



THE LOOKOUT

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The Blue Nuns Go Green

Old Habits Transformed By Belief That Sustainability Is A Moral Mandate For The 21st Century

By Holly Knight

Nicknamed the "Blue Nuns" for their royal blue habits of bygone days, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), publicly opened the doors of their renovated "green" house in Monroe, Michigan, on Earth Day in 2003.

The work on the 376,000-square-foot Motherhouse, home to 240 sisters and administrative headquarters for the 490-member Catholic congregation, ranks as one of the nation's largest residential sustainable renovations registered with the U.S. Green Building Council. The Detroit Free Press called the Motherhouse a "masterpiece of energy efficiency," and the project has earned eight awards, including top honors from the EPA and the AIA.

The \$56-million renovation is an enormous financial burden, but a risk the sisters chose because they consider sustainability a moral mandate for the 21st century.

Sister Janet Ryan, IHM, says, "We've always been committed to social justice and advocacy for the abandoned and the poor. In this century, we've come to understand the Earth is abandoned in many ways. We consider sustainability a moral mandate for the 21st century."

Green Features

Among the dozens of energy-efficient and "green" design elements incorporated in the Motherhouse is a geothermal heating and cooling system consisting of a field of 232 bore holes 450 feet deep. This is one of the largest privately-funded geothermal fields in the country.

Another feature is a three-acre constructed wetland and gray water filtration system that reduces the sisters' wastewater consumption by over 50 percent.

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Fifty-percent of the demolition materials taken out of the Motherhouse were recycled: 800 windows were rebuilt; 450 cherry wood doors and teak parquet floors were refinished; marble shower stalls were cut into counter tops and window sills; over 100 period light fixtures were retrofitted. Even the plaster walls torn out were crushed and used as roadbeds. And many used but still useful building materials, such as sinks, toilets, wiring and duct work, were sent to the Ann Arbor Reuse Center. Of the 45,260 square feet of carpet in the building, half went to a non-profit organization to be re-used. None went to a landfill.

Sustainable or "green" products eliminated dangerous off-gassing and petroleum-based materials. The sisters chose low-VOC or no-VOC paint (low or free of volatile organic

compounds), water-based adhesives, rapidly renewable cork flooring, a recycled wood and plastic floor for their upstairs veranda, recyclable carpeting, and gypsum fiberboards for interior walls.

Walking the Talk

"The state of our Motherhouse, our home, forced us to make a decision about the way we live," says Sister Virginia Pfau, a former president of the congregation. "We came to realize humans live in interdependent relationship with each other and with all life on the planet. By practicing the principles of right relationship, we hope to be a restorative presence on Earth rather than a destructive one."

Because of the IHM's historic commitment to education as a transformative process, the sisters use their Motherhouse and their 280-acre grounds of oak savannah, organic gardens, farmland, pond, wetlands, open meadows and a retreat center as a learning laboratory and teaching center devoted to sustainable living.

Since the doors opened in 2003, over 6,000 people have taken tours of the IHM Motherhouse. The site has drawn thousands of requests from architects, engineers, developers, religious communities, writers, environmental agencies, business and civic organizations, faculty and students.

The IHM sisters hope that their renovation project will stimulate similar projects, as well as provide an example of how religious beliefs can be put into action in a new way.



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

Inner City Outings Looks Forward to 2010

by Barbara Powell

Vera Hernandez was recognized at the December meeting of the Huron Valley Group for her outstanding leadership for Washtenaw Inner City Outings (WICO), including five years as WICO chair. Vera has stepped down as chair, but she will continue with WICO as a certified leader. Congratulations and thank you, Vera!

WICO has been awarded grants for the coming year from the Community Foundation of South East Michigan and the James A. and Faith Knight Foundation to provide outings for youth at Hikone, Green Baxter and Bryant Community Centers in Ann Arbor. Many thanks to WICO volunteer Tom Days for his grant writing expertise.

On Saturday November 22, WICO volunteers filled a classroom at Matthaei Botanical Gardens for an all-day presentation of the Outdoor Leader Training 101, facilitated by Vera Hernandez and Lorne Beatty, Michigan chapter Outings Chair, with assistance from several other volunteers. The course is a major requirement for becoming a certified outing leader. Participants reviewed all the details for successful outings, enjoyed a lunch of local foods, and hiked a trail at the botanical gardens. Congratulations to the more than one dozen new volunteers who participated and current leaders who received recertification.

New volunteers are welcome to join WICO. Please consider sharing your outdoor skills with youth who otherwise will not experience the natural world. WICO volunteers meet monthly to plan outings. Visit our website <http://ico.sierraclub.org/washtenaw> or email washtenawico@yahoo.com for details.



Greenovation: State of the Art Low Flow Showerheads

by Matt Grocoff,
Producer/Host of
GreenovationTV

[To learn more
about shower-
heads: visit [www.
Greenovation.TV](http://www.Greenovation.TV)]

POP QUIZ:

Which of These Household Items Wastes
the Most Energy?

HINT: It's the one without the plug

- a. refrigerator
- b. dishwasher
- c. plasma Screen TV
with Surround Sound
- d. showerhead

Wasting Shower Water Wastes Energy

We Americans, especially those of us in the Great Lakes region, really love our showers. We shower more often and longer than any other culture on the planet ... ever (see below for useless facts about shower habits). To enjoy our drenching showers, the average household annually spends \$400-600 on water-heating, which doesn't include the additional \$300 spent on water bills.

By 2013, 36 states are expected to experience catastrophic water shortages. But, if you don't care that 900 million people globally don't have access to clean drinking water, maybe you'll have some compassion for that \$100 bill in your wallet.

It's easy to forget that saving water in the shower is actually saving energy. After your heat and a/c, your showerhead and sink faucets are the second biggest energy hogs in your home.

The good news is that there is a really simple solution, even if you can't afford to upgrade your water heater. Replacing your current showerhead with a state-of-the-art low flow showerhead will save you between 40% - 70% [translation: that's \$100 to \$220 per year].



State-of-the-Art Low Flow Showerheads Really Satisfy

Let's be honest. The original low flow showerheads really sucked. There's a Seinfeld episode where Kramer is forced to go to the black-market to find a showerhead made for circus elephants, just to avoid the lame performance of the poorly designed low flow showerhead installed by his landlord.

But, the latest generation of high-efficiency showerheads is engineered to feel the same or better than your old-school energy hog of a showerhead. They are also stylish. In fact, high-end hotels like Paris Las Vegas and Caesar's Palace are using Bricor shower heads [<http://www.bricor.com/prod.htm>] which use as little as 1.25 gallons per minute. If it's good enough for the suite at Caesar's, it's good enough for your shower at home.

Check out the list below of what some of the manufacturers are offering in high performance, low flow showerheads.

The Math of Showerheads

Non-conserving showerheads (pre-1992) use 5-8 gpm, consuming up to 64 gallons of water for a single 8-minute shower. That's more than an entire tank of hot water. If your showerhead is old enough to vote ... it's time to replace it.



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Here's the math:
Average U.S. household shower use
(based on assumption of three 10-minute showers per day)

Bricor 1.5 gpm	Standard 2.5 gpm	Pre-1994 5.5 gpm
1.5 gallons per min.	2.5 gallons per min.	5.5 gallons per min.
45 gallons per day	75 gallons per day	165 gallons per day
17,375 gallons/year	27,375 gallons/year	60,225 gallons/year

SAVINGS PER HOUSEHOLD using a 1.5 gallon per minute showerhead

Versus Standard 2.5 gpm	Versus Pre-1992 5.5 gpm
30 gallon savings per day	120 gallons
10,950 gallon savings/year	42,850 gallons
1400 kwh per year savings	3,080 kwh
\$100 per year energy savings	\$220 per year energy savings

Useless Facts about showering Habits

- Peeing in the shower once a day can save 1,000 gallons of water per year!
- 63% of Americans shower at least once a day.
- 11% shower more than once a day.
- 1% shower less than once per week.
- Men tend to shower more often than women.
- Favorite way to save water: showering together.
- Sixty per cent of Americans share a shower area with a spouse or significant other.
- 25 per cent share space with children, and 17 per cent allow guests to use their shower.

Learn more at www.Greenovation.TV

GTV recommends these high efficiency showerheads which use 1.75 gallons or less:

Bricor - 1/2 to 1.5 gallons per minute options A Greenovation favorite (but tough to find retail) Price: \$109.00



American Standard Flowise - 1.5 - 2.0 adjustable. Available at Home Depot.com Price: \$48.75



Hansgrohe - 1.6 gpm A Greenovation Best Buy. Available at NeedPlumbingSupplies.com Price: \$27.55



Kohler - Forte 1.75 gpm Available at Home Depot.com Price: \$63.71



For links, check out VIDEO: Smoke In Your Shower? Maybe It's the Burning Money at www.Greenovation.TV

The Essential Green Cleaning Kit

By Julie Northrop

***Bonus Tip:**
To infuse your cleaning products with a fresh scent, buy the castile soap with essential oils (like lavender or eucalyptus). You can also purchase individual essential oils and add them to your cleaning recipes.*

You don't have to spend a small fortune at Whole Foods or Plum Market to stock your cleaning closet. Follow the recipes below, and you can mix up your very own green-cleaning arsenal! To make the complete kit you'll need: baking soda, washing soda, borax, liquid castile soap (like Dr. Bronner's), white distilled vinegar, and hydrogen peroxide.

All Purpose Cleaner:

3 tbsp. white vinegar
1/2 tsp. washing soda
1/2 tsp. liquid castile soap
2 cups hot water
Combine ingredients in a spray bottle and shake.

Eco-Soft Scrub:

1/4 cup baking soda
liquid castile soap as needed
Pour baking soda in a bowl. Add castile soap until it achieves a frosting-like texture. Apply to any areas that need scrubbing.

Carpet Refresher:

Sprinkle baking soda on carpets, wait a few hours, then vacuum up.

Drain Cleaner:

1 cup baking soda
3 cups boiling water
Pour the baking soda chased by 3 cups boiling water down the drain (for clogged drains, add 1 cup

vinegar to the water). [Be careful with plastic pipes.]

Window Cleaner:

1/4 cup vinegar
2 cups water
1 tsp. liquid castile soap

Combine ingredients in a spray bottle. Shake bottle and spray on dirty windows; wipe down with newspaper (unlike paper towels, newspaper won't streak or leave paper crumbs on your window!).

Mold Eliminator:

1 part hydrogen peroxide
2 parts water

Spray on mold, wait at least one hour, then scrub off.

Garbage Disposal Freshener:

One lemon

Cut lemon into 4 pieces and run through the garbage disposal. It cleans the blades and leaves a wonderful lemony aroma.

Floor Wash:

1/4 cup liquid castile soap
2 gallons warm water

Mix ingredients in a bucket and you're ready to mop!

Toilet Treatment:

2 cups borax
Squirt of liquid castile soap

Pour borax in the bowl and let it sit overnight. Add a squirt of liquid castile soap, scrub the bowl and flush.



Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar



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

Tuesday February 2, 2010 - 7:15 pm - HVG Executive Committee Meeting. Location TBD. Contact Doug Cowherd for location: doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Friday February 5, 2010 - 5:00 pm - Wilderness State Park Snowshoe/Cross-Country Ski Weekend. Wilderness State Park (903 Wilderness Park Drive, Carp Lake, MI). Close to Mackinaw Bridge, Lower Michigan. 10,000 plus acres, rustic cabin in the park on Lake Michigan. No electricity. Wood stove. Spectacular views. Depart Friday afternoon, return Sunday afternoon. Contact Ewa Roszczenko for details: ewarosz@yahoo.com or 734-756-5362.

Tuesday February 9, 2010 - 7:30 pm - Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor). Book: A World Without Ice, by Henry Pollack -- UM professor and member of the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Free. Contact Nancy Shiffler for details: 734-971-1157.

Monday February 15, 2010 - 7:00 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Meeting. REI Ann Arbor's Community Use Room (970 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor). 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 WICO's events page or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118. Free. 3rd Monday of the month.

Tuesday February 16, 2010 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: Chill the Drills. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor). Kit McGurn is the National Arctic Organizer for the Sierra Club. He is working to educate and engage citizens across the country in Arctic conservation issues. Kit also worked for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition where he organized around issues such as Northern Rockies wolf protection and Roadless area preservation. Free. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Contact: doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Friday February 19, 2010 - 5:00 pm - Ludington State Park/Nordhouse Dunes Snowshoe Weekend. Ludington State Park (Lakeshore Drive, Ludington, MI). Be prepared for hours of vigorous outdoor activity, snowshoeing and hiking along Lake Michigan. Cozy cabin for lodging in Ludington. Depart Friday afternoon, return Sunday evening. Sign up deadline January 15, 2010. Contact Ewa Roszczenko for details: ewarosz@yahoo.com or 734-756-5362.

Saturday February 20, 2010 - 1:00 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings: Outing with Hikone. Ice skating at Buhr Park Ice Arena (2751 Packard Road, Ann Arbor). WICO volunteers will meet at Hikone around 1:00 pm for lunch and proceed to Buhr Ice Arena for the Buhr Blitz around 2:30 pm. Outing leader is Tracy Bialk: taraymond@yahoo.com.

Sunday February 21, 2010 - 1:00 pm - Ski or Hike Stinchfield Woods. Ski or Hike 5 miles (depending on trail conditions) through deciduous and conifer trees in Stinchfield Woods, with guest hike leader Barry Lonik. All levels of skiing abilities welcome. Either meet at picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or 1:45 pm at the trail. Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Road west thru Dexter, turn right/north onto Dexter-Pinckney Road, turn left/west onto N. Territorial Road. Park in the lot of the office bldg. just west of Dexter-Pinckney Road (south side of N. Territorial). Free. Open to the public. Contact Jay Schlegel for details: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Monday February 22, 2010 - 7:00 pm - Conservation Committee Meeting. Location TBD. Contact Dorothy Nordness for more information: 734-668-6306 or DorothyK@isr.umich.edu.

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Tuesday March 2, 2010 - 7:15 pm - Executive Committee Meeting. Location TBD. Contact Doug Cowherd for location: doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Tuesday March 9, 2010 - 7:30 pm - Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor). Book: TBA. Free. Contact Nancy Shiffler for details: 734-971-1157.

Monday March 15, 2010 - 7:00 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Meeting. REI Ann Arbor's Community Use Room (970 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor). 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 WICO's events page or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118. Free. 3rd Monday of the month.

Tuesday March 16, 2010 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: Global Climate Change and the Great Lakes. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor). Brent Lofgren of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory will describe how global climate change will affect the ecosystems of the Great Lakes basin. Free. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Contact: doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Sunday March 21, 2010 - 1:00 pm - "Secret Hike" Peace Lake. Four-mile "Secret Hike" around Peace Lake in the Pinckney State Rec. Area to learn about watersheds with guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Either meet at picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or 1:45 pm at the trail. Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Road west thru Dexter; continue west on Island Lake Road 3 miles to Dexter-Townhall Road; turn right, north, to N. Territorial Road; turn left, go west 1.5 miles to Hankerd Road; turn right, go north 1 mile; park along Hankerd Road just south of the Pickerel Lake access road. Free. Open to the public. Contact Jay Schlegel for details: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

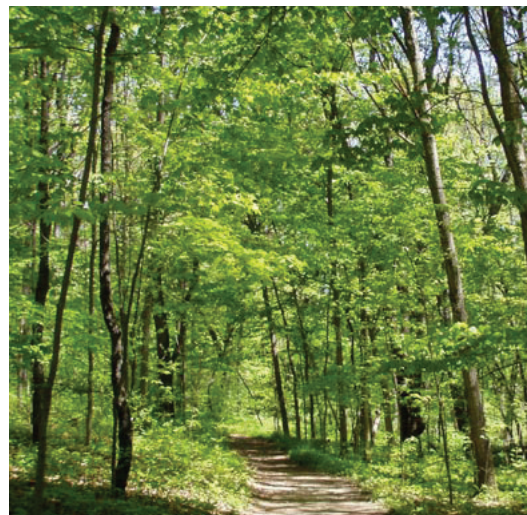
Monday March 22, 2010 - 7:00 pm - Conservation Committee Meeting. Location TBD. Contact Dorothy Nordness for more information: 734-668-6306 or DorothyK@isr.umich.edu.

Tuesday April 6, 2010 - 7:15 pm - Executive Committee Meeting. Location TBD. Contact Doug Cowherd for location: doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Tuesday April 13, 2010 - 7:30 pm - Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor). Book: TBA. Free. Contact Nancy Shiffler for details: 734-971-1157.

Sunday April 18, 2010 - 1:00 pm - Sugarloaf Hill "Secret Hike." Hike to the top of Sugarloaf Hill then through mature woods to the north shore of Crooked Lake in the Waterloo State Rec. Area, four miles in all on this "Secret Hike" with guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Either meet at picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or 1:45 pm at the trail. Take I-94 west to Pierce Road exit; go north to Bush Road; turn left, west, follow Bush Road to Waterloo Road; turn left, west, one-half mile to Guinan Road; turn left, 1/4 mile to the trailhead. Contact Jay Schlegel for details: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Monday April 19, 2010 - 7:00 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Meeting. REI Ann Arbor's Community Use Room (970 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor). 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 WICO's events page or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118.



Tuesday April 20, 2010 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program. Topic: TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor). Free. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Contact: doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Monday April 26, 2010 - 7:00 pm - Conservation Committee Meeting. Location TBD. Contact Dorothy Nordness for more information: 734-668-6306 or DorothyK@isr.umich.edu.

Tuesday May 4, 2010 - 7:15 pm - Executive Committee Meeting. Location TBD. Contact Doug Cowherd for location: doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Sunday May 9, 2010 - 1:30 pm - Mitchell Field through Arboretum Hike. We'll hike amongst the beautiful Arboretum for about 3 miles. Beginning at Mitchell Field, walking through Gallup Park and then through the Arb and back. Lovely for Mother's Day and a Sunday outing. Meet at 1:30 pm at the east-most edge of Mitchell Field parking lot.

Sunday May 16, 2010 - 1:00 pm - Mill Lake "Secret Hike." Hike five miles around Mill Lake on marked trails, gravel roads and unmarked trails in the Waterloo State Recreation Area on a "Secret Hike" with guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Either meet at picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or 1:45 pm at the trail. Take I-94 west to Pierce Road exit; go north past Cavanaugh Lake Road to Bush Road; turn left (west) and follow Bush Road to the Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center entrance road. Turn left and park at the first (lower) lot. Contact Jay Schlegel for details: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Monday May 17, 2010 - 7:00 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Meeting. REI Ann Arbor's Community Use Room (970 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor). 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 WICO's events page or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118. Free. 3rd Monday of the month.

Tuesday May 18, 2010 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: Above the Arctic Circle: Trekking Axel Heiberg Island. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor). Alan Richardson will take us along with him on a photographic trip above the Arctic Circle to Axel Heiberg Island. Free. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Contact: doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

2009 ExCom Election Results

Three members were elected to serve two-year terms on the HVG Executive Committee beginning January 2010 during our fall 2009 election process: **Doug Cowherd, Jay Schlegel, and Nancy Shiffler**. In addition, HVG members **Dorothy Nordness and Nancy Shiffler** were elected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. Congratulations to all of the candidates.

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DID YOU KNOW... that the HVG currently has many of our popular "Shopping For The Earth" scrip cards on-hand for immediate purchase? We are currently featuring cards from local establishments Arbor Brewing, Borders, Busch's, and Hiller's. Just stop by one of our regular monthly meetings or contact Ed Steinman for details (see page 14).

DID YOU KNOW... that the HVG currently sells bags of coffee and tins of tea as part of our fundraising efforts? Did you know that this coffee and tea are fair-trade, shade-grown, and organic? So it's better for you AND better for the environment! If you would like to purchase some, just stop by one of our regular monthly meetings or contact Jay Schlegel for details.

Women and the Environment: Extraordinary Woman, Extraordinary Strength – Rachel Carson

By Nancy Bishop

Each of my articles in The Lookout will help to enlighten and inspire you in some way.

Rachel Louise Carson was truly a dynamic and courageous woman for the ages, educating the public about the dangers of pesticides and fighting for the right to know. Born in 1907 in rural Springdale, Pennsylvania, Carson was a very studious child who loved to read, write and spend time exploring her family's farm. An accomplished student, she worked hard to succeed, graduating at the top of her high school class in 1925. She earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in zoology from the Pennsylvania College for Women. She had hopes of pursuing her doctorate from John Hopkins University but, due to severe financial problems at home that worsened after the death of her father, she had to drop out in search of full-time work. However, Carson was not one to let circumstances get in her way.

Throughout her life, Rachel Carson paved the way for women in the sciences. From being only

the second woman hired full-time at the Bureau of Fisheries, to writing for a number of magazines, Carson was inspired in her work. After World War II it became quite evident to her that awareness of conservation was vital in saving not only the environment but ourselves. She saw a great need for the public to be educated about the arsenal of sprays and powders found under our own kitchen sinks. She felt that the public had a right to know about the dangers lurking in our own homes, as well as the repercussions of keeping the masses in the dark.

As a result, Carson wrote her bestselling book *Silent Spring* in 1962. *Silent Spring* caused a wave still felt today. Due to Carson's dedication and devotion, a number of dangerous chemicals were banned, DDT being the most prominent. Carson's work also led to grass-roots environmental movements and eventual creation of the Environmental Protection Agency by President Richard Nixon in 1970.

continued pg. 11

By Alan Richardson

CLEAN CAR UPDATE

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

Period covered: 18 October 2000 (purchase date) to 12 December 2009

Distance driven:	127,307 miles
Fuel purchased:	3,901 gallons gasoline equivalent (GGE)
Fuel economy:	32.6 miles/GGE
Fuel cost of CNG used:	\$5,148
Average fuel cost:	\$1.320 per GGE
Cost economy:	24.7 miles per dollar
Savings over gasoline:	\$2,903
Payback mileage*:	80,693
Payback date*:	29 November 2006 (payback complete!)

* 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 in effect at time of purchase.

Estimated exhaust emissions of different passenger vehicles driven 127,307 miles

Pounds of:	Average car on road in 2000	CA LEV**	Civic GX
Hydrocarbons	785	21.0	0.84
Carbon monoxide	5,861	953.4	44.9
Oxides of nitrogen	390	56.1	5.61
Total (pounds)	7,036	1,030.5	51.35

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

Home Grown Festival Celebrates its Second Year



The HomeGrown Festival celebrated its second year with a mid-September splash and an estimated 5,000 attendees at the Ann Arbor Farmers' Market. This was a new venue which proved to be a very successful one. Good weather prevailed (as opposed to HomeGrown's first year which coincided with the tail-end of Hurricane Ike sweeping through southeast Michigan). The festival, a celebration of our local food and community, strives to bring about a sustainable, healthy, and secure food system.

Food was plentiful at the booths of the 10 restaurant vendors who were lucky to get a spot at the festival. Vendors, ranging from Silvio's Organic Pizza to The Grange Kitchen and Bar, offered food made primarily of locally grown (and mostly organic) ingredients. Thanks to countless hungry people willing to stand in line, several vendors sold out or were running low on their offerings towards the end of the evening.

New this year were twelve "Made-in-Michigan" vendors featuring Michigan-made food products, and a "Local Libations" tent providing Michigan-made beer, hard apple cider, and wine. Based on the crowds,

Rachel Carson continued from pg.10

Throughout her work on *Silent Spring*, Carson fought and ultimately lost a battle with breast cancer. Carson also faced a number of very vocal and harsh critics who questioned not only her qualifications but her sanity, with one scientist calling her "a hysterical woman" (pg. 98, *Great Women Exploring Nature: How Wild Florida Influenced Their Lives*, Linda Taylor, 2008). Carson worked diligently to promote *Silent Spring* with radio and television appearances. She also took her cause to the U.S. Senate in 1963, where a Senator from Connecticut stated, "Miss Carson, we welcome you here. You are the lady who started all this. Will you proceed?" (pg. 100, Taylor). Rachel then knew that her work had achieved recognition. Indeed, the tremendous work of Rachel Carson has saved countless lives, both human and animal. Even though Carson would not live to see DDT banned, I am sure that her presence was felt. She is another inspiring eco-feminist we can look to as we continue the fight for our planet.

it appeared that this was a favorite part of the festival for many.

by Dorothy Nordness
and Erica Kempter

On the education side, there was a panel discussion featuring local farmers and a capacity audience. Farmers Richard Andres (Tantre Farm), Kris Hirth (Old Pine Farm), and Dale Lesser (Lesser Farm) outlined their farming operations and took questions, giving participants a chance to ask questions such as "How do you feel about genetically modified crops?" and "Do you buy or save your own vegetable seeds?"

The non-profit area featured over 20 food-, environment-, and health-related organizations ranging from Sierra Club Huron Valley Group and Legacy Land Conservancy to Food Gatherers and Growing Hope. The non-profit area also featured educational activities for all, including a children's activities area. Transitions Ann Arbor featured their "re-skilling" booth where participants could learn about gardening, food preservation, and the like.

The HomeGrown Festival is put on by an all-volunteer steering committee and numerous other volunteers who helped keep things running smoothly on the day of the festival. Positive response from the festival has been tremendous and the organizers are gearing up to put on another great festival on Saturday September 11th, 2010 – so mark your calendar!

WE NEED YOU... If you would like to help with the Sierra Club's Shopping for the Earth program (SFTE) by keeping track of SFTE donations and sending thank-you letters by email, please contact Ed Steinman: esteinma@umich.edu.

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210 S. Ashley Ann Arbor, Mi 734-662-8122

ExCom-munications: HVG Responds to Fuller Intermodal Transportation Station Proposal (FITS)

The HVG Executive Committee responded to a current proposal by the City of Ann Arbor to build a parking structure in Fuller Park, as part of the Fuller Intermodal Transportation Station project (FITS), with the following statement read by ExCom member James D'Amour to Ann Arbor City Council, Monday January 4, 2010. James also presented a comparable statement at the January meeting of the Regents of the University of Michigan.

Good Evening Mayor Hieftje, members of Council, City administration.

I appear before you tonight as a member of the Executive Committee of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club, representing 3,000 members in the area.

At our December 14, 2009, meeting we passed a resolution in opposition to recent city actions concerning Fuller Park and the proposed Fuller Intermodal Transportation Station.

We are outraged over the notion that the city, very recently after passionately assuring the public that the city's parkland would never be sold to outside interests without a vote of its citizens, would turn right around and spend hundreds of thousands of its dollars and study a proposed permanent car structure to be built ON CITY PARKLAND to be leased by the university on a long-term basis.

Very clearly this violates the spirit if not the fine print legal definition of the city's ordinances. It is a breach of trust by the city with its citizens to protect and maintain its parks for present and future generations to enjoy, and it establishes a terrible precedent.

Granted, the current site, a portion of what is currently Fuller Park south of Geddes Road, west of the Huron River bank, had been leased to the university for surface car spaces – with an agreement that lease moneys would go to City Parks and Recreation operations.

The use of public lands designated as parks should be dedicated exclusively for city parks use, not for other purposes.

The use of parkland for, well, parking, with all due respect ladies and gentlemen, is not really a parks and recreation use. Yes, parking exists at park facilities, but parkland for the sake of parking is another matter. Let's get real here.

We can smile at that but we have a very serious issue.

Any disposal of parkland by the city either by sale, reassignment of purpose, or lease must come with the consent of a vote by the citizens, not council.

Furthermore, we are also deeply angered by the city spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on consultant fees to study building a car

structure on city parkland while city administrators threaten closure of existing park facilities on the basis of lack of funds.

We also question if the city made any real efforts with the university in obtaining this arrangement to build a permanent car structure to pursue a potential land swap for such a massive project, if the revenues for parks and recreations operations was even discussed, or whether a perceived convenience by city officials trumped due diligence in pursuing this agreement with the university. Something of this nature really required a more public process than what was apparently conducted here.

It is our parks that make Ann Arbor that special place for everyone, a value that can't be quantified. It is the inherent responsibility of the city to take care of its parks for future generations.

I should note that the Sierra Club is certainly supportive of many efforts, private and public, to encourage non-automobile transit. I also note that this current proposal contains little in the way of concrete plans for non-automobile transit – its focus is on the 900-car parking structure, with most of the parking going to University staff parking and only approximately 200 spaces for a proposed train station.

We DO NOT approve any disposal of existing city parkland, whatever the motivation or goal, either by sale, lease or reassignment without a public vote and will fight any present and future efforts to use Ann Arbor city parks and their assets other than for the purposes for which they were entrusted by citizens to the city to look out for.

On behalf of the Sierra Club I thank you for your time and strongly urge you to reconsider these actions to destroy city park infrastructure.

Fuller Road Station Public Meeting

**Wednesday February 10, 2010
7 - 9 pm**

**Council chambers, 2nd Floor
City Hall**

100 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor

2009 HVG Appreciation Awards

The **Huron Valley Group** of the Sierra Club in December bestowed the Group's annual Awards of Appreciation for Outstanding Achievement in their continuing efforts to protect, preserve, and encourage enjoyment of the natural environment.

In the spirit of this effort, Tecumseh resident **Kara Boden**, a recent graduate of Central Michigan University, received the **Conservation Activist Award** for establishing the first Tecumseh Earth Day Festival, as well as for her efforts in combating diversion of Great Lakes water by Evian and the City of Tecumseh.

Sierra Club member **Rita Mitchell** received the **Democracy in Action Award** for recognition of activism in Ann Arbor parks issues and involvement in city politics.

The **Newcomer of the Year Award** went to member **James D'Amour** for his jumping in quickly to ExCom and Michigan Chapter Lobby Day activities.

Ed Steinman received two Awards of Appreciation for his outstanding work behind the scenes in keeping the Huron Valley Group going. Ed received the **Care and Feeding Award** for his hard work in expanding the Shopping for the Earth Program. In addition, he was bestowed with the **Rachel Carson Communications Award** for his work with Public Drum and other media.

The **John Muir Outings Award** went to Huron Valley Group member **Ewa Roszczenko** for her enthusiastic participation and leadership in Group

outings and other activities.

Vera Hernandez received the **Huron Valley Group Chair's Award of Merit** in honor of her years of service as chair of the Washtenaw Inner City Outings program.

In honor of all that these wonderful people have done, the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group is proud of their efforts and achievements!



Award Recipients (Left to right): James D'Amour, Ed Steinman, Ewa Roszczenko and Kara Boden.

Conservation Corner

The Huron Valley Group Conservation Team spent several meetings this past fall identifying how we want to focus our efforts over the coming months. Two areas emerged:

Building Sustainable Communities: In the face of climate change and energy crises, what can local communities do in a positive way to transition to a sustainable future? Our efforts will focus on: sustainable agriculture - emphasizing locally grown foods; and energy use - renewable energy sources, "green" buildings, wise transportation planning, and keeping a low carbon footprint. There are many ways to engage our communities in this effort and much to be done.

Protecting Parks and Open Space: Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County can be rightfully proud of the efforts over the past few years to preserve parks and natural areas. We have a county-wide natural areas preservation millage, greenbelt programs in Ann Arbor and many surrounding townships, and

widespread community support for parks, including Ann Arbor's natural areas preservation program. A ballot initiative passed in Ann Arbor in fall 2008 required a community vote before any parkland could be sold. Now, however, we are seeing plans that would trade parks for parking structures and would rescind or circumvent the constraints on the sale of parkland. The city budget has increasingly shifted routine parks maintenance from the general fund to the parks millage designed to fund major projects, not daily maintenance. The county millage will expire soon, and we must decide how to continue to protect significant natural areas throughout the county. While budget constraints are real, we cannot allow them to dismantle the protection of our natural heritage.

If any of these efforts interest you, please join us at our Conservation Team meetings every 4th Monday. Contact our Conservation Chair Dorothy Nordness (734-668-6306 or DorothyK@isr.umich.edu) for more information.

By James D'Amour



You can help the earth at no cost to you — through your regular shopping!

Over the past decade, the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** program has helped generate \$110 million to preserve natural areas and farmland.

You can help us do more by buying Shopping for the Earth cards for the stores where you already shop.

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

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

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

Two ways you can order your cards:

1. A **Mail-In Order Form** for local stores -- See below.
2. **Online ordering** for national stores and some local stores (in partnership with the Great Lakes Scrip Program). Stores include Amazon, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Land's End, Sears, and hundreds more - including department stores, restaurants, hotels, and more. It's easy and convenient to order and pay online. Visit <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/sfte.htm> to learn more & get started!

Great for:

- ✓ Regular purchases like grocery shopping
- ✓ Giving as gifts
- ✓ Planned purchases like appliances
- ✓ Making online purchases



Mail-in Order Form

Please fill out the number of cards you'd like for each store below (maximum \$500 total per order).
Your total order today: \$ _____

Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Arbor Brewing Company	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____
Arbor Farms	_____ cards @ \$20 each	
Borders Books & Music	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Busch's*	_____ cards @ \$5 each	_____
Hiller's Markets*	_____ cards @ \$50 each	
Kroger*	_____ cards @ \$5 each	
Produce Station	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Whole Foods	_____ cards @ \$50 each	_____ cards @ \$100 each
Meijer	A rebate program - please see our website for details on how to sign up: http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron	

* Reloadable cards! The cards for these stores are reloadable, and the Sierra Club receives a contribution each time you reload, so only one card is needed per person. NOTE: For Kroger, please register at www.krogercommunityrewards.com and record your card number in your account information so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads.

Name: _____

Please send me local Sierra Club email updates

Address: _____

Please send me the local Sierra Club newsletter

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Your data will not be shared.

Mail with your check payable to "Sierra Club Huron Valley Group" to:
Ed Steinman
(esteinma@umich.edu)
621 5th St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



**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
Nancy Shiffler* 971-1157
- Conservation Chair
Dorothy Nordness 668-6306
- Inner City Outings Chair
Outings Chair
Kathy Guerreso 677-0823
- Inner City Outings Liaison
Membership Chair
Ed Steinman** 665-0248
- Political Chair
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Joel Dalton* 945-8132
- Program Co-Chairs
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Rita Mitchell 665-0248
- Shopping for the Earth
Ed Steinman** 665-0248
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Jay Schlegel* 477-5715
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Suzie Heiney 377-8248
- Newsletter Team
Jay Schlegel*, Editor 477-5715
Mary Roth
Kim Waldo 971-1941
Gwen Nystuen 665-7632
Ed Steinman* 665-0248

Executive Committee

James D'Amour*

Ron Sell*

* = 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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DID YOU KNOW... that this newsletter is ENTIRELY volunteer-written, volunteer-edited, and volunteer-assembled? The Huron Valley Group could really use your help on future issues of "The Lookout" with any of the following tasks:

- *article writer*
- *photography/graphics*
- *advertising sales*
- *proofreading*
- *folding/assembling/mail-preparation*

And, no, you do not have to do something "every issue" (unless you want to!); just help out as you can. If you are interested in helping us out, or if you have any questions, please contact us at hvgnews@yahoo.com