

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SPRING/SUMMER 2017

THE POWER OF STAYING

"This is the moment that Sierra Club was built for, and that will build the Sierra Club."

Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club

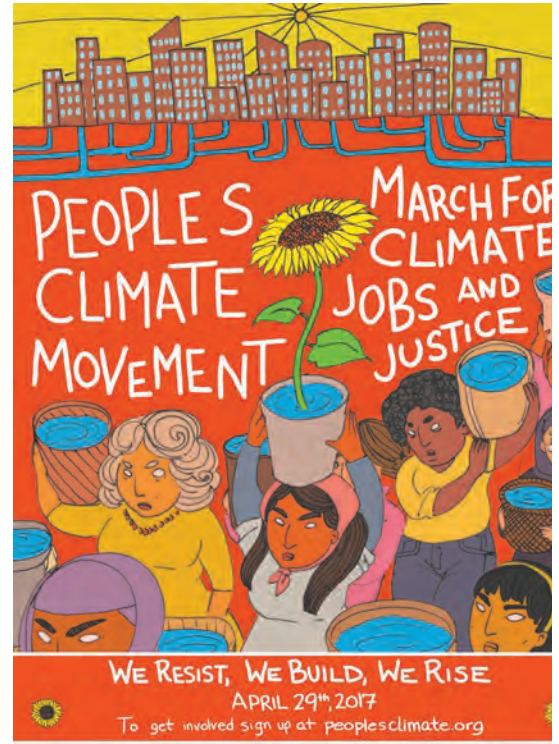
By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

The election of a science-denying, anti-regulation U.S. president puts global and national efforts to prevent the worst impacts of climate change in peril. In the immediate aftermath of this shocker, dozens of new volunteers reached out to Sierra Club Michigan to see how they could help. They came to the right place. SC Michigan knows how to protect the environment from elected officials who view air, water and land as commodities rather than precious resources. Under the Snyder Administration, it's grown increasingly challenging to protect what we hold dear in our state.

SC Michigan has faced tough times before in its 50-year history, but we've never given up pushing our agenda forward. The best example of our staying power is the passage of the state's new energy bill in late 2016. It took four years of hard work by volunteers and staff to overcome powerful political interests and convert an extremely flawed proposal into legislation that continues Michigan's path toward cleaner, sustainable energy. See p.10 for more information.

We've been tackling environmental challenges since the Michigan Chapter was founded in 1967; a milestone we're celebrating on Saturday, June 10, in Ann Arbor. (Details on p. 9) In five decades, we've had many victories including the establishment of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in 1970. Read about this and our other accomplishments on our 50th anniversary history blog at sierraclub.org/michigan/50th-anniversary.

Given the new national and the old



reality of Michigan's polluter-friendly legislature, Sierra Club needs to be more resilient and committed to stay the course. We need you to get involved. We hope this newsletter will inspire you to act. A good place to start is the People's Climate March on April 29 in Washington DC. Details at www.peoplesclimate.org.

Environmental protection has waxed and waned over the last 50 years as

elected officials and administrations have come and gone, but SC Michigan has never wavered. We've been here empowering everyday citizens like you to fight for a better future through public education, grassroots advocacy, legislative lobbying and, when necessary, litigation. Please join us as we fight this latest threat.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

TheMackinac

SPRING/
SUMMER 2017

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In the Spotlight

Speak Up Against Line 5

By David Holtz, Michigan Chapter Chair

Underneath the crystal blue water of the Straits of Mackinac lie two 20-inch pipelines owned and operated by a Canadian-based oil transport conglomerate, Enbridge Energy. Each day 23 million gallons of oil pump through the heart of the Great Lakes within these aging, 64-year-old pipelines. The pipelines are known as Line 5.

What a 2014 University of Michigan study concluded and made it painfully clear is that the turbulent, powerful Straits of Mackinac are the “worst possible place for an oil spill in the Great Lakes.” Up to 700 miles of Michigan coastline could be impacted from a Line 5 spill in the Straits. Another 200 miles of Upper Peninsula coastline is threatened by other sections of Line 5 that run perilously close to Lake Michigan.

In the coming weeks, however, Michigan residents are expected to have an historic opportunity to end the threat of a cata-

strophic oil spill in the Great Lakes. That’s when the State of Michigan is scheduled to formally propose for public comment several alternatives to Line 5 in the Straits. The proposals being studied include leaving the decaying pipelines where they are or constructing new pipelines buried under the Straits of Mackinac. Neither of those options, of course, is a solution to eliminating the threat of a pipeline rupture in the Great Lakes. Only decommissioning Line 5 removes that threat and that option is also being studied. In the end it will be up to Gov. Snyder (or his successor) to decide the future of Line 5 in the Straits.

When six Line 5 options are put out for public comment it will be up to all of us to make sure Gov. Snyder understands that the choice he makes is the right one for the Great Lakes. Sierra Club and our allies will be working to make sure every citizen in Michigan has a voice in the process of



deciding the future of Line 5 and the Great Lakes, starting now. You can let us know right now you want to submit your comments on Line 5 to the governor by emailing us at cleanwater@oilandwaterdontmix.org. We’ll get back with you with instructions on how to submit comments.

We know we are up against a powerful adversary in Enbridge and the oil industry and that they are spending big bucks to protect their Line 5 profits. What they can’t do is change the facts and the fact is that oil pipelines don’t belong in the Great Lakes. The people of Michigan get that and they are going to make sure the governor gets that too.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN GROUP

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter intends to dissolve the chapter’s Central Michigan Group (CMG). The CMG covers Ionia, Clinton, Shiawassee, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson and Hillsdale counties. For up to two years the CMG has been unable to meet the minimum standards established for groups and its volunteer leadership wishes to dissolve the group and form smaller local Sierra Club entities. To comment on this intended decision or to find out more about how to get involved in the emerging new Sierra Club entities please contact the Sierra Club Executive Committee Chapter Chair at david@davidholtz.org or call the chapter office in Lansing at 517-484-2372.



Diver checking out the condition of the ageing pipeline.



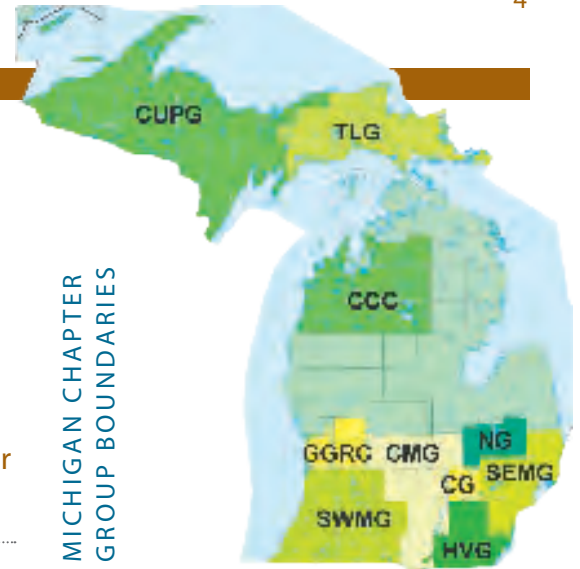
GIVE AT THE OFFICE EarthShare at Work makes it easy for employers to give back to communities while helping charities like the Sierra Club develop a stable, regular funding source with little or no administrative costs. Employees simply pledge a small amount of each paycheck or make a one-time gift. You can designate your contribution for the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter. If you’d like to create a giving program at your workplace, contact Jan O’Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org. For more information, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org.

The Michigan Chapter Excom Needs You

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is holding elections for the Chapter Executive Committee from November 1st through December 5th, 2017. If you are interested in being nominated as a candidate please contact David Holtz, Nominating Committee Chair, at david@davidholtz.org. The deadline for submitting nominations to the Nominating Committee is July 31. Information about running for election to the Executive Committee as a petition candidate is also available by sending a request to david@davidholtz.org.

THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR

LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP! Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Michigan Chapter's eight regional Groups and two Committees host outings, political and conservation activities, and informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—everyone is welcome! For inquiries about activities in your area, you can also contact gail.philbin@sierraclub.org.



MICHIGAN CHAPTER
GROUP BOUNDARIES

Clearwater Conservation Committee/CCC

COUNTIES: Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford
FACEBOOK: Clearwater Conservation Committee
TWITTER: @NCMCClearwater
EMAIL: sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com
CHAIR: Rebecca Skeels, clearwaterchair@michigan.sierraclub.org

Central Michigan Group / CMG

COUNTIES: Ingham, Hillsdale, Jackson, Eaton, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee
MEETS: in Lansing area and Jackson
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/central-michigan
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Central Michigan Group
CONTACT: For more information email gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

CENTRAL UPPER PENINSULA GROUP/CUPG

COUNTIES: Alger, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Dickinson, Baraga, Iron, Keweenaw, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon
MEETS: in Marquette
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/central-upper-peninsula
FACEBOOK: Central Upper Peninsula Club
GROUP & OUTINGS CHAIR: John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or jrebers@gmail.com

Crossroads Group / CG

COUNTIES: Livingston and western Oakland
MEETS: at group leader homes in Livingston County
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads
FACEBOOK: Crossroads Group Sierra Club
CHAIR: Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org
VICE CHAIR: Sue Kelly, suekelly77@gmail.com

Greater Grand Rapids Committee/ GGRG

COUNTIES: Kent and Ottawa
CONTACT: GGRCOM@michigan.sierraclub.org
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Greater Grand Rapids Committee
CHAIR: Julie Watkins, nativeeye1@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Angie Bruder, 248-561-0801 or angelabruder@sbcglobal.net

Huron Valley Group / HVG

COUNTIES: Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe
MEETS: in Ann Arbor
WEBSITE: Sierraclub.org/Michigan/huron-valley
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
EMAIL: HVGSierraClub@gmail.com
CHAIR: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or nshiffler@comcast.net
VICE CHAIR: James D'Amour, hvg.political@michigan.sierraclub.org

Nepessing Group / NG

COUNTIES: Genessee, Lapeer and northwestern Oakland
MEETS: in Flint
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/nepessing
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Nepessing
CHAIR: Robert Aguirre, rsoguirre@msn.com
VICE CHAIR: Dennis Crispell, dennycrispell@yahoo.com

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP / SEMG

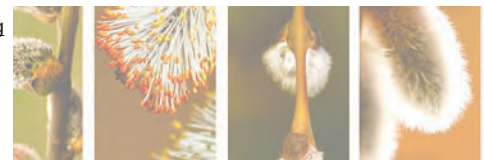
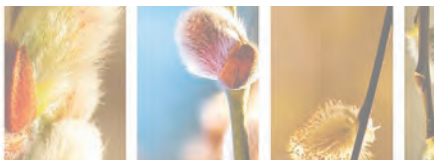
COUNTIES: St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne
MEETS: at Elks Club in Royal Oak
WEBSITE: sierraclub.org/michigan/southeast-michigan
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club South East Michigan Group
CHAIR: Art Myatt, 248-548-6175 or almyatt@yahoo.com

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

COUNTIES: Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry
MEETS: in Kalamazoo
WEBSITE: www.sierraclubswmg.org
CHAIR: Mark Miller, mark.edward.miller55@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Roz Linea, roz@mei.net

Three Lakes Group/TLG

COUNTIES: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft
MEETS: in Sault Ste. Marie
WEBSITE: www.tlg.sierraclub.org
FACEBOOK: Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club
CHAIR: Roger Blanchard, blanchardrd@yahoo.com



VISIT ONLINE AT WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/MICHIGAN/MICHIGAN-GROUPS

Protect & Restore Michigan's Biodiversity

Introducing New Wolves to Isle Royale National Park

“Wolves and moose have only coexisted on IRNP for less than a century. Prior to that, woodland caribou and lynx were the primary large herbivores/carnivores on the island...”

By Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

When most people think of Isle Royale National Park (IRNP), wolves and moose come to mind. Due to inbreeding, wolves are likely to disappear from Isle Royale in the next few years. There are currently only 2 wolves on the island. The National Park Service (NPS) released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in which they proposed a one-time emergency reintroduction of 20-30 wolves to the island. Sierra Club opposes this action at this time.

It is important to note that Sierra Club has not taken a blanket position opposing reintroduction of wolves to Isle Royale. However, we believe that the NPS has not adequately examined all of the options and that taking this action as an emergency measure is premature.

The stated reason for the reintroduction of wolves is that there is a need to control the moose population on the island. The claim is that wolves prey on moose, keeping the population under control, and that without wolves, the moose numbers will explode, and moose will eat unacceptable amounts of vegetation on the island. Therefore, the NPS claims the “need” to import wolves to the island, in order to prevent this over browsing.

However, this ignores essential factors, which we believe need to be considered.

First, IRNP is an island National Park, most of which is federal Wilderness. We



have concerns that this action treats IRNP as though it were a zoo, where we can simply mix and match animals as we choose.

Second, this is just what happens on islands. Island Biogeography tells us that on islands, large apex predators such as wolves will not do well in the long term, for exactly the reasons wolves on IRNP are not doing well now - isolation and inbreeding. We believe that the NPS should have given more consideration to “letting the island be an island”.

Third, the stated problem is moose browse of vegetation. However, no consideration was given to any management option to address this other than emergency importation of wolves. There was no analysis of other options, such as managing vegetation to reduce moose numbers, or letting the moose population stabilize at lower

levels, which could be sustained by the available vegetation.

Fourth, this option entirely ignores a unique opportunity for restoration of a piece of Michigan which is currently missing. Wolves and moose have only coexisted on IRNP for less than a century. Prior to that, woodland caribou and lynx were the primary large herbivores/carnivores on the island, for much longer than wolves and moose have been there. If the NPS is going to propose introduction of large animals to IRNP, we believe that they should consider restoration of the lynx/caribou system as an option, especially given the fact that caribou were once abundant in Michigan, but now no longer exist here.

And finally, we believe that there is in fact no “emergency”, and that there is plenty of time to consider all the options described above. Moose were on IRNP for more than a decade before wolves arrived. Moose browsed and reproduced with no predators to control their numbers. And the vegetation survived and recovered. Consequently, there is no reason to believe that a delay of a few years while all options are considered would cause irreversible damage to IRNP.

To be clear - Sierra Club has not taken a position opposing any reintroduction of wolves to IRNP ever. We just believe that all the options should be considered before taking premature action.

A Tonic for Tough Times

If the news has you down or you just need a brace of inspiration, check out The Tsuga's View, an intermittent blog about progressive issues and politics by our forest ecologist, Marvin Roberson. It's a multi-part series of meditations on life and things we should care about inspired by the scientific name for his favorite tree, the Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). As Marvin puts it, he writes “with a positive emphasis on where we are, how we got there, and why we should keep working for the common good, even in the face of adversity.” Check it out at <http://bit.ly/2mbPne1>.

Your Tax Dollars Support Bad Farm Practices in the Great Lakes



By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

Michigan is home to 272 factory farms known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), which disproportionately harm the environment, rural economies, and public health. In 2014, agricultural pollution, including waste runoff from Michigan factory farms, poisoned Lake Erie drinking water for 400,000 people, yet these industrial facilities remain entrenched thanks to taxpayer-financed subsidies that prop up an unsustainable system at the expense of sustainable farms.

Sierra Club has been battling factory farm pollution since the late '90s when it became a problem in Michigan, through a combination of public education, legislative advocacy, and litigation. In 2013, we added a new approach with the launch of the Less=More campaign to educate and engage Michigan consumers about where their tax dollars are going and to effect real changes in farm payments and subsidies.

Crane Dance Farm in Middleville is an example of the kind of small-scale, sustainable livestock farm Less=More supports. www.cranedancefarm.com

Join the Agriculture Committee

Do you care about the health of our soil and our food system? You'll find like-minded people in Sierra Club Michigan's Agriculture Committee. They advocate for regenerative agriculture to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industrial agriculture and restore the carbon to the soil through public education. Monthly phone meetings and occasionally in person. Email pdmac@mac.com.



www.MoreforMichigan.org

Against the Grain: Farming Sustainably in an Industrial System

Meet five sustainable livestock farmers in Michigan in our newest video from Less=More. View it at: <http://tinyurl.com/SCMCagainst>

Less Factory Farms=Healthy Michigan

Less=More is a diverse network of national, state, and local advocacy groups; farmers; and consumers with different perspectives but a common goal: creating a food system that supports sustainable farmers rather than unsustainable animal factories. We believe less support to polluting factory farms means a more sustainable Michigan.

Less=More focuses on educating decision-makers in Michigan who set priorities for how farm subsidies are distributed, and decide the kind of agricultural practices our tax dollars support. This includes participating in meetings with Garry Lee, the State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)—the ultimate decision maker for the distribution of federal payments in Michigan—and the NRCS State Technical Committee that advises him. As part of the education process, Less=More has released three groundbreaking reports on the relationship between taxpayer subsidies and factory farm pollution in the Great Lakes region:

2013—Restoring the Balance to Michigan's Farming Landscape shows how Michigan CAFOs cited for environmental violations between 1996 and 2011 received more than \$26 million in taxpayer support dur-

ing the same time frame.

2015—Follow the Manure: Factory Farms and the Lake Erie Algae Crisis, an interactive mapping report that depicts the factory farm manure load in the Western Lake Erie Watershed and the federal subsidies that have poured into the region between 2008-2015. This unprecedented report demonstrated that 146 industrial CAFOs in the watershed house nearly 12 million animals that annually produce more than 630 million gallons of waste. In addition, USDA entitlements totaled more than \$16.8 million.

2017—A Watershed Moment is the follow-up project to Follow the Manure and maps the 272 factory farms that generate 3 billion gallons of waste annually in Michigan. View it at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/michigan-cafo-mapping-report>

All of the Less=More reports as well as several video projects we have produced can be seen here: <http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/lessmore-reports>.



Power in Partnerships



All About Water Steering Committee Meets in Detroit.

By Erma Leaphart, Associate Organizer, Great Lakes Program

Strategic Partners is a vital part of what we do in the Sierra Club. This year, in this climate of unease, I am finding a powerful salve by working closely with like-minded people who share our values of creating sustainable solutions. At the Detroit office, we are fortunate to have many such partners and this article spotlights two with which we recently worked. Partnerships are tremendously beneficial for valuing diverse voices and perspectives all working towards common goals.

Bioneers is a movement and way of life that celebrates visionary ideas and practical solutions for restoring Earth and healing human communities.

I had the pleasure of working with the Great Lakes Bioneers of Detroit (GLBD) to organize local programs that complemented their national conference. Presentations by leading-edge thinkers, creators and innovators were broadcasted in conjunction with local "learnshops." Held on the campus of Marygrove College, the 2016 conference had close to 400 participants.

Rhonda Anderson, Sierra Club's senior organizer in Detroit, presented a session and tour titled "Moving Beyond Fossil Fuels to Clean Energy." Other highlights included the Friday programming that brought over 130 youth to the campus for bus tours to sites around the city for a first-hand view of

urban agriculture, reusing open space, habitat restoration, green infrastructure and other sustainable practices.

The 2017 conference is scheduled for October 27th – 29th. As a member of the GLBD Vision Keepers, I look forward to our continued partnership working towards a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace. It CAN be more than a dream.

Recently, Freshwater Future convened a committee of dedicated activists to plan "All About Water: A Roundtable Conversation on Infrastructure, Conservation, Consumption and Affordability in Southeastern Michigan." It's no secret that we are experiencing a worldwide water crisis. The tragedy in Flint is a glaring example of what can happen when decisions are made in a non-democratic fashion and where profits are prioritized over the well-being of people. The All About Water conversation brought together 100 on-the-ground practitioners, policy organizations and funders for a day of learning and relationship-building to inform local and national advocacy efforts to improve the safety, affordability and efficiency of water treatment distribution systems.

This is a conversation that must continue.

New Great Lakes Staff



Our efforts to protect the Great Lakes took two steps forward last fall when we added two new, Detroit-based employees to the Chapter staff. Erma Leaphart (on the right) is a half-time associate organizer formerly with the national Sierra Club, and Dorthea Thomas (on the left) is a full-time associate organizer who most recently worked for Michigan United. Both are working on the Great Lakes, Great Communities program funded by the Erb Foundation that promotes urban green infrastructure to address Detroit wastewater issues. Dorthea also works on regional Great Lakes issues and has been helping to form the Chapter's new volunteer Great Lakes Committee.

Join Our Great Lakes Committee!

The Michigan Chapter recently established a Sub Committee of the Chapter Conservation Committee to support our Great Lakes work with a focus on our 2017 conservation priorities. Volunteers will help in a variety of ways from recruiting activists in their communities to providing input on policy questions to advocating directly with local, state and federal officials. Issues include Enbridge's Line 5 under the Mackinac Straits, other oil and gas pipeline threats to the Great Lakes and factory farm nutrient runoff that feeds toxic algae. If you'd like more information, contact dorthea.thomas@sierraclub.org.



Earth Month 2017 Events

National and Statewide

April 29th (Sat) Peoples Climate March in Washington DC and various Michigan locales. To find out about buses to DC as well as local events, visit www.peoplesclimate.org.

Crossroads Group

April 22nd (Sat) Earth Day Trail Service Outing at Island Lake State Recreation Area. Last year our group was instrumental in building the new Hickory Ridge Trail in the park. On April 22nd we will be back out there doing spring maintenance and signage to get it ready for the busy season ahead. If you have any questions, John Wilson is in charge of the outing. Call 734-355-3822.

Grand Rapids/Grand Haven

April 13th (Thurs) 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM - Wege Speaker Series in Grand Rapids. Aquinas College Performing Arts Center 1607 Robinson Rd in Grand Rapids featuring Dr Dorceta Taylor PhD, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion @UofM. Her talk is titled, Untold Stories of the Conservation Movement: Race, Power & Privilege **RSVP** - www.aquinas.edu/wegespeaker (Open reception follows speaker)

April 22nd (Sat) 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM Grand Haven Earth Day Lakeshore Celebration

April 22nd (Sat) 12:30 PM Green Parade starts at Ottawa Co Court House (parking lot) 414 Washington. To participate contact Jan O'Connell @616-956-6646 or Jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org

April 22nd (Sat) 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Earth Day Fair Grand Haven Community Center

421 Columbus Ave....Visit booths, speakers, demonstrations, food & other activities.

April 22nd (Sat) 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM. This is Not Cool - Climate Change 2017. Special Speaker: Peter Sinclair is an award winning independent videographer just named the 2017 Friend of the Planet Award by the National Center for Science Education. Spent last 4 summers in Antarctica researching & filming.

Nespepping Group

April 20th (Thurs) 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. Tree Giveaway. Downtown Flint Farmers Market at 300 E First St Flint Michigan 48502. The Group will be giving away 200 White Pine plugs (baby trees ready to plant) at our table at the Earth Day Celebration. The event is organized by the Flint UofM Environmental Club.

April 22nd (Sat) 10:00 AM Public Hike Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge Directions to the Trailhead are: I-75 to the Clio exit 131 (M-57/Vienna Rd) then West 8 miles to M-13, then North 10 miles to Curtis Rd, then West 4 miles to the Parking lot. Hike Leader Denny Crispell 989-624-5038.

Southwest Michigan Group

April 22nd (Sat) 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, Invasive species removal at Saugatuck Dunes State Park. Meet at the main entrance, bring gloves. Just one of several events sponsored by the SWMG, go to https://swmgsierra.org/calendar-of-events/?mc_id=148 for more info.

Sierra Club Seeks to Delay Proposed Pipelines

By Nancy Schiffler

Michigan and Ohio activists opposed attempts by two natural gas pipeline companies, Nexus and ET Rover, to seek expedited FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) approval of proposed pipelines through Ohio and Michigan prior to the resignation of a FERC commissioner scheduled for February 3, that would eliminate the commission's quorum.

The Rover pipeline was approved the day before the deadline, with the exception of pre-construction requirements that must be met. Sierra Club and local grassroots organizations are monitoring the requirements. These include bat and migratory bird conservation plans, historical preservation plans, agricultural drain tile protection, and state wetland permits.

No decision was rendered on the Nexus pipeline prior to the deadline. Recent findings near Bowling Green, Ohio show that the Nexus pipeline route would intersect an active blasting quarry and through suspected karst formations. In addition, the Michigan Public Service Commission recently declined to approve DTE Electric and DTE Gas cost recovery requests for Nexus costs absent greater transparency concerning their financial arrangements with DTE Pipelines.

2017 IS A GREAT YEAR TO GO SOLAR!

Legislation maintaining Michigan's net metering provisions and requiring expanded renewable energy by electric utilities passed in the state's lame duck session last December (full story on p. 10). You can take advantage of this turn of events through Sierra Club's Solar Partnership. Solar panels work everywhere in Michigan - that's one reason why electric utilities don't encourage you to put them on your home! Our solar program can help you figure out the right investment for your situation. Learn more at <http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership>.

People and Places: Celebrating 50 Years of Sierra Club in Michigan

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter will mark its 50th anniversary on

Saturday, June 10, 2017, 6:30 - 8:30

Washtenaw Community College

Morris Lawrence Bldg. Atrium

LIVE MUSIC • CASH BAR • DINNER



Keynote speaker: **U.S. Senator Gary Peters**
(a Chapter volunteer in the '80s)



National Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune

Tickets

Individual: \$50/person

\$15/student with ID

Many event sponsorships levels available, too! Click on the links below to learn more.

Want to be a sponsor of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity?



Help establish the **Anne Woiwode Fund**, in honor of the long-serving director of the Michigan Chapter. Anne began volunteering with the Chapter in 1980 as a young mother of two and became the Chapter Director in 1985. She retired after 30 years on staff in 2015.

Click the sponsorship links below to support one of the largest, most effective grassroots environmental organizations in Michigan's history.

Last Minute Lame Duck Miracle Passes



House Minority Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) was instrumental in brokering the energy policy deal. Pictured here with our Spartan Sierra Club.

By Mike Berkowitz, Political Director

After more than four years of work by volunteers and staff across Michigan, a new energy law that increases electric utility renewable energy requirements; retains and improves energy efficiency provisions; and protects net metering for renewable energy producers was signed into law by Governor Snyder at the end of 2016. We joined with a broad coalition of religious, environmental, political and business organizations over the past two legislative sessions to promote a strong clean energy agenda, and succeeded in winning most of our shared agenda in the final hours of the lame duck session of the Legislature.

We started this session faced with a proposal that would have gutted all three of the clean energy programs.

The coalition worked relentlessly to get the proposal improved. Hundreds of Sierra Club volunteers throughout Michigan met with legislators, wrote letters to the editor, sent emails, and advocated for strong clean energy legislation, and that work paid off.

This was, by no means, a perfect proposal. Michigan will still have a cap on net metering, a grid tariff could be levied to net metering customers in the future, and waste incineration will continue to count as a renewable energy source. However, clean energy advocates overcame overwhelming opposition from utilities and other powerful groups to keep moving forward on Michigan's path toward a less fossil fuel dependent future. Read how we helped make this happen: <https://goo.gl/wBW5bs>.

Political Awards

We are proud to announce East Lansing Mayor and former State Representative Mark Meadows as the recipient of our Theodore Roosevelt Political Leadership Award. Mark is chair of the Central Michigan Group's Political Committee in addition to serving on the Sierra Club's state and national political committees.

We are also excited to announce that our Cougar Award for Youth Leadership goes to Courtney Bourgojn, a founding member of Spartan Sierra Club at MSU. She worked on Theresa Abed's campaign as one of our political interns in 2014, she was our first-ever communications intern in 2015, and she ran our budget education program.

Congratulations to all of the recipients of the Chapter awards for 2016. To read all about the chapter's awards see page 14 of the Fall Mackinac. <http://bit.ly/2nJsnnM>.



Mark Meadows and Courtney Bourgojn

HOW TO DONATE TO THE MICHIGAN SIERRA CLUB'S PAC

- 1) Donate with a credit card at tinyurl.com/q42nfob or write a check for the amount of your choosing
 - 2) Make it out to "Michigan Sierra PAC"
 - 3) Fill out this form (required by the Secretary of State)
 - 4) Mail your check and this form to:
Michigan Sierra PAC
109 E. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
- Corporate checks are not permitted. Contributions to Michigan Sierra PAC are not tax-deductible.
Paid for by Michigan Sierra PAC, 517-999-1305.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

LEGISLATORS FAILED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT IN 2015 – 2016

By Mike Berkowitz, Political Director

Both houses of the Michigan Legislature failed to protect the environment or grow the green economy in the 2015-2016 session. Per our Legislative Scorecard, the Michigan Senate received a failing grade and the Michigan House did not fare much better. Find the complete scorecard and bill descriptions here: <http://tinyurl.com/hg4xjic>

It's shameful that the environment has become a partisan political issue. Legislators rolled back many of the environmental safeguards in place in Michigan for decades. It is hard to believe that so many of our lawmakers are voting against clean air, clean water, and public health - all of which are vital not only for healthy living but also for a healthy tourism industry, one of the state's largest economic drivers.

In Michigan, we're severely underfunding environmental protection. Out of all state agencies, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been hit the hardest with cuts. Collectively, the two agencies receive less than 1% of our state's budget and have had their budgets reduced by 67% over the last decade. This led to staffing reductions and the layoffs of experienced



Sierrans rally for the environment.

employees who specialize in land management, recreation, and public health. Budget cuts resulted in the closing of 20 state forest campgrounds, a backlog of public land management projects, lack of DEQ oversight for compromised drinking water systems, and failure to clean-up many of the state's toxic waste sites.

Please consider calling your state legislators and urging them to support stronger investments for the DEQ, DNR, and increased revenue sharing for cities to benefit a healthier Michigan economy.

We are working to hold these elected officials accountable but we need your help. If you want to help push lawmakers to protect the environment, contact me at mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org

Growing Michigan's Democracy

Last year the Sierra Club embarked on a full-scale campaign to educate the public about redistricting and how elected officials use this process to choose voters instead of voters choosing them. The campaign has become especially relevant since the 2016 elections. Partisan redistricting, a.k.a. gerrymandering, by politicians manipulated Congress and Michigan's legislature to have less independent districts and more polarized demographics. We've talked to over 6,000 people who understand that unfair redistricting means there are fewer lawmakers who care about clean air and water, who are moderate, and who are willing to compromise to achieve environmental policies. Want to help us fix this problem? Email mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

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



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____

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

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:
 Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

TAKE THE TIME TO ... unplug and unwind as we celebrate the 50th year of Sierra Club Michigan at our annual retreat. Join us during one of the last weekends of summer for an affordable Family Friendly weekend retreat August 25-27, 2017 at historic Camp Miniwanca, a gem nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan just north of Muskegon. Located among 360 wooded acres. With a mile of private Lake Michigan shoreline, this beautiful camp offers tent camping, log cabins among the pines or rooms a few steps away from the beach.

SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN ANNUAL RETREAT

Celebrating 50 years of exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet.

Join us August 25th-27th as we celebrate Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's 50th anniversary.

Spend time outdoors walking the beach, swimming, bird watching or hiking. Attend workshops to learn about conservation issues and ways you can take action to improve the world around you. Stop by the crafting room and build a bird house or polish a Petoskey stone.

Other activities include:

- Yoga
- Tubing
- Kayaking
- Crafts
- Star Gazing
- High Ropes Course
- Animal Identification
- Campfire S'mores
- Storytelling at the Council Circle
- Music and more

We will feature speakers with messages about beautiful, natural places and how people came to want to protect the planet. We hope you and your family will not only explore and enjoy nature but become passionate about protecting it as well.

Our famous auction has become one of the retreat's most highly anticipated events. It also helps offset the cost of the retreat. Please consider bringing an item to donate to the cause. Popular auction items include, but are not limited to, camping gear, nature related items, gardening books or tools, baked goods, organic veggies, crafts/ art supplies, Michigan products, handmade and vintage jewelry, beverages for those with discriminating taste, art, birding books or equipment, photography, cookbooks, music, movies, pet supplies. NOTE: There will be a special auction area for kids, so this is the perfect time to go through their rooms or make creative crafts to bring to the retreat.

The fee for the retreat covers two nights lodging, five meals, starting on Saturday morning through lunch on Sunday, as well as activities and speakers. Please visit www.sierraclub.org/michigan/chapter-retreat periodically for more information about the retreat. You can contact Cecilia Garcia with questions at 517-484-2372 or Cecilia.Garcia@sierraclub.org.



Whether you have been to the retreat several times or this is your first time, we look forward to retreating with you!

See you in August!



CALIFORNIA SELLER OF TRAVEL LAW: CST2087766-40 REGISTRATION AS A SELLER OF TRAVEL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

2017 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM 8/25/17 – 8/27/17

*PLEASE NOTE: A small credit card processing fee will be added to online registrations. To avoid this fee, please print and mail your registration form to:

Sierra Club Michigan Annual Retreat
109 E. Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI 48906

All workshops, activities, five meals and two nights lodging are included in each of the rates listed below.

Names (age if under 18)	Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total
_____	Adult	Cabin/Tent	\$155	_____
_____	Adult	Inland Dorm	\$180	_____
_____	Adult	Beach		_____
		With roommate	\$190	_____
Address _____	Adult	Beach		_____
		With no roommate	\$230	_____
City _____	Child 3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$85	_____
Phone (____) _____	Child 3-12	Beach or Inland Dorm	\$95	_____
Email Address _____	Child Under 3		Free	_____
Roomate Names if applicable _____		Total Enclosed		_____



Would you agree to share with someone you don't know (same sex)
Yes ___ No ___

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund on or before August 17, 2017. No refunds after August 17th.

How many times have you come to the retreat _____

Special needs, diet restrictions, questions

How did you hear about the Retreat? Please circle below.

- Website Mackinac Friend Past Attendee Email Notices Facebook Other

Register online at sierraclub.org/michigan/chapter-retreat or send this form with a check to: Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, ATTN: MI CHAPTER RETREAT, 109 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Make check payable to Sierra Club.

Contact Cecilia Garcia with registration questions, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372 x10.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY AUGUST 21st, 2017. Check-in begins Friday, August 25 at 3 pm.

Supporting Your Chapter

In Memoriam: Anne Schmoller

Anne Schmoller, mother of Chapter Director Gail Philbin, passed away on Oct. 13, 2016, leaving behind a legacy of philanthropy that ranged from pleasing Gail's co-workers with mouthwatering baked goods to donating generously to countless charities.

An ethnic Ukrainian born in rural Poland in 1927, Anne (nee Lozyk) emigrated to Montreal, Canada, with her family when she was seven to escape dire poverty. This early adversity gave her sensitivity to the suffering of others, especially children and animals. By the end of her life, Anne's apple pie, love of animals and huge heart were legendary.

She received the Sierra Club's Life of the Party Award in 2016 for supplying many a Chapter gathering with her famed English Toffee and other treats.

Chapter staffer Marvin Roberson, who nominated her for the award, said: "Anne Schmoller may well be the only person who I both loved and never met. Mom Schmoller, as I called her, made toffee once for a meeting, and sent it along with Gail. I scarfed it up and was hooked. This led to a partnership where she sent me and my dog treats and I sent her cds and books on tape. She will be greatly missed.



Joyce Scott at the shore of Lake Michigan.



Anne Schmoller with her favorite cookbooks.

In Memoriam: Joyce J. Scott

June 17, 1930 – September 17, 2016

*Sun and sand, sea and sky
Breezes blow, seagulls fly.
On Lake Michigan's shore stand I.*

*The sun is setting in the West
The waves recede, gone to rest.
The sky's pink-orange at its best.*

*The sand turns cold, stars glisten
on high
All is quiet, God is nigh.
On Lake Michigan's shore stand I.*

(Excerpts from Lake Michigan Shore
By Emma Anderson)

Joyce was a lifelong resident of Whitehall, Mich. She was a woman of action and involved in many worthwhile organizations and causes. Joyce, above all, was devoted to her family and was a woman who was the epitome of kindness and generosity.

For 30 years she taught Home Economics and believed in the importance of instructing her students in an array of life skills. Joyce loved sailing Lake Michigan and being in the wild places, as they visited National Parks from coast to coast.

Memorials to the Michigan Sierra Club were suggested, to support the protection of Lake Michigan.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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

Give online at tiny.cc/MISierraClubSupport

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

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

Please send your gift to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter,

109 E. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Instead of a check, please charge my credit card
(VISA or MC) \$_____.

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

AnnualChapterReport2016

Top Michigan Sierra Club Stories of 2016

By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

This past year brought pleasant and nasty surprises—from the welcome passage of a new energy bill in the lame duck session of the Michigan legislature to the unexpected win by an anti-regulation, climate-denying candidate for US President. Through it all, we kept exploring, enjoying and protecting Michigan's environment.

CLIMATE CHANGE/CLEAN ENERGY

- As a last-minute lame duck gift, the Michigan legislature and Gov. Snyder approved energy legislation that increases the requirement for renewable energy for electric utilities, improves energy efficiency requirements, and preserves net metering (good news for our Solar Partnership!). While not perfect, these laws will keep Michigan moving forward toward clean energy.

- Three DTE Energy coal plants will be shutting down including the Trenton Channel plant. Lansing Board of Water and Light committed to shut down a coal plants.

- Sierra Club filed an anti-trust campaign against the Nexus Gas Pipeline, half-owned by DTE Energy. This action seeks to ensure that cost-effective renewable energy can compete on an even basis with fossil fuels.

- The Sierra Club continued to oppose the construction of both the Nexus pipeline and the ET Rover natural gas pipeline,

- We participated in the Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition, requesting that Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette shut down Enbridge's Line 5 to protect the Mackinac Straits.

LEGISLATIVE/POLITICAL

- Sierra Club embarked on two Michigan Voice-funded programs including a campaign to educate the public about gerrymander and an initiative to educate Michigan citizens about the need for investment in the

state's infrastructure and its environmental benefits.

Our Political Committee endorsed and supported dozens of pro-environment candidates in the 2016 elections and issued the "How Green is Your Legislator?" environmental scorecards.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Sierra Club joined local grassroots organizations and the NAACP to demand immediate action by Gov. Snyder to address the Flint Water Crisis,

- We pressured Governor Snyder to appoint a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) director who would prioritize people and the environment, but he selected Heidi Grether, a former oil lobbyist.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

- We challenged the DEQ over the Harrietta Hills Trout Farm on the Au Sable River, that would dramatically increase fish farmed trout. This increases the risk that native fish will be a victim of parasites, and pathogens. The fight for environmental safety and the regulation of pollution in the Au Sable was brought before a DEQ Administrative Law Judge.

PROTECT AND RESTORE THE GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM

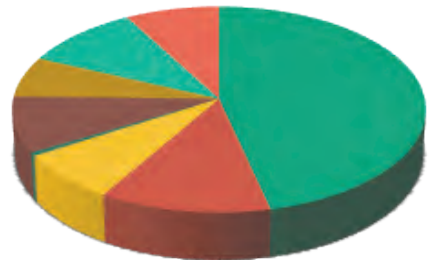
- We expanded our work on Great Lakes issues by adding two new staff members in Detroit with the Great Lakes, Great Communities program funded by the Erb Foundation.

- Despite Sierra Club organizing for turnout and making public comments, all eight Great Lakes governors approved the first ever diversion under the Great Lakes Compact, the Waukesha Diversion. This sets a dangerous precedent for future diversions in the Great Lakes.

- Our Less=More sustainable agriculture coalition received great media coverage for its Follow the Manure mapping report (issued Nov 2015) focusing on factory farms in the western Lake Erie watershed. A follow-up report was prepared in 2016 (see pg. 6

Expenses to Advance Conservation Priorities

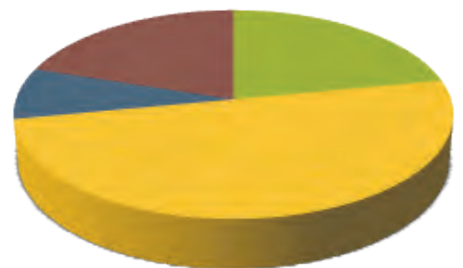
In 2016, the Chapter spent \$500,956 to advance its conservation priorities. Of that, 69% went directly to pro-environment activities you care about. The remaining 31% went to administrative aid for our programs and activities and helped secure funds to ensure the sustainability of the Chapter's criti-



- Great Lakes Protection 80%
- Forest and Wild Places 21%
- Clean Energy Solutions 13%
- Other Conservation 1%
- Political Engagement & Lobbying 15%
- Membership Outreach & Education 11%
- Fundraising 18%
- Administration 14%

Income to Sustain Conservation Programs

In 2016, the Chapter's income was \$518,659. 8% came from a portion of your annual Sierra Club membership dues. The majority of our financial support is derived from fundraising donations from members like you as well as grants received from foundations.



- Total Allocations 22%
- Tax-Deductible 6.5%
- Tax-Deductible & Bequests 12.3%
- Non-Deductible & Bequests 4.5%
- Non-Deductible Lobbying 5%
- Donations 50%
- Tax-Deductible 6.5%
- Non-Deductible 33%
- Nat'l SC Shared Project grants 8%
- Other Grants/Misc 20%



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 2.4 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together

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

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Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

Sierra Club established its Michigan Legacy Council to honor individuals, groups and organizations making significant gifts to the Michigan Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. Please join us in thanking the current Michigan Legacy Council members. At press we were still receiving donations from our March Appeal, please see the website for an updated list.

FENS & SAPLINGS

\$500-\$999

- Shirley Andrews
- Randall G Baidas
- Peter Bailey
- Martin & Brenda Berkowitz
- Joanne M Cantoni
- Amanda Carlson
- Jon Cohn & Daniela Witmann
- Janet Davis
- Gerald Demaire
- David & Carol Diephuis
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- Daniel Farough & Manjola Cabej
- Paul & Barbara Fishback
- Lannie Fisher
- Mike Fournier
- Carl Galeana
- Stacey Garrison
- Frank & Emily Gobright
- Carol Graham
- Thomas (Mike) Haley
- Chris & Tamela Hamilton
- Toni Herrick
- Mike Keeler & Sherry Hayden
- Mr. David J. Henney
- Ann Holmes
- Mauricio Jimenez
- Larry Junck & Robbi Duda
- Sue Kelly
- Paul & Judy Kindel

- Albert Koegel
- Steven & Kathleen Kopitz
- Shelly Koyl
- Jeff Lapinski & Bev Bonning
- Joseph & Anna Lauer
- Lisa Lemble & Robert Gordon
- Lawrence & Mary Lockhart
- Paul Maracle
- Mindy Miller
- Mr & Mrs Barry Mullinix
- Michael Newberry
- Thomas & Jill Newhouse
- Kent Newman
- Nancy Newman
- Andrea Palmer
- Dale Petty & Jeannine Palms
- Ralph & Barbara Powell
- Mr. Richard Rabbers
- John & Janice Rebers
- In Memory of Joyce Scott
- Loretta Sheehan
- Dr Sherman & Julie Shultz
- Lorraine Sigle
- Barbara Stowell
- Elias G Strangas
- Kay Stremler & Ron Sell
- Timon P. Tesar
- Fred & Alyce Townsend
- Carola Vogel
- Cathy Cromer Wood
- Anonymous Donors

Streams & White Pines

\$1,000-\$2,499

- Catherine Badgley & Gerald Smith
- Richard Barron
- James & Cynthia Berkey
- Kenneth & Judy Betz
- Margaret Bishop
- Kathleen & William Davis
- Estate of Esther Dean
- John Purdon Donley
- Nancy Lamb Dotlo
- EarthShare of Michigan
- Patrick Egan
- John & Gail Einhaus
- Margaret Flynn
- John Ford
- Denise Harris
- Beverly & James Haas
- Lynn Hartung
- Joanne & John Kleis
- Wendy Lawton
- Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman
- Henry (Hal) Newnan III
- Jan & Dennis O'Connell
- Annie Ormandy & Mike Gallagher Event
- Kris Olsson & Dave Moran
- Margaret M. Phillips
- Gwen & John Nystuen
- Bill & Ann Salot
- Claudia Sills
- Beverly Strassmann & Claudius Vincenz

- Julie Ann & Steven Wang
- Carol E Ward
- Henry M Wellman
- Todd S. Wilkinson

Rivers & Groves

2,500-\$4,999

- Ms. Mary Anne Beltzman
- John Colina
- Lydia Fischer
- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Stanley & Connie Rajnak
- Nancy Shiffler
- Anonymous Donor

Dunes & Shorelines

\$5,000-\$7,499

- Lorne & Kathi Beatty
- Jean Gramlich
- Mr. John R. Hunting

Marshes & Prairies

\$7,500-\$14,999

- Ceci Bauer & Tim Flynn
- Samuel & Patricia Lacina
- Patagonia
- Pierce Family Foundation
- Anne & Tom Woiwode

Great Lakes & Great Forests

\$15,000 +

- Thomas Buhr
- Estate of Rita M. Burke
- Erb Foundation
- Michigan Voices
- Priorities Michigan
- Estate of Harold Stokes