

THE RAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Review

Arkona Fossil Hunt

By Jim Gilfix

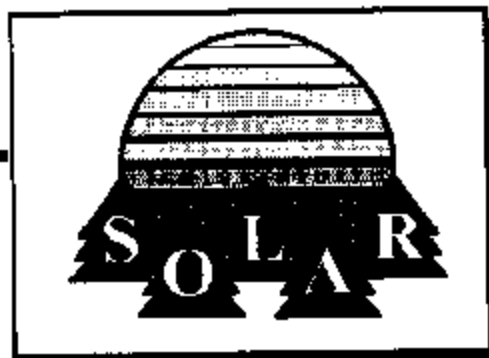
On July 17, SOLAR once again went into Canada to go fossil hunting. Sixteen people went, plus little Nataie and adventurous Erica.

First up was a nice hike down the stream, a bountiful Pot-Luck and a visit to their small but well done museum.

Once fed, we went down the fossil stream and found many Crinoids, Brachiopods, a few trilobites, Horn

Coral and a frog. Most chose to bathe in the ice water of the 35 foot fall as we waded in the warmer water of the stream. The water continued to get progressively warmer until we reached the Au Sabie River, which was just right for swimming and floundering and looking for more fossils.

I was impressed by this groups mellow attitude which facilitated a delightful afternoon. The only thing missing was a watermelon.



Review

The August Rattlesnake Adventure

By: Julia Gordon

This year thirty brave SOLARites took their chances and ventured out to the middle of Kanukville, Ontario for a heap of fun. Our carload arrived just in time for the miniature fire on Friday night. I was up and ready to be at 'em at 7am on Saturday morning, but alas, I was having such a great time chatting I lost track of time and the next thing I knew it was 10:00 am.

Yeah, time for the bicycle hill climb race!!! After a bit of excitement with a local who wanted downhill; we, at the top, were excited to see the first cyclist climbing steadily uphill...it was Marco! Soon, but not too soon, the next two hill climbers came around the last bend (Mike and Dave) and after them the final two arrived in Jim Young's truck.(Laura and Maggie)

Climbing was the next venture we fell into, opps, I mean tackled. The sun was bright, the mosquitoes were hiding and everybody fell at least once....just to test the rope, of course. All in all it was a highly successful climbing day.

To top it off the final major event of (See Rattlesnake, Page 5)



The SOLAR Ray

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Personal interviews with featured members of the SOLAR Club

The Gas Lab: Teresa Savarino

Recipes from SOLAR Club members and other sources

Trip Reviews by SOLAR Club members

Program

Photo Contest

Calling all Shutter-Bugs! Take a good look at your best shots from the last year and pick out your favorite picture in each one of the following categories:

1. Scenic, 2. Humorous, 3. People, and 4. Animal. Next make an 8" x 10" print of each picture by the November meeting. Each photo should be mounted in some way so that it can stand up.

At the meeting, everyone will vote on their favorite pictures in each category and a plaque will be awarded. Please remember to only bring one entry per category, 4 total. Also please bring in pictures that were taken within the past year, (Since November 1993). Pictures don't have to be from a SOLAR event, but should be of SOLAR type outdoor activities.

For more information contact Margaret Martin at home, (313) 721-2821 or at work, (313) 722-7620.

Upcoming Event / Class

Identify Butterflies Class

More than 1000 species of butterflies and moths can be found in North America, north of the U.S. - Mexico border. Some are so rare and occupy so limited a range that a great deal of time, effort and travel would be necessary for most of us to view them. But there are many butterflies that are common and widespread that we can find them almost year round.

Come learn more about butterflies on September 11, when SOLAR will hold our first Butterfly Class at P. Pelee Provincial Park. We'll meet at the nature center just in time for the Monarch migration. It's said there are millions of Monarchs this time of year.

For those who like to camp, canoe, hike, fly kites, see the surf, watch birds, enjoy sunsets, have a fire and roast marshmallows some SOLAR members will be camping on Sept. 10 in the group camping spot. Camping is \$10.00, class is another \$15.00 for the handouts, a butterfly book and a Vernors. Contact Jim Gilfix for more information (810) 851-5289.

Event Canceled:

Underwater Scavenger Hunt

The underwater scavenger hunt has been canceled due to the lake being closed this year for swimming. Please contact Jim Gilfix if you would be interested in either a scavenger hunt on land, or the water version for next year.

Upcoming Event

Ethnic Dinner

On Monday, September 19 at 6:30 PM we will meet at the Roman Terrace II restaurant in Farmington Hills at 12 mile and Halsted. This is an excellent Italian establishment and features an All-you-can-eat Buffet for \$12, tip included, drinks extra. Please come with the correct change. It's said to be the best Italian buffet on the west side. Look for a hand out at the September SOLAR meeting. Contact Jim Gilfix at (810) 851-5289 for more information.



Upcoming Event

Caving in Kentucky

Cohen the Barbarian strikes again! Let Leslie take you lucky 15 souls on September 30 to October 2 weekend to Olive Hill, Kentucky for a weekend of caving.

Arrive Friday night and stay at Carroll's Inn Motel (make your reservation early) then Saturday meet your guides for the expedition. Traditional to these excursions, on Saturday evening you will enjoy looking for a place where there's life in a dry county. Sunday is check out at 2:00 PM and going home.

Cost for the weekend is \$55 and includes 2 nights lodging. There are many details regarding this trip and all those questions can be answered by Leslie Cohen at (810) 547-5626.

Class

SOLAR Back-Packing Class

You may have noticed that several activities that SOLAR does list the pre-requisite of the Back-Packing Class. Now's your chance to fill that void. Even an experienced packer will find the class to be of interest and the practicals to be an enjoyable challenge.

The classes will be held every Wednesday evening in September and the first Thursday evening in October at the Benchmark in Farmington Hills. Due to time constraints, the classes will run from 6:00 to 8:45.

The first practical will be the weekend of September 24-25 at Pinkney Recreation Area. The location of the second practical will be determined during the class by the students. For more information call Carol McCrie at 229-5232.

Upcoming Event

Camping at Point Pelee

You've asked for it and now it's being done. **CAMPING** at Point Pelee, Canada. We'll be there from 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 and spend that night, departing Sunday, Sept. 11. The cost is \$10. On Sat. your options include: canoeing, a stroll on the boardwalk through the marsh, hiking through the woods, biking the many trails and roadways, a walk to the point, the southern most tip of Canada, sit on the beach, see the nature center, look at the cactus (prickly pears), stare at our bonfire, and participate in our wonderful Saturday pot-luck dinner. You can also participate in the butterfly class on Sunday, but you

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

September		
2-5	Weekend	Wilderness State Park, Hiking, Biking and Bridge Walk, Joan Govan, 356-3627
2-11	Extended	Backpack Pukaskwa Nat'l Park Ontario, CANADA Mike Banks 425-4168
6	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM; Cindy Harrison (313) 722-3994
All Wednesdays		Backpacking Class, Benchmark Outfitters Carol McCrie, 229-5232
9-11	Weekend	Rattlesnake Provincial Park Milton, Ont. Jim Young (810) 726-8253
10-11	Weekend	Camping, Point Pelee Provincial Park; Jim Gilfix, (810) 851-5289
11	Sunday	Butterfly Identification Point Pelee Provincial Park, Jim Gilfix, 851-5289 (note camping above)
19	Monday	Ethnic Dinner, Roman Terrace, Farmington Hills Jim Gilfix, (810) 851-5289
24-25	Weekend	Backpacking Practical I, Pinkney Recreation Area, Carol McCrie 229-5232
30-2	Weekend	Caving in Kentucky, Olive Hill, KY Leslie Cohen (810) 547-5626
October		
4	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM; Cindy Harrison (313) 722-3994
6	Thursday	Backpacking Class, Benchmark Outfitters Carol McCrie, 229-5232
7-9	Weekend	Backpacking Practical II, Location TBD Carol McCrie 229-5232
14-16	Weekend	* Chain-O-Lakes State Park Camping and canoeing, Jim Gilfix (810) 851-5289
28-30	Weekend	3rd Annual Haunted Halloween, Bald Mountain Cabins, Leslie Cohen (810) 547-5626
November		
1	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM; Cindy Harrison (313) 722-3994
4-6	Weekend	* Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area, Camping and Day-hikes. Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998

Walleyball every Monday, Contact Margaret Martin, (313) 721-2821
Mountain Biking weekly. Contact Joan Govan at (810) 356-3627 for time and location.

If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR trip or activity, contact Leslie Cohen at (810) 547-5626.

* Indicates a Non-SOLAR event.

will need to register ahead of time. Contact Jim Gilfix and sign up at the August or Sept. meeting, there is a limit of 18 people for the camping.

Upcoming Event

Indiana Adventure

On October 14-16, join Jim Gilfix and friends for the three hour drive south to the Chain-O-Lakes State Park, located northwest of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

This park is a beautiful series of nine connecting kettle lakes nestled among steep wooded hill sides. We will camp in their modern campground both nights and rent canoes for 4-8 hours a day. This should be near the peak of the color season for the area and the canals are gentle enough to risk your "good" camera to get photos. Last year we saw Great Blue Herons and many other species of woodland and upland song birds. There's a chance we might see many other animals such as deer, fox, mink beaver and racoons.

We can also hike and picnic and, yes, we'll have the famous SOLAR Saturday pot-luck dinner. If you have time on Friday you can visit the flea market / Amish town of Shipshawanna before coming to the park. Friday, not Sunday, is their big day.

This is a non-SOLAR trip so the cost is up to you. The campground charge is \$12 for two nights camping per night, pay when you get there. Canoeing requires a \$20 deposit and a fee of \$2.50 per hour. All costs are to the park, at the park.

We will canoe similar to what was done last year as everyone who went was very impressed. You will be, too. This trip is for beginners, kids, cats, and people who want to relax on a picturesque waterway. Contact Jim Gilfix at (810) 851-5289 or get a flyer at the September or October SOLAR meetings.

Upcoming Event

November at Nordhouse

Steve Gardner is going camping at Nordhouse Dunes National Wilderness Area on November 4-6. If you want to do some day hikes in one of the few unspoiled wilderness areas in southern Michigan, you're welcome to join him.

If the success of an event is to be rated by the number of people that show up, this event was a flop last year. It was just me and one other. If you rate an event by how much the people who went enjoyed the trip, it was a rousing success. But then, I happen to like sitting on a Lake Michigan sand dune, playing my recorder as the sun sets.

The rustic camping is about \$9 per night. This is car camping at an established campground, but if you plan to day hike much, back packing experience would be helpful. Call Steve Gardner at (810) 547-4998 or pick up a flyer at the SOLAR meeting for more information.



SOLAR Equipment Inventory

One of the many benefits of being a SOLAR member, in addition to being a great place to meet new friends and travel to interesting places, is being able to borrow the equipment the club owns.

The club is currently in the process of updating its guidelines for borrowing the equipment as well as updating the inventory of what is available.

If you have any outstanding SOLAR equipment, please contact Julie Stogrosz at (810) 471-7444 or any one else on the steering committee so that we may list those items with the updated inventory. If you can't make it to a meeting to return the equipment, you may also mail it to Julie at work. Ship it to her care of Broder Brothers, 45555 Fort Street, Plymouth MI, 48170.

But you don't have to wait until the inventory is updated to borrow the equipment. You can call Julie now if you are interested in borrowing one of the mountain bikes or sail boards or any of the camping equipment that is available now.

People

Teresa Savarino has moved. Her new address and phone number are:

Teresa Savarino
25990 Couzens
Madison Heights, MI 48071

(810) 546-0233

(Rattlesnake, from page 1)
the day was the annual SOLAR cookoff. The winning appetizer was Lentil soup by Michael Gardner, the winning sidedish was freshbaked bread by Sara and Laura. Steve Gardner and his "Stand by Chicken" AND Margi and Paula with their "One Pot Spaghetti" won in the entree category while the dessert prize of fudge was claimed by Jeff and Betsy. Now, what you've all been waiting for... Jim Gilfix rattled us all with his "Rattlesnake Ragu", as the best overall winner. Saturday was an evening of relaxation, good conversation, and comradery around the campfire.

Time to get up, it's Sunday morning and time for the buffalo run???? Well I think so, much to the runners dismay nobody who was present knew the route the run was supposed to take, so it didn't get taken, boohoo!!! For our final event of the weekend, Ruthie Martin won the Tackiest Campsite event.

On our way home we made the

traditional stop at the Hilton waterfall and mill and of course to visit the honorary member of the SOLAR club... Tim Horton. Hope to see you all next year at Rattlesnake for more fun and exciting events.

Upcoming Event Halloween Horrors

It's back by popular demand. The third annual Haunted Halloween weekend will be held at the Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Cabin #1 (no, not Jack K's infamous cabin, that's the next cabin down) between October 28-30. The cost of the trip is \$15 and is limited to 20 people in the cabin, but you can come for the party anyway on Saturday night even if you don't stay in the cabin.

To highlight the activities you can expect on this fateful frolic: Autumn color hike, mountain biking availability, visit to meet The Great Pumpkin, pumpkin carving contest,

traditional SOLAR style (too much) Pot-Luck, costume contest, ghost stories, and other games.

Other notable features are that you can expect a water pump, outhouse, cot with 2" mattress, and wood burning stove. Do not expect to find electricity, cook stoves, showers, and other such amenities that as true SOLARites you wouldn't dream of.

If you are interested in this weekend, call Leslie Cohen at (810) 547-5626 as fast as you can. This trip will fill fast.

Programs

Upcoming Programs

Be sure to stick around after the business portion of the SOLAR Club's General Membership Meeting. You wouldn't want to miss out on these upcoming programs:

September: Just what is Lyme's Disease, and how can you protect yourself? Start with this presentation by Tim Stangi, Backpacking instructor.

October: Things are looking up for a presentation on Astronomy.

November: Look for an article on the rebirth of the Annual SOLAR Photography contest, elsewhere in this issue of *The Ray*.

December: The ever popular SOLAR Holiday Party and Dance.



Winner of the Hill Climb Race this year was Marco Scarpetta with a final time of 3:50, captured here as he crosses the finish line by Julia Gordon.



Editorial

What's Missing?

By: Steve Gardner

The official title for the position I fill on the SOLAR Steering committee is "Communications Sub-Committee Chairperson". Primarily that means its my job to see that the SOLAR Ray gets published monthly. But in a larger sense, it seems to have expanded somewhat to becoming a sort of sounding board for the membership to the steering committee. People are frequently asking me "What's the club policy on such and such ...?" I always try to give a correct answer or say that I don't know and steer the question to some one who might be able to help. I think of this as part of my responsibility.

However, the best way to answer your questions about policy is to invite you to the steering committee meetings. These meetings are open to the general membership. They're held on the last Tuesday of each month starting at 7:30 sharp. The location is being set up on a rotating basis with Cindy Harrison-Felix's administration, so we'll be publishing the location in *The Ray* for that months meeting. If you would like to come to the steering committee meeting, but don't know the location, feel free to call me or any other steering committee member. Our numbers are listed on the back of *The Ray*.

If you'd like to be involved in setting the direction of YOUR SOLAR Club, we'd love to have your input at the meetings of the steering committee.

Rattlesnake Ragu

By Jim Gilfix

It's more than just a name. This recipe took the prize for best overall at the Annual SOLAR Cook Off in August 1994.

Saute in 3T oil:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 cups diced red onion | 2 cups chopped celery |
| 3 cups chopped green pepper | 1 cup chopped red pepper |
| 1 bulb minced garlic | 2 medium chopped zucchini |
| 1 medium chopped yellow squash | |

Add:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 1/2 lbs canned tomato puree | 4 1/2 lbs canned kidney beans |
| 2 1/2 lbs jar great northern beans | 1 lb canned garbanzo beans |
| 1 lb canned black beans | 1 bottle Ice Beer |
| 1/2 cup garlic vinegar | 2 T chili powder |
| 3 T Fresh Parsley - chopped | 3 bay leaves |

Cover and simmer 1 1/2 hours, stirring often.

Add:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 lg can tomato paste | 1/2 bottle Ice Beer |
| 12 oz Clover Honey | 1T crushed red pepper |
| 1T chili powder | 1 tsp thyme |
| 4 oz bacon bits | 3T crushed basil |
| 3T crushed oregano | 1 cup dry roasted unsalted peanuts |

Uncover and simmer 1 1/2 hours, stirring often. Add more tomato past as needed.

Add

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 cups Jack/Colby cheese, grated | 3T black pepper |
| 1/2 cup Ice Beer | 1 cup unsalted cashews |

4-6 cans smoked rattlesnake meat, boned

Simmer uncovered 10 minutes, stiring VERY often.

To serve add grated cheddar cheese (mild to balance flavors) and/or not sauce to taste. Serves 20 to 40 people.

To order Rattlesnake meat call Dale Foods in Colorado at 1-800-289-9453.

In Profile

Name: Mike Banks

Home: Livonia

Stats: 41 years old, married, with 2 children

MG: You are a relatively new member to SOLAR.

MB: I've been in SOLAR since December. I'm a first year rookie. Actually I attended a meeting more than a year ago, but the timing wasn't right.

MG: And, I understand you have been quite active in SOLAR in that short amount of time. What have you done?

MB: I've been on two Wilderness cross country ski trips and I participated in the Wabos Loppet ski event.

MG: What was that about?

MB: Well, it was a ski event that took place back in March. A train lets you off in the woods and you have to ski back to Stoke y Creek. It's really more of an endurance event than a timed race. That's really what I prefer. I also prefer winter camping to camping in July or August.

MG: Didn't you just lead a trip?

MB: I led a trip to North Manitou in May that was great, and I just finished the Wilderness First Aid class last weekend. I really would recommend that everyone eventually take that course. You never know when you'll need the things they teach you.

MG: Wow, that's quite a lot. So, what's on the horizon?

MB: I'm leading the Pukaskwa National Park backpacking trip the first week of September. So far, we don't know how many people will be involved, but I'm sure it will be a good trip.

MG: Your wife doesn't belong to the club, does she?

MB: No, but she does like to look at pictures of the out of doors. Recently we did what Maureen considers roughing it at a Days Inn.

MG: What about your children?

MB: Well, they have been pretty busy with other things. My son, Matthew, is 10 and is involved in soccer 11 months of the year. My daughter, Katie is 13 and she may like to try some camping. Currently she's doing music, dance and drama activities.

MG: How did you learn about SOLAR?

MB: I heard about it from some friends at the Benchmark I knew from the MSU Outing Club. At the time I was looking to broaden the circle of friends I knew that had an interest in the out-

of-doors.

MG: We get a lot of referrals from there. So, you've always been interested in these types of activities?

MB: It's been a while since I've done any regularly, but I have been doing an occasional hiking, backpacking, or canoeing trip. It's interesting that in some ways I'm in better shape than when I was younger. For instance, I took up kayaking and can do an Eskimo roll now which is something I couldn't do when I was younger. My first backpacking trip was in 1972. I went to Isle Royale and I think made every mistake in the book. It was a lot of fun and a very good learning experience. Then I did a one month challenge/discovery course similar to Outward Bound.

MG: Really, I did Outward Bound. That's how I got involved in SOLAR. What was the course you went through?

MB: It was through Prescott College in Arizona. We went to the Continental Divide outside Crested Butte, Colorado.

MG: Sounds great.

MG: What do you do for a living?

MB: I'm an investigator. I work for Detroit Edison investigating criminal cases. Most of them involve theft of electricity or fraud.

MG: How did you happen to get into that area?

MB: I've been with Detroit Edison for 9 years, but I've been doing investigating for them for the last 8 months. But, I've had prior experience in security and investigations and received my degree in criminal justice from MSU.

MG: Well, that makes sense.

MG: Do you have a personal philosophy on life?

MB: I think society as a whole is too complacent. We are always looking for instantaneous pleasure. We always want instantaneous relief from our pain and our discomfort.

MG: So do you think experiencing our pain makes us better as a person?

MB: I think it takes a little of the character out of life to want our problems to just go away without working for the solution. I think sometimes we confuse fun and happiness -- the momentary pleasure is not necessarily the best source of satisfaction.

MG: Are you a spiritual or religious person?

MB: Well, in terms of spirituality, let's just say I tend to identify more with Chris from Northern Exposure than with Billy Graham or the Pope.

About the Ray

The Ray is a monthly publication of the SOLAR Club and is provided free of charge to the current dues paid members. For those members who move outside of a 200 mile radius of the Detroit Area and would like to continue receiving The Ray, a \$5.00 annual subscription fee will be charged to cover mailing costs.

DEADLINE for The Ray is the second Wednesday after the general meeting for the following month's edition. Contributions in the form of comments, trip reports, recipes, photos or original articles are welcome. Send all contributions to: Steve Gardner, RAY Editor, 10024 Borgman, Huntington Woods, MI 48070 or call Steve at (810)547-4998 or call Julia Gordon RAY Co-Editor at (313)475-7265.

Meeting Location

The purpose of the SOLAR Club is to promote and advance interest in the outdoors through information and participation. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Colony Hall, located at 21780 Evergreen Rd. in Southfield, between 8 & 9 Mile Roads at 7:30 PM SHARP. Membership dues are \$20.00 per individual and \$35.00 per family.

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Secretary	Laura Martin / 937-2913
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	Al Fylak / 652-7514
	Jess Harding / 375-5268

*Not elected but serving on the sub-committee indicated
If you would like to assist with any of the above positions, call the appropriate committee chairperson.



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