

# THE ACTIVIST

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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

## Communities are Going Green for Energy, Clean Air How Cool is Your City?

By Ed McArdle,  
SEMG Conservation Committee Chair

Through its "Cool Cities" campaign, the national Sierra Club is encouraging local communities to sign the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement as a first step in shrinking communities' "footprint." The agreement is a voluntary commitment to cut global warming gasses by 7 percent below 1990 by 2012, in accordance with the protocol of the Kyoto Treaty.

Over 550 cities nationwide and several counties have already signed the agreement, including 15 Michigan cities. Here in the SE Michigan Group area, local Sierra Club volunteers have met with several mayors and/or city councils and urged them to promote energy efficiencies in their administration by purchasing "energy -star" appliances and improving fleet-miles per gallon, all measures that save taxpayers energy dollars while reducing global warming. (The savings are important to point out, because while signing the agreement is a no-brainer to us, many officials are worried about budget deficits; others are still unconvinced that global warming is happening or fear that this is a Sierra Club "plot.").

Sofar, Ferndale, Berkley, Royal Oak and Southfield have signed on; Warren, Pleasant Ridge, Bloomfield Township., Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield have been contacted and are pending.

We convinced officials in Birmingham and Melvindale enough that they signed their own resolutions, which fall

short of the Mayors' agreement (they omit any reference to global warming and don't stress the Kyoto target connection) but still promise to enact many of the suggested actions in the Agreement that would reduce emissions.

Going beyond the signing, local SC activists have formed an environmental committee in Berkley that meets regularly to help find ways to lower that community's emissions. Ferndale has already taken several initiatives such as replacing standard traffic lights with energy-saving LED bulbs and creating bike lanes; Ferndale is also the location for the Sierra Club Green Cruise Aug. 11. Groups in other communities are in various stages of contacting their officials or organizing some follow up for communities that have signed. In



fact, in Warren, Hal Newnan wanted to help speed up his city's slow response and is now running for city council.

On a very encouraging note, Wayne County has set up a global warming task force and recommended that Wayne sign the Mayors' Agreement -- following other counties such as Kent in Washington and Fairfax in Virginia.

...continued on page 15

In this issue:	
Schedule of Programs, September through December	2
Chair's Article	3
Cleaning the air, proposed Carbon Tax for Michigan	4
Recycling in Detroit	5
Rustle the Leaf	6
Green Politics, relating to legislators	7
DTEs Green Currents Program not so green after all	9
Outings schedule, September through February	10
Another successful fundraiser!	14



## 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 will be held monthly from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. after which time the meeting begins promptly. 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!



## Schedule of Programs

**September 6, 2007**

**"Fulfilling the Vision along Detroit's Riverfront"** A Presentation by the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy officially opened the East Riverfront portion of Detroit's Riverwalk on June 22. The event celebrated the first significant opening of new public space on the Detroit International Riverfront since its inception in 2003. More than 75 percent of the East Riverfront project, from Joe Louis Arena to Gabriel Richard Park, is completed and open to the public. Now remains the task of linking together the unfinished stretches of riverfront from the Ambassador Bridge to the west to Belle Isle's MacArthur Bridge, ultimately leading to a continuous 5 1/2 mile pathway along the Detroit River. Please join us for a sneak peak into the future and learn ways the Sierra Club can be part of that transformation!

**October 4, 2007**

**"Back to the Future: Renewable Energy in Michigan"** A Presentation by Steve Smiley, Great Lakes Renewable Resource Institute

Given the challenges and opportunities facing us as we grapple with the inevitable realities of peak oil and global warming, it is important that we begin to imagine a future in which Michigan has transitioned from an industry of automobiles to one of renewable energy production. Every day we inherit from the sun energy in the form of heat, light, wind, water and biomass. Most agree that Michigan needs to develop these renewable energy sources. Yet the question re-

## Executive Committee

The **Executive Committee** meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 1723 14 Mile Road, just west of Crooks in Royal Oak.

## Conservation Committee

The **Conservation Committee** meets every third Thursday at 7 p.m., at 1723 14 Mile Road, just west of Crooks in Royal Oak.

## Political Committee

The **Political Committee** meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (dinner) and 7 p.m. (conversation) at Jimi's restaurant on Washington, 1 block north of Lincoln (10 1/2 Mile) in Royal Oak.

mains--can we build the necessary infrastructure in a timely and cost-effective manner in order to convert the state's energy generation and distribution system? Please join us for a truly enlightening discussion of this most important topic by Steve Smiley, co-founder of the Great Lakes Renewable Resource Institute. Mr. Smiley is an energy economist and wind energy expert with 20 years experience in energy efficiency and wind & solar applications. In 1996 he assisted the Traverse City Light and Power in developing and implementing the green rate wind project, resulting in the installation of Michigan's first commercial wind turbine. He is currently working on expanding commercial wind power for Michigan.

**November 1, 2007**

**"Expanding Michigan's Recycling Future: A Look at the Sustainable Economic Development Approach"**

. . . continued on page 15

## Executive Committee and Committee Chairs

**Carol Izant** . . . . . (248) 352- 6137

Chair/Programs Chair

cogknot@yahoo.com

**Dave Fuller** . . . . . (248) 549-4819

Vice Chair /Group Webmaster

dfuller95@comcast.net

**Jean Gramlich** . . . . . (810) 714-2343

Secretary/Membership Chair

jeangramlich@msn.com

**Gloria Scicli** . . . . . (248) 642-3069

Treasurer/Alt. Rep to Chapter

gscicli@comcast.net

**Gene Perrin** . . . . . (313) 833-3197

At Large

profgene@aol.com

**Ed McArdle** . . . . . (313) 388-6645

Conservation Committee Chair,

Rep to Chapter

ecoguy2@netzero.net

**Dave Llewellyn** . . . . . (248) 366-1884

Fundraising Chair

dllewell8@comcast.net

**Mitch Mitchell** . . . . . (248) 890-7637

Political Committee Chair

treehuggermitch@yahoo.com

**Ponti Ang** . . . . . (248) 980-4563

Activist Publisher

pontimytho1@yahoo.com

**Phil Crookshank** . . . (313) 562-1873

Outings Chair

wanderphil3@netzero.net

**Joanne Cantoni** . . . . . (248) 932-5370

Outings Coordinator

joannecantoni@netzero.net

**Lydia Fischer** . . . . . (734) 994-3582

Activist Editor

Lydfisch@mindspring.com

**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.

# Thoughts from Your Chair

## Get Involved, volunteer, SEMG has lots to offer



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."—Ghandi

By Carol Izant

We Sierrans have committed ourselves to:

- explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth;
- practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources;
- educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and
- use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

In service to our mission, we gather together as nature lovers, tree huggers, master gardeners, hikers, bikers, backpackers, sailors, artists, writers, parents, political wonks, educators, business people...the list goes on and on! Our strength is in our diversity of character, experience and background. Our common bond is our willingness to serve together as volunteers.

According to Wikipedia, **volunteering** is "the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without the expectation of pay or other tangible gain." So what are the benefits from all this unpaid effort? First of all, the social gain cannot be underestimated: a volunteer group such as ours builds greater cohesion within a community and brings about greater trust among its citizens. The solidarity and reciprocity that develop foster a connectedness between people that heightens overall health and well being. Secondly, there is the obvious economic gain associated with activities that would otherwise have to be underwritten by funded sources. In the case of the Sierra Club, for example, there would be no Southeast Michigan Group operating within the Michigan Chapter. Would that be so ter-

rible, you might ask? In the seven years I have been formally associated with the Sierra Club, I have witnessed the positive results of actions that I am sure would never have occurred if it weren't for the willingness of local Sierra Club volunteers to work together toward a common agenda.

Let's start with our **Outings Program**. Sierra Club's SEMG offers an outdoors venue into Mother Nature herself on just about every weekend of the year! Activities include hiking, biking, canoeing, cross-country skiing and backpacking. Most outings are strictly for your outdoors enjoyment but some are educational and service oriented. Whether you are new to the outdoors or wear your hiking boots as regular footwear, we hope you will consider at least one activity with our Outings program this year!

Moving on, let's talk politics! The Southeast MI Group maintains the most active **Political Committee** in the Michigan Chapter – it meets year round. And while some folks may consider 2007 to be an off year politically, we are intensely focused on local city elections in Southeast Michigan. Our efforts to endorse, support and help elect environment-friendly candidates to office are especially rewarding at the local level of government. Unlike most other states, Michigan vests a lot of authority at the local unit of government. Many decisions that affect our environment get made here—from funding for recycling programs to wetlands ordinances to land use planning. Through our collective efforts, we are helping to put a "greener" face on many city councils. We are always looking for more volunteers to assist in what is perhaps one of the most important services we perform for our members and the greater community.

When it comes to the hard-hitting issues, SEMG is blessed to be associated with several long-time activists through our Conservation Committee. For example, reading through your average hazardous waste permit is about as arduous as blazing a trail through the jungle, and making sense of it and preparing comments on it

to policymakers requires a very special individual. To those intrepid souls who continue to dedicate themselves to these heroic tasks, we offer our hearty thanks!

On the first Thursday of each month (except for January, July & August), our **General Membership** meetings at the Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church in Southfield bring members and friends together for an evening designed to educate and inform you about the latest news in our environmental community on various issues. The monthly potluck dinner we enjoy prior to our meetings adds to the fun of being together and helps to build the social capital of the group. We hope you will consider becoming a regular at our monthly meetings!

Behind the scenes and out in the community, our volunteers are ever busy with the ongoing task of addressing the communication needs of our Group. **We provide regular channels to our members, the media and the general public—from Emails to regular post office-delivered mailings, from our printed newsletter to our electronic web site, from public speaking engagements to one-on-one phone conversations.** There is always more we would like to do when it comes to communication. Any help in this area would be most welcome...many hands make light work!

Last, but not least, are the efforts that go into raising the dollars that are needed to supplement our annual percentage of your membership dues that we receive from the National Sierra Club through the Chapter. Without these additional funds, we would not be able to carry out the important work of our various committees. Continuing to build on our successful Annual Fundraising Dinner will allow us to remain strong. We thank you for your past support and look forward to next year's event!

All in all, I hope I have painted a picture for you that clarifies some of the work we do. For those of you who have considered a greater level of involvement with your Sierra Club, we encourage you to do so. Along the way, you may even find yourself. Happy trails!

# Member's Opinion: Make our air clean - A Carbon Tax for Michigan

By Art Myatt

In the May/June issue of "Sierra" magazine, the cover article summarized a round-table discussion on what can be done about climate change. Eight expert panelists, of whom the best known was Al Gore, met at Sierra Club headquarters shortly before last Christmas. In the course of the day, three panelists in quick succession singled out the carbon tax as the most effective step to counter global warming.

Nobody disagreed. However, the discussion then continued in another direction, without anyone detailing just what a carbon tax would be. This article will spell out how a State of Michigan carbon tax could be applied and how it could fix Michigan's government budget problem while cutting Michigan's greenhouse gas emissions.

The idea, of course, is to tax what we don't want. We don't want carbon dioxide emissions, so if we tax them, people and businesses paying the taxes will be motivated to avoid carbon emissions. Specifically, since different fuels have different proportions of carbon in them, we would tax them in proportion to the amount of carbon dioxide they produce when burned. Below is a table showing an example of state revenues generated by a tax rate of 1.30208 cents per pound of carbon dioxide, based on 2003 amounts of fuel used:

There are other products made from oil included in the state energy data but not shown in this table. These include asphalt, some specialized fuels (aviation gas, jet fuel, kerosene), solvents and chemical feedstock. In terms of energy these additional products make up about 1/8 of the total, and the three oil-based fuels in the table are the other 7/8ths. We can make a reasonable estimate of the effects of a tax without considering these other oil products.

With Michigan's current energy use, the tax would bring in over \$5 billion. If Michigan's energy consumption were cut by 10%, it would still bring in \$4.5 billion. This would cover the complete shortfall of state tax revenues, including those due to the repealed Single Business Tax. What's more, it would bring in at least an extra billion dollars that should be used to help the poorest people, who would be hurt by the new tax.

There are, of course, strongly felt arguments against such a tax. Most of these boil down to, "It would hurt the economy!" These are exactly the same arguments used to weaken, delay and deny any effective action to combat climate change. Others are along the lines of, "We should do something else (perhaps a carbon cap and trade system) instead of this." Actually, other actions with the same goal are completely compatible with a carbon tax, and a carbon tax is not the

only thing we could or should do.

It might be reasonable to exempt from the tax any operation that could demonstrate it is sequestering (for at least a century) the carbon dioxide resulting from burning fuel. It might be reasonable to exempt methane fuel recovered from a landfill, since methane not recovered will go unburnt into the atmosphere and will trap more heat than the carbon dioxide resulting from its burning. It might or might not be reasonable to exempt "renewable" fuels such as ethanol or biodiesel.

There are numerous details to be worked out in the creation of a comprehensive carbon tax. What is fixed by science is the proportioning of amounts among the various fuels. If gasoline is to be taxed at a dollar a gallon, diesel will be taxed at \$1.1572 a gallon, because burning a gallon of diesel emits 115.72% more carbon dioxide.

Making all carbon emitters pay an equal price per pound of carbon will encourage them to move to truly clean sources of energy such as solar or wind power, where the carbon tax is \$0.00 for any unit. It will also motivate people to use the most carbon-efficient types of fossil fuel energy. A carbon tax will, for instance, discourage use of coal, the least carbon-efficient fuel.

Unit	Fuel	Quantity (used in 2003)	BTU/Unit	Pounds of CO2 per Unit	Carbon Tax/Unit	Tax Revenue (1 year)
Pounds	Coal	74.3 million	10,133	2.07	\$0.0269	\$1.9 billion
CFF	Natural Gas	9.2 million	100,000	11.64	\$0.1515	\$1.4 billion
Gallons	Diesel	1.2 million	138,673	22.23	\$0.2893	\$0.4 billion
Gallons	LPG (Propane)	0.9 million	86,430	11.99	\$0.1561	\$0.1 billion
Gallons	Gasoline	4.9 million	124,000	19.21	\$0.2500	\$1.2 billion
					Total:	\$5.14 billion

The figures on Quantity Used and BTU/Unit are from "State Energy Data 2003." "BTU" stands for British Thermal Unit, and is a standard measure of the energy content of the various fuels. The 2003 data are the most recent available at this time. Carbon dioxide figures are derived from "Unit Conversion, Emissions Factors, and Other Reference Data, November 2004." Source: US Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration website. Calculations based on these figures are mine.



## Check this out:

# Recycling in Detroit's Solid Waste Future - Cleaning up the City

By Anna Holden,  
SEMG Conservation Committee

Sierra Club and representatives of environmental and community organizations attending the third Stakeholders meeting of the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority (GDRRA) on June 7th raised a number of issues regarding the authority's upcoming proposal for future solid waste disposal in Detroit.

Selecting recycling and resource recovery as the principal means of waste disposal after 2009 was one of the issues. After 15 months of research by a New Jersey consulting firm and three input sessions from energy, business, waste disposal and community representatives, the authority's plan for waste disposal after 2009 is still a "work in progress."

The two options now under consideration, according to GDRRA officials, are landfills and continued use of the incinerator in some form: to generate steam and electricity, only, or convert the plant to a mass burn facility, a different type of burning process. There was no discussion of the merits of the alternatives, comparative costs, and potential financing. Break-out sessions asked for reports on the environmental justice and health impacts of all options, the potential for business and economic development from recycling, and a pilot study of curbside recycling.

Detroit is the only major American city without a curbside recycling program. GDRRA's proposed waste disposal recommendation—now overdue—is scheduled for release to Detroit City Council and Stakeholders in July.

Sierra Club supports a City of Detroit Future Solid Waste Plan prepared by a Detroit City Council Recycling/Environmental Task Force of environmental and community organizations, including Sierra Club. This plan asks for resource recovery, reuse and recycling as the principal form of waste disposal after 2009, when bond debts and long term contracts associated with the incinerator end. The Task Force advocates a comprehensive system of curbside pick up, marketing, and seri-

ous efforts to attract businesses, economic development and job creation based on material recovery. Experience elsewhere shows that trash can be recycled and marketed with lower costs than Detroit's if there is significant recycling:

- The Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA), for example, budgeted \$39.71 per ton for 2006-07 refuse disposal, compared to Detroit's cost of over \$150 per ton. Detroit's 2007-08 budget for waste disposal—primarily incineration—continues to be high, despite increased fees projected from private haulers and metal recycling. The 2007-08 budget commits the City to \$87 Million for refuse disposal plus \$1 Million for GDRRA's administrative salaries.

- Some major US cities such as Oakland, CA recycle 50 percent of their trash and attract economic and business development based on so-called waste materials that can be sold, reused, and reclaimed on a profitable basis. Oakland's current waste reduction goals, involving the total waste stream, jobs from discards, producer responsibility, and sustainable green businesses are 75 percent waste reduction by 2010 and 90 percent by 2020. (See [www.oaklandrecycles.com](http://www.oaklandrecycles.com))

Deputy Mayor Anthony Adams, GDRRA Authority Chair, stated at the June Stakeholders meeting that recycling will be a part of any alternative the Authority recommends. How much recycling GDRRA plans to support apparently depends on participation in neighborhood recycling during the coming months. Beginning in July, the Authority's Midtown recycling project, Recycle Here! will initiate once a month mobile drop off



Left: Volunteers working at the Recycle Here! Re-Cycle facility on Holden, help unload a truck filled with recyclables, such as glass, plastic, cardboard and household batteries. Below: Another volunteer sorts through shopping cart full of recyclables to help keep the city clean by keeping glass and plastic containers off the streets.

Photos courtesy of Sarah Kubik



stations in four Detroit neighborhoods: Farwell Recreation Center (Northeast, 1st Saturday), Roosevelt Park (Southwest, 2nd Saturday), Christ the King Church, Rosedale Park (Northwest, 3rd Saturday), and Chalmers & Jefferson (Southeast, 4th Saturday). These Saturday locations are cosponsored by GDRRA, the Detroit Recreation Department, Next Detroit, and Rosedale Recycles, a 17 year old volunteer project that has never missed a month. All these Saturday Recycle Here! locations will accept several colors of glass, plastic containers (1 & 2), paper of all kinds separated, cardboard, metals, and household batteries. To find out more about Recycle Here! locations and items collected call 313-876-0148.

Increase in volunteer recycling is already happening and will certainly play a part in future waste decisions. Recycle Here! housed at Re-Cycle, 1331 Holden Ave. in Midtown Detroit is open Wednesdays

. . .continued on page 9

# Saving wetlands, woods, your money – and helping Detroit

By Bob Duda

Suburban sprawl is a double threat to those of us who live in SE Michigan. Thousands of acres have been chewed up by the creation of strip malls, megamalls, road “improvements” and “McMansion”-type developments. Wetlands, which prevent floods and clean our water supply, are being ravaged. Farms near our urban areas, a source of fresh produce, are all but gone. Beautiful scenery and hiking opportunities have been replaced by hideous parking lots and often empty high-tech office plazas.

Suburban sprawl poses an additional, onerous threat to our pocket book.

Michigan’s dire financial shape is worsened by the spending of hundreds of millions to repair existing roads and even build new ones -- ultimately paid by us, the citizens. And it’s also us taxpayers who foot the bill for the new police stations, schools, libraries, hospitals, road repairs, etc. that are required in the sprawl areas. Just consider the economic inefficiencies of having to have separate police and fire departments, school systems, and local governments for all the municipalities that have sprung up in southeastern Michigan over the past 50 years.

Long term solutions to SE Michigan’s suburban sprawl would be regional government, a real mass transit system, revitalization of businesses in the older downtown areas and new housing developments allowing people to move back to the older, now vacant areas. For example, Detroit proper has gone from about 1.5 million people 40 or so years ago to less than a million now; inner suburbs are also losing population. There is plenty of room for redevelopment: the infrastructure for a vibrant metro area already exists in the core of Metro-Detroit. But



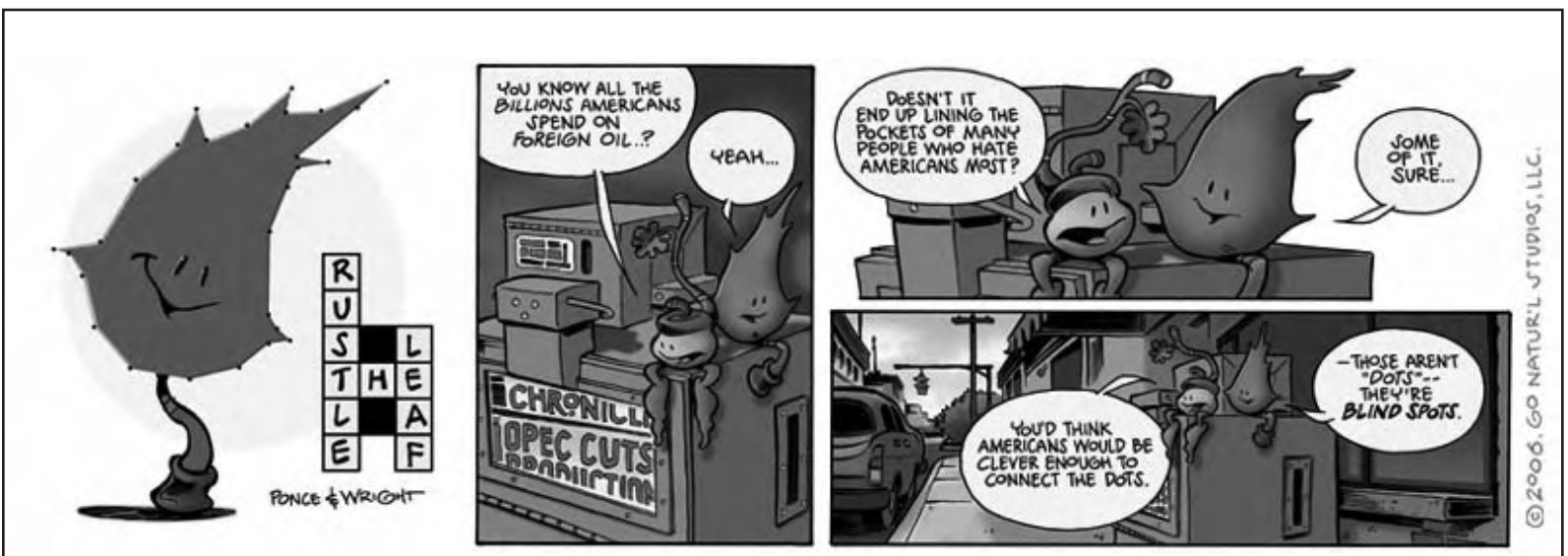
These “Super-sized McMansions” in Shelby Township are the type of homes in subdivisions that are part of suburban sprawl.

long-term solutions are problematic. They get tripped by the politics of local governments and other competing organizations, parties that find it difficult to agree on anything. There must be something we can do immediately to revitalize the core of Metro Detroit, to make it a better place to live, work, and visit so that the cancer of sprawl will cease.

One first step in the fight against the environmental and economic catastrophe of sprawl is your support as citizen and Sierra Club member of

small segments of the inner core areas of Metro Detroit. This is something you can do as an individual or in small groups right now. Inner-area schools, cultural institutions, and churches could use either your financial help and/or your time and effort to help them survive. Many volunteer opportunities exist. You can donate money directly to institutions such as Wayne State University or the University of Detroit Mercy. You can become a member of the Detroit Institute of Arts or the Detroit Historical Society. You can support the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. You can volunteer to help out at many churches. The number of volunteer opportunities is staggering – just Google “volunteer opportunities in Detroit”. In my spare time, I work (as a volunteer) on a church restoration project in midtown Detroit. Membership in the DIA has brought my wife and I many wonderful entertainment opportunities while allowing us to contribute to the maintenance of a great art collection in our metro area. Please help out - you as an individual can make a difference!

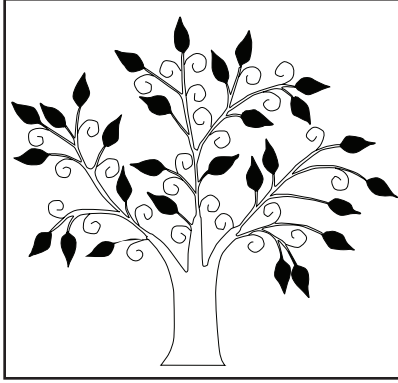
**For More Rustle the Leaf and other Southeast Michigan Environmental news, log on to <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>**



## GREEN POLITICS

### Let's make it personal - relate to legislators

By Mitch Mitchell,  
SEMG Political Committee



When I became the Chairperson of the SEMG Political Committee, one of my stated goals was to improve communication between Sierra Club members and elected officials. I believe that there is no better way to advance

the agenda of our Chapter than by developing personal relationships with state legislators. It's easier to educate elected officials on our issues when they recognize the name and face of an activist -- and harder for them to ignore her or him. How do we accomplish this? Many Sierra Club members need no prompting to communicate with their elected officials, and that's part of our club's strength. But a constituency-based relationship does not necessarily address the swing votes within the SEMG area. Sometimes we need to make contact with a legislator, yet there is no Sierra Club activist in the district ready to do that. So I have estab-

lished the Sierra Club SEMG Political Committee Liaison Program. This program targets legislators within the SEMG district whose voting records fall somewhere in between 0 percent and 100 percent. I have also included all the new legislators. Sierra Club

members are invited to choose a legislator from the list of "targets" and start developing a relationship with that elected official, always reminding him or her that they represent the Sierra Club membership within that district. The approach can include e-mailing, letters, phone calls and in-district meetings. Members are encouraged to keep a "file" on their legislator -- including communications, newspaper clippings, legislator's committee votes -- which will come handy in many ways. We can tie in with the Action Alerts sent by the chapter on legislative issues. Most importantly, we will have better information on candidates and their votes

when we need to make our SEMG endorsements next year and beyond.

This program at the group level will reinforce the conservation priorities of the chapter and the legislative goals of the its Legislative Committee. For example, I expect Liaison members to make every effort to attend Sierra Club Lobby Days, when they can meet with their "targets" in their Lansing office, meanwhile becoming acquainted with Sierra lobbyists from all parts of the state.

This is a long-term project that I hope will eventually bring results in the form of a better-educated legislature and more pro-environment legislation. In the meantime, we will have fun trading stories and information at our monthly Political Committee meeting. If you would like to join in you're welcome, even if you are not active in the Political Committee. This is a program that I hope will appeal to Sierra Club members who would like to participate from the privacy of their own homes. We have a few targets left that need a Liaison. If you're interested, please contact me at [treehuggermitch@yahoo.com](mailto:treehuggermitch@yahoo.com), or 248-890-7637.

### Anna Holden receives a Special Service Award from Sierra Club

By Jean Gramlich, SEMG ExCom and Chapter Chair

Our own activist, Anna Holden, will be honored with the Special Service Award by the National Sierra Club at a ceremony in September in San Francisco. The Michigan Chapter nominated Anna for the award to recognize her long service for the causes of conservation and environmental justice.

Anna has been involved in many environmental issues over the years including incinerators, public transportation, solar power, recycling in Detroit, wetlands preservation, Canadian trash, mercury pollution, and environmental justice issues in Detroit. Her latest endeavors center around waste disposal in Detroit, energy conservation and renewable energy resources.

Over the years she has contributed many articles for both *The Activist* and *The Mackinac* to promote understanding of the Group and Chapter conservation campaigns and to recruit activists to the causes she has been, and continues to be, so passionate about. She has worked in various coalitions of groups that came together to work on particular problems in the community. Anna attended scores of public hearings and testified at many of them. She has persisted in the face of setbacks and won significant victories for the environment in Southeast Michigan.

Anna has held many offices in the Southeast Michigan Group and in the Michigan Chapter. She has been SEMG Program Chair, ExCom Chair, and Conservation Committee Chair. She has served on the Chapter ExCom as Group Delegate and At-Large Representative. She was Chapter Legal Chair, Council Delegate, Nominations Chair and currently serves as the Conservation Chair, and is a member of the Legislative Committee.

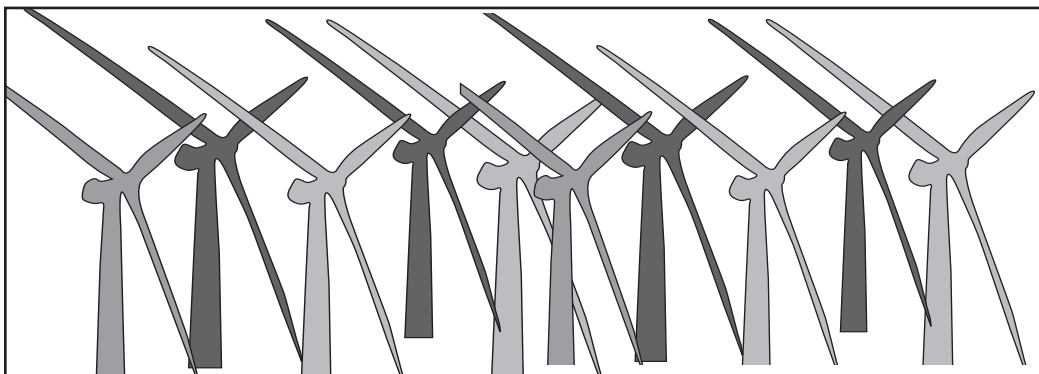
She has received the Chapter Service Award and twice been honored with the Marlene Fluharty Award.

We are so delighted that Anna will receive well-deserved recognition at Sierra Club's national level. Congratulations, Anna, and carry on with the good work!



Anna Holden

## DTE's Green Currents Program - Does it contribute to Renewable Energy?



By David Wright, Ecology Center - Clean Energy Program Director

If you live in SE Michigan, you've recently received a brochure touting a renewable energy program from DTE with your latest energy bill. Here's the truth about the GreenCurrents program and the state of renewable energy in Michigan.

Customers signing up for the Detroit Edison (DTE) GreenCurrents program are paying for DTE to purchase and market renewable energy credits (RECs) to their customers. In their GreenCurrents proposal to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), DTE expressed the desire to purchase RECs from Michigan renewable energy sources, although, depending on the availability of Michigan based RECs they can purchase credits outside of Michigan.

For renewable energy to develop in Michigan our utilities must begin purchasing power produced from Michigan-based biomass, wind, and solar resources. According to DTE the GreenCurrents program will be a REC only program resulting in missed economic opportunities for Michigan and DTE customers.

Because DTE is not buying power, little to no new renewable energy development will occur in Michigan because of the GreenCurrents program. The Ecology Center and the City of Ann Arbor have intervened in the Detroit Edison rate case to request that DTE create a REAL renewable energy program. Our REAL renewable energy program is based on Austin Energy's

GREENCHOICE renewable energy program (see [www.nrel.gov/news/2007/506.html](http://www.nrel.gov/news/2007/506.html)) most successful voluntary renewable energy program. Austin purchases electricity at a fixed price for 10 years from wind, solar, and landfill gas resources. Austin customers can choose to buy from the renewable resources or the standard fossil fuel resources. The utility wins, because GREENCHOICE customers pay the costs for the renewable energy; and, the customers win because they get their electricity from clean resources at a fixed price for up to a decade. As an added bonus, the most recent GREENCHOICE 10 year rate is lower than their existing fossil fuel rate due to fossil fuel cost increases!

If you want to see wind turbines planted and solar panels mounted at a location near you, then stay tuned at <http://www.ecocenter.org> as the Ecology Center continues to develop our energy programs.

If you also want to offset the carbon emissions from your electricity consumption there are many more options available than just buying your RECs from DTE. Check out the Green-e website <http://www.green-e.org> for more information and for searching for what's available locally and nationally from organizations that are recognized by Green-e. Green-e is the certifying agency for RECs.

***This was sent out from the Ecology Center to supporters in July 2007 - many thanks to the center and to David Wright for allowing us to reprint.***

For more on how to stay green and save some green, check out our website:  
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>

Visit our drop off center located at:  
**1331 HOLDEN**  
Wednesday 10am-2pm  
Saturday 9am-3pm  
[recyclehere.net](http://recyclehere.net)  
Detroit City Recycling  
recycleclean

**PAPER** separate into the following four categories:  
**Newspaper**  
**Office Paper:** white paper, black ink only  
**Mixed:** envelopes, folders, colored paper, phone books  
**Glossy:** magazines, flyers, catalogs

**CARDBOARD**  
**GLASS**  
Brown, green or clear. Please separate.

**ALL METALS**  
**PLASTICS**  
#1 & #2 only. Check bottom of container.

**STYROFOAM**  
Carry out boxes, packing materials - in translucent bags.

**ASEPTIC**  
Orange juice, milk and soy milk containers.

**BATTERIES**  
Household only. Please bag them.

**PLASTIC BAGS**  
Grocery bags only. #1, 2 and 4 only.



By Ponti Ang-Carroll

Many Americans have been convinced aggressive promoting to switch from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in order to fight global warming. Giving out traditional light bulbs for CFLs is saving energy and money, so what's the problem known to many consumers, CFLs contain amounts of mercury, about of 5 milligrams (equivalent to an amount that would cover the tip of a ball-point pen) in a bulb. Although mercury is released when the bulbs are in use, this poses a serious question — how do the consumers properly dispose of the bulbs?

Recycle. . .continued from page 5

and Saturdays, serves 160 residents a week, and collects an average of 68,000 pounds of recyclables per month. On Saturdays, school age volunteers help unload cars as residents drive up to Recycle Here! Rosedale Recycles, always open on the third Saturday, collected 84.5 tons of recycled material from 2,100 dropoffs in 2005-06. This year's collection to date is approximately the same, but should increase after joining forces with Recycle Here! Rosedale Recycles is a non profit corporation supported by donations and the assistance of Scouts and students contributing hours of community service.

What can Sierra Club members do? Help get endorsements and support for the City of Detroit Future Solid Waste Plan. (See <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg> and [www.ecocenter.org](http://www.ecocenter.org))

If you live near the incinerator, complain about odors and other problems (313-876-0449). Recycle your trash at Recycle Here! and its new mobile locations, at Rosedale Recycles and Corktown Recycles.

## Next Chapter Lobby Day is in October - Please Participate!

By Lydia Fischer,  
Chapter Legislative Committee Chair

Our Fall Lobby Day will most probably take place in mid-October, after the Legislature and the Governor have signed on to a state budget for the next fiscal year. Our Spring Lobby Day on April 25 led by Legislative Director Gayle Miller was an unqualified success: there were about 130 lobbyists on hand who touched base with virtually every legislator. The SEMG contingent was, as usual, the largest: I counted 38 participants from our Group. Our "asks" were support for (1) HB 4667 and SB 444 to declare a moratorium on new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations or expansions of existing facilities, and (2) HB 4539, to require at least 20% of renewable sources in electricity produced by the state's electric utilities by 2020 among other provisions. We also pressed for mandatory programs to increase energy efficiency. The importance of our lobbying cannot be overstated: we Sierrans are well-prepared and passionate about our issues, and leave an excellent impression as we depart from each of our visits. We may not convince every legislator, but we surely convey that there are many of us -- we speak with a strong voice.

In-District Visits with legislators. The Legislative Committee is

. . .continued on page 13

## Bright Idea, Properly Disposing CFLs

The best and only way to properly dispose of these bulbs are to recycle them. Unfortunately, most cities that do have curbside recycling will not take the bulbs. There aren't that many options, for now consumers will have to take them to a special waste facility or wait until there is a hazardous waste collection day, which is not convenient to most people. To find out where to recycle your burnt out or broken CFLs, contact your local municipal solid waste agency directly or your neighborhood recycling facility. Some retail stores, like Ikea and Home Depot will allow you to return broken or used CFLs so they can recycle them.

Check to make sure the light bulbs you are purchasing are Energy Star qualified. Energy Star qualified CFLs have a warranty so if the bulb has failed within the warranty period, you can return it to your retailer. If you accidentally break your CFL, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends the following clean-up disposal guidelines:

1. Open a window and leave the room for at least 15 minutes
2. Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner
  - Wear disposable rubber gloves (do not use

your bare hands)

- Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard
  - Wipe the area clean with damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe
  - Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder
2. Place all cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it
    - Take broken CFL to recycling center for proper disposal
    - If no other disposal or recycling options are available, put used or broken CFLs in the garbage, seal in two plastic bags and put into the outside trash
    - Wash your hands after disposing of the bag
- Mercury is an essential component of CFLs and is what allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. This is a concern for environmentalist because if there isn't an easy way of recycling CFLs, it is most likely they'll be thrown away in the garbage, ending up in our landfills and even worst in a waste incinerator where the mercury from the bulbs may be released into the air, soil and water. Environmentalists, manufacturers and retailers are working together to expand proper disposal options.

ced through  
n incandes-  
t light bulbs  
ing. Switch-  
Ls will save  
oblem? Un-  
ntain small  
ms (roughly  
over the tip  
gh no mer-  
intact or in  
how do we  
e bulbs?



# OUTINGS



## September

9/2 [E] Rose Oaks County Park Hike. 11 a.m. Try this new hiking location; southwest of Holly, for a 4-5 mile, moderately paced hike. Varied terrain with small lakes. We will look for the great horned owls discovered on the scouting trip. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Bring lunch and beverage for picnic after. JoEllen Lane, 586-431-3104(C).

9/8 (Sat) Brighton Rec. Area Hike. Noon. Let's do a great 5-7-mile hike at a moderate to quick pace in this hilly park. We should see the late summer flowers and some wildlife on our route. Dress for the weather, bring water and trail 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. Restaurant stop after. Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

9/9 [E] Ojibway, Ontario, Prairie Flowers & Hike. 10:30 a.m. We will enjoy late summer flowers in the prairie while the sun is low then head for the wooded trails for about 5 moderately-paced miles on level terrain. Bring insect repellent and a picnic lunch to eat at the park shelter after. Meet behind the Dearborn Centennial Library, south side of Michigan Ave. just east of Southfield Fwy, west end of lot. Bring passport or birth certificate and photo ID. Call if weather is? Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

9/15 (Sat) [E] Maybury State Park Hike. 11 a.m. Let's enjoy the rolling hills, fields of wildflowers, mature beech tree woodlands and the historic TB sanatorium sites as we hike 3-4 miles at a moderate pace. This early fall hike will go rain or shine, dress accordingly. Meet at the park concession building, Eight Mile Rd. entrance,

1-1/2 miles west of Beck Rd. (and Northville); 5 miles west of I-275. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

9/16 [E] Lake Erie Metropark Hawkfest. 11 a.m. This is the beginning of the migration south; we will join the hawkfest activities – observing them in flight on their route. Bring binoculars. We will also hike the nature trails for a 4-5-mile easy-paced walk. Meet behind the Dearborn Centennial Library, south side of Michigan Ave. just east of Southfield Fwy, at west end of parking lot, or noon at the park Nature Center. Bring picnic lunch and beverage. Sharon Smelter, 734-671-8321.

9/21 (Fri.) Outings Committee Meeting and Potluck. 6 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. Meet at 6 p.m. at Mary Stoolmiller's house in Troy, 248-879-6004.

9/22 (Sat) Bald Mountain South Hike. 10:30 a.m. We will hike 5-miles at a moderate pace over the rolling hills of the South Unit, enjoying the coolness of fall. Wear bright colors so we stand out on the trails (hunters may be afoot). 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, 248-589-2251, 248-303-8875(C).

9/30 [E] General Custer Week Celebration. 9 a.m. Monroe, MI. is the site – Meet President Lincoln and hear the Gettysburg Address, listen to the 5th Mi. Regimental Band, hear stories of the brigades serving with General Custer, NPS historians and authors, meet "the foremost Custer living historian" plus civil war encampment at Navarre Trading Post. We will tour

the museum and exhibits for a 3-4 hour stroll, enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. Meet behind the Dearborn Centennial Library, south side of Michigan Ave. just east of Southfield Fwy. Meet at west end of parking lot. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579, Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

## October

10/7 Bald Mt. North Hike. 11:30 a.m. Let's tramp on the hilly side of Bald Mountain Rec. Area. We will enjoy the cooler weather for this 6-mile, quick-paced walk, as we go through meadows, prairies, wooded hills and around 9 lakes on our walk. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot) Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

10/13-10/14 [E] Hoist Lakes Backpack Trip. A fall color trip to this real wilderness area nearby. White Birch, pine trees and the coloring of Fall will surround us on this 14 mile total trek. We will hike in to our campsite on a lake and enjoy an evening around a camp fire. In the morning hike out under a canopy of color and leaf-covered trails. Contact leader for trip details. John Herrgott 248-766-9575, jherrgott@comcast.net .

10/14 Belle Isle Hike. 10:30 a.m. Let's warm up from the fall chill by circumnavigating the island. We will hike at a moderate to brisk pace, stopping to observe the ducks swimming and any freighters on their last runs. Meet in front of the (old) Belle Isle Casino; call if weather is? Restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-431-3104(C).

10/20 (Sat) [E] Independence Oaks Hike. 10:30 a.m. We will do a quick paced, 5-6 mile hike on the hilly Spring Lake and Ted Gray trails. The awesome views from these hilltops should include peak autumn colors. Meet in Bloomfield Hills

behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot) or at the Nature Center parking lot at the park at 11 a.m. Optional restaurant stop after. Bonnie, 248-589-2251, 248-303-8875(C).

10/21 [E] Potawatomi Trail Hike. 9:30 a.m. We return to these historic trails for a great fall 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 Wal Mart and Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on the southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

10/27 (Sat) Huron Meadows Hike. Noon. We will go at a slow pace – looking for the remaining fall leaves on this 4-5-mile walk in the Metropark. 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 12:45 p.m. at Sunset Ridge picnic area in the park, towards the golf course. Optional restaurant stop after. Pat and Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.



10/28 Highland Hike. 10:30 a.m. Let's end the month with a 4-5-mile hike on the hilly trails of Highland Rec. Area. We will go at a slow pace, enjoying the last looks of fall, crunching on the fallen leaves. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

## November

11/3 (Sat) Proud Lake Hike. 11 a.m. We will go at a moderate pace for 5-miles through the wetlands, hardwood forests, around

the marsh, and rivers edge vistas. Rain or shine, wear fall layers. Meet in the Proud Lake Rec. Area parking lot – off Wixom Road, approx. 8-miles north of I-96. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782.



11/4 Paint Creek Hike. 10:30 a.m. We will do a 5+5 hike. The first 5-miles have interesting vistas, late autumn colors and winding creek side waterways. We will be going a quick pace to keep warm in the autumn chill, ending in Lake Orion for a restaurant stop. Afterwards a 5-mile hike back on the rails to trail path (slightly downhill). Wear good boots, bring water and dress for the weather. Meet in Troy behind the LaSalle Bank on 14 Mile Rd. just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

11/10 (Sat) Stony Creek Hike. 10:30 a.m. Let's go on the nature trails for a 5-mile hike at a quick pace. On our return, we can stop in the new nature center to see the displays. Meet in Troy behind the LaSalle Bank on 14 Mile Rd. just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall) or at the nature center parking lot. Optional restaurant stop after. Bonnie, 248-589-2251, 248-303-8875(C).

11/17 Holly Dayhike. Noon. We will hike 10 miles on leaf-strewn trails taking in the

opening vistas of the lakes and valleys of this beautiful park. Bring ample snacks, water and boots for this all-weather trek. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. or at 12:45 p.m. at the park entrance. Optional restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

11/18 Kensington Metropark Hike. 11:30 a.m. This is a slow paced 5-mile walk, observing the deer, squirrels and waterfowl as we enjoy the cooler fall weather. 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 12:15 p.m. at the Nature Center. Call if weather is iffy Restaurant stop after. Jeanne Mercier, 313-581-6648.

11/23 (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. 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.

## December

Please Note: There are more outings than published here – check our website for current list – [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg).

12/1 Addison Oaks Hike. 10 a.m. Hike 5-6 moderately-paced miles on hilly, wooded trails and some paved roadway, but avoiding the recently developed

. . . continued on page 12

### 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...cont.  
from page 11

campground.  
Meet in Troy behind the LaSalle Bank on 14 Mile Rd. just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). Optional restaurant stop after. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.



this historic Metropark taking the various winding paths through the woods and overlooking the river. We may cross the Clinton River over the Boy Scout Bridge and continue our loop on some of the equestrian trails. Meet in Sterling Heights at Metro-Pkway (16 Mile Rd) and Van Dyke, (south east corner) in the SMART parking lot between the banks. Restaurant stop after. Jo Ellen, 586-431-3104 cell.

## 2008 January

12/8 (Sat) Maybury State Park Hike. 11 a.m. We'll hike about 3 miles at a moderate pace over relatively flat ground through woods and fields and watch for dried wildflowers and 3 species of squirrels readying for winter. This early winter hike will go rain or shine; dress accordingly. Meet at the park concession bldg, Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd. (and Northville); 5 miles west of I-275. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

12/9 Mystery Hike. Noon. Come and find out where this year's mystery hike is. You might miss the best December hike yet! We will go to a nearby park, suitable for the weather, and hike at a moderate pace 5-6 miles. Dress for the weather, meet in Southfield in Tel-12 mall, next to the marathon station, facing Telegraph, southeast corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Cindy, 248-336-2984.

12/16 [E] Seven Lakes Hike. Noon. This beautiful park of lakes, woods and meadows can offer up a challenge for the winter season trekker. This 7-mile all-weather hike will be the first of three winter hikes here. Join us in the serenity and stillness the woods offer between the winter solstice and spring equinox. Prepare with snacks, water, boots and wind-resistant clothing. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. or at 12:45 p.m. at the park entrance. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

12/30 Wolcott Mill Hike. Noon. Let's enjoy a moderately-paced, 5-mile hike in

1/5 (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 a variety of woods and fields. Rain or shine, dress accordingly. Meet at the park concession bldg, Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd. (and Northville); 5 miles west of I-275. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

1/6 Independence Oaks X-C Skiing. Noon. Enjoy 2-3 hours of skiing at one of metro Detroit's finest spots. Flat, rolling, and hilly trails offer options for various skill levels. Warming shelter. Optional restaurant stop after. 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

1/13 [E] Seven Lakes Hike. Noon. We return to this outstanding park every January to experience the calm and peacefulness of its frozen landscape. This second hike in the series can test your hiking skills. Come prepared for 7 miles of all-weather trekking with snacks, water, boots and wind resistant clothing. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. or at 12:45 p.m. at the park entrance. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575



## February

2/2 (Sat) [E] Maybury in the Moonlight. 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy a chilly evening hike lighted by the moon at Maybury. We will go at a safe, moderate pace as we explore the trails of this previous sanatorium - turned into - State Park. Keep your eyes peeled for the deer following the same trails, and the constellations overhead as we go approx. 4 miles. Dress in layers for the chill, and meet at Maybury State Park - horse stable parking lot. Take Eight Mile Rd. to Beck Road (2 miles west of Northville); go south on Beck ¼ mile to entrance on west side. Drive in to the end and park. Restaurant stop after. Phil, 248-797-2885.

2/9 (Sat) Maybury State Park Hike. 11 a.m. Let's enjoy the rolling hills, mature beech and oak tree woodlands and the historic TB sanatorium sites as we hike 3-4 miles at a moderate pace. Rain or shine, dress accordingly. Meet at the park concession bldg, Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd. (and Northville); 5 miles west of I-275. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

2/17 [E] Seven Lakes Hike. Noon. The third and last hike of this series can be the most interesting as the long-frozen landscape yields to the now warming rays of the sun. The plants and trees are carefully measuring out the shortening length of night now. Come hike with us and reflect on this icy, seemingly lifeless terrain and wonder about the coming transition to Spring. Snacks, water, boots and wind-resistant clothing a must. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. or at 12:45 p.m. at the park entrance. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575.

## Outings Extra: The Green Motherhouse

By Joanne Cantoni,  
SEMG Outings Coordinator

Ed McArdle's April 8 SEMG outing gave 20 Sierrans a first-hand look at the recently renovated Immaculate Heart of Mary retirement and health care center in Monroe. Consulting engineers to the project said that the 376,000 sq. ft. structure, built in 1932 with 18" thick walls, was strong enough to last into the 23rd century. However, this lovely facility with Pewabic tile and parquet floors, Craftsman light fixtures and handsome wood trim needed extensive updates to its mechanical systems and congregate living spaces.

The IHM community arrived at the decision to proceed with the multi-year, multi-million dollar project based on their commitment to the concept of sustainability which is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. A geothermal heat pump, super efficient toilets, double glazed windows, and grey-water recycling

all substantially reduce the Motherhouse's energy "footprint." Clerestory windows in halls share the light from adjacent rooms. Greywater is treated in a constructed wetland and recirculated in a separate system for use in toilets and the mechanical plant. The front lawn was restored after 55 miles of underground piping was installed to take advantage of the earth's constant 55 degree temperature. The project reused windows, doors, flooring, trim, and even top soil. Usable carpeting, porcelain fixtures and ducting were donated for reuse.

The American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment selected the project as one of its Top 10 Green Project for 2006. By hosting tours and "green" building conferences, the IHM community continues its traditional role as educators, and part of the educational benefit extended to companies and professions involved in the project that were positively affected by their experience with a sustainable renovation.

Lobby. ...continued from page 7

planning visits to legislators in their districts, and invites SEMG members to participate. For more information, please e-mail me at [lydfisch@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:lydfisch@michigan.sierraclub.org), or call 313-506-8278.

CAFO developments. The Senate Agriculture Committee held three hearings on "bad" CAFO bill in May and June that were exceptionally well attended by Chapter supporters; many presented strong testimony on behalf of SC position. The bills were finally approved by the Republican-controlled Senate on a mostly partisan basis, and have not been taken up by the House. For further information about CAFOs, please go to <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/issues/cafos>.

Energy Independence Campaign. The campaign, a coalition of environmental organizations calling for energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and no new coal plants, is moving forward, steered by an advisory group that includes Sierra Club. There were two hearings of the House Energy Committee on renewable energy standards in July. Enviros testified in support of HB 4539. In late July, Committee Chairman Frank Accavitti (D-Eastpointe), convened a workgroup of interested parties for further discussions, including representatives of the Campaign. No action is expected until late summer. In the meantime, the chapter has hired Jan O'Connell, long-time volunteer activist from West Michigan, to be our Energy Organizer. Her appointment comes at a time when energy issues are at the top of our legislative agenda. Welcome, Jan!

Stay Informed, Become Involved! For more detailed information about the Chapter's Legislative Activities and to take part in our Fall Lobby Day, please sign up for the Sierra Club's Michigan Action Network. Through this online system, you'll receive notification of critical environmental legislation and the Michigan Sierra Club's 3-newsletter, the Citizen Watchdog. Sign up at <http://mackinac.sierraclub.org>

## Setting up a Speaker's Bureau: Interested in helping?

By Dr. Gene Perrin, SEMG ExCom member

It is time, nay, past time, for the local environmental/conservation movement to have a well organized voice that can be made available to citizen's organizations, political meetings, churches, schools, etc., on current "hot" environmental topics -- for example, combating global warming, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, putting the "mass" into transit, saving wetlands, conserving our area's dwindling nature areas.

Are those of you interested also willing to come together to form such a Speaker's Bureau? Please let us know by giving us the following information about you:

Name - Address - Phone number(s) - Areas of interest or greatest expertise - Willingness to talk, teach, organize - Any special teaching aids in your possession now? - Are you part of a group? - Time available? - Willing to undergo training?

I very much look forward to learning, teaching, sharing and "fighting the GOOD FIGHT" with many of my fellow Sierra Club activist members. This should be fun, exciting, and rewarding.

**Eugene V.D. Perrin**, P.S. Ph.D. (Zoology, ABD), M.D., 40+ years in Sierra Club and still finding out how little I know. We CANNOT LOSE the current environmental battle in the U.S. YOU ARE VITALLY NEEDED!!!

**Please send responses or questions to [Profgene@aol.com](mailto:Profgene@aol.com)**

# SEMG'S 6TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

An early spring celebration of "Think Globally, Eat Locally"



By Dave Llewellyn,  
Fundraising Chair

Once again, Southeast Michigan Group's resident chief cook (and bottle-washer, and chair) triumphed in putting together a fund-raising feast. When this event began its planning process, and after the local food theme was set, it seemed natural that the menu would be locally grown. Well, in retrospect, Carol Izant had to admit that next time we should plan the event for after the start of the local growing season. It turns out that April 27th is not part of your standard Michigan growing season. But that didn't deter Carol this year. By prowling local markets, accepting a significant food contribution from SEMG member Mary LaFrance's local farm, and bending the rules a bit, Carol improvised an amazing chicken concoction. Some of us were originally disappointed that we were not going to have one of Carol's signature lasagna productions, but one taste, and we knew her talents went far beyond lasagna.

The event was the sixth major fundraiser for the group, in about seven years. These annual fetes provide the funds for us to carry on our works, but equally important, they provide an opportunity for us to meet and socialize



Photo courtesy of Ponti Ang-Carroll  
Left: Guest speaker Chris Bedford discusses his experience with the success of the Sweetwater Local Foods Market in Muskegon and the importance of buying and eating local foods. Above: Anna Holden (left) presents Lydia Fischer (middle) receives the SEMG Chapter Award for her contributions to the environment, given by Carol Izant (right).

with our peers and fellow-thinkers, and to recognize the contributions of one of our bedrock members. This is the only place that many of us get together every year. This year's event was again held in the Birmingham Unitarian Church, which is turning out to be the perfect size and location for those who participated.

The program for the event included piano background music by Jan Johnson, songs by Jim Bizer, and a welcome by Carol Izant. Then the group honored the contributions to the environment by Lydia Fischer, who has been an activist since the early 80's. Anna Holden presented the award with her accustomed verve.

The featured speaker for this 2007 dinner was Chris Bedford, former Maryland Sierra Club Chair, founder of the Center for Economic Security, author, and movie-maker from western Michigan. His latest film: "What Will We Eat?" reveals the growing crisis in industrial agriculture and how a grassroots coalition of consumers and small farmers is inventing a healthy, humane, homegrown alternative. Filmed primarily in West Michigan, "What Will We Eat?" focuses on the success of the Sweetwater Local Foods Market in Muskegon – Michigan's first farmers market to exclusively sell local produce raised according to organic standards and

products from animals raised humanely. The story is told through the voices and experiences of small farmers and their customers. "The Search for Healthy Local Food," tells the story of the growing failure of the industrial food system and how a grassroots coalition of small farmers and consumers is inventing a healthy, humane, homegrown alternative. Chris entertained us with his experiences and the story of his path to the Sweetwater

Local Foods Market. Chris also told us of an initiative which he is promoting:

The Declaration of Interdependence campaign to amend the Constitution of the State of Michigan through Ballot Initiative to establish "the right of all Michigan residents to locally produced food raised in a manner that enhances biological diversity, builds healthy soil, promotes animal welfare, fosters human and environmental health, and contributes to the rebirth of a thriving small farm rural economy."

...continued on page 15

## Join a Committee

Want to do more for the environment and your community?  
Join a Committee

For more information on committee meetings visit our website:  
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>

What are you waiting for?

This Ballot Initiative is planned for the 2008 General Election.

SEMG's environmental work will be enhanced for yet another year by this fund raising effort. Thanks go to the volunteers who worked in front of, and behind the scenes; contributors of food, deserts, door prizes; participants; and most of all, the following sponsors:

- Joanne Cantoni
- Lydia Fischer
- Marcia Gershenson
- Jean Gramlich
- Anna Holden
- Jeff Jenks
- Dave Llewellyn
- Paul McCarthy
- Susan McCarthy
- Gary Rentrop
- Sue Rentrop
- Gloria Scicli
- Guillermo Scicli
- Marie Weigold
- Mark Mitchell
- Edna Newnan
- Eugene Perrin
- Good Food Co. (East)
- Garden Central, Inc

The Wayne Co. task force has indicated it would reduce emissions in county operations and also help communities within the county to do the same.

Inspired by the movie "An Inconvenient Truth" and an excellent energy workshop hosted by the Michigan Chapter this past February, there is growing enthusiasm to work locally on this most important global issue. If you would like your city to address global warming or help cities that have already signed the agreement, you are most welcome to join us every 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30 p.m., at the SC Building Environmental Communities (BEC) office in Royal Oak, 1723 14 Mile Rd., just west of Crooks. Please call 248-549-6213 to confirm time of meeting.

For more info check out the Sierra Club web site [Sierraclub.org/coolcities](http://Sierraclub.org/coolcities) which offers great help in how to proceed in contacting your local officials and following up on the agreement.

A Presentation by Mike Csapo, Resource Recovery & Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC)

In a time of shrinking revenue shares from the state, local units of government in Michigan are beginning to rethink their spending for recycling programs, often choosing to reduce existing services or eliminate programs altogether. Yet recycling provides undeniable and quantifiable environmental benefits that have a value, depending on the type of material, ranging between \$18 and nearly \$8,000 per ton. Landfilling costs, on the other hand, range from more than \$3 per ton to nearly \$77 per ton, with most recent estimates between \$5-8 per ton. Consequently, recycling is a prime example of the failure of markets to correctly cost and price goods and services that provide ecological and sustainability benefits. Conversely, landfilling provides us with the failure of markets to correctly cost and price goods and services that are ecologically damaging. As a result, we under-invest in recycling and overuse disposal options

such as landfilling. Getting these waste management prices right is crucial in a 21st century society! Mike Csapo, General Manager of RRRASOC, will make the case for sustainable economic development through the recycling of secondary materials. As a member of Michigan's Recycling Coalition, he will also fill us in on the latest in state policy regarding recycling and secondary materials markets.

**December 6, 2007**

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

It's that time again, folks...time to party with your fellow Sierrans as we wind out 2007! 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 slide 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!



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!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed made payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my  MasterCard  Visa  AMEX Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Number \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed check and mail to:  
**Sierra Club**  
 P.O. Box 52968  
 Boulder, CO 80332-2968

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.



**SIERRA CLUB**  
 FOUNDED 1892

F94QY 2102

**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**



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

NONPROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 TECUMSEH, MI  
 PERMIT NO. 29

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (Have we got a deal for you!)

Do you find yourself watching too much TV lately? Have you been wondering what is life all about? Are you wearing out your socks by constantly rearranging them in the sock-drawer? Are you constantly humming “Is that all there is?” to yourself? If you can answer “yes” to any of those questions, or any other question, maybe it is time to get more involved in your local Sierra Club group, SEMG.

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, David Fuller, Gene Perrin, and Mitch Mitchell. 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 nominations and elections process:

Submit nomination to Nomination Committee	October 1
Nominating Committee present nominations to ExCom for approval of ballot	October 11
Candidates submit 50 word candidate’s statement	October 31
Ballots passed out and candidates make statements at November general meeting	November 1
Ballots collected and counted at the December Holiday Party (General Meeting)	December 6

If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, please submit your name to the Nomination Committee Chair, Dave Llewellyn. Dave’s email address is [dllewell8@comcast.net](mailto:dllewell8@comcast.net), his snail-mail address is:

6432 Willow Rd.  
 West Bloomfield, MI 48324