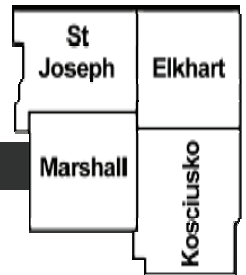




# Michiana Sierra News

Michiana Group of the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter

October, November, December 2008



## Global Climate Change Summit

### Summit Coming to South Bend

*Submitted by Steve Francis*

Global warming often seems like such an immense problem, it is difficult to see how an individual can participate in reducing it. Have YOU been struggling to figure out what you can do to stop global warming? Other than important actions such as changing personal habits, reducing driving, or changing light bulbs, the problem seems beyond our grasp. Not now! A global climate change summit will be held in South Bend to provide avenues for people to join in the global warming challenge at the local, state and national level. This community summit will provide an opportunity for you to learn from and network with others who have a similar desire to reduce global warming.

<b>WHEN?</b>	<b>Saturday, October 11, 9:30 – 3:00</b>
<b>WHERE?</b>	<b>Indiana University – South Bend, Wiekamp Hall 1001 (off Mishawaka Avenue)</b>
<b>COST?</b>	<b>FREE! (Lunch is provided for \$5.)</b>

In the morning, we will meet to hear from local people and others around the state to see the impact of climate change and what can be done to prevent it. After lunch, we will actually participate in a round robin of webcasts to see the many other summits being held around the world. In the afternoon, plan to learn how you can join in the effort by attending one of the following workshops:

#### **Cool Cities/Countries: local action to reduce global warming**

South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke signed the Mayor’s Agreement on Climate Protection this year. Find out how you can help with this creative, citizen-led effort in South Bend, St. Joseph County and in your community.

#### **Indiana Public Policy: statewide action to create a green Indiana**

State efforts to reduce global warming are ongoing. Learn what initiatives are available in the areas of renewable energy standards, green building, building a climate registry and more – and how you can help.

#### **Electricity with Renewable Energy: a Transition Plan for America**

Renewable energy is a requirement in the creation of a sustainable society. Learn how you can join in the effort to end our reliance on fossil fuels and move toward a sustainable energy and transportation system.

Please help save our planet by planning to attend this important community summit. You may pre-register at: [www.hecweb.org](http://www.hecweb.org) or by sending an email to [sbcoolcity@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcoolcity@yahoo.com) with your name, address, email and which workshop you would like to attend. The summit itself is free, but lunch will cost \$5. To encourage early registration, the first 30 registrants will receive a free lunch (see, there is such a thing!). This event is sponsored by the Sierra Club, Hoosier Environmental Council, Citizen’s Action Coalition, Earth Charter, and the IUSB Center for a Sustainable Future.

We also need help in organizing the summit (registration, helping with lunch, publicity and promotion). If you would like to help with the organizing of the summit (and also receive a free lunch!), please contact Steve Francis at [sbcoolcity@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcoolcity@yahoo.com) or call 574-514-0565.

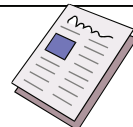


Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## Newsletter Moving to a New Forum

*Submitted by Christine Fiordalis, Chair*



Someone once observed that “change” is one of the great constants in our lives. Always on the move, we respond to challenges by building new pathways and finding new solutions. In that spirit, we announce that the printed version of our newsletter is being suspended for the time being. Our longtime editor, Hazel Stevens, for whose past efforts we are so grateful, has found that other challenges (such as updating local and state Sierra Club websites) make it difficult for her to continue in this capacity. A simple “thank you” seems inadequate to express our appreciation for her excellent work and dedicated service, but we nonetheless offer her our heart-felt thanks and a resounding “Job well done!”

We will, of course, continue to offer monthly educational programs from September through May (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month) and plan local and regional outings in which we hope you will participate. Sierra Club activities are always terrific! The difference now is that news and information about these events will appear primarily on our local website: [www.indiana.sierraclub.org/michiana](http://www.indiana.sierraclub.org/michiana). (This will have the added benefit of saving trees and costs.) We will also submit announcements to the South Bend Tribune and other news sources, as well as The Indiana Sierran, the Chapter newsletter. Check us out!

If you have not recently participated in a Club outing or event, put us on your calendar! And if you can help with our activities (including future newsletters and/or our website), please let us know. We are all volunteers and, by acting together, we can bring alive the truth of Margaret Mead’s famous remark, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has!”

### UPDATE ON CELL PHONES

The World Health Organization and several nations are beginning to seriously study the health risks of exposure to the electromagnetic fields (“EMF”) emitted by cell phones. A number of grave conditions, including brain tumors, seem to be related to cell phone usage. The University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute recently posted these recommendations: 1) Do not allow children to use a cell phone, except for emergencies. 2) Use hands-free ear pieces or the speakerphone option. 3) Make sure the back of the phone points away from your body so that the EMF moves away from you rather than through you. 4) Switch sides regularly while speaking on your phone to spread out your EMF exposure. 5) Don’t sleep near your phone unless it is off, particularly if you are pregnant.

### SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS

Once again we are selling the beautiful Sierra Club calendars (both the wall calendar and smaller engagement book for 2009). The wall calendar displays an entire month at a time; the engagement book encompasses a week on each page. The photographs are breathtaking, truly beyond comparison! Some of us give these calendars as holiday gifts, receiving delighted “thank yous” in return. Another member gives them as gifts to her employees, together with an end-of-year bonus check.

Besides the high quality (these are the same calendars sold at upscale bookstores), the price is perfect, too! **We are selling them for \$12 each, which is below suggested retail and does not include tax.** A terrific deal!

As this is our major fundraising effort of the year, we hope you are able to support us. Please contact Christine Fiordalis at 287-1621 (evenings) or 237-1161 (days). Checks should be made payable to the “Sierra Club Michiana Group.” Cash is fine, too.

### RESPONSIBLE DRIVING, LESSON TWO

*Submitted by Christine Fiordalis*

In a recent newsletter, Julie Hyndman offered great gas-saving tips. Here is some additional food for thought.

- Every 10 mph over 60 is like the price of gas going up 54 cents per gallon (based on \$3.25/gallon).
- A car uses about 40% of its energy pushing air around. The faster you go, the more air you push in front and the larger the low pressure “hole” you create in back. That increased suction pulls your car back harder, causing you to use even more gas to maintain speed.
- Wind resistance rises more steeply between 70-80 mph than between 50-60 mph. Every 10 mph of increased speed reduces fuel economy by about 4 miles per gallon, regardless of vehicle size.

The lesson in a nutshell?  
**SLOW DOWN and SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY!**



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#### **Beautiful Lawns - Safely!**

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**Vote Today for the Michiana Group Elections**



Ballots must be postmarked by  
**November 12, 2008.**

**Janice Wilen**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club in California, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana. After moving to Michiana and leaving the corporate world, I have been active in local community projects such as challenging the proposed Tondou coal plant in New Carlyle, and working with the Community Forum for Economic Development to oppose local Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) and supporting the St. Joseph County/CAFO Health Ordinance. In addition to being a political and news junkie, I enjoy the outdoors and love short hikes that get my heart rate up! I would like to help the club provide outdoor activities for all ability levels and interests.

**Christine Fiordalis**

As an active Sierra Club member, I have served as Chair of our local Executive Committee for four years and am currently acting as Vice Chair of the Hoosier Chapter's state Excom as well. I feel privileged to have represented the Club in a number of forums and hope to continue working for our common good, promoting the notion that "sustainability" is the yardstick by which our actions and decisions should be measured. The Sierra Club is a great grassroots organization and I welcome the opportunity to continue serving both its members and the larger community in the future.

**Jeff Kessler**

As a Sierra Club member, I have been on the Michiana Group Excom leading service projects, and helping with outings and programs. 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.

**Donna Osborn**

I have been an active member of the Sierra Club since 2004 and previously served on Michiana's Executive Committee. Working with the outings committee has been especially rewarding, and I have enjoyed leading and planning various camping, skiing, hiking, and kayaking trips. I enjoy the beauty of our local, state, and national parks, and strive to protect them for future generations. My favorite motto is "Think globally; Act locally."

**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.

**Michiana Group Executive Committee Ballot**

Member Vote    Joint Member Vote    (Vote for up to 5 candidates.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Kessler
<hr/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Janice Wilen
<hr/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donna Osborn
<hr/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dawn Kessler
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Fiordalis
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		Write-In Candidate*
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The three candidates with the highest number of votes will serve for two-year terms. The other candidates will serve for a one-year term.

\*A write-in candidate must be a current member of the Michiana Sierra Group.

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

Each year, members of the Michiana Group elect fellow members to serve on the Executive Committee (Excom). There are seven members serving on the board, elected in staggered terms. This year we are electing five members. Households with joint memberships are allowed two votes. 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 42-cent stamp before mailing. DO NOT STAPLE. Ballots must be postmarked by November 12, 2008.**

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

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Place postage here
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To: Michiana Sierra Group  
P. O. Box 1002  
South Bend, Indiana 46624



**Michiana Group of the Sierra Club**  
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## FALL CALENDAR

**Friday, October 10 - Sunday, October 12, Pine River/Big South Branch of the Pere Marquette River, Canoeing/Kayaking/Camping Weekend.** Due to weather, this event was rescheduled and another area river was added to the paddle. The Pine River has some of the fastest moving water in Michigan's lower peninsula, with a variety of water conditions (sharp bends, short choppy riffles, huge boulders and passable log jams). This branch of the Pere Marquette River is a quiet, leisurely trip with little or no fast water, perfect for beginner paddlers. We will be camping Friday and Saturday nights at Silver Creek Campground in the Manistee National Forest northwest of Luther, MI. We will learn about oak hardwood hills and cedar swamps through publicly owned land. Hiking trails run throughout the forest. There is a \$15 camping fee for each campsite, but we can fit a number of tents on one site and share the cost. **Please R.S.V.P. by October 3.** Call Donna Osborn at (574) 289-5393.

**Saturday, October 11, Global Climate Change Summit in South Bend, 9:30 - 3:00.** See details on the front page of this newsletter.

**Thursday, October 16, "Vertical Frontier" at 7:00 p.m.** From John Muir to today's great athletes, "Vertical Frontier" tells the story of the art, sport and philosophy of climbing Yosemite's big walls. Join us for this extraordinary documentary highlighting the artistry and sheer determination of these legendary climbers, who influenced climbing and mountaineering worldwide. The Sierra Club at its finest! This program will be held at the Mishawaka Public Library, 209 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka.

**Saturday, November 8, 3-5:30 p.m. Outings Show and Tell, Downtown South Bend Library.** The Michiana Sierra Club Outings Committee is inviting everyone to the picture presentation of our group's recent outdoor experiences. There will be outdoor equipment on display, as well as information and advice to those interested in spending more time enjoying the great outdoors. Come join us for fun and snacks. Bring photos from your own recent adventures, tell us about your favorite gear, make suggestions on future trips, and learn some great outdoor tips. Remember, this outings extravaganza will be at the Main Branch of the St. Joseph County Public Library, in the **Dickinson Conference Room, 304 South Main, South Bend.** For more information, please contact Julie Hyndman, (574) 246-0133 or [hikerjules@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hikerjules@sbcglobal.net).

**Thursday, November 20, "Oil on Ice" at 7:00 p.m.** With all the recent talk about drilling for oil, we need to look again at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Do we really want to jeopardize this fragile unique place? Will its resources really contribute to energy independence? Join us for this excellent documentary connecting the fate of the Refuge to critical decisions America must make about its energy policy. This Sierra program will be at the Mishawaka Public Library, 209 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka.

**Saturday, December 13, 6:30p.m. We love the Winter Moonlight Ski at Madeline Bertrand County Park!** It is a fact that winter seems to pass much faster when you are out enjoying its gifts instead of hiding inside from its temperatures. So put on the parka and warm socks and meet us at the ski rental station for a fun night of snow, skis, red noses, stars, and a nearly full moon. Learn about the beauty of the winter woodlands. Costs are \$3/car entrance fee, 4\$/person trail fee. Ski rental is available at the park, 5\$/person. Bring water and a snack. For park and trail condition information, call (269) 683-8280 or go to <http://berriencounty.org/parks/>. Please R.S.V.P by calling Julie Hyndman at (574) 246-0133.

**Thursday, December 18, 6:00 p.m. Holiday Potluck at St. Patrick's Park.** Enjoy good food and fellowship at our holiday covered-dish dinner. Bring a dish to share, your own utensils, favorite photos, tall tales, and guests to learn about our environmental efforts. Meet at the Brown Barn Shelter (which is heated!) at St. Patrick's County Park, north of South Bend. There is no entrance fee. For details, call Jeff Kessler, (574) 294-3619.