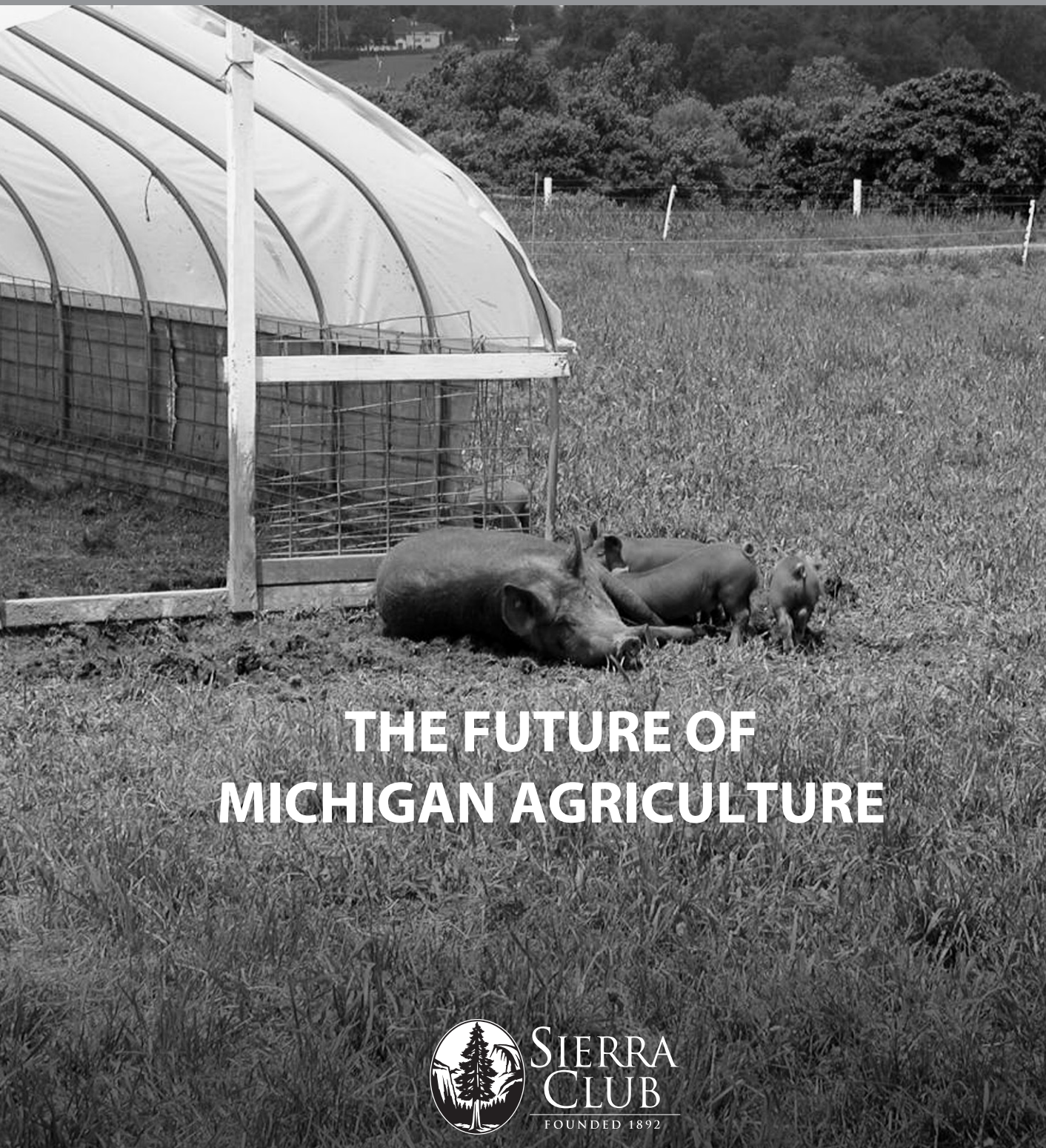


# TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF MICHIGAN'S SIERRA CLUB • NOVEMBER 2005-JANUARY 2006



## THE FUTURE OF MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE



SIERRA  
CLUB  
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# From the Chair

## Meat in Michigan: How It's Getting to Your Table May Surprise You

by Sue Kelly, Mackinac Chapter Chair

My favorite childhood memories are of exploring my grandparents' farm in Gregory, Michigan. My grandfather loved his farm, loved his horses, and he loved us. That farm is the place where my sisters and I were exposed to what most of us think of when we think of a farm: not only my

grandmother's wonderful strawberry patch, but the smells of newly harvested alfalfa, huge piles of hay in the barn, the milk house, the wild barncats, the chickens—for many of us, the smells of growing up, of livestock, of the natural world. We knew people who worked hard every day, who took care of their neighbors, respected their animals, and knew how to preserve every kind of fruit and vegetable grown locally.

Today the image and the reality of how we grow food in this country is not the same. Much of the eggs, pork and dairy products produced in Michigan come from confined animal feeding operations, also known as CAFOs. These operations are not farms so much as they are the workings of an industrial process. And this process pollutes our public waterways, emits horrible airborne toxins that make it impossible for neighbors to have their windows open or to even enjoy the outdoors, and confines animals in cruel, cramped and stressful situations. These factories, which abuse their neighbors, communities, rivers and streams, as well as the animals they "process," have no place in our traditional American image of farming, nor do they have a place in maintaining a sustainable table.

In this issue of *The Mackinac*, we highlight the state of largescale livestock production in Michigan. You'll find . . .

- interviews with families who have seen first-hand what happens when a CAFO moves into their community: serious human health consequences from CAFO waste; the loss

of property value; and the extremely unpleasant environmental conditions that confront them;

- that many CAFOs employ migrant families, exposing these workers and their families to dangerous and even life-threatening toxins;
- that water sampling downstream from many factory farms reveals that antibiotics, dangerous (and sometimes even fatal) pathogens, as well as large amounts of untreated animal feces and other wastes flow into Michigan waters regularly where unaware families fish and swim;
- that traditional farm animals, in CAFO terms, are considered "animal units," and that these animals are forced to live in stressful, cramped conditions, rarely get to go outside and are often unable even to turn around; they're products that need to be processed as quickly as possible.

Luckily, there is hope for change. At the recent Lobby Day in Lansing, we advocated for a package of eleven bills to be brought to the Michigan legislature, passed into law, and begin to address some of the serious problems with industrial livestock farming. All of us play a very important role in this change. We can be informed about the animal food products we purchase, ask questions, demand answers, and bring awareness to our local grocery stores.

It's time for us to insist on high standards from all livestock facilities, safe living and working conditions for the entire



Cows munch grass on an environmentally friendly Pennsylvania farm. Read more about CAFOs and their alternatives starting on page 18.

community, respect in the way we treat domestic animals, appropriate handling of large quantities of animal excrement, and the prohibition of toxic runoff into our rivers and streams.

Here in Michigan, we know what real farming is. Let's support small farmers who respect the land, the water, their animals and their neighbors.



Sue Kelly lives in Brighton with her husband Mike and two dogs, Maggie and Oscar.

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# TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF MICHIGAN'S SIERRA CLUB  
NOVEMBER 2005 - JANUARY 2006

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### ON THE COVER

A contented sow rests as her piglets nurse and play around her on this sustainable farm in rural Pennsylvania. The farm uses rotational grazing, moving their pigs and dairy cows from field to field so that manure is spread naturally and at rates that are healthy for the soil. Studies show that meat and milk from animals that are raised in clean, healthy, humane settings is more nutritious. Read more about sustainable agriculture on page 18. Photo by Rita Jack.

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# Capitol Watch 2005

by Gayle Miller, Sierra Club Legislative Director

## MISGUIDED SUBSIDY THAT WON'T GO AWAY

In 2004, Governor Granholm vetoed legislation that would have given a financial boost to polluting CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations or industrial livestock operations) by providing taxpayer subsidies for the purchase of methane digesters. A wise move. But, like a bad penny, subsidy bills for methane digesters just keep turning up.

A similar bill was introduced in May of 2005. The Sierra Club testified in opposition to SB 538 at a House Agriculture Committee meeting on September 21. Despite our objections, the committee reported the bill out and recommended its passage to the full House. It has already passed the Senate.

Virtually all CAFOs in Michigan are causing air and water pollution, resulting from unmanageable quantities of manure. Proponents of methane digesters believe that the technology will fix the problem of CAFO pollution. Not so. Methane is just one of dozens of toxic components of CAFO waste, and not the most dangerous. Methane digesters will not solve the problem of too much manure, nor will they make the stuff safe to dump on fields. Michigan's precious tax dollars should not be spent to prop up an industry that is harming Michigan in so many ways.

## CAFO LEGISLATION

The Sierra Club has been instrumental in the development of an excellent package of eleven bills led by Representative Frank Accavitti (D-Eastpoint). Michigan's 200 CAFOs would be covered by the proposed legislation, NOT traditional family farming operations.

Legislative objectives of the package include:

- A self-sustaining permit system

covering air, surface water and groundwater. Fees would cover comprehensive monitoring and enforcement. Currently, CAFOs are exempt from virtually all of Michigan's environmental laws. No state agency monitors adherence to ineffective voluntary guidelines. Permits would set strict levels of allowable air and water pollution with meaningful consequences for repeated violations.

- Public notice of new or expanding CAFOs, which are currently exempt from local zoning. As a result, CAFOs appear unannounced and unwanted in rural communities without public input.
- Prohibition of land application as a method of disposing of untreated, toxic CAFO waste. Numerous methods of alternative waste management are available and should be implemented in place of the current lagoon and sprayfield systems, which pollute water sources and poison rural residents.
- Allow citizens to take legal action against CAFO owners/operators for violation of environmental laws and against the state for failure to enforce regulations. Currently, CAFOs are protected under the Right to Farm Act from nuisance suits, even when those so-called nuisances are severe public health impacts and devastating pollution.
- Establishment of a CAFO cleanup fund, created through fines and permit fees, for cleanup and enforcement activities. This summer, a three-million-gallon lagoon full of animal sewage broke and destroyed 15 miles of a river in upstate New York. Due to lax construction guidelines, the risk of a similar spill in Michigan is high. A cleanup fund would help mitigate

**Virtually all CAFOs in Michigan are causing air and water pollution, resulting from unmanageable quantities of manure.**

the inevitable damage.

- Require managers of new or expanding CAFOs to obtain certified training in proper animal and waste management techniques. Managers of municipal sewage treatment plants are required to have advanced training. So should CAFO operators.
- Require an appropriate number of acres of land for each animal confined in a CAFO, to assure nutrient distribution at agronomic rates. Regardless of the treatment method used to manage CAFO waste (wastewater treatment plant, composting, etc.), there will always be something left over requiring disposal. CAFOs must have enough land available to apply the

**Check the status of the bills mentioned in this article on the Sierra Club's Bill Tracker at <http://michigan.sierra-club.org/tracker>.**

**Help the Sierra Club influence legislators on behalf of the environment! Log on to the Sierra Club's Mackinac Action Center at <http://mackinac.sierraclubaction.org> in order to easily contact your elected officials.**



substance in a manner that is beneficial, not toxic.

The Sierra Club is planning for a long fight to promote and pass a strong package of bills to protect Michigan from CAFOs. The bills have been introduced in the House and have been forwarded to various committees.

### GREAT LAKES GREAT MICHIGAN

The Sierra Club is a member of a coalition of Michigan environmental groups working to promote a comprehensive solution to the growing threat of massive water diversion from the Great Lakes Basin. The "Great Lakes Great Michigan" campaign builds on the Water Legacy Act, introduced last year by House Democrats, and proposals resulting from public hearings held by the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck).

Environmentalists call for legislation that would:

- Clarify current resource protection statutes, including the Inland Lakes and Streams Act and the Wetland Protection Act, to specifically address water withdrawals that have impacts on inland lakes, streams or wetlands, including lake augmentation wells.
- Create a new water withdrawal statute to require permits for any water user capable of withdrawing more than two million gallons a day, or



100 million gallons a year.

- Place strict limits on the private sale of Great Lakes waters, amending the Great Lakes Preservation Act to prohibit the private sale of water unless the project has received legislative approval.
- Establish an open, public process and guidelines for evaluating and stopping Great Lakes diversions under the federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The process would include public notice, public hearings and clear deadlines for making WRDA decisions. It would also authorize the governor to veto out-of-basin diversions.
- Require large water users of each sector of the economy to self-certify that they are utilizing generally accepted conservation practices.

Best practices would be required in areas of the state where water use was having adverse natural resource impacts or where water conflicts are common.

- Require large water users to report their water use activities to the state. Currently, agricultural operations do not report their water use with the same accuracy as other users. Lake augmentation wells do not report at all. All water users in Michigan should report with the same format.



*Gayle Miller, the Mackinac Chapter's Conservation Program Coordinator, can be reached at 517-484-2372 or [gayle.miller@sierra-club.org](mailto:gayle.miller@sierra-club.org).*

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# Conservation & Litigation

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

## SIERRA CLUB CHALLENGES CAFO DECLARATORY RULING

On August 11 Sierra Club filed a court challenge to a declaratory ruling issued by Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Director Steve Chester regarding the regulation of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The ruling was in response to a petition filed by Sierra Club contending that the MDEQ regulation of CAFOs is not consistent with federal law.

As reported in the August 2005 *Mackinac*, Sierra Club found much to support in Chester's ruling, in particular the decision to revise the general water quality permits (see below) and the requirements that all large CAFOs must come under the permit. However, MDEQ's rejection of Sierra Club's legal arguments and denial on the key issue of whether the agency and the public will be able to review critical information from the proposed CAFOs prior to a permit being issued led the Mackinac (Michigan) Chapter and the national Clean Water Campaign Committee to jointly pursue the legal challenge.

The state must file the complete declaratory ruling record with the court no later than October 15, and Sierra Club will have 28 days to respond. The Sierra Club is represented by Scott Jerger, an Oregon attorney with CAFO expertise who handled the declaratory ruling before the MDEQ, and Liisa Speaker of Lansing acting as local counsel. The case is assigned to Judge Beverly Nettles-Nickerson of Ingham County Circuit Court.

## BROAD SUPPORT FOR STRONGER CAFO WATER PERMIT

Nineteen people testified in favor of a stronger water quality permit for large industrial livestock operations at a public hearing in Lansing on August 25. MDEQ also took written comments on a proposed revision of Michigan's general surface water permit for concentrated animal feeding operations from late July into mid-September, and was expected to issue the new permit sometime in October. Those calling for strengthening the regulation of CAFOs included public health experts, farmers, township officials, watershed organization representatives, and volunteers and staff with Sierra Club, Michigan Environmental Council and Clean Water Action. Growing concern over the public health threat posed by water and air pollution from massive industrial livestock operations was a common issue raised by the speakers, along with economic impacts on communities, public disclosure of information, and inadequate and unenforceable standards.

A small number of opponents spoke at the hearing, compared to hearings in the past. One Farm Bureau staff member and three owners of hog and turkey operations, who among them

own 32 of the state's 200 listed CAFOs, called for permits only for operations caught polluting and keeping the current system of voluntary compliance for most operations. Opposition to making CAFO information readily available was also raised, as well as the proposed requirement for manifests for the transfer of waste to others for disposal. While only four opponents spoke at the hearing, a large amount of attention to both the proposed permit, the MDEQ declaratory ruling and the Sierra Club's lawsuit has been paid in trade publications statewide.

## CAFOS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

This past April rural residents of Lenawee and Hillsdale counties once again experienced the overwhelmingly awful stench from surrounding CAFOs as these CAFOs unloaded a winter's worth of fermented urine, feces and other wastes onto farm fields. Sierra Club sought assistance from Michigan's acting chief medical executive, Dr. Dean Sienko, to address what appears to be a major public health threat. Dr. Sienko, also the medical director for Ingham County, responded quickly, convening a multidisciplinary technical team led by the Department of Community Health.

At Dr. Sienko's request, MDEQ, the Department of Agriculture and the Lenawee and Hillsdale county health departments are participating in the team. The group is tasked with determining how to assess and respond to citizen's complaints related to farm operations, including manure storage and spreading, odors and their potential health effects, water discharges, and other associated operations that may release pollutants to the environment. After the first formal meeting, an interagency group of state toxicologists agreed to research existing literature on health threats posed by CAFOs to start the review. Recognizing that odor problems posed by CAFOs are at their worst in the spring and fall, Dr. Sienko hopes the team can complete its work in late winter or early spring 2006. One possible outcome will be a diagnostic tool public health nurses can use to better assess complaints that may be linked to CAFO pollution.

## LAWSUIT AGAINST CITY OF MANISTEE DISMISSED BY FEDERAL JUDGE

In a decision that bodes well for local government control over land use issues in Michigan, a federal judge has dismissed the lawsuit brought by Manistee Salt Works Development Corporation against the city of Manistee after the city turned down a proposal to build a coal-fired power plant in the city limits. The federal court claims were dismissed with prejudice by Judge Richard Enslin, although state claims in the case could possibly be brought in state court.

*see Conservation, page 7*



# Forest Update

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

## **FOREST CERTIFICATION MOVES FORWARD: SIERRA CLUB HAS CONCERNS**

Last year, the Michigan Legislature required the four million acres of Michigan State Forests to become “Certified” as “sustainable” under two separate certification regimes.

Certification is a third-party audit of forest management practices and planning to ensure that management is planned well and carried out according to plans. It is sort of like a “Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval” for forest management.

The push for certification originally arose out of concerns that tropical forests were being harvested at rates that were far greater than sustainable. This concern was soon recognized to be valid in other parts of the world as well. The primary vehicle behind the push for certification is market forces. After significant pressure, large retailers such as Home Depot, Staples and Office Max have determined that they will no longer carry wood products (such as paper and fiberboard) from uncertified sources.

Consequently, the timber industry pushed hard for certification of state forests, fearing that without certification there wouldn't be much of a market for the timber they cut and used from our state forest lands. The timber industry got the state to require certification as of January 1, 2006.

Certifiers are in Michigan as this issue of *The Mackinac* goes to press. They are auditing plans and practices around the state to determine whether or not state forest practices meet the requirements of certification as “sustainable.” The Sierra Club has grave concerns regarding the ability of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to meet these standards in three respects.

First, long-range and large-scale plans for forest management are required in order to assure that the state is looking broadly at the forest resources, as well as making strategic decisions about the direction of the forests as a whole and not simply making short-term piecemeal decisions. Currently, the DNR has no plans for the four million acres of state forests that meet these requirements.

Second, the state is required, in consultation with the public, to set aside “High Value Conservation Forests,” which would preserve rare areas of biodiversity, such as vanishing Canada Yew, that are overbrowsed by deer and nearly gone from the state. To date, this has not been done.



JOHN REBERS

Third, the DNR is required to make the public active participants in the decisions regarding what will be done to manage state lands to meet certification. Over the past year, behind closed doors without consultation with the public regarding the process, the DNR has been frantically throwing together documents to meet certification standards. While the Sierra Club will be offering suggestions regarding how the state might meet these standards, we are concerned about the state's ability to meet them at this time.



For more information, contact Marvin Roberson at [marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org](mailto:marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org).

### *Conservation, from page 6*

Sierra Club is an amicus in the lawsuit and was well represented by the firm of Jenner and Block of Chicago. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and the Manistee Citizens for Responsible Development were interveners on the side of the city. Manistee Salt Works could seek to appeal the decision.



DAVE CHAPMAN

Anne Woiwode (here with her dog Fenwick), Director of the Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club, can be reached at [anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org](mailto:anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org).

# WaterSentinelsUpdate

by Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Coordinator

## **NEW INFORMATION OF PROBLEMS IN MID-MICHIGAN**

At an October 11 press conference held by Saint Louis, Michigan, Mayor George Kubin, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced that they found a DDT byproduct chemical in three municipal wells. The byproduct, discovered during exploratory sampling in September of 2004

of the city's six municipal wells, was confirmed in a May 2005 sampling, with the highest level of the three wells at 180 parts per billion (ppb). Testing of 15 private wells yielded no detection.

USEPA is downplaying the problem and has stated there is no risk in drinking the municipal water because the chemical is present at low levels. The chemical is para-Chlorobenzenesulfonic Acid, or p-CBSA. As far as USEPA knows, p-CBSA is a waste product derived only in the manufacture of the pesticide DDT; it has only been found at three Superfund sites in the U.S. where DDT was manufactured, with most references coming from the Montrose/Del Amo Superfund Site near Torrance, California.

### **THERE ARE NO LONG-TERM DATA, NO HUMAN EXPOSURE STUDIES**

Other than five short-term animal studies, not much is known about p-CBSA. However, USEPA Region 9 in California proposed to apply a 25,000 ppb limit on the concentration at which they would inject any captured p-CBSA back into the ground at the Montrose/Del Amo Superfund Site. They set no other limits or standards because no one at the Montrose site drinks the groundwater. That USEPA would set any standard at all for a substance they know so little about seems premature, although comparisons to other structurally similar "analogue" chemicals do provide some basis of information.

### **THE VELSICOL CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE IS LEAKING**

In Michigan, the source of p-CBSA is the old Velsicol Chemical plant site, located on the south bank of the Pine River. USEPA oversaw remediation back in 1986, when a clay cap and a slurry wall were placed around the chemicals in the ground. However, the presence of the chemical in the city's municipal wells proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that this particular old containment system failed: the plant site is leaking chemicals into groundwater.

The test results also prove that a pathway exists for other more dangerous chemicals to enter the water system in the future. Two years ago, NAPL (non-aqueous phase liquid), a chemical mixture that looks like molasses, was found oozing up through the riverbed where water had been drained away for sediment removal. What else is leaking out? p-CBSA is a highly mobile substance, meaning that it flows very easily with groundwater. There are other contaminants that are less mobile, and they move more slowly. How far behind p-CBSA are they? Will they show up in tests a few months or years from now?

### **NO MORE CONTAINMENT SYSTEMS!**

USEPA is slated to finish removing DDT-contaminated river sediments adjacent to the site by August of next year—about a year ahead of schedule. The plant site itself is still under investigation to determine

*Two years ago, NAPL, a chemical mixture that looks like molasses, was found oozing up through the riverbed... What else is leaking out?*

the extent and nature of the contamination there. It will be next year before the public sees any inkling of the plans for remediation. We know that USEPA is essentially broke and will likely propose another cheap, temporary solution, but we can keep that from happening here again—if we speak out! It's up to the public to convince USEPA that nothing less than full cleanup is acceptable.

Mayor Kubin stated, "Our city has survived this long because we are optimists. The people living in St. Louis have believed that our government will not let us down. We believe that EPA will provide us a safe community to live and work in. We believe that our representatives and our governor will come to our aid, to assure our safety. We call them to action now."



DAVE CHAPMAN

*Rita Jack, the Mackinac Chapter's Water Sentinels Project Coordinator, can be contacted at [rita.jack@sierraclub.org](mailto:rita.jack@sierraclub.org) or 517-484-2372.*



# MiningUpdate

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

## Mining Rules Work Group Completes— Workshops To Be Held

Over the past nine months, members of the Mining Rules Work Group have been meeting to write the regulations that will implement the Sulfide Mining Law passed into

statute last year. This group, convened by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), has been comprised of local officials, environmentalists (including the Sierra Club), conservationists and industry.

There were 14 full-day meetings, and the group went through seven full drafts. This work is now completed, and there will soon be an opportunity for the public to comment on the current draft. As soon as this draft is released by MDEQ, there will be public hearings and a public comment period. The Sierra Club, in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation and the Michigan Environmental Council, will then hold workshops for the public regarding how to get involved and comment on the rules. The workshops will be held in Lansing and the U.P.

The rules as they stand have positives and negatives. On the positive side, there are good financial assurance mechanisms to assure that an operator pays for

**There are good financial assurance mechanisms [in the rules] to assure that an operator pays for cleanup in case of a spill.**

cleanup in case of a spill. There is also a strong environmental impact assessment section that will lay out the potential environmental effects of a mine for the public to see. The mine designs must prevent all leaching of acidic materials.

There are also some problems. Currently, many of the sections do not address mining activity directly, but simply reference other parts of Michigan environmental law. An agreed-upon (by the workgroup) standard to assure the elimination and cleanup of toxic spills before they become catastrophic has been altered and watered-down.

**For more information on the rules and content, contact Marvin Roberson, [marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org](mailto:marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org); for more information regarding the workshop attendance, contact Rita Jack, [rita.jack@sierraclub.org](mailto:rita.jack@sierraclub.org).**



CHARLES ST CHARLES III

Clear water in the Yellow Dog Plains, northwest of Marquette, in the U.P.

# Hunters & Anglers



PAUL ANDERSON

A moose glances over its shoulder.

Ron Smith is an avid kayaker and has been a leader of the Crossroads Group since its founding. He can be reached at [ron.smith@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:ron.smith@michigan.sierraclub.org).



by Ron Smith, Vice Chair, Crossroads Group

## **SHOULD HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN BELONG TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP?**

Many people who know me as an activist in the Sierra Club are surprised to learn that I'm a bow and black-powder hunter. Others who know me as a hunter and fisherman are surprised

to learn that I'm a member and very active in the Sierra Club . . . you know, that "tree hugger" bunch. I'd like to share with you some thoughts on being a hunter, fisherman and member of an environmental group.

As a young boy, I spent fall Saturdays hunting with my Dad. My father was a farm boy who never finished high school but possessed a wisdom that came from spending time in the woods and creek bottoms observing how everything fit together. As we walked fence rows looking for cottontails he would talk about cover for game and the pressures that encroaching development was bringing to the countryside. When we would go to Lake Erie for perch and walleye, Dad spoke of how dirty the lake was and how fishing had declined since he first fished there with my grandfather years before.

Years have passed since those days. I've been across this country for business and pleasure and I've seen some of the scenic wonders. I've hunted, kayaked and camped all over the country. What I've seen, in many instances, I'm glad my father's not alive to see.

I've seen trout streams silted from the runoff of clear cuts for timber. Farms and wildlife habitat converted into subdivisions while established cities are left to ruin. Our national forests are being undersold to timber companies while charging taxpayers for construction of the roads they use to bring the timber out. Here in Michigan you only have to look at the warning on your fishing license to see that toxins have infiltrated into the food chain, making it unsafe to

**I've seen trout streams silted from the runoff of clear cuts for timber.**

eat many of the species of fish caught here.

One day while scouting for deer north of Howell, I discovered that my old hunting area for nearly ten years had been staked out for a subdivision. It was then that what my father was telling me years ago came back to me. No clean air, no clean water, no cover meant no game. No game . . . no hunting. Simple as that. "Progress" could eventually succeed in removing the opportunity to hunt where no anti-gun, anti-hunting group ever could.

So in order to save the things I loved to do—hiking, kayaking, fishing and hunting—I looked around for a way to fight back. Sure progress means jobs, and we need jobs. But we don't have to let greed rule and destroy the things that give "quality" to our lives.

I joined the Sierra Club. Why? Well I knew of their fight in the early 1960s to protect the Grand Canyon, and they had an extensive outings program where people got together and did the things that I liked to do. I joined to meet new people to do the things that I enjoy doing; now I'm involved in the fight to preserve and protect those things that give meaning to the term "quality of life" for me.

So, should hunters and fishermen join an environmental group? I don't think they can afford not to.



# BECUpdate

by Leigh Fifelski, Building Environmental Communities Conservation Organizer

## **APPLY LAWN-CARE SENSE AT THE MARKET**

After knocking on over 900 doors these past few months, making numerous phone calls and holding various workshops, Oakland County Building Environmental Community (BEC) volunteers and activists hope that people are more aware of the harms associated with lawn pesticides and

high-phosphorus, high-nitrogen lawn fertilizers. You may be one of the people who signed a pledge to stop using pesticides, sent a postcard to Governor Granholm asking her to enforce water policies, and you may have even taken a lawn sign announcing that your lawn is “Pesticide Free: Kid and Pet Safe.” For this we thank you. These efforts will continue into the winter, when activists will be working with stores and lawn care providers to encourage them to provide safer lawn care products and with neighbors to make sure everyone on their block is doing their part to protect our water come spring.

Remember that composting is a great alternative to store-bought fertilizers, and by saving your yard waste and kitchen scraps you can provide a great feed for your lawns and gardens come springtime. This winter, think about why using pesticides on your lawn is harmful. First, pesticides and high-phosphorus, high-nitrogen fertilizers can harm our children, birds, pets, and can kill off beneficial insects that help keep our garden healthy. Second, pesticides are harmful to our waterways, especially when we apply them excessively. Third, our groundwater can become contaminated when those pesticides reach the water table.

Now take this information to the grocery store.



**Composting is a great alternative to store-bought fertilizers, and by saving your yard waste and kitchen scraps you can provide a great feed for your lawns and gardens come springtime.**

When you enter a grocery store and you have a choice between factory-farm-raised chicken or organic free-range chicken, think of all the work you and the Sierra Club do to protect our waterways. Would you prefer to buy the chicken that, while alive, had room to walk around and ate natural, hormone- and antibiotic-free food; or, would you prefer to buy the chicken that during its life had been miserably cooped-up in a cage, barely able to move, or, just as bad, packed into a building with twenty to thirty thousand other chickens, each with less than a square foot of space within which to move and fattened on hormones? These last two choices are examples of chickens raised in a factory farm. The waste from these operations causes the same types of problems that lawn care products can cause—excess amounts of manure from these facilities can cause large algae blooms in rivers and streams. And, the waste from factory farms can cause eye irritation, headaches and nausea, just like many lawn chemicals are known to do.

The Oakland County Sierra Club volunteers encourage you to continue to protect our waterways this winter. When shopping, please consider purchasing your meat and vegetables from organic sources. When you plan for summer yardwork, develop a chemical-free plan of action. And when you get rid of icy spots on the cement this winter, use sand instead of salt!

To learn more about the Oakland County Sierra Club activities, check out [www.sierraclub.org/community/oakland](http://www.sierraclub.org/community/oakland).



*Leigh Fifelski is Community Organizer for the Sierra Club Building Environmental Communities Program in Oakland County. She can be reached at [leigh.fifelski@sierraclub.org](mailto:leigh.fifelski@sierraclub.org).*

# Chapter Elections 2005

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

### VOTE FOR YOUR SIERRA CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

The following candidates have agreed to accept the nomination to run for the four At-Large Member positions on the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) for terms running from January 2006 to January 2008. We greatly appreciate their past environmental work and

their willingness to take a Chapter-level leadership position.

The Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee consists of nine At-Large members representing all of the Sierra Club members in Michigan, plus ten representatives from the regional Groups in Michigan. Their responsibility is to establish and manage the chapter's budget, fundraise, set and implement conservation priorities and policies, oversee Chapter staff and address member concerns. These Executive Committee members are expected to participate on some committees and to attend Chapter functions. The

Executive Committee meets "formally" four times a year and those meetings are open to all members.

Your vote is critical in the selection of those candidates who you feel best represent the interests of Michigan Sierra Club members. **Ballots must be received on or before December 13, 2005.** Write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of your envelope to ensure ballot validation. Your membership number is on the mailing label for this newsletter. **The ballot is on page 14.** Please follow the instructions and vote for no more than four candidates.

## MICHAEL SKLAR SKLAR

During my 14 years as Huron Valley Group Co-Chair, we more than tripled our membership and active volunteers, raised over \$70,000 in local funds through the Shopping for the Earth program, and led successful ballot initiatives that will raise \$100 million to protect open space and natural areas.

Now more than ever, the Sierra Club must be the thin green line between our shared natural heritage and those who would liquidate it for the short-term benefit of a few. If elected, I will work to make the Sierra Club our state's dominant force on environmental issues. To overcome entrenched special interests, indifferent political leaders, and a disengaged public, I believe we must:

- Re-frame the debate on environmental issues as a matter of fundamental values rather than a debate between competing experts.
- Leverage common interests with faith groups, progressive businesses, civic organizations, and local communities.
- Further build our strength by boosting membership, recruiting and training new activists, and enhancing our finances.

Please join me in working to build on our past successes so we can safeguard the kind of future we, and our descendants, deserve. I ask for your support as an at-large

candidate for the Chapter Executive Committee. Thank you.

## SUE KELLY SUE KELLY

I have served as Mackinac Chapter Chair (and Co-chair) for the last four years. I've served on the Crossroads Group Executive Committee in many capacities, including Group Chair from 1994 to 1996.

Today being an activist is more important than ever. The stakes have never been higher; we are fighting for serious Great Lakes protection, national and state public lands are under assault from the extractive industries and we have leaders at all levels of government that do not understand the basic concept that nature is the infrastructure on which all life depends. I have experienced the reality that one person can make a difference; my efforts on behalf of the Sierra Club saved a highly visible 3.5 acre woodlot from becoming a parking lot.

I am a Sierra Club environmentalist because the Sierra Club has the resources, reputation and grassroots connection that make advocating for environmental protection at the local, state and national levels effective. If elected to the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee my goals will be to continue to build a vibrant, effective political component into our work, institutionalize a reliable funding strategy to support our programs and engage more Sierra Club members as activists and leaders.

## ALFRED M. BEETON

I have been actively involved in dealing with environmental issues for over 50 years. My 1961 paper on the drastic changes in Lake Erie was a wake-up call about deterioration of the Great Lakes. I served as expert witness in successful pollution litigation against U.S. Steel, Inland Steel, Youngstown Steel, Standard Oil, Sinclair Oil, and American Cyanamide. I retired from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration as Acting Chief Scientist in 1997. I was director of the Great Lakes & Marine Waters Center and Michigan Sea Grant, Univ. Michigan 76–86, and the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory of NOAA, 86–96. During 1987–89 I was a member of the Michigan Toxic Substances Control Commission. Over the years I served on committees of the National Academy of Science. I was co-chair of the Science Advisory Board of the I.J.C. I have been advisor on international projects for the Smithsonian and World Health Organization. I was honored to appear with Senator Gaylord Nelson in one of the first Earth Days in Milwaukee. At present I am Adjunct Professor of Public Health, UM. I want to share my knowledge and expertise with the Sierra Club and I look forward to serving you.

## DAVID HOLTZ

For the past two years I have served on the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter Executive and Steering Committees and was formerly Sierra Club's Media Coordinator in southeast Michigan. I currently work as Michigan Director for Clean Water Action.

Among the environmental issues I have championed are campaigns to ban out-of-state trash in Michigan, improve water quality by making polluters pay, and to defeat a proposal that would increase air pollution in southwest Detroit. My top issue priority in 2005 is Great Lakes water withdrawals and the campaign to win legislative approval to prevent the privatization of public trust waters. My major volunteer commitment to Sierra Club is toward support of the Chapter's fundraising, political and conservation efforts.

My vision for the Mackinac Chapter is to strengthen implementation of our organization's priority strategic goals through:

- recruitment, training and development of more Sierra

*see Chapter Elections, page 14*

## Ballot Question: Mackinac Chapter or Michigan Chapter?

All members of the Sierra Club in Michigan may vote in annual elections for the members of the statewide Chapter Executive Committee and on any proposed changes to the bylaws of the Chapter (see p. 14). At its July meeting, the Chapter Executive Committee considered a proposal to change

the name of the Chapter from "Mackinac Chapter" to "Michigan Chapter." The Chapter Executive Committee unanimously approved the following proposed bylaw change at the July 2005 meeting and recommends a "yes" vote.

(Underlining is new text; deleted text is shown by strikethroughs)

1.1 Name. The name of this Sierra Club unit is the Michigan ~~Mackinac~~ Chapter of the Sierra Club (Club).

### STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF THIS BYLAWS CHANGE

An explanation is usually necessary to explain the entity that we are representing to many people, including new Sierra Club members in Michigan. Articulating the geographic area we represent with a name needing no explanation allows more time to speak to our issues and programs with legislators,

coalition members and the media when organizing communities around an issue, etc.

The Mackinac Chapter has been thought to represent the island of the same name, not the entire state. Mackinac is frequently mispronounced.

Michigan is the state we seek to protect and is a land of many forms: farmland, big cities, small towns, and wilderness.

### STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THIS BYLAWS CHANGE

The Mackinac Chapter is the original name adopted by the founding members of the Michigan Sierra Club in 1967. It is said that the name was chosen because it was felt that the name expressed the character of wild Michigan and acknowledged the land's original inhabitants and culture.



# Chapter Elections 2005

David Holtz, continued from page 13

- Club citizen activists at the group level;
- growing the club's fundraising program with the active involvement of volunteer leaders and staff, and;
- nurturing our dedicated, high-quality volunteer leaders and the chapter's professional staff.

ExCom members participate on committees and attend Chapter functions. Your vote is critical in the selection of those candidates who you feel best represent the interests of Michigan Sierra Club members.

## JEAN GRAMLICH MLICH

I am a lifelong hiker, birder and gardener and have recently moved back to a beautiful rural area. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for about 20 years and became active when I retired a few years ago. I joined the SEMG Political Committee and became the secretary. I have participated in Lobby Day for several years and am a member of the Mackinac Action Network. I have served

on the SEMG ExCom and am the Membership Chair. I am currently a member of the Chapter Legislative Committee and of the Chapter ExCom serving on the Steering Committee as secretary. I appreciate the fact that the Sierra Club offers many opportunities for grassroots activism and friendships with a great group of people.



**N**ot everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway  
 Director, Gift Planning  
 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,  
 San Francisco, CA 94105  
 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail:  
[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)

### MACKINAC CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB 2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOT

Vote for no more than four (4) candidates. The second set of boxes is for the second member of a joint membership only.

<b>MICHAEL SKLAR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SUE KELLY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ALFRED M. BEETON</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DAVID HOLTZ</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>JEAN GRAMLICH</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**BYLAWS CHANGE**  Y  N  
 Shall the name of the **Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club** be changed to the **Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club** by the adoption of the change to Bylaw 1.1?

**Your ballot must be received by December 15.** Write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of your envelope to validate your ballot. Mail your ballot to: Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club, attn: Chapter Elections, 109 East Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906.

# ChapterFundingUpdate

by Wendi Tilden, Development Director

## **SUPPORT SIERRA CLUB'S WORK IN MICHIGAN— REMEMBER THE MACKINAC CHAPTER IN YOUR WILL OR LIVING TRUST**

There are many ways to make a lasting contribution for a cleaner, healthier Michigan for our families and our future. One way you can make a difference is to remember Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter in your will or living trust.

Bequests (or planned gifts) are a crucial resource. Today's environmental and public health threats require a reliable source of independent funding. Individuals like you can provide that financial support via personal gifts and bequests. These gifts give us the

flexibility we need to respond quickly when the next threat arises.

Please include us in your will or living trust. You will help achieve a legacy of public health, environmental, legal, and political victories for Michigan.

The Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation have received many major gifts in the form of bequests. We are grateful to those friends who, through their will or living trust, support the environmental work for future generations.

### **Sample bequest language**

There are two easy ways to support Sierra Club's Michigan work in your will or living trust, depending on your own estate tax situation.

1. Bequests to the **Sierra Club** are not deductible for estate tax purposes because they can fund lobbying activities. They will help us strengthen citizen involvement in democracy and further legislative protections of Michigan's clean water, healthy neighborhoods, and natural heritage.

**I give \_\_\_\_\_ to the Sierra Club, a California nonprofit corporation, currently located at 85 Second Street, Second Floor, San Francisco, California, 94105 (Attention: Director of Gift Planning), to be used by the Sierra Club's Mackinac Chapter for the protection and preservation of the environment. In the event that the Mackinac Chapter (or its successor) ceases to exist as a Sierra Club entity, then the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club shall have sole authority in administering the funds.**

2. Bequests to **The Sierra Club Foundation** are generally exempt from federal or state inheritance taxes. They will sustain key monitoring and education programs that help defend and restore Michigan's great forests and great lakes.

**I give \_\_\_\_\_ to The Sierra Club Foundation, a California nonprofit corporation, currently located at 85 Second Street, Suite 750, San Francisco, California, 94105 (Attention: Director of Gift Planning), to be used to support the charitable activities of the Sierra Club's Mackinac Chapter. In the event that the Mackinac Chapter (or its successor) ceases to exist as a Sierra Club entity, then the Board of Trustees of The Sierra Club Foundation shall have sole authority in administering the funds.**

To learn more about how you can include a gift to Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter in your estate plans, please call Wendi Tilden at 517-484-2372 or email [wendi.tilden@sierraclub.org](mailto:wendi.tilden@sierraclub.org).

# Awards & Recognition 2005

## MACKINAC CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Service Awards recognize the exceptional contributions of volunteers to the work of the Chapter and the Regional Groups.



Nancy Schiffler, one of the recipients of the 2005 Service Award.

The 2005 Service Award winners are **Judy Kindel** (Chapter), **Lisa Symons** (West Michigan Group), **William Hamilton** (Central Upper Peninsula Group), **Robert Simpson** (Nepessing Group), **Jim Stricko** (Traverse Group), **Ron Smith** (Crossroads Group), and **Nancy Shiffler** (Huron Valley Group).

The Marlene Fluharty Award recognizes a leader who has worked at more than one level of the Sierra Club. This year's winner is **Kim Waldo**, who has been an active leader in both the Chapter and Huron Valley Group.

The **Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM)** were awarded the White Pine Award, which recognizes another

organization for outstanding leadership on environmental issues.

The electronic newsletter of the Oakland County Building Environmental Communities program, the "**BEC 'n CALL**," was awarded the Alex Sagady Cyber-Punk Award, which recognizes efforts that advance the work of Sierra Club through the use of computers.

The Virginia Prentice Award recognized the work of **Doug Cowherd**, **Mike Garfield**, and **Bill Hanson** for shepherding the Ann Arbor Area Greenbelt campaign to a successful conclusion in 2003.

Student **Katie Culkins** received the Cougar Award in recognition of her work to promote environmental protection.

The Burton Barnes award for promotion of the ecological sciences was given to **Melanie Gunn** of the University of

## Honoring One of Sierra Club's, and the Mackinac Chapter's, Friends

### KATHY BOUTIN-PASTERZ LEAVES SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN OFFICE TO CARE FOR FAMILY.

by Amanda Hightree, Outreach Coordinator

**W**hen you work with a small group of people like I do here in Lansing (there are six of us in the Mackinac Chapter office in Old Town), one of the benefits is that you get to know people beyond the professional level. Often they become your close friends. So, when someone moves on, it can

Kathy Boutin-Pasterz



DAVE CHAPMAN

be difficult to lose not only a trusted colleague, but also a friend.

In August the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter's Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Boutin-Pasterz left the Sierra Club to care for family members in North Carolina.

We'll miss Kathy. She has a special knack for figuring out what peoples' wants and needs are, which is one of the reasons she fit the job of volunteer coordinator so well. Kathy

worked closely with volunteer leaders in all of the Chapter's regional groups, providing training, support and consultation that helped this large grassroots organization work smoothly. Communication between staff, volunteers and members is a must, and Kathy helped the Chapter evolve by implementing the use of email to keep people updated, as well as ensuring our website remained as up-to-date as possible.



Michigan, while the Bunyan Bryant Award recognized the work of **Donele Wilkins** of the Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice for her work promoting environmental justice. Each of these award recipients was nominated by the namesake of these awards.

The Chair's Award was given by Chapter Chair Sue Kelly to **Mike Johnson**, who has been an exceptional leader with the Mackinac Chapter for many years.

The Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year Award was given to **Peter Wege** for his leadership on Great Lakes issues in establishing the Healing Our Waters Campaign.

The Sylvania Award recognizes a volunteer leader who is relatively new to the Mackinac Chapter scene, and this year's recipient is **Bill Rodgers**, who played an active role on both the Executive Committee and the Legislative Committee this year.

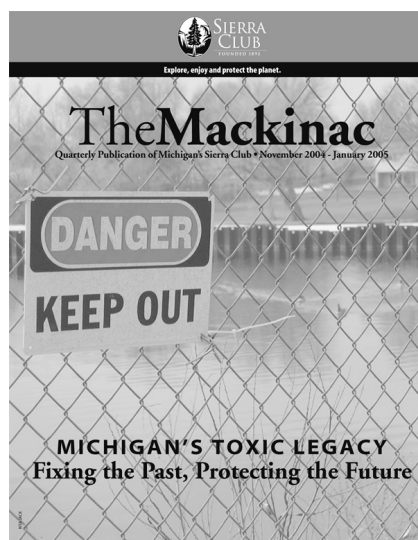
Kathy first joined the environmental movement to help people who were affected by pollutants and toxins. Eventually she founded and directed The Recyclers of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties—a regional, nonprofit recycling organization. After time away from the environmental workforce, Kathy returned in 2001 as the administrative assistant for the Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter, eventually becoming volunteer coordinator.

On behalf of the planet, my colleagues, and the citizens of Michigan whose health is better and environment is cleaner because of Kathy's diligence, I would like to thank Kathy for her friendship and for the care and devotion she has given the Mackinac Chapter.

## THE MACKINAC RECEIVES SIERRA CLUB AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE . . . AGAIN!

by Sue Kelly, Mackinac Chapter Chair

We are proud to announce that this publication, *The Mackinac*, received the national Sierra Club's 2005 award for newsletter excellence. The award was presented on September 9, 2005 at



the national Sierra Club's Awards Banquet in San Francisco and proudly accepted by Chapter Chair Sue Kelly on behalf of *The Mackinac* committee. This is the second time in the last three years that *The Mackinac* has won this national award; it also won the award in 2003.

The group of people who make up *The Mackinac* committee are Eric Lagergren, editor; Davina Pallone, design; Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director; and Kathy Boutin-Pasterz. On the committee as well are many talented volunteers, including Lydia Fischer, Sherry Hayden, David Holtz, Cheryl McConnell, Sheldon Green and George Hazen McCann. Thanks also to Amanda Hightree, outreach coordinator for the Mackinac Chapter, for the many administrative tasks she tends to that keep *The Mackinac* going.

We also want to acknowledge staff members Rita Jack and Gayle Miller, as well as Marvin Roberson, Melissa Damaschke and Leigh Fifelski, along with the numerous contributors who add updates and insight on our ongoing programs and who share experiences of enjoying and exploring this beautiful state we call home. Congratulations to the entire committee on the production of a truly outstanding publication!

This is the second time in the last three years that *The Mackinac* has won this national award; it also won the award in 2003.

# The Future of Michigan

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

Visit one of the dozens of farmers' markets in our state and you'll quickly learn that Michigan farmers grow a remarkable diversity of fruits, vegetables, grains, meats and animal products. Fresh water, fertile soils and a good climate make agriculture one of the top three industries in Michigan.

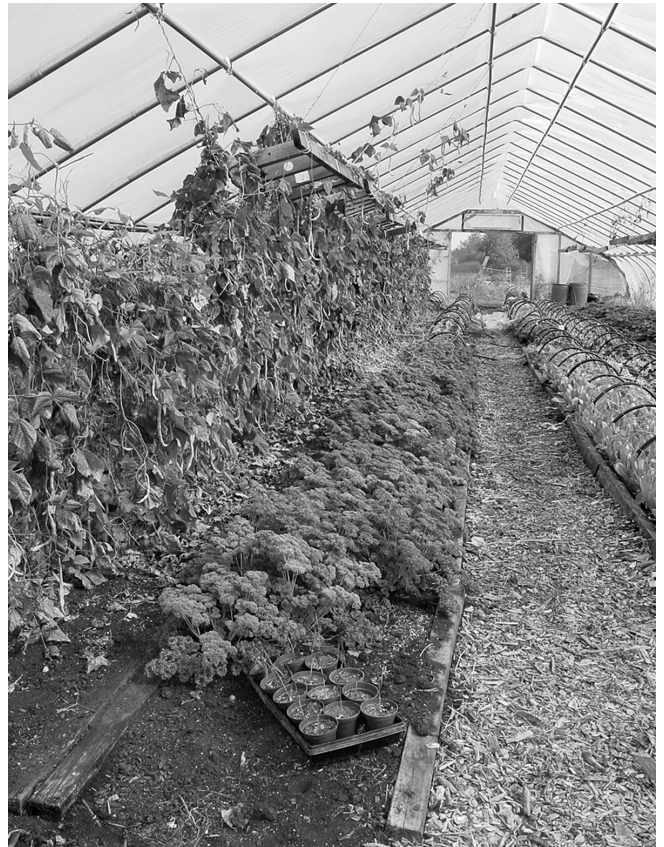
Michigan is in the enviable position of producing a wide enough variety and quantity of food to easily feed our nine million inhabitants and many others.

But the future of Michigan agriculture is not certain. Each year, more acres of farmland are developed into houses or shopping centers; medium-sized farms are getting squeezed out; and as the average age of farmers rises, it is unclear who will take up this work. Additionally, much of the marketing of Michigan foods depends on transport to distant places, and thus the consumption of "calories" in the fuel burned producing and shipping the food raises more concerns than the calories from the foods themselves. Adding to burdens on Michigan agriculture is the rapid growth in industrial livestock operations. The concentrated production of some meat, dairy

and poultry products comes at an enormous cost to public health, to local economies and to the water and air quality of the state.

Government policies, played out through state and federal subsidies, incentives, technical support, university research and regulatory schemes have overwhelmingly supported unsustainable agricultural operations to the detriment of traditional and sustainable farming. The loss of genetic diversity and the introduction of genetically modified organisms, as well as the use of increasing numbers of synthetic inputs—from antibiotics to herbicides—have created a food system that is less resilient over the long term, leaving us ultimately more vulnerable to disasters and disease. Much of Michigan agriculture has "bet the farm" on the practice of intensive agriculture. Through

Left to right: A variety of Michigan farm products from a farmers' market; The Giving Tree Farm greenhouse. Opposite: Chickens enjoy the great outdoors at an environmentally friendly farm in Pennsylvania.



ANNE WOIWODE (2)



# Agriculture

concerns primarily fueled by national or international markets, little attention is paid to diversity. The huge inputs of these industrial livestock operations means that farmers often can't sell their locally grown crops to stores down the street.

But there is a growing bright side for Michigan agriculture that deserves your time, attention and support. Sierra Club is dedicated to addressing the many problems associated with industrial livestock operations—as is discussed elsewhere in this newsletter—and we urge your involvement in this effort. As a thoughtful consumer and advocate in your own life, you can have an enormous impact on the future of Michigan's agriculture one shopping trip at a time. The opportunities are impressive; a remarkable grassroots movement to build sustainable agriculture in Michigan has taken hold and is growing.

- Small farms are increasing in number as demand for fresh, locally grown produce, meat and dairy products increases. Direct marketing of fresh goods is creating connections between consumers and farmers, improving the quality of the food and getting more money directly to the producers. More farmers are establishing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) arrangements, where customers buy a share in the harvest at the beginning of the season and receive fresh food weekly as it is picked. Farmers' markets are increasing in number and size, although consumers should ask for Michigan-grown products (because some will carry wholesaled goods from elsewhere).
- "Select Michigan," a program of the state Department of Agriculture, urges supermarkets to identify and promote Michigan agricultural products, preferably organically grown and processed foods. Food co-operatives will often deal directly with local growers, bringing fresh, seasonal foods, including organic foods not readily available elsewhere. By learning to eat local foods in season, instead of buying fresh strawberries in February, you also can help break the heavy fossil-fuel dependence our food habits have created.
- Support efforts to keep farmland in farming, such as the recent innovative Ann Arbor Greenbelt initiative in which the city's voters, by a 2-to-1 margin, supported using their tax dollars to protect farmland and open space outside the city's boundaries. Urban agriculture is beginning to take hold as well, with remarkable groups like Growing Hope in Ypsilanti, which is engaging people of all ages in growing their own food to improve nutrition and to save money—while building community at the same time.



RITA JACK

## Resources

Take time to learn about what is going on in your area. Below are websites that can help you be an informed and active consumer of fresh, organic Michigan products. The future of Michigan agriculture is in our hands.

***Eating Organically!*** A publication of the Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance with information on restaurants, stores and farms selling Michigan organic foods, at [www.moffa.org](http://www.moffa.org).

**West Michigan Environmental Action Council** offers a list of farmers' markets, CSAs and other information for the Grand Rapids area at [www.wmeac.org/learn/farmmarkets.asp](http://www.wmeac.org/learn/farmmarkets.asp).

**Growing Hope** offers many good links for sustainable agriculture at [www.growinghope.net/links](http://www.growinghope.net/links).

**The Michigan Department of Agriculture** offers a directory of UPick and Farm Markets, at [www.michigan.gov/mda](http://www.michigan.gov/mda).

**The Michigan Land Use Institute's** Taste the Local Difference website provides a variety of links to northern Lower Peninsula farm products at [www.localdifference.org](http://www.localdifference.org).

**The C. S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems** at Michigan State University has produced "Food Connections: Capital Area Community Food Profile," highlighting food choices in the greater Lansing area, online at [www.mottgroup.msu.edu/downloads/CACfoodprofile.pdf](http://www.mottgroup.msu.edu/downloads/CACfoodprofile.pdf).



# Dirty Rural Secrets: Lynn Henning Won't Let CAFOs Hide

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

Keeping track of water pollution from industrial livestock operations is a challenging job that Lynn Henning takes very seriously. Chronic understaffing of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) means private citizens are usually the first to find severe pollution problems from

concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). And, more often than not, Lynn, Michigan Sierra Club's CAFO Water Sentinel, is the one who finds it.

As a farmer in an area with more than a dozen large scale concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), Lynn has learned more about tracking down discharges and the cause of pollution than almost anyone else in Michigan. With her husband, Dean, Lynn has tracked down CAFO pollution in more than 20 counties in Michigan, investigating waterways around more than 100 operations to document and report violations of the law. (Look for an update to Sierra Club's April 2005 report, "Michigan's Dirty Rural Secret" on the Chapter website, [michigan.sierraclub.org](http://michigan.sierraclub.org).)

Investigation of possible pollution from a CAFO usually starts on the computer for Lynn. Information on the location of the operation is used to study aerial photographs and topographic maps to scope out where drains, streams and even field tiles may be located on the property. Concerned neighbors often provide important information about the site as well. With a toolkit including a digital camera, a dissolved oxygen meter, sterile sample bottles, a gadget for dipping sample bottles in the water from atop a culvert, latex gloves, and hand-cleaning gel, Lynn and Dean have traveled across the state in their investigations. (Because of the potential for encountering deadly pollutants, collection of water samples must only be done by trained staff or volunteers.)

At the site, Lynn and Dean drive around the facility, comparing what they see with the maps and photos. Everywhere a waterway crosses the road they'll look for evidence of pollution, carefully staying in the public right-of-way, taking pictures and making notes. Indicators include water color, turbidity and odor. Sometimes they find dead fish, manure, algae or even large quantities of bloodworms, which indicate contamination of a site. Even a stream that looks clean may be contaminated, since not all pollutants are visible. A dissolved oxygen meter can help determine the presence of pollutants, such as runoff from fermenting silage piles, which remove life-sustaining oxygen from the water.

Often a visual inspection is enough to make it clear pollution is entering the water, but documentation through water sampling will provide extra details for the MDEQ to investigate. All Sierra Club Water Sentinels, whether volunteer or staff, adhere to strict protocols for collection and submission of samples to MDEQ-certified laboratories for testing, and the test results Lynn obtains are almost always verified by MDEQ



COURTESY ANNE WOIWODE

Manure runoff from a nearby CAFO drains into a stream.

**With her husband, Dean, Lynn has tracked down CAFO pollution in more than 20 counties in Michigan, investigating waterways around more than 100 operations to document and report violations of the law.**

sampling at the same sites. E.coli bacteria and dissolved oxygen have standards set by the state, while fecal coliform levels are a good indicator of the presence of wastes. Additional tests can also include testing for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), nitrates and phosphates.

On occasion, something unusual will show up in the water. Earlier this year Lynn observed that water from one facility was clear but had a distinct yellow tinge. After some investigation she had a sample tested for chlorides and concluded that the water was contaminated with a chemical used to kill off the bacteria. The CAFO, which is under a court order to treat its waste after having more than 50 water quality violations, was contaminating the water with the treatment itself.

# How It Really Hits the Fan, Land, Rivers, Lakes and Streams . . .

Wastes from industrial livestock operations can flow into waterways from many different sources: direct discharge from barns, barnyards or waste lagoons; runoff from improper applications of waste to fields; illegal connections into streams; or right through the soil into

field tiles that drain the waste directly into waterways. In addition to urine and feces from the livestock, E.coli bacteria, cryptosporidium and other pathogens, silage leachate, milkhouse wastes, diesel fuel, liquid from decomposition of dead animals or animal parts, and chemicals used to mask or treat other pollutants have all been found in the waters around Michigan facilities.

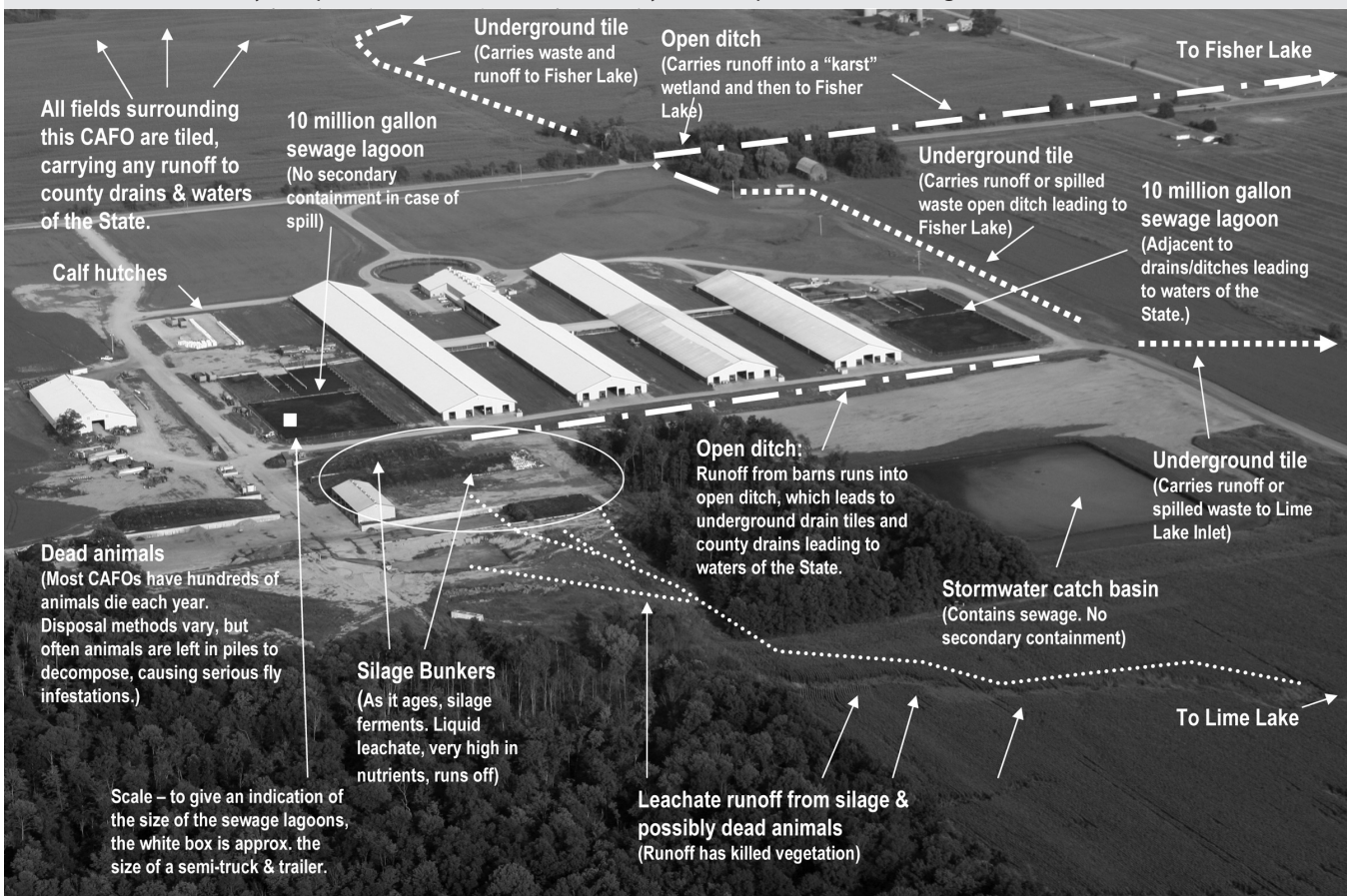
By law, CAFOs may only discharge pollutants into the waters of Michi-

gan if they have a water quality permit that they are complying with, and then only in the event of a 25-year, 24-hour storm event. Even then, any pollutants must not exceed state water quality standards. Over the course of hundreds of investigations by Lynn Henning and others, Sierra Club's experience shows that every CAFO will eventually pollute the water because of the facility siting, design and practices routinely being used by CAFO operators.

Sierra Club's experience shows that every CAFO will eventually pollute the water because of the facility siting, design and practices routinely being used by CAFO operators.

## CAFOS: DESIGNED TO POLLUTE

Aerial view of the Vreba Hoff II dairy in Hudson, Michigan, which houses approximately 4,000 dairy cows. Information was obtained from facility blueprints, on file at MDEQ, and county drain maps. Photo taken August 16, 2005.





# Life After Pigs

## THE IMPACT OF CAFOS ON YOUR NEIGHBORS

by Gayle Miller, Legislative Program Director, and Lynn Henning, CAFO Water Sentinel

Below are brief stories of just a few of the people whose lives have been forever changed by industrial agriculture in Michigan, a practice often promoted by the Farm Bureau, Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Agriculture—and heralded as the “future of agriculture.”

### THE McVAYS

For Floyd and Mary Lou McVay, life will never be the same; not since 4,000 squealing, stinking hogs became their nearest neighbors. A decent pitcher could easily fire a fast ball into the massive buildings that confine the pigs, less than 400 feet from the back door of their home near Morenci, Michigan.

The McVays bought their battered, old farmhouse 32 years ago. Surrounded by fields of corn, alfalfa and beans, Floyd restored their home and planted scores of trees. The oaks, spruce and maple now tower over a beautiful country setting...beautiful except for the constant noise of the swine, the roar of giant exhaust fans, the stench, and a steady stream of truck traffic on their dirt road. The McVays had hoped to invite their grandchildren to the farm, play with them in the yard and retire happy. Life has not turned out that way.

The concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO, or industrial livestock operation) has destroyed the McVays' enjoyment of their home and devastated their property value. No one would think to buy the McVays' house now. (Except, perhaps, the owner of the pigs. He came right out and told Floyd that when he'd had enough and could no longer stand the stench and noise, that he'd gladly buy him out. No doubt the CAFO operator would get a bargain.)

**Lea Henning is often stuck indoors as flies and extreme odor make outdoor activities impossible.**

### THE ZACHELS

John and Peggy Zachel, lifelong farmers in their 80s, live less than three hundred yards from the same CAFO. They worry about the air they breathe and the contamination of their water supply. John and Peggy raise 2,000 turkeys naturally. They know farm smells. The odor of the pigs next door, however, is another story. At a loss for words, they attempt to describe the stench as “choking, unbearable and heavy.” The point they come back to over and over again is that you can't escape the smell. They feel trapped.

### THE HENNINGES

Folks like Gerald and Lea Henning, lifelong family farmers near Hudson, Michigan, are in the same boat. A nearby CAFO operator spreads the putrid contents of its dairy lagoon on the land surrounding the Henning's home. The liquid manure contains not just urine and feces with the antibiotics and hormones excreted by the cows, but detergents, milk

Left: Concentrated cattle feeding operation. Right: Improper disposal of dead chickens poses a water quality concern.



RITA JACK



COURTESY USDA NRCS





COURTESY USDA NRCS (2)

Left: Liquid manure from a hog feeding operation being pumped onto cropland with a honey wagon. Right: A CAFO hog.

waste, pesticides, antiseptics, and all manner of other body fluids and chemicals.

Adding insult to injury, many CAFOs have dead-animal “composting” areas, where scores of carcasses may be piled up to let nature take its course. The liquid from the decomposing animals, and the consistently over-applied CAFO waste, is sucked into underground drainage tiles and spit out into local waterways, making human contact with nearby rivers very unwise.

For the Hennings, life often seems unbearable. Both Gerald and Lea have been diagnosed with hydrogen sulfide poisoning, one of numerous toxic emissions resulting from CAFO waste. Gerald has difficulty farming in air made so putrid that it takes his breath away. Lea is often stuck indoors as flies and extreme odor make outdoor activities impossible. Two summers ago, the CAFO operator spread liquid manure on the field adjacent to the Henning’s home for 14 straight days, without turning the waste under as recommended in the voluntary guidelines (not laws) that governed most CAFOs in Michigan.

### KATHY MELMOTH

Kathy Melmoth, a nurse and family farmer from Pittsford, is worried that the toxic air from a CAFO near her property will negatively impact her family farm business. She and her husband had considered expanding their operation to include a roadside nursery. However, concerns over the possible decline

in their property value and the potential health impacts from the surrounding air and water caused them to reconsider. After observing residents of her rural community experiencing physical and emotional symptoms apparently linked to the CAFO waste, Kathy started documenting their complaints. The results of her efforts alarmed her. Public health agencies have failed to respond to requests for help.

### JOHN KLEIN

John Klein is fortunate not to live in the immediate vicinity of a CAFO, but his life is no less impacted by their pollution. After a massive discharge of manure by an upstream CAFO two years ago, John watched in horror as the lake he lives on turned the color of antifreeze. The lake has since recovered, but John knows the potential for another disaster is just around the corner, and just upstream.

### DR. LELAND WOLF

Dr. Leland Wolf, a family practice physician in Hudson, knows all too well the impact of CAFOs on his rural community. Dr. Wolf treats many of the residents who live nearest the CAFOs. Difficulty in breathing, asthma, chronic bronchitis, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are among the symptoms reported by his patients. Dr. Wolf insists that CAFOs are a public health disaster waiting to happen.

**The Sierra Club wishes to thank the above-mentioned individuals and families, along with Lynn and Dean Henning of Hudson, for their willingness to speak out about this issue and to share their stories.**

**The stories of the McVays, Zachels, Hennings, Kathy Melmoth, John Klein and Dr. Wolf are stories that need to be told. With help from an award-winning video production company in Michigan, the Sierra Club is doing just that.**

**By November, the Sierra Club will have a stunning and compelling documentary focused on the impact of industrial agriculture on Michigan’s rural residents, public health and the environment. Stay tuned!**

# SierraStudentCoalition

by Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club Student / Conservation Organizer

## **MILK DOES THE BODY GOOD—BUT NOT IF IT COMES FROM A FACTORY FARM**

How does food production affect you and the world? This is a question that students asked participants at this year's conference on "The Impact of Factory Farming on Animals, the Environment, and You." The event took place on Oakland University's (OU) campus on Thursday, October 13.

Various student organizations planned the event, including SPIN (Students Promoting Interest in Nature), Amnesty International, New Campus Greens, and Animals and Society Forum.

Susan Pillars, an OU student, helped organize the conference along with Italia Millan, member of S.M.A.R.T. (South-eastern Michigan Animal Rights Team). Pillars shared Millan's vision of bringing a factory farming conference to OU's campus. Millan saw this conference as an opportunity to educate OU students and community members about factory farming, as well as an opportunity to raise awareness about what it is doing to our environment. Pillars saw the conference as a way to educate her peers about an issue that the press doesn't cover. "People don't know about factory farming," she said. Pillars, a senior majoring in biology, believes that the press is not exposing the harmful effects of factory farming to the public.

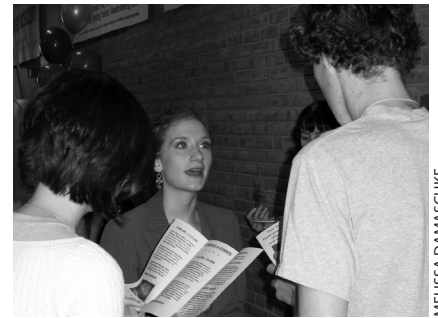
As you may have read elsewhere in this issue of *The Mackinac*, there is nothing exciting about concentrated animal feeding operations, which hold at least 1,000 "animal units." The waste produced from these farms runs off into our lakes and streams; nutrients in the runoff prompt the growth of undesirable aquatic plants and organisms that smother other living organisms in the water, thus creating intolerable stenches,

contaminating public and private drinking water supplies, and destroying recreational and aesthetic uses of waterways.

Not only does factory farming affect our waterways, it affects humans directly when they consume the products produced by these farms—including meat and dairy. Jessica Henry, president of SPIN and a junior majoring in toxicology, told her peers that milk does not do the body good; rather, it harms the body. According to Henry, the consumption of milk produced from these farms can be linked to various forms of cancer, including breast, ovarian and prostate. She also noted that it is important to make sure that any dairy products consumed be organic and not come from factory farms. Henry also said that "The best thing to do is to stop consuming dairy products altogether." She recommends replacing dairy products with soy products to stay healthy.

The conference featured vegan food, which is food that does not contain any dairy products. I asked OU students eating the food if they enjoyed the taste. I am happy to report that they all loved the food. I have to admit I did as well.

Many local organizations had tables set up with information on how students can get involved and take action against factory farming. These organizations included Sierra Club, Sasha Farm, Veggies in Motion, Help Little Bing,



MELISSA DAMASCHKE

Susan Pillars, senior at Oakland University, welcomes her peers to the Factory Farming Conference she helped organize.

Drfood.org, SPIN, and S.M.A.R.T. Sarah Pinkham, an OU senior majoring in elementary education and member of Animals and Society Forum, offered some friendly advice to her peers on how to take action. "Make informed and responsible choices on what you eat," she said. "Think about where your food is coming from. Even if it costs a little more or is harder to find, make the effort, because eventually it will become more available as we create the demand. It's only by creating this demand that we will put a stop to factory farming."

If you are a student who is interested in holding a workshop at your school, contact me at [melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org](mailto:melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org). Together we can eradicate the demand for factory-farmed products.



Contact Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club Student/Conservation Organizer, at [melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org](mailto:melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org) or 248-435-5277.

**Editor's note: Sierra Club members include people who range from hunters to vegans and does not take a position on the issue of whether people should eat meat or dairy products.**

# On the Inside: A Story of a Teenager's Experience Working Inside a CAFO

Editor's note: author's name has been withheld at the request of the author

My mom grew up on a farm in Illinois. Some of her fondest memories were of summers spent playing in fields with farm animals. She would spend hours recounting her youth in stories that evoked towering stalks of whispering corn, friendly animals in hay-strewn stalls, and natural landscapes.

My mom loved her childhood on the farm, and my brother and I lived vicariously through her stories. So, when we were offered the opportunity to work on another family member's farm we jumped on it. We left for the farm with all sorts of warm and bucolic expectations for what the summer would bring.

A very different picture awaited us.

What struck me first was the smell. This is what everyone says about CAFOs, but the smell is too horrendous to overstate. Our house was about a mile away from the barns, and on hot days the stench was sickly sweet and cloying. It crawled up your nose and dripped off your skin. On the way into the facility itself we had to pass by the lagoon, a giant lake of feces and urine. We joked about what the creature coming out of THAT lagoon would look like—definitely more horrific than Hollywood's version.

A giant pipe constantly poured raw feces into the lagoon. In a distinct radius around the lagoon and the CAFO itself, most vegetation was either dead or dying. The facility itself featured four nondescript metal rectangular buildings surrounded by unwelcoming, desolate dirt. It stood out in stark contrast with the lush green woods that we had driven through to get there.

Once we got into the CAFO we went through rigorous scrubbing. A full shower, clean work clothes, clean boots, and two buckets of disinfectant. If a disease was introduced, the whole herd of hogs could be killed. The crowded conditions within CAFOs invite infection and disease.

Before we began work we were told to be constantly aware of the fans. If the giant fans on the end of each building were ever shut off, the hogs would suffocate from the heat and poisonous gasses, and the whole herd could potentially die. The amount of work and attention it took to maintain this inherently out-of-balance farming system was impressive.

Each day when we began work I vowed to breathe through my mouth, not my nose. I was surprised by how hard it was to do this. It was also a lesson in how sensitive our taste buds are: breathing through my mouth just made it feel like I was tasting how awful the smell was. The odor, up close, of over 2,000 caged animals is intolerable.

I worked in the farrowing pens. The cages had to be hosed down with a high-powered water hose after every sow gave birth. The water running off the birthing pens was clumpy, viscous, and red and spilled into the lagoon along with the feces and urine.

My other job consisted of shoveling massive amounts of manure. I actually considered manually moving hundreds of pounds of heavy, wet, stinking hog feces the "good" job. The other option was artificial insemination, which involved its own specific smell. I was fine with my shovel and tons of . . . well, you know what.

I worked on this farm for two summers when I was a teenager. I don't pretend to be an expert on the way CAFOs are run. However, my personal experience working in a CAFO has changed the way that I view food production in our country.

I love my family, and I know how hard they work on their farm. This testimonial is not meant as a personal condemnation to farmers. However, I don't think that the way CAFO farmers raise hogs takes into account the full impact of their methods. CAFOs are a huge detriment to the environment and the communities around them. My work on my family's CAFO was an important learning experience. I now know the source of most of our meat and dairy products, and the amount of harm done to neighbors and to the environment in our misguided pursuit of cheap food.

CAFO hogs.



COURTESY USDA NIRS (2)



# 2005 Fall Retreat Recap

## A FIRST-TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE

by Chuck St. Charles

When I joined the Sierra Club last summer, one of the first emails I got was an announcement about the Chapter's annual Fall Retreat. I wasn't sure if, as a new member, I even qualified to attend, but I wanted to meet other members and a retreat sounded relaxing, so I went ahead and signed up.



I met lots of great people and had a wonderful time. The people that attended covered the spectrum, from full families to couples to individuals and presenters, and they were all friendly.

Everyone was free to structure their weekend how they wanted, so I attended several interesting workshops on Saturday, including the Activism 101 presentations. In between, I talked with new friends and walked the beautiful grounds. Some of the conference rooms and lounges had incredible views of dunes and of Lake Michigan, and the buildings were a great mix of log timber and fieldstones.

That Saturday afternoon we met together for our meal, then later in the day listened to the keynote address in the Tipi Building (where the auction was held, as well). I enjoyed watching the antics of folks during the auction—it was entertaining to say the least.

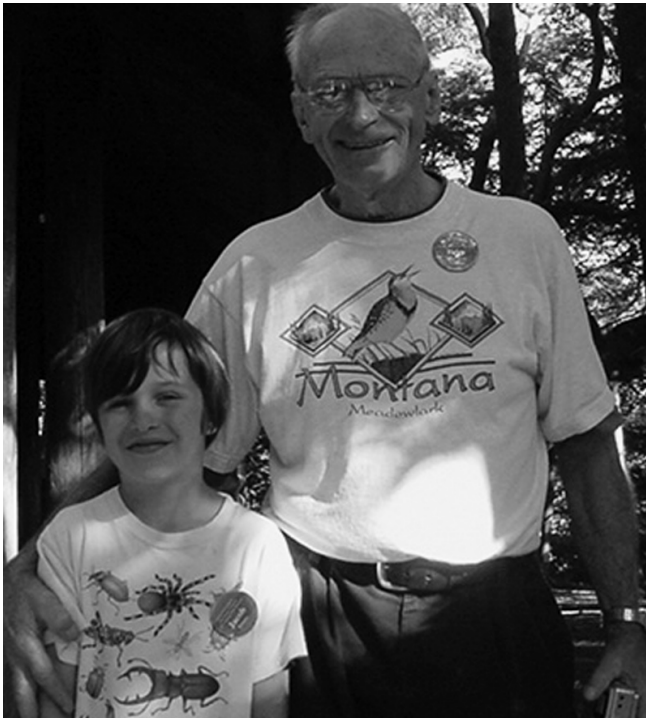
Each night there were bonfires on the beach. One of the highlights of the retreat for me was Saturday night, when the band that played after the auction made their way to the beach and performed at the campfires. Kids made S'mores, and everyone was laughing and enjoying the campfire. The stars were incredibly bright and the light danced across the waves.

And then the real light show began! At about 12:30 in the morning the Northern Lights came out and expanded and contracted over the water and above the dunes. It was incredible. I'm not sure how the Sierra Club arranged for that, but I appreciated it!

On Sunday I walked around a bit, joined the (way-)After Sunrise Service, and then explored along the brook. Later on I sat on the bank and quietly watched the kingfishers and green herons fish for their meals.

After lunch the retreat officially ended, but several of us stayed at the beach and swam, bodysurfed, napped, and otherwise found ways to stretch the weekend a little longer. It was a great time, and I'm glad I attended. My hat goes off to the retreat's organizers and Camp Miniwanca's staff. They went all-out in making the weekend a success.

If you're thinking of being a first-timer at the Fall Retreat, I'd encourage you to go ahead and sign up.



COURTESY LISA WICKMAN (5)

Top: Musical group Calamity Jane entertains retreaters on Saturday night. Above: Many new friends were made over the weekend.

## TAKE TWO: A MANY-TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE RETREAT

by Mike Haley and Robert Simpson

Sometime in the late 90s, while we were packing up the Sierra Club Tent at Lapeer Days, Fred Townsend asked me if I was going to the "Retreat." That was the first time I had heard about it. I didn't go that year, but I have gone every year since.



The annual Fall Retreat was held earlier this year on August 26–28. In the past it has been held after Labor Day, and except for 2001, it has been at Camp Miniwanca on Lake Michigan, north of Muskegon. The Retreat begins with registration on Friday afternoon and ends after lunch on Sunday. The cost for adults is \$100 for a rustic cabin, up to \$135 for lake-side private rooms.



There are plenty of classes to attend, 11 on Saturday morning, such as Green Buildings and Massage for Couples, and after lunch, 12 more classes such as Wings of Wonder and Sulfide Mining in the U.P. (the dangers and control of).

On Friday night, members got to know each other by telling tales about themselves. On Saturday, we had entertainment overlooking Lake Michigan. A serious message was delivered by Michigan Congressman Alexander Lipsey of Kalamazoo, and Mike Keeler presided over a spirited auction, where over \$1400 was raised, a large chunk of which came from Anne Woiwode's donation of dinner at her house with her and her husband Tom and a tour of their "Green Room" an environmentally designed area that has won awards. The bidding was so spirited for this particular prize that Anne generously offered to do it twice on different dates, thereby effectively doubling her donation on the spot. The evening was topped off by music from Calamity Jane, a duo of country/blues/folk girls with great voices with accompaniment from an acoustic

guitar and a string bass player. Those wishing to catch their stylings again can find Calamity Jane at Dagwood's at 2803 East Kalamazoo in Lansing on Tuesday nights.

Sunday morning had more classes with Nepeessing Group's Don Persson, who conducted two sessions on backpacking. There was also fly fishing and fly-making, a biodiversity hike, yoga and more.

The Chapter also gives out its annual awards at the Retreat. This year Bob Simpson received one of the Service Awards along with Judy Kindel, Lisa Symons, William Hamilton, Jim Stricko and Nancy Shiffler. There were many other awards given out; the complete list can be found in this issue (see page 16). I had the honor of giving the award to Bob and we had the photo taken with it. Later, when a group awards photo was being taken, we could not find Bob; we found him afterwards, answering the call from the Miniwanca staff for help: he was in the kitchen doing dishes.

Lisa Wickman and Wanda Bloomquist did the heavy lifting to bring this large gathering together. They deserve lots of credit, as do all the people who worked so hard to give good, interesting presentations. As well, the setting at Camp Miniwanca was soothing and beautiful—as usual. It seems we will be there for a long time; it would be hard to find a better place for the Sierra Club's Annual Fall Retreat.



Top: A Honda Civic Hybrid on display. Center: Participants in the watercolor workshop. Above: Princess Mike Keeler auctions off his tiara.

# Group Meetings & Programs

[HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/GROUPS.HTML](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/groups.html)

Outings, political and conservation activities and general interest meetings are hosted regularly by groups throughout the state. There are numerous ways to get involved in your local group. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Contact group chairs (page 35) or those listed below. Up-to-the-minute outings and activities may be found on group websites or on the Mackinac Chapter website at [michigan.sierraclub.org](http://michigan.sierraclub.org).

## **Algonquin Group (AG)**

*Emmet, Charlevoix, Cheboygan & Presque Isle Counties*

Currently inactive. Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact 517-484-2372.

## **Central Michigan Group (CMG)**

*Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson & Shiawassee Counties*

**GROUP CHAIR:** Pete Pasterz, 517-676-3339, [pete.pasterz@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:pete.pasterz@michigan.sierraclub.org).

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** 3rd Mon each month, East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Rd. Come at 5:30pm for supper (small donation requested) or 6:15 for meeting.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:** 5:30pm, 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact Maria Lapinski-Lafaive, 517-374-4444, [marie.lapinski-lafaive@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:marie.lapinski-lafaive@michigan.sierraclub.org).

**OUTINGS:** Jerry Schuur 517-351-7796

**HELP WANTED:** webmaster, publicity, outings leaders, information/merchandise tables. Contact Pete Pasterz 517-676-3339, [pete.pasterz@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:pete.pasterz@michigan.sierraclub.org).

## **Central Upper Peninsula Group (CUP)**

*Alger, Baraga, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee & Ontonagon Counties*

**GROUP CHAIR:** John Rebers, [john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org) or 906-228-3617

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** General membership & executive committee meetings: 7pm in the Community Room of Peter White Library, 217 N. Front Street, Marquette. No general meetings planned for June, July, & Aug. General meetings resume in September. Please join us for a Little Presque Isle cleanup or one of our other outings.

**OUTINGS:** Michael Neiger, [mneiger@hotmail.com](mailto:mneiger@hotmail.com)

**HELP WANTED:** webmaster, newsletter, Little

Presque Isle Cleanup, publicity. Contact John Rebers, [john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org).

## **Crossroads Group (CG)**

*Livingston, southern Genesee & western Oakland Counties*

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads)

**CHAIR:** Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298, [rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org)

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** 7pm on 3rd Wednesdays of odd number months at the Brighton Library, 200 Orndorff Drive, Brighton.

**11/16** Restoring Native Ecosystems at Brighton, Island Lake, & Pinckney State Recreation Areas.

**OUTINGS:** Cheryl McConnell 517-552-1464, [cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org).

**HELP WANTED:** Conservation chair, outings leaders. Contact Rick Pearsall 810-227-6298, [rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org).

## **Huron Valley Group (HVG)**

*Lenawee, Monroe & Washtenaw Counties*

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron)

**HVG HOTLINE:** 734-480-7751

**CO-CHAIRS:** Doug Cowherd, [doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org); Mike Sklar, [mssklar@comcast.net](mailto:mssklar@comcast.net)

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** 3rd Tuesday each month, 7:30pm at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor. Free and open to the public.

**11/21** "Lands of Enchantment: Protecting the Grasslands of Otero Mesa and Wilderness in New Mexico," Nathan Small, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

**12/20** "Great Nature Trips From Around the Globe." Potluck at 6:30; bring a dish to pass.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:** Nancy Schiffler, [nancy.schiffler@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:nancy.schiffler@michigan.sierraclub.org) or 734-971-1157; Bill Rodgers, [bill.rodgers@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.rodgers@michigan.sierraclub.org) or 734-769-0163.

**HVG BOOK CLUB:** 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, Ann Arbor. Read a selected book about nature or the environment on your own & then discuss it in a small group. Contact David Brooks, [dhbrooks@umich.edu](mailto:dhbrooks@umich.edu).

**OUTINGS:** Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823

**INNER CITY OUTINGS:** 7pm, 2nd Sunday of each month, Room 320 Halle Library, EMU campus. Inner City Outings introduces urban children in Washtenaw Co. to outdoor & environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners & contributors are always welcome. Contact us at [washtenawico@yahoo.com](mailto:washtenawico@yahoo.com).

## **Kalamazoo Valley Group (KVG)**

*Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph & Van Buren Counties*

**CHAIR:** Paul Haas, 269-664-5417, [paul.haas@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:paul.haas@michigan.sierraclub.org).

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** 7pm monthly 3rd Wednesday at Kalamazoo Public Library, Oshtemo Branch, 7265 W Main. (No meeting in May.) Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 (eve); 269-488-4268 (days); [vmills@kvcc.edu](mailto:vmills@kvcc.edu).

**OUTINGS:** Verne Mills 269-344-4279 [vmills@kvcc.edu](mailto:vmills@kvcc.edu)

## **Nepessing Group (NG)**

*Genesee, Lapeer & northern Oakland Counties*

**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing)

**CHAIR:** Thomas Haley, 810-686-6354 or [thomas.haley@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:thomas.haley@michigan.sierraclub.org).

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** 2nd Wed each month (except July & Dec). Mott Community College, Genesee room of the Prah Center (New Student Building), E Court St, Flint. Meetings begin at 7pm with committee reports, followed by a program with an environmental theme. Light snacks are provided. The public is always welcome!

**OUTINGS:** Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406, [mansfieldd@chartermi.net](mailto:mansfieldd@chartermi.net). Please check our website for outings listings.



## Northeast Michigan Group (NEMG)

*Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Iosca, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda & Roscommon Counties.*

Currently inactive. Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact 517-484-2372.

## Southeast Michigan Group (SEMG)

*Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair & Wayne Counties*

WEBSITE: [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg)

CHAIR: Jim Nash, 248-471-3759, [jim.nash@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:jim.nash@michigan.sierraclub.org).

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6:30 or 7:00pm, 1st Thursday of each month, September-June, at Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. Social time: 7pm. Business meeting 7:30pm. Program: 8-9pm. For more information on SEMG programs contact Carol Izant at [cogknot@yahoo.com](mailto:cogknot@yahoo.com) or 248-352-6137.

OUTINGS: Chair: Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873, [wanderphil3@netzero.net](mailto:wanderphil3@netzero.net).

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370. Visit our website for listings.

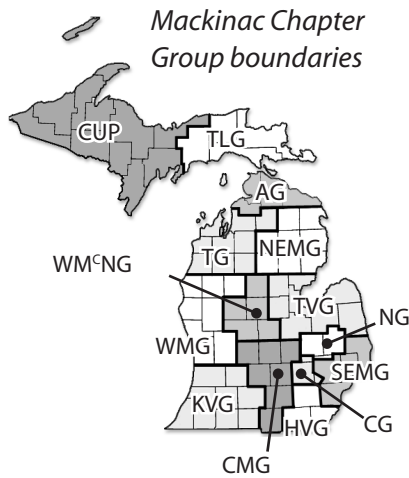
**12/10** Outings Quarterly Scheduling Meeting. 5pm. If you are interested in leading or learning about leading outings, come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Noncommittee members are welcome. Bring a potluck dish to pass at 5pm, then participate in the next quarter's planning meeting (Feb.-June). We will meet at Cindy Gunnip's house in Berkley, just NW of 12 mile Rd. and Coolidge; 3992 Kenmore. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

**11/16, 12/7, 1/18, 2/15**

Activist Night. 6-8pm. Join us at the Building Environmental Communities office in Clawson to work on community projects. Mingle, nibble, stuff and label envelopes, make photocopies, inform concerned citizens about educational opportunities, make posters. 100 North Crooks, Suite 105, on the NE corner at 14 Mile (park across Crooks). Melissa, 248-435-5277.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 3rd Thurs each month at the Sierra Club BEC office, Tri-Centre Business Complex, 100 N Crooks Rd, Suite #105, Clawson. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645, [ecoed@netzero.net](mailto:ecoed@netzero.net).

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Political Committee meetings are held at 6:30pm on the last Thursday of each month (no meeting in Oct) at



Jim's Restaurant on Washington in Royal Oak. All are welcome! Contact Tim Killeen, Political Chair, 313-526-4052, [timk@bikerider.com](mailto:timk@bikerider.com).

## Three Lakes Group (TLG)

*Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac & Schoolcraft Counties*

CHAIR: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316, or [roger.blanchard@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:roger.blanchard@michigan.sierraclub.org).

GENERAL MEETINGS: Thurs evenings 7pm each month, September-May. Crawford Hall, Lake Superior State University campus.

OUTINGS: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or [roger.blanchard@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:roger.blanchard@michigan.sierraclub.org). Monthly hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc. takes place 9am on the 1st Sat each month, Oct-April, at the Michigan Welcome Center.

HELP WANTED: webmaster, publicity, monitor environmental alerts from chapter. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or [roger.blanchard@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:roger.blanchard@michigan.sierraclub.org).

## Thumb Valley Group (TVG)

*Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Huron, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac & Tuscola Counties*

Currently inactive. Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Call 517-484-2372.

## Traverse Group (TG)

*Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Antrim & Otsego Counties*

WEBSITE: [michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse)

CHAIR: Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or [monica.evans@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:monica.evans@michigan.sierraclub.org).

GENERAL MEETINGS: 4th Tuesday of each month September-May at the Traverse Area

District Library. Special outdoor activities during the summer months (June-August). Our group is frequently involved in community forums, informational meetings concerning local environmental issues & special educational events. For more details on the meeting & programs being featured, contact Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or check our website.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Monica, 231-325-6812 or [monica.evans@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:monica.evans@michigan.sierraclub.org).

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Jim Stricko, 231-275-7596, or Peggy Fry, 231-218-2587.

OUTINGS: Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344.

HELP WANTED: outings leaders, help with fundraising, monthly meeting program coordinator. Contact Monica Evans, 231-325-6812, [monica.evans@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:monica.evans@michigan.sierraclub.org).

## Wakelin McNeel Group (WMcNG)

*Clare, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta & Montcalm Counties*

WEBSITE: [michigan.sierraclub.org/wakelin-mcneel](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/wakelin-mcneel)

ACTIVE MEMBERS WANTED: Currently inactive. Contact Julie Murphy, 989-426-5378, [soaringbuteos@msn.com](mailto:soaringbuteos@msn.com).

## West Michigan Group (WMG)

*Kent, Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola & Ottawa Counties*

WEBSITE: [michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan)

CHAIR: Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or [craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org).

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6pm, 2nd Thurs each month. Downtown YMCA, 33 Library NE, Grand Rapids. Everyone is welcome! Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or [craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org).

OUTINGS: Lisa Symons, 616-942-6549, [greensymons@yahoo.com](mailto:greensymons@yahoo.com)

INNER CITY OUTINGS: We provide outdoor experiences for those who might not otherwise have them. Most participants are young people from urban communities. Help increase environmental awareness, interpersonal skills & self-esteem of participants through active involvement with nature. Interested? Attend meetings or e-mail suggestions. John Pulver, 616-457-5999 (days) or 616-453-2480 (eve); Paula Ballast, 231-861-6548 or [paula.ballast@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:paula.ballast@michigan.sierraclub.org).

# Mackinac Chapter Outings

[HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/OUTINGS.HTML](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/outings.html)

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map, page 29, to determine a group's location. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [T] = trail maintenance, [S] = service. Trips begin at the trailhead. Fees are a suggested donation. Outings are open to everyone. More detailed outing descriptions may be found at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org> or at individual group websites. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to: [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms), or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

## November

### 11/4-7 CUPG Backpacking Hiawatha NF.

Eastern U.P. Cross-country hike for very fit, equipped, intermediate-level, foul-weather, on/off-trail winter trekker. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, [mneiger@hotmail.com](mailto:mneiger@hotmail.com).

### 11/5 NG Dauner-Martin Nature Sanctuary

**Hike.** Fenton. 10am. 4.8mi, easy. Meet at Farmer Jack parking lot north side, 1390 N Leroy. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

### 11/5 SEMG [E] Morning Hike at Maybury

**State Park.** 11am. Mod pace 3mi hike over leaf-covered trails. Meet at park concession bldg, 8 Mile Rd entrance. Dress for cool weather, rain or shine. Park entrance fee. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

### 11/6 SEMG Bald Mountain Hike, North. Noon.

N part of Rec Area. Lakes, ponds, late fall colors. Rolling, wooded trails. 5-6mi mod to brisk pace. Meet in Troy behind LaSalle Bank, 14 Mile Rd. Opt Restaurant stop after. Jo Ellen Lane, 586-773-3104.

### 11/12 HVG Lake Hudson Rec Area Hike.

Explore area for potential trail building. Bring sack lunch, water. Meet 10am at Park Headquarters on SW of Adrian. Possible involvement with seed-planning workshop. Ralph Powell, 734-971-9013.

### 11/12-13 NG Sleeping Bear Dunes Late Fall

**Backpacking.** Mod. Meet 9am Sat, Platte River Campground Office. National Park entry & backcountry campsite fees. Chris Ozminski, 810-417-6727, [coz@tir.com](mailto:coz@tir.com).

### 11/12 TG Old Indian Trail Hike.

10am. Spectacular view of Lake Michigan & dunes. Meet on M-22 N of Sutter Rd. Park fee \$10/vehicle. Dogs welcome on 6ft leash. Meet at Honor Market parking lot, 9:30am. Andrea, 231-947-9344 by 11/10.

### 11/13 HVG County Farm Park Family Hike.

Leisurely 1.1mi hike on crushed limestone trail. Meet at park entrance, Platt Road, Ann Arbor,

3pm. Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823.

### 11/13 SEMG Ortonville State Rec Area.

9:30am. 5-6mi, mod pace. Wooded, rolling terrain. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS, SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

### 11/19 NG Holly North Hike.

10am. 6mi, mod. Meet in parking lot behind Groveland Twp Hall, 4695 Grange Hall Rd. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242. Day of hike, 810-348-8664.

### 11/19 TG Good Harbor Bay Trail Hike.

10am. Easy hike in Good Harbor area btwn Pyramid Pt & Whaleback. National Lakeshore fee \$10. M-22 to CR669, 8mi N of Glen Arbor. Follow 669 toward Lake Michigan. Right on Lake Michigan Rd to trailhead. Andrea, 231-947-9344 by 11/17.

### 11/20 SEMG [E] Clinton River Trail Hike.

Noon. New rail-trail from Rochester to Rochester Hills along Clinton River. 5mi, mod pace. Meet at Older Persons Center parking lot, Rochester. Hike unless heavy rain. Restaurant stop after. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

### 11/20 Eastern Michigan Kresge Center.

11am, mod 5-miles. Dogs allowed. Gloria Bublitz, 810-664-0304 or [glorypepper@yahoo.com](mailto:glorypepper@yahoo.com).

### 11/25 SEMG Post Thanksgiving Day Hike.

Proud Lake Rec Area. 11am. Brisk pace to burn Thanksgiving calories. 5-6mi loop. Meet at Tel-12 Mall in Southfield, S of Marathon station. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

### 11/27 SEMG Arctic Polar Walk.

1:30pm. Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak. Enjoy Arctic Circle & polar bears frolicking. Casual pace. Meet at Woodward entrance gates. Bring binoculars. Zoo entrance fee, parking fee. Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

## December

**12/1 NG Winter Camping/Backpacking Seminar.** Date & time TBD. Dave Mansfield,

810-658-0406 or [dave.mansfield@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.mansfield@michigan.sierraclub.org).

### 12/2-5 CUPG Backpacking Pigeon River

**Country SF.** Vanderbilt. Cross-country hike for very fit, equipped, intermediate-level, foul-weather, on/off-trail winter trekker. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, [mneiger@hotmail.com](mailto:mneiger@hotmail.com).

### 12/3 NG Clio Bike Trail Hike.

10am. 5 mi, easy. Clio City Park on Clio Rd. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

### 12/3 TG Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland.

10am. Snowshoe or hike Pyramid Point. Andrea, 231-947-9344 by 11/17.

### 12/04 SEMG [E] Huron Meadows Hike.

Noon. Explore new prairie trail. Slow pace, 5mi tour. Meet noon at Tel-12 Mall in Southfield or 12:45 at north picnic area across from Maltby Lake. Restaurant stop after. Tom & Pat Skinner, 517-552-9121.

### 12/10 NG Christmas Party at Ligon Outdoor

**Center.** Noon- 4pm. Ligon Outdoor Center, 5213 E Farrand Rd, Clio. Potluck. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038.

### 12/10 TG Sleeping Bear Hike.

2pm. Ranger-led hike at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. More details to follow. Andrea, 231-947-9344.

### 12/11 SEMG [E] U of M Matthaei Botanical

**Gardens Hike.** 11am. 3mi mod pace. Meet in Livonia between Wal-Mart & Jiffy Lube, SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96. Dress for weather rain or shine. Opt restaurant stop after. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

### 12/17 NG Fairgrounds Hike.

10am. 5mi, easy. Meet at entrance of Cummings Activity Center (Genesee Co Fairgrounds), 6130 E Mt. Morris Rd. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

### 12/17 TG Snow Tubing at Timber Lee.

3-5pm. Special super-fun membership event! Bring the whole family & tube with us! \$9/hr. Confirm with Monica, 231-325-6812. [www.timberleeresort.com](http://www.timberleeresort.com).

**12/17 SEMG Seven Ponds Nature Center.** 9:30am. 5mi mod pace. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind CVS, SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. Opt restaurant stop after at historic White Horse Inn, Metamora. Nominal admission fee. Call if weather is questionable. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

**12/18 SEMG Stony Creek "Skip the Mall" Hike.** 1pm. Leisurely 5mi walk, varied terrain. A holiday surprise—nature trails or the ski trails? Meet at 16 Mile & Van Dyke SMART lot in Sterling Heights. Restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

## January 2006

**1/7 TG Boardman River Valley in Winter.** 2pm. Meet at YMCA parking lot. Hike to Sabin Dam & back. Snowshoes may be needed. RSVP Andrea, 231-947-9344.

**1/8 SEMG [E] Winter Wildflowers at Maybury State Park.** 11:30am. Yes, wildflowers in January! Dress warmly. 2hr slow walk stopping to ID plants. Meet 11:30am at Tel-12 Mall in Southfield or noon at Maybury State Park concession building, 8 Mile Rd entrance. Opt restaurant stop after. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

**1/13–15 SEMG Pigeon River B&B Weekend.** XCskiing, snowshoeing, rafting are probable; maybe dog sledding. Return each evening on

lodge for good food, reading, games, hot tub. Fri pm–Sun noon. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884, powell\_mm@hotmail.com, for details & price.

**1/14-15 NG Winter Camping/Backpacking.** Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or dave.mansfield@michigan.sierraclub.org.

**1/15 SEMG Ski (Hike) at Independence Oaks.** 10:30am. Beginner to intermediate level trails. Ski rentals at beach concession stand (call 248-625-0877 to confirm). If no snow, 5mi hike around lake. Bring trail snack & water, dress for weather. Meet 10:30am in Rochester Hills on W side of Meijer parking lot, Rochester Rd or 11:15 at ski patrol house. Opt restaurant stop after. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

**1/20-2/6 CUPG Special Expedition.** 18-day, 165-km Canadian Algoma Highlands Ski Expedition (Algoma District, Ontario). Long-range, extremely remote, ski trek pulling 140lb cargo sledges. Unsupported, no resupply. For the hardcore expeditioner in peak physical condition, accustomed to 6ft snow & -50° standing temps. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

**1/21 TG Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive Snowshoe Hike.** 11am. Mod/Strenuous. 4-5mi snowshoe hike on wooded trail. Climb to Bar Lake Overlook; opt continue to Lake Michigan Overlook. Dress warmly. Meet at first parking lot on right on Pierce Stocking Scenic Dr. Contact Priscilla Walmsley at [pricilla@walmsley.com](mailto:pricilla@walmsley.com).

com or 231-929-1658.

**1/22 SEMG Seven Lakes State Park Hike.** Noon. Mod paced, 6mi hike. Rolling terrain, woodlands, high meadows. Meet 12:45pm in Bloomfield Hills behind CVS, SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd or at park contact station. Snow or shine. Opt restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-773-3104; John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

**1/27-29 HVG MacMullen Conference Center Ski Trip.** 2 nights at a Higgins Lake conference center near Roscommon. Ski trails. Good food & accommodations, beautiful setting. Trip limit of 20. RSVP Barb Schumacher, 734-994-5466.

**1/27-29 SEMG "Up North" X-C Ski Weekend.** 2 full days of winter fun. Depart Fri, return 9pm Sun. Ski location depends on snow & leaders' whim. Modestly-priced motel. \$25 good-faith deposit due 1/19, payable to SEMG-Sierra Club. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370 or [joanecantoni@netzero.net](mailto:joanecantoni@netzero.net); Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or [wanderphil3@netzero.net](mailto:wanderphil3@netzero.net).

**1/28-29 NG Winter Camping/Backpacking.** Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406, [dave.mansfield@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.mansfield@michigan.sierraclub.org).

**1/29 SEMG Holliday Nature Preserve Hike.** Noon. 3mi, mod pace. Rolling woodland trails. Look for animal tracks in the snow. Meet behind Westland Shopping Center at Holiday-Cowan entrance. Dress for weather, wear

Kayakers on Central Upper Peninsula Group's trip to Grand Island, July 16, 2005.



KEN ARSENEAU

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# Outings, cont.

hiking boots. Opt restaurant stop after. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

## February

### 2/4 SEMG [E] Maybury in the Moonlight.

6:30pm. Chilly evening hike lit by the moon. Safe, mod pace, approx 4mi. Dress in layers. Meet at Maybury State Park horse stable parking lot. Restaurant stop after. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

2/4 TG Sanford Lake Ice Skating Party. 4pm at Jim Stricko's. Bonfire for warmth & to pop corn over. BYOB. Front St to village of Lake Ann. Left on Reynolds Rd. 1.8mi to Lakewood Ct.

### 2/12 SEMG Stony Creek X-C Skiing (Hike).

11:30am. Hidden behind golf course are great intermediate & beginning ski trails. Rentals may be available; call park at 586-781-4242. If no snow, we hike 5mi at mod pace. Meet in Sterling Heights SMART lot, 16 Mile Rd & Van Dyke. Opt restaurant stop after. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

2/18-26 CUPG 19th Annual Canadian Snowshoe Expedition. 9-day W-to-E traverse of Lake Superior Provincial Park. Long-range, remote, snowshoe trek pulling 100lb cargo sledges. Unsupported, no resupply. For the hardcore expeditioner in peak physical condition, accustomed to 6ft snow & -50° standing temps. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

2/19 SEMG [E] Wolcott Mill Walk. Noon. Visit historic 1857 mill & outbuildings, explore new trail system, view Clinton River. Mod pace 5mi walk snow or shine. Meet in Sterling Heights SMART lot, 16 Mile Rd & Van Dyke. Restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-773-3104.

### 2/26 SEMG [E] 15th Annual Ice Hike-Pointe Pelee (Ontario).

9:30 am. Mounds of ice & snow pushed onto the Pointe by Lake Erie winds. Dress warmly. 2-3hr hike. Meet in Windsor at Ontario Information Center, Rte 3, 3/4mi S of Ambassador Bridge. Bring passport, picture ID, trail snacks, water. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

## March

3/12 SEMG Heron Rookery Walk. 1pm. 4mi hilly trails, stop at W Bloomfield Heron Rookery overlook. Spend 30min birdwatching w/telescope. Bring binoculars, water bottle. Meet in Bloomfield Twp in Costco parking on Telegraph Rd. Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

3/5-11 CUPG Winter Camping & Caving. 7 day W-to-E traverse of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Miners Basin to Beaver Basin. Long-range, extremely remote, snowshoe trek pulling 100lb cargo sledges. Unsupported, no resupply. For the hardcore winter camper in peak physical condition who is accustomed to 4ft snow & -20° standing temps. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger,

mneiger@hotmail.com.

3/19 SEMG Highland Rec. Area Hike. 11am Hike 4-5mi easy pace, varied terrain (may be wet). Meet in Bloomfield Twp in Costco parking on Telegraph Rd. Call if weather is questionable. Opt. restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

3/26 SEMG Brighton Rec. Area Hike. Noon. Mod to brisk pace for 5mi. Sturdy boots & water needed. Meet at Tel-12 Mall in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Michael Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

## April

4/7-10 CUPG Backpacking Pigeon River Country S. F. Vanderbilt. Cross-country hike for the very fit, equipped, intermediate-level, foul-weather, on/off-trail trekker. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

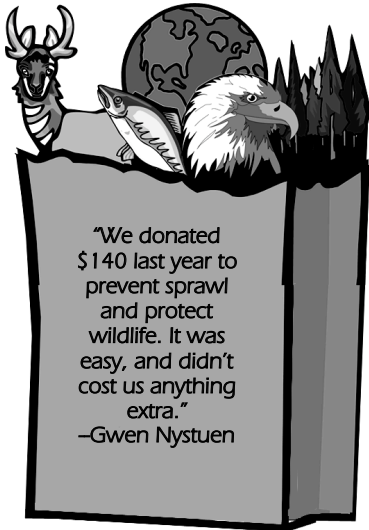
## May

5/5-8 CUPG Backpacking Hiawatha N. F. Eastern U.P. Cross-country hike for the very fit, equipped, intermediate-level, foul-weather, on/off-trail trekker. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

More Kayakers! Central Upper Peninsula Group's trip to Grand Island, July 16, 2005.



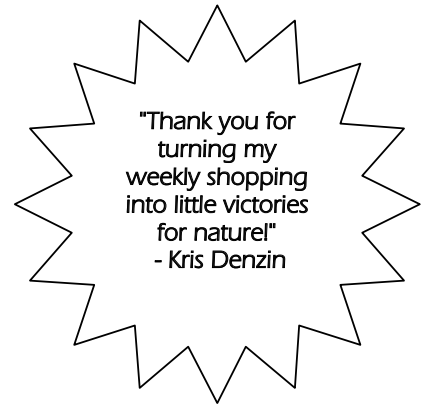
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## The White House

President George W. Bush  
The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

202-456-1414

White House fax line:  
202-456-2461

White House comment line:  
202-456-1111

White House email:  
president@whitehouse.gov

## U.S. Congress

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Capitol switchboard:  
202-224-3121

or U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

## Michigan

Governor Jennifer Granholm  
State Capitol  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-373-3400

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Michigan House  
or Michigan Senate  
State Capitol  
Lansing, MI 48909

## Resources for Activists

- Get your free copy of **A Citizen's Guide To State Government** to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Craig DeRoche, 517-373-0827, or Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, 517-373-0797. Tell them you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask for a copy!
- Check out the **Daily Scoop**, [www.sierraclub.org/scoop](http://www.sierraclub.org/scoop), to keep up on environmental news and ways to take action.
- **ENVIRO-MICH** is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, email [majordomo@great-lakes.net](mailto:majordomo@great-lakes.net) with a one-line message in the body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).
- Visit our **Mackinac Chapter Website** for updates on the issues in *The Mackinac* and to get involved: [michigan.sierraclub.org](http://michigan.sierraclub.org)
- Get a free subscription to **The Planet** by promising to write three letters a year in support of the environment to elected officials. Send your name/address to Sierra Club Planet Subscription Request, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.
- **Email Activists Needed!** Join the Sierra Club's Mackinac Action Network to receive legislative updates when critical environmental bills are up in the Michigan House and Senate. When the Sierra Club needs you most, we'll contact you via email. To respond to alerts, follow the web link, customize a suggested message to the targeted legislators, and press Send. Sign up at [mackinac.sierraclubaction.org](http://mackinac.sierraclubaction.org) (no "www" in the address). For more information, email [gayle.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:gayle.miller@sierraclub.org).

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**GET THE LATEST MACKINAC CHAPTER NEWS DELIVERED MONTHLY TO YOUR INBOX.** In July we premiered our Chapter e-Newsletter. We invite you to sign up to receive the latest information on outings, programs, legislation and other time-sensitive events that occur between publications of *The Mackinac*. E-mail [amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org](mailto:amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org) to join. *Your e-mail address will only be used for the monthly e-newsletter unless you indicate that you would like to receive other information from the Chapter (occasional alerts and program information).* The Chapter is still seeking a name for the e-newsletter. Ideas? Contact [amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org](mailto:amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org).

**ENJOY FUNDRAISING?** You can help your local group raise money by selling Sierra Club calendars, recycled-paper stationary and T-shirts. Contact Amanda Hightree, 517-484-2372.

**GET YOUR PICTURES IN OVER 20,000 HOMES!** *The Mackinac* seeks volunteers to take photos of outings, landscapes and images to accompany articles about conservation issues. For guidelines contact George Hazen McCann, photo editor, at [hazenmccann@netscape.net](mailto:hazenmccann@netscape.net).

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# Mackinac Chapter Directory

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## MACKINAC CHAPTER MAIN OFFICE

109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517-484-2372

FAX: 517-484-3108

Email: mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org

Website: michigan.sierraclub.org

### Director

Anne Woiwode .....anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org

### Legislative Program Coordinator

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