



THE LOOKOUT

Vol. 33 No.3 November 2011



The Controversial Coyote

The past few years I have become increasingly interested in coyotes. I have traveled around the Northeast and Midwest of the country to work with wildlife biologists, researchers, and other specialists, just to learn about the coyote. I have done extensive research and have talked to coyote specialists all over the United States. Through this, I have learned how misunderstood the coyote really is, mostly due to media hype. I have developed a presentation for the public to give them "just the facts." I have spoken at the Michigan Parks and Rec Annual Conference, Wild Lapeer Days, was filmed for Bloomfield Community TV - broadcast to nine communities, and have spoken to school children of all ages here and in Indiana, 4H groups, wildlife rehabilitators, and a few other places to boot. I am educational director for the Indiana Coyote Rescue Center (coyoterescue.org).

The word coyote is Aztec and means "barking dog." The Aztec respected the coyote so much that they called it "God's dog." There is an Indian legend to this day that a gun which shoots at a coyote never shoots straight again. Lewis and Clark shot at their first coyote and missed. Maybe that was an omen of things to come!

When this country was settled, coyotes occupied only the open western plains areas of North America. Coyotes followed the trail of dead horses as settlers pushed further westward. We cut down the forests and drove out the wolves, the coyote's main competitor. Coyotes thrived on the open areas as they do today because their main diet is rabbits and rodents such as mice. We continue to this day to provide coyotes with their perfect habitat whenever we develop property. Coyotes now occupy most of North America (except for some frigid areas of northern Canada) and all of Central America. In April 2008 a coyote was spotted at the Panama Canal - they were getting ready to colonize

South America! There have been some incidents of coyotes being released in the early 1900's in the eastern part of this country, but researchers do not count this as important in the coyotes' spread. They have done it on their own, with our help. They bred with red wolves as they expanded eastward, causing the eastern coyotes to be bigger than the western.

Coyotes are in every major city. There are 2,000 in Chicago. As Los Angeles was built, the coyotes never moved out. There are coyotes in Seattle and Denver. A few years ago I had a puppy from Detroit that had been on someone's porch where kids were throwing rocks at it. They are eating the rats, mice, and snakes we don't want in our basements. People are surprised when I tell them coyotes eat the same things that foxes do.

Coyotes are timid animals. Mark Twain said that the coyote "is so spiritless and cowardly, that even when his exposed teeth are pretending a threat the rest of his face is apologizing for

it." Rick MacIvenchey is a wildlife biologist now living in Oakland County. For 10 years he darted wolves by helicopter in Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. He also used foothold traps. Occasionally he and his partner would trap a coyote. These animals were fitted with radio collars then tracked. One day he and his partner, a city girl who had never shot a gun before, came upon a coyote in one of their foothold traps. She insisted on shooting the dart gun from about 20 feet



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By Holly Hadac,
Licensed Wildlife
Rehabilitator

[Editor's Note:
This article is
a companion
piece to "The
Controversial
Coyote" presen-
tation made by
the author at the
October 2011
HVG monthly
meeting.]

The Controversial Coyote continued from page 1

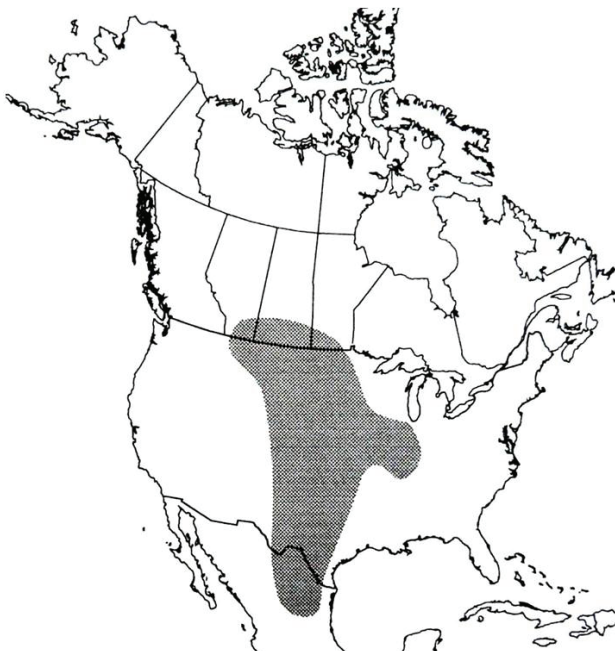
away. When she shot, the coyote fell over. Rick thought that was odd as the anesthesia doesn't take effect that quickly, but nonetheless they continued their research by measuring the animal and preparing to attach the radio collar. During this, Rick looked up and saw the dart in the dirt past the animal. She had missed, and the coyote was so scared by the repercussion from the dart gun that he fell over and was letting them handle him! They "hurried up and anesthetized him" as Rick put it, so that they could continue their work. We usually don't have many coyotes in rehab, but I have had puppies and mangy or injured adults. Over 13 years, I have never had a coyote try to bite me. Compare that to almost every adult raccoon that has tried, and one succeeded! Coyotes only run and hide.

Coyotes are nocturnal and crepuscular, meaning they hunt at night and at dawn and dusk. We may see them more during the summer in the daylight due to fewer darkness hours. They will eat anything and I mean anything: meat, fruits and vegetables, dead or alive. They adjust their diet depending on their location and what is available that particular time of year. It's all about the food source for coyotes. If you feed them, either intentionally or unintentionally, they will have a bigger litter that following spring. It doesn't take a couple of years for the female to get in better condition. It is immediate.

Coyotes have 4-6 pups, usually born in April. As with any wild species, the mortality rate is high with young. Juveniles may stay to help raise the pups. The juveniles will disperse in the late summer or early fall to find their own territory. They may have a home range of 100 square miles looking for a vacancy to fill. We create this vacancy every time we kill a coyote. It takes three weeks for another one to come in.

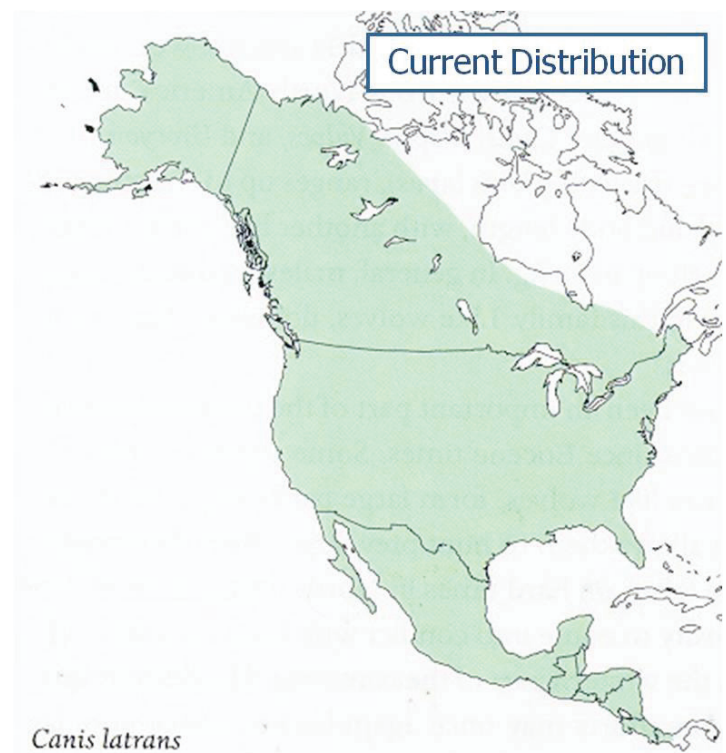
Dr. Numi Mitchell of Rhode Island (theconservationagency.org) got funding for her coyote study from a wealthy friend whose dog was eaten by a coyote. When she started tracking the coyotes, she found a neighbor was feeding them. This drew the coyotes up to the homes where they encountered her friend's dog. Within two days of notifying this neighbor about the research, the coyote stopped coming to the woman's house, as she had stopped feeding them. They are fast learners. Dr. Jon Way has been studying coyotes in Massachusetts for 12 years (easterncoyotersearch.com). He had one pack of four coyotes, radio collared, living in a cemetery divided by a two-lane road. The food source was so abundant they hardly left the cemetery. Someone poisoned the pack. The food source was so good that one pack moved into the cemetery on one side of the road and another pack moved into the cemetery on the other side of the road. The person who wanted to rid the cemetery of coyotes ended up doubling their population!

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Source: Parker, G. R. 1995. Eastern coyote, the story of its success. Nimbus Publishing, Halifax, N.S. 254pp.

Pre-Settlement Core Coyote Range

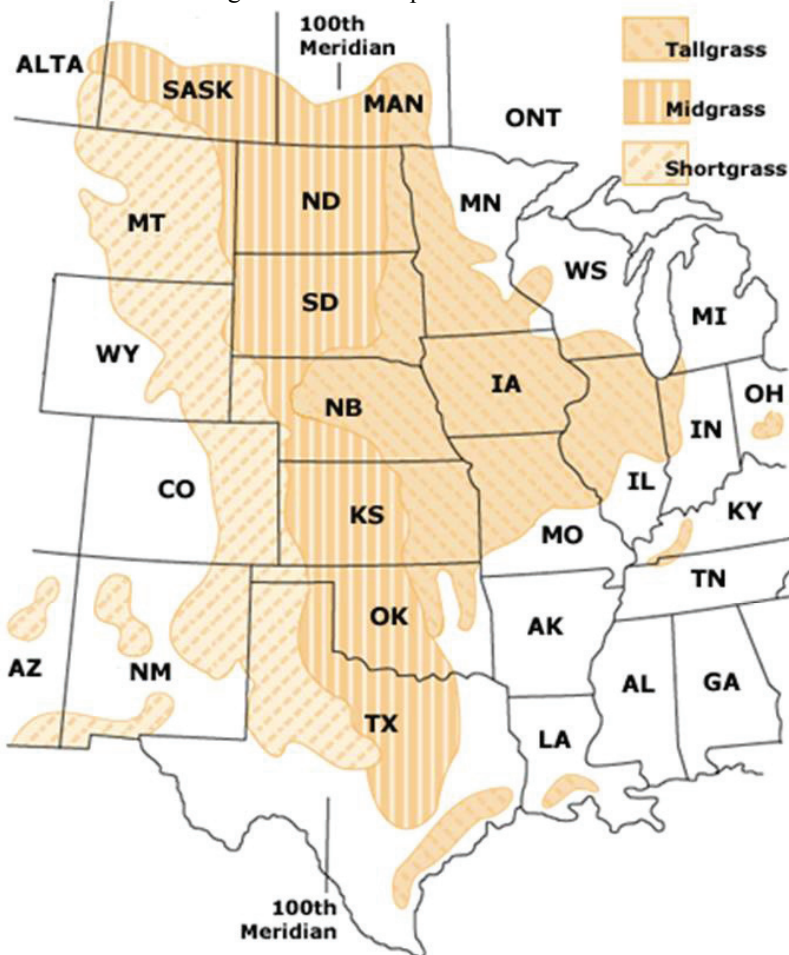


Canis latrans

In the Chicago study, Dr. Stan Gehrt has determined there are 5-6 coyotes per 3-4 square miles. He studied 1,499 droppings. Less than 1% was pet remains, less than 2% was human garbage, and the rest was their normal diet of rabbits and rodents. Dr. Way's research in Massachusetts has found 3-4 coyotes per 10 square miles. Both areas are urban/suburban. Researchers believe that rural areas may have just the mated pair in a much larger area. Coyotes live at low densities, as they are highly territorial. They don't kill trespassers as wolves do. They just chase them to the border.

The people in southern California have gotten themselves in trouble by having neighborhood coyote feeding stations. The coyotes lose their fear of people, then look to people as a food source. I have read every coyote incident in California since the 1970's. The researchers conclude that most of the problems have occurred because people were feeding the coyotes. There is only one confirmed killing of a human by a coyote. That happened in California in the 1980's. The people had been feeding the coyote. They then left their three-year-old outside unattended with a chicken leg in its hand. When the coyote wanted the chicken leg and the child cried, the coyote attacked. Compare that to almost 5,000,000 dog bites each year in the United States, from which 16-20 people die according to the Centers for Disease Control (cdc.gov). But which one do we hear about in the media?

Our federal government has spent hundreds of millions



Great Plains Grasslands

of taxpayer dollars since 1919 trying to eradicate the coyote, using many different methods including poison. They also invented a practice called "denning" where they pull out the puppies and bash their heads in. Or, they pour gasoline down the den and set it on fire, among other horrible practices. I know a Royal Oak man who used to work out west for Wildlife Services trying to eradicate coyotes. He now shakes his head, and says, "I won't tell you what we used to do to them." Coyotes have responded by breeding younger and having bigger litters. Studies show that in a persecuted population, almost all females breed and bear young. Where they are left alone, such as in Yellowstone National Park, where Dr. Bob Crabtree is the lead wildlife biologist, the females breed at two years of age and have smaller litters. They aren't going anywhere. Now researchers are starting to realize that there is no such thing as coyote management. They have concluded instead that we have to look at how we manage ourselves.

How do we do this? This means not feeding coyotes intentionally. This means not feeding them unintentionally by allowing them access to garbage, compost piles, livestock, etc. They even eat at our bird feeders by eating the bird seed, then the animals that come in for the bird seed, especially at night. They eat apples fallen from our trees and drink at our ponds and bird baths. But mainly we can help by not putting pet food outside.

Those of us who live in the country don't worry about our large dogs, but we watch our cats and small dogs. The Humane Society of the United States (hsus.org) and other organizations provide extensive advice on not supporting coyotes and avoiding coyotes. You can see that food has permeated every aspect of coyotes that I have written about here.

In "Coyotes: Predators and Survivors," Charles L. Cadieux said, "It is my personal belief that when the last human has fallen, and the last skull lies on the irradiated earth, a coyote will come trotting out of some safe place. Don't ask me where he'll come from; but I believe that he will survive as he has always survived."



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Coyote Addendum

By Bill Dodge

[Bill Dodge is a PhD candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at Wayne State University. He is studying the ecology of coyotes in the Detroit metropolitan and surrounding areas of southeastern Michigan. The primary goal of his research is to provide information to wildlife biologists, animal damage control officials, urban planners, educators, and other interested parties in order to help develop reasonable and effective management strategies to mitigate human-coyote conflicts. The objectives of his research are to (1) determine the distribution of coyotes, (2) investigate what food sources are important to coyotes and how this might vary seasonally and among different areas, and (3) understand how human development and activities affect coyote movement patterns and habitat selection.]

To get a general idea of coyote distribution in southeastern Michigan, during May - August 2009 we surveyed for evidence (e.g., fecal material [scat], tracks, den sights, etc.) of coyotes in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. In addition, to gather data on coyote feeding habits, scats identified as coyote were collected and the undigested material (e.g., teeth, hair) is being analyzed. Surprisingly, our first week out in the field we saw two individual coyotes and a family group (2 adults, 1 juvenile). That same week we heard a group of pups howling in response to an emergency vehicle siren. Those were our only close encounters with live coyotes for the entire summer. We collected over 350 coyote scats at various locations throughout southeastern Michigan. Evidence of coyotes was found most often in areas with patches of natural vegetation nearby. Preliminary analysis of undigested remains in scats suggests that, during the spring and early summer, coyotes feed primarily on small rodents such as mice and voles, and eastern cottontail rabbits. Later in the summer, coyotes supplement their diet with whatever fruits (e.g., crab apples, blackberries) are in season.

"We see coyotes all the time, there's lots of them and they are everywhere!" I often get this response when I ask folks if they have seen coyotes in southeastern Michigan. Golf courses, Metro Parks, state parks, county parks, you name it; anywhere there are natural areas, or patches or belts of green space, people have seen, heard, or have found evidence of coyotes. Does this mean that the abundance of coyotes in southeastern Michigan has increased?

Estimates from annual mail-in fur-bearer harvest surveys conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) show that, since 1996, the mean harvest of coyotes per hunter statewide has remained consistently higher than in the early 1980s, suggesting that the abundance of coyotes may have increased during the last 15-20 years. This apparent increase in coyote abundance does not appear to be restricted to rural and suburban areas either. In southeastern Michigan, the most densely human-populated and developed region in the state, increases in coyote sightings and removal activities, and several incidences of coyote attacks on small dogs, appear to support the survey results. During our surveys, we found evidence of coyotes in highly urbanized areas, including Dearborn, Grosse Pointe Shores/Farms, Grosse Isle, and Belle Isle, to name

a few. So why have coyote numbers increased and why the apparent influx into urban areas?

Historically, coyotes were restricted to the arid grasslands and deserts of the Great Plains region of western North America. During the 20th century, for a variety of reasons, chief among them being changes in land use (e.g., logging, farming), localized wolf extirpation, and the coyote's extreme adaptability, the coyote dramatically expanded its range to include nearly all of North and Central America. Today, the 'wily' coyote inhabits all landscape categories, has readily adapted to areas dominated by human activities, and is now the top carnivore in many major metropolitan areas in the Midwest, including Detroit. We only have a rudimentary understanding of coyote ecology in urban landscapes, however, because their appearance in and around cities is a relatively recent phenomenon. Some speculate that coyote abundance has increased because lower pelt prices have resulted in decreased hunting and trapping pressure on coyotes. Although possible, a more likely explanation has to do with coyote mating behavior and social structure.

Coyotes are monogamous, typically mating for life unless one of the pair dies. Monogamy, although rare in nature, is typical of members of the canid (or dog) family, which in North America includes wolves, coyotes, and foxes. Coyote pairs consist of an unrelated adult male and adult female that remain together throughout the year. In most years in the Midwest, mating occurs in February. After seeking out a den site, females typically give birth to four to seven pups following a 62- to 65-day gestation period. Pups remain in the den for about six weeks, and then begin to make short forays away from the den accompanied by adults. By the end of the summer, pups are often traveling and hunting alone or with siblings.

Some young coyotes remain with their parents for multiple years, forming a family group or pack. Until recently, it was thought that coyotes did not form packs like wolves. This is because coyotes usually travel and hunt alone or in loose pairs and are therefore typically not seen together. Family groups maintain a territory which they defend against other coyotes and sometimes, unfortunately, domestic dogs. One of the first questions that Dr. Stanley Gehrt (professor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University, who has studied coyotes in the Chicago metropolitan area for 10 years) had was whether coyotes could maintain their social structure in highly urbanized environments. He discovered that coyotes in his

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Coyote Addendum continued from page 4

Cook County study area formed family groups that often consisted of five to six adults plus pups of the year. He also found that individual packs maintained non-overlapping territories, indicating that coyotes obviously defended their territories from other packs.

Typically, only the dominant or 'alpha' pair within a pack breed. Although younger subordinate coyotes often contribute to pup rearing, others disperse from their natal pack to seek out unoccupied habitat and a mate with which to breed, raise young, and form a new pack. Young dispersing coyotes often travel great distances in their search. For example, a juvenile coyote captured and outfitted with a GPS radio-collar in April 2008 in Oneonta County, New York, was caught nine months later by a trapper in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania - a straight-line distance of approximately 150 miles. This tendency to disperse and ability to move long distances are the mechanisms by which coyotes initially expanded their range in North America and continue to fill coyote-vacant habitats. Apparently, the influx of coyotes into human-dominated landscapes has occurred because of available vacant territories and good food resources in metropolitan and residential areas.

Coyotes have successfully adapted to inhabiting areas occupied by humans, primarily by avoiding them. Particularly in urban areas, coyotes minimize their exposure to humans by traveling and foraging at night when humans are least active. For this reason, coyotes are seldom heard or seen, although they often leave evidence (e.g., tracks, scats) of their presence. Despite their nocturnal proclivity and avoidance of humans, because coyotes live in close proximity to humans, especially in cities, conflicts with humans may occur.

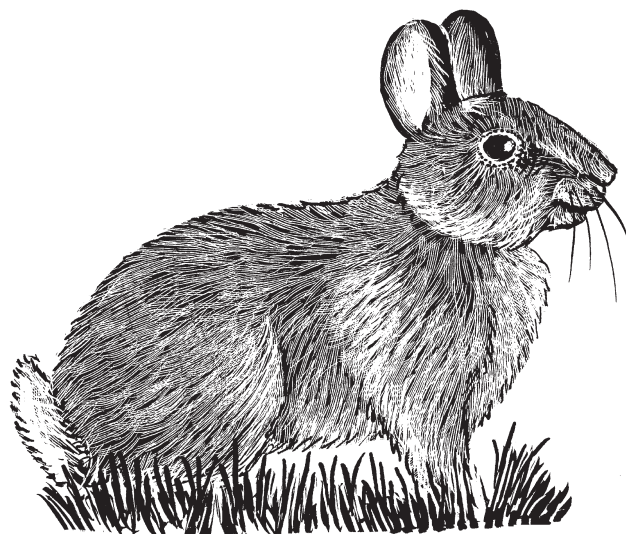
Often, the biggest complaint about coyotes is that they live near people at all. This is especially true in developed areas where humans rarely if ever see, much less encounter, a medium-sized carnivore outside of a zoo. Although humans have little to fear from coyotes (attacks on humans are extremely rare and none have been documented in the Midwest), they do on occasion attack and sometimes kill domestic cats or dogs. For a variety of reasons the popular media tend to focus on these incidences. This is unfortunate, because it is not constructive and reinforces negative human attitudes about coyotes.

Coyotes become a problem when they are habituated to humans, generally from food conditioning, either through intentional or

unintentional feeding by people. Coyotes that associate houses and yards with food tend to lose their fear of humans and often become more active during daylight hours and are therefore seen more often. Simple precautions on our part can be taken to avoid conflicts with coyotes. First and most importantly, do not feed coyotes, and do not allow pets (especially small dogs) to run loose. If you encounter a coyote, do not run; shout or throw something in its direction.

My description of coyote ecology in the Detroit Metropolitan area has been necessarily broad due to an overall lack of information. The appearance of coyotes in the area, however, suggests that there is sufficient natural habitat (green space) to provide the necessary cover and food resources for them to exist. We do know that there are more coyotes than in the past, although just how many is not known. We also have a rough idea of where they are and what they eat. Many questions remain to be answered. Our research will shed more light on the intriguing coyote and address many of these unanswered questions.

Finally, I am often asked what we should do about the 'coyote issue' in southeastern Michigan. I answer by saying that the 'issue' is not a coyote issue, but a human one. Our relationship with coyotes is directly affected by our actions and behaviors. Coyotes are wild animals and should be respected as such. In turn coyotes need to maintain a healthy respectful fear of humans. In order to foster a mutual respect between humans and coyotes, we need to reinforce those cues that maintain the coyote's wildness. One thing that can be done, and hopefully I have contributed, is to provide factual information about coyotes to the public and dispel some of the myths and disinformation about this unique carnivore.



New Fracking Legislation Introduced in the Michigan House



By Nancy Shiffler

In November 7th, a group of Michigan legislators -- including two from the Huron Valley Group area -- announced the introduction of a package of bills to protect Michigan waters from fracking. As introduced, the package of bills call for a moratorium on new natural gas hydraulic fracturing (i.e. 'fracking') permits until a study of potential impacts is completed. To highlight the legislation, press conferences were held in Grand Rapids, Wolverine Lake in Oakland County, Lansing, and Antrim County at an active fracking site. At each event, conservation groups working with the newly-formed Protect Michigan Waters From Fracking Campaign spoke. I was fortunate to attend the event in Grand Rapids on the historic Blue Bridge overlooking the Grand River, and, later in the day, the event in the capitol building in Lansing.

Deep shale, slick water hydraulic fracturing with horizontal drilling, better known as "fracking," is a process used to access natural gas resources found in deep (5,000 to 10,000 feet) shale deposits. Water, sand, and a mixture of chemicals are forced down the drill hole at high pressure to release the gas trapped in the tightly compacted shale deposits. While a form of fracking has been used in Michigan for several years in much shallower wells, this newer, deeper process uses much larger quantities of water (up to 7 million gallons) along with undisclosed toxic chemicals. Experiences in states such as Pennsylvania, New York, Texas and Colorado, where thousands of these wells have been drilled, have included instances of toxic spills, well and surface water contamination, and air pollution.

The purpose of this proposed legislation is to put in place safeguards that will protect our water

and natural resources from the potential impacts of fracking and to open up the process to the public for a robust and thorough discussion. Introduced by state representatives Mark Meadows (D – East Lansing), Jeff Irwin (D - Ann Arbor), Brandon Dillon (D - Grand Rapids), Lisa Brown (D - West Bloomfield), David Rutledge (D - Ypsilanti), Kurt Heise (R - Plymouth), and Andrew Kandrevas (D - Southgate), the package of bills would provide the following:

- HB 5149 removes an exemption for the natural gas industry from existing state water withdrawal legislation.

- HB 5150 establishes a moratorium on deep shale horizontal fracturing permits until an advisory committee (from HB 5151) issues recommendations.

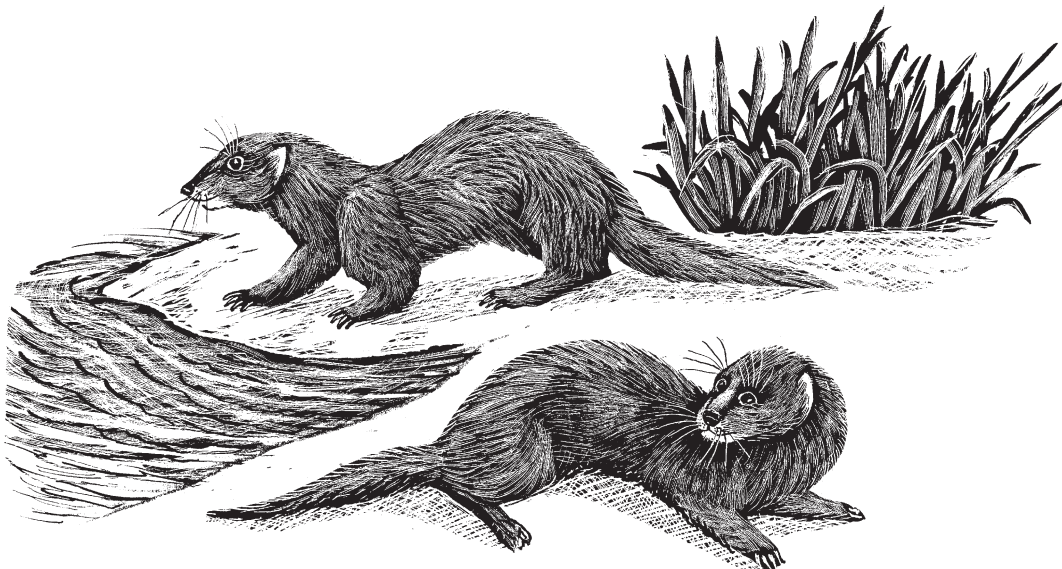
- HB 5151 requires the DEQ and the DNR to undertake a study of the public health, environmental, and natural resources impacts associated with the extraction of natural gas using fracking.

- HB 4736 creates a presumption of liability for companies when groundwater contamination is discovered in the vicinity of a natural gas well being fracked.

- (Awaiting introduction for bill number) a bill requiring companies to fully disclose the chemicals being used in fracking operations.

Here in Michigan we are stewards of the greatest freshwater system in the world. Half of our residents get their drinking water from ground water wells. Water-dependent industries like fishing, boating, and tourism pump billions of

dollars and countless jobs into our economy. We cannot afford to get this wrong. As members of the Protect Michigan Waters From Fracking Campaign, the Sierra Club fully supports these legislative efforts.





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 December 13, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "The Nature Principal: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder," by Richard Louv. The latest book by the author of Last Child in the Woods. This book draws on the growing body of research about the influence of nature on human health. "A book for grown-ups who crave and need nature just as much as kids." Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

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 Rd west through Dexter; turn right (north) onto Dexter-Pinckney Rd; turn left (west) on N. Territorial Rd, park in the office building lot on the south side. Non-members welcome. Contact: 734-477-5715, jayhschlegel@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). 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. Free. \$1.20/hr PARKING FEE 8am-8pm starts in Jan. Pay kiosks at each building entrance will accept cash, debit or credit card. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday December 20, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: Great Adventures 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. Free and open to the public. \$1.20/hr PARKING FEE 8am-8pm starts in Jan. Pay kiosks at each building entrance will accept cash, debit or credit card. Contact: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Tuesday January 10, 2012 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "The Windward Shore: A Winter on the Great Lakes," by Jerry Dennis. The latest from the author of "The Living Great Lakes." Taking a slower pace while walking the beaches and woods of the Great Lakes. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. If Nicola's winter hours are in effect, start at 7:15.

Sunday January 15, 2012 - 1:00 pm - Mill Pond Hike-or-Ski. Waterloo Recreation Area. Ski or hike in the area around Mill Lake and the Gerald Eddy Discovery Center in the Waterloo Rec. Area 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 Discovery Center: Take I-94 west past Chelsea; exit right (north) at Pierce Rd; head north approx 1.5 miles to T-intersection at McClure Rd; turn left, go approx 1/2 mile to entrance to Discovery Center. Contact: 734-477-5715 jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Tuesday January 17, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). See December 20 ICO Calendar for more information on the program.

Tuesday January 17, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Check the HVG website for details. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. \$1.20/hr PARKING FEE 8am-8pm starts in Jan. Pay kiosks at each building entrance will accept cash, debit or credit card. Contact: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Sunday February 5, 2012 - 1:00 pm - Juniper Ridge Ski/Hike. Pinckney State Recreation Area. Ski or hike on the gorgeous 2.5 mile Juniper Ridges Trail in the Pinckney State Rec. Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Skiers with intermediate ability recommended. 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 Rd west through Dexter; continue west on Island Lake Rd 3-miles to Dexter Townhall Rd; turn right (north), cross N Territorial Rd, go 1-mile north, turn on Silver Hill Rd, park near tollbooth. Contact: 734-477-5715 jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday February 14, 2012 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: TBA. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. If Nicola's winter hours are in effect, start at 7:15 How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday February 21, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). For information on the Washtenaw Inner City Outings (ICO) see Dec 20 of the Calendar.

Tuesday February 21, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Check the HVG website for details. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. \$1.20/hr PARKING FEE 8am-8pm starts in Jan. Pay kiosks at each building entrance will accept cash, debit or credit card. Contact: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Tuesday March 13, 2012 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: TBA. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. If Nicola's winter hours are in effect, start at 7:15 How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Sunday March 18, 2012 - 1:00 pm - Peace Lake "Secret Hike". Pinckney State Recreation Area. Four-mile "Secret Hike" around Peace Lake in 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 Rd west thru Dexter; continue west on Island Lake Rd 3 miles to Dexter-Townhall Rd; turn right, north, to N Territorial Rd; turn left, go west 1.5 miles to Hankerd Rd; turn right, go north 1 mile; park along Hankerd Rd at entrance to Pickerel Lake access. Contact: 734-477-5715 jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

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

Tuesday March 20, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Check the HVG website for details. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. \$1.20/hr PARKING FEE 8am-8pm starts in Jan. Pay kiosks at each building entrance will accept cash, debit or credit card. Contact: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.



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

Tuesday April 9, 2012 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: TBA. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. If Nicola's winter hours are in effect, start at 7:15 How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday April 17, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). For information on the Washtenaw Inner City Outings (ICO) see Dec 20 of the Calendar.

Tuesday April 17, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Check the HVG website for details.

Saturday April 21, 2012 - 11:30 am - Scio Woods Preserve Hike. Scio Woods Preserve (Scio Church Road Ann Arbor, MI). Join us for a spring 3-mile hike at a leisurely pace, if weather permits. Canceled if rain. Dress for the weather. Some hills amongst woodlands. Meet at the parking lot/trailhead by 11:30 am. Children are welcome with a parent. Contact: 734-677-0823.

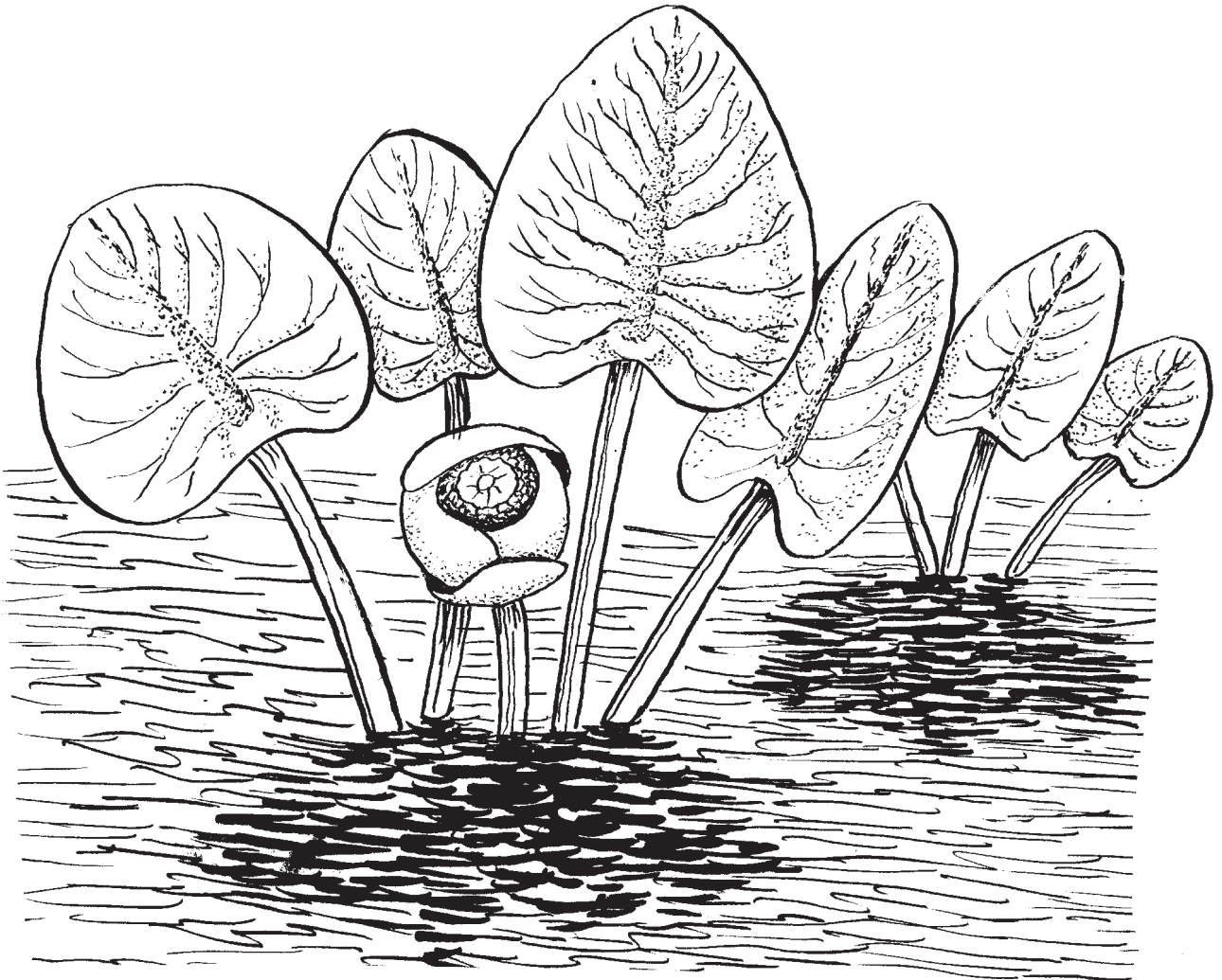
The Proposed Fermi 3 Nuclear Reactor

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Fermi 3 nuclear reactor has just been released for comment. The Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group's Nuclear Threat Committee needs your expertise to help read this moderately technical document for the Fermi 3 reactor proposed for Monroe, Michigan. The document is lengthy (vol. 1 is 805 pages, vol. 2 is 737 pages), covering the many areas of the impact that this reactor could have on the surrounding environment.

If you have expertise in the following areas, or can help us network for volunteers who have expertise in the following (or related) areas:

- Alternative Energy
- Chemistry, Toxicology; ALL of the Natural Sciences – there will be a chapter that applies.
- Meteorology/Atmospheric (Air quality)
- Geology
- Freshwater Biology - specifically the Lake Erie Western Basin, Hydrology
- Ecology - terrestrial/aquatic
- Environmental Justice
- Biology/Biodiversity, Botany
- Waste Management
- Health fields
- People familiar with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Shiffler (nshiffler@comcast.net)



More About Using Great Lakes Scrip and HVG's Shopping for the Earth" Program

Do you have some special purchases or gift-giving needs in your near future? In follow up to Jay Schlegel's article "HVG 'Shopping for the Earth', What's in it for You?" in the Fall 2011 edition of The Lookout, I'm writing a brief 1,2,3,4 . . . telling how you can get involved. It's very easy and your purchase of gift cards or gift certificates from HVG is an important mechanism to support the ongoing conservation efforts of your local group.

My article is repetitive of those before but I'm hoping my experience getting involved in the Great Lakes Scrip program might give you a different perspective and approach. I started by keeping it simple until I understood the process.

1. Go to <http://shopwithscrip.com>
2. Create an account for yourself. The sign-up box is on the left side of the page. Use DB88E96B2L234 for the enrollment code for Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group. You will also need to enter your e-mail address, and identify a unique "user name" and "password" for yourself.
3. You will get an automatic e-mail from Shopwithscrip confirming you account and giving some basic information. [I also noted my username and password on my printed paper copy, for future reference.]
4. Go to the Shop tab and Browse by Category. Once you identify the cards you would like to purchase, you have a choice to make.

a. Order a card by clicking on its link, then use Add to Cart to order it. Once you have completed your order, go to Checkout. Pay for your shopping cards by either of two methods.

1.) Method 1: Presto Pay (Electronic Funds Transfer). Learn this method by watching 2 short videos: "Presto Pay overview" and "Presto Pay registration".

OR

2.) Method 2: Make out your check to "Sierra Club – Huron Valley Group" in the amount of your purchase and mail it to Ed Steinman, 621 5th St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your order will be processed upon receipt of your check.

b. You can complete the paper order form and mail it with a check payable to "Sierra Club – Huron Valley Group" to Ed Steinman as above. Or you can fill out the form at any of HVG's monthly meetings at Matthaei Botanical Gardens (second Tuesday of each month). Ed will take it from there.

For more detail about the program go to <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm>

If you have questions, please contact Ed Steinman, esteinman@umich.edu or 734-665-0248.

And by the way, thanks to those of you who are already participants.



By Ginnie Maturen





**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
- Inner City Outings Liaison
- Membership Chair
Ed Steinman** 665-0248
- Political Chair
James D'Amour*
- Publicity
Joel Dalton* 945-8132
- Program Co-Chairs
Ron Sell*
Rita Mitchell 665-0248
- Shopping for the Earth
Ed Steinman** 665-0248
- Fund Raising Co-Chairs
Jay Schlegel* 477-5715
Ed Steinman** 665-0248
- 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!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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

Over the last 30 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 _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
 Email _____

**Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____

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 newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
 P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F94Q | W _____



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 cards 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.

Candidates and Ballot for the Election of the



Jay Schlegel

I am currently completing my third term on the HVG Executive Committee, and it continues to be an eye-opener. I have learned a great deal about local politics and how a group of determined environmentalists can influence this process. Serving on the Executive Committee has also helped me put a local face to issues which affect us globally and nationally.

In addition to my Executive Committee role as fundraising chair, I wear several other hats -- all of which put a practical/tangible spin on things I can do to help the HVG. I've been co-leading the wildly successful (no longer-)'Secret Hike' series in the Waterloo/Pinckney area for some years now, which directly connects people and nature even if only briefly. I'm now starting my second year as editor of the HVG newsletter, which has also been illuminating. You may also have encountered me in my role as "Art Fair Czar," "Calendar Czar," and/or "Coffee/Tea Czar" -- but no, I do not have any Russian ancestors (that I know of!).

I have met many nice Sierra Club members while wearing my various hats, and the conversations I've had always leave me with something new which hopefully I can apply elsewhere within the Club. I look forward to continuing these conversations and helping to advance the goals of the Sierra Club if elected to another term.



Nancy Shiffler

Sierra Club offices held: Current chair of the Group Executive Committee; former state Chapter chair; former Group and Chapter Conservation chair.

The uniqueness of the Sierra Club flows from participation at the grassroots:

- The heart of the club is its volunteers. The club provides a place for members to grow and be effective as activists.
- The enjoyment and sense of renewal we get from our outings help to energize our conservation activism.
- The Sierra Club is a democratic organization; it is both the right and the responsibility of its members to become involved in its governance.

We are facing any number of important environmental issues in our three-county area -- public transit, factory farms, energy (renewables and efficiency vs. oil and gas drilling, new coal plants and new nuclear plants), the protection of parks and natural areas -- and across the state and nation. Our capacity to act on these issues is bounded only by the willingness of our members to become involved. As a member of our Executive Committee I will help to continue our work on these important issues and work to increase the number of members actively involved.



Huron Valley Group Executive Committee



Ginny Maturen

I was approached a year ago to assume the vacant position of Treasurer for the Huron Valley Group. In January, 2011, I was appointed by the Executive Committee to fill the remaining term of a departing member. I am now running for election as Treasurer.

In this interim period I have implemented several programs. ExCom members are provided with a monthly report of HVG fund balances. Having reviewed the group's expenditures, I'm implementing a plan to reduce the amount of Michigan sales tax members pay when making Club purchases to take advantage of our 501c3 status. As the Club's revenues have slowly eroded over the past several years, I'm working with members to strengthen our Shopping for the Earth (SFTE) program and to identify other potential revenue streams. ExCom members have taken steps to reduce expenditures. As a voting member of this body, I wish to continue working to maintain and improve our financial position, thereby enabling HVG to continue its important environmental protection projects.

I've been a member of the Sierra Club since 1997, but only recently set a goal for myself to become more involved and politically active with the many environmental challenges that threaten our environment and ultimately the well being of every living organism. Thank you for voting to retain me as Treasurer.

Ballot for Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee 2011

The Huron Valley Group Executive Committee (ExCom) is selected by you. Ballot instructions and anonymity guarantee:

1. Please mark up to three votes on the ballot provided. Only those ballots with a membership number on the attached mailing label are eligible.
2. After marking your ballot, **remove this entire back page from the newsletter.**
3. Fold the bottom third up to conceal your votes, and fold the top third over to show your mailing label.
4. Return your ballot in a sealed envelope either by hand at the December 21st HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o Ed Steinman, 621 Fifth St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Mailed ballots must be received by December 20, 2011 to be counted.

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2011

Three to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2012 - Vote for three.
Second column of boxes is for second voter in same household.

Jay Schlegel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nancy Shiffler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ginny Maturen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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

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Ann Arbor, MI

Fall - Winter 2011 Inside:

- The Controversial Coyote - page 1-3
- Fracking Legislation - page 4
- Calendar of Events - page 7-8
- Ballot for the HVG Election - page 15



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