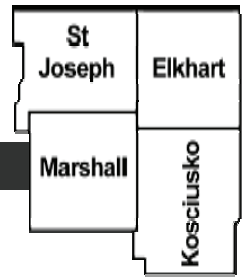




Michiana Sierra News

Michiana Group of the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter

October, November, December 2006



Fall Is Full of Environmental Action

NIPSCO Removing Thousands of Trees

By Doug and Darlene Freeman

Did you know that NIPSCO's position on trimming trees away from power lines has changed? It seems that trees which in the past would have been trimmed will now be simply cut down. Goshen is the current target for tree removal by NIPSCO (Northern Indiana Public Service Company). The removal has already begun and will continue through March 2007.

Any red dot you see on a tree in Goshen means that the tree will be cut down. There are streets lined with many big, beautiful, healthy trees with red dots. Jason Lietz, NIPSCO's head forester who is in charge of the project, recently said the number could be as high as **8,000 trees** in the Goshen area. NIPSCO says the change in policy is intended to reduce power outages.

Some residents feel that NIPSCO does not want to spend money on trimming so they have decided to just remove all the targeted trees. There are numerous trees with red dots whose branches and leaves are just beginning to touch the power lines.

Although homeowners have requested tree trimming only, crew members hired by NIPSCO say the trees need to come out. Homeowners feel pressured to comply. **The truth is that tree trimmers must have the homeowners' written permission to cut down a tree. Lietz admits that the utility company's easement rights apply only to trimming.**

The Goshen situation is not unique. Many trees are being cut down in Mishawaka by AEP (American Electric Power), and Lietz said that when NIPSCO is finished in Goshen, they will go on to Bristol, Nappanee, Wakarusa, etc. This shift from trimming to total removal is taking place all across the country and affects millions of trees. If you have an interest in getting involved, please call Sierra members, Doug and Darlene Freeman, 574-527-5202.

PROGRAMS

Yellowstone Association Institute, October 19

The Yellowstone Association Institute is a nonprofit field school operated in partnership with Yellowstone National Park. Institute courses appeal to students of all backgrounds, from teachers in search of new information for their classes to families that want to spend time together outdoors. Most courses last from one to five days and include both field and classroom sessions. The instructors are college professors, researchers, and other park experts. All ages will discover a new way of enjoying Yellowstone!

Peru and the Amazon Basin, November 16

Bonnie Reagan and Sandi Sizemore will share their experiences in Peru and the Amazon basin. Their presentation will cover the Amazon culture, the impact of the Inca society, and environmental issues facing the area. Rainforests are being logged, burned, and cleared for farmland, but global warming could have an even more dramatic effect. (About 90% of the mahogany in Peru's Tahuamanu Rainforest is illegally logged and often ends up in the United States.) Learn the latest from these two recent visitors.

Pot-Luck and Outdoor Stories, December 21

Take time out from the holiday rush and enjoy a Sierra pot-luck dinner. The main dish will be provided, so bring a dish to pass, your own tableware, and whatever you want to drink. Folks are invited to share a favorite outdoor experience, whether it is funny, inspiring, or frightening. This will be a fun evening of food and fellowship with old friends and new.

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Res, 13950 Scout Lane, Mishawaka, and are held on the third Thursday of every month. Programs are free of charge and open to the public.

The Executive Committee will meet at the Res on October 19 at 6 p.m. All members of Michiana Sierra are invited.

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*Roadless Rule Reinstated After Lawsuit



SIERRA CLUB
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Have you attended a local Sierra meeting recently? Great speakers. Terrific information. Stimulating discussions. Don't miss out!

Outings Calendar

Saturday, October 28: Sandhill Cranes/Outing and Hike. It's time once again for the Sandhill Cranes to visit Northern Indiana on their journey south. Come spend the day with us as we combine crane watching at Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area with a hike in the nearby Tippecanoe State Park (entrance fee required). Along with viewing these magnificent birds, we will consider some of the threats they face along their migration route and learn about initiatives taken to help them. During the hike, we will go along the floodplain forest and oxbows looking for signs of river otters that have been reintroduced, examining the success story this park represents as a secondary succession from farm land. Rendezvous at Tippecanoe's Nature Center at 1:30 p.m. (EST), or join participants at noon for lunch at nearby Bass Lake (call leader for directions). We encourage ride-sharing. If interested in offering/sharing a ride, please contact us so that we can put together a list. This outing is rated easy to moderate. For more information and to let us know you are coming, contact Julie Hyndman at hikerjules@sbcglobal.net or (574) 246-0133.

Sunday, November 12: Hike Through Bicentennial Woods Nature Preserve. As the seasons change, take a refreshing hike through Bicentennial Woods between Garrett, Indiana, and Ft. Wayne. We will be leaving at 12:00 noon from 1120 Laurel St., Elkhart, to caravan to the park. Plan on three miles of easy hiking through the last stand of virgin timber in the county. Some of the trees are over 250 years old. Willow Creek flows through the preserve, and a portion of the acreage contains a buttonbush wetland and an upland field. Discover what much of the area was like before the first settlers moved in and the land was cleared for farmland. For more information and to let us know you are planning to attend, call Jeff Kessler, (574) 294-3619.

Saturday, December 16: Cross Country Ski at Michigan's Love Creek County Park. Located at 9228 Huckleberry Rd., Berrien Center, Michigan, Love Creek offers outstanding skiing opportunities with open trails and more challenging forested slopes and turns. Trails are groomed for skate skiing and traditional diagonal striding. Ski rentals are available. We will explore glaciated terrain and see what impact man's activities have had on the topography. Meet at 1 p.m. (EST) for daylight skiing. If conditions are right, trails will be lit with torches for night skiing until 8:30 p.m. If global warming results in too little snow, we will hike the trails and learn about winter adaptations by flora and fauna. Contact Donna Osborn by Sunday, December 10, if you are planning to attend (donnaosborn22@yahoo.com or 574-289-5393).

Also visit: <http://www.hoosier.sierraclub.org/outings.asp>

Free Showings of "An Inconvenient Truth"

Sunday, October 1, 1 p.m. at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church (115 S. Frances St., South Bend)

Tuesday, October 3, 7:15 p.m. at Little Flower Catholic Church (54191 N. Ironwood, South Bend)

Wednesday, October 4, 7 p.m. at Zion United Church of Christ, (715 E. Wayne St., South Bend)

Friday, October 6, 7 p.m. at Unity Church of Peace (905 E. Colfax Ave., South Bend)

Saturday, October 7, 6:30 p.m. at Kern Road Mennonite Church (18211 Kern Road, South Bend)

Friday, October 27, 7:30 pm EDT (6:30 CDT) at Hudson Lake Mennonite Church (7503 N. Walker Rd., New Carlisle)



Conservation notes from our Chair ...



Recycling—A Consumer's Responsibility

Although U.S. recycling rates have almost doubled since 1990 (to 30.6% in 2003), the average American still produces a staggering 4.5 pounds of garbage per day. Three pounds of that amount usually is sent to a local landfill or incinerator facility—and that figure is growing. In fact, recycling rates for some items (e.g. glass and aluminum) have fallen. The Audubon Society reports that of the billion aluminum beverage cans purchased annually, at least 3/4 of a million are simply tossed away. Perhaps in addition to our own household recycling efforts, we should take responsibility for cleaning up our neighborhoods and nearby streets. Let's also ask for (and support!) bottle deposits on non-carbonated beverages and request bottle buy-back centers. Our earthly resources are precious and deserve our respect and stewardship.

Community Forum On Clean Energy

On Saturday, November 11, at 10 a.m., the Hoosier Environmental Council, co-sponsored by the Sierra Club, will host a Clean Energy Forum at the St. Joseph County Library in downtown South Bend. Few activities impact Indiana's environment as much as the production and use of energy. **Indiana ranks within the top 5 states for emissions of all 4 major pollutants from power plants.** Mining and waste produced from use of coal also impact Indiana's environment. The Forum will discuss renewable electricity and energy efficient technologies that can reduce our reliance on coal-fired power, and what can be done by individuals, businesses, and government to utilize these technologies. For more details contact the HEC at (317) 685-8800 or visit www.hecweb.org.

CAFO Cruelty Fact: Factory farmers confine sows and boars in crates so small they cannot turn around.

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47	

Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Enclose check and mail to:
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 Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968
 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Cleaners for a "Green" Laundry Day

By Becky Reimbold

Bi-O-Kleen Bac-Out Stain & Odor Eliminator (foaming spray)

Lifetree Home Soap (all purpose liquid soap to pre-treat stains, etc.)

Seventh Generation Free & Clear Laundry Powder

Ecover Fabric Softener and Delicate Wash
Old toothbrush for working detergent into stains

White Vinegar (helps set dyes, fabric softener)

Borax (occasional detergent booster, other cleaning uses)

Oxy-Tech 35% hydrogen peroxide

Michiana Sierra News is published quarterly by the Michiana Group of the Sierra Club, Hoosier Chapter. Submissions are welcomed and should be sent to P. O. Box 1002, South Bend, IN, 46624, or emailed to miahiana-sierra@comcast.net. Publication does not necessarily constitute endorsement, but is for information only. **This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled stock made from wind power.** E-subscribe to this newsletter (pdf format) at michiana-sierra@comcast.net. Include your present mailing address and put "Michiana Sierra News" in the subject line. The next newsletter deadline is: Monday, December 18, 2006.

www.indiana.sierraclub.org/michiana/

Join our dedicated volunteers!

Michiana Group Contacts

Chair: Christine Fiordalis
(574) 237-1161

Vice-Chair: Dawn Kessler
(574) 294-3619

Outings: Rich Mah
(574) 282-1633

Service: Jeff Kessler
(574) 294-3619

Editor: Hazel Stevens
(574) 210-8691

Members of Executive Committee:
 Donna Osborn, Julie Hyndman,
 Bob Mayernick

michiana-sierra@comcast.net

Vote Today for the Michiana Group Elections



Ballots must be postmarked by November 15, 2006.

Jeff Kessler

As a Sierra Club member, I have been on the Michiana Group Excom leading service projects, helping with outings, and serving on the Res board. The Sierra Club has a great history of stewardship and I am honored to be even a small part of their efforts. I am self-employed, and since construction creates a lot of waste, I recycle and reuse everything possible. Environmental stewardship is more important now than ever before. There are daily threats to our resources and the laws that protect the environment. My hope is that our Sierra group can make members and non-members more aware of the benefits of good environmental policy.

Christine Fiordalis

I have been a Sierra Club member since 2001 and have served on the Michiana Group Excom for the past two years, during which I acted as Chair. My primary personal interest is in supporting clean, renewable energy and land use planning. It has been a privilege to represent our Group in various political initiatives, such as opposition to the Tondur power plant proposal and confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), and to support green space and sewer overflow corrections. I live in South Bend and work as a paralegal at a local law firm. I would be happy to continue serving our Group as an Excom member.

Marilyn Shaul

As a long time member of the Sierra Club, I have come to love the outdoors and the peace and joy it gives me. The highs I received from backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and other camping trips will be with me always. Such adventures taught me how simple and basic life can be. To help others experience and enjoy the outdoors would be one of my goals. Now retired, I enjoy volunteering in our community and spend time as an American Red Cross disaster worker, as well as an emergency sub for the St. Joseph County Public Library.

Dawn Kessler

I currently serve on the Michiana Excom and am willing to help in any capacity to make our Group successful. As a high school biology teacher, I sponsor an environmental club for students so they can learn to do water testing and promote environmental awareness in our community. My classes also do research into local environmental problems. I have served on many committees during my many years of teaching, and I love to listen to other people's ideas and find workable ways of making a difference. The environment is important to me, and I believe that by working together we can bring about positive change and improve our world.

Robert (Bob) Perkins

As an outdoor enthusiast, I have seen some of the negative environmental impacts humans have caused. I believe man has been given the responsibility to be the Earth's Shepherd. With this responsibility, we must control our consumption, and limit the waste and abuse of our natural resources. As an Excom member, I would propose the establishment of a local chapter of the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC). The SSC is the Sierra Club's youth organization that includes high school and college aged students. I would be willing to help oversee and assist in the progress of SSC's growth to facilitate real environmental change.

Proposal to Amend Group By-Laws

Your local Excom recommends that our Group By-Laws be amended so that Excom meetings are held once each quarter rather than every other month. The job of the Excom is to oversee the committees, manage our finances and guide our conservation priorities. The Excom feels that these responsibilities can be adequately handled by four (rather than six) meetings per year, with the option of calling special meetings as needed.

Michiana Group Executive Committee Ballot

Member Vote	Joint Member Vote	(Vote for up to 4 candidates.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Kessler
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Fiordalis
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marilyn Shaul
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Kessler
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Perkins

Michiana Group By-Laws Amendment

"Paragraph 3.10 of the By-Laws of the Michiana Group of the Sierra Club's Hoosier Chapter shall be amended to read as follows: "Excom Meetings: The Excom shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least 4 times per year, specifically in the months of January, April, July, and October. Special meetings may be called as needed at the discretion of the Excom. The time and place of all meetings shall be communicated in advance to all Group members." **Favor** _____ **Oppose** _____

.....(Fold).....

Each year members of the Michiana Group elect fellow members to serve on the Executive Committee (Excom). Seven members are elected in staggered two year terms. This year we are electing four members. Households with joint memberships are allowed two votes. This ballot also contains a proposal to change the number of Excom meetings per year. Please take a moment to express your support of the Michiana Sierra Group by casting your ballot.

To Return Ballot: Cut vertically along middle of this page and fold so the address below is showing and your ballot is folded inside. Tape both ends and apply a 39-cent stamp before mailing. DO NOT STAPLE. Ballots must be postmarked by November 15, 2006.

.....(Fold).....

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postage
here

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South Bend, Indiana 46624



Michiana Group of the Sierra Club

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Have you visited us on the web? <http://www.indiana.sierraclub.org/michiana/>

Sustainable Living Tips: Greening Laundry Day

By Becky Reibold

1. When your old washing machine dies, replace it with an energy and water-efficient **front-loading washer**.
2. Switch to **greener cleaners** (see page two).
3. Use **less detergent**, if, like most Americans, you use more than recommended.
4. Only wash **full loads**. This is easier to do if you have enough socks and underwear to last you two weeks!
5. **Hang your clothes** to dry. Or, partially dry them in the machine to get out wrinkles, then air dry the rest of the way.
6. **Synthetics cause static**. Don't put polyester in your dryer and you won't need fabric softeners!
7. Get an **enzyme-based stain remover** for food and dirt stains. Keep a bottle under each sink. Wet the stain, then pre-treat right away. You can then throw it in the laundry basket. This is also great for pet stains, odors, sinks, etc.
8. Keep a **green cleaning book** around the house.
9. **Stop buying bleach**. Not only is it toxic in your house, it also creates terrible problems when it returns to our waterways.
10. **Avoid dry cleaning**. If you choose to dry clean, lobby your cleaner to use the newer "wet" cleaning process. This was rated more effective and easier on clothes than the traditional chemical method (see Consumer Reports).
11. If this seems like too much, **take your time**. Don't be overwhelmed. Anything you do is better than nothing!

Resources: *Clean & Green: The complete guide to nontoxic and environmentally safe housekeeping* and *Better Basics for the Home: Simple Solutions for Less Toxic Living*, both by Annie Berthold-Bond

Becky invites comments, questions, and suggestions on sustainable living. She can be reached at 574-286-5878 or becky@justgoods.net.

Court Reinstates Roadless Rule

A federal judge reinstated a ban on road construction in nearly one third of national forests, overturning a Bush administration policy. Environmental groups sued the U.S. Forest Service after it reversed the 2001 "Roadless Rule" that prohibited excessive logging, mining and other development. The judge ruled the Bush policy did not require necessary environmental studies. This ruling does not affect about 9.3 million acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest, which is covered by a separate rule on road construction and other development.

"We told you so."

Two new NASA studies have again verified that Arctic sea ice is melting at an alarming rate. This will have a profound effect on plankton and ultimately sea mammals. As one senior research scientist said, "I hate to say we told you so, but we told you so."

Welcome New Members!

Karen Blue, David Boner, Kevin Breen, Karen Brugler, Susan Butterbaugh, Mary Chandler, Paul Conway, E. Cotter, Daniel Coy, Doug Grall, Mary Graves, Herbert Hajicek, Shirley Hathaway, Randall Isaacson, Sharon James, K. Kimbriel, Tom List, J. Long, Muriel Luft, Cara Lupa, Victor Mancinelli, Eric Matlis, James McPhee, Matt Nagerl, Evan Nussbaum, Danielle Nussberger, Anita Palicki, Heather Pendill, Susan Roberts, Karl Shelly, Kenneth Shinn, Eddie Shuherk, Zoela Sonnenberg, Lori Steury, Susan Stout, Kim Strasser, Sam Stutzman, Dr. Flint Thomas, Donna Vlaeminck, Darian Weber, Cheryl Wentzel, William and Catherine Wilson. Be sure to visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/101/>.