

TheMackinac

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Sierra Club at Forefront of Fight to Stop Michigan Coal Rush

by Anne Woiwode,
Michigan Chapter Director

Forty-four proposed coal-fired power plants were either denied or withdrawn around the nation in 2007, thanks to the leadership of Sierra Club volunteers and staff in many of those fights. Those victories were a major step forward in the fight to reverse global warming and end the environmental damage caused by coal plants.

In stark contrast last year, Michigan saw five possible new coal plants (one is a proposed replacement) seeking environmental permits. At least three more new plants are under discussion. (Today, Michigan has nineteen coal-fired power plants.) While much of the country is smartly rejecting coal, Michigan electric consumers may be locked into fifty more years of outmoded, increasingly expensive, health threatening, and global warming inducing coal-fired electric power plants.

In a fast growing grassroots response to the "Michigan Coal Rush," people around the state are demanding Governor Granholm, the Legislature, and state and local officials put the brakes on. Among the voices raised are those of university students, health professionals, religious leaders and business people concerned about the range of dangers posed to Michigan's natural resources, public health, and the planet as a whole. Local, state, and national organizations coordinating with Sierra Club are tracking proposed coal plants and demanding that state and fed-



ANNE WOIWODE

eral officials step up to stop these facilities. Although electricity needs can be met at comparable or cheaper prices through energy efficiency and wind power in Michigan, state lawmakers have failed to pass legislation that removes the barriers to these sound alternatives.

eral officials step up to stop these facilities.

The challenge is daunting. Cities have changed zoning and given huge subsidies to power plant proposals despite the extensive evidence of health impacts from coal plants. The state has refused to regulate the CO₂ from coal plants that contribute to global warming (so long as the applicants address other pollutants, the state will let them be built). Michigan laws encourage unneeded new and expanded power plants—and proposed utility-backed legislation could make it worse. Although electricity needs can be met at comparable or cheaper prices through energy efficiency and wind power in Michigan, state lawmakers have failed

to pass legislation that removes the barriers to these sound alternatives.

I hope you will support Sierra Club in what may be the most important fight of our lifetimes. You can learn more about Michigan's Coal Rush here and online at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

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The Naked Truth About Michigan's Coal Rush

What you should know about the most important environmental fight of our lifetimes.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

THE MACKINAC

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In the Spotlight

The Hidden Costs of Coal: Are you willing to pay the price?

by Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a mountaintop in Appalachia to fuel a coal-powered electric generating plant in Michigan.

Mines in Appalachia used to be deep underground, and they had little impact on the surface. Now, enormous amounts of explosives are used to literally blow the mountaintops to smithereens in order to extract the coal. Then, huge earth-moving machines shove mounds of earth into the valleys, wiping out streams and rivers. And if earthen dams give way, lakes of toxic slurry are poised to flood communities and schools. Once all the coal is extracted, the surface of what was once a mountain is smoothed out and planted with non-native vegetation that does not support wildlife or “restore” the ecosystem.

In Michigan when the generating plant burns coal, huge amounts of CO₂ and other nasty toxins (like mercury) are spewed into the air, enter our water, and end up in our food chain. The pollution contributes to global warming and poisons

From the mine to the power plant and beyond, generating electricity with coal is an environmentally destructive process, with tremendous human impacts.

our children. It's a factor in the alarming rise in asthma, chronic bronchitis, and heart disease in our communities.

From the mine to the power plant and beyond, generating electricity with coal is an environmentally destructive process, with tremendous human impacts. To help you better understand the “Michigan Coal Rush” happening right now, we've chosen it as our critical spotlight in this issue of *The Mackinac*. Together, we can generate the power needed to win this fight.

Sierra Club and nine other groups held a press conference at the capitol last fall, asking the state to regulate CO₂ emissions from coal-burning electric power plants and foster energy efficiency and renewable power programs in Michigan.



JAN O'CONNELL

SIGN THE PETITION: TELL GOVERNOR GRANHOLM TO BRING CO₂ UNDER CONTROL

Coal-fired power plants produce 40% of the nation's carbon dioxide (CO₂), one of the main contributors to global warming. Several states already regulate coal-fired CO₂ emissions. And last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the U.S. E.P.A. to regulate this greenhouse gas.

In 2007, Citizens for Environmental Inquiry (CEI) of Rogers City and a coalition led by Sierra Club and the Environmental Law and Policy Center asked MDEQ to regulate CO₂ from coal plants. Although MDEQ already regulates some carbon emissions, the agency denied both requests. In response, CEI filed suit this year in state court to compel the MDEQ to regulate CO₂ from coal plants.

Moreover, a grassroots coalition led by Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, and Progress Michigan has initiated a petition drive asking Governor Granholm to regulate CO₂ from coal plants. You can sign the on-line petition at www.michigancleanenergynow.com.

In the Spotlight

Q & A: The Naked Truth About Michigan's Coal Rush

by Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Director

Q: DOESN'T MICHIGAN NEED MORE COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS TO MEET GROWING ELECTRIC DEMAND?

A: No. Clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency programs can meet Michigan's additional electric demand for the next 20 years. Energy efficiency measures can be implemented today, giving us time to transition to renewable sources (like wind and solar) produced in Michigan that can actually come on line much faster than coal or nuclear plants.

Q: ISN'T COAL THE CHEAPEST WAY TO MEET FUTURE ELECTRIC NEED?

A: No. The cheapest way to meet electric demand in Michigan is to stop wasting energy. Everything from energy efficient light bulbs to industrial-scale efficiency efforts reduces the need for new generating capacity and saves electric consumers money, too.

The next cheapest way is to invest in renewable electric sources; wind power prices are already comparable to the expected costs for coal construction. Each year, Michigan sends \$3 billion out of state to buy coal and other fuel, while wind is free. Construction costs for building coal-fired power plants are sky-rocketing along with the cost of coal. And the upcoming requirements for controlling greenhouse gas emissions of CO₂ will drive these costs even higher.

Q: I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT "CLEAN COAL" IN THE MEDIA, ISN'T THIS A GOOD SOLUTION?

A: "Clean coal" is actually a marketing gimmick being used by the coal in-

"Clean coal" is actually a marketing gimmick being used by the coal industry.

dustry to promote a coal rush despite the public's growing environmental concerns. Burning coal will always be dirty. New technologies can reduce air pollution from coal plants, and Michigan's 19 existing coal plants should be required to adopt these new controls to reduce emissions of mercury, particulates and acid rain precursors. But even if better pollution control is achieved for coal-fired power plants, mountain top removal in the Appalachians and strip mining in the west will continue to be environmentally devastating.

There's also been a lot of talk about carbon sequestration. While some new coal plant designs increase their ability to capture CO₂, there remain significant scientific uncertainties: How much can be captured? Will it stay underground? Is this a permanent and safe solution? Scientists won't know these answers for at least a decade.

Q: WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP STOP THE MICHIGAN COAL RUSH?

A: You can talk to lawmakers, write letters to the editor of your local newspaper, or participate in a community forum. Contact Sierra Club's Jan O'Connell, jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org, or Lee Sprague, lee.sprague@sierraclub.org, to learn about upcoming actions. You can also make a donation to support Sierra Club's Clean Energy work in Michigan (learn how on page 15).

MICHIGAN CHAPTER WELCOMES ITS NEW CLEAN ENERGY CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Lee Sprague joins Sierra Club as the Michigan Chapter's new Clean Energy Campaign Manager. As a leader of the Little River Band of Ottawa, Lee worked with environmental and community groups to defeat the proposed Northern Lights coal-fired power plant in Manistee. He understands the importance of clean energy, public health, and sustainable development to Michigan's economic well being and recovery. His advocacy led to the installation of a wind turbine at the Tribe's new housing development. He has worked on international, national and statewide environmental issues involving air and water quality, land use, and is a signator to the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. Lee believes that the right to a clean environment is a fundamental human right.



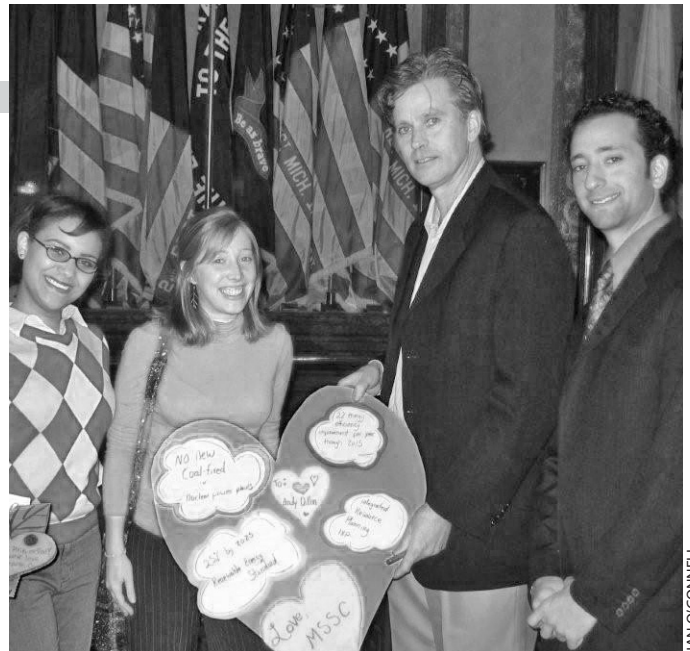
Sierra Club Seeks to Protect Michigan's Electric Ratepayers

The costs of burning coal to create electricity are skyrocketing. Transportation, construction and fuel costs have all risen far beyond official projections. At the same time, energy demand in Michigan has fallen, so there is no compelling need to build expensive coal plants.

Yet seven proposed coal plants are on the drawing board. Building even a few of these plants will cause electric rates to increase for Michigan residents and businesses, doing further harm to our economy. And under the current regulatory structure, utilities can build these plants, pass the costs on to ratepayers, and still make a healthy profit.

This is why Sierra Club is spearheading the Ratepayer Protection Package. This package of bills will protect ratepayers from the high costs of coal and ensure Michigan gets the best deal for its energy dollar. Representatives Fred Miller (D-Mt. Clemens) and Marie Donigan (D-Royal Oak) plan to introduce the bills in the House.

Please call your State Representative and Senator and urge them to co-sponsor these new bills. To learn more, contact Gayle Miller at 517-484-2372 (gayle.miller@sierraclub.org) or Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 (jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org).



JAN O'CONNELL

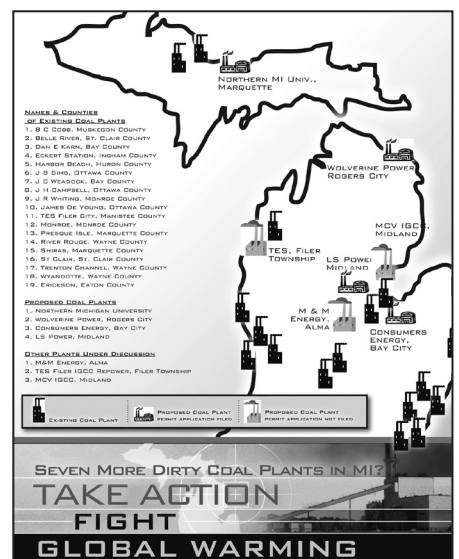
MICHIGAN LOVES CLEAN ENERGY

Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition delivered 500 valentines to the state legislature on February 14, including these to Speaker of the House Andy Dillon and Representative Gabe Leland. The students asked for a moratorium on new coal plants and a renewable energy standard of 25% by 2025, echoing Sierra Club's call for state action.

7 New Coal-Fired Power Plants Proposed for Michigan

Right now seven new coal-fired power plants are being proposed for Michigan. Four new coal-fired power plants and one replacement plant already have air pollution permit applications before the MDEQ. Another three proposals are under active discussion. Michigan currently has nineteen coal-fired power plants, several of which are at the end of their expected fifty year lifespan. Pending coal plant proposals include:

- **Northern Michigan University Ripley Heating Plant**
Marquette – 10 MegaWatt (MW) coal/wood cogeneration facility (the public comment period ended Dec. 2007)
- **Holland Board of Public Works**
Holland – 78 MW replacement application submitted Jan. 2007
- **Dynegy Mid-Michigan Energy**
Midland – 750 MW application submitted Sept. 2007
- **Wolverine Power Cooperative Clean Energy Venture**
Rogers City – 600 MW application submitted Sept. 2007
- **Consumers Energy Karn Weadock Expansion for Bay City**
Essexville – 930 MW application submitted Oct. 2007
- **Tondu TES Filer IGCC Repower**
Filer Township – 250 MW facility under active discussion
- **M & M Energy Great Lakes Energy Park**
Alma – under active discussion
- **Michigan Cogeneration**
Midland – under active discussion



Go to www.michigancleanenergy.com to view the complete map of current and proposed power plants.

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

Stop New Mercury Pollution in Michigan: Say No to New Coal Plants

by Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Coordinator

As you read in our Spotlight this issue, Michigan is considering permits for four new coal-fired power plants, with three more under discussion. But did you know that the U.S. E.P.A. says coal-fired power plants are the largest remaining source of mercury emissions in the country?

Burning coal releases toxic mercury into our air and water. Then, the mercury bioaccumulates as it's taken up from sediments by bottom-feeding organisms that are eaten by fish. Because mercury settles into muscle tissue, it cannot be removed when we clean fish to eat. The National Institutes of Health states that exposure to very small amounts of mercury can result in devastating neurological damage and death. Low levels of mercury exposure from a mother's consumption of contaminated fish can harm an infant's brain and nervous system, impacting memory, attention, language and other developmental skills.

Our Great Lakes don't need more mercury pollution. A

Coal-fired power plants are the largest remaining source of mercury emissions in the country.

mercury-based fish consumption advisory already applies to all of Michigan's inland lakes, reservoirs, and 6,859 stream miles.¹ Currently, the MDEQ's mercury reduction initiative focuses on quantifying mercury concentrations, identifying all sources, and reducing or eliminating the sources. New coal plants in Michigan would contradict those efforts.

¹ To learn which fish are safe to eat, go to the Michigan Department of Community Health's fish advisory website: www.michigan.gov/mdch/1,1607,7-132-2944_5327-13110--,00.html

Want to help protect your Lake Huron beach?

Do you want to spend a day every week on Great Lake beaches this summer? Volunteer Water Sentinels are needed to help monitor water quality on Lake Huron beaches for a summer-long project in Arenac County. If you have at least 5 hours in one day every week beginning June 1 through September 1 (Labor Day), access to your own vehicle, and would like to be professionally trained to take water samples, this is the job for you.

We're looking for several people to participate, to make sure emergencies or vacations are covered by others. There are six swimming beach sites on the bay, and one inland on Oasis Lake. Volunteers' mileage will be compensated and will receive a free Water Sentinels T-shirt. Call Rita Jack at 517-484-2372 as soon as possible to sign up for training.

Check out www.deq.state.mi.us/beach for more information about Michigan's beach water testing program.





LYNN HENNING

SIERRA CLUB WATER SENTINELS NEED YOUR HELP—SIGN UP TODAY

Sierra Club Water Sentinels will continue to document water quality in Marquette and Menominee counties in the U.P., where proposed sulfide mining threatens watersheds. We will host a late summer workshop to help start new monitoring projects in the area.

Our CAFO Water Sentinel Lynn Henning continues to identify pollution from animal factories in the River Raisin and Maumee River watersheds. We need volunteers to help watchdog and monitor, too.

Last May we began testing Lansing's Grand River, and in August held a special "Draw-down Cleanup." This fall, we'll organize a monitoring event—"a Day in the Life of the Grand"—with other Grand River groups.

If these activities sound interesting to you, contact Rita Jack at 517-484-2372 or rita.jack@sierraclub.org to learn more. Join the fun!

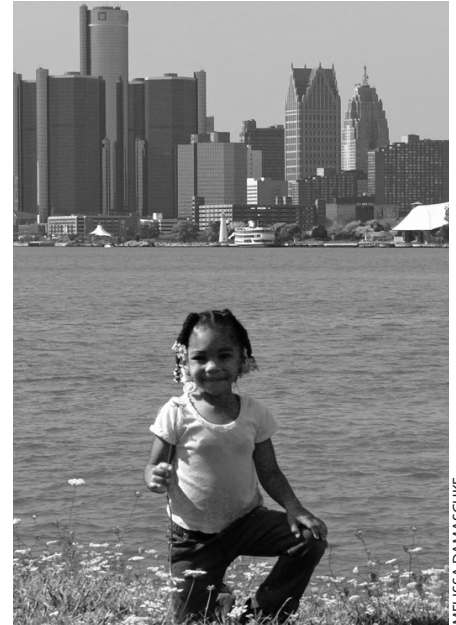
Water Concerns Spark Successful Town Hall Meeting In Detroit

by Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club's Great Lakes Regional Representative

Over 60 people showed up to learn and share concerns about water issues in Detroit at a Town Hall Meeting in November organized by Sierra Club's Detroit Environmental Justice and Great Lakes Programs.

Four panelists shared their perspectives. MDEQ's Phil Argioff spoke about sewage overflows. Wayne County Department of Environment's Dean Tuomari discussed stormwater pollution. Michigan Welfare Rights' Marian Kramer talked about water turnoffs. And Sierra Club's Rhonda Anderson spoke about Detroit's Environmental Justice Program.

Sierra Club was pleased to see policy-makers paying attention. In attendance were: a representative from Congresswoman Carolyn Kilpatrick; State Representative Coleman Young II; State Senator Martha Scott; a representative from State Senator Buzz Thomas; Detroit City Council Members Joann Watson and Brenda Jones; Detroit Water & Sewerage Department President Mary Blackman;



MELISSA DAMASCHKE

and Min Yang from City of Detroit Environmental Affairs.

The next Water Town Hall Meeting will be in April. To learn more, go to www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

SIERRA CLUB WINS LEGAL CASE: ANIMAL FACTORIES MUST NOW REVEAL PLANS

Sierra Club won a major victory in January when the Michigan Court of Appeals overturned a lower court's decision on proper regulation of animal factories.

Since 2004, the Michigan Chapter has argued that the Clean Water Act requires concentrated animal feeding operations to provide the MDEQ with detailed design and operations plans when they apply for pollution permits. The public and the agency need these plans to adequately assess whether the livestock operation will comply with the law to protect water quality and public health.

The MDEQ had not decided whether to appeal the decisions as *The Mackinac* went to press.

Great Forests, Wild Places



DAVE BLOUIN

State Makes Bad Decision for Michigan's Environment

MDNR APPROVES KENNECOTT LAND USE LEASE FOR SULFIDE MINE IN UP

by Marvin Roberson, Forest Policy Specialist

At the February 7th Natural Resources Commission meeting, MDNR Director Humphries announced her intent to approve Kennecott Mineral Company's application for a surface use lease in the Upper Peninsula. This disappointing decision flew in the face of tremendous public opposition as well as sound science and policy.

Kennecott intends to open the first new mine in Michigan in over 70 years, on the Yellow Dog Plains in Marquette County. Mining in sulfide ore bodies is risky. When exposed to water and air, the sulfide ore creates sulfuric acid, which could pollute ground and surface water. Moreover, the proposed mine site is under the Salmon Trout River, the last native breeding stream on the south shore of Lake Superior for the Coaster Brook Trout.

Kennecott wants the lease so it can use state-owned lands for its surface facilities (including the mine entrance, water treatment plants, parking lots, and waste rock storage). Sierra Club finds the MDNR's decision to be poor public policy and particularly troubling because the analysis supplied by Kennecott shows that its own nearby lands are perfectly suited for these surface operations. If MDNR's decision stands, Kennecott will have exclusive, fenced-off use of 105 acres of public lands for up to 42 years.

Litigation has already been filed against the MDEQ over the permits it already granted to Kennecott, and we expect litigation to be filed soon over the MDNR's land use lease.

SIERRA CLUB SUES U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE TO PROTECT COASTER BROOK TROUT

In September 2006, the Sierra Club and Huron Mountain Club (HMC) submitted a petition to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (US FWS) to list the Coaster Brook Trout as an Endangered Species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Coaster, once prolific in Lake Superior and its tributaries, now only survives on the south shore of Lake Superior in the Salmon Trout River in Marquette County. In fact, according to HMC-sponsored research, there are less than 200 individuals left (the HMC owns all of the stretch of river where the Coasters breed).

The US FWS had 90 days to determine whether our information warranted further review, and one year to make a determination about the listing. They missed both deadlines. So on December 17, 2007, Sierra Club and HMC filed suit in federal court to require agency action.

Democracy in Action

Sierra Club Makes Progress on Priority Legislative Campaigns

by Gayle Miller, Legislative Program Coordinator

BUILDING A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

A very good energy efficiency bill passed out of the House Energy Committee at the end of January. HB 5525 requires that Michigan meet a 1% energy savings goal per year and establishes a fund to help homeowners and businesses reduce energy use through greater efficiency.

A mediocre Renewable Portfolio Standard also passed out of committee. HB 5548 and HB 5549 establish a 10% renewable energy standard by 2015. Sierra Club has been lobbying for 20% by 2020 and the Governor's goal is 25% by 2025, which means the proposed standard stops short of where it needs to be for Michigan. We will try to address further challenges that exist with these bills via amendments on the House floor. The future of these bills in the Senate is unclear.

PROTECTING OUR GREAT LAKES FROM WATER WITHDRAWAL

A complex package of bills that would better regulate water withdrawals and protect our Great Lakes has been under discussion for months in both the House and Senate. Intense closed door negotiations are now underway over issues such

as allowable degradation of fish habitats due to water withdrawal impacts, and much more.

STOPPING ANIMAL FACTORY POLLUTION

For months, Sierra Club and others have participated in a work group convened by House Agriculture Chair Jeff Mayes (D-Bay City) to create legislation to better regulate polluting animal factories. We are now reviewing the first draft of the proposed legislation received in late January. If the work group fails to reach agreement, Sierra Club will renew its call for an immediate moratorium on new animal factories.

LOOKING FORWARD

Since 2008 is an election year, we have a narrow window of opportunity for our current legislative initiatives. (History shows that legislative actions will significantly slow by summer as campaigning begins.) Given the number of environmental issues moving right now, and that we only have until the end of June to pass them, the next few months in Lansing will be both exciting and challenging. We will need all the help we can get from our Sierra Club members and volunteer leaders—please talk to your lawmakers today!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SPRING LOBBY DAY IS APRIL 16TH!

Sierra Club's Spring Lobby Day will take place on Wednesday, April 16 from 9am until 3:30pm at the capitol in Lansing. As always, new volunteer lobbyists will be paired with more experienced "Lead Lobbyists" as we meet with lawmakers to discuss critical environmental legislation.

Information about our issues is provided to lobbyists in advance, and pre-event conference calls will help everyone be as prepared as possible for the meetings.

Here's what some citizen lobbyists have had to say about their Lobby Day experience:

"It was wonderful to share this experience with my daughters and let them have a voice in issues that will affect their lives."

"I felt empowered after sitting on the sidelines, angry, for so many years. I feel happy and proud that I've taken personal action via the Sierra Club."

"This was exhilarating—I've committed to as much activism as I can take on this fall. Thank you for the experience and I look forward to working for the Sierra Club. Keep up the noble work you are doing. I'm proud to be a member."

Lobby Day is \$10, which covers materials and lunch. Advanced registration by April 9 is required and new volunteers are welcome. To sign up, contact Gayle Miller at 517-484-2372 or gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.



WENDI TILDEN

Group Info & Outings

Local Sierra Club groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and general meetings throughout the state. Outings and meetings are open to the public – everyone is welcome! If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you're interested in starting one, please call Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at 517-484-2372.

Most outings begin at the trailhead, and some have fees associated with them. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. [To read the liability waiver before you participate, please visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a print version.] You can find more details on outings and recent additions online at www.michigan.sierraclub.org.

March

3/15 NG Otter Lake. 10am. 6 mile hike.

3/15 TG North Country Trail's Brown Bridge/ Boardman River Area. 2pm. Snowshoe or hike.

3/16 CG Kensington Metropark Nature Center. 1pm. Walk the lakeshores looking for herons and owls.

3/16 HVG Stinchfield Woods. 1pm. 4 mile ski or hike (nature decides!).

3/16 NG Holdridge Lakes Mountain Bike Trail. 12pm. Hike difficult 6 miles (bikes absent).

3/22 NG Ligon Outdoor Center. 10am. Easy hike on Ligon Trails.

April

4/5 NG Old Bloomer #3. 10am. 4.5 mile moderate hike.

4/5 SEMG Maybury State Park. 11am. 3 mile moderate hike to see wildflowers & songbirds.

4/13 HVG Brighton Recreation Area. 1pm. Family-friendly 2 mile hike on Kahchin Trail.

4/13 SEMG Pinkey Wildflower Walk. 10am. Moderate 6 miles to see Sandhill cranes and wildflowers.

4/19 SEMG Bald Mountain South Unit. 12pm. 6 mile moderate pace hike over hilly terrain.

4/20 CG Island Lake State Park. 1pm. Earth Day Clean-up.

4/20 HVG Brighton Recreation Area. 1pm. 5 mile hike on Penosha Trail.

4/27 HVG Waterloo Recreation Area. Family-friendly 4 mile hike on natural trails.

4/27 SEMG Maybury State Park. 11:30am. 2 hour moderate hike to see wildflowers.

May

5/3 SEMG Maybury State Park. 8am. Slow & quiet hike for beginner birding (bring binoculars).

5/3-5/4 SEMG Shingle Mill. Backpack 11 miles through diverse terrain.

5/4 HVG Potawatomi Trail. 8am. 17 mile hike (bring your own lunch and water).

5/4 SEMG Detroit Riverwalk Excursion. 11am. Moderate 5 mile walk.

5/10 SEMG Proud Lake Recreation Area. 12pm. Moderate hike to view wildflowers.

5/10-5/13 TLG North Country Trail. Camping and trail maintenance service trip.

5/11 HVG Pinckney State Recreation Area. 8am. Family-friendly 4 mile hike.

5/11 SEMG Metro Beach Mother's Day Birding. 9am. 2 hour slow walk and bird I.D.

5/17 SEMG Potawatomi Trail. 9:30am. Moderate 10 mile hike (bring your own lunch & water).

5/17 WMG Yankee Springs. 11am. Family-friendly 5 hour orienteering (dress for the weather).

5/17-5/18 SEMG Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area. Backpack 13 miles through diverse habitats.

5/22-5/26 HVG North Manitou Island. A service

trip with moderately strenuous backpacking.

5/24-5/25 SEMG Oscoda Area. Camping with several day hikes totaling 20 miles (in Highbanks Trail, Tuttle Marsh, Corsair Trails, Tawas State Park).

5/10 NG Flushing Twp Nature Park. 10am. Easy hike.

5/17 NG Holly Recreation Area. 11am. 2 hour hike.

5/24 NG Seven Lakes State Park. 10am. Moderate 5 mile hike.

June

6/1 HVG Pinckney State Recreation Area. 1pm. Family-friendly 4 mile hike.

6/7 NG Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. 10am. Easy hike.

6/8 SEMG Canoe the Lower Huron River. 8:45am. moderate 4 hour paddle (some experience required).

6/14 NG Flushing Twp Nature Park. 10am. Easy hike.

Sierra Club Outings are a great chance for you to get outdoors this spring — and you may find gems like this where you least expect it.



ANNE WOJWODE

Chapter Outing

5/10-5/13 NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL MAINTENANCE TRIP

Hosted by TLG

From May 10th to 13th, TLC will lead a service trip to work on the North Country Trail. Participants will camp at Culhane Lake Campground and help re-route a section of trail west of Country Road 500 (northwest of Tahquamenon Falls). If time permits, volunteers will also help clear the trail from the mouth of the Two-Hearted River to Tahquamenon Falls State Park and improve a wet area on Section M between Tahqua Trail and the Lower Falls Campground.

Last year Sierra Club volunteers built three 16' bridges and re-routed a major trail in just three days. It's hard work, but also lots of fun working with others who share your passion for Michigan's outdoors. Contact Roger Blanchard at 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu to learn more and register for the trip.



ROGER BLANCHARD

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GROUP

Your local Sierra Club group is run by volunteers who host educational programs and organize actions on environmental issues important to your community and family's health.

CMG = Central Michigan Group

Group Chair: Anne-Marie Rachman, 517-336-7871 or arachman@comcast.com

Outings Chair: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796

CUPG = Central Upper Peninsula Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: John Rebers, 906-228-3617 or john.rebers@michigan.sierraclub.org

CG = Crossroads Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads

Group Chair: Rick Pearsall, 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Cheryl McConnell, 517-552-1464 or cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org

HVG = Huron Valley Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/index.asp

Group Chair: Doug Cowherd, doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823

KVG = Kalamazoo Valley Group

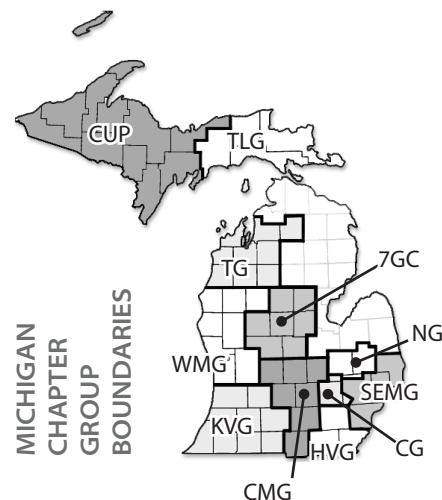
Group Chair, Outings Chair: currently seeking new local leaders, call the Chapter Office at 517-484-2372 for details

NG = Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

Group Chair: Linda Berker, 810-653-8242

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



SEMG = Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

Group Chair: Carol Izant, 248-352-6137 or cogknot@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil1@yahoo.com

TLG = Three Lakes Group

Group Chair, Outings Chair: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@lssu.edu

TG = Traverse Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

Group Chair: Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or justimagine@centurytel.net

Outings Chair: Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344 or andrea.dean@michigan.sierraclub.org

WMG = West Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

Group Chair: Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or craig_ressler@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Sharon Wilson, 616-532-0753

7GC = Seventh Generation Committee

Local Contact: Joel Welty, 989-561-5037 or jwelty@power-net.net

2007 Annual Report

Highlights & Accomplishments

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS ALL POSSIBLE!

More than 1,500 Sierra Club members made donations to support the Michigan Chapter's work in 2007. Hundreds more volunteered their time and expertise to bolster our hard-working staff and engage in critical environmental issues that would have gone unaddressed if they didn't step up. These investments of time and money provided important boosts for Sierra Club's work last year and helped the Chapter:

- Empower more than 170 citizen lobbyists to advocate for smart energy solutions, Great Lakes protection, and clean-up of animal factory pollution
- Document water pollution violations, which led to MDEQ legal action against the state's worst animal factory polluter
- Advance scientifically-sound wolf population management policies in Michigan
- Advocate to preserve public forest lands from a proposed 42-year DNR lease of 105 acres to a sulfide mining operation
- Bring concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) under water quality regulations by stopping proposed deregulation measures
- Test streams for water quality, coordinate river clean ups, and build alliances for healthy waters
- Educate and organize citizens to help convince lawmakers to adopt renewable energy standards and energy efficiency programs in Michigan
- Bolster our Clean Energy Campaign with the addition of Jan O'Connell as the Michigan Chapter's new full time Energy Organizer
- Expand our ability to fight animal factory pollution by bringing CAFO Water Sentinel Lynn Henning on as full time staff

Michigan Environmental Council President Lana Pollack presents Sierra Club's Lynn Henning with the Petoskey Prize for Grassroots Environmental Leadership.



BRAD GARMON

SIERRA CLUB CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF PROTECTING MICHIGAN'S ENVIRONMENT, AND BUILDS STRENGTH FOR THE NECESSARY WORK AHEAD

On October 5, 2007, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter celebrated 40 years of exploring, enjoying, and protecting our Great Lakes state. At a fun and successful fundraiser, 110 of your fellow Sierra Club members came to Lansing to honor the visionary activists who came before us and citizens who are actively exercising their power today to preserve Michigan's health and heritage. Sierra Club President Robbie Cox gave an inspirational keynote address. Guests enjoyed a fantastic PowerPoint show with photos and quotes from Michigan activists and added their own memories to our interactive timeline of accomplishments. Then, Billy Mack & The Juke Joint Johnnies got everyone dancing, laughing, and singing along to some great classic tunes and rockin' original ones.

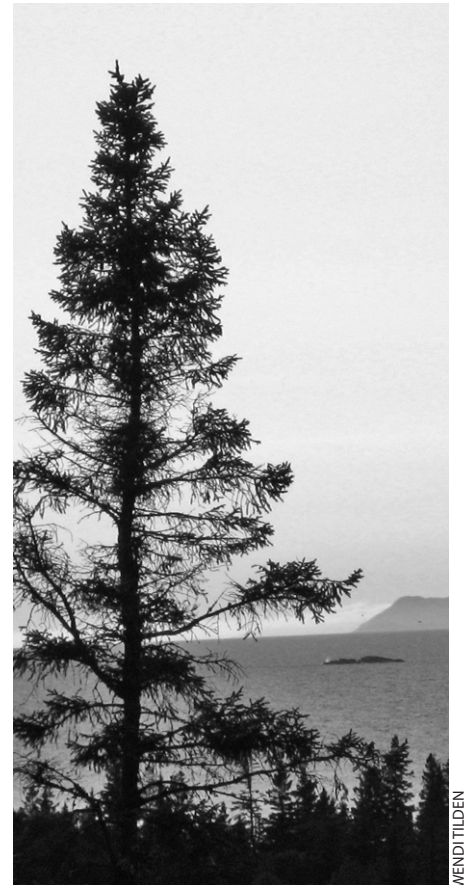
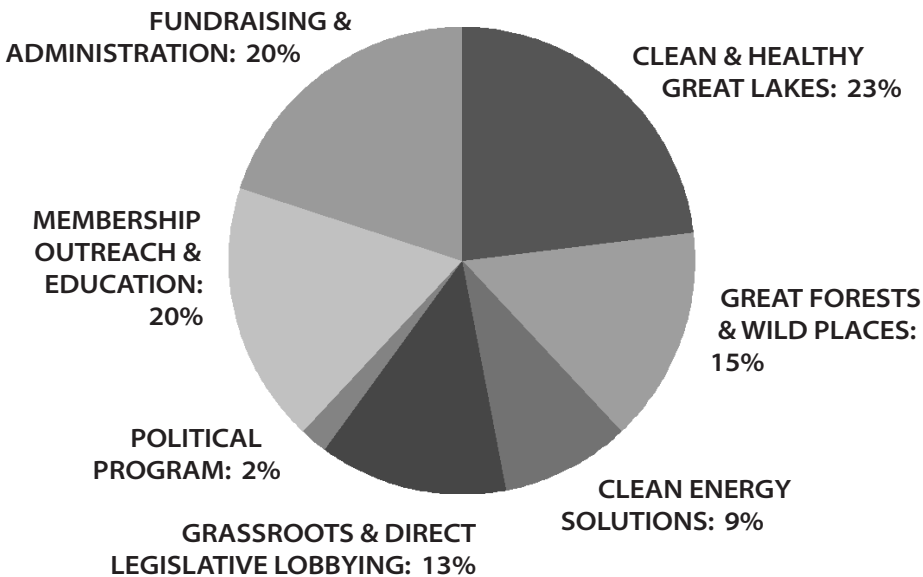
SIERRA CLUB WATER SENTINEL LYNN HENNING AWARDED PETOSKEY PRIZE FOR GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP IN THE FIGHT TO STOP ANIMAL FACTORY POLLUTION IN MICHIGAN

As you know, one of the Chapter's major campaigns is stopping poisonous animal factory pollution and its devastating effects on Michigan's rural families and waterways. So, we were especially proud to that Sierra Club's Lynn Henning received Michigan's highest award for grassroots environmental leadership on June 5, 2007. The Michigan Environmental Council's annual Petoskey Prize recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment, creativity and courage in defending Michigan's natural heritage.

Expenses to Support Conservation Programs in Michigan

In 2007, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter spent nearly \$550,000 on its environmental campaigns in our Great Lakes State. Of that, 80% went directly to the conservation activities that you care about in Michigan. The remaining 20% went to

administrative support and actions to secure the funds necessary to ensuring critical program work can continue as long as necessary, helping to win better environmental and public health protections for our families and wild places.

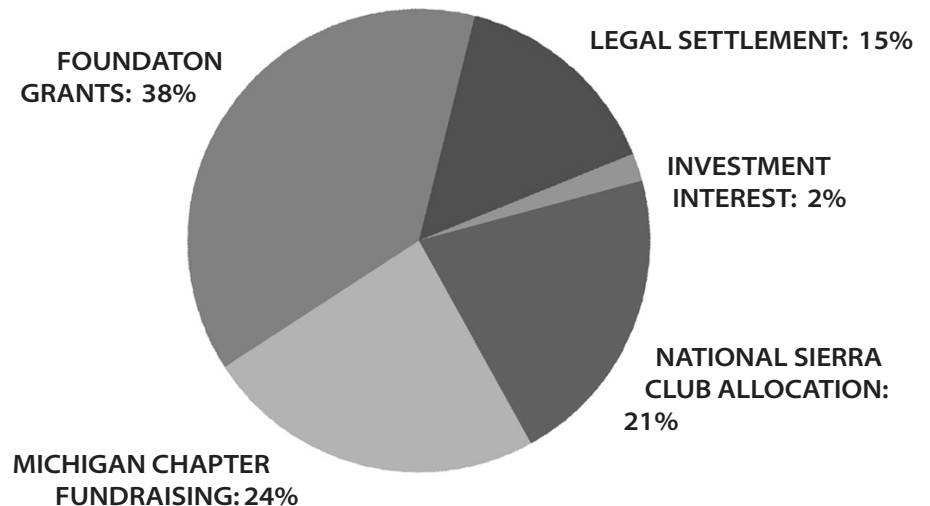


WENDI TILDEN

Income to Support Conservation Programs in Michigan

Only 21% of the Michigan Chapter's budget comes from a portion of the membership dues you pay to Sierra Club each year. So in order to adequately support the environmental work you care about here at home, the Michigan Chapter engages in diverse fundraising activities that include sending direct mail appeals to our members, throwing house parties hosted by volunteer leaders, and writing grant proposals to foundations.

(The legal settlement income noted at right came from a court decision against a polluter, and was especially unexpected as it was not a case in which the Sierra Club was a party.)



Chapter Directory

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OFFICE

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MICHIGAN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Outings Committee

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Political Committee

Sue Kelly sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org

Find Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy at www.mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp or call the Chapter office.



Supporting Your Chapter

Want to push back against the Bush Administration's seven years of environmental rollbacks?

by Wendi Tilden, Development & Communications Director

One of the things that I've learned since working at Sierra Club is that our members are different from most other organizations. (And I don't just mean "different" for going hiking, carpooling to work, using compact florescent light bulbs, and eating organic foods!) You're different—and awesome—in that you truly understand the connection between the decisions made in Lansing and Washington, and the quality of the air you breathe and the water you drink. You understand that these decisions impact the health of the beaches and forests where you play, the land where you grow your food, and the communities where your kids grow up. And what's even more impressive, you're not afraid to take bold action with other citizens to protect your family's health and Michigan's wild heritage.

As Sierra Club strives to make Michigan a leader in the fight to slow global warming and stop pollution, we have all been shocked and frustrated by obstructions from the Bush Administration. But now they have handed us a perfect and poetic opportunity: most Americans will be receiving an "economic stimulus" check from the federal government in the coming weeks worth \$600 or more. After seven years of environmental rollbacks, I hope you consider a bold move—don't spend the check, use this unexpected windfall to support our collective efforts to protect Michigan for future generations.

Every year in early March, the Michigan Chapter sends out an appeal to each of our members asking for contributions to support our work. This year, we're focused on raising money to fight "Michigan's Coal Rush" (*The Mackinac's* Spotlight Issue this spring). Your gift really does make a difference to our work and helps fill an important part of our Chapter's budget. Please be as generous as you're able—and consider using that "economic stimulus" check from the federal government as an excuse to be bold in your giving—help stimulate better protection of Michigan's environment and people.

Don't just spend your "economic stimulus" check this spring, donate it to an environmental nonprofit (preferably Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter!)

EXERCISE YOUR POWER TO PROTECT MICHIGAN'S ENVIRONMENT... SEND A GIFT

Enclosed is my/our gift of:

_____ \$100 _____ \$50 \$_____ Other

Leave your environmental legacy today—join Sierra Club's *Michigan Legacy Council* by making a larger gift:

_____ \$500: Fens & Saplings
_____ \$1,000: Streams & White Pines
_____ \$2,500: Rivers & Groves
_____ \$5,000+: Great Lakes & Great Forests

I want to support Sierra Club's effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs in Michigan, which is not tax deductible. **My check to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is enclosed.**

I prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to the Michigan Chapter, which supports monitoring, public education, and precedent-setting litigation. **My check to The Sierra Club Foundation is enclosed.**

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

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

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



THANK YOU, EARTH SHARE DONORS! We wish to thank the all the individuals who support our work each year through payroll deduction via Earth Share of Michigan. If you have just completed your annual payroll deduction campaign at work, and Earth Share of Michigan was not listed as an option, please call 800-386-3326 to discuss how you and your fellow employees can support Sierra Club Foundation—Michigan Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work. For more information, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org.

Supporting Your Chapter

Sierra Club's Michigan Legacy Council

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

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\$500-\$999

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GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS

\$5,000+

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Ken & Jeanne Levy-Church
Gwen & John Nystuen
Anne & Tom Woiwode

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 grass-
roots environmental organization.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.