

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Building Enviromentum in 2019

By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

As I write this, Michigan is still recovering from a week of record cold temperatures that prompted the governor to declare a state of emergency while wet, gray weather continues to smother the state. Yet, by the time this Mackinac comes out, the days will be longer and warmer. Renewal is on the horizon.

Similarly, we've been trapped in a dark season of unprecedented backtracking on environmental and democratic protections at the state and federal level. Michigan is still reeling from the impacts of the Lame Duck legislature's free-for-all last fall. However, the November elections brought a ray of hope with wins by Gretchen Whitmer, Dana Nessel and Jocelyn Benson – three women strong on environmental issues and democracy – and other Sierra Club-endorsed candidates.

In short, there are some new sheriffs in town who bring great potential for positive change. In 2019, the Michigan Chapter is taking advantage of this moment to advance our strategic priorities:

- Political/Legislative—Our new legislative organizer, Tim Minotas, is working with Legislative/Political Director Mike Berkowitz to organize our April 17 Lobby Day focusing on top issues including industrial agriculture and raising our profile in the Capitol (pp. 6,9, 10 & 11).
- Protecting the Great Lakes—Our new Great Lakes State Organizer, Christy McGillivray, is tackling PFAS contamination, Line 5 and other water quality issues, while funding from Detroit Future City, Healing Our Waters and The Nature Conservancy has expanded our green stormwater infrastructure work in Detroit (pp. 6-7).
- Mitigating Climate Change—Building on 2018 successes in Grand Haven and elsewhere, we're escalating efforts to shut down Consumers Energy's Campbell



Coming soon to a natural area near you...Spring! Pictured are hikers exploring flora along the Grand River in Grand Ledge's Fitzgerald Park.

Plant and others and push for a 100 percent clean energy future for Michigan (pp. 8-9).

- Restore Biodiversity—The government shutdown had implications for a vital moose study at Isle Royale National Park that we're watching closely as part of our usual work of monitoring and working with government agencies to improve forest management and promote biodiversity (p. 5).
- Environmental Justice—Our Environmental Justice Action Group is conducting equity and justice trainings for our volunteer leaders this year so we can better assist and elevate frontline communities impacted by environmental problems. (pp.8)

Despite the relentless gloom outside, lettuce is thriving under grow lights in my basement right now, a reminder that something good can grow in the darkest of places with the right amount of nurturing and passion. Sierra Club's army of volunteers and staff are experts at doing just that, which is why my hope for Michigan's future springs eternal.

Run for Sierra Club Executive Committee.

Details on p. 14

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sierraclub.org/michigan



Sign up for our twice monthly Michigan Chapter update at www.action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

TheMackinac

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2019

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Update Your Address Book! The Michigan Chapter office in Old Town Lansing is in the same place as always but our street address has changed (everything else is the same). Please update your files to: 109 E. Cesar Chavez Avenue (formerly 109 E. Grand River Avenue)

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Sign up for our twice monthly Michigan Chapter update at www.action.sierraclub.org/MI-newsletter



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Elections Bring New Hope for Michiganders

By Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Chair

Sierra Club members felt a tremendous sense of pride and excitement watching the leadership of Michigan change hands on January 1. Our endorsed candidates Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Attorney General Dana Nessel and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson were sworn in on the steps of the State Capitol building and promised to tackle the daunting challenge of putting our state on the right course.

Within the first two days, Gov. Whitmer and Attorney General Nessel made it clear that protecting public health, cleaning up our drinking water, and protecting the Great Lakes were top priorities for our state. As her top priority, Secretary Benson quickly made it clear that she will work diligently to restore and protect voting rights for all citizens.

What a difference an election makes!

So, does that mean we can all just pack up our banners, signs, lobbying materials and social media alerts and go home? Hardly. What we and millions of Michiganders achieved on November 6, 2018 was amazing and planted seeds of change that were long overdue. But like any seedling, this garden will only grow if we properly nurture it.

The challenges we are facing here and throughout the earth are the most daunting any generation has ever had to confront. The new year brought a new day, but one that will require our vigilance, our engagement, our continued advocacy, and our

ongoing recruitment of more voices to join the fight for the climate, protect wild places, overcome environmental injustice, and restore democracy.

Planting the seeds of change on that cold January day in Lansing was an act of extraordinary commitment to make the future brighter for all generations to come. Help us keep the momentum going by volunteering with us and supporting the work of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club. Find the many ways you can help us grow in the pages of this *Mackinac*.



Anne Woiwode, Michigan Chapter Chair

Chapter Awards Honor Environmental Change Makers

Sierra Club Michigan presented its annual Chapter awards at a ceremony January 26 in Lansing to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Michigan residents and organizations making positive change to protect public health, natural resources and democracy in our state.

State Senator Stephanie Chang of Detroit received the Chapter's top honor, the Jane Elder Environmentalist of the Year Award for exceptional leadership in environmental protection in Michigan. Sen. Chang maintained a perfect rating on the Chapter's environmental voting scorecard during her tenure as a state representative and

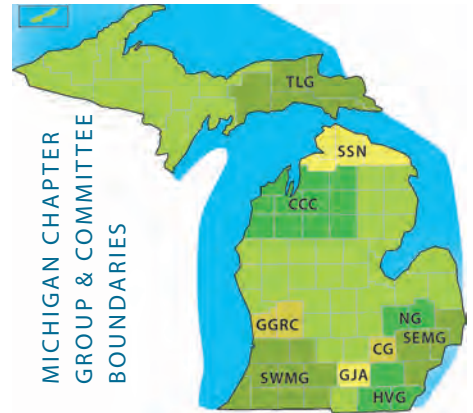


Award winners (left to right) Jim Malewitz, Pegg Clevenger, Kathleen Heideman, UPEC Mining Action Group, State Senator Stephanie Chang, Roz Linsea, Mary Andersson, Chris Back, Mona Munroe-Younis, Richard Barron.

worked with Sierra Club to introduce legislation to protect against toxic air pollution, make water a human right, expand clean energy and restore citizen oversight to the Department of Environmental Quality. To see pix and info about all of our 2018 award winners, visit sierraclub.org/michigan/chapter-awards-2018.

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 10 regional Groups and 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.



Clearwater Conservation Committee / CCC

COUNTIES: Antrim, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Otsego, Roscommon and Wexford
FACEBOOK: Clearwater Conservation Committee
TWITTER: @NCMIClearwater
EMAIL: sierraclubclearwatergroup@gmail.com
CHAIR: Charlie Weaver • ctejedor@copper.net

Greater Jackson Area Committee / GJA

COUNTIES: Jackson
CONTACT: e.wolf@michigan.sierraclub.org
MEETS: 1:30 PM, 2nd Saturday monthly at Jackson Coffee Co. downtown
FACEBOOK: Greater Jackson Area Sierra Club
EMAIL: SierraClubJackson@gmail.com
CHAIR: Elaine Wolf-Baker • e.wolf@michigan.sierraclub.org

Crossroads Group / CG

COUNTIES: : Livingston and western Oakland
MEETS: at group leader homes in Livingston County (first Thurs of month)
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads
FACEBOOK: Crossroads Group Sierra Club
CHAIR: Lee Burton, 810-231-9045 or lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org
VICE CHAIR: Sue Kelly • sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org

Greater Grand Rapids Committee / GGRC

COUNTIES: Kent and Ottawa
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Greater Grand Rapids
EMAIL: ggrcom@michigan.sierraclub.org
CHAIR: TBD - Questions, contact gail.philbin@sierraclub.org

Huron Valley Group / HVG

COUNTIES: Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe
MEETS: in Ann Arbor
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
EMAIL: HVGSierraClub@gmail.com
CHAIR: Dan Ezekial • dan.ezekiel24@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Jaime Magiera • jaimae@jaimae4a2.org
OUTINGS CHAIR: Anya Dale • anyaadobon@gmail.com

Meetup With the Sierra Club

Every Sierra Club entity in Michigan now has a Meetup website where you can check on the latest events sponsored by your local group. Note that the hiking group is for the Southeast group.

The web addresses for our Group and Committee Meetup pages are listed below.

www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Jackson-Area/
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Southwest-Michigan/
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-South-of-the-Straits/
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Three-Lakes-Group/
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Huron-Valley/

www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Greater-Grand-Rapids-Committee-Meetup/
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Nepessing-Group-Michigan/
www.meetup.com/Metro-Detroit-Outdoors-Hiking/ (SEMG Group)
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group/
www.meetup.com/SierraClubClearwaterGroup/

Nepessing Group / NG

COUNTIES: Genesee, Lapeer, Northern Oakland and Southern Saginaw
MEETS: in Flint
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Nepessing
CHAIR: Carol Graham Banes • craigbanescpa@yahoo.com
VICE CHAIR: Laurie Tata • greendem@yahoo.com

South of the Straits Network / SSN

COUNTIES: Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet and Presque Isle
MEETS: Petoskey District Library, 500 East Mitchell Street
 (3rd Tues of month, 5:30-6:45pm)
FACEBOOK: South of the Straits Sierra Club
CHAIR: Rose Fitzgerald, SouthofStraits@michigan.sierraclub.org

Southeast Michigan Group / SEMG

COUNTIES: Wayne, St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland
MEETS: Elks Club, 2401 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semg
FACEBOOK: Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group
CHAIR: Dave Richards • rodavidrich@gmail.com

Southwest Michigan Group / SWMG

COUNTIES: Berrien, Branch, Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry
MEETS: in Kalamazoo
WEBSITE: <https://swmgsierra.org>
FACEBOOK: SWMG Sierra Club
TWITTER: SierraSwMiGroup
CHAIR: Roz Linsea • rozlinsea@gmail.com
VICE CHAIR: Kristi Lloyd • auntkiki@yahoo.com
 STOP EXCESSIVE EXPENSE for the SWMG and LESSEN YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT by letting us know that you'd like to eliminate all notifications and ballots for elections via US Postal Service. All you need to do is notify us through our website at www.swmgsierra.org and click on the contact us tab or email admin@swmgsierra.org

Three Lakes Group / TLG

COUNTIES: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft
MEETS: in Sault Ste. Marie
WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/threelakes
FACEBOOK: Three Lakes Group of Sierra Club
CHAIR: Roger Blanchard • blanchardrd@yahoo.com
VICE CHAIR: Carol Ward • saltptcew@gmail.com

The Federal Shutdown Hits Isle Royale

By Marvin Roberson, Chapter Forest Ecologist

The National Park Service was among the many agencies across the country affected by the shutdown of the federal government in late December of last year through most of January. Most national parks were closed and staff were unable to do any work during the shutdown.

With the federal government grinding to a halt, Michigan's Isle Royale National Park was placed in a unique bind. Even though the park is closed all winter, every winter, work needs to be done in preparation for the next season. The shutdown prevented this preparation work from happening, which could significantly impact long-term management of the park in two key areas.

First, Isle Royale is home to a unique population of wolves and moose. This population has been the subject of the world's longest and most complete predator/prey study in history. Every winter, researchers go to the island and count and record every single wolf and moose. This is called the Winter Study.

In recent years, we've seen the numbers of wolves significantly reduced, resulting in less predation on moose. In a controversial decision, the National Park Service chose to relocate additional wolves to the island (see the November/December 2018 Sierra Magazine for coverage of this decision).

The 2019 Winter Study is the first survey since relocation of the new wolves and will be critical in determining the outcome of the transplant effort. When the federal government reopened on January 25, the study recommenced, but during the shutdown a wolf had left the island. Because of the disruption, the disappearance was not discovered until after the shutdown, whereas if operations had not been interrupted, it would have been discovered in real time. If the shutdown had lasted much



As can be seen in this photograph of the "Mattson Fish House", the need to decide whether to demolish or stabilize some buildings on Isle Royale is urgent.

Photos /Jeanie Anderson

longer, it may have never been discovered and the missing wolf would have just "disappeared" without us knowing why.

Any future shutdown would also mean a disruption of funds for everything from pilots to fly the researchers to the island to repairs on radio collars for the animals.

The shutdown could very easily have ended what is probably the single most important data collection period in the single most important predator/prey study in the world.

Also on Isle Royale are a large number of historic buildings in the designated Wilderness portion of the park. Staff has been going through a planning process to determine which of these buildings is of enough historical significance to be saved, which should be allowed to deteriorate, and which should be actively removed for safety reasons. This decision-making is taking place now so that next summer the work can be done to stabilize buildings needing preservation and to demolish buildings which are a safety hazard.

Earth Day Volunteers



Our many volunteer groups and committees around the state have activities planned for Earth Day (or Week or Month) in April, like this Earth Day Parade in Grand Haven that area volunteers participated in last year. Find out how you can tap into the fun by going to the bottom of our homepage at sierraclub.org/michigan for a listing of group/committee activities.

Michigan Chapter Develops PFAS Campaign

by Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

Communities nationwide are facing threats to safe drinking water due to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), a class of chemicals used in waterproofing, firefighting foam, carpets, furniture and other products. They don't break down in the environment and have poisoned water sources around the country. PFAS contamination is linked to cancer, thyroid problems, kidney damage and can alter breast development. Exposure during pregnancy and childhood can permanently impair growth and development.

For more than a year, Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, which uses the federal health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), has been testing to identify affected communities but slow to take concrete action beyond data collection. According to a study by MLive.com last fall, at least 55 Michigan utilities were identified with at least some level

of drinking supply contamination, including the city of Parchment, which registered PFAS at 1,828 ppt last year and had to switch to Kalamazoo's municipal water system.



As awareness of PFAS in Michigan has grown, the Chapter expanded its capacity to work on it by forming a PFAS campaign of its volunteer Great Lakes Committee and hiring Christy McGillivray as our full-time Great Lakes State Organizer. Christy is working with national and Chapter staff and volunteer leaders to develop a PFAS campaign to build our grassroots capacity to engage on the issue and advocate for a

meaningful remediation and state-level policy solutions. The campaign will increase understanding of and engagement in the issue specifically among women, firefighters and autoworkers and establish a model for other Sierra Club chapters to follow nationwide.

Welcome Christy McGillivray, Our New Great Lakes State Organizer!

After graduating from Sarah Lawrence College in 2004, Christy began her environmental career as a field canvasser for Clean Water Action and went on to pursue an MSc in environmental education from the University of Edinburgh. She worked in Scotland and Australia before returning to Michigan five years ago to be closer to family. Since then she has served in various educational roles including as an adjunct professor at Lawrence Technological University and, most recently, a Detroit-area high school science teacher.



Christy McGillivray

Lobby Day - April 17, 2019



Sierra Club's mighty volunteer lobby corps will be in the Capitol in full force on April 17 to take advantage of the changes in the legislature after the 2018 elections. Pictured from our Spring 2018 Lobby Day are (left-right) Lisa Hicks-Clayton, Chapter volunteer and Dearborn Heights councilwoman; Andrew Sarpolis, Sierra Club Beyond Coal organizer; and Vicki Dobbins, Michigan Chapter Executive Committee and River Rouge school board member, in a meeting with State Rep. Jewell Jones.

Detroit Outdoors

Detroit Outdoors concluded its inaugural camping season in the city's Rouge Park in December, during which we trained 45 volunteers to be camp leaders and supported camping activities of over 280 youth. Detroit Outdoors provides training, camping gear and access to open space as a way to overcome common barriers to connecting youth with nature in the city. The 45 educators and youth workers that completed the training are now eligible to reserve the Scout Hollow campground in Rouge Park and use a fully outfitted camping gear library. Details at sierraclub.org/michigan/detroit-ico/detroit-outdoors

Great Lakes Program Works to Build a Green Infrastructure

by Erma Leaphart, Conservation Organizer, Sierra Club Great Lakes Program

We are passionate about our work in Detroit around green infrastructure practices that prevent sewage pollution and provide quality of life benefits to residents. To date, we have installed over 70 rain gardens on residential sites, schools, parks and at faith-based and non-governmental organizations. We've had the pleasure of engaging hundreds of people who have either attended rain garden workshops, installed a rain garden, attended a green infrastructure bike or bus tour, or shared their rain garden story.

New this year, with a grant from The Nature Conservancy, Great Lakes staffer Quentin Turner collected stories from Rain Gardens to the Rescue (RGTR) participants who then shared their experience during an evening of creative expression. With climate change looming, these personal reflections celebrated the strength and resiliency of our Detroit community. You can visit our Facebook page to read/hear more: facebook.com/ilovegreatlakes/

With a two-year grant from the Erb Family Foundation, we are continuing our partnership with the Land + Water Works coalition led by Detroit Future City. The coalition's focus is to achieve a green culture shift in Detroit by engaging, educating and leveraging the strength of city residents, and providing resources to scale up green stormwater infrastructure (GSI).

GSI projects planned and led by Sierra Club and our RGTR partner, Friends of



the Rouge, will include rain gardens, rain barrels and above-ground stormwater planters. We are excited about several new outdoor adventure aspects of the program including bike and kayak tours.

Also as part of the Land + Water Works campaign, Sierra Club and Greening of Detroit will co-lead refinement of our green culture shift curriculum to enhance education and outreach efforts.

Other exciting news is our partnership with Ducks Unlimited to serve as Michigan co-leads for the Healing Our Waters (HOW) Great Lakes Coalition. Together, we assembled and coordinated the Great Lakes Day Michigan delegation that traveled in March to Washington, D.C. to advocate for HOW priorities including:

- Federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI.)
- Increased funding for water infrastructure.
- Funding to prevent Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes;
- Defending Clean Water Act rollbacks,...

We will also engage and recruit HOW coalition members throughout the state, and support efforts within HOW's 2019 Campaign Plan and the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan. To learn more visit: www.healthylakes.org

This year has much in store as we work to protect the water quality in our nation's largest surface freshwater ecosystem – The Great Lakes.

For more information on green infrastructure, check out:
Greening of Detroit: greeningofdetroit.com
Land + Water Works: therouge.org/green-infrastructure-land-water-works
Sierra Club Great Lakes, Great Communities: sierraclub.org/michigan/great-lakes-great-communities-campaign

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter:

_____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 \$_____ Other

Give online at www.tinyurl.com/supportMISC

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. Cesar Chavez Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

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

Card # : _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mitigate Climate Change & Environmental Justice

Beyond Coal Campaign Aims to Hasten Closure of Campbell Coal Plant

The Beyond Coal Campaign is working diligently to close the remaining coal power plants across Michigan. Last year, Consumers Energy announced the utility company will stop burning coal by 2040, with plans to close the Campbell coal plant Units 1 and 2 in Ottawa County by 2031 and Unit 3 by 2040. We cannot afford to wait until 2040 for Consumers to close all of its coal plants. According to a recent United Nations report, we need to act on climate change before 2030 when its impacts become irreversible. In addition, in 2016 the Campbell coal plant discharged 10,000 pounds of toxic metals into the water including zinc, barium, chromium, vanadium, manganese and copper, according to the Toxic Release Inventory. A significant percentage of those metals is likely found in the plant's discharges of bottom ash transport water into Lake Michigan and the Pigeon River—nearly 18 million gallons per day. Furthermore, Consumers Energy has already spent over one billion dollars on upgrades to the plant to meet emission standards. Clearly, the Campbell coal plant has reached the end of its lifespan. Our campaign is working hard to push for an earlier retirement date of the coal plant to protect your health and environment.

Along with the environmental hazards associated with coal, this dirty fuel is being edged out by renewable energy as a more economically sound power source.

Are you interested in joining our fight or signing our petition to close Consumers' Campbell coal plant? If so, email Jordan Chrispell, the West Michigan Clean Energy Organizer leading the Campbell fight, at jordan.chrispell@sierraclub.org.



Volunteers attending the protest during the EPA Affordable Clean Energy hearings.

Environmental Justice Training Series Takes Shape!

By Mona Munroe-Younis

Environmental Justice Action Group Chair

In January, 25 local volunteer group leaders/members of the Chapter's Growing for Change (Equity) Team and volunteers of the Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG) began working together to develop an environmental justice training series for Sierra Club Michigan volunteers and staff. The Growing for Change Team is made up of Chapter staff and volunteers interested in moving the Chapter forward on equity issues. They are focused on internally educating SC chapter and staff, while EJAG is focused externally on addressing EJ issues on behalf of SC. The two are working together because their missions have overlap where educating staff and volunteers about equity are concerned.



Want to know more about the Sierra Club's environmental justice efforts?

The Chapter's website has some great information.

Environmental Justice Principles: sierraclub.org/michigan/environmental-justice-principles

Environmental Justice Action Group: sierraclub.org/michigan/environmental-justice-action-group

Mitigate Climate Change & Environmental Justice

Attorney General to Issue Opinion on Line 5

By Anne Woiwode, Chapter Chair

Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel have Line 5 in their cross hairs. Governor Whitmer and the attorney general are taking steps to reverse the dangerous decisions of the legislature and Snyder Administration regarding the dual underwater oil pipelines crossing the Straits of Mackinac. Nessel is expected to issue an opinion regarding the laws passed in the lame duck legislative session authorizing Enbridge Inc. to build a tunnel while leaving the damaged 66-year old Line 5 pipelines in place. That opinion, expected in April, binds state officials unless overturned by the courts.

A report by For Love of Water (FLOW) in February added to concerns around Line 5 by revealing that the Snyder Administration failed to exercise due diligence in three agreements with Enbridge. FLOW's study uncovered potential holes in financial protections that could be ruinous to communities, residents and businesses which would suffer losses from a rupture in the Straits. While Minnesota and Wisconsin conducted risk management and insurance reviews of Enbridge pipeline proposals, FLOW concluded Michigan conducted no such reviews and did not seek expert analysis of the financial assurances offered by the company.

Tribal governments, the City of Mackinac Island and a community organization are challenging permits for dozens of jerry-rigged pipeline supports under Line 5 which try to fix violations of the 1953 easement with the state. The groups argue in part that the proposed supports would increase the danger of damage from anchor strikes.

Contact Christy McGillivray at christy.mcgillivray@sierraclub.org to get involved in the fight to shut down Line 5.

Make Net Metering Equitable

by Jan O'Connell,

Chapter Development Director and Energy Issues Organizer

There are only a few weeks left to stand up for net metering in Michigan. In early May, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) will decide on an equitable replacement for the state's net metering program as mandated by the legislature in 2016. If the commission accepts a proposal from DTE, the result could be the end of small-scale solar for homeowners, businesses, farmers, churches and schools in Michigan.

Michigan's net metering program began with the enactment of Public Act 295. Net metering has been straightforward and easy to understand: customers with solar installations pay the retail rate to their utility for electricity and earn a credit on their bill at the same retail rate for any energy sent back to the Grid.

Under DTE's proposal customers with solar installations would pay the retail rate for electricity, but if they returned energy to the grid they would only be credited the wholesale rate of electricity. Far from equitable!

Please contact your legislators and Michigan Public Service Commission Chair with the message that: **1** - There should be NO system access charges **2** - The Commission should conduct a value of solar study to fairly measure customer credit, **3** - Michigan Lawmakers and the MPSC must step up to ensure all residents have the option to generate their own electricity!



New Club Organizer at the Capitol

Hi, I'm Tim Minotas! For the rest of 2019, I will be the legislative organizer for the Michigan Chapter, working side-by-side with Legislative Director Mike Berkowitz. My position is only part-time, but if we raise \$15,000 I will become full-time for the rest of the year. Please make a donation so I can spend more time fighting for you at the Capitol! (See the Legislative donation form on the bottom of page 11)

I graduated in 2016 from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's in Environmental Policy and Public Administration. At Central, I was in leadership positions with the Student Environmental Alliance and the College Democrats. I volunteered on multiple political campaigns, graduated from the Great Lakes Political Academy where I learned how to lead and manage political campaigns, and became the campaign coordinator for the state representative in the 99th district, one of 2016's most competitive races. I was a political intern with the Sierra Club in 2014 and served as the Michigan Chapter's legislative intern in 2015. I also won the Michigan Chapter's youth award and served on the state Political Committee. In 2018, I worked as a research associate at Farough & Associates, where I worked on campaign strategy, issue advocacy and communications. I look forward to working with you all!

Links to contacting your Michigan House & Senate Legislators;

Representatives: house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/frmFindaRep.asp

MI Senators: www.senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html

MPSC Chair Sally Talberg 517-284-8330 or MPSC, PO Box 30221, Lansing MI 48909

Any questions contact jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org or call her at 616-956-6646

Lame Duck and Governor Snyder's Legacy

Mike Berkowitz, Chapter Legislative and Political Director

After a largely successful election, but before the newly elected leaders were sworn in, lawmakers in Lansing worked overtime to gut environmental safeguards, water down voter-approved proposals, and strip power from our newly elected Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Outgoing Governor Rick Snyder was the last line of defense for many of these terrible proposals (aside from legal challenges.) We had over 1,250 Sierra Club activists contact him, as well as their state legislators, to voice their concerns.

Unfortunately, Snyder cemented his legacy as one of the worst environmental governors in Michigan's history. Here are the results of the most important proposals we lobbied on during the 2018 lame duck session.

Governor Rick Snyder:

- Signed laws that: remove protection from Michigan's wetlands and inland lakes; keep the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline in the Great Lakes operating for the next 10 years; authorize building a new tunneled oil pipeline underneath the Straits of Mackinac; allow radioactive fracking waste to be dumped in Michigan's landfills; prevent cleaning up toxic contaminated sites enough to protect public health; and strip future governors of the ability to enact rules stricter than the federal government.
- Signed two anti-democracy laws which make it nearly impossible to amend Michigan's laws via citizen ballot proposals and would make it harder to vote.
- Vetoed two bills which would have fixed our state's broken tax policies for solar panels.



Sierra Club leaders meet with former Senator David Knezek at our citizen lobby day in 2018. Left to right are Andrew Sarpolis (from our Beyond Coal Team), former Senator David Knezek, Vicki Dobbins (SC Executive Committee member and River Rouge school board member), Jim Egged, and Ray Mickus.

Our team helped deliver these lame duck victories for democracy and the environment:

- After passing the Senate, we shut down a bill that would have preempted local regulations from protecting trees and other vegetation, and another bill which would have undermined Michigan's newly adopted Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.
- Senate Natural Resources Chairman Tom Casperson abandoned his bill to limit local governments' ability to regulate mining activities.
- House Elections Committee Chairman Aaron Miller withdrew a bill that would have stripped Michigan's secretary of state's powers.
- Governor Snyder vetoed a proposal to strip Michigan's attorney generals of their powers and another bill to create a double dipping \$5 million tax break for oil and gas companies. He also vetoed an anti-transparency proposal

that would have enabled more shady political donations.

- Governor Snyder signed a proposal to allocate \$69 million funding for recycling, industry oversight and brownfield cleanup.

After lame duck, we put together an environmental scorecard based on 62 votes over the legislature's two-year session. Both chambers failed with the Senate scoring 46 percent and the House scoring 55 percent. It's shameful that the environment has become a partisan political issue, which is demonstrated by the Senate Democrats scoring an average of 93 percent,

while Senate Republicans averaged just 25 percent. Go here to see the full scorecard: <http://bit.ly/SCMI1718Scorecard>

Overall, Governor Rick Snyder's legacy will be tainted by the Flint water crisis, the Nestle water withdrawal, the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline, the PFAS water contamination catastrophe, and the more than 80 bills he signed into law over the past eight years that repeal Michigan's most important environmental safeguards.

Stand Up and Fight Back!

In light of these environmental attacks, we'll be working hard throughout 2019 to reverse the course of Michigan's environmental laws, and we need your help. Here's how you can get involved.

- Use our legislative action guide. <https://goo.gl/3YjUN1>
- Use our lawmaker tracking tool to find when you can meet with state legislators in your home area. <https://goo.gl/HXrxbE>
- Sign up to volunteer with our legislative program. We are looking for people to attend citizen lobbying

*Continued from previous page -
Lame Duck and Governor
Snyder's Legacy*

events, but also many activities you can do from home like calling your lawmakers, writing/researching, doing graphic design, and much more.

<https://goo.gl/forms/5PyWeJPIs8hl6Qhi2>

- Utilize our online bill tracker. We update this every day so you can see exactly where we stand on all pertinent legislation.

<https://tinyurl.com/SCMI19-20BillTracker>

This year at the capitol, we are focused on five main issues:

- Mitigating climate change
- Protecting and restoring our Great Lakes ecosystem
- Ending environmental injustices
- Protecting Michigan's biodiversity and funding environmental protection
- Growing Michigan's democracy

Build on Sierra Club's Accomplishments in 2019

Sierra Club's electoral work in 2018 brought environmental leadership back to Lansing. We elected Dana Nessel, who has already started restoring integrity to the office of attorney general and protecting the Great Lakes from oil pipelines. We elected a new governor, Gretchen Whitmer, who delivered an executive order focused on the environment and public health during her very first day in office. Since then, she signed Michigan onto the US Climate Alliance, committed to taking action against PFAS contamination, and created government offices to protect drinking water and environmental justice. We also passed two major democracy reforms—voting rights and redistricting—and elected Jocelyn Benson, the strongest pro-democracy secretary of state in Michigan's history.

Now is not the time to let up or take a break. We need to build on our momentum and turn electoral gains into legislative wins. And we need your support to raise \$15,000 to expand our staff capacity to:

- Pass state legislation that protects the environment
- Strengthen our presence in the Capitol to push back on ideas that compromise the quality of our air, water, land, and the integrity of our democracy
- Build our political power to elect strong environmentalists and oust anti-science officials in 2020

You helped get us here. Please help us build on what we accomplished in 2018 and build a better future for the next generation by making a contribution. One of our generous board members has agreed to match your donation up to \$2,000!

Thank you,

Mike Berkowitz, Legislative and Political Director

“In our age there is no such thing as keeping out of politics.”

— George Orwell

You can find our full legislative priorities document here:
<https://goo.gl/aXMGuc>

SUPPORT THE WORK OF SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN

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

Give online at <http://bit.ly/SCMILegFund>

Your donation helps support our Legislative work at the Capitol and across the state.

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Annual Retreat Reaches 30th Anniversary Milestone

Cecilia Garcia-Linz, Retreat Co-Chair

Join Sierra Club Michigan as we celebrate a retreat milestone, our 30th anniversary! Spend a weekend basking in the tranquility of Camp Miniwanca, exploring the forest and enjoying beach time on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Miniwanca offers tent camping (bring your own tent), rustic log cabins among the pines, or dorm rooms a few steps away from the beach. Enjoy hiking, tubing, crafts, stargazing, high ropes, kayaking, live animal presentation, educational workshops and presentations, campfire stories and s'mores, storytelling, live and silent auction, and much more. Rates include meals and activities* for the weekend.

The retreat theme this year is The Challenge of Change. In addition to our recreational activities, we will offer workshops and presentations focusing on our changing climate, the changes humans must make to ensure a sustainable planet, and the change we all must embrace as a society to secure equity for all.

**Yoga • Tubing • Kayaking • Crafts
Stargazing • High Ropes Course
Animal Identification • Campfire S'mores
Storytelling at the Council Circle • Music and more**

Visit our Facebook event page to see pictures of lodging options, workshop schedule updates, silent auction item previews and more.

* Some activities may have a materials fee. Fees will be noted on the event schedule, distributed before the event.

For more details and online registration options, visit <http://sierraclub.org/michigan/chapter-retreat>
You may also register over the phone by calling Cecilia Garcia-Linz at 517-484-2372.





2019 ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

8/23/2019-08/25/2019



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

Sierra Club Michigan Annual Retreat
109 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.
Lansing, MI 48906

All workshops, activities, five meals and two nights lodging are included in each of the rates listed below. Workshops with materials fee will be noted in workshop descriptions, provided prior to the retreat.

Names (include age if under 18):	Age	Lodging	Fee/Person	Total
_____	<3 yrs old	All	Free	Free
_____	3-12	Cabin or Tent	\$90	_____
_____	3-12	Beach Dorm	\$100	_____
_____	Adult	Cabin or B.Y.O. Tent (circle one)	\$160	_____
_____	Adult	Beach Dorm with roommate	\$195	_____
_____	Adult	Beach Dorm, no roommate	\$235	_____
		Donate to retreat scholarship fund?		_____
		TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email address: _____
(Save resources- your address will not be shared)

Please list roommate(s) names, if applicable:

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund on or before August 13th, 2019 No refunds after August 17th.

Special needs, dietary restrictions, comments, questions, suggestions:

How many times have you attended the MI Chapter SC Retreat? _____

Would you agree to share a room with someone you do not know (same sex)? Circle one: Yes No

How did you hear about the Retreat? (circle answer) Website Mackinac Friend Past Attendee Email Notices Facebook Other

Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/sierra-club-michigan-chapter-9847342230>

or send this form with a check to:

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, ATTN: MI CHAPTER RETREAT
109 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.
Lansing, MI 48906.

Make check payable to Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.
Contact Cecilia Garcia-Linz with registration questions, cecilia.garcia@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY AUGUST 16, 2019. Check-in begins Friday, August 23, 2019 at 3 pm.



In Memoriam: Richard Hawkins

February 26, 1948 – October 23, 2018



Richard was an educator and taught at DeWitt Public Schools for 37 years. He believed in the democratic process, and celebrated the election of

Barack Obama as one of the greatest triumphs for our country. Richard abhorred racism and believed in civic responsibility. He also had a true love for the natural world and was committed to protecting and preserving Michigan's environment.



What Will Your Legacy Be?

"Climb the mountains," John Muir said, "and get their good tidings." Like him, you find renewal in nature. You can help others find it too – for years to come – by leaving a gift in your will or trust, or by beneficiary designation to the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter and/or the National Sierra Club. Exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet will be your environmental legacy ... a legacy forever linked with our founder's.

Bequests to the Michigan Chapter support the conservation work in the state in which you reside. This funding enables the Chapter to continue protecting and preserving the natural splendor of Michigan for years to come. For more information, contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 or jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

Time Runs Out for Solar Savings in 2019 ACT NOW

Net metering benefits and the 30 percent federal credit are still in place, but these incentives will run out soon. If you've been considering home solar, explore your options today through Sierra Club's Solar Partnership. Our partners - McNaughton-McKay, Michigan Solar Solutions and Solar Winds Power Systems-- provide a discount to Sierra Club members. The Michigan Chapter receives a periodic donation based on total wattage of systems installed.



Get details at: sierraclub.org/michigan/sierra-club-solar-partnership

2019 Executive Committee Nominations and Election Schedule

Sierra Club is the largest democratically-run environmental organization in the world, with the election of our leaders from among our members. The Michigan Chapter Executive Committee governs our statewide work with nine (9) at-large elected members and representatives of each regional group. The schedule for nomination and election of four (4) at-large members this fall is on this webpage:

<http://tinyurl.com/2019MCECElection>

Contact the Nominating Committee members at michigan.chapter@sierraclub.org with questions.

Michigan Chapter's Evergreen Program

A small step that will have a big impact... is to become a part of our EVERGREEN program. If economic challenges have placed a strain on your ability to donate OR you just want to set up a hassle free simple way to give regularly our EVERGREEN program may be for you. The Michigan Chapter's EVERGREEN program allows you to spread your donations over a year... with sustaining gifts, instead of giving in a larger lump sum.

A gift of just \$10 or \$20 a month adds up to sizable annual support to the Michigan Chapter. The program is flexible... where EVERGREEN givers can increase, decrease, postpone or stop donations at any time... and convenient too, where you can avoid the hassle of writing and sending in a check. This is an easy way to ensure our programs remain supported an 'ever green' even in challenging economic times. Make a bigger difference for a cause you care about... supporting Michigan's environment.



You can sign up on-line by going to wildernessguardian.sierraclub.org/local/?chapter=2100 or call our Chapter office to sign up at 517-484-2372.

To find out other giving options including tax deductible gifts contact Jan O'Connell at 616-956-6646 OR email jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org
You can also use the Michigan Chapter donation form on page 11.

2018 in the Rearview Mirror

By Gail Philbin, Chapter Director

POLITICAL

Sierra Club worked throughout the election year to pass two major Michigan democracy reforms—voting rights and redistricting—and elect Jocelyn Benson, the strongest pro-democracy secretary of state in our history. We helped elect Dana Nessel, who is restoring integrity to the attorney general's office, and our new governor, Gretchen Whitmer, who prioritizes clean water.

LEGISLATIVE

Lame Duck in Lansing was brutal, with lawmakers working to gut safeguards, water down voter-approved proposals and strip power from the new governor, while Snyder cemented his legacy as one of the worst environmental governors ever. We helped deliver victories like killing a bill to preempt local regulations from protecting trees and vegetation and another that would have undermined Michigan's newly adopted Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. For details, visit: tinyurl.com/lameduckreport

CLIMATE CHANGE/ CLEAN ENERGY

We built momentum to move West Michigan beyond coal to clean energy, and after a year of relentless pressure, Grand Haven approved the closure of the Sims coal-fired power plant. (Consumers Energy also announced retirement of the Karn plant near Bay City.) We laid the groundwork for Ready for 100 volunteers to get community-wide 100 percent clean energy commitments in 2019 from Grand Rapids and Holland. We supported the Oil & Water Don't Mix Coalition efforts to shut down Enbridge's Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac, staging more than 30 "retirement parties" on the pipeline's 65th anniversary in April.

PROTECTING GREAT LAKES

Our efforts to build green stormwater infrastructure in Detroit through rain gardens, rain barrels and citizen engagement received new sources of support: a two-year grant

through Detroit Future City to continue rain garden education and installation as part of Land + Water Works; a three-year grant through the Healing Our Waters Coalition to be a co-lead organization in Michigan; and a Nature Conservancy grant to promote the stories of rain garden program participants. Our factory farm campaign shifted gears to respond to an uptick in industrial livestock operations prompted by new hog and dairy processing facilities. We ramped up resistance with a citizen activist training and enlisted participants in our CAFO Busters army of activists. In November, we released *Right to Pollute: Factory Farms in Michigan*, our fourth documentary in a series about the food system.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Our Michigan Environmental Justice Action Group led by Flint activist Mona Munroe-Younis expanded to include more Detroit residents and received a national Sierra Club Grassroots Network grant to support planning for an educational project to build the capacity of Sierra Club Michigan staff and volunteers to understand and take action on environmental justice issues. The group also curated the water justice track and led Water Warriors Unite, a power-mapping workshop, at the 2018 Michigan Environmental Justice Summit in Flint.

FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Forest Ecologist Marvin Roberson continued to ensure our voice was heard at state and federal levels through sound scientific input and advocacy for good forest management. This included monitoring Isle Royale regarding wolf and historic preservation issues; pushing for a renewal of expired National Forest management plans in Michigan, and researching Synsel, a biofuels proposal in Ontonagon, and other proposals. You can see Marvin discussing Sierra Club's views on forest management in this Nature Change interview: tinyurl.com/marvinroberson

EXPENSES TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

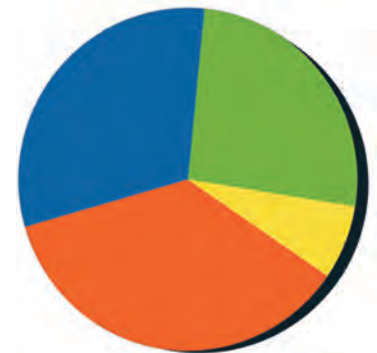
In 2018, the Chapter spent \$711,646 to advance its conservation priorities. Of that, 79% went directly to pro-environment activities you care about. The remaining 21% went to administrative aid for our programs and activities and helped secure fund to ensure the sustainability of the Chapter's critical work.



- Great Lakes 13%
- Forestry 14%
- Clean Energy 21%
- Political & Lobbying 14%
- EJ 10%
- Membership 7%
- Admin 12%
- Fundraising 9%

INCOME TO SUSTAIN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In 2018, the Chapter's income was \$732,853, and 3% came from a portion of your annual membership dues. The majority of our support comes from diverse fundraising activities such as direct and online mail appeals that yield vital donations and grant requests to foundations.



- Allocations 31%
 - Tax-deductible 10%
 - Tax-deductible bequest 4%
 - Non-deductible 10%
 - Non-deductible bequest 3%
 - Non-deductible lobbying 4%
- Donations 36%
 - Tax-deductible 17%
 - Tax-deductible bequest 19%
- Nat'l SC Shared Project Grants 7%
- Other Grants / Misc 26%



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 3.5 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.

NON-PROFIT 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. This list is current as of our publication date. Please join us in thanking the current listing of Michigan Legacy Council members:

FENS & SAPPLINGS \$500-\$999

- Patrice Aaron
- Anderson Middle School Student Council
- Joyce Arakelian
- Steve Babson & Nancy Brigham
- Catherine Badgley & Gerald Smith
- Randall G Baidas
- Martin & Brenda Berkowitz
- Peggy Bocks
- Vicki Boyd
- Lee Burton & Roberta Shaw-Reeves
- Karl Butterer & Delanie Pope
- Larry & Gloria Byle
- Joanne M Cantoni
- Jon Cohn & Daniela Wittmann
- Clarence & Lillia Constantakis
- Barbara Cooper
- Kathleen & William Davis
- Bryant Dawson
- Estate of Esther Dean
- Gerald Demaire
- James & Rhonda Fackert
- David & Kathy Friedrichs
- John Ford
- Frank & Emily Gobright
- Mary Haakenson
- Lisa & Jim Harger
- Lynn Hartung
- Gary Hawkins & Connie Solowiej
- Kyle Hawkins
- Nancy Mechem Hedges
- Joseph Herbst
- Gerald Hice
- Gladys Anna Holden
- Ann Holmes
- Mike Johnson & Karen Briggs
- Larry Junck & Robbi Duda

- Paul & Judy Kindel
- Albert Koegel
- Steven & Kathleen Kopitz
- Jay Korinek
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- Jayne Pettinga
- Gail & John Philbin
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- Irene Sidor Smith
- Donna & Stuart Snyder
- Kenneth Rosenman & Martha Stanbury
- Merry Stanford & Peter Wood
- Jerry Stewart
- Elias G Strangas & June Turner
- Montana Svoboda
- Timon P Tesar
- Sharon Toms
- Fred & Alyce Townsend

- Thomas (Tom) Turner
- Rita Vadasz
- Oliver & Joan Warner
- Regina & John Wilson
- Cathy Cromer Wood
- Anonymous Donors (3)

STREAMS & WHITE PINES \$1,000-\$2,499

- Richard Barron
- Kenneth Betz
- Richard & Susan Bingham
- Sherri Brom
- Kate & Rick Dahlstrom
- John Purdon Donley
- EarthShare of Michigan
- Lydia Fischer
- Margaret Flynn
- Carl Galeana
- Ms Carola Gerigk
- Luke Goodenough
- Carol Graham Banes
- Denise Harris
- Thomas & Colleen Hurst
- Sue Kelly
- Samuel & Patricia Lacina
- John McGarry
- Gayle Miller
- Rita Mitchell & Ed Steinman
- Gregory Nelson
- Jan & Dennis O'Connell
- Nicholas Rademacher
- Stanley & Connie Rajnak
- John & Janice Rebers
- Loretta Sheehan
- Henry M Wellman
- Todd S Wilkinson
- Anonymous Donors (1)

RIVERS & GROVES \$2,500-\$4,999

- Lorne Beatty
- Mary Anne & David Beltzman
- James & Cynthia Berkey
- Ms Toni Herrick
- Helen & Al LeBlanc
- Henry (Hal) Newnan III
- Stanley & Connie Rajnak
- Carol E Ward

DUNES & SHORELINES \$5,000-\$7,499

- Mike Keeler & Sherry Hayden
- Jean Gramlich
- Greenwald Family Foundation
- Kathleen Phillips & MacNeil Smith
- Nancy Shiffler

MARSHES & PRAIRIES \$7,500-\$14,999

- Pat & Debra Egan
- Ceci Bauer & Tim Flynn
- Nature Conservancy
- Patagonia
- Margaret M Phillips

GREAT LAKES & GREAT FORESTS \$15,000+

- Thomas Buhr
- Erb Foundation
- Detroit Future City
- Friends of the Rouge
- Mr John Hunting
- Wege Foundation
- Anne & Tom Woiwode