



Nepepping News

2020, Spring Edition

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Message from the Chair 2020 Vision

It is the beginning of a new decade and it is time to make new commitments to ourselves and to the environment. As an individual environmentalist, I am concerned and see a lot of challenges.

We hear how plastic is choking the oceans and see it everywhere in the environment. There are species dying at an alarming rate. Global warming is threatening many of these species and changing the very geography of the Earth. This is an amazing thought. It took millions of years for our current geography and these species to evolve. Yet we are making dramatic changes in them, in just a couple of centuries.

We have a lot of work to do to get out of the mess we have created over the decades. At times it seems overwhelming. There are things you can do to impact this. Many people believe that one person cannot make a difference. However, we have seen how one person can influence others. One example is Greta Thunberg. Collectively, we can make a difference. That is where the Sierra Club can come in. The Sierra Club can provide information on sustainable practices. There are some articles in this newsletter to address this. There is also more information on the Sierra Club website.

In the end, we can get out like we got in, one step at a time. However, we have waited so long we cannot take the steps in a leisurely manner. Now the steps must be taken at a brisk pace. Do not focus on what you cannot do but rather on what you can do. ---- Mike Buza, Chair

Aaron Mair: *Love your world into greatness.*

Aaron Mair, first black President of the National Sierra Club, came through Michigan recently. His stop in Flint was sponsored in part by the Nepepping Group. Aaron's 3-city journey to speak to our citizens about moving toward a clean, green and just economy was captured on film and a short video was produced by Peter Sinclair of Yale Climate Connections. **"Love your world into greatness"** by watching the 5 minute video below!



Green New Deal Event, Flint, MI; L-R, Carol Graham-Banes, Aaron Mair, Sherry Hayden, Mona Younis

Love Your World Into Greatness (Aaron Mair and the Green New Deal)
youtube.com/watch?v=a7turEuz-60

Check out these links for informational videos:

Dark Snow Project gathers 'hard numbers' from the artic: link: darksnow.org.
Yaleclimateconnections.org/author/psinclair/

Emissions

by Mike Buza

Once a year the United Nations has a conference that monitors national emission inventories. Conference of Parties (COP)¹ is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. The 2019 conference was called "COP 25", marking their 25th year.

In order to meet the Paris accord's strictest 2019 goals, a report calls for a 7.6% reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions between 2020 and 2030.² At COP 25, the Secretary General in his remarks stated "Ten years ago, if countries had acted on the science available, they would have needed to reduce emissions by 3.3 per cent each year. We didn't. Today, we need to reduce missions by 7.6 percent each year to reach our goals."³

This is a steep climb. However, the more we wait the steeper the climb will be. We are going to still suffer as can be seen in the latest headlines, but we have a choice on how much.

There is hope that we can meet this goal!

According to a recent ABC News report the amount of carbon emissions emitted are flattening out.⁴ This despite a growth in the economy. Most of this is due to decline in emissions in the U.S., the European Union and Japan. Much of the rest of the world is increasing emissions due to an increased burning of coal.

There are things an individual can do. I hear a contention that it has to be the big companies that must change and we must have national leadership. I agree, but individuals have more control over these issues than many acknowledge. The Jan. 27, 2020; edition of *Time Magazine* wrote an intriguing article on Shell Oil⁵. In it they said

"Despite advertising that depicts the oil giant as environmentally friendly, its decision to reduce reliance on oil is not born of benevolence. It's reacting to market forces."

It is the individual's everyday decisions that forced Shell to change its ways. Many of your everyday decisions are effective votes for change.

¹ United Nations Climate Change, "Process and meetings" *Conference of the Parties (COP)*; Apr. 10, 2020; <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>

² Dennis, Brady and Harlan, Chico; U.N. climate talks end with hard feelings, few results and new doubts about global unity; *The Washington Post*, 12/15/19; https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/un-climate-talks-end-with-hard-feelings-few-results-and-new-doubts-about-global-unity/2019/12/15/38918278-1ec7-11ea-b4c1-fd0d91b60d9e_story.html

³ Guterres, H.E. Antonio; The Secretary-General, Remarks to the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Convention, Madrid, 12/02/19; <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>

In the Fall of 2019, Patti Poppe, CEO of Consumers Energy, in a series lectures,⁶ presented Consumers Energy's plan to reduce their carbon emissions by 90% by 2040⁷. In her lecture, she noted that for them to be successful their customers must keep energy use down during key periods. Consumers will not be able to achieve this without usage support from customers.



The United Nations encourages individuals in its Act Now program to address climate change.⁸ To have the moral authority to ask others to change, we must be willing to change ourselves in proportion to the demand for change.

There is a new searchable database for all the renewable energy ordinances in Michigan.⁹ Jonathan Light and Andrew Newman of the University of Michigan, in a webinar given to the Land and Liberty Coalition, said "on average the State's local ordinances are unfavorable to the development of renewable energy. Light and Newman are the developers of this database."

⁴ Davies, Guy, "Grounds for optimism: Global carbon emissions level out despite growing economy", *ABC News*; 02/11/2020; <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/grounds-optimism-global-carbon-emissions-level-growing-economy/story?id=68906935>

⁵ Justin Worland, "The Reason Fossil Fuel Companies Are Finally Reckoning With Climate Change", *Time Magazine, World - Environment*, 01/16/2020; <https://time.com/5766188/shell-oil-companies-fossil-fuels-climate-change>

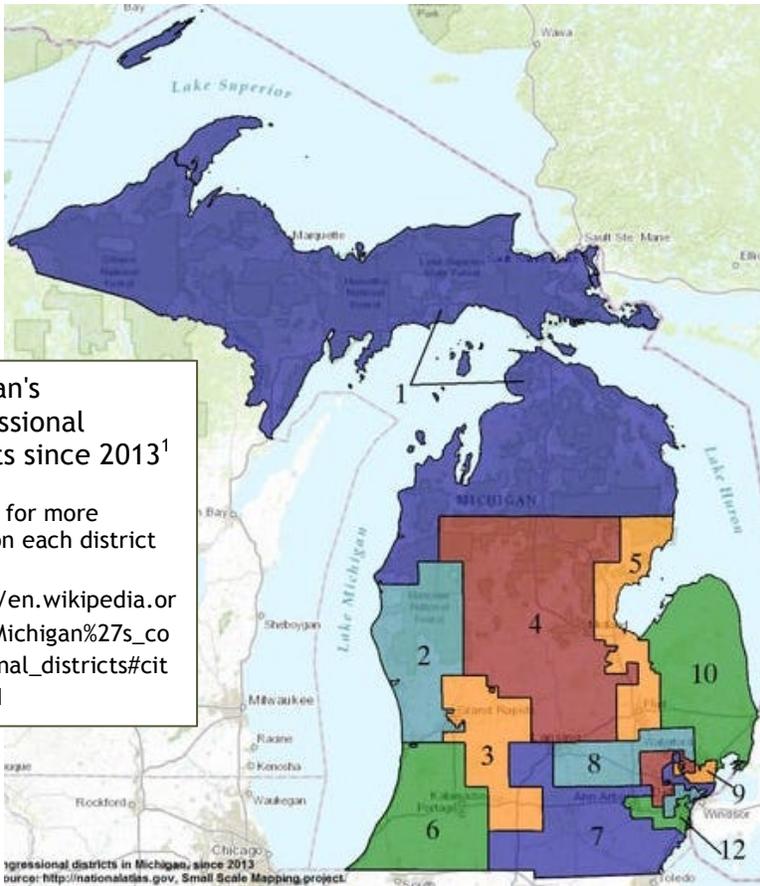
⁶ *Sustainability at Consumers Energy with President and Chief Executive Officer Pattie Poppe*, YouTube, 08/29/19; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKEIS4LQEgI&t=881s>

Editor's Note: This is an engaging, and informative video I recommended for people in Michigan to Watch

⁷ Patti Poppe, A Better Way, Consumers Energy, 04/02/2020; <https://www.consumersenergy.com/community/sustainability/our-hometown-stories/a-better-way>

⁸ ACT NOW, United Nations website, 04/20/2020; <https://www.un.org/en/actnow/>

⁹ Staveland, Julie; EGLE Launches unique renewable energy ordinance database of Michigan communities; 02/27/2020; <https://www.michigan.gov/climateandenergy/0,4580,7-364-98264-520392--,00.html>



Michigan's congressional districts since 2013¹

See Link for more details on each district

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan%27s_congressional_districts#cite_note-1

2020: Year of Elections

by Mike Buza

2020 is the year of elections. We have one of the most anti-environmental presidents I can remember in my lifetime. However, local elections are very important in changing the worldwide environment.

I have been involved in a series of political struggles at the county and township level regarding renewable energy. Local ordinances can be written such a way that they zone out wind and solar farms that could provide clean energy for tens of thousands of homes.

The Sierra Club can help you gain an understanding of a politician's environmental record. This is one of the most consequential years for environmental issues in the elections. I encourage you to not only get out and vote, but also take extra action in this election.

If you would like to get more involved - please contact our Chairperson, Mike Buza at 810-444-8564, and/or theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com

Interested?

Members are welcome to participate on the political committee at the group level. NG also has representation on the Chapter's State Political Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to mentor others!



Voters Not Politicians

Our March 11th Enviro-Presentation:

'Voters Not Politicians'¹ was presented by Sue Hendricks, representing the Michigan Redistricting Commission (being formed due to gerrymandering).

13 Michigan registered voters will serve on the **Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**, "the Commission".

The Commission will represent top two political parties + 5 unaffiliated voters.

The Commission can hire experts & consultants.

Boundaries will be redrawn **AFTER** the 2020 census. (Sept-Oct 2022 First statewide primary elections using commission-drawn district maps.)

A new committee is to be formed every 10 years.

Seeking applicants for two-year position. Paid \$40,000.

If selected, your employer is required to hold your job as if you were on jury duty, etc.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2020

Applicant Restrictions Include:

Must be registered and eligible to vote in the State of Michigan.

An elected official, or declared candidate, for partisan federal, state, or local office. Cannot apply and their parent, stepparent, child, or spouse cannot apply.

For more information:

https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_91141-501739--,00.html

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson
"Commissioner Eligibility Guidelines"

¹ <https://votersnotpoliticians.com/>

An Environmentalist's Case to Recycle Less

-- by Mike Buza

I am an environmentalist and as such have come to believe that the way we recycle is seriously flawed. Yet, we are encouraged to recycle more and I believe we should be recycling less. Let me explain.

For a few decades, we have been encouraged to recycle. Despite these encouragements, we have not had as much success as we would like. As many of you know, the China and other countries have quit taking our recyclables because the amount of garbage that is mixed in with the recycles.¹ For recycles to have some value they must be fairly clean. The *Atlantic* says according to the *National Waste & Recycling Association*, only about 25% of what ends up in the blue bins (recycling) is contaminated.² There are those who say this number is too high.

Recycling is an energy intensive and expensive process. Let's do a quick review of the process for recycling a common material, plastic.

First, the raw material must be extracted from the Earth. Most often this is a fossil fuel. It is then sent to a factory that produces the raw plastic, often in the form of little balls. From there the plastic is shipped to a factory that makes the actual product you buy. Then, it is shipped to a store where you buy it and take it home. Many plastic products are of the "one use" variety. When you are finished, hopefully, you put it in recycling. The garbage man picks it up and takes it. Eventually, it ends up in a recycling center. If it is not contaminated, it is recycled into little balls called "**nurdles**".

The process of making these nurdles into consumer goods is started over again. The vast majority of plastic is only recycled once. The process described above may take place in several countries around the world.

In December of 2019 CBS news shared documentation on the decades-long problem of nurdles from petrochemical processing plants contaminating our waterways and oceans. They looked at one recycling plant, in particular. It is in the U.S. on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. Billions of pellets are lost, escaping into waterways and oceans.³

¹ Semeuls, Alana, Is this the End of Recycling? , The Atlantic, 03/05/19, <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2019/03/china-has-stopped-accepting-our-trash/584131/>

² Ibid.

³ CBS DFW 21, "250,000 Tons Of Plastic Pellets Pollute Our Oceans Every Year, New York, 12/16/19; <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nurdles-tiny-plastic-pellets-are-polluting-our-waterways-absorbing-harmful-chemicals/>

Nurdles contain harmful chemicals like PCBs, PFAS, and BPAs. Collectively this contamination has affected our waterways and the species that live there, like shrimp.⁴

"We know for a fact that there's a laundry list of over 200 species that are eating these pellets."³

Because one-use items are so cheap, people often just throw them away instead of cleaning them enough to be recycled. Worse, people who do not clean the items before placing them in a recycling bin contaminate materials that are clean. This is part of what has been called "**wish-cycling**".⁵ Things are not recyclable for some reason, but people wish they were, so they throw them into the recycling bins.

Recycling, as it is practiced now, actually encourages a throw away society. People buy single-use items and assuage their guilt by saying it is recyclable. Many industries encourage this by advertising on the package that something is recyclable. There are times this is misleading. **Technically, something maybe recyclable, but no facilities exist to recycle it.** So, in reality, it is not. (The same is true for the term "compostable".)

There are times, even if things go into the recycling bin; they are taken to the dump. This is due to a lack of facilities or because it costs more to recycle than it is worth. The amount of waste we are producing is increasing.

So what is the solution? We need to go back to the three R's: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. They are in that order for a reason. Let's take a look at each:

Reduce:

If you do not purchase an item no resources are used. This is the best way to go. We need to start using the "needs - vs. - wants" question. Is the thing you are purchasing a need or want? There is much evidence that we have created an extravagant world. The concept of regifting or the existence of the large number of storage units is evidence of this. We can significantly reduce the things we purchase and still have a high quality life. There are people who say they have gotten rid a lot of their stuff and feel their quality of life has improved. They have "uncluttered their life." **Continued on page 8 under "Reduce to Recycle Less"**

⁴ Griggs, Mary Beth, The Verge, Hunting for Microplastics in your food; 10/22/19; <https://www.theverge.com/2019/10/22/20925449/microplastics-seafood-shrimp-trial-and-error-verge-science>

⁵ Miller, Randy; Wish-Cycling: The Harmful Practice You're Probably Guilty of; Miller Recycling Corporation; 01/08/19; <https://millerrecycling.com/wish-cycling-ways-stop>

The Time is NOW to Talk About Climate Carbon Neutrality

by Carol Graham-Banes and Heather Sisto

On February 25, the co-chairs of the **Climate Commission on Climate Carbon Neutrality came to town!** "[Charting UM's Path to Carbon Neutrality](#)"¹ was presented by two distinguished professors from the University of Michigan: **Stephen Forrest**, *the UM Peter A. Franken Distinguished University Professor of Engineering, Paul G Goebel Professor of Engineering, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Professor of Material Science and Engineering and Professor of Physics* AND **Jennifer Haverkamp**, an internationally recognized expert on climate change, international trade, and global environmental policy and negotiations as well as the *Graham Family Director of the University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Institute*, with involvement in the *Michigan Law School* and the *Ford School of Public Policy*.

One year ago University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel appointed a commission to develop recommendations for how to achieve carbon neutrality for the University that could serve as a model for other institutions and communities, whatever the size of their institution/community.²

Their presentation showcased excellent visuals and a clear path forward. Their team's efforts involved reduction of campus carbon emissions; purchase of different forms of electricity; and miscellaneous activities such as waste disposal, transportation and food service, these last being more difficult to measure. The three campuses are diverse and valuable to study as U of M, Ann Arbor, will be a model for an urban environment; UMich- Dearborn, a model for suburban cities and the UMich- Flint Campus, a model for former and current industrial cities. This team is well on their way to fulfilling their difficult and long-term mission.

Working groups focusing on the remaining target objectives have already started on all campuses. The Nepessing Group will be part of the future community effort! We are fortunate to have such a progressive University in our state!

¹ McGrady, Logan; UM-Flint faculty, students help U-M on the path to carbon neutrality, 02/21/2020; MFlint NOW News & Happening <https://news.umflint.edu/2020/02/21/um-flint-faculty-students-help-u-m-on-the-path-to-carbon-neutrality/>

² *President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality*, University of Michigan, Planet Blue. <https://sustainability.umich.edu/carbonneutrality>

Holly Watershed Concerns

by Sue Lossing and Heather Sisto

At our March 11th Enviro-Meeting, Stacy Taylor from Holly reported that a 40-acre dump is mere feet from the proposed Holly Hills Expansion project. The expansion was buried for 25 years, but now it is being pushed forward. The worry is that the expansion of Phase II will have a negative impact. With 191 more homes and 618 more paved parking surfaces, it will have a negative impact on the watershed. By Phase III there could be more than 700 homes on the site.¹

Top concerns include: effluent violations discharging into the Shiawassee River; drinking water contamination; added traffic congestion; and habitat destruction. The Poweshiek Skipperling butterfly is a resident who is on the Federal Endangered Species list.² Another concern is the growth of the project will be a burden on the area's municipal water system, which includes a nearby school.

Taylor and nearby residents have been frustrated by the lack of action by developers and legislators. Assistance from the Sierra Club Nepessing Group was requested during the ExCom meeting.

Taylor & Nepessing Group members agreed upon a letter-writing campaign. To date, Nepessing Chair, Mike Buza has contacted the Democratic Environmental Caucus about this issue and letters have been sent to Legislative Representatives. Contact Mike Buza if you would like to help.

Further investigation notes:

According to the Holly Village Manager Jerry Walker, only 9 of the 40 acres owned by Holly Twp., was used as a municipal landfill and it was closed in 1970. The site was tested by Geo Environmental (consultants), reported back and shared with the State of Michigan. At that time there was not significant findings. The village is in the final review stage of proposals for companies to assess the current test wells for the site.¹ Stacy indicated that residents believe there is contamination

The Michigan Mobile Home Commission supersedes local government and has final site plan approval.

¹ Hogan, Vera, Holly Hills expansion with 191 homes may proceed; Tri County Times, 03/27/2020; https://www.tctimes.com/news/holly-hills-expansion-with-homes-may-proceed/article_f02ad0be-7053-11ea-bb43-db829393b272.html

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Midwest Region Endangered Species, 4/10/2020; <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/posk/index.html>

What is Happening?

One more crucial item that needs to be addressed in 2020. The world is losing species at a frightening rate.¹ One of the groups is bug species. I know many people have a natural dislike for bugs but bugs are often the base of the food chain for birds and other creatures. Many are beneficial for man, like honey bees and predator bugs.



Photo by Richard Naber

One easy step to help the environment is to discontinue your lawn service. Letting your lawn rewild to a more natural state you help build the diversity life.

When clover flowers, and dandelions are in your lawn, they help support bees and other bugs. Most lawns that use lawn services, or use "weed and feed" products are overfed. The excess fertilizer ends up in our water systems and contributes to toxic algae blooms in lakes and streams.



Photo by Sue Lossing, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Quite often due to the chemicals applied, it is not healthy to go barefoot on, or for your pets (and wildlife) to be in. The chemicals put on your lawn also kills many vital life forms in the soil.

¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/report-1-million-animals-plant-species-face-extinction-due-climate->

Things We Can Do

12 Things We Should All Do To Protect Endangered Species: www.huffpost.com/entry/12-things-we-should-all-do-to-protect-endangered-species_b_58bd9c87e4b0abcb02ce2067

Conserving Wildlife: 20 Things You Can Do to Save Endangered Species: www.conserve-energy-future.com/20-extraordinary-things-you-can-do-to-save-endangered-species.php

Michigan's Top Endangered Plants- michigannature.wordpress.com/2010/08/13/michigans-top-endangered-plants/

Get to Know Us: Snapshots

We are pleased to welcome new faces at recent Nepessing Group meetings: Ericis Urisaeam, Anna Darzi, Ashley Tucker, John Mrozik, Keith Garman, Molly Dallaire, Caleb Short, Stacy Taylor, Christy McGillivary, Mary Blanchard, and Mary Whaley. Below are a few "snapshots" of NG meeting regulars. We look forward to getting to know new attendees, our membership, and share in environmental fellowship.



Photo: L-R Fred & Alyce Townsend, Craig & Carol Graham-Banes, Lynn & Judy Livingston

Fred & Alyce Townsend

For numerous years, Fred & Alyce have conducted frog counts (Spring Peepers) and bird counts for data review on how populations are changing. They have been water-monitoring stewards since 1998. This data has been utilized by the State of Michigan for their efforts (stocking fish, reporting to the EPA on water health). They have been long-standing active members of the Audubon Society. When time permits, they support outreach efforts and enjoy spending time canoeing. Our special secret treat is Alyce's freshly made chocolate chip cookies that she brings to the meetings. They are our monthly favorite and something we look forward to.

Richard Naber

We are thankful that Richard is our Treasurer. Not everyone can have such a quiet demeanor - while controlling all the purse strings so efficiently! Like Fred & Alyce, Richard also participates in data collection and is a member of Audubon Society. He counts, not only in Genesee Co., but also in other areas, such as Whitefish Point. He helps educate us on migration patterns -helping us be smarter when supporting wind energy. He leads hikes where he can teach others how to count and identify. When we walk to our cars after our meetings, he is identifying the owls we hear. Richard has a hidden talent - he's an amazing wildlife photographer!



Photo by Richard Naber

Annual Earth Day, April 22

by Sue Lossing

By the time you receive this newsletter, April 22nd will have passed. But that's O.K. because earth day is every day and it is one thing that Covid-19 hasn't been able to cancel. This year Earth Day's event was the largest, planned, digital Earth Day yet connecting people worldwide!¹

In the beginning, I heard many comments about Earth Day such as "Why do we have an Earth Day?" "It's just another Hallmark day!", "I celebrate it all year not just one day!"; "Earth Day? Never Heard About It!" and "It's just another day for environmental people to feel important."

These comments are reflective not of *why Earth Day is important*, but *why it needs to be important*.

In the recent Sierra magazine there is a great article by Denis Hayes, the original Earth Day national coordinator. He states "*the wire services estimated total national participation at 20 million people.*"² He credits being able: "*to capitalize on the strength created by the movement to defeating several anti-environment villains in Congress in the first "Dirty Dozen" election.*"³ He continues to credit the passage of the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, establishment of the EPA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and more, to the first Earth Day Event.

Can you remember when you experienced your first Earth Day? In 1970, my friend John Freeman participated in the first Earth Day event in Flint. It was organized by Timothy Ryan, a senior from Flint Central; and Belinda Allen, a senior from Flint Southwestern and it was held in Burroughs Park. He said it was like something straight out of "Hair". He was just back from Vietnam and was wearing his Marine Corps uniform and met Wendy Hawthorne who had flowers in her hair (hear the song?). In Vietnam he had witnessed first-hand the environmental destruction of Agent Orange, the devastation from the B-52 air strikes, and NaPalm - 18" of tar & charcoal all over the ground. The Earth Day event sparked in John a strong sense of activism.

Through John's coordination, many of us participated in our first river cleanups, and tree plantings. Years later the torch was picked up by others and spread. The Flint River Watershed Coalition, with multiple partners, coordinates an annual clean up the end of April.

John Freeman worked on special projects for the City of Flint (remember Operation Brush Up?), and one of them was holding an annual City of Flint Earth Day event for community and local elected officials. In 1996, John decided to plan one more Earth Day Event for 1997. He coordinated with Catherine Davis and Sherry Hayden from UM-Flint; Mike Keeler from Nepessing Group; and myself on behalf of MCC. It became a combined Earth Day/Cesar Chavez event at UM-Flint with some highly esteemed and

engaging speakers. The day was beautiful and the speakers informative. Unfortunately, the turnout did not meet my expectations because I wanted to reach the community as a whole. In 1997, Earth Day was not as popular or well known. I wanted to try and change that.

In 1998, with support from a few friends, including John Freeman, I held my first "Annual Earth Day Celebration" at the Prah College Center at MCC. My focus: everyday people gaining a fun experience of meeting others who care about the environment and community. I felt that getting them to acknowledge Earth Day could help them want to learn more. Families came, but hardly anyone wanted to attend the Organization for Bat Conservation (OBC) presentation. After they did, they wanted to see them each year. After the first year, I was able to network and partner with more people. Especially people from MCC (Public Safety, Dental Hygiene Dept. Athletics, Marketing, Admissions, and more). One person in particular - my friend Becky Gale-Gonzalez, who like me, wants to make things better. In 2000, Becky took an active planning role and we re-named the event the "Annual Earth Day and Garden Celebration". We worked on the event together until 2008 when due to other circumstances I had to stop. Becky continued carrying the torch by continuing to work with community partners such as UM-Flint, and Kettering. She strengthened the event with Recycling Initiatives, and more. We are fortunate to know so many "good people" and to have had their support over the years - because, **today**, our community is more environmentally aware. The torch created by two high schoolers at their 1970 Earth Day in Flint, inspired John to act. John mentored my flame, and I shared that with friends who continue to spark for others. Earth Day is more than a day, it is a call to rally and to share the flame with others so they can go forward with sparks - throughout their lives, every day.

Stewardship Month & Every Day

Due to COVID-19, activities have been adjusted, such as river cleanups and water monitoring. Please visit our Facebook page to post and/or view changes; or contact our Outings Chair, Denny Crispell 989-624-5038.

However, Sierra Club members and supporters can individually honor our commitment to our Earth. For example, "*while maintaining social distancing guidelines and safety measures [gloves, masks]*", we can head outside to take small or large steps to improve" our immediate environment.

The FRWC suggests following safety measures and pick up trash while enjoying a walk or hike, planting trees or native flowers, or finally making that rain barrel or compost bin!

We encourage you to visit their site's *blog* and participate in the myriad activities they have listed:

<http://flinriver.org/blog/programs/stewardship-day/>

Annual Tree Seedling Give-Away

Thanks to Linda Berker & Larry Petrella - Our seedlings this year will be going to the Birds!

Jay Blair from Pheasants Forever plans for our tree seedlings to be planted in Genesee & Lapeer counties to create winter shelterbelts supporting habitat needs.

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffkart/2020/03/17/earth-day-2020-will-survive-the-coronavirus/#5905c34d359b>

² Hayes, Dennis, Make the 50th Earth Day the Biggest Yet", Sierra, 03/02/2020; <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2020-2-march-april/feature/make-50th-earth-day-biggest-yet-denis-hayes>

³ Ibid.

Reduce to Recycle Less

... Continued from page 4

Re-Use

If you buy a high quality item and reuse it numerous times you not only are more gentle on the environment but can save money. A highly durable item may cost more. I believe if you spend twice as much on durability and it last ten times as long you have gotten a great deal. To make an item more durable, it must be made so it is more easily repaired. I think the way many things are made now, they are not made to be repaired. Once this durable item is wore out after many uses, then it is time to recycle. This will cut back on the number of items to be recycled. One-use items should be a rare occurrence.

Recycle

I have come to the painful conclusion that recycling, as it is practiced now, is green washing that is propagated by the fossil fuel industry. They will advertise on the ease and convenience of single use items. Your friends and family will buy into this and urge you to take the easy way. However, this convenience comes with a high price that this world can no longer afford.

Great Lakes and Plastic

- by Sue Lossing

I'm lost without my connection to nature. At the end of fall when closing up my grandparents' cabin, I would clean out a discarded glass jar and go to the river. In the jar I would put river sand, a small mossy rock and a snail. I would cherish it all the way home and through the winter. It sat on my dresser and I fed it fish aquarium food. I would look in the jar and see nature. The sand, the clean river water and a happy snail. We looked forward to Spring when I would set the jar in the river (adjust to the temperature), and the snail would eventually crawl out. Life was simpler and it was even more beautiful back then. My grandparent passed away in 1977 and we lost having an Up North home. Once I had the means to travel back up north (1990s), I noticed the trees along the highways were not as green. I'm still hoping they will recover. I collect in bottles (recycled of course), water, sand, and rocks. I do this for a different purpose - to remember how clean and beautiful the water was.

Last year, I collected from Lake Michigan, along Sleeping Bear Bay. Every attempt to collect resulted in a water column cluttered with plastics of different colors and sizes. **Why are we allowing our pristine sandy beaches to be mixed with plastics particles?**

Picking up trash is no longer enough. Please refuse plastics as much as you possibly can. It is our fault for allowing so much plastic into nature.

It has become part of what we live and breathe. Our fish and wildlife consume from nature - they don't have another place (or I jar I could put them in). I would love for today's children and theirs, to experience the beauty of nature that I did. When Plastic wasn't around... Let's eliminate plastic as much as we can.

Flint: Green and Growing

- by Carol Graham-Banes

Following the Carbon Neutrality presentation at UMich- Flint, the first meeting of **Flint: Green and Growing** was as held.

The group was inspired by former National President Aaron Mair's Three City tour of Michigan last fall. Members of the Nepessing Group present decided that being part of the **effort to reduce carbon in food production** would be an important objective. Contact with Dora King has been made!

Her non-profit organization "**Harvesting Earth Educational Farm**"¹, is located in Flint/Beecher. MSU and the Master Gardener program have helped her develop her farm into a certified organic model urban farm.

Dora has responded enthusiastically and indicated she would be interested in sharing her knowledge with us. Practical knowledge of food production is vital to benefit our community and our quest for carbon neutrality!

¹ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/michigancommunities/4838224019>

Hikes: Precautions during Covid-19

COVID-19 Alert: If you are walking, hiking, paddling, or other activities, please observe "special trip protocols" to reinforce best practices.

These include practicing good personal hygiene; bringing additional hand sanitizer; maintaining personal distance if others are near; avoiding physical contact; avoiding sharing of water, food, and personal items; and pay attention to your well-being. The **American Hiking Society** has some helpful **Hiking Responsibly Rules** posted at:

<https://americanhiking.org/blog/hiking-responsibly-faq-covid-19/>

NASA: Celebrating Earth

Website for videos, virtual reality, more.

www.nasa.gov/content/earth-day-2020

Upcoming River Activities

by David Lossing

At time of printing (Apr. 30th), the following event were still scheduled. These are not Sierra Club events, but from our river partners. If participating, please email the contact listed and follow safety precautions.

May 30-31 **Shiawassee River Annual Cleanup**
(Fenton, Linden, Holly, Argentine)
Contact: Chuck Julian; chuck.julian@gc3d.com

July 25th, **Shiawassee River Cleanup**
(Owosso, Corunna, Vernon)
Contact: Lorraine Austin,
lorrianea@ShiawasseeRiver.org

Get to Know Us: Snapshots



**Robert
"Bob"
Simpson**

Bob is a very hard working ballot campaign coordinator, water monitor, parade participant, political

member, and more. Bob is a person who makes "grass-roots" efforts work. He makes a difference for the long-term. He has served as our Programs Chair, and Fundraiser Chair. He enjoys supporting outreach & booth efforts. Secret weapon: Bob and his wife Georgia are parents of an environmental tribe. Their children, and grandchildren have a history of helping others.



**Thomas
"Mike"
Haley**

Like Bob, Mike is an advocate for "grass-roots" efforts. Mike also serves as a

water monitor, political member, outreach volunteer, and has served as our group Secretary and more. Mike is monitoring the Flint Water Crisis. We have nicknamed Mike after the movie character "Colombo" as it fits his essence.

Enviro-Spotlight Shines on Jack Minore

by Carol Graham-Banes



Jack Minore is a long time environmentally-minded, Nepessing Group Member. Jack grew up in Flint's north end, a typical kid. Looking back he notes two things that began his awareness of environmental issues. One of his family jobs was to go outside and determine which way the wind was blowing. "I think that was the first thing I did that I can remember". If the wind was coming from the east, his mother would not hang the laundry out. Soot from the car factory and the foundry would blow over and make their clothes dirty again- and no mother would approve of that! He also remembers the yearly cardboard and duct tape boat races down the Flint River. Amidst the fun, a family friend repeatedly remarked about how dirty the river was. He took a good look and never forgot what he saw. Activism can start at a very young age but when he became a member of the Flint City Council (1983-98) his interest really took hold. He remembers automobile factories having big waste pits on their property and every so often a lever was pulled and the content of those pits washed directly into the Flint River. Toward the end of his tenure, Jack was glad to speak to an engineer whose last on-site job was to re-tool all the factory parking lots so they drained into a small water treatment plant before going to the river. The river has become cleaner and cleaner every year.

Jack often canoed and kayaked the south branch of the Flint River through Lapeer. He would see deer, muskrats, his first eagle, too! Now many eagles are seen frequently in the Flushing area.

Jack was a MI State Representative from 1999-2005. He remembers talking to the Sierra Club Chapter Legislative Director about his voting record and happily remarked, "My record was always good!". Back home in Flint, Jack has served as a board member for the ever-growing Flint River Watershed Coalition for nearly 20 years, currently the second longest serving member, he was interim director for a time. He continues to monitor local Gilkey Creek for dumping hazards. Climate Change has been a worry for the future. One of his favorite vacation spots is Fishtown in Leelanau County. It recently became endangered due to rising water. Raising the many historic buildings 12 ft. will cost 2.5 million dollars. He is concerned about homes close to all our Great Lakes waters and Mackinac Island is already seeing changes to it's shoreline roadway.

Glad to be part of the Sierra Club and the awareness it raises about local issues, Jack also takes in the Flint Symphony and Flint Institute of Arts. His like-minded daughter was a student at the Flint School of Performing Arts for 15 years. Jack has 3 sons who have served their community and state. One son worked at the capital, another was a teacher/coach and another works in the Flint Cultural Center. Shine on, Jack, shine on... Many thanks!

The Nepepping Group has an opportunity to gain funding for every new member who signs up. Please pass the word to anyone who may be interested.

For a limited time we will receive 100% of all new membership fees if you use this link:

click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=ertig*tSsdw&offerid=595771.10000001&type=3&subid=0



Or visit the **Membership Drive (Fundraiser)** event on our Facebook Page: *Sierra Club: Nepepping Group -MI*

Join Online

With vital landmark legislation like the Endangered Species Act under attack, and the regulatory powers of the EPA threatened in Congress, we need you to join us as a member to beat back rollbacks on the progress we've made protecting our national heritage. In addition to our ambitious work across the country, part of your membership dues support your local chapter.

Add your voice to the hundreds of thousands of Americans committed to leaving our children a living legacy — clean air, safe drinking water, and natural grandeur. From Yosemite National Park to the Grand Canyon, since 1892 the Sierra Club has been instrumental in preserving nature's most splendid wild places.

Please join us in this movement by becoming a Member today!

For a limited time, join online for just \$15 and get this FREE Sierra Club Trekker Bag!

To Purchase a gift membership visit:
<https://www.sierraclub.org/giving/commemorative-gifts>



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| 1. Your Information | 2. Select Amount | 3. Payment Information |
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First Name

Last Name

Email

Street Line 1

Street Line 2

City **State**

Postal Code
 FRIP- 2110;
Nepepping Group

Country

Continue

Thank you for your contribution! Your gift will help support our many efforts, including protecting our wildlands and wildlife, keeping our air and water free from pollution, and promoting a clean energy future.

Note: Contributions, donations, gifts, and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. The Sierra Club is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(4) organization. [\(Additional financial and regulatory information.\)](#)

Please note that free premiums will not be shipped outside the U.S. due to shipping costs, allowing us to more effectively use your contribution.

Sharing environmental information with others can be a big help.
Please share this newsletter and/or Gift a Membership (\$15)



Nepessing Group Outings July-Dec. 2020

COVID-19 Alert: *This is a quick note to let you know the Sierra Club Outings/Hiking programs are suspended at this time of printing. The Nepessing Group follows the National Sierra Club guidelines with guidance from Michigan Governor Whitmer.*

*With guidance from Governor Whitmer, and the Sierra Club Safety Committee, **we will resume our hikes after it is approved to do so**. It is anticipated there will be additional precautions when the hikes resume. It is your responsibility to check for current directives and adhering to safety protocols given.*

We do not know at this time what the epidemic situation will be in July and beyond. For example, campgrounds may not be open. It is your responsibility to ensure you are following safe procedures and guidelines. Please check our Nepessing Group Facebook page for updates.

Sierra Club Nepessing Group Outings Guidelines:

All outings are open to everyone. - You do not have to be a Sierra Club member to participate.

All hikers and outings participants must sign a **Sierra Club liability waiver form** promising not to sue the Sierra Club, NG Group, or it's Outings Leader at the beginning of each hike/outing.

Parent or adult guardian must accompany participants under 18 years of age.

Except for Wed Hikes, No pets unless outing is listed as dogs allowed or approved by the leader in advance.

Always call the hike leader in advance to be sure that the event has not cancelled or delayed. Call if weather is questionable, but hikes are usually held irrespective of rain or snow.

Arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the hike to sign in. Every effort will be made to start hikes at scheduled time. Please be prompt!

A \$1.00 donation to the Nepessing Group of the Sierra Club is requested of each adult for every hike and outing that is not marked as: Not Affiliated with Sierra Club- there may be separate fees for these events. **You may purchase an "Annual Pass" for \$10 to cover all of these donations for 2020.**

If car-pooling, you should share travel costs with the driver.

For outings that require reservations, please be considerate of Outing Leaders. The Sierra Club is not responsible for expenses incurred by leaders or hikers. All expenses are the responsibility of the individual participants.

We welcome your feedback on your outings experience. Call the Outings Chair: Denny Crispell.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY HIKES: That are not included in this listing are every Wednesday around 10:00- 11:00am. Please e-mail lsberker@aol.com to be added to the e-mail service for weekly e-mail notification of Wednesday hikes. Or call or TEXT Linda Berker at (810) 348-8664. These Outings are created on an ad hoc basis. Notice is by E-mail, Facebook or phone.

OUTING LEADERS: If you cancel or change your outing, please notify Denny Crispell, Chair, or a member of the Outings Committee immediately. In addition, please notify the leaders of the outings preceding yours to announce the cancellation at their outings.

Linda Berker 810-348-8664
Gloria Bublitz 810-664-0304
Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

Caroline Frieling 810-287-5232
Mike Haley 810-686-6354
Mary Harmon 989-795-2139

Bill Klocek 810-513-8983
Wendy Lawton 810-240-4411
Sue Lossing 810-735-6303

Jackie Marvin 810-338-2161
Richard Naber 248-854-3769
Darcy Pvonka 810-513-8647
Terry Rechko 734-558-0031

Some activities listed in this Outings Schedule are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication. The Nepessing Group appreciates these individuals volunteering their time to provide this opportunity for you and others.

OUTINGS UPDATES are sent by nepessinghiker@aol.com. To be added to the e-mail list for weekly notification of changes and/or additions. Email nepessinghiker@aol.com and ask to be added to the list. Nepessinghiker@aol.com is administered by Donald James.

TO LEAD HIKES: If you would be willing to lead an outing or if there is a hike you would like to learn so you can lead it in the future please contact [Denny Crispell \(989\) 624-5038](mailto:Denny.Crispell@nepessing.org).

Due to Covid-19 We do not know at this time what the epidemic situation will be in July and beyond. Campgrounds may not be open. It is your responsibility to follow safe procedures and guidelines. Please check the Nepessing Group Facebook page for updates.

JUL 18 (SAT) 10:00 AM SHIAWASSEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HIKE 5 miles. Easy. Join us hiking this interesting nature refuge. Contact Hike Leader if interested in carpooling at 9:00 am from the Carpool lot at I-75 Clio exit West side of the overpass. Optional Restaurant Stop after. No dogs. Take I-75 north to Clio exit 131 (M-57/Vienna Rd). Go west 8 miles to M-13, North 10 miles to Curtis Rd., West 4 miles to parking lot. Leader: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

JUL 22 (WED) 10:00 AM CITY OF LINDEN to COUNTY PARK. 3 Miles. Easy. Meet at City of Linden's Municipal Parking Lot BEHIND THE Linden City Hall 132 E. Broad Street Linden 48451. We will from walk from the municipal parking lot to the Linden County Park. Dogs welcome, but at the park they MUST be on leashes (no exceptions-they have lots of park workers). We will have choice of walking on paved trails and or dirt trails. Nice mix of shaded and sunny areas. Should not have any problems with mosquitoes (they spray). Walk will include a stop at the beach. Directions: take US 23 to Silver Lake Road. Take Silver Lake Road west to Linden. Speed is 25 mph when you hit the City of Linden (local airport area). Shortly after this, turn left onto Hickory -right before the curve (cemetery is on the right). If you miss/pass Hickory -just follow Silver Lake around the curve and take a left on the first, or second street to get back to Hickory Street. Take Hickory Street to almost to the end where the State Bank and parking lot is. IF by chance, you are taking Linden Road into the City of Linden, You will take Linden Road past the light to the next street -Hickory Street (church on corner) and it is one block to the municipal lot. Hike Leader: Sue Lossing 810 624 9366/cell, 810-735-6303/land-line.

JUL 25th (SAT) 10:00 AM BIKE FLUSHING RIVERVIEW TRAIL. Easy Paved Ride along the wooded trail that follows the Flint River and crosses into the County Park in beautiful Flushing. Meet behind Bueche Supermarket, 300 W. Main Street, Flushing 48433. Leader: Terry Reechko 734-558-0031

AUG 5th (WED) 10:00 AM SOUTHERN LINK TRAIL, OTTER LAKE HIKE or BIKE. 5 miles. Easy. Hike or Bike the beautiful Southern Lake Trail from Otter Lake. Take I-69 to M-15 North to Lake Rd, East to Otter Lake. Trailhead and parking lot is on the southern edge of town. Dogs allowed on leash. Hike Leader: Mary Harmon 989-795-2139.

AUG 8th (SAT) 10:00 AM DAVISON JACK ABERNATHY PARK. 4 miles. Easy. Enjoy walking along on the Paved Jack Abernathy Trail in Davison. Trail winds along a creek past the dog park and into a wooded park. dogs welcome on leashes only. Meet at the Davison Twp. Hall 1280 N. Irish Rd Davison MI 48423. Take I-69 to Irish Rd Exit and go north. Twp. Hall on East Side. Leader: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

AUG 14th (FRI) 6:30 PM SECOND FRIDAY ARTWALK: BUCKHAM GALLERY. 1 Mile. Easy. Meet at Buckham Gallery as we view art, walk to the Greater Flint Arts Council and other venues. Buckham Gallery is at 134 1/2 W. Second Street, Flint, and 48502 Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

AUG 15th (SAT) 10:00 AM NEW FLINT FARMER'S MARKET or FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS URBAN HIKE. 1 Mile. Easy. Start your morning at the New Flint Farmer's Market and join walkers for a nice urban walk. Meet in the atrium inside Farmers Market on 300 E. First St., Flint, MI 48502. Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

AUG 23-26 (SUN-THU) 5:00 PM CANOE & CAMP: 2 HEARTED RIVER CRUISE. Moderate to difficult. 5pm Sunday. Join us for our 22nd annual campout at the beautiful 2-Hearted River State Forest Campground on Lake Superior as we hike and kayak the 2-Hearted River and enjoy the great outdoors. Outing starts 5pm Sunday at the campground. Dogs on leash allowed. We'll car camp at the river mouth. Campsites are first-come, first-served and look for a Sierra Club sign on a campsite on the north loop. The campsites are rustic with pit toilets. The Rainbow lodge burned in 2012 so no facilities or provisions are available. The nearest supplies, ice and gas are in Pine Stump Junction, MI almost 20 miles away so you must bring everything you'll need for 4 nights. Canoe and kayak rentals are available with a \$50 advance deposit by August 10th, plus a \$5 shuttle fee at the camp. People with their own kayaks will responsible for transporting them to the put-in site at the Reed & Green bridge, or pay a \$5 shuttle fee. We'll kayak one day, hike the North Country trail one day and have an optional trip to view the Crisp Point Lighthouse. Blueberry picking at your own desire. This area of Lake Superior is known for great agate hunting, Yooperlites and salmon fishing. Plan for potluck dinners in the evenings. Reservations with leader requested by August 15st. Campsite is \$15 per night, may be shared. Outings fee \$1 donation requested. Call leader for map and directions to campsite. Contact: Lynn Livingston, 239-398-3720 or redwingnut1@me.com.

AUG 29th (SAT) 10:00 AM SHIAWASSEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AUTO TOUR Drive through this Beautiful wetlands nature refuge. Contact Hike Leader if interested in carpooling at 9:00 am from the Carpool lot at I-75 Clio exit West side of the overpass. Optional Restaurant Stop after. Dogs must remain in your car. Take I-75 north to Clio exit 131 (M-57/Vienna Rd). Go west 8 miles to M-13, North 10 miles to Curtis Rd., West 4 miles to parking lot. Leader: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

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SEP 7th (MON) 7:30 AM DETROIT LABOR DAY PARADE. 1 mile. Easy. Meet in the K-Mart parking lot on the corner of Miller Rd. and Ballenger Rd. in Flint to carpool down to Detroit. For additional information about the parade, Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

SEP 9th (WED) 6pm BOARD MTG FOLLOWED BY 730 pm Outings Schedule 2021! Meeting at Mott Community College 1401 E. Court St., Flint Prah Center, Genesee Room. Contacts: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038, Rebecca Gale Gonzales 810-715-3754 rebecca.gale@mcc.edu

SEP 11th (FRI) 6:30 PM SECOND FRIDAY ARTWALK: BUCKHAM GALLERY. 1 Mile. Easy. Meet at Buckham Gallery as we view art, walk to the Greater Flint Arts Council and other venues. Buckham Gallery is at 134 1/2 W. Second Street, Flint, 48502 Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

SEP 12th (SAT) 10:00 AM NEW FLINT FARMER'S MARKET or FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS URBAN HIKE. 1 Mile. Easy. Start your morning at the New Flint Farmer's Market and join walkers for a nice urban walk. Meet in the atrium inside Farmers Market on 300 E. First St., Flint, MI 48502. Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

SEP 16th (WED) 11:00 AM OTTER LAKE HIKE OR BIKE SOUTHERN LINKS Moderate hike on unmarked trails around lakes in this forested State Game Area or bike on paved bike path. Directions to START: I-69 to M-15, North (thru Otisville) to Lake Rd. (2.3 miles north of M-57) East on Lake Rd., 2 miles to Henderson Rd. North on Henderson Rd to Willard Rd. East on Willard Rd and Left at fork (pass over where the Southern Links trail crosses the road) 0.1 mile to trailhead parking lot on left. Hike and Biking Coordinator: Linda Berker 810-348-8664 Leaders to be Determined at the Trailhead All Participants Must sign a waiver at the trailhead, Dogs allowed in the Game Area and must be on leashes on the paved Trail.

SEP 19th (SAT) 10:00 AM SOUTHERN LINKS TRAIL-COLUMBIAVILLE. 4 miles. Easy. Hike or Bike the Southern Link trail from trailhead in Columbiaville north to Hollenbeck Rd. and then return. Meet at trailhead. Dogs allowed on leash. Downtown Columbiaville next to Curlys Lakeside Grill. Take M-15 to Mt. Morris Rd., East to Marathon Rd. North to Columbiaville. Hike Leader: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

SEP 23rd (SAT) 11:00 AM MURPHY LAKE NORTH HIKE. Moderate/Difficult. Hike about 6.5 miles long. Hilly terrain through old growth forests to the lake and back. Take M-15 to Millington to the stop light. Go East 4 miles on Millington Rd. to trailhead on North side of road, (park on shoulder to avoid disturbing threatened lizards). Trailhead is across from Mt. Kotarski sign. Hike Leader: Mary Harmon 989-795-2139.

OCT 3 (SAT) 10:00 AM SOUTHERN LINK TRAIL, OTTER LAKE-SOUTH. 5 miles. Easy. Hike Southern Lake Trail from Otter Lake South to Hollenbeck Rd. and return. Dogs allowed. Take I-69 to M-15 to Lake, East to Otter Lake. Trailhead and parking lot is on the southern edge of town. Dogs allowed on leash. Contact: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

OCT 7th (WED) 11:00 AM NEW MURPHY LK SOUTH HIKE Moderate. Hilly Terrain around ponds and through beautiful wildflowers and forests. Take M-15 to Millington to the stop light. Go East about 4 miles on Millington Rd. (about ¼ mile past the trailhead on North side of road) Past the MT Kotarski sign on your Right and look for a Parking Area **On YOUR RIGHT /SOUTH side of Millington Rd.** The Trail Runs South from There. Dogs Welcome. Hike Leader: Mary Harmon 989-795-2139.

OCT 9th (FRI) 6:30 PM SECOND FRIDAY ARTWALK: BUCKHAM GALLERY. 1 Mile. Easy. Meet at Buckham Gallery as we view art, walk to the Greater Flint Arts Council and other venues. Buckham Gallery is at 134 1/2 W. Second Street, Flint, 48502 Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

OCT 10th (SAT) 10:00 AM NEW FLINT FARMER'S MARKET or FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS URBAN HIKE. 1 Mile. Easy. Start your morning at the New Flint Farmer's Market and join walkers for a nice urban walk. Meet in the atrium inside Farmers Market on 300 E. First St., Flint, MI 48502. Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

OCT 17th (SAT) 10:00AM - 4:00PM LIGON OUTDOOR CENTER SERVICE OUTING. Easy. Help out on a Service Project. No dogs. 5213 E. Farrand Rd. From Clio, go East to Genesee Rd, go North to Farrand Rd, then East 0.5 mile to Ligon on North Side of Rd. Contact: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

OCT 21st (WED) 10AM KRESGE CENTER HIKE Easy woodland hike during Bow Season **Wear Orange** Directions Are to **Parking East of the Center in the Adjacent Lapeer State Game Area.** Take I-69 to M-24 North through Lapeer, past the Hospital and Turn Right at the Light at Daley Rd. take Dailey Rd East about 2 miles then turn Left/North at the Stop for Fish Lake Rd and go North on Fish lake about 1.5 miles to Vernor Rd (yes the home to the ruins of the Vernor Estate) and Turn Right/East on Vernor and go North 1 ¾ miles to Five Lakes Rd Which is a Dirt Trail to the left and look for the first dirt lot on your Right/East that is where we will park and meet to walk together along the road to start. Hike Leader: Gloria Bublitz 810-895-1778.

Due to Covid-19 We do not know at this time what the epidemic situation will be in July. Campgrounds may not be open. It is your responsibility to follow safe procedures and guidelines. Please check the Sierra Club website for updates and contact the Outings Leader listed before attending.

OCT 21st (WED) 10AM KRESGE CENTER HIKE Easy woodland hike during Bow Season **Wear Orange** Directions Are to **Parking East of the Center in the Adjacent Lapeer State Game Area.** Take I-69 to M-24 North through Lapeer, past the Hospital and Turn Right at the Light at Daley Rd. take Dailey Rd East about 2 miles then turn Left/North at the Stop for Fish Lake Rd and go North on Fish lake about 1.5 miles to Vernor Rd (yes the home to the ruins of the Vernor Estate) and Turn Right/East on Vernor and go North 1 ¾ miles to Five Lakes Rd Which is a Dirt Trail to the left and look for the first dirt lot on your Right/East that is where we will park and meet to walk together along the road to start. Hike Leader: Gloria Bublitz 810-895-1778

OCT 24th (SAT) 10:00 AM SOUTHERN LINK TRAIL, OTTER LAKE-NORTH. 5 miles. Easy. Hike Southern Lake Trail from Otter Lake North to Birch Run Rd. and return. Dogs allowed on leash. Take I-69 to M-15 to Lake, East to Otter Lake. Trailhead and parking lot is on the southern edge of town. Contact: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

OCT 31st (SAT) 10:00 AM HALLOWEEN KAYAK /CANOE The FLINT RIVER Start Location to be determined depending on conditions. Very pretty ½ day paddle. Contact: Terry Reechko 734-558-0031

NOV 4th (WED) 10:00 AM SUTHERLAND NATURE SANCTUARY HIKE 3 miles or less. Easy/Moderate. From M15 Take Hill Rd East (Hill Rd. becomes Pratt Rd) or from M24 Take Pratt Rd. West Then continue on Pratt Rd. to Diehl Rd. (east of Hadley). South on Diehl Rd. to entrance of Sanctuary on the right (west side), 3960 Diehl Rd. Park on west side of Diehl Rd. in front of Sanctuary if the lot is impassable. Dogs welcome. Leader: Gloria Bublitz 810-895-1778

NOV 13th (FRI) 6:30 PM SECOND FRIDAY ARTWALK: BUCKHAM GALLERY. 1 Mile. Easy. Meet at Buckham Gallery as we view art, walk to the Greater Flint Arts Council and other venues. Buckham Gallery is at 134 1/2 W. Second Street, Flint, 48502 Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

NOV 14th (SAT) 10:00 AM NEW FLINT FARMER'S MARKET or FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS URBAN HIKE. 1 Mile. Easy. Start your morning at the New Flint Farmer's Market and join walkers for a nice urban walk. Meet in the atrium inside Farmers Market on 300 E. First St., Flint, MI 48502. Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

NOV 28th (SAT) 10:00AM SOUTHERN LINK TRAIL, MILLINGTON SOUTH. 4 miles. Easy. Hike Southern Lake Trail from Millington south to Birch Run Rd. and return. Dogs allowed. Take I-69 to M-15 to Millington. at the light, turn East. Cross the Rail tracks and turn right at the next street. School is on the left and trailhead is at the end of the street. Contact: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

DEC 5th (SAT) 10:00 AM NEW FLINT FARMER'S MARKET or FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS URBAN HIKE. 1 Mile. Easy. Start your morning at the New Flint Farmer's Market and join walkers for a nice urban walk. Meet in the atrium inside Farmers Market on 300 E. First St., Flint, MI 48502. Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

DEC 11th (FRI) 6:30 PM SECOND FRIDAY ARTWALK: BUCKHAM GALLERY. 1 Mile. Easy. Meet at Buckham Gallery as we view art, walk to the Greater Flint Arts Council and other venues. Buckham Gallery is at 134 1/2 W. Second Street, Flint, 48502 Contact: Mike Haley 810-686-6354 thaley01@att.net

DEC 12th (SAT) 12NOON-4PM SIERRA CLUB ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS PARTY at LIGON. Easy. Ligon Outdoor Center. Hikes, Pot-luck and friends. 5213 E. Farrand Rd. Clio. Take M-57 East to Genesee Rd., North to Farrand Rd., East 1/2 mile to Ligon entrance on left/North Side. Take service drive all the way back to the lakeside cabin by the lake. Contact: Denny Crispell 989-624-5038

Welcome to Water Monitoring

Member Sue Lossing is welcoming people to participate in **Our Water** monitoring programs. **Free training** is provided. A fun way to get outside, help, and enjoy nature. Information collected goes a long way (EPA reporting, stocking fish, etc.)

For us, it is an excellent program to track the health of our watershed environments, provide a historical record, spotlight healthy/unhealthy areas. Dependent upon habitat observations, measurements, and collection samples - we are able to score a habitat as: **Poor, Fair, Good, or Excellent.** (*If you want to know where the fish are...*)

We cannot conduct these programs without people like you. As you may have noticed in our Spotlights - many everyday people help make a difference with this program. Whether you live in Davison, Fenton, Montrose, Argentine, Flint, Burton, Goodrich, Lapeer, etc. - there is a spot near you. For a couple of hours in the Spring and/or Fall, you can make a difference.

For more information contact Sue Lossing at: slossing@hotmail.com; 810-735-6303/land-line.

Enviro Spotlights: Honorees & Appreciations



Photo by Wendy Lawton; Linda Berker, 2019 Trip to Africa

Over the years, Linda has filled so many roles for us (and she still does!), including Group Chair, Hike/Outings Leader, political committee, Fundraiser, Annual Tree Give-away, Outreach/Booth Coordinator, friend and more.

Flint River Watershed Coalition Honors:

Linda Berker

When Sue Lossing asked Nepessing Group to appoint a member to the newly formed Flint River Watershed Coalition, she secretly hoped they would appoint Linda Berker. They did, and Linda was invaluable with setting the coalition on a successful path and providing stability over the years.

Jan. 20th, at the **Voice of the River Annual Celebration**, the coalition bestowed upon Linda the title "Board Member Emeritus" for her 23 years of service. Nepessing appreciates her steadfast service as our appointed representative.

Per Linda: *"Nature is under our feet, in our lungs, in our veins. The more diverse and sustainable, the less managed nature is, the stronger and more resilient nature is, and the stronger we are. When we accept our connections to nature, nature becomes personal to us. We are a part of nature, working for the planet that gives us joy. and we work for the planet because we are the planet, we belong to life."*¹

¹ <https://www.eastvillagemagazine.org/2020/02/01/now-is-the-time-to-stand-for-the-earth-award-winner-tells-frwc-audience-at-voice-of-the-river-celebration/>



Photo credit: Mike Haley; L-R, Members Linda Berker, Denny Crispell, and Mike Buza at Awards Ceremony, March 2019

Ligon Outdoor Education Center Honors

Denny Crispell

On March 10, 2020 the **Genesee County Education Foundation** recognized Denny Crispell as an *Every Day Hero* for his efforts on behalf of Ligon Outdoor Educational Center. Nepessing members were in attendance to show their support as Denny received the award. We are all proud of Denny and share our joy in his receiving the award.

As a former Scout Leader, Denny is a natural at providing support and leadership. He has served as Board Chair, and continues to serve as Outings Leader and water monitor. Denny leads many Outings locally, and across the State (my favorite being Manitou Island!). His Service Outings at Ligon provide opportunities for others to join in and make a difference. Warning: He is a good Story Teller!

Nepessing Group & Political Committee Appreciates

Laurie Tata
We thank Laurie for her service to Nepessing Group and her outstanding efforts Chairing our Political Committee. We appreciate her representing us on the Michigan Chapter Political Committee.



Jack Minore
We thank Jack for his service to Nepessing Group and political guidance over many years. We appreciate his ongoing community leadership with Friends of the Flint River Trail, and the Flint River Watershed Coalition



Enviro-Happenings (6:00 pm)

Enviro-Presentations (7:30 pm)

Dates *May 13* *Aug 12* *Oct 14*
 June 10 *Sept. 9* *Nov 11*

To participate in our on-line ZOOM sessions, please contact Mike Buza:

theoriginalzuba@yahoo.com

Facebook:

michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

MeetUp:

Sierra Club -Nepessing Group (Michigan)

Website

SierraClub.org/Michigan/Nepessing

2020 Executive Committee

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Chair | Mike Buza |
| Vice Chair | Sue Lossing |
| At-Large | Linda Berker |
| At-Large | Carol Graham-Banes |
| At-Large | Mike Haley |
| At-Large | Jack Minore |
| At-Large | Larry Petrella |
| At-Large | Fred Townsend |
| At-Large | Mark Warren |

Non-Voting

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Treasurer | Richard Naber |
| Secretary | Heather Sisto |

2020 Committee Chairs

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Conservation | Mike Buza |
| Outings | Denny Crispell |
| Membership/Political | Bob Aguirre & David Lossing |
| Social Media | Sue Lossing & Ashley Tucker |
| Fundraising | Linda Berker & Bob Simpson |
| Newsletter | Sue Lossing & Carol Graham-Banes |
| Programs | Heather Sisto |

Michigan Chapter Sierra Club

109 East Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Lansing, MI 48986



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