

# Amber Waves of Green

The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan    Volume 5, No. 4 Fall 2003

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*Lake Huron Shoreline - Photo by Art Myatt*

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

Water in Detroit, Michigan, and the world – Road salt: more  
harm than good – Doing the math: gas, war and water – Impact  
of IRV – Upcoming events, local and national – and more ...

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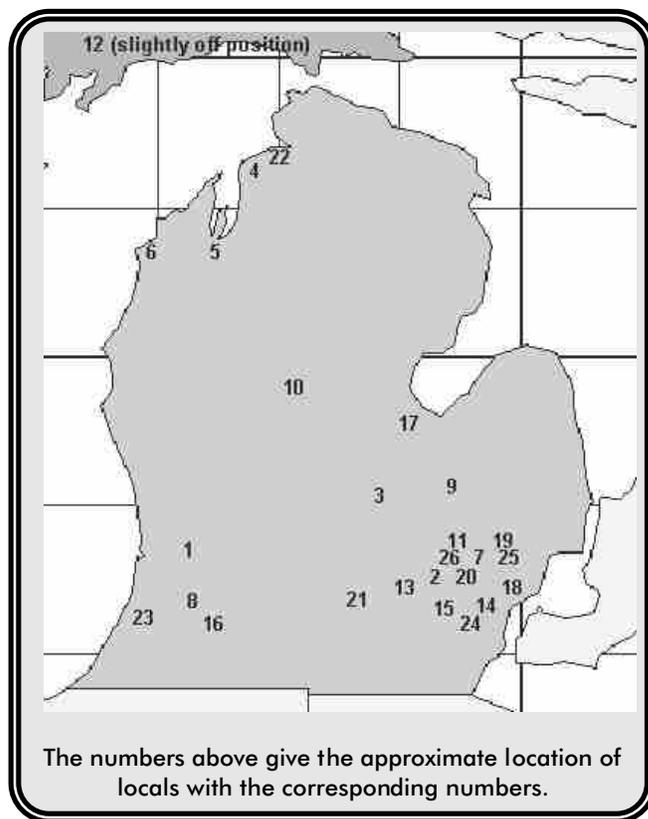
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# **Amber Waves of Green**

## **Volume 5, No. 4 – Fall 2003**

### **The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan**

#### **Table of Contents**

<b>Activist Arrested – Frank Ambrose &amp; Marie Mason</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Road Salt Position Paper</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Message in a Bottle – John Anthony La Pietra</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Doing the Math – Art Myatt</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Global Water Activism – Bankole Thompson</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>IRV and the Elections – Jo Anne Bier-Beemon</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>BAWG Needs Volunteers</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Politics from Above and Below – Art Myatt</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Water Activists Subpoenaed – Stop Perrier</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Help Stop the FTAA</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Hydrogen Fuel Cell Economy – Jo Anne Bier-Beemon</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>New Hire at the National Office</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Future SMMs – Lou Novak</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Campaign School in Wisconsin</b>	<b>20</b>

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*Amber Waves of Green*, published quarterly, is the official publication of the Green Party of Michigan. It is written by members and friends of the party and assembled by Linda Manning Myatt. Aside from celebrating spacious skies, and purple mountain majesty, it serves to promote the Ten Key Values of the Greens: Ecological Wisdom, Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice, Nonviolence, Community Economics, Decentralization, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus. Submission of articles by E mail or disc is preferred: [newsletter@migreens.org](mailto:newsletter@migreens.org). Snail mail can be sent to 50 Woodward Heights, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069. The Green Party of Michigan can be contacted at: Green Party of Michigan, 548 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or phone (734) 663-3555. On the Web, visit <http://www.migreens.org>, where there is a feedback form, or send E mail to [migreens-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:migreens-subscribe@yahoo.com).

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Ecological Wisdom \* Grassroots Democracy \* Social Justice \* Non-violence  
Community-based Economics \* Decentralization \* Feminism \* Respect for Diversity  
Personal and Global Responsibility \* **ARE YOU GREEN?** \* Future Focus/Sustainability

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## Meijer Orders Activist Arrested

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By Frank Ambrose and Marie Mason  
Sweetwater Alliance

Flint, MI – October 18 – one person was arrested at a demonstration at a Meijer grocery store. The protesters were demanding that the company immediately halt the sale of Ice Mountain brand bottled water. The person entered the store wearing a t-shirt reading “Ask me about Ice Mountain,” intending to talk to store patrons. However, she was stopped by store security, who did indeed ask her about Ice Mountain. The local police had advised us that we would be able to picket along the street with signs and enter the store, as long as we didn’t pass out handouts on Meijer property.

Two activists did make it to the Ice Mountain display aisle wearing their “Ask Me about Ice Mountain” t-shirts, but they were under heavy surveillance by Meijer security. The guards stood on each end of the aisle and provided a defacto blockade of the Ice Mountain bottles.

The protest was called to bring attention to the ongoing destruction of Michigan’s water systems by the Nestlé company, which owns Ice Mountain. Nestlé pumps 400 gallons a minute from a central Michigan aquifer. The pumping is causing significant drops in water levels in the local lakes and streams - destroying spawning habitat for fish, and nesting habitat for birds. In addition, some people have reported a loss of well pressure.

Not only is water extraction hurting the environment, it is setting a dangerous legal precedent. Ice Mountain’s permit to pump and destroy is allowing water to be defined as a commodity, not a natural gift shared in common by all living creatures. Once water is defined in this manner, international trade laws prohibit local governments from enacting regulations to protect it. This leaves Michigan and its precious water resources very vulnerable to corporate predation.

The state gave Ice Mountain a \$10 million tax break to set up their operations in Mecosta County. Ice Mountain pumps the water for free, and makes over \$1 million in profits a day according to their own assessments. At the same time as the state is paying Nestlé to take the water to sell for profit, they are denying access to water to thousands across the state. In Detroit alone, they shut off 40,000 homes in



a year because of \$7.5 million in missed payments.

The protesters were at the Meijer store to demand that they join the boycott of Ice Mountain and discontinue its sale in their stores. They also wanted to educate consumers about the choices they make and how they can make a difference through conscious shopping.

“Meijer is a Michigan-based company,” said Steve Jackson. “They should be concerned about how the products they sell affect Michigan’s environment and citizens. We will not stop our actions at Meijer until they stop supporting Ice Mountain. One arrest will not scare us away, it will only intensify our resolve.”

October 18’s events transpired as follows: Two women entered the store and went to the restroom to change into their “Ask Me About Ice Mountain” t-shirts. As they came out of the bathroom, security confronted them, and a flier fell onto the floor from the coat of one of the activists. She had 3 fliers in her pocket (obviously not enough fliers if one had intentions of leafleting inside).

The security manager freaked out and started yelling at the two. One of the activists decided to leave because she was not prepared to get arrested. The other activist argued with the security guards about her right to enter the store to purchase groceries. She also was not intending to get arrested, but decided to make a stand. When she turned her back to the security manager and started to walk into the store, the manager saw the activist’s t-shirt which read “Ask Me About Ice Mountain” on the back. At this moment, the security manager demanded that the

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# What's Wrong With Using Road Salt?

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*Position paper before the Platform Committee*

Salt, depending on the concentration, damages and kills native plants, from grasses and shrubs to trees. Already, only salt-tolerant plants can survive near Michigan's salted roads, and the definition of "near" creeps farther out every year. Tony Reznicek, a U of M plant expert, points out this has already created highway corridors of vegetation normally found in seashore salt marshes or Great Plains salt flats. As salt accumulates in the soil, eventually it will kill off even these plant varieties.

Road salt, in the spring rains, contaminates our ground water and surface water. Wells near highways become brackish and the water from them is undrinkable. Crops irrigated with salty water will not grow well. Wally Fusilier, a lake scientist from Dexter, Michigan, knows of several inland lakes suffering from permanent stratification. The salty bottom layer of water prevents the seasonal thermal mixing of lake water, killing off life at the bottom of the lake by preventing oxygen from reaching it.

Additionally, road salt cracks concrete and corrodes steel. In the case of reinforced concrete, a structural element of most highway bridges and parking structures, salt weakens the structure by attacking both the concrete and the reinforcing steel. As the steel corrodes, the resulting rust takes up four times the volume of the uncorroded steel. This expansion breaks up the concrete around the steel and allows the salt solution to penetrate further.

We can see the results falling in chunks from the underside of freeway bridges. The giant Zilwaukee Bridge, on I-75 near Saginaw, depends on reinforced concrete to support the spans, and salting it is thus prohibited in any weather conditions. The traffic still drips salt on it from previous miles of salted pavement. Salt corrodes the cars and trucks that drive in Michigan's winters, and then is responsible for the enormous number of potholes that show up in the spring to beat the vehicles to death. Roads, bridges and cars last about half as long as they might if the roads were not salted. We pay directly for the ruined vehicles and the ruined roads.

Road salt costs about a penny a pound. The damage it does is estimated by the federal EPA to be fifteen times that. Some \$328 million of road salt were used in 1999, and caused about \$5 billion in damages that year. In Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties, the county governments have used – in one winter – up to 65 pounds of salt for every resident. This does not include the additional amounts used by

city and state governments, or by private businesses, or by individuals.

This is a huge burden for our environment, a burden the environment cannot sustain. Our environment is already damaged. Another fifty years of this and it will be degraded to the point of being incapable of sustaining plant life of any sort. If the legislature were to propose buying millions of pounds of salt for the purpose of dumping it into the Great Lakes, we would know they were insane – and yet millions of pounds we dump on roads end up in the Great Lakes.

The advantages of using the salt are only temporary. It keeps the traffic moving, on the day it is applied to the road. The damage from one winter's salt, if not permanent, certainly lasts for decades, so the damage gets worse every year. We stop, or we destroy ourselves.

## **What are the alternatives?**

Immediately, we could use less road salt. Instead of using salt alone, at a typical rate of 450 pounds per lane-mile, it is possible to mix it with an organic compound sold by Cargill, a compound which helps the salt stick to the road. The amount of salt used can be cut roughly in half, with equal effectiveness.

We could use much less salt by de-icing only critical intersections and relying on plowing plus spreading of sand for the stretches of roads. This would not keep all the traffic moving at all times. The public would have to accept that there are some weather conditions in which cars are not a good means of transportation.

We could stop using salt altogether, and use substitutes instead. Magnesium chloride or calcium chloride have been used instead of sodium chloride (common salt), but both are chemically similar to common salt and so cause similar pollution problems. Since both are more expensive, there is little point pursuing these non-solutions to the problem.

A variety of organic de-icers in liquid form are effective, and are chemically much safer for the roads and for the natural environment than salt. Most are made from agricultural by-products such as corn stalks or brewery waste. They are considerably more expensive than salt, and the amount that can be produced without growing crops especially for the purpose is limited. However, they could work with a policy of de-icing only critical intersections and bridges (no chemical corrosion to worry about) and relying on plowing and sand for the rest.

... Continued on page 17

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## Message in a Bottle

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To: Hon. Jennifer Granholm, Governor  
Post Office Box 30013  
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I am writing to ask you to follow the opinion you wrote when you were Attorney General; define – formally and officially – the Nestlé/Ice Mountain water-extraction operation in Mecosta County as an “export and diversion” of Great Lakes water. Declare the Governor’s Office disapproval of Nestlé/Ice Mountain; and turn off the tap they stuck into Lake Michigan before they extract any more free water and profits from this irreplaceable public natural resource.

This “message in a bottle” is not just fan mail from some flounder – though it does advocate in part for keeping some streams in Michigan viable for fish to live in (or restoring them to survivable flow). In fact, the essential message is not just a few words on paper. It’s that the container is dry. It no longer has the water it was expected to contain. (Just as Judge Lawrence Root, presiding in the case of *Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation v. Nestlé/Ice Mountain*, has seen for himself, it is now true of the perhaps all-too-appropriately-named Dead Stream.) And, what’s worse, Michigan citizens have in effect paid the company to extract the water to fill the bottles, and export both water and money from the Great Lakes. We can’t afford any of that.

As Attorney General, you recognized the authority of the Governor under the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to stop such a privatization, profiteering, and commodification of water hydrologically connected to the Great Lakes and their tributaries covered by the WRDA. You also stated in letters to then-Governor Engler and to three state and Federal legislators your view that withdrawing groundwater and bottling it for sale in interstate commerce for use outside the Great Lakes basin constitutes a diversion or export for use outside the basin within the meaning of that Federal law.

However, though your office issued a press release publicizing this opinion of the person who was Attorney General, you chose not to make it an official Attorney General’s opinion. I am calling on you to take now as Governor the action you urged be taken by the Governor then – to make formal and official your disagreement with this “water removal” operation. And I am calling on your successor as Attorney General to finish the job you started at the

request of two legislators, and issue a formal Attorney General’s Opinion declaring the Nestlé/Ice Mountain extraction plant an “export and diversion” of Great Lakes waters – and thus subject to being shut down by a stroke of the Governor’s pen.

You saw protecting water as an important issue in June, when you talked about it to the *Detroit News*. But apparently it’s not been important enough to take that pen and sign a letter turning off the tap.

The Great Lakes are so obviously essential to our state that you want to use them to define Michigan’s shape on its commemorative quarter. But apparently they aren’t essential enough (or obvious enough) to make you want to follow your own lead and define the Nestlé/Ice Mountain extraction plant as an “export and diversion” of Great Lakes water.

I call on you to write to your fellow Great Lakes state governors and provincial premiers today, and declare the Nestlé/Ice Mountain extraction plant an unacceptable “export and diversion” of Great Lakes water. And I call on your successor as Attorney General, Michael Cox, to finish the job you started and issue a formal Attorney General’s opinion recognizing that the plant is subject to Federal law. (Stronger, clearer state regulation of proposed “removals” of water – a public resource and a human right – is also needed ... but you do not need to wait for it in this case, and you should not.)

Water should not have to be a partisan issue – particularly in 2003, the International Year of Fresh Water. I urge you, and Attorney General Cox, to lead your parties along the right path – while there is still water in Mecosta County.

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## Doing the Math

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Art Myatt  
October 2003

### Gas and War

According to the *World Fact Book* published by our own CIA, the United States has a population of 290 million people and a per capita gross domestic product of \$37,600. The nation now produces oil at the (declining) rate of 8.054 million barrels a day, and consumes it at the (increasing) rate of 19.65 million barrels a day. We drive approximately 2.5 trillion miles per year, or 8500 miles per person per year. That makes 34,000 miles per year for an average family of four.

Our mileage, of course, varies. If we assume gas costs \$1.50 a gallon and mileage is around 18 per gallon, that would be an average yearly cost of \$2830. Hybrids get much better mileage and Hummers worse. City dwellers who use public transportation drive fewer miles and suburbanites with long commutes drive more. Truck drivers account for more miles and worse mileage than any category yet mentioned. Nobody is exactly average, but that yearly gasoline bill of \$2830 is at least somewhere in the ballpark for most of us.

On a closely related subject, there is the war in Iraq, which many of us understand is for the purpose of assuring American access to the world's largest oil supply through American military domination of the area where the oil is located. The plans to conquer Iraq were laid out long before 9/11/2001 by Rummy, Cheney, Rove and other big cheeses in the Bush regime. The plans were published before the Bush regime even took power in America. The events of 9/11/2001 were, from their angle, a convenient excuse for executing the plans.

A common estimate is that the war has so far cost \$70 billion. Bush has requested an additional \$87 billion. Those two figures add up to \$157 billion. The dollar cost of "securing" America's supply of oil, so far, would be \$541 per person, or \$2165 for our family of four mentioned above. Let's call that their

"indirect" bill for gasoline. Adding that to the direct cost puts the total bill just under \$5000 - \$4995 if you are trying to be unnaturally



exact with rough estimates.

Of course, that's just the dollar cost so far. It says nothing about the human costs of American and Iraqi lives lost or ruined. It says nothing of the political costs of allies lost around the world or democracy destroyed at home. It says nothing to address the historical cost of resources wasted trying to extend the lifetime of our energy-wasting economy, resources that could and should have been used to create a society based on sustainable energy. Wrestling with these issues goes way beyond doing the math on the cost of gasoline.

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### Great Lakes Water

As irrigation wells drilled into overused aquifers increasingly fail, we're going to hear cries for "saving" industrial food production by piping Great Lakes water to those states that have used up their natural supplies.

Let's say that, if this project were to be undertaken, Lake Superior would be the designated source for the states of Wisconsin and the Dakotas, while Lakes Michigan and Huron would be used to supply Kansas, Nebraska and the flat one third of Colorado. Using the water in the lakes just one time to make up 6" of rainfall in the farming states would result in lowering the level of the lakes by more than two feet. There would be an immediate crisis in the shipping industry. Continuing this diversion policy for as long as a decade would – in addition to wrecking commercial shipping – ruin tourism, destroy property values along thousands of miles of shoreline, and generally wreck the ecology and water supplies for something like 50 million people.

Even with such an extreme price, it would not solve the problem of farming that "needs" (to keep the per-acre productivity where it now is) more water than nature can supply. Draining the Great Lakes would only delay the necessity to develop farming methods and expectations in line with the amount of rainfall the climate delivers. With or without wrecking the Great Lakes, we need to develop sustainable farming. Doing so before the Great Lakes are ruined would make more sense – especially to the tens of millions who live in the Great Lakes region.

It is true that the Great Lakes region has an apparent abundance of water. It also has an ecology adapted to that level of water, which means that

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## Visit Links Detroit, Global Water Activism

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By Bankole Thompson  
*The Michigan Citizen*

Detroit and South Africa suffer from similar socio-economic ills, according to Patrick Bond, a professor at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

Bond, who spoke at the Barth Hall, Cathedral of St. Paul on Woodward Avenue Oct. 13, was invited by the Sweetwater Alliance, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Detroit Green Party, Highland Park Human Rights Coalition and Massassauga Earth First! to talk about corporate privatization as a worldwide phenomenon that is changing the nature of economics and everyday life.

“We in South Africa have similar problems with many cities of the world, including Detroit, where governments are privatizing water and basic services,” Bond said.

Earlier this year, 40,000 Detroiters had their water, heat and electricity shut off. During the same period, masses of South Africans took to the streets in Johannesburg to protest the privatization of water and other essential services.

“We are dealing with the same formidable issues,” Bond said. “In the suburbs in Johannesburg, the wealthy are consuming about 1,800 liters of water a day while ordinary South Africans are struggling to have 50 liters per day.”

When Nelson Mandela was released and elected South Africa’s first Black president, much of the globe rejoiced that this once apartheid-stricken country would now lead what Africanists call the “New African Renaissance.”

“There is a correlation between what is happening in Detroit and Johannesburg,” said Robert Bartle, organizer for Sweetwater Alliance, a network of people opposed to water privatization. “Both are economic problems that put the system in a disarray.”

Bond said that, despite the South African Constitution’s guarantee of every citizen’s right to an environment with clean and sufficient water, ten million South Africans are without water.

“This is a life and death struggle,” he said. “We are engaged in a massive war where the state is being hired by corporations.”

Opponents say water privatization leads to rate increases, which in turn cause people to collect dangerous, even lethal water from untreated sources.

“In South Africa, the introduction of the prepaid

water meter forced people to look for water from other sources, when sometimes those are contaminated sources,” Bartle said.

Using water meters allows companies to shut off residents’ supply when they fail to make their payments, said Bartle. Between August 2000 and February 2002, two hundred and fifty nine people died of cholera in South Africa and 10,000 got sick. Critics say the whole issue of privatization began with the Growth Employment and Reconstruction Program of the previous Mandela government, which focused on privatization and bringing investors to the country.

“Mandela was not his own master. Thabo Mbeki basically ran his government, and now Mbeki does not seem to care about the masses,” Bond said. “His recent comment about never seeing anyone with HIV – denying its existence – was unbelievable.”

The companies taking charge of water supplies are motivated by profit, said John Hilary of Save the Children, a British organization.

“Private water companies don’t go into countries with thoughts of doing the poor a good turn,” he said.

Hilary said the privatization of water supplies in Argentina by a French company, for example, led to a 100 percent rate increase.

Opponents of the private ownership of water supplies say access to healthful water is an inviolable human right that should be guaranteed under any privatization agreement.

In Johannesburg, the government recently charged 87 activists with malicious damage for protesting against shutoffs at the residence of Amos Masondo, the city’s mayor.

The activists had gathered at the mayor’s villa to shut his water off, when guards opened fire on them, wounding two of them.

Bond said the government was unable to come up with credible evidence against the activists. Many

... *Continued on page 19*

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# Running A Strong Green Presidential Candidate and Changing the Game

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By Jo Anne Bier-Beemon  
*Up North Greens*

Kids on the sidelines dream of the day they will hold the ball in their hands and all eyes will be on them and FINALLY they will be able to show everyone that awesome, spectacular move! Well, wake up Greens! The ball is in our hands and the world is watching. The time for showing off our spectacular moves and skill is upon us. We must choose a powerful presidential candidate, have a clear game plan, an intelligent strategy, know where we're going, and our team work and foot work must be incredible!

The Great Battle is not about Bush vs. whoever. It is not about an election. The battle is about the future of Democracy and whether humankind will pursue a path of abundance for all people, or a path of vast wealth for a few and poverty and want for the vast majority, a path of war and want and destruction.

The real battle is about whether Democracy can survive and overcome the corporate run ruination of the Earth. Greens are in politics, not for want of power or fame, but because we are dedicated to government of, by and for people. We know that the current system has failed us. We believe in Grassroots Democracy, Eco-Wisdom, Social Justice and Non-Violence.

We can swing elections. It takes less than 5% of the voters in presidential elections (and the majority of America does not even vote and those votes could be ours!) to swing the election one way or the other. (If the "two" parties were not so entwined in a group hug, there might be a real choice.)

We are the wild card. What the Greens do with the ball (our message) in this moment of power could change history. The major parties know this. Our responsibility is to use this moment as a teaching moment. A moment that will educate the citizens of America and build strength for Democracy and

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## BAWG Needs You!

As a member of the Ballot Access Working Group (BAWG), I am pleased to let you know that the 2004 "A Green's Guide to Getting On the Ballot" is now available for download off the national party's Web site. I and the rest of the members of BAWG sincerely hope that state parties and locals will find this useful for organizing their ballot drives and growing their parties. It is by no means a finished work, so if you have ideas for additional sections or other information needed, feel free to let us know and we will put out some supplements as the 2004 election season progresses.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite Greens to join the BAWG. A working group of the Coordinated Campaign Committee (CCC), we are composed of Greens from states that are currently seeking to get on the ballot, and of Greens with ballot access experience, donating their time to mentor those seeking ballot status.

We need you!!! Dozens of states will be trying to get on the ballot between now and Summer 2004. Greens need to organize!

If your state party is trying to get on the ballot, and you would like to join a forum where you can bounce ideas off of and work out problems with people dealing with similar issues, email Adrienne Boer at [aboer@austin.rr.com](mailto:aboer@austin.rr.com). We also plan to match each state party seeking ballot status with a mentor.

If you're from a state where your Green candidates ARE listed as Greens on the ballot, you're thinking "been there, done that," and you're thinking that ballot access isn't an issue for you anymore, think again! We're all in this together, and until every state party is on the ballot, Greens cannot reach their electoral potential. If you helped organize a petition drive in the past, if you know how to motivate volunteers, if you design fund raising plans, or have other skills that you think would benefit states seeking ballot access, email Jim Barton at [jbarton@greens.org](mailto:jbarton@greens.org) to plug in. Join us even if you're not sure how you could best be of use, or how much time you can commit.

The Coordinated Campaign Committee's website is here: [www.gp.org/committees/campaign/index.html](http://www.gp.org/committees/campaign/index.html)

To print the 2004 Ballot Access Handbook, go to: [www.gp.org/committees/campaign/manual/access2004.pdf](http://www.gp.org/committees/campaign/manual/access2004.pdf)

Feel free to contact me with any questions. On behalf of the CCC and BAWG, good luck in the November 2003 elections.

*Juscha Robinson*  
Co-chair, Coordinated Campaign Committee  
Green Party of the United States  
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respect for the Green Party.

We did not ask for this “spoiler system” power. Indeed we disdain it and want to get rid of it. The power to “swing” elections is born of a system where: 1. There are only two major parties. 2. The two major parties have become the puppets of the same corporate interests, and in becoming puppets of the elite, they have abandoned the people and become more and more the same. 3. Both Democrats and Republicans avoid the real human issues and Democratic values that are vital to the citizens. 4. Both Democrat and Republican bosses resist Instant Run-off Voting, free air-time, and making corporations responsible to the public health, safety and welfare. (Stripping corporations of legal personhood is a first step.)

Greens are working to change the “spoiler” institutions that GIVE us this unwanted power! The tactic of the Democrats has been to use the weapon of “Bush must be stopped” and taunts of “Spoiler” to disarm Greens and strong arm Greens into the “anyone’s better than Bush” fold. What we need to ask of the leaders, insiders, the movers and shakers of the Democratic Party is, “Are you willing to join us in fixing the system that endangers you?”

Instant Run-off Voting strikes at the heart of corporate control of elections. Greens work for IRV because we respect the right of people in Democracy to be heard, to express a fuller Democracy of by and for the People rather than of by and for corporate power. So why haven’t the Democrat Party members supported IRV? 1. Democrats incorrectly worry that IRV will advance the Greens, not the Democrats. 2. Democrats do not understand IRV. They have never thought about it. It sounds complex. It sounds like a gimmick. It sounds dangerous. (Anything we don’t understand sounds dangerous.) You can’t learn when you’re dancing in place, hands over your ears, singing “I can’t hear you!” at the top of your lungs. 3. Threats and anger are more natural than the work and cooperation of fixing a system. 4. Threats and anger have worked in the past. 5. Progressives and Greens have not understood the wide dynamics of IRV and have not promoted Instant Run-off Voting as the key to smashing Corporate control in America.

IRV must be presented as an American Democracy issue, not a Green issue. IRV must be presented in ways that are meaningful and easy. IRV must be shown as cost effective, tried and true, and a method of voting who’s time has come. Best of all, IRV could facilitate cooperation, shared ideas and problem solving in campaigns and platforms. The “spoiler system” could become a “support your friends” system. Move On and IPPN and Alternet,

and Public Citizen could introduce IRV in all their polls and elections. The Dems, Greens, Progressives, even Republicans, who love Democracy, would be a quick study. IRV IS easy as 1, 2, 3! Then, the Democrats could choose their Presidential candidate by majority, Instant Run-off Voting. This would be a giant first step in Dems winning their party back!

There is no reason for Democrat or Republican corporate bosses to fix a system that works for them, so it is the citizens in the parties that we must educate and win over to IRV. The bosses of the Democrats, who gave us Hubert Humphrey and Dukakis, Clinton and Gore are happy to sit back and encourage their fringe Democrat “Progressives” to bring Green “progressives” back into the fold using guilt and fear tactics. Heaven help the Dem bosses if the Democrats took a long look at who is pulling the strings within their party and if Dems began to work to reform their party from the inside. But they do not know how to do that. The old ways have not worked, obviously. It is amazing how vehemently my Dem Friends insist that I vote for whatever Dem their bosses choose, knowing that likely even they will not support that candidate. “But,” they sigh, “any Dem is better than Bush!”

So we have to create a strategy and a campaign to challenge the Democrats and Republicans and ALL the citizens of the other parties to step out of the tattered political box of “Everything you say, I’m against,” to join with citizens to reclaim their political parties and their Democracy. Across the board, Americans must work to oust the Corporate dictators from positions of power that infringe on citizen rights and values.

Yes, Kucinich is wonderful. In the spirit of Instant Run-off Voting etiquette, I support every stand and platform he has that I have seen. I applaud him. I support him, and I challenge Democrats to support him and to not be afraid of the “spoiler” threat in their own party. Kucinich is making a difference right now in calling Americans to rethink Democracy. He is calling Americans to participate in Democracy. He is carrying that IRV ball with us! He sees the problem, and knows what he is up against. I support that! And when the Democrats dump him, and they will, (It is wishful thinking to hope for a moment that Kucinich and his true Democratic vision have a prayer.) I would like the Greens to seriously ask him if he would consider being a Green candidate for office on the Green Party ticket. I was happy to see Nader campaign with Kucinich. Nader has never joined our party! If Nader and Kucinich ran against

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## Elections from Above and from Below

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By Art Myatt  
Oakland County Greens

In the 1960s, about the same time that *Silent Spring* was published, the late Hal Draper wrote an essay on “The Two Souls of Socialism.” In fact, the essay was revised, rewritten and republished several times during the decade. Draper’s immediate subject was the history of socialism, but the “two souls” approach illuminates social movements generally.

Draper said, “There have always been different ‘kinds of socialism,’ and they have customarily been divided into reformist or revolutionary, peaceful or violent, democratic or authoritarian, etc. These divisions exist, but the underlying division is something else. Throughout the history of socialist movements and ideas, the fundamental divide is between Socialism-from-Above and Socialism-from-Below.” The terms are almost self-explanatory, and the examples he gives make his meaning clear.

Immediately after the passage quoted, he went on, “What unites the many different forms of Socialism-from-Above is the conception that socialism (or a reasonable facsimile thereof) must be handed down to the grateful masses in one form or another, by a ruling elite which is not subject to their control in fact. The heart of Socialism-from-Below is its view that socialism can be realized only through the self-emancipation of activated masses in motion, reaching out for freedom with their own hands, mobilized ‘from below’ in a struggle to take charge of their own destiny, as actors (not merely subjects) on the stage of history.”

Skipping to a later passage, he summarized:

*It is Socialism-from-Above which is the dominant tradition in the development of socialism.*

*Please note that it is not peculiar to socialism. On the contrary, the yearning for emancipation-from-above is the all-pervading principle through centuries of class society and political oppression. It is the permanent promise held out by every ruling power to keep the people looking upward for protection, instead of to themselves for liberation from the need for protection. The people looked to kings to right the injustices done by lords, to messiahs to overthrow the tyranny of kings. Instead of the bold way of mass action from below, it is always safer*

*and more prudent to find the “good” ruler who will Do the People Good. The pattern of emancipation-from-above goes all the way back in the history of civilization, and had to show up in socialism too. But it is only in the framework of the modern socialist movement that liberation from below could become even a realistic aspiration; within socialism it has come to the fore, but only by fits and starts. The history of socialism can be read as a continual but largely unsuccessful effort to free itself from the old tradition, the tradition of emancipation-from-above.*

Later, Draper quoted Eugene V. Debs as a shining example of articulating and living Socialism-from-Below: “Too long have the workers of the world waited for some Moses to lead them out of bondage. He has not come; he never will come. I would not lead you out if I could; for if you could be led out, you could be led back again. I would have you make up your minds that there is nothing you cannot do for yourselves.”

In the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a socialist revolution is not on the horizon. It is obvious that a socialist revolution would at best be only a partial solution to the problems we face today. If tomorrow the workers of the world took over the means of production, the next day Greens would be in the workers’ councils arguing for ecologically sound products and production methods, and against the execution of the capitalist pigs.

We might argue that it is not a socialist economy we need so much as a sustainable one. It is not a global economy we need so much as a variety of ecologically sound local economies. It is not breaking corporate control of politics we need so much as establishing democratic control of corporations. Worker’s power in the mining of coal would not be nearly as beneficial as transforming energy use in the society so that very little coal is needed.

The specter of socialism is not exactly haunting the United States today. The specters of nuclear and biological weapons are. The specters of polluted air, land and water, of wasted resources and newly extinct species are. We have unnecessary poverty throughout the world, and no indication that corporate globalization will do anything but make it worse. This is not a comprehensive list. There is no shortage of specters. Rather, there is a surplus.

Several decades after “Two Souls” was written,

we might question whether Draper's approach is still useful. In place of "Socialism," we might say "Ecological Wisdom," and "Social Justice," and "Grassroots Democracy," and "Non-violence." We might compress these values into a phrase like "a Green society." Whatever the phrase, the question as to whether we should try to build a Green society from above or from below is still fundamental.

On the face of it, by being on the ballot, by running candidates for elective office, the Green Party has chosen the path of building from above. That's what political parties in this country do. That's how the system is set up.

We are in fact trying to work from above when the main goal of a campaign is simply to "win" the office by all the traditional election strategies – offending as few people as possible, having volunteers work the neighborhoods door-to-door, getting the candidate's name visible with media appearances and yard signs, and so on. It is also true when the point of building a party organization and running candidates is getting in a position to influence Democrats. In general, if you are looking to be a member of the elite responsible for bringing Green policies to the unenlightened masses, then you are like any conventional politician aspiring to rule from above, even if you have a good platform.

Mind you, there is nothing wrong with legwork or yard signs in the service of promoting our platform and making contact with people developing similar views but not yet involved in political activism. The problem comes with the attitude that winning is the most important thing, and the rest can come later. There's nothing wrong with noticing that some Democrats are trying to satisfy us on some issues, and that we are having an impact on them even while they are trying to deny any such thing. The problem comes with the attitude that elections and influence are the goals, the attitude that all the non-electoral "movement" activities are secondary.

Education, agitation, and solidarity are by no means secondary. Demonstrations, direct actions and strikes are all ways the general public (or any dedicated portion of it) can put pressure on the elected government or on the unelected bureaucracy or on the corporate authorities for a popular policy change. Independent media are important for their own sakes, not just to be useful during electoral campaigns.

A "winning" campaign that puts a nominal Green into office without building strong support for changing the government's policy responses to

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## A Reminder from the CCC

The Coordinated Campaign Committee has some resources available for Green candidates.

Check out our website at

[www.gp.org/committees/campaign/index.html](http://www.gp.org/committees/campaign/index.html).

Especially useful are the website templates and campaign staff matching funds! If you have ideas for other things that the national party could provide to local and state campaigns, please email me or Adrianna Buonarroti, the GPMI representative on the CCC at [junes\\_tears@yahoo.com](mailto:junes_tears@yahoo.com).

We are also tracking all our Green candidates and entering them into the database online at [www.greens.org/elections](http://www.greens.org/elections). Please check it out and make sure it is complete and up-to-date. Let me or Adrianna know what is missing for the 2003 (or 2004) election cycle. □

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corporations might not be a successful campaign, though the office does give the office holder the opportunity to do more in this line. A "losing" campaign that forces issues of justice and sustainability to be discussed just might be a successful campaign. The payoff from a campaign does not have to be winning an election, though winning on occasion is a good thing.

We win only when the society is transformed to a peaceful, stable and just society. That will happen, if we are lucky, without the world experiencing convulsions that kill off half the population first. Future historians may say that the Green Party played a large and productive role in the transformation, or they may accurately conclude that our contribution was a minor one. Perhaps the organization that will be most effective has not yet been created.

That doesn't matter. We could have a green society without a Green Party as easily as we have a federal government without a Federalist Party. What does matter is that we do what we can to advance the transformation. Whether one of us wins or loses a particular election along the way is pretty trivial. If our election campaigns at every level contribute to building a green movement, we will eventually win even if we lose every election. If they don't contribute to raising consciousness and encouraging all forms of activism, then we are wasting our time and energy running those campaigns.

Full disclosure: I ran as a Green Party candidate for State Representative in 2002, and lost the election to a Democrat, but still believe that the effort was not wasted. □

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## Subpoenas Issued to Water Activists

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### FBI Steps Up Repression of Activists With Formation of Grand Jury

From: Stop Perrier – stopperrier@yahoo.com

Detroit, MI- Tuesday morning, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the FBI and Coast Guard issued subpoenas to Marie Mason and Frank Ambrose of the Sweetwater Alliance and Massasauga Earth First!. The subpoenas ordered the two to submit fingerprints and DNA samples to a federal grand jury being convened in Grand Rapids. Ambrose and Mason plan to fight the subpoenas. They believe that the grand jury demands are illegal and are not issued as part of a real investigation, but rather a blatant attempt to harass activists and gather information about dissident movements.

Grand juries are a leftover from early British law. They conduct an investigation in order to determine if there is sufficient evidence to press charges against the individual. They have been used extensively as a political tool to intimidate and repress activist communities.

When a person is subpoenaed by a grand jury, he or she must comply or risk imprisonment. In this way, an innocent person can be jailed for noncompliance, whether or not evidence exists to convict them of any crime. Those subpoenaed to testify lose their rights to plead the Fifth Amendment and to have legal counsel present during the process. People are forced to decide between talking to the FBI or going to jail.

Marie and Frank have been very vocal in the fight to end the water shut offs in Detroit and Highland Park, as well as in the campaign to shut down the Ice Mountain bottled water plant in Stanwood, MI. The Detroit water board is violating thousands of people's human rights by shutting off their water for non-payment. In Highland Park, the city manager (a state appointed official) has shut off, or is threatening to shut off over half of the city's 16,000 residents.

While our poorest citizens are denied access to water, corporations get it for free. Despite a \$2 billion budget deficit for Michigan, Gov. Granholm is giving Ice Mountain \$10 million in tax abatements while they pump our ground water for free. Ice Mountain, a subsidiary of Nestlé, makes profits of over \$1 million a day from the sale of our water.

The water campaign has made successful links between the urban and rural struggles for water rights. "The corporations and their stooges in the state government want to continue to use the divide

and conquer strategy to weaken this movement and facilitate their bid to privatize control of Michigan's water. They think they can split us along racial and class lines. They think they can frighten people with grand juries and the FBI. They're just plain wrong," said Mason.

Water activists across the state have been harassed by FBI visits in recent weeks. It is believed that the FBI is investigating the attempted sabotage at the Ice Mountain bottling plant.

"The FBI's unwelcome visits are meant to serve as a distraction and a deterrent to citizens' ability to express their discontent with government policies," said Ambrose. "They want people to be afraid to get involved, for fear of being harassed by the FBI. They make people feel like they are common criminals for caring about protecting water. It is inappropriate for the government to hire out its henchmen to the corporations who want to despoil this planet."

The FBI has its own checkered past. Just recently, the FBI was found to have violated two Earth First! activists' civil rights 11 years ago in California, after someone attempted to assassinate them with a car bomb in 1991. Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney were awarded \$4.4 million by a jury to compensate for their losses due to the FBI's campaign to silence and marginalize them.

The two subpoenaed local activists have hosted events in the past to educate the public about FBI abuses of power and how the agency uses its power to divide and disrupt political movements.

"In order to prevent any more harassment, we need to stand together and denounce the FBI and the corporations they are protecting. The FBI is no friend of the people or of the earth," said Dana Gross, Sweetwater Alliance.

Several years ago, the FBI engaged in a campaign of harassment against the two environmental activists under similar circumstances in Indiana. There, several groups were working in coalition to end logging on public lands. In an attempt to divide a successful activist community, the FBI brought false charges against Ambrose. The government later dropped the charges (after 9 months of attempting to brand him a terrorist in the media) due to a total lack of evidence. □

*The Water Defense Committee is asking people to call Assistant US Attorney, Lloyd K. Meyer in Grand Rapids, MI, (616) 456-2404 and demand that he un-convene the Grand Jury.*

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## **We need your help to stop the FTAA**

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This letter comes to you from the Green FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) planning group, with an urgent call for help. Our mission over recent weeks has been to organize the participation and impact of Greens across the country, in the effort to “Stop the FTAA!” focused on the Miami ministerial meeting November 20-21.

We’re writing to let you know what Green parties are doing to stop the FTAA, but this open letter serves another important purpose: to ask that you assist our colleagues in Miami with the organizational and financial resources an effort of this sort necessarily entails. Please take a minute to learn how you can help.

### **What do we mean?**

Consider the following: Greens will be arriving in Miami from around the country, beginning approximately November 15. Many will find their own, commercial housing. But many will be staying with Green colleagues in the Miami area. Many will bring their own transportation, but a goodly number will receive assistance traveling around Miami from the Miami-Dade Greens. Many will buy their own food, but many will find themselves eating food provided by generous local hosts.

The FTAA meeting(s), and associated protests, will be taking place all over the Miami area. Advice about how to get around efficiently will come from our hosts! In fact, telephone expenses associated with the effort in Miami are expected to be considerable, both for individuals and for the local Green Party.

These expenses, in a certain sense, are just the tip of the iceberg. For instance, our planning group is working on a Green guide to the workshops, the march, demonstrations, and so on, of particular interest to Greens.

All of this takes money. The Miami-Dade Greens have already undertaken heroic efforts to maximize the impact of Greens in this important struggle against globalization. Now it’s time for all of us to help, even those who won’t be in Miami on November 20.

We are asking all Greens who plan to attend (and protest) the FTAA ministerial in Miami in November – as well as those who will be there only in spirit – to consider raising money to help the Miami-Dade Greens.

Literally a few dollars per Green would make an enormous difference. As a guideline, we suggest that

each attendee budget \$5.00 as a contribution to the Miami-Dade Greens. More would of course be welcome, but rest assured that our colleagues in Miami will extend assistance to all Greens, without regard to contributions received.

What can your state or local party do to help? Already, 23 state Green parties and 7 large locals have endorsed the FTAA Call to Action. We expect this list to grow. Financial assistance from these Green parties, to support our colleagues in Miami, would be most helpful. Please ask your Green Party to distribute this open letter, and to consider a party contribution to the effort. Your party’s own organizing, coalition-building, and electoral campaigns will benefit from a successful Green mobilization against the FTAA.

Where should contributions go? Your check should be made payable to the “Green Party of Miami-Dade County,” and mailed to Miami-Dade Green Party P.O. Box 560325 Miami FL 33256

“Early” money would of course be the most helpful (but don’t let that prevent “late” contributions!). Each contribution from individuals and groups will be acknowledged, and a complete accounting of all funds raised for this effort will be available on the Miami-Dade Green Party’s website: <http://www.miamidadegreenparty.org/Issues/WTO/wto.html>

**A**nd now, are you wondering just what we have planned? Here’s an update:

The national Green Party’s International Committee (represented by Alan Kobrin, Tony Affigne, Annie Goeke, Jim Polk, Brian Lutenegger, Alan Kaufman) has been working with the Miami-Dade Green Party to organize Green participation in the Miami mobilization, concurrent with the FTAA Ministerial in Miami, on November 20. Our Green FTAA planning group, including the International Committee, Campus Greens, Miami-Dade Greens and others, has been holding weekly teleconferences.

Plans are underway for Green representatives to participate on anti-FTAA panels and workshops, concerning the privatization of water, and the Global Greens’ support for the anti-corporate globalization movement. There will also be a Green Party press conference. We expect at least one Green to be a speaker at the major rally on November 20, co-sponsored by the national AFL-CIO and the Citizens Trade Campaign.

We are working to maximize the impact of Green participation in the protests against the FTAA. For example, we have agreed to purchase a significant number of green “banners,” under which we can march. These banners will heighten the visibility of Greens at the protest, raise the spirits of Greens who have come from around the country to protest, and inform our allies in the anti-FTAA struggle of the significant contribution Greens continue to make in this effort. Considerable effort has also been made, both in Miami and around the nation, to deepen the contact between the Green Party and others opposed to the FTAA.

At the International Committee’s request, the Steering Committee on October 2 authorized a national Green Party endorsement of the “FTAA Call to Action.” National Co-Chair Ben Manski is

coordinating additional endorsements by state Green parties, 23 of which have already signed on. We encourage all Green parties which have not already done so, to endorse the FTAA Call to Action – as soon as possible! More information is available on the USGP website: [www.gp.org/ftaa2003.html](http://www.gp.org/ftaa2003.html) – where you’ll also find the complete current list of Green endorsements, from state and local Green parties across the country.

**W**E NEED YOUR HELP! There is, of course, much more we could say. For now, we urge you to make a concrete, material effort to assist our colleagues in Florida. See you in Miami!

*For a Green future,  
The Green/FTAA Planning Committee*

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## From the Hydrogen Dream to the Nuclear Nightmare

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*By Jo Anne Bier-Beemon  
Up North Greens*

Using the Bush administration’s “sleight of tongue,” the nuclear industry has hood winked (no pun intended) the auto industry into partnering with them to sell Americans on a “safe, clean Hydrogen Fuel Cell Economy and Energy Infrastructure.” The nuclear industry has also courted People of Faith and Progressives. A car that gives off water as a waste product! Hydrogen! It’s everywhere! The public is buying it hook line and sinker.

What we are not being told is that hydrogen is not an energy source, but the vehicle, or currency, which delivers energy from other sources. The dream of Hydrogen fuel cell technology is to make storage of energy in large quantities from all sources compact and transportable, cheap and safe. Although prohibitively expensive at this time, the pursuit of a cost effective hydrogen fuel cell which could revitalize a sagging nuclear commercial industry, has become the focus of the Nuclear Industry and the Bush administration.

At the 2002 World Hydrogen Energy Conference, Geoffrey Ballard said, “Within the scope of today’s technology, nuclear fission is the only viable, clean source of large quantities of energy.”

Riding on the promise of a new “freedom car” and “energy independence,” and “Apollo Project” and other tempting Red White and Blue Orwellian Bushisms, monies for development of alternative energies will be diverted through the “hydrogen

infrastructure” dream directly to the nuclear nightmare. In the ‘60s the dream was to put a mini reactor in every vacuum and car. But high level nuclear waste just made it too deadly. The hydrogen fuel cell today makes the nuclear powered society dream as close to a reality as the military industrial complex can possibly get it.

The recent push to protest global warming by progressives and people of faith is important, but sadly the push will be used to sell nuclear power or ANWR drilling rather than for working for conservation or cleaning up coal and gas and oil systems.

The hope for a hydrogen economy encourages citizens and government to avoid creating needed mass transportation and conservation solutions to our energy challenges. A Hydrogen Economy fueled by nuclear energy is not clean or safe or sustainable.

The major product of nuclear power is high level nuclear waste. This waste must be isolated from citizens and guarded from terrorists for thousands of years. It is a legacy of potential death and hardship for the children of the future.

Every dollar spent on Hydrogen fuel cell technology must be matched by five dollars in implementation of conservation, wind and solar. Nuclear is not an option. Without a commitment to safe and renewable, non-nuclear energy solutions, the Hydrogen Dream will fast become the Nuclear Nightmare! □

*Jo Anne Bier-Beemon is an environmentalist,  
and Charlevoix County Drain Commissioner.*

## Good News: Welcome to Emily Citkowski!

The Steering Committee is very pleased to announce the hire of Emily Citkowski as our new national Operations Director. After conducting two exhaustive hiring rounds, we reached a clear consensus that Ms. Citkowski was the most qualified candidate for this particular job. We received applications from many outstanding Green Party activists, and a number of non-Greens as well. We want to thank all of the applicants for stepping forward for a job that is sure to be demanding.

Emily Citkowski currently works for Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), where she serves as office manager and bookkeeper. She has worked for TDU for three years, and is moving to D.C. this month to join her partner, who enrolled in graduate school in Washington earlier this year. Ms. Citkowski is a member of the Green Party of Michigan and has written for their state publication. She came highly recommended by her supervisors at TDU and by her fellow Greens.

Ms. Citkowski and outgoing, soon-to-be-missed, staffer Dean Myerson met October 30 at our national office in Washington D.C. She will begin work on Saturday, November 15th.

We want to thank Emily for coming on board, and look forward to working with her in the years to come as we grow the Green Party of the United States. □

*Ben Manski, Co-Chair  
Green Party of the United States  
www.GP.org*

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### Road Salt continued from page 6 ...

In fact, this is pretty much how the state of Colorado manages. They understood some time back that with as little precipitation as they get, they can't afford to ruin their limited supplies of ground and surface water. They banned salt. The expense of de-icing without salt shows up directly in the budgets of de-icing agencies in Colorado, and the expense of the damage caused by salt is not forced on the local citizens because the damage is not done.

We could also reduce the problem by reducing traffic. In the long term, we should be building a robust public transportation system so use of private automobiles is not necessary, winter or summer. We should be building communities in which homes and workplaces and schools and shopping are mostly in walking or biking distance, communities that are knit together with light rail and bus routes. Heavy rail and

water travel could handle much of the necessary long-distance transportation with radically greater energy efficiency than cars and trucks and planes. An appreciation for leisurely travel might even lead to a revival of canals.

Finally, we have to recognize that salt is not the only industrial pollutant contaminating our water. When it rains, the runoff also includes pesticides that poison us, nitrates from excess fertilizer, sewage from overflowing treatment systems both privately and publicly owned, oil, mercury, and other nasty chemicals. These things can only be measured by scientifically testing for them. The local, state and national governments should pool their test results and develop a cooperative program to test comprehensively and regularly. The results should be published and publicized so we can all see where the problems are and measure the effectiveness of programs to solve them. □

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## Two Governments – Again

Harper's Magazine is a venerable publication, but it is worth reading for valuable insights. Its editor, Lewis Lapham, created definitions for our permanent and provisional governments:

"The permanent government, a secular oligarchy ... comprises the Fortune 500 companies and their attendant lobbyists, the big media and entertainment syndicates, the civil and military services, the larger research universities and law firms. It is this government that hires the country's politicians and sets the terms and conditions under which the country's citizens can exercise their right – God-given but increasingly expensive – to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Obedient to the rule of men, not laws, the permanent government oversees the production of wealth, builds cities, manufactures goods, raises capital, fixes prices, shapes the landscape, and reserves the right to assume debt, poison rivers, cheat the customers, receive the gifts of federal subsidy, and speak to the American people in the language of low motive and base emotion. ....

"The provisional government is the spiritual democracy that comes and goes on the trend of a political season and oversees the production of pageants .... Positing a rule of laws instead of men, the provisional government must live within the cage of high-minded principle, addressing its remarks to the imaginary figure known as the informed citizen or the thinking man, a superior being who detests superficial reasoning and quack remedies, never looks at *Playboy*, remembers the lessons of history, trusts Bill Moyers, worries about political repression in Liberia, reads (and knows himself improved by) the op-ed page of the Wall Street Journal

## Running continued from page 11 ...

each other, who would be the better Green? (Kucinich takes the time to actually TALK to people!)

Kucinich is good for the Green Party. He challenges us to find a better and more qualified candidate than he is. That's good. How about Peter Camejo for president and Dennis for VP? Of course that will be a Green Party decision, down the line. But part of the IRV message is cooperative campaigns, so lets model that now. THAT in itself is a democratic revolution. We have to dare to think outside the box the traditional system keeps trying to stuff us back in. The two party system encourages people to be at each others throats. It is ugly, boring, and trite, and drives good people away from participation in government. The old divide and conquer of bosses, bureaucrats, CEOs etc. works. They don't have to kill us. Our friends do that.

*The lessons we have to teach, the wisdom of democracy and respect and diversity, will not be learned unless Greens speak for the real needs of real people.*

OUR leaders should be letting the Democrat leaders know that we are not going away. We will run the very best candidate we can find, and there are many strong voices out there! Our strong Democracy values (Instant Run-off Voting for majority wins and civil campaigns, free airtime for candidates, and saving Democracy from the clutches of corporations) are not negotiable. Greens will work for real reform through IRV and speak out for the health welfare and safety of the citizens.

IF a message of rescuing Democracy from corporate control and returning it to the people and using the strength of real Democracy to advance the four pillars of Eco-wisdom, Grassroots Democracy, Non-violence and Social Justice appeals to the voters enough that the Green Party is a danger to the Democrats, the Democrats better damn well help us eliminate a "spoiler system" by running a presidential candidate that speaks to Instant Run-off Voting as the central issue. Instant Run-off Voting is the pivotal issue. But pivotal is not necessarily palatable.

The people who love Democracy must get on the same page. We have to define our immediate goal and work together to accomplish it.

IRV is the single, doable, simple vehicle that can unseat the corporations. It is THE necessary first step. Until the people have a voice, there can be no lasting peace, no real progress in healthcare,

education reform, environmental progress, living wage reform, fair trade opportunities, or anything else. The elitist, corporate big guys will always win in the end because they control the money.

Kucinich speaks out for Universal Health Care and peace, Social Security, guaranteed education through college, withdrawal from NAFTA and WTO, privacy, repeal of the "PATRIOT Act," environmental wisdom, land, farm and food reform etc. Yes, Kucinich is a Green at heart. But most important, he speaks for Instant Run-off Voting. Right now, Dems and Greens should support Kucinich for his support of IRV as the number one priority.

This is a teaching moment. We must be innovative, courageous and visionary. We must create new rules and walk a new path. How about headlines that proclaim, "Greens invite Democrats to kill the spoiler system." Every one of us need to tell Michael Moore, and Howard Zinn and Nader and LaDuke, and Peter Camejo to make IRV the priority. Possibly we could all carry a white basketball with the words "corporate control smasher" on one side and "IRV" on the other. Every issue should be framed in the message that "only when the people control the elections through IRV, can we initiate universal health care..." or peace or environmental stewardship, or a living wage. Every speech, every letter, from every Green candidate should make saving Democracy from corporations through IRV the first priority.

What if Greens did "crazy" things like speaking in support of good ideas of Democrat and Republican, Libertarian and Socialist "rivals"? Peter Camejo did that in California. Peter MODELED ideal candidate behavior. This kind of complimentary behavior is essential in Instant Run-off Elections where a second choice vote is critical. That's part of the beauty of Instant Run-off Voting! What if Greens and other candidates partnered on issues and built their campaigns on American values and advancing Democracy, rather than on pulling candidates down and ripping them apart for past personal mistakes? What if a Green presidential candidate said, "The strength of my Democratic rival lies in..." The revolution is not about winning a superficial contest, but rather about changing the game. We are in a position to do that now.

It is a unique moment in time. The insatiable greed and abuse of corporations is clear to Americans. Americans feel more and more deserted by their "representatives" and less secure in their lives. Americans are beginning to wonder for the first time if globalization is good for America, or good for

other nations. The lessons we have to teach, the wisdom of Democracy and respect and diversity, will not be learned unless Greens speak for the real needs of real people.

The Greens must choose a presidential candidate who makes rooting out the cancer of corporate control with IRV the number one priority. Our candidate must run strong and hard and well, because the two major parties will be engaged once again in trivia and fluff, and Greens will have to have a strong, vital, interesting strategy and message to be kept in the spotlight.

We cannot walk away. The spot light is on us. Leadership has never been more important. The well being and survival of the children of the Earth depends not on leaders who know how to walk the old paths, but visionaries who dare to create new paths and dare to dance. □

*Jo Anne Bier-Beemon is Drain Commissioner for Charlevoix County and an environmentalist.*

### **Meijer continued from page 5 ...**

officer present arrest her. The activist was later cited with trespass/creating a disturbance and disorderly person. She was released on her own recognizance. Her first court date was November 10 at 830 a.m. in the 67<sup>th</sup> district court of Genesee county.

It was very obvious that Meijer was planning on arresting people when we came. They had a camera zeroed in on our meeting place in a neighboring establishment's parking lot. They had at least two of their security guards come to our pre-demonstration briefing undercover, and had compelled the local police department to station at least one car at the store during the protest. They had two cars full of security guards monitoring the legal picket we were holding along the entrance thoroughfare. The security was totally hyped-up. They immediately confronted people who attempted to approach the police officer on duty to find out what happened to the arrested activist. They were told "he doesn't want to be bothered, now leave or be arrested."

The October 18 events marked a turning point for the campaign to boycott Ice Mountain. It was the first time the authorities have arrested activists to prevent them from speaking to the public about the corporate crimes that Ice Mountain is committing. It also shows how aggressively Meijer protects its ability to sell what ever it wants, no matter what the cost. □

*Call the Meijer Store and Demand that they stop selling Ice Mountain. Their number is (810) 235-2700. Ask to speak to the manager. See also: <http://www.waterissweet.org>*

### **Doing the Math continued from page 8 ...**

there is not a surplus of water that the region is desperate to get rid of. In the last few years, all the Great Lakes have receded to well below average levels, approaching record lows. Computer modeling of climate change due to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere indicates that we should expect those low water level records to be broken in the next decades, and that the levels will keep plunging for the foreseeable future. That is, we are going to have entirely enough trouble maintaining shipping and wetlands without making the problem even worse irrigating wheat fields a thousand miles away.

We could turn the Great Lakes into a disaster worse than the Aral Sea. We have the technology. If we allow water to be a commodity sold to the highest bidder, we will also have the stupidity to do the job. □

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### **Water Activism continued from page 9 ...**

wonder why would a country, home to perhaps the world's largest social movement and, according to Africanists, the potential leader of the "New African Renaissance," degenerate into such economic malaise, becoming the milking pot of corporate interest.

"We have moved from racial to class apartheid," Bond said. "There are even some among the masses who go to the extent of suggesting that post-Apartheid is not any better to the Apartheid era."

Bond said the gap between the rich and poor is widening. "Government statistics show that, between 1995 and 2000, the Black population lost 19 percent of their income while the White population gained 15 percent."

Opponents of the private ownership of water supplies say access to healthful water is an inviolable human right that should be guaranteed under any privatization agreement. □

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## Future GPMI Meetings

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The Green Party of MI (GPMI) holds quarterly State Membership Meetings (SMM) at different locations across the state. As meeting manager, it is my responsibility to schedule, organize and publicize these meetings. The SMM provides the state party with an opportunity to get together and share our experiences and plan for the future. I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know some of what's in store for our future SMMs.

As we enter the 2004 presidential election year, we will be holding our Winter meeting in Flint. A two day meeting is scheduled for the second or third weekend of February. At this first SMM in Flint, we will start the work of mobilizing Green candidates and preparing for election campaigns.

Our Spring meeting will be in Traverse City. Held in May, the GPMI will hold elections for state party officers as well as representatives to national committees and other affiliated organizations. We will also elect our delegates to the Green Party of the

United States (GPUS) national nominating convention, which is scheduled for June 24-27 in Milwaukee. At our last SMM in TC (May 2001), we delighted in a gorgeous weekend on the Old Mission Peninsula. I'm sure this one will be just as enjoyable.

Our nominating convention for the 2004 elections is the Summer SMM. These conventions are traditionally held in the state capitol in the month of August. This year there has been some discussion on holding it earlier to give the candidates more time to campaign on the party ticket.

More information on the State Membership Meetings can be found at the GPMI web site at [www.migreens.org](http://www.migreens.org). If you or your local would like to bring an SMM to your neighborhood, please feel free to contact me at [meetingmanager@migreens.org](mailto:meetingmanager@migreens.org) or (313) 623-4709. I hope to see you at the next SMM.

*Lou Novak  
Meeting Manager*

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## Campaign School Set for December

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**Come and Get It!** Build Your Campaign Skills at the Great Lakes Regional Campaign School! Greens from all over the Upper Midwest will be converging on Racine, Wisconsin the weekend of December 5-7 for the Green Party's Great Lakes Regional Campaign School. Not just for candidates, the school organizers aim to help Green parties from around the region increase the number of members with the valuable skills that build the party and put Green Party candidates over the top to victory. Who should attend? Campaign managers, volunteer coordinators, media folks, fund-raisers, volunteers, supporters, and any Green who would like to be able to take on one of those roles in a campaign.

The school will be held at the DeKoven Center (<http://www.dekovencenter.pair.com/>), a retreat on Lake Michigan, starting up with a reception at 7 p.m. on Friday night and sending off with a luncheon on Sunday. In between, Greens will attend sessions on developing a Green campaign message, developing a campaign plan, fund-raising, media, volunteer coordination, Get Out The Vote, precinct mapping, Voter ID, working with communities of color, seeking ballot access, the quirks of large district races, and recruiting quality Green candidates.

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity

to talk to journalists about how to get out the Green message, and to elected Greens about what they did right. Saturday evening, the local Kenosha-Racine Greens will host a concert for attendees.

The registration cost will be \$30-\$50 on a sliding scale, with limited scholarships available. Housing is available at the retreat center for \$20/night per person for a double, \$30/night per person for a single. Home stays are available upon request. Most meals will be prepared by local Greens, for a donation.

Go to [www.GreatLakesGreens.org](http://www.GreatLakesGreens.org) to register for the campaign school, and to find out more information; or call Pete Karas at (262) 633-2540. Contact David Palmer at [greenredwing@yahoo.com](mailto:greenredwing@yahoo.com) and (734) 904-1828 For information on car pooling from Michigan,

The GPUS Coordinated Campaign Committee is hosting this school as the second in a series of campaign schools around the country, aimed at increasing grassroots election energy for 2004. The first was held in Portland, Oregon in September and attracted over 100 Greens from five states. Future schools are planned in the Mid-Atlantic and Prairie regions. □

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# GPMI Platform Summary

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The complete platform of the Green Party of Michigan takes up over 30 pages. It is available at the [migreens.org](http://migreens.org) web site. This summary necessarily leaves out some items and over-simplifies others. We urge you to look at the complete document. The platform not only includes the 10 Key Values of the Green Party, it's also based on them. It's our idea of how these values apply to specific issues.

**Grassroots Democracy** – We support citizen involvement in all levels of decision making. We urge broader access to the ballot and easier voter registration, with an election day holiday. We believe proportional representation and preferential or instant runoff voting would allow a greater variety of views to be effected in elections. Real campaign finance reform and public financing of elections is essential. Broadcast media should be required to provide free air time for all candidates. “Soft-money” contributions and advertising during election campaigns should be eliminated.

We support workplace democracy including the right of workers to unionize.

**Social Justice** – We are in favor of affordable housing and affordable child care. We support universal health care, including nursing home care where needed, and explicitly affirm a woman's right to have an abortion. Health insurance should not be connected to employment status.

Public money should be spent only on public education – no vouchers or other schemes to divert taxes to private schools. We should ensure that public schools educate students on the subjects of health and sex. School funding should not depend on property taxes. It should be equal state-wide.

We support civil and human rights and oppose discrimination on the basis of sex, age, race, sexual orientation, or other ways of separating a group from ordinary humanity. Courts and prisons should work for healing and rehabilitation.

Taxes should be simple (without loopholes), understandable and progressive, taxing profits and capital gains as ordinary income. Tax policy should support environmental protection.

The “War on Drugs,” because it has caused at least as much harm to the society as drug use, should be abandoned. Funds formerly spent on drug enforcement should be used for medical programs to treat addictions. Most drugs should be decriminalized – and taxed.

**Environmental sustainability** – We believe sustainability in the production of energy and goods is essential. Nuclear power should be

eliminated entirely. Sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass should be developed to substitute for fossil fuels, while strategies to conserve energy are promoted.

Pollution should be eliminated wherever possible, without regard for short-term costs to polluting enterprises. We hope people will learn to consume less, recycle more, and enjoy the earth without damaging it. We are for preservation of biodiversity, environmental justice for poor communities, and specific animal rights. This complex subject takes many pages of the complete platform.

**Economic sustainability** – This is our goal for the whole economy, and we believe extending democracy into the workplace is the way to get there. The people employed in an industry should have some ability to control it. Corporations should be held accountable by every level of government. We are opposed to trade agreements (WTO, NAFTA, MAI and so on) which have the opposite effect. We support decentralized cooperative and community economics over corporate “globalization”; human rights over corporate rights; public utilities over privatization. On specific “hot-button” issues; we are for a living wage and for development of public transportation; against factory farming, antibiotics in animal feed, and genetic engineering of food crops.

**Peace and Non-violence** – The Bush regime is leading our nation on a path to permanent war. The suicide hijackings of September 11 were certainly crimes against humanity. The World Court – rejected by Bush and company – could have been used to punish the conspirators and to win the support of the world. Those crimes are no reason to support Israel's crimes against Palestinian humanity; no reason to fight a war for oil in the name of a war on terror; no reason to abandon our own civil rights and the protections of due process in the name of national security.

We are principled advocates of non-violence. This goes beyond simply not supporting violent solutions such as war or police brutality. It involves working to learn, use, and advocate nonviolent solutions domestically and internationally.

We do not advocate banning guns. We do call for responsible use and for licensing. We believe the oversight of police forces should go to an independent elected board in every community.

We support a nuclear-free Great Lakes Basin. We want to end manufacturing and research that supports chemical and biological warfare.

*(This summary approved by the Green Party of Michigan State Central Committee)*

# ARE YOU GREEN?

What is the point in joining the Green Party? Why not the Democrats or even the Republicans? Quite simply, we don't believe the big two parties represent us. They are controlled by their fat cat contributors, not their constituency. Greens' politics are based and centered on our values. We believe in the following ten Key Values, and we practice what we preach.

## Ecological Wisdom

More than recycling, this means living in harmony with our surroundings. Greens are not anti-technology, but we demand that the creators and users of technology take responsibility for its effects. We try to live lightly on the earth, and want to make it easier for others to do so as well.

## Social Justice

The rights in our constitution and promises of our society are meant for all people, regardless of our superficial differences. All deserve the chance to live a healthy, meaningful life.

## Grassroots Democracy

People have the right to, and capacity for, self-determination. In practice, Greens make decisions by voluntary consensus whenever possible.

## Non-violence

Violence is morally wrong and logistically ineffective, because it treats the symptoms of problems, not the root causes. Greens support self-defense, but only narrowly defined.

## Decentralization

Centralization has caused all manner of problems in modern society, because our elected officials are out of touch with those they supposedly represent. Greens believe that the closer decisions are made to those who will be affected by them, the better.

## Community-Based Economics

Economics was originally meant to maintain the household, but today, has largely taken on the opposite meaning. Greens believe that the economy should be about individuals and families, not corporations, which are a legal fiction. We value people over profits, when the two conflict.

## Feminism

Greens are feminists, which means that we believe in the equality of

women and men (regardless of sexual orientation). No one has the right to define or limit another person.

## Respect for Diversity

In ecosystems, diversity is not a pleasant goal to be aspired to, it's a bedrock requirement. Similarly, in human relationships, Greens believe that diversity is both the cause and effect of a healthy society.

## Personal & Global Responsibility

The more we learn about our planet, the more we learn that our actions have effects far away. We must be responsible, both socially and ecologically, to our neighbors next door and to our neighbors across the world. We believe in the slogan, "Think globally, act locally."

## Future Focus / Sustainability

Similarly, we must consider the lasting effects of our actions. We must be responsible to our descendants. We must use resources in ways that do not use them up.

See more at: <http://www.migreens.org>

## Welcome to the Green Movement! Memberships and donations

Please cut out this form, fill it in, and mail it with your check or money order to the address below.

Note: You do **NOT** need to give up membership in any other organization to be a member of the Green Party of Michigan.

- \$25 - Regular member
- \$60 - Sustaining member
- \$1000 - Lifetime member
- \$10 - Student, low income member

Make checks payable to "Green Party of Michigan Committee."

Membership money goes for administrative costs, party building activities, and as non-political educational efforts of the Green movement in Michigan.

I Don't want to join but I am sending a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$5 to subscribe to AWOOG for 1 year.

Thank you very much!

I am claiming membership in the Green Party of Michigan and believe in the Ten Key Values and/or the Four Pillars of the Greens.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Fax?) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Green Party local (if applicable)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Green Party of Michigan  
548 S. Main St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The question is not whether or not you should become a Green. Rather, the question is whether or not you're already a Green. If you believe in the values above, you are. If you act on them, you're already a part of the Green movement. By working together, we can accomplish more than any of us can do alone. By voting together, we can elect officials who embody and promote our values. The Greens are both a movement and a political party. Through electoral politics, we seek to facilitate responsible lifestyles, and put an end to ecological destruction and social injustice.

## Other Organizations Supporting Green Goals

### **ACLU – Michigan**

60 W. Hancock  
Detroit, MI 48201-1324  
(313) 578-6800  
<http://www.aclumich.org>

### **Adamah/Detroit Summer**

The Boggs Center  
3061 Field St., Detroit, MI 48214  
313-923-0797, 313-282-6983  
[www.adamah.org](http://www.adamah.org)

### **Americans United for Separation of Church and State**

(734) 789-8790  
[www.au.org](http://www.au.org)  
[metrodetroitau@hotmail.com](mailto:metrodetroitau@hotmail.com)

### **American Friends Service Committee**

1420 Mill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
**Amnesty International - Detroit**

### **ADAPTT (animal rights)**

(313) 531-7647  
P. O. Box 725, Royal Oak, MI 48068  
(810) 763-2715  
[www.adaptt.org](http://www.adaptt.org)  
[dogmaday@aol.com](mailto:dogmaday@aol.com)

### **BlueJean ThinkTank**

Mike Madias  
(313) 657-6998  
[hardball@madias.org](mailto:hardball@madias.org)  
[www.madias.org](http://www.madias.org)

### **Clean Water Action of Michigan**

1200 Michigan Ave.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 203-0754  
[http://www.cleanwateraction.org/mi/  
elansingcwa@cleanwater.org](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/mi/elansingcwa@cleanwater.org)

### **Coalition Against Police Brutality**

(313) 610-0418 or (313) 628-4932  
**Committee for the Political**  
Resurrection of Detroit

### **Earth Works Garden/Greening of Detroit**

P. O. Box 44474, Detroit, MI 48244  
(313) 896-1533  
1820 Mt. Eliot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207  
(313) 579-2100  
[rsamyn@capuchinministries.org](mailto:rsamyn@capuchinministries.org)

### **Earthwatch**

Claudia Seldon, Mi. Field Rep.  
1965 Pembroke Ct., Detroit, MI 48207  
(313) 393-9329

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

215 Exchange St., Marshall, MI 49068  
(800) 630-1330 (Washington, DC)  
**Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit**

P. O. Box 37033  
Oak Park, MI 48327  
(248) 549-5170, or (248) 669-6343

[www.graypanthers.homestead.com/](http://www.graypanthers.homestead.com/)

### **Green House – Detroit**

Tom & Sue Ness  
22757 Woodward, Suite 210  
P. O. Box 20076  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 336-9241  
[jamrag@glis.net](mailto:jamrag@glis.net)

### **Jobs with Justice**

600 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 961-0800 (313) 961-9776 (fax)  
[semichjw1@aol.com](mailto:semichjw1@aol.com)

### **Labor Notes**

7435 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48210  
(313) 842-6262  
<http://www.labornotes.org>  
[labornotes@labornotes.org](mailto:labornotes@labornotes.org)

### **Labor Party – Detroit**

Margaret Gutshall  
P. O. Box 39192, Redford, MI 48239  
(248) 788-6528  
<http://www.igc.org/lpa>

### **Massasauga Earth First!**

PO Box 44173, Detroit, MI 48244  
[massasaugaef@yahoo.com](mailto:massasaugaef@yahoo.com)  
**Metro Detroit Against Sanctions**

c/o Peace Action  
195 W. Nine Mi. Rd., #208  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 548-3920

### **Michigan Campaign Finance Network**

1310 Turner St., Suite B  
Lansing, MI 48906  
(517) 482-7198  
[www.mcfn.org](http://www.mcfn.org) [mcfn@mcfn.org](mailto:mcfn@mcfn.org)

### **Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC)**

Terry Swier, President  
[tswier@centurytel.net](mailto:tswier@centurytel.net)  
Box 1, Mecosta, MI 49332  
[www.savemiwater.org](http://www.savemiwater.org)

### **Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR)**

71 E. Edsel Ford, Detroit, MI 48202  
(313) 869-8835  
**Michigan Peace Team**

1516 Jerome St.  
Lansing, MI 48912-2220  
(517) 484-4219  
<http://www.michiganpeaceteam.org>  
[michpeaceteam@igc.org](mailto:michpeaceteam@igc.org)

### **Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO)**

313-832-0618, (fax 1409)  
[info@mwro.org](mailto:info@mwro.org)  
[www.mwro.org](http://www.mwro.org)

**MichUHCAN (universal health care)**  
8846 Robindale, Detroit, MI 48239

(248) 477-7911 or (248) 548-3019  
<http://michuhcan.tripod.com>  
**Motor City Blight Busters**  
17405 Lahser Rd., Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 255-4355

### **National Lawyers Guild**

Dave Staiger (313) 963-0843  
<http://www.michiganng.org>  
[nlgdetroit@igc.org](mailto:nlgdetroit@igc.org)  
**NORML/PRA–YES 2001**  
Schmidt Law Office  
255 N. Center Ave. Saginaw, MI 48603  
(517) 799-4641  
[www.mi4norml.org](http://www.mi4norml.org)

### **Peace Action**

195 W. Nine Mi. Rd., #208  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 548-3920  
[www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org)

### **Peace & National Priorities Center**

P. O. Box 240344  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324  
(248) 683-3363

### **Riverfront East Alliance (REAL)**

(313) 438-4143  
[www.members.aol.com/realriver2](http://www.members.aol.com/realriver2)

### **Sierra Club**

Linda Mallon  
(734) 427-1761  
[mallinl@netzero.net](mailto:mallinl@netzero.net)

### **Solidarity – Ann Arbor**

2649 Southlawn  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
(734) 572-2515  
[finnegan@voyager.net](mailto:finnegan@voyager.net)

### **Solidarity – Detroit**

7012 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48210  
(313) 841-0160  
<http://www.igc.org/solidarity>  
[solidarity@igc.org](mailto:solidarity@igc.org)

### **Sweetwater Alliance**

2020S. Mission, #128  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 773-6874 [www.  
http://www.waterissweet.org](http://www.waterissweet.org)

### **Transportation Riders United**

(313) 885-7588  
**Triangle Foundation**  
19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 537-3323

[www.tri.org](http://www.tri.org)

### **US/Cuba Labor Exchange**

P. O. Box 39188, Redford, MI 48239  
(313) 836-3752

### **Vegans in Motion**

(248) 591-0543

# **Amber Waves of Green**

Green Party of Michigan

548 S. Main Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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