

All Aboard for a Good (Green) Cause!

By Dave Wolf,
SEMG Executive Committee

The 2008 election season was historical. With the help of moneys raised by last year's SEMG fundraiser, your local Sierra Club political Group's work was instrumental in supporting candidates who have shown a concern for our environment. Although some significant gains were made in November, those gains have been challenged by increased efforts from special interests – many of whose fortunes are directly tied to activities that threaten our environment.

To continue your club's work in these areas, the SEMG will once again be hosting a fundraising Dinner Cruise on the Detroit River, departing at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, 2009 from Bishop Park, in Wyandotte. It will return to the dock at 7:00 p.m. The dinner will be a lasagna buffet (both meat and vegetarian) and there will also be a cash bar. In the spirit of promoting public transit, arrangements are being made for bus transportation, which will once again be available between the Royal Oak area and Bishop Park.

Last year's Dinner Cruise was a rousing success. Beyond the wonderful opportunity to mingle with like-minded environmentalists, everyone enjoyed the beauty of the river, the skylines of Detroit and Windsor, and an opportunity to learn about significant environmental improvements that have taken place on some of the area's industrial sites. Last year's eye-opening presentation was by Bob Burns, Detroit Riverkeeper.

Since last year's two-hour cruise was



so great, it was decided that a three-hour cruise would be 150% greater! Therefore SEMG has booked the third hour for this year's cruise!

We are pleased to announce that John H. Hartig will be this year's keynote speaker. John is the manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and has authored numerous publications including; most recently, a book entitled, **Honoring Our Detroit River: Caring for Our Home**. John is a native of Trenton who has been involved with, and had a passion for, the Detroit River and the Great Lakes since his youth. With the stressors impacting the sweet-water seas surrounding our state, including climate change, pollution, over-development, and the introduction of nonnative species, John's message is sure to be very timely and of significant interest to all who are concerned about the future of our Great Lakes and their tributaries.

With special-interest pressures mounting for more extraction and use of fossil fuels and added nuclear

energy production, and for allowing large-scale polluters such as CAFOs and mining to operate with little or no regulatory oversight, your club's continued work and vigilance is critical.

Please consider helping out by joining SEMG on this year's fundraising cruise. It is certain to be much fun, and a memorable event that will also support the Sierra Club's ability to continue its extremely critical work for our environment. ☼

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Executive Committee and Committee Chairs

You are encouraged to contact these individuals and get involved! It is your chance to make a difference in the quality of life you endorsed when you joined the Sierra Club.

Carol Izant '09 (248) 352- 6137
Chair, Programs Chair
cogknot@yahoo.com

Richard Kuszmar '09 .. (586) 264-1370
Vice-Chair/Publicity Chair
linneamari@aol.com

Jean Gramlich '10 . . . (810) 714-2343
Secretary/Membership Chair
jeangramlich@msn.com

Gloria Scicli '10 . . . (248) 642-3069
Treasurer
gscicli@comcast.net

Ed McArdle '10 (313) 388-6645
Conservation Committee Chair
Alt. Rep. to Chapter
ecoguy2@netzero.net

Tom Nagle '09 (248) 577-1282
ConCom Co-Chair
tnagle@comcast.net

Dave Wolf '10 (248) 496-9604
Fundraising Chair
dave_wolf@comcast.net

Hal Newnan '09 (586) 360-4998
Rep. to Chapter, Webmaster,
ACTIVIST Publisher
hnewnan@sbcglobal.net

Greg Burke '10 (248) 756-2882
SIERRA CLUB & BEER
gregoryjamesburke@yahoo.com

Phil Crookshank . . (248) 797-2885
Outings Chair
wanderphil1@yahoo.com

Joanne Cantoni (248) 932-5370
Outings Coordinator
joannecantoni@netzero.net

Vacancy (---) -----
Political Committee Chair

Lydia Fischer (734) 994-3582
ACTIVIST Editor
Lydfisch@mindspring.com



The ACTIVIST is printed on recycled paper.

Meetings

General Membership

SEMG General Membership meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month from 6:00 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy (located along the southbound US-10 service drive between 9 & 10 Mile) in Southfield, MI.

The potluck dinner portion of the evening is held from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass! A brief local club update runs from 7 - 7:30 p.m. The featured programs (listed below) run from 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. For more info, contact Carol Izant, Program Chair at cogknot@yahoo.com or 248.352.6137. All are welcome!



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 1723 W. Fourteen Mile Road, just west of Crooks Road in Royal Oak.

Political Committee

The Political Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 1723 W. Fourteen Mile Road, just west of Crooks Road in Royal Oak.

Conservation Committee

The Global Warming Task Force of the Conservation Committee meets every third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at 1723 W. Fourteen Mile Road, just west of Crooks in Royal Oak.

Outings Committee

The Outings Committee meets mid-month in March, June, September and December to schedule outings. For complete details check the ACTIVIST or our website

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

Schedule of Programs

Thursday, September 3, 2009

New Member Meeting

“A Sense of Wonder: The Rachel Carson Story”

When pioneering environmentalist Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* in 1962, the backlash from her critics thrust her into the center of a political maelstrom. Despite her love of privacy, Carson's convictions and her foresight regarding the risks posed by chemical pesticides forced her into a very public and controversial role. Using many of Miss Carson's words, the actress Kaiulani Lee embodies this extraordinary woman in a documentary style film, which depicts Carson in the final year of her life. Struggling with cancer, Carson recounts with both humor and anger the attacks by the chemical industry, the government, and the press as she focuses her limited energy to get her message to Congress and the American people. The film is an intimate and poignant reflection of Carson's life as she emerges as America's most successful advocate for the natural world.

After the film there will be a discussion period in which we invite you to share a story or poem that describes your own “sense of wonder” with nature. New members are especially encouraged to attend!

Thursday, October 1, 2009

“Up the Rouge! Paddling Detroit's Hidden River”

By Joel Thurtell, retired Detroit Free Press reporter and author

In 2005, Joel Thurtell and Freep photographer Patricia Beck took a canoe and paddled up the Rouge River...past steel mills, chemical factories and the largest wastewater treatment plant in the US to discover further upstream a gentler place providing habitat for all manner of wildlife. Thurtell's narrative chronicles their 27 mile/5 day journey from the

continued on page 3

Will Michigan Get More Nuclear? Fermi 3 And Now Fermi 1 And 2, All In A Row

By Ed McArdle, SEMG Conservation Chair

The status of DTE's petition to build a third nuclear facility, Fermi 3, in Monroe is uncertain. As of press time we are awaiting the Atomic Licensing Board (ALB) ruling on the numerous legal contentions presented by the Coalition against Fermi 3 at the trial-like proceeding last May 5 in Monroe. The Michigan Chapter

and other coalition members were well represented before the three-judge panel by Beyond Nuclear national organizer Kevin Kamps, Michael Keegan of Don't Waste Michigan and attorney Terry Lodge. Although the public was not allowed to participate, several Sierra members from southeast Michigan, Ann Arbor and Flint, along with many local people, formed a silent cheering section for the day-long proceedings. I may be biased, but my opinion is that the pro-safe energy, anti-nuke folks carried the day.

The protocol called for legal contentions to be addressed one at a time, with our coalition presenting, then DTE lawyers followed by NRC (always supporting DTE) answering each contention. We were allowed a final response. This went on through 12 contentions covering concerns such as high and mid-level waste storage, thermal discharges to a

vulnerable Lake Erie, and projected decrease in demand for electricity in the face of energy efficiency, alternative sources and the economic meltdown. The Michigan Department

With no depository for either low level or high level nuclear waste, it staggers belief that our national and state legislators would still promote this dangerous and expensive technology

of Environmental Quality weighed in writing to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that the effect of Fermi 3 "would be one of the largest impacts to coastal wetlands in the history of Michigan's wetland statute". It was also discovered that the site is home to several of Michigan's threatened or endangered species such as the Eastern Fox Snake. The ALC judges promised a decision on whether they would accept our intervention by late June. If they accept any of the contentions, a public hearing would ensue. There are grounds to believe that the decision will be delayed because DTE has failed to provide information requested by the NRC concerning lack of a quality assurance plan and other pertinent documents.

Meanwhile at Fermi 2, Beyond Nuclear, Michael Keegan and Terry Lodge filed a legal contention on June 10 against the NRC for allowing DTE to start construction on dry cask storage of high level radioactive waste on site. The prospect of Fermi 1, Fermi 2 and proposed Fermi 3, plus storage

of nuclear waste, all on the shore of Lake Erie, is pretty scary, considering that the lake is the source of drinking water for millions in both the U.S. and Canada. The legal contention claims the new storage casks have been authorized without the required public hearings. Similar casks recently failed to prevent penetration by a commonly available anti-tank missile in a test at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The press release describing the intervention is available at www.beyondnuclear.org.

Moreover, let's not forget Fermi 1, the subject of the book "We Almost Lost Detroit" when it narrowly avoided a catastrophic meltdown in 1971. As bizarre as it may seem, the Fermi 1 reactor is still there emitting dangerous radiation 32 years after shutting down. On June 30 the NRC hosted a public meeting in Monroe to finalize plans to decommission the site.

DTE's plan is to have the site remediated by 2012 so that a hypothetical farmer could safely farm with only a low background level of radiation. Hopefully, that farmer will remain hypothetical. DTE claims that the price tag will only be \$65 million (to be footed by consumers). Hard to believe since the cleanup at the closed Big Rock Point reactor near Charlevoix cost \$365 million and is still burdened with nuclear waste encapsulated on site. ☼

Schedule of Programs

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place where the industrial Rouge empties into the Detroit River to the bucolic meandering stream of a Rouge in Southfield. Their adventurous story documents the damaged natural resources of a long abused urban river struggling to survive. Copies of their recently published book **Up the Rouge: Paddling Detroit's Hidden River** will be available for purchase.

Thursday, December 3, 2009

"SEMG Annual Merry Meet & Greet Holiday Party w/Slide Show & Silent Auction"

hosted by SEMG's Outings Committee

It's that time of the year again, folks...time to party with your brother & sister Sierrans as we wind out 2009! There will be the usual feasting so please bring your most festive dish to pass along with those new

and/or gently used items for our silent auction. In addition, those of you willing to do so, please bring 10-15 slides and/or digital images to share with the group from past adventures near and far. A fun time is guaranteed for all and we even make a little money for the group. ☼

Happy Holidays!

Welcome Cool Cities Staffer Michelle Martinez!

By Ed McArdle, SEMG Conservation Chair

As a result of SEMG's previous good work in getting city mayors to sign the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (see Box below) we were chosen by the national Sierra Club as a location for a full-time staff person to continue this work. Based on the International Kyoto Treaty, the Climate Agreement (or Cool Cities Campaign) targets local communities and asks them, through their mayor, to commit to carbon emission reductions. Starting in early August, Michelle Martinez will share the Sierra Club office at 14 mile & Crooks in Royal Oak with our "No-Coal" campaigner Tiffany Hartung, as she becomes the Sierra Club Cool Cities campaign staff in SE Michigan.

Since the Kyoto expires some time in 2012 and will soon be renegotiated in Copenhagen, the basic emphasis now is "Change begins at home," that is, in your city or community. The campaign brings global warming solutions to the local level by recruiting local Cool Cities activists who will work with community leaders to cut their community's carbon footprint. One example: help a city as it seeks to enforce stricter energy efficient building codes, or to apply for stimulus funds. Some cities, townships and counties have signed the agreement

Signatories to the Kyoto Protocol, June 2005



Kyoto Protocol status
 Ratified
 Signed only
 Not signatory
 No data

Map Projection: Geographic
 Citation: World Resources Institute 2005

Source: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2005. Kyoto Protocol Status of Ratification. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available online at: http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/kyoto_protocol/

Map of Kyoto Protocol Adopters
Australia, unlike the U.S., finally did adopt it.

but have not accomplished much. Others are proceeding slowly. Part of the plan is to step up involvement in one or two other cities where progress is likely to be made. In such cases, we can assist in targeting good candidates for carbon reductions.

The City of Detroit under interim Mayor Cockrel is the most recent signer. And where Michelle will make good use of her experience working with Detroit environmental issues. 🌱

Ten communities have signed on to be Cool Cities in the Detroit area:

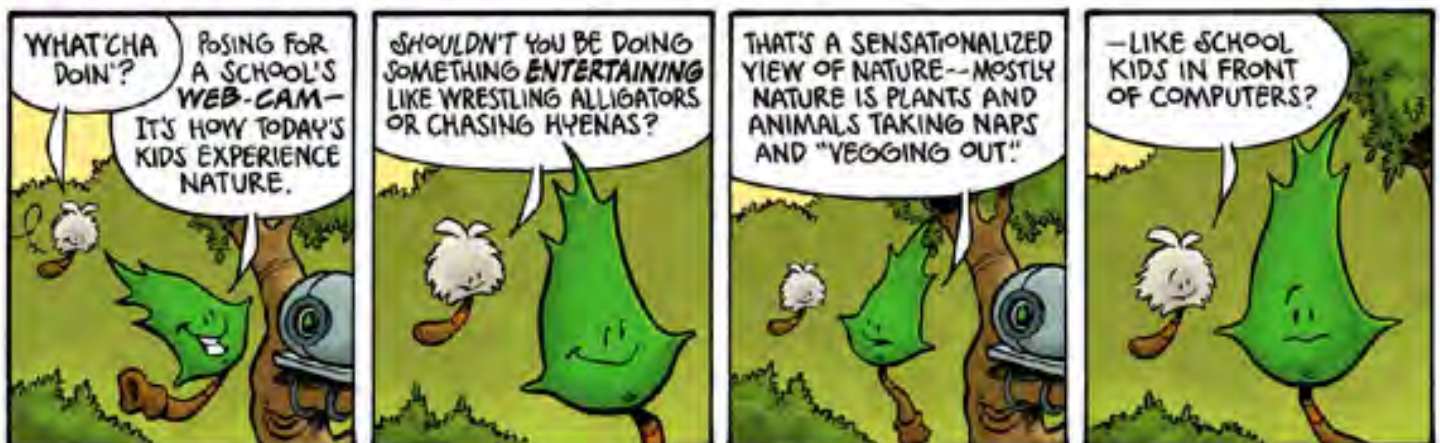
- Auburn Hills • Berkley • Dearborn Hts. • Detroit • Ferndale
- Royal Oak • Southfield • Southgate • Taylor • Warren.

Sierra Club is currently helping to implement the program in Berkley, Ferndale, Royal Oak and Warren.

To see if your town or city has signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Agreement, check out: www.coolcities.org.

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**The Sierra Club Southeast
Michigan Group (SEMG)**

Invites You to Attend Its

Eighth Annual Fundraiser

In Support of Grassroots Environmental Activism

**Detroit River Dinner Cruise
Lasagna Buffet and Cash Bar**



A private trip for our group, boarding in Wyandotte for a 3-hour cruise of the Detroit river with narration by John Hartig, manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This year's earlier schedule and longer ride will let us enjoy the scenery even more than last year's evening departure!

**Departing from Bishop Park in Wyandotte
Sunday September 13, 2009**

Boarding begins at 3:30pm,
Departs at 4:00pm sharp! (Returns at 7:00 pm)

\$60 Regular / \$75 Sponsor



Attention: For people close to the Royal Oak area, we are planning to offer bus service to and from the event.

Location: St John Episcopal Church
26998 Woodward Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Time: Bus leaves promptly at 2:30pm

Cost: \$5 per person

Seating is limited so make your reservations now! Contributions are not tax deductible, as we do political work! For more information, go to: www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg

I/We will attend on September 13th. Number of tickets needed: _____
Regular (\$60) Sponsor (\$75)

I/We will ride bus to event: # of seats needed _____ x \$5 = \$ _____

I/We would like to make an additional contribution of: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ (Make checks payable to "SEMG Sierra Club")

Name _____

Address _____

City _____, **State** _____ **ZIP Code** _____

Phone # _____ **Email** _____

Mail to: Gloria Scicli, 2301 W Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009.



For Love Of Water

Italia Millan, Rochester ECOs Chair

This year, the Sierra Club Rochester ECO's Green Movie Series has been dedicated to the screening of the eye opening documentary named, "FLOW: For Love of Water" (www.flowthefilm.com) This film talks about the world water crisis - including pollution, diversion, privatization and other problems that affect our most valuable resource worldwide- and hits home by exposing Nestle's excessive water extraction and its environmental impact in Mecosta, MI. Although a grim revelation, the film gives us hope by showing inspirational examples of people and organizations that are working on practical solutions to the water crisis. Among those who are fighting to protect water is Mecosta's residents' group 'Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation' (www.savemewater.org). FLOW empowers viewers to get involved in protecting water in their community and to make clean and accessible water a human right (sign the petition at www.article31.org).

Though not featured in the film, but seriously committed to the safe keeping of our water quality and the protection of the Great Lakes, the members of the Sierra Club

Rochester ECOs group have taken 2009 by storm. Besides organizing our Green Movie Screenings, we have: continued stenciling in the Rochester Hills/Auburn Hills area - working diligently to meet our year's goal of

Pointe and at the Public Library in Orion; monitored water quality in two local Clinton River sites in Pontiac and Rochester Hills as part of CRWC's Adopt-A-Stream program (four of our members got Bug ID certified too!);



Rochester Ecos Photo courtesy of Italia Millan

500 storm drains while educating neighbors about water protection; held our Green Lunch Series monthly lectures on water quality and other environmental issues in Whole Foods Rochester; participated in numerous tabling events as well as environmental awareness programs for kids and teens; showcased our clean water display at Earth Day events in Rochester and Grosse

and there's more to come!

If you'd like to get locally involved, please join us at www.meetup.com/rochesterecos/ or contact us at rochesterecos@gmail.com. You can also learn more about water quality and Great Lakes protection at the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program website, www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes/. Help us make a difference... for love of water! ♻️

Feed-in Tariff Equals Energy Democracy

By Ed McArdle, SEMG Conservation Chair

Ever wonder why almost all of Michigan-produced solar panels and silicon chips go to Germany, Denmark, Spain and other European countries? Why do wind turbines and parts have to be imported from the same countries? Are they smarter than us? Well, maybe. But these countries, over 40 of them including China, have passed laws and regulations that make it profitable for suppliers of electricity from renewable sources such as wind, solar and biomass to sell to the electric utilities. Under what is called a "Feed-In Tariff" (FIT) system, a utility must buy the power produced from both large and small producers at a fixed cost that covers the construction and equipment costs, and usually allows a 5 to 6% profit for a 15 to 20 years contract. Under most

FIT protocols almost anyone who is able to finance a facility and produce power, whether a corporation, cooperative, village or individual, can qualify as a supplier. (Indeed, according to Legislative Director Gayle Miller in our Sierra Club Lansing office, "a better label for these programs would be 'energy democracy'"). Next, the utility sells the power to customers at a price which covers the added expense. Oh-oh, is this a hidden tax? If so, not a burdensome one: in Germany the extra expense/hidden tax on utility bills averages around \$3 a month, or about the price of a beer. And the program in that country is wildly successful. Germany is well on its way to meeting its Kyoto targets for reductions in carbon. Our legislators should also take note that Germany has created over 250,000 jobs in the green economy.

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Get Involved in Electing Green Leaders

By Leigh Fifelski,
Chair, Chapter Political Committee

Election.

The word almost makes you want to turn and walk away from the person who just said it, doesn't it? Even though environmentalists won a long hard fight when President Obama, as well as several other environmental supporters—Congressman Peters, for example—were elected, the 2010 election is one we cannot ignore. In 2010, Michigan residents will be voting for a new Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Representatives of the U.S. House, and Michigan House and Senate members will be term limited or up for election. There may also be some ballot measures to take into consideration. Needless to say, 2010 is going to be a busy election year!

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Committee is already preparing for the 2010 election and our local groups should be too.

The Races Begin

Endorsement processes can be long and tedious, but are necessary to build a voice for the environment when it comes time for legislators to propose legislation and to vote. So, making sure a committee is set up and ready to look through the questionnaires and vet candidates' records is very important.

Once the races begin, candidates who want to gain endorsement from the Sierra Club must first approach the Group political committee. Based on responses to questionnaires and other factors, the Group

decides whether the candidate will work best to push for the Group's environmental concerns. After the Group approves a candidate, the endorsement request moves to the Chapter Political Committee to make sure the candidate also will be working for state priorities.



The Endorsements are Out

After endorsing a candidate, the work has only begun. Again next year, Groups should be prepared to set up electoral activities, including walking neighborhoods to talk to members and others about the importance the environment plays in reshaping Michigan's economy. As the new energy future is becoming the present, we will want leaders who not only see the importance of making Michigan a leader in clean, renewable energy, but are willing to fight for it. In many ways it is up to Sierra Club members to educate our neighbors and friends about the candidates that we know are best for our environmental future.

Each Group will need people who are dedicated to taking the lead for their political committee and people who are willing to talk to candidates about their plans if elected. Groups

Preparing for 2010

Right now, Group political committees should be looking into the issues that will be most relevant in their areas to create candidate questionnaires, what districts they will want to target, and requirements they will have for candidates who seek Sierra Club endorsement. It is important to start structuring the political committee now to handle the work load that comes with such an election.

As a member, you have the opportunity to make a difference by discussing issues with other members of the Group and talking to people like yourself who care about the environment when voting. One-on-one conversations with fellow environmentalists about issues and elections are what other people will be most likely to welcome if approached. To get involved, contact your local Group Chair—Carol Izant, cogknot@yahoo.com., and let her know Leigh sent you. ☘

need activists who may have never been involved before to step up and make phone calls or knock on members' doors to talk to them about the importance of the 2010 election.

We look forward to seeing more Sierra Club SEMG members get involved in the 2010 elections!

For more information about the Sierra Club Chapter Political Committee please contact Leigh, lfifelski@gmail.com. ☘

It's important that Groups start to organize their political committees now to ensure everyone is trained and ready to take action once the races begin. And, if you are thinking about getting involved with the Sierra Club in political work, now is the time to start!

Sarnia Ontario's Chemical Valley:

A Lesson in a Citizen's Right to Know

By Megan Pennefather,
SEMG volunteer

When asked, Ada Lockridge will dutifully recite a mind-numbing list of ecological ills that come with being a member of the **Aamjiwnaang First Nation**, whose reserve is adjacent to Chemical Valley



In front of **body maps** on which incidents of cancer and other disease in her community have been plotted, **Ada Lockridge** pauses to collect her thoughts while talking about the reserve's health toll.

Photo by SUSAN BRADNAM Sun Media

From the online article, **DYING TO LIVE HERE: The St. Clair: Waterworld gone bad**, Kate Dubinski, May 30, 2007, (**The London Free Press**) Sun Media <http://www.lfpress.com/cgi-bin/publish.cgi?p=184529&cx=articles&cs=societe>

in Sarnia, ON.

There are the health problems, of course. Members of the Aamjiwnaang nation have reported increases in cases of cancer, allergies and respiratory problems, even a low male birth rate, as a result of the 62 industrial plants that make up Chemical Valley. Children on the Aamjiwnaang reserve, which is just across the St. Clair River from Port Huron, stopped swimming in nearby Talfourd Creek because they started getting sores on their skin.

That's all in addition to the putrid smell of the air, water too polluted to fish in, and a pervasive fear among members of the nation that these problems will only get worse.

Once Lockridge was finished talking about the years she and others have spent raising awareness and lobbying the Canadian government for more stringent environmental standards, I paused for a moment. How, I asked, had this issue not permeated mainstream media with the same exposure that a celebrity scandal would? I then admitted I wasn't aware the problem was as bad as it is.

"Neither was I," she said with a slight chuckle, "and I've lived here my whole life." She explained that may be because neither the Canadian government nor the Chemical Valley companies were, until recently, ever required to inform citizens what exactly was being processed, released into the air or water, or of the effects it could have on public health.

A 2007 study by the Canadian watchdog **Ecojustice** revealed that in 2005, the industrial plants in Chemical Valley released 131,000 tons of air pollution, or about 3,900 pounds per Sarnia resident.

As part of their activism, Lockridge and other members of the **Aamjiwnaang** nation have created Canada's first "bucket brigade," in which they periodically test the water and report the results to the government and environmental watchdog groups.

Since the **Ecojustice** study, and due largely to the **Aamjiwnaang** efforts, the **Canadian government** now requires the companies in Chemical Valley to inform the **Aamjiwnaang** reserve any time they process a new chemical or make modifications on their industrial plants.

"Most of the companies are cooperating," said Lockridge. In addition, the **Ministry of the Environment** is considering to require higher standards from Canadian industry, and increased protections for residents.

But perhaps the most striking aspect of the Chemical Valley issue is not

just the steps, however painfully slow, the government is taking to address the problem. To me, it is how ordinary citizens, armed with knowledge and a purpose, have been able to affect important changes for their community just by taking the time to educate themselves about an issue.

With Sarnia just a short car ride over the bridge from Port Huron, environmental issues related to the Chemical Valley should concern us; not only for its proximity to our back yards, but as an example of a government that takes advantage of its citizens' complacency and ignorance



Ron Plain leads so-called Toxic Tours for visitors to the reserve in the Chemical Valley.

Photo by SUSAN BRADNAM Sun Media

Ibid., From the online article, **DYING TO LIVE HERE: The St. Clair: Waterworld gone bad**

to its environmental sins.

As Lockridge said, "We have to fight for our right to know." Put another way, if anything significant is to happen with our world, governments need to be put on notice that simply spoon feeding their citizens sugar-coated environmental information is not acceptable. Access and education must not only be accessible, but clear and easy-to-understand so that citizens can take informed steps to make their communities better places to live.

Chemical Valley, a lesson in a citizen's right to know. ⚙️

Musings from a Gardener in N. Oakland County

By Jean Gramlich, SEMG Secretary and MI Chapter Chair

Spring! I time my winter trip south so that there is a glimmer of spring when I return. Time to start tomato and pepper plants and clean and sharpen the tools in the garage on the first warm day. Time to watch for the pussy willows followed by the serviceberry in the wild lands in back. The odd whooping of the sandhill cranes is a most welcome sound in early March, and even the red-winged blackbirds' squawks and squeaks are music. The dawn chorus of birds that continues through July begins. The raccoon wakes up from his winter sleep and starts raiding the bird feeders on the deck.



Jean Gramlich in her Garden

As I write this piece in mid-June, the flower gardens are glorious with color in wild abandon: the purples are **salvia**, **nepeta** and **baptisia** contrasted with the golden foliage of **tanacetum 'Isla Gold'** and **golden creeping jenny** and **sedum**. **Dianthus**, **peonies**, **penstemon** and **daisy fleabane** are pink, and **flax** is a clear blue. Happy unplanned matches like an iridescent purple-leaved **sedum** shines next to the **nepeta**. The shrubs and trees I planted two or three years ago are blooming in sequence and will later provide food for the birds.

The vegetable garden is planted and thriving. The experiment with **lettuce** and **spinach** in cold frames, one planted in October and one in March, was a resounding success, and I have been harvesting them every day since mid-April. **Peas** will be producing soon along with **beans** and **kohlrabi** which most people have never heard of – a favorite and easy-to-grow vegetable.

The big task now is to mulch everything using the 10 yards of triple-ground wood I had delivered last fall. It grows most fascinating fungi that bloom bright yellow one day and disappear the next. A daily walk reveals who needs water, who is being eaten by somebody – **deer**, **caterpillars**, **bugs** and **aphids**. I employ environmentally friendly

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Feed-in Tariff

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In the winter of 2007, the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor hosted a talk by **Dr. Hermann Scheer**, a member of the German Parliament and Time Magazine's "**Green Hero of the Century**." Dr. Scheer orchestrated the enactment of the FIT concept in Germany. In the audience were three of our own environmental heroes: State Rep. Kathleen Law, State Sen. Raymond Basham and State Sen. Liz Brater.

Shortly after the talk, Rep. Law introduced a FIT bill in the state legislature, a first not only for Michigan but in the entire U.S. Rep. Law noted that "after introducing the bill, I received calls from companies all over the world that wanted to manufacture and produce alternative energy here in our home state." Also, legislators in other states took her bill and introduced it into their own legislatures. Unsurprisingly, in Lansing the bill didn't go anywhere.

At that time, environmental organizations including the Sierra Club were struggling to get the Michigan legislature to pass a much compromised and tepid 10% renewable power standard or RPS) by 2017. And it was clear that a FIT program would likely put a stake in the heart of plans for coal and nuclear plants that utilities and many legislators believe we must build. However, according to a report by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (U.S. Dept. of Energy), a well-designed FIT policy is far more effective and less costly than a RPS. The recent ruling by the California Attorney General that their FIT proposal would be compatible with national legislation also said that a FIT policy is the most effective program to encourage the switch to alternative energies.

More recently, the dam has broken, and in the past two months Vermont, the province of Ontario and the Gainesville, Florida public utility have all passed FIT legislation. The Toronto Star reported that manufacturers of alternative energy from around the world were interested in relocating to the province because of the FIT.

Back at home, Rep. Lee Gonzales (D-Flint) took up Kathleen Law's bill and introduced it in this legislature as HB 4137 after she was term-limited out of office (he may withdraw the bill to reword it and give the Michigan Public Service Commission, rather than the legislature, the power to set the FIT pricing). This bill, along with a stronger RPS, is at the core of a new, more vigorous "**ReEnergize Michigan**" campaign, of which Sierra Club is a leader.

Enacting a strong FIT bill would surely negate the need for any new coal and nuclear plants, and likely be able to also topple some of the more dirty ones. Michigan has: great wind potential, some of the largest and more advanced solar cell manufacturers in the world, and plenty of farmers that could profit from producing renewable energy. So, let's all get FIT for a healthy and profitable future! ☀

Musing Gardner

continued from p. 9

solutions – fencing and stinky sprays for the deer, insecticidal soap and squashing for caterpillars and bugs, and a good hosing for the aphids.

Watching wildlife is a joy here. An occasional coyote casually lopes across my field of view. Three hen turkeys visit the bird feeders regularly, and I came across a turkey nest once, but it was so well camouflaged, I couldn't find it again. A dove has already fledged her first brood from a spruce tree, and at least three house wrens are singing. I watched two male Baltimore orioles duking it out the other day – probably for territory. A pair of bluebirds is nesting nearby – a real coup! I listen for the different species of frogs and toads singing in sequence as the season progresses and report my findings to the DNR.

In late spring the snapping turtle crawls out of the pond to lay her eggs. She looks like a beast from primeval times covered with mud, moss and algae, and she goes about her task of digging, laying eggs and returning to the pond with glacial speed. There are a plethora of snakes this year – I had to sweep one out of the garage yesterday.

Today it is raining, nourishing all the greenery and forcing me to stay inside. Happy summer! 🌱

Merry Meet & Merry Greet

(Membership program event - see pp. 2-3 for details.)

—Thursday, December 3—
—Event begins at 6:30pm—
Bring a dish to pass! Come and enjoy the silent auction and member slide show. Meet the SEMG ExCom Candidates and cast your vote.

2009 Sierra Club **Green Cruise**
Be a Solution to Stop Pollution
Saturday, August 8
All events take place in Ferndale at the Green Alley located just West of Woodward Ave. at W. 9 Mile & Planavon St.

Ride 8am • 21 mile B'ham and back recreational ride*
9am • 5 mile family ride*
*Start/Finish at the Green Alley, helmets and signed waivers are required, riders must obey all traffic laws, riders under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

Celebrate 11am • ½ mile Parade to celebrate green forms of transit
• Dress Up in Costumes • Decorate Your Bike • Be Creative • Have Fun!

Climb 11:30 — 2:30pm • Test your skills on the 25' Rock Climbing Tower

Create 10am — 3pm • Arts and Scraps • Face Painting
• Sidewalk Chalk • Plus More!

Learn 10am — 3pm • Help Save the Planet in the Green Alley

Rejuvenate 10am — 3pm • Food, Refreshments and Massages

Grind 12PM — 3pm • Modern Skate & Surf performs demos & tricks

Tune-up 10am — 3pm • Get a Free Bicycle Check-Up from REI or Continental Bike Shop

Rock-On 10am — 3pm • Enjoy FM 93.9 The River's live broadcast
http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/Green_Cruise.html



Over the last thirty years we've made real progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds, and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. With your support, we can do better now.

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



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Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support 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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Westland rises from the ashes (of the old incinerator)

by Phil Crookshank
Sierra Club Cool Cities Activist

I recently bought a residence in Westland (home of the only nature preserve in Wayne County), and started going to Council meetings. Council member Cheryl Graunstadt has been working diligently for years to get the incinerator shut down and curbside recycling started. Imagine my happiness to hear the mayor say that the recycling study sessions were almost done, and the council would soon be voting on the proposal! On Earth Day, April 22 at 11 a.m., Mayor Wild marked the day with the official launch of the City's "Trash into Cash" curbside recycling program inside Westland Shopping Center.

Close to 1,000 residents packed the mall's east court to celebrate the program. Mayor Wild honored Westland Shopping Center as the recipient of Westland's first Mission: Green Eco-Award for their "Thinking Green" initiative. The mall recently replaced paper towels in restrooms with hand dryers and will soon begin recycling corrugated cardboard, which is anticipated to save 4,216 trees annually. And effective June 1, it will begin saving almost 70,000 kilowatt hours of electricity simply by changing to compact fluorescent lamps.

Representatives from Republic Services (the company that will pick up the recyclables), Toter, Inc. (provider of the carts for households) and Great Lakes Recycling (in charge of processing the materials) were all on hand to provide information on the City's new curbside recycling program and answer any questions. Characterized by Mayor Wild as Westland's own economic stimulus package, the program will reward residents with approximately \$240-\$540 annually and could inject between \$6-15 million into the local Westland economy. In addition - reducing the volume of materials going to landfills will save the city \$250,000 per year. WOW.

The bi-weekly curbside recycling program involves single stream recycling in which all materials (glass, plastic, tin cans, paper,) can be co-mingled in the same bin, and items that are hard to recycle will be carted along with



Escher-like reflection of a smokestack in a Traverse City, MI puddle.

Photo by Hal Newnan, © 2009

standard recyclable items. Those who participate are offered a monetary incentive. Residents will earn reward points utilizing an innovative reward program from Recycle Bank. Personalized carts with tracking chips monitor each household's participation, which in turn determines the amount of "points" or "purchase rewards" received. The points will be issued in the form of gift cards and will be redeemable at local merchants and can even be donated to groups like the Salvation Army. Phase One includes the 28,000 single-family households within the city; multi-family units and businesses will be integrated during a later stage.

There will be no extra charge to City residents for the curbside recycling program, as costs will be covered by current sanitation funds. Great Lakes Recycling management estimates that even in these tough economic times it will be able to make a profit by sorting and selling the recyclables to be re-used. It a Win - Win situation! For once, I made a move at the right time, and am proud of my new residence and of the Mayor and City Council members for their foresight and innovation! ♻️

Green Thumbs up for Costco's Trade-In & Recycle Program

Recycle your old electronic equipment for cash. The Costco Trade-In program is available to all members who trade in or recycle any consumer electronic product currently offered by the program. Based on the configuration and condition of your item, Gazelle Recycle Network will offer to purchase your item at the



value displayed by the trade-in value estimator. The recycling program employs a zero tolerance landfill policy, all of the material subject to recycling is disassembled by hand,

carefully separated, and eventually utilized for various raw material extraction processes.

So what are you waiting for? Bring in your PCs, LCD monitors, digital cameras, cell phones, game systems, MP3 players and turn your trash into cash. <http://costco.gazelle.com/main/green> Or call, (800) 774-2678. ♻️

Detroit Incinerator: Mayor Opts for More Incineration

By Anna Holden,
SEMG Conservation Committee

On July 1, Covanta Holding Corporation of New Jersey announced plans to buy a 30% interest in the Detroit incinerator and continue to operate it. Covanta's subsidiary Michigan Waste Energy (MWE) was burning trash July 1 under a new 12 month agreement with Detroit's trash Authority, the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority (GDRRA). This agreement, released to City Council a week later, charges the City a \$25 per ton tipping fee for waste incinerated, the best price Covanta offered in an attempt to match a lower landfill bid from Republic Waste Services.

The new contract raises a lot of concerns. It ignores City Council policy, community interests, a lower bid from a competitor, and the opportunity to reduce waste costs and air pollution. Covanta's old contract expired June 30, and City Council and activists urged Mayor David Bing to implement a new business model for trash July 1, recovering waste for economic markets and development of new jobs and businesses. Bing ran



Dr. Dolores Leonard, Sierra Club Member
Photo by by Robin Buckson

for mayor on his business acumen and environmental promises, stating, "What you burn you cannot earn."

Instead of a business-oriented recycling/resource recovery alternative, the Bing administration has agreed to another complex and financially risky collaboration with Covanta that leaves the City open to unknown costs in the future. GDRRA's approval of the one year Covanta contract above is one of several conditions Covanta required in exchange for giving the City the option to buy its incinerator shares. Before July 1, GDRRA's Chair signed a statement committing the Authority to a five year contract upon purchasing Covanta's shares, plus reimbursement to Covanta for capital improvements and new environmental controls at an interest rate of 10% per year. Future tipping fees and competitive bidding were not mentioned, and the terms were not signed by Covanta. The trash Authority is made up exclusively of Mayoral appointees.

On June 30, City Council voted 6-2 to support Councilwoman JoAnn Watson's resolution to hire an independent attorney to take legal action to stop delivery of City waste to the incinerator. The resolution cited "lack of transparency regarding GDRRA's plans for solid waste after June 30, 2009" and the need for legal action "preventing GDRRA from further wasting the City's resources and further harming the City's environment, natural resources, and public health. . ." Councilman Kwame Kenyatta, whose recent request for financial data was ignored, said, "It is incomprehensible and reprehensible to give an unelected board authority to keep incineration." About two dozen representatives of the Coalition for New Business Model for Detroit



Ed McArdle, Sierra Club Member and Ahmina Maxey,
Policy Director, E. Michigan Environmental Action Council.
Photo by by Robin Buckson

Solid Waste, Sierra Club, and residents living near the incinerator urged Council to intervene to prevent GDRRA's actions. Two young rappers, Malik James-Danielson and Jason Long, sang catchy lyrics they composed, ending with:

"Mercury, dioxins, even lead! We're so surprised that we're not dead!

Find a new solution /to rid of this pollution!"

The Coalition for a New Business Model for Solid Waste is made up of 10 civic and environmental organizations including Sierra Club.

Council's challenge to Bing's recent decisions is critical to ending incineration and implementing a less costly, healthier waste disposal system. Incineration will continue in the near future, but recent citizen pressure has brought about more City sponsored recycling, including a pilot curbside project for 30,000 households starting the first week in July. Free containers will be collected separately from regular garbage, and a new Waste Management facility will process and sell recyclables. Neighborhood monthly drop off recycling locations will increase to 10 in 2009, and six Department of Public Works yards will accept some recycled materials. RecycleHere! in Midtown will continue to accept recycled goods two days a week. ☀

See: www.recyclehere.net.

OUTINGS

General Outings Information

The Outings Committee tries to have a wide variety of outings throughout the year — something to appeal to each resident of our area. Everyone is welcome!

Outings fee is \$1 unless otherwise noted. Participants must sign a Sierra club waiver; preview it at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>. All outings leave the meeting place at the noted time. All trips begin at the trail head. Call trip leader for more details, and dress accordingly for weather and ground conditions.

Outings codes: [C] Conservation; [E] educational; [R] - Restaurant Stop; [T] Trail Work; and [W] - Weather permitting, call if questionable.

For complete schedule, visit SEMG web site at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/SEMG - OUT.htm>

August

8/1 (Sat) Maybury State Park Hike.

11am. Enjoy rolling hills, fields of wildflowers, and mature beech tree woodlands with historic TB sanatorium sites as we hike 3-4 miles at a moderate pace. Rain or shine. Meet at the park concession bldg, Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1-1/2 miles west of Beck Rd.; 5 miles west of I-275.

Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.[R]

8/8 (Sat) Join the Green Cruise in Ferndale: For up to date information, see http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/Green_Cruise.html

8/15 (Sat) Metro Beach Bike and

Hike. 9:30am. A very easy mid-summer ride to the park followed by a 2-3 mile hike, then back on the bikes to the start. Riding distance total is 8-10 miles. Terrain is flat. Hike will be in wooded and open terrain. **Be ready to depart on your bike by 9:45am.**

Meet adjacent to the Ram's Horn at Harper and Metro Parkway. **Optional hike-only meeting place: 10:15am at the nature center.**

Cindy, 248-336-2984.[W],[R]

8/16 [E] Hike Our Heritage. 9:30am.

We'll explore the trails of this great Farmington Hills park, first take the hilly, forested outer loop where we

usually spot some of the resident deer herd, stop for an overlook of the Rouge River, check the various stream crossings for aquatics and finish with a hike through the meadows and up the toboggan hill. 4-miles, moderate pace. Meet in Farmington Hills Heritage Park in the visitor center lot. Turn west off Farmington Rd. (between 10 and 11 Mile) and left at 1st road. **Phil, 248-797-2885.[R]**

8/22-3 Weekend Backpack Trip at Sand Lakes Quiet Area, between Traverse City and Kalkaska, a great escape from the urban life, very quiet! Total hiking ~ 8 miles. There are 5 small lakes surrounded by rolling hills of oak and pine along our trek (actually 12 lakes and ponds which we will explore after setting our camp). For driving and trip details call Ewa Roszczenko 734-756-5362 or email: ewarosz@yahoo.com.

8/23 [E] Lake Erie MetroPark "Naturalist Exploration." 9:30am.

An easy hike of about 3 level miles over open and wooded terrain. We'll look for waterfowl and wildflowers, ending at the lagoon filled with the spectacular butter-yellow American Lotus with its 8" flowers and gigantic leaves. Bring camera, binoculars and

field guides. Optional lunch stop at a historic Victorian restaurant nearby. Meet behind the Dearborn Centennial Library, south side of Michigan Ave. just east of Southfield Fwy, at west end of parking lot. **Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645. [R]**

8/30 [E] Holly Rec. Area Hike, Summer Wildflower Viewing, and Picnic/Swim. 9:30am. A 5-6 miles hike through rolling hills, identifying summer wildflowers, followed by relaxing and a picnic lunch at the park's beach, and maybe a cool dip. **Bring your swimsuit, lunch and some food to share. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot).** **Joanne, 248-932-5370.**

September

9/6 Independence Oaks Hike. Noon. This Oakland County park is the site of great hiking – hilly, wooded trails with a possible beaver spotting if we take the lake-front segment; 5-6 miles at a moderate to brisk pace. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot). **Jo Ellen, 586-431-3104. [R]**

continued on p. 14

OUTINGS *continued from p.13*

9/12 (Sat.) Hike at Maybury State Park. 11am. A moderately paced 3-mile hike through some of the less traveled parts of this lovely rolling park, over wooded and meadow trails with an eye out for remaining bluebirds and late wildflowers. **Meet** at the park concession bldg., Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1-1/2 miles west of Beck Rd. (and Northville), 5 miles west of I-275. Trip goes rain or shine. Entrance fee. **Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782. [R]**

9/13 (Sun) Detroit River Cruise (by advance ticket only). Join us on the **Diamond Jack** river cruise – a fundraising event for SEMG. This will be a private trip for our group, **boarding in Wyandotte for a 3-hour cruise of the Detroit river, complete with lasagna buffet dinner, cash bar and narration by John Hartig**, refuge manager of Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Boarding time is **3:30pm at the Wyandotte dock**, with reserved charter bus service at **2:30** from Royal Oak available for \$5. Boat leaves promptly at 4pm. Last year's cruise was a big hit, and this year's earlier schedule and longer ride will let us enjoy the scenery even more than last year's evening departure. Tickets: \$60; sponsor: \$75. Check www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg for more details and reservation form.

9/19 (Sat) [E] Oak Openings Excursion (near Toledo) 8am! All day excursion. We'll visit Oak Openings Preserve in Ohio, listed among the 200 "Last Great Places on Earth" and a birder's paradise where prickly-pear



cactus, wild lupine and sand cherry bloom atop dry, hot sand dunes just yards away from orchids growing in low, wet swales. Such contrasts are what make the Oak Openings the subject of endless fascination for naturalists. Hike ~ 10 miles? **Bring** hiking boots, lunch, water, snacks, humor and a smile and **meet at 8am in Livonia** on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96; in the Costco lot nearest to Middlebelt and Jeffries Fwy. **Ewa Roszczenko, 734-756-5362 or email: ewarosz@yahoo.com.**

9/20 Macomb Orchard Trail Bike Ride. 10am. Cruise the paved Macomb Orchard Trail from Rochester Hills to Romeo. 20 miles total, nice and flat rails-to-trails route, 10-12 mph. **Meet** at the Onyx Ice Arena, SE corner of Dequindre and 24 Mile in Rochester, at the southern end. Bring water. **Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004. [W],[R]**

9/26 (Sat) Potowatomi Trail Hike. 9:30am. We will hike 10 miles on this famous S.E. Michigan trail, west of A.A. Nice hilly, forested area that passes several lakes and streams. **Dress** for the weather, **bring** water and trail lunch; trip goes rain or shine. **Must call leader in advance** for meetup details, **Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.**

9/27 [E] Fairlane Mansion Historical Walk. 9:30am. Meet in Dearborn, and walk the grounds of the estate that Henry Ford built. We start at the edge of the Rouge River that was the focus of the estate, then walk the grounds, forests and gardens designed by Jens Jensen, and return after a stop to visit the Environmental Interpretative Center at U. of M. Dearborn. **Meet** behind the Dearborn Centennial Library, south side of Michigan Ave. just east of Southfield Fwy., at west end of parking lot. **Bring** water, snacks. **Phil, 248-797-2885. [R]**

October

10/3-4 Pigeon River Backpack Trip. A weekend backpack on Shingle Mill Pathway - total hiking ~11 miles, (we might combine with additional 4-8

miles hiking Green Timbers). Pigeon River Country and Green Timbers are a haven for Michigan's elk herd. (We hope to hear some "bugling") The trek is very scenic and winds along the river and between small lakes and we will find a fabulous campsite. **For details: Ewa Roszczenko email: ewarosz@yahoo.com. or 734-756-5362.**

10/4 [E] Kensington Metropark Hike. Noon. A moderate 5-mile hike observing the resident deer and waterfowl as we explore the forested nature trails in the cool fall weather. Our hike will take us out of the forest and around Wildwing Lake on our way back. **Bring** binoculars, water. **Meet** in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. **Inge, 248-338-0906. [W],[R]**

10/11 Brighton Rec. Area Hike. Noon. The forest of trees will be changing from their green garb to red, yellow and gold. Six miles, moderate pace, following the hilly trails of this historic homestead park. **Bring** water and snack and **meet** in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. **Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214. [R]**

10/17-18 Hoist Lakes Backpack. Come enjoy peak fall colors on this 13-mile wilderness weekend backpack. 2 days, one night out; rolling terrain, rich woods and lakeside camping. Good opportunity for wildlife sightings. Moderate rated trip. **John Hergott, e-mail for complete details at: aka_hiker@yahoo.com.**

10/18 Huron Meadows Metropark Hike. Noon. We'll welcome autumn by trekking the rolling hills alive with fall colors! Start near Maltby Lake, and walk the 4-5 miles of nature trails at a slow pace. **Meet** in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. **Or meet in the park at 12:45** at the Sunset Ridge picnic area lot. **Pat and Tom, 517-552-9121. [R]**

10/24 (Sat) [E] Downtown Riverwalk Exploration. 11am. 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. Start at the Rivard St. park mural and walk upstream on the paved walking trails, past Tri-Centennial State Park, near Chene Park and Amphitheatre, in front of Stroh River Place (the historic Parke-Davis complex) and UAW-GM headquarters, in front of Harbortown, around the US Coast Guard station and to Mt. Elliott Park. The walk is sparkling clean and a wonderful addition to Detroit. We will also explore the newest section; the "Dequinder Cut" – a just finished, rails-to-trails route that leads to historic Eastern Market--for a look at the wonderful murals and architecture. **Meet at 11am. in Troy** behind the Bank of America on 14 Mile Road just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall) or at 11:30 in the parking lot at Rivard Street and Atwater (about 3 blocks east of the Ren Cen and 3 blocks south of Jefferson). **Inge, 248-338-0906; Cindy, 248-336-2984. [W],[R]**

10/25 Bald Mountain-North Hike. 11am. We'll do all three loop trails at a moderate pace for about a 7 mile hike. Each loop has its own distinct habitat: woods, hills, lakes, meadows. **Meet** at the Bald Mt. North trailhead parking lot on Harmon Road, N. of Stony Creek Rd. **Bonnie Michalak, 248-589-2251 C. [R]**

10/31 (Sat) Sleepy Hollow Hike and Politics. 8am! All day excursion. 11 miles (or less) and **after hike we will visit our state Capitol.** Sleepy Hollow State Park 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 downtown Lansing, the Capitol Building, Vietnam war memorial, river walk and will have dinner at one of many unique restaurants. **Bring** hiking boots, lunch, water, snacks, (shoes and clothes to change after hike when we go to Lansing) and as usual great humor and smile. It will be a fun trip! **For details,** info about ride share (public car pool parking in Brighton) **email Ewa Roszczenko at ewarosz@yahoo.com. or call 734-456-5362.**

November

11/1 West Bloomfield Two Preserves Hike. Noon. We'll get two-for-one today: walk the hilly trails at West Bloomfield Nature Preserve, take the rails-to-trails walk to the Heron rookery and down to the Orchard Lake Preserve. Wetlands should hold some migrating birds, and herons fishing. A 5-mile walk at a moderate pace, with stops to look at wildlife along the way. **Meet** at noon in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. **Inge, 248-338-0906. [R]**

11/8 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. **Bring** boots, water and trail snacks. **Meet** in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot). **John Herrgott, 248-766-9575. [R]**

11/14 (Sat) Crooked Lake Trail in Pinckney Rec. Area. 9:30am. A paradise for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts! The trail is a part of the 36 mile Waterloo-Pinckney Trail. We will hike only approximately 6-7 miles or it, 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. **Wear** good hiking

boots, **bring** water, snack and a smile and good humor. **Meet in Livonia** on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96; in the Costco lot nearest to Middlebelt and Jeffries Fwy. **Ewa Roszczenko 734-756-5362 or email: ewarosz@yahoo.com**

11/22 [E] Stony Creek Inwood Trails Hike. Noon. 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!). 6 miles hike, moderate pace. **Meet in Sterling Heights** at Metro-Pkwy (16 Mile Rd) and Van Dyke, (southeast corner) in the SMART parking lot between the banks. **Jo Ellen, 586-431-3104. [R]**

December

12/6 Bald Mountain-South State Rec. Area Hike. 11:30am. We'll hike 5-6 miles at a moderate pace, slower and shorter if there is snow (yak-trax alert!). Terrain is mostly wooded and rolling. This park is centrally located for the metro area. **Meet in Troy** behind the Bank of America on 14 Mile Rd. just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). **Joanne, 248-932-5370. [R]**

12/12 (Sat) Hickory Hills Trail in Waterloo Rec. Area. 9:30am. Waterloo R.A. is the largest state park in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The trail starts at Gerald Eddy Discovery Center and passes through an oak/hickory forest. An approximately 6-mile hike with possibilities to extend it up to 2 miles. So, let's lace up our hiking boots, because in this part of the world, any given pathway will point us to Pure Michigan. **Bring** water, snack, smile and good humor. **Meet in Livonia** on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96; in the Costco lot nearest to Middlebelt and Jeffries Fwy. **Ewa Roszczenko 734-756-5362 or email: ewarosz@yahoo.com ☼**

For complete schedule, visit SEMG web site at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/SEMG - OUT.htm>



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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Exercise your power!

The Executive Committee, also known as the ExCom, is a group of nine volunteers who provide leadership for the chapter. Each ExCom member serves a 2-year term, and at the end of that term, must be re-nominated and run for re-election. Four seats expire this December: Carol Izant, Hal Newnan, Richard Kuszmar, and Tom Nagle. ExCom members typically serve as officers of the chapter and/or committee chairs. The committee meets formally once a month. This is an outstanding opportunity to contribute to the Sierra Club's local work, and for personal development. Here is the timetable for the nomination and election process:

Submit nomination to Nomination Committee	October 1
Nominating Committee present nominations to ExCom for approval of ballot	October 22
Candidates submit 50 word candidate's statement	November 1
Ballots passed out and candidates make statements at November general meeting	November 5
Ballots collected and counted at the December Holiday Party (General Meeting)	December 3

If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, please submit names to the Nomination Committee Chair, Carol Izant. Carol's email address is cogknot@yahoo.com, her snail-mail address is: 19455 Middlesex, Southfield, MI 48076