



# THE LOOKOUT

Vol. 34 No.3 November 2012



## Isle Royale National Park Sierra Club Service Trip

Wolf howls, fox scat, and late-summer blooming wild flowers awaited me on a Sierra Club service outing to Isle Royale in late-August, 2012. I chose the trip to Isle Royale because it is the only National Park in Michigan and I had never been there. Having grown up in Michigan, I've seen much of our beauty and natural wonder but not this remote island in Lake Superior.

This Sierra Club service trip was described as the 'Eye of the Wolf,' the least-visited national park in the nation. To get there you must cross the largest fresh water lake in the world. The ten of us, eight participants along with our guide and cook, arrived at Grand Junction, MN and met for dinner the evening before our departure. We boarded the Sea Hunter with all of our gear and food at 8:00 am, for a 90-minute ride to Windigo. It was foggy, chilly and the lake was somewhat rough.

After unloading at Windigo, on the island's west end, we loaded ourselves and our gear onto a smaller park service boat and were

shuttled to Rainbow Cove, at the southwest corner of the island. There we made a beach landing. It was early afternoon, the temperature in the mid 80s, and we faced a hike 1-mile up from the beach to the top of the ridge to Feldtmann Lake campground. My backpack weighed 38 lbs. It was a backcountry camp with 5 individual sites and 2 group sites. Only camp stoves, no campfires, were allowed. There was a pit toilet. Water needed to be boiled or filtered. All campsites were occupied for the nights that our group was in camp.



By  
Ginny Maturen

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This was our base camp during the four days we worked on the 8.5 mile Feldtmann Lake-Windigo trail, removing invasives and improving/grooming it. We completed roughly 6 miles of the trail to meet up with the section from Windigo, which had previously been groomed. Work commenced each morning at about 7 am. We worked until 3 pm, returning to base camp for time-off in the afternoon. It was on one of these afternoons that I hiked, along with others in our group, some 3 miles along Feldtmann Ridge.



Thimbleberry, similar to raspberry and very tasty

Because of its surface relief and geographic location, Isle Royale supports diverse flora. Most of the island is forested, and along the cool, moist shoreline you will see such trees as Jack Pine and Quaking Aspen. Common trees in the interior and higher parts of the island include Northern Red Oak, White Pine and Big Toote Aspen. There are also smaller plants such as Thimbleberry, Blueberry, and Red Twig Dogwood, as well as wildflowers, including 32 varieties of orchids. The thimbleberries and raspberries were ripe and we ate as we worked.

On day-6 of our trip, we broke camp and returned to Rainbow Cove and back to Windigo. While breaking camp we heard wolf howls. Later we reported these at the Ranger station. Isle Royale is an international biosphere reserve and is probably best known



A view of Feldtmann Lake, Lake Superior and Rock of Ages lighthouse from Feldtmann Ridge

for its wolf and moose populations. The wolves arrived on the island in 1948. They are the only predator of the moose, which probably arrived around 1904. For the past few decades the island's wolf and moose populations have fluctuated dramatically. A long-term study of the wolf population has been underway for the past 50 years. This summer both the moose herd and the wolf pack are on the decline.

At Windigo we worked two-and-a-half days cutting invasive bushes 8-feet back from the road leading into park service and staff accommodation areas. All work in the National Parks is done with and under the supervision of the National Park Service trail crew. We came prepared to work with boots, leather gloves, appropriate clothing and daypacks. The Park Service provided the tools; loppers, saws, rakes, clippers, etc. We took pride in noting the dramatic improvement in the trail and road upon completing the work.

The cost of a Sierra Club Service trip is nominal. The registration fee is primarily for food and common-use equipment. It also included the boat fee from the mainland to the island. You pay your own travel costs to the departure site and bring your own camping gear. Campsite fees are waved by the NPS and other park services, such as shower and laundry, are free to volunteers.

Each afternoon and evening we had free time to hike the trails, relax, swim, canoe, attend a ranger talk, and observe flora and fauna. The ranger presentations on the three nights that we were at Windigo included the island formation after volcanic eruptions and trail formation following plate shifting; a history of wolf and moose populations; and bats. There are 6 species of bats on Isle Royale. At dusk we sat on the dock watching the bats arrive to devour mosquitos. There are also many species of lichens, mosses and mushrooms.

Nine days after our arrival on Isle Royale we departed. We had met new people, worked hard, enjoyed great meals, hiked some of the trails, watched the sunset over Lake Superior, and so much more.

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

# Tar Sands, Pipelines, and Michigan. What's Next?

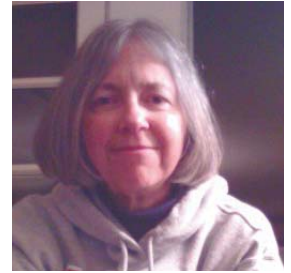
When an Enbridge oil pipeline ruptured near Marshall, MI in July, 2010, spilling more than a million gallons of oil into Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River, Michiganders got a rude introduction to a form of petroleum called, variously, tar sands, oil sands, or “dilbit.” If Enbridge carries through on its current plans, we will become even more familiar with it.

## What is “dilbit”?

Short for diluted bitumen, dilbit comes from a form of crude oil found in deposits known as oil sands or tar sands. Bitumen is the heaviest form of crude oil used today and is produced in Alberta, Canada, the third largest petroleum reserve in the world. Unlike the liquid conventional crude oil, dilbit is a thick, tar-like substance that does not flow easily through pipelines. It first has to be diluted with conventional light crude or a mixture of chemicals. The exact mix of chemicals is treated as a trade secret, but often includes benzene, a known human carcinogen.

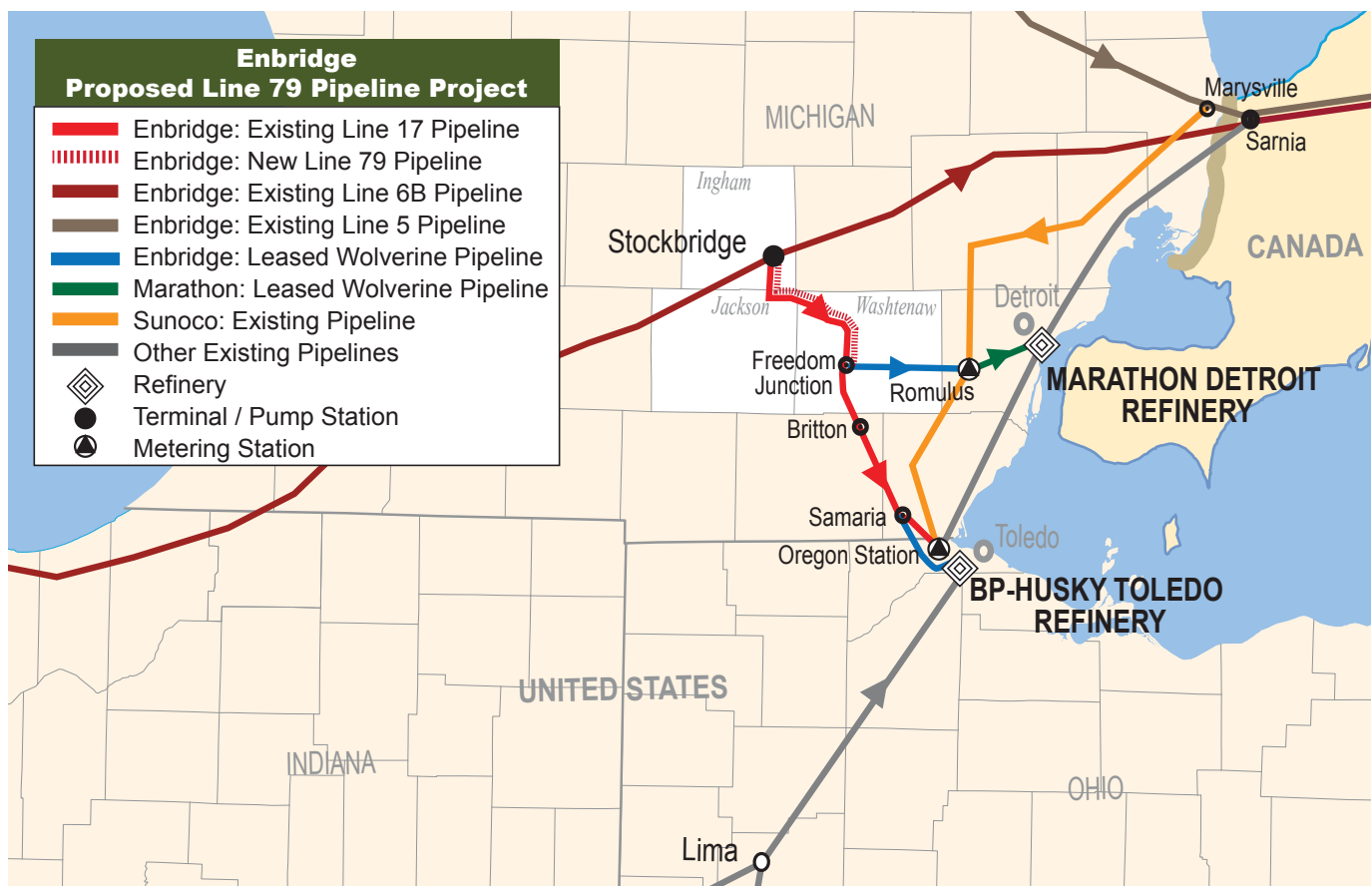
When the Marshall spill occurred, the dilbit separated into its constituents; many of the diluting chemicals evaporated, creating airborne hazards, and the heavy bitumen, rather than floating on the surface of the water, mixed with sand in the water and sank. The usual clean-up tactics of booms and skimming devices did not work; and new techniques had to be developed to remove the bitumen from the bottom of the river.

The clean-up became long and costly. Oil companies are required to pay an 8-cents per barrel Spill Liability Fund tax to cover clean-up costs from spills. However, in May 2011, the IRS ruled that tar sands imported to the US are not subject to this tax because “the terms ‘crude oil’ and ‘petroleum products’ do not clearly include or exclude tar sands.” Nonetheless, the EPA used money from this fund for the Kalamazoo River clean up.



By Nancy Shiffler

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### What are the plans for pipelines?

The Canadian oil companies are pursuing ways to get more tar sands oil transported from Alberta to coastal areas to be refined and, for the most part, exported overseas. Most well known is TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which would run through the Dakotas and Nebraska down to the Gulf Coast. This plan is currently on hold as the U.S. government studies potential environmental impacts. Alternate TransCanada routes through the Canadian Rockies to the British Columbia coast are also temporarily stalled.

Enbridge is trying a somewhat different tactic of expanding or reviving old lines and, in a connect-the-dots fashion, ultimately creating a pipeline system bigger than Keystone XL but subject to less governmental review. Beginning with its Alberta Clipper pipeline and a portion of its Lakehead system, one route would cut through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma to the Gulf. Another portion of the Lakehead system (Lines 6b and 79) would branch off from Illinois and cut through Indiana and Michigan on its way to Sarnia and the East Coast. A third Lakehead route (Line 5) would run across the Upper Peninsula and the Straits of Mackinac, south through Lower Michigan and then to Sarnia.

In southern Michigan Line 6b, the source of the Marshall spill, runs through Stockbridge and on into Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb counties on its way to Sarnia. Although billed as a way to fix safety problems, Enbridge is actually building a new larger line parallel to the existing suspect line. Attempts by Enbridge to expand its right of way along the route is running into opposition from land owners who object to the loss of additional land, safety concerns, and to the instances of heavy-handed tactics on the part of Enbridge. A group of landowners has begun a lawsuit.

Enbridge is pushing back with condemnation hearings.

Line 79 will run from Stockbridge through Washtenaw County. In Freedom Township it will hook up with the Wolverine pipeline running east to the Marathon refinery in Detroit and ultimately to Sarnia. It will also hook up with existing line 17 to Toledo. A recent proposal by Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) would reverse its Trunkline gas pipeline, which currently carries natural gas from the Gulf to Michigan via Toledo, and instead carry tar sands oil to the Gulf.

### Should we be worried?

In a word, yes. Michigan, the Great Lakes State, is becoming a major transit route for some of the dirtiest oil on the market. Many of the Enbridge lines are old (line 5 through the Straits is more than 50 years old, predating the Mackinac Bridge) and have multiple safety concerns. The Marshall spill was the largest on-shore oil spill in U.S. history, but that is only part of the Enbridge record. Between 1990 and 2010, in some 800 incidents, Enbridge pipelines leaked nearly 7 million gallons of oil in North America. Since 2001, the Lakehead system (which includes Lines 5, 79, and 6B) has had 83 documented incidents, including 31 spills totaling 1.9 million gallons.

We need a pipeline safety framework that requires more frequent monitoring of pipeline conditions, better response plans that address the unique characteristics of dilbit (including disclosure of the chemicals used as diluents), stronger consequences for bad actors, and more information made available to the public before pipelines are sited.

For more information, check out [www.nwf.org/tarsands](http://www.nwf.org/tarsands), <http://insideclimatenews.org>, and [www.enbridgeus.com/Delivering-Energy/Growth-Projects](http://www.enbridgeus.com/Delivering-Energy/Growth-Projects).

See map showing Enbridge pipelines on page 5.



# Environmental Assessment: Do the Right Thing, an Update on Parks AND Transportation in Ann Arbor

By Rita Mitchell and Nancy Shiffler

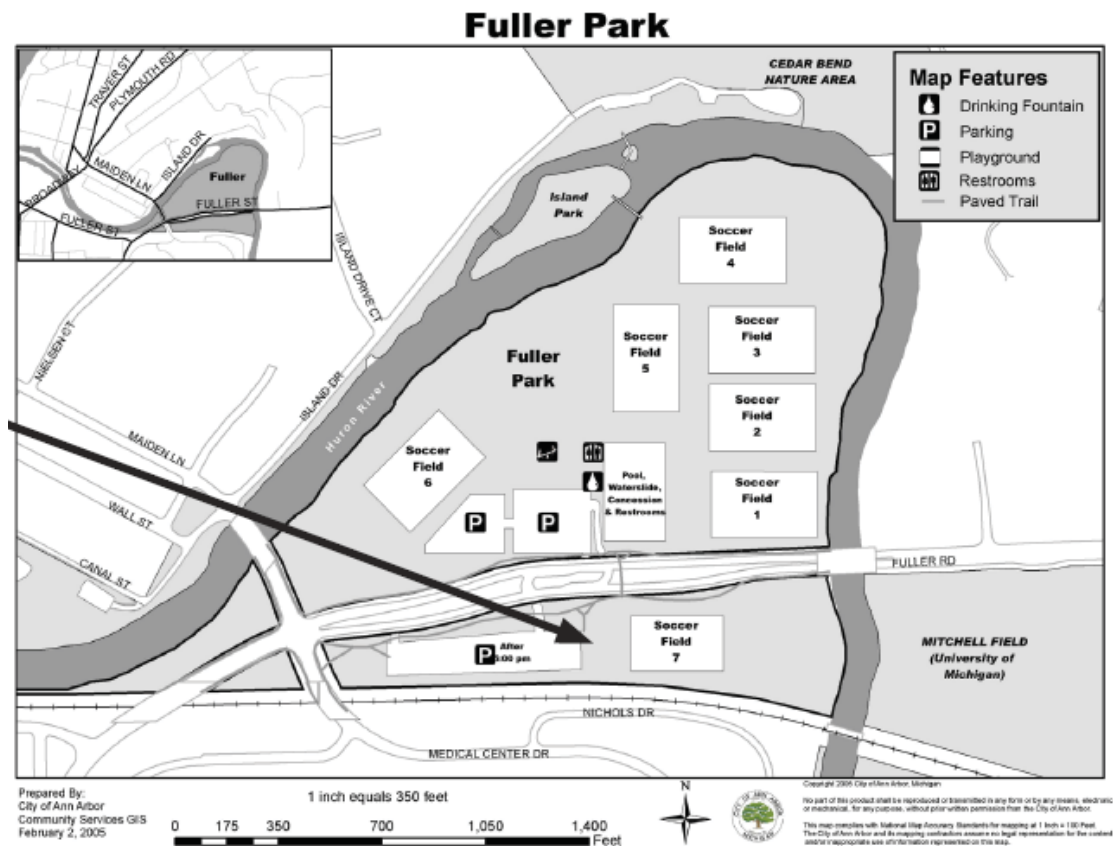
Striking a balance for protecting parks and at the same time supporting mass transit continues in Ann Arbor. The city's 2008 proposal to use part of Fuller Park for a parking structure and major transit center in the midst of the Huron River Valley, has morphed into a proposal for a replacement train station in the same location (see The Lookout, Summer-Fall 2012).

In June 2012, the city accepted a Federal Railroad Administration grant for \$2.8 million to accomplish preliminary engineering and an environmental assessment for a train station, which required a contribution of 20% from local matching funds. The city's originally proposed local match of \$701,000 was comprised of prior expenses, and was rejected by the FRA. On October 15, the City Council appropriated \$550,000 of General Funds as a substitute for the local match. The resolution that addressed funding, also included the promise of an open process of public involvement in the environmental assessment and a requirement that "...the City will submit the question of moving forward to a vote of the citizens of Ann Arbor..." The intent of the vote is unclear. It could apply to the construction of a train station, or it could apply to use of the land.

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group members welcome improved railroad service for our local area and strongly support increased use of rail services in order to reduce pollution associated

with the heavy use of automobiles. We will continue to monitor the process of the city's environmental assessment, to assure that a balanced and science-based review of the alternative sites is completed. We want to make certain that the evaluation of the existing train station is comprehensive and takes into account features that support retaining both the existing depot location, as well as our city's long-existing park land. Fuller Park was one of the first parks in the city. The environmental assessment should include addressing the question: Should a train station be sited in the middle of the Huron River valley, surrounded by park land, or should it be located in what is already a commercial area with space for the transit oriented development typically associated with train stations?

*The 10-acre part of Fuller Park south of Fuller Road was the proposed site for a 1000 car-5 story garage as Phase I of an intermodal station. Phase I did not include train elements. Funding beyond Phase I was not identified.*





## 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 11, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Book: "Last Call at the Oasis: The Global Water Crisis and Where We Go from Here"** edited by Karl Weber. Based on the film of the same name. 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). Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.

**Tuesday December 18, 2012 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: Great Adventures from Around the Globe. The annual HVG member slideshow program.** Share and inspire us with your travels! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman ([lighhawkpilot@gmail.com](mailto:lighhawkpilot@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. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Contact: 734-665-0248 [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com)

**Sunday December 23, 2012 -- 1:00 pm -- West Lake Secret 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: [jayhschlegel@comcast.net](mailto:jayhschlegel@comcast.net)

**Tuesday January 8, 2013 -- 7:15 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Book: "The Race for What's Left: The Global Scramble for the World's Last Resources,"** by Michael Klare. 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). Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. Assumes Nicola's will be on winter hours.

**Friday January 11, 2013 -- 5:00 pm -- Weekend MacMullen Conference Center Cross Country Ski Trip.** MacMullen Conference Center Main lodge, with fireplace, was built by the CCC in the 1930s. Skiing on Saturday and Sunday. Cost: \$127.50 per person double occupancy, two single beds in a room. Additional \$45.00 for single occupancy. Fee must be paid in advance. Sat. meals and Sun. breakfast included. Food is very good. There are several places to ski nearby. Snowshoeing and hiking also. Carpooling will be arranged by the trip leader. Friday travel/orientation and returning Sunday. MacMullen Conference Center (104 Conservation Drive Roscommon, MI). Contact: 734-730-7209, [lanehotchkiss@hotmail.com](mailto:lanehotchkiss@hotmail.com)

**Tuesday January 15, 2013 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting.** 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. WICO business/Organizational meetings are held five times per year (Jan., Mar., May, Sep., and Oct.), just prior to the monthly HVG general meeting. Room 164, Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Contact: [joanwolf@umich.edu](mailto:joanwolf@umich.edu)

**Tuesday January 15, 2013 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: Climate Science as Culture Change.** The social debate around climate change addresses topics beyond carbon dioxide and climate models. Values, culture, worldviews and ideology contribute to the discussion. Social scientists explore the cultural reasons why people support or reject scientific conclusions. Andrew J. Hoffman, Director, UM Erb Institute, will discuss how use of increasing amounts of data without attending to the social values of people you are addressing will increase resistance to the message. Non-members welcome. Contact: 734-665-0248 [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com)

# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

**Sunday January 27, 2013 -- 1:00 pm -- Stinchfield Woods Ski/Hike.** Ski Stinchfield Woods, a 760-acre UM preserve with beginner and intermediate trails through gorgeous conifer and deciduous woods, with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Dare the Monster Hill! All ski abilities welcome. We will hike if snow conditions are not suitable. Meet at 1:00 pm at Zingerman's Roadhouse to carpool or meet at 1:45 pm at the trailhead. Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd west from Dexter, turn right and go north on Dexter-Pinckney Rd to N Territorial, turn left, go 1/4 mile, park at the office park on the south side of N Territorial. Contact: jayhschlegel@comcast.net

**Tuesday February 12, 2013 -- 7:15 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Book: "Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for the New Energy Era,"** by Amory Lovins. 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). Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. Assumes Nicola's will be on winter hours.

**Tuesday February 19, 2013 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG Monthly Program: Great Lakes Estuaries--Keys to the Health of the Great Lakes.** 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 Jeff Schaeffer will enlighten us with the latest studies and provide insight into what the future holds. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

**Sunday February 24, 2013 -- 1:00 pm -- Juniper Ridge Ski/Hike.** Ski the Juniper Ridge Trail, a 2.5-mile loop through scenic mature deciduous woods & wetlands, with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Best for intermediate-level skiers. We will hike if snow conditions are not suitable. Meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or at 1:45 at the trailhead. Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd west from Dexter, turn right/go north on Dexter-Pinckney Rd to N Territorial, turn left, go west 2 miles to Dexter Townhall Rd, turn right, go north 1 mile, park behind the entrance booth to Silver Lake entrance of Pinckney State Rec Area. Contact: jayhschlegel@comcast.net

**Tuesday March 19, 2013 -- 6:30 pm -- Washtenaw Inner City Outings meeting.** *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. WICO business/organizational meetings are held five times per year just prior to the monthly HVG general meeting, Room 164, Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). If you want to learn more, please e-mail joanwolf@umich.edu, or come to a WICO meeting; 6:30 pm, just before the monthly Sierra Club program on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, September & October at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.*



*Fall migration of sandhill cranes at Haenle Reserve*





With the presidential election just behind us, and as several states continue to battle back from the havoc wreaked by one of the worst storms ever to hit the east coast, it seems timely to take a moment to reflect on the history and current state of the environment in our nation. Some of you may have been surprised to notice that while Barack Obama and Mitt Romney clashed on everything from oil and gas subsidies to how energy politics might affect jobs growth, climate change itself was barely mentioned.

We can discuss why this might be so. But while political leaders are responsible for earth stewardship, they certainly aren't the only ones. So let's get a lay of the land and all its greenery.

## Political Leaders

First we take a look back. What political leaders have shaped our environmental progress over the last few generations? The 26th President of the United States — Teddy Roosevelt — may come to mind first. His reputation as a fearless explorer endures; his initiation of many conservation programs, and creation of national parks like Yosemite and the Grand Canyon, remain his most popular legacies today. In fact, he is responsible for placing almost 230 million acres of land under federal protection and for creating the National Wildlife Refuge System. Largely credited with popularizing the American desire to discover and explore our environment, Roosevelt was also an avid big-game hunter. On one African safari he and his companions killed over 11,000 animals, including hippos, elephants, and six rare white rhinos; the quantity of animal skins was so great that it took years to mount them all.

Our collective memory of President Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal may be fading, but those of us who are grateful for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should remember that he created it. Nixon also implemented the Clean Air Act in 1970, which requires the EPA to enforce regulations that protect us all from air pollution, as well as the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972, an ecosystem approach by Congress which strives to protect, conserve and manage otter, walrus, polar bear, manatee, pinniped and cetacean populations.

In April, 1977 President Jimmy Carter shared his environmental vision and made a strong appeal to the American people: "We must not be selfish or timid if we hope to have a decent world for our children and grandchildren. We simply must balance our demand for energy with our rapidly shrinking resources. By acting now, we can control our future instead of letting the future control us." But President Carter offered more than just words. He created the Department of Energy and passed the Soil and Water Conservation Act. With the passage of the Alaskan National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, he protected large plots of land in Alaska. He actively supported legislation for cleaning up toxic contamination and for protecting endangered American wilderness and animals.

While many environmentalists remain unsure about Barack Obama, his accomplishments include intense support of renewable energy (which has doubled its national production since 2008), a mandate to double vehicle fuel efficiency, and new EPA regulations that limit carbon-dioxide emissions from new power plants (including those running on coal). He supports loans and grants for green-energy companies. Critics dislike his

approval of the Keystone XL pipeline's southern half without creating new wilderness areas protected from development and his removal of an EPA proposal to limit ozone emissions linked to smog. Something to note about Obama's presidency, however, is how many legislative and regulatory steps he favored early in his administration. Unlike some of his environmental predecessors, such as Carter and Nixon, Obama faced a sharp divide in Congress where Republicans remain entrenched in a win-at-all-costs attitude, simply refusing to compromise or work with the President, which made it extremely difficult for Obama to push through legislation.

## Leaders in the Private World

The good news is that even though political leaders play a big role in environmental conservation, they don't claim sole responsibility for the state of the environment. Fans of the planet will be glad to know that some important members of big business are finally starting to step up. Huge corporations like Walmart are realizing that profits are very much intertwined with environmental and social issues. Newsweek recently released its fourth annual environmental report on the 500 largest American companies; their analysis stacks up companies against each other with regard to environmental friendliness. In addition to Walmart joining the list of top-10 greenest companies, we see the likes of Staples, Office Depot, Coca-Cola Enterprises and Sprint, along with technology equipment manufacturers like IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Dell. So why are major companies jumping on the green bandwagon? Sprint CEO Dan Hesse notes that, "It really comes down to dollars and cents." A company's long-term survival really might depend on its ability to manage its environmental impact, its ability to achieve operational efficiency and prepare for a future likely limited in resources and expensive in energy. And though it is encouraging to see big American businesses slowly coming around, it is clear the U.S. continues to lag globally. For example, IBM, which ranks #1 in environmental leadership on U.S. lists, is the only U.S. company to even break into the global top-10.

## Local Leaders

What about the rest of us? How can we help make our communities more green and sustainable? There are many actions each of us can take at a local level that help preserve our environment. Passing on bottled water (invest in a reusable water bottle), bringing your own grocery bags from home, and reducing the number of paper towels you use (old rags or towels usually suffice) will prevent plastic and paper waste. Plastic, especially, is terrible for the environment. Recycle everything you can and think about starting a compost pile. Line drying your laundry saves a lot of electricity and is less harsh on your clothes. Compact fluorescent light bulbs last a long time; using power strips to plug in TV and computers will let you flip the switch and ensure your electrical equipment isn't using any power at night when you sleep. Membership in and advocacy for groups such as the Sierra Club is also extremely important. If we all pull together, from leadership in the highest office in the land, to leadership at the local office water cooler, to leadership outside the office, maybe we can harness the power to tackle today's — and tomorrow's — most pressing environmental challenges.

# WICO Down on the Farm with the Frog Holler Folks

by Joan Wolf

Washtenaw Inner City Outings (WICO) volunteers Jan Brimacombe and Joan Wolf met Bryant Community Center youth leaders Matt and Katie and took eight children to Holler Fest, a music and food festival in August. A great time was had by all as we enjoyed this 6th annual event celebrating local food, music and sustainability. Hollerfest is held every summer on the King family farm in Brooklyn, MI. The Kings have been growing vegetables for our community for 40 years on their land affectionately known as Frog Holler. Besides a love of healthy food and respect for the earth, this family and their friends have a passion for music and bringing people together for a weekend-long festival each year.

Our Saturday at Holler Fest was hot and breezy. A shady spot at the Children's Tent provided a place for the children to pursue games and crafts. A continuous horse drawn hay ride was available throughout the day, and the kids enjoyed several trips around the festival grounds as well as hand-feeding the horses grass picked nearby. When it was time for lunch, the children got in the Holler Fest kitchen line where volunteers loaded their plates with burgers,



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Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

## 2013 Sierra Club Calendars



### Order Form

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Engagement Calendar	\$13.95	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar	\$12.95	_____	_____

**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 November 20, & December 18 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!

# Down On The Farm continued from page 10

watermelon, fresh coleslaw and pickles. Some were surprised to learn their hamburger was really a veggie burger, but amazingly no complaints! Just about anywhere you go on the festival grounds the main stage is visible, and you hear a steady stream of great music being performed at all times.

In addition to the main stage, over a hill you find a smaller second stage where performances for kids are often highlighted. After lunch we headed over there and enjoyed Joe Reilly's lively concert. Joe soon had all the kids up in front of the stage singing and dancing along to his environmentally focused songs. Before leaving the second stage area, four of the WICO girls performed at an open



mic set up especially for them at our request. Last but not least from the kid's perspective was the "Free Store" which they discovered as we were leaving. Volunteers had a tent set up with re-use items available free for all. The kids loved choosing mementos for their siblings (baby clothes for a little sister), items for their parents ("I'm getting this scale for my mom"), and themselves, ("Hey, look what I found; a Tigers' cap!") A big thank-you goes out to the Kings who kindly waived the admission fee for our group, made all of us feel welcome, and provided a great place to celebrate summer! I hope to see some Lookout readers at next year's Holler Fest; join the fun!

*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](mailto:joanwolf@umich.edu), or come to a WICO meeting; 6:30 pm, just before the monthly Sierra Club program on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, September & October at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.*





**Huron  
Valley  
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[www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/)

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Ed Steinman\* 665-0248

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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 Category	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 lobby efforts. Your dues include \$7.00 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 32192-1941  
 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) #840 | W



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

- Over the past 15 years the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** has been a very successful program for supporting our efforts to protect parks, natural areas and local farmland, and to address local and regional environmental problems.
- 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 \$4.60, depending on the merchant, for the 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 and national stores--see below and other side.
2. **Online ordering** for national stores and some local stores including Amazon, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Land's End, Sears, and many more including department stores, restaurants, hotels, and more. Please visit:  
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm>

**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 and on the other side.

Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op **	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$50 ea	_____ cards @ \$100 ea
Arbor Brewing Company **	_____ cards @ \$25 ea		
Arbor Farms *	_____ cards @ \$20 ea		
Busch's *	_____ cards @ \$5 ea		
Hiller's Markets *	_____ cards @ \$50 ea		
Produce Station **	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$50 ea	
Whole Foods *†	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$100 ea	
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/kroger.htm">http://michigan.sierraclub.org/kroger.htm</a>		
Meijers	rebate program - see: <a href="http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/SFTE_Meijer.pdf">http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/SFTE_Meijer.pdf</a>		

† can order through Shopwithscrip - see: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm>  
 \* **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

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

# Candidates and Ballot for the Election of the



James D'Amour

My name is James D'Amour, and I am asking for your continued support on being a part of the Executive Committee.

In the past two years, I have served as Vice-Chair as well as Chair of the Political Committee.

I am looking to increase our capacity at making a difference in our community.

We need to continue to be involved in protecting parkland and open spaces, whether it is monitoring and developing responsible and FAIR policy regarding oil and natural gas leasing and drilling locally as well as in the state. By fair I mean giving neighbors and communities a greater voice in protecting our ground water supply.

We will continue our vigilance on CAFOs (factory farms) but encourage the local food movement and economy.

Our parks are simply not a fungible commodity to be at the disposal of political expediency. They are a legacy for our future, and need to be maintained and improved. I look back at the past two years of our local organization, and I have nothing but pride for the way our organization stays true to our values, even if it means talking truth to power sometimes.

My goal for the next two years is to increase capacity of the HVG by, a) creating new opportunities for outings, and b) increasing conservation and political activity within the wider area of the Huron Valley.

I want to see the Sierra Club become a louder voice in the preservation, protection, and enjoyment of our planet, right here in the Huron Valley region, and beyond. I ask for your support in helping me and this organization make a difference. Thank you.

Robert Gordon



I first joined the Sierra Club while living in Miami in the 1980's. But more recently I have been serving on the political committees for both the Michigan Chapter and the Huron Valley Group. I have proudly represented the Sierra Club at various venues this fall to support the Chapter's effort to get Proposal 3 passed. I have seen the State of Michigan change, not for the better, so much over the past twenty years, and applaud the Chapter's work to protect Michigan's priceless lakes, forests and public places, including, of course, city parks. I wish to expand my role within the Huron Valley Group to bring my political and legal experience to bear on issues of importance to all within Washtenaw, Monroe and Lenawee counties.

Ed Steinman



I'm running for another term on the Huron Valley Group Executive Committee because of the knowledge and strong environmental focus of our local Sierra Club board. I enjoy working with the Sierra Club at the local and state level and would like to continue to contribute to the efforts of HVG as membership chair and secretary and Chapter representative.

# Huron Valley Group Executive Committee

Joel Dalton



I have enjoyed my first few terms on the HVG Executive Committee and wish to become even more involved in protecting the Michigan natural places my family and I enjoy. We regularly hike and camp in Michigan wilderness areas, canoe the Huron and Pere Marquette rivers, and run extensively on the wonderful network of Ann Arbor forest and river trails. We also support a new Ann Arbor Greenway. I believe people will protect the outdoor places that they get out and enjoy.

My professional experience is rooted in innovation and sustainability, with extensive knowledge of alternative fuels and new vehicle technologies and policies - including biofuels, hybrid electric vehicles and plug-ins.

I believe environmental groups have been unfairly labeled “special interests” by actual special interests, when there can be no more common good than preserving the environment. Wild places and more accessible green spaces alike provide mental escapes and reminders of what makes us human and part of nature’s web. Many environmental threats used to seem to be far away and a result of personal and corporate ignorance. But today’s more urgent threats – including those in Michigan - often result from purposeful actions (or inactions) combined with an overwhelmed public’s confusion and disengagement.

I believe the Sierra Club has the ethical and political standing to be a leader in re-energizing the environmental debate not just nationally but locally. Our community seems to be more thoughtful than ever, but we can do more. Going forward, I hope to help the HVG collaborate more with local organizations to inform and recruit members, motivate volunteerism and actions on parks protection and energy choices, and provoke thoughtful and practical discussions of our local, intertwined sustainability issues – including sustainable (local) food, Great Lakes water (and invasive species), and various development issues.

## Ballot for Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee 2012

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

1. Please mark up to four 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 18th HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o Ginny Maturen, 9810 Kress Rd., Pinckney, MI 48169. Mailed ballots must be received by December 17, 2011 to be counted.

## Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2012

Four to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2013 - Vote for four.

Second column of boxes is for second voter in same household.

James D'Amour

Robert Gordon

Joel Dalton

Ed Steinman



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

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## Fall - Winter 2012 Inside:

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- 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:

- host a fold & staple work party
  - article writer
  - photography/graphics
- proofreading - ad wrangler
- 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)