



# Nepessing News

2020, Fall Edition

1

## Nepessing Group

Message from the Chair .....	1
Enviro-Meetings/Presentations.....	5
Nepessing Group: 2020 .....	7
Photo Contest Fundraiser .....	9
Membership Form/Fundraiser .....	10
Nepessing ExCom Voting Ballot ....	11
Survey / We Need Feedback.....	11
Committee Chairs .....	12
Executive Committee .....	10

## Articles

2020: Year of Elections .....	1
Caring For Our Rivers .....	2
Review of Senate Bills .....	3
Annual Water Festival.....	4
Cellophane is NOT Plastic .....	4
Hiking & Covid Precautions .....	4
Holly Watershed Concerns.....	5
Straits of Mackinac .....	6
Finally Approved! .....	8
Plastic Alternatives.....	8
Employment News / Clean Jobs .....	9

## Contacts

Linda Berker: (810) 348-8664  
lsberker@aol.com

Mary Blanchard: (248) 238-9732  
[blanchmary@comcast.net](mailto:blanchmary@comcast.net)

Mike Buza: (810) 444-8564  
theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com

Denny Crispell (989) 624-5038

Sue/Dave Lossing: 810-735-6303

Heather Sisto: heather.sisto@mcc.edu

Stacy Taylor (248) 802-8585  
Missmyasmom24@icloud.com

Victor Dzenowagis: victordz@aol.com

## Message from the Chair: 2020 Vision

By Mike Buza, Chair



I have been concerned for awhile. We are at a critical year for the environment, for mankind and many other species on the Earth. At the beginning of the year it looked like mankind was ready to take some significant steps to address these issues.

Then COVID 19 hit, which is an environmental issue but just not very often defined as one. In her 2016 book *Pandemic* Sonia Shah warned that modern man by invading the territory of exotic animals increases the likelihood of releasing a virulent pathogen. She specifically mentions wet markets in China as possible epicenter of one of these pandemics. Does this sound familiar? She recommends taking into consideration environmental factors when deciding how to deal with pandemics.

Then Black Lives Matter came to the forefront. This also has a strong environmental component because of most of the heavy polluting industries are in majority/minority neighborhoods. Black lives are sacrificed as such. In fact, I strongly believe that the environmental degradation in black neighborhoods is much more responsible for premature black deaths than rogue cops. However, it is a much more insidious assault. I have not heard this mentioned in the current discussions.

These issues deserve serious attention. However, my concern is that they are crowding out the needed attention to the environment. It appears that the environment is a component in all of these matters. We should not be surprised. We have dawdled on the environmental issues so long that I believe we are at a critical moment for action, if we are to avoid much more serious damage to the Earth and our ability to inhabit the planet

## 2020: The Year to Vote

Plain and simple: Please vote as if our health and sustainability depends upon it - because it does!

You may receive this newsletter after you have already casted your ballot. (If so, thank you for voting!). Like you we volunteer our time and support where we can. We apologize for not being able to get you this newsletter sooner. During this time, many of us are busy being engaged in the political process, and despite the timing of our newsletter we encourage you to view the information on the candidates who met endorsement standards.

Sierra Club endorsed candidates can be found at:  
<https://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/endorsed-candidates-and-proposals-2020>

**Prop. 1** - Sierra Club advised a “NO” vote on the 2020 ballot measure that asks voters to amend the MNRTF language in the Constitution.

# Caring For Our Rivers!



## Have Fun Investigating

It's no secret, water monitoring is an easy, fun, and interesting investigation.

When Covid arrived this past Spring, people isolated to help stop the spreading. David Lossing helped his wife Sue to monitor the downtown Linden site, and a Fenton site. The data for the Linden site is important. Groundwater remediation efforts have been conducted in the area. The data collected will help us know if the river is recovering. We are looking for the return of dragonfly babies that Sue likes to call "the dinosaur bugs".

### Answers to Some of Your Questions:

1. Don't have wadders? The equipment needed for monitoring has been funded by the Genesee County Drain Commission, and the Louis & Nellie Sieg fund. This includes various size wadders for those who get in the water. Not everyone needs to get in the water (but it is fun!). Volunteers show up dressed for the weather and we don't monitor in bad conditions.
2. Don't know anything about monitoring? We didn't either! You can learn from experienced people and can also participate in a free training.
3. What you learn is universal. Groups across the country coordinate water monitoring programs.. Local groups conducting monitoring programs are: *Keepers of the Shiawassee River*, the *Flint River Watershed Coalition*, and *Friends of the Shiawassee River*.
4. How much of my time? It is about 2.0 hours at the river.
5. When? Monitors choose their time/day during the "monitoring window". The Spring window is the last week in April/first week in May. The Fall window is the last week in Sept./first week in Oct.

For more information contact Sue Lossing at: 810-735-6303/land-line, or text to: 810-624-9366/cell.

## "Don't Go In the River?"

"Don't go in the river after it rains?" When water/fluids hit surfaces like roads and parking lots it may be directed to a storm drain which empties to our waterways. Oils, plastics, Styrofoam, and even an excess of leaves can have a negative effect on the health of a river or stream. Storm Drain Stenciling programs help bring awareness that what enters the drains flows to our waterways. Contact any of our ExCom members to participate in a Storm Drain Stenciling program (see page 1 for contact info).

## Hyfi Selects the Shiawassee for Innovative Project!

By David Lossing

The Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition "SRWTC" has partnered with Hyfi to install water sensors along the Shiawassee River.

This partnership is part of a pilot funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund to provide two years of support to three partners across the Great Lakes. The SRWTC is the only Michigan partner chosen by Hyfi, with the other partners located in Ohio and New York.

This project proposes a radical improvement in water data collection and watershed-scale information tools. The water sensors will provide high resolution water levels, data using networks of wireless sensors to help stormwater managers make decisions faster and more confidently. Citizens will be able to know if it's safe to paddle or fish on the river and help communities be aware of potential flood events.



Photo by Hannah Ball, Tri-County Times

## A Review of Senate Bill 431 & Senate Bill 849

by Victor Dzenowagis, President Metamora Land Preservation Alliance 501(c) 3

Please contact your local State legislators to let them know how you feel about these two Senate bills.

### WHAT SB431 DOES

1. Eliminates any meaningful approval process at the local level.
2. Would allow a gravel mine in any zone - residential, commercial, recreational, wetlands, nature areas. Etc.
3. Does not allow consideration of dangerous haul routes, proximity to schools
4. Forces extreme operating conditions on residential communities by imposing industrial standards for dust, noise, vibration and operating hours.
5. Provides for a seriously underfunded reclamation fund - and allows reclamation delay until after gravel pit is completed.
6. Allows an unlimited number of gravel pits within a township or other geographic area.
7. Reverses concepts of master planning and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act's recognition that land use is best regulated at the local level.
8. Sets a precedent for Industrial efforts to change State law allowing them to bypass local control and operate under their own rules and regulations. For example, the fracking industry, landfills and other intrusive industries will emulate this tactic.

### WHAT SB849 DOES *NOT* DO

1. DOES NOT protect against environmental harms resulting from mining activity. In fact it states that "excavation and removal of aggregates and of associated overburden does not, of itself, constitute pollution, impairment or destruction of those natural resources".
2. DOES NOT require thorough environmental review of aggregate mining operation's groundwater use pertaining to hazardous effects of contamination in the groundwater.
3. DOES NOT prevent contamination from spreading as a result of aggregates mining. The law is silent on the over 6,000 known properties with contaminated groundwater per EGLE's own estimate - effectively allowing gravel pits on contaminated land with literally no way for any public or private entity from stopping that activity.
4. DOES NOT prevent a gravel mine from being located directly on top of an EPA Superfund site contamination plume (there are currently 66 National Priority List sites in Michigan)

## Working @ Ligon Outdoor Educational Center

Photos from Heather Sisto



## Flint Water Festival

by Heather Sisto

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Flint Water Festival was held July 4<sup>th</sup>. Due to COVID restrictions, this year's event had only a few socially-distanced on-lookers at Flint's Riverbank Park, but anyone could access the event on Facebook.

Throughout the event, Flint Water Festival organizer Kay Smith and online celebrities emphasized, "*The air we breathe, the water we drink, our safety and justice are all impacted by our votes.*" To support that connection, RICH Kids, Inc. partnered with the WeAre Foundation as sponsors of the event. The event was hosted by Brandon Victor Dixon and Ashley Monet, celebrity co-founders of the WeAre Foundation. VOSS Water and Speedway donated cases of water that were distributed to residents, and *Sierra Club Nepessing Group* sponsored one of the water trucks.

Adult attendees lined up to register to vote and had their names entered into a drawing to have their water bill paid. As in previous years, the Drippie mascot brought smiles from the kids and passed out educational merchandise.

*Nepessing Group member Heather Sisto* performed as "Cher" in the lip-sync contest. The \$500 award for the Charity Lip Sync Battle went to duo Alannah Phillips & Kay Smith for their performance of Texas Holdem. Smith's half of the proceeds went to the festival's Flint Memorial Foundation Fund (for those lost to Flint water crisis).

The Festival was a free event, but the sponsors hope viewers will visit their website and donate to the festival and/or their partner organizations.

<https://flintwaterfestival.com/> **Recap Video (1:04)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGYsR2vkbB8&app=desktop>

## Hiking Responsibly

**COVID-19 Alert:** If you are walking, hiking, paddling, or other activities, please observe "special trip protocols" to reinforce best practices.

These include practicing good personal hygiene; bringing hand sanitizer; wear a mask if you are around others, maintaining personal distance if others are near; avoiding physical contact; avoiding sharing of water, food, and personal items; and pay attention to your well-being. The **American Hiking Society** has some helpful **Hiking Responsibly Rules** posted at:

<https://americanhiking.org/blog/hiking-responsibly-faq-covid-19/>

## Good News: Cellophane is NOT Plastic

by Heather Sisto

I was opening a bag of Bob's Red Mill cereal and assumed it was cellophane as surely a healthy product like this would not use plastic. But, to be certain, I checked their website which admits they switched from paper to plastic a few years ago. UGH!

Although many people think cellophane and plastic wrap are the same thing, they are not.

Cellophane is plant-based and has been around since the early 1900s. Its name comes from *cellulose*, the structural component of plants. Unfortunately, cellophane was replaced in the 1960s by petrochemical-based plastics like single-use plastic bags.

According to *Primepac*, a New Zealand packaging company:

*"even though modern bioplastics are made from corn, cellophane is a better choice because it can be made from hemp or farmed trees vs. using a plant better suited to food production. In a freshwater environment, cellophane can biodegrade in 10 days or, when buried in a landfill, about 2-3 months."*

This is a much faster rate than bioplastics made from corn. It will even degrade in your home compost bin!

On the downside, according to the Sierra Club column *Ask Mr. Green*, ". . . cellophane production requires carbon disulfide, so unless a landfill has a methane recovery system, it could release methane."

Therefore, to avoid the landfill, save that cellophane that came with your bouquet of flowers, reuse and compost! Also, look for brands that use cellophane packaging, and write to Bob's Red Mill and other companies to urge them to use cellophane.

Until we invent better waterproof materials, it's one step better than plastic wrap.

Sources

"Did You Know That Cellophane Is Biodegradable?" 20 Mar 2020

<https://info.primepac.co.nz/blog/did-you-know-that-cellophane-is-biodegradable>

Schildgen, Bob. "Is Cellophane Better Than Plastic?" 12 Oct 2017

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2017-6-november-december/ask-mr-green/cellophane-better-plastic>

# Holly Watershed Concerns: Falk Road Dump

Correction and Updated Article by Mary Blanchard & Stacy Taylor

**Editor's Note:** In our last newsletter, our Spring, 2020 edition, the article: "Holly Watershed Concerns" received incorrect information. While the Village Manager stated that there was not significant findings, he was incorrect.

This information was brought to us by Mary Blanchard and we appreciate her integrity and allowing us to share her message and update below:

"I would like to thank all the Sierra Club members who have taken part in supporting our efforts to get our agencies and elected officials to recognize the serious problem that faces the Holly community as well as neighboring communities and the environment. What started as a problem with the Holly Hills Mobile Home Community expansion further threatening the aquifer and the Shiawassee River became even more complicated when it was learned that across a two-lane dirt road there was an abandoned landfill that has gone untested for 25 years."

"I am grateful and relieved that Mike Wilczynski and Denise Trabbic-Pointer have learned of this issue and can lend the scientific knowledge needed. Stacy Taylor has collected many documents from the 1980's and 1990's showing agency employees and politicians coming out against these problems. Now there is every attempt being made by agencies and politicians to keep these issues separated, but unfortunately the environment, and especially water, does not recognize boundaries. Current testing of the Falk Road Landfill will be undertaken and I understand that Mike Wilczynski is familiar with the agency staff involved and will be able to give his input. This is exactly the type of help we have been hoping for."

"I read the recent article that Sue Lossing and Heather Sisto submitted to the recent Nepessing News titled Holly Watershed Concerns. It contains reference to the GeoEnvironmental Report and Village Manager Jerry Walker's statement that there were not significant findings. Jerry Walker was given copies of these documents in December, 2019. I have attached 4 pages of the 1994 report by Tim Carpenter from GeoDynamics that the Village commissioned to do the environmental investigation and drill 11 monitoring wells at the landfill site."

"You will read that there were contaminants above the MDNR clean up criteria at that time in the soil and water testing, particularly lead and zinc in the soil sample of the South Pond location, and methylene chloride in the south pond and north easement water samples of the landfill. I would be happy to email anyone the full report which contains many concerns that GeoDynamics has regarding the landfill property and its possible affects on neighbors

and the water in the area. It was even suggested in the report that 14 more monitoring wells should be added because of the complicated water flow patterns at the landfill site."

"In getting EGLE FOIA information recently, we have discovered that this year's water testing at Test Well #8 at Falk Rd. Dump came back with PFAS at a level 31 ppt when EGLE drinking water MCL is 6 ppt."

"The Village of Holly and contacts at EGLE would not release the testing information until the Public Health Action Plan was approved and accepted by both parties, which apparently has not happened yet. However, we made a request directly through the online EGLE FOIA Request Center and it was included with many other records sent by email."

"The Holly Hills MHP has started the expansion process with heavy earth-moving equipment running 10 hours a day, six days per week. The expansion never went on the agenda of the Michigan Manufactured Housing Commission for approval."

Thank you all again for your help. It is greatly appreciated.

Mary Blanchard

*Please note: This issue is still on-going and Mary and residents are seeking help. At our Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Enviro-Gathering, Mike Wilczynski will be sharing information on this issue. You can also check out their Facebook page "Save Falk Road Committee" & "Save Falk Road".*

## Upcoming Enviro-Happenings & Presentations

Dec.: Safe Holidays!

**Upcoming Enviro-Happenings & Presentation Dates:**

Jan. 13; Feb. 10; Mar. 10; Apr. 14; May 12; June 9

Upcoming Photo Contest & Earth Day - Apr. 22nd



For Zoom presentation links contact Mike Buza

To Recommend a presenter contact: Heather Sisto

See page 1 for contact info.

## The Straits of Mackinac

By Carol Graham Banes

For 7 long years, several Michigan Sierra Club leaders and members, among hundreds of other environmental champions in Michigan, have been part of a movement to protect the Great Lakes.

A water damaging, habitat destroying, economy altering, treaty-breaking oil leak from the aging, structurally poor Line 5 pipeline *has been a constant danger to Michigan's waters.*

Placed in the Straits of Mackinac some 67 years ago, citizens have been very worried about the big lakes that contain 21% of the world's freshwater. Their comprehensive persistence, along with our governor and Attorney General's thoughtful and responsive legal actions, have led to a judge's decision to stop the flow of oil in 180 days.

## Valuable Links & Videos

“The Dirty Secret at the Bottom of the Great Lakes: Oil & Water” is a valuable video that provides maps, information, concerns, changes, spills, and filmed footage of the pipeline.

“A Three Minute Tour of Line 5 Under the Straits of Mackinac”. (Keep in mind the mussels growing on the pipeline were not in existence when the pipeline was created. Their weight is a problem.)

To sign up for our State Chapter newsletter - send your email to: [Julie.geisinger@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.geisinger@gmail.com)

FLOW - For the Love of Water website provide information on our Great Lakes and watersheds.  
<https://forloveofwater.org/>

## Letter from Liz Kirkwood, Executive Director of FLOW - For the Love Of Water:

Today's decisive action by Governor Whitmer and DNR Director Eichinger to [revoke and terminate the 1953 Easement for Line 5](#) represents a clear victory for the Great Lakes and the citizens and tribes of Michigan.

As public trustees of our waters, the State of Michigan is affirmatively upholding the rule of law and protecting the public's treasured Great Lakes from the clear and present danger of an oil spill catastrophe from Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline.

[This is an historic day of state leadership](#) by the Whitmer administration brought about by many years of dedicated action by environmental groups, Indian tribes, communities, businesses, faith communities, families, and individuals like you who gave life to this Great Lakes movement.

We give special thanks to our friends and partners at *Oil & Water Don't Mix* for creating a statewide groundswell and to our key technical experts for their heroic scientific efforts. And deep gratitude to the *National Wildlife Federation* for shining a bright light on this sunken hazard.

On behalf of FLOW, we want to thank each and everyone of you. Your voices, your calls, and your incredible persistence are responsible for today's action.

People of diverse backgrounds have come together to work tirelessly on a common purpose -- protecting the Great Lakes, drinking water, fishing rights, the economy, coastal communities, and a way of life - from the most dangerous oil pipeline in America.

Just remember the Public Trust Doctrine is an essential natural resource management framework for the protection of the Great Lakes and your rights to use and benefit from these public waters.

While this is a moment to celebrate, **we must remain vigilant until the oil stops flowing for good in May 2021 because Line 5 remains exposed to uncontrollable** and powerful forces, including exceptionally strong currents, lakebed scouring, new anchor and cable strikes, and corrosion. These forces dramatically increase the risk of this elevated, outdated pipeline collapsing and causing the unthinkable: a catastrophic oil spill in the heart of the Great Lakes.

We have been waiting for this day for over 7 years. So let's take today to celebrate and savor this victory together, a victory that we couldn't have achieved without you! Thank you.

Thank you.

The Nepessing Group Says “Thank you, Liz” and “Thank-you, All”!

# Your Nepessing Group: Handling 2020

2020 put many of us in a tailspin. Due to Covid-19, **Sierra Club (national)** prohibited in-person gatherings.

This cut-off the valves going into the beating heart of our local Nepessing Group. How do you conduct water monitoring, river cleanups, monthly meetings, coordinate outside activities, fundraising, etc. - when you cannot be near other people? Each month we waited (trying to be patient and understanding...) for approval to get back to being with others.

**What to Do?** Thankfully, newer members stepped in to help with territory unfamiliar to us - using technology to connect with others. Predominately Ercis Urisaeam Migrateam U. "Ercis" and Heather Sisto. Thanks to them and the resiliency of our 'regulars', I am relieved - and proud - to say "*2020 has not stopped us! We are still here growing with you!*"

## What Did We Do?

**Zoom Sessions!** Our monthly Enviro-Presentation have transitioned to online Zoom sessions. We are now more accessible from your own home! Contact Mike Buza for meeting Zoom links at: theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com

**Newsletter!** Realizing a social distancing disconnect - We lengthened our newsletter to provide you a more personal connection to our membership, efforts, and concerns.

**Enviro-presentations!** We had wonderful Enviro-presentations this Spring, Summer and Fall:

**Kay Smith** shared her experiences with the Flint Water Crisis and the vision behind the Flint Water Festival. Inspired by the mission of the festival, Nepessing Group contributed \$250 to sponsor a Water Truck. (page 4)

Ecologist **Peter McCreedy's** presentation was very inspirational, uplifting, and made us all excited to go to Lapeer to experience the trails. To celebrate the visionary project that reclaimed natural spaces for the benefit of community and municipality.

**Plastics!** The Frontline PBS documentary "Plastic Wars" provides the unveiling of the recycling industry's rose-colored glasses as members from the industry openly discuss the reality of plastics. **If you missed this presentation - PLEASE view this soon.** Not sure? - check out one of their Official Trailers at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfrN-P2VC1k>

You can watch the full video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dk3NOEgX7o>

**Rebecca Fedewa** from the Flint River Watershed Coalition "FRWC" provided an in-depth presentation on the watershed, concerns, and what is, and can be done to help this natural, and beautiful resource.

**Don't Miss our upcoming Enviro-presentations.** Contact Mike Buza to receive the Zoom meeting links (see page 1

**Fundraising!** Our fundraising efforts are for printing (newsletter) costs, tree give-aways, MeetUp/social media costs, and to support community projects.

**On-line Projects:** Members Heather Sisto, Ercis Prins, Becky Gale-Gonzales, Mike Buza, and Carol Graham Banes have stepped in to investigate ways to fundraise on-line. After our Fall phot contest - We are having another! Look for a *Spring Photo Contest!*

**Fundraising Membership Drive** - to help local groups during this difficult time, Sierra Club (national) is allocating 100% of new memberships fees to the local groups. Nepessing Group ran a membership "Event" on our Facebook page and in our newsletters.

**Gifting Memberships for Youth-** If you would like to support a student by gifting an Introductory Membership \$15, - Please contact Sue Lossing (page 1) for the name/address of a student on the wait list. We are looking forward to having more youth engaged and having them enjoy the opportunities and benefits which Nepessing Group, and Sierra Club provides.

**Inclusion & Diversity!** Nepessing Group supports environmental justice and desires for more diversity on our ExCom board and committees. Our open-door & inclusion practices have not been enough to see this accomplished. Sue Lossing has taken advantage of the \$15 Introductory Membership and gifted many of her graduating Flint Seniors. These students are not familiar with Sierra Club. While Covid prohibits us from connecting in person, we look forward to meeting them and hearing their voices, suggestions, ideas.

**Outings!** Please contact one of our Outings chairs for updated information. (Listed on page 1)

**Facebook!** Thanks to Ercis, it is easier to locate information of interest to you! We broke out topics that will make it easier for visitors to our page to see posting that they are most interested in. **We encourage you to post and enjoy these Facebook pages:**

**Taking Plastic Out of Our Lives:** sharing info. on plastic-free products and techniques.

**Nepessing Likes Nature Art:** posting artwork, pictures, videos of nature.

**Clean Energy Life:** solar power; wind power

**Crisis & Prevention:** Flint Water Crisis; Line 5, etc.

**Outings, Friends of Nepessing Group, Mt.** Sharing photos, news relating to our Outings program.

Thank you members for sharing your posts, news, questions, on these pages. It helps keep us connect and informed.

## Finally Approved!!!

by David Lossing

After tons of hard work of research, letters of support from the municipalities, and others and then having their applications submitted in 2017 - the **National Park Service** has finally approved the **Shiawassee River** and the **Flint River** for **National Water Trail Designation!**

Michigan now has 5 rivers achieve this designation. Nationally, there are now 33 rivers designated as “National Water Trails” in our country.

The **Shiawassee River National Water Trail** flows from - *Holly, thru Fenton, Linden, Argentine, Byron, Owosso to Chesaning (88 miles).*

The **Flint River National Water Trail** flows from *South of Lapeer, through Genesee Co. and Saginaw Co. to the Southern border of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (73 miles).*

Hat’s off to all their hard work, and to our elected officials (Stabenow, Peters, Kildee, Slotkin, Moolenaar, and others) who kept pushing for review and approval of these applications!

Member David Lossing chairs this group, and member Sue Lossing serves as the Nepessing Group representative to this organization. Many came out to the river to celebrate the news, including our own Becky Gale-Gonzales and new member Gary Messenger.

Sara McDonnell was an instrumental key behind the creation of this national designation. Family and friends of Sara’s joined with us to help commemorate her and this achievement.

## Plastic Alternatives

After watching the PBS **Plastic Wars** documentary, we are compelled to share alternatives to plastics.

Here are some suggestions from our *Taking Plastic Out of Our Lives*, Facebook page. We look forward to people sharing their reviews on this page!

1) Reusable Beeswax Food Bags by “**etee**” found at: club.shopettee.com

*“I found these bags great for lunches, frig and freezer use!”*

2) When **lemons** are in season, squeeze their juice into a cube tray then freeze. Use these instead of the plastic bottles of lemon juice.

3) Bring your own bags to the store. I take my larger freezer bag, with other bags inside.

4) **Grove Collaborative** on-line offers **plastic-free products**, such as shampoos and conditioners not in a bottle, but like a bar of soap that is boxed and not plastic-wrapped. Boxed bamboo toilet paper! Bamboo and sugarcane start growing back immediately and are ready to harvest again in 3-4 months (much quicker than trees!) Shopping on-line with Grove cuts down on my shopping needs and are delivered right to my door.

5) Glass Straws from Amazon! There are so many to choose from. The glass straws from Ecodesya have a nice wooden container, and cleaning straw. I leave these in my car for when I go to restaurants. They are easy to clean and healthier to drink from – plastic free!



Photo from: Friends of the Shiawassee River

Masked Friends from:

*Headwaters Trails* (Holly),  
*Keepers of the Shiawassee*  
(Linden/Fenton/Argentine)

*Friends of the Shiawassee River* “FOSR” (Owosso)

*Nepessing Group / Sierra Club*

Coming from:

Chesaning, Holly, Bryon, Mundy Twp., Fenton, Linden, and Argentine!



# Clean Energy: Employment News from E2

by Micaela Preskill, Midwest Advocate at E2

E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment. Link: <https://e2.org/about/>

*Clean Jobs, Better Jobs*<sup>1</sup> report released by E2, the American Council on Renewable Energy, and the Clean Energy Leadership Institute finds the

**median clean energy wage is about \$23.90—about 25% higher than the national median (\$19.10)!**

Additionally, clean energy jobs are more likely to come with health care and retirement benefits than jobs across the private sector and are more unionized than the rest of the U.S. private sector (9% to 6%).

**In Michigan, clean energy wages are 6.8% higher than the state-specific median wage.**

The report includes breakdowns at the state level, by sector, and detailed profiles on 15 specific clean energy occupations, including solar PV installers, wind turbine technicians, construction laborers, wholesale trade representatives, plumbers, electricians, and more.

Of particular note is the report’s comparison to the fossil fuel sector median wages.

***Contrary to many perceptions, many clean energy jobs pay better than fossil fuel jobs.***

Fossil fuel extraction-related jobs in coal, gas and petroleum—including mining, fracking, and drilling—paid \$24.37 an hour, while the entire energy efficiency sector combined for a \$24.44 median hourly wage and solar and wind jobs combined for \$24.85.

Clean energy industries also employed about three times more workers than fossil fuels did in 2019, and, unlike fossil fuel jobs, clean energy jobs are available in every state, regardless of geology or geography.

For more info. check out:

<sup>1</sup> [E2, “Clean Jobs, Better Jobs”; Oct. 22, 2020; link: https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-better-jobs/](https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-better-jobs/)

E2” [Clean Energy Jobs Pay 25% More Than National Median”, Oct. 22, 2020; link: https://e2.org/releases/report-clean-energy-jobs-pay-25-more-than-national-median/](https://e2.org/releases/report-clean-energy-jobs-pay-25-more-than-national-median/)

## Other Report Findings

Common occupations - such as electrician, construction laborer, and welder - typically pay a premium when they’re involved in clean energy industries. Electricians who work in clean energy, for instance, make a median \$29.64 per hour - about \$2.60 more per hour than electricians overall.

Wage premiums for clean energy occupations are highest for entry-level positions.

Clean energy workers in 23 states earn wages at least 10% higher than the state median wage.

## Hourly Wages by Clean Energy Sector

	2019 Median Hourly Wages	% Above or Below the National Median	Nationwide Employment, 2019
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>\$ 19.14</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>149,133,921</b>
<b>Clean Energy Industries Overall</b>	<b>\$ 23.89</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>3,355,419</b>
<b>Renewable Energy Generation*</b>	<b>\$ 23.44</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>522,811</b>
<i>Solar</i>	\$ 24.48	31%	345,393
<i>Wind</i>	\$ 25.95	39%	114,774
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	<b>\$ 24.44</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,378,893</b>
<b>Storage &amp; Grid Modernization</b>	<b>\$ 25.07</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>147,644</b>
<b>Clean Fuels (Advanced Biofuels)</b>	<b>\$ 19.55</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>39,704</b>
<b>Clean Vehicles</b>	<b>\$ 22.20</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>266,368</b>

\* Includes low-impact hydropower, combined heat and power, and power, bioenergy, and geothermal.

## Fundraiser: Photo Contest!

Nepessing Group held its first online Photo Contest as a fundraiser. Anyone with an interest in nature photography was invited to join by donating \$10 per photo and submitting up to 10 photos between Nov. 1-14<sup>th</sup>.

Winners are expected to be announced Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>!

Watch the Nepessing website for future details!

We will be having another one soon!

QR Code to Membership App. →^



Interested in gifting a Student Membership?  
Contact Sue Lossing for a name/addr.  
from our wait-list: 810-735-6303

Join Online

With vital landmark legislation like the Endangered Species Act under attack, and the regulatory powers of the EPA threatened in Congress, we need you to join us as a member to beat back rollbacks on the progress we've made protecting our national heritage. In addition to our ambitious work across the country, part of your membership dues support your local chapter.

Add your voice to the hundreds of thousands of Americans committed to leaving our children a living legacy — clean air, safe drinking water, and natural grandeur. From Yosemite National Park to the Grand Canyon, since 1892 the Sierra Club has been instrumental in preserving nature's most splendid wild places.

Please join us in this movement by becoming a Member today!

For a limited time, join online for just \$15 and get this FREE Sierra Club Trekker Bag!

To Purchase a gift membership visit:  
<https://www.sierraclub.org/giving/commemorative-gifts>



1. Your Information	2. Select Amount	3. Payment Information
<b>First Name</b>		
<input type="text"/>		
<b>Last Name</b>		
<input type="text"/>		
<b>Email</b>		
<input type="text"/>		
<b>Street Line 1</b>		
<input type="text"/>		
<b>Street Line 2</b>		
<input type="text"/>		
<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	▼
<b>Postal Code</b>		FRIP- 2110; Nepepping Group
<input type="text"/>		
<b>Country</b>		
<input type="text"/>		
<input type="button" value="Continue"/>		

Thank you for your contribution! Your gift will help support our many efforts, including protecting our wildlands and wildlife, keeping our air and water free from pollution, and promoting a clean energy future.

Note: Contributions, donations, gifts, and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. The Sierra Club is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(4) organization. (Additional financial and regulatory information.)

Please note that free premiums will not be shipped outside the U.S. due to shipping costs, allowing us to more effectively use your contribution.

**Fundraiser:** For a limited time, area Memberships benefit Nepepping Group. Please consider renewing your membership and gifting a membership.

**Introductory Memberships are \$15.** Your support benefits our community & spread awareness.

You can scan the QR code -or- fill out/mail this form -or- go on-line to this link:

[click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=ertig\\*tSsdw&offerid=595771.1000001&type=3&subid=0](http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=ertig*tSsdw&offerid=595771.1000001&type=3&subid=0)

### **\*\*\* Voting Ballot \*\*\***

We have an election coming up!! Please vote for no more than **four (4)** Candidates !!!

Votes will be counted Dec. 22, 2020. You can mail (or deliver) to Mike Buza by Dec. 21st. New ExCom Members will be notified prior to the Jan. 13, 2021 meeting. Note: If you are unsure of membership, we can check our listing. Any questions contact Mike at (810) 444-8564; 5277 Worchester Drive; Swartz Creek, MI. 48473

Your Sierra Club Name and/or Membership # (required): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Candidates: Vote for No More Than Four (4)

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Aguirre              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Haley                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Warren   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Graham-Banes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Sisto               | <input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Welch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____<br>Write In Candidate | <input type="checkbox"/> _____<br>Write-In Candidate |  |

#### ***Second Ballot for Households With Joint Membership***

Your Sierra Club Name and/or Membership # (required): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Candidates: Vote for No More Than Four (4)

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Aguirre              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Haley                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Warren   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Graham-Banes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Sisto               | <input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Welch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____<br>Write In Candidate | <input type="checkbox"/> _____<br>Write-In Candidate |  |

Nepessing ExCom members help research, discuss, plan and then vote on proposed local Sierra Club Group activities and projects as they fulfill the Sierra Club 's Mission (Founded in 1892):

- To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;
- To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
- To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Sign up to receive a link to the November ZOOM meeting hosted by NG Chair, Mike Buza by emailing:

[theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com](mailto:theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com)

### **Newsletter Survey -**

**Please, Please Respond**

**Comments / Feedback**

Y or N - Do you think we should mail a newsletter to membership? \_\_\_\_\_

Y or N - Do you prefer to receive only emails or social media posts \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like to see in the newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

We welcome your thoughts \_\_\_\_\_

## *Should We Continue?*

As one of our over 700 members, how would you like for us to share information with you & the membership?

Each month we debate the value of the Nepepping Newsletter because - we do not know how you feel about it.

Please send us a note back with your ballot (see page 11) - or - send your responses back -to-- [theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com](mailto:theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com)

*Thank You!*

### **2020 Committee Chairs \* Voted on Each January**

Please keep in mind that these people welcome you.

Membership Chair	Mike Haley
Outings	Denny Crispell & Linda Berker
Fundraising	Linda Berker, Larry Petrella, Bob Simpson
On-Line Fundraising	Heather Sisto, Prins Ercis, Carol Graham Banes
Political Chair	Bob Aguirre
Conservation	Mike Buza
Energy	Mike Buza & Mike Haley
Fracking	Bob Simpson, Heather Sisto, Mike Buza
Pesticides	Miriam Marcus
Enviro Education Chair	Linda Berker & Denny Crispell
Inclusion Justice	Mike Haley
Facebook	Sue Lossing, Mike Buza, Prins Ercis
Meet-Up	Ashley Tucker, Sue Lossing, Prins Ercis
Website	Sue Lossing, Richard Naber
Grassroots Communications.	Bob Simpson
Email Coordinator	Linda Berker

### **2020 Executive Committee "ExCom"**

Chair	Mike Buza
Vice Chair	Sue Lossing
At-Large	Linda Berker
At-Large	* Carol Graham-Banes
At-Large	* Mike Haley
At-Large	Jack Minore
At-Large	Larry Petrella
At-Large	* Fred Townsend
At-Large	* Mark Warren

\* People with a star by their names are up for Re-election, Dec. 2020

#### **Non-Voting**

Treasurer	Richard Naber
Secretary	Heather Sisto

#### **Newsletter**

Carol Graham-Banes, Heather Sisto,

#### **Programs**

Bob Simpson & Heather Sisto

## Michigan Chapter Sierra Club

109 East Cesar E. Chavez Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48986

#### Upcoming:

Nov. 11; Jan. 13; Feb. 10; Mar. 10

**Enviro-Happenings (6:00 pm) - Zoom**

**Enviro-Presentations (7:30 pm) - Zoom**

To join our Zoom sessions, please contact

Mike Buza: the [originalzuba@yahoo.com](mailto:originalzuba@yahoo.com)



Please, Recycle or Share  
this Newsletter with Others