

The SOLAR Day

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Review

An Adventure of a Lifetime

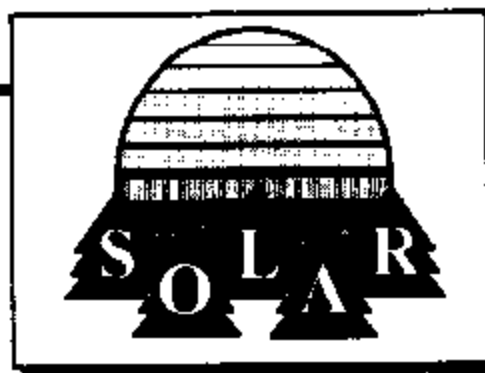
By Margaret Martin

As we headed southward that sunny Saturday in April we had no idea what was to come. The six of us, Jonnie Kostlashak, Ron, Quin, Carol Dunn, Linda Rosa, Pat Golden and I, had been planning this trip down to the Great Smokies for months. We wanted to see the spring wildflowers. I had great plans. Carol and I would talk about birds, Linda and I would identify flowers while Ron took fantastic pictures as usual.

The first few days were great. The weather was in the seventies during the day and cool at night. The dogwoods were blooming all over Deep Creek campground, which was almost empty except for us. In fact, most of the park was empty. We spent the first day visiting Clingman's Dome and other sights, then it was up the Nolan Creek trail for our first day back-country.

Some of the advantages of going to the Smokies in April are that the wildflowers are out, there is no one on the trails, and the rivers are lovely. Some of the disadvantages are that the creeks look more like Old Man River and even the rangers haven't been up the trails yet to clear the trees that were downed in last year's hurricane.

On day one, we hiked until mid afternoon then set up camp. It



happened to be Linda's birthday, so Jonnie had brought her camp oven and we had fresh pineapple upside down cake, with candles, and the party was fun. The next day was the most challenging hiking we encountered. We had to cross the same creek several times and climb over many trees before reaching our campground. That was the only day it rained. It was still warm enough to wear shorts, quite different from the cold weather and barren trees we'd left behind.

On day three, we changed to the Pole Creek Road trail and as we passed the summit in the morning, we felt elated. It would be all downhill from there. The trail was beautiful even though there were many trees in the trail. Then there was the really BIG tree in the trail. Faced with a tree whose diameter was taller than any of us, four chose to go down into the ravine, cross the creek and come back up the embankment on the other side, while two of us chose to hoist our packs over the roots and climb through the muddy dirt. We'll never know which way was easier.

On the other side of the tree, we met Thea. She was sitting with her back

on a tree with no shoes, wet clothing and basically in need of help. She'd gone for a day like the day before without food or water and had gotten lost, then had fallen off the trail. Carol quickly pulled out water, peanut butter and a fleece. After a quick check, it appeared Thea was badly injured and in shock. She insisted on trying to walk down the trail, but soon fell, so we finally invented a litter out of packs, and tried carrying her as night fell. The trail was too narrow for that to work effectively, so finally we carried her piggy-back down the trail, through another creek and over a narrow foot bridge to the campsite where Linda had dinner waiting. She and Pat had set up everyone's tents, put up the bear bag, and kept the varmints out while Jonnie and Carol made the litter and Ron and I waited with Thea.

After a restless night we got up early, helped Jonnie and Carol (the fastest hikers) pack, and wished them well as they headed up the hill to get the rangers. Linda and Pat packed up more slowly and headed out, too. Ron, Thea and I spent the day relaxing. Thea turned out to be an intelligent lady from Indiana with a sharp wit and an extensive knowledge of photography. The morning passed quietly, then Thea's health deteriorated and then finally she fell asleep. The rangers arrived in a trail vehicle around 4:00, assessed Thea's condition, packed her into the vehicle and took our packs with them. It was about two hours before sunset when Ron and I headed out. We reached the

(See *Lifetime*, page 2)

(Lifetime. Cont'd from page 1) trailhead just after the ambulance left and the rangers gave us a ride back to the group.

Our last two days were spent relaxing and sightseeing, mostly in vehicles since we all seemed to be a little sore. We headed north and returned to the Detroit area Sunday afternoon.

How will I remember the Smokies? I will remember the cogwoods, and Linda's party. I will remember Carol's Motto "I'm on vacation." I will remember the talents of each person who went and how, when we really needed it, everyone worked as a great team. I will remember Trea for her courage, her humor, and her patience. We all wish her well.

Review

Personal Challenge

By Pam Northrup, Marti Schomburg, Sandy DeWolf

Your mission, should you desire to accept it ... (Mission Impossible them song swells)

On the cool, slightly breezy, Sunday morning of April 14, some of us early, others late and still others not at all -- we came together on the campus of Starr Commonwealth College in Alton, ready to test ourselves physically, Mentally, emotionally, on the ground, in the air as a group and individually.

When Jay, our facilitator, arrived some of us grabbed his belongings and rushed him up to the building where we would begin our day, so he could open the door and show us the shortest route to the rest rooms. After the necessities were taken care of, we settled ourselves in a circle on the floor and Jay began messing with our minds.

We played a few games to get to know each other better. Our group consisted of: Marti the Mongoose, Jay Jumping bean, Sandy squirrel, Pam Piranha, Pam Porpoise, Linda Lioness, Fred Fawn, Dave Duck, Tammy Tigress, Jeff Jack-o-lope, Dave Dolphin, Jim Wolf (one of these must be misspelled) and Cindy Chickadee.

With our minds a bit fuzzy and confused, we collected our gear, piled into the "new" college van and proceeded to the building that houses the indoor high-ropes course. We started by putting together a contract on the board that stated the characteristics that we felt would help build twelve individuals into one. We then all placed our John Hancock to the contract, shook hands and vowed to be there for each other. One-on-One "trust-drills" were practiced next. These drills required leaning into, falling toward each other, praying for that trust factor to kick in.

Group participation games followed. Jay had the twelve of us contemplating, as we tried to get at least one of each of our feet on a three foot platform. We stood back and patted ourselves on the back

and said great job, only to discover that was just the beginning. Our next task was an 18 inch square platform, then a 12 by 12. After alot of trial and error we can proudly say we did it. (Did you really think we'd tell you how?)

Now it was time for Jay to show us how to properly put on our harness and safety gear. The high ropes course is designed to challenge each individual's endurance, judgment, and fears through obstacles suspended 35 feet above the ground. Some of the group (not us) climbed up and went through the course as if it were second nature to them. (It might have to do with Darwin's Theory.) Jack-a-Lope Jeff actually did jumping jacks on the balance beam. Others were doing some of the stuff with their eyes closed. We assumed it had to be a side effect of the thin air at such a high altitude.

Unfortunately, time ran out and we were forced to return to the safety of solid ground. Everyone left with the feeling that they had gone beyond their own self imposed handicaps and considered the day-long experience and themselves a success.



Review

April at Point Pelee

By Jim Gilfix

On April 21 thirteen Solarites met at Point Pelee for a train ride to explore their nature center and gift store, their beaches, and "The Tip" which is the southern-most point in mainland Canada. We shared a grand lunch then hiked the marsh area. The four kids tried their best to catch a turtle, but only had success with a few fish (and quickly released). The weather was cool and cloudy, then warm and mostly sunny. This year we even had a bonus: once again Parr Maxey showed up but this year she found the group!

I wanted to thank Jim and Elaine and their kids for joining us, Enka for her leadership among the kids and Natalie, the little hummer, for wearing such a colorful jacket, which was perfect for pictures

Review

Kid-Trip to Kensington

By Jim Gilfix

On Sunday, May 5, ten Solarites met at Kensington Metro Park. We walked on numerous nature trails and saw all manner of wildlife from herds of deer to rabbits, squirrels, birds, and blue herons. We even shared lunch with a raccoon who preferred the honey-mustard dip to the salsa. We were unable to fly kites due to the lack of wind, so we visited the petting farm instead.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

June

- 1 Saturday** North Country Trail Quest Kick Off Event, Hudson Lake Recreation Area, Morenci, MI, Marco Scarpetta (313) 823-8584
- 4 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield, Mike Banks (313) 425-5169
- 5,12,19,26 Weds** Wilderness Survival Skills Class, Felix's House, Inkster, MI, Mike Felix (313) 722-3994
- 7-9 Weekend** Rock Climbing, Rattlesnake Prov. Pk., Jim Young (810) 731-2504
- 11 Tuesday** Advanced Backpacking Class, Felix's House, Inkster, Cindy Harrison Felix (313) 722-3994
- 14-16 Weekend** Port Crescent State Park Camping (KF), Port Austin, MI, Jim Gilfix (810) 539-0489
- 15,22 Saturdays** Canoe Paddling Class, Doug's House, Doug Lanyk (810) 634-4551
- 18 Sunday** Sanilac Petroglyphs State Park (KF), Sanilac, MI, Jim Gilfix (810) 539-0489

July

- 2 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield, Mike Banks (313) 425-5169
- 4-7 Weekend** Deam Lake State Rec Area Camping (KF), Indiana, Jim Gilfix (810) 539-0489
- 12-14 Weekend** Wilderness Survival Skills Class Practical, Mike Felix (313) 722-3994
- 5-7 Weekend** Rock Climbing, Rattlesnake Prov. Pk., Jim Young (810) 731-2504
- 14 Sunday** 6th Annual Fossil Hunt (KF), Canada, Jim Gilfix (810) 539-0489
- 25-28 Weekend** Caving in Kentucky, Olive Hill KY, Leslie Cordova (810) 547-5626

August

- 6 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield, Mike Banks (313) 425-5169
- 9-11 Weekend** Rock Climbing, Annual Summer Festivities Rattlesnake Prov. Pk., Jim Young (810) 731-2504
- 30-8 September** Canoe Trip, Quetico Provincial Park Tom Dunn, (313) 494-4212

**** Denotes a Non-SOLAR activity**

KF = "Kid Friendly", activities appropriate for kids and parents.

If you would like to help plan or lead an activity, please contact Leslie Cordova at (810) 547-5626 (H) or (810) 901-1711 (W).

SOLAR has a "No Refund" policy, however, if you are unable to attend an activity, you may "Sell Your Spot" to another SOLAR Club member.

Upcoming Class

Paddling Basics

Canoeing is a great way to: A) Have fun, B) Get down river, C) Go fishing, D) Enjoy life, E) Get wet, F) All of the above. If you passed this test, and don't know how to paddle a canoe in a straight line, you are ready for the SOLAR Paddling Class.

The first day we will be on a lake learning: basic canoe safety, how to make a canoe go straight, how to turn when and only when you want to, how to upright your craft after your partner swamps you and how to come back from a canoe outing on speaking terms with your partner. This will be followed by the requisite pot luck dinner. (Too much food).

Day 2 will be on a river to experience what the current will do with your new skills; some light white water will be available (Pray for rain the week before the class) to get some practice getting wet. Class dates will be June 15th and June 22nd. Sign ups will be at the May and June SOLAR meetings. Cost will be minimal. For more information, call Doug Lanyk at (810) 634-4551. Let's hit the water! Ye!!!

Upcoming Activity

Caving in Kentucky with "Cordova the Barbarian"!

Back by popular demand we are going caving again in Northeast Kentucky. The dates are July 26-28, 1996!!! The plan is to drive down to Olive Hill, KY on Friday (7 hour drive) and stay at Carroll's Inn Motel.

Saturday morning we will go to breakfast at the infamous James Drive-in, (delicious food at very low

prices), then go directly to some caves, mostly on private property, for 5-8 hours of caving. Expect more of the same on Sunday, with a stop back at James Drive-in on the way home for the best milk shakes and cobblers you've ever tasted.

We should be heading back to Detroit at 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. This trip involves prolonged crawling through small constricted passages, some of which may contain water. The rewards are a great physical challenge, and you will probably see lots of bats, cave crickets, and very interesting formations.

You must be in good physical condition to participate in this activity. Equipment needed: old coveralls, or any type of loose fitting clothing, knee and elbow pads, gloves, boots that cover the ankle, hard hat with chin strap (SOLAR can provide), 3 sources of light, one must be mounted on your hard hat (duct tape works well), and extra batteries.

The cost of the trip is \$55. Sign ups will be taken at the May SOLAR Membership meeting. For further information call Leslie Cordova (alias "Cordova the Barbarian") at (810) 547-5626.

Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium

The dates for the 12th annual Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium are July 18-21, 1996 at Grand Marais, Michigan (On the South Shore of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. At the east border of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore). The symposium will include lectures,

workshops, instruction, boat trials, demonstrations, and guided trips.

Registration is \$65 before July 1st and \$80 after that date. For further information contact Cathy Susan at (313) 668-2437.

Upcoming Activity

Sanilac Petroglyphs State Park

On June 16, 1996 join SOLAR for a day trip to Sanilac Petroglyphs State Park (Kid Friendly). In the sandstone outcroppings near the south fork of the Cass River in Michigan's Thumb, aboriginal artists left the only prehistoric rock carvings found in Michigan.

Experts estimate that, at least 1,000 year ago, Michigan's early human inhabitants carved the wildlife figures, hunting scenes and animal tracks as part of a hunting ritual or to record dreams and visions. Most of the carvings are near the parking lot, but there is a 2 mile trail that winds around the park and twice crosses a branch of the Cass River along stepping stones. Eight interpretive posts line the walk. They explain different parts of a Chippewa village In-days-gone-by.

The quiet beauty and solitude of the Cass River especially at the back of the park where large maples and other hardwoods arch across the stream--provides the perfect setting to contemplate the strange and fascinating record left by people who passed through Michigan hundreds of years before the new world was discovered.

We'll meet at the parking lot at 1p.m. and finish about 5p.m. This will be a good family outing for the day, or the last day of a great weekend camping trip (see other article in Ray). This trip is FREE and open to all. Contact Jim Gilfix for more information.

Upcoming Activity

Camping in the Thumb

June 14-16, 1996, camping at the Tip-of-the-Thumb, Michigan; plus hiking, canoeing, fishing and swimming. Here is a weekend trip aimed at small children to young teens, but there are many things for adults to do, if they are in the mood for a slower pace.

The sand dunes along Lake Huron are perfect for hikers with short legs and small arms. We will be spending the weekend at Port Crescent State Park. In the mid-1800's Port Crescent was a booming lumbering and fishing town, it was known for its salt wells, fine sand and good docks. Today, it is one of the most scenic and unusual state parks along Lake Huron. As the last remnants and residents of the town vanished in the 1930's their last space campground now occupies the site of a ghost town whose remains are marked only by a few brick-chimney tombstones. Due to this we will listen to ghost stories aimed at small children, on Saturday night, at our campfire.

We will arrive at the campground Friday, June 14 and hopefully will be able to get some of the "premium sites" situated right off the beach. On Saturday we will play. This park has 3 miles of almost pure white beach along Saginaw Bay, with dunes which are said to be like soft mountains to be climbed and conquered. The sweeping panoramas that the high perches of sand provides are wonderful. Wildflowers and bird-life thrive in the wetlands that border the river here.

Throughout the park, birdwatchers can spot waterfowl, songbirds and shorebirds, including the relatively

rare piping plover. The Huron Audubon Society maintains nesting sites for winged visitors--from blue birds to ospreys. Picnic decks sit atop a boardwalk that weaves among the dunes.

Of course there is swimming in the gentle waves and basking in the sun. The Pinnebog River, which flows from south to north as it empties into Saginaw Bay can be canoed. There is a canoe livery located just outside the park. This river can also be fished for bass, panfish and northern pike. Also in Port Austin boats can be chartered for perch and trolling Lake Huron for salmon and lake trout is also available.

Most of the hiking takes place in their wooded interior of jack pine and oak trees. The park has 3 miles of hiking trails. Their figure-8 loop winds through wooded dunes along the Pinnebog River and passes several scenic viewpoints of Saginaw Bay. You will be crossing the old iron bridge over the Old River Channel. In 1988 the park added a 0.75 mile exercise trail with 10 stations. There is also a boardwalk that provides handicapped visitors access across the dunes to observation decks and picnic tables above the beach. This park is listed in the book "Michigan's Best Outdoor Adventures with Children" and should make for a wonderful outdoor weekend for families and other SOLAR Folks.

Should the weather be Not-the-best for outdoor time there are many side trips in the area. While the trolling boats for salmon and lake trout can be a bit expensive, the "party boats" or chartered boats for perch are fine for young anglers. They take anywhere from 20-30 anglers from one reef in the bay to the next until they find a mess of yellow bellies, or perch and then the fishing can be fast and furious. This type of fishing is ideal for six or seven year old

anglers as the party boats are large enough for children to get up and walk around plus there is a bathroom on board. They often have special prices for families. You can rent a pole and bait is included.

Also there is Port Austin 5 miles to the east. This town resembles a painting of a fishing village with its wide, shady streets. Finan's drugstore has a soda fountain dating back to the 1940's. Caseville to the west is a busy harbor with its share of restaurants and craft and antiques shops. Finally there is Bad Axe 17 miles to the south.

Sunday, if the weather is not stormy, we will pack up and go to the Sanilac State Historic Site, 30 miles to the south. Once there we will view the 1,000 year old petroglyph's, or the prehistoric rock carvings the aboriginal artists left. The only carvings in Michigan. For more on this unique park, see separate article.

This weekend should be a lot of fun, adventure for little people, and a good rest for the rest of us. Contact Jim Gilfix at (810) 539-0489 for more information. Those choosing to go camping will reserve and/or pay for this on your own. We will have the traditional pot-luck Saturday dinner. There is no pay-ahead costs. Sign up at the May and June SOLAR meetings.

Walleyball!!

Every Monday night, 7-9 p.m. at Bailey Recreation Center, Westland, MI. Contact Margaret Martin at (313) 721-2821 (home) or (313) 722-7620 (work).

Upcoming Activity

Fossil Hunt

By Jim Gilfix

On July 14, 1996 we will be once again meeting at Arcona, Canada for the 6th annual fossil hunt. This trip is perfect for kids as young as 4 and for adults as old as...well 72.

The fossil hunt will consist of a brief hike, a fossil search, a pot-luck (which is usually awsome) and games. After lunch, we will shower in their 35 foot waterfall, then walk down the stream hunting for and finding many fossils. It is even possible for the young (at heart) to go under the falls in places. Bring your underwater cameras as everything gets wet on this part of the trip. This is a free trip and all are encouraged to attend.

For those of you who like to plan ahead, there is also an option to camp at the Rock Glen Family Resort campground across the street. This is a family campground and has tons of kids all over. Their phone number is (519) 828-3456 and if you're planning on camping now is the time to book your own spot! They charge about \$25 a night, and this fee includes campsite, water fire-pit (but I plan to hold a BIG campfire which will include food and ghost stories). The campground also has an indoor pool, an outdoor pool, a hot tub, a sauna, free mini-golf, playgrounds, modern bathrooms, hot showers, a game room and it's very close to the fossil park. If you can't camp, there is a motel down the block and you can still come by on Saturday night for the stories, food, and other fun. For more information call Jim Gilfix.

Upcoming "Kid Friendly" Trips!!

August - Rattlesnake, swim, eat, Games. September - camp, day canoe, scavenger hunt. October - Halloween hayrides/stories.

Upcoming Event

Fishing Fun

By Jim Gilfix

Every kid should catch a fish in summer. For that matter, so should every adult. Some of us don't have the time or the equipment to go to the lake and sit for hours and hope to catch something. Well, if you desire something easier, this trip is for you.

We will meet at the Spring Valley Trout Farm just west of Ann Arbor in Dexter on Sunday, July 28. They provide the poles, bait, buckets and if needed, people to bait your hooks and remove them from the fish you catch. Nearly everyone gets lucky at Spring Valley. Those who don't, have a last resort: a small heavily stocked pool called "the Kiddies Pond". While fishing is fun, catching fish is more fun! You and your kids will catch fish on this trip. The fishing is free, you pay for what you catch, no throw-backs. Their address is 12190 Island Lake road, Dexter. Phone is (313)-426-4772. Call THEM for better directions.

If the weather is nice we can go to Gallup Park in Ann Arbor and perhaps rent canoes. Or, they have superb play structures, or we can hike, sit by the water and watch the ducks. We may also picnic here to cook the fish we catch.

If the weather is NOT nice, we can go to the Hands on museum in Ann Arbor. Think of this as a four-story playroom with a purpose, with the bubble capsule, shadow wall, computer games, giant zipper, and lots more of fun and interesting playthings.

We can grab dinner at Zingermans Deli if we cannot cook our fish, then head for home. Contact Jim Gilfix for more information.

Upcoming Class

Wilderness Survival Skills (or surviving with Mike Felix!)

Want to learn the basic skills necessary for wilderness survival? Then sign up for the SOLAR Wilderness Survival Skills class.

This class will be held the four Wednesdays in June (5, 12, 19, 26) at Mike Felix's House. Such skills as fire building, water and food procurement, shelter building, etc will be taught.

The final practical will be a weekend (July 12-14) of simulated survival situations in order to practice what you've learned in the class. The cost of the class will be \$55 and sign ups will be taken at the May SOLAR membership meeting. For further information contact Mike Felix at (313) 722-3994.

Point Pelee Bird Migration Update

Look forward to next month's SOLAR Ray for a review from the Point Pelee Bird Migration weekend. Several SOLAR members claim to have made numerous sightings of the not-so-rare Azure Throated Polyester Bunting. As this fascinating species is easily confused with the less common Indigo Bunting, our group was indeed fortunate to have the services of Cindy Harrison-Felix to point out the subtle yet distinct differences.

SOLARs 20th Anniversary Year North Country Trail Effort

1996 marks a milestone in SOLAR history as our 20th anniversary. To help celebrate in true SOLAR style we've hatched an elaborate scheme to hike the North Country Trail as it winds its way through our home state of Michigan.

The plan is to start from across the border in Ohio by a few steps (Marco said one bike length, just to make it official) on National Trails Day, in June 1996. We'll then plan trips throughout the following twelve months that will cover the entire 872 miles (the largest segment in any one state) and to drop packs in Wisconsin on National Trails Day in June 1997.

Don't be surprised if one of the section chiefs approaches you to plan a trip through their area. It can be ANYTHING you'd like to do and any length trip you're comfortable with. Even day trips are possible on virtually any segment of the trail. Just park a car at either end and spend the day on the trail.

We can't encourage you enough to buy into this plan. It will take quite a lot of effort to see this through and we'll be needing your help. If you have an idea for a trip, ANY trip, that can be done in SOLAR style on the North Country Trail, PLEASE contact the appropriate section chief and volunteer! The more people that get involved, the less work falls on any one person.

Southern L.P.
Marco Scarpetta (313) 823-8564
Central L.P.
Mike Banks (313) 425-4169

Northern L.P.
Leslie Cordova (810) 547-5626
Eastern U.P.
Marie Crow (810) 547-4998
Central U.P.
Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
Western U.P.
Bob Graham (313) 453-7313

Upcoming Event

Deam Lake Trip

By Jim Gilfix

This is an update for the July 4 weekend trip. Some changes have occurred. We will not be staying at Clifty Falls, instead we will be camping at Deam Lake State Recreation Area. This also is in Southern Indiana.

The camping for this trip will be in modern electrical sites with toilets and hot showers, an arts program, fishing, nature center, boat rentals, swimming, playground equipment, wind surfing and hiking trails.

The many outdoor activities in the area include a boat ride in the Twin Caves at Spring Mill State Park, Hiking at Donaldson Cave Gorge and swimming. Bluespring Caverns featuring the longest navigable underground river in the US, Marengo Cave with the Crystal Palace and totem pole stalagmites, the Wyandotte Cave System with extremely rare and exquisite formations called helictites, and the Falls of the Ohio.

The next day we will drive about an hour east to Clifty Falls State Park to see its five major waterfalls ranging from 60 to over 80 feet.

The Cost: \$40 per campsite - up to 6 people and no more than 2 (two) tents per site - this is strictly enforced in Indiana. Please sign up and pay as soon as possible. There will be a handout available at the June meeting. Contact Jim Gilfix for more information at (810) 539-0489.

The Vertical Forest

From Discover Magazine Feb, 1996
Review by Steve Gardner

Canadian researchers have found a bizarre, ancient forest that may be the slowest growing on Earth. They didn't have to travel to Yakutsk or Tasmania to find it — They had only to look at a cliff not far from Toronto.

That's right. Discover Magazine has a beautiful article in the February 1996 issue about those Cedar trees you've been lying into at Rattlesnake and all along the Niagara escarpment. It seems that this is the most extensive and undisturbed old-growth forest east of the Rockies.

The cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment rising above Lakes Huron and Ontario are home to the slowest growing trees in the world. Although less than a quarter of an inch thick and a few inches high, an Eastern White Cedar may be as much as 50 years old. In one photo in the article, a single grain of white sugar covers about 5 annual ring lines in a cross section of a dead tree.

Yes, the article is absolutely fascinating and I'd like to thank Kermit Jones for passing it along to us. But I'd also like to pass along his note on the article:

FYI fellow SOLARites: Let's be careful out at Rattlesnake. It seems to be part of an especially unique and delicate ecosystem which I'm sure we're already mindful of and interested in preserving - so watch those climb routes!

I will be keeping a copy of the article with me for the next few meetings if you'd like to look at it.

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 Friday 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, SOLAR Ray Editor, 10024 Borgman, Huntington Woods, MI 48070 or call Steve at (810) 547-4998, or E-mail to stgardner@aol.com

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 \$30 individual annually or \$100 individual lifetime.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Mike Banks / (313) 235-8129
Vice-President	Doug Lanyk / (810) 634-4551
Secretary	Cindy Harrison-Felix / (313) 722-3994
Treasurer	Cyndy Erickson / (313) 397-8240
Activities	Leslie Cordova / (810) 547-5626
Membership	Mary Price / (810) 477-7457
Equipment	Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bylaws	Harry Price / (810) 477-7457
Education	Bob Graham / (313) 453-7313
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	Mo DeFrance / (810) 229-8283
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	At Fyjak / 852-7514
	Joan Ryan / (810) 570IVE1

If you would like to assist with any of the above positions, call the appropriate committee chairperson.



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