One of our last best places: This stand will be harvested this year or next.

Grayling Forest Area, stand origin 1898, scheduled for 80% logging this year! 78,417 acres of Michigan’s oldest State Forest stands are slated for logging even though the DNR has yet to permanently protect a single acre of old growth on State Forest lands. See Old Growth, page 4, to learn more.
Sierra Club members and others concerned about environmental protection have the opportunity, over the next few months, to educate themselves thoroughly about what their elected officials in Lansing have been doing for and against the environment. The Michigan Sierra Club will be issuing its analysis of legislators’ environmental voting records in a special elections publication to all members in early fall. Two other organizations, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters and Clean Water Action, are making legislative scorecards available this summer.

The findings regarding the Legislature’s performance on the environment come as no surprise to observers of the Lansing scene or to activists who have been writing letters, making phone calls, and paying visits to their legislators to urge support of clean air, clean water, and the protection of natural places. The majority of legislators in this 1999-2000 legislative session have been consistently voting against environmental protection. Those in the State House and Senate who have worked in committee negotiations, behind the scenes, and with amendments to promote environmental protection have found their efforts blocked time and again.

The budgets which the legislature has approved for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Natural Resources have become tools through which the Engler Administration has eroded environmental protection. The budgets which the legislature has approved for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Natural Resources have become tools through which the Engler Administration has eroded environmental protection. The legislature has demonstrated a deeply disturbing disregard for environmental protection during the last two years.

The legislature failed to significantly address growing problems associated with urban sprawl and the loss of open space and farmland.

They rejected an increase in the inadequate number of DEQ staff who implement the Clean Air Act.

There will be no report on the amount of wetlands lost, developed, and created and the number of development permits which have been issued.

The legislature failed to address pollution impacts in communities.

The legislature failed to adopt several proposals which would have helped protect farmland from development with fees to deter land speculation, they adopted a formula that may encourage rather than discourage the farmland loss.

The legislature approved spending from the state’s rainy day fund to build and widen new highways, promoting sprawl — but are not dealing adequately with funding to maintain existing roads.

The legislature failed to attend to important Great Lakes and water quality issues:

The legislature blocked progress in addressing air quality and pollution problems that affect human health:

- The House voted to prohibit the DEQ from enforcing provisions agreed to under the Kyoto treaty on global climate change
- The legislature rejected establishment of a task force to look for ways to assure fairness and environmental justice in addressing pollution impacts in communities.

The legislature moved to undermine the use of sound scientific information to protect people and natural resources:

- They mandated a minimum level of timber harvesting on our state forests, irrespective of the judgement of agency land managers and forest biology
- They rejected a requirement that the state’s fish consumption health advisories actually be distributed to purchasers of fishing licenses

The legislature also acted to strip away local government authority to protect residents from factory farm pollution at a time when state oversight of factory farm pollution is completely inadequate (see Year of the Hog, page 8).

Taken in total, the Michigan Legislature has demonstrated a deeply disturbing disregard for environmental protection during the 1999-2000 session. The course the Michigan Legislature has been charting for us all is one that consistently rejects environmental protection as one of the building blocks of Michigan’s future.

For more information about how to get copies of scorecard information, contact the Mackinac Chapter office at 517-484-2372, mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org or look for your Sierra Club elections publication in the mail in early October.
As a father of three young children, I’m very concerned about the environment,” claimed a disgruntled and groping Senator Abraham in response to the Sierra Club’s aggressive campaign to expose his real anti-environmental record. Unable to find a single independent environmental organization that could give him even mediocre marks on the environment, and frustrated that his claim about concern for kids wasn’t resonating, the Senator decided to issue his own self-graded report card, giving himself (of course) high marks and accolades on environmental protection. In fact, the Senator didn’t stop there, but went on to claim that he was named “Great Lakes Senator of the Year” without revealing to reporters or the public the source of the award.

What independent organization gave Senator Abraham this important sounding award? Why, the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, an association for the shipping and dredging industry, of course. This group lists funding for operation, maintenance dredging, and replacement of the ice breaker Mackinaw as top priorities — hardly environmental concerns.

“This gets right to the heart of the problem,” said Judy Thompson, Chair of the Mackinac Chapter’s Environmental Voter Education Campaign. “In an age of riders and sneak attacks on the environment, many public officials try to dodge accountability and public scrutiny of their records by wrapping themselves in a green flag and making nice-sounding pronouncements about kids and the environment. Abraham is a real case study in the great lengths some officials will go to hide from their records and deceive the public. We have an obligation to counter this sort of deception.” “Abraham’s Greenwashing demonstrates that he recognizes the importance of the Great Lakes and Water in the minds of Michigan residents,” continued Alison Horton, Mackinac Chapter Director. “But instead of voting to protect these treasures, he has opted to weaken protections, gut funding for enforcement, and roll back right-to-know laws.”

Independent organizations have consistently ranked Senator Abraham among the bottom-feeders of environmental protection. Of particular concern to the Sierra Club are his votes against the Great Lakes, water, and right-to-know laws. The non-partisan League of Conservation Voters gave Abraham a 7% lifetime rating and a whopping 0% for 1999 on key environmental votes. Members of the Michigan delegation of US Senators and Representatives averaged 49%. “This means that of over fifty key votes on the environment, Senator Abraham found only three he could support,” commented Carl Pope, Executive Director of the National Sierra Club during a recent visit to Michigan. “Abraham is weighing down the State average.”

Recent analysis of campaign contributions reveals that big polluters approve of this voting record and are among the Senator’s biggest fans. The Environmental Working Group, a non-partisan organization that examines campaign contributions to candidates, discovered that over $434,000 have flowed into Abraham’s coffers from these special-interest groups in the first six months of 2000 — $115,000 from groups working to weaken clean water laws.

The Sierra Club’s effort to cut through Abraham’s green smoke screen has led them around the State in high-profile volunteer events, including recent activities at the African American Festival in downtown Grand Rapids and at Old Kent Park, home of the West Michigan Whitecaps. These events and those earlier in the year have garnered much media attention and involved motivated Michiganders from all corners of the state. “We would prefer to have an honest public discussion about the importance of the Great Lakes and the environment,” concluded Thompson. “But so long as Abraham is out there trying to obfuscate his record and dodge public scrutiny we have an obligation to be right behind, shining a spotlight of accountability. After all, people have a right to know what he has been up to in DC”

Please contact Dan Farough at the Chapter office, 517-484-2372, if you would like to help shine a spotlight on the Abraham record and wipe away the Abraham greenwash.

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HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?
GAS RELIEF AT THE PUMP, ABRAHAM-STYLE

By Dan Farough
Environmental Voter Education Campaign Coordinator

How does Senator Abraham spell relief from high fuel prices? D-R-I-L-L. In a series of public statements around the state, Senator Abraham has blamed the Sierra Club for high fuel prices and made drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge his chief means to lower high gas prices at the pump and a centerpiece of his energy policy.

Abraham would prefer the public didn’t know that it would take close to 10 years before a drop of oil from what has been called the “North American Serengeti” would ever reach pumps and would provide only a six-month supply at best. Still less would the Senator like for Michiganders to know of his vote to allow the export of Alaskan oil to Japan.

Senator Abraham’s energy policy is fundamentally flawed, for it focuses on the needs of the big oil companies bankrolling his campaign and not at all on substantive solutions that benefit the entire country. America will never be able to drill its way to energy independence — the solution lies in promoting the fuel-efficient, clean-burning cars of the near future. This would not only provide real relief at the pump, but also help clean the air, stem global warming, and break our reliance on foreign oil to boot.
GROUPS TO STATE: DON’T LOG 78,417 ACRES OF OLDEST STATE FOREST STANDS UNTIL OLD GROWTH DESIGNATED!

BY ANNE WOIWODE
Program Director

78,417 acres of Michigan’s oldest State Forest stands are slated for logging even though the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has yet to permanently protect a single acre of old growth on State Forest lands. The Sierra Club and Mackinaw Forest Council (MFC) asked the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in June and July to put an emergency hold on cutting these stands. The Commission has yet to act, and DNR officials oppose such a hold — ensuring that some stands will be cut this summer.

Growing public concern about the agency’s record on old growth protection, however, has helped speed up the DNR’s proposed timetable to designate as Old Growth stands, and may result in greater openness about the DNR’s internal process.

Forest activist Tim Flynn prepared the analysis of the DNR database that identified the imminent threat to these oldest stands. The majority are either naturally regenerated white and red pine forests (19%) or northern hardwoods forests (43%) that are at or approaching old growth condition. Old growth in these two forest types in Michigan have been identified as “endangered ecosystems” by the National Biological Service because they have been reduced by more than 98% of their original range. The rest are other forest types in stands 90+ years old, including cedar, aspen, swamp conifer, oak, and hemlock.

The MFC and Sierra Club have also asked the NRC to direct the DNR to hold an additional 5% for old growth consideration in annual compartment reviews and to allow public input and review.

The DNR argued that 80% of the oldest stands are currently designated “no-cut” and that these acres were considered with public input during compartment reviews. The agency now has identified 144,000 acres of “potential” old growth, and is identifying up to 200,000 additional acres. DNR officials claim that some planned logging activities, such as selection cut, are compatible with old growth protection. A particular concern cited about holding the stands identified until old growth designation occurs is that this would take a significant amount of acreage out of the timber program at a time when the Legislature has enacted a timber mandate (see MFBP, page 6).

The environmental groups support efforts to protect and restore all native ecosystem types in Michigan, but take issue with the DNR’s claims that their current potential old growth would adequately protect old growth forests. Of the 144,000 acres the DNR identifies as potential old growth in its database, Tim Flynn found that just 14,722 acres — slightly over 10% — are forest stands of saw timber size, which are trees at or approaching maturity. The remaining acres were divided among open land (22%), pole timber (58%), and saplings (10%).

In addition, 18.8% of the oldest white and red pine forests and 61% of the northern hardwoods approaching old growth condition are currently prescribed for logging. In fact, if no “hold” is put on cutting the oldest stands, additional acres will be moved from “no-cut” to “cut” by managers at compartment reviews starting this summer.

According to Program Director Anne Woiwode, public input on old growth has

see OLD-GROWTH, page 23
Leelanau State Park, which sits at the top of the Leelanau Peninsula, is a crown jewel in Michigan’s State Park system. The beautiful rocky shoreline is home to much wildlife and has weather as unpredictable as Lake Michigan, which surrounds it.

In 1932, the federal government gave 45 acres at the tip of the peninsula to Michigan to be used as a public park, with the exception of 14 acres where the Grand Traverse Lighthouse is located. This portion was leased to the state as part of the total parcel, with the provision that the Coast Guard would continue to operate the lighthouse, which was closed in 1972. In 1986, a local group organized the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Foundation and signed an operating agreement with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to restore and maintain the lighthouse. The group has done a beautiful job in the restoration and has operated the lighthouse in harmony with the state park, keeping the lighthouse open daily for visitors. Now the federal government has no use for the 14 acres, and wants to transfer it to the state.

Several years ago the Foundation dramatically changed its focus, and the goal of this reorganized group goes far beyond keeping the lighthouse open. The Foundation recently changed their name to Museum, and they wish to take over Leelanau State Park land — eliminating a campground, youth organization site, and picnic area. The campground would become a paved parking lot, the youth organization site and picnic area would become an amphitheater and conference center equipped with a library, classrooms, exhibit hall, artifact storage area, workshops, offices, bathrooms, and kitchens. The few trees that are left around the lighthouse would be chopped down to provide tourists with a panoramic view of Lake Michigan. Along with the view, tourists would also see a newly-built barn, hen coop and crib, laundry sheds, and tramway/boat dock. Wetlands to the northwest of the picnic grounds would be converted to a walking tour path.

The DNR would not cooperate with the Museum in their request to clearcut land around the lighthouse and erect more structures, so the Museum refused to sign a renewal of the operating agreement. In fact, they are going around the DNR and are working with legislators to have the 14 acres deeded directly to them.

The site plan of the Museum group, if allowed to proceed, will be devastating to Leelanau State Park and its natural flora and fauna. Last year, approximately 100 trees in a 200x75-foot area between the lighthouse and fog signal building were cut down in violation of the then-existing Use Permit issued by the State of Michigan. These trees included poplar, white birch, cherry, choke cherry, wild apple, and maple. Due to this incident, prime habitat for ruffed grouse and many other species was lost.

Untouched wetlands to the immediate northwest of the picnic grounds house and provide foraging areas for species such as red-winged blackbirds, painted and snapping turtles, great blue herons, and various insects. This area is the proposed site for the Lighthouse’s historical walking tour, which would include the building of walkways and a footbridge. These wetlands are adjacent to private property protected by conservation easements with the Leelanau Conservancy, and the property owner opposes the proposals made by the Museum. This entire area is the terminus of a major migratory flyway for both raptors and songbirds.

Further alterations will not only result in continuing loss of native species due to the extraction of their habitat, but also provoke substantial changes in the Park’s basic characteristics.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

Please write the following people and tell them that you don’t want to see Leelanau State Park destroyed, and that you support the status quo. Tell Congressman Stupak that the 14 acres of land should pass from the federal government to Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources, and not to the Lighthouse Museum. Tell them you don’t want to see critical habitat destroyed, neither for the animals that live there nor the vast numbers of migratory birds that rest there. Write now! If you live in the Traverse City area, please contact Lynn Livingston at the number below.

**CONGRESSMAN BART STUPAK**

1120 East Front Street, Suite D
Traverse City, MI 49684
231-929-4711

**GRAND TRaverse Lighthouse Museum**

Director, Stephanie Staley
P.O. Box 43
Northport, MI 49670
231-386-7195

**BRIAN CONWAY**

State Historic Preservation Officer
Michigan Historical Center
717 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48918-1800
517-373-1630

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:**

Lynn Livingston
Grand Traverse Lighthouse Committee
810-423-1458
STATE POISED TO DEFY USFWS DIRECTIVE ON PITTMAN-ROBERTSON GRANTS

In the latest developments of a five-year Sierra Club effort to bring Michigan’s federal wildlife grants into compliance with federal environmental laws, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appears poised to defy a directive from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on at least one Pittman-Robertson (P-R) grant and a cumulative effects analysis of four others. The Sierra Club warned the DNR in testimony at the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) that such defiance poses an enormous financial risk to the state, and urged the state to come into compliance with the law.

Due to Sierra Club efforts, the USFWS decided in mid-April that an EA must be prepared by the state on at least one of the five wildlife habitat grants currently in DNR hands. In addition, steps were to be undertaken by the USFWS to bring about compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. The DNR was notified by the USFWS of the need to prepare the environmental assessment in early May — however, as late as July 12, the DNR says only that “Michigan is considering all of its options regarding the decision by the USFWS.”

In testimony to the NRC on July 12, Sierra Club Program Director Anne Woiwode warned of the risk the DNR is taking in failing to prepare the EA as directed. “The possibility exists that the state will be required to pay back funds previously received under P-R if it fails to comply with federal law,” according to Woiwode. “That could amount to tens of millions of dollars over the past several years.” Woiwode also warned the DNR that any attempt to shift funds from one grant into another would bolster the Sierra Club’s argument that reconfiguring the grants has been done specifically to evade compliance with the law. She also pointed out that other grants programs administered by the USFWS, including the Dingell-Johnson program that funds fisheries habitat management, have been identified by the agency as needing to comply as well. Woiwode said, “It is our sincere hope that the state will choose to come into compliance, because that decision will clearly be in the best interest of the both the environment and the people of Michigan.”

PUBLIC OUTRAGE AT TIMBER MANDATE GROWS, BUT LEGISLATURE PASSES IT FOR FOURTH TIME

Despite growing opposition from the state’s conservation community, Michigan remains the only state in the nation where the legislature has passed a minimum mandated timber level for its State Forests. For the fourth year in a row, a timber mandate was included in the DNR budget, which was signed into law by Governor Engler in June. However, prospects for killing off the mandate in the next legislature are much greater than in the past as attention has focused on this troubling provision.

The language included this year went even further than in previous years, mandating that either 855,000 cords of wood or the timber on 69,000 acres of State Forests be marked and offered for sale in the next fiscal year (previous mandates required only the marking of standing trees). The DNR has repeatedly stated that it cannot physically meet this mandate in the coming fiscal year (FY 2001), and has assured the Sierra Club that they will not modify their management activities to increase timber production to meet this mandate.

A startling aspect of this year’s legislative debate was the refusal to modify the mandate even when DNR testified to the physical impossibility of meeting the mandate. As late as July, Senator George McManus, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources, continued to assert that “there’s 69,000 acres per year ready for harvest” on State Forest lands. Other legislators made it clear to the DNR that they did not expect the agency to actually meet this mandate, despite voting for the measure. Legislators apparently chose to do the bidding of the timber lobby rather than base their decisions on fact.

The Sierra Club has committed to keeping the heat on about the timber mandate and to demand accountability of legislators. A first step has been to urge environmentalists to ask State Senators how they voted on an amendment to remove the mandate. This vote, proposed on the floor of the Senate, was done by voice — allowing a majority to support this provision without going on record. Responses by legislators to date have shown how poorly informed most are about the issues surrounding management of Michigan’s forests.

The timber mandate will likely come up in March 2001 as part of the debate over the FY 2002 DNR budget. With growing opposition to the mandate and changes brought about by term limits in the House, the prospects for eliminating the mandate in the next session are considered good. If you would like to help to eliminate the timber mandate on Michigan’s State Forests next year, please contact Anne Woiwode at the Chapter office.
America and Canada are fortunate to have a farsighted document that provides the tools necessary to restore and protect our precious and unique Great Lakes Basin: The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). This article will discuss the Agreement, and will ask you to act to protect the Agreement and the Lakes.

**HISTORY**

In 1909 the US and Canada signed the Boundary Waters Treaty to prevent disputes between the two nations over water along their borders. The Treaty established the International Joint Commission (IJC) as a mechanism to deal with these common waters. IJC members are appointed by the US President and the Canadian government. In 1972, Canada and the US signed The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and gave the IJC the responsibility of carrying out the objectives of the Agreement. The US Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada have lead roles in implementing the GLWQA.

**GLWQA OBJECTIVES AND PROVISIONS**

Among numerous objectives and provisions within the Agreement are the following:

- The Great Lakes Basin’s waters should be free from substances that directly or indirectly enter the waters as a result of human activity that will produce conditions that are toxic or harmful to human, animal, or aquatic life;
- The Agreement is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin;
- The discharge of toxic substances in toxic amounts “shall be prohibited” and the discharge of persistent toxic chemicals “shall be virtually eliminated”;
- “The philosophy for the control of inputs of persistent toxic chemicals shall be zero discharge”;
- Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) will be established to clean up designated Areas of Concern (AOCs) in the US and Canada (in 1972, 42 AOCs were identified. By 2000, only one had been cleaned up and one had been added. Michigan has 13 AOCs, more than any other state);
- Lakewide Management Plans (LAMPs) will be established to clean up open lake waters (RAPs deal with specific, localized sites);
- The public will be involved in the development and adoption of objectives and in all actions taken in RAPs and LAMPs;
- Nonpoint sources of pollution from urban runoffs, agricultural runoffs, and waste disposal sites are to be abated;
- Controls are to be implemented on sources of airborne toxic substances that pollute the Great Lakes Basin. Airborne sources of persistent toxic substances are to be “eliminated” (presently, more than 50% of new Great Lakes pollution is a result of the deposition of airborne pollution);
- Sources of contaminated ground water are to be identified and controlled, and contaminated groundwater itself is to be controlled; and
- The Canadian and US governments are committed to seek the funds to implement the GLWQA.

Many supporters of the GLWQA believe the major reason is that our governments have not had the political will to see the Agreement fully implemented. That is, they have not wished to step on the toes of polluters. They have not, in the two-decade-old atmosphere of tax cuts, acknowledged the wisdom of spending money now to save money and protect public health and natural habitat health in the future.

**WHAT TO DO?**

Write a letter to your representative in Washington (see page ___ for specific addresses). Tell your representative that congress must appropriate the funds necessary to fully implement the GLWQA. Add why these things are important to you — why you want and expect clean water, air, and land.

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The Mackinac Chapter has a Great Lakes Subcommittee. We invite you to get involved with it! If you wish to, or if you have questions about Great Lakes environmental issues, please contact Mike Johnson at 616-948-8840.
GROUP CONSERVATION GRANT FUNDS STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2000

BY JUDY THOMPSON
Chair, Conservation Committee

Last year the Chapter established a new Group Conservation Grant Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to strengthen the relationship between the Chapter and local groups by providing limited financial assistance for projects that encourage effective priority-issue campaign planning and/or activist/member development. Information about the Grant Fund and application materials were sent to all Group Chairs and Group Conservation Chairs in October of 1999, and will be sent again in July of 2000.

Grants for up to 40% of the yearly fund allotment ($1000 maximum for FY 2000) will be accepted. Grant funds may be used for a range of conservation campaign activities, including printing and development of public education materials; refreshments; speaker fees; mailing costs for training events; public forums or other media events such as Tours de Sprawl; donations to local ballot initiatives; etc.

This year, the first grant application was received from the Huron Valley Group in May. The grant was for a fourth Washtenaw County Tour de Sprawl in Webster Township. The application demonstrated excellent planning by HVG leaders in conjunction with a grassroots land-use organization, the Association for the Preservation of Rural Open Neighborhoods (APRON), taking the lead in the event this year. The event goals include educating the public and Webster township officials about sustainable development options and the state and local planning process, mobilizing citizens to become involved, and having fun. Tour planners were successful in lining up at least nine organizations to contribute $100 to the event. The application was considered excellent and was approved.

Funds remain for the 2000 year. The application forms were designed to be activist-friendly. For more information, or to receive a copy of the grant policy and application materials, contact Judy Thompson at 734-487-5548.

GLOBAL FAIRNESS NEEDS EVERYBODY’S AWARENESS!

BY JAN O’CONNELL
Kalamazoo Valley Group

From the sweatshops of Malaysia to the rain forests of Brazil to the streets of Seattle, citizens of the world are calling out for fair trade policies. Protests in this country have focused on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank. Our citizens have demanded fair and equitable trade policies that preserve the dignity of the worker, provide a humane, livable wage, and protect the quality of the global environment.

Religious, environmental, labor, and community members in West Michigan have joined forces to form a coalition entitled West Michigan Network for Global Trade w/Justice. This diverse group of individuals wants to state firmly and clearly: World trade must be trade with justice. On May 22-24, 2000 a World Trade Week Convention was held in Grand Rapids with Economist John Page, World Bank Economic Policy Director, as the kick-off speaker. Meeting with Mr. Page before his speech to show the concerns of the West Michigan Network for Global Trade w/Justice were local activists Jay Egan, the Rev George Heartwell, and Judy Bredeweg from the Sierra Club’s West Michigan Group.

While Mr. Page was speaking nearby, the West Michigan Network also hosted a protest and press conference in downtown Grand Rapids to present an alternative voice for globalization of commerce. Speaking at the press conference were Lana Boldi, political coordinator for the United Autoworkers Union Region 1-D, Tom Carey from the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, and the Rev Doug VanDoren from Plymouth Congregational UCC Church.

The next big event is to take place Sept 19 in Grand Rapids and is sponsored by the West Michigan Network for Global Trade w/Justice and the Sierra Club. It should be a very interesting event with a series of presentations including experts from Michigan and around the country. Our speakers presently include Bishop Thomas Gumbleton from the Diocese of Detroit; Director of the Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade Campaign, Dan Seligman, from Washington DC; Win Irwin, President & CEO of Irwin Seating; and Trade Experts from the AFL-CIO and/or the United Auto Workers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on this upcoming event, or if you’re interested in participating on a local Fair Trade Committee, contact Jan O’Connell at 616-956-6646.

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SIERRA CLUB TAKES STEPS TO FORCE STATE’S HAND ON CONFINED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

On July 25, the Sierra Club put four Grand Rapids-area intensive livestock operations on notice that it intends to sue each facility under the federal Clean Water Act’s citizen suit provisions. The Club is taking action because state officials have failed to bring about permanent clean-ups of these facilities, whose operations have led to fish kills, contamination of drinking water, and degradation of several waterways.

Michigan’s decision to refuse to issue water pollution permits for confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) has made enforcement of state and federal water quality laws at these facilities virtually impossible. The Sierra Club contends the state is putting the health of citizens and the environment at risk, and that the four Grand Rapids facilities are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of threats posed to Michigan citizens by CAFOs.

The four facilities in question are Bruinsma Farms, Inc, near Freeport; River Ridge Farms, Inc, near Coopersville; Walnutdale Farms near Wayland; and Bradford Farms, Inc, near Sparta. All four are large dairy farming operations, although one also runs hog feeding operations that have been subject to water quality violations. Each facility has thick DEQ files revealing repeated episodes of discharges of manure and other wastes into waterways. The Sierra Club obtained access to these files through Freedom of Information Act requests pursued by Alex Sagady, longtime Club volunteer and consultant.

The discharges documented have been both the result of spills and from intentional actions by the facility, including undersized facilities and spreading of manure slurry on frozen ground. Each facility lists numerous complaints by neighbors and other community members. In one case the basement of a home was flooded with manure. In another, fire fighters reported the horrible condition of a stream. State officials repeatedly sent letters and visited facilities seeking voluntary compliance with water quality laws through voluntary efforts. After voluntary compliance efforts fail, DEQ staff issued Administrative Consent Orders (ACO), often including fines, however non-compliance with these ACOs has happened repeatedly with most of these facilities.

Nonetheless, Michigan continues to defy requests from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and environmental organizations to issue National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to these facilities or to require facilities to obtain permits. In letters to the EPA, the state has argued that it cannot issue permits for facilities currently in violation of clean water provisions, and that when a facility comes into compliance with law it no longer has “potential” to cause pollution, therefore should not be required to get a permit. Michigan is believed to be the only state that continues to defy EPA on issuing permits.

Notices of intent to sue are required to be issued 60 days prior to initiating litigation against facilities under the citizen suit provisions of the Clean Water Act. Sierra Club attorneys Aaron Isherwood and Pat Gallagher, who work out of National Headquarters in San Francisco, will coordinate the litigation.

Meanwhile, in mid-August the EPA is expected to issue its initial staff report on a petition filed November of 1999 by the Sierra Club, Michigan Environmental Council, and Michigan Land Use seeking to withdrawal Michigan’s delegation of authority to run the Clean Water Act based on failure to comply with provisions of the law regarding CAFOs. It is not expected, however, that the EPA Administrator will have decided on the environmental groups’ petition prior to initiation of litigation against these facilities.

SIERRA CLUB’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CARL POPE, VISITS MICHIGAN

The Sierra Club’s National Executive Director, Carl Pope, blasted into Michigan for a whirlwind two-day visit on May 31 and June 1 to help promote the Mackinac Chapter’s efforts to hold Senator Abraham accountable for his anti-environmental record and to promote our environmental justice outreach and other programs. The visit included discussions with the Detroit Free Press, Macomb Daily, Oakland Press, and Michigan Chronicle editorial boards. Carl was also featured on WJR’s David Newman show, where he fielded call-in questions from listeners throughout Southeast Michigan.

The highlight of the trip came when Carl visited chapter and group leaders at the home of Sherry Hayden and Mike Keele in Flint. There the Sierra Club Executive Director mingled informally, sharing ideas and filling us in on efforts in other parts of the country. Thank you, Carl! And special thanks to Sherry and Mike for hosting this important event.
RETRIEVE TO LAKE MICHIGAN!  SEPTEMBER 15-17

It's almost time for the annual Autumn Retreat at beautiful Camp Miniswanka! Come relax and explore the Lake Michigan shoreline, woods, streams, and trails, or attend educational talks and walks.

Workshops at the 2000 retreat will include old favorites and some new additions. The following is a partial list of workshops and events taking place throughout the weekend:

- Friday night Euchre Tournament, beginning at 8pm and going until ???
- Photographing and Backpacking Isle Royale: Bob Guilliani, owner of Guys & Dolls Photography in Clare, will give a workshop and share some of his photographs of this treasured national park
- Workshop on Urban Sprawl with Brett Hulsey from the Sierra Club Midwest Office
- Fly Fishing with Brett Hulsey
- Wetlands Preservation Workshop with Jeff and Lori Slagey
- Going Vegan Workshop with Jim Corcoran, co-founder of Vegans in Motion, complete with samples of Vegan cuisine
- Birding (back by popular demand)
- Forest Biodiversity walk with Anne Woiwode (back by popular demand)
- Living Simply with Mike Keeler and Sherry Hayden (back by popular demand)
- Making part of your yard or land a "Wild Corner": Sue Kelly will explain how easy it is for everyone to make space for a wild corner in their yard

There will still be plenty of time for swimming, hiking, stargazing and visiting!

Please send in the registration form and fee by September 1st. The registration fee covers food and lodging for the weekend, with the option of staying in a rustic shelter, regular dorm room, or the lakeside dorm.

In September you'll receive confirmation of your registration and additional information about the weekend. If you have questions, contact Mark and Julie Janeczko, 517-539-1676.

Get Ready for Live Action at the Silent Auction!
Mark Janeczko will make his debut as an auctioneer at this year's retreat. Most of the items will still go in the silent auction, but a segment of auction goods will be set aside for a "live" auction. Set out something special now! Bring several items and make this year's auction bigger and better than ever!
The annual Mackinac Chapter election is once again upon us, where we vote on those members who have accepted nomination and agreed to run for the two-year position of At-Large Member of the Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee (Ex-Comm). The role of the Ex-Comm is to administer and carry out the mission of the Sierra Club in Michigan.

Nine At-Large members compose the Ex-Comm, along with representatives from the local Groups. Four Ex-Comm members are elected one year and five the following year. At-large members should expect to attend quarterly Ex-Comm meetings and offer leadership to Chapter programs or functions.

We will be electing five people to the 2001 Ex-Comm. The Nominating Committee will soon begin the process of nominating likely candidates to run for these positions. If you are interested in suggesting someone — or yourself — please contact Sue Kelly, Nominating Committee Chair, at 810-227-9563. It is also possible to run by getting 15 Mackinac Chapter members to sign a petition for a nomination. Either way, participation is welcome.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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**CALENDAR: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS CHAPTER BY-LAWS**

New by-laws specify that the Executive Committee must calendar the nominations and election procedures listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appoint Nominating Committee:</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least four months before closing date of elections; at least 3 members, 1 not on ExCom; none candidates (Nominating Committee Chair is Sue Kelly).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Announce Nominating Committee and Schedule in Mackinac Aug-Oct issue:</td>
<td>August 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule must go to all members and state opportunity to nominate candidates by petition.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline/Receipt of Proposed Names to Nominating Committee</td>
<td>October 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of Nominees’ Names to ExCom by Nominating Committee:</td>
<td>October 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 5 weeks before mailing of ballots.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline/Receipt of Petition Candidates and Proposed Ballot Issues</td>
<td>October 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible Voter List to Be Used:</td>
<td>October 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cut off date.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mailing Date of Election Ballot (Mackinac Nov-Jan issue):</td>
<td>November 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Must be mailed to members four weeks before ballot is due.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Ballot Return</td>
<td>December 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time, Date, Place of Ballot Counting</td>
<td>December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announce at January 2001 Ex-Comm Meeting</td>
<td>January 19-21</td>
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**VOLUNTEER PITCH**

The Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter offers diverse opportunities for volunteers!

We could use help in the following areas:

- Office recycling program (twice a month)
- Mailings (twice a month)
- Letters to the editor (specific issue interests such as urban sprawl, voter education, factory farm pollution, great lakes protection, and water quality)
- Phone calls (new member welcome/information and event hotline)

If you are more interested in activist opportunities around the state — voter education, forest issues, and urban sprawl — we can get you in touch with people working on important issues in your area. Call Joyce McIntosh at the Mackinac Chapter Office for more information, 517-484-2372.
Automobiles are one of the largest sources of pollution both locally and globally. As more Americans drive more miles in ever-larger vehicles, environmental gains remain elusive. In fact, auto-related emissions of climate-warming carbon dioxide (CO2) have been increasing.

Washington is now considering whether to open the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve for oil exploitation. While the debate focuses on natural Arctic wonders, Michigan and its automobile manufacturing industry are primary players in the unfolding tragedy. Many Americans believe in a God-given right to cheap gasoline and have started screaming about price increases — so politicians are working overtime this election year to ensure that we maintain our tradition of cheap gasoline for everyone.

Several opportunities exist for turning the situation around. While proposals to open the Arctic Preserve focus on gasoline availability, much can be done by auto makers to reduce both the fuel required by and pollution produced by automobiles.

THE BATTLE FOR NEW CAFE STANDARDS

The biggest step we can take to reduce the amount spent at the pump, curb global warming, reduce pressure to drill in sensitive environments, and ensure a safe energy future is to update our nation’s aging Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. Passed in 1975, the current standards have been a great success — requiring new cars to average 27.5 miles per gallon (mpg), light trucks 20.7 mpg. Since automakers reached the standard in the 1980s, however, fuel economy levels have stagnated and are now in decline — largely due to increasing sales of less-efficient SUVs and trucks.

Until recently, Congress has been unwilling to allow the Department of Transportation (DOT) to make any recommendations to change CAFE standards. In late June, however, the Senate voted to have the DOT and National Academy of Sciences do a joint study on mpg standards and make a recommendation by July 1, 2001.

The Sierra Club, along with a coalition of consumer, safety, and other environmental advocates, is issuing a clarion call to update the CAFE law to 45 mpg for cars and 34 mpg for light trucks over the next 10 years. Since CAFE is an average standard, auto makers can produce vehicles that fail to meet the standard as long as enough vehicles exceed the standard to balance it out. Improving the CAFE standards would save this country millions of barrels of oil each day and would prevent hundreds of millions of tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere annually.

To learn more about the Sierra Club’s Global Warming Campaign, contact the Global Warming and Energy Team at 202-547-1141 or online at www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming.

TAKE THE CLEAN CAR PLEDGE!

The Clean Car Campaign is designed to bring about significant improvements in automobile technology, reducing environmental impacts from manufacturing, driving, and disposal of vehicles. Through the “Clean Car Pledge,” the Campaign seeks to mobilize consumers to demand clean vehicle choices from auto makers — increased fuel efficiency, reduced tailpipe emissions, and clean manufacturing practices — especially important in Michigan, where auto manufacturing is the dominant industry. The Mackinac Chapter recently voted to become an ally of the Campaign.

The Campaign seeks to collect thousands of pledges from consumers to send a strong message to auto makers that there is a market for environmentally-friendly vehicles. You can make your voice heard by taking the pledge at www.cleancarcampaign.org or by filling out the pledge form below. You can also find out more about new electric-hybrid vehicles — such as Honda’s Insight and Toyota’s Prius — and Ford’s plans for a hybrid version of its Escape SUV in 2003.

To learn more about the Clean Car Campaign, contact the Ecology Center at 734-663-2400 or visit the Campaign website.
STATEWIDE STRATEGY TO END MEDICAL WASTEBURNING

BY ANNA HOLDEN
Chair, Southeast Michigan Group

Speaking May 6 in Hamtramck, Michigan, international incinerator expert Paul Connett urged the 100 activists present to gain broader support to close the highly polluting City Medical Waste incinerator. Local opposition to the incinerator is strong, but has not ended nearly 10 years of permit violations and lax enforcement by Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The City of Hamtramck passed a strict regulatory ordinance in September based on model standards recommended by the national Health Care Without Harm Coalition.

City Medical is a privately owned commercial facility that is now out of compliance with the local ordinance and is burning medical waste from Detroit-area hospitals that have closed their on-site waste incinerators — including the cluster of Detroit Medical Center System hospitals nearby. It is at the apex of the “toxic triangle” that includes the Detroit municipal trash burner, Henry Ford Hospital, and the General Motors Hamtramck Poletown plant — a coal burning auto plant considering tires for fuel. City Medical’s pollution is another example of industry dumping on poorer urban neighborhoods.

Local Sierra Club Groups, other environmental organizations, and health, civil rights, faith-based, and civic associations are invited to join the newly formed Coalition to Close the Hamtramck Medical Waste Incinerator. The Coalition includes most of the organizations and community leaders who got an agreement from Henry Ford Hospital to shut down its incinerator February 2000. The Sierra Club’s Southeast Michigan Group (SEMG) is a member of the Coalition, which is led by the Hamtramck Environmental Action Team (HEAT). To join the Coalition, send a statement of support to Rob Cedar; Director, HEAT; 1999 Trowbridge; Hamtramck, MI 48212. Phone/Fax: 313-365-4722; e-mail: robc313@aol.com.

As more hospitals shut down on-site incinerators, safe, non-polluting commercial facilities to handle waste becomes a more prominent issue. In Southeast Michigan, the closest commercial medical waste autoclave is in Toledo. The Henry Ford Health System’s suburban hospitals and several hospitals in the St. John’s network ship medical waste to this autoclave. When St. John Oakland Hospital in Madison Heights recently agreed to close its incinerator, the hospital decided the medical waste will be trucked to Toledo; recycling, composting, and purchasing practices that stress reduced packaging will be initiated on-site.

Senator Gary Peters’ (D-Bloomfield Township) recent bill to regulate Michigan’s hospital and commercial medical waste incinerators is part of an interim strategy to improve the transition from medical waste burning to safer, non-polluting alternative methods. SB 1290 is based on Health Care Without Harm’s model regulations, but also requires the DEQ to study the feasibility of alternatives to incineration. It will end permits for medical waste burning if feasible and prudent alternatives to incineration are demonstrated. SB 1290 was written in consultation with the Sierra Club’s SEMG and the Ecology Center and should be backed by environmentalists concerned with the medical waste issue. A House Representative has agreed to introduce a companion bill.

The SEMG and other members of the Coalition to Shut Down the Henry Ford Hospital (HFH) incinerator continue meeting with hospital officials regarding plans for a comprehensive Waste Management Center on the hospital grounds. Infectious waste would be treated on-site at the Center using an acceptable alternative method. The Center would also house separation and recycling of other hospital waste. HFH expects to select a contractor by September to implement the concepts agreed upon. The Center should be completed by July 2001. According to HFH’s chief engineer, tonnage of waste burned annually has been reduced to less than half the tonnage incinerated when meetings with HFH began in 1998. Much of the reduction is due to landfilling cardboard packaging and purchasing materials with reduced packaging; no construction debris is currently being burned.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL-STATE-NATIONAL-GLOBAL SIERRA CLUB!

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City ________________________________
State __________ Zip ________________
Phone (optional) ( ) __________________

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Cardholder Name __________________________
Card Number __________________________
Expiration Date ________ / ________

Contributions, gifts, or 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

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300 N. WASHINGTON SQUARE, SUITE 411
LANSING, MI 48933

THE MACKINAC QUARTERLY ♦ AUGUST - OCTOBER 2000 13
SNAKES & S'MORES, BOGS & BLINDFOLDS

KIDS ENJOYED FIRST WASHTENAW ICO OVERNIGHTS

BY MEGAN BEARDSLEY, SUSAN HOLLAR, AND GWEN SCHAEFER

Huron Valley Group

“Hey! I know why we’re doing this. You want us to listen to the forest instead of see it,” exclaimed one of seven blindfolded children on an evening hike this May. Sierra Club volunteers, each paired with one child, helped kids tie handkerchiefs over their eyes and assisted them down a trail. The children listened to bird and frog calls, rubbed their hands over soft green moss and the crinkly bark of a black cherry tree, and learned about the forest in a brand-new way.

The blindfold hike was only one of many new experiences for children who participated in two Washtenaw Inner City Outing (ICO) overnights in May. Most the children on these trips live in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti public housing, and they rarely have an opportunity to experience nature up-close.

Nature greeted us dramatically on our first overnight trip in the form of a Blue Racer snake on our cabin step. The kids responded with shrieks and hollers and lots of curiosity. After settling into the cabin the kids had fun filling water jugs from a hand pump, visiting horses at the neighboring campground, and roasting their first s’mores.

The next day, we packed up and headed to “Bog Trail” near Waterloo’s Geology Center. Hike highlights included the smooth bark of beech trees, brilliant yellow marsh marigolds, and springy soil of the floating bog.

These cabin overnights were just part of a continuing outings series that Washtenaw ICO volunteers have taken with these children over the last two years.

Env ironmental Litigation: A Victory On The Crystal River

BY CHRIS BZDOK

Summer brought good news to the mossy banks of the Crystal River. This July, the US Army Corps of Engineers denied the Homestead Resort’s application to build a golf course and housing complex on the river, next to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Leelanau County. The Army Corps’ decision is the most anticipated and important step in a 13-year battle to protect this unique natural treasure.

Led by a local group called Friends of the Crystal River, environmentalists fought the Homestead proposal right from the start. Joined by groups including the Sierra Club, MUCC, and the National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Crystal River filed lawsuits in state and federal court — challenging the Homestead, Department of Natural Resources, Governor of Michigan, and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator in Washington DC. Look for the full story in the November Issue of The Mackinac.

Chris Bzdok is an attorney with Olson, Noonan & Bzdok, P.C., a Traverse City firm with a statewide practice in environmental law. His office represents the Friends of the Crystal River. The Army Corps’ decision can be found at www.lre.usace.army.mil/functions/rf/dtwhome.html.

A VICTORY ON THE CRYSTAL RIVER

BY  MEGAN  BEARDSLEY ,  SUSAN  HOLLAR ,  AND  GWEN  SCHAEFER

Huron Valley Group

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Money for nothing? Yes, it’s true! With the Sierra Club’s Huron Valley Group Shopping for the Earth program you can contribute to the Sierra Club and protect the environment every time you shop — at no cost to you!

Here’s how we make this financial alchemy work: We buy EarthCash vouchers from our nine retail partners at a small discount and re-sell them to you at face value. We use the difference to fund our environmental education and conservation activities.

Best of all, you get $1 in merchandise for every $1 in EarthCash vouchers you buy, so it costs you nothing to participate! You can use the vouchers at any store location anywhere in the US.

To participate, all you have to do is complete and mail in the order form below with your check; we’ll send you the EarthCash vouchers, and then you spend them in the corresponding store just as if they’re cash.

For more information, please contact Michael Sklar by phone at 734-995-1831 or by e-mail at tiger3@provide.net. You can also visit our website at www.mirror.org/groups/mi-enviro and click on the “Shopping for the Earth” link.

### Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group Shopping for the Earth Order Form

Please indicate the number of EarthCash vouchers of each denomination you want for each store in the table below, and list the total value of your order ($500 maximum) here: $________. Please be sure to enclose your check, made payable to “Huron Valley Group — Sierra Club.”

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<td>Whole Foods and affiliated stores</td>
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Name:________________________________________
Address:________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
Phone & E-mail:________________________________________

Mail to:
Michael Sklar
2545 Meade Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
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, 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 for supper (small donation requested) or at 6:15 for the meeting. Call Pete Pasterz, 517-676-3339.

The Conservation Committee usually meets 5:30pm the 2nd Monday of the month at a local restaurant. Call Maria Lapinski, 517-374-4444.

The Executive Committee meets 5:30pm the 1st Monday of the month. Call Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

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 7pm in West Science, Room 270, on the Northern Michigan University campus. 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
The Sierra Club members of Livingston, southern Genesse and western Oakland Counties meet monthly at the Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorff Drive, Brighton, for informative and entertaining programs. These meetings begin at 7pm and are open to the public.

The Conservation Committee also meets monthly to discuss and address local issues.

Call Emily Gobright, 517-548-0595 or David Wright, 810-229-1685 for dates and locations.

The Executive Committee meets the last Wednesday of the month. Call Rick Pearssall, 810-227-6298.

HVG
Huron Valley Group
The General Meetings of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club are held 7:30pm the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Call 734-480-7751 for details.

8/15 General Meeting. Dave Borneman from Ann Arbor Parks and Rec will talk about the history of parks along the Huron river and the function of his organization.

9/19/ Annual Newcomers Welcome Meeting. Come learn about the local Sierra Club's range of programs and activities and meet others who share your interest in the environment and outdoor recreation.

10/17 General Meeting. Speaker to be announced.

KVG
Kalamazoo Valley Group
General membership meetings are usually held 7:30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Township Campus, Room 4370. The Executive Committee meets 7:30pm the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome. Call Verne and Cindy Mills, 616-344-4279.

NG
Nepessing Group
Meetings are held 6:30pm the 2nd Wednesday each month at Mott Community College in the “New Students” Prahl Building, Genesee Room, 1401 East Court Street in Flint. These meetings are free and refreshments are available. Non-members are welcome, and parking is free of charge.

Outings Committee. Contact Phil
continued on next page


**GROUP MEETINGS & PROGRAMS**
continued from page 16

Crookshank if you are interested in planning or leading outings, 313-562-1873.

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

9/9 (Sat) Outings Planning Meeting. If you are interested in leading an outing, come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Bring a dish to pass. Non-committee members are welcome. Meet 6pm at Sam Hayne's house at for a potluck supper and then plan winter and early spring outings. 868 East Harwood, Madison Heights, 1 block south of Lincoln (10-1/2 Mile), 3 blocks east of John R. Enter at Tawas and head east. House is on the south side. 810-547-7516.

**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 the 1st Wednesday of the month from September-May at the Walker Cisler Center on the Lake Superior State University campus. Call Floyd Byerly, 906-632-0218.

**TVG**
Thumb Valley Group
No group meetings are planned at this time. See Outings, page 18, for group activities. Call group chairs Craig and Janis Kendzierski, 517-631-5170, for updated information, participating on the leadership team, or leading an outing.

**TG**
Traverse Group
No general membership meetings or programs are scheduled at this time. See Outings, page 18, for 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, 517-484-2372.

**WMG**
West Michigan Group
Meetings are held 7:30pm the 2nd Thursday of each month at Kent Community Hospital meeting room. Everyone welcome! Call Marty Lore, 517-682-1316.

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**TAKing ACTION:**

**YOUR WORDS COUNT!**

Get your free copy of “A Citizen’s Guide To State Government” to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Chuck Perricone at (517) 373-1774, mention that you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask him to send you a copy!

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1414

White House Fax Line: (202) 456-2461
White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1111
White House email: president@whitehouse.gov

**US CONGRESS**

US Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable __________
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

**MICHIGAN**

Governor John Engler
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517) 373-3400

The Honorable __________
Michigan Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS**

Sierra Club National Legislative Hotline: (202) 675-2394

- **ENVIRO-MICH** is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, send email to: majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message body of “subscribe enviro-mich” (leave your signature file off).

- **Sierra Club’s National Web Page** is at: www.sierraclub.org. Check out the daily War On the Environment postings.

- Find our New, Improved Mackinac Chapter Web Page, by designwrench information arts, at: michigan.sierraclub.org

- Get a free subscription to “The Planet” by promising to write at least 3 letters a year to your elected officials in support of the environment. Send your name and address to Sierra Club Planet Subscription Request, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.
Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group that is planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map on page 16 to determine a group’s location. Trips begin at the trailhead. Outings are open to everyone.

**AUGUST**

**8/4-6 NG Pictured Rocks Backpacking**. Mosquito Beach/Chapel Beach triangle. 10am. 12 miles. Holly Lubowicki, 810-767-4004.

**8/5 NG (Sat) Flint River Trail Clean-up**. See April 29. Cindy Engelmann, 810-743-0335.

**8/5 HVG Bishop Lake Hike & Swim**. Come enjoy the summer temperatures in the Brighton Recreation Area. Bring a snack & swimsuit. Meet 10am at City Hall Parking Lot on the corner of 5th & Huron. Call 734-994-7030.

**8/6 SEMG Mini-Potowatami Hike**. If the 14- or 17-mile version of this hilly, wooded trail is not your cup of tea, try this abbreviated, 5-mile version that will circle Crooked Lake. Meet 9am in Livonia between Wal Mart & Oil Dispatch (near J effries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96 (J effries Fwy) or 9:45am at the Silver Lake parking lot. Bring water & trail snacks; restaurant stop after. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.


**8/10-13 CUP Backpack Pictured Rocks**. A scenic, easy backpacking trip suitable for beginners. Short backpacking segments of up to 7 miles per day, three unique backcountry campsites. View several waterfalls, caves, coves, arches, big cliffs, & sandy beaches. Swimming, wildlife, & good company make this a fun outing. Group gear & food provided; personal backpacking gear available with advance request. Pre-registration required with a $65 fee. Group size is limited, so sign up early. Contact: trailbos@bresnanlink.net, or 906-228-6744.

**8/11 HVG Friday Night Hike at Gallup Park**. Meet 6:30pm at the main Gallup Park bridge. Call 734-429-0671.


**8/13 SEMG Island Lake Canoe**. Spend a day on the Upper Huron river in Island Lake State Park with Sierra friends. We will have a leisurely 4-hour float, divided by lunch at a shelter. Dress for the weather, bring a river lunch & clothes in a dry bag. Send rental cost of $16 to Lee Becker, 32856 Harmon Dr, Roseville, MI 48066 by 8/6. We will meet 10am in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rd. Lee Becker, 810-294-7789.


**8/19 NG (Sat) Otter Lake Hike**. 6pm. 5 easy miles. From the corner of M-57 & M-15 in Otisville, go north on M-15 2.8 miles to Willard Rd. Go east 2.6 miles. Left at fork 0.1 mile to trailhead parking lot on left. Restaurant stop. Leroy Bressler, 517-871-4948.

**8/19 HVG Portage Lake to Delhi Rapids Canoe Outing**. Enjoy summer on the lake. Bring a snack. Dress for the outdoor weather. Meet 6pm. Limit 10 people. 8:30am departure. Call 734-426-5737.


**8/25-27 HVG Wilderness State Park Service Trip**. Explore the North Country Trail & State Park natural features. Free camping. We’ll perform some trail maintenance work. Call 734-971-9013.

**8/25-27 Chapter Service Trip at Wilderness State Park**. Opportunity to explore the park & work on trail projects. The North Country Trail goes through this very scenic park. Stay at secluded organization campground on Lake Superior. Food provided at $20. Call Ron Killibrew, 734-429-0671 or Ralph Powell, 734-971-9013.

**8/26 NG (Sat) Seven Lakes Hike**. 10am. 5 miles. See April 8 for directions. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

**8/27 SEMG Maybury State Park Summer Carpooling**. Jim Ledtke, 517-624-9195.
**OUTINGS continued from page 18**

Wildflower Roundup. We'll see how many different kinds we can spot as we roam this lovely gem for 2-3 hours. Meet 9am in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rds, or 10am at the park concession bldg. Eight Mile Rd entrance, just west of Beck Rd (Northville); 5 miles west of I-275. Optional restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 810-735-9313 & Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370.

**SEPTEMBER**

9/2 NG (Sat) Holdridge Lakes Mt Bike Trails Hike. East loop. 10am. 8 moderate miles. See Jan 22 for directions. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Bob Gimie, 810-687-1537.

9/3 SEMG Lower Huron MetroPark Outing. Bike, skate, or hike through the three Lower Huron MetroParks. The paved trail runs 25 scenic miles round-trip from Lower Huron through Willow to Oakwoods & back. Bring bike, skates, shoes, lunch, & beverage. Meet at 9:30am at the Tulip Tree picnic area in Lower Huron MetroPark. Take I-94 west to the 1st exit past I-275 (Haggerty Rd). Left on Haggerty to park entrance. Tulip Tree is 1st picnic area on the right. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

9/8 HVG Friday Night Hike at Gallup Park. Meet 6:30pm at the main Gallup Park bridge. Call 734-429-0671.

9/8-11 NG Two Hearted River Canoe. Base camp Friday night at mouth of Two Hearted River. Two canoe camp starting Saturday 11am. We'll canoe-camp Saturday & Sunday nights. Call Lyn for directions to Rainbow Lodge. Day canoe trip available for those who don't want to canoe-camp. Overnight trip limited to 12 people (6 canoes). Rated moderate. Reservations required. $40 per canoe. Lynn Livingston, 941-269-6645.


9/9-17 CUP Kings Canyon Service Outing. There's room for a couple more people on this exciting trip to the High Sierras. Base camp at 9000ft, work on the famous Bubb's Creek Trail with recreation time to hike part of the Pacific Crest Trail. Group gear provided. Target group size is 8, & there is a $60 fee. This is an advanced outing with leader approval required. Contact: trekobos@bresnanlink.net, or 906-228-6744.

9/10 HVG Park Lyndon Hike. Look for early signs of fall amid the woods in this hilly area of glacial terrain. Meet 1pm at City Hall Parking Lot on the corner of 5th & Huron. Call 734-483-0058.

9/10 SEMG Pointe Pelee, Ontario, Bird Migration Watch. We'll hike in this provincial park, one of the premier birding spots in North America. Bring binoculars to take advantage of this opportunity to see numerous migrating species, including hawks. Trip goes rain or shine. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet 9am in Windsor at the Ontario Information Center on Route 3 (Huron Church Road), 3/4 mile south of the Ambassador Bridge. Bring border-crossing ID. Tom Grieb, 248-349-8782.

9/10 SEMG Seaside Trail Hike. This will be a moderate- to quick-paced hike in this occasionally hilly but scenic area. The 5-mile hike will be punctuated by stops to view plants, birds, & other items of interest, so bring your binoculars. Water, trail snack, & appropriate footwear are encouraged. Dress for the weather. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet at noon in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rds. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.


9/17 SEMG Brighton Recreation Area Hike. This is a moderate- to quick-paced hike in this occasionally hilly but scenic area. The 5-mile hike will be punctuated by stops to view plants, birds, & other items of interest, so bring your binoculars. Water, trail snack, & appropriate footwear are encouraged. Dress for the weather. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet at noon in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rds. Mike Scanlan, 313-884-2214.

9/22-24 NG South Manitou Island Backpacking. 10am. Board the ferry 10am in Leland (NW of Traverse City) on Friday. Backpack this interesting island or day hike from the village campground. No vehicles on island. BYO meals. Reservations. Carpooling encouraged. Fees: $20 for ferry, plus park entrance fee & backcountry permit fee. Ferry reservations: 616-256-9061. Denny Crispell, 517-624-5038.

9/23 HVG 4th Annual Tour De Sprawl. Bike & bus tour beginning & ending at Webster Town Hall. A beautiful trip through 19 miles of scenic rural countryside. Several stops through a subdivision, a working farm, an apple orchard, property proposed for development, & Independence Lake. Free food, live music, & information. Registration 9:30am. Pre-registration for this event is required for bus riders ($7 fee). Call Erica Perry, 734-449-2825 or e-mail TourdeSprawl@umich.edu.

9/24 SEMG Proud Lake State Park Look-&-Hike. See a lake, a bog, a river, a dam, woods, wildflowers, & maybe even some critters. This 1.5- to 2-hour walk will be punctuated by stops as leaders & followers spot items of interest. Meet 11am in the Proud Lake main parking lot (trailhead) east of Wixom Rd between Glengary & Sleeth Rds in Commerce Twp. Ken & Stephanie jacobsen, 248-684-8844.

9/30 NG (Sat) Paint Creek Trail Bike Ride. 11am. 18 easy miles. Trailhead in downtown Lake Orion behind parking lot of LS Family Food on M-24 just south of Atwater St. Trail surface is packed gravel, best suited for fat tires. Restaurant stop in Rochester at halfway point. Colette Mendel, 810-233-7052.

9/30 SEMG Island Lake Canoe Trip. Spend a day on the Upper Huron River in Island Lake State Park. We will have a leisurely 4-hour float divided by lunch at a shelter. Dress for the weather. Bring a river lunch & clothes in a dry bag. Send $17 rental cost by 9/21 to Philip Grookshank, 17916 Colegate, Dearborn Heights, 48125. We'll meet 10am in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rds. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

**OCTOBER**

10/1 SEMG Independence Oaks Hike. This county park has a surprising variety of terrain, making for a beautiful fall outing. We'll hike about 5 miles at a medium to quick pace. Meet in the afternoon in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonald's on Telegraph (east side), north of Square Lake Rd. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

10/7-8 NG Jordan River Pathway Backpacking. 18 miles. Meet 9:30am at Deadman's Hill Rd parking area. M-32 West out of Gaylord to US-131. Turn left (south) to Deadman's Hill Rd, about 0.5 mile. Turn right (west) to the end of road. Don Persson, 810-695-0516.

10/7 SEMG (Sat) SEMG Day Trip New Leader Orientation. You can learn everything you need to know for sharing your favorite outing during this orientation. Instruction, guidelines, & a demo activity. Registration required by 10/4. Trip goes rain or shine. Meet 10:30am at the Kensington MetroPark Nature Center. Bring a bag lunch. Orientation coordinator: Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370.

10/8 SEMG Seven Lakes State Park Day Hike. We'll enjoy catching views of the lakes

see OUTINGS page 20
through the fall colors, as we hike 5 or 6 miles & work up a good appetite for a restaurant stop at the Holly Hotel after. Meet 11am in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonald's on Telegraph (east side), north of Square Lake Rd. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

△ 10/12-15 NG Hiking at Mike Keeler's Cabin Near Manistee. Stay in cabin or camp in yard. Day hiking. BYO food & plan to do restaurants. Mike Keeler, 810-767-9904.

10/14 NG (Sat) North Holly Moonlight Hike. 6pm. 6 miles. Meet in parking lot behind Groveland Twp Hall (See Feb 5) Bring flashlight. Restaurant stop after. Meet at noon in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rds. Pat & Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.

10/14 SEMG (Sat) Bald Mountain North Hike. We'll do a 5-mile moderate-paced hike. The air will be cool, so it promises to be a great day to see some intense reds & yellows set against light green. Wear lug-soled shoes for the muddy spots & dress in layers. Restaurant stop after. Meet at noon in Southfield for the muddy spots & dress in layers. Restau-rant stop after. Meet at City Hall parking lot on the corner of 5th & Huron at 1pm. Call 734-429-0671.

10/12-15 NG Hiking at Mike Keeler's Cabin Near Manistee. Stay in cabin or camp in yard. Day hiking. BYO food & plan to do restaurants. Mike Keeler, 810-767-9904.

10/22 HVG Bird Hills Hike. Come enjoy the fall colors for approximately 4 miles within this local park. Meet at City Hall parking lot on the corner of 5th & Huron at 1pm. Call 734-429-0671.


10/22 SEMG Waterloo Rec Area Hike & Crane Watch. We'll have a brisk 6-mile hike through Waterloo hills, then drive to nearby Haenel-Audubon Sanctuary to watch sandhill cranes fly in to roost at sunset. Bring trail snacks, binoculars, & warm layers for stationary birdwatching after the hike. Meet at noon in Livonia between Walmart & Oil Dispatch (near j effries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96 (j effries Fwy). Restaurant stop after. Return 7pm. J ohn Herrgott, 810-735-9313.

10/28 SEMG (Sat) Potowatami Trail Hike. A fast-paced, hilly, 14-mile hike on the most beautiful trail in SE Michigan. This is an all-day trip; we usually hike about 3 miles per hour. Wear sturdy shoes & dress for the weather. Trip goes rain or shine. Bring lunch & drinks for entire day. Meet 8:30am in the WalMart parking lot (near j effries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96 (j effries Fwy) in Livonia. Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.


10/15 HVG Crooked Trail Hike. Hike over glacial terrain & enjoy the fall temperatures & colors. Meet 1pm at City Hall Parking Lot. Call 313-295-6321.


10/21 SEMG (Sat) Green Lake Overnight Campout. A simple overnighter in this rustic camp north of Chelsea followed by the Waterloo hike on Sunday. Arrive Friday or Saturday, set up, & do local hiking & supper cookout. We'll break camp Sunday after breakfast & drive 10 miles to the hike trailhead. $15 fee includes camping & 2 meals. Reserve a spot by 10/16. Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or J ohn Herrgott, 810-735-9313.

11/25 NG (Sat) For-Mar Nature Preserve Hike. We'll walk off all that turkey in this explorer hike, going west from Wixom Road. Be prepared for contingencies: snacks, water, layered clothing, suitable footwear. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet 11am in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rds. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

OUTINGS

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continued on next page
OUTINGS
continued from page 20


11/26 SEMG Jonathon Woods Nature Preserve. We’ll hike 5 moderately-paced miles in an area SEMG has never visited. We will see lakes, hills, woods, & meadows. Trip goes rain or shine. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet at noon in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonald’s on Telegraph (east side), north of Square Lake Rd. John Kalam, 248-681-9160.

DECEMBER

12/2 NG (Sat) Huron River Bike Trail Hike. Ann Arbor. 2pm. 7-8 easy miles. Nature area along trail. Hike, then go to a restaurant before visiting Domino Farms for Christmas light show. Fee: donation. Carpool from Fenton K-Mart parking lot, southeast corner, at 1pm. Sue Morris, 810-233-6569 or 810-232-3532.

12/3 SEMG Fairlane Estate Walk & Contra Dance. Come & hike in this hidden Dearborn wilderness, then kick up your heels at Lovett Hall for a contra dance. Dress for the weather as trails may be wet. Bring comfortable dancing shoes. Dance admission: $6. Bring a bag lunch. Meet 10am near the Henry For Museum (1max theatre entrance) at Greenfield Village, then carpool to the Ford Estate. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

12/9 NG (Sat) Murphy Lake hike. 10am. 6.5 strenuous miles. See Jan 15. Restaurant stop. Sue Morris, 810-233-6569 or 810-232-3532.

12/10 SEMG Indian Springs Metro Park Hike. Enjoy our mild winter with a 5-6 mile hike over meadow & woods. Moderate pace with stops for flora, fauna, & curiosities. Call if weather is doubtful. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet at noon in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonald’s on Telegraph (east side), north of Square Lake Rd. J anne Spatz, 248-932-5370.

12/16 NG (Sat) Annual Sierra Club Christmas Potluck. Ligon Outdoor Center, 5213 E Farrand Rd, Clio. Noon to 6pm. Takes the place of the December meeting. Denny Crispell, 517-624-5038.

12/17 SEMG Stoney Creek Nature Center Stroll. Avoid the mall crowds, save money! Enjoy a slow to moderate walk, renewing your spirit while looking for nature’s creatures on wooded trails. Call if weather is doubtful. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet at noon in Sterling Heights at Metro Parkway (16 Mile Rd) & Van Dyke (SE corner) in the SMART parking lot between the banks. Lee Becker, 810-294-7789.

12/23 NG (Sat) Mott Lake to Richfield Park Hike. 10am. 7 moderate miles. Meet at Genesee County Parks & Rec office at 5045 E Stanley Rd, Flint (corner of Genesee Rd). Restaurant stop. Cindy Engelmann, 810-743-0335.

12/30 NG (Sat) Seven Lakes Hike. 10am. 5 moderate miles. See April 8 for directions. State Park Vehicle Permit required. Restaurant stop. Sue Morris, 810-233-6569 or 810-232-3532.

JANUARY

1/1/01 SEMG (Mon) New Year's Day Potluck & Hike. Greet the new year with SEMG members & friends at the leaders’ house. Meet 10:30am in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & Twelve Mile Rd, for carpooling to the Howell area (maps will be provided). Bring a dish to share at the noon potluck; our hosts will provide turkey & soft drinks. After dinner, we’ll head to Kensington MetroPark for the 1st 4-mile hike of the year & then return to Tel-Twelve. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

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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!

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NettieBay Lodge
ELECTIONS 2000:
WILL MICHIGAN BE GREENER IN 2001?

WHO WE ELECT COUNTS!
The representatives we elect will make decisions on cutting or protecting Michigan’s native forests, cleaning up sewage overflows or delaying action, controlling factory farms or permitting them to operate without standards, providing adequate funding for State Forest conservation officers and neglected facilities or pushing commercialization and privatization, and so on.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
First, find out about your candidates. Who is running to represent you in the city council, township board, or Michigan House? Now is the time to find out if your candidate really cares about the environment.

THE CANDIDATES WANT TO HEAR FROM THE GRASSROOTS
Show the candidates that the Grassroots (that’s us) care. There are candidate forums, radio talk shows, question-and-answer sessions after speeches, and perhaps most influential at the local level — the almighty Letter to the Editor. What are the two most important environmental issues in your community (sewage overflow, polluted beaches, urban sprawl)? Ask about your issues — this gives you the important information you need to make decisions on how to vote. Even more important, it lets candidates know this is an important issue in your district right now.

YOU CAN BE A VOLUNTEER: JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB POLITICAL PROGRAM
Our goal is to support candidates for public office who are most likely to vote for the environment. We meet and review candidates’ records: How have they voted? What have they done about environmental issues while in office? Are constituents able to find out about issues from their representatives? Have candidates co-sponsored good legislation on clean water or protection of public land? Do they have organized campaigns that may be successful? We need enough information to consider a candidate for endorsement. We particularly look for “action,” since action speaks louder than words. Through a careful process we make endorsements — generally for higher offices such as US and state-level Congress or Senate seats, as these candidates most often have a track record. We look over all vote records and may sponsor forums. We help with news releases, letters-to-the-editor, mailings, media events, meet-the-candidate events, and door-to-door literature on campaigns. We try to publicize candidates’ good environmental records to help get out the environmental vote. We also let our members and the public know when a legislator has a terrible record (see It’s Almost Election Time, page 2)! You can be a part of this, either for an hour or two or as a regular member of a committee working on elections. We also have members working on Campaign Finance Reform issues.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
The Sierra Club in Michigan is over 17,000 members and counting! We have the votes to make the difference in races that are won or lost by less than one or two percentage points — many by only a few hundred votes. We have a voice to influence thousands more to vote for the environment.

WHERE AND WHO: GROUP POLITICAL CHAIRS WELCOME YOUR HELP
CG: Sue Kelly, 810-227-9563 or dsok1@ismi.net
HVG: Julie Griess, 734-434-1569 or jgriess@provide.net
KVG: Don Brown, 616-344-3738 or mbrown@kalnet.net
CMG: Tom Nelson, 517-336-9707 or tmnelson@mphi.org
SEMG: Tim Killeen, 313-526-4052 or timk@bikerider.com
WMG: Syed Naqvi, 616-363-2169 or syedn@ameritech.net

See Group Meetings & Programs, page 16, to determine a group’s location. For other areas or general information call our chapter office in Lansing, 517-484-2372, or Gwen Nystuen, Chapter Political Committee Chair, 734-665-7632. Oh yes, one last thing: VOTE!

MACKINAC CHAPTER LAUNCHES “ONE CLUB” PROGRAM TO UNITE OUTINGS AND CONSERVATION
BY JUDY THOMPSON
Chair, Conservation Committee

The Sierra Club has a long tradition of organizing outings to accomplish conservation goals. However, in recent years, outings and conservation programs have become increasingly separate, independent tracks in the Club, with little interaction between leaders. Many conservation activists lament that they became acquainted with the Club through pleasant outings, but quickly became absorbed in conservation action and rarely “get out into nature” anymore. Outings leaders may wish to participate in conservation action without having to give up their real love of leading outings. The “One Club” concept proposes that stronger ties between outings and conservation leaders, along with a more organized program of conservation-oriented outings, will strengthen the Club at every level. A successful pilot project was initiated in the San Diego chapter in 1997, and the Sierra Club has decided to fund more pilot projects across the country.

At the end of March, the Mackinac chapter was notified that our application for a One Club grant was one of a small number that had been approved. One of the reasons our application was successful is that our chapter can already boast many One Club-type activities by local leaders across the state — including water monitoring outings, Tours de Sprawl, “Days in the Woods,” threatened Wetlands excursions, etc. The one-year grant will help us prepare support materials and has allowed us to hire a part-time facilitator, Elaine Goodspeed of the Western Michigan Group. With her long history of outings leadership and conservation involvement, she was ideal for the position.

A June 11 workshop, mentored by Camille Armstrong from the San Diego Chapter, was held to develop a Work Plan for the grant. Along with Elaine, a preliminary steering committee attended the workshop, including chapter outings chair Ralph Powell, chapter conservation chair Judy Thompson, Southeast Michigan Group conservation co-chair Bob Duda, and Huron Valley Group

continued on next page
not been possible in compartment reviews. Compartment reviews have never included maps or stand lists of the DNR’s proposed old growth and virtually every request for designation of old growth stands during compartment reviews have been denied. Appeals of decisions denying old growth requests have been denied as well — based upon the DNR’s closed, internal old growth process, so appellants never see documentation of the basis of denial.

At the July NRC meeting, however, a mid-September timetable was set for release of the DNR Old Growth Committee report setting criteria for designating old growth and seeking public input on the process. Forest Management Division Chief Ed Hagen set an ambitious goal for completing dedication of the old growth system in two years.

NRC discussion in July was hampered by lack of information, including Commissioners not having copies of the 1994 NRC old growth policy. However, some Commission members viewed this issue as distracting from other issues they consider more central to their mission for forest management, such as timber production and recreation.

**ONE CLUB PROGRAM**

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member Ron Killebrew.

The Work Plan is still being revised, but provides for 1) gathering existing resources on the One Club activities of individual groups for state-wide dissemination; 2) meeting with interested local group leaders to brainstorm ideas for enhancing conservation outings; 3) a state-wide gathering of outings and conservation leaders to strengthen ties and exchange ideas; 4) development of a fundraising plan to continue the program; and 5) an ultimate goal of recruiting more outings and conservation leaders.

Additional steering committee members from both outings and conservation are being sought. Input and ideas for the program are also welcome. A tentative date of October 1 has been set for the next steering committee meeting. To become involved, or to pass along ideas, contact Elaine Goodspeed at 616-364-4704.

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**SIERRA CLUB MACKINAC CHAPTER DIRECTORY**

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PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80321-2968

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Sue Kelly, Vice Chair ................................ 810-227-9563
Helena LeBlanc, Treasurer ......................... 517-655-6454
Mike Johnson, 4th Officer ......................... 616-948-8840
Fred Townsend, 5th Officer ....................... 248-627-3587

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(Terms expire January 2001)
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Mike Keeler.......................................... 810-767-9904
 photographers

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Bonnie Malicka................................. 517-381-8692
Environmental Education: Open
Fall Retreat
Dave and Nancy Christiansen .................... 616-842-6019
Martie Hoadley.................................... 517-336-0335
Mark and Julie Jancekko......................... 517-539-1676
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Gerry Smer...................................... 734-453-4443
Information Systems
Alex Sagady......................................... 517-332-6971
Inner City Outings
West Michigan: John Pulver.................... 616-453-2480
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Legal: Open
The Mackinac Newsletter + Website
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Gwen Nystuen..................................... 734-665-7632
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Mike Keeler........................................ 810-767-9904
Sexual Harassment Investigation
Lydia Fischer ...................................... 313-863-8392
Sierra Club Council Delegate
Mike Keeler........................................ 810-767-9904
Sierra Club Delegate to MRCC
Sarah Howerzly.................................... 616-361-5943

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**NEXT DEADLINE:**

OCTOBER 8

Send your Group Meetings and Outings to:
Bob Voiz, Mackinac Calendar Editor
414 Sleepy Hollow Dr.
Flushing, MI 48433
hvolz@gnfn.org
Submit articles & photos to:
Davina Pallone
756 East 800 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
801-961-9939
davina@designwrench.com
NEW CHAPTER OFFICE AT
109 EAST GRAND RIVER AVENUE, LANSING

The Mackinac Chapter moved into Lansing’s Old Town on June 2. The new location provides the chapter with some great benefits and opportunities. In addition to almost doubling our space and offering a pleasant storefront that draws walk-in visitors, we have an opportunity to be part of an exciting urban revitalization instead of conceding to urban sprawl.

Lansing’s Old Town, historically known as North Lansing, has had a long and interesting history. Today, a group called the Old Town Mainstreet Association is working to restore and revitalize the area while preserving the architectural style of the original buildings. This group, with the support of both private and public funding, hopes to see a continued rebirth. Organizations like ours, small businesses, and people interested in modern loft apartments above many of the storefronts are starting to move back into the neighborhood.

Our Italianate-style building was built in 1905, making it the third oldest building on the block. It has served as a millinery and dressmaking shop, a plumbing store, a printing company, and a fruit and grocery store. Stop by and visit us when you are in the neighborhood!

Visit us online at michigan.sierraclub.org!

WHAT DOES THE SIERRA CLUB WORK TO DO?
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.