

Upper Peninsula
Environmental Coalition
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Protecting and maintaining the unique environmental qualities of Michigan's Upper Peninsula by educating the public and acting as a watchdog to industry and government.

UPEC awards six environmental education grants

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC) recently awarded six environmental education grants totaling \$2,700 to support programs that will connect 200 adults with 1000 youths to deepen their knowledge, appreciation, and stewardship of the region. UPEC's support is part of a diverse environmental education partnership that includes community organizations, foundations, state and federal resource management agencies, universities, K-12 school districts, intermediate school districts, and other nonprofit environmental advocacy groups.

"This grant enables MooseWood Nature Center to begin a new collaborative partnership with several agencies to create a unique Lake Superior environmental curriculum and to offer it to elementary school kids this spring," MooseWood Nature Center Director An-



Thanks to UPEC support, Sara Giles from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service discusses with Emerald Elementary School students how animals adapt to the winter climate. Photo by Chris Marana

near Escanaba, Emerald Elementary School in Manistique, and the Western UP Center for Science, Math and Environmental Education (affiliated with the Copper County ISD). Environmental Education Grants See Page 15

drew Bek commented. Bek said that in this era of tight funding, partnerships that piece together resources have become essential for providing environmental education experiences. Bek's program will take students on boats to study aquatic science in Marquette Harbor.

Other grant recipients include Michigan Tech's Center for Science and Environmental Outreach, the MSU Extension Service in Alger County, the Clear Lake Education Center

UP Environment

Spring 2013

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition's quarterly newsletter.
UPEC is the UP's oldest grassroots environmental organization.

Join us for the 5th Celebrate the UP on March 8-9!

See Pages 5-12 for Pull-out Event Program



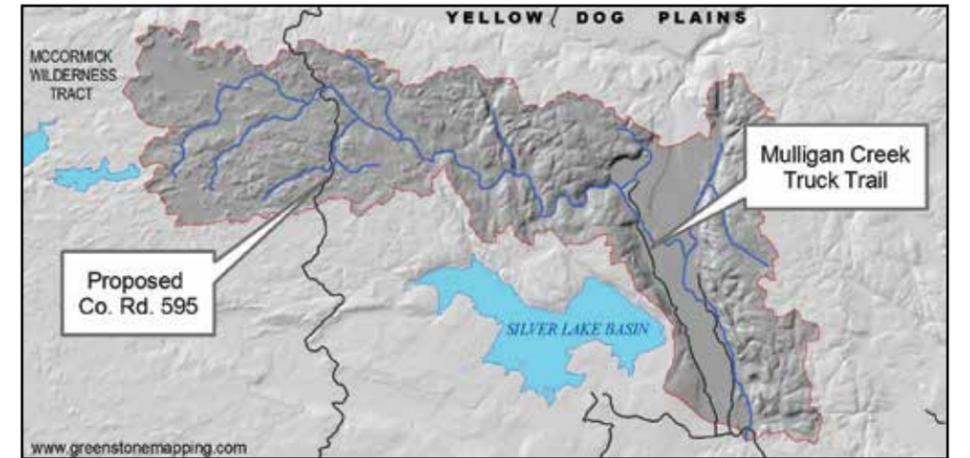
Insistent citizen action helps to halt CR595

By Catherine Parker

January 3 was the ultimate deadline for the County Road 595 project, when the Michigan DEQ would either have to deny the permit application or approve it over the EPA's objections and send it to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) for additional scrutiny and a lengthy review. In both instances, according to Marquette County Road Commission Engineer-Manager Jim Iwanicki, the project would be dead.

On that day, news came via the Internet that DEQ would not issue a permit. The next day's *Marquette Mining Journal* front-page headline read, "CR 595 Project Killed."

With all of Rio Tinto's money and PR efforts; constant pressure from the logging and aggregate industries; support from many township, county, and city officials; advocacy for the proposed road by state and federal legislators, the directors of the DNR and DEQ, and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, why did things ultimately go our way?



Various routes have been proposed for a haul road between the Eagle Project and the Humboldt Mill. The route on the left side of this map did not receive approval because of failures by Rio Tinto and its partners to meet permit requirements.

The story starts back in 2006, with the mention of a "south transportation route" in Rio Tinto's permit application for the Eagle Mine on the Yellow Dog Plains. The Wildlife Division of Michigan's DNR identified problems with this route from the beginning, citing a long list of concerns including habitat fragmentation, an increase in secondary

roads, negative impacts on birds and other wildlife, disruption of groundwater flow, and an increase in hunting and trapping pressures. Based on their analysis, staff members recommended that Rio Tinto use existing infrastructure.

With the purchase of the abandoned Humboldt mill in September CR595 See Page 3

Agonikak Trail moving forward

By Tom Church

Watersmeet Township, like much of the UP, wonderfully blends wetlands, lakes and rivers, forests and bogs, bedrock and glacial eskers. Three watersheds converge at Watersmeet: the Ontonagon River flowing to Lake Superior, the Paint River flowing to Lake Michigan, and Michigan's largest portion of the Mississippi River watershed. It is almost eight times the size of an average township with 74% of the township in publicly owned lands, while 12% of the town-

ship area is lakes, rivers and wetlands.

Watersmeet draws people to vacation and retire. Local wages can be low, but many families have been here for generations and they continue to call this home. Lac Vieux Desert tribal members have a deep connection with the area and the natural features, and their folklore and participation define much of our past, present, and future.

When a community-wide survey asked residents what they would like to Agonikak Trail See Page 2

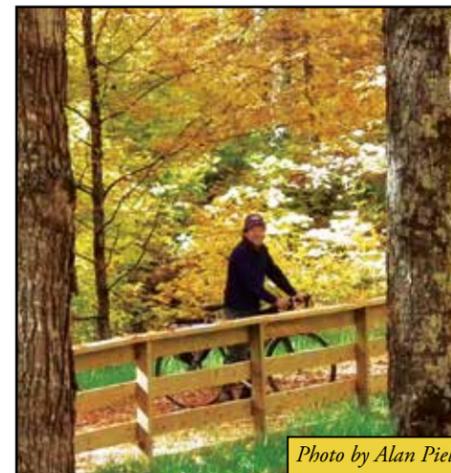


Photo by Alan Piel

Dan Benson of Wilderness Lakes Trails

Community cooperation advances Agonikak

Agonikak Trail From Page 1
 see in the future, one of the key items was the addition of trails for pedestrians and bikes. That survey became the basis of the township's recreation and master plans. The survey began a multi-year effort to create a trail system.

The Agonikak (apparently meaning deep snow in Anishinaabe) National Recreation Trail has been shown on the Ottawa National Forest maps for more than 20 years, but even if you could find the trail, you probably couldn't have traveled the route because of its poor condition. The goal for late summer of 2013 is to make the Agonikak a year-round accessible trail for use by pedestrians, bicycles, sportsmen, birders and others. It will have a compressed aggregate surface and will run about 13 miles north/south between the Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center in Watersmeet and the Michigan rest area just north of Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. The diverse terrain and habitat of forest and wetlands over the 13-mile route is amazing. The vast majority of the trail follows old roads and railroad grades.



The Agonikak (right) is one trail segment to circumnavigate Sylvania.



Workers place a bridge above a low area in the diverse terrain characterizing the Agonikak.

Photo by Bill Andrus

About UPEC...

For four decades the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has been 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 on-line 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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UPEC Environmental Education Grants engage regional youths' hearts, spirits & imaginations

Environmental Education Grants From Page 16

These projects include an environmental symposium for high school students from the Lake Superior basin, education and citizenship development through exploration of metallic sulfide mining, learning about migratory birds and geological features, helping youth develop a sense of place and appreciation for nature through art and photography, and using snowshoes to conduct winter nature study activities.

While youth from the UP will be primary beneficiaries of the program, youth from lower Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario will also participate, increasing interaction and sharing. All programs will have a strong hands-on component. Although science figures prominently in many of the projects, other experiences also will play key roles in fostering awareness, appreciation and stewardship.

"Often, programs designed to get youth outdoors and connected with nature frequently draw on either game-type activities or science investigations," Clear Lake Education Mimi Klotz explained. "While it is good to engage bodies and minds in these ways, by adding an artistic/creative element, we can draw on the hearts, spirits, and imaginations of our youth, amplify the connections created, and help develop an empathy and passion for nature. Experiencing the UP's natural resources, through environmental education, outdoor recreation, and artistic creation at Clear Lake Education Center, will give our youth much to draw from."

UPEC board member Connie Sherry participated in a committee that reviewed proposals and made funding recommendations to the full UPEC board at its January meeting. Other committee members included UPEC board members Nancy Warren and Doug Welker, and Friends of the Land of Keweenaw (FOLK) President Linda Rulison (a retired K-12 educator).

"Becoming involved in the UPEC Education Grant Committee has been a heartening experience for me, Sherry said. "I believe that educating children is the responsibility of the whole community and that awarding these grants to projects all over the Upper Peninsula has been a win-win situation. We were able to award most grant requests this year in full. The pictures and feedback that we get from these grant recipients make us determined to continue to find ways to finance these grants. As a teacher told me years ago, "The real classroom is outside – get into it!"

Sherry said some grants allowed new programs to begin such as the aquatic science activity in Marquette, while other grants will help programs to grow and become better established.

"At the CCISD in Hancock, teachers have been partner-

ing with parents, the local Audubon Association and geology students from MTU to take their children to participate in the spring raptor migration at Brockway Mountain to learn to identify and count the birds," Sherry said. "Some were able to participate last year in this unique event, but even more teachers wanted their classes to participate this year, so UPEC funding will help this happen."

Sherry also said that UPEC funding helped youth participate in activities like snowshoeing that may seem like they are readily available in the region but aren't always available to youth with limited family resources.

"On an application from Manistique one teacher wrote that most of the elementary students that he wanted to take



Sara Giles from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reaches for a thermometer in a tree cavity that monitors winters conditions as they affect animal survival.

Photo by Chris Marana

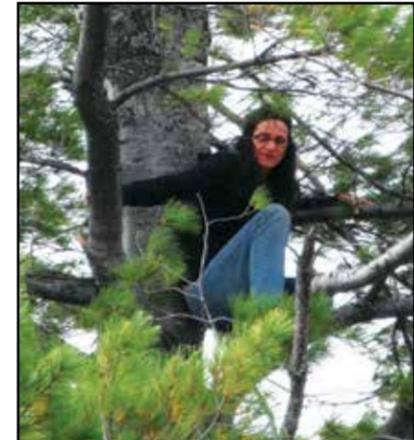
outdoors for a hands-on science lesson had never been on snowshoes before," Sherry explained. "We thought that Yooper children should certainly have an opportunity to learn to snowshoe as well as have the science lessons."

"Emerald Elementary fourth and fifth grade students are so fortunate to have the support of the UPEC," Manistique physical education teacher Chris Marana said. "Snowshoeing is such a great winter activity and, thanks to the UPEC, our students were able to experience our local environmental lab to learn about winter animal tracking while engaging in a life-long winter activity. These type of "hands-on" educational activities help remind students of the amazing resources available in the Upper Peninsula."

Saga of CR595: A mine haul road by another name

CR595 From Page 3

It's encouraging that political pressure by special interests does not always prevail. But as my dad says, we must keep our boot heel on the neck of the snake. The CR595 idea may yet be revived, with talk of more ore deposits in Marquette and Baraga Counties and exploration for those deposits on-going. Funds might be raised through the disingenuously named Rural Development Fund, part of the State's new and questionable severance tax on nonferrous mining.



Catherine Parker

The Jan. 17 deadline for turning the project over to the Army Corps has since come and gone. During the Jan. 29 Road Commission meeting, Jim Iwanicki said that County Road 595 was dead, because as far as he knew there was no longer funding

available to construct it. Just days before Iwanicki's comment, email communications among Steve Casey, UP District Supervisor for the DEQ's Water Resources Division, ACE Regulatory Project Manager Jean Battle, and me confirmed no activity on the CR595 permit application, although neither would offer predictions about future applications.

So, for the time being, we should catch our breath, look back at the long battle we've been in, and really cherish what has been saved. We should also take time to appreciate everyone who has tirelessly worked together during this process, and consider additional strategies for keeping this area off-limits to this type of development forever, or as far into perpetuity as we can imagine.

Editor's Note: Catherine Parker has been deeply involved with other citizens in questioning and resisting Rio Tinto's Eagle Project in western Marquette County. She has attended countless public meetings, communicated extensively with public officials, sifted through official documents obtained through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and engaged the public about the regulatory failures, cultural and social impacts, and potential for environmental damage from the project.

Diverse citizen opposition helps to halt CR 595 scheme

CR595 From Page 1

2008, the mining company suddenly had a compelling reason to pursue the south haul route idea. It formed a coalition with timber and aggregate interests and a local developer, and a year later submitted an application for what was then called the Woodland Road.

Opposition from the public was significant, more so than typically represented in mainstream media. The coalition withdrew the application in May 2010 after withering criticism from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Commission, EPA, and the Army Corps of Engineers, but the road proposal resurfaced almost immediately under a new name, with a new backer, and with a new veneer of being a public project in the public interest. This time it would be called County Road 595 and the Marquette County Road Commission would pursue the permit.

Under both names, this road has been opposed by a diverse group including ordinary citizens, hunters and fishers, camp owners, medical professionals, tribal members, a logging company owner, university professors, and wildlife specialists. As the CR595 process went forward, DNR staff analyses and recommendations continued to identify problems with this option. Documents obtained through FOIA requests confirm these assessments as well as the recommendation to use existing roads. These documents also give the flavor of DNR staff feeling sucked into road proposals that did not make sense and feeling pressure to find rationales to support those proposals.

We may never know exactly what kept this project from going forward. A township official told me Rio Tinto officials didn't really care anymore. Perhaps that's why the permit conditions weren't fulfilled, in spite of several extensions to the processing period.

Maybe Rio Tinto and its supporters really couldn't pull it off. On December 4, the EPA issued a final list of requirements for its approval of the CR595 permit. Documents submitted by the Road Commission, dated December 14, showed a number of issues outstanding, including deed restrictions and conservation easements for the most sensitive areas, wildlife crossings estimated to cost \$8 million, and unclear mineral rights ownership in a proposed preservation area.

DNR materials obtained through Michigan FOIA requests show field staff scrambling, with Director Keith Creagh calling County Road 595 his highest priority. Then suddenly, on December 19, the DEQ advised DNR that work on the project should be discontinued. A week later, the Road Commission submitted its final response to the EPA, essentially incomplete.

During this process, Road Commission officials accused the EPA of stonewalling and changing its requirements.



Aerial views of the Humboldt Mill (above) and the Eagle Project ventilation stack under construction (below): two threats to water, air, wildlife habitat, and human health.

Photos by Jeremiah Eagle Eye



Mainstream media reported these accusations without asking for specifics and independently verifying those accusations. What documents obtained through FOIA requests show instead is EPA official officials responding in a timely and detailed manner to questions by DNR staff.

I hesitate to say, "We stopped the road." What we all did was consistently and insistently oppose it, bring to light the flaws of the various proposals, and support the objections by the regulatory agencies. It has always been a bad concept, so in a sense it defeated itself. But we should acknowledge the field staff in our state agencies who held to their ideals despite pressures from above, and the federal agencies that set the bar at an appropriate level from the beginning.

We still have losses to consider. The Triple A and 510 roads will be widened and most likely, straightened. More trees will be removed, pavement will stretch across the Plains, and our quiet, back-country roads will become expressways for Rio Tinto's ore trucks. We have a chance to influence this process and some of us will feel a duty to do so.

CR595 Continued on Page 14

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)
- Supporting Membership (\$50)
- 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!

Reflections about corporate agendas, governmental processes & media during mine haul road struggle

Marquette County Commissioner Steve Pence:

It is wrong to blame the EPA for rejecting a hastily concocted plan that reflected a multinational corporation's sense of entitlement, which trumped concerns as important as those embodied in the Clean Water Act In an area where any job is a highly sought prize, it is easy to politicize and condemn those who dare say there are important and competing concerns which mitigate against a 'quick fix' which is no fix at all [it is] regrettable when government officials presume the worst about those who are sworn to uphold regulations and laws which reflect the national will. It ends with the public distrusting all who [serve] in government

As local officials who do not want our every action judged as political, unwise or incompetent, we should avoid castigating the EPA as both shortsighted and wrong Absent clear and convincing proof that the EPA had an agenda that was anti-jobs—rather than being legitimately concerned with our most precious resource, water—we should be restrained in our criticism and consider our own eagerness to please anyone who promises jobs, of marginal pay and limited duration.

— Quoted in Jan. 9, 2013 *Mining Journal* article by John Pepin

Big Bay resident Gene Champagne:

The *Mining Journal* headline on Jan. 5 ("Road decision polarizing") left me shaking my head, but not surprised. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's decision not to issue a permit based upon the EPA's objections to County Road 595 was not polarizing.

The Marquette County Board's decision to pressure the Marquette County Road Commission to submit what many consider a fraudulent permit for the construction of a "county road" is what has been polarizing.

The polarization could be seen at the two public hearings held on this permit. At both the DEQ hearings in Ishpeming Township and at the EPA hearings held in Marquette, there was a polarizing divide between the elected and appointed officials and the public. Almost all public servants were in favor of the road, while public comment submitted by citizens was against construction at a ratio of close to 2:1

. . . . There were many well-founded objections to this permit. Other federal agencies accurately objected that this was a haul road for Kennecott/Rio Tinto and not a county road. There were better alternative routes identified that would have met with less EPA objection, but Rio Tinto let it be known that if it did not get its way they were going to "take their football and go home".

Do not blame the EPA for doing their job. The EPA has restored my confidence that some of our public bodies do not

bow to political and special interest pressure. The blame for any polarization should sit squarely with the Marquette County Board and the Marquette County Road Commission.

— Jan. 31, 2013 Letter to the Editor in *The Marquette Mining Journal*

Jon Saari, UPEC Board member:

In the end the fate of CR 595 came down to a question of time: time to meet the EPA's tough requirements for wetlands mitigation and wildlife protections. Finding a third-party land steward for the mitigation wetlands? The MDNR could be enlisted. But mineral rights secured and certified on the 1500 acres, and wildlife crossings engineered into the road plan? The 30-day window, December 4, 2012 to January 4, 2013, was tight, and was it unalterable? For Rio Tinto, it seems the answer was yes. The money meter on road planning was spinning upwards towards \$20 million. All Rio Tinto needed was a designated haul road: AAA/510/550 or CR 595, whatever. Further delay was intolerable. Time simply ran out at the end of December, and the cards were folded.

The gamble that the political cheerleaders, from Washington, D.C. to Lansing to Marquette County and City, could push the table of players (the Road Commission, MDEQ, Rio Tinto, EPA) towards approval proved an illusion. The EPA upheld the Clean Water Act and wildlife protections. If they had not been upheld, UPEC was preparing a lawsuit against the EPA for failure to exercise oversight of the MDEQ under the Clean Water Act.

Gabriel Caplett, UPEC Board member:

There is now concern Michigan's legislative leadership will try to fund this haul route by using the popular Natural Resources Trust Fund. The NRTF represents a balance: oil and gas and new mining ventures get to mine and drill on public land; in exchange, these companies pay royalties that go toward buying and enhancing valuable public land for conservation and recreation. In 2011 Tom Casperson introduced a bill calling for the NRTF, which provides millions of dollars annually for renovating public parks, building trails, and other popular uses to be raided in order to pay for mining and logging roads. To use the NRTF, which is protected in Michigan's Constitution from this type of political maneuvering, Casperson and his allies will have to rely on Michigan citizens to vote for his plan on the next ballot.

Another option is for the state to pay for hauling roads using a newly-created rural development fund. About 40% of taxes from new metal mining is slated to go into this fund, which will be used for economic development, including funding infrastructure.

North Woods Native Plant Society focuses on Lake Superior

The North Woods Native Plant Society is a group of professional and amateur botanists interested in learning about and protecting the native plants and plant communities of the western UP and northern Wisconsin. We schedule free (usually) botany hikes to special places during the summer. Anyone interested in the natural world is welcome; botanical expertise is not necessary.

We have some great botany trips for this summer in the planning stage. To focus on Lake Superior this summer, we've included a variety of different ecosystems in the Big Lake's watershed. The following destinations are under consideration and more may be added. To add your name to the emailing list, email nwnpsociety@gmail.com. You'll receive the entire outing schedule when finalized and a reminder for each trip including directions and what to bring. You can also visit NWNPS's website at www.northwoodsnativeplantsociety.org for updates to the schedule.

2012 NWNPS Botany Trips:

Sat., May 25: Spring flowers and scenic views in the Trap Hills north of Bergland, Michigan (Memorial Day weekend).

Sat., June 8: Keweenaw Shores Michigan Nature Association Preserve near Copper Harbor, Michigan.

Sat., July 20: Divide Sands, an Ottawa National Forest area of special interest north of Trout Creek, Michigan.

Sat., Aug. 3: The new Red Cliff Tribal National Park, north of Bayfield, Wisconsin and Fish Creek Slough near Ashland, Wisconsin. This trip may offer camping overnight and a second trip the next day.

Sat., Sept. 7: Victoria Reservoir (near Rockland, Michigan) to see the former location of a copper boulder now in the Smithsonian Museum. The history of the native Americans' interaction with early European settlers will be discussed, along with a look at the plants exposed in the drained reservoir bed.

TBA: Paddle trip to Lightfoot Bay near Skanee, Michigan.



Learning about wild rice lake ecology and native harvesting of rice with Rod Sharka on Allaquash Lake near Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, just across the UP border. Upper left corner is a photo of arrowhead sweet coltsfoot taken by Steve Garske.

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

Remembering & honoring dear ones who share our 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 **Memory** or **Honor** of others enables them to continue participating in UPEC's work. If you want to honor or remember someone, please provide relevant information in the Page 14 form.

In Honor of Connie Sherry by Diana Sherry

In Memory of Larry Haack by Louise Anderson

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 \$50 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!

Michael Rotter is a graduate student at Northern Michigan University. Currently he is studying the floral composition of Isle Royale National Park and the long-term impacts of moose browse on plant communities. Michael graduated from NMU with a degree in botany in 2008. Before returning for his master's degree, he worked for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in California restoring native plant communities and worked for the National Park Service as a botanist for the prescribed fire programs of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi and in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Indiana.



Justin Savu believes the work we do in today's forests sets the stage for generations of people and wildlife to come: "Born from a motivation to produce my own woodworks, my materials focus is on locally sourced

solid-wood products. With occasional exception for a regional specialty wood, all of my work has come from trees obtained through my business—low-impact forestry work, tree service work, blow-down recovery, and prized saw log rejects from local loggers. Having a portable sawmill allows me to cut a specific size & orientation of logs and burls, with a woodworking shop set up to finalize products. Other works include timber framing, carpentry, furniture, sculptural, and commission pieces. I enjoy being able to utilize unique natural shapes, often include



commercially regarded "defects", and allow the wood itself to convey most of the feeling about the work. In Japanese culture this would be referred to as kodama, meaning "the spirit of the tree." This I am a firm believer in...after all, the work is only partly about me—I just happen to be the one presenting the wood to you.

Doug Welker has been a UPEC board member since 1987. He's also active with the North Country Trail Association, FOLK, the North Woods Native Plant Society, and other groups. His interests include trail construction and maintenance, natural area protection, forestry, education, ecology, fishing, and other non-motorized sports. Doug has degrees in Geology and in Solar Heating and Cooling Technology, and has worked as a geologist, energy auditor, wilderness ranger, and in education. He and his wife Marjory Johnston live near Alston in a passive-solar, super-insulated home that he designed and built. They have a second home in Atlantic Mine.



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CELEBRATE THE UP

March 8 and 9, 2013

CELEBRATE WHAT BIRDERS, ALPACA FARMERS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS, ARTISTS, AND BOTANISTS

AMONG OTHERS FIND SO SPECIAL ABOUT LIFE IN THE U P

Friday, March 8 – Kick-off – Federated Women's Clubhouse

- 2 – 5 p.m. Quarterly UPEC Board Meeting & Annual UPEC Membership Meeting. All are welcome.
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Director of Michigan Audubon **Jonathan Lutz** explores "**Strategic Initiatives for Bird Conservation in Michigan's Upper Peninsula**" Michigan's UP is a year-round haven for birds, both resident and migratory, as well as a classroom and laboratory for a broad community of conservation-minded bird enthusiasts. Lutz will highlight work – grassroots bird counts, NGO-led habitat restoration projects, and university-level studies of migration – which is helping shape Michigan Audubon policy and strategy for bird conservation in the UP and beyond.

Saturday, March 9 – Individual Presentations at Multiple Locations

Peter White Public Library – Community Room

- 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. **J.D. Phillips – Birds of the UP: An Embarrassment of Riches**
Michigan's UP is a premiere birding destination. We have boreal breeders, Arctic wanderers, neotropical migrants, and (owing to our abundant shorelines) more than our fair share of vagrants. In this presentation we'll survey the Upper Peninsula's rich avifauna, and talk about strategies to get you out in the field seeing birds.
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. **John Anderton – Jesuit Rings & other Artifacts from the French Fur Trade**
John has recently been involved in the excavation of an amazing protohistoric/early Fur Trade archaeological site in Marquette County. The site is perhaps best known for having rare "Jesuit Rings" but it has also proven to be rich in other early French trade goods, such as glass beads, as well as faunal remains, which are mostly moose bones. It dates likely 1620-1650, the beginning of the French arrival in the Lake Superior region.
- 1:30 -- 2:30 p.m. **Donna Pearre and Carole Van House – From Academics to Avalon: An Amazing Journey**
Carol and Donna will discuss their mid-life decision to change careers from academician and psychologist, to full-time alpaca farmers. Now fully ensconced in the world of alpaca breeding and showing, they've never looked back.

The Landmark Inn – Sky Room

- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Carol Fulsher – Iron Ore Heritage Trail**
Carol will give an update on plans for the 48-mile, multi-use year-round trail that traverses the Marquette Iron Range. Twelve miles are currently under construction, and another five miles are being planned for west of Ishpeming.
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. **TBA**
- 1:30 -- 2:30 p.m. **Steve Garske – A Natural History of the Trap Hills**
The Trap Hills region of western Upper Michigan is one of the most unique and spectacular areas in the Midwest. It encompasses a rich diversity of habitats, ranging from streams and rivers to high rock outcrops and sheer cliffs. This diverse landscape supports more than 350 plant species, including at least 8 rare species. While still relatively pristine, the Trap Hills faces new threats ranging from invasive plants and animals to potential mining and climate change. We will explore the Trap Hills ecosystem, past, present and future.

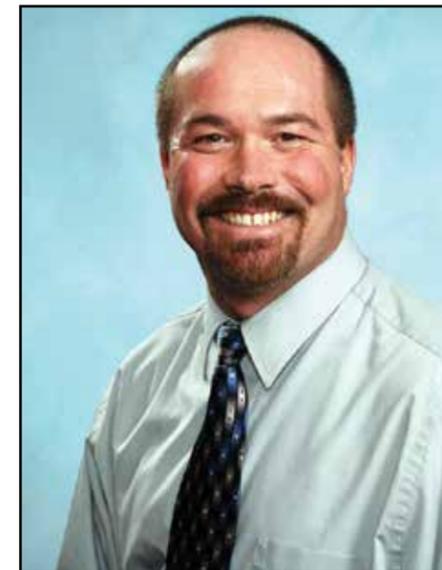
The Landmark Inn – Board Room

- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Dianne Patrick and Pam Christensen – Connecting Upper Peninsula Communities through Literature**
We will discuss some of the literature (fiction and non-fiction) that represents the Upper Peninsula from the mid-1800s until the present. We will also discuss community events that happen throughout the UP including The UP Author Tour and the Great Michigan Read. Q&A will hopefully include discussions on local writers groups and publishing your material. We will also identify various UP bookstores and libraries which house and encourage UP-based work.
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. **Michael Rotter – Thimbleberries, Pines and Maples: The Flora of the Upper Peninsula**
From the thimbleberry cottage industry in the Keweenaw to the timber empires and the maple sugar culture, the plants of Michigan's Upper Peninsula have defined this region for centuries. Where did these plants come from and why are these species here? This talk will explore these ideas and introduce several interesting species that find their home in the UP.
- 1:30 -- 2:30 p.m. **FOLK – New Mining's Economic Impacts in the Western UP: A Study by Acclaimed Economist Dr. Thomas Power**
A recent study by the respected consulting firm Power Associates analyzes the potential economic impacts of new mining in the Western UP. Commissioned by the Education and Empowerment Campaign of FOLK (Friends of the Land of Keweenaw), the study details both the pros and cons of such mining. We'll discuss Tom Power's revealing conclusions in our presentation.

Federated Women's Clubhouse

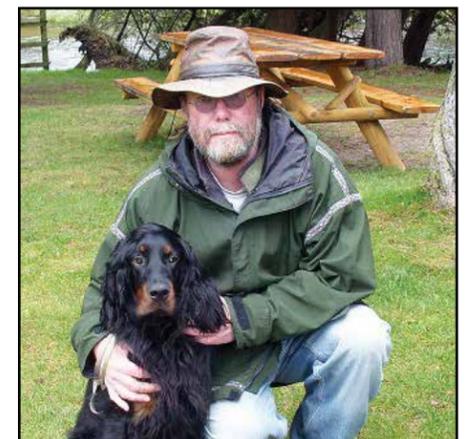
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Martin Reinhardt – Eating Our Words: American Indian Treaties & Indigenous Foods in Michigan's UP**
The Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibway, Odaawa, and Bodwewaadomi entered into multiple treaties with the United States and other foreign nations infiltrating their traditional homelands. Among the treaties'

J.D. Phillips has been a birder for 25 years. He's led Audubon hikes, as well as longer slogs, in Ecuador, central Europe, and places throughout the U.S. These days he has his "listing" under control (more or less), but is still willing to put up with a lot to see good birds—he has been vomited on (big, spewing fountains of the stuff) by seasick fellow pelagic-birders while chasing Fea's petrels and flesh-footed shearwaters; his extensive optical gear has earned him intimate encounters with scores of airport security agents (many of whom, he has learned the hard way, don't have a sense of humor); he has been attacked by a group of derelict squatters in rural Moravia while chasing a capercaillie; and he has rowed hung-over American college students down rivers in the Amazon, after learning dejectedly that they prefer the seductions of Quito discotheques to the charms of Plate-billed Mountain Toucans and Tawny Antpittas (go figure). When not birding, he can often be found professing mathematics, at NMU, where he is also head of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department. But he spends most of his time these days with his wife, Cathy, shuttling their three sons around Marquette—to soccer practice, hockey practice, Boy Scouts, band practice, ski practice, and birthday parties (vast quantities of birthday parties).



Dr. Martin Reinhardt is an Anishinaabe Ojibway citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians from Michigan. He is an assistant professor of Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University, and is the co-owner and education division director of First Nations, LLC. His current research focuses on the relationship between humans and Indigenous foods of the Great Lakes Region. He is a former research associate for the Inter-west Equity Assistance Center at Colorado State University, and the former vice president for diversity and research for Educational Options, Inc. He has taught courses in American Indian education, tribal law and government, and sociology. He has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the Pennsylvania State University, where his doctoral research focused on Indian education and the law with a special focus on treaty educational provisions. Martin has previously served as a member of the Michigan Indian Education Council, Chair of the American Association for Higher Education American Indian/Alaska Native Caucus, Co-Primary Investigator for the Michigan Rural Systemic Initiative, and as an external advisor for the National Indian School Board Association. He also holds a B.S. and M.S. in Sociology.

Marvin Roberson is a lifelong Michigan resident. He has lived in the UP for almost 25 years, and has been involved with the Sierra Club for just as long. He was educated as an undergraduate and graduate student in both philosophy and forest ecology. Marvin is an avid backpacker, canoeist, kayaker, fly fisherman, and bird hunter. He enjoys walking in the woods with his beloved Gordon Setter, Ruger.





Area Wilderness. Steve has worked for Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission since 2001, first as Invasive Plant Specialist and now as Forest Pest Project Coordinator. A resident of Gogebic County since 1990, Steve enjoys being out in the woods and wetlands, as well as gardening, fishing and trying to keep his two old VW diesels running. He currently serves on the board of Save the Wild UP.

Jonathan Lutz earned his B.S. degree in 2002 from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment. He spent the next two years coordinating

conservation programming for the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston before landing his "dream job" of living and working on a remote barrier island. As Director of Environmental Programs for the Dewees Island Property Owners Association, Jonathan established and monitored critical nesting zones for least terns and Wilson's plovers, led the community's loggerhead sea turtle nesting program, and wrestled the occasional American alligator. Today he serves as Chair of the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative and is currently finalizing a three-year strategic plan for Michigan Audubon that will launch April 1, 2013. On returning to Michigan in 2008: "How could I pass up the opportunity to lead Michigan's longest-active conservation organization? Michigan Audubon programs are attended by more than 10,000 bird- and nature-lovers each year, with participants coming from Japan, England, Canada, and at least 15 states. It's a critical time for making conservation connections and I could not be more thrilled about the challenge!"



After completing their doctoral degrees in Counseling Psychology, and teaching in Europe for Ball State University for a year, **Donna Pearre** and **Carole Van House** (pictured to left) moved to the UP in 1977 to teach for NMU in the Masters Program in Counseling. Carole taught, provided services as a psychologist in the NMU Counseling Center, and served as Director of the Center. Donna also taught, directed the Academic Advisement and Counseling Services, and became the Vice President of Student Services. Eventually, Carole left NMU to develop a full-time private practice, but they both yearned for a "simpler" life in the country. This yearning led them to the ultimate decision to leave their professional lives behind. They purchased an 80-acre property in West Branch Township which they christened "Avalon Farm", taken from the then popular novel, *The Mists of Avalon*. Having made this leap of

faith together, Carole and Donna bought two horses (for pleasure) and looked for the perfect way to make their farm self-sufficient. For them, the answer was breeding alpacas. They have never regretted these life-altering decisions. www.AvalonFarmAlpacas.com

provisions were retained rights to hunt, fish, and gather within the ceded territories. Equally important are those aspects of tribal sovereignty that were never relinquished by treaty or otherwise, and the protection of tribal rights against adversarial entities both foreign and domestic. Join us for some treaty analysis using the Canons of Treaty Construction, as we consider the relationship today between treaty rights and indigenous foods in Michigan's UP.

11:30 – 12:30 p.m. **Ritch Branstrom – It's All a Matter of Perspective**

An inside look at the journey of becoming a found object artist. Ritch will discuss the people, places, and conditions that influenced how he views the world and the desire to explore and express himself through his work.

1:30 -- 2:30 p.m. **Justin Savu – Life Among Wood**

Travel through 10 years of a unique woodworking lifestyle based upon living and working in the woods. Examples will include timber-framing, portable sawmilling, furniture & custom woodworking, low-impact forestry work, "rescue" work, sculptural wood art, a local artist gallery, and use of secondary products [maple syrup, kiln wood, firewood].

Panel Discussion with the Public – Peter White Public Library

3:00 -- 4:45 p.m. **Harvesting Biomass and Forest Health**

The renewable energy of biomass, i.e. burning trees, became an issue in a 2012 ballot initiative among environmentalists. Is this practice a threat to forest health as real as invasive species, forest fragmentation, and climate change? Will the new demand compete with other forest users of wood fiber? What is "sustainable demand"? Will the practice lead to more crop-like tree plantations? How much logging debris should be left after harvesting to protect forest soils? The panel will explore these questions, among others.

Panelists: Chris Burnett, Lauri Labumbard, Marvin Roberson, Doug Welker
Moderator: David Allen

Public Reception – Federated Women's Clubhouse

5:00 -- 7:00 p.m. Please join us for refreshments and hors d'oeuvres, meet other folks who share a love of all things UP, and talk with many of the presenters and panelists.

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UPEC is a proud member of EarthShare of Michigan, an organization that allows working people to donate to environmental organizations through workplace giving campaigns. Each year EarthShare provides UPEC with critically needed funding for environmental education and program operation.

If you would like to help UPEC receive more funding, consider letting your employer know you want to participate in the EarthShare of Michigan giving option at your workplace through the annual payroll deduction plan. For more information, please call 1-800-875-3863 or visit www.earthsharemichigan.org



Presenter Biographies

Dr. John Anderton was born in Marquette, Michigan nearly 100 years to the month after his great-great grandfather arrived in Marquette County from Italy. He earned a B.S. degree at NMU, an M.S. at the University of Wyoming, and a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1999 he joined the Department of Geography at NMU, where he served as Department Head in 2008-2011. Anderton is particularly interested in developing methodologies for Phase I archaeological surveys in heavily forested landscapes. His current projects include studies of Paleo-Indian and early fur trade era Native American sites in the Upper Peninsula.



The magical world of **Ritch Branstrom's** artistic vision fashions Michigan's raw material of cast-off automobiles, wood, worn farm implements and the homely detritus of a family and friends into three-dimensional works of eloquence, humor, and heart. Those who feel an affinity with the tapestry of cultures, endurance, natural resources, beauty, and socioeconomic realities that comprise The Great Lakes State, will find its expression in the work of this Michigan native whose Found Object Art is a natural result of his own upbringing which spanned the diverse cultures of both of the State's peninsulas. Branstrom's knowledge of and appreciation for the provenance of many of the components adds yet another layer of meaning to his work.

Chris Burnett grew up in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts. He received a B.S. in forest biology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse in 1971 and a Ph.D. in mammalian ecology from Boston University in 1982. He has worked as an environmental consultant, interpretive naturalist, wildlife ecologist (specializing in the energetics and behavior of bats), consulting forester, public service forester, and professor of forestry, biology and education. Currently, he works throughout the Lake States and parts of Canada as an independent chain-of-custody auditor in the Forest Stewardship Council system of certified wood products. He moved to Chocoy Township in 1989 where he manages 80 acres of woodland, farmland, and streams for recreation, biodiversity, water resources, timber, and good things to eat and drink. He is a former board member of UPEC and the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve. Currently he is on the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy board focusing on developing working forest conservation easements that enable perpetual land conservation through active management.



Pam Christensen (right side in photo) has been the Director of Peter White Public Library for over 20 years. Her vision for this library includes the now 12-year-old renovation/expansion and accepting on behalf of all her staff the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. She is also instrumental in advocating for our local literary culture through her support of the UP Book Tour, the Great Michigan Read, and Great Lakes Great Books (a children's list). The programming that PWPL offers showcases our community's historic, contemporary, and environmental concerns.



Dianne Patrick (left side in photo) has worked at Snowbound Books for 20 years. Snowbound specializes in Upper Michigan literature and history, and also takes part in the peninsula-wide UP Author Tour. In addition to her experiences with Snowbound, Diane has participated in the selection committees for One Book One Community and the Great Michigan Read.

FOLK is an active all-volunteer organization located in Michigan's western UP. It works with other regional, state and national organizations to protect and preserve the ecological integrity of the Lake Superior Watershed. In 1989, the James River Corporation proposed the construction of a \$1.2 billion bleached kraft pulp/paper mill next to Keweenaw Bay in Michigan's Western UP. If allowed to be built, the mill would consume the equivalent of 80 clear-cut acres of forest and discharge 41 million gallons of dioxin-laced waste effluent into Lake Superior each day. This threat to the Lake Superior watershed jolted local residents into action and gave birth to Friends of the Land of Keweenaw (FOLK). In less than a year, the tireless efforts of many caring citizens prevailed, culminating in the withdrawal of the mill proposal. Currently FOLK's primary focus is potential new mining in the western UP. Through its Education and Empowerment Campaign FOLK hopes to inform citizens of the potential impacts of new mining and to enable them to address the issue in an effective way.



Carol Fulsher is the Administrator of the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority, which is responsible for maintaining the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. She has been with the project since its inception a decade ago. Carol has worked with the Noquemanon Ski Marathon, the Ore to Shore Mountain Bike Epic, and the Noquemanon Trail Network. As an avid cross-country skier and mountain biker, she has been successful in marrying her professional and personal interests. Carol graduated from NMU in 1991 with a degree in marketing.



Steve Garske received a B.S. degree in ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and an M.S. in biology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. His M.S. project involved the study of an invasive Eurasian plant, which had spread from a former resort site to cover an entire hillside near the shore of Basswood Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe