

# Nepessing News

Spring 2015 - Earth Day Edition

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



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

*Healthy People for a Healthy Planet*

## Earth Day 2015

Saturday, April 11  
10 to 3 pm

University of Michigan-Flint  
Harding Mott University Center

Join us for a fun filled day with over 50 vendors,  
exhibitors, presenters including local business,  
advocacy and service groups.

### Healthy Living Fair

Vendors will be selling sustainable solutions  
for everyday living.

Free Bike Tours, Live Music, Cool Animals you can  
see up close, chef demos, free white pine tree plugs  
from Sierra Club Nepessing Group and more.

Register as a vendor or volunteer at  
[www.earthday.mcc.edu](http://www.earthday.mcc.edu)



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Nandi



12:30 pm in the Kiva

Help us with our  
Zero Waste Event

Bring your  
smartphone to download the  
Earth Day app.

Like us on Facebook  
Earth Day Celebration-Flint

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## Bicycle Season is Coming !

by Jack Minore

As usual, the  
Flint River  
Watershed  
Coalition and  
the Friends of  
the Flint River  
Trail will host  
a spring



clean-up on the last Saturday  
in April - April 26th to get ready  
for the FFRT Bicycle Rides that  
start on the first Sunday in May  
and run every Sunday through  
October. Rides start at the site  
of the OLD Flint Farmers'  
Market at 2:00 PM. We will  
also host one Saturday ride per  
month on the second Saturday  
of each month on a mid-  
Michigan trail. The first  
"Second Saturday Ride" is on  
the Saginaw to St. Charles Trail  
starting at 10:00 AM at the  
Saginaw Trail Head. Up dates  
and information will be  
available at [flinriver.org](http://flinriver.org) --  
under the Friends chapter.

## Thoughts from a Chair

by Denny Crispell

I hope everyone is getting  
through the winter. At  
January's meeting, Robert  
Aguirre, Carol Graham, Terry  
Reechko and Fred Townsend  
were elected to the Executive  
Committee for the next two  
years. They join Jack Minors,  
Linda Berker, Laurie Tata, Ellen  
Waara and Denny Crispell.  
Mike Haley agreed to continue

as Secretary and Richard Naber  
as our Treasurer. Laurie Tata  
as Membership Chair filed the  
Blue Sheets and Ellen Waara  
will continue as our State  
Chapter Delegate. The Excom  
then elected Denny Crispell as  
Chair and Jack Minore as Vice  
Chair.

Congratulations and Thank You  
all!

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Chair continued from pg. 1

The Ex com then elected Denny Crispell as Chair and Jack Minor as Vice Chair.

The Sierra Club will have a booth again at the Earth Day celebration at U of M campus on April 11th. We will be handing out pine trees and all members are encouraged to attend and help out. I always like to point out the Sierra Club's mission is to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Wild Places. Everyone has their own opinion how to do this.

The Sierra Club considers global warming a major threat to the environment and the world's ecosystems. Of course, that is not the only problem. Each of us could come up with a list. Each of us would probably choose an issue that concerns us more. But I don't understand why so many want to argue or debate the problems facing mankind. Wouldn't the efforts be better spent trying to work on the solutions? I bring this up because lately I've encountered so many who want to debate Global Warming, or some prefer the

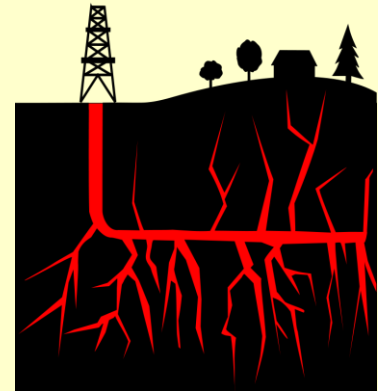
term Climate Change. I try to ask what part don't they agree with? If the climate is getting warmer? If the climate is changing? If the climate is changing but it is not a danger? If it is being caused by man? What do you think is the biggest threat?

But I do not seem to get an answer from them, like they have never thought about it. Maybe I just spend too much time walking for my exercise. Because when I'm walking, I find myself thinking about problems and how to solve them, bouncing solutions around. Reminds me of an old saying, "The first step in solving a problem, is realizing there is one!"

I'll end with a few positive notes! A new power plant has come on line in California. Desert Sunlight Solar Farm produces 550 megawatts of power with solar panels covering 3800 acres. California now gets 20% of its energy from renewables. Throughout the country, more people now work in the solar industry than coal mining.

And last, I was talking with a

friend who works on windmills here in Michigan. He said it is looking like a windmill in Michigan will pay for itself in 7 to 10 years. That's clean energy!



## A FRACKING DISASTER!

By Linda Berker

The Sierra Club State-Wide policy Calls For A BAN On High Volume Hydraulic Fracking.

The need to meet the challenge climate change, together with the environmental and public health risks experienced in states with large scale fracking, have led us to the conclusion that there is no evidence that HVHF can be done safely. Consequently, while we would continue to support efforts toward a moratorium and much (Fracking Continued on page 3)

### Thank You To Our Volunteers by Linda Berker

Our 2015 Texas Hold-Em Poker Fundraiser at Legends Poker 3537 S. Lapeer Rd in Metamora was a great success thanks to the efforts of our committed volunteers who worked shifts from 6pm to 2am and braved cold weather and state police speed traps in those wee hours of the am to support our group. Thank You to: Clark Almasy, Craig Banes, Linda Berker, Steve Charland, Denny Crispell, Carol Graham, Mike Haley, Mike Keeler, Bill Klocek, Jack Minore, Richard Nabor, Anne Nabor, Gerry Rudduck, Chuck Rudduck, Chris Stoltz and Laurie Tata.

Our poker event last fall was canceled due to the political efforts of the state's large casinos who succeeded in winning legislative changes that shut down most poker houses. A Court Order Temporarily staying of the application of some of these rules allowed our event to occur this year but the fight between the small local poker houses used by charities like the Sierra Club and the casinos still continues in the Courts and the Legislature with our sole source of effective fundraising in the balance. As our fundraising Chair I hope that sanity will prevail and that local charity poker houses will continue to exist so that the days of attempting to support our group though the sale of T-shirts, calendars and Rummage sales will remain a not so fond memory. Once again to our VOLUNTEERS Please accept our heartfelt thank for your efforts!!!

Fracking continued from pg. 2

stricter regulations, we oppose fracking and believe that ultimately it should be banned. That is why the Michigan Chapter of Sierra Club earlier this year adopted our official support for a **BAN ON FRACKING IN MICHIGAN**.

On the local front in Genesee and Lapeer Counties, the Nepessing Group and our anti fracking coalition of concerned groups and citizens have supported the actions of MARATHON, OREGON and FOREST TOWNSHIPS whose forward thinking township boards have all enacted Moratoriums against High Volume Hydraulic Fracking within their borders. These Moratoriums will prevent the use and contamination of millions of gallons of fresh water for fracking while the townships explore their regulatory options. Careful study is necessitated because the current Michigan Township zoning and enabling law prohibits Townships from directly regulating the removal of soil, drilling or fracking so to regulate fracking townships must enact broad noise air water or other environmental protection ordinances which will apply broadly to all activities within the township including fracking.

At the state level, the state of Michigan's new proposed fracking rules have been widely criticized by environmental groups as not being adequate to protect Michigan's water and air, property values or citizen's health. The University of Michigan's Graham Institute has criticized the state's efforts in its DRAFT Integrated Assessment report on fracking. The Major problem of lack of public input into the location of fracking facilities within residential communities is also

Highlighted in the State Sierra Club's comments to the State Land.

Leasing section of the Graham Report: "The division of responsibilities between the DNR (leasing) and the DEQ (permitting) creates a gap in state land use planning. The DNR classifies parcels for surface development, restricted surface development, or non-surface development without knowing what product and what type of extraction method will actually be used on the parcel. The DEQ receives permit applications for drilling on state land with the lease already in place. The degree of DNR input on reviews of applications is not always clear. Comprehensive planning and public involvement in these state land use decisions should take place well ahead of the lease nomination process in order to create transparency and public trust in the process." At the federal Level fracking and natural gas and oil exploration in general have been exempted from the environmental protections on the Clean Air, Clean Water and safe Drinking Water Statutes. so the Fed's have recently made new rules in an attempt to control fracking on federal lands: "The new rules are the federal government's most comprehensive foray to date toward regulating the technology at the heart of the U.S. oil and gas boom, addressing worries such as potential dangers to drinking water. They also offered oil and gas supporters new room to accuse President Barack Obama of seeking to throttle fossil-fuel production, despite his repeated boasts about the nation's booming energy supplies. At the same time, the rules fall short of

environmentalists' biggest demands for oversight of fracking operations — let alone some groups' calls for an all-out ban. The Department of Interior's regulations apply only to land owned by the federal government or Indian tribes, so they won't end the current patchwork of state laws and local ordinances governing the practice in hot spots like Pennsylvania, south Texas and North Dakota. But the industry and its supporters in Congress still call it an overreach, arguing that greens are massively exaggerating the dangers and that states are adequately regulating the industry already."

Read more:

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/03/interiors-fracking-rules-ready-for-launch-116241.html#ixzz3V2OwINl8>

Michigan Scenery with Nepessing group...



Nepessing Group  
P O Box 436  
Montrose, MI 48457



Make everyday 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	Ellen Waara
At-Large	Jack Minore
At-Large	Carol Graham
At-Large	Thomas Haley
At-Large	Linda Berker
At-Large	Terry Reechko
At-Large	Laurie Tata
At-Large	Denny Crispell

#### **Officers**

Chair	Denny Crispell
Vice Chair	Laurie Tata
Treasurer	Richard Naber
Secretary	Mike Haley

#### **Committees**

Conservation	Ellen Waara
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