



# THE LOOKOUT

Huron Valley Group  
Vol.29 No.1 Winter 2007



## Off the Beaten Path Local Old Growth Sites

By Bob Treemore

It's hard for us to conceive, but as recently as 170 years ago our entire landscape was covered by natural communities that had evolved for 9,000 years since the last glacial retreat. Some areas before European settlement were vast wetland expanses, wooded and not, some were oak savannah with scattered trees, and much of the land was covered by what we today refer to as "old growth" woods. Depending on the site and its soils, water table and exposure to the sun, various tree species were dominant in the canopy, with oaks (*Quercus spp.*) often the most common genus.

Over the next 100 years, most of the swamps were drained, the oak openings were plowed and the magnificent woods were cleared. Some of the timber was used to build houses, barns and buildings, but much of it was stunningly wasted. Settlers who had acquired 80 or so acres through the U.S. government land office in Detroit had farming on their minds, and those giant trees were an impediment. Early on, settlers plowed and planted around them while girdling the trees to kill them. Once the towering trees had died, fires were set to burn them. One early account mentioned a smoldering fire filling the skies with a thick haze that lasted all summer.

Perhaps the best place to see the enormity of the original forest cover is in Lower Huron Metropark, in a relatively inaccessible area along the river, which was saved by vigilant citizens from becoming a golf course. There are also scattered bits of original forest around the Pinckney and Waterloo State Recreation Areas. They include:

**1. Joslin Lake Rd. esker.** From Ann Arbor,

As recently as 170 years ago, much of Michigan was covered by what we today refer to as "old growth" woods.

head west on N. Territorial Rd. just past the Stofer/Hadley Rd. intersection (by the North Lake Country Store) and veer right onto Joslin Lake Rd. Go about a mile or so and

park on the west side just after a high tension power line and a wetland. The trail runs up and down along the esker where many open grown old growth white oaks once dominated the scene (there's a lot of understory growth today from the absence of fire).

The trail divides two large wetlands, both very high quality, that produce a deafening din of frog calls in the spring.

**2. Cedar Lake.** Site of a set of rentable cabins, the Cedar Lake area is a sizable high quality upland and wetland complex with an excellent set of trails. There are many large trees and old growth conditions throughout the area, particularly along the Lowland Woods Trail and the Bog Trail. Best access is from the Eddy Discovery Center off Bush Rd. From Ann Arbor take I-94 west to the Pierce Rd. exit. Go north about two miles and turn left (west) on Bush Rd. The entrance is about a half mile west and maps are available at the center.

**3. Portage Lake swamp.** This is one of the remaining giant swamps and covers a number of square miles. It is a fen/low hummock complex that forms the headwaters

continued page 2.





## Off the Beaten Path continued

Rd. and west into the hamlet of Waterloo. At the stop sign, follow around the mill pond and on to Waterloo-Munith Rd. Take that to Reithmiller Rd. and turn left (southwest). There is a parking area on the north side just before the road descends into the swamp. Park and hike north on the old two-track along the edge of the swamp on a finger of land. There are some nice examples of old

growth oaks along the western edge of this rise.

**4. For the adventurous.** Head further west on Reithmiller Rd. to its end at Mt. Hope Rd. Turn left and go south to Seymour Rd. (the first stop sign) and turn right (west). Go about two miles and turn left (south) on Updyke Rd. Go about two miles and look for a parking area on the east side, shortly after a brown house on the same side where the road dips into a low area. Follow the faint trail to a small dam blocking up the wetland. Cross and hug the right side of the hill into the older woods. Once you get to the small brook draining the fen on the left, follow the edge of the swamp to a small stand of huge old oaks. If you're confused just keep poking around; you'll see lots of interesting natural features. Better take a compass or know your directions if you hope to come out before Christmas.

There are numerous other examples of old growth trees around, most often found on the steeper slopes that couldn't be plowed, especially at the margins of lakes and swamps. These are some of my favorites, as they delicately bend and stretch to extend over the opening for that precious sunlight—but not too far lest they topple over! There are a couple that have toppled with one massive branch holding the stem up high above the open wetland below, so that one can climb out nearly the entire length of the old tree. If one fell, however, one might just go the way of mastodons that ambled into such muck, so the risk is on your plate.

*Bob Treemore reminds us that we are still in the thick of the Pleistocene epoch and a cleansing glacial advance could happen at any time.*



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# Nowhere on Earth Like Yellowstone

## Six Months in America's First National Park

By Dave Brooks

The dust is starting to settle a little now that I've been home for a few months. However, having spent 6 months in Yellowstone National Park, it still dominates my thoughts.

Since visiting Yellowstone 40 years ago and doing a number of volunteer projects there in the late 90s, I've always wanted to work a summer in Yellowstone. Early in 2006 I submitted an application over the Web to Xanterra, the concessionaire that manages many of the park's amenities. Naturally, nothing happened. In late March I phoned the Yellowstone Personnel Office in Gardiner, Montana. They said that the maintenance manager for the Lake area was holding my application and that they would check with him on its status. Eventually I got an offer from Jim McBride to work maintenance at Lake. After being there a few weeks, the electrician had to leave, and I became the Lake electrician for the rest of the summer at \$10.50 per hour.

Yellowstone National Park has name recognition around the world, and it was the first national park in the world. One interpretive ranger I met felt that the idea of national parks was one of the greatest creations of America, second only to the Constitution. Another ranger said that the park had been saved for the American people by beaver – or the lack thereof. There were very few beaver in the park, so the trappers didn't come as they did to other areas, and the settlers weren't behind the trappers. Because of this, Yellowstone was still available when the idea of a national park arrived. Its claim to fame in the late 1800s was the thermal features. Mountains, wolves, bison, and wilderness were everywhere and considered a pain in the neck. Thermal features of this quality and quantity, on the other hand, are unequaled anywhere else in the world.

Yellowstone is a working volcano, a hotspot over which the North American continent is sliding. When it erupted 600,000 years ago, it was over 500 times bigger than Mt. St. Helens. 125,000 years ago an eruption created the west thumb of Yellowstone Lake. Consequently the area is well instrumented with seismographs recording earthquakes, GPS stations recording horizontal and vertical crust movement, and satellites monitoring temperature and electromagnetic anomalies. If it erupts, it would alter North America for thousands of years. Or Homo sapiens may be extinct before it erupts again. In the meantime, geysers, fumaroles, and hot springs entertain 3 million visitors a year.

In the early days of the park, wolves, coyotes, bears, and mountain lions were hunted and trapped

to improve the park. Fortunately, coyotes, bears, and mountain lions survived the process, and wolves were reintroduced to the park in 1995. The Yellowstone wolves are the most viewable and viewed wolves in the world. They have taught scientists more about wolf behavior in 10 years than in all previous wolf study. The return of the wolves has had a positive impact on all the plants and animals of the Yellowstone ecosystem.

In spite of the fact that wildlife watching is very popular with park visitors, Yellowstone is poor wildlife habitat. It is nearly a lodge pole pine monoculture, and if it weren't at 6 to 8 thousand feet above sea level it would be a desert. The animals live there because



*Dave Brooks spent 6 months in Yellowstone last year, with a job that was a great excuse to see America's premier national park in all seasons.*

we won't let them live where they would prefer. Wolves, bear, elk and bison are refugees trying to make a go of it in a hostile world. The advantage that Yellowstone gives the animals is that we don't kill too many of them with guns and cars. And 3 million visitors get to see more wildlife in a nearly natural setting every summer.

Personally seeing the green-up and reproductive frenzy of spring, the growing up of summer, and the preparation for winter was worth working 40 hours a week and driving a truck nearly as old as I am. The maintenance crew at Lake that I was part of worked "four 9s and a 4" to maximize our time off. Everyone was there to see the park first, and to do our jobs because it allowed us to be in the park every day. I lived in a dorm and ate in the employee dining room. My roommate was a 74-year-old guy from Texas. For the two of us, watching the "mating behavior" of the rest of the 20-something staff was nearly as entertaining as the wildlife!

Hear more, see pictures, and ask questions about Yellowstone National Park and working in Yellowstone on Tuesday March 20, 7:30 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, at "Where the Bison and Biologists Roam: Summer in Yellowstone Park."

# Another 1,173 Acres Protected—Local Land Preservation

Submitted by  
Suzie Heiney

In 2006, land trusts and local land preservation programs protected an additional 1,173 acres of land locally. Prior to 2006, land preservation programs were key to protecting 4,042 acres locally.

Much of this success is thanks to the dedication of local residents, whose support of local millages and private non-profit efforts remains strong. It is estimated that local land preservation millages may generate as much as \$100 million over the life of the current millages.

This includes funds that are projected from the Ann Arbor Open Space and Parkland Preservation (Greenbelt) millage, Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP), Scio Township millage, Ann Arbor Township millage, Webster Township millage. (The Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group played a key role in helping to get many of these local millages passed.) It also includes the efforts of local land trusts – Washtenaw Land Trust, Raisin Valley Land Trust, and Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy – and efforts in Pittsfield Township.

## Improved Tax Benefits for Conservation

Many acres have been protected not only through purchasing a conservation agreement or outright purchase of the property, but also through donation of a permanent conservation agreement by the property owner to a local land trust. Property owners may be eligible to receive tax benefits for donating a conservation agreement to a local land trust or local government agency.

These income tax benefits are greatly increased for donations made during 2006 and 2007. The current tax incentive raises the deduction one can

take for donating a conservation agreement, from 30 percent of their adjusted gross income in any year to 50 percent, and it extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for voluntary conservation agreements from 5 to 15 years.

In addition, conservation agreement land in Michigan is now exempt from the “pop-up” of property tax when the property changes hands. According to Michigan law, the increase in the taxable value of a piece of property is capped at 5% per year. Then, when the property changes hands, the taxable value is uncapped and “pops-up” to the current State Equalized Value (SEV) – often resulting in significantly higher property taxes for the new owner. Thanks to new legislation, the property taxes on qualified conservation land will not “pop-up” for the new owner. This is good news for those considering protecting their land, and great news for those considering purchasing conservation land!

## Federal and State Funding

Local conservation efforts also benefit from assistance from the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and the State of Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund’s Local Purchase of Development Rights Program grant funds. In 2005, Washtenaw County programs received \$3.1 million from FRPP, which was approximately 76 percent of the total funds available for the entire State of Michigan. In 2006, Washtenaw County programs were granted an additional \$1.1 million, or 61 percent of the total allocation to the State of Michigan. A State grant award was also made to Pittsfield Township for \$255,000.

## Preserved Land

So, what was protected? The preserved land includes the Tom and Rosanne Bloomer Farm, which provides Ann Arbor markets with roasted soybeans and popcorn, protected through the Greenbelt program.

Also of notable interest is the 160-acre Kosch Headwaters Preserve at the corner of Ford and Prospect Roads, recently protected by the County NAPP Program. The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy will provide stewardship services for this local natural area. The Washtenaw Land Trust protected 488 acres of land in 2006, including 349 acres in Washtenaw County. Among these is a conservation agreement on a 100-acre natural area in Dexter Township donated by Dr. Rudy Reichert, who has specified that the land will be deeded to the Land Trust at his passing, to become a nature preserve. Other Land Trust projects in 2006 include protecting a 64-acre farm with frontage on a protected tributary of the Huron River, and protecting 84 acres of rolling

To learn more,  
contact your  
local land trusts:

**Raisin Valley  
Land Trust –**

517-265-5599

**Southeast**

**Michigan Land  
Conservancy –**

734-484-6565

**Washtenaw**

**Land Trust –**

734-302-5263

Local Land Preservation		
Agency	Acres protected in 2006	Acres protected prior to 2006
Ann Arbor Township	148	0
City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt	337	152
Scio Township	0	0
Washtenaw County Natural Areas	200	780
Pittsfield Township	43	525*
Raisin Valley Land Trust	0	150
Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy	106	1,713
Washtenaw Land Trust	488	2,044
	1,173	4,676

\*Includes 50 acres that will be used for recreation/public facilities



# Field experiences with a Honda Civic Hybrid

By Charles Armentrout

In early 2004, I needed a fuel-efficient car. My work-related driving had just notched up and gas prices were above \$2.00. A natural gas vehicle was not a choice because my travel distance was too great and I might go in any direction from my Ann Arbor home base. The web was buzzing with electric motor/gasoline engine hybrids, and I settled on a 2004 Honda Civic Hybrid.

The current gasoline usage, averaged over the last 30,000 miles, is 45.6 mpg (miles per gallon). Hybrids have built-in gasoline mileage meters, which give strong feedback to the driver. The car now has more than 60,000 miles, and the meter registered 46.2 mpg at the fill-up this week. A friend reports that his 2006 Civic Hybrid has better mileage than this, even new.

The Civic hybrid has its own personality. The engine starts like a light bulb: flick the key and it is on, no starter. The 300 V battery-stack has so much power, the motor so much torque, that the engine just starts running. The on-board power management system uses this power reserve well. The engine shuts off at stoplights and switches on when the brake is released. The motor adds good response to a small horsepower drive train. The battery is charged regeneratively, when the vehicle is slowing, or actively, when the battery has been drained below a critical threshold. Honda hybrids never shut off the engine during motion. The engine is always at work in the vehicle power system.

EPA mileage estimates for the 2004 Civic Hybrid are 47 mpg city, 48 mpg highway. My car made 39 mpg during the first several thousand miles. The mpg rose, starting about the 5,000 mile mark, and by 15,000 miles, my mpg meter was registering 47–47½ and I was getting a true 46–46½. Possibly part of this improvement could be due to the training effect the car has on its driver.

## Notes to those considering a hybrid:

(a) Don't look at the mpg meter until you have gone at least 100 miles since the last reset. (b) The meter reads 1 – 1½ mpg higher than actual. (c) The true mpg achieved is a function of outdoor temperature. This is because the power management strategies change when the

temperature drops below freezing and battery performance drops. Warm weather values are about 46 (actual), but cold weather gasoline usage is typically 42–44 mpg.

## Negatives:

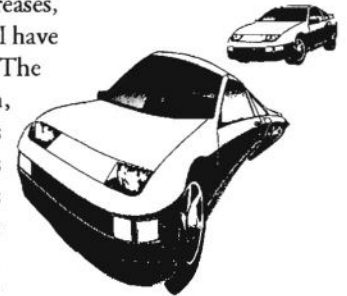
My car is only as comfortable as a standard 2004 Civic; that is to say, not very. The armrests are low, there is no lumbar support, certain controls are inconvenient, and the backseat leg room is small.

## Shocking disclosure:

I use premium fuel to keep my gas costs down. Sound counter-intuitive? Think monthly gas costs, not cost per fill-up. The car runs well on regular (87 octane) but, for fun, I tried the midrange (89 octane) grade. (Why? I cannot recall, now.) Mileage rose by about 2 on the meter and also in reality (total gallons in a fill-up/miles traveled). Higher octane is a feature that retards knocking in a high compression engine, so why should it help mileage? It does.

The table shows how this works. This is not a rigorous study, but as a physicist I have to give some indication of data quality: I take the values after 3 consecutive fill-ups and try to average over a couple tankfills. I rounded down for the increases in mileage, used a 2-digit truncation for the percentage increases, and estimated the highest fuel price boundaries. I have done this maybe 3 times in the last 2½ years. The monthly gas bill will be lower on premium, assuming the same miles per month, so long as the increase in gas price between grades is less than the increase in mileage. If midrange is \$2.50/gal, premium is 4% more expensive but gives 4.5% better mileage. The final column shows the gallons of fuel consumed for my typical monthly travel.

I have never heard any reports of gas grade having any effect on mileage performance. Is it my own car only, hybrids, Civics, or all cars in general?



Gasoline Grade	True mpg.	Improvement over lower grade	Cost increase over lower grade	Smallest monthly cost	Fuel required* for 2,000 miles
Regular (87 octane)	42	-	-	When regular below \$2.10/gal	47.6 gal
Midrange (89 octane)	44	4.7%	10c/gal	When regular below \$2.12/gal	45.5 gal
Premium (92 octane)	46	4.5%	10c/gal	When regular below \$2.22/gal	43.5 gal

\*Fuel for the 2,000 mile trip = 2,000 miles/mpg. A car with 20 mpg. would use 100 gallons.

## Notes from the Roadway The Clean Car Scorecard

By Alan Richardson

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

### Period covered: 18 October 2000 (purchase date) to 9 December 2006

Distance driven:	99,080 miles	
Fuel purchased:	2,915 gallons gasoline equivalent (GGE)	
Fuel economy:	32.5 miles/GGE	
Fuel cost of CNG used:	\$3,140	
Average fuel cost	\$1.08 per GGE	
Cost economy:	30.2 miles per dollar	* 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
Savings over gasoline:	\$2,066	
Payback mileage*:	82,217	
Payback date*:	24 July 2006 (Payback complete)	

### Estimated exhaust emissions of different passenger vehicles driven 99,080 miles

<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Average car</u>	<u>California LEV**</u>	<u>Civic GX</u>
Hydrocarbons	611	16.4	0.65
Carbon monoxide	4,561	742	34.92
<u>Oxides of nitrogen</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>43.7</u>	<u>4.36</u>
<b>Total (pounds)</b>	<b>5,475</b>	<b>802.1</b>	<b>39.93</b>

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



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# 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/>

**Thursday March 1. Executive Committee Meeting**, typically first Thursday of each month 7:15 pm. Call Doug Cowherd at 734-662-5205 for location.

**Sunday March 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 March 13. Sierra Club Book Club**. 7:30 pm, 2nd Tuesday of every month at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, corner of Maple and Jackson, Ann Arbor. Book: **The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals**, by Michael Pollan. Join us for discussion - all are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 for details.

**Sunday March 18. Stinchfield Woods Hike or Ski**. Depending on winter snow conditions (if any!) bring your skis if you have them. Ski or hike about 3-4 miles. Natural trail surface. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall to carpool at 1:00 pm. Call Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 for details. Cancelled if rain.

**Tuesday March 20. HVG Monthly Public Program**. 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Topic: **Where the Bison and Biologists Roam: Summer in Yellowstone Park**, with Dave Brooks. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.

**Sunday March 25. Waterloo Recreation Area "Secret Trail" Hike**. Get off the beaten path and learn about the road less traveled on this early spring "secret trail" hike, 3-4 miles. Call Jay Schlegel at 734-377-5715 for details. Cancelled if rain. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall to carpool at 1:00 pm or at Waterloo Recreation Area Discovery Center lot at 1:30 pm.

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

**Thursday April 5. Executive Committee Meeting**, typically first Thursday of each month, 7:15 pm. Call Doug Cowherd at 734-662-5205 for location.

**Sunday April 8. Crooked Lake Trail Hike**. This hike is great for its beautiful woodlands, hills, and good company. Join us for a 5.1 mile hike and learn about the beauty of spring in Michigan. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall at 1:00 pm to carpool, or at the trailhead at 1:30 pm. Call Ken Morley at 734-678-0264.

**Sunday April 8. 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 April 10. Sierra Club Book Club**. 7:30 pm, 2nd Tuesday of every month at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, corner of Maple and Jackson, Ann Arbor. Book: **Prairie Soul: Finding Grace in the Earth Beneath My Feet**, by Jeffrey Lockwood, a collection of essays in the tradition of Aldo Leopold and Annie Dillard. Join us for discussion - all are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 for details.

# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

**Tuesday April 17. HVG Monthly Public Program.** 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Topic: **Landscaping with Native Plants**, with Aunita Erskine. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.

**Sunday April 22. Pinckney State Recreation Area "Secret" Hike.** Get off the beaten path and learn about the 'roads less traveled' on this spring "secret" hike, 3-4 miles through the beautiful woodlands and hills at a leisurely pace. Call Kathy Guerreso at 734-677-0823 for details. Cancelled if rain. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall to carpool at 1:00 pm.

**Monday April 23. 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.

**Sunday April 29. Waterloo Recreation Area Spring Hike.** Join us for a spring hike, 3-4 miles, with a possible "secret hike" addition. Learn in person how spring comes to the Waterloo area. Call Jay Schlegel at 734-377-5715 for details. Cancelled if rain. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall to carpool at 1:00 pm or at Waterloo Recreation Area Discovery Center lot at 1:30 pm.

**Thursday May 3. Executive Committee Meeting,** typically first Thursday of each month, 7:15 pm. Call Doug Cowherd at 734-662-5205 for location.

**Saturday May 5. Lost Nations State Game Area Hike.** Join us for a 2-3-hour hike on the North Country Trail and discover the lovely variety of Michigan spring wildflowers. Meet at 10:00 am at the southwest corner of the blinking light in Pittsford on M-34, six miles west of Hudson, Michigan. Call Ralph Powell for details at 734-971-9013.

**Sunday May 6. Annual Potawatomi Trail Hike.** Hike all 17 miles of this winding trail through glacial terrain by lakes, through forests and meadows, and over hills for great views and good company. Please dress for the weather and bring a sack lunch and water. Meet at City Hall entrance at 8:00 am to carpool. Cancelled if rain; raindate TBD. Call Ruth Graves at 734-483-0058 for more information. See you on the trail!

**Tuesday May 8. Sierra Club Book Club.** 7:30 pm, 2nd Tuesday of every month at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, corner of Maple and Jackson, Ann Arbor. Book: **TBD**. Join us for discussion - all are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 for details.

**Saturday May 12. Hewenes Creek Outing.** Join us in trail building and maintenance. Meet at the Bemis Road entrance at 10:00 am; parking is available at either the Bemis Road entrance or the Lincoln School parking lot (1/4 mile.) Call Norm Roller for more information at 734-426-5737.

**Sunday May 13. 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 May 15. HVG Monthly Public Program.** 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Topic: **American Icon: Utah's Red Rock Wilderness**, with Clayton Daughenbaugh, Southwestern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.

**Sunday May 20. Pinckney State Recreation Area "Secret" Hike.** Join us for a leisurely paced hike on the Silver Lake trail, and discover the road less traveled with a "secret" Pinckney loop addition. This hike will be 3-4 miles. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall to carpool at 10 am. Call Kathy Guerreso for more information at 734-677-0823.





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# Other Local Events

## Key:

**NAP = City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation.** For more information, call 734-996-3266. For workdays, please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes, and note that minors must either be accompanied by a guardian or contact NAP in advance to obtain a release form.

**County = Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation.** For more information, call 734-971-6337 x318 or visit [www.ewashtenaw.org](http://www.ewashtenaw.org) and select "Parks," or email [stonerf@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:stonerf@ewashtenaw.org).

**TNC = The Nature Conservancy.** For more information call 615-500-8229 or email [IvesRoadFen@gmail.com](mailto:IvesRoadFen@gmail.com). Bring your lunch for the workdays.

Saturday March 3 – **Sap to Syrup: Doing it Yourself (County)**, 1:00-2:30 pm. Learn how to identify and tap maple trees, then how to boil the sap to make delicious maple syrup. We'll be inside and outside, so dress for the weather. Participation is limited and pre-registration is required: Call 734-971-6337 x318. County Farm Park, Platt Road entrance, meet at the Administrative Building.

Wednesday March 7 - **Public Meeting – Prescribed Ecological Burn Program (NAP)**, 7:30-9:00 pm. Fire is used as a restoration tool in some of Ann Arbor's natural areas. This meeting will provide information and an opportunity for discussion about the Prescribed Ecological Burn Program conducted by Natural Area Preservation. Burns will be conducted in city parks throughout the spring and fall. Leslie Science Center Nature House – 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor,

Thursday March 8 - **Prescribed Burn Crew Training (NAP)**, noon-5:00 pm. This is the required yearly training session for all volunteers interested in assisting with the prescribed burns to be held this spring and fall. Burns take place Monday through Friday sometime between noon and 5:00 pm. Pre-registration is required by March 2, as enrollment is limited. Please call the NAP office at 734-996-3266 to register or for more information. Leslie Science Center Nature House – 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor,

Thursday April 19 - **Breeding Bird Survey Kick-Off (NAP)**, 7:30-9:00 pm. This is the night to sign up for your favorite park and pick up materials. NAP ornithologist Dea Armstrong will also report on the 2006 data and survey highlights. Please register by April 13 by calling the NAP office at 734-996-3266. Leslie Science Center House – 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor,

Saturday April 7 – **Stewardship Workday at Ives Road Fen (TNC)**, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Help pull garlic mustard in the floodplain forest. Wildflower walk, prize drawing, and refreshments when we are finished.

Saturday April 14 – **Stewardship Workday at Ives Road Fen (TNC)**, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Help pull dame's rocket in the floodplain forest. At the end of the workday we'll explore the ecology of the Get Lost and Die management area, before having our chocolate chip cookies.

Saturday April 21 – **Stewardship Workday at Ives Road Fen (TNC)**, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Bring your friends and help restore the ecology of the floodplain forest. Go on a wildflower walk and see the returning great blue herons at the rookery when we are finished.

Saturday April 28 – **Stewardship Workday at Ives Road Fen (TNC)**, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Help pull garlic mustard in the floodplain forest. Maybe you will also find some morels! Carnivorous plant walk and cold Coke at the end.



## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

### WILDERNESS MEDICINE CLASSES

WILDERNESS FIRST AID	NOV. 10-12
WILDERNESS FIRST AID	MARCH 16-18
WILDERNESS FIRST AID	APRIL 20-22
WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER	JAN. 9- MARCH 29
WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER	APRIL 28- MAY 6

VISIT WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AT  
[WWW.RECSports.UMICH.EDU/OUTDOORADV](http://WWW.RECSports.UMICH.EDU/OUTDOORADV)

### FILM FESTIVALS

BANFF FILM FESTIVAL	MARCH 25	RACKHAM 6 PM
BANFF FILM FESTIVAL	MARCH 26	RACKHAM 6 PM

### EQUIPMENT RENTALS FOR WINTER

SNOW SHOES  
CROSS COUNTRY SKIS





# Looking Back & Looking Ahead: Fun with Inner City Outings

As 2006 comes to a close and 2007 begins, my tendency is to rush forward with making new plans. Today, though, I decide to take a look back on 2006 and reflect for a moment on Inner City Outing activities for the past year.

During 2006, ICO kids hiked, canoed, spotted bald eagles and blue herons, hugged a corn snake, studied pond life, identified our state tree (the white pine), had a cookout, camped in a state forest, played in the sand dunes, swam in Lake Michigan, studied

volunteers chose to get involved in Inner City Outings. So, I send lots of pictures to our sponsors, national office and friends who ask me about the program. Pictures sum up what can never be conveyed by an email or a spreadsheet of statistics. Pictures communicate the excitement and trepidation of a child stepping into a canoe for the first time, or anxiously waiting their turn to peer through the lens of a spotting scope at a live bald eagle in the wild. Pictures reveal the expression on a kid's face as the



By Vera Hernandez

magic of a Lake Michigan beach and sand dunes unfolds before his eyes for the very first time. Many of the children we take on outings would never have the opportunity to view a lake that goes on into the horizon as far as you can see.

This year, when you are pondering which worthy cause to send a donation to, consider giving a gift that lasts all year long. Think about volunteering for Washtenaw Inner City Outings in 2007. We need dedicated volunteers, just like you, to assist with planning and helping out on outings and working behind the scenes. The Inner City Outings website lists information about the program, the agencies we work with, our calendar of events and other

details. Feel free to contact me for additional information about the program. Hope to see you on an outing soon!



***Inner City Outings has more fun planned for this year – and you are cordially invited to volunteer with us!***

constellations, identified planets in the night sky, learned how reptiles survive the winter, welcomed new baby farm animals, cruised the lower Detroit River, played lots of games and visited the nature centers at two Metroparks.

ICO completed eleven outings in 2006, connecting with 91 youth during over 400 youth contact hours. Our dedicated ICO leaders and volunteers donated over 300 hours on outings and preparation. This does not include time spent writing reports, corresponding with volunteers, updating information, conducting meetings and so forth. It all adds up. For the past few years we have been collecting statistics about our outings. Statistics are very popular with the national office and also our grant sponsors, and with good cause. They want to know where the money went, what it was spent on, how many youth benefited and so on.

What our sponsors don't see and can never experience is the reason that I and the majority of ICO

**Volunteer with us!**  
Would you like to help connect local children with nature?  
**Volunteer with Inner City Outings!**  
Contact Vera Hernandez, ICO Chair, for more information, at [hvg.ico@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:hvg.ico@michigan.sierraclub.org) or (734) 665-8118, or visit the Inner City Outings website:  
<http://ico.sierraclub.org/washtenaw>.



# Meet the Local Sierra Club Leaders

By Patti F. Smith

## New Executive Committee Members

Recently, our club elected (and in some cases, re-elected) four members to serve on our Executive Committee (ExCom). They are **Joel Dalton**, **Rita Mitchell**, **Ed Steinman**, and **Mike Anglin**. Each member brings his or her own unique vision and talents. We are thrilled to have them aboard. To help you get to know them better, here are profiles of two of them.



*Joel Dalton*

**Joel Dalton** lives in Ann Arbor and is an engineer who works on hybrid vehicles. Joel and his wife Jackie have two outdoors-loving daughters, Mackenzie age 8 and Cameron age 6.

Joel's friends from the Ann Arbor **Greenway** encouraged him to get involved with our club.

He decided to run for ExCom because he strongly believes in "doing one's part to work with others in making a positive difference." Joel hopes to offer fresh ideas for club recruitment and ways to increase participation.

A longtime member of the Isle Royal Natural History Association, Joel also is a co-founder of a Burns Park Elementary School kids' club that teaches young children about social responsibility and activism. He also reports that he is becoming a long-distance supporter of the Yaak Valley Forest Council (Montana).

One of the most pressing environmental issues for our region is sprawl "...and everything associated with it," says Joel. Further, wilderness preservation is an important issue for him. Joel believes that wild areas must be preserved not only for future use, but

also because their existence is important to both our collective psyche and our ecological system.

**Rita Mitchell** lives in Ann Arbor and is happily married to fellow ExCom member Ed Steinman. Both Sierra Clubbers share their happy home with their pet cat.



*Rita Mitchell*

Rita has been involved in the Sierra Club for three years, beginning with her work on the successful Ann Arbor Greenbelt millage. Prior to her involvement with our club, Rita participated in public meetings in opposition to condominium developments in what is now Bluffs Nature Area.

Rita decided to run for ExCom because she sees the group as having "the potential to develop activities and present issues in a variety of ways to involve members and the community to enjoy and improve the quality of our environment." While on the ExCom, Rita would like to help raise the level of involvement of our members. Currently, Rita sees water quality as the most serious problem to the Huron Valley and the entire Great Lakes basin.

In addition to her involvement with the Sierra Club, Rita is an active member of the Friends of the Ann Arbor Greenway, a volunteer for the Ann Arbor Natural Areas Preservation, and a strong advocate for natural plantings in residential yards. Rita reported that a goal of hers is to address serious environmental issues and have fun along the way!

Please join me in extending a warm welcome and congratulations to our new ExCom members!





# And The Winners Are...

Congratulations to the following award recipients, who were honored at the Huron Valley Group's December monthly public program. All these folks are volunteers, and it's great to be able to recognize them for all the good work they do!

**Jay Schlegel, Gwen Nystuen, Ed Steinman, and Kim Waldo** – the Rachel Carson Communications Award, for all their “behind-the-scenes” newsletter work – it truly could not be done without them. **Jay** writes newsletter articles and proofreads the text, in addition to leading hikes, selling coffee and calendars, coordinating our art fair booth, lobbying for environment-friendly legislation, and more. **Gwen** designs and lays out the newsletter, hosts fold-and-staple parties, delivers the mock-ups and picks up the printed newsletters, and has long been involved in the political committee. **Ed** takes care of the details that might escape the rest of us, including managing the newsletter mailing list, printing all 4,000-odd labels on an antiquated printer which requires 15 hours to do the job, and providing the post office with all the information they need for each issue. **Kim**, our former editor for many years, hosts fold-and-staple parties and graciously donates his time to drop off and pick up newsletters—he owns a truck and he's willing to use it for a good cause!

**Nancy Shiffler** – the John Muir Outings Award, for years of leading trips to Isle Royale that are always well-enjoyed. Nancy is also serving as Chapter Chair and is a long-time conservation leader both for the Huron Valley Group and for the Michigan Chapter, as well as representing our Chapter at



National meetings. A special thanks and congratulations to Nancy!

**Dorothy Nordness** – the Conservation Activist Award, for leading the conservation team, and for going to Lansing on lobbying days as a voice for the environment.

**Jack Smiley** – the Conservation Accomplishment Award, for his work on nominating and building community support for a new 160-acre nature preserve, purchased through the County's Natural Areas Preservation Program.

**Eppie Potts & James D'Amour** – the George Sexton Public Servant of the Earth Award, for their service on the Ann Arbor Planning Commission. James also serves on the Parks Advisory Committee and Recreation Advisory Committee.

**Ken Morley** – the Care and Feeding Award, for his behind-the-scenes work that helps keep the Group functioning, and especially for stepping up as treasurer.

**Kris Denzin** – the Huron Valley Group Newcomer of the Year Award, for managing the Shopping for the Earth fundraising program, for her fold-and-staple help, and for coming up with creative ways to get new folks involved.

**Mike Anglin, Kathy Clark, Alice Ralph, Ed Steinman, and Rita Mitchell** – Democracy In Action Award (for Sierra Club members); and **Sonia Schmerl, Margaret Wong, and Karen Sidney** – Huron Valley Group Chair's Award of Merit (for non-Sierra Club members), for their work on City Council primary election candidate campaigns.

**Kathy Guerreso** – the Huron Valley Group Service Award, for serving as outings chair, outings leader, and adopt-a-highway coordinator.

**Thank you All, and congratulations!**



# 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 <sup>1</sup>						
Arbor Brewing Company						
Arbor Farms						
Borders Books & Music <sup>1</sup>						
Busch's <sup>2</sup>						
Farmer Jack <sup>1</sup> (and affiliated stores)						
Hiller's Markets <sup>2</sup>						
Holiday Market (Royal Oak)						
Kroger <sup>2</sup> (and affiliated stores)						
Whole Foods <sup>1</sup> (and affiliated stores)						
Meijer's	A rebate program, no vouchers (neither paper nor cards). Please see <a href="http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/SFTE_Meijer.pdf">http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/SFTE_Meijer.pdf</a> or contact us.					

<sup>1</sup> non-reloadable card • Consider buying several cards.

<sup>2</sup> 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)





**Huron  
Valley  
Group  
Directory**

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

Chair	
Doug Cowherd*	662-5205
Vice-chair	
Nancy Shiffler*	971-1157
Treasurer	
Ken Morley	677-7791
Secretary	
Joel Dalton*	
Chapter Representative	
Nancy Shiffler*	971-1157
Conservation Chair	
Dorothy Nordness	668-6306
Inner City Outings Chair	
Vera Hernandez	665-8118
Outings Chair	
Kathy Guerreso	677-0823
Inner City Outings Liaison	
Membership Chair	
Ed Steinman**	665-0248
Political Chair	
Acting Program Chair	
Doug Cowherd*	662-5205
Shopping for the Earth	
Kristine Denzin	429-7382
Publicity	
Pauline Mitchell	973-6636
Fund Raising Chair	
Jay Schlegel*	477-5715
Web Designer	
Suzie Heiney	377-8248
Newsletter Team	
Suzie Heiney, Editor	377-8248
Mary Roth	
Kevin Bell	
Kim Waldo	971-1941
Jay Schlegel*	477-5715
Patti Smith	649-4647
Gwen Nystuen	665-7632
Effie Hanchett	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Executive Committee	
Mike Anglin*	
Rita Mitchell*	665-0248

\* = HVG Excom Member

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

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

If you would like to receive email notices of each month's Huron Valley Group general meeting and occasional notices about other local Sierra Club activities send an email to Doug Cowherd at [dmcowherd3@comcast.net](mailto: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,



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

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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 March 20  
Where the Bison and Biologists Roam: Summer in Yellowstone Park  
with Dave Brooks

Tuesday April 17  
Landscaping with Native Plants, with Aunita Erskine

Tuesday May 15  
American Icon: Utah's Red Rock Wilderness, with Clayton  
Daughenbaugh, Southwestern Utah Wilderness Alliance