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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

TheMackinac

Quarterly Publication of Michigan's Sierra Club • February-April 2003

**FIGHTING SPRAWL'S SPREAD:
A Chapter Priority in 2003**

PAGE 12



PHOTO: SUE KELLY

A gas station built on filled wetlands.

As children, my sisters and I learned and understood the fairness and sharing of limited space.

“Mom! She won’t stay on her own side!”

by Sue Kelly, Mackinac Chapter Co-Chair, with Mike Keeler, Co-Chair

An anyone who has kids, or has been one, probably knows the rules about traveling with other kids in a car. When I was growing up, there was an ethic between my sisters and me about whose turn it was to sit in the middle and how close our legs could get. We monitored each other’s behavior very carefully and were sure to point out when someone else crossed the line. Sprawling out was what you didn’t want your siblings doing.

Urban sprawl is the same idea. Americans want to live close to nature. But poorly planned development is gobbling up our beloved parks, open spaces and farmland at an alarming rate. Sprawl threatens wildlife by chopping up habitat with encroaching homes and highways. Each year, we destroy thousands of acres of wetlands that act as natural filters and flood-absorbing sponges.

As people move further from the older city centers and suburbs, new infrastructure must be created. As it stands, people aren’t paying the real price of what it costs the rest of the community. Existing taxpayers are actually subsidizing the road building and sewers required by new developments. Meanwhile, people leaving for the sprawling suburbs siphon taxes away from urban centers, which accelerates urban decay.

If impact fees were assessed, local governments would charge developers fees to help pay the costs of new roads, schools, water treatment and utility lines. By requiring developers to pay their own way, rather than forcing existing taxpayers to bear the full cost of sprawl, our communities would better grow on their own terms. As people consider the true costs of sprawl, they may find it more lucrative to live in already developed areas.

Revitalizing older neighborhoods is the perfect antidote to sprawl. In many cases, older neighborhoods were designed for pedestrian safety and have a scale and style that allows people to

meet everyday needs by walking or with a short commute. Several Michigan cities are realizing the value of historic properties that give neighborhoods character and charm, and entrepreneurs are investing in historic preservation.

The Mackinac Chapter has made urban sprawl one of our top priority issues for many years. In the past Engler administration, we repeatedly saw environmental protection lose out to real estate and development interests. Out of all the environmental problems we have faced, urban sprawl remains one of the hardest problems to solve because of the economics involved. It can’t be reversed – it’s too expensive. In the future, should we need farmland, it will be very expensive to get rid of a subdivision. Once the damage is done, it’s done.

Governor Jennifer Granholm says she will address the issue of sprawl in Michigan. She plans to appoint a bipartisan commission on land use, evaluate state subsidies for their impact on sprawl, encourage urban redevelopment, expand farmland and preserve open space. With a new administration that understands the problems created by urban sprawl, there is good reason to believe that positive change can happen.

As children, my sisters and I learned and understood the fairness and sharing of limited space. Let’s hope that in the coming year the people of our state will come to understand that we must not only share the earth with each other, but with all of the earth’s creatures.

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– Anne Woiwode, Oct. 1, 2002

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TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF MICHIGAN'S SIERRA CLUB
FEBRUARY - APRIL 2003



PHOTO: DAVID HOLTZ

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NEXT DEADLINE: APRIL 1 (no joke!)

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We have much work to do....

by Barb Yarrow, Mackinac Editorial Board Chair

In early January I turned my back on the dancing light along the frozen shore of the Ocqueoc River where it forked around an island as snowflakes floated in a cold breeze. I looked around the room at a group of Sierra Club activists who'd given up their weekend... and there they sat, on hard chairs, in front of a crackling fireplace, conducting Mackinac Chapter business, setting policy and managing a budget.

I was reminded of just how much work we have to do.

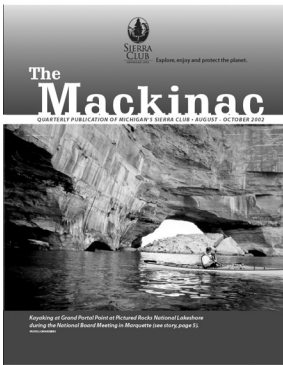
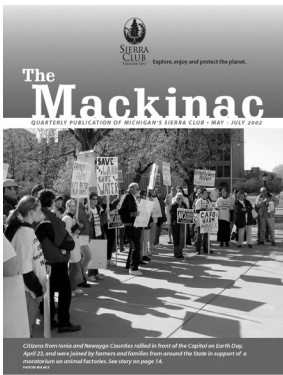
One of the most challenging tasks of the weekend was to adopt the 2003 budget. Like many nonprofits, we had to cinch our belts even tighter and find ways to work smarter and with fewer resources. The Executive Committee understands how important it is to inform you, our members, and share our successes and find ways to get more of us out and working actively to explore, enjoy and protect this planet. Due to our current budget, one result of these lean times will be *The Mackinac* coming to you with fewer pages. We have also decided to use color—a costly addition—sparingly.

We recognize that our first priority is to reach you with important information, and we'll do our best to deliver it in a style that makes you turn the pages and get excited about the work we need to do. In spite of some of our budgetary restrictions, the Executive Committee vows to maintain the newsletter's quality—we'll simply

sharpen our focus. This year we'll showcase our four major conservation priorities. The February-April issue concentrates on land use, urban sprawl and runaway development. In future newsletters, look for the themes of environmental justice, forestry biodiversity and water quality.

As we cut back on our spending, we hope you still find a wealth of information about the issues you care so much about. We ask that, now more than ever, you get active and volunteer. If you take nothing else from these pages, please let it be to find a way to get involved this year. As you read, take note of the important topics, as well as the names of other activists to contact. Then, join us! Read for knowledge and get active for the earth.

We hope to see you on the trail, or when you join us at an Executive Committee meeting as we hash through the Club's business. Get involved! We're in this for the planet.



Hartman-Hammond: A Troubled Bridge Over Waters (an update)

by Monica Evans, Traverse City Group Chair

In March of 2002, five environmental and recreational groups—including the Traverse Group of the Sierra Club—in conjunction with the state chapter, filed a lawsuit against the Road Commission to halt the Hartman-Hammond Bridge and road project.

Part of former Governor John Engler's \$900 million road building and improvement project—Build Michigan III—the Hartman-Hammond Bridge and road project has been named as one of 28 of the worst transportation projects in America by the national Sierra Club's publication *The Planet*. Residents of Northern Michigan have been overwhelmingly opposed to the project from the very beginning, and in 1987 defeated a bond proposal to fund the project by 71 percent of the voters.

On September 18 of 2002, Circuit Court Judge Tom Power ruled that the Grand

Traverse Road Commission—before the Court will hear the case against them—must obtain proper state permits to develop wetlands and degrade the Boardman River in order to build their \$30 million Hartman-Hammond Bridge and road project. Judge Power also ruled against the Road Commission's argument that the issue of sprawl cannot be considered under the Michigan Environmental Protection Act. He says that although the case has merit, the Court cannot hear the case until after the proper permits are approved.

The next step is to aggressively challenge the permits in front of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, along with any other permitting agencies. This will give the residents of Northern Michigan the opportunity to get really involved and become vocal again about the project. Meanwhile, at the Grand Traverse County Road Commission's public meetings, talks by the Road Commission (focusing on which kind of façade, decorative lighting and color scheme the public prefers for the bridge) have been met with resistance. Pointed questions arose regarding the need for a bridge that would cut the valley in half, destroy acres of wetland—including a rare black ash and cedar swamp—and kill and displace wildlife, effectively ruining what the Army Corps of Engineers calls "a place worthy of protection."

CAFO Update

ANIMAL FACTORY WATER PERMIT ISSUED A MILESTONE DESPITE FLAWS

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

In an action many thought would never happen, on Friday, December 13, 2002, Department of Environmental Quality Director Russ Harding quietly approved a statewide water quality permit for animal factories in Michigan.

While the permit remains flawed and the Engler Administration undercut substantive public input, the permit approval marked a major milestone. It is yet another great step in Sierra Club's multi-faceted campaign to bring Michigan's regulation of deadly pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) into compliance with federal law.

We were able to change the landscape on animal factory pollution in Michigan during the last three years. There is a lot more work to be done, however. Sierra Club members should be proud of our accomplishments on this important issue.

The Sierra Club is asking Governor Jennifer Granholm's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to reopen and correct the major flaws in the new permit program. The Club advocates for aggressive enforcement of all environmental laws with regard to these facilities. Our greatest area of concern in the Engler CAFO permit is its failure to require individual permits for all CAFOs, as well as allowing new or expanding animal factories to be built with no regulatory oversight. Enforcement of the regulations is also a major concern. DEQ staff began inspections of concentrated animal feeding operations in December. The inspection program, promised in January 2002, is expected to take three years.

Editorial writers and the public loudly chastised the Engler Administration for abandoning a traditional public hearing format in favor of a "confessional style" hearing on November 21. To counteract efforts to shut down public interactions, Sierra Club opened a room next to the DEQ's meeting rooms for the more than sixty people attending the hearing. This brought about informal discussions among family farmers, neighbors of CAFOs, DEQ and EPA officials, as well as Farm Bureau and CAFO operators about the problems with these facilities.

The Mackinac Chapter website provides access to the Sierra Club's complete comments on the proposed permit and updates on the animal factory pollution issue: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>.

Water Sentinels Water Quality Sampling Update

CAFOS AND THE PINE RIVER

by Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Director

Water sampling efforts are gearing up all over as more Michigan citizens become concerned about concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in their communities. Since our last update, we've received calls and emails from Mason, Ottawa, Gratiot, Clinton, Monroe and Huron Counties, as well as Ann Arbor and St. Clair Shores.

Sampling programs for E. coli are underway in Hudson in Lenawee County, and Barryton in Mecosta County. Alma College students are measuring nutrients in surface waters in Gratiot County, and the Kalamazoo County Human Services Department is monitoring Indian Lake and the Portage River.

But we still need more help!

Residents near Great Lakes shorelines have reported that Lakes Michigan and Huron are at risk because tributaries to these waters are being used to discharge manure and other mega-farm waste. The Pere Marquette National Scenic River is a world class destination for flyfishers nationwide, yet it is threatened from pig manure waste.

Target sampling areas in Huron County include the Pinnebog, Willow, and Sebawaing rivers, the Bad Axe Drain, and shoreline areas of Lake Huron. Huron County is home to six 4,000-head dairies, as well as hog operations and chicken factories, with more coming soon. In Mason County we will sample Weldon Creek and the Pere Marquette River, and Monroe County is also slated for volunteer monitoring. We need volunteers who can be trained to monitor in these and other locations.

NOTE TO PINE RIVER WATER SENTINELS:

We will be sampling the Pine River in late April or early May – watch your mailbox for more details!

If you can help with sampling or other organizing in these areas, please contact the Water Sentinels project at 517-484-2372 or send email to rita.jack@sierraclub.org. We will schedule three training sessions during February or March.

CAFO MAPPING UPDATE

Volunteers have mapped the locations of dozens of CAFOs, but we know there are more! It's easy to help with this effort: send an email to rita.jack@sierraclub.org with the location, the facility name and owner, the address, the type and estimate of the number of animals, with whatever you know about pollution discharges. Photos are helpful. The township, range and section number of the township, as well as names of nearby water bodies are also useful. Much of this information can be found at township offices.

GreatLakesReport

INVASIONAL MELTDOWN OF THE GREAT LAKES

by Mike Johnson, Kalamazoo Valley Group

Exotics. Nuisances. Biological pollution. Invasives.

They're called all of these, and they've been entering the Great Lakes since the 1800s.

At least 140 non-native species of fish, molluscs, algae, plants, crustaceans and other creatures now reside in the Lakes, and more than a third have arrived since the completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959, to the detriment of the Lakes. Among the more famous invasives: the Zebra mussel, the sea lamprey, the round goby, and the ruffe. Michigan Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema says that "exotic species are the number one issue facing the Lakes, the single biggest threat."

Of the ways in which invasives reach the Great Lakes, the most problematic is the dumping of ballast water by ships. Ballast water is taken into and released from holding tanks in large ships to balance their loads. A ship, for instance, may take on cargo and ballast water in a freshwater port in Europe, deliver the cargo to Chicago, and then dump its ballast water into Lake Michigan. Any creatures from that European port's water that were taken in now have a new home in the Great Lakes.

Once here, exotic species often thrive due to a lack of natural controls that checked their population growth in their native habitat. And the environmental impact of invasives can be staggering. The ruffe, a perch-like fish, has greatly reduced the native perch population in Lake Superior and will likely do so in the other Lakes. The lamprey virtually wiped out the populations of lake trout, whitefish and chub in the Great Lakes, and with them the Great Lakes commercial fishery. Zebra mussels, since their entry in 1988, have cost an estimated \$5 billion in largely ineffective attempts to control them; the Cook power plant on the Lake Michigan shore alone spends \$1,400,000 a year to protect their water exchange equipment from the mussels. By efficiently removing microscopic algae—the basis of aquatic food chains—from the water, Zebra Mussels drastically alter the web of life. Their environmental and economic impact on the Great Lakes has been greater than the break up of the Exxon Valdez was in Alaska.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO PROTECT THE LAKES FROM BALLAST WATER INVASIVES?

Currently, very little. Technically, there aren't any effective methods of eliminating organisms from ballast water. Methods that have some success include ultra-violet light treatment of the water, filtering the water, chemically treating it, and the cyclonic separation of organisms from ballast water.

Legally, the situation doesn't look much better. Laws designed to deal with invasives do in fact exist, but either they are weak and/or they remain unenforced.

CAN MORE BE DONE? YES!

To virtually eliminate the problem of ballast water invasives in the Great Lakes, cargo stations should be set up along the eastern end of the St. Lawrence Seaway where ships from outside of the Great Lakes would transfer cargo to Great Lakes-only ships.

Until this is done:

- The EPA has the power to bring suit to immediately restrain ballast dumping. Currently it does not do this, but it should.
- The US National Invasives Species Act (NISA) directs the US Coast Guard to establish ballast water standards. It has not done so and there is no timeline for it to do so. Congress should set a timeline.
- Congress and the Great Lakes states need to provide more funding for research into effective ballast water treatments.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

For further information about how to help with this important issue, please contact the Mackinac Chapter office at 517-484-2372 or mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org.

The Great Lakes are unique in the world. They have been and continue to be terribly altered by invasives. Please act to reduce the invasion.

Thanks to Great Lakes United for much of the information contained in this article.

Arctic Refuge in Greatest Peril

by Mike Johnson, Kalamazoo Valley Group

Home to caribou, musk oxen, polar bears, grizzlies, wolverines, wolves, arctic foxes, some 130 species of birds and spectacular scenery, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—America's wildest land—is in grave danger.

Though the protection of wilderness should not and need not be a partisan issue, it is. In the recent Democratically-controlled senate, the five senators that most influenced environmental policy had League of Conservation Voter scores of between 56 and 92 percent. The five Republicans replacing them? They have ratings from 0 to 8 percent. The Bush administration is eager to drill. Plus, the House previously voted to drill in its energy bill, HR 4. And if we are at war, or if war is imminent, tremendous political pressure will be brought down upon those senators, especially the few brave Republicans who blocked drilling by supporting a filibuster against drilling. Additionally, some of those senators who blocked drilling are now gone, including filibuster leader Paul Wellstone (you're missed more than can be said, Paul).

The primary excuses of drilling proponents remain unchanged. National security, as well as gasoline and heating oil price stability top their list of reasons to drill. But the Arctic's oil supply will never amount to more than 2-3 percent of our national usage; it has no impact on these issues. Drilling proponents also claim drilling and delivering oil can be done without significant harm to the environment—another lie. (For more details, see the May-July issue of *The Mackinac*, or call me at 269-948-8840.)

The last session of Congress voted to protect the Great Lakes by prohibiting drilling for oil and gas. Of the Michigan delegation, only

Rogers, Knollenberg and Smith voted in favor of drilling. Why did all the others vote to prohibit it? One reason is that the Great Lakes are precious and easily damaged. Another is that the amount of oil beneath the lakes is insignificant to our country's needs. These reasons also ring true for the Arctic Refuge. Yet, of the Michigan delegation, only Bonior and Rivers, as well as Kildee, Kilpatrick, Conyers, Levin and Stupak voted to protect the Refuge.

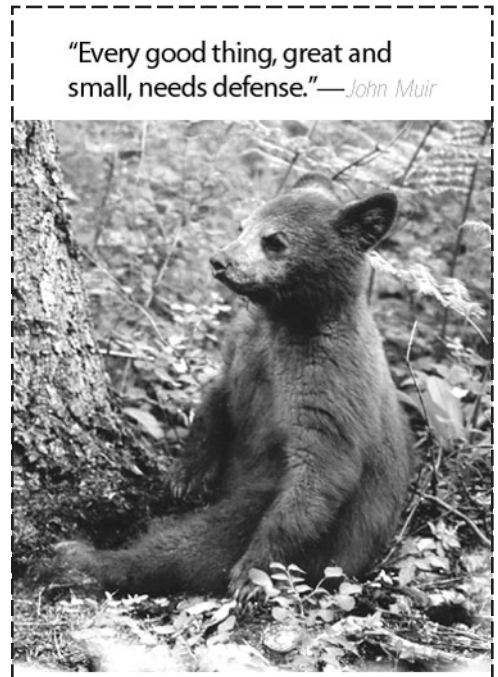
Why did so many who voted to protect the precious Great Lakes not vote to protect the precious Refuge? Two main reasons:

1. Though insignificant compared to our national usage, there are large profits to be made from the oil beneath the Refuge. (The oil industry is a huge campaign contributor.)
2. Alaska's single representative and both of its senators are in the pockets of the oil industry. They have worked for decades in favor of drilling.

We must not let three members of congress and oil industry profits destroy this American and world treasure.

The Refuge is unique and precious—it's America's last remaining piece of intact arctic and subarctic ecosystem (oil companies have access to the other 95 percent of Alaska's north coast).

This may decide the fate of the Arctic Refuge for all time.



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense." —John Muir

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Thank you to all of our members that contributed so generously this year. Your support helps the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club with our local work. The donations will be used to protect the Northwoods, wildlife, and open space; to promote environmental justice; to clean up the Great Lakes waters and shorelines; and to make the environment an issue in elections.

Thank you again to all the donors!

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Capitol Watch 2003

CHANGING OF THE GUARD GOOD FOR MICHIGAN'S ENVIRONMENT

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

After a dozen years under a governor hostile to most environmental protection programs in Michigan, the inauguration of Governor Jennifer Granholm has raised tremendous hope for families, outdoor enthusiasts and communities statewide. However, the state's \$1.8 billion budget deficit will dominate political discussion in the Capitol for at least the first half of 2003, significantly limiting the types of legislative and administrative initiatives likely to emerge during the two-year legislative session.

Many of the environmental community's initial goals, as a result, will revolve around reviving Michigan's environmental programs and the state's tradition of public input, as well as redirecting public expenditures toward environmentally sound projects, and fixing policies and statutes which were severely weakened or undone during the Engler administration. Environmental organizations are expected to push for swift passage of environmental legislation vetoed by Engler in his last days in office, in particular the authorization of Detroit Area Regional Transit Authority (DARTA) and medical waste incineration regulations.

In her first official action, Governor Granholm issued Executive Order No. 2003-1, directing that those doing business with the state of Michigan must comply with state labor, workplace safety and environmental laws. She then appointed Steven Chester—who has a strong background in environmental enforcement—as Department of Environmental Quality Director. Granholm's extensive agenda includes commitments to restore the public's right to know, recombine the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality, ban new incinerators, protect the Great Lakes, and create a Commission on Land Use.

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, former chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, appointed Senator Patricia Birkholz of Saugatuck to chair the committee in her first term in the Senate. Senator Birkholz said her agenda will focus on moving forward the recommendations

of the Great Lakes Conservation Task Force Report.

In the House, Speaker Rick Johnson—a strong supporter of the DARTA legislation—expressed interest in land use issues during the previous session. House Minority Leader Diane Byrum and Senate Minority Leader Bob Emerson both have solid voting records on environmental issues, and Byrum has been a leader on a number of environmental initiatives in her years in the Legislature. Bipartisanship on issues will be critical for success with a Democratic Governor and Republican dominated Legislature.

The Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter is kicking off a new Legislative Program in 2003, aimed at involving more grassroots environmentalists in the legislative process. A Legislative Committee, chaired by former Chapter Chair Lydia Fischer and staffed by Dan Farough, will work with Sierra Club members throughout the state on how to be effective participants in the legislative process, as well as how to track and analyze legislation. Members interested in becoming a part of the Sierra Club legislative network for the 2003-2004 Legislative Session are invited to contact Dan at daniel.farough@sierraclub.org or to call the Chapter office for more details.

The Mackinac Chapter website provides access to the latest news on legislation affecting Michigan's environment. <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>.

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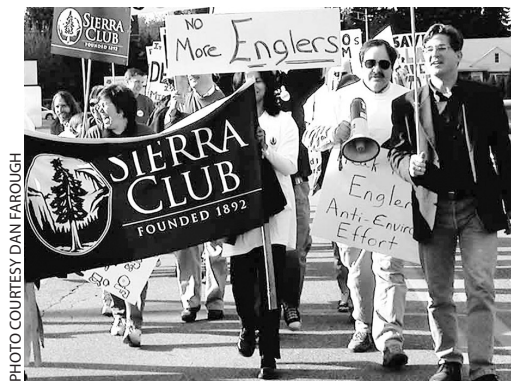
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Pinckney, Michigan

Environmental organizations are expected to push for swift passage of legislation vetoed by Engler in his last days in office, in particular the authorization of Detroit Area Regional Transit Authority (DARTA) and medical waste incineration regulations.



2002 Election Report: Sierra Club Members Get Results

by Dan Farough, Political Director, Michigan Sierra Club

What a year for Michigan environmentalists! Never before have environmental issues played such a prominent role in state races. Great Lakes oil drilling, out-of-state waste, environmental enforcement, sand dune mining, factory farms, water use and air pollution obtained high profiles as candidates maneuvered to appear more “green” than their opponents.

Even the worst anti-environmentalists tripped over themselves to look environmental at election time. This is a tribute to your work as Sierra Club members in holding anti-environmentalists accountable and protecting those officials who stand up for Michigan.

The Mackinac Chapter endorsed candidates in 86 races around the state, winning 64 percent of them. The election of Jennifer Granholm as Governor was the hallmark victory, ending the reign of one of the worst anti-environmentalists this state has ever seen. Indeed, Granholm’s very first act in office promises to re-establish Michigan’s legacy of environmental protection by prohibiting repeat environmental offenders from being awarded lucrative state contracts.

Granholm’s appointments at State Agencies—such as the Department of Environmental Quality—are restoring morale and ending the Engler practice of putting people at the head of divisions where they have no experience or expertise. The Granholm environmental plan, among many of its planned changes, calls for strengthening environmental enforcement, developing a comprehensive water policy to address threats of diversion and pollution, and implementing policies to reign in urban sprawl.

Many other hotly contested races—such as State Senators Mark Schauer (SD 19) and Virg Bernero (SD 23) and State Representatives Kathleen Law (HD 23), Dave Woodward (HD 26) and Aldo Vagnozzi (HD 37)—were hard fought but ended with environmental victory.

The loss of Attorney General candidate Gary Peters—a longtime friend of Michigan’s environment—by approximately 5,000 votes is unfortunate for Michigan’s tradition of strong environmental enforcement from the AG’s office. Peters, an environmental champion as a State Senator and member of the Sierra Club, will be looking for his reentry into politics.

True winners this election cycle are the Sierra Club members who attended rallies, pounded the pavement and staffed phone banks in the Gubernatorial, Attorney General and key battleground Senate and House races. Members also supported efforts to obtain media coverage, and these efforts helped defrock environmental pretenders (like Dick Posthumus) and supported environmental friends like Granholm. Thank you for your tremendous generosity and volunteer spirit! Your work raised the profile of the environment in Michigan to new heights.

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2209 Niagara Drive, Troy, MI 48083.**

THANKS TO ALL RAFFLE PARTICIPANTS

by Sherry Hayden, Raffle Committee Volunteer

The Mackinac Chapter thanks everyone who donated to the raffle again this year. The yearly raffle raises much of our needed funds for the year. Thanks to your efforts, we raised about \$11,000 before expenses. With help from members like you, and from everyone who bought raffle tickets, we can continue to win protection for Michigan’s environment.

Many thanks for your help!

Members will be happy to learn that recycled paper was used for all the raffle materials, and everything will be recycled.

The drawing was held January 11, 2003, during the winter meeting of the Executive Committee.

THE WINNERS ARE:

FIRST PRIZE (\$1,000):

Fischer (no first name given) of Saline.

SECOND PRIZE (\$500):

K. DeGrande of Clinton Twp.

5 THIRD PRIZES (\$100):

Jennifer Goewey of Livonia, Ladona Brown of Midland, Linda Alderman of Traverse City, Matthew P. Robison of Farwell, and M.J. Crawford of Flint.

Special thanks to Linda Alderman, who donated her prize to the Chapter to help defeat the Hartman Hammond Bridge.

Forest Update

GET INVOLVED IN MICHIGAN'S FOREST PLANNING

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

As Michigan's three National Forests start their planning process, Sierra Club members throughout the state are getting up to speed on forest planning issues and procedures.

At a training session outside of Lansing last November, about 20 volunteers learned the basics of forest biodiversity and the public's right to have a say in the management of our National Forests. Marvin Roberson, Mackinac Chapter Forest Policy Specialist, provided volunteers with the tools and information they'll need to be effective in the updating of forest plans on the Ottawa, Hiawatha and Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Sierra Club members are urged to join us in monitoring and commenting on the development of these plans, which will set the management direction for three million acres of Michigan forest

lands over the next 10 to 15 years.

Please contact Marvin Roberson at gassho@softhome.net for details on becoming involved.

Look for updates on National Forest and state forest issues on the Mackinac Chapter website. Also, check out the Great Forest pages on the at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/greatforests>.



Wasted Opportunity: Engler Vetoes Reform Medical Waste Bill

by Anna Holden, Chair, Health Care Without Harm Committee

Governor John Engler's veto of the reform medical waste bill, passed by the legislature in December, wastes Michigan's opportunity to be a leader in reforming practices in medical waste treatment and disposal. Senate Bill 11, passed unanimously by both houses in 2002, contained several provisions that would have put Michigan on the map for improving regulation and treatment of medical waste at the state level.

First introduced by Senator Gary Peters four years ago, Senate Bill 11 included a moratorium on permits for new medical waste incinerators and expansion of existing incinerators. It also mandated a study of the environmental impact of different methods of disinfecting medical waste and stricter standards for medical incinerator emissions. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the bill in April 2002, and the House passed it unanimously December 13. No other state has passed such a comprehensive bill addressing the issue of medical waste regulation. Engler vetoed the bill, in spite of support from Republican leadership such as new Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and Representative

Ruth Johnson, Chair, House Land Use and Environment Committee.

Sierra Club can be proud of the role it played in the introduction and passage of Senate Bill 11. Senator Peters, a Club member, introduced the bill; the Southeast Michigan Group organized lobbying to promote SB 11, and members throughout the state actively supported it. Health and other environmental organizations also endorsed the bill and helped get it passed. The only public opposition at recent hearings came from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

To date, Michigan has made great strides in eliminating incineration of medical waste.

All 157 hospital incinerators in the state have shut down since new federal regulations were implemented in the mid-1990s; there is only one commercial incinerator in the state still burning medical waste, Michigan Waste Services in Hamtramck. Sierra Club's 2003 goals should include better regulation of medical waste disposal, promotion of alternative treatment methods, and closing the one commercial medical waste incinerator left in Michigan.

To work toward these goals, contact Anna Holden, 313-331-0932 or mqk@umd.umich.edu or Rob Cedar, Chair, Hamtramck Environmental Action Team, 313-365-4722 or RobC313@aol.com.

Fighting Sprawl in 2003

A CHAPTER PRIORITY

by David Holtz, Southeast Michigan Media Coordinator

If there was any doubt in Ed McArdle's mind that the issue of sprawl cuts across borders, it vanished with the cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie this past Thanksgiving. Visiting in Chicago with long lost relatives from Ireland, McArdle, who lives in the suburban Detroit suburb of Melvindale, discovered the Emerald Isle may be losing some of its storied charm.

"They're having the same problems as us," said McArdle, Conservation Committee co-chair for the Southeast Michigan Group of Sierra Club. "Wealthy British, Americans and others are buying up land and building monster houses. Roads and sewage treatment are inadequate—this from my cousin who is a farmer of about 80 cows and lives in a 300-plus-year-old stone cottage with a thatched roof."

Sprawl, it seems, is everywhere. From west Michigan farmland to the vistas of Traverse City, right up I-75 from Detroit to Grand Blanc where growth has spilled over from northern Oakland County just as tax-hungry government officials in the Flint area hoped it would.

There are signs, however, that while sprawl continues to gain more and more of our best ground in Michigan—destroying wetlands, overtaking farmland and causing big traffic headaches—Sierra Club activists and other local residents are overcoming powerful and well-funded special interests and winning some significant battles.

One of the more recent and surprising victories came in conservative west Michigan where the Kent County Board of Commissioners voted 14-5 late last year to pay farmers the difference between the agricultural value and development value of their land—so-called Purchase of Development Rights. The goal is to set aside 25,000 acres over the next ten years.

With the appointment by Governor Granholm of a high-profile bipartisan commission on land use chaired by political icons, former Governor William Milliken and former Attorney General Frank Kelley, the issue of sprawl has moved to the top of the state's political agenda this year.

That's also the case with the Sierra Club, where the Chapter Executive Committee selected fighting sprawl as one of club's four top conservation priorities for 2003. Sierra Club's determined anti-sprawl activists, together with Chapter Director Anne Woiwode and Legislative Director Dan Farough, are partnering with environmental, religious and local community groups on an ambitious legislative and political agenda designed to bring managed growth to Michigan. That agenda includes coordinated regional planning, establishment of an Office of

Smart Growth in the executive branch, and a "Fix It First" approach to state spending that prioritizes improvements in existing roads, bridges, sewers and other infrastructure. Creation of the bipartisan land use commission was an important first step toward achieving those goals.

One of the club's anti-sprawl partners is the newly formed Michigan Suburbs Alliance, a collection of 20 mostly Metro Detroit cities and villages. Many communities, facing state revenue reductions and staring into a financial abyss, are joining together to demand that the state begin supporting established communities throughout Michigan instead of subsidizing new growth in undeveloped areas.

"In Michigan we have lots of allies and lots of people having problems and challenges," said Tom Barwin, a founder of the alliance and city manager of Ferndale, which borders Detroit in Oakland County.

"We're finding that when you go around and talk to average citizens, they get it and are open to solutions. This is the first time in 20 years there's been any serious dialogue."

One of those who Sierra Club, Barwin and others believe "gets it" is Governor Granholm. During her campaign to succeed John Engler as governor, Granholm championed increased wetlands protections, urban redevelopment, and land preservation programs. Moreover, Granholm said she'd take a hard look at sprawl subsidies and link transportation policies with regional land use planning. Some of these programs, she said, could be funded by an expanded bottle bill. The bipartisan land use commission was a Granholm campaign promise fulfilled.

Granholm, of course, is only part of the political equation, and any formula for improving land use in Michigan will involve money and the Republican-controlled Legislature. Senate Leader Ken Sikkema and House Speaker Rick Johnson have at times embraced so-called "smart growth" policies, particularly when they do not involve new regulations. But anyone expecting major land use reform in 2003 may be disappointed.

State Sen. Patricia Birkholz (R), Saugatuck Township chair of the Senate Environment and Land Use



PHOTO: SUE KELLY



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID HOLTZ



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID HOLTZ

Top: Michigan for sale.

Middle: Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed a high-profile bipartisan commission on land use, moving the issue of sprawl to the top of the state's political agenda this year.

Bottom: Michigan State Senator Patricia Birkholz (R) said she wants more time to see how regional planning develops under a 2002 law she sponsored before any significant new measures are considered.

Committee, said she wants more time to see how regional planning develops under a 2002 law she sponsored before any significant new measures are considered. That measure requires local government planners to share planning documents with each other, but financial incentives to encourage regional planning were stripped out of the bill under pressure from home builders and other special interests.

In fact, the state's financial squeeze may do the most this year to limit sprawling development. The deficit provides a fiscal rationale for Granholm and lawmakers to draw down the floodgates on the outpouring of tax dollars for highways, sewers and other infrastructure that subsidize projects like Traverse City's proposed Hartman-Hammond bridge.

Monica Evans, Sierra Club Traverse City Group Chair, said the proposed bridge, championed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) under Engler, would destroy important wetlands and usher in a new round of housing, fast-food restaurants and strip malls in the ever-sprawling outskirts of former Governor Milliken's hometown.

Evans and others are waiting to see whether Granholm's MDOT continues to back the bridge project. But for the most part Evans thinks it is local residents taking on the role of community activists who will ultimately determine whether sprawl in Traverse City and beyond continues to gain ground.

"It's like any other movement," she said. "The people have to want it and then demand it."

How to Help: You can make a difference in Sierra Club's campaign to reshape land use in Michigan

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Whether you're interested in joining a Sierra Club fight against sprawl in your own community, or want to get involved at the state level, we need your help.

Like most people, you probably don't know what exactly you can do to make a difference. That's OK. Please just take the first step and contact our Lansing office at 517-484-2372 and say you want to volunteer to help. Or better yet, e-mail our Membership Coordinator, Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, at kathy.boutin-pasterz@sierraclub.org.

Information on volunteer opportunities, sprawl and other important issues can also be found at the club's web site at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>.

Sprawl, it seems, is everywhere. From west Michigan farmland to the vistas of Traverse City, right up I-75 from Detroit to Grand Blanc where growth has spilled over from northern Oakland County just as tax-hungry government officials in the Flint area hoped it would.

PROFILE: SUZANNE HEINEY, SPRAWL FIGHTER

by David Holtz

Ypsilanti's Suzanne Heiney doesn't like to be pigeonholed. Heiney joined Sierra Club's Huron Valley Group two years ago for the outings. Now she's challenging a big-time developer in rural Northfield Township over what is being called the largest proposed housing development in the history of Michigan. But don't call her an activist.

"I hate the word activist," she said.

Heiney prefers to think of herself as simply standing up for the environment. Activist or not, Heiney, 28, is one of a growing number of people who are fighting to protect communities from sprawl. In Heiney's case the threat is 2,000 acres of rural land being developed for 5,000 homes as well as 900 acres of industrial and commercial projects. The proposal would create an urban center with a footprint nearly the size of Petoskey.

But if Heiney has her way this Goliath of a project will be seriously scaled down. She and fellow Huron Valley Group member Tina Topalian helped spearhead formation of Northfield Neighbors, a local citizens group fighting the development proposal. Although Heiney is a reluctant 'activist' she is part of a growing movement of residents who are working to protect communities from sprawling development, wetlands destruction and unwanted highway projects.

And it is sprawling developments like the

one proposed for Northfield Township that has created a groundswell of support for ballot measures that provide funding for land preservation, said Doug Cowherd, Huron Valley Group co-chair. Cowherd predicts more land preservation measures like the one that passed in Washtenaw County in 2000 by a sizeable margin. Two years earlier a similar measure was defeated.

"Between 1998 and 2000 we gained 20 points on farmland preservation tax questions," said Cowherd. "I think 2004 is going to be a very good year to be on the ballot."



PHOTO: DAVID HOLTZ

Shop to Stop Sprawl!

"What a great idea! Local grassroots action to preserve nature is what the Sierra Club is all about. I encourage every Sierra Club member in Michigan to participate in Shopping for the Earth."

- Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director

Your next shopping trip could help stop sprawl! How? By joining the Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** program, like hundreds of other people. At least 5% of what you spend will be donated to the Sierra Club.

We'll use the funds to fight the out-of-control development devastating our area. Each year, you can contribute hundreds of dollars to the fight against sprawl - at no cost to you!



To join the program, just mail in the order form below with your check. You'll get EarthCash vouchers of equal value for the stores you select. Then you spend the vouchers (accepted nationwide) just as if they're cash. You can return unused vouchers for a refund if you're not completely satisfied.

For more information, please contact Michael Sklar by phone at (734) 717-8040 or by email at mssklar@comcast.net.

"I use EarthCash vouchers. I haven't changed what I buy or where I shop. But now we're contributing over \$200 each year to make our community a better place. It's easy, and it doesn't cost us a penny."

- Gwen Nystuen

Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group "Shopping for the Earth" Order Form

Indicate the number of EarthCash vouchers you want by dollar amount for each store below, and enclose your check payable to "Huron Valley Group-Sierra Club." Total order (\$500 maximum): \$ _____.

Kroger	_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20	_____ @ \$50
Meijer (store & gas station)	_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20	_____ @ \$50
Farmer Jack (& affiliated stores)	_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20	_____ @ \$50
Hiller's Markets	_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20	_____ @ \$50
Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op	_____ @ \$5	_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20
Busch's	_____ @ \$5	_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20
Arbor Farms	_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20	
Whole Foods/Merchant of Vino	_____ @ \$10	_____ @ \$20	
Holiday Markets	_____ @ \$25		
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WILDERNESS SKILLS:

Salvage a Trip Gone Bad With a Repair Kit

by Michael A. Neiger

A little ingenuity and a well-stocked repair kit can prevent a broken ski tip or a flattened mountain bike tire from becoming a serious problem deep in the bush. To assemble your own wilderness repair kit, review the suggestions below. Customize them to meet the space, weight and repair needs of your outdoor adventure.

DUCT TAPE

Developed during WW II, duct tape is at the top of everyone's list. Its innumerable applications include sealing a leaky tent seam, mending a torn rainsuit, or reattaching a delaminated boot sole. Splinting a broken arm or a busted ski is easier with duct tape, too. Hikers use it on their feet to prevent blisters. Cross-country skiers with a broken binding have avoided spending a long, cold night in the woods by simply taping their ski boot to the offending ski. To carry, wind a piece around a pencil or ski pole. Or better yet, pick up a pocket-sized, 5-yard roll of "Cloth" or "Duct" tape.

POCKET TOOLS

With their pliers, screwdrivers, files, knife blades, scissors, tweezers and awls, a Swiss Army knife and a multi-tool are essential tools in the outdoors. While both sport plenty of tools, neither one alone will allow you to simultaneously secure the head of a screw AND twist loose a stubborn nut at the other end. A short section of a coarse-tooth hacksaw blade can also be useful.

SEWING KIT

Whether you need to simply replace a button or reattach an all-important shoulder strap to your rucksack, a good sewing kit is a must. It should include a couple of buttons, small squares of fabric, and some mosquito netting. For sewing, include two fine needles with a length of light nylon thread, two heavy-duty needles with some carpet-grade nylon thread (use dental floss in a pinch), and a couple of three-sided, large-eyed leather needles with a piece of heavy-duty, waxed nylon thread. A leather or metal finger thimble is essential for hand-sewing with a large needle.

If an extra three ounces is not a problem, carry a "Speedy Stitcher" sewing awl instead of the leather needles for demanding repairs.

They're not very expensive, and in most you'll find that a spool of thread and extra needles store conveniently in the handle.

CORDAGE AND WIRE

A 50-foot chunk of 1/8-inch, braided nylon cordage has dozens of uses including lashing a broken paddle shaft together, rigging a tarp, replacing a bootlace, and improvising a traditional snowshoe binding to replace a broken "high-tech" one. A 12-foot length of bailing wire is equally handy.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Include a piece of a hot-glue stick, adjustable-flame lighter, matches, and maybe even a couple of small hose clamps. Four large blanket safety pins and a six-inch-long piece of wide, sticky-back Velcro can quickly take the place of a blown zipper on your parka or sleeping bag.

ACTIVITY-SPECIFIC ITEMS

While you're at it, add a few activity-specific repair items to your repair kit. For example, cross-country skiers will want to carry a spare ski tip, extra screws to replace a binding, and perhaps even a hard-to-find, no. 3 pozidrive-type screwdriver. Fishers should be prepared to repair a damaged rod or a sluggish reel. Backpackers will need items to repair a clogged stove or a leaky inflatable sleeping pad. Mountain bikers will want to pack a spoke wrench, Allen wrenches, chain tool, adjustable wrench, tire repair kit, tire irons, spare tube and an air pump.

Michael Neiger of Marquette, Michigan, is a wilderness trip leader with the Sierra Club's Central Upper Peninsula Group. Visit his website, [The RuckSack \(http://therucksack.tripod.com\)](http://therucksack.tripod.com) for bush skills info, trip photo-journals, and upcoming adventures. He welcomes your comments and opinions at mneiger@hotmail.com.

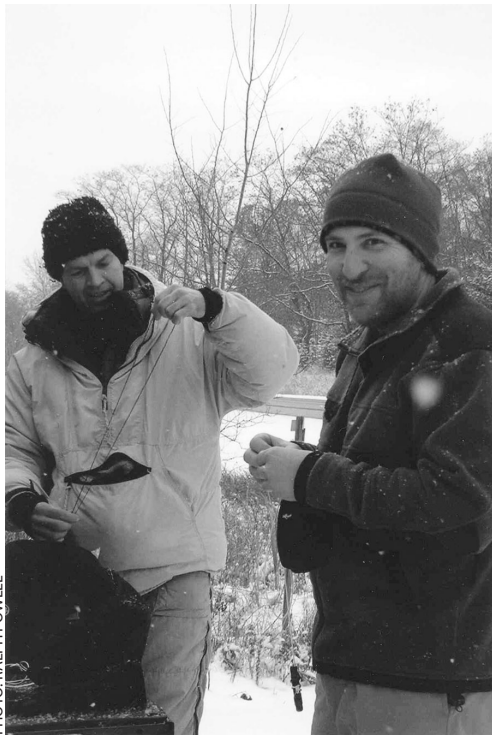


PHOTO: RALPH POWELL

Michael Neiger, left, adds a lanyard to some of Ed Pavwoski's survival gear during a December trip near the High Country Pathway.

REPAIR KIT RESOURCES

To learn more about assembling an all-purpose repair kit, as well as how to make field-expedient repairs to tent zippers, neoprene gear, cook stoves, optics, skis, snowshoes, canoe hulls, paddles and lots of other gear, read *The Essential Outdoor Gear Manual: Equipment Care and Repair for Outdoorspeople*, by Annie Getchell (Ragged Mountain Press, 1995, ISBN 0-07-023169-9, 1-800-822-8158).

Your local hardware store, backpacking outlet, ski shop or outfitters are excellent places to purchase items for a repair kit.

To make sure your next wilderness adventure comes off without a hitch, stow a compact repair kit in your rucksack today.

See you in the bush.

Group Meetings & Programs

Outings, political and conservation activities and general interest meetings are hosted regularly by groups throughout the state. There are numerous ways to get involved in your local group. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome – contact Group chairs (page 23) or those listed below. Up-to-the-minute outings and activities may be found on group websites or on the Mackinac Chapter website: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>.

2003 Executive Committee Meetings

The Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee (Ex-Com) meets quarterly at locations around the state. Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz at the Chapter Office for details. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

STRATEGIC PLANNING... April 5-6, 2003
SUMMER EX-COM..... July 11-13, 2003
FALL EX-COM..... October 4, 2003
WINTER 2004..... January 9-11, 2004

AG: Algonquin Group

Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

CMG: Central Michigan Group

GENERAL MEETINGS: 5:30pm for supper (small donation requested), monthly meeting at 6:15, 3rd Monday. Harris Nature Center, off Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Pete Pasterz, 517-676-3339.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 5:30pm monthly, 2nd Monday. Maria Lapinski-LaFaive, 517-374-4444, mlapinsk@wmich.edu.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Monthly, 1st Monday. Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

CUP: Central Upper Peninsula Group

Central and western counties in the Upper Peninsula

GENERAL MEETINGS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7pm in Community Room, Peter White Library, Marquette. John Rebers, 906-228-3617, jrebers@nmu.edu.

CUP GROUP NEWS AND OUTINGS: Mail \$5 for newsletter subscription to Sierra Club, 338 West Crescent, Marquette, MI. 49855.

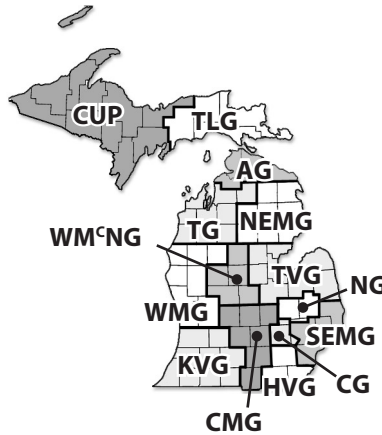
2/11 Mercury: How Does it Affect Lake Superior and Inland Lakes, and Where Does it Come From? Speaker Doug Knauer is recently retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, where he conducted research on a range of water quality issues, including mercury and acid rain.

CG: Crossroads Group

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads>

Livingston, southern Genesee and western Oakland Counties

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm monthly at Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorff Dr, Brighton.



Group boundaries of the Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Monthly. Cheryl McConnell, Conservation Chair, 517-552-1464.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Monthly. Co-Chairs: Lorne Beatty, 810-632-7766; Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298.

2/26 LocalMotion presentation on Non-Toxic Products takes you through a day in the life of typical household product use and offers safer alternatives.

3/26 Michigan is Cougar Country by the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation.

HVG: Huron Valley Group

www.mirror.org/groups/mi-enviro

HVG Hotline at 734-480-7751.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7:30pm monthly, 3rd Tuesday, at UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor.

HVG BOOK CLUB: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Tuesday at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, Ann Arbor. Small group book discussion about nature or the environment. Call 734-332-0207.

CONSERVATION TEAM: 7pm monthly, 4th Monday. Dave Brooks, 734-475-9851; Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157.

2/18 Disappearing Dunes: Halting the Destruction of Lake Michigan's Magnificent Sand Dunes. Tanya Cabala of the Lake Michigan Federation.

3/18 Foiling the Floods: Managing Storm Water through Landscape Ecology. Joan Nassauer, University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment.

4/15 Natural Landscaping for your Home.

KVG: Kalamazoo Valley Group

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7:30pm monthly, 3d Thursday, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Twp Campus, Room 4370. Mike Johnson, 616-948-8840.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Wednesday. Verne & Cindy Mills, 616-344-4279.

NG: Nepessing Group

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing>

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm, monthly, 2nd Wednesday at Mott Community College in "New Students" Prahil Building, Genesee Room, 1401 E Court St, Flint. Free parking, refreshments. Ann Crane, 248-634-8641.

NEMG: Northeast Michigan Group

Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

SEMG: Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6:30 or 7pm monthly Sept-June, 1st Thursday, at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy (southbound M-10 service drive) between Southfield & Evergreen and Nine & Ten Mile in Southfield. Carol Izant, 248-352-6137, cogknot@yahoo.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Thursday at 2727 Second Avenue, Detroit. Jim Nash, 248-471-3759, nashlibdem@msn.com.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Monthly meetings at 2727 Second Avenue, Detroit. Mary LaFrance, 734-282-6935,

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: Quarterly planning meetings. Outings Chair Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873, wanderphil3@netzero.net; Outings Coordinator Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: 6:30pm monthly, last Thursday, at Jimi's Restaurant on Washington, 1 block north of Lincoln (10-1/2 Mile), Royal Oak. Tim Killeen, Political Chair, 313-526-4052, timk@bikerider.com.



SUE SCHENK-DROBNY HOLDS UP A BOTTLE FOUND ALONG A DRUMMOND ISLAND BEACH. PHOTO: RALPH POWELL

3/6 Isle Royale Moose & Wolf Study: Clarifying the Role of Predators in Controlling Prey Populations. 7pm. One of the best places to examine ecosystem relationships between predators and prey is on Isle Royale National Park, the most remote of the lower 48 states, with populations of moose and wolves that cannot easily leave the island. SEMG member William Bowen will share his experience as a member of the 2002 Earthwatch research team. Slide show and discussion.

TLG: Three Lakes Group

Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac & Schoolcraft Counties

GENERAL MEETINGS: Monthly Sept-May, 1st Wednesday, at Walker Cisler Center on Lake Superior State University campus. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316, rblanchard@LSSU.edu.

BUSINESS MEETINGS: Monthly in Sault Ste Marie. Floyd Byerly, 906-632-0218.

TVG: Thumb Valley Group

Interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

TG: Traverse Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

GENERAL MEETINGS: 1-3pm monthly, second Saturday, Traverse Area District Library, 610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City. Monica, 231-325-6812; Lynn, 248-547-0842.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Meetings held following general meetings.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 1-3pm monthly, fourth Sunday, Horizon Books, downstairs café, downtown Traverse City. Monica, 231-325-6812.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Monica, 231-325-6812.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: John Lewis, 231-947-9104; Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344, deana@elmo.nmc.edu.

WMcNG: Wakelin McNeel Group

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/wakelin-mcneel>

RECENTLY REACTIVATED! For information about the Sierra Club in this area: Julie Murphy, 989-539-1676.

WMG: West Michigan Group

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm monthly, 2nd Thursday, at downtown YMCA, 33 Library NE, Grand Rapids. Marty Lore, 616-682-1316.

Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee Election Results

by Craig Ressler,
West Michigan Group

Five individuals were recently elected to the Chapter Executive Committee. They are: Lydia Fischer, Mike Johnson, Mike Keeler, Helen LeBlanc and Lynn Livingston.

The Chapter Executive Committee decides what Michigan issues are important and deserve attention, as well as—because of budget constraints—what issues must go unchallenged. All committee members are volunteers and will spend countless hours over the next two years fighting to make Michigan a better place to live.

Congratulations to the winners!



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MackinacChapterOutings

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map, page 16, to determine a group's location. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus. Trips begin at the trailhead. Outings are open to everyone.

February

2/15 NG Holdridge Lakes Moonlight Hike. 7pm. 6 moderate miles. I-75 to Grange Hall Rd (exit 101), west 0.5 miles to Hess Rd, north 1.5 miles to parking lot on left. Bring flashlights. Restaurant stop. Cindy Engelmann, 810-715-0660.

2/15 SEMG Addison Oaks X-C Skiing. 11am. Ski 8 miles of groomed trail, easy-intermediate. Rental equipment available. Bring lunch. Meet in Rochester Hills, west side of Meijer parking lot on Rochester Rd (north of M-59). Call if weather doubtful. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

2/15 TG X-C Skiing on Lost Lake Pathway. Joint outing with Grand Traverse Hiking Club. 9:30am sharp. 6-mile loop. Restaurant lunch optional. US-31 west 7 miles from Chum's Corner, north on Gonder Rd, just west of Interlochen Golf Course. 1 mile to trailhead on west side. Call John Heiam/Lois Goldstein, 231-938-9655, if conditions not ideal.

2/16 SEMG Seven Lakes State Park. 1pm. 6-mile hike: hilly, possibly slippery. Dress in layers, hiking boots required, gaiters optional. Bring trail snacks. Meet at SE

corner of Woodward & Square Lake in CVS rear parking lot at noon. Optional restaurant stop. John Herrgott, 810-735-9313.

2/22 NG Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 10am. 5 moderate miles. I-75 to Grange Hall Rd (exit 101), west 3.5 miles to Fish Lake Rd, north 1 mile to park entrance. Park at Big 7 shelter lot. Vehicle permit required. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406, mansfieldd@chartermi.net.

2/23 SEMG Pt Pelee Ice Hike. 9:30am. 12th annual all-day ice hike in Ontario. Dress warmly for 2-3 hours outdoors. Meet in parking lot behind Dearborn Centennial Library, south side of Michigan Ave .25 mile east of Southfield Fwy. Optional restaurant stop. Passport/birth certificate ID. Bridge fees, park admission fee: \$12/car. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

2/23 NG Bald Mt. North Unit Hike. 1pm. 6 moderate miles. M-24 to Lake Orion, left on Flint Street to Orion Rd, left on Stoney Creek Rd, left on Harmon Rd. Trailhead lot at Harmon & Predmore. Vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Gloria Bublitz, 810-664-0304, glorypepper@yahoo.com.

March

3/1 NG Murphy Lake Hike. 10am. 6.5 difficult miles. Dogs allowed. M-15 to Millington, east 4 miles on Millington Rd (only stop light in Millington). Trailhead across from Mt Kotarski sign. Vicki Paton, 810-732-5667; cell 810-919-1120, VickiPaton23@msn.com.

3/1 SEMG Maybury State Park Hike. 11am. Moderate 4 miles. Dress in layers; goes rain/shine. Meet at park concession building, Eight Mile Rd entrance, 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd (& Northville), about 5 miles west of I-275. Optional restaurant stop. Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782.

3/6-10 CUP [E] Intermediate-level Winter Camping & Spelunking: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (Munising, Alger Co, Upper MI). Explore on snowshoes pulling lightweight, club-provided sledges. Visit backcountry caves such as 2000-person Amphitheater with 50-foot waterfall. Instruction in snowshelter building & land navigation. No basecamp. Must be: 18, non-smoker, experienced backpacker with cold weather (-20) experience & gear, very physically fit (good aerobic endurance), swimmer, adventurous. Fully equipped:

How About Backpacking? Spring Seminars Scheduled for Beginners

by John Herrgott, Southeast Michigan Group

SEMINARS		
DATE	LOCATION	TIME
3/22	The Benchmark 32715 Grand River Ave. Farmington Hills	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
4/12	Raupp Campfitters 421 S. Washington Royal Oak	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
5/3	Moosejaw Mountaineering 34288 Woodward Ave. Birmingham	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
5/31	Eastern Mountain Sports 30837 Orchard Lake Farmington Hills	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Have you always wanted to try backpacking but were held back by a lack of good mentoring? We think we have just the program to get you motivated, outdoors, and equipped with new skills that will increase your self-confidence. And, best of all, you'll make new friends who share your love of nature.

The Southeast Michigan Group (SEMG) outings committee will hold four "Introduction to Backpacking" seminars in spring 2003. The seminars cover all the basic requirements for getting started. Gear will be displayed, explained and demonstrated, with speakers addressing all aspects of backpacking, including the woman's perspective.

We'll introduce you to the purpose and goals of the Sierra Club with an emphasis on the outings program. A free seminar booklet will be distributed that includes seminar topics, Sierra contacts, pertinent web sites, a basic gear list, gear sources and reading lists. Seminar participants are invited to join the outing committee's upcoming backpack trips specifically designed for beginner and novice backpackers.

Advanced seminar registration and payment of the \$10 fee is required 14 days prior to the seminar.

For more information and to register, contact:

John Herrgott, 810-735-9313, johnherrgott@hotmail.com, or
Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873, wanderphil3@netzero.net



THE CROSSROADS GROUP HOLDS ITS ANNUAL WINTER PADDLE ON THE FIRST WEEKEND IN FEBRUARY. PHOTO: SUE KELLY

UIAA- or CEN-approved helmet, snowshoes, 20-below bag, stove, rations, etc. 8am Thur to mid-day Mon. \$15. Info at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com, 906-226-9620.

3/8 NG Holly Recreation Area Hike. 10am. 7-10 moderate miles. Dixie Hwy to Grange Hall Rd. East to McGinnis Rd. Right on McGinnis to entrance; park in Overlook Parking Lot. Bring lunch. Vehicle permit required. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406, mansfieldd@chartermi.net.

3/8 SEMG [E] Hadley Hills Hike. 9am. Learn to navigate unmarked trails in wooded, hilly area. Bring qt water for 6-mile brisk hike; goes unless hard rain. Meet at Old Navy store in Baldwin Commons shopping center at NW corner of I-75 & Baldwin Road (exit 84 northbound) across from Great Lakes Crossing. Optional restaurant stop. John Calandra, 248-391-8973.

3/8 SEMG Outings Scheduling Meeting. 6pm. Plan to lead or learn about leading outings at quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Non-committee members welcome. Bring St Patrick's Day potluck dish to pass. Plan next quarter (May-Sept). Liz's house, 7250 Bingham, east of Schaefer, north of Warren, in Dearborn. RSVP 313-581-7579.

3/9 SEMG [E] Metro Beach Metropark. Noon. 4-miles. Walk diverse habitats: fields, ponds, wood swamps, nature trails & sandy beaches along Lake St Clair. Learn how areas are interconnected as complete bio-habitat for many species. Observe creatures moving in for Spring. Meet in Sterling Heights at Metro Pkwy (16 Mile) & Van Dyke (SE corner) in SMART parking lot between banks. Call if weather doubtful. Restaurant stop. Sam Haynes, 248-547-7516.

3/15 NG Moonlit Hike & Campfire. 6:30pm. 6 difficult miles. Ortonville Recreation Area Campground. Dogs allowed. Cookout after hike. Bring chair, food, beverage & flashlight. Hadley Rd 4 miles south of Hadley to Fox Lake Rd, west about 1 mile. Parking lot on north. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

3/15 SEMG [E] Lyons Oaks. 10:30am. Explore new Oakland County park. 5 easy miles. Bring field guides to ID spring blooms. Meet in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile. Restaurant stop. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

3/15 TG Family Outing: Ski, Snowshoe, Hike. Fundaising party at home of Lee Hatton near Honor. 6pm. Potluck (soup, salad, bread provided), BYOB. \$5/person; \$10/family. When the moon rises we'll hike wooded, rolling hills, habitat for eagles & other wildlife. Musicians welcome. RSVP 231-325-2246 or imagine@betsievalley.net. 10 miles west of Interlochen Corners, before large hill turn left on Goose Road, 1.8 miles to Pioneer Rd on right, 1st house on right.

3/16 NG Detroit Zoo Hike. Noon. Easy, social hike. No dogs. Meet outside ticket office. Entrance approx \$8. Leisurely 2-3 hour stroll. Dinner in Royal Oak. Woodward Ave & I-696. Lynn Livingston, 248-547-0842, redwingnut@sprintmail.com.

3/16 HVG Stinchfield Woods Hike. Moderate 4 miles. Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157.

3/16 SEMG Holly Recreation Area. Explore glacial hills & lakes. 5 moderate miles. Meet in Troy behind Standard Federal Bank on 14 Mile, east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall) at noon, or 1pm at park entrance on McGinnis Rd. From I-75, take exit 101, east on Grange Hall Road 1 mile to McGinnis Rd, then .75 mile to entrance. Optional restaurant stop. Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326.

3/21 KVG Kraftbrau Folk Concert. 8:30pm. Meet at Kraftbrau Brewery. Snacks, organic beer, great music! Kjell Croce & Garnet Rogers perform. Advance tickets: \$8. Reserve by 3/10. Cindy Mills, 269-344-4279 (evenings).

3/22 NG Brandt Hike. 10am. 5 easy miles. Holly Rec Area. M-15 to Grange Hall Rd in Ortonville. West 2 miles, north on Brandt Rd. 0.3 miles. Trailhead parking on left. Restaurant stop. Cindy Engelmann, 810-715-0660.

3/22 SEMG [E] Basic Backpacking Seminar. 10am-2pm. See details on page 18. The Benchmark, 32715 Grand River Ave. Registration & \$10 payment required by 3/7. John Herrgott, 810-735-9313, johnherrgott@hotmail.com; Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873, wanderphil3@netzero.net.

3/23 SEMG Kensington Spring Hike. Noon. Moderate 5-mile hike on nature trails. Meet in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rd, or 12:45 at Nature Center. Optional restaurant stop. Jeanne Mercier, 313-581-6648.

3/29 SEMG [E] Pontiac Lake Rec. Area. Noon. 6 moderate miles. Hardwood forests & rolling hills. Learn/ Practice compass skills & identify distant Pontiac Lake & other prominent points. Goes any weather. Meet in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile. Restaurant stop. Co-leaders Milton French, 313-295-6321; Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

3/29 NG Otter Lake Hike. 10am. 6 moderate miles. Dogs allowed. Restaurant stop. I-69 to M-15 north to Willard Rd (2.8 miles north of M-57), east 2.6 miles, left at fork, 0.1 mile to trailhead parking. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

3/30 SEMG [E] Highland Rec. Area Hike. Noon. Moderately-paced hike (4-6 miles). Bring field guides to learn wildflower identifying methods. Hepatica & spring beauties should be in bloom. Meet in Bloomfield Twp in Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph north of Square Lake Rd. Optional restaurant stop. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

3/30 NG Hogback Hills Hike. 1pm. 5 difficult miles. Meet at fishing parking lot near 12406 E Stanley Rd, 3 miles east of M-15. Restaurant stop. Gloria Bublitz, 810-664-0304, glorypepper@yahoo.com.

April

4/5 NG Murphy Lake Hike. 10am. 6 moderate miles. 4 miles east of Millington on Millington Rd. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038.

4/5-6 SEMG [E] Waterloo-Pinckney State Rec Backpack. Easy beginner trip for novice backpackers. Low-mileage, highly instructional outing. Leader will mentor novices. Meet Sat morning for 2 days/1 night. Must have own equipment. Reserve by 3/28. John Herrgott, 810-735-9313, johnherrgott@hotmail.com.

4/6 HVG Island Lake Hike. 9am. Spring warm-up hike, 14 leisurely miles. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot. Rain date: 4/13. Ron Killebrew, 734-429-0671, rkillebrew@provide.net.

4/6 SEMG Paint Creek Hike. 10am Daylight Savings. 10-mile moderate/quick rails-to-trails hike. Cider mill to Lake Orion, restaurant lunch, return. Bring trail snacks, water, good hiking boots. Meet in Troy behind Standard Federal Bank on 14 Mile, east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). Michael Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

4/11-14 CUP [E] Intermediate-level Backpacking: Off-trail, NCT, Jordon River Pathway (Mancelona, Antrim County, Lower MI). Cross-country hike from railroad ghost towns of Farmdale & Hitchcock to Graves Crossing, along Jordon River to O'Brien Pond & north. River fording, swamp cuts. No basecamp. Instruction in tarp rigging & land navigation. Must be: 18, non-smoker, experienced 15-degree backpacker (3 recent trips), physically fit (good aerobic endurance), swimmer, adventurous & fully equipped (bivouac gear, stove, rations, etc.). 8am Fri to midday Mon. \$10. Info at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com, 906-226-9620.

4/12 SEMG [E] Basic Backpacking Seminar. 10am-2pm. See details on page 18. Raupp Campfitters, 421 S. Washington, Royal Oak. Registration & \$10 payment required by 4/1. John Herrgott, 810-735-9313, johnherrgott@hotmail.com; Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873, wanderphil3@netzero.net.

4/12 TG Hike North Country Trail. 1pm. 5 easy miles. Meet at trailhead south of Buckley. M-37 curves south, 2.5 miles to blue trail signs; trailhead is east of highway on 2-track road. Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344, AndreaD49684@msn.com.

4/12-13 NG Jordan River Pathway Early Spring Backpack. Moderate. Sat, 9:30am at trailhead. Backpack 10 miles Sat, 9 miles Sun. M-32 west out of Gaylord to US-131. Turn left (south) for 1.5 miles to Deadman's Hill Rd. Turn right (west) to parking area. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406, mansfieldd@chartermi.net.

4/13 SEMG [E] Two Preserve Hike. 11am. 5 miles. Hike West Bloomfield Nature Preserve & trails. Observe wildlife in Heron Rookery. Continue to Orchard Lake Nature Preserve trails; trail lunch. Bring field guides to learn

see *OUTINGS*, page 20



A GREEN LAKE HIKE WITH LEADER JOHN HERGOTT. PHOTO: PHIL CROOKSHANK

OUTINGS, continued from page 19

the many blooming flowers. Bring trail lunch, water. Meet in Bloomfield Twp in Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph, north of Square Lake Rd. Joy Lovio, 248-470-0229; Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

4/19 NG Otter Lake Hike. 10am. Moderate. Dogs allowed. I-69 to M-15. North to Willard Rd (2.8 miles north of M-57), east 2.6 miles. Left at fork, 0.1 mile to trailhead lot on left. Vehicle permit required. Vicki Paton, 810-732-5667; cell, 810-919-1120; vickipaton23@msn.com.

4/19 SEMG [E] Bluebird Rewards at Island Lake. 9am. Stewardship tour with Allison McCormick, the Bluebird Lady of Island Lake State Park, who will reveal her rewards & responsibilities & exhibit some of the 24 sites she maintains. There are usually 100 fledglings per year. Bring binoculars for half-hour educational session, followed by brisk 5-mile hike. Meet in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rd, or 9:45am at Spring Mill Pond. Restaurant stop. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

4/20 HVG Waterloo Recreation Area Hike. 1pm. Hike 6 miles among forest & hills. Canceled if rain. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot. Kathy Guerreso, 734-994-7030.

4/26 KVG North Country Trail Hike. 8:30am. Join North Country Trail Association for moderate 5-mile hike on section through Yankee Springs Rec Area. Meet at Hall Lake parking lot off Gun Lake Rd about 1.5 miles west of Yankee Springs Rd. Brad Parsons, 269-344-5613.

4/26 NG Sawdust Corners Hike. 10am. 5-6 moderate miles. Lapeer State Game Area. I-69 to M-24. North 7.5 miles. West on Sawdust Corners Rd. 0.6 miles to parking lot on north (go past "road closed" sign). Restaurant stop. Greg & Mary Downey, 810-664-4917, marydowney@blclinks.net.

4/26-27 SEMG [E] Hoist Lakes Footpath Backpack. Spring trip for beginner & experienced backpacker. Soft trails, sink holes, beaver, bald eagles & other wildlife. Low-mileage, highly-instructional outing. Leader will mentor novices. Must have own equipment. Leave 6am Sat for two days hiking, one night backcountry camping. Limit 8. Contact leader by 4/11. John Hergott, 810-735-9313, johnherrgott@hotmail.com.

4/27 HVG Annual Potawatami Trail Hike. 8am. Hike all 17 miles of winding trail through glacial terrain, by lakes & over hills. Great views & comradie. Bring lunch. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot. Confirm: Ruth Graves, 734-483-0058.

4/27 SEMG [C] Potawatomi Trail Cleanup Hike. 8:30 am. Hike 14 miles of very hilly 17-mile trail near Silver Lake. Brisk hike (3mph), stopping to pick up trail litter. Rain/shine. Wear good hiking boots; dress for weather. Bring litter bag, water & trail lunch. Meet in Livonia between WalMart & Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on SW

corner of Middlebelt & I-96. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

4/26-27 NG Shingle Mill Pathway Early Spring Backpacking. Sat, 9:30am at trailhead. 7 miles Sat, 4 miles Sun. Easy, beautiful trail. Vanderbilt, MI. I-75 to Exit 290, left at blinking light on Sturgeon Valley Rd. 10 miles to trailhead at Pigeon Bridge. Don Persson, 810-257-7441(day); 810-695-0516(night); donald.persson@delphiauto.com.

4/26 NG [E] Annual Frog Hike. 7pm picnic (bring your own). Frog hike begins at 8:30pm. No dogs. Bring flashlights, boots for muddy trails, rain gear. We may hear & ID Spring Peepers, Grey Tree Grogs & American Toads. Vehicle permit required. Picnic area at Ortonville Recreation Area. Hadley Rd 4 miles south of Hadley to Fox Lake Rd. West on Fox Lake Road about 1 mile to Equestrian Campground on north. Fred Townsend, 248-627-3587, fhtownsend@aol.com.

May

5/3 NG Lumberman's Monument Hike along Au Sable River. 11am at Lumberman's Monument west of Oscoda or 8:30am at Clio/Vienna Rd I-75 park/ride area. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038.

5/3 SEMG [E] Basic Backpacking Seminar. 10am-2pm. See details on page 18. Moosejaw Mountaineering, 34288 Woodward Ave, Birmingham. Registration & \$10 payment required by 4/22. John Herrgott, 810-735-9313, johnherrgott@hotmail.com; Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873, wanderphil3@netzero.net. 8

5/3 NG [E] Bird Hike. 8-10am. Walk through variety of bird habitats learning to identify birds by sight & sound during nesting season. Bring binoculars & bird field guides. Limit 10. No dogs. Restaurant stop. Location TBD; call: Fred Townsend, 248-627-3587, fhtownsend@aol.com.

5/4 SEMG [E] Proud Lake Hike. Noon. Moderate/quick with stops to learn the spring wildflowers: Marsh Marigolds, Trilliums & others. See how many species we can ID. Bring water, footwear for muddy trail. Meet in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rd. Restaurant stop. Michael Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

5/4 NG Friends of the Flint River Trail weekly bike rides begin through Oct. Stef Diana, 810-239-2795.

5/10 SEMG [E] Maybury State Park Bird & Hike. 10am. Explore habitats of urban park & birds that inhabit them. Bring binoculars to identify species. 4 easy miles with stops to check nesting boxes & other bird haunts. Rain/shine. Meet at park concession building, Eight Mile Rd entrance, 1.5 miles west of Beck Road (and Northville), about 5 miles west of I-275. Optional restaurant stop. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

5/10 NG Hoist Lakes Backpacking. Moderate. Sat, 9 miles; Sun, 6 miles. Hoist Lakes foot area parking lot on

M-65, 7 miles north of Glennie. \$5 recreation fee permit (purchase at Glennie Party Store). Call for travel info. Don Persson, 810-257-7441(day); 810-695-0516(night); donald.persson@delphiauto.com.

5/9-11 SEMG Manistee River Trail Backpack. Hike 10 miles down Manistee River Trail on Fri & Sat. Return 11 miles along North Country Trail, following western ridges. Own gear & food for 3 days. Water filter & ability to carry 3qts of water is a must! Limit 6; reserve by 4/25. \$5 fee + fuel costs. John Calandra, 248-391-8973. Johndcal@comcast.net.

5/16 NG Davison Lake Full Moon Hike & Tailgate Party. 7pm. 4-5 easy miles. Ortonville Recreation Area. Bring flashlight, beverage, snacks, chairs, music. Vehicle permit required. Cindy Engelmann, 810-715-0660.

5/16-18 SEMG [E] Backpack South Manitou. Basecamp & dayhike. Learn fascinating history of small island & enjoy emerging leaves & wildflowers. \$45 fee covers ferry, National Park fees & camping. Register

Preserve The Future.

Not 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.

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San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



A PILEATED WOODPECKER AFTER A MORNING RAIN ON A LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH NORTH OF JOLLI-LODGE IN LAKE LEELENAU. PHOTO: DON SPEZIA, WHITEHALL

by 5/1; limit 8. Bring equipment for cool/wet weather & food. 8am ferry from Leland. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884, powell_mm@hotmail.com.

5/17 KVG Kalamazoo River Canoe Trip. Join Kalamazoo Downstreamers to paddle the upper South Branch of Kalamazoo River. Option to riverside camp & paddle on Sun. Rich Koster at 269-353-5960, richkoster2@aol.com.

5/17 TG [E] Empire Bluff, the wildflower enthusiasts mecca! 10am. 1.5 easy miles. Local wildflower expert & former National Park Service Ranger Pam Smith will lead & inform us with stunning views of Lake Michigan & village of Empire. 1 mile south of Empire on M22, right on Wilco Rd to parking. John Lewis, 231-947-9104, johnbetty@bignetnorth.net.

5/18 SEMG [E] Kensington Bird Watch Hike. 9am. 3 easy miles. Bring binoculars to ID osprey, blue herons, sandhill cranes, swans, ducks & more. Meet in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile. Restaurant stop. Jean Gramlich, 248-646-4113; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

5/18-5/24 CUP [C] Women's Canoe/Service Trip to Sylvania Wilderness. Join other paddling women for trail & campsite maintenance in pristine wilderness, jewel-like lakes & primeval woods. \$90 with your canoe; \$141 with canoe rental. Kate Cunningham, 502-339-1381, kate.cunningham@juno.com; Sherry Zoars, 906-358-1110, thezoars@excite.com. Include your name & where you read the announcement.

5/24 SEMG Raisin River Wilderness Canoe. 8:30am. The "crookedest" river in MI. Gentle 4-5 hour float through forests, millpond to downtown Manchester. Some canoe experience necessary. Bring river lunch; meet in Livonia between WalMart & Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96. \$18 fee required by 5/12. Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI. 48125. 313-562-1873.

5/24-6/1 CUP [E] Remote Advanced-level Backpacking: 17th Annual Canadian Backpacking Expedition, Lake Superior Provincial Park (Wawa, Ontario). Very strenuous, non-basecamp, deep-water river fords, no hiking trails: 100% bushwhack, jeep trails, RR grade. 9 days from Lake Superior, up & across Sand River to Calvin Falls & Lady Evelyn Falls, on to Agawa Canyon & never-visited Parch Creek Falls. Return via ACR bush train. Instruction in tarp rigging, land navigation & trout fishing with survival rig. Must be: 18, non-smoker, very experienced backpacker (5 trips in last 3 years), very physically fit (good stamina), swimmer, adventurous & fully equipped, including bivouac gear, stove & 10-day ration load. 8am Sat to mid-day Sun. \$20 plus permits, train fare, fishing license. Info at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com, 906-226-9620.

5/31 SEMG Basic Backpacking Seminar. 10am-2pm. See details on page 18.



Top: Falls on the Presque Isle River near the campground. Bottom: Doug Welker operates a brush mower on the North Country Trail.



PHOTOS: RALPH POWELL

Working Michigan Wilderness: Making Our Trails Visible Again

by Ralph Powell, Chapter Outings Chair

Staying on our trails can be a real challenge—even in our state parks and national forests—when the less traveled sections become overgrown and the forested areas disappear among the trees. The trails can then become a problem for hikers... but not for long. With overgrown trails comes a great opportunity for trail rebuilders, among them our own Sierra Club members, whose work to rebuild Michigan's trails have recently led to great experiences in two of our state's most popular parks.

This year, Club members revisited trail sections in need of help in Wilderness State Park, but they also took time to explore the stunning beaches and beautiful sunsets on Lake Michigan. Since the construction of a new section of the North Country Trail, the Club continues to enjoy the use of a separate organization camp with private beach access (showers are still available at the regular campground). In the past, the Sierra Club trail rebuilders participated in a variety of projects at Wilderness State Park, including building boardwalks, painting bridges, putting in posts and signs, and clearing windblown trails.

The other Club trip this past summer revisited a section of the North Country Trail. This section—created on an earlier trip to the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park, on Lake Superior—received rebuilding help from five participants who traveled about 600 miles, joining two veterans of the northlands to redefine a neglected section of trail. Some of the tasks at hand: cutting back a few trees, placing logs and available materials along the trail, and using a brush mower to define the trail. As the project drew to a close, two veteran backpackers arrived and were glad to hear they had five miles of freshly refurbished trail to follow to their campground. The week's activity was not all work, however. Club members spent several days enjoying the area's many waterfalls. Back at camp each evening, trail rebuilders enjoyed great food prepared by a gourmet cook with experience on national trips.

Members of both trail rebuilds survived handsomely on \$10 per day (food costs). Camping was free.

Taking Action Your Words Count!

Get your free copy of "A Citizen's Guide To State Government" to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Rick Johnson at 517-373-1747, mention that you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask him to send you a copy!

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Resources for Activists

Sierra Club National Legislative Hotline: 202-675-2394

- **ENVIRO-MICH** is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, e-mail majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).
- **Sierra Club's National Website** is at: www.sierraclub.org. Check out the daily *War on the Environment* postings.
- **Visit our Mackinac Chapter Website:** <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>
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CALLING ALL CALLIGRAPHERS Do you enjoy calligraphy or want to practice your creative style? If so, please contact Julie at 989-539-1676 or e-mail soaringbuteos@msn.com.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS needed to work in the Lansing Sierra Club office. Call Kathy Boutin-Pasterz at 517-484-2372.



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THANK YOU EARTH SHARE DONORS! We wish to thank the all of the individuals who support our work each year through payroll deduction via Earth Share of Michigan. Sierra Club Foundation-Mackinac Chapter is a founding member of Earth Share of Michigan, a federation of the nation's most respected environmental and conservation charities.

If you have just completed your annual payroll deduction campaign at work, and Earth Share of Michigan was not listed as an option, please call Sarah Baker at 269-383-6247 or the Earth Share of Michigan office at 1-800-386-3326. They will be glad to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support Sierra Club Foundation-Mackinac Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work.

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PHOTO: ANNE WOIWODE

Mackinac Chapter volunteer Tim Flynn shows computer mapping capabilities which allow GPS input to map aspen.

Tim Flynn Awarded Environmentalist of the Year

by Marvin Roberson, Forestry Policy Specialist

The Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter's highest award, Environmentalist of the Year, is normally reserved for individuals outside of the Club who have achieved exemplary accomplishments on behalf of the environment. In 2002, however, the Chapter decided to recognize the long-term, outstanding accomplishments of one of our own: Tim Flynn.

Tim has been involved with the Club for more than a decade in a number of capacities. He has been Chapter Forest Chair, Chapter Conservation Chair and representative to the Midwest Regional Conservation Committee. He is also a founder of the Mackinac Forest Council, a northern Michigan forest activist group.

The majority of Tim's work has been as a forest activist, where he has changed the way public lands agencies in Michigan do business. For more than ten years, Tim has pressured the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a genuine Old-Growth system on state forest lands, culminating in over a year of (in Tim's own words) "mind-numbing meetings" with a wide variety of interest groups to finalize the designation process. He also led the successful efforts to have the state DNR meet-

ings where forest management decisions are made opened to the public for input.

On the National Forest side of things, Tim has been at the forefront of Old-Growth protection. For the Huron-Manistee National Forest, Tim spent countless hours creating potential old-growth maps. In addition, he has been at the cutting edge of utilizing new technologies in forest activism. By using a combination of Geographic Information System computer mapping and spreadsheet software, Tim has been able to track and predict trends in forest management, often ahead of the agencies.

All in all, Tim Flynn is a major reason that Michigan is in the forefront of forest protection nationwide, and we congratulate him on his being named the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter's Environmentalist of the Year.

Visit the Mackinac Chapter web site at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org> for a complete list of 2002 award winners.

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