

Trap Hills offer many great hiking opportunities

By Doug Welker, UPEC Board Member

From the North Country Trail (NCT) to the Cascade Falls Trail to the Gogebic Ridge Trail, the Trap Hills of Ontonagon County provide opportunities for family hikes, easy-to-difficult day hikes, and moderate-to-strenuous backpacking treks.

A popular 34-mile NCT backpacking trip goes from M-64 to Old Victoria. You'll pass dozens of high overlooks with 40-mile views, waterfalls, and old copper mining sites. But, expect a total of nearly a mile of climbs and nearly a mile of descents, a bit like climbing into and out of the Grand Canyon. Don't underestimate how long this trip might take you! Want a shorter but still rugged hike with spectacular views that can be backpacked in two days? Try Norwich Road to Old Victoria.

An easy two-mile round trip on a side trail from the east end of Forest Road 326 will take you to one of those overlooks, atop the highest sheer cliff in Michigan (350 feet). Another easy hike, on the NCT, is from Victoria Dam Road to Lookout Mountain, where you can gaze down at Victoria Dam and Reservoir, hundreds of feet below.

The Cascade Falls Trail provides easy access to this lovely falls on Cascade Creek. An optional return loop, rated moderate, takes you to a rocky ridge with distant views of the 350-foot cliff mentioned above.

Want to avoid the "crowds?" Hike the Gogebic Ridge Trail, which runs from west of Bergland northeast to the NCT. It has several points with views of Lake Gogebic.

All of these hikes are described on the website of the Peter Wolfe Chapter of the North Country Trail Association, www.northcountrytrail.org/pwf



(Above) A group of hikers enjoy the view from a rocky ridge in the Trap Hills while (below) a family explores the Cascade Falls.

Photos by Doug Welker



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

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Paint & Brule offer fine paddling options

Iron County's waters beckon canoeists and kayakers

By Bill Ziegler

Iron County is blessed with many good canoe and kayaking streams. The Paint and Brule Rivers are considered the best all-around choices for paddling. Each stream has sections that can be selected by advanced paddlers, or beginners can pick easier sections and avoid challenging stretches. Each of these streams also has reasonable access points to avoid long trips if a day trip is your preference. In this first of a series about great paddles in the UP, I will give an overall characterization of the Paint River system.

Paddling is a good activity on days when fishing is slow and you want to get out and have fun outdoors. There are a number of streams in addition to these two that are enjoyable to canoe, but many are only readily navigable at high water in the spring or after a significant rain. It is always good to check water levels before you go because some river sections can also become difficult in high water as well as low water levels. Prospective paddlers can check water levels through the U.S. Geological Survey on-line river gauges at http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?id=ww_current There is not a gauge on every stream, but there are enough in the area that you can usually find one that is indicative of other streams in the area. The gauge at US-2 on the Brule River is a good one to show if streams in Iron County are rising or falling. When that Brule River gauge depth is about four feet the local streams are about bank full.

At spring water levels the entire Paint River including the north and south branches are navigable from Forest Highway 16 downstream. The most popular section of the Paint River is on the main river below the Paint River Forks Campground (just upstream of Gibbs City) down 17.6 river miles to the Bates-Amasa Road (County Road 643) Bridge.

This trip can be shortened by about five miles by starting downstream at the U.S. Forest Service's Block House Campground at the end of Forest Road 2180. This river section is often used by paddlers that want to make it an overnight camping trip. There are several places for camping, although the best one is on the left descending bank just at the Upper Hemlock rapids. This section has several unnamed short Class I and II rapids, although the Upper and Lower Hemlock Rapids are the most challenging. The Upper Hemlocks are Class II (0.3 miles in length) and the Lower Hemlocks (0.4 miles in length) are Class III.

Class III are the most difficult any paddler should attempt in an open canoe. If you are an experienced white water canoeist, the Upper Hemlocks are a good tune-up for the Lower Hemlocks. For kayakers the Lower Hemlock Rapids should only be attempted by white water kayakers; it is too challenging for typical all purpose kayaks. This section of river also offers good smallmouth bass fishing in the rapids and holes during the summer.



Joyce and Bill Ziegler of Crystal Falls shooting the Lower Hemlock Rapids on the Paint River.

An excellent afternoon trip (5.3 miles) is to put in at the end of the unmarked trail road, off the Parks Farm Road east of Amasa at Paint Dam No. Two. Dam Two was a historical log driving dam in the late 1800's, formerly owned by the Menominee River Boom Company. This DNR owned access is in Township 44N Range 34W section 11. This site has driving access to the water, with a legal easement to the state land and access point on the Paint. The natural camp sites at the Upper Hemlock Rapids make a good lunch break spot, and a trail along the left descending bank allows you to either scout the rapids or portage. This land was recently acquired by the DNR Fisheries Division from We Energies. There is flat water below the Upper Hemlocks for about one-quarter mile before you approach the Lower Hemlock Rapids. A scouting and or portage trail is also present on the left descending bank. The Lower Hemlock Rapids has a small shelf falls about three feet in height and larger standing waves in two spots at full stream level. After the Hemlock Rapids the river is generally flat water with small riffles down *Iron County Paddling* See Page 6

Becky dramatically recruits helpers to save pollinators

On Friday, June 20 approximately 100 Marquette area youth will participate in *Becky Saves the Bees*, an original children's play by E.A.R.T.H. Angels. This nonprofit organization uses aerial performance art to raise awareness of environmental issues among those who may not yet consider themselves part of the conservation movement.

Becky Saves the Bees will teach participants and audiences the global importance of pollinators and the epidemic Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The production will include singing, dancing, EcoSuperheros, flying bees, and butterflies! It will be at the Presque Isle Band Shell and starts at 6 p.m.

The Little Friends Children's Center from Negaunee will be performing an educational dance in *Bees*, and the home school kids will be singing the Honey Bee song by Chris Dorman of Earthwork music. PEAK Gymnastics and Fitness aerialists will be performing aerial lyra and aerial fabric, and the Beladinas will be dancing with their lovely Isis wings.

Toddlers are encouraged to support the big kids by dressing up as pollinators and attending the June 20 production. Any child in costume will have the opportunity to tag along with Becky during a short scene in Act One. Stage fright? No problem, just sit back and enjoy the show.

There is room for everyone who wants to participate, and there are lots of ways to get involved. Kids can sign up for the workshop at the Marquette Arts and Culture Center for acting, stagehand, set construction, and costume design roles. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m. at the Peter White Public Library.

Becky Saves the Bees is supported by the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, the Marquette County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee, the Superior Watershed Partnership, the MooseWood Na-

ture Center, and the Marquette Food Co-op.

Sunday, May 18 was EcoSuperhero Day at the MooseWood Nature Center. Kids developed their unique EcoSuperhero persona and made masks and capes to keep and wear in the play. Most play

materials are salvaged, second-hand, up-cycled, repurposed, rented or borrowed per EARTH Angels' "no new new" policy. Consider donating costume-making or set construction materials for E.A.R.T.H. Angels productions.

Save the Bees See Page 6



One of the Angels performs an aerial lyra with a monarch in the background (above). Below are the E.A.R.T.H. Angels team members in the community promoting Becky Saves the Bees.

Submitted Photos



Tips for photographing UP's natural beauty:

Digital cameras & Internet smooth path for getting started

By Bill Rininen

Well people, "envi" the UP environment. Hopefully we can capture its greatness on a digital camera so we have it forever.

My limited experience as a wildlife photographer has given me a few ideas that I would like to share. More people are taking good pictures on camera cell phones than are the digital camera buffs. If you are expecting to make a million dollars, good luck. I am trying to break even or just make a small profit. People have told me that they like my pictures, but you have to be established with a big name in the field before people will purchase your work for a good price.

Digital Camera

Make a list of what features you want in a camera and what you're willing to pay. Study the Internet. Compare cameras by company. Modify your list again and again. Amazon.com could be a good starting point. After doing this repeatedly, I found a Nikon P510 with a 42x zoom in a local chain store on sale for less than I could find on-line. It has 90% of what I wanted and the price was affordable. If you have several super lenses (from your 35 mm) consider purchasing a new body that would be compatible with your lenses.

Using your new camera

Read all about your camera. Get to know what it can do, then get out and practice. The nice thing about digital pic-



tures you get instant results, and you can delete bad pictures and keep the good ones.

Using free learning resources

YouTube (search "photography") may be one of your best places to look for what people did that may work for

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you. Camera manufacturers also offer great resources. If you are interested in monarch butterflies, follow their migration north. Check out *The Flight of the Monarchs* to track their progress.

Other learning resources

This resource will cost you \$60 a year, but it is well worth it. The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is super great. The PSA is a worldwide, interactive organization for seri-



ous amateur and professional photographers or for anyone interested in photography. Included in a membership is a monthly magazine, photo competitions, study groups via snail mail or on the Internet, and access to www.psa-photo.org. You can participate in PSA services and activities in the following photo divisions: 3D, color projected images, electronic imaging, nature, photo travel, photojournalism and pictorial prints.

Magazines and books

You may consider *Popular Photography*, *Outdoor Photography*, even *Birds & Blooms*. At the Copper Country Associated Artists you will find a book *Keweenaw Blooming Season* by Harvey Desnick. This is a must have if you like wild flowers. Desnick is an outstanding wildflower photographer.

Getting out to take a picture

I prefer a cloudy day, early morning or the evening for my pictures. Find an interesting wildflower or anything you want to photograph. Walk around it to see it in its best light, perspective and composition. If the lighting and other conditions are not right, you may have to return again for better conditions. Keep a small pocket journal for notes on what you tried and the results. Learn the song of birds that you want to photograph. It's a lot of fun to call the birds in range for pictures. At your home bird feeder place a branch in a bucket with sand for the birds to land on for a more natural setting. If you want to catch the birds in flight, focus on the feeder, then move toward the anticipated flight path in or

Photography Tips See Page 7

'In the Paint' a great place for pleasurable paddling

Iron County Paddling From Page 3
to the takeout point at the bridge at the Bates-Amasa Road.

The stretch from the Bates-Amasa access point down to Erickson's Landing (DNR public access site) is appropriate for paddlers who do not want to navigate any challenging rapids. This is also a popular stretch used by anglers who sometimes use small car top rowboats for fishing. There are several riffles and pools on the 7.3-mile stretch down to Erickson's Landing. The river flows through lowland conifer and upland hardwoods past the Chicagon Slough that historically was the site of an Indian encampment. If you desire a longer trip you can make your takeout the public access above the Crystal Falls Dam. This stretch has more terrain

and river types like the upper portion of the trip, but eventually becomes more impounded with slower river current in the last 1.5 miles above the dam.

Another lower section also worth paddling includes the 7.6-mile section from the DNR canoe landing at the M-69 crossing of the Paint in Crystal Falls down to the We Energies Access Site 22 at the Little Bull Diversion Canal. This section is similar in character and difficulty to the section just above Crystal Falls. For whitewater kayakers there is a 1.3-mile section from a We Energies Kayak Access site above the rapids on the west bank. Put in at this access and you can paddle the Class IV rapids and take out at the bottom. Many whitewater enthusiasts run this section of rapids several times to make the most out of their trip.

The Paint River provides many excellent paddling, fishing, and sightseeing float trip options. If you get a chance to paddle this stream, make sure you bring your camera and, if in challenging sections, a dry bag.

*Bill Ziegler graduated from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources with a degree in fisheries. He worked as a federal fisheries biologist in the UP, northern Wisconsin, and Minnesota (the Upper Great Lakes and Middle Mississippi River). Recently retired, he spent the last 24 years as a Michigan DNR Fisheries Management Biologist in Crystal Falls. Bill writes for the Outdoor Page of the **Iron Mountain Daily News** and two Michigan outdoor magazines. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and numerous silent sports with his family in the Upper Peninsula.*



Joyce Ziegler enjoying a cool spot from her kayak at the base of Horse Race Rapids on a hot summer day.

E.A.R.T.H. Angels inspire kids for community responsibility and stewardship

Save the Bees From Page 4

E.A.R.T.H. Angels' mission is to inspire kids to choose careers and lifestyles that prioritize social and environmental impact over individual financial gain. We strive to achieve this by offering kids unique experiences that enhance their connection with the environment and responsibility to their community.

For more info, to donate or volunteer please contact beckysavethebees@gmail.com or call the Marquette Arts & Culture Center at 906.228.0472.



E.A.R.T.H. Angels conducted a T-shirt upcycling workshop for Fashion Revolution Day at Marquette's Bothwell Middle School in late April. Students show off their products.
Submitted Photo

Rinkinen envisions western UP photography club

Photography Tips From Page 5
away, then snap the picture when the bird enters the frame. Even using a flash will help stop the motion and give greater details.

Summary

What I would like to see for us is a Western UP Photo Club with members of all ages from school to senior citizens – photographers who would like to show or share their work, give constructive criticism, or rate work displayed. A group for people who have the time and interest to work on the program with rotating meeting places. And support for displaying our work at local hospitals, craft shows, basically any place that will allow you to show your craft. Contact me at alswjr@up.net if you would like to work toward this vision.

Editor's Note: Bill Rinkinen presented on nature photography during the 2014 Celebrate the UP! and kindly agreed to pro-

vide a summary about getting started in this activity for UP Environment readers.



Coyer: Trails integral to quality of life society & economy

Coyer From Page 1
involved with the environment anymore. Judy's permission helped me make that move."

Although Coyer does not directly consider her work to be an aspect of what UPEC Treasurer Jon Saari has termed the "soft power" approach to environmental advocacy (engaging people through the arts, drama, and indirect experiences), she does consider it vital to make recreational experiences widely available in a democratic society.

"Everyone should be able to get into the woods and experience nature for themselves in a challenging, yet safe, way," Coyer said. "People then want to protect what they love."

Coyer said a tight focus on SHTA's mission has enabled the organization to build 130 miles of trails during her tenure. It is now possible to hike 300 mile from southwest of Duluth to the Canadian border on the SHTA. The 28-year-old association is now in the process having its trail become a part of the North Country Trail system. Although the 2012 flood affected some trailheads and segments, Coyer said the system weathered the storm relatively well.

Another accomplishment during Coyer's tenure has involved completing the Superior Hiking Trail (SHT) segment through Duluth. This involved three years of scouting and securing rights-of-way, and then three years of construction. Because Duluth has so much public green space, the trail traverses only two private parcels and enjoys a high degree of permanence.

"When we began working to build the trail through Duluth, I wondered about this idea," Coyer said. She added that Andrew Slade, someone with a long history of regional environmental work, wrote a compelling op-ed in the local paper about the idea of an urban trail segment available alike to through hikers and day hikers. This brought forth support from the local community foundation to hire Slade to map options for the route and then finalize a route before beginning construction. And volunteers provided the vast majority of effort to make the Duluth segment a reality.

Coyer also said political leadership has been key. Duluth Mayor Don Ness and city councilors have championed making the city the "trails town of the Midwest" as part of a larger communi-

ty and economic development strategy. A quality-of-life economy, Coyer explained, gains traction when people are able to hike, bike, travel by water, and engage other cultural amenities.

Coyer said she sees parallel strategies at work in the UP. She cited Houghton's canal walk and the Copper Harbor mountain biking trail system as two examples of this effort. Geography and population density, however, pose additional challenges for the UP. The SHT, for example, is closer to a metropolitan area and hugs Minnesota's relatively limited Lake Superior shoreline. The UP and Michigan have so much Great Lakes shoreline that the concept of developing a shoreline trail system becomes harder to realize.

Coyer said the UP has incredible trail segments because of the North Country Trail, but much of this system is underutilized because of its distance from population centers. She said one strategy to emphasize might involve developing additional "well-positioned local trails" that lend themselves to day use and weekend hikes. Accessible and varied opportunities build the social capital necessary to advance trails as a key part of the region's quality of life.

Silver lining in flood clouds: Upper Lakes cooperate

Copper Harbor's Aardvark

By David Clanaugh, Editor

Ominous skies blanketed Lake Linden and the entire Keweenaw the evening of June 20, 2012—part of an intense weather system hovering over the entire Upper Lakes Region. Tensions also were high during a Michigan Department of Community Health meeting about the Torch Lake Superfund site, making for a feeling of double apprehensiveness as lightening flashed and thunder clapped. For those of us at the Lake Linden meeting, however, the human drama was less pronounced than the meteorological and hydrological drama 170 miles to the west in Duluth, Minnesota and environs. Both dramas, however, could be understood as nested in the same matrix of irresponsible extraction, fossil fuel addiction, habitat destruction, and social conflicts.

In Minnesota's Arrowhead a 500-year extreme weather flood event was winding down even as stream levels would continue rising for the next few days. During a 24-hour period on June 19-20 between six and 10 inches of rain drenched



Aaron Rogers builds a section of a new mountain biking trail at Spirit Mountain in Duluth. Rogers has taught a trail building school at Spirit Mountain that attracted people from all over the country.

All photos by Derek Montgomery/derekmontgomery.com

already saturated soils, causing approximately \$100 million in infrastructural damage in just Duluth.

For this city of trails, the damage was heartbreaking. Not only did bridges and roads wash out and buildings collapse, also many hiking trails with fall line descents through the Duluth Escarpment were severely damaged or destroyed. For many weeks afterward and whenever high winds stirred

sediments, the area of Lake Superior outside of the Duluth-Superior Harbor would be a chocolate milk brown, legacy of the flood as well as poor erosion control practices exacerbating the run-off.

“Major damage was due to initial poor design of many trail segments within the city,” Duluth Trails and Biking Project Coordinator



Judy Gibbs holds one of the first gypsy moths found this year in NE Minnesota.

Judy Gibbs reported. “With fall line trails the water just went straight down those trails. Fortunately, the Superior Hiking Trail segment didn’t suffer any extensive damage because it was built in a more sustainable manner to effectively shed water.”

Gibbs said that trails in many of Duluth’s parks that follow riparian corridors bore the brunt of damage, in particular, trails along Chester Creek, Tischer Creek, Mission Creek (the Fond du Lac area of west Duluth was particularly hard hit), and Kingsley Creek (this stream flows through the Duluth Zoo which suffered extensive damage and made the national news because of escaping animals, including some animals dying).

“Above the zoo it was a canyon,” Gibbs said. “And a blacktopped multi-use segment by Tischer Creek was obliterated because water jumped a culvert. . . . The Gill Creek trail, which is part of the Superior Hiking Trail in Jay Cooke State Park—this is not in the city—was also completely wiped out.”

Despite the devastation, a few silver linings did result from these extremely dark clouds: opportunities to reconstruct trails in more sustainable ways, mobilization of a large number of passionate volunteers, and partnering with trail development experts from throughout the region.

“People love their trails and you can see this by the way they turned out to help with clean-up, repair, and rebuilding,” Gibbs said. “Eight-five people helped restore many parts of the Hartley Trails [in the Tischer Creek area] in just one day.”

Gibbs said the fall line nature of many trails in Duluth’s parks meant that rerouting and complete rebuilds were in or-

ation to rebuild and expand trail opportunities on Rogers lends hand as Duluth redesigns & rebuilds fall line trails

der. This has led to enlisting Copper Harbor resident Aaron Rogers. Rogers has been involved with the International Mountain Biking Association's Trail Solutions Program for many years and is highly skilled in trail design. Rogers recently formed his own company, Rock Solid Trail Construction, for consulting and on-the-ground work. Rock Solid has been contracted to redesign and rebuild a 6.5-mile segment of the Mission Creek Trail. This \$250,000 project will take much of Summer 2014 to complete. A blend of private and public resources has been powering the recovery.

Aaron's a great resource," Gibbs commented. "He does amazing work in a modest way and is an all-around nice guy." Gibbs added that Rogers and his crew (he has six employees) is also helping with redesigns and rebuilds in other parts of Duluth, including segments in the Hartley Nature Center.

Rogers has also been involved in the COGGS (Cyclists of Gitchee-Gumee Shores) effort to make Duluth an International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Ride Center—likely to happen this summer. As this article was taking shape on June 3, IMBA Midwest Region Director Hansi Johnson reported, "Pretty amazing that the COGGS folks are so dialed and organized that they can hire outside builders like Aaron. Literally today we have a crew from Copper Harbor, Frisco, Colorado, Fayetteville Ark and COGGS' own crew all building trails. Pretty amazing!"

Rogers said he has had a great time working on trail projects in the Upper Lakes Region—that it's just natural to want to expand the availability of high-quality and accessible opportunities around the region. Starting his own company is just another step on this journey.

"I've been working in Duluth through IMBA for four or five years now," Rogers said. "There's been a good relationship with the city and other groups. That relationship was already there when the flood happened. I talked with Judy right after the flood, she invited me to come and look at the parks trails and start thinking about how to bring them back This flood has been tough because people lost a lot of access and the ability to recreate. It's an important lifestyle element for people to be able to get away from their routines and get outdoors. Loss of trails has all kinds of implications."

Rogers moved to Copper Harbor eight years ago because of the "epic" snowboarding at Mount Bohemia and has transformed an extended vacation into a career. He caught mountain biking fever in his mid-teens, managed a bike shop during college, and has become increasingly involved with the Copper Harbor Trails Club, currently serving as its president. This club has spearheaded Copper Harbor's evo-

lution as a mountain biking destination through a concerted trail development and maintenance program. A big project on the front burner right now in the Copper Harbor area involves phase one construction of the Keweenaw Point trail to improve non-motorized recreational access.



The swinging bridge at Jay Cooke State Park devastated by a record-high St. Louis River (above). Below is one of many mudslides along Chester Creek that resulted in fall line trails being wiped out. See more of Derek Montgomery's work at derekmontgomery.com



Copper Harbor is currently an International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Silver Level Ride Center (one of five in the world, with one Gold Level center and 11 Bronze Level centers). Rogers said Marquette has also made huge strides in becoming a bike friendly community and has potential to become an IMBA Ride Center. He adds *Trails Forward* See Page 11

Trails development a cause for gratitude and hope

Heart Trails From Page 1

As a parent, I couldn't feel better than to have my kids bring up hiking, canoeing, biking, and other non-motorized outdoor opportunities. As a citizen, I take heart that we have made significant progress in developing trails, water paths, and bike routes. With all the environmental issues that provide cause for concern, sometimes it's important to recognize progress where recognition and celebration are due. This issue and the stories it contains is a small part in this larger celebration.

I picked up a pile of North Country Trail Association (NCTA) magazines at UPEC's recent Celebrate the UP! thanks to Doug Welker, who for years has led development of the Peter Wolfe segment. Perusing the magazines, I was encouraged to see the growing relationship between the Superior Hiking Trail Association and the NCTA (See Page 1 interview with SHTA Executive Director Gayle Coyer, who is a former UPEC president.). I also deeply appreciated the sense of human connection among trail folks as the magazine shared accounts of

fund-raising breakfasts, work days, and also some tributes to folks who have passed on. There's a reservoir of connection and caring among trail folks that extends well beyond hiking, trail development, and advocacy. It's the type of connection, caring, and camaraderie that ripples through the larger culture as an antidote to cynicism and despair. It's a cause for gratitude and hope, and I hope folks who see the NCTA membership sticker in my truck window consider joining trail groups to share some of this gratitude and hope by supporting these pathways to a better world.

I wish I could take credit for my girls' enthusiasm, but it really just flowed through me from the folks who turned me on to outdoor activities. Folks who hiked and wrote about the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails . . . and librarians who steered me to those books. Folks like my seventh grade science teacher and his wife who showed me delicate wild flowers along Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail . . . and laughed with my brother and me when swamp gas gurgled to the surface of a beaver pond.

Folks who channeled grief from losing a child into an overnight shelter they and friends built above the UP's Sturgeon River—what's more powerful than transforming grief into shelter for life and memories? And there are so many others that comprise one great web of love for lacing boots, rounding

up gear, and heading out for renewal of self, relationships, and world.

As you've been reading this issue of *UP Environment*, you've noticed a pattern: there are many articles about trails around our region. Some of them require hiking and others paddling. All of them require support, monitoring, maintenance, repair, and sometimes redesign and relocation to prevent environmental impacts. Another type of trail story in this issue (See Back Page) is about an "oil trail" that travels below the Mackinac Straits and is cause for concern about the health of our Great Lakes and us. Perhaps the stewards of this trail could consider the examples of stewardship from hiking and paddling trail projects.

As a result, consider this issue to be UPEC's "Trails to the Heart" edition. As someone who loves belonging to the Upper Lakes Region and who has kayaked with friends who circumnavigated the Big Lake, I believe it would be wonderful to have a hiking trail around the lake, but only in addition to strong local trails that engage as many folks as possible. We already have a great start with big segments in all three states as well as Ontario. Might a project of this sort be yet another way to weave together members of our region in a type of citizenship that transcends national, state, and provincial borders? A type of citizenship that could also further help us grow and strengthen the core of people who are concerned about protecting water, air, habitat, and health for all creatures and all generations?

Another of my articles in this issue (See the center spread on Pages 8 & 9) chronicles the help that Copper Harbor trails advocate Aaron Rogers has lent to *Heart Trails* See Page 11

Different ways to support UPEC

Consider contributing to UPEC in honor or memory of a special friend or loved one.

When you make a gift on behalf of another person, we will send an acknowledgment of the gift to that person or his/her family, so enclose mailing information. When you contribute on behalf of someone else, encourage them to become a UPEC member through your gift.

Do you or someone you know have a wedding in the future? Consider making it a "green wedding" by designating UPEC as a recipient of honor gifts. UPEC has a JustGive link at its website that you can use to do this.

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 Larry Haack by Lorraine Haack

In Honor of Kim Diaz by Mary Margaret Gerhard

Engaging youth sustains strategy

Trails Forward From Page 9
ed that the 47-mile Iron Ore Heritage Trail Chocolate to Ishpeming is just one example of positive community energy producing a multi-use facility for outdoor recreation.

Rogers said the biggest challenge to trail development involves “parcelized land,” but a concerted effort to develop accessible local trails is helping to power a demographic shift with a larger and more engaged constituency. Of particular importance is developing a range of trails with different challenge levels to engage people across the lifespan as well as with different levels of interest and ability. Engaging young folks through trail experiences is a particularly effective “sustainability strategy.”

“When we provide local access and experiences, this helps the bigger picture by shifting the degree of engagement and building stakeholders,” Rogers said. “Everyone needs access—whatever their preferred method for recreation. Getting everyone in the same room and talking about the needs of a community is a great way to build

mutual respect. I think if we stop using our energy to fight with each other and instead use this energy to push forward, we can make the most of trends for more trails of many types.”

vides insights that can translate into creative approaches specific to the challenges at hand. Rogers said Duluth and the UP have similarities as well as differences when it comes to geog-



Don Watson, left, Nathan Miller, center, and Dan Schneider discuss trail opportunities during Celebrate the UP! Watson presented on winter camping. Miller and Schneider are among the region's new generation of outdoor enthusiasts. The former interns with the Keweenaw Land Trust; the latter serves at the NCTA Peter Wolfe Chapter president.
Photo by David Clanaugh

Rogers concluded that the opportunity for trail advocates to work in multiple communities just furthers the cause because each community has different conditions and needs. Experiences in different settings pro-

graphy, demographics, and economic development strategies. As trails advocates come together to work in both settings, they can generate ideas to make efforts in both settings all the more effective.

Moving bodies moves our hearts, minds, and vision ***Take a hike, ski, paddle or pedal to re-imagine the future***

Heart Trails From Page 10
restoring trails damaged during the June 2012 Duluth flood. Living many years in both the UP and Duluth, I have come to see the rugged and expansive city as somewhat of an urban version of the UP. Duluth's tenacity in developing itself as a trails destination for residents as well as visitors offers ideas for UP communities as well as the entire peninsula. Marquette's progress toward becoming an IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) Ride Center, as well as a cycling friendly community, parallels a similar process in Duluth. And heartening efforts have been “a-pedal” in the other UP communities (I think of the excellent western UP biking map that has been available).

Aaron has been a huge help to my friend Judy Gibbs who serves as Duluth Trails Coordinator, and he is on tap for some big projects his summer. As you learn about this partnership, consider how this concern and collaboration offers a model to expand partnerships around our special and

beloved Upper Lakes Region. Carry these thoughts and vision on your next hike, mull it around, and bounce it among friends. As enough of us do this, the vision will become a reality! As many of us know, walking and paddling provide fruitful moments for visioning, thinking, and imaging – deeply needed activities during these challenging times.

I can already imagine one or more of my girls striding around Superior, growing in their love for and commitment to our region through this experience. And this vision receives nurturance from the regular hiking, biking, skiing, and paddling my family already enjoys—thanks to so many folks who over the years have been bringing forth this vision. As we move our bodies, we will move our species and our world to a better place!

Editor's Addendum: Thanks to Arin Ringwald of British Columbia's Kootenay Region for his drawing of hiking boots gracing this newsletter's front page. Also, thanks to Derek Montgomery of Duluth for sharing his photos of flood damage and trail workers.

**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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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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- 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: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

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

- Environmental Education
- Land Acquisition/Protection
- Community Outreach
- Unrestricted
- Marquette County Community Foundation Fund

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

Protecting water requires prudent governmental role

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representative refused to discuss Line 6B (the Kalamazoo line) which in some of the attendees' opinions limited the discussion and rendered it incomplete.

Letters to the Editor following the meeting in the St. Ignace, Traverse City, and other newspapers were full of comments by outraged attendees who had not had their questions answered. Some said that the planning commission let Enbridge take over and control the meeting. One young woman said she had picked up her children early from school to join her at the meeting. To accommodate her need for more time, she asked the commission to extend the question-and-answer period, but she said was "flatly refused." Others said they made similar requests, but were turned down.

The *St. Ignace News* reported, "Chairman Dean Reid of The Mackinac County Planning Commission, which called the meeting, is satisfied for now that people were informed by the presentation, which was the commission's goal." Reid said that the crowd at the facility was the biggest that he had ever seen.

This April, news agencies reported that Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant wrote a lengthy series of questions and requested data from Enbridge seeking evidence that the pipelines are well maintained. Schuette is an elected Republican and Wyant is an appointee of Republican Governor Rick Snyder. Information requested included documentation about construction, estimated "useful life," and future uses of the line including possible plans to carry tar sands. Information on emergency measures was requested, as well as an estimate on the amount of oil that could be released before valves could be shut off. A list of the questions from the Attorney General's office is available at: www.michigan.gov/documents/ag/Energy_Partners_Letter_Attachment_1_455471_7.pdf

As of May 16, the Attorney General's office reported that they had "nothing in writing" from Enbridge, but that they had been in constant communication. According to this report, Enbridge had been calling to "clarify questions" and had been "responding well to the request for information". The responses from Enbridge will be a matter of public record when received.

Enbridge is North America's largest oil and gas distributor, based in Calgary, Alberta. It has a long history of pipeline leaks. We as citizens of a democracy are taught to participate in the democratic process by contacting our congressional representatives and engaging in peaceful protests. In theory, if enough people hold an opinion, the government will reflect the concerns of the people and make the changes that need to be made. Increasing partisan polarization has kept

people divided into small groups on many political issues. Because the damage that would result from an oil spill in the Straits is recognized by such politically and socially divergent groups of people, one would expect our politicians to unite in a common goal to ensure the safety of the Straits.

Many people recognize that assurances from a major transnational corporation are meaningless. A politician may take those assurances at face value to give the appearance of "having done my job." If people can't depend on their governmental representatives and regulators to responsibly oversee corporations, they become increasingly frustrated and cynical with the process and with their government. Three-minute limits on public comments, questions on cards, and strict time limits on question and answer sessions are reminiscent of recent Rio Tinto public hearings in the Upper Peninsula. We have seen Rio Tinto, another transnational corporation, intent on opening a sulfide mining operation in Marquette County, use similar tactics to arrange meetings and deal with the public. Rio Tinto provided good food at its info-meetings. They arranged the tables and chairs to their advantage before the meetings and made sure people signed in so dissidents could be identified for future reference. Their representatives were also well trained in public relations.

In *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided By Politics and Religion*, Jonathan Haidt issues a warning about giant corporations, describing them as superorganisms:

So, if the past is any guide, corporations will grow ever more powerful as they evolve and as they change the legal and political systems of their host countries to become ever more hospitable. The only force left on Earth that can stand up to the largest corporations are national governments, some of which still maintain the power to tax, regulate and divide corporations into smaller pieces as they get too powerful.

So we must all work to keep our politicians as honest as we can and limit the influence of lobbyists. Money talks. When businesses and billionaires can make unlimited contributions to the party of their choice, they will buy the party of their choice. Protecting our economy, our natural resources, our very drinking water from corporate greed will take a bipartisan effort and must engage citizens from all over the state. It is the only way to ensure a "Pure Michigan" for the future.

**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://tinyurl.com/obu49xe>

Diverse voices question pipeline during Straits rally

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at Bridge View Park to raise public awareness and give people information about the participating organizations. The keynote speaker was Bill McKibben, climate activist and founder of 350.org, an international group that sponsors activities and projects to encourage alternatives to fossil fuels. The “350” refers to the parts per million level of CO₂ in the atmosphere to which life on earth is adapted. Earth’s atmosphere is presently at 400 ppm (See the science at www.350.org).

Beth Wallace, co-author of “Sunken Hazard,” spoke at the rally, reporting that Enbridge had recently increased the flow in Line 5 by 2.1 million gallons per day with no safety improvements, and had bypassed the environmental permits required for expansion. Other speakers included Cecil Pavalt of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Jess Spolstra of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, and Jarrett Schlaff of the Detroit Coalition Against Tar Sands. Small business owners and local government officials have also joined environmentalists, as well as a wide variety of people from communities around the Straits in expressing concern to state legislators and signing petitions.

Last December U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow wrote the U.S. Department of Transportation requesting information about what tests are performed to ensure the pipeline is operating safely, how leaks are detected, and details about its emergency response plan. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) also signed the letter. According to the *Detroit Free Press* this January, the senators were contacted by Cynthia Quarterman, director of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and told that “significant safety improvements have been made.”

On Feb. 5, 2014 the Mackinac County Planning Commission held a meeting in St. Ignace, inviting various local governmental representatives; Bill Hazel, director for Marine Pollution Control in Detroit; Mike Kasper of Mackinac County Emergency Management; and representatives from Enbridge to answer questions and concerns about the pipeline. At the meeting Thomas Prew, an engineer from Enbridge, showed pictures of a cross section of a seamless



Pumping and control station for Enbridge Pipeline 5 on the Upper Peninsula side of the Mackinac Straits.

Photo by Connie Sherry

pipe. Apparently, the term “seamless” refers to the absence of seams running along the length of the pipe. There was confusion about this term at the meeting until it was explained that the pipes were manufactured in sections that are then welded together. Those welded seams run around the circumference of the pipe.

The *St. Ignace News* reported about the meeting on Feb. 13, stating, “Blake Olson, local operations supervisor for Enbridge, said the line has passed multiple safety inspections.” Olson, local operations supervisor, told the audience that the company spent approximately \$100 million and worked for two years on Line 5 to prepare for the increased flow. Olson said the pressure is actually slightly lower now because of upgrades to the pumping system. In the deepest portions of the Straits the pressure is higher outside the line than inside. Olson said if a rupture were to occur water could force its way into the pipeline. Enbridge engineer Tom Prew clarified that some oil may be released initially but the pressure would quickly seal it in the deepest portions of the Straits.

Many attending the meeting were unhappy with its format. Attendees were required to write their questions on cards which were then screened and sorted. Company rep-
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Consider EarthShare payroll deduction to support UPEC

UPEC is a proud member of EarthShare of Michigan and Wisconsin, organizations that help 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 giving option at your workplace through the annual payroll deduction plan. For more info, please call 1-800-875-3863 or visit www.earthsharemichigan.org or <http://www.earthshare.org/2014/03/wisconsin.html>



NWF divers film aging underwater Mac pipeline

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abounds here. Many islands are visible from the bridge, including Mackinac Island where one can see well-developed former shorelines from Glacial Lakes Nipissing and Algonquin. Isolated sea stacks in the alleys of St. Ignace and on Mackinac Island composed of the more resistant Mackinac Breccia Formation are erosional features of these former shorelines. Also visible from the bridge, Old Fort Michilimackinac lies just to the west on the lower peninsula shoreline.

So do the underwater pipelines. Pipeline 5, part of the Lakehead section owned by Enbridge, runs from Superior, Wisconsin across the UP and under the Straits of Mackinac to Sarnia, Ontario. Thirty-inch Pipeline 5 across the UP separates into two pipes before going underwater at the Straits, each an inch thick and 20 inches in diameter carrying 22 million gallons a day. These lines carry light crude oil and natural gas liquids from western Canada and North Dakota not the tar sands (dilbit) that spilled into the Kalamazoo River. Pipeline 5 could carry tar sands, and there is some concern that it would if the Keystone XL pipeline fails to win approval.

Although a different kind of product flows through Line 5, failure of the Straits pipeline would have tragic and long-term consequences for the people, wildlife, and economy of the region and state. The Great Lakes hold 20% of the world's fresh water. Communities in the area use the lake water for drinking. Summertime brings flocks of tourists to the campgrounds and beaches, including Wilderness State Park and Mackinac Island. Ferries can be seen transporting people bound for the fudge shops and bicycle paths of this famous island where no motor vehicles are allowed and the historic Grand Hotel frames the skyline. Restaurants feature fresh fish from the clean cold water, and sport and charter fishing abound here.

The population of the area swells so much in the summer that the winter season brings an entirely different lifestyle for the permanent residents.

The miles of beaches and campgrounds along US-2 west of the straits are busy in the summer. Motels, smoked fish stands, and pasty shops along the way are favorite stops. Much could be lost in a major pipeline rupture under the Straits. The Straits' currents are strong and unpredictable and are often simultaneously flowing in multiple directions at different depths. Add the cover of ice during several months of the year and an oil spill cleanup becomes even more difficult.

The National Wildlife Federation published a 2012 report, "Sunken Hazard: Aging Oil Pipelines Beneath the Straits of Mackinac, an Ever-present Threat to the Great Lakes," coauthored by Beth Wallace and Jeff Alexander. Following the Kalamazoo River disaster, this report helped to raise public awareness about the threat of the pipelines under the Straits. The report lists a history of problems with Line 5 as well as concerns about its age (It was installed in 1953 during the Eisenhower administration, four years before the Mackinac Bridge was built.).

Two of the oil spills from Line 5 listed in the report were in Bay County in 2003 and 2005. In November 1999 a leak occurred on the north side of US-2 between Iron River and Crystal Falls. Passing motorists detected the spill and reported it to the sheriff's department which then contacted the proper authorities. 226,000 gallons of mixed petroleum products spilled and was then ignited by cleanup workers. The plume burned for 36 hours.



Iron River Reporter coverage of 1999 Line 5 leak.

In July of 2013 divers from the National Wildlife Federation obtained permits to dive and film the pipeline under the Straits. The dive team was watched and filmed by an Enbridge crew. The NWF video is available to watch at: <http://blog.nwf.org/2013/10/whats-the-condition-of-the-pipeline-beneath-the-straits-of-mackinac-video/> The video shows sections of unsupported pipeline with broken braces. NWF divers used a drop camera to film parts of the pipeline at depths beyond 220 feet. In the shallower areas the pipeline is covered with thick seaweed waving in the current. It is unclear how cracks or pits in the pipeline here could be seen with a camera although an actual leak would hopefully be apparent in these clear waters.

On July 14, 2013 the Traverse City chapter of 350.org sponsored an "Oil and Water Don't Mix" rally in St. Ignace *Pipeline See Page 14*

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Enbridge's oil trail beneath Straits focus of concern

By Connie Sherry, UPEC Board Member

Had it not been for the catastrophic 2010 oil spill from Enbridge Pipeline 6B in the Kalamazoo River, many people would have been unaware of another Enbridge pipeline (5) carrying crude petroleum products on the lake bottom at the Straits of Mackinac between Michigan's two peninsulas.

Enbridge officials had testified before the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) about concerns over downstate Line 6B shortly before it failed and released 850,000 gallons of dilbit into Talmadge Creek, a Kalamazoo tributary. The Alberta Oil and Gas Trading website defines dilbit (diluted bitumen) as "the diluted bitumen produced at the oil sands in Alberta. Bitumen itself is very hard to transport because of its dense properties. It is usually diluted with NGL or synthetic crude to make it pipelineable."

Inspectors had found the Line 6B's pipes "cracked and pitted," and the company was being questioned about the safety of its pipeline. Yet Enbridge said Line 6B was safe and asked for a two-and-a-half-year extension to decide whether to repair or replace parts of that line. Because Line 6B carried dilbit, which can be heavier than water and sinks to the bottom, the damage to the Kalamazoo River was even more pronounced. Emergency response teams did not have



Warning sign for the Enbridge Pipeline 5 right-of-way on the Upper Peninsula side of the Mackinac Straits, with the Mackinac Bridge in the background. Photo by Connie Sherry

experience with this kind of material, so their equipment was not effective in cleaning up sinking oil clots. That spill contaminated 38 miles of river. Cleanup continues today.

The five-mile span of the Mackinac Bridge provides a grand view of Lakes Huron and Michigan, as well as the turquoise water typical of these white sand beach areas. History Pipeline See Page 15