

TheMackinac

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S MICHIGAN CHAPTER • WINTER 2009

Michigan Moving Beyond Coal!

Anne Woiwode, State Director

Brad Kallio envisions a new green energy economy for Michigan. Shawn Kinkema believes his home town can be a clean energy center instead of home to the last Michigan coal plant dinosaur.

Kallio, a Grand Rapids inventor, and Kinkema, a UM student from Essexville, are among the thousands of Michiganders speaking up for the jobs and economic benefits clean energy is growing in our state, and for moving Michigan beyond coal.

Just two years after Michigan became #1 in proposed new coal plants in the country, the tide is turning in favor of clean energy and jobs. Sierra Club and our coalition partners are making a strong case against the \$10+ billion gamble electric utilities want to take with your electric rates. Northern Michigan University and LS Power withdrew coal plant permits in May, and Lansing has put a proposed coal plant plan on hold.

Laws enacted in 2008 requiring energy efficiency and renewable portfolios for all utilities are being implemented, and the public is demanding more clean energy choices. Job growth in clean energy industries is growing faster than any other sector, a bright spot in Michigan's economy.

And the true risks and costs of coal are becoming clearer. In September, the Public Service Commission (PSC) staff issued a report for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) concluding that there was no need for the Wolverine's proposed Rogers City plant nor for Consumer Energy's planned coal



COLLEEN M BROWN / WEB.ME.COM/COLLEENBROWN

Ahmina Maxey, Michelle Martinez and John Williams rally in support of Michigan Moving Beyond Coal at DTE's River Rouge Plant in Detroit.

plant until at least 2022. Decreasing demand, increasing energy efficiency, cleaner sources of power, and the ability to buy power from existing sources were cited, as was documented by environmental groups.

The DEQ is now reviewing the PSC staff report and the thousands of comments submitted by the public on the draft permits and Electrical Generation Alternatives Analysis (EGAA) for both

Consumers and Wolverine. Decisions on these permits are expected in late 2009. Holland Board of Public Works is expected to submit their EGAA this fall.

The dreams of Sierra Club members like Brad Kallio and Shawn Kinkema aren't real yet, but Michigan is much closer to that reality now. For more go to <http://tinyurl.com/coalnich>.

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THE MACKINAC

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TheMackinac

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Clean Energy Jobs Rally at the State Capitol in Lansing on July 29, 2009

ANNE WOIWODE

In the Spotlight

Michigan Sierra Club Member Wins National Accolades

Angela Vasquez-Giroux

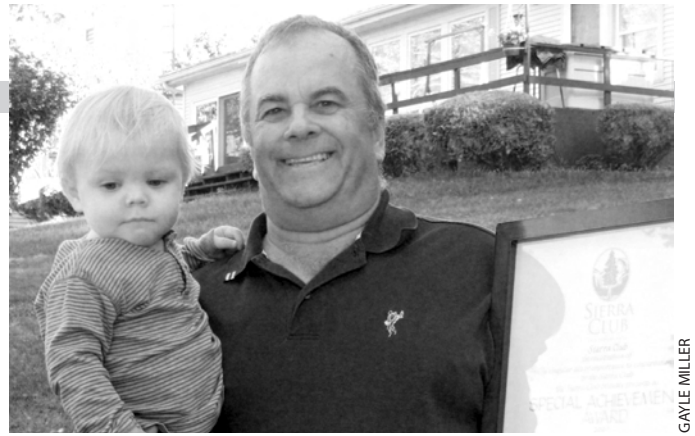
John Klein, a Sierra Club member from Hudson, MI, has received Sierra Club's 2009 Special Achievement award for his photographic documentation of illegal Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) activity in Michigan since March, 2001. The award honors an individual Sierra Club member for a single act of particular importance dedicated to conservation.

Klein has taken thousands of aerial photographs instrumental in making a case to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality about the severe problems caused by CAFOs.

"The photos have been the primary driving force for judgments and fines against CAFO operators and have often been the only evidence of violations and non-compliance after consent judgments have been issued," said Michigan Chapter volunteer Edward Steinman.

The award was presented at the September 16 meeting of Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan.

The Michigan Chapter doled out awards as well. The Sylvania Award, which recognizes a Sierra Club volunteer demonstrating great enthusiasm, went to Leigh Fifelski. Ralph and Barbara



GAYLE MILLER

Sierra Club Special Achievement Award winner John Klein with his grandson

Powell snagged the Marlene Fluharty Award, given to chapter members who have served the Sierra Club on at least two levels over an extended period of time and have made significant contributions.

Other award winners are as follows:

- **Bunyan Bryant Environmental Justice Award:** Sally Kniffen
- **Burton Barnes Award:** Peter Sinclair
- **White Pine Award:** Bud DeLong and Tom Harkelroad
- **Print Journalism Award:** Miriam Moeller
- **On-line Journalism Award:** Glenn Puit

Service Awards:

- **Southeast Michigan Group:** Italia Milan
- **Central Michigan Group:** Paul Kindel
- **Nepessing Group:** Susan Carr
- **Chapter Service:** Julianna Weaver

Michigan Chapter Plans for Future

By Jean Gramlich, Michigan Chapter Chair

Why strategic planning? (I know—it sounds so wonky and dry!) A strategic plan for the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club provides a road map through the jungle of environmental issues, helping us to be a more effective organization. The plan is an overview of our identity, our mission and our goals for the next five years, as well as a public document to present to other organizations and to potential donors. And it will help us measure our achievements through time.

A group of dedicated volunteers and staff have been working on the plan for almost a year, and the final draft was

presented to the Executive Committee in October. Major goals and strategies are outlined in the following areas: Legislative, Political/Electoral, Energy, Clean Water, Forests and Natural Resource Protection, Communications, Membership, and Organizational Sustainability. In writing the goals and strategies, we have pooled our collective experience and wisdom to look out five years from now to predict reasonable achievements and how to reach them.

The strategic plan will help us to respond positively to changes that we cannot see at this time. For example, energy was not a high priority when we

The strategic plan is an overview of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's identity, mission and goals for the next five years.

considered our last strategic plan several years ago. Now it is on the top of the list of world problems.

A "new issue filter" will give us a blueprint for responding to new problems.

We'll keep you updated over the coming months on our progress with the strategic plan, along with the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's achievements—past, present, and to come.

In the Spotlight

Victories Turning Tide in Coal Fight

by Anne Woiwode, State Director

In January 2007, the Holland Board of Public Works applied for a coal plant air pollution permit, the first of five such applications submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that year. By the end of 2007, Michigan became the state with the most proposed new or expanding coal plant permit applications in the country.

Today, the efforts of Sierra Club and our partners in the broad Clean Energy Now (CEN) coalition have led to a dramatic turn-around: two coal plant air permit applications have been withdrawn; Public Service Commission staff reports say the power from two additional coal plants is not needed; and the final utility is being challenged in court for failing to comply with environmental laws at its existing plant.

The Department of Environmental Quality will decide soon whether permits should be granted to the Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative's proposed Rogers City plant, the Consumers Energy Karn Weadock plant expansion proposal, or to the Holland BPW expansion proposal. As a result of top-notch, detailed

technical and legal analysis from CEN members, DEQ has in hand compelling documentation of the environmental harm these plants pose, as well as that energy efficiency and renewables will be much cleaner and will better meet the needs of electric customers and Michigan's economy.

However, the utilities are ratcheting up their wrong-headed quest to build these dirty, expensive and outdated plants. A pro-coal rally at the capitol in early October showed that the coal plant proponents have key legislators on their side even though the coal plants will hurt Michigan families, workers and economic recovery. Worries about finding jobs have been used by utilities to mislead workers into supporting the coal plants.

In less than three years Michigan has made great strides toward implementing a clean energy economy and moving beyond coal. The key events in this effort are detailed in a timeline online at <http://tinyurl.com/coalmich>. Please join us in continuing to move Michigan beyond coal!

SIGN UP FOR MICHIGAN CHAPTER EMAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS!

In 2010, to cut costs and serve you better, the Michigan Chapter Sierra Club will increase our on-line communications and send out just two hard copies of *The Mackinac* each year.

Keep up to date with our news, alerts and events by signing up for online Michigan Chapter Updates and alerts at <http://tiny.cc/signup1967>.

Your email updates will do triple duty by saving the Michigan Chapter money, saving precious resources, and getting critical information to you quicker!

Below, left to right: Drum circle at the Clean Energy Jobs Rally on July 29 at the State Capitol in Lansing; Sierra Club and the United Steelworkers collect signatures in Grand Rapids to support clean energy.



ANNE WOIWODE



JAN O'CONNELL



ANNE WOJWODE



ANNE WOJWODE

CLEAN ENERGY BEATS COAL FOR MICHIGAN JOBS AND FUTURE

The Public Service Commission staff reports to the DEQ finding no need for new coal plants for a dozen years are consistent with findings by other analysts. In August, Synapse Energy Economics released a report prepared for the Natural Resources Defense Council which found that clean energy options are best for our state:

“Michigan’s future can be very bright; the current period of reduced electricity consumption offers breathing room to build intelligent new energy infrastructure that will reduce energy demand and provide new, clean energy even as the economy recovers. Michigan’s best option for the 21st Century is to develop its strong energy efficiency and renewables potential rather than build new large central generating stations. Both options keep the lights on—but only one offers clean energy, Michigan jobs, and resilience in the face of changing circumstances.” (Energy Future: A Green Energy Alternative for Michigan, Synapse Energy Economics, August 2009, page 9)

Find links to the Synapse report and more at <http://tinyurl.com/coalmich>.

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS RALLY DRAWS HUNDRED TO CAPITOL

A Catholic priest, members of Michigan Tribal government, environmental justice advocates, students, global warming experts and solar energy promoters were among those who gathered at the state Capitol on July 29th to call for Michigan to drop coal proposals and go for clean energy jobs instead. From solar-powered computers ralliers used to submit comments on the proposed coal plants, to the wonderful energy of a drum circle, the rally sponsored by Clean Energy Now coalition members was a powerful way to urge the Governor and her administration to stop the Michigan rush to coal!

At left, from top: Coal Barons at the Michigan Chamber/Glenn Beck protest Sept. 15 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing (L-R: Brandon Knight, Lee Sprague, Scott Meloeny, and Brad Kallio); Terry Miller, Lone Tree Council and Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition students attend the Clean Energy Now Coalition rally at the Bay City Department of Environmental Quality Consumers Energy Air Permit Hearing on April 15; Michigan’s Capitol building with coal smokestacks in the background.

CleanEnergySolutions

ReEnergize Michigan Campaign Kicked Off

by Gayle Miller, Legislative Director

Last year, the Michigan legislature passed new laws that started Michigan down a path of cleaner energy. Now, Sierra Club leads a campaign with 40+ organizations to strengthen those laws. The ReEnergize Michigan Campaign advocates for laws to make Michigan the nation's leader in clean energy production and green job creation, including:

- Double Michigan's Energy Efficiency standard to 2% per year. Creating new energy by weatherizing homes and installing more efficient appliances is cheap – costing less than 1/3rd the price of any other kind of energy.
- Improve Michigan's Renewable Portfolio Standard by increasing the energy utilities provide from wind, solar and other clean sources to 30% by 2025.
- Create Energy Entrepreneurs through a "Feed in Tariff," allowing anyone who invests in solar or wind power to sell their power back to the electric grid for a fair price, plus a return on investment. This policy has made Germany the world's leader in solar energy generation.
- Upgrade Michigan's Building Codes so new structures are built to the highest efficiency standards, saving money on



Carol Graham-Thompson and James D'Amour at Lobby Day

- utility bills for the life of the building.
- Enact a Low Carbon Fuel Standard, requiring liquid fuel producers to reduce the carbon content of their fuels 10 percent by 2020, which would drive demand for the advanced auto batteries that will soon be built in Michigan
- Protect ratepayers from foreclosures and complete utility shut-offs for non-payment of utility bills.

To find out more or how you can get involved, visit the Chapter's Democracy In Action website at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/index.html or contact Legislative Director Gayle Miller at (517) 484-2372 or gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

ENERGY MADE IN AMERICA THAT WORKS FOR AMERICA!

by Jan O'Connell, Energy Issues Coordinator

Almost three months after passage of energy and climate change legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, the "Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act" was introduced in the U.S. Senate by senators Barbara Boxer and John Kerry on September 30. The Senate legislation is somewhat stronger than that passed in the House and lays the framework for a Clean Energy Future by reinventing how America produces and uses energy.

In Michigan we spend over \$24 billion every year on our fossil fuel needs, most of which

leaves the state. With Michigan's unemployment rate exceeding 15%, it's time to put a stop to America's addiction to oil and invest in energy that is both made in America and works for America.

As climate treaty negotiations approach in early December in Copenhagen, Denmark, the eyes of the world are upon us. America needs to lead with strong climate legislation, reducing carbon pollution by at least 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, the minimum necessary to prevent a climate crisis. Please contact our U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow & Carl Levin TODAY and ask them to:

- Support legislation that promotes clean solar & wind energy over coal & nuclear.
- Hold polluters accountable.
- Keep the Environmental Protection Agency's authority under the Clean Air Act.
- Secure a system that effectively cuts emissions, rather than placing resources in unproven and expensive technologies.

Keep up to date on the federal climate legislation by going to <http://tinyurl.com/climateleaders>.

Democracy in Action

Legislative Update

by Gayle Miller

CITIZEN LOBBYISTS IN ACTION OCTOBER 28

Sierra Club's Citizen Lobby Corps will be at the Capitol on October 28 lobbying lawmakers on a policy used in Europe to greatly increase the deployment of renewable energy. Policies like Germany's "Feed-in Tariff" (FIT) allow almost anyone to install clean energy electricity generators and get paid for the power put onto the grid, plus a fair profit margin. Enacting a FIT would make Michigan the nation's leader in job creation from renewable energy industries.

FALL/WINTER IN-DISTRICT LOBBYING

Groups of Citizen Lobbyists will be meeting "in district" with lawmakers this November and December. The subject for this round of meetings is increasing the state's Energy Efficiency Savings Standard from 1% per year to 2%, the most powerful and low cost means of cre-

ating clean energy. To get involved, please contact Legislative Director Gayle Miller at gayle.miller@sierraclub.org or Legislative Committee Chair Lydia Fischer at lydfisch@mindspring.com.

STATE BUDGET CRISIS HITS HOME

Michigan's environmental protection programs, along with scores of other critical state programs, took a serious beating during budget negotiations at the Capitol. Both House and Senate started with cuts to environmental programs as deep as 39%. In future issues of the Mackinac and our bi-weekly e-mail updates, we will delve into how environmental protections in Michigan will change given the state's significant budget crisis.

MICHIGAN WETLANDS PROGRAM — SAFE FOR NOW

After months of frustrating negotiations, Michigan's wetlands program will stay in Michigan, at least for the time being. A bill passed by the Legislature in October provides a minimum level of funding to keep the program operating for the next couple years and includes changes that

will make the program more effective and efficient.

Gratitude and credit go to Grenetta Thomassey and Jennifer McKay from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, who devoted endless hours to the negotiations. Senator Patty Birkholz and Representatives Rebecca Warren and Dan Scripps deserve special recognition for the work that went into saving the program. And, thank you, our members, who called and wrote letters advocating for this critical program!!

ANIMAL WELFARE — FARING BETTER THAN EXPECTED!

Sierra Club recently led an effort to stop a sham package of animal "welfare" bills (HB 5127-5128) from passing in the House. The bills would have locked into place for decades inhumane animal care practices and potentially undermined other regulations pertaining to animal factories. The Humane Society of the United States then exerted significant pressure on the legislature to revise the bills to enact real change. Under the threat of a ballot initiative, which would have exposed the horrific truths about what goes on inside animal factories, the legislature passed and the Governor signed a revised bill. The new law will ultimately give three species of confined animals more room to move. The legislation is a significant victory over corporate agriculture and those who seek to protect polluters over people. Read more on Sierra Club's on-line bill tracker.

LEARN MORE — GET INVOLVED!

For more information on citizen lobbying opportunities, to keep informed about environmental legislation, or to check the Sierra Club's Bill Tracker, please visit the Chapter's Democracy In Action website at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/index.html. To sign up for regular e-mail updates from the Sierra Club, go to: <http://tiny.cc/signup1967>.



BEVERLY WOLF [HTTP://WWW.BBWOLFINEARTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM](http://www.bbwolfinearthphotography.com)

Clean & Healthy Great Lakes

Trout Unlimited Joins Efforts to Clean Up Animal Factories

by Rita Jack, Clean Water Program Director

One of Michigan's premier angling and river protection organizations has joined Sierra Club and local citizens' groups in asking for stronger regulation of livestock factories. Both the Sierra Club and the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited are urging state agencies to adopt stronger clean water regulations and better manure management practices when they revise regulations and other policies this fall.

Trout Unlimited shares a keen interest with Sierra Club in keeping wastes from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) out of our waters to protect fisheries and human health. As stakeholders in DEQ's proposed new water quality permit discussions, both groups are pushing for tighter limits on phosphorus application and on how much manure can be "stockpiled" on a field. Polluted runoff from CAFOs in Michigan has been blamed for algae blooms and other contamination, which can lead to catastrophic fish kills. Inconsistent standards for manure stockpiling between the DEQ's water quality permits and the voluntary, generally accepted agricultural management practices (GAAMPs) overseen by the Michigan Department of Agriculture have led to confusion and curtailed effective enforcement efforts, according to agency staff.

This summer at least three fish kills thought to be linked to manure occurred in Michigan rivers, including a twelve-mile-long fish kill on the Black River in Sanilac and St. Clair coun-



Trout Unlimited's Bryan Moore (left) and Sierra Club's Tim Guilfoile (right) celebrate Trout Unlimited's 50th Anniversary on September 9 in Traverse City.

ties. While investigation is still underway, agency staff suspected contaminants from manure stockpiling in a farm field as a contributor to this kill-off. Trout Unlimited has monitored other fish kills and found manure to have been a contributor to fish kills in other Michigan rivers.

Organized supporters of livestock factories are putting substantial pressure on DEQ to try to block strong regulations. Your voice can help clean up water pollution from CAFOs. To learn more, see <http://michigan.sierraclub.org>, or contact Rita Jack or Lynn Henning at 517-484-2372.

TEN YEARS FIGHTING ANIMAL FACTORY POLLUTION

by Rita Jack, Clean Water Program Director

Over the last 10 years the Michigan Chapter has undertaken many legal actions to secure adequate regulation of CAFOs in order to protect human health and the environment, especially as it pertains to water.

The first of these occurred on November 1, 1999, when the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter, along with several other organizations and individuals, petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to "WITHDRAW the

Federal Delegation of Primacy for the Clean Water Act from the State of Michigan immediately regarding regulation of confined or concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs)."

The Sierra Club had found the state was willfully failing to meet its obligations under the law. In the Clean Water Act Section 502, under General Definitions, "Point Source" specifically includes "concentrated animal feeding operations"—meaning that CAFOs must apply

for and receive a water discharge permit. Yet the state was refusing, at the time, to require discharge permits for CAFOs!

It wasn't until 2002 that the state finally began to require permits for CAFOs. And it wasn't until 2009 that the U.S. EPA finally sent a letter to the Michigan Chapter stating that, since the state had significantly improved its CAFO permit program, it would consider the matter closed.

Needless to say, we're still working for stronger permits to protect our water and human health. For more information about Michigan CAFOs, see <http://tiny.cc/cafo>.

GreatForests, WildPlaces

Sierra Club's Marvin Roberson Helps Protect Over 350,000 Acres of Michigan Forests

by Angela Vasquez-Giroux

For the past 20 years, the Sierra Club has advocated for a system of reserves on Department of Natural Resources lands where the objective is not to protect the land for timber and hunting, but to manage the land as nature would. That means allowing forests to age, and to allow for the growth of older, larger forests.

Now, with the recommendation of Biodiversity Stewardship Areas protecting over 350,000 acres of Michigan forests in the Northern Lower Peninsula, there will be older forests preserved all across the state. In the future, comparable areas in the eastern and western Upper Peninsula will be recommended for protection as well.

Marvin Roberson is the Sierra Club Forest Ecologist. He says the importance of the creation of the Biodiversity Stewardship Areas can't be underestimated.

"This is the most important thing we've done in forestry in 20 years," Roberson said. "It's the most exciting thing I have ever been involved in," he added.

Michigan, he added, was the first state to make use of such a systematic design process.

Roberson has been involved from the beginning. He says he began asking the state to protect old growth forests 20 years ago. For the past 2 years he has been part of a team which has designed Michigan's "Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process", which is the template being used to design the system of protected lands. The result is a process which is being used to design a network of "Biodiversity Stewardship Areas" (or BSAs).

As part of the process, Roberson worked with Sierra Club Michigan Chapter staff member Amanda Hightree.



Marvin Roberson at the September Au Sable tree planting in Grayling.

ANNE WOIWODE

Together, the two held trainings to show attendees how to nominate lands for inclusion in the BSAs. Many nominations came from Sierra Club volunteers, and Roberson said each and every one of those volunteer-submitted nominations of forest areas to be included in the BSAs made it into the final recommendation. There will soon be an opportunity for the public to comment on these recommendations.

The BSA planning team has recently completed the Northern Lower Peninsula, designated almost 350,000 acres of State Forest Land to be BSAs, and managed for natural biodiversity. Some of these areas are in excess of 50,000 acres.

These include the Mason tract and large portions of the Boardman and Jordan River Valleys, among others.

In these areas, management (or lack thereof in some cases) will have as the primary objective "conservation, enhancement, or restoration of native biological diversity". This means managing for communities and ecosystems, rather than single species. It means restoration of Michigan's majestic red and white pine forests. Currently, the DNR cuts big pines at about 100 years, even though they live to 350 years. It also means designating areas large enough for natural disturbances to be the primary management tool.

Your 2009 Elections

Michigan Chapter Executive Committee Elections!

by Lydia Fischer, Nominations Committee

The following candidates are running for four At-Large member positions on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee from January 2010 through December 2011. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country.

The Chapter's ExCom consists of nine At-Large members—representing all Sierra Club members in Michigan—and representatives from regional Groups in Michigan. These leaders determine Chapter priorities, set implementation policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and generally monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities.

We commend these candidates for offering their experience and energy to further Sierra Club's environmental efforts in Michigan. Please show your support of them by taking a few minutes to vote today in this election. You can find your ballot on page 11.

Note that you should vote for no more than four candidates. You must write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope in which you return your ballot. (Your membership number is above your address on the back cover of this newsletter.)

For your vote to count, your ballot must be returned to the Michigan Chapter office by December 7, 2009.

Please note that due to space constraints, we asked the candidates to limit their statements to 150 words or less.



KARA NOACK

My name is Kara Noack and I'd like to serve the Sierra Club on the Michigan Chapter Executive Committee. I joined the Sierra Club 2.5 yrs ago because of my love of nature and concern that it be protected. I've been active in Sierra Club's Cool Cities program to combat global warming and am also leading an effort

at my place of employment for improving our reduce, reuse, recycle practices. Currently I serve the Crossroads Group as the Vice-Chair. I believe I have a unique skill set that will help me be an effective contributor to the chapter:

An ability to truly understand and articulate scientific arguments for our agendas due to my B.S. in Chemical Engineering

The art of influence, ability to market ideas, and talent to effectively facilitate and manage projects from my 12 years of experience in Sales and Sales Management

A desire and commitment to ensure that decisions made by government, citizens and industry throughout the state positively impact the MI environment

I hope I will have the chance to represent the individual concerns from Sierra Club Groups across the state. Thank you for your consideration.

SHIRLEY KALLIO

My entry into environmental activism with the Sierra Club was about four years ago through the Citizen Lobby Day Program, an activity both enormously empowering and rich with educational and personal growth opportunity.

Since then, I have been privileged to serve on the Chapter



ExCom, the Chapter Legislative Committee and, for a lesser time, the Conservation Committee. Most recently, I agreed to serve as Interim Chair for the WMG, a responsibility which further enlarges my understanding and respect for our organization. I have learned much these few years, about both the Sierra Club and myself, making me, I believe, a more valuable asset now than when first appointed two years ago to fill a vacancy.

It is my hope that another term will provide a generous return to both me and the organization on the investment we have made thus far together for the benefit of the planet.



NANCY SHIFFLER

I have served on the Huron Valley Group Executive Committee and the Chapter Executive Committee for several years, and have been active on conservation issues and as an outings leader. I served as Chapter chair in the mid-1990s and in 2006.

Our chapter has increased tremendously its capacity to address important state issues. Our terrific staff is the envy of Sierra Club chapters around the country. We have increased opportunities for our members to become involved, as evidenced by our Lansing lobby days and our working group on energy issues. At the same time, the current economy impacts our ability to secure the funding we have received in the past. In

the coming months we must use our new strategic planning process to respond to these financial issues. If elected, I will support the club's planning efforts so that we can continue to provide a place for members to grow and be effective as activists.



AL BEETON

I have been actively involved in environmental protection since the 1960s. My paper "Environmental changes in Lake Erie," published in Transactions of the American Fisheries Society in 1961, documented the deterioration of the lake due to pollution. In subsequent years I served as expert witness for the Chicago

Metropolitan Sanitary District in court cases against seven major companies accused of polluting Lake Michigan. These cases were successful and resulted in greatly decreased pollution of Lake Michigan. I joined the Sierra Club because I believe more can be accomplished by working together on environmental problems. My intent is to continue to provide my expertise and experience for protecting our environment.



DOROTHY NORDNESS

I've been a member of the Huron Valley Group for nine years and active in our conservation group for five years; I have chaired that group for the last three. I have been a lobby leader and frequently attend our local excom meetings, reporting on conservation issues and contributing to the direction the local group takes.

My particular interests include healthy ecosystems, clean water, ending or at least regulating factory farms, and the links between these issues and local sustainable food production. The last two summers I worked on promoting HomeGrown, Ann Arbor's second annual local food festival, successfully getting financial and volunteer support from local Sierra Club members and working with members of other environmental groups to create two very successful events. Supporting this new venture

**SIERRA CLUB MICHIGAN
CHAPTER 2009 EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE BALLOT**

Vote for no more than four (4) candidates. The second set of boxes is for the second member of a joint membership only.

KARA NOACK



SHIRLEY KALLIO



NANCY SHIFFLER



AL BEETON



DOROTHY NORDNESS



Clip out and mail your ballot to: Michigan Chapter Sierra Club, attn: Chapter Elections, 109 East Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of your envelope to validate your ballot (membership number is above address on the back cover of newsletter). **Your ballot must be received on or before December 7, 2009.**

was a positive way to channel energy into a movement that promises healthy land and water resources while fighting factory farms.

I anticipate continuing to build on these interests if elected to the Chapter Executive Committee and am hoping for your support and your vote.



ANNE WOJWODE

Group Info & Outings

Local Sierra Club groups host outings, political and conservation activities, and general meetings throughout the state. Outings and meetings are open to the public—everyone is welcome! Current information about outings, programs and meetings can be found at www.michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar—please check regularly for new, updated information! If you live in an area that does not have a local group and you're interested in starting one, please call Chapter Coordinator Amanda Hightree at 517-484-2372.

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

October

10/24 NG: Hike Hogsbacks at Holloway Reservoir. 11am. Moderate 5 miles. Hike on unmarked trails through beautiful mixed hardwood forests and meadows around the Holloway Reservoir. Linda 810-348-8664 or lindaberker@yahoo.com.

10/24 SEMG: Downtown Riverwalk Exploration. 11am. Let's explore about 5 miles of the new Detroit Lower Riverwalk, which goes (as you might expect) along the waterfront, part of the new gateway project. Call if weather is ? Optional restaurant stop in Greektown after. Inge, 248-338-0906 or Cindy, 248-336-2984.

10/25 SEMG: Bald Mountain-North Hike. 11am. Let's do all three loop trails at a moderate pace for about a 7 mile hike. Each loop has its own distinct habitat to enjoy: woods, hills, lakes, meadows. Restaurant stop after. Bonnie, 248-589-2251.

10/31 HVG: Sleepy Hollow Hike plus Lansing excursion. 8am. Sleepy Hollow State Park (the perfect choice for Halloween!) is located near the beautiful small town of Laingsburg, close to Lansing. A river winds its way through the woods and fields of the park and Lake Ovid is in the middle of it all. The hiking trail takes you through prairie grasses, hardwood forests, and stands of pine trees. After our walk, we'll visit Lansing: downtown, Capitol Building complex, Vietnam war memorial, river walk, and dinner at one of many unique restaurants. Ewa, 734-756-5362 or ewarosz@yahoo.com.

November

11/1 SEMG: West Bloomfield Two Preserves Hike. 12 noon. Let's get two-for-one today; we will walk the hilly trails at West Bloomfield Nature Preserve, then take the rails to trails walk to the Heron rookery, and down to the Orchard Lake Preserve. We pass wetlands that should hold some migrating birds, and herons fishing. This will be a 5-mile walk at a moderate pace, with stops to look at wildlife along the way. Inge, 248-338-0906.

11/7 NG: Hike: Ligon Nature Center. 10am. Skill

Level Easy. No dogs allowed. Mike, 810-686-6354 or thaley@gfn.org.

11/8 SEMG: Seven Lakes Hike. 11am. A mid-fall 6-mile, moderate paced hike taking in the opening vistas of this scenic state park. Woods and rolling terrain surround the big lake; maybe we will see the resident deer fattening up for the winter. John, 248-766-9575.

11/8 NG: Hike and Service: MCC Annual Cleanup - VA Memorial Park. 12 noon. Join with the MCC Environmental Club and Sierra Club to walk this beautiful setting and pick up any trash for the upcoming Veterans Day. Nice area for bird lovers. 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Sue, 810) 767-9491 or slossing@flinriver.org.

11/14 SEMG: Crooked Lake Trail Hike. 9:30am. This is a paradise for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts! The trail is a part of the 36 mile Waterloo-Pinckney Trail. We will hike only a part of it approximately 6-7 miles up and down the hills through the forest and enjoy the beautiful views of passing lakes. We can extend our hike up to 1-3 miles taking Losee Lake Trail or just part of it. Wear good hiking boots, bring water, snack and a smile and good humor. Ewa, 734-756-5362

11/14 NG: Hike: Holly Recreation Area. 11am. Moderate Hike around beautiful wildwood and valley lakes. Linda, 810-348-8664 or lindaberker@yahoo.com.

11/15 HVG: Cedar Lake Esker Outing. 10am. Hike the tallest esker in our area with stunning views of three lakes, and around the Discovery Center. This hike is on land off-limits to hunting. The four-mile hike will be led by guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Jay, 734-477-5715

11/21 NG: Hike: Forman Nature Preserve. 10am. Easy (5 miles) No dogs allowed. Susan, 810-658-6408 or suecmr1@aol.com.

11/22 SEMG: Stony Creek Inwood Trails Hike. 12noon. Explore this newer Stony Creek trail system, at the far northern end of the park. Its rolling, mostly open terrain, harbors beaver, massasauga rattlesnakes, the swampy headwaters of Stony Creek and a kettle (!). (If you don't know what that is, come along and find out!) We'll hike

6 miles, moderate pace. Optional restaurant stop after. Jo Ellen, 586-431-3104.

11/12 CG: Winter Ducks at Kensington Metro Park . 1pm. Meet at Kensington Metro Park Nature Center for a short hike to watch migrating waterfowl on Kent Lake. Bring binoculars, rain gear, etc. Novice birders and children welcome. Dan, 248-685-2411 or dan.minock@michigan.sierraclub.org.

December

12/5 NG: Hike: Fairgrounds Hike. 10am. Easy 5 miles. Cumming Activity Center. Dogs allowed. Susan, 810-658-6408 or suecmr1@aol.com.

12/6 SEMG: Bald Mountain-South State Rec Area Hike. 11:30am. 5-6 miles at moderate pace, slower and shorter if there is snow (yak-trax alert!). Terrain is mostly wooded and rolling. This is a close-in park and is centrally located for the metro-area. Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne, 248-932-5370.

12/12 HVG: Hickory Hills Trail, Waterloo Recreation Area. 9:30am. Waterloo is the largest state park in the Lower Peninsula. Trail starts at Gerald Eddy Discovery Center and passes through an oak/hickory forest. Hike approx. 6 miles with option to extend up to 2 miles. Bring water, snack, a smile, and good humor. Ewa, 734-756-5362 or ewarosz@yahoo.com.

12/20 HVG: Winter in Waterloo hike. 9:30am. Explore some of the more rugged and remote sections of Waterloo on this five mile hike with guest hike leader Barry Lonik. Jay, 734-477-5715.

January 2010

1/22 HVG: MacMullan Conference Center Ski Trip . 5pm. Join us at the MacMullan Center on north Higgins Lake for another fantastic ski trip! We ski at Higgins Lake State Park on Saturday morning to get warmed up. We'll also visit other areas, such as Hanson Hills, Hartwick Pines or The Mason Tract Pathway along the Au Sable River. Space is limited; first come first serve. lanehotchkiss@comcast.net or 734-730-7209

ANNUAL AU SABLE RIVER CLEAN-UP AND TREE PLANTING

by Lorne Beatty, Chapter Outing Chair

The 15th Annual Au Sable River Cleanup took place on Saturday, September 12 at Gates Au Sable Lodge in Grayling.

Members of the Anglers of the Au Sable, Cedars of the Au Sable and the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter were on hand to make it all happen, but not before Rusty Gates, president of the Anglers of the Au Sable, was presented with the "2009 Au Sable River Keeper Award."

Ten donated cedar saplings were planted within the Mason Tract of the Au Sable River in honor of Josh and Katey Greenberg's daughter, Mary Tess, who passed away shortly after her birth this year. The small ce-

dars will be protected by wire cages until they are tall enough to survive browsing white tail deer. A commemorative plaque was attached to one of the cages. Many years from now, a grove of tall cedars will shade this beautiful bend of the South Branch of the river in loving memory of Mary Tess.

Following the clean-up and planting, a picnic lunch was hosted by the Anglers of the Au Sable back at the lodge. There was a lot less trash in the Au Sable River this year due to the cumulative effects of the annual clean-ups as well as a decrease in tourism and river traffic this summer. A good time was had by all involved.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GROUP

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

CMG = Central Michigan Group

Group Chair: Leigh Fifelski, 248-435-5277
or lfifelski@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Jerry Schuur, 517-351-7796

CUPG = Central Upper Peninsula Group

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

CG = Crossroads Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/crossroads

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

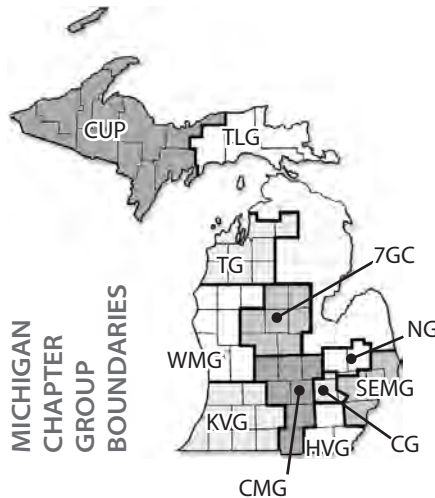
Outings Chair: Cheryl McConnell,
517-552-1464 or cheryl.mcconnell@
michigan.sierraclub.org

HVG = Huron Valley Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron

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

Outings Chair: Kathy Guerreso, 734-677-0823



KVG = Kalamazoo Valley Group

Local Contact: Brad Parsons, 269-492-4437 or
bradparsons@charter.net

NG = Nepessing Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/nepessing

Group Chair: Dennis Crispell, 989-624-5038

Outings Chair: Terry Lemmer, 810-407-7271
or terrylemmer@yahoo.com

SEMG = Southeast Michigan Group

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

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

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

TLG = Three Lakes Group

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

TG = Traverse Group

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

WMG = West Michigan Group

[www.michigan.sierraclub.org/
westmichigan](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/westmichigan)

Group Chair: Shirley Kallio 616-874-7571
or shirleykallio@msn.com

7GC = Seventh Generation Committee

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

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Leigh Fifelski lfifelski@gmail.com



ANNE WOIWODE

Supporting Your Chapter

Jan O'Connell Named Development Director

by Angela Vasquez-Giroux

After thirty years as a Sierra Club volunteer, six as a national Board of Directors member, and two as the point person on federal climate change legislation and Michigan's Renewable Portfolio Standard bills, Jan O'Connell is taking on a new challenge: fundraising and development.

As the Michigan Chapter's Energy Issues Organizer, Jan has worked on federal climate change legislation and on stopping the coal rush – the unchecked construction of dirty coal-fired power plants in Michigan. Jan and her compatriots recently scored a major victory on that front, with the Michigan Public Service Commission rejecting plans for the construction of two coal plants in Michigan in early September.

In October, Jan assumed the development mantle. "After 34 years working

with the Sierra Club...I consider the Club an additional member of the family," Jan said, discussing the new position. "I'm very excited about working with our members, activists and supporters to promote the Sierra Club and to continue our work preserving Michigan and its resources for years to come."

Jan is a graduate of Aquinas College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology & Environmental Studies and is married to Dennis. They have two children, Sierra and Collin.



"I'm very excited about working with our members, activists and supporters to promote the Sierra Club and to continue our work preserving Michigan and its resources for years to come."



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

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

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