

Hi! My name is Eliza Eva Fedyk. I'm a brand-new SOLAR member. I'm a little young for many of the SOLAR trips, but I've already had some amazing SOLAR-type adventures. First, I spent 9 months in an underwater cave. Talk about survival! Then on April 23, 2002, the walls of the cave started contracting on me! I needed to find an escape! The only way out was through this tiny crevice. Fortunately, I didn't have a helmet on. It also helped to be long (20 1/2 inches) and skinny (7lbs, 12oz.). Anyway, I finally squeezed myself through to find myself bungee jumping into a masked man's arms! My papa (John) cut the bungee cord, and I got to meet the mountain that my cave was in, oops... I mean, Momma (Amy)! If you want to hear more of my adventures, I can tell you all about them at the next SOLAR meeting. Don't worry - there won't be any slide show!



Eliza Eva Fedyk plans on taking up archery next!

SOLAR starts an e-group to keep in electronic touch!

SOLAR has started a new e-group to help members keep in touch via email. That way, only those members who WANT to get Solar email will get it... the rest will miss out! The new e-group is a great way to keep up on club news and events by getting a maximum of just one email a day that has all the latest news and information about the club, including:

- photos from Solar events
- information about upcoming Solar meetings, trips, classes, volunteer opportunities and service projects
- last-minute openings on Solar trips
- special sales available to Solar members; we get such short notice on most sales that we can't put them in the newsletter
- Solar Ray articles
- non-Solar events that might interest our club members
- astronomical events



To cut down on spam, adult material, or other inappropriate messages, only steering committee members can post messages and photos, so general members who have things to share will have to email it to a steering committee member first. To sign up, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Solaroutdoors/>.

— Laura James

CONGRATULATIONS to the NEW ELECTED STEERING COMMITTEE!

President - Tom Oloffo

Vice President - Tom Hayes

Secretary
Treasurer
Equipment
Activities
By-Laws
Education

Cindy Taylor
Reggie Hayes
Caro McCrine
Peggy Medved
Gloria Fontaine
Harry Price

Historian
Membership
Programs
Pub. Relations
Solar Ray
Web Master

Denise Kordie
Mary Price
Amy Fedyk
Laura James
Stacie Kitchen
Roger James

Thanks to everyone that voted.



GEAR TESTERS WANTED

Summer is almost here so put away your skis and put on your hiking boots. Want to be a gear tester?

Just a reminder that SOLAR still has trekking poles available to demo. Italian trekking pole manufacturer "Gabel" has given SOLAR numerous pairs of high end trekking poles. You can borrow the poles for month or so. Please no more than that to give others a chance to be a gear tester.



The only requirements to borrow this gear is that there is a \$50 refundable deposit, plus you must fill out a brief survey and either e-mail or mail it back to the company. Companies like Gabel rely on the feedback of gear testers to ensure that their product meets the requirements of its end users. Last year the company made many product modifications as a direct result of SOLAR members feedback. Come make a difference in the trekking pole industry.

Interested? Contact Leslie Cordova at lesliegene@aol.com or (248) 547-5626

John Bryan State Park and Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve

We left the modern world behind us as we began our trip through this geologic time capsule. In fact, you can read the entire history of the area, in the rocks of the river gorge common to the two parks. As our path descended into the gorge, we passed many layers of rocks representing times long forgotten and perhaps times unknown by living things.

An ancient shallow sea once covered this entire region. The gorge and escarpment complex, which became the shared masterpieces of John Bryan State Park and Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, were scoured out by a slow-moving glacier. As the glacier melted, a now extinct, prehistoric river further carved out the valley through which the Little Miami River now flows. But I digress...

Twenty-two adventurous SOLAR members, 3 dogs and a Troll (ask the 2 young ladies Mickey and Jennifer about the troll), made their way to the Dayton, Ohio area (3 1/2 to 4 hours), on Friday, May 03, where we made camp in the John Bryan State Park group site. We woke on Saturday to a beautifully crisp, spring morning.

Our plan, on Saturday, was to begin our hike in John Bryan and continue through Clifton Gorge, where we would have lunch at an historic restaurant called the Clifton Mill, and then return. There were several historic ruins, especially the mills, that took advantage of the river's power. We hoped to cover as much of the 10 different trail systems as possible. The trails meandered along the river, through the surrounding woodlands and near the rim of the gorge.

The trail-head, from the John Bryan State Park campground, led us down to the Little Miami River, which became our gurgling companion for most of the day's hike. The river was our guide, as it had been for the earlier settlers of this area and for the Shawnee Indians before them. Countless fragrant wild flowers and their larger cousins, the Dogwoods, greeted us with their cheery displays of vivid color.

We encountered the old-growth oaks, maples, sycamores and cedars for which the parks are known. There were many scenic waterfalls and cascades decorating the cliffs and feeding the river, giving it the energy to continue forming the gorge. There were caves and fissures to explore in the rock and the park has set up several rock climbing and rappelling areas along the porous, limestone cliff face.

When we returned to our campsite, at the end of the day, we prepared our potluck dinner and many set off to attend an astronomy presentation put on by the park. On Friday night we had an opportunity to watch the movie "Shrek" which was aired on a screen in an open-air amphitheater in the campground. Saturday night the local astronomy club was there with their telescopes.

Sunday morning dawned clear and beautiful. Our group split up for the day. Most of us bicycled 20 miles on the Little Miami Scenic Trail, which is part of the Ohio Rails to Trails System. It was a perfect day for a bike ride! Some folks decided to further explore the trails and others just wanted to relax and enjoy the campsite. Almost everyone met up for lunch at a local restaurant before driving home. We will lead another trip to the area July 3-7, 2002.

SOLAR BRIEFS

THIRD ANNUAL Double JJ Resort WEEKEND

Located in Rothbury, Michigan, 3 hours west of Detroit - Halloween Theme Weekend Friday-Sunday, November 1-3, 2002

Arrive by 7:00 p.m. on Friday, check out by 1:00 PM on Sunday, but stay till 4:00 PM

\$261 PER PERSON - INCLUSIONS:

- Two nights in simple camp/bunk style rooms at the Adult Exclusive Ranch with private bath
- Horseback riding for every level Saturday & Sunday (one ride/day, but we'll wrangle more, so be prepared to be sore)
- Haunted barn, corn roast and hayride Friday night, B.L.D. Saturday, brunch on Sunday
- Multiple activities throughout day & evening (archery, shooting, mechanical bull riding, line dance instruction, DJ dancing, Halloween cabin decorations, trick or treating, party at night)
- All taxes & gratuities



Packing list, driving directions, and all details mailed upon registration. Pre-trip meeting is Sat. Oct. 5 to go over carpooling, costumes decorations and treats! Payment Schedule & Cancellation Policy: \$50 pp deposit due by June 4, 2002 - Balance due October 5, 2002 - All payments are non-refundable, unless you find a replacement. Contact Lisa Boose: (w) 248-358-5330, lisa@cadillactravel.com

Return of the Land Navigation Class

It hasn't been done for a while, so I'm going to take a turn at it. Land Navigation Class will be held on June 22-23. Spend a weekend learning how to find your way around in the woods with a map and compass. You will learn basic map reading, compass use, and all about the different Norths. Not to mention some cool new words to amaze your friends!! Details are still a little fuzzy... (So many trips to plan... so little time...) Or drop me an email and I'll catch you up.

-Karl Overheul

kyherNmard@backpacker.com



Solar basic backpacking instructors displaying their colors at Hoist Lakes



Outdoor photography show:

I will be having a photography exhibition at The Benchmark in Farmington on June 14 from 6-9 PM. Many of you have seen my work in the photo contest and during my presentation at the February meeting. The prints are from my travels out west last year, as well as shots from various places in Michigan. I will have a variety of framed and matted prints, all of which are individually numbered and signed. They will be available for sale, and I will be accepting orders from my catalog for others. Custom framing and matting will be available for order. Come on out and enjoy the pictures! (And help support my quest to make a living by sharing the great outdoors!!)

- Karl Overheul

Archaeology update!

This year's Iroquois digs are your last chance to participate in SOLAR's Ontario archaeology field school so grab those trowels and explore with us June 15-16 or July 20-21. For those of you who have paid a deposit to go in June, the balance due is US\$127.20, payable to SOLAR. We have to pay a 7% Ontario Goods and Services Tax, which is included. You will owe me \$10 Canadian when we get to the campground. June people - Please pay on or before the June meeting. Those folks planning on going in July need to pay in full at the July meeting. I will also work on putting some carpools together and making sure everyone has the gear for car camping, so drop me a line at Laura4991@prodigy.net to let me know what your traveling plans and gear needs are.

--Laura



James



Hey!
What are you
staring at! Haven't you
ever seen turtles
sunbath before?

Pictures Present:

Above Left:

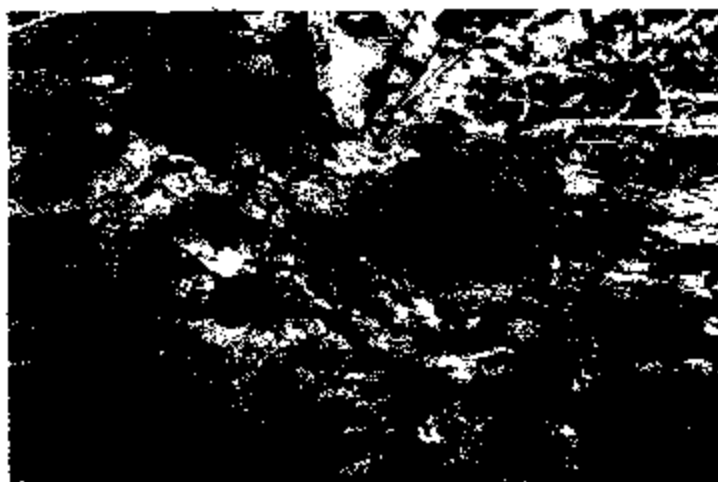
Roger and Karl communicate the old-fashioned way from their campsite along the North County Trail to SOLARites on the other side of Manistee river.

Above Right:

Jennifer flashes a smile on SOLAR's basic backpacking bonanza.

Center:

Baby snapping turtles climb over a log on the shores of the Manistee River.



Warning to travelers - Ontario provincial park openings delayed!



In early spring, the union representing provincial workers went on strike over retirement benefits and other issues. The strike practically shut down government services in Ontario for the last few months. Residents were unable to get driver's, marriage, or hunting licenses and the jails and courthouses had to run skeletal staffs, but perhaps most importantly to the rest of us, the provincial parks were closed! Fortunately, the strike was settled in mid-May, but many parks are still affected. Dozens of parks may not open on time in May or June. Check www.ontarioparks.com to see if the park you want to go to is open. Luckily, Rattlesnake Park, where Solar rock climbers and archaeologists hang out, is part of the regional Halton Conservation Area and was unaffected.

--Laura James

Kids SOLAR hits the Water

On June 8, we are going canoeing! We will meet at Heaven's Canoe Rental at 10 am, gather all our gear and go for a short paddle down the river. When every-one gets tired, or around noon (whichever comes first), we will stop for a picnic and then paddle back to Heaven's. Cost is \$24 per canoe.

On July 6, the kids have the opportunity to get a FREE kayak lesson!! EPI has volunteered kayaks specially designed for kids and their time to teach our kids how to kayak. We are meeting at Mill Pond in Island Lake at 10 am. The kids will have a lesson, play a game and then break for lunch. After lunch we will go for a paddle around the pond so the kids can show off their newly acquired skills. Unfortunately the kayaks and lessons are only for the kids. However, if a parent would like to bring their own Kayak, they are more than welcome to.

So, pack a lunch, your bathing suits and some sun-screen and join us for a couple of days on the water!

- Meg Webber, (248) 980-3667 or megann34@ivillage.com

The 24-Hour Adventure Race
Hosted by: Southern Michigan Adventure Club

Registration is available online at: www.smacworld.com/Race/Racegear.html

When: October 5th & 6th (race briefing October 4th)
Where: Somewhere within 50-75 miles of Metro Detroit, Michigan
Who: 4 person coed teams; limit 50 teams total
Cost: \$500.00 per team for SMAC members; \$600.00 for non-members
Disciplines: Orienteering/Navigation, Trekking, Mtn. Biking, Canoeing, Fixed Ropes, and Special Mystery Events
Gear: See www.smacworld.com/Race/RaceMandatoryGear.html

SMAC

Southern Michigan Adventure Race

About the Race: The 24-Hour Adventure Race will be an adventure through some of the great parks and recreation areas we have right here in southeast Michigan. The race will involve the standard disciplines of adventure racing and some special mystery events that will involve teamwork and be both mentally and physically challenging. You will be required to provide at least one support crew person and a vehicle that can transport all four team members' bikes. This race was designed with the intermediate racer in mind. It will be ideal race for the team that has done some adventure sprints and some resources on the web. The exact location of the race will not be revealed until much later to prevent local teams from scouting the course. Rest assured that the race site will be easy to find and within 50-75 miles of the Metro Detroit area. If you are coming into the area and will need a place to stay, please check back on the website in the next couple of months and we list some recommended hotels and camping areas. Please check over the mandatory gear list as you prepare your team for this race. We do plan to have some very exciting and challenging fixed ropes sections. All four members of your team should know how to safely rappe and at least two members should be familiar with ascending. We will not be requiring any certifications for the ropes, but we will be doing a skill/safety check during the Friday check in. As more details about this race become available they will be posted on the website www.smacworld.com and e-mailed out to SMAC club members.

Event Sponsors: Benchmark Outfitters, Planet Rock Climbing Gym, Southern Michigan Orienteering Club, Adventure Racing Magazine, Adventure Racing Resources, Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Meet Outdoors, and Heavner Canoe Rental.

If you have any problems with registration or any other questions about the race please feel free to contact me:
Lucas Osborn, lucas.osborn@nematron.com (734) 214-2067 (day) (810) 239-0165 (evening) www.smacworld.com

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN ADVENTURE CLUB TO HOST 4th ANNUAL SPRINT ADVENTURE RACE

Round #3 Of The Benchmark Outfitters Adventure Race Series

At least 200 athletes are expected to compete in the 4th annual Sprint Adventure Race at the Brighton Recreation Area on July, 20th.

Prizes will be awarded to the top five teams in what has become one of the largest adventure races in the nation, selling out for the last two years.

Teams of two, including coed, will mountain bike, trek, canoe, orienteer, and negotiate a fixed ropes course over the 10-hour race. The Southern Michigan Adventure Club (SMAC) has designed the course to appeal to beginning, intermediate, and advanced racers.

SMAC offers training classes before the event as well as instruction on the day of the race to introduce newcomers to the sport and improve the skills of veteran racers. The 4th annual Sprint Adventure Race will prepare teams for the most challenging 24 to 36-hour races in the country.

Registration cost is \$120 per team for SMAC members and \$150 for non-members. Entry forms are available at the SMAC website www.smacworld.com or by contacting Paul Piorkowski, the event coordinator, at paul.piorkowski@gm.com.

Event Sponsors:

Benchmark Outfitters: <http://www.benchmarkoutdoors.com/>

DNR / Brighton Recreation Area: <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/ParkDetail.asp?LinkID=110&sec=camp&ParkID=74>

Adventure Racing Magazine: <http://www.armag.com/a-racing.htm>

Adventure Racing Resources: <http://www.arresources.com/>

Planet Rock Climbing Gym: <http://www.planet-rock.com/climbing.html>

Michigan Mountain Biking Association: <http://www.mmba.org/cgi-bin/index.pl>

Meet Outdoors: www.meet-outdoors.com

Heavner Canoe Rental: <http://www.heavnercanoe.com>

Southern Michigan Orienteering Club: <http://www.angelfire.com/mi/SMOC/index.html>



JUNE 2002 SOLAR CALENDAR

School For Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation



JUNE ACTIVITIES

8	SAT	KIDS CANOEING	Heavener's Livery	Meg Webber	mwebber@metlife.com
14-16	WKND	ROCK CLIMBING	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	albinlau@msn.edu
15-16	SAT/SUN	ARCHAEOLOGY DIG	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura James	laura4991@prodigy.com

JUNE CLASSES

8-9	SAT/SUN	KAYAKING CLASS**	Mears, MI	John Moffat	johnmoffat@yahoo.com
22	SAT	FLAT WATER CANOE PADDLE CLASS	Rosa Twp	Doug Lanyk	dsanyk@earthlink.net
22-23	SAT/SUN	BASIC LAND NAVIGATION	Burns Cabin	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com

JULY ACTIVITIES

2	TUES	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
3-7	HOLIDAY	CAESAR CREEK STATE PARK	Ohio	Leslie Cordova	lesliec@qol.com
8	MON	KIDS KAYAKING	Island Lake	Meg Webber	mwebber@metlife.com
14	SUN	FOSSIL HUNT (Kid Friendly)	Ontario	Jim Gilfix	(734) 513-9460
19-21	WKND	ROCK CLIMBING	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	albinlau@msn.edu
20-21	WKND	ARCHAEOLOGY DIG	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura James	laura4991@prodigy.com
27-28	WKND	CANOE TRIP	Au Sable River	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com

JULY CLASSES

12-14	WKND	ADVANCED B.P. TRIP # 1	N. Manitou	Mike Banks	slvwolf52@hotmail.com
20-21	SAT/SUN	ADVANCED B.P. TRIP # 2	U of M	Mike Banks	slvwolf52@hotmail.com

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

2-4	WKND	ELMHURST INN SPA	Canada	Lisa Boose	lisa@cadillactravel.com
6	TUES	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
9-11	WKND	ROCK CLIMBING	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	albinlau@msn.edu
16-18	WKND	WYAN/MORENGO CAVING	Indiana	Leslie Cordova	lesliec@qol.com
23-25	WKND	CANOEING	DeFrance Cabin	Noe DeFrance	mnoedefrance@aol.com

AUGUST CLASSES

9-11	WKND	PRIMITIVE SKILLS	Bois Blanc Island	Glen Krueger	ckrueger@comcast.com
9-11	WKND	ADVANCED B.P. TRIP # 3	Ludington SP	Mike Banks	slvwolf52@hotmail.com
24-25	SAT/SUN	ADVANCED B.P. TRIP # 4	Manistee River	Mike Banks	slvwolf52@hotmail.com

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

5	TUES	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
7-8	SAT/SUN	ROCK CLIMBING	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	albinlau@msn.edu
7-14	WEEK	BACKPACKING	Wind River, Wyo.	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com

SEPTEMBER CLASSES

7-8	SAT/SUN	ADVANCED B.P. TRIP # 5	Pigeon River	Mike Banks	slvwolf52@hotmail.com
27-Oct. 6	Week	ADVANCED B.P. TRIP # 6	Pukaskwa N.P.	Mike Banks	slvwolf52@hotmail.com

FOR INFORMATION ON JOINING THE SOLAR CLUB, CONTACT MARY Price (248) 271-7841 or VISIT WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLAN AND/OR LEAD A SOLAR ACTIVITY, CONTACT PEGGY MEDVED AT (248) 390-3969 OR WWW.MEDDEN@VOYAGER.NET

SOLAR HAS A NO-REFUND POLICY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AN ACTIVITY YOU MAY "SELL YOUR SPOT" TO ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER.

**Denotes Non-Solar Activity (Solar will not be held responsible for these activities).

Do you have a SOLAR event that you would like to put together or just want to advertise it in the SOLAR Ray? Than contact someone in the Steering Committee and they can direct you to the right person for the job.

Check our Website out
www.solaroutdoors.org



Little Miami State Park and River

Come join SOLAR as we celebrate the July 4th holiday. This kid and dog friendly outing is close enough to home (4 hour drive) that even if you do not have a long weekend, you can join us for Friday and Saturday nights.

Caesar Creek State Park is highlighted by clear blue waters, scattered woodlands, meadows and steep ravines. The park offers some of the finest outdoor recreation in southwest Ohio including boating, hiking, camping and fishing. There are 43 miles of hiking trails, 8.5 miles of mountain biking trails, a lake with a 1,300 foot beach and fossil trails. We are going to canoe or kayak the Little Miami River on Sunday and have a potluck dinner on Saturday night.

Just north of the park is John Bryan State Park which offers hiking, biking, rock climbing and rappelling. You will need to supply your own climbing gear and obtain a permit for the park.

We will be camping at the Group Horseman's Camp within the park. There are pit toilets, but no water. Please bring a water container with you that you can fill at the main campground, which also have showers.

Cost is:

Adults: Camp and canoe \$35, camp and kayak \$40, camp only \$20.
 Children: Camp and canoe \$20, camp and kayak \$25, camp only \$5
 Dogs: \$5 (not allowed in canoes or kayaks)

If you are interested please contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or lesliegene@aol.com to reserve your spot.



Did you know Corner

Did you know if you forgot your dish sponge, that you can scrub your pots with wood ash, downed needles, or shreds of soft bark from the ground? Backpackers have long used sand, but be careful, it can scratch nonstick coatings.

Lifetime Members

Have you filled out your membership form for the year 2002?

In December, the Steering Committee approved a new membership form that included a new release of liability statement. Lifetime members must fill out one of these revised forms out and return it to me. If you have not done so, please do so immediately. The form is available to download on the SOLAR website, www.solaroutdoors.org, or give me a call at (248) 477-7547 and I will send you one in the snail mail. As stated in the February Ray, we will be dropping SOLAR Lifetime members from the mailing list if we do not receive a signed membership form back. Family Lifetime memberships must include the signature of both spouses. This will go into effect with the mailing of the July SOLAR Ray. There are some Lifetime members who have not been seen or heard from in years. We want to confirm that they are still interested in receiving the Ray.

Mary Price, Membership Chairman

SOLAR is a non-profit club with 400-plus members dedicated to the intelligent enjoyment of nature and outdoor pursuits.

Membership is only \$40 a year per person (\$55 per family) and includes discounts to a number of retail outfitters, access to club-owned equipment, a monthly newsletter, and a chance to meet hundreds of other like-minded adventurers drawn together by a common love of pristine lakes, breathtaking vistas, virgin forests and scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there.



SOLAR Steering Committee

President	Tom Oloffo	Equipment	Carol McCrie
Vice President	Tom Hayes	Historian	Denise Kordie
Secretary	Cindy Taylor	Membership	Mary Price
Treasurer	Reggie Hayes	Programs	Arny Fedyk
Activities	Peggy Medved	Pub. Relations	Laura James
By-Laws	Gloria Fontaine	Solar Ray	Stacie Kitchen
Education	Harry Price	Web Master	Roger James

At Large: Mike Banks * Moe DeFrance * Al Fylak * Steve Gardner
Bill Halvingis * Cindy Harrison-Felix * Doug Laryk * Larry Martin
Joan Ryan * Leslie Cordova * Joan & Bob Westbrook

SOLAR Meetings are generally held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at the Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 & 9 Mile Roads) at 7:30 pm. Visitors can come for FREE.

SOLAR RAY is a monthly publication of SOLAR and is sent free to current dues-paid members. If you change your address please tell the membership chairman, Mary Price, mpprice@ameritech.net.

Submission Guidelines:

- Articles must be 500 words or less.
- SOLAR events have priority over non-club events; events in the next 2 months have priority over other events.
- Please submit all articles and photos (original Photo/Art, Microsoft Word, PDF, JPEG, TIFF, EPS, and/or IMAGE files) (Emailing, type SOLAR RAY in Subject box) to:
Stacie Kitchen, 45064 Utica Green East, Utica, MI 48317
email: daydreamer07@yahoo.com or call (586) 212 2835

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: SUNDAY, JUNE 16th

NO submissions will be accepted after that date

GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14320 BOKKMAN
OAK PARK, MI 48237



THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP
ADVENTURE & RECREATION

P.O. Box 2438
Southfield, MI 48037

