



Craig Lake Road by  
Joyce Koskenmaki

## Suzanne Van Dam Joins the UPEC Board, Susan Rasch Takes Over as Newsletter Editor and Business Manager



After four years as the first Independent Contractor ever hired by UPEC, Suzanne Van Dam has decided to "retire" by joining the Board. She now has a full-time position at Finlandia University heading up a special liberal arts degree called ACE! (Arts, Culture and Environment). Last spring she arranged a visit to campus by writer Barry Lopez, and wrote a reflection on his inspiring work for the UPEC newsletter. We are pleased that Suzanne has decided to stay with us by becoming a Board member; we can use her energy, her writing skills, and her vision.

The new Newsletter Editor and Business Manager is Susan Rasch, who lives near L'Anse, Michigan. She will have the shortest ride to our Board meetings at the former Ford sawmill in Alberta, ten miles south of L'Anse (now home of the MTU School of Forestry). She also knows more about Alberta than the rest of us because she researched and wrote a script for guided tours of Ford's sawmill and model village. This is just one example of how well Susan's experience seemed to mesh with UPEC's needs.

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### Calling All Artists and Writers!



You know who you are. You're one of those creative types whose work is inspired by nature and animated by your love of the U.P. In the past, we've been fortunate enough to have the work of western U.P. artist Joyce Koskenmaki grace the pages of this publication. UPEC would like to invite more of you to gift us with your creativity by submitting articles, essays, poems, photographs, and artwork inspired by the U.P. We can't afford to pay much (nothing, actually), but we will publish the best of those submissions in future newsletters and, possibly, later on, in an anthology.

Submissions can be sent by mail to UPEC at P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931 (please include an SASE), or by email to [srasch@up.net](mailto:srasch@up.net). Help us to showcase your natural talent!

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#### UPEC Action...

- UPEC hires new independent contractor
- UPEC awards over \$3,000 in Environmental Education grants
- UPEC supports the North Woods Conservancy's efforts to preserve Gratiot River land

Newsletter Editor: Susan Rasch

## Earth Sharing



Those of you who have been reading this newsletter for awhile are used to seeing the Earth Share logo and blurb to the right. But do you know what Earth Share is? Or even what it does? I know I didn't until very recently.

I discovered Earth Share of Michigan is an umbrella organization for an entire host of Michigan-based environmental groups – 62 of them to be exact. They range from small groups like ours to the Clean Water Fund, Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited, and Rails-to-Trails, and to such well-known biggies as the National Wildlife Federation and the Rainforest Alliance. (UPEC, incidentally, is Earth Share's only U.P. member.)

It's Earth Share's job to collect and distribute funds for member organizations. Some people making donations leave it up to Earth Share to divide their contribution among all of Earth Share's member groups. Others may request their money be sent only to a particular group, or list several conservancy groups by name. It's entirely up to the one making the donation.

Contributors to Earth Share can make a one-time donation or even arrange to have payroll deductions made where they work. If you would like to make a contribution or add Earth Share of Michigan to your company's payroll deduction plan, please contact Earth Share at the addresses listed



Earth Share

*Earth Share of Michigan allows working people to donate to environmental organizations through workplace giving campaigns. Each year Earth Share provides UPEC with critically-needed funding for environmental education and program operation.*

*If you would like to help us earn more funding for UPEC, consider letting your employer know you want the Earth Share of Michigan giving option at your workplace and give to the annual payroll deduction plan.*

**For more information, please call:**  
1 (800) 386-3326 or view the website at:  
[www.earthsharemichigan.org](http://www.earthsharemichigan.org)

## About UPEC...

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a 30-year track record of protecting and seeking to maintain the unique environmental qualities of the U.P. through public education and watchful 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.

Our newsletter, the *Upper Peninsula Environment*, is published four times a year. You can send us your comments (or contributions) by standard mail at P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931, or e-mail us at [srasch@up.net](mailto:srasch@up.net).

## UPEC Officers, Board and Staff

**President:** Jon Saari ([jsaari@nmu.edu](mailto:jsaari@nmu.edu))  
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**Suzanne Van Dam**  
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**Website:** [www.upenvironment.org](http://www.upenvironment.org)

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She majored in English at Lake Superior State University, with a focus on journalism and creative writing. She has published both fiction and non-fiction pieces, including one for the *U.P. Outdoors Journal* called "How to Mug a Moose." She is conversant with brochure-writing, press releases, and advertising. Currently she is working on a non-fiction book entitled *The Careful Kayaker's Guide to U.P. Rivers and Lakes*. She is also finishing up a novel called *Indian Summer* that is set in the fictional U.P. village of Stanwyk.

On the business side, for seven years Susan owned and operated a gift shop called The Duck Factory, which featured nature/wildlife lines. She has handled federal tax issues, done all the bookwork, and supervised employees. She also managed the U.P. Children's Museum Gift Shop in Marquette, and made it more profitable.

Another plus for UPEC is Susan's experience in different parts of the U.P., from Newberry to Champion to L'Anse. Her late husband Frank was a state park ranger for the DNR, having served most recently as Park Supervisor at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in the Western U.P.

Choosing the new Independent Contractor was a long process of evaluating 28 applicants for this part-time position. Some were journalists, some teachers, others Moms at home; their special skills ranged from outdoor recreation to scientific consulting and graphic design. Few were equally strong in business and writing skills. A committee of three (Suzanne Van Dam, Doug Welker, and Jon Saari) narrowed the pool down to five, who were subsequently interviewed. The Board collectively made the final decision at the January 19, 2005 Board meeting. Besides the explicit business experience and writing skills, we were looking for an intense curiosity about U.P. environmental issues.

We were impressed with the pool of talented people who sought to link their lives and employment with us, and hope that the unsuccessful applicants are finding other ways to keep engaged with the U.P. environment. Meanwhile, we welcome Susan Rasch on board. The newspaper ad, she said, read like "a condensed version of my professional life [in business management and freelance writing]...I think you'll agree that my background makes the position a natural [fit]." We did.

(Submitted by UPEC President Jon Saari)

## UPEC Board Vacancies



**UPEC is currently seeking** to fill several vacancies on our board of directors.

We meet quarterly and communicate via e-mail between regular meetings, so the time investment is reasonable, even for busy activists. As a coalition of individuals and organizations, we specifically are looking for members who would be willing to serve as liaisons to environmental groups including Great Lakes United and the Lake Superior Alliance.

**Our down-state members** may be particularly helpful in serving as a liaison with the Michigan Environmental Council, as most of their meetings are in Lansing, and therefore difficult for us to attend. Additionally, since we seek to represent the entire U.P., members from the Escanaba, Ontonagon, and Eastern U.P. are also encouraged to serve and keep us abreast of local environmental issues, as we have no one currently representing those regions on our board.

**If you are interested** in becoming a UPEC board member or in nominating someone, please drop us a line explaining your interests and background, and give a reference who is familiar with your experience.

**For more information, call our President, Jon Saari: (906) 228-4656 or e-mail him at: [jsaari@nmu.edu](mailto:jsaari@nmu.edu).**

### Les Cheneaux Frog Fest

Cedarville will be the site of bog walks, live reptile displays, birdwatching expeditions, geocaching, kayaking and nature tours May 20-22 during the annual Frog Fest Celebration.

For more information about the event, contact Wendy Wagoner at (906) 484-2415 or go online at <http://www.creeside-herbs.com> for a complete schedule of festival events.



# **ADDITION TO THE GRATIOT RIVER COUNTY PARK: A NORTH WOODS CONSERVANCY AND KEWEENAW COUNTY PARTNERSHIP**

*(On March 9, 2005, the Keweenaw County Board voted unanimously to proceed with the purchase of additional acreage at the mouth of the Gratiot River, including surrounding Lake Superior shoreline. Following is a recap by John Griffith, president of the North Woods Conservancy, which has been shepherding the acquisition.)*



Keweenaw County has applied for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to add 100 acres and 4,000 feet of Lake Superior shoreline to the Gratiot River County Park, in Allouez Township. The addition is contiguous with and on the northeast side of the existing County Park. It will double the size of the park and protect fast-disappearing public recreational access to Lake Superior in perpetuity.

The acquisition will cost the County absolutely nothing. The Trust Fund Grant will provide 75% of the cost, and the North Woods Conservancy will donate the other 25%. The value of the parcel will be determined by State appraisal.

The addition will become a part of the Gratiot River County Park and will be owned and managed by Keweenaw County. The North Woods Conservancy wrote the grant proposal, will donate the 25 % match, and will maintain and build trails on the addition.

Motorized access to the Gratiot River County Park is via the graded county road on the south side of the river. Non-motorized access is via the North Woods Conservancy's Gratiot River North public trail on the north side of the river. State law prohibits use of motorized vehicles on the beach.

The North Woods Conservancy has launched a Friends of the Gratiot River campaign to help make the park addition a reality. The NWC is looking for 2,005 Friends to donate \$100 each for the Gratiot River Recreation Area. Donations can be made online at the NWC website or mailed to PO Box 124, Calumet, MI 49913.

Please visit [www.northwoodsconservancy.org](http://www.northwoodsconservancy.org) for written directions and maps to the County Park and the Gratiot River North trailhead, and for images of the Gratiot River and Seven Mile Point. Call 906 337-0782 for more information.

*(UPEC has mini-grants available through our Land Acquisition and Protection Fund. Unlike the Environmental Education Grant, the \$2,000 Land Acquisition awards may be applied for at any time of the year and will be considered at the Board's next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. For more information or to download an application, go to our website at [www.upenvironment.org](http://www.upenvironment.org).)*

## UPEC Awards Over \$3,000 in Environmental Education Grants!

At the annual spring meeting April 9th, UPEC board members voted to award the 2005 Environmental Education Grants to the following:

- \$250 to Joan Chadde of the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education for student scholarships to attend the Lake Superior Youth Symposium in Thunder Bay, Ont.
- \$500 to the Marquette County Historical Museum for the construction of "The Living Tree" as part of their year-long "Into the Woods" exhibit
- \$250 to Suzanne Flory of the Clear Lake Education Center in Escanaba for student scholarships to attend the annual Clear Lake Outdoors Education Camp
- \$350 to Michelle Kanipes from L.L. Wright Middle School in Ironwood for Adopt-A-Stream test kits and a student-produced newsletter describing the results of their water study
- \$350 to Kristy Gollakner from Gwinn Middle School for "Trash Bash" work materials so they can collect, weigh and analyze trash collected from the Escanaba River
- \$250 to Katie Stanaway and Michelle Miller of PLES Baraga elementary School for field trip transportation costs to the MTU Geological and Mining Engineering Sciences Department and a presenter on Sulfide Mining
- \$500 to Corey Soumis of C-L-K Public Schools for shovels, rakes and other equipment not covered by a grant from USDA Forest Service and the Michigan DNR for their trail work and forest stewardship program in the Calumet Township Community Forest
- \$400 to Erin McNamara of Newberry Middle School for digital cameras and water-testing materials for their water quality study of Teaspoon Creek
- \$400 to Tim Barron from Gladstone Area Schools for a water pollution testing kit to identify the presence of chlorides, chromium, cyanide, nitrates and other pollutants in five Delta County rivers



Our heartiest congratulations to all! Board members were very excited about the quality of the proposals. Supporting these programs exemplifies UPEC's commitment to protect our U.P. environment and its resources through vigilance and education.

*Each year UPEC awards its Environmental Education Grants, up to a maximum of \$500 at its spring meeting. Grant proposal forms can be requested by phone, mail or by visiting our website. The deadline for submitting proposals for next year's Environmental Education Grants is March 1, 2006.*

### Birding Festival

Munising, MI, will be hosting its third annual "Birding By The Bay," May 20-22, 2005. Keynote speaker for the event will be nationally-recognized eagle researcher, Bill Bowerman. Other events include along Lake Superior cliffs and nearby forests and wetlands, a visit with raptors, wildflower presentations, and nature-themed vendors.



guided field trips

For registration information, visit <http://midwest.fws.gov/seney/IMBD.htm> or contact the Alger Chamber of Commerce at (906) 387-2138.

**Deadline for Submissions to the Summer Newsletter is June 15, 2005**

## Sweeping the U.P. Clean

*(In celebration of Earth Day, Earth Keeper, a nondenominational faith-based conservancy group, sponsored the collection of common household toxic waste at various church-sites throughout the U.P. The following is a report of their initial effort.)*

Despite freezing wind chills, thousands of Northern Michigan residents turned in nearly forty-six tons of toxic waste Saturday, April 23, during the 2005 Earth Keeper Clean Sweep.

Seven 26-foot trucks were completely filled with toxic waste substances, including about 1,000 car batteries and over 1,000 partially-filled one-gallon paint cans. The trucks later were weighed and unloaded at the Marquette County landfill.

Earth Keeper officials had asked U.P. residents to scour their homes for what they termed the "Serious Seven" household hazardous waste products: herbicides, pesticides, car batteries, items containing mercury, drain cleaners, anti-freeze, and old lead and oil-based paints.

Organizers say one of the goals of Earth Keeper Clean Sweep 2005 was to prevent hazardous waste from being dumped in the woods where it could seep into the ground and into pristine aquifers and, eventually, into the Great Lakes.



The event was organized by the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, and the Cedar Tree Institute. Earth Keeper organizers hope to make Clean Sweep an annual event in the U.P. *(Submitted by Greg Peterson of the Earth Keepers)*

Earth Share offers the following tips to make it easy being green:

- **Warm up to cooler water:** Using hot water for both washing and rinsing uses

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## Sharing Other Ways to Make Your Spring a Green One

Earth Share of Michigan offers the following tips to make it even easier to be green:

**Warm up to Cooler Water:** Using hot water for both washing and rinsing uses 3x more energy than washing in warm and rinsing in cold.

**Don't Overheat:** Lowering your water heater's temperature to 120 will suffice for most household needs and cut energy costs.

**Go With the Flow:** Check your dryer's outside vent. Make sure it is clean and closes properly or it could allow cold air into your house.

**Get Efficient:** The newest, most-efficient washers use 4x less energy than the least-efficient machines and can save you up to \$70 a year in energy costs.

**Get Loaded:** It takes less energy to do one big load than two smaller ones. But don't overload the machine or nothing will get clean.

**Hang It Up:** Reduce the need for ironing by taking clothes out of the dryer slightly damp and hanging them up. That can save energy—including yours!

For more earth-friendly spring-cleaning tips, go to the Earth Share website at [www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org).

## NWNPS Botany Field Trips

The North Woods Native Plant Society has scheduled a diverse group of botany field trips for this spring, summer, and fall. These trips are open to anyone with an interest in plants or the outdoors in general – no botany expertise required! Expect to discover not only fascinating and often rare plants, but great scenery as well.

**May 28 - Rockland/Military Hill**

**Spring Exploration** (Rockland, MI)

Rugged country along the Ontonagon River.

**Jun 3 - Haystack Mountain** (Sidnaw, MI)

Botany trip as part of Ottawa N.F. BBC

(see below) Meet at Nesbit Lake Camp at noon.

**Jun 18—Round Lake** (near Fifield, WI)

Doring Estate. Invasive species, discussion of Historical vs. native landscapes.

**Jul 9— Botany and Archeology at Norwich Bluff/Mine** (Ewen, MI) North Country Trail. Spectacular setting.

**Jul 30— Plum Lake Old Growth** (Saynor, WI) Vernal ponds.

**Aug 20— Day Lake** (Boulder Junction, WI) Deep, low-nutrient lake. Optional cookout.

**Sept 10— North East Ridge** (Bergland, MI) 6-mile, off-trail hike in rugged country.

**Sept 24— Public Lands Day** (Watersmeet, MI) Barberry bush removal from Robbins Pond Campground

*Other events in which you may be interested:*

**Jun 3 -5 - Breeding Bird Census for the Ottawa National Forest-** (Sidnaw, MI) Nesbit Lake (former CCC Camp) For info [http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa/forest\\_management/wildlife/index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa/forest_management/wildlife/index.html)

**Jun 4 & 5 - Plants of the Keweenaw workshop** - Sponsored by the Gratiot Lake Conservancy. For info: <http://www.mlsa.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/Botany05.htm>

**Jun 10-12 - Breeding Bird Census for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.** For info: <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/nnf/news.htm>

To get on the mailing list for NWNPS field trip updates, including reminders with meeting times, directions, etc., contact Sherry Zoars ([zoars@copper.net](mailto:zoars@copper.net)).

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## Proposed National Forest Management Plans Now Available for Public Comment

The management of our National Forests is largely guided by a *Forest Plan*, a management guide specific to that national forest. Current Forest Plans for both the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests have been in effect since 1986, and plan revisions are past due. Last month, Forest Supervisors from each of those national forests announced that the proposed revised plans were now available for public comment.

The Plans are long, detailed documents which few people bother to read in their entirety. However, they're extremely important. Their content will dictate the nature of timber management, recreation, and protection of special areas within those forestlands for the next 10 to 15 years - or more. Use the web-site links below to choose the individual parts of the management plans you have an interest in.

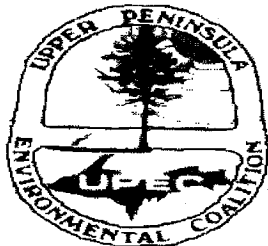
To comment on the Forest Service's proposals, check out [http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa/forest\\_management/forest\\_plan/revision/fp\\_deis/pdf\\_final\\_documents/forest\\_plan\\_review.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa/forest_management/forest_plan/revision/fp_deis/pdf_final_documents/forest_plan_review.htm) for the Ottawa National Forest, or [http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hiawatha/revision/rev\\_welcome.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hiawatha/revision/rev_welcome.html) for the Hiawatha. You may also request Forest Plan information by calling the Ottawa at 906-932-1330 or the Hiawatha at 906-786-4062.

There is only a 90-day period for official public comment. The deadline for comments is about June 15<sup>th</sup>, so act fast if you want your voice to be heard!

**Upper Peninsula  
Environmental Coalition**

P.O. Box 673  
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: (906) 524-7899  
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www.upenvironment.org



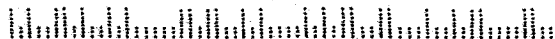
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Environmental qualities of the Upper Peninsula  
Of Michigan by educating the public and  
Acting as a watchdog to industry and government*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to support the goals of UPEC  
by enclosing a contribution for (please check  
one):

- ☐ Regular Membership (\$20)  
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☐ Other (\$ )

I'm already a member, but I'd like to make an  
additional contribution for:

- ☐ UPEC Land Acquisition/Protection  
Fund  
☐ UPEC Environmental Education Fund  
☐ UPEC Endowment Fund\*

\*If you make your check out to the Mar-  
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**UPEC is grateful for your time and generous response!**