



## New Website Leads Visitors Down Michigan Trails

By Jim DuFresne

[Editor's Note: Jim DuFresne gave a presentation on this topic at the HVG monthly meeting in November 2010. This article is a supplement to that presentation.]

Spring is a great time to hit the trail, and Michigan's newest website is helping people do just that.

Launched last year,  
[www.MichiganTrailMaps.com](http://www.MichiganTrailMaps.com)

is already one of the most extensive resource sites for Michigan trails, allowing users to search a path by county, by activity, by state region, or by park.

Almost 100 trails have already been reviewed, with detailed coverage including: trail maps that can be downloaded and printed, descriptions and directions to the trails, color photos, and facilities available at the trailhead. There are also outdoor features on backpacking and hiking, as well as links and a resource page for non-motorized trail users ranging from hikers and mountain bikers to people looking for a rail-trail.

The heart of the new website is its trail maps produced with GPS coordinates, USGS topographical maps, and satellite images, creating the most accurate maps available to Michigan trail users.

Also part of the website is Trail Talk, a blog in which I provide commentary, views, humor, and advice as I take to the trails in Michigan. [DuFresne is the author of almost 20 guidebooks including *Backpacking in Michigan*, *50 hikes in Michigan*, and *Best Hikes with Children: Michigan*.]

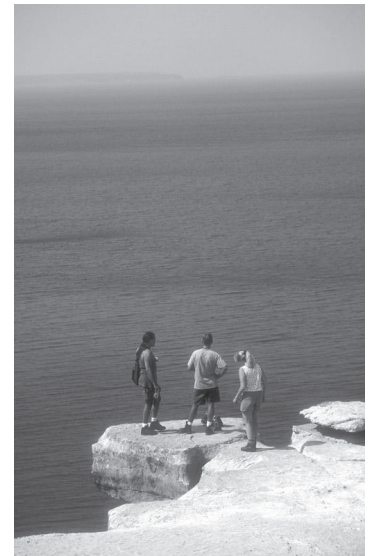
[MichiganTrailMaps.com](http://MichiganTrailMaps.com) also

publishes Trail Mix, a free monthly electronic newsletter devoted to trails around the state, and recently released its first book title, the fourth edition of DuFresne's *Isle Royale National Park: Foot Trails & Water Routes*.

You can subscribe to Trail Mix online at [MichiganTrailMaps.com](http://MichiganTrailMaps.com) or drop an email to

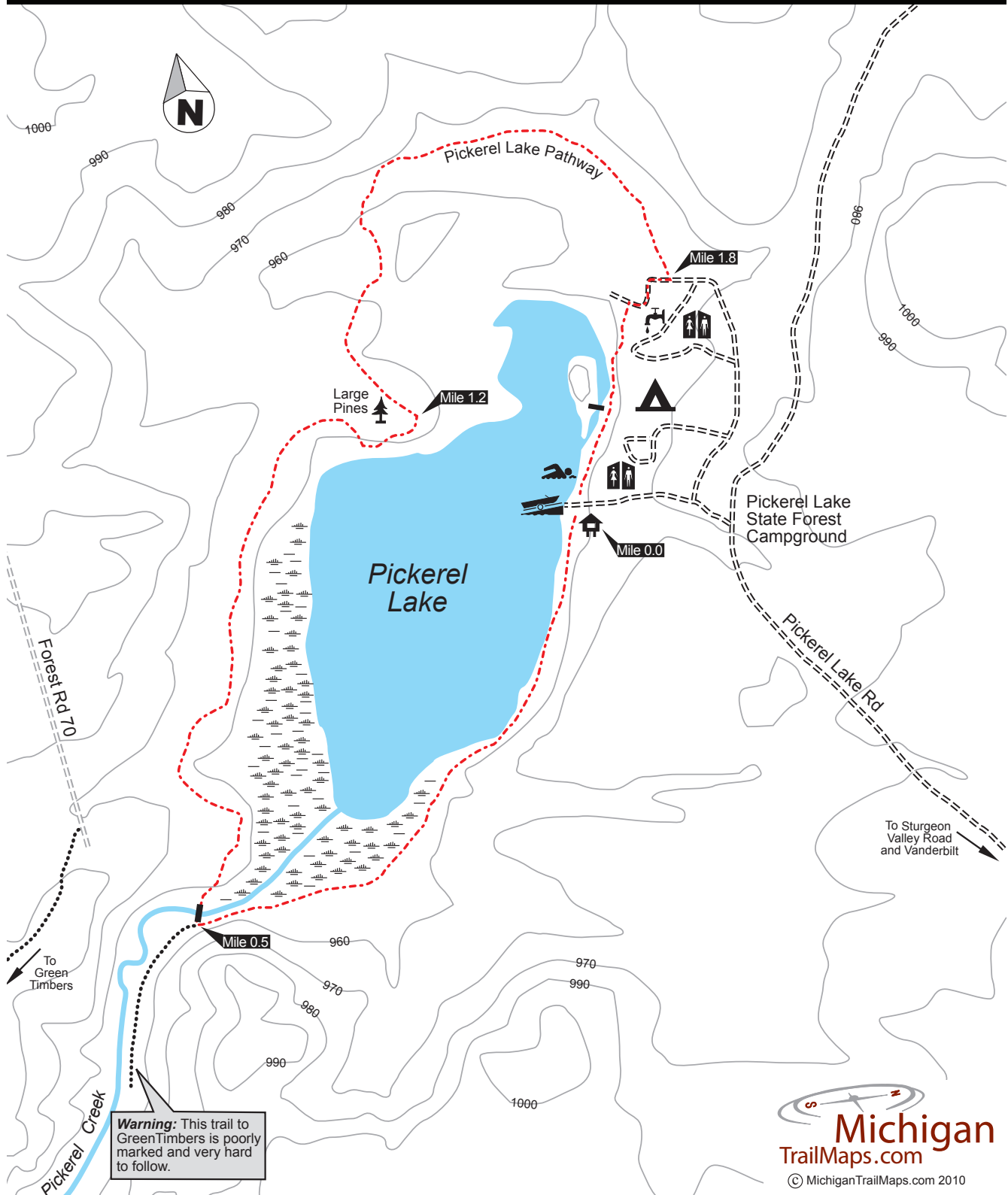
[info@Michigantrailmaps.com](mailto:info@Michigantrailmaps.com).

*Below Nordhouse Dunes. To right Pictured Rocks. See page 2 for a sample map of Pickerel Lake.*



# Pickerel Lake Pathway

## Pigeon River Country State Forest



# From the New Chair—a Tribute to the Work of Doug Cowherd

After some 20 years as chair of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club, Doug Cowherd decided to step down from the position as of the end of December 2010. While it is difficult to encompass 20 years worth of work in one short article, I want to highlight what I think have been some of the major accomplishments of Doug's tenure.

Doug brought a vision that the Huron Valley Group could accomplish big things—much more than we had been doing when he first became active. Doug believed that, by expanding our resources and focusing our efforts, we could make a long-term difference in our community. First of all, he urged our group leaders to review our financial situation and develop a consistent fund-raising plan (and here I want to acknowledge in particular the work of Mike Sklar in developing our "Shopping for the Earth" program into the successful fund-raising activity it is today). Secondly, Doug provided the leadership that transformed our rising community concerns about urban sprawl, and its impact on natural areas and open space, into some concrete steps to address the problem.

A variety of community education activities, including the popular Tour de Sprawl bicycle events, produced a critical mass of community members supportive of action to address urban sprawl. Through a coalition with a number of local environmental groups and community leaders, a Purchase of Development Rights initiative was placed on the county ballot. When this initial effort failed, we stepped back and developed an incremental process that included the county natural areas preservation



millage, Ann Arbor city parks millages, township purchase of development rights proposals, and culminated in the successful greenbelt ballot initiative. It took a broad coalition of groups and a strong financial base to accomplish this, and the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group was able to play a major role thanks to Doug's leadership.



By Nancy Shiffler

Meanwhile, Doug was also organizing the programs and serving as MC at our monthly general meetings. In the last few years he has initiated the popular e-mail events calendar, distributing a listing of upcoming events and outings two to three times per month, not just for the local Sierra Club, but also for other local environmental and nature-oriented organizations. In order to keep all this work going, we have now split these tasks among four or five people.

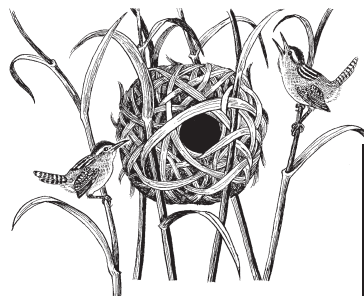
Today, we are faced with new and recurring challenges—from state and local budget crises and the political battles they engender, from covert and overt attacks on many of our environmental protections (including our own city parks), and from the need to build truly sustainable communities. As I take on the role of Huron Valley Group chair, I don't presume to be able to replace the many years of experience and leadership Doug provided. However, I hope to draw on the work he has done so that we can continue to do big things. Thank you, Doug, for all that you have done for us.



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## 2010 HVG ExCom Election Results

Four members were elected to two-year terms beginning January 2011 during our fall 2010 HVG Executive Committee election process: **Joel Dalton, James D'Amour, Ron Sell and Ed Steinman.** In addition, **Ginny Maturen** was appointed by the Executive Committee to serve the remainder of Doug Cowherd's term. Congratulations to all.



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# The Great Turtle Rescue

By Gwen Nystuen

For the herpetologists it all started with setting up one table to clean a small turtle soaked in crude oil. Volunteers and professional staff responded to the calls for help in cleaning wild creatures caught in the massive Kalamazoo River oil spill at the end of July 2010. The oil was heavy crude, thick and full



*Above, a heavily oiled little musk turtle held in a gloved hand.*

*Lower-right, one of the rooms converted to housing and treating hundreds of turtle patients.*

*Photos are the property of Dr. Tabaka who has provided them and granted the use for this article only. They may not be reproduced for any other use without his written consent.*

of gases, awful sticky stuff. Those working in the water, along the banks, and in boats were required to go through special training and use hazmat clothing and equipment. Gases from volatile benzene to hydrogen sulfide were potentially lethal. It was nasty work. Expectation was for many birds, various mammals, and some reptiles and

amphibians. No one anticipated the 37-mile disaster would affect over 2,500 turtles!

Staff at the Binder Park Zoo (Battle Creek) set up a room for turtles. They gathered towels, swabs, soaps, buckets, plastic bins, big tubs, aquariums, metal tanks, and medical equipment. A veterinarian and herpetology specialist established protocols for the patients. The goal was to clean the turtles as

quickly as possible, minimizing trauma by providing a secluded container with some water, a hide, a basking rock and bulb, and then quick release to an appropriate habitat site. Some required treatment for various wounds and amputations, skin erosions, abscesses, erosion of the mouth or internal injury from ingesting the oil. Quite a few turtles were injured by all the boats that assembled trying to contain the oil, and many turtles and other creatures were caught in the booms. First was an exam; each turtle was given a registration number, a record of species, measurements, assessment for treatment, and release with a transponder. The turtles came in all sizes, from tiny juvenile map turtles to huge snapping turtles. In addition to the maps and the snaps were musk turtles, painted turtles, red-eared sliders, and soft-shell turtles. The most numerous were the map turtles. At first the numbers were dozens, but soon buckets of turtles were arriving. Even with the quick turnover, floors and shelves filled and overflowed. With fewer and fewer birds and more and more turtles, a bird room was converted to make way for more turtles. They were taking in 70 to 80 turtles a night. It was a merry-go-round.

If you know turtles at all, you will appreciate the problem of cleaning sticky oil off a very large snapping turtle. It was necessary to anesthetize these super-tough patients and, in fact, the staff resorted to using power hoses with warm, not hot, water for part of the cleaning. Each species presented particular problems. Brillo pads were useful on some rough shells, while the soft-shell turtles needed a diluted soapy solution

and very soft towels. Eyes needed special attention. Many turtles were carrying leeches and, while not a requirement for recovery, leeches were removed as a favor to the turtle. It was also noted that the oil did not kill the leeches.

In the end over two thousand healthy turtles were released before the end of the season last fall. Some 467 were not healthy enough for release and were held to overwinter in special facilities. Most of them will be ready for release this spring.

More than a million gallons of crude oil from a broken underground pipe belonging to Enbridge





Energy flowed into a creek and made its way downstream in the Kalamazoo River July 26-28, 2010, causing the biggest oil spill in Midwest history. This pipeline is over 50 years old and deteriorating; some experts are warning that this type of accident is very likely to occur again.

This article comes from John and I attending the February 18th meeting of Michigan Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, at the Detroit Zoo. Dr. Chris Tabaka, a herpetologist and veterinarian at the Binder Park Zoo, spoke on "Medical Treatment of Turtles Associated with an Oil Spill." He said there is no handbook on how to clean and treat freshwater turtles or other reptiles and amphibians affected by oil spills. He is writing one. Chris Gertiser is a staff member in the Binder Park Zoo whose life has been taken over by turtles. He spoke on "Husbandry and Cleaning of Kalamazoo Oil Spill-Affected Freshwater Turtles." At the time of the oil spill David Mifsud, NAP (Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation) herpetologist and Dr. Tabaka were instrumental in organizing the rescue with Dave and his crew capturing turtles from the spill area and Dr. Tabaka organizing facilities at the center along with other staff including Chris Gertiser. They coordinated work with Focus Wildlife, Stantec, Fort Wayne Childrens Zoo, Potter Park Zoo, Michigan State University and others. Binder Park Zoo staff including Drs. Tabaka and Mitchell, and Chris Gertiser are all still involved in the overwintering/spring work at the center in conjunction with Focus Wildlife and Stantec.

Dr Tabaka says "I have to give credit for Enbridge in terms of supporting all of the work. If I need a piece of medical equipment or drugs or tank equipment, they have been right there to make it happen. We have essentially set up a complete reptile facility for over 450 animals in a matter of a few months...this is nothing short of a phenomenal undertaking."



Above: A snapping turtle preanesthesia

Below: Another treatment room. "The two rooms are representative of how things looked last fall in the middle of the oil treatment heyday--the project is actually much, much larger now including many, many more holding tanks, aquatic systems, etc. extending back into both rooms of the warehouse." More turtles were treated in the Kalamazoo River oil spill than in the recent Gulf of Mexico oil spill.





# Farewell and Thank You to WICO Chair Vera Hernandez

By Joan Wolf

*"Children are born with a sense of wonder and an affinity for Nature. Properly cultivated, these values can mature into ecological literacy, and eventually into sustainable patterns of living."*

Zenobia Barlow, "Confluence of Streams"

Ms. Barlow's quote embodies the Washtenaw Inner City Outings (WICO) program, to provide children with positive outdoor experiences. Vera Hernandez has been dedicated to making that happen for youth in our county for 10 years, the last 5 of which she served as chair after assuming leadership from Megan Beardsley. As of January 2011, Vera has relinquished her WICO responsibilities. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Vera's steadfast service and to inspire new volunteers to become involved. WICO is fun! Please read on and enjoy four seasons of Vera's favorite WICO memories.

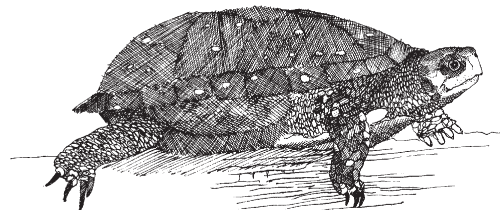
Spring at Crosswinds Marsh is a magical time. Vera fondly recalls a canoe trip with 10 inner



city youth led by Peter Bednekoff, a professor in the Biology Department at EMU, with special interests in ornithology. "We spotted an eagle's nest and learned that nests can eventually weigh 2,000 pounds! The children observed swans with their cygnets, ducks, turtles and tiger swallowtail butterflies. Bullfrogs

called from hiding places along the banks. Ralph Powell's canoe slipped through the water silently enough to pass within a few feet of a great blue heron. The park has a covered picnic shelter built out over the water and I remember watching swifts flying over the water catching their lunch as we enjoyed ours."

"I can't think of a better way to spend a sizzling summer day than on the water with a cool breeze in your face and surrounded by the beauty of the International Wildlife Refuge," Vera wrote, describing the boat trip she and Barbara Powell led for 12 Hikone Community Center youth on the Eagle's Eye Nature Cruise. They learned about



the history, wildlife and natural resources of the

48-mile-long refuge along the Detroit River and Lake Erie. Children used binoculars to spot double-breasted cormorants, a microscope to examine zoo-plankton, and enjoyed a fish-eye view of weed beds through several monitors mounted on the boat.

What fun to introduce a group of children and their parents to one of Michigan's finest fall traditions! "We drove to Wasem's Orchard where Granny Smith, Ida red, & red delicious trees had plenty of apples for picking. We quickly filled 8½ bushel bags and then went to the pumpkin patch where everyone found a pumpkin to take home. Back at the barn we sat around picnic tables enjoying fresh pressed cider and a variety of hot donuts."

Embrace winter! That was the lesson imparted during a weekend trip to McGuire's Lodge in Cadillac. Providing equipment for rent, McGuire's has what it takes to introduce children to cold weather outdoor fun. "We spent the first day playing in the snow—sledding, cross country skiing and snow-shoeing." Vera remembers, "In the evening, we enjoyed a sleigh ride around the large grounds. The children spotted a fox moving between two evergreen trees. They loved the horses. Back at the lodge, we spent the rest of the evening in the huge indoor pool. On Sunday we all went out skiing again, then spent an hour in the pool before heading home."

Through the seasons and over the past decade, Vera has enjoyed spending time with children discovering new parks, nature areas and outdoor activities; working with committed community center staff, and outstanding state and city park staff. Vera says she will especially miss working with dedicated WICO volunteers but, with her new-found free time, she is looking forward to increased time with family, friends, and time to prepare for a move up north in a few years. Special note: In January 2009, the National Sierra Club awarded Vera and three other outing leaders commemoration pins for having served 5 years or more. Others recognized include Barbara Powell, Matt Vernier, and Michelle Nawal.

We welcome, encourage and need your involvement to keep WICO going! If Vera's story has inspired you to introduce children to outdoor adventures, please contact current WICO chair Brandon Nascimento at [washtenawico@yahoo.com](mailto:washtenawico@yahoo.com)



Vera



# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar

Participants in Sierra Club outings will be asked to sign a liability waiver. If you wish to read the waiver before coming to an outing please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630. When carpooling is used to facilitate logistics for an outing, participants assume the risks associated with this travel, as well. Carpooling, ridesharing and the like are strictly a private arrangement among participants. Park fees may apply. **For up to date information, visit our website at <http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/>**

**Friday April 8, 2011 and Friday April 15, 2011 - various times - SNRE: Master's Project Symposium.** School of Natural Resources (room 1040 Dana Bldg, UofM Central Campus, Ann Arbor, MI). SNRE Master's students who have completed their 18-month group research projects will be presenting the exciting results of their work. You can choose to attend individual sessions or the entire symposium. Free. Complete schedule: <http://www.snre.umich.edu/2011mps>.

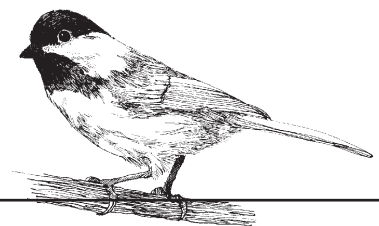
**Tuesday April 12, 2011 - 7:15 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club.** Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI). Book: **"Diet for a Hot Planet: The Climate Crisis at the End of your Fork and What You Can Do About it"**, by Anna Lappe (postponed from January). Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.

**Tuesday April 19, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). Washtenaw Inner City Outings (ICO) is a Sierra Club community outreach program providing opportunities to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world for those who would not otherwise have them. ICO volunteers work with agencies such as community centers, churches and neighborhood youth groups. ICO plans outings and provides equipment and trained leaders who are enthusiastic to share their love of the natural world. Third Tuesday of each month, just before the Huron Valley Group's general meeting. Free. Contact: [washtenawico@yahoo.com](mailto:washtenawico@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday April 19, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "Close to Home, Close to Nature: Bicycling Washtenaw County Dirt Roads".** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). Washtenaw County's numerous dirt roads are ideal for bicycle riding-linear park systems teeming with history and natural beauty well worth exploring. Join local author of "Dirt Road Washtenaw", Rob Pulcifer, on a pedaling tour through quiet forests, over rolling hills, and across farmlands of immense beauty. He will share his thoughts on these roads as a source of aesthetic inspiration and enjoyable recreation, as well as their ready access to the natural world so surprisingly close by. HVG Monthly Public Program; third Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free. Contact: [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com).

**Sunday April 24, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Easter Esker "Secret Hike". Waterloo State Recreation Area** (Waterloo Road, Chelsea, MI). Trek over unmarked trails, do a little bushwhacking and hike on the sinuous Waterloo esker through mature woods and quality wetlands on this 4-mile adventure in the Waterloo State Recreation Area w/ ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or 1:45 pm at the trail. From Ann Arbor take I-94 west to M-52, go north through Chelsea, head west on Waterloo Road, go two miles and park on the south side just west of the Cassidy Lake prison. Non-members welcome. Free. Contact: 734-477-5715 [jayhschlegel@comcast.net](mailto:jayhschlegel@comcast.net).

**Saturday April 30, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Mitchell Field through Arboretum Hike.** Mitchell Field (Fuller Road and Cedar Bend, Ann Arbor, MI). Mitchell Field through Arboretum Hike. Moderate pace. About 3 miles. Dress for the weather. Canceled if snowing or raining. Some hills. Fields, woods, river views. Camaraderie. Meet at the far east parking lot at 1 p.m. Contact: 734-677-0823 [kathyguerreso@hotmail.com](mailto:kathyguerreso@hotmail.com).



# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

**Saturday May 7 and Sunday May 8 - 10:00 am - 4:30 pm - MBG: Mother's Day Plant Sale.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). Fund-raiser for Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Containers and terrace pots with perennials for sun and shade, out-of-the-ordinary hanging baskets and terrace pots. Annuals, perennials, native plants. For details and complete schedule of spring events at MBG: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/happening/springplantsale2011.asp>

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**Tuesday May 10, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "The Natural Navigator: A Watchful Explorer's Guide to a Nearly Forgotten Skill",** by Tristan Gooley. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. Note: Switch to summer hours.

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**Sunday May 15, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Lakelands Trail "Secret Hike".** Pinckney State Recreation Area (Cedar Lake Road). Explore the northernmost section of the Pinckney State Recreation Area on old railroad grades and various hiking trails on this 5-mile meander w/ ace outdoorsman Barry Lonik. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or 1:45 pm at the trail. From Ann Arbor go through Dexter and north on Dexter-Pinckney Road past the Portage Lakes. Turn left on Patterson Lake Road, go 1.5 miles west to Cedar Lake Road. Turn right, go 1.5 miles north to the trailhead; park along road. Non-members welcome. Free. Contact: 734-477-5715 [jayhschlegel@comcast.net](mailto:jayhschlegel@comcast.net).

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**Tuesday May 17, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). [See April 19 entry for details.]

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**Tuesday May 17, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program: "The Dirty Truth about Natural Gas Extraction: Hydrofracking in Michigan".** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). New natural gas sources have been praised as a "cleaner than coal" resource to meet national energy needs; however, extraction of natural gas has serious risks that could cause harm to Michigan's fresh water supply and clean air. Hear the inside scoop from Michigan Chapter Sierra Club Water Sentinel, Rita Chapman, and our own HVG Executive Committee Chair, Nancy Shiffler. HVG Monthly Public Program; third Tuesday of every month. Non-members welcome; refreshments provided. Free. Contact: [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com).

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**Friday May 27, 2011 through Monday May 30, 2011 - HVG: North Manitou Island Service Trip backpack base camp weekend.** Base camp service trip backpack on North Manitou Island, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lake Shore. Camping, ferry and food fees. Trip limit 16. Adults 21yr+. Work on service projects Saturday, enjoy the island Sunday. Reservation deadline April 1st due to non-refundable ferry tickets. Trip involves travel to Leelanau County, carpooling an option, backpacking, camping, service work, shared cooking of meals on a wilderness managed island. Contact trip leader Betsy Foote at [gebfoote@att.net](mailto:gebfoote@att.net) or 734-904-7314. Carpooling Thursday evening and Monday afternoon. Cost for the trip will be \$67-\$70, including ferry ticket, food & camping fees. Trip participants must sign a Sierra Club liability waiver form.

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**Tuesday June 7, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek",** by Annie Dillard -- a classic of nature writing. Please note: We are meeting a week earlier this month -- first rather than second Tuesday. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.

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**Sunday June 12, 2011 - 1:00 pm - Annual Pickerel Lake "Secret Hike/Swim".** Pinckney State Recreation Area. Hike 2.5 miles around Pickerel Lake in the Pinckney State Recreation Area w/ guest "Secret Hike" leader Barry Lonik; optional swim afterward. Either meet at the picnic table in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse at 1:00 pm to carpool or 1:45 pm at the trail. Take Dexter-Ann Arbor Road west thru Dexter; continue west on Island Lake Road 3 miles to Dexter-Townhall Road; turn right, north, to N Territorial Road; turn left, go west 1.5 miles to Hankerd Road; turn right, go north 1 mile; turn right onto the Pickerel Lake access road. Free. Non-members welcome. Contact: 734-477-5715 [jayhschlegel@comcast.net](mailto:jayhschlegel@comcast.net).

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# Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

**Tuesday June 21, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). [See April 19 entry for details.]

**Tuesday June 21, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program, Topic: TBA.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). [See April 19 Program entry for details.]

**Tuesday July 12, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "Hollowed Ground: Copper Mining and Community Building on Lake Superior, 1840-1990", by Larry Lankton.** Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.

**Tuesday July 19, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI).

**Tuesday July 19, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program, Topic: TBA.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). [See April 19 Program entry for details.]

**Tuesday August 9, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them", by Donovan Hohn.** Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157.

**Tuesday August 16, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). [See April 19 entry for details.]

**Tuesday August 16, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program, Topic: TBA.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). [See April 19 Program entry for details.]

**Friday September 2, 2011 through Sunday September 11, 2011 - Rocky Mountain National Park Backpacking Trip.** Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado. Week-long backpacking trip in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, with an option to climb Longs Peak (not technical). For more details, contact Ewa Roszczenko at ewarosz@yahoo.com or 734-756-5362.

**Tuesday September 20, 2011 - 6:30 pm - Washtenaw Inner City Outings Business Meeting.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 164 (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). [See April ICO entry for details.]

**Tuesday September 20, 2011 - 7:30 pm - HVG Monthly Public Program, Topic: TBA.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI). [see April 19 Program entry for details.]

## Art Fair in July!

Yes, it's still early, but... Are you looking for a nice shady spot to relax in during your trip to the Ann Arbor Art Fair(s) this year (Wednesday July 20 to Saturday July 23)? Why not relax while chatting about the environment with passersby at the Sierra Club - Huron Valley Group's 'spacious' Art Fair Booth?

NO experience is necessary! You will NOT be selling anything to anyone! You do NOT need to know everything there is to know about the Sierra Club! Did I mention that you get to sit in the shade?

If you are interested in helping, please contact our Art Fair Czar, Jay Schlegel at jayhschlegel@comcast.net or 734-477-5715. Thanks.



# Local Food Summit

By Dorothy Nordness

The 3rd annual Local Food Summit took place March 1st at a new (and thankfully larger) venue – Washtenaw Community College. 300+ attendees filled most of Towsley Auditorium for the morning agenda, which featured "Local Victories" – a slideshow highlighting 30 successes of the local food movement in Southeast Michigan. "The Farm at St Joe's," which supplies fresh salad greens to the hospital, and the "Double Up Food Bucks" program, which matches food stamp dollars spent at Washtenaw County farmers' markets, were two of the highlighted success stories.

The two keynote speakers shared their

energy for creating local food communities and spoke of the relationships engendered by promotion and consumption of locally produced food. Dan Carmody, president of Detroit Eastern Market Corporation, inspired us with his vision for a community of local producers and vendors bringing new life into Detroit's Eastern Market. Already renovations and changes have taken place that support local growers. Dan mentioned that Detroit currently has 665 community gardens and that 80% of these continue from one year to the next.

Ken Meter, president of Crossroads Resource Center, spoke about several success stories of local food systems being established in the upper Midwest. Organic Valley foods, headquartered in southwest Wisconsin, and a winter CSA in Milan, MN - WAY colder up there than down here in semi-tropical southern Michigan – were among the accomplishments mentioned in his presentation. That farmers currently net only 20 cents on each food dollar motivates Ken to work hard to increase this amount--by connecting farmers with others in the community to process, promote, and distribute their produce, keeping food dollars local.

Closing up the morning session were brief presentations by four folks heading up new initiatives. "Mark's Carts," soon coming to Washington Street behind Downtown Home and Garden, will feature local food vendors and a place to sit and enjoy the food. A cheese maker at Zingerman's Creamery is offering a ready-made market for anyone wanting to raise goats for milk in our area. Delivering products, including food, by bicycle is the expanding business of Arborcycle, and Jeff McCabe of "Selma Café" wants volunteers to help build 20 hoop houses in 20 days starting June 15.

A delicious lunch supplied by local producers and vendors preceded the afternoon's follow-your-interest set of offerings, with 16 different breakout sessions featuring presentations and/or discussions on local food-related topics. Unfortunately, we could only choose two. The session on Michigan land use decisions was informative in relation to both food production and open space protection.

For a more detailed description and full list of this year's "Local Food Victories," see:

<http://www.annarbor.com/entertainment/food-drink/3rd-annual-homegrown-local-food-summit/>



## National Sierra Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/default.aspx>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.



# Women and the Environment--One Woman's Mission for Sanitation

By Nancy Bishop

Caroline Bartlett Crane (1858-1935) was a true pioneer in the fight not only for food sanitation, but also for sanitation standards that would affect nearly every area of our lives. New standards set in the food industry would carry over into many other public spheres as well. Sanitation and quality in food, and in many other aspects of our lives, in schools and cities, are often taken for granted these days. These standards were not always a reality. However, this would soon change due to one woman's heroic efforts.

Caroline Bartlett Crane was a highly educated social reformer, newspaper reporter, teacher, and minister, who resided in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with her husband. Mrs. Bartlett Crane felt strongly about the need for strict sanitation in meat-packing houses and other establishments, and the absolute necessity of strict enforcement of such standards. Even though many in her community felt she was going outside her "boundaries" as a woman, she was not deterred in her quest to ensure strict safety standards.

When she sought a speaker on meat inspection and food sanitation for her women's church club, every invited official declined her offer. Knowing the vital importance of food safety and not inclined to take "no" for an answer, she decided to take action herself. She and a few other ladies took it upon themselves to inspect area slaughterhouses, and were horrified at the detestable and sickening conditions inside. Even

more surprising to her was the lack of a uniform bill ensuring strict food handling safety in her city, and worse, outside it. Mrs. Crane herself then drafted a meat inspection bill and lobbied for support in Lansing; the bill successfully passed in 1903.

Her mission for food sanitation did not stop there, as her work carried over into educating the public about the need for clean stores, streets and cities. Due to her remarkable work in sanitation, Caroline was sought after for her expertise by a number of cities across the country.

From Breton's chapter "Caroline Bartlett Crane (1858-1935) Sanitizes Cities" (p. 67): "Her inspections included solid waste collection and disposal practices; the cities' water supplies; and conditions at open markets and grocery stores, at public schools and hospitals, and of streets and alleys." Mrs. Crane accomplished a great deal throughout her life. Her hard work and determination to rise above gender role expectations clearly benefited us all, as we have come to "expect" cleanliness in all areas of life. Her life and accomplishments clearly show the difference one person's efforts can make.

Source: Breton, Mary Joy: Women Pioneers for the Environment, Northeastern University Press, 1998.

## **Can I Help HVG? Yes YOU Can!**

The local Huron Valley Group needs YOUR help. We are a completely volunteer-run organization. There are no paid staff working on HVG's behalf. Here are several ways that you can help out HVG in the coming weeks/months (or years, but why wait that long)...

- Lobby Day (Go to Lansing, meet yer makers--lawmakers, that is.)
- Conservation Team (Wanna protect something? Talk to these folks)
- Political Team (Help elect good environmentalists--makes lobbying a lot easier)
- Outings Leader (Wanna hike? Let's go! Where can you take us?)
- Executive Committee, "ExCom" (Help decide what we do and why.)
- Monthly Public Meeting (Got any ideas for presentations? refreshments?)
- Event Outreach (Info booth at Art Fair, Huron River Day, etc.)
- Washtenaw Inner City Outings, "WICO" (Help get kids outdoors!)
- Fundraising--Coffee/tea (sales, marketing, ordering, keeping records)--Shopping for the Earth, "SFTE" (sales, marketing, ordering)--Calendars (sales, marketing, ordering--notice any trends?)
- HVG Newsletter, "The Lookout" --Advertising--Final proofreading--Write an article--share your photos/graphics
- Fold-n-Tab (Can you fold a piece of paper or stick on a label? Then you can help!)

If you would like to help, or maybe just find out more, contact the appropriate person listed in the HVG directory on page 15 or come to a meeting or outing and let us know what interests you.

# Paving Paradise in the Huron River Valley: HVG Says NO to a Parking Structure in Fuller Park

By Rita Mitchell and  
Nancy Shiffler

People who live in and visit Ann Arbor place a high value on its wonderful park system. Huron Valley Group (HVG) members and the entire community have worked for years to develop green open space and recreation areas, a hallmark of the city. Repeatedly, citizens have supported millages to acquire and sustain parks. In 2008, by an over 80% margin, citizens voted on a city charter amendment stating that park land must not be sold without public vote. Regardless of acknowledged and significant public support for parks and open spaces, a project has continued which threatens precedence for dismantling our cherished parks system. Our continuing concern is the city's proposal to build a huge parking structure in Fuller Park – "Fuller Road Station."

## What is Fuller Road Station?

A 1,600-car, 8-story parking garage proposed to be built on ten acres of Fuller Park. It is designed to last 75 years. Eighty per cent of the parking spaces will be leased to the University of Michigan. Although a rail station is promised in a hypothetical Phase II, what will actually be built is a parking garage. Proponents describe it as a "gateway" to the city. Do the people of Ann Arbor want to be welcomed by and remembered for a parking structure?

This project gives up riverfront land, dedicated as park a century ago, to become one of the largest

parking garages in the county. What is the city's legal basis for altering the use of parkland? Does it apply to all other parkland as well? Think about it. When we as citizens vote on millages to purchase parkland, we expect it to be used as park. If this parkland can be converted to another use without a vote of the people, any park is vulnerable.

The city and University pride themselves as leaders in building sustainable communities. What does a 1,600 commuter-car parking garage built on parkland have to do with encouraging people to use alternate forms of transportation? If the long-term goal is commuter rail service, why undermine potential ridership by making it easier to drive in and park? How does a large parking garage fit with the sustainability programs of the city and University?

The city has admitted that this project will increase traffic congestion. In fact, additional funds have already been allocated to study installing a roundabout in the Fuller/Maiden Lane area. Infrastructure and roadway costs will be the city's responsibility, over and above parking structure costs. How much will the expected increase in congestion and pollution degrade the river corridor?

Compounding the loss of our parkland is our financial loss. The city estimates the parking garage will cost about \$43 million, with the city paying about \$12 million and the University covering the rest. Where will these city funds come from? This project simply does not make financial sense. Why should the city of Ann Arbor take on the expense and ownership of yet another parking garage, when it will be used primarily by the University of Michigan?

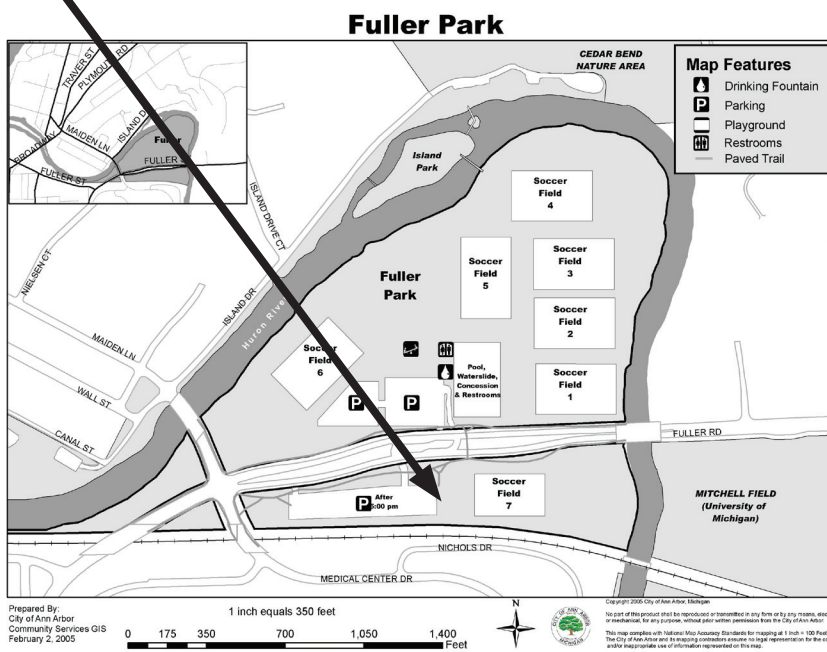
This land is part of our central Huron River Valley parkland and open space. The city has yet to complete the non-motorized Border to Border Trail, planned for years and intended to pass through the river valley. A non-motorized trail makes sense in parkland. An eight-story parking garage does not.

We are working to save not only Fuller Park, but all Ann Arbor parks, all now at risk of being re-purposed for non-park use without citizen input.

## What you can do:

Speak out! Join HVG ExCom and many others in the community to say that we want the city to stop this project and seek sustainable alternatives to an additional parking structure on park land. Contact the mayor and your city council members and tell them they are on the wrong track. This parking garage should not be built in Fuller Park, or any Ann Arbor park. Tell Council to protect our park land.

This triangular 10 acres of Fuller Park parkland is the proposed site of the massive UM commuter parking garage.



City Council e-mail and telephone contact information:  
<http://www.a2gov.org/government/citycouncil/Pages/Home.aspx>





*Circa 1968-1970 this part of Fuller Park was part of the Ann Arbor Municipal Golf Course when the new Fuller Pool was built. (One corner of a panoramic view of the city.) The temporary surface parking lot can be replaced with trees and the Border-to-Border Trail.*

Donate! We can use help covering legal expenses incurred to investigate details of the project process. Make checks payable to "Sierra Club Huron Valley Group"; include "Save Fuller Road Park" on the memo line. Send checks to: Sierra Club HVG, 621 Fifth St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

A Parking Structure does not fit in Fuller Park, a park that is in the center of Ann Arbor's Huron River Valley



*"Just say 'no' to parking structures in your public parks."*



**You can help the earth at no cost to you — through your regular shopping!**

- Over the past decade, the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group's Shopping for the Earth program has generated thousands \_\_\_\_\_ to preserve natural areas and farmland.
- You can help us do more by buying Shopping for the Earth cards for the stores where you already shop.
- For every \$20 of cards you buy, you get the full \$20 in store credit—and earn from \$0.80 to as much as \$3, depending on the merchant, for the local Sierra Club.

*"We donated \$140 last year to prevent sprawl and protect wildlife. It was easy, and it didn't cost us anything extra."*  
-Gwen Nystuen

*"A bonus for nature for every grocery purchase I make- even chocolate!"*  
-Rita Mitchell

**Two ways to order cards:**

1. Mail-In Order Form for local stores -- see below.
2. Online ordering for national stores and some local stores including Amazon, iTunes, LL Bean, Land's End, Sears, and hundreds more - department stores, restaurants, hotels, and more.  
Visit <http://michigan.sierracub.org/huron/glscrip.htm> to learn more & get started!

- Great for:
- ✓ Regular purchases like grocery shopping
  - ✓ Giving as gifts
  - ✓ Planned purchases like appliances
  - ✓ Making online purchases



**Mail-in Order Form**

Please fill out the number of cards you'd like for each store below (maximum \$500 total per order).  
Your total order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Arbor Brewing Company **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	
Arbor Farms *	_____ cards @ \$20 each	
Borders Books & Music **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Busch's *	_____ cards @ \$5 each	
Hiller's Markets *	_____ cards @ \$50 each	
Kroger *	Obtain card at Kroger's and register it at <a href="http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com">www.krogercommunityrewards.com</a> so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your rebates. see <a href="http://michigan.sierracub.org/huron/kroger.htm">http://michigan.sierracub.org/huron/kroger.htm</a> for instructions	
Produce Station **	_____ cards @ \$25 each	_____ cards @ \$50 each
Whole Foods **	_____ cards @ \$50 each	_____ cards @ \$100 each
Meijer	A rebate program - please see: <a href="http://michigan.sierracub.org/huron/facts/SFTE_Meijer.pdf">http://michigan.sierracub.org/huron/facts/SFTE_Meijer.pdf</a>	

\* Redeemable cards! The Sierra Club receives a contribution each time you rebate, so only one card is needed per person.  
\*\* Not redeemable—consider ordering several!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please send me local Sierra Club email updates  
 Please send me the local Sierra Club newsletter

Mail with your check payable to "Sierra Club - Huron Valley Group" to:  
Ed Steiseman ([edsteisema@umich.edu](mailto:edsteisema@umich.edu))  
621 5th St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Your information will not be shared with any group.





**Huron  
Valley  
Group  
Directory**

[www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/)

Chair

Nancy Shiffler\* 971-1157

Vice-chair

James D'Amour\*

Treasurer

Ginny Maturen\* 730-2947

Secretary

Ed Steinman\*\* 665-0248

Chapter Representative

Ed Steinman\*\* 665-0248

Alternate Chapter Representative

Joel Dalton\* 945-8132

Conservation Chair

Dorothy Nordness 668-6306

Inner City Outings Chair

Brandon Nascimento

Outings Chair

Kathy Guerreso 677-0823

Inner City Outings Liaison

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Ed Steinman\*\* 665-0248

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Ron Sell\*

Rita Mitchell 665-0248

Shopping for the Earth

Ed Steinman\*\* 665-0248

Fund Raising Co-Chairs

Jay Schlegel\* 477-5715

Ed Steinman\*\* 665-0248

Website

Ed Steinman\* 665-0248

Newsletter Team

Jay Schlegel\*, Editor 477-5715

Mary Roth

Kim Waldo 971-1941

Gwen Nystuen 665-7632

Ed Steinman\* 665-0248

\* = HVG Excom Member

**How to Get HVG reminders via email!**

At each HVG general meeting, there is an email sign up list. For those who missed it, or haven't joined us at a meeting, here's how you can get our general meeting reminders.

If you would like to receive email notices of each month's Huron Valley Group general meeting and occasional notices about other local Sierra Club activities send an email to Doug Cowherd at [dmcowherd3@comcast.net](mailto:dmcowherd3@comcast.net) with your name and "HVG email list" in the body of the message.

**Are You A New Member?**

Welcome to the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club. When you join the Sierra Club you are automatically a member of a local group, as well as a state chapter and the national organization. Membership entitles you to this newsletter as well as all editions of the state and national member publications. Check this page for our Directory with contacts on conservation, outings, political action, and the Inner City Outings program. Check the calendar in the middle of this issue for announcements of Monthly Public Program topics and our calendar of activities. We will be glad to see you at our next meeting or answer any questions if you care to call. Please take advantage of your membership as an opportunity to enjoy, preserve and protect our natural environment!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



**With your help,  
we can clean up our water.**

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

**Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

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



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
 Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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The Sierra Club  
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*DID YOU KNOW... that this newsletter is ENTIRELY volunteer-written, volunteer-edited, and volunteer-assembled? The Huron Valley Group could really use your help on future issues of "The Lookout" with any of the following tasks:*

- *ad wrangler*
- *article writer*
- *photography/graphics*
- *proofreading*
- *folding/assembling/mail-preparation*

*And, no, you do not have to do something "every issue" (unless you want to!); just help out as you can. If you are interested in helping us out, or if you have any questions, please contact us at [hvgnews@yahoo.com](mailto:hvgnews@yahoo.com)*