

# TheMackinac

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## Energy for a Brighter Future

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

Sierra Club founder John Muir taught us that “when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.” Michigan’s future well-being is “hitched” to a mind-boggling array of decisions about producing, obtaining, using and conserving energy. Our state’s ability to create a clean and prosperous future, protect the Great Lakes and our drinking water, restore healthy air quality in urban areas, and return fisheries and forests to greatness depends on today’s energy decisions.

This issue of *The Mackinac* weaves those threads together for a “big picture” of our state’s energy policies. The mother of a child living with asthma near the River Rouge coal plant has a direct connection to one living in Manistee whose child may be harmed by the mercury in fish she caught and ate. Families who can’t pay their heating bills have a link to families worried that natural gas fracking will contaminate their drinking water wells. Factory workers in solar component plants and utility workers at power plants slated to be closed both need good jobs. Anglers concerned about keeping trout habitat healthy are fighting the same fight as Yoopers working to protect diverse native forest ecosystems for the enjoyment and employment of future generations.

Meanwhile, climate change is already affecting wide swaths of Michigan communities and workers, so our ability to move beyond fossil fuels is essential to everything from agriculture to tourism.

Thanks to former Governor Jennifer Granholm, whose campaign to make



GAIL PHILBIN

Lake of the Clouds in Porcupine Mountains State Park.

Michigan a clean energy leader was the best news for Michigan jobs and investment in the past decade, Michiganders “get it.” They understand that a clean energy future is a key part of solving our state’s economic woes. A recent survey showed almost two-thirds see clean energy as a major job creator.

Unfortunately, the fickle winds of politics have taken Michigan’s progress and put it on perilous footing. Lansing’s current elected elite are out of touch with

their constituents. We must get Michigan back on the right foot. You’ll find out how to help in the following pages.

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Elect Sierra Club Leaders! Have a say in who makes decisions for the Michigan Chapter by voting in the Executive Committee member elections — details on p.12. Be sure to mail in your ballot by Dec. 1!**



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

## THE MACKINAC

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CAFO Protesters at Capitol in the early 2000's.

# In the Spotlight

## Beyond Fossil Fuels

by Jean Gramlich,  
Michigan Chapter Chair

Over time, the Sierra Club's understanding of the issue of how we produce energy and its effect on the environment as well as our response to the problem have evolved. Initially, we tried to stop new coal plants and then moved on to shutting down old plants with our "Beyond Coal" initiative.

At the same time, we've had to examine our policies on other fossil fuels, biomass and nuclear power. Natural gas produced by traditional methods and used to produce electricity is less polluting than coal. Yet, gas produced by hydrofracturing adds as many greenhouse gases to the atmosphere as coal and threatens air and water quality. In addition, there

are reports of serious health problems in local populations. Michigan has the potential for many of these new wells, compelling us to reach "beyond fossil fuel."

What about nuclear power plants? Large uranium mining interests see the UP as a possible source for this radioactive element. Nuclear power plants in Michigan and Ohio have had serious safety violations in their operations. And no one has come up with a good solution for dealing with radioactive waste after the power is produced.

Should biomass be part of the mix? In the last 100 years, we've separated agricultural produce from soil fertility by using petroleum-based fertilizers instead of recycling agricultural waste. Soil health has suffered, and agronomists are just now beginning to understand just how much. In the eastern UP, the Mascoma Corporation has a plan to use wood to



JAN O'CONNELL

Ex-Com Chair Jean Gramlich (right) pictured at the 2011 Chapter Retreat with former Chapter Chair Sue Kelly (center) and former Chapter Legislative Director Gayle Miller (left).

make ethanol containing fewer BTUs than necessary to produce it. Does that make sense?

Looking to the future, we need to emphasize energy efficiency and renewables as the only way to reach a sustainable energy future.

## A New Energy Source?

THE ANSWER IS BLOWIN' IN THE WIND...OFFSHORE

by Elaine Morton, Legislative Intern

Wind energy is Michigan's best option for a renewable energy resource, and the Great Lakes provide an ideal location for offshore wind turbines. However, the idea has prompted concerns about feasibility of implementation and impact on property values, lake views, animal migration and tourism. Fortunately, in 2009 Governor Granholm created the Great Lakes Wind Council, which researched these issues and identified options to address them (see report at [michiganlowcouncil.org](http://michiganlowcouncil.org)).

If installed in select areas of the Lakes, wind turbines would provide both economic and environmental benefits. Compared to coal plants, they're less expensive to operate and can provide a predictable, plentiful flow of power. Michigan could also see revenue from leasing lake bottom sites to other states and keep money in-state by reducing the need for out-of-state coal. Turbine manufacture, installation and maintenance would also create jobs. Offshore wind turbines are simply an untapped resource for the future of clean, safe energy in Michigan.

Currently, the state legislature has no policies for siting of offshore wind turbines. The Submerged Land Act is an option but wasn't designed for large-scale development and would require



APRIL JOY GALBREATH

The Offshore Wind Assessment Project is a joint research effort between Grand Valley State University, University of Michigan and other organizations funded in part by the Sierra Club's Great Lakes Office investigating the viability of Great Lakes wind as an alternative energy source. On Oct 7, 2011, the project's AXYS WindSentinel, a six-ton, state-of-the-art research platform, was dedicated in Muskegon.

Michigan to consider a lease for offshore development. We need legislation to establish a framework for such development while providing necessary protections. The Sierra Club has pushed for progressive offshore wind legislation at both Lobby Days in 2011 and will continue to do so until we succeed. If we're to move forward as a state that cares about its land, water and citizens, we need legislative change now.



# CleanEnergySolutions

## Sierra Club Makes It Clear: No Nuclear!

by Kay Cumbow, Southeast Michigan Group

On October 1, Michigan and Ohio Sierra Club members joined in enthusiastic rallies in Monroe, Michigan, and Toledo, Ohio, calling for the shutdown of unsafe reactors in the United States and worldwide. Such public protests represent just one component of a diverse campaign engaged by the Sierra Club to stop nuclear power in Michigan. In particular, the Michigan Chapter has been battling DTE's proposed Fermi 3 nuclear power plant — identified by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality as having potentially the largest impact on coastal wetlands project in the state's history. The plant would be located on the shore of Lake Erie near Monroe adjacent to DTE's Fermi 1 plant, which experienced a partial fuel meltdown in 1966, and Fermi 2, operating since 1988.

In August, weeks before the rally, the Palisades reactor on the shores of Lake Michigan near Covert, plagued for decades by serious, unresolved safety issues, had an unplanned release of tritium, a radioisotope of hydrogen that can damage DNA. A month previous to that, one of three critical pumps that supply cooling water to the Palisades reactor failed, which triggered a special inspection by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Inspectors found that couplings on the pump failed due to cracking — a repeat of a 2009 incident. Even so, Palisades received a license extension from the NRC through 2031.

Michigan Sierra Club members at anti-nuclear rally in Monroe.

**YOU CAN HELP!**  
Join us in a making a critique of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Fermi 3 during the public comment period. Contact Hal Newnan at [hnewnan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hnewnan@sbcglobal.net).



### **NO NEW COAL PLANTS!**

by Anne Woiwode,  
Chapter Director

Sierra Club and our partners in Clean Energy Now are fighting back against Governor Snyder's decision to issue permits reviving three coal plant proposals in Michigan. Although the astronomical costs and lack of demand for these proposed plants have led each utility to reconsider building the respective facilities, Snyder's permits could divert \$5 billion or more of Michigan ratepayers' funds from building a

clean-energy economy to dirty, unneeded coal plants.

Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) have filed lawsuits against the Snyder Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for reversing the denials of air pollution permits in the proposed expansion of the Holland Board of Public Works coal plant and the proposed new Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative coal plant in Rogers City. The state ignored extensive documentation of the failure in each case to require adequate controls for toxic emissions, acid rain precursors

and mercury, and the availability of cleaner alternatives.

In July, Snyder's DEQ issued an 18-month permit extension to Consumers Energy for its proposed Essexville coal plant expansion, even though the company announced the plant is on hold because of high costs for ratepayers and no need for the power. Sierra Club and NRDC filed a lawsuit in early October to stop this permit extension.

**To keep up-to-date on Michigan's Beyond Coal efforts, visit [www.sierraclub.org/coal/mi](http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/mi).**

## GET INVOLVED!

... and find out more at [msubeyondcoal.wordpress.com](http://msubeyondcoal.wordpress.com)  
or by emailing [msubeyondcoal@gmail.com](mailto:msubeyondcoal@gmail.com).

# Moving MSU Beyond Coal

by Tori Wong,  
MSU Beyond Coal Organizer

**M**SU Beyond Coal, launched in spring 2010 to call for the transition of Michigan State University away from coal to 100% clean, renewable energy sources, is revving up excitement through several events. They include the “Moving Planet” event, part of an international day of activities showing support for clean energy; attendance at the national youth summit Midwest Powershift, and organization of the 100% Clean: 100 Actions for Clean Energy Rally to shut down the nation’s largest, on-campus, coal-fired power plant.

Working as part of the Sierra Student



MSU Beyond Coal kickoff meeting on Sept. 27; Sierra Student Coalition’s Talya Tavor at left.

Coalition, the student-led MSU coalition of more than 100 students, alumni, East Lansing community members and other student group representatives is calling for President Lou Anna Simon and the MSU Board of Trustees to catch up with the four other Big Ten Conference

universities already committed to shutting down their coal plants. Trustee Dianne Byrum supports MSU Beyond Coal’s campaign, noting that the world-class research university should lead the way toward a clean energy future by getting off coal.

# Making a Clean Energy Economy Work for Everyone

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

**T**he success of Michigan’s transition to a clean energy economy will be judged by more than energy saved and renewable energy generated. Getting off dirty energy can’t mean simply writing off the workers and communities that depend on those industries. Yet the state’s utilities may be preparing to do just that as coal plants well beyond their planned lifespan are moving toward shutdowns.

The Sierra Club understands that a transition to a clean economy must take into consideration everyone affected by the process. Workers in dirty energy industries deserve to move into good-paying, clean jobs. Michigan has long watched workers left behind as companies chased profits to other parts of the world, and we learned the hard way that nobody wins unless

everyone wins. To this end, the Sierra Club is an active part of the BlueGreen Alliance, bringing labor and environmentalists together to fight for a clean energy economy. It’s a natural fit.

In addition, Environmental Justice Organizer Rhonda Anderson has been working for years with residents of the communities hardest hit by the health impacts of dirty energy to ensure they don’t end up on the trash heap. She has empowered community members to fight back against pollution from oil refineries, waste incinerators and power plants that shorten life spans, sicken children, and ruin the value of

homes and businesses. As a result, agencies have begun to recognize the disproportionate impact of energy and other industries on these communities. Recent attention to these concerns from the US EPA is encouraging, but much remains to be done. Neither Rhonda nor Sierra Club will walk away from these communities.

Sierra Club joined other BlueGreen Alliance members for an April 4 Grand Rapids rally in support of workers. L-R: Dave Petroelje, Ineke Petroelje, Jan O’Connell and Shirley Kallio.



SUE BROWNE OF BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE

## FIND OUT MORE!

Email [michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org)

# CleanEnergySolutions

## Frickin' Fracking!

HELP US BATTLE THE LATEST THREAT TO MICHIGAN'S WATER AND AIR

by Nancy Shiffler, Michigan Chapter Executive Committee

**E**ven the name sounds like an expletive. Fracking is a dirty word for the dirty practice of hydraulic fracturing, an environmentally brutal but increasingly popular method of extracting natural gas from underground shale that has come to Michigan in the last few years. Drillers blast 3-7 million gallons of water laced with chemicals into rock to widen small fissures and release pent-up gas. The environmental fallout includes air pollution and toxic water wells that can produce flaming faucets as seen in the acclaimed documentary "Gasland." In other states, earthquakes have resulted with the deep re-injection of wastewater.

Environmental organizations are meeting with officials from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Office of Geological Survey to find ways to protect our natural resources and communities from fracking. We've made small gains over the last year, but we need your help to ramp up the public pressure on this dangerous practice.

**Fracking is a dirty word for the dirty practice of hydraulic fracturing, an environmentally brutal but increasingly popular method of extracting natural gas from underground shale.**

**Please help us help your community understand what's at stake.** Read up on fracking at [www.tiny.cc/MISierraClub-fracking](http://www.tiny.cc/MISierraClub-fracking). And then take action! We need you to write a letter to the editor of your local paper; the MDEQ, and your lawmakers! Tell them you're concerned about these problems with current laws and regulations:

- No public participation in permitting decisions, including no public hearings. Neighbors can't even protest a permit decision.
- Chemicals used in fracking are kept secret, so that no one knows what may be leaking into their drinking water.
- Drillers use millions of gallons of fresh clean groundwater, and pollute it so completely it can never be cleaned up or used for anything else — it can only be deep injected for disposal.

**Help us get this message across: No Fracking Way!**



A fracking waste pit.

## Hold Your Breath!

by Anne Woiwode, Chapter Director

**T**hat's the message leaders of the US House of Representatives are sending you. Oh, and you better skip drinking water and eating fish, too.

This fall, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) kicked off a Congressional assault on basic US EPA protections against life threatening pollution including mercury, arsenic, soot, smog, carbon dioxide and coal ash. Despite strong support from Michiganders for making fish safe to eat, cleaning up the Great Lakes and reducing asthma, heart disease and other pollution-related ailments, several Michigan Congressional Representatives are joining Cantor's assault.

Cantor and his colleagues are falsely claiming that standing in the way of critical environmental protections will help create jobs, when in fact it holds back our economic recovery and will cost billions in health-related impacts.

The EPA plays a critical role in protecting Michigan's families from pollution that harms our health and threatens communities. Soot and smog from coal plants and other fossil fuels cause missed school and work days contributing to respiratory and heart ailments. Coal and cement plants



## SIERRA CLUB CHALLENGES \$58 MILLION GRANT TO PROPOSED BIOFUELS PLANT

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

**T**he Sierra Club is challenging a \$58 million federal grant to help build an ill-conceived biofuels plant in the eastern UP that would consume more resources and energy than it would produce.

Frontier Renewable Resources, a partnership between the Mascoma Corporation, a renewable fuels company, and J.M Longyear, a Marquette-based timber landowner, has proposed building the first-ever commercial-scale wood-to-ethanol biofuels plant in Kinross Township.

The plant, to be located near the old Kinross Air Force Base, would eat up about 6-7% of all Michigan forest growth each year, yet only generate enough ethanol to replace less than 0.5% of annual gasoline use in the state.

**If drivers kept their tires properly inflated and engines tuned, they'd save more gas than this plant.**

In terms of jobs per unit of wood harvested, this plant is likely to be the least job-creating project in the history of the forest products industry. The direct manufacturing return will be just 75 plant jobs, whereas a nearby paper mill uses about one-third of the wood and has almost 450 employees.

To add insult to injury, Frontier Renewable Resources is asking for considerable public support to make this boondoggle a reality – nearly \$160 million in tax abate-

ments and state and federal grants.

This project will burn through nearly a million tons of standing timber a year. Is it worth the cost to the environment and taxpayer?

The Sierra Club doesn't think so and has been working to stop it for nearly two years. The latest development we're battling is a \$58 million grant the U.S. Department of Energy has approved for the project. (In a stunning conflict of interest, the DOE paid the company to write the environmental assessment approving the grant.)

Many thanks to Sierra Club's Three Lakes Group members Carol Ward, Pat Egan and Roger Blanchard for leading this fight.

Visit our website at [www.tiny.cc/MIbiofuels](http://www.tiny.cc/MIbiofuels) to stay up to date.

spew mercury, and the EPA has proposed substantially reducing emissions of this poison. As our state legislature considers adopting "no stricter than federal" regulations, the concerns multiply since state environmental officials may be blocked from assuring stronger regulations designed specifically to protect Michigan and the Great Lakes.

But Congressman Cantor, Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph) and other Michigan Congressional Representatives voted to block these and other regulations, catering instead to electric utilities and coal mining interests. These elected officials want Michiganders to carry the burden of toxic fish and asthmatic children, rather than make the responsible companies pay to clean up their pollution. Joining Cantor and Upton in voting to undermine EPA's health-based protections are Congressional Representatives Tim Walberg, Dan Benishek, Justin Amash, Candace Miller, Mike Rogers, Thaddeus McCotter, Bill Huizenga, and David Camp.

US Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin will play a critical role in protecting Michigan's well-being as the dangerous legislation from the House makes its way to the Senate. In addition, President Barack Obama provides a critical backstop with the power of the veto. However, both the Senators and the President need to hear from you that this assault on environmental protections must be stopped and reversed. Please join us in letting them know that by preserving the basic clean air and water protections we've counted on for decades we can ensure healthy



James DeYoung coal fired power plant in Holland.

families and a strong economy.

"The Sierra Club applauds President Obama for his vow to veto these dangerous bills that undermine public health protections," says Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "We urge Congress to reject these polluter-led attacks on public health and focus on real solutions that grow the economy without costing lives."

**Find out more about this critical fight by contacting Tiffany Hartung at [tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org](mailto:tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org) or going to [www.Sierraclub.org/asthma](http://www.Sierraclub.org/asthma).**

# Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

## The S\*\*t Hits the Fan

SIERRA CLUB UPS PRESSURE ON CAFOS

by Gail Philbin, Assistant Chapter Director

Today's farm looks nothing like the haven of lush fields and happy animals on supermarket food packages. After World War II, an industrialized approach emphasizing the bottom line rather than planet and consumer welfare muscled out the small-scale, organic way of farming common up to then.

Today, nearly all meat in restaurants and stores comes from CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) containing thousands of animals. The US EPA defines these as "agricultural operations where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. CAFOs congregate animals, feed, manure and urine, dead animals, and production operations on a small land area. Feed is brought to the animals rather than the animals grazing or otherwise seeking feed in pastures, fields, or on rangeland."

To stave off disease and encourage growth in cramped quarters, CAFO owners feed animals huge amounts of antibiotics. This high-volume farming approach has led to a host of environmental issues Sierra Club began noticing after CAFOs emerged in the 1990s.

With the help of volunteers, the Michigan Chapter has been tracking the impact on our waterways of the manure generated by these "farms." We've been on the front lines of the fight to get state regulators to hold them accountable like any other polluting corporation. We've filed lawsuits, lobbied legislators and held press conferences to raise awareness.

Now we're stepping up our efforts by engaging a new audience with a series of informal parties at the homes of members who support our work and want to enlist friends in the CAFO battle. We need volunteers to monitor water sources or serve as community leaders, and financial support for our efforts, which



LIGHTHAWK

Disc-shaped areas form where manure is sprayed on fields.

can include costly lawsuits.

We've also begun tracking the health impacts of CAFOs. Nearby residents experience problems when exposed to gases and chemicals from manure spread on land, including chronic bronchitis and sinusitis, heart attacks, fatigue, anxiety and depression. No state department has a mandate to regulate CAFOs for health impacts, so the Sierra Club has stepped in to develop a process to document them, including a form available at [www.tiny.cc/fau90](http://www.tiny.cc/fau90).

If you're experiencing CAFO-related health problems, print, fill out and bring the form to a medical professional (if your situation is life threatening, go to an emergency room). Send us a copy, too. **For details, contact Lynn Henning at [lynn.henning@sierraclub.org](mailto:lynn.henning@sierraclub.org) or call 517-605-7740.**



### CAFO KUDOS

The spotlight continues to follow Michigan Water Sentinel **Lynn Henning** in the wake of winning the 2010 Goldman Environmental Prize for North America. Last year, she was listed in *O Magazine's* 2010 Power List

and in 2012 she will be featured in "Last Call at the Oasis," a documentary about water that previewed at the Toronto Film Festival and includes Erin Brockovich and Jack Black. Most recently, she appeared in a 5,000-word article in the November issue of *O Magazine* and is showcased in the Nov-Dec issue of *Sierra Magazine*. **Congratulations, Lynn!**

### HOST A CAFO HOUSE PARTY...

for friends and neighbors to learn more about factory farms. Contact Gail Philbin at 517-484-2372 ext. 16 or [gail.philbin@sierraclub.org](mailto:gail.philbin@sierraclub.org).

### MANY THANKS

The Michigan Chapter Water Sentinels wish to thank the Foundation for Deep Ecology, Tides Foundation, Sierra Club Foundation, and Watershed Media, editors of "CAFO: The Tragedy of Industrial Animal Factories," for their generous gift of 200 copies of this amazing book plus funding to support outreach on this key issue. For details, visit [www.cafothebook.org](http://www.cafothebook.org).



# GreatForests, WildPlaces

## When It Comes to the Environment, Is Snyder the Second Coming of Engler?

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

In the arena of natural resources, preservation can be thought of as the act of keeping land, forests and water safe and free from injury, destruction, or decay. The idea of conservation takes the longer view of preserving what we have for future generations through the planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect. Both are vital for maintaining the health and future of nature in our state.

Unfortunately, the Snyder Administration doesn't seem to understand the definition of either term and, in fact, is misusing them in a verbal shell game to give the illusion of concern for the environment.

Dennis Muchmore, Governor Snyder's chief of staff reportedly remarked recently that Michigan is moving away from a "preservation" philosophy of managing natural resources towards a "conservation" philosophy. In actual fact, Michigan has never had a preservation approach to nature. Since its inception, the Michigan Chapter has had an uphill battle educating Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff with each new change in administration about the value of protecting the wilderness bounty in our state.

Michigan has had something closer to a flawed, spotty conservation approach up until now, and any change in the governing philosophy away from what little is currently being done means a move towards more natural resource extraction.

With Snyder's history as a member of the Nature Conservancy board, we had hoped for better, but the DNR, at his direction, has ceased many conservation initiatives and seems hell-bent on giving the extractive industries free reign.

For example, this past summer DNR Director Rodney Stokes, at the direction of the governor's office, killed the Biodiversity Stewardship Areas program — perhaps the most visionary program for the conservation of biological diversity in U.S. history. He effectively undid in one fell swoop four years of hard work beginning in the Granholm administration between members of the DNR and outside groups including the Sierra Club to design a comprehensive system of "Reference Areas" to serve as standards for the rest of the state's natural communities.

The Snyder Administration also undermined the value of the Forest Management Advisory Committee, a multi-stakeholder group designed to advise the DNR on forest management created under the Granholm administration. This

committee grew out of a recognition that all areas of forest management such as timber, recreation and wildlife impact one another and need to be viewed together when designing a plan. However, certain elements of the timber industry chose not to participate in the committee despite repeated invitations to come to the table. They then successfully pushed for the creation of a new Timber Advisory Committee comprised exclusively of timber representatives that now competes with the Forest Management Advisory Committee for the administration's attention.

Beyond these obvious moves, more subtle anti-environment actions are taking place behind closed doors. Insiders have indicated that the director and the administration are making resource and environmental protection decisions without even consulting with the senior officials who are knowledgeable about the issues.

Hold onto your hats, folks. It looks like we may be in for a repeat of the Engler administration. Or worse.

Michigan has suffered before when the monetary value of natural resources was placed ahead of the intrinsic value of nature. This is "Stumpland" in the Kingston Plains near Grand Marais in the late 19th century after logging and forest fires destroyed the forest and soils.



MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY ARCHIVES

## State Legislature Takes Aim at the Environment; Sierra Club Fights Back

by Mike Berkowitz, Chapter Organizer

Since the sweeping election of 2010, our state legislators have not hesitated to undermine our efforts to protect the environment. The Michigan Chapter's Legislative Committee, a dedicated group of volunteers, and I have spent much of our time tracking bad bills that would impact the issues we care about and stopping them from progressing through the Michigan legislature. So far, we have seen over 20 such bills, and that number is growing even as I write this.

Here is a sample of some of the terrible ideas proposed in the Michigan legislature this session:

- **House Bill 4326 and Senate Bill 272:** These would prohibit the governor and his/her agencies from issuing any regulation stricter than federal law unless specifically authorized by the

legislature. This would mean our governor could never create a Michigan-specific rule to protect the Great Lakes or protect our air quality and public health.

- **Senate Bill 248:** This would set a cap on the amount of land the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can own or manage. This would completely undermine the DNR's efforts to boost tourism and recreation development, support economic recovery, improve talent attraction and retention, and most importantly, protect natural resources in our great state.
- **House Bill 4815:** Popularly nicknamed "the dumb light bulb bill," this would exempt Michigan from a federal law gradually phasing out inefficient light bulbs. This bill could cost Michi-

ganders up to \$357 million annually in energy costs and would make Michigan a less energy efficient state.

- **House Bill 4303:** This would limit the Department of Environmental Quality from imposing compensatory wetland mitigation in certain roadwork projects. Wetland mitigation is a requirement to offset the environmental impact of projects on wetlands and helps to protect them for future generations. This would directly increase habitat damage on wetlands throughout the state.
- **House Bill 4298:** This would open the door to unnecessary proliferation of road construction in pristine areas and state forests. It requires the DNR to grant easements for roads over state-owned property to private holdings.

To counter these attacks on the environment and do some proactive work, we've gone on the offensive with two Lobby Days this year. Over 70 people from all over the state came to Lansing for each event in order to fight back. These passionate Sierra Club members pushed their legislators to support three crucial priorities: increasing our state's energy efficiency standard, establishing a regulatory framework for offshore wind energy, and putting a delay on hydraulic fracturing until better regulations are in place.

James D'Amour, a Huron Valley Group member, had this to say about Lobby Day: "It's a great way to get to know your government, get involved, and truly make a difference. It is a tremendous learning experience, too!"

Rep. Richard Hammel listens to Sierra Club citizen lobbyist Carol Graham make a point about wind power and fracking when she and others met with him during the Fall 2011 Lobby Day.



### HELP STOP THESE BAD BILLS!

If you'd like to proactively fight for responsible policies, you can do two things:

- 1) Contact me at [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org) or call 517-484-2372.
- 2) Take James D'Amour's advice — mark your calendar and plan to participate in our next Lobby Day in Spring 2012!

# The 2012 Elections are Closer Than You Think

by Richard Barron, Chair, Chapter Political Committee

Your Michigan Sierra Club Political Committee is already preparing for the fast-approaching 2012 elections. We'll work hard to find, endorse, and elect pro-environment candidates all over Michigan at the local, state and federal level. We'll be involved in both the August primary and November general elections, so look for our voting recommendations next year. In the meantime, here's what you can do now to help ensure favorable results in 2012:

- 1. Check to see if you're registered to vote at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).** If so, you're all set to vote in 2012! If not, use the website to get registered. And remember, you need to re-register every time you move.
- 2. Learn who your local, county, Michigan and federal representatives are.** Contact them by e-mail, phone, letter or a visit to their office and tell them you're a Sierra Club member in their district devoted to protecting the environment. If they have demonstrated a commitment to defending our natural resources, thank them and offer to help them get elected or reelected. If not, check out their opponent.



Chapter Organizer Mike Berkowitz speaks about hydro-fracking at a joint press conference with Clean Water Action and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council at the Capitol on Sep. 22.

- 3. Join the Michigan Chapter Political Committee.** Do you want to help get environmentally friendly legislators elected? If yes, then consider applying for a seat on the committee. For details, contact me at [rmorleybarron@charter.net](mailto:rmorleybarron@charter.net).
- 4. Consider helping fundraise for our Political Action Committee.** It does many different things to help pro-environment candidates get elected, such as finding volunteers, making campaign donations, and mailing endorsements to our members in their districts. To support such activities, we need money. If you're willing to stand up to polluters by donating or by helping us raise money, please email Mike Berkowitz at [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org).

## IN-DISTRICT LOBBYISTS SAY YIMBY (YES, IN MY BACKYARD)

By Mike Berkowitz, Chapter Organizer

Two years ago, the Michigan Chapter's Legislative Committee initiated an in-district lobbying program to engage members and help them build lasting relationships with lawmakers.

The program brings together committee members, Chapter staff, and other dedicated volunteers to set up meetings for people like you with legislators when they're "home" in their districts.

These meetings happen right in your backyard and give you the chance to be heard while encouraging legislators to pass environmentally friendly legislation.

The program has steadily grown since its start, and this year reached a milestone—more than 40 in-district meetings! Not only is our program the biggest it's ever been, we've now had in-district meetings in both peninsulas.

A good example of the immediate and positive impact in-district visits can have is a recent meeting between eight volunteers from the Southeast Michigan Group and Rep. Jon Switalski of Warren. They took the opportunity to thank Rep. Switalski for voting against three miserable bills that would endanger wetlands, the Great Lakes, and pristine natural areas, and he told

the volunteers about his work to pass Public Act 135. This innovative, new, "complete streets" law requires, the Michigan Department of Transportation to consider bicyclists and pedestrians, not just motorists, when undertaking projects.

Best of all, as a result of this meeting, Rep. Switalski committed to supporting our efforts on hydraulic fracturing! (See p.6 for details on this practice.)

**If you'd like to lobby in your backyard, email [mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org) or call 517-484-2372.**



# Chapter Elections

## **VOTE! MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The six Michigan Chapter Sierra Club members listed below are competing for five at-large spots on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom). ExCom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country. Please note that due to space constraints, we asked the candidates to limit their statements to 75 words or less.

**Vote for no more than five candidates.** You must write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope in which you return your ballot or your vote will be disqualified (your membership number is above your address on the back cover of this newsletter). The ballot is on page 13. **Ballots must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by Dec. 1, 2011.**

### **Richard Barron**

I am a mediator and retired attorney interested in energy and global warming. I am the Chair of the Chapter's Political Committee as well as participating for several years as a lead lobbyist for Lobby Days.

I believe that atmospheric and water pollution pose a far larger long-term threat to Michigan than terrorism or even our current economic disaster. I believe that the mobilization of Sierra Club is absolutely necessary to prevent our species from threatening its own sustainability.



connected in West Michigan activist circles; knowledgeable and well-spoken on environmental issues.

### **Pat Egan**

In the Upper Peninsula we've been combating a project to convert trees to ethanol, a prototype for massive projects throughout the country.

The Sierra Club has been inspiring. I began in state capitol politics, then had a career as a newspaper writer, editor and publisher. Now I'm an owner/investor in a forestry-based manufacturing business.

I'm encouraged by the honesty, heart and thought that Sierra Club members bring to protect Michigan, including its forest and wildlife legacy.



### **W. Craig Brainard**

I have been an environmental and political activist in the Grand Rapids area for about seven years.

I was the 2010 Executive Committee Chair and Political Committee member for the West Michigan Group; also the Group Representative to the Chapter Executive Committee. I attended the Spring and Fall Sierra Club Lobby Days, 2011. I have worked many events with West Michigan environmental organizations, mainly on clean energy. I was a Precinct Captain in Grand Rapids for the 2008 Obama Campaign. I am well-



### **Mark Muhich**

I've worked with the Sierra Club to dissuade Consumers Power from building its new coal-fired power plant in Bay City. The Grand River starts in Jackson County, but it fails water quality standards within 30 miles of its source, so I've told the City



and County to make the river top priority.

I helped start a new "Jackson Sierra Club," chair the CMG, and fill an unexpired seat on the Michigan Chapter's ExCom. I love the Sierra Club and would greatly appreciate your vote.

## Dorothy Nordness

I am chair of the Huron Valley Conservation group.

My interests include healthy ecosystems, clean water, ending factory farms, and the links between these issues and local, sustainable food production.

I have been active in organizing and promoting Ann Arbor's Local Food Festivals, successfully getting financial and volunteer support from local businesses and others. Supporting this venture continues to be a way to channel energy into a movement that promises healthy land and water resources while fighting factory farms.



## Nancy Shiffler

I currently chair the Huron Valley Group, and serve on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee.

In today's political and economic climate we have to fight just to get our voices heard. We must marshal our greatest strengths, our grassroots volunteer base and our excellent staff, to protect the Great Lakes resources that we all value.

As an executive committee member I will do all I can to support these efforts.



SAMANTHA CELERA

## SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

Vote for no more than five (5) candidates.  
The second set of boxes is for the second  
member of a joint membership only.

**RICHARD BARRON**



**W. CRAIG BRAINARD**



**PAT EGAN**



**MARK MUHICH**



**DOROTHY NORDNESS**



**NANCY SHIFFLER**



### Clip out and mail your ballot to:

Michigan Chapter Sierra Club  
attn: Chapter Elections  
109 East Grand River Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48906

Write your Sierra Club membership number on the  
outside of your envelope to validate your ballot  
(membership number is above address on the back  
cover of newsletter).

**Your ballot must be received on  
or before December 1, 2011.**

ExCom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country.

# Chapter Awards

## VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE RECOGNIZED

**E**very year at this time, we recognize individuals and institutions that have made outstanding contributions towards protecting Michigan's environment with special awards determined by Michigan Chapter Group and Chapter members who nominate worthy people and groups.

The Chapter's Executive Committee reviews and selects the winners, and each fall during the Chapter's Annual Retreat winners are announced by the Awards Committee Chair.

Please join us in honoring and thanking these remarkable Sierra Club volunteers and community leaders for their exceptional dedication and efforts.

### SYLVANIA AWARD

Recognizes a Sierra Club volunteer who is new on the scene but who has already demonstrated great enthusiasm, hard work and dedication.

**Kay Cumbow** is a member of the Bluewater Conservation Committee, which hosts monthly environmental programs, and she contributes to SEMG's newsletter, the Activist. She is a past chair and current board member of Citizens Against Chemical Contamination and the chief organizer of the Nuclear Forum held in 2011.

### CYBER PUNK AWARD

For outstanding efforts by a volunteer activist to raise awareness by the use of electronic media.

**M'Lynn Hartwell** volunteered an enormous amount of time and skill to develop and maintain a website for the Clean Energy Now coalition, a key piece in the fight to stop construction of new coal plants in Michigan. M'Lynn's passion for the environment has led her to be involved in many issues, including the fight against biomass plants near Traverse City. She went above and beyond the call of duty in giving the diverse array of organizations under the Clean Energy Now banner a single place to post information and action alerts.

### CHAIR'S AWARD

Presented by the Chapter Chair to honor a Michigan Chapter leader for exceptional work in support of Sierra Club's work in the state.

As a valued member of the Michigan Chapter staff for seven years, **Gayle Miller** worked tirelessly with the Chapter Political Committee and Legislative Com-

mittee. She initiated Lobby Day, a bi-annual event that brings 70-100 specially trained volunteers to the Capitol to speak to legislators. Her skill and dedication greatly expanded the effectiveness of the Sierra Club and garnered wide respect for the Chapter.

### VINCE SMITH AWARD

Recognizes outstanding contributions to the Chapter outings program.

**Roger Blanchard** chairs both the Three Lakes Group and its Outings Committee and has spent many years leading service outings on the North Country Trail. He plans and leads all TLG outings and does publicity for the handful of public programs the group sponsors each year. He writes, produces and distributes the TLG newsletter and composed the Frontier Fact Sheet. Most importantly, when something needs to be done and there's no one to do it, Roger does it.

Former Governor Jennifer Granholm, recipient of the 2011 Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year Award.



### SERVICE AWARDS

#### Nepessing Group

**Richard Nabor** serves as treasurer and keeps the group informed regarding Audubon activities and for some time has also led hikes and supports fundraising and outreach activities.

#### Huron Valley Group

**Rita Mitchell** is the HVG program chair but has also worked tirelessly on many local issues related to parks and open space, volunteered on campaigns for candidates endorsed by the HVG and organized constituent meetings once they're elected.



## JANE ELDER ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR

Presented in recognition of exceptional leadership in environmental protection in Michigan. This is the highest award presented by the Michigan Chapter.

**Jennifer Granholm**, former Governor of Michigan and current program officer for clean energy with the Pew Charitable Trust, was the single, most effective U.S. governor ever in efforts to block coal plants. She moved Michigan into a leadership role with regard to clean energy. Granholm changed the debate as well as the facts on the ground in Michigan regarding the energy debate. Her administration captured \$10 billion worth of investment in clean energy technologies, dwarfing auto industry investments. She signed an Executive Order that is, by far, the strongest policy effort in the country to require coal plant proponents to demonstrate a need for the plant and no effective alternatives. By the end of her term, none of the eight potential coal plants proposed starting in 2007 were moving forward.

## WHITE PINE AWARD

Given to a non-member, organization or group that has shown extraordinary dedication to protection of the environment.

**The Anglers of the Au Sable** and the Michigan Chapter have had an effective and synergistic relationship on a series of issues of common concern. The collaboration started with the successful effort to block drilling for oil and gas under the beloved Mason Tract. Unfortunately, that threat continues, but our joint effort clearly demonstrated how much we can accomplish together. We are continuing to collaborate to protect Michigan's water quality from impairment by mercury emissions and the dangers of fracking for natural gas.

## BUNYAN BRYANT AWARD

Awarded to recognize outstanding leadership in the field of environmental justice.

**Lee Sprague** has been an extraordinary force for bringing environmental justice issues to light for Great Lakes region Indian tribes, especially proposed coal plants. Lee has conducted extensive research and worked within tribal communities and with the USEPA and state of Michigan to promote and advocate for tribal rights to live free of coal plant pollution. In particular, he has pressed for state and federal agencies to fully account for the



Bruce Pressler accepts the White Pine Award from Michigan Chapter Director Anne Woiwode on behalf of the Anglers of the Au Sable.

By the end of Governor Granholm's term, none of the eight potential coal plants proposed starting in 2007 were moving forward.

disproportionate impact of mercury emissions on subsistence fishermen and tribal women who consume more fish (and mercury) than the "average" used by agencies.

## BURTON V. BARNES AWARD

Established in 2004 to recognize academic excellence.

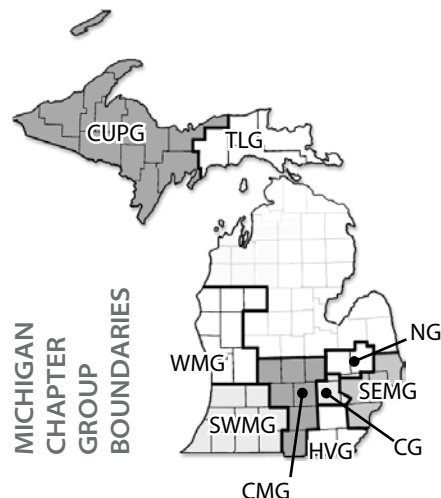
**Dr. Murray Burello** is a founding leader of the Citizen's Advisory Group associated with the cleanup of the Velsicol Chemical Superfund site on the Pine River at St. Louis and the contamination from the shuttered Total Petroleum Oil Refinery in Alma. He has been their Technical Committee Chair for many years. He has helped foster citizen engagement and advocated for the research needed to assure a complete cleanup of these and other sites. Murray and his students have also completed important studies of the contamination of waterways near Gratiot County CAFOs. Recently, they have focused on air quality problems such as airborne bacteria that can cause respiratory and lung disease — work that may well revolutionize future CAFO regulation.

# GroupInfo&Outings

## Think Globally, and Get Active with Your Local Sierra Club Group!

Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's nine regional Groups or committees are a vital link for getting active with Sierra Club! Groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Sierra Club members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—everyone is welcome! The Michigan Chapter website has a comprehensive calendar with current and upcoming outings, programs and events listed for each Group (go to [michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar)).

Below is a list of the Michigan Chapter's regional groups, the counties they cover, and where their meetings usually take place. Group Chairs, their contact information and links for Group websites are also listed below, or go to [michigan.sierraclub.org/groups](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/groups).



### Central Michigan Group / CMG

Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee Counties / Meets in Lansing area

**ONLINE:** [michigan.sierraclub.com/cmj](http://michigan.sierraclub.com/cmj)

**CMG VICE CHAIR:** Paul Kindel, 517-332-3091 or [kindel@msu.edu](mailto:kindel@msu.edu)

### Central Upper Peninsula Group / CUPG

Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties / meets in Marquette

**GROUP CHAIR:** John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or [jrebers@gmail.com](mailto:jrebers@gmail.com)

### Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties / NEW MEETING PLACE: Huntington Woods Library

**ONLINE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg)

**SEMG CHAIR:** Hal Newnan, 586-758-6461 or [hnewnan@sbcglobal.net](http://hnewnan@sbcglobal.net)

### Crossroads Group / CG

Livingston County and western Oakland County / meets in Brighton

**ONLINE:** [michigan.sierraclub.com/crossroads](http://michigan.sierraclub.com/crossroads)

**CG CHAIR:** Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or [rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org)

### Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry Counties / meets in Kalamazoo

**SWMG CONTACT:** Brad Parsons, 269-492-4437 or [bradparsons4@gmail.com](mailto:bradparsons4@gmail.com)

### Huron Valley Group / HVG

Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe Counties / meets in Ann Arbor

**ONLINE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron)

**HVG CHAIR:** Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net)

### Three Lakes Group / TLG

Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft Counties / meets in Sault Ste. Marie

**ONLINE:** [www.michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/ThreeLakes.html](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/groups/ThreeLakes.html)

**TLG CHAIR:** Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or [rblanchard@lssu.edu](mailto:rblanchard@lssu.edu)

### Nepessing Group / NG

Genesee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland County / meets in Flint

**ONLINE:** [michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing)

**NG CHAIR:** Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038

### West Michigan Group / WMG

Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mason, Lake, and Osceola Counties / meets in Grand Rapids

**ONLINE:** [www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan)

**WMG CHAIR:** Michigan Chapter Office, 517-484-2372 or [michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org)

Many a Chapter volunteer has participated in service trips on the North Country Trail (NCT), which was authorized by Congress through legislation passed in 1980. The Michigan Chapter has had an extensive history of working on the NCT — including identifying routes and doing the initial trail breaking like Ann Arbor volunteer Nelson Meade, pictured here.



RALPH POWELL

## A Reason to Give Thanks on Nov. 24... SEMG's Turkey Trot on Friday, Nov. 25!

Estimates of the amount of calories in a typical Thanksgiving meal range all over the map, but a safe guess is you'll consume at least 1,500-2,000 as you make your way through the turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, cranberries and pie this year. No worries. The Southeast Michigan Group's annual post-Thanksgiving Day outing can help you burn off everything you took in the day before.

Called the Turkey Trot, this strategically planned outing isn't really a race but rather a five-mile hike through lovely southeast Michigan terrain that offers an enjoyable way to get exercise on the one day of the year we perhaps need it most. Current SEMG Outings Chair Phil Crookshank established this mostly annual tradition (it has taken place 14 out of the last 18 years) in 1992, and it has grown to become one of the more popular outings offered by the SEMG, which is saying a lot. In 2010, the group offered 75 outings with 650 participants at 46 southeastern Michigan locales.

SEMG member Cindy Gunnip planned this year's Turkey Trot at a new location—the south trails of Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. There are seven miles of trails in this half of the



JOANNE CANTONI

SEMG volunteers head up the two-track trail at Highland State Recreation Area on a DNR service outing, buckets in hand to gather prairie seeds for reclamation projects.

4,637-acre natural area, and they traverse some of the steepest hills and most rugged terrain in southeast Michigan.

"There isn't any mountain at Bald Mountain, but there are some hills," said Gunnip. "The vistas from the high trails should be great with the leaves off the trees."

On Dec. 11, you can see the north trails of Bald Mountain when SEMG volunteer Joanne Cantoni leads a seven-mile hike near Lake Orion in the other half of the state recreation area. For details about all SEMG outings, visit [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg).

### SEMG TURKEY TROTTER EXTRAORDINAIRE

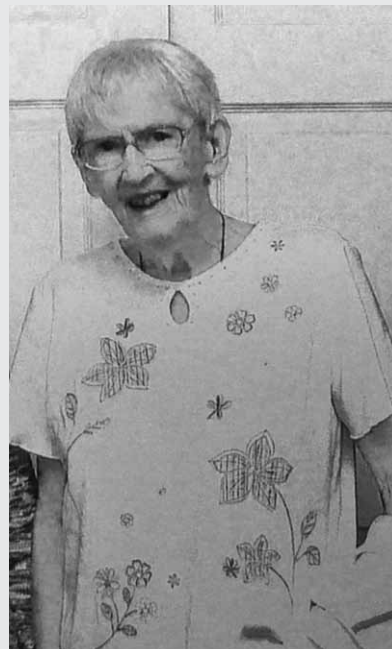
The Turkey Trot has had a number of leaders over the years, but Dearborn resident **Liz Allingham**, a native of Ireland who came to the United States as a young woman after World War II, has the distinction of leading the most hikes in the last two decades.

An avid birder, canoeist and world traveler, she did her first trot in 1993 and then took over the duty for eight years beginning in 2000, moving it to the Proud Lake State Recreation Area on the Huron River. She led her final SEMG outing in 2007, at the spry age of 85.

"Liz was the star of the outings

committee when I joined," said Phil Crookshank, current SEMG outings chair. "She showed her wit and humor by coming up with an innovative theme for an outing that would intrigue people, and I copied her when I started doing outings."

Twice, Liz has been recognized for her volunteer work with the Sierra Club—first in 1995 as recipient of the Michigan Chapter Service Award for having "contributed a significant amount of time and effort to the Club" and then in 2000 when she received the Vince Smith Award, which honors outstanding contributions to the Chapter outings program.



PHIL CROOKSHANK



# Group Info & Outings

## Sierra Club Outings are for Everyone!

**M**ichigan Chapter and Group volunteers lead a variety of outings throughout the year, so there's sure to be one that suits you. Listings are updated regularly on the Michigan Chapter calendar at [michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar). Every outing — whether it's a stroll in the park or a week-long backpacking adventure on Isle Royale — starts at the trail head, and some include fees to cover expenses. Sierra Club outing participants

are required to sign the standard liability waiver found on our website, or call us to receive a print version at 415-977-5528.

Below you'll find a sampling of outings led by Group and Chapter leaders. Details and contact information as well as additional outings are listed at [michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar). (Please confirm outing information with the leader in advance because time and location can change!)

### Outdoor Adventures

**Nov 20, 1pm (CG) Annual Winter Ducks Outing at Kensington Metro Park.** Join the Crossroads Group to witness one of nature's amazing shows — the migration of ducks, geese and other wildfowl heading south for the winter — at this 4,481-acre park featuring wooded, hilly terrain surrounding beautiful Kent Lake. This popular outing is free and fun for all ages, members, nonmembers, families, beginners and experienced birders. Bring binoculars and meet at the Kensington MetroPark Nature Center parking lot. More info: Dan Minock at 248-685-2411, [dminock@earthlink.net](mailto:dminock@earthlink.net). Web: [michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads)

**Nov 20, 1:45 pm (HVG) Cedar Lake Esker Secret Hike.** An esker is a long ridge of gravel and other sediment, typically winding, deposited by meltwater from a retreating glacier or ice sheet. You can explore the Cedar Lake Esker with the Huron Valley Group in its annual autumn hike in the Waterloo Recreation Area with ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Join us at 1:45 p.m. at the trail. More info: 734-477-5715 Email: [jayhschlegel@comcast.net](mailto:jayhschlegel@comcast.net). Web: [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron)

**Dec 18, 1:45pm (HVG) Stinchfield Woods Hike-or-Ski.** A five-mile trek with the Huron Valley Group through deciduous and coniferous trees in a University of Michigan preserve with veteran outdoorsman Barry Lonik. We'll hike and/or ski, depending upon conditions. Join us at 1:45 p.m. at the trail. More info: 734-477-5715 Email: [jayhschlegel@comcast.net](mailto:jayhschlegel@comcast.net). Web: [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron)

A past Cedar Lake Esker Hike with the Huron Valley Group (see Nov. 20 listing for details on this year's hike).



JAY SCHLEGEL

## THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER ONLINE

**Our twice-monthly Michigan Chapter Update is your email source for Sierra Club news and events.**

**Register with us online and we'll keep you informed and engaged.**

**Go to [www.tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate](http://www.tiny.cc/SCMCUpdate).**

**Jan 8, 1:30pm (SEMG) Ski the Beach near Port Huron.** The Southeast Michigan Group invites nature lovers to hit the beach this winter. Join us for a memorable afternoon cross-country ski experience from 1:30-4 p.m. If snow is minimal, we'll hike the rolling, wooded trails for 3-4 miles instead and look for animal tracks. Bring cross country skis and hiking boots and meet in the northwest corner of the Vantage Point parking lot at 51 Water St, Port Huron. More info: Judy Lindberg, 810-364-5871 (cell day of event: 810-278-6594). Web: [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg)

**Jan 21, 11am (SEMG) Maybury State Park Hike.** This 1000-acre park features gently rolling terrain, mature woodlands, and open meadows. Join the Southeast Michigan Group for a one-hour, moderate hike through three-four miles of hills, mature beech and oak woodlands and even a historic TB sanatorium. We'll hike rain or shine, so dress accordingly. Meet at the park concession building, Eight Mile Rd. entrance. Phone: Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782. Email: [tgriebe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tgriebe@sbcglobal.net). Web: [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg)

## Indoor Adventures

**Nov 15, 7:30pm (HVG) "Burning Rivers of the Great Lakes," a program at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor.** Smoke on the water! It's not just a pop song. Did you know rivers can burn? Dr. John Hartig, author of "Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban-Industrial Rivers that Caught on Fire," will discuss the indiscriminate use and abuse of our great freshwater resources. He'll also describe pollution control efforts and present evidence of dramatic improvements. Revival of these rivers provides hope for those working to restore all aquatic ecosystems. Admission: Free and open to the public. More info: [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com). Web: [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron)

**Nov 16, 7pm (CG) "Kayaks: A Program by Gerry Neumeier" at the Brighton District Library.** Gerry Neumeier loves kayaks, knows their history, and builds them from scratch in the style of the ancient seal hunters. He'll

tell you all about it, discuss the beautiful, wild places he's paddled and answer your questions about kayaks. Join the Crossroads Group for a fascinating program and an opportunity to see a variety of kayaks including Gerry's own handmade creations. Free admission. More info: [crossroads.sierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:crossroads.sierraclub@gmail.com) Web: [michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads)

**Nov 16, 7-9pm (CUPG) A presentation by Sue Browne of the Blue Green Alliance followed by a re-enactment of John Muir's life.** Browne offers a 15-minute discussion of how labor unions and environmental organizations are working



together. Her presentation is followed by "The Life of John Muir," a 45-minute portrayal of Sierra Club founder by Steve Waller. Admission: Free and open to the public. More info: 906-250-0442 Email: [jrebers@gmail.com](mailto:jrebers@gmail.com)

## Inner City Outings

Inner City Outings (ICO) is a Sierra Club community outreach program in Washtenaw County providing opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world for those who wouldn't otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with local organizations to plan outings and serve as event leaders to share their love of the natural world. For more information, contact:

### Washtenaw County

Brandon Nascimento,  
[washtenawico@yahoo.com](mailto:washtenawico@yahoo.com)

### West Michigan

Craig Ressler, [craig\\_ressler@yahoo.com](mailto:craig_ressler@yahoo.com)



## JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB NOW AND HELP US MAKE HISTORY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to

Gift Recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

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

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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# Supporting Your Chapter

## Michigan Chapter's Evergreen Program

YOUR AUTOMATIC GIVING HELPS KEEP OUR PROGRAMS ALIVE

Can you place a value on the hard work the Sierra Club does to ensure Michigan drinking water isn't poisoned by factory farms? Or having a Chapter forest expert who travels the state keeping an eye on some of our most sensitive (and often besieged) waters and wildlands?

Well, having clean water and healthy natural areas for yourself and future generations is, no doubt, priceless to you. However, when it comes to ensuring that our programs to protect these treasures continue, a small, regular contribution from you through our Evergreen giving program can make a big difference. For example, for the price of just one cup of

coffee each week you can support a day's worth of the CAFO monitoring we do. And the cost of IMAX tickets for a family of four once a month covers the time and travel of our staff forest ecologist as he works with groups and government entities statewide to ensure our forests and waters are protected.

Your support for the work of the Michigan Chapter through automatic monthly gifts adds up quickly and is an easy way to ensure these programs are sustained, even in challenging economic times. This kind of contribution builds on the foundation of your annual membership dues, which help provide about eight percent of the Michigan Chapter's budget and support Sierra Club's work at the national, state and local level.

Both types of giving — membership dues and additional non-dues contributions — are vital to sustaining the Michigan Chapter's work on energy, water, wildlands and citizen engagement. Please consider making an automatic monthly or quarterly contribution or a one-time gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter today!

## Michigan Legacy Council Spotlights Crucial Support

John Muir once said, "Any fool can destroy trees." Conversely, it takes special people to protect trees... people like our members, supporters and volunteers, who donate their time, expertise or money to help our work. We try to thank all of you, whether it's with a personal thank you or one of our annual awards, but it's not enough.

We created the Michigan Legacy Council to honor those who have donated a significant sum to support our citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs or made a tax-deductible gift to support qualifying educational and policy programs. Council members receive special acknowledgement based on a giving level starting at \$500/year. See p.24 for a current listing of members.

For more information, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org).

### DONATE TODAY!

To sign up, visit [www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport](http://www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport) or contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or email [jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org](mailto:jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org). Thanks!

### SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter:  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Give online at [www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport](http://www.tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport)

Your donation helps provide the flexible funding Sierra Club needs to successfully advocate for Michigan's Great Lakes, wild heritage, and clean energy future.

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to support our work, call Development Director Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 to learn how.

Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,  
109 E. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Instead of a check, please charge my credit card  
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**CAROL M. GRAHAM  
REMEMBERS  
SHERIDAN EDWIN LEE**

I first met Sheridan and his wife, Maryion, when our town started a recycling effort. Later, Maryion ran for county commissioner; I campaigned for her and got to know Sheridan. He loved to talk about issues and knew that electing top-notch leaders was vital to a healthy society. He looked to help the good folks who came his way — taking an interest in getting to know genuine, caring people and helping them run successful campaigns.

**For the full story visit [www.tiny.cc/SierraClubMichMemorials](http://www.tiny.cc/SierraClubMichMemorials).**



**Welcome Gail Philbin, our new assistant director!** She's a non-profit administrator and communications professional with a background in the environmental field. She's pictured with her husband, John, exploring the urban wilderness of the Chicago River.

# Lucile Patrick: Preserving the Future

Lucile Patrick, a Sierra Club member and supporter, passed away in Nov. 2010 at 96 years of age, leaving a legacy that included lifelong support of the environment and a generous bequest to the Michigan Chapter. Lucile had many interests and causes, starting with her garden that began as a family project and continued on every Mother's Day. After her children were grown, she turned to country living and enjoyed a garden full of flowers and fresh vegetables. Lucy loved meeting intriguing people, just as she loved to collect intriguing stones while roaming the property in Barry County where she and her husband, Gil, lived. Lucy also built two solar homes nearby in pursuit of her fascination with capturing the power of natural energy from the wind and the sun.

Lucy spent years involved in peace projects, working with the blind, and feeding, sheltering and educating the poor, the disabled and children in her community. She had close ties to Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity, and Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Through these organizations and others she turned her concern into action.


Lucy supported numerous organizations including the Wilderness Society, Southwest Land Conservancy, National Environmental Defense Fund and the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.

The Sierra Club wishes to express its gratitude for her generous support of the environment through her bequest gift to the Michigan Chapter.



**THANK YOU, EARTH SHARE DONORS!** We wish to thank 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-Michigan Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work. For more information, visit [www.earthsharemichigan.org](http://www.earthsharemichigan.org).



**A Will is a Way**

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature

Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St, Second Floor • San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270 • [gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)

## IS THE SIERRA CLUB IN YOUR WILL?

If you've placed the Michigan Chapter in your will or would like information about how to do this, please let us know! Sierra Club's Gift Planning Program can ensure your intent is spelled out correctly, including leaving a legacy to protect Michigan's environment. We welcome your interest in learning more about our Gift Planning Program, bequests and charitable gift annuities. These important contributions strengthen the long-term ability of the Sierra Club to defend our natural environment.



Sierra Club member Douglas Howell helped collect more than 3,000 signed petition postcards telling Congress to keep Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes.



JAN O'CONNELL

**2011 Chapter Retreat:** Over 100 Sierra Club members turned out to learn about key environmental issues facing our state as well as to relax with like-minded folks at the 22nd annual Chapter retreat at Camp Miniwanca. Most participants roughed it, staying in tents, hiking and watching the sunset over Lake Michigan. They also enjoyed a keynote presentation by Lee Sprague (above), a Little River Bank of Ottawa Indians council member whose environmental leadership earned him this year's Bunyan Bryant Award (see p. 14 for details on award winners).

## Sierra Club and Friends Carp on Asian Carp

by Melissa Damaschke, Great Lakes Regional Representative

**T**he Sierra Club along with Freshwater Future and other Great Lakes organizations collected thousands of signatures last summer throughout the Great Lakes basin as part of an effort to stop the threat of Asian Carp to our Great Lakes. Sierra Club member Douglas Howell, part of Sierra Club's "Michigan Water Team," worked with members across the state to collect more than 3,000 signed petition postcards destined

for Michigan's members of Congress.

The signed petitions asked Congress to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to immediately work toward separating the Mississippi River system from the Great Lakes to stop the steady progress of Asian Carp, which have been spotted in the Illinois River (which links the Mississippi to Lake Michigan). Special thanks go to Douglas and all of our members who helped collect petition postcards.

## Drain, Drain, Go Away: A Rain Garden Grows in Detroit

by Melissa Damaschke

**S**ierra Club members and supporters partnered with Friends of the Rouge last summer to plant the group's first residential rain garden in Detroit. Rain gardens protect our Great Lakes by keeping rainwater from overwhelming the sewer system by absorbing rainwater from downspouts, thus preventing it from going down storm drains.

In a community with a combined rainwater and sewer system such as De-



Sierra Club and Friends of the Rouge joined forces to plant a rain garden in Detroit in Summer 2011.

troit, rain that flows into storm drains frequently causes combined sewage overflows into the Rouge and Detroit Rivers. A simple rain garden serves as a living sponge to capture rainwater and keep it out of our rivers. **For more information, visit [sites.google.com/site/detroit20/greeninfrastructure/rain-gardens](http://sites.google.com/site/detroit20/greeninfrastructure/rain-gardens) or [www.facebook.com/ilovegreatlakes](http://www.facebook.com/ilovegreatlakes).**

### JOIN THE WATER TEAM!

Join us at our next meeting **Saturday, Jan. 7** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Michigan Chapter in Lansing. Contact [melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org](mailto:melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org) or [rita.chapman@sierraclub.org](mailto:rita.chapman@sierraclub.org).

### CREATE YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN

Get more information here: [www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes/detroit](http://www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes/detroit)

# Chapter Directory

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*For updates and leadership changes due to elections, please visit our online directory at [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org)*

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Steering Committee Members

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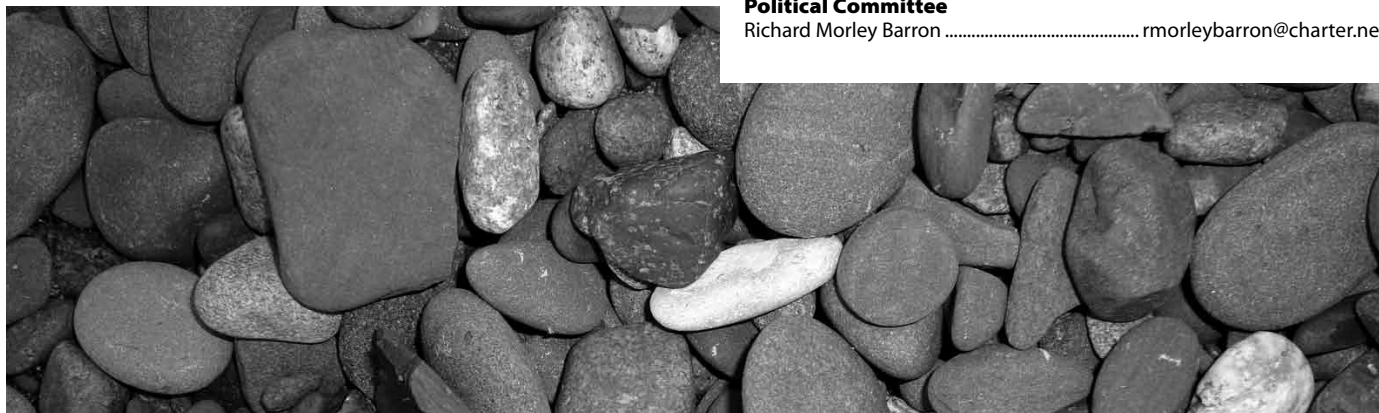
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The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 1.3 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together

to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

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# Supporting Your Chapter

## Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. Please join us in thanking current members:

### FENS & SAPLINGS

\$500-\$999

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