

# THE ACTIVIST

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>

## MOTOR CITY OR TRANSIT TOWN?

By Ed McArdle,  
SEMG Conservation Chair

### Transit Tax Showdown Resolved.

Transit fans cheered when Gov. Granholm signed HB 6021 into law on June 6. This bill allows local entities or authorities to vote themselves a property tax that can extend for 25 years. Previously, Michigan law had only allowed a five-year time frame. The change is crucial to securing matching funds for transit projects from the federal government, which requires that communities show a stable, long-term source of funds for operation. But the change didn't come easily: Republican lawmakers first approved a bill that would have applied only to Grand Rapids, purposefully excluding the rest of the state. In particular, the bill would have ruled out the proposed Ann Arbor – Detroit transit line and future Woodward corridor transit -- even as the Ann Arbor-Detroit study nears completion. Doing what was right, Gov. Granholm vetoed this bill -- and Republicans introduced the exact same bill again! In the end a compromise was struck that allowed several millions of dollars to be spent on road projects in Republican districts, while the Grand Rapids-only provision was dropped.

Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) and Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) introduced another important transit measure. Resolution "L" would change the Michigan Constitution to allow counties to vote on a regional sales tax. The



**Left:** Traffic on 696-Eastbound on a regular day. With higher gas prices, will we be able to come up with a better solution for all of this?

**Below:** Mass transit systems in Chicago, like the Metra trains lets commuters travel from suburbs to the city with ease!



resolution calls for a .5 percent tax cap for roads and .5 percent for transit. Although transit groups figured that including roads and setting a .5 percent cap would make the measure more palatable, Speaker of the House Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) declared he would not allow passage of the resolution. Unfortunately, this shows the majority leadership to be anti-transit as well as uninterested in giving citizens the democratic opportunity to vote on the issue.

Would Michiganders vote to hike taxes? The current Sierra Magazine (July/Aug 2006) reports of a New York Times and CBS News poll finding that 59 percent of Americans would support a gas tax increase if the money were used to curb global warming. And, 55 percent would support it if it would lower our dependence on foreign oil. Also, how did Denver, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Min-

neapolis and other cities find a way to fund their new transit systems? Their citizens voted for either higher property or sales taxes, or a combination of both. Our challenge is to communicate that economic as well as environmental benefits derive from modest tax increases dedicated to investment in public transit.

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Outings. . . continued from page 6

10/21 (Sat.) Mystery Hike. 9:30 a.m. It's a mystery because we're having trouble choosing from among the many wonderful SE Michigan parks! It will be 5-6 miles, moderately-paced, with rolling or hilly, wooded terrain. (Does that give you a clue?) Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot). Optional restaurant stop after. Bonnie Michalak, 248-589-2251; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

10/22 Lyon Oaks Hike. 1 p.m. Fall should be here in her full glory. Enjoy it on this slow hike (about 4 miles) over wooded, mostly level terrain. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Optional restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

10/28 (Sat.) Maybury State Park Hike. 11 a.m. Hike a moderately-paced, 3 miles through some of the less traveled trails in this lovely, rolling park with mature hardwoods and open fields, former site of the historical TB sanitarium. Fall colors and wildflower "skeletons" will be in evidence. Meet at the Concession building at the south end of the west parking lot off the main entrance on Eight Mile Rd. 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd. (west of Northville). Trip goes rain or shine. Optional restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe 248-349-8782

## **N O V E M B E R**

11/5 Kensington Leaf-Crunchers Hike. 2p.m. at the Nature Center. Most of the leaves will be on the ground, so let's kick our feet and enjoy them on this slow, 3-5 mile walk. Or meet Cindy Gunnip at 1pm in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Optional restaurant stop after. Pat and Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.

11/12 Highland Rec. Hike. 11 a.m. Enjoy a 6-mile hike through varied terrain and habitat. Moderate pace. Hike goes rain or shine. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

11/19 Holly Recreation Area. Noon. Five-mile, moderately-paced hike. Holly has

## **OUTINGS PHILOSOPHY 101**

Joanne Cantoni,  
SEMG Outings Coordinator

Most of us are not born wanting to protect our planet. Someone, something piqued our interest. I remember my awakening. I bought my first wildflower book when my new Texan acquaintances didn't know the names of the flowers and trees I asked about.

The goal of the outings committee is to give the people of Metro Detroit a reason and a way to explore and enjoy our planet. Being outdoors in the company of others who know and love it, is the perfect way to kindle that spark. And what happens then?

Think about people whom you know and love. You want to keep them from harm and secure their future - we want to take care of what we care about.

Outings are a way to introduce people to Sierra Club and to involve them in our efforts to protect our planet. Outings are fertile soil that can provide fruit for the whole environmental movement. That's why it's so important to keep outings programs strong by providing the resources they need: both organizational support and monetary support. One without the other is not sufficient.

nearly 8,000 acres of rolling woodlands, several lakes and scenic overlooks. We'll hike around the lake, keeping our eyes open for interesting bits of nature. Bring a trail snack and drink. Meet at park entrance on McGinnis Road (Grange Hall exit from I-75). Sudha Chhaya, 248-608-9232.

11/24 (Fri.) Annual Post-Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. 10:30 a.m. We'll cover 4-5 miles of our favorite Proud Lake trails at a slow to moderate pace along level, wooded terrain. (Too much exertion after yesterday's feast is not good!) Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Call if weather is questionable. Optional restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

## **D E C E M B E R**

12/2 (Sat.) Maybury State Park Hike. 11 a.m. Hike a moderately-paced, 3 miles through the interior of this 944-acre park watching for signs of small mammals and over-wintering bluebirds and robins.

Terrain is gently rolling with woods and fields. Trip goes rain or shine. Meet at the Concession building at the south end of the west parking lot off the main entrance on Eight Mile Rd. 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd. (west of Northville). Optional restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe 248-349-8782.

12/3 Holdridge Lakes at Holly Rec. Area. 11 a.m. Hike 5-6 miles on this hilly, twisty, new-to-SEMG mountain bike trail (bikes should be long gone!). These wooded, narrow trails with log obstacles should provide an interesting early winter challenge. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot). Optional restaurant stop after. Bonnie Michalak, 248-589-2251.

12/17 Seven Lakes Hike. 11 a.m. The hilly terrain and woods will keep us warm on this moderately-paced, 7-mile hike. Bring a snack and wear sturdy footgear. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

## **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. All must sign a Sierra Club waiver to participate; to preview it, go to the web site at [outings/waiver](http://outings/waiver). All outings leave the meeting place at the noted time. All trips begin at the trail head. Call trip leader for more details. Outings codes: **[E]** educational, **[C]** Conservation, **[T]** Trail Work.

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



# OUTINGS



## AUGUST

8/12 (Sat.) Holly Rec. Sweat, Swim and Picnic. 11 a.m. Hike 2½ - 3 miles around Wildwood Lake, perhaps using the new trails thru woods and near (but not as near as before!) the lake. Rolling terrain with a couple of steep hills. Bring a picnic lunch and swim gear. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

8/20[E] Seven Lakes Hike and Picnic. 9:30 a.m. A 6-mile, moderately-paced hike over varied terrain, pausing to observe and ID summer wildflowers. Bring lunch for a lakeside picnic. We go rain or shine. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot) or at 10:30 a.m. at the park entrance. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

8/20 Lakeplain Prairie Organic Farm Gourmet Fundraiser. Notable local chefs will prepare special foods for Mary LaFrance's farm. Cost: about \$50. Further information: Maria Chrypinski, 313-689-3497 or Mary, 734-789-1164.

8/26 (Sat.) Bald Mountain South Hike. 10 a.m. A 6-mile, moderately-paced hike in a new-to-SEMG area with a stream, hills, wetlands and dense woods. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot). Optional restaurant stop after. Bonnie Michalak, 248-589-2251, Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

## SEPTEMBER

9/3 Independence Oaks County Park Hike. 11 a.m. Join us on a 5-mile, moderately-paced hike in this scenic park. We'll do the hilly, wooded ridges and the lake-side trail. Meet in Troy behind La Salle Bank on 14 Mile just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). Optional restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-431-3104C.

9/10 Holly Recreation Area. 10 a.m. A 5-mile, moderately-paced hike. Holly has nearly 8,000 acres of rolling woodlands, several lakes and scenic overlooks. We'll hike around the lake and enjoy late summer meadow wild flowers. Bring a snack and drink for the trail. Meet at park entrance on McGinnis Road (Grange Hall Road exit from I-75). Sudha Chhaya, 248-608-9232

### 9/16 (Sat.) Outings Scheduling

**Meeting. 5:30 p.m.** If you are interested in leading an outing or learning about leading outings, come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Non-committee members are welcome. Bring a dish to pass, then participate in planning the next quarter's outings (December – February). At Mary Stoolmiller's house in Troy. 248-879-6004.

9/23 (Sat.) [E] Organic Farm Tour. 3 p.m. Visit the organic farm of SEMG member Mary LaFrance in Brownstown Township and learn what makes a farm organic, why organic costs more, whether to consider switching. After the tour, enjoy light refreshments, purchase organic produce or ask more questions. Meet behind the Dearborn Centennial Library, south side of Michigan Ave. just east of Southfield Fwy, west end of parking lot. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

9/24 Stony Creek Metro Park. 10 a.m. Hike 4-5 miles at a slow pace, looking for the resident osprey and enjoying early fall colors. Meet in Sterling Heights at Metro-Pkwy (16 Mile Rd) and Van Dyke, (south east corner) in the SMART parking lot between the banks. Optional restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

9/30 Cass Benton Arboretum Hike (E). 10 a.m. A 5-mile, fairly level walk in this historic arboretum with both wooded and open terrain. We will search for specific trees using GPS and a park inventory and identify some of the 400 species. Meet in the picnic area parking lot – northeast corner of Northville Road at 6 Mile, near

the new bridge. Optional restaurant stop after. Philip Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

## OCTOBER

10/1 Brighton Recreation Area Hike. Noon. Hike 5 or 7 miles at a moderate to brisk pace in mostly wooded, rolling terrain. Fall color may already be developing. Bring water, sturdy footgear, and a trail snack. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Optional restaurant stop after. Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

10/7 Wolcott Mill Family Hike. Noon. Introduce your children and grandchildren to the joys of hiking! Take a short, scenic hike through the woods and then visit the historic mill at this northern Macomb County MetroPark. Then we'll cross the Clinton River using the boy scout bridge. Hikers without children also welcome! Meet in Sterling Heights at Metro-Pkwy (16 Mile Rd) and Van Dyke (southeast corner) in the SMART parking lot between the banks. Optional restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-431-3104C.

10/8 Potawatomi Trail Hike. 10 a.m. Hike 10-11 miles on this hilly, wooded trail which is beautiful in Fall. Bring a trail lunch, plenty of liquids, sturdy footgear and dress for the weather. Trip goes rain or shine! Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

10/15 Bald Mountain Hike (North Unit). 11 a.m. Hike 7½ miles through varied terrain and habitat. Moderate pace. Hike goes rain or shine. Bring snacks and sturdy footgear. Meet in Rochester Hills on the west side of the Meijer parking lot along Rochester Rd. south of Auburn. Optional restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

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# Lace up and Gear up - 2nd Annual Green Cruise

By: Jenny Roebuck

Get out your bikes, lace up those running shoes, it's time for Sierra Club's 2nd Annual Green Cruise! We have several reasons for you to become a Green Cruiser – it's better for your wallet, your fitness, and the air we breathe! In case you were living under a rock last year and missed the first ever Green Cruise, it was an event of which any environmentalist or walking enthusiast would be proud. Last year over 150 local activists walked, biked, roller-bladed, and skipped up and down Woodward Avenue on a beautiful Michigan summer afternoon all in the name of supporting forms of transportation that don't use fossil fuels.

The temperature is getting warmer, storms are getting stronger, and it's no secret that global warming is playing a significant role in this climate shift. It is also not secret that our everyday activities that burn fossil fuels, like driving cars, are a major part of what is generating the global warming phenomenon.

So the question becomes, "What do we do now?" Well, there are of course innumerable amounts of changes that we can make in our everyday lives such as

switching from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents. But the Sierra Club has decided to take action one step further: out the door. The Green Cruise is a fun-filled afternoon to be sure, but primarily we want to encourage everyone to start using alternative forms of transportation – like our feet.

In order to help support this idea of green transportation, we are asking people to take the Green Cruise Pledge, which states that they will use green forms of transportation for their commute at least once a week. The change may seem small and insignificant at first, but just think about all the emissions that would be prevented if everyone took that pledge!

While it may seem that green transportation is an idea that is easier said than done, it in fact is simply a great way to finally get off the couch and go outside for some exercise, and attending the Green Cruise is a great way to start. Just think about the all benefits of a whole afternoon's worth of exercise, and



Photo courtesy of: The Daily Tribune  
A couple of ladies and their dog having a good time and showing support at last year's Green Cruise event!

it doesn't even involve a treadmill!

The Green Cruise begins on Saturday, Aug. 12 promptly at 1 p.m., and will continue until 3 p.m. All will meet for prize giveaways in the Ferndale City Hall parking lot. Anyone and everyone is welcome, including dogs, so come and see how much fun environmental responsibility can really be! For more information, contact Melissa Damaschke at 248-435-5277 or go to [www.sierraclub.org/community/oakland/green\\_cruise.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/community/oakland/green_cruise.asp)

Transit . . .continued from page 1

What you can do to make Transit Town a reality:

1. Attend the SEMCOG meetings (check dates at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org)) to determine the preferred alternative in the Ann Arbor-Detroit study. The study (on-line at same website) has encountered another delay, as the City of Detroit needs more time to consider access to downtown. SEMG addresses downtown access in comments to SEMCOG (see [www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg))
2. Support efforts by State Rep. Marie Donigan (D-Royal Oak) to secure funds for the continuation of the Woodward Ave. corridor study. SEMCOG indicated that it would help if communities along the Woodward corridor passed resolutions to secure such funds. Copies of the resolution are available from Transportation Riders United (TRU) 313-963-8876.
3. There is lots more, but why not bring your concern and expertise to one of our SEMG Committee meetings: Conservation or Political (for time and locations, see p.2).

### Public Meetings on Michigan's Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is holding public meetings in the SEMG area. They will take place in Novi on August 7 and in Warren on August 8. The meetings will run from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. More information, including the location of the meetings, can be found on MDOT's website, at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/1,1607,7-151-9621\\_14807\\_14809--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/1,1607,7-151-9621_14807_14809--,00.html)

### WHAT DO YOU THINK? YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE ACTIVIST!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE OR DISLIKE ABOUT THE ACTIVIST? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF? LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WRITE A STORY OR CONTRIBUTE IN SOME OTHER WAY.

SEND COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS TO:  
PONTI ANG -  
[PONTIMYTHON1@YAHOO.COM](mailto:PONTIMYTHON1@YAHOO.COM)  
OR  
LYDIA FISCHER -  
[LYDFISCH@MINDSPRING.COM](mailto:LYDFISCH@MINDSPRING.COM)

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

## Recycling does pay, SOCRRA helps

By: Ed McArdle,  
SEMG Conservation Chair

Let's bust the myth that recycling is too expensive. Last April the Conservation Committee invited activists from Detroit to a tour of a successful materials recovery facility, the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA). SOCRRA processes and sells the paper, metal cans and plastics laid out by residents in curbside recycling bins. In view of the projected closing of the Detroit incinerator, the nation's largest trash burner, SEMG is working with other groups to promote recycling as an alternative trash disposal method.

The SOCRRA facility, built in 1992 at a cost of \$2.3 million, was set up as partial solution to the closing of the Madison Heights SOCRRA incinerator (which was strenuously and ultimately successfully opposed by environmental groups including SEMG). Currently, SOCRRA charges its twelve member communities \$37.50/ton of recyclable material. This seems high when compared to local landfill tipping fees in the \$11 – \$17/



Above: The recycling SOCRRA plant is located in Royal Oak, between 14 Mile Road and 15 Mile Road. The facility processes approximately 16,000 tons each year from about 100,000 homes.

ton range. But SOCRRA rebates communities for the materials it sells. Paper products, 86% of the waste-stream by weight, bring an average rebate of \$30/ton. The facility processes approximately 16,000 tons/year from about 100,000 homes. SOCRRA claims that the net cost for disposing of recyclable material is only about \$10/year per household. With the new dual stream process

– keeping paper products separate and combining all other materials from pickup through processing – SOCRRA will be able to further reduce costs.

As of July 1, SOCRRA is taking all plastics – not just the usual #1 and #2. The greater volume will increase efficiency and lower costs. Many of us are uneasy about the prospect of recycling #3's: these are essentially PVCs that usually contain toxic heavy metals such as lead and cadmium and when burned become one of the main sources of dioxins.

This and other issues will be addressed as SOCRRA gains more experience and knowledge. The key point remains: when we consider the huge reductions in energy use, air and water pollution, and global warming gasses that recycling provides, how can we afford not to recycle?

## Energy High at Workshop on Smart Energy Solutions for Michigan

By: Anna Holden, Chair, Mackinac Chapter Conservation Committee

Interest and energy ran high among the 50 Michigan Sierra Club members meeting in Royal Oak May 20th to talk about "Smart Solutions for Michigan's Energy Problems."

The Southeast Michigan Group (SEMG) was well represented in this workshop sponsored by the Mackinac (Michigan) Chapter. Presentations covered Michigan's current energy status and energy challenges; energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy standards; wind power, alternative fuels, and community initiatives. Local energy programs discussed included those sponsored by Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, Ann Arbor City, and Sierra's "Cool Cities" project. Sierra Club Regional Director Alison Horton summarized

the Club's new national energy policy.

The day ended with a "Taking Action" wrap-up chaired by David Wright, a long time Club energy activist in Michigan. At this session, members signed "Taking Action" worksheets indicating their interest in potential solutions that could be gained from legislation, community based initiatives, and the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)'s 21st Century Energy Action Plan. Many volunteered to be legislative "Watch Dogs" or work with the Chapter's Legislative Committee, and others signed up for the Club's "Cool Cities" program and local energy initiatives.

The workshop was an outstanding success in informing and motivating members to get involved in solutions to Michigan's energy challenges. Sample comments from those attending were en-

thusiastic: "Excellent program!..." "I learned so much about a complicated topic..." "I felt this was a terrific workshop with experts who really went into depth on these issues." But best of all, some of those who attended are now helping to organize a new Chapter energy subcommittee, are watch dogging a couple of the Public Service Commission's 21st Century Energy Plan committees, and attending energy related programs such as SEMG's May meeting on Green Building.

Want to join in? Information about the Chapter's energy activities is available from Lydia Fischer at lydfisch@mindspring.org (734-994-3582) or Anna Holden at anna.holden@michigan.sierraclub.org (313-331-0932). Several of the PowerPoint presentations are available by e-mail.

For more information on what is going on with the Southeast Michigan Group log on to:

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>

# SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN?

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! for the SEMG Political Committee's Annual Potluck/Picnic August 19th, 3-7 p.m. at Adele Saunder's House

You, your friends & family members are welcome.  
Please bring a dish to pass, and most importantly,  
your good spirits!

### GREEN POLITICS: *Think Lansing - Act Local*

By Tim Killeen,  
SEMG Political Committee Chair

There is a direct connection between Sierra Club members putting in a few hours on political work and the chapter winning important battles in Lansing. The current events surrounding the fight to regulate "factory farms" – also known as CAFOs -- in Michigan provide an excellent example.

This issue has been written on extensively in The Mackinac, so I will just hit the legislative highlights:

- The Sierra Club introduces a set of bills with bi-partisan support that provide for sane regulation of CAFOs.
- Industry introduces its own bills that focus on self-regulation.
- Sierra Club participates in discussions that result in a compromise set of bills.
- Industry keeps pushing its own bills but there are not enough votes on the floor for passage.
- The Legislature adjourns for summer with the issue still up in the air.

Ten years ago we would have lost this fight, but today we are right in the middle and have a good chance of winning. Why? Club members have increasingly been active in their local State House and Senate campaigns in recent years. Club members have turned out in good numbers for our spring and fall Lobby Days in Lansing. Each Club member has set aside a few hours of his or her time and the collective result is a much stronger voice among legislators in Lansing. This, along with the tenacity and leadership of our Lansing staff, puts us at the table as never before in crafting environmental policy in the state.

Do not exempt yourself -- clean air and water are political decisions we make as a society. It is "boots on the ground" that really make the difference in the political process. Whether you help an endorsed Club candidate directly, participate in the local political committee, come to a Lobby Day or write letters, your direct involvement is what moves the process.

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### A Goodbye to Polly Boike

A few weeks ago the Sierra Club lost a good friend in Clawson's own Polly Boike. Polly was active in the SEMG Political and Conservation Committees, and on the BEC campaign. Irascible and committed, Polly's presence was both challenging and motivating. Polly bequeathed a portion of her estate to the Sierra Club for continuing political work. We remember her fighting spirit as the work moves forward.

Programs . . . continued from page 2

years later she was hired as staff; she now directs the state conservation and legislative programs and the National Sierra Club Environmental Protection Education Campaign (EPEC) in Michigan. Over the years, Anne has worked on a wide range of issues including forests, sprawl, and, more recently, CAFOs. In coordination with Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program, the Chapter has settled four lawsuits that have forced factory farms to pay fines and implement improvements to prevent unlawful pollution of Michigan's waterways. Through her tireless efforts, Michigan has become one of the more aggressive states in the work to protect communities from factory farm pollution. Anne has promised to share her insights gained over the past 25-plus years, her vision for the future of Michigan's environmental movement, and the Sierra Club's role in all of this. In addition to Anne's keynote address, SEMG will conduct a brief, formal presentation from each of our local committees summing up the year's activities. You will also have a chance to cast your ballot in the election for members of the SEMG Executive Committee.

### December 7, 2006. SEMG Annual Merry Meet & Merry Greet Holiday Party, Silent Auction & Members' Slide Show.

Yes, it's that time of the year again...a time to celebrate the season of light with SEMG! Members are encouraged to bring 35mm slides (10-20) that highlight a special trip, outdoor adventure, or simply your point of view about the environment to share with the group. New or "gently used" items to donate for our annual silent auction are appreciated. And don't forget to bring a festive dish to pass for our ever-popular holiday feast! It ain't easy being green...that's why it's even more important to celebrate all that we do and be together as SEMG! Please join us!





**Sierra Club**  
 Southeast Michigan Group Mackinac Chapter  
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# 5 YEARS OF SUCCESS!

## 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner

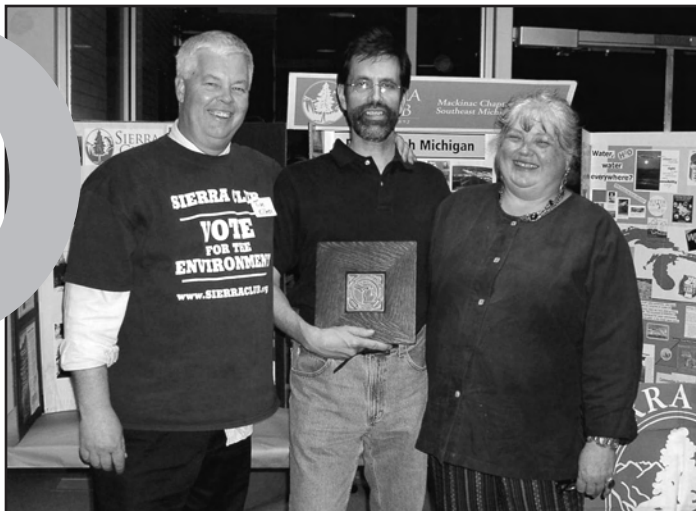


Photo courtesy of Dave Fuller  
 From left to right: Tim Killeen, Political Committee Chair,  
 Dave Dempsey, guest speaker and Carol Izant, Chair

Many Sierra Club members and their guest turned out to see guest speaker Dave Dempsey speak about Michigan's environment and his book "Ruin and Recovery". Thanks to all who helped make this event a success!

### 2006 SIERRA CLUB **RETREAT!**

Get away from the city life  
 and enjoy nature!

**Fri. 8/25th - Sun. 8/27**  
**Camp Miniwanca**

Come and relax with  
 friends and family.

Non-members are welcomed!

**Enjoy fun workshops & activities:**

- Family crafts & games
- Enviro. education presentations
- Outdoor activities
- Skills workshop
- Campfire, stargazing...etc

	Adults	Children (3-12)
Camp/Cabin:	\$105	\$55
Inland Dorm:	\$130	\$75
Lakeside Dorm:	\$140	\$75

Register on-line at  
[www.SierraRetreat.org](http://www.SierraRetreat.org)  
 Questions? Contact Lisa Wickman at  
[Lisa@sierraretreat.org](mailto:Lisa@sierraretreat.org)  
 or at 517-332-5346.