



# The Upper Peninsula ♦ ENVIRONMENT ♦

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition

November/December 1994

## UPEC ESTABLISHES ENDOWMENT WITH MARQUETTE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**T**hanks to months of effort on the part of Treasurer Dave Harmon, UPEC now has an endowment fund managed by the Marquette Community Foundation. The UPEC Board of Directors feels that this is a significant milestone for the organization; as the 20th anniversary year of UPEC approaches, environmental protection in the Upper Peninsula will require that UPEC begin to change from an all volunteer organization to an organization with at least one paid staff person. Dave spent considerable time assessing the best ways to manage contributions so as to insure a sound financial base to meet UPEC's future goals. The endowment fund through the Marquette Community Foundation will do just that. Monies donated to the foundation and earmarked for the "UPEC Fund" will accumulate as principal in the fund, and the principal will remain in the fund untouched. Interest accrued by the principal will be either reinvested in the fund or used for UPEC expenses as determined by the UPEC Board of Directors.

All UPEC members who are Michigan residents have already received a letter from Dave regarding the endowment. Michigan residents who contribute to UPEC through the Marquette Community Foundation are eligible for a Michigan tax credit. A married couple making a donation of \$400. (the maximum creditable amount for couples) can take a Community Foundation Tax Credit of \$200, deducted right off their state tax. For individuals, a maximum of \$200. will result in a \$100. state tax credit. In addition, you receive the allowable federal tax savings. For a cou-

ple at the 28% tax rate, this would result in a \$56. return on their \$400. donation. For a Michigan couple making a \$400. donation, the state and federal tax savings result in only \$144. out of pocket for a \$400. donation to the foundation.

The officers and Board of Directors of UPEC urge all UPEC friends and members to contribute to the endowment. Michigan residents should send their checks directly to the Marquette Community Foundation, ATTN: UPEC FUND, P.O. Box 185, Marquette, MI 49855. **Be sure to earmark your check "UPEC FUND" on the memo line!!!!** UPEC members living outside of Michigan can either include an endowment donation with their dues pay-

ment, send a direct donation earmarked "UPEC FUND" directly to UPEC, or make a donation to the Marquette Community Foundation earmarked "UPEC FUND."

How you contribute is of importance, but that you contribute is of even greater significance. UPEC has always been a shoestring operation; sometimes it is difficult to even cover mileage and phone expenses for members who are performing the tasks of the organization. Only you, as a contributor to UPEC, can help insure that the organization has the financial stability to continue as the environmental voice of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

*Pictured left to right: Joanne Welsh, UPEC Publications Editor; Jerry Smith, UPEC President; Professor William Robinson, UPEC Board Member; and, Terri Gadzinski, Executive Director, Marquette Community Foundation. Photo by Mikel Classen*



## UPEC FIELD REPORT

by Doug Welker

### Wild and Scenic Rivers: A Status Report from the Ottawa National Forest and Vicinity

Work is underway on management plans for all of the *designated* rivers. These congressionally designated rivers, or segments of rivers, will be managed by the Forest Service under guidelines that will be mandatory on federal land only. By the time this newsletter is published, draft plans will be completed for both the Sturgeon and the Yellow Dog. Other river plans are not as far along. For more information on planning efforts, contact the district doing the planning for the river you are interested in (Kenton is doing the Sturgeon and Yellow Dog). If you are not sure who is doing the river that you are interested in, contact the Ottawa National Forest Supervisor's office in Ironwood.

Planning for *study* rivers has yet to begin. Study rivers, or study river segments, mainly lie on private lands. The Forest Service is facilitating the process of deciding whether or not they will be recommended for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. An example of a Study River is the portion of the Sturgeon River from its source at Wagner Lake downstream to the Ottawa National Forest boundary. Members of the planning teams that will study these rivers have been selected by Secretary of Agriculture Espy. By and large, Espy selected those individuals recommended by the Forest Service. No date for convening these committees has been estab-

lished to my knowledge.

**Trail News on the Ottawa National Forest** Over 8 miles of North Country Trail (NCT) adjacent to the McCormick Wilderness has been constructed and is awaiting National Park Service certification. Access is via the White Deer Lake trail head on Marquette CR. 607, about 10 miles north of M-28/U.S. 41. This is a true wilderness trail, lacking reassurance markers, so map and compass are musts.

Three miles of NCT were completed near Victoria in Ontonagon County this summer by volunteers on a Sierra Club service trip. They'll be back at Victoria next summer for more trail work. Next spring, the Houghton group of UPEC will do its annual maintenance on the NCT segment it has adopted near Silver Mountain. Let me know if you would like to help with either of these efforts (338-2680).

Two nice wood and cable arch bridges have been built on the NCT between M-64 and the Porkies. They span the Big Iron River and the West Branch of the Big Iron. For information on how to reach these bridges, contact the U.S. Forest Service in Bergland.

**Forest Service locates buried DDT barrels near Watersmeet** Preliminary results of exploration using ground penetrating radar, electromagnetic surveys, and a drilling rig indicate that approximately 20 barrels of DDT diluted with water and/or another solvent, buried

about 30 years ago by the Ottawa National Forest have been found. They are located 5-10 feet deep in sandy soil, roughly 1/2 mile northeast of Robbins Pond. Because of uncertainty on their location, it took the Forest Service about 2 years to find them. The Forest Service feels there is "no immediate health threat due to the remoteness of the site and its distance from direct water sources." At this point, the Forest Service is working with MDNR to determine what future course of action is necessary. For more information, contact USFS representatives Rick Kell in Ironwood or Jeff Larson in Watersmeet. [Source: Ottawa NF Briefing Sheet 10/94].

### COPPER RANGE

By Gayle Coyer

Representatives of UPEC and other environmental organizations met with Copper Range and the DNR in November to tour the proposed underground solution mining project and to discuss concerns about the project. The group went 2,400 feet underground to visit the pilot project, where the pillars holding up the mined-out rooms still contain 40% of the copper.

To recover the copper left in the pillars, the pillars are blown up and a weak sulfuric acid solution is sent through the rubble. After a series of chemical reactions, the slurry is sent to the surface for copper extraction. Once the slurry is no longer useful, it will be abandoned in the mine.

The tour itself was fascinating. It was exciting to be that far underground, to see the rooms and pillars, and

### Meeting Notice

On January 21, 1995 the UPEC board of directors will assemble for an **all day meeting at the Ford Forestry Center in Alberta, Michigan**. We will be discussing a lot of the things that we expect to be involved with in the upcoming year. There are some exciting new developments on the fundraising front, there are positions to be filled, and we need to prioritize issues. The meeting room is very comfortable. Lunch will be served cafeteria style at a nominal fee. As president, I am urging any interested UPEC members to attend all or part of this meeting. If you think you might be interested in attending this meeting call me at 485-5128. I will call you with a reminder as the meeting date gets near. It would be great to have a good turnout.

**Jerry Smith, UPEC President**

to view the areas where the gypsum that formed as part of the chemical reactions looked like snow fields.

Concerns that remain about the project are whether the acidic solution abandoned in the mine will neutralize over time; whether there are any situations that would cause the abandoned solution to have a negative impact on aquifers; the closure plan; and, the establishment of an adequate performance bond. The company is still doing testing and collecting information. A draft permit for public comment will be out in 1995. UPEC will continue to be involved in the permit process.

## UPEC: COMING CHANGES

by Joanne Welsh

During the all day UPEC meeting, on January 21, in Alberta, the Board of Directors will fill two vacant positions, both of which are of vital to the successful functioning of the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition. The positions are Publications Editor and Treasurer.

I will be stepping down as Publications Editor in order to work on the *Environmental Fund For Michigan* on behalf of UPEC. I've enjoyed working on *The Environment* and look forward to helping UPEC toward a more secure financial future. *EFFM* membership will give UPEC an opportunity to derive annual income from this workplace giving program. However, in order to participate, UPEC must go out into the UP and sign companies up for participation in the program. We are particularly interested in companies with 15-20 or more employees. If you would like to see your company participate, call me at 228-7738.

Effective January 1, Dave Harmon resigns as UPEC treasurer. Everyone who has worked with Dave agrees that he deserves a rest. However, no one is ready to see him leave. Dave has been of incredible service to UPEC, first as Publications Editor, then as Treasurer. Besides the normal duties of treasurer, Dave saw to it that all the paperwork was completed in record time so that UPEC could participate in *EFFM*. He also single-handedly insured that UPEC

fulfilled all the requirements for participation in the Marquette Community Foundation as an endowment fund. His numerous talents like writing ability and financial savvy gave UPEC a professional edge that we will not see duplicated in a while. Best of all, Dave was always available, and when he said he would do something, he did it. On behalf of UPEC, thanks for everything, Dave!

## IN BRIEF . . .

In 1986, the Forest Service committed to designate 52,000 acres of the **Hiawatha National Forest** as old growth. It subsequently reneged on this commitment. Making the FS live up to its initial agreement will be a major focus of UPEC in 1995.

UPEC President Jerry Smith reports: **Greenpeace** is keeping the pressure on **Time Magazine** and its parent company, Time Warner, to eliminate their dependence on chlorine bleached paper in their magazines. We have heard the reasons for eliminating chlorine in the pulp bleaching process and I won't go into them here. The EPA has also come out with a new Dioxin study that says there is NO safe level of dioxin. The pressure must be kept on Time Warner to stop this outdated manufacturing process. Representatives of Greenpeace say that there is some talk of a face to face meeting with the directors of Time Warner. The only way they will get the message is through their pocket-book. UPEC has some Greenpeace produced literature that outlines what the campaign is about, what you as a consumer can do to help, and where you can get alternatives to bleached paper. If you would like to get a copy of this information, write to UPEC at P.O. Box 847 Marquette MI 49855.

**Shootout at the NRC Meetings** *The Northwoods Call* reported in one of its November issues that security has been increased at the Natural Resource Commission Meetings. This was at the request of chairperson Larry DeVayst. The DNR law chief says uniformed C.O's will be more visible at meetings where issues could get heated, and armed undercover officers could be in the audience. Fights have already occurred.

**The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition** was organized on December 6, 1975. The goals of the coalition are to protect and maintain the unique environmental quality of the U.P. of Michigan; to evaluate and promote planning and sound management decisions for all the resources of Michigan's U.P.; and to work toward these goals through coordination of member groups, individual members, and public information.

### Officers

President: Jerry Smith  
Champion

Vice President: William Malmsten  
Ishpeming

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John Manty, Atlantic Mine  
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Connie Julien, Chassell  
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Vern Simula, Houghton  
Bill Robinson, Marquette

Publications Editor  
Joanne Welsh

Membership in U.P.E.C. is open to all individuals and groups who wish to support the goals of the Coalition. Applications for membership should be sent to P.O. Box 34, Houghton, Michigan 49931-0034. News items and submissions to *The Environment* should be sent to P.O. Box 847, Marquette, Mi. 49855. U.P.E.C. is a nonprofit organization [IRS 501 (c) (3)] and dues and contributions are U.S. tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Yes, I want to protect the U.P.!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/P.O.Box \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support the goals of UPEC by becoming a member. My annual dues are enclosed. Check one:

Supporting \_\_\_\_\_ \$50. Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$15. Low-income, student, or senior citizen \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.

Lifetime \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 (payable in two installments of \$250/year).

Here is an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please send my nonprofit group information about organizational membership \_\_\_\_\_.

Annual dues for organizations are \$35.

**Dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please fill out the form above and mail to: Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, P.O.**

**Box 34, Houghton, Michigan 49931-0034.**

**Comments and submissions to *The Environment* should be sent to the Editor, P.O.**

**Box 847, Marquette, MI 49855.**

***The goal of the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition is to protect and maintain the unique environmental quality of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.***

**Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition  
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