



UP Environment

UPEC: THE UP'S OLDEST GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Winter 2018

Celebrate the UP! March 23-24, 2018

Keynote Speakers

Friday, March 23, 6 - 9 PM, James Mills & his film 'American Ascent'



**Saturday, March 24, 9 AM - 4 PM
Multiple sessions & Dudley Edmondson**

Saturday, 4:30 - 6 PM snowshoeing, XC skiing, snowbiking - MTU Trails



You're Invited - It's FREE!

Where: Great Lakes Research Center
Michigan Tech, Houghton

What: Learn about some special places and environmental challenges in the UP, meet new people, enjoy the Keweenaw!

Info: upenvironment.org

PLUS!

1st screening in the UP of "An American Ascent"

Speakers are being partially sponsored/funded by the Visiting Women & Minority Lecturer/Scholar Series via a grant to the Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion from the State of Michigan's King-Carter Parks Initiative. Additional funders include: Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, MTU Departments of Social Sciences and Civil & Environmental Engineering, School of Forest Resources & Environmental Sciences.

**Sponsored by Mark & Christine Troutt
AND**



UPEC



**FOLK
Friends of the Keweenaw**

Annabel Sanchez photo

Welcome to 2018 UPEC Celebration by Horst Schmidt

This year UPEC reached out to fellow organizations Friends of the Land of Keweenaw (FOLK) and Michigan Tech Great Lakes Research Center (GLRC) to plan an event that would not be possible for each to accomplish by themselves. Linda Rulison, president of FOLK and Joan Chadde and Michael Abbott of GLRC have decades of experience in environmental activities with strong educational credentials. We agreed that their organizations and UPEC would celebrate diversity. Diversity in activities, in places and with peoples of color and ethnicity.

To highlight the diversity in people, we have invited two African American outdoor adventurers, James Mills and Dudley Edmondson, to speak about their own experiences in nature and working to encourage greater African-American participation in outdoor activities.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

James Mills

James Mills as a journalist who branched out to other media works in the areas of outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, and practices of sustainable living. He developed his skills in the outdoor field as a guide, outfitter, and writer over the past three decades. Mr. Mills along with eight African-American climbers scaled Mt. Denali in Alaska from which a documentary, American Ascent, was crafted to celebrate their odyssey. He wrote: "As we see a gradual increase among people of color entering into the world of outdoor recreation I believe that it is important to acknowledge the accomplishments of past heroes in order to more firmly cement the roots of the present." See: joytrippproject.com/2018/the-henson-obsession-project/

He wants the larger world as well as his own people to be aware that the typical view of them and they of themselves can be portrayed in a larger, more positive fashion. The Celebration will present Mr. Mills and his film on Friday, March 23rd, 6 PM at Michigan Tech Great Lakes Research Center. Mr. Mills will talk about his career and the film, the documentary will be viewed, then a discussion with audience participation.



Dudley Edmondson

On Saturday one of our other speakers, Dudley Edmondson who through his visual and writing activities has become a proponent of the great outdoors, will offer us insights from his 25 years of experience. In the last 10 years Mr. Edmondson has published a book to make African Americans not only aware of the outdoors, but to engage, to see themselves as part of the 'conservation conversation'.

Speakers for the 2018 Celebrate the UP!

As I am writing this article, we are drawing upon the knowledge of our speakers for the Celebration on March 24th. What are we celebrating? The environment. Our place in it. Our ability to use, to enjoy our winter activities of skiing, snowshoeing, and the latest development, fat tire biking. Birders enjoy the outdoors with opportunities to find new species and have old friends return. The history of the Keweenaw will be featured with discussion of its geology, human history of development, good and bad, problems of present times.



At the end of the sessions on Saturday, we will be offering a tour of the Great Lakes Research Center. For those who

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UPEC Announces Winners of the 2017 Photo Contest

Results from the 2017 UPEC photo contest are final. Our selection committee was pleased that 33 people entered a range of beautiful and thoughtful of images – the largest number in the history of the contest. Winners of the four categories will be featured during UPEC’s upcoming Celebrate the UP! March 23, 24 at Michigan Tech in Houghton, where enlargements of the first place images will be presented to the photographers. To see all category winners, visit: www.upenvironment.org. This year’s category First Place winners are:

Nature Panoramas, Wildlife and Landscapes



Thomas Haight

Humans Engaged with the Natural Environment



Adam Manninen

Hidden or Overlooked Beauty



Deb Mroz

Wonderful Fluid Water



Barb James

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Open Letter to the DEQ by Louis Galdieri

To the MDEQ:

You have probably already received a number of comments on the Back Forty Mine wetland permit application from people who live out of state, as I do. Some of those opposed to sulfide mining on the Menominee River live on the Wisconsin side, just across or downstream from the proposed mine site. Others, across the country and around the world, are deeply concerned about the cumulative effects the current leasing, exploration, and sulfide mining boom around Lake Superior will have, and are alarmed to see federal and state regulatory agencies abdicating their responsibilities to the American public in order to do the bidding of foreign mining companies.

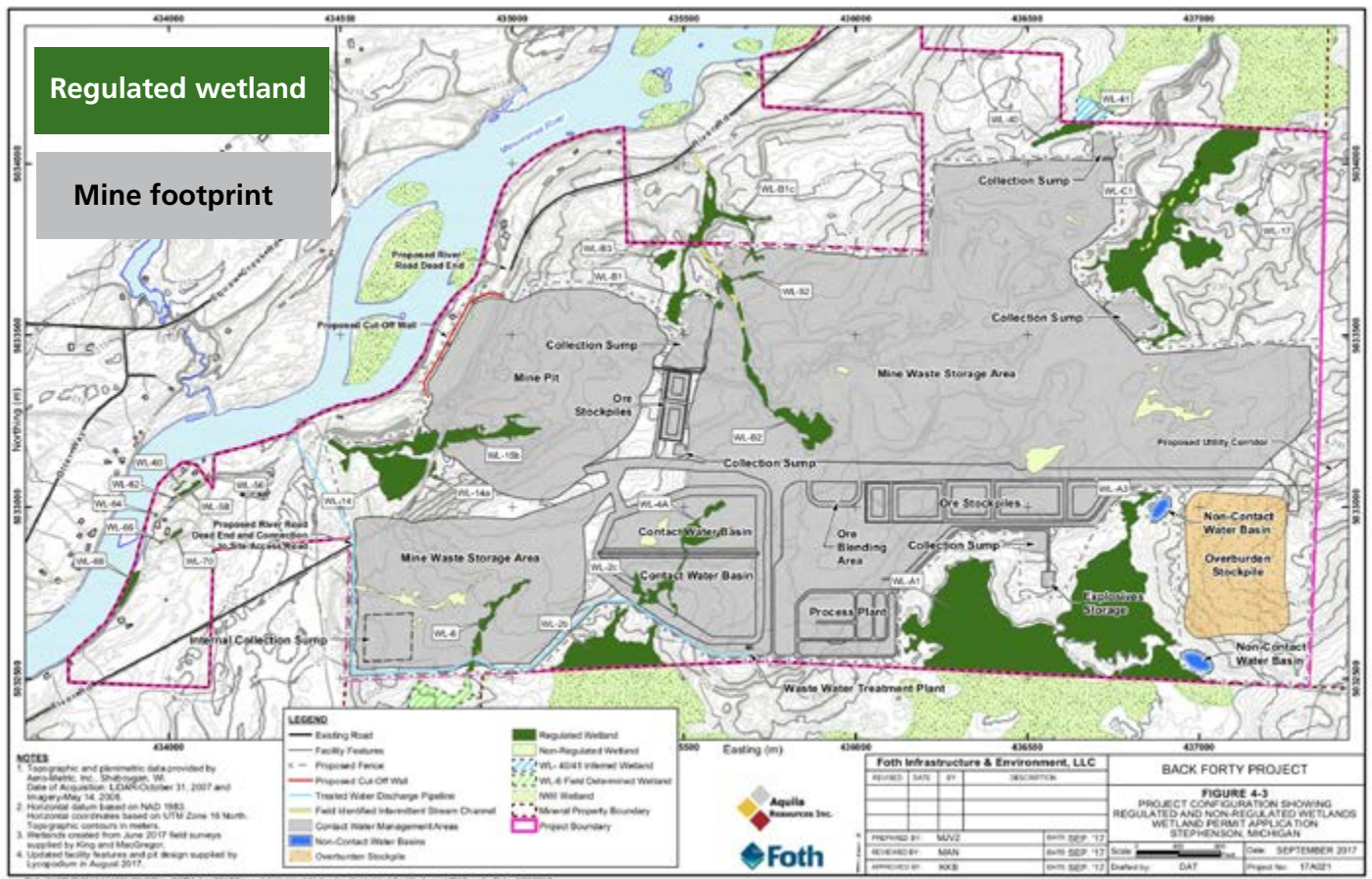
Denying the wetland permit is the only prudent and responsible course for MDEQ to take.

As the organization American Rivers noted when it placed the Menominee River on its list of “most endangered” rivers in 2017, the Aquila Resources Back Forty project poses a “significant threat” of acid mine drainage to the river, and to the “cultural and natural resources of the Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin, and the Great Lakes Region.” Allowing Aquila to destroy or compromise area wetlands to construct its

mine will only heighten the risk of large scale environmental catastrophe.

The risk is compounded by both regulatory and scientific uncertainty. As you are well aware, the Menominee Tribe maintains that the MDEQ lacks authority to issue this permit, because under provisions of the Clean Water Act the Menominee River and its wetlands are federal waters. This question remains unsettled. In the meantime, a third party, independent review of Aquila’s wetland permit application found errors and inconsistencies regarding their findings on groundwater drawdown and the mine’s feasibility analysis. The wetland permit application you are considering is either flawed, because the people who filed it are incompetent, or misleading, because they have something to hide.

Deceit might be Aquila’s best strategy at this point. The Back Forty project has no claim to social license -- none. The Menominee and other Wisconsin tribes have been adamant in their opposition. Local residents are overwhelmingly opposed as well. Of the 90 people who had the opportunity to speak at the January 23rd public hearing in Stephenson, only 4 could muster an argument for the mine, mainly because they put stock in the vague promise of “jobs” made by mining

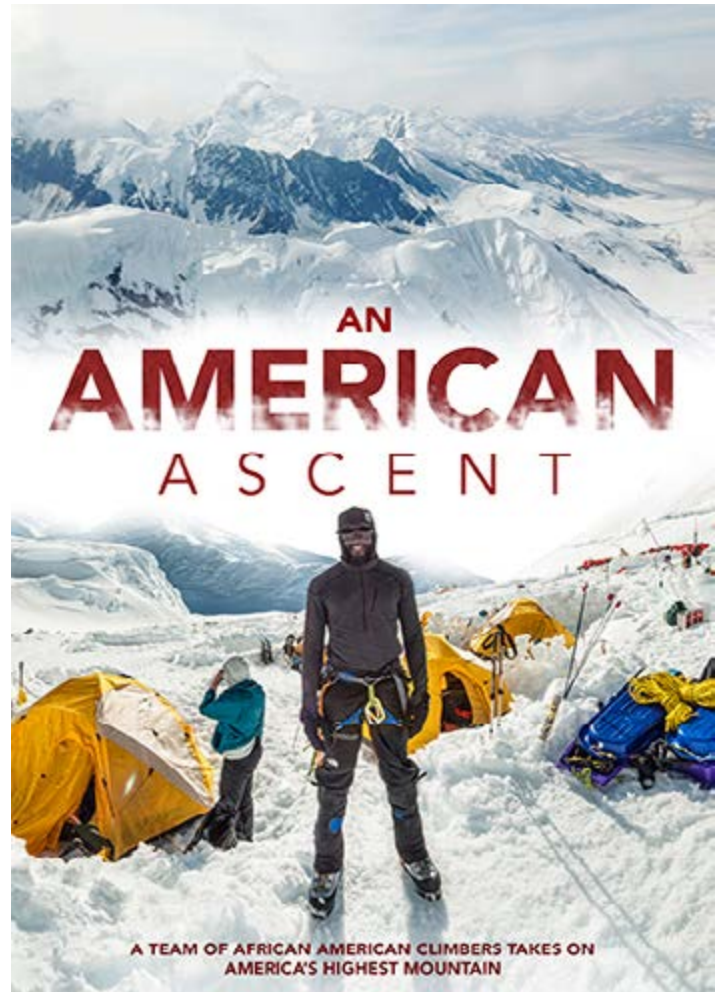


AN AMERICAN ASCENT is a documentary film to be shown Friday of the Celebrate the UP, is about the first African-American expedition to tackle North America's highest peak, Denali.

According to the film, in only a few decades the United States will become a majority-minority nation, as people of color will outnumber today's white majority for the first time ever. Yet, a staggering number of people in this soon-to-be majority do not consider the outdoors as a place for them. By taking on the grueling, 20,310 foot peak of the continent's biggest mountain, nine African-American climbers set out to shrink this Adventure Gap by building a legacy of inclusion in the outdoor/adventure community.

The film addresses often overlooked issues of race and the outdoors as it follows the team up the mountain, chronicling the many challenges of climbing one of the world's most iconic peaks.

AN AMERICAN ASCENT is a co-production of Wild Vision and Floating Point. The film was produced and directed by George Potter & Andy Adkins, and written by Andy Adkins & James Mills. It follows Expedition Denali, a project of the National Outdoor Leadership School.



Open Letter cont'd

proponents. The rest -- 86 out of 90, or 95 percent -- stood in opposition to the mine.

Even if Aquila is not deliberately misleading the MDEQ and the public, the Canadian company has demonstrated time and again that it is not a responsible steward of Michigan or Menominee lands. In archaeological surveys of the region, for instance, Aquila claims to have uncovered nothing of "historical significance." That is telling. These surveys have found nothing because they fail, or refuse to see, the significant Menominee history and culture that is right in front of their eyes. As tribal members have made repeatedly clear, Menominee history, ancestry, and culture begin and end in the river, the land, and the forest. What is historically significant or meaningful is not merely a collection of artifacts; it is a way of life and a deep connection to place. The Back Forty Mine threatens to destroy that connection.

In sum, the wetland permit application is flawed, the company has no social license to operate, and allowing the Back Forty to go forward would violate the public trust. Signed - Louis Galdieri - (reprinted with permission.)

Celebrate the UP 2018 cont'd

be featured with discussion of its geology, human history of development, good and bad, problems of present times.

At the end of the sessions on Saturday, we will be offering a tour of the Great Lakes Research Center. For those who want to enjoy the great outdoors environment after a day of intellectual exercise, we plan to offer cross country skiing, guided snowshoeing and fat tire biking at the Michigan Tech trails.

On Saturday at 7 PM we are working on a world premiere showing of 'Saving Snow', a documentary about the effects of losing snow in communities economically dependent on the white stuff. There will be a discussion afterward with your participation encouraged. Stay tuned and check our website for updates.



Wind Power and Local U.P. Townships: A SURPRISING MISMATCH

by Jon Saari

A township official in Baraga county said recently, he always thought there was nothing you could do about Big Wind except negotiate the best deal with them. They had the money and the power.

This assumption turns out to be wrong. On wind power, where state and federal regulations are mostly silent, the humble township is king and decision-maker. Unlike with mining or gravel pits, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act is enough to tip the scales decisively in favor of local control.

The man who brought this message to Baraga County hails from a small township on the Ohio-Michigan border. Kevon Martis was on the Riga township planning commission when they had to consider a wind proposal. He researched independently into the laws and the effects of wind installations on communities elsewhere, including the Heritage site in the U.P.'s Garden peninsula. He concluded that they often tore apart the rural social fabric and decided to fight the company and its lawyers, and won in a referendum contest.

Martis started a small nonprofit called Interstate Informed Citizen Coalition (IICC) and began to spread the word. He has addressed townships facing wind proposals throughout Lower Michigan, and participated in policy-level discussions in Lansing and Washington D.C. His warning to the U.P. is that we are the next target. The Lower Peninsula is filled up with turbines — Huron County has 500! — and the companies are moving north looking for more fertile ground.

The proposal in Baraga county is to place dozens of 500 foot turbines along the forested ridge of the Michigamme Highlands. Wind farms are rare in forested landscapes, as most are placed in mixed residential rural areas. Weyerhaeuser industrial forest lands would be the hosts, not a group of farmers profiting from an annual lease. Martis says that although winds in Michigan are marginal for wind power, compared to parts of the Plains and coasts, it is the investment and production tax credits that draw companies like Renewable Energy Systems (RES) from Great Britain to seek to develop such projects. An unaware small population is perhaps another attraction for the companies.

As Martis spoke to a packed Legion Hall crowd in L'Anse on February 1, the crowd was eager to know how their township might fare against the global giant RES. He had described what it was like for people, birds, and bats to live next to wind towers that are five times taller than our largest white pines. Still, the crowd seemed reluctant to believe in their own power to stop it. When directly asked what he thought RES' chances were to winning this battle, he said "nil, no chance." A ripple of surprise and elation ran



Vision or nightmare for the U.P.? Wind project in a forested area of Quebec, Canada. The forestland has been tamed and industrialized by the huge towers and extensive new infrastructure.

through the room. An empowered and united people left the meeting at its close.

Kevon Martis knows whereof he speaks. Of 17 townships where referenda have been held on community standards that protect the health, safety and welfare of residents, the wind power advocates have lost every one of them. Seventeen out of 17. Martis has been called an extreme anti-wind power zealot by some, but he understands the deep desire and right of communities to protect themselves with reasonable community zoning ordinances.

For what is known on the RES project in northern Baraga and Marquette counties, see the website MIwildwinds.org. For the township wind power ordinance in Riga township, see the iiccusa.org/sample.



2018 Environmental Education Grants by Gregg Bruff

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition is honored to award environmental education grants each year. The grants are available to Upper Peninsula teachers, schools, and educators, both traditional and non-traditional, to increase student awareness of the environment and our place in it. The UPEC board proudly announces this year's nine awardees receiving a total of \$4000. They are:



Rob Weiner, MSU Extension – Munising

Life of Lake Superior Days - Alger County Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) conducts LOLS as part of the organization's natural resource education efforts. The series is for youth aged 9-14, but is also a whole family event. The purpose is to give youth and families the opportunity to learn about and participate in outdoor and environmental activities related to the Lake Superior region. The goal is that through these experiences, U.P. citizens will become more well-informed about natural resource and environmental issues of the region, which will help them to make responsible and sustainable lifestyle choices.

We are lucky to live in close proximity to abundant and beautiful natural resources, but many residents do not have the opportunity to experience these resources, due to financial constraints. A key element of Life of Lake Superior is that it is an "all inclusive" event, free of any charge to participants. Each day, transportation to and from home, meals and snacks, and place based natural / cultural programming are all offered for no cost, allowing many U.P. residents to have experiences that would otherwise not be attainable to them.

In addition to these unique attributes, participating in Life of Lake Superior gives youth an opportunity to see what it's like to work in different natural resource and environmental career fields.



Brian Prill - Marquette Alternative High School – Marquette

Lake Superior Ecology signage - Marquette Alternative High School students have formed the Ecology club. The Club's main focus is to study local ecology, water quality and to conduct service learning projects that include the entire student body to help improve the environment and mitigate the damage from invasive species, pollution and unmindful human/environment interaction. The club's plan for the year is to further develop, design and place informational signage concerning Lake Superior, the Great Lakes ecosystem and the lake's physical features along the Lake Shore bike path to help educate tourists and community members on all matters concerning the state of the lakes.

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A retired teacher is working with our group to advise and help accomplish the next set of signs. The two existing signs show some of the physical features and water content of Lake Superior along with predominant fish species and the process of bioaccumulation and biomagnification. Students helped develop content of signs and designed overall look of signs. Both of these signs are in high foot traffic areas and have helped answer many questions about the lake.



Irina Bruno - Bonifas Fine Arts Center – Escanaba

Fourth Grade Afield - The program supports the 4th grade curriculum in science with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of natural science and raising environmental awareness in an outdoor setting, using various arts projects. Fourth Grade Afield engages students and helps local youth feel more aware and knowledgeable of their natural surroundings and prepares them to be the stewards of the Upper Peninsula's great outdoors. The program runs in September and includes all fourth graders in the Escanaba Public School system and Holy Name School. *This is an arts grant in honor of Bonnie Miljour.*



Carol Maas - Friends of Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

Pollinator Gardens - The Friends of the Porkies seeks funding to support the creation of a 5th grade service learning project curriculum on planting a pollinator's garden. We will be working with the Ontonagon Area School District teachers to develop in classroom curriculum that includes language arts, science, and math to answer questions needed to plant a butterfly garden. This curriculum lends itself to an ideal service learning opportunity where the students would plan and implement the planting of pollinator's gardens at their school and at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.



Mimi Klotz - Clear Lake Education Center – Shingleton

Michigan Rocks! Hands-on education program development - Clear Lake seeks to help local and visiting youth become better connected to and better informed about issues facing the area's natural resources, how their actions and decisions can impact those resources, and what they can do to reduce their impacts and be better stewards. CLEC does this through programs at the Center and at other locations on the Hiawatha National Forest.

A favorite pastime of many is rock hunting, in particular agates. Differentiating between agates and other stones can

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be difficult for some. The Michigan ROCKS! program will help participants learn about the different kinds of rocks in Michigan, their physical properties, how they are formed, and what makes them unique. They will also understand the habitats where some rocks are found and how to be respectful of the species sharing those habitats. Connecting youth to the geology and geography of an area is a positive reinforcement of the sense of place that creates empathy for and pride in the U.P.

In learning about rocks and minerals, it is important to consider several aspects of the Upper Peninsula's mining industry and heritage. It is a junction where ecology and economy tend to meet and perhaps clash. While we do not tell participants how they should feel about the ecological impacts of rock hunting/collecting - or mining - we do connect them to the natural world, share the best information we can, and ask them to think about all aspects of any given topic to be better informed citizens and stewards.



Joan Chadde – MTU Great Lakes Resource Center Houghton

Underrepresented Minorities/Natural Resource Careers - This project aims to increase the interest of Native American students in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in choosing a natural resource career path by participating in a one-week internship at Michigan Tech in Summer 2018. Students who have previously visited MTU will be encouraged to apply for the one-week STEM summer internship, as multiple visits increases the likelihood that they will choose to attend. We will recruit 10th & 11th grade students from Brimley School, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Hannahville, and Watersmeet. We have worked with teachers and students from these schools in recent years.



Jacquie Medina & Kathryn Hargreaves – NMU/North Star Montessori – Marquette

Perspectives on Place - Art & Inquiry in our Local Environment - The Montessori program at NMU's charter school, North Star Montessori Academy, is dedicated to learning through outings and firsthand experiences. The idea behind Cosmic Education in the Montessori approach is that "All things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity." Students who see themselves and the natural world as connected in this unity are more likely to honor, defend, and protect their environment locally and on a global level.

Building on previous years grants, we are applying for the 2018 UPEC Environmental Education Grant to continue developing our outdoor education curriculum and

enter into a cycle of stewardship and service learning in our community.



Brian Doughty – MTU Center for Science and Environ- mental Outreach– Houghton

Class Recycling Project- The Center for Science and Environmental Outreach (CSEO) at Michigan Tech has partnered with the Copper Country Recycling Initiative through a now expired EPA grant for the past two years to raise awareness around conscientious behavior when it comes to reducing the amount of waste we, as a community, generate. We have chosen public schools as one of our main target areas to focus our education and outreach efforts. The Center would like to continue and expand prior years' Houghton County classroom recycling presentations to schools located Baraga, Ontonagon, and Gogebic Counties while continuing to offer presentations in Houghton County. During April, 2016 – March 2017, a total of 36 classroom presentations reaching 930 students - were conducted in Houghton County. Teachers from schools in Baraga, Ontonagon, and Gogebic Counties have contacted us with a desire to help or continue to help educate their students about recycling, composting, and other forms of reducing waste at home and in the community. Though there may be recycling options available in some of these communities, many individuals do not participate. It is our goal to support changes that will increase exposure and awareness of recycling and composting, leading to long term shifts in attitudes and behaviors around recycling, repurposing, and reducing waste.

During classroom presentations, students learn how to pack waste-free lunches, brainstorm what to do with their trash, find out where items can be recycled locally, what the items can be recycled into, and design a way to separate various materials in a single waste stream. Classrooms will be invited to do a 'garbology' study in which they analyze a bag of trash generated at the school to discover that much of what we commonly consider garbage can be recycled. "Garbage" is weighed after sorting into piles of recyclable/reusable materials to determine what part of the whole is truly trash.



Jean Dunstan & Deirdre Erbsch - Stanton Township / Atlantic Mine

Wildcat Weather Station - Stanton Township Public Schools have maintained environmental education programming for the past 10 years through our participation in the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative (LSSI). Our focus centers on connecting the students to "their place".

The Language of Conservation by Gregg Bruff

In the politically divided world we live in, it seems imperative that we use the best language we can in communicating with others. This is particularly true while communicating about conservation of land and water – formerly known as natural resources. Aha! Therein lies the key.

In 2013, Republican and Democrat marketing/opinion firms were hired by The Nature Conservancy to develop polls testing the best ways to communicate conservation topics with Americans. Though conservationists frequently use more technical terms such as “ecosystem services”, “environment” and “biological diversity” these may not be the best choice to use when communicating to others beyond “the choir” so to speak.

Even though these results are now over four years old, the studies continue to be referenced in the literature as being “best practice” approaches. Let’s see what they came up with.

When possible, we should talk first and foremost about **WATER**. Water is a universal requirement that everyone seems to understand. Clean drinking water cannot be stressed enough and pollution of rivers and lakes concerns many Americans. Conservation of land can also be successfully linked directly to water quality as people generally make the connection between land use practices and water quality.

When possible, we should connect conservation to **PUBLIC HEALTH**. People want clean air and water and protecting land and water also helps protect our own well-being. Conservation of Mother Nature’s natural defenses helps keep communities safe.

Polls show that in our discussions we should keep **PEOPLE** in the picture. Though many of you reading this would no doubt support a nature for nature’s sake approach, for most Americans this is not the case. Reinforcing the connection between a strong economy and land, water and wildlife conservation is an important concept to explore.

Another strong messaging approach is to accentuate the importance of linking conservation to ways that help **CHILDREN** spend more time outdoors. In today’s digital world, research increasingly shows the positive impacts of kids unplugging to spend time outside. The general public is reacting to this idea and thinks kids need more “**Vitamin N**” – places where kids can safely run, play and experience nature. With this theme comes the positive aspect

of stressing the idea of conserving nature for **FUTURE GENERATIONS**. The idea of passing healthy land and water to our kids and grandkids resonates with many.



Successful language selection suggests ownership and inclusion by using words such as **OUR** and **WE** since we are all in this together. Along with this is the idea of a **SHARED MORAL RESPONSIBILITY** to care for nature.

Those of us who live in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula are proud of that. This too is a positive way to accentuate a **PRIDE OF PLACE** – no matter where you live. And citing diverse coalitions and collaborations that support conservation is a positive way of communicating the need to conserve nature – particularly when conservation is part of a long-term plan for our community’s quality of life. Another positive approach is highlighting the **HISTORIC VALUE** of lands that are conserved. And specific **RECREATIONAL PURSUITS** can be cited, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping and hiking.

This highlights the research which provides us with positive communication guidelines. We can begin to modify our language of conservation to one of commonalities. I have concentrated on things we **SHOULD** do, but the article also explores words and phrases we could avoid. If you’d like to read the entire article, search for “The Language of Conservation” by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, and Associates along with Public Opinion Strategies.



For the sake of our health, our children and grandchildren and even our economic well-being, we must make protecting the planet our top priority.

David Suzuki

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

Please complete, attach a check, and give to a UPEC board member or mail to UPEC: PO Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931

Or you can contribute on-line through justgive on UPEC's website: www.upenvironment.org/join-donate/

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

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 Contact me - I want to volunteer!
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 In Honor or Memory of _____
* (Please circle correct category, and provide person's or family's name and mailing address on separate sheet of paper)

Contributions beyond membership are suggested for these UPEC funds - (please indicate amount of donation)

- Environmental Education fund
 Community Conservation Grants fund
 UPEC/SWUP Mining Action Group (MAG) fund



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Check your newsletter's mailing label for your membership status. Phone and E-mail information is optional - UPEC does not share members' contact information with any other organizations. Thank You for your support!

(Cont'd from page 9)

To enhance our year long phenological studies of the local environment we are excited at the prospect of purchasing and maintaining a weather monitoring station. Having a weather station on site will tie in extremely well with our K-8 science curriculum. By collecting relevant atmospheric data for our area, we will be able to teach concepts that include patterns, cause and effect, along with stability and change.

The weather station will also allow us to monitor weather changes as they relate to our gardens. This will help us determine what plants will thrive in our climate zone.

Grant program facilitator Gregg Bruff stated that "these annual grants are an important way to foster increased student awareness of and engagement with our environment. UPEC appreciates the innovative way educators are working with students to enhance their sense of place." For more information, see: www.upenvironment.org.



Winter 2018

UPEC's Mission

"As the longest serving environmental organization in Michigan's U.P., the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC) strives to preserve the unique cultural and natural resources of the Upper Peninsula through public education, the promotion of sound land stewardship, and reasoned dialogue with communities, governments, industries and others with whom we share this land."



To Our Helpful Supporters

We just received a check from Econofood for \$116 from receipts sent by UPEC members. This is another way to support us. Shop at Econofood? Just keep an envelope handy at home where you can deposit the receipts after shopping. When its full, send them to us. It's that simple. Send your receipts to UPEC, PO Box 673, Houghton MI 49931. Thank you!



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About UPEC...

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a four-decade track record of protecting and seek to enhance the unique environmental qualities of the U.P. through public education and monitoring of industry and government. UPEC and the more recently formed Mining Action Group seek common ground with diverse individuals and organizations to promote sound planning and management decisions for all the region's natural resources.

U.P. Environment is published quarterly and available online to share with family & friends. Send your comments or contributions to:

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