

Upper Peninsula
Environmental Coalition
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Houghton, MI 49931

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www.upenvironment.org



Protecting and maintaining the unique environmental qualities of Michigan's Upper Peninsula by educating the public and acting as a watchdog to industry and government.

Celebrate the UP! March 18-19

UPEC will hold its third annual *Celebrate the UP!* March 18-19. The event celebrates what's special about our region: its natural setting, recreational opportunities, and unique culture. Friday's festivities occur in Houghton at the Noblet Forestry Building on the Michigan Tech campus beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday's events run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Jutila Center on the Finlandia Campus in Hancock. See pages A-H inside this newsletter for the schedule and profiles of the many fine speakers presenting at this year's *Celebrate the UP!*

Learn more about plants and ecosystems of UP & N. Wisconsin!

The North Woods Native Plant Society is a group of professional and amateur botanists interested in learning about and preserving the region's native plants and ecosystems. We plan free botanical field trips, open to folks at all levels of knowledge, to special places every summer. Summer 2011 will feature trips to view spring flora, aquatics, mushrooms, wild edibles, open plains species, and more. Sites are located all over the western UP and northern Wisconsin. Trip schedules and general information are available at www.northwoodsnativeplantsociety.org

Identify & reduce invasive plants

Garlic mustard, glossy buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, and spotted knapweed top the list of unwanted regional invasive plants. Invasives occur throughout the UP where they overrun natural plant communities, out-compete native plants, degrade fish and wildlife habitat, and can hinder gathering and recreational activities. The Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District (HKCD) asks residents/visitors in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties for help now and throughout the summer in reporting locations of unwanted green invaders. Maps showing locations of invasives are essential for prioritizing control/monitoring efforts. Your dot added to a map will really help! Contact Sue (HKCD Administrator) at sue.haralson@mi.nacdnet.net or 482-0214, visit the HKCD office in Houghton at 600 E. Lakeshore Dr. (Rm. 204), or go to www.hkconserve.com for more information, reporting forms, a free set of invasive plant ID cards, and useful brochures. Contact Janet at jkmarr@mtu.edu or 337-5529 with invasive plant identification questions.

The Copper Country's plant intervention effort is just one part of an Upper Peninsula-wide project appropriately named RRIP-IT-UP (Rapid Response Invasive Plant Intervention Team of the Upper Peninsula). If you would like more information about invasive plant activities in your area, contact your local conservation district or the UP RC&D Council at 906-226-7487, Ext. 101 or visit www.uprcd.org

UP Environment



Spring 2011 *The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition's quarterly newsletter.*
UPEC is the UP's oldest grassroots environmental organization.

UP Moose Hunt: Really a good idea?

By Robert A. Evans

Last Dec. 22 then-governor Jennifer Granholm approved a bill (Public Act 366) to authorize an open moose hunting season in Michigan. This legislation surprised many residents because moose remain relatively uncommon. The most recent DNR estimate of the UP moose population size is around 500-600 animals; approximately 420 animals in the West and Central UP, and the remainder in the Eastern UP. Most of these animals descend from the 61 moose translocated to the UP in 1985 and 1987 from Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park. By anyone's measure, 600 moose scattered across the entire UP is a very small population of animals. It is also not known for certain whether this small population of moose is increasing, stable, or even decreasing.



A bull moose, foreground, peers up as a cow and two calves browse in the background. The moose on Isle Royale National Park where this photo was taken are not part of the mainland moose hunt proposal. (Photo by Rolf Peterson)

The DNR goal when moose were reintroduced was to have a population of 1,000 moose in the UP by 2000. Clearly, that has not happened. The reason(s) for that are not known, but many biologists believe that issues such as brainworm infection of moose and perhaps climate change are major contributors to the problems that moose are having in Michigan (and also Minnesota where moose numbers have dropped significantly in recent years). When moose and white-tailed deer exist in the same area (as they do in the UP), moose can become infected with the brainworm parasite (common to white-tailed deer), which has no negative effects on deer, but is often fatal to moose. Climate change may be important because moose in the UP are on the extreme southern edge

of their range. Warmer than average temperatures, which we have experienced in recent decades and are projected to increase further in coming decades, are very detrimental to moose. In fact, if projections for climate change are accurate, it is very likely that moose would be unable to exist anywhere in Michigan by the end of this century, if not much sooner.

So, with all of these uncertainties, a reasonable person might ask, "Why are we establishing a hunting season for moose in Michigan at this time?" UPEC and several noted wildlife biologists, including Dr. Rolf Peterson of Michigan Technological University, have asked that same question. The answer from the DNR and other moose hunt proponents is not entirely clear, but appears to center around the notion that hunters largely paid for the

moose translocation in the 1980s: a future moose hunt was basically promised to the hunting community by DNR at that time, and after 20-plus years of waiting it's simply now time to have a hunt. UPEC and others find that response to be troubling. The bill authorizing a moose hunt was signed before many important questions surrounding our Michigan moose population have been answered:

1. *Why we have fallen far short of the original goal of 1000 moose by 2000?*
2. *Is the moose population rising, declining, or stable?*
3. *What factors are most important in limiting the growth of our Michigan moose population?*

Moose Hunt. See Page 11

Dissecting Kennecott mine haul road strategy

By William Malmsten

Kennecott Eagle Minerals announced in January it would abandon plans for developing Marquette County Road 595. That road would have run from Kennecott's proposed Humboldt mill site to its planned mine 22 miles north in the same corridor as Kennecott's earlier Woodland Road proposal. According to the Jan. 19 *Marquette Mining Journal*, "Federal objections to the project indefinitely delaying any permit approvals jeopardized Kennecott's timeline..."

The earlier version of this road was to be privately owned by Woodland Road LLC, which included Kennecott, Lindberg and Sons (the company that was to build the road), the Michigan Forests Products Council, and John Jilbert Companies. Woodland Road LLC withdrew its wetlands permit application in May 2010 in an apparent response to federal and state objections over potential wetlands regulations violations. The road would dissect an extremely water-rich environment, crossing 23 streams and impacting 27.1 acres of wetlands. This wild and rugged area is between the McCormick Wilderness and the Silver Lake Basin, characterized by a series of high ridges and valleys with many streams and wetlands.

Regulations prohibit destruction of wetlands if a feasible and prudent alternative is available. Kennecott's state-approved mine permit allows it to use the existing network of logging roads, so it was difficult to argue there was no alternative to building a new road through the wetlands (whether called the Woodland Road or County Road 595). UPEC made this assertion in written comments to the Michigan DNRE in February 2010. UPEC opposes construction of the new road -- whatever it is called.

By forming the Woodland Road LLC it seems the claim could be made that the road was not Kennecott's mine haul road, but was instead a multi-purpose road that would serve the

surrounding area. Thus there would supposedly be no feasible alternative to the new road, and no amendment to the mining permit would be necessary to build it. When federal and state regulators did not accept this argument, this approach was abandoned and a new plan for a public road was introduced in September 2010 with Marquette County Board of Commissioners support. The Marquette County Road Commission would have built the now public road (County Road 595), with the same private entity (Kennecott) still paying the \$50-80 million cost.

It appears the reason for this County Road 595 approach might be the same as the Woodland Road approach: to apparently sidestep the wetlands regulations by claiming the road would be used mainly by the public rather than as a mine haul road. Yet an existing back roads system already adequately serves existing area logging and recreational activities. We believe, and



Aerial photo of Kennecott's proposed Eagle Project mine site by Chauncey Moran.

apparently state and federal regulators, that the evidence clearly points to the road's primary purpose as a mine haul road.

Kennecott's January 2011 announcement it is abandoning the County Road 595 road project triggered an outpouring of support for that very proposal from Marquette County government officials, including the County Board and County Road Commission, and Champion, Humboldt and Michigamme

Mine Haul Road. See Page 11

About UPEC...

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has more than a 30-year track record of protecting and seeking to maintain the unique environmental qualities of the UP through public education and watchful monitoring of industry and government. UPEC seeks common ground with diverse individuals and organizations in order to promote sound planning and management decisions for all the region's natural resources.

Our newsletter, the *UP Environment*, is published four times a year. Please share it with family & friends.

You can send your comments or contributions to UPEC by standard mail at P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931, or e-mail us at upec@upenvironment.org. For more information about UPEC, visit us at www.upenvironment.org

UPEC Officers, Board and Staff

President: William Malmsten

Vice President: Mary Martin

Sec./Treasurer: Doug Welker

Board Members:

David Allen George Desort

Robert Evans Connie Julien (Webmaster)

Connie Sherry Patrick St. Germain

Nancy Warren Sherry Zoars

Staff: David Clanaugh, Newsletter Editor & Business/Communications Manager

DNRE needs to sufficiently review road proposals

Mine Haul Road. Continued from Page 2

township officials. "We're going to push it as hard and as fast as we can," Marquette County Board Chairman Charles Bergdahl is quoted as saying in a Feb. 4 *Mining Journal* article. Commissioner Gerald Corkin is quoted as saying, "...the EPA has stepped in and considered frogs and mosquitoes more important than public safety." Is this a sign that Kennecott is succeeding in driving a wedge among local, state, and federal government when it comes to an environmentally-responsible road plan?

This current eruption of support for the County Road 595 proposal causes people to wonder if this was Kennecott's hope when announcing the withdrawal of its plan. If Kennecott were as good at protecting the environment as in eliciting uncritical support from all too many local and state officials, we would not fear its mining operations.

As UPEC's president, I, along with other environmental advocates, addressed the Road Commission at its Feb. 8 meeting. I urged commissioners to withdraw support for County Road 595, and I questioned the legality of proceeding with such a project under apparently false pretenses that could sidestep federal wetland laws. If Kennecott's approach is allowed by federal and state regulators, any mining company could avoid mining and environmental regulations by finding some accessory use for its mine haul road and claiming the road is a multi-purpose road exempt from mining and environmental regulations.

Kennecott seems to be suggesting that the route down County Road 550 from Big Bay through Marquette and then west on US 41 through Negaunee and Ishpeming is the current state-approved route, and as such they would be free to use this route if they can not implement the Woodland/County Road 595 proposal. This is incorrect. When applying for its permit, Kennecott had not yet revealed its plans for using the mill at Humboldt, so the mine permit only gets the ore as far as Marquette, where it is supposed to be loaded on ore cars for transport

Moose Hunt. Continued from Page 1

4. *Can we be assured that harvesting moose in Michigan through a hunt will not negatively affect the long-term health and sustainability of our Michigan moose population (perhaps the most important of the four questions)?*

UPEC is certainly not opposed in principle to hunting moose in Michigan--when the time is right--but we do not believe it makes sense to schedule a moose hunt here until these important questions have been answered.

The Moose Hunt Bill establishes a seven-member advisory council to recommend within 12 months of the bill's passage whether the moose hunting season should be initiated or not. If the council recommends an actual moose season, its report is to include a proposed season length and number of moose to be harvested. Unfortunately, nothing in the bill mandates council members to have any educational background and/

out of the area. This rail transportation alternative may prove to be the least harmful option, as it would avoid having the mine trucks pass through the congested central transportation core of the county, although it is hard to evaluate this option since Kennecott has provided inadequate information on this plan.

Changes to Kennecott's transportation plan under state law would require a mine permit amendment. A significant change could be opened to a full review process. Unfortunately, the DNRE has ruled that all of Kennecott's amendments thus far were not significant regardless of how significant they were. In our Dec. 8, 2010, letter to the DNRE, UPEC requested that a clear and reasonable definition of "significant change" be provided to the public, and that the DNRE use the same definition in each amendment request. Local officials seem to be unwilling to push Kennecott to explore other alternatives. They seem to simply embrace whichever alternative Kennecott places before them. Kennecott may be excluding viable alternatives that are more costly. Our officials seem to fail to appreciate that the most profitable alternative for Kennecott isn't necessarily the best alternative for area residents and the region's environment.

Kennecott has now announced that it will once again pursue the County Road 595 alternative, according to a Feb. 12 *Mining Journal* article. Meanwhile construction of the mine surface facilities continues on the Yellow Dog Plains with the digging of the main mine shaft to begin in April according to local reports. The lawsuit by the National Wildlife Federation, The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and the Huron Mountain Club to try to stop the mine remains stalled in the court system.

Michigan House Bill 4303 was recently introduced to remove wetland mitigation requirements for existing roads needing improvement, maintenance, or reconstruction within the road right-of-way. The bill's passage could complicate the struggle for defining an environmentally responsible mine haul road.

or experience with moose management. Potentially all seven council members could lack moose management knowledge. That strikes UPEC board members as inappropriate at best and downright scary at worst.

UPEC has written the Michigan DNRE director recommending appointment of two Michigan wildlife biologists with deep moose management knowledge and experience. At the time of this writing, UPEC is awaiting a DNR decision about the council's composition, including whether UPEC's nominees were selected. A decision is expected soon because the legislation requires the council's first meeting be called within 60 days of Governor Granholm's signature. This would be on or before February 22, 2011.

For an article about the declining northeastern Minnesota moose population with possible parallels to the UP, visit <http://outdoornewsdaily.com/index.php/archives/16706>

Check out UPEC environmental op-eds in MMJ and online

UPEC Board member and Past President Jon Saari has been writing monthly op-eds in the *Marquette Mining Journal* for the past year. This stint is now over, but Saari will begin a new relationship with *Headwaters News* writing environmental history pieces. All of his past op-eds and future essays soon will be available on the UPEC website. An interview with Saari about his writings will be in the UPEC summer newsletter.

Don't forget those Econo Foods slips -- a slow & steady way to support UPEC!

Thanks to you and Econo Foods, UPEC has earned several hundred dollars over the past few years by submitting grocery receipts collected by UPEC members. That amount represents 1% of total gross receipts from all the slips.

That may not seem like a lot, but when you're a non-profit organization every little bit helps. Of course, that amount could be even higher this year if more of us were to

save our slips and send them in! For a family that spends \$100/week on groceries at Econo, this would translate into \$50 of annual support for UPEC.

Either save receipts throughout the year and mail them to us, or give them to a UPEC board member -- whichever is more convenient. It's one of the easier low-cost ways you can offer your support. Thanks!

Consider EarthShare payroll deduction to support UPEC

UPEC is a proud member of EarthShare of Michigan, an organization that allows working people to donate to environmental organizations through workplace giving campaigns. Each year EarthShare provides UPEC with critically needed funding for environmental education and program operation.

If you would like to help us earn more funding for UPEC, consider letting your employer know you want to participate in the EarthShare of Michigan giving option at your workplace through the annual payroll deduction plan. For more information, please call 1 (800) 386-3326 or visit www.earthsharemichigan.org



Yes! I Want to Help UPEC Make a Difference!

(Please complete and give this to a UPEC board member or mail to UPEC, PO Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931)

Name: _____

I'm already a member, but I'd like to make an additional contribution to the following funds:

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

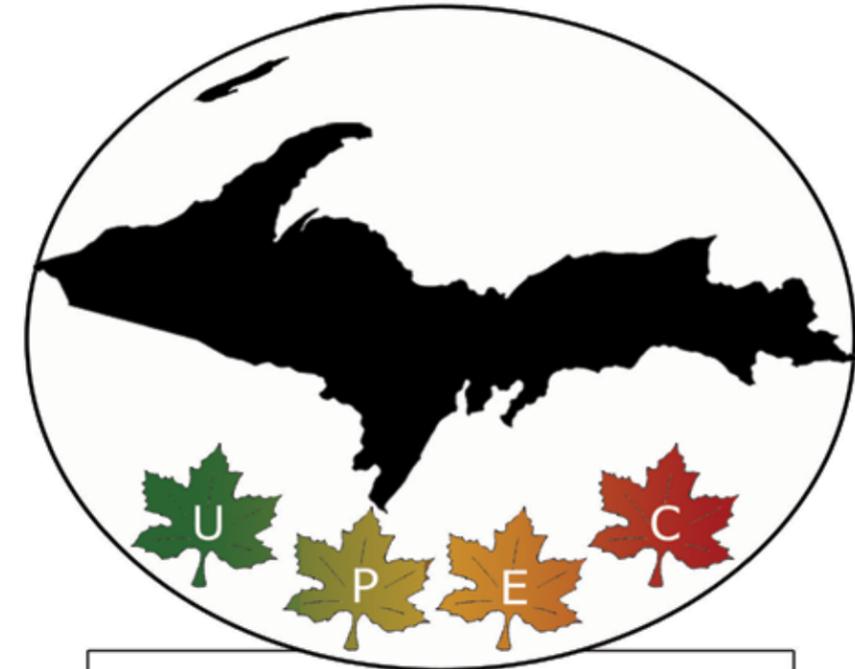
- UPEC Land Acquisition/Protection
 UPEC Environmental Education
 UPEC Outreach Fund
 UPEC Endowment Fund*

I'd like to support the goals of UPEC by enclosing a contribution for (please check one):

- Regular Membership (\$20)
 Supporting Membership (\$50)
 Student/Low Income Membership (\$15)
 Other

*If you make out your check to the Marquette Community Foundation and put **UPEC Fund** on the memo line, you can take a 50% tax credit on your Michigan return (up to \$200 for individuals, \$400 for couples). **OR** you can make your contribution directly to UPEC. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and your contributions are tax deductible.

UPEC's 2011 Celebrate the UP!



Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition



Schedule of Presentations

All events are free and open to the public!

Kick-Off --- Friday, March 18, 2011

U.J. Noblet Forestry Building Atrium, Michigan Technological University, Houghton

7:00 – 9:00 PM

"Songs of the North Country: A concert by White Water" – Dean and Betty Premo will be joined by local musicians Emma and Carrie Dlutkowski for this lively performance.
 Building 18 just off MacInnes Drive -- See www.mtu.edu/map

Saturday, March 19, 2011

Jutila Center, Finlandia University, 200 Michigan Street, Hancock

Room 323

10:00 – 11:00 AM

"Journey to the Wolf's Eye: Exploring the National Park in your backyard" – Valerie Martin, NPS interpreter

11:30 – 12:30 PM

"The Trap Hills: A Hidden Gem of Upper Michigan's Backcountry" – Doug Welker, educator, geologist, wilderness ranger

1:30 – 2:30 PM

"Paddling the Waters of the Western U.P." – Dean Juntunen, paraplegic kayaker, biker, and skier

Room 104

10:00 – 11:00 AM

"Learning the Language of Loons: an exploration into the lives of loons" – Keren Tischler, loon conservationist

11:30 – 12:30 PM

"Bats: Misunderstood Bug-eating Machines" – Dave Dillman, U.S. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist

1:30 – 2:30 PM

"Bird Migration Through the Keweenaw" – Joseph Youngman, expert birder

Continued on next page. . .

Celebrate the UP! Schedule of Presentations *(continued from Page 4)*

Room 324

- 10:00 – 11:00 AM "Use it up. Wear it Out. Make it Do or Do Without: Sustainable Living Yooper Style" – Rick Loduha, Associate Professor, Finlandia University Art & Design Program and co-director of the Sustainable Keweenaw Resource Center
- 11:30 – 12:30 PM "Is there a Moose Hunt in Michigan's Future?" – Speaker to be announced
- 1:30 – 2:30 PM "Sustainable Forestry and the History of Michigan's Forests" – Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club Forest Ecologist

Room 205

- 10:00 – 11:00 AM "Overview of the KBIC Fisheries Management Program" – Gene Mensch, Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- 11:30 – 12:30 PM "American Indian uses of copper and minerals in centuries past" – Susan Martin, Associate Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology, Michigan Technological University
- 1:30 – 2:30 PM "Wildlife Filmmaking and Photography with George Desort" – George Desort, filmmaker, photographer

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM Lunch, snacks & beverages available for purchase in the Jutila Center's Kangas Café.

Panel Discussion with the Public

Jutila Center, Room 323

3:30 – 4:45 PM "The U.P.'s Role in our Energy Future – the pros and cons of wind power and biofuels"

- Panelists: Mike McMaken, Green Energy Solutions, "Wind and solar power and how they benefit you"
 Auriel Van Der Laar, MTU Wildlife Ecology and Management Senior, "Birds & Wind Power : Why we should do the work first and construct second"
 Robert Froese, Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, MTU, "The impacts of using forest biomass for energy production"
 Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club Forest Ecologist, "Woody Biomass – A Viable Alternative?"
- Moderator: Doug Welker

Public Reception

Jutila Center, Room 323

5:00 – 7:00 PM Join the speakers and the UPEC board for conversation, refreshments, and music by the KSO Woodwind Players.

UPEC awards seven environmental education grants

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC) recently awarded an unprecedented amount of support for K-12 environmental education programs across the region. Seven UP projects received grants totaling almost \$4,000.

The grants range from \$983 to the Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies for indigenous environmental education to \$250 to Manistique Area Schools to build remote control rovers to sample sediment samples from that community's river bottom and take video footage. Also receiving UPEC support are Hancock High School in partnership with Finlandia University (for a landscape and literature program), Pickford Public Schools and Rudyard Area Schools (respective projects to assess and publicize water quality assessment in the Munuscong River and St Mary's River watersheds), the Clear Lake Education Center near Escanaba (for transporting students to the center), and NICE Community Schools (to construct a sustainable community greenhouse and garden).

"This year we received the most quality grant applications since the program began," said UPEC President William Malmsten. "It was difficult to decide which seven to fund because all proposals had merit. UPEC salutes the area educators who help young people appreciate nature and the environment. Today's young people will be tomorrow's voters and leaders who will determine the destiny of our beautiful peninsula. We hope through our grant program to reach into the future to have a positive impact on how the next generation cares for the land."

"It was really a pleasant surprise to see how many environmentally-minded educators we have out there across the UP," added Bob Evans, another UPEC board member. "They're all doing some really neat and innovative projects to help educate the next generation about the importance of a healthy environment. This is one of those 'good news' stories that are sometimes hard to find among all the gloom and doom news about the environment."



Auriel Van Der Laar
"Birds & Wind Power: Why We Should Do the Work First and Construct Second"

Auriel Van Der Laar is a senior at Michigan Technological University studying Wildlife Ecology and Management. Hailing originally from Helena, Ohio she has been involved with birds and their conservation from a young age and this interest led her to Black Swamp Bird Observatory (bsbobird.org) which is currently working to understand the affect that wind energy may have on birds and their migration. Wind power has great potential to help us "go green," but what many fail to realize are the ramifications of the placement of these turbines. Auriel will talk about the efforts going on in NW Ohio to understand how turbines affect major bird migratory flyways and how what is being learning can be applied to the UP. Auriel is also involved helping lead the Michigan Tech Birdbums, Michigan Tech's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society and trying to find the time to enjoy the beauty of the U.P between classes.



Robert Froese, PhD, RPF
"Forest Biomass Utilization and Alternative Future Forests"

Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science Michigan Technological University. Robert is an Associate Professor in the Michigan Tech School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. He has a BS and MS in Forestry from the University of British Columbia, and a PhD in Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences from the University of Idaho. His research program at Tech involves inventory, simulation modelling, silviculture and management of forest resources for multiple values, including biomass utilization and carbon sequestration.



Gene Mensch
"Overview of the KBIC Fisheries Management Program"

Gene will talk about the creation of the KBIC Natural Resources Department, and how things have progressed over the years. His focus will be on KBIC coldwater fish hatchery establishments and cooperative agreements with multiple management agencies, late 1980s to present.

Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist for KBIC Natural Resources Department. B.S. Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management, Lake Superior State University. M.S. Degree in Biological Sciences with Fisheries Emphasis, Michigan Technological University. Baraga High School graduate.

The Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) is offering a \$250 scholarship to a CCISD-area graduating senior or home-schooled student interested in pursuing a college education related to nature and the environment. The scholarship honors Bob Linn, former National Park Service chief scientist, who helped found UPEC in 1975. For information, visit www.irkpa.org, or contact Kristine Bradof at irkpa@irkpa.org or 482-7860. Deadline for applications is March 15.



Susan Martin

"American Indian Uses of Copper and Minerals in Centuries Past."

Martin tells the story of how Native Americans discovered, used, and manipulated copper and other elements and minerals for uses as tools, decorations, pigments, and more over many millennia of Upper Peninsula history.

Susan R. Martin is Associate Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology at Michigan Technological University. Her interests include resource uses and technological achievements of American Indians, and the history of anthropology in the Great Lakes region.



George Desort

"Wildlife Filmmaking and Photography with George Desort"

Wildlife filmmaker and photographer George Desort will discuss the challenges and rewards working with nature, specifically his time on Isle Royale. He will present samples of his latest work and will have his gear on hand for demonstration. His work has appeared in *Audubon*, *National Geographic*, *Backpacker*, *The New York Times*, and PBS affiliates across the country.



Mike McMaken

"Wind and Solar Power and How They Benefit You."

Mike McMaken, owner of Green Energy Solutions, began this company in 2008 after over 20 years in the home building industry. Mr. McMaken began researching green building for the company's new projects, realizing there was a demand for green products, but no one offered installation services. After training all over the United States and assisting townships in creating zoning for wind and solar power, he has become an expert in the site

evaluation process. Now Green Energy Solutions performs residential and commercial installations in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ohio.

Marvin Roberson

"Sustainable Forestry and the History of Michigan's Forests."

Michigan's forests are very different than they once were, and very different than they could be. This talk will focus on why that is, and how our current management prevents full recovery of Michigan's forests.

Born and raised in Michigan. B.S. and M.S. in Forest Ecology from University of Michigan. UP resident since 1989. 20 years with Sierra Club, at State, Regional, and National levels. Current resident of Marquette County. (Photo unavailable)

Presenter Information and Biography

White Water: "Sounds of the North Country."

Friday 7-9 p.m. Michigan Tech Forestry Building Atrium
Off of MacInnes Drive in Houghton -- see www.mtu.edu/map for Building 18



Clockwise, upper left: Dean & Bette Premo, and Emma and Carrie Dlutkowski

Since 1985, Dean and Bette Premo have made music as White Water. For much of that time, their son Evan and daughter Laurel have been part of the band. These days White Water takes on several forms (duo, trio, quartet and more). For their special concert as part of the UPEC's "Celebrate the UP," Dean and Bette will be joined by Emma and Carrie Dlutkowski.

For 25 years, Bette and Dean have organized and hosted the Second Sunday Folk Dance, the largest regular concert/dance event in the north country. They have been part of many music and cultural events in the UP and are strong advocates of involving and teaching young musicians. In 1985, Drs. Bette and Dean founded the environmental laboratory and consulting firm White Water Associates. The nationally recognized firm provides services in soil and water testing, scientific consulting, and environmental education. You can learn more about their work at www.white-water-associates.com.

Despite their young ages, the Houghton-based "fiddlers" Emma and Carrie Dlutkowski are long-time members of the UP classical music scene. Both are members of the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra and chamber groups. Both started playing violin at age six. Emma has attended music camps at Blue Lake and the American Suzuki Institute and is a Suzuki violin teacher in the Copper Country. Carrie has attended the Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp. In 2010 she attended the Swannanoa Gathering in North Carolina to learn various fiddling styles. Both Emma and Carrie add mandolins to the instrumental mix with White Water. Working with Dean Premo, Carrie built a hammered dulcimer in 2010 and has quickly developed into a fine player.



Valerie Martin

*"Journey to the Wolf's Eye:
Exploring the National Park in Your Backyard"*

Amidst a vast inland sea lies a remote archipelago. Travel to Isle Royale and discover why these islands and adjoining Lake Superior waters were designated as a national park.

Valerie Martin has worked for the National Park Service as an interpretive park ranger at eleven park service sites, stretching from Hawaii to Maine. Captivated by the beauty and spirit of the remote archipelago of Isle Royale, she has spent the last thirteen summers working and playing there.



Doug Welker

"The Trap Hills: A Hidden Gem of Upper Michigan's Backcountry."

The Trap Hills of Ontonagon County are a wild, spectacular place, rich in history and recreational opportunities. Through photos, maps, and stories, Doug will argue why the Trap Hills are a great candidate for a designated National Recreation Area.

Doug is a long-time UPEC board member who has lived in the UP with his wife Marjory Johnston for the past 25 years. He has worked as a geologist, educator, and Forest Service Wilderness Ranger, to name a few. Over the years Doug has been an active hiker, backpacker, paddler, cross-country skier, and caver, and loves to work on hiking trails and go fishing! Doug is the president of the Peter Wolfe Chapter of the North Country Trail Association.

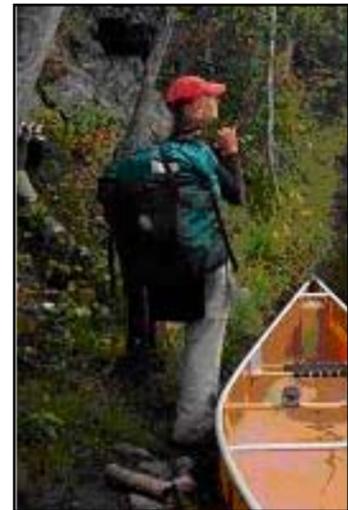


Dean Juntunen

"Paddling the Waters of the Western UP."

Dean Juntunen is an enthusiastic paraplegic paddler from the boonies back of Mass City who enjoys kayaking on all types of water.

Dean's presentation will focus on the rivers of the Western UP, particularly Ontonagon County, and the Western UP's Lake Superior shoreline.



Keren Tischler

"Learning the Language of Loons: An Exploration into the Lives of Loons."

Admiration of loons pervades cultures far and wide, yet much of their behavior remains an enigma to loon enthusiasts. Through images, sounds and stories, this presentation will explore what careful observation has taught us about loons at various sites in the mainland UP and on Isle Royale. Through a lens of understanding, it is my hope that we can transform our enthusiasm for loons into action that results in their protection and stewardship of the "coast" that is common between us.

I encourage you to come prepared to sketch or write during this presentation if you are so inspired. A graduate of Northland College and Michigan Tech, where I received a MS in Forest Ecology under Rolf

Peterson, I have had the privilege to observe and engage in loon studies in the Midwest, Canada and Florida for over 15 years. My current post is at Common Coast Research & Conservation, a Hancock-based non-profit organization dedicated to loon protection in Michigan.



Dave Dillman

"Bats: Misunderstood Bug-eating Machines."

Bats are misunderstood and often vilified wonders of nature. This program will explore myths and facts surrounding bats, their basic biology, their roles in the ecosystem, research efforts, and threats to their survival.

I grew up in northern Indiana and graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology. I served for four years in the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman in Germany and during the Gulf War. My work experience includes

environmental consulting for an international environmental firm, assistant property manager on a state tree nursery, and as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service. My wife (an author and reviewer) and I are proud parents of our daughter and we also have a beautiful granddaughter. We enjoy hiking, movies, and our pets.



Joseph Youngman

"Bird Migration Through the Keweenaw."

An overview of bird migration through the Keweenaw and central Lake Superior with special emphasis on raptors and waterbirds.

I'm 55 years old, lived in UP since 1977. Married and work in Chassell Township. I do lots of work on breeding birds and bird migration in the UP and Lake Superior.



Rick Loduha

"Use it Up. Wear it Out. Make it Do or Do Without: Sustainable Living, Yooper Style."

If we want to address the question: "What is Sustainable Keweenaw?", we can expect answers as diverse as the many challenges. Achieving global sustainability will necessarily be a bioregional accomplishment. We will be one of a vast mosaic of sustainable communities, and in the Keweenaw we will use a local focus that honors the rich quality of our natural environment and the unique spirit of our regional culture.

Rick Loduha's professional experience includes production design, exhibit design, modular furniture design, modular architecture, architectural renovation and sustainable design education. Rick presently leads the Integrated Design program at Finlandia University – International School of Art + Design, a unique program that spans product design, interior architecture and sustainable design systems with emphasis on achieving sustainable community. Rick is also co-director of Finlandia's Sustainable Keweenaw Resource Center (SKRC), an online/on-the-ground resource library addressing: "What is Sustainable Keweenaw?"

