I'm proud to announce that Stanley "Skip" Pruss, will be our keynote speaker this year. Serving under Governor Granholm, Skip is the director of the recently renamed Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth ("Energy" is now in the title). Sierra Club staff have been working with his office, to tap his impressive history of environmental awareness, public service, and legal background. Not the least of his many missions, are efforts to "Green Michigan," develop and deploy sustainable practices, create new jobs via renewable energy and efficiency, and address climate change. (Say, aren't those our goals as well?) Needless to say, Skip Pruss is someone we definitely want to keep on board in Michigan government.

OUTDOOR FUN FOR KIDS, TOO!

We try to keep retreat fees as low as possible while still covering our costs and providing great programs, with a little left over to help bring in some new faces from Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program. In fact, parents will be glad to



PHIL RAIRIGH

hear that our “child” rates this year have not changed from last year. Now more than ever, we want children to acquire the same sense of wonder and passion that so many of us take for granted. All of our efforts to date as environmental stewards have been to assure wild and natural places survive for future generations to enjoy.

This year, Camp Miniwanca will still provide all the cool recreation and support staff that we’ve come to enjoy on our annual retreat for: kayaking, wind surfing, river tubing, swimming, high ropes course, hiking, outdoor games, camp fires, great meals, etc. On Saturday

night, we also have a fundraising auction and the live, humorous musical stylings of Tommy Foster with Bob Motycka.

So please come celebrate our 20th anniversary with us, and recharge to help plan a brighter future! You can get more details about the cabins and programs (as we add them) on our website, www.sierraretreat.org. Got any workshop ideas? Let us know via the contact link.

To save costs and increase registration accuracy please register for the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Retreat online if possible: <http://sierraretreat.org/index-7.html>



2009 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): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

(Saves resources—your address will not be shared.)

Special needs, comments, questions, suggestions:

Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total
< 3	All	Free	Free
3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$60	_____
3-12	Lakeside or Inland Dorm	\$75	_____
Adult	Cabin or Tent	\$120	_____
Adult	Inland Dorm Room	\$150	_____
Adult	Lakeside Dorm Room, no roommate(s)	\$165	_____
Adult	Lakeside Dorm Room, with roommate(s)	\$160	_____
	Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)*		_____
	Add \$5 for registration after August 8		_____
	TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____

* See description of Sierra Club’s Inner City Outings (ICO) program at www.sierraretreat.org.

> Is this your first MI Chapter SC Retreat? Yes No
If no, how many times have you attended? _____

Cut out this form and send with your check to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, ATTN: MI CHAPTER RETREAT, 109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Make check payable to Sierra Club. If you have any questions about registration, email Phil Rairigh at freebattman@yahoo.com or call 313-671-7936. Check-in begins Friday at 5pm.

Chapter Directory

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

SEMG Hal Newnan hnewnan@sbcglobal.net

CUPG John Rebers john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org

WMG Craig Ressler craig_ressler@yahoo.com

HVG Ed Steinman esteinma@umich.edu

TG, KVG Open

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Outings Committee

Lorne Beatty 810-632-7766, lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political Committee

Leigh Fifelski lfifelski@gmail.com



ANNE WOIWODE

Supporting Your Chapter

Michigan Chapter Establishes Secure, Online Donations Form

YOUR MONTHLY GIFT OF \$10 OR \$20 HELPS SUSTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS, SAVES THE CHAPTER TIME AND MONEY

by Wendi Tilden, Development Director

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is a nonprofit organization, which means we rely on your contributions to fund our work. We do receive a small portion of your annual membership dues to the Sierra Club, but it only funds about 19% of our yearly budget. The remaining 81% we have to raise here in Michigan from foundation grants and individual contributions. And generally, the Michigan Chapter doesn't make many fundraising requests of our members: 2-3 mail solicitations, a couple of fundraising parties hosted by our volunteer leaders, and occasional phone calls requesting donations when it's needed most. But your support is vital to our work.

Let me put what we do for you into perspective.

In the last 12 months, we educated and engaged more than 150 citizen lobbyists to help convince state lawmakers to enact stronger renewable energy requirements and Great Lakes protections from large scale diversions. We organized local and statewide protests, garnered media coverage, and advocated for cleaner energy alternatives, which so far has stopped two new coal plant proposals in Michigan. We trained volunteers to test streams for water quality and coordinate river cleanups. We documented more than 100 clean water violations from animal factories and prompted state enforcement actions to help shut down polluting CAFOs. We protected the Mason Tract and Au Sable River from oil and gas drilling and stopped an outlandish amusement park proposal by monitoring proposed public land transactions and minerals leasing. We commented on 26 timber sale proposals in Michigan's national forests, which led to 3 being withdrawn and 17 modified to meet our concerns, helping to protect existing old



ANNE WOIWODE

growth and get 12,000 acres designated for old growth management.

In short, we're a pretty darn effective nonprofit. And we do all this on a shoestring. Last year the Michigan Chapter spent just \$734,000. That paid for nine full time staffers, program expenses, travel, rent, office supplies, computers, phones, business cards, and postage – the whole shebang of an organization.

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's budget would be a rounding error to most corporations, and even to the larger conservation organizations. To put in context how small our budget actually is, the

Nature Conservancy (a group we admire) last year spent more than 21 times our annual budget on supplies. The National Wildlife Federation (another group we think well of) spent \$970,534 in 2008 on telephone calls. These groups don't waste money: we just spend ours incredibly carefully.

Unfortunately, Michigan's economic realities are now affecting both foundation support and our donors' pocket-books. To make it easier for you to budget and invest in our work – and to save the Michigan Chapter time and money – we have set up a secure, online donations form that allows you to make a recurring monthly donation on your credit card. Your gift can be small, like \$10 or \$20 per month, if that's all you can afford (although if you can give more, please do). Our goal is a total of 200 "sustainer" donations by the end of the year, which would provide us predictable income throughout the year for our programs.

Please consider making a sustaining monthly or one-time gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter today: just go online to www.michigan.sierraclub.org and click on the donate button.

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU'VE SEEN IN THIS EDITION OF THE MACKINAC? DONATE TODAY!

Check out our new online donation form at www.michigan.sierraclub.org—just click on the donate button for your options. Or you can mail your check or credit card information to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906.

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, call the Michigan Chapter office at 517-484-2372 to learn how. Thanks for making our work possible!



The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 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 grass-roots environmental organization.

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:

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\$500-\$999

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