

## From Detroit to Yosemite

By Garrett Dempsey, *Inspiring Connections Outdoors, (ICO) Gear Coordinator*

This summer three teens from Northwest Detroit journeyed to Yosemite National Park with the SEMG Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) committee, creating something that is quite rare in that park: a communion with fellow Detroiters and National Park Service Ranger Shelton Johnson. Ranger Johnson, a graduate of Cass Tech and the University of Michigan, has worked in Yosemite for twenty years; he meets people from all over the world on a daily basis. It is quite rare however for him to run into people from his hometown, let alone from his same neighborhood!

The teens on the trip are competitive squash players from a partner organization of our SEMG ICO: Racquet Up Detroit. We applied and were awarded a scholarship from the Sierra Club San Francisco Office to participate in a National Service Outing. We joined a group of volunteers from across the country and Australia, for a week of service in the spectacular



Zion takes a short break from trail maintenance work at Glacier Point with Half Dome over his shoulder

Yosemite Valley. The guys represented Detroit in excellent fashion. In fact, the other volunteers, most of them adults, agreed that these young men made the trip very special for the

entire service group.

This was a momentous trip for our  
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### Help support ICO — enroll in Kroger Community Rewards!

Enrolling for the first time or re-enrolling, all participants must re-enroll after April 1st each year.

Enrolling in Kroger Rewards Program is easy, costs nothing and helps the Inspiring Connections Outdoors Program (ICO)! Simply go to <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com>

Click on Michigan and enroll, then enter our SEMG number: 82409 ("The Sierra Club Foundation" will appear next to the number)

Your Executive Committee has designated these funds for our (ICO). Would you like to help out with our (ICO) Program—Contact Lydia White, [Lydwhilte@gmail.com](mailto:Lydwhilte@gmail.com)

**Thank You to our Kroger Community Rewards Participants!**

## 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.

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## Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group (Semg) Activities:

### SEMGE Conservation Committee

Third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Beyond Coal office, Suite C, 2550 Hilton, Ferndale, MI. Contact: Ed McArdle, Chair, ecoguy2@netzero.net

### SEMGE Executive Committee

Fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Beyond Coal office, Suite C, 2550 Hilton, Ferndale, MI. Contact: Art Myatt, Chair, 248-223-0623, almyatt@yahoo.com

### Activist Committee

SEMGE's printed newsletter.  
Contact: Lydia Fischer, Editor,  
lydfisch@mindspring.com

### Blue Water Committee

Port Huron area environmental issues/meetings. Contact: Marty Halebalewsky, mhabalewsky@yahoo.com

### Outings Committee

Quarterly, the first part of March, June, September & December.

Contact: Philip Crookshank, Chair, 248-797-2885 wanderphil1@yahoo.com, or Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370 joannecantoni@att.net

### Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO)

Weekend day outings with a busload of kids to nature walks, museums, zoo or similar. Contact: Lydia White, Chair, lydwhite@gmail.com

### Green Cruise Committee

Mid-August celebration of human-powered transportation one week before the Dream Cruise. In Ferndale; bike rides, parade, children's area, recycling, etc. Contact: Gerald Hasspacher, Chair, jhasspac@gmail.com

### Climate Change Presentations

To schools and libraries. Contact: Gerald Hasspacher, jhasspac@gmail.com

### SEMGE WEBSITE

Program details, issue alerts and more.  
Contact: Tom Dusky, tdusky@gmail.com. <http://sierraclub.org/michigan/southeast-michigan>

### SEMGE Membership Meeting

1st Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Where: Elks Lodge, 2401 E. 4th St., Royal Oak. Variety of topics; open to the public; any interested person can attend. 6:30-7 p.m. Snacks, socializing; 7 p.m. Presentation.

### SEMGE Political Committee

2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Where: Jimi's Restaurant, 714 S. Washington Ave, in Royal Oak, one block north of Lincoln.

Contact: Tom Turner, Co-Chair, tcmtturner@gmail.com or Dave Richards, Co-Chair, rodaverich@comcast.net

### At the Sierra Club office, 2727 Second Avenue, Suite 112, Detroit, MI

**Rhonda Anderson**, Organizer for Beyond Coal & Environmental Justice Program (313) 965-0052 | rhonda.anderson@sierraclub.org

**Erma Leaphart**, Great Lakes Program Conservation Organizer (313) 475-7057 | erma.leaphart@sierraclub.org

**Regina Strong**, Michigan Beyond Coal Campaign Representative (313) 974-6547 | regina.strong@sierraclub.org

*Do you know a fellow Sierran (maybe yourself!) who would be interested in becoming more active in SEMGE? Please let us know! Our Group welcomes additional members to help with our Executive Committee and with the various committees.* 

## General Membership Meetings – Free and Open to the Public

**Thursday February 4, 7–9 pm**

### **CAFOs, Lake Erie algae and more**

*Lynn Henning, family farmer, Sierra Club Water Sentinel and winner of the prestigious Goldman Prize Award for 2010*

Her talk will address the problems resulting from government policies that favor negative agricultural practices and results, such as the recent pollution in Lake Erie that brought large algae blooms. She has

worked with the Michigan Sierra Club Chapter for many years, concentrating on the noxious effects of the state's poorly regulated CAFOs

**Thursday March 3, 7–9, pm**

### **Fukushima, Fermi, Potassium Iodide and You**

*Keith Gunter, Alliance to Halt Fermi 3 Co-Chair*

Potassium Iodide tablets (KI), if taken promptly, can prevent radioactive iodine-131 gases released in a nuclear plant emergency from being absorbed, they protect against development of thyroid cancer. Children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers are especially at risk.

In October 2015, Beyond Nuclear and Alliance To Halt Fermi-3 launched a public information cam-

paign aimed at changing the existing KI distribution plan. According to a 2012 American Medical Association study, only 5.3% of Monroe, MI area residents have redeemed bulk mail vouchers and received their free protective medicines. Keith will give an updated report and outlook for the new campaign targeted at a failed existing plan.

**Thursday April 7, 7–9 pm**

### **Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge**

*Jennifer Braatz, Park Ranger for the, Large Lakes Research Station, Grosse Isle, MI*

Ms. Braatz will present a powerpoint review of the refuge and it's work - past and future. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is nearly 6,000 acres of islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of the Detroit

River and Western Lake Erie shorelines. Find out more about the units that make up the nation's only international wildlife refuge along with what the future holds for this unique urban refuge.

**Thursday May 5, 7–9 pm**

### **The Flint Water Crisis**

*Michigan State Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, District 27*

Sen. Ananich will speak about the Flint water crisis, including a discussion of the roles of the Michigan

Department of Environmental Quality (EQ) and the US EPA in this disaster.

**Thursday June 2, 7–9 pm**

### **Backpacking the John Muir Trail through Sequoia National Park, CA.**

*Phil Crooksbank, SEMG Outings Chair*

Join us for a backpack trip following the trails that John Muir tramped. Phil and three friends did this 9 day backpack trip in September of last year. They started in Sequoia National Park, followed the High Sierra Trail, Pacific Crest Trail and John Muir

Trail, adding a side trip to climb the 14,508 ft. Mt. Whitney. We enjoyed the lakes, the rocks, the wind, the wild animals, the drought, the heat, the freezing rain, sleeping in ice covered tents AND the 16 inch pancakes at the end.

### **General Meeting Location**

Royal Oak Elks Club, 2401 4th St. Royal Oak 48067 is south of 11 Mile Road, on 4th Street and Stephenson Hwy. (I 75 Service Drive). Enter parking lot from Stephenson or 4th Street, and look for the Sierra Club sign.

6:30 pm Snacks and Socializing • 7:00 pm Announcements • 7:15 pm Presentation



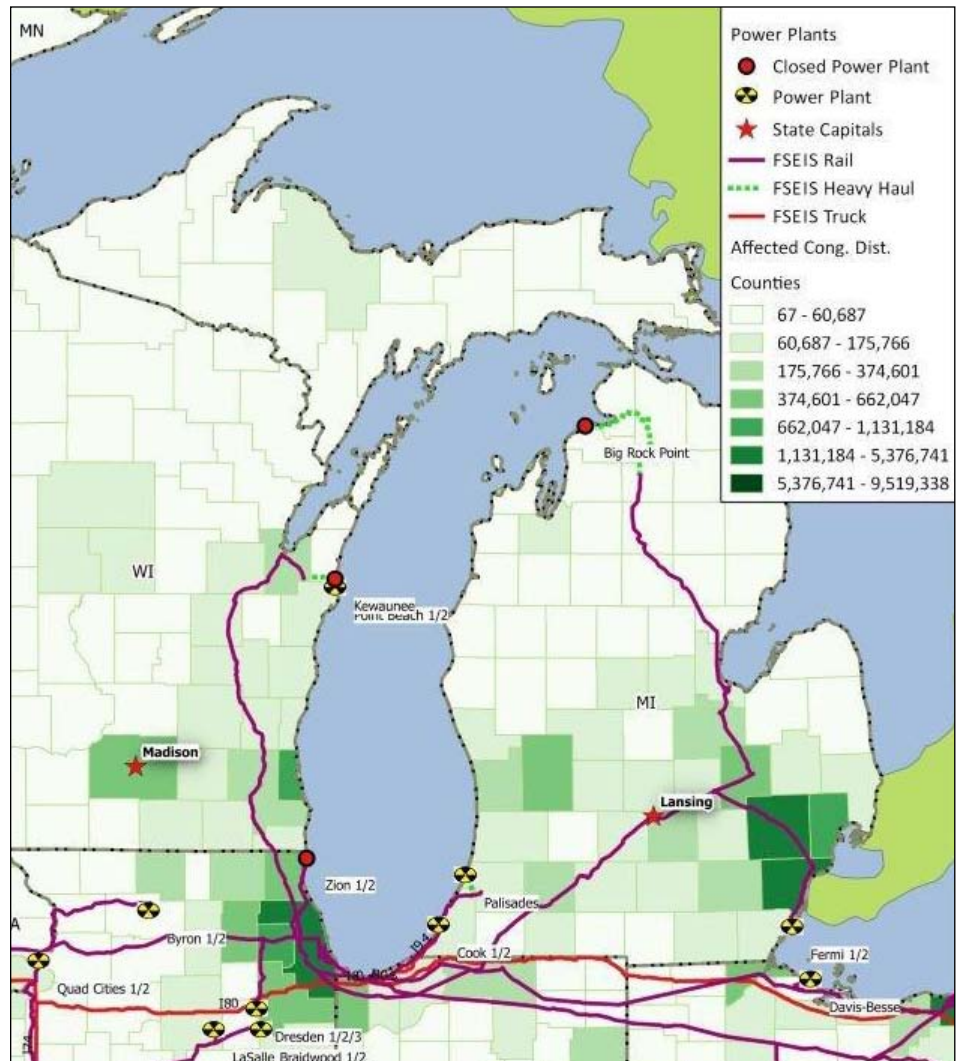
# A Double Standard for Public Protection in the “Fermi Zone”?

By Ethyl Rivera, Alliance to Halt Fermi 3 (ATHF3)

On a mid-October afternoon, communities in the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone around the Fermi 2 nuclear plant were visited by concerned volunteers of the Alliance to Halt Fermi 3 and Beyond Nuclear. Launched in Frenchtown Township, their combined campaign was meant to alert residents about the lack of protection they face in the event of a major accident or meltdown of the Fermi 2 reactor due to a failing potassium iodide distribution system for Monroe area residents and workers.

Meanwhile, Canadian neighbors in the 10-kilometer Fermi Emergency Planning Zone in Amherstberg, Ontario will receive mandated direct advance delivery of potassium iodide tablets (KI) to protect residents from radioactive iodine (I-131) and its cancerous damage to the thyroid. *Michigan has no comparable plan to protect its residents and people who work in the “Zone.”* Instead, an occasional bulk-mailing of vouchers to be redeemed for the free KI tablets at one of three Monroe pharmacies is the only current access to this important protection.

According to Michigan Community Health Services, a study revealed that only 5.3% of residents have redeemed the vouchers for the KI tablets, leaving almost 95% of the area’s population unprotected. This is why the American Thyroid Association has recommended that KI be pre-distributed by direct delivery to residents within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant and stockpiled in designated locations for populations out to 200 miles, as it works best when it is taken before, or as soon as possible after, exposure to radioactive iodine. In spite of that, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Stephen Burns recently stated he has no plans to change his agency’s position toward potassium iodine bills and that continu-



The map illustrates the irreparable harm that a failure of one barge shipment on Lake Michigan can do to the Great Lakes basin, as well as to the several thousands of people in their homes, schools and businesses along the truck and rail routes.

ing the 10-mile radius for evacuation around nuclear plants is sufficient.

ATHF3 invites its Sierra Club members and friends to join the campaign to inform residents of their right to the health-protecting KI and to facilitate a public call to federal and state emergency planners to require its direct delivery to everyone within 50 miles of the nuclear facility, including Detroit, Ann Arbor and Toledo. “KI .... is effective protection against the fastest-moving cloud of radioactive iodine when used along with evacuation and sheltering in place,” said Paul Gunter, the Reactor Oversight Director of Beyond Nuclear.

## “Fukushima Highways” Near You?

Dozens of local and national groups, including Sierra Club, Beyond Nuclear, ATHF3 and Michigan Safe Energy Future, concerned about the growing push to move forward with the high-risk development of our nation’s first nuclear waste repository in Nevada’s Yucca Mountain, have released maps of the likely routes that would be used to transport the highly radioactive shipments and are asking Michigan residents to weigh in with Congress about the dangers they represent.

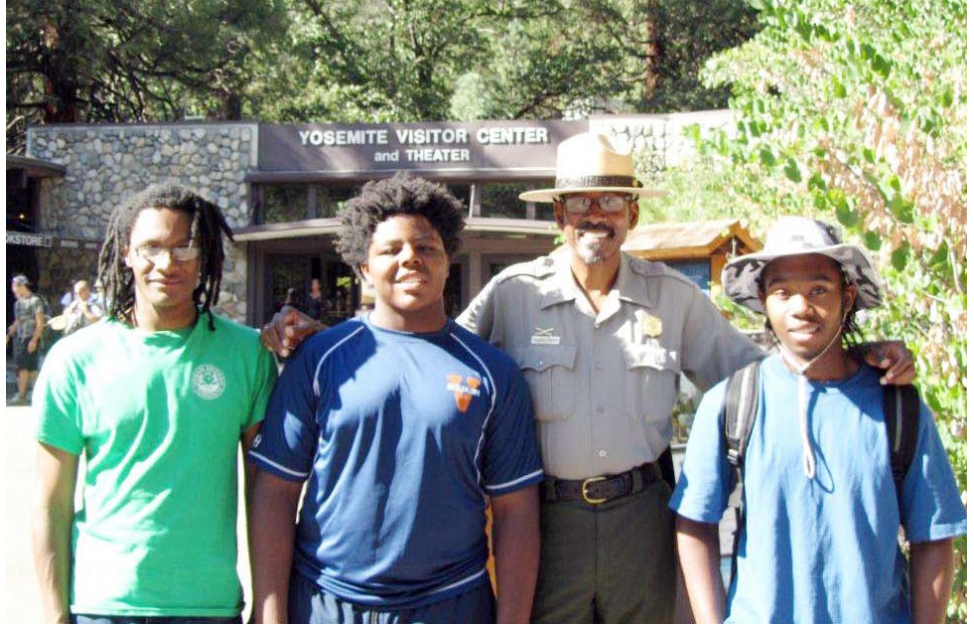
According to the map, extremely dangerous and highly radioactive waste

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# From Detroit to Yosemite continued from front page

teens. It was their first trip to California, let alone their first visit to a National Park. After a long day of travel, spending hours on a plane and then in a rental car that wound its way across and up the California landscape, they were greeted by a Park Ranger that could easily rattle off all the familiar streets they call home. Later in the week, our Detroit contingent spent a couple of hours with Ranger Johnson. It was just the five of us, relaxing in the midst of the old oaks casting their shade on the historic Yosemite Village Cemetery. We gave Shelton a Tigers cap and a Shinola journal, while for his part he dedicated a copy of his book "Gloryland" for each of the teens. Then we simply chatted and enjoyed one another's company. We talked about the beauty of the place, and Shelton shared some stories of Buffalo Soldiers in Yosemite. He also described his efforts to attract more young African-Americans with experiences in wilderness.

Shelton Johnson's work to connect all Americans with their national heritage



Just four guys from Northwest Detroit hanging out in paradise (left to right: Zion, Darryl, Ranger Shelton Johnson and J'aMonte)

is very much aligned with the mission of the Sierra Club ICO program. Spending time with him in the park helped reinforce the power of this momentous journey, or as one teen called it, "a life changer." This trip not only created lasting memories, it also cultivated the future of our American conserva-

tion movement by providing 5-year Sierra Club memberships to the three teens. As Shelton said to them during our visit, they are now ambassadors for Yosemite, and indeed, they are ambassadors for all of our efforts to explore, enjoy, and protect this planet. 🌱

## "Fermi Zone"?

*continued from previous page*

from Big Rock Point, Fermi 2, Palisades and D.C. Cook Units 1 & 2 plants would pass through Michigan via Interstate highways I-75, I-69, I-94, and via rail lines through Petoskey, Cadillac, Saginaw, Flint, Lansing, Detroit, Battle Creek to South Bend, Indiana and via barge on Lake Michigan. The shipments would carry casks containing 20 to 50 tons of irradiated fuel assemblies, each cask having several times more radioactive material than the Hiroshima bomb blast. Department of Energy studies in the 1990s confirmed that accidents in transporting the waste to Yucca Mountain would be a certainty due to the large number of shipments required. 🌱

THE ACTIVIST

## Are You a New Member?

Welcome to the Southeast Michigan Group (SEMG) of the Sierra Club.

When you join the Sierra club you are automatically a member of a local group, as well as of our Michigan state chapter and the national organization. Membership entitles you to this newsletter and all editions of the state and national member publications, both print and online. Check page 2 for our Directory with contacts on conservation issues, political action, outings, meeting times and places of our committees. Also check the Calendar on page 3 for our Monthly Programs (everybody welcome) and Take advantage of your membership as an opportunity to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect our Planet





# Going Native

Jean Gramlich, SEMG Secretary

**N**ative plants are defined as plants that were indigenous before European settlement. Native plants can enhance water quality because they have very long roots and therefore suck up stormwater before it reaches bodies of water. They can be used to make rain gardens that are specifically designed to capture rainwater. Natives also provide habitat for wildlife, and plant choices can provide food for particular birds and animals. You can consult the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) website to recreate habitats once native to your area. Since natives have evolved in our climate, they do not need watering in dry periods and require less maintenance in general. A native plant garden is very alive and makes you an integral part of the place you live and also provides natural beauty.

A native plant is one that has evolved in a particular area over thousands of years. It has adapted to the temperature, rainfall, wind, soil, slope, geology and wildlife of the area. Plant species develop local genotypes that are very specifically adapted to the area, so it is wise to buy local genotypes because you can take advantage of the co-evolution. Native plants provide beauty and deep roots that prevent erosion and conserve water. Insects have evolved with the plants and provide food for native birds. The native plants have developed methods of protecting themselves from devastation by insects, so there is no need to use pesticides.

In making a garden with native plants, we are creating a habitat for many different kinds of organisms. We attract beneficial insects and native pollinators as well as predators that keep insects in balance. Butterflies and moths often specialize in certain plants, and it is important to have many different kinds of plants to offer host plants to a variety of caterpillars.

A first rule of responsible landscaping is not to plant invasives like Japanese barberry and myrtle. We have major infestations of autumn olive, glossy buckthorn and Japanese knotweed, all originally planted as ornamentals.

Many different cultivars of our native plants have been bred by horticulturalists to enhance characteristics valued by gardeners. There is disagreement among experts on whether or not the advantage of long co-evolution is lost after selective breeding.

There are a number of books that can help you plan a native garden: Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards by Sara Stein, American Plants for American Gardens by Edith Roberts and Elsa Rehmann, Native Plants of Michigan by Lynn Steiner, and Douglas Tallamy's Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants. Lately I have been reading the latter and find the author's point of view very compelling. He is an entomologist and looks at this topic through a bug lens. Insects not only pollinate plants, but they also feed birds and other animals. An astounding statistic: oak trees support 534 lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) species! Willow and cherry each support 456 species of lepidoptera as well as many other kinds of insects. Our beloved ash trees, which have all but disappeared from southern Michigan due to the invasion of the emerald ash borer, support 150 species of lepidoptera including at least 11 species which feed on no other plant. If our ash trees die, so will the species which depend on them exclusively.

Tallamy argues that if we bring in alien species of plants, for the most part our local insects will not be able to feed on them, thus breaking the food chain developed over time. 96% of North American terrestrial bird species depend on insects and other arthropods to feed their young. Many

native plants provide winter food for birds, although many alien plants have tasty berries that birds eat and spread through their droppings. Since I am a bird aficionado, here is a list of native plants for birds. ☀



## Trees

Serviceberry\* (amelanchier sp.)  
Dogwood\* (cornus sp.)  
Hawthorn (crataegus sp.)  
Canada Red Cherry\* - Chokecherry (prunus virginiana)  
Eastern Red Cedar (juniperus virginiana)  
White Cedar\* (thuja occidentalis)  
American Mountain Ash\* (sorbus americana)  
Pin Cherry (prunus pensylvanica)

## Shrubs And Vines

Michigan Holly (ilex verticillata)  
Virginia Creeper\* (parthenocissus tricuspidata)  
Staghorn Sumac (rhus typhina)  
Thimbleberry\* (rubus parviflorus)  
Elderberry\* (sambucus pubens)  
Nannyberry\* (viburnum lentago)  
American Cranberry Bush\* (viburnum trilobum)

## Prairie Wildflowers and Grasses

Big Bluestem  
Sunflowers (helianthus)  
Penstemon  
Black-eyed Susan (rudbeckia)  
Little Bluestem  
Goldenrod (solidago)

Echinacea

\*Shade tolerant

# Reduce Mowing In Metroparks!

The letter below was sent to the Metroparks Board of Commissioners concerning the recent Metroparks mowing activities. The letter is signed by representatives of local Sierra Club groups, Michigan Botani-

cal Club chapters, Wild Ones chapters, and the Huron River Watershed Council; the plan is to present our comments during the public participation period at the November 12 Board meeting.

We asked Mf. Phiher, Metroparks Director, to please distribute this to Metroparks Board members prior to the meeting. .

Date: November 4, 2015  
To: Huron-Clinton Metroparks Board of Commissioners  
Re: Mowing of Metroparks

Dear Commissioners,

There was a lovely purple haze of fall witch grass and a white cloud of asters and a variety of goldenrods over the fields at Hudson Mills in September. Visitors along the hike-bike trail were enjoying the fields, the fall colors, and occasional butterfly still foraging. Some stopped to comment on their pleasure at seeing all this.

And then the mowers came and mowed it all down.

Commissioners, visitors are not coming to the parks to see mowed fields.

And what happens to the asters, the witch grass, and goldenrods if the plants are not allowed to mature and set seed? Well, eventually, there are fewer and fewer. This is the second year in a row that this mowing has taken place, eliminating the native plant seed production. And what takes the place of these native plants? Frequently, it's the invasive plants with seeds that mature sooner, seeds that are spread by the mowers as they go through the fields. It's happening now in these fields. Frequent visitors already see the spread of invasives. Already, a Canada thistle patch has more than doubled in size, and their seeds are dispersed widely into new areas. The seeds of Japanese hedge parsley, a new invader, have also become widely dispersed.

The Environmental Management Plan of August 2014, designated many new acres in the parks for additional and annual mowing. And what was the supposed purpose of mowing these areas started last fall? According to the report, the mowing was "to control invasive species and maintain professional standards." Clearly, the mowing of the asters is not needed for professional standards, and the mowing only spreads the invasive species.

The Metroparks has three missions: recreation, education, and stewardship.

The Metroparks has very limited resources for stewardship, for invasive control, and already needs to carefully target its management efforts. The annual mowing practices create more environmental damage and need to be revised.

The substantial increase in mowing started in 2014 is both damaging and costly.

Visitors are being asked to pay increasing fees. Visitors do not want to pay for this environmental damage, pay increasing fees for this increase in mowing, increase in overtime hours, increase in contractor mowing, increase in replacements for mowers, and increase in fuel costs.

Periodic mowing is a well-recognized tool for grassland/prairie management.

The members of the following organizations request your action to support the Metroparks stewardship mission and revise the Environmental Management Plan to reduce the regular area mowed to 2013 levels, and to change "annual mowing" to "periodic mowing" with the understanding that many land managers use mowing (or burning) as needed, typically not more than every three years or so.

Respectfully,

*Sierra Club Huron Valley Group  
Nancy L. Shiffler, Chair*

*Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group  
Art Myatt, Chair*

*Sierra Club Crossroads Group  
Lee Burton, Chair*

*Ann Arbor Wild Ones  
Andrea Matthies, Chapter President*

*Wild Ones Southeast Michigan Chapter  
Fred Kaluza, President*

*Huron River Watershed Council  
Laura Rubin, Executive Director*

*Michigan Botanical Club  
Huron Valley Chapter  
Tony Reznicek, President  
Michigan Botanical Club  
Southeastern Chapter (metro Detroit)  
Emily Nietering, President*



# Detroit March for Justice – October 3, 2015

Hundreds of people turned out in the city to join Sierra Club and a diverse coalition of progressive groups and organizations demanding environmental and social justice. Strong winds, cold temperatures and rain did not stop people marching, as scheduled, along Michigan Blvd. for a 2-mile hike ending at Hart Plaza along the river. People assembled to listen to several speakers, among them Aaron Mair, (see photo), long-time Sierra Club member and Environmental Justice advocate and now Sierra Club President, who flew from his home in upstate New York to participate, and spoke of the need for environmental, economic and social justice for all 🌱



Aaron Mair, Sierra Club Executive Board President speaking at the rally





# My Thoughts on Receiving the Michigan Sierra Club Bunyan Bryant Award

By Anna Holden, SEMG Activist

Many thanks for recognizing the Environmental Justice aspects of my work as a Sierra Club activist. In addition to personal recognition – which is always welcome – awards serve other purposes: to demonstrate support for the Club’s priorities and create awareness of activities highlighted by the award, which should also increase participation.

Environmental justice was very new to Sierra Club when the campaign to close Detroit’s Henry Ford Hospital incinerator began. EJ quickly became one of the driving forces in gathering support, as community residents learned that medical and other waste were burned only in Detroit, while Henry Ford’s suburban hospitals used alternative, safer waste disposal options.

From my perspective, EJ concerns are an underlying factor in many of the Club’s issues. We need to look at our campaigns through an EJ lens to determine if large numbers of blacks and other minorities or low income residents are negatively impacted and then plan strategies to draw them in.

At present, I consider support for a comprehensive regional public transit system in SE Michigan an EJ issue. In addition to reducing air pollution, there is a great need for mobility among minority and low-income residents. Severe lifestyle limitations imposed by inadequate transit include loss of jobs and job opportunities, as well as limited educational opportunity and access to hospitals and doctors.

Some environmental problems such as climate change are all pervasive, affecting large number of people, even globally, without regard to race or income. To help resolve these problems, the Club and many other organizations must find new ways to draw in



the broadest support possible. Increasing racial diversity and involving active participation of EJ populations will be part of the solutions. This is our big-

gest challenge.

I look forward to the Chapter for active involvement in EJ in the future. 🌱

*“Anna Holden is an exceptionally deserving recipient of the Bunyan Bryant Environmental Justice award. For Anna, there has never been a distinction between the importance of protecting our air, water and land and the importance of assuring that all communities are protected and have a voice in the decisions that affect them. Anna has combined her extraordinary intelligence and exceptional research skills with a dogged persistence and passion for addressing the environmental insults that plague too many low-income communities and communities of color. We owe Anna a huge debt of gratitude, and I look forward to continuing to learn from her example for many years to come.”*

*–Anne Woiwode, Conservation Director, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter*

# Radioactive Frack Waste Being Processed In Detroit And Van Buren Twp

By Ed McArdle, SEMG Ex-Com and Conservation Committee Co-Chair

The trucks keep coming from the Marcellus Shale fracking wells to Michigan processing sites and landfills. In the last issue of the Activist (July) we described the dangers of the fracking waste and the reasons it is coming to our state – namely the absence of federal regulations on top of weak Michigan regulations. Besides the toxic and hazardous aspects of this oil and gas drilling waste, the impacts on human health and the environment are many. The main isotope of concern is Radium-226 — a bone-seeking isotope linked to leukemia, bone cancer and kidney damage. RA-226 has a half-life of 16,000 years and is water soluble: it will remain dangerous for 16,000 years. RA-226 further decays into numerous other troubling elements such as Radon gas, Lead-210 and Polonium. Is there a landfill that could last 16,000 years?

On October 10, the Detroit Free Press featured a front-page story on the 10-fold expansion of the U.S. Ecology hazardous waste processing site in Detroit. This plant is also the address for frack waste shipments from Pennsylvania. (We know it is coming from Pennsylvania because these shipments are listed according to destination on that state's government website. It is likely to also be coming from other fracking states.) Thanks to Rep. Rose Mary Robinson, (D) District 4, we belatedly found out that there had been a public hearing last August 28. But because of the Free Press article and some good, detailed last minute comments from Atty. Terry Lodge, LouAnne Kozma of Ban Fracking In Michigan and the International Law Clinic at Wayne State, the DEQ extended the comment deadline to Oct. 12. The Michigan Chapter Sierra Club signed on with other groups to



the comments from the WSU law clinic. The Southeast Michigan Group for the Michigan Chapter submitted additional comments before the Oct. 12 deadline.

Besides protesting the lack of attention given to radiological and toxic frack waste in the permit (which carried no mention of it), we called attention to, and questioned, the fact that this kind of dangerous facility, operating in a populated city, flies in the face of environmental justice principles by adding more challenges and increasing noxious impacts on minority and low-income groups.

We believe that the expansion is for fracking waste to be down-blended with industrial waste products from high levels of radiation to the 50 picocuries/gram under the Michigan regulation. And why is it not mentioned in the permit? Is it because oil and gas field waste is exempt from the Safe Water Drinking Act, the Clean Water Act, and some requirements of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Clean Air Act. The DEQ does not even consider this as hazardous waste.

On October 3, the morning before the March for Justice in Detroit, about 50 folks from Sierra Club, Ban Fracking In Michigan, and Beyond Nuclear, plus campaigners for Sen. Bernie Sanders, turned out for a demonstration at the entrance to

U.S. Ecology plant site at 6050 Georgia St. in Hamtramck.

Information from a SEMG FOIA request revealed that from March 3 to September 3 a total of 24 shipments also went to the U.S. Ecology landfill in Van Buren Twp. (it can be seen from I-94 near Belleville). These shipments were determined to be hundreds -- some over one-thousand — pico-curies for further down-blending. Moreover, a letter dated May 18 from the DEQ approves the transfer of radioactive materials from the U.S. Ecology site in Detroit to the company's landfill and down blending site in Van Buren Twp.

Other documents showed a total of 120 shipments to the Northern A-1 landfill in Manton, located in Wexford County. These shipments were all under 50 Pc/g for RA-226, but the total radioactivity for many of the isotopes were in the hundreds of pico curies. Many of these shipments came directly from the well pads in Pennsylvania.

Michigan citizens deserve more answers. If the DEQ refuses the many requests for another public hearing, we should demand that our legislators host a town hall meeting to clear the air. Since Michigan is at the center of the Great Lakes, we cannot stop until fracking is banned and so is its disposal. ⚙️



# Climate Change and Justice

*Art Myatt, SEMG Executive Committee Chair*

Climate change does change everything. Drought destroys food production, whether the producers are traditional peasants raising rice by hand or modern agribusiness raising corn and soybeans drenched with chemicals. Repeated droughts change forests into barren landscapes populated by stumps of the former trees. Extreme storms have already flooded parts of Detroit, New York, Miami, New Orleans and Huston. That is an incomplete list for just the last decade. What were once thousand-year storms now can happen several times in one. We can expect more as well as more intense droughts and storms to go along with rising sea levels.

Why? There's a lot of moving parts to weather and climate, but it is excess carbon dioxide emissions from centuries of mankind burning fossil fuels that has thrown historical climate mechanisms seriously out of balance. That is just one effect of excess emissions. In the atmosphere, carbon dioxide pushes more greenhouse warming. Absorbed in the oceans, it causes increased acidification. Between warming and acidification, the whole ocean food chain, including the plankton that produces half of the earth's oxygen, is upset.

In fact, there are enough fossil fuels still buried in the earth whose emissions, if extracted and burned, will make most of the earth uninhabitable. It is not an exact prediction in that we do not know whether this process will take the next hundred years, or several hundred. We do not know how much methane (another greenhouse gas) might be released from permafrost and methane hydrate, turning human caused climate change into runaway climate change. What we do know is that our (mankind's) emissions are increasing when they need to be decreasing if we are to limit the worst effects.



The full title of Naomi Klein's latest book is "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate." I don't know that Capitalism, as distinguished from, say, Communism, is the sole culprit. I believe "Industrialism," is a more accurate way of labeling an "ism" as the enemy of the climate — but we don't need an "ism" label to see where carbon dioxide emissions originate.

The best we could possibly do now is a transition away from fossil fuel energy to sustainable energy as quickly as possible. Note that nuclear energy is not sustainable, because it produces radioactive waste that is either difficult or impossible to dispose of safely.

One big obstacle to making this transition is that it will eliminate many current types of jobs that are part of the fossil fuel economy. Naturally, the people who have these jobs will object.

However, if we had single-payer universal health care, anyone could lose a job without also losing health insurance. If we had a guaranteed income - not extended unemployment benefits, but a guaranteed minimum income - anyone could lose

a job without becoming impoverished and homeless. If we had free tuition to students (paid through taxes), education for all—along with the previous two benefits for everyone, anyone could learn new skills for a new job without worries about health insurance or becoming impoverished.

These are policies for economic justice. Some decades ago, ideas about ending racism and creating social and environmental justice were, on the whole, just ideas. Now, these are becoming, more and more, accepted elements of a growing movement, including within Sierra Club. Because maybe our ideas of social and environmental justice are not enough to tackle carbon emissions. Maybe our goal should be a broader approach, one that adds economic justice to policies needed to reverse the ongoing destruction of our environment.

This may like a radical idea. Maybe it is even radical enough to address the environmental crisis caused by centuries of burning coal and oil and natural gas. If we don't take up this fight, we are leaving a miserable world to the next generation, and beyond. ⚙️

# The Joy of Diversity – Hiking Around the U.S.

By Joanne Cantoni, SEMG Outings Leader

While I have done most of my hiking in Michigan at parks and recreation areas surrounding metro Detroit, this year I had the opportunity to hike in a couple of widely differing locales. I'd like to share some of my experiences and impressions and compare them with my Michigan hiking.

## Michigan

Having lived 90% of my life in Michigan, I have always found the differences between it and other places of great interest. In fact, I attribute my interest in botany to moving to Texas years ago where all the trees were different from the oaks and maples of my childhood (and the only ones I could recognize then). Turns out San Antonians were similarly impaired: When I asked "What's this tree?" or "What's that flower?," they didn't know either and I was forced to get reference books in order to satisfy my curiosity.

Michigan is everywhere very green, its parks and natural areas almost always covered with large trees or heavy shrubby undergrowth, and sometimes both. Trails meander up and down and around but rarely go up very high or down very much. The big trees provide shade in the hot summer and throughout the year break the wind. In winter, though bare, the trees provide enough blockage to the sun that x-c skiable snow can remain in the woods for weeks after lawns are bare and the only snow remaining in urban areas is in blackened piles in the corners of parking lots. While cold in winter, our Michigan spring, with its glory of wildflowers, and fall, with colors that amaze, can be very pleasant; summer as well, except for the periodic hot, humid spell.

## California

My sister now lives in the southern Californian desert – Coachella Valley - SE of the San Bernardino mountain,



Overlook of Green River from the Grand View Trail, Canyonland National Park, California halfway to Arizona and less than 100 miles north of Mexico. I visited her in June, not a particularly good time for desert visiting, but when you're celebrating a special occasion, that's when you have to go. Among other sightseeing and family activities, we did some hiking in Palm Canyon, considered the world's largest native California fan palm oasis. This and other faults in the area are the source of the springs that make oases possible (and contribute to the names of so many towns). Over 2000 years ago the Agua Caliente people, part of the Cahuilla nation, lived along this fault in the earth, enjoying the blessing of game, plant life and water made possible by the fault. It's cool under the palms, much cooler than the 100-110 degrees in the treeless parking area. Breezes flow among the huge rocky walls lining the 5-foot stream that flows in the cleft from the hidden spring. Birds sing; small,





Turret Arch in Arches National Park, Utah

colorful lizards skitter into crevices, seeking the coolest spots. I am fascinated by the lushness of the oasis and surprised by the ruggedness of the trail – though mostly rising gently, we have to skirt many of the massive rock outcroppings, some 50-75 tall. I take many pictures. When we leave, we stop several times so I can capture, from the vantage of the higher elevation of the road, the contrast between beige, sandy desert floor interrupted sporadically with small grey-green shrubs and the luxuriant greenness spreading around the oasis.

## Utah

In September I joined a small group for a week of hiking in central Utah near the Colorado border. The plan was to hike in Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park, two of many scenic national parks in this part of the west. I had been in Utah before, skiing near Salt Lake City, but not to this part. I was unprepared for the scenery. The drive from SLC revealed open vistas nearly to the horizon in some places, nearly all of it with little or only shrubby vegetation. The lodging, south of Arches, was in a broad, gentle

valley almost not discernable until you were on one of the roads that climbed gently out. Then you could see how many large trees were greening the valley, shading houses, and along streets. Heading to Arches, the road climbed out of the valley and into the higher, brightly colored landscape. The roads sometimes cut and curved and turned and at other times were level and straight, revealing broad vistas, perhaps into Colorado.

The hiking itself was a revelation. Locals said the temperatures had been about 15 degrees higher than usual most of the summer, so though we were hoping for warmth but no rain, we got heat, but no rain. Much of the terrain is slickrock, sandstone with no soil for anything to grow. In little crevices, where some sand might accumulate, and some moisture, there might be small plants or struggling shrubs. The trails were typically marked by rock cairns (what else!) and in some places were amazingly precipitous. Scrambling up and over, usually while heading significantly uphill, was the norm. And all around, the gorgeous colors: tan, yellowish tan, orange, yellow-

orange, red-orange, russet, burnt umber, grey, greenish-grey, green and more.

And amazing shapes: spires, pyramids, animals, people standing together conversing, and, of course, the arches. Oh! The arches were so wonderful! Some were near the road and others required long, hot hiking over rocky trails in the blazing sun. This was followed by extensive picture-taking, in some cases with groups lining up on the sidelines while the prior group snapped away.

While Arches N. P. was notable for its protuberances into the horizon - spires, arches, the other shapes sticking up into the sky - Canyonlands was just the opposite - an amazing void in the Earth. We hiked trails on the top of a plateau along the cliff edge. Below us, the terrain had been eroded away by the Colorado and Green Rivers which join in a giant “Y” in the middle of the park. These were real cliffs; the first “landing” was hundreds of feet below the edge we peered over. Again, the trails were over rock – sandstone – with little greenery. Occasional small conifers managed to find a moist crevice with enough nourishing soil to gain a foothold. The group was regularly grateful for these, as they provided welcome shade and a chance to cool off and rest. Other interesting shrubby plants dotted the trail, sometimes with bright flowers or intriguing leaves; most were unfamiliar to our Michigan eyes.

For those who have visited Grand Canyon or Zion or Bryce, the geologic action that formed these two parks would be familiar: a great sea over eons that turned other rock forms into sand layers and then the layers were uplifted. Eons later, and taking more eons, rivers cut through the layers giving the Earth some of its most spectacular natural architecture. But those same processes – time, water, uplift – are the same ones that gave us luxuriantly green Michigan. One is not better than the other, just different, and perhaps more favored by a native. 🌿

# OUTINGS

## December

### **12/12 (Sat.) Maybury State Park Hike.**

11am. Hike a moderately paced 3 miles through the interior of this 944 acre park watching for signs of small mammals and overwintering bluebirds and robins. Terrain is gently rolling with a variety of woods and fields. We go rain or shine; dress accordingly. Meet at the park Trailhead Shelter, 8 Mile Rd. entrance, 1.5 miles west of Beck Rd. (and Northville); 5 miles west of I-275. Restaurant stop after. Tom Griebe, 248-417-2097 C.

### **12/13 Nearby Tropical Zoo Hike.**

12:30pm. Come and enjoy an afternoon of tropical paradise – with no air fare involved! The Detroit Zoo (in Royal Oak) has many buildings open, including the tropical feeling butterfly house, amphibian bldg. and more! We will warm up in various buildings, and cool off by hiking the extensive grounds in between. Holiday decorations will be everywhere. Meet inside the gates at 12:30, we will form a group there. Cindy, 248-336-2984 H.

### **12/20 Holiday Hike at Heritage Park.**

Noon. We will stroll the nature trails of this Farmington Hills park, exploring much of the 211 acres of nature trails, meadows, forests, and views of the upper branch of the Rouge River. Our passage will be noisy, with all the crunching leaves. We have heard that the resident deer herd does dress up to celebrate the end of deer season, and the holiday approaching, so we will look for this. Optional restaurant stop nearby after. Leader: Phil Crookshank, 248-797-2885 C.

## January

### **1/9 (Sat.) X-C Ski Stony Creek Me-**

**troPark** (hike if no snow). Noon. We will ski the wooded mountain bike trails, offering a nice mix of flats and hills. Meet at the ski center/golf pro shop at the golf course. Rentals available. If renting, get there by 11:30-11:45 to arrange your rentals. If there is not enough snow, we will meet at the West Branch picnic area, lot B, for better access to the trail, and will hike from there. Optional restaurant stop after at Stony Creek Roadhouse. If in doubt call me: Bruce Coppola, 586-260-4840 C.

**1/10 Stony Creek Hike.** Noon. Meet at this Metropark just N.E. of Rochester, in the Nature Center parking lot at noon. A brief stop in the Nature Center, then hike the Habitat Trail, then head over to hike the East Lake Trails. 6 miles at a brisk pace. Optional restaurant stop afterward at Stony Creek Roadhouse. Activity cancelled if big storms or DEEP snow. Leader: Bonnie Michalak, 248-589-2251 C.

### **1/23 (Sat.) Proud Lake State Park Hike.**

10am. We'll do a moderately paced hike of about 5 gently rolling miles, enjoying winter as we view the red pine stands, the Huron River flowing by, and perhaps the marshland (from a boardwalk). Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd.; park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Leader: Elaine Danas, 248-632-7974C.

**1/24 X-C Ski Independence Oaks County Park** (N of Clarkston). 11:30am. Ski (Hike if no snow) 2-3 hours at this

premier site with wooded, groomed trails: Skiing experience necessary. Call if weather is ? Meet in Bloomfield Hills behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. OR at 12:15 in the boathouse/ski patrol building (turn left in the park at the T intersection.) Optional: bring brown bag lunch for after skiing. Leader: Phil, 248-797-2885 C.

### **1/30 (Sat.) Bennett Arboretum.** 11am.

This Wayne County pocket park is a jewel with an easy two mile loop through the oldest arboretum in Michigan, featuring fairy tale European beech trees. Hike consists of gentle hills, forest, a river overlook and a new walkway. Bring water and boots for traction. Goes rain or shine. Park in the Cass Benton Disc Golf lot: On Hines Drive, ½ mile south of 7 Mile Road. (Hines Dr. not accessible from 6 Mi.) Optional restaurant stop after in historic Northville. Leader: Tom Griebe, 248-417-2097C.

## February

### **2/6 (Sat.) Celebrate Groundhog Day**

**Hike** at Kensington. 11am. Groundhog Day was last week, but we will look for OUR groundhog on the wild Nature Trails at this Metropark. Hike about 2 miles to his burrow, find out if he is there, then continue on for another 3 miles, around Wildwing Lake to look for great Blue Herons. Wear boots with traction for slippery conditions, Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. OR at 11:45 at Nature Center in Kensington. Leader: Phil, 248-797-2885 C

### **2/13 (Sat.) Hike Seven Lakes State Park**

(snowshoe if there is snow). 11am. This park near Fenton is about the closest you can get to Up North winter hiking around here. We will do a moderately challenging, hilly hike in this lovely park (2-3 hours). If there is enough snow, (more than 4") bring your snowshoes if you have them. Yak Trax

## General Outings Information

The Outings Committee strives to have a wide variety of outings throughout the year – Something to appeal to each resident of South East Michigan. Everyone is welcome—member or not! Outings fee is \$1, unless otherwise noted. Participants must sign a Sierra Club waiver. All outings leave the meeting place at the noted time. Trips officially begin at the trail-head. Call trip leader for more details, and dress according to weather conditions.

For a complete up to date schedule, check our Public Drum page at: <http://publicdrum.org/624/options:AggType=o>  
OR – our Meetup site at: <http://www.meetup.com/Metro-Detroit-Outdoors-Hiking/>



or other traction devices recommended if just hiking. Optional restaurant stop after. Leader: Bruce Coppola, 586-260-4840 C.

### **2/14 West Bloomfield Two Preserves**

**Hike.** Noon. Let's get two-for-one for Valentines Day; walk the hilly nature trails at West Bloomfield Nature Preserve, then walk the rails to trails path to the pond overlook, and down to the Orchard Lake Preserve. 5 mile at a moderate pace, with stops to look for winter animals along the way. Restaurant stop after. Meet at noon in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. Inge, 248-338-0906 H.

### **2/20 (Sat.) X-C Ski at Independence**

**Oaks MetroPark** (hike if no snow). 11am. We'll do 3-5 miles depending on the ability level of the group. The park offers a range of terrain from flat around the lake to challenging on the ridges west of the lake. Meet in Bloomfield Twp. behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot). Leader: Elaine Danas, 248-632-7974 C

### **2/27 (Sat.) X-C Ski Stony Creek Metro**

**Park** (hike if no snow). 11am. Enjoy 2-2 1/2 hours of skiing at a moderate pace (slow to moderate paced hiking if no snow) in this rolling, wooded park with groomed trails. Optional restaurant stop after. Meet in Sterling Heights at Metro Pkway and Van Dyke, (SE corner) west edge of Meijer's parking lot, behind/East of the Sonic Drive In. Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370 H.

### **2/28 Proud Lake State Park Winter**

**Hike.** Noon. Moderately paced, 5-mile hike through several interesting habitats. We will see fall vegetation sticking through the frozen marshes, and animal tracks in the snow. Hike goes rain or shine so dress accordingly. Meet north of Wixom in the trailhead parking lot, 1/4 mile east of Wixom Road, and 1/2 mile north of Glengary Road at noon. Optional restaurant stop after. Leader: Tom Griebe, 248- 417-2097C.

## **March**

### **3/6 Kensington Metropark 5 mile Hike.**

Noon. We will start at the Nature Center, and take all the nature trails from there, over hilly terrain, for a moderately paced 5 mile hike. This is the season for returning

BIG bird life, so we will scan for the Great Blue Herons, Egrets, Sandhill Cranes and Black Capped Chickadees. Well, maybe the chickadees are not BIG. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Optional restaurant stop after. Inge; 248-338-0906 H.

**3/12 (Sat.) Morning Hike** at Maybury State Park. 11am. Dress in layers for a moderately paced 3 mile hike through some of the less traveled parts of this rolling park, over wooded and meadow trails with an eye out for early wildflowers. Meet at the park Trailhead Shelter, Eight Mile Rd. entrance, 1-1/2 miles west of Beck Rd. (and Northville), 5 miles west of I-275. Trip goes rain or shine. Optional restaurant stop after the hike. Leader: Tom Griebe, 248-417-2097 C.

### **03/20 Indian Springs Metro Park.**

11am. It's the Equinox. Let us celebrate the arrival of Spring by looking for the earliest wildflowers and birds on this 4.5 mile easy hike. Bring boots, water and trail snacks. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot behind McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. OR at the park environmental center at 11:45am. Leader: John Herrgott, 248-766-9575C.

### **3/26 (Sat.) Hike Holly State Recreation**

**Area.** 11am. We'll hike 3 easy to moderate paced miles along the edges of Wildwood Lake and Valley Lake and maybe spot and ID some of the earliest wildflowers. Mostly level, wooded terrain with a long stairway down to the lake's edge (which may be muddy this time of year). Optional restaurant stop after. Meet in Bloomfield Twp. behind the CVS pharmacy on the S.E. corner of Woodward & Square Lake Rd. (northeast end of lot). Joanne Cantoni, 248-932-5370 H.

### **4/10 Hike in Brighton Rec. Area.**

11am. We will head to the Brighton area for a 5 mile moderately paced hike in Brighton State Rec. Area. We should see the green-ing of spring, and some early wildflowers blooming. The vistas of this hilly park are awesome. Wear hiking boots, bring water & trail snacks. Meet in Southfield at Tel-12 Mall, S.E. corner of Telegraph and 12 Mile Rd. Park facing Telegraph, S. of the Marathon station. Or meet at Noon, at the trailhead in

the park. Optional lunch stop after. Leader: Mike Scanlon, 313-884-2214 H.

## **April**

### **4/16 (Sat.) Bike Ride from Marysville to**

**St. Clair.** 1:30pm. We will enjoy an easy ride along the St. Clair River on a paved trail, then view some Art-in-Public Places before returning via bike trail and residential neighborhoods. 12-15 miles RT. Meet: M'ville Muni. Golf Course, 2080 River Rd., M'ville. Optional dinner after. Judy L. ju99dy@att.net, 810-364-5871H; on day of ride: 810-278-6594C. Directions: I-94 E to exit 266, M'ville. N on Gratiot to Huron Blvd, E to River Rd.; the golf course parking lot is 1 mile S. Rest rooms, water available.

### **4/17 Seven Lakes State Park Hike.**

11am. We will hike through prairie, deep woods and along the shoreline of 5 lakes looking for early wildflowers and migrating birds. We will hike at a moderate pace, so we can easily stop to look at nature. Bring boots, water and trail snacks. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. Meet in Bloomfield Township behind the CVS, SE corner of Woodward and Square Lake Road. OR meet at Noon at Seven Lakes State Park, (Overlook Parking Lot) Leader: John Herrgott 248-766-9575C.

### **4/23 (Sat.) Day after Earth Day Celebration Hike.**

11am. WOW, another Earth Day full of promise. And I promise to show you the first signs of Wildflowers at Maybury State Park. About 4 miles of trails. AND – we might get a glimpse of the resident Great Horned Owl. Meet at the park concession bldg, 8 Mile Rd. entrance, 1-1/2 miles west of Beck Rd. (and Northville); 5 miles west of I-275. Optional restaurant stop after. Leader: Phil, 248-797-2885C

### **5/22 Indian Springs Metro Park Hike.**

11am. Spring is well underway now and there will be much to see as we pass wetlands, climb into high prairies and descend into woods filled with vernal ponds. A 6 mile, moderately paced hike. Bring boots, water and trail snacks. Optional restaurant stop afterwards. Meet in Bloomfield Township in the Costco parking lot near McDonalds on Telegraph (east side) north of Square Lake Rd. OR at the park environmental center at 11:45am. Leader: John Herrgott 248-766-9575C.



## Sierra Club

Southeast Michigan Group Michigan Chapter  
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Birmingham, MI 48009  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/southeast-michigan>

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## Please Vote! — SEMG Executive Committee (Ex-Com)

ExCom members set SEMG priorities, weigh in on policies, ensure financial solvency, spearhead Group activities, foster grassroots activism and act in concert with the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter and other state Groups to ensure that we all continue to be the most effective environmental force in our region.

Please vote for up to 4 candidates.

**Tom Dusky** It has been an honor to serve on the SEMG Executive Committee for the past six years. There is nothing more important than preserving our environment. I serve as webmaster, layout and publish our newsletter. I hope to continue to serve on the Ex-Com to further the goals of the Sierra Club locally.

**Vince Lee** I was elected to the ExCom two years ago. I've been active in various SEMG activities, including representing the SEMG at the Chapter level at Executive Committee meetings. Previously, I was a SEMG ExCom member for

a one-year term. I am experienced in educating kids and adults about the outdoors and nature, and wish to continue doing that for SEMG. I am a CPR and first aid instructor and as such have also helped SEMG activities.

**Patrica McKenna** Hello Fellow Sier-rans! I first joined the SEMG about 10 years ago and then promptly moved to Ohio. While there I had the experience of serving in the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club Group (NEOSC) Executive Committee for approximately 7 years, serving as Chair for 5 of those years. I've also served on the Ohio state Sierra Club Executive Committee. I'm back in Michigan living in Farmington. My environmental interests are wide-spread with my passions leaning toward the Ban Fracking movement, the Clean Water Initiative and Environmental Justice. If elected, I'm confident I can help the Club set initiatives, reach goals, and grow.

**David Richards** Dave is currently the Co-Chair of the SEMG Political Committee and has been Co-Chair since early 2011. A retired attorney living in Royal Oak with his wife, Janet. In years past he was a backpacker, while living in California and going to law school. He is now a regular cyclist, participating in the Green Cruise and other Sierra Club cycling activities. Besides being a dues-paying member of various environmental-related organizations, Dave participates in many community-related activities including the Optimist Club in Royal Oak and the Kiwanis Club in Warren.

**Write-in** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your ballot to:

Ex-Com Ballot c/o Art Myatt  
607 N. Wilson  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

**Your ballot must be received on or before December 31, 2015.** Results will be announced at our February 4, 2016 General Membership Meeting. ⚙