The Amazing
(BUT TRUE!)
Escapades of
our 1999
Legislature

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A tree in Kensington Metro Park
surveys its domain.
PHOTO BY NANCY GROENHOF
When Governor John Engler dispatched US Senator Spencer Abraham last summer to stomp the state and take to the airwaves as the voice of the Clean Michigan Initiative ballot campaign, it sounded like a new day had dawned for the environment in Michigan. “We have seen our beaches closed too often,” intoned Abraham to the media on Lake St. Clair’s Metro Beach. The multi-million dollar TV ad campaign—funded by the big three, the utility giants, and the largest and most politically powerful of Michigan’s industrial polluters—featured a plaid-shirted Abraham against scenic backdrops of Michigan’s natural beauty, exhorting voters to support the ballot measure for a cleaner, healthier Michigan.

Where are they now?

Senator Abraham? ...and Governor Engler? ...and the Governor’s point man on the environment, Department of Environmental Quality Director Russ Harding? Well, just recently Abraham was telling radio listeners in Saginaw with pride that Congress has managed to delay any improvements in the fuel efficiency standards for SUVs. And Harding was in Washington, DC. He had told Detroit radio listeners that he was headed there to testify on “the very important issue of achieving improvements in the fuel efficiency standards for Michigan.”

The greenwashing team of Clean Michigan campaign days is nowhere to be seen this summer—not at Metro Beach, or the lake beaches dotting Oakland County, or in the smog hotspots from southeast Michigan to Muskegon. They are not calling for an end to the polluted runoff, raw sewage overflows, or sprawl development that are causing our lake contamination. They are not working to crack down on industrial polluters who violate our air laws or offering their leadership to insist we move quickly towards cleaner power plants and industrial facilities or more fuel efficiency in our automobiles and trucks.

The Engler-Abraham greenwashing campaign of 1998 is still alive and well. At every opportunity, the greenwashers tell us the air and water in Michigan are cleaner than ever—though the data used to argue that point is selectively chosen, if any is provided at all. And the trail of beach closings, smog alerts, wetlands destruction, and environmental law violations that crisscrosses this state is dismissed as a delusion.

A word of advice to the greenwashers: Though you can fool some of the people some of the time, you can’t fool all of the people all of the time. Environmental stewardship is part of your job—greenwashing isn’t. One thing people are pretty clear about, whether they live in Detroit or Traverse City, is that they have a right to a clean, healthy environment.
On June 22, in front of a full house of the Capitol Press Corps, the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) held a press conference to protest the legislature’s dismal environmental record and call attention to a ridiculous proposal to create a special license plate to provide for roadkill clean-up.

The derisively dubbed “roadkill license plate” was dramatized by Dan Farough, the Chapter’s Membership Involvement Director, who dressed up as “Roger the Roadkill Deer” and presented the winners of a roadkill license plate design contest.

The design contest, brainchild of the chapter’s Anne Woiwode, ignited immediate reporter interest when it was announced on a chapter-sponsored listserv. “The roadkill license plate proposal was a perfect vehicle for us to demonstrate the lows to which our legislature had sunk on the environment,” said Alison Horton, director of the Mackinac Chapter. “While a special license plate with the sole purpose of generating funds to clean up roadkill is a ridiculous misappropriation of state dollars, it pales in comparison to the other misdeeds of this legislature.”

Among the bad actions cited by Sierra Club (see the article Greatest Hits on Michigan’s Legislative Highway: Environmental Roadkill in the 1999 Legislative Session, below, for details):

- Millions for Furniture and Nothing for Lake St. Clair
- Dirty Air Gets Vote of the House
- Lawmakers say Yes! To Urban Sprawl
- Business Interests Say Public Can’t Handle Truth About Environment

The event was a major media hit for the Sierra Club. Stories reporting on the absurd actions of the legislature were carried all over Michigan. Papers such as the Detroit News, Lansing State Journal, and Ann Arbor News carried the story, which also went out with photos on the AP wire. TV stations in Lansing and radio stations in Detroit broadcast the hit, culminating in a one-on-one debate on Detroit’s top talk radio station, WJR, between Alison Horton and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Russ Harding. “The coverage generated will help defrock this legislature’s and this Governor’s attempt to look green,” said Anne Woiwode. “It is important for people to know the truth and not be misled about what is happening at the capitol—and this event certainly helped to do that.”

MACKINAC CHAPTER BLASTS LEGISLATURE’S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRESS COUP HELPED BY “ROADKILL LICENSE PLATE”

BY DAN FAROUGH

Membership Involvement Director, Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

$10,000,000 FOR FURNITURE—$0 FOR LAKE ST. CLAIR

Michigan Legislators will enjoy brand-new office furniture when they move into new Legislative offices later this year, as a result of a supplemental appropriation (HB 4075). But they didn’t have time to appropriate any funds from the voter-supported Clean Michigan Initiative (HB 4065) to clean up Lake St. Clair or any other Michigan waterways. With the first beach closings of the season already behind us, Michigan citizens can stand on shorelines pondering that the Legislature is poised to approve funds to monitor contamination so we know...
just how much clean-up is needed, but not being done.

STATE FORESTS OR STATE TREE FARMS?
For the third year in a row, the Michigan Legislature put the timber industry ahead of all other State Forest users by mandating a minimum level of timber be marked for harvest—855,000 cords in FY2000—in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appropriations bill (SB 370). While throwing a bone to those concerned about wildlife and recreation in the forests, the budget won’t have needed funding to make sure mandated timber levels aren’t hurting other forest uses. This mandated level is suited to help keep deer numbers at abnormally high levels—so the taking of deer with trucks, cars, and other vehicles will continue to be a major pastime on Michigan roadways.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TRUMP HABITAT PROTECTION
When a major contributor to Senator Loren Bennett’s campaigns had his golf course building permits brought under scrutiny for threatened and endangered species, the Senator evidently concluded that the Michigan Natural Features Inventory was doing too aggressive a job trying to protect rare and sensitive species. Senator Bennett pushed through amendments to the Senate’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) appropriations bill (SB 364) and DNR appropriations bill (SB 370) which threatened the survival of the program. Representative William Byl, House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman, and the members of his committee brought reason back into the discussion in the House, and a common sense resolution of concerns prevailed in the end.

DEQ LUST LAXITY LEADS TO LEGALIZED LEAKS IN LAKES
There is more than one way for an agency to correct its failure to properly implement laws, as the Michigan DEQ taught us this year. The DEQ erred a few years ago in their understanding of a law that allowed the flow of contaminated groundwater into lakes and streams without Clean Water Act permits. DEQ employees thought it meant gasoline from leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) could also flow freely into lakes and streams without any permits. Instead of asking for funding for enforcement to correct this error, the DEQ asked that the law be “fixed” to make their failure to enforce the law the new standard (HB 4471).

DIRTY AIR GETS THE VOTE OF THE HOUSE
Maybe if the five straight days of smog standard violations in most of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula cities had happened BEFORE the vote, Michigan Legislators would have voted the other way. As it was, 78 members of the House decided on June 1st to support a resolution opposing the implementation of federal air quality standards designed to reduce emissions of smog causing air pollutants.

HOUSE SAYS:  
DON’T TELL ANGLERS & FAMILIES ABOUT TOXIC FISH
When a Detroit Free Press editor wrote about visiting six stores where fishing permits are sold but only receiving the required public health advisories on eating and preparing fish from one of them, Representative Laura Baird thought the Legislature needed to provide clear direction that fish advisories must be distributed to anglers by all vendors of fishing permits. The requirement would cost nothing, and the DNR would conduct random audits to see how well compliance was occurring. While half of her colleagues agreed, the Baird amendment to the DNR Appropriation bill (SB 370) failed by one vote to become part of the law.

BUSINESS SAYS PUBLIC CAN’T HANDLE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT
Senator Ken Sikkema proposed that the DEQ be required to annually report on the status and trends related to the State’s environment and natural resources (SB 462). Representatives of the business community considered this legislation potentially dangerous, saying that members of the public who had access to such information could not be trusted to use the information without causing hysteria.

HOUSE GIVES OIL INDUSTRY THE ONLY WORD ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE
Maybe Representative Larry DeVuyst, chairman of the House Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Committee, didn’t notice those five individuals who had submitted cards to testify in opposition to HR 98, a resolution asking the US Senate not to support implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions. After allowing the representative of the
American Petroleum Institute to speak on behalf of the DEQ, the Chairman dispensed with following the Open Meetings Act and moved immediately to a vote of the committee on the resolution—without allowing opponents to speak. Among those blocked from speaking were members of the faith community who had traveled from throughout the state specifically to attend the hearing.

**LONE RANGER GUARDING MICHIGAN FROM OUT-OF-STATE WASTE**

Representative Liz Brater proposed a DEQ appropriations bill (SB 364) amendment to put eight Conservation Officers (COs) on staff to police out-of-state waste being imported into Michigan. Her amendment was downsized, giving just one full-time-equivalent DEQ CO to police all of Michigan’s borders for violations on our laws regarding out-of-state waste.

**TOO CHEAP TO ADOPT-A-STREAM**

What do you do with a very popular program that doesn’t cost much and encourages thousands of citizens to participate in cleaning up our rivers and streams? If you are the Michigan Legislature, you tube it. A mere $50,000 cut from the DEQ budget—with ripple effects knocking out funding for effective voluntary action all over the state.

**LEGISLATORS SAY YES! TO URBAN SPRAWL!**

Through boilerplate language in the budget (SB 364), Representative William Byl proposed the Legislature direct the DEQ to consider the impacts of grants and technical assistance on urban redevelopment and existing infrastructure. It was the first, highly visible policy action on the implications of state spending on land use—and if it had passed, it would have been the first time “a state agency would have to think about whether its actions promoted wise land use—or financed expensive sprawl.” (Detroit Free Press editorial, 6/9/99). Instead, bowing to tremendous pressure from lobbyists for development interests statewide, the language was dropped in the Conference Committee.

**LEGISLATORS JUST SAY NO TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Representative Derrick Hale proposed the Legislature direct the DEQ to convene a Task Force on Environmental Equity and Justice (SB 364). The purpose would be to determine if state government environmental policies, permits, or other actions unduly burden economically disadvantaged or low-income communities. Evidently most House members just don’t want to know, because they just said no to this task force.

**MICHIGAN OKAYS MORE TOXIC WASTE INJECTION WELLS**

Representative Ray Basham proposed that the state not issue any permits allowing multi-source commercial hazardous waste disposal wells in Michigan in the next fiscal year (SB 364). His proposed amendment was shot down, opening the

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ROADKILL IN THE 1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**GREATEST HITS on Michigan’s Legislative Highway**

continued from page 4
LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

Timber Marking Mandate Stays

The Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate chose not to touch the language in the Administration’s FY2000 budget, which mandates at least 855,000 cords of timber be marked for Department of Natural Resources (DNR) logging on State Forest lands. Those opposing the timber marking mandate did make significant strides, however, laying groundwork for a change in the next session. Joining the Sierra Club in opposing the marking mandate were the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and the Resource Stewards, an organization of retired DNR and Department of Environmental Quality staff. These groups are urging that timber marking levels be tied to planning activities under the State Forest Compartment Reviews, which now require public input. The DNR Forest Management Division signaled its support for this change as well. Efforts are expected to strike agreement on this issue before the FY2001 budget hearings get underway next year.

Attack on the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Thwarted

An effort launched by Senator Loren Bennett to discontinue a 20-year arrangement between the state and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was derailed by Representative William Byl. Bennett sought to forbid contractual arrangements as of October 1999 between TNC, which provides identification and database functions for the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI), and state agencies. Representative William Byl and the members of his Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Environmental Quality concluded the prohibition made no sense, and modified the language to call for the agency to develop a plan for transition. The House language, which prevailed in conference committees, directs the DNR to develop a plan—to be delivered to the legislature in March 2000—for providing these services in the future.

First Appeal of DNR Compartment Review Filed

In the first test of newly adopted procedures for appeals of DNR management decisions on State Forests, the Sierra Club has filed an appeal of the DNR’s Compartment Reviews conducted on the Gladwin and Roscommon Forest Management Units (FMU) of the Au Sable State Forest. Tim Flynn, a long-time forest activist who has closely followed State Forest management for most of the past decade, drafted the appeal. The Au Sable State Forest is made up roughly of state lands in the 12 counties north of the Isabella and Montcalm County borders, and east to the Lake Huron shoreline.

The appeal addresses activities planned for Year of Entry 2000 in the two FMUs. Flynn’s document raises three broad issues of concern in the decision which violate DNR policies on managing state forests, biodiversity protection, and old growth:

1. clearcuts in these FMUs which completely remove “biological legacies”;
2. the cutting of extremely rare older stands at an accelerated rate; and
3. the failure to consider the designation of stands for old growth.

The DNR policy calls for submission of appeals within 45 days of a decision, and gives the agency 30 days to respond. The DNR has informed the Sierra Club that it will exceed the 30 days, but has not indicated when a decision will be made regarding the appeal.

NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

Huron-Manistee National Forest Starts Public Input

Into Old Growth Process

In 1986, as part of the settlement agreement on appeals of the Forest Plan for the Huron-Manistee National Forest (HMNF), the Forest Service committed to designate at least 173,000 acres of HMNF old growth. The public input...
process for that designation began this summer and will run through the fall. A scoping document with maps and descriptions of the initial proposal are available from the HMNF at the address below. The first phase of public comment is designed to solicit input about what the Forest Service must consider in putting together its proposed action. The Sierra Club has submitted extensive comments regarding the need for additional information about the Forest Service’s initial proposal. Among issues of concern are how much land proposed for inclusion is already in a protected status and whether the design of the old growth areas includes large enough blocks and appropriate corridors to provide ecological benefits.

On August 17th, the HMNF will hold a public meeting at which discussion about a range of alternatives for old growth will take place. This meeting, along with comments from the public, will be used by the Forest Service to develop several alternative old growth designs and to conduct an environmental review of the proposed designation.

This old growth designation process will complete commitments made 13 years ago, but the old growth issue will be revisited in the upcoming Plan Revision. At that time, questions will be raised about whether the acreage numbers—set in 1986 to address piledated woodpecker habitat—should be dramatically increased to address new scientific findings regarding biological diversity protection.

To get on the mailing list and receive a copy of the Huron-Manistee National “Forest Scoping Document: Proposed Old Growth Settlement Agreement Amendment,” contact the HMNF at:

Huron-Manistee National Forest
Old Growth Settlement Agreement Amendment Project
attn: Jim DiMaio
1755 South Mitchell Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
616-775-2421.

**Borrowed Time Victory**

A controversy over proposed management in a remote area adjacent to Big Island Lake Wilderness in the Hiawatha National Forest appears to be on its way to a positive resolution. Teresa Chase, Munising District Ranger, has signed a decision on the Borrowed Time Project that proposes no management activities on the lands in the eastern part of the project—an extensive unroaded area that provides a connector between two wildernesses and a Research Natural Area. Borrowed Times was appealed successfully a few years ago by several environmental organizations, and remanded to the Ranger to address failure to address cumulative effects. A nationwide Roadless Area Moratorium declared by the Chief of the Forest Service was put into place this spring—but even though it clearly qualified, the eastern portion of Borrowed Time was not included in the moratorium on road building. Chase has directed that this portion of Borrowed Time and all other areas designated 8.3 Management Areas in the forest should be reviewed together, in order to completely consider potential effects of management in these areas. On the ground, this means the rare, remote habitat provided for pine marten, lynx, and other sensitive species in this area has been protected for the foreseeable future!

**Third Sylvanola Wilderness Lawsuit Decision: Wilderness Wins**

A critical victory has been won in a Grand Rapids federal court on a lawsuit challenging the Forest Service’s authority to control motor boat usage on this predominantly wilderness lake. Judge Robert Bell ruled in favor of the Forest Service, an outright victory for wilderness protection. The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition submitted amicus briefs in this case, and hailed the decision. However, the plaintiffs have filed an appeal—and while that appeal is pending, all Forest Service regulations challenged in the lawsuit are held in abeyance. It is expected that no further action will occur in this case until next year.

**National Park Management Plan updates**

In 1995, Isle Royale National Park (IRNP) became the first park unit in the country to begin an update of the General Management Plan (GMP) using a “streamlined” process. The Sierra Club believes the IRNP GMP—as it was finalized and released this past spring—is fatally flawed and in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, and National Park mandates. The Sierra Club is joined in its concerns by the Environmental Law and Policy Center in Chicago—a regional public interest law firm—and by CALM, a group located on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Disappointment with the final Isle Royale GMP was heightened when concerns raised about compliance with legal mandates were virtually ignored in the course of its preparation. The National Park Service seemed much more concerned about bluster from the Isle Royale Motorboaters Association, and unresponsive to well-documented concerns raised by environmental organizations about the planning process and GMP.

**Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (PRNL) is about to embark on a revision of its GMP this summer using the same process. The age of the PRNL GMP—and the many changes that have come about since the original was adopted in the...**

see MFBP page 8
MFBP continued from page 7

1980’s—were cited as reasons for the update. The park is expecting to send out newsletters and to hold meetings for receiving initial input from interested parties this summer. For more information and to get on the mailing list, contact Pictured Rocks at 906-387-2607, or check out their website at: <http://www.nps.gov/hiro/vvc_main.htm>.

ENDANGEROSED SPECIES ISSUES

Gray Wolf Federal Downlisting in Michigan and Wisconsin?

The wolves in Michigan are continuing to recover, with population numbers in the UP estimated this past winter at about 174 individuals. Upper-level officials in the Interior Department, eager to show off “success stories” under the Endangered Species Act, have been itching to get downlisting or delisting of the wolf in the Upper Great Lakes region under consideration as quickly as possible. The process was slowed some by anticipation that Minnesota, the heart of wolf country for the lower 48 states, was working on a wolf management plan which would guide the state’s management after federal downlisting or delisting occurred. This spring, the Minnesota Legislature failed to approve a plan after legislative fighting ensued over a management proposal put together and agreed to by all major interest groups in the state. A major area of debate was whether hunting of wolves would be allowed.

With the Minnesota situation in turmoil, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is still considering proposing a downlisting of the wolf in Michigan and Wisconsin, from federally endangered to federally threatened (Minnesota wolves are already designated as threatened). No timeline has yet been announced, but it is expected that a proposal may be forthcoming. A USFWS web page provides a site to check updates on this issue, and you can add your name to a list for updates: <http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/wolf/trck1pdf.html>. Or, call the USFWS at: 612-713-7337.

Canada Lynx Listing

Attracting Agency and Industry Attention

After many years of litigation by Defenders of Wildlife, the courts have ordered the USFWS to proceed with considering the listing of the Canada lynx under the federal Endangered Species Act. The historic range of the lynx covers all of Upper Peninsula and most of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, so the listing could have implications for most or all of the public forests in Michigan. Currently, a region-wide interagency team is discussing the potential habitat needs of the Canada lynx in preparation for changes in management, which may be required under the listing. This elusive creature is generally found in remote areas where deep snow is found in winter and the snowshoe hare thrives. Also of concern will be whether the bobcat, now found in most of Michigan, is out-competing the lynx in areas which were previously lynx domain.

Apparently, the timber industry is beginning to worry about the implications of this listing. The Great Lakes Forest Alliance—a quasi-governmental organization made up of state foresters, timber industry representatives, academics, and ex-officio Forest Service representatives—put together a forum on the Canada Lynx listing in late June.

No schedule for public input has yet been set. USFWS has a Regional website for information on the Canada lynx at: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/endspp/lynx/index.htm>.

For more information on these issues, contact Anne Woiwode at the Chapter Office.
The Sierra Club’s Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) swung into high gear in June and July as it continued its mission to fight sprawl throughout Michigan. Central to EPEC’s objectives is to inform the public of the dangers of uncontrolled growth to the environment, public health, and the economy and to promote sustainable alternatives for communities. The education campaign has begun focusing on sprawl hotspots with local groups in Mid-Michigan, Southeast Michigan, and the Huron Valley in order to challenge runaway development.

Mid-Michigan, already a sprawl hotspot, came close to overheating in early summer as the core communities of Lansing, East Lansing, and Meridian Township became engaged in a land war over yet another proposed golf course development in Meridian Township. Egged on by developers, the communities threatened each other with annexations and detachments in order to sidestep a citizen petition drive that sought to have a say in land use decisions.

EPEC and members of the Central Michigan Group responded in the press, at local public hearings, and by furthering plans for important citizen anti-sprawl training. The area’s main newspaper, the Lansing State Journal, was barraged with letters to the editor and opinion page submissions calling for the central EPEC goal of regional planning over petty land grabs. The vast majority of submissions ran, culminating in a Sierra Club opinion piece and the paper’s own opinion which echoed our call for a regional approach to planning. Coincidentally, the developers lobby has been running an ad campaign which distorts their agenda and claims they are supporters of “smart growth,” while they actually continue to oppose smart growth policies. Meanwhile, Sierra Club members voiced concerns at public hearings, continued plans for mid-July training to mobilize citizen support for smart growth over sprawl, and continue the momentum to prevent underhand maneuvers that sidestep public input.

Across Michigan, plans are underway to train citizens in anti-sprawl tactics at the local level. The sprawl hotspots of the Huron Valley/Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan have laid the groundwork for training workshops. Tour de Sprawl—events to focus public attention on the problems associated with sprawl—are being organized in the Lansing Area, Grand Rapids, Southeast Michigan, and Washtenaw County. This fall the sprawl issue seems likely to get even hotter as the Sierra Club, allied groups, and concerned citizens forge ahead with plans to make their communities livable and sustainable. The message to proponents of runaway development is clear: “if you can’t stand the heat of public accountability, get out of the kitchen.” Keep an eye out for how you can make a difference and get involved.
It’s hard to believe it’s been ten years since our first annual Sierra Club Retreat took place at Yankee Springs in southeast Michigan. Back then, local Sierra Club groups cooked the meals and lodging was rustic at best.

Ten years later, we have found less primitive—but still beautiful!—surroundings for our annual Autumn Retreat at Camp Miniwanca on the shores of Lake Michigan.

As always, this retreat weekend will feature fun and relaxation, with a little conservation education and outdoor recreation thrown in. It’s a time to share with old and new friends while swimming, canoeing, debating environmental issues, or just plain relaxing in the woods or on the beach.

A diverse crowd of singles, seniors, families, members and friends turn up at the retreat for two days and nights (including five meals). We will have ongoing activities for school-age kids at our “Kids Kamp” (Saturday ONLY this year), and many workshops and outdoor activities for adults.

A GREAT LOCATION
You’ll love Camp Miniwanca. Hike up the highest dune for a great Lake Michigan sunset, or head down a wooded path to the crafts center. It’s no wonder the camp is called Miniwanca—“many waters”—it’s an incredible combination of more than a mile of Lake Michigan beach front, 360 acres of piney woods, sand dunes, and extensive waterfront on nearby Stoney Lake.

A CHOICE OF LODGING
We offer a reduced weekend rate for those wishing to pitch a tent or stay in one of the rustic shelters (no electricity, no heat, and no screens on the windows) with nearby bathrooms and showers. But we also offer comfortable lodging in dorm buildings with shared bathrooms on each floor.

Please bring your own sheets, sleeping bags, and towels. Two types of dorm rooms are available: “Lakeside” dorms, with two single beds to each room, are offered at a slight cost premium. Other dorm rooms are a short walk away, with two bunkbeds per room. All dorms have shared bathrooms.

CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS
Our fun and informative lineup of workshop topics range from forest ecosystems in Michigan to political activism. Other activities include birding, hiking, canoeing, and stargazing. This year, we are seeking outdoor enthusiasts to share 10-15 of their favorite slides from a local outing or special trip abroad.

continued on next page
SILENT AUCTION
Our most enjoyable fund-raising event is the Silent Auction, featuring items donated by businesses and members. Hand-made crafts, baked goods, or services are welcome. Bring something to donate, or just plan on participating in the bidding Saturday evening!

MUSIC AND MORE!
Join us for music in the evenings, with singing in the Lodge or around the campfire with a range of talented musician-members. Bring your own instrument, or just your voice!

DIRECTIONS:
Take US 131 North from Muskegon or South from Ludington to M-20 (New Era) exit, then 5 miles West to Stony Lake. You will receive an area map and map of the camp in your confirmation packet soon after the September 7 registration deadline.

WHAT TO BRING
Bring your own towels, bedding, and flashlight. If you plan to camp, bring your own camping equipment. Optional items include: walking shoes or hiking boots, sun screen, sun hat, sketch book, swimsuit, camera, binoculars, field guides, and musical instruments. Plan for any type of weather, including sun, rain, and wind (but hopefully not snow!). Evenings will likely be cool—sometimes we even need sweaters in the indoor classrooms!—so bring a sweater and light jacket.

QUESTIONS?
Call Cathy or Gary Semer at 734-453-4443 if you need further assistance. Otherwise, we’ll see you Sept. 17! 🍁

Sierra Club 2000 Wall Calendars: Majestic natural scenes of wilderness, birds, oceans, wildflowers, or wildlife. Spiral bound. $11.95-$12.95.
Sierra Club 2000 Engagement Calendar: Stunning images of flora and fauna, from panoramas to close-ups. Spiral bound. $12.95.
Sierra Club 2000 Pocket Calendar: Week-at-a-glance format, in a convenient vest-pocket size. $4.99

Sierra Club calendars can be ordered from your local Sierra Club Group. Contact your group directly (see page 23 for group representatives) or call the chapter office at 517-484-2372 for more information.

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ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION: SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS LOCAL ZONING ON BURT LAKE

BY CHRIS BZDOK

In the 1990s, the focus of a lot of regulation has moved away from Lansing and Washington DC and out into local communities. As this happens, more and more of the important environmental skirmishes are being fought before city councils and in township planning commission meetings. Therefore, it is vitally important that these local governments have broad powers to protect natural resources.

Those powers got a big boost this summer from the Michigan Supreme Court. In a case called Burt Township v Department of Natural Resources, the court affirmed local governments’ ability to regulate the use of natural resources within their boundaries. Specifically, the Supreme Court ruled that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must comply with township zoning ordinances when it builds public access sites on lakes within township borders. The Burt Township case is expected to have a profound effect on communities’ ability to plan for orderly development of their shorelines and protection of their water resources. As Burt Township attorney Jeff Lyon put it, “It means that local government still exists.”

The dispute which led to the high court’s decision began in 1989. The DNR, looking to increase access for large, deep-draft boats on Burt Lake, purchased a lakefront parcel in a residential area of Burt Township. The DNR proposed building a parking lot, restroom facilities and a boat ramp, which would require yearly dredging of a channel 76 feet wide and over 330 feet long into the lake’s bottom. Hearing of the plan, the Township wrote to the DNR requesting that the agency apply for a zoning permit. The DNR responded that it was not subject to local zoning ordinances, and began construction.

The Township obtained a restraining order from Cheboygan County Circuit Judge Robert Livo to halt construction until the court could fully review the matter. Then, based on arguments presented by the Township and the Burt Township Association—a local group dedicated to protecting the lake—Judge Livo ruled that the DNR had to receive approval from the Township Board to build the boat ramp.

The DNR appealed, and the Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed Judge Livo’s decision. Before the Supreme Court, the Michigan Environmental Council and the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council joined the Burt Township Association and a number of lake associations in filing briefs to support the Township. After arguments last winter, the high court ruled in favor of the Township again.

The court ruled that the Township Zoning Act gives townships broad powers to regulate the use of lands within their borders, including the use of waterfront property. Therefore, a state agency could only be exempted from township zoning authority if another statute stated clearly that the agency was exempt. The Court held that none of the statutes cited by the DNR contained a clear statement that the Legislature intended to exempt DNR boat launches from local zoning. According to the Court, the fact that the Legislature gave the DNR power to create recreational facilities does not mean that the DNR can ignore local zoning in doing so.

The Burt Township decision is a victory for local participation in the management of lakes and streams. It gives a voice to local residents in what happens to the water resources in their communities, and balances the State’s need to build recreational facilities with the community’s need to protect the integrity of its neighborhoods.

But the decision is bigger than that, too. Zoning is often the most important line of defense for threatened natural resources. The Supreme Court’s pronouncement that local governments have broad powers to protect natural resources should help communities use their zoning ordinances to combat all sorts of environmental problems—from sprawl, to air and water pollution, to environmental justice.

The Supreme Court’s opinion is available on the Institute for Continuing Legal Education’s Website. Go to www.icle.org/misupct and search for “Burt.”
From a distance, lightning can be a mesmerizing, awe-inspiring sight. Up close however, it’s one of the most powerful and deadly threats to your life in the wilderness. In fact, lightning’s deadlier than any other weather-related phenomenon, including tornadoes, floods, and hurricanes. In the US alone, lightning kills between 150-300 people each year. With the most hazardous months for lightning upon us, you should know what to do when lightning threatens you in the outdoors.

Since lightning is very unpredictable and a subsequent strike can occur many miles from a previous one, you should seek shelter whenever a lightning storm approaches. To estimate how far away a lightning storm is, count the number of seconds which elapse between a flash of lightning and its corresponding bang of thunder and divide this number by five. This will tell you how many miles away the storm is. For example, a 20-second flash-to-bang count means the lightning strike occurred approximately four miles away. If subsequent flash-to-bang intervals decrease, you’ll know the storm is moving closer.

The safest place to seek shelter during a lightning storm is inside of a substantial, enclosed building. Avoid touching or standing near doors, windows, walls, and other things—such as telephones, TVs, computers, radios, appliances, fireplaces, sinks, tubs, toilets, etc.—which may conduct lightning into the building’s interior. A parked, fully enclosed, metal vehicle with the doors and windows closed is also a good place to seek cover.

However, to be protected, keep your hands in your lap so you don’t touch anything which might conduct lightning into the vehicle. Touching a steering wheel, gear shifter, ignition key, radio, microphone, telephone, or window crank could be dangerous. Since convertibles, fiberglass vehicles, mountain bikes, ATV’s, motorcycles, open-decked boats, canoes, sea kayaks, gazebos, and small sheds offer no protection whatsoever, abandon them and keep your distance.

Lakes, wet beaches, rivers, riverbanks, wet boggy areas, hills, ridges, clearings, and areas with tall isolated trees are some of the worst places to be during a lightning storm, so avoid them. Anytime you’re the tallest object within a 30-yard circle, or you’re within a few yards of a taller object, you could be at risk. In forested areas, avoid tall trees and seek cover in a low, brushy area. If you’re caught on a hilltop or ridge, descend as far as possible, avoiding caves, overhangs, and rocky outcrops. In open areas lacking any apparent shelter, seek out a low spot such as a depression, draw, or ravine—just make sure it’s not waterlogged. Keep in mind people have been killed by lightning which has struck up to 100 yards away.

Once you’ve taken shelter, squat down on the balls of your feet on whatever dry insulating material is at hand. A sleeping pad, seat cushion, PFD, coil of rope, or some extra clothing will do. Squat with your feet together, hands on your knees, head lowered, and mouth open. Never lie down, or stand with your feet apart, as you’ll increase your chances of injury from a ground shock as the lightning from a nearby strike dissipates. Lightning dissipating along the surface of the ground tends to seek the path of least resistance, so your goal is to prevent it from traveling up one leg and down the other (if your feet are apart) or through your vital organs (if you’re lying down). Since lightning tends to jump between people in a group, avoid the tendency to huddle. Instead, stay at least 15 feet apart. Lightning can also jump from nearby objects, so keep your distance from fences, gates, poles, signs, telephone poles, power lines, underground pipes, trees, building exteriors, large rock outcrops, ve-
**Group Meetings & Programs**

**AG**

**Algonquin Group**
If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Dan Farough at the Mackinac Chapter office at 517-484-2372.

**CMG**

**Central Michigan Group**
General meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month at the Harris Nature Center, off Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Come at 5:30 pm for supper (small donation requested) or at 6:15 pm for the meeting. Call Pete Pasterz at 517-676-3339 for details.

The Conservation Committee usually meets the 2nd Monday of the month in Wells Hall on the MSU campus. Call Maria Lapinski at 517-569-3302 for details.

The Executive Committee meets the 1st Monday of the month. Call Jerry Schuur at 517-351-7796 for details.

**CUP**

**Central Upper Peninsula Group**
Sierra Club members in the central and western counties in the Upper Peninsula are invited to participate in CUP group activities. General membership and executive committee meetings are held 7 pm in West Science, Room 270, on the Northern Michigan University campus. For details call John Rebers, 906-228-3617.

To receive news about outings or other Sierra Club activities in the Central Upper Peninsula, send $5 for a subscription to the CUP newsletter to Sierra Club, 338 West Crescent, Marquette, MI, 49855.

**CG**

**Crossroads Group**
Sierra Club members of Livingston, southern Genesee, and western Oakland Counties meet monthly at the Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorff Dr., Brighton, for informative and entertaining programs. These meetings begin at 7 pm and are open to the public.

The Conservation Committee meets monthly to discuss and address local issues. Call Emily Gobright, 517-548-0595 or David Wright, 810-229-1685 for details.

The Executive Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month. Call Rick Pearsall at 810-227-6298 for details.

**HVG**

**Huron Valley Group**
General Meetings of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club are held 7:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. For details call 313-665-7345.

8/17 General Meeting. Lance Burghardt, professional photographer and WCC photography instructor, will talk about “How to Take Better Outdoor Pictures.”

9/21 General Meeting. This is our annual “All you need to know about the HVG-Sierra Club” meeting. Learn about the activities of the group, mix and mingle with newcomers and longtime members, and find out how many ways there are to be involved in interesting outdoor and environmental activities.

10/19 General Meeting. Topic TBA.

**KVG**

**Kalamazoo Valley Group**
General membership meetings are usually held 7:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Twp Campus, Room 4370.

The Executive Committee meets 7:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and all members are welcome. Contact Verne and Cindy Mills at 616-344-4279 for details.

9/16 7:30 pm. “Tour de Sprawl Program” with invited speakers from the region. Discussion on sprawl, it’s impact on quality of life, what is being done, and what still needs to be done.

10/21 7:30 pm. “Outdoor Equipment/Clothing” with representatives from local sporting goods suppliers.

**NG**

**Nepessing Group**
Meetings are held 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday each month at Mott Community College, in the “New Students” Prahl Building, Genesee Room, 1401 E. Court St. in Flint. These meetings are free and refreshments are available. Non-members are welcome; parking is free. Find out what local volunteers are doing and hear our featured speakers. For details, call Carol Graham at 810-659-4965.

Our current projects include working to get curbside recycling in Flint, water testing in the Flint River watershed, fundraising, trail repairs, and great outings. Come help us, and meet some fun and interesting people! Check the Nepessing web page at www.gfn.org/sierrang.

The NG weekly hiking schedule is available at 810-743-0335 or on the web page.

**NEMG**

**Northeast Michigan Group**
If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Dan Farough at the Mackinac Chapter office at 517-484-2372.

**SEMG**

**Southeast Michigan Group**
General membership meetings are held 7:30 pm on the 1st Thursday of each month, Sept. through June, at Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy (southbound M-10 service drive) between Southfield and Evergreen roads, and Nine and Ten Mile roads in Southfield. For meeting information contact Cindy Gunnip at 248-336-2984.

The Executive Committee meets 7:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 14001 E. Court St. in Flint. These meetings are free and refreshments are available. Non-members are welcome; parking is free. Find out what local volunteers are doing and hear our featured speakers. For details, call Carol Graham at 810-659-4965.

Our current projects include working to get curbside recycling in Flint, water testing in the Flint River watershed, fundraising, trail repairs, and great outings. Come help us, and meet some fun and interesting people! Check the Nepessing web page at www.gfn.org/sierrang.

The NG weekly hiking schedule is available at 810-743-0335 or on the web page.

Conservation Committee meetings are held 7:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Woodward and 11-mile Rd, Royal Oak. Contact Anna Holden, Chairperson, for details at 313-331-0932.

Outings Committee. Contact Phil Crookshank if you are interested in planning continued on next page
Spend 10 minutes a month on the environment.
Help protect Michigan's natural heritage, our Great Lakes, our air and water—for our families and our future.

ALL YOU NEED IS AN E-MAIL ADDRESS.
You'll join members of Sierra Club and other groups in a rapid response network which makes decision-makers and business leaders sit up and take notice. We email you 10 to 12 alerts a year. You reply using our sample letter.

We turn it into a fax and deliver it.

IT'S THAT EASY.
Sign up on the web at www.mienv.org/map.htm. Tell them Sierra Club sent you.

GROUP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS
continued from page 16

or leading outings, 313-562-1873.

Political Action to support pro-environment legislation, state and national. Contact Tim Killeen, Chair, Political Action Committee. 313-526-4052.

9/2 Mystery guest!! This will be a real treat. Door prizes, raffle, and refreshments.

9/11 (Sat.) Outings Scheduling Meeting. This is open to everyone interested in doing or learning about outings. You are welcome to join us in a fun filled evening beginning with a potluck dinner at 6 pm, then participate in the planning meeting for the next quarter at 7 pm. We will meet at Bev and Marshall's house, 5121 Thorncroft, Royal Oak. Call 248-280-4975 for directions.

10/7 Urban sprawl, and what you can do to stop it.

TLG
Three Lakes Group
Sierra Club members in the Upper Peninsula counties of Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft are welcome to attend meetings of the Three Lakes Group. Business meetings are held monthly at various locations in Sault Ste. Marie. Programs are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month from September-May at the Walker Cisler Center on the campus of Lake Superior State University. For details call Floyd Byerly at 906-632-0218.

TVG
Thumb Valley Group
We would appreciate any input on potential meeting options, especially ones as centrally located for the TVG as possible. Additional leaders and programs desired.

Please contact Craig and Janis Kendziorski at 517-631-5170 if interested in being on leadership team and/or arranging an event. We are not having group meetings at this time. Please see the Outings on page 18 for TVG activities (Xskiing, Potluck, Earthday, Hikes, etc).

9/14 7 pm Leadership Meeting. Leaders and others interested in planning TVG activities. 4209 Linden Drive, Midland. Contact Craig and Janis at 517-631-5170 for details.

TG
Traverse Group
At this time, no general membership meetings or programs are scheduled. See the Outings on page 18 for some special Traverse Group activities.

WMcNG
Wakelin McNeel Group
If you are interested in helping to build an active Group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area, please contact Dan Farough at the Mackinac Chapter office at 517-484-2372.

WMG
West Michigan Group
Meetings are held 7 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Kent Community Hospital meeting room. Everyone welcome! Call Marty Lore at 517-682-1316 for details.

THE MACKINAC CHAPTER WEB PAGE
Your online information source about environmental issues, current action alerts, outings, and lots of ways to get involved.

Find links to your state legislators, important state environmental agencies, and other sources of environmental information.

WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/ CHAPTERS/ MI
Learn how to build with logs and stone!

The Michigan School of Log Building and Stone Masonry offers 5-day hands-on workshops in early June. Call (517) 734-4688 for information now!

- Scandinavian Full Scribe Technique
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Courses include the option of three excellent meals daily and comfortable lodging at NettieBay Lodge.

Other workshops at NettieBay Lodge:
- School of Bird Identification Weekend
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Facilities available to groups for private workshops.

Your hosts: Mark and Jackie Schuler
9011 West 638 Hwy., Hawks, MI 49743
(517) 734-4688
nettibay@george.lhi.net

NettieBay Lodge
LIGHTNING
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hicles, and other large metal objects.

In addition to squatting down to avoid a direct hit, you should also discard metal framed backpacks, fishing poles, rifles, shotguns, shovels, walking sticks, and other projecting items which might act as a lightning rod. If you don’t exit an aluminum or steel framed tent—and you should—assume a squatting position. Resist the temptation to wait out a storm lying in your sleeping bag as dozens of campers have been killed this way. Many of these victims were not killed by a direct hit; instead, they were fatally injured by a ground shock as lightning from a nearby strike dissipated along the ground or through tree roots under them. If you hear crackling or zinging sounds, or your hair stands on end, act quickly, as a lightning strike may be imminent.

If someone is injured by lightning, immediate first aid is essential since approximately 80 percent will survive. Many victims who appear dead can be revived by administering CPR, so treat them first. Dressing burns or consoling screaming survivors can wait. As with any serious injury, keep an eye out for the onset of shock too. Impaired eyesight, balance, and hearing are commonplace among lightning victims.

Since the majority of lightning fatalities occur either before or after a storm’s peak, seek shelter early and use caution before resuming any outdoor activity. By understanding the different ways lightning can injure you in the wilderness, you’ll be better able to protect yourself when a lightning storm threatens.

Editor’s Note: Michael Neiger of Marquette is an avid wilderness tripper and Central Upper Peninsula Group trip leader who welcomes your comments and opinions via e-mail at <mneiger@hotmail.com>.

A WILL IS A WAY...

To make a substantial gift to protect the environment. Continue your involvement by including the Sierra Club in your will. There are several ways to include the environment in your long-range plans—we can even help you plan a gift to support your local Chapter. For information and confidential assistance, contact:

Sage Kuhn
Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5639
planned.giving@sierraclub.org
Outings

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group that is planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map on page 14 to determine a group’s location. Trips begin at the trailhead. Outings are open to everyone.

AUGUST

8/1 SEMG Waterloo Hike. Come and enjoy a 6-mile loop hike with the grungy campers at Waterloo Rec Area (who did an overnight camp). Come to the campsite at Green Lake camping area by 10 am; bring water and a trail lunch. Go west on I-94 to M-52 (Chelsea exit); go through town, and north about 8 miles to the Green Lake campground entrance road on the left (brown sign). Drive in and look for us. Entrance is north of Waterloo Road. State park entrance fee. Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370; Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.


8/8 HVG Geology Center to Park Lyndon Hike. This will be a 6-mile hike through glacial terrain at an easy pace to fit the dog days of summer. Meet at Guy Larcom City Hall parking lot at 1 pm to carpool. Ron Killebrew, 734-429-0671.

8/8 SEMG Heritage Park Hike. See a treasure in our own backyard. Spend 2-3 hours exploring Farmington Hills’ Heritage Park and be encompassed by gentle hills, streamside vistas, and wooded trails along a branch of the Rouge. Summer wildflowers will abound. There may be bugs and wet places. The park is on the west side of Farmington Road between 10 & 11 Mile, west and south of the I-696/Orchard Lake/12 Mile intersection. Meet at 12:30 pm in the nature center parking lot (left at the first road). Optional restaurant stop nearby afterwards. Tom LaFramboise, 734-464-7899.

8/8-14 WMG Service Outing and Exploration of Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula. We’ll basecamp at Eagle Harbor, spending our mornings assisting the Keweenaw Historical Society in the restoration of historical structures and for the balance of the day we’ll explore the “Keweenaw.” We’ll visit light houses, an old fort, a virgin pine forest, ghost towns, historic mining sites and learn some history of Michigan’s copper mining boom. This is the Midwest’s most scenic area! Limit 12. Led by Tom Learmont, former Copper Country resident, 616-984-5917; and Elaine Goodspeed, 616-346-4704.

8/13-15 CUP Backpaki ng: Mackinac County (See sidebar, page 21).

8/14-21 CUP Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Minnesota. Spend a week paddling, portaging and camping beside wilderness lakes. This will be a moderately paced trip, with time built in for exploring, fishing, or just relaxing. There will be one or two very long portages. Very well behaved pets allowed subject to leader approval. Limit 4 boats. $150 fee includes all meals, snacks, and camping fees. Richard Posey, 906-226-7934.

8/14 HVG Hidden Lake Gardens Hike. Come enjoy the gentle hills and woods of this beautiful preserve near Tecumseh. Meet at Sam’s Club parking lot (across from McDonalds) at Carpenter Road and US-12 at 9 am. There will be an optional swim afterward at a nearby lake. Bring swimsuit and brown bag lunch. Wear hiking boots. Kevin Bell, 734-913-4764.

8/15 SEMG Bald Mountain Hike. Join us as we hike about 5 miles in this wooded, somewhat hilly State Rec. Area. Bring plenty of water and a trail snack. Meet at noon in Kingswoods Plaza (strip mall) on the west side of Woodward a short distance north of Square Lake Rd. Look for the Kerby Koney bar or potbelly pig. We’ll meet there, and have an optional restaurant stop there after the hike. Don Dahlin, 248-644-2746.

8/15-21 Mackinac Chapter Service Trip. Help build North Country Trail in Porcupine Wilderness State Park. Group will stay in a base camp and have time to enjoy the state park. Stay one day or as long as the whole week. Gene Elzinga, 906-225-1704 or im4trails@aol.com.

8/20-22 Mackinac Chapter/HVG Wilderness State Park. Help on trail projects and enjoy camping in this scenic area west of Mackinac City. Ralph Powell, 2887 Dalton, Ann Arbor, MI 48108; 734-971-9013 (before aug 13).

8/21 NG (Sat.) AuSable River Canoe. 9 am. Hinchman Acres Canoe Rental, Mio. One day canoe trip, 20 miles. Call Denny to make reservations. BYO lunch. Carpool at 6:30 am from Clio carpool area. Denny
OUTINGS
continued from page 18
Crispell, 517-624-5038.

8/22 HVG Barton Park to Silver Lake Ride and Swim. Come enjoy the ride and then a refreshing plunge into the lake. Meet at the Barton Park parking lot at noon. Bring a snack and swimsuit. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

8/22 SEMG Henry Ford Heritage Trail. We’ll visit 5-9 sites by car along the middle Rouge River (western Wayne County), where Ford developed small industries to employ farmers during the winter. These sites were often gristmills, converted to hydro-electric plants. This historical tour will involve minimal walking. Meet at 10 am in the parking lot behind “Oil Dispatch,” SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Restaurant stop after. Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370; Lee Becker, 810-294-7789.


8/26 NG (Thurs.) Murphy by Moonlight (Millington). Hike & swim. 6:30 pm. 6 miles. Hike to beach in daylight. Wear quick-dry clothes or bathing suit under hiking clothes. Hot dogs, marshmallows, and cold beverages will be provided (for a donation) at beach campfire. Watch the moon rise over Murphy Lake then hike back. Bring lights, towels, insect spray and aqua socks or sandals to wear in water and around beach (broken glass??) No bathrooms or bath houses. Take M-15 to Millington Rd. (only traffic light in Millington). Go east 4 miles. Trailhead across from Mt. Kotarski sign. Carpooling. Cindy Engelmann, 810-743-0335.


SEPTEMBER

9/1-6 CUP Backpacking: Agawa Canyon, Ontario (See sidebar, page 21).

9/5 NG (Sun.) Davison Lake Hike. 7:30 pm. 4-5 miles. Ortonville Recreation Area. Go 4.1 miles south of Hadley on Hadley Rd. Left on Fox Lake Rd. 1/2 mile to trailhead on corner of Big Fish Lake Rd. Bring lights and good batteries. State Park vehicle permit required. Tailgate party after. BYO. Cindy Engelmann, 810-743-0335.

9/5 SEMG Dodge Brothers Park Hike. Enjoy the surprising diversity of an urban park along the Clinton River at the end of Dodge Park Road and Utica Road, Sterling Heights. This will be a brisk-paced 7-mile hike along paved trails shared with some wheeled vehicles (bikes, rollerbladers). Slower movers may linger behind. Meet 9 am at the SMART parking lot, southeast corner of Van Dyke and Metro Parkway in Sterling Heights (between the two banks). Bring bug stuff, water. Optional restaurant stop after. June Cox, 248-435-9522.

9/9-12 CUP Sable Point Service Outing at Pictured Rocks. Help build boardwalk over muddy sections of the North Country Trail between the Log Slide and the Lighthouse. Camp at drive-in campground, food and group gear provided. Personal camping equipment available. Tour of lighthouse and day hikes included. Fee: $40. Contact: CUPoutings@excite.com, or send SASE to: Dave Bos, 337 E. Crescent, Marquette, MI 49855.


9/12 SEMG Nature Photography 101. Join Raymond Abramson and Joy Lovio, 2 experienced photographers who will share basics on how to improve your nature pictures. Geared for single-lens reflex users but point-and-shooters can benefit. Starts with introductory instructional material, then moves to the field. 8 am meeting time (for the best light). Call after 9/1 for meeting place and field location. Bring: 2 rolls of color print film, one 400 & one 800 or 1000 (for possible low light conditions); camera instruction manual; fresh or spare battery; shutter cable or tripod (if you have them), and something to sit on (mat, pad, stool). Clean the camera lens. We’ll probably be done by noon when the light gets too contrasty. Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370; Raymond, 248-738-5595; Joy, 248-683-5680.

9/17-19 NG North Manitou Island. Backpacking, base camping. Board the ferry in Leland (NW of Traverse City) on Friday morning. Backpack this interesting island or day hike from the village campground. No vehicles. Campsites are limited to two tents and four people per site. Group site (up to 10 people) may be available for $20.00. Backpackers can camp anywhere. Call 616-256-9061 to reserve ferry—$20 round trip. Bring your own meals. Fees: Ferry & Park entrance fee & Back Country permit. Carpooling. Cindy Engelmann, 810-743-0335.

9/17 SEMG (Fri.) Out-of-Sight Outing in Northern Macomb County. Explore the sky, up-close and personal, with John Herrgott and the Warren Astronomical Society. Meet at the SMART parking lot on the east side of Van Dyke, south of Metro Parkway, in Sterling Heights (between the 2 banks). Be aware that traffic may be very congested. Come at 6 pm if you want to sup at the nearby Appleby’s before the outing. Come by 7:30 pm sharp for ride sharing to the “observatory” near 30 Mile and Romeo Plank (maps will be provided.) Dress for being outside. Bring binoculars or scopes if you have them. If it rains, We’ll go inside for a

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OUTINGS
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9/18 (Sat.) SEMG Training Seminar. Do you have a favorite spot that you think other Sier-
rans would enjoy knowing about? Do you think all outings have to be hikes? If you have thought about leading an outing but were nervous because you weren’t sure what to do, this activity will help put you at ease. Come to the first SEMG day-trip leader in-
structional seminar and find out. Experienced day-trip leaders will provide the do’s and don’ts to get you started on your leadership career. Meet at 10 am behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SW corner of 12 Mile and Telegraph in Southfield for a trip to Kensington Metropark, instruction, handouts, and a demo activity (short 2 or 3-mile hike). Back to meeting place by 3 pm. Please register by 6 pm, September 17 with Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370. No trip or training fees. Park entrance fee.

9/19 SEMG Mystery Hike! Come and explore a new place or rediscover a familiar one. We’ll hike 5-6 miles over fairly easy terrain. The mystery will be solved at the meeting place. Dress for weather, restaurant stop afterwards. Meet at 11:30 am behind the Michigan Nat’l Bank on 14 Mile Rd. and I-75 (South edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy. Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984; Lee Becker, 810-294-7789.


9/24-26 NG AuSable River Canoe & Camp. Roscommon to Mio Dam. Moderate. 8 am from Clio carpool. 17 hours by canoe. Watter Edge Canoe Trips, Stephan Bridge Road, Roscommon. I-75 north to exit 239. Go north (right) on M-18 to downtown Roscommon. One block past traffic light turn left at Main Street, go 0.5 mile to Chevron (Stephen Bridge Road). Turn right 2 miles, large sign. Reservations needed for canoe rental. Bring your own food and camping gear. No glass containers, no styrofoam coolers. $60 canoe rental. Charlie Warner, 810-635-8184.

9/25 HVG Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup. Come help pick up trash from our two mile section of M-14 as part of this Michigan DOT
continued on next page
OUTINGS
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program. Meet at the Big Boy on the north side of Plymouth Road between US-23 and Green Road in Ann Arbor at 9:15 am to carpool. We expect to be finished around noon. Kathy Guerreso, 734-994-7183.

9/25 SEMG (Sat.) Proud Lake State Park Hike. Explore the varied habitats in this diverse park for 2-3 hours. Some hills, some dales, some swamp, some pine forest, a river, some mosquitoes. Come prepared for all. Meet leaders at 10 am at the parking lot behind park headquarters, east side of Wixom Road north of Garden Road in Wixom. Optional leaderless carpooling from parking lot behind Marathon station at 12 Mile and Telegraph (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield at 9:15 am. Ken and Stephanie Jacobsen, 810-684-8844 evenings.

9/26 KVG Park Lyndon Hike. Look for early signs of fall amid the woods in this hilly area of glacial terrain. Meet at the Guy Larcom City Hall parking lot at 1 pm. Ruth Graves, 734-483-0058.

9/26 SEMG Waterloo Day Hike. We'll enjoy this scenic recreation area of glacial hills and lakes—hiking one way from Sackrider Hill to Big Portage Lake. Bring lots of energy, a trail lunch, and water for this 6-mile hike. We'll spot cars on arrival. Meet at 10:30 am in the Wal-Mart parking lot (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

10/2 NG Crooked Lake Hike. 10 am. 4 miles in the beautiful Pinckney Recreation Area. Elevations over 1000ft with great views. US-23 south to N. Territorial Rd. West to Town Hall Rd. (about 11 miles). North about 1 mile. Follow signs to Pinckney Rec. Area. Go to far end of parking lot. Lunch: TBD. Bill Peake, 810-659-4738.

10/2 SEMG (Sat.) Autumn Hike Extra-
ganza. We'll meet at Kensington Metropark (Nature Center) at 9:30 am for a fun-filled fund raiser. Registration fee or get sponsors for $ per mile. Door prizes, refreshments, raffle, gifts, contests, games, and more! Morning hike, followed by a potluck picnic with some appetizers provided. Bob Duda, 734-464-0076.

10/3 SEMG Brighton Rec. Area Hike. Join us on a moderately paced, slightly hilly hike, enjoying the early fall colors. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring water, trail snacks, dress for the weather. Meet at 11:30 am behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

10/8-10 CUP Backpacking: Otsego County. (See sidebar, page 21).

10/9-10 NG Jordan River Backpacking. 10 am. 18 miles. Meet at Deadman's Hill Rd. parking area. Take M-32 west out of Gaylord to US-131. Turn left (south) to Deadman's Hill Rd., which is about 0.5 mile. Turn right (west) and go to the end of Deadman's Hill Rd. Reservations needed. Bev Howes, 810-239-7204.

10/9 SEMG (Sat.) Proud Lake Day Hike. We'll explore a different area of Proud Lake as we ramble along the little-used trails west of Wixom Road. We'll hike about 6 miles, including some bushwhacking. Meet at 10 am behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.


10/10 SEMG Potowatami Trail Hike. A fast paced, hilly 14-mile hike in the most beautiful park in SE Michigan. This is an all-day trip, we usually hike about 3 miles per hour. Wear sturdy shoes, and dress for the weather. Trip goes rain or shine. Bring lunch and drinks for entire day. Meet at 8:30 am in the Wal-Mart parking lot (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Possible restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

CUP WILDERNESS TRIPS

8/13-15 Backpacking: North Country Trail, Mackinac County. 38 km moderate paced on-trail trek, easy terrain.

9/1-6 Backpacking: Agawa Canyon, Ontario, Canada. 25-40 km moderate paced off-trail trek over very difficult terrain with fording of Agawa River. Starts noon Wed. with Algoma Central Railway bush train ride into remote, picturesque Agawa Canyon to explore seldom traveled east rim of canyon: Bridal Veil Falls, overlooks, lakes, & adjacent old-growth wilderness. Good trip for those who enjoy exploring remote, rugged areas by compass. $15.00 donation.

10/8-10 Backpacking: Green Timbers Wilderness Tract, Otsego County. 30 km moderate paced off/on-trail trek, varied terrain. With camera & compass, we'll hunt elk in beautiful Sturgeon River Valley.

11/5-7 Backpacking: High Country Pathway, Otsego & Montmorency Counties. 40 km moderate paced on-trail trek, easy terrain, elk country. Good trip for late-season 20-degree hiker.

12/3-5 Winter-camping: Shingle Mill Pathway, Otsego County. 26 km moderate paced on-trail snowshoe trek, varied terrain, elk country. Good trip for 10-degree hiker.

Unless otherwise noted, trips start at 8 am Friday. $10 Donation, Limit 6. Camping is in the wilderness—no campgrounds or basecamps. Suitable for non-smoking, intermediate-level hiker who's physically fit, adventurous, fully equipped (w/ food), and who can travel and camp in foul weather.

For equipment list, registration form, and details, contact Michael Neiger at 906-226-9620 or via e-mail at mneiger@hotmail.com.
OUTINGS
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10/14-17 NG Hiking at Mike Keeler’s Cabin. Near Manistee. Fun! Meet at Mike’s cabin on Thursday or Friday. Camp in yard. Hike Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Provide own food. Mike Keeler, 810-767-9904.

10/16 SEMG (Sat.) Belle Isle Hike. Meet at 10 am at the island casino for a brisk tour around the island (5 miles) using the main park road. See the Detroit skyline and Canadian parks. Stop to rest while surveying lingering waterfowl at the north end. This hike often has high wind, so dress accordingly. Optional restaurant stop after. June Cox, 248-435-9522.

10/17 SEMG Hike Kensington. See the gorgeous fall colors in this nearby Metropark on a medium paced 5-mile hike. We’ll walk the trails from the nature center. Meet at noon behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Call if rainy. Restaurant stop after. Jeanne Mercier, 313-581-6648.

10/21 NG (Thurs.) Montrose Apple Orchard. Evening/moonlight hike. 7 pm. 3 miles. Meet at the Montrose Apple Orchard. From I-75 and M-57, go west 6 miles to Seymour Rd. (light). Turn right (north) 1 mile. Campfire, cider, & donuts. Fee: $3.00. Jim Leditke, 517-624-9195.

10/23 KVG (Sat.) Saugatuck Dunes/Crane Orchard. Join us on October 23rd for a hike through Saugatuck Dunes. After the hike, we’ll stop at Crane Orchard in Fennville for dinner and fresh apple dumplings. Meet at the D Ave & US-131 carpool lot at 2 pm. Rus & Ann, 616-685-2301.


10/23 SEMG (Sat.) Lower Huron Canoe. Let’s look for all the signs of fall on the Lower Huron river—a 4-hour float from Hudson Mills to Delhi Park. We’ll meet at 10:00 am in the Wal-Mart parking lot (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Canoe fee of $15 must be sent by 10/15 to Phil Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, Mi. 48125. Bring a river lunch, dress for the weather. Phil, 313-562-1873.

10/24 SEMG Holliday Nature Preserve Walk. Come join us on a cool Autumn morning when the slanting rays of the sun make the colorful hardwoods sparkle. Bring your camera for some beautiful fall colors on this leisurely stroll. Meet at 9 am at the Koppernick entrance to the Nature Preserve on Koppernick Rd. (south of Joy Rd, north of Warren Ave.) The entrance is east of I-275, west of Newburgh Rd. Or, meet at 8:30 am in the parking lot behind “Oil Dispatch,” SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Restaurant stop after. Bob Duda, 734-464-0076.

10/30 NG (Sat.) Bald Mountain Recreation Area South Unit. Hike. 10 am. 5 miles. Take M-24 south to Greenshield Rd., then east to parking area. Probably snowmobile parking area. State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Dick Groomes, 810-724-7812.

10/31 SEMG Scare Me to Death Hike! Come on this Halloween Hike at Bald Mountain Rec. Area for no tricks, just a treat! Explore this hilly region on a five mile walk—if you dare. Meet at 10 am behind the Michigan Nat’l Bank on 14 Mile Rd. and I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy. Restaurant stop after (if you’re not too scared to eat). Bev & Marshall Fogelson, 248-280-4975.

NOVEMBER

11/2 NG (Tues.) Holly Rec. Jossman Rd. 10 am. 4 miles or more. Holly Rec. Jossman Rd. parking lot (Grange Hall Rd. to Jossman Rd. south to second parking lot on west side). Lunch maybe. Mike Keeler, 810-767-9904.

continued on next page
OUTINGS (continued from page 22)

11/5-7 CUP Backpacking: Otsego & Montmorency Counties (See sidebar, page 21).

11/6 NG (Sat.) Hogback Hills, Davison. Maybe some new trails. Hike. 10 am. 8 miles. Can be both day & weekend outing. Contact Bill if interested in weekend outing (camping in woods?). Restaurant stop. Bill Somers, 810-653-0867.

11/7 SEMG Maybury State Park Hike. Check out this near-by park with remarkable features for such an urbanized area: maple and beech woods, working farm, fishing lake, horse trails. Hike 2-3 hours at a moderate pace. Meet at the park concession stand, entrance is on Eight Mile Rd. west of Northville, 5 miles west of I-275, just west of Beck Road. Optional restaurant stop after. Bill Somers, 810-653-0867.


11/13 NG (Sat.) Murphy Lake Hike. 10 am. 6 miles. 4 miles east of Millington on Millington Rd., across from Mt. Kotarski sign. (M-15 to only traffic light in Millington, turn east.) Restaurant stop. No carpooling. Sue Morris, 810-232-3532.

11/14 SEMG Maybury State Park Hike. Check out this near-by park with remarkable features for such an urbanized area: maple and beech woods, working farm, fishing lake, horse trails. Hike 2-3 hours at a moderate pace. Meet at the park concession stand, entrance is on Eight Mile Rd. west of Northville, 5 miles west of I-275, just west of Beck Road. Optional restaurant stop after. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

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Submit articles & photos to:
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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.