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TheMackinac

Quarterly Publication of Michigan's Sierra Club • May-July 2005

**PROTECTING MICHIGAN'S
RIVERS, LAKES AND STREAMS**

The Great Lakes State: Our Water, Our Health

by Sue Kelly, Mackinac Chapter Chair

If you display your hands to explain where the town you live in is located, you are a Michigander. This shape, determined by the shoreline of the Great Lakes, makes Michigan easily found when looking at pictures of the earth from space. Michiganders are proud of, inspired by and very protective of these Lakes, as well as the rivers and inland lakes that feed them.

No other environmental issue inspires more passion in the average Michigan citizen than water, particularly the Great Lakes. "The Great Lakes State," "Water, Winter Wonderland" and "Great Lakes, Great Times" are all mottos used to attract people to Michigan, to our water. Politicians and businesspeople use these phrases to generate income, but some of them seem to avoid the responsibility of protecting the resource that they market.

- Factory farms continue to pose serious risks to human health and the environment. They make up only one half of 1 percent of the farms in Michigan, but these farms cause enormous problems to real family farms in the communities in which they are located. See page 6 for an update of our work to control these factories.
- Mercury contaminates the waters of our state, yet our elected officials are reluctant to impose measures currently available to reduce this toxin and our exposure to it. Much of the mercury that gets into our bodies comes from air pollution that eventually settles on the land and water. Fish are so contaminated with mercury and other industrial toxins that the Department of Natural Resources issues guidelines about limiting fish consumption when buying Michigan fishing licenses. Coal-fired power plants and incinerators are two of the

largest producers of mercury in Michigan. See page 4 for information on efforts to curb emissions from these industries.

- Lawn chemicals, both pesticides and fertilizers, contain toxins that have detrimental effects on lakes and rivers. In Oakland County a new Building Environmental Communities program to educate people on this issue will be launched in the near future. Please read pages 11 and 12 before you decide to use chemicals on your yard this year.
- Great strides have been made to protect the Yellow Dog River and the surrounding area in the upper peninsula from potential contamination problems if sulfide mining is allowed to occur nearby. See page 7 to learn about the work that must be completed to prevent problems if this mining effort gets underway.
- Selling water pumped from the ground in Michigan is a contentious issue. Farms and businesses use water in their processes, sometimes in the product itself. How will we define water diversion? This and other water issues confronting the states in the Great Lakes basin are the topic of the Great Lakes Charter Annex, covered on page 15.

The protection of our water resources is



A Lake Superior lighthouse near Houghton, Michigan.

critically important to Michiganders. The efforts of the Sierra Club are making a difference. As representatives of the people and values of Michigan, our elected leaders should exhibit the same passion as the average Michigan citizen in the protection of the water that defines our state.



Sue Kelly lives in Brighton with her husband Mike and two dogs, Maggie and Oscar. She can be reached at sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org.

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TheMackinac

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MELISSA DAMASCHKE

University of Detroit Mercy students celebrated Fossil Fools Day 2005 collecting signed postcards and showing off a Toyota Prius Hybrid. Fossil Fools Day is a national day of action for students to put pressure on motor companies and President Bush to stop being fossils and evolve. See page 21 for more information.

Cover: A heron on the Rouge River.

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NEXT DEADLINE: JULY 1

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Capitol Watch 2005

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

SIERRA CLUB ASKS GOVERNOR GRANHOLM TO LEAD ON MERCURY CLEANUP

Airborne mercury has tainted every lake in Michigan. This threatens our children's health and the state's economic future, yet Michigan officials continue to sit on the sidelines while other states lead efforts to reduce mercury pollution. A package of bills supported by Sierra Club that would address

mercury-containing products has been introduced into the legislature. However no bills have been introduced to curtail mercury contamination from power plants.

A Mercury Working Group appointed by Governor Granholm in early 2004 has delayed its recommendations multiple times, most recently pushing

its deadline for reporting back from April 15 to mid-May. The Granholm administration is declining to commit to a 90 percent reduction in mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants prior to the completion of the Working Group recommendations, despite an election year promise by the governor to meet this goal.

Sierra Club has also asked Governor Granholm to join with a dozen other states, including Wisconsin, in appealing Bush administration rules that would delay or roll back critical reductions in mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. As *The Mackinac* goes to press, the governor's office had not responded to the Sierra Club request to join the litigation.

DNR HOLDS WOLF MANAGEMENT HEARINGS

The gray wolf population in the Great Lakes region has continued to recover, which has led to decisions at the federal level to downgrade the protected status of these animals under the Endangered Species Act. While there are challenges to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife decision on endangered status

in Michigan, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving ahead with hearings and planning on wolf management. The DNR is creating a joint citizen/agency committee to develop "guiding principles" for management of wolves in Michigan and will hold public hearings in May.

Sierra Club is raising concerns about the use of "social carrying capacity"

as a major factor in the decisions of the DNR regarding wolf management. Social carrying capacity, a highly subjective measure, includes setting a target population number for the maximum number of wolves to be allowed in Michigan, as well as management activities, including hunting, that will be used to keep the numbers under that level. Sierra Club accepts that where there are problems with

wolves preying on livestock, the taking of those specific wolves would be justified. However, with the recovery of the wolf in Michigan still underway and by no means guaranteed, the Sierra Club is arguing for the use of science in wolf management, as is mandated in the state Constitution, and not the use of "social carrying capacity."

Written comments can be submitted by email to: wolf_comments@michigan.gov; or mail comments to: DNR Wildlife Division, Attn: Endangered Species Coordinator, PO Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909.

Hamtramck Celebrates Earth Day Decision

by Anna Holden, Chair,
Conservation Committee

GOVERNOR ASKED TO STOP WATER BOTTLING

Governor Jennifer Granholm is being urged by four environmental organizations to invoke a federal statute to protect the Great Lakes from water diversion and to block a water bottling plant in Evert.

In a March letter to Granholm from Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, Public Interest Group in Michigan and Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation the governor was strongly advised to call for a regional consultation as required under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for any proposal that would divert water from the Great Lakes basin. The proposal at Evert is a city plan to dedicate an entire city well to provide water for the Nestle Corporation's Ice Mountain brand.

In their letter to the governor, the organizations cited Granholm's statements in 2001 in support of then-Governor John Engler invoking the consultation requirements of WRDA regarding a proposed diversion in New York. Granholm said at that time, "Swift opposition by the state of Michigan to that proposal sent a clear signal that we are willing to

protect Great Lakes water. But that signal must not be interpreted as self-serving, aimed only at proposals to sell Great Lakes water removed from other states."

In an April 8 letter to the city of Evert, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Chester requested additional information regarding the proposal's compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, and in a meeting with the governor's environmental advisor Dana Debel, on April 20, Sierra Club leaders were told that a decision would be made after the information from the city is in hand. However, there was no response to a request regarding what criteria would be used to reach a decision when the city has responded. As *The Mackinac* goes to press, no response from the governor's office has been received.

On Earth Day, Hamtramck residents and environmentalists celebrated a new decision from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) that will bring Michigan Waste Services' medical waste incinerator one step closer to closure. Based on public comment and the company's failure to comply with its permit, Vinson Hellwig, chief of MDEQ's Air Quality Division, recommended revoking the permit on April 22. MDEQ will now take the case to an administrative law judge who will hear testimony from both the company and MDEQ. Following the judge's decision, Steven Chester, MDEQ director, will make the final decision on canceling the company's permit to process medical waste.

This hard-won victory is the result of more than ten years of community opposition. It follows a well-attended community hearing on March 17 where everyone stepping up to the podium asked MDEQ to shut down the incinerator. Neighborhood residents, Hamtramck City Council members and officials, civic leaders in the Islamic, African-American and Bosnian communities, elected state representatives, and environmental and health activists all asked MDEQ to pull the permit and close the incinerator.

Coming to an Inbox Near You!

THE MACKINAC CHAPTER'S MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



This summer we will launch the Mackinac Chapter's monthly e-newsletter to keep all of our members up to date on outings, programs, legislation and other time-sensitive events that occur between publications of this quarterly newsletter.

Send your e-mail address to kathy.boutin-pasterz@sierraclub.org and we will add you to the e-mail listserv. This e-mail address will only be used for this monthly e-newsletter, unless you indicate that you would like to receive other information from the Chapter (we periodically send out alerts and program information to all of

our members who have e-mail).

WHAT SHOULD THE E-NEWSLETTER BE CALLED?

We know you have great ideas. Send them to kathy.boutin-pasterz@sierraclub.org.

Conservation & Litigation Update

MICHIGAN'S DIRTY RURAL SECRET

SIERRA CLUB INVESTIGATION OF 66 CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS SHOWS ALL WILL EVENTUALLY POLLUTE MICHIGAN'S RIVERS, LAKES AND STREAMS

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

During Earth Week the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter released the results of an investigation of 66 concentrated animal feeding operations in 15 Michigan counties. The investigation concluded that "every concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) can be expected to have illegal discharges

of contaminants into the surface waters of Michigan" and that these operations are being "designed, built and operated in ways that will cause water pollution." The full report, "Michigan's Dirty Rural Secret," including a chart of the CAFOs investigated, can be found on the Mackinac Chapter website (see below).

Fifty-two of the facility investigations were conducted by the Mackinac Chapter's CAFO Water Sentinel Lynn Henning, with assistance from her husband Dean Henning. The Hennings followed a protocol explained in the report. The investigation of the Michigan State University Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Facility was conducted by Alexander J. Sagady, a highly respected environmental consultant who lives in East Lansing. The report also incorporates the ongoing monitoring data and observations of the dozen CAFOs in the vicinity of Hudson collected over the past several years by the dedicated volunteers of Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM). The report's summary and findings are provided below:

The State of Michigan's policies regarding concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are based on the assumption that these massive livestock facilities can and will be operated without illegal discharges of pollutants into Michigan's waters. In Michigan's Dirty Rural Secret the Michigan Sierra Club reports on the investigation of 66 concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in fifteen counties in Michigan, and concludes that every concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) can be expected to have illegal discharges of contaminants into the surface waters of Michigan, and that many CAFOs either were discharging pollutants at the time of the inspection or have clear evidence of past pollution.

The findings of the Sierra Club investigation are that:

- *Michigan's CAFOs are being designed, built and operated in ways that will cause water pollution;*
- *CAFOs certified under the voluntary Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) show the same or worse design flaws and polluting practices as facilities that have been cited by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for water quality violations and/or required to obtain NPDES permits;*
- *MDEQ staff dealing with CAFOs both in the field and in Lansing are drastically underfunded, understaffed and inadequately trained to assess either existing pollution or potential pollution problems from proposed, new or existing CAFOs;*
- *MDEQ and Michigan Department of Agriculture staffs often fail to fully investigate legitimate citizen complaints against CAFOs, resulting in failure to enforce water quality protection laws;*
- *State officials do not have consistent criteria or a common protocol for assessing existing or potential pollution from CAFOs, resulting in uneven application of the laws and regulations across the state;*
- *The failure of the state to prevent, accurately assess, or bring effective enforcement and compliance actions to stop pollution from CAFOs is creating a downward spiral in the water quality of the county drains, streams, rivers and lakes in much of rural lower Michigan.*

Find "Michigan's Dirty Rural Secret" at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/pdf/MichigansDirtyRuralSecret.pdf> and the chart of CAFOs investigated at: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/pdf/CAFOreportList.pdf>

MiningUpdate

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director and Rita Jack, Sierra Club Water Sentinels Project Coordinator

RULEMAKING WORKING GROUP PROGRESS

As environmentalists celebrated passage of the strongest law in the nation regulating mining of nonferrous metallic ores (PA 449 of 2004), including sulfide ores, the people closest to the process knew a lot of work was still ahead. Even before the official bill signing in January, diverse interests were back at the

table negotiating the critical details of the regulations that spell out how the statute will be implemented. Membership in the rulemaking work group represented the same diverse set of environmental, mining industry, local government and tribal interests, with the addition of experts from the U.S. Geological Survey and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Council.

The final meeting of the working group was expected to occur the last week of April, with recommendations to be made to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff. A simple majority of the members of the work group is required for a recommendation to move forward to MDEQ. The Michigan Legislature limited the time allowed for rule making to only one year from enactment of the statute, so it is expected the MDEQ will seek public comment sometime in late spring or summer on the proposed rules. Following MDEQ approval of the rules, final steps include review for form by the Attorney General's office and then review by the Legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

SULFIDE MINING ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Kennecott Minerals Company, which holds leases on several hundred thousand acres of mineral rights in the western Upper Peninsula, is expected to submit a permit application this summer to mine at the Eagle Prospect in northern Marquette County at the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River. Baseline environmental assessments have been done by both White Water Associates, Inc., under contract to the MDEQ, and by Kennecott's consultants, Golder Associates, out of Lakewood, Colorado.

YELLOW DOG WATER SENTINELS

The Sierra Club's Yellow Dog Water Sentinels will use the information in the environmental assessments to complement their own sampling work, matching site data and methods to provide continuity. Development and adherence to a quality assurance project plan will be a top priority, as will submission of new data to the MDEQ. During the first water monitoring outing on April 30, the Sentinels will assess the damage done when an 80 foot section of (Marquette) County Road AAA washed out after failure of a stream diversion built by Kennecott in 2004.

ROAD WASHOUT AND TECHNOLOGY-BASED STANDARDS

During the week of April 10, approximately 98 tons of soil washed into the Salmon Trout River from a failure of a stream diversion built by Kennecott last year. The rulemaking group's discussions had just turned toward "technology-based" versus "performance-based" standards. The road washout didn't bode well for the environmental protection performance of Kennecott, who prefers technology-based standards to protect the watersheds of the Yellow Dog and the Salmon-Trout rivers from acid mining pollution. But how can we trust them to build and operate a mine without environmental impacts when they can't even build a road without failure? The tons of sediment buried important fish habitat, as well as fish food organisms. While Kennecott was supposed to remove the sediments from the streambed by April 15, the damage was already done. According to news reports, the MDEQ isn't likely

to penalize Kennecott for the incident.

The Yellow Dog Plains Water Sentinels will be on a tight schedule for water quality monitoring over the spring and summer. Sierra Club members in the U.P. and from downstate are needed to help. We're also planning an autumn photo safari for a fall color tour of the area at risk, as well as informational outings to learn more about the coaster brook trout, and perhaps to do some fly fishing.

MINING PERMIT WORKSHOPS

The Mackinac Chapter will host workshops in both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas to teach Sierra Club members about the permitting process and how to prepare meaningful public input. To participate, or if you want to be notified of planned outings (or to help plan these outings), please contact Rita Jack at rita.jack@sierraclub.org, or call the Mackinac Chapter office at 517-484-2372.



Anne Woiwode, the Mackinac Chapter's Director, can be contacted at anne.woiwode@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.



DAVE CHAPMAN

Rita Jack, the Mackinac Chapter's Water Sentinels Project Coordinator, can be contacted at rita.jack@sierraclub.org or 517-484-2372.

Three Michigan National Forest Plans Out for Public Comment

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

The protection and management of the three million acres of National Forest land in Michigan is up for debate and public comment until late June. Draft Land and Resource Management Plans for the Huron-Manistee, Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests are available, along with their draft environmental

impact statements (EIS). The three plans and EISs, with more than 3,000 pages, were released in late March for a 90-day comment period.

Forest Subcommittee Chair Nancy Shiffler and Michigan Forest Policy Specialist Marvin Roberson, after initial reviews, note that ecological considerations, from old growth to management indicator species, are moving in the opposite direction from the science. All three proposed plans appear to move away from restoration of Michigan's native forest ecosystems toward more intensive consumptive uses. A team of volunteers, including some of Michigan's top scientists, are working closely with Roberson on pulling together comments on the plans.

Sierra Club encourages anyone who uses and cares about Michigan's National Forests to take time to review and comment on the plans because these decisions will set the direction of management for at least 15 years. Recently, the Au Sable River in the Huron Manistee National Forest has been threatened by oil and gas development because of mistakes in the current plan. With three million acres at stake, no one can assume that someone else will speak up for their concerns. Please contact the Mackinac Chapter at mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org if you would like to be added to Sierra Club's list to receive updates.

To obtain copies of one or more of the plans, or to review the areas that are of

greatest concern to you, contact each National Forest using the information below:

Hiawatha National Forest (eastern Upper Peninsula), 2727 N. Lincoln Road, Escanaba, MI 49829, 906-789-3329, www.fs.fed.us/r9/hiawatha/

Huron Manistee National Forest (northern Lower Peninsula), 1755 S. Mitchell St., Cadillac, MI 49601, 231-775-5023, www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/

Ottawa National Forest (western Upper Peninsula), E6248 US Hwy 2, Ironwood, MI 49938, 906-932-1330, www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa/



Solar Domestic Hot Water Rebates Available!

Urban Options is offering a Solar Domestic Hot Water Rebate Program. The program offers Michigan residents an opportunity to save on their utility bills and positively impact the environment at the same time.

Over the course of its useful life, a solar domestic water heater will typically:

- Prevent as much as 50 tons of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Pay for itself through reduced utility bills;
- Contribute to economic development through less dependency on fossil fuels.

Rebates of 50 percent of the installation cost of a solar domestic hot water system, up to a maximum of \$4,000 per installation, are available. Rebates are also available to refurbish and repair older systems already in place, up to a

maximum of \$2,000.

Rebate Application packets will be available on April 1, 2005 and will be accepted for consideration through October 1, 2005.

For more information please call 866-846-SDHW(7349)

Urban Options, a Michigan-based energy education organization, is working in partnership with the State of Michigan Energy Office, the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association and the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation to deliver the program.

Energy Subcommittee Update

PROJECTS THE MACKINAC CHAPTER IS INVOLVED WITH

- To reduce the amount of energy used in Michigan, the Granholm administration recently revised the Michigan Uniform Energy Code (MUEC). Up-to-date and effective energy codes provide significant savings. States on the West Coast, in New England, and in Wisconsin, which have all regularly updated their energy codes, have homes which are on average 30 percent to 60 percent more efficient than a typical Michigan home. By adopting the revised energy code, it has been estimated that Michigan would save \$3.7 billion in energy costs while reducing our need to import more natural gas.

The updated code has not been adopted, as the Michigan Home Builders Association recently filed suit to block the revisions to the MUEC. The Mackinac Chapter strongly supports updating the energy code and has written the governor indicating our strong support for this needed update.

- The Mackinac Chapter is also a member of the Detroit Edison PAYS (R) collaborative which is an attempt to start a market-based energy efficiency program. Energy efficiency upgrades qualifying for the PAYS (R) program would be billed on Detroit Edison's utility bill. The efficiency upgrade would be financed by a revolving loan fund which the customer would repay over time. Detroit Edison is considering adopting a pilot program and many details and questions still require resolution.
- To help promote renewable energy the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) issued their final order in the net metering case. Net metering rules allow small electric generators who use wind turbines, photovoltaic cells (solar panels) and other renewable resources to interconnect with the electric utility and "sell" energy to the utility. The MPSC ruled that net metering customers would be paid "retail" rates by the utility and that the renewable energy credits are not owned by the utility. These two provisions were major issues which the Mackinac Chapter addressed in its comments to the MPSC.
- Finally, the Michigan legislature has begun holding hearings to develop a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS). Adoption of an RPS could lead to significant investments in renewable energy-generating technologies along with reductions in the amount of fossil-fueled energy generation.

The energy subcommittee of the Mackinac Chapter is always looking for members interested in working on these and other issues. If you are interested in any of these issues contact David Wright, wrightd@voyager.net, to see how you can get involved.

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF MICHIGAN'S ENERGY ECONOMY ON OUR WATER RESOURCES

by David Wright, Chair, Mackinac Chapter Energy Subcommittee

Michigan's unsustainable energy economy has damaged and continues to risk the state's water resources.

Because most of Michigan's electricity is produced by burning coal—a leading source of mercury contamination—our waters have been compromised. Mercury has tainted the state's rivers, lakes and streams; oil refineries and other industrial activities have polluted the Pine River in mid-Michigan as three refineries on or near the river dumped thousands of gallons of petroleum byproducts into the river and the underground aquifers; and America's misguided focus on energy production has brought a proposal to explore for natural gas within six-tenths of a mile of the South Branch of the Au Sable River.

These past and possible future environmental insults are a result of our inefficient and widespread use of nonrenewable energy resources. But Michigan citizens can minimize the energy-economy impacts on its water resources by reducing their energy demand and expanding the use of available renewable energy resources.



Building Environmental Communities

ONE WOMAN'S FIGHT AGAINST PESTICIDES

by Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator

Multifactorial congenital birth defect, fluke of nature, mercury poisoning ...

These were some of the reasons given to Beth Bechtel when she was pregnant for the second time (after one heartbreaking miscarriage) when she learned her baby had not developed kidneys and would die shortly after birth. Nicholas died within an hour of birth, and while no one knows for sure what happened, there is evidence that environmental pollutants (mercury and pesticides, among others) were among the factors.

We become activists for a variety of reasons, and for Beth this personal crisis was her catalyst. She had to do something to help clean up the environment and spare another family this pain. Beth began with her own yard, making it pesticide free, and then educated her local community, Meridian Township. She has worked tirelessly to help pass the Michigan Residential Pesticide Notification Application Law, which states that whenever a commercial applicator (pesticides) treats a lawn, all neighbors whose property abuts the property to be treated, within 50 feet, will be given 48 hours notice so they can keep children indoors, close windows, cover grills, and so on. In 2002 Representative Paul DeWeese (R) first introduced the bill, only to have it die in committee. In 2004 Representative Ruth Johnson (R), chairperson of the Michigan House Land Use and Environment Committee had the bill rewritten, and Beth's current Michigan House representative, Gretchen Whitmer (D), reintroduced HB 6301 only to have it die again in committee.

This session Beth is working with Whitmer to have the bill rewritten and resubmitted. She knows that while she cannot change everything at once, if everyone does something to clean up the environment, beginning with their own homes—their own front yards—change will happen.



Kathy Boutin-Pasterz is the membership and volunteer coordinator for the Mackinac Chapter. For further information about this issue, please contact her at kathy-boutin-pasterz@sierraclub.org.

YOU CAN HELP ...

1. Make a pledge to have a toxic free lawn. For more information, visit these websites:

www.beyondpesticides.org. Beyond Pesticides works with allies in protecting public health and the environment to lead the transition to a world free of toxic pesticides.

www.generationgreen.org. Generation Green, founded in 1998 as a project of Citizen Action, gives parents an effective voice in advocating for an environmental policy that protects children.
2. Call your Parks and Recreation Dept and ask about their pesticide management system and encourage them to establish an Integrated Pest Management System.
3. Call Representative Whitmer at 517-373-1786 and encourage her to introduce the Michigan Residential Pesticide Notification bill, or attend her coffee hours.

**Preserve
The
Future.**

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

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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
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LOVE YOUR LAKES, LOVE YOUR LAWN!

by Leigh Fifelski, Community Organizer, Sierra Club Building Environmental Communities Program

This summer, Oakland County residents are coming together to encourage their neighbors to do their part in keeping Michigan's water clean. Sierra Club activists will be going door-to-door, making phone calls, and holding workshops on how to protect the Great Lakes and its watersheds from contaminants

like pesticides and high-phosphorus fertilizers.

Each year 67 million pounds of pesticides are used on lawns in the United States. Four of the most commonly used pesticides, 2,4-D, malathion, carbaryl, and methyl parathion, have been known to play a serious role in health problems such as cancer, birth defects, and immune deficiencies. Data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2003 show that millions of Americans have high levels of pesticides in their bodies, and children, who are most vulnerable to even trace amounts, carry about twice the body burden as adults.

Fertilizing lawns and gardens is a very important part of keeping them beautiful. However, many fertilizers contain large

amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen that, when used improperly, can cause algae blooms in our lakes and streams. These algae blooms are bad not only because they take away from swimming in the hot summer, but they also use much of the oxygen and sunlight that fish and other aquatic species need to survive and reproduce.

Lawns and gardens can be beautiful without these harmful chemicals and nutrients. Activists will be encouraging their neighbors to build healthy and safe lawns by testing soil before applying fertilizer, mowing high and using grass clippings and compost as fertilizer, and using native plants that are well suited for the site and climate.

The Great Lakes are already suffering from

increased amounts of sewage from factory farms and sewage overflows, mercury from power plants, invasive species, and threats of diversion. Love your lakes, love your lawn and do your part! First, stop using pesticides and phosphorus-rich fertilizers. Second, spread the word to community members and friends, and third, call 248-435-5277 to receive your "Pesticide Free – Kid and Pet Safe" yard sign.



Leigh Fifelski is Community Organizer for the Sierra Club Building Environmental Communities Program in Oakland County. She can be reached at leigh.fifelski@sierraclub.org.

Dioxin Expert Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., DABT, Speaks in Saginaw

by Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Coordinator

World-renowned dioxin expert Dr. Linda Birnbaum, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, spoke about health at Swan Valley High School in Saginaw on April 13. The talk was the first in a series to address human and ecological health impacts from dioxin. The Lone Tree Council and the Ecology Center

host the expert speaker series to provide factual, research-based information about dioxin, the contaminant that plagues Midland and the Tittabawassee and Saginaw rivers and floodplains. The next speaker will be announced soon. Check out www.trwnews.net for more information.

The take-home points of Dr. Birnbaum's presentation support that cleanup must begin now, and it must be done for all levels over 90 parts per trillion, currently the state standard. Dioxins have a deleterious affect on human health even at very low levels—every

major bodily system is impacted. Dioxins have a half-life (the period of time during which dioxins remain toxic) that is many years, even decades, long.

It's clear that because dioxins have a long half-life of toxicity, the damaging chemical impacts to our bodies will continue. This means that the sooner that cleanup occurs, at all levels, the sooner our children, and their children, will have fewer health problems from dioxin exposure.

Chapter Funding Update

INVESTING IN MICHIGAN'S FUTURE

by Anne Woiwode, Mackinac Chapter Director

Everyone's gift to support the work of the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter comes with its own story. Whether the fight is in their own backyard to control sprawl or a belief

that the vision we carry in our hearts of a clean, safe and healthy Michigan future can be helped by the Sierra Club's dedicated and diverse array of tools.

Your investment
in the work of
the Sierra Club
is an act of hope
for the future.

Your investment in the work of the Sierra Club is an act of hope for the future of all children and for Michigan's most precious places, urban or wild. The ninety-plus Sierra Club volunteers who came from all over Michigan to the Club's Lansing Lobby Day to advocate to their legislators on mercury, transportation and CAFO issues showed the grit and determination of those who believe we can do better. Without the support and planning of the Mackinac Chapter, most of these people would not have known the importance of speaking up. Day-in and day-out Sierra Club staff help ensure that your voice is heard—for the health of the environment, for the health of the citizens of Michigan.

Please consider a gift to support the work of the Mackinac Chapter, the statewide Sierra Club in Michigan. Many members can make a gift through the fund appeal received in March, but there are many ways to contribute to building Sierra Club's work and effectiveness. If you would like more information about the ways you can support the Club's work, please contact Wendi Tilden at 517-484-2372.

Stories of Giving

- For the past few years, a gentleman in southern Michigan has sent the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter a generous annual contribution for our work to stop the pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). He is not a member of Sierra Club, but expresses his profound gratitude for our work to protect his community through these unsolicited gifts.
- In our largest city, where the challenges of stopping toxic air pollutants from medical and solid waste incineration have dragged out over decades, the extraordinary dedication of a handful of people has led to several astounding victories. These exceptional people also generously contribute to help keep the phones working and the lights on in the office, recognizing that a healthy and growing grassroots organization will secure those advances for the future.
- A forest activist with a deep passion for Michigan's magnificent forests gives both her time and her money to assure that the Mackinac Chapter can help increase the effectiveness of her fight.
- A long-time activist gave an early gift to the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter Political Committee in 2004 to give a head start to our ability to support candidates committed to fighting to protect Michigan's environment.

ADVERTISE IN THE MACKINAC AND REACH 20,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN MICHIGAN! CALL 231-352-4931 FOR OUR RATE CARD, OR EMAIL SHELDONJULIE@HOTMAIL.COM.

Many Thanks to Our 2004 Supporters

The Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter depends on the generosity of our members to provide financial support to assure that we can "explore, enjoy and protect" Michigan's extraordinary resources and environmental quality. We are grateful to all of those who made donations to support our work in 2004, and wish to particularly acknowledge the following:

✦ Educational Program Support

We wish to thank the Americana Foundation, C. S. Mott Foundation, Beldon Fund and Sierra Club Foundation for their generous support for the Mackinac Chapter's educational programs.

✦ Guardians (\$500-999)

Ed Engle
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Anonymous (3)

After Years of Opposition, the Central Wayne Trash Incinerator Finally Falls

by Ed McArdle, Southeast Michigan Group Conservation Chair

On March 19, a cold and snowy Saturday morning, cables attached to giant cranes brought down the smokestack of the Central Wayne trash incinerator in Dearborn Heights. Nearby, across the street from

the Federal Elementary School, a small band of anti-incinerator activists applauded as the dust plume rose in the air when the 225-foot stack hit the ground. After more than ten years of public hearings, countless meetings, door knocking and demonstrations, this was an especially sweet moment.

In 1994 the five cities of the Central Wayne Authority—Westland, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Garden City and Wayne—entered into an agreement with Constellation Energy of Baltimore, Maryland, to refurbish and expand the old trash burner that had been in operation since the 1960s. The expanded 800-ton per day trash burner was to be built with state-of-the-art pollution controls and turn waste into electricity. Yet despite new pollution controls, the three furnaces were a major source of heavy metals, including dioxins, some of the most toxic substances known to

science. Many local and environmental groups, including the Southeast Michigan Group of the Mackinac Chapter, as well as the Ecology Center, opposed the expansion on the basis of this increased pollution.

As the dust from the fallen incinerator settles, the five cities are still stuck with the expanded ash landfill that will require the cities to pump out groundwater into perpetuity, or for at least 30 more years—at which time the people of Michigan inherit the landfill. The bondholders may sue Constellation Energy for fraud. The five cities of the Central Wayne Authority still do not have, or seem interested in, a recycling program; they continue to send their trash to a landfill. Although the cities incurred savings with the closing of the incinerator, they claim that recycling programs cost too much.

After years of opposition by Sierra Club and other groups, the Central Wayne Trash Incinerator's menacing smokestack is pulled to the ground.



EDWARD MCARDLE

CLEAN LAKE
 TOXIC DUMPSITE



Humans have a choice when it comes to protecting our water. Nature doesn't.



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Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my Mastercard Visa
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Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Governors and Premiers: Protect Our Great Lakes!

by Rita Jack, Water Sentinels Project Coordinator

On March 31, 2005, the Sierra Club (U.S.) and the Sierra Club of Canada released a joint statement on the proposed Great Lakes Annex draft implementing agreement. The two environmental organizations stated clear opposition to diversions and increased water withdrawals in the Great Lakes Basin. The Sierra

Club (U.S.) and Canada urged the governors and premiers to develop a more protective draft of the Annex documents, based on maintaining the ecological integrity of the Great Lakes, that confirms the essential purpose of the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty, the International Joint Commission, the U.S. Water Resources Development Act, and that also confirms that the waters of the Great Lakes should stay within the Basin, with only very limited exceptions for existing diversions and communities that straddle the basin boundary.

The Sierra Club believes “that there is no such thing as surplus water ... and that all Great Lakes water currently has either a human or ecological function.” The Great Lakes hold nearly 20 percent of the world’s available fresh surface water, and 95 percent of the fresh surface water in the United States. Thirty-three million people in the region rely on the Great Lakes for industrial and agricultural uses, and most importantly, for clean drinking water. Though the Great Lakes seem vast, less than 1 percent of their waters are renewed annually, making the Lakes vulnerable to depletion. Affects of global climate change already include increased levels of evaporation, changes in spring runoff, and autumn precipitation—all of which have altered water levels in the Lakes. See www.lssu.edu/whats_new/articles.php?articleid=783 for more information.

GREAT LAKES WATER MANAGEMENT AND ANNEX 2001: A BRIEF HISTORY

The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 addresses shared water resource issues of the U.S. and Canada. Article 3 of the Treaty states that “no further or other uses or obstructions or diversions, whether temporary or permanent, of boundary waters on either side of the line, affecting the natural level or flow of boundary waters on the other side of the line shall

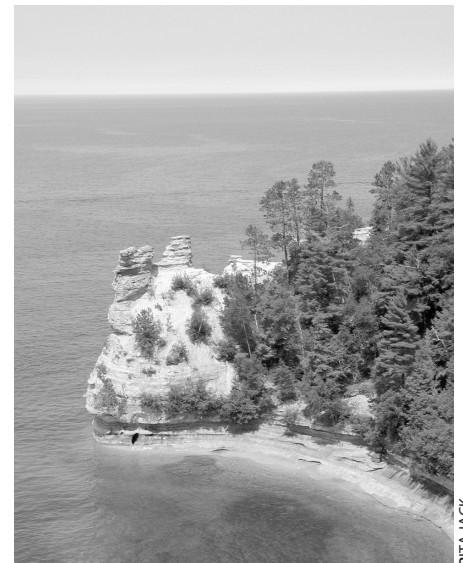
be made except by authority of the United States or the Dominion of Canada within their respective jurisdictions and with the approval, as hereinafter provided, of a joint commission, to be known as the International Joint Commission.”

The Great Lakes Charter of 1985 is a voluntary agreement through which the Great Lakes States and Provinces cooperatively manage the waters of the Great Lakes. The U.S. Federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 requires the governors’ unanimous approval on any proposed out-of-basin diversion or export of water from the Great Lakes Basin. However, the growing threat of harmful exports and diversions of water out of the Great Lakes Basin was still not met in entirety, and this vulnerability spurred the states and provinces to action to protect Great Lakes water. After a study of current laws and policies identified significant weaknesses, the basin governors and premiers developed and signed an agreement-in-principle, known as the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001.

In the agreement, the jurisdictions agreed to manage all basin water, including basin stream and groundwater, according to three principles:

1. Prevent or minimize water loss through “return flow” and “environmentally sound and economically feasible” water conservation.
2. Prevent harm to the quantity or quality of the water or the living things that depend on it, both by individual water taking projects and cumulatively over time.
3. “Improve” the waters and the ecosystem when we take water from the basin lakes, streams or ground.

The first draft of the Annex 2001 agreement was released for public consultation in July 2004 by the Council of Great Lakes Governors, who are joined by the



RYAN JACK

Castle Rock on Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula.

premiers of Ontario and Quebec for the Annex negotiations. For links to the first drafts of the documents, and more information on the process and timelines, see the website of the Council of Great Lakes Governors at www.cglg.org/projects/water/annex2001Implementing.asp

After the end of the first public consultation period in October of 2004, the Annex negotiators went back to incorporate the comments into the next round of draft documents, now due in May or June of 2005, after which the public consultation process will repeat.

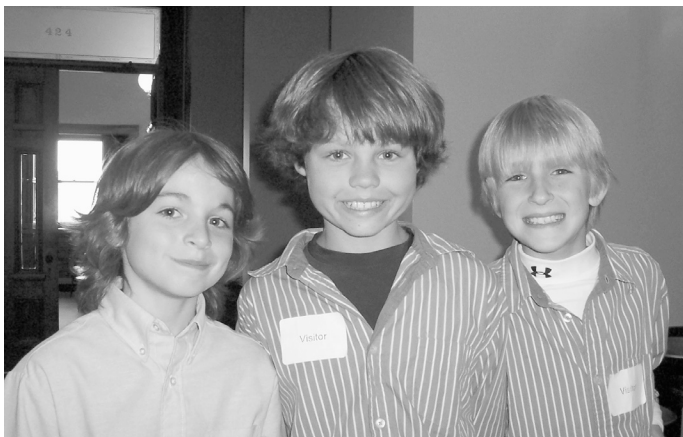
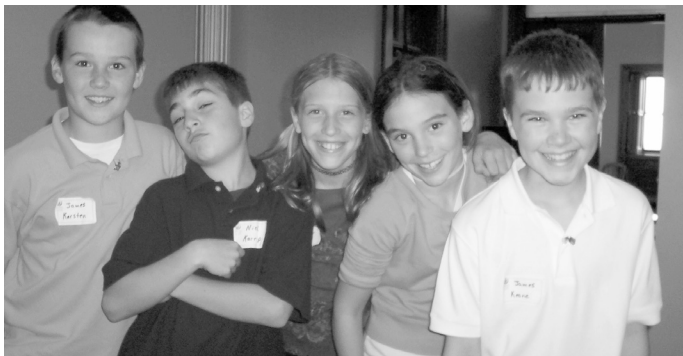
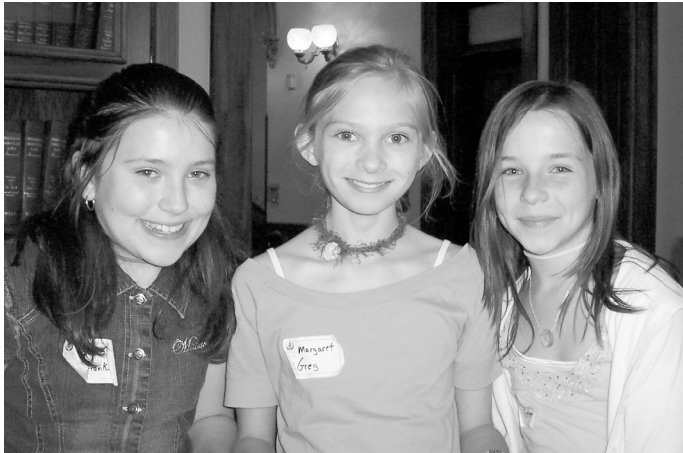
Both Sierra Club (U.S.) and Sierra Club of Canada are organizing members in the Great Lakes Basin to work for a final agreement that increases the conservation of water in the Basin, protects it from diversions and ensures that water is recognized as a human right, not a commodity. If you are interested in being involved in this process as further Annex 2001 drafts are developed, contact Rita Jack at rita.jack@sierraclub.org or Jan O’Connell at jan.oconnell@sierraclub.org.

LobbyDay2005

STUDENTS JOIN CITIZEN LOBBYISTS FOR LOBBY DAY

by Gayle Miller, Conservation Program Coordinator

Do kids care about Michigan's water? You bet they do! They also care about the food they eat and how that food is raised. The fifth graders at Wealthy Elementary School in East Grand Rapids cared enough to travel to Lansing to lobby their legislators about these issues. On April 20, the students joined 85



Top: Lobbyists Livia Lanfrankie, Margaret Gregg, and Ali Foster. Middle: James Karsten, Nick Karrip, Cassidy Clark, Colette Cunningham, and James Keane. Above: Ian Kelly, Nick Henderson, and JP Ferro.

citizen lobbyists from around the state for the Sierra Club's Spring Lobby Day at the Capitol.

In preparation for lobbying, the students and volunteers studied the issue of factory farms and how industrial animal production facilities (the source of most meat and dairy products) are wreaking havoc on Michigan's environment. Only 250 of the state's 53,000 farms are considered "factory farms." However, these massive facilities have a huge and devastating impact on the state's air and water, and the communities that surround them.

Adult lobbyists participated in as many as six meetings with legislators during the day. The students also lobbied lawmakers, took tours of the Capitol, watched House and Senate sessions, and met their own legislators. Representative David Hildenbrand spoke with his student constituents after lunch. While Senator Ken Sikema chose not to meet with the students, he did send an aide, who listened to the students' concerns about factory farms.

This spring's Lobby Day was the biggest and most exciting ever, with many new lobbyists, young and old, joining for the first time. One student enjoyed herself so much that she told me, "Lobby Day is my newest favorite holiday!"

Through its citizen lobbying efforts, the Sierra Club's goal is to prompt legislators to better regulate factory farms which are dumping millions of gallons of raw animal sewage into Michigan's waterways.



Gayle Miller, the Mackinac Chapter's Conservation Program Coordinator, is the organizer for Sierra Club's Lobby Day in Michigan.

To learn about future citizen lobbying opportunities (both in-district and at the Capitol), call Gayle Miller at 517-484-2372 or send an email to gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

A FIRST-TIME LOBBYIST TALKS ABOUT SIERRA CLUB LOBBY DAY

Emily Etue, a 23-year-old senior at Central Michigan University, and a first-time citizen lobbyist, wrote down her recollection of what it was like in Lansing during Sierra Club's Lobby Day.

This was my first Lobby Day, and I was nervous! I stayed up almost the entire night before Lobby Day worrying that I would sound like an idiot, get

lost or, worse, accomplish nothing. When I arrived at the capital, all those fears went away. The capital is literally alive; you can feel the energy. After our group's first meeting, I felt comfortable speaking up. After that, I think I would have talked to every legislator at the capital! It's really an invigorating experience.

It was amazing to learn how much our legislators DON'T know. Hearing the sentence, "What's a factory farm?" was really shocking. It made me realize that our legislators are only human and can't know everything. That's when I understood the true importance of Lobby Day. If we don't bring these issues to their attention, who will? I left the Capitol more hopeful and inspired than I had felt in a long time.



Top right: A debrief session after lobbying.
Right: A lobbyist, left, meets with a legislative aide.

Transitions

KIM HUNTER DEPARTS FROM SIERRA CLUB

After serving as the Sierra Club's Southeast Michigan Media Coordinator over the past year and a half, we are saying good-bye to Kim Hunter. During this time Kim worked with a number of environmental organizations to build their media skills and brought his strengths to bear particularly in work advocating for environmental justice policies in Detroit. Many thanks to Kim for his work and look for him to continue in the fight to secure environmental justice throughout Michigan.

WENDI TILDEN JOINS SIERRA CLUB STAFF

The Mackinac Chapter office is delighted to welcome Wendi Tilden as our new development director. Wendi has been a part of Michigan's environmental community for the past four years, serving as the campaign coordinator with the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC). In that role, Wendi worked with a wide array of member organizations of MEC to build their grassroots capacity and skills, including fundraising. With the growth both in size and scope of the Mackinac Chapter over the past several years, we welcome Wendi's enthusiasm and dedication to Sierra Club's efforts in Michigan. Please feel free to contact Wendi at the Mackinac Chapter office, 517-484-2372, with any questions about how you can support our work!

Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter

AUGUST 26–28, 2005 CAMP MINIWANCA ON LAKE MICHIGAN

You're invited to a magical place for a memorable weekend. The Autumn Retreat offers beautiful places to explore and new adventures to try. There will be new people to meet and maybe some old friends, too. Attend workshops about how to make a change in your neighborhood ... or a change in your life. Expect serious conversations (and unexpected silliness). Best of all, you get to take it all in at your own pace. The camp will do the cooking. We'll offer more vegetarian options than ever before. You can choose to bring your tent, stay in a rustic cabin or in (almost) hotel-style accommodations.

Remember to explore, enjoy and protect. You can find it all here ... the 16th Annual Mackinac Chapter Autumn Retreat.

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME!

Explore the great outdoors:

- Historic Camp Miniwanca
- Acres of mature woods
- Miles of sandy beach
- Biodiversity walk
- High ropes/climbing wall/
canoeing/fishing
- Bird hikes
- Naturalist & Survivor
Natural Landscaping
- Backpacking
- Stargazing
- Learn to sail

Protect the environment with:

- "How to be an Activist" training
- Educational workshops
on SC priority issues
- Your health with healthy eating
& personal growth workshops
- Environmental leader keynote address
- Issue-oriented workshops
- Green building, retrofits & investments
- Voluntary simplicity

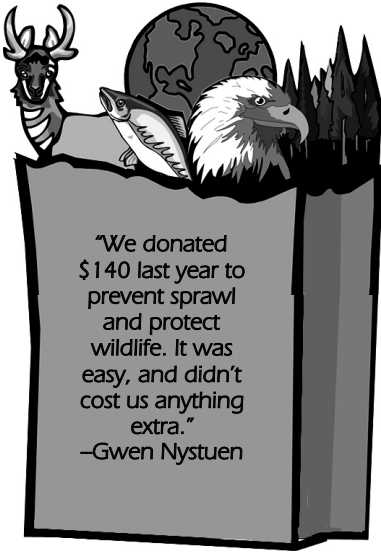
Enjoy good company and health lifestyle workshops:

- Singing around the campfire
- Professional live music
- Silent & outrageous live auction
- Open mic
- More vegetarian options!
- Coffee chat on Friday night
- Nature hikes and crafts for families
- Singles hike
- Massage for couples

PROTECT

ENJOY

EXPLORE



Shop for the Earth!

Living creatures need space to live. Over the past decade, Shopping for the Earth has helped generate \$110 million to preserve natural areas and farmland.

You can help us do more by buying EarthCash vouchers for the stores where you already shop.



For every \$20 of vouchers you buy, you get \$20 in store credit and earn \$1 for the local Sierra Club.

Complete details are available at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/sfte.htm>

Help preserve nature at no cost to you!

Shopping for the Earth Order Form

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

	\$5	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$100
Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op						
Arbor Brewing Company						
Arbor Farms						
Borders Books & Music						
Busch's* - Limit 1						
Farmer Jack (and affiliated stores)						
Hiller's Markets						
Holiday Market (Royal Oak)						
Kroger* (and affiliated stores)						
Whole Foods (and affiliated stores)						

* Reloadable electronic cash cards

Please contact us if you want to contribute through the Meijer Community Rewards program.

Your Name: _____
 Your Address: _____

 Your Phone number: _____
 Your email address: _____

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

Sierra Student Coalition Campaigns

by Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club Student / Conservation Organizer

I WILL EVOLVE

It's quite simple. Fish needed gills. Birds got wings. And we need to produce energy without devastating the planet.

It's time for us to evolve, and the good news is that we have the technology to do it. The "I Will Evolve" campaign encourages fuel efficiency and promotes the use of hybrid vehicles. According to the July 4, 2004, issue of the *Detroit News*, the average fuel economy of Ford's fleet is 18.8 miles per gallon. Students across the nation do not find this acceptable, especially when there are technologies available to increase fuel efficiency. To name just a few: Continuously Variable Automatic Transmission (CVT), Variable-Valve-Control Engine, Integrated Starter-Generator (ISG), as well as having a fuel-efficient design.

It's time to evolve. Don't be a fossil! Take action and write a letter to President Bush demanding that he raise fuel-efficiency standards to 40 miles per gallon. But don't stop there. Also demand that he increase our use of clean, renewable energy by 20 percent by 2020. Send your letter, addressed to President George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.

For more information go to www.iwillevolve.org.

VICTORIA'S DIRTY SECRET

Forest destruction is so sexy.

Not really.

The Little Smokey Endangered Forest is being devastated to provide fiber for Victoria's Secret estimated 395 million catalogs that are sent out yearly—that's more than one million per day! Students across the nation, including Michigan, continue to hold press conferences and rallies to bring attention to this issue—collecting postcards that are directly sent to the CEO of Victoria's Secret. And the good news is that it is working. In late March, the CEO met with folks to discuss the possibility of using recycled paper. Keep up the great work and continue to take action—victory is around the corner. And keep spreading the word. If you receive catalogs in the mail from Vicky's, send them back with a letter demanding the catalogs be printed on recycled paper.

For more information go to www.victoriastdirtysecret.net.

Want to start one or both of these campaigns at your school? Contact Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club Student/Conservation Organizer.



Contact Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club Student/Conservation Organizer for the Building Environmental Communities Program, at melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org or 248-435-5277.

Midwest SSC Summer Program Changes Dates

**NOW TO BE HELD
JULY 11–17, 2005**

The Midwest SSC SPROG will still be held at Pere Marquette State Park in Grafton, Illinois (near St. Louis, Missouri), but is now taking place July 11–17.

The SSC's Student Environmental Leadership Trainings are week-long programs led by the nation's top student activists. They teach students how to develop strong, effective groups that can tackle serious environmental issues. Throughout the week, the program focuses on helping students prepare to take what they have learned and put it to the test at their schools.

Discussion Topics include:

- Energy
- Forest Ecosystems
- Eco-Feminism
- Environmental Justice
- Global Trade
- And much more

Seats are limited and filling up fast. To learn more and get signed up please visit the SSC website at www.ssc.org/t/sprogs-il.htm.

Group Meetings & Programs

[HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/GROUPS.HTML](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/groups.html)

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

2005-06 Executive Committee Meetings

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

SUMMER: 7/9-10, Tahquamenon Falls State Park
FALL: 10/15, Sierra Club office in Clawson

AG: Algonquin Group

Emmet, Charlevoix, Cheboygan & Presque Isle Counties

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

CMG: Central Michigan Group

Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson & Shiawassee Counties

GROUP CHAIR: Pete Pasterz, 517-676-3339 or pasterz@msu.edu.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Third Monday of each month, East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Rd. East Lansing, MI. Come at 5:30pm for supper (small donation requested) or 6:15 for meeting.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: 5:30pm, second Tuesday of each month. Contact Maria Lapinski-Lafaive, 517-374-4444, mlapinsk@wmich.edu.

OUTINGS: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796.

HELP WANTED: webmaster, publicity, outings leaders, information/merchandise tables. Contact Pete Pasterz, 517-676-3339 or pasterz@msu.edu.

CUPG: Central Upper Peninsula Group

Alger, Baraga, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee & Ontonagon Counties

CHAIR: John Rebers, jrebers@nmu.edu or 906-228-3617.

GENERAL MEETINGS: General membership & executive committee meetings: 7pm in the Community Room of Peter White Library, 217 N. Front Street, Marquette. No general meetings planned for June, July, & Aug. General meetings resume in September. Please join us for a Little Presque Isle cleanup or one of our other outings.

OUTINGS: Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

HELP WANTED: webmaster, newsletter, Little Presque Isle Cleanup, publicity. Contact John Rebers, jrebers@nmu.edu.

CG: Crossroads Group

Livingston, southern Genesee & western Oakland Counties

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/xroads

CHAIR: Rick Pearsall 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm 3rd Wed of odd numbered months (no July meeting) at the Brighton Library, 200 Orndorff Drive, Brighton.

5/25 Babes in the Woods

9/21 Live Reptile & Amphibian Show

11/16 Restoring Native Ecosystems at Brighton, Island Lake, & Pinckney State Rec Areas.

OUTINGS: Cheryl McConnell 517-552-1464 or cheryl.mcconnell@michigan.sierraclub.org

HELP WANTED: Conservation chair, outings leaders. Howell Balloonfest helpers, 6/24-26. Contact Rick Pearsall 810-227-6298 or rick.pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org.

HVG: Huron Valley Group

Lenawee, Monroe & Washtenaw Counties

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

HVG HOTLINE: 734-480-7751

CO-CHAIRS: Doug Cowherd, dmcowherd3@comcast.net & Mike Sklar, mssklar@comcast.net

GENERAL MEETINGS: Third Tuesday each month, 7:30pm at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800

N. Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor.

5/17 Greenway or Concrete Jungle? Re-Imagining Downtown Ann Arbor with Margaret Wong, Friends of the Ann Arbor Greenway.

6/21 Go Take a Hike: Solo Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada with John Hildebrand.

7/19 Three Tours of Matthaei Botanical Gardens

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Nancy Shiffler, 734-971-1157 or Bill Rodgers, 734-769-0163

HVG BOOK CLUB: Second Tuesday each month, 7:30pm at Nicola's Books in Westgate Shopping Center, Ann Arbor. Read a selected book about nature or the environment on your own & then discuss it in a small group. Contact David Brooks at dhbrooks@umich.edu.

OUTINGS: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823

INNER CITY OUTINGS: 7pm, second Sunday each month, Room 302, Halle Library, EMU campus. Inner City Outings introduces urban children in Washtenaw Co. to outdoor & environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners & contributors are always welcome. Contact us at washtenawico@yahoo.com.

KVG: Kalamazoo Valley Group

Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph & Van Buren Counties

CHAIR: Paul Haas, 269-664-5417 paulhs@aol.com

GENERAL MEETINGS: 7pm monthly, third Wednesday at Kalamazoo Public Library, Oshtemo Branch, 7265 W. Main. (No meeting in May.) Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 (eve); 269-488-4268 (days); vmills@kvcc.edu.

OUTINGS: Verne Mills, 269-344-4279 or vmills@kvcc.edu.

NG: Nepessing Group

Genesee, Lapeer & northern Oakland Counties

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

CHAIR: Dennis Cripsell, 989-624-5038 or jpbkey@aol.com.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Second Wednesday each month (except July & December) at Mott Community College, E. Court St, Flint, Michigan. Held in the Genesee room of the Prah Center (New Student Building). Meetings begin 7pm with committee reports, followed by a program with an environmental theme. Light snacks are provided. The public is always welcome!

OUTINGS: Dave Mansfield, 810-658-0406 or mansfieldd@chartermi.net. Please check our website for outings listings.

NEMG: Northeast Michigan Group

Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Iosca, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda & Roscommon Counties.

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

SEMIG: Southeast Michigan Group

Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair & Wayne Counties

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/semig

CHAIR: Jim Nash, 248-471-3759 or nashlibdem@msn.com

GENERAL MEETINGS: First Thursday each month, September-June, Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. Social time: 7pm. Business meeting 7:30pm. Program: 8-9pm. For more information on SEMIG programs contact Carol Izant at cogknot@yahoo.com or 248-352-6137.

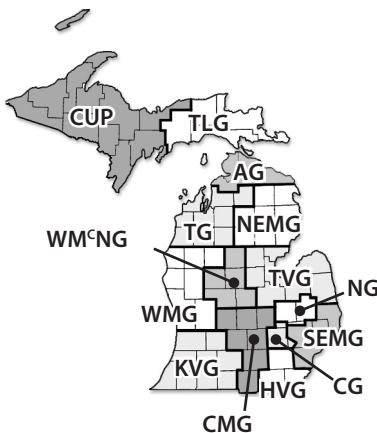
OUTINGS CHAIR: Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873 or wanderphil3@netzero.net.

OUTINGS COORDINATOR: Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370. Visit our website for outings listings.

6/11 Quarterly Planning Meeting & Potluck. Non-committee members are welcome. Bring a potluck dish to pass at 5:30 then participate in the next quarter's planning meeting (Aug-Oct). Mary Stoomiller's house in Troy, 248-879-6004.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: The Conservation Committee meets every third Thursday of the month at the Sierra Club BEC office, Tri-Centre Business Complex, 100 N Crooks Rd, Suite #105, Clawson. Contact Ed McArdle 313-388-6645 or ecoed@netzero.net.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Political Committee meetings are held at 6:30pm on the last Thursday of each month (no meeting in Oct.) at Jimi's Restaurant at 714 S. Washington in Royal Oak. All are welcome! Contact Tim Killeen, Political Chair, 313-526-4052 or timk@bikerider.com.



Group boundaries of the Mackinac Chapter Sierra Club

TLG: Three Lakes Group

Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac & Schoolcraft Counties

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: Thursday evenings, 7pm each month from September-May at Crawford Hall, Lake Superior State University campus.

OUTINGS: Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@LSSU.edu. Monthly hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc. for the Three Lakes Group takes place 9am on the first Saturday of each month, Oct. through April, at the Michigan Welcome Center.

HELP WANTED: webmaster, publicity, monitor environmental alerts from chapter. Contact Roger Blanchard, 906-253-9316 or rblanchard@LSSU.edu.

TVG: Thumb Valley Group

Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Huron, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac & Tuscola Counties.

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

TG: Traverse Group

Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Antrim & Otsego Counties

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/traverse

CHAIR: Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net

GENERAL MEETINGS: Fourth Tuesday each month September-May at Traverse Area District Library. Special outdoor activities June-August.

Our group is frequently involved in community forums, informational meetings concerning local environmental issues & special educational events. For details on meetings & programs, contact Monica Evans, 231-325-6812, or check our website.

5/31 Special date & program: The Boardman River Dam Project: Removing the Dams, Restoring the Natural Environment.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Contact Monica for dates & places, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Jim Stricko, 231-275-7596, or Peggy Fry, 231-218-2587.

OUTINGS: Andrea Dean, 231-947-9344.

HELP WANTED: Outings leaders, help with fundraising, monthly meeting program coordinator. Contact Monica Evans, 231-325-6812 or imagine@betsievalley.net.

WMcNG: Wakelin McNeel Group

Clare, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta & Montcalm Counties.

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/wakelin-mcneel

Active members wanted. Contact Julie Murphy, 989-426-5378 or soaringbuteos@msn.com.

WMG: West Michigan Group

Kent, Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola & Ottawa Counties

WEBSITE: michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan

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

GENERAL MEETINGS: 6pm, second Thursday of each month at the downtown YMCA, 33 Library NE, Grand Rapids. Everyone is welcome! Contact Craig Ressler, 616-891-9055 or craig_ressler@yahoo.com.

OUTINGS: Lisa Symons, 616-942-6549 or greensymons@yahoo.com.

INNER CITY OUTINGS: Sierra Club members provide outdoor experiences for nonmembers who might not otherwise have them. Most of our participants are young people from urban communities. Our success helps to increase the environmental awareness, interpersonal skills, & self-esteem of the participants through active involvement with nature. Interested ICO volunteers are welcome to attend meetings and/or e-mail us with your suggestions. For more information, to volunteer or to donate call John Pulver at 616-457-5999 (days), 616-453-2480 (eve), or Paula Ballast at 231-861-6548 or Logcabinballast@aol.com.

MackinacChapterOutings

[HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/OUTINGS.HTML](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/outings.html)

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

May

5/22 SEMG Kensington Metropark Heron Hike.

11:30am. Mod-pace, 5-mi through woods & around Wildwing Lake. Great blue herons will be nesting. Other migrants are likely. Bring binoculars & field guides. Meet in Southfield behind the Marathon station, Tel-12 Mall or at Kensington Nature Center at 12:15pm. Restaurant stop after. Jeanne Mercier, 313-581-6648. [E]

5/26-30 HVG North Manitou Island Service Trip.

Part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. One work day & one free day to enjoy the island. North Manitou is a designated wilderness full of beautiful sand dunes, wildflower meadows, forests & unspoiled beaches. Denny Burr 734-482-9686. Cost \$54 per person. Limit 16 people. [S]

5/27-6/6 CUPG 19th Annual Canadian Backpacking Expedition (Agawa Canyon & Montreal River Gorge) for the very fit, equipped, expert-level, foul-weather, off-trail hiker.

More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

5/29 SEMG Metro Beach Metropark Hike.

Noon. 2 level hike: 5mi brisk hike through nature area, hiking trails & perimeter of the lakeshore & 4mi slower walk, taking time to scan for birds, etc. Dress for May weather, call if weather is questionable. Meet in Sterling Hts at Metro-Pkway & Van Dyke SMART lot. Restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-773-3104.

June

6/4 CG Recycle Livingston, 9am-1pm. A

work outing at our local recycling center. Karen Pierce, karen.pierce@michigan.sierraclub.org or Rick Pearsall 810-227-6298 pearsall@michigan.sierraclub.org. [S]

6/4 SEMG Maybury State Park hike.

9am. mod-paced 3mi hike on less traveled trails in rolling park, site of former TB Sanitarium & the rebirth of the living farm. Look for bluebirds at monitored nest boxes. Enjoy wildflowers in the fields & woods. Meet at park concession bldg, 8 Mile Rd entrance. Trip goes rain or shine. Restaurant & ice

cream stop after. Tom Griebe 248-349-8782. [E]

6/5 HVG 20th Anniversary Waterloo Pinckney Trail Hike.

In collaboration with Parks & Recreation naturalist Faye Stoner. Hike at a leisurely pace & observe points of interest. Learn history of this trail. Meet at City Hall parking lot, 12:15pm. Kathy Guerreso 734-677-0823.

6/5 SEMG Canoe the Lower Huron.

9am. Identify wildlife coming to life as we drift down the river. 4-hour easy paddle from Hudson Mills Metropark down to Delhi. Stop halfway for picnic lunch.

Some canoe experience required. Reservations of \$17 must be sent to Phil Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI. 48125 by 5/25. Bring river lunch, dry clothes. Meet in Livonia between Wal Mart & Jiffy Lube SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873. [E]

6/10 HVG Friday Night Outdoor Adventure

Center Tour. Learn about the center, wilderness medicine, the climbing wall, trips & rentals. Meet at City Hall parking lot 5pm. (Lasts approx 1 hr). Kathy Guerreso 734-677-0823.

6/12 HVG Inner City Outings Meeting.

7pm. Rm 302 Halle Library, EMU campus. Inner City Outings introduces urban children in Washtenaw Co to outdoor & environmental experiences that might not otherwise be available to them. Interested chaperones, sponsors, planners, & contributors are always welcome.

6/12 SEMG Heritage Park Family Nature Exploration.

1pm. 2-3 easy miles looking for wildflowers & birds, observing natural habitats. Bring a picnic lunch & drink for an after-outing meal in the park. Those who wish can visit the nature center afterwards. Meet in Heritage Park Visitor Center parking lot, west side of Farmington Road between 10 & 11 Mile Rds. Joanne Antoni, 248-932-5370.

6/15 CUP Little Presque Isle Tract Cleanup.

10am at Little Presque Isle parking lot, Co Rd 550. Join us for a short hike after the cleanup. Dave Allen, 906-228-9453. [S]

6/19 SEMG Bald Mountain North Hike.

11am. Mod-paced 5mi hike on north trails of great State Rec. Area. Look for early summer flora blooming. Bring water, bug repellent. Meet in Troy behind

Std Federal Bank, 14 Mile Rd. near Oakland Mall. Optional restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane 586-773-3104; John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

6/25 SEMG Oakland County Prairie Visit.

10am. Slow 2-3 hour walk over level terrain. Visit Golden Prairie-Oakland Land Conservancy heritage prairie-with OLC docent. See lovely lupines & other prairie flora. Meet in Troy behind the Std Federal Bank on 14 Mile Rd. Donation to OLC is suggested. Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne Antoni, 248-932-5370. [E]

6/26 SEMG Metamora Rec Area Hike. 1pm. Bring water, snacks & swimsuit for 5mi moderate paced hike. Possible dip in Minnawanna Lake after. Trip goes rain or shine. Meet Bloomfield Twp Costco parking lot, Telegraph Rd. Milton French, 313-295-6321.

July

7/2-10 CUPG 19th Annual Summer Canadian Backpacking Expedition-Lake Superior Provincial Park.

Explore the seldom-traveled, trail-less bush between the north end of the coastal trail & the Old Woman River. For the very fit, equipped, expert-level, foul-weather, off-trail expeditioner. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

7/3 SEMG Waterloo Rec Area Hike.

10am. Moderately vigorous 5-mi hike along the most hilly & wildest part of the trail-Green Lake to Bush Road & back. Hike thick forests & open meadows. Meet in Livonia between WalMart & Jiffy Lube, SW corner of Middlebelt & I-96. Dress for bugs. Possible restaurant stop after. Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645.

7/10 HVG Inner City Outings Meeting.

7pm. Rm 302 Halle Library, EMU campus. See 6/12 listing for details.

7/10 HVG Adopt-a-Highway Volunteers.

Support Michigan Dept of Transportation's cleanup program. 1mi hike clearing debris & trash, then snack & refreshment on us. Continue hiking & picking up trash for 1 more mile. Dress for weather. Wear boots. Meet 9:15am at Big Boy on Plymouth Rd. Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823. [S]

7/10 SEMG Hike the History of Monroe.

10:30am. Walking history tour of the hometown of Gen George Armstrong Custer. Stand at the 15' tall bronze statue of 'yellowhair'. Visit the Monroe Co Museum, Raisin River Battlefield Visitor Center, & war memorials. Bring picnic lunch to enjoy near historic river. For details visit michigan.sierraclub.org/semg. Or meet at Battlefield visitor center 10:30am. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579, Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873. [E]

7/11-25 TLG Quetico Provincial Park Wilderness

Canoeing. Rigorous trip to remote part of park. Start at Nym Lake to McKenzie Lake. Numerous falls & rapids. 2-mi portage to Cache Lake. Take Cache River back to Kawnipi Lake & Nym Lake. Roger Blanchard, rblanchard@LSSU.edu or 906-253-9316 evenings.

7/17 SEMG Huron River Canoe Trip. 9:30am.

Paddle through Island Lake State Park on scenic stretch of the Huron River. See kingfishers, herons & other wildlife. Must call to reserve canoe by 7/10. Meet in Southfield behind Marathon station near Tel-12 Mall. Bring lunch, dry bag & \$16 for rental. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

7/23 CUP Little Presque Isle Tract cleanup. 10am

at Little Presque Isle parking lot, Co Rd 550. Join us for a short hike after the cleanup. Dave Allen, 906-228-9453. [S]

7/24 SEMG Pontiac Lake Hike. Noon. 5-mile

moderate to brisk hike through rich woods & hilly terrain in this State Rec. Area -7 miles West of Pontiac. Rain or shine, bring trail lunch & water. Meet at the beach & bike trailhead in park (Gale Rd entrance). Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326.

7/31 SEMG Holly Rec. Area Hike. 11am. 4 mi/mod

pace on hilly Holly trails. Picnic lunch on banks of the lake & swim afterwards. Bring lunch, water, bug repellent, desert to pass, swim suit. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind CVS at Woodward & Square Lake Rd. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

August

8/4-15 CUPG 19th Annual Autumn Canadian Backpacking Expedition-Pukaskwa National Park.

Extremely rugged coastal trail hike/exploration of surrounding bush in search of waterfalls, pristine beaches, etc., for the very fit, equipped, expert-level, foul-weather, on/off-trail expeditioner. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

8/7 SEMG Seven Lakes Hike, Picnic & Swim.

9am. 6mi mod-paced hike through hilly terrain & varied habitat amongst lakes & ponds. Observe & identify the indigenous flora including the new prairie restoration project. Bring picnic lunch & swim suit. Rain or shine. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind CVS, Woodward & Square Lake Rd. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575. [E]

8/8-13 TLG North Country Trail Backpack. Tahquomenon Falls S.P. to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Magnificent Lake Superior scenery. Roger Blanchard, rblanchard@LSSU.edu or 906-253-9316 evenings.

8/13 SEMG Chrysler Canada Greenway Biking.

10am. Ride on Essex County's multi-use trail, converted from a railroad bed. This is the most southerly link of the Trans-Canada Trail. 25 miles round trip, 10-12mph over mostly flat & open countryside from Harrow to Ruthven. Lunch at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens. Possible stop at Pointe Pelee Winery. Meet 10am at Ontario Tourist Office, Huron Church Rd, 1/4 mile S of Ambassador Bridge. Bring passport or birth certificate & photo ID. Nancy Ward, 313-562-3210.

8/19-21 TG South Manitou Island Base Camp.

Fri-Sun on beautiful, historic South Manitou. Register by 8/12. \$20 per person. Limit 20. Rob, 231-620-8085.

8/20 SEMG Seven Ponds Prairie Flower Walk.

9:30am. 5-mi, moderate pace viewing late summer prairie & wetland wildflowers. Bring water, insect repellent. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind CVS, Woodward & Square Lake Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. Mary Powell 810-732-3884. [E]

8/27 CUP Little Presque Isle Tract cleanup. 10am

at Little Presque Isle parking lot, Co Rd 550. Join us for a short hike after the cleanup. Dave Allen, 906-228-9453. [S]

8/28 SEMG Ojibway, Ontario, Prairie Flowers & Hike.

10:30am. Enjoy summer flowers in the prairie while sun is low then head for the wooded trails for 5 mod-paced miles on level terrain. Bring insect repellent & picnic lunch. Meet behind Dearborn Centennial Library, south side of Michigan Ave. Bring passport or birth certificate & photo ID. Call if weather is ? Joanne Cantoni 248-932-5370. [E]

September

9/2-6 CUPG Backpacking-Rock River Canyon & Falls, Silver Falls; N Alger County.

Very rugged cross-country hike for the very fit, equipped, intermediate-level, foul-weather, off-trail trekker. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.

9/17 CUP Little Presque Isle Tract Cleanup.

10am at Little Presque Isle parking lot, Co Rd 550. Join us for a short hike after the cleanup. Dave Allen, 906-228-9453. [S]

9/30-10/4 CUPG Backpacking-Mulligan Plains Escarpment; N Marquette Co.

Very rugged cross-country hike for the very fit, equipped, intermediate-level, foul-weather, off-trail trekker. More at <http://therucksack.tripod.com>. Michael Neiger, mneiger@hotmail.com.



GEORGE HAZEN MCCANN

One hundred participants enjoyed the April 16 4-mile "Environmental Fun Run" at Kensington Park, designed to increase public awareness of the Sierra Club.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID September 24-25, 2005, Howell

This 16-hour WFA course is designed for Sierra Club leaders from Inner City Outings, Group & Chapter Outings, and National Outings. This course is sponsored by the Outdoor Activities Training Program of the Sierra Club. Upon successful completion of this course you will receive a 3-year WFA certification from Foster Calm (it does not include CPR). While prior CPR certification is preferred it is not required. Additionally, no prior first aid experience or certification is necessary.

Register online at www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2005_WFA_Michigan.asp or by phone, 415-977-5588 (8:30-5 PST, M-F). Please have your credit card information ready.

OUTINGS LEADERS LIST

Join an email discussion list for Mackinac Chapter Outings Leaders. Go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives>, click on the list name (MI-OUTINGS-LEADERS-FORUM), then click "join."

OUTINGS PARTICIPANTS LIST

Receive once-a-month email announcements of upcoming outings by joining the Mackinac Chapter Outings News List. Go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives>. Click on the list name (MI-OUTINGS-NEWS) then click "join."

Taking Action: Your Words Count!

[HTTP://MICHIGAN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/ACTION.HTML](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/action.html)

The White House

President George W. Bush
The White House

White House fax line:
202-456-2461

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1414

White House comment line:
202-456-1111

White House email:
president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Congress

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

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

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

Michigan

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

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

Resources for Activists

- Get your free copy of "A Citizen's Guide To State Government" to find out who your legislators are. Call House Speaker Craig DeRoche, 517-373-0827, or Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, 517-373-0797. Tell them you are concerned about environmental protection, and ask for a copy!
- Check out the Daily Scoop at www.sierraclub.org/scoop/ to keep up on current environmental news and ways you can take action.
- ENVIRO-MICH is the Mackinac Chapter-sponsored Internet list and forum for Michigan environmental and conservation Issues. For a free subscription, email majordomo@great-lakes.net with a one-line message in the body of "subscribe enviro-mich" (leave your signature file off).
- Visit our Mackinac Chapter Website for updates on the issues in *The Mackinac*, and to find out how to get involved: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>
- Get a free subscription to The Planet by promising to write at least three letters a year to your elected officials in support of the environment. Send your name and address to Sierra Club Planet Subscription Request, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.
- Email Activists Needed! Join the Sierra Club's Mackinac Action Network. Members receive periodic legislative updates and respond to alerts when critical environmental bills are being acted upon in the Michigan House and Senate. When the Sierra Club needs you most, we'll contact you via email. To respond to alerts, simply follow the web link, customize a suggested message to the targeted legislators, and press Send. Sign up at <http://mackinac.sierraclubaction.org> (note that there is no "www" in the address). For more information, email gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

BLACK PARROT PADDLING, LLC.

Seakayaking Instructional Centre

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www.blackparrotpadding.com

or call (734) 878-3689

Pinckney, Michigan

UnClassifieds

ENJOY FUNDRAISING? You can help your local group raise money by selling Sierra Club calendars, recycled paper stationery and T-shirts. Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, 517-484-2372.

GET YOUR PICTURES IN OVER 20,000 HOMES! *The Mackinac* seeks volunteers to take photos of outings, landscapes and images to accompany articles about conservation issues. For guidelines contact George Hazen McCann, photo editor, at hazenmccann@netscape.net.



**Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN**

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-Mackinac Chapter and other earth-friendly organizations at work. For more information, visit www.earthsharemichigan.org.

Mackinac Chapter Directory

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In a Nutshell: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

Michigan's rural heritage includes a long history of thriving agriculture, producing the best apples, cherries, corn, soybeans, and milk, beef and pork. But livestock agriculture is dramatically different now from small family farms just 30 years ago. Factory farms emphasize unsustainably high production,

forcing animals to grow fatter faster, produce more milk, more eggs, more meat—with devastating results to our countryside. Irreversible damage is done to local economies as small family farms are replaced with megafarms and homeowners lose property value. Human health is at risk from breathing air polluted by factory farm emissions, and from their use of subtherapeutic doses of antibiotics. But it doesn't have to be this way.

The Sierra Club urges the Michigan legislature to enact laws to control the impacts of CAFOs on Michigan's environment and human health. Features should include:

- A moratorium on new CAFO facilities until strong pollution prevention laws are established and effective monitoring and compliance and enforcement activities are implemented.
- Requirements for environmental permits for all CAFOs, including surface water discharge, groundwater discharge, and air quality permits, or an integrated all-inclusive permitting system.
- Permit fees that cover the full costs of permitting, monitoring, and enforcement activities by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- Public notice of all newly proposed or expanding CAFOs, with opportunities for public comment prior to construction, and public access to critical information about the proposed design and management of the operation to allow meaningful input.
- An end to state and federal government subsidies for CAFO construction and infrastructure.
- Prohibition of land-application as a method of untreated liquefied CAFO waste disposal. Numerous methods of alternative waste management are available and should be implemented instead of the lagoon and sprayfield systems used today in Michigan. Alternative waste management includes composting, wastewater treatment, rotational grazing, and so on.
- Allow citizens to take legal action against CAFO owners/operators for violation of environmental laws and against the state for failure to enforce regulations.
- Establishment of a CAFO cleanup fund, created through fines and permit fees, for cleanup and enforcement activities.
- Require managers of new or expanding CAFOs to obtain certified training in proper animal and waste management techniques.
- Require an appropriate number of acres of land per each animal confined in a CAFO, to assure that nutrient distribution (in animal waste) is at agronomic rates.

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

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.