

THE ACTIVIST

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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

Marathon Crude - The Bottom of the Barrel

By Ed McArdle,

Conservation Committee Chair

In the debate over record high gas prices, there are strong arguments (including those of the International Energy Agency in Paris) pointing to the likelihood that world demand is close to overtaking production, partly because Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have overestimated their oil reserves by a wide margin. Other experts stress lack of refinery capacity in the U.S. Marathon Oil, located in southwest Detroit at Fort St. and Schaefer, is Michigan's only oil refinery. In a recent speech to the Detroit Economic Club, Marathon's CEO Clarence P. Cazalot announced salvation from higher oil prices through an increase of 15 percent in production at the Detroit refinery, to 400,000 gallons per day. The expansion will come from processing heavier crude oil extracted from the Canadian tar sands in northern Alberta, where Marathon is planning a \$6 billion investment. Mr. Cazalot pointed out that this would relieve some of our dependence on oil supplies from unstable areas of the world and create 132 full-time local jobs. The project has garnered considerable support from business groups, the Detroit Mayor and City Council members, all of whom welcome the \$2 billion investment in the refinery and an expanded pipeline to feed the heavier Canadian crude. The project has already won tax abatements and a brownfield grant. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) hosted a public hearing and information session to review the air



permit for the expansion this past January 10. Residents were split between rejoicing over the promise of 132 full-time jobs and worrying over their health.

But wait a minute. Didn't the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tell us that we must reduce our global warming carbon emissions 80% by the end of the century to avoid the worst catastrophes of global warming? Shouldn't we be looking for ways to reduce our consumption of oil, not increase it? That surely would include avoiding this type of heavy, dirty oil from the Alberta tar sands.

According to Worldwatch and the National Resources Defense Council, extracting this oil adds three times the amount of global warming emissions that is spewed when extracting regular crude. Marathon is among several oil companies that have joined the oil rush with a hefty investment in the tar sands. Current industry projections estimate that production will triple by 2012, and use as much natural gas to extract and process the tar as could supply all of the homes in Canada.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

SEMG General Membership meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy (located along the southbound US10 service drive between 9 & 10 Mile) in Southfield, MI.

A potluck dinner is held monthly from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. after which time the meeting begins promptly from 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. If you are coming for the potluck portion of the evening, please bring a dish to pass! 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 second 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 third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Jimi's restaurant on Washington, 1 block north of Lincoln (10 1/2 Mile) 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. Check Activist or web site for complete details.

Schedule of Programs

April 3, 2008

Film Presentation "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil"

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990, Cuba's economy went into a tailspin. With imports of oil cut by more than half—and food by 80 per cent—people were desperate. This film tells of the hardships and struggles as well as the community and creativity of the Cuban people during this difficult time. Cubans share how they transitioned from a highly mechanized, industrial agricultural system to one using organic methods of farming and local, urban gardens. The film opens with a brief history of Peak Oil, a term for the time when world oil production reaches its all-time peak and begins to decline. While there remains some debate as to when we will reach global peak oil, most experts agree the time is now. Cuba, the only country that has faced such a crisis, is an example of options and hope. Join us after the film for a discussion with invited members of the Detroit Agricultural Network and other local sustainability advocates.

May 1, 2008 TBA

June 5, 2008 TBA

Please log on to SEMG website to find out more details of the monthly membership meetings - <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>

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



The Activist is printed on recycled paper.

SEMG Treasurer Gloria Scicli Receives Chapter Service Award!

Gloria has steered us right, financially speaking, for the last 10 years. She took over the Treasurer's job in SEMG's Executive Committee from long-time activist Elizabeth Allingham in 1998, and has held it since. She has been invaluable in giving us the straight picture of our income and expenses in a timely fashion and an enthusiastic supporter of fundraising endeavors such as the Annual Dinner.

In addition to being treasurer, Gloria is the alternate Rep to the Chapter Executive Committee from our Group. She has been involved in several other SEMG activities, most recently the Cool Cities effort in Birmingham.

Congratulations, Gloria, for a richly deserved recognition of your contributions to the Group and Chapter!

Our Newly Elected Executive Committee Members



Carol Izant currently serves as the Group Chair and Program Chair. Additionally, she's active with our Political Committee and Annual Fundraising Dinner. In addition to her experience with the Sierra Club, Carol has an extensive history of environmental service for over 20 years. This has resulted in a broad understanding of issues and an extensive network of contacts within the environmental community. She is dedicated to working with others to make SEMG a dynamic force for change in our region.



Richard Kuszmar has been a member since 1992, and is excited by the Sierra Club's increasing activity on behalf of the environment. He would like to add the knowledge and skills developed from a lifetime of activism in labor, Peace, Environmental, Women's and Civil Rights struggles to mobilize members in the fight for Mother Earth.



Tom Nagle has been active with the Sierra Club for almost 2 years. During this time, he served as the head of the Energy SubCommittee, which has now become the Global Warming Task Force of the Conservation Committee. As part of this function, he has led monthly meetings, helped create educational events, and was instrumental in getting Royal Oak to sign the Cool Cities agreement. These efforts have helped him understand the politics of many cities in our region and will be invaluable when serving on the Executive Committee. Tom's career in Information Technology has allowed him to develop communication skills vital to those outside the immediate realm of the environmental movement, especially those within the business community.



Hal Newnan has been active with the Sierra Club since January 2006. Hal attended many Sierra Club meetings and events on energy and conservation. He built the Cool Cities team in Warren/Macomb County and ran in the primary this year for Warren City Council. He was recently appointed to the SEMG ExCom to fill out a vacant position and has been charged with the job of Group Webmaster. Hal wants to do everything he can to move the Club's work forward. He plans to use his considerable skills with people, web design, graphics and research to enhance Sierra Club's efforts.

Clean Energy - No More Nukes for the Great Lakes

By Ed McArdle,
SEMG Conservation Committee chair

Don't fall for the new nuclear revival. DTE is proposing to build a new nuclear power plant in Monroe, MI. A recent high profile media campaign led by former EPA chief Christine Todd Whitman and Patrick Moore, formerly with Greenpeace, has been convincing public officials and the media that nuclear power is the answer to global warming. Several Michigan legislators have signed on in support of nuclear power perhaps believing that nuclear power is a carbon-free source. Not true: nuclear plants have significant impacts on global warming and the environment, and are outrageously expensive.

Nukes Are Not Carbon Free when you consider the life cycle of prospecting, mining, milling, enriching and transporting uranium. The enrichment process emits CFC-114, the most potent chemical known to damage the ozone layer. CFC-114 is 9,300 times more effective



Photo: morguefiles.com

than CO2 as a global warming gas and lasts 300 years in the atmosphere. U.S. Enrichment Corp., a producer of enriched uranium, reported emitting over 3 million tons of CO2 equivalents in 2004.

Nuclear plants, just like coal plants, use huge amounts of water for cooling. Recent droughts have shut down nuclear plants both in Europe and the U.S. The Bruce Power complex on the Canadian side of Lake Huron (the largest nuclear

station in North America) has 6 reactors that suck up over 8 million gallons/minute of lake water and return it to Lake Huron 4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer. Are these thermal plumes that heat up the lakes preventing normal ice formation, increasing evaporation and contributing to the lower lake levels?

The 1960's book We Almost Lost Detroit describes a near-catastrophic meltdown at DTE's Enrico Fermi I nuclear plant in Monroe, MI. In 1993

Enrico Fermi II was shut down for more than a year after a turbine blade spun off and did severe damage, allowing radioactive water to enter the building.

We almost lost Detroit again in 2002 as inspectors found a football-sized hole in the reactor vessel at the Davis-Besse plant east of Toledo, OH, only 55 air miles from

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In Our Members' Opinion:

Energy Efficiency Programs – simple tools in the fight to conserve energy

By Frank Zaski,
Michigan Chapter,
Energy Activist

Energy efficiency is the quickest, cleanest and cheapest way to achieve our energy goals. It creates jobs, saves ratepayers money which can flow back into the state's economy, reduces the need for new coal plants, and reduces CO2, pollution and health problems.

What is energy efficiency? It is basically the replacement of products and processes with those that use less energy. Examples include "EnergyStar" appliances in homes; CFL bulbs and other lighting energy saving devices, heating and cooling upgrades in buildings, and more efficient motors and processes in factories.

Sometimes energy efficiency gets confused with conservation. There is a difference. For example, energy efficiency is installing 10 CFL bulbs and conservation is turning off five of them. Energy



... it is well documented that for about 2.57 cents invested in efficiency, consumers avoid a 6 cents charge for electricity from a new coal plant.

efficiency is installing a high performance furnace and conservation

cial and industrial customers save millions of dollars a year in utility bills and millions of tons of CO2 and pollution. These programs are funded by rate payers on their monthly utility bills and actually keep the total bill lower: it is well documented that for about 2.57 cents invested in efficiency, consumers avoid a 6 cents charge for electricity from a new coal plant. Either the utilities or an outside organization can be put in charge of administering programs. In Michigan, the state's Public Service Commission has determined that an energy efficiency program can eliminate the need for two or more coal plants and keep our utility bills lower.

An example of a successful energy

is turning down the thermostat.

While we try to be more energy efficient in our own lives, we notice that many others are not doing so. This is where a state-wide, utility funded energy efficiency program plays a role. Such a program provides information, technical assistance and financial incentives to households and businesses to help them become more energy efficient.

Over 20 states have energy efficiency programs which help residential, commer-

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Neighbors Opposed to Developers' Plans to Fill in Troy Wetlands

By Mary Bogush, SEMG Activist

In a northeast corner of Troy near the intersection of Square Lake and John R. Rds. a beautiful Heron Rookery (a group of Great Blue Heron nests) rests high in the tall trees towering over a wetland area. The Great Blue Herons rely on the wetlands for food and shelter. Besides fostering wildlife habitat, natural wetlands perform other important functions, including drainage and filtration, which helps to prevent flooding. These particular wetlands in Troy are connected to the Fetterly Drain, which used to be an agricultural stream. This former stream doesn't have environmental protection because it is currently designated a county drain.

Unfortunately, a proposal for a local wetland ordinance in Troy that would have protected these and other wetlands smaller than 5 acres was shot down in 2001 as the result of a misinformation campaign engineered by developers, who argued that a local wetland ordinance would result in duplication of state wetland regulations. In fact, current law only protects state wetlands 5 acres in size or larger. Other predictable arguments – that the ordinance would compromise property rights and decrease property values – were put forward as well.

Two large subdivisions have been proposed for development under applications to the Michigan Department of Envi-

ronmental Quality (MDEQ). If permits are obtained, developers will move to fill in the wetlands, showing no concern to their ecology and the potential for flooding current owners. Sites that herons and other wildlife use for feeding will be compromised and the rookery highly affected.

Concerned Troy residents spoke out on this past November 8 at a DEQ public hearing in strong support of leaving the wetlands intact and protecting this unique natural area. Sierra Club members in Troy wrote letters to the MDEQ staff about their concerns regarding the potential for more frequent flooding episodes which most likely will result from further filling of the natural wetlands because of impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways and houses. Regrettably, neighbors have observed some wetland filling even prior to obtaining a decision from the MDEQ

We expect the Department to enforce Michigan wetland laws and the Clean Water Act through its permit-issuing powers. But we feel it is currently failing to protect Michigan's wetlands due to insufficient budgeting, staffing and legal support. If you'd like to join a group that takes action to protect the wetlands, home to the Great Blue Herons and a variety of other wildlife, please e-mail: notdev@yahoo.com or call Mary Bogush at (248) 250-4277 or e-mail Lon Ullmann at: lon_ullmann@yahoo.com, (248) 828-7625.



Photo By: Ponti Ang



Photo: morguefiles.com



Our State Legislators Need to Hear from People in their Districts that We Want Clean Energy Now!



**Join fellow Sierrans on Spring Lobby Day in Lansing
Wednesday April 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Lobby Day is a way for Sierra club volunteers to develop an ongoing dialogue on environmental issues with legislators, and speak to them on behalf of our 18,000 members in the state. Our Spring Lobby Day 2008 will focus on the ongoing Clean Energy/No New Coal campaign -- to move our state away from dirty, expensive coal and nuclear power sources and into a future of greater energy efficiency and investment in homegrown renewable sources such as wind, solar and geothermal.

Lobby Days are an effective way to convey our stand on the issues, and also great fun and the chance to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow enviros. To be a volunteer lobbyist, all you need is a commitment to our Sierra Club values and the ability to spend a day in Lansing. You'll be provided with background information on our message and pointers on how to be an effective lobbyist. There are also carpooling opportunities to travel to Lansing with fellow lobbyists.

To register or for further information, please call or e-mail:
Lydia Fischer, 313-506-8278, lydfisch@mindspring.com, or
Legislative Director Gayle Miller, 517-484-2372, gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

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despite Canada having signed the Kyoto Treaty committing to reduce their carbon emissions by 7%, they will increase by 25% due in large part to the huge amounts of energy used to extract this oil.

The environmental destruction of land, water, air quality and wildlife brought about by mining the Canadian tar sands is on a planetary scale. Considered the world's second largest oil reserve behind Saudi Arabia, the sands underlay a virgin boreal forest the size of Florida. This northern boreal forest is one lung of our planet, the other being the Amazon, both sucking up CO₂. Huge lakes of contaminated wastewater resulting from the processing are contained by some of the largest dams in the world – one article pointed out that only the Three Gorges Dam in China is larger.

When the oil arrives to its destination in Detroit its increased viscosity will require new additions to the Marathon refinery. The air permit that Marathon is asking MDEQ to grant indicates that carbon monoxide will increase by 200 tons/year. Other pollutants are stated to decrease. But this is deceptive, because the company is allowed to subtract reductions in emissions ob-

tained as far back as 2003. The actual increase in emissions of the six regulated pollutants from current levels would be 555 tons/year. In addition to carbon monoxide and the regulated pollutants, refineries typically emit a multitude of other harmful pollutants, many of which are linked to cancer, asthma and heart attacks. Indeed, the air monitor at Salinas School in nearby Dearborn has on some days recorded the worst pollution in the country. Besides air pollution, another concern is the wastewater from the proposed addition to the refinery, which will require a permit from the Detroit Water and Sewage plant.

What to do? First, let's spread the word about this dirty oil and urge our friends to boycott Marathon and subsidiary Speedway gas stations. Second, let's pledge to reduce the need for more fuel and reduce pollution by purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles, driving less, carpooling, using public transport when available, and limiting our top expressway speed to 60 mph when we safely can. And, why not push for a law to lower the speed limit? Driving over 60 mph increases fuel and emissions exponentially. I know this is a tough sell but we have to get serious about global warming. Otherwise we will be scraping the bottom of the Canadian oil barrel for years to come.

Stay in the loop. Log on to - <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>

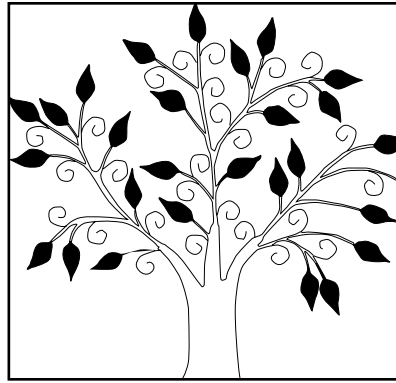
GREEN POLITICS

"Political Junkie"

By Mitch Mitchell, SEMG Political Committee Chair

It was an unseasonably warm October evening in Detroit that found me marching up the truck ramp behind the Main Post Office. I hadn't known which door to take in the bulk mail that I was sending and someone directed me toward the back of the building. I was carrying several hundred letters in the only thing I could think of using, my large black duffel-type suitcase. The letters were to our Sierra Club members, proudly announcing our endorsement in various local elections. Now, as I looked out at the Ambassador Bridge connecting us to Canada, I was sweating profusely and beginning to wonder about myself. I could have been watching a football game drinking a cold beer. Instead, I was doing what I could to help people win City Council elections. As I trudged towards the top of the ramp, dodging semi trucks, a woman who was smoking at the top of the ramp asked "What you doing, boy? And where are you going with that suitcase?" I realized then that I was like an addict who had hit rock bottom. I was a Political Junkie.

If two years ago you had told me that I would be even paying attention to City Council elections, I would have considered you batty. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought it worth for the Sierra Club to spend any time or money on offices this local and, well, small. But a funny thing has happened to me. I have seen the grassroots work and now realize that environmental action begins at the lowest level, where much can and does get done. It would be irresponsible for the Sierra



Club to ignore this. Plus, this is also where we find our future leaders. They may not all win, but they will all remember who supported them along the way. I thought of two of our endorsed candidates in a contentious Troy election. Mary Kerwin is a silver-haired lady with the eyes of a red-tailed hawk.

And Kevin Hrit, a young man fresh out of college looking to join the fray like an unexpected reinforcement in battle. These are good people, these are our people and they have earned and deserve our Club's effort.

Three weeks later I am at an election-night gathering at Marinnelli's in Troy, waiting for the results to be Blackberried in. Candidate Kerwin wins and accepts our congratulations with a beaming smile. Alas, Kevin Hrit falls short and people are shaking his hand and speaking to him like a relative at a funeral viewing of a distant cousin. I go up to the bar, buy myself a beer and settle into a football game. As the crowd thins, Kevin comes over and orders a beer. "I only drink Union-made beer," he shares proudly. He sits down and loosens his tie, looking tired but resolute. "There's always another election" he says. Indeed there is, Kevin. And Jason Bauer, Ron Robinson and Jennifer Stein. Indeed there is.

YES - WE DO POLITICAL WORK

The Sierra Club and Political Action – Check out Our Club's Mission and Get Involved!

The mission of the Sierra Club political program is to preserve the environment through nonpartisan grassroots political action. The principal goals of the program are:

- (1) To elect candidates who will support and promote environmental protection:
- (2) To raise public awareness about environmental issues and elevate the priority of these issues for decision-makers;
- (3) To encourage Club members and other environmentalists to participate in the political process;
- (4) To advance the Club's conservation agenda by building relationships with legislators and other elected officials; and
- (5) To strengthen the Sierra Club's capacity to elect pro-environment candidates to every level of government.

Source: Sierra Club Political Committee Compliance Guidelines, October 2007.

<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/politics/compliance/scpcguidelines/>

SEMG activities to participate in 2008 primaries and elections are in full swing. Join your fellow Sierra Club members in the action! The Political Committee meets every month at Jimi's in Royal Oak, on Washington St., one block N. of Lincoln (10 1/2 Mile Rd). See p.2 for schedule of meetings.

New Governor's Directive Promotes Environmental Justice

Anna Holden,
SEMG & Chapter Conservation Committees

Governor Jenifer Granholm's November 28, 2007 Executive Directive, "Promoting Environmental Justice" initiates a formal state policy requested by 35 Michigan organizations and thousands of Michigan citizens involved in the Campaign for State Action on Environmental Justice. Sierra Club volunteers and staff worked actively in campaign rallies, met with the Governor's representatives and recruited support statewide.

The Governor's directive is the first policy statement by an Executive-level Michigan public official to recognize state government's obligation to advance policies that foster environmental justice. It establishes a process to incorporate environmental justice principles into state departmental and agency decision making and practices and is a welcome step forward in protecting communities of color and low income populations from disproportionate hardships of toxic emissions, waste dumping, and other environmental health threats.

The Granholm directive defines environmental justice as "fair, non-discriminatory treatment and meaningful involvement of Michigan residents regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies by this state."

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is charged with developing and implementing a statewide plan to promote environmental justice and monitoring its results. The directive specifies MDEQ must actively solicit public involvement in crafting this plan and also directs MDEQ to form an environmental justice working group composed of state officials and members of the public to assist in creating the overall state plan and individual departmental and agency plans where needed. In addition, the work-



ing group is to recommend performance goals and measures for MDEQ and other state departments and agencies and review compliance with all plans. MDEQ must also present a progress report to the Governor by July 1, 2008 and prepare an annual report to the Governor on state activities to promote environmental justice. No provisions for staffing or special programs or recommendations for needed legislation are mentioned.

At a minimum, the directive should increase participation of minority and low income citizens in agency and regulatory decisions affecting their environment, potentially preventing actions that could impact them negatively. The directive should also provide new opportunities to challenge and alter state actions that cause excessive pollution and other environmental risks for these populations.

Michigan is now one of a growing list of at least 33 states adopting formal environmental justice statutes. Annual surveys of the American Bar Association (ABA) and other research document a wide range of state activity and individual state experience that Michigan can draw on. The April 2007 ABA survey outlines and describes environmental justice activity in 32 states with official policies and legislation, and summarizes programs in 10 additional states that employ full-time environmental justice officers or personnel or fund active EJ programs. See www.uchastings.edu/?pid=1353. See, also, "State Approaches to Environmental Justice" by Ann E. Goode at www.abanet.org/irr/committees/environmental/newsletter.html, a 2007 updated study of four states' experience with environmental justice programs.

Sierra Club looks forward to new opportunities to work with environmental justice issues as the Governor's directive is implemented.

Organic: Check the Label

Get the Bang for the Bite!

GMO-Free and organic produce isn't available everywhere, but this tricks helps you know what's what when navigating the veggie aisle. What's the probability your supermarket plums are genetically modified?

Plum dandy...pretty high, but we'll help you crunch the numbers. The little stickers on fruits and veggies have digits that let you know whether they're conventionally grown or organic and if they're genetically modified (GM). Look for the labels stuck on your fruits and veggies:

A four-digit number means it's conventionally grown

A five-digit number beginning with 9 means it's organic

A five-digit number beginning with 8 means it's GM

Although GM foods have been in stores since the 1990s, we don't know the long-term health risks. A 1998 EPA sampling found that 29% of the foods tested contained detectable pesticides. This leaves scientist concerned that GMOs will reduce biodiversity. Buy organic and just let mother nature do her thing!

Night Migrants Need "Safe Passage"



Photo: morguefiles.com



By Joe Bartell

Each year in North America, between one hundred million and one billion birds die during night-time migrations. Many people think that all birds migrate during the day. Not so. Many small birds such as warblers, wrens vireos, thrushes and tanagers migrate at night on their way either to their summer breeding grounds or their wintering grounds. Migrants face many hazards in both directions, including towers and (especially during the day) structures that use glass. However, tall buildings lighted at night have been shown to be one of the greatest dangers.

It is thought that the lights on tall buildings confuse the navigation systems of birds unlucky to have such buildings in their flight path. They circle the buildings repeatedly and die either of

exhaustion or by colliding directly with the illuminated building. According to scientist at the Field Museum in Chicago, this mortality could be reduced by 80% if those building lights were turned off.

The Detroit Audubon Society is requesting building organizations, government agencies and property owners to reduce the carnage by turning off lights in tall buildings-on the 5 floor and above-from 11:00 p.m. to dawn, from the second weekend in March through May, and from the second weekend in August through October.

Governor Jennifer Granholm showed her support of this effort by issuing a proclamation naming "Safe Passage Great Lakes Day": March 15 through May 31, and August 15 though October

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efficiency program is Wisconsin's Focus on Energy. This program has promoted CFLs with customer coupons and advertising assistance to retailers. As a result, CFL usage in Wisconsin has risen to 16% compared to only 2% in Michigan. Efficiency Vermont is another excellent example. If Michigan had Vermont's program and results, we would have put back \$3 billion into our economy since 2000. Think of the jobs and tax revenue that would have provided!

Surprising allies in promoting energy efficiency are the large utility

companies. Consumers Energy and DTE are planning their own energy efficiency programs. However, when utilities sell less electricity, they make less profit. To encourage utilities to support efficiency, the environmental groups (and the utilities) endorse "decoupling." This is a compensation mechanism which provides a fair profit to the utilities so they can more enthusiastically promote energy efficiency.

Hopefully, by the time you read this article, the Michigan legislature will have passed energy efficiency legislation calling for at least a 1% reduction in electricity and heating fuel usage each year.

Clean Energy. . .cont from page 4

Detroit. Inspectors claimed that the plant was perhaps two months away from a core meltdown worse than Three Mile Island. Besides record civil penalties of \$33.5 million, a criminal trial is now in progress.

At the Palisades plant near South Haven, Michigan in 2005, a crane holding nuclear waste over the spent storage pool got stuck for three days. If the crane had dropped the waste it could have released radioactive material over the entire state.

Besides accidental releases, normal nuclear plant operations emit radioactive material to the air and water. Last December radioactive tritium was found in groundwater between the Palisades plant and Lake Michigan. Several studies point to increased cancer rates near nuclear sites.

After more than 60 years of producing nuclear waste that remains deadly for 100,000 years, there is still no final storage solution. The earliest the federal depository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada is predicted to open in 2017, if ever. Meanwhile, Michigan's four nuclear plants have created over 1,600 tons of highly radioactive waste currently stored in huge water pools or dry cement casks along the shores of our Great Lakes.

New nuclear plants are estimated to cost \$4 to \$6 billion and can take 10 to 12 years to permit and build. Current estimates put the supply of uranium at only 60 years; the price of uranium has skyrocketed in recent years. Nuclear power, already heavily subsidized by American taxpayers, has been provided billions of dollars more in guaranteed loans by the 2007 Congressional Energy Act. Meanwhile, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 50% of the loans could end up in default.

Another nuke plant is an extremely foolish investment for Michigan. Instead, we should invest in strong energy efficiency programs and mandate the use of clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and biomass - to save our planet and our consumer dollars.





OUTINGS



March

3/1 (Sat.) Bald Mountain-North Winter Hike. 11 a.m. Enjoy 6-7 miles hiking at a moderate pace in this forested, rolling hills state recreation area. Eight small lakes may be visible from our route. Dress for the weather. Wear hiking boots - trails may be snow-covered. Call if weather is ? 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(C), Ewa Roszczenko; 734-421-8680.

3/2 Highland Rec. Area Hike. 10 a.m. We will hike 6 miles through wooded rolling terrain looking for the first signs of the coming spring. Come prepared for March weather with good boots, water and snacks. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Optional restaurant stop after hike. John Herrgott; 248-766-9575.

3/08 (Sat.) Proud Lake Hike. 11 a.m. Hike about 5 miles at a moderate pace in this level, wooded park along the Huron River. Bring water & boots; goes rain or shine. Interesting bogs and river views with chance for skunk cabbage sightings. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet at Proud Lake; from I-96 exit 159, follow Wixom Rd. N. 7 miles to park entrance on right; proceed east about ¼ mile to trailhead parking lot. Tom Griebe; 248- 349-8782.

3/9 [E] Lyon Oaks Heron Walk. 10 a.m. Let's go visit the newest Heron rookery in the state - at Lyon Oaks Metropark. A newly created wetland, surrounded by telephone poles installed last year with nesting platforms on top will be drawing the big graceful birds. The problem of dead nesting trees falling down each year

and eliminating habitat is now resolved. We will observe the birds, and then walk the 3 miles of fairly level trails at a moderate 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. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Phil Crookshank; 248-797-2885.

3/16 Hike Holdridge Lakes Mountain Bike Trail. 11 a.m. We'll do 6 miles on this narrow, twisty, hilly, forested trail while the bikes are absent. Moderate pace, but trail characteristics will make this a fairly rigorous hike, especially if there is snow cover. (Yak-Trax alert!) Call if weather is ? Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot) or 12:00 p.m. at the trailhead (go to Hess Road [1/4 mile west of I-75]; go north 1-1/4 miles to trailhead on the left). Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne Cantoni; 248-932-5370.

3/22 (Sat) Hepatica Birthday Hike. 10 a.m. Join me on a 5-mile hike on the many trail loops at Maybury State Park. With the influence of Global Warming, we should be seeing the earliest wildflowers three weeks early this year. The pale blue fuzzy Hepatica should be out, if we search in the right spots. 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. Restaurant stop after for my birthday cake. Phil Crookshank; 248-797-2885.

3/30 Brighton Rec. Area Hike. Noon. Come on this late winter-early spring hike. We will go at a brisk pace for 7 miles. Mother Earth will be awakening with patches of green, which will be transforming to the many colors of spring wildflowers. Dress

for the weather, 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. Restaurant stop after. Mike Scanlon; 313-884-2214.

April

4/5 (Sat.) Morning Hike at Maybury State Park. 11 a.m. Dress in layers for 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 returning bluebirds and early 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. Optional restaurant stop after the hike. Tom Griebe; 248-349-8782.

4/12 (Sat) Quarterly Outings Scheduling Meeting. 5:30 p.m. LTBD.

4/13 [E] Pinkney Wildflower Walk. 10 a.m. We will be searching the trails for early spring flowers - and hope to see the Sandhill cranes and buffleheads as we cross bridges connecting the lakes on this 5 - 6 mile moderate paced hike. This is the hilly Pinkney Recreation Area - known for it's ups and downs and varied habitat. Meet in Livonia between the (former) Wal Mart and Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on the southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Bring trail lunch and water for during the walk, optional restaurant stop after. Ed McArdle; 313-388-6645.

4/19 (Sat.) Bald Mountain South Unit



Hike. Noon. Meet at the Wooden Eagle Restaurant (located on the NE corner of Lapeer Rd (M-24) and Greenshield Road) (2775 S. Lapeer Rd, 48359) parking lot (east end) at Noon. We will walk 1/2 mile to the trailhead, hike a moderate pace for about 5.3 miles over slightly hilly terrain, and then walk back to the parking lot. Total hiking distance: about 6.3 miles. Optional restaurant stop at the Wooden Eagle afterward. Hike is canceled if severe weather. Bonnie Michaluk; 248-589-2251.

4/20 Bald Mt. North Trails Hike. Noon. Enjoy a colorful 4-5 mile walk at a slow pace – pausing to enjoy the colorful blooms of spring. These trails are loaded with many species of Michigan wildflowers for us to enjoy. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Restaurant stop after. Pat & Tom Skinner; 517-552-9121.



4/27 [E] Stalking the Wild Flowers at Maybury State Park. 11:30 a.m. Enjoy 2 hours of searching for spring wildflowers and ID-ing them. Moderate pace between sightings. Wooded

and open terrain, mostly gently rolling. Bring flower I.D. guides, magnifying glass and 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. Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne Cantoni; 248-932-5370; Philip Crookshank; 248-797-2885.

Note: check www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/SEMG-OUT.htm for additions to this schedule after press date.

May

5/3 (Sat.) [E] Beginner Birding at Maybury State Park. 8 a.m. Bring your binoculars and field guide for a very slow, quiet birding hike concentrating on identifying common birds by sight and sound. There may be an opportunity to look

inside bluebird nest boxes to see nests of tree swallows, bluebirds, chickadees and wrens. 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. Optional restaurant stop after the hike. Tom Griebe; 248-349-8782.

5/3-4 Shingle Mill Weekend Backpack. A pleasant, 11 mile backpack over gently rolling terrain. Diverse and interesting habitats in this beautiful area. Great camp sites. A good starter trip for the 3-season backpacker. Details: John Herrgott; aka_hiker@yahoo.com.

5/4 [E] Detroit Riverwalk Excursion. 11 a.m. Enjoy about 5 miles

of moderately paced walking along the fabulous new Detroit Riverwalk, newly inaugurated in June 2007. Starting from near the Ren Cen, we'll head east to the (present) end at Mt. Elliott park, and then return to the Ren Cen to explore the fountain, the Wintergarden and enjoy lunch. A short walk will take us back to our cars. The walk is either directly adjacent to the river (hope for no wind or bring a rain slicker - it's that close!) and passes through 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.

Meet in Troy behind the LaSalle Bank 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). Optional restaurant stop. Jo Ellen; 313-431-3104.

5/10 (Sat) Proud Lake Rec. Area Hike. Noon. We will be hiking a moderate to quick pace, but with stops to learn the spring wildflowers in this diverse park.



Marsh marigolds, trillium and others will be coming to life along with the greening trees and fields. Bring water, good footwear for the sometimes muddy trail. Meet in

Southfield behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, southeast corner of Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Michael Scanlon; 313-884-2214.

5/11 [E] Metro Beach Mother's Day Birding Walk. 9 a.m. Be an early bird and get out in time to see the birds. There should be warblers and other small, colorful migrants aplenty in the wetlands and scrub near the park Nature Center (and at the feeders). If you have them, bring binoculars and bird guides. Enjoy a couple of hours of slow walking and looking (besides birds, there should be some wildflowers!) and still be home in time to meet Mom for lunch or dinner. Meet at the park nature center. Mary Stoolmiller; 248-879-6004, and Liz Allingham; 313-583-0151.

5/17 (Sat.) Potawatomi Trail Hike.

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. 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>.

9:30 a.m. We return to these historic trails for a great spring hike. A 10-mile hike at a quick/moderate pace. These are beautiful hilly trails, winding around and over several lakes on our route. Wear sturdy boots, bring a trail lunch and drink for halfway point, and good humor. Meet in Livonia between the (former) Wal Mart and Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on the southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Cindy Gunnip; 248-336-2984.



the way home. Possible 20 miles of excellent scenic hiking, overnight camp-out, and a beautiful area, too. Details: John Herrgott; aka_hiker@yahoo.com

June

6/8 [E] Canoe the Lower Huron. 8:45 a.m. Let's get an early start so we get a look at all the wildlife awakening as we drift down this stretch of the river - west

of Ann Arbor. The livery will bus us upriver to Hudson Mills Metropark; then a 4-hour moderate paddle down to Delhi Metropark. We stop halfway for our picnic lunch. Some canoe experience required, (instructions provided). Reservations of \$21, your address and phone number must be sent to Phil Crookshank, 33802 Fountain Blvd. Westland, MI. 48185 by 5/29. Bring a river lunch, dry clothes, a smile and meet in Livonia between the (former) Wal Mart and Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on the southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Phil Crookshank, 248-797-2885.

5/17-18 Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area Weekend Backpack. We will hike 13 miles total on rolling terrain through the area's hardwood forests. Spring wildflowers and a fresh leaf canopy will greet us in this true wilderness area. Details: John Herrgott; aka_hiker@yahoo.com.

5/24-25 Day Hiking and Overnight Camping Trip - Oscoda Area. Highbanks Trail hike in the afternoon and Tuttle Marsh in the evening on the first day. Hike Corsair Trails the second day and a stop at Tawas State Park for a dune walk on

Note: check www.michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/SEMG-OUT.htm for additions to this schedule after press date.

Outings Special

Bluebirds - A Tale of Stewardship

By Tom Griebe,
SEMG Outings Leader

When one thinks of stewardship, images of buildings, rivers or natural features come to mind. I am a steward of bluebirds. On an ecological level, bluebirds are indigenous thrushes that face habitat loss, pesticides and competition from introduced species. But on an emotional level, bluebirds are flitting, magical bursts of iridescent blue that captivate even the novice birder.

To know bluebirds is to love them. When I do my weekly check of nest boxes in the April to July nesting season in Maybury State Park, I know instantly whose nest I've found. The house sparrow's nest is loosely constructed with random bits of straw, string and cigarette butts, while the house wren nest consists of frantically packed twigs to deny access to larger birds. The tree swallow builds a more organized nest and tops it with a layer of snowy white feathers. Then there is the bluebird nest - tightly woven of straw in an orderly, circular shape.

By early May, the first eggs appear, bearing witness to their parentage. The sparrow's eggs are a mottled brown, the wren's eggs, tiny and brown; the swallow's ivory colored eggs blend with their feathery blanket. The bluebird, true to its name, lays baby blue eggs, the color of a summer sky.

Thus begins a three-week race for the bluebird.



Photo courtesy of Tom Griebe



In this time, the egg-must be kept warm enough to hatch, but not allowed to overheat in the sun. The nest must be guarded against house sparrows that will puncture the eggs or kill the hatchlings. Once hatched, the young must have a steady supply of insect protein to allow their seven-fold growth spurt to adult size in a mere 12 days.

I jot down my observations for each nest box, taking note of progress, setbacks and transgressions. Nothing is quite as satisfying as seeing the bluebird fledglings in a nearby tree, as their parents fine-tune the youngster's survival skills. Another nesting season is complete.

Winter will be a time of cleaning and building new boxes and dreaming of next summer's bluebirds.

Tom will be leading a beginners birding outing on May 3. See details in Outings calendar.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Seirra Club SEMG 7th Annual Fundraising Dinner

Friday, September 19, 2008

Diamond Jack's River Tour • Wyandotte



Board the Diamond Jack at Bishop Park in Wyandotte for a two hour cruise on the sparkling waters of the lower Detroit River. Enjoy waterside views of the surrounding American and Canadian communities. Please come and join us for a beautiful fun experience. Please visit SEMG website for more information regarding ticket prices.

If you would like to help out with the planning of this wonderful event, please contact Dave Llewellyn by email: dllewell8@comcast.net or by phone: 248-366-1884 .

GREEN-O-METER



FOOD IMPRESSIONS

Are you going the extra mile when it comes to buying your food? It's no longer enough to just eat organic. We now turn our focus to food miles, the distance your produce travels from the field to yours plate. Most produce has traveled on average, about 1,500 miles before they hit the shelves. In terms of carbon footprint, that makes dining worse than driving. Americans creates 2.8 tons of CO2 emissions each year by eating, compared with 2.2 tons generated by driving. Here is the good, bad and ugly of buying from the supermarket and local markets. You make the call.

Supermarket Shelves



Pros

- Crops grown in their ideal climate, then shipped across the country don't require additional energy to produce.
- Able to get produce anytime of the year without being restricted to climate. Think grapes from Chile, bananas from Costa Rica.

Cons

- Transporting food by plane uses almost double the energy per mile as a truck.
- Produce may have been sprayed and re-colored to look fresh even though it was picked from the farm several months ago.

Local: Fresh and Tasty



Pros

- Most local produce has been picked within 24 hours, it comes to you ripe and fresh.
- Local trips by truck consume less fossil fuel and less energy on food refrigeration.
- Support small farms and local economy

Cons

- Produce that is grown in greenhouses during the off-season takes extra energy to maintain

Safe Passage...cont from page 9

31. Detroit Audubon has been gratified to receive support also from DTE Energy and Ford Motor Company.

Detroit Audubon's annual meeting on March 31, 2007 will feature two nationally-recognized researchers who study the hazards that migrating birds face, one of whom is Daniel Klem, Ph.D.

In spearheading "Project Safe Passage," Detroit Audubon is following the lead of cities such as Chicago, New York and Toronto, which have similar programs. Toronto became the first North American city to dim tall building lights during spring and fall bird migrations. Chicago was the first United States city to follow suite. Michigan

can become the first state to demonstrate its concern in a similar way.

However, it is not just a matter of saving the lives of avian migrants. Keeping those lights on means using a good deal of electricity, and that costs money. Further, the electricity used has an environmental cost: the generation of that electricity means that power plants are in operation, which contributes to pollution.

So by turning out those lights, not only will birds be spared, but money and energy will also be saved, and pollution will be reduced. It can be a win-win-win situation, for the environment, for building owners and managers, and for the birds.

Detroit Audubon welcomes the support of Michigan Audubon in the effort to inform people throughout our state

of the benefits of simply turning out lights during the bird migration season. Several of the bird species at risk from these nighttime lights are declining in population. We can help reduce that risk by removing one major hazard.

Spread the word.

Joe Bartell is a past president of the Detroit Audubon Society and has served on their conservation, membership and finance committees. He held a position on the Michigan Audubon board in the 1960s. He is a member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, in addition to many other world conservation and birding organizations.

Stay Green, Support Our Local Business

Amici's Pizza Serves it up Gourmet and Green



Amici's Pizza & Living Room
3249 W. 12 Mile, downtown Berkley
248-544-4100

Green Pizza

Many cities and local businesses have signed on to the Cool Cities campaign to fight global warming and lower their community's emissions by replacing standard light bulbs with LED bulbs. Amici's Pizza & Living Room, located in downtown Berkley, has taken it a step

further by recycling their cardboard, glass, plastic and metal. They also got rid of Styrofoam cups and containers and replaced them with ones made from biodegradable cornstarch. They buy napkins that are made from recycled paper and knives and forks made from potato starch, all biodegradable. As if that wasn't enough to make the pizzeria green, their carryout menus are printed on recycled paper with non-toxic soy ink.

Due to these efforts to produce less waste, Amici's Pizza & Living Room became the first restaurant in southeast Michigan to be certified green by the national non-profit Green Restaurant Association.

Greenware (manufactured by Fabrikal Corp. in Kalamazoo) supplies the restaurant with biodegradable cups and containers. They are available through Gordon Food Service and SYS-CO, so anyone can purchase them.

The gourmet pizzeria got help from

SOCRRA (South Oakland Community Partners in Recycling and Waste) to set up its recycling plan. SOCCRRA provides the restaurant with two 95-gallon cans on wheels in which Amici's places its recyclables. Other local restaurants in the area, Lily's Seafood in Royal Oak and Howe's Bayou in Ferndale are starting to recycle their waste. It's a good start to keeping our cities green!

Amici's Pizza & Living Room is located on 12 Mile Road in downtown Berkley. For more information on Amici's, SOCCRRA and Greenware please log on to <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg> to find links to their websites.

If you have or know of a local business that is "Green" and that you would like to be featured please contact Ponty Ang at pontimython1@yahoo.com.

1964 Sierra Club MILESTONES

After years of persistent lobbying, Congress passes the Wilderness Act, the first wilderness protection legislation in the world. Congress also creates the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provides for review of public land laws. Club advocates establishment of Redwood National Park.

For over 100 years, Sierra Club members have been at the forefront of environmental action. When you join the Sierra Club, your voice will be heard on environmental issues through lobbying and grassroots action.

Help us make a difference--Join Us Today



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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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.



SIERRA CLUB
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F94QY 2102

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Welcome, Tiffany Hartung, new BEC organizer in Southern Oakland County!



The Sierra Club Building Environmental Communities (BEC) office in Oakland Co. has a new organizer. An Oakland Co. native, Tiffany is returning to Michigan after an absence of 10 years. She spent most of that time in Eastern Tennessee as an organizer for Save the Cumberland Mountains, an economic and social justice group, and was later employed by Tennesseans for Fair Taxation in a campaign to exempt groceries from a stiff sales tax in the state. Along with her husband, Tiffany also ran a bicycle store which promoted cycling commuting as a way to help in the fight against global warming. Tiffany is glad to be back closer to her family, and is excited about the chance to help make Oakland Co. a more environmentally friendly community. She has already gone to work on the Cool Cities project, and welcomes all inquiries and offers to join in this and other projects at tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org, 248-549-6213.

Tiffany will be continuing the Pizza & Beer tradition on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm. Come join in the fun while helping out with different tasks, such as sending out letters to the editor, and getting ready to go knock on doors! The BEC office is located at 1723 W. Fourteen Mile Rd., just west of Crooks Rd., Royal Oak 48073. Check the BEC office website at www.sierraclub.org/community/oakland.

Tiffany takes over from Melissa Damaschke and Leigh Fifelski, the dynamic ladies who brought you the Green Cruise, among other great events. Fortunately, both Melissa and Leigh are staying in Michigan. Melissa is now the Sierra Club Great Lakes Regional Rep, and shares the office of Detroit Environmental Justice Organizer Rhonda Anderson at 2727 Second Ave., Room 318, in Detroit. She can be reached at melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org, 313-965-0055. Leigh is the Campaign Coordinator for Progress Michigan, a new non-profit that is concentrating on the No Coal campaign, among others. Leigh can be reached at leigh@progressmichigan.org, 517-999-3646. Thanks, Melissa and Leigh, for your hard work to push forward our environmental agenda in Oakland County!

THINGS TO DO

Reduce Global Warming: Green Cruise 2008

Mark your calendars, the 4th Annual Green Cruise will take place August 9th, 2008.



Planning and fundraising are underway. Do your part to help fight global warming by helping out, becoming a volunteer or being a sponsor to the event. For more information, please contact: Tiffany Hartung, tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org



Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center and Oakland University

3rd Annual Earth Day Expo

Saturday April 19, 2008
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Oakland Center,
Oakland University

More information:
www.earthdayexpo.org

Don't just sit there, Get up and Get Involved! SEMG Needs Your Help.

Help make Southeast Michigan a greener place. Don't just sit there and wish you could be a part of the solution. Be the solution. Come to a committee meeting and get involved. See page 2 for schedule of committee meetings.

Stay in the loop. Log on to - <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>



Sierra Club

Southeast Michigan Group Michigan Chapter
2301 W. Lincoln
Birmingham, MI 48009
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>

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sierra club & beer

There's no better way to go green than over free cold beer surrounded by lots of people just like you. Produced in South Oakland County by four young professionals who wanted to carve a place for themselves in the environmental movement, Sierra Club & Beer is a free, fun, low-key event for those 21 and up. You can get the 411 on hot green topics (including taking action on mass transit and indulging in yummy Michigan foods), win fab prizes in environmental trivia, and enjoy some live local music.

Want to do something to make a difference, but don't know how to get started? Sierra Club & Beer is an easy entry point into the wide world of activism -- but with beer!

Taking place the last Thursday of the month (spring and summer only) in a bar near you (if you live in one of the D's northern inner ring burbs), Sierra Club & Beer will kick off again in 2008.

Our April Earth Day Extravaganza will feature a few of the local big wigs to fill us in on what's being done on the city level to ease up on energy usage.

Catch? This isn't gonna go down without you! Be part of THE event for young professionals who want to drink up and DO something -- join our planning committee. You can also join in by putting April 24 on your calendar or emailing green topic ideas to SCandBeer@gmail.com. We'd love for you to join us!

-- Deb, Lisa, Eric & Rebecca (Sierra Club & Beer volunteers)

