



# THE LOOKOUT

Huron Valley Group  
Vol. 31 No.2 Summer 2009



## Washtenaw Inner City Outings Launches Program with Bryant Community Center!

Washtenaw Inner City Outings (WICO) welcomed eleven youth from Bryant Community Center in Ann Arbor on May 16, 2009, for their very first outing. Along with Jan Brimacombe, a retired Bryant school teacher; several volunteers from Circle K, the student component of the Kiwanis; and the fabulous staff at Pinckney Recreation Area, we set off on an evening hike and campfire. Pinckney Recreation Area has many lovely trails. We selected the Losee Lake Trail which starts right near the Silver Lake picnic area because bikes are not allowed on it, and it is a nice short beginning hike for a group of active 8-10 year-olds.

Caitlin Thomas, the park explorer guide, explained how to prepare to hike a trail, including safety, the 'leave no trace' ethic, having a trail map to guide you, and staying on the trail to avoid poison ivy and sumac. Several sandhill cranes passed overhead as we started out. The youth were startled and entranced by this strange loud bird that none of them had ever witnessed before.

After the hike we returned to the fire ring. Park ranger Mike Cutsinger set up a campfire for the group and Caitlin reviewed fire safety and how to use metal sticks to toast marshmallows. WICO leaders demonstrated how to make a s'more without touching a burning hot marshmallow on a burning hot stick. The youth polished off the entire stock of s'more ingredients in record time. The darkness settled in and the temperature dropped, and it was soon time to head back to Bryant.

Bryant youth enjoyed their first outing so much that WICO scheduled a fishing outing for them on June 13. Outing leader Barbara Powell, along with county park naturalist Faye Stoner and WICO volunteer Tom Days, escorted five teenagers from Bryant to the fishing pier at Rolling Hills County Park in Ypsilanti. Park superintendent Steve Wyatt provided fishing poles and equipment while Faye reviewed fishing safety, baiting the hook, casting into the water and removing the fish from the hook and releasing it back into the  
*ICO Program continued pg. 3*

By Vera Hernandez, Washtenaw ICO chair, and Barbara Powell, outing leader



*Checking out turtles & other wildlife at Rolling Hills County Park with Inner City Outings*

# 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  
Ginny Archer  
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Bruce Graves  
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Bob Treemore  
Scott Tyrrell  
Kim Waldo  
Jack Woodward  
Connie Zatsick  
Kate (drat, we didn't catch your last name! Thank you!)

Thank you! If we've missed or misspelled your name, just drop us a line – [hvgnews@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:hvgnews@yahoo.com). Thanks

## Opportunities for Learning and Renewal

For details on programs, fees and how to register go to [www.michiganfriendscenter.org](http://www.michiganfriendscenter.org) or 734-475-1892

**Living Lightly: Touching Nature, Feeding Spirit,** deepening our connections to the natural world with fun and exploration — Faye Stoner, Jeanne Mackey, Marijo Grogan & the Eysters — Teddy, Harold and Artemis.

*Saturday, Aug. 22/ 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM*

**Food Preservation with Kristen Uthus** a hands-on canning workshop along with discussion of other methods and what are best for different produce.

*Saturday Aug. 29/ 2-5 PM*

**Knitting & Crafting with Friends**

*First Thursday of every month/ 7 - 9PM*

**Meditation Retreats** see [www.ChelseaMeditation.com](http://www.ChelseaMeditation.com)

*Sept.19-20, Oct.18, Nov.22, Dec 27 /9 AM-4:30 PM*

**Autumnal Equinox Celebration**

*Wednesday, September 23, 5 - 9 PM*

**Justice, Peace & Reconciliation in South Africa**

*Saturday, Oct. 24/ 1:30 - 4:30 PM*

**Living Lightly on Energy & Climate Change**

*Saturday, November 7/ 8:30AM -5:30PM*

**Solstice Sing** *Monday, December 21, 7-9 PM*

For 100 Years,  
Your  
Downtown Source  
for Bird Feed.

**DOWNTOWN  
HOME & GARDEN**  
210 S. Ashley Ann Arbor, Mi 734-662-8122

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## Inner Cities Outing Program continued from page 1.

lake. All the youth caught at least one fish and were delighted by the new experience.

We would love to continue offering outings with Bryant. We need more certified leaders to continue offering outings with our three agencies: Hikone, Green Baxter and now Bryant. WICO currently has only five certified outing leaders. If you have ever considered getting involved with Washtenaw Inner City Outings, now is the time to step up and make the commitment. Perhaps you have a special outdoor skill you could share with a child who rarely has the opportunity to experience the natural world. WICO schedules many outings throughout the year. New volunteers are welcome to join us on an outing anytime. Please take a look at the WICO website for past and future outings to get an idea what we offer. We need your help coming up with trip ideas and planning them.



In addition to outings leaders, WICO also has the following administrative volunteer positions open: Additional co-chair, volunteer coordinator, fundraising committee member, and website manager. Please contact us for details on volunteering for any of these positions or becoming a certified leader.

To learn more about the program, please contact us at [washtenawico@yahoo.com](mailto:washtenawico@yahoo.com) or visit our website at: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/ico/washtenaw/ico.html>

*More fun at Rolling Hills County Park with Inner City Outings.*





By Emily Springfield

# Preserving

Southeast Michigan is blessed with an amazing variety of local foods: from apples to zucchini, from beets to wheat, from shitakes to beer, and even including sugar and oil. In all my research on local foodsheds, I've found few places (especially outside California) that have such an abundance and variety of local foods.

In fact, one might argue that the biggest barrier to eating locally in our area is winter. It used to be that folks knew how to prepare and store food to last through the winter and early spring, but it's a skill we've largely lost. Enter Preserving Traditions, a community group based out of the Pittsfield Grange and dedicated to "preserving our harvest, our heritage, our community, and our future."

## Preserving our harvest

Preserving Traditions teaches classes on canning, pickling, and traditional cooking from scratch. There have been classes on making noodles, grinding your own wheat, and making yogurt, granola, and jam. In the works are classes on making pickles and sauerkraut, canning salsa, and more. We use ingredients from the farmers' market, the grocery store, or our own back yards. We try to time classes to coincide with the season when produce is most abundant, high quality, and inexpensive.

## Preserving our heritage

Along with the skills for cooking and

# Traditions

canning, we're in danger of losing a lot of our food heritage. Did you ever can tomatoes with your mom? It may have been a chore, but it was also a great time to talk and to connect with "this is the way your grandma did it, and she learned it from her grandma." It may be too late to learn from your own grandmother, but you can learn from someone else's – or teach what you know to someone eager to learn.

Preserving Traditions is part of the Grange – a fraternal organization for farmers and rural folks founded in the mid-1800s. The Grange has a rich history of supporting local food producers and providing community for folks who were often isolated from their neighbors by great distances. It's open to all folks who value local food, community, and agriculture, whether you're a farmer, a window-sill gardener, or just a fan of food from the land. You can learn more about the Grange at [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org).

## Preserving our community

In hard economic times, community sufficiency is even more important than self-sufficiency. No one can do everything, but communities often contain a full range of skills and resources – if we can just find each other to help out. In the last 50 years, many of us have moved out of our family-based communities and our neighborhoods of close friends. Preserving Traditions is a place for individuals and families to reconnect with neighbors. It's also a great way to share resources. The Grange kitchen – and all the

*continued pg.5*



The motto of Preserving Traditions: Yes. We Can!



Scenes from a recent Preserving Traditions workshop: a pie crust dough before it starts to take shape, and a gorgeous pie ready to be popped into the oven.

# 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 10 July 2009**

Distance driven:	123,730 miles
Fuel purchased:	3,783 gallons gasoline equivalent (GGE)
Fuel economy:	32.7 miles/GGE
Fuel cost of CNG used:	\$4,914
Average fuel cost:	\$1.298 per GGE
Cost economy:	25.2 miles per dollar
Savings over gasoline:	\$2,840
Payback mileage*:	80,156
Payback date*:	4 October 2006 (payback complete!)

\* Payback of \$4,500 purchase premium for natural gas fuel option reduced by \$2000 Clean Cities cash rebate and \$2,000 federal income deduction at 28% marginal tax rate in effect at time of purchase.

## **Estimated exhaust emissions of different passenger vehicles driven 123,730 miles**

(pounds)	Average car on road in 2000	California LEV**	Civic GX
Hydrocarbons	763	20.4	0.82
Carbon monoxide	5,696	927	43.6
Oxides of nitrogen	379	54.5	5.45
Total (pounds)	6,838	1,001.9	49.87

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

## ***Preserving Traditions continued***

canning equipment – is available to members to rent at an extremely reasonable rate to have group canning parties. Bring half a dozen friends, some empty canning jars, a couple bushels of produce, and have a “canning bee”!

### **Preserving our future**

As oil becomes more and more expensive, it will become ever more important to eat locally produced foods. Now is the time to learn how to find, prepare, and preserve these foods. Buying local food keeps our farmers in business; preparing and eating the foods helps us adjust our tastes to what's available locally, and preserving local foods gives us something to eat all winter! That sounds a lot more secure than a 401k, don't you think?

### **Workshops**

Workshops are held the second Sunday of every month (except December) from 2-4:30 pm at the Pittsfield Grange (3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.). The price is \$5 (free for members of the Grange), and we often ask you to bring an ingredient or two. Equipment and incidentals are provided, and you'll almost always go home with a handout and something tasty.

September 13: Learn to can salsa (a good basic intro to canning)

October 11: Learn to make sauerkraut (it's probiotic, like yogurt!)

November 8: Learn to make pierogies (including the homemade noodle!)

The full schedule and the online RSVP are available at <http://preservingtraditions.wordpress.com/events/>.

For further information:

If you have questions, would like to participate in a workshop or canning day, or are interested in learning more about Preserving Traditions or the Grange, please contact Emily Springfield at [preservetrad@gmail.com](mailto:preservetrad@gmail.com) or see one of the following web sites:

[www.preservingtraditions.org](http://www.preservingtraditions.org)  
[www.pittsfieldgrange.org](http://www.pittsfieldgrange.org)  
[www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org)

# Huron Valley Group Elections

The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group is responsible for the administration and operation of the group. The seven members of ExCom serve two-year terms, with an annual election of either three or four members. The election is at the end of the year, but the process leading to the election starts many months earlier. The group bylaws and standing rules describe the schedule of events for each election and require that the schedule be announced to all members.

Any group member can seek nomination to be a candidate in the annual ExCom election. Members willing to serve can be nominated either through the Nominating Committee or by petition signed by at least 15 group members. No member may be nominated or elected against their will.

The Nominating Committee recruits and selects candidates. The committee consists of at least three group members, at least one of whom shall not be an ExCom member, and none may be a candidate in the upcoming election.

The Election Committee is responsible for the production, mailing, receipt, and counting of ballots. It also consists of at least three group members, at least one of whom shall not be an ExCom member, and none may be a candidate in the upcoming election.

Group members who wish to be considered for nomination before the Nominating Committee is appointed may inform the group secretary (Joel Dalton). The secretary will also assist members seeking nomination by petition.

Ballots are normally counted at the conclusion of the December general meeting, but the Election Committee may choose another time and place. Candidates or their representatives may observe the counting. Ballots and nomination petitions are retained until ordered destroyed by ExCom at their next regular meeting.

This schedule is defined by the group bylaws adopted April 6, 2000, and standing rules adopted October 5, 2000.

***See Election Schedule Chart Page 14.***

## You're Invited to the Sierra Club Retreat

*Photo courtesy Phil Rairigh*



You're invited! Join us the weekend of **August 28, 29, & 30, 2009**, at the beautiful sunny shores of Lake Michigan at Camp Miniwanca, our perennial favorite summer camp!

Sierra Club's annual weekend retreat is a great chance to relax and have fun with like-minded friends and meet new people, learn about key environmental issues and grassroots organizing skills, and commune with nature for an emotional recharge. It takes place at Camp Miniwanca, located between Stony Lake and Lake Michigan at Shelby (between Muskegon and Ludington). There are 360 acres of pristine woods to explore and more than a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline to enjoy.

The Michigan Chapter Retreat is a very family-friendly adventure. Camp Miniwanca provides: kayaking, wind surfing,

river tubing, swimming, high ropes course, hiking, outdoor games, campfires, great meals, and more. We also have family crafts, guided hikes, environmental education programs, and activist workshops. On Saturday night, our keynote speaker will be Skip Pruss, director of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth. Afterwards, we will have a live and silent auction that will be followed by the musical talents of variety cover band "Two Steps Higher."

The registration fee of \$65-170 per person (age- and lodging-dependent) includes all workshops, three meals Saturday, two meals Sunday, and two nights lodging in your choice of a private dorm room, rustic cabin, or your own tent. You can register or learn more on the **Chapter Retreat website, [www.sierraretreat.org](http://www.sierraretreat.org)**.

# 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 Group 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.



**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: **Winter Study**, by Nevada Barr — a mystery set among the wolf studies on Isle Royale. Join us for discussion - all 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](mailto:DorothyK@isr.umich.edu) or 734-668-6306 for location.

**Friday-Sunday August 28-30, 2009. Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Retreat.** You're invited to Lake Michigan at Camp Miniwanca! Sierra Club's annual weekend retreat is a great chance to relax and have fun with like-minded friends and meet new people, learn about key environmental issues and grassroots organizing skills, and commune with nature for an emotional recharge. It takes place at Camp Miniwanca, between Stony Lake and Lake Michigan at Shelby (between Muskegon and Ludington). There are 360 acres of pristine woods to explore and more than a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline to enjoy at this family-friendly retreat. Details and registration: [www.sierraretreat.org](http://www.sierraretreat.org).



**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](mailto:doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org) for location.

**Tuesday September 8, 2009. 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: **Thinking in Systems**, by Donella Meadows. Join us for discussion - all 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 contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118.



# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar

**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: **Pandora's Locks: How the St. Lawrence Seaway Brought the Ecological Disaster of Invasive Species to the Great Lakes**, with Jeff Alexander, author of Pandora's Locks: The Opening of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway. Everyone welcome; refreshments provided.



**Sunday, September 20, 2009. Crooked Lake Loop Hike-Swim (Waterloo Rec. Area).** Visit mature woods, huge hills, gurgling streams and a serene lake on this 5-mile hike & swim with guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse (Westgate Shopping Center) at 1:00 pm, or at the Crooked Lake access site, 1:45 pm. Call Jay Schlegel for directions and details: 734-477-5715.



**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.

**Wednesday October 7, 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 October 11, 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 details, please contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118.



**Tuesday October 13, 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 welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 for details.



**Sunday October 18, 2009. Blind Lake Loop Hike (Pinckney State Rec. Area).** Hike around Blind Lake & Half Moon Lake and across the Portage River, through mature woods and rugged terrain. This seven-mile hike is led by guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse (Westgate Shopping Center) at 1:00 pm, or at Hankerd Rd. just south of the Pickerel Lake access road, 1:45 pm. Call Jay Schlegel for directions and details: 734-477-5715.



**Tuesday October 20, 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.

**Monday October 26, 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 November 4, 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 November 8, 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 details, please contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118.



**Tuesday November 10, 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**. All are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 for details.



**Sunday November 15, 2009. Cedar Lake Esker Outing (Waterloo State Rec. Area).** Hike the tallest esker in our area with stunning views of three lakes, and around the Discovery Center. This hike is on trails off-limits to hunting. The four-mile hike will be led by guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse (Westgate Shopping Center) at 1:00 pm, or at the trailhead along the access road to Cedar Lake, 1:45 pm. Call Jay Schlegel for directions and details: 734-477-5715.





# A Tale of Two Portages

By Barry Lonik

Two of the local rivers covered by Ron Sell and me at our June presentation to Huron Valley Group members and others share the same name, as do lakes through which they flow. The rivers head in opposite directions, one flowing west and eventually into Lake Michigan, while the other takes an easterly route into Lake Erie. The named shared is "Portage," a French word meaning "to carry", as Natives and French traders used the waterways to traverse the mitten in the days before cars, wagons, and even horses, and often crossed over land into adjacent watersheds.

The cross-state water route from Detroit to Chicago was described in the journals of English merchant Hugh Heward as he blazed through the wilderness of southern lower Michigan in early 1790. Heward took two large canoes and a crew of men from Belle Isle in the Detroit River downstream to where the Huron River enters Lake Erie beginning in April. They headed upstream to the last settlement on the river (and anywhere), which is where Ypsilanti is located today. The intrepid explorers continued upstream to Dexter, where they went up Mill Creek thinking it was the main river. Back on track, the canoes made their way to Big and Little Portage Lakes and upstream on the Portage River to two small lakes southeast of today's Stockbridge.

It was at this point that Heward recognized the expedition was short on food, so he directed his crew to slog through the gigantic swamp in which they were mired to the westward-flowing Portage. His own equally delightful job was to procure more food, so he and one of the crew hiked back to Ypsilanti, some 40 miles back on foot. (In doing so, they walked right past where my house stands on Island Lake Road.) They purchased a couple big sacks of dried corn and a turkey and trekked back to the wet, hungry bunch of *voyageurs*. Heward's team eventually reached the Grand River and followed that to Lake Michigan, then turned south along the coast, making it all the way to the Chicago River—then still flowing through the huge coastal marsh left by the glaciers there—and overland to the Illinois River, the Mississippi, and beyond.

The Portages still offer remarkably enjoyable wilderness experiences for today's travelers. On the Huron Portage, an easy but delightful trip starts at the western Bowdish Road bridge in northwesternmost Washtenaw County. Access is good and parking fair, and the water is clear and calm. Heading northerly and upstream one reaches McIntyre Lake in a short while. The lake is deep enough for swimming, and there is dry ground on the southeast corner with an opportunity

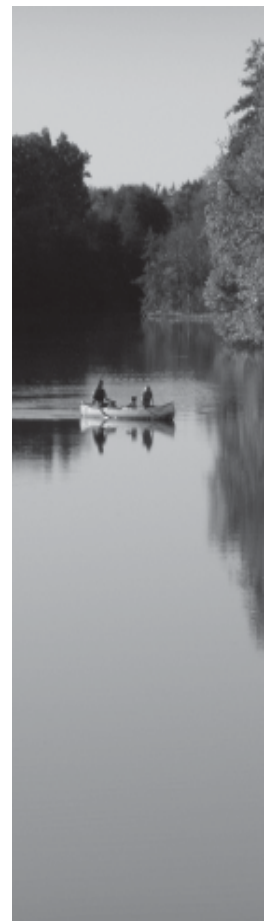
for a campsite or two. Continue upstream in a channel and reach McConachie Lake, also deep enough for swimming. (High ground between the two lakes is reportedly the portage route taken by Heward.) These lakes are in the middle of a large open marsh with spectacular views, part of the Unadilla State Game Area. Paddle back to Bowdish Road after several hours of relaxing paddling.

A pleasant paddle on the Grand Portage starts at the Mt. Hope Road bridge, where access is fair (best location is upstream right) and parking is poor, though there is a DNR parking lot on the east side a short walk south of the bridge. The water is surprisingly deep (3-6') and clear with a sandy bottom all the way to the Little Portage Lake (LPL) chain with no obstacles. Opportunities for wildlife viewing are excellent, especially for migrating waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. There are some open marsh areas, but generally the riparian area is thickly vegetated with alders and dogwoods, with almost no high ground.

The LPL chain is entered at the northeast corner. There are a couple houses on the east side but it is otherwise unpopulated. This first bay is 53 acres in size and has a max depth of 20 feet, pretty much right in the middle; the lake is 909 feet above sea level.

LPL proper is 68 acres in size with a max depth of 21 feet near its south end. There is a campground/trailer park on the southern shore near the channel leading south, and a few houses behind that, but it is also otherwise unpopulated. The southernmost bay is 34 acres in size and has a couple 20-foot holes. To continue the river trip, hug the western shore of LPL proper through a channel, passing by another unpopulated bay to the south and then west in the channel. The river regains its previous appearance albeit wider.

The Portage passes a huge farm with numerous pastures on the right bank. It then changes dramatically as it enters a marsh that was once connected to Big Portage Lake (BPL). The channel widens and becomes very shallow and may be impassable in lower water from submergent vegetative growth. Head south through this marsh, and haul over the berm that forms the northern shore of BPL. The southern shore is public land managed by the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources. From the berm, head south to the shore and east; the boat launch is reached first, with the beach further down the shoreline. The park entrance is off Seymour Road between Portage Lake Road and Welch Lake Road.



# Pulling Ahead in the Fight against Garlic Mustard

By Erin Mittendorf

Between May 8th and June 15th, the Stewardship Network ran its second annual Garlic Mustard Challenge. The Challenge aims to collectively pull 100 tons of the invasive plant garlic mustard. The Network began this event as a way to raise awareness about the impact of invasive plants on our natural areas as well as to show the collective impact of our individual actions. We've turned the fight against a harmful invasive plant into a fierce and fun competition!

The Stewardship Network covers southern Michigan in geographic units called "Clusters." Clusters are designed to be small enough for these areas to focus their work on restoration projects specific to their region's landscapes, and to ensure face-to-face contact between our volunteers and partners. Washtenaw County makes up the Huron-Arbor Cluster, which works closely with the City of Ann Arbor



*The coveted Cluster Cup!*

Natural Area Preservation, the Legacy Land Conservancy (the new name of the Washtenaw Land Trust), Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum, the Huron River Watershed Council, and many more groups and individuals. In the

Garlic Mustard Challenge, Clusters compete for the coveted Cluster Cup, awarded to the Cluster that reported the most pounds of garlic mustard pulled during the Challenge.

Competition exploded during this year's Challenge. Reports ranged from 13 pounds pulled while walking the family dog to over 15,000 pulled by a group of 400 school-aged kids and other volunteers at an organized pull. Last year's reigning

## Upcoming Stewardship Events

### **Approaching Forest Ecosystems - Forests are More Than the Sum of Their Trees"**

**Wednesday September 2, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

**Cost: \$10/\$15**

**Location: Leslie Science & Nature Center and**

**Saturday September 5, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Cost: \$10/\$15**

**Location: Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

Join us for this two-part workshop series (you may attend either one or both workshops). Developing an appropriate forest preserve management plan requires an understanding of multiple site factors, including an estimate of the pre-European settlement vegetation, topography, soils, current vegetation, disturbance, and current flora. Robert Ayotte, forest ecology consultant and steward, reviews glacial landforms and their relationship to soils, hydrology, and vegetation, with the goal of estimating the ecological potentials within forested preserves. The Saturday field trip into Radrick Forest (Matthaei Botanical Gardens) will focus on three closely situated, but vastly different, forest ecosystems and their characteristic landforms and soils.

### **Identifying Trees in All Seasons**

**Saturday October 10, 9:00 am - noon**

**Cost: \$10/\$15 - Location: TBD**

Can you name that tree? Join Mike Penskar, botany program leader for Michigan Natural Features Inventory, at a local forest (to be announced) to learn how to differentiate tree species. We'll look at leaves, buds, and bark, and examine where trees grow. These key characteristics will help you identify trees in all seasons. At this workshop, you'll enjoy an autumn morning and get hands-on practice at tree identification. This workshop is outdoors with easy to moderate walking. Come prepared for the autumn weather and field conditions.

### **Native Seed Collection**

**Sunday October 18, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, workday; 4:00 - 5:00 pm, ID workshop**

**Cost: Free**

**Location: Island Lake State Recreation Area**

Ever wonder how to collect native prairie seeds? Laurel Malvitz will teach you how to identify plants without their flowers, how to know when the seed is ready, how much to collect, and how to store and process the seed. Get hands-on experience identifying and collecting different species of native grasses and wildflowers. This workshop is outdoors with easy to moderate walking. Come prepared for the autumn weather and field conditions in an open prairie setting.

# Women and the Environment

My family and I are strong believers in doing our part in helping save the planet. Now more than ever, we must all do our part in the three R's: reusing, reducing and recycling. With threats such as rising sea levels and millions of people lacking access to clean water, now is the time for each of us to make a conscious effort to protect our environment.

My family makes a very conscious effort to do all the three R's each day. With simple steps – bringing your own reusable cloth bags to the grocery store, and recycling newspaper, glass, and tin – each of us can make a difference.

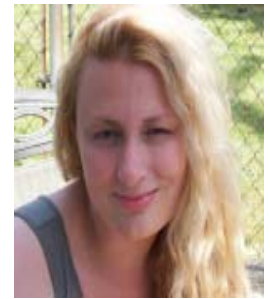
I have always had a strong desire to learn about courageous women who made a difference. I also had a strong desire to learn about extraordinary women in history who broke through barriers, hence the reason I earned both my degrees in Women and Gender Studies. Throughout the course of my education I have been inspired and motivated by the lives of the many pioneer women I've learned of. Because of their inspiration, I have been able to overcome many obstacles in my own life. I was the first woman in my family to attend college and was anything but a traditional student. I was a single parent facing enormous economic hardship, attending one class at a time while holding down

a full-time job. It was no easy feat, but I was determined to succeed.

As a teacher, I now teach others about the women who were pioneers in helping to save our planet. These extraordinary eco-pioneers include Rachel Carson [*Silent Spring*], Maude Barlow [*Blue Covenant*], and others who stood strong in the face of adversity. Their stories form the core of my course "Women and The Environment."

Students in my online courses come from a variety of backgrounds. Such difference provides varied integration of thought and dialogue, enriching the learning experience. I have seen dramatic transformations in students who didn't know a thing about global warming or climate change, by their taking only one class.

In *Women and the Environment*, I cover vital topics such as our dwindling fresh water supply, the dangers of pesticides and chemicals, and the stories of a number of courageous eco-pioneers. In upcoming issues of the *Outlook*, I will be discussing these and other environmental issues which are making an impact on students. It is surely an exciting time with so much good happening. Have a safe, happy and eco-friendly summer. See you in the fall!



By Nancy Bishop

*Nancy L. Bishop is an online instructor for the University of Louisville and North Carolina State University. She earned her B.S and M.A in Women and Gender Studies from Eastern Michigan University in 2005 and 2008. She lives in Dearborn, Michigan.*

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## ***Garlic Mustard cotinured from p. 10***



*Stewardship Network staffers & friends have garlic mustard in the bag!*

champ, the West Michigan Cluster, took an early lead. In the last week, though, reports started flooding in from the Southwest Corner Cluster and our very own Huron-Arbor Cluster.

On Tuesday, July 14, the Cluster Cup was awarded to the Huron-Arbor Cluster during a ceremony held at the Chelsea Train Depot. Congratulations to Huron-Arbor Cluster co-coordinators Jason Frenzel (City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division) and Suzie Heiney (Legacy Land Conservancy), and the more than 400 individuals in our cluster who reported more than 35,000 pounds of garlic mustard pulled during the Challenge!

Besides holding the Garlic Mustard Challenge, the Stewardship Network promotes natural areas protection and restoration through various workshops oriented towards people with all levels of experience, hosts free monthly webcasts on restoration topics, maintains an online discussion forum to help connect people with the answers and resources they need to develop their own restoration projects, and more.

The Stewardship Network's mission is to increase capacity to protect, restore, and manage natural lands and waters. Learn more at [www.StewardshipNetwork.org](http://www.StewardshipNetwork.org) or by calling 734-996-3190.

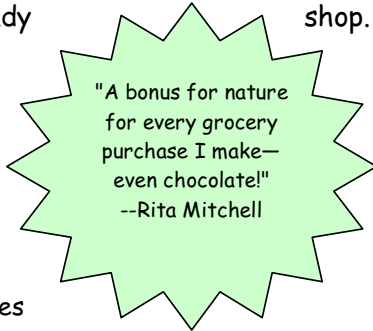


# Shop to Stop Sprawl!

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 cards for the stores where you already shop.

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



**Help preserve nature at no cost to you!**

Complete details and online ordering for many other stores available at:  
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/sfte.htm>

## Shopping for the Earth Order Form

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

Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op <sup>1</sup>	cards @ \$25 ea.	cards @ \$50 ea.
Arbor Brewing Company <sup>1</sup>	cards @ \$25 ea.	
Arbor Farms <sup>1</sup>	cards @ \$20 ea.	
Borders Books & Music <sup>1</sup>	cards @ \$25 ea.	cards @ \$50 ea.
Busch's <sup>2</sup> (reloadable)	cards @ \$5 ea.	
Hiller's Markets <sup>2</sup> (reloadable)	cards @ \$50 ea.	
Kroger <sup>2</sup> (reloadable) <sup>3</sup>	cards @ \$5 ea.	
Produce Station <sup>1</sup>	cards @ \$25 ea.	cards @ \$50 ea.
Whole Foods <sup>1</sup> (and affiliated stores)	cards @ \$50 ea.	cards @ \$100 ea.
Meijer	A rebate program, no cards or certificates. Please see <a href="http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/SFTE_Meijer.pdf">http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/SFTE_Meijer.pdf</a> or e-mail Ed Steinman at <a href="mailto:esteinma@umich.edu">esteinma@umich.edu</a>	

**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.

**3 Kroger:** be sure to register at <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com> and record your card number in your account information so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads.

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**  
 Ed Steinman  
 (esteinma@umich.edu)  
 621 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
*(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](mailto: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.*

Help the Sierra Club  
at no cost to you!

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



# One Nest, Two Kids, Three Lessons

By Ray Stocking

This past June we told our two kids (ages 6 and 4) that a pair of house finches were nesting in our front porch hanging plants again. I lifted them up daily to show them the progress of the nest. Soon after this discovery, we had our first egg in the nest. We watched as momma bird would add another egg daily. Finally, on the fourth day the egg laying stopped and momma was now sitting on the nest. That was the first lesson...



*The three house finch eggs and the recently deposited cowbird egg.*

are highly adaptable to urban settings.

Two days into incubation, I took a peek into the nest, and much to my surprise, there were now FOUR eggs in the nest! However, this fourth egg was clearly different from the three eggs previously deposited. I knew right away that a cowbird had raided the nest. Cowbirds are native, and I knew they are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This meant that eggs cannot be removed from

nests without a permit.

I wanted this to be a learning lesson for my kids, so I showed them the nest with four eggs and pointed out the larger egg. I told them how this happened and how it was part of nature's way of doing business. I also told them that cowbirds are parasitic and that they lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and let someone else do the parenting. Finally, I explained to them that the outlook for the three baby house finches looked bleak because of this cowbird egg.

Lesson #2: Nature works in funny ways...

Several days after discovering the cowbird egg, I took a peek into the hanging basket. I had not seen or heard the finches all day, so I was curious. I was shocked to see that all four eggs were gone! The nest was clean and there were no signs of broken eggshells anywhere. I knew there was one more lesson to be learned in all this. So I gathered my kids and showed them the empty nest. I then explained that there are many other birds and critters out there who love to eat eggs. And these creatures, blue jays, crows, raccoons, etc....., exist all around us. Just as the cowbird had raided the house finch nest to lay its egg, so too had another predator.

Lesson #3: Nature is blind. She does not distinguish between good eggs and bad eggs. A nest was raided and the house finches moved on.

*Ray Stocking is president of the Washtenaw Audubon Society.*

## Huron Valley Group Election Schedule

### Election event

- ExCom appoints Nominating Committee
- Nominees inform Nominating Committee of interest
- Nominating Committee selects nominees and informs ExCom and nominees of selection
- Nominees not selected by Nominating Committee deliver petitions to NomCom for consideration
- Nominating Committee declares final candidate list
- ExCom appoints Election Committee
- Election Committee prepares eligible voter list
  
- Ballots mailed to all eligible group members
  
- Election committee accepts ballots
- Election committee counts ballots and informs secretary of results

### Deadline to complete

- August ExCom meeting
- September general meeting
- September general meeting
  
- 2 weeks after Sept. general mtg.
  
- October ExCom meeting
- October ExCom meeting
- 15 October (or when newsletter list is prepared)
- 15 November (or when newsletter is mailed)
- December general meeting
- 31 December



**Huron  
Valley  
Group  
Directory**

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

- Chair  
Doug Cowherd\* 662-5205
- Vice-chair  
Nancy Shiffler\* 971-1157
- Treasurer  
Ken Morley 677-7791
- Secretary  
Joel Dalton\* 945-8132
- Chapter Representative  
Ed Steinman\*\* 665-0248
- 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  
Nancy Shiffler\* 971-1157
- Publicity  
Joel Dalton\* 945-8132
- Program Co-Chairs  
Rita Mitchell 665-0248  
Doug Cowherd\* 662-5205
- Shopping for the Earth  
Betsy Noren 997-9348
- 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  
JamesD'Amour\*  
Matt Grocoff\*

\* = 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 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!

**Membership**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard  Visa Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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**Sierra Club**  
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## Summer 2009

### Inside:

- Inner City Outings - page 1 & 3
- Preserving Tradition pages 4-5
- Calendar of Events - pages 7-8
- Garlic Mustard Wars - 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](mailto:hvgnews@yahoo.com). We look forward to talking with you!