

Summer 2006

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition

U.P. Environment

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UPEC gives \$1000 to conservancies for U.P. wilderness preservation

UPEC awards \$1400 in Environmental Education Grants

Newsletter Editor: Susan Rasch

From the Vice President's Desk

UPEC Participates in Basin Development Focus Groups

My wife, daughter, and I spent a recent Saturday afternoon paddling the length of the Cataract Basin. It's located about seven miles northwest of Gwinn on the east side of

M-35. Although the basin is only about 3 miles long, it includes enough bays and arms to keep a paddler exploring all day. We saw three great blue herons, several kingfishers, many ducks and other birds on our excursion.

We started at the little park near the dam at the east end of the basin, accessed by the first left turn off Cataract Drive. The first half of the basin includes mostly high land with large rock outcroppings and high bluffs with decent-sized white pines. The shoreline along the second half of the basin is made up of mostly wetlands with open grassy areas and areas of black spruce. There are also many small- to medium-sized maple trees growing there in wetter conditions than what is typical for maple trees.

We saw six groups of people fishing from the shoreline on various parts of the basin, but we didn't see any other boats. Other than a large electric power line which passes near the southwest part of the basin, and, of course, the dam that forms the basin, we saw no sign of development all the way over to M-35 on the west end of the basin.

All of this may soon change because the land in the center of the roughly horseshoe-shaped basin has been sold by the Upper Peninsula Power Company to Naterra Land, Inc. (Continued Page 3)

(Basin Development continued from Pg. 1)

According to the UPPCO web site (www.uppco.com). Naterra has also purchased land below the Cataract Basin dam at Bond Falls basin, located about nine miles north of Watersmeet, and at Boney Falls basin located about 14 miles northwest of Gladstone. Land sales to Naterra are also planned for at the Prickett, Au Train, and Victoria basins.

Land immediately adjacent to the shoreline of these basins is excluded from the land sales and is protected by provisions in the licensing agreements with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). However, UPPCO managers plan to grant easements to Naterra that could negate much of the protection provided by the FERC license. An initial draft of the easement provided for piers and docks that could accommodate up to ten watercraft and would allow lot owners to clear "view corridors" so they could see the basin from their residences. These easements would essentially turn Naterra's residential lots into lakeshore property, greatly increasing their selling prices. Such development would also dramatically change the nature of these lakes.

Although the FERC license provides for such easements, it stipulates that the easements can only be granted if they are "consistent with the purposes of protecting and enhancing the scenic, recreational, and other environmental values of the project." It is our belief that this stipulation should prevent the granting of these easements.

UPPCO has formed two stakeholders' focus groups as part of a process to prepare a lakeshore management plan to address the easement issue. Sherry Zoars from Watersmeet will represent UPEC on the group considering the western-most basins: Bond, Victoria, and Pricket Basins. I will represent UPEC on the group considering the

eastern most basins: Au Train, Boney Falls, and Cataract Basins. The purpose of the focus groups, according to UPPCO, is to provide feedback on various topics being presented and to provide information to others. The groups will make no decisions.

UPPCO representatives tightly control the meetings. The meetings are closed to the public and media, and recording of the meetings is prohibited. The selling price of the land and UPPCO's relationship with Naterra Land are not open to discussion. Participants have been warned that if they are disruptive they will be removed from the focus group, and the organization they are representing will not be allowed to replace them with another representative.

UPEC is continuing to work with the Upper Peninsula Public Access Coalition (UPPAC) on this issue (see article Pg.). UPPCO is planning to hold public meetings at various times during this process. We will try to keep you informed as the meetings are scheduled, but UPPCO is moving so fast on this issue, we may not have much lead time so be sure to check UPPAC's website (www.uppac.com) for the latest information.

-William Malmsten, UPEC V.P.

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Cataract Basin photo courtesy of Wm. Malmsten

Getting Out the Whole Story

In the Fall/Winter edition of the *U.P. Environment*, lack of space forced us to abridge the article, "A Bang Up Year for North Woods Conservancy," by NWC President, John Griffith. Primarily, NWC's thank yous to those who helped them in their quest to protect sensitive lands in the Keweenaw had to be curtailed.

The NWC felt it was especially important for our readers to know how grateful NWC was for the role the US Fish and Wildlife Service played in the acquisition and management of a \$928,000 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Act Grant. The conservancy noted the formation of these public/private partnerships often are critical when it comes to safeguarding public lands and keeping them available to all our states' citizens.

To read that article in its entirety, log on to NWC's website at northwoodsconservancy.org.

-Ed.

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

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 *U.P. Environment*, is published four times a year.

You can 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

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(The UPEC Board was pleased with the excellent turnout in April for Eric Hansen's slide presentation on the Upper Peninsula as an

icon for our regional landscape. Eric and UPEC want to continue and deepen this discussion about what is special in our region. His vision for an annual recreation-based event, with the emphasis on non-motorized opportunities as well as current environmental issues, is outlined below. The UPEC Board must still make the decision to turn this vision into a reality sometime in 2007 and is now actively exploring the questions of when, where, who and how. We will need to form a "mini-canoecopia" committee to gather together stakeholders and do the initial planning. If you are willing to help out and have experience in organizing such ventures, please contact us! - Jon Saari)

Trails and Tales – Celebrating the U.P. Backcountry Experience and the U.P.'s Rich Natural Heritage

An idea whose time has come

Join me for a moment, and consider the possibilities of an event that unfolds in Marquette on Labor Day weekend 2007. Imagine several adjacent rooms, where presentations are running simultaneously.

Michael Neiger tells stories of his backcountry rambles in one hall. A ripple of excitement passes through the crowd as a slide of The Amphitheatre, an overhang capable of holding 2000 people and one of the hidden gems of the Pictured Rocks backcountry, fills the screen.

Next door, Bob Sprague, longtime interpreter at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, leads an energetic discussion on the history, and rich rewards of exploring that iconic landscape.

Down the hall, Charlie Eschbach and Jeff Knoop are showing slides of the Tip of the Keweenaw. The images of the rugged coastline are striking. Pens and notepaper spring into action as Charlie describes a trek around that peninsula's furthest shoreline. Sam Raymond adds a Keweenaw kayaking segment.

Every hour or so the workshops break, and in a vast swirling motion people find their way to another talk, and more great slides. There's hiking and kayaking, botany and history, ancient forests and geology. One common thread runs throughout the day: deep affection for the landscape, and waters, we know as the U.P.

Ann and John Mahan present a stunning slide show focusing on Lake Superior's south shore.

Sam Crowley lights up a room with pictures, and rich stories, of the Lake Superior Water Trail.

Jessie Hadley illustrates the rare flora of Drummond Island, and other hidden charms of the U.P.'s east end.

Dean Juntunen focuses on paddling the rivers and shoreline of the western U.P.

Most of the presentations illustrate the simple joys of human powered travel in the U.P.'s quiet corners, but there is room to address darker issues facing the U.P. as well. One of the best attended workshops featured speakers that were from outside the political boundaries of the U.P. but were considered family by all. Wisconsinites, they told a tale of the campaign to stop a sulfide mine project proposed for the headwaters of the Wolf River. That epic campaign lasted almost 30 years, but ended in a notable victory. The people of Wisconsin stared down the most powerful corporation on the planet, stopped the mine project and enacted a state moratorium on sulfide mining.

Storytelling went on throughout the day. Slide projectors hummed, guitars and song provided a lively sound track during the lunch break, and water-colored paintings offered quiet contemplation.

Drummers move down the hallway at 3 p.m., convening a much anticipated session on the Ten Natural Wonders of the U.P.

Workshops wind down and everyone moves into a great hall where a semi-circle of several hundred people forms around a dry erase marker board and slide screen.

Nominations begin, and several well-framed themes emerge quickly. There is broad agreement that the Coaster Brook Trout and Lake Superior were two nominations that should be near the top of the list.

Then it gets interesting. Should waterfalls be one of the wonders – or should they be considered part of a larger entity of pristine streams and rivers? And, what of the U.P.'s forests? One approach would list the Porcupine Mountains forest as a superlative in itself. After all, there are 35,000 acres there that constitute the largest virgin

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(**Trails and Tales** cont. from Page 4)

stand of northern hardwoods forest in the Upper Great Lakes. Another premise would be to tie that swath

of notable forest to the old growth tracts at Sylvania and Tahquamenon. Alternatively, one could perceive the large chunks of old growth as vital core areas, wellsprings of flora and fauna for the rest of the U.P.'s forests. Someone suggests the McCormick Tract as a vivid illustration of forestland healing and regeneration.

The level of preparation present was striking but not a surprise – the question had been posted as a public discussion almost a year earlier and interest in the topic had snowballed. Here and there, across the Upper Peninsula, people had drawn up, and redrawn, lists of nominations.

Groups of young people prepared highly coherent themes. Karen Bacula's students had jumped into the Ten Wonders discussion for a spring semester project. Paralleling that effort, a contingent of NMU students had steadily sharpened their nominations and partnered with Christine Saari for photographs to illustrate them.

Later, when people who were not present asked what happened that day there were many answers. Some mentioned the rich storytelling, others the how-to aspects of trips they wanted to do, or the reunion aspect of the gathering. All agreed that something fundamentally good had transpired, and people wanted to be there again next year. That evening the dancing began early and ran well past midnight.

A fantasy? I don't think so, primarily because I've seen something similar in action nearby.

The Precedent

Canoecopia is a gigantic outdoors fair that takes place in Madison, Wisconsin each March. It began as little more than a garage sale and today total attendance touches the 20,000 mark.

Take a quick tour of the speakers' biographies, and topics, on the Canoecopia website, www.canoecopia.com and you'll get a convincing sample of what is at work here. An incredible six presentation rooms run simultaneously all weekend, with some presentations drawing crowds approaching the 400 mark.

Canoecopia is sponsored by Rutabaga, a Madison paddling shop that bills itself as the country's largest. Manufacturer's of canoes, kayaks and other members of the outdoors business community join in that sponsorship.

Gear and products are certainly sold at Canoecopia but don't let that distract you from what I believe is the essence of the Canoecopia success story: storytelling and love of the pristine lands and waters of the northern Great Lakes.

Each year, in their Canoecopia Gazette, Rutabaga principals make a clear recommendation to folks who attend: faced with a choice, skip the gear shopping to attend the presentations. The gear will be there later, the speakers will not.

There's a lesson here that we, as environmental campaigners, would do well to contemplate.

Successful businessmen are telling their customers to postpone purchases. They believe that if folks attend the presentations the pie will grow for all involved. Providing support for the presentations is a confident investment in the future.

Similarly for us, elevating our descriptions and discussions of the waters and landscape of the U.P. creates a rising tide of enthusiasm. In turn, that surging tide lifts all our boats, all our campaigns.

--Eric Hansen

ehansen@wi.rr.com

What are the Ten Natural Wonders of the U.P.?

Several years ago I had the good fortune of finding an editor, Harriet Brown of Wisconsin Trails Magazine, who shared my enthusiasm for a project I had wanted to do for years. Within a month, I authored a 2,000 word essay that featured my nominations for Wisconsin's Ten Natural Wonders. The essay ran, accompanied by photos, as a seven page feature in the June 2004 issue of that magazine. The main body of the text contained ten 150-word mini-essays supporting my nominations.

An introduction, reprinted below, framed that discussion. I suspect that if you substitute the words U.P. where Wisconsin appears in this text, this may serve as a useful beginning point for a parallel discussion of the U.P.'s Ten Natural Wonders. If you would like a complete copy of the Wisconsin article, please e-mail me and indicate whether you prefer it in electronic form (text only) or a photocopy of the original.

Take a moment to think about this place we call Wisconsin. Not the architecture, highways and other human-made structures that represent a relatively recent blip in the land's history, but the enduring natural aspects. Ask yourself what is outstanding and perhaps unique about our landscape, our bioregion.

Then consider this: if someone were to ask you to list the 10 natural wonders of Wisconsin, how would you go about it? Would you lean toward visual beauty, give points for attributes of continental or global significance, or focus on flora and fauna?

I settled on this criterion: if an item jolted my curiosity, and restored my childhood sense of wonder, I added it to the list. Over time, some items lost their luster, while others remained compelling. If I felt comfortable defending one of those choices around a campfire or dinner table, it made the final cut.

Here, then, are my nominations for Wisconsin's 10 Natural Wonders.

-- E.H.

Mine Deficiencies Illustrate Danger to Health, Resources of Upper Peninsula

The following article was submitted jointly by Michelle Halley of the National Wildlife Federation and Hugh McDiarmid, Jr., Michigan Environmental Council (MEC). MEC represents 73 environmental and public interest organizations with a combined membership of more than 250,000 Michigan residents. It provides research, communications, technical and political support to maintain a strong environmental voice at the local, state and federal levels.

An international mining company's risky plan to extract nickel, along with hundreds of thousands of tons of acid-leaching waste, from underneath a pristine Michigan trout stream should be denied, environmental groups recently stated in the wake of a judge's decision that the mine plan must be suspended while legal challenges are heard.

In a separate blow to Kennecott Minerals' credibility, state regulators this week identified 91 instances of technical deficiencies or insufficient data with the company's plans.

"The state's findings and the court's ruling support our position that this application has too many unanswered questions, and the risks are too high," said Brad Garmon of the Michigan Environmental Council. "The State of Michigan has moved beyond this 19th century mentality of risking prize waters like the Salmon-Trout River for fewer than 100 temporary jobs. We've learned our lesson; the jobs disappear, the profits flow to international companies, and Michigan's residents are left with the pollution."

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) experts cited 91 problems with the Kennecott application, including concerns about the integrity of liners designed to prevent acid from leaking into waterways and questions about how the endangered Kirtland's warbler would be protected.

"The DEQ's outline of the application's shortcomings and deficiencies sends a clear message that this mine can not operate safely and without undue risk to the environment," said Marvin Roberson of the Sierra Club. "The sulfide mining proposed by Kennecott is a type of mining never done before in Michigan, and one with a legacy of resource degradation, collapse, heavy metal pollution and failures of safety liners and monitoring equipment."

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Yellow Dog Falls

Photo courtesy of Joyce Koskenmaki

(Yes, we ran this photo last issue, but this time we wanted you to see it in color!)

(Mine Deficiencies continued from Pg. 6)

Future-focused economic development is the key to a vital Upper Peninsula economy – tourism, hiking, fishing, snow sports, hunting and environmentally-friendly business. Sulfuric acid

adjacent to trout streams does not fit into that future.

Michelle Halley, an attorney with the National Wildlife Federation, applauded the June 22 ruling from Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Paula J.M. Manderfield, and said the state needs to be more rigorous in protecting the U.P.'s assets from Kennecott.

“This ruling indicates that the DEQ needs to increase the level of scrutiny and hold Kennecott accountable for the shortcomings. A plan with such potentially devastating consequences must be able to answer tough questions about every aspect of its operation. So far they haven't been able to.”

Memorial Day Weekend in the Trap Hills – Heat, Bugs, Spectacular Scenery, and Rare Plants

A pleasant abandoned gravel pit north of Bergland was the “headquarters” for events this Memorial Day weekend, organized by the Trap Hills Conservation Alliance. Alliance, of which UPEC is an active member, is seeking National Recreation Area status for much of Ontonagon County's Trap Hills.

Hordes of black flies and withering heat did not stop over 20 people from camping and taking hikes of different levels of difficulty. While some groups ventured onto scenic sections of the North Country Trail, I led a group on a mostly off-trail exploration of an area west of Victoria Reservoir, where we lunched along the West Branch of the Ontonagon River. We found MUCH glossy buckthorn (a highly invasive, non-native shrub), came upon a hidden waterfall, and botanist Steve Garske discovered a new population of an extremely rare endangered state plant.

Abandoning the gravel pit on Sunday, a number of campers opted for a short backpack and campout on a high bluff in the Norwich Bluff area.

After leading a hike up “Eric's Hill” beyond a huge rock quarry, I left to lead a botany hike into a virgin hemlock/cedar stand in Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness. highlight of that trip - held in 90 degree-plus weather - was a swim in the river!

and
Trails

-Doug Welker, UPEC Board Member

U.P. Coordinator of the North Country

Just a Thought

These photographs were taken at a site about 8 miles northwest of Ishpeming. At first glance, these plants appear to be some sort of a fungus; they have no leaves and no chlorophyll. But if you look closely at the 9-11" stalks, you can see the tiny flowers.

This plant, the Spotted Coralroot, is actually a member of the orchid family. The name comes from the tangled appearance of the roots which look similar to coral. Its range includes the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where it grows on dark, moist forest floors. Like some fungi, this plant lives most of its life underground and obtains its nourishment from decaying organic matter. The only part of the plant that can be easily detected is its flowering stalk. The stalks don't come up every year, although the plant is still alive underground. This species had earlier been listed as a protected plant in Michigan, but it is not currently listed. We do not know the history behind its removal from protection. It would seem to be vulnerable due to its very specific habitat requirements, its sensitivity to soil disturbance, and its apparent preference as a deer food. The stalks in the photograph, and many of the other stalks in this roughly 50-foot diameter patch, were apparently eaten by deer a few days after the photo was taken despite an abundance of other food in the area. Perhaps this is part of the price of maintaining our deer herd at unnaturally high levels.

-Wm. Malmsten

Tree Roots on the Whitefish River

A Photograph by Christine Saari

Christine Saari is a well-known, accomplished photographer whose vision transforms the everyday and takes us beyond the expected. She says that this photograph came to her one morning while canoeing down the river from their cabin when the water was very still and the roots were exposed and reflected. As usual, she had carried her camera with her and framed this beautiful image.

(Christine Saari, along with Joyce Koskenmaki, is helping to curate an invitational exhibition of artists who celebrate the UP as home for the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition. It will be shown starting the summer of 2007.)

Rainwater, Re-Collecting

By Frances Payne Adler

For weeks the heat has been endless as toads
and suddenly, at one in the morning, the window
is ticking with rain. In my nightgown and bare feet
I carry pots out to the back porch, down the stairs.
The backyard hangs its budding flowers loose as first teeth
and I am squatting in grass with pots gathering rain,
watching the moonrise. In the morning, I climb the shelves
for an old decanter, pour rainwater drop by drop. My head
is filled with running mountain pines, streams, and wind.
A sip, and my tongue is coated with dead spoons, gasoline.

(This poem is reprinted by permission of the author from her book,
The Making of a Matriot, Poetry and Prose 1991-2003, published by Red Hen Press.)

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Update on the Metallic Sulfide Mining Front

Good news occurs in bunches.

In the space of a couple of days, we received notice of Eric Hansen's writing award, the judge remanding the suit regarding administrative completeness back to the DEQ for a new contested case hearing, and what I call the 91 points of light - the DEQ Office of Geological Survey's (OGS) request for further information on 91 points.

Both the letter and the comments and responses from the earlier public commentary session are available on the web http://www.lic.wisc.edu/glifwc/Kennecott/permitap/http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-311_4111_18442-130551--,00.html Both are worthwhile reading. They indicate that the DEQ is being thorough, although, in my opinion, not as thorough as I would like. In particular, I liked item #44: "Identify the entire transportation route and location of the load-out facility." (DEQ letter to J. Cherry) And there are requests for more groundwater information, more crown pillar information (impacts mine subsidence), spill plan information and more - much more.

Other than that things are sort of routine. Water Sentinels has been sampling the water and evaluating the immediate habitat at 13 sites along the AAA and Northwest roads. Joe Wagner has been sampling further downstream, while Chauncy Moran and "Mac" have been working further upstream. And the DEQ and Whitewater completed more baseline measurements last fall on the various tributaries to the east branch of the Salmon-Trout. I was pleased to note that Whitewater's measurements and our measurements appear to be within normal limits of variability - and pretty darn clean.

In the last issue I mentioned what was likely to be in the rules. And these items generally *are* in the rules. The legislation and rules can be tough - if the DEQ so demands it.

In a memo dated May 14 the DEQ requested much more information with regards to the groundwater application.

And so the battle goes. Some are working to better understand the impacts of this (and perhaps other) non-ferrous metal mining in sulfide ore bodies. For example, the Water Sentinels are working to sample on the Menominee River. Others are studying Kennecott's application and additional information to more meaningfully comment. And still others are working to generate public support for very strict application of the rules, working to win the hearts and minds of Michiganders - both Yoopers and below-the-bridge sorts.

More later.

-David Allen, UPEC Board Member

Shoreline Management Plan or Sham?

Back in December, 2005, the Upper Peninsula Power Company/Wisconsin Power Service (UPPCO/WPS) announced their plans to sell 7300 acres of non-project lands surrounding AuTrain, Boney, Cataract, Victoria, Bond and Prickett flowages to a private land developer. UPPCO met secretly with some township officials, convincing them of the riches they could expect with the massive development.

This included easements which would allow private lighted docks and walkways throughout the project lands (project lands are buffer zones surrounding each of the flowages; non-project lands are those outside the zones). According to UPPCO's license agreement, the project lands were to be managed for public use.

Had it not been for a few alert citizens, in particular Joe Hovel of Conover, Wisconsin, this could have been a done deal. Instead, the Upper Peninsula Public Access Coalition (UPPAC) was formed. For the past several months, supporters have been busy gathering over 1000 signatures on petitions and encouraged scores of letters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) demanding public involvement in the management of the project lands.

UPPAC joined the Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the National Park Service and the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition in urging UPPCO to follow FERC's guidelines for public involvement in developing Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) for each of the flowages.

At the May 2nd public information meeting held in Trout Creek, UPPCO/WPS announced they would begin the Shoreline Management Process and formed two focus groups: one for the eastern U.P. flowages and another for the western. Bill Malstem & Sherry Zoars will represent UPEC at the focus group meetings. UPPAC will also have representatives there.

While this is a major step in the right direction, UPPCO is only loosely following the FERC guidelines. According to FERC, this process generally takes 1-2 years to complete. However, UPPCO believes it can be done in six months.

Local government entities and those with economic interests dominate each of the focus groups.

While this is supposed to be a public process, the general public is not permitted to attend the focus group meetings and UPPCO does not intend to share the minutes of the

meetings with the public. Such plans should allow all stakeholders, including agencies, homeowner associations, environmental groups, hunting and fishing clubs, water based recreation groups, local governments and the general public the opportunity for input.

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SMP or Sham continued from Page 10)

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While this is supposed to be a public process, the general public is not permitted to attend the focus group meetings and UPPCO does not intend to share the minutes of the meetings with the public. Such plans should allow all stakeholders, including agencies, homeowner associations, environmental groups, hunting and fishing clubs, water based recreation groups, local governments and the general public the opportunity for input.

UPPCO also has the responsibility to ensure that shoreline development activities occurring within project boundaries are consistent with their license requirements, purposes and operations. Yet we had to ask UPPCO to furnish copies of the license and related documents to the focus groups.

The focus groups were told they would only be providing input. However, according to FERC guidelines, “Stakeholder involvement in the development of a comprehensive plan is needed to ensure that all relevant issues are raised and addressed...Stakeholders not only participate in the development of a SMP, they can also assist with the implementation and monitoring of the Plan”.

-Nancy Warren, UPPAC member

Bond Falls

Photo courtesy Joyce Koskenmaki

(We all know time spent in the woods or close to water stirs the spirit. What you may not have thought about is how it can fuel creativity as well. The following short story and poems were inspired by time these Luther L. Wright Middle School students in Ironwood spent outdoors working on their UPEC-funded Adopt-A-Stream project. Their work was first published in their project newsletter, *The Tributary Tribune*.)

The Shadows in the Night

Once upon a time...A little ways down the river there was a really old cabin. About thirty-seven years ago a guy lived there. He was in his forties, but he looked like he was in his sixties. He looked very old.

One night, 2 boys decided to camp-out near an old cabin. It was sort of like a dare. They

didn't want to, but if they didn't, everyone would think they were scardy cats. They decided to accept the dare, and went out the night before and set up their tent. However they didn't see a cabin anywhere.

The next day in school, everyone looked at them like they were crazy. That's when the boys started to get scared. It finally sunk into their thick skulls that they were too far into this to get out now.

The day went by without anyone saying a thing about it. After school got out, the two boys went home to get their camping equipment. They met back at the school at 7:00 p.m. From there, they went to their camp site.

They still didn't see a cabin. They got all their equipment set up and got ready for bed. Neither of them could get to sleep. One of the boys looked at his watch. It was 10:37 p.m. They both heard a rustling in the leaves. They looked at the back of their tent and saw a shadow of a man holding a stick in one hand and a rope in the other.

The next morning neither of the boys returned home. Two search teams were sent out to look for them. The only objects found were a red flannel shirt hanging from a tree and a white rope lying on the ground. People still say if a person goes out by the river at night, they can hear a rustling in the leaves, but no one has ever seen the cabin by the river.

- Joey Jackson

No Time Left

I sit here looking,
but for what? How
cold it is here.
Rapidly our hearts
beat. When the river
becomes too polluted,
or when the river stops
flowing; Will our
hearts beat no longer?

-Christina Fortune

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Spring Creek

Spring Creek is very
beautiful.
It is full of rocks and
stones. It
is also very peaceful,
when you're

out here all alone.

-Molly Jagala

water feels funny like a piece of silk don't try to
taste it won't taste like milk

it might have chemicals it could be green but if you
taste it I better not hear you scream

it may be toxic or non but it can still make you sick
you'll be for the rest of your life taking flu medicine called Vicks

-Susan Sabec

Summertime and U.P. Livin' is Easy

Summer is a lot like eating ice cream—it's a delicious experience that ends long before you'd like it to. Why not sprinkle on a few excursions with the Central U.P. Sierra Club and North Country Trail Association to make this summer an even tastier treat? These are the kinds of indulgences that feed the soul—and can actually leave the waistline trimmer. What a deal!

July

7-29 Little Presque Isle Tract cleanup (with perhaps a walk afterward)

7-29 Frog Lake & Pines State Natural Area (Manitowish, WI) A canoe paddle on Frog Lake led by Susan Knight, plus walk through old growth pines led by Colleen Matula. Easy—unless you volunteer to portage the canoes! (Trap Hills event)

7-30 Water Sentinels water sampling on the Yellow Dog Plain (including the Yellow Dog River, various branches of the Salmon Trout River, and Cedar Creek)

August

8-5 Hiking and viewing historic sites Old Victoria/Victoria Dam area of Ontonagon County. Easy to moderate difficulty. (Trap Hills event)

8-26 Water Sentinels water sampling on the Yellow Dog Plain (including the Yellow Dog River, various branches of the Salmon Trout River, and Cedar Creek)

8-27 Little Presque Isle Tract cleanup (with perhaps a walk afterward)

September

9-2/4 Hiking in the Trap Hills over Labor Day weekend. Should be warm still but without as many bugs

9-23 Little Presque Isle Tract cleanup (with perhaps a walk afterward)

9-24 Water Sentinels water sampling on the Yellow Dog Plain (including the Yellow Dog River, various branches of the Salmon Trout River, and Cedar Creek)

Meet-Up Information

Water Sentinels Trips meet at Huron Mountain Realty in Big Bay at 10 a.m. Contact Dave Allen by phone at (906) 228-9453 or by e-mail dallen@nmu.edu, or John Rebers at (906) 228-3617 or jreers@nmu.edu

Little Presque Isle Cleanup crews meet 10 a.m. at the Little Presque Isle parking lot. Turn off of Big Bay Rd. (M550) just before Harlow Creek bridge. Cleanup takes about two hours. We'll go for a walk afterward, weather-permitting. Contact Dave Allen or John Rebers (see above).

Trap Hills Events Contact Dave Allen, John Rebers (see Water Sentinels Trips) or Doug

Welker (906) 338-2680 or dwelker@up.net for meeting place and time closer to the event.
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Upper Peninsula
Organization
Environmental Coalition
PAID

P.O. Box 673
49931
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: (906) 524-7899
E-mail: upec@upenvironment.org
www.upenvironment.org

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Environmental qualities of the Upper Peninsula
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Acting as a watchdog to industry and government*

Yes! I Want to Help UPEC Make a Difference!

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

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Marquette Community Foundation) and put UPEC FUND on the memo line, you can take a 50% tax credit your Michigan State Income Tax (up to \$200. for individuals, \$400 for couples).

OR you can make your contribution directly to UPEC. As a 501(c)3 profit organization, dues and tions are tax deductible.

Send all contributions to: UPEC, Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931

UPEC is grateful for your timely and generous response!

UPEC Grants Funding to Help Secure

Expansion of Paavola Wetlands Preserve

The Keweenaw Land Trust wholeheartedly thanks UPEC for its generous land stewardship grant of \$500 to help secure funding for the Paavola Wetlands Preserve in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

The preserve began when the Copper Country Masonic Lodge donated 40 acres on US 41 just north of Hancock to KLT. This original preserve included some frontage along US 41 as well as half of a beaver pond (see picture on the right).

KLT's goal was to secure the rest of the pond and the surrounding wetlands. In the winter of 2006, this goal took on increased urgency as KLT learned that adjoining parcels were listed with realtors and with U.S. 41 north of the Portage Lift Bridge recently designated as a National Scenic Byway. Scenic Byways are part of a promotional program with stewardship goals that lack any enforceable protection of the natural resources. In January of 2006, the KLT board had to make a quick decision to acquire this property or lose the opportunity as another party had submitted a purchase offer.

KLT was able to secure no interest loans from community members to purchase an additional 75 acres. To secure this property as a permanent nature preserve, however, these loans must be repaid. **UPEC's generous donation will be applied toward these loans, but with a total project cost of \$45,000, many more donations are needed to secure the parcel.**

According to KLT's executive director Evan McDonald, the Paavola Wetlands Preserve provides a good example of wetland succession to the surrounding upland community. "Conveniently located between Hancock & Calumet, the preserve can serve as a wonderful outdoor classroom, providing important wildlife habitat in the face of increasing development along the US 41 corridor. We hope to extend this corridor further in the future if we have the opportunity."

-Suzanne VanDam (adapted from KLT

newsletter)

Highlights of this project include:

- New expansion has significant frontage on US 41, the newly designated National Scenic Byway, including a portion lined with beautiful red pines. Expanding our Paavola Wetlands Preserve will help keep the Scenic Byway scenic!
- Expanded preserve will protect wildlife habitat and provide excellent opportunities for nature study, bird watching and education, while promoting non-motorized recreation.

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This project is part of KLT's strategic focus on the Hancock-Calumet corridor.

A fundraising campaign is underway to repay all loans and complete plans for signage and improvements for public access.

you would like to donate to this project or if you have questions about KLT, please contact Pat Toczydlowski or Evan McDonald at 906-482-0820 or visit them on the web at:

<http://www.keweenawlandtrust.org/>

download the following donation form:

**EXPAND KLT'S PAAVOLA WETLANDS PRESERVE
FROM 40 TO 115 ACRES
(Adobe Acrobat .PDF Format)
Project cost: \$45,000**

Sea Shells by
Joyce Koskenmaki

Mother Bear and Cub
By Michael Keranen

Otter by Michael Keranen

What Can You Do?

While much progress has been made since December, there is considerable work yet to be done. Here are some things you can do:

- Visit www.uppac.com to obtain the latest information.
- Contact local township officials located within the boundaries of the flowages. Let them know how you value these flowages in their present undeveloped state and oppose excessive development that will negatively impact the project lands as well as the public enjoyment of these flowages.
- Write FERC (see our website for the address). Tell them you oppose Naterra's plans for private lighted docks and walkways within the project lands to make their non-project properties more valuable at the expense of the public.

Remember: this will only be a done deal if we give up the fight.

Nancy Warren

U.P. Environment

Art by Michael Keranen

Heron by Michael Keranen

****** A Thank You *****

You may have noted the wonderful pen and ink wildlife and landscape illustrations used in this newsletter. We'd like to thank Mike Keranen, an artist from Hubbell, MI, who generously donated his art for this and following issues of the UPEC newsletter. You can see more of his work at www.keranenartworks.com. Contact Mike at mikekeranen@sbcglobal.net. and let him know how much you enjoyed his work!

What are the Ten Natural Wonders of the U.P.?

(Several years ago I had the good fortune of finding an editor, Harriet Brown of Wisconsin Trails Magazine, who shared my enthusiasm for a project I had wanted to do for years. Within a month, I authored a 2,000 word essay that featured my nominations for Wisconsin's Ten Natural Wonders. The essay ran, accompanied by photos, as a seven page feature in the June 2004 issue of that magazine. The main body of the text contained ten 150-word mini-essays supporting my nominations. An introduction, reprinted below, framed that discussion. By substituting the words U.P. where Wisconsin appeared in that text, we may have a useful beginning point for a parallel discussion of the U.P.'s Ten Natural Wonders. - E. Hanson)

Take a moment to think about this place we call the U.P. Not the architecture, highways and other human-made structures that represent a relatively recent blip in the land's history, but the enduring natural aspects. Ask yourself what is outstanding and perhaps unique about our landscape, our bioregion.

Then consider this: if someone were to ask you to list the 10 natural wonders of U.P., how would you go about it? Would you lean toward visual beauty, give points for attributes of continental or global significance, or focus on flora and fauna?

I settled on this criterion: if an item jolted my curiosity, and restored my childhood sense of wonder, I added it to the list. Over time, some items lost their luster, while others remained compelling. If I felt comfortable defending one of those choices around a campfire or dinner table, it made the final cut.

Here, then, are my nominations for the U.P.'s 10 Natural Wonders...

(You do the rest! Send us your nominations by e-mail or snail mail and tell us why they made your list. We'll reprint them on our website and in future newsletters. See the cover for addresses. Ed.)

It was a Big Essay. A Terrific Essay.

A Big, Terrific Essay

We're so proud! The Outdoor Writer's Association of America (OWAA) recognized Eric Hanson's "It Was A Big Trout. A Good Trout. A Good, Big Trout" during its annual writing awards ceremony on June 17, 2006. The U.P.- themed essay took first place in the conservation/environment/newspaper category, an award sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and Trout Unlimited. The article also took third place in the wilderness/newspaper category, a prize The Wilderness Society sponsors. The piece first ran as an op-ed in the June 12, 2005 edition of the *Sunday Chicago Tribune*. UPEC reprinted it in the Fall 2005 newsletter of the *U.P. Environment*.

Congratulations, Eric! And thanks for sharing your talent and your love of the U.P. with us.

U.P. Environment

Michael Keranen

Artwork by
Michael Keranen

Michael Keranen

Michael Keranen