



Want to Win the Climate Debate? Stop Debating.

Last week the Diane Rehm Show on NPR, featured an episode on the natural gas boom in America. After panelists glorified the natural gas revolution, Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, chimed in by saying, "Nobody (on this panel) has mentioned climate change. What we should acknowledge is that production of oil and gas is undermining our goals to achieve a stabilized climate."

As the topic of climate change becomes less and less popular and the accompanying eye-rolls become more common, Brune demonstrated a successful messaging tactic in communicating climate change. Talk about it! Be direct in your communication and make sure the topic isn't left out of discussion. If only Salt-n-Pepa were around for a remake of their 1991 hit to "talk about climate baby, talk about you and me, talk about all the good things and the bad things that could be..."

In Brune's statement, there was no room for doubt. He clearly and effectively states that oil and gas production is undermining climate stability. There were no disclaimers, apologies or innuendo. Just direct correlation. Climate change is not beating around the bush and nor should we.

Brune was inclusive as well, stating that it is "our" goal to achieve a stabilized climate. This begs the question of "Who doesn't want a stabilized climate?"

Climate change is not about belief. It is science, not religion.

Additionally, he was blunt. Brune exposed fellow panelists, acknowledging that he was the last panelist to speak about "The Changing World Energy Picture" and yet no one had addressed the elephant in the room: that America's energy addiction has engendered an unstable and even potentially unlivable climate.

These messaging tactics are increasingly critical in combating the idea that climate change is an uncertainty. The notion of the "climate debate," developed by PR experts, funded by special interests, was designed to combat rising public concern over climate change. Creating an illusion of a "debate" provided room for an opposition to counter the consensus. It undermined mounting evidence and created a sense of uncertainty where previously there was growing certainty.

In "Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth About Climate Change," Professor Naomi Oreskes, draws the correlation between the denial over climate change and the earlier denial over the dangers of cigarettes.

"For half a century, the tobacco industry... and those skeptical of acid rain, the ozone hole, and global warming strove to 'maintain the controversy' and 'keep the debate alive' by fostering claims that were contrary

By
Lucy Emerson-Bell

Editor's note: Printed with permission from the author. This originally appeared in The Blog section of the Huffington Post (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>) on 11/10/2013.

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Win the Debate continued from page1

For further reading on the issue of climate communication, the author suggests, "Creating a Climate for Change" by Susanne Moser.

to the mainstream of scientific evidence and expert judgment. We have seen how they promoted claims that had already been refuted in the scientific literature, and how the media became complicit as they reported the controversy as if it was a legitimate debate."

The debate forms dueling sides, "us" versus "them," "sane" versus "irrational," and "disbelievers" versus "believers." I cringe when perfectly well-intentioned individuals say that they "believe" in climate change. The term "belief" fits within the syntax of a "debate." Climate change is not about belief. It is science, not religion. Would you say that you believe the sun will rise tomorrow? Would you say you believe in gravity?

Not only has this sense of uncertainty thwarted meaningful political action, it has lead even the most fervent activists to abandon the term in fear of seeming too extreme. The term "climate change," is loaded with emotional and political baggage and is immediately polarizing. I have colleagues working on carbon reduction projects who can't talk about the reason driving their work, fearing it might seem "too contentious."

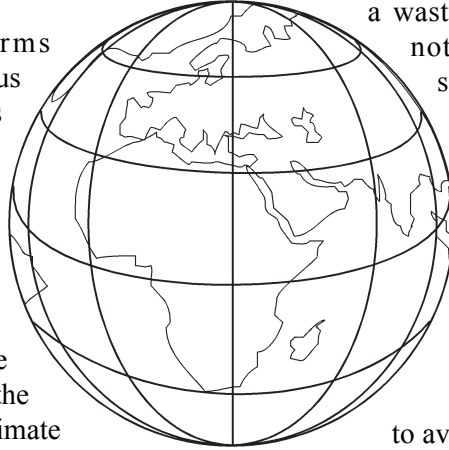
Some claim that there are numerous reasons to act on climate change, i.e. cleaner air, energy security and that we don't need talk about the changing climate as the motivator for action. But neglecting to talk about climate change is what the deniers

want. If we avoid using the term, they win.

So how do we fix this? We don't give into the bullying and we don't debate. Even with the most convincing, peer-reviewed study, the time for talk is over. Sharing more data to further prove the case is a waste of time. The deniers do not care that 97 percent of scientists agree that climate change is anthropogenic because only 97 percent of scientists agree, not 100 percent. Even with mass consensus, there are still those three percent and those three percent are key to legitimizing the debate.

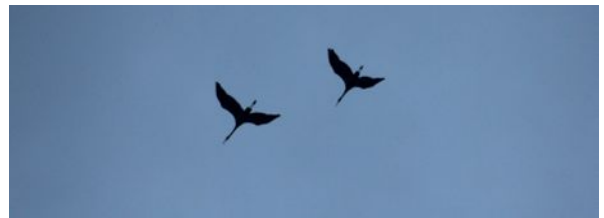
Not only is it important to avoid engaging in debate, it is important to avoid name calling. The artist Shepard Fairy recently recommended that we call out deniers for what they are. "Sometimes the most powerful weapon against propaganda is absurdity, creating images that are funny." He tells deniers to "just stop being dicks." However, if debating is a waste of time, so is name-calling. Calling the deniers "dicks" would acknowledge their position and acknowledging them would imply that their opinion is justified.

If we want to achieve a stabilized climate we must focus on the solutions to climate change and appeal to the moral imperative for action. To succeed, we must do what Michael Brune did. We must talk about it, we must acknowledge it, we must be honest that our current energy production is undermining our collective goals for climate stability. And we must act.



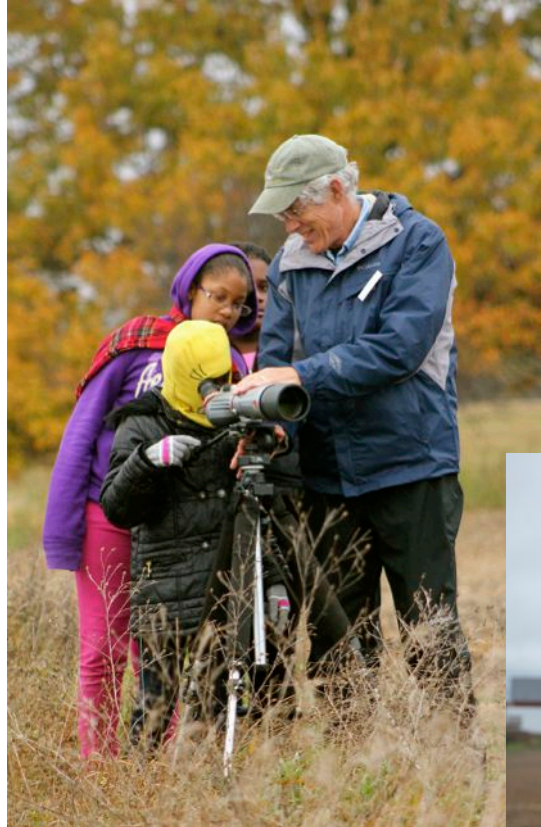
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THIS OUTING WAS FOR THE BIRDS...

On a recent cool, wet autumn afternoon, members of the Washtenaw Inner City Outings (WICO) group accompanied children from the Bryant Community Center to experience the magnificent sandhill cranes at the Haehnle Memorial Bird Sanctuary near Jackson, MI. We were very fortunate to benefit from the warm welcome and extensive knowledge of Lathe Claflin who is the director of the sanctuary. He led us on a driving tour of the surrounding area to view the cranes foraging in the fields. Mr. Claflin shared his viewing telescope so we could all see the sandhill cranes up close and he answered many questions about the birds' interesting habits. Following the driving tour, we returned to the sanctuary for a short hike and learned about the interesting history of the land which had once been farmland and had been transformed into its current use. We also had the opportunity to view the cranes flying back to the area for the night, as is their pattern. We



By Cecilia
Trudeau
WICO
Leader



were hopeful that we would see hundreds of birds that day as there had been more than 700 sighted on the previous Monday bird count. Unfortunately, there were far fewer cranes flying into the sanctuary that evening and we learned that it was likely due to the increased depth of the water which is not bird-friendly -- while they appreciate the protection from the coyotes afforded them by the water, they are not fond of getting their feathers wet. Nonetheless, the children and adults alike thoroughly enjoyed the experience and our opportunity to learn about the sandhill cranes who are the oldest living bird species having been traced back to the days of the dinosaurs. As one of the children wrote on the thank-you note to Mr. Claflin: "Birds rule!"





NEW Clean Car Update!

**By
Alan
Richardson**

Here is some basic data from the trip computers on my Ford C-Max Energi plug-in hybrid between two recent refueling:

1015	Total miles driven between gaso-
	line
refuelings	16 August and 15 September
662	Electric vehicle miles driven
353	Hybrid vehicle miles driven
12.50	Gallons gasoline used
126	kWh electricity used by vehicle

My energy costs

\$3.459	Gas cost /gallon
\$0.12	Electricity cost /kWh

There needs to be an adjustment for the electricity use. The vehicle trip computer indicates the electricity used by the vehicle, but I actually pay for the electricity that comes out of the outlet where I charge my car. I measure the electric use at the outlet with an energy monitor. During a recent month, the trip computer showed 133 kWh used by the vehicle and 182 kWh from the outlet. So this indicates a loss of about 37% due to the inefficiencies of the charging system that converts household alternating current from the outlet to direct current to charge the battery and the chemical process that stores and releases electricity from the battery. Applying that loss to the trip computer data raises the 126 kWh used by the vehicle to 172 kWh from the outlet.

Here are some of my calculations using the basic trip computer data:

129	MPGe electric fuel economy (662 miles/(172 kWh/33.7))*
28.2	MPG gasoline hybrid fuel economy (353 miles/12.50 gallons)
\$0.124	Gas fuel cost/mile (\$3.459/gal /28.2 miles/gallon)
\$0.031	Electricity cost/mile (\$0.12/kWh / (662 miles/172 kWh))
\$0.093	Savings per mile for every mile driven by electricity rather than gasoline

Between two gasoline refueling:

\$43.60	Gasoline cost (12.50 gallons @ \$3.459/gallon)
\$20.64	Electricity cost (172 kWh @ \$0.12/kWh)
\$61.57	Avoided cost (\$0.093 saved per electric mile X 662 electric miles)

*Using 33.7 kWh electricity as equivalent in energy to 1 gallon gasoline

In summary, every mile I drive on electricity avoids 9 cents cost of gasoline. My driving between these two gasoline refuelings was mainly commuting to work or short drives around town mostly powered by electricity, with a few longer drives mostly powered by gasoline. Moderate ambient temperatures in the late summer required no cabin heating and only moderate air conditioning use, which both take battery power and reduce driving range. With the onset of winter weather, I expect the electric driving range to decline. That will be the topic of my article next time.



Landmen Seeking Oil Leases in Scio Township?

We have had a few reports of property owners in Scio Township being approached by landmen to lease mineral rights or surface access for oil drilling. To get a better picture of this, we would like to hear from people who have been approached. Please contact Nancy Shiffler at nshiffler@comcast.net or (734) 971-1157.

Impact of Fracking on Property Values, Home Loans and Insurance

Amidst all of the reports about the environmental and public health effects of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) we do not always hear about some of the direct financial impacts. Michigan Sierra Club member Frank Zaski has put together below a summary of articles and reports concerning the impact of fracking on local property values, home loans and home insurance which ought to be of interest to property owners and local officials.

1. Studies find declining property (and tax) values near fracking sites.
2. Banks and Federal lending and mortgage institutions are refusing to approve or are putting severe restrictions on home loans that have gas drilling leases attached to them.
3. Some insurance companies will not provide coverage for damage related to fracking.

The following are quotes from articles and reports:

1. Studies find declining property (and tax) values near fracking sites.

UM report: Landowners without promising mineral rights in the vicinity of industry activity that might be affected by environmental factors, such as noise, air pollution, truck traffic and risk of water or ground contamination will experience a decline in property values. <http://graham.umich.edu/publications/hydraulic-fracturing-michigan-technical-report-economics>

Duke study: The possibility of contaminated water forces the property value to decrease by an average of 24 percent, which offsets the boost from signing a lease and leave a net decrease in value of 13 percent. <http://www.dukechronicle.com/articles/2012/11/16/duke-researchers-show-dip-home-value->

caused-nearby-fracking

Colorado: Because of drilling and fracking, we are seeing a high inventory of homes in communities where it is prevalent. There are a high number of sellers and a lack of interested buyers, leading to long turnaround times on homes in the area. <http://coloradostatesman.com/content/993955-drilling-and-fracking-have-destroyed-value-our-most-significant-investment-%3F-our-home>

Prohibitively expensive appraisals and title searches that are complicated by assessing the value of risks and the arcane paper trail of mineral rights and attached liabilities. <http://ecowatch.com/2013/11/13/fracking-american-dream-drilling-decreases-property-value/>

2. Banks and Federal lending and mortgage institutions are refusing to approve or are putting severe restrictions on home loans that have gas drilling leases attached to them.

According to a white paper prepared for the New York State Bar Association, Wells Fargo, one of the largest home mortgage lenders in the U.S. is cautiously refusing to make home loans for properties that have gas drilling leases attached to them.

In addition to Wells Fargo, Provident Funding, GMAC, FNCB, Fidelity and First Liberty, First Place Bank, Solvay Bank, Tompkins Trust Co., CFCU Community Credit Union are either putting hard-to-meet conditions on mortgages or denying loans altogether on properties with oil and gas leases.

A Pennsylvania couple was recently denied a new mortgage on their farm by Quicken Loans because of a drilling site across the street.

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By
Frank Zaski

Frank Zaski, Franklin, Michigan: Concerned Citizen, Former work group member of the Michigan 21st Century Energy Plan, Michigan Climate Action Commission and Midwest Governors Association Renewable Energy Advisory Group.]

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FOUR SIERRA CLUB ENDORSED-CANDIDATES WIN SEATS ON ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL

By
James D'Amour,
Vice-Chair,
Sierra Club,
Huron Valley
Group

In 2013, the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed eleven candidates for local and state office throughout Michigan. Out of these eleven candidates, ten won.

Four of these winning candidates were from Ann Arbor! Mike Anglin fought-off a well-organized write-in candidate in the 5th Ward (Old West Side, NW Ann Arbor). Mike is a Sierra Club member and former member of our Executive Committee.

Steve Kunselman in the Third Ward (Burns Park, SE Ann Arbor) won a hard-fought Democratic primary to easily prevail in the November election.

Labor attorney Jack Eaton in the 4th Ward (lower Burns Park, southern and SW Ann Arbor) defeated long-time incumbent Marcia Higgins in the Democratic primary.

Independent candidate Jane Lumm defeated Planning Commission Chair Kirk Westphal in the 2nd Ward (Ann Arbor Hills, NE Ann Arbor).

Each of the candidates has a very diverse background. While we may not agree on all issues, each brings a shared perspective central to the Sierra Club's policies – deep concern for and emphasis on parklands protection and preserving parks funding.

The Sierra Club bases endorsements on candidates' responses to an interview about environmental issues, plus an evaluation of candidates' records in elected or

appointed office. Environmental policy issues that particularly concern us in Ann Arbor include converting city park land to non-parks uses, and cutting parks funding to a degree that violates a City Council resolution. While there are improvements to the process over a proposed train station, we have serious concerns over that process, and the potential for a terrible precedent in regards to converting park land to non-park use. We are fully in favor of a robust mass transit policy – as long as it is funded in a fair and responsible manner that is sustainable and will not result in cuts in existing transit services.

Several of our endorsed candidates made it clear in their victory speeches they wouldn't have had success without the Sierra Club's support. They have pledged to work closely with us in the coming months to build environmentally sound and sustainable policies.

We hope to establish a working dialogue with all city council members, including those who did not receive our endorsement, to protect parks, develop responsible transit, and fight the dangers of gas and oil drilling on Ann Arbor's doorstep.

Together, we can make a difference.

Fracking continued from page 5.

According to the lender, “gas wells and other structures in nearby lots...can significantly degrade a property's value” and do not meet underwriting guidelines. Two other lenders also denied the family mortgages.

Federal lending and mortgage institutions (FHA, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac) all have prohibitions against lending on properties where drilling is taking place or where hazardous materials are stored. A drilling lease on a property financed through one of these agencies would result in a “technical default.” FHA's guidelines also don't allow it to finance mortgages where homes are within 300 feet of an active or planned drilling site. <http://ecowatch.com/2013/11/13/fracking-american-dream-drilling-decreases-property-value/> <http://www.americanbanker.com/video/why-fracking-is-a-problem-for-banks1063628-1.html>

3. Some insurance companies will not provide coverage for damage related to fracking.

Nationwide Insurance spelled out specifically that it would not provide coverage for damage related to fracking. According to an internal memo outlining the company's policy, “After months of research and discussion, we have determined that the exposures presented by hydraulic fracturing are too great to ignore.” <http://ecowatch.com/2013/11/13/fracking-american-dream-drilling-decreases-property-value/>

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, ride sharing 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/>**

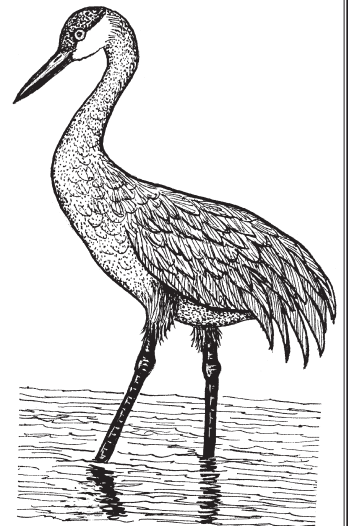
Tuesday December 10, 2013 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI). Book: **"The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability -- Designing for Abundance,"** by William McDonough and Michael Braungart. The latest from the authors of "Cradle to Cradle." Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday December 17, 2013 -- 7:30 pm -- "Great Adventures from Around the Globe." Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI). Members and non-members will offer their short stories about a diverse set of outdoor adventures. In years past, we've seen pictures of hiking, biking, canoeing, skiing, hanging-out, and bird-watching in fabulous places from Alaska to Hawaii, the Upper Peninsula to Utah, the Everglades to Isle Royal, and Africa to Canada. Even the wilds of southeast Michigan! Every year the list of adventures is a surprise -- because the presenters are so diverse--they are YOU. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Sunday December 22, 2013 -- 1:00 pm -- Annual Solstice Hike. Pinckney State Recreation Area (Dexter Townhall Rd and N Territorial Rd Pinckney, MI). Welcome the return of the Sun on the Crooked Lake Trail in the Pinckney State Rec Area, with views of three lakes and rugged terrain, 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. Directions: take Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd west through Dexter and beyond to Dexter Townhall Rd, turn north (right), go past N Territorial Rd to the park entrance, turn left to the parking lot for Silver Lake. Non-members welcome. Contact: jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday January 14, 2014 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI). Book: **"Snake Oil: How Fracking's False Promise of Plenty Imperils Our Future,"** by Richard Heinberg. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday January 21, 2014 -- 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. 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.



Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Tuesday January 21, 2014 -- 7:30 pm – “The Controversial Coyote, Part II.” Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI). Where are coyotes in Southeast Michigan, and what are they doing? Join us for an update on studies based on radio-collar tracking of coyote activities. Bill Dodge, wildlife biologist and WSU PhD candidate, and Holly Hadac, DNR-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, both of Southeast Michigan Coyote Research project will describe their findings about coyotes in our urban areas. We will hear how to live in harmony and avoid conflicts with this naturally shy, nocturnal omnivore. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Sunday January 26, 2014 -- 1:00 pm -- Stinchfield Woods Ski/Hike. Stinchfield Woods. 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/north on Dexter-Pinckney Rd to N Territorial, turn left, go 1/4 mi, park at the office park. No membership required. Contact: jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday February 11, 2014 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI). Book: **“Nature's Operating Instructions: The True Biotechnologies (The Bioneers Series),”** edited by Kenny Ausubel and J. P. Harpignies. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734)971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Sunday February 16, 2014 -- 1:00 pm -- Juniper Ridge Ski/Hike. Pinckney State Recreation Area. Ski the Juniper Ridge Trail, a 2.5-mile loop through scenic mature deciduous woods & wetlands, w/ 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/north on Dexter-Pinckney Rd to N Territorial, turn left, go west 2 mi to Dexter Townhall Rd, turn right, go north 1 mi, park near entrance to Silver Lake. No membership required. Contact: jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday February 18, 2014 -- 7:30 pm – “Harmful Algae Bloom: Blooms Gone Bad.” Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI). Algae are naturally occurring plants that grow in water. The blooms can be found within most bodies of water throughout the Great Lakes, but they thrive in shallow, warm, non-moving bodies of water like ponds and smaller lakes. Harmful algae blooms have increased in frequency since the 1990s. Sonia Joseph Joshi, NOAA Great Lakes Outreach Coordinator, will discuss how certain types of algal blooms may pose a risk to humans, animals and water quality. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Tuesday March 18, 2014 -- 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. 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

Tuesday March 18, 2014 -- 7:30 pm – “Go Fish' in Michigan: What Can You Eat?” Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI). What can fish tell us about the levels of contaminants in Michigan lakes and streams? We have been monitoring levels of toxic chemicals in Michigan fish since the early 1980s - what are the good news/bad news stories after all of the clean-up efforts in the state? Joe Bohr, aquatic biologist with the MDEQ Water Resources Division, will discuss changes in mercury, PCBs, and other legacy contaminant levels of concern. Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Sunday March 23, 2014 -- 1:00 pm -- Peace Lake Secret Hike. Pinckney State Recreation Area. Annual four mile 'secret' hike through rugged/beautiful terrain to celebrate the vernal equinox and discuss watersheds w/ 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 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd west thru Dexter; go west on Island Lake Rd 3 mi to Dexter-Townhall Rd; go north to N Territorial Rd; turn left, go west 1.5 mi to Hankerd Rd; turn right, go north 1 mile; park at entrance to Pickerel Lake. No membership required. Contact: jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Tuesday April 15, 2014 -- 7:30 pm -- "Ambystoma Salamanders: How Do They Do That?" Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI). All-female Ambystoma salamanders, known as -unisexuals-, are a fascinating part of Michigan's biodiversity. While most animals have two sets of chromosomes (one from mom, one from dad), these salamanders can have three, four, or even five. Stranger, the -extra- chromosome sets are -stolen- from other salamander species that breed in the same ponds. Katy Greenwald, Assistant Professor of Biology at Eastern Michigan University, will discuss the biology and conservation of these unique animals. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

Sunday April 20, 2014 -- 1:00 pm -- Cassidy Bog Secret Hike. Waterloo State Rec Area. Venture through a huge field, mature woods and a blueberry bog on this five mile 'secret' hike with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or at 1:45 pm at the trail: Take I-94 west to M-52, exit north; go north through Chelsea to Waterloo Rd, turn left; go west 1 mile to Cassidy Rd, turn right; go NW 3/4 miles and meet at Waterloo-Pinckney Trail crossing. No membership required. Contact: jayhschlegel@comcast.net.

Saturday April 26, 2014 -- 11:30 am -- Scio Woods Preserve Hike. Scio Woods Preserve (Scio Church Road and Wagner Road Ann Arbor, MI). Join us for a moderately paced hike amongst 91 acres of woodlands, some wetlands, and Spring wildflowers. Dress for the weather. Just west of Wagner Rd on Scio Church Rd. Bring your own water. About 3 miles. Contact: 734-677-0823.

New Web Site Leads Visitors Down Michigan Trails

Finding a trail in Michigan just got easier with the redesign of MichiganTrailMaps.com.

Initially launched in 2010, www.MichiganTrailMaps.com was re-launched in October after the site was rebuilt into a Content Management System that makes finding a trail much more precise by county, by activity, by the region of the state, or by the park.

More than 160 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.

The heart of the new web site are its trail maps that are produced with GIS coordinates, USGS topographical maps, and satellite images to make them the most accurate maps available to

Michigan trail users.

Also part of the web site is Trail Talk, a blog in which I provide commentary, views, humor, and advice as I take to the trails in Michigan. I am the author of almost 20 guidebooks, including "Backpacking in Michigan," "50 hikes in Michigan," and "Best Hikes with Children: Michigan."

MichiganTrailMaps.com publishes Trail Mix, a free monthly electronic monthly electronic newsletter devoted 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 or drop an email to info@michigantrailmaps.com.

By
Jim
DuFresne

Long-Time Sierra Club Members: 4,725 Years of Membership

On Sunday, November 10, Sierra Club HVG members gathered at Cobblestone Farm for a happy celebration to thank long-time members for their ongoing commitment to exploring, preserving and protecting the environment. Those honored totaled 4,725 years of collective membership.

Notable honorees were Gwen and John Nystuen, members since 1953, whose 60 years of membership are equal to one-half of the time since the founding of the Sierra Club in 1892. Gwen was instrumental in founding the Michigan Chapter as well as the Huron Valley Group, and continues to be actively involved in local and state environmental issues. Among the most long-standing members in attendance were Rane and Alice Curl, who have been members for 57 years.

Nancy Shiffler, HVG Chair, recounted some of the milestones achieved during the membership of the many long-time members, including establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, initiation of the Clean Water Act and the Federal Wilderness Act, and the establishment of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director, pointed out the importance of ongoing long-time support of Sierra Club goals. She expressed appreciation for those whose involvement ranges from membership, to enjoyment of our natural surroundings, to involvement with activism on environmental issues. Anne said that the members honored at our celebration provide a model for those of us whose membership tenure is much shorter.

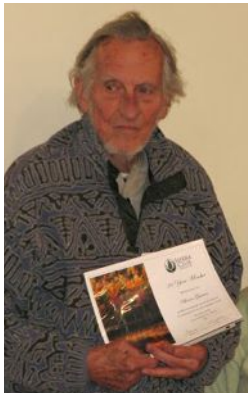
It was a great day to look back at accomplishments, and forward to issues that challenge our environment in the future. The Sierra Club Huron Valley Group thanks our long-time members for showing, by their ongoing membership, their recognition of the importance of the goals and activities of the Sierra Club.

By Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman

Top: Chair Nancy Shiffler greet guests. Rane & Alice Curl chat with Anne Woiwode. At table Gwen and John Nystuen



Center L to R : Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director, speaking; setting out food Ginny Maturen, Nancy Shiffler, Lydia Fischer, & Rita Mitchell. Below Bruce & Ruth Graves; Part of the line of "Longtimers"



Shopping for the Earth Program Update

The Holiday season is upon us and for some that means gift giving and special treats. Your Huron Valley Group has been most generous during 2013 by supporting the work of several area conservation efforts and Michigan Chapter programs. You can help us to continue our mission by supporting the Shopping For The Earth (SFTE) fund-raising effort. There are over 740 companies participating in the ShopwithScrip program. There is really something for everyone.

Go to shopwithscrip.com, sign in, or if you are not a member, register (You do this by clicking on the 'get started' button and giving yourself a user name and password), and begin shopping. Additionally, during the December 17th monthly meeting at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, there will be Produce Station,

Peoples Food Coop and Arbor Brewing Company gift ards for sale, along with coffee (\$11) and 2014 Sierra Club wall (\$13) and desk (#14) calendars. Thanks for supporting the Shopping For The Earth program.



By
Ginny Maturen

Check the
shopwithscrip.com
website for over 730
retailers for all your fall
shopping needs.

Not signed up? Go to the
above website and click on
'get started'

LONGTIMER'S PARTY



Mona Walz, Connie Zatsick, Barb Schmacher.



Rita Mitchell, Ed Steinman & Anne Woiwode



Mike Berkowitz, James D. Amour & Barry Lonik



Ann Larimore & Bruce McGowan



Bob Johnson



Mike Anglin & Gwen Nystuen



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.
- 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 groceries
2. **Online ordering** from over 600 national merchants including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Best Buy, Cabela's, Chipotle Mexican Grill, CVS/pharmacy, Econo Lodge, Glen's Market, Groupon, Home Depot, iTunes, Kohl's, L.L.Bean, Lands' End, Lowe's, Noodles & Company, Office Max, REI, Rite Aid, Sears, gas stations, Starbucks, Tim Hortons, United Artist Theatres, Walgreens, Whole Foods.. Please visit: 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. Your total order: \$ _____

Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$50 ea	_____ cards @ \$200 ea
Arbor Brewing Company	_____ cards @ \$25 ea		
Arbor Farms	no card--just tell the cashier that you're donating to the Sierra Club		
Busch's	_____ cards @ no cost - add money when shopping at Busch's		
Produce Station	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$50 ea	
Meijers	Please order both through Shopwithscrip - see: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm		
Whole Foods	For help with Shopwithscrip contact Ed Steinman (esteinma@umich.edu)		
Hiller's Markets	Obtain card at Hiller's and register it at hillers.reachoffers.com then donate your rewards		
Kroger	Obtain card at Kroger's and register it at krogercommunityrewards.com so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads - see http://michigan.sierraclub.org/kroger.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



Huron Valley Group Directory

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

Chair * = HVG Excom Member

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*

Political Committee

Robert Gordon*

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

Kim Waldo 971-1941

Gwen Nystuen 665-7632

Ed Steinman* 665-0248

How to Get HVG reminders via email!

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

If you would like to receive email notices of each month's Huron Valley Group general meeting and occasional notices about other local Sierra Club activities send an email to Doug Cowherd at dmcowherd3@comcast.net with your name and "HVG email list" in the body of the message.

Are You A New Member?

Welcome to the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club. When you join the Sierra Club you are automatically a member of a local group, as well as a state chapter and the national organization. Membership entitles you to this newsletter as well as all editions of the state and national member publications. Check this page for our Directory with contacts on conservation, outings, political action, and the Inner City Outings program. Check the calendar in the middle of this issue for announcements of Monthly Public Program topics and our calendar of activities. We will be glad to see you at our next meeting or answer any questions if you care to call. Please take advantage of your membership as an opportunity to enjoy, preserve and protect our natural environment!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help, we can clean up our water.

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

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Membership Category	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobby 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 #940 IW

Candidates and Ballot for the Election of the



Ginny Maturen

I have been your Huron Valley Group Treasurer for the past 3 years. My term of office is completed but I am willing to continue to serve in this capacity if re-elected. As the HVG Treasurer, I provide Executive Committee members with a monthly report of HVG fund balances. Quarterly, I provide a statement of the Shopping for the Earth expenditures and receipts. I have implemented a plan to reduce the amount of Michigan sales tax members pay when making Club purchases thus taking advantage of our 501(c)3 status. As the Club's revenues have slowly eroded over the past several years, I'm working with you, our members, to strengthen our Shopping for the Earth (SFTE) program and to identify other potential revenue streams. In this current fiscal year, I have supported several decisions to support the Sierra Club motto "Explore, Enjoy

and Protect" our planet.

As an ExCom member I have voted to make a donation to the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, the Chapter's "Beyond Coal" campaign, and toward the purchase of AV equipment to get the "fracking" message out to Michigan residents. Our challenge in the next several years will be to enhance the Huron Valley Group's revenue stream, enabling us to continue to support these important programs. I recently chaired the party planning committee to recognize our long-time members. This event was held earlier in November at Cobblestone Farm.

Sierra Club offices held: Current chair of the Group Executive Committee; current member of the state Chapter Executive Committee.

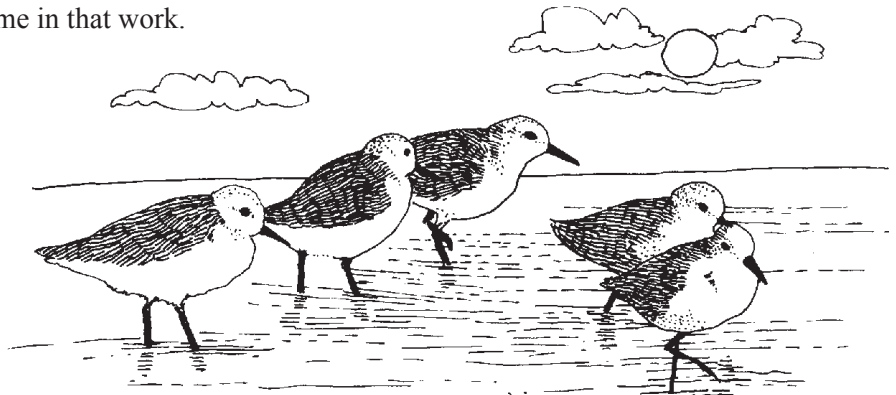
As a member since 1981, I have found that the uniqueness of the Sierra Club flows from participation at the grassroots:

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

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



Nancy Shiffler



Huron Valley Group Executive Committee

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

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

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



Jay Schlegel

Ballot for Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee 2013

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

1. Please mark up to three votes on the ballot provided. Only those ballots with a membership number on the attached mailing label are eligible.
2. After marking your ballot, remove this entire back page from the newsletter.
3. Fold the bottom third up to conceal your votes, and fold the top third over to show your mailing label.
4. Return your ballot in a sealed envelope either by hand at the December 17th HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o Ed Steinman, 621 5th St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Mailed ballots must be received by December 16, 2011 to be counted.

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2013

Three to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2014 - Vote for three.

Second column of box-

es is for second voter in same household.

Jay Schlegel

Nancy Shiffler

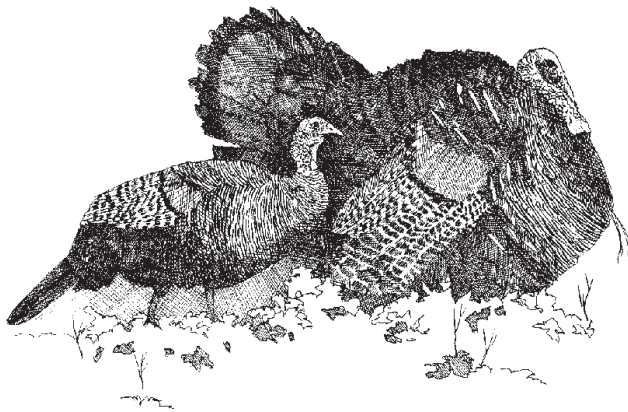
Ginny Maturen

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



WINTER 2013 Inside:

- Climate Change - page 1-2
- Longtimer' Party - page 10-11
- Calendar of Events - page 7-8
- HVG Election Ballot - page 15



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

- desktop & design
- article writer or recruiter
- photography & graphics
- proofreading - ad wrangler
- preparation for web and press

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 or if you have any questions, please contact us at hvgnews@yahoo.com