

Sierra Club

Southwest Michigan Group

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ACTIVIST

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER
VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3, 1999

Take a Second Step . . . to Southeast Michigan's New Member Meeting

by Anna Holden, SEMG Chair

Many of you who are receiving this issue of the *Activist* recently joined Sierra Club, taking that "first step" toward becoming more involved in our organization. Others have held memberships in Sierra Club longer, but may not have taken a "second step" — attending a meeting or an outdoor activity led by our local Group.

I urge you to take the "second step" to Sierra Club and attend our New Members' Meeting on Thursday, September 2. (Map and time informa-



tion are on page 2.) We will have an interesting program featuring an Earthwatch volunteer's recent trip to a rain forest. But, more importantly, we would like to meet you, introduce you to the Group's active committees, and tell you about special events scheduled this fall. We want to know which issues concern you. We need your interest to renew our local efforts. You can probably help

continued on page 14

Join us for the SEMG
Autumn
Extravaganza
Fun & FUNdrasing!
Saturday, October 2
9:30-?

Kensington Metropark
Hiking, Games, Prizes, Food

In this Issue

Green Politics
page 17
Outings

General Membership Meetings

General membership meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted. There are no meetings during the summer recess, July and August.

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church at 23925 Northwestern Hwy., southbound service drive, between Southfield and Evergreen Rd., and 9 and 10 Mile Rd., in Southfield. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. Light refreshments are served.



Schedule of Programs

Sept. 2. Annual New Membership Meeting. Mike Mansuer, a representative from Earthwatch, will speak on a recent rain forest trip. Also door prizes, raffle and refreshments.

October 7. Urban Sprawl.

November 4. Outings Meeting.

Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 11 Mile Rd. and Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Parking lot in back of church, south of 11 Mile Rd. No meeting in August.

Conservation Committee

The **Conservation Committee** meets the third Thursday of each month at the same location used by the Executive Committee. No meeting in August.

Political Committee Meetings

The Political Committee meets the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Nello's Restaurant, Woodward Ave. at Lincoln in Royal Oak.

... groups, environmental groups, and the Native American communi-

Membership/Fundraising Committee

ties from Southeast Michigan and Western Ontario to make our case for clean and healthy lakes, rivers and wetlands. It was held at Algonac State Park — a most appropriate setting for such a wonderful event. Thanks to American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan for inviting us again. Join us next year!

If you want to get active in this kind of activity, contact Bob Duda at (734) 464-0076. The more folks volunteering, the more that we can do. We hold our Membership/Fundraising Committee meetings just prior to the SEMG general meetings.

Let's Talk about Money!

An organization such as ours needs funds beyond what the Sierra Club in San Francisco rebates to us. Most of all, we need money if we are going to continue to publish the *Activist*, the first-rate newsletter in your hands which is brought to you by the work of volunteers.

However, a newsletter does not get produced without considerable non-volunteer, paid work. We need to purchase paper, pay for printing, and buy delivery by the Postal Service.

Each quarter, as we prepare the *Activist*, we reach out to our members with information, thoughts and photographs to give a voice to the Sierra Club's philosophy "to protect and restore the quality of natural and human environment...". An equally powerful role is the role you play, our audience, the subscriber. So please, take out your checkbook and take a few moments to complete the Subscription Form below. Just \$5 will let you share in the voice of the *Activist* four times a year.

New members of the Club in our area receive one issue of the *Activist* as part of our Welcome to the Group! policy.

Contribute to your newsletter.

Articles, activities, announcements, art work and ads of general interest to the membership are welcome. Deadlines for publication are October 31, January 31, April 30 and July 31. Send what you would like published to Lydia Fischer, 17610 Warrington Dr., Detroit, MI 48221. If possible supply a computer disc, IBM-compatible or Macintosh format; always

Fundraising

Want \$1,000? Buy a Mackinac Chapter raffle ticket. See Bob Duda soon. The proceeds go to support the activities of your Sierra Club chapter and group.

Have you seen those smart looking, official **Sierra Club caps** yet? They are going fast. See Bob at the next meeting and you too will wear one for only \$8.00. In addition, you can acquire a nice day pack and a duffle bag: \$15.00 each. All proceeds go to support your group.

Subscribe to the Newsletter

ACTIVIST

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Subscription Form

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Help Wanted

Are you interested in participating in the club's committee activities? You are encouraged to contact the individuals listed below. Getting involved is your chance to make a difference in the quality of life you endorsed when you joined the Sierra Club. It's well worth an hour or two a month — that's all it takes. Remember, good ideas work only when we do!

SEMG Executive Committee and Committee Chairs

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 (313) 331-0932
 Chair

Lydia Fischer
 (313) 863-8392
 Vice Chair
 Lydfisch@mindspring.com

Denise Harris
 (248) 642-6164
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Cindy Gunnip
 (248) 336-2984
 Program Committee Chair

Ed McArdle
 (313) 388-6645
 Conservation Committee Chair

Eugene Perrin
 (248) 548-3248



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 A d d r e s s

Membership Categories

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Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$128
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27

Contributions gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our 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.

Payment Method:

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Enclose payment information and mail to:

Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968,
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3405 Orchard Lake Rd., Keego Harbor, MI 48320. (248) 738-5291
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d Fall 1999 Special Events Calendar

September 18-19

Mackinac Chapter Autumn Retreat.

A weekend escape for Sierrans from all over Michigan. Rustic shelter and dorm accommodations, meals, family recreational and optional educational gatherings. Cost from \$35-\$90 per person, including meals, depending on age of children and type of housing. Register immediately. Forms in May-July *Mackinac*. For more information contact Cathy or Gary Semer at (743) 453-4443.

September 18 (Sat.)

Outings Training Seminar for SEMG day trip leaders.

Register by 6:00 p.m. September 17 with Joanne Spatz, (248) 932-5370. No trip or training fees. Park entrance fee.

September 25 (Sat.)

Challenging Urban Sprawl.

An all day "how to" workshop in Macomb County will be staffed by leaders from the Mackinac Chapter and organizations working on aspects

of sprawl such as land preservation, transportation, and protective legislation. For more information/registration, contact the Club's Lansing office at (517) 484-2372 or mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org.

October 2 (Sat.)

SEMG Autumn Extravaganza at Kensington Metropark.

Bring a friend/sponsor and join us for a fun and FUNdraising event. Start now to sign up your sponsors and collect pledges, then pick your miles as we enjoy the beginning of fall with a variety of hikes. See registration and hiking pledge form on page 10 or contact Bob Duda at (734) 464-0076.

October 23 (Sat.)

Tour de Sprawl.

Find out more about sprawl, first hand. An all day event-focus: Macomb County. Show our elected representatives that people are very upset by sprawl and are willing to fight against it. For more information contact Bob Duda, (734) 464-0076 or Denise Harris (248) 642-6164.



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Green Politics

Keeping the Heat On

Tim Killeen

With the heat of the summer beginning to recede, the Political Committee goes into the fall moving the environmental agenda forward on several fronts.

Fall Lobby Day

In the wake of our successful Lobby Day in Lansing in the spring, plans are underway for a return visit in November. We would like to be of help to our legislators as they wrap up their work before the holiday recess. The targeted date will be in the November 16-18 time frame. We need to visit Lansing mid-week when the legislature is in session. We need new people, and more people, to come with us and get a look at your government in action. There were a dozen lobbyists in the spring and reaching 15 would be nice. Our representatives are meeting with high-priced suits all day; they need to have more contact with Michigan citizens, you and I. Take a day off work and join us! Call me at (313) 526-4052 if you want more information or want to sign up.

Election 2000

Election 2000 is coming! In preparation the committee has completed a press list so that we can be more active in getting the Sierra Club point of view out to the public. Most of the races should be fairly well defined by the end of the year, and our endorsement procedure will kick off in the spring. At this writing it looks like the U.S. Senate race is set between Stabenow and Abraham. This prom-

ises to be a very tight contest and one that the Club would like to have some say in. The degree to which the environment will be protected is positively correlated to the number of Club members that get involved.

On the Local Front

The committee is continuing its series of meetings with Southeast Michigan legislators. This effort will continue at the rate of 2-3 legislators per month on into the future. If you have contact with your representative or are interested in meeting with them, please contact the committee so we can get you involved. As an outgrowth of one of those meetings Sen. Peters drafted legislation to regulate medical waste incinerators in response to the SEMG's campaign on this issue.

Membership Involvement

Committee membership continues to be on the upswing. We have welcomed four new members since our last report, bringing the grand total to 16. If we can continue to build on this talented group, then it makes it that much harder for our representatives to be poor environmental decision makers.

The committee did take a month off from meetings in July and enjoyed the First Annual SEMG Political Committee Picnic. Thanks to Adele Saunders for making her house and yard available for the event. Join in on the work and the fun; don't let Michigan continue to drift backward environmentally.

gBook Reviews

by Ed McArdle, Conservation Chair

Perhaps like you, I sometimes find it hard to set aside time to read a good book. Articles and newsletters seem more likely to fit our busy lifestyles. Recently, however, I read two books on issues that our Southeast Michigan Group is currently working on that were so informative and compelling that I wanted to share them with you.

Living Downstream

by Sandra Steingraber

Sandra was diagnosed with bladder cancer when she was only 29 years old. Of course, doctors then said that it was probably caused by heredity because other members of her family had also contracted the disease. But Susan was adopted. This fact led her to look for environmental causes. Because of her personal trauma and the fact that she is both a poet and a biologist, this is a book that falls into the "hard to put down" category.

Living Downstream is a landmark book on the scale of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Steingraber describes our journey from a carbohydrate based economy to our present poisoning by the petro-chemical industries, showing how little we have learned since the days of *Silent Spring*. How is it, she asks, that we allowed these chemical companies access to our DNA and our genetic material with so little resistance? She details the many connections in our daily lives between our use of chemicals, pesticides, plastics and how incinerators contaminate our

food supply and impact our health. Steingraber describes how things could be different, showing us there are alternatives to poisoning ourselves and future generations. Her book eloquently validates the Club's constant and persistent opposition to incineration.

The Geography of Nowhere Home From Nowhere

by James Kunstler

This is the essential book for anyone who opposes urban sprawl or for anyone who is looking for the common denominator that explains the decline of our human centered communities. We instinctively sense that there is something wrong with our auto-crazed society but perhaps we can't quite put it into words.

Kuntsler expresses his distress with a vocabulary that is both angry and humorous. He shows how, because of the automobile, we have created scary and ugly places that all look the same and therefore could be anywhere or nowhere. The author describes how much we lost when the automobile destroyed downtowns and the civic life of places large and small. The interaction that is lost between people of different cultures and income is especially evident in the Detroit region, and Kuntsler uses Detroit as an example of how things can go so wrong. But he also gives examples of how to tame the auto monster.

Kuntsler looks for the solution through architecture, beauty and design. For instance, wide tree lined sidewalks with parallel parking put at least two barriers of safety between pedestrians and traffic that encourage foot traffic. This is one of the keys to successful downtowns. After reading these books, you can better understand how we came to "nowhere" and how we can get "somewhere".

Outings

bSeptember



Interested in impromptu hikes on **Friday mornings?**
Call Bev. (248) 280-4975.

9/5 Dodge Brothers Park
Enjoy the surprising diverse urban park along the Clinton at the end of Dodge Park Road and Utica Road, Sterling Heights. This will be a brisk-paced 7-mile hike along paved trails shared with some wheeled vehicles (bikes, rollerbladers). Slower movers can linger behind. Meet 9 a.m. at the SMART parking lot, southeast corner of Van Dyke and Metro Parkway in Sterling Heights (between the two banks). Bring bug stuff, water. Optional restaurant stop after. Leader, June Cox, (248) 435-9522.

9/11 (Saturday) Outings Scheduling Meeting. This is open to everyone interested in doing or learning about outings. You are welcome to join us in a fun-filled evening, beginning with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., then participate in the planning meeting for the next quarter at 7 p.m. We will meet at Bev and Marshall's house, 5121 Thorncroft, Royal Oak. Call (248)280-4975 for more directions.

9/12 Nature Photography 101. Join

Outings are scheduled for Sunday unless otherwise indicated. Outings fee is \$1.00, unless otherwise noted. Everyone is welcome! Call the Trip Leader for more details. All hikes begin at the trailhead. PLEASE NOTE: because of park and facility regulations, and as a courtesy to other hikers and campers, pets and radios or tape players are not welcome on outings.

Imson and Joy Lovio, avid photographers who focus on how to improve pictures. Outing is for single lens reflex users, shooters can benefit. Introductory instructional material and then moves to the field. Meeting time will be 8 a.m. (for the best light). Call after 9/1 for meeting place

and field location. Bring: 2 rolls of color print film: 1 400 and 1 either 800 or 1000 (for possible low light conditions); camera instruction manual; fresh or spare battery; shutter cable or tripod (if you have them); and something to sit on (mat, pad, stool).



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Outings



Clean the camera lens. We will probably be done by noon when the light gets too contrasty. Call Joanne Spatz, (248) 932-5370, Raymond — (248) 738-5595, or Joy — (248) 683-5680 for more info.

9/17 (Friday) Enjoy an out-of-sight outing in northern Macomb County. Explore the sky, up-close and personal, with John Herrgott and the Warren Astrological Society. Meet at the SMART parking lot on the east side of Van Dyke, south of Metro Parkway, in Sterling Heights (between the two banks). Be aware that traffic may be very congested. Come at 6 p.m. if you want to sup at the nearby Appleby's before the outing. Come by 7:30 p.m. sharp for ride sharing to the "observatory" near 30 Mile and Romeo Plank (maps will be provided). Dress for being outside. Bring binoculars or scopes if you have them. If it rains, we will go inside for a slide presentation. Co-leaders, John Herrgott, (810) 248-643-4767 and Joanne Spatz, (248) 932-5370.

9/18 (Saturday) Training Seminar. Do you have a favorite spot that you think other Sierrans would enjoy knowing about? Do you think all outings have to be hikes? If you have thought about leading an outing but were nervous because you weren't sure what to do, this activity will help put you at ease. Come to the first SEMG day trip leader instructional seminar and find out. Experienced day trip leaders will provide the do's and don'ts to get you started on your leadership career. Meet at 10:00 a.m. behind the Marathon station at

Tel-Twelve Mall, SW corner of 12 Mile and Telegraph in Southfield for a trip to Kensington Metropark, instruction, handouts, and a demo activity (short - 2- or 3- mile hike). Back to meeting place by 3 p.m. Please register by 6 p.m., September 17, with Joanne Spatz, (248) 932-5370. No trip or training fees. Park entrance fee.

9/19 Mystery Hike! Come and explore a new place or rediscover a familiar one. We will hike 5-6 miles over fairly easy terrain. The mystery will be solved at the meeting place. Dress for weather, restaurant stop afterwards. Meet at 11:30 a.m. behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd. and I-75 (South edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy. Leaders: Cindy Gunnip (248)336-2984, Lee Becker (810)294-7789.

9/25 (Saturday) Proud Lake State Park Hike. Explore the varied habitats in this diverse park for 2-3 hours. Some hills, some dales, some swamp, some pine forest, a river, some mosquitoes. Come prepared for all. Meet leaders Ken and Stephanie Jacobsen (810) 684-8844, evenings, at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind park headquarters, east side of Wixom Road, north of Garden Road in Wixom. Optional leaderless carpooling from parking lot behind Marathon station at 12 Mile and Telegraph (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield at 9:15 a.m.

9/26 Waterloo Day Hike. We will enjoy this scenic recreation area of glacial hills and lakes — hiking one way from Sackrider Hill to Big Portage

Coalition Asks Henry Ford Health System:

by Anna Holden, SEMG Chair

Meeting with the Board of Trustee's Committee on Public Responsibility, July 21, the Coalition to Stop Incineration at Henry Ford Hospital asked the Committee to propose an end to trash burning at the next Board meeting. Nine Coalition representatives made brief presentations covering a range of issues related to burning trash at the Hospital's main campus in Detroit: the impact on health in the area, regulatory problems, community opposition, alternative technology available, and the issue of environmental justice; Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) hospitals in Grosse Pointe Farms and Wyandotte do not burn trash. Several HFHS executives were also present.

The Coalition asked the two Board of Trustees members attending, Honorable Anna Diggs Taylor and the Reverend Edgar Vann, to recommend several actions to the full Public Responsibility Committee: (1) hold a community forum on incineration at Henry Ford Hospital; (2) meet with Coalition representatives after the forum; (3) ask the Board of Trustees to stop burning waste and initiate comprehensive changes in the Hospital's waste disposal practices; and (4) implement a mercury reduction/elimination plan as part of an overall commitment to take toxins out of the hospital waste stream. The Coalition noted that hospitals are now being asked to take the oath all physicians take, to "first, do no harm."

Board members questioned Coalition representatives about waste practices in other hospitals. Based on a 1998 SEMG survey of Wayne County hospitals, Henry Ford Hospital is the only facility still burning waste on site, with one-third of the hospitals

sending their waste to a commercial autoclave in Toledo, an acceptable alternative. Discussion also focused on the Pledge to Become a Mercury Free Facility which 17 Michigan hospitals—other than those in the Henry Ford Health System—signed in May. This Pledge, circulated by the Health Care Without Harm Coalition and the National Wildlife Federation, commits a facility to initiate specific steps to reduce and ultimately eliminate mercury use.



Speakers at a recent community meeting presented incinerator information to the neighborhood. Photo: Barbara Yarrow

Community interests were presented by delegates from the Virginia Park Citizens District Council; the Wabash, Vermont and Marquette Block Clubs; Wayne County Commissioner Jewel Ware, and Representative Hansen Clarke, District 7, Michigan House of Representatives. Environmental organizations represented include Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, the Ecology Center, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club-Southeast Michigan Group, and Clean Air, Please!

Henry Ford Hospital resumed burning trash early in May after retrofitting its incinerator and adding pollution controls. Results of a stack test of toxic emissions monitored by Wayne County Air Quality Management Division have not been released to



Wetlands and Water Conservation Issues

case for saving nine acres of forested wetlands more strip malls and condos. There are so many want to build more! I felt so proud of my fellow to speak up and fight for what's right. The is lost, and he has changed his request now to We hope to stop him there too.

's request to destroy the **Humbug Marsh** area in Gibraltar and Trenton (that's 600 acres of coastal wetlands!). There's still some hope that some of the area can be saved as the Army Corp. of Engineers has yet to pass judgment on the permit. Maybe they will be able to stand up against the developers.

If you want to get active on these very important issues, contact Bob at (734) 464-0076.

Take a Second Step . . . *continued from page 1*

us with fall activities such as our fund-raising Autumn Hike Extravaganza in Kensington Park, October 2.

Sierra Club is the oldest national conservation organization and the largest of the membership-based environmental groups. Nationally, Sierra Club has 550,000 members. These numbers are impressive and the Club is responsible for a wide variety of actions protecting the environment all over the nation.

We know from our own experience, however, that many more activists are needed so that Sierra Club can meet even more environmental challenges. For instance, we

frequently get calls from residents of Southeast Michigan communities who want help with threatened wetlands, park habitats, and developments that will displace or harm natural areas. With more participating members we can do more to stave off destructive development.

Not all of our tasks call for a lot of expertise. For example, we need assistance with greeting people at meetings, planning new outings for weekends, and helping prepare large mailings to our members.

Please come September 2 and check us out. We look forward to meeting you!



Outings

lot (near Jeffries) on the Southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Liz Attingham (313)581-7579.


October

10/2 (Saturday) Autumn Hike Extravaganza. We will meet at Kensington Metropark (Nature Center) at 9:30 a.m. for a fun filled fund raiser. Registration fee or get sponsors for \$ per mile. Door prizes, refreshments, raffle, gifts, contests,


games, and more! Morning hike followed by a potluck picnic with some appetizers provided. Contact: Bob Duda (734)464-0076.

10/3 Brighton Rec. Area Hike. Join us on a moderately paced, slightly hilly hike, enjoying the early fall colors. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring water, trail snacks and dress for the weather. Meet at 11:30 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Mike

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Outings

Scan

10/9 Hike.

of Proctor's Run as we hike along the little used trails West of Wixom Road. We will hike about six miles, including some bushwhacking. Meet at 10 a.m. behind the Marathon station at Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Liz Allingham (313)581-7579.

10/10 Potawatami Trail Hike. A fast paced, hilly 14-mile hike in the most beautiful park in S.E. Michigan. This is an all day trip, we usually hike about 3 miles per hour. Wear sturdy shoes, and dress for the weather. Trip goes rain or shine. Bring lunch and drinks for entire day. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Wall Mart parking lot (near Jeffries) on the Southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Possible restaurant stop after. Leader: Cindy Gunnip (248)336-2984.

10/16 (Saturday) Belle Isle Hike. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the island casino for a brisk tour around the island (5 miles) using the main park road. See the Detroit skyline and Canadian parks. Stop to rest while surveying lingering waterfowl at the north end. This hike often has high wind so dress accordingly. Optional restaurant stop after. Leader, June Cox, 248-435-9522.

10/17 Hike Kensington. See the gorgeous fall colors in this nearby Metropark on a medium paced 5-mile hike. We will walk the trails from the nature center. Meet at noon behind the Marathon station at Telegraph

and Twelve Mile Rd. (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield. Call if rainy. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Jeanne Mercier (313)581-6648.

10/23 (Saturday) Lower Huron Canoe. Let's look for all the signs of fall on the Lower Huron river — a four hour float from Hudson Mills to Delhi Park. We will meet at 10 a.m. in the WalMart parking lot (near Jeffries) on the Southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Canoe fee of \$15 must be sent by 10/15 to Phil Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, Mi. 48125. Bring a river lunch, dress for the weather. Leader: Phil Crookshank (313)562-1873.

10/24 Holliday Nature Preserve walk. Come join us on a cool autumn morning when the slanting rays of the sun make the colorful hardwoods sparkle. Bring your camera for some beautiful fall colors on this leisurely stroll. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Koppernick entrance to the Nature Preserve ON Koppernick Rd. (South of Joy Rd, North of Warren Ave.) The entrance is East of I-275, West of Newburgh Rd. Or meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind 'Oil Dispatch', Southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Bob Duda (734)464-0076.

10/31 Scare me to death hike! Come on this Halloween Hike at Bald Mountain Rec. Area for no tricks, just a treat! Explore this hilly region on a 5-mile walk, if you dare. Meet at 10 a.m. behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd. and I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall) in Troy. Restaurant stop after (if you are not too scared to eat). Leaders: Bev and Marshall Fogelson (248)280-4975.

dNovember

11/7 Oakwoods Metropark Hike.

Redrock Wilderness Act . . . *continued from page*

to cosponsor America's Redrock Wilderness Act, and tell them why it's important to protect Utah wilderness (solitude, untrammled nature, wild-life habitat, favorite place, whatever is important to you).

Written letters are by far the most powerful; phone calls are also effective. Best of all is to do both — write and then phone to follow up and ask them to state their decision. E-mail is the least effective. Please phone instead of e-mailing. Address your written letters to:

Hon. (Representative's name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. (Senator's name)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To phone, call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 225-3121 and ask for you representative's or senator's

office. When you reach the receptionist in the office, ask to speak with the legislative aide who deals with environmental issues. Tell the aide that you are a constituent and ask for the representative or senator to cosponsor America's Redrock Wilderness Act, H.R. 1732 in the House and S. 861 in the Senate.

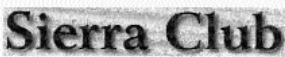
For more detailed information contact the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance at www.suwa.org, 1471 South 1100 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105-2423 or dave@suwa.org.

Web Page Debut

The Southeast Michigan Group has been diligently trying to get its own web page linked from the State Home Page for over a year. This was supposed to be "an easy task", but of course is not. Pat Byrne made inroads and progress on the site, but then the software changed. Bob Wuest volunteered to have some of his teckies help him with this project, and has made great progress in the last months. We hit a snag when we couldn't get all of the information needed to launch from committees. Then, in the meantime, the format of the Mackinac Page changed, so we have to take a look at how to get around a different format. BUT, NEVER GIVE UP — it shall happen soon.

Our current Web Guru, Bob Wuest, is available at b_wuest@hotmail.com for comments or suggestions. We plan on trying for the launch by the time this magazine goes to press. To look for the site, go to www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mi/

Search around for SEMG group information and see if there is a web site indicated. It will happen! Keep in mind: There is no elevator to success — you have to take the stairs!"



Sierra Club
South East Michigan Group
Outings Committee

SUWA Seeks Support for Redrock Wilderness Act

by Mary Kremposky

"Utah's canyon country is no other landscape on Earth," claims the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA). In the wild unspoiled reaches of the Colorado Plateau, the Earth's "skin" of stone is a rainbow of coral, rusty orange, red and salmon — all set against a backdrop of snowcapped mountains and distant lavender canyons.

The spirit of this singular landscape recently came to St. John's Episcopal Church in Ferndale in the form of a slide presentation offered by Dave Pacheco, a grassroots organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Pacheco is travelling throughout the midwestern and eastern United States urging the public to rally to the support of America's Redrock Wilderness Act reintroduced into the Senate on Earth Day 1999. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced the bill to protect 9.1 million acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness recently inventoried by the Utah Wilderness Coalition, composed of SUWA, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and other concerned organizations.

While national parks preserve a small slice of Utah's unique terrain, vast tracts of BLM land containing distinctive formation, archaeological treasures, and raw, unsullied wilderness are left exposed to off-road vehicles and illegal road building, hard-rock mining, dam proposals, and oil and gas development. "Day after day, SUWA fights the many brush fires that threaten to slice and bulldoze and mine Utah's unique landscape into a wasteland," states the group's literature.



remove wilderness designation under the provisions of the act it may never again be considered in the future. This bill was defeated but may resurface, he added. Utah activists have endured roads carved through public lands without proper approval, as well as the familiar tactic of railroading a project through on short public notice.

Of the current redrock legislation, Pacheco says, "There are 22 million acres of BLM land in Utah. Setting aside 9.1 million acres for wilderness leaves 13 million acres. There is more than enough left for economic needs."

As of early July, the House version (H.R. 1732) had 142 cosponsors, including David Bonior, John Conyers, Dale Kildee, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Sander Levin, Lynn Rivers, and Debbie Stabenow. The Senate bill (S. 861) has eleven cosponsors. Please write Sen. Carl Levin urging him to cosponsor the bill in the Senate and write to either thank you representative for cosponsoring the legislation or encourage them to join the list of cosponsors. "It helps enormously when our arguments are backed up by letters from concerned citizens from all over the country," says SUWA.

SUWA offers these guidelines for contacting Congress: In your letter, please ask your Congress member

continued next page

Come and visit the Nature Center at this park and walk through the Big Trees along the mighty Huron River. We will walk about 4 miles, with a short bushwhack off trail to view the mountains of incinerator ash at the landfill bordering the park. A short explanation of the results of incineration will follow. Meet at noon behind the Dearborn Civic Center, (S.W. corner of Michigan Ave. and Greenfield, east end of parking lot) next to King Boring ball field in Dearborn. Restaurant stop afterward. Leader: Ed McArdle (313)388-6645.

11/14 Maybury State Park Hike.

Check out this nearby park with remarkable features for such an urbanized area: maple and beech woods, working farm, fishing lake, horse trails. Hike 2-3 hours at a moderate pace. Meet at the park concession stand, entrance is on Eight Mile Rd. west of Northville, 5 miles west of I-275, just west of Beck Road. Optional restaurant stop after. Leader: Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397

11/21 Holly State Recreation Area Hike

We will hike 5-6 miles over varied terrain, some quite hilly, stopping to ID items that catch the leader's fancy. Deer hunting season will be on, so wear your brightest togs. Meet at 11:00 a.m. behind the Marathon station, SE corner of Twelve Mile and Telegraph (Tel-Twelve Mall) in Southfield or at 12:00 at the park Overlook picnic area (follow signs at park entrance). Optional restaurant stop after. Leader: Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370

11/28 Independence Oaks Hike.

This will be a moderate to brisk early winter hike. The colder it is, the brisker the pace. We will hike 3 miles of the hilly trails west of Crooked Lake. No hunting here. Dress for the weather. Meet at 10:45 a.m. on the west side of the Meijer parking lot (near Rochester Rd.) and Auburn in Troy, just north of M-59, or at 11:30 a.m. in the parking

lot adjacent to the Nature Center. Optional restaurant stop after. Leader, Mary Stoolmiller (248)879-6004.

W e l c o m e , Advertisers

Readers will notice that this magazine is constantly evolving into a more professional publication. The efforts of our all-volunteer staff is outstanding. We would like to bring this quarterly newsletter to all of the 5,000-plus Sierra members in our area, but need financial help to do so. Enter the advertisers!

The businesses that have run ads in this magazine have been chosen with care. We talked only to businesses that have top quality services and goods that would be suitable to our members. More importantly, only businesses that put service first, have knowledgeable, trained staff were considered. They are more than advertisers. They are neighbors, friends, and supporters of the club.

A network of supporters only works if it goes both ways. Please visit our supporting businesses, check their wares, speak to the managers, and let them know you and your friends are aware of their business and services because of their ads in the *Activist*. Support our Supporters!

1999 SEMG Autumn Extravaganza FUNDRAISER Pledge Sheet

Unable to join us? Sponsor the Club by sending your donation and this form to **Bob Duda, 39202 Donald, Livonia, MI 48154.** Mail by Sept. 30, 1999.

Attendee's Name _____

Phone (area code) _____

Sponsor Name	Street Address	City	Zip Code	Telephone Number	Pledge Amt. per Mile	Total Amt. Pledged	Total Amt. Prepaid
Mary Sponsor	123 Main Street	Dearborn	48000	313.451-4146	2.00	16.00	16.00
Total							

SEMG Autumn Extravaganza

Saturday, October 2

Kensington Metropark, West Boat Launch

Directions: Take I-96 west to Kensington Rd. Follow signs into the park and proceed to the West Boat Launch on the right.

Weather Conditions: Rain or shine

Schedule

- Registration: 9:30 to 10:00
- Hike instructions: 10:00 to 10:15
- Hiking begins: 10:15
- Lunch begins: 1:30
- Games and prizes after lunch

The FUNdrising

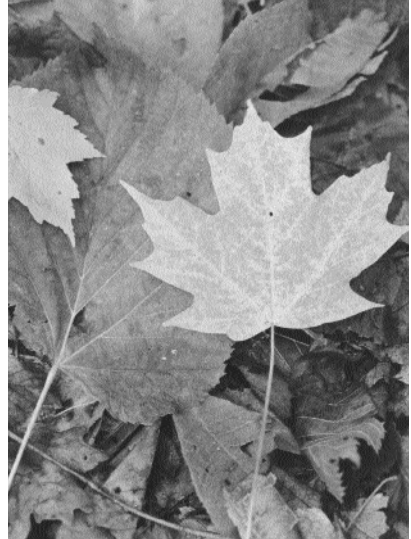
If you do not have sponsors, then you can still join in on the fun with a registration fee of \$15.00 (\$5.00 for children under 15). Please pay at registration. Please collect pledges in advance and bring with you on hike day using the form on the previous page.

Food

Bring a lunch and a treat to pass around. We will provide soft drinks and snacks.

Reason for Hike

Group picnic and fundraiser to support the SEMG Sierra Club in the conservation



of our beautiful Michigan.

Hiking Options

(walk them all or just some of them):

- Tamarack trail: .5 Mi.
- Deer Run Trail 1.75 Mi.
- Fox Trail and Chickadee Loop 2.Mi.
- Aspen Trail 1.3 Mi.
- Wildwing Trail 2.5 Mi.
- Total of all trails is about 8 Mi.

Please leave all pets at home. They are

Waiver

In consideration of your acceptance of this form, I for myself, any administrators, any heirs, and assigns, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I have against the organizers of this Hike, the Sierra Club, the regulated area through which the Hike will take place as well as the sponsors. I also agree to obey all traffic laws, exercise all safety precautions, avoid littering, and respect all wildlife, plant life, and other accommodations. I will be polite and courteous to all other visitors in the area.

SIGNED _____

_____ has my permission to participate in this Hike. I take full responsibility for her/his safety and any costs incurred if there are damages or if medical attention is required.

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____