

# TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • AUTUMN/WINTER 2016/17

## A Healthy Environment Needs A Healthy Democracy

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

In 2017, the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a big party keynoted by U.S. Sen. Gary Peters to honor our past and look to the next 50 years. In reviewing the last five decades to prepare for 2017, one message rings loud and clear — a healthy, functioning democracy that reflects the will of the people is necessary for meaningful progress on environmental issues, whether it is fossil fuels, forest biodiversity or factory farms.

Some of the Chapter's biggest successes, like the establishment of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in 1970, came about because volunteers like Virginia Prentice, Gwen Nystuen, and Douglas Scott gave hundreds of hours of their time to get educated and engaged to make an impact in Lansing and Washington, DC. We also had, in the late '70s and '80s, legislators like former U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee and U.S. Sen. Carl Levin who were willing to work with Sierra Club volunteers and others as well as their Congressional colleagues to pass the 1987 Michigan Wilderness Act protecting 90,000 acres of old growth forest, lakes and dunes.

Today, given the urgency of climate change and our political polarization, we need an engaged and informed electorate and a responsive government. Two of Sierra Club Michigan's top strategic priorities are Growing Democracy and Establishing an Environmental Majority



Sierra Club founder John Muir famously took President Theodore Roosevelt to Yosemite to convince him to establish our National Park System, which includes Isle Royale National Park and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Earlier this year, Sierra Club President Aaron Mair toured Yosemite National Park with President Obama to honor the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. The Michigan Chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary with its own dignity, U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, June 10, 2017. Get tickets at [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/50th-anniversary](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/50th-anniversary).

in the Legislature. We're working on these in several ways, as you can see on p. 8 and in the special election insert featuring our endorsed candidates.

All year we've been raising awareness of the need for redistricting reform. People need to understand that their lawmakers have unfairly drawn districts to discourage political competition. This makes it harder than ever to achieve environmental gains. To learn how you can help, email [cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org](mailto:cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org).

In addition to district reform, we are educating Michiganders about the importance of state investment in transportation, water treatment systems, and other infrastructure with environmental

and public health implications (p. 8).

A healthy future depends on a healthy democracy that enables us to effectively tackle the pressing issues you'll read about in this *Mackinac*. The 2016 election season offers a perfect opportunity to take an important step towards that future.

## VOTE!

**Every year is an election year at the Sierra Club!**

Candidates for the Chapter ExCom and this year's ballot are on pages 12-13. Please Vote!

**What is green all over and turns 50 next year?**

See page 15



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# TheMackinac

AUTUMN/  
WINTER 2016/17

**In the Spotlight** 1 A Healthy Environment Needs A Healthy Democracy  
3 The Battle for Clean Drinking Water Is On / Find Us Online

## GroupInfo 4

**Mitigate Climate Change** 5 Battle Against Proposed Natural Gas Pipelines Continues / Sierra Club Proactive in Preventing Future Line 5 Disasters / Sierra Club Solar Partnership 6 A DTE Announces Plans to Retire River Rouge, Trenton Channel, and St. Clair Coal-Fired Power Plants 7 Clean Energy for a Beautiful Grand Haven / Get Involved!

**Democracy In Action** 8 Interview with Richard Morley Barron / Now's Your Chance to Make a Real Difference: Vote on November 8! / How Green is Your State Legislator? / Priorities Michigan

## Protect & Restore Michigan's Biodiversity

9 Watch Out For That Deer / Fish Farm Update

## Protect & Restore Our Great Lakes Ecosystem

10 Updated Report Follows Manure and Money in Michigan / Waukesha Diversion Update / Aquaculture Policy

## Environmental Justice For All

11 Detroit Builds Green Infrastructure / Rain Gardens to the Rescue

## Chapter Elections 12-13 Award Winners 14

## Supporting Your Chapter 14

Thank You, Earthshare Donors 15 In Memory of Harold Stokes / Create an Environmental Legacy / In Memoriam: Richard J. Dunaj-Ring / We're turning 50 in 2017 — Mark Your Calendar Now! 16 Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

### MICHIGAN CHAPTER STAFF

109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone: 517-484-2372

Website: [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org)

#### State Director

Gail Philbin .....616-805-3063, [gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org)

#### Legislative and Political Director

Mike Berkowitz .....517-999-1305, [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org)

#### Development Director and Energy Issues Organizer

Jan O'Connell .....616-956-6646, [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org)

#### Forest Ecologist

Marvin Roberson .....906-360-0288, [marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org](mailto:marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org)

#### Administrative Assistant

Cecilia J. Garcia .....517-484-2372, [cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org](mailto:cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org)

### NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB STAFF

2727 Second Avenue Suite 112, Detroit, MI 48201

#### Senior Organizing Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign and Environmental Justice Program

Rhonda Anderson .....313-965-0052, [rhonda.anderson@sierraclub.org](mailto:rhonda.anderson@sierraclub.org)

#### Michigan Beyond Coal Director

Regina Strong .....313-974-6547, [regina.strong@sierraclub.org](mailto:regina.strong@sierraclub.org)

#### Associate Organizing Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign

Andrew Sarpolis .....248-924-4857, [andrew.sarpolis@sierraclub.org](mailto:andrew.sarpolis@sierraclub.org)

#### Conservation Organizer, Sierra Club Great Lakes Program

Erma Leaphart .....313-475-7057, [erma.leaphart@sierraclub.org](mailto:erma.leaphart@sierraclub.org)

### SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

2101 Webster Street Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: 415-977-5500

Member Change of Address .....[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

### THE MACKINAC

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter  
109 E Grand River Avenue  
Lansing MI 48906  
Phone: 517-484-2372  
Email: [michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org)  
[michigan.sierraclub.org](http://michigan.sierraclub.org)

#### EDITORS

Leslie March

[lesliemarch@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliemarch@hotmail.com)

Gail Philbin

[gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org)

#### DESIGN

Davina Pallone

[hello@davinapallone.com](mailto:hello@davinapallone.com)

*The Mackinac*, Volume 50 Issue 2, (ISSN 0744-5288) is published two times every year by Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E Grand River Ave, Lansing MI 48906. Annual dues for the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to *The Mackinac*.

Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author and are not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Michigan Chapter.

Sign up for our twice monthly Michigan Chapter update at [www.tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate](http://www.tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate)



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOY INKS

### MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Steering Committee Members

CHAIR David Holtz ..... [david@davidholtz.org](mailto:david@davidholtz.org)

VICE CHAIR Pat Egan ..... [pegan@up.net](mailto:pegan@up.net)

TREASURER Helen LeBlanc ..... [helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org)

SECRETARY Jean Gramlich ..... [jean.gramlich@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:jean.gramlich@michigan.sierraclub.org)

5TH OFFICER Vacant

EMERITUS (non-voting) Nancy Shiffler ..... [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net)

#### At-Large Representatives

Richard Morley Barron ..... [rmorleybarron@gmail.com](mailto:rmorleybarron@gmail.com)

Craig Brainard ..... [boomerbob1@gmail.com](mailto:boomerbob1@gmail.com)

Deitra Covington ..... [dlcporter09@gmail.com](mailto:dlcporter09@gmail.com)

Lacy Dawson ..... [lacy@michiganvoice.us](mailto:lacy@michiganvoice.us)

Pat Egan ..... [pegan@up.net](mailto:pegan@up.net)

David Holtz ..... [david@davidholtz.org](mailto:david@davidholtz.org)

Dorthea Thomas ..... [dortheathomas1@gmail.com](mailto:dortheathomas1@gmail.com)

Tom Turner ..... [tcmtturner@gmail.com](mailto:tcmtturner@gmail.com)

Alisha Winters ..... [walisha31@yahoo.com](mailto:walisha31@yahoo.com)

#### Local Group Representatives

CG Mary Andersson ..... [mandersson@charter.net](mailto:mandersson@charter.net)

CMG Helen LeBlanc ..... [helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org)

CUPG John Rebers ..... [jrebers@gmail.com](mailto:jrebers@gmail.com)

HVG Ed Steinman ..... [lighthawk.pilot@gmail.com](mailto:lighthawk.pilot@gmail.com)

NG Ellen Waara ..... [ellenwaara@gmail.com](mailto:ellenwaara@gmail.com)

SEMG Jean Gramlich ..... [jeangramlich@msn.com](mailto:jeangramlich@msn.com)

SWMG Joe Ziolkowski ..... [zzjoez@frontier.com](mailto:zzjoez@frontier.com)

TLG Kathy English ..... [englishka4169@gmail.com](mailto:englishka4169@gmail.com)

# In the Spotlight



## The Battle for Clean Drinking Water Is On

by David Holtz, Michigan Chapter Chair

**F**lint Mayor Karen Weaver hopes that the disaster of lead contamination that began in her city more than two and a half years ago and presently continues will spark a national revolution of public health reforms for drinking water.

If that happens, it may be because a Flint resident, Melissa Mays, and a dozen other activists, skilled professionals and drinking water experts got together in July in Washington, DC and began the initial work of what they hope will soon become a citizen-led campaign to make America's drinking water safer.

Getting lead-free drinking water in America has been elusive. In part, it is because it involves replacing lead water lines in hundreds of communities. Not difficult, but very costly.

Replacing lead water lines costs money, but the public health price for potentially millions is much higher. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there is no safe lead level. It is a neurotoxin that causes brain damage, loss of kidney function, and nervous system disorders. This is why the community of Flint received national attention by putting a human face on lead contamination.

Flint's Melissa Mays was one of those courageous people who, from the day

around July 2014 when she noticed her family's drinking water came out of the faucet yellow, wouldn't rest until something was done about it. Mays still isn't resting, because Flint's water crisis continues to persist. Communities across the country with lead in their drinking water won't be safe until laws are changed. Public utilities must be required to get rid of lead pipes entirely. We need better drinking water quality standards and tougher enforcement to protect public health. Otherwise we will continue seeing people, especially those in older communities, poisoned by their drinking water.

Mays, and another volunteer, Cyndi

Roper, Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter Safe Drinking Water Representative, are working to do just that — change the nation's drinking water laws. They, and allies from places like Wisconsin to New Orleans, know it won't be easy. They will be up against powerful interests, including some public utilities, who until now have opposed reforms as being too costly.

It will take a national grassroots citizens campaign to make sure that our health, and that of our children, is the most important bottom line when it comes to the water we drink. So let's get started!

For more information visit [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/flint-water-disaster](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/flint-water-disaster).



Melissa Mays standing up for clean safe water, at a press conference in February 2016

### FIND US ONLINE



[www.facebook.com/SierraClubMichigan](http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubMichigan)



@michigansierra



[michigan.sierraclub.com](http://michigan.sierraclub.com)



Sign up for our **twice monthly Michigan Chapter Update** at [action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter](http://action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter)

### SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter:  
 \$250  \$100  \$50  \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

**Give online at [www.tinyurl.com/supportMISC](http://www.tinyurl.com/supportMISC)**

Your donation helps provide the flexible funding Sierra Club needs to successfully advocate for Michigan's Great Lakes, wild heritage, and clean energy future.

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to support our work, call Development Director Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 to learn how.

**Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,  
 109 E. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906**

Instead of a check, please charge my credit card  
 (VISA or MC) \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

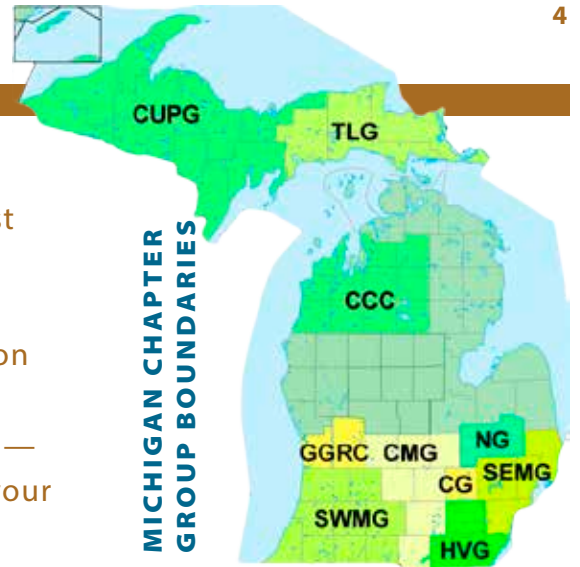
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP!** Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's eight regional Groups and two Committees host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings — everyone is welcome! For inquiries about activities in your area, you can also contact [gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org).



## Clearwater Conservation Committee / CCC

**COUNTIES:** Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford  
**FACEBOOK:** Clearwater Conservation Committee  
**TWITTER:** @NCMIClearwater  
**EMAIL:** [sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com)  
**CHAIR:** Rebecca Skeels, [clearwater.chair@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:clearwater.chair@michigan.sierraclub.org)

## Central Michigan Group / CMG

**COUNTIES:** Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee  
**MEETS:** in Lansing area and Jackson  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/cmj](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/cmj)  
**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club Central Michigan Group  
**CHAIR:** Dave Errickson, 517-648-9115 or [dcenur@yahoo.com](mailto:dcenur@yahoo.com)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Paul Kindel, 517-332-3091 or [kindel@msu.edu](mailto:kindel@msu.edu)

## Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

**COUNTIES:** Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon  
**MEETS:** in Marquette  
**FACEBOOK:** Central Upper Peninsula Club  
**GROUP & OUTINGS CHAIR:** John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or [jrebers@gmail.com](mailto:jrebers@gmail.com)

## Crossroads Group / CG

**COUNTIES:** Livingston and western Oakland  
**MEETS:** at group leader homes in Livingston County  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads)  
**FACEBOOK:** Crossroads Group Sierra Club  
**CHAIR:** Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or [lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Sue Kelly, [suekelly77@gmail.com](mailto:suekelly77@gmail.com)

## Greater Grand Rapids Committee / GGRC

**COUNTIES:** Kent and Ottawa  
**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club Greater Grand Rapids Committee  
**EMAIL:** [GGrcm@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:GGrcm@michigan.sierraclub.org)  
**CHAIR:** Malory Maletic, [mcm004@aquinas.edu](mailto:mcm004@aquinas.edu)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Angie Bruder, 248-561-0801 or [angelabruder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:angelabruder@sbcglobal.net)

## Huron Valley Group / HVG

**COUNTIES:** Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe  
**MEETS:** in Ann Arbor  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron)  
**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club Huron Valley Group  
**EMAIL:** [HVGSierraClub@gmail.com](mailto:HVGSierraClub@gmail.com)  
**CHAIR:** Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net)  
**VICE CHAIR:** James D'Amour, [hvg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:hvg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org)

## Nepessing Group / NG

**COUNTIES:** Genessee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland  
**MEETS:** in Flint  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing)  
**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club Nepessing

**CHAIR:** Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038 or [thaley01@att.net](mailto:thaley01@att.net)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Laurie Tata, [greendem@yahoo.com](mailto:greendem@yahoo.com)

## Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

**COUNTIES:** St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne  
**MEETS:** at Elks Club in Royal Oak  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg)  
**FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club South East Michigan Group  
**CHAIR:** Art Myatt, 248-548-6175 or [almyatt@yahoo.com](mailto:almyatt@yahoo.com)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Dave Richards, [rodaverich@comcast.net](mailto:rodaverich@comcast.net)

## Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

**COUNTIES:** Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry  
**MEETS:** in Kalamazoo  
**WEBSITE:** [www.sierraclubswmg.org](http://www.sierraclubswmg.org)  
**CHAIR:** Shannon Haupt, [shannon.haupt12@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.haupt12@gmail.com)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Mark Miller, [mark.edward.miller55@gmail.com](mailto:mark.edward.miller55@gmail.com)

## Three Lakes Group / TLG

**COUNTIES:** Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft  
**MEETS:** in Sault Ste. Marie  
**WEBSITE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes)  
**FACEBOOK:** Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club  
**CHAIR:** Roger Blanchard, [blanchardrd@yahoo.com](mailto:blanchardrd@yahoo.com)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Carol Ward, [saltptcew@gmail.com](mailto:saltptcew@gmail.com)

# Mitigate Climate Change

## Battle Against Proposed Natural Gas Pipelines Continues

by Nancy Shiffler

**S**outheastern Michigan is in the pathway of two proposed natural gas pipelines, both carrying fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, across Ohio, into Michigan, and continuing into Canada. The two pipelines, ET Rover and Nexus, use essentially parallel routes that include portions of Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw, and Livingston Counties.

If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approves the projects, the corporations can use eminent domain to establish rights of way on private land for the defined route, including pipelines, compressor stations, and metering stations. Both projects have submitted Draft Environmental Impact Statements to FERC, followed by public comment periods. Ultimately, FERC is supposed to weigh the “public need” vs. potential adverse impacts of each project before determining whether to approve. The Sierra Club argues that neither project has dem-



onstrated need or financial viability to outweigh adverse environmental impacts.

DTE Energy has a 50% interest in the Nexus pipeline via its unregulated affiliate, DTE Pipeline. DTE’s regulated components, DTE Electric and DTE Gas, have recently petitioned the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for customer rate increases that we contend would essentially subsidize the construction of the pipeline. Such actions of a regulated portion of a company subsidizing the unregulated portion are contrary to both MPSC and FERC guidelines. The Sierra Club is advocating on this issue before both FERC and the MPSC.

For more information about fighting pipelines go to [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/beyond-natural-gas-oil](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/beyond-natural-gas-oil).



## Sierra Club Solar Partnership

**O**ur Sierra Club Solar Partnership links Michigan-based solar installers and suppliers with members and supporters to get folks on the road to clean energy.

Our trusted partners, Michigan Solar Solutions, Solar Winds and Power Systems, LLC, and McNaughton McKay Electric Company support our values and programs like the Southeast Michigan Group’s Green Cruise and the People’s Climate Rally in New York City.

Why not give them a try and find out how you can solar power your home? Visit [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership).

## Sierra Club Proactive in Preventing Future Line 5 Disasters

by David Holtz, Oil & Water Don’t Mix Campaign Coordinator

**O**ne of Sierra Club’s top priorities in Michigan is protecting the Great Lakes by shutting down the flow of oil through Enbridge’s Line 5 pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac.

Taking on the oil industry is no easy task. However, two-thirds of Michigan voters say they oppose pipelines in the turbulent Straits. Political leaders like Attorney General Bill Schuette will eventually need to listen. Even though he has the authority and responsibility to hold Enbridge responsible for pipeline violations, the attorney general has thus far refused to hold Enbridge accountable by ending the state’s easement agreement with the Canadian transport giant.

One way to get Schuette’s attention is by making sure your

community is taking a stand on Line 5. Every Michigan community has a stake in protecting the Great Lakes. More than 67 Michigan communities and tribal governments and organizations have already acted. Is your local government among those who are adding their voice? You can find out by going to [www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/municipal\\_resolutions](http://www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/municipal_resolutions).

If your city, township or county aren’t on that list, you can help. Just email chapter chair and Oil & Water Don’t Mix campaign coordinator David Holtz at [david@davidholtz.org](mailto:david@davidholtz.org). Find out how your community can join others in Michigan who want to make sure the Great Lakes aren’t Enbridge’s next oil pipeline disaster.

# Mitigate Climate Change

## DTE Announces Plans to Retire River Rouge, Trenton Channel, and St. Clair Coal-Fired Power Plants

by Michigan Beyond Coal Staff

Michigan took a major step toward moving beyond coal when DTE Energy announced plans to retire the River Rouge, St. Clair, and Trenton coal-fired power plants between 2020 and 2023. Combined, these plants emit over ten million tons of climate-polluting carbon dioxide, 45,000 tons of harmful sulfur dioxide, and 12,000 tons of smog-causing nitrogen oxides.

DTE Energy Chairman and CEO Gerry Anderson said the company will look to replace those units, “with a mix of newer, more modern and cleaner sources of energy generation such as wind, natural gas and solar.”

The Trenton Channel and River Rouge power plants lack modern pollution controls. The plants are in an area of Michigan that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

designated as “failing to meet federal air quality standards” for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). This area was named “Epicenter of Asthma Burden” by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Earlier this year, EPA proposed to designate St. Clair County as failing to meet that same standard.

“These closures will dramatically improve the health of the communities surrounding these plants, as well as provide an opportunity for a just transition for communities and workers,” said Regina Strong, Director of the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign in Michigan. “DTE should immediately begin discussions with the community to develop a responsible transition plan including a concrete timeline and replacement investments in genuinely clean renewable energy like wind and solar, rather than another polluting fossil fuel like natural gas.”

The Sierra Club, local community advocates, EarthJustice, and other partner organizations advocated for reducing pollution from these plants on behalf of impacted communities for many years. In April of this year, *Newsweek* released a cover story chronicling the severe health impacts the plants have had on surrounding communities.

Pressure mounted after community members, political leaders, and clean air advocates flooded hearings calling on the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and EPA to address the SO<sub>2</sub> levels from the coal plants that exceed Clean Air Act limits. It was not until very recently — 14 months after the deadline —

that the state finally submitted a plan to EPA for review.

“This is what my community has been calling for, for many years,” said State Rep. Stephanie Chang. “The River Rouge plant is in my district and area residents have long suffered from the effects of many pollutants, including sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and other toxins that are the result of burning coal. The

air pollution has a major and lasting impact on the health of my residents. It’s a good thing that DTE is planning to retire these plants and I look forward to working with the company, the people in my district and the workers to plan for the future of these communities.”

Sierra Club and other groups worked at the Michigan Public Service Commission to push DTE Energy to stop

wasting money on economically-challenged coal plants and, instead, invest in clean energy to create jobs and economic development in Michigan. This resulted in the Commission questioning the reasonableness of DTE’s spending on some coal units.

“Coal plants like River Rouge, Trenton Channel, and St. Clair are costly, polluting dinosaurs that should be retired as expeditiously as possible. We’re gladdened that DTE Energy is starting that retirement process,” said Shannon Fisk, Managing Attorney at the non-profit environmental law firm EarthJustice. “It is critical that DTE Energy not only ramps up clean energy investments, but also provides a just economic transition for the employees and communities that have relied on the wages and taxes paid by these coal plants for the past more than 40 years.”

Moving forward, residents and advocates will focus on pressuring DTE to transition to clean, renewable energy. Community residents and leaders have begun working for creating economic development in the impacted communities that includes training and transition of workers to clean energy jobs.

*River Rouge, Trenton Channel, and St. Clair coal-fired power plants are the 234th, 235th, and 236th coal plants to retire or announce retirement since 2010, locking in the reduction of over 443 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of 92 million passenger vehicles.*

For more information about Michigan’s Beyond Coal Campaign, visit [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/beyond-coal](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/beyond-coal).



Fire engulfed St Clair Plant on August 11. Plans to shut down the plant were long overdue.

ANDREW JOWITT/TIMESHERALD/AP



## Clean Energy for a Beautiful Grand Haven

by Jan O'Connell, West Michigan Clean Air & Energy Campaign

Local Sierran's and other energy advocates from Grand Haven participated in two Coast Guard parades held on July 30th (Kids Parade) and August 6th (Grand Parade). The main emphasis of our entries was to promote the message 'Clean Energy for an even more beautiful Grand Haven.' The parades were a great opportunity to reach out to the community and others on the importance of getting beyond investing and dependence on coal & other fossil-fueled based energy generation, moving instead to a clean energy path in Grand Haven.

We planned our parade entry — everything from captain, to sailor attire, with banners and messages displayed in life-preserving rings such as “Clean Energy Rocks,” “Yes.. to Clean Energy,” “Life-saving Clean Green Energy... Buoy you'll be happy!” And we had three Priuses red, white and blue leading our parade entry, and steering the way to clean energy.

In just over a month or so of preparation, we recruited over 50 volunteers to help with the parades. Thanks to all involved for taking time out of the sum-

mer to become part of these Coast Guard Clean Energy events!

Prior to the parades, we held two meet-ups with local members and activists in Grand Haven. Several concerns were aired and discussed, one being the American Lung Association's Annual “State of the Air” report. Released earlier this Spring, it showed Grand Haven, Grand Rapids and Muskegon areas placing 20th in the most ozone-polluted areas in the entire U.S.

In addition to ozone, we discussed that this is an opportune time to be involved in transitioning to less expensive, clean energy technologies including Energy Efficiency. The aging energy production infrastructure that now exists in Grand Haven will be subject to increasingly strict and expensive regulations that will result in increased financial pressures on coal and fossil fueled-based energy production and their ratepayers. Clean energy is a win-win for Grand Haven residents.

For more information or to be involved in this Clean Energy Campaign contact me at 616-956-6646 or email me at [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org).

## GET INVOLVED!

Like what we do? Support our work with a donation. Use the form on p. 3 or donate online at [tinyurl.com/supportMisc](http://tinyurl.com/supportMisc).

Learn more about the Sierra Club and the work we do towards Environmental Justice at [www.sierraclub.org/environmental-justice](http://www.sierraclub.org/environmental-justice).



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## Moo-ve to End Factory Farms

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals. Factory farms are also the largest source of toxic ammonia air pollution in the U.S. The Sierra Club opposes all permits for new or expanded factory farms. Support Sierra Club's efforts to keep our water and air clean.

### Go Free Range & Join Sierra Club

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:  
Sierra Club, PO Box 421041  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041  
or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

F94Q  W  1  
2100

## Interview with Richard Morley Barron

Chapter Political Director Mike Berkowitz recently sat down with Political Committee Chair Richard Morley Barron to ask a few questions about Michigan politics and the environment.

*MB: How are the 2016 elections looking in general?*

RMB: In Michigan, we have a very regressive government when it comes to environmental issues but are fighting to change that. We have many competitive races in Michigan pitting environmentalists against candidates who support corporate polluters. The Political Committee is working to elect strong environmentalists with the limited resources we have. I predict that we'll have more environmental leaders in state and federal government after this election is over.

*MB: How is the Michigan Chapter Political Program doing this year?*

RMB: I'm proud to report that we are stronger than ever! We raised more money to use in the election this year than any previous election cycle. Our nationally-renowned Political Internship program is expansive and effective. We've trained 55 environmentally minded students from all over the state and deployed them to help our endorsed candidates win their races.

*MB: What are the biggest environmental issues candidates are talking about?*

RMB: Thoughtful environmental candidates are concerned about the serious challenges of climate change. They understand the urgent need to develop renewable energy sources, which will have the additional benefit of creating new, good-paying jobs in Michigan. Environmental leaders also grasp the vital importance of protecting our water in light of the Flint water crisis.

*MB: Where can people find more information about their voting district?*

RMB: Check out our Election Guide (included in this newsletter) or see it online at [www.tinyurl.com/2016SCMIElectionGuide](http://www.tinyurl.com/2016SCMIElectionGuide).

*MB: What can Sierra Club members do to make a difference?*

RMB: Everyone can do something! The most effective things you can do are donate money to the Michigan Sierra Political Action Committee (donation info is in the election guide) and/or volunteer for one of our endorsed candidates. Every dollar donated helps us contact more voters, train interns, and elect environmental champions. For details or to get involved, email [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org) or call 517-999-1305.

**NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE: VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8!**

**V**oting in the election is the most important thing you can do for the environment in 2016.

The Michigan Legislature is set on passing bills that directly attack the environment, threaten our water and air quality, and endanger our forests and wildlife.

Who gets elected (or defeated) will determine how well our legislature safeguards the state's natural resources and environmental health for the next two years. Make sure to check out this issue's Election Guide or find it online at [www.tinyurl.com/2016SCMIElectionGuide](http://www.tinyurl.com/2016SCMIElectionGuide).

### HOW GREEN IS YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR?

**A**fter two years of relentless attacks on the environment from the Michigan legislature, we've put together an environmental scorecard to show how "green" your state legislators are.

Find out if your State Representative/Senator are Environmental Champions or Pollution Promoters at [tinyurl.com/SCMIScorecard](http://tinyurl.com/SCMIScorecard).



### PRIORITIES MICHIGAN

**T**he Chapter is excited to announce our involvement in a campaign with Priorities Michigan, a network of state organizations working to improve discussion and action around the state's budget in key areas.

Sierra Club's efforts will focus on communicating the ways that public funding benefits human health and environmental protection. The Chapter will be offering presentations about this project and making the state budget work to benefit our issues around the state.

Courtney Bourgoin, one of our former political interns (pictured above), will be heading the Chapter's efforts and leading trainings. For details, contact [courtney.bourgoin@sierraclub.org](mailto:courtney.bourgoin@sierraclub.org).



# Protect & Restore Michigan's Biodiversity

## Watch Out For That Deer

by Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

Per the Michigan State Police, 50,000 highway deer related accidents happen every year. This tells us that by any rational standard, measurement, or scientific accounting, there are too many deer in Michigan. In the newest draft Deer Management Plan for Michigan, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acknowledges the high number of deer-car crashes and pronounces them “unacceptable.” However, instead of managing for less deer, it proposes to “implement programs to increase driver awareness.”

Recently, there has been a lot of controversy over wolves, even though these animals have never caused human injury in Michigan. Imagine if every year, wolves caused the 50,000 negative human interactions, most involving property damage, at least 1,000 injuries, and eight deaths (2014) that deer are responsible for. The outcry would be deafening!

### WHY DO WE NEED FEWER DEER?

- **Ecological:** White-tailed deer are so numerous and voracious, their eating habits have nearly eradicated many important forest species including Northern White Cedar, Eastern Hemlock and Canada Yew.

- **Disease:** Chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis have been found in our wild deer herds. These diseases flourish in high-density populations.
- **Economic:** Deer cause millions of dollars in auto insurance claims as well as crop damage.
- **Public safety:** In terms of killing and injuring humans, deer are the most dangerous animals in the world. Highway accidents occur in all of the 50 states. In 2014, Michigan ranked 10th in the U.S. with eight fatalities.

These issues aren't caused by a few “problem” deer or human carelessness. They're caused by too many deer. Yet Michigan intentionally manages forests to produce damage-inflicting numbers. Why? Be-



### FISH FARM UPDATE

The Sierra Club has been challenging an industrial fish farm on the Au Sable River. Over the course of February, March, and April there were 21 full days of testimony.

The final arguments by Sierra Club and other parties were submitted to the Administrative Law Judge in August. A decision is expected about when this issue goes to mail. Check our website for latest news.

cause the main measure driving almost all deer management in Michigan is hunter satisfaction. This is different from hunter success, which is whether a deer was harvested. The state is more interested in making it easy for hunters to find and kill deer. The DNR is aware of the negative impacts yet continues to encourage herd growth to placate a declining hunter population (-15% in 2014)\*.

Common sense and science tells us that there are way too many deer in Michigan. It's long past time to start a serious dialog about this problem.

For more information, contact Marvin Roberson at 906-360-0288.

\* [tinyurl.com/hlcft49](http://tinyurl.com/hlcft49)

### HOW TO DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB'S PAC

- 1) Donate online with a credit card at [tinyurl.com/q42nfob](http://tinyurl.com/q42nfob) or write a check for the amount of your choosing
- 2) Make it out to “Michigan Sierra PAC”
- 3) Fill out this form (*required by the Secretary of State*)
- 4) Mail your check and this form to:  
Michigan Sierra PAC  
109 E. Grand River Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48906

Corporate checks are not permitted. Contributions to Michigan Sierra PAC are not tax-deductible.  
Paid for by Michigan Sierra PAC, 517-999-1305.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

# Protect & Restore Our Great Lakes Ecosystem

## Updated Report Follows Manure and Money in Michigan

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

National headlines this past summer touted guacamole-thick algae in Lake Okeechobee in Florida. In Michigan, sickly green algae, fed mostly by waste and fertilizer runoff from industrial agriculture operations, continues to plague Lake Erie and inland lakes — a visual reminder that in 2014, it poisoned the drinking water for Toledo and southern Michigan.

The November 2015 report by Sierra Club's Less=More coalition, "Follow the Manure: Factory Farms and the Lake Erie Algae Crisis," vividly demonstrates the link between factory farms and Lake Erie's algae problem and the role taxpayer dollars play. It features interactive maps depicting the location of 146 factory farms in the western Lake Erie watershed with the amount of waste generated, environmental violations incurred and federal



JEFF VANUGA, USDA/NRCS

Michigan has many industrial dairy operations that generate huge amounts of watery waste from milk house flushing, pictured here.

subsidies received. The picture it paints is one of a watershed swimming in manure and money.

Since the report's release, Less=More coalition members have been interviewed by numerous news outlets including the Toledo Blade and MPR's Jack Lessenberry. The coalition's Pam Taylor and Lynn

Henning presented the report to audiences around the region. Pam says it has been "a game changer" in terms of getting people to understand the role of factory farm waste in the algae crisis.

In the coming months, Less=More will release another report, mapping the location of all 269 factory farms in Michigan. It will again focus on waste, violations and subsidies in order to quantify the burden industrial livestock production places on the water resources and residents of the Great Lakes State. Look for the report at [sierraclub.org/michigan/lessmore-reports](http://sierraclub.org/michigan/lessmore-reports).

**LESS=MORE** IS A COALITION OF FARMERS, CONSUMERS AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS THAT **SEEKS TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR SUSTAINABLE FARMERS** BY CHANGING THE WAY SUBSIDIES ARE DISTRIBUTED: [WWW.MOREFORMICHIGAN.ORG](http://WWW.MOREFORMICHIGAN.ORG).

## Waukesha Diversion Update

by Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club Great Lakes Program

In a precedent-setting decision, the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Resources regional body for the first time approved a diversion of Great Lakes water to a municipality located outside the Great Lakes Basin. The Wisconsin town of Waukesha will be allowed to divert water from Lake Michigan. The Great Lakes Compact contains an exception that allows an entity outside the basin but within a county that straddles the basin to withdraw water. Waukesha is such a place.

According to this "compact," a legally binding interstate agreement created in 2008 to safeguard these magnificent shared water resources, a requesting entity must prove that they have no other options to obtain water than diverting from the Great Lakes. The current groundwater source for Waukesha is contaminated with radium, but other municipalities facing the same issue have successfully employed practices to eliminate this threat to water quality. Studies show that treating water that has high levels of radium is an "acceptable alternative" and is a safe option.

Waukesha's request was approved despite uncertainties about what type of monitoring will take place. This is necessary in or-

### AQUACULTURE POLICY

Land-based agriculture isn't the only threat to our waters — fish farming proposals are circling the Great Lakes. Michigan's DEQ and DNR, as well as Gov. Snyder have come out against net pen aquaculture in the Great Lakes, but Sen. Darwin Booher (R-Evart) is leading the charge to allow the industry to set up and authorize regulations for at least 10 facilities in the Great Lakes, (Senate Bills 0681 - 0683). This is a bad idea.

Learn more about this issue, the National Sierra Club's aquaculture policy and the Michigan Chapter's position at [tinyurl.com/aquaculturepolicy](http://tinyurl.com/aquaculturepolicy).

der to assure that Waukesha complies with the limits placed on it for withdrawal volumes and that no negative impacts occur to the water bodies of vulnerable low-income and minority communities where the return water passes through.

Who will bear the cost of threats to water quality? This is a case of potentially precarious environmental injustice that we will be following closely. Only time will tell.

For more information about our Great Lakes Program go to [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/great-lakes-protection](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/great-lakes-protection).

## Detroit Builds Green Infrastructure

by Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club Great Lakes Program

The Sierra Club – Great Lakes Program continues to promote “green” infrastructure to manage storm water and keep polluted runoff from entering our water ways. With a worldwide drought, it’s critical that all who live, work and play in the Great Lakes region take responsibility to protect our fresh water resource.

Green infrastructure practices include water catchment systems like rain barrels and cisterns, rain gardens, green roofs, bio swales, trees and permeable pavers.

For older cities, like Detroit, the problem with polluted storm water runoff is partially due to aging sewer infrastructure. Their combined sewer system carries both sewage and storm water in the same pipes to their wastewater treatment plant.

On a day with little or no rain, this system works quite well. Unfortunately, due to climate change, they have been experiencing heavier or more intense rain storms. When this occurs, the system becomes overwhelmed and the excess sewage/storm water mix overflows into local rivers. This is called a Combined Sewer Overflow or CSO. The CSO mixture flows from the Detroit and Rouge Rivers to Lake Erie and are a contributor to the growth of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) plaguing the lake.

In the past, the City of Detroit has improved sewer infrastructure by building bigger pipes and retention facilities. These “grey infrastructure” efforts are extremely expensive, resulting in higher rates that are passed on to residents and leading to water and sewerage bills that

are, for too many, unaffordable. Water shutoffs are a real problem, despite creative water assistance programs. The efforts to address this are being waged on many fronts.

Fortunately, the City of Detroit is beginning to take action to reduce CSOs and to keep water rates from increasing by actively adopting green infrastructure, a less expensive approach, as an alternative to grey infrastructure.

In a recent article in the “Bridge” magazine<sup>1</sup>, it was stated,

“In fiscal year 2016, the city will spend \$6.6 million on green infrastructure projects. Several have been completed, including the construction of four bio retention gardens on vacant lots in the Cody Rouge neighborhood, which was a collaborative effort with the University of Michigan.

Storm water is directed into these vegetated garden areas where it will percolate naturally into the ground. In essence, they act as natural wetlands. City officials say each of the gardens was designed to reduce storm water runoff into local sewers by 300,000 gallons annually.”

The good news is that along with the City of Detroit, city residents, the Sierra Club, and partners like the Friends of the Rouge, Keep Growing Detroit and others, we are all promoting and adopting green infrastructure practices.

The benefits related to water quality, air quality, beautification, habitats and overall quality of life are factors that will contribute to the city’s quest to become “The Greenest City in America.”

Want more information or to volunteer? Contact Erma Leaphart at 313-475-7057.

<sup>1</sup> Bridge article: [bit.ly/2cbPpfl](http://bit.ly/2cbPpfl)



### Rain Gardens to the Rescue

is a partnership between Sierra Club, Friends of the Rouge, and Keep Growing Detroit, funded by the Erb Family Foundation.

The three-year partnership is focusing on creating rain gardens. Thirteen gardens were planted in 2015; they plan to do 15 this year and 20 next year.

Rain Gardens to the Rescue is also holding rain barrel workshops. Rain barrels have many benefits: they save you money on your water bill, provide a water source when watering is restricted, and help reduce runoff pollution.

Check out Rain Gardens to the Rescue at [tinyurl.com/znp5kxg](http://tinyurl.com/znp5kxg).

# 2016 Chapter Elections

## VOTE FOR MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The six Michigan Chapter Sierra Club members listed on these two pages are running for four at-large spots on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. ExCom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country. Please note that due to space constraints, we asked the candidates to limit their statements to 100 words or less. If a statement runs longer than 100 words, the full statement can be found on the election web page at [tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot](http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot). Two lines on the ballot are provided for write-in candidates as well.

**Vote for no more than four candidates.** You can cast your vote in one of two ways: 1) Go online to our election web page and ballot at [tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot](http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot), or 2) Mail in the ballot in this newsletter on p.13.

If you're voting by snail mail, you must write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope in which you return your ballot or your vote will be disqualified (your membership number is above your address on the back cover of this newsletter). This information will also be required for online voting. **Paper ballots must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by Nov. 5, 2016 (online voting deadline is the same).**

### Lacy Dawson

The Sierra Club's mission is one that I value because of its focus on educating and involving everyday citizens in being a part of the solution to protect our planet. As the field director of a local civic engagement table, I believe citizen participation is key to eliminating all social and environmental injustices. As a steward of this great planet, and a believer in the Sierra Club, one of my dreams is to assist in efforts to increase citizen participation in supporting the mission of the Sierra Club and to leave a healthy, whole and vibrant planet for generations to come.



### Jeremy Johnson

I am Jeremy Johnson and I am running for my first term on the Chapter Executive Committee. I have served in the Lansing office as a communications intern from 2015 to 2016 and I have previously been a political intern in 2014. I'm looking for new ways to get involved with the Sierra Club now that my internship is completed. I will graduate from Alma College with a BA in Political Science in April of 2017. In joining the Executive Committee with my political and chapter experience, I look forward to getting the Sierra Club voice heard in Michigan.



### Alisha Winters

As a young vibrant adult in progress, I am actively becoming the change I wish to see in the world. I've been an active community member in River Rouge and have seen a lot get done, including the "School Siting Task Force" for our children's environment and DTE's announcement to retire coal-fired power plants in River Rouge, St. Clair, and Trenton, thanks to Sierra Club's eight-year Beyond Coal Campaign. I did my part by writing letters, attending hearings and advocating for clean air. I will continue to work hard to get the job done if I win another term.



### David Holtz

It's been great being Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Chair for the past few years, working with talented staff and committed volunteers. We have prioritized climate-related goals while protecting the Great Lakes and our communities from pipelines and pollution. As a Sierra Club volunteer I focus much of my time on ending the flow of oil through the Straits of Mackinac and plan to continue helping lead that effort as coordinator of the Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign. My top priority, however, will be to continue expanding Sierra Club's organizational capacity in Michigan so we can get more wins!



## Thomas Zerafa

I have been a resident of Oak Park since March of 2001, and prior, a 50-year resident of Detroit proper. As a member of the Franciscan Friars of S.E. Michigan, I have always been concerned for our Mother Earth and our duty to protect her for ourselves and future generations. I have been an advocate for clean energy as environmental pollution most affects the very SW Detroit where I was raised. High also on my concerns is advocating for public transportation options for our region and doing campaigning for this November's ballot proposal. I am humbled to be asked to put my name... View Thomas' complete bio at [tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot](http://tinyurl.com/ExcomBallot).



## Tom Turner

I believe that protecting the environment must be among our highest priorities if we value our future. I've been a Sierra Club member since 1996 and have been on the Ex-Com for the last two years. Currently, I'm the Co-Chair of the SEMG Political Committee and am active on the Chapter's legislative, political and finance committees. I'd like to continue to serve on the ExCom because I'm thrilled to be associated with Sierra Club's proud tradition and would like to continue to contribute my talents to its mission, because there is so much more work to be done.



## SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

Vote for no more than four (4) candidates. The second column of boxes is for the second member of a joint membership only.

LACY DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ALISHA WINTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JEREMY JOHNSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAVID HOLTZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
THOMAS ZERAFA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOM TURNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Clip out and mail your ballot to:

Michigan Chapter Sierra Club  
 attn: Chapter Elections  
 109 East Grand River Avenue  
 Lansing, MI 48906

Write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of your envelope to validate your ballot (membership number is above address on the back cover of newsletter).

**Your ballot must be received on or before November 5, 2016.**

# 2016 Chapter Award Winners

## Honoring Those Who Make a Difference Every Day

**D**r. **Mona Hanna-Attisha** received the *Bunyan Bryant Environmental Justice Award* for bringing lead poisoning in the Flint public water system to the attention of state and federal officials. Dismissed and attacked early on, she pressed ahead to sound the alarm about the danger to Flint children (and adults). She has testified before Congress and is leading the long-term effort to remediate lead poisoning in Flint, study and mitigate its effects and prevent future tragedies.

Super-dedicated member and volunteer **Helen LeBlanc** received the *Marlene Fluharty Award* for her 20+ years of service in the challenging role of Chapter treasurer as well as her long involvement in the Central Michigan Group.

The *Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year Award* went to **State Rep. Jeff Irwin** for his work with Sierra Club to introduce the first-ever legislation in Michigan to stop fracking and enact safeguards. He is also one of the legislature's biggest pipeline opponents and has advocated shutting down Enbridge's Line 5.

**Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan** received the *White Pine Award* for their invaluable work to document factory farm pollution and educate consumers and elected officials about the problem. Their research has been the basis for two groundbreaking reports by the Sierra Club-led Less=More sustainable agriculture coalition.

**Anne Woiwode** and **Cyndi Roper** received the *Chair's Award* from Chapter Chair David Holtz for their work on the Sierra Club's Flint Response Team, formed to help Flint grassroots groups involved in the water crisis.

Crossroads Group Outings Chair **John Wilson** has been named the *Vince Smith Outings Award* recipient for his work to expand the group's outings program. Since 2011 he has planned and led at least 25 outings each year, making them fun and educational, and coming well-prepared and armed with his famous chocolate treats to share.



Three of the awards given out at the retreat went to some of the Chapter's most dedicated and longest-serving volunteers. Pictured here are (left to right) Anne Woiwode (*Chair's Award*), Ed Steinman (inaugural *Ed Steinman Digital Excellence Award*), and Helen LeBlanc (*Marlene Fluharty Award*).

Researcher **Dave Schwab** of the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute was recognized with the *Burton V. Barnes Award* for his modeling of oil spill impacts in the Straits of Mackinac that helped build public awareness of the potential hazard posed by Enbridge's Line 5.

Three *Environmental Journalism Awards* were given out this year. Reporter **Lindsey Smith** of Michigan Radio received the broadcast version for her December 2015 documentary on the Flint water crisis, which was instrumental in exposing how the lead contamination happened. Writers **Ron Fonger** of the Flint Journal and

**Nancy Kaffer** of the Detroit Free Press both received the print award for their reporting of the crisis.

**East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows** is the recipient of the *Theodore Roosevelt Political Leadership Award* for his valuable service at three levels of the Sierra Club. He is on the political committees of the Chapter and the national Club as well as the chair of the Central Michigan Group's political committee.

**Edward Steinman** has donated so much time and expertise to keeping the Chapter's website alive and well and maintaining our email lists and other digital details that we named an award after him. Then we gave it to him. He is the first recipient of the *Ed Steinman Digital Excellence Award*.

The *Cougar Award* goes to **Courtney Bourgoin**, the founder of Spartan Sierra Club at MSU. She worked on Theresa Abed's campaign as one of the Chapter's political interns and as our communications intern, she revitalized our social media efforts.

Eighty-eight-year-old **Anne Schmoller** won the *Life of the Party Award* for baking goodies (including her world-famous toffee) for Chapter functions. She is Chapter Director Gail Philbin's mother.



### THANK YOU, EARTHSHARE DONORS



**W**e wish to thank all the individuals who support our work each year through payroll deduction via EarthShare of Michigan. If you have just completed your annual payroll deduction campaign at work, and Earth Share of Michigan wasn't listed as an option, please call 800-386-3326 to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support the Sierra Club Foundation – Michigan Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work. For more info, visit the website [www.earthsharemichigan.org](http://www.earthsharemichigan.org).

# Supporting Your Chapter

## In Memory of Harold Stokes

**W**e want to recognize and honor Mr. Stokes, who was a longtime Sierra Club member and activist from the Detroit area with the foresight to include the Michigan Sierra Club in his estate plans. Harold had worked on countless social and environmental issues fighting for clean air and water in southeast Michigan.

In his over 40 years of grassroots activism he was a fixture at a myriad of public

meetings, hearings and campaign rallies. He campaigned against the proposed Detroit incinerator and became a staunch ally in this fight. Harold was also an official intervenor in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission permitting process for Detroit Edison's third nuclear plant.

Harold Stokes knew, like Rachel Carson who made the first bequest to the Sierra Club, that his life's work was only the beginning, and that his contribution



**His vigorous activism was an inspiration for all.**

would not be as valuable if future generations did not build upon what he started.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY

**N**ot everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

Just imagine how much good and change could be done if each one of us remembered a favorite charity or cause in our will or estate plans. This would create an immeasurable impact!

For more information, contact Jan O'Connell:  
jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org • (616) 956-6646

## In Memoriam: Richard J. Dunaj-Ring

JUNE 21, 1952 - JUNE 14, 2016



**R**ichard loved the outdoors and was a passionate teacher who taught the sciences at Southfield Lathrup High School. He had a great concern for his students and it was clear he had made a great impact on his students who called him DR. His colleagues as well as his students stated that Richard was a very kind soul. He was also described by his students as beyond cool, unbelievably motivating and magnificent!

He passed on just a week before his retirement — he is gone too soon. Memorials to the Michigan Sierra Club were suggested and many made contributions in his honor and memory.

A beautiful soul is never forgotten!

### WE'RE TURNING 50 IN 2017— MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Sierra Club Michigan turns 50 next year! We're throwing a big party on June 10, 2017 in Ann Arbor, but we've already begun to celebrate.

Our 50th Anniversary webpage at [www.sierraclub.org/michigan/50th-anniversary](http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/50th-anniversary) has lots of info, including the establishment of the new Anne Woiwode Fund to ensure we're around for the next 50 years.

You'll also find stories about our biggest victories and the people who helped make them happen on the 50th Anniversary History Blog at [michigan-chapter-history.blogspot.com](http://michigan-chapter-history.blogspot.com).

And you can contribute your own memories to the People's History Blog. Email your story to [sierraclub-michigan.mileaders@blogger.com](mailto:sierraclub-michigan.mileaders@blogger.com). More details coming in the Spring *Mackinac*.



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 2.4 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we

work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

STANDARD  
NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Lansing, MI  
PERMIT NO. 154

# Supporting Your Chapter

## Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals, groups and organizations making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. Please join us in thanking the current Michigan Legacy Council members:

### FENS & SAPLINGS

\$500-\$999

- Peter Bailey
- Ms. Mary Anne Beltzman
- Ms. Lorraine D'Angelo
- Gerald Demaire
- David Diephuis
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- Paul & Barbara Fishback
- Thomas (Mike) Haley
- Chris & Tamela Hamilton
- Mr. David J. Henney
- Ann Holmes
- Robert M. Johnson
- Larry Junck & Robbi Duda
- Doug Kik
- Paul & Judy Kindel
- Albert Koegel
- Steven & Kathleen Kopitz
- Nancy Lamb Dotlo
- Jeff Lapinski & Bev Bonning
- Lisa Lemble & Robert Gordon
- Lawrence & Mary Lockhart

- Thomas McQuade
- Mark & Pamela Meadows
- Mindy Miller
- Thomas & Jill Newhouse
- Kent Newman
- Nancy Newman
- Roger & Coco Newton
- Gilbert Omenn
- Dale Petty & Jeannine Palms
- Gail & John Philbin
- Mr. Richard Rabbers
- Robert F. Rudd
- Elvera Shappirio
- Loretta Sheehan
- Lorraine Sigle
- Sandra Simmons
- Irene Smith
- Barbara Stowell
- Kay Stremmer & Ron Sell
- Timon P. Tesar
- Fred & Alyce Townsend
- Carola Vogel
- Henry Wellman
- Anonymous Donor

### STREAMS & WHITE PINES

\$1,000-\$2,499

- Catherine Badgley & Gerald Smith
- Richard Barron
- Martin & Brenda Berkowitz
- Kenneth & Judy Betz
- Amanda Carlson
- Estate of Esther Dean
- Lois Debacker
- John Purdon Donley
- EarthShare of Michigan
- Patrick Egan
- Lydia Fischer
- Margaret Flynn
- John Ford
- Carol Graham
- Denise Harris
- Lynn Hartung
- Joanne & John Kleis
- Samuel & Patricia Lacina
- Henry (Hal) Newnan III
- Jan & Dennis O'Connell
- Kris Olsson & Dave Moran
- Maggie Phillips
- Bill & Ann Salot
- Beverly Strassmann & Claudius Vincenz
- Julie Ann & Steven Wang

- Todd S. Wilkinson
- Anonymous Donor

### RIVERS & GROVES

\$2,500-\$4,999

- James & Cynthia Berkey
- Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman
- Gwen & John Nystuen
- Stanley & Connie Rajnak
- Nancy Shiffler
- Carol E. Ward
- Anonymous Donor

### DUNES & SHORELINES

\$5,000-\$7,499

- Lorne & Kathi Beatty
- Jean Gramlich
- Mr. John R. Hunting

### MARSHES & PRAIRIES

\$7,500-\$14,999

- Ceci Bauer & Tim Flynn
- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Patagonia
- Pierce Family Foundation
- Anne & Tom Woiwode

### GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS

\$15,000+

- Thomas Buhr
- Estate of Rita M. Burke
- Erb Foundation
- Michigan Voices
- Priorities Michigan
- Estate of Harold Stokes
- Wege Foundation



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.