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elements

TURNING ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES INTO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES | SUMMER 2009

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Summer in Full Swing

BY BILL KIRK

There is no place like Michigan in the summer. Perhaps we appreciate it more because we endure the bitter cold in February or the surprise snowfall in April. Maybe it is the anticipation of the explosion of beautiful colors that will arrive with Autumn. Whatever the case may be, anyone who grew up in this great State or calls it home can agree: there really is no place like Michigan in the summer.

As a child, I remember sprinting out of the halls of my grade school in early June, my head filled with dreams of Lake Michigan. My family would pack up the car in Grand Rapids and meet our friends the next morning at Holland State Park to cook breakfast on the grill and swim in 55 degree water. Later in the summer, we would head up US-131 aiming for the Leelanau Peninsula to catch the Mishe-Mokwa Ferry to South Manitou Island. One summer we even traced my Grandfather's Finland-based roots through the majestic Upper Peninsula, from St. Ignace west to the Keweenaw Peninsula.

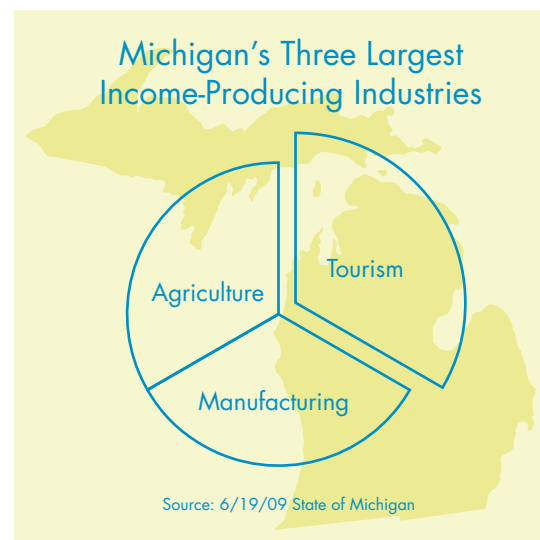
Everyone has stories like these. They are the stories of Michigan. They are the reason we live here, work here, and stay here. These stories, and the amazing natural resources that provide the setting, are also one of the bright spots in the story that will become Michigan's road to economic recovery.

In years past, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism (including recreation) were Michigan's top income-producing industries. With the recent unfortunate decline of our automotive industry, we are now more dependant than ever on tourism and recreation to drive Michigan's economy.

According to a 2009 Michigan State University publication *Michigan Tourism, Past Performance and Future Expectations*, the tourism and recreation economy in Michigan employs nearly 200,000 people, generates nearly \$1 billion in taxes, and results in approximately \$18 billion spent in Michigan on travel every year.

In these tough times, we cannot afford a decline in tourism and recreation.

So while Michigan LCV is working hard everyday to protect and conserve our natural resources to ensure that future generations will be able to tell their own stories of summer life in Michigan, every Michigander should take time to explore Michigan—from Lake Erie to Lake Superior—and support the Michigan economy! ■



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Enjoying and Protecting Michigan



Summer truly is a special time in Michigan. As a mother of two beautiful sons, I look forward every year to the time we have together in the summer to enjoy our parks, forests, rivers, streams and, of course, the Great Lakes.

For my family, summer is a time to recharge, relax, and appreciate. We spend time in the wilderness together taking full advantage of the gifts given by our wonderful natural resources. For me, personally, summer is also a reminder of the enormous responsibility that I share with all Michiganders: the duty to conserve and protect these amazing places.

As wonderful and relaxing as Michigan is in the summertime, I am also more aware than ever of our challenges: beach closings around the state, mercury advisories for our fish, and battles to protect natural areas, like the Saugatuck Dunes and Jean-Klock park in Benton Harbor.

So while my kids may be on summer break, I am not, and neither is Michigan LCV. We are constantly working to preserve and protect this wonderful state of ours, which is directly linked to kickstarting our economy. After all, tourism/recreation is the third largest industry in Michigan, and the success of that industry is impossible without clean air, healthy forests, beautiful beaches, and clean water.

But our work does not stop at the Michigan border! Recently, Michigan LCV joined forces with organizations across the country to help pass the American Clean Energy & Security Act (ACES)—the most historic environmental bill of our lifetime—through the U.S. House of Representatives. ACES represents America's first

comprehensive attempt to build a new, clean energy economy. It will create millions of jobs, reduce our dangerous dependence on oil, and mitigate the threat of global warming.

While we are extremely happy to have won this hard fought battle, we cannot become complacent with our victory. Not only do we have work to do in the U.S. Senate to ensure its passage there, but we must let the ACES legislation serve as an inspiration and a spring board for spawning similar legislative victories here in Michigan. A challenge no doubt, but one that Michigan LCV is up to taking the lead on.

Tourism and recreation is the third largest industry in Michigan, and the success of that industry is impossible without clean air, healthy forests, beautiful beaches, and clean water.

None of this is possible without your support and belief in our work. Thank you so much! I encourage you to spend as much time as possible outside appreciating the majestic beauty of this state. It is a wonderful way to remind yourselves of how blessed we are to live here, and how important it is to protect this place.

Thanks and Happy Summer!

Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director

JOIN US! UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENTS

Manchester Riverfolk Festival

Carr Park, August 1

UP State Fair

Escanaba, August 18-23

Greenup: Michigan Green Chemistry Conference

Detroit, September 25

Great Lakes Bioneers Conference

Traverse City, October 16-18

Breathe Owl Breathe

Black Cat Barn, Charlevoix, August 16

Seth Bernard

Bell's Brewery, Kalamazoo, August 20

May Erlewine & Seth Bernard

Bluegrass Festival, Ypsilanti, September 5

Rachael Davis

Wheatland Music Festival, Remus, September 11

Rachael Davis, Breathe Owl Breathe, May Erlewine & Seth Bernard

Harvest Gathering, Lake City, September 18-20

May Erlewine & Seth Bernard

Great Lakes Bioneers Conference

Traverse City, October 16-18



SAVE THE DATE

November 5, 2009
at The Ark
with May Erlewine & Seth Bernard

For details and a list of the latest happenings, please check out

www.michiganlcvedfund.org
www.michiganlc.org

There's No Place Like Home

BY KERRY DUGGAN

I recently had to make a decision (and it was a struggle) between staying in our nation's capitol following the exciting election of President Obama or moving back to our two amazing Peninsulas.

I chose Michigan. I love Michigan. I love watching sunsets over our lakes, walks in our woods, the diversity of people, my family, Detroit and the countryside. We invented the road trip, and who doesn't like going up north or to the Thumb, Mackinac Island or the UP? In my first few weeks on the job at Michigan LCV, I was in Grand Rapids, Saugatuck, Gull Lake and Battle Creek meeting amazing people. We have so many gems here, and I plan on showing them off to the world while



reminding our citizens that it's up to us, especially in tough economic times, to remain vigilant about the protection of our natural beauty.

I spent the last two years at national LCV working to turn environmental values into national priorities by electing and holding

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accountable federal elected officials. It was an intense and rewarding couple of years, but I accepted an offer to serve as Deputy Director & Director of Development with the Michigan LCV and moved back to Michigan.

We at Michigan LCV are very aware of the niche we fill and critical role we play in politics and in the environmental movement. I am proud of the early work we have completed to prepare for the 2010 election. Our strategic planning has focused us in on key districts where we know we will make a difference.

We're always up for a challenge, and we have our work cut out for us with the 2010

election. Due to term limits, 30 of the 38 state Senate seats are open. Every state House seat is up for election, Governor Granholm is term-limited out, as are the Attorney General and Secretary of State. And if that were not enough, two state Supreme Court Justices are up for re-election, and we may have at least

one open U.S. Congressional seat. It is going to be a year with significant political implications at every level of government, and ultimately, the outcome will have an enormous impact on the 2010 redistricting process for our state. We are predicted to lose one, if not two, U.S. Congressional seats based on our next census. Rest assured that Michigan LCV understands these challenges and is prepared to meet them head on. I am delighted to join this talented team, and I truly hope you will join with us as we work hard to protect Michigan and all its natural beauty. ■

P.S. Please join me at our upcoming events around the state as we build momentum for the 2010 elections! In August, we will be in Chelsea (8/5), Leelanau (8/16), and Grand Rapids (8/20). If you would like to join us or have questions, please contact me at 734.222.9650 or kerry@michiganlcv.org.

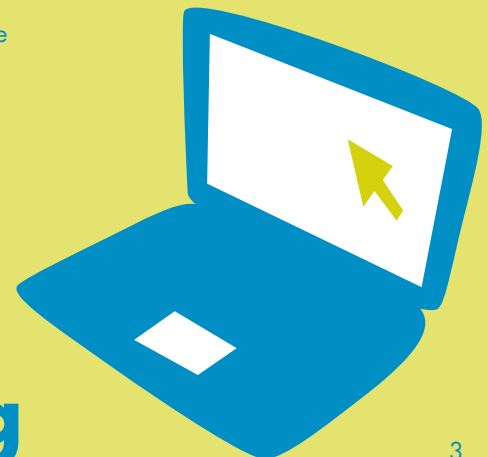
Michigan LCV Unveils New Website— Check It Out!

BY JEREMY CAVERLY

We are excited to announce the unveiling of our newly designed website during the month of July! After several months and countless hours of internal discussions among our board, staff and several of our members, we look forward to introducing you to a entirely new tool that will enable you to not only keep tabs on what your elected officials are doing in Lansing, but will also help connect you to other Michiganders who care passionately about the environment.

Soon after our new launch, we'll also be flipping the switch on a fully integrated Action Center that will provide you with even more tools to make your voice heard and help organize others to do the same.

Our staff and many others have put a huge amount of work into this great new resource, and we hope you'll find the new destination both informative and engaging. Check it out— www.michiganlcv.org—and please tell us what you think! Send any and all website feedback to online@michiganlcv.org ■



www.michiganlcv.org

BY MARK NEISLER

THE HEAT IS ON



When I signed on as Global Climate Change Specialist for Michigan LCV Education Fund's *Heat Is On* campaign in the summer of 2008, the task ahead was a large and daunting one. Our national goal was to encourage our elected leaders to get our economy moving by building a clean energy future.

Through direct outreach, media pressure, and organizing influential “grass tops” advocates in business, academia, and elsewhere, our mission was to get our elected leaders in Washington to adopt four goals: 1) move to 100% electricity from clean sources, such as wind and solar; 2) cut our dependence on oil in half; 3) create 5 million new clean energy jobs; and 4) reduce global warming pollution by at least 80%. In Michigan, my goal was to create public support and demand for a strong national policy on climate change, which would influence key members of Congress to support a federal cap on global warming pollution in 2009.

In the beginning, without a specific piece of legislation to push, it was apparent this was going to be a challenge, a challenge that I was willing to be a part of, and one that I jumped at the chance to lead. I began making connections within communities, networking, and determining the lay of the land. For the first 10 months, most of my days were filled with a variety of “Green” conferences where I met business leaders from around the state, familiarizing myself with the Michigan LCV membership base, and submitting letters to the editor and opinion editorials on the subject of global warming to media outlets across the state. I worked hard and long laying the groundwork of an intricate infrastructure so

that when the time came, I would be able to mobilize a large group of influential people.

It wasn't until the end of March 2009 that Representatives Waxman (D-CA) and Markey (D-MA) finally introduced a draft clean energy and climate bill – the American Clean Energy & Securities Act (ACES) – to the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee. This was it! Our first serious piece of federal global warming legislation that could have major implications for the United States and the rest of the world. It was time to start translating all my foundational work into action.

This was it! Our first serious piece of federal global warming legislation that could have major implications for the United States and abroad. It was time to start putting together all the pieces I had worked so meticulously molding all of last year into action.

Our first job? To help pass ACES out of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee. Together, Michigan LCVEF and national LCVEF joined forces to motivate members of Michigan's Congressional Delegation who are members of the Committee to support the bill. Representatives Stupak (D-1) and Upton (R-06) were our first targets.

National LCVEF sent Kerry Duggan (former national LCV Campaigns Project Manager) to help me tackle Rep. Stupak's district. We were charged with raising awareness and saturating the Upper Peninsula (UP) with information about ACES to gain public support. For one week, Kerry and I traveled around the UP – from Mackinaw City to Houghton, west to Ironwood, south to Iron Mountain, east to Escanaba, and finally north to Marquette. We met with local newspaper editors, drank coffee with “Yoopers”, attended lectures, met with Rep.

Stupak, and even ate some tasty pasties! But the most important thing we did was listen, and we found out that the number one issue in the region was the sluggish economy and the lack of jobs. The UP was open to the potential for renewable energy if it could help bring jobs to the area. Fortunately for the UP, we were happy to share with everyone



Michigan LCVEF's Global Climate Change Specialist, Mark Neisler, and Deputy Director Kerry Duggan enjoying the majesty of the Upper Peninsula

that the ACES legislation was written to do just that.

In addition to the work we did in the UP, we also found ourselves down in Kalamazoo trying to change Rep. Upton's mind on the bill. Despite our efforts – in the newspaper, on

a national LCV Lobby Day, we also saturated each district with one-on-one meetings with newspaper editors, ran television ads, made phone calls, and even held a press conference with US Secretary of Energy Steven Chu in Battle Creek. Business leaders, Michigan LCV

The act represents America's first comprehensive attempt to build a new, clean energy economy. It will create millions of jobs, reduce our dangerous dependence on oil, and mitigate the threat of global warming.

the radio and internet (check out www.uptonenergywatch.com) - Rep. Upton was still not supportive of the bill. Fortunately, ACES had enough momentum without him and the bill was passed out of the committee!

Our second job? To help pass ACES out of the US House of Representatives. Again, we identified the Michigan votes we needed and focused in on our targets – Rep. Rogers (R-08), Rep. Ehlers (R-03), Rep. Schauer (D-07), and Rep. Peters (D-09). It was a whirlwind couple of weeks. Not only did we travel to Washington DC with Michigan LCV Executive Director, Lisa Wozniak, to participate in



members and board members, and environmental activists across the state bombarded their offices with phone calls, letters and emails voicing citizen support of the bill.

On June 26, 2009, almost one year to the day I started work at Michigan LCV Education Fund, the US House passed ACES, the most historic environmental bill of our lifetime. The act represents America's first comprehensive attempt to build a new, clean energy economy. It will create millions of jobs, reduce our dangerous dependence on oil, and mitigate the threat of global warming.

Together, we accomplished something amazing. Together, we called on our leaders to step up and protect our communities, our way of life, and put America back to work. Together, we say "thank you" to those Representatives who heard us – Rep. Stupak, Rep. Kildee, Rep. Levin, Rep. Kilpatrick, Rep. Conyers, Rep. Dingell, Rep. Schauer, and Rep. Peters – Thank You!



While we are grateful for our win in the US House, in order to complete our victory we must pass a similar bill in the US Senate. In the upcoming months, national LCV and Michigan LCV will carry our momentum into the US Senate where our fight will be even harder. Again, it will be imperative that Michigan's two senators, Senators Levin and Stabenow, muster the political courage to support a complimentary bill and push their colleagues to do the same. We will call upon you – our members - again, to encourage our delegates to vote in support of positive action to address global warming and our economy. Together, we did it once. Together, we can do it again! ■

For the most up to date information on the progress of ACES in the US Senate, please visit our website at www.michiganlcvedfund.org.

Above: Michigan LCV's Lisa Wozniak, Kerry Duggan, and Mark Neisler with U.S. Representative John Dingell and staff in Washington DC.

Left: Michigan State Representative Kate Segal, Governor Granbom, and U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu in Battle Creek discussing education and innovation in the new clean energy economy.

Montague, Michigan— A Place Worth Saving!

BY ABBY RUBLEY

Lake Michigan – my playground. I grew up just a few miles from this magnificent wonder. We spent our summers running up and down the sand dunes into the waiting (and sometimes icy) arms of Lake Michigan. Unintentionally, my parents raised me in a magical place.

Like many of you, I find Lake Michigan to be a sight of beauty - overwhelming, breathtaking, and majestic. Her shoreline is dotted with small towns, much like the one I grew up in, that welcome visitors from all over the world. Twelve million people call her shoreline home, which in turn means that she isn't without problems. Plagued by decades of unregulated pollution, aging sewer infrastructure and an onslaught of invasive species, Lake Michigan has seen better days.

So while Lake Michigan is home to so many of my wonderful childhood memories, unfortunately, so is the toxic smell of chemicals, unsafe drinking water and restrictions on fish consumption. Like many areas along the Great Lakes, I grew up in a town that attracted a chemical company in the early 1950's. It was sold to the community as a way to increase the tax base and create permanent jobs. This was very appealing to a community that survived primarily on tourism dollars during the short summer months. However, the lasting legacy of this "job creator" now is that our drinking water is unsafe, we have higher than normal cancer rates and at least

once a month there is a community meeting where we are told that the DEQ and EPA are not going to clean up our homes.

Unfortunately, my west Michigan community has been represented by elected officials not willing to step up and protect my home. The lack of leadership, then and now, has led to the destruction of the places I cherish most. Today, we must stand up and demand new leaders that will protect our natural resources and our communities.

As we move forward in the 2010 election cycle, Michigan LCV has identified communities like mine where it's time for a leadership change. Together with your support, we will elect new, bold leaders that will preserve and protect Michigan. To learn more about our 2010 election efforts, please visit www.michiganlcv.org. ■



Take Action!

**If you have a favorite spot in Michigan,
we want to hear from you!**

Please visit www.michiganlcv.org and submit a short summary of the place you love and be sure to include any photos or videos. We'll be highlighting your stories when we launch our new website this summer.

Toxic Toys: Coming Soon to a Swimming Hole Near You

BY BILL KIRK



Michigan LCV's Policy Director, Abby Rubley, joins stakeholders and a 30-ft tall rubber ducky at the Capitol to raise awareness about toxic toys

As we hit the pools and the beaches this summer, the Michigan legislature has a chance to make them a little bit safer, but not in the way you might think. They aren't debating water quality or mercury in our fish. They are debating chemical regulation of the toxic substances found in toys. So before the next time your son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece or nephew picks up a plastic pail and shovel

to build a sand castle, you might want to call your State Senator.

Allow me to explain. The Michigan House of Representatives recently passed the Safe Children's Products Act (HB 4763-4769), which gives parents the right to know what types of chemicals are in the toys they purchase for their children. The measure passed with bi-partisan support, and many Representatives fulfilled their campaign

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(Toys, Continued from Page 6)

promise to support legislation that requires toy manufacturers to disclose any hazardous chemicals present in their products, such as mercury, arsenic, lead, and other poisonous chemicals.

Unfortunately, there were some Representatives that were more concerned with politics rather than their promises and the safety of our children. The following Representatives voted against the very same platform they signed onto last year: Representa-

tives Matt Lori (R-Constantine), Bill Rogers (R-Brighton), Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), John Proos (R-St. Joseph), Mike Simpson (D-Jackson), Brian Calley (R-Portland), Joseph Haveman (R-Holland), Paul Opsommer (R-DeWitt), and Bill Caul (R-Mt. Pleasant). While their votes were disappointing and disturbing, Michigan LCV is holding them accountable for their actions. We informed their constituents of their actions, and their votes will

be scored in the *2010-2011 Michigan Environmental Scorecard*.

With a victory in the House, our fight is only half over. The package of bills is now in the Senate, awaiting a hearing from the Health Policy Committee, which is chaired by Senator Tom George (R-Kalamazoo), and we need your help! Please help us and our partners pressure the Senate to take up this important legislation. Visit www.ecocenter.org and urge your state Senator and Chairman

George to pass the Children's Safe Products Act. Tell them it is their duty to provide parents with the information they deserve to protect their children from toxic toys.

As this newsletter goes to print, a hearing on these bills in the Senate has not been scheduled. Check out www.michiganlcvedfund.org for the most up-to-date information regarding the progress of the Safe Children's Act and for additional ways you can help us keep our children safe. ■

MasTech Manufacturing: Riding the Winds of Change



Manistee, Michigan was once the home of a vibrant steel and aluminum industry that employed hundreds of northern Michigan residents, many in the manufacturing sector and related to the automotive industry. In the last few months, this type of story in Michigan has not typically ended well. But this story is different.

As the national economic downturn struck a serious blow to our automotive sector, MasTech Manufacturing in Manistee decided to change their plan. They partnered with a wind energy company out of Nevada called Mariah Power. Together, the two companies retooled the manufacturing facility in Manistee to produce the Windspire, an electricity generating wind turbine that can be used in varying capacities, including residential and commercial buildings.

By August of this year, the plant will be making approximately 1000 turbines per month, and by the end of 2009, the plant will employ 120 people. These employees worked in automotive manufacturing, but have been retrained to manufacture wind turbines from start to finish. From machinists to programmers, this company is the model example of what Michigan can do in the renewable energy sector to put our uniquely talented manufacturing workforce back to work.

Thanks to Michigan's commitment to clean energy with the passage of the state's first Renewable Energy Standard (RES) in 2008, more success stories like MasTech Manufacturing will be possible in the years to come and it will turn Michigan's economy around.

To view a recent story about MasTech and Mariah Power on ABC's 20/20 or for more information, please visit www.mariahpower.com. ■

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