TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SPRING/SUMMER 2016

Making the Great Lakes State Great Again

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

B eing the Great Lakes State means more than a name on a license plate. Surrounded by four of the five largest bodies of fresh water on the planet, Michigan has a special mandate to protect this resource for future generations. Unfortunately, the agency charged with protecting our water, air and land—the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)—has done a miserable job of carrying out its mission over the last six years.

Under the Snyder Administration, the MDEQ has consistently made decisions that favor the bottom line over the environment and public health. Examples abound but the most egregious is the Flint drinking water crisis, which occurred because state officials, including the city's Snyder-appointed emergency manager and the MDEQ, opted to save money by switching to a less costly water source for the city. This decision has resulted in a far more costly public health catastrophe with long-lasting consequences for young children who will suffer neurological damage from lead exposure. Throughout this crisis, Sierra Club has focused on helping the people of Flint while also holding the Snyder Administration accountable for restoring safe drinking water (see p.5 for details).

The impact of Snyder's governing approach can be seen everywhere in Michigan. It's reflected in all the issues you'll read about in this Mackinac, including:

• The MDEQ's failure to adequately enforce factory farm permits to prevent manure runoff that contributes to



Surrounded by four Great Lakes, Michigan has a special responsibility to protect water.

toxic algae blooms. (Read about our Less=More campaign on p.6.)

- The agency's lack of enforcement of steel and oil facility permits in lowincome areas of Detroit — it decided not to craft an implementation plan to meet EPA standards for sulfur dioxide emissions in the contaminated River Rouge area of Detroit. (p.8)
- The MDEQ's approval of a permit to operate an industrial fish farm in the pristine Au Sable River. (p.7)
- Snyder's inclusion of Enbridge
 Energy and Marathon Petroleum on
 the Pipeline Advisory Committee
 to develop policies about the aging
 pipelines despite their self interest.

SIERRA CLUB Fundamental change to this problem can only come with an engaged electorate voting for candidates who put people and the planet over profits. Learn how to be a part of the solution. (p.10-11)

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THE MACKINAC

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IntheSpotlight

Tax Breaks for Nestle While \$ Trickles To Flint

by David Holtz, Chapter Chair

The state of Michigan gives away millions of gallons of water from our aquifers to Nestle Corporation so they can bottle and sell it and grants them \$13 million in tax breaks to do so. Meanwhile, families in Flint went without safe drinking water for more than a year because there wasn't enough money to replace bad pipes. And, Flint residents are paying the highest water rates in the country.

Nestle, a company with \$14 billion in profits, pumps 218 gallons of Michigan water a minute every day for free and is given tax breaks for doing so. Nestle continues to get this great deal while we debate who should pay to replace corroded water pipes. The American Society of Civil Engineers says Michigan's drinking water systems earn a D. Michigan has \$13.8 billion in total unmet water infra-

structure needs. Yet tax credits are given away without regard for the cost of maintaining our water systems. Flint residents are forced to rely on bottled water until this problem is fixed.

Somewhere along the line things in the Great Lakes State got seriously off track. So what can — what should — we do about it? We can try to elect to office candidates who will commit to fixing our water systems and other problems. However, what is really broken is our political infrastructure.

Michigan's political system is rigged and the result is that democracy suffers. One of the biggest problems is the little understood system of gerrymandered legislative districts where partisan politicians manipulate voting maps to keep themselves and their party in power. This reduces political competition and accountability to voters while favoring special interests in Lansing who supply the political money and get favors in return. Too often, because of term limits, political office becomes a revolving door and elected officials are rewarded with corporate jobs from these

You can help Sierra Club make democracy in Michigan work again. We are reaching out to our fellow citizens and educating them about gerrymandering and we need your help. (See p.11 to learn how.)

same special interests when their time in

office ends.





New ExCom members Lacy Dawson, left, and Dorthea Thomas, right.

CHAPTER EXCOM WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

The Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) welcomed two new members at its January meeting — Lacy Dawson, Field Director at Michigan Voice, and Dorthea Thomas, Environmental & Climate Justice Organizer at Michigan United. In addition, Nancy Shiffler stepped into the newly created emeritus position, which enables the Chapter to draw on the expertise of long-time ExCom members while expanding opportunities for others to participate in Chapter governance.

We're lucky to have people like Lacy, Dorthea and Nancy on our team.

If you'd like to get involved with Sierra Club at this level, consider running for a space on the ExCom! See details below.

Join the Executive Committee

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is a volunteer-led organization governed by an Executive Committee including at-large members elected by the Sierra Club's Michigan membership.

This fall, five Sierra Club members will be elected to at-large seats on the Executive Committee. Any member may apply to be nominated for election.

For questions or to apply, please contact Nominating Committee Chair David Holtz at david@davidholtz.org or Sierra Club's office at 517-484-2372.



GroupInfo

THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP! Sierra Club is the largest

grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's eight regional Groups and one Committee host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings — everyone is welcome! For inquiries about activities in your area, you can also contact gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.

Clearwater Conservation Committee / CCC

COUNTIES: Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford

FACEBOOK: Clearwater Conservation Committee

TWITTER: @NCMIClearwater

EMAIL: <u>sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com</u> **CHAIR:** Rebecca Skeels, <u>clearwater.chair@</u>

michigan.sierraclub.org

Central Michigan Group / CMG

COUNTIES: Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee

MEETS: in Lansing area and Jackson
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/cmg
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Central Michigan

Group

CHAIR: Dave Errickson, 517-648-9115 or

dcenur@yahoo.com

VICE CHAIR: Paul Kindel, 517-332-3091 or

kindel@msu.edu

Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

COUNTIES: Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon

MEETS: in Marquette

FACEBOOK: Central Upper Peninsula Club **GROUP & OUTINGS CHAIR:** John Rebers, 906-228-3617or <u>jrebers@gmail.com</u>

Crossroads Group / CG

COUNTIES: Livingston and western Oakland **MEETS:** at group leader homes in Livingston County

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads **FACEBOOK:** Crossroads Group Sierra Club **CHAIR:** Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or <u>lee.</u>

burton@michigan.sierraclub.org

VICE CHAIR: Sue Kelly, suekelly77@gmail.com

New! Greater Grand Rapids Committee / GGRC

CONTACT: Gail Philbin, 616-805-3063 or gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

Huron Valley Group / HVG

COUNTIES: Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe

MEETS: in Ann Arbor

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron **FACEBOOK:** Sierra Club Huron Valley Group

EMAIL: <u>HVGSierraClub@gmail.com</u> **CHAIR:** Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or

nshiffler@comcast.net

VICE CHAIR: James D'Amour, <u>hvg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org</u>

Nepessing Group / NG

COUNTIES: Genessee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland

MEETS: in Flint

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Nepessing CHAIR: Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038 or

thaley01@att.net

VICE CHAIR: Laurie Tata, greendem@yahoo.

com



MICHIGAN CHAPTER GROUP BOUNDARIES



Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

COUNTIES: St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne

MEETS: at Elks Club in Royal Oak **WEBSITE:** michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

FACEBOOK: Sierra Club South East Michigan
Group

CHAIR: Art Myatt, 248-548-6175 or <u>almyatt@</u> <u>yahoo.com</u>

VICE CHAIR: Dave Richards, <u>rodaverich@</u> comcast.net

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

COUNTIES: Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry

MEETS: in Kalamazoo

WEBSITE: <u>www.sierraclubswmg.org</u> **CHAIR:** Shannon Haupt, shannon.haupt12@

gmail.com

VICE CHAIR: Mark Miller, <u>memimller55@</u> <u>charter.net</u>

Three Lakes Group / TLG

COUNTIES: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and

Schoolcraft

MEETS: in Sault Ste. Marie

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes **FACEBOOK:** Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club **CHAIR:** Roger Blanchard, <u>blanchardrd@yahoo.</u>

<u>com</u>

VICE CHAIR: Carol Ward, saltptcew@gmail.com



VISIT ONLINE AT <u>WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/MICHIGAN/MICHIGAN-GROUPS</u>

2015AnnualReport

Protecting the Environment in 2015

 \mathbf{T} his past year was a challenging year for protecting the earth, but significant bright spots lay the groundwork for 2016 and beyond.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Thousands engaged with us in lobbying, hearings, marches, and educational forums, calling on Michigan's leaders to move beyond dirty fossil fuels to a clean, sustainable future.
- The Nuclear Free Michigan Committee was created around issues at the Palisades Nuclear plant and the fight to stop DTE's Fermi 3 and encourage Fermi 2's retirement.
- · Sierra Club worked with allies in Oil & Water Don't Mix in the effort to stop the flow of oil through Enbridge Line 5 across the Mackinac Straits, and sued the US Forest Service for failing to properly assess the line's environmental impact on Huron Manistee National Forest.
- Our Beyond Natural Gas Committee trained citizens to fight permits for hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas and is involved in the petition drive for a fracking ban ballot initiative.
- We worked with the City of Holland on Energy Blitzes to gain national prominence for implementing energy efficiency.
- Our Sierra Club Solar Partnership program connected Michiganders with reputable solar installers and suppliers and raised funds for the Chapter.

LEGISLATIVE

- We stopped the Pipeline Secrecy bill that would have amended Michigan's Freedom of Information Act to permanently block public access to energy system safety records.
- We helped stop the Legislature's gutting of the state's solar industry.
- We hosted two lobby days with over 150 participants, held 300+ meetings with state legislators, and made 75,000

NOTE: This Annual Report has not been audited. It includes only financial information about the Michigan Chapter's work, not from the affiliated Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Committee.

contacts with lawmakers asking for clean energy and a fracking ban.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- In response to the Flint drinking water crisis, we joined with Cong. Dan Kildee in urging the US EPA to conduct an investigation and are working at the local, state and federal levels to assure that no Michigan community suffers this kind of disaster again.
- We continued challenging the state's air permit to the Severstal (now AK) Steel that set air pollution emission levels far too high.
- With community support, we are challenging the expansion of the US Ecology Disposal facility to accept radioactive fracking waste.
- The Detroit March for Justice rallied 1,000 people around social, environmental, racial and economic justice.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

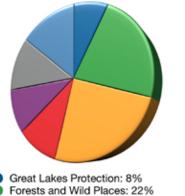
- In partnership with tribes and conservation groups, we spoke up against the state selling 10,000 acres of public forest lands to a Canadian company for a limestone mine. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources dramatically reduced the proposal, ensuring that forests in the parcel of land stayed in public ownership.
- We fought a proposed industrial fish farm within the Au Sable River, a world-renowned trout stream, appealing its state permit with help from the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center.

PROTECT AND RESTORE THE **GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM**

• Our Less=More sustainable agriculture coalition released a first-of-its kind report, Follow the Manure: Factory Farms and the Lake Erie Algal Crisis, that maps environmental violations at factory farms in the western Lake Erie watershed and the federal farm bill subsidies they received.

EXPENSES TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

In 2015, the Chapter spent \$542,316 to advance its conservation priorities. Of that, 74% went directly to pro-environment activities you care about. The remaining 26% went to administrative aid for our programs and activities and helped secure funds to ensure the sustainability of the Chapter's critical work.



- Clean Energy Solutions: 24% Political Engagement & Lobbying: 10%
- Membership Outreach & Education: 10% Fundraising: 12%
- Administration: 14%

INCOME TO SUSTAIN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In 2015, the Chapter's income was \$434,633 and 8% came from a portion of your annual Sierra Club membership dues. The vast majority of our financial support is derived from diverse fundraising activities including direct and online mail appeals that yield vital donations from members like you as well grant request proposals to foundations.



- Allocations: 28%
 - Tax-deductible: 8%
 - Tax-deductible bequests: 7%
 - Non-deductible: 5%
 - Non-deductible bequests: 3%
 - Non-deductible lobbying: 5%
 - Donations: 50%
 - Tax-deductible: 24%
 - Non-deductible: 25%
- Nat'l SC Shared Project Grants: 14%
- Other Grants/Misc: 8%

Protect&RestoreOurGreatLakesEcosystem

A Dangerous Precedent for the Great Lakes

by Erma Leaphart, Conservation Organizer, Great Lakes Program

n January, Waukesha, WI., made history by being the first community outside the Great Lakes basin to formally apply to access Lake Michigan water under the Great Lakes Compact. This historic 2008 agreement between eight states including Michigan bans diversions of Great Lakes waters except under extraordinary circumstances. Waukesha's request for Lake Michigan water to supply the city fails to demonstrate a real need. Waukesha already has a local water supply but refuses to take necessary measures to treat it properly. In addition, the proposal includes water for other suburban Milwaukee communities, which have not expressed a need.

Approval of Waukesha's request could threaten the viability of the compact. If access to Lake Michigan water is granted without evidence of a serious hardship, a dangerous precedent could be set. Climate change, super-droughts and population growth are straining water resources nationwide.

Diversions require the unanimous consent of the eight Compact states, and any one governor can block the proposed diversion. It's not clear how Gov. Snyder will vote, but Sierra Club activists sent him a loud message to veto the proposal in response to an alert earlier this year. Michigan, which is entirely within the Great Lakes basin, has a special responsi-



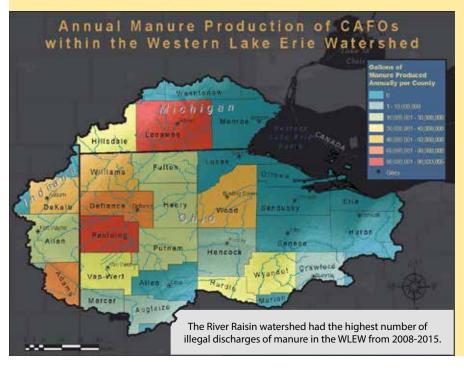
Learn more about the Waukesha diversion issue at protectourgreatlakes.org

bility to ensure that a bad precedent for future diversion requests isn't set by approving a needless one from Waukesha.

As of this writing, the Compact Council is deliberating about the proposal, but a decision is expected in May.

FEDERAL FUNDING FLOWS WHILE LAKE ERIE CONTAMINATION GROWS

Sierra Club's Less=More Coalition released a report that takes an unprecedented look at the relationship between the manure load from factory farms in the Western Lake Erie Watershed (WLEW) and federal subsidies that inundated the region over the last seven years. The report, *Follow the Manure: Factory Farms*



and the Lake Erie Algae Crisis, shows that between 2008 and 2015, U.S. Department of Agriculture direct payments, and other conservation subsidies to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) totaled more than \$16.8 million in the WLEW, which includes Ohio, southern Michigan and eastern Indiana.

Follow the Manure documents how millions of dollars in taxpayer funds were disbursed despite WLEW phosphorus contamination levels rising and CAFOs being fined for illegal waste discharges. The report spotlights the environmental violations and subsidy records of seven CAFOs in two southern Michigan counties — Lenawee and Hillsdale — that offer a closer look at what is happening throughout the WLEW.

The centerpiece of the report is a groundbreaking set of interactive maps that locate all CAFOs in the watershed and connect them with data about manure production and subsidies in the region. View them at tinyurl.com/FollowtheManureReport.

Protect&RestoreMichigan'sBiodiversity

Headwaters of Great Lakes Always Start In Forests

by Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

magine the following scenario: A developer sees an old building on a first-class trout river. It's not that big, but the developer decides it would be a great location for a condo development for 200 people. He leases the building from the owner, the county (a public body), for \$1 a year, and promises the new development will create two half-time jobs. The plan is to put far more people into the building than it was ever designed to hold, never mind that it's over 100 years old and is out of date regarding safety practices.

But there are a couple catches — sewers and septic facilities are expensive, so the developer proposes to simply flush the toilets into the adjoining river. As it happens, trash pickup is expensive, too. And a lot of the people who plan to live there regularly get sick and take a lot of medication but accidentally throw much of it away. So the developer proposes that in addition to the toilets, all the uneaten food and unused medicine from the condos will go into the river as well.

The county loves the idea of putting thousands of pounds of excrement, uneaten foods, and unused medicine into the river, because those two half-time jobs are far more important than a clean river to the local economy. The state agency with the mission of protecting clean air and water also thinks this sounds fine and issues a permit for the development to dump excrement, food, and medicine into the river, which just happens to be a world-famous trout stream.

Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? However, if you substitute fish for people, this is a true story.

The old Grayling Fish Hatchery sits in (not close to, but in) the Au Sable River. The river flows right through the old hatchery, which was built over 100 years ago to raise fish to plant in rivers around the state. It was never intended to produce commercial volumes of fish, and it has none of the environmental safeguards built in to modern facilities. It ceased to function as a working hatchery almost 50 years ago.

A commercial fish farm operator decided this old facility would make a good place for a new fish farm and leased it from Crawford County for \$1 a year. He proposes to create two half-time jobs there. Since the river flows through the hatchery, all the waste will flow into the river — excrement, fish food (pellets thrown into the pens), and most likely antibiotics that are common in confined animal facilities.

The Michigan DEQ issued a permit for all of the above last year. Sierra Club filed suit to prevent this facility from operating, because we do not believe it is possible to raise fish commercially in this location safely, and we went to administrative court in February of this year.

At press time we were waiting to hear the verdict. Follow this story on our website, www.sierraclub.org/michigan.



This Ear	th Day	, JOI	N Sierra Club						
the world isn't waiting, why are you?									
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Email									
☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club. Please Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX Cardholder Name ☐ Gardholder Name									
Card Number		Exp. Date _							
Membership Categories Special Offer Standard Supporting	Individual	Joint \$47	Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizenbased advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.						
Contributing Life Senior Student/Limited Income	\$150 \$1000 \$24 \$24	\$175 \$1250 \$32	Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org						
Student/Limited income 524 532 F94Q W 2100 1 SIERRA CLUB Explore, enjoy and protect the planet									

Mitigate Climate Change

Detroit Mayor and Health Director Join Hundreds Saying *No* to Marathon's Request to Increase Sulfur Dioxide

by Regina Strong, Michigan Beyond Coal Campaign Director

ore than 500 people started the New Year at a hearing to say "No" to Marathon Petroleum's request for a permit that would increase emission levels of sulfur dioxide and nine other toxic chemicals in southeast Michigan. People gathered from across the region during a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality hearing (MDEQ) at River Rouge High School urging the agency to reject a request from Marathon to increase air pollutants at their Southwest Detroit facility.

Community members were joined by local and state officials, environmental advocates, and members of surrounding communities. The attention surrounding the request to increase emissions comes as MDEQ is under fire for neglecting water quality issues in Flint. Now, community members and local officials are concerned that the state agency is doing the same with the air quality in Detroit.

In response to public outcry, the Detroit City Council added a second hearing to provide an additional opportunity for community voices to be heard. According to Detroit City Councilman Scott Benson it was important for Detroiters.

"The people of Detroit are concerned," said Detroit City Councilman Scott Benson. "We put together this second hearing following the first because the matter requires extra scrutiny. Any time you are making a decision that greatly impacts the public's health it needs to be an open and honest conversation."

During the second hearing, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said he was ready to fight the permit application until Marathon agreed not to increase sulfur dioxide in the region.

"The assault on public health in Detroit has to stop," said Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, City of Detroit Director of Public Health. "The health consequences of air pollution in Detroit are staggering and this proposal will increase many pollutants, including sulfur dioxide, which already exceeds Clean Air Act standards. The MDEQ must recognize that Detroiters suffer some of the highest asthma rates in the state, along with increased heart disease, cancer rates and strokes — all products of air pollution."

Wayne County is already suffering from sulfur dioxide pollution levels that are harmful to human health. Sulfur dioxide can cause serious respiratory problems, harming the most vulnerable: children, seniors, and aggravating those with existing respiratory illnesses. According to a 2014 American Lung Association report, Wayne County has the highest number of pediatric asthma cases in Michigan, an asthma hospitalization rate that is three to six times higher than the state as a whole.

In 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated a portion of Wayne County as failing to meet federal



air quality standards for sulfur dioxide. The MDEQ missed the EPA's April 2015 deadline to submit a plan to address the nonattainment problem. MDEQ proposed a plan last summer that required zero emissions reductions from the area's largest sources of SO₂ emissions.

The MDEQ has yet to announce their decision regarding the permits. However, the City of Detroit is currently negotiating with Marathon regarding reducing emissions.

The EPA now has the authority to develop a federal plan to address this air pollution. Urge the EPA to act without delay at sc.org/ActInMichigan!

BAN FRACKING PETITION DRIVE CONTINUES

n just six months last year, Sierra Club volunteers helped collect over 150,000 signatures for a petition circulated by the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan. The initiative aimed to create a statewide ballot question to prohibit horizontal fracking and frack wastes in Michigan.

Signatures fell short of the 250,000 required by the end of 2015, but the Committee revived the campaign this year based on a new legal interpretation of ballot law that would allow previously collected signatures to carry over if the signer is still a registered voter.

The Michigan Board of Canvassers has not yet made a decision on the legitimacy of this interpretation, but hopeful Sierra Club volunteers have hit the pavement to collect more signatures by the new deadline of June 1.

For more details, visit <u>letsbanfracking.org</u>. To learn about Sierra Club's work, visit <u>sierraclub.org/michigan/ban-fracking</u>.

Environmental Iustice For All

Building a Better Michigan in the Wake of Flint

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

S ince the man-made drinking water crisis in Flint came to light last fall, a great deal has been said and done about the

unprecedented lead poisoning of residents of this impoverished city. The fault lies with poor decisions at many levels of government, but particularly those of Gov. Snyder, his emergency managers and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

One area of Sierra Club's focus is the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Flint's problems probably never would have happened had the MDEQ ensured that its drinking water was properly treated when it switched from the Detroit water system to the Flint River. We need to

strengthen current safe drinking water laws so communities like Flint have more federal support to replace lead pipes. Our Chapter representative on this issue is Cyndi Roper, a former member of the US EPA's national Safe Drinking Water Advisory Council. Cyndi and other Sierra Club members and staff are advocating to the EPA for changes to improve proposed new rules on lead and

copper.

We're holding the Snyder Administration accountable, too. Gov. Snyder's cost-cutting approach to government and his appointed emergency managers caused the Flint crisis, and their policies are putting Michigan residents at risk, especially low income and communities of color hard hit by pollution from industry emissions.

Flint's suffering brings into sharp relief the importance of environmental justice, which the EPA defines as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race,

color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." We Sierrans are committed to making this happen in Michigan.



CONCERNED ABOUT ALGAE AND OTHER
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED TO INDUSTRIAL
AGRICULTURE? >>> WANT TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE
FARMS? >>> JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE. >>> CONTACT PAUL MCCULLOUGH AT
PDMAC@MAC.COM OR CALL 989-630-8710.

LIFE WITHOUT CLEAN WATER

lean, safe water is something that most of us take for granted. Imagine if you woke up one day and found out you couldn't use the water from your tap.

The EPA says the average US family uses 400 gallons/day. Of course, this includes flushing the toilet and washing your clothes. If you take 50% away for uses that don't get on your skin, the remaining 50% is used for bathing, cooking and drinking — still 200 gallons/day.

How many trips to the store would that take? Even if the city or the state provides you with bottled or canned water, how sustainable is that? This is why the Flint disaster is so hard to swallow. How is saving a few dollars worth the inconvenient and degrading journey to get drinking water? How is saving a few dollars worth the agony and concern of parents that their children will have a lifetime risk of illness and brain damage?

Leslie March, editor



aron Mair, Sierra Club's national president, and Mike Brune, Sierra Club executive director, spoke at a press conference before the March 6 Democratic debate in Flint

Mair and Brune joined Dr. Cornell Brooks, President of the NAACP, and others to address the need to invest in infrastructure and rebuild democracy.

Pictured (I to r): Mary Kay Henry, President of the SEIU; Barbara Carr, SEIU Healthcare Michigan Executive Board member; Mike Brune; Dr. Cornell Brooks; Aaron Mair; Juani Olivares of the Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative; and Rev. Rick Carter, Michigan Faith in Action.

DemocracyInAction

A Letter from your SC Michigan Political Committee

A re you angry and disgusted that Michigan's government allowed toxic lead to poison the entire population of Flint? Are you sick of hearing about politicians undermining our democracy and voting against clean air and water? So are we!

That's why we are raising money to fund our political program that will help elect candidates who care about protecting our priceless environment and our democracy in this year's elections. So far, our political committee has already organized a successful fundraiser event in Lansing and soon we'll be organizing fundraisers in other parts of the state.

But we need your help in order to continue our success. Please consider making a donation using the form below to help pay for our work to get pro-environment candidates elected.

Every election year, our political committee travels all over

Michigan giving public presentations to educate people. We organize political training programs for activists, we produce an election guide used by 25,000 people and we contact 200,000 voters. We run an expansive internship program which has be-

come a national model for the Sierra Club where we train the next generation of environmental/political organizers.

Our political work sets the stage for achieving conservation policy victories for our air, water, land, forests, energy and public health, but we can't do these things without your financial support.

This year's elections are right around the corner and we need to prepare for the battle ahead.

Our Political Committee's goal is to raise \$15,000 before October. We can only reach this goal with your help.

Please make a donation to our Political Committee using the form below.



Thank you for everything you do!

Sincerely, Michigan Chapter 2016 Political Committee

Chair Richard Barron (Ann Arbor) • Vice Chair Robert Gordon (Ann Arbor) • Political Director Mike Berkowitz (Lansing) Tom Turner (Detroit) • Lacy Dawson (Detroit) • Vicki Dobbins (River Rouge) • Jean Gramlich (Fenton)

Tim Minotas (Mt. Pleasant) • Craig Ressler (Caledonia) • Laurie Tata (Clio) • Jack Minore (Flint)

Mark Meadows (East Lansing) • Gwen Nystuen (Ann Arbor) • Dave Richards (Royal Oak) • Julie Griess (Whitmore Lake)

Pat Egan (Brimley) • James D'Amour (Ann Arbor) • Charlie Stefanac (Kalamazoo) • Andrew Sarpolis (Novi)

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB'S PAC

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

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



Name:
Address:
City/State/ZIP:
Phone: ()
Email:
Employer:
Occupation:

Clean Up Our Political Environment in the 2016 Election

by Richard Morley Barron, Political Chair

This is an election year which means that you have an opportunity to make a positive impact on our planet. What can concerned Sierra Club members do?

Tirst, become aware of the races that you are eligible to vote in and determine which of the candidates in each contest is the most environmentally responsible. The Chapter will be carefully screening candidates of all parties and endorsing the best ones. Our endorsed candidates will be posted on our Chapter Political web site and regularly updated throughout 2016: www.sierraclub.org/michigan/endorsed-candidates.

2 Second, help support environmentally minded candidates with your time. Candidates need help with their campaigns and you can get involved by contacting them and signing up to volunteer. If you need information on how to do this and which candidates to help, email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org or

call the Lansing office at 517-999-1305.

If you don't have time to volunteer but still want to make a difference, the easiest way is by donating to our Political Action Committee. All of the money we raise goes toward helping our endorsed candidates for Federal, State and local office win their races. To donate, use the form on p10.

Third, we need you to educate your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about the Sierra Club's endorsed candidates. Research shows that if you have a relationship/friendship with someone, you are 30% more likely to be able to impact their voting behavior than anyone else. You should assure these people that Sierra Club is a non-partisan organization that carefully investigates the environmental responsibility of all candidates.

Make your voice heard. After all, our biosphere is at risk!

BE PREPARED FOR ELECTION 2016! >>> THE MICHIGAN PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 AND THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8. >>> THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7AM-8PM FOR BOTH OF THESE ELECTIONS OR YOU CAN REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BEFOREHAND. >>> TO LOOK UP YOUR DISTRICT INFORMATION, POLLING LOCATION, MAKE SURE YOU'RE REGISTERED, AND SEE WHAT YOUR BALLOT WILL LOOK LIKE, VISIT WEBAPPS.SOS.STATE.MI.US/MIVOTE.

HELP US PUT THE PEOPLE BACK IN DEMOCRACY!

hen elected officials don't feel accountable to all of the people they represent, it makes it more difficult for citizens advocating for the environment to have an impact.

That's why we launched a new project in February to raise awareness about the negative effect of gerrymandering on our democracy. Michigan legislators set voting districts that are not competitive, picking their voters instead of voters picking their legislators (for a deeper dive into this issue, go to tinyurl.com/ j2676nm).

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS TO SUCCEED!

Here are two options:

- Lansing phone banks: we need anyone who can dedicate just a few hours of their time to talk with fellow Michiganders. It's extremely easy to do, using a short script with two simple questions to ask folks you call. For details, visit tinyurl.com/ MISCRedistricting. To sign up to volunteer, email amanda. adams@sierraclub.org.
- Can't make our office phone banks in Lansing? We can set you up for calling from the comfort of your own home. Sign up at <u>tinyurl.com/fixdemocracy</u>.



2016 MI CHAPTER LOBBY DAY

Seventy Sierra Club volunteers gathered in Lansing from all over the state for our Spring Citizen Lobby Day. These volunteers visited every State Representative and Senator to advocate for more investments in clean energy. Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood and Representative Julie Plawecki, who sponsored progressive energy bills for us, addressed our members and spoke with us at a press conference calling for the legislature to pass their bills.

2016AnnualRetreat

SOAK UP THE SUMMER SUN BY EXPLORING ONE OF MICHIGAN'S MOST BIODIVERSE

AND UNIQUE DESTINATIONS. Join us during one of the last weekends of summer for an affordable weekend retreat August 26-28, 2016 at historic Camp Miniwanca, a gem nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan just north of Muskegon. Located among 360 wooded acres with a mile of private Lake Michigan shoreline, this beautiful camp offers tent camping, log cabins among the pines or rooms a few steps away from the beach.

Explore and Enjoy: Remember Why You Protect

by Dave Errickson, Chair, Michigan Sierra Club Retreat

S ummer in Michigan! What two things come to mind? Beaches and camping. The annual Michigan Sierra Club Retreat offers both at family friendly Camp Miniwanca from August 26-28.

This retreat brings adults and youth together in celebrating the outdoors in a beautiful, safe, fun environment. We all need to recharge before summer ends and there is no better place to do it. In between walking the beach, swimming, or hiking, you can attend workshops to learn about conservation issues and ways you can take action to improve the world around you.

Some of the activities include:

swimming • tubing • kayaking
hiking • kids crafts
star-gazing • ropes course
animal identification • storytelling

While you will have the opportunity to learn about the many conservation issues facing Michigan, we want to bring a sense of hope and joy to why we protect the environment. Our theme this year focuses on the Explore and Enjoy part of the Sierra Club motto. We will feature speakers with messages about beautiful, natural places and how people came to want to protect the

planet. We hope you and your family will not only explore and enjoy nature but become passionate about protecting it as well.

Our famous auction, following our Chapter awards ceremony and keynote speaker, has become one of the retreats most highly anticipated events. It also helps offset the cost of the retreat. Please consider bringing an item to donate to the cause. Popular auction items include, but are not limited to, camping gear, nature related items, gardening books or tools, baked goods, organic veggies, crafts/art supplies, Michigan products, handmade and vintage jewelry, beverages for those with discriminating taste, art, birding books or equipment, photography, cook books, music, movies, pet supplies. Note: There will be a special auction area for kids — they can bring gently used toys to recycle or bring creative artwork to the retreat.

The fee for the retreat covers two nights lodging, five meals starting on Saturday morning through lunch on Sunday, activities and speakers. Please check www.michigan.sierraclub. org periodically for more information about the retreat. You can contact Cecilia Garcia with questions at 517-484-2372 or Cecilia.Garcia@sierraclub.org.

Whether you have been to the retreat several times or if this is your first time, we look forward to camping with you!

See you in August!







All workshops, activities, five meals and two nights lodging are included in each of the rates listed below.

Names (include age if under 18):	Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total	
	< 3	All	Free	Free	
	3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$85		
	3-12	Beach or Inland Dorm	\$95		
Address:	Adult	Cabin or Tent	\$155		
	Adult	Inland Dorm	\$180		
Phone: ()	Adult	Beach Dorm, with roomate(s)	\$190		
Email Address:	Adult	Beach Dorm, no roomate(s)	\$230		
(Saves resources—your address will not be shared.)	Donation to ICO (\$5 suggested)*				
Please list roommate(s) names, if applicable:	Add \$25 for registration after August 17				
	TOTAL ENCLOSED				
	Cancelle	ation policy: Full refund on o	r before August 17,	2016	
Would you agree to share a room with someone you do not know (same sex)? Circle one: Yes No	* Visit <u>content.sierraclub.org/outings/ico</u> to learn more about Sierra Club's Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program				
Special needs, comments, questions, suggestions:		many times have you atte Retreat?			
	> How Webs	did you hear about the re	treat? (Circle answ	vers) ttendee	

Register online* at sierraclub.org/michigan/chapter-retreat or send this form, with a check payable to Sierra Club, to: Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, ATTN: MI CHAPTER RETREAT, 109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Contact Cecilia Garcia with registration questions, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372, x10. * PLEASE NOTE: A small credit card processing fee will be added to online registrations.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY AUGUST 22. Check-in begins Friday, August 26 at 3pm.

Supporting Your Chapter

In Memoriam: Matthew H. Fields

by Cynthia Price

M atthew H. Fields (1961-2016) was a computer scientist/IT professional by day, classical composer by night,

and true believer in the goals of the Sierra Club. He died at his Ann Arbor home Feb. 7 from a respiratory disease.

Born in Milwaukee, Matthew spent his young life in Deerfield, Illinois, before leaving for his beloved Oberlin College. He received two degrees, one in music, one

in mathematics, followed by a Masters in Music from Stanford University and a Doctorate in Music from University of Michigan.

Even when he was struggling financially early on, Matthew contributed to Sierra Club. He came by his love for it naturally: his mother, Natalie Fields, was the secretary of her local Sierra Club in his youth, and asked that Sierra Club receive memorial contributions upon her 2013 death.

Matthew was hardly an outdoorsman, but he cared deeply about the well-being of every living thing. He also had a profound love of science and wanted to incorporate its teachings in his everyday living. After a lifelong love of astronomy,

he received a telescope from his wife (then girlfriend)
Cynthia, and he spent as much time as possible looking at the night skies. It was a high point of his life when he visited New Mexico a few years ago; at the isolated home of a composer friend, surrounded by darkness, Matthew

was able to indulge, and share, his love of stargazing.

Matthew's consuming passion was his music, and he lives on in its beauty and fascination. The last piece he wrote, called *Murmurdapple*, was inspired by time spent alone, listening, in the woods. He created four CDs, some stemming from the music of his Jewish heritage, and others from looking at the stars. The producer of three of his CDs, Judith Sherman, won this year's Grammy Award in part for her work on his final recording, *Double Cluster/Space Sciences*.



Matthew with his mother, Natalie Fields

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

emorials and commemorative gifts as

well as bequests are a very fitting and heartfelt way to honor someone at the same time as protecting Michigan's environment. Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Where there's a will there is a way! If you've placed the Michigan Sierra Club in your will or would like information about how to do that, please let us know.

Memorial gifts are a nice way to remember a dear friend or loved one that not only affirms your environmental values but also recognizes that these values were shared by the individual being honored. A commemorative gift is also a great way to celebrate special occasions like birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and other important events of someone meaningful to you.

To find out more about these special gifts please contact Jan O'Connell at the Michigan Chapter at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club Gift Planning Program 85 Second St, Second Floor San Francisco, CA 94105

gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

THANK YOU, EARTHSHARE DONORS

Earth Share Michigan

work each year through payroll deduction via EarthShare of Michigan. If you have just completed your annual payroll deduction campaign at work, and Earth Share of Michigan wasn't listed as an option, please call 800-386-3326 to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support the Sierra Club Foundation – Michigan Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work. For more info, visit the website www.earthsharemichigan.org.

Our Vital Michigan Legacy Council

John Muir once said, "Any fool can destroy trees." In contrast, it takes special people to protect trees... people like you, who donate time, expertise or money to help support and champion our work. We do our best to thank all of you, whether it's with a personal thank you or annual awards, but it's not enough!

The Michigan Legacy Council honors

those who give over \$500 per year as non-deductible donations to our citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs or as tax-deductible gifts to support qualifying educational and policy programs. See p.16 for our current listing of members.

For more information, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

GET INVOLVED!

Run for Sierra Club Office! The Executive Committee needs people like you. Details on p.3.

Like what we do? Support our work with a donation. Use the form below or learn more and donate online at <u>tinyurl.com/supportMisc</u>.

Learn more about the Sierra Club and the work we do towards Environmental Justice at www.sierraclub.org/environmental-justice.

Sierra Club Solar Partnership

ore than 100 Michigan Sierra Club members and supporters have taken advantage of the Sierra Club Solar Partnerships program to find out about installing solar arrays on their homes in Michigan.

Our partners — Michigan Solar Solutions, Solar Winds Power Systems and McNaughton-McKay Electric Company — are carefully vetted, qualified, residential solar power installers and providers of solar products who can help you transition to clean energy.

Sign up now for an evaluation of your home's capabilities, help to identify financing, and installation of the solar power systems that will work for you. Each purchase through this program means a donation to support the Michigan Chapter's work!

Learn more at <u>tinyurl.com/</u> SCSolar.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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

Give online at www.tinyurl.com/supportMISC

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

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

Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, 109 E. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906 Instead of a check, please charge my credit card
(VISA or MC) \$_____.

Card # : _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: ______

Email:



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

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

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16

Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

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

FENS & SAPLINGS

\$500-\$999

- · Peter Bailey
- Ms. Mary Anne Beltzman
- Jonathan Cohn
- Ms. Lorraine D'Angelo
- · Kathleen & William Davis
- · David Diephuis
- EarthShare of Michigan
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- Katherine Fairley
- · Thomas (Mike) Haley
- Chris & Tamela Hamilton
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- Robert M. Johnson
- · Larry Junck & Robbi Duda
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- Carola Vogel
- Anonymous Donor

STREAMS & WHITE PINES

\$1,000-\$2,499

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- Kenneth & Judy Betz
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- Julia Chambers
- Estate of Esther Dean
- · Lois Debacker
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- · Julie Ann & Steven Wang
- Todd S. Wilkinson
- Anonymous Donor

RIVERS & GROVES

\$2,500-\$4,999

- · Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman
- Gwen & John Nystuen
- · Stanley & Connie Rajnak
- · Nancy Shiffler
- Carol E. Ward

DUNES & SHORELINES

\$5,000-\$7,499

- · Lorne & Kathi Beatty
- Jean Gramlich
- Mr. John R. Hunting
- Helen & Al LeBlanc

MARSHES & PRAIRIES

\$7,500-\$14,999

- Ceci Bauer & Tim Flynn
- Pierce Family Foundation
- · Anne & Tom Woiwode

GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS

\$15,000+

- · Thomas Buhr
- Estate of Rita M. Burke
- Patrick Egan
- Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation
- Wege Foundation

SUPPORT THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER!

Go to <u>www.tinyurl.com/donateSCMC</u> to make your donation and to join the EVERGREEN sustaining program that allows you to give throughout the year with monthly, quarterly or other gift options.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.