



# THE LOOKOUT

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## Global Warming and our Health

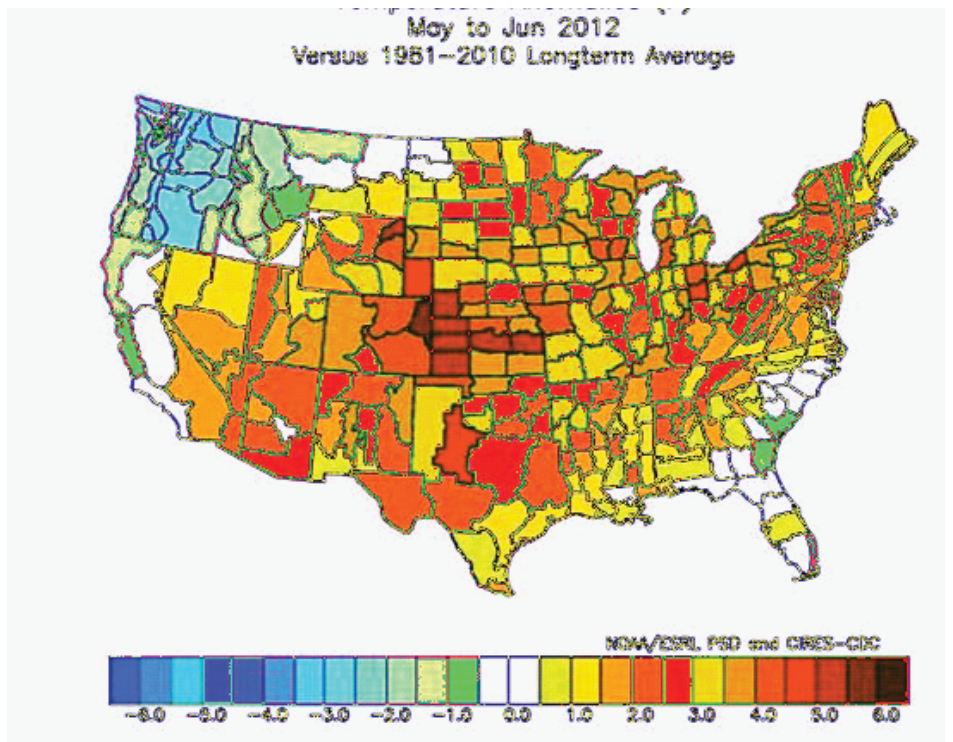
By Jillian Murphy

In the last 60 years, human activities, especially our burning of fossil fuels, have released enough greenhouse gases to trap heat in the earth's atmosphere and change the global climate. Melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events are becoming increasingly intense and common. In 2012, a majority of the United States has experienced drought conditions; according to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, by mid-July almost 70% of the lower 48 states were experiencing moderate or extreme drought. The Midwestern region has suffered particularly severe drought, exacerbated by ongoing heat waves as daily temperatures have often hovered near or above 100°F (traditionally, northern cities endure fewer than 3 days a year with temperatures above 100°F).

Many all-time high temperatures have been recorded this year across the US. The National Climatic Data Center released preliminary data observing 4,313 record daily highs, 293 monthly record highs, and 171 all-time record highs in July 2012. Fort Wayne, Indiana, recorded 22 consecutive days above 90° ending on July 18 (the old record was 14). Six of the last ten US summers have been in the top 10 hottest summers since 1950, with this season on pace to be third hottest. [Ed. note: 2012 had the hottest July on record, after July 1936 of the Dustbowl years.]

Unfortunately, we can expect drought conditions to become the new

normal in many parts of the country if we don't do more to address climate change. By continuing to influence precipitation patterns, global warming will create persistently drier conditions in some places, including the Midwest. Longer and more severe droughts will have serious consequences for the water supply, agriculture, and wildlife across all regions of the United States. Some counter that global warming may bring benefits to specific regions, like fewer winter deaths in temperate climates, or more of Canada becoming agriculturally



# CLIMATE CHANGE contiued from page 1

viable. Because it jeopardizes our fundamental health needs – clean air and water, adequate food and secure shelter, these small victories seem insignificant when we consider the overwhelmingly negative health effects of climate change.

Severely high air temperatures contribute directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease, especially among older people. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported 206 deaths from extreme heat in 2011, up from 138 in 2010 and almost double the 10-year average.

Through June of 2012, 74 deaths have been recorded. These high temperatures also raise levels of pollutants in the air (smog), which deteriorate the health of people living

with respiratory, cardiovascular and pulmonary disease: the WHO estimates that urban air pollution causes about 1.2 million deaths every year. The heat increases levels of aeroallergens (like pollen), triggering asthma for many and adding to the approximately 300 million people globally thought to currently suffer from asthma.

Economic impacts of global warming are not insignificant. In 2008, cardiovascular disease cost the US almost \$300 billion and COPD, asthma and pneumonia over \$88 billion in direct health care costs and lost productivity (NIH Heart, Lung & Blood Institute). Plus the combination of heat and drought during the period of corn pollination has already lowered anticipated production for the 2012 crop and driven up costs of items like corn and milk.

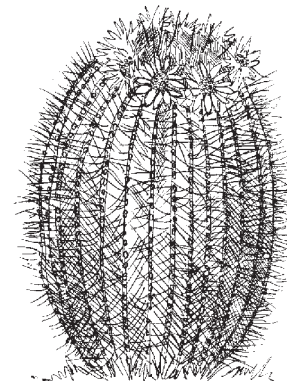
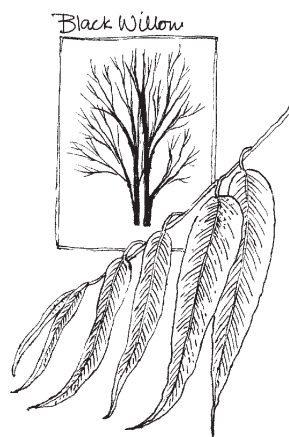
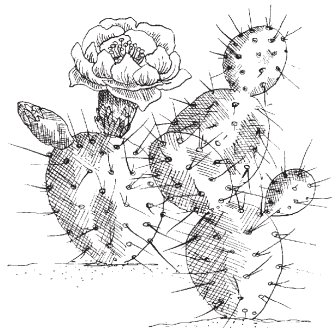
Social impacts less easily measured exist as well. In general, extended drought and extreme heat are of greatest concern to young children, the elderly, folks with respiratory problems, and anyone engaging in strenuous physical activity outside, but communities exposed to continuous drought will suffer more broad consequences. According to the South Dakota State University extension program, these may include: reduced social cohesion and community participation; worsening of pre-existing infrastructural problems; lack of participation in other local industries; increased material, social and psychological needs of families and rural communities where drought is a constant source of anxiety and insecurity.

Amid this summer of record-setting heat and drought, the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research conducted a poll of over 3,000 adults (ages 32 – 52 years) and found that only 18% feel “concerned” and about 5% feel “alarmed” about climate change. 66% of those surveyed said they aren't sure global warming is

happening and 10% do not believe it is occurring. And people seem to be getting less interested – in 2009, 22% reported following the issue very or moderately closely, but only 16% felt this way in 2011.

Why don't people care more about global warming? One, fluctuating daily and yearly temperatures can make it hard to know what is and isn't climate catastrophe. And as Paul Krugman writes in the New York Times, “Climate change denial is a major industry, lavishly financed by Exxon, the Koch brothers and others with a financial stake in the continued burning of fossil fuels.” Well funded, well connected and highly organized campaigns continually push back against scientific consensus on global warming, seeking to reframe global warming as theory rather than fact.

Will the prevailing drought prompt us to take serious action against global warming? Our track record is not convincing. We need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and increase the use of clean, renewable energy. We need to adopt policies that help us prepare for drought, as well as other consequences of climate change like flooding, storms, and wildfires. We need leadership that will stop ignoring what the earth and science are telling us about climate change – and start ignoring those who deny it is happening. This summer the heat and drought will impact some people more than others. Eventually, however, it will reach us all.



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

# Foraging for Fungi

In May Phil Tedeschi, president of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club (MMHC), shared a fascinating presentation on mushroom hunting in Michigan, at the Ann Arbor District Library. I will share some highlights from his presentation in hope of inspiring more people to forage for wild mushrooms.

As late as 1969, fungi were considered part of the plant kingdom. However, they have since been reclassified and placed in their own kingdom. Unlike plants mushrooms lack chlorophyll and the ability to produce their own food. Instead they exude digestive enzymes that break down nearby organic matter. The digested matter is reabsorbed as food. Fungi are the only organisms able to break down lignin found in wood. Interestingly, the mushrooms we pick are only the “flowers” of a one cell thick string of cells (hypha) that comprise the entire fungus.

Because some mushrooms can accumulate toxic substances while others break them down, they can be used for cleaning up polluted soil. This process is known as mycoremediation. This is also why it’s important not to pick mushrooms in potentially contaminated areas such as near highways, in orchards or chemically treated lawns. Tedeschi once became severely ill from eating a mushroom he found growing in a picture-perfect lawn. He later learned that the lawn had been sprayed with weed killers shortly before he snagged his seemingly perfect and edible fungus.

According to Tedeschi, it is best to throw away a mushroom if it cannot be identified with certainty. Of approximately 3,000 mushroom species in Michigan, about 10 per cent are poisonous. Twelve to 15 species are deadly poisonous while the rest cause milder health problems. Just ten percent of Michigan’s mushroom species are edible. The vast majority of species are neither poisonous nor do they taste good enough to eat.

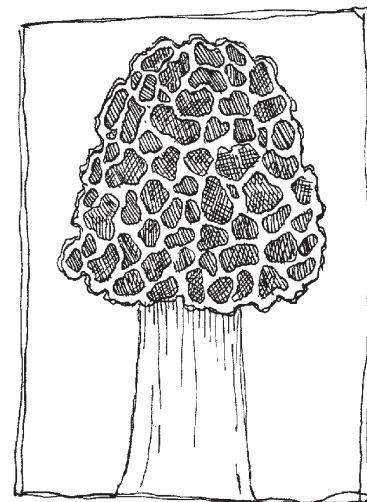
Tedeschi gave a few pieces of advice to novices. First, learn to identify the amanitas (three species of very deadly fungi) and do not eat them. Secondly, do

not eat any wild mushrooms raw. When you eat a wild mushroom for the first time, eat only a small bite the first day and refrigerate the rest. Some people are allergic to edible fungi species. If you turn out to be one of the unlucky ones and have a reaction, you will have a specimen to share with medical staff. It is so exciting to find an edible mushroom that foragers might be tempted to overlook precautions in order to keep their find. However, if a mushroom has already been “found” by worms or looks less than fresh, it is best to leave it.

For those who wonder where they can legally pick fungi, according to Tedeschi, all state land is open to berry and mushroom hunting for non-commercial purposes. Tedeschi has found edible mushrooms growing in even such unlikely places as the parking lot of JC Penney in the Briarwood Mall. Mushroom picking is possible in the spring, summer or fall. In the spring, mushroom hunters search for morels, whose flavor is legendary. Moreover, morels have few poisonous look-alikes. Mushroom species grow in tandem with specific tree species. For example, morels are associated with ash trees, dying elms and old apple trees, among others. Thus, mushroom foraging also requires the ability to identify trees.

Anyone interested in picking wild mushrooms locally should consider joining the MMHC. The benefits include being able to participate in group forays in the woods. Mushroom picking carries risk and the best way for a novice forager to learn is from experienced mushroomers who can help identify the finds.

By  
Magdalena Roddy



*Amanita bisporigera*

*Amanita muscaria* fairy ring



# Recycling Efforts at Yankee Air Museum Air Show

By Dave “Drano” Steiner,  
Yankee Air Museum Garbage  
Grunt executive officer



Air shows with their carbon-belching aircraft might be the last place you'd expect to see a robust recycling program, but you'd be wrong about Yankee Air Museum's THUNDER OVER MICHIGAN™ air show held every summer at Willow Run Airport. A group of Museum volunteers who refer to themselves as the Garbage Grunts not only keep the aircraft ramp and crowd areas tidy during the show, but they collect and sort water/drink bottles and deposit bottles/cans for recycling. They also recycle cardboard. Wooden pallets are taken to a local company for reuse, and an 82-year-old Super Grunt even takes care of recycling broken torpedo chairs for their aluminum. Non-deposit aluminum cans are recycled by Boy Scouts. Unsold programs are distributed to VA hospitals, retirement homes and passed out at other Yankee functions throughout the year. In fact, volunteering as a Garbage Grunt is so popular that all the positions were filled months before this year's show.

Last year the show featured the Navy Blue Angels jet demonstration team. There was a huge crowd and the weather was very hot, so a lot of beverages were consumed. The Grunts, using their homemade Binford 6000 human-powered zero-carbon bottle-sorting machine, reclaimed 55,200 bottles (enough to almost fill a 48-ft trailer, 2,500 lbs worth). These were recycled through Schupan Recycling, based out of Kalamazoo, but processed at their facility in Wixom. Schupan provides recycling bins with round hole tops. Air show patrons deposit their beverage cans/bottles into the bins for pick up by the Grunt tugs pulling trailers which transport the bagged containers to the sorting area. The Binford, powered by 8-10 people, allows quick and easy sorting of cans from bottles, including deposit bottles. A nationally based vendor watching it in full operation stated he'd never seen anything so impressive.



Part of the problem with reclaiming bottles is emptying those with water or beverage remaining in them. The liquid at eight lbs. per gallon makes the bags of bottles heavy and hard to handle. The Binford's snow fence allows the liquid to be quickly drained once the caps are removed and the bottles upended in the fence grid. One or two Grunts empty bags of bottles onto the 4 x 8 ft Binford, as three Grunts on each side remove caps and drain them as needed, then push empties down the line, sorting as they go into deposit can/bottle, recycle can/bottle. It is an incredibly efficient system, processing drink containers almost as fast as bags can be ripped open and dumped down the slope of the Binford. It was conceived and built by Grunt co-captain John Dusbiber and is operated by the other Grunt co-captain (and original Yankee Garbage Grunt) Russ Possley and his awesome crew. Here's a link to a YouTube video to see it in action: <http://youtu.be/-Bocjy-LNR8>.

Deposit bottles and cans are sorted from water or other drink bottles. The deposit containers are then sent to Coke to reclaim the 10¢. Last year this amounted to \$1,660. Schupan reclaimed and recycled all non-deposit aluminum cans not given to the Boy Scouts.

A subunit of the Grunts is the Cardboard CREW. They collect and break down all cardboard for recycling in large cardboard boxes referred to as Gaylords. These are then trucked to the Ann Arbor MRF for recycling. The total for THUNDER OVER MICHIGAN™ 2011 was twelve Gaylords full, or about 17 cubic yards of stacked cardboard amounting to more than 2,000 lbs.

Waste Management did collect 8.49 tons of rubbish from the show and we probably had another ton of stuff in a couple of roll-offs, but the Grunts' efforts keep the waste stream and rubbish invoice for the show as low as practical. In fact the trash removal costs for the show, including Grunt gear and meals are, about 0.8% of the show budget. If



you add together all the components, trash and recycling, the recycling materials sum of 5,000 lbs accounts for 20%+ of the 25,000 lbs. total. Not exactly zero waste, but still a nice chunk taken out of the waste stream. This year the Grunts hope to work with the St. Louis Center in Grass Lake to reclaim some of the food that might otherwise go to waste.

The show this year is Aug 4-5. Find out more at [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org) and, if you attend, look for the yellow GRUNT HQ flag behind AVFuel on the east side of the ramp, or just follow one of the Grunt Tugs to where the Binford 6000 zero-carbon sorting “machine” and the awesome Garbage Grunt volunteers can be observed. You will be impressed.

## RECYCLING PAYS IN MANY WAYS



# Reuse and Re-Imagine a Train Station for Alternate Transportation

By Rita Mitchell &  
Nancy Shiffler

## ***What can you do in the meantime?***

*Write or call your City Council Members...  
(<http://tinyurl.com/pmu6j2>)*

*Tell them that you want a full environmental review of the alternatives for the Ann Arbor Passenger Rail Station, and that the existing depot site is preferred.*

*Chronicle article on termination of the jointly planned Fuller Road Station project:  
<http://annarborchronicle.com/2012/02/10/um-ann-arbor-halt-fuller-road-project/>  
(*timeline included at the end of the article is super*)*

In its mission to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet, the Sierra Club at Local, Chapter and National levels, has long supported mass transit as a great alternative to use of automobiles. The Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club, supported by the state-wide Mackinac Chapter, has actively worked to protect park land in Ann Arbor and the three-counties that comprise our Group. Since 2008, we have worked to call on the city of Ann Arbor to avoid setting a precedent of transforming designated park land within the city of Ann Arbor's park system into non-park use. Specifically our efforts have addressed the proposal by the city and the University of Michigan for a large parking structure and a train station in the center of the Huron River Valley.

In February 2012, the University of Michigan and the city terminated joint participation, in a nearly 4 year-long project to build a combined 1,000 space parking garage and a future train station in Fuller Park, just south of Fuller Pool. During the 4-year planning period, the HVG and others in the community objected to the proposed change of use, based on non-park use of park land, and because of environmental concerns for inserting a new automobile-dependent service in the heart of the Huron River Valley. The University withdrew, for the time being at least, its interest in the parking structure in Fuller Park, initiating instead, action to build parking structure on Wall Street, on University-owned property. Meanwhile, the city has moved forward with plans for a new train station and associated parking in the Fuller Park location.

In March 2012, the city received, as part of a Michigan Department of Transportation application, a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary engineering.

EA requirements are stringent, when park land is involved, and include assessment of the impact of a project on its immediate surroundings, as well as proof of the lack of a "prudent and feasible alternative site" (see: <http://section4f.com/history.htm>). In an earlier draft EA the alternate sites were predominantly other park land or the "no build" option of the existing station. Perhaps after a more careful reading of the FRA requirements, the city is now including an upgraded version of the existing Amtrak station as an alternative that will be given consideration in both the EA and the preliminary engineering designs.

Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group feels that serious consideration should be given to upgrading the existing train station site, a process that is more consistent with re-use principles, avoids the repurposing of city park land, and retains the station in an area surrounded by private development opportunities rather than park land. Upgrading the train station at the Depot Street location will provide the mass transportation opportunities that will help the environment, and at the same time avoid permanent removal of city park land.

As part of the Environmental Assessment, the city will determine and make a case for its "preferred alternative," which, based on the history of the project, appears likely to be the Fuller Park site. Once the city has submitted its Environmental Assessment to the Federal Railroad Administration, the FRA will make a preliminary determination of whether or not this alternative will have a significant impact on the environment. This determination will be open to public commentary and possible appeal. The Huron Valley Group will follow this process closely and will submit comments as needed.



## Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar

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

**Saturday September 8, 2012 -- 11:30 am -- Draper-Houston Meadow Preserve Hike. Draper-Houston Meadow Preserve** (West of Main St. and Platt Road Milan, MI). Join us for camaraderie and a moderately-paced hike along the Saline River and throughout this Preserve. Dress for the weather. About 3 miles. Canceled if raining. Meet at the trailhead at 11:30 a.m. Contact: 734-677-0823.

**Tuesday September 11, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books** (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "The Localization Reader: Adapting to the Coming Downshift," edited by Raymond DeYoung and Thomas Princen. A combination of classic and new essays providing some of the best thinking about localization. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

**Saturday September 15, 2012 -- 11:30 pm -- Scio Woods Preserve Hike. Scio Woods Preserve** (Scio Church Road Ann Arbor, MI). Scio Woods Preserve Hike. Join us for a moderately-paced, 3 mile hike. Natural surface. Mini bridges. Woodlands. Some hills. Dress for the weather. Bring your own water. Parking on site and related areas. Camraderie. Canceled if raining. Contact Kathy Guerreso at 734-677-0823 for details. West of Wagner road on Scio Church Road, west Ann Arbor. Meet at Scio Woods Preserve entrance at 11:30 a.m.

**Tuesday September 18, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). 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. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

**Tuesday September 18, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: "Great Lakes Estuaries--Keys to the Health of the Great Lakes"**. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). The river estuaries on the Great Lakes are an important and little-understood part of the puzzle of the health of the Great Lakes. MDNR Fisheries Research Scientist Paul Seelbach will enlighten us with the latest studies and provide insight to what the future holds. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Contact: 734-665-0248 or [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com).

**Sunday September 23, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- Crooked Lake Hike/Swim.** Waterloo State Recreation Area. Join us for our autumn hike-then-swim (swim is optional) at Crooked Lake with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. 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 I-94 west to Kalmbach Rd exit. Turn right, go north 1/2-mile Cavanaugh Lake Rd. Turn left, go 2 miles to Loveland Rd. Turn right, go north 1 mile to Crooked Lake access. Follow access road, park near the boat launch. Contact: 477-5715.

**Saturday October 6, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- Nichols Arboretum Hike.** Join us for a leisurely-paced hike amongst fields, along the Huron river and in the "Arb". Dress for the weather and bring your own water if applicable. Meet at Mitchell Field in the parking lot farthest east closest to the sidewalk. Mitchell Field is at Cedar Bend and Fuller Road in Ann Arbor. 1:00 p.m. Comradery included. Contact: 734-677-0823.

**Tuesday October 9, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books** (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "**Biophilia: The Human Bond with Other Species,**" by **Edward O Wilson**. The author's personal response to nature and statement of the conservation ethic. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

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**Sunday October 14, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- Mystery Mounds Secret Hike. Pinckney State Recreation Area.**

Search for the infamous (possibly haunted??) “Mystery Mounds” near Silver Lake in the Pinckney Recreation Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. 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. Drive through Dexter to Dexter Townhall Rd, go north past N Territorial Rd, turn into the rec area, park at the big lot. Contact: 477-5715.

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**Tuesday October 16, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting.**

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 6:30-7:30PM 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. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

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**Tuesday October 16, 2012 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Program: “Ah, Wilderness! The 25th Anniversary: Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act”.**

Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Anne Woiwode, Director, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, takes us behind-the-scenes to the 1987 legislative process that protected 90,000 acres of old growth forests, spectacular dunes and remote lakes. Woiwode will tell us about the suspense-filled, 10-year battle that ultimately created 10 now-familiar wilderness areas: Big Island Lake, Delirium, Horseshoe Bay, Mackinac, McCormick, Nordhouse Dunes, Rock River Canyon, Round Island, Sturgeon River Gorge, and Sylvania. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Contact: 734-665-0248 or ritalmitchell@gmail.com

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**Sunday November 18, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- Annual Cedar Lake Esker Secret Hike. Waterloo State Recreation Area.**

Join us for our annual autumn Cedar Lake Esker hike with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Hike the tallest esker in our area with stunning views of three lakes, on a 4-mile hike on trails which are off-limits to hunting. 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. From Ann Arbor take I-94 west to the Pierce Rd exit, go north one mile to Cavanaugh Lake Rd, turn left and head west one mile to the Cedar Lake access. Contact: 477-5715.

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**Tuesday November 20, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting.**

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 6:30-7:30PM 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. Contact: washtenawico@yahoo.com.

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**Tuesday November 20, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: “Wondrous Wilderness: Tramping In New Zealand”.**

Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Jim DuFresne will show why New Zealand is such a paradise for hikers and backpackers. He will describe the Great Walks of New Zealand, including the extensive hut system, spectacular alpine parks, and why backpacking is such a passion with New Zealanders. DuFresne is the author of Lonely Planet’s Tramping In New Zealand and contributor to www.Michigan-TrailMaps.com, a free resource site for trail users in Michigan. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Contact: 734-665-0248 or ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

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**Tuesday December 18, 2012 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting.**

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# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

**Tuesday December 18, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: "Great Adventures from Around the Globe".** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). **The annual HVG member program. Share and inspire us with your travels! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman (lighthawkpilot@gmail.com), and tell us about your adventures, near and far.** HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free and open to the public. Contact: 734-665-0248 or ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

**Sunday December 23, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- West Lake Hike/Ski. Hike or ski depending on weather conditions with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik.** West Lake is a county preserve on Waterloo Rd. 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 M-52 north through Chelsea, turn right onto Werkner Rd, go one-half mile to Waterloo Rd, go right (east) one mile to the parking area on the north side of the road. Contact: 477-5715.

**Tuesday January 15, 2013 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum (1800 North Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI). WICO Business Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December).

**Tuesday January 15, 2013 -- -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: Topic TBA.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). HVG 3rd Tuesday Monthly Public Program

## Author To Explore New Zealand At November Meeting

Before there was "the Lord of the Rings" and long after the movie trilogy is relegated to the classic film shelf of video rental shops, New Zealand will still be known for tramping, as one of the best places in the world to hoist backpack, follow a trail and spend a few nights in the mountains. Some tracks are so spectacular they're called Great Walks. One of them, the Milford Track, is known as 'the finest walk in the world' even outside of New Zealand.

Outdoor writer Jim DuFresne will explain - and show with outstanding photography - why this South Pacific country is such a paradise for hikers and backpackers in his presentation **"Wondrous Wilderness: Tramping In New Zealand."** The presentation, co-sponsored by the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club and MichiganTrailMaps.com, will be given at HVG's monthly meeting at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens at 7:30 pm. on Nov. 20.

DuFresne is the author of Lonely Planet's **"Tramping In New Zealand"**, the world's best-selling guidebook to hiking in the country, and arrived in the country in 1981 to produce the first edition and has returned every few years since to update the guidebook.

In his presentation, DuFresne will guide his audience from one end of this country to the other, in exploring New Zealand's extensive hut system, spectacular alpine parks and why backpacking is such a passion among New Zealanders. He will also explore some of New Zealand's best known walks as well as a few of its hidden gems.

DuFresne is the author of more than a dozen guidebooks and the main contributor to [www.MichiganTrailMaps.com](http://www.MichiganTrailMaps.com), a free resource site for trail users in Michigan. Most of DuFresne's books will be available after the show.

# New Website Leads Visitors Down Michigan Trails



Fall is a great time to hit the trail, and Michigan's newest website is helping people do just that.

Launched in 2010, [www.MichiganTrailMaps.com](http://www.MichiganTrailMaps.com) is already one of the most extensive resource sites for Michigan trails, allowing users to search for a path by county, activity, region of the state, or park.

More than 100 trails have already been reviewed, and coverage includes trail maps that can be downloaded and printed, descriptions and directions to the trails, color photos, and facilities available at the trailhead. There are also outdoor features on backpacking and hiking, as well as links and a resource page for non-motorized trail users ranging from hikers and mountain bikers to people looking for a rail-trail.

The heart of the new website is its trail maps that are produced with GPS coordinates, USGS topographical

maps and satellite images, making them the most accurate maps available to Michigan trail users.

Also part of the website is "Trail Talk," a blog in which Jim DuFresne provides commentary, views, humor, and advice as he takes to the trail in Michigan. DuFresne is the author of almost 20 guidebooks including *Backpacking in Michigan*, *50 hikes in Michigan* and *Best Hikes with Children: Michigan*.

[MichiganTrailMaps.com](http://MichiganTrailMaps.com) publishes "Trail Mix," a free monthly electronic newsletter devoted to trails around the state, and commercial maps designed for backpackers and covering the classic trails of Michigan.

You can subscribe to Trail Mix online at [MichiganTrailMaps.com](http://MichiganTrailMaps.com) or drop an email to [info@michigantrailmaps.com](mailto:info@michigantrailmaps.com).





Huron Valley Group  
Michigan Chapter

## Park Land Ballot Initiative: Follow Up and A Thank You

Kudos to those who work to resolve a problem in the face of significant resistance. In this case, a big “thank you” goes to Ann Arbor City Council Members Mike Anglin and Jane Lumm, for their hard work to address concerns that Ann Arbor’s Charter, while prohibiting sale of city park land without a public vote, does not address long-term leases or other re-purposing of park land. Their resolution to place a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to specify a public vote on proposals for long term lease or non-park use of park land, was presented to Council on July 16 and again on August 9. The resolution included ballot language that had been approved by the Michigan Attorney General, and legal details were well-researched and documented. The resolution was ultimately voted down by Council, after a similar defeat of a proposed amendment by Council Member Sabra Briere. Specific thanks also go to Council Members Stephen Kunselman and Marcia Higgins, for their votes in favor of the resolution.

Additional thanks go to Park Advisory Commission (PAC) members, who considered the resolution on August 8, prior to Council’s vote. PAC members did not support the resolution, but it is a favorable sign that they indicated a willingness to consider a similar proposal in the future, when given more time to consider multiple issues.

Regardless of the resolution’s outcome, the public discussion of concerns with permanent loss of park land based on either long term leases or non-park use that would allow buildings or private management was worthwhile. Mayor Hieftje stated that no park land has been sold, yet valid concerns exist, given that the city has prepared lists of “surplus” parks, sought appraisals of park land, and considered 20-year private management agreements for park land that included retail services and subsidy of construction costs. It was argued in the Council discussion that citizens can always organize and come before Council to argue against such changes. However, we believe that the burden should be on the City Administration and the Council to make the case for changing park land to another use, rather than on citizens to make a case for keeping park land. When we vote on millages to acquire and maintain park land, we have the right to expect that land will remain as park land.

We will keep you posted on upcoming activities and concerns with the status of Ann Arbor’s city parks.

*Nancy Shiffler and Rita Mitchell*

# It's That Season Again! Elections



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

With a presidential election defining a basic choice between tackling air quality and comprehensive climate change, or a return to an entirely fossil-fuel oriented energy policy, to hydrofracking in Michigan, much is happening with respect to the upcoming election and conservation issues.

How can you get involved?

The Michigan Sierra Club is hosting a FREE political training to prepare activists for the 2012 election. The training will feature staff and activists from Sierra Club's National Political Committee, and will prepare you to be successful on whichever

campaigns you wish to work on during this election (Local offices, State Representatives, US Congress, US Senate, President, or the Renewable Energy Standard Ballot Campaign). We will be providing a light breakfast, lunch and snacks throughout the day for you, and will host a Happy Hour social event afterward.

**Have questions about the training or our political program? Please don't hesitate to contact me at [jamesdamour@comcast.net](mailto:jamesdamour@comcast.net), or our State Political Director, Mike Berkowitz @ [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org)**

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB POLITICAL TRAINING IN GRAND BLANC SEPTEMBER 15TH

**When: Saturday, September 15th, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
with a complimentary happy hour afterward**

**Where: UAW Local 1292, located at 6153 South Dort Highway  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439**

**Preregistration is required: Information and link to the registration page can  
be found here:**

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/michiganpolitics.html>



# Huron Valley Group ExCom Election

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

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

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

may be a candidate in the upcoming election.

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

HVG members who wish to be considered for nomination before the Nominating Committee is appointed may inform the group secretary (Joel Dalton). The secretary will also assist members seeking nomination by petition. Ballots are normally counted at the conclusion of the December HVG general meeting, but the Election Committee may choose another time and place. Candidates or their representatives may observe the counting. Ballots and nomination petitions are retained until ordered destroyed by ExCom at their next regular meeting.

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

<u>Election event</u>	<u>Deadline to complete</u>
• ExCom appoints Nominating Committee	August ExCom meeting
• Nominees inform Nominating Committee of interest	September general meeting
• Nominating Committee selects nominees and informs ExCom and nominees of selection	September general meeting
• Nominees not selected by Nominating Committee deliver 2 weeks after Sept. general mtg. petitions to NomCom for consideration	
• Nominating Committee declares final candidate list	October ExCom meeting
• ExCom appoints Election Committee	October ExCom meeting
• Election Committee prepares eligible voter list	15 October (or when newsletter list is prepared)
• Ballots mailed to all eligible group members	15 November (or when newsletter is mailed)
• Election committee accepts ballots	December general meeting
• Election committee counts ballots and informs secretary of results	31 December



**Huron  
Valley  
Group  
Directory**

[www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/](http://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](mailto: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
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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 \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421941, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1941

or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) **PS40** | 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 helped generate funds 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.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm> to learn more & get started!

#### Great for:

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



### Mail-in Order Form

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

Your total order: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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 @ \$0 each - add money when shopping at Busch's	
Hiller's Markets *	_____ cards @ \$50 each	
Kroger *	Obtain card at Kroger's and register it at <a href="http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com">www.krogercommunityrewards.com</a> so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads.. see <a href="http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/kroger.htm">http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/kroger.htm</a> for instructions	
Produce Station **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Whole Foods **	_____ cards @ \$50 each	_____ cards @ \$100 each
Meijer	A rebate program - please see: <a href="http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/SFTE_Meijer.pdf">http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/SFTE_Meijer.pdf</a>	

\* 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me local Sierra Club email updates

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me the local Sierra Club newsletter

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your information will not be shared with any group.

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



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

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

- ad wrangler
- article writer
- photography/graphics
- proofreading
- folding/assembling/mail-preparation

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

[hvgnews@yahoo.com](mailto:hvgnews@yahoo.com)