



Sierra Club Fights Proposed Nexus Natural Gas Pipeline on Several Fronts

Southeastern Michigan is in the pathway of two proposed natural gas pipelines, both carrying fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, across Ohio, into Michigan, and into Canada. The two pipelines, labeled ET Rover and Nexus, use essentially parallel routes that include portions of Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw, and Livingston Counties. If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approves these projects, 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. Ultimately, FERC is supposed to weigh the “public need” vs. the potential adverse impacts of each project before determining whether to approve it. The Sierra Club argues that neither project has demonstrated need or financial viability to outweigh the adverse environmental impacts. Recently, the Sierra Club has taken action against the Nexus Pipeline proposal on several fronts:

1) The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Permit. The Nexus project proposes to carry out 31 wetland crossings, 88 stream crossings, and 2 pond crossings in the 47 miles of pipeline to be constructed in Michigan. This requires a permit from the MDEQ Water Resources Division for which we requested a public hearing. On

November 3rd, some thirty people attended the hearing in Ypsilanti Township, with many of those, including the Sierra Club, presenting their concerns about the impact of the pipeline on Michigan water resources. The MDEQ decision on the permit is still pending.



2) Motion for Summary Disposition Before FERC. By Nancy Shiffler. On November 16th, the Michigan Chapter, represented by Terry Lodge, submitted a motion for a summary disposition before FERC based on the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Club argues that the Nexus project does not meet FERC’s responsibility to weigh public need and financial viability against adverse environmental impacts.

3) Rate Case Before the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). The national Sierra Club, represented by Earthjustice, is intervening in DTE’s 2017 power supply cost recovery proceeding before the MPSC. DTE Energy has a 50% interest in the Nexus pipeline via its unregulated affiliate, DTE Pipeline. DTE’s regulated components, DTE Electric and DTE Gas, have recently petitioned the MPSC for customer rate increases that we contend would essentially subsidize the construction of the pipeline.

4) Complaint Filed for Antitrust Investigation. On November 17th, the Sierra Club filed a complaint with the US Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission regarding the monopolistic effects of the Nexus pipeline, with DTE Electric using its monopoly over the retail sale of electricity to support its unregulated affiliate.

See map page 3

Sierra Club Files Petition to EPA to Declare Gelman Plume a Superfund Site

By HVG
Executive
Committee

**The petition
can be found at
goo.gl/3yWwzB.**

**The supporting
document can
be found at
goo.gl/QyhFJz.**

The Sierra Club of Huron Valley, along with Ann Arbor Charter Township and Scio Township jointly filed a petition on November 21, 2016 with requesting the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to conduct a Preliminary Assessment for the Gelman Sciences, Inc. (Gelman) Site to become a federal USEPA Superfund Site. The petition can be found at goo.gl/3yWwzB.

Wastewater disposal practices at the former Gelman plant located in Scio Township, near Ann Arbor, contaminated on-site and off-site groundwater with the known carcinogen 1,4-dioxane. The dioxane groundwater plume, which currently is about four miles long and one mile wide, has polluted local lakes, creeks, residential drinking water wells, and a City of Ann Arbor municipal water supply well.

The Gelman Site is under a 1992 Consent Judgment between the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Gelman Sciences, Inc. However, the Sierra Club and the petitioning townships believe that the court remedy and DEQ actions do not adequately protect public health.

“Local governments and community groups long have worked with the DEQ on remediation options for the Gelman Site and a dioxane cleanup standard that protects human health and is consistent with EPA policy.

Conservation Group in Joint Action with Ann Arbor Charter Town- ship and Scio Town- ship Requesting Federal Action from USEPA

Unfortunately, DEQ has not demonstrated the capability or willingness to obtain a protective remedy in

court that places the burden for clean-up squarely on the potentially responsible party,” said Michael Moran, Supervisor, Ann Arbor Charter Township.

The dioxane plume continues to migrate in all directions with no effective off-site hydraulic control. Numerous Scio Township and Ann Arbor Charter Township private residential drinking water wells are down-gradient of the plume in east, west and north directions. The City of Ann Arbor’s main drinking water supply comes from the Huron River at Barton Pond, which potentially could be impacted as the dioxane plume expands. A large portion of the off-site dioxane plume is greater than 1,000 ug/L, while the USEPA dioxane drinking water criterion is 0.35 ug/L (parts-per-billion) at a 1 in 1,000,000 excess lifetime cancer risk level.

“Many Scio Township drinking water wells have been contaminated with dioxane, yet the DEQ and the Consent Judgment allow the dioxane plume to expand towards many more Township wells. USEPA can do a better job of clean-up than the DEQ,” said Spaulding Clark, Supervisor – Scio Township. The group believes that the USEPA cleanup will be superior to the DEQ approach as USEPA will restore the polluted aquifer to a drinking water criterion, provide a Contingency Plan for Barton Pond, provide alternative potable water supplies now to potentially impact homes, and utilize a scientifically sound drinking water criterion.

The Gelman Site today is owned by PALL Life Sciences, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Danaher Corporation, and there are no active plant operations. Historically, the plant manufactured filter devices and used dioxane as a solvent. It is estimated that

continued page 3

The Lookout Vol.37 Winter 2016

The Huron Valley Group Newsletter is published 2 times a year by Huron Valley Group, Michigan Chapter, Sierra Club, 621 5th Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Sierra Club Files Petition to EPA continued from page 2

Area of the Gelman Plume



800,000 pounds of dioxane was used between 1966 and 1986 with most being discharged to soil, surface water, and groundwater through seepage lagoons, land spray irrigation, and direct discharges at the site.

“The Sierra Club believes, as in Flint, Michigan, that due to lax DEQ enforcement, the USEPA is required to assist the local community with this large groundwater contamination which presents an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and the environment,” said Nancy Shiffler, Chair of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group.

The group will continue to provide an opportunity for City of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Charter Township, and Scio Township residents that may be affected by the dioxane release from the Gelman Site to support their petition by electronically signing a supporting document. The supporting document can be found at goo.gl/QyhFJz.

Nexus pipeline. See article on Page 1



The Huron Valley Group, the early Years (1961 - 1969)



By Ginny Maturen

May 28, 1892:

Sierra Club
founded
by
John Muir

In 1961, there are 40 Sierra Club members in Michigan; 7 of those were in Ann Arbor.

Cindy Tompson calls each of those 7 people and invites them to a meeting.

Six members come together to form a group. Their shared interests - **regular outings and conservation concerns.**

Cindy Tompson: Works with **Virginia Prentiss** to create the **Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore (SBSDNL).**

Gwen Nystuen: Celebrates 50 years as a member with the SC in 2012; has held most positions at both the Group and Chapter level; and remains very active today. In 1964, drafts bylaws for the Ann Arbor Group.



Jane Bishop: Becomes the first Midwest Outings Chair; serves as Envoy to San Francisco, where, upon her meeting the SC Committee,

mentioned the Mackinac Chapter -- she is asked where it is located. She joined for the outings.

Wally Sweet: An avid hiker, skier and Latin professor. He writes a letter to Senator Phillip Hart seeking his membership in the SC.

His wife, **Betty Sweet:** An avid hiker, very friendly and welcoming; she is a frequent guest at Chapter meetings.

Pat Tomlin: Who functioned as membership chair and helped to pick the new **Chapter's name, Mackinac, in 1967.**

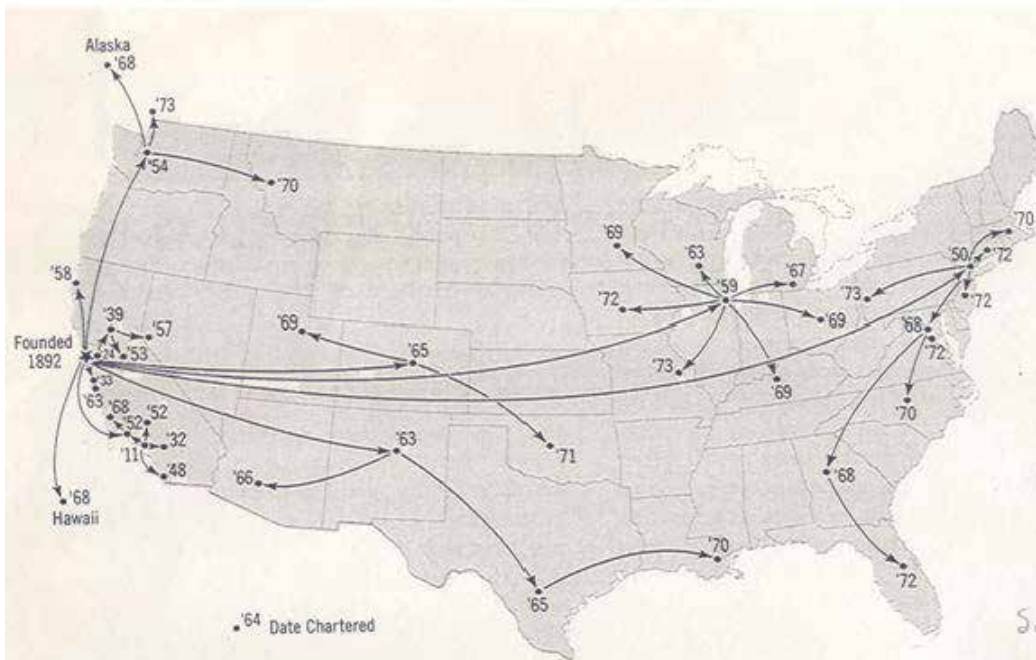
Early hikes include **Point Pelee, Lake Huron, Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes,** and canoeing on the **Algonquin, AuSable and Huron Rivers.**

Early on, an annual potluck is held at the home of **Art French.** Other early Ann Arbor Group members are **John Nystuen, Art and Jean** (who reports \$13 in the Treasury) **Morley** (from San Diego who provided "how to" leadership); **Pat Wort,** secretary; and **Don Kucera,** early Conservation leader and who procured hiking equipment.

1965 ExCom members are: **Dan Carson** (Conservation Chair), **Ed Work** (also Conservation Chair), **Jane Bishop, Waldo Sweet, Dan Weber, and Gwen Nystuen** (Newsletter Editor).

By 1966, **Gerry and Chris Marsden** become members and provide opportunities for rock climbing at Grand Ledge and snow shoeing.

The **outings**



The Huron Valley Group, the early Years (1961 - 1969) continued from pg. 4

events will be published in a **bulletin** and sent to the Ann Arbor News, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, and area groups: Washtenaw Hikers, Audubon Society, Graduate Outing Club, Le Voyager, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

1967: With 423 members in Michigan [12 from the U.P. and 411 in the L.P.], the Ann Arbor Chapter approaches the Great Lakes Chapter for formal membership, to be known as **Mackinac Chapter (the Club's 21st)** which coincides with the SC's Diamond Jubilee. There are 9 groups in the new Chapter.

The letterhead uses the byline: "**Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Natural Scenic Resources**".

1967: The Sierra Club celebrates its **Diamond Jubilee**.

Conservation notes refer to the Huron

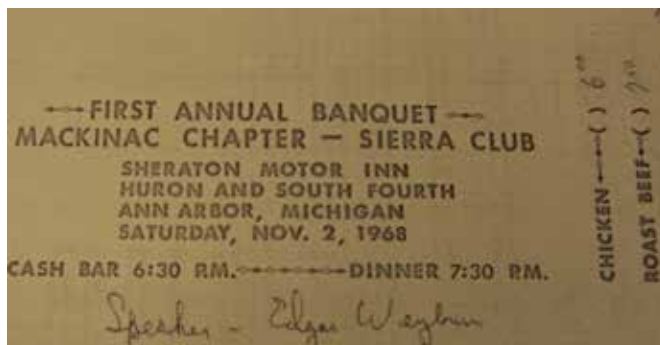
Valley Chapter. By 1968, the National SC has 65,000 members.

- The new **Mackinac Chapter** endorses the **Proposed Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore** (60,000 acres) This effort is led by **Virginia Prentiss and Cindy Tompson**.

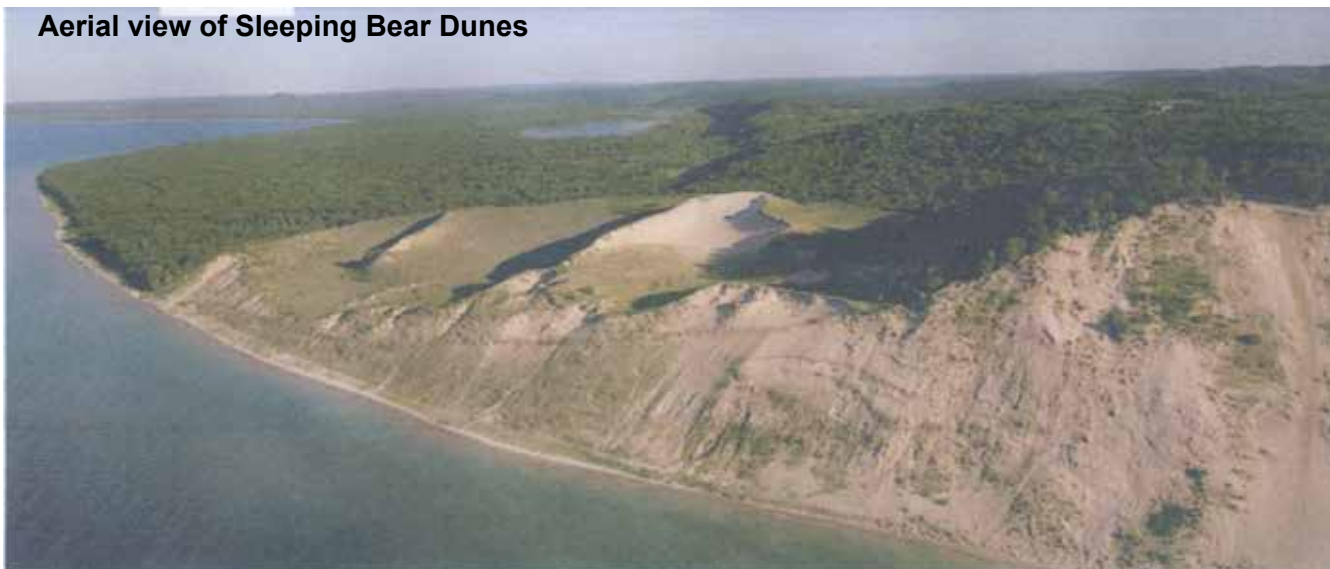
- The **Annual Banquet** is held, Sat. Nov. 2, 1968 at the Sheraton Hotel, Lansing.

Edgar Weyburn, President of the Sierra Club and his wife fly in from San Francisco to attend

- **Michigan Environmental Protection Act.**
- **Natural Rivers Act.**
- **Great Lakes Shoreline Act.**



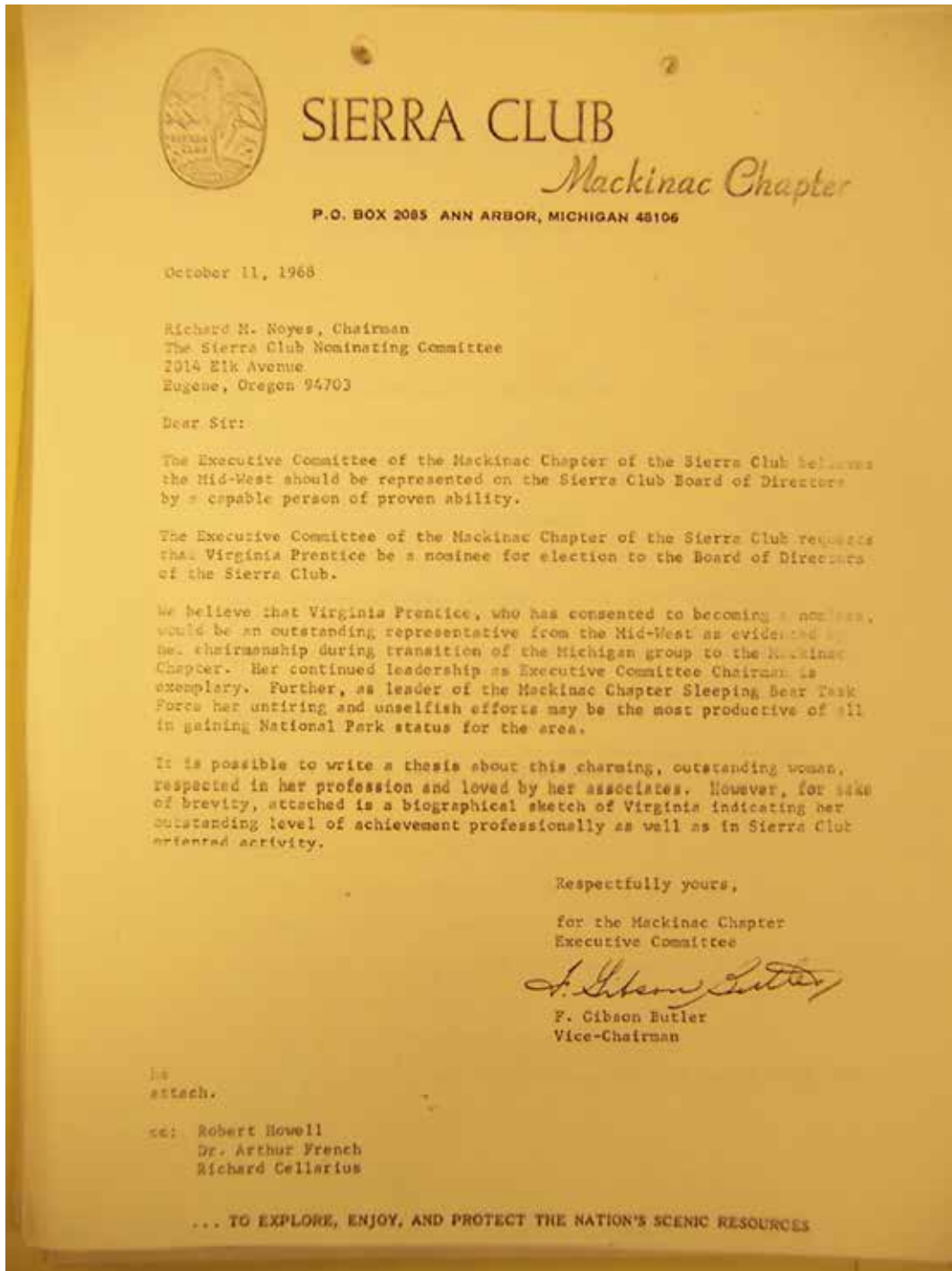
Aerial view of Sleeping Bear Dunes



Virginia Prentiss and Cindy Tompson work tirelessly to get a bill before Congress to approve the **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**. Their efforts began in about 1964. Other local Sierra Club members become involved.

In addition to her work with the Sierra Club, Virginia's name appears as **Chapter Chair** in the Executive Committee minutes, dated April 9, 1968.

RESOLUTION: "The Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter urges the President of the United States and his administration to support establishment of the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan and to support passage of the authorizing legislation during the current session of the Congress."



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 December 13, 2016 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "Frackopoly: The Battle for the Future of Energy and the Environment," by Wenonah Hauter. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday December 20, 2016 -- 7:30 pm – "Exploring and Enjoying Our Planet". Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI). It's a tradition! Our year-end general meeting, when members of the Huron Valley Group present photos and tell stories of our travels. Bring your favorite slides and share your experiences. We'll inspire each other as we show how we appreciate the Sierra Club motto to explore, enjoy and protect our planet. Open at 7:00 pm; meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Tuesday January 10, 2017 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene," by Jedediah Purdy. Americans' changing attitudes toward the natural world. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday January 17, 2017 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Monthly General Meeting: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI). Join us for our monthly general meeting, held the third Tuesday of each month. Open at 7:00 pm; meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com.

Tuesday February 14, 2017 -- 7:30 pm -- Huron Valley Group Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "Life: The Leading Edge of Evolutionary Biology, Anthropology, and Environmental Science," edited by John Brockman. An anthology drawing from science's current understanding of biology, genetics, evolutionary theory, and more. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

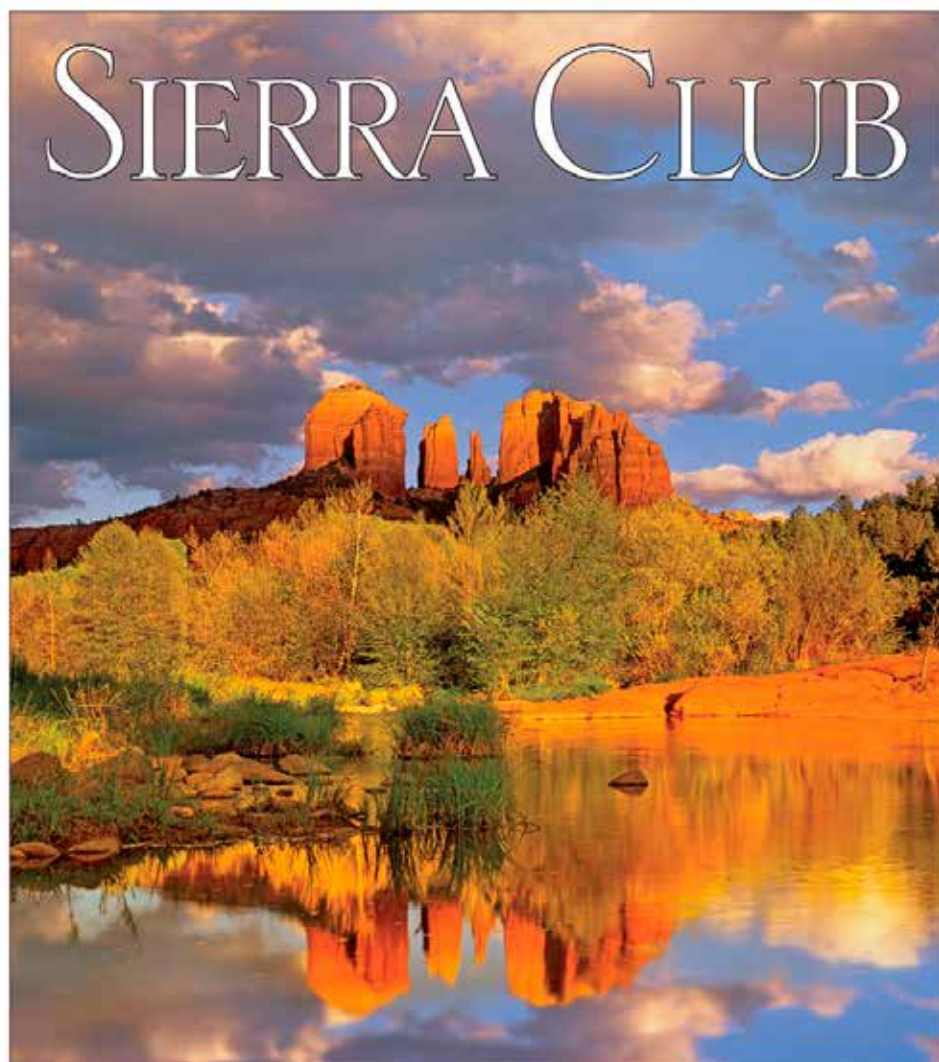
Tuesday February 21, 2017 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Monthly General Meeting: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI). Join us for our monthly general meeting, held the third Tuesday of each month. Open at 7:00 pm; meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com.



Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Tuesday March 14, 2017 -- 7:30 pm -- Huron Valley Group Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "The New Wild: Why Invasive Species Will Be Nature's Salvation," by Fred Pearce. A provocative exploration of the "new ecology." Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday March 21, 2017 -- 7:30 pm – Huron Valley Group Monthly General Meeting: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI). Join us for our monthly general meeting, held the third Tuesday of each month. Open at 7:00 pm; meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com



*Wilderness Wall
Calendar: \$14 each*

*Engagement/Desk
Calendar: \$15 each*

*When purchased
through your local
HVG group, this
contributes to our
local conservation
efforts.*

*Calendars are
available at the
HVG monthly
meeting at Matthaei
Botanical Garden
(third Tuesday
of each month),
while supplies last.
Contact Kimberly
Schlegel for details:
[kimpschlegel@
comcast.net](mailto:kimpschlegel@comcast.net).*



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.

"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 groceries
2. **Online ordering** from over 600 national merchants including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Best Buy, Cabela's, Chipotle Mexican Grill, CVS/pharmacy, Econo Lodge, Glen's Market, Groupon, Home Depot, iTunes, Kohl's, L.L.Bean, Lands' End, Lowe's, Noodles & Company, Office Max, REI, Rite Aid, Sears, gas stations, Starbucks, Tim Hortons, United Artist Theatres, Walgreens, Whole Foods.. Please visit: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm

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. Your total order: \$ _____

Ann Arbor People's Food Co-op	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$50 ea	_____ cards @ \$200 ea
Arbor Brewing Company	_____ cards @ \$25 ea		
Arbor Farms	no card--just tell the cashier that you're donating to the Sierra Club		
Busch's	_____ cards @ no cost - add money when shopping at Busch's		
Produce Station	_____ cards @ \$25 ea	_____ cards @ \$50 ea	
Meijers	Please order both through Shopwithscrip - see: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm		
Whole Foods	For help with Shopwithscrip contact Ed Steinman (esteinma@umich.edu)		
Hiller's Markets	Obtain card at Hiller's and register it at hillers.reachoffers.com then donate your rewards		
Kroger	Obtain card at Kroger's and register it at krogercommunityrewards.com so that the Sierra Club receives a donation from your reloads - see http://michigan.sierraclub.org/kroger.htm		

Reloadable cards! The Sierra Club receives a contribution each time you reload, so only one card is needed per person.
Not reloadable—consider ordering several

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Date _____

Email: _____

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

Your information will not be shared with any group.

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
Valley
Group
Directory**

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

Chair	* = HVG Excom Member
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
Conservation Chair	
Dorothy Nordness	668-6306
Outings Chair	
Kathy Guerreso	734 277-4610
Membership Chair	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Political Chair	
James D'Amour*	
Political Committee	
Robert Gordon*	
Publicity	
Program Co-Chairs	
Ron Sell	
Rita Mitchell	665-0248
Shopping for the Earth	
Ed Steinman**	665-0248
Fund Raising Co-Chairs	
Kimberly Schlegel*	477-5715
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Website	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Newsletter Team	
Kimberly 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 Ed Steinman at lighthawk.pilot@gmail.com 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!



**Be a champion for the environment.
Join today.**

From delisting endangered species like the Gray Wolf to drilling for dirty tar sands oil, the threats to our environment have never been greater.

Your support is absolutely essential to preserving our most precious natural resources - join the nation's largest and most effective grassroots movement today.

As a special thank you, we'll send you a free field messenger bag as well as these exciting Members-only benefits:



- Free Sierra Club Field Messenger Bag (limited time!)
- One-year subscription to Sierra magazine
- Worldwide Members-only outdoor trips
- Automatic membership in your local Chapter
- Discounts on Sierra Club calendars, books, and other merchandise

\$15 annual membership

**To join:
<https://goo.gl/2saK.dY>**

Shopping for the Earth program (SFTE)



By Ginny Maturen

The Holiday season will soon be upon us and for some that means gift giving and special treats. Your Huron Valley Group has been most generous during 2016 by supporting the work of several area conservation efforts. You can help us to continue our mission by supporting the SFTE fund-raising effort. There are over 740 companies participating in the ShopwithScrip program. There really is something for everyone.

Go to shopwithscrip.com, sign in or, if you are not a member, register (you do this by clicking on the 'get started' button and giving yourself a

user name and password), then begin shopping.

Additionally, during the fall HVG monthly general meetings at Matthaei Botanical Garden (hint: third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm), there will be Produce Station, Peoples Food Coop and Arbor Brewing Company gift cards for sale as well as 2017 Sierra Club wall (\$14) and desk (\$15) calendars.

Thanks for supporting the HVG Shopping For The Earth program.

Huron Valley Group to Continue Archiving Materials at the Bentley Historical Library

In a follow-up to collecting the recent Huron Valley Group (HVG) history, compiled for the Michigan Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration, it has been decided to archive many of the materials, gathered for this historical project.

There are a few Huron Valley Group Sierra Club newsletters at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan and these were used, as were selected documents from the Michigan Chapter, also archived.

If YOU have materials: minutes of Ex-Com, Conservation, Political, and/or other HVG meetings or files/notes of important

conservation efforts, etc., please contact Ginny Maturen, Treasurer and HVG Liaison, 50th Anniversary Celebration at ginnymaturen@charter.net or 734-730-2947. I will arrange to meet with you and pick up your items for delivery to the Bentley.

If you are not familiar with The Bentley Historical Library and would like to view archived materials for HVG, the Michigan Sierra Club Chapter, or any other organization's materials, you can register in one of two ways: 1) you can register online at <http://bentley.umich.edu> or 2) you can visit the Bentley Library and register on site. The staff is very helpful to assist you with the registration process.

The Bentley Historical Library is located on North Campus. The address is: 1150 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI, 48109-2113; phone: 734-764-3482. The hours are: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.



Election Time for the Huron Valley Group Excom—Four to be elected. Candidates pages 12, 13, 14. Ballot is page 15.

Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Candidates

James D'Amour



I am running for re-election to the HVG Executive Committee. I currently serve as Vice-Chair, and am also Chair of the Political Committee.

I've enjoyed serving on the ExComm for the past several years, and I will continue to do what I can to enjoy, explore and protect the planet and the local environment.

I would like to see the Huron Valley Group continue to demonstrate independent leadership on important local issues of the environment, from protecting our natural environment from the effects of sprawl, and pipeline construction and the threat of oil and gas drilling. Events in the state have brought a new spotlight on the MDEQ, and we are calling for as strong action as possible on the Gelman plume, which has been virtually unchecked in thirty years (enough!)

Within the club itself, one of my goals for a next term is to reenergize our outings programs, and to create greater ways for personal involvement within the club in terms of social activity as well as activism.

I see a stronger local Group in our future. I'd like your support and input moving ahead and your help in making it happen.

My deepest thanks!

HVG December Meeting

Happy Holidays All, and come on a trip around the world at our December meeting: Tales and Travels from Around the Globe. Tuesday December 20, 2016 -- 7:30 pm -- 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 at (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 Calendars available for purchase at the December meeting.



ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR | 2017

Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Candidates

Robert Gordon

I love the Sierra Club. It is unique among environmental non-profits in being a bottom-up organization. I was first a member in the 1980's and nowadays serve as Vice Chair of the State Political Committee and lead lobbyist in Lansing.

I do occasionally disagree with the Huron Valley Group direction, as I believe national priorities of clean energy, energy efficiency, public transportation, and protecting wild places ought to be our goals at the Group level as well.

We have some difficult long term issues in our geographic footprint. The Gelman plume, the overall health of the Huron River Watershed, clean energy programs like PACE, recycling and solid waste, and effective local and regional mass transit among them. My role in State Government makes me an effective local advocate for these and related issues.

I hope you will renew (for a second time) my membership on the HVG Executive Committee. I also hope you pay attention to and even attend meetings of the Committee. After all, it is your Club too.



Ed Steinman



My wife and I enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing and canoeing. We take care to help protect the natural world from coasting to stoplights to volunteering every day for the Sierra Club.

HVG covers Lenawee, Monroe and Washtenaw counties. These are some of the problems:

CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations i.e. “factory farms”) are a public health hazard, an environmental hazard and are extremely inhumane. I have worked with researchers, DEQ staff and others as a Lighthawk pilot and in other ways for at least 8 years trying to address this problem. There are 274 CAFOs in Michigan -- many are in the HVG area.

The Great Lakes, 1/5 of the world's fresh water, are under immediate threat of pollution from oil and gas drilling and tar sands oil transport via pipelines, ships and trucks. Many pipelines run through the HVG counties and more are being built. I've helped with public education about this enormous threat.

Nuclear power plants and nuclear waste dumps ring the Great Lakes, polluting water and killing fish and other aquatic life. The Fermi power plants are extremely costly and have had frequent maintenance problems. I have helped with public education about nuclear power.

In Ann Arbor in particular, parks and sensitive areas are under threat from development while citizens are excluded from the conversation. Non-motorized transportation is not well provided for. City Council members like Jack Eaton, Sumi Kailaspathy and Jane Lumm, who work hard for the community, need to be supported and more like them need to be on Council. I and others have worked towards that goal.

There are so many serious problems that there is no choice but to continue to work on solutions. It is great to work with dedicated and effective Sierra Club leaders and volunteers, which makes the work rewarding and even fun.

Chapter awards: Digital Excellence Award, 2016 - as Chapter webmaster, Michigan Chapter Chair's Award, 2010 - for support of the Chapter, Cyberpunk Award, 2010 - as Chapter webmaster, HVG awards: Care and Feeding Award, 2013 (with 5 others) and 2009, Rachel Carson Communications Award, 2006 (with 3 others) and 2009, Conservation Activist Award, 2007, Democracy in Action Award, 2006 (with 4 others), Conservation Accomplishment Award, 2003 (with 16 others).

Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Candidates

My connection with Michigan's air, water, and land is deep. I grew up exploring our state, by splashing in its lakes, climbing trees, and camping with my family. I continue to enjoy canoeing, hiking and cross-country skiing. That early activity laid the foundation for my current involvement with the Sierra Club and our community.

I am involved with multiple local activities: Since 2005, I have been an Ann Arbor park steward, where I work with other volunteers to control invasives and restore native plants. Along with other community volunteers, I work to protect Ann Arbor parks so that our public lands remain available for recreation and open space. In 2016, I co-founded a program to reduce use of pesticides in Ann Arbor neighborhoods in order to support pollinators.

For the last eight years, I have been active with the HVG Conservation and Political Committees. I regularly participate in the Michigan Chapter's Sierra Club Lobby Day work in Lansing. Since 2010, I have served as the speaker coordinator for the HVG general meetings. I also volunteer with Michigan United's environmental justice team in Detroit and have spoken at a USEPA Region 5 hearing on their behalf. I previously served on the HVG ExComm, from 2007-2009.

My goal is to continue as an activist to support making the shift to renewable energy in our HVG communities and to work with the HVG ExComm to increase member involvement throughout the area included in the Huron Valley Group.

Rita Mitchell



Vince Caruso



I hope to assist the wonderful people who belong to the Sierra Club both locally, statewide and nationally to make Ann Arbor, Michigan and the U.S. a healthy and prosperous place to live and work with a strong interest in improving our environment. Long-time camper, hiker, canoeer and biker in Maine, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan. Moved to Ann Arbor with my wife Rita in 1987 and have two children born in Ann Arbor. I have done environmental research in neurobehavioral toxicology of health effects of low-

level lead exposure, publishing and presenting in international meetings. Software developer and scientific hardware development. Designer, builder, general contractor and various tradesperson working on our energy efficient passive solar Ann Arbor home. Long-time member of the Sierra Club in Ohio and

Michigan. I am a founding (1998) member and current coordinating member of the Allen's Creek Watershed Group (ACWG.ORG); founding (2006) and active member of the Coalition for the Remediation of Dioxane (CARD), a citizen-government coalition group. Active member of the Ann Arbor Save Our Parks Group, Glendale Action to Save the Orchard Group, Fifth Ward Dems and Independent Group. I serve and have served on many city/county task forces or Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) including the current AC Greenway Master Plan, Stormwater Level of Service Review, Adopted Ann Arbor Green Streets Policy Water Committee of the Environmental Commission, Footer Disconnect Reevaluation Task Force, City Wide Stormwater Study CAC, Liberty Street Improvement CAC which started the city on a new Road Diet and Crosswalk Refuse Island usage path.

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2016

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

1. Please mark up to four votes [there are five candidates running] 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 20th HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o William Kidd, 906 Pauline, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103. Mailed ballots must be received by December 20, 2016 to be counted.
5. You can also submit your vote online at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWFPWw0WwBuz0r_cetma5ygNc0S7TPL_lko5hhmrL-GenqBw/viewform?c=0&w=1

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2016

Four to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2017 - Vote for up to four.
Second column of boxes is for second voter in same household.

Vince Caruso

James D'Amour

Robert Gordon

Rita Mitchell

Ed Steinman



WINTER 2016

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Save the DATE!

People and Places: Celebrating 50 Years of the Sierra Club in Michigan

When: Saturday, June 10, 2017, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Where: Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building in Ann Arbor

Who: For five decades, Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter has organized the bold action of citizens to protect and restore our State's natural heritage. We're 62,000 members-and-supporters strong and we're led by volunteers.

Tickets: \$40/person; \$320/table (after March 31:\$50/person;\$400/table).

Purchase: www.sierraclub.org/michigan/50th-anniversary

Sponsors: Sponsor our 50th Anniversary event and become a founding member of the Anne Woivode Future Fund.

Keynote Speaker: U.S. Senator Gary Peters

For more information,
contact: Richard Barron at rmorleybarron@gmail.com
or Ginny Maturen at ginnymaturen@charter.net.