

U.P. Celebration at the Three Corners Schedule of Presentations

Friday, March 19, 2010

Kick-off

Federated Women's Clubhouse

7:00 p.m. "The Wolves of Isle Royale" – Rolf Peterson, MTU biological research professor
followed by
Winter Study – filmed on Isle Royale in 2010 by George Desort

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Individual Presentations

Peter White Public Library – Community Room

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. "Nine-day Moose River Snowshoe Expedition: Moose River Crossing to James Bay on the Arctic Ocean, February '09" – Michael Neiger, wilderness guide
11:30 – 12:30 p.m. **Discussion:** "Climate Change, Spirituality, and Citizen Campaigns" – Eric Hansen, author, hiker, activist
1:00 – 2:45 p.m. *Manoomin (Wild Rice): Ojibwe Spirit Food* – a film by Michael Loukinen, NMU professor of sociology and documentary filmmaker; with Roger LaBine, Ojibwe wild rice harvester

The Landmark Inn – Sky Room

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. "Winging it U.P. and Green Birding" – Scot Stewart, educator, birder, photographer
11:30 – 12:30 p.m. "The *Pictured Rocks Journal: New Media in National Parks*" – Craig Rademacher, NMU professor of outdoor education and leadership management, publisher
1:30 -- 2:30 p.m. "Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park: A Perspective on the Origin of Michigan's Largest State Park" – Bob Sprague, park manager, PMWSP

The Landmark Inn – Board Room

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. *Walking Paths and Protected Areas of the Keweenaw* (Michigan Nature Association, 2009) – Joan Chadde, environmental educator, author
11:30 – 12:30 p.m. "Making a Birch Bark Canoe" – John and Victoria Jungwirth, woodwright and herbalist (view a Jungwirth birch bark canoe in the Landmark Inn lobby)
1:30 -- 2:30 p.m. "Integrating Solar Energy into your Life" – Sue Robishaw and Steve Schmeck, homesteaders, artists, solar electric system consultants

Federated Women's Clubhouse

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. "A Not-Too-Serious Look at Landscape Painting" – Patrick St. Germain, artist
11:30 – 12:30 p.m. **Open Mike Session:** "Mother Tongues/Other Tongues" – Mary Kinnunen and Jeff Eaton, writers
1:30 -- 2:30 p.m. "Bremner River Journal: A Vignette in Film and Words about Seeking Solitude" – Steve Pence and Chris Ozminski, wilderness canoeists

Panel Discussion with the Public

Peter White Public Library – Community Room

3:00 -- 4:45 p.m. “Protecting the U.P. Landscape: A How-to Guide for Landowners Large and Small”

Panelists:

Bill Davis, Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy
Kim Herman, Forest Ecologist, MI DNRE
Justin Miller, Forestry Consultant
Jessica Mistak, Fisheries Biologist, MI DNRE

Moderator: Mary Martin

Public Reception

Federated Women’s Clubhouse

5:00 -- 7:00 p.m. Some past UPEC board members – where are they now? Updates (some in person).
Join us for wine and hors d’oeuvres.

Presenter Information

Joan Chadde – environmental educator and author

The Michigan Nature Association has published a new guidebook titled *Walking Paths and Protected Areas of the Keweenaw* which describes twenty-two sanctuaries & preserves in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. Each description includes driving directions, a trail map, interesting plants, animals and geology, and conservation history, along with color photos of each site. The guidebook was produced in collaboration with seven other land conservation organizations and units of government with protected lands in the Keweenaw Peninsula. The new guide is designed to increase awareness of local land conservation efforts in the Keweenaw, and the special habitats, unique features, and interesting plant and animal species found in Houghton and Keweenaw counties. Joan was responsible for compiling the information that went into the book, and she will discuss the beautiful areas which inspired her to do so.

Joan is the K-12 Education & Outreach Program Coordinator for MTU’s Center for Science & Environmental Outreach and Western UP Center for Science, Math & Environmental Education. Her education/outreach efforts span 30 years and include K-12 teachers, students, and the public in Michigan, Wyoming, Montana, Arizona, and California. She has worked as an environmental educator at the National Outdoor Leadership School (WY), Yosemite Institute (CA), Outdoor Vacations for Women Over 40 (MI, WY & AZ), Wyoming Outdoor Council, and Innisfree (MI), and as a water quality specialist for the Montana Department of Natural Resources.

George Desort – documentary filmmaker

George's new 30-minute documentary explores the 52 years of the Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Winter Study. Documentary filmmaker shadows biologists Rolf Peterson and John Vuceitch through this amazing ecosystem during seven adventurous weeks in the middle of a Lake Superior winter.

As a documentary filmmaker and photographer, George has worked with the Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Project during the last five years, including the storied winter study. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received his BFA from Columbia College in Chicago, where he now resides. His work has appeared in *Audubon Magazine*, *Backpacker*, *National Geographic*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. The documentary, *Fortunate Wilderness, the wolf and moose study of Isle Royale*, has aired on PBS across the country and was a finalist at the International Wildlife Film Festival and the Lake County Film Festival.

Eric Hansen – author, hiker, advocate

Join author Eric Hansen for a reading and discussion of his recent public radio essay, "Copenhagen, Climate Change, and Common Sense Conservation." He invokes success stories from the U.P.'s and Wisconsin's past and present as he reflects on the climate change summit. Michigan environmental historian Dave Dempsey noted that Hansen's essay is "a calming, hopeful piece in a time of nasty, violent invective about global warming." How does climate change become part of a new narrative on land protection?

Eric Hansen is an award-winning environmental essayist, author, conservation campaigner, adventurer, public speaker and pulpit guest. He has highlighted the U.P.'s natural heritage in *Backpacker* magazine, the op-ed pages of our region's leading newspapers, and in numerous public radio interviews. Widely traveled, he's a veteran of 29 treks to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, successful ascents of most of the high peaks of Glacier National Park, low and memorable telemark-style ski descent of Colorado's highest peak, Mount Elbert. www.eric-hansen.com

John and Victoria Jungwirth – canoe builders

John and Victoria, homesteaders and builders of traditional birch bark canoes, will discuss how a bark canoe was made during the Iron Age, and how this "pick-up truck of pre-history" made life in the north possible. One of the Jungwirths' recent creations will be on display in the Landmark Inn lobby, and the presentation will begin there with a demonstration of construction techniques.

The Jungwirths live in a remote corner of Marquette County, where they strive to develop a sustainable lifestyle that balances the modern and the ancient. As well as building canoes, Victoria runs a small wild herbal medicinal business and works at the Marquette Food Co-op. John hones the skills used to live in the bush and pursues his trade as a woodwright.

Mary Kinnunen and Jeff Eaton – writers

Hear the voices of the Upper Peninsula, comic to bittersweet, through poetry and prose: Pasties, and bears, and Yoopers, oh my! This is an open mike session, so bring along your own poems, prose pieces, and songs in celebration of the U.P.

Mary is Marquette native and founding publisher of Marquette Monthly magazine. She currently works as a freelance writer in Rhinelander, WI. Her essays and articles have recently appeared in such magazines as

Latitudes and Attitudes, Northern Breezes, Good Old Boat, and Mainsheet. Jeff is a former writer and editor for Marquette publications. He now teaches writing and literature at Nicolet College in Rhinelander, WI, and contributes to *Mainsheet* magazine.

Michael Loukinen and Roger LaBine – documentary filmmaker and Ojibwe wild rice harvester

Many Ojibwe youth are losing the wild “ricing” traditions of their ancestors due to the deaths of knowledgeable elders and the harmful environmental impacts on their rice beds. A cultural dispute rages between the Ojibwe and some lake property owners disdainful of “ugly lake weeds,” who are impervious to the harm caused by antiquated and leaking septic systems. Other threats are hydroelectric power companies who want lake levels controlled to generate maximum power. *Manoomin...* reveals the traditional practices of planting, rice-boat building, harvesting, parching, dancing, winnowing, cooking, and finally the ceremonial offering of wild rice at a feast.

While dying of cancer, the late Spiritual Elder Archie McGeshick, Sr. continued to plant and harvest wild rice the way his ancestors had for centuries. He took Michael Loukinen out to record these traditional practices in the hope that through this documentary more people will understand, appreciate and want to protect indigenous wild rice beds. The opening scene of *Manoomin (Wild Rice): Ojibwe Spirit Food* shows him offering Ojibwe-language prayers and tobacco to the Water, Shore and Great Spirits as he surveys the rice bed that he is trying to restore. The film is dedicated to him.

Dr. Michael M. Loukinen joined NMU in 1976. He was born in Detroit but lived half of his childhood life in the U.P. Along with many scholarly publications, he has completed thirteen documentaries, most on ethnic traditions in the Upper Midwest: including Finnish Americans, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ottawa and Serbs. He has recorded the traditional occupational cultures of trappers, loggers and commercial fishers in the U.P. This showing of *Manoomin...* is part of a 30-year retrospective of Michael's works. His films have won state, national and international academic and artistic awards. For the last decade he has been working with Grant Guston, a highly skilled digital artist working at Learning Resources at NMU and at Lake Effect Media. Website: www.upnorthfilms.com For DVD sales call 906-227-2706 weekdays.

Roger LaBine is a member of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe located in Watersmeet, MI, and is currently working in the Environment and Planning Department for the tribe. His uncle, Archie McGeshick Sr., is the featured elder in the film. Roger is carrying his uncle's knowledge to the next generation by teaching youngsters about the manoomin that is so integral to Ojibwe cultural heritage. He has conducted 4 rice camps over the past 3 years, and continues the restoration of manoomin in the western end of the Upper Peninsula.

Michael Neiger – wilderness guide

Michael will present an account of a February 2009, 9-day snowshoe and sledge expedition down Canada's Moose River, from Moose River Crossing to James Bay on the Arctic Ocean's lower Hudson Bay. In addition to digital media, he'll also bring along some of his specialized gear, including an expedition sledge, huge Cree snowshoes, ice spud, etc. If time permits, Michael will discuss some of the cases he is working on with Michigan Backcountry Search and Rescue.

Michael Neiger is an avid wilderness tripper who has paddled and skied solo to the Arctic Ocean. As a wilderness guide, he has led hundreds of backpacking, canoeing, and snowshoeing trips and expeditions across northern Michigan and Ontario, Canada. He enjoys research and writing and is currently working on detailed backcountry guidebooks to the history, caves, old growth, overlooks, shipwrecks, and hidden gems of Grand Island and Pictured Rocks. As the founder of Michigan Backcountry Search and Rescue, he

assists families and law enforcement agencies with missing-person cold cases in remote wilderness regions of Michigan and Ontario.

Steve Pence and Chris Ozminski – wilderness canoeists

Chris Ozminski of Lapeer and Steve Pence of Marquette have each spent a lifetime of searching for solitude in Michigan and nearby Ontario. Both were on a May 2009 wilderness trip on the Bremner River led by Michael Neiger of Marquette. Chris made a film of the adventure, which Steve will introduce, reflecting on the “why” of their passion for the outdoors.

Steve Pence is a native Upper Peninsulan, having begun to explore the rivers and streams of the U.P. at age 4, with a father who loved trout fishing. He is pleased to have never completely grown up.

Chris Ozminski has been an avid outdoorsman since childhood, in the 1960s, when his mother introduced him to camping, hiking, canoeing, fishing, and nature study. Since then he has developed a passion for all-season, remote wilderness exploration. Hoping to give back a little of what he has gained from his experiences in the public lands, he volunteers in Wilderness Search and Rescue and has embarked on a new career path in film-documentary making. Chris has worked in the manufacturing industry for 30 years, and currently resides in Lapeer, MI.

Rolf Peterson – MTU biological research professor

The U.P. Celebration at the Three Corners will kick-off on Friday evening, March 19th with MTU's own Rolf Peterson, whose talk will weave together images that tell the story of wolves and moose in Isle Royale National Park, which have been the focus of over 50 years of annual monitoring and study.

Rolf has conducted wolf research at Isle Royale since 1970, and also in Alaska, mainland Michigan, and, together with many collaborators, Yellowstone National Park. He has a B.A. degree in zoology from University of Minnesota, Duluth, and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. He has been on the faculty at Michigan Tech since 1975. In addition to research on wolves and moose, he has conducted ecological studies of beaver, otters, muskrats, bats, coyotes, and other mammals. He serves on the board of directors of the International Wolf Center

Craig Rademacher – *Pictured Rocks Journal* online publisher

Craig will share information on the growing trend of new media being developed to interpret America's national parks. As an example of this trend, the development and publication of the new *Pictured Rocks (PIRO) Journal* will be discussed. The *PIRO Journal*, an entirely digital interpretive magazine launching in Spring 2010, brings together the arts, interpretive story, and science in a unique way that permits readers to explore and understand the meaning of America's first national lakeshore.

Craig Rademacher is a native of Michigan and moved to the UP in 2007. He is an Assistant Professor of Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management at Northern Michigan University. His specialty within the ORLM program is interpretation. His research and creative interests are in understanding and exploring the interplay between mobile media technology and public lands. He writes a professional blog entitled New Media in National Parks (<http://newmedia.nmu.edu>), and is soon to publish the *PIRO Journal*.

Sue Robishaw and Steve Schmeck – homesteaders, solar energy specialists

From solar oven to solar electric, there are many ways you can incorporate solar energy into your life. It has been an integral part of our homestead for thirty years and you can make it part of yours, too. We'll take you on a tour of our solar life with tips and ideas, and hopefully inspiration, for doing your own. Using solar energy can be fun and satisfying and its variety can fit into any lifestyle.

Steve Robishaw and Steve Schmeck have been living an "alternative" solar lifestyle on their homestead in the woods north of Cooks, MI since the late 70s. They designed and built their underground home, as well as their life, to fit into and enjoy the natural world around them. Sue is an artist, writer, musician, passionate organic gardener and popular speaker on gardening and their "green" lifestyle. Steve is an artist and woodcarver, fiddler, computer guy and solar electric system consultant who has helped many people design and install their own off-grid systems.

Patrick St. Germain – artist

This retrospective of Patrick's works will cover over 30 years of his interpretations of Upper Michigan's unique and colorful environment. His interpretations are visually striking, often irreverent and satirical, and unfailingly thought-provoking. One always encounters an unusual eye and mind at work...

Patrick has been living and painting in Marquette for more than 30 years. His versions of the Upper Peninsula landscape and wildlife have been shown in most major museums and exhibition spaces in Michigan, including two showings at the Detroit Institute of Arts and an exhibition at the Office of the Governor in Lansing. Patrick's paintings are in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, the Madison Art Center, the Wustum Museum, the University of Michigan Hospital, the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, and many other public and private collections. In Marquette, his artwork is permanently installed in NMU's Superior Dome and in the Marquette County Courthouse.

Bob Sprague – manager, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

Listen and watch while Bob tells the story of the park's fascinating origins, and describes its bountiful natural resources and recreational opportunities. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park was named among the Top 10 state parks in the nation for the third consecutive year.

Bob has worked at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park since 1976; as a Park Ranger to 1994, Park Interpreter to 2005, and is currently Park Manager. "The Porkies" are his passion, and he spends as much time as possible hiking, exploring, skiing, and photographing the park.

Scot Stewart – birder, photographer, and educator

The Upper Peninsula has been a great place to bird, and is now even better because of great birders regularly spending more time afield, finding great discoveries and using today's technologies to let others know about them... "Green Birding" now encourages birders to look closer to home... you'll see where!

For nearly 40 years, Scot Stewart has been exploring both the U.P.'s well-known and more secretive wild places as a photographer, educator, and writer. He says he feels he's found a home in one of the most beautiful places on Earth.

Panelist Information

Bill Davis – Outgoing President of the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy
“Conservation Easements as a Land Use Option”

Bill’s presentation will review U.P. land conservancies and their market areas, and other forms of land preservation. He’ll explain what conservation easements are and how they work, as well as the tax incentives associated with easements and their potential role as a property rights tool. Having been a board member and president of the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy (formerly Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy) for a number of years, Bill will discuss its mission and vision.

Bill is a former consumer/credit card banker who retired to Marquette in 1996 after living in the Detroit area for 30 years. He has owned property in Grand Marais for 30 years, and he and his wife Kathy spend summers there, fishing and protecting endangered Piping Plovers. For the past 14 years Bill has served on several boards that deal with land-use issues, and has been a long-time member of UPEC and various other environmental organizations. He and Kathy have implemented conservation easements on their Lake Superior shoreline property and have donated land to the Michigan Audubon Society. Bill is a self-described expert on the tax deductibility of conservation easements and their use in preserving property owners’ dreams.

Kim Herman – Monitoring Specialist, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, MI DNRE

“Your Big Backyard and The U.P. Neighborhood: Connecting People Through Stewardship:

Kim asks of the audience “Do you know how your backyard fits into the Upper Peninsula landscape or how to find out?” She will briefly review some of the U.P. ecosystems, their wildlife and wildflowers; along with stewardship opportunities and tools for managing anyone’s special place, large or small. Learn how we may have fun with children and adults of all ages in the process, and find out where to go for more information and resources.

Kim began working for the State of Michigan in 1982 as a botanist for the MI Department of Transportation. She joined the DNR Wildlife Division in 1990, and served as Protection Specialist with the MI Natural Features Inventory and later as Stewardship and Natural Areas Coordinator in the National Heritage Program. She moved to the U.P. with her husband, Mike in 2002 to serve as a Wildlife Division Ecologist. In 2004 she joined the DNRE Forest, Management Division as a member of the Forest Certification Implementation Team. Kim is now in the Forest Health and Monitoring Unit working on invasive plant control efforts. She is also on the DNRE Biodiversity Assist Team working with staff on management plans for a system of Ecological Reference Areas; and more recently on a system of potential Biodiversity Stewardship Areas on state forest land. Among her accomplishments, Kim was National President of the Natural Areas Association from 2005-2009, and has served on the NAA Board since 1994.

Justin Miller – President and Consulting Forester, Green Timber Consulting Forestry, Inc.

“Environmental Sustainability: What a Private Landowner Can Do”

Justin will explore opportunities for private landowners to use their land as a tool to benefit the environment and support the economy. In his words, “a responsible steward is a role model in environmental sustainability.”

Justin is a consulting forester who serves the interests of non-industrial private landowners throughout the central and western Upper Peninsula. This small private landownership makes up 50 percent of the U.P.’s land base. He and his staff of foresters assist landowners in focusing on long-term, sustainable planning and management. Justin serves as president for the Michigan Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters. He enjoys family time with his wife Michelle and 3-year old daughter Ayla, along with windsurfing and tele-skiing.

Jessica Mistak – Senior Fisheries Biologist, MI DNRE

“Conservation, Protection, and Management of the U.P.’s Aquatic Landscape”

During her presentation, Jessica will discuss Michigan’s water resources, including wetlands. She will introduce simple ways to protect aquatic resources on private property such as shoreline management practices, riparian buffers, and options for prevention and control of aquatic invasive species.

As a Senior Fisheries Biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Jessica is responsible for initiatives concerning conservation, protection, and management of aquatic habitat. Her work involves providing technical and policy assistance to the MI DNRE on a variety of aquatic habitat-related issues including mining, dam removal, fish passage, stream restoration, and participation in Michigan’s hydropower licensing proceedings. Jessica is a senior fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program and past-president of the Michigan Chapter and the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society.