



THE LOOKOUT

Huron Valley Group
Vol. 31 No.1 Spring 2009



A Personal Endeavor—How I'm Cutting Down on the Amount of Plastics I Use

I recently learned something I found interesting *and* very disturbing. For the last ten years scientists have been following the growth of garbage flotsam that exists in the northern Pacific. Because it floats just below the surface of the ocean, this vast expanse of 90% plastic (from the mainland U.S and Japan) cannot be seen clearly from a satellite. Oceanographers now estimate that it has grown as big as the continental United States. Because of the ocean currents and usual lack of wind in this area of the Pacific, this enormous garbage dump floats gently as a perch for sea birds. These birds try to eat from this plastic. Dead birds have been found with cigarette lighters and toothbrushes in their stomachs.

I feel sickened and saddened by this information. I searched online for articles about this. They all give details that I'd rather not know. What I do know is that I am doubling, tripling my efforts to not buy plastic.

Here's what I've done most recently. I purchased an 18 oz. *Klean Kanteen* stainless steel water bottle (\$16.95 from Bivouac in Ann Arbor or KleanKanteen.com). I've stopped buying hand soap in a pump, and I've found myriad scents of bar soaps (The Artisan Market in Ann Arbor, for example, sells locally made soap).

I've been recycling since the 70's and I've always believed that one person's efforts can make a difference, as the next 'one person' continues the challenge. And I don't want to think about this huge garbage dump getting any larger. When pieces (and how much chemical toxicity?) break off, they end up eventually on a beach along a coast. This didn't happen in my parents' generation, I'm thinking. More than

likely I have contributed to an un-biodegradable mess.

Yes, I can do this. Reduce, reuse, recycle, right? I rooted around at the local Kiwanis last Saturday and found a wooden stacking toy for my grandson and an almost-new animal domino game (heavy cardboard) for granddaughter Lainey. And I can stop the throw-it-away cycle when I take my long-lasting (no doubt!) empty plastic laundry jug to refill it from the bulk jug at the food co-op. The spray bottle of cleaner gets filled up from bulk too.

My mode of buying local, in bulk, and producing less and less garbage focuses on seeing the world differently so that I can change the way I live in it. A Gandhi-like view: Be the change you want to see in the world.

The challenge inspires me. My grandkids inspire me. And the awareness of that huge plastic island in the Pacific inspires me. That's all I need.

By Diane Kimball

*The
challenge
inspires
me*



Thank you!

Thank you to the following people who have helped out with recent newsletters. These people have written stories, submitted photos, shared recipes, edited, designed, proofed, and printed labels. Many of these volunteers have folded and stapled and put labels on the very newsletter you hold in your hands right now!

John Alfaro
Jan Brimacombe
David Brooks
Eugenia Carpenter
James D'Amour
Elizabeth Flahie
Karen Flahie
Bruce Graves
Ruth Graves
Kelly Grocoff
Matt Grocoff
Suzie Heiney
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Rich Kato
Diane Kimball
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Ginny Maturen
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Dorothy Nordness
Betsy Noren
Gwen Nystuen
Barbara Powell
Alan Richardson
Mary Roth
Jay Schlegel
Patti Smith
Emily Springfield
Ed Steinman
Kate Sweeney
Bob Treemore
Scott Tyrrell
Jack Woodward
Connie Zatsick

Thank you! If we've missed or misspelled your name, just drop us a line – hvgnews@yahoo.com – and we'll fix it in the next issue.

We need your help! The newsletter runs on 100% volunteer power. Here are some ways you can help:

- Share your ideas to make it even better
- Write an article
- Do a photo essay of something that interests you
- Become a co-editor
- Lend a hand at one of our quarterly "fold-and-staple" parties
- Approach a local business about running an ad

If you can help, please get in touch today: 734-377-8248 (Suzie Heiney) or hvgnews@yahoo.com. Thanks



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

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Washtenaw Inner City Outings



2009 marks our eleventh year serving youth at risk in Washtenaw County. Since 1998 we have been working with the dedicated staff at Community Action Network (CAN). CAN selects the youth that we escort on our monthly outings. Washtenaw Inner City Outings WICO has planned and executed over a hundred outings, serving hundreds of youth in the decade that we have been active in Washtenaw County.

CAN recently acquired programming for two additional sites in Ann Arbor where they offer a variety of assistance to the residents living adjacent to the centers. In addition to Hikone and Green Baxter, CAN now provides services to Bryant and Northside Community Centers. CAN director Joan Doughty asked WICO to consider leading outings with the youth from Bryant and Northside. One of the saddest moments of my life was telling her no. Why? Because WICO doesn't have enough certified leaders to expand our program. This is something that we would love to do, but in reality we are stretched very thin with only 5 leaders to cover both Hikone and Green Baxter outings at the present time.

If you have ever considered getting involved with Washtenaw Inner City Outings, now is the time to step up and make the commitment. We need you more than ever before. Help us tell CAN and the youth at Bryant and Northside – Yes! we can help more youth in Washtenaw County experience hiking, camping, canoeing, skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, apple-picking, skating, and star-gazing in the great Michigan outdoors. On these outings, youth have the opportunity to acquire team-building and

leadership skills, learn about wildlife, and gain a respect for nature and stewardship of our environment. All these are critical skills for at-risk youth to learn.

This year we will be taking our youth from Hikone and Green Baxter out skiing, sledding, camping, hiking, fishing and horseback-riding, just to name a few. We need help coming up with trip ideas and planning them.

We welcome you to get involved in the program. We are always in need of dedicated volunteers willing to share their knowledge and love of the

outdoors with children who otherwise would not have an opportunity to experience the natural world. This is a golden opportunity to share your interests and talents. WICO has the following positions open:

- ◆ additional co-chair
- ◆ volunteer coordinator
- ◆ equipment manager
- ◆ fundraising committee member

Please contact us for details on volunteering for any of these positions or becoming a certified leader.

To learn more or to volunteer: Please contact us at washtenawico@yahoo.com or visit our website at: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/ico/washtenaw/home.html>

Hope to see you on an outing soon!



By Vera Hernandez



You can help get kids get out in nature, such as on this fun-filled fishing trip, by volunteering with Inner City Outings. To learn more, contact Vera Hernandez at washtenawico@yahoo.com.



Celebrating Local Food

The HomeGrown Festival and the Local Food Summit

By Dorothy Nordness

The fading tempest of Hurricane Ike brought rain and warm temperatures to Ann Arbor on Saturday September 13th, the day of the first annual **HomeGrown** local food festival. Enthusiasm was not dampened, as an estimated 1,000 turned out, armed with umbrellas and raingear, to see what it was all about. The mission of the HomeGrown Festival is to increase consumption of local and sustainably grown foods by educating about local foods, creating links between consumers, restaurants, and food producers, and by celebrating great local food.

Delicious food, prepared by eight chef-vendors using at least 50% local ingredients, was available for purchase at reasonable prices. Salad-on-a-stick (fresh mozzarella, tomatoes, and basil) from Carson's, sweet corn tamales from Pilar's, and barbecued chicken wings from Slow's BBQ in Detroit were among the delectable dishes enjoyed. Two cooking demonstrations by local well-known chefs attracted an enthusiastic crowd of cooks.

The non-profit tent had a steady stream of visitors wanting to learn more about local food and related environmental issues. (Thank you to



Rita Mitchell, Nancy Schiffler, and Jay Schlegel for volunteering their time to staff the Sierra Club table!) Project Grow's Tomato Tasting drew eager tasters stopping by to rank their heirloom

tomatoes or maybe just wanting a dry place to be for a stretch. The music tent was full of people enjoying plates of food from the vendors and trying to stay dry. A few folks in the "younger" age range – under 25 is my guess – abandoned all hopes of being dry and just got into the spirit of the rain, dancing to the lively beat of the music right out there in the downpour!

Plans are underway to broaden the scope of the 2009 festival. This planning has started with a January meeting that brought together groups and individuals interested and active in the local food movement. On January 29th over 100 interested people from various organizations and backgrounds gathered for a one-day Local Food Summit at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The meeting goals were to map out the current food system, find gaps, identify priorities, and coordinate efforts





leading to a healthy, just, sustainable, and secure local food economy.

Attendance was by a broadly distributed invitation that went to a number of area non-profits directly or indirectly involved with food, to local restaurant chefs, farmers, food distributors, educators, and my favorite category — “eaters.” The level of interest and enthusiasm for the event astounded even the organizers, who had to put some people on a waiting list due to space limitations.

Speakers included Chris Bedford, president of the Center for Economic Security in Montague, MI, and Patty Cantrell of the Michigan Land Use Institute in the Traverse City area. Fran Alexander gave an overview of a food security

study for low-income residents of Washtenaw County led by the nonprofit Food Gatherers. Small group discussions generated many ideas for enhancing availability of and access to local food in Washtenaw County.

For additional news from the day’s events and discussions, read the Ann Arbor Chronicle’s story on the food summit here: <http://annarborchronicle.com/2009/01/31/local-food-for-thought>.

The 2009 HomeGrown Festival will be Saturday, September 12th, 2009, 5-10 pm at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. To learn more: www.homegrownfestival.org.



Clean Car Update

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 8 March 2009

Distance driven: 120,028 miles
 Fuel purchased: 3665 gallons gasoline equivalent (GGE)
 Fuel economy: 32.7 miles/GGE
 Fuel cost of CNG used: \$4674
 Average fuel cost: \$1.275 per GGE
 Cost economy: 25.7 miles per dollar
 Savings over gasoline: \$2803
 Payback mileage*: 78,694
 Payback date*: 7 August 2006 (payback complete!)

* Payback of \$4500 purchase premium for natural gas fuel option reduced by \$2000 Clean Cities cash rebate and \$2000 federal income deduction at 28% marginal tax rate in effect at time of purchase.

Estimated exhaust emissions of different passenger vehicles driven 118,510 miles

(pounds)	Average car on road in 2000	California LEV**	Civic GX
Hydrocarbons	740	19.83	0.79
Carbon monoxide	5526	899	42.3
Oxides of nitrogen	368	52.9	5.29
Total (pounds)	6634	971.7	48.38

** 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>**



Like nature? You could be an outings leader! The Sierra Club Huron Valley is accepting new volunteer outings leaders to lead short day hikes in and around Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti. We will reimburse you for American Red Cross basic first aid training. You will first go on the outing that you choose, and then lead that outing on a later date - or propose your own ideas! Great for your resume, good company, exercise, and fun. Call Kathy Guerreso at 734-677-0823 for information on how to get started.



Saturday June 13, 2009. First Swim-hike of the Year! Hike around Pickerel Lake and through a dry sand prairie, and take a dip in the rejuvenating waters of this pristine paradise. Two and a half miles, easy terrain, swim-hike led by ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Either meet at 1:00 pm in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse (corner of Jackson & Maple, in Westgate Shopping Center) to carpool, or meet at 1:45 pm at the trailhead, at the Pickerel Lake parking lot off Hankerd Rd., one mile north of N. Territorial Rd. Contact Jay Schlegel for information: 734-477-5715.



Sunday June 14, 2009. Inner City Outings. 7:00 pm, 2nd Sunday of every month. 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. For meeting location and more details, please visit ICO's website or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118.



Tuesday June 16, 2009. HVG Monthly Public Program. 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Topic: **Up the River With a Paddle: Five Unknown Canoe Trips in Southeast Michigan**, with Barry Lonik of Treemore Ecology and Land Services, and Ron Sell of Unadilla Boatworks. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.



Monday June 22, 2009. Conservation Committee meeting. 7:00 pm, typically 4th Monday of every month. Contact Dorothy Nordness at DorothyK@isr.umich.edu or 734-668-6306 for location.

Wednesday July 1, 2009. Executive Committee Meeting, typically first Wednesday of each month, 7:15 pm. Contact Doug Cowherd at doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org for location.



Sunday July 12, 2009. Inner City Outings. 7:00 pm, 2nd Sunday of every month. 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. For meeting location and more details, please visit ICO's website or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118.



Tuesday July 14, 2009. Sierra Club Book Club. 7:15 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.

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar



Tuesday July 21, 2009. HVG Monthly Public Program. 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Topic: **Threats to the Great Lakes: What We Can Do To Keep Them Great**, with Melissa Damaschke, Great Lakes program representative, Sierra Club. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.



July 25-26, 2009. Nordhouse Dunes Weekend Outing. This weekend trip will include leisurely relaxed-pace hiking of about 7 miles at the dunes. Call Ewa Roszczenko at 734-756-5362 for details.



Monday July 27, 2009. Conservation Committee meeting. 7:00 pm, typically 4th Monday of every month. Contact Dorothy Nordness at DorothyK@isr.umich.edu or 734-668-6306 for location.

Wednesday August 5, 2009. Executive Committee Meeting, typically first Wednesday of each month, 7:15 pm. Contact Doug Cowherd at doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org for location.



Sunday August 9, 2009. Inner City Outings. 7:00 pm, 2nd Sunday of every month. 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. For meeting location and more details, please visit ICO's website or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118.



Tuesday August 11, 2009. Sierra Club Book Club. 7:15 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 August 18, 2009. HVG Monthly Public Program. 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Topic: **Raptors in our World: Up Close and Personal with a Live Eagle, Falcon, Hawk, and Owl**, with Francie Krawcke, raptor specialist and camp director at Leslie Science & Nature Center. Co-sponsored with Washtenaw Audubon Society. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.



Monday August 24, 2009. Conservation Committee meeting. 7:00 pm, typically 4th Monday of every month. Contact Dorothy Nordness at DorothyK@isr.umich.edu or 734-668-6306 for location.

Wednesday September 2, 2009. Executive Committee Meeting, typically first Wednesday of each month, 7:15 pm. Contact Doug Cowherd at doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org for location.



Tuesday September 8, 2009. Sierra Club Book Club. 7:15 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.



Sunday September 13, 2009. Inner City Outings. 7:00 pm, 2nd Sunday of every month. 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. For meeting location and more details, please visit ICO's website or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118.



Tuesday September 15, 2009. HVG Monthly Public Program. 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of every month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Topic: **TBD**. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided.



Monday September 28, 2009. Conservation Committee meeting. 7:00 pm, typically 4th Monday of every month. Contact Dorothy Nordness at DorothyK@isr.umich.edu or 734-668-6306 for location.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE RECIPIENTS OF 2008 SIERRA CLUB HURON VALLEY GROUP AWARDS! AND THE WINNERS ARE...

MICHELLE NAWAL AND MATT VERNIER: HURON VALLEY GROUP SERVICE AWARD, which recognizes individuals active in local service outings, for their work with Inner City Outings.

RITA MITCHELL: KEN LENGTON ACTIVIST DEVELOPMENT AWARD, which recognizes individuals who have excelled at identifying, recruiting, and developing Huron Valley Group activists, for encouraging new volunteers and activists.

CITIZENS RESPECTING OUR WATERS (CROW): CONSERVATION ACTIVIST AWARD, which recognizes individuals for new or ongoing work on conservation issues, for their work to protect ground water and lakes in western Washtenaw County.

RANDY TRENT and ANN ANGLIM and the Ann Arbor Public Schools Physical Properties Department: CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD, which recognizes activists whose efforts have yielded a tangible conservation victory over the past year, for their ongoing work to institute "green" cleaning practices and expanded recycling in the Ann Arbor Schools.

BETSY NOREN: CARE AND FEEDING AWARD, which recognizes those individuals whose behind-the-scenes work helps keep the Group functioning, for taking on Shopping for the Earth program responsibilities.

LANE HOTCHKISS: HURON VALLEY GROUP NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR, which recognizes an outstanding new member or existing member who has dramatically increased his/her involvement in HVG activities during the year, for stepping in as a new outings leader for the HVG.

DAVE KONKLE: GEORGE SEXTON PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE EARTH AWARD, which recognizes the contribution of local government employees and commission members whose efforts have helped protect our local environment, for his many years of service with the Ann Arbor Energy Commission and the Ann Arbor Energy Office.

JAY SCHLEGEL: JOHN MUIR OUTINGS AWARD, which recognizes outstanding leaders in the outings program, for helping to lead multiple hikes during the past year.

JOEL DALTON: RACHEL CARSON COMMUNICATIONS AWARD, which recognizes individuals/entities who have helped improve communication within the three-county area of the HVG, for ensuring publicity of club events in local media outlet calendars.

Thank you to all of these award recipients for their work to protect the planet!

Yellowstone Inside Out

Update from the Field

By David Brooks

Yellowstone National Park, May 14, 2009: Spring has nearly recovered from winter's sneak attack on Tuesday. This morning the temperatures were in the low 20s, with 4 or 5 inches of new snow on the ground. The amount of snow on the ground declines dramatically as I move west into the park. The dependable Druid wolves put on their standard morning show. A black was feeding on a carcass with a gray sitting nearby and a grizzly walking from west to east in the background. The Lamar River presents a braided water course that has left the valley floor crisscrossed by old channels and gullies. Wolves can drop into these channels and disappear briefly or forever. The Druid black feeding on the carcass got a chunk loose worth taking back to the den, and took off heading east. Many of us moved back east to the Hitching Post pull-out. Eventually the black was spotted moving towards us. Rick cleared the road of cars, and the black turned north, crossed the road, and vanished into the hills toward the den. The gray that started out following the black never showed up, but another black was seen on the flood plain just west of us.

Heading west, the next traffic jam was a true bear jam in Little America. A limping grizzly had just crossed the road heading north. It looked to me like the bear refused to put its left rear paw on the ground. I didn't hear any speculation about what may have happened. There was another grizzly feeding in a small valley near the river. The limping

*Bison at
Yellowstone*



bear after a long walk passed within 1,000 feet of the feeding bear without any interaction. Continuing west, Hellroaring had good visibility but no wolves, bears, or people, just lots of picturesque elk and bison. I went further west than usual, to the self-guided fire trail, but found nothing of note. On the way home, in the forested section of the Soda Butte Creek, a beautiful fox crossed the road and was visible for a few minutes.

Thursday was a five-moose morning, all in round prairie, just south of Pebble Creek campground. I didn't examine each moose with binoculars, but it was reported that one was a bull with small antlers in velvet. The Druids were a stay-at-home pack this morning, so it was on to Junction Butte and the Agate wolf pack. However, they were already bedded down in the sagebrush and nearly impossible to see. Luckily while I was watching, they all, one black and three grays, got up and walked a couple of hundred feet north and bedded down again.

At 9:00 am I met Amy, the coyote intern trainer, at Tower Junction, to tour up to Tower Falls. She had never seen the osprey nests in the canyon below the road or the falls. I showed her the two osprey nests I knew of and she spotted a third. One osprey looked like it might be incubating, the other two were just standing in their nest. On the way home at the west end of Lamar River Canyon, two osprey were soaring and I pulled off to see if they would lead me to a nest. I lost sight of the osprey, but a couple of people were watching a nest below in the canyon. Now I have two new osprey nests to add to my Yellowstone list. The nest at the east end of the Lamar River Canyon is still occupied by geese.

Between the Tower Falls side trip and the second new osprey nest, I made a fruitless stop at Hellroaring Overlook and saw no wolves. Rick and the wolfies were leaving as I got there, and I knew my jinx would hold. Naturally the adults and pups had been visible until I got there. People were also seeing a grizzly with cubs, but it was a long shot in cluttered terrain. I finally saw the bear but never the cubs.

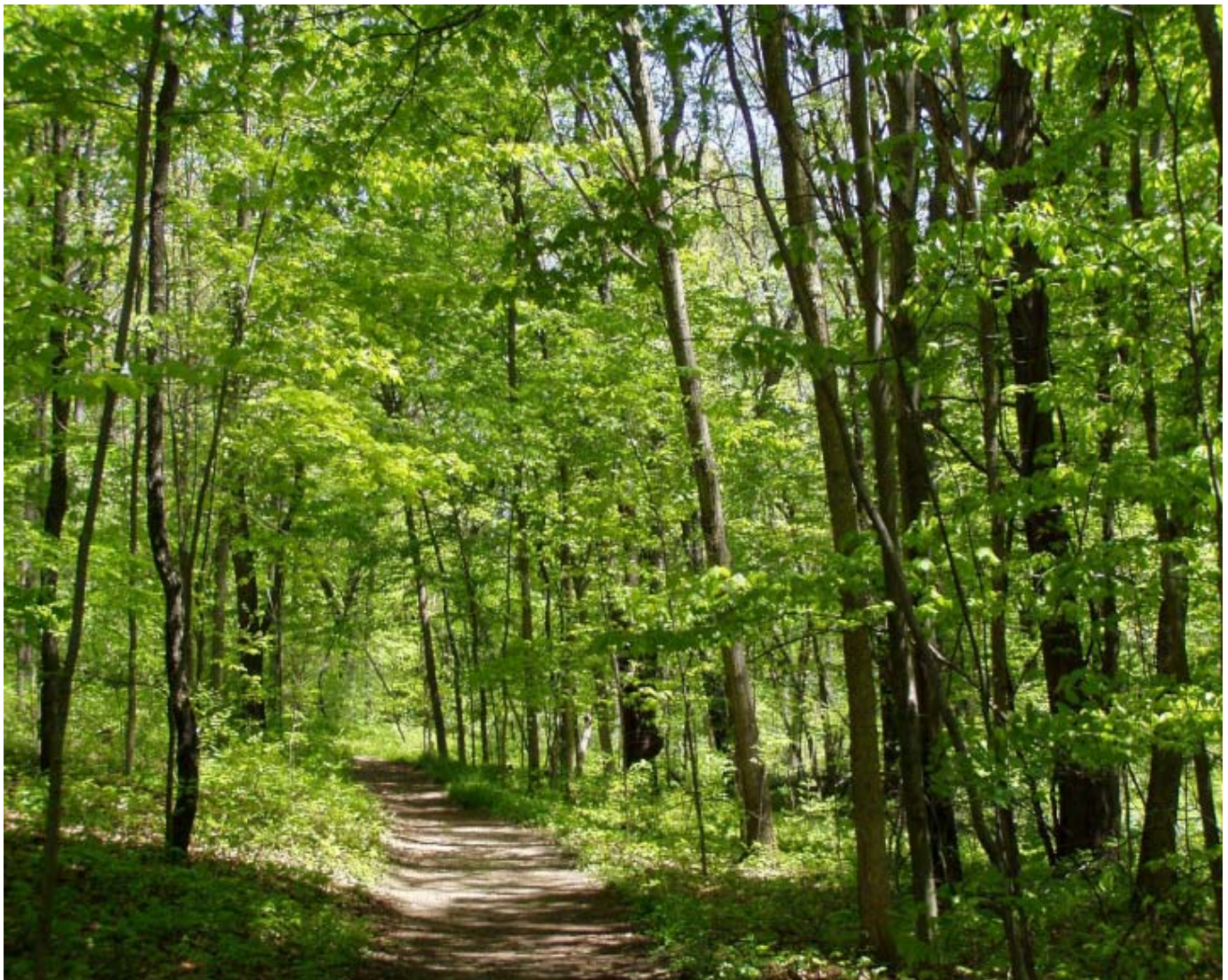
Early in the week when I was reaching the decision to leave on Friday morning instead of Monday morning, the weather forecast finally predicted a mostly sunny day with temperatures in the mid 50s for Saturday. I know if I change my mind the forecast will fall back to chance of rain/snow with temperatures in the low 40s. We just got our ten-minute micro-hail shower that tried to turn the ground white, but just ended up muddy. So this evening is clean and pack time.

Michigan Forest Designation Project

The Sierra Club is offering members and others a chance to help the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designate the most special places in our four million-acre Michigan State Forest system, home to lakes, rivers, vernal pools, and other gems.

The DNR has begun designating the most special of these areas as “High Value Conservation Forests.” They have instituted a process allowing the public to identify and nominate these special pieces of our forests for protected status. This is your opportunity to get out in the woods and help protect the places you love! No experience is necessary.

The Sierra Club will teach you about the DNR requirements and how to scout out suitable forest areas. We will also help you complete the DNR nominating form. If you’d like to get involved, contact chapter coordinator Amanda Hightree at 517-484-2372 or amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org.





"We donated \$140 last year to prevent sprawl and protect wildlife. It was easy, and didn't cost us anything extra."
--Gwen Nystuen

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 up to \$1 for the local Sierra Club.

"A bonus for nature for every grocery purchase I make—even chocolate!"
--Rita Mitchell

Help preserve nature at no cost to you!

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

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 (reloadable)						
Hiller's Markets ² (reloadable)						
Kroger ² (reloadable)						
Produce Station ¹						
Whole Foods ¹ (and affiliated stores)						
Meijer	A rebate program, no vouchers (neither paper nor cards). Please see http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/SFTE_Meijer.pdf or call Betsy at 734-997-9348.					

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.

Arbor Farms uses paper vouchers rather than electronic cards.

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

Name: _____
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Mail to:
 Betsy Noren
 (betsynoren@gmail.com)
 1516 Glen Leven
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 (Your data will not be shared)

Shopping for the Earth Update: A NEW Way You Can Help the Earth!

Shopping for the Earth now offers you **two** ways you can help the earth with your regular shopping:

1. A mail-in order form for EarthCash vouchers to local stores (see page 12 for the reply form).
2. **NEW!** Online ordering for national and some local stores through the Great Lakes Scrip program.

With both options, this costs you nothing — **you get full face value for any gift cards you buy, and the Sierra Club receives a contribution on each of your purchases.** The Shopping for the Earth program has allowed the Huron Valley Group to strongly support proposals that have allocated millions of dollars to protect land in our area.

The new online ordering option through Great Lakes Scrip lets you order gift cards from many national merchants like Amazon, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Land's End, and many others including department stores, restaurants, office supply stores, hardware stores, movie theaters, airlines, hotels and other categories.

Some local merchants are also included. These are in addition to the local merchants already participating in the mail-in program.

Another plus: **you can order and pay for the cards online!**

Detailed instructions and information for using shopwithscrip are available at our website: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron>

Any questions, please e-mail Ed Steinman at esteinma@umich.edu.

Thank you for participating in Shopping for the Earth!

Ed Steinman & Betsy Noren

**HVG participation in the Great Lakes Scrip program does not imply endorsement of participating vendors.*

Here's a Sampling of Participating Local Stores:

- ◆ People's Food Co-op
- ◆ Arbor Brewing Company
- ◆ Arbor Farms
- ◆ Busch's
- ◆ Hiller's Markets
- ◆ Kroger
- ◆ Produce Station
- ◆ Whole Foods

Participating National Stores:

- ◆ Borders
- ◆ LL Bean
- ◆ Sears
- ◆ Amazon
- ◆ iTunes
- ◆ Land's End
- ◆ And hundreds more!

Great for:

- ◆ Regular purchases like grocery shopping
- ◆ Giving as Gifts
- ◆ Making online purchases

**Help the Sierra Club
at no cost to you!**

Michigan's Rare Plants and Animals



The bald eagle is no longer endangered in Michigan.
(Photo: USFWS)

DNR Recovers Seven Species, Adds 69 to State Endangered Species List

Information from Chris Hoving, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

What do the **lambda snaggletooth**, **three horn wartyback** and delicate vertigo have in common? All three are freshwater mollusks recently added to Michigan's list of threatened and endangered species.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently revised its list of threatened and endangered species after a painstaking review process. The list, which now includes 396 species, had 69 additions. The most notable addition is the **cerulean warbler**, a striking blue, black and white bird that summers in mature forests featuring well developed shrub layers. The cerulean warbler is a species of concern under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program.

On a positive note, the populations of seven species have recovered to the point that they were removed from the list. These include two plants, two insects, and most notably the **bald eagle**, **osprey** and **gray wolf**.

"Many conservationists in Michigan have been working for decades to help species like the eagle, osprey and the wolf," said DNR endangered species specialist Chris Hoving. "When we really apply ourselves, we can recover these species. I see this as a moment to celebrate these conservation success stories."

Snails and plants led the list of newly listed species. Michigan is one of a few states that include plants on its threatened and endangered species list. Also in evidence are a number of freshwater mussels, subjects of intense investigation in recent years.

"Many of the newly listed species are associated with rivers," Hoving said. "Anything we can do to improve water quality, wetlands or floodplain habitat will help."

Michigan's list is reviewed regularly by technical review committees headed by experts from universities and other research institutions. Reviews are subject to public comment, which sometimes result in changes to the list.

For more information on endangered species in Michigan, visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr. The Endangered & Nongame Wildlife page can be found under Wildlife & Habitat menu.

Michigan Threatened and Endangered Species Statistics

Plants

- 79 endangered species
- 198 threatened species
- 110 special concern species

Mollusks

- 26 endangered species
- 16 threatened species
- 37 special concern species

Insects

- 7 endangered species
- 14 threatened species
- 75 special concern species

Fishes

- 9 endangered species
- 9 threatened species
- 11 special concern species

Amphibians

- 2 endangered species
- 1 threatened species
- 2 special concern species

Reptiles

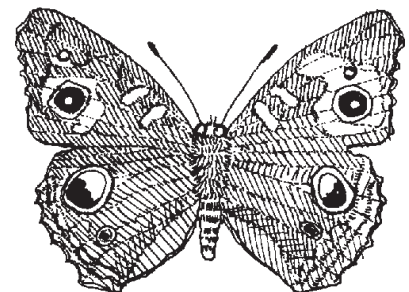
- 2 endangered species
- 3 threatened species
- 6 special concern species

Birds

- 9 endangered species
- 14 threatened species
- 21 special concern species

Mammals

- 4 endangered species
- 3 threatened species
- 4 special concern species





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www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

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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!

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Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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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.

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- Calendar of Events - pages 7-8
- Yellowstone Inside Out - page 10



Do you like to write? Edit? Crunch numbers? Make a difference?

Then you may be able to help! The Sierra Club Huron Valley Group is looking for additional volunteers. Great for your resume, a fun team to work with, and a great way to help spread the word about protecting the environment. Volunteer jobs include:

- Treasurer
- Newsletter editor
- Article writer
- Website editor/designer
- Ad salesperson

To learn more, call Suzie Heiney at (734) 377-8248 or email hvgnews@yahoo.com. We look forward to talking with you!