

THE ACTIVIST



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Detroit... putting our water safety at risk

By Hal Newnan, SEMG Chair

According to Doug Martz,¹ Chair of the Macomb County Water Quality Board, your water security is threatened despite his best efforts. More accurately, the lack of funds is threatening the HEART-MI system (Huron to Erie Alliance for Real-Time monitoring and Information, aka St. Clair River-Lake St. Clair Monitoring) – the monitoring system that protects your water security. The system has already been built — it took 10 years and \$3.7 million to accomplish that — and now the cost of operating the system must be funded. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) need to get

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¹ With Mr. Martz' permission, I've drawn from his article, "Safe Drinking Water for All", Waterkeeper issue of summer 2008, pp. 54-57, online at www.waterkeeper.org.



From 1986 to 2000, the First Nations of Walpole Island, recorded 700 chemical spills by Imperial Chemical Industries into St. Clair River.

Join us for our annual fundraiser SIERRA Club SEMG at Arts, Beats & Eats — Call for Volunteers!

Enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of Arts, Beats & Eats at its new location in downtown Royal Oak! Come out and have a great time with fellow members as we help raise money for the SEMG. Volunteers needed to staff a beverage booth September 3-6, Labor Day Weekend.

**Please sign up for one or more shifts:
Friday, Saturday & Sunday:**

11am-3pm, 3pm-7pm & 7pm-11pm.

Monday: 11am-4pm & 4pm-9pm

So grab some friends and form a team, or we will be happy to put you on one. The team raising the most money will receive a fun prize!

Each volunteer will receive a free weekend pass to Arts, Beats & Eats.

Supervisors are needed for each shift, (training provided) please let us know if you can help.

Tell your friends and family to visit our beverage booth, check our homepage <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/> for our booth location.

To volunteer or for more information please contact Julie Ann at jawang1@comcast.net or call 248-646-5650.



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Executive Committee and Committee Chairs

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

Hal Newnan '11 ... 586-360-4998
Group Chair
hnewnan@sbcglobal.net

Tom Dusky '11 ... 248-544-4443
Activist Publisher and Webmaster
tdusky@comcast.net

Jean Gramlich '10 ... 810-714-2343
Membership Chair and Secretary
jeangramlich@msn.com

Cindy Gunnip '11 ... 248-336-2984
Group Vice Chair
cdgunnip@yahoo.com

Richard Kuszmar '11 ... 586-264-1370
linneamari@aol.com

Ed McArdle '10 ... 313-388-6645
Group Representative
Conservation Committee Chair
ecoguy2@netzero.net

Gloria Scicli '10 ... 248-642-3069
Treasurer
gscicli@comcast.net

Julie Ann Wang '11 ... 248-646-5650
Publicity Chair
jawang1@comcast.net

Dave Wolf '10 ... 248-496-9604
Alternate Group Representative
dave_wolf@comcast.net

Phil Crookshank ... 248-797-2885
Outings Chair
wanderphil1@yahoo.com


Joanne Cantoni ... 248-932-5370
Outings Coordinator
joannecantoni@netzero.net

Carol Izant ... 248-352-6137
Programs Chair
cogknot@yahoo.com

Mitch Mitchell ... 248-890-7637
Political Chair
treehuggermitch@yahoo.com

Douglas Christie ... 248-709-9301
Green Cruise Chair
gofeetdc@gmail.com
greencruise@michigan.sierraclub.org

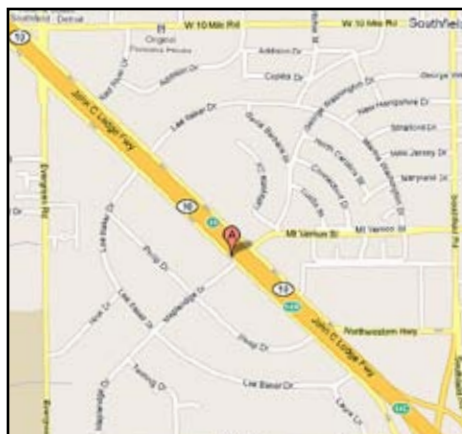
Lydia Fischer ... 734-994-3582
Activist Editor
lydfisch@mindspring.com

 The ACTIVIST is printed on recycled paper.

Meetings

General Membership

The Southeast MI Group (SEMG) meets on the 1st Thursday of each month (with the exception of January, July & August) from 7-9pm at the Northwest Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy. (located along the southbound US-10 service drive between 9 & 10 Mile) in Southfield, MI (see map below). A brief local club update runs from 7-7:30pm with the featured programs (listed right) from 7:30-9pm. Light refreshments will be served. A free will offering is encouraged. Meetings are open to members and non-members alike so consider bringing a friend! For more info, contact Carol Izant, cogknot@yahoo.com or 248.352.6137.



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Huntington Woods Library, 26415 Scotia Road, Huntington Woods, MI.

Political Committee

The Political Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For our meeting location contact Mitch Mitchell, treehuggermitch@yahoo.com.

Conservation Committee

The Global Warming Task Force/Conservation Committee meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Huntington Woods Library, 26415 Scotia Road, Huntington Woods, MI.

Outings Committee

The Outings Committee meets mid-month in March, June, September and December to schedule outings. For complete details check the ACTIVIST or our website <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/SEMG-OUT.htm>

Schedule of Programs

Thursday, September 9, 2010

This meeting will be held on the 2nd Thursday due to the Labor Day Holiday

NEW MEMBER MEETING "The Geology of Michigan: An Expedition Through Deep Time"

Hosted by John Zawiskie, Geologist & Paleontologist, Cranbrook Institute of Science

Newly released by the Cranbrook Institute of Science, this DVD explores the wondrous geological history of our great state of Michigan. Travel through billions of years of geologic history and discover the processes and events that created and continue to form the Great Lakes and the regions that border these remarkable freshwater seas. Contrary to popular opinion, Michigan is not the flat & boring state some of us think. Case in point is the little known Thunder Bay Island, located about 13 miles offshore from Alpena, a 215 acre hunk of limestone surrounded by azure waters and coral reefs. The water is that of Lake Huron and the fossil corals are from the Middle Devonian period, 385 million years ago when Michigan's Lower Peninsula was below a warm and shallow sea. This 45-minute film is guaranteed to enrich the sense of place for our incredible state. Your next Michigan vacation will take on new meaning as you begin to connect the dots from one geological formation to another. Please join us!

Thursday, October 7, 2010

"Update on America's Red Rock Wilderness Act"

by Clayton Daughenbaugh, Midwest Regional Organizer, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) and Sierra Club National Wildlands Committee Chair

Utah's red rock country is one of our nation's most magnificent wild landscapes, dominated by towering buttes, red sandstone plateaus and deep, winding canyons. Unfortunately, this wonderful land is a great risk from oil & gas exploration and rampant abuse by off-road vehicles, which destroy

Schedule of Programs

vegetation and leave tracks that can last for a generation in the fragile desert ecosystem. The goal of Sierra Club's Utah Wilderness Campaign is to build congressional support for America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, a bill that would give wilderness protection to more than 9 million acres of federal public land in southern Utah, land that belongs to all Americans. Please join us for the latest update on this important legislation with testimony from the local MI Friends of Red Rock

Thursday, November 4, 2010

2010 ANNUAL MEETING: "Climate Change: The Intersection of Science, Economics & Policy"

*by Prof. Richard Rood, Univ of MI, Dept
of Atmospheric, Oceanic & Space Sciences*

If we take a broad look at the observations and projections of warming of the Earth's surface, then we see observations, theory & validation that substantiate the fundamental base of knowledge about the Earth's climate and how it will change. If we look a little closer then we start to see some discrepancies. From the point of view of the scientist, these discrepancies are what guide future investigation. From the point of view of the "politician", these discrepancies provide the foothold on which to base arguments, and indeed, to fuel selective doubt and perhaps even discredit the scientists and the body of knowledge. From the point of view of the informed and interested, the discrepancies are the points of discussion, the seeds of interest and something that needs to be understood. Interested? Please join us for this most informing lecture on climate change!

...our water safety at risk continued from page 1

on board with the other eight communities' Water Departments that have already signed on.

DWSD is the largest supplier among them, serving over 3,000,000 customers. Its share for ongoing funding comes out to almost the entire budget, and customers paying at the rate of 50¢ per year per household of 4 would cover the cost. But as long as Detroit won't get involved it appears that there will not be funds to run the system.

I asked Doug Martz: Why is HEART-MI needed? His response: Sarnia, Ontario, also known as Chemical Valley, is Canada's Houston. There are 74 chemical companies on the Canadian side of the river. From 1986 to 2000 there were over 700 toxic chemical spills into the St. Clair river waterway. And during those 14 years, the Water Departments of

Michigan communities such as Ira and Mt Clemens were never told of Canadian spills. They didn't know they needed to close their inlets, as they should have, perhaps as many as 800 times.

Doug Martz also described the reach and importance of the HEART-MI system. He explained that the St. Clair River-Lake St. Clair Monitoring System has been installed in 13 different Michigan cities from Port Huron to Wyandotte, so it protects the waters of the 90-mile corridor from Lake Huron to Lake Erie. Each city is equipped with advanced technologies to test for hazardous chemicals and other warning signs. If the system detects toxic pollution, the water treatment plants can close off their inlets. And he expects that chemical plants probably won't even make the spills in the first place, for fear of getting caught by the system. The benefits? When we protect drinking water, we protect residents' health, in fact the entire habitat — birds, fish, and other wildlife.

The system could be put to work real time, informing us where communities stand regarding water quality in the Great Lakes basin. Yet, without financial support, the system is going to go down by this fall.

"You can't live without clean water ... It's crazy!"

Doug Martz asks for all Sierra Club folks to help give this a push. Please ask Mayor Bing and the DWSD to step up. Call your county commissioners in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, and Monroe counties.

Questions? Doug invites your contact: Mr. Doug Martz, Chair, Macomb County Water Quality Board channelkeeper@wowway.com 586-764-2443 ☺

Schedule of Programs

Thursday, December 2, 2010

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

hosted by SEMG's Outings Committee

It's that time of the year again, folks...time to party with your brother & sister Sierrans as we wind out 2010! There will be the usual feasting so please bring your most festive dish to pass along with those new and/or gently used items for our silent auction. In addition, those of you willing to do so, please bring 10-15 slides and/or digital images to share with the group from past adventures near and far. A fun time is guaranteed for all and we even make a little money for the group. Happy Holidays! ☺

Sierra Club Royal Oak Office to Close

This August the Royal Oak Sierra Club office will be moving into the same building as our Detroit office where the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program and Environmental Justice program are based, in the old Kresge building. All meetings will be finding new locations, for more information see our web site <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg>

Campaign To Stop Radioactive Waste Shipments in the Great Lakes

By Kay Cumbow,
SEMG Blue Water Conservation Committee

This fall, Bruce Power, operator of the Bruce reactors on Lake Huron near Kincardine, Ontario, plans to ship sixteen 100 metric-ton radioactive steam generators through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway to Stusdvik (Sweden) for processing in its melter. The metals inside these old boilers are contaminated with many radioactive materials, some of which are very long-lived and exceptionally radiotoxic. Stusdvik intends to release up to 90% of this treated metal to global markets for unrestricted use – still contaminated with radionuclides like plutonium, neptunium, cesium 137 and many others –without labels or public consent. This conveniently rids the nuclear industry of the liability and expense of isolating much of these dangerous wastes for an enormous period of time.

International citizen groups are urging authorities to stop these and future shipments to Stusdvik to protect our watersheds and communities for the

long-term. Concerns abound regarding setting critical public policy without input from the affected public. Gordon Edwards, president of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, asks: “Should the nuclear industry be allowed to ship their radioactively contaminated equipment and waste products through important freshwater and marine ecosystems, just to save money on management of nuclear waste materials? Should the nuclear industry be allowed to dump radioactive waste metals in with other scrap metals and call it ‘recycling’? Can the addition of long-lived, man-made radioactive poisons such as plutonium, americium and curium to existing stocks of metals be countenanced as ‘recycling’? We strongly believe the answer to all of these questions should be no. These practices must be nipped in the bud now, to prevent an ever-increasing traffic in radioactive waste shipments and an ever-escalating market in radioactive materials, to be released for unrestricted use to an unaware and unconsenting public.”

The Baltic Sea is reportedly the most

radioactive body of water in the world, and Stusdvik is one of the polluters. Citizens there do not want other countries’ nuclear wastes. Accidents can happen during transport, and processing radioactive waste is a messy affair contaminating people and the environment.

The precautionary principle evolved in the Great Lakes due to effects on health of persistent toxins in our watersheds. Do we want radioactive metals in our housewares, our babies’ cribs? Doesn’t the precautionary principle apply here? Adding radioactive metal to our metal supply is dumping radioactive wastes into global markets as contaminated goods. Radioactive wastes should be isolated from the food chain as long as they remain hazardous to life. Why produce such long-lived, costly and dangerous poisons? To help with this campaign, please check out Nuclear Information and Resource Service’s website at www.nirs.org/ under RADWASTE –“Recycling” or contact Kay Cumbow at kcumbow@greatlakes.net. ☸

Thoughts from Your Chair

By Hal Newman, SEMG Chair



In this year’s prior edition of the Activist, Carol Izant, SEMG Chair 2005-2009, wrote of building the social capital of our Group, and furthering this aim

is part of my vision for our journey together. Starting in early 2006 I have applied myself to environmental activism and found fertile soil within our Group and Chapter. My goals are to welcome more and more of our members into increasing levels of volunteer activism, and to bring in more and more mem-

bers. From my own development and that of other activists I know, it is clear that we feel better about ourselves, our impact on the world and our communities as we learn, work and grow. When we get involved, our knowledge of issues and the opportunities for action skyrocket. Please join us by becoming more involved.

My suggestion is for everyone in our Group to become a better citizen by being an active Sierran By “active” I mean doing more than a member who contributes by only paying their annual dues. How might you get more active? Start small and easy, maybe even go for fun. How about checking out the list of Outings and going on the next one that would be right for you? Our Political Committee is hot this year, how about asking Mitch Mitchell to direct you to

the political campaign of one or more of our endorsed candidates and offer your help? People to walk and drop literature, or knock on doors, especially if they are willing to do so more than once, are invaluable to a candidate. What better way to find out what’s going on with our political scene?

One of our biggest needs this year is for people to staff our food concession at Ford Arts Beats and Eats in Royal Oak (see article on front page). Our newest Executive Committee member Julie Ann Wang is scheduling people in four-hour shifts. At minimum, please plan to stop by and buy a beverage from us — you’ll be supporting your Group! If you still want more options, please check for our committee schedules online, and on page 2 of the ACTIVIST, you will be welcome ☸

OIL SPILL ANGER

By Ed McArdle,
SEMCG Conservation Committee Chair

We all are angry and frustrated at BP for causing the greatest ecological disaster in our nation's history. BP's negligence in their rush for profits has caused the deaths of eleven oil rig workers, countless birds, fish and turtles and the loss of jobs for thousands along the gulf coast. Not widely reported is the fact that methane, which caused the oil rig to explode and sink, is still leaking three to four times as much volume



Ex Com members Gloria Scicli and Ed McArdle

than the oil. What this means at such great depths is that this methane will form methane hydrates that when consumed by bacteria suck up oxygen and therefore create more dead zones. The bacteria then expel carbon dioxide that further acidifies the ocean waters. The oceans are already being acidified and coral and mollusks are in great danger from global warming. Furthermore, the toxic oil dispersants that BP has been spreading may be as damaging to wildlife and humans as the oil itself. This spill could damage the gulf ecosystem for decades if not permanently. So it is certainly appropriate to be angry at BP, at the regulators for not regulating, at previous administrations for setting up

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the regulatory context where something like this could happen. But what should we do now? Are we angry enough to make some serious changes in our laws and personal behavior?

Some call for a boycott of BP gas stations. But BP does not own the great majority of them, and a boycott would just hurt the small business owners that do. Besides, the name brand stations don't always carry that particular gas. The oil is mixed, refined and blended from various sources. And if we switch

there are some easy and fun things we can do. Getting out of our cars and biking, walking and taking the bus can be healthy and invigorating. When we do drive, we can slow down and not idle engines. At over 60 MPH, the fuel use and CO2 emissions rise exponentially. What about lowering state speed limits to save gas and lives? Or raising the state gasoline tax? A recent legislative proposal would impose a gradual increase of .06 - .08 cents per gallon tax so that Michigan would not lose federal matching dollars for road repair. Very likely, after a few days people wouldn't notice the change -- even if the tax was increased to five or six times that amount. With higher revenues, we could fund real mass transit and/or high-speed rail. Rather than spend \$5 billion for a new international bridge, the need of which is in doubt, we could fund a super high-speed bus, light rail, commuter and inter-city rail network for the entire metropolitan region.

Recycling, buying local and organic produce, and eating less meat all contribute to lower carbon emissions and less fuel use.

There are also some unpopular actions that we need to take, such as purchasing more expensive fuel-efficient vehicles. In the longer term, higher demand would lead to lower prices. Even more unpopular is the need to decrease air travel, especially for shorter trips under 300 miles. For these shorter flights takeoffs and landings are the largest users of fuel.

Most importantly, we need to support political candidates that have the gumption to buck the big campaign contributors and counter the hot-button rhetoric from the climate deniers and the anti tax groups. As Sierra Clubbers, we also need to be examples for others and become actively engaged in these issues. If enough people are angry enough to create a movement for change, then the politicians will follow and this oil catastrophe will not be in vain. 🌱

Farmers in the “D”— A New Life for the Land

By Anna Holden, Conservation Committee

Detroit started with ribbon farms along the Detroit River. Manufacturing ultimately replaced agriculture, but historically, in hard times, Detroiters plant gardens to feed their families. Today is no exception. With deindustrialization, depopulation, and proposed downsizing of municipal services in sparsely settled neighborhoods, farming in Detroit is emerging as one of the potential paths to economic recovery.



Community and family gardens are increasing dramatically, with a total of 1,300 expected by year end 2010. Most gardens are small, the largest about three acres. Some are organic; some harvest enough produce to sell to local restaurants and neighborhood farmers' markets— also on the rise. As the roster of abandoned lots lengthens, more land is available that could support larger farms. Developing cooperatives of larger plots is one potential growth option. Another option—large scale commercial farming—is a challenge to the existing network of community based associations and organic growers fostering gardens. Their vision includes healthy and secure food, but also re-establishing a sense of community and empowerment at the grass roots level and attracting young people to

productive activity that can give them a more meaningful place in today's world. Another goal is reducing the high carbon foot print of the global food system.

Leaders in organizations such as Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Greening of Detroit, the Capuchin Earthworks Urban Farm, and similar associations recognize the potential problems of food safety from crops grown on or near old industrial sites. They work with soil recovery and

facilitate soil testing for lead and other contaminants. But there are no comparable protocols to assess the toxicity of plants and no benchmarks for an acceptable level of pollutants.


At the May 17 public hearing on renewal of the Detroit solid waste incinerator's Title V federal air permit, SEMG asked the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (MDNRE) to consider the environmental effects of pollutants on farm and garden produce. "Increased production of food from local sources—which apparently will continue to grow—adds to concerns about the health impact of the incinerator," Anna Holden stated. Holden identified thriving gardens and farms in midtown Detroit, including several close to the incinerator, e.g. the "Yes"

Farm and Farnsworth Community Garden, almost in the shadow of the incinerator and the Earthworks Urban Farm nearby on the East Side. Holden quoted EPA reports on likely damage to plants, vegetation, and the ecology, given the 4.4 million pounds of polluting substances legally emitted from the incinerator in 2008 according to MDNRE's own staff report. The particulates discharged, for instance, deplete nutrients in the soil and damage sensitive farm crops. Dioxin, the most deadly carcinogen known, also emitted, can be absorbed through the roots of plants into their vascular system where it bio accumulates. Nitrogen oxides (Nox) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released in large quantities—combine in the presence of sunlight to form ground level ozone that interferes with the ability of sensitive plants to produce and store food. MDNRE's staff analysis indicates 1,730 tons of NOx and 4 tons of VOCs were discharged in 2008. An organic gardener at the hearing expressed concern about the impact of incinerator pollution on crops she is raising free of pesticides and chemicals.

SEMG asked for a reduction in permitted levels of pollutants discharged, installation of an Ambient Air Quality Monitor station near the facility, more stringent monitoring, and more required stack tests.



Photos of Detroit farms and neighbors in Zip Code 48211 are reprinted here.

For more information see <http://detroitblackfoodsecurity.org>, www.clas.wayne.edu/seedwayne/ and www.ediblecommunities.com. 

Get FIT and RPS for Michigan Jobs

By Frank Zaski

Michigan has a golden opportunity to replace its lost automotive jobs with renewable energy jobs. A U.S. Department of Energy report has indicated Michigan can create more than 30,000 manufacturing jobs in the wind sector alone by 2030. Michigan companies already manufacture some wind energy parts, but we lack one element necessary to attract a big manufacturer.

Michigan has the skilled workers, manufacturing space and transportation infrastructure necessary to attract a major wind turbine Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). Deterring them from investing here is the lack of assurance that the state will prove to be a strong market for wind turbines over the next 15 years.

Michigan's weak Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)¹ enacted in 2008, inaction of our legislature and NIMBY attitudes on the part of some communities show poor support for future wind energy production. Michigan's RPS requires only 10% renewable energy by 2015, and none beyond that. Our starting point was 4% of already existing hydro-energy and landfill gas.

Thirty other states have RPS require-

1 A renewable portfolio standard usually requires that utilities increase their use of renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar power.

ments, most higher than Michigan's. For example, by 2025, Illinois announced that 25% of their electricity would be generated from renewable sources, Wisconsin is planning a 25% increase, and Ohio will increase from 12.5% to 25%. Ontario has a strong Feed-in-Tariff (FIT)² renewable energy requirement that has prompted 187 large scale projects, \$8 billion in investments, and the creation of 16,000 jobs. Just like Michigan, each of these states has an abundance of labor, facilities and infrastructure, but they outshine us with their government mandates.

As of January 2010, Illinois had 1,547 MW of wind power with 539 MW more under construction. Indiana had 1,036 MW with 99 MW under construction. Even though Michigan has far more wind potential than most other states, we have only 143 MW built with 20 MW under construction.

The RPS makes utilities do their part to stimulate clean energy. A FIT encourages other companies to participate

2 A Feed-In-Tariff is designed to encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources and to help accelerate the move toward grid parity by requiring electric grid utilities to buy renewable electricity from all eligible participants. It typically includes three key provisions: 1) guaranteed grid access, 2) long-term contracts for the electricity produced, and 3) purchase prices based on the cost of renewable energy generation.

in that same process. A US Government report concludes a well-designed FIT policy is far more effective and less costly than a RPS.

Without a strong Michigan RPS and/or FIT in operation soon, it is doubtful that any major wind turbine OEM will seriously consider locating here. Experts say the wind industry will "crystallize" in only a few years.

Michigan will probably continue to produce turbine and tower parts, but once OEMs are established in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Ontario, completed wind turbines and towers can be economically floated to Michigan sites. They are only a few hours boat-ride away. Why should any major OEM duplicate their facilities in Michigan?

Bills have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature, requiring a RPS of up to 30% by 2025, and also a FIT program. A Clean Energy bill requiring a national RPS is under debate in the US Senate. It is essential that we contact our legislators and encourage them to pass strong renewable energy legislation. Michigan has no time to waste or we will lose countless jobs to other states. We are already the underdog. Michigan needs a strong RPS and/or FIT now. ⚙️

US Social Forum: March for Clean Air

The US Social Forum's "Clean Air, Green Jobs & Justice" march, June 26, attracted 1,000 activists from the US, Canada, Central American and other countries. Numerous organizations including Zero Waste Detroit, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), and Sierra Club rallied to protest burning trash in the privately owned Detroit Incinerator. The demonstration demanded Mayor Bing promote recycling and initiate an alternative waste recovery system to protect health and support economic development. The march was supported by United Auto Workers and the Michigan Teamsters Unions. ⚙️



Rhonda Anderson speaks on environmental justice issues in Detroit's 48217 zip code area.



Close to 1000 people from all across the nation joined in solidarity to stand against air pollution

6th Annual Sierra Club Green Cruise – Saturday August 14

Please join us as we celebrate the many forms of human powered transportation like walking, bicycling, running, hiking, skateboarding, and rollerblading, that help keep you, your community and our planet healthy!

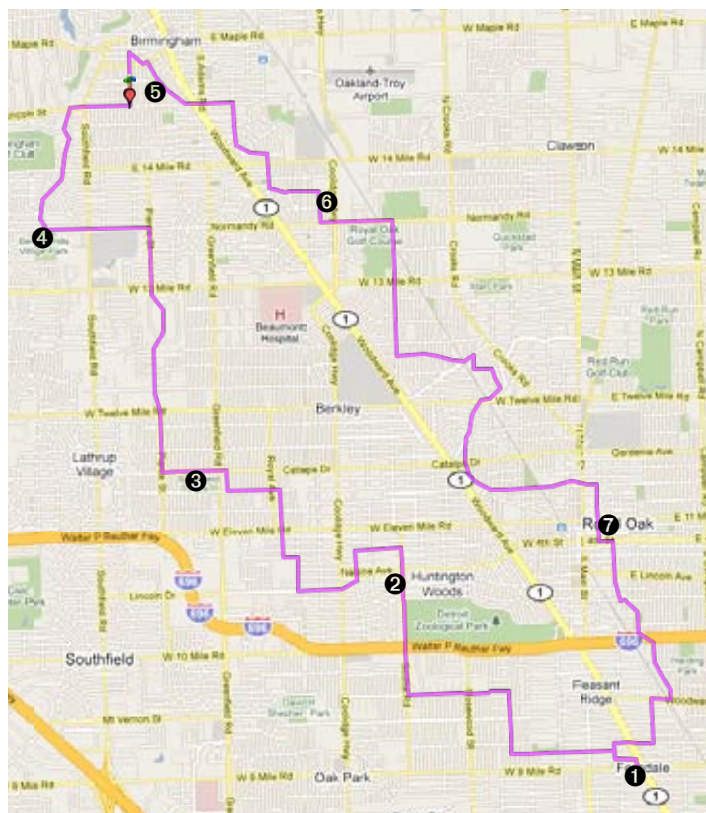
The Green Cruise takes place in downtown Ferndale and is a wonderful way for the community to get together on a special day to “Be a Solution to Stop Pollution.” We will be in the “Green Alley” at the corner of Planavon and Withington streets, west of Woodward and north of 9 Mile Rd.

Two different length bike rides begin the day at 8 and 9am, followed by the Green Parade along 9 Mile Road at 11am. It is all human-powered (dogs welcome) and we strongly encourage all parade participants to go “green-crazy” with their floats and outfits!

The Green Alley also offers many other events from 10am to 3pm. Back by popular demand are the giant rock climbing tower and the skateboarders and roller bladers demonstrating some wild stunts! We have added several green-friendly activities for the kids including “art from scraps” projects, face painting and the “Green Cruise Mural Project—Care For The Earth Footprint,” where children can learn about reducing their carbon footprint, as they paint their own footprint on our giant mural. The food area has been expanded to offer more free healthy snacks and beverages; and tents are provided for rain and sun protection. Let’s not forget everyone’s favorite — getting a free chair massage! Once again there will be free bicycle check-ups provided by several local bike shops and a free valet bicycle corral to lock up your bicycle. The Green Alley also has an area for environmentally conscious businesses to display and discuss their services and products.

And finally, no real “green” event can be complete without green-friendly community groups sharing information about how we can all help protect our environment!

We hope to see you on the 14th and in the meantime we encourage you to take the Green Cruise Pledge: “In an effort to be a solution to stop pollution — I promise to ride my bike and/or walk, rollerblade, skateboard, hike, run, or use other forms of human-powered transit at least once a week.”



Join us for our 23 mile progressive ride.

- 1 8am the ride starts at the Green Alley in Ferndale
- 2 8:20am Huntington Woods Recreation Center
- 3 8:40am Catalpa Oaks park, Southfield
- 4 9am Beverly Hills Village Park, Beverly Hills
- 5 9:20am Barnum Park at Pierce and Frank, Birmingham
- 6 9:40am Upton Park at Nakota and Manakto, Royal Oak
- 7 10am Royal Oak Farmers Market
- 1 10:20am ride ends at the Green Alley

All times are approximate. There will be fast and slow groups, and a sag waggon will be provided. Helmets and signed waivers are required, rider’s must obey all traffic laws, riders under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. www.bikely.com/maps/bike-path/Green-Cruise-22-mile-ride

- **8am – 23 mile Progressive Bike Ride** see box on right
- **9am – 5 mile Family Bike Ride** in and around Ferndale
- **11am – Parade** join as we celebrate green forms of transit with a ½ mile parade Dress Up in Costumes – Decorate Your Bike – Be Creative – Have Fun! Gather in the green alley at 10:30 to be in the parade
- **10am – 3pm, Green Alley** – free healthy food & refreshments, free massages, eco-friendly business and community groups gather to share and educate
- **10am – 3pm, Children’s area** – Crafts from Scraps – Face Painting – Sidewalk Chalk – Plus More!
- **10am – 3pm, Climbing Tower** test your skills on the 25' climbing tower
- **10am – 3pm, Bike Corral** store your bike in our secure area
- **10am – 3pm, Skateboarders & BMXers** perform demos and tricks

Volunteers are needed, to help at the Green Cruise

If you, your organization or your business would like to be a sponsor or vendor at the Green Cruise or participate in the Green Parade, please contact the Green Cruise Committee at: 248-549-6213 ext 3 or e-mail green_cruise@michigan.sierraclub.org. Follow us on Facebook or visit www.sierraclub.org/greencruise. See you Saturday August 14th in Downtown Ferndale! 🌱

Humbug Marsh: Ours to Appreciate

By Joanne Cantoni.

SEMG Outings Coordinator

Despite threats of rain, over two dozen Sierra Club members and friends met at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge for a fascinating tour of the last bit of natural shoreline on the US side of the Detroit River which coincided with the Marsh April 24 open house.

Humbug Marsh, as the toured part of the Refuge is known, comprises 410 acres of unique fish and wildlife habitats near Gibraltar and Trenton. This land had been previously targeted by a real estate developer for a strip mall, marina, golf course and/or housing, but action by concerned citizens and environmental groups, coupled with a difficult economic environment, saved it. In 2004, US Fish and Wildlife Service bought the property. Now, the area remains the permanent address for 51 species of fish, 90 species of plants, 154 species of birds, seven species of reptiles and amphibians, and 37 species of dragonflies and damselflies¹.



When I first visited the marsh 3 or 4 years ago, there was not much to recommend it. There were no trails, the brownfield looked like a trashed urban meadow, you could not get near the waterfront, and the few worn pathways – no doubt originally animal tracks – did not permit an appreciation of the site. Several groups helped with surveying the property and suggesting

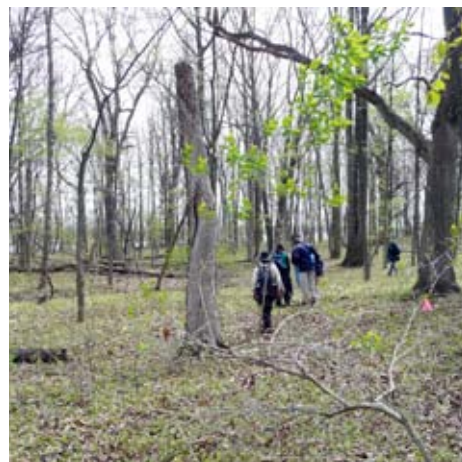
¹ Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment).



how best to preserve it while making it educational and enjoyable to the public.

Our introduction to the Marsh was by Dr. John Hartig, the Refuge manager, who stood near the entrance on W. Jefferson with industrial development to the east as a backdrop. He described the efforts to reclaim the brownfield: instead of the unsightly, flat barren patch, we were greeted by a gently contoured landscape with a pond and plantings. Dr. Hartig explained that the contours forming the wetland would slow outflow from a nearby creek and allow it to seep gradually to the river's edge, with the plantings helping to absorb excess water and to sieve out some of the pollutants.

A survey of the site had shown which parts could endure heavier usage by visitors and trails were installed in a figure 8 that took us through woods, meadows and near the riverfront.



all photos by Joanne Cantoni

Some sections, while looking quite ordinary to the untrained eye, were actually examples of rare habitat: one was river upland woods dominated by oaks, hickory and tulip trees in the upper story and dogwood, honeysuckle and hawthorn below. Along the way, we witnessed the destruction by the emerald ash borer: many dead trees with bark falling away in large chunks. At the riverside observation deck, we looked to Humbug Island a short distance away and Windsor, Ontario, further in the background. Ducks and geese patrolled the mid-distance. An open-sided education shelter was visible from the trail; here students could learn about the ecology of the marsh while sheltered from rain and sun. An educational kiosk offered colorful maps and diagrams designed to show the connection of the marsh to other elements in the wider ecological community.



As is often the case with a large group in the woods, we did not see much fauna beyond glimpses of far-away fowl. Our closest encounter was a garter snake out for a mid-day slither, temporarily captured in a meadow for examination by the youngsters in the group. Nonetheless, with no rain, flora in abundance, educational content by Dr. Hartig and our own Phil Crookshank, and a chance to see the new refuge first-hand, I rate the outing — and the new refuge — a huge success. 🌱

Landscaping in north Oakland country with birds on my mind

By Jean Gramlich, SEMG Secretary

April was the cruelest month. Average high temperatures were 8 degrees above normal, and lows were more than 4 degrees above average. In response to the warm weather, trees and shrubs leafed out early and then got hit with a few freezing nights that turned the leaves black in some species. Much of May was cold and rainy, and the soil temperature was too low to add many summer plants even with the use of wall o' water, a device for creating a warm microclimate. So the spring gave data to support their point of view to both global warming believers and skeptics.

In my overall landscaping plan, I have endeavored to please my aesthetic sense and create a habitat for birds. Each plant chosen fulfills one or the other of these goals, often both. I am particularly enamored of leaves, their shape, their texture, and their color and I even give trees nicknames. Favorite trees include a purple weeping fountain beech (Dancing Lady because her

leaves dance in the wind), a tri-colored beech (Painted Lady), a Cherokee Sunset dogwood with yellow and pink leaves (Fancy Pants), a white pine with golden new growth (Golden Girl), a crimson maple (Big Red), and an Arizona Blue concolor fir. A recent acquisition is a bleeding heart featuring blue lacy foliage with a lovely crimson flower outlined in white.

Many of the plants are chosen because they give food and shelter to the birds. A slope that is difficult to maintain has been planted in mixed conifers including hemlock, spruce and fir. In winter this grove will provide wonderful shelter as well as nesting places in spring. An area I call "the jungle" was overgrown with both natives and invasives like autumn olive, buckthorn and multi-flora rose (a giant with thorns like knives). I took out all the invasives (though the battle continues) as well as the boxelders ("trash" trees that grow everywhere around here) and planted some native hawthorns, a dogwood and a redbud

I got from the Oakland Conservation District. I also found mulberry trees growing under my deck and transplanted them - little did I know those little trees had taproots twice as long as the height of the tree. I have planted many species of viburnum that bloom in sequence throughout the spring and produce berries for the birds in fall and winter. By happy coincidence bushes next to each other produce blue and red berries. Aronia is a suckering shrub with berries for the birds and bright red fall color for the aesthete; wild cherry and serviceberry serve both purposes as well. I love to follow the sequence of bloom times in the wild keeping native pollinators busy all season long. The show starts with witch hazel and pussy willow in mid-March and continues with serviceberry and carnelian dogwood, spicebush, locust and elderberry. A late season bloomer is aralia that attracts so many native pollinators with its sweet fragrance that the bush itself seems to sing. 🌸

News from Blue Water, St. Clair County

By Kay Cumbow, SEMG Blue Water Conservation Committee Chair

Blue Water Sierra Club is a two-year old St. Clair County conservation committee of the South East Michigan Group. In April, we took part in Earth Day events at Goodells Park, and also participated in a Green Tour of St. Clair County Community College. Instructors Bob Hunckler and Don Reuba showed off the college's solar displays, wind turbines, and a beautiful, utilitarian green roof. We toured the college's workshops to see students hard at work on the current crop of green energy projects.

Also in April, artist Jodie Sanderson attended our meeting and volunteered to paint a rain barrel in a community art contest designed to popularize the use of rain barrels in St. Clair County. The contest was organized by Studio 1219 and the Conservation And

Restoration Network (C.A.R.N.) to encourage St. Clair County residents to purchase rain barrels so as to diminish runoff and pollutants to storm



drains and conserve rainwater for gardens and yards. Surprisingly, storm water is the most common pollutant to fresh water resources, as we have paved over many urban surfaces and lost a great amount of wetlands that absorb rainwater.

Jodie's barrel won second place and garnered a whole lot of P.R. for the Sierra Club in St. Clair County, as the barrels stayed on display throughout May and June!

Our next regular meeting is 7 p.m., September 28th at the Acheson Community Resource Center at 514 McMorrin Blvd. Port Huron. Our summer outings will be listed on the SEMG website. Blue Water Sierra Club will also participate in the Green Gathering at Pine Grove Park, Port Huron, Saturday, August 14th from noon to six p.m. We look forward to seeing you! 🌸

“Beyond Coal” Campaign – Good News!

By Tiffany Hartung,
Sierra Club “No coal” campaign staff

This past May proved to be quite a month for clean energy in Michigan! All in one week, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative was denied its air permit for a new coal plant in Rogers City and CMS Energy/Consumers Energy deferred its plans for a new coal plant near Bay City.

Thousands of Michigan residents across the state said NO to new coal plants. They have signed petitions, written letters to the editor, attended public hearings and submitted public comments time and time again. Thanks to all of you for helping make these victories happen — your commitment

ernor Granholm, who also remarked it will protect hundreds of thousands of Michigan homeowners, businesses, and farmers from paying a whopping increase in their electric bills to finance the new coal plant.

Such increases would have placed Wolverine customers’ bills up among the highest in the nation.

CMS Energy suspended its plans for a new coal plant stating that it is not needed and is too

expensive for ratepayers, exactly the reasoning our Clean Energy Now! coalition has been putting forward for years. At the CMS Energy annual shareholders’ meeting on May 21st, the coalition delivered 8,000 Michigan petition signatures collected by Sierra

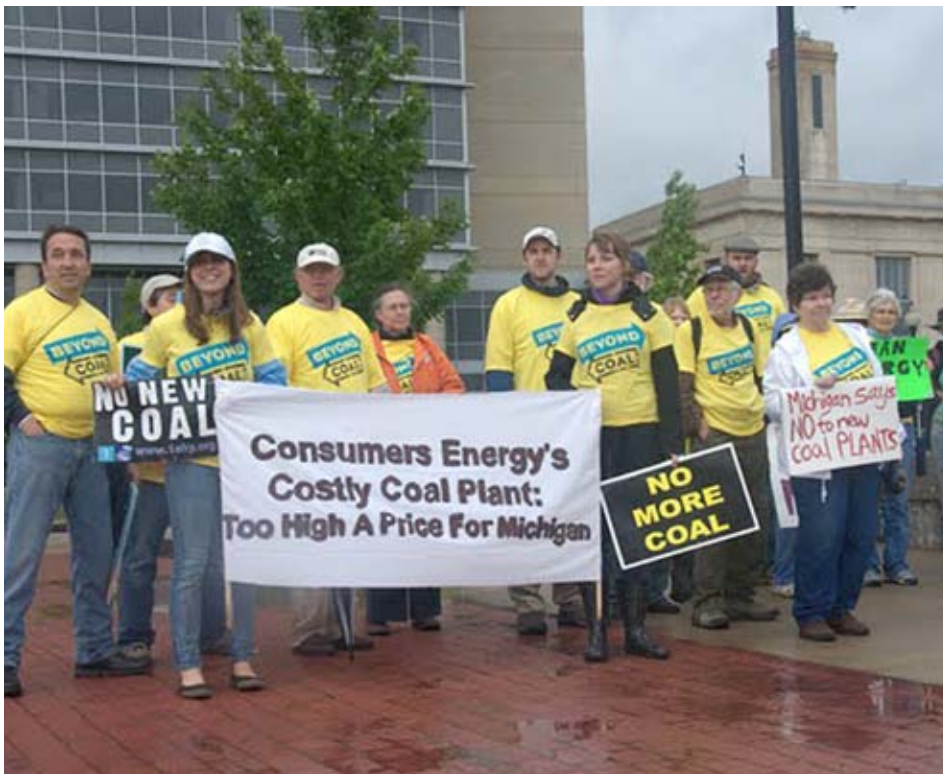
about the financial risk of investing in a new coal plant, and why CMS wasn’t investing in the lower cost options of energy efficiency and clean energy.

Two CMS Energy shareholders’ resolutions placed on the Annual Meeting proxy by investors asked the company to make commitments to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and disclose risks associated with toxic coal ash waste. These two resolutions received record-high votes at the meeting.

The suspension of the Consumers Energy’s coal plant and the decision to deny a Clean Air permit to the Wolverine proposal in Rogers City provide an opportunity to move forward. Michigan has rejected coal plants we don’t want or need. Now, our state must seize this moment, not by extending the life of old dirty coal plants, but by promoting more investments in energy efficiency and renewable sources of power. That will open the door to thousands of clean energy jobs and a strong future for our region.

To get involved with the MI Beyond Coal Campaign, contact Tiffany Hartung at tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org or online at www.sierraclub.org/coal/mi/. You can follow us on Facebook (search for Clean Energy Now group) or on Twitter at [BeyondCoalMI](https://twitter.com/BeyondCoalMI). ☀

Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative was denied its air permit for a new coal plant in Rogers City and CMS Energy/Consumers Energy deferred its plans for a new coal plant near Bay City.



has paid off and Michigan has taken another step on the way to a clean energy future!

The denial of the permit to the proposed Wolverine coal plant by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment was announced by Gov-

ernor Granholm, who also remarked it will protect hundreds of thousands of Michigan homeowners, businesses, and farmers from paying a whopping increase in their electric bills to finance the new coal plant.

We rallied outside the CMS Energy headquarters in Jackson, MI, while three Sierra Club shareholders who attended the meeting delivered the petitions. They also asked questions

Save! Save! Save!

By receiving your Activist electronically

Save SEMG printing costs.

Save SEMG mailing costs.

Save a few trees.

You can now receive your copy of the Activist in color by downloading it from the SEMG website:

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/SEMG-Newsletter.htm>.

Just send your name, address and e-mail address to semg.activist@gmail.com and we will send you a notice to download the new Activist from our website.

Your participation is appreciated.

A Winning Strategy — Do One Thing!

By Mitch Mitchell,
SEMG Political Committee Chair

You heard it here last: these are tough economic times. Families and individuals are hurting. At these junctures charities typically see a drop in donations and membership. The Sierra Club is not exempt from the hardship. When it comes to putting food on the table, environmental issues often take a back seat in the family budget. As it affects the Sierra Club, it affects the world we live in. As it affects the Political Committee, it affects the representation that will protect the health and beauty of our great state of Michigan.

Given our limited means, how are we going to make a difference in this political season, when the decision will be made about which direction the state will take when it comes to guarding our natural resources, developing alternative fuel sources, ensuring that unscrupulous corporations do not slowly poison our children, and creating thousands of jobs? There are some who are very cynical about what we Sierra Club folks can do this year. I am not one of those people. I believe that we have an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss. I believe that, even without the funds that we received in other years from our National office, our Sierra Club members can make a difference. We have strength in our membership, a grass root power that comes from having truth on our side and the love of nature in our hearts.

The SEMG Political has a strategy in this year's elections. Much like in 2008 when we were immensely successful, we have honed our goals to maximize the full potential of limited resources. Normally this types of "behind closed doors" strategies are not made public. But this year, since we need your help so much, I'm going to spill the beans of my Committee. In return, I'm challenging every member who reads this to decide to do at least ONE thing this year to help a Sierra Club endorsed candidate. One thing: contact a cam-

paign and do ONE thing to help that deserving candidate win. Offer to make phone calls for ONE night. Or volunteer to walk door-to-door in a District not your own for ONE afternoon. Can you type? You could enter data into a computer ONE night at a campaign headquarters. ONE evening of stuffing envelopes for one of our endorsed candidates can make a difference. And if you really want your few remaining dollars to go further, a check to one of the Sierra Club candidates will help put this state on the right path to becoming a better place for you to live, work and raise your family. Here's how we are going to do it:

1) State Senate It is no secret to anyone paying attention that most Sierra Club's initiatives are being held up in a state Senate whose majority is anti-environment. This must change; it is our top priority. Fortunately we have two things going our way. First, Majority Leader Mike Bishop, the #1 roadblock in the Senate, is term-limited and cannot be back in 2011. Second, almost all Senate seats are up for election, giving us an opportunity to get our people in. Of course, we also have to protect what we already have. In the SEMG area, that would be Senator Glenn Anderson of Westland. We must help him stay in office. Contact him at www.andersonforsenate.com and do ONE thing to help him. Next we must get at least one new Senator in our area elected that believes in our cause. We have targeted Senate District #7 and have endorsed Kathy Law of Gibraltar. We loved her in the House; we'll love her in the Senate. Contact her at www.kathleenlawforsenate.com and do ONE thing to help her get elected. If every Group in the Michigan Chapter has this same strategy, our Legislative staff will have bills flying through the Senate instead of being stonewalled.

2) State House Protect vulnerable seats. Don't think for a minute that the anti-environment forces are not

making their deviant plans to take back the seats the Sierra Club carried in 2008. We helped many fresh faces win elections in the House and now we must keep them there. A second term is often when a lawmaker can actually move things along – after having gotten his or her feet wet and acquired some seniority. Sierra Club endorses Rep. Sarah Roberts (St. Clair Shores), Rep. Tim Bledsoe (Grosse Pointe) and Rep. Lisa Brown (W. Bloomfield) are outstanding environmental leaders and need to be reelected. And I would like to draw your attention to two Representatives who really could use the old Sierra Club boost. Rep Vicki Barnett (Farmington Hills) www.electvickibarnett.com and Jennifer Haase (N. Macomb County) www.repjenniferhaase.com. Please contact them and do ONE thing to help them win.

3) Oakland County Commission Elect an environmental majority. In 2008 the Sierra Club suffered a defeat in this body. While our strategy of winning one seat worked, we also lost a seat. That meant that the anti-environmental forces still control the Commission. Worse yet, from the seat that we lost came a resolution that exempted Oakland County from a law protecting Michigan water. As of the print deadline, we have not endorsed a candidate to take back that seat... but we will. In the meantime, there are two vulnerable seats that we need to protect. Contact Tim Burns (Clawson) www.timothyburns.org and Steven Schwartz (Farmington Hills) e-mail steven@shslawyers.com and do ONE thing to help them win their seats for another 2 years.

SEMG has about 4,000 members. Despite not matching the corporate dollars that the anti-environment candidates receive, we can make a difference with our grass roots efforts. This strategy does not mean that we should not support ALL Sierra Club endorsed candidates. The Political Committee is

continued on next page

dedicated to seeing that all our people win. It's just that this year we need a little more help from you. If everyone does just ONE thing, we will be successful. The days of thinking "I'll let someone else do it" or "I won't know what to do" are over. It all starts when you contact one of these campaigns. It may turn out to be the most rewarding thing you have ever done. And if you are unable to help, a small donation to

SEMG's primary endorsements

(confirmed by the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter)

Senate

1	D	William Isaac Robinson
8	D	Hoon-Yung Hopgood
9	D	Steven Bieda
10	D	Paul Gielegem
12	D	Casandra Ulbrich
13	D	Roi Chinn
14	D	David Coulter

any of these campaigns means so much — and let them know you are a Sierra Club member. If you can't decide whom to support, contact me, email treehuggermitch@yahoo.com and I'll let you know where you can do the most good. Your SEMG Political Committee is

House of Representatives

1	D	Tim Bledsoe
12	D	Rashida Tlaib
14	D	Brittany Guerriero
21	D	Dian Slavens
23	D	Deb Kennedy
24	D	Sarah Roberts
27	D	Ellen Cogen Lipton
32	D	Jennifer Haase
34	D	Woodrow Stanley
35	D	Rudolph Hobbs
37	D	Vicki Barnett
39	D	Lisa Brown

working extra hard this year with very little financial support, for our membership to have the environmental leadership they deserve. Won't you help us?

For a complete listing go to our state site <http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/politics/articles/2010PrimaryEndorsements.html> 🌱

County Commission

3	D	W	Martha Scott
5	D	W	Ilona Varga
6	D	W	Irma Clark-Coleman
16	D	O	Kathy Hagopian
23	D	O	Sandra Hunt
15	D	O	Craig Covey
1	D	M	Toni Mocerri
4	D	M	David Flynn
6	R	M	Theresa Toia
3	D	M	Brian Brdak
13	D	M	Carey Torrice

D = Democrat R = Republican W = Wayne O = Oakland M = Macomb

After Death Home Care

Caring for your loved one at home in the hours or days after death

By Merylynne Rusby¹

You may have heard of home funeral. I prefer to call it home visitation. It means caring for your own dead instead of the body going to the funeral home. It allows for visitation in your home without having to embalm the body, something that many of us wish to avoid

In the old days, when someone had died a neighbor, a relative, or the local midwife would come over and help wash and dress and place the body in the front parlor. Family and friends would gather, bring food and visit. Then everyone would go to the local cemetery for the burial. All this occurred within two days of the death.

¹ Merylynne Rusby is a nurse and midwife with 25 years professional experience who educates and consults about natural death care options, including home funeral and green burial. (www.AfterDeathHomeCare.com) The ACTIVIST will run an article on Green Burials in its next issue.

Embalming dates to the Civil War. Over the years we lost the art of caring for our own dead as we gave the job over to someone else. It became a status symbol to have a big, fancy, expensive funeral parlor funeral instead. Removing death care from the home is thought by some to make the whole process easier to deal with. This may be true in some ways, but what is lost?

Like the home birth movement brought about by baby boomers, there is a movement to bring death care back home and make it more natural. Caring for your own dead is simple and inexpensive, and it can be a very healing experience. Lovingly tending to the body through washing and dressing can bring about healing and provide time for understanding. It doesn't appeal to everyone, but for those who want to do it, it is possible.

The common misperception is that it is illegal, or that embalming is required. Neither is true. Funeral homes

require embalming for public viewing, just for aesthetic reasons. Current Michigan state law requires only for a funeral director to sign the death certificate (in addition to a doctor) and supervise the final disposition (crematory or cemetery).

If you wish to be cared for at home after you die, clearly explain this to your next of kin who will legally responsible. Prepare your family and close friends ahead of time and choose who you want to wash your body. Find a cooperative funeral director ahead of time. Not all funeral directors are sympathetic to home care.

Support is available by contacting After Death Home Care. It can be very helpful to have someone to call for guidance. Home death care is a profoundly moving way to celebrate the life of a loved one. If you think you want it, talk it over. Don't wait. 🌱

OUTINGS

August

8/1 Wolcott Mill MetroPark Hike.

10am. A moderately-paced, 5 m hike in this historic MetroPark, taking the various winding paths through the woods and overlooking the river. We may cross the Clinton River over the boy scout bridge and continue our loop on some of the equestrian trails. Bring a picnic lunch, if you would like to enjoy the grounds and visit the mill museum after the hike. Meet in Sterling Heights at Metro-Pkway (16 Mile Rd) and Van Dyke, (SE east corner) in the Meijer's parking lot directly behind the Comerica bank. Jo Ellen, 586-431-3104.

8/7 Bicycle to Cranbrook. 9:30am.

Meet at the leader's house in Berkley, and bike via shady residential streets to Cranbrook and back - approx. 20 m round trip. We will stop for a little sight-seeing at Cranbrook. Bring your helmet, water, snack and basic bike repair kit. Meet at Cindy's house, 3992 Kenmore, (2 blocks N of 12 mile Rd, 1 block W. of Coolidge) Berkley, 48012. Cindy; 248-336-2984.

8/8 Maybury State Park Wildflower Walk. 11:30am.

We'll look for summer wildflowers and learn some elements of plant ID as we walk about 3 m, leisurely pace, stopping to practice our skills. Some hills, woods and open terrain. Bring field guides, magnifiers, camera; picnic lunch and drink for

after the hike - at the park. Meet at the park concession building, Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1-1/2 m W of Beck Rd. (and Northville); 5 m W of I-275. Joanne, 248-932-5370.

8/14 GREEN CRUISE in downtown Ferndale. 8am—3pm. Keep this date open for the environmentalist equivalent of the "Dream Cruise." Celebrate your outdoor enthusiasm by joining in the bike ride, walk, run and FUN on 9 mile road and Woodward. See page 8 for details

8/15 Lake Erie Metropark Lotus Hike. Noon.

The American Lotus has made a remarkable comeback in the Lake Erie Bay of this Metropark. A 5 m hike on the shores of Lake Erie, going at a moderate pace, and tour of the wetlands and bays that hold a treasure trove of wildflowers - especially the lotus in bloom. Then, inland to hike the nature trails, visit the nature center and return to the water near the boat launch. Bring a picnic lunch, drink and cameras. Meet at Noon in Flat Rock behind the Rite Aide on Telegraph and Gibraltar Road. Or meet at 12:30 at Lake Erie Metropark Nature Center. Mary Slumpff, 734-558-8797.

8/21 Indian Springs Metropark Hike. 10am.

Get out of town (to avoid the Dream Cruise), and enjoy a 5 m hike at a moderate pace on the nature trails, spending some time in the very interesting nature center. R. Meet in

Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (E side) N of Square Lake Rd. Cindy Gunnip, 248-336-2984.

8/22 Canoe Proud Lake to Milford.

9am. A fun day paddling downstream from the livery to downtown Milford park, eating our picnic lunch there, walking later to the ice cream shop, then paddling back to the livery. Must call leader by 8/15 to reserve canoes, \$19 each. Bring lunch, drink, canoe supplies and meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Inge, 248-338-0906.

8/28 Morning Hike at Maybury State Park. 9am.

A moderately paced 3 m hike through some of the less traveled trails in this lovely rolling park, site of the former TB Sanitarium and the rebirth of the living farm. We may get lucky and see bluebirds at one of the many monitored nest boxes in the area, or just enjoy the abundant wildflowers in the fields and woods. Trip goes rain or shine. **R.** Meet at 9am at the Concession building at the S end of the first parking lot off the main entrance on Eight Mile Rd., 1.5 miles E of Beck Rd. Joanne, 248-932-5370

September

39/3-4-5-6 Arts, Beats & Eats Fund-raiser. Royal Oak (see announcement on front page).

9/3-12. Backpack Isle Royale. Sorry, trip is full! Contact leader for wait list. Ten days, backpack adventure in Isle Royale National Park, Michigan. This is an island without roads, where the moose and the wolves live in a natural balance with each other. It is one

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. Participants must sign a Sierra club waiver; preview it at

<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp>. All outings leave the meeting place at the noted time.

All trips begin at the trail head. Call trip leader for more details, and dress accordingly for weather and ground conditions.

Outings codes: [C] Conservation; [E] educational; [R] - Restaurant Stop;

[T] Trail Work; and [W] - Weather permitting, call if questionable.

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

of Michigan's most pristine settings, with 165 m of hiking trails. Michigan's best wilderness experience, to remember forever. For details contact Ewa Roszczenko: ewarosz@yahoo.com

9/12 Proud Lake Hike. 11am. A 5 mi hike at a moderate to brisk pace in this level, wooded park along the Huron River. Bring water & boots; hike goes rain or shine. Interesting marsh, bogs, climax forest, pine forest and Huron River views as summer ebbs. Optional restaurant stop after. From I-96 exit 159, follow Wixom Rd. N. 7 miles; use parking lot beyond ranger station. Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782



9/18 Stony Creek MetroPark Hike. 10:30am. A 6 mi moderately-paced hike on the trails in scenic, rolling woods with stops for items of natural interest. Optional "bail out" at 4 m as we pass the parking lot and head for the last loop. R. Meet in the Park Nature Center by 10:30am (come a few minutes early to enjoy the displays). Q. Bonnie, 248-589-2251.

9/19 Independence Oaks Hike. 11am. This Oakland Co. park is the site of great hiking – hilly, wooded trails with a possible beaver spotting if we take the lake-front segment. A 5-6 mi hike at moderate-to brisk pace, enjoying the beautiful woods and small meadows. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (E side) N of Square Lake Rd. R. Inge, 248-338-0906.

9/26 Sterling Marsh Trail Hike. Noon. Hike 5-6 miles, moderate pace, around a lagoon with 11 interpretive stations & shelters with spotting scopes to view waterfowl and birds. The trail has an observation tower for viewing the entire 320 acre restored Great Lakes marsh. Hike light rain or shine. Bring water & snack; also binoculars & bird guides, if you have them. Need state park sticker. Meet in Flat Rock behind the Rite Aid on Telegraph and Gibraltar road. Mary Slumpff, 734-558-8797

October

10/3 Bald Mountain N. Hike. 1pm. Let's use this cool fall day to do all three loops at a moderate pace. Woods, hills, lakes, meadows, all rolled into a 7-m hike, with a few rest stops. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the SE corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (NE end of lot). R. Cindy, 248-336-2984.

10/9 Polly Ann Trail Bike Ride. 1pm. Ride about 25 m total (10-13 mph) on a mostly-paved, level, sunny, rails-to-trails trail. Bring your helmet, water, snack and basic bike repair kit. Mid-trip rest stop to eat our snack before returning. Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (NE end of lot). R. Q. Joanne, 248-932-5370.

10/10 Brighton Recreation Area Hike. Noon. A 6 mi moderate pace hike, including the most scenic stretch. See the greens of the oaks, maples and elms turning to red, bronze and yellow, as we stop on the vistas for a long look and rest stop. Wear good boots for the hilly trails, bring water and trail snack. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, SE corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S of the Marathon station. .R. stop after. Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214.

10/17 Heritage Park Hike. Noon. The hills of Heritage will be dramatic as the various trees turn to their fall colors. We will take all the loop trails

to make this a 4-mile hike. The steep hills overlooking the floodplain of the Rouge River will challenge your legs and lungs, but the view is worth it. Meet in Farmington Hills Heritage Park in the visitor center lot. Turn west off of Farmington Rd. (between 10 and 11 Mile) and left at 1st road. Restaurant stop after. Inge, 248-338-0906

10/23 Bald Mountain-S. State Park Hike. 10:30am. Hike 5 moderately-paced miles over wooded, rolling terrain, enjoying Fall's beauty. Wear bright colors - hunters may be afoot. Sturdy shoes suggested for rocky sections/roots. Meet in G's Pizza parking lot, NE corner of Greenshield & Lapeer Roads (3 miles north of the M-24 / Lapeer exit from I-75), eastern-most corner, using the Greenshield Road driveway. Optional restaurant stop after (at - you got it! G's Pizza!). C. Bonnie, 248-589-2251

10/24 Kensington Metro Park Hike. 11am. A fall hike full of color as the thick forest trees are changing their looks. Moderate hike of about 4-mi on the nature trails including the boardwalk around Wildwing Lake over leaf-covered trails watching for the resident deer, remaining waterfowl and osprey. Trip goes rain or shine, dress in layers; park entrance fee. Meet at Kensington nature center parking lot. I-96 Exit 151. R.. Tom Griebel, 248-349-8782.



Please be sure to check the SEMG website for updates, corrections, and additions to this list.

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/semg/SEMG-OUT.htm>



Sierra Club

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

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2010 Sierra Club
Green Cruise
Be a Solution to Stop Pollution
Saturday, August 14
9 Mile west of Woodward in Ferndale

- 8am, 23 mile progressive ride
- 9am, 5 mile family ride
- 11am, Green Celebration Parade
- 10am–3pm, Children’s Crafts & Climbing Tower, Free Healthy Food, Educational & Vendor Booths

Vendors, Volunteers and Participants:
Please contact the Green Cruise Committee at greencruise@michigan.sierraclub.org, call us at 248-549-6213 ext 3, and/or check the Green Cruise on Facebook, and at www.sierraclub.org/greencruise.