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ACTIVIST

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

DECEMBER 2000, JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2001
VOLUME. 18, ISSUE 4

Toronto Trash Ñ ÔJust Say NoÕ

by Anna Holden,
SEMG Chair

Six major Michigan environmental organizations, including Sierra Club, staged a lively demonstration October 30, asking Governor John Engler and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to take a variety of actions aimed at better waste practices at home and abroad. Activists gathered at the Ambassador Bridge to let the public know that Engler is about the only one welcoming Toronto's trash. An oversized Engler puppet was there with arms out stretched in welcome. But "No Toronto Trash" signs surrounded him.

There was more to the gathering than "just say no." Engler and the DEQ were asked to contact Toronto officials and urge them to maximize recycling and waste reduction as well as reconsider the decision to truck millions more tons of trash to Michigan. Details of Toronto's waste contract with Republic Services are still being worked out according to the *Toronto Star*. But the *Star* reports that Toronto will ship an estimated 285,000 metric tons of industrial and commercial waste to the Carleton



Farms landfill in Sumpter Township in the first two years of a five-year agreement. For the next three years, Toronto plans to truck in at least 100,000 metric tons of waste. The *Star* estimates that 6,000 tons of garbage per day will be delivered to Carlton Farms by 250 trucks. A metric ton is about 2,204 pounds. The contract could last up to 20 years. Activists called on Engler to follow the example of Virginia's Republican Governor; he refused to accept New York City's proposal to ship waste to his state.

But more important, the coalition demanded that Engler provide positive leadership in shaping better waste policies for Michigan. Reviving

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General Membership Meetings

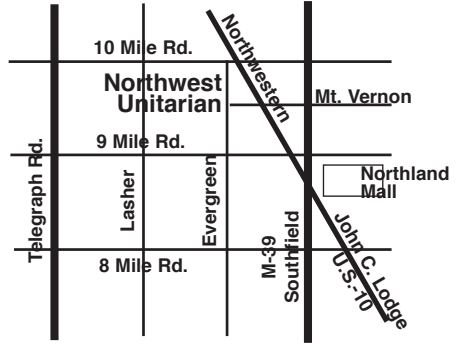
General membership meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted. There are no meetings during the summer recess, July and August.

7:00-7:30 Social Time

7:30-8:00 Business Meeting

8:00-9:00 Program

All meetings 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. Light refreshments are served.



Schedule of Programs

D December 7. **Holiday Party**

Our annual friendly bash! Please bring a dish to pass, something interesting, yummy or drinkable to add to our Silent Auction, and a list of the people you want to give a beautiful Sierra calendar for the Holidays. See announcement on page 20 for full details. We hope to celebrate the year with you!

January 4, 2001. Deregulation of Utilities in Michigan. A representative from Detroit Edison will speak to the group about the impact of the deregulation of utilities and related environmental concerns.

February 1. To be announced. Call Cindy Gunnip (248)336-2984 after January 1 for full details.

Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Royal Oak Senior Citizen's Center, 3500 Marais, in Royal Oak. No meeting in August.

Conservation Committee

The **Conservation Committee** meets at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 18 at the Royal Oak Senior Citizen's Center, 3500 Marais, Royal Oak. Call Bob Duda for meeting dates in 2001.

Political Committee Meetings

The Political Committee meets the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Jimi's Restaurant on Washington, 1 block north of Lincoln (10-1/2 Mile) in Royal Oak.

The *Activist* is circulated to new members each quarter and to all Group members the last two issues of the year. It is printed on recycled paper.

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 include a hard copy.

Join Your Conservation Committee!

The Conservation Committee meets at the Senior Citizen's Center at 3500 Marais, Royal Oak (see Bob Duda at monthly meetings for a map). The Committee deals with a wide variety of issues that affect the environment in our Detroit Metropolitan area. We do need more volunteers though — lots more. Wetlands are being filled in, toxins are being spewed into our air and water, woods and farms are being lost to sprawl — right here in Metro Detroit. We can be a greater positive force for change if we can get YOU interested in joining the group of dedicated folks who form

the Conservation Committee, noted here with their focus of interest:

Joe Adler, **Shelly Bania** (wetlands, sprawl), **Polly Boike** (global warming), **Mary Bogush** (wetlands), **Pat Gonczar** (wetlands), **Anna Holden** (environmental justice), **Mary LaFrance** (genetic engineering), **Ed McArdle** (air quality, toxic waste), **Gene Perrin**, **Sharon Rafalko** (forests).

We'd like to see your name listed in the next *Activist*. Want to help? Call Bob Duda (734) 464-0076 or Ed McArdle (313) 388-6645, Co-Chairs, SEMG Conservation Committee.

Give Yourself a Gift: Subscribe to the Activist!

An organization such as ours needs funds beyond what the Sierra Club in San Francisco rebates to us 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. 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. We need one more who cares to Act, and it is You! Submit the subscription form below today. **New members** of the Club in our area receive one issue of the **Activist** as part of our Welcome to the Group! policy.

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ACTIVIST

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Subscription Form

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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

- Anna Holden**
(313) 331-0932
Chair
- Lydia Fischer**
(313) 863-8392
Vice Chair,
Lydfisch@mindspring.com
- Denise Harris**
(248) 642-6164
Secretary
- Gloria Scicli**
(248) 642-3069
Treasurer, GMScicli@aol.com
- Bob Duda**
(734) 464-0076
Conservation Committee Co-Chair
Robert.Red.Pine@worldnet.att.net
- Cindy Gunnip**
(248) 336-2984
Program Committee Chair
- Tim Killeen**
(313) 526-4052
Political Committee Chair
timk@bikerider.com
- Ed McArdle**
(313) 388-6645
Conservation Committee Co-Chair
- Barbara Yarrow**
(248) 932-9164
Publisher
- Philip Crookshank**
(313) 562-1873



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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,
Boulder, CO
80322-2968

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Coalition = Power by Numbers

by Shelly Bania, SEMG Activist

At a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Wetland Permit Hearing this past March, people representing several environmental groups as well as I spoke before the MDEQ officials present and two hundred Chesterfield Township residents. Each group representative brought a concern different from that of other groups, but also a common goal of wetland preservation.

After each speaker the crowd burst with applause and cheer. Residents felt validated; their concern for the township's last remaining wooded wetlands was grounded in reality. The message of wetland preservation that the environmental community brought with them that night

definitely struck a chord. Moreover, the enviro-community was of service to the Chesterfield Community and its neighbors in Macomb County.

Working in coalitions with other groups can be an isolated incident, as when it happens at a hearing, or a formal and organized activity, as proven by the Health Care without Harm Coalition, whose success has recently been reported and followed in the *Activist*. Both rely on a common factor: power by numbers.

Coalition = Power by numbers is a simple concept that in my opinion would serve the environmental community well if embraced more often. Each group brings something unique to the collective whole. Coalitions mean more resources (i.e., persons, knowledge, and experience) are made

Continued on page 17

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Outings Leader Tours Alaska

by *Liz Allingham*,
SEMG Outings Leader

Alaska, land of the midnight sun, Northern lights, Robert Service, mountains and sub-zero temperatures, has always held a certain amount of intrigue. It was definitely on my list!

In August 2000, I achieved my goal when accompanied by my two buddies, Darvie Strawbridge and Eleanor Chiesa, I set out to visit our 49th. State. My first glimpse was from the plane window as we flew North to Anchorage. It was impressive! We were directly over the mountains and the slanting rays of the sun showed everything in high relief. The peaks, glaciers, lakes and rivers were all plain to the eye. From the vantage point of some 30,000 feet, I could see the source of the glaciers and trace their winding paths through the mountains. It was a mixed lesson in topography and geography (unfortunately not photography as my camera was tucked away in my luggage). Landing in Anchorage was an experience too, as the plane made a wide U-turn north of the airport in order to approach the runway from over the bay and not from over the

mountains.

Anchorage is Alaska's largest city. One of its main attractions is the Heritage Museum, where we listened to Inuit story telling and inspected a variety of native crafts. The museum entrance is guarded by the "Raven", which, according to local tradition, is the source of life.

Our next destination was Seward, named after Secretary of State William H. Seward, who was instrumental in purchasing Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million. Seward, an ice-free port, is beautifully situated on Resurrection Bay. It is home to a wonderful Sea Life Center devoted to research and rehabilitation, and funded ironically by the fines imposed on Exxon for the Valdez disastrous spill.

The Exit Glacier, one of the few "walk to" glaciers, is near Seward. I enjoyed my first close-up of a real life glacier. Unfortunately, it has receded considerably in recent years — the probable effect of global warming.

One of the highlights of our visit to Seward was a boat trip on Resurrection Bay that introduced us to a variety of wildlife. Sea otters, floating on their backs, were a sight

Continued on page 13

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Coalition Power . . . *Continued from page 3*

available and tasks have less chance of being duplicated. More importantly, coalitions mean empowerment. You become a part of something greater than the sum of its parts.

Listed below is contact information for groups that are a part of our local environmental community as well as helpful neighbors. Keep it as a place to start in your next environmental campaign.

Citizens of Quality Growth

Ken DeCock
80575 Holmes, Armada Twp., MI
(810)286-1886

Clean Water Action, Clean Water Fund

Brad Wilson
Michigan Program Director
35482 Groesbeck
Clinton Twp., MI 48035
(810)792-8375

Clinton River Watershed Council

1970 E. Auburn Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248)853-9580

Detroit Audubon Society

Fred Charbonneau
1320 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248)545-2929

Friends of the Rouge

Jim Graham, Executive Director
22586 Ann Arbor Trail
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
(313)792-9900

Lake Erie Advisory Committee

47 East Elm, Monroe, MI 48161

Lake St. Clair Advisory Committee

P.O. Box 272
Mt. Clemens, MI 48046
(810)725-8827

Lake St. Clair Channel Keepers

www.channelkeepers.org
Doug Martz, (810)463-8263

Macomb Conservation District

Alane Rowley
75701 M-19, Romeo, MI 48062

Macomb Land Conservancy

Kathleen Bolton
P.O. Box 332, Romeo, MI 48065
(810)784-5848

Michigan Drain Code Coalition

Sue Julian
P.O. Box 304, Holly, MI 48442
(248)634-3513

MOSES — Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength

Bill O'Brien
email: JerProj@aol.com

Oakland Land Conservancy

798 W. Gunn Rd.
Rochester, MI 48306

River of Life

Kathy Mitten, (313)371-0930
jkmitten@yahoo.com
Kristin Parkinson, (248)681-4609
av221@det.freenet.org
P.O. Box 311
Clarkston, MI 48347-0311

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

Jack Smiley
6410 St. Mary's
Detroit, MI 48228
(313)582-8377

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Wil Cwielke
P.O. Box 300
Conway, MI 49722
(616)347-1181

by Tim Killeen, SEMG Political Chair

The column for this issue of the *Activist* is always awkward to write, as the newsletter deadline is a week before the election. My focus is still on races that are too close to call. Despite the uncertainty of election outcomes, the voice of the Sierra Club has certainly been heard.

Green
Politics
It's Been
Quite a Year

Looking Back

I noticed that two years ago this column reported that there were seven members of the SEMG Political Committee. This year there are 18. We have been able to greatly expand our activities in support of our candidates. Our ability to offer material help has not escaped the notice of our candidates or, for that matter, those whom we oppose. We know we are doing something right when a candidate we are opposing is on cable TV calling the Sierra Club a bunch of "kooks" and blaming us for increasing pollution.

We mailed to nearly 5,000 members on behalf of our candidates and raised over \$10,000 for them. Thanks to every member who responded to our requests for support. We were also able to provide a significant number of volunteer hours for various campaigns. My phone was ringing off the hook in the month leading up to the election with requests for help. In the future, candidates will be more inclined to show themselves as pro-environment if they know that will get them help in their election bid. Also, volunteer support helps to solidify relationships with those who get elected, increasing our chances of positive outcomes on environmental legislation. With respect to our opponents, it sends the message that bad votes have consequences.

We are not king makers, but this year established us as a factor in campaigns. Our activities could have an impact on the outcome of five or six races on November 7. Looking at the fifteen bills on our vote charts for the 1999-2000 Michigan Legislature, those additional votes would have tipped the balance on two of those votes and put six others in within a couple of votes.

The Chapter produced a special Election Issue of the *Mackinac* that I hope members found valuable in making their ballot box decisions. In addition there was a modest effort to raise money for our Chapter PAC. Again, these funds are important in terms of offering support to our candidates.

Looking Forward

The 5,800 members of the Sierra Club in SE Michigan can have an influence in the composition of the Michigan Legislature. The Political Committee will spend the upcoming year developing plans for channeling members' energies (and dollars) to where they can be most effective. We want to provide Club members with an avenue for contributing to, and volunteering for, worthy candidates under the Sierra Club banner. Two years from now we will be selecting a new Governor and the Michigan Senate will be up for election. As a Sierra member, you will have the opportunity to express your support for the environment. Save your money until you hear from us. As always, call or e-mail me NOW, so that we can add your name to our list of volunteers to call on. Your 4-5 hours of volunteer time a year are extremely valuable.

Kudos

Special thanks go out to Patti Smith and Adele Saunders for their contributions this year. Patti has been the Political Committee Secretary for two years and provided the organizational glue that has helped make the committee successful.

Outings



The outings committee try to have a wide variety of types of outings—something to appeal to everyone and every resident of our area. In addition, we set up joint outings with other groups and clubs that have similar like ideals. Watch the schedule for combined outings with the Mushroom Hunters Club, Vegans in Motion, Warren Astrological Society, area Nature Preserve groups, Photography groups, etc.

D December

12/2 (Saturday) Waterloo Wanderings. You might think we are going in circles as we hike a series of loops from the Geology Center in Waterloo State Recreation Area. With a 4-inch snow cover, we should see lots of animal tracks on this 6-mile hike. Wear lug-soled boots for traction; restaurant stop after. Meet at 9:00a.m. in the Walmart parking lot (near Jeffries) on the southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy.) in Livonia, or 10:45 there. Leader: Philip Crookshank 313-562-1873.

12/3 Fairlane Estate Walk and Contra Dance. Come and hike in

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.

the Dearborn wilderness, kick up your heels at Lovett's live contra dance. Meet at 7:00p.m. near the Henry Ford Museum Theatre entrance) at Greenfield State Park. Then travel to the Ford Estate for a hike. Bring a bag lunch, dress for the weather, as trails may be wet. Bring comfortable dancing shoes. Dance admission: \$8. Leader: Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

12/9 (Saturday) Outings Holiday Potluck and Scheduling Meeting. Open to everyone interested in doing or learning about doing outings. Join us for a fun-filled, casual, holiday dinner at 4p.m. (Bring a dish to pass.) Quarterly planning meeting for spring and summer at 5:30. How to find us? From downtown Northville, proceed west on Main St. Four tenths of a mile AFTER the road turns to gravel, turn left (south) on Westhill, then right (west) on Timberlane. Go to the end of the street and park in the circle —47103. Tom Griebe is the host; 248-349-8782.

12/10 Indian Springs Metro Park Hike. Enjoy our mild winter with a 5- to 6-mile hike over meadow and woods; moderate pace with stops for flora, fauna and curiosities. Call if weather is doubtful. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet in Bloomfield Township at 12:00 in the Costco parking lot near McDonald's on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Leader: Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370.

12/16 (Saturday) Holly Holiday Hike. We will hike the town — gift hunting the old fashioned way. Medieval street plays, unique shops, gifts, and a model railroad club to visit, followed with dining at the historic Holly Hotel.



Cutings

pool location approx. 6p.m. Leader: John Herrgott, 810-735-9313.

12/17 Stony Creek Nature Center Stroll. Avoid the mall crowds, save money! Enjoy a slow to moderate walk renewing your spirit while looking for nature's creatures on the wooded trails. Call if weather is doubtful. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet in Sterling Heights at 12:00 at Metro Parkway (16 Mile Rd.) and Van Dyke, (southeast corner) in the SMART parking lot between the banks. Co-Leaders: Sam Haynes, 248-547-7516, Lee Becker, 810-294-7789.

12/31 First Night Celebration. Meet at Cindy Gunnip's in Berkley for a New Year's Eve potluck at 4:30, then travel to Birmingham's First Night activities about 6p.m. for alcohol-free activities and celebration at midnight. \$10 fee covers tickets for activities, must be sent by 12/20 to Cindy Gunnip, 3992 Kenmore, Berkley, MI. 48072. Leader: Cindy 248-336-2984.

New Year's Day Potluck and Hike. Greet the new year with SEMG members and friends at the leaders' house. Meet in Southfield at 10:30a.m. behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, southeast corner of Telegraph and Twelve Mile Road for travelling to the Howell area (maps will be provided). Bring a dish to share at the noon potluck; our hosts will provide turkey and soft drinks. After dinner, we will head to Kensington Metropark for the first 4-mile hike of the year and then return to Tel-Twelve.

1/7 Addison Oaks Cross Country Ski. Enjoy 12 miles of groomed trails for beginner to intermediate level at this Oakland County park. Rental equipment is available. Dress in layers; bring lunch for the warming house, or snack bar. Meet in Troy at 11am. on the west side of the Meijer parking lot (near Rochester Rd. and Auburn) just north of M-59. No snow, we don't go! Leader: Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

1/14 Independence Oaks Ski. Hope for snow to enjoy beginner-to-advanced trails in this lovely park, enjoying its somewhat hilly terrain. Meet in Bloomfield Hills at 12:00 behind the CVS pharmacy on the SE corner of Woodward and Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot). Call if weather is bad. If skiing isn't available, we will hike nearby. Restaurant stop after. Leaders: Joanne Spatz, 248-932-5370, Inge Bricio, 248-338-0906.

Executive Committee Candidate Statements



Tim Killeen (Incumbent) I am currently completing the second of two non-consecutive terms as a member of the Executive Committee. During those two terms I have advocated for: a formalization of our planning and policies, increasing the circulation of the *Activist* to our membership, recruitment and retention of active volunteers and finding ways for the SEMG to have an influence on environmental issues in SE Michigan.



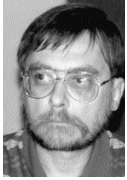
Mary LaFrance It's easy to point a finger at polluting industries for their damaging effects on the environment. But we also need to look to ourselves. Every time we purchase something, we may be supporting these industries. For instance, what are we putting down our drains, on our lawns, in the landfills? Additionally, if we want to see the specter of factory farming stop, we need to buy from organic farmers. Pesticide contamination and manure lagoons are the byproducts of factory farms. We need to strive to be part of the solution instead of the problem. Remember, the earth doesn't belong to us . . . we belong to the earth.



Patti Smith When friends ask me if it's important to vote or to be an environmental activist when change often takes so long, I often answer "if not now, when?" As an active member of the SEMG Sierra Club Political Committee, I have co-chaired two fundraisers (Stabenow and Macomb County) and I have volunteered on several campaigns. I believe that by working together, we can change our environmental laws. And I believe that now is the time.



Eugene V.D.K. Perrin A member of Sierra Club since 1961, I have been on Boards in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Michigan. I was State Chair in the '80s. I have been ExCom "Emeritus" for 4-5 years, want my vote back. I am a partially retired professor at Wayne State School of Medicine, also in Anthropology. I have been an environmental toxicologist, scientist and activist, peace and justice worker and want to help to keep the world beautiful and productive for my 4 grandchildren as well as for you.



Bob Duda (Incumbent) I joined the Sierra Club in 1988. I've held a variety of positions in our group: currently on the Executive Committee and Co-Chair of the Conservation Committee, Membership Chair, Fundraising Chair, Secretary and Outings Leader. My close association with our SEMG has made it possible for me to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of this Earth. My goal, if elected, will be to spend more of my resources activating current members so that they can explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of this Earth too.



Adele H. Saunders Throughout my life — as a youngster, as a student at the University of Michigan, as a parent and a teacher — I have marched for causes concerning freedom and fair play for everyone in our country. And now, I wish to become a member of the Sierra Club SEMG Executive Committee to help pursue plans vigorously protecting our natural environment, which is so drastically threatened

Vote for Executive Committee Members

It's election year and the Southeast Michigan Group (SEMG) of the Sierra Club is holding its own annual election of Executive Committee members. Each Executive Committee member serves two years and is expected to take responsibility for a standing committee or an important Sierra Club function such as fundraising, membership, or Webmaster.

Executive Committee members whose terms expire in December 2000 are Bob Duda, Tim Killeen, Lydia Fischer, and Ed McArdle. Six (6) candidates were recruited by the Nominations committee of Shelly Bania, Joanne Spatz and Barbara Yarrow. The candidates are: Tim Killeen, Mary LaFrance, Patti Smith, Eugene Perrin, Bob Duda and Adele Saunders. Executive Committee members Lydia Fischer and Ed McArdle declined to run for another term.


Ballots will be counted on Wednesday, December 27, 2000, and results will be announced at the first meeting of 2001 on January 4. The candidates have submitted short

2) For joint membership, two (2) members may vote.

3) Write your membership number at the top of the ballot. After validation, the ballot will be separated and the votes counted. We ensure your right to a secret ballot.

4) Ballots must be received by December 20, 2000.

Mail to: **SEMG Election**
c/o Joanne Spatz
29640 Middlebelt Road, #2604
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

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Outings


1/21 Seven Lakes, Seven Miles. A brisk winter warm-up hike traversing fields, skirting frozen Lakes, and through the woods. The lengthening days of January will raise our spirits in anticipation of the coming Spring. Dress in layers, bring trail snacks, trip goes in any weather. Meet in Troy at 11a.m. behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd. just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). Leader: John Herrgott, 810-735-9313.

1/28 Belle Isle Hike. Let's visit Detroit's Crown Jewel park in winter. See the Detroit skyline and Canadian parks. Stop to rest while watching lingering waterfowl at the north end. Meet at Noon at the island casino building for a brisk tour around the island (6 miles) using the main park road. This hike often has high wind so dress accordingly. Restaurant stop after. Leader: June Cox, 248-435-9522.

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Outings

#February

2/4 Heritage Park Hike Take advantage of the urban 211-acre park nearby Farmington. Hike 2 to 2-1 at a moderate pace depending on conditions. Meet in the Heritage visitor center west off of Farmington Rd. (between 11 Mile) and 11 Mile) and 11 Mile) and 11 Mile) road. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Tom LaFromboise 734-464-7899.

2/10 (Saturday) Maybury State Park Moonlight Stroll. Wish for a clear sky so we can see the moon only 2 nights past full. Our easy pace will let us listen for the resident owls. Meet at 7p.m. at the horse stable parking lot. Take Eight Mile Rd. to Beck Road (2 miles west of Northville); go south 1/4 mile to gravel entrance on west side. Then drive in to the horse barns (another 1/8 mile) and park. Leader: Ed McArdle, 313-388-6645.

2/11 Lake Erie Metropark. Bring your binoculars, as we will be looking for shore birds, long eared owls, and possibly bald eagles as we hike this easy 5-mile trail. Dress for the weather; we go rain or shine. Meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Nature Center in Lake Erie Metropark; just south of Gibraltar, east off of Jefferson Rd. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782.

2/25 Pointe Pelee Ice Hike. Join the 10th annual ice hike in Ontario. We



for mounds of breaking-up onto the Pointe by winter. We get it, the vista will be great! Dress warmly for 2-3 hours of outdoor fun. This all-day hike starts at 9:30a.m. at Ontario Metropark Center, 3/4 mile south of Ambassador Bridge on Route 101 on Church Road (Windsor). Restaurant stop at The Dock in Windsor after. Bring border-crossing fees, park admission fee and your car. Leader: Liz Allingham. 734-759-1799.

2/27 (Friday) Proud Lake Hike. A moderate 5-mile loop around this popular state rec. area route. Wear hiking boots, dress in layers and bring a water bottle. We will be looking for the first signs of spring, no matter what the weather. Meet at 12:00 at the park (6 miles north of I-96, exit 159) on Wixom Rd. Follow state park signs, trailhead parking lot is 1/4 mile east of Headquarters building. Restaurant stop after. Leader: Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782.

3/17 (Saturday) Outings Scheduling Meeting. If you are interested in doing, or learning about doing outings, come to our quarterly planning meeting/ potluck. Non-committee members are welcome. Bring a St. Patrick's Day potluck dish to pass at 6p.m., then participate in the planning meeting that follows for the next quarter. We will meet at Liz's house, 7250 Bingham, east of Schaefer, north of Warren, in Dearborn. Call her at 313-581-7579.

Alaska . . . *Continued from page 4*

I had only seen on nature programs; puffins, murres and guillemots were newcomers to my bird list.

Our final highlight before leaving the Seward area was a flight over the Harding icefields. The weather was perfect and the bird's eye view gave us a wonderful panorama.

Seward is the starting point of the Alaska Railway, which was to be our mode of transportation for our land trip. We headed north, revisiting Anchorage, and continued on to Denali where we stayed at McKinley Village. A train trip in Alaska is not for speed! However, the domed cars do provide a broad perspective of the best Alaskan scenery. Strangely, we did not see much wildlife from the train. That came later when we took a long bus ride (66 miles one way) into Denali Park. No big numbers, but we did see bear, wolf, fox, moose, caribou and Dall sheep.

A raft trip on the Nenana River was a thrilling adventure as we plunged through No. 3 and No. 4 rapids. It was also an adventure getting in and out of a dry suit!

Fairbanks, named after Theodore Roosevelt's V.P., was our next destination as we rejoined the train for the final leg of our journey. It is the geographical center of Alaska, and as such is an important hub for marketing and transportation.

We took a wonderful boat ride on the Chena River. Guides stationed on the bank with loudspeakers discussed wildlife, history and native customs with our guide on the boat. The turn-around point was an Athabascan Village where we went ashore, saw examples of native huts and crafts and were treated to a dogsled demo. The University of Alaska has a wonderful Museum in Fairbanks with natural and cultural exhibits.

A few miles outside of the town is the famous and infamous

TransAlaska Pipeline, running from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. The pipeline, elevated in some areas, buried in others, is 800 miles long and provides 20% of U.S. oil production.

Our trip ended at Fairbanks, so we had to provide our own transportation back to Anchorage. Trains were too slow and all booked, so we had to settle for the bus. However, that provided one bonus — the seldom-seen Mt. Denali was clearly visible from the road!

An uneventful trip home ended our Alaskan adventure and though we never saw the midnight sun or the Northern lights, I felt that I had traveled enough to really get acquainted with our beautiful distant state.

Thank You Supporters!

Readers will notice that this newsletter is constantly evolving into a more professional publication. The efforts of our all-volunteer staff is outstanding. We want to bring this quarterly newsletter to all of our 6,000-plus Sierra members in the area, but need financial help to do so. We have found wonderful support from some of the businesses in our communities — the advertisers!

We talk 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 and 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 this holiday season, 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*.

No Toronto Trash . . . *Continued from page 1*

“Michigan’s faltering solid waste reduction and recycling program, largely abandoned by DEQ since 1996” was one of the demands. The coalition asked the Governor to respect the authority of county governments in regulating landfills and waste disposal. This demand arises from Michigan DEQ Director Russell Harding’s 1994 decision to permit significant expansion of a Sumpter Township landfill over Wayne County’s objection. Frequent inspection of imported trash was also requested, to assure the waste is not hazardous.

Other demands focused on measures to allow Michigan and Michigan

counties to regulate the import of garbage. The coalition called on Engler to pass a Michigan law banning trash shipments from states with less stringent disposal standards. Governor Engler was also asked to seek federal legislation giving states the right to restrict waste from out of state and international sources. Local efforts to bar waste shipments from U.S. states and Canada have been stymied since 1992 by a U.S. Supreme Court decision defining waste as a commodity subject to interstate commerce rules. This decision overturned a Michigan law allowing counties to ban out-of-state and international trash imports.

Organizations supporting the Toronto protest action include the Ecology Center, Michigan Environmental Council, Clean Water Action, Public Interest Action Group in Michigan (PIRGIM), and a new coalition called “NO WASTE” (Network of Waste Activists Stopping Trash Exports).

The Ecology Center is posting news of the Toronto waste issue on its web site and has an on-line petition to Engler that can be signed

electronically (see below). Sign on, just don’t say no!

Act on the Internet

Oppose Toronto Trash Import. Join the many Michigan activists opposing Toronto’s recent decision to truck millions of tons of trash to the Carlton Farms landfill in Sumpter Township. Sign an on-line petition demanding swift action from Governor Engler and the Department of Environmental Quality to check this move and adopt better waste policies. Click on the Ecology Center’s web

It’s the Season to Buy Sierra Club Calendars!

Give a gift that celebrates the environment and helps raise funds for your Group. Calendars will be for sale at our traditional Holiday Party on December 7. **You can also order them by calling Gloria at (248) 642-3069, e-mailing gmscicli@aol.com, or mailing your request to Gloria Scicli, 2301 W. Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009.**

Wilderness \$11.00
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Wilderness Calendar
2001

Take Action: Gene Engineered

by Laurel Hopwood, Chair, Genetic Engineering Committee, Sierra Club

Philip Morris is a household name, and the Marlboro man is more famous yet, but did you know that the cigarette company is also a major seller of genetically engineered (GE) food? Sierra Club's Genetic Engineering Committee has chosen to target what turns out to be the biggest packaged food company in the US, demanding that Kraft produce GE-free food or label it as genetically engineered, if it dares. Surveys have found that a majority of us are leery of GE ingredients, and labels would allow us to vote with our dollars.

Sierra Club is not opposed to genetic engineering, but the Club has asked for a moratorium on the planting of all GE crops, which use gene splicing techniques to transfer genes from viruses, bacteria, unrelated plant species and animals into food crops. This is just the very beginning, but already 100 million acres have been planted.

Genetic engineering is a radical technology whereby genes from one or many species can be introduced into totally unrelated species, which are then called transgenic. The fundamental blueprints of the natural world are being manipulated in this way and, in the case of crops, are being released into the environment without any precautions. The results cannot be predicted and there may be no remedies for the consequences. GE crops create pollen that can blow in the wind. Many of the crops contain their own pesticide, and the pollen of GE corn has been shown to kill monarch butterflies.

More specifically, Europe, and also Canada, bans rBGH (cow growth hormone) to treat dairy cows (it doesn't turn them into Olympic sprinters, it makes them produce more milk). This is also a genetically engineered

product. A major human health concern is that rBGH may cause the milk to contain increased levels of IGF-I, a growth factor for prostate and breast cancers. Scientific testing is in process while the ban is in effect.

What You Can Do

If you think it's time to stop the GE experiment, for which the American people never volunteered, here's how you can help:

- 1) Contact Betsy Holden, CEO of Kraft Foods, Inc. at 3 Lakes Drive, Northfield IL 60093. See sample letter below.
- 2) Call 1-800-847-1997 to say NO to Kraft's genetically manipulated foods.
- 3) Send an e-mail via the Kraft web site: www.kraft.com.
- 4) Contact me for a supply of postcards to send to Kraft which you can distribute to your friends, family, and colleagues (see address below).

You can find the Sierra Club's Policy (and much more) on agricultural biotech on our website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/biotech>. To subscribe to our Biotech Forum listserve, contact Jim Diamond: jim.diamond@sierraclub.org. Questions? Contact Laurel Hopwood, Chair, Genetic Engineering Committee: jhopwood@wvz.org, or phone me at (216)371-9779.

Sample letter:

I'm writing to ask you to remove genetically engineered (GE) products from your foods, just as I'm trying to remove them from my table. Transgenic crops — crops which have been genetically manipulated with viral, bacterial, and animal genes — pose environmental risks and I believe they should not be in our food supply until adequately tested and clearly labeled. Dairy products made with milk from rBGH-treated cows are banned in many countries as possibly contribut-

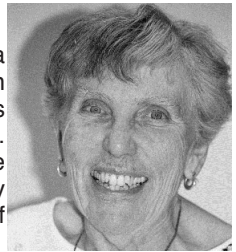
Mackinac Chapter Awards Our Volunteers and Others

by Lydia Fischer, Mackinac Chapter Chair, SEMG Vice-Chair

Following a happy Sierra Club tradition, each year Group and Chapter members are asked to submit names of individuals or institutions that have made outstanding contributions to the work of the Club. Here are the 2000 awards to SEMG volunteers and friends:

Marlene Fluharty Award Ñ Anna Holden

To recognize a Chapter member who has served Sierra on at least two levels (Group, Chapter and/or National) over an extended period, has made significant contributions and/or is responsible for a major project that has greatly benefited the Club. We honor Anna for her outstanding work and leadership in the coalition that accomplished the closing down of the Detroit Henry Ford Hospital medical waste incinerator. Anna is current Chair of SEMG, and serves as Group rep to the Chapter ExCom.



Sylvania Award Ñ Tim Killeen

To recognize a Sierra Club volunteer who is new on the scene, but who has already demonstrated great enthusiasm, hard work and dedication. Tim (who is relatively new on the scene) has contributed his considerable energy and shrewd strategic thinking to Sierra's political activities in the state. As Chair of SEMG's Political Committee, he has been instrumental in taking it to a higher level of effective political action.



Jane Elder Environmentalist-of-the-Year Award Ñ State Senator Gary Peters

To recognize a political leader inside or outside the Club. A long-time friend of the environment, the Chapter salutes Sen. Peters this year as the author of two important pro-environment bills of particular interest to SEMGers: SB 1290 to regulate the incineration of medical waste and SB 1235 to expand the scope of protection for Michigan wetlands.

White Pine Award Ñ Wayne Co. Commissioner Jewel Ware

To recognize a non-member individual, organization or group showing extraordinary dedication to protection of the environment. Jewel is recognized for her commitment in the fight to close down Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital medical waste incinerator. She helped to organize town meetings and distribute thousands of leaflets throughout the community, placed ads in community media featuring support from Detroit ministers, and spearheaded passage of a resolution by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners calling for the closing of the incinerator.

PostScript Picture
(logo to view eps)

Friends Celebrate and Recognize Our Friends of the

Enviro Journalism Award Ñ Print: Michigan Citizen

For environmental reporting or editorials. For its comprehensive coverage of the Henry Ford Hospital campaign and its overall reporting of environmental issues, we recognize the *Michigan Citizen*.

Vince Smith Award Ñ Elizabeth Allingham

To recognize outstanding contributions to the Chapter outings program. Liz is an SEMG Outings leader “extraordinaire”, having led scores of outings in the Southeast corner of our state and also in Ohio and always keeps her eyes open to new hiking and canoeing spots. Liz has also sat on SEMG’s ExCom, where she served as Treasurer for several years.



Photo: Joy Lovio

AutumnFest 2000

by Bob Duda, unofficial Fundraising Chair

We had a great time at our second annual AutumnFest at Kensington Metropark. The weather was fairly good this year and again we had a nice group of folks show up. AutumnFest combined into one event a bunch of different activities:

- Hiking
- Sampling a variety of hors d'oeuvres
- Meeting new friends
- Chatting with old friends
- Sharing different dishes for lunch
- Raffle, prizes, games
- Team games: egg toss and volleyball

On top of all that, we raised some money to help SEMG better fight for the protection of our environment!

Special thanks to:

Linda Mallon for setting up the games, raffle and team games.

Tim Killeen for donating beautiful framed photographs for prizes.

Phil Crookshank for the use of his canopy and tables.

Sharon Rafalko for handling the registration.

Hal Hess for taking photographs.

Joanne Spatz for leading the hike.

Now is the time to make plans to join us next year for this event.