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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

TheMackinac

Quarterly Publication of Michigan's Sierra Club • November 2003 - January 2004

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

**LEAVE NO
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND**
A Chapter Priority in 2003

PHOTO COURTESY RITA JACK

Yeah, But How Much?

by Gayle Miller, Conservation Program Coordinator

Sierra Club members generally have a passion for clean air, drinkable water and beautiful landscapes. As environmentalists, we feel a special appreciation and connection to the wonders of the Earth. Yes, we care about the environment, but so do most people, whether they consider themselves environmentalists or not.

My question to you is: How much do you REALLY care? What sets you apart? It's easy to feel passionate about clean air or pure water; but it's another thing entirely to stick your neck out to protect it.

I have a friend who makes a regular habit of raging against the evils of sprawl. He denounces municipal leaders who give in to developers, and planners who zone for unwalkable communities. He demonizes those who drive more than a few miles to work and criticizes non-farmers who live in the country. Yet, does he get involved in the political process in order to bring about change? No. He hates politics.

In these cynical times, if you ask most people about their interest in politics, they recoil in disgust. "Politics" is an ugly word—the domain of corporate sleazeballs, greedy officials and lazy bureaucrats! Talk about "politics" and you feel like you need to wash your hands. Yet, decisions about our natural resources—decisions that can protect or destroy our air, water and special places—are made via the political process.

Look, there is no doubt that there are a lot of sleazy things about politics. But if we simply sit back and silently rage against the injustices perpetrated against the environment, we'll lose everything we've gained over the last 20 years.

I think that many of us have grown complacent; perhaps thinking that if our rivers aren't catching fire, things are fine. Even many Sierra Club members are basically silent supporters of the environment, hoping it's enough to pay their dues and let others do the work. But things are not fine.

Never before has there been such an assault on our hard-won environmental laws. The Bush administration has weakened the Clean Air Act, gutted the Clean Water Act, reduced fuel efficiency standards, and refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol. In Mich-

igan, unregulated factory farms are putting family farms out of business and dumping pollutants into our streams. Our state forests are at risk of increased logging at the expense of other forest uses. Coal fired power plants spew ever more mercury into the air. And Michigan citizens continue to pay to clean up pollution caused by industry.

We have a huge challenge ahead of us; we need to bring about a 'sea change' in the way our leaders think about the environment. The only way to do that is to get involved—not in politics, but in democracy—the domain of people who care. Participating in democracy may take you out of your comfort zone, but the environment needs you now more than ever. We're currently on a backward slide, and it will take every single Sierra Club member to help turn the tide.

We need to talk to our elected officials and our neighbors. We need to become not just voters, but informed voters, making our decisions based upon the candidate's environmental voting records and sincere campaign promises.

We need to make noise! We need to write letters to the editor, call our elected officials, volunteer for planning commission boards and run for local office. If we don't, the sleazeballs really will win the day. They'll continue to degrade what we most value: clean air, pure water and healthy natural areas.

How much do you care? No—I mean how much do you REALLY care about the environment? If you're ready to do more than just care, call your local Sierra Club group leaders or the Chapter office. We have lots to do and can use your help!



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE / EPA

Late afternoon sun over Lake Michigan.

We need to make noise! We need to write letters to the editor, call our elected officials, volunteer for planning commission boards and run for local office. If we don't, the sleazeballs really will win the day.

TheMackinac

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PHOTO: RITA JACK

Above: LD Hollenbeck displays a core sample taken from the Pine River in Alma. Catch up with more Water Sentinels work on page 24 (back cover).

Cover: The Velsicol Superfund site on the Pine River between Alma and St. Louis, Michigan as seen from a park across the Pine River. The site is an environmental justice issue in a low-income community.

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CORRECTION:

On the back of last issue it said "Less than 1/20th of Michigan's native white pine forests remain today." IT SHOULD READ "Less than 1/20th of one percent of Michigan's native white pine forests remain today."

NEXT DEADLINE: JANUARY 1

SEND ARTICLES & PHOTOS TO: Eric Lagergren, 517-896-5321, eric@eblwrite.com
122 Stoddard Avenue Apt B, East Lansing, MI 48823-4633

SEND MEETINGS & OUTINGS TO: Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464, mcconnell_cheryl@yahoo.com

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TheMackinacOnline

WWW.MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/MACKINAC.HTML

Because of the fixed page count of *The Mackinac*, we have not always been able to bring to your mailbox every important article that crosses our desks. However, with "*The Mackinac Online*," we have found a way to introduce you to issues that heretofore might have been left out of publication simply because we didn't have the room on paper. The full text for the articles highlighted below can be found in the current issue of our online newsletter at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/mackinac/2003november.html.



PHOTO: CYNTHIA PRIOR

HAMTRAMCK INCINERATOR FIRES UP AGAIN **VIOLATIONS STILL ON THE TABLE**

by Anna Holden

On September 15, only six months after the Hamtramck medical waste incinerator shut down in response to public pressure, the operation began limited test burns. Less than a month later, Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group activists learned that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) enforcement actions to address the 49 air quality violations at the facility resulted in negotiations between the state and the owner/operator, Norm Aardema.

Vinson Hellwig, Chief of MDEQ's Air Quality Division, told the delegation that follow-through on the violations is a high Departmental priority. MDEQ expects the negotiations will result in resolution of the problems at the facility either through a consent decree or court action, or possibly action to remove the facility's permit, forcing it to close...

... READ MORE ONLINE

A SHUT AND OPEN CASE? **CENTRAL WAYNE INCINERATOR CLOSSES SUDDENLY, BUT MAY RE-OPEN**

by Ed McArdle

Sierra Club and other eco-activists were elated to find out that the financially troubled and pollution-belching Central Wayne incinerator in Dearborn Heights suddenly closed on August 27.

Constellation Energy Partnership LLP, the

incinerator operator, sent a letter to the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority (CWCSA), stating that the partnership would no longer accept waste from the five-member CWCSA cities, which include Dearborn Heights, Westland, Garden City, Inkster and Wayne. The bondholders never received any payments on the \$80 million bond issued by the Michigan Strategic Fund to finance the incinerator expansion in 1997. With no hope of recovering their investment, the bondholders finally pulled the plug.

What caused the furnaces to close was the fact that our area has an overabundance of landfill space, which drives down the cost of landfill disposal. The five member cities were paying \$63 per ton to burn their waste, while most of their neighbors and Canada pay approximately \$11 to \$17 per ton to landfill. So, in effect the five member cities are subsidizing the burning of commercial and industrial waste...

... READ MORE ONLINE

NEW MINES IN THE UPPER PENINSULA?

by John Rebers

Many of you have heard rumors or read articles about mining exploration in the Yellow Dog plains area in northern Marquette County. On August 5, a community meeting was held in Big Bay with representatives from the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Representatives of Kennecott Explora-



PHOTO: JOHN REBERS

Top: Kennecott drilling rigs "target testing" in western Marquette County in the Upper Peninsula.

Bottom: A kayaker at Grand Portal Point at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. The park recently conducted an Environmental Assessment of personal watercraft use.

Mackinac Chapter



tion, one of the companies exploring for minerals in the area, chose not to attend, although they were invited and had initially agree to come. Approximately 60 community members attended to find out what is planned.

Kennecott Exploration is currently in the "Target Testing" phase of exploration, drilling shafts to determine the quality and extent of the ore bodies they are interested in. The area they are exploring is in western Marquette County, just east of the McCormick Wilderness area. The exploration area includes the watersheds of the Yellow Dog, Huron, Salmon-Trout

River, and Dead Rivers, as well as the Mulligan Creek watershed...

... **READ MORE ONLINE**

PICTURED ROCKS RELEASES PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

by John Rebers

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore has finished valuating an Environmental Assessment (EA) of personal watercraft (PWC) use. In 2002, PWC use was banned at all national parks and lakeshores.

However, a few parks, including Pictured Rocks, were required to conduct an environmental assessment and consider allowing continued PWC use.

In the EA, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore considered three alternatives. One alternative would have allowed unrestricted PWC use, a second would have allowed use with some restrictions, and the third alternative would have banned PWC use completely within the ¼ mile zone of Lake Superior where the park has jurisdiction...

... **READ MORE ONLINE**

A Huge Thanks To Barbara Yarrow From The Mackinac Chapter

by Lydia Fischer, member of The Mackinac Editorial Board



Barbara Yarrow receives the 2003 Sierra Club Newsletter Award on behalf of the Mackinac Chapter.

Barbara Yarrow first became involved in publishing *The Mackinac* with the February-April 2001 issue, and was next appointed chair of the of a new Editorial Board set up by the Executive Committee. Under her relatively short tenure, our state newsletter improved its looks, content and timeliness.

Along with designer Davina Pallone and the rest of the editorial board, including current editor Eric Lagergren, Barbara gave of her considerable professional skills, own time, and passion for the environment to enrich and expand communication among the Chapter membership.

In a fitting end to Barbara's stewardship of *The Mackinac*, the standard of excellence reached by our newsletter was recognized by the National Sierra Club this past September, when our chapter received the Club's Newsletter Award for 2003. Barbara traveled to San Francisco to receive the distinction at the Awards Dinner, and later wrote to the editorial board that "It was such a pleasure to work with each and every one of you and collectively as a team of dedicated and deadline-conscious individuals to bring the newsletter to such a high standard." With characteristic generosity she added, "This is your award and will be displayed on the office walls in Lansing."

Barbara, a member of our Southeast Michigan Group, was also the publisher of SEMG's highly regarded newsletter, *Activist*, from 1997 until her departure. Although *The Mackinac* and *Activist* took much of her time, Barbara's contributions to the Club did not stop there. She was elected to SEMG's Executive Committee and later to the Chapter's Executive Committee, positions she held until her resignation this past July.

Barbara Yarrow accomplished her numerous volunteer duties while remaining gracious and respectful of other views. She negotiated difficult situations with the utmost skill—leaving no ruffled feathers behind. Beyond her contributions, we'll miss Barbara for her idealism, her commitment and her warmth. We wish her and her husband Buddy the best in their new home in Arizona.

Mackinac Chapter 2004 Executive Committee Election

by Lydia Fischer, Chapter Nominations Committee Chair

The terms of four Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee members expire next January. The five Sierra Club members listed below have accepted nomination to serve on the Committee for a two-year term beginning January 2004. All are active Sierra Club volunteer leaders, and several are already involved in furthering the organization's goals at the Chapter level. Please read their statements carefully and vote for the four you think will best serve the Sierra Club's mission in Michigan. Winning candidates will govern the state organization along with five other at-large elected members and representatives appointed by each regional group in Michigan.

Voting is important. Executive Committee members set Chapter policies and conservation priorities, approve and monitor the Chapter's budget, oversee Chapter staff and represent member concerns. Executive Committee members are expected to participate in quarterly meetings, assume responsibility for Chapter committees and events, and attend other Chapter functions.

To vote for Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee members: Use only the ballot included in this newsletter to vote (although you may photocopy the ballot if you wish).

- If you have a single membership, mark boxes in the first column of the ballot. The second column of boxes on the ballot is only for the second member of a joint membership.
- Vote for up to four (4) candidates by marking the appropriate box. You may also write in candidates of your choice. Voting for too many candidates will invalidate your vote.

- Put the ballot in an envelope with first class postage (37 cents) addressed to: Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club, attn: Chapter Elections, 109 East Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906.
- Please write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope so that your ballot can be validated. Your membership number can be found on your membership card or on the mailing label of this newsletter.
- Your ballot must be received by December 15 to be counted.

If a replacement ballot is needed, contact the chapter office at 517-484-2372.

Thanks to all the candidates for their commitment to the Sierra Club!

JEAN GRAMLICH

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for a long time, and have been involved in activities since my retirement from my job as a psychologist and administrator at Community Mental Health. I have served as secretary of the SEMG Political Committee, as Membership Chair of SEMG and on the newly formed Chapter Membership Committee, on the Executive Committee of SEMG and on the Chapter Legislative Committee. I have participated in Lobby Days in Lansing and am a District Watchdog, and I frequently contact my representative and senator about various environmental issues. We need to involve more members, especially young people, in political activism to achieve our environmental goals.

My lifelong interests include hiking, birding, camping and organic gardening. I am an Advanced Master Gardener and volunteer many gardening hours in the community. I also hold offices in the Oakland County Crisis Response Organization and the Torrey Community Association. My concern for the environment, energy, and organizational and management skills can serve the Sierra Club well.

ANNA HOLDEN

Experience

SEMG: 1992-2001: Executive Committee; Chair, 1998-2001.

Chapter: Political and Conservation Committees, 1991-2003; Executive Committee, 1997-2003; Chapter Delegate, national Council of Club Leaders, 2001-2003; Conservation Chair, 2003.

Coalitions: Health Care Without Harm, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, Coalition to Close the Hamtramck Medical Waste Incinerator.

Interests/Experience

Clean air and better trash disposal policies and practices are major commitments. Incinerator activism in Southeast Michigan has increased public awareness of air pollution's impact on health and led to a temporary shutdown of the Hamtramck medical waste incinerator. As Chapter Conservation Chair, I have tried to increase Group support for conservation campaigns with statewide significance, e.g. defeating the Hartman Hammond Bridge in Grand Traverse. I am active with the new Legislative Sub-committee's "Watch Dog" and lobbying projects.

Chapter Vision

The Chapter should support upcoming Sierra campaigns to defeat Bush in 2004, but combine this outreach with efforts to involve more members in on-going priorities. Making and sticking to priorities is important if we are to continue working on Michigan issues. We should expand Legislative Watch Dogging, lobbying and other initiatives that are successfully activating members.

DAVID HOLTZ

For nearly two years I was Sierra Club Media Coordinator in southeast Michigan and currently work as Director of Communications and Development for the Michigan Environmental Council. My Sierra Club volunteer activities include serving as a member of the Mackinac Chapter's Political, Membership, and newsletter committees and as an advisor to the chapter's Environmental Public Education Campaign.

Among the environmental issues I have worked on are campaigns to ban out-of-state trash in Michigan, improve water quality by making polluters pay, and to defeat a proposal that would increase air pollution in southwest Detroit. Improving land use and protecting Michigan's lakes, rivers and streams are my top environmental concerns.

My vision for the Mackinac Chapter is to strengthen implementation of our organization's priority strategic goals through:

- recruitment, training and development of more Sierra Club citizen activists at the group level;
- growing the club's fundraising program with the active involvement of volunteer leaders and staff, and;
- nurturing our dedicated, high-quality volunteer leaders and the chapter's professional staff.

SUE KELLY

Being an active environmentalist working at the local and state levels has been rewarding. I have been active in the Crossroads Group for ten years in a variety of capacities, presently as Group Political Chair. Currently I am serving as Mackinac Chapter Co-Chair.

The environmental issues that most concern me are environmental justice and the Great Lakes. Participating in a long-range diversity training is giving me an environmental perspective as a progressive, middle-aged, white woman that has profoundly changed me and the way in which I will view Sierra Club activities at all levels. Our Great Lakes are unique, beloved treasures that need much greater protection since multi-national corporations view them as a commodity.

The most important challenge we will face is the election of 2004. The Bush Administration's attack on our environment and health is disgraceful and unprecedented. Our collective responsibility as Sierra Club members must be to educate our communities as to what is really happening behind the political spin and stop the assault on our country.

CHERYL MCCONNELL

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1990. I originally belonged to the Illinois Chapter and the Valley of the Fox Group. I first became active in the club as an "armchair activist," writing letters to and calling my elected officials. I served as group chair, group representative, and elected chapter executive committee member while in Illinois. Since 1998 I have been a member of the Crossroads Group here in Michigan. Currently I am the outings chair for my group and for the Mackinac Chapter.

In the future the chapter needs to remain vigilant in their fight for positive environmental legislation. I would like to see more club members use their political power to influence their elected officials to vote for sound environmental laws. I would encourage more of our members to become armchair activists.

MACKINAC CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB 2004 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOT

Please vote for no more than four (4) candidates.

The second column of boxes is for the second member of a joint membership only. The last row of boxes is for a write-in candidate.

Write your Sierra Club membership number on the return address section of your envelope to validate your ballot. Your membership number is on the mailing label of this newsletter.

JEAN GRAMLICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANNA HOLDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAVID HOLTZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUE KELLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHERYL MCCONNELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your ballot must be received by December 15.

Mail your ballot to:

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

Capitol Watch 2003

PHOTO COURTESY ANNE WOIWODE



PHOTO: LYNN HENNING



PHOTO: DAVID HOLTZ



by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

INAUGURAL SIERRA CLUB LOBBY DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

Thirty two Mackinac Chapter volunteers traveled to Lansing on October 1 for our first statewide Lobby Day, a full day of visits with legislators to urge their support of our legislative priorities. The group included Sanford Waxer from Detroit, who had stepped off a plane from Alaska at 6 a.m. that same morning, and Liberty Asbury, a high-school senior from Kalamazoo!

After a brief discussion of the substantive issues to be taken up with lawmakers and lobbying pointers from Staff Director Anne Woiwode, Sierra Club Political Chair Tim Killeen, and Michigan Environmental Council Director James Clift, lobbyists went off to their busy day in the State Capitol and the Senate and House buildings. About 70 contacts were made, either following up on scheduled appointments or just dropping by to talk to legislators or their staff. At a debriefing session, lobbyists' reports conveyed the impression that everyone had a good and productive time, felt energized by the event, and was already looking forward to participating in our Spring Lobby Day next year. Many thanks to all who made the day a big success, including the Mackinac Chapter's recently appointed staff member, Gayle Miller. Gayle did a great job of organizing this new action day despite her relatively short tenure with our Lansing Office.

STILL NO FEES FOR DISCHARGING POLLUTED WATER

Sierra Club and other environmental organizations have strongly urged legislators to enact a system for water pollution permits which, among other provisions, would require polluters to pay a fee for polluting, thus making polluters—instead of taxpayers—foot the bill for the permitting

system. Sierra Club Watchdogs took that message to several key legislators, visiting them in their home district. We're happy to report that several of these legislators did indeed work hard to bring a good bill to a vote. However, as of this writing—and confirming the adage that two things unsavory to watch being made are sausage and legislation—the Senate-approved bill had taken a bad turn in the House, and was back for consideration by the Upper Chamber.

The bottom line: many of our representatives, especially in the House leadership, are much more receptive to the demands of corporate interests than to doing what's right for the public.

SENATE PASSES OUT-OF-STATE WASTE BILL IN BIPARTISAN ACTION

In mid-October the Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of an eleven-bill package dealing with out-of-state waste coming into Michigan landfills from other states and Canada. The bills will prohibit landfilling trash in Michigan that does not meet state standards, including trash that carries whole tires, beverage containers, motor oil and yarding waste. As this issue resonates very deeply with the people of Michigan, it is reasonable to expect that the House will soon follow in the Senate's steps. It is important to note that a related bill supported by our Chapter is absent from the package, namely a surcharge on landfilling tipping fees, the proceeds of which would help local recycling and waste reduction initiatives in the state.

LAND USE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO START SOON

The Michigan Land Use Leadership Council has completed its work, and wise land-use advocates expect a barrage of legislation

ONGOING CONCERNS

Top: 2003 Lobby Day participants learn the ropes before spending the day speaking about environmental issues with Michigan legislators.

Center: Water full of manure pours out of a drain in Lenawee county. The Mackinac chapter is still fighting to impose fees on polluters.

Bottom: Stopping uncontrolled development depends on getting legislators to listen to constituents, not big business.



to be introduced later this year. Stopping uncontrolled development has firmly caught Michiganders' attention. Still, we know the enormous strength of the financial interests behind new construction, and realize that the success of reform depends heavily on legislators who hear their constituents telling them that the time has come for action.

FORESTS AND MINERAL RIGHTS

A joint committee of Senate and House members held hearings in September on management of Michigan's state forest system. The hearings were dominated by the timber industry, and included calls from industry representatives for huge increases in logging on the four million acres of State Forests. Sierra Club and other conservationists called for increased use of science, greater concern for public input and protection of the full range of values and uses of the forests. The joint committee chairs indicated their intention of considering legislation in November, but by mid-October no legislation had been introduced.

Mineral rights issues are also receiving some attention. A resolution offered by Senator Bruce Patterson calls on the state and federal governments to consolidate severed mineral rights under each other's lands. Severed mineral rights—where the surface is owned by a different party than the subsurface mineral rights—was one of the major factors in the threat to the Mason Tract. Private oil and gas interests had leased federal mineral rights beneath state-owned lands—lands made off-limits by the state to oil and gas development. Department of Natural Resources and Forest Service permit applications to allow drilling to reach reserves beneath the Mason Tract are currently under debate and consideration.

want to save the Earth? sell sierra club raffle tickets!

Raising awareness about the environment requires us to raise funds. When you sell Sierra Club raffle tickets, you help fund our work this year on Michigan's air, water, forests, sprawl and environmental justice.

Raffle tickets sell for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. We are giving away \$2000 in prizes.

If you prefer to contribute without participating in the raffle, or if you can contribute more than the ticket price, please send a check to the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter to the address below.

The drawing will be held January 17, 2004 during our Winter Executive Committee meeting in Pellston. Thanks for supporting your Michigan Sierra Club!

Mike Keeler
Raffle Coordinator

If you can help us sell raffle tickets, please contact me with your name and complete address:

E-mail: mikekeeler@tir.com
Phone: (810) 767-9904
Mail: 813 Maxine St., Flint, MI 48503



To purchase "Rascal Raccoon" Mackinac Chapter T-shirts, with art by John Nystuen, see ad on page 20 or contact Kim Waldo at 734-971-1941.

Stupid jokes not included.



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Litigation Update

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

Litigation is the tool of last resort for Sierra Club, used only when advocacy and education aren't enough or when agencies fail to do their job. Below are updates on several lawsuits either brought by Sierra Club or touching on our interests that have seen important actions this fall.



Protesters rally in front of the Vreba Hoff, LLC animal factory in July 2002. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has recently brought a precedent-setting lawsuit against the CAFO.

SIERRA CLUB AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE FOUNDATION SECURE VICTORY IN HARTLAND FARMS CAFO LITIGATION

During the Engler Administration, Michigan refused to enforce environmental laws against concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that dumped manure and other wastes into the state's waterways. While the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) under Governor Granholm has started to bring polluting CAFOs under water pollution permits, the construction and operation of unregulated operations has led to horrendous pollution problems in many areas of the state. Since 2001, Sierra Club has brought four lawsuits against dairy CAFOs in Michigan. The second case has now come to settlement.

Hartland Farms, LLC—one of two dairy CAFOs sued by National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and Sierra Club—has signed a settlement agreement which will bring the operation into compliance with the Clean Water Act or else face stiff penalties. MDEQ was also a party to the settlement after it intervened on behalf of the environmental organizations. The state will be able to enforce provisions of the settlement, in addition to its normal authority.

The Hartland Farms dairy operation in Lenawee County has had numerous illegal manure discharges from its dairy operation into the Raisin River watershed in the several years since it was converted from a traditional dairy operation. NWF and Sierra Club filed suit in May 2002, adding additional counts after further illegal discharges occurred in September 2002. Water testing performed by volunteers with Environmentally Concerned

Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM), under a grant from the Sierra Club, documented numerous water quality violations from the production area and from field tiles. The tiles drained polluted water from fields spread with animal wastes, discharging those wastes into waterways.

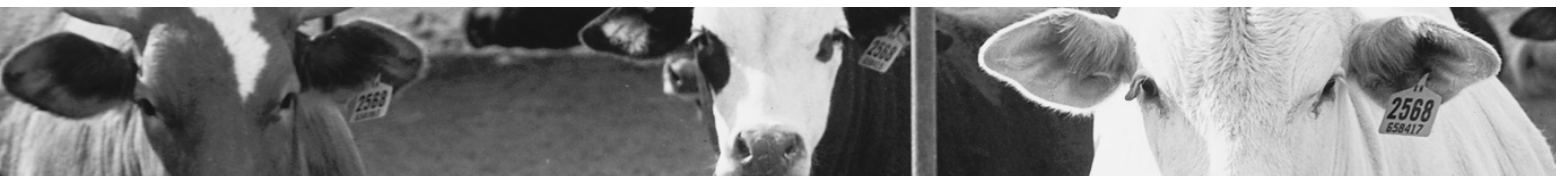
The settlement requires Hartland Farms to change its practices and design to prevent future pollution, as well as to obtain a permit from MDEQ and to pay penalties and costs associated with the violations. The CAFO also agrees to pay stipulated penalties of \$2,500 per day for any new discharges. The stipulated penalties will be automatic; they do not preclude further prosecution for violations of the law. Despite both the lawsuit and enforcement actions by the MDEQ, however, Hartland Farms continued to discharge wastes during 2003.

MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT AT RISK

The landmark Michigan Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) allows anyone to use the courts to protect the environment of Michigan. But that broad standing is under attack.

Sierra Club, however, is party to an amicus filing to the Michigan Supreme Court defending the MEPA, one of Michigan's most important environmental laws. For more than 30 years, MEPA has assured that polluters and developers can be held accountable for pollution, destruction or impairment of the environment by anyone—even people from distant parts of Michigan or out of state. The statute has been essential for citizen groups throughout Michigan to have

The construction and operation of unregulated confined animal feeding operations has led to horrendous pollution problems in many areas of the state.



access to the courts to protect the environment.

The challenge to MEPA's standing provisions arose during an appeal of a lawsuit brought by the National Wildlife Federation against the Engler Administration to stop the destruction associated with an Upper Peninsula mining project. The Michigan Appeals Court has upheld the standing provisions of the statute. Numerous environmental and community organizations have signed onto the amicus filing.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SUES VREBA HOFF DAIRY, LLC

In a stunning display of a new, no-nonsense attitude of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality toward polluting CAFOs, the state has brought a precedent-setting lawsuit against one of the state's largest dairy CAFOs.

Vreba Hoff Dairy, LLC—with approximately 6,000 dairy cows at two locations in Lenawee—came under the provisions

of two negotiated consent decrees with the state early in 2003 (just a few weeks before the start of a run of Clean Water Act violations that led to at least 12 notices of violation by the MDEQ).

MDEQ's lawsuit is the first in the nation that asks for the operation to install waste water treatment equivalent to that used by sewage treatment facilities in Michigan, and seeks a reduction in the size of the operations if needed to stop the pollution. The case was filed September 16 in Ingham County Court.

Chapter Funding Update

SUPPORTING THE SIERRA CLUB IN MICHIGAN —YOUR \$\$\$ REALLY MATTER!

Have you had a chance to make a special gift to the Mackinac Chapter this year? We're not referring simply to your all-important membership dues (which help fund the Chapter's basic programs). Instead, we ask that you consider the value of The Mackinac Chapter and give your Club some private support! Even a small gift of \$25 helps defray the cost of membership services, lobbying our legislators and voter education.

"Each year, chapter members contribute more than \$60,000 as a result of our special appeals," says Sarah Baker, development officer. "As of October 2003, we had already collected \$38,000. Every gift counts towards our goal."

Please use the coupon at right to send in your special gift today or to make an additional contribution.

SIERRA CLUB PLANS TO ACCEPT MAJOR CREDIT CARDS SOON

The Mackinac Chapter plans to accept credit card contributions and payments. Members will be able to pay for outings and retreats, as well as make contributions with their credit card. A minimum transaction of \$25 is required to take advantage of this program.

"There is a cost associated with each transaction and this has inhibited us in the past. We hope that our members will appreciate the convenience of this resource!" said Anne Woiwode.

Watch our website or call the office for more information!

Mackinac Chapter Gift Contribution

Use this coupon to send in your special gift or to make an additional contribution. Please make checks payable to Sierra Club, Mackinac Chapter.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

CONTRIBUTION

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100: Defender |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250: Protector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500: Guardian |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000: Lake Huron Club |

Gifts to the Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club support effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs in Michigan and therefore are not tax-deductible.

Working With The

Detroit is a city where environmental and other justice issues loom large. It is the largest African-American city proper in the United States, with a metropolitan area home to an increasingly diverse ethnic mix. The greater metro Detroit area has immigrants from South and Southeast Asia to the northeast and one of the largest Arab-American communities outside the Middle East in the adjacent suburb of Dearborn, and a well-entrenched and vibrant Hispanic community in the Mexican Town section of southwest Detroit. Sadly, it is also one of the most segregated areas in the

The newly retrofitted incinerator adjacent to the playground behind Federal Elementary School.



PHOTO: MARY LAFRANCE

Lydia Fischer

"WE BRING A SENSE OF WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN THESE BATTLES."

LLydia Fischer came to Detroit from Argentina 30 years ago to go to school and then to work for the United Automobile Workers Union. She is a former Mackinac Chapter Chair, current Legislative Committee Chair, and co-chair of the national Sierra Club Environmental Justice Committee. She is a member of Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition.

all of the problem facilities where people work without a way to keep those workers and their families whole. That is an environmental justice perspective. It calls for clean places to live and work, but from a more holistic and comprehensive point of view.

KH: Did your interest in environmental justice stem from your interest in environmental work and the fact that you came to live in Detroit?

LF: Well, that was certainly part of it. I also come from Argentina, a developing country. I see the environmental justice issue as international. Many U.S. companies go in there and pollute and destroy forests with far fewer regulations and penalties than here in America. I see many things that are unsafe here shipped to Argentina.

KH: Tell me about the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC).

LF: MEJC is a coalition of groups—Sierra Club, DWEJ, Arab Community Center



PHOTO COURTESY ANNE WOJWODE

Kim Hunter: You've come to environmental work with a uniquely Detroit sort of background.

Lydia Fischer: You mean my work with the United Automobile Workers (UAW)?

KH: What did you do for the union and how has it shaped your environmental perspective?

LF: I came to the U.S. to go to university, and in the 70s I got a job with the UAW as an economist. So I have a perspective that many environmentalists don't have. Many of us know the issues from the point of view of workers' safety on the job. But

there is another perspective, the point of view that peoples' jobs are vital to them. Even while there happens to be an environmental problem, the jobs are vital to each worker.

KH: So we need to find a way keep that family together and to make the environment right as well?

LF: That is right. And the only way we can find solutions that satisfy everyone is to establish relationships with those people who are concerned and people who are directly involved—like the union members. We can't see them as enemies. We can't rush to close down the factories and

see EJ: LYDIA FISCHER, page 21

People For Environmental Justice

WHAT IT MEANS WHEN WE SAY "EJ"

by Kim Hunter, Southeast Michigan Media Coordinator

U.S., with some of the whitest suburbs in the nation adjacent to an 80 percent African-American city.

This uniquely American cultural conundrum came about largely because people have come to Detroit from all over the nation and the world for jobs in the auto industry. Ironically, the decline suffered by the Big Three U.S. automakers in the 70s may well have made the job of cleaning up the environment more difficult, as the need for jobs at almost any cost took precedent over virtually every other issue.

Even today, half of the children in the city live below the poverty line. While more people see the connections between good jobs and a clean environment, the area is still rife with challenge.

Two people who have taken up the challenge of bringing environmental justice to the Detroit area just happen to be part of the Sierra Club family. One is a member, the other an employee. I sat down in early October and spoke with these outstanding women, both of whom are critical to the continued struggle for environmental justice in the Detroit area.



PHOTO COURTESY ANNE WOIWODE

Rhonda Anderson

"PEOPLE HAVE THE ABILITY TO DO THE JOB — WE JUST PROVIDE THE TOOLS."

Rhonda Anderson is a native, life-long Detroiter who has worked in labor and the social service sector. She is the Environmental Justice Organizer based in Detroit for the Sierra Club, as well as a member of the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, a coalition of environmental groups and activists. Anderson became a Sierra Club employee in 2000 after having worked for Wayne County Juvenile Detention as a guard and with Warren Conner Development Coalition as an organizer. She also has experience with Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice.

Kim Hunter: What do you say when folks ask you about the class issues that intersect with Environmental Justice? That is to say... since people of color are disproportionately poor, they are often the ones who live by toxic dumps and environmentally degraded places.

Rhonda Anderson: Black and brown people are disproportionately poor. But if you look at work by Bunyon Bryant (University of Michigan Professor Department of Public Health) you will see that it goes beyond class. Look at Bryant's work and you will see that even middle class people of color are disproportionately affected. The factor that puts them at higher risk for being dumped on is their color.

KH: But Detroit was industrialized even when the southwest side—where we were

raised—was mostly white. Back then it was white people living in the most industrialized part of the city.

RA: That's true. But of course you know that history. Folks from Eastern Europe occupied Delray (a highly industrialized section of southwest Detroit).

KH: The Hungarians.

RA: At that time the Hungarians were near the bottom of the totem pole. They were also among the poorest and the most recent immigrants. And then Great Lakes Steel and Detroit Coke came in.

Environmental Justice includes low-income and disenfranchised folks... like those in Appalachia, who are also white. But, in the case of Delray, that area now has many, many Hispanics, and

many Puerto Ricans. So the Hungarians climbed the ladder, got out of that area, and handed it over to another disenfranchised group. I'm not sure when the wastewater treatment plant came in, but that was another strike against the environment in Delray. All of these problems in an area less than a mile in radius.

Yet the situation is much bigger than just that area. Detroit is now the largest black city in the nation. Presently we are dealing not only with being overwhelmed by industry, but also dumping. One only needs to look at the situation with Can-Flow, where toxic chemicals that no one else wants are brought here, to us.

KH: Sort of a developing world within the

see EJ: RHONDA ANDERSON, page 21

Shop to Stop Sprawl!

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

- Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director

Your next shopping trip could help stop sprawl! How? By joining the Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** program, like hundreds of other people. Up to 20% of what you spend will be donated to the Sierra Club.

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



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

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

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

- Gwen Nystuen

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

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

	\$5	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$100
Kroger (and affiliated stores)						
Whole Foods (and affiliated stores)						
Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op						
Busch's						
Farmer Jack (and affiliated stores)						
Hiller's Markets						
Holiday Market (Royal Oak)						
Borders Books & Music						

If you shop at **Meijer**, you can also contribute through the Meijer Community Rewards program. To enroll and learn how to maximize your contribution, please contact Michael Sklar -- or go to www.meijer.com/rewards, and designate 100% of your donation to go to organization code **883330**.

Your Name: _____
 Your Address: _____

 Your Phone number: _____
 Your email address: _____

Mail to:
 Michael Sklar
 10404 Kingston Avenue
 Huntington Woods, MI 48070
 (Your personal data will not be shared)



Annual Fall Retreat Once Again A Success!

by David Holtz, Mackinac Editorial Board

Fifteen individuals and organizations were honored at the 14th Annual Mackinac Chapter Fall Retreat in September as volunteers Wanda Bloomquist and Lisa Wickman crafted a three-day event that attendees called one of the best ever. Held on Lake Michigan at beautiful Camp Miniwanca, events ranged from massage to backpacking techniques to a mini-seminar on sprawl. Expect another great retreat next year. Wanda and Lisa have agreed to organize the retreat again in 2004!



Top: The Pretty Shaky String Band entertains the crowd.

Far Left: A young camper takes a spin in the Urban Options/ Pat Hudson solar powered "Jeep."

Left: Nancy Schiffler receives the Virginia Prentice Award.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY SUE KELLY

CHAPTER AWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED AT THE RETREAT . . .

The 2003 award winners are:

LYDIA FISCHER

Chairman's Award

Honors long-term service by a Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee member.

BILL RODGERS

Sylvania Award

Recognizes a volunteer who is new on the scene and demonstrates great enthusiasm, hard work and dedication.

NANCY SCHIFFLER

Virginia Prentice Award

Presented for significant contribution to wilderness preservation and protection of public lands.

ANNA HOLDEN

Marlene Fluharty Award

Given to a long-serving member whose contributions are significant and who has served at the group, chapter and/or national levels.

MARGARET DODD, MAYOR OF TRAVERSE CITY

Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year Award

Awarded to a political leader from outside the Sierra Club.

BILL TOBLER

White Pine Award

Honoring a non-member who has shown extraordinary dedication to protecting the environment.

BENZIE CENTRALS

ENVIROTHON TEAM

Cougar Award

Recognizes outstanding efforts by students.

TRAVERSE GROUP

Life of the Party Award

Acknowledges those who take seriously the Sierra Club's credo "to enjoy the wild places of the Earth."

**KEITH HANNA, TINA TOPALIAN,
KAREN PIERCE, DENNY CRISPELL,
ANDREA DEAN, AND MARTY LORE**
Service Awards

Recognizes volunteer leader contributions to the Mackinac Chapter of Sierra Club.

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS

Environmental Journalism Award

This year the Free Press was honored for its outstanding series that documented widespread lead poisoning and governmental indifference to the lead crisis.

Group Meetings & Programs

WWW.MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/GROUPS.HTML

Outings, political and conservation activities and general interest meetings are hosted regularly by groups throughout the state. There are numerous ways to get involved in your local group. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Contact Group chairs (page 23) or those listed below. Up-to-the-minute outings and activities may be found on group websites or on the Mackinac Chapter website at www.michigan.sierraclub.org. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus.

2003 Executive Committee Meetings

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

WINTER EX-COM: Friday, January 16 - Sunday, January 18, 2004. University of Michigan Biological Station, 9008 Biological Road, Pellston, MI 49769. Contact Amanda Hightree, 517-484-2372 or amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org.

AG: Algonquin Group

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

CMG: Central Michigan Group

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: monthly, first Monday. Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

CUP: Central Upper Peninsula Group

Central and western counties in the Upper Peninsula

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

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

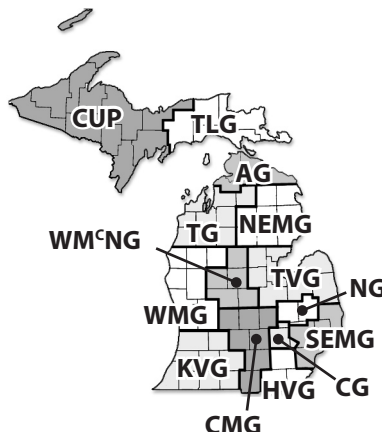
CG: Crossroads Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads

Livingston, southern Genesee and western Oakland Counties

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm monthly, fourth Wednesday, at Brighton Public Library, 200 Orndorff Dr, Brighton.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: meets monthly. Emily Gobright, Conservation Chair, emily@ismi.net, 517-548-0595.



Group boundaries of the Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: Co-chairs Cheryl McConnell, McConnell@cac.net, 517-552-1464; Ron Smith, rsmith9999@aol.com, 734-878-3689.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: meets monthly. Co-Chairs: Rick Pearsall, rick@pearsall.com, 810-227-6298; Karen Pierce, 810-227-8521, pierce@hartland.k12.mi.us.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Lorne Beatty, lbeatty@bluechip-tech.com, 810-632-7766.

HVG: Huron Valley Group

www.mirror.org/groups/mi-enviro

HVG Hotline at 734-480-7751.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7:30pm monthly, third Tuesday, at UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor. Non-members welcome!

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

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

11/19 Alone Across the Arctic: One Woman's Epic Journey by Dog Team. Presented by Pam Flowlers, Alaskan author and adventurer.

12/16 [E] "Great Nature Trips From Around the World." Annual members' slide show. Bring slides from your favorite trip.

KVG: Kalamazoo Valley Group

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7:30pm monthly, third Thursday, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Twp Campus, Room 4370. Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 (evenings); 269-488-4268 (days).

1/15 [E] Genetically Modified Crops: An Environmental Perspective. Program will examine the concerns surrounding Genetically Modified (GM) crops from an environmental perspective. A video on GM crops from the PBS series "Now," with Bill Moyers, will be followed by a comparison of contrasting environmental views and a question/answer period. 7:30pm, Rm 4370 KVCC Texas Twp. Call Mike at (269) 948-8840.

Executive Committee: 7:30pm monthly, second Wednesday. Verne & Cindy Mills, 269-344-4279.

NG: Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

General meetings: 7pm, monthly, second Wednesday at Mott Community College in "New Students" Prah Building, Genesee Room, 1401 E Court St, Flint. Free parking, refreshments. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242, lberker@earthlink.net.

NEMG: Northeast Michigan Group

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

SEMG: Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

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

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

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

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



THE MACKINAC CHAPTER HELD ITS FIRST STATEWIDE LOBBY DAY ON OCTOBER 1. LEARN MORE ON PAGE 8. PHOTO COURTESY ANNE WOIWODE

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

TLG: Three Lakes Group
Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft Counties

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

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

TVG: Thumb Valley Group

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

TG: Traverse Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

GENERAL MEETINGS: 1-3pm monthly, second Saturday, Traverse Area District Library, 610 Woodmere

Ave, Traverse City. Monica, 231-325-6812; Lynn, 248-547-0842.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: held following general meetings.

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

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Monica, 231-325-6812.

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

WMcNG: Wakelin McNeel Group
www.michigan.sierraclub.org/wakelin-mcneel

For information about the Sierra Club in this area, contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372..

WMG: West Michigan Group
www.westmichigansierraclub.org

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6pm monthly, second Thursday, at downtown YMCA, 33 Library NE, Grand Rapids. Marty Lore, 616-682-1316.

Preserve The Future.

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

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:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



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Thank You Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club Members!

The work you do each day on behalf of our environment adds real meaning to my work as a socially responsible investment advocate. Please call my office today for your **free** copy of our

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MackinacChapterOutings

WWW.MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/OUTINGS.HTML

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map, page 16, to determine a group's location. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [T] = trail maintenance. Trips begin at the trailhead. Fees are a suggested donation. Outings are open to everyone. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

November

11/15 NG For-Mar Nature Preserve Hike. 10am. 5mi/easy. Meet main parking lot. No dogs. Restaurant stop. 2142 N Genesee Rd, Burton. Terry Lemmer 810-732-9902.

11/16 SEMG [E] Holly Rec Area Hike. Noon. Explore thick forests, rolling hills and lakes left by the glaciers on this 5mi/moderately paced hike. Meet in Troy behind the Standard Federal Bank 14 Mile Rd, E of I-75 (S edge of Oakland Mall). Restaurant stop after. Call if weather is questionable. Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326.

11/20 WMG Dusk Hike. After work 1-hr dusk hike (bring a flashlight). Meet at 5:15pm at Aman Park. Entrance is N off Lake Michigan Dr. (M-45), W of Walker and 3-4 miles east of GVSU. Meet at first parking lot on the left. For info call Mike, 616-975-3424, mtolinski@cs.com.

11/22 CG [E] Winter Ducks. 11th annual search for migrating ducks and shorebirds at Kensington Park. Meet in the Nature Center Parking lot at 1pm. Dan Minock, 248-685-2411, dminock@earthlink.net.

11/22 SEMG [E] Rose Oaks County Park Hike. 11am. New hiking location; 5mi/moderate paced hike. Varied terrain with small lakes. Look for great horned owls. Meet in Bloomfield Twp in Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph N of Square Lake Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370; Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

11/28 SEMG [E] Proud Lake Rec Area. 10:30am. Enjoy after-Thanksgiving 5mi hike. Explore little used trails in western half of park, re-discover the Boy Scout trail. Meet in Southfield behind the Marathon station at

Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12-Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

11/29 SEMG Ortonville State Rec Area Hike. 10am. Join us on a moderately paced 5-mi hike on hilly trails. We go rain or shine/dress for weather. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

11/30 NG Mott Lake Hike. 2 pm. 5mi/mod. Meet Genesee County Parks & Rec office 5045 E Stanley Rd, Flint. Restaurant stop. Cindy Engelmann 810-715-0660.

December

12/6 Hidden Lake Gardens Hike/Holiday Festival. 4 miles. Enjoy free music and refreshments. Conservatory. Meet at Saline Shopping Center by the Cottage Inn at 2pm. Contact Ron Killebrew, 734-429-0671, rikillebrew@provide.net. Park admission fee.

12/6 NG Sierra Club Christmas Party. 12-6pm. Ligon Outdoor Center, 5213 E. Farrand Rd., Clio. Pot luck. Denny Crispell, 989-624-5038.

12/7 SEMG [E] Maybury Wildflower Walk. 1 pm. Use a winter wildflower guide to identify the dried stalks of our favorite summer blooms. Dress warm for slow paced 2hr walk. Winter plant guidebook provided. Meet at the park concession building, 8 Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5 miles W of Beck Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370, Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

12/13 SEMG (Sat.) [E] Maybury State Park Hike. 11 am. Moderate pace 4 mile hike through winter woods

and fields. Dress in layers, trip goes rain, shine or snow. Meet at park concession building, 8 Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5 miles W of Beck Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

12/13 SEMG (Sat.) Outings Committee Scheduling Meeting. Quarterly planning meeting is open to those interested in leading outings. 1:30 pm at Tom Griebe's house, following his Maybury hike, listed above. Bring ideas for spring outings. No potluck; holiday refreshments provided. 248-349-8782.

12/14 SEMG [E] Waterloo Rec Area Geology Tour. Noon. Visit Geology Center. Hike 6 mile loop laid that ends with a restaurant stop. Prepare for winter snow hiking. Meet in Livonia between Wal Mart and Jiffy Lube on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Phil Crookshank 313-562-1873.

12/20 NG Murphy Lake Hike. 10am. 6.5mi/difficult. M-15 to Millington. E 4mi on Millington Rd to trailhead across from Mt Kotarski sign. Restaurant stop. Dave Mansfield 810-658-0406, mansfield@chartermi.net.

12/20 SEMG Holly Holiday Hike. Noon. Urban holiday foray/shopping in the village of Holly. Medieval street performers, unique shops, model railroad club to visit, 4-mile city hike. Dinner at Village Restaurant. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. Dress for outdoors. Return 6pm. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

12/21 SEMG Stony Creek Metropark Hike. Noon. Leisurely 5-mi walk. Dress for the weather. Meet in Sterling Heights at 16 Mile Rd and Van Dyke in SMART parking lot. Restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

12/28 SEMG Hike Seven Ponds. 10am. Start with a tour of the nature center, hike 5mi/moderate pace over the varied terrain. \$3 entry. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

January 2004

1/1 SEMG New Years Potluck and Hike. 10:30am. 4th Annual New Years Day event. Bring a dish to pass, hosts provide turkey. After feast 3-mile hike nearby. Meet in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12-Mile Rd. Pat & Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.

WANTED BY SOUTH EAST MICHIGAN GROUP: New outings leaders to share favorite activities and special places with interested outdoors-lovers. You would join a strong core group that already offers a diverse schedule. Sign up now so you can be notified of future leader training.

Information: Philip Crookshank, SEMG outings chair, 313-562-1873, wanderphil3@netzero.net or Joanne Cantoni, SEMG outings coordinator, 248-932-5370, joannecantoni@netzero.net.



FAMILIES ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL DAY ON LAKE MICHIGAN DURING THE ANNUAL FALL RETREAT. SEE PAGE 15 FOR MORE. PHOTO: SUE KELLY

1/4 SEMG [E] Winter Tour of Matthaei Botanical Garden. 12pm. 2-hour botanical tour east of Ypsilanti. Identify plant species. Call if weather is questionable. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet in Livonia between Wal Mart and Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

1/10 SEMG [E] Pontiac Lake Rec Area Hike/Snowshoe. 11am. Hike 5-6 miles east of Teggerdine Rd. If sufficient snow, we will try using snowshoes. Snowshoes not required. Basic snowshoe instruction provided. Dress warmly. Bring snacks/water. Optional restaurant after. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph N of Square Lake Rd. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

1/11 SEMG [E] Ralph Richardson Memorial Park. Noon. Learn the history of the park on easy 4-mile hike. Trip goes rain or shine. Meet in Southfield at 11:15 behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12-Mile Rd or meet at park Nature Center. Restaurant stop after. John Kalam, 248-681-9160.

1/15? HVG Exact date TBD. Sleeping Bear Dunes Ski Trip. Ski/hike trails of national lakeshore, depending on snow. Warm cabins at night. All experience levels welcome. Call Joan Paskewitz, 734-428-0887 or Ruth Graves, 734-483-0058.

1/17 SEMG Maybury State Park Hike. 11am. Moderate paced/4mi hike through snow covered woods and ice frosted fields. Dress in layers, trip goes rain, shine or snow. Meet at the park concession building, 8 Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

1/18 KVG Winter Botany Walk. 1pm. Leisurely walk. Dress warm and wear snow boots. Meet in the NW corner of the parking lot at KVCC (Texas Twp). Contact Verne, 269-344-4279 eve, 269- 488-4268 days.

1/25 SEMG Independence Oaks X-C Ski. Noon. All skill levels. Ski for 2-3 hours. Ski rentals may be available (park office: 248-625-0877). If no snow, we will do a 5-mile hike. Meet in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12-Mile Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

1/30-2/1 HVG MacMullen Conference Center Ski Trip. Ski the numerous trails near Roscommon. Good food/accomodations/beautiful setting. Trip limit 20. Call Barb Schumacher, 734-994-5456 for reservations.

1/31-2/1 SEMG Up North X-C Ski Weekend. Destination TBD based on snow conditions and motel availability. Meet in northern suburbs 4pm Fri. Return about 9pm Sun. \$5 trip fee plus \$20 good faith advance deposit due by 1/21 payable to Sierra Club,

see *OUTINGS*, page 20

CUPG INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL WILDERNESS TRIPS WITH MICHAEL NEIGER

These trips are not basecamp trips. Trek 5 hrs each day. Participants must be 18, non-smokers, experienced foul-weather backpackers, physically fit, able to swim and fully equipped. Requirements vary by trip—explicit information and photo-journals are available at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Leader approval required. Michael Neiger, 906-226-9620, mneiger@hotmail.com.

12/5-8 Intermediate-level Backpacking & Elk Tracking: Green Timbers Tract & High Country Pathway. Explore non-motorized Green Timbers Tract, hike cross-country through Pigeon River State Forest, head S on High Country Pathway to Rattlesnake Hills area. Moderate-paced, on/off-trail trek. Tarp rigging/land navigation instruction. 8 am. Fri to midday Mon. \$10.

1/15-19 Intermediate-level Winter Camping: Beaver Basin (Pictured Rocks), Fox River Pathway, & Kingston Plains. Explore Beaver Basin area, north end of Fox River Trail, Kingston Plains. Travel as Native Americans did wearing snowshoes. Pull gear on lightweight sledges (\$5 rental sleds available). Instruction in snowshelter building, land navigation, low-impact fire laying. 8am. Thur to midday on Mon. \$15.

2/13-17 [E] Advance-level Winter Camping: 17th Annual Canadian Snowshoe Expedition, Lake Superior Provincial Park. Explore remote Dossier Creek Gorge. See wolves, moose, and 525-foot-high Dossier Creek Cliff. Travel as Native Americans did with snowshoes. Pull gear on lightweight sledges (\$5 rental sleds available). Instruction in snowshelter building, land navigation, and low-impact fire laying.

3/4-8 [E] Intermediate-level Winter Camping & Basic Spelunking: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Explore remote caves in the Miners River Basin and the Chapel River Basin. Travel along 200-300-foot-high shoreline cliffs. Explore Lake Superior's ice caves. Travel as Native Americans did wearing snowshoes. Pull gear on sledges (\$5 rental sleds available). Instruction in snowshelter building/land navigation. 8am Thur to midday Mon. \$15.

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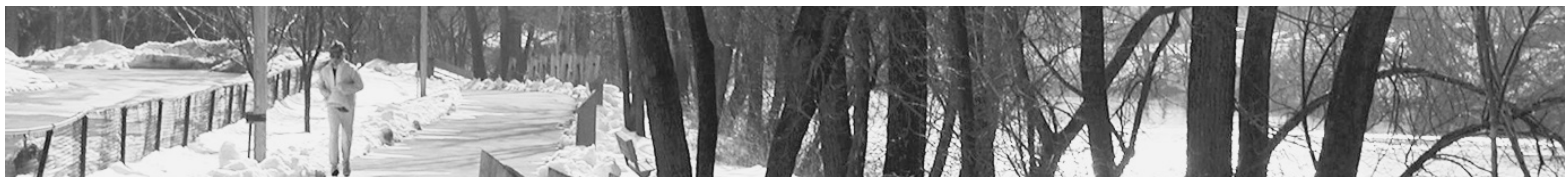
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A WINTER JOGGER ON LANSING'S SCENIC RIVER WALK. PHOTO COURTESY BRAD GARMON/MEC

OUTINGS, continued from page 19

SEMG. Trippers responsible for motel, restaurant meals, ski fees, ride sharing. Call to reserve/get final details: Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370, joannecantoni@netzero.net or Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873, wanderphil3@netzero.net.

February

2/1 SEMG Island Lake adventure. Noon. If snow we will ski, if not we do brisk 8-mile hike. Rolling hills and pine forests, glimpse Huron River. Meet Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12-Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

2/7 SEMG Maybury in the Moonlight. 6:30 pm. Enjoy a chilly evening hike lighted by the full moon. 5mi moderate pace. Dress in layers. Meet at Maybury State Park horse stable parking lot. 8-Mile Rd. to Beck Road, S to gravel entrance. Drive to the horse barns. Restaurant stop after. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

2/15 SEMG [E] Belle Isle Circumference Hike. 10am. 5-6 level miles. Dress for weather. Trip goes rain or

shine. Bring binoculars. Meet in front of the Belle Isle Casino at W end of island. Optional nearby restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

2/22 SEMG [E] Drayton Plains Nature Center. 1 pm. Explore the old trails on a 4-mile hike. Be prepared for cold/snow/wet. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph north of Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

2/29 SEMG [E] Ice Hike-Pointe Pelee. 9:30am. Lucky 13th Annual Ice Hike. Dress warmly for 2-3 hours of outdoor fun, exploring the interior trails of Pointe Pelee, and climbing the snow piles out on the pointe. Meet in Windsor at Ontario Information Center on Route 3, 3/4 mile S of Ambassador Bridge. Bring passport; border crossing picture I.D. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

March

3/13 SEMG Mystery Hike. 11am. Hike 5-miles at brisk pace over varied terrain. Trip goes rain or shine. Meet in Troy behind the Standard Federal Bank on 14 Mile Rd. just east of I-75. Restaurant stop after. Cindy

Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

3/21 SEMG Paint Creek Hike. 10am. Rails to trails hike passing creeks, ponds, meadows, forests, Eminem's home (Marshall Mathers) and much more. A 10mi/ moderate loop, stopping in Lake Orion for lunch. Bring trail snacks, water. Meet in Troy behind the Standard Federal Bank on 14 Mile Rd. just east of I-75 Michael Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

3/28 SEMG Highland Rec Area Hike. 11:30am. Leisurely 2-hr hike. Look for early wildflowers. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph N of Square Lake Rd. Call if weather is doubtful. Optional restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

April

4/24 SEMG [E] Maybury State Park Hike. 8am. Beginner level birding hike. Dress in layers, bring binoculars/birding guides. Trip goes rain or shine. Meet at the park concession building, 8-Mile Rd entrance, 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd. Park Entrance fee. Optional restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

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"Rascal" was drawn by John Nystuen, Huron Valley Group member.

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for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision (SDEV), the Michigan Lung Association... and a few more. I know I will forget some.

KH: What are some of the crucial issues you've dealt with?

LF: There are a number of them. There's the ongoing fight over Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal, which is a proposed 600 acre expansion of a freight rail yard that would destroy 70 homes and dozens of businesses in southwest Detroit. Other folks have now taken a key lead in that fight, however.

KH: But I know MEJC was key in the fight to close the Henry Ford Hospital incinerator.

LF: We were more in the lead on that one, but it was very much supported by the local community. There was also DWEJ and many others. The fact that the Hospital is a facility that is supposed to "first do no harm" helped in our negotiations. They were persuadable.

KH: What did the Sierra Club do to help the residents win that fight?

LF: Besides the basic people power, we offered expertise. We flew in a health care professional from Texas to testify about the effects of incinerators on health. The hospital was very sensitive to that, and to the contradictions of a health facility doing harm. Mostly, though, we brought a sense of what it takes to win these battles from our years of experience.

developed world, poorer and more people of color...

RA: Yes. Ironically, because there is already so much industry here, some believe we should be the dumping ground. It is a matter of being devalued and not cared for, many of the things that go with racism.

There also seems to be an assumption that we (black people) won't fight back. But that assumption is changing. The folks who lived around the CanFlow discharge site—and remember CanFlow disposes of industrial waste water from factories, carwashes, and places like that—these people are a good example of folks fighting back. Theirs was a grass roots community-generated, community-based campaign. And it worked!

CanFlow chose to dispose of the waste by bringing it into the city and simply dumping it into the municipal sewer system. They said the waste water wasn't toxic. But folks in the area, especially the kids, were getting severe asthma and respiratory problems. Just imagine the smell. Residents organized to stop the discharges, and Sierra Club was in the right place at the right time and we became a good vehicle for the residents to use. These people invited Sierra Club into their community, and with us we brought our organizing tools and knowledge and we helped them win.

KH: So one of the key components here is that Sierra Club was invited?

RA: Yes. It keeps the power relationship right. Sierra Club doesn't dominate. Instead we work with the people and come in where we're wanted. People have the ability to do the job. We just provide the tools.

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Resources for Activists

Sierra Club National Legislative Hotline: 202-675-2394

- **ENVIRO-MICH** is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, e-mail majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).
- **Sierra Club's National Website** is at: www.sierraclub.org. Check out the daily *War on the Environment* postings.
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UnClassifieds

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS are needed for the Lansing Sierra Club office to assist with data entry, mailings, organizing files and news releases. If you have a few hours/week to volunteer during the week (9am-5pm) give Kathy Boutin-Pasterz a call at 517-484-2372.

Interested in selling calendars for your group, presenting a program on an issue or about a great trip, or writing articles for your local group's newsletter? Your local group would love to have your help. Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator at 517-484-2372, or kathy.boutin-pasterz@sierraclub.org

Go to www.michigan.sierraclub.org for more volunteer opportunities.

PHOTOGRAPHERS The Mackinac runs Outings and Meetings photos every issue. If you would like to be published, please contact Davina Pallone,

davina@designwrench.com, for print specifications.



Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

Sierra Club Foundation-Mackinac Chapter is a founding member of Earth Share of Michigan, a non-profit federation comprised of Michigan's leading environmental and conservation charities working collaboratively with national and international organizations.

Earth Share of Michigan is active in the charitable giving drives of over 350 Michigan workplaces. Employees have the ability to make a single donation at work that will reach the full spectrum of conservation causes, from the Red Cedar River to

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the Amazon River, from the rainforests of Borneo to Sleeping Bear Dunes. Michigan-ers should take advantage of this simple way to do their "Earth Share" and give to the cause of their choice.

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

Visit www.earthsharemichigan.org for more information.

CALLING ALL CALLIGRAPHERS

Do you enjoy calligraphy or want to practice your creative style? If so, please contact Julie at 989-539-1676 or e-mail soaringbuteos@msn.com.

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WaterSentinelsUpdate

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PHOTO: RITA JACK

Bad Axe's Steve Varner and his science class helped monitor the Pinnebog River on October 11, 2003.

Visit the Sierra Club website for more information on these and other water-related issues—
www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels/michigan.

by Rita Jack, Michigan Water Sentinels Project Director

PINE RIVER FEASIBILITY STUDY STATUS MEETING FOCUSES ON SAME OLD REMEDY

The remediation alternatives described at the October feasibility study status meeting suggest the agencies will propose another "containment system" to be placed around the old failed one leaking contaminants from the former chemical plant site on the Pine River. The Pine River Superfund Citizens Task Force and Michigan Sierra Club have urged the agencies to also consider cleaning up the contamination on the highly complex site.

WATER SENTINEL SAMPLING DAYS

Volunteer Water Sentinels had a great time this fall, sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates in the Pine River in Gratiot and Midland counties, and

the Pinnebog River in Huron County. The Bad Axe students and their biology teachers are eager to help again next spring! All Training and equipment is provided. If you're interested in beginning a sampling program in your area, email rita.jack@sierraclub.org, or call 517-484-2372.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONCERNED CITIZENS OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN (ECCSCM) HAS GREAT SUCCESS!

Volunteer monitors provided the data needed for citizen complaints that led to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) investigations. The volunteer data also led to an MDEQ lawsuit against the Vreba-Hoff dairy facilities! This is the outcome that volunteer monitoring can accomplish. Congratulations and good luck to ECCSCM!

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