



THE LOOKOUT

Vol. 34 No.1 March 2012



EXTREME MAKEOVER: BROWNFIELD EDITION

Much like the television program “Extreme Makeover” which showcases efforts to renovate houses and make-over people to achieve remarkable results, an industrial brownfield in Trenton, Michigan, is undergoing an extreme makeover into the gateway to North America’s only international wildlife refuge. For 44 years, from 1946, automobile component manufacturing occurred on this 44-acre tract of waterfront property in Trenton, Michigan. This facility was remediated to industrial standards, closed in 1990, and sat vacant as an industrial brownfield for 12 years. Then in 2002 it was purchased by Wayne County to become the gateway to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This property is now known as the Refuge Gateway. A master plan for the Refuge Gateway was then developed by Wayne County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and many partners to

serve as a blueprint for cleanup and restoration work at the Refuge Gateway necessary to establish the site as an ecological buffer for Humbug Marsh, now Michigan’s only “Wetland of International Importance” designated under the international Ramsar Convention. The Refuge Gateway will also become the future home of the Refuge’s visitor center. Everything people will see and do at the Refuge Gateway will teach them conservation and how to live sustainably.

During the public battle to save Humbug Marsh from development in the 1990s, the Sierra Club took a strong stand on saving it from development and played a key role in preserving this last mile of natural shoreline on the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River. Humbug Marsh is located on the lower end of the Detroit River in the cities of Trenton and Gibraltar.

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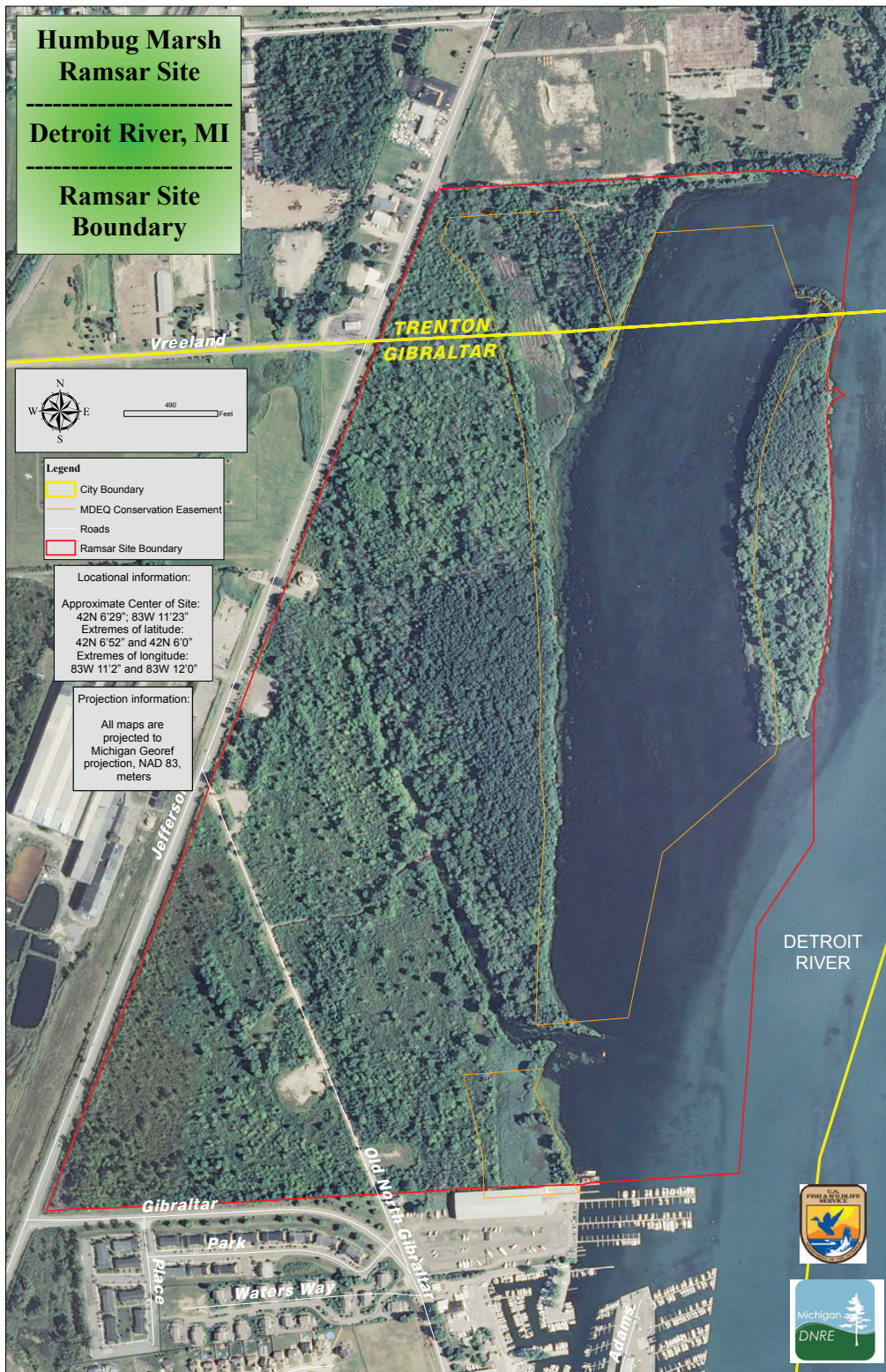
By
Dr. John Hartig,
Refuge Manager

*Join the Huron
Valley Group
for a visit to the
Humbug Marsh
on Sunday
May 21st*



Image: View of Humbug Marsh and the mouth of the Detroit River from the newly restored shoreline of the Refuge Gateway

Humbog Marsh continued from page 1



It represents a significant portion of the last unaltered U.S. wetlands in the Detroit River, and is now a unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The marsh serves as vital habitat for 51 species of fish, 90 species of plants, 154 species of birds, seven species of reptiles and amphibians, and 37 species of dragonflies and damselflies.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge incorporates more than 5,700 acres along 48 miles of the lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting, and restoring habitat for a number of unique species, and works with countless partners to make these efforts a reality. It is the first international wildlife refuge in North America and one of the few truly urban refuges in the nation. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and waterfront lands.

The Refuge is managed within the National Wildlife Refuge System, a diverse network of lands encompassing 553 national wildlife refuges across the nation. The Refuge System is overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a leading conservation agency known for its scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. More information on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is at: www.fws.gov

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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



Additional information regarding the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is at www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver or contact the Refuge’s Visitor Services program at detroitriverrefuge@gmail.com.

Join the Huron Valley Group for a visit to the Humbug Marsh on Sunday May 21. We will hike along the last untouched mile of U.S. shoreline along the Detroit River. Observe the plants and animals that use this unique habitat and learn how it was saved from the threat of development by thousands of dedicated residents, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Meet at the Refuge Gateway, 5437 W. Jefferson Ave., Trenton, MI, on the east side of Jefferson Avenue, south of Van Horn Street and north of Vreeland Ave at 1:00. Or, meet at Zingerman’s Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Ave in Ann Arbor to car pool. We will leave Ann Arbor by 11:30 am. **Remember: It’s a marsh! Wear your mud boots!**

UPDATE ON FULLER PARK

By
Vivienne
Armentrout

The history of a little part of Fuller Park took another turn when the University of Michigan and City of Ann Arbor announced (February 10, 2012) that the UM was pulling out of the agreement with Ann Arbor to build a parking structure on what had been a “temporary” parking lot. Huron Valley Group members have played a significant part in the community discussion of Fuller Road Station and can take some credit for the demise of the parking structure plans. But the possible use of parkland for a “multimodal” station is still very real and presents not only a potential impact on the park but also a disturbing precedent for co-option of parkland for other uses.

The use of a little piece of parkland for parking dates to 1993, when the UM granted the use of about 4 acres to realign Oakway Drive and thus save 200-300 year-old burr oak trees from removal during expansion of the Veteran’s Hospital. In return, the UM was allowed to lease shared parking in the parking lots adjacent to Fuller pool and in the lot on the south side of Fuller Road. The current lease expires this year. But the Memorandum of Understanding approved in November 2005 between the UM and Ann Arbor would have made this “temporary” parking a permanent, massive structure. The plan, as explained repeatedly by Mayor Hieftje, was that the UM’s contribution for the parking structure would serve as a local match for work on the train station.

Chair Nancy Shiffler and members Rita Mitchell and James D’Amour appeared at several Regents’ meetings to point out the conflict between this move and the university’s stated goals of sustainability and they and other chapter members were frequenters of public forums and council meetings, where they often raised the issue of the use of dedicated parkland. This helped to keep the issue before decision-makers.

But the significant contributions came through painstaking attention to procedural detail and understanding of Federal environmental law. Members, especially Rita Mitchell and Dietrich Bergmann, obtained (often through the Freedom of Information Act) documents

relating to grant proposals submitted by AATA and MDOT, the environmental assessment of the area prepared by consultants (local firm JJR) in recommending and planning for the use of this site. (MDOT submitted the actual grant proposal for the high-speed rail fund [HSIPR] that is paying for track improvements and several train stations.) These were used in letters to Federal agencies in reference to the National Environmental Policy Act. According to the NEPA, any environmental impact statement must acknowledge the use of parkland in a project under review for Federal grant awards. Nancy Shiffler sent letters in April and July 2011 to the Federal Railroad Agency detailing how the environmental assessment in the grant proposal submitted by MDOT for the HSIPR grant fell short of NEPA requirements and how the city’s statements were, in fact, misleading at times. The July letter also points out that MDOT lists as “local match” money that had already been expended (a violation of procedure) to pay for the JJR report.

The email correspondence between the city and the FRA shows that these letters had effect. While most interactions were by conference call and no records are available, there are enough references to the Sierra Club letters and to further review by environmental specialists to indicate that the FRA was raising issues related to the Sierra Club’s points. Ultimately, the issue of prior expenditures was a sticking point. As reported in AnnArbor.com, “According to FRA, any investments made on the site prior to federal funding being allocated for the project don’t count as matching dollars”, Hieftje said.”

This was good old-fashioned hard-core environmental activism at the expert level. The local members also used press releases to make FOIA-obtained information available to the press and some of this did reach the public through the media. But though the UM’s exit is good news for Fuller Park, the city continues to assert that they will seek to build a new train station there. The HSIPR grant is still on the council’s agenda for acceptance. It is not clear

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Fuller Park continued

where the matching funds (about \$700,000) will come from. In a press release dated February 14, Chair Nancy Shiffler noted:

“We continue to have concerns about the precedent of repurposing city parkland for a train station and possible lease of retail space without a vote of the citizens. Now that the University parking garage portion of the plan has been dropped, we urge the City to take this opportunity to reconsider the potential for upgrading the current Amtrak station and environs.”

Oh so BIG!



Ann Arbor 1993. Children circling one of the grand old Burr Oaks that would have been lost if the road had been built as originally planned. The oak grove remains just east of the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center and the road curves around the grove that was saved by the efforts of many citizens including many Sierra Club members.



ANN ARBOR ART FAIR IN JULY!

Yes, it's still early, but... Are you looking for a nice shady spot to relax in during your trip to the Ann Arbor Art Fair(s) this year (Wednesday July 18 to Saturday July 21)? Why not relax while chatting about the environment with passersby at the Sierra Club - Huron Valley Group's 'spacious' Art Fair Booth? NO experience is necessary! You will NOT be selling anything to anyone! You do NOT need to know everything there is to know about the Sierra Club! Did I mention that you get to sit in the shade?

If you are interested in helping, please contact our Art Fair Czar, Jay Schlegel, at jayhschlegel@comcast.net or 734-477-5715. Thanks.

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 6 March 2012

Distance driven:	147,655 miles
Fuel purchased:	4,568 gallons gasoline equivalent (GGE)
Fuel economy:	32.3 miles/GGE
Fuel cost of CNG used:	\$6,495
Average fuel cost:	\$1.422 per GGE
Cost economy:	22.7 miles per dollar
Savings over gasoline:	\$3,653 (\$1,713 over payback amount)
Payback mileage*:	86,905
Payback date*:	15 April 2006

* 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 135,120 miles

Pounds of:	Average car on road in 2000	CA LEV**	Civic GX
Hydrocarbons	911	24.4	0.98
Carbon monoxide	6,797	1105.8	52.04
Oxides of nitrogen	452	65.0	6.50
Total (pounds)	8,160	1,195.2	59.52

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



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 April 10, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Book: “The End of Country”, by Seamus McGraw. The story of what happens to a small Pennsylvania town when big energy companies arrive to drill for gas. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. Note change to summer hours at Nicola’s Books. How to get involved? It’s easy. Read the book and come to discuss it. Nicola’s Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI).

Thursday April 12, 2012 -- 10:00 am -- WCC Earth Day Celebration. Information and demonstrations from a variety of businesses and organizations related to sustainable responses to transportation, products for green building, natural area preservation, and community organizing. Includes special raptor presentation, 11am to noon. Event is free and open to the public. Washtenaw Community College (Student Center Building -- 2nd floor Ann Arbor, MI).

Tuesday April 17, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting. WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 6:30-7:30 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI 48105, room 164. This is just before the Huron Valley Group’s general meeting also at Matthaei. Free. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday April 17, 2012 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Program: “Huron-Clinton Metroparks: Care of Our Diverse Ecosystems”. We know the Metroparks for their bike paths and ball fields, but a big part of their mission is land stewardship. Paule Muelle, Director of Natural Resources for Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, will present their programs for invasive control and natural land rehabilitation. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Contact Rita Mitchell for details: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Saturday April 21, 2012 -- 11:30 am -- Scio Woods Preserve Hike. 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. Scio Woods Preserve (Scio Church Road Ann Arbor, MI). Contact: 734-677-0823.

Sunday April 22, 2012 -- 12:00 pm -- Earth Day Celebration. The city of Ann Arbor’s Earth Day celebration -- events, information, activities for children. Come celebrate the day. Leslie Science and Nature Center (1831 Traver Rd Ann Arbor, MI).

Sunday April 22, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- Cassidy Road ‘Secret Hike’. Hike five miles through old fields, mature woods and unique wetlands with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. From Ann Arbor, take I-94 west to M-52, exit north, go through Chelsea, turn west on Waterloo Rd. Go west one mile to Cassidy Rd., turn right. Go NW 3/4 miles and meet at Waterloo-Pinckney Trail crossing. Free. Non-members welcome. Contact Jay Schlegel: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Monday April 23, 2012 -- 7:00 pm -- HVG Conservation Team meeting. Regular meeting on the fourth Monday of most months, at Zingerman’s Next Door, in the small meeting room on the second floor. Contact Dorothy Nordness for details at 734-668-6306 or dorothyk114@gmail.com.

Tuesday May 8, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Book: “Imagining the Forest: Narratives of Michigan and the Upper Midwest,” by John Knott. From a local author; a literary and cultural history of human interaction with Michigan forests. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. Note change to summer hours at Nicola’s Books. How to get involved? It’s easy. Read the book and come to discuss it. Nicola’s Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave.)

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Saturday May 12, 2012 -- 11:30 am -- Nichols Arboretum Spring Hike. Join us for a pleasant Spring hike amongst hills and landscaped beauty. Comfortable pace. About 3 miles. Dress for the weather and bring your own water. Meet at Mitchell Field parking lot on the farthest east side at 11:30 am; we will enter the Arb from Mitchell Field and Gallup Park entrance. Mitchell Field/Nichols Arboretum (Fuller Road and Cedar Bend Road Ann Arbor, MI). Contact: 734-677-0823.

Sunday May 13, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- Sugarloaf Hill 'Secret Hike'. Join ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik to hike five miles through mature woods and quality wetlands with views of two lakes. From Ann Arbor, take I-94 west to M-52, exit north. Go through Chelsea. Take Waterloo Rd. west three miles to Guinan Dr., turn left to trailhead. Free. Non-members welcome. Contact Jay Schlegel for details: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday May 15, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting. WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 6:30-7:30 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI 48105, room 164. This is just before the Huron Valley Group's general meeting also at Matthaei. Free. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday May 15, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: "Topic: TBA." HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Contact Rita Mitchell for details: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Sunday May 20, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- Hike Humbug Marsh, Detroit International Wildlife Refuge. Join us for an afternoon hike along the last untouched mile of US shoreline along the Detroit River. Observe the plants and animals that use this unique habitat and learn how it was saved from the threat of development by thousands of dedicated residents, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Meet at the Refuge Gateway, 5437 W. Jefferson Ave., Trenton, MI, on the east side of Jefferson Avenue, south of Van Horn Street and north of Vreeland Ave. (It's a marsh! Wear your mud boots!) HVG members can meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Ave, to carpool. We will leave Ann Arbor by 11:30 am. For details, contact Rita Mitchell: 734-665-0248 or RitaLMitchell@gmail.com.

Friday May 25, 2012 -- 8:00 am -- HVG: North Manitou Island Service Trip. Base Camp service backpacking trip on N. Manitou Island, Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. Trip Involves a 1 & 1/2 hour round trip ferry boat ride, backpacking, camping, food preparation, and volunteer work on the island. Work on service projects on Saturday, enjoy the island on Sunday. The island is managed as wilderness. Camping is primitive. Reservation April 1st due to non-refundable ferry tickets. Trip limit 16. Adults 16 and older only. Contact Betsy Foote, trip leader at gebfoote@att.net. Carpooling Thursday eve. and Monday 1pm. Pre-registration required. Trip fee required. For details, contact: 734-904-7314 or Gebfoote@att.net.

Sunday June 17, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- Annual Pickerel Lake 'Secret Hike/Swim'. Hike 4-5 miles around Pickerel Lake in the Pinckney State Recreation Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik; optional swim afterwards. Either meet at the picnic tables in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or at 1:45 at the trail. Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Road west through 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; turn right onto Pickerel Lake access road. Free. Non-members welcome. Contact Jay Schlegel for details: 734-477-5715 or jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday June 19, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting. WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 6:30-7:30 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI 48105, room 164. This is just before the Huron Valley Group's general meeting also at Matthaei. Free. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday June 19, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: "Topic: TBA." HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Contact Rita Mitchell for details:

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Monday June 25, 2012 — 7:00 pm — HVG Conservation Team meeting. Regular meeting on the fourth Monday of most months, at Zingerman's Next Door, in the small meeting room on the second floor. Contact Dorothy Nordness for details at 734-668-6306 or dorothyk114@gmail.com.

Tuesday July 17, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting. WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 6:30-7:30 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI 48105, room 164. This is just before the Huron Valley Group's general meeting also at Matthaei. Free. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday July 17, 2012 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Program: “Topic: TBA.” HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. See June 19th for details.

Monday July 23, 2012 — 7:00 pm — HVG Conservation Team meeting. Regular meeting on the fourth Monday of most months, at Zingerman's Next Door, in the small meeting room on the second floor. Contact Dorothy Nordness for details at 734-668-6306 or dorothyk114@gmail.com.

Sunday August 12, 2012 -- 9:00 am -- Grand Island Back Pack Trip. Grand Island is a national recreation area located in Lake Superior, just off the Munising and Pictured Rocks shoreline. We will backpack to Juniper Flats and Murray Bay campsites, spending two nights at each site with day hikes on the off days. Terrain is a mixture of sandy beaches and sandstone cliffs with great views. Limit 8-10 participants. Catch Grand Island Ferry at 10 am on the 12th. Fees will include boat tickets, camping fees, and food. Contact Nancy Shiffler for details: 734-971-1157 or nshiffler@comcast.net.

Tuesday August 21, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting. WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 6:30-7:30 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI 48105, room 164. This is just before the Huron Valley Group's general meeting also at Matthaei. Free. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday August 21, 2012 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Program: “Topic: TBA.” HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Contact Rita Mitchell for details: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Monday August 27, 2012 — 7:00 pm — HVG Conservation Team meeting. Regular meeting on the fourth Monday of most months, at Zingerman's Next Door, in the small meeting room on the second floor. Contact Dorothy Nordness for details at 734-668-6306 or dorothyk114@gmail.com.

Tuesday September 18, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting. WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 6:30-7:30 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI 48105, room 164. This is just before the Huron Valley Group's general meeting also at Matthaei. Free. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

Tuesday September 18, 2012 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Program: “Topic: TBA.” HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Contact Rita Mitchell for details: ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Monday September 24, 2012 — 7:00 pm — HVG Conservation Team meeting. Regular meeting on the fourth Monday of most months, at Zingerman's Next Door, in the small meeting room on the second floor. Contact Dorothy Nordness for details at 734-668-6306 or dorothyk114@gmail.com.

How Sweet It Is!

Washtenaw Inner City Outing – Maple Syrup Time

By Joan Wolf

Photos by Tom Wolfe



Eight children and two counselors from Ann Arbor's Bryant Community Center joined WICO volunteers Joan Wolf, Cecilia Trudeau and Martha Johnson from Circle K for a maple syrup outing on March 17. Pinckney State Recreation Area manager Chuck Dennison hosted the group and prepared activities to teach us how he makes maple syrup.

We learned that maple syrup is produced only in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada, where sugar maple trees are found. The volume of sap produced during one season varies from 10-20 gallons per tap, depending on the tree, weather conditions, length of the sap season, and method of collecting sap. The best time to collect maple sap is between January and the early weeks of March, when the sap is moving more readily through the tree. Ten gallons of sap creates one quart of syrup. Tapping a healthy tree does no serious damage, similar to a healthy person's recovery from a scratch.

Tools used in the process include a power drill with about a ½" diameter bit and long enough to drill into the side of a tree about 2".



Then a specially designed metal spout called a spile is tapped into the tree and a metal framed plastic bag hung on it to collect the dripping sap. Chuck provided spoons so everyone could taste the sap as it dripped out of the spile. At this point in the process the sap resembles and tastes like sugar water.

After the bagged sap is strained to remove bugs, it is ready to be boiled down to remove the water and condense the sugar. We walked behind the Silver Lake park headquarters to an area Chuck had set up with an outdoor wood burning stove, where the sap was added to a pan to boil. A cooking thermometer measures the progress of the syrup. Nearby, each child had the opportunity to practice using a power drill and hammer a spile into a large tree stump with Chuck's close supervision.

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A final thick filter collects any particulates, known as sugar sand, as sap slowly flows through overnight before the syrup is bottled and then refrigerated or frozen until ready to use. Canning techniques are also used for preserving syrup.

We enjoyed a beautiful, sunny 70-degree day for this outing and picnicked outside on waffles with sweet freshly made maple syrup. After our snack we took a hike to an old homestead with only the stone chimney and root cellar left standing. We learned that because the land is rocky and hilly in this area, early European settlers often made their living raising sheep. The entire afternoon was punctuated with the singing of spring peepers, chorus frogs, and wood frogs. Thanks to ranger Tom Wolfe and manager Chuck for a delightful spring outing and lesson in a truly American tradition.

We welcome folks to get involved with Washtenaw Inner City Outings, and encourage you to become an outings leader. It's easy, fun, and the trips we take create lasting, positive memories of time spent outdoors for the children we serve. If you want to learn more, please e-mail joanwolf@umich.edu, or come to a WICO meeting, usually held just before the monthly Sierra Club program, third Tuesday of the month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.





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

Sierra Club of Huron Valley Acknowledges Environmental Leaders in 2011

Last December the Sierra Club of Huron Valley recognized several members and citizens who really put it out there in 2011, demonstrating leadership on the natural environment.

Ginny Maturen Care and Feeding Award

Ginny Maturen received the **Care and Feeding Award**, recognizing her hard work as the Group's newly minted treasurer. Careful and conscientious, she has made a difference in 2011 as we move forward to reviewing our long-term goals.

Rep. Jeff Irwin Environmental Stewardship Award

State Representative Jeff Irwin (D), who represents the 53rd District of Ann Arbor (most of the city), received the Environmental Stewardship Award, recognizing and acknowledging the efforts of elected officials to protect our planet for future generations.

A former county commissioner in his first year of state office, Mr. Irwin is one of only six state legislators to receive a legislative score of 100% by the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club on environmental issues last year. Mr. Irwin, endorsed by the Sierra Club in 2010, has really stepped up to the plate. We are very proud of his support on key issues, including his leadership on legislation calling for regulation of hydrofracking and protecting Michigan's environmental safeguards against a host of many anti-environmental initiatives last year.

Dietrich R. Bergmann Conservation Activist Award

Dietrich R. Bergmann, Ph.D., received the Huron Valley Group's **Conservation Activist Award**, recognizing individuals for new or ongoing work on conservation issues.

A Sierra Club member, Dr. Bergmann is a licensed professional civil engineer who worked with the Sierra Club and Protect our Parks efforts to help prevent (successfully at least for now) a massive parking structure being built on city parkland, and in continued efforts to find better alternatives for the very controversial Fuller Park Station project in one of the city's major parks.

Dorothy R. Nordness Chair's Award of Merit

Dorothy R. Nordness received the 2011 **Chair's Award of Merit** for her continued work as Conservation Committee chair. Ms. Nordness has guided the committee as it has done extensive work and research on hydrofracking, rallying volunteers for Lobby Day, providing eyes and ears in the effort to stop the construction of a new reactor at the Fermi nuclear facility in Monroe, and advocating and encouraging local food agriculture and production.

These awesome individuals have really furthered the Sierra Club's local efforts to protect, preserve, and enjoy the planet. We are very grateful for their continued efforts and leadership.

2011 Huron Valley Group Election Results

Three members were elected to serve two-year terms on the seven-member ExCom beginning January, 2012 during our fall 2011 HVG Executive Committee election process: Ginny Maturen, Jay Schlegel, and Nancy Shiffler. Congratulations to all.

Shopping for the Earth (SFTE): How Are Your Dollars Spent?

The Sierra Club Huron Valley Group has sponsored the “Shopping for the Earth” (SFTE) program for many years. Thank you to all our members who have supported this vital program.

In the past year your Huron Valley Group has used the monies earned from the SFTE program in the following ways. Under conservation activities, brochures were made for distribution on many issues: natural gas hydraulic fracturing, nuclear power, CAFOs, clean air and water, the Great Lakes, coal plant construction, renewable energy, local food, etc. This information is available at our monthly HVG meeting. Additionally, the HVG Sierra Club participated in table events at the Earth Day celebration, the HomeGrown Festival, Ann Arbor Art Fair, Clean Energy Coalition, and Huron River Days, among others. In preparation for the Art Fair, members made some purchases to rehabilitate the booth. Our local group took a leadership role showing the “Gasland” documentary last spring. Special funds were made available to support concerns about the proposed construction of a Fuller Park parking structure. Thank you for your support of these activities.

In this 2012 election year, support will be needed for local candidates who share Sierra Club vision and values. And the Group will want to support ongoing local issues of concern to our members.

The SFTE program continues to be the primary mechanism to raise the dollars needed to support our local efforts. THANK YOU TO ALL participants.

You are aware that some changes have occurred in recent months with greater emphasis on encouraging participants to use the Great Lakes Scrip Center to expand your shopping purchases to benefit Huron Valley Group activities. Please note the following important changes:

1. Whole Foods is no longer offering

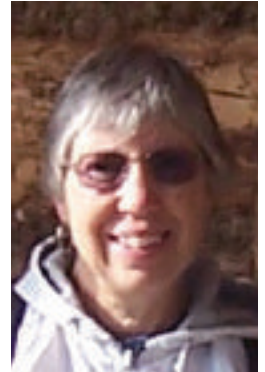
in-store purchase of \$50 and \$100 gift cards to not-for-profit groups. They have discontinued this program. When our SFTE chairman learned of this change, he purchased all the remaining cards the local store had on hand. And he continued to sell them through the usual channels. These remaining cards have been purchased by our members and are gone. BUT, there is an alternative. You can CONTINUE TO PURCHASE Whole Foods gift cards using the Great Lakes Scrip Center. Just go to <http://shopwithscrip.com>, follow the instructions and purchase Whole Foods gift cards together with gift cards from your other favorite retailers.

2. If you like to frequent the Arbor Brewing Company, our SFTE chairman has \$25 cards available. Please consider purchasing several using the mail-in order form in this issue OR purchasing them at the next HVG meeting.

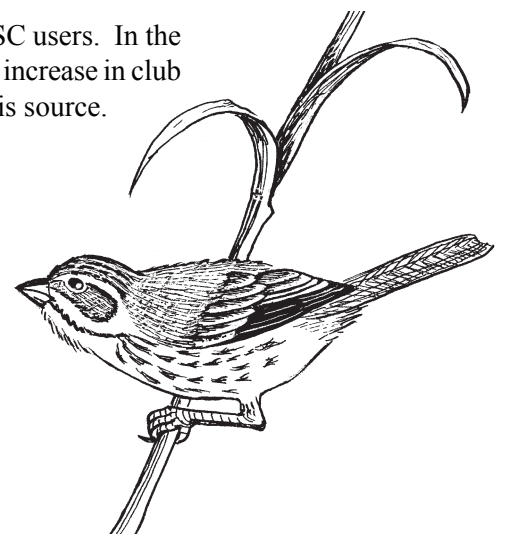
3. Don't forget the Kroger requirement to re-enroll yearly in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com, click on “Michigan” and click on “Enroll.” You must have a valid online account at Kroger.com and sign up online to participate.

4. Finally, HVG is charged a \$7.75 shipping fee for every GLSC order. But if you use the PrestoPay feature, there is no charge. Consider increasing your financial support to the SFTE program by using the ‘free’ PrestoPay option. Thanks.

A final thanks to you GLSC users. In the past 3 months, I have seen some increase in club revenues for our SFTE from this source.



By
Ginny Maturen,
HVG Treasurer





**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!

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 _____
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; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.00 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club
P.O. Box 811041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org 9940 JW



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 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, LL Bean, Land's End, Sears, and hundreds more - department stores, restaurants, hotels, and more.

Visit <http://michigan.sierrclub.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	
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.sierrclub.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.sierrclub.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.



Huron Valley Group News-
letter
The Sierra Club
621 Fifth Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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- Update Fuller Park - page 4-5
- Calendar of Events - page 7-8
- How Sweet it Is—Maple Syrup - page 10-11



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