

## Volunteers Wanted . . .

Fundraising volunteers needed to help plan and carry out fun and money-making events, such as the AutumnFest and holiday raffle. Call Fundraising Chair Christine Pawyl at 248-288-5839

Advertising Manager for the *Activist* to help sell advertising for the December issue. Must be self-motivated and goal oriented. Call Barbara Yarrow at 248-932-9164.

## Notices . . .

Visit the new SEMG website at [michigan.sierraclub.org/semg](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg)  
Thanks to Lynn Livingston for his work to bring us online!

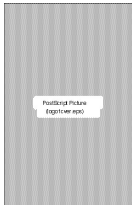
Needed: Webmaster for the SEMG site. Seeking someone to update the website monthly. Contact Philip Crookshank: 313-562-1873, [wanderphil3@netzero.net](mailto:wanderphil3@netzero.net)

## CSA . . . a healthy alternative to GE food

Interested in a source of locally grown organic food? Farmers Michelle and Danny Lutz at Maple Creek Farm are members of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Consumers who purchase a share in CSA get a box of fresh-picked organic food delivered to a location close to home or work from June through October.

Want to know more? You may visit the Maple Creek website at [www.maplecreekfarm.com](http://www.maplecreekfarm.com).

Better yet, make plans to attend a picnic at the farm on September 23. You can have a chance to tour the farm and learn more about the impact of CSA in sustaining local organic agriculture. Contact Pam Pour at [ppour@yahoo.com](mailto:ppour@yahoo.com) for more details – and mention you heard about the picnic in the *Activist*!



**Sierra Club Activist**  
Southeast Michigan Group  
17610 Warrington Dr.  
Detroit MI 48221-2769

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# A CTIVIST

SEPT. OCT. NOV. 2001 VOLUME 19 ISSUE 3  
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

## Help raise funds, celebrate... Join us for AutumnFest 2001

We invite you to take time to celebrate an autumn day with Sierra Club friends and to raise money for SEMG activities such as conservation projects and political activism, at the Annual AutumnFest FUNdraise on Sunday, October 7, 2001 at Kensington MetroPark.

We'll have fun on various trails in Kensington MetroPark Nature area. There will be a volleyball game to see along the trails, a visit to the Interpretive building. Bring your camera to capture some beautiful colors and the abundant life around the lake. There will be a lunch; there will be prizes and games afterward.



AutumnFest 2000



There are three options. People can sponsor you at \$15. per mile hiked. Pledge to add up to at least \$15. or better. \$15. registration fee that for children under 15). If you can't join us, if you want to sponsor a hiker at \$4. per mile, mail in \$20. and the registration form.

Funds raised will be used to fight for our forests, our wetlands, clean water, and clean air. Let's make this more than a fundraiser. Let's celebrate ourselves for all the fine work we have done over the past several years

while we enjoy beautiful scenery and good friends. Details and form on page 11.

**Welcome!**  
New Members Meeting  
September 6

- Native plants available
- Wolves in Michigan
- Meet the Committees
- Refreshments

See page 2 for details.

**In this Issue . . .**

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| Champions    | page 6 |
| Chair's view | page 3 |

## General Membership Meetings

General membership meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, September through June, unless otherwise noted.

7:00-7:30 Social Time

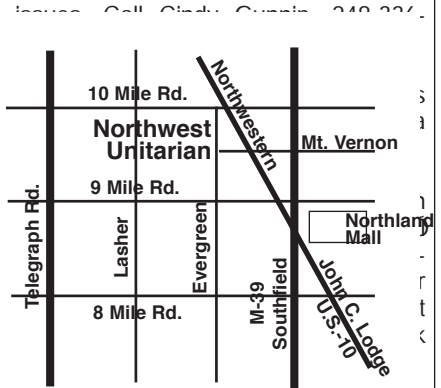
7:30-8:00 Business Meeting

8:00-9:00 Program

All meetings are held at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church at 23925 Northwestern Hwy., south-bound service drive, between Southfield and Evergreen Rd., and 9 and 10 Mile Rd., in Southfield. Light refreshments.

Sept. 6. Welcome New Members! Meeting. We start off the evening at 7:00 p.m. with a native plant sale. Come early as there is a limited quantity of seedlings and larger rescued plants. Beth Duman from the Howell Nature Center will speak about the reintroduction of wolves in Michigan. This meeting provides an opportunity for new members to learn about the work of the various committees in our Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group and find ways to get involved. Refreshments will be served.

Oct. 4. Transportation Riders United (TRU) will present local transportation



### Conservation Committee

The **Conservation Committee** meets at 7:30 on Monday, September 17, October 15, November 19 and December 17, at the Royal Oak Community Senior Citizens Center, 3500 Marais, Royal Oak. For more information call Anna Holden 313-331-0932 or Ed McArdle 313- 388-6645.

### Political Committee

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.

### Executive Committee

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.

+ +++

The *Activist* is circulated to subscription and new members each quarter and to all Group members the last two issues of the year. It is printed on recycled paper. New members of the Club in our South East Michigan (SEMG) area receive one issue of the *Activist* as part of our “Welcome to the Group” policy.

# AutumFest 2001

## FUNdraiser Pledges

Attendee's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

| City             | State            | Zip           |              |              |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Sponsor's Name   | Street Address   | Pledge amount | Total number | Total amount |
| Telephone Number | City<br>Zip Code | per mile      | of miles     | collected    |
|                  |                  |               |              |              |
|                  |                  |               |              |              |
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|                  |                  |               |              |              |
|                  |                  |               |              |              |
| <b>Total</b>     |                  |               |              |              |

Unable to join us? Sponsor the Club by sending your donation and this form to **SEMG AutumFest, 2514 Galpin Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48073**. Please mail by September 29.

## SEMG Executive Committee and Committee Chairs

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 when we do!

**Bob Duda** .....  
(734) 464-0076  
Chair  
Robert.Red.Pine@worldnet.att.net

**Tim Killeen** .....  
(313) 526-4052  
Vice Chair, Political Committee Chair  
timk@bikerider.com

**Denise Harris** .....  
(248) 676-2844  
Secretary

**Gloria Scicli** .....  
(248) 642-3069  
Treasurer, Scicli\_gm@hotmail.com

**Cindy Gunnip** .....  
(248) 336-2984  
Program Committee Chair

**Anna Holden** .....  
(313) 331-0932  
Conservation Committee Co-Chair

**Mary LaFrance** .....  
(734) 282-6935  
Ex-Com Activist  
mary.lafrance@mindspring.com

**Barbara Yarrow** .....  
(248) 932-9164  
Activist Publisher  
semgyarrow@aol.com

**Philip Crookshank** .....  
(313) 562-1873  
Outings Committee Chair,

## Join the Sierra Club Today!

"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense." —John Muir

**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag**



My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_  
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email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club  
Please charge my  Mastercard  Visa  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

| Membership Categories | INDIVIDUAL                    | JOINT                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>INTRODUCTORY</b>   | <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 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.



**F94QB 2102 1**  
Enclose check and mail to:  
**Sierra Club**  
P.O. Box 52968  
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

**Contribute to the Activist** Articles, activities, announcements, art work and ads of general interest to the membership are welcome. Deadlines for publication are Oct. 31, Jan. 31, Apr. 30 and July 31. Send items 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.

And let us know what you think of the newsletter, either by writing to the address in the *Activist* subscription form, or by calling Lydia at 313-863-8392.



# View **t**he Chair **o** desk

by Bob Duda,  
SEMG Chair

**Getting connected!** I've been asked to speak to college students over the past several years on the topic of – what else – the environment. The first thing I do on such occasions is to poll the audience with such questions as:

- Who goes fishing?
- Who goes hunting?
- Any birdwatchers?
- Any backpackers?
- **Any amateur naturalists?**

Invariably, I will get only one or two responses out of an average class of 20 students. This is a problem. How can anyone love and care for the natural Earth without having experienced any physical connection to it? As long as an oil slick doesn't come out of the shower head, those who do not use our wetlands, rivers and lakes are probably unconcerned either by an invasion of exotic species – zebra mussels, lampreys, purple loosestrife – or by just plain old fashioned pollution – lead, mercury, dioxins, PCBs. Those who do not go hunting or backpacking would have difficulty appreciating true wilderness. For them, the only wilderness is on TV shows. How can somebody mourn the demise of one bird species or celebrate the resurrection of another, unless that person has some feel for the variety of bird species and their habitats?

The Sierra Club offers a wonderful way to start relating to Mother Earth: our great Outings Program. Get connected with Nature through the outings

program and very soon you'll feel the urge to participate on the Conservation, Political, Membership, Fundraising and Executive Committees.

**Wetlands symposium.** We put on a wetland symposium in May at Kensington Metro Park. Fifty-five people showed up to hear about what makes a wetland and how to protect it. One of the Park's naturalists took us on an informative tour of Kensington's wetlands. Special thanks to Sierra Clubbers Carolyn and Merritt Gilliland, Christine Pawyl, and Melanie Duda for helping me out with this event. Special thanks to the Kensington staff for the use of their facility and their beautiful nature trails!

**Sprawl coalition.** Well, we started an anti-sprawl coalition! Finally. Various groups like the Audubon Society, TRU, and M.O.S.E.S. are participating. Want to help out? Call me, 734-464-0076. We are meeting monthly at the Environmental Interpretive Center of the University of Michigan Dearborn. The more people we have working on

## Thank you, Activist Champions!

The groundbreaking Activist Champions listed below are supporting the efforts of the SEMG Group. Please see page 6 for details on how YOU can become a Champion too.

### Individual Champions

- Joanne Spatz
- H.L. Bedingfield
- Bob Duda
- Gene Perrin

### Business Champions

MapleCreek Farm  
Michelle and Danny Lutz  
Certified Organic CSA  
810-387-4365  
[www.maplecreekfarm.com](http://www.maplecreekfarm.com)

## e September

**9/2 Heritage Park Exploration.** You won't recognize that you're in the middle of Farmington Hills, one of the largest suburbs in metro Detroit, as we hike wetlands, meadows, hills (a few small) and the Rouge River. Moderate 2 to 2-1/2 hour hike, adjourn to a nearby restaurant (optional). Meet at the visitor center at noon. From Farmington Rd. south of 11 Mile, turn west into the park and left on the first road to the parking lot. Call if weather is doubtful. Tom LaFramboise, 734-464-7899.

**9/8 (Saturday) Outings Scheduling Meeting and Potluck.** Quarterly planning meeting is open to all interested in leading or learning about doing outings. Bring a dish to pass and ideas for winter and early spring outings. Meet at 6pm at Joanne's place, 29640 Middlebelt, #2604, (Woodcreek Village Condos) Farmington Hills, east side of Middlebelt, just north of 13 Mile Rd. Once inside the complex, turn right at the stop sign, turn left at the second drive and go all the way in. Follow the sidewalk to the building on the right, #2604. 248-932-5370.

**9/9 Holly Rec. Area Hike.** We'll do both parts of this somewhat-hilly, forested, and swampy park, totaling about 7-8 miles, at a moderate to brisk pace. Bring a trail lunch for a mid-hike repast. The faint of heart or the sore of feet can bail out about 2/3 of the way. Meet at 10am behind the CVS on the SE corner of Woodward and Square Lake in Bloomfield Hills (first driveway east of Woodward, Sq. Lk. Rd. side). Call if weather is doubtful. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

**9/16 Brighton Hike.** See nature at its annual ripeness. 5-mile loop, moderate to brisk pace with stops to view birds and

wildflowers. Bring water and trail snacks.

# Outings

**9/22 (Saturday) Hines Drive Parkway Bike Ride.** This parkway runs 15 miles from Dearborn to Northville along the Lower Rouge River, and is closed to cars on Saturday. We'll ride 20-25 miles at a 12 mph pace and picnic halfway through the ride. Meet at 10am at Helms Haven picnic area. Take Southfield to Ford Rd, west on Ford to Hines Park entrance, west past Outer Drive to first parking area. Bring bike, lunch and drink. Mary Stoolmiller, 248-879-6004.

**9/23 Highland Rec. Area Naturalist Hike.** Meet at 10am at the Goose Meadow parking area with binoculars and field guides. We'll hike in the Haven Hill natural area to the old Ford Lodge at an easy to moderate pace, looking at the forest types. Somewhat rolling country with one big hill. Optional restaurant stop after. Call if weather is questionable. Park is on M-59 west of Alpine Valley ski area (14-15 miles west of US-24), south side. Follow the entrance road to Goose Meadow area, first picnic area on the right. Ken Jacobsen, 248-684-8844.

**9/29 (Saturday) Bald Mountain Hike.** We'll do a six-mile, fast paced hike on the Bald Mt. South trails. The tree canopy should cover the trail for a cool hike on a warm day. Meet in Troy at 1pm behind the Michigan Nat'l Bank on 14 Mile Rd. just east of I-75 (south edge of Oakland Mall). Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

**9/30 Huron Meadows Hike.** Moderate paced 5-mile hike looking for the start of fall colors. We'll follow the oak-topped rolling hills from the canoe launch area, past the bluebird boxes and back. Bring trail snacks and water. Meet in Southfield

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

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

# SEMG nominations are now open. . .

by Bob Duda, SEMG Chair

SEMG will hold its annual Executive Committee (ExCom) elections in December. In preparation, we have formed a Nominations Committee: Mary LaFrance 734-282-6935; Inge Bricio 248-339-0906; and Steve Walker 313-843-5008. If you are interested in running for the SEMG ExCom or want to nominate someone, contact a member of the committee.

Nominations Committee on or before Oct. 31, 2001.

Proposed ballot issue petitions asking for a vote on a local policy issue of concern must also be signed by at least 40 SEMG members. This petition must be filed with the Nominations Committee on or before Oct. 31, 2001.

Election ballots will be available in the next *Activist*. Please get involved – it’s your club too!

## Important Executive Committee election dates

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Appointment of Nominations Committee . . . . .                | August 5, 2001    |
| Final date for nominations to Nominations Committee . . . . . | October 1, 2001   |
| Report of Nominations Committee to ExCom . . . . .            | October 11, 2001  |
| Final date to file candidate petitions for ballot . . . . .   | October 31, 2001  |
| Final date to file local issues for ballot . . . . .          | October 31, 2001  |
| Eligible voters list . . . . .                                | November 1, 2001  |
| Appointment of Election Committee . . . . .                   | October 31, 2001  |
| Printing/distribution of ballots . . . . .                    | November 18, 2001 |
| Final date for receipt of completed ballots . . . . .         | December 21, 2001 |
| Counting of ballots . . . . .                                 | December 29, 2001 |
| Announcement of election results . . . . .                    | January 3, 2002   |

To be eligible for the ExCom, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a dues-paying Sierra Club and SEMG member.
- Have constructive ideas on how to make the Group even better.
- Be willing to give time to help make SEMG work smoothly and successfully.

ExCom members serve for two years and are expected to take responsibility for one of our committees or functions (Conservation, Meetings Programs, Political, Web, *Activist*). The following current ExCom members’ terms expire at the end of December 2001: Denise Harris, Gloria Scicli, Anna Holden, Barbara Yarrow, and Cindy Gunnip.

Anyone who is not nominated by the Nominations Committee but wants to run may qualify by filing a petition signed by at least 40 SEMG members. This petition must be filed with the

## Subscription Form

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I don’t want to miss out on the *ACTIVIST*! Enclosed is my \$5 (please send check for your own protection) to receive the next four issues through the mail. Thank you!



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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make check payable to:



# Green Politics

by Tim Killeen, Chair,  
SEMG Political Committee

**Slant drilling and the Governor's race** (or, here comes the greenscam). It's official: every candidate for governor has now come out publicly against slant drilling under the Great Lakes. We will no doubt see the same kind of unanimity across party lines on Great Lakes water diversion. This alignment of views is not an accident. Rather, it results from politicians' reading of public opinion: voters seem to be in as receptive a mood with regard to environmental protection as we have not seen in a long time (the Bush energy plan has also been met with widespread skepticism). However, it would be folly to think that every candidate brings forth the same commitment to the support of a wider environmental protection agenda.

Seeking cover on an issue or two that has captured the public's attention does not an environmental hero make. The environmental community has a big job ahead of moving other issues that affect the quality of our lakes' water higher in the agenda. These would include the lax regulatory environment for large-scale dairy, pig and chicken farms and increased spending on water quality monitoring and enforcement, as well as the mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants that account for the majority of this toxin in our Lakes. These are the issues through which a politician's true colors will be revealed.

The 2002 election is an opportunity to move these issues forward as never before. With the end of the Engler reign and the public mood positively disposed to Lakes protection, a new tone can be set in Lansing with regard to that and other aspects of environmental protection. For that to happen, candidates

must feel the public pressure on a wider range of issues. This means YOU. This election could well produce a Governor with a strong and broad commitment to the environment, but that will only occur if the current public mood can be capitalized on and amplified.

The Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) is currently holding a series of meetings across the state with enviro leaders to craft Agenda 2002. This document will be unveiled in September and will be backed by the endorsement of enviro groups from around the state. It will be the blueprint for what needs to occur during the next administration. Copies will be available at our monthly meetings as well as on MEC's website ([www.mecprotects.org](http://www.mecprotects.org)).

You can use this document as a basis for questioning gubernatorial candidates at SEMG's November 1st membership meeting. All of the candidates for governor will be invited, and we will have enviro leaders from around the state present also. Put this date on your calendar and make sure you come out. Bring an empty stomach and a full wallet. We will be offering up a pasta dinner to fill your stomach and empty your wallet.

**Lobby Day.** Carol Izant and Dan Keifer are hard at work organizing a Lobby Day for Wednesday, October 17th. We took 16 people to Lansing in the spring and there is no reason we cannot double that number this fall. Past participants have found these events to be exciting and educational. This is the type of "background radiation" that our public officials need to be exposed to. Citizens visiting their offices can have a more powerful effect than a suited lobbyist can; we are voters, after all. To get involved and find out more, contact Dan Keifer at 248-652-1434 or email him at [dckeifer@aol.com](mailto:dckeifer@aol.com).

**Political Committee meetings.** Join us on the last Thursday of each month (see page 2). Come out and stir up some trouble with us.

at 10:30am behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and Twelve Mile Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 810-294-7789.

★

## October

**10/6-7 High Country Pathway Fall Color Backpack Trip.** Linear 2-day, 14 mile backpack along the east segment of the High Country Pathway. We'll first explore the giant sinkholes near Shoepac Lake, then hit the hills. Bring your own backpack, cooking gear, water filter and food – enough for 3 meals on 10/6, 2 on 10/7. Night temperatures can reach freezing, and rain is possible, so bring appropriate gear and clothing. Call by 9/22 for details. Drive up & camp on Friday night, (optional and not covered in trip costs). Limit 6. \$5 fee covers club fee and camp fees. Equipment list, directions and details provided. John Calandra, 248-391-8973, (johndcal@worldnet.att.net).

**10/7 October Autumnfest.** See page 1.

**10/13 (Saturday) Pontiac Lake Hike.** A hill-hopping, 6-mile, moderately-paced hike through the tall trees with stops on overlooks for a great view. Meet in Bloomfield Township at 10:30am in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Optional restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

**10/14 Potawatomi Trail Tenner.** We'll hike the traditional Potawatomi trail, a 10-mile version of the most beautiful trails in SE Michigan. Fall colors should be dramatic. All day trip hiking about 3mph. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather. Trip goes rain or shine. Bring trail lunch and drinks for entire day. Meet in Livonia at 9am between Walmart and Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy). Call leader before 8am if weather looks doubtful. Optional restaurant stop after. Donna Kolojeskie, 313-336-7529; Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

**10/20 (Saturday) Green Lake Overnight Campout.** A simple overnight campout in a rustic camp north of Chelsea followed by the Waterloo hike on Sunday. Arrive Saturday (or Friday), set up, paddle the lake, fish, do local hiking and supper cookout. We'll break camp Sunday after breakfast and drive to the hike

trailhead. \$20 fee includes camping and 3 meals. Send by 10/14 to reserve. Philip Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI. 48125, 313-562-1873; Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782.

**10/21 Waterloo Rec. Area Hike and Crane Watch.** A brisk, 6-mile hike in the hilly Waterloo area. Then drive to nearby Haehnle-Audubon Sanctuary to watch the sandhill cranes fly in at sunset. Bring trail snacks, water, binoculars, layers of warm clothes for stationary birdwatching. Meet in Livonia at 1pm between Walmart and Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96 (Jeffries Fwy). Optional restaurant stop after. Return about 8pm. Max Nemazi, 734-421-4397.

**10/28 White Lake Hike.** Hike the beautiful Pepper Ridge Farm, then explore adjacent farmlands, meadows and lakes for a 5-mile walk. Warm up midway with cider and donuts at a cider mill. Meet in Bloomfield Township at 10am in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Glory Havlin 248-851-9324.

## eNovember

**11/4 Proud Lake Hike.** Nature will be displaying the last visages of crimson, gold and yellow. Moderate to brisk 5-mile hike with stops to observe birds, plants and animals. Meet in Southfield at 11am behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Restaurant stop after. Michael Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

**11/11 Howell Nature Center Hike.** Slow 4-mile hike through the nature center to tour the animal compound and view non-releasable animals. Resident population includes owls, hawks and mammals. No entrance fee, but volunteer docent will collect \$2 at sign-up (\$1 for Sierra Club, \$1 for Nature Center). Meet in Southfield at 1pm behind the Marathon station at Tel-Twelve Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Restaurant stop afterward. Tom & Pat Skinner, 517-552-9121.

## Be a Champ: support your local Sierra Club

by Barbara Yarrow, *Activist Publisher*

More than 6,000 Sierra Club members who live in southeast Michigan will receive this issue of the SEMG *Activist* newsletter. The group needs your help to be able to continue to print and mail the newsletter to the full membership twice a year and keep you up-to-date on our efforts and activities. One copy of this issue costs nearly 50 cents to print and mail — and that doesn't count the numerous volunteer hours to write, edit, design, label, sort and take to the Post Office.

To help finance the publication we accept paid advertising, but that only pays a small part of the cost, and it takes dedication and hard work to bring in the advertisers (any volunteers out there?). Paid subscriptions help, but currently only slightly over 3 percent of the membership pay the \$5 subscription fee. We also receive partial reimbursement from the national Sierra Club. Still, we find every year we must raise substantial funds to continue to publish the newsletter.

The Activist Champion Program is an easy way for you to help support our communication effort. It's vital that we inform our readers and Group members about the many activities that are coming up and the progress we have made in the conservation initiatives we undertake.

We believe you want to keep up with SEMG's involvement in important conservation work such as the successful shutdown of the Henry Ford Hospital incinerator. We have effective campaigns underway to educate local residents and activate them to save wetlands and stop suburban sprawl. We hope you enjoy having our exciting and fun outings events delivered to your mailbox. We know you want to have a say in the election of the local executive committee and that you want to stay abreast of local environmental

political news and learn new ways to influence legislation.

This is your chance to show your support for the Group in its mission to explore, protect and enjoy the planet. The Activist Champion Program makes it possible for you to provide your support with a minimum amount of fuss and effort on your part. Fill out the form below with your name and address, and we will add your name to our list of Champions for that issue. As an additional bonus, \$5 of your check will go toward the purchase of a full-year subscription to the *Activist*.

Make your check payable to SEMG and mail to:

**Activist Champion**  
**6555 Woodbank**  
**Bloomfield, MI 48301**

Several Champions have already volunteered! See the list on page 3.

There are two ways to be a Champion: Individual Champion (\$25) or Business Champion (\$50). Business Champions have the option of including telephone number, street address and email address in the listing.

Individual Champion (\$25; includes 1-year subscription)

Business Champion (\$50)  
 \_\_\_ Please list my telephone

\_\_\_ Please list my address (below)

\_\_\_ Please list my email address  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Service’s Hamtramck incinerator, June 6, trapped emissions in the plant, forcing workers outdoors to escape clouds of untreated toxic fumes. The filtration system has caught fire several times in the past, according to Rob Cedar, Hamtramck Environmental Action Team (HEAT), “but this was different.”

On June 6th, Cedar stated, “The incinerator was still burning waste, but the flow of gasses was blocked, causing the building to fill with smoke.” HEAT and the Coalition to Close the Hamtramck incinerator are concerned about worker safety and neighborhood exposure resulting from equipment failures that release bursts of toxic gases. “An entire year’s quota of toxins allowed by the permit can be released in just a few hours,” Cedar said.

A recent review of Wayne County’s Air Quality Management Division files indicates that the Hamtramck incinerator is not complying with several provisions of a Consent Order issued December 22, 1999 by the Michigan

by Wayne County, but the records show failure to meet two required tests per year for mercury emissions, smoke and odor complaints traced to bypassing pollution controls, “spikes” of excessive carbon monoxide emissions, and hydrogen chloride gases leaking from poorly maintained equipment. Lack of enforcement has been a major problem throughout the incinerator’s history.

*Above: This June 6 photo was taken at the City Medical Waste Services incinerator in Hamtramck. Smokeout. Untreated toxic fumes backed up in the plant due to equipment failure. Photo: Rob Cedar.*

**In the Mayor’s Garden.** A refreshment stop in Mayor Gary J. Zych’s garden was a highlight of the Hamtramck City Tour, co-sponsored by Sierra Club and HEAT, June 30. Mayor Zych is an avid gardener and a member of the Garden Gremlins, a local garden club. He talked informally about the many plants thriving in his garden, as well as about Hamtramck and his goals for the city. Earlier, the Mayor welcomed the group to Hamtramck and thanked Sierra Club for supporting community efforts to close the incinerator.

Gregory Kowalski, Chair, Hamtramck Historical Commission, provided background for the tour, presenting slides and commentary on early history and current landmarks and developments. The tour featured two outdoor murals painted and narrated by Hamtramck artist Dennis Orłowski. Each celebrates Polish history – the Polish Millennium Mural outside the Holbrook CafŽ depicts 1,000 year of Polish history and the Pope Park Mural commemorates Pope John Paul II’s visit to Hamtramck in 1969. Other stops included St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, a Polish market, the City Medical Waste Services incinerator, and lunch at the Polonia Restaurant. The opportunity to talk informally with Hamtramck leaders was the most interesting and valuable aspect of the tour. Sierra Club is grateful to everyone who helped, especially Hamtramck’s tour guides, hosts and the People’s Community Services Center that provided a meeting place, a van and a driver.