



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

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Autumn 2006 Inside:

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Huron Valley Group Monthly Public Programs

7:30 pm 3rd Tuesday of every month

at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor

Tuesday November 21, 2006

**Canoeing the Western Arctic Reserve: Wilderness, Wildlife, and Oil
with Beverly Strassman, Assoc. Prof. of Anthropology, Univ. of Michigan**

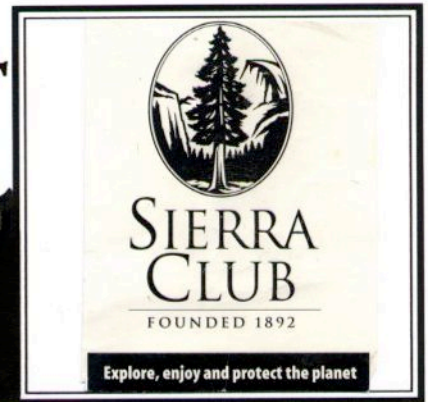
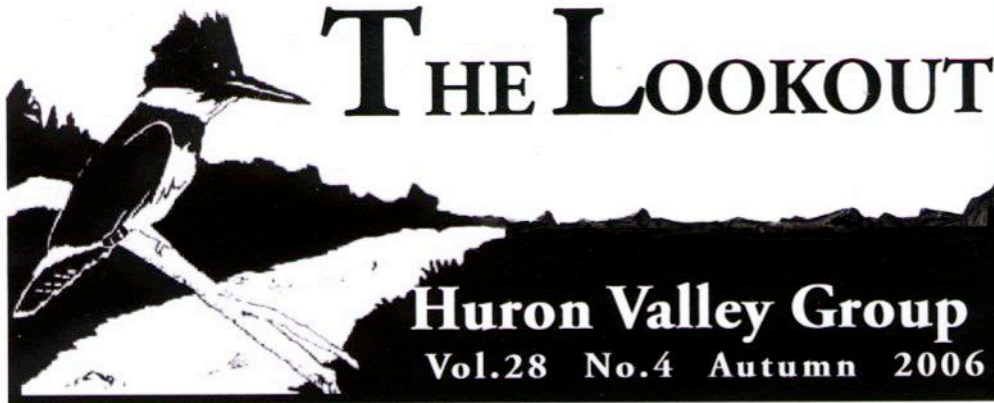
Tuesday December 19, 2006

Great Adventure Trips From Around the Globe

Tuesday January 16, 2007

**Mountain Top Removal: The Hidden Destruction of the Appalachian
Mountains, with Dave Cooper, Mountain Top Removal Road Show**

Come join us! Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.



Local Organic Food—the Epitome of Ecological Eating

As an ecology-conscious person, you're probably well aware that Americans burn as much fuel planting, fertilizing, harvesting, preparing, and shipping our food as we burn in our beloved automobiles¹, and that buying local, organic foods are a great way to reduce your "ecological footprint." And, living in or near Washtenaw County, you probably know that we are lucky enough to have farmers' markets featuring such foods nearly every day of the week in the summer.

However, the markets mainly supply vegetables, and no food is harvested in Michigan from November through April, at best. And anyway, what percentage of *your* diet comprises vegetables? In this area, the grains, dairy, eggs, oils, and meats people eat generally make up the bulk of their diet. Other practical concerns can also prevent us from doing all our shopping at the markets: price, convenience, and whether the kids will eat it.

Fear not! Our region (southern Michigan and northern Indiana and Ohio) produces a number of organic staple items, readily available for reasonable prices at stores like Meijer and Busch's.

Eden Organics

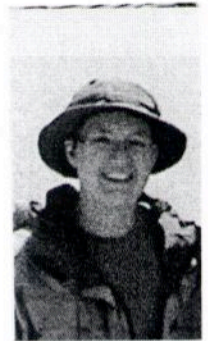
Headquartered just half an hour southwest of Ann Arbor in Clinton, Michigan, Eden Organics buys all its beans, wheat, popcorn, fruit, barley, and cabbage, and most of its tomatoes, from our region. Eden processes these foods into canned beans, refried beans, pasta, canned fruit, barley malt, and sauerkraut, which are sold at the People's Food Co-Op (Ann Arbor) and the Ypsilanti Food Co-Op as well as at Whole Foods. You can also order food directly from Eden at www.edenfoods.com. Eden also sells over 200 other products which are not local to us, but which are bought from small farms across the country.

DK Cattle

DK Cattle raises cattle, pigs, goats, lambs, and chickens on pastures near Pittsford, Waldron, and Ypsilanti, and also contracts with other farmers who conform to their standards. The animals are not given antibiotics or growth hormones, and only the hogs are ever given grain. (Cattle, in particular, have difficulty digesting grain, which is one reason "feedlot" cattle need constant antibiotics – corn can severely disrupt their digestion.) The animals are slaughtered one at a time in a special USDA-approved facility – unlike typical slaughterhouses that can kill

**Buying food locally –
especially if it's organic
– is a huge boon for the
environment**

continued page 2.



By Emily Springfield



You can stock up on local veggies at your farmer's market.

Organic Food continued

dozens or hundreds of animals per hour. DK meats are available at Arbor Farms market in Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor's People's Food Co-op.

Aunt Millie's Breads

Though most of Aunt Millie's wheat comes from the Central Plains states, some of it is from regional farms. Aunt Millie's (previously known as Perfection Bakeries) bakes bread in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Sidney, Ohio; and Kalamazoo, Coldwater, Jackson, and Plymouth, Michigan. A good half-dozen of their varieties are organic, and many are whole-grain. This is excellent sandwich and toasting bread – pre-sliced and available at Meijer and Busch's.

Where to shop

- ◆ People's Food Co-Op (<http://www.peoplesfood.coop/>) in Ann Arbor has many local fresh and prepared foods all year long. Local produce is labeled as such; much of it comes from Tantre Farms located near Chelsea.
- ◆ Ypsilanti Food Co-Op (<http://comnet.org/ypsifoodcoop/>) stocks Eden



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Organics and some regional produce. It also bakes its own bread from various organic grains (usually not from this area, due to supply limitations).

- ◆ Sparrow Meat and Produce – a true butcher shop, located on the first floor of Kerrytown in Ann Arbor. Most of the meat (beef, chicken, pork, lamb) is regional, grass-fed, with no hormones or antibiotics.
- ◆ Whole Foods Market is very good about labeling the state of origin of their foods; they stock some Michigan produce, in season, and their chicken is raised humanely in Indiana.
- ◆ Farmers' Markets (many are closed for the season or will be soon)

- Ann Arbor - 315 Detroit Street - Wednesdays and Saturdays
- Ann Arbor West - Corner of Jackson and Maple Roads - Thursdays
- Chelsea - Chelsea Fairgrounds on Old US-12 – Thursdays
- Chelsea – Downtown on Park Street - Saturdays
- Dexter - 3233 Alpine Street - Tuesdays
- Saline - Downtown, Parking Lot #2, S. Ann Arbor Street - Saturdays
- Ypsilanti - 1 South Huron St. - Wednesdays and Saturdays
- Ypsilanti – Downtown at Hamilton & Michigan Avenue – Tuesday afternoons

Buying our food locally – especially if it's organic – is a huge boon for the environment because relatively little fuel is needed to ship the food to our tables. Next time you're grocery shopping, try some of the products listed above, or check the labels and make note of your own local finds. If you'd like to share your information on local foods with others, check out – and add to! – the user-editable web site <http://foodorigins.wikispaces.com/>

Emily Springfield is an instructional technology designer, environmental educator, gardener, and part-time lorax living in Scio Township.

(Footnotes)

- ¹ Pollan, Michael. 2006. *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. Penguin Press, New York, NY. p. 183.

The Huron Valley Group Newsletter is published 4 times a year by Huron Valley Group, Michigan Chapter, Sierra Club, 621 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Call for Entries: Woodworking Competition and Exhibit

Submitted by Dave Gendler

Emerald Ash Borer insects threaten 700 million ash trees in Michigan. Millions of trees have already been destroyed. The disposal costs to landowners and local communities reach into the millions of dollars. Hundreds of tons of wood are land-filled, chipped, or burned.

Can this wood be used for anything? Can artists and craftsmen address environmental concerns? Can woodworkers find value in "junk" wood?

This exhibit presents creative uses for local and undervalued wood. Prizes in the competition include a \$250 first prize, \$150 second prize, and \$100 third prize.

Materials may include ash trees and other locally-salvaged timber, sticks, branches and sawmill waste; "junk wood" species like mulberry and box-elder; and lumber salvaged from pallets and shipping materials.

Works may include furniture, turnings, carving, sculpture, toys, musical instruments, kitchenware, pyrography, and all other woodworking, both functional and decorative.

Works submitted must be the maker's own work. The primary wood content must be the salvaged/undervalued wood. Makers and timber are limited to Michigan and the Emerald Ash Borer-affected region. Works must be completed since 1999.

Entry forms and \$10 entry fee are due by January 13, 2007. For the entry form and additional information on how to enter, please visit www.semircd.org/ash/woodshow.pdf.

This competition and exhibit is sponsored by Riverside Arts Center Gallery and the Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation and Development Council. For more information, please contact Dave Gendler at michiganwoodart@gtlakes.com.

"It Grows on Trees"



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Stumped about Ash Trees

Can coppicing save their lives while providing sustainable fuel, fencing, baskets... even baseball bats?



By Martha S. Hill

*Got wood? And wood-
working skills?
Put that ash tree wood to good use!
Check out how you can enter a reclaimed-wood wood-working contest, on page 3.*

Can we allow the appetites of an exotic beetle to defeat us with grief, anger, and frustration from the destruction to our Ash Trees? (The beetle is what we have come to call Emerald Ash Borer, in Latin *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, an iridescent green buprestid wood borer, destructive here due to being inadvertently transported to this part of the U.S. from Asia with no known natural population control.)

I say 'no' and want to share what I have learned about Ash Tree stumps with assistance from a 25-year relationship with the White Ash Tree in my yard at the driveway's edge.

What I have learned centers on a word new to many readers — 'coppicing.' 'Coppicing' is the periodic cutting down of a tree to just above ground level and allowing the tree to re-grow from the cut stump. I began unintended coppicing with my driveway White Ash Tree 25 years ago, thinking it undesirable to have a tree blocking car doors, and being totally unaware of the word "coppicing" or the Ash Tree's amazing will to live.

Practiced in Europe as far back as the Middle Ages, coppicing is the ancient art of intentionally cutting trees and shrubs to stumps to encourage them to regenerate. 'Coppice' derives from the French word 'couper' meaning 'to cut,' and there is a whole vocabulary associated with this process — 'coupe,' 'stool,' 'wand,' 'underwood,' 'brash,' and 'cordwood,' to name a few of the words.

As became clear over the years with my driveway

Ash, coppicing rejuvenates trees, with the 'wands' growing vigorously from a still-living stump (a 'stool'). My neglect in repeatedly cutting the tree to ground level or removing the tree, roots and all, resulted in the driveway Ash re-growing not just one but three trunks. With 25 years of growth, the three trunks survived the Emerald Ash Borer through last growing season. However, this season only one trunk showed vigorous life. To keep the still-living tree alive, I had it felled recently, leaving stumps in place (effectively coppicing the tree, with at least one live stump, or 'stool'). From the unintended coppicing 25 years earlier, I now have three 1-foot-diameter logs 10 or more feet long. Slated for transport to a local sawmill for kiln drying (along with wood from a more elder, no longer living, White Ash Tree in my back garden), the wood will be transformed into furniture (a dining table with chairs and a built-in bookcase for the living room, among other pieces). Felling the trees and making furniture from the wood is an adaptation to the damage from the Emerald Ash Borer. This, along with hope that coppicing will extend the life of the still-living driveway Ash, provides a way of honoring the trees (who have become dear friends over the years) and the gifts they provide, despite the loss of their high canopy of filtered light shading the house and driveway.

Coppicing can allow trees to live longer than normal, with coppiced Ash Trees in Europe (*Fraxinus excelsior*, whereas the White Ash in my driveway and back garden is *Fraxinus Americana*) living 800 years or more. What is unknown to me is how the Emerald Ash Borer will treat coppiced Ash tree wands ('suckers' to those unversed in the vocabulary of coppicing) harvested frequently enough to keep the tree bush-like, with wands around 1 to 2 inches in diameter. Does anyone know about this?

Coppicing has many advantages from the human standpoint if the Emerald Ash Borer has no appetite for Ash Trees comprised of small-diameter wands. Regular harvesting of small-diameter wands could yield wood for firewood, fencing, basket-making, tool handles, and twig furniture. If the Emerald Ash Borer has no appetite for wands as large as 6 inches in diameter, the uses might expand to more conventional furniture-making, house-building, making of baseball bats. The Union of Concerned Scientists [1] discusses coppicing of trees as a promising sustainable source of fuel, including providing biomass energy used directly for burning to heat buildings, to produce steam, and to generate electricity, as well as indirect uses through biogas applications. Ash is a tree that lends itself to coppicing



This tree has been "coppiced", or cut down to a stump, to encourage regeneration of healthy new branches.

continued page 5.

Off the Beaten Track—Hiking in Hunting Season

I am not a hunter; at least not the image of a hunter most people have, wielding firearms or high-powered bows while dressed in full camouflage gear and guzzling cases of Old Milwaukee in cans. There's nothing like the taste of fresh wild game, though, so I prefer to chase down and capture my prey with my bare hands. It's a much more personal tactic.

As the fall season approaches, the woods attract visitors who wield various weaponry in their pursuit of food and recreation. While they are of a different ilk than us pagan tree worshippers (ahem), I try to keep in mind that they are our brethren. The vast majority of the population never visits the woods, and those that do are the ones who stand and fight for its existence and expansion. Much of the state recreation area lands were acquired for public hunting and special fees and taxes have been instituted to purchase others. Even so, there are times when even I steer clear of certain areas because I have come to value virtually all of my body parts.

Beginning September 1, there is a dizzying array of hunting seasons for everything from squirrels to skunks to crows (no bag limit on crows, and man- that's some good eatin'). A full list of seasons is available at www.michigan.gov/dnr. I generally don't worry about inopportune encounters during daylight hours nor until November 15, which is the start of the 15-day rifle season for White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). For those two weeks, the woods becomes overrun with testosterone and added precautions need to be taken, including simply avoiding areas open to hunting. Throughout the fall it's advised to wear orange gear (hats, gloves, scarves, vests) to alert hunters to your presence.

The two best places around where hunting is prohibited and where I've never had any bad experiences are:

1. Gerald Eddy Discovery Center and environs (Waterloo Recreation Area): The area south of McLure/Bush Roads, west of Pierce Road, north of Cavanaugh Lake Road and east of Ridge/Glazier Roads, is posted as closed to hunting year 'round. Those two or so square miles feature some of the most beautiful and rugged terrain around, including four pristine lakes. Access points are at the Discovery Center off Bush Road, near Mill Lake off McLure Road, along the Waterloo-Pinckney trail off Bush Road, and Ridge Road, and off the access road to Cedar Lake, which runs off of Cavanaugh Lake Road. Most of the trails are marked and maintained and parking is generally good.

2. Park Lyndon: While surrounded by state recreation land that is open to hunting, county park land north and south of North Territorial Road is closed to hunting. Park Lyndon is fairly large (205 acres) and

has a nice set of marked and maintained trails, along with pit toilets and parking.

As for other good hike locations, Washtenaw County's parks are a decent option. Technically, all county park properties are off-limits to hunting, including the nature preserves acquired through the Natural Area Preservation Program. However, many of those are less developed, less visited, more remote, and surrounded by private land, so hunter encounters may be more likely. The same is true for properties owned by land conservancies. Be sure to wear orange if trekking those areas.

Hunting is generally prohibited at the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, but while these are great locations for developed recreation, I don't spend as much time hiking there (not wild enough for my tastes.) There are some nice trails at Hudson Mills. Hunting is also supposedly prohibited at Stinchfield Woods, an 800-acre area owned by the University of Michigan, but friends who were caretakers there some years ago said they still heard gunshots on occasion. Again, wearing orange improves your chances of being seen, and the greatest concern is during rifle season. Both of these areas are near the intersection of North

Territorial Road and Dexter-Pinckney Road.

As the Earth warms, our glorious Fall color change will be happening later and later. In just a few years you'll want to be in the woods at Thanksgiving to see the maples afire. Just make sure you wear a safety-orange swimsuit and flip-flops while enjoying the dazzling display.

Bob Treemore just recently accepted that climate change is for real and that his southeast Michigan ski seasons will be but memories before his demise.

By Bob Treemore



Trees continued from page 4.

(see Jacke/Toensmeier [2] for a listing of trees suitable for coppicing).

Coppiced trees present a bush-like appearance similar to that of Lilacs (close relatives to Ash Trees). This is a look familiar to us. Lilacs are common in our yards, parks, and street easements. If enterprising people take up the idea of coppicing, a whole industry could develop around it. And coppicing could provide winter work for gardeners, as the best time to harvest wands is during the tree's dormant stage. Were this to happen, coppiced trees promise many benefits, not just grief.

References:

1. *Union of Concerned Scientists:* http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/renewable_energy_basics/growing-energy-on-the-farm-biomass-and-agriculture.html and http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/renewable_energy_basics/offmen-how-biomass-energy-works.html.

2. *Edible Forest Gardens: Ecological Design and Practice for Temperate Climate Permaculture* by Dave Jacke with Eric Toensmeier.

Simply Fall



By Patti Smith

Part of living simply is enjoying the simple pleasures of the seasons. Somehow, Halloween has become a massive consumer holiday, very much like Christmas. I was picking up a prescription in August, and was dismayed to see Halloween candy already on the shelves, next to a variety of pumpkins and scarecrows.

I am the first to admit that I love decorating my house with a different seasonal or holiday "theme" each month; however, the key is knowing when to say "enough is enough". If you have had "enough" of the materialism of our fall and winter holidays, here are three simple pleas:

Nature: What's better (and more frugal) than getting out in the great outdoors? Fall is a great time of year for nature hikes, canoe trips and walks up to the farmer's market or the cider mill. If you are at all creative (unlike me), you can make wonderful crafts out of fall leaves and dried flowers. In fact, if you want, you can even make some *for me!*

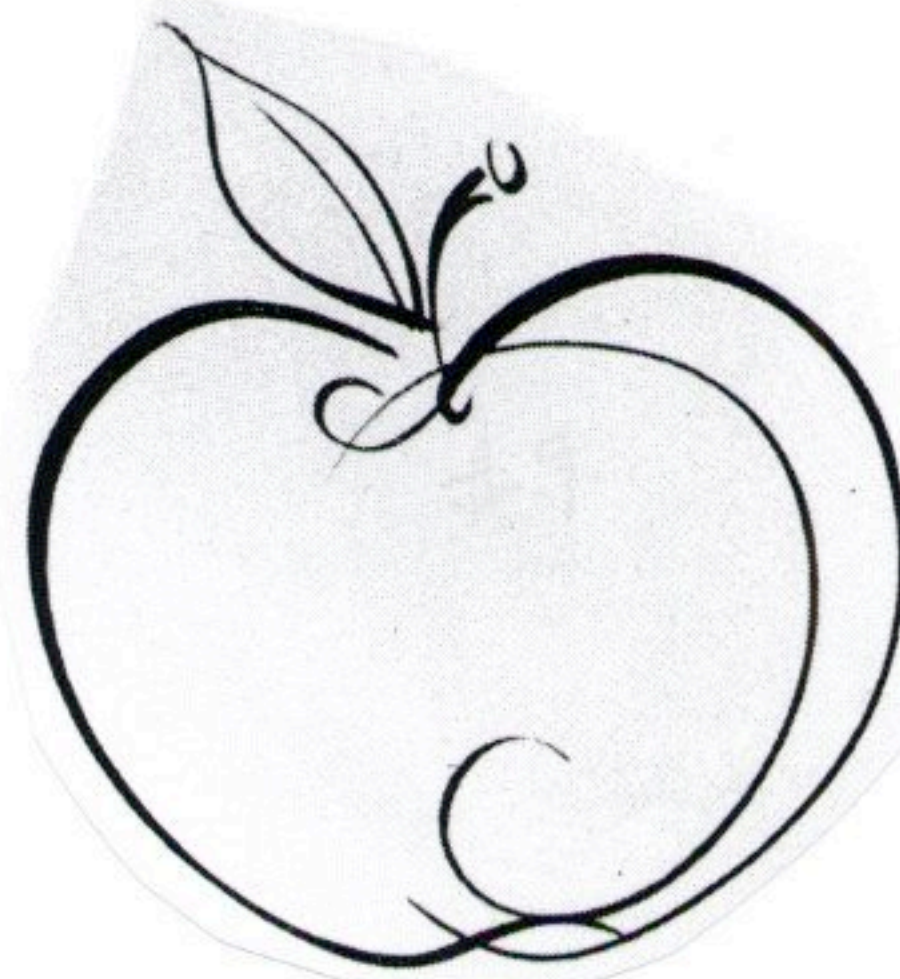
Not sure how? Check your local library for craft books. Or, visit a website like www.ehow.com.

"Buy Nothing": One of my favorite "holidays" is the annual "Buy Nothing Day". (For more, see <http://adbusters.org/metast/eco/bnd/>). If you are fortunate (or unfortunate, as some students will tell you) to take

one of my classes, you get extra credit for participating in this event and writing a short essay about it.

The essence of "Buy Nothing Day" is simple. On the day after Thanksgiving (the biggest shopping day of the year) you buy... nothing. You don't get up at 6:00am to buy a bunch of stuff that nobody wants or that will end up in a landfill after it inevitably breaks. You don't fight with the people as you charge the doors of the shopping center. You don't spend money that you don't

have on things you don't really need. Instead, you can spend the day with your family, or take a long nap, or watch sports, or



continued on page10



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Sierra Club 2007 Calendars

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2007



Order Form

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Engagement Calendar	<input type="checkbox"/> \$13	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12	_____	_____
		total	_____

Buy from us and support local conservation!

Order and pick up your calendars at Sierra-Club Huron Valley Group monthly public meetings (Nov. 21 or Dec. 19)

or

contact Jay Schlegel to arrange an alternate pick-up time:

jayhschlegel@earthlink.net or 734-477-5715

Cash/check only, please. Payment is due at pick-up.

Thank you!



Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar

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

For up to date information, visit our website at <http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/>

Tuesday November 21. HVG Monthly Public Program. 7:30 pm 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Topic: **Canoeing the Western Arctic Reserve: Wilderness, Wildlife, and Oil** with Beverly Strassman, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.

Monday November 27. Conservation Committee meeting. 7:00 pm, 4th Monday of every month. Contact Dorothy Nordness at DorothyK@isr.umich.edu or 734-668-6306 for location.

Monday December 4. Executive Committee Meeting, typically first Monday of each month 7:30 pm. Call Doug Cowherd at 734-662-5205 for location.

Sunday December 10. Inner City Outings. 7:00 pm 2nd Sunday of every month, Room 302 Halle Library on the EMU campus. Inner City Outings introduces urban children in Washtenaw County to outdoor and environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners, and contributors are always welcome.

Tuesday December 12. Sierra Club Book Club. 7:00 pm, 2nd Tuesday of every month at Nicola's Books in Westgate shopping Center, corner of Maple and Jackson, Ann Arbor. Book: **TBA**. Join us for discussion—all are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157.

Tuesday December 19. HVG Monthly Public Program. 7:30 pm 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Topic: **Great Adventure Trips From Around the Globe (member slide show)**. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.

January 2007/TBA. Executive Committee Meeting, typically first Monday of each month 7:30 pm. Call Doug Cowherd at 734-662-5205 for location.

Sunday January 7. Inner City Outings. 7:00 pm 2nd Sunday of every month, Room 302 Halle Library on the EMU campus. Inner City Outings introduces urban children in Washtenaw County to outdoor and environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners, and contributors are always welcome.

Tuesday January 9. Sierra Club Book Club. 7:00 pm, 2nd Tuesday of every month at Nicola's Books in Westgate shopping Center, corner of Maple and Jackson, Ann Arbor. Book: **TBA**. Join us for discussion—all are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157.

Tuesday January 16. HVG Monthly Public Program. 7:30 pm 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Topic: **Mountain Top Removal: The Hidden Destruction of the Appalachian Mountains** with Dave Cooper, Mountain Top Removal Road Show. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.

Monday January 22. Conservation Committee meeting. 7:00 pm, 4th Monday of every month. Contact Dorothy Nordness at DorothyK@isr.umich.edu or 734-668-6306 for location.

January 26-28. Ski Trip to MacMullen Conference Center. Spend two nights on Higgins Lake near Roscommon and ski the numerous trails in the area. Good food and accommodations in a beautiful setting. Trip limit 20 - Call Barb Schumacher at 734-994-5456 for reservations and information.

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Monday February 5. Executive Committee Meeting, typically first Monday of each month 7:30 pm. Call Doug Cowherd at 734-662-5205 for location.

Sunday February 11. Inner City Outings. 7:00 pm 2nd Sunday of every month, Room 302 Halle Library on the EMU campus. Inner City Outings introduces urban children in Washtenaw County to outdoor and environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners, and contributors are always welcome.

Tuesday February 13. Sierra Club Book Club. 7:00 pm, 2nd Tuesday of every month at Nicola's Books in Westgate shopping Center, corner of Maple and Jackson, Ann Arbor. Book: **TBA**. Join us for discussion - all are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 for details.

Tuesday February 20. HVG Monthly Public Program. 7:30 pm 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Topic: **Massive species extinction**, with Johannes Foufopoulos, Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.

Monday February 26. Conservation Committee meeting. 7:00 pm, 4th Monday of every month. Contact Dorothy Nordness at DorothyK@isr.umich.edu or 734-668-6306 for location.

NEW! 2006 Honda Accord Hybrid 2006 Honda Civic Hybrid

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 **HONDA**

Did You Know?

Did you know that... your local Sierra Club group sells certified organic, fair trade certified, shade grown coffee (and tea)? It is available at each Huron Valley Group monthly public program.

Did You Know?

...95 percent of Americans support environmental education in our schools? But only four states require teachers to receive pre-service training in environmental education.

...Children get more than 80 percent of their environmental information from the media? And most adults get all of their environmental information that way?

...45 million Americans wrongly believe that the ocean is a source of drinking water?

...120 million Americans believe that aerosol spray cans emit ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons? In fact, such cans were banned in 1978.

...130 million Americans believe that hydropower is America's main source of electrical power? In fact, hydropower provides less than 10 percent of the nation's electricity.

...Only 17 percent of Americans know that the fuel efficiency of the average American vehicle has decreased during the past decade?

...Only 45 percent of Americans can correctly identify the main cause of global warming: emissions from autos, homes and industries?

...Just 12 percent of Americans can pass a basic energy-awareness quiz?

(Excerpted from "The Nature-Child Reunion" by Richard Louv, in June/July 2006 issue, vol. 44, no. 4, of National Wildlife magazine. [<http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?issueID=107&articleID=1338>])



Did you know that...

...More than half of the nation's population lives within 50 miles of a marine coastline (Great Lakes included)?

...The Great Lakes make up more than 80 percent of the surface fresh water in North America and about 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water?

...1,500 new homes are permitted for construction along America's coastlines every day?

...2,000 acres of farmland is lost to development in America's coastal counties every day?

...That there were 20,000 total days of beach closures and advisories in the U.S. in the year 2004 alone?

...That the population is expected to increase by 33 percent in America's coastal areas from 1980 to 2008?

From "Land on the Edge" by Joel K. Bourne, Jr. in the July 2006 issue of National Geographic magazine. [<http://www7.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0607/feature2/index.html>]

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Summer Memories: Inner City Outings Beats the Heat on a Detroit River Cruise



By Vera Hernandez

I can't think of a better way to spend a sizzling summer day than out on the water with a cool, refreshing breeze in your face and experiencing the beauty of the International Wildlife Refuge.

On Wednesday July 26, Inner City Outings (ICO) went on the "Eagle's Eye Nature Cruise" out on the Lower Detroit River with twelve youth from Hikone Community Center. This "Discovery Cruise" is just one of many sponsored by the Michigan Sea Grant, a cooperative program between the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, MSU Extension, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. ICO trip leaders Vera Hernandez and Barbara Powell researched, planned and led the outing.

The two hour Eagle's Eye Nature Cruise is a naturalist's tour of the lower Detroit River to discover the rich variety of plant and animal life living in the area, now a part of the new International Wildlife Refuge. The river is host to a wide variety of habitats from submerged plant beds and shoals to coastal marshes.

We boarded the "Coast Guard certified" boat around 2PM and the staff handed out binoculars to use on the tour. They came in handy later, when we spotted several double crested cormorants swimming near the shore of Humbug Island. Victoria, Jaleana, and Shahliah stationed themselves at the back of the boat where the view of the water was unobstructed. Our guides provided many details about the history, wildlife and natural resources of the area. We learned about the Livingston Channel, created to allow large commercial vessels to move

freight through the Great Lakes system. The Detroit River accommodates more shipping tonnage than any other river in the world!

We also learned that five million people live in the river's watershed. In 2001 the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge was designated, extending 48 miles along the Detroit River and western basin of Lake Erie. This refuge supports an abundance of wildlife.

Our guides showed stuffed examples of several birds that are native to the area, including a belted kingfisher, a common tern and a canvasback duck. Later we retrieved water samples and examined zooplankton – native cladocerans (waterfleas) through a microscope. The crew put a camera in the water so that we could view the weed beds from a "fish eye view" on several monitors mounted throughout the boat. On our return, we spotted a great blue heron near the marina. We didn't spot any eagles that day but they do live and breed in the area. We hope to come back next year and experience one of the other five programs offered on the summer Discovery Cruises.

All too soon our outing was over and we stopped for juice and cookies before departing for the community center. It was a short trip but a world away for our youth that reside in public housing. ICO is completely managed by volunteers who take the time to make a difference in the lives of kids who rarely get an opportunity to experience the wonders of nature. ICO is always looking for volunteers, like you, to help plan and execute outings or come along to interact with our youth participants. For upcoming events, meetings, photos and more at: <http://ico.sierraclub.org/washtenaw>. Information about the Discovery Cruises is located at: <http://www.discoverycruises.org/>.

Would you like to join future outings like this?

Inner City Outings is always looking for volunteers to help bring kids to nature. If you'd like to help, contact Vera Hernandez at (734) 665-8118 or hvg.ico@michigan.sierraclub.org.



This summer, Inner City Outings took a nature discovery cruise along the Detroit River.

Simply Fall continued from page 6.

renew your Sierra Club membership, or catch up on some reading. But you don't shop.

Now, if you participate in this, the idea is that you will keep the idea of "not buying" in mind throughout the holidays and the rest of the year. If nothing else, you will have a day to yourself, away from the maddening noise of the crowds and the jingle jangle of cash registers.

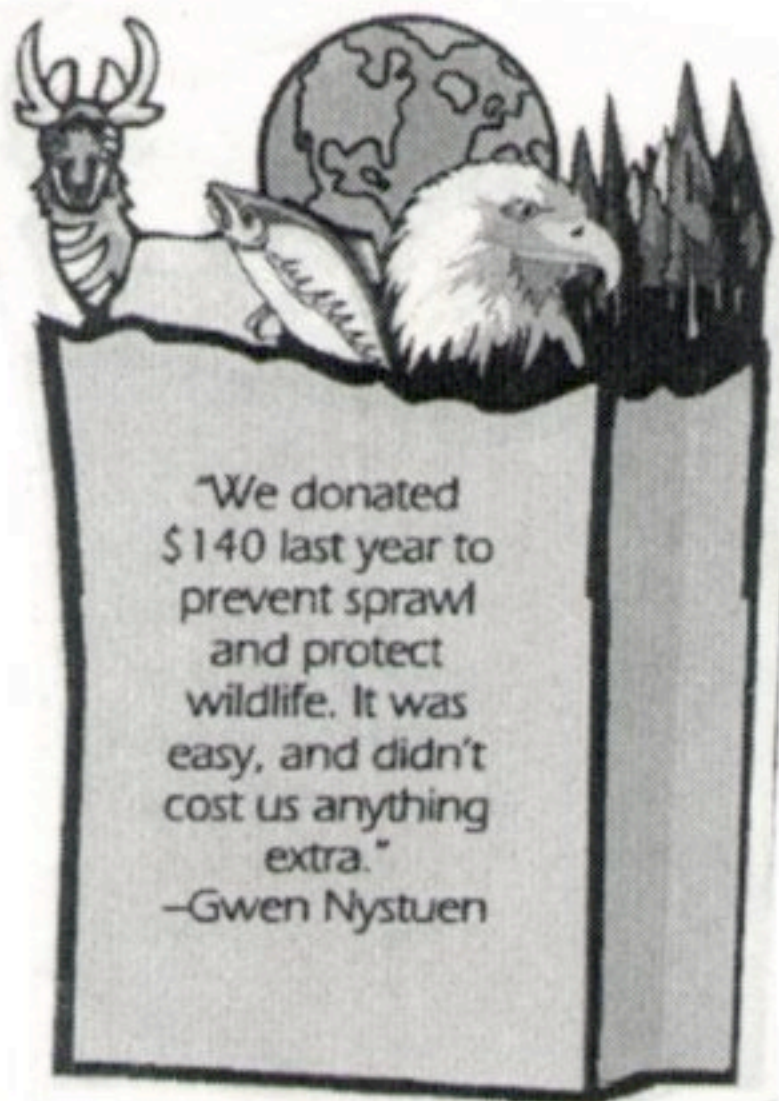
Food: There are few things in life that I like more than good food. Harvest time offers some great treats, including caramel apples, cinnamon donuts and cider.

Here are a few recipes to get you eating simply!

Cinnamon Apples: Core an apple. Fill the hollow part with

brown sugar. Put a pat of butter on top and bake at 350 degrees until the apple is as soft as you would like it. Enjoy a warm, rich, soft apple.

Applesauce: Purchase a variety of apples (from a local orchard or farmer's market, if possible.) Core them and cut them into small pieces (some folks peel the apples, but I don't). Put the pieces in a big soup pot or kettle with just a little bit of water (I put in just enough to cover the bottom of the pot). Heat over low heat, mashing and stirring constantly. Eventually, the apples will break down into the "mush" of applesauce. If you want to sweeten it, add sugar to taste. You can also add cinnamon if so desired.



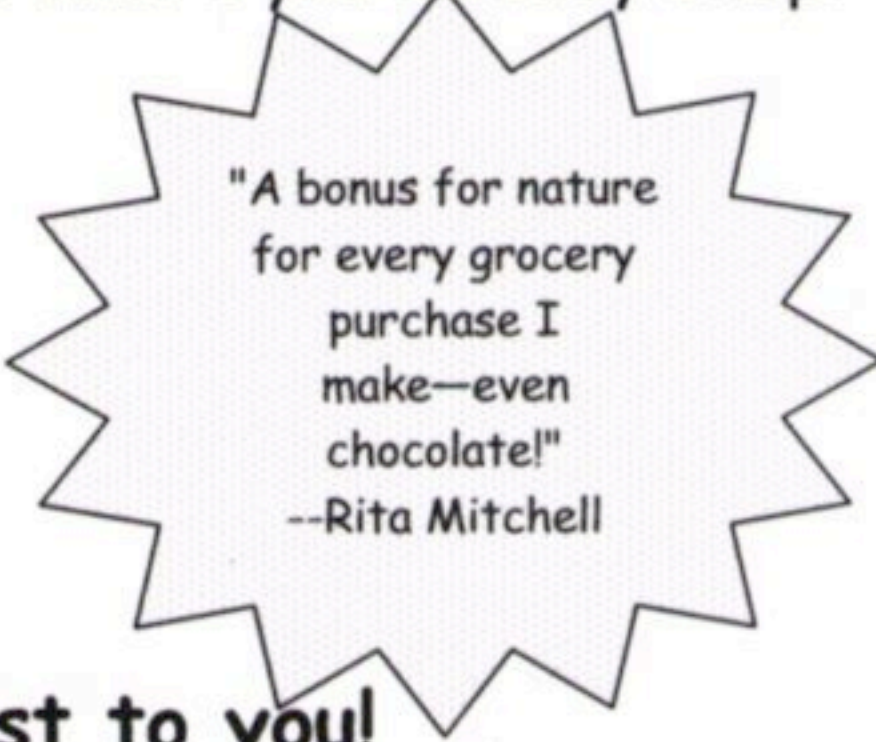
Shop to Stop Sprawl!

Living creatures need space to live. Over the past decade, Shopping for the Earth has helped generate \$110 million to preserve natural areas and farmland.

You can help us do more by buying EarthCash vouchers for the stores where you already shop.

For every \$20 of vouchers, you get \$20 in store credit and earn \$1 for the local Sierra Club.

Complete details are available at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/sfte.htm>



Help preserve nature at no cost to you!

Shopping for the Earth Order Form

Indicate the number of EarthCash vouchers you want for each store and available dollar amount below. Enclose your check payable to "Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group." Total order (\$500 maximum): \$ _____.

	\$5	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$100
Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op ¹						
Arbor Brewing Company						
Arbor Farms						
Borders Books & Music ¹						
Busch's ²						
Farmer Jack ¹ (and affiliated stores)						
Hiller's Markets						
Holiday Market (Royal Oak)						
Kroger ² (and affiliated stores)						
Leopold Bros						
Whole Foods ¹ (and affiliated stores)						
Meijer's	A rebate program, no vouchers (neither paper nor cards). Please see http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/SFTE_Meijer.pdf or contact us.					

¹ non-reloadable card • Consider buying several cards.

² reloadable card • The Sierra Club receives a contribution when you reload card, so only one needed per person.

all others are paper vouchers

- check here to receive local Sierra Club e-mail updates
- if not a Sierra Club member, check here to receive local Sierra Club newsletter

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone number: _____

Your email address: _____

Mail to:
 Kristine Denzin (Kodenzin@aol.com)
 5162 Doral Court
 Ann Arbor, MI 48108
 (Your data will not be shared)

Clean Car Update

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

Period covered: 18 October 2000 (purchase date) to 12 September 2006

Distance driven:	91,029 miles	
Fuel purchased:	2,800 gallons gasoline equivalent (GGE)	
Fuel economy:	32.5 miles/GGE	
Fuel cost of CNG used:	\$2,910	
Average fuel cost	\$1.04 per GGE	
Cost economy:	31.3 miles per dollar	
Savings over gasoline:	\$2,039	
Payback mileage*:	82,217	* Payback of \$4,500 purchase premium for natural gas fuel option reduced by \$2,000 Clean Cities cash rebate and \$2,000 federal income deduction at 28% marginal tax rate
Payback date*:	30 May 2006 (Payback complete)	

Estimated exhaust emissions of different passenger vehicles driven 91,029 miles

<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Average car</u>	<u>California LEV**</u>	<u>Civic GX</u>
Hydrocarbons	561	15.0	0.60
Carbon monoxide	4,191	682	32.08
<u>Oxides of nitrogen</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>40.1</u>	<u>4.01</u>
Total (pounds)	5,030	737.1	36.69

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



by Alan Richardson

A common question I am asked is the price for natural gas vehicle fuel. At the moment, I pay \$1.95 per GGE. (One GGE is that amount of natural gas with the same energy content as a gallon of gasoline.) Over the past year, DTE Energy has changed the price of natural gas at the pump every few months, presumably in response to market conditions for natural gas. The lowest price was \$1.23 per GGE last autumn, and the highest was \$2.38 per GGE during the winter months. My average cost

over the last year was \$1.97 per GGE. The average price for gasoline over the same period was \$2.58.

The IRS has finally announced the tax credit for purchasers of Civic natural gas cars. If you buy a 2005 or 2006 Honda Civic GX, you can apply a \$4000 tax credit on your next income tax return. Not too shabby, particularly since that is more than the tax credit allowed for any hybrid. To see all the credits announced so far, visit the IRS press room at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/index.html>, and select the 'News releases' button. One more good thing about the natural gas vehicle tax credit is that it does not phase out, as does the hybrid credit. The credits for hybrids automatically phase out for each manufacturer after 60,000 vehicles of its vehicles are sold. So if you want the full \$3150 credit for buying a Toyota Prius, you may be out of luck, because Toyota has sold over 60,000 units and the tax credit is cut in half according to the provisions of the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005.

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www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

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Mike Sklar*	248-542-1789
Vice-chair	
Nancy Shiffler*	971-1157
Treasurer	
Ken Morley	677-7791
Secretary	
Suzie Heiney*	377-8248
Chapter Representative	
Nancy Shiffler*	971-1157
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Dorothy Nordness	668-6306
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Patti Smith	649-4647
Gwen Nystuen	665-7632
Effie Hanchett	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248

* = HVG Executive Committee Member

**How to Get HVG
reminders via
email!**

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

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

**Are You A New
Member?**

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



**BACK BY POPULAR
DEMAND**

It took a public outcry and an act of Congress to save the gray wolf from literally vanishing off the face of the earth. But we did it. Today, a lot of other creatures face similar extinction. And unless we step up our efforts to protect their habitats, they may not be so lucky. At the Sierra Club, we've mounted a major campaign to defend the Endangered Species Act and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever. Please contact us to find out how you can help protect threatened and endangered animals. Because no amount of popular demand can bring an extinct species back to life.

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 Card Number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **F94Q W2103 1**
 Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Huron Valley Group ExCom Election

Joel Dalton



My wife Jackie and I grew up enjoying the outdoors in Michigan and have passed that ethic on to our two daughters. We regularly hike and camp and enjoy mountain biking, canoeing the Huron, and running in Ann Arbor green spaces. We believe in protecting all of these Great Lakes resources, including all of our water and forests. I am also a supporter of the Ann Arbor Greenway.

I work in the area of alternative fuels and new vehicle technologies, including hybrid electric vehicles. As a U-M business school student, I participate in Net Impact (NetImpact.org), an organization which looks to improve the world through business

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

Environmental threats used to be a result of personal and corporate *ignorance*. But today’s more urgent threats (both global and local) are a result of *purposeful* actions combined with an overwhelmed public’s confusion and disengagement. I believe the Sierra Club has the ethical and political standing to be a leader in re-energizing the environmental debate.

Ed Steinman



With sprawl, the proliferation of factory farms, global warming, uncontrolled mining and logging, depletion and degradation of the ocean, among many other problems, it’s impossible to sit by and do nothing.

In 2000 I helped with the County Natural Areas ballot initiative campaign as a Lighthawk volunteer pilot by taking a reporter on a plane flight so he could report on the advance of sprawl. In 2003 I joined the Northfield Neighbors to help stop an enormous development that threatens 1100 acres of open land and worked many hours on the Ann Arbor Parks and Greenbelt ballot initiative campaign creating the campaign’s web page and delivering yard signs and literature.

This past year I have served on the HVG board and have helped take the reins on our club’s very successful “Shopping for the Earth” program. A couple of years back I took on the mailing responsibilities for The Lookout, our newsletter.

The organization and energy of all involved, particularly Sierra Club leaders, make this work very rewarding as well as successful. I hope that the Sierra Club can help overcome the challenges we face in the years ahead.

The public wants and deserves an honest picture of what’s really happening with local environmental issues. The local news media doesn’t provide this. I would like to help increase our ability to provide the facts to our community. A well-informed public will demand that elected officials do more to put our shared environmental values into practice.



Candidate Statements and Your Ballot

Rita Mitchell



I grew up in rural Michigan, fortunate to have easy access to open space and fresh air. My family's daily life and recreation included the out of doors. Things have changed. Fields are increasingly filled with condos and large houses. Access to nearby natural areas now requires a drive on roads filled with speeding vehicles. We are warned to stay indoors when the air quality is harmful.

I joined the Sierra Club Executive Committee to be part of an effective group that works to preserve and protect natural features. I want to help make it possible for everyone to enjoy Michigan's treasures easily, safely, and as a routine part of their lives. My volunteer work with the Friends of the Ann Arbor Greenway during the past two years has been rewarding.

My goal as a member of the Executive Committee is to expand my work on local and state issues and to encourage the community to enjoy, embrace and take action in ways that value our natural world as a priority.

Michael Anglin



Editor's note: Mike could not be reached at press time. Knowing him, he's probably out promoting Greenways or something and wasn't aware of our deadline. We apologize for this inconvenience.

Ballot for Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee 2006

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

1. Please mark up to four votes on the ballot provided. Only those ballots with a membership number on the attached mailing label are eligible.
2. After marking your ballot, remove this **entire back page** from the newsletter.
3. Fold the bottom third over first to conceal your votes, and fold the top third over to show your mailing label.
4. Return your ballot in a sealed envelope either by hand at the November 21 or December 19 HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o Suzie Heiney, 314 Washtenaw Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Mailed ballots must be received by December 18, 2006 to be counted.

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2006

Four to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2007 - Vote for up to four.

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

Ed Steinman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rita Mitchell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Anglin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>