TheMackinac

OUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF MICHIGAN'S SIERRA CLUB • SPRING 2007

Water Sentinel Lynn Henning is working to stop animal factories from polluting our water.

You, too, can be a Catalyst for Change





Inside:

- Michigan leaders who make our environmental goals a reality
- Cracking Down on CAFOs
- It's never too early to register for the Autumn Retreat!

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TheMackinac

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Thank You to Our Donors; Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council



OntheCover Pasture-raised livestock are a sustainable alternative to polluting animal factories in Michigan. Michigan activists are leading the way with new technologies to bring animal factories into compliance with environmental laws.

FromtheChair

Catalysts for Change

VOLUNTEER AND CHANGE MICHIGAN: CLEANER WATER, HEALTHIER ENERGY, PROTECTED WILD PLACES by Jean Gramlich, Chair, Michigan Chapter

What intense, exhilarating and frightening times we live in! Through a concatenation of events and forces we Sierra Clubbers are poised to have great influence locally and nationally on a number of issues, especially energy. Many members have been working in the trenches for years with only small rewards but have continued to toil on anyway. Now the general public seems aroused and ready to act to end the dangerous environmental destruction that is all around us and threatens the earth itself.

Our members work on many fronts, and we are forming new coalitions and rejuvenating old alliances to advance our causes. We have teamed up with citizen groups representing residents and hunters and anglers in the UP to oppose potentially hazardous sulfide mining. Anglers have been our allies in protecting the pristine Au Sable River. Citizens affected by factory farms have joined with us to fight this source of air and water pollution, and a skilled media specialist produced an excellent video we have used to educate legislators on this issue.

Sierra Club is a grassroots organization in which individuals can make a huge difference. Our political activism is finally paying off. Last November voters changed the complexion of the Congress and our Michigan legislature as well as local governing bodies. Our group and chapter Political Committees worked hard under Sue Kelly's leadership to endorse candidates and then help them get elected by contributing money, knocking on doors and phoning members. We had some notable successes. The Legislative Committee and citizen lobbyists have visited with legislators to educate them on our issues, and we have become powerful enough that legislators really care about our scorecard. Members of the Mackinac Action Network send emails and letters to

legislators and newspapers at crucial times in the legislative process.

Members are working to get their cities to sign on to become a "cool city" and then to follow up and make sure being a cool city isn't just a slogan. Congratulations to new Executive Committee member Tom Karas and the Traverse Group for getting Traverse City to sign on, to HVG in Ann Arbor and to Anna Holden and Ed McArdle and others in SEMG for recruiting cities on the Woodward Corridor.

Energy policy is the Sierra Club's number one national priority, and the urgent necessity both to reduce usage through conservation and to find and develop alternative renewable resources is particularly salient for the Great Lakes State and the Motor City. We know the hazards of the old ways of producing energy: the rape of the earth of coal production and air pollution from its combustion; the desecration of pristine areas for oil wells and the ocean spills and greenhouse gases; nuclear power plants and their potential for disaster as well as hazardous wastes. We must carefully consider the consequences, intended and otherwise, of using renewable resources, especially biomass. Corn-based ethanol has some serious drawbacks, including the fact that corn used for fuel cannot be used for food. (The price of tortillas, a staple food for the poor of Mexico, has at least doubled partly due to our use of corn as fuel.) Biomass removed from the earth must be replaced to maintain fertility, and we all know that petroleumbased fertilizers are not the answer.

So, my fellow members, the earth needs all of us to work together and be catalysts for change. Participate in your Sierra Club at the local, state and national levels.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair, at jean.gramlich@ michigan.sierraclub.org.

Water Sentinels Project Director Rita Jack and CAFO Water Sentinel Lynn Henning take a moment to smile for the camera during a recent day at the Capitol.



IntheSpotlight

We Couldn't Do It Without You

SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS IMPROVE MICHIGAN'S ENVIRONMENT EVERY DAY

by Anne Woiwode, Director, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

Protecting your community, the wild places we all love, and the future of the planet has been the work of Sierra Club members for generations. Success depends not just on hard work; it depends on working smarter. All the time.

One shining example in 2006 was that Sierra Club engaged more than 1000 volunteers in the elections in Michigan, using new techniques that helped us understand more about both the voters and the candidates. Sierra Club volunteers helped shape state and local elections in communities across the state, and the echo of that work will show up in real changes to protect our environment in the coming years. Doing our work better every day is the hallmark of the Sierra Club activist.

The dedication and creativity of an array of remarkable Sierra Club leaders help us take on both new and old threats. Sierra Club innovators evolve our work to keep up with the science, technology and policy changes that influence protection of our Doing our work better every day is the hallmark of the Sierra Club activist.

The dedication and creativity of an array of remarkable Sierra Club leaders help us take on both new and old threats.

world. These innovators continue to learn and adapt Sierra Club's way of doing business to improve the organization's effectiveness: they help us get our work done faster and more effectively. In this issue of *The Mackinac*, we want to highlight just a few of the Michigan Chapter's Catalysts for Change. We invite you to follow their examples. And, so, if while browsing through this early Spring issue you see a project or subject about which you could lend your expertise or energy, please contact us.

Peter Wege Makes Waves

WESTERN MICHIGAN PHILANTHROPIST TURNS HIS PASSION FOR THE GREAT LAKES INTO ACTIONS TO PROTECT THEM

by Jan O'Connell, Vice President, Sierra Club Board of Directors

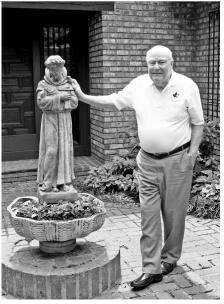
H e's an ecological visionary, a supporter for the betterment of his community, and a man with a commitment to health issues and the environment so strong that he is driven daily to find and support projects that make a true difference in our lives. This is Peter Wege.

Wege, who lives in East Grand Rapids, through the years has quietly given financial support to myriad community, health and environmental issues and causes. For forty years the Wege Foundation, of which Peter Wege is president, has supported issues that make a difference. The foundation has granted \$4 million to restoring the Great Lakes, and Wege himself has contributed \$1 million of his own money.

His unmatched passion to protect the Great Lakes has been at the forefront of his philanthropism. In 2003, Wege began

searching for a comprehensive plan to save and protect our Great Lakes. He came up with what he called the Magna Carta for the Great Lakes Restoration. Through his Wege Foundation, this turned into the Healing Our Waters (HOW) group, which today is made up of over 80 groups working in unison to protect and restore the Great Lakes. HOW works to advance action among all of its participating groups, as well as communities, legislators and governmental agencies.

Wege has received numerous awards from various organizations, among them the Grand Rapids Medical Hall of Fame (2000), Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids Good Samaritan Award (2000), Boy Scouts of America: Distinguished Service Award (2001), Michigan United Conservation Clubs: Conservationist of the Year



Peter Wege

(2002), Neighborhood Business Alliance Award (2002), Michigan Environmental Council: Environmental Achievement Award (2002) and the Sierra Club's Environmentalist of the Year (2005).

Peter M. Wege, now 87, just keeps on going. "I still have so much to do," he says.

Lighthawk Pilot Provides Needed Ammo to Fight Pollution

AERIAL PHOTOS CAPTURE ILLEGAL ANIMAL FACTORY WASTE LAGOON

by Anne Woiwode, Director, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

I hrough sheer determination, hard work and self-education, Lynn Henning has dramatically changed our understanding of the sources and causes of water and air contamination from animal factories. As the Michigan Chapter's CAFO Water Sentinel and an active member of Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM), Lynn has worked tirelessly and fearlessly, using her knowledge as a farmer, collecting and analyzing information, asking questions and trying out ideas to understand and explain what is going on with these massive, concentrated livestock operations.

Lynn's work connects the dots to pinpoint the likely sources of pollution from CAFOs throughout lower Michigan. Using publicly available information, including maps and satellite photos, first-hand observations, reports from neighbors, air and water testing, and photographs, Lynn "lays out" operations suspected of polluting. Waste lagoons next to wetlands, improper drains connected to streams, flawed design and construction of barns and lagoons, and over-application of wastes are among the likely sources of water and air contamination. Even the best information, however, still requires an overstretched, underfunded Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff to come out and catch the polluters in order for enforcement actions to take place. And even then, limited resources within the Attorney General's office, weak laws and the unpredictability of the courts can mean polluters are not held accountable nor forced to clean up their messes.

However, a new tool recently added to this mix has helped speed up the cleanup. Overflights by a volunteer pilot with Lighthawk allowed a photographer with ECCSCM to take hundreds of photos showing clearly an unfolding disaster at the Vreba Hoff Dairy LLC near Hudson. Lighthawk describes itself as "championing environmental protection through the unique perspective of flight" and has a long history of work in the western United States. Lynn's in-depth knowledge allowed her to quickly point out to officials obvious violations of the state's consent judgment with the massive concentrated

dairy operation, including the apparent dumping of raw animal wastes on a composting pad. Other photos clearly documented the construction of a massive, unauthorized waste storage structure in the middle of wetlands as Vreba Hoff as the waste handling situation deteriorated. On January 19, MDEQ and the Attorney General filed a contempt of court citation against Vreba Hoff Dairy LLC for violating the outstanding consent judgment.

Aerial photographs by Lighthawk and ECCSCM helped document violations by Vreba Hoff Dairy LLC in Lenawee County, including the unauthorized construction of an animal waste lagoon in late December.



IntheSpotlight

Traverse City a Cool City

HOW ONE SIERRA CLUB MEMBER GOT HIS HOMETOWN TO CURB GLOBAL WARMING EMISSIONS by Tom Karas

Editor's note: We asked one of our Cataylsts for Change, Tom Karas, to write about his experience turning Traverse City into a Cool City. His story shows that one person has the power to bring about positive environmental change. On January 15, 2007, the Traverse City Commission unanimously approved joining the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement after four months of studying the agreement and its implications. In their approval they made specific reference to taking direct action to begin the process of a carbon emission inventory. A single letter from Tom Karas instigated this governmental recognition of global warming as a serious environmental problem and the active role that government should play in reducing carbon.

Watched "An Inconvenient Truth" in July at the Traverse City Film Festival. As an environmentalist you just cannot help but be moved to some sort of action after witnessing that presentation of factual data. I went home and went to the movie's website, www.climatecrisis.net, and clicked on the Take Action tab. From here I learned about the mayors agreement and my own Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" efforts to promote and implement this program in as many cities as possible. I am a Sierra Club member because I appreciate the grassroots nature the club promotes. It didn't take long to make a plan to act locally.

The U.S. Mayors Protection Agreement is a grassroots effort itself. Started by Mayor Mike Nichols in Seattle as a response to the lack of federal recognition and action on global warming, it calls for mayors to pledge to cut their cities carbon emissions to 7% less than the levels of 1990. This benchmark is essentially the goal set forth by the Kyoto Protocol, and realistically can only be achieved by way of a carbon emission inventory. Between the websites for Cool Cities and the Mayors Agreement, I was able to submit plenty of credible information and strategies to my city officials for them to make an informed decision to join this brave

progressive coalition of small governmental units that recognize their responsibility to act upon the greatest environmental challenge of our time.

The Cool Cities program is designed to help cities in their efforts to achieve the goals of the mayor's agreement. And it also contains a vehicle to increase public awareness and education of global warming. The Traverse Group of the Sierra Club will be at the forefront in promoting responsible energy consumption and climate change education at our local level.

Mayor Nichols began this effort as just one mayor in one city. Traverse City is city number 347 because of one letter. One person can make a difference, and acting

> locally is what Sierra Club is all about. Is your city next?



To learn more or get involved, please contact Tom Karas at logman39@ hotmail.com.

SO, YOU THINK YOUR CITY IS COOL?

MICHIGAN'S COOL CITIES ARE COMMITTED TO STOPPING GLOBAL WARMING by Leigh Fifelski

ichigan Sierra Club members are working hard to ensure their cities are listed as a Sierra Club Cool City. Southfield, Ferndale, Berkley, Grand Rapids, and Traverse City are considered Sierra Club Cool Cities because their mayors have signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. By signing the agreement, mayors pledge to reduce global warming emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. Other cities are taking steps to meet this agreement as well, though their mayors have not yet signed on.

To further this effort, the Chapter and the Building Environmental Communities Oakland County office partnered with Transportation Riders United (TRU) to host a

January workshop—Solve Global Warming One City at a Time—where people from communities across southern Michigan learned how to help reduce global warming emissions in their cities. Speakers included Sarah Popp of The Center for Sustainable Systems, Leigh Fifelski from Sierra Club's Oakland County Office, David Wright from Ann Arbor's Energy Commission, and Megan Owens from TRU. Committees formed in the cities represented at the workshop are working diligently to make sure their city is added to the list.

To find out more about the Cool Cities campaign or to see if your city has organized activists, go to www. coolcities.us, or call 248-435-5277.

PhotoContest

2006 Winners!

T he Mackinac Editorial Board sifted through nearly 100 entries to come up with the winners for the 2006 Mackinac Photo Contest. Winners' names and the captions for their photos are below. Honorable mentions go to David Lessens, Don Spezia, Joel Dalton, Katherine Payant, and Marvin Graves.

Thank you to everyone who participated, and keep an eye out for future editions of *The Mackinac*—we may run your photo! Check out our summer issue for details about the 2007 Mackinac Photo Contest, and keep your cameras at the ready.

Clockwise from left: Ken Arseneau wins the Activists in Action category with his photo of Dave Allen (L) and John Rebers (R) along the Yellow Dog River at a Water Sentinels Monitoring Site; Mark **Schutte** ties for first place in the *Nature Close-Up* category with his photo of a chipmunk at a remote lake in the central U.P.; Ann O'Hagan ties for first place in the Nature Close-Up category with her photo of a Trillium in Montebeller Park, Ypsilanti; and John **Rebers** wins the *Michigan Shorelines* category with his photo of Grand Portal Point in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.









Engaging Citizens in Democracy

Citizen Lobbyists Gear Up for the New Legislative Session

by Gayle Miller, Legislative Program Coordinator

G et ready! The 2007 legislative session promises to be downright exciting! With Democrats in control of the House, Republicans ruling the Senate and a totally new leadership line-up, the Capitol should be very interesting this year.

Sierra Club hit the ground running at the start of the session by participating in the Michigan Environmental Council's Legislative Breakfast on January 31. The breakfast is an annual event, designed to introduce the state's environmental community to the newly seated legislature. Volunteers and staff from more than 35 environmental organizations were on hand to meet and greet legislators and their staff. In all, more than 200 people packed the Mackinac Room at the House Office Building in Lansing.

Sierra Club put out a call for ten citizen lobbyists to attend the breakfast and represent the Sierra Club. Twenty-five responded! Within days, appointments were scheduled with more than 50 legislators or aides. During the course of the day, many valuable conversations took place about the Sierra Club's top legislative priorities: animal factories and renewable energy.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

LOBBY DAY IS APRIL 25

Join the Sierra Club as we storm the Capitol on April 25 for our Spring Lobby Day! Lobby Day is a fun and exhilarating way to make a difference. The Sierra Club's ever expanding Citizen Lobby Corps includes more than 200 members and friends who understand that the only skill good lobbyists need is the ability and desire to talk to people.

Lobby Day participants receive packets of information on our focus issues in advance of the event. A little reading and a preparatory phone call helps our lobby teams get ready to go. During the day, teams of two to three lobbyists will meet with over 110 legislators and aides. New citizen lobbyists will always be paired with an experienced Lead Lobbyist, who will "carry the ball" until you feel ready to jump in. Even if all you want to do is sit in and listen the first time around, we'd love to have you!

To sign up for Lobby Day, send an email with your name, address, and phone number to gayle.miller@sierraclub.org, or call us at 517-484-2372. An \$8 fee covers lunch. Be part of a day you'll remember!

TOP PRIORITIES

The Sierra Club's Energy Committee has been hard at work over the last few months meeting with coalition partners to hammer out the details of our legislative agenda on energy. The Sierra Club, along with Michigan Environmental Council, Clean Water Action, League of Conservation Voters, Environment Michigan, Ecology Center and others are calling for a Renewable Energy Portfolio of 20% by 2020. That means that the state's energy providers (Consumers Energy, DTE, etc.) would be required to use at least 20% renewable energy sources (wind, solar, clean biomass, etc.) by the year 2020.

In addition, the energy agenda will call for a publicly funded energy efficiency program of \$60 million. This initiative would require all energy providers to fund programs to help residents, businesses and industrial facilities be more efficient. By increasing energy efficiency, the state will avoid exporting dollars out of the state to import fuels (mainly coal). Instead, more money will remain in Michigan, flowing to small businesses that provide energy efficiency services, such as replacement window installers, contractors and lighting experts.

Passing better laws to regulate concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs or animal factories) is also at the top of the Sierra Club's legislative agenda. (See *Animal Factory Caught In The Act*, p. 13) Many of Michigan's animal factories are in crisis mode this winter, with full sewage lagoons and improper disposal of waste. Severe pollution discharges by the Vreba Hoff dairy CAFOs in Lenawee County have served to catapult the CAFO issue into the limelight of Lansing.

Sierra Club staff will be working once again to get critical issues front and center at the Capitol. Last year we were able to kill a package of bills that would have further deregulated CAFOs. This year, the challenge will be to not only keep bad bills from gaining traction, but to move good bills through both the Democratic House and Republican Senate and onto the governor's desk.

Over the next two-year session, we'll also be working on closing the bottled water loophole, environmental justice, transportation, environmental education, stopping trash imports and much more.

The changing political landscape in Lansing opens new doors



for gaining back environmental protections lost over the last decade and moving other issues forward for the first time. With all of us pushing relentlessly, we may very well be able to force and keep all those doors open.

To learn more or get involved, please contact Gayle Millerat gayle.miller@ sierraclub.org.

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Michigan's 21st Century Energy Plan

GRANHOLM'S "FLEDGLING STEP" DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH

by Anna Holden, Chair, Chapter Conservation Committee

S ierra Club joined 14 environmental, faith-based, and conservation groups January 31 to call the Michigan Public Service Commission's (MPSC) 21st Century Energy Plan (CEP) "a fledging step" toward the bold plan needed. Chairman Peter Lark's proposal is a response to the governor's April 2006 Executive Directive asking for clean, safe, reliable and affordable power that would also protect natural resources and foster the growth of alternative energy sources.

Sierra Club wants a much more forward-looking policy with more dollars for energy efficiency programs, higher target goals for homegrown wind and solar power, upgraded appliance and building code efficiency standards, and a separate fund for shutoff protection and efficiency assistance to low-income families. The Sierra Club also disagrees with the CEP's provision for a new baseload "traditional" power plant (read coal or nuclear), rather than supplying future energy demand from stepped up conservation and renewables. Sierra Club supports starting statewide utility funded efficiency programs at \$146 million per year for electricity and \$60 million per

year for natural gas. Sierra Club's target goal for a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is 13% renewable energy by 2015 and 20% by 2020.

Clean, renewable power and aggressive utility-funded efficiency programs can supply energy needs in the near future without building new coal or nuclear plants. Michigan is lagging behind a number of progressive states including Wisconsin and New York that have RPS standards in place and are funding statewide energy efficiency programs. New York's goal for renewable resources is 25% of its electricity by 2013.

Now is the time to persuade Governor Granholm and the Michigan legislature to ramp up the 21st Century Plan. You can contact the governor at debeld@michigan.gov to ask for higher levels of funding for energy efficiency and a higher renewable energy standard.

To get involved in the Chapter Energy Subcommittee, e-mail Anna Holden at anna. holden@michigan.sierraclub.org. To support effective energy legislation contact Lydia Fischer, Chapter Legislative Subcommittee at lydfisch@mindspring.com or Gayle Miller at qayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Subscribe to the Citizen Watchdog

MONTHLY UPDATES DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX

The Michigan Sierra Club Legislative Program now publishes a monthly e-newsletter. This is our way to keep you informed about important legislative initiatives that affect the environment. Sierra Club members and citizen lobbyists receive short, educational articles as well as opportunities for action. To become a Citizen Watchdog, sign up for the Mackinac Action Network at www.mackinac.sierraclubaction.org.

DISTRICT WATCHDOGS

IN-DISTRICT LOBBY LEADERS NEEDED!

ne of the Legislative Committee's goals this year is to expand our District Watchdog program. Watchdogs agree to be in-district Lobby Leaders, scheduling one or two meetings per year with your legislator and other Sierra Club members from your district. We also may ask for your help if your representative or senator needs a little push on an important vote.

This program allows you to help the Sierra Club build relationships with legislators without going far from home. In-district meetings can take place in someone's house or a community meeting space. Unlike the faster-paced lobbying at the Capitol, in-district meetings are generally relaxed and unhurried. Many legislators prefer these meetings, as it gives them the opportunity to meet their constituents.

Meeting with your legislator can be both fun and rewarding. Even if you've never lobbied before, it may be the perfect job for you!

To learn more about our District Watchdog Program, contact Gayle Miller at 517-484-2372, gayle. miller@sierraclub. org, or Lydia Fisher, lydfisch@mindspring.com.

GreatForests, WildPlaces

Gray Wolf Delisted from Federal Endangered Species Act

SIERRA CLUB HELPS GUIDE WOLF MANAGEMENT IN MICHIGAN TO PREVENT FUTURE PROBLEMS by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

n Tuesday, January 30, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) delisted the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) from the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The wolf, once hunted to extinction in the state, has made great rebounds since 1990, when the wolves first reappeared in the state.

Wolves expanded naturally from large populations in Minnesota and now number over 450 animals, far in excess of the recovery goal stated in the federal recovery plan. Though the wolf will still be listed as "threatened" under the Michigan ESA, delisting from the federal ESA means that

primary management responsibility will now fall to the state.

Proposals for state level wolf management has been extremely controversial in some western states, where proposals to kill off as many as 80% of the wolves have met with serious resistance. These plans, and the outrage over them, are a clear indication that the existence of wolves at all is still an extremely controversial issue.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recognized this controversy, and acted wisely to minimize it here. Well before the federal decision to delist the wolf in Michigan, the DNR con-

The alpha male (right) and alpha female (left) of Isle Royale's east wolf pack.



vened a Wolf Management Roundtable to make management recommendations. This group consisted of livestock growers, hunters, environmentalists (I represented the Sierra Club on the Roundtable), hound hunters, Native American tribes and local governmental units.

The thinking behind the roundtable was that if all the groups could agree on many recommendations, then those recommendations would likely be acceptable to most of the public as well. The process was consensus-based: only if everyone at the table agreed could a recommendation move forward. And, much to the surprise of many in the group (including myself), consensus was reached on most issues, including a major issue of population management. The roundtable agreed that there should be no "target" number, but that wolves should be managed only to prevent problems (livestock or pet attacks, for example).

The major issue that was not resolved during the roundtable was hunting. While plans for a wolf season do not exist at this point, some groups were adamant that hunting of wolves be allowed. Others, however, were just as adamant that wolf hunting not be allowed, including the Sierra Club. One significant reason the Club is so opposed to wolf hunting is the extremely important place the wolf holds in Native American spiritual traditions in this area (see article on page 11).

We are glad to see this magnificent animal make such a comeback in the state, and we applaud the DNR for having the foresight to convene the Wolf Manage-

ment Roundtable.



To learn more or get involved, please contact Marvin Roberson at marvin. roberson@sierraclub.org.

Maahiingun and Nanaboozhoo

UNDERSTANDING THE WOLF'S IMPORTANCE TO NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS

by Jimmie Mitchell, Director of Natural Resources, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

N anaboozhoo (half man/half spirit) was placed on the Earth at the beginning of time and given instructions by Gzhemnidoo (the Creator) and told to walk the Earth to name the plants, animals, insects and the entirety of everything that comprised the world of his time.

Throughout his travels, Nanaboozhoo began to notice that the animals he was tasked to name came in pairs and also had the ability to repopulate their species. Seeing the various animal families throughout all of creation, Nanaboozhoo became lonely, and so he spoke of his feelings to Gzhemnidoo and asked, "Why is there no other like me?" Gzhemnidoo answered, "I will bring you someone to walk, talk and play with," and in his infinite wisdom, Gzhemnidoo sent Maahiingun (the wolf) to be with Nanaboozhoo, and together they set out to complete the task that Gzhemnidoo had asked.

"It is our belief as Indian people that our ability to foretell our future is evident by looking at the wolf, who remains one of the most significant cultural indicators to our continued existence."

In their journey, they became very close to each other, like brothers. It was through this closeness that they soon come to realize that they were also brothers to all of Creation.

Once they had finally completed the task that Gzhemnidoo asked of them, they talked with the Creator once again. Gzhemnidoo was pleased with what he heard but this time Creator curiously replied "From this day on, you are to separate and go different ways. What happens to one of you will also happen to the other. You will be feared by some, respected by others but misunderstood by all of the people who will come to inhabit these lands."

Reluctantly, Maahiingun and Nanaboozhoo set off on their different journeys, their shared sadness evident by Maahiingun's cry that can still be heard wherever the wolf still roams the Earth on his separate journey.

The teachings of Nanaboozhoo and Maahiingun serve as an important reminder for Indian People to this day. All of what Gzhemnidoo said to Nanaboozhoo and Maahiingun has come true. Indian and Maahiingun have come to experience the same things, both the good and the bad that life has to offer. Both take a mate for life, have a Clan System and also are part of a Tribe.



Both have been stripped of their land and hunted for their skin. Both have been pushed to the brink of extinction yet somehow miraculously survive to this day.

It is our belief as Indian people that our ability to foretell our future is evident by looking at the wolf, who remains one of the most significant cultural indicators to our continued existence.

Story compiled from the combined wisdom of my Elders.

Clean&HealthyGreatLakes

Do You Like Splashing in Michigan's Streams?

LET US TEACH YOU HOW TO FIND AQUATIC BUGS AND PROTECT MICHIGAN'S WATER

by Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Director

T's still winter, but the Water Sentinels are preparing for spring water monitoring season during late April to May in several Michigan streams. Details are available at www.Michigan. sierraclub.org. We need your help, but know that you'll receive free training, a t-shirt, and enjoy great company!

Water Sentinels monitor water by collecting, identifying and counting aquatic bugs—their presence, kind, and abundance offer key information about stream quality. Certain aquatic bugs can live only in clean water, while some tolerate pollution very well. We use our information to advocate for protection of Michigan's waters.

PINE RIVER

Spring marks our sixth year monitoring the Pine, and this fall is the Third Annual Pine River Community Cleanup. Come to the Middle of the Mitten in Gratiot County if you'd like to help! This is an important year for the Pine and the Superfund site in St. Louis: we're nearing decision time. Will the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) choose to remove all chemicals from the ground beneath the old chemical plant site? With your help and advocacy, we will convince them to do just that. Citizens in the City of St. Louis deserve a full cleanup. They've dealt with the pollution stigma long enough.

MARQUETTE COUNTY AND MENOMINEE COUNTY

Water Sentinels will travel to Marquette and Menominee counties this May to monitor streams threatened by possible future sulfide mining. (See related article, page 14.) The Yellow Dog Sentinels and the Shakey Water Sentinels perform baseline water monitoring, including gathering and counting aquatic bugs, and measuring some basic parameters like dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and water flow. This project requires a bit more work due to limited car access to some sites, but it's a beautiful walk and well worth the work!

HURON COUNTY

Our Bad Axe High School Pinnebog River Sentinels are monitoring water this May, too. Some of these teens have been with us throughout their high school careers. Streams in Huron County need your help. They are stressed by agricultural crops and concentrated animal feeding operations, as well as the dredging of county drains and wastewater treatment plant problems. Pinnebog River Sentinels gather aquatic bugs and do some basic water testing. This spring marks their eighth monitoring session, and the project may expand this year to include several other Huron County schools!

Contact Rita Jack to assist in the water monitoring or river cleanup projects at rita.jack@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.

Left: As Linda Warren looks on, Adrian Konell tips up a rock to look for aquatic macroinvertebrates (bugs and other water critters) in Boerner Creek, Menominee County. Right: Water Sentinels volunteer Joe Bohr identifies bugs collected at a number of sites in the past year.





CUTS IN FUNDING THREATEN MICHIGAN'S FUTURE

The fiscal crisis facing Michigan threatens to undercut the state's environmental and conservation infrastructure. The legislature's elimination of the Single Business Tax cuts state revenue by \$2 billion per year. In this fiscal year, that translates to a revenue shortfall of \$900 million. Consider the following:

- Since 2001 Environmental Quality and Agriculture has dropped 57%.
- State government employs fewer people than it has since the early 1970s.
- Since 2001 the state has used almost \$7 billion of "one time" revenue reserves to prop up programs. The reserves are now gone.
- Virtually all of the fee programs that provide significant funding for environmental and conservation programs are falling short or expiring, leaving an even greater hole in funding for coming years.

Governor Granholm and the state legislature will be grappling with this situation over the next few months. Our environmental and conservation programs depend on having sufficient funds to fulfil their missions. Those who care about Michigan's environment need to speak up in support of fully funding the future of our state.

Animal Factory Caught In The Act

by Anne Woiwode, Director, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

n January 19, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEO) and the Michigan Attorney General brought a contempt of court motion against the Vreba Hoff Dairy LLC near Hudson for violation of a consent judgment signed in 2004. "This agency acted in good faith when it entered into the Consent Judgment with Vreba Hoff, and had the clear expectation that the company would live up to its commitment to protect the environment," said MDEQ director Steven E. Chester. That commitment has yet to happen. Sierra Club and Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM) provided documentation of violations, including aerial photographs showing full lagoons in late December, and the unauthorized construction and transport of waste to a massive waste pit in the middle of wetlands, miles from the operation's two production areas. While the state's action against Vreba Hoff was welcomed by neighbors, their efforts to force immediate relief have been held up due to court delays.

MDEQ ordered immediate inspections of more than 60 large CAFOs around the state. Michigan standards call for CAFOs to have six months of storage for animal sewage by the beginning of December, and several additional CAFOs are expected to be cited by MDEQ following this winter's emergency inspections.

Meanwhile, the Lenawee County Commission is calling for Michigan to "institute a moratorium on construction" until the state adopts "measures to adequately regulate CAFOs to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Michigan." The January 10 resolution urges pollution bonds, on-site waste water treatment similar to that required for cities, and requires building and use permits from local governments.

ECCSCM joined the commission in

calling for a moratorium in letters sent to legislators, MDEQ and Michigan Dairy Association. ECCSCM also called for a halt in new construction of CAFOs and lagoons, mandatory groundwater permits and well monitoring, waste limits within watersheds, enforceable regulations, and effective waste treatment.

A proposed 5,000–head dairy CAFO in Ogden Township and a proposed expansion of at least five existing CAFOs prompted Lenawee commissioners to take action. The proposed facility would be another Vreba Hoff–affiliated operation, motivated in part by a planned ethanol plant nearby. This proposal has drawn fierce opposition from the local Farm Bureau.

The MDEO moratorium demands will also require all CAFOs under the voluntary Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) to apply for and obtain water quality permits in 2007 to continue operations. At least 130 existing CAFOs will be affected. In contrast, since 2003 Michigan has issued fewer than 40 CAFO water quality permits. The Sierra Club and others have criticized the agency's inadequate review of environmental concerns at many operations. In January, MDEQ proposed to issue a permit for the SieMar Dairy CAFO in the Thumb. Sierra Club Water Sentinel Rita Jack submitted extensive comments documenting that the permit would allow discharge of pollutants to an impaired waterway. The state has declined to settle Sierra Club's litigation seeking enforcement of federal requirements that CAFOs provide comprehensive nutrient management plans to the public and the agency as part of the consideration of permit applications. MDEQ's resistance to this will likely mean these 130 additional permit applications will go forward with woefully inadequate information in hand to assess whether they should be granted or not.

Clean&HealthyGreatLakes

Salmon Trout River Needs Your Help!

FAULTY SULFIDE MINING PERMIT POSES SERIOUS THREAT; TELL GRANHOLM ADMINISTRATION TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER by Rita Jack

n January 9, Michigan citizens were disappointed to learn that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) gave a preliminary "yes" to grant environmental permits to Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company to mine nickel and copper from beneath the Salmon-Trout River in northern Marquette County. The badly flawed decision is not the final one, however, and Sierra Club is demanding that MDEQ follow the law and deny these permits. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is also being urged to deny a land use permit Kennecott would need to implement this proposal.

The MDEQ and MDNR will hold hearings on five separate permits related to the Kennecott proposal on March 6, 7, and 8 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Hearings have also been requested for Lansing. Sierra Club is urging members to provide public comment on these permits, from both technical and personal viewpoints. The comment period for the three MDEQ permits ends on April 5, while the MDNR will consider the application for land use only after all other approvals are received. Updated information and Sierra Club's comments will be posted at the Chapter website, www.michigan. sierraclub.org/mining.shtml.

KENNECOTT'S MINING PERMIT APPLICATION AND MINING PLAN FATALLY FLAWED

Sierra Club contends Kennecott has failed to meet legal requirements under Michigan's new metallic mineral mining law to demonstrate the mine won't pollute, impair or destroy the natural resources of Michigan, despite thousands of pages in the application and supplements.

"This burden has clearly not been met,

and it is irresponsible do anything but reject the application and tell Kennecott to go back to the drawing board," according to Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club Forest Policy Specialist. Among greatest concerns was MDEQ's failure to require the rigorous modeling needed to determine that the crown pillar, which holds up the top of the mine, will not cave in. "The administration allowed Kennecott to skip this modeling, leaving no assurance that the mine won't cave in after Kennecott leaves," according to Roberson.

Additional substantive flaws in the Kennecott proposed permits include:

- An admission that levels of iron and nickel in surface water are "likely to be higher than drinking water standards," in violation of the regulations;
- Failure to submit "tables and maps clearly describing the impacts to hydrology in the area around the ore body" despite specific requests from MDEQ following the initial application;
- Failure to provide additional information MDEQ requested regarding acid generation at their rock storage facilities; and
- Failure to provide complete plans for mitigating or preventing impacts to endangered species.

"We urge the Granholm administration to take this last opportunity to do the right thing, and protect Michigan's environment, as well as the thousands of jobs that

depend on it in the UP," said Roberson.

To learn more or get involved, please contact Rita Jack at rita. jack@ sierraclub.org.

ACT NOW!

5 EASY WAYS TO HELP STOP SULFIDE MINING

- 1. TELL Governor Granholm that granting these permits is unacceptable. Tell her you expect her to champion the protection of Lake Superior, the Upper Peninsula, the Salmon Trout River, and the Yellow Dog Plains.
 - Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, Michigan 48909. 517-373-3400 or 517-335-7858; FAX 517-335-6863
- 2. SPEAK at the public hearings in Marquette March 6, 7 or 8 and state your objections to the MDEQ proposal to issue these permits. Testify against the proposed DNR land use permit.
- SEND your written comments on the Proposed
 Mining Permit Decision to
 the MDEQ. All statements
 received by 5 p.m., Thursday, April 5, 2007, will be
 considered prior to final
 action.
 - Steven E. Wilson, Kennecott Eagle Project, Office of Geological Survey, P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, MI 48909-7756; wilsonse@michigan.gov. Include "Kennecott Eagle Project comments" in the subject line of your email.
- 4. CONTACT Natural Resources Commission members and let them know this proposal would set a bad precedent and is poor use of our state's public lands. Kennecott has requested an exclusive-use

land-use permit that would fence off more than 100 acres of publicly owned state forest recreational land for 35 years.

Commissioner Mary C. Brown,1624 Grand Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Commissioner Keith J. Charters (Chair), 126 Spring Hill Road, Traverse City, MI 49686

Commissioner Hurley J. Coleman, Jr., 2405 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48602

Commissioner Darnell Earley, P.O. Box 70141, Lansing, MI 48908

Commissioner Bob Garner 7020 E. 48 Road, Cadillac. MI 49601-0984

Commissioner John Madigan, 831 W. Munising Avenue, Munisina, MI 49862

Commissioner Frank C. Wheatlake, Reed City Power Line Supply, 420 N. Roth Street, P.O. Box 147, Reed City, MI 49677

5. CONTACT DNR director
Rebecca Humphries directly.
Let her know that such a
decision could irreparably
harm the citizens and
businesses of Big Bay and
Marquette County, who
rely on tourism as their
economic driver.

Rebecca Humphries, Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Mason Bldg, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909. humphrir@michigan.gov.



A view down the shoreline along in Pictured Rocks National Park as seen by Dave Lessens, recipient of an Honorable Mention in the 2006 Michigan Chapter Photo Contest.

Protecting the Great Lakes

SC CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

by Melissa Damaschke, BEC and Great Lakes Conservation Organizer

ichigan is surrounded by the Great Lakes, one of the world's natural wonders. Many of us vacation on the water or visit it often to fish, boat and swim. We have a deep love of nature and a concern about the legacy of the Great Lakes, especially since we're seeing the lakes threatened more and more by pollutants. For example, older sewage treatment facilities are unable to accommodate heavy rains, resulting in sewage overflows. The proposed sulfide mine in the Upper Peninsula, if approved, could send toxins into Lake Superior. Agricultural waste continues to run off into Michigan's water, causing many beach closings. And, currently, 183 documented invasive species, including zebra mussels and purple loosestrife, are found in the Great Lakes, choking out the habitat of native species.

People from across the state must come together and educate our legislators about Great Lakes restoration and protection efforts. As a Great Lakes organizer for Sierra Club, I am dedicated to these waters, and I have prepared and can provide house party tool kits, presentations, fact sheets, example letters to the editor, as well as action alerts to anyone interested in getting on board. And, yes, you did read that correctly: I will need your help!

Please contact me if you are interested in protecting the Great Lakes. See what projects—large or small—you can tackle. You may want to host a house party or give a presentation to your church group, club, or community service group, or school. Or maybe you'd be happier writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper. Whatever suits your level of involvement goes a long way toward keeping our Great Lakes great!



For more information contact Melissa at melissa. damaschke@sierraclub. org, or 248-435-5277.

Members Taking Action



ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

MUCC OUTDOORAMA: FEBRUARY 21 TO 25 ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE, NOVI

Come visit the Sierra Club booth at the Michigan United Conservation Club's Outdoorama from February 21 to 25! Sportspeople from all over the United States and Canada attend and provide exhibits. This year Sierra Club will have an exhibit that provides information on state water quality issues. Please call or email Melissa, 248-435-5277, if you are interested in volunteering.

QUIET WATER SYMPOSIUM: MARCH 3 MSU AGRICULTURE PAVILION

This annual event celebrates nonmotorized out-door recreation and a concern for our Great Lakes water resources. It is also a part of Michigan State University's (MSU) Agriculture and Natural Resources Week. The symposium is March 3 at the MSU agriculture pavilion, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$8.00 (children under 12 are free). There will be speakers, demonstrations, exhibits, learning resources and more. Learn how the Sierra Club is working to keep our waters clean.

WATER SENTINELS BOOTH: MARCH 10 & 11 MIDWEST FLY FISHING EXPO

Michigan Sierra Club Water Sentinels will host a booth at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, March 10–11. The Expo will be held at Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren. The event is expected to draw 3000+ flyfishers. Expo hours are Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Chapter's 18th Annual Retreat August 24-26, 2007

SEEKING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

anted: Sierra Club members and nonmembers of all ages to participate in a weekend-long retreat. Must enjoy: Lake Michigan in beautiful natural surroundings; minimal responsibilities; nightly entertainment; sandy beaches; walks in rolling, mature woods; and more. Opportunities for outdoor skill workshops, activist seminars, or family-oriented activities. Please apply in person August 24 (pre-registration required—visit the website!).

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

David Milarch, cofounder of the Champion Tree Project, will discuss the importance of sustainability in restoring and protecting watersheds in Saturday's keynote address.

David Milarch is a fourth-generation nurseryman with over 40 years of experience in growing and supplying landscape trees for resale for the national market. The Champion Tree Project is dedicated to leading society towards sustainability by preserving, propagating and planting a living legacy of old growth forest genetics. Milarch's works has led him to genetically reproduce over 90 different species of Champion Trees, which included the Bristlecone Pine seedling, Methuselah. Milarch was named as one of the 2005 Detroit News Michiganian of the Year Award winners.

Visit www.sierraretreat.org for more info!





The White House

President George W. Bush The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20500

202-456-1414

White House fax line: 202-456-2461

White House comment line:

202-456-1111

White House email:

president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Congress

The Honorable _____ U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

or U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121

Michigan Legislature

Governor Jennifer Granholm State Capitol Lansing, MI 48909 State Capitol The Honorable _____ Michigan House or Michigan Senate 517-373-3400 Lansing, MI 48909

Resources for Activists

- Get your free copy of A Citizen's Guide To State Government to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Craig DeRoche, 517-373-0827, or Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, 517-373-0797. Tell them you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask for a copy!
- Check out the **Daily Scoop**, www.sierraclub.org/scoop, to keep up on environmental news and ways to take action.
- ENVIRO-MICH is the Michigan Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, email majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message in the body of "subscribe enviromich" (leave your signature file off).
- Visit our **Michigan Chapter Website** for updates on the issues in *The Mackinac* and to get involved: michigan.sierraclub.org.
- Email Activists Needed! Join the Sierra Club's Mackinac Action Network to receive legislative updates when critical environmental bills are up in the Michigan House and Senate. When the Sierra Club needs you most, we'll contact you via email. To respond to alerts, follow the web link, customize a suggested message to the targeted legislators, and press Send. Sign up at mackinac.sierraclubaction.org (no "www" in the address). For more information, email gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

TAKE ACTION AT MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG



Humans have a choice when it comes to protecting our water. Nature doesn't.



Join us!

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag



Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	□ \$25	
REGULAR	□ \$39	□ \$47
SUPPORTING	□ \$75	□ \$100
CONTRIBUTING	□ \$150	□ \$175
LIFE	□ \$1000	□ \$1250
SENIOR	□ \$24	□ \$32
STUDENT	□ \$24	□ \$32
LIMITED INCOME	□ \$24	□ \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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ERRA Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

GroupInfo, Meetings & Outings

utings, political & conservation activities & general 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 & everyone is welcome. If you live in an area that does not have a local group & you would like to start one, please call 517-484-2372 for more information.

In the Outings listings below, [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [T] = trail maintenance, [S] = service. Trips begin at the trailhead. Fees are a suggested donation. Outings are open to everyone. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

Up-to-the-minute outings & activities may be found on group websites or on the Mackinac Chapter website at michigan.sierraclub.org.

Chapter ExCom Meetings

APRIL 14, JULY 28 - 29, OCTOBER 20:

Contact Amanda Hightree, amanda. hightree@sierraclub.org, for details.

CG: Crossroads Group

Livingston, southern Genesee & western Oakland Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads

CHAIR: Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick. pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm on 3rd Wed, odd-numbered months. Brighton Library, 200 Orndorff Drive.

HELP WANTED: Conservation chair, outings leaders. Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick. pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org.

OUTINGS: Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464 or cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org.

CMG: Central Michigan Group

Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson & Shiawassee Counties

GROUP CHAIR: Anne-Marie Rachman,

517-336-7871 or annmarie.rachman@michigan. sierraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 3rd Mon each month, East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Rd. East Lansing, Ml. 7pm meeting.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Maria Lapinski-Lafaive, 517-374-4444 or lapinsk3@ msu.edu.

HELP WANTED: Webmaster, publicity, outings leaders, information/merchandise tables. Anne-Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871 or annmarie.rachman@michigan.sierraclub.org.

OUTINGS: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

3/25 Calling all Naturalists: Flora/Fauna Identification Walk. Dansville Game Area with MSU zoology professor emeritus Bob Peebles. Meet 1:30pm at end of Seven Gables Road. Anne-Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871.

4/22 Time for Wildflowers: Identification and Hiking at Lansing's Scott Woods/Hawk Island Parks. Meet 1:30pm at south end of Clifton St, Lansing. Bob Peebles, guide. Anne-Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871.

5/6 Waterloo Rec Area Hike. 8mi, 2.5hr hike. Pack a lunch. 1:30pm. Maria Lapinski-LaFaive, 517-351-4500.

CUPG: Central Upper Peninsula Group

Alger, Baraga, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee & Ontonagon Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/cupg.shtml

GROUP CHAIR: John Rebers, john. rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org, or 906-228-3617.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Community Room of the Peter White Library, 217 North Front Street, Marquette. General meetings are not held from June through August—join us for an outing!

3/21 Bill Ruggles – How to be a better outdoor photographer. Ruggles, a semi-professional photographer who recently moved to the Upper Peninsula, was a photographer for the Eureka Times-Standard in Oregon before moving to the UP. His work emphasizes wildlife & habitat issues. He will discuss the importance of using composition & style to tell a story.

4/11 Clayton Daughenbaugh – Utah Redrock Wilderness. Clayton, an organizer for the Utah Redrock Wilderness Coalition, will tell what Michigan residents what they can do to protect wild areas in Utah.

5/16 Community-Supported Agriculture. Learn about buying locally grown food from representatives of the Marquette Food Coop & local farmers.

OUTINGS: Join us for a Little Presque Isle cleanup or one of our other outings.

3/18 Harlow Lake Ski Trip (if we have snow). Meet 10am at gravel pit parking area opposite Wetmore's Landing. Dave Allen at 906-228-9453 for more information.

5/13-19 Women's Northwoods Service Week May. Join us to assist with research projects, plant native trees, prepare remote camp sites, &/or monitor alien invasives in native forest ecosystems. Stay at a university research station with indoor beds, showers, kitchen & dining hall. Work 4 days with 1 "layover day" to explore. Limit 8; cost \$320, including lodging & meals. Sponsored by CUP, Louisville KY group & River Prairie IL group. For details & application, contact Sherry Zoars, 906-358-1110 or thezoars@excite. com, or Kate Cunningham, 502-339-1381 or kate. cunningham@juno.com. Include your name, address, phone & where you read about the trip.

HVG: Huron Valley Group

Lenawee, Monroe & Washtenaw Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

CHAIR: Doug Cowherd, doug. cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 3rd Tue each month, 7:30pm. UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Free & open to the public.

2/20 The Death of Nature: The Impending Great Extinction of the 21st Century? Johannes Foufopoulos, Professor, School of Natural Resources & Environment, University of Michigan.

3/20 Where the Bison & Biologists Roam: Summer in Yellowstone Park. Dave Brooks.

4/17 Landscaping with Native Plants. Aunita Erskine

5/15 American Icon: Utah's Red Rock Wilderness. Clayton Daughenbaugh, Southwestern Utah Wilderness Alliance **[E] INNER CITY OUTINGS:** 2nd Sun. each month 7pm, Room 302 Halle Library, EMU campus. Inner City Outings introduces urban children in Washtenaw County to outdoor & environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners & contributors are always welcome. www.ico.sierraclub.org/washtenaw.

BOOK CLUB: 7:30pm, 2nd Tue each month. Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center, corner of Maple & Jackson, Ann Arbor. Chair: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or nancy. shiffler@michigan.sierraclub.org.

3/13 The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals, by Michael Pollan. Where do those Chicken McNuggets really come from? What about an organic meal? Read about it here.

4/10 Prairie Soul: Finding Grace in the Earth Beneath My Feet, by Jeffrey Lockwood. A collection of essays in the tradition of Aldo Leopold & Annie Dillard. Lockwood is an entomologist & nature writer from Wyoming.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 4th Mon each month, 7:00 pm. Chair: Dorothy Nordness, 734-668-6306.

OUTINGS: Chair: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823.

HVG FEATURED OUTING

Help get yourself in shape as you work on maintaining & building hiking trails this spring.

Want to help do your bit to make hiking more pleasant for everyone? If so, join Norm Roller (734-426-5737) in his trail-building & maintenance events. Huron Valley Group is sponsoring 2 of these worthwhile activities this spring, both of them at Hewenes Creek. Bring work gloves for sure & call Norm to see what else you could bring to help make the job easier.

3/18 Stinchfield Woods Hike or Ski. Ski or hike 3-4mi. Natural trail surface. Meet at City Hall entrance at 1pm. Bring your own skis if you have them. Nancy Shiffler 734-971-1157.

3/25 Waterloo Recreation Area "Secret" Hike.

3-4mi. Meet at City Hall entrance at 1 pm or WRA parking lot at 1:30. Cancelled if rain. Jay Schlegel 734-477-5715.

4/08 Crooked Lake Trail Hike. 5.1mi of woodlands & hills. Meet 1pm at City Hall entrance or 1:30 at trailhead. Ken Morley 734-678-0264.

4/22 Pinckney State Recreation Area "Secret" Hike. Leisurely 3-4mi of woodlands & hills. Meet at City Hall entrance at 1pm. Cancelled if rain.

Kathy Guerreso 734-677-0823.

4/29 Waterloo Recreation Area Hike, with possible "secret" hike. 3-4mi. Meet at City Hall entrance at 1pm or WRA parking lot at 1:30. Cancelled if rain. Jay Schlegel 734-477-5715.

5/05 Lost Nations State Game Area Hike. 2-3hrs hiking on North Country Trail & checking out spring wildflowers. Meet at 10am at SW corner of blinking light in Pittsford on M-34, 6mi west of Hudson, MI. Ralph Powell 734-971-9013.

KVG: Kalamazoo Valley Group

Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph & Van Buren Counties

CHAIR: Paul Haas, 269-664-5417 or paulhs@aol.com.

GENERAL MEETINGS: No Meetings planned for the fall. Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 (eve), 269-488-4268 (days) or vmills@kvcc.edu.

OUTINGS: Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 or vmills@kvcc.edu.

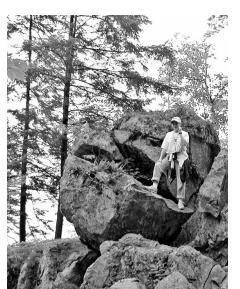
NG: Nepessing Group

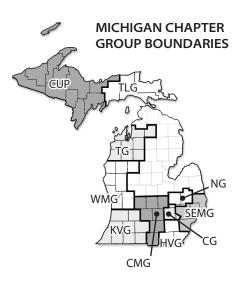
Genesee, Lapeer & northern Oakland Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

CHAIR: Linda Berker, 810-653-8242.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 2nd Wed each month (except Jul & Dec). Mott Community College, Genesee room, Prahl Center (New Student Building), E Court St, Flint. 7pm committee reports;





7:30pm for environmentally themed program. Light snacks provided. Public always welcome!

OUTINGS: Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldd@chartermi.net. Please check our website for outings listings.

3/3 Otter Lake Hike. 10:00am. Dogs allowed. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer 810 732-9902.

3/10 Dickenson Lake Hike at Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 10am. Dogs allowed. Chris Harbowy
248-328-9982 technicaleriter@comcast.net.

3/17 Holly North Hike. 10am. Dogs ok. Linda Berker, nights 810-653-0142. Cell 810-348-8664.

3/24 Ligon Outdoor Center Hike. 10am. Denny Crispell 989-624-5038.

3/31 Hadley Hills Jasmond Rd. Hike. 10am. Dogs ok. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer 810-732-9902.

4/7 Hadley Hills Lookout Mt. Hike. 10am. Dogs ok. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer 810-732-9902.

4/8 Dauner-Martin Nature Sanctuary. 1pm. Dogs allowed. Vicki Paton 810-732-5667, vpaton@sbcglobal.net.

4/14 Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 10am. No dogs. K Dockter, 810-767-6405.

4/21 Earth Day at Mott Community College. 9am to 4pm.

4/28-29 Shingle Mill Pathway Backpacking. 9:30am. Barb Niemi, cell 810-441-4048, home 586-783-8968, barbara.niemi@sbcglobal.net.

4/28 Wild Lapeer Earth Day Celebration. 10am.

5/12-13 Hoist Lakes Backpacking. Don Persson, days 810-494-4572, nights 810-636-2213, donald. person@delphi.com.

5/12 Flint River Watershed Coalition Cleanup. All day. Jeff Duecking 810-629-7330.

5/19 Sorenson Park. 10am. Maxine Shonk, 810-695-3279.

GroupInfo,Meetings&Outings

5/20 Bird Hike. 8am. No dogs. Location TBD. Fred Townsend 248-627-3587.

5/26-28 Manistee River Trail Backpacking. Barb Niemi, cell 810-441-4048, home 586-783-8968, barbara.niemi@sbcqlobal.net.

6/2 Hadley-Metamora State Park Hike.

10am. Christina Withrow 810-614-0201, ccwclassy1942@yahoo.com.

6/3 Sutherland Nature Center. 1pm. Vicki Paton 810-732-5667. vpaton@sbcglobal.net.

6/9 Holloway Dam to Richfield Park Kayak/ Canoe. 12:30 pm. Linda Berker, nights 810-653-0142, cell 810-348-8664.

6/16 For-Mar Nature Preserve Hike. 10am. No dogs. K. Dockter 810-767-6405.

6/16-17 Shingle Mill Pathway Beginner's Backpacking. 9:30am. Don Persson, days
810-494-4572, nights 810-636-2213. donald.
person@delphi.com.

SEMG: Southeast Michigan Group

Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair & Wayne Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

CHAIR: Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or carol. izant@michigan.sierraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: General Membership meetings on 1st Thurs of each month at Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy in Southfield. A potluck dinner will be held from 6:30-7:30pm (please bring a dish). The meeting begins at 7:30pm. Carol Izant, 248-352-6137, carol.izant@michigan.sierraclub.org. All are welcome!

3/1 Renewable Energy for the Developing World: A Costa Rican Adventure. A Multimedia presentation by Peg Collins, Sierra Club/SEMG.

4/5 Protecting Utah's Redrock Canyonlands: The Future Awaits. A presentation by Clayton Daughenbaugh, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

5/3 Detroit is a River: A History of the Straits.

A slide presentation by Robert Burns, Detroit's Riverkeeper, Friends of the Detroit River.

6/7 Don't Get Me Started! Thoughts from a Victim & Defender of America's Personal Transportation Industry Mess. A presentation by Dave Llewellyn, Sierra Club/SEMG.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 3rd Thu each month. Sierra Club BEC office, Tri-Centre Business Complex,100 N Crooks Rd, Ste 105, Clawson, Ml. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645 or ecoed@netzero.net.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: 6:30 pm, last Thu each month (no Oct). Jimi's Restaurant, Washington, Royal Oak. All welcome! Tim Killeen, Chair, 313-526-4052 or timk@bikerider.com.

OUTINGS: Chair: Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil3@netzero.net. Coordinator: Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370 or joannecantoni@netzero.net. Outings fee is \$1 unless otherwise noted. Please visit our website for details on the outings listed below.

3/4 Highland SRA Hike. 11am. 6mi hike, varied terrain, mod pace, all weather. Bring snacks & good boots. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

3/10 Outings Committee Meeting. 5:30pm. If you are interested in leading an outing, come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Bring a dish. All are welcome. Cindy 248-336-2984.

3/11 [E] Heritage Park Hike. 10am. 4mi, mod pace, crossing creek bridges twice. Dress for weather. Restaurant after. Phil 313-562-1873.

3/18 Maybury State Park Hike. Noon. 5mi, mod pace over rolling terrain. Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne 248-932-5370.

3/24 Proud Lake Rec Area Hike. 10:30am. 4-5mi mod paced hike. Restaurant stop after. Liz 313-581-7579.

3/25 [E] Two Preserve Hike. Noon. 5-6mi, mod pace. Restaurant stop after. Cindy 248-336-2984; Marie Tuohey 248-618-9495.

3/31 Independence Oaks Hike. 10:30. 5-6mi, mod-quick pace. Restaurant stop after. Bonnie Michalak 248-589-2251.

4/1 Orion Oaks Hike. 11:30am. 4-5mi, slow pace, weather permitting. Restaurant stop after. Lee 586-294-7789.

4/7 [E] Fairlane Mansion Hike. 10am. 4mi, slow pace. Restaurant stop after. Liz 313-581-7579.

4/13-15 Sand Lakes Quiet Area Weekend Campout. Meet Friday evening at Sand Lakes; hiking begins Sat morning. Contact Mary Powell for equipment & schedule details: 810-732-3884.

4/14 [E] Clinton River Trail Hike. 10am. 4mi, mod pace, weather permitting. Restaurant stop after. Mary 248-879-6004.

4/15 [E] Kensington Heron Walk. Noon. 5mi, slow pace, weather permitting. Restaurant stop

after. Jean 313-581-6648.

4/22 Brighton Rec Area Hike. Noon. 5-7mi, brisk pace. Dress for weather. Restaurant stop after. Mike 313-884-2214.

4/28 [E] IHM Motherhouse Tour. 9:30am. Reservations required; call by 4/21 to hold a spot. \$10 fee. Bring lunch for picnic after the tour. For complete details see michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/outings. Ed McArdle 313-388-6645.

4/29 Bald Mt North Hike. 10:30am. 6-7mi, modquick pace. Restaurant stop after. Bonnie Michalak, 248-589-2251.

5/5 [E] Bald Mountain South Wildflower Hike. 10am. 5mi, mod pace. Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne, 248-932-5370; Phil, 313-562-1873.

5/6 Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 10am. 7mi hike, varied terrain, mod pace, all weather. Bring snacks & good boots. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

5/12 [E] Highland Rec Area Hike. 10:30am. 5mi, slow pace. Restaurant after. Liz, 313-581-7579.

5/13 [E] Mothers Day Wildflower Walk. 10:15am. Restaurant stop after. For complete details see michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/outings. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

5/19 Holly Rec Area Hike. 4pm. 5mi, mod pace, weather permitting. Optional restaurant stop after. Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326; Jari Feldt, 248-608-9232.

5/19-20 Hoist Lakes Backpack Trip. 13mi, easy pace. Hiking trip with overnight camp. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575; jherrgott@comcast.net.

5/27 Metro Beach Metropark Hike. Noon. 5mi, mod pace, weather permitting. Restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-773-3104.

6/3 [E] Canoe the Lower Huron. 8:45am. 4hr easy paddle from Hudson Mills Metropark to Delhi. Some canoe experience required, instruction provided. \$20 reservation & phone number must be sent to Phil Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125 by 5/25. Bring lunch & dry clothes. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

6/9 Stoney Creek Hike. 10am. 4mi, slow pace. Opt restaurant stop after. Lee, 586-294-7789.

6/9 Outings Committee Meeting. 5:30 pm. If you are interested in leading an outing, come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Bring a dish. All are welcome. Joanne, 248-932-5370.

6/10 Bald Mountain SRA Hike (North Unit). 10am. 7mi, mod pace, varied terrain, all weather.



In the fall of 2006, Sierra Club members completed 13 years of monthly cleanups throughout the Little Presque Isle Tract. In rain, snow, sleet, beach-fly attacks and beautiful days, members walked beaches, lakeshore, back roads and trails, litter bags in hand. The DNR provides trash pickup from central points after each cleanup date, and Chapter members report that litter has decreased steadily over the years.

Bring snacks & good boots. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575

6/17 Wolcott Mill Hike. 10am. 5mi, mod pace. Bring lunch for picnic afterward. Mill museum visit optional. Jo Ellen, 586-773-3104.

6/23 Ortonville Rec Area Hike. 10am. 5mi, mod pace, varied terrain. Optional restaurant stop after. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

6/30 Heritage Park Picnic & Moonlight Hike. 6:30pm. 3-4mi evening hike following picnic potluck. Bring dish to share & flashlight. Phil, 313-562-1873.

TG: Traverse Group

Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Antrim & Otseao Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

CHAIR: Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 4th Tue each month, at Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington Street, Traverse City. Monica Evans, 231-325-6812, or check our website. Note: June meeting will be 3rd Tue of the month.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Monica, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Jim Stricko, 231-275-7596; Peggy Fry, 231-218-2587.

HELP WANTED: Outings leaders, fundraising, monthly mtg program coordinator. Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

OUTINGS: Traverse Group Outings are listed on the web. Please visit michigan.sierraclub. org/traverse.

TLG: Three Lakes Group

Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac & Schoolcraft Counties

CHAIR: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm Thu, each month, Sep-May. Crawford Hall, Lake Superior State Univ.

HELP WANTED: Webmaster, publicity, monitor environmental alerts. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu.

OUTINGS: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu. Monthly hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc 9am 1st Sat each month, Oct-Apr, Michigan Welcome Center.

WMG: West Michigan Group

Kent, Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola & Ottawa Counties

WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

CHAIR: Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or craig_ressler@yahoo.com.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Generally once/month. Everyone welcome. Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org.

INNER CITY OUTINGS: Sierra Club members provide outdoor experiences for nonmembers who might not otherwise have them. Most participants are young people from urban communities. Increase the environmental awareness,

NOTICES

The Michigan Chapter recommends a vote for Kenneth Langton in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors. Elections for the Sierra Club's national Board of Directors will take place in April. Members should watch for their ballot in the mail. The ballot may be mailed in or sent via e-mail.

The Michigan Chapter will be considering the formal dissolution of the Thumb Valley Group, covering Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Huron, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. More than three years ago, leaders of the TVG asked the Chapter to put the Group into reorganization, and since that time efforts to reform an active leadership core have not succeeded. Sierra Club members within the boundaries of the TVG will continue to be served by the statewide Michigan Chapter and may participate in activities with other Groups or the Chapter.

The Michigan Chapter Executive Committee will take comments and vote on the proposal on April 14. The meeting will start no later that 10 a.m. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Submit comments to mackinac. chapter@michigan.sierraclub.org or Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E. Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI 48906.

interpersonal skills & self-esteem of the participants through active involvement with nature. Interested volunteers welcome to attend meetings or email us suggestions. John Pulver, 616-457-5999 (days), 616-453-2480 (eve); Paula Ballast, 231-861-6548 or logcabinballast@aol.com.

OUTINGS: Sharon Wilson, 616-532-0753.

4/21 North Country Trail Maintenance. Help maintain our section of trail near Newago. Gourmet food afterwards. Kathy, 616-453-4085.

TBD Spring Wildflower Hike in Aman Park (west of Grand Rapids). An annual event. Craig, 616-891-9055.

Chapter Directory

MICHIGAN CHAPTER MAIN OFFICE	Group Representatives
109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906	Central Michigan Group
Phone: 517-484-2372 FAX: 517-484-3108 Email: mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org Website: michigan.sierraclub.org	Helen LeBlanc517-655-6454, Helen.leblanc@michigan.sierraclub.org Central Upper Peninsula Group
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Anne Woiwodeanne.woiwode@sierraclub.org Legislative Program Coordinator	Crossroads Group Cheryl McConnell
Gayle Millergayle.miller@sierraclub.org	517-552-1462, cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org
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Chapter Coordinator	Three Lakes Group
Amanda Hightreeamanda.hightree@sierraclub.org	Roger Blanchard
MICHIGAN CHAPTER DETROIT OFFICE	906-253-9316, roger.blanchard@michigan.sierraclub.org
2727 2nd Ave, Metropolitan Center for High Technology, Detroit, MI 48201	Traverse Group
Phone: 313-965-0055	Monica Evans 231-325-6812, monica.evans@michigan.sierraclub.org
Environmental Justice Organizer	West Michigan Group
Rhonda Anderson	Martha MacCleery616-682-1316, martha.lore@michigan.sierraclub.org
· ·	CHAPTER COMMITTEES
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Phone: 248-435-5277	Fall Retreat
Conservation Organizer	Lisa Wickman 517-332-5346, lisa.wickman@michigan.sierraclub.org
Melissa Damaschkemelissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org	Wanda Bloomquist
Conservation Organizer Leigh Fifelskileigh Fifelski@sierraclub.org	517-655-3380, wanda.bloomquist@michigan.sierraclub.org
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SIERRA CLUB MIDWEST OFFICE	Rick Pearsall810-227-6298, rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org
122 West Washington Avenue, Suite 830, Madison, WI 53073	Eric Piehleric.piehl@michigan.sierraclub.org
Phone: 608-257-4994	Inner City Outings
SIERRA CLUB MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE	West MI:
400 W Front Street, Suite 204, Traverse City, MI 49684	John Pulver
Phone: 231-922-2201	Paula Ballast 231-861-6548, paula. ballast@michigan. sierraclub.org
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Shelly Campbellshelly.campbell@sierraclub.org	Finance
SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	Al Beeton734-769-3348 abeeton@netzero.net
85 Second Street, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105	Energy
Phone: 415-977-5500	Anna Holden313-331-0932, anna.holden@michigan.sierraclub.org
	Legislative Subcommittee
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Mike Sklar, 5th Officer248-542-1789, mssklar@comcast.net	Cheryl McConnell
	517-552-1464, cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org
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Terms expire January 2008:	Sue Kelly810-227-9563, sue kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org
Sue Kelly810-227-9563, sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org David Holtz517-203-0758, david.holtz@michigan.sierraclub.org	
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