



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Celebrating 45 Years in Michigan 1967-2012

1960s and '70s

- Establishes "Mackinac Chapter" in Michigan (1967)
- SC volunteer Virginia Prentice leads winning fight to convince Congress to establish **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore** (1970)
- SC's Huron Valley, West Michigan and Kalamazoo Valley Groups are founded (1970)
- Works to get **Michigan Environmental Protection Act** signed into law (1970)
- SC's Traverse Group founded (1971)
- SC's Southeast Michigan Group founded (1973)
- Helps convince Michigan voters to enact **10¢ Bottle Deposit Law** (1976)
- SC's Central Michigan Group founded (1976)
- First steps to designate federal wilderness areas in state--activists visit, assess 14 proposed areas (1977)
- Jane Elder hired as first Chapter staff (1978)

1980s

- Sierra Club and five other organizations co-found Michigan Environmental Council (1980)
- Helps prevent shoreline road development in pristine **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore** (1981)
- Sierra Club and allied groups successfully stop US Navy proposal: Project ELF in UP (1981-82)
- SC's Neppessing Group founded (1982)
- Garners 1 million petition signatures nationwide to remove Sec. of Interior James Watt (1982)
- SC advocacy leads to **"Right to Know" improvement in U.S. Superfund law** (1985)
- Appeals all three National Forest Management Plans, advocates for better protections and public involvement (1985-1986)
- Chapter Director Anne Woiwode gets her start at SC as Chapter Conservation Coordinator (1985)
- Helps achieve **improved air pollution controls on Detroit Incinerator** (1986)
- Leads landmark negotiations and appeals settlements on National Forest Management Plans (1986-87)
- Sierra Club and allied groups stop St. Mary's Peerless Cement Co. proposal to burn hazardous wastes (1987)

- Advocacy results in 90,000 acres of old-growth forests, remote lakes and spectacular dunes protected by **1987 Michigan Wilderness Act** -- *Establishes these Wilderness Areas: Big Island Lake, Delirium, Horseshoe Bay, Mackinac, McCormick, Nordhouse Dunes, Rock River Canyon, Round Island, Sturgeon River Gorge, and Sylvania*
- Sierra Club and allied groups stop oil and gas development proposal in Nordhouse Dunes (1987)
- Helps pass legislation limiting off-road vehicles in Lower Peninsula (1988)
- Helps achieve **old growth forest designation policy in Natural Resource Commission** (1988)
- **Grand Island National Recreation Area** designated in Hiawatha National Forest thanks to SC (1989)
- Helps get **Sand Dune Protection Act** signed (1989)

1990s

- SC's Crossroads Group founded (1991)
- Litigates to block Gov. Engler from splitting DNR and removing 19 public boards and commissions (1991)
- Central UP and Three Lakes Groups founded (1992)
- SC activists help elect Debbie Stabenow to U.S. Congress (1996)
- Forces federal wildlife grants (**Pittman Robertson Act**) to allow public input--sets precedent (1997)
- Petitions US EPA to remove MDEQ right to run Clean Water Act due to failure to regulate factory farm pollution (1999)
- SC's Huron Valley Group helps wins **Ann Arbor Parkland Acquisition ballot initiative** (1999)

2000s

- Gets US Fish & Wildlife Service to agree to NEPA required analysis of proposed wildlife grants (2000)
- Convinces Army Corps to deny proposed permit and saves **Crystal River wetlands** (2000)
- SC's Huron Valley Group helps win **Washtenaw County Natural Areas ballot initiative** (2000)
- SC activists help elect Debbie Stabenow to U.S. Congress (2000)

- Leader in community campaign that forced Henry Ford Hospital to stop medical waste incineration (2001)
 - SC's **Michigan Water Sentinels Program** launched to clean up Pine River Superfund site (2001)
 - MDEQ agrees to require **water quality permits for factory farms** in response to SC advocacy (2002)
 - Helps pass **state ban on directional drilling for oil and gas under the Great Lakes** (2002)
 - SC Water Sentinels begin monitoring Pine River with Alma College and Pine River Superfund Citizens Task Force (2002)
 - Helps sway Mich. voters to authorize \$1 billion for local sewer improvements to protect clean water and beaches (2002)
 - SC's Huron Valley Group helps win **Ann Arbor Greenbelt ballot initiative** in face of well-funded opposition (2003)
 - SC Water Sentinels begin monitoring Pinnebog River with Bad Axe High School, Huron County (2003)
 - **Water pollution permit fees** enacted in Michigan thanks to statewide coalition work and Clean Water Action leadership (2004)
 - SC efforts help Manistee do the right thing by denying zoning change for coal-fired power plant (2004)
 - Central UP Group begins water monitoring project in **Yellow Dog Plains, Marquette County** (2004)
 - MDEQ denies Hamtramck medical waste incinerator air pollution permit thanks to community and SC advocates (2005)
 - Protests lead to **end of public subsidies to build factory farms by Michigan Strategic Fund** (2005)
 - Congress bans oil drilling under the Great Lakes thanks to advocacy of environmentalists (2005)
 - Gov. Granholm signs **precedent-setting Michigan Non-ferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Law** thanks to Sierra Club and MEC advocacy (2005)
 - SC Mackinac Chapter members vote to change and clarify name to Michigan Chapter (2006)
 - SC Water Sentinels begin monitoring in Shakey River watershed, Menominee County (2006)
 - Active in statewide coalition to help pass **Michigan's first comprehensive water use laws** (2006)
 - Sierra Club and allied groups convince Gov. Granholm to authorize **90% reduction in mercury emissions by 2015** (2006)
 - Sierra Club and Anglers of the Au Sable litigate to stop proposed oil and gas drilling next to Mason Tract on Au Sable River (2006)
 - Sierra Club's **"Living a Nightmare: Animal Factories in Michigan"** documentary produced pro-bono by Bob Bishop and FutureMedia, Inc. (2006)
 - Files lawsuit against US Fish and Wildlife Service to get Coaster Brook Trout endangered species status (2007)
 - Holds first Michigan Hunter/Angler conclave (2007)
 - Water Sentinels Program begins **first flights with non-profit Lighthawk to track factory farm water pollution** (2007)
 - Forest Policy Specialist Marvin Roberson leads fight to stop state land giveaway from amusement park (2008)
 - Sierra Club and partners achieve **passage of energy legislation mandating renewables and energy efficiency** (2008)
 - Helps prevent drilling for oil and gas near Mason Tract on AuSable River (2009)
 - SC, Lighthawk and citizens group ECCSCM complete **29 aerial flights, helping bring enforcements, penalties, and civil fines to 35 factory farms and \$1.2 million to State** (2009)
 - DEQ files lawsuit against Vreba-Hoff Dairy after years of SC evidence gathering (2009)
- ## 2010
- Michigan Chapter Water Sentinel Lynn Henning wins the **Goldman Environmental Prize of North America for factory farm research**
 - Helps design "**Michigan's Living Legacies**," the most comprehensive biodiversity protection plan in the world (2005-2010)
 - Helps stop Traverse City biomass electrical generating plan that would have used green timber
 - Helps establish **114 new miles of "special regulations" rivers managed for a wild, not stocked fishery**
- ## 2011
- Continues aggressive, **three-year effort to stop ill-conceived, wood-fueled biogas plant in UP**
 - **More than 100 damaging oil and gas leases blocked** (2006-2011)
 - In-district lobbying program grows to largest size ever, covers both peninsulas and meets with 50 legislators
 - After SC efforts to fight HB 4326, Gov. Snyder vetoes bill and protects Michigan's natural resources.
 - After years of pressure from SC and local residents, **proposed Bay City coal-fired power plant abandoned by Consumers Energy**