

# Nepessing News

FALL 2013 - Election Edition



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

The Nepessing Group represents the Sierra Club in northern Oakland, Genesee and Lapeer Counties

## Group Update

Denny Crispell, Chair

It's soon time for another election. There will be five positions on the Excom open. On the ballot will be Laurie Tata, Linda Berker, Jack Minore, Ellen Waara, Terry Lemmer and Denny Crispell. When votes are tallied at the January meeting we will know who the next Excom will be for the following year.

Sue Carr recently resigned from the Excom and as Membership Chair. We thank Sue for all her efforts. She did a great job! She and husband Steve are moving to Florida and will be missed. Anyone interested in the position let me know. Terry Lemmer volunteered to temporarily fill the spot on the Excom until the election. The motion was passed by the Excom. Thank you Terry.

In the spring, events of Earth Day at U of M, Flint Farmers Market, and Wild Lapeer at Chatfield School were again held. We appreciate the efforts of the following members who helped at the booths. Linda Berker, Miriam Marcus, Sue and Dave Lossing, Bob Simpson, Mike Haley, Terry Reecko, Jack Minore, Carol Graham, Laurie Tata, Terry Lemmer, Marie Stewart, Ellen Waara, Tracy Krumm, Alice and Fred Townsend. Sorry if I missed

anyone! These people are the backbone of our Group.

We've had two Texas Hold'em Tournaments at Legends that we hosted. This is where the bulk of our operating funds originate. Again, thanks to many of the before mentioned volunteers and newcomers Bill Klocek, Marsha Schweikert and Bobbie Dettore.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Ellen Waara, Mike Haley and I attended the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Karegnondi Pipeline in Lexington, Mi. July 3<sup>rd</sup> was a hike and picnic at Seven Lakes State Park that was very well attended. July 23<sup>rd</sup> was a meeting over coffee with State Rep Pam Ferris at the Montrose Train Depot. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held at Carol Graham's home to consider a rare request from the State Chapter for a donation. An amount was agreed upon. Aug 4<sup>th</sup> was the Pictured Rocks Service Outing. Laurie Tata, Mary Downey, Jean Gaffney, Alice and Fred Townsend volunteered to help build and maintain trails. Hard work but very rewarding! Aug 23 thru 25<sup>th</sup> was the annual Sierra Club Retreat at Camp Miniwanca. Members attending were Mike Haley, Laurie Tata, Alice and Fred Townsend, Mike Keeler, Sherry Hayden, Carol Graham, Bob Simpson, Lynn Livingston, Bill Klocek and Denny Crispell. On Aug 26 thru 29, Lynn Livingston hosted the Two

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Group Update	1
Fundraising	1
Politics	2
Activism	2
Trails	3
Ballot for 2014 EXCOM	3

Hearted River camp and canoe trip. It was well attended by 12 members! On Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, Bob Simpson and Mike Haley joined me on a trip to CMU in Mt Pleasant to attend a meeting about Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs) by Sierra Club Water Sentinel Lynn Henning. On Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, Ellen Waara held a Conservation Meeting at Little Caesars in Davison, followed on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> by the Hike Schedule Meeting. Oct 12<sup>th</sup> was the Ligon Service Outing. Alice and Fred moved and stacked a huge pile of firewood under the supervision of Denny Crispell. The next day, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, our first Tour of Homes in Bay City led by Laurie Tata. It was a beautiful autumn day to tour historic homes and gardens. I was inspired to clean my house. Thank you Laurie Tata!

At our monthly meetings, Bob Simpson continues to find great speakers and movies. All members are welcome, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at Mott College, Genesee Room of the Prahl Center, except in December. The Ligon Christmas Party will be on Dec 14th, noon till 5:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

## Fundraising

By Linda Berker

Our October Texas Holdem tournament at Legends in Lapeer was a success. Thank you to our volunteers: Linda Berker, Denny Crispell, Bobbie Dettore, Mike Haley, Bill Klocek, Miriam Marcus, Jack Minor, Richard Naber, Anne Nabor, Marsha Schweikert, Bob Simpson, Ellen Waara and Christine Withrow for making the event a success and earning over \$1000.00 for our Club. Special Thanks to Denny, Bill and Miriam who worked the extra late shift till 2am!

## Politics and the Environment

By Jack Minore

The Sierra Club is, of course, non-partisan and apolitical. But Sierra Club members should be very concerned about political results; and 2014 may be a truly important election year for our principles. *The Primary elections - while often overlooked, may be especially critical.* The primaries frequently determine who will be finally elected in November. Sierra Club members should take some critical steps to guard the environment in our Great Lakes State. First: vote! Secondly, be informed on environment stands, recorded votes, and candidate positions. We are a small group - but so many elections are determined by a % or two of voter turn-out or of results that a small number of concerned citizens can - REALLY - make a difference! We can be that group!

## Lansing Lobby Day, 2013

By Ellen Waara

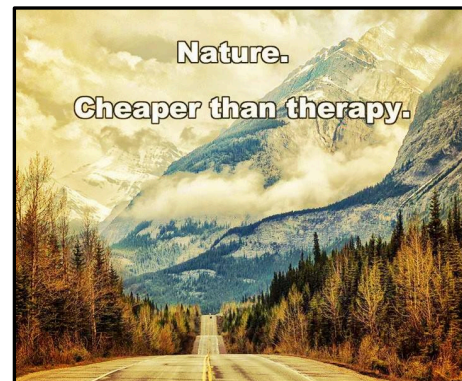
Dawn barely showed as we headed west to rouse the sun, and illuminate some legislatures.

Sierra Club fed us well: both information and food. Two evening prep phone sessions had provided factoids: for example, windmills have recently dropped in cost by 50%.

Prepped by Mike Berkowicz, chapter Legislative and Political Director, we swung into action, armed with voting histories, and questions for positioning. Gun advocates were brandishing their right to bear arms. I gave a Flint TV reporter nervous tree hugger views.

We were treated cordially in the capital. Thanking Dian Slavens her for her Sierra friendly positions. Senator Pavlov, new in Lansing, has two nuclear plants in his district. He wondered if nuclear was considered green, like in Ohio?? Senator Anderson had assembled green organizations for impact and education. Often Dems are scrambling to learn the other side just minutes before an unexpected environmental vote is raised by the Republican majority. Citizenry sharpens our confidence and pride. Our representatives are hard working, committed people, on both sides of the aisle. I am most proud of our tribe, humble Nepessing hikers suited up, talking points in hand, to advocate for the Earth, from the middle of the hand that holds all Michiganders securely. Next year it's your turn!

Thanks to Nepessing members Bob Simpson, Richard Barron, Mike Haley, Fred Townsend, Ellen Waara and Anne Sousanis for their participation.



## Activism

By Mike Haley

Denny Crispell drove Mike Haley and Bob Simpson to Mt Pleasant to hear several presentations from Gail Philbin on the Sierra Club, Loren Beatty on Outings and Lynn Henning spoke to the Less = More Campaign. Bob Simpson, Jack Minore, Fred Townsend, Mike Haley, Denny Crispell, Richard Barron and Mike Stanton went to Lansing to hear David Cobb speak to the Move to Amend Movement that 50 attended. Mike Haley sojourned to Ann Arbor to hear David Cobb again who called Mike Haley a groupie. Mike Haley noticed in the Q & A in Lansing there was a "we-thematic" and in the Q & A in Ann Arbor where there was a "me-thematic" that 30 attended. There are people who think they will get fracking abatement from the University of Michigan Graham Institute Technical Report on Fracking. Good Luck! Laurie Tata, Christina Withrow, Linda Berker, Terry Reechko, Jack Minore, Mel Kennedy, Denny Crispell, Dick Sommers, Fred and Alyce Townsend met at Little Caesars to formulate the

2014 Outings Schedule so the Nepessing community can Explore and Enjoy the environment. Amy Sheridan did the Outings Schedule word processing. Richard and Anne Naber, Ellen Waara, Marsha Schweikert, Bobbie Dettore, Bob Simpson, Denny Crispell, Mike Haley, Jack Minore, Bill Klocek, Richard Barron, Linda Berker and Miriam Marcus cultivated green in the vineyards of Metamora, MI for activism via Texas-Hold-em, i.e., Nepessing Income Statement. Mike Haley, Denny Crispell and Richard Naber toiled on two shifts but Linda Berker was in vineyards for all four days. Mike Haley, Denny Crispell, Fred and Alyce Townsend did benthic test for the FRWC. Conversation Chair Ellen Waara had her first Conservation meeting attended by Linda Berker, Denny Crispell and Mike Haley. Ellen wants more happy talk at the Group Meetings and not the Doom-and-Gloom that Alyce Townsend says you can find on Fred's bookshelf.



**Friends of the Flint River Trail**

By Jack Minore

Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) is a chapter of the Flint River Watershed Coalition, and there are many overlapping interests/concerns as well as

memberships between the group and the Sierra Club. The FFRT has an annual trail clean-up on the last Saturday in April, usually in conjunction with the annual Flint River Clean-Up. FFRT bicycle rides start on the first Sunday in May and continue every Sunday through October at 2:00 PM. These are family-friendly rides, leisurely paced, and of about 10-12 miles in all. For sixteen years the rides have started at the Flint Farmers' Market, but with the market moving next year, the starting point has not yet been determined.

**January Group Program at Mott Community College.**

**January 8, Wednesday:** Physics Professor Al Bartlett; U of Colorado passed away 9/7/2013. We present his lecture "*Arithmetic, Population and Energy*" which dramatically demonstrates the relationship of exponential math and rising population and has been watched and admired for decades. Come and watch as the iconic doctor makes high math easy and understandable, yet rather disturbing. The logic of his conclusions is inescapable.

**Michigan Trails**

By Jack Minore

While Sierra Club folks generally like hiking and wilderness sites, it should be noted that Michigan has more miles of multi-use trails than any other state. Many are paved, some are crushed limestone and some are packed gravel. While I use them primarily for bicycling, they are suitable for hiking or jogging;

and many may be used for horse-back riding and/or for snowmobiling with adequate snow. A few may be appropriate for Nordic skiing. Much of the credit for the trails goes to the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance - or MTGA. MTGA is essentially the successor to Michigan Rails and Trails, and came into existence when Rails to Trails went to a regional rather than a state system. MTGA publishes a trail map that is often available at tourist spots and/or from area bicycle shops. An on-line guide/map is also available at michigantrails.org. There are multiple trails within or near the Nepessing area, and some of our hikes are on a few of them.



**ELECTION BALLOT**

Candidates for election to Nepessing Group Executive Committee (EXCOM). Clip and Mail completed ballot to:

Denny Crispell  
PO Box 436  
Montrose, MI 48457

- Denny Crispell
- Jack Minore
- Ellen Waara
- Linda Berker
- Laurie Tata
- Terry Lemmer

Vote for not more than 5.



Make every day, Earth Day!  
Please recycle!

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing)

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#### **Board Members and Volunteers**

At-Large	Fred Townsend
At-Large	Mike Haley
At-Large	Jack Minore
At-Large	Carol Graham
At-Large	Terry Lemmer
At-Large	Linda Berker
At-Large	Terry Reechko
At-Large	Laurie Tata
At-Large	Denny Crispell

#### **Officers**

Chair	Denny Crispell
Vice Chair	Jack Minore
Treasurer	Richard Naber
Secretary	Mike Haley

#### **Committees**

Conservation	Ellen Waara
Outings	Denny Crispell
Political	Laurie Tata
Media/Programs	Bob Simpson
Membership	Vacant
Fundraising	Linda Berker
Newsletter	Lynn Livingston

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