Michigan Water
Protect It For Life

Inside:
• Water is for Fighting
• Annex 2001 Agreement
• Water Laws
• Pledging to Protect Michigan's Water

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.
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Water is for Fighting

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ARTICLES & PHOTOS: ERIC LAGERGREN 517-896-5321, eric.lagergren@michigan.sierraclub.org or 818 Dwight St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198
MEETINGS & OUTINGS: CHERYL MCCONNELL 517-552-1464 or mcconnell_cheryl@yahoo.com
Water is for Fighting
YOUR DAYS OF TAKING WATER FOR GRANTED ARE OVER
by Sue Kelly

The West has known for a long time something that many Michiganders are just now realizing: “Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting.” We’ve always thought, mistakenly, that there is an unlimited supply of Michigan water. (And, unfortunately, many decisionmakers in our state still think this way.) Globally almost two billion people lack access to fresh water; by 2025 the demand for fresh water will be 56% beyond the water supply currently available.

The time to act to protect Great Lakes water is long past due.

Who gets to use or remove Great Lakes water? Who controls the rules and regulations? Several extensive efforts have been made to address these questions. The final decisions have yet to be made on the details, but the Great Lakes Charter Annex and a package of bills in the Michigan Legislature can still use your support. If you care about the future of the water you see as you look about you, about the water you swim in, cook with, and, yes, drink, then don’t put this issue of The Mackinac down until you’ve made a decision to do something to help.

Do you want to be lumped in with the generation that let them sell our Great Lakes? If you haven’t contacted your state legislators and Governor Granholm, you could find yourself saying, “I should have done something when I had the chance.” Now’s the time. This is your chance. Make your voice heard!

Sue Kelly lives in Brighton with her husband Mike and two dogs, Maggie and Oscar. She can be reached at sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org.
Great Lakes Basin water use, a hot topic of late, has received even more attention with the December release of the Annex 2001 documents. The documents set a framework for how to deal with water at the regional level. Michigan, at the heart of the discussions and negotiations, is one of only a few states in the basin working on new, state-level laws to govern the use of water.

We at the Sierra Club know that the different approaches for water management can be confusing, but it is essential that the public participate in this important process. This issue of The Mackinac covers several new aspects of water use management and offers suggestions for how you can help.

**Fast Facts**
- The Great Lakes Compact and Annex Agreement are the result of four years of work by the Great Lakes governors and interest groups representing industry, agriculture and the environment.
- They comprise documents that set a regulatory floor and allow each state to adopt more protective requirements.
- They establish standards to govern the Great Lakes governors’ approval or veto over any diversions of water from the Great Lakes Basin.
- For the first time, they establish a uniform standard to apply to in-basin uses of water, but allow each jurisdiction to set the withdrawal level at which this standard will apply.

**More information**
- Great Lakes Charter: cglg.org/pub/charter
- Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001: michigan.gov/deq
- International Joint Commission: www.ijc.org

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**Sierra Club Applauds Annex Agreement**

CALLS ON STATES TO ADOPT STRONGER LAWS

The Great Lakes Compact, signed in December 2005, is a critical step toward responsible management of the Great Lakes. “We applaud the Great Lakes governors and the premiers of Ontario and Quebec for their leadership in protecting the Great Lakes,” says Emily Green, director of Sierra Club’s Great Lakes Program. “Their commitment has given us the opportunity to ensure our Great Lakes will not be sold to the highest bidder.”

Green hopes that state legislatures will go one step further. States should adopt strong laws to implement the compact, thus protecting the Lakes for the future. Sierra Club is urging each state to pass stronger laws in five key areas:

- Require measurable water conservation programs, including water recycling and reuse, prior to any application for a diversion of Great Lakes water.
- Require water conservation measures for all withdrawals of water in amounts at or above 100,000 gallons per day.
- Close and oppose diversion loopholes based on container size.
- Require return of diverted Great Lakes waters, after appropriate treatment, to the point of initial withdrawal.
- Establish set political boundaries for “straddling communities” and communities within “straddling counties” (communities or counties that straddle the Great Lakes Basin) that seek to divert water as of the date of the law’s enactment.

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**GOVERNORS & CANADIAN PREMIERS STRENGTHEN GREAT LAKES CHARTER**

**Water Laws Need Your Input**

MICHIGAN AT HEART OF NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT WATER USE

by Rita Jack

Water management can be confusing, but it is essential that the public participate in this important process.
Michigan’s Public Trust Doctrine
by Rita Jack, with gratitude to Jim Olson of Olson, Bzdoc, and Howard

The concept of public trust doctrine comes from ancient common law that states that the air, water, and earth are held in common. The United States held the waters of navigable rivers and lakes and the soil under them in trust for the people, and this trust passed to a state when it was granted statehood. Accordingly, the bottomlands of the Great Lakes “are held in trust by the State of Michigan for use and enjoyment by its citizens....” So it says on the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality’s website:

The State, as the owner and trustee, has a perpetual responsibility to the public to manage these bottomlands and waters for the prevention of pollution, for the protection of the natural resources and to maintain the public’s rights of hunting, fishing, navigation, commerce, etc. The State of Michigan’s authority to protect the public’s interest in the bottomlands of the Great Lakes is based on both ownership and state regulation. The Public Trust Doctrine gives a state authority to manage and to protect the public’s fundamental rights to use the property.

James Olson, lead attorney for the Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, stated in his June 16, 2004 letter to Governor Granholm that a private diversion of water out of a watershed for the purpose of sale elsewhere was prohibited under Michigan common law where it would diminish the flow or level of a lake or stream. This would mean that any standard that was more liberal or relaxed would undermine the property rights of riparians and citizens under the public trust doctrine from the headwaters of streams down to and including the Great Lakes.

“ ‘The bottomlands of the Great Lakes are held in trust by the State of Michigan for use and enjoyment by its citizens...’”
– MDEQ website

Resources
• University of Toledo Law School: law.utoledo.edu/LJGL/public_trust_doctrine.htm
• Olson, Bzdoc & Howard: envlaw.com
• Michigan Department of Natural Resources: michigan.gov/dnr (search “Value to Michigan”)
• Michigan Department of Environmental Quality: michigan.gov/deq (search “bottomland conveyances”)

Welcome to the MICHIGAN Chapter!

Michigan Sierra Club members have voted overwhelmingly to change the name of the Mackinac Chapter to the Michigan Chapter. We will continue to call the newsletter The Mackinac as a tie to the first 38 years of Michigan Sierra Club history.

Trumpeter swans at the Seney Wildlife Refuge in Schoolcraft County, MI.
Citizens & Democracy

Capitol Watch
by Gayle Miller

Glancing Backward, Charging Forward
Last year was exciting for the Sierra Club’s top legislative priority: putting a stop to dangerous pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). The Sierra Club played key roles in the development of an excellent package of bills to address the problem, and hundreds of citizen lobbyists pushed hard for the bills’ introduction. Prior to introduction, however, House leadership disappointed the Sierra Club by not releasing the bills. Thus, the pollution continues unabated.

The Sierra Club remains undaunted and will move forward aggressively with a campaign to raise public awareness about CAFO pollution and put ever-increasing pressure on the Legislature.

Water, Water, Water!
In the last weeks of the 2005 legislative session, environmental groups worked hard to improve a package of water withdrawal bills introduced by Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck). As originally drafted, the bills would have actually weakened existing protections against unwise water withdrawals from the Great Lakes, inland lakes and streams, and groundwater. Amendments added in committee, however, strengthened the bills so that the environmental community, including the Sierra Club, supported their moving out of the Senate and on to the House.

There is still much to be done to strengthen the bills. Amendments will be sought in the House to require water conservation; prevent out-of-basin diversions of Great Lakes water; and protect water dependent resources on private property (such as ponds and wetlands) from being damaged by excessive water withdrawals. The greatlakesgreatmichigan.org website provides details on the progress of this collaborative campaign.

The Next Big Thing: Clean, Sustainable Energy
In 2006 the Sierra Club will step up its efforts to push the legislature to establish clean, sustainable energy in Michigan. The state is already seriously talking about agricultural based energy technologies, including ethanol and biodiesel. The Sierra Club will be working hard to make sure that the state’s investments result in clean, sustainable energy solutions, and not “sound good, do nothing” corporate giveaways. Members can look forward to workshops and other events designed to increase our knowledge of clean energy issues and push for real solutions.

WANT MONTHLY INFO ON HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Subscribe to The Watchdog!
UPDATES DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX

The Michigan Sierra Club Legislative Program now publishes a monthly e-newsletter. This is our way to keep you informed about important legislative initiatives that affect the environment. Sierra Club members and citizen lobbyists receive short, educational articles as well as opportunities for action.

To become a Citizen Watchdog, sign up for the Mackinac Action Network at http://mackinac.sierraclubaction.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Play Your Part in the Democratic Process

SPRING LOBBY DAY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26

The Sierra Club’s Spring Lobby Day will take place on April 26. Last fall over 100 citizen lobbyists descended upon the Capitol to talk to lawmakers about factory farms and water withdrawal legislation. Lobby Day is a great opportunity to learn from experienced citizen lobbyists while playing an important role in democracy. Join us this year and we guarantee that you’ll learn, have fun and feel great for having put your values to work for the environment.

For more information on any of the Sierra Club’s legislative programs, contact Gayle Miller at 517-484-2372 or gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

Gayle Miller, the Michigan Chapter’s Conservation Program Coordinator, can be reached at 517-484-2372 or gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.
### EnviRUNment Schedule
- 9:00 a.m.: Registration
- 10:00 a.m.: Walk
- 10:15 a.m.: Run
- Awards and picnic to follow

### Location
Kensington Metro Park, East Boat Launch

### Cost
- $18 before April 14 (t-shirt included)
- $25 after April 14 (t-shirt on first-come basis)

Parks admission included. U.S. funds only. NO REFUNDS. Please do not send cash by mail.

Checks, payable to Sierra Club, must be received no later than April 10 at:
Sierra Club EnviRUNment
100 N Crooks, Suite 105
Clawson, MI 48017

### More information
- Packet pick-up on race day only
- www.sierraclub.org/community/oakland/run
- Phone: 248-435-5277

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### 2ND ANNUAL ENVIRUNMENT REGISTRATION FORM

**Name:**

**Address:**

**State:**

**ZIP:**

**Phone:**

**Date of birth:**

**Race day age:**

**Email:**

**Gender:**

- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female

**T-shirt size:**

- [ ] Small
- [ ] Medium
- [ ] Large
- [ ] X Large

**Run/Walk:**

- [ ] 4-Mile Run
- [ ] 2-Mile Walk

- [ ] I would like to help in the cleanup effort following the run event.

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**Signature (of guardian if under 18 years)**

*All participants will be required to sign a form the day of the event releasing the Sierra Club from liability.*
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU’RE DIVING INTO?

Dangerous Bacteria Contaminate Michigan’s Water

STUDY SHOWS CAFO WATER PERMIT FAILS TO PREVENT POLLUTION

by Gayle Miller

M

ichigan’s water permit for concen-
trated animal feeding operations
(CAFOs) is allowing dangerous levels of
bacteria to contaminate Michigan’s lakes
and streams. That is the conclusion of
a Sierra Club analysis of early, raw data
from a state-sponsored study to test the
effectiveness of the permit. Despite strong
evidence of a serious public health threat
and violation of the law, four months after
receiving the data the Michigan Depart-
ment of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
had taken no enforcement action against
the CAFO studied and has yet to com-
plete its analysis.

“The early data support Sierra Club’s
findings: Michigan CAFO permits let
deadly waste contaminate the lakes and
streams we swim in, fish in and use for
drinking water,” said state director Anne
Woiwode. “Unless the CAFO industry
can prove they will operate in compliance
with our water pollution laws, they need
to be shut down and no new or expanded
CAFOs should be built in Michigan.”

More than 90% of water samples col-
lected by MDEQ consultants from two
streams around the Hartford Dairy CAFO
during a 12-week period last summer ex-
ceeded Michigan’s standards for full body
contact for E. coli bacteria. The worst
samples were well above 1000 times the
state standards. Sierra Club obtained the
water sampling data through a Freedom
of Information Act request after represen-
tatives for the Van Buren County CAFO
publicly criticized the state over the study,
claiming that no violations were found. A
summary and analysis of the data is on the
Michigan Chapter webpage.

The Hartford CAFO was issued an
individual water quality permit in June
2004, despite overwhelming opposition
from local residents and environmental
organizations. The MDEQ study is a
“comprehensive water quality monitoring
project to help evaluate the effectiveness”
of water quality permits for CAFOs in
Michigan. In addition to E. coli, the wa-
ter samples were tested for phosphorous,
ammonia, nitrate/nitrites, and suspended
solids, which Sierra Club did not analyze.
The Hartford CAFO is the first of at least
two CAFOs to be studied.

Fall sunrise burns off the morning mist on a
pond in Wexford County, MI.

LIVING A NIGHTMARE: ANIMAL FACTORIES IN MICHIGAN

Hudson-Area CAFO Victims Tell Story in Sierra Club Film

J

ohn and Peggy Zachel had lived on their family farm in

Lenawee County for fifty years before 8,000 hogs moved in

across the street. The story of the Zachels and hundreds of rural

residents whose lives have been changed by concentrated animal

feeding operations (CAFOs) is told in “Living a Nightmare:

Animal Factories in Michigan,” a video recently released by the

Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Twelve animal factories in and around Hudson, Michigan,
pollute water supplies, destroy rural economies and make people
sick. “Living a Nightmare” provides Michigan’s first look at the
real impact of CAFOs on the health and well-being of our state’s
family farmers and their neighbors.

We want to extend thanks to Future Media Corporation
(FMC) of Okemos, Michigan, for their major contribution to
the Sierra Club’s fight against polluting CAFOs. Future Media
has won numerous awards for their world-class production of
television, video and media products (futuremediafmc.com).
President of Future Media Corporation Bob Bishop, along with
his staff, delivered the powerful 22-minute documentary-style
program, which will be used to educate the public and elected
officials throughout Michigan. “Many of us grew up in rural
Michigan and would not stand for that kind of degrading treat-
ment of our neighbors—or of the watersheds,” says Bishop.

“Lacking the power of law, I decided to make the video because
it’s the right thing to do.” Gayle Miller, legislative director for the
Michigan Chapter, produced the film.

If you have an audience that would benefit from viewing the
video, please contact the Chapter office.
Sierra Club Challenge to CAFO Permit in Court February 15
WATER SENTINEL LYNN HENNING DOCUMENTS POLLUTION OR DESIGN FLAWS IN OVER 100 MICHIGAN INDUSTRIAL LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

Protecting Michigan’s waters from industrial livestock waste takes a step forward on February 15. That’s when Sierra Club gets its day in court.

Attorney Scott Jerger will argue that concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) asking for water permits in Michigan must disclose their plans to both state officials and the public before any permit is considered or approved. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality’s CAFO-permitting program violates the Clean Water Act by keeping critical information about design and function of proposed or existing CAFOs out of the public eye until a permit is issued.

Michigan CAFO Water Sentinel Lynn Henning has documented pollution or design flaws from more than 100 of Michigan’s industrial livestock operations, which adequate review and consideration of public input could have prevented. Also, a study of permit effectiveness at the Hartford Dairy CAFO (see facing page) supports Sierra Club’s claim. The case is in Judge Beverly Nettles-Nickerson’s court in Ingham County.

YOUR WATER, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
Last Year’s Water Work Continues
2006 SHAPING UP TO BE A BUSY YEAR FOR WATER SENTINELS
by Rita Jack

Water Sentinels believe it is our responsibility to watch our waters, to guard them from harm and to report pollution when we find it. This year more than ever we need you to volunteer your time and energy.

A typical monitoring day begins early, when we meet to go over the day’s objectives, review maps and discuss pressures facing the river. Experts provide you with training for the equipment and data forms, and then stream leaders are assigned for each site. When teams return, we discuss our findings and share pizza while we finish paperwork. We often wrap up the outing early to mid-afternoon.

Being a Water Sentinel is fun and interesting. We gather necessary information about the waters we’re watching. During 2005 the Sentinel volunteers gathered stream health information and performed habitat assessments at 34 sites on six rivers. They cleaned up dozens of sites at the first Pine River Trash Cleanup. In Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, Sentinels tested water for dissolved oxygen, pH, and measured specific conductivity. The Sierra Club’s CAFO Water Sentinel, Lynn Henning, investigated over 100 Michigan factory farms, and volunteers and staff collected dozens of water samples to test for fecal bacteria and E. coli. The Michigan Chapter used that information to describe pollution patterns associated with factory farming in the report “Michigan’s Dirty Rural Secret” (see Chapter website). Part two of this report is in production now.

Come join us!
You can find locations and tentative monitoring times below. Contact me, Rita Jack, if you want to help. Dates should be confirmed soon, and we’ll schedule workshops for monitoring bacteria. Visit the Chapter website for schedules and information.

Remember, at the end of a Sentinel outing, everyone gets a free t-shirt.

Water Sentinels Schedule for Spring 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine River, Gratiot County</td>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>TBD, early May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine River, Gratiot County</td>
<td>Trash Cleanup</td>
<td>TBD, early June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinnebog River, Huron County</td>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>TBD, May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Menominee River, Menominee Co. (New!)</td>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>TBD, May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon-Trout &amp; Yellow Dog Rivers, &amp; Cedar Creek, Marquette County</td>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Monthly, starting in May</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Great Forests, Natural Heritage**

THANKS TO THOSE DOING THEIR PART IN PROTECTING MICHIGAN’S ENVIRONMENT

SC Members Attend Mining Rules Workshop, Hearings

MANY TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF STRENGTHENING PROPOSED RULES

by Marvin Roberson

The culmination of two years of work drafting a statute and rules to regulate nonferrous metallic minerals mining came in December with hearings on the proposed rules. Hundreds of Club members attended hearings in the Upper Peninsula and Lansing, with many testifying in favor of strengthening those rules over what had been proposed. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) adopted most of the changes, which included stronger isolation of reactive materials from land and water, better analysis of complex interactions of toxic substances, and analysis of potential transportation impacts.

Prior to the hearings, the Sierra Club, along with the Michigan Environmental Council and the National Wildlife Federation, held workshops on the content of the proposed rules, as well as outlining the opportunities for public comment, and how to comment effectively. These workshops were funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

In Marquette, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor, over 100 Club members attended these workshops. One of the attendees was Ann Arbor Mayor John Heiftje, who successfully requested the Ann Arbor City Council pass a resolution supporting our comments on the rules.

The mining rules and statute are the strongest in the nation, in large part due to the fantastic turnout by Sierra Club members.

**Toxic Fish and Unsafe Water?**

**Hunters and Anglers Protect Michigan’s Precious Places**

FIRST-ROUND VICTORY ACHIEVED IN BATTLE TO STOP MASON TRACT DRILLING

More than 1,000 people took action to fight the threat to the Au Sable River and the pristine Mason Tract during last year’s Outdoorama. Sierra Club is happy to report that we’ve won the first round. The court battle is ongoing, however, and proposed oil and gas drilling on Huron Manistee National Forest lands is still a threat.

Sierra Club will continue working with anglers and hunters to protect precious places in Michigan’s wild lands. “Clean Water and Safe Fish” is Sierra Club’s message for thousands of hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts attending this year’s 2006 Outdoorama. Volunteers will talk with these natural allies about our shared fight to protect the Great Lakes, streams and waters throughout Michigan. Airborne mercury, toxic discharges and industrial agriculture are just some of the threats we will cover. Our partnerships often begin with one-on-one conversations, and Michigan United Conservation Clubs’ Outdoorama affords us the opportunity to have those conversations.

Visitors to Michigan’s 2005 Outdoorama learn how they can help protect the Au Sable River from oil and gas drilling.

Join us at Outdoorama 2006, February 22–26!

- Will be held at the new Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue in Novi.
- Find details, including price of tickets, hours and the location of the Sierra Club booth at the Michigan Chapter website.
- Find a place in your schedule for February 24 at 4 p.m. Sierra Club leaders will present a workshop about how partnerships with anglers are helping protect Michigan’s natural heritage.
Burt Barnes, Environmental Hero, Retires
PIONEER IN THE STUDY OF FORESTED SYSTEMS STEPS DOWN
by Marvin Roberson

For the past 50 years Burton V. Barnes has been changing the way science has studied forests. He has also inspired thousands of students, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in academia, nonprofits, and private practice. Last year the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter named an award after him, the Burton V. Barnes Award for Excellence in Academia.

Dr. Barnes began his undergraduate career at the University of Michigan in 1948 and received his PhD in Forest Ecology from the school in 1959. During postdoctoral studies in Germany he began his thinking about what an ecosystem is. Dr. Barnes was one of the primary individuals who recognized the connection between the living and nonliving portions of ecosystems, developing an innovative ecosystem-mapping program. He has published over 75 papers that move these ideas forward, as well as Forest Ecology, a widely used college textbook, and Michigan Trees (with Herb Wagner), the definitive Michigan tree identification book.

When asked to comment about his career, Dr. Barnes had the following to say. “My career in field teaching and research in forest ecology has been and is incredibly exciting and rewarding. I was fortunate early on, while studying forestry in Germany, to discover landscape ecosystems as living segments of Earth space and a simple idea, the ecocentric concept. Finding ways to illustrate, explain and demonstrate this ecosystem approach for conservation and management has shaped my teaching, research and writing—even what I had to unlearn.”

Barnes says that above all he’s “learned the most from Michigan students—undergrads and grads, women and men—who were ready to learn and to share; physically and mentally prepared for rigorous, rain-or-shine labs; and ready to ask questions and speak their minds.”

Dr. Barnes has done more than anyone else to further our understanding of how forested systems work and to educate thousands in that same understanding. He retires this year after an outstanding 50-year career. Dr. Burton V. Barnes, we salute and thank you.

Oil and Gas Drilling
THWARTED, AT LEAST FOR NOW

Judge Rejects Savoy Energy Company’s Argument

Anglers of the Au Sable, Tim Mason and Sierra Club Granted Preliminary Injunction
by Marvin Roberson

Marianne Dugan couldn’t recall a judge granting a preliminary injunction to protect a threatened wild place, without even a hearing. Until now.

Dugan represents the Anglers of the Au Sable, the Sierra Club and Tim Mason in their lawsuit to block oil and gas drilling on National Forest land adjacent to the Mason Tract on the Au Sable River.

Judge David Lawton rejected the Bush administration argument that the Savoy Energy Company would suffer economic harm if it could not move ahead immediately with clearing the site and building a road to it. In his opinion, Judge Lawton cited the conservationists’ experts Dr. Burton V. Barnes and Charles Guenther at length, noting that Dugan and her clients made a strong case that irreparable harm would occur if the proposed site preparation proceeded.

The case now proceeds to full briefing. Arguments are expected later this year.

For more information, contact Marvin Roberson at marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org.
Sierra Student Coalition Protects the Planet
IF YOU’RE A HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE STUDENT, JOIN NOW!
by Melissa Damaschke

The Sierra Student Coalition is the most powerful student-led environmental group in the country. A student-run arm of the Sierra Club, the coalition is a network of high school and college students from around America dedicated to protecting the planet at the local, regional, national, and even international levels.

So how do you start a Sierra Student Coalition in your school? The first thing to do is check out your state’s SSC webpage (ssc.org). Then you should encourage your friends to join. Finally, drop me an email or give me a call. It’s that easy.

What Can You Focus On?
• Re-energize America (incorporate renewable energies on your campus)
• Encourage Victoria’s Secret and others to use recycled paper for their catalogues
• Convince your local coffee shop to buy fair trade coffee
• Start a recycling program
• Incorporate organic food into your cafeteria entrees
• Convince your school to stop using pesticides

Besides Saving the Planet, What Do You Get to Do?
• Host Movie Nights (Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, Affluenza, Fern Gully, A Civil Action, etc.)
• Discuss issues at organized Coffee Nights (such as “Add some justice to your cup: Let’s talk about fair trade coffee”)
• Show off a hybrid vehicle (you could title this event “Saving the World from Under the Hood”)
• Participate in nationwide days of action: Fossil Fool’s Day (April 1), Earth Day (April 22), National Recycles Day (November 15), and so on.
• Host a Recycled Fashion Show
• Put together organic/vegetarian/vegan potlucks or cooking demonstrations
• Table with Sierra Club materials
• Organize a campus beautification day
• Host recycling workshops for other clubs, fraternities, sororities, etc.

Welcome Your New EXCOM

Election Results

The four newly elected or reelected At-Large members of the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee are Michael Sklar, Sue Kelly, Alfred M. Beeton and David Holtz.

Dave Llewellyn, who has served as chapter vice chair this past year, is leaving the Michigan Sierra Club as he moves to Indiana. We will miss his humor and hard work and wish him well.

New Sierra Student Coalition Groups
Congratulations to Wayne State University, Roepner Upper School and DaVinche High School for starting Sierra Student Coalition Groups at their schools.

Crossroads Group Lends Support
Kudos to the Crossroads Group for awarding two $1,000 grants to students at Hamburg Elementary and Hartland Consolidated Schools.
Campaigns Kick Off To Protect Michigan
BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITIES READY FOR 2006
by Leigh Fifelski

The Oakland County Building Environmental Communities (BEC) team will focus on two separate campaigns in 2006. Both will create safe and healthy communities as well as save you money.

Healthy Lawns
In the central eastern portion of Oakland County, activists continue their work to build communities that take an active role in protecting the Great Lakes. They do this by using only phosphorus-free fertilizers and no pesticides on their lawns. Not only does this help protect Michigan’s lakes and streams, as well as the Great Lakes, but it also saves consumers money. Activists also approach their condominium and homeowner’s associations and encourage them to create a rule banning the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers. The BEC team continues to work with local mayors who have already signed onto the Great Lakes Cities Initiative.

Re-Energizing Michigan Cities
In Southeast Oakland County, volunteers have started spreading the word about local leaders around the nation who’ve taken innovative actions to reduce global warming emissions. These leaders are helping reduce taxpayer spending as well as improving the overall health of their community. BEC activists also encourage fellow community members to help re-energize their city. What is a re-energized city? One working toward reducing its global warming carbon dioxide pollution to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. To be listed as one of these re-energized cities, the mayor must sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and then take steps to meet the reduction by 2012.

To learn more, please contact Leigh or Melissa at 248-435-5722. You can also learn more about BEC events at sierraclub.org/community/oakland.
Sierra Club’s Michigan Legacy

HAVE YOU READ THIS ISSUE OF THE MACKINAC? YOU CARE, DON’T YOU?

Join Sierra Club’s Michigan Legacy Council
DO IT TODAY!

Sierra Club’s priorities focus on the legacy that every Michigan child should inherit—water you can drink, air you can breathe, lakes safe for swimming, and communities free from poisonous waste; active participation in a democracy that ensures our elected officials fairly represent their voters, not special interests; and wild places that provide clean rivers, wildlife habitat, and opportunities to fish, hunt, hike, and learn about the natural world.

This is the legacy that you are invited to invest in, to celebrate, as part of Sierra Club’s Michigan Legacy Council. This year we plan to spend more than $500,000 in Michigan. With your help, Sierra Club can keep our Great Lakes healthy, strengthen citizen involvement in democracy and protect Michigan’s wild heritage.

You can join Sierra Club’s Michigan Legacy Council with an annual gift (or multiple gifts throughout the year) at one of these levels:

- Fens & Saplings $500-999
- Streams & White Pines $1,000-2,499
- Rivers & Groves $2,500-4,999
- Great Lakes & Great Forests $5,000+

Your membership in our Michigan Legacy Council will grow and sustain Sierra Club’s strength. You will help prepare Michigan for critical elections in 2006 and 2008 and for our Michigan Chapter’s 40th Anniversary Celebration in 2007. Please invest in our shared legacy today, for our families and our future.

First Great Lakes & Great Forests Donors
KALAMAZOO COUPLE PLEDGES $45,000
by Gayle Miller

The Sierra Club kicked off the new year with great news. Your Chapter received a major financial gift from a Kalamazoo couple with strong ties to Michigan’s natural areas and environment. Their $45,000 contribution (pledged over three years) will allow the Sierra Club to continue critical efforts such as stopping pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations, increasing citizen engagement in democracy, and protecting Michigan’s natural heritage for future generations.

The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, found that the Sierra Club ranked at the top of Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org). Sierra Club’s high score indicates that the Club is both effective and lean, putting the vast majority of financial gifts directly towards achieving its conservation goals.

Longtime residents of Michigan, the donors are deeply and personally connected to environmental protection, both in relation to their own interests and to those of their children and grandchildren. In addition to their Sierra Club support, the donors are committed to environmental education programs for children. “The exposure of children to nature is critical,” they told us. “Kids don’t learn to love the environment by sitting in front of a TV or computer.”

Their generous gift makes these Kalamazoo donors our first members at the “Great Lakes & Great Forests” level of Sierra Club’s new Michigan Legacy Council. We hope their generosity and commitment to Michigan’s future is an inspiration to you all.

We hope their generosity and commitment to Michigan’s future is an inspiration to you all.

2005 GIFTS IN HONOR OF . . .

- Carol & James Deigton, from Jacob Driker
- Kathleen Kelley, from Jason Lindauer
- Max Louks, from Darrell Louks
- James H. Sage, from Janet E. Sage

EARTH SHARE OF MICHIGAN

Special thanks to these 2005 supporters who designated a specific gift to Sierra Club’s Michigan Chapter through Earth Share of Michigan, a workplace giving program:

- Laurie Barnhart
- Lisa Clark
- John Donati
- Charles MacCluer
- Janet Mocadlo
- Mark Mozola
- Julie Parthum
- William Pierce
- John Scudder
- Sally & Deward Walker
The Michigan Chapter’s 2005 Supporters
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Michigan Chapter gratefully acknowledges the individuals that partnered with us in 2005 to make our work possible:

$49 and under
Anonymous Donors
Barbara Abela
Dr. Joel Ager, Jr.
Elaine Alexander
Charles & Carol Allen
Heidi Allen
Martha Alston
David Anderson
Erin Anderson
Hugh Anderson
Maria Anderson
Marvin & Karen Anderson
Robert Anderson
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Kay & Stanley Kujawa
Heidi Kuum
Gayle Kusch
Linnea & Richard Kusmar
Barbara & Gary Laajala
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Harold Leeman
Karen & William Leichner
Rolande Lemieux
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Julie & David Ludwig
Eleanor Luecke
Donald Lusford
Irna Major
Leslie Malcomson
Timothy Maloney
Ann Mandelbaum-Mann
Chuck Marshall
Roger Marshall
Sarah Martens
Philip Mason
Virginia Maturen
Linda McPherson
Andria Mcbride
Kathleen McClanaghan
Kristin Mcdonough
Anne Mcgibbon

Timothy Mckay
Elizabeth Mclemon
Lila McMechan
Tom Mead
Joan & Gary Melvin
John Merewether
Lucy Merritt
Jean Meske
Elizabeth Meyers
Leonard Michaels
Susanna Michaels
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Millar
Elaine Miller
Beverly & Edward Mills
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Patricia Mogk
Sharon Monod
Candace & Mike Monroe
Irene & Franklin Monry
Esther Morss
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Janette Mraz
Kristen Mueller
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Shaun Nethercott
Thom Neveu
Sue Nicholson
Susan Nieman
Greg Noah
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William Norris
Brone Ogiliv
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Claire O’Leary
Carol Oria
Norma & James Orgill
Thelma Orambee
Rebecca Owsley
Connie Page
James Palmer
Patricia Parskien
Mary Ann Parsons
Lisa Pasciak
Kathy Paulson
Phyllis & Harold Penny
Anita Phillips
Irene Piccone
Anthony Piere felice
Lorna Pierre
John Plummer
Burt Poland
Roger Post
Thomas Post
Don Prediger
Outings, political and conservation activities and general meetings are hosted regularly by groups throughout the state. There are numerous ways to get involved in your local group. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you would like to start one, please call 517-484-2372 for more information.

In the Outings listings below, [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [T] = trail maintenance, [S] = service. Trips begin at the trailhead. Fees are a suggested donation. Outings are open to everyone. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-558 for a printed version.

Up-to-the-minute outings and activities may be found on group websites or on the Mackinac Chapter website at michigan.sieraclub.org.

CMG: Central Michigan Group
Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson & Shiawassee Counties

GROUP CHAIR: Ann Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871 or annmarie.rachman@michigan.sieraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 3rd Mon each month, East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Rd. East Lansing, MI. 5:30pm supper (small donation requested), 6:15 meeting.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Maria Lapinski-Lafaive, 517-374-4444 or mlapinski@wmich.edu.

HELP WANTED: Webmaster, newsletter, Little Presque Isle Cleanup, publicity. John Rebers, jrebers@nmu.edu.

OUTINGS: Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com. Join us for a Little Presque Isle cleanup or one of our other outings.


3/18 McCormick Tract Backcountry Ski. 10am. Meet at south entrance of McCormick tract on Pesheekee Grade Rd (Rte 607). Touring/backcountry ski gear recommended. Will Hamilton, 906-259-4484 or wilhamilton@excite.com.

CG: Crossroads Group
Livingston, southern Genesee & western Oakland Counties

WEB: michigan.sieraclub.org/xroads

CHAIR: Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@michigan.sieraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm on 3rd Wed, odd number months. Brighton Library, 200 Orndorff Drive.

1/18 Hunting, Fishing & the Environment.

2/15 Making Maple Syrup.


9/TBA Live animals show.

HELP WANTED: Conservation chair, outings leaders. Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@mi.scaclub.org.

OUTINGS: Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464 or cheryl.mcconnell@mi.scaclub.org.


HVG: Huron Valley Group
Lenawee, Monroe & Washtenaw Counties
WEB: michigan.scaclub.org/huron
HVG HOTLINE: 734-480-7751
CO-CHAIRS: Doug Cowherd, dmcowherd3@comcast.net; Mike Sklar, mssklar@comcast.net.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 3rd Tue each month, 7:30pm. U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor. Free & open to public.


4/18 TBA

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Nancy Shiffer, 734-971-1157; Bill Rodgers, 734-769-0163.

BOOK CLUB: 2nd Tue each month, 7:30pm. Nicola’s Books, Westgate Shopping Center, Ann Arbor. Read book about nature/environment & discuss in small group. David Brooks, dbrooks@umich.edu.

INNER CITY OUTINGS: 7pm, 2nd Sun each month. Room 320, Halle Library, EMU campus. Inner City Outings introduces urban Washtenaw County to outdoor/environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Chaperones, sponsors, planners & contributors always welcome. washtenawico@yahoo.com, www.ico.sierraclub.org/washtenaw.com.

OUTINGS: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823.

2/26 Waterloo Recreation Area Hike. Winter day hike/camraderie. Snow or shine; cancelled if rain. Ann Arbor City Hall, 1pm. Jay Schlegel, 734-477-5715.

3/12 Crooked Trail Hike. Late winter 5mi hike. Canceled if rain. Ann Arbor City Hall, 12:30pm. Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823.

3/19 Stinchfield Woods Ski or Hike. 1pm. If snow, bring skis if you have them. All levels welcome. Meet in front of City Hall. Nancy Shiffer, 734-971-1157.


4/8 Sat Family Hike. Meet at County Farm Park parking lot off Washtenaw Ave, Platt Rd. 10am. Wear hiking boots. Steady pace 1.1mi. Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823.


KVG: Kalamazoo Valley Group
Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph & Van Buren Counties
CHAIR: Paul Haas, 269-664-5417 or paulhs@aol.com.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm monthly 3rd Wed except May. Kalamazoo Public Library, Oshtemo Branch, 7265 W Main. Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 (eve), 269-488-4268 (days) or vmills@kvcc.edu.

OUTINGS: Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 or vmills@kvcc.edu.

NG: Nepessing Group
Genesee, Lapeer & northern Oakland Counties
WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/ng/npessing
CHAIR: Linda Berker, 810-653-8242.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 2nd Wed each month (except Jul & Dec). Mott Community College, Genesee room, Prahil Center (New Student Building), E Court St, Flint, Michigan. 7pm committee reports, followed by environmentally themed program. Light snacks provided. Public always welcome!

OUTINGS: Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldchartermi.net. Please check our website for outings listings.

SEMG: Southeast Michigan Group
Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair & Wayne Counties
WEB: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg
CHAIR: Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or carol.izant@michigan.sierraclub.org.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6:30/7pm, 1st Thu each month Sep-Jun. Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. Social time 7pm. Business meeting 7:30pm. Program 8-9pm. Carol Izant, cogknot@yahoo.com or 248-352-6137.

2/15 Activist Night. 6-8pm. Join Sierra & concerned citizens at the Clawson Building Environmental Communities office to work on projects. Mingle, nibble & work on stuffing envelopes, making photocopies, labeling envelopes, informing concerned citizens about upcoming educational opportunities, making posters. 100 North Crooks, Ste 105, NE corner at 14 Mile (park across Crooks). Melissa, 248-435-5277.
**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:** 3rd Thu each month. Sierra Club BEC office, Tri-Centre Business Complex, 100 N Crooks Rd, Ste 105, Clawson, MI. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645 or eced@netzero.net.

**POLITICAL COMMITTEE:** 6:30pm, last Thursday each month (no Oct). Jimi’s Restaurant, Washington, Royal Oak. All welcome! Tim Kileen, Chair, 313-526-4052 or timk@bikerider.com.

**OUTINGS:** Chair Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil3@netzero.net. Coordinator Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370. Please visit our website for outings listings.

3/11 Outings Committee Meeting. 5pm. If you’re interested in leading/learning about leading outings, come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Non-committee members welcome. 5pm potluck, then next quarter’s planning meeting. Liz Allingham’s house in Dearborn, 313-581-7579.


3/12 Heron Rookery Walk. 1pm. 3 hilly miles of highland nature trails, then W. Bloomfield Heron Rookery overlook. Bring binoculars, water bottle. Meet in Bloomfield Twp Costco parking lot on Telegraph. Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

3/19 Highland Rec Area Hike. 11am. See early signs of spring on 4-5mi easy hike. Meet in Bloomfield Twp Costco parking lot on Telegraph. Call if weather is? Optional restaurant stop after. Lee Becke, 586-294-7789.


4/22 Flint River Walk. 9:30am. 4-5mi, mod pace along scenic section of river. Bring picnic lunch if nice weather; restaurant stop afterward if 60˚, rainy, windy. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind CVS pharmacy, SE corner Woodward & Square Lake Rd. Mary Powell, powell_mm@hotmail.com or 810-732-3884.


5/6 Howell Nature Center Walk. Noon. 2-3mi, slow pace with ex-volunteer Pat at center for nonreleasable birds of prey. $2 fee; reservations by May 3. Meet in Southfield, Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph & 12 Mile Rd or 1pm at Nature Center. Pat & Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.

5/7 Paint Creek Trail Hike. 10am. 10mi mod-brisk following winding Paint Creek. Restaurant stop halfway in Lake Orion. Water, sunscreen, good walkers a must. Meet in Troy behind LaSalle Bank on 14 Mile Rd. Mike Scanlon 313-884-2214.


5/19-21 [E] South Manitou Island Beginner’s Backpack. Young people 12 & older (accompied by adult) welcome. Camp in campground & day-hike to explore island. Gull rookery, early spring wildflowers, old growth cedars, dunes, shipwreck & evidence of early settlements. Pre-
registration required by 5/1. Mary Powell, powell_mm@hotmail.com or 810-732-3884.

5/21 Hike Bald Mountain. 11am. 5-6mi mod pace hike over rolling terrain. Rain or shine. Meet Bloomfield Twp Costco parking lot, Telegraph Rd. Bring water, picnic lunch. Gary Simon, 248-561-9066; Joellen Lane, 586-773-3104.


**TLG: Three Lakes Group**

**Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac & Schoolcraft Counties**

**CHAIR:** Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** 7pm Thu, each month, Sep-May. Crawford Hall, Lake Superior State University.

**OUTINGS:** Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu. Monthly hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc. 9am 1st Sat each month, Oct-Apr, 906-669; Joellen lane, 586-773-3104. Bring water, picnic lunch. Gary Simon, 248-561-9066; Joellen Lane, 586-773-3104.

**HELP WANTED:** Outings leaders, fundraising, monthly meeting program coordinator. Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

**OUTINGS:** Andrea Dean, 231-231-947-9344. 5/21 Hike Bald Mountain. 11am. 5-6mi mod pace hike over rolling terrain. Rain or shine. Meet Bloomfield Twp Costco parking lot, Telegraph Rd. Bring water, picnic lunch. Gary Simon, 248-561-9066; Joellen Lane, 586-773-3104.

**WMG: West Michigan Group**

**Kent, Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola & Ottawa Counties**

**WEB:** michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

**CHAIR:** Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or craig_ressler@yahoo.com.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** Generally held once per month. Everyone welcome. Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or craig.ressler@michigan.sierraclub.org.

**HELP WANTED:** 2006 is an election year. We would very much like help from someone in or around Muskegon who pays attention to politics. We would like to use this person as a resource in determining who to endorse for State level offices. Occasional trips to Grand Rapids will be necessary.

**INNER CITY OUTINGS:** Sierra Club members provide outdoor experiences for non-members who might not otherwise have them. Most participants are young people from urban communities. Increase the environmental awareness, interpersonal skills & self-esteem of the participants through active involvement with nature. Interested volunteers welcome to attend meetings or email us suggestions. John Pulver, 616-457-5999 (days), 616-453-2480 (eve); Paula Ballast, 231-861-6548 or logcabinballast@aol.com.

**OUTINGS:** Lisa Symons, 616-942-6549 or greensymons@yahoo.com.

**Earth Share of Michigan**

THANK YOU, EARTH SHARE DONORS! We wish to thank the all the individuals who support our work each year through payroll deduction via Earth Share of Michigan. If you have just completed your annual payroll deduction campaign at work, and Earth Share of Michigan was not listed as an option, please call 800-386-3326 to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support Sierra Club Foundation–Mackinac Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work. For more information, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org.
Shop to Stop Sprawl!
Living creatures need space to live. Over the past decade, Shopping for the Earth has helped generate $110 million to preserve natural areas and farmland.

You can help us do more by buying EarthCash vouchers for the stores where you already shop.

For every $20 of vouchers you buy, you get $20 in store credit and earn $1 for the local Sierra Club.

Complete details are available at http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/sfte.htm

Help preserve nature at no cost to you!

Shopping for the Earth Order Form
Indicate the number of EarthCash vouchers you want by dollar amount for each store below, and enclose your check payable to "Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group." Total order ($500 maximum): $ ________.

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<th>Store Name</th>
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* Reloadable electronic cash cards
Please contact us if you want to contribute through the Meijer Community Rewards program.

Your Name: ___________________________ Mail to: Kristine Denzin
Your Address: ____________________________ 5162 Doral Court
Your Phone number: ____________________________ Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Your email address: ____________________________ (Your data will not be shared)
**Chapter Directory**

**MACKINAC CHAPTER MAIN OFFICE**
100 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-484-2372
Email: mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org
Website: michigan.sierraclub.org

**Director**
Anne Woiwode: anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org

**Legislative Program Coordinator**
Gayle Miller: gayle.miller@sierraclub.org

**Development Director**
Wendi Tilden: wendi.tilden@sierraclub.org

**Water Sentinels Project Coordinator**
Rita Jack: rita.jackson@sierraclub.org

**CAFO Water Sentinel**
Lynden Henning: lynden.henning@sierraclub.org

**Forest Policy Specialist**
Marvin Roberson: marvin.roberson@sierraclub.org

**Outreach Coordinator**
Amanda Hightree: amanda.hightree@sierraclub.org

**MACKINAC CHAPTER DETROIT OFFICE**
2727 2nd Avenue, Metropolitan Center for High Technology, Detroit, MI 48201
Phone: 313-965-0055

**Environmental Justice Organizer**
Rhonda Anderson: rhonda.anderson@sierraclub.org

**OAKLAND COUNTY FIELD OFFICE**
100 N Crooks Rd., Suite 105, Clawson, MI 48017
Phone: 248-435-5277

**Student Community Organizer**
Melissa Damaschke: melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org

**Community Organizer**
Leigh Fifelski: leigh.fifelski@sierraclub.org

**SIERRA CLUB MIDWEST OFFICE**
214 N Henry Street, Suite 203, Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-257-4994

**SIERRA CLUB MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE**
400 W Front Street, Suite 204, Traverse City, MI 49684
Phone: 231-922-2201

**Midwest Regional Staff Director**
Alison Horton: alison.horton@sierraclub.org

**Administrative Coordinator**
Shelly Campbell: shelly.campbell@sierraclub.org

**SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**
85 Second Street, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415-977-5500

**CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Officers**
Nancy Shiffler, Chair: 734-971-1157, nancy.shiffler@sierraclub.org
David Holtz, Vice Chair: 734-203-0758, david.holtz@sierraclub.org
Helen LeBlanc, Treasurer: 517-655-4545, helen.leblanc@sierraclub.org
Jean Gramlich, Secretary: 248-646-4113, jean.gramlich@sierraclub.org
Sue Kelly, 5th Officer: 810-227-9563, sue.kelly@sierraclub.org

**At-Large Representatives**

**Term expire January 2006:**
Jean Gramlich: 248-646-4113, jean.gramlich@sierraclub.org
Anna Holden: 313-331-0932, anna.holden@sierraclub.org
David Holtz: 734-203-0758, david.holtz@sierraclub.org
Sue Kelly: 810-227-9563, sue.kelly@sierraclub.org

**Term expire January 2007:**
Mike Johnson: 989-724-5732, mike.johnson@sierraclub.org
Bill Rodgers: 734-971-1167, bill.rogers@sierraclub.org
Lorne Beatty: 810-63-7766, lorne.beatty@sierraclub.org
Helen LeBlanc: 517-655-4545, helen.leblanc@sierraclub.org
Dave Llewellyn: 248-366-1884, dave.llewellyn@sierraclub.org

**Group Representatives**

**Central Michigan Group**
John Veenstra: 517-339-1427

**Central Upper Peninsula Group**
John Rebers: 906-228-3617, john.rebers@sierraclub.org

**Crossroads Group**
Cheryl McConnell: 517-552-1462, cheryl.mcconnell@sierraclub.org

**Huron Valley Group**
Nancy Shiffler: 734-971-1157, nancy.shiffler@sierraclub.org

**Kalamazoo Valley Group**
Karen Briggs: 989-724-5732, karen.briggs@sierraclub.org

**Nepassing Group**
Thomas Haley: 810-686-6354, thomas.haley@sierraclub.org

**Southeast Michigan Group**
Gloria Scicli: gscicli@comcast.net

**Three Lakes Group**
Roger Blanchard: 906-253-9316, roger.blanchard@sierraclub.org

**Traverse Group**
Monica Evans: 231-325-6212, monica.evans@sierraclub.org

**West Michigan Group**
Martha MacCleery: 616-682-1316, martha.mccleery@sierraclub.org

**CHAPTER COMMITTEES**

**Conservation**
Anna Holden: 313-331-0932, anna.holden@sierraclub.org

**Elections**

**Open Fall Retreat**
Lisa Wickman: 517-374-8089, lisa.wickman@sierraclub.org
Wanda Bloomquist: 517-655-3380, wanda.bloomquist@sierraclub.org

**Forests**
Nancy Shiffler: 734-971-1157, nancy.shiffler@sierraclub.org

**Information Systems**
Rick Pearsall: 810-227-6298, rick.pearsall@sierraclub.org
Eric Piehl: eric.piehl@sierraclub.org

**Inner City Outings**
West Mi: John Pulver: 616-457-5999 (d); 616-453-2480 (n)
Paula Ballast: 231-861-6548, paula.ballast@sierraclub.org
Washita: Susan Hollar: susan.hollar@sierraclub.org

**Legals**
Nancy Shiffler: 734-971-1157, nancy.shiffler@sierraclub.org

**Legislative Subcommittee**
Lydia Fischer: 734-994-3582, lydfisch@mindspring.com

**Communications Committee**
Eric Lagergren: 517-896-5321, eric.lagergren@sierraclub.org

**The Mackinac Website**
Eric Piehl, Rick Pearsall: webmaster@sierraclub.org

**Mackinac Chapter History**
Gwen Nystuen: 734-665-7632, gwen.nystuen@sierraclub.org

**Member Programs**
Lynn Livingston: 586-795-1678, lynn.livingston@sierraclub.org

**Outings**
Cheryl McConnell: 517-552-1464, cheryl.mcconnell@sierraclub.org

**Political Committee**
Sue Kelly: 810-227-9563, sue.kelly@sierraclub.org

**Personnel**
Nancy Shiffler: 734-971-1157, nancy.shiffler@sierraclub.org

**Sexual Harassment Investigation**
Nancy Shiffler: 734-971-1157, nancy.shiffler@sierraclub.org

**Sierra Club Council Delegate**
David Holtz: 517-203-0758, david.holtz@sierraclub.org

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DO YOU LOVE MICHIGAN’S LAKES AND RIVERS? MARYANN BORDEN DOES

Sierra Club Member Pledges to Protect Water

by Rita Jack

A bottled-water factory was coming to Evart, Michigan. At least, that was the rumor going around in 1999. So Maryann Borden, Sierra Club member, lifelong Michigan resident and car carrier for the auto industry, got on the phone. She found out from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Trout Unlimited and the National Spring Water Association, among others, that any diversion of spring water would harm Twin Creek.

Twin Creek runs behind Borden’s home. She cherishes the creek. In fact, her family has protected Twin Creek through four generations. They enjoy the babbling of the water and the blue herons that fly there. With her grandchildren, Borden often explores the banks for wildflowers and, in the spring, they pick pussywillows.

Borden has vowed that she will not let Twin Creek turn into another Dead Stream. Mecosta County’s Dead Stream, a once-vibrant ecosystem, developed into a partial mudflat in 2003. The water level fell as Nestlé Waters North America began pumping water from the springs feeding Dead Stream.

Borden, who is also a member of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, feels that the region’s water is in serious jeopardy. Diverting water, she says, will be the ruin of the Great Lakes and their tributaries. In 1999 Borden made it her mission to protect the Great Lakes, tributaries, wetlands and aquifers from all harm.

In her travels, Borden sees streams in other states and compares them to the Muskegon River in Evart. “Years ago, Evart held log races on the Muskegon. But over the last 10 to 15 years the river has been too shallow for the race,” she says. “The Muskegon River is an old friend. It greets me when I arrive home after a long week on the road.”

Borden wants to continue canoeing in the Muskegon River with family and friends. She wants to watch the eagles soar over the water. We hope that she and other Michigan citizens will always be able to canoe and to watch the eagles fly.

A great blue heron waits patiently for lunch to swim or hop closer at the Seney Wildlife Refuge in Schoolcraft County, MI.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SIERRA CLUB, 109 EAST GRAND RIVER AVE, LANSING, MI 48906.

The Sierra Club’s members are 700,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America’s oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.