

**Subject:** Sierra Club email alert to print and scan  
**From:** LuAnne Kozma <luannekozma@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 2/6/2012 12:02 AM  
**To:** Ellis Boal <ellisboal@voyager.net>

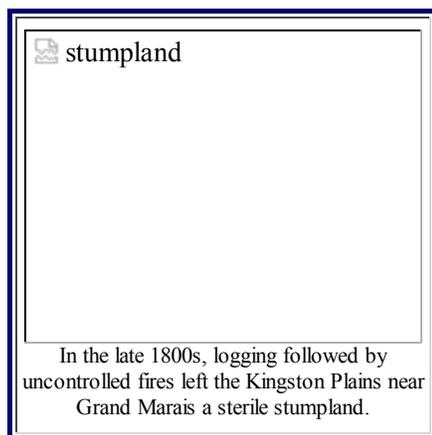
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From: **Anne Woiwode, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter** <[michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org)>  
Date: Sun, Feb 5, 2012 at 7:00 AM  
Subject: Michigan Chapter Update 2/5/12: Are legislators poised to a vital program to protect MI biodiversity?!  
To: [birchtrees5@gmail.com](mailto:birchtrees5@gmail.com)

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Sent to [birchtrees5@gmail.com](mailto:birchtrees5@gmail.com) (Not You? Sign Up Here)

**Michigan Chapter Update**  
**February 5, 2012**  
**In this Issue:**

- Speak Up for Michigan's Natural Heritage!
- Michigan Senate Decides You Don't Need Clean Drinking Water
- Fracking = Earthquakes + Polluted Air + Polluted Water
- Three "Carbon Nation" Screenings in February
- Anniversary Year Testimonial: Cynthia Price
- Sierra Club Calendars Still Available!



**Speak Up for Michigan's Natural Heritage!**

A century back, Michiganders watched helplessly as our state's forests and ecosystems were destroyed by loggers, setting back economic development, destroying wildlife habitat and fisheries, and impoverishing rural residents. **That was long ago, but equally devastating threats to Michigan's rich diversity of ecosystems exist today, which is why the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Living Legacies Biodiversity Stewardship Areas program is so important.** It's a smart strategy to make sure our state's natural heritage is protected in perpetuity, without compromising other uses of our forests.

Through BSA, scientists, recreational groups, hunters, anglers, loggers, and others worked together to plan how to ensure the best ecosystem examples are sustained indefinitely. **Yet, some timber industry lobbyists and agency officials want to stop scientific management under the BSA program** and appear unwilling to leave any ecosystems intact for future generations. DNR Director Rodney Stokes has scaled back the program and put timber production above camping, hunting, trail usage, fisheries, and every other public land use. Now, **legislators may be poised to destroy this visionary program**, despite its broad support, strong scientific basis and critical role in maintaining healthy, functioning habitat for the future.

Please take a minute to let Michigan's Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee and your own state senator know you support protecting Michigan's natural heritage and diversity. [Click here to tell them not to let the timber industry destroy our state's natural heritage again!](#)

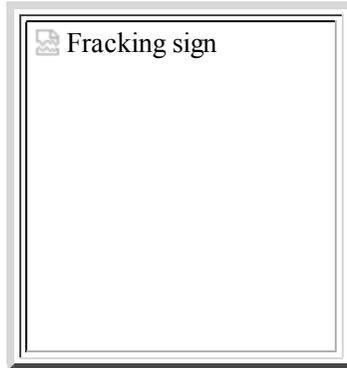
**Michigan Senate Decides You Don't Need Clean Drinking Water**

Last week, the Michigan Senate passed a package of bills that could have serious implications for the quality of our drinking water. **Senate Bills 528-533 would weaken the state's safeguards for underground fuel tanks used to store petroleum and hazardous waste.** Such tanks have been known to leak and contaminate groundwater, which is the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans. The EPA reported that there are **already over 9,000 leaks from underground storage tanks in Michigan** that are still waiting for cleanup because of insufficient funding – and these bills would simply add to that backlog.

Senate Bills 528-533 would directly lead to the contamination of more drinking water by:

- Making owners less liable for the environmental damages caused by their leaking tanks.
- Creating an industry controlled panel to resolve any disputes over cleanups.
- Limiting the role of state government in ensuring cleanup standards are met.

Help us kill these bills! [Tell your State Legislators to stop these terrible bills by clicking here.](#)



### Fracking = Earthquakes + Polluted Air + Poisoned Water

We've known for a while that **hydraulic fracturing (a.k.a. "fracking") for natural gas can contaminate our water**, but last month we learned it caused **multiple earthquakes** in Ohio, in the wake of similar events in Oklahoma and Arkansas. And now, scientists are warning that fracking can **destroy air quality**, too! So, what can you do to make sure these things don't happen in Michigan? [Click here to send an email to your state legislators telling them to protect us from fracking!](#)

In November, Sierra Club and a group of Michigan lawmakers announced the introduction of a [package of bills to protect our citizens from the dangers of fracking](#). **However, these bills are being held hostage by State Rep. Ken Horn, chair of the House Energy and Technology Committee.** We need you to flood his inbox with emails to get these bills passed. [Click here to email Representative Horn and tell him you don't want this destructive drilling practice to come to Michigan](#)

### Screenings of *Carbon Nation* Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

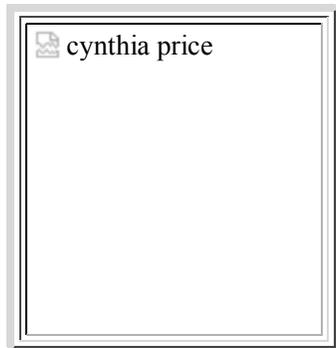
Sierra Club is presenting **three screenings of *Carbon Nation*** in February. This inspirational, optimistic, solutions-based, non-preachy, non-partisan, big tent film shows that tackling climate change boosts the economy, increases national and energy security and promotes health and a clean environment.

**Monday, February 13, 2012 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** at the Oshtemo Library 7265 West Main Kalamazoo, MI. RSVP to [Tiffany Hartung, 231-747-7489](#).

**Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** at location TBD in downtown Holland. RSVP to [Monica Bakker, 616-392-8248](#).

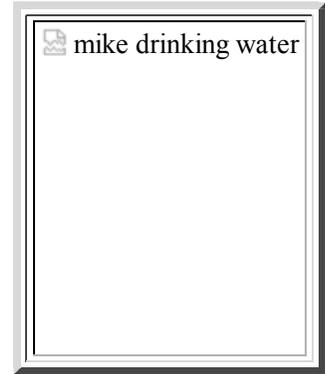
**Wednesday, February 29, 6:00 p.m.** at the Westfield Activities Center, 2700 Westfield, Trenton. RSVP to [Michelle Martinez, 313-974-6547](#).

### Anniversary Year Testimonial: Cynthia Price



The Sierra Club has consistently taken the right positions on issues for all the right reasons. As a person with a broad interest in protecting the environment alongside a keen sense of the importance of the common good, I've really appreciated the opportunity to work with people whose stances are so sensible and comprehensive.

For example, the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter has opposed coal-fired power plants not only because of their negative impacts on the environment and public health, but also because they represent a poor investment, with eventual adverse consequences for energy companies, the overall economy, and the ratepayer. This has been personally satisfying for me but, more important, has resulted in positive outcomes for everyone.



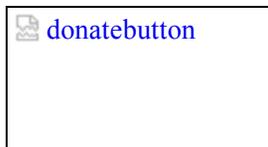
**And learn more about fracking at these screenings of [Gasland](#), the Emmy-winning doc by [Josh Fox](#).**

**Thur, Feb 16 7-9pm**  
Screening and Q&A @ GVSU Loosemore Auditorium, 401 Fulton St. W, Grand Rapids

**Tues, Ap. 24, 6:30-8:30pm**  
Screening and Q&A @ Spring Lake District Library, 123 E. Exchange, Spring Lake

*Cynthia Price is a Muskegon resident, long-time environmental activist and Sierra Club member, and chair of the Greater Grand Rapids Food Systems Council.*

**It's not too late to order a Sierra Club calendar! Save \$2 and get free shipping if you order between February 6-10. Engagement calendars are only \$11.95 and wall calendars are \$10.95!**



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Header photo Near Andrus Lake, Upper Michigan, by Beverly Wolf.