



## Update on ET Rover & Nexus Natural Gas Pipelines

Southeastern Michigan is in the pathway of two proposed natural gas pipelines. One is the ET Rover pipeline, which would carry fracked natural gas from the Utica and Marcellus shale areas of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, across Ohio into Michigan's western Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Livingston Counties, where it would connect to the existing Enbridge Vector line and continue into Canada. The other is the Nexus pipeline, which would begin in the same Utica and Marcellus shale areas, cross Ohio on a route parallel to the Rover route, and travel through Lenawee, Monroe, and Washtenaw Counties, east of the Rover route, and would also join the Vector line and on to Canada.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, has the regulatory authority to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for these projects. If this certificate is issued, the companies can use eminent domain to establish rights of way on private land for the defined route, including pipelines, compressor stations, and metering stations. To date, ET Rover has filed an application with FERC, with completion and release for comment of the Environmental Impact Statement pending. The Nexus pipeline is

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still in the pre-filing stage, with submission of an application expected soon.

FERC's issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is supposedly based on a balancing of public benefits vs. possible adverse impacts. So, how does this balance work out?

### On the "adverse impact" side:

- Farmlands would be impacted through potential damage to drainage tiles, soil compaction, and destruction of orchards and productive woodlands in an area that has some of the highest agricultural land values in the state. Soil compaction affects the structure of the soil and can reduce productivity for years beyond the actual construction of the pipeline.
- The pipeline construction would cause irreversible damage to thousands of acres of forests, wetlands, and streams. The ET Rover route passes through the eastern edge of Pinckney Recreation Area. Even areas where landowners have worked with state and local governments to preserve conservation easements are included in the pipeline routes.



By  
Nancy Shiffler

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# Natural Gas Pipelines continued from page1



- Air pollution from construction and operation of the pipelines is a health hazard. FERC has already determined that the estimated construction emissions for the Rover pipeline would exceed the thresholds for ozone and particulate matter in the Detroit-Ann Arbor maintenance area. Once in operation, the pipelines, and particularly the compressor stations,

produce emissions of methane and volatile organic compounds. For example, ET Rover’s report to FERC estimates methane releases from equipment venting at 1,729 tons per pipeline mile per year, plus another 15 tons from pipeline leakage

- Setbacks from homes, schools, and other buildings, often less than 100 feet, are insufficient to account for the potential impact radius (about 1200 feet) in the event of an explosion -- of particular concern for high-density areas as the Nexus route approaches the Ypsilanti area.

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## The Lookout Vol.37 No.2 Fall/Winter 2015

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## Natural Gas Pipelines continued from page 2

- Rural areas served by small fire departments would be stretched thin in the event of a major explosion or a fire.
- Individual landowners are rightfully concerned about the impact on their property values and insurance coverage, not to mention the enjoyment of their property; once a right of way is established the pipeline companies can return repeatedly for repairs and upgrades.

### On the “public necessity” side:

- Both pipeline companies indicate that their proposals are essentially producer driven. Currently the Marcellus shale area is producing more gas than there are current markets for; they are searching for markets, not addressing identified needs.
  - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in a report from February, stated that only 54% of current U.S. pipeline capacity is being used, and better utilization could reduce the need for new pipelines ([http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/02/f19/DOE%20Report%20Natural%20Gas%20Infrastructure%20V\\_02-02.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/02/f19/DOE%20Report%20Natural%20Gas%20Infrastructure%20V_02-02.pdf)).
  - Currently, FERC has approved or is considering new pipeline capacity in the northeast that is more than twice the DOE’s projected potential capacity needs over the next 15 years.
  - Michigan has sufficient gas storage that it would not need pipeline capacity beyond existing pipelines to prepare for proposed conversions of some coal plants to natural gas.
- The pipeline companies admit that these projects are intended to address a supply push — over production in the Marcellus area, and they admit that pipeline companies always overbuild (<http://seekingalpha.com/article/3409276-energy-transfer-partners-lp-etp-kelcy-l-warren-on-q2-2015-results-earnings-call-transcript?part=single>).
  - The credit-worthiness of companies lined up to ship their gas is questionable; many fall below FERC’s minimum requirements for Standard and Poors and Moody ratings.
  - The pipeline companies need legally-binding precedent agreements showing the pipeline is fully or nearly subscribed for a minimum of 10 years; current estimates suggest that the demand is not there.

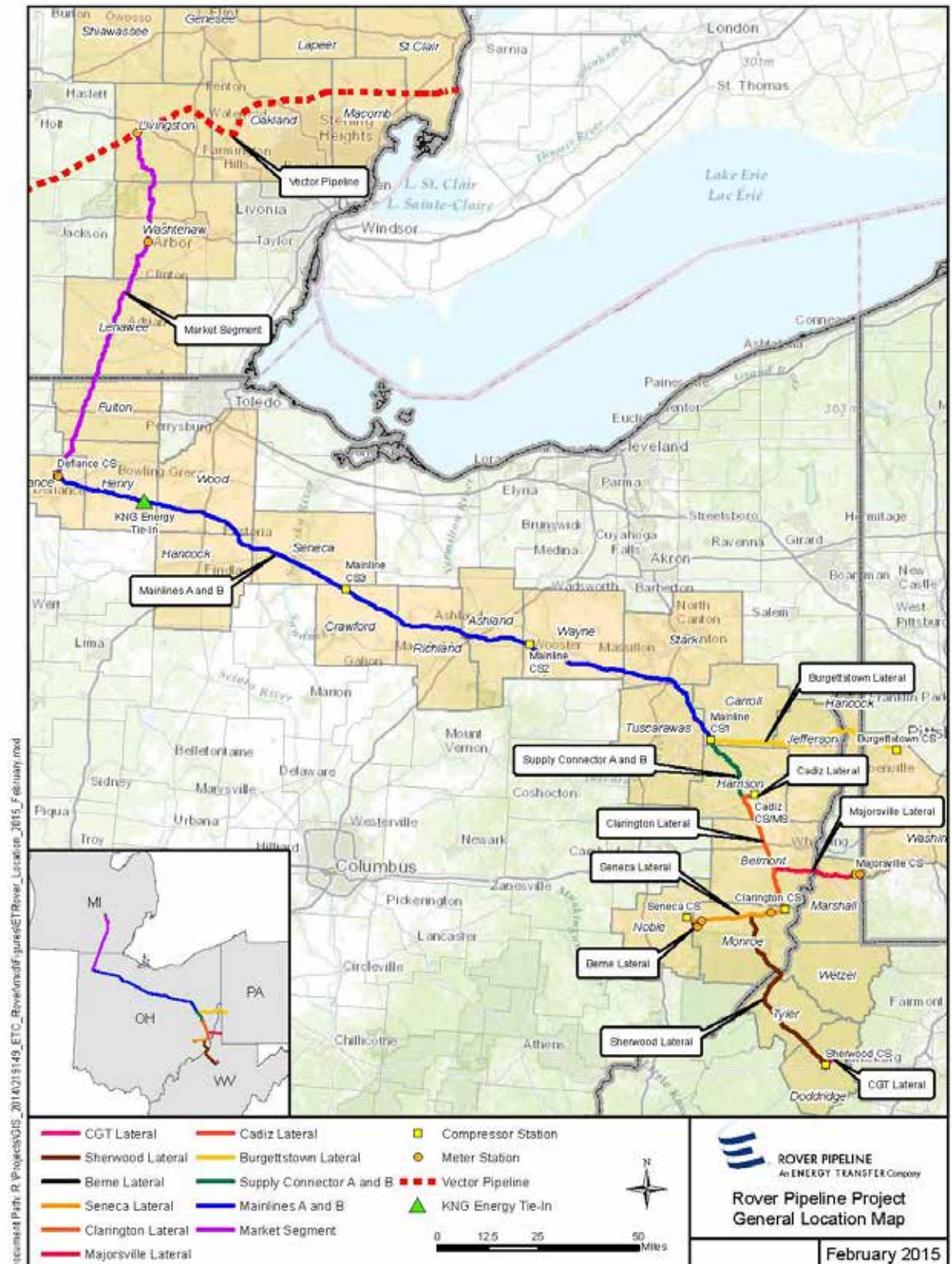
### So, how does this balance work out?

FERC’s own guidelines state “Landowners should not be subject to eminent domain for projects that are not financially viable and therefore may not be viable in the market place.” We should not be pitting the safety, economic value, and environmental health of local property owners and communities against pipeline projects that are neither viable nor needed.

FERC is receiving significant pushback on the pipeline approval process from individual citizens, organized local grassroots groups, and environmental organizations, not only for these two lines but also for proposed lines across the country. It is time for FERC and the DOE to rethink their standard approach of approving individual pipeline proposals without looking at their cumulative impact.

Comments and documents submitted to FERC for these two projects can be found in the FERC elibrary ([http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/docket\\_search.asp](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/docket_search.asp)). ET Rover’s docket number is CP15-93. The Nexus pre-filing number is currently PF15-10; this will change to a CP number once the application is filed. Comments can be submitted to FERC at their ecomment site: <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>.

# Natural Gas Pipelines continued from page 3



December Path: R:\Projects\GIS\_2011\0315149\_ETC\_Review\dwf\figures\ETRover\_Lines\_2015\_February.mxd

# Sprawl is Back...

Twelve years ago, the Sierra Club led the effort to successfully pass the Greenbelt millage in an effort to preserve open space in the Ann Arbor area.

The Greenbelt millage was an unprecedented 30 year millage and is an immense success, with thousands of acres of protected open space for future generations. Two-thirds of this millage was reserved for purchase of development rights outside of the City's boundaries, with the remaining third set aside for parks acquisitions within the city. Ann Arbor Township, Webster Township, and Scio Township have followed suit with a smaller similar millage as well. Problem solved, right?

For many people (and policy-makers), this was enough. The real estate bubble burst in the mid-2000s, and the demand for development of greenspace dropped off considerably.

Yes, in many ways, the issue dropped off the radar screen. But like many environmental issues, the issue of sprawl has not gone away. As the real estate market has somewhat rebounded...

For Ann Arbor, it has come back with a vengeance, in particular with the Northeast Area of the City of Ann Arbor, where major parcels, many with sensitive natural features, are now at risk.

A total of nearly 1000 new homes are either before the Planning Commission or are under final passage for approval by City Council as of this writing in the city right now.

A good number of sensitive natural areas will be either degraded or lost, and the tree canopy impacted that would result in this new development.

The City of Ann Arbor likes to fashion itself as an innovator when it comes to protecting the environment, yet when it comes to planning for growth, for all the progressive rationale it likes to place upon development, be it housing affordability, or inducing transit, it is planning for sprawl and all the environmental degradation as any other exurban city in America, if only under a different label.

The City is now actively encouraging development proposals that seriously affect natural systems, from building into floodplains, not acknowledging major water systems and tributaries to the Huron River, and placing large number of parcels of homes in remote areas, thus encouraging even more cars on an already overwhelmed system.

In the early 90s, a "gentleman's agreement" was established by the city and adjoining townships in that the townships would not oppose any annexation of city property within the expressway belt of the city.

So in essence, with the passage of the Greenbelt millage, the City now gives itself cover to not protect the environment in its present and future borders, to facilitate building at will at the expense of environmental considerations.

It's a shame, as these remaining open parcels hold important natural systems... in the Nixon properties, the headwaters for Traver Creek.

In the land behind Arborland Mall, 73 homes are proposed over steep slopes overlooking South Pond Nature Area and the Huron River, including moving the slopes to build a retention bsome challenges to it that we are reviewing and we are in the forefront of ways to protect South Pond Nature Area and the Huron River.

However, by the time this article is printed, we could see a city-approved petition seeing over 500 new homes on the former Nixon farms, built over seven years, with an additional proposal of 250 apartments built over on the other side of Nixon road on the east, each development abutting US-23 at the Nixon Road overpass.



By  
James  
D'Amour

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# Sprawl is Back continued from page 10

The accompanying zoning, site plan, wetland permit application, and authorization of activity within the designated natural open space on has raised strong concerns both from some of our concerned members as well as nearby residents.

## How is this happening?

These planning petitions fall under the Northeast Area Plan. While city planners rely on what was then state of art protection of our natural systems when the plan was being written, it is clear enough the city's ordinances do not do enough to protect the natural features of the city.

While these projects are zoned with less density under what was called for by the zoning recommendations of the NE Area, we believe these recommendations are flawed based on scientific assumptions of wetland mitigation more than a decade and a half old.

We believe the disturbances to wetlands and other natural features to accommodate construction on site do not function as well as natural systems being maintained in place.

The three Nixon proposals had wetland permits approved by the MDEQ and it is very clear that analysis appears superficial, isolated to the sites specifically under review and do not take into account the impact on the entire creekshed and impact on not only the natural features but impacts, particularly related to flooding, in adjoining neighborhoods.

By enabling development of this land by national home builder Toll Brothers, and an investor based in Plymouth, Michigan, very clearly by "our building it here" certainly isn't stopping them from building it elsewhere, another case for increased density as called forth in the Northeast Area Plan.

However, the issue isn't really with the developers in the end, they are only looking for the right opportunity for their interests. It's instead with the city and this process.

While the city's natural features ordinance and importance of natural systems are discussed in the Northeast Area Master Plan, an individual city planner, with the

concurrence of the Planning and Development Services director can set aside concerns about degradation to facilitate development even in natural areas if say, only half the wetland is damaged rather than entirely drained, under the guise of "balance" to other city benefits. These officials then make a recommendation to Planning Commission and City Council for approval. While only a recommendation, this nonetheless carries significant legal standing.

With the Nixon Developments, and the North Sky proposal off of Pontiac Trail to build hundreds of additional properties, the city is seeking an agreement from the developers to build a roundabout at the congested off-set intersection of Nixon and Dhu Varren Road. Again, the environment takes a back seat to other interests. And there are no guarantees the city can ensure the developers will finance said roundabout.

On all these proposals, clearly we need your help.

## What can you do? Get involved.

The Sierra Club is looking to--

- --Communicate with oversight agencies to ensure wetlands protections and the Clean Water Act are enforced
- --Work with area citizens to revise the Northeast Area Plan.
- --Speak out on behalf of South Pond, the headwaters of Traver Creek and other natural areas
- --Help to give teeth to the City's Natural Features Ordinance
- --Work with neighborhood groups in Ann Arbor and beyond to fight sprawl.

We are not anti-development. However, foremost in our ongoing mission to protect our planet, our stewardship of the environment doesn't begin elsewhere. It begins locally in our homes and our communities and neighborhoods, even in progressive cities like Ann Arbor. Join us in our efforts.

# 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, ride sharing 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/>**

**Tuesday November 10, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Book Club.** Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Book: **"The Triumph of Seeds: How Grains, Nuts, Kernels, Pulses, and Pips Conquered the Plant Kingdom and Shaped Human History,"** by Thor Hanson. How to get involved? Read the book and join us for discussion. Contact Nancy Shiffler for details: 734-971-1157 or [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net)

**Tuesday November 17, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – "Hiking Isle Royale".** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Isle Royale National Park is a Sierra Club favorite destination: Its remoteness, unique history and ecosystems, and challenging hiking terrain provide interests in abundance. Jim DuFresne, one of Michigan's best outdoor writers and explorers, will describe his favorite hikes and experiences on this unique archipelago. We'll all want to go to Isle Royale after listening to Jim. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com)

**Tuesday December 8, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Book Club.** Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Book: **"Betting the Farm on a Drought: Stories from the Front Lines of Climate Change,"** by Seamus McGraw. How to get involved? Read the book and join us for discussion. Contact Nancy Shiffler for details: 734-971-1157 or [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net)

**Tuesday December 15, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – "Tales and Travels from Around the Globe".** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). The annual HVG member program. Share and inspire us with your travels! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman: [lighhawkpilot@gmail.com](mailto:lighhawkpilot@gmail.com) and tell us about your adventures, near and far. Tell us what made your travel special. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com)

**Tuesday January 12, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Book Club.** Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Book: **"A 1000-Mile Great Lakes Island Adventure: One Woman's Epic Journey Exploring the Diverse Islands of the Five Great Lakes,"** by Loreen Niewenhuis. How to get involved? Read the book and join us for discussion. Contact Nancy Shiffler for details: 734-971-1157 or [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net)

**Tuesday January 19, 2016 -- 7:30 pm – Topic: TBA.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Join us on the third Tuesday of every month for our regular monthly program. Please check our schedule at <http://www.sierraclub.org/michigan/huron-valley>. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com)

**Tuesday February 9, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Book Club.** Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Book: **"This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate,"** by Naomi Klein. How to get involved? Read the book and join us for discussion. Contact Nancy Shiffler for details: 734-971-1157 or [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net)

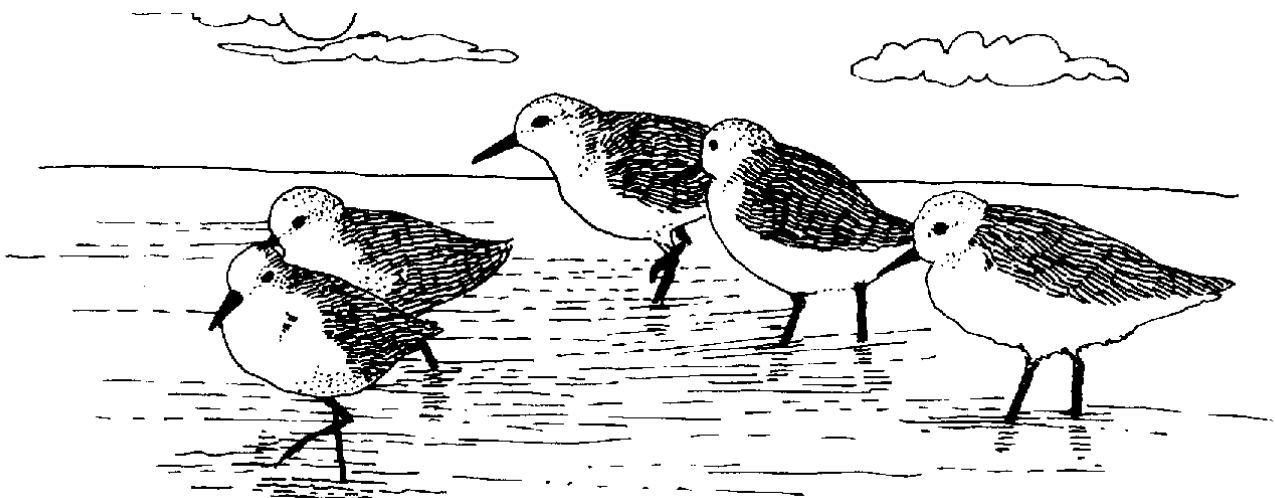


# The 2015 Huron Valley Group ExComm



Last year we elected Ed Steinman, Bill Kidd, James D'Amour and Robert Gordon to the seven member Executive Committee of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club for two-year terms. December is our annual election and Nancy Shiffler, Jay Schlegel, and Ginny Maturen are running for two-year terms beginning in January 2016. Information on the candidates and your ballot are on pages 14 and 15.

Top row, Ed, Nancy, Ginny and James. Lower row: Jay, Robert and Bill.





# Mowing of Huron-Clinton Metroparks

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

Michigan Botanical Club, Southeastern Chapter (metro Detroit)  
Emily Nietering, President

Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group  
Art Myatt, Chair

Sierra Club Crossroads Group  
Lee Burton, Chair

Huron River Watershed Council  
Laura Rubin, Executive Director

Ann Arbor Wild Ones  
Andrea Matthies, Chapter President

Michigan Botanical Club  
Huron Valley Chapter  
Tony Reznicek, President

Wild Ones Southeast Michigan Chapter  
Fred Kaluza, President

I know that many of us are flooded with information about climate change on perhaps a daily basis, and that some of us have been immersed in this flood of information for many years. Yet, at the same time, we seem to have trouble reaching out to other audiences to communicate the details and nuances of these issues as well as the sense of urgency regarding climate change, all without scaring people away.

To that end, I will promote another

organization's product: the November issue of National Geographic magazine is dedicated exclusively to climate change. You can view it online at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/climate-change/special-issue/>. Perhaps we don't all agree on the causes or the solutions, but I do think that such a communication effort is laudable as well as effective. Please read it, and share it with your family and friends if you like.



By Jay Schlegel



# ALERT "Busch's MyWay "Cash for Education" ALERT



By Ginnie Maturen

The Sierra Club/Huron Valley Group is a participant in Busch's MyWay Cash for Education program.

Recently, I received a notification that Busch's is simplifying the program. Beginning Sunday, November 1st, it will no longer be necessary to pay with a Cash for Education gift card to earn rewards for your organization(s). Moving forward, you can simply shop, provide your Busch's MyWay phone number or key tag at the register and receive credit.

## Program Updates:

- Busch's will contribute up to \$200,000 annually or \$5,000 quarterly to organizations based on their percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending of all participating organizations.
- You can earn rewards on almost everything, every time you shop. Exclusions are: gift card purchases and recharges, bottle deposits, tax lottery and promotional tickets.
- If you have remaining funds on your current Cash for Education gift card, you may continue using it until there is no longer a balance.







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

- Over the past 15 years the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** has been a very successful program for supporting our efforts to protect parks, natural areas and local farmland, and to address local and regional environmental problems.
- For every \$20 of cards you buy, you get the full \$20 in store credit—and earn from \$0.80 to as much as \$4.60, depending on the merchant, for the Sierra Club.

**Great for:**

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Most cards/certificates are available online. For a few local groceries the only way to order is via this mail-in form.

For online ordering please visit:

[sierraclub.org/michigan/huron-valley/sfte-online](http://sierraclub.org/michigan/huron-valley/sfte-online)

or use the following pages to indicate the cards you want and we will order for you.

Questions? write to: [SFTE@michigan.sierraclub.org](mailto:SFTE@michigan.sierraclub.org)

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

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



**Mail-in Order Form**

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

<b>Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op</b>	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$50 ea	_____ cards @ \$200 ea
<b>Arbor Brewing Company</b>	_____ cards @ \$25 ea		
<b>Arbor Farms</b>	no card--just tell the cashier that you're donating to the Sierra Club (code # 87)		
<b>Busch's</b>	_____ cards @ no cost - add money when shopping at Busch's		
<b>Produce Station</b>	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$50 ea	
<b>Kroger</b>	Obtain card at Kroger's and register it at <a href="http://krogercommunityrewards.com">krogercommunityrewards.com</a> so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads - see <a href="http://sierraclub.org/michigan/huron-valley/sfte-kroger">sierraclub.org/michigan/huron-valley/sfte-kroger</a>		

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 For cards available online see back page.

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- Please send me the local Sierra Club newsletter

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your information will not be shared with any group.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

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



**Huron  
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www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

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Jay Schlegel\* 477-5715

Ed Steinman\* 665-0248

Website

Ed Steinman\* 665-0248

Newsletter Team

Jay Schlegel\*, Editor 477-5715

Gwen Nystuen 665-7632

Ed Steinman\* 665-0248

**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 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



**Blowing in the Wind**

It's time for America to get smart about energy and become less dependent on fossil fuels. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

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<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:  
 Sierra Club, PO Box 421041  
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

# Candidates and Ballot for the Election of the



**Ginny Maturen**

I have been your Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Treasurer for 5 years. I'm running for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term and ask for your support.

As a member of the leadership team, my responsibilities include:

Maintain the books of account with regular reporting of fund balances, revenue and expenses.

I pay bills, make deposits and request reimbursements as needed. Each month I provide a monthly report of all account balances and quarterly I give a summary of our SFTE income.

Complete a year-end report (1099) to the Michigan Chapter Treasurer plus calculate and pay any sales tax owing to the State of Michigan.

Provide ExCom members and chairs with a year-end accounting of revenues and expenses. Following input from members for their needs/requests, present a budget proposal for discussion and approval by ExCom.

Provide necessary documents for the Sierra Club HVG annual review books.

In keeping with the Sierra Club motto: Explore, Enjoy, Protect, I perceive my responsibility to look at all issues locally and globally, short term and long term to meet the needs of our members, neighbors and our Earth.

Sierra Club offices held: Current chair of the Group Executive Committee; current member of the state Chapter Executive Committee.

As a member since 1981, I have found that the uniqueness of the Sierra Club flows from participation at the grassroots:

- The heart of the club is its volunteers. The club provides a place for members to grow and be effective as activists.
- The enjoyment and sense of renewal we get from our outings help to energize our conservation activism.
- The Sierra Club is a democratic organization; it is both the right and the responsibility of its members to become involved in its governance.

We are facing any number of important environmental issues in our three-county area -- public transit, factory farms, energy (renewables and efficiency, oil and gas drilling, pipelines and new nuclear plants), the protection of parks and natural areas – and across the state and nation. Our capacity to act on these issues is bounded only by the willingness of our members to become involved. As a member of our Executive Committee I will help to continue our work on these important issues and I invite all our members to join us in that work.



**Nancy Shiffler**



# Huron Valley Group Executive Committee

I am currently completing my fifth term on the HVG Executive Committee, and it continues to be an eye-opening experience. I have learned a great deal about local politics and how a group of determined environmentalists can influence this process. Serving on the Executive Committee has also helped me put a local face to issues which affect us globally and nationally.

In addition to my Executive Committee role as fundraising co-chair, I've worn several other hats -- all of which put a practical/tangible spin on things I can do to help the HVG. Until recently, I've been co-leading the wildly successful 'Secret Hike' series in the Waterloo/Pinckney area, which directly connects people and nature even if only briefly. I'm now starting my sixth year as editor of the HVG newsletter, The Lookout, which has also been challenging and illuminating. You may also have encountered me in my role as "Art Fair Czar," "Calendar Czar," and/or "Coffee/Tea Czar" -- but no, I do not have any Russian ancestors (that I know of!)

I have met many nice Sierra Club members while wearing my various hats, and the conversations I've had always leave me with something new which hopefully I can apply elsewhere within the Club. I look forward to continuing these conversations and helping to advance the goals of the Sierra Club if elected to another term.



Jay Schlegel

## Ballot for Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee 2015

The Huron Valley Group Executive Committee (ExCom) is selected by you. Ballot instructions and anonymity guaranteed:

1. Please mark up to three votes on the ballot provided. Only those ballots with a membership number on the attached mailing label are eligible.
2. After marking your ballot, remove this entire back page from the newsletter.
3. Fold the bottom third up to conceal your votes, and fold the top third over to show your mailing label.
4. Return your ballot in a sealed envelope either by hand at the December 15th HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o Ed Steinman, 621 5th St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.
5. You can cast your vote online (<https://goo.gl/zuRdCD>) or by using the ballot below. Paper and online ballots must be received by December 15, 2015.

### Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2015

Three to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2016 - Vote for three.  
Second column of boxes is for second voter in same household.

Jay Schlegel

Nancy Shiffler

Ginny Maturen



## FALL/WINTER 2015

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- - Sprawl is Back - page 10-11
- - Calendar of Events - page 7
- - HVG Election & Ballot- page 14 -15

## Don't Miss Tales and Travels from Around the Globe

Come on a trip around the world at our December meeting: The annual HVG member program. Share and inspire us with your travels! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman at ([lighthawkpilot@gmail.com](mailto:lighthawkpilot@gmail.com)) and tell us about your adventures, near and far. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 [ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com)

