

Upper Peninsula
Environmental Coalition
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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.

UPEC awards nine environmental education grants

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC) recently awarded nine environmental education grants totaling \$3,600. These grants will support programs across the UP, connecting an estimated 1,250 youths with 350 adults to deepen their knowledge, appreciation, and stewardship of the region. The number of programs funded, total support, and anticipated impact are all records.

UPEC's support is part of a diverse environmental education partnership that includes community organizations, foundations, state and federal resource management agencies, universities, K-12 school districts, intermediate school districts, and other nonprofit environmental advocacy groups (See related story on Pages 1 and 13).

Grant recipients for 2014 include:

- **Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative.** This project will include an intense period of biological surveying at the Steve Farm Nature Area at Lovell Creek near Point Mills in the Dollar Bay area.
- **Marquette Alternative High School.** As part of their class covering nuclear chemistry, students will measure radiation levels within the environment.
- **Iron County Museum.** At the Aileen Fisher Environmental Day Camp, youths will learn about local ecology, past history, and the role their personal

choices and advocacy will play in preserving a well balanced ecosystem.

- **Life of Lake Superior Youth Program.** This project in Munising entails a series of outdoor experiences designed to open young minds about Lake Superior's vast natural, cultural and economic potential.
- **North Star Academy.** Marquette students will learn about local weather patterns and water science. They also will learn about economics and biology while growing/selling food from their own garden.
- **E.A.R.T.H. Angels.** Using aerial performance art this program will raise awareness of environmental issues through the children's play "Becky Saves the Bees."
- **LesCheneaux Community Schools.** UPEC is assisting with the funding to design and construct a greenhouse in Cedarville.
- **Grant Township School.** The goal is to plant a vegetable garden as part of the Copper Harbor community garden.
- **MooseWood Nature Center.** An outreach and education program will offer experimental learning opportunities that feature Great Lakes ecology.

Env Ed Grants See Page 14

UP Environment

Spring 2014

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition's quarterly newsletter.

UPEC is the UP's oldest grassroots environmental organization.

Join us for the 6th Celebrate the UP! on March 21-22



The Specter of CR 595: Will the Zombie Rise Again?

By Jon Saari, UPEC Board member

The proposed route for County Road 595, linking the Eagle Mine and Humboldt Mill, follows Snowmobile Trail 5 north from Wolf Lake about 12 miles into the headwaters of Mulligan Creek. The forestland there is owned by Plum Creek, and word was that the company was improving the two-track road in preparation for an extensive logging operation in 2014. Three of us (Dave Allen and I from UPEC and Steve Garske from Save the Wild UP) drove up in early November in a snow squall to check out what was happening, before the route became snow-covered and impassable.



Jon Saari, left, and Steve Garske at the gated area of Plum Creek Timber's freshly bulldozed road in the vicinity of the Mulligan Creek headwaters. Photo by Dave Allen

a mile between the gates the old two-tracks had been bulldozed into wide swathes with run-offs and drainage ponds along the sides. A new bridge for vehicles crossed the main branch of the Mulligan. The road construction was a raw open wound in the landscape; the site is sure to erode badly in the spring snow melt before a gravel layer can firm up the roadbed. But modern logging roads are made to last, and this segment of proposed CR 595 will have a roadbed that could one day be much more easily converted into a mining haul road.

This scene made us wonder if this logging operation had another long-term purpose. How often in the history of this road have overt claims masked CR 595 See Page 2

UPEC plays vital role in regional environmental education

By Maggie Scheffer, UPEC Board member

Children are active and social beings who have an innate curiosity about the world around them. These attributes provide a springboard into the vast and wonderful world of learning. The outdoors provides the 'classroom'.

UPEC's Role in Environmental Education

Each year the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition supports environmental education (EE) in the UP through grants to schools, organizations, and individuals proposing projects that show a commitment to environmental literacy. For 2014, UPEC devoted \$3,600 to nine projects throughout the UP. These grants support schools, museums, and organizations providing outdoor learning and projects for real-life problem-solving.

No other nonprofit entity provides this kind of financial support to EE for our youth in the UP. Currently, the only federal funding would come through the Office of Environmental Education, which is within the Environmental Protection Agency, not the Department of Education. The

Michigan Department of Education website offers environmental curriculum units for grades 3-9, and "hopes to provide meaningful information and resources to assist students. See Page 13



Stambaugh Elementary students plant a tree for the next generation of students to enjoy. Photos by Maggie Scheffer

Are rumors of CR 595's death greatly exaggerated?

CR 595 From Page 1
 other half-hidden agendas? How often have transparency and accountability been compromised by public officials and citizens left in the dark? So when in January, 2013 the *Marquette Mining Journal* headline proclaimed "CR 595 Project Killed," many opponents were skeptical that this was the last we would hear about the proposed haul road for the Eagle Mine. CR 595 in all its incarnations is like a zombie. It seems dead, but then reappears in new guises.

First the road was the private Woodland Road, then a public county road funded by the mining company. Its latest incarnation is as THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION to the trucking dilemma of the City of Marquette and Marquette Township. Last fall the City Council proposed a highly restrictive trucking ordinance within the city, thus forcing all parties anew to the negotiating table. A bypass around Marquette is being proposed as the short-term solution, but reviving CR 595 within a regional transportation plan is seen as a long-term solution.

The proponents cheering this revival are a familiar cast: County Commissioners Gerald Corkin and Deb Pellow and Road Commission Engineer-Manager Jim Iwanicki, but there is a new voice among them, State Senator Tom Caspersen (R-Escanaba) and his aide Matt Fittante. At a meeting in Marquette township Fittante mesmerized a group of local administrators, planners, and politicians who were all too eager to see the proposed CR 595 as the solution to their transportation woes.

Never mind that the mine was permitted without a comprehensive look at its outside-the-fence regional impacts. In the 2006 permit application the ore from the Eagle Mine



was to be trucked to a railhead north of Marquette. But after Kennecott/Rio Tinto purchased the Humboldt Mill in 2008, the transportation route was changed to CR 550 and US-41 through the City of Marquette. Efforts began to promote a direct north-south route from mine to mill through mostly undeveloped wild lands.

It is an intense controversy made to the liking of Senator Tom Caspersen. He isn't known for getting all the facts straight, as in his promotion of the first wolf hunt in Michigan. He has championed some of the most anti-science natural resource legislation ever seen in Michigan, including a bill to eliminate biodiversity as a value in state forest planning (SB 78). His interest in CR 595 is to use it as a case study of "bad behavior" by federal regulatory agencies, particularly the EPA, and of "over-reaching" environmental laws, such as the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. He was invited to Washington, D.C. last year to make that argument at a House hearing, using CR 595 as an example.

Caspersen's agenda of weakening federal environmental regulations must be taken seriously. But local officials and planners should not be lured into serving his long-term agenda, just because CR 595 appears to give them a solution to a temporary truck traffic problem. There are good reasons why this latest revival of CR 595 should not, and probably will not, succeed.

First, the collusion of public officials in brokering a haul road for an international mining company sets a bad precedent. It creates the false impression that the road is a
 CR 595 See Page 3

About UPEC...

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a 40-year track record of protecting and seeking to enhance the unique environmental qualities of the UP through public education and 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.

UP Environment is published four times a year and available online to share with family & friends. 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. You can also visit us at www.upenvironment.org

UPEC Officers, Board and Staff

- President: William Malmsten
- Vice President: Nancy Warren
- Secretary: Sherry Zoars
- Treasurer: Jon Saari
- Board Members:
 - David Allen Connie Julien (Webmaster)
 - Robert Evans Margaret Scheffer
 - Connie Sherry Doug Welker
- Staff: David Clanaugh, Newsletter Editor & Business/Communications Manager

North Woods Native Plant Society focuses on wilderness

The North Woods Native Plant Society is a group of professional and amateur botanists interested in learning about and protecting the native plants and plant communities of the western UP and northern Wisconsin. We schedule free botany hikes to special places during the summer.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act so we're headed out to see what botanical wonders can be found in regional wilderness areas. To get on the email list, send a message to nwnpsociety@gmail.com. You'll receive details of each trip beforehand.

A tentative schedule of outings includes:

Saturday, June 7 in Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness northeast of Sidnaw, Michigan during Breeding Bird Census Weekend.

Saturday, June 14 at Blackjack Wilderness near Phelps, Wisconsin.

July TBA in the Trap Hills.

Saturday, July 26 at the Ottawa National Forest Wilderness Celebration with hikes in the Sylvania Wilderness near Watersmeet, Michigan.

Saturday, August 2 at the Bittersweet Lakes State Natural Area near Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin.

UPEC's North Country Trail segment: Yours to enjoy & help maintain

By Doug Welker, UPEC Board member

UPEC has adopted four miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail south of Alston. The trail traverses the remains of an old CCC camp and some old-growth hemlocks, crosses two beautiful clear streams with remote scenic camping opportunities nearby, and descends a knife-edge ridge with seasonal southerly views up the Sturgeon River valley.

The trail needs annual maintenance and some reroutes to eliminate overly steep sections of the trail. Marjory Johnston and Doug Welker are the regular maintainers, but this year we'd like your help for maintenance and especially for the reroutes, which will require new trail cut into hillsides.

If you think you might be interested in helping contact Doug at dwelker@up.net. The dates will be weather dependent, and I'll give you updates on work sessions. Information on UPEC's trail segment is at www.northcountrytrail.org/pwf/segments_35-37.doc. Make sure you check out the photos.

And, of course, you may just want to hike it! Do not attempt, however, if streams are running high because there are no bridges.

Receive action alerts & breaking news: Sign up for UPEC's new e-newsletter!

UPEC recently launched an e-newsletter and action alert system powered by Constant Contact. If you are interested in receiving these emails, please sign up at <http://goo.gl/7vDng4>



Learning about wild rice lake ecology and native harvesting of rice with Rod Sharka on Allequash Lake near Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, just across the UP border.

Saturday, August 16 at the McCormick Wilderness, Yellow Dog Falls near Marquette, Michigan.

Visit the NWNPS website at <http://www.northwoodsnativeplantsociety.org> for more information about the group and current details about this year's hikes.



Marjory Johnston fords the Silver River on a segment of the North Country Trail maintained by UPEC.

Photo by Doug Welker

Hands-on K-12 science, art, theater receive UPEC support

Env Ed Grants From Page 16

UPEC board member Connie Sherry chaired a committee that reviewed proposals and made funding recommendations to the full UPEC board at its January meeting. Other committee members included UPEC board members Nancy Warren and Doug Welker, and Friends of the Land of Keweenaw (FOLK) President Linda Rulison (a retired K-12 educator).

All programs will have strong hands-on and outdoor components. Although science figures prominently in many of the projects, experiences in the arts and theater also will play key roles in fostering awareness, appreciation and stewardship through personally relevant experiences. This

diversity of programs reflects UPEC board members' appreciation for a holistic approach to environmental awareness and advocacy.

"Becoming involved in the UPEC Education Grant Committee has been a heartening experience for me," Sherry said. "I believe that educating children is the responsibility of the whole community and that awarding these grants to projects all over the Upper Peninsula has been a win-win situation. We were able to award most grant requests this year in full. The pictures and feedback that we get from these grant recipients make us determined to continue to find ways to finance these grants. As a teacher told me years ago, 'The real classroom is outside – get into it!'"

Remembering & honoring those who share stewardship values

UP Environment provides a place to remember and honor people dear to us in the name of environmental protection and stewardship. Your gift in Honor or Memory of others enables them to continue participating in UPEC's work. If you want your contribution to honor or remember someone, please provide relevant information below with that contribution.

- In Memory of John M. Allen by Edith Maynard**
- In Memory of Larry Haack by Elaine Haack**
- In Memory of Robert Mitchinson by Allison Mitchinson**
- In Memory of Al Oshe by Michael Gillman**
- In Memory of William Mataczynski by David Clanaugh**
- In Honor of Dr. Tom Drummer by Greg Corace**
- In Honor of Christine Saari by Steve Syrja**

Celebrating Tom Church's generosity: His life & his legacy

UPEC Board members express appreciation for a generous bequest from the estate of Tom Church, a Watersmeet resident who passed away in June 2013. Church worked on numerous environmental issues across the region over his too short, but active, lifetime. He tirelessly advocated for wilderness in the Upper Lakes Region and was deeply involved in protecting the

Sylvania, in particular from invasive species and inappropriate motorboat use. He served on the Friends of Sylvania Board and also played a key role in the development of the Agonikak Trail in the Watersmeet-Land O' Lakes area.

The UPEC Board plans to continue to follow Church's example of environmental advocacy and has begun a process for stewarding his bequest. UPEC will communicate more about its plans during upcoming months.

An interview with Church regarding the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Act is available at tinyurl.com/l9z6g9d. Visit upenvironment.org/newsletter.html for a tribute to Church by Robert Evans in the Fall 2013 *UP Environment*. The Spring 2013 newsletter has an article by Church about the Agonikak Trail. Both articles start on Page 1.



Tom Church paddles Crooked Lake. Photo by Ian Shackelford

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 UPEC receive more funding, 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 1-800-875-3863 or visit www.earthsharemichigan.org



Can wilderness without diminish the wild within?

Reflections on challenges facing environmentalism

By Editor David Clanaugh

Many, if not most, of us have been engaged over the years with the notion of wilderness as well as experiences in places that bear this status. So as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of federal wilderness legislation, the feminist rallying cry "the personal is political" rings true. In fact, this phrase brings to mind a conversation I had during the late 1980s while hiking in the McCormick Tract with Michigan Congressman Dale Kildee. As a journalist, I asked Kildee to share his primary motivation for championing the Michigan Wilderness Act (now 25 years old). Kildee replied that his children's encouragement (and a bit of nagging) underpinned this commitment – what could be more personal than that?

My "personal" wilderness perspective has various sources. As a youngster, when I wasn't building forts or catching frogs in Wisconsin's Northwoods, I was watching Fess Parker's portrayals of Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone, as well as reading (and dreaming) about the Appalachian Trail. Even though my peasant grandmother warned me about the discomforts of being cold, damp, dirty, and mosquito-bitten, I longed for the combination of adventure and solitude that wilderness promised. Yet Grandma's words were prophetic, because as an "emancipated" 18-year-old I called her from a tavern in Marengo during my first bike camping trip to the Porkies. Pervasive rain from Silver City on the shores of Gitchee-Gumee all along Lake Gogebic to Marengo had somewhat dampened my spirits for the wilderness lifestyle. That warm ride home provided restoration and reflection about wilderness's perils.

Public officials set bad precedent promoting mine road

CR 595 From Page 2
multi-purpose public undertaking when in fact it is a haul road directly from mine to mill. This repurposing of a haul road did not pass the scrutiny of the Corps of Engineers the first few times around, so why should it now when the Corps would be the lead permitting agency?

Second, after the DEQ denied the permit, the game changed. The mining company returned to its currently permitted route and is investing in improving county roads AAA, 510, and 550, not to mention a Marquette bypass and street improvements within the city. How can anyone with a straight face argue that CR 595 with its significant wetland destruction is still necessary because there is no viable transportation alternative? The route may take longer to travel but it will be an upgraded trucking route ready to use by the time the mine opens.

Third, Rio Tinto/Lundin is unlikely to reoffer \$80 million for constructing CR 595, now that it has invested over half of that into the "alternative" original route. The company needs the other half to pay for the greater energy costs

Perhaps my most formative wilderness experience was during an interview I conducted during the 50th anniversary celebration of Isle Royale's designation as a national park. I was working in Calumet as a college intern at the now-defunct *Copper Island Sentinel*. Colleague John Spagnoli and I were charged by our publisher with covering the story, but only one of us would have our boat fare paid to the island. John had tendered his resignation and would soon be moving back to Arizona; I was confident of many coming opportunities to make the trip, so I told John to board the Isle Royale Queen. And then I started turning over stones on the mainland to find a story to tell about Isle Royale.

Through word of mouth I learned of a couple of elders (a brother and sister) who had summered with their family on Isle Royale before it became a national park. "Summering" in this case did not involve staying in a cozy cabin with plentiful time to hike, sportfish, paint, and generally recreate. Instead, the family lived in a temporary fish camp: catching, cleaning, and packing fish for market. They didn't own a patch of land as a base of operations; they were squatters managing to earn a living through intense seasonal labor and cunning. These were lower working class folks with little power in society who had *Reflecting on Wilderness See Page 4*



Rethinking wilderness & wildness could engage estranged allies

Reflecting on Wilderness From Page 3
managed to eke out an economic toehold. As someone from a similar background, just fast-forwarded 50 years, I instantly resonated with them.

Much of the interview involved capturing their daily experiences. Although they recalled the strenuousness of the work, it was with much fondness and a touch of nostalgia – and they spoke longingly of together enjoying an incredibly remote and beautiful area. As the interview unfolded, the time came to talk about national park designation's effects on their family. The tone at that point became somber and poignant, with undercurrents of anger and resentment. As this family was evicted from its living and its place, the kids watched other families remain, grandfathered in because of wealth, privilege, and political influence.

“Proper” folks with the power of property remained, while improper folks with limited property and of lesser value were shown the door. Folks domesticated through mastering the rules of society continued to enjoy wilderness, while wild and untamed folks who had not mastered the rules were marginalized – to neither disparage the former nor romanticize the latter.

The question in this for me was thus: Can wilderness as a place “without” carry the price of erasing a bit of human wildness “within”? I think these tensions and questions remain relevant today because perhaps not much has changed. Those with massive amounts of property continued to enjoy disproportionate political influence and access to privileged experiences while the creative wildness within a growing percentage of humanity bears increasing pressures.

The environmental and wilderness advocacy movements were paradoxically born of privilege and affluence: material, social, and psychic. The Miller Family, the McCormicks, and the U.S Steel executives bequeathed privatized nature preserves to the public domain. These folks benefited from treaties with the *Anishinabee* and other mechanisms that allowed common land to become private property, yet hearteningly reached a point of giving back. After corporations liquidated timber and extracted the easy ore, these wealth-depleted lands often became tax delinquent. The national forests and their designated wildernesses were in part born out of “the lands that nobody wanted” when privileged, educated, and creative people stepped outside themselves with an eye toward the common good. Now the drilling rigs and biomass entrepreneurs have returned, hungry for more extraction.

Even though on balance there is strong evidence that the benefits of wilderness outweigh the drawbacks, it would do us well as environmentalists to reflect on the paradoxes of privilege and affluence that enabled the wilderness movement to emerge and bear fruit, yet left many people feeling discarded.

I have a mechanic friend – a truly bright and hardworking fellow – who erupts with obscenities at the mere mention of

“environmentalist” or “wilderness.” Yet he treats me well even though I have confessed to being an environmentalist! The first time an eruption occurred during one of our conversations, I wanted to write him off as a crackpot. But then the part of me that resonated with those Isle Royale fisher folks slowed down enough to just listen and be present with the anger and resentment. I realized he is a descendent of those fisher folks.

I also realized that I feel a similar anger and resentment when fellow environmental folks express contempt for or disparage those who “don't get it” – or worse when environmentalists dismiss voices from within our ranks that ask hard questions and propose different ways of thinking about and doing our work. We have lost too many creative and passionate people because of these dysfunctional dynamics; we need to responsibly examine and change ourselves so this stops. Otherwise we risk becoming an isolated, comfortable club that accomplishes much less than is possible – and is so urgently needed.

Even though we have more designated, yet tenuous, wilderness than ever, we belong to an increasingly pacified population. The wildness within us that harbors the potential for creatively rethinking and reenacting our ways of living is more circumscribed than ever because of pervasive insecurity, vulnerability, and devaluation. To the degree that the environmental movement has contributed to this phenomenon, we really need to take a long, hard look at the paradox of privilege that can blind us to seeing allies among those with anger and resentment. Often those potential allies have been enticed by the easy fixes offered through profit-hungry corporate visions; we need to be more respectful, authentic, and creative in alternatively engaging these potential allies. These disaffected potential allies are one major living reality that enables “zombies” like County Road 595 to keep arising from the grave!

We also need to do a better job of supporting and growing from the differences within our ranks so that we can more constructively engage the differences outside our ranks – this is the most challenging and humbling, yet most vital, work before us. It will take an informed, democratic groundswell of people to change politics, policies, and courts that seem increasingly unresponsive. How to understand, for example, a disappointing response when I left a message a few years ago at Rep. Kildee's office to share concerns about the Eagle Mine's potential impacts on the McCormick Wilderness?

We are all co-implicated in this deeply challenging time. Only by listening, learning, and creating diversely shared ways of living – neither over-entitled nor under-entitled – will we extricate ourselves from the dilemmas we have created. Together we need to create positive, compelling, and engaging ways to channel our desires attuned with the world's realities instead of human mythologies. Then we won't need to ‘escape’ to wilderness because the wildness within us all will be able to freely emerge and co-exist in all our magnificent difference.

Michigan Green Schools offers partnership opportunities

Environmental Education From Page 1
dents, educators, and everyone else to learn more about the environment and to foster environmental stewardship.” The website makes no mention of funding.

Forging Partnerships

How might the UPEC's education grant program support environmental literacy in Upper Peninsula schools? Through Michigan Green Schools (michiangreenschools.us), K-12 schools are given an incentive to integrate EE in their curricula in order for students and educators to learn more about the environment and to foster environmental stewardship. Michigan Green Schools recognizes schools that have earned 10-20 points for fulfilling requirements in four categories: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle; energy; environmental protection; and miscellaneous environmental projects. Points earned designate schools at one of three levels: Green School (10 points), Emerald School (15 points), and Evergreen School (20 points). Each school is awarded a large flag with their designation and a certificate signed by the governor. At its start in 2006, 18 schools achieved Green School status; last year 389 schools became official Michigan Green Schools.

This year, over 700 schools are participating in the growing program. Ten of 12 Upper Peninsula counties now have “Green Schools”.

What explanation is there for such popular response to a program where direct funding is nonexistent? (Only educational resources are provided each year). Recognition aside, it is apparent that educators, administrators and the public appreciate the rationale and benefits of offering EE in our schools, despite delays in the adoption of national core curriculum standards within science and social studies. Of the many reasons cited in education research, these are some of the more obvious:

- Increased study of science and nature and increased outdoor time has proven extremely beneficial for cognitive functioning, reduced symptoms of attention deficit disorder, increased self-discipline and emotional well-being.
- Environmental education engages students' minds and hearts, often in real-world investigations that are inquiry-based, interdisciplinary, and supportive of a standards-based curriculum.

- EE reduced discipline and classroom management problems.
- EE is shown to increase engagement and enthusiasm for learning.
- EE results in greater student pride and ownership in accomplishments.
- EE helps familiarize students with careers in environmental fields.
- Current evidence supports the premise that, “compared to traditional educational approaches, environmental-based education improves academic performance across the curriculum.” (National EE and Training Foundation).
- The vast majority of Americans are convinced that the environment will become at least one of the dominant issues and challenges of the 21st Century, as the escalating needs of the growing global population increasingly press up against the limits of the earth's resources and ecosystems.

Shared Commitments

Many of the activities that would fulfill the criteria required to earn points for Green School designation can be achieved with minimal expense. With school budgets stretched to their limits, assistance from outside sources can make environmental education a reality for school staff and students wishing to integrate EE in their curricula. UPEC's Environmental Education Fund is designed to provide modest grants each year to educator-promoted environmental projects within K-12 schools (public or private) in the Upper Peninsula.

It's a natural relationship that accomplishes two important goals: UPEC supports UP schools endeavoring to become a Michigan Green School, while at the same time increasing opportunities for children to associate and connect with nature. The benefits can be complementary and far-reaching!

For more information and assistance on Green School activities and designation, go to michiangreenschools.us. County coordinators are listed in the “contact” tab.

Become a member of UPEC, the oldest organization in Michigan's Upper Peninsula devoted to environmental issues. UPEC's mission: “To protect and maintain the unique environmental qualities of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by educating the public and acting as a watchdog to industry and government.”

Maggie Scheffer is a K-1 educator, gardener, and an advocate for outdoor play. She lives and teaches in Iron River.



One shovel at a time!

A Special Thank You

*Editor's Note: Mark and Christine Troudt have again generously lent financial support for **Celebrate the UP!** They share a bit about their love for the region.*

We first visited the UP in 1996 during a convention in Marquette. Before we returned to our home state of Wisconsin, we had made an offer on a lake property in Marquette County. The property was placed into a conservation easement in 2006.

We love visiting the UP and enjoying the beauty of the land and waters and abundant variety of wildlife. This is such a special place to us that we intend to retire in the UP and continue to enjoy and preserve the pristine nature of these remote lands.

We have attended the UPEC Celebrate the UP event every year, and we have always enjoyed being with like-minded nature lovers who share our passion for the UP in a positive setting. We are very pleased to be able to sponsor this event and look forward to meeting new people in the UP who we have always found to be very friendly and have a genuine concern for the environment. We are committed to doing whatever we can to keep the UP a special place for this and future generations.



Celebrate the UP!

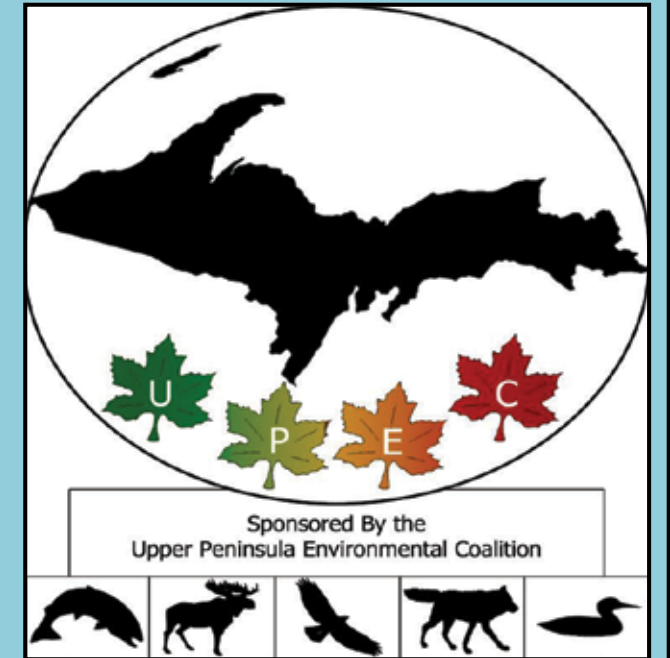
Friday & Saturday

March 21-22, 2014

Finlandia University

Jutla Center

Hancock, Michigan



Fri., March 21		Presentations & Locations		
7 – 9 pm	At Home in the North Woods: Reflections on Belonging to a Place John Bates, Keynote Speaker in Room 323 (Chapel)			
Sat., March 22		Room 323 (Chapel)	Room 324	Room 722
9:30 – 10:30 am	Cultural & Ecological Importance of Wild Rice (<i>Manoomin</i>) – Roger LaBine	Special Plants and Special Places of the Western UP – Ian Shackelford	Mapping Memory, Honoring Place – Phyllis Fredendall	
10:45 – 11:45 am	Wild Rice from Lake to Table – Roger LaBine	Climate Change and UP Forests: Risks, Opportunities & Ways to Adapt – Stephen Handler	Radical Sharing: Flex Car to Zip Car and Beyond – Amlan Mukherjee	
11:45 am – 1 pm		Lunch is available at the Kangas Café on the third (main) floor of the Jutla Center		
1 – 2 pm	The Cold, Hard Facts about Winter Camping – Don Watson & Doug Welker	It's God's Country – Don't Forget Your Camera – Bill Rinkinen	History of the Porkies – Bob Wild	
2:15 – 3:15 pm	Canoeing Wild Rivers of the Western UP – Ray Weglarz	Waterbird Migration through Lake Superior – Joseph Youngman	Local Farm to School, Hospital & Restaurant – Mark Pitillo	
3:30 – 4:45 pm Room 323	Panel Discussion: 50 Years of Wilderness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wilderness Acts of 1964 and 1987: How the Western UP Got Its Forest Service Wildernesses, and How We Keep Them Wild – Doug Welker • Protecting the Porkies: A Key to Michigan Wilderness and the Natural Areas Program – Bob Wild • Legislated Wilderness in National Parks & Isle Royale in Particular: Is It Needed, Is It Valid, Is It the Highest Form of Federal Lands Protection? – Bill Fink 			
5 – 6:30 pm	Closing Reception will be in Room 323 – Please Join Us!			

Yes! I Want to Partner with UPEC in Making a Difference!

Please complete and give this to a UPEC board member or mail to UPEC; PO Box 673; Houghton, MI 49931
Or you can contribute on-line through justgive.org at UPEC's website at www.upenvironment.org

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

Gift Membership (please provide person's name and mailing address on reverse side of this form)

In Honor or Memory (please circle) of _____
(please provide person's or family's name and mailing address on reverse side of this form)

UPEC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; your contribution is tax-deductible. Your support helps us work together to protect and enhance the UP's unique natural environment. Please consider making a gift membership to help us expand our circle of people working together. You may also contribute in **Memory** or **Honor** of a family member or friend.

Also consider enclosing a note with your contribution with feedback about this newsletter and UPEC's work.

Name: _____

I'm already a member, but I'd like to make additional contributions to these funds:

Address: _____

Environmental Education

City, State, Zip: _____

Land Acquisition/Protection

Phone: _____

Community Outreach

Email: _____

Unrestricted

Marquette County Community Foundation Fund

Phone & Email information is optional – Thanks for your Support!

Presentation Overviews

Friday, March 21 — Kick-off — Finlandia University Jutila Center

2 to 5 pm Sustainable Keweenaw Resource Center Room:
Quarterly UPEC Board meeting. All are welcome.

Room 323
7 pm

Keynote Speaker John Bates

At Home in the Northwoods: Reflections on Belonging to a Place

Finding a true sense of place is a life-long endeavor, sometimes joyful, frequently revelatory, and often full of mosquitoes and black flies. The endless questions are how do we come to belong to a place, and how do we honor it? I like the quote, "There is no truth. Seek it lovingly." That's what we'll do.

Throughout Celebrate the UP you are encouraged to visit the 6th Floor hallways where over 300 beautiful photos of local wildflowers are on display.

Saturday, March 22 — Finlandia University Jutila Center

9:30 - 10:30 am

Room 323 Roger LaBine: **An Introduction to the Cultural and Ecological Importance of Wild Rice (*Manoomin*)**

Most people don't know that *manoomin*, or wild rice, grows in Michigan and that it has significant cultural importance to the Anishinaabe people of the Great Lakes Region. It is rich habitat for a variety of wildlife species and unfortunately has experienced serious decline since the mid-1800s. This introductory presentation will provide information on the ecology of *manoomin* and its cultural and spiritual significance to the *Anishinaabek*, a beautiful example of the connection between people and the land.

Room 324 Ian Shackleford: **Special Plants and Special Places of the Western UP**
An overview of plant communities found in the western Upper Peninsula, and some of the rare plants found within.

Room 722 Phyllis Fredendall: **Mapping Memory, Honoring Place**
A love for the lake, a fascination with maps, ancestral mining history, a residency on Isle Royale, and countless hours picking berries and swimming in Superior have shaped a body of artwork made physical in wool and silk. Place and memory will be shared through images of art and stories of its inspiration.

10:45 - 11:45 am

Room 323 Roger LaBine: **Manoomin: Wild Rice from Lake to Table**
This session will introduce you to the tools necessary to harvest *manoomin* (wild rice) from the lake and process the seeds (grain) for storage or preparation for serving using the traditional processing methods of the *Ojibway*.



Joseph Youngman

Joseph has lived in the Keweenaw since 1976 and works for Chassell Township. He has conducted bird surveys on Michipicoten Island, Isle Royale, Manitou Island, Outer Porphyry Island, Battle Island, AuSable Point, and throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Bob Wild

Bob holds a bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University in outdoor recreation leadership and management. He has worked for the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, MooseWood Nature Center, and Michigan State Parks. In 2005 Bob transferred from Tahquamenon Falls State Park to the Porkies.



Please See Page 12 for a Special Thank You!

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 during recent years from grocery receipts collected by UPEC members. 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 \$52 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!

How to Contact Your State Legislators

38th District Senator Tom Casperson
517-373-7840; SenTCasperson@senate.mi.gov

107th District Rep. Frank Foster
517-373-2629; FrankFoster@house.mi.gov

108th District Rep. Ed McBroom
517-373-0156; EdMcBroom@house.mi.gov

109th District Rep. John Kivela
517-373-0498; JohnKivela@house.mi.gov

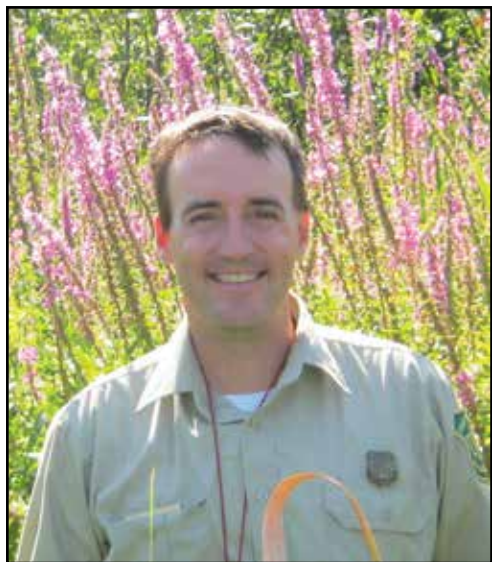
110th District Rep. Scott Dianda
517-373-0850; scottdianda@house.mi.gov

For more info: www.legislature.mi.gov



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Ian Shackelford

Ian has been a botanist for the Ottawa National Forest since 2001. He has a B.S. in botany from Humboldt State University in California, and an M.S. in botany from Miami University of Ohio. Ian lives in Ironwood with his wife and their two children.

Don Watson

Don has winter camped since his public school days in lower Michigan, in the UP during college, in Alaska's Arctic Brooks Range, on the ice of the Chukchi Sea, on the Upper Yukon, along the shore of Hudson Bay,



and the Boundary Waters. He has used various approaches: cold camping on ice in bivy sacks, dog sledding with tents and tarps, hot tent camping with pyramid-style double-wall tents, canvas wall tents, and muslin tents with titanium wood stoves. Comfort and safety can be had in any of the aforementioned modes as long as planning and vigilance for the trip is maintained.

Ray Weglarz

Ray attended nursing school at Michigan Technological University, graduating in 1977 while falling in love with the Western Upper Peninsula. Drawn by the wild rivers, streams and fish, Ray settled in the Keweenaw Peninsula with his wife Viki in 1985 to raise their four daughters in a rural setting close to the land, growing much of their own food on a 20-acre homestead. Ray's love of canoeing and rivers has fueled his conservation concerns. Via the Western Upper Peninsula Canoe Association, he has worked as an intervener in the Bond Falls FERC re-licensing process to advocate for the rivers and more natural flows. Ray was awarded The Order of the Caddis by Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited for cold water conservation work with the Copper Country Council of Trout Unlimited.



Doug Welker

Doug has been a UPEC board member since 1987. He's also active with the North Country Trail Association, FOLK, the North Woods Native Plant Society, and other groups. His interests include trail construction and maintenance, natural area protection, forestry, education, ecology, fishing, and other non-motorized sports. Doug has degrees in geology and in solar heating and cooling technology, and has worked as a geologist, energy auditor, wilderness ranger, and in education. He and his wife Marjory Johnston live near Alston, in a passive solar, superinsulated home that he designed and built. They have a second home in Atlantic Mine.

Room 324 Stephen Handler: **Climate Change and UP Forests: Risks, Opportunities & Ways to Adapt**

Forests of the Upper Peninsula have been shaped by our unique combination of landscape, climate, and management. Projected climate change may pose challenges to the long-term stability of our forests, so it is important for forest landowners to consider their particular risks, opportunities, and ways to adapt. This presentation will cover on-going work from the region related for climate change vulnerability and adaptation strategies for forest managers.

Room 722 Amlan Mukherjee: **Radical Sharing: Flex Car to Zip Car and Beyond**

Models for informally sharing resources have increasingly become popular. Car sharing, casual car-pooling and web-based peer-to-peer models such as Airbnb, present the beginnings of a new sharing economy. Based on the presenter's personal experiences with car sharing in Seattle, this talk will explore the possibilities and opportunities of radical sharing.

11:45 am – 1 pm: Lunch is available at the Kangas Café on the third (main) floor of the Jutila Center

1 – 2 p.m.

Room 323 Doug Welker and Don Watson: **The Cold, Hard Facts about Winter Camping**

We will describe our winter camping adventures and the full range of winter camping options that people might consider. We'll also show equipment we use, and have it on display for attendees to look over.

Room 324 Bill Rinkinen **It's God's Country - Don't Forget Your Camera!**

I have tried to capture digital images of the flora and fauna of this area. The presentation will include common wildlife, birds, flowers, butterflies, sunrises and some surprises. Included will be a few tips that you may not have thought of.

Room 722 Bob Wild: **History of the Porkies**

Copper mining, plane crashes, hermits and homesteaders have all played a role in the diverse history of the Porkies. Join Park Interpreter Bob Wild for this presentation on the history of Michigan's iconic Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

2:15 - 3:15 pm

Room 323 Ray Weglarz: **Canoeing the Wild Rivers of the Western UP**

We will explore and engage the imagination with pictures and stories, many close-to-home places seldom seen by regional residents and visitors. Along with a group of dedicated "river rats," Ray has canoed nearly 90 UP rivers and many more throughout the northern U.S. and Canada. Members of this group believe strongly in protecting our remaining free flowing rivers and working toward removal of all man-made dams in our region.

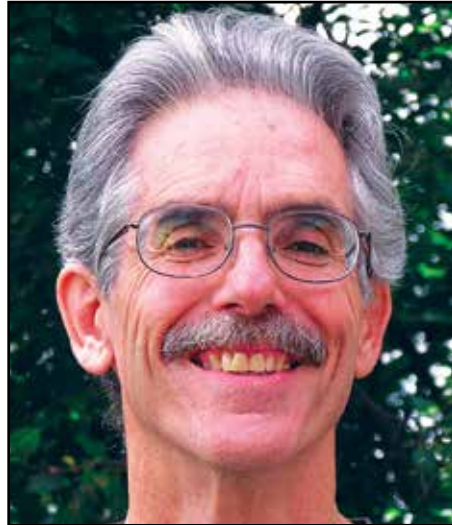
Room 324 Joseph Youngman: **Waterbird Migration through Lake Superior**

Waterbirds (loons, grebes, and ducks) move north and south through the Lake Superior Basin each spring and fall. Counts conducted at Thunder Cape, Isle Royale, Manitou Island, Big Bay, AuSable Point, and Whitefish Points are beginning to map out the main pathways these birds use.

Mark Pitillo: Local Farm to School, Hospital and Restaurant

We will explore the positive changes that we have made in the eating habits at Portage Health and our involvement in local schools. We will also preview our exciting future involvement in local schools. The Adams Township Schools together with the Keweenaw Community Foundation have formed a coalition to start a pilot program at Jeffers High School in the fall, titled "Eat Healthy Daily and Local One Day a Week."

Presenter Biographies



John Bates

John is the author of seven books and a contributor to seven others, all of which focus on the natural history of the Northwoods. John has worked as a naturalist in the Northwoods for 25 years, leading an array of trips all designed to help people further understand the remarkable diversity and beauty of nature, and our place within it.

Bill Fink

During his 34 year career with the National Park Service, Bill worked at park units in Maryland, Arizona, Hawaii, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Michigan, along with extended

details in Alaska. He was Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park from 1990 to 1992. He was the first Superintendent of Keweenaw National Historical Park. Bill retired in 2004 as Assistant Regional Director for the Midwest Region and chose to continue to live in the Keweenaw with his family.



Phyllis Fredendall

Born in the UP and formed by summers with grandparents in L'Anse and Painesdale, Phyllis found her way back after years in less magnetic parts of the Midwest. She teaches fiber and fashion design at Finlandia University and visits Finland annually for inspiration, education, and good bread.



Stephen Handler

Stephen works for the U.S. Forest Service



Northern Research Station and Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science in Houghton. He helps coordinate a broad effort across the Northwoods to help forest managers incorporate climate change considerations into forest management. Stephen joined NIACS in 2011 and loves calling the UP home. For additional information on Stephen's work, visit www.forestadaptation.org

Roger LaBine

Roger is an enrolled member of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (LVD) and a water resource technician. He is currently chairman of the LVD Culture and Conservation Committees and is co-chairman of the Native Wild Rice Coalition. He is active in wild rice restoration efforts on traditional and historic tribal lands and in area lakes and rivers. He shares his knowledge through conducting wild rice camps on his traditional homelands. Roger was inspired by his Uncle Niigaanash, who was also his mentor.



Amlan Mukherjee

Growing up in India, Amlan enjoyed hitch-hiking through remote rural areas, depending on nothing but the goodwill of strangers to get him places. Later, while residing in Seattle, he picked up car-sharing habits. All this came to good use when Amlan was forced to hitch a ride on the Pan American Highway in Peru. Amlan's car is almost always unlocked and, if you can find his keys, he would welcome you to use it when he is not. Amlan teaches civil and environmental engineering at Michigan Technological University.

Mark Pitillo

Mark has been a chef for the past twenty-plus years, currently working with Portage Health and area schools. Prior to his time in the Keweenaw, Mark spent most of years up and down the west coast including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. During this time Chef



Mark became aware of the importance of locally grown and raised food sources. He now resides in the Copper Country with his wife Michele and their four dogs, with an eye on raising awareness of buying food from local producers.



Bill Rinkinen

Bill is a member of the Copper Country Associated Artists and the Photographic Society of America. His work has been featured at the Ojibwa Community College Digital Photography exhibit; Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital Healing Wall, the Superior Camera Club of Marquette the Peter White Public Library, Gallery 325 in Baraga, and at regional court houses and county office buildings.