

Winter 2007



Winter along Lake Superior
Photo courtesy of
Jeannine McKenzie

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition

U.P. Environment



“A Celebration of the Upper Peninsula as Home” A Traveling Exhibition

Organized by the
Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition

UPEC is proud to announce its sponsorship of the above-mentioned traveling art exhibition. Running from August, 2007 through February, 2008, “Celebration” will present the works of 11 U.P. artists and, at this time, is scheduled for showings at six locations throughout the U.P. and northern Wisconsin. Other venues may be added closer to the starting date.

According to UPEC board member and the show’s co-curator, Joyce Koskenmaki, who is also a well-known regional artist participating in the show, the purpose of the exhibit is twofold: to showcase the work of outstanding U.P. artists who may not be familiar to those living outside the U.P., as well as to provide a thoughtful commentary on what it means to individual artists to call the U.P. home.

(Continued on Page 3)

Inside this issue:

A Sneak Peek at UPEC Art Show	Pg. 4
Bad Day on Yellow Dog Plains	Pg. 5
A Pilgrimage Site for the U.P.?	Pg. 6
The Arts	Pp 8-11
Thanks!	Pg. 12
Premium Partner Shares	Pg. 12
Environmental Education Grants	Pp 14-15

Don't forget those Econo Foods Slips!

Thanks to you and EconoFoods, UPEC has earned several hundred dollars over the past few years by submitting grocery receipts from the store 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 you were to save your slips and send them to us!

Either save them throughout the year and mail them off to us before the end of May, or simply hand them to a UPEC board member when you attend a meeting—whichever is most convenient. It's one of the easier ways you can offer your support.

About UPEC...

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a 30-year track record of protecting and seeking to maintain the unique environmental qualities of the U.P. 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 *Upper Peninsula Environment*, is published four times a year.

You can send us your comments (or contributions) by standard mail at P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931, or e-mail us at srasch@up.net.



Earth Share of Michigan allows working people to donate to environmental organizations through workplace giving campaigns.

Each year Earth Share 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 the Earth Share of Michigan giving option at your workplace and give to the annual payroll deduction plan.

For more information, call: 1-(800) 386-3326 or view their website at: www.earthsharemichigan.org

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(Traveling Exhibition continued from page 1)

“There are many wonderful artists living in the Upper Peninsula,” Ms. Koskenmaki noted. “Its remoteness from urban centers often makes it difficult to make their work known outside their local areas. But these artists choose to live in the relative wilderness for many reasons: chief among them is the love for place. The Upper Peninsula is beautiful. Its relatively uninhabited space, which still allows room for wild animals, birds, wetland creatures, native flora, forests, lakes, rivers, waterfalls and other natural features should be considered a national treasure.”

She added, “The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition is concerned about encroaching development as well as the effects of climate change, forest fragmentation, and (metallic) sulfide mining. This exhibition honors the voices of artists who love the land and feel deeply connected to it, (who are) offering their work as a celebration and an act of love and concern.”

The show will feature a variety of media contributed by John Lundeen of Munising, Marquette artists Ron Lukey, Vicki Allison Phillips, and Patrick St. Germaine, Ingrid Cline of Escanaba, Eric Munch, Calumet, Peg Sandin, Ironwood, Jan Manniko, the Keweenaw, Rex Marsh, Sault Ste. Marie, and Christine Saari from Marquette, who, along with Ms. Koskenmaki, who resides in Hancock, will serve as co-curator.

To whet your appetite for what the show has to offer, turn to page 4 to view an oil done on panel by John Lundeen entitled “Chance,” one of the pieces featured in the show.

Editor with Board Member Joyce Koskenmaki



Bear's Den Overlook at the Sturgeon River Gorge
Photo courtesy of Doug Welker

Smaller Doug adds: “Even though the land you see (in the picture) is within a designated Wilderness, it is owned by We Energies, which has the land up for sale. The Ottawa National Forest is hoping to purchase this land.” (The Fall 2006 edition of this newsletter included a sample letter of support for the Forest Service’s hoped-for purchase of this land. –Ed.)



"Chance"

An oil on panel (24 x 36) by John Lundeen dated 2006

Starting each day on the shore of lake Superior affects the start of my paintings. Each begins with a charcoal line, honoring the omnipresent horizon. From there, the mystery of the lake's presence takes over and anything is possible.

This painting, "Chance," represents life's randomness. The lake and clouds are part of an endless random cycle. The fish out of water: an image randomly formed in the clouds. Or a fisherman's random daydream. Cherries, a gambler's winning combination, when a random process produces significant results.

(John Lundeen lives in a beautiful house attached to a cliff overlooking the lake near Au Train. He received his MFA from UW-Madison. After spending his working career building houses in the manner of Frank Lloyd Wright, he now devotes full time to his art and has been actively exhibiting and winning awards for his paintings and sculpture.)

John's work will be part of the exhibition organized by the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, "A Celebration of the Upper Peninsula as Home," which is scheduled to open in Escanaba in August and to travel to Marquette, Rhineland, Hancock, Ironwood and Sault Ste. Marie during the next seven months. More information will be available in the next newsletter.)

- Joyce Koskenmaki

Bad Day on the Yellow Dog Plains

On January 9, 2007, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) issued their PROPOSED approval of Kennecott's Part 632 Michigan Permit Application. So what does that mean? It means that all of us may have only one more opportunity to voice our opposition before MDEQ decides to proceed with issuing a permit for Kennecott to begin active mining on the Yellow Dog Plains.

Public meetings have been scheduled for March 6, 7 and 8, 2007, in Marquette at Northern Michigan University in the Michigan and Huron Rooms in the University Center on campus. The hearings will run from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on each of those days.

It has been announced that the public hearings will cover

- DEQ's Air Use Permit
- DEQ's Draft Groundwater Discharge Permit
- DEQ's proposed decision to grant the mining permit

The DNR's Draft Surface Lease

DNR's Draft Reclamation Plan

To learn more about each of the above-mentioned five permits, you can go to Save the Wild UP's website at www.savethewildup.org

If you can't make these meetings, you still can let your voice be heard by sending your written comments on the proposed decision to the governor's office and the DEQ (addresses are listed below) before the comment period ends April 5, 2007.

Contact information:

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: (517) 373-3400
Or 517-335-7858 (Constituent Services)
Fax: 517-335-6863
www.emailyourgovernor.com/michigan-governor-jennifer-granholm.html

Director Steven E. Wilson
MDEQ, Geological Survey
Minerals & Mapping Unit Supervisor
525 W. Allegan, P. O. Box 30256
Lansing, MI 48909-7756 wilsonse@michigan.gov



Information and photo provided by
Save the Wild UP

Eagle Rock as U.P. Pilgrimage Site

In early August, I was in the Baltic state of Lithuania in northern Europe and visited a remarkable place in the countryside called the Hill of Crosses. As topography, it is an unremarkable, small hill, except for what humans have done there over the centuries, and particularly under Soviet rule from 1944-1989. During this time, the Lithuanians adopted the hill as a place of spiritual resistance to this foreign occupation; tens of thousands of crosses in great variety – from imposing ten foot carved wooden statues to tiny four inch crosses draped perhaps over the finger of a statue – sprouted on the hill. Three times the Soviets bulldozed the site and desecrated it with garbage and waste, only to have it reborn in the night despite their efforts. In 1985 they gave up; in 1989 Lithuania broke free from Soviet rule; in 1993 the Pope himself visited and blessed the site as a place of pilgrimage. [Google “Lithuania Hill of Crosses” to see for yourself what it looks like.]

Eagle Rock on the Yellow Dog Plains is now a place under siege. Kennecott Minerals Inc. has identified it as the portal for its planned sulfide mine; if the state permits are issued this spring, as is now proposed, the Rock will be blasted open to build a tunnel through bedrock to the valuable ore deposit one kilometer further West. The survey markers for the access road were already in place in mid-September, 2006.

Yet even then, when my wife and I visited the site, Eagle Rock seemed unaffected by its impending fate. A trail led gently up the back way to the top of the outcropping. A red medicine pouch hung on a low jack pine branch near a stone campfire ring. Near the rock face overlooking the plains, we planted a beaver-cut alder pole with two carved fish dangling on its top, the inscription SACRED LAND SACRED WATER cut into its bark in white letters.

The issue is joined in this mining battle. Shall this place stay wild as a storied and sacred site, the only granite outcropping for miles around on the plains, or will it become the gateway to a major industrial mine? It is illusory to think that Eagle Rock could survive this violent assault, or that it could be somehow restored in its aftermath. Mining creates sacrificial land, as many square miles of the U.P. elsewhere already testify. If Eagle Rock and the Coaster Brook Trout do not qualify as special enough not to risk in sacrifice, what lands and homes for people and animals can conceivably be off-limits? Down which path are our public land stewards taking us?



Log with mosses and fungi
Photo courtesy of Doug Welker

Perhaps Eagle Rock could become a U.P. site of pilgrimage, a place where people go to leave an offering, a prayer, a message, a statement. I could envision hundreds, perhaps thousands of such offerings, each individual in form and expression, and all anonymous. Not a hill of crosses only as in Lithuania (although there may be some crosses), but a mingling of expressions from many spiritual traditions, united in love of the land and in its defense

(Continued on Page 7)

(Eagle Rock continued from Page 6)

Not everyone can participate fully in the legal and political battles, but almost everyone could walk up Eagle Rock and leave a piece of himself or herself there...an old fishing rod, a prayer flag, a staff, a stone cairn, a sculpture, a painting.

Eagle Rock is open and accessible now, although the rumbling of heavy machinery to the north is within earshot. We have some time this winter and spring to demonstrate our sense of belonging to this corner of the U.P. in a powerful and personal way. Directions are included below so that you can find your way there.



Barred Owl
Photo courtesy of Jeannine McKenzie

- Jon Saari, UPEC President

Directions to Eagle Rock on the Yellow Dog Plains

From US 41 at the south side of L'Anse, go north into downtown to the 4-way stop. Set your trip odometer here.

- Turn right onto Main Street which becomes Skanee Road as you leave town driving east-bound. Curse at ridiculous speed limits at the east edge of town.
- Follow Skanee Road. After 19.8 miles from Main St., there will be a stop sign. Reset your trip odometer and angle right onto the gravel road.
At 1.9 miles on the gravel road, a major fork will angle left. Continue straight ahead on the right "fork."
- At 5.3 miles on the gravel road, take the main fork, which angles left.
(Ignore the minor road going right at 8.2 miles BEFORE the stream).
- Angle right at 8.3 miles (AFTER the stream). The road angling right should appear to be the main road.
- At 9.4 miles, the road you want angles right. It will also appear to be the main road.
- At 12.6 miles, the gravel road you have been following T's into another gravel road. Reset your trip odometer. Turn left (The road to the right would take you to the north entrance of the McCormick Wilderness).
- Follow this road east 4.7 miles and watch for a rocky hill on your left. Turn left just before the hill and park near the base of the hill. You have arrived at Eagle Rock.
- Note: All roads are normally passable in the snow-free season with a 2WD vehicle with average clearance.*

-Doug Welker, Board Member



Green Creek in Marquette Co.
Photo courtesy of Jeamine McKenzie

Winter Garden By Barbara Simila

The arc of a hawk's wing
the only movement
above these calloused trunks
and frozen branches
pleading against
the stone-washed sky.
A shrew's trail
leads from a den
in a curving snowdrift
to the safety
of a wind-drifted leaf:
a taloned rush of wind
in the winter garden,
the quick-winged
north-shore diver
dips and quickly feeds.

(This and the poem "Walking on Water" on the following page were originally published in *WATERMARKS, Poems from the Coast of Keweenaw*, published by Manitou Books of Calumet in 1996. Both pieces are reprinted here with the permission of the author.)



Crooked Lake in Sylvania Wilderness
Photo Courtesy of Doug Welker

Walking on Water By Barbara Simila

Like the vista of the plains from air
the ice at Jacobsville spreads before us,
the flinty black surface pocked by wind
a mosaic of milky fissures
parcels out the boundaries.

In the Copper Country
we carry on, we strap on cleats,
pull the sled, drive the auger
through the glacial ice between
our tent spikes and the currents
of this sweetwater sea.

We are suspended
on this broad cold field
of heaven; I am content,
huddle in the cocoon
over ice the purest radiant
blue and feel my lure drop
toward the murky distant bottom.

I catch a good trout, long and lean,
no belly fat, native red
and gleaming silver flesh.
we walk back in tandem;
There are the grave
sandstone cliffs of winter,
icefalls clinging to their flanks.
We are silent
our hesitant feet on water,
two miles to the shore ,

Paradise Lost?
Climate Change in the Northwoods
A Traveling Art Exhibition

Polar bears, penguins and melting glaciers have been getting headlines in media coverage on global climate change. For people living in the Northwoods of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, climate change may seem like something happening somewhere else—or maybe not...

Paradise Lost? Climate Change in the Northwoods is a new traveling art and science exhibit bringing research about climate change home to the Northwoods. It will be hosted at six locations throughout 2007.

The exhibit is the culmination of over a year's work involving twenty artists, seven scientists, six educators and numerous partner organizations. A cooperative effort between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the North Lakeland Discovery Center (Manitowish Waters), the project began in 2006 with selection of twenty artists from around the region. These artists joined scientists and educators at a workshop to consider ways that art could increase public understanding about climate change in the Northwoods. The artists subsequently created pieces reflecting their perceptions of climate change science, its impacts on northern ecosystems and actions people can take today to protect the Northwoods.

The exhibit includes paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, poetry and prose, and music. Scientific findings on climate change in the Northwoods accompany the artwork. As visitors view the exhibit, they are invited to calculate their carbon footprint, take a close look at living bog plants, write a poem, or build a sculpture of ideas on how to slow climate change.

The exhibit also features artwork of area school children studying climate change with North Lakeland Discovery Center educators. There will be a panel discussion at 2 p.m. on February 17th featuring several artists and scientists, followed by films. An evening reception that same day will start at 7p.m. with presentations to follow at 7:30. Tim Krantz, aquatic ecologist and Director of the University of Wisconsin Trout Lake Field Station, John Bates, author and naturalist, and Charles Thomas, musician, will share perspectives on their work and involvement with this project. This reception is free and open to the public.

The art show will run from Feb. 16 through March 19, 2007. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. During 2007-2008, the exhibition travels will include Rhinelander, Ashland, Manitowish Waters, Wausau and Madison, Wisconsin, as well as Ironwood and Calumet in the U.P. For more information on the schedule and offerings of this project, visit the web site at www.wisn.edu/cbe/K12/paradiselost.html.

This project is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Biology Education (CBE) and the Department of Forest Ecosystem and Management. The UW-Trout Lake Research Station and North Lakeland Discovery Center are primary partners. Funding comes

(Continued on page 11)

Where?
(

(Paradise Lost? Continued from Page 10)

through the UW-Baldwin Endowment Awards, and the Wisconsin Arts Board. Dolly Ledin (CBE), Dr. David Mladenoff of Forest Ecosystem and Management, and Terry Daulton, UW-Trout Lake, are leading the project. The organizers may be contacted at daledin@wisc.edu or tdaulton@centurytel.net.

- Joyce Koskenmaki

(You can take a look at Ms. Koskenmaki's contribution to this show, "Moose Running, on page 13. -Ed.)



Doe with twin fawns (can you spot the second tail?) in Southern Marquette Co.
Photo courtesy of Jeannine McKenzie

Thanks!

You may have noticed the great photos sprinkled throughout this issue of the *U.P. Environment*. Many of them are from central U.P. artist and photographer Jeannine McKenzie. Ms. McKenzie generously is sharing her great love of the U.P. with us by allowing us to use photos she's taken in the area close to her home. When not making original pieces of jewelry, taking pictures or making nature videotapes, she and her husband Charles express their great love for the U.P. by treading lightly on the land. They live in a wilderness area and make a point of recycling everything they can, even going out along the roadway to pick up trash tossed by less respectful visitors. Their vigilance is repaid by the abundance of wildlife that routinely visit their home. In future issues, we'll be sharing some of Ms. McKenzie's photos of the wolves, bears and other neighbors who drop in on them from time to time.

Other photos in this issue come from UPEC board member and North Country Trail Coordinator, Doug Welker. Mr. Welker spends much of his time wandering about the wilderness areas of the U.P. and, fortunately for us, he often remembers to take along a camera. His photos of the western U.P. will also be welcome additions to future editions of this newsletter.

We'd also like to thank poet Barbara Simila for sharing her poignant word pictures, "Winter Garden" and "Walking on Water." Her love of the U.P. and native Yooper upbringing are unmistakable in the flavor of her work. We're grateful she agreed to share some of it.

Do you have any pictures, poems and/or stories of the U.P. that you'd like to share? We are always glad to draw upon the talents of our readers. Just send your work on by e-mail to upec@upenvironment.org or mail it to us at UPEC, P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931. If you send pictures, please include information identifying where the shot was taken. Of course, we'll be happy to return the photos to you after they're used. Start rummaging around in those photo albums!

Premium Partner Shares

Just a reminder—February is public television and radio fundraising time. Those of you who are familiar with the public stations know your membership donations help to keep programming on the air. But did you know that money could also be used to help support education on environmental issues—especially the ones affecting the U.P.?

Those of you living in the WNMU.FM Public Radio 90 listening area and who watch WNMU TV Channel 13 have a special opportunity to help finance public awareness of these issues, both global and local.

How? Well, the next time you donate money to the television station, just ask them to put that donation into Premium Partner Shares. You will receive the paper shares which you can then donate to UPEC for program sponsorship (see the address in the above article). Even though UPEC will be named as the sponsor rather than you, it will in no way reduce the amount of the deduction you can claim on your taxes. If you donate to the radio ~~fund~~, just ask them to credit the donation to the UPEC Fund.

Station

So, please, if you're going to donate anyway, why not get even more bang out of your buck by helping UPEC sponsor quality environmental programming. It's just one more thing you can do to show your appreciation for the wild U.P.



“Moose Running” by Joyce Koskenmaki

“Moose Running” is a painting about the endangered situation of our moose...not only from the increasing temperatures (moose need it to be colder) but increasing insect populations...ticks can inhabit one moose by the hundreds. I painted its skeleton showing because, in ancient rock art if an animal is depicted in “x-ray style,” that is with a decorative interior, it indicates that it was a sacred animal.

-Joyce Koskenmaki

UPEC Environmental Education Grants Due March 1st!

Mini-Grant FAQs

WHO? K-12 educators in Upper Peninsula schools, public or private, who desire to create or further enhance an environmental education program or ongoing activity in their school.

WHY? To provide financial assistance in creating an environmental education program or ongoing project that is in need of support.

WHAT? Grant may not be used for salaries, but all other expenses (for example, transportation, meals, supplies, honoraria) are acceptable. Grant recipients will be required to present a final report that includes an accounting of funds expended and outcomes achieved upon completion of the program. Progress reports will be edited & published in the UPEC newsletter.

HOW MUCH? Depending on the quality of the application as evaluated by the UPEC board, several monetary awards of up to \$500 each will be made during a 12-month period.

WHEN? March 1, 2007

HOW DO I APPLY?

Please e-mail completed applications to us at: strasch@up.net or send a hard copy to:
UPEC
P.O. Box 673
Houghton, MI 49931

Date of Application _____

Name of Applicant/Contact Person _____

Organization/School _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-mail address _____

Project Name _____

First Time or Existing Program? _____

Length of Program's Existence _____

Number of Students Involved _____

Number of Adults Involved _____

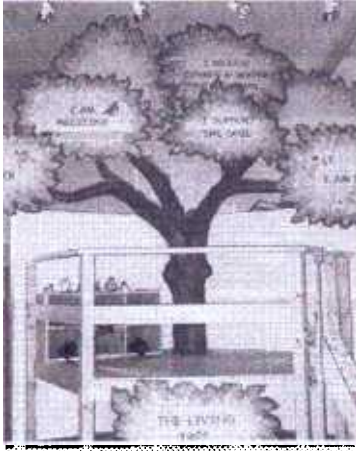
On a separate sheet, please address the following points and attach additional information as needed:

- Rationale for Program/Project—Attach a detailed description, 1 page minimum
- Time frame for project (i.e. one day, 6 months, ongoing)
- Expected date(s) of project
- Total budget for Program/Project (Attach a breakdown of anticipated or known costs)
- Other funding sources (If an existing program, attach list of previous funding sources, including in-kind contribution.)
- If these other sources are not available, are there alternative opportunities for funding? If so, please describe.
Does this program provide for community outreach and education? If so, how?

- 2007 Priority Points!

Once again this year, special consideration will be given to quality grant projects that address the potential impacts of sulfide mining on human and natural communities.

Environmental Education Grants Now Available



It's that time again. Every year UPEC offers up to \$500 in grant money per proposal to educators, nonprofit organizations and museums for programs designed to teach K-12 students to understand, protect and preserve the unique environment of the U.P.



In the past, grants have been awarded for such things as stream and watershed studies, the effects of pollution on a nearby area, forest management, and the creation of educational hiking trails. The awards have also been used to provide scholarships for students to attend environmental symposiums and camps, and last year helped a museum create a hands-on museum exhibit designed for very young children. As we have for the past three years, UPEC board members will be giving special consideration to applications dealing with the potential environmental impact of metallic sulfide mining.

But hurry! Because our annual meeting this year will be held March 17th, the deadline for submitting grant applications has been moved up to March 1.



You can use the grant application on the following page to submit your proposal. Good luck!



Ft William



**Upper Peninsula
Environmental Coalition**

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 35
Houghton, MI 49931

P.O. Box 673
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone and Fax number: (906) 524-7899
www.upenvironment.org



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

Yes! I Want to Help UPEC Make a Difference!

Name: _____

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

E-mail: _____

UPEC Land Acquisition/Protection
Fund

Address: _____

UPEC Environmental Education Fund

City/State/Zip: _____

____ UPEC Endowment Fund*

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

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

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

Send all contributions to: UPEC, Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931
UPEC is grateful for your timely and generous response!