

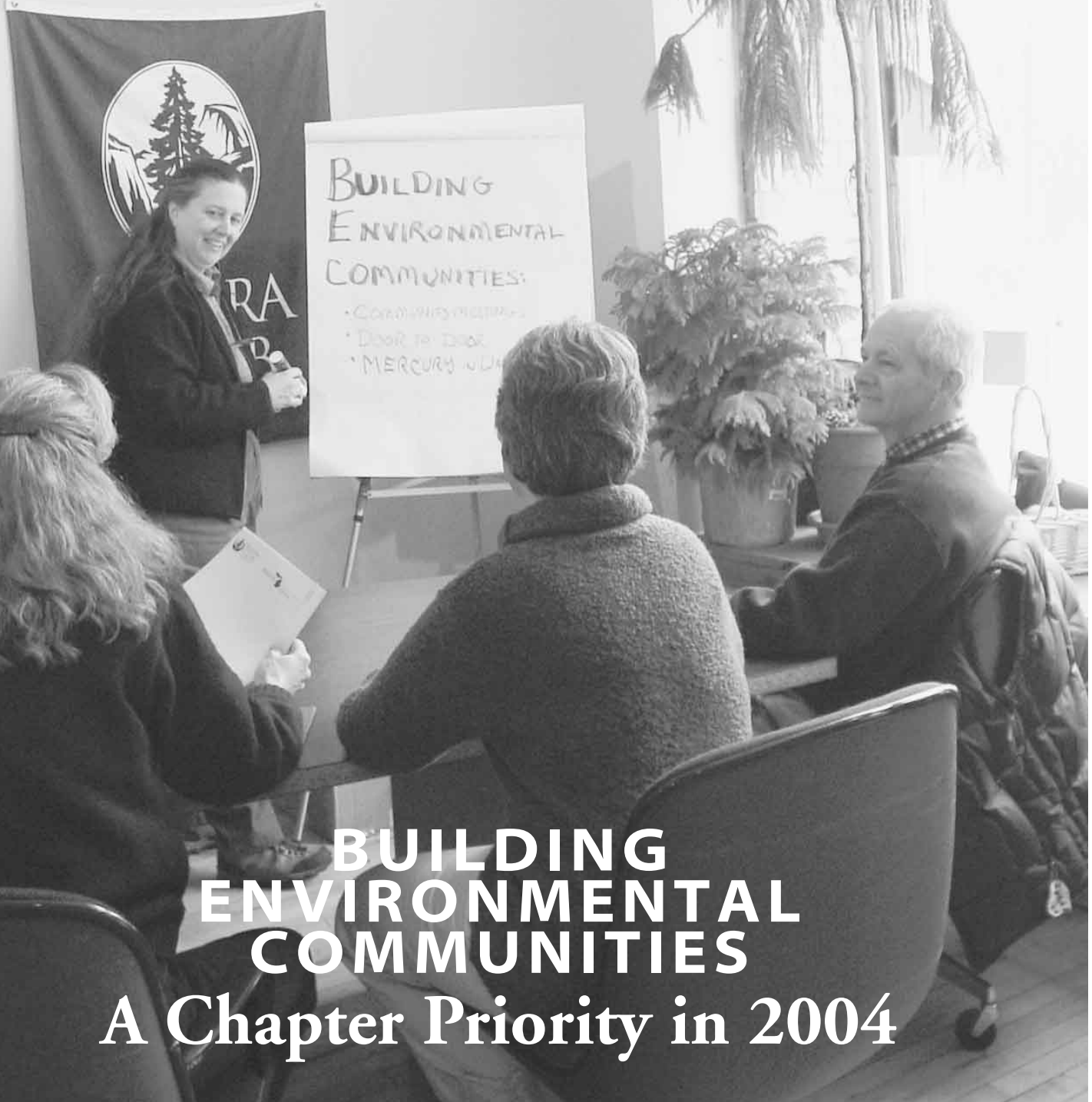


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TheMackinac

Quarterly Publication of Michigan's Sierra Club • February - April 2004



**BUILDING
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMUNITIES**

A Chapter Priority in 2004

The Bush Administration is Finally Getting It Right

by Mike Keeler, Mackinac Chapter Co-Chair

Back in the 1980s, the Reagan administration tried to get rid of environmental laws through legislation. They tried to simply wipe out the laws, and that's where they went wrong. The American public, it turned out, was very much in favor of strong environmental laws.

Over the past 20 years, Republicans, with help from conservative think-tanks, realized it was better for them to not completely wipe out environmental laws. Instead, they worked to keep the laws on the books but made them weak enough so they were unenforceable. Or in some cases, the laws were de-funded.

Now President George W. Bush has used these tactics to protect the interests of his industry buddies as paybacks for their continual and generous campaign contributions. One favorite ploy is using environmentally friendly names to deceive the public about laws. For instance, the recently passed "Healthy Forest Initiative" allows the timber industry to clear-cut protected old-growth forests while it weakens the ability of the public to appeal. The story we are told is that it protects forests from forest fires. Another law is the "Clear Skies Initiative," which allows coal-burning plants to save money by skipping upgrades to their outdated polluting plants. The result will weaken the Clean Air Act, make the skies dirtier and pollute our waters.

With his appointments, Bush changed the agencies that are meant to protect the environment into agencies that protect the interests of his industry friends. Bush's pick for the Secretary of Interior worked for years with James Watt, who was famous for his extreme anti-environmental policies in the 1980s. Bush's pick for head of the Forestry Department is a former timber industry lobbyist. The head of Public Lands is a

former coal and mining lobbyist. These department heads use their power to weaken the laws without having to go through Congress. The foxes are watching the hen house.

The Energy Bill rumored to be back for a third vote early in 2004 is a \$145 billion giveaway of taxpayer money to the oil, coal and nuclear power industries. The bill was drawn up behind closed doors by Vice-President Dick Cheney's task force made up of industry lobbyists.

This energy bill would do nothing to help Americans get a much-needed reliable energy supply or help us become less dependent on foreign oil. Considering our huge appetite for oil, America has very small untapped oil reserves. So even if we allowed drilling in treasured areas, we can't drill our way out of oil dependence. The energy bill's main purpose is for the Bush Administration to pay back the oil industry's hefty campaign contributions.

As in the 1980s, polls consistently show that Americans, both Republicans and Democrats, are against weakening our environmental laws. A Republican pollster advised the Bush Administration to spin the message of environmentalism. Now we hear positive-sounding phrases such as "streamlining environmental laws" instead of "rollbacks of environmental protection." Bush also was advised to act secretly if he intends to weaken environmental laws.

see GETTING IT RIGHT, page 15



PHOTO: STEVE CHASE, COURTESY USFWS

Overlooking Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Bush Administration, with its behind-the-scenes anti-environmental subterfuge, hopes to hand America's pristine natural environments over to big industry.

The Sierra Club is working to hold the Bush Administration accountable for its actions against the environment. The Club's "Building Environmental Communities" campaign is the most ambitious public education campaign in the Club's history.

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- Anne Woiwode. Sept. 26, 2003.

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PHOTOS: RALPH POWELL

Joann Gadbau, a member of Washtenaw Inner City Outings, walks with children from Ypsilanti during a trip to Kensington Metropark last April. The trip was an introduction to walking with backpacks in preparation for a backpacking trip in the summer.

Cover: Chapter staff and volunteers discuss the Mackinac Chapter's Building Environmental Communities campaign. See page 10 for the full story.

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NEXT DEADLINE: APRIL 1 (no joke!)

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122 Stoddard Avenue Apt B, East Lansing, MI 48823-4633

SEND MEETINGS & OUTINGS TO: Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464, mcconnell_cheryl@yahoo.com

Capitol Watch 2004

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director, and Lydia Fischer, Executive Committee Member At-Large

The first year of the 92nd Legislature saw few pieces of good environmental legislation passed and left many key issues unresolved. The House majority derailed critical environmental initiatives throughout 2003, while the Senate racked up a somewhat mixed record, passing key bills but often in a weakened form. Governor Granholm set an agenda on sprawl through the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council and by executive actions establishing policies for state agencies to curb sprawl. In mid-January she also sent a rare Special Message to the Legislature outlining her agenda for protecting Michigan's fresh water.

DISTRICT WATCHDOGS

During 2003, the Mackinac Chapter's District Watchdog program engaged Sierra Club members statewide in In-District lobbying, a Lansing lobby day and alerts to help advocate for the Sierra Club's priorities. In 2004 the Chapter looks to continue expanding this program, and invites participation from all members. As an election year for the Michigan House, it can be expected that most legislative action in 2004 will happen during the first half of the year, so this is the time to become involved! See *District Watchdogs Needed* on page 7 for details.

LAND USE LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN FULL GEAR

The first legislative pieces linked to the Land Use Leadership Council recommendations were signed by Governor Granholm at the end of last year. Rep. Chris Kolb's (D) bill, PA 226 of 2003, enables local communities to coordinate planning efforts across jurisdictional boundaries and Rep. Chris Ward's (R) three-bill package of amendments to public utility districts enabling legislation will permit developments to concentrate buildings in urban areas while protecting the required green space in a different part of the community. The bills will depend on voluntary action by local units of government to see the benefits of cooperation.

Other bills signed by the Governor included the Land Bank Fast Track package to expedite private redevelopment of abandoned properties, and an increase in Brownfield redevelopment funding. Broad bipartisanship has guided the

Legislature activities in Land Use issues. These bills reflect Michigan citizens' interest in such issues, as well as of compromises between developers' interests on one side and environmental and reform-minded concerns on the other.

OUT-OF-STATE WASTE BILLS WAITING FOR HOUSE ACTION

In 2003 the public pushed the out-of-state waste issue to the top of the environmental agenda, and Legislators jockeyed for credit by introducing an avalanche of bills. However, none of the key waste measures on the environmental agenda were passed by the end of the year, and a mixed bag of bills is under consideration in the House and Senate. The Senate passed several bills to help control out-of-state waste in mid-October, which are now stalled in the House. SB 721, a bill establishing a landfill tipping fee to help finance local recycling and waste reduction initiatives, remains in a Senate Committee. Environmentalists were quite disappointed that political dealings have sidelined any prospects for expanding the bottle bill in 2004.

MDEQ WATER PROGRAMS THREATENED

Four months after passing the House, two bills authorizing charges for water pollution permits were still stalled in a House-Senate Conference Committee. As of late January, MDEQ officials said the agency will run out of funds for water programs at the end of February. Environmentalists, including hundreds of Sierra Club members, contacted

legislators in 2003 urging creation of fees for polluters to pay for the program in place of taxpayer subsidies. Michigan remains the sole Great Lakes state not collecting any fees on water discharge permits, and may become the first state to forfeit its water programs because of failure to secure funding.

FORESTS AND MINERAL RIGHTS

The package of bills on state forest issues coming out of a joint committee of the House and Senate was expected to be introduced this past fall. As of January this package has not been introduced. Draft legislation was reportedly circulated to some interests, as well as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but Sierra Club was not included in the loop.

In December, Representative Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) convened a meeting of timber industry, conservation and environmental representatives and DNR staff to discuss issues and concerns surrounding the topic. Sierra Club raised particular concerns that discussions to date on potential legislation affecting Michigan's state forests had received little public notice and involvement, and that recreational interests and key scientific interests had been effectively shut out. Hunting and sportsmen's organizations raised similar concerns.

In a related note, DNR officials announced that they would initiate a process by the end of 2003 for securing third party certification of Michigan's state forests. As this newsletter goes to print, no more details on when or whether forest legislation may be introduced were available.



PHOTO: RITA JACK

Lake Superior is mysterious, dangerous and hauntingly beautiful. It will also be threatened by acid sulfide mining waste if sulfide mining companies go forward with plans in headwaters areas of the Salmon-Trout and Yellow Dog rivers.

GOVERNOR GRANHOLM'S SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE: MICHIGAN WATER LEGACY

by Rita Jack, Michigan Water Sentinels Project Director

High praise is due for the first Governor's Special Message on an environmental issue since the Milliken Administration—a full 21 years ago. Governor Granholm's Special Message is worth shouting about, especially after 12 years of policies in which the customer is the regulated community, rather than Michigan citizens.

But is Granholm's "comprehensive plan for protecting our waters" enough? Well, it's a start. Granholm's comprehensive water initiative addresses only some of the major concerns facing the Great Lakes today, including water withdrawal, invasive species, open water disposal, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES),

see WATER SENTINELS, page 7

ForestPolicyUpdate

MINERALS EXPLORATION IMPACTS MICHIGAN'S FORESTS

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

Minerals exploration continues to be an issue on the forested landscape, and it appears as if activity will increase over the next few years. In addition to two separate projects currently moving forward, more projects are said to be in the works for the Upper Peninsula.

MASON TRACT UPDATE

As readers have seen in previous issues of *The Mackinac*, a Traverse City oil and gas exploration company, Savoy Energy, has applied for a permit to drill for gas next to the pristine Mason Tract of the Au Sable River. The wellhead would be within 1200 feet of the Mason Chapel, a small, riverside chapel where fishers and canoeists stop to contemplate the beauty of the piece of land auto executive George Mason deeded to the state to remain "Forever Wild."

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) apparently has a different definition of "Forever Wild" than did Mr. Mason, as they have granted the drilling permit for the mineral rights under the Mason Tract to Savoy. The permit was granted in spite of strong opposition from The Anglers of the Au Sable, the Mason family and the Sierra Club.

The next step involves the Forest Service, which will have to grant permission to place the drilling platform on Federal land adjoining the Mason Tract. This process, unlike that used by the MDEQ, will be open to the public and allow public participation. The Sierra Club, in concert with the Anglers of the Au Sable and the Mason family, will use

this process in order to assure that the Mason Tract does in fact remain forever wild.

ACID IN THE SALMON-TROUT RIVER?

In the Upper Peninsula, Kennecott Mining Company is considering developing either an open pit or underground copper/nickel sulfide mine at the headwaters of the Salmon-Trout River in Marquette County. Sulfide mining operations inevitably leach sulfuric acid into the groundwater. The Salmon-Trout River, which is fed by groundwater, is home to the last breeding population of "Coaster" Brook Trout on the south shore of Lake Superior.

Local citizens, including the Sierra Club, have formed the Eagle Alliance in an attempt to stop this mine. In addition, at least three other hard rock mining operations are in the exploratory phase in the UP. Since Michigan's mining laws were formed in the late 19th century, there is virtually no oversight for mining in Michigan. The Sierra Club is currently working with other environmental organizations to overhaul these laws in order to include some semblance of environmental responsibility.

Conservation & Litigation Update

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

MICHIGAN GETS REPORT CARD ON FIRST YEAR OF ANIMAL FACTORY WATER PERMITS

A year end review of the State of Michigan's first year implementing a water quality permit for large scale livestock operations resulted in mixed grades from the Sierra Club. While the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's attitude toward the environmental threats posed by concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in Michigan was rated high, state policies, funding and enforcement follow-through all received low grades, reflecting major deficiencies in the state's programs.

In addition, a presentation of recent results of water testing and site visits by leaders with the Environmentally Concerned Citizens for South Central Michigan (ECCSCM) showed that little or no progress in cleaning up on-the-ground contamination at known CAFOs and regulating suspected CAFOs has occurred.

The Sierra Club's seven page report, "Michigan Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Water Quality Permit: A Report Card on YEAR 1," reviews the state's status in issuing the permits, enforcement of the law against known violations, and prospects for improvement in funding and policy changes. The report and grade summary are available on the Chapter website.

At a press conference on January 13 announcing the report card, Lynn Henning of ECCSCM provided a real-world overview of the threats to the environment that still exist from these operations. Using maps and video tapes, Henning described her findings in the course of a tour of CAFOs throughout lower Michigan. Henning identified violations of water quality at virtually all of the operations she visited, including on the campus of Michigan State University, where numerous concentrated livestock operations are found.

Over the past two years ECCSCM has also

conducted water testing near CAFOs in the vicinity of Hudson. Each of the CAFOs in the Hudson area caused illegal discharges of manure and other wastes during 2003, despite MDEQ enforcement actions against these operations. On December 29, testing for E.coli bacteria by ECCSCM at a dozen sites revealed levels "too numerous to count" at 10 of the sites and one site that exceeded the state's maximum standards by 47 times.

CLEANER WATERS IN FUTURE AS WALNUTDALE FARMS AND MERICAM FARMS LAWSUITS SETTLED

Settlement agreements have been reached with Walnutdale Farms in Allegan County and Mericam Farms in Hillsdale County. This completes the litigation brought by Sierra Club to force some of the worst polluting CAFOs in Michigan to clean up their operations and obtain permits under the Clean Water Act.

The settlements require the concentrated dairy operations to pay fines for contamination of waterways in violation of the Clean Water Act, to address the design and management problems that caused the pollution, and require payment of stipulated penalties in the event of future violations.

The Walnutdale Farms case was the first lawsuit brought against an animal factory by Sierra Club in Michigan. The lawsuit was filed in November 2000 against what was one of the worst polluting animal factories in Michigan at the time.

Walnutdale agreed to pay a \$50,000 fine, and has already completed a number of the most important improvements to the operation as a result of an interim settlement secured by Sierra Club in February 2002. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is also a party to the settlement, and in August 2003 the operation became one of the first to obtain permit coverage under Michigan's CAFO permit.

The Mericam Farms lawsuit, brought

Lynn Henning identified violations of water quality at virtually all the CAFO operations she visited, including those on the MSU campus.

by National Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club in May 2002, was brought to an end through a settlement signed in December. The settlement sets a \$20,000 fine and requires a supplemental environmental project to be completed within one year, or an additional \$10,000 fine will be levied. MDEQ intervened in the case and is a party to the settlement.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT HEARS CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CASE, SIERRA CLUB JOINS AS AMICUS

The Michigan Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) established a right for any person to go to court to prevent the pollution, impairment or destruction of Michigan's environment. This provision has allowed citizens access to the courts to protect Michigan's air, water and land for almost 35 years.

A challenge to this "standing" provision has been brought by the Cleveland Cliffs Corporation in an appeal of a lawsuit brought by the National Wildlife Federation. Sierra Club joined a distinguished cross section of Michigan's environmental leaders and organizations in an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of the citizen suit provisions of MEPA.

Additionally, former Governor William Milliken, who signed MEPA into law, and Joseph Sax, a former professor at the University of Michigan Law School who drafted the law, have submitted their own briefs in support of the National Wildlife Federation position. The Supreme Court heard arguments on the case in January and is expected to issue a decision in the spring.



I WANT TO BE A WATCHDOG

I want to influence the legislative process in Lansing—please add me to the growing pack of District Watchdogs so I can become more involved!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Return this form to:

**Gayle Miller
Sierra Club, Mackinac Chapter
109 East Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-484-2372**

DISTRICT WATCHDOGS NEEDED

Would you like an opportunity to influence the legislative process on those environmental issues we Sierrans care about: sprawl, trash, air and water pollution, forests, factory farms, and others? Be a District Watchdog. Concerned that you don't have time to follow what's going on in Lansing? Being a Watchdog enables you to participate actively in the democratic process with the time and energy that you have available.

The key is to know when important environmental issues are being discussed in the legislature and when votes are imminent. As a District Watchdog, the Mackinac Chapter will keep you up to date on critical issues and let you know the best time to contact your elected officials in Lansing. Sierra Club staff and your fellow activist volunteer members follow the legislative process and send Alerts to District Watchdogs at those crucial moments. District Watchdogs—there are over 80 of them in our Chapter right now—are then asked to contact their legislators by mail, phone, e-mail or in person, or to write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper.

District Watchdogs are also invited to take part in the Chapter's spring and fall Lobby Days in Lansing to meet with legislators face to face.

The Mackinac Chapter would like to have at least one District Watchdog in each legislative district so that every representative will know that his or her Sierra Club constituents are concerned and watchful. Choose to protect the environment while becoming an active participant in the democratic process!

To join the District Watchdogs, e-mail your contact information to Gayle Miller, Mackinac Chapter Conservation Program Coordinator, gayle.miller@sierraclub.org, or fill out the form at left and mail it in.

WATER SENTINELS, continued from page 5

revised sanitary code, wetlands protection and securing federal funding for Great Lakes restoration projects.

Surely, these are vastly important issues in protecting the health of the Great Lakes. Yet other equally important issues need to be addressed. Missing from the special message is a call for the Bush Administration to stop its plan to weaken clean air standards, thus allowing more mercury to be deposited from the air into our lakes.

If the Governor is serious about funds to clean up contaminated sites in Michigan, then she ought to call on Congress to reauthorize the Superfund Tax on polluting industries so that

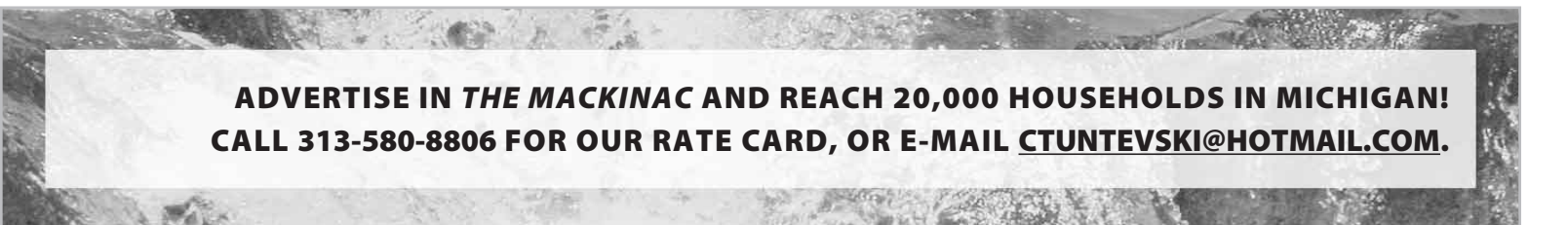
Polluting industries should be forced to pay the costs of doing business, including the privilege of polluting our land, water and air.

taxpayers are not shouldering that burden. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cannot afford to pay for complete cleanups at most contaminated sites; there is simply not enough money from the general fund—taxpayer dollars—to pay for it. Polluting industries should be forced to pay the costs of doing business, including the privilege of polluting our land, water and air.

"I look forward to the input of the newly created Groundwater Advisory Council (GAC) and the Legislature on this proposal," the Governor said in her message. Yes, but where

is a reference to Michigan's waters belonging to its citizens (and not just the GAC and the Legislature)? I hope Michigan citizens will immediately schedule in-district meetings with their legislators to make sure all voices are heard, not just those of Consumers Energy, the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the Farm Bureau.

To learn how to contact your legislators, contact the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter office at 517-484-2372 or go to http://house.michigan.gov/find_a_rep.asp.



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Thank you to all of our members that contributed so generously this year. Your support helps the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club with our local work. The donations will be used to protect the Northwoods, wildlife and open space; to promote environmental justice; to clean up the Great Lakes waters and shorelines; and to make the environment an issue in elections.

Thank you again to all the donors!

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Chapter Funding Update

INCREASE YOUR SIERRA CLUB INVESTMENT!

by Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator
and Sarah R. Baker, Development Associate

We each make investments with money, with time and with emotion. As a Sierra Club member, you have given from all three accounts, and demonstrated your commitment with your payment of the annual membership fee, your attendance at Club meetings, outings and rallies, as well as your personal belief that each of us needs to do our part in order to preserve, enjoy and protect the planet.

The Sierra Club has a long history of shaping public policy in support of the environment, both nationally as well as right here at home. Browse through some old newsletters, visit the Mackinac Chapter's website, or talk to a group or chapter leaders, and it becomes clear that our work does make a difference. A big difference. And your involvement is why. Without support from concerned members, nothing would happen. You should be proud of being a member of the largest and most effective grassroots environmental organization.

What do you get in return for belonging to the Sierra Club? In addition to that sense of well-being from knowing you've done your part, you also receive award-winning Mackinac Chapter newsletters, the Sierra magazine, environmental alerts, as well as opportunities to enjoy the wild places of America with other members. You know you have invested wisely.

But what if each of us gave a little more?

By joining the Sierra Club, you've made a promise to do your part to protect the environment. But membership dues aren't always enough, and never was this truer than right now, a critical time for the environment. As a member, you can help influence others to make informed choices simply by talking about the issues. An act as simple as sharing your copy of the newsletter might lead to a future member, a new financial supporter,

another vote for the environment, or maybe even a new leader in the Club.

When the Sierra Club shows up at a rally, elected officials take notice. So this year, don't just plan to attend one more meeting or start one more conversation on the environment. Instead, go ahead and do it, and then, cross it off your list and make another environmental goal... maybe get out and show up at the next rally, or make the time to give your legislator a call. (You know what, you'll be glad you did.)

Your annual membership fee helps support the Club and the Chapter. But an additional gift this year, perhaps a bit more than you may usually give, provides the necessary resources for the tough fight ahead. Not only are we faced with a process to restructure our administration in Washington D.C., but we have a long way to go in correcting the wrongs committed over the past three years.

Know that your support can be designated to help a specific conservation priority, to fund the PAC, or for the Chapter's Greatest Need. As foundation support shrinks, we must depend on our strongest allies—that's you—to continue the work we've started.

Don't let 2004 slip by without taking a stand for the environment. We can do so much if we do it together. Please fill out the coupon at right and send it in. Make your pledge to take action!

MACKINAC SPONSORS WANTED

Please consider making a special contribution of \$500 to help underwrite the production costs of *The Mackinac*. Your contribution entitles you to recognition as a Guardian of the Mackinac Society. You will also be mentioned in the next newsletter and receive a special certificate of recognition. For more information, please contact Sarah Baker, Development Officer, at 269-383-6247 or sarah.baker@sierraclub.org.

MACKINAC CHAPTER ACTION PLEDGE AND GIFT CONTRIBUTION

Yes, I want to increase my investment in The Sierra Club, Mackinac Chapter!

Please contact me about:

- Upcoming community meetings in my area**
- Volunteering in the office**
- Chairing an event or joining a committee**
- Leading an outing**

Please accept my contribution to help continue the work of the Sierra Club:

- \$10**
- \$25**
- \$50**
- \$100: Defender**
- \$250: Protector**
- \$500: Guardian**
- \$1000: Lake Huron Club**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please mail this form to the Sierra Club, 109 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing MI 48909 or fax it to 517-484-3108. Please make checks payable to Sierra Club, Mackinac Chapter.

Gifts to the Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club support effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs in Michigan and therefore are not tax-deductible.

Bush Administration

THE TIME TO BUILD AND BOLSTER ENVIRONMENTAL

President Bush and his administration are making decisions in Washington, D.C., that affect the quality of air, water and wildlife habitat in your backyard.

If you don't believe it, ask Kathy Melmoth, a former public health nurse and farmer in Hillsdale County. For more than a dozen years, Kathy and her husband Dave have grown herbs and flowers for sale at their farm, and in just the last few years they have begun to make a living off the farm.

Kathy has been part of a watershed group working to protect the Bean and Tiffin Rivers in south central Michigan, beautiful clear waterways that are home to rare species of mussels and fish. Over the past few years, however, she and others have seen enormous damage to the streams and lakes in their area from massive new concentrated dairy operations contaminating the water and air with their wastes. Not only are the rivers at risk, a whole way of life for this community is now being threatened by these livestock factories.

Yet the Bush administration is failing to protect the health of the waters of Hillsdale County, or that of Michigan residents. Back room deals with agribusiness giants have meant the Melmoths and their neighbors will not be protected from deadly contaminants in the air from these animal factories. As Kathy says, "So many people have no idea of what is going on. We have got to create changes before these communities are totally destroyed and we are left with nothing but dead and decaying land in the once proud heart of America."

The Sierra Club in Michigan is working to bring about the change Kathy talks about, not just in rural Hillsdale County, but everywhere Sierra Club members live and work. In Detroit where asthma rates are skyrocketing and little girls like Anika Hunter struggle for breath every day. In St. Louis, where a Superfund site still pours DDT into the Pine



PHOTO: NATE WOIWODE

Outside the Velsicol Chemical Superfund site in St. Louis. The future of the Pine River hangs in the balance as USEPA decides whether taxpayers can afford to clean up the site, or simply try to contain the site once more.

ENVIROS AND LABOR EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER

by Lydia Fischer, Executive Committee Member At-Large

Informal conversations between some "blue" and "green" leaders during the course of last year succeeded in bringing together upwards of 30 representatives from labor and environmental organizations in early November at an event hosted by Don Boggs, Metro Detroit AFL-CIO President, in downtown Detroit. Both Boggs and Lana Pollack, President of the Michigan Environmental Council, welcomed the participants and underscored the importance of beginning a dialogue between the two communities that might lead to common action in areas of mutual interest. Mackinac Chapter Director Anne Woiwode represented the Mackinac Chapter; I attended as well.

Convener Megan Owens of Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRGIM) proposed that discussions be loosely based on the Apollo Project—a national effort to bring together labor, environmental and other groups "in support of good jobs and energy independence" through diversified energy sources. Accordingly, many of the folks present chose to focus on the challenges of the manufacturing sector in Michigan and its employment base, on enviro support for labor's organizing campaigns and on clean energy.

Puts Communities at Risk

COMMUNITES IS NOW

River twenty years after being “cleaned up,” Joe Scholtz wonders, “If this generation doesn’t clean up this river, is the next generation going to? Or are they just going to say ‘No, I’m moving out of Saint Louis and the last one turn the lights out.’ I think that people are interested in [the cleanup]. They want it done and they want it done right.”

Sierra Club volunteers throughout Michigan are working to change the stories in these communities, and we’re going back to the grassroots to do it. People like you are talking with friends and neighbors about the Bush administration’s failure to protect our families and our communities’ health.

Through our Building Environmental Communities campaign, volunteers like Sue Kelly and Jim Nash are talking with Sierra Club members and other environmentalists who are concerned about protecting our future. In community meetings held this fall and winter, Jim, Sue and dozens of other volunteers take the time to encourage people like you to let the Bush Administration know that weakening protection for our air and water quality is not acceptable.

Throughout our 112 years, the Sierra Club has been a grassroots organization where concerned and informed members talk with their friends and neighbors about working to protect the people and places they love, whether it is the wilderness of Alaska or the schoolyard their children play in. That simple act, talking to one person then talking to another person, then talking to another, has been the key to the success for Sierra Club, the largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States. Remarkably, in an age when everyone is wired and a rumor can be heard around the world in seconds, we are rediscovering the power of person-to-person contact, of telling the story to our neighbors and family and backing it up with the facts so that more and more people understand what is going on.

In another article in this issue you’ll see an overview of one of the

The Bush administration, with remarkable single-mindedness, has set about undoing more than thirty years of work to protect the nation’s air, water and shrinking wilderness.

– Elizabeth Kolbert

New Yorker, November 14, 2002

serious environmental problems threatening children and women of child-bearing age who simply wish to eat the fish we catch from lakes and streams: mercury contamination of waterways from air pollution caused by power plants and incinerators. Take a moment to educate yourself and maybe clip this article and stick it in your wallet. And the next time you are in church or at school or talking with your brother-in-law and want to talk about something that matters, tell your friends and co-workers about the threat mercury contamination poses to our way of life in Michigan. The first step to change is education, and your first step can make all the difference in the world.

Would you like to do more? Contact Gayle Miller, 517-484-2372 or gayle.miller@sierraclub.org, and Bruce Hoeft, 734-277-3409 or bruce.hoeft@sierraclub.org. Or visit our website, michigan.sierraclub.org, to learn how you can help Sierra Club Build Environmental Communities—for our families, for our future.

Follow-up meetings have taken place in the Manufacturing in Michigan group, which issued a press release at the time of the Governor’s Manufacturing Summit in early December. The statement, submitted jointly by the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO and the Michigan Environmental Council, pointed to the opportunities for Michigan manufacturing in the global transition to cleaner, fuel-efficient technologies, and highlighted the value and importance of environmental and public health and safety regulations.

Alliances between environmentalists and labor have blossomed in the trade arena, as in the concerted (but ultimately unsuccessful) struggle to defeat NAFTA a

decade ago. In mid-November 2003, Latin American officials, hosted by the United States, met in Miami to advance expanding NAFTA, as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), into South America. Environmentalists joined labor and other groups in large demonstrations to stop FTAA. The harsh police repression they encountered in the process gave wide publicity to this joint action.

Environmentalists and labor have also been successful working together to improve health and safety conditions in the workplace and in stopping the use of noxious pesticides that affect farm workers in the field (to name just a couple of examples of fruitful collaboration).

Both labor and environmentalists have much to gain by coming together and pooling their strengths and resources. As environmentalists, we need to remember that workers are on the front lines of our toxic culture, and many times are pushed into choosing between a better environment and a job, despite the fact that all too often those are bogus choices. In Michigan, our strong manufacturing base provides a chance for a “just transition.” We can move from existing resource and production schemes to new ones while protecting the workers and communities involved. Concerted blue-green efforts are indispensable to that process.

Ann Arbor

by Suzie Brucker Heiney, member, Huron Valley Group

On November 4, voters in Ann Arbor chose a future that doesn't consist of endless suburban sprawl. By a 2-1 margin, residents voted to extend the city's expiring parks acquisition millage for 30 years and—for the first time—allow a portion of the \$72 million the millage will generate to be used to acquire conservation easements on local farmland outside the city limits that would otherwise be vulnerable to sprawl. On the same day, the voters in Ann Arbor Township also overwhelmingly passed a millage. The Ann Arbor Township initiative will generate \$5 million for farmland protection.

These victories came despite an aggressive misinformation campaign by sprawl developers targeted at the Ann Arbor proposal. According to the Trust for Public Land, which monitors land use ballot initiatives, this marks the first time nationwide that a land preservation proposal has succeeded when confronted with well-funded opponents.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

The Mackinac Chapter's Huron Valley Group (HVG) has targeted sprawl for over a decade. Throughout the 1990s, the group built relationships within the environmental community and with farmers and business leaders, while opposing specific developments that threatened important natural areas. HVG also organized "Tour de Sprawl" events to build public awareness about sprawl's impact on the region's quality of life.

In 1998, environmental groups, including HVG, supported the effort to pass a county-wide land preservation proposal. Sprawl developers hiding behind the name "Washtenaw Citizens for Responsible Growth" mounted an aggressive "green-scam" campaign that claimed they had a "better way" to stop sprawl. Thanks to a 3-2 spending advantage, the developers won by a 58 – 42 percent margin.

Undaunted, however, the environmental community succeeded in passing the Ann Arbor Parkland Acquisition Millage in 1999 and the county-wide Natural Areas Proposal in 2000. Together, these two victories secured almost \$50 million in direct and matching funds to acquire land.

Allison and Marianne Cowherd pause on a bridge at Ann Arbor's Barton Natural Area. They are on their way to look for insects at a restored prairie nearby.



PHOTO: ANNE HEISE

Stands Up To Sprawl

and Michael Sklar, co-chair, Huron Valley Group

THE 2003 PROPOSAL— “WE DIDN’T THINK YOU COULD WIN”

The 2003 Ann Arbor Parks and Greenbelt Proposal took an innovative approach to land preservation. Under the proposal, city funds could be used to protect land both inside and outside the city limits.

During the campaign, the sprawl developers tried to spread misinformation designed to raise doubts in the minds of voters. They printed yard signs saying “Save OUR parks”—implying that the proposal somehow endangered parks and open space rather than protecting it. They complained that the proposal was “just too long”—despite the fact that long-term millages are commonly used to fund other long-term projects such as roads and schools. They even accused the proposal of making housing unaffordable—even though at a public meeting the developers’ campaign manager admitted they “don’t build affordable housing in the Ann Arbor greenbelt area.” The sprawl developers spent \$235,000—a new record for Ann Arbor ballot proposals—to sow fear, uncertainty, and doubt in voters’ minds.

The “Friends of Ann Arbor Open Space” campaign, in support of the proposal, countered the developers’ tactics by forming a broad supporting coalition, raising sufficient funds to blunt the sprawl developers’ financial advantage, and recruiting over 500 volunteers (including many Sierra Club members). Thanks to an aggressive campaign to counter the lies and misinformation spread by sprawl developers, Ann Arbor voters passed the proposal by a 2-1 margin.

The overwhelming victory surprised Will Abberger, a ballot initiative expert at the Trust for Public Land. “Since no one else had ever prevailed in the face of well-funded opposition, we didn’t think you could win,” he told Doug Cowherd, co-director of the campaign and co-chair of the Sierra Club’s Huron Valley Group. However, because of the precedent-setting nature of the Ann Arbor measure for Michigan, the Trust for Public Land supported the proposition with a \$5,000 contribution from its lobbying affiliate, the Conservation Campaign.

THE KEYS TO VICTORY

The innovative land preservation campaign model that led to success in Ann Arbor can work elsewhere:

- **BUILD A BROAD COALITION.** The coalition supporting this proposal included Republicans and Democrats; business leaders and the environmental community; farmers and local activists; and even a number of prominent developers, builders, and realtors. It



Mopping them up: Key players in the campaign celebrate the victory. L to R: Mike Garfield, Doug Cowherd, Barry Lonik, John Allison, Bill Hanson and Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje.

took years of effort to cultivate these relationships. The payoff: the broad, diverse coalition reassured voters that the proposal was in the best interests of the city.

- **WAGE AN AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN.** The campaign blended a positive vision for the future with hard-hitting ads that didn’t shy away from unmasking the opposition’s campaign for what it was—a web of misinformation, half-truths and outright lies. As a result, support for the proposal grew throughout the campaign.
- **LEVERAGE PEOPLE POWER.** Over 500 volunteers, many of them Sierra Club members, helped distribute literature, post yard signs, and make get-out-the-vote phone calls. Their energy and time helped offset the opponents’ fundraising advantage.
- **START FUNDRAISING EARLY.** People power alone isn’t enough. It takes serious money to compete with deep-pocketed opponents. A decade of aggressive fundraising anchored by the “Shopping for the Earth” program (see the ad on page 14) enabled the HVG to donate over \$40,000—the single largest contribution by far—to the campaign. The ability to fund print ads, direct mail, radio and TV ads enabled the campaign to get its message across to voters.

Ann Arbor has won a victory that should inspire sprawl fighters everywhere. The campaign leaders hope that their experience will help other communities win their own land preservation battles. For more information, see www.a2openspace.org. If you would like to help organize a land preservation ballot proposal in your community, please send an email to mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Shop to Stop Sprawl!

"What a great idea! Local grassroots action to preserve nature is what the Sierra Club is all about. I encourage every Sierra Club member in Michigan to participate in Shopping for the Earth."

- Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director

Your next shopping trip could help stop sprawl! How? By joining the Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** program, like hundreds of other people. Up to 20% of what you spend will be donated to the Sierra Club.

We'll use the funds to fight the out-of-control development devastating Michigan. Each year, you can contribute hundreds of dollars to the fight against sprawl - at no cost to you!



To join the program, just mail in the order form below with your check. You'll get EarthCash vouchers of equal value for the stores you select. Then you spend the vouchers (accepted nationwide) just as if they're cash. You can return unused vouchers for a refund if you're not completely satisfied.

For more information, please contact Michael Sklar by phone at (734) 717-8040 or by email at mssklar@comcast.net.

"I use EarthCash vouchers. I haven't changed what I buy or where I shop. But now we're contributing over \$200 each year to make our community a better place. It's easy, and it doesn't cost us a penny."

- Gwen Nystuen

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

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

	\$5	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$100
Kroger (and affiliated stores)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole Foods (and affiliated stores)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Busch's	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmer Jack (and affiliated stores)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiller's Markets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holiday Market (Royal Oak)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borders Books & Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you shop at **Meijer**, you can also contribute through the Meijer Community Rewards program. To enroll and learn how to maximize your contribution, please contact Michael Sklar -- or go to www.meijer.com/rewards, and designate 100% of your donation to go to organization code **883330**.

Your Name: _____
 Your Address: _____

 Your Phone number: _____
 Your email address: _____

Mail to:
 Michael Sklar
 10404 Kingston Avenue
 Huntington Woods, MI 48070
 (Your personal data will not be shared)

The events of September 11 and the Iraq war provided the opportunity for the Bush Administration to do just that. Suddenly, many journalists were yanked off the environment beat and reassigned to cover terrorism and the war. Bush's war on the environment dropped off the public's radar, allowing the corporations to get what they want without oversight. When reports sometimes filter through, many people are hesitant to criticize the President, since we are at war. And most people just can't believe he actually has time to do so much damage to the environment, or would be so greedy to do it.

George W. Bush has gotten his deceptive agenda "right." He is the most anti-environmental president we have ever had. But there is nothing right about his agenda to undo decades of environmental progress—or his deception of the American people.

The Sierra Club is working to hold the Bush Administration accountable for its actions against the environment. The Club's "Building Environmental Communities" campaign is the most ambitious public education campaign in the Club's history. Through community meetings, neighbor-to-neighbor contacts, house parties, "letters to the editor" and other methods, we are spreading the word about how the Bush Administration is harming our health and environment to the benefit of special interests.

The Sierra Club needs your help in this endeavor! If you'd like to help the Sierra Club spread the word in your community, please contact the Chapter office at 517-484-2372 or contact Gayle Miller, our Conservation Program Coordinator, at gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.



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Raffle Winners Announced!

by Sherry Hayden, Raffle Volunteer

When members enter the yearly Mackinac Chapter raffle, they hope to win a prize, but they also know their money goes for a good cause whether they win or not (so nobody ever loses).

The biggest "prize winner" this year, however, turned out to be Michigan's environment. We raised more than \$6,000 to support Sierra Club activities. **One of our top volunteers, Marcia Stanczak of Centerline, sold \$167 worth of tickets!** Many others contacted us asking for more tickets to sell, while dozens of members generously donated more than the cost of tickets to help keep our chapter strong and effective.

The drawing was held January 17 during the Executive Committee meeting.

The winners are:

FIRST PRIZE (\$1,000)

Gabriel Marroni, Ann Arbor

SECOND PRIZE (\$500)

Guillermo & Pamela Borquez, Royal Oak

5 THIRD PRIZES (\$100)

Heather Rinkel, Rapid City

Bruce A. Gulliver, Saginaw

Ken Papiez, Howell

Maureen Sheahan, Southfield

Russ Rendland, Clinton Township

Because we must continue to work for Michigan's environmental protection, volunteers will again be sending out next year's raffle ticket package in the fall. With help from members like you, we will win a healthy environment for ourselves and future generations.

Thank you so much for participating!



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Group Meetings & Programs

WWW.MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/GROUPS.HTML

Outings, political and conservation activities and general interest meetings are hosted regularly by groups throughout the state. There are numerous ways to get involved in your local group. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Contact Group chairs (page 23) or those listed below. Up-to-the-minute outings and activities may be found on group websites or on the Mackinac Chapter website at www.michigan.sierraclub.org. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus.

2004 Executive Committee Meetings

The Mackinac Chapter Executive Committee (Ex-Com) meets quarterly at locations around the state. Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz at the Chapter office for details. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SPRING: Saturday, April 3, Ann Arbor

SUMMER: July 24-25, Upper Peninsula, Location TBA

FALL: Saturday, October 2, Lansing

WINTER: January 15-16, 2005

AG: Algonquin Group

Interested in helping to build an active group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

CMG: Central Michigan Group

GENERAL MEETINGS: 5:30pm for supper (small donation requested), monthly meeting at 6:15, 3rd Monday. Harris Nature Center, off Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Pete Pasterz, 517-676-3339.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 5:30pm monthly, 2nd Monday. Maria Lapinski-LaFaive, 517-374-4444 or mlapinsk@wmich.edu.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Monthly, 1st Monday. Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: Michelle Mickelson, 517-339-6192 or michelle_mickelson@yahoo.com.

CUP: Central Upper Peninsula Group

Central and western counties in the Upper Peninsula

GENERAL MEETINGS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7pm in Community Room, Peter White Library in Marquette. John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or jrebers@nmu.edu.

GROUP NEWS: Mail \$5 for newsletter subscription to Sierra Club, 338 West Crescent, Marquette, MI 49855.

OUTINGS: Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

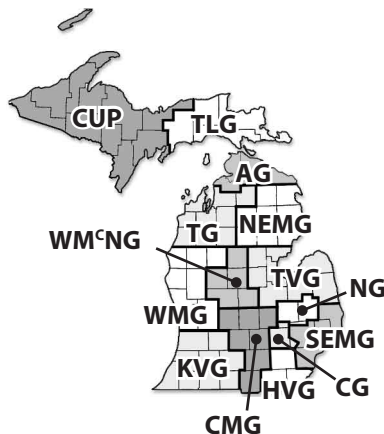
CG: Crossroads Group

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads>

Livingston, southern Genesee and western Oakland counties

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm 4th Wednesday, March & May, at Brighton Public Library, 200 Orndorff Dr, Brighton.

3/24 Preserving Livingston County Natural Areas



Group boundaries of the Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

5/26 Michigan Butterflies

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE meets monthly. Emily Gobright, Conservation Chair, emily@ismi.net or 517-548-0595.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: Co-chairs Cheryl McConnell, mcconnell_cheryl@yahoo.com or 517-552-1464; Ron Smith, rsmith9999@aol.com or 734-878-3689.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meets monthly. Co-Chairs: Rick Pearsall, rick@pearsall.com or 810-227-6298; Karen Pierce, pierce@hartland.k12.mi.us or 810-227-8521.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Lorne Beatty, lbeatty@bluechip-tech.com or 810-632-7766.

HVG: Huron Valley Group
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron>
HVG Hotline: 734-480-7751

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7:30pm monthly, 3rd Tuesday, at UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor. Non-members welcome!

2/17 "Romping on the Tundra: Adventures in the Arctic" by Russ Taichman.

3/17 "Wildlife of the Everglades" by Julia Gordon, Evergreen Images. Special Co-sponsored Wednesday meeting of Sierra Club Huron Valley and the Washtenaw Audubon Society.

4/20 "Native Landscaping" by David Mindell, Plant-Wise Native Landscapes.

HVG BOOK CLUB: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Tuesday at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, Ann Arbor. Small group book discussion about nature or the environment. Call 734-332-0207.

CONSERVATION TEAM meets 7pm monthly, 4th Monday. Dave Brooks, 734-475-9851; Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157.

KVG: Kalamazoo Valley Group

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

2/23 Wild Land, Wildlife, and Water Pollution in Southwest Michigan. Joint program with the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo. People's Church, 1758 N 10th St, Kalamazoo.

3/17 John Muir, Prophet of the Wilderness. Rich Koster will speak about Sierra Club founder John Muir.

4/21 Adventuring In East Africa. Ed and Marion Boyer will share their July 2003 East African safari, captured on videotape, including a hike to the top of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Wednesday. Chair, Paul Haas, 269-664-5417 or paulhs@aol.com.

NG: Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

GENERAL MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday each month, 7pm, Mott Community College, 1401 E Court St, Flint, Prah Center, Genesee Room. Guest speakers. Refreshments served.

OUTINGS: Dave Mansfield, mansfieldd@chartermi.net or 810-658-0406.

NEMG: Northeast Michigan Group

Interested in helping to build an active group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

SEMG: Southeast Michigan Group
www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6:30 or 7pm monthly Sept-June, 1st Thursday, at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or cogknot@yahoo.com.



A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET ON LAKE MICHIGAN AT LEELANAU STATE PARK DURING LAST YEAR'S SUMMER EX-COM MEETING. PHOTO COURTESY ANNE WOIWODE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 7:30pm monthly, 2nd Thursday at 2727 Second Avenue, Detroit. Jim Nash, 248-471-3759 or nashlibdem@msn.com.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Monthly meetings at 2727 Second Avenue, Detroit. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645, ecoed@netzero.net.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: Quarterly planning meetings. Outings Chair Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil3@netzero.net; Outings Coordinator Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

3/13 Outings Scheduling Meeting. 6pm. If you are interested in leading or learning about leading outings, come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Non-committee members are welcome. Bring a St. Patrick's Day potluck dish to pass. Plan outing for May-Sep. Call Liz for details/directions, 313-581-7579.

6/12 Outings Scheduling Meeting. 6 pm. Potluck & plan outings for Sep-Dec. See listing above for details.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: 6:30pm monthly, last Thursday, at Jim's Restaurant on Washington, one block

north of Lincoln (10-1/2 Mile), Royal Oak. Tim Killeen, Political Chair, 313-526-4052 or timk@bikerider.com.

TLG: Three Lakes Group
Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft counties

GENERAL MEETINGS: monthly Sept-May, 1st Wednesday, at Walker Cisler Center on the Lake Superior State University campus. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@LSSU.edu.

BUSINESS MEETINGS: monthly in Sault Ste Marie. Floyd Byerly, 906-632-0218.

OUTINGS: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@LSSU.edu.

TVG: Thumb Valley Group
Interested in helping to build an active group or want information about the Sierra Club in this area? Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

TG: Traverse Group
www.michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

GENERAL MEETINGS: 1-3pm monthly, 2nd Saturday,

Traverse Area District Library, 610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City. Monica, 231-325-6812; Lynn, 248-547-0842.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meetings held following general meetings.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 1-3pm monthly, 4th Sunday, Horizon Books, downstairs café, downtown Traverse City. Monica, 231-325-6812.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Monica, 231-325-6812.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: John Lewis, 231-947-9104; Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344 or deana@elmo.nmc.edu.

WMcNG: Wakelin McNeel Group
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/wakelin-mcneel>

For information about the Sierra Club in this area, contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

WMG: West Michigan Group
www.westmichigansierraclub.org

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6pm monthly, 2nd Thursday, at downtown YMCA, 33 Library NE, Grand Rapids. Marty Lore, 616-682-1316.

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"Rascal" was drawn by John Nystuen, Huron Valley Group member.

STYLE/ SIZE	SHORT SLEEVE, W	SHORT SLEEVE, G	LONG SLEEVE, W
S	1 LEFT	SOLD OUT	1 LEFT
M	1 LEFT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
L		SOLD OUT	1 LEFT
XL		SOLD OUT	
XXL		SOLD OUT	
PRICE	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$20.00
TOTAL			
SHIPPING	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

PHONE NUMBER:

MackinacChapterOutings

WWW.MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/OUTINGS.HTML

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. Refer to the Group Meetings map, page 16, to determine a group's location. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [T] = trail maintenance. Trips begin at the trailhead. Fees are a suggested donation. Outings are open to everyone. More detailed outing descriptions may be found at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org> or at individual group websites. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

February

2/13-15 NG Ski Weekend at Jim's Downhill Skiing. Cross-Country Skiing & Snow shoeing. Elk Rapids area. Call for directions and reservations. James Ledtke, 989-624-9195 or jpbkey@aol.com

2/15 CG 6th Annual Winter Paddlefest. Noon. 6mi/2hr on Huron River in Island Lake State Rec Area. Small children/pets not recommended. Canoes may be rented if reserved in advance from Heavner's Canoe Rental, 248-685-2379. Life jackets must be worn. Refreshments served. Meet at Kent Lake Beach Parking Lot. State park entrance fee. Registration required. Ron Smith, 734-878-3689 or rsmith999@aol.com.

2/15 HVG Hudson Mills Day Ski/Hike. Winter camaraderie in the snow. Bring skis if you have them. Ruth Graves, 734-483-0058.

2/15 SEMG [E] Belle Isle Circumference Hike. 10am. Enjoy beautiful winter scenery. 5-6 level miles. Dress for windy/icy/cold weather. Trip goes rain or shine. Bring binoculars. See waterfowl at the lagoon. Meet at Belle Isle Casino, W end of island. Optional restaurant stop. Visit Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Whitcomb Conservatory, or America's oldest aquarium. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

2/15 TG [C] Boardman River Valley Hike. 2pm. See why the Sierra Club fought long & hard to save this magnificent regional treasure. Celebrate what appears to be the end of the long battle to halt the Hartman-Hammond Bridge & Road project. Snowshoe, ski or hike. Bring binoculars. Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344 or andreadean113@msn.com.

2/19 CMG Outdoor Skating at Washington Park. 2700 S Washington, Lansing. 7:15-8:45pm. Rink fees: \$2 adult/\$1.50 child. Skate rental \$2. Meet in warming house. Michelle Mickelson, 517-339-6192 or michelle_mickelson@yahoo.com.

2/21 KVG Tobogganing, Tubing & Skating at Echo Valley. 10am. Meet at Echo Valley, 8495 East H Ave. \$9/toboggan, \$10/tube, \$5/skate. Warming lodge with food & beverages. May be closed if weather is above freezing. Cindy, 269-344-4279.

2/21 NG Holly North Cross-Country Skiing/ Hike. 10am, 6mi/moderate. Meet in parking lot behind Groveland Twp Hall, 4695 Grange Hall Rd. Linda Berker, 810-653-8242 or 810-348-8664 (cell).

2/22 HVG Cross Country Ski. Pigeon Creek Park in Ottawa County. Meet in the lodge at 2:30. RSVP to Marty Lore, 682-1316 or naturelore@comcast.net.

2/22 SEMG [E] Drayton Plains Nature Center. 1pm. Look for remains of former fish hatchery buildings, ponds & nature center. Explore seldom used trails on 4-mi hike. Dress for cold/snow/wet. Meet in Bloomfield Twp, Costco parking lot on Telegraph. Restaurant stop after. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

2/28 NG Holdridge Lakes Bike Trail Hike. 10am. Moderate 6mi hike. Dogs allowed. Meet in parking lot off Hess Rd. State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

2/29 CMG Skiing/Sledding Hawk Island County Park. 1601 E Cavanaugh, Lansing. 1:30pm. No park entry fee, ski rental available. Meet in parking lot.

Michelle Mickelson, 517-339-6192 or michelle_mickelson@yahoo.com.

2/29 SEMG [E] 13th Annual Ice Hike at Pointe Pelee. 9:30am. Dress warmly for 2-3 hrs of hiking trails & climbing snow piles on the pointe. Meet in Windsor at Ontario Information Center, Rte 3, 3/4 mi S of Ambassador Bridge. Bring proper I.D. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

2/29 TG Old Indian Trail Snowshoe. 1pm. Easy/mod 3-mi snowshoe along Old Indian Trail. Scenic views of Lake Michigan & low beach dunes. Meet trailhead parking lot, off M-22 near S end of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Priscilla Walmsley, priscilla@walmsley.com or 231-929-1658.

March

3/4-8 CUPG Pictured Rocks Winter Camping (Munising). For the fit, experienced, & equipped. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

3/5 CG Friday Evening Fitness Hikes. 1st & 3rd Fri of each month beginning in March. Meet at a local Metropark or recreation area after work for a brisk 3-5 mi hike. Get in shape for summer. Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464 or mcconnell_cheryl@yahoo.com.

3/6 or 3/20 KVG Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Workday. Details TBD. Either 3/6 at Chipman Preserve, Comstock Twp or 3/20 at Sand Creek Preserve, Kalamazoo. Visit michigan.sierraclub.org/outings/march.html for updated info. Deb, 269-672-5705.

3/6 SEMG [E] Maybury State Park Hike. 11am. Mod 4mi hike through early spring woods/fields. Look for spring wildflowers. Dress in layers; trip goes rain or shine. Meet at park concession building, 8 Mile Rd entrance, 1.5 miles W of Beck Rd. Park Entrance fee. Optional restaurant stop. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

3/7 NG Detroit Zoo Cruise. Noon. Meet main entrance of Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak, just off Woodward Ave. Hike snow or shine! Purchase \$8 tickets then take a fast 1mi hike around the zoo perimeter to warm up. Second leisurely lap to view exhibits. 3pm restaurant stop in Royal Oak. Outings donation \$1. Lynn Livingston, 586-795-1678.

WANTED BY SOUTH EAST MICHIGAN GROUP: New outings leaders to share favorite activities and special places with interested outdoors-lovers. You would join a strong core group that already offers a diverse schedule. Sign up now so you can be notified of future leader training.

Information: Philip Crookshank, SEMG outings chair, 313-562-1873, wanderphil3@netzero.net or Joanne Cantoni, SEMG outings coordinator, 248-932-5370, joannecantoni@netzero.net.



FULL BLOOM AT A SUNFLOWER FARM IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN. PHOTO: RANDALL MCCUNE, COURTESY USEPA

3/7 SEMG [E] Timberland Swamp Hike. 1pm. 2hr off-trail hike. Practice navigation by map, compass and gps. Explore area owned by the Michigan Nature Association next to Indian Springs Metropark. Optional restaurant stop. Meet in Bloomfield Twp, Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

3/13 NG Hadley-Metamora State Park Hike. 10am. Easy 5mi hike. Meet in Camp Store parking lot off Hurd Rd. State Park vehicle permit required. Restaurant stop. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfielddd@chartermi.net.

3/13 SEMG Mystery Hike. 11am. Come and find out which of our wonderful hiking areas we are going to! 5mi/brisk pace/varied terrain. Rain or shine. Meet in Troy behind Std Fed Bank on 14 Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

3/14 CMG [E] Guided Tour of Michigan Historical Center. 717 West Allegan, Lansing, no fee. Meet 1:30pm inside building lobby. Michelle Mickelson, 517-339-6192 or michelle_mickelson@yahoo.com.

3/14 SEMG [E] Kensington Bird Spotting Hike. Noon. Easy 5mi hike on metropark nature trails. ID early spring migrant birds. Bring binoculars/field guides. Meet in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall or 12:45pm at Nature Center. Restaurant stop after. Jeanne Mercier, 313-581-6648.

3/14 TG Grass River Natural Area Hike. 2pm. Wide variety of natural habitat-northern arboreal forest, upland & marsh forests, creeks, river, wetlands & open meadows. From Alden Hwy, 2.5 mi E of Chapman Rd and 0.5 mile W of Comfort Rd. Meet at large parking lot. Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344 or andreadean113@msn.com.

3/20 SEMG [E] Brighton Day Hike. 9:30am. Celebrate the last day of Winter! 5mi/mod pace. Explore new trails with great scenic vistas, look for early blooms & spring birds. Bring binoculars. Meet in Southfield behind Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579; Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2284.

3/20 NG Sawdust Corners Hike. 10am. 5-6mi/mod. Lapeer State Game Area. Restaurant stop. Greg & Mary Downey, 810-664-4917 or marydowney@blclinks.net.

3/21 NG Hogback Hills Hike. 1pm. 5-mi/difficult. Meet at fishing parking lot near 12406 E Stanley Rd. Restaurant stop. Gloria Publitz, 810-664-0304 or glorypepper@yahoo.com.

3/21 HVG Stinchfield Woods Ski/Hike. If snow, bring skis if you have them. Beginners welcome. Meet 1pm at City Hall parking lot. Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157.

3/21 SEMG Paint Creek Hike. 10am. 10 mile, mod/brisk pace. Rails-to-trails hike past creeks, ponds, meadows, forests, Eminem's (Marshall Mathers') home

& much more. Stop in Lake Orion for lunch. Bring snacks/water/good hiking shoes. Meet in Troy behind the Std Fed Bank on 14 Mile Rd. Michael Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

3/27 SEMG Seven Lakes State Park Hike. 10am. 6mile hike through rolling terrain, woodlands & high meadows. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind CVS on SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd, or 10:45am at park contact station. Optional restaurant stop. John Herriott, 248-766-9575.

3/27-28 NG Hoist Lakes Early Spring Backpacking. Moderate. Meet 9:30am Sat at Hoist Lakes foot area parking lot on M-65. Hike 9 miles Sat, 6 miles Sun. \$5 recreation fee permit. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfielddd@chartermi.net

3/27 NG Hadley Hills Jasmond Rd Hike. 10am, 6-mi/difficult. Ortonville Rec Area. Dogs allowed. Restaurant stop. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

3/28 CMG Harris Nature Center Hike. 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. Hike 1-3 mi (some trails paved) & tour the center. No fee. Meet 1:30pm inside visitor center. Michelle Mickelson, 517-339-6192 or michelle_mickelson@yahoo.com.

3/28 SEMG Highland Rec Area Hike. 11:30am. Leisurely 2hr late winter hike in this beautiful wooded area. Look for early wildflowers. Meet in Bloomfield Twp in Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph. Call if weather is doubtful, optional restaurant stop. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

3/28 TG North Country Trail Hike Out of Buckley. 1pm. Neat section of the trail. Meet at NE corner of Tom's 14th parking lot. Andrea Dean, 947-9344 or andreadean113@msn.com.

April

4/2-5 CUPG High Country Pathway Area Backpacking (Gaylord). For the fit, experienced, & equipped. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

4/3 NG Crim Hike. 10am. Urban hike on hard pavement. Meet at University pavilion at Saginaw & Kearsley. Mike Haley, 810-686-6354 or thaley@gfn.org.

4/3 SEMG [E] Waterloo Peakbagging. 9:30am. Hike from Green Lake campground to three highest peaks west of Ann Arbor: Shanahan Hill, Riley Hill and Stofer Hill. Intercept the Waterloo-Pinckney hiking trail & follow it back to the campground. Practice navigation by topo map, compass & gps. Bring snacks/water/camera. Dress for cross-country travel. Optional restaurant stop. Meet in Livonia between Wal Mart & Jiffy Lube on SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

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see *OUTINGS*, page 20



BIKING AND IN-LINE SKATING ON LANSING'S SCENIC RIVER WALK. PHOTO COURTESY BRAD GARMON/MEC

OUTINGS, continued from page 19

4/4 SEMG Holly State Park Hike. Noon. Explore thick forests, rolling hills and lakes left by the glaciers. 5-mile, mod pace. Meet in Troy behind the Std Fed Bank on 14 Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Call if weather is questionable. Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326.

4/7 CMG Waterloo Recreation Area Discovery Center Hike. Meet 6pm off Bush Road near Pierce Rd intersection inside Discovery Center. Hike 1-5 miles. Michelle Mickelson, 517-339-6192 or michelle_mickelson@yahoo.com.

4/10 SEMG Hines Drive Bike Trip. 11am. Ride from the S end of Hines Dr to Newburg Lake and back, 20mi round trip. No ride if bad weather. Call if weather is questionable. Meet at Parkland Picnic Area on Hines Dr between Ford Rd & Outer Dr. Optional restaurant stop. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

4/10 TG Windy Moraine Hike. 10am, 1.5mi trail through varied habitats. Outstanding view of Glen Lakes. Bring binoculars. Known habitat for bald eagles, coyotes, deer, fox & many species of birds. Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

4/10-11 NG Jordan River Pathway Early Spring Backpacking. Moderate. Meet Sat 10:30am at trailhead off Deadman's Hill Rd. 10mi Sat, 9mi Sun. Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldd@chartermi.net.

4/11 HVG Island Lake Hike. Spring warm-up hike at leisurely pace. Meet at Ann Arbor City Hall parking lot at 10am. Kathy Guerreso, 734-994-7030.

4/16-18 SEMG Manistee River Trail Backpack. Hike 10mi down Manistee River Trail. See 70' bluffs. Return 11mi on North Country Trail. Meet 4pm Fri at Seaton Creek trailhead, end Sun at noon. Bring own gear/food for 3 days. Water filter/ability to carry 2 qts of water a must! Limit 6. Reserve by 4/02. Approx cost \$23. John Calandra, 248-391-8973 or johndcal@comcast.net.

4/17 HVG Trail Maintenance with North Country Trail Association. Sue Norman, snorman942@aol.com or 616-891-9055.

4/17 SEMG Indian Springs in Spring. Noon. Easy 4-mi hike on Nature Trails. Look for early Spring blooms. Meet in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall. Restaurant stop after. Pat & Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.

4/17 NG Hadley Hills Look Out Mt Hike. 10am, 6-mi/difficult. Dogs allowed. Meet at trailhead on the N side of Fox Lake Rd across from "ranch." State Park vehicle permit required. Terry Lemmer, 810-732-9902.

4/18 KVG Dowagiac Woods Wildflower Walk. 1pm. Easy hike through Michigan Nature Association's 220-acre Dowagiac Woods. Meet in NE corner of parking lot at KVCC (Texas Twp Campus). Wear waterproof boots. Verne, 269-344-4279 (E) or 269-488-4268 (D).

4/18 NG Murphy Lake Hike. 1pm, 6.5mi/difficult. Trailhead is across from Mt. Kotarski sign on Millington Rd. Restaurant stop. Gloria Bublitz, 810-664-0304 or glorypepper@yahoo.com

4/18 CMG Sleepy Hollow State Park Hike. 7835 E Price Rd, Laingsburg. Park entrance fee. Meet 1:30pm at park entrance. Hike your choice of distance. Michelle Mickelson, 517-339-6192 or michelle_mickelson@yahoo.com.

4/18 HVG Waterloo Recreation Area Hike. Hike about 6mi amongst forest & hills. Canceled if rain. Meet 1pm at City Hall parking lot. Kathy Guerreso, 734-994-7030.

4/18 SEMG [E] Proud Lake Rec Area Hike. 12:30pm. Mod pace 5mi hike on seldom-used trails. Look for birds & spring flowers. Bring binoculars, trail snacks & water. Meet in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

4/24 SEMG [E] Maybury State Park Hike. 8am. Beginner bird hike. Look for Bluebirds, Meadowlarks & Bobolinks. Dress in layers, bring binoculars/field guides. Trip goes rain or shine. Meet at the park concession building, 8 Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5mi W of Beck Rd. Park Entrance fee. Optional restaurant stop. Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782.

4/24 TG [T] Clean-up hike in the Grand Traverse Commons. 10am. Meet at trailhead behind Building 50, W of blue water tower. Trip coordinated with Wally Chapple, who is in charge of maintaining the Commons Trails. Clean an area of woods where paintballers like to play & litter. 1-2 hrs cleaning woods/hiking. Peggy Fry, peggyfry@aol.com.

4/24-25 NG Shingle Mill Pathway Early Spring Backpacking. Meet Sat 9:30am at trailhead. Backpack 7-mi Sat, 4-mi Sun. Easy, flat, beautiful trail. Vanderbilt, MI. Call for carpooling info. Don Persson, 810-257-7441 (D), 810-695-0516 (N) or donald.persson@delphil.com.

4/25 HVG Annual Potawatomi Trail Hike. 17 miles of winding trail through glacial terrain, by lakes & over hills. Bring lunch. Meet 8am at City Hall parking lot. Ruth Graves, 734-483-0058.

4/25 SEMG Riverbend Twp Park, Rochester. 11am. Slow wildflower walk. 3 to 4.5 mi. Varied terrain: river, floodplains, wetlands, hilly areas and upland meadows. Bring binoculars. Meet in Sterling Heights at 16-Mile Rd and Van Dyke, SMART lot. Optional restaurant stop. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

4/28 CMG Rayner Park Hike. 730 E Ash Street, Mason, no fee. Meet 6pm at park entrance. Michelle Mickelson, 517-339-6192 or michelle_mickelson@yahoo.com.

4/30-5/3 CUPG North Country Trail Area Backpacking (St. Ignace). For the fit, experienced, & equipped. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

4/30-5/1 SEMG Lapeer SGA Overnight Backpack. East section of Lapeer SGA. 12 miles. Dress for off-trail hiking/water crossings. Night temp 25 F. No fires. No campground. No facilities. Great trip! Meet at area headquarters, 1pm Fri, Vernor Rd, 2 mi E of Fish Lake Rd. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

May

5/2 SEMG Paint Creek Trail Hike. Noon. 5mi/2hr/mod paced rails-to-trails hike through N Oakland County. Starts/ends in City Park, downtown Rochester. Parking lot and trail entrance is near police station. Meet near the pond. Optional restaurant stop. Kathy Lane, 248-813-1661; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

5/2 SEMG [C] Potawatomi Trail Cleanup Hike. 830am. Brisk hike, 14-mi/hilly terrain near Silver Lake. Bring litter bag for spring clean-up along the way. Trip goes rain or shine. Dress for weather. Bring water, trail lunch, good boots. Meet in Livonia between Wal Mart & Jiffy Lube on SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984; Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

5/7-9 SEMG Gerard Hiking Trail Backpack. NW Pennsylvania, only 5.5hrs from Southfield. 28-mi hilly hike. Camp at hike-in sites along the trail. Adirondack-type shelters, fireplaces, toilets & water supply. Need own gear/food for 3 days. Water filter, ability to carry 3qts of water required. Limit 6, Reserve by 4/23. Drive together to Oil City State Park at 7am Fri. Trip ends Sun afternoon. Trip cost approx \$48. John Calandra, 248-391-8973 or johndcal@comcast.net.

5/8 SEMG [E,C] Bluebird Rewards at Island Lake. 9am. Meet Allison McCormick, the Bluebird Lady of Island Lake State Park, for a Stewardship Tour. Birdhouse/documentation demonstration. See nesting birds. Bring binoculars. 1hr ed. session/brisk 5-mile hike. Meet in Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-12 Mall, or 9:45am at Spring Mill Pond. Restaurant stop after. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

5/9 SEMG [E] Mother Heron Rookery Hike. 9:30am. Enjoy Mother's Day by seeing how the Mother Herons are doing. 4-mi hike to Heron Rookery overlook. Bring binoculars. Meet in Bloomfield Twp, Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph or at 10:15 at rookery parking lot. Restaurant stop after. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

5/14-17 SEMG [E] Grand Island Backpack. Backpack scenic island in wildflower season. Moderate difficulty, some backpacking experience desirable. Must provide own equipment/meals. Ferry/camp fees approx. \$30. Meet at 7:30am Fri at Dogpatch restaurant in Munising. Reservations required by 5/1. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884 or powell_mm@hotmail.com.

5/15 SEMG [C, E] Detroit Riverfront Tour. 1 am. Tour Detroit Riverfront Development & rivers edge with a



YPSILANTI CHILDREN ON AN INNER CITY OUTINGS TRIP TO THE KENSINGTON METROPARK NATURE CENTER. PHOTO: RALPH POWELL

focus on conservation of this great resource, transit issues, maintaining green space, & the greenways project. See the "Dequindre Cut," the last rail link to downtown Detroit. Meet at the Stoney Creek Brew Pub parking lot on Joseph Campau St. Optional lunch. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645.

5/15 TG Wildflower Walk at Empire Bluffs. 10am. Meet at National Park Trailhead for Empire Bluff on Wilco Road 1 mile S of Empire. Annual hike led by Pam Smith, our own wildflower expert. Pam Smith, psmith@glec-tc.com.

5/16 SEMG Holly State Park Hike. Noon. 5-mi/mod-paced. Explore thick forests, rolling hills and lakes left by the glaciers. Meet in Troy behind the Std Fed Bank on 14 Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Call if questionable weather. Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326.

5/16-22 CUPG Women's Hike/Canoe Service Trip to Sylvania Wilderness. Join other women for trail maintenance in this pristine wilderness dotted with jewel-like lakes and primeval woods. \$90 with your canoe, \$141 with canoe rental. Sherry Zoars, 906-358-1110 or thezoars@excite.com.

5/22 SEMG [E] Huron River Canoe and Hike. 10am. From Heavners at Proud Lake paddle upstream to the bridge. Enjoy 3mi hike through forests of wildflowers. Lunch on edge of river. Gentle float back. \$18 fee due by 5/15. Bring lunch, water clothes, dry land clothes & a smile. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil3@netzero.net.

5/22 TG Kehl Lake Natural Area Hike. 2pm. 1mi easy hike through mixed lowland hardwood/northern conifer forest along the lakeshore. Spring wildflowers in abundance. Meet at Leelanau Conservancy's Kehl Lake Natural Area parking lot. To register contact Dr. John D. Schultz (Jack), nwoodpc@chartermi.net or 231-275-6735.

5/22-31 CUPG 18th Annual Canadian Backpacking Expedition (Agawa Canyon). For the fit, equipped, & expert-level. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

5/23 SEMG Metro Beach Excursion. Noon. Tour forest, wetlands, ponds & St. Clair lakefront. 4-5mi, mod-paced easy hike. Stops for viewing flora & fauna. Meet in main parking lot by Nature Center, Metropolitan Beach Metropark. Optional restaurant stop. Jo Ellen Lane, 586-773-3104; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

June

6/6 SEMG Island Lake Canoe. 10am. 3-hr canoe trip below the dam, Island Lake State Park. Kingfishers/great blue herons abound. Dress for weather; bring dry bag for extra clothes & picnic lunch. \$18 canoe fee due by 5/24 to 32856 Harmon Dr, Roseville, Mi, 48066. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

6/12 TG Sand Lakes Quiet Area Hike. 11am. 8mi or less hike in beautiful preserve just east of Traverse City. Take M72 E to Broomhead Rd. Right 4mi. Meet at the primary trailhead parking lot. Peggy Fry, peggyfry@aol.com.

6/12-13 SEMG High Country Pathway Backpack. Linear, 2-day, 18-mi backpack. Meet Sat 9am at Clear Lake State Park. End Sun afternoon at Town Corner State Forest Campground. Some hills/water crossings. May see elk! Bring gear/food for 2 days. Water filter, ability to carry 2-qts of water a must! Limit 6, Reserve by 5/29. Cost: \$22. John Calandra, 248-391-8973 or johnndcal@comcast.net.

6/24-27 SEMG [E] North Manitou Island Backpack. Moderate difficulty, some backpacking experience desirable. Camp at different spot each night. View Sleeping Bear shoreline. Swim. Must provide own equipment/meals. Meet 7am at ferry dock in Leland. \$40 Ferry/camping fee due by 6/12. Reservations required. Limit 8. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884 or powell_mm@hotmail.com.

6/26 TG Dunes Trail Hike. 1pm. Sleeping Bear trail map hike #9. A strange experience, hike from desert to woodland. Meet at Sleeping Bear Visitors' Center. Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

July

7/11 - 7/20 TLG Quetico Provincial Park Canoe Adventure. From Nym Lake to Kawnipi Lake & back. Numerous waterfalls & rapids including Grand Rapids, Chatterton Falls, Split Rock Falls, & Snake Falls. May see moose, bear, wolves, cougars, beaver, fishers, caribou, martin & deer. Excellent fishing. Cost: \$150/person. Limit 8. Reservation required. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316, rblanchard@LSSU.edu or blanchardr1@nku.edu (Jan 2 - May 10).

August

8/1-7 TLG North Country Trail Backpack Adventure. Lake Superior shoreline from Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore to Two Hearted River. Cost <\$50/person. Limit 10. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316, rblanchard@LSSU.edu or blanchardr1@nku.edu (Jan 2 - May 10).

8/23-29 TLG White River Canoe Adventure. Canoe upper stretch of possibly the wildest river in the Great Lakes region. Numerous rapids but portages are short. Start at town of White River & canoe down to White Lake Provincial Park. Approx cost < \$150/person. Limit 8. Reservation required. Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316, rblanchard@LSSU.edu or blanchardr1@nku.edu (Jan 2 - May 10).

MACKINAC CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Four individuals were recently elected to the Chapter Executive Committee.

Newly elected or re-elected members of the ExCom are Sue Kelly, Anna Holden, Jean Gramlich, and David Holtz.

The Chapter Executive Committee, co-chaired by Sue Kelly and Mike Keeler, sets the agenda for the Mackinac Chapter in all areas, from policy work to staffing, budget setting and fundraising. All committee members are volunteers and will spend countless hours over the next two years fighting to make Michigan a better place to live.

Congratulations to the winners!



Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Taking Action: Your Words Count!

WWW.MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/ACTION.HTML

Get your free copy of "A Citizen's Guide To State Government" to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Rick Johnson at 517-373-1747, tell him you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask him to send you a copy!

The White House

President George W. Bush
The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

202-456-1414

White House fax line:
202-456-2461

White House comment line:
202-456-1111

White House e-mail:
president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Congress

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

or U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Capitol switchboard:
202-224-3121

Michigan

Governor Jennifer Granholm
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400

The Honorable _____
Michigan House
or Michigan Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909

Resources for Activists

Sierra Club National Legislative Hotline: 202-675-2394

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

- **Sierra Club's National Website** is at www.sierraclub.org. Check out the regular *W Watch* postings.

- **Visit our Mackinac Chapter Website:** <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>

- **Get a free subscription to The Planet** by promising to write at least 3 letters a year to your elected officials in support of the environment. Send your name and address to Sierra Club Planet Subscription Request, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

- **E-mail activists needed!**

The Michigan Action Project (MAP) is an electronic rapid response system to enhance communication with state and federal officials.

All you need is an E-mail address! We send you alerts 10 to 12 times a year and convert your personalized response (using our sample letter) into faxes to the appropriate decision maker. Learn more about MAP and sign up right now at http://actionnetwork.org/MI_Action_Project.

UnClassifieds

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS are needed for the Lansing Sierra Club office to assist with data entry, mailings, organizing files and news releases. If you have a few hours/week to volunteer during the week (9am-5pm) give Kathy Boutin-Pasterz a call at 517-484-2372.

INTERESTED IN SELLING CALENDARS FOR YOUR GROUP, PRESENTING A PROGRAM ON AN ISSUE OR GREAT TRIP, OR WRITING ARTICLES FOR YOUR GROUP'S NEWSLETTER? Your local group would love to have your help. Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator, at 517-484-2372 or kathy.boutin-pasterz@sierraclub.org.

SEEKING A VOLUNTEER PHOTO EDITOR FOR THE MACKINAC The Mackinac Chapter is looking for someone to collect photos, contact group leaders, and ask around for photos to possibly use in each issue of *The Mackinac*. Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator,

at 517-484-2372 or kathy.boutin-pasterz@sierraclub.org.

PHOTOGRAPHERS The Mackinac runs Outings and Meetings photos every issue. If you would like to be published, please contact Davina Pallone, davina@designwrench.com, for print specifications.



Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

Michigan. Sierra Club Foundation-Mackinac Chapter is a founding member of Earth Share of Michigan, a non-profit federation comprised of Michigan's leading environmental and conservation charities working collaboratively with national and international organizations.

THANK YOU, EARTH SHARE DONORS!

We wish to thank the all of the individuals who support our work each year through payroll deduction via Earth Share of

Earth Share of Michigan is active in the charitable giving drives of over 350 Michigan workplaces. Employees have the ability to make a single donation at work that will reach the full spectrum of conservation causes, from the Red Cedar River to the Amazon River, from the rainforests of Borneo to Sleeping Bear Dunes. Michiganders should take advantage of this simple way to do their "Earth Share" and give to the cause of their choice.

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 Sarah Baker at 269-383-6247 or the Earth Share of Michigan office at 1-800-386-3326. They will be glad to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support Sierra Club Foundation-Mackinac Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work.

Visit www.earthsharemichigan.org for more information.

MackinacChapterDirectory

WWW.MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/DIRECTORY.HTML

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In a Nutshell: Environmental Talking Points

by Gayle Miller, Conservation Program Coordinator

In the next few issues of the Mackinac, we'll be providing tidbits of information related to the Bush Administration's dismal environmental record. We hope that these nuggets of knowledge will help spark conversations with friends and co-workers. Help Sierra Club members spread the word about current Bush Administration environmental policies, which favor industry and polluters. Cut this article out and post it where people at work or home can see it!

MERCURY CONTAMINATION IN MICHIGAN

- Z** In 2003 Michigan (which tied with Indiana) was ranked by the EPA Office of Water as having the highest level of mercury contamination in the country.
- Z** Mercury is a neurotoxin which causes brain and nervous system damage, particularly in infants and small children.
- Z** Rain falling on Oakland County was found to contain the highest level of mercury in the state – up to 114 times higher than mercury contamination levels considered safe in surface water. *Source: 2002 National Wildlife Federation Study*
- Z** The State of Michigan (along with 44 other states) issued health warnings against eating a variety of fish species caught in local waters due to high levels of mercury contamination. *Source: Michigan Department of Community Health*
- Z** Eight percent of women of childbearing age (1 in 12) in the U.S. have mercury levels in their blood above what the EPA considers safe. *Source: Center for Disease Control*
- Z** The Bush Administration wants to allow coal fired power plants (the largest single source of toxic mercury) to put even MORE mercury into our air—and for much longer than current law allows! The Administration's so-called "cap and trade" program would downgrade mercury from being regulated as a "hazardous pollutant" to one that requires less stringent controls.
- Z** The energy industry gave more than \$48 million to the Republican party in the 2000 election cycle; \$3 million directly to the Bush campaign. American Electric Power (which alone produces 10 percent of power plant mercury emissions in the U.S.) gave \$1.6 million. *Source: Center for Responsive Politics*

For more information on the Bush Administration's environmental record, or on mercury contamination from coal-fired power plants, see the following web sites:

- **Sierra Club:** www.sierraclub.org/wwatch
- **Natural Resources Defence Council:** www.nrdc.org/bushrecord
- **Environmental Defense:** www.environmentaldefense.org
- **League of Conservation Voters:** www.lcv.org

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SIERRA CLUB, 109 East Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.