



# THE LOOKOUT

Vol. 31 No.3 Fall 2009



## The 2009 Mackinac Chapter Retreat: Fun for All Ages with Inner City Outings

The last weekend in August, three members of Washtenaw Inner City Outings (WICO) and one family, the Johnsons of Green Baxter Court, participated in the many enjoyable and educational activities at the 20th annual Michigan Sierra Club Retreat at Camp Miniwanca.

Saturday August 29 dawned windy, cloudy, and very cool, but there were plenty of indoor opportunities. We constructed bird and bat houses, learned about and created worm composting containers, and improved our understanding of healthy food for our bodies that is also good for the earth. Other workshops included political topics and an interesting live bat demonstration. Drier weather later in the day made it possible for our group's more adventuresome members to climb "the stairway to heaven" and explore the dunes. The evening, although far too wet for a campfire, was filled with the fun of a live auction, complete with several silly adults practicing their "worm-wiggling" in response to friendly dares.

Sunday was still cool, but the clouds had cleared overnight, and the sun was shining. The morning was highlighted by some kayaking on Stony Lake. Yes, we did get wet (in fact "soaked" might be a more accurate description), but it was great fun for the young and not-so-young among us. The lunch meal was punctuated by a celebration for passing the "Sierra Tiara," complete with drumming and dancing. (To learn more about the famed Sierra Tiara, be sure to attend the 2010 retreat where you too will

have the opportunity to win and wear it for an entire year.)

All too soon, it was time to pack up and leave our new friends and this beautiful Lake Michigan setting. The retreat organizers had done a wonderful job of putting together a varied program that continuously made it a challenge for each of us to decide among the many options. It was a wonderful mixture of educational, inspiring, and creative activities in a camp setting reminiscent of summer experiences of our youth. And what a great way to celebrate the end of the 2009 summer season!

Thanks go to the Mackinac Chapter, for helping Washtenaw Inner City Outings sponsor for the retreat a family who otherwise wouldn't

By Cecilia Trudeau

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## Retreat continued from page 1

have had the chance to attend. Elizabeth Johnson and her three children, Marius (age 12), Aveeona (10), and Jaylin (8), enjoyed a wonderful weekend at the Lake Michigan dunes.

## You can help!

Washtenaw Inner City Outings will offer an Outdoor Leader Training session on Sunday Nov 22, 2009, 9 am – 5 pm--open to the general public. This training session fulfills one of the Sierra Club requirements to become a certified outing leader. Training will be led by Lorne Beatty from the Chapter Executive Committee. Registration cost will be \$10 by Oct 22 or \$15 after Oct 22. Please contact WICO chair Vera Hernandez for additional information at (734) 665-8118 or [washtenawico@yahoo.com](mailto:washtenawico@yahoo.com).

If you have ever considered getting involved with Washtenaw Inner City Outings, now is the time to start. Perhaps you have a special outdoor skill that you could share with a child who rarely has the opportunity to experience the natural world. WICO schedules many outings throughout the year. New volunteers are welcome to join us on an outing anytime. Please take a look at the WICO website for past and future outings to get an idea of our plans. We welcome your help coming up with trip ideas and planning them.

WICO has the following volunteer positions open:

- Additional co-chair
- Volunteer coordinator
- Fundraising committee members
- Publicity coordinator

Please contact us for details: email [washtenawico@yahoo.com](mailto:washtenawico@yahoo.com) or visit our website <http://ico.sierraclub.org/washtenaw>.

Hope to see you on an outing soon!

*Cecilia Trudeau is a new volunteer and equipment manager with Sierra Club's Washtenaw Inner City Outings.*



The Huron Valley Group Newsletter is published 4 times a year by Huron Valley Group, Michigan Chapter, Sierra Club, 621 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

# Stiff a Duck, Nip a Toe

Isle Royale, home of the moose — and ducks as well! And over the ridge and down the slope to the lake comes a file of backpackers. It's the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club! Well, at least a dozen or so of the hiking elite from that gang. Nancy Shiffler leads. Vince Smith, Charlotte Wyche, Ralph and Barb Powell, and a few others, the memory of whom 20 or 30 years have wiped out.

And oh yes, among the others is your Present Author, who will now tell the amazing tale of how this unfolding moment led to his conversation with a duck. Yes, conversation. Yes, a duck! Yes, web feet, feathers, etc. Quack quack and all that. A real, honest, Isle Royale duck. Conversing with a human. Asking a question. Human replying to duck. Duck understanding. Duck confirming understanding by acting.

To the scene of action! Here come the hikers down the hill toward water's edge. Break time when they reach the shore of the lake. Present Author, weary as any, tosses off his pack, uncorks his canteen, and sits himself on a slab of rock at water's edge. Others scatter about, sitting, leaning against trees, reaching for canteens and candy bars and such. One of those others — Charlotte — chooses to sit next to Present Author.

Charlotte does more than sit: she takes off her boots and socks, all to cool her liberated feet in the water. Then she opens a pack of... whata you call it... gorp? Whatever, you know the stuff: nuts, raisins, etc. Begins to munch.

Enter Duck. He (or maybe she, but who's checking?) sees resting human munching on stuff that any duck might love. Paddles himself, he does, to a position five feet or so in front of Charlotte. Looks up at munching human, hopefully, pleadingly: "Oh please, give me a taste. Please."

Of course Duck doesn't say that aloud, but it's obvious what Duck wants. "Please, I'm just a poor duck. Gimme a nibble. Okay?"

Not okay, because Charlotte ignores Duck. Munch and munch, selfishly stuffing her selfish mouth! Eats it almost all, she does, then rolls up the near-empty packet, sticks it back into a pocket.

Duck realizes that he is shut out. Curses! This selfish human-person must be punished! And indeed, when Charlotte turns her head to look for her boots, opportunity for punishment beckons.

But this other human-thing is watching me. Will he...?

Duck looks back at me. In his eyes I read the question: "You gonna butt out?" Yes, selfish Charlotte-human deserves to be punished. Such was the reaction of Jack-the-human, signaling to Duck with a faint smile, and a slight positive nod of the head. Do it, Ducky Boy!

Duck reads message. Do it! He darts forward. Opens his bill wide wide wide. He does it: Clamps his bill upon Charlotte's big toe. Just a brief nip, really, but you should have heard the squawk!



No, not Duck squawking — it was a greatly startled Charlotte. But no harm done, really. After all, ducks don't have teeth.

And another you-should-have-heard. Duck-the-Avenger was now laughing as he hastily swam out of range of any counterattack. Given that 20 or 30 years have gone since, Duck is probably not around to be laughing today. But I am — laughing, that is!

***A short-but-true japery from Jack Woodward***

## ***We Need You!***

If you would like to help with the Sierra Club's Shopping for the Earth program (SFTE) by keeping track of SFTE donations and sending thank-you letters by email, please contact Ed Steinman: [esteinma@umich.edu](mailto:esteinma@umich.edu).



# Greening Your Home—Save Water and Money with a New Toilet Fixture

Two rules of thumb for deciding whether to replace your toilet:

- 1) If your toilet is old enough to vote, or
- 2) If the tank is avocado or gold,

... then it's time to get a new generation high-efficiency toilet.

Sit on this for a while . . . your family of three will flush the toilet over 1/2 million times in your lifetime. Now consider that the oldest toilets use about 8 gallons per flush and toilets installed before 1992 use at least 3.5 gallons per flush (gpf). And by the way, that's fresh drinking water you're flushing. So with all that money going down the toilet, it's time to upgrade to a new generation high-efficiency toilet.

## WHAT IS A HIGH EFFICIENCY TOILET?

A High-Efficiency Toilet (HET) uses 1.3 gpf or less. The State of California now requires that all new toilets meet this standard. Dual flush toilets take it to the next level by offering a lower flush option of only .8 gpf.

## DO THEY COST MORE?

Dual flush HETs do not cost more. Although they have a slightly higher up-front cost (between \$250 – \$500), the water savings make them far less expensive over time. If a family of four replaces one 3.5 gpf toilet made between 1980 and 1994 with a WaterSense toilet, they can save \$2,000 over the lifetime of the toilet. Check out GreenandSave.com to find out your return on investment for a dual flush HET.

## DO THEY WORK? . . . A GUIDE TO LIVING A PLUNGER-FREE LIFE

Yes. They work. They flush better and waste less. Plumbing guru Terry Love says, "The first round of low flow toilets were not quite ready for prime-time. Customer complaints were many and plumbers were in the bad position of installing products that nobody wanted to use. Recently... things have changed. Some of the new plumbing products work better than the old water wasters." At the BGreen store in Ann Arbor, we tried the Caroma Sydney, which has a unique 4-inch trapway. The .8 gallon button flushed virtually everything including 4 tennis

balls, 4 potatoes, and even an entire t-shirt. No plunger required. [Don't try this at home! If you get a tennis ball and your old Michael Jackson "Thriller Tour" t-shirt stuck in your sewer drain, don't come crying to me.]

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Look for the EPA's Water Sense label. This will ensure not only efficiency but also high performance.

## HOW MUCH WILL YOU SAVE WITH A DUAL FLUSH?

On average, 30-40% of a family's water bill goes down the toilet. By 2013, 36 U.S. states are predicted to experience catastrophic water shortages. Advances in toilet design permit WaterSense HETs to save water without loss of flushing power. Learn more at [www.Greenovation.TV](http://www.Greenovation.TV) and at Kohler's [www.SaveWaterAmerica.com](http://www.SaveWaterAmerica.com).

## WHERE TO BUY A DUAL FLUSH TOILET

Bgreen (Toto, Kohler, and Caroma)

Located next to Benny's, near Colonial Lanes, at 1952 S. Industrial Hwy.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104, (734) 214-3000.

[EcoBuildingProducts.com](http://EcoBuildingProducts.com) (Caroma)

[Wal-Mart.com](http://Wal-Mart.com) (American Standard Flowise Dual Flush)

Home Depot (Kohler, American Standard, and Foremost)

[BuyPlumbing.net](http://BuyPlumbing.net)  
(Caroma and Toto)

By Matt Grocoff



*Matthew Grocoff is founder and CEO of [www.Greenovation.TV](http://www.Greenovation.TV), an internet TV channel with everything you need to know to green your home. He also has a bi-weekly *Greenovation segment on the Environment Report*, syndicated on public radio stations nationwide.*



# How Going Broke Made Me Greener

By Julie Northrop

Like so many Americans, when the economy went bust over a year ago, so did my bank account--royally. My fiancé got laid off from a job in the auto industry (no need to elaborate there), and my personal training business began steadily declining. Soon we were living off a drastically reduced monthly income and struggling to pay the bills and keep a roof over our heads.

Going broke has forced me to be incredibly resourceful, inventive, and creative. When the news hit, I went full speed ahead crafting ways to make ends meet on a lot less money. My experience has forced me to be greener than I was ever willing to be. I was forced to go places where previously I was too snobbish to shop, to resist the urge to buy, to embrace the beauty of sharing, and to give up convenience and glossy packaging for the chance to mix up my own (equally effective) supplies. It was a wonderful surprise when I realized that saving green actually made me greener.



## Greenification:

### My 5 Favorite Penny Pinchers

- 1. The Eco-Towel:** I'll admit that I used to go through loads of paper towels (3-4 rolls a week!) before I made this Eco-wise decision. This super-absorbent towel is made from bamboo, is machine washable, compostable, and nuke-able (you can sanitize it in the microwave, that is). Genius!
- 2. The Green Cleaning Kit:** I would spend mucho dinero on green cleaning loot like Mrs. Meyers (\$13 for laundry soap? Not in the budget! It did smell lemony fresh though) until I read a book with recipes for cleaning supplies. Now my cleaning kit includes earth-friendly staples like: castile soap, baking soda, borax, vinegar, washing soda, and some stiff bristled brushes.
- 3. Natural Beauty:** I made the switch to natural beauty care and was delightfully surprised to find everything from scrubs to hair care right in my own kitchen! My favorites: Baking Soda Face Scrub, Olive Oil Moisturizer, and Coconut Milk hair shine. The Baking Soda Face Scrub actually exfoliates better than anything I've ever tried (even those pricey Sephora scrubs).

- 4. Need New Clothes?** Hit up the local second-hand shop! If you're willing to dig a little, there are some real treasures to be found. I found a super-cute Banana Republic sundress at Plato's closet for \$12. I picked up some Calvin Klein polos from Value World at just \$4 apiece. Bonus: It's recycling!
- 5. The Borrowers:** Who knew the local library carried just-released best sellers, current magazines, newspapers, movies, and even music? Well, perhaps all of you, but I certainly didn't! Now, instead of buying books and magazines, I check them out for free and return them to be enjoyed by the next (blush) Patterson fan. Toy libraries are also popping up -- why buy a brand-new toy that the kids will just outgrow in what seems like 4 minutes?

You certainly don't need to be rich to be green. In fact, being broke can be the ultimate lesson in conservation.

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# HVG Scrip Program for Dummies: A Guide for the Rest of Us!

By Jay Schlegel

As I write this, it's not even Hallowe'en, but I can feel the fear. The voices that fall silent, the furtive glances, people scurrying for cover every time anyone mentions ... the HVG Scrip Program.

Ooh, scary!

No, not really. At least not once you understand how the program really works. So, light up the jack-o-lantern and settle in for the answers to all your questions.

**Q: "Scrip"? I don't even know what that word means!**

A: Wikipedia tells us that "scrip" refers to any substitute for currency which is not legal tender. When you hear the word "scrip," think "gift cards"

and "gift certificates."

**Q: Are there \*TWO\* HVG scrip programs, or what?**

A: Yes and no. HVG has run a fundraising program for many years with a handful of local merchants. We recently expanded to utilize the services of the Great Lakes Scrip Center, which offers many more local and national merchants to choose from.

**Q: OK, what's the catch? How am I \*NOT\* being ripped off?**

A: Every dollar that you spend through the scrip program gives you a dollar's worth of goods/

services from one of the merchants who participates in the program.

**Q: Then why bother in the first place?**

A: The Sierra Club Huron Valley Group purchases these gift cards/certificates at a discount from the merchants, and keeps the difference to fund our conservation efforts (the rebate amount varies, including special promotions which Great Lakes Scrip occasionally runs). The merchants benefit by getting your business, which they might not have had otherwise. So, everyone wins!

**Q: I'm an old dog, do I have to learn any new tricks to get the most out of this program?**

A: Yes, but it's a simple one: You have to remember to use the gift cards/certificates. Think of it like learning to reduce/reuse/recycle, or bringing your bags with you to the grocery store. It helps if you can plan ahead for either regular purchases (e.g., groceries), special occasions (gift-giving, entertainment, restaurants), or major purchases which you don't "have-to-have yesterday."

**Q: Is there any risk?**

A: Alas, yes. You could lose the gift cards/certificates, or forget to bring them with you when you need them. If they are lost or stolen you cannot replace them. Treat them like you would cash or credit cards.

**Q: I'm still confused. Walk me through it step-by-step.**

Step 1: Register with the Great Lakes Scrip Center.

Step 2: Check out the various merchants available in the program on the website.

Step 3: Point/click your way to some selections. The website has useful online help information if you have questions.

Step 4: Place an order.

Step 5: Wait for your gift cards/certificates to arrive.

Step 6: If you don't want to use the website, you can purchase some of the gift cards/certificates at any HVG monthly meeting.

**Q: Hmm, sounds simple enough. Can you give me an example?**

A: I decided that I wanted to buy a chest freezer, so that I could store locally grown food. I researched these online and identified a model I liked which was available at Sears; Sears participates in the online scrip program. Since I now knew roughly how much the freezer would cost, I ordered an appropriate amount of gift cards through the scrip program. The cards arrived within a couple weeks. I then had the choice of going into the Sears store to order the freezer, or order it online. I chose to order online, after confirming that I would be able to use the gift cards as method of payment (such cards have a special pin number on the back, like the extra number on the back of a credit card). I placed my order, including home delivery, and a few days later I had a nice new freezer sitting in my dining room.

**Q: Bottom-line it for me!**

A: I ordered \$525 worth of gift cards for Sears, figuring anything leftover from the purchase of the freezer could be used for other purchases later. Great Lakes Scrip was running a special promotion at the time, giving a rebate of 10% on the amount purchased from Sears. So, HVG earned \$52.50 from my purchase, minus a shipping/handling fee. Sears was also running a sale when I actually purchased the freezer. I got my freezer and made a significant contribution to the Sierra Club without spending any additional money (except for a nominal \$0.39 handling fee). Everyone wins!

**Q: OK, sign me up!**

A: Please refer to the HVG scrip program information on page 12 for details. And thank you for shopping for the earth!



*Jay's most recent appliance purchase resulted in more than a \$50 donation to the local Sierra Club – at NO cost to him! Sound too good to be true? It's not – it's the beauty of the HVG Scrip Program.*



# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar

Participants in Sierra Club outings will be asked to sign a liability waiver. If you wish to read the waiver before coming to an outing please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630. When carpooling is used to facilitate logistics for an outing, participants assume the risks associated with this travel, as well. Carpooling, ridesharing and the like are strictly a private arrangement among participants. Park fees may apply. **For up to date information, visit our website at <http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/>**

**Saturday October 31, 2009 - 8:00 am - Sleepy Hollow Hike** plus Lansing excursion. Sleepy Hollow State Park (the perfect choice for Halloween!) is located near the beautiful small town of Laingsburg, close to Lansing. A river winds its way through the woods and fields of the park and Lake Ovid is in the middle of it all. The hiking trail takes you through prairie grasses, hardwood forests, and stands of pine trees. After our walk, we'll visit Lansing: downtown, Capitol Building complex, Vietnam war memorial, river walk, and dinner at one of many unique restaurants. Sleepy Hollow State Park (7835 Price Rd, Laingsburg, MI) For info and to carpool: Ewa Roszczenko (734) 756-5362, ewarosz@yahoo.com.

**Thursday November 5, 2009 - 7:15 pm Executive Committee Meeting.** Contact Doug Cowherd for location. [doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org)

**Tuesday November 10, 2009 - 7:30 pm - Sierra Club Book Club.** 2nd Tuesday of every month at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, corner of Maple and Jackson, Ann Arbor. Book: Hawke's Green Beret Survival Manual, by Myke Hawke. Join us for discussion - all are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer. Nicola's Books (2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI) For info: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.

**Saturday November 14, 2009 - 10:00 am - Crooked Lake Trail, Pinckney Recreation Area.** This is a paradise for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts! The trail is part of the 36-mile Waterloo-Pinckney Trail. We will hike only a part of it, approximately 6-7 miles up and down the hills through the forest and enjoy the beautiful views of passing lakes. If we choose, we can extend our hike up to 1-3 miles taking Losee Lake Trail. Wear hiking boots, bring water, snacks, good humor, and a smile. For info and to carpool: Ewa Roszczenko (734) 756-5362, ewarosz@yahoo.com.

**Sunday November 15, 2009 - 10:00 am - Cedar Lake Esker Outing.** Hike the tallest esker in our area with stunning views of three lakes, and around the Discovery Center. This hike is on land off-limits to hunting. The four-mile hike will be led by guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Meet at the trailhead along the access road to Cedar Lake. From Ann Arbor, take I-94 west to Pierce Road, north (right) one mile to Cavanaugh Lake Road, west (left) one-half mile to the Cedar Lake access road, north (right), and take a right at the fork toward Cedar Lake. For info: Jay Schlegel 734-477-5715.

**Tuesday November 17, 2009 - 7:30 pm - The Poetry and the Practicalities of Hiking the UP.** The Poetry and the Practicalities of Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula with Eric Hansen, author of "Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula – A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in the U.P.". HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI)

**Monday November 23, 2009 - 7:00 pm Conservation Committee meeting.** The Conservation Committee typically meets the 4th Monday of every month. Contact Dorothy Nordness: 734-668-6306.

**Tuesday December 8, 2009 - 7:30 pm - Sierra Club Book Club.** 7:30 pm, 2nd Tuesday of every month at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, corner of Maple and Jackson, Ann Arbor. Book: TBA. Join us for discussion - all are welcome. Check the Ann Arbor Observer or call Nancy Shiffler at 734-971-1157 for details. Nicola's Books (2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI)

**Saturday December 12, 2009 - 9:30 am - Hickory Hills Trail, Waterloo Recreation Area.** Waterloo is the largest state park in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The trail starts at Gerald Eddy Discovery Center and passes through an oak/hickory forest. We will hike approximately 6 miles with possibilities to extend our hike up to 2 miles, if we desire. So, let's lace up our hiking boots, because in this part of the world, any given pathway will point us to Pure Michigan. Bring water, snack, a smile, and good humor. For info and to carpool: Ewa Roszczenko (734) 756-5362, ewarosz@yahoo.com.



# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

**Monday December 14, 2009 - 7:15 pm Executive Committee Meeting.** Contact Doug Cowherd for location. [doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org).

**Tuesday December 15, 2009 - 7:30 pm - Great Adventures Around the Globe.** Share your travels! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman ([esteinma@umich.edu](mailto:esteinma@umich.edu)). If you have mounted slides bring 10-15: a projector will be available. HVG Monthly Public Program; 3rd Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI)

**Sunday December 20, 2009 - 9:30 am - Winter in Waterloo Hike.** Explore some of the more rugged and remote sections of Waterloo on this five mile hike with guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Meet at the trailhead along Katz Road (take I-94 to the Mt. Hope Road exit north (right) one half mile to Katz Road, right one quarter mile to the trailhead.) Call Jay Schlegel for time, directions, and details: 734-477-5715.

**Monday January 18, 2010 - 7:00 pm - Inner City Outings.** Inner City Outings introduces urban children in Washtenaw County to outdoor and environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners, and contributors are always welcome. For meeting location and more details, please visit ICO's events page or contact Vera Hernandez at 734-665-8118. 3rd Monday of the month. REI Ann Arbor's Community Use Room (970 W. Eisenhower Pkwy, Ann Arbor, MI)

**Friday January 22-24, 2010 - MacMullan Conference Center Ski Trip.** Join us at the MacMullan Center on north Higgins Lake for another fantastic ski trip! Fun for all levels. We ski at Higgins Lake State Park on Saturday morning to get warmed up. We'll also visit other areas, such as Hanson Hills, Hartwick Pines or The Mason Tract Pathway along the Au Sable River. Space is limited; first come first serve. DNR MacMullan Conference Center in Higgins Lake State Park (104 Conservation Dr Roscommon, MI). For info: Lane Hotchkiss, 734-730-7209, [lanehotchkiss@comcast.net](mailto:lanehotchkiss@comcast.net).

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## The Washtenaw Ski Touring Club

There's chill in the air this fall reminding us that the cross country ski season will soon be on us.

Our website [www.hvcn.org/info/skiclub/](http://www.hvcn.org/info/skiclub/) has all the details for these trips:

- New Year's Glide, Marquette, MI, Dec27 – Jan. 1, 2010
- DNR, Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Ctr., Roscommon, Jan. 8 - 10
- Hiawatha Sports Club, Engadine, MI (UP), Jan, 15 - 18
- Stokely Creek, Ontario, CA, Jan. 18 - 20
- Wyandotte Lodge - Mason Tract Pathway, Grayling, MI, Jan. 22 - 24
- Lower Peninsula Mystery Weekend, (follow the snow), Jan. 29 - 31
- Wolverine, MI, Feb. 5 - 7
- Aspen Grove XC Center, East Jordan, MI, Feb. 19 - 21
- Grayling Getaway, Feb. 26 - 28

Come to our entertaining and informative meetings at the Kerrytown Concert House on 4<sup>th</sup> St. in Ann Arbor on these dates:

November 10, 2009	January 26, 2010
December 1, 2009	February 9, 2010
December 15, 2009	February 23, 2010
January 12, 2010	March 9, 2010

**Hike & Potluck - Ski Season Starter!**  
Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, 2 pm, Independence Lake Meeting Room





Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Sierra Club 2010 Calendars



### Order Form

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Engagement Calendar	<input type="checkbox"/> \$13	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12	_____	_____
total			_____

### Buy from us and support local conservation!

Order and pick up your calendars at  
Sierra Club Huron Valley Group monthly public programs  
November 17 and December 15  
or contact Jay Schlegel to make an order and  
arrange an alternate pick-up time:  
[jayhschlegel@comcast.net](mailto:jayhschlegel@comcast.net) or (734)477-5715

Cash or checks only, please. Payment is due at pick-up.

**Thank you!**

# Thank you

Thank you to the following people who have helped out with recent newsletters. These people have written stories, submitted photos, shared recipes, edited, designed, proofed, and printed labels. Many of these volunteers have folded and stapled and put labels on the very newsletter you hold in your hands right now!

John Alfaro  
Ginny Archer  
Nancy Bishop  
Jan Brimacombe  
David Brooks  
Eugenia Carpenter  
Jim Crowfoot  
James D'Amour  
Elizabeth Flahie  
Karen Flahie  
Bruce Graves

Ruth Graves  
Kelly Grocoff  
Matt Grocoff  
Suzie Heiney  
Magda Herkhof  
Vera Hernandez  
Edith Hurst  
Rich Kato  
Diane Kimball  
Barry Lonik  
Ginny Maturen

Ann Miller-Chisholm  
Kent Newman  
Dorothy Nordness  
Betsy Noren  
Gwen Nystuen  
John Nystuen  
Barbara Powell  
Alan Richardson  
Mary Roth  
Jay Schlegel  
Patti Smith

Emily Springfield  
Ed Steinman  
Ray Stocking  
Kate Sweeney  
Bob Treemore  
Scott Tyrrell  
Kim Waldo  
Mary Waldo  
Paul Wolberg  
Jack Woodward  
Connie Zatsick

Thank you! If we've missed or misspelled your name, just drop us a line – [hvgnews@yahoo.com](mailto:hvgnews@yahoo.com) – and we'll fix it in the next issue. We need your help! The newsletter runs on 100% volunteer power. Here are some ways you can help:

- Share your ideas to make it even better
  - Write an article
- Do a photo essay of something that interests you
  - Become a co-editor
- Lend a hand at one of our quarterly "fold-and-staple" parties
  - Approach a local business about running an ad

If you can help, please get in touch today: [hvgnews@yahoo.com](mailto:hvgnews@yahoo.com). Thanks!

# Women and the Environment: Maude Barlow, Water Warrior



By Nancy Bishop

My last article provided a brief glimpse into my on-line “Women and the Environment” course. This series of articles over the next several issues will discuss key environmental issues and some of the people who have dedicated their lives to protecting our precious resources, as well as how today’s college students feel about and are affected by these issues.

One courageous and determined “water warrior” has dedicated her life to fighting for the right to clean, accessible water for everyone. Now more than ever, the fight for clean water has gained a critical level of importance. With massive ice shelves breaking off, rising ocean temperatures, and droughts affecting people all over the world, the time to fight for our water is now. But there is one other very important reason why the fight for water is critical—corporations are taking a basic right – water – and selling it for profit, at the expense of the environment. In 2002, Americans alone paid 7.7 billion dollars for bottled water. This number is staggering, considering that these companies are taking the water from the ground and selling it to the public for what may seem like a “good deal,” when in fact what we are drinking in these bottles is often the same as what comes right from our own tap (Natural Resources Defense Council, March 1999).

The water conglomerates are big business. Here are some interesting facts:

“German energy conglomerate RWE and French transnational Vivendi currently are the two largest water corporations globally. These giants control almost 40% of the existing water market shares, as they are ranked 51st and 53rd among Fortune’s Global 500 List. Vivendi alone operates in over 100 countries while the third largest bottling water giant, Suez, operates in more than 130 countries. Suez and Vivendi combined annual revenues push \$70 billion.” (<http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz/klessill/>)

While some may feel helpless in the fight against such large companies, **Maude Victoria Barlow** has made the fight for clean water her life’s mission. A revolutionary writer and activist, Ms. Barlow is chairwoman of the Council of Canadians and co-founder of the Blue Planet Project. She believes that water “...is not a commodity to buy, sell or trade. It is a human right.”

Barlow fights for the right to clean water both locally and internationally. It is not uncommon to see her facing water conglomerates such as Suez, Nestle and Veolia.

At the Third World Water Forum in Cancun (March 2003), Barlow served as co-chair of the World Water Council, challenging the attempts by water conglomerates to privatize water rights. At the forum, the heads of the major water conglomerates were all on stage discussing public-private partnerships when a member of the community, an employee of a five-star hotel, approached the CEOs. The worker held up two bottles filled with water: one with water from the high-end hotel in which he worked (crystal clear), and the other from where he lived (brownish and murky). When the CEOs were challenged to drink from both bottles, they refused to do so. Barlow was there providing support to the local community for their right to clean and affordable water, leading the rallying cry of “Water is life!”

Barlow has been recognized for her tenacity and dedication in the fight for water. In 2005 she received the Right Livelihood Award, and in 2008 the Citation of Lifetime Achievement at the Canadian Environmental Awards. She is the recipient of prestigious honorary doctorates from eight Canadian universities. Her list of achievements is long, but her determination to fight for clean water is unmatched. I highly recommend her 2008 book [Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water](#). It has inspired so many of my students – they not only commit to stop buying water bottles after reading it, but some also commit themselves to the cause as well. Perhaps it will inspire you to become a “water warrior”!

In my next article I will be discussing the life and work of another revolutionary woman whose work, courage and determination changed our lives for the better.

*Nancy L. Bishop is an online instructor for the University of Louisville and North Carolina State University. She earned her B.S and M.A in Women and Gender Studies from Eastern Michigan University. She lives in Dearborn, Michigan.*

# You're invited: January Cross-Country Ski Trip

We will again be going to the MacMullan Conference Center on North Higgins Lake, the weekend of January 22-24, 2010. We will be skiing at the DNR Center area and several other cross country spots. The trip is open to 12 people, first-come-first-serve.

We ski at the DNR Center in the Higgins Lake State Park on Saturday morning to get warmed up. After lunch at the DNR Center, we head to another ski area such as Hanson Hills, Hartwick Pines or the Mason Tract Pathway along the Au Sable River. After breakfast on Sunday, we head to a ski area like Ogemaw Hill, which is on our way home.

Cost is \$138.50 per person double occupancy (additional \$50.00 for single occupancy if available) and must be paid in advance. Transportation is by car and Lane will arrange car pooling. Three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday, at the DNR Center, are included in the trip cost. Checks should be made payable to Huron Valley Sierra Club.

Contact trip leader Lane Hotchkiss at [lanehotchkiss@comcast.net](mailto:lanehotchkiss@comcast.net) or cell phone 734-730-7209 for more information.







## You can help the earth at no cost to you — through your regular shopping!

Over the past decade, the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** program has helped generate \$110 million to preserve natural areas and farmland.

You can help us do more by buying Shopping for the Earth cards for the stores where you already shop.

For every \$20 of cards you buy, you get the full \$20 value in store credit—and you earn up to \$1 for the local Sierra Club.

"We donated \$140 last year to prevent sprawl and protect wildlife. It was easy, and it didn't cost us anything extra."  
-Gwen Nystuen

"A bonus for nature for every grocery purchase I make- even chocolate!"  
-Rita Mitchell

### Two ways you can order your cards:

1. A **Mail-In Order Form** for local stores — See below.
2. **Online ordering** for national stores and some local stores (in partnership with the Great Lakes Scrip Program). Stores include Amazon, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Land's End, Sears, and hundreds more - including department stores, restaurants, hotels, and more. It's easy and convenient to order and pay online.

Visit <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/sfte.htm> to learn more & get started!

#### Great for:

- ✓ Regular purchases like grocery shopping
- ✓ Giving as gifts
- ✓ Planned purchases like appliances
- ✓ Making online purchases



## Mail-in Order Form

Please fill out the number of cards you'd like for each store below (maximum \$500 total per order).  
Your total order today: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Arbor Brewing Company	_____ cards @ \$25 each	
Arbor Farms	_____ cards @ \$20 each	
Borders Books & Music	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Busch's*	_____ cards @ \$5 each	
Hiller's Markets*	_____ cards @ \$50 each	
Kroger*	_____ cards @ \$5 each	
Produce Station	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Whole Foods	_____ cards @ \$50 each	_____ cards @ \$100 each
Meijer		

A rebate program - please see our website for details on how to sign up:  
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron>

\* Reloadable cards! The cards for these stores are reloadable, and the Sierra Club receives a contribution each time you reload, so only one card is needed per person. NOTE: For Kroger, please register at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and record your card number in your account information so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your data will not be shared.

- Please send me local Sierra Club email updates  
 Please send me the local Sierra Club newsletter

Mail with your check payable to "Sierra Club Huron Valley Group" to:  
Ed Steinman  
([esteinma@umich.edu](mailto:esteinma@umich.edu))  
621 5th St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



## Huron Valley Group Directory

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

Chair	
Doug Cowherd*	662-5205
Vice-chair	
Nancy Shiffler*	971-1157
Treasurer	
Ken Morley	677-7791
Secretary	
Joel Dalton*	945-8132
Chapter Representative	
Nancy Shiffler*	971-1157
Conservation Chair	
Dorothy Nordness	668-6306
Inner City Outings Chair	
Vera Hernandez	665-8118
Outings Chair	
Kathy Guerreso	677-0823
Inner City Outings Liaison	
Membership Chair	
Ed Steinman**	665-0248
Political Chair	
Publicity	
Joel Dalton*	945-8132
Acting Program Chair	
Doug Cowherd*	662-5205
Shopping for the Earth	
Betsy Noren	997-9348
Fund Raising Chair	
Jay Schlegel*	477-5715
Website	
Suzie Heiney	377-8248
Newsletter Team	
Suzie Heiney, Editor	377-8248
Mary Roth	
Kim Waldo	971-1941
Jay Schlegel*	477-5715
Gwen Nystuen	665-7632
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Executive Committee	
Mike Anglin*	
Rita Mitchell*	665-0248

\* = HVG Excom Member

### How to Get HVG reminders via email!

At each HVG general meeting, there is an email sign up list. For those who missed it, or haven't joined us at a meeting, here's how you can get our general meeting reminders.

If you would like to receive email notices of each month's Huron Valley Group general meeting and occasional notices about other local Sierra Club activities send an email to Doug Cowherd at [dmcowherd3@comcast.net](mailto:dmcowherd3@comcast.net) with your name and "HVG email list" in the body of the message.

### Are You A New Member?

Welcome to the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club. When you join the Sierra Club you are automatically a member of a local group, as well as a state chapter and the national organization. Membership entitles you to this newsletter as well as all editions of the state and national member publications. Check this page for our Directory with contacts on conservation, outings, political action, and the Inner City Outings program. Check the calendar in the middle of this issue for announcements of Monthly Public Program topics and our calendar of activities. We will be glad to see you at our next meeting or answer any questions if you care to call. Please take advantage of your membership as an opportunity to enjoy, preserve and protect our natural environment!

### Membership

**Yes**, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard  Visa Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	\$100	
REGULAR	\$100	\$140
SUPPORTING	\$100	\$140
CONTRIBUTING	\$1000	\$1400
LIFE	\$10000	\$14000
SENIOR	\$100	\$130
STUDENT	\$100	\$50
LIMITED-INCOME	\$100	\$50

**Sierra Club**  
FOUNDED 1892  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80522-2968



Articles are for informational purposes only. No endorsement of particular positions, groups, or activities is implied.



# Candidates and Ballot for the Election of the



Nancy Shiffler

Sierra Club offices held: Current vice-chair of the group Executive Committee; state Chapter chair, 1993-96 and 2006; Chapter conservation chair, 1990-93;

The uniqueness of the Sierra Club flows from participation at the grassroots:

- The heart of the club is its volunteers. The club provides a place for members to grow and be effective as activists.
- The enjoyment and sense of renewal we get from our outings help to energize our conservation activism.
- The Sierra Club is a democratic organization; it is both the right and the responsibility of its members to become involved in its governance.

We are facing any number of important environmental issues in our three-county area -- sprawl, factory farms, water quality and toxics issues, the protection of parks and natural areas -- and across the state and nation. Our capacity to act on these issues is bounded only by the willingness of our members to become involved. As a member of our Executive Committee I will help to continue our work on these important issues and work to increase the number of members actively involved.



Doug Cowherd

My family enjoys living in a place with a vibrant urban culture, wonderful parks and rural countryside. This cherished balance, however, is at risk. Sprawl threatens the character of our region. At the same time, Ann Arbor's elected officials are using vast sums of public money to subsidize high-rise buildings and massive parking structures, without adding greenspace to the central part of the city. Sadly, City officials continue to oppose the creation of a real Greenway or any other significant move to improve conditions for bikers and walkers. We continue to languish far behind peer communities like Madison and Boulder.

One factor underlies these problems. Our elected officials are far more concerned with the profits of powerful special interests than with the public interest.

The Sierra Club is the only local environmental organization that does not depend on special interests or their politician allies for contracts and other financial support. Thus we can be a truly independent force that focuses solely on the public interest of protecting our environment.

The Huron Valley Group makes a real difference in our community. I represented the Sierra Club as the co-director of three successful local ballot initiatives to preserve land -- including the Ann Arbor Parks & Greenbelt Proposal -- and consulted on several others. These initiatives will raise over \$110 million to preserve land as parks, open space, and scenic farms. The Sierra Club continues to advocate a full-scale Greenway in the Allen Creek corridor that will connect downtown Ann Arbor to the pathways running along the Huron River.

We have done a lot. I look forward to all that we that we can do in the future.



# Huron Valley Group Executive Committee

I am currently completing my second term on the HVG Executive Committee, and it continues to be an eye-opener. I have learned a great deal about local politics and how a group of determined environmentalists can influence this process. Serving on the executive committee has also helped me to put a local face on issues which affect us globally and nationally.

In addition to my executive committee role as fundraising chair, I wear several other hats -- all of which put a practical/tangible spin on things I can do to help the HVG. I've been co-leading the wildly successful (not-so-)Secret Hike series in the Waterloo Recreation Area for some years now, which directly connects people and nature even if only briefly. I also help out with the HVG newsletter, and will be increasing my role in the coming year. You may also have encountered me in my role as "Art Fair Czar," "Calendar Czar," and "Coffee/Tea Czar" -- but no, I do not have Russian ancestors (that I know of!).

I have met many nice Sierra Club members while wearing my various hats, and the conversations I've had always leave me with something new which hopefully I can apply elsewhere within the Club. I look forward to continuing these conversations and helping to advance the goals of the Sierra Club if elected to another term.



Jay Schlegel

## Ballot for Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee 2009

The Huron Valley Group Executive Committee (ExCom) is selected by you. Ballot instructions and anonymity guarantee:

1. Please mark up to three votes on the ballot provided. Only those ballots with a membership number on the attached mailing label are eligible.
2. After marking your ballot, **remove this entire back page from the newsletter.**
3. Fold the bottom third up to conceal your votes, and fold the top third over to show your mailing label.
4. Return your ballot in a sealed envelope either by hand at the November 17th or December 15th HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o Ed Steinman, 621 S. Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Mailed ballots must be received by December 14, 2009 to be counted.

### Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2009

Three to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2010 - Vote for three.

Second column of boxes is for second voter in same household.

Nancy Shiffler

Doug Cowherd

Jay Schlegel



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The Sierra Club  
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- HVG Elections - Ballot - pages 14 -15



Do you like to write? Talk with people? Crunch numbers? Make a difference? Then you may be able to help! The Sierra Club Huron Valley Group is looking for additional volunteers. Great for your resume, a fun team to work with, and a great way to help spread the word about protecting the environment.

Volunteer jobs include:

- ◇ Treasurer
- ◇ Article writer
- ◇ Website editor/designer
- ◇ Ad salesperson

To learn more, contact the Sierra Club newsletter team at [hvgnews@yahoo.com](mailto:hvgnews@yahoo.com). We look forward to talking with you.