TheMackinac

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SPRING 2009

Citizen Engagement Pays Off!

GOVERNOR GRANHOLM ADOPTS AGGRESSIVE CLEAN ENERGY GOALS, PUTS BRAKES ON PROPOSED COAL PLANTS

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director and Lee Sprague, Clean Energy Campaign Manager

G overnor Jennifer Granholm put the brakes on Michigan's rush to build new coal plants and announced an aggressive clean energy agenda in her 2009 State of the State address. Her action follows a year of organizing and public education by Sierra Club members and our allies in the Clean Energy Now campaign. Together, we led more than 20,000 Michigan citizens to urge Governor Granholm to prevent increased carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from the slew of coal plants proposed for Michigan.

The hundreds of people who testified against two proposed air permits out for public comment by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) helped make the case that there is no such thing as "clean coal," and that Michigan must make better choices for its energy future. Thanks to the Governor's announcement (detailed in Executive Directive 2 of 2009), Michigan now requires applicants to show both a need for the power and prove that there are no feasible and prudent alternatives for meeting energy needs before air pollution permits will be issued for a coal plant.

Governor Granholm also called for: reducing Michigan's use of fossil fuels for electric generation 45% by 2020; ambi-



Sierra Club and allied groups spent more than a year advocating for smart, clean energy solutions for Michigan and fighting to stop polluting coal plant proposals. That hard work paid off in February when Governor Jennifer Granholm put the brakes on Michigan's rush to build new coal plants and announced an aggressive clean energy agenda in her 2009 State of the State address.

tious energy efficiency and renewable energy goals; and making energy saving and renewables profitable for utilities. Sierra Club is heartened to see Governor Granholm moving to address clean air issues and protection of our Great Lakes by promoting clean energy options for Michigan. Michigan's 21st Century energy plan is finally being re-written with an understanding of our 21st century realities.

Thanks to those of you who signed our CO, petitions, sent in your com-

ments to MDEQ on the proposed coal plant permits, wrote letters to the editors, hosted and organized dozens of events throughout the state, and attended air permit hearings in Rogers City, Lansing, and Holland. Your voices made the difference!

To stay informed about this campaign's next steps go to www.michigan.sierra-club.org or visit cleanenergynowmi.org.



Sierra Club fosters citizen action statewide, improves environmental protections for Michigan



THE MACKINAC

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The Mackinac, Volume 42 Issue 1, (ISSN 0744-5288) is published three times every year by Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E Grand River Ave, Lansing MI 48906. Periodicals postage paid at Lansing MI and additional mailing offices. Annual dues for the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to *The* Mackinac.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Mackinac, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E Grand River Ave, Lansing MI 48906-4348.

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



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S ierra Club's volunteer Water Sentinels are trained to help monitor water quality throughout Michigan. Since 2003, volunteers John Rebers (shown here) and Dave Allen, leaders of our Central U.P. Group, have tested 14 sites/month in Marquette County's Yellow Dog Plains. Sierra Club expects to use the data to help stop a proposed nickel mine, which threatens rivers and groundwater with its sulfuric acid byproduct. To get involved in this or other water monitoring efforts, contact Rita Jack at 517-484-2372 or rita.jack@sierraclub.org. (See full article online www.michigan.sierraclub.org!)

IntheSpotlight

You and I Wield the Power to Make Change Happen

LET'S USE IT TO HELP MOVE MICHIGAN FORWARD

by Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

The founder of the Sierra Club, John Muir, knew well that citizen activists were the key achieving our goals. He rallied citizens to join him in lobbying Teddy Roosevelt to save our natural resources, and the president doubled the number of national parks and staffed the Forest Service with professional foresters (a new idea at the time).

In times when human greed takes precedence over the stewardship of our planet, it is difficult to have faith that our crying in and for the wilderness is heard at all, but we keep on lifting up our voices and singing anyway. We make calls, walk the streets and ring doorbells for our carefully vetted candidates; we lobby our elected representatives; we testify at public hearings about trash incinerators, coal and nuclear plants, water resources and a myriad of other issues; and when all else fails, we sue.

Finally, you and I are living in a time when much of our work may come to fruition. Our efforts have led to the election of many environmentally-friendly officials at all levels of government; YET, we cannot afford rest on our laurels for even a



moment. The opposing forces are still strategizing to block our labors to stem global warming and the destruction of our children's inheritance.

Right here, in Michigan, we have to continue the fight against coal and nuclear plants, animal factory pollution, and the takeover of public lands for commercial purposes. You and I must work for clean water and air, as well as the preservation of our land. Citizen activism is as important as ever, so I hope you will join me and your fellow Sierra Club members in taking action this year on the critical issues still facing our state.

Sierra Club Fosters Citizen Action

YOU, TOO, CAN HELP PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM AND BUILD A STRONG CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY IN MICHIGAN

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director

The world we know is changing in virtually every way. Fortunately, President Obama hit the ground running with an agenda that includes tackling global warming and putting our country's economy back on track. Yet this isn't the time to sit back and assume that Michigan's environmental challenges are solved. With the crises facing our nation and the planet, 2009 is shaping up to be another "all hands on deck" year.

What is your role in this? In 2008, we saw how citizens actively engaged in the political process can change the world. Sierra Club members like you—and millions of other Americans—showed

up, spoke up and connected with their friends and neighbors in a show of citizen engagement that was revolutionary. And, it made a difference. The outcomes of the 2008 election were a direct result of that involvement, as is the new, aggressive clean energy agenda put forward by Governor Granholm this February.

In 2009, it is time to recognize that you are at the heart of keeping that momentum up. Already, in Lansing and Washington, coal companies and other polluters are pouring millions of dollars into blocking real change. But we can win our fight against global warming, gain needed protections of Michigan

forests, lakes and streams, and build a strong, clean energy economy in our state, if you join us in taking action.

In 2009, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is creating more opportunities for you to get involved. We will connect with you increasingly online, a critical need in this fast-paced world. To become more efficient and effective, we've reduced our *Mackinac* newsletter to 3 print issues per year, while at the same time increasing your ability to receive alerts, updates and action opportunities electronically. Whether it's outings or legislation, water monitoring or elections, make sure that we have your email address so that you can stay up-to-date.

For more details, or to register your email address with us, please visit **action. sierraclub.org/MI-Newsletter**. Thanks for getting involved to help move Michigan forward!

IntheSpotlight

VICTORY! Grayling Activists Help Save 1,800 Acres of Public Land from an Eccentric Amusement Park Proposal

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Ecologist

F or the last two years, there has been a proposal in the works to build a huge amusement park near Grayling. It included roller coasters, a derelict aircraft carrier, and other outlandish elements.

Mary Jane Knibbs, a retired, 86-year-old life-long resident of Grayling, is one of the community members who actively opposed the amusement park. She learned about the proposal from her daughter, Linda Knibbs, a businesswoman from Chicago who maintains strong ties to the Grayling area and was closely following Sierra Club's research on this issue. They were concerned that if built, the park would permanently change the character of the area, despoiling the quiet with the thousands of visitors anticipated by park proponents and threatening wild lands along the Au Sable River.

Sierra Club became involved when the developer wanted to purchase over 1,800 acres of our state forest system to house the project. While supported by Grayling's state lawmakers and local governments, our investigations and others (including the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Traverse City Record Eagle*), cast serious doubt on the project's viability. Environmental concerns with the proposed



Grayling natives Mary Jane and Linda Knibbs worked closely with Sierra Club to help stop a proposed amusement park that threatened the Au Sable River.

public land sale included possible degradation of the pristine Au Sable River and the potential for sprawling housing and commercial development.

Mary Jane felt so strongly about this issue that she and a close friend, Janett Henig, a Lansing retiree who summers at her property along the Au Sable River, helped educate their neighbors and gather 200 petition signatures from other Crawford County residents opposing the forest land sale and amusement park.

Mary Jane and Linda were also two of the 25 opponents who made the fourhour trek from Grayling to Munising to attend a Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting last summer to publically testify in opposition to the project. Mary Jane also took that opportunity to impress the NRC with her 200 petition signatures. These residents based much of their testimony against the park on credible research provided by Sierra Club.

To put their citizen activism into perspective, I should tell you that it's virtually unheard of for more than a few people—usually insiders and experts—to show up to testify at an NRC hearing. And until then, the NRC had been led to believe by the park proponents that the local community members were strongly in favor of the land sale and development. Fortunately, Mary Jane and her fellow residents were able to effectively refute that notion, which clearly made an impression on the NRC.

As we go to press, I'm pleased to report that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has officially denied the amusement park proposal. People like Mary Jane and Linda, who care enough to learn the facts and get involved in civic decisions, are the true driving force behind the Sierra Club. We would not be as effective or powerful an organization without them.



STOPPING WATER POLLUTION

Part of Sierra Club's Great Lakes Program (www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes), the Rochester ECOs group (www.meetup.com/rochesterecos) works on water protection in Oakland County. Enthusiastic volunteers have stenciled 'DUMP NO WASTE, DRAINS TO RIVER' on nearly 1,000 drains in 2 years to raise awareness of storm water pollution. See them in action at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoLJpq0voUM.

Q&A: An Inside Look at One Woman's Personal Journey to Activism in Sierra Club

by Jan O'Connell, Energy Issues Organizer

E very one of us possesses unique abilities to initiate and bring about change in our world. Today, I'd like to share a conversation that I had recently with a Sierra Club activist from West Michigan, Shirley Kallio.

Shirley, like many of you, has been responsible for making change in her local community and beyond. In her few short years as an activist, she's become a highly respected volunteer and leader in the Sierra Club. She's lobbied state and federal law-makers in Lansing and in Washington, D.C. on water, energy and coal issues. She's written letters to the editor, set up educational meetings, and testified at public hearings to help stop the rush to build new coal plants in Michigan. Shirley has also stepped forward to help guide the Michigan Chapter by becoming a member of our Executive and Legislative Committees.

Shirley, like many of you, is an excellent example of the amazing power you can wield as an ordinary citizen who cares about the environment. It's been my privilege to work with her and many other smart, dedicated volunteers in my time at Sierra Club; they're a daily reminder that "ordinary" people can, and do, make a huge difference.

Jan O'Connell: What prompted you to get more involved in your community and politics, to become "an activist"?

Shirley Kallio: Really, I'm new to activism of any kind, entering for the first time in the lead-up to the 2004 presidential election. It's when I became acutely aware of the importance of an informed, engaged electorate to the selection of good leadership, and that no one who cared about outcomes could risk sitting on the sidelines.

Since that 2004 election, my personal mission has been to grow, educate and engage the progressive community in the full spectrum and responsibility of citizenship, using any and all identifiable means and connections available to me.

Jan O'Connell: Given your political passions, why are you now so active in the environmental movement?

Shirley Kallio: While my initial involvement was about candidates and campaigns, the underlying priority issues were, and always have been, environmental for me. I've been convinced for some time that global warming (or "global disruption," a term which I just learned is, according to Kurt Cobb, a more accurate description of our condition) eclipses absolutely every other issue, as nothing of import is exempt from its influence. And our choice of fossil fuels has everything to do with the deepening crisis.



Sierra Club activist Shirley Kallio (right) and volunteer Judy Joseph (left), helped educate community members about the Club's efforts to protect our Great Lakes and stop coal plants' global warming pollution at Grand Rapids' Water Festival last June.

Jan O'Connell: What convinced you to become a leader and activist within Sierra Club?

Shirley Kallio: When I learned about Sierra Club's citizen lobby program, I embraced it enthusiastically as the quintessential expression of good citizenship. I quickly came to value it for the extraordinary quality of its leadership, for the excellent training that it provides, and for the opportunity it has afforded me to advocate—in a very focused and informed manner—for issues dear to me.

I also see the more recent efforts of the Michigan Chapter's citizen lobbyist program to engage with legislators and my fellow Sierra Club members in their districts, as a superlative opportunity to both broaden and deepen the democratic process, and strengthen the impact of our advocacy.

Really, my concern for the earth and the life it supports—the "infrastructure" of all existence, as Robert Kennedy puts it—compels me to act. The seriousness and urgency of today's challenge requires serious consideration of effectiveness. The Sierra Club, in its citizen lobbyist program, provides me with the opportunity and means. And I have to say that Sierra Club citizen lobbying is by far the most personally empowering experience of my life.

CleanEnergySolutions

Sierra Club Makes the Case Against Coal Plants in Michigan

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director

S ierra Club helped educate and turn out hundreds of people from all over Michigan to oppose permits for the proposed Wolverine Power Cooperative's Rogers City coal plant and the Holland Board of Public Works' coal plant expansion at hearings in January. Their testimony ranged from in-depth legal and scientific analysis to personal stories, which, together, made a strong case that Michigan should stop the rush to build new coal plants. It's clear that Governor Granholm was listening: she put the brakes on Michigan's Coal Rush in her February 2009 State of the State address (see cover story for more details).

WOLVERINE POWER PROPOSAL DRAWS FIRE AT LANSING HEARING

More than 150 people showed up in Lansing for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) third hearing on the proposed Wolverine 600 MW coal plant in early January; a vast majority opposed the air pollution permit. Among those testifying against the permit were representatives of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Environmental Law and Policy Center, and residents from Rogers City and other communities with proposed coal plants in Michigan. In addition to a van load of Traverse City residents, dozens of Sierra Club members and others from throughout southeastern Michigan and the Grand Rapids area traveled to the hearing and waited hours before being allowed to testify against the permit proposal.

During the five hours of public testimony, opponents cited concerns about mercury emission levels, fine particulates, and the global warming gas CO₂ that would be allowed under the proposed permit. Other concerns were raised about the increased chance of groundwater pollution from coal wastes

Sierra Club's Energy Issues Organizer Jan O'Connell gives public testimony against the Holland air permit at the MDEQ hearing.



disposed of in the fragile karst geology. Comprehensive written comments submitted by Sierra Club and partners demonstrated that the proposed permit is fatally flawed and should be denied.

HOLLAND RESIDENTS SAY NO TO COAL PLANT

On January 12 and 13, opponents to the proposed permit to expand Holland's James DeYoung coal plant overwhelmingly outnumbered supporters at three separate hearings. Most supporters were tied to the Holland Board of Public Works, while opponents came from diverse backgrounds. Among those raising their voices to oppose the air permit were delegates from the Pokegan Pottawatomi Nation, the Little River Band of the Odawa Indians, the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, League of Women Voters, the Ecology Center, and West Michigan Environmental Action Council, as well as concerned citizens from Holland and beyond.

Increases in mercury levels (already too high) in the neighboring Lake Macatawa, rises in air pollution contributing to asthma and other respiratory health issues, and growth in global warming gas emissions from the facility were among the primary concerns voiced at the hearings. Strong support for pursuing alternative electric generation sources, in particular wind power, was also adamantly expressed.

SIERRA CLUB SUES TO CLEAN UP AIR POLLUTION FROM HOLLAND COAL PLANT

Sierra Club took legal action in December to force the Holland Board of Public Works' James De Young coal-fired power plant to employ modern controls for soot- and smog-forming pollution, a leading contributor to asthma and other serious health problems. Over the past decade, the 40+ year-old plant has been repeatedly modified to keep it operating past its retirement date without installing required, modern pollution controls.

"Especially in today's economic climate the Holland Board of Public Works should clean up its existing plant before it sinks hundreds of millions of dollars into another polluting project," said James Gignac, Midwest Director of the Sierra Club's National Coal Campaign. "The Board's desire to more than double the size of a project that has been polluting illegally for years shows a great disregard for public health and environmental quality," added Gignac.

As *The Mackinac* goes to press, no schedule for the court case has been set.

For information on Sierra Club's fight against the Michigan Coal Rush, contact Lee Sprague at lee.sprague@sierraclub.org, Jan O'Connell at jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org, or Tiffany Hartung at tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org.

Clean&HealthyGreatLakes

Michigan's New Water Laws Explained

PLUS NEW WAYS FOR YOU TO HELP PROTECT OUR LAKES

by Rita Jack, Water Policy Program Director

2 008 was a big year for the Great Lakes. After a five-year effort, Sierra Club and allied groups convinced state lawmakers to pass a package of bills protecting Michigan's waters from withdrawals. The bills included the Great Lakes Compact, an agreement between the eight Great Lakes states and Canada to protect the Lakes from thirsty states and countries. Governor Granholm signed the bills into law last July.

In October, the President signed the Great Lakes Basin Compact into law. The Compact bans new diversions with very limited exceptions. It also directs the Great Lakes states to prevent negative impacts on water resources, encourages water conservation, and promotes public participation in water planning.

Michigan's new water laws regulate new or increased in-state withdrawals over 100,000 gallons per day. They also ban adverse resource impacts (ARI) defined as a reduction of the fish population—depending on stream temperature and type. Starting this July, anyone proposing to withdraw over 100,000 gallons per day must use the web-accessible GIS-based Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) to evaluate the potential for an ARI. The WWAT helps predict the impact of water flow changes on stream habitat and fish populations.

Sierra Club members will be especially interested in the three new public participation opportunities arising from these new water laws. "Water User Committees" (made up by large-quantity water users in a watershed) will evaluate the status of current water resources and water use trends and help in long-term water planning. "New Water Resources Assessment and Education Committees" will have broader membership that focus on long-term planning and education, and are encouraged where ARIs are predicted. If an ARI is predicted, these two watershed-based committees will find ways to



reduce the impact, which may include temporarily pumping less water.

The third public participation opportunity encourages citizens or organizations to work with state agencies to monitor stream flow. Since the predictive ability of WWAT is based on data models, the better the data, the better the predictions. Consequently, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is developing a protocol for training people to collect quality-assured stream (or river) flow measurements. If you want to help collect data, please contact me at rita. jack@sierraclub.org.

OUR NEW WEBSITE HELPS YOU FIGHT ANIMAL FACTORY POLLUTION

since 2001, Sierra Club's Water Sentinels have tested water to expose animal factory pollution, pushing state and federal agencies to force Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to clean up or shut down. Today, we have a new tool to help you fight animal factory pollution: a complete how-to website, michigan.sierraclub.org/issues/greatlakes/
StoppingCAFOPollution.html, which provides you with the nitty-gritty details about CAFOs and how to stop them.

CAFOs spread over 2 million tons of untreated manure on Michigan land each year. CAFO waste is 25-100 times more concentrated than human sewage and contains over 160 chemicals. The amount of waste, poor disposal practices, and badly designed facilities mean animal sewage flows into our rivers and the Great Lakes. Livestock waste is believed to be a significant contributor to Saginaw Bay beach muck and the Lake Erie dead zone.

The Michigan Chapter's new CAFO website is based on proven and effective methods, and incorporates scientific data, expert advice, and personal experiences to guide new activists. We want to help you become proactive advocates for sustainable farming, while slowing the flood of pollution into our waters.

Besides using and sharing our new website, you can also help by buying pasture-raised meat and milk, shopping at your local farm markets, and telling state lawmakers that you want a moratorium on new and expanding CAFOs until the pollution problem is solved.

GreatForests WildPlaces

Finally! Sierra Club's Final Victory on Mason Tract Litigation

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Ecologist

A fter five years, the Sierra Club, Anglers of the Au Sable, and Tim Mason won a hard-fought battle to keep oil and gas drilling away from the Mason Tract area on the Au Sable River. In December 2008, the U.S. Forest Service finally gave up efforts to overturn a court ruling won by conservationists blocking the approval of an oil and gas well pad next to 5,400 acres of pristine river frontage donated to the state by the late George Mason.

This victory reversed a series of bad decisions by state and federal agencies that would have allowed Savoy Energy to drill for oil and gas next to the Mason Tract and within earshot of fly fishers on the Au Sable River. After receiving a state drilling permit for oil and gas reserves under the Mason Tract, Savoy applied to the Forest Service to locate the well pad on federal land adjacent to the Mason Tract. The Forest Service granted a permit for the well pad despite overwhelming public opposition to the proposal.

The Sierra Club, Anglers of the Au Sable, and George Mason's grandson Tim (representing the Mason family) teamed up to appeal the Forest Service decision. We argued that the agency failed to examine alternatives for locating the well pad where it would not disturb those who value the solitude of the Mason Tract. When the Forest Service denied this appeal, we sued in federal court and received a preliminary injunction prohibiting any drilling activities from starting until the suit was resolved.

In July 2008, Judge David Lawson ruled in favor of Sierra Club and our partners, agreeing that the U.S. Forest Service acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in allowing oil and gas drilling in this site and failed to consider all the alternatives. In a last ditch effort, Savoy then attempted to intervene, claiming that their interests had not been adequately



Sierra Club partnered with Anglers of the Au Sable to help protect the Mason Tract—5,400 acres of wild land near the Au Sable River—from proposed oil and gas drilling.

represented by the Forest Service.

On December 9, Judge Lawson issued a blistering denial to Savoy pointing to their silence in the case until the last minute despite clear knowledge and opportunity to join in previously. According to Judge Lawson, "once the smoke of battle cleared, Savoy emerged from the woods on September 4, 2008 to file its motion to intervene, seeking to urge an appellate court to walk through the battlefield, as the saying goes, and shoot the wounded." Shortly after this ruling, the Forest Service decided to drop their appeal, and on December 23 Judge Lawson issued the final dismissal order.

HELP PROTECT MICHIGAN'S SPECIAL PLACES

or the first time, thanks to Sierra Club's ongoing work, Michigan's four million acres of state forests are going through a comprehensive planning process.

As part of this, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) needs to identify and designate the most special areas in our state forest system as "High Value Conservation Forests." To help them, a new public nomination process has been instituted, which Sierra Club fully supports.

Michigan Chapter staff are starting a program to help you identify and nominate forest areas most deserving of protection. We will train you in what the requirements are, ask you to scout out areas familiar to you, and help you complete the nominations form to send back to MDNR.

This is your chance to get out in the woods and help protect the places you love! To get involved, contact Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at 517-484-2372 or amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org.

DemocracyinAction

Our Citizen Lobbyists

STRONG VOICES FOR MICHIGAN'S ENVIRONMENT by Gayle Miller, Legislative Director

S ierra Club doesn't send high-paid, corporate lobbyists to the Capitol to pressure lawmakers to vote to protect the environment. We send real people, armed with good information. We send you—the most important person in the world to a lawmaker—a voting constituent.

Citizen lobbying is a powerful experience for both the lobbyist and the legislator. Make no mistake, the vast majority of lawmakers really want to know what their constituents think. Elected officials are people just like you and me, who took a risk, won an election and now face an extraordinary array of complicated issues. By participating in Sierra Club's citizen lobby events, you can help your lawmakers understand and appreciate the issues you care about.

Here's what our volunteers have said:

"This was my first Lobby Day and I plan on attending the next. Citizen lobbying is critical in giving the 'common person' voice to issues often overshadowed by special interests."

"Being my first time, I was watching and listening in the morning, and empowered to speak in the afternoon. . . Speaking directly with legislators and aides was enlightening and enabled me to feel I've crossed the bridge from mysterious government



Sierra Club's volunteer Citizen Lobbyists Marie Weigold, Linda Mohler, and Christine Jurgensen meet with State Representative Fred Miller (D-Mt. Clemens) to advocate for stronger water protection laws and smarter clean energy solutions.

to government by and for the people!"

"This is such important work. People need to know that this is a very effective way to have your voice heard."

"Multiple legislators or aides we talked to emphasized the importance of input from constituents—and especially personal visits from people in their own districts. We DO make a difference."

Join the Sierra Club's Citizen Lobby Corps! You'll meet great, like-minded people from around the state and help us reach out to the legislature in a very important way. Stay abreast of upcoming citizen lobby events by visiting our Lobby Day website at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/Lobby_Day.html.

SIERRA CLUB'S SPRING LOBBY DAY WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 FROM 9 AM UNTIL 3:30 PM IN LANSING. TO SIGN UP, GO TO www.michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/Lobby_Day.html

State Legislative Priorities for 2009-2010

The 2009-2010 Legislature is now in session! In addition to getting to know the many new state representatives elected last November, Sierra Club will reach out to educate lawmakers on the issues that matter to you and your family.

Promoting clean, sustainable energy is again the Sierra Club's top policy priority. Chapter staff and volunteers are working in collaboration with dozens of organizations to promote legislation that will:

 Ramp up renewable energy standards to create thousands of new jobs, making Michigan a leader in sustainable energy generation and component manufacturing

- Transform our building industry so that buildings become part of the solution to energy generation, as well as energy conservation and efficiency
- Accelerate energy efficiency upgrades in existing businesses, public buildings and low income housing, creating good jobs that can't be outsourced
- Help people stay warm and secure in their homes by preventing foreclosures and utility shut-offs due to non-payment of utility bills, and by ensuring Michigan gets the best deal

- for its energy dollar; and
- Establish a "Low Carbon Fuel Standard" to reduce the carbon intensity
 of transportation fuels, paving the
 way for Michigan to become a leader
 in advanced battery storage for powering cars.

Sierra Club is also working to protect critical environmental programs from de-funding during these tough economic times, stop animal factory pollution, reduce harmful diesel emissions, and more.

To get involved or learn more about our 2009 legislative priorities, contact the Michigan Chapter's Legislative Director Gayle Miller at gayle.miller@sierraclub. org or Legislative Committee Chair Lydia Fischer at lydfisch@mindspring.com.

GroupInfo&Outings

ocal Sierra Club groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and general meetings throughout the state. Outings and meetings are open to the public—everyone is welcome! If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you're interested in starting one, please call Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at 517-484-2372.

Most outings begin at the trailhead, and some have fees associated with them. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. [To read the liability waiver before you participate, please visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a print version.] You can find more details on outings and recent additions online at the groups' websites or at at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

March

3/1 SEMG: Addison Oaks, Troy. 11 am, moderate paced hilly 5-6 mile hike on bike and ski trails. Call Joanne 248-932-5370 for details.

3/7 NG: Holly Rec Area North Unit. 11 am, 6 mile hike. Call Linda 810-348-8664 for details.

3/8 SEMG: Pinckney Rec Area. 9:30 am, brisk 7 to 13 mile hike depending on trail conditions. Call Ewa 734-756-5362 for details.

3/8 HVG: Inner City Outings, Washtenaw Coun-

ty. 7 pm, introduces urban kids to outdoors. Call Vera 734-665-8118 for details.

3/15 WMG: Grand Rapids ICO Volunteer Training. 2 – 6 pm, training on how to work with kids in an outdoor setting. Call Craig 616-891-9055

3/15 SEMG: Highland Rec Area. 10 am, 6 mile hike through wooded, rolling terrain. Call Phil 248-797-2885 for details.

3/21 NG: Old Bloomer #3 Hike, 10 am, moderate 4.5 mile hike. Call Terry 810-732-9902 for details.

3/21 SEMG: Stony Creek Metropark, 12 pm, moderate 6 to 7 mile hike over varied terrain. Call Bonnie 248-589-2251 for details.

3/22 NG: Detroit Zoo Cruise, 12 pm, easy several hour walk through exhibits and habitats. Call Lynn 586-795-1678 for details.

3/28 NG: Flint River Trail, Vietnam Veterans Park.
10 am, easy hard-surface walk west of river. Call
Mike 810-686-6354 for details.

3/28 SEMG: Proud Lake, along Huron River. 11 am, moderate 5 mile wooded hike, good bog and river views. Call Tom 248-349-8782 for details.

3/29 SEMG: Kensington Metropark. 12 pm, moderate 4-5 mile hike in woods around Wildwood Lake. Call Inge 248-338-0906 for details.

April

4/4 NG: Ligon Outdoor Center, Clio. 10 am, easy hike. Call Susan 810-658-6408 for details.

4/11 NG: Lookout Mountain to Algoe Lake. 10 am, difficult hike. Call Terry 810-732-9902 for details.

4/12 HVG: Inner City Outings, Washtenaw County. 7 pm, introduces urban kids to outdoors.
Call Vera 734-665-8118 for details.

4/15 NG: Flint River Trail Southwalk. 10 am. hike trail along river. Call Sue 810-767-9491 for details.

4/18 NG: Earth Day & Garden Celebration, Mott Community College. 9 am, register www. earthday.mcc.edu. Call Rebecca 810-762-0455 for details.

4/19 WMG: North Country Trail, White Cloud. Have fun with others on day-long work outing to help Sierra Club maintain sponsored trail. Call Kathy 616-453-4085 for details.

4/19 SEMG: Matthaei Botanical Gardens. 10 am moderate, 5 mile hike to enjoy garden displays and habitats. Call Ewa 734-756-5362 for details.

4/22 NG: Flint River Trail Northern Walk. 10 am, walk trail along river. Call Sue 810-767-9491 for details.

4/25 NG: Flint River Trail Clean-Up. Day-long. Call



Jack 810-235-1490 for details.

4/26 SEMG: Indian Springs MetroPark. 12 pm, moderate 5 mile hike on nature trails with stop at new Eco Center. Call Pat or Tom 517-552-9121 for details.

4/27 WMG: Allegan State Forest, Newaygo. morel mushroom hunt great for whole family. Call Susanne 616-453-9042 for details.

May

5/2 NG: Otter Lake Trail. 10 am, hike Southern Links Trail to Hollenback Road and back. Call Denny 989-624-5038 for details.

5/3 WMG: Hardy Dam Nature Trail. Family-friendly, 3 mile hike. Call Kathy 616-453-4085 for details.

5/7 WMG: Wildflowers at Alman Park, Grand Rapids. 6 pm, family-friendly wildflower walk. Call Paula 231-861-6548 or Joan 616-669-1131 for details.

5/9 NG: Annual Community & River Clean Up, Genesee / Lapeer. Your help is needed! Call Sue 810-767-9491 for details.

5/9 NG: Dauner-Martin Nature Sanctuary, Fenton. 7:30 pm, bring your flashlight for a 4 mile full moon evening hike. Call Terry 810-732-9902 for details.

5/10 SEMG: Maybury State Park, Mothers Day Wildflower Walk. 9:30 am, slow 3 mile walk to enjoy 17 species of blooming flowers along forest trails. Call Phil 248-797-2885 for details.

5/10 HVG: Inner City Outings, Washtenaw County. 7 pm, introduces urban kids to outdoors. Call Vera 734-665-8118 for details.

5/17 NG: Bird Observation & Identification Hike. 8 am, varied walk through bird habitats (location to be determined). Call Fred 248-627-3587 for details.

5/17 WMG: Orienteering at Yankee Springs. 11 am to 4 pm. Call Lisa 616-942-6549 for details.

5/23 NG: Otter Lake Hike. 10 am, moderate 5 mile hike. Call Terry 810-732-9902 for details.

5/27 NG: Flushing River Walk Trail. 10 am, easy walking on trail. Call Sue 810-767-9491 for details.

5/30 NG: Clark and Marjorie Tibbetts Swan Sanctuary. Hike south half of Columbiaville Trail to Hollenbeck Rd and back, visit sanctuary. Call Robert 810-287-4629 for details.

ATTN: OUTDOORSWOMEN! JOIN OTHER SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS MAY 17 TO 22 FOR THE WOMEN'S NORTHWOODS SERVICE WEEK IN BOULDER JUNCTION, WISCONSIN

Join other outdoorswomen in the Northern Highland State Forest to help with research projects, plant native trees, prepare canoe camp sites, and/or quash invasive species in native forest ecosystems. Stay at a lakeside cabin near Boulder Junction with canoes, showers, and screen porch. Work 4 days and have 1 afternoon off to explore hiking trails, lakes, and rivers. Limit 8; costs \$50 - \$65, which include accommodations, group supplies and meals.

This trip is sponsored by the Central U.P.MI group. For more details or to apply, call Sherry at 906-358-1110 or email thezoars@excite.com, or call Kate at 502-339-1381 or email kate.cunningham@juno.com. (Include your name, address, phone number, and where you read about the trip when you email.)

CHAPTER OUTING: ENJOY MAY WEEKEND CAMPING IN PIGEON RIVER COUNTRY

Join Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter for a relaxing weekend of camping, bird and wildlife watching, and hiking in the Pigeon River Country, the largest tract of public state forest lands in the Lower Peninsula. The area is home to a native elk herd, three blue ribbon trout streams, numerous lakes, trails, remote state forest campgrounds, and great biodiversity. Members and nonmembers are welcome to attend this free Chapter outing.

Contact Lorne at 810-632-7766 or lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org, or visit www.michigan.sierraclub.org for more outing details as they develop. (Exact dates determined soon.)



GroupInfo&Outings

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GROUP

our local Sierra Club group is run by volunteers who host educational programs and organize actions on environmental issues important to your community and family's health.

CMG = Central Michigan Group

Group Chair: Anne-Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871 or arachman@comcast.com

Outings Chair: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796

CUPG = Central Upper Peninsula Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or john.rebers@ michigan.sierraclub.org

CG = Crossroads Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads

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

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

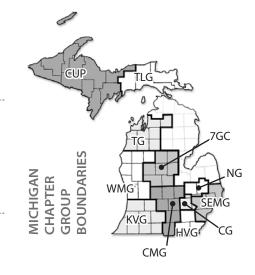
HVG = Huron Valley Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

Group Chair: Doug Cowherd, doug.cowherd

@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823



KVG = Kalamazoo Valley Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: currently seeking new local leaders, call the Chapter Office at 517-484-2372 for details

NG = Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

Group Chair: Linda Berker, 810-653-8242

Outings Chair: Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldd@chartermi.net

SEMG = Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

Group Chair: Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or cogknot@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil1@yahoo.com

TLG = Three Lakes Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu

TG = Traverse Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: currently seeking new local leaders, call the Chapter Office at 517-484-2372 for details

WMG = West Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/ westmichigan

Group Chair: Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055

or craig_ressler@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Sharon Wilson, 616-532-0753

7GC = Seventh Generation Committee

Local Contact: Joel Welty, 989-561-5037 or jwelty@power-net.net

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Enclosed is my/our gift of: \$250 \$100 \$50 \$ Other	Instead of a check, please charge my credit card (VISA or MC) \$
Your donation helps provide the flexible funding Sierra	Card # : Exp. Date:
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Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible	Address:
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Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906	Email:

Chapter **Directory**

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OFFICE

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Website: www.michigan.sierraclub.org

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MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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WMG Craig Ressler	craig_ressler@yahoo.com
HVG Ed Steinman	esteinma@umich.edu
TG, KVG Open	

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Fall Retreat Committee	
Philip Rairigh	freebattman@yahoo.com
Finance Committee	

Al Beeton.....abeeton@netzero.net **Fundraising Committee**Wendi Tilden......wendi.tilden@sierraclub.org

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Lydia Fischerlydfisch@mindspring.com

Outings Committee Lorne Beatty......810-632-7766, lorne.beatty@michigan.sierraclub.org

Political Committee Leigh FifelskiFifelski@yahoo.com



2008AnnualReport

Highlights & Accomplishments

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS ALL POSSIBLE!

ore than 1,400 Sierra Club members made donations to support the Michigan Chapter's work in 2008. Hundreds more volunteered their time, enthusiasm, and expertise to bolster our hardworking staff and engage in critical environmental issues that would have gone unaddressed if they didn't step up. These investments of time and money provided important boosts for Sierra Club's work last year and helped the Chapter:

- Win our Mason Tract lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service, which prevents oil and gas drilling near public lands along the pristine Au Sable River
- Educate and organize more than 150 citizen lobbyists to help convince state lawmakers to enact stronger renewable energy requirements and Great Lakes protections from large-scale diversions
- Document water pollution violations from animal factories, which prompted MDEQ to shut down CAFO polluters and stop new ones from opening
- Advance our endangered species petition to protect the Coaster brook trout and the Salmon Trout River from proposed sulfide mining
- Expand our ability to organize activists across the state in the fight to stop eight unneeded and costly proposals for new coal-fired power plants including hiring Lee Sprague as the Michigan Chapter's new full time Clean Energy Campaign Manager



- Test streams for water quality, coordinate river clean-ups, and build alliances for healthy waters
- Elect 64 pro-environment candidates to public office in Michigan

For 41 years, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter has worked successfully to protect our Great Lakes water, air, forests, wildlife, and way of life. We are proud of what we accomplished in 2008, and hope you know what a critical role you played in helping us defend and improve Michigan's environment. Your actions and generosity make a tremendous difference—thank you!

Sierra Club & The Power of Partnerships

ne of the ways Sierra Club can be most effective in defending Michigan's natural resources is by joining with diverse allies to unite behind common public policy goals. In 2008, these partnerships clearly demonstrated to decision-makers that the Chapter's environmental advocacy was backed by the powerful support of a wide-range of Michigan residents, all of whom believe that clean air, clean water, and clean land is both their right and the legacy they want to leave their children.

We are grateful to the partners we worked with last year, particularly those normally viewed as "outside" of the environmental community. Our work for clean energy and fight against proposed coal plants helped Sierra Club build an strong coalition with faith-based groups like Michigan Interfaith Power Light, the Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe and several other Michigan tribes, the Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition, the League of Women Voters, and Progress Michigan (which provided tremendous communications support), as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy groups like ACEEE and AWEA.

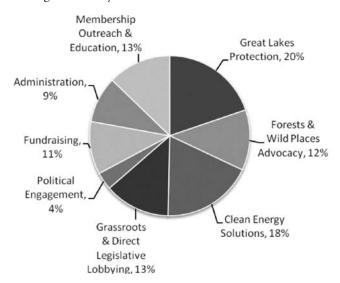
Our thanks also go out to the hunters and anglers, in particular the Anglers of the Au Sable and Trout Unlimited.

who worked with us to safeguard rivers, groundwater and public forest lands in 2008.

In our work to monitor water quality in Michigan's rivers and streams, we were proud to partner with students from the University of Wisconsin-Marinette in the Upper Peninsula, Bad Axe High School in the Thumb, and Michigan State University's Project FISH and the GRAND Learning Network. We also continued an amazing partnership with photographers and Lighthawk pilots (a volunteer-based national environmental aviation group) who helped us document water pollution violations via aerial photos of animal factories, which prompted quick law enforcement actions by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

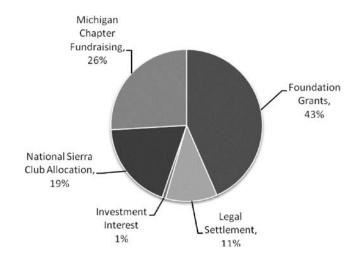
Expenses to Advance Conservation Priorities

n 2008, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter spent \$734,000 to advance conservation priorities in our Great Lakes State. Of that, 80% went directly to the proenvironment actions that you care about in Michigan. The remaining 20% went to administrative aid for our programs and the activities necessary for securing the funds to ensure the Chapter's critical work can continue as long as necessary.



Income to Sustain Conservation Programs

In 2008, only 19% of the Michigan Chapter's income came from a portion of the membership dues you pay to the Sierra Club each year. So in order to adequately support the environmental work you care about here at home, the Michigan Chapter engages in diverse fundraising activities that include sending direct mail appeals to our members, throwing house parties hosted by volunteer leaders, and writing grant proposals to foundations. Our total income was \$734,000.



(The legal settlement income noted here came from a court decision against a polluter; it was especially unexpected as it was not a case in which the Sierra Club was a party.)

SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER INCREASES COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FOR OUR GREAT LAKES STATE

The Michigan Chapter's 2008 financial summaries reflect a 26% increase over last year's expenses and income. This growth is an indication of the Chapter's increased commitment to one of our priority campaigns: building a clean, sustainable energy future for Michigan.

Last year, virtually every Michigan Chapter staff engaged in activities to help improve clean energy policies: we informed and organized communities to resist proposed new coal plants, we lobbied state and federal legislators for better laws, we testified at public hearings about increasing energy efficiency, we educated the Granholm administration on clean alternatives that would grow jobs, and we fostered media coverage to raise public

awareness of the critical energy issues facing our state today.

Supporters like you and a grant from Sierra Club's national energy campaign made it possible for the Michigan Chapter to double its energy program budget in 2008 and achieve tangible results for Michigan's families.

Thank you!

Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

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

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\$500-\$999

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- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Anne & Tom Woiwode

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SIERRA CLUB, 109 EAST GRAND RIVER AVE, LANSING, MI 48906.



The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together

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