

# THE ACTIVIST

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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

## GOOD FOOD, GOOD FUN & THE GREAT LAKES

By Tim Killeen,  
SEMG Political Committee Chair

And you thought it was an annual fundraising dinner! After some difficulty in arranging our 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner last fall, we are pleased to announce our "5th and One Half Mostly Annual" Dinner. This year we will have a new location for the event, the Birmingham Unitarian Church. Festivities will kick off at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28.

Our guest speaker, and we are thrilled to have him, is Dave Dempsey. Dave has served Michigan's environment superbly throughout his career. His past titles include Director of the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC), Environmental Advisor to Gov. Blanchard, Director of Michigan Clean Water Action, and Presidential Appointee (by Bill Clinton) to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (1994-2001). Dave was also appointed to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board by Gov. Granholm in 2003. Today he is back with Clean Water Action, this time at the national level, as its Great Lakes Policy Advisor.

Did I mention that he has two widely acclaimed books to his credit? "Ruin and Recovery: Michigan's Rise as a Conservation Leader" and "On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21st Century," are both de rigueur on the bookshelves of

Michigan environmental leaders.

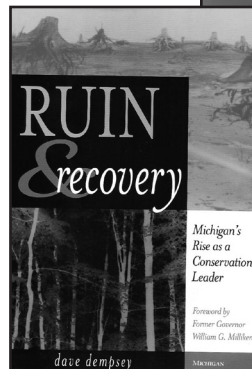
Dave will be speaking on the Great Lakes, looking first back and then into the future. A third book is on the way: this time, to discuss the environmental legacy of Gov. William Milliken. Copies of both his published books will be available at the dinner; he will sign every copy you're buying.

In addition, SEMG activist and organic farmer Mary LaFrance will have some of her native wildflower seeds and early crops for sale. You can also bring your old broken hand-held electronics (digital cameras, PDA's pagers, cell phones, etc.) to recycle. One of our tables to visit will be set up by a non-profit organization that helps groups raise funds by recycling these items. Lasagna, a musical interlude, and a surprise or two are also on the program.

Everyone working for and at the dinner will be doing so as a Club volunteer. Since we started the tradition of annual dinners back in 2001, they have provided the Southeast Michigan Group of the Sierra Club with valuable financial resources. These funds allow us to do conservation and political work we otherwise couldn't afford. We'll tell you more about this at the dinner.



Above - SEMG special guest speaker Dave Dempsey. Left - Dempsey's book, "Ruin and Recovery."



See the info on the front cover of this newsletter on how to reserve your spot for the evening. This event may be a week late for Earth Day, but we'll hit Arbor Day dead on. See you in April.

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EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PLANET

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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.

### Program as follows:

- 7:00-7:30 - Social Time
- 7:30-8:00 - Business Meeting
- 8:00-9:00 - Program

## Schedule of Programs

**March 2. *Building a case for Local Food in Southeast Michigan.***

**6:30 pm.** Please join us for a potluck dinner, and bring a dish to pass. Mary LaFrance, owner of the Lakeplain Prairie Organic Farm, will discuss the rise of CSAs (Community Support Agriculture) in Michigan. Representatives of the Detroit Agricultural Network will share their latest strategy for reclaiming the harvest in downtown Detroit and Healthy Traditions Network representatives will outline their agenda for connecting you to local sources of good food in our area. We will examine the perils and pitfalls associated with the global supermarket and invite you to reclaim the homegrown pleasures that exist for consumers in Southeast Michigan.

**April 6. *A Bridge Over Troubled Waters: More Lessons from the Grassroots.*** The latest chapter in the long history of the interests of big business versus the little guy is the controversy over the proposed route for the new Detroit-Windsor bridge. While some might question the need for a second bridge over the Detroit River, all signs point to the inevitability of this massive engineering project. Invited activists from Southwest Detroit communities and the Citizens' Environmental Alliance in Windsor will speak to the impact of the new bridge on both the human and natural environment. Donele Wilkins, Executive Director of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ) and 2005 winner of the Michigan



## Executive Committee

The **Executive Committee** meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at 100 Crooks Road, NE corner of 14 Mile, in Clawson.

## Conservation Committee

The **Conservation Committee** meets every third Thursday at 7 p.m., at 100 Crooks Road, NE corner of 14 Mile, in Clawson.

## 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.

(Mackinac) Chapter Bunyan Bryant Award will update us on the status of the campaign to have the Governor sign an Environmental Justice Executive Order.

**May 4. *May is for Morels: A Presentation by the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club.*** While your mother may have warned you never to eat any mushrooms growing in the wild, there are many edible species that can be safely harvested from wooded areas located in Southeast Michigan. But it does help to have someone knowledgeable act as a guide! Please join us in looking at the world beneath our feet as we are introduced to the subject by a representative of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club.

## Executive Committee and Committee Chairs

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



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## Want to Gain Our Legislators' Support in the Fight for a Better Environment? Here's your chance: Wed April 26- Lobby Day!

Join us in the Lansing Capitol on our next Lobby Day, when Sierrans from across the state will carry once again a message of environmental improvement and protection directly to Michigan lawmakers. Don't hesitate because you haven't done it before: all you need is being able to spend a day in Lansing and a commitment to our Sierra Club values. We'll provide you with background information on our issues and tips on how to be an effective lobbyist. To register, or for further information, call or e-mail Lydia Fischer (Chapter Legislative Committee) 313-506-8278, lydfisch@mindspring.com, or Gayle Miller (Chapter Legislative Program Coordinator) 517-484-2372, gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

## GREEN POLITICS: NO SUCH THING AS AN OFF-YEAR

By Tim Killeen,  
SEMG Political Committee Chair

In November 2005 cities and villages across Michigan held local contests to elect mayors and city council members. "Off-year" elections – they exclude presidential, gubernatorial and legislative races -- are characterized by low voter turnout. Still, they are important for two reasons. First, many decisions at this level of government have large effects on urban sprawl and water quality, among other enviro issues. Second, in a state where house reps and senators are term-limited, the local elected officials form much of the "bench" of folks that will run for higher office later. In recognition of this, the SEMG Political Committee, for the first time, screened and endorsed candidates in several SE Michigan communities.

I am pleased to report that this effort is already paying dividends. In Berkley (Oakland Co.), our endorsed candidate for mayor as well as one of our two endorsed city council candidates won their races. Due to a sudden resignation immediately after the election, the second council candidate endorsed by SEMG who had just missed winning was appointed to fill the vacancy. As a result, Club activists in Berkley are continuing an already established dialogue with their new government. They are taking ideas to the new mayor on how to make Berkley more environmentally friendly. I will report on future developments.

In Farmington Hills, our mayoral

candidate won, along with one of our council candidates. January of this year saw the council vote on whether the city should pull out of the SMART bus system. Support for mass transit is a central item on our local agenda. By a 4-3 vote, Farmington Hills did the right thing and stayed in. Our council candidate voted to do that, and then our mayoral candidate cast the deciding vote to break the tie. It would be hard to say for sure what effect our endorsements had. But we do know that we like the results of the vote.

It is through efforts like this that we can have an impact on issues we care about. In each of these communities, it was member volunteers who drove the endorsement process. Are there good environmental stewardship issues where you live? Would you like to see more environmentally-minded folks on your council? Our grassroots activities can put some power in your hands to help towards those goals.

In 2007 there will be local elections again. We would like to expand our activities to Southfield, Ferndale, St. Clair Shores and/or Rochester. Please drop me an e-mail or phone call (see p. 2 for SEMG Directory) to let me know you want to do this kind of work in your neighborhood. Also, consider responding to our mailings to members in communities where we are active -- become part of the effort! While many take the "off-year" elections off, we keep working for a better environmental future.

Programs. . . continued from page 2

### June 1. *Constructing a Green Agenda for Builders: A Presentation by the Detroit Green Building Council.*

**6:30 pm.** Bring a dish to pass at our potluck dinner. Transforming the design of community and construction industry to integrate sustainable building practices is a huge agenda. Paul Goldsmith, chair of the Detroit Chapter of the US Green Building Council will introduce us to the principles of green building as outlined in the LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) ratings system that guide his organization. He will showcase examples of both new construction and renovations of existing buildings that have met the LEED standards for design excellence.

Smart . . . continued from page 3

difference in opinion that splits them into two camps is whether the city should have its own system or retain the only regional system—SMART. If it went with its own system, some kind of connection to SMART would remain but ridership would decline because of transfer between busses, and riders living beyond Farmington Hills who would be stuck.

Mayor Barnett (also endorsed by the Club) was especially concerned that the short time available to design, evaluate and secure alternative services while convincing its citizens to fund a new provider in the August millage would create a crisis in the city. She put SMART management on notice that unless significant improvements are seen, Farmington Hills will be prepared to opt out four years hence. Councilman Randy Bruce thought that the City could make more efforts to improve SMART's responsiveness. He also pointed out that other mass transit systems subsidize their riders more than Michigan subsidizes SMART riders.

Councilman Ken Massey felt that the city's power was in opting out. By remaining in the system, he believes SMART's incentive to improve is squandered. In addition, he blames the State Legislature for not taking action sooner to truly support mass regional transit in metro Detroit.

"It is not up to Farmington Hills to fix the regional transit problem; it can't," he said. "This has to come from the State Legislature and it is not fair for them not to address it."

Outings . . . continued from page 5

Pharmacy on the SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (NE end of lot). Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

## MAY

5/6 (Sat.) Howell Nature Center Walk. Noon. 2-3 miles, slow. Pat's been a volunteer at this center for non-releasable birds of prey, will share her knowledge of the resident fauna. This facility has limited access, \$2 Nature Center fee; reservations are required by May 3. Dress for slow pace. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S of the Marathon station; or 1 p.m. at the Nature Center. Pat & Tom Skinner, 517-552-9121.

5/7 Paint Creek Trail Hike. 10 a.m. You think 10 miles is too much? We'll be doing a moderate to brisk pace following the winding Paint Creek, with brief stops. At 5 miles, we have a restaurant stop in Lake Orion, rest, then 5 miles back. Many blooms and interesting points along the way. Water, sunscreen, good walkers a must. Meet in Troy behind the LaSalle Bank on 14 Mile Rd. just E of I-75 (S edge of Oakland Mall). Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

5/14 [E] Maybury Mother's Day Wildflower Walk. 9:30 a.m. 4 miles, slow. We'll honor our Mother Earth and Earthly Mothers! Seventeen species of blooming wildflowers guaranteed – with possibilities of some extras. We'll be stopping often to I.D. them. Bring cameras, magnifiers, field guides, and meet near Northville at the Maybury State Park concession bldg, Eight Mile Rd. en-

trance, 1.5 miles W of Beck Rd. 5 miles W of I-275. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

5/19-21. [E] South Manitou Island Beginner's Backpack. Young people 12 and older (accompanied by an adult) are welcome. We'll camp in a campground and day hike to observe the island's seagull rookery, spring wildflowers, old growth cedars, dunes, a shipwreck and evidence of early settlements. Pre-registration required by May 1st. Details: Mary Powell, powell\_mm@hotmail.com, 810-732-3884.

5/21 Bald Mountain Hike. 11 a.m. 5 to 6 miles, moderate. We'll go over the rolling terrain, lakes and meadows of the North trails, shaded by the new leaves on the trees. Rain or shine. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (E side) N of Square Lake Rd. Bring water, picnic lunch for after. Gary Simon, 248-561-9066, JoEllen Lane, 586-773-3104.

5/28 Metro Beach Metropark Hike. Noon. 5 miles, brisk. We'll do the nature area, hiking trails and perimeter on the lakeshore. Dress for May weather, call if weather is ? Meet in Clinton Township at Metro Beach Metropark, entrance is on Metropolitan Pkwy. (16 Mile Rd), E. of Jefferson Ave. Meet in front of the Nature Center on W edge of lot. Restaurant stop after. JoEllen Lane, 586-773-3104.

## JUNE

6/3 (Sat.) Kensington Lazy Daisy Hike. 11 a.m. 5 miles, slow. Bring water and binoculars; we'll be scanning for Ospreys, Herons and other feathered friends. Meet in South-

field at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S of the Marathon station. Restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

6/4 [E] Canoe the Lower Huron. 8:45 a.m. 4 hours long, easy paddle. We'll identify the wildlife coming to life as we drift downriver from Hudson Mills Metropark down to Delhi. Halfway stop for picnic lunch. Some canoe experience required, (instructions provided). Reservations of \$21 must be sent to Phil Crookshank, 17916 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI. 48125 by 5/25. Bring a river lunch, dry clothes, a smile and meet in Livonia between Wal Mart and Jiffy Lube (near Jeffries) on the SW corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

6/9-11 [E] Backpack Green Timber's. Young people 12 and older (accompanied by an adult) are welcome. We will be backcountry camping and there may be short segments off trail with an opportunity to learn to navigate with map and compass. We will be near Pigeon River State Forest; the terrain is varied and the late spring scenery should be very pretty. Pre-registration required by June 1st. Details: Mary Powell, powell\_mm@hotmail.com, 810-732-3884.

6/10 (Sat.) Moonlight Mystery Hike. 7 p.m. Moderate. Hike starts at dusk, is over hilly terrain at a nearby park – chosen for the best lighting. Bring flashlight, humor and meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S of the Marathon station. Beverage stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

## General Outings Information

The Outings Committee tries to have a wide variety of outings throughout the year – something to appeal to each resident of our area. Everyone is welcome!

Outings fee is \$1 unless otherwise noted. All must sign a Sierra Club waiver to participate; to preview it, go to the web site at [outings/waiver](http://outings/waiver). All outings leave the meeting place at the noted time. All trips begin at the trail head. Call trip leader for more details. Outings codes: [E] educational, [C] Conservation, [T] Trail Work.

**For complete schedule, visit SEMG web site at <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>.**

## Your Opinion Counts!

Please let us know what you think of The Activist! What do you like? What don't you like? What would you like to see more of?

Send your comments to -  
[pontimytho1@yahoo.com](mailto:pontimytho1@yahoo.com)

# Alert: SEMG "ACTIVIST" Newsletter on the Endangered Species List

Dear Reader,

Communication in today's fast-paced world is constantly evolving, and keeping up with the latest trends is a subject that fosters as much frustration and challenge as reward. Those of us who are closely associated with the inner workings of SEMG have begun to ask ourselves whether a print-based newsletter mailed quarterly to burgeoning membership is the best way to communicate. As well, the high cost of printing and mailing to all of you draws to our attention the question of efficacy. While the overall number of members in SEMG has grown to approximately 6,500 in the past year, the core base of our active volunteers remains about the same.

We'd all like to see greater participation from our members but it's hard to know how best to accomplish this task. As well, unlike most environmental organizations, your membership in the Sierra Club invites you into an arena of environmental awareness and activism that operates on three fronts: the national, state and local level. For some, the satisfaction of knowing you are part of

this movement through your financial support is enough. And we thank you for your contribution. But for those of you who may be looking for greater involvement with like-minded others, we hope you will consider participating in one of our many activities in 2006. Try, for example, one of our weekly hikes into the great outdoors led by an experienced member or one of the monthly General Membership meetings that are held in Southfield (check out the great line-up of programs offered this Winter & Spring). And for those hardy souls, we offer the frontlines of involvement with our Conservation and Political Committees (this is where things really get interesting!)

While it remains to be seen how we will strike the balance between print and electronic communication (yes, dear reader, one of our thoughts is to switch over to an e-mail format for publication), you can rest assured we will do our best to find our way into your hearts and minds on a regular basis. Feel free to write to me in care of my e-mail address (cogknot@yahoo.com). I would love to hear from you!

In environmental peace and justice,  
Carol Izant, Chair



## FARMINGTON HILLS VOTES SMART ON SMART TRANSIT ISSUE

By Joanne Cantoni,  
SEMG Member, Farmington Hills

**Farmington Hills Opts In.** Farmington Hills will stay with the SMART system for another four years. The mayor of Farmington Hills cast the tie-breaking vote Monday night, January 23 at 11:45 p.m., more than four hours into the council meeting. All other six city council members stated their support for regional transit, but half decided that SMART was not the best way to provide service. Even those voting to remain in the system, including Mayor Barnett, had serious reservations.

**Public Support for SMART.** Most of the approximately 25 local users, employees, and employers who addressed the council were very favorable about SMART and its service except for a handful of non-user residents and one organization – Citizens for Better Government. Several elderly or handicapped people argued with feeling that without the special small bus service provided via federal funding through Farmington Hills and subcontracted to SMART, they would not be able

to work, keep medical appointments, or volunteer in the community. Our own Ed McArdle spoke for Sierra Club, as did activists from TRU – Transportation Riders United, and MOSES. Also speaking in favor of "opting in" were State representative Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills, Jim Nash, former SEMG chair and current Oakland County Commissioner, and his Commission colleague, Mike Rogers.

**Criticisms of SMART.** Several criticisms were voiced during council discussion and public comments. There was mention that large SMART buses often run nearly empty and, therefore, must be wasting money. SMART has about 10 percent administrative overhead, significantly more than other systems. SMART has a long history of unresponsiveness to the communities it serves, including recent attempts by Farmington Hills Council to get information. SMART is not a regional transit system. (It only serves Macomb, Wayne and Oakland County, east of Haggerty Road). Therefore, staying in SMART in order to support the "region-



al transit system" only serves to penalize Farmington Hills residents by costing them more tax dollars than if Farmington Hills made other arrangements to serve its residents and employers. SMART does not provide some of the amenities that other large cities provide their riders: shelters, posted routes and schedules.

**Council's Thinking.** Despite these and other criticisms of SMART, all six council members (one of them, councilwoman Oliverio, endorsed by Sierra Club) came out in favor of bus service. The

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# Regulation of Michigan Medical Waste Autoclaves Begins

By Anna Holden,  
Conservation Committee

In 2005, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) began quietly regulating mercury air emissions from commercial medical waste autoclaves. The first autoclave permit was issued Nov. 16 to Star Industries of Marquette, without a public notice or hearing announcing the application. According to DEQ Air Quality staff, the Star plant is a small rural facility expected to have low emissions. Star's permit includes a schedule for installing future mercury air emissions controls

Then on Jan. 6, after vigorous objection at a community public hearing, MDEQ denied Medical Waste Services (MWS) a permit to operate its autoclave in Hamtramck. In turning down the permit proposal, G. Vinson Hellwig, Chief, Air Quality Division, MDEQ stated, "The Company has simply not demonstrated the effort to comply with the same environmental safeguards that all other businesses in Michigan operate under."

MDEQ also rejected MWS' applica-

tion for its autoclave in Grand Blanc. Mercury detected in the autoclaves in both these plants in 2003-2004 undoubtedly prompted MDEQ to begin autoclave regulation. Ironically, a well-run up-to-date autoclave is one of the safer forms of waste disposal now replacing medical waste incinerators. Commercial autoclaves are a large version of the steam sterilizers hospitals, clinics and laboratories have used traditionally to disinfect reusable instruments.

MDEQ is currently reviewing a permit application from Agility Bioservices LLC in Kentwood, a new medical waste treatment plant in the Grand Rapids area. This permit is modeled on the proposed Hamtramck and Star permits, but will require a plan for mercury emissions controls before the permit is approved. The MDEQ format focuses primarily on mercury air emissions and does not regulate water discharges or prohibit some other toxic substances that might be released.

The Hamtramck Environmental Action Team (HEAT), Sierra Club, and other concerned organizations

opposed the MWS autoclave permit for a number of reasons including failure to regulate water releases that could contain mercury and other toxins. There were no requirements to install air pollution controls immediately, replace outdated equipment, or add monitoring devices to screen out mercury. Residents of Hamtramck protested the company's long history of numerous unresolved permit violations.

MWS' Grand Blanc autoclave is closed, according to MDEQ enforcement staff, but the Hamtramck autoclave continues to process waste. With the autoclave permit denied, any waste treatment in Hamtramck's autoclave violates state medical waste regulations. Separate MDEQ administrative action to revoke the Hamtramck incinerator permit began April 2005 and should ultimately block all future burning of waste. Even though trucks are still hauling waste to the plant, legal action that will close it is progressing. It looks like we are not far from a complete victory.

## DETROIT-ANN ARBOR RAPID TRANSIT ROLLS TOWARDS REALITY

By Ed McArdle,  
SEMG Conservation Committee Chair

The Ann Arbor to Downtown Detroit Rapid Transit Study is moving toward completion by June 2006.

SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) will host public meetings early this spring to consider the preferred options. Then the study will enter an engineering/cost phase financed by the \$100 million in federal funds secured by Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

The study is considering three modes of travel, bus rapid transit, light rail and commuter rail, using five different routes or combinations of modes and routes. The alternatives are compared on the basis of population, employment, travel time, capital and operating costs (although there are no hard cost figures yet).

The alternative showing lowest cost and fastest implementation is com-

muter rail using "right of way" already in place for freight and AMTRAK trains. But there are two glaring problems with this option: (1) the route goes three miles north of Metro Airport and (2) there is no Detroit-downtown terminal. Terminating the route at the Detroit Amtrak station in the New Center area and connecting it with downtown and N/ NW Detroit via bus or light rail along Woodward Ave could overcome the latter problem. Using the Dequindre Cut instead, and placing the terminal closer to downtown near the RenCen is another alternative. It's fair to say that every alternative has both advantages and disadvantages.

An aspect of the study not yet mentioned is how the mode and route chosen would connect with the region beyond 8 Mile Rd. Ferndale City Manager Tom Barwin supports the Woodward Ave. Transit Study that would choose either Bus rapid transit or Light rail. The study

estimates costs of \$117 million for Bus rapid transit and \$494 million for Light rail along the Woodward corridor. Compared to adding an extra lane to I-75 through Oakland County for \$500 million and revamping I-94 for six miles through Detroit for \$1.3 billion, transit seems like an extremely good bargain.

We'll get only one chance to choose a successful option that would encourage a more extensive regional system. I believe it would be most effective for Sierra Club to back a preferred alternative in consensus with other involved groups. Your input and perspective are needed. Everyone interested is invited to attend the Conservation Committee meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the BEC office located at 14 Mile Road and Crooks. The study is available on line at [www.annarbor-detroittransitstudy.com](http://www.annarbor-detroittransitstudy.com) or call SEMCOG at 313-961-4266 for a free mailed copy.



# OUTINGS



## MARCH

3/4 (Sat.) Addison Oaks Hike. Noon. 5 miles, moderate. Scenic Addison Oaks County Park in NE Oakland Co., site of two lakes and ponds. Meet at park entrance on Romeo Rd, 1.5 miles W of Rochester Rd. Restaurant stop after. Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326.

3/5 [E] Hepatica Hike at Maybury. Noon. 5 miles, moderate. We'll check the nature trails looping around the outside of this State Park for the lavender color of the first spring flower – Hepatica, other early bloomers as well. Dress for the weather, lug soles for the wet. Meet at Maybury State Park concession building, Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5 miles W of Beck Rd. (and Northville), about 5 miles W of I-275. Restaurant stop after. Phil Crookshank, 313-562-1873.

3/11 (Sat.) Outings Committee Meeting. 5 p.m. Interested in leading or learning about leading outings? Come to our quarterly planning meeting/potluck. Non-committee members welcome. Bring a potluck dish to pass at 5 p.m., then participate in the May - Sept planning meeting. At Liz Allingham's house in Dearborn, 313-581-7579.

3/12 Heron Rookery Walk. 1 p.m. 3 hilly miles. Hike the highland nature trails in the preserve, then stop at the W Bloomfield Heron Rookery overlook. We'll use the telescope to watch these magnificent birds flying from their nests and feeding their chicks, also scan for beavers. Bring binoculars. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonald's on Telegraph (E side) N of Square Lake Rd. Restaurant stop after. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

3/19 Highland Rec. Area Hike. 11 a.m. 4-5 miles, easy. We'll look for signs of spring-skunk cabbage and marsh mari-

golds--on varied terrain, wet in spots. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (E side) N of Square Lake Rd. Call if weather is? Restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

3/25 (Sat.) Holly Rec. Area Hike. 9:30 a.m. 4-5 miles, moderate. Spring blooms will be popping through the leaves; varied terrain. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS Pharmacy on the SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (NE end of lot). Restaurant stop after. Mary Powell, 810-732-3884.

## APRIL

4/2 Proud Lake Day Hike. 11 a.m. 5 miles, moderate. We'll stop to look for wildflowers popping up along the trail in this State Park. Snow-no-go! Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S of the Marathon station. Restaurant stop after. Liz Allingham, 313-581-7579.

4/8 (Sat.) Pontiac Lake Hike. Noon. 5 miles. Rich woods and beautiful rolling terrain characterize this State Rec. Area, 7 miles W of Pontiac. Park entrance on Gale Road, W of Williams Lake Rd., meet at the beach & bike trailhead. Restaurant stop after. Sudha Chhaya, 248-219-3326.

4/9 Independence Oaks Hike. 11 a.m. 5 to 6 miles, moderate to brisk. Let's explore this NW Oakland Co. park in this hilly, wooded area – home of the headwaters of the Clinton River. Meet in Rochester Hills on the SW corner of Rochester Rd. near Avon in the Sears lot, near the gas station. Optional restaurant stop after. Mary George, 248-652-2998, Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

4/15 (Sat.) Morning Hike at Maybury State Park. 11 a.m. 3 miles, moderate. We'll do some of the less traveled parts of this lovely rolling park with an eye out for returning bluebirds and wildflowers.

Dress in layers. Meet at the park concession bldg., Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1-1/2 miles W of Beck Rd. (and Northville), 5 miles W of I-275. Trip goes rain or shine. Optional restaurant & ice cream stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-349-8782.

4/22 (Sat.) Flint River Walk. 9:30 a.m. 4 to 5 miles, moderate. We'll go along a scenic section of the river (yes, there is a scenic section). Bring a picnic lunch if the weather is nice, if not, restaurant stop after. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS Pharmacy on the SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (NE end of lot) Mary Powell; Powell\_mm@hotmail.com, 810-732-3884.

4/23 [E] Earth Day-Huron Meadows Walk. 11:30 a.m. 4 miles, slow. We'll honor the memory of John Muir by enjoying the sights, smells and sounds of the Metropark residents, looking for wildflowers and early birds. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S of the Marathon station. Restaurant stop after. Lee Becker, 586-294-7789.

4/29 (Sat.) [T] Kensington Metro Park Service Project. 9:15 a.m. Help fight the war against garlic mustard, the biennial that is pushing out so many of our lovely wildflowers. We will work 2-2.5 hours under the direction of park staff to remove this plant. Work gloves, work clothes and sturdy shoes advised. Bring a lunch, if the weather is fair we'll picnic under the trees by the lake. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S of the Marathon station or meet in the Nature Center parking lot by 10:15. Rain or shine. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370.

4/30 Holly State Park Hike. 11 a.m. 8 to 10 miles, moderate, hilly. Spring wildflowers a big attraction. Rain or shine, dress for it. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS



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

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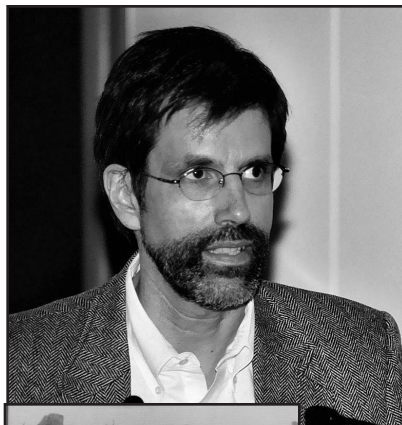
# SEMG's 5th Annual Political Fundraising Dinner

**Friday, April 28th**

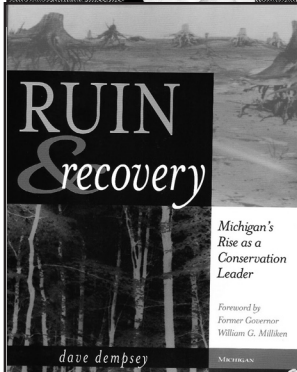
*Birmingham Unitarian Church*

*651 North Woodward*

*6:00 pm*



*With special guest speaker Dave Dempsey  
 Author of "Ruin & Recovery"*



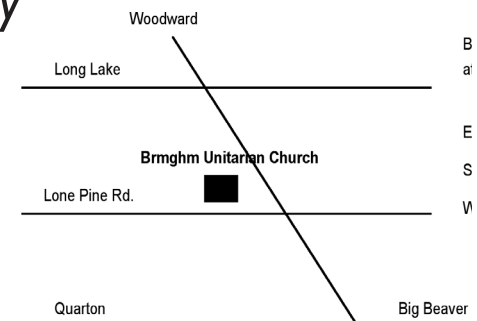
**Tickets -**

**\$35 Members**

**\$60 Sponsors**

**\$25 Students/Fixed Income**

*Please send in ticket request along with check  
 made out to Sierra Club SEMG to Gloria Scicli,  
 2301 W. Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009*



Enter parking lot from either Southbound Woodward or Westbound Lone Pine Road