

UPEC & friends to Celebrate the UP March 21-22 in Hancock

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition will hold its sixth annual Celebrate the UP on March 21-22 at the Finlandia University Jutila Center in Hancock. The event will kick off Friday evening at the Jutila Center Chapel, and a full day of activities is being planned for Saturday.

The event is a great cabin fever antidote as it brings together people who appreciate the region's natural environment. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Friday evening's keynote speaker is still being determined. On Saturday, speakers will present between 9:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. covering such topics as nature photography, birding, hiking, history, local food, and so forth.

Plans to expand nature journaling program at Clear Lake

Engaging Youth with Nature From Page 4
At Clear Lake, some 240 students have already participated in the nature journaling program this year. We plan to continue it for next year's camps as well as expand it to a nature mentoring program for different groups. Thanks to UPEC for supporting this wonderful youth in nature program! To learn more about the Clear Lake Education Center, visit www.clearlakeinfo.org

Gregg Bruff is a retired National Park Ranger and Chief of Heritage Education at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He enjoys working with kids, motorcycling, sailing, canoeing and kayaking, hiking, camping, snowshoeing, skiing, journaling, listening to music, and is an accomplished landscape painter.

Resources for The Art of the Nature Journal:

- *Into the Field: A Guide to Locally Focused Teaching*, Clare Walker Leslie, John Tallmadge, Tom Wessels
- *Nature Journaling: Learning to Observe and Connect with the World Around You*, Clare Walker Leslie, Charles E. Roth
- *The Art of Field Sketching*, Clare Walker Leslie
- *Nature Drawing: A Tool for Learning*, Clare Walker Leslie
- *The Sierra Club Guide to Sketching in Nature*, Cathy Johnson
- *One Man's Island*, Keith Brockie
- *Zen and the Art of Seeing*, Frederick Franck
- *Painting What You See*, Charles Reid

There will also be a panel discussion Saturday from 3:15 to 5 p.m. A public reception following the panel will convene in the chapel from 5 to 7 p.m. to conclude the event.



Please check UPEC's website (www.upenvironment.org) and watch your local newspaper closer to the event for details. Also the March issue of *UP Environment* will contain a complete program.

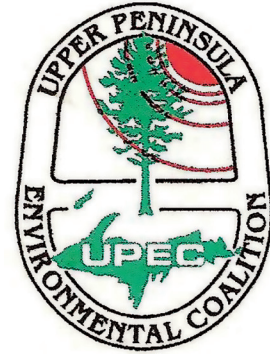


- *A Trail Through Leaves: The Journal as a Path to Place*, Hannah Hinchman
- *A Life in Hand: Creating the Illuminated Journal*, Hannah Hinchman
- *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, Betty Edwards
- *A Field Guide to Nearby Nature: Fields and Woods of the Midwest and East Coast*, Peggy Kochanoff
- *Sharing Nature with Children*, Joseph Cornell
- *Sharing the Joy of Nature*, Joseph Cornell
- *The Natural History of Selborne*, Gilbert White
- *An American Childhood*, Annie Dillard

Upper Peninsula
Environmental Coalition
P.O. Box 673
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www.upenvironment.org

Look for UPEC on Facebook!



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.

Environmental Education Grant proposals due January 3

Environmental Ed Grants. From Page 1
high school age children—are eligible for funding which may be used for any program expense other than salaries.

During 2013 UPEC funded projects that included an environmental symposium for high school students from the Lake Superior basin, development of a Lake Superior environmental education curriculum for elementary students, education and citizenship development through exploration

. . . . Any teacher that would like to take kids...I say do not hesitate as it was great for us all! It was a great bonding experience too.

-- Hannahville Indian School Teacher Loretta Cox about a UPEC-supported event to which she brought students

of metallic sulfide mining, learning about migratory birds and geological features, helping youth develop a sense of place and appreciation for nature through art and photography, and using snowshoes to conduct winter nature study activities. As the UP's oldest grassroots environmental organization, UPEC is equally willing to fund outstanding projects inside and outside of formal school settings.

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UP Environment



The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition's quarterly newsletter.

UPEC is the UP's oldest grassroots environmental organization.

UPEC's next public board meeting: Saturday, Jan. 25

at the Lakeside Inn in Baraga from 1-4 p.m.



Winter 2013

Clear Lake 7th graders gain nature perspectives

By Gregg Bruff

It is a warm late September day with a brisk westerly wind. A group of 15 seventh graders attending a three-day camp at Clear Lake Education Center fan out on the beach, some searching a small pond for tadpoles and frogs. In just a few minutes, a salamander, green frog, an American toad, tadpoles, snails, a mussel, and fish scales have been collected. The kids settle down individually or in small groups to sketch what they have found. Some gaze off into the distance across the lake and draw the water, beach, and mixed hardwood forest.

What are we doing and why? The idea goes back a few months as Clear Lake Camp Director Mimi Klotz and I thought about how best to get kids outdoors and engaged with the landscape. The concept also stems from years of reading books like *Into the Field - A Guide to Locally Focused Teaching* by Clare Walker Leslie, et. al., *A Trail Through Leaves* by Hannah Hinchman, and Annie Dillard's *An American Childhood*.

Let's seize opportunities to increase connectedness in Upper Lakes Region

By David Clanaugh, Editor

It's 17-below as I gaze outside this early December morning. Steam rises from unfrozen parts of the St. Louis Estuary as the inland sea glints in the distance. The water vapor seemingly escapes the toxic legacy of an industrial port as it billows eastward to descend as lake effect snow on the Bayfield and Keweenaw peninsulas, as well as the Huron and Algoma highlands. I feel like I can almost touch the cloud bank to the east—how can I seize this blanket of relative warmth that Duluth and



Gregg Bruff, upper right, works with Clear Lake youths examining elements of the natural world and journaling about these experiences. The Clear Lake Education Center is between Munising and Manistique. Photo by Mimi Klotz

outdoors, and kids overscheduled with sports and other activities have all contributed to fewer hours spent in contact with the natural world.

Numerous writers support these outdoor nature activities. *In Beyond Ecophobia*, David Sobel states:

Exploring the nearby world and knowing your place should be a primary objective for the Engaging Youth with Nature See Page 4

UPEC seeking Environmental Education Grant applications

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition offers a grant opportunity for educators and youth workers who provide environmental education programs to regional children from preschool to high school. UPEC's Environmental Education Fund offers grants of up to \$500 for the 2014 calendar year, with applications due Friday, Jan. 3, 2014. Please share word of this opportunity with potential participants.

Teachers, 4-H leaders, Scout leaders, museum staff members, youth service workers—anyone who wishes to start or maintain an environmental project involving preschool through



Hannahville Indian School students engage in a fisheries activity during the Lake Superior Youth Symposium last spring. Photo by Loretta Cox

To learn more about the program, download a grant application, and obtain mailing information, go to UPEC's website at upenvironment.org. Applications must arrive by mail or email no later than Jan. 3, 2014. Successful proposals will be announced by the end of January.

Grassroots environmental groups can shift political culture

Connecting our Work From Page 1
points west often lack? Whether I stick a toe in Superior's waters at Stoney Point, contemplate the cloud bank, or "merely" breathe and drink, these experiences constantly remind me that our citizenship exceeds human cultural and political boundaries—that we belong to and are responsible within (especially for our technologies and behaviors) a larger natureculture.

This newsletter is the first I've produced from my new Duluth home, but the UP and all points around this incredible lake remain the larger home for my heart, spirit, and body—a open home without walls that includes all of us, human and nonhuman alike. Thus I continue with UPEC because our group's work constitutes and is constituted by the broader caring and work in our region and world.

I continue with UPEC with the hope that we might better meet the need around the Upper Lakes Region for more interconnection and support among the groups that advocate for environmental stewardship, responsible economic activity, and bio-social justice. We need to cast and enact visions that bring us together ever more to share our struggles and successes, to persevere and learn, and to forge new forms of interaction as we shed old ways that increasingly unravel life's web.

What unites us also makes connecting a challenge: the immensity and grandeur of large lakes; dramatic seasonal contrasts; expanses of wild woodlands; untamed neighbors. These realities capture our collective imaginations, yet they make for far-flung communities, challenging travel among them, and a nagging sense of isolation. Electronic technologies can help a bit, yet we also need in-the-flesh interactions to develop and deepen our bonds with each other.

On Page 1 you can read about the great work already happening at places like the Clear Lake Education Center. Gregg Bruff's story brings to mind the many UPEC-supported projects that empower our youths and communities. I also think about the formative experiences my oldest daughter had at the Conserve School, how my middle girl can't stop talking about her spring visit to the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning

Center, and my youngest daughter's guided encounters with wood turtles and plovers. So many incredible gifts because people care to support these opportunities!

My family and I have cherished reconnecting with friends from Wolf Ridge (near Finland, Minnesota). Two of these friends recently recruited me to attend a soil and water conservation district planning meeting in Two Harbors. Even though I don't live in Lake County, I went along and was confirmed in my belief that artificial boundaries hardly circumscribe the challenges before us and the solutions we might together create.

I felt welcomed at the meeting, yet I also felt as a guest I needed to sit back a bit and not be too verbal. I think this reflects the training many of us have to "respect" political boundaries. Yet these political boundaries so often provide disrespectful ways to either silence us or put us in competition with one another against our common interests. These boundaries also provide excuses for deflecting people's questions and desires to shape constructive action. One example at the Two Harbors meeting: A large percentage of the 50 folks in attendance expressed concern about under-regulated core sampling by mineral companies and the potential impacts on aquifers. We learned these issues were outside the water and soil conservation planning process—that they fall under state jurisdiction with a regulatory apparatus apparently geared to grease the wheels of mineral exploration and extraction.

To conclude, one of the greatest challenges before us involves how to claim the power and responsibility to conduct ourselves in a manner that is accountable to all and oriented toward the greater good. As we let go of old ways that no longer work, we must create new strategies and tactics to avoid being deflected by political distinctions seemingly designed to promote special interests and avoid responsibility.

I believe our grassroots organizations have huge contributions to make to this effort, yet we must find more ways of interconnection that boost our capacities for communication, organization, learning, and political action. A resolution for 2014: let us converse about how we can work toward these goals.

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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)
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 In Honor or Memory (please circle) of _____
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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:
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Phone & Email information is optional – Thanks for your Support!

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!

Consider making 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



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Journaling, sketching, painting connect and center youths as members of natural world

Engaging Youth with Nature From Page 1

bonding with the earth stage, from ages seven to eleven The desire to explore the landscape becomes a potent force during these years.

In *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv writes:

An environment-based education movement—at all levels of education—will help students realize that school isn't supposed to be a polite form of incarceration, but a portal to the wider world We have such a brief opportunity to pass on to our children our love for this Earth, and to tell our stories. These are the moments when the world is made whole. In my children's memories, the adventures we've had together in nature will always exist.

To make the program concept a reality, we assembled art and writing supplies via grant funding from UPEC. The supplies included an eight-pan watercolor paint kit with brush, an HB drawing pencil, watercolor pencils, a fine point sketching pen, kneaded eraser, pencil sharpener, drawing and lined notebook paper, a recycled yogurt cup, and a clipboard. Materials are kept in bags donated by the Hiawatha National Forest "More Kids in the Woods" program so they are easy to transport, use and store. Foam yoga mats were cut into smaller pieces as sit-upons for each student.

So, how do we conduct the programs? An introduction to the hour to 90-minute long activity includes an overview of how people have recorded their environments over the centuries. Photographs of cave art from Lascaux, France, pictographs from Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, an image of the Ojibwa migration scroll, and Plains Indians "winter count" bison hides are used to illustrate how people have been drawing for millennia. Copies of journals from Christopher Columbus, Leonardo DaVinci, Lewis and Clark, Thomas Edison, and astronaut Peggy Whitson's Space Station journals are discussed and passed around.

Basic journal keeping techniques are then discussed noting location, date, weather, moon phase, what sounds they hear, and how students feel about where they are at the moment. We sometimes create short poems out of words as the kids describe their feelings.

We next take a spin through the art supplies, noting how each can be used. Many kids have never used watercolor pencils or developed the ability to blend colors with a brush. This leads to setting the boundaries of where they can explore, and how long they have to draw. Kids are encouraged to select something that interests them and is "smaller than a loaf of bread." Larger subjects can then be taken on as the class progresses. Students are required to handle any live creatures



gingerly, and return them unharmed to their habitat after the exercise. Small, clear plastic naturalist containers are used as a way to keep insects, frogs and toads from jumping away.

The session ends with a voluntary art show of what the students have drawn and a description of why they chose their subject. It's interesting to note that many of the kids name the critters they capture, draw and release, thus personalizing their new friends even further. I end by suggesting they share their drawings with family and friends, get outside, and continue journaling.

One might wonder whether this works, particularly for kids who have learning disabilities. Teachers report, and I personally have seen, kids diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder concentrate significantly better outdoors during these activities than when they are in the classroom. This observation is backed by numerous research studies. Other encouraging signs are the sheer joy and enthusiasm expressed at being outside paired with the ability to wander around looking for critters to write about and draw. Our only regret is that time constraints do not permit longer periods of exploration.

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