



THE LOOKOUT

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Lost Nation Trail Update

The Lost Nation State Game Area has six to eight miles of trail meandering through Hillsdale County — about ninety minutes from Ann Arbor. It is part of the North Country Trail (NCT) which runs from New York State to North Dakota. The Lost Nation Trail is a great place for bird watching, wild flower identification, and much more. Part of the trail runs near a beaver dam and lake, with an active beaver population. The North Country Trail Association's Chief Baw Beese chapter is responsible for building, maintaining, and promoting use of this trail and a total of 70 miles of the NCT in Hillsdale County. We are a small group of 50 to 60 dues-paying members. Our chapter members include several Huron Valley Group members (Ron Killebrew, Bill Minard, Ralph Powell, and myself). All have been active in this effort for almost twenty years. The final segment of the Lost Nation Trail was opened last fall. We returned to the trail this spring with the goal of making it passable and well marked from end to end. This goal will be accomplished in September.

Exciting times are ahead! The Chief Baw Beese chapter was awarded a \$5,000 grant to build two bridges at Lost Nation. The trail has four river crossings which can be difficult to navigate certain times of the year. Our plan is to build the bridges to make the trail more accessible and passable. The Chief Baw Beese chapter and REI plan a kick-off event in late September.

By Kevin Bell

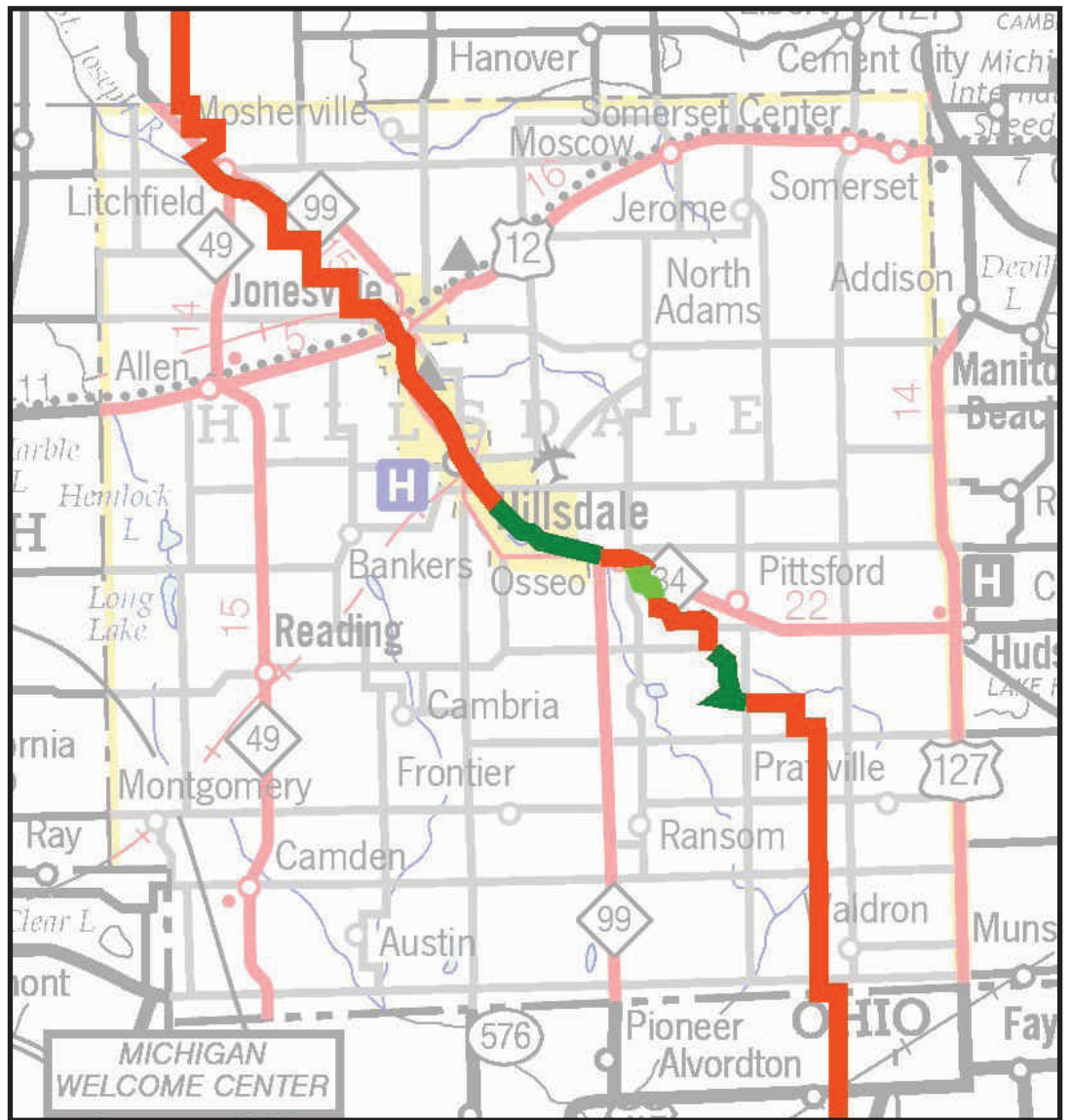
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Lost Nation Trail continued from page 1

Future plans?

We envision formalizing a 300-mile side loop to the NCT in Southeast Michigan. This loop will link a series of trails under one name, from Jackson to Ann Arbor to Flat Rock, Monroe, and to Toledo, where a loop would follow the Ottawa River towards several area Metro Parks (Secor, Oak Openings). The loop would then head west on the Wabash.





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Fuller Park--What is Public Involvement?

By Rita Mitchell

When it comes to use of public land, one would think that the citizens who own the land in common, would be asked for their ideas and opinions about options considered for use of the land. In the case of the proposal called Fuller Road Station, the City of Ann Arbor, in collaboration with the University of Michigan, has avoided the process of involving the public in the decision about building a parking structure in Fuller Park (see previous Lookout articles on Fuller Road Station: Winter 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011).

- Instead of initiating a referendum on whether to sell the property, as stipulated by the outcome of the November 2008 ballot measure requiring a vote of citizens when sale of park land is proposed, the project has subverted the public vote by using a lease, or memorandum of understanding for use of the land. Details of the agreement are yet to be revealed, but there is no plan for a formal sale, and thus no triggering of a public vote on whether to proceed. The outcome is that the city will own a parking structure that will be used primarily by the University of Michigan staff. Proceeding with the Fuller Road Station project will set a precedent for

potential re-purposing of any park land in the city without consent of the voters. It is a bad precedent.

- The city has indicated that the choice of Fuller Park as the location for the parking structure is based on a review of alternative sites, most of which were park land. No open public meeting was held to discuss the selection of the site. The value of the land on which the parking structure is proposed to be built has not been factored in to the project, at least not in any way that the public can assess.

- An environmental assessment has been drafted, yet not provided to the public for review and comment, as required. In addition, the consultant group that completed the draft environmental statement also developed the site plan for the Fuller Road Station project. An independent environmental assessment team should have been used, to avoid a potential conflict of interest with respect to findings in support of project completion. Can we trust the findings of an environmental assessment completed by a company that is involved with seeing the proposed project through to completion?



Circa 1968-1970 this part of Fuller Park was part of the Ann Arbor Municipal Golf Course when the new Fuller Pool was built. (Photo is from one corner of a panoramic view of the city.) The temporary surface parking lot should be replaced with trees and the Border-to-Border Trail.

- For all public meetings held and documented by the city, the project design was presented for comment and question. The status and history of the property as park land was minimized. The design options raised were cosmetic in nature. At no time was the public asked whether the project proposed was what the citizens want for the site. There is a big difference between being asked about options for the type of brick or stone to complete a structure on a specific piece of land, and whether a project to build a parking structure on park land is of interest at all.

Other issues that highlight problems with the public process include:

- Much attention has been directed at a future project proposal for a train station on the site. No funding is available to build the future project. It is unclear why the city would own a train station. The presentations give the appearance of attempts to divert attention from the single most likely outcome of the project, which is completion of a parking structure for the benefit of the University.

- Funding sources for the expenses to operate a train station, as well as to maintain and operate a new, 1,000 space parking structure have not been detailed for the public.

- The city is placing itself in a difficult financial position that has not been explained fully to citizens. There is a potential for the city to borrow funds for its 22% share of the cost of building a parking structure. The source of revenue to pay for a loan is unexplained.

The proposal to build Fuller Road Station may set the stage for a future dismantling the of the green infrastructure of the City of Ann Arbor. Public involvement with decisions is essential to preserve trust in use of our common resources. You can become involved now!

For more information and a detailed timeline of the project, go to ProtectA2Parks.org

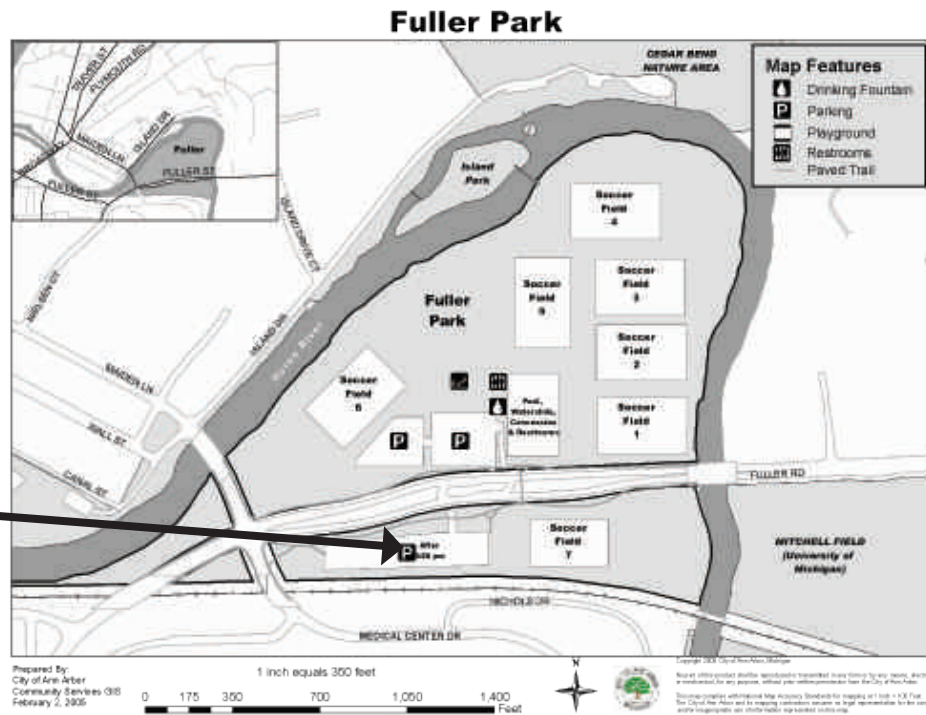
Write to Ann Arbor City Council members, and tell them that you oppose use of park land without a referendum of the people. Go to:

<http://www.a2gov.org/government/citycouncil/Pages/Home.aspx>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link "E-mail Mayor and Council"

This entire 10 acre section of Fuller Park south of Fuller Road is the proposed site of park land to be changed to "transportation facility land" to build a 1000 to 1600 car commuter parking garage. Site preparation has begun without a Council approved site plan.

See utility and site construction photos on page 6.





This is the stump of a large old walnut tree that should have been saved during the sewer relocation. For scale you can see the toes of the photographer at the bottom of the picture. This part of Fuller Park has been in recreational use since 1932. This land is part of the Huron River Valley that makes up Ann Arbor's most important scenic resource and part of the string of parks along the Huron from Barton to Gallup that are our most used recreational and visual parkland.





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/>**

Saturday September 10, 2011 - 11:15 am - Scio Woods Preserve Hike. Join us for a steady-paced hike amongst oak/hickory woodlands in this 91 acre preserve. Acquired by NAPP in 2008. About 2 miles. Meet at the Scio Woods Preserve trailhead/parking lot at 11:15 am. Parking for about 6 cars and parking along associated entrance/exit for additional parking of cars. Scio Church Road, west of S. Main Street, west of Ann Arbor Saline Road, on the north side of the road. Will meet at the trailhead 11:15 am and finish before 1:00 pm. Children accompanied by an adult parent are welcome. No strollers. Contact: 734-677-0823.

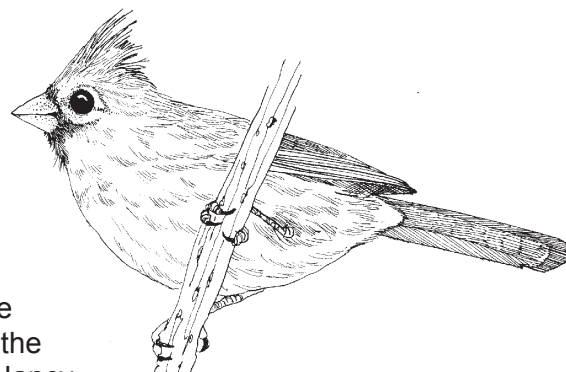
Tuesday September 13, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). **Book: "Running Out of Water: The Looming Crisis and Solutions to Conserve Our Most Precious Resource," by Peter Rogers and Susan Leal.** Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.

Tuesday September 20, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). Washtenaw Inner City Outings (ICO) is a Sierra Club community outreach program providing opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world for those who would not otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with agencies such as community centers, churches and neighborhood youth groups. ICO plans outings and provides equipment and trained leaders who are enthusiastic to share their love of the natural world. Third Tuesday of each month, just before the Huron Valley Group's general membership meeting. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday September 20, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "Let's Take the Family to ... The Galapagos Islands!" Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). How do you do adventure travel with a family of four? Interesting, unusual, and challenging, the Jackson family of Dexter, Michigan, will describe their budget-wise approach to travel and their adventures in the Galapagos Islands and other places on their 2006-2007 one-year world trip. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Contact: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Saturday September 24, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Proud Lake Hike. Join us for a moderately-paced hike, mostly flat terrain. Dress for the weather. Canceled if rain. About 5 miles. Meet at 3039 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor, MI at 1:00 pm to carpool. B.Y.O. water. Allow for carpooling and travel time. About 4 hours. Free. Outdoor. Contact: 734-677-0823.

Tuesday October 11, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). **Book: "A 1000-Mile Walk on the Beach: One Woman's Trek of the Perimeter of Lake Michigan," by Loreen Niewenhuis.** The book chronicles the author's walk around Lake Michigan, exploring the natural and human history of the lake. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.



Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Sunday October 16, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Lakelands Trail "Secret Hike". Explore the northernmost section of the Pinckney State Recreation Area on old railroad grades and various hiking trails on this 5-mile meander with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or 1:45 pm at the trail. From Ann Arbor go through Dexter and north on Dexter-Pinckney Road past the Portage Lakes. Turn left on Patterson Lake Road, go 1.5 miles west to Cedar Lake Road. Turn right, go 1.5 miles north to the trailhead. Non-members welcome. Contact: 734-477-5715 jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday October 18, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). See September 20 for information on the program. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday October 18, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "The Controversial Coyote." Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Holly Hadac, Michigan Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, will dispel myths and provide research-based facts about the amazingly adaptable canine, the coyote. Learn where they came from, when and where they sleep, and about their pack behaviors. We will also learn about their interactions with people and pets, and suggestions on how to avoid encouraging their establishing territories in unsuitable areas. Come prepared with questions! HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Contact: ritualmitchell@gmail.com.

Tuesday November 8, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). **Book: "Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban-Industrial Rivers that Caught Fire," by John H. Hartig.** The story of four rivers in the Great Lakes states and the efforts to restore them to health. [Note: the author will also be the featured speaker at the HVG general meeting on November 15.] Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.

Tuesday November 15, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). See September 20 for information on the program. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday November 15, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "Burning Rivers of the Great Lakes." Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Smoke on the water! It's not just a pop song. Did you know that rivers can burn? It's true. Dr. John Hartig, author of "Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban-Industrial Rivers that Caught on Fire," will discuss the indiscriminate use and abuse of some of our great freshwater resources. He will also describe the stewardship efforts used to control pollution, and present evidence of dramatic improvements. Revival of these rivers provides hope for those working to restore all aquatic ecosystems. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Contact: ritualmitchell@gmail.com.

Sunday November 20, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Cedar Lake Esker "Secret Hike". Join us for our annual autumn Cedar Lake Esker hike in the Waterloo Recreation Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik on lands which are off-limits to hunting. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or at 1:45 pm at the trailhead. From Ann Arbor, take I-94 west to Pierce Road, north (right) one mile to Cavanaugh Lake Road, west (left) one-half mile to the Cedar Lake access road, north (right), and take a right at the fork toward Cedar Lake. Non-members welcome. Contact: 734-477-5715 jayhschlegel@comcast.net.





Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

2012 Sierra Club Calendars



Buy from us and support local conservation work!

Order Form

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Engagement Calendar	\$13	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar	\$12	_____	_____
Grand Total			_____

Buy from us and support local conservation!

Order and pick up your calendars at the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group monthly public programs October 18, November 15, & December 20 monthly meetings at Matthaei Botanical Gardens or contact Jay Schlegel to make an order and arrange an alternate pick-up time:

jayschlegel@comcast.net or (734) 477-5717

Cash or checks only, please. Payment is due at pick-up.

Thank you!

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Sunday December 18, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Stinchfield Woods Hike-or-Ski. Ski or hike five miles through deciduous and coniferous trees in Stinchfield Woods, a University of Michigan preserve with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. We'll hike and/or ski, depending upon conditions. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or at 1:45 pm at the trail: Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Road west through Dexter; turn right (north) onto Dexter-Pinckney Road; turn left (west) on N. Territorial Road, park in the office building lot on the south side. Non-members welcome. Contact: 734-477-5715 jayschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday December 20, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). See September 20 for information on the program. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday December 20, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "Great Adventure Trips From Around the Globe." Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Share your travels! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman (esteinma@umich.edu). If you have mounted slides bring 10-15: a digital projector will be available. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Contact: ritalmitchell@gmail.com

Bringing It Who brings it?



by James D'Amour,
Vice Chair, Huron
Valley Group

When I look at the Sierra Club, I'm continually amazed at the fantastic people making this a great organization. Some really outstanding folk amongst us really stand out day after day, year after year, in their efforts to protect, preserve, and help us enjoy the planet we all love.

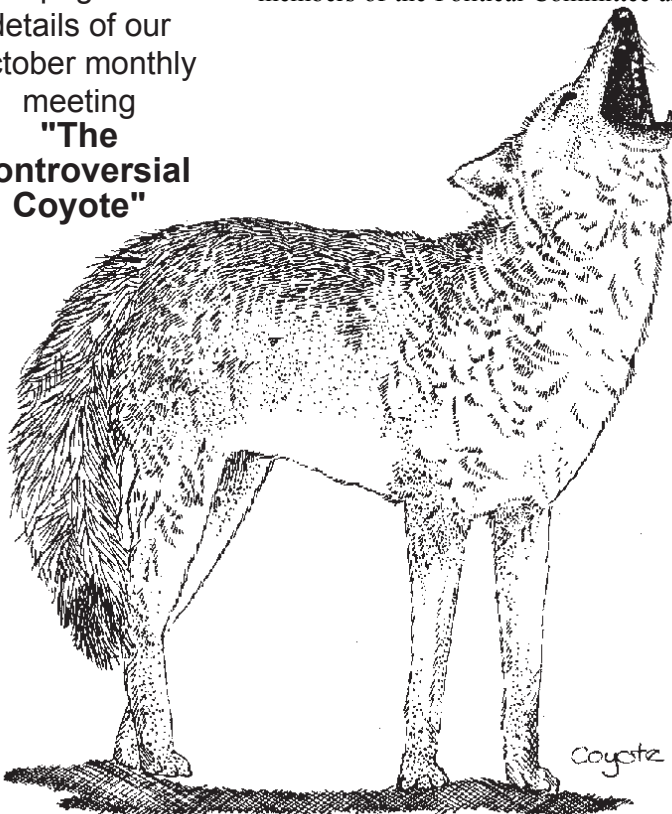
Last year a number of local Sierra Club members were recognized for their continuing work in "bringing it."

A brand new member stepped up, and earned our Newcomer of the Year award:

Robert Gordon -- for his work with group and chapter political committees and local activism within the Sierra Club and beyond. Robert also stepped in on the state level as our Michigan Chapter Political Committee compliance officer.

Last year was an election year, and maybe not the happiest for green issues, but not for lack of trying. James D'Amour (i.e., yours truly) took on the HVG Political Committee and helped to turn out activists to work on campaigns. Our efforts were successful in helping to elect our endorsed candidate Jeff Irwin for state representative. Robert and I and other members of the Political Committee are looking to

See page 8 for
details of our
October monthly
meeting
**"The
Controversial
Coyote"**



build a stronger effort in the days and months ahead. For these efforts, the Huron Valley Group awarded me the Democracy in Action Award.

Sometimes folk keep it together for us in the group behind the scenes, in day-to-day volunteer activities. These fine individuals earned the distinction of the Care and Feeding Award, which went to two people last year:

Rita Mitchell -- for identifying and scheduling general meeting programs, amongst the many things she does for us tirelessly.

Rich Kato -- for his help with newsletter fold-and-staple arrangements, as well as general meeting set-up and refreshments, and being on hand nearly everywhere. Rich is there for us.

We love you guys!

Last year we honored two member-leaders, now enjoying life outside a leadership role in the local group.

Outgoing HVG Chair Doug Cowherd earned the Rachel Carson Communications Award for the broad scope of his e-mail calendar, helping to inform members and non-members alike of upcoming outings, programs, and other events sponsored by the Sierra Club, as well as by local and state parks and other organizations.

Before his departure, Doug bestowed the Chairman's Award of Outstanding Merit on outgoing treasurer Ken Morley.

Great people make a great organization. And folk within the Sierra Club and in the community in general have been making a difference for the environment.

Now, I have a special request.

We'd like to hear from you about who's putting it out there -- from conservation efforts protecting our parklands, leading Inner City Outings, or just plain bringing enthusiasm about the great outdoors and natural areas, as well as protecting them, by leading folks on a hike or guiding them by canoe or kayak, or running, swimming, or biking, to explore the natural world.

So who brings it?

Feel free to email me at jamesdamour@comcast.net for any suggestions you might have for folk we should recognize, within the Sierra Club itself, or special friends and neighbors you may think of who are worthy of this special recognition.

Huron Valley Group ExCom Election

The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group (HVG) is responsible for administration and operation of the group. The seven members of HVG 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 up 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 HVG ExCom election. Members willing to serve can be nominated either through the HVG Nominating Committee or by petition signed by at least 15 group members. No member may be nominated or elected against their will.

The HVG Nominating Committee recruits and selects candidates. This committee consists of at least three HVG members, one or more of whom shall not be an ExCom member, and none may be a

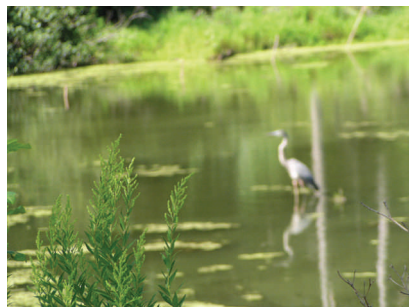
candidate in the upcoming election.

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

HVG 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 HVG 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.

<u>Election event</u>	<u>Deadline to complete</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August ExCom meeting September general meeting September general meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballots mailed to all eligible group members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election committee accepts ballots Election committee counts ballots and informs secretary of results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December general meeting 31 December



Washtenaw Inner City Outings

Transforming Experience

In early August, WICO volunteers Jan Brimacombe and Joan Wolf met a group of children and their counselors Sarah Love and Kelly Mendenhall, from the Community Action Network's middle school summer camp, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, to share their fascination with monarch butterflies. Jan set up displays of living monarchs in various life stages: eggs, caterpillars and chrysalises. After discussion and observation, the group visited the Gaffield Children's Garden, with a Botanical Gardens scavenger hunt map to help identify nectaring and host plants. Several butterflies were spotted feeding on flowers in the gardens, including monarchs, swallowtails, and viceroys. The highlight of the day was seeing a caterpillar entering its chrysalis.



Photo by Kelly Mendenhall

Going with the Flow

WICO leaders Barbara Powell and Joan Wolf joined the Community Action Network summer campers for a July afternoon in the Pinckney State Recreation Area. The original plan was to kayak, learn to pitch a tent, and start a campfire. But the plans were canceled due to thunder and rain. When the storm approached, Chuck Dennison, Pinckney State Recreation Area manager, sent his rangers to notify the group. All was not lost, as John Cologne, the boat concessionaire and unofficial mayor of nearby Hell, MI, generously offered to treat the campers at Screams, his Halloween-themed ice cream shop. After the rain and ice cream, campers gathered back around a park table where the Pinckney State Recreation Area Junior Explorer leader led an animal identification game.



The following picture was taken at Pinckney Recreation Area in which WICO contributed to the Community Action Network summer outdoor program this summer. The participants were children from Hikone and Green Baxter. Photo by Barbara Powell



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 generated thousands of dollars in donations 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 in store credit—and earn from \$0.80 to as much as \$3, depending on the merchant, 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 to order cards:

1. Mail-In Order Form for local stores -- see below.
2. Online ordering for national stores and some local stores including Amazon, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Land's End, Sears, and hundreds more - department stores, restaurants, hotels, and more.

Visit <http://michigan.sierracub.org/huron/gbscrip.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 \$600 total per order).
Your total order: \$ _____

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 *	Obtain card at Kroger's and register it at www.krogercommunityrewards.com so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads. see http://michigan.sierracub.org/huron/kroger.htm for instructions	
Produce Station **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Whole Foods **	_____ cards @ \$50 each	_____ cards @ \$100 each
Meijer	A rebate program - please see: http://michigan.sierracub.org/huron/facts/SFTE_Meijer.pdf	

* Reloadable cards! The Sierra Club receives a contribution each time you reload, so only one card is needed per person.
** Not reloadable—consider ordering several!

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____ Date: _____
 Email: _____

- Please send me local Sierra Club email updates
 Please send me the local Sierra Club newsletter

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

Your information will not be shared with any group.

HVG "Shopping for the Earth"

What's in it for YOU?



By Jay Schlegel

They say that the first step to recovery is admission. So, I will confess: I shop. Now, I do not shop every day, mind you, but at least once a week for groceries. And occasionally I shop for clothing for myself -- totally necessary, not frivolous! I've also been known to buy gifts for friends and relatives. And of course I buy the occasional book or whatnot for myself, or go out to a local restaurant. I've even been known to purchase an appliance or two (see p.6, Fall 2009 Lookout, "HVG Scrip Program for Dummies: A Guide for the Rest of Us"). Now, as much as I would like to stand on a pedestal and proclaim my enviro-purity, I think I am not alone in feeling conflicted about participating in the consumer culture which has developed in our society. I *could* grow all my own food -- I've tried (it's hard, really hard; I would currently starve if I had to grow all my own food). I could recycle gifts and re-gift them later to others (must keep track of who gave me what though!). But do I have the time and the skills to do all these things? If only there was a way to shop while also giving something back to the environment from which we take so much...

Enter HVG's "Shopping for the Earth" program (SFTE).

You've heard of SFTE, right? You know, the fantastic program whereby you purchase gift cards

or gift certificates from HVG at face value and then go forth and buy items at your leisure, using those same cards/certificates? HVG earns up to a 23% return on these purchases, which we use to fight the good fight here at the local level. Did I mention that while HVG earns a windfall, you still get face-value on your purchased cards/certificates?

There has to be a catch, right? Well, yes; yes there is. You have to plan ahead. You must purchase the card/certificate from HVG **BEFORE** you actually need to use it. And you have to remember to use it. And then you have to remember to get another card/certificate for next time or reload the existing card. This is very hard to do. And sometimes confusing. I get it. This is a lot to ask. Just like using those cloth bags at the grocery, every time you go. Or separating recyclables from the garbage, each and every time you throw something away.

How can you participate? You can purchase select gift cards/certificates at each HVG monthly meeting at Matthaei Botanical Gardens (third Tuesday of every month). You can also order them online through the Great Lakes Scrip Program. You can even print your own certificates and reload certain cards. Click on the "Shopping for the Earth" link at the HVG website (<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron>) for news and official information.

Now, SFTE is not a substitute for reducing your need for consumer goods, reusing items which have already been purchased, and recycling items which you or others no longer have use for. But if you *ARE* going to shop (admit it: you not only shop right now, but are likely to relapse and continue to shop in the future!), you might as well let your consumer dollars do double duty by participating in the HVG "Shopping for the Earth" program. We'll all be glad that you did.

- HVG buys cards at wholesale, you buy cards at face value
- You can purchase cards at HVG Monthly Meeting, by sending in order form, and/or online
- Some cards are reloadable





**Huron
Valley
Group
Directory**

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

Chair	
Nancy Shiffler*	971-1157
Vice-chair	
James D'Amour*	
Treasurer	
Ginny Maturen*	730-2947
Secretary	
Ed Steinman**	665-0248
Chapter Representative	
Ed Steinman**	665-0248
Alternate Chapter Representative	
Joel Dalton*	945-8132
Conservation Chair	
Dorothy Nordness	668-6306
Inner City Outings Chair	
Joan Wolf	
Outings Chair	
Kathy Guerreso	677-0823
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Website	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Newsletter Team	
Jay Schlegel*, Editor	477-5715
Mary Roth	
Kim Waldo	971-1941
Gwen Nystuen	665-7632
Ed Steinman*	665-0248

* = HVG Excom Member

How to Get HVG reminders via email!

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

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



SIERRA CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



**With your help,
we can clean up our water.**

Over the last 50 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
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"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible if they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421941, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1941 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org #840 IW



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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:

- ad wrangler
- article writer
- photography/graphics
- 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