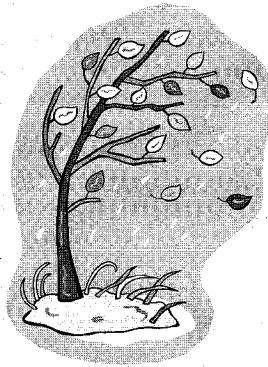
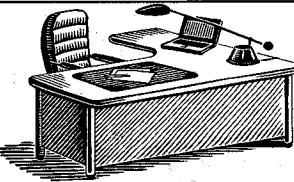


Fall/Winter
2005



From the President's Desk

Painter Joyce Koskenmaki Brings a New Voice, Eyes to UPEC Board



Under the white pines of Camp Nesbit in the Ottawa National Forest, the UPEC Board held the first event under its new Initiative in the Arts on September 24, 2005. Painter Joyce Koskenmaki, a new Board member from Hancock, showed slides of her work, illustrating her evolving and complicated portrayal of mammals and trees in the U.P. Participating in the discussion were invited guests Mary Wright (community artist and activist from Hancock) and Christine Saari (multi-media artist and arts organizer from Marquette), as well as UPEC members Sue Robishaw (painter from Cooks) and Steven Schmeck (woodworker from Cooks).

The point of the Initiative in the Arts is to broaden UPEC's focus beyond environmental politics and to tap into the dialogue with nature occurring within many artists and writers. We need to break out of the environmentalist mold that traps us in stale and sometimes unproductive battles with the state and corporate interests. Such battles are important to fight, but the long-term interest in environmental education, land protection, and sustainability requires that we also learn to fight in new ways. It requires us to see and feel and value nature differently, and this is where artists and poets can help the environmental movement. The new Initiative in the Arts seeks to enlist some regional artists and writers who treasure the Upper Peninsula into our environmental work.

We're not talking pretty sunsets and photogenic lighthouses. We're also not talking about overtly political art that shouts an ad-like message. We're talking about encounters with nature that grow out of deep personal places and that combine artistic excellence with an awareness of

(New Board Member continued page 3)

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UPEC Action...

What's Happening on the Sulfide Mining Front
UPEC Works to Build a Trail
Thoughts on Rebuilding the Dead River Dam
UPEC Help Students Revitalize School Forest



Don't Forget Those Econo Slips!

Thanks to you and Econo Foods, UPEC earned almost \$64 from Econo from grocery receipts submitted by UPEC members in 2004-05. That amount represents 1% of total gross receipts from all the slips.

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 you were to save your slips and send them to us!

You can either save them up all year long and mail them off to us before the end of May, or simply hand them to a UPEC board member when you attend a meeting. It's one of the easier ways for our members to offer their support.

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.

Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

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



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(New Board Member continued from Page 1)

nature's vulnerability. Joyce Koskenmaki is an artist and writer whose work circles around complicated representations of nature.

Sometimes nature is seen as metaphor, such as birch trees with multiple wounds. Other times the interplay between subject and background is crucial: a moose stands alone in a huge painting surrounded by the dark, or a wolf is seen running against a forest fire, or a fox sits looking out in an attitude of defense against an alien audience. As she once wrote about a trip to European Lapland, where reindeer live peacefully with humans, each landscape gives off its own aura, and she feels privileged to discover that quality, whatever it might be.

The discussion concluded that this Initiative in the Arts might fruitfully take several specific directions:

- The focus on individual pieces of art, with a discussion by the artist of its history and meaning to him/her. In this spirit, Steven Schmeck is offering a discussion of one of his carved bowls in this issue of the newsletter.
- Art interpretation. There is a near absence of conventional art criticism in the U.P. Art exhibits are announced but seldom reviewed. While the UPEC newsletter cannot fill this void created by our newspapers and magazines, we can attempt to provide insight into art exhibits and performances that do contribute to a regional dialogue with nature. We need more eyes and ears to keep us alert to what is happening in different corners of the U.P., from the Bonifas Fine Arts Center in Escanaba to the Rock Barn in Ishpeming to the Vertin Building in Calumet.
- An invited art exhibit sponsored by UPEC. Such an event could take place annually or bi-annually in a public gallery with six to eight invited artists, all of whose work exhibited that combination of artistic excellence and insight into nature.

(Submitted by Board President, Jon Saari)

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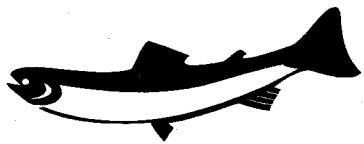
Rep. Richard Brown

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It was a big trout. A good trout. A good, big trout. By Eric Hansen



(This essay first appeared in "Perspective – A Weekly Journal of Commentary, Analysis and Opinion", part of the June 12, 2005 edition of the *Sunday Chicago Tribune*.)

Ernest Hemingway was a globetrotting author, but he had deep roots in the Midwest experience. Raised in suburban Chicago, his short story "The Big Two Hearted River" is a classic description of healing and redemption in the wilds of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Many readers believe it recounts the author's own quest for harmony and suggest that Hemingway switched the names of the title river to protect his favorite UP fishing hole.

Hemingway's tale is now 80 years old, but for many Midwest folks the theme still runs true. They're willing to bet their next holiday weekend that the UP is still worth a long day's drive.

This is God's Country, a land of thundering waterfalls and sparkling cascades, where clear running streams rush to that greatest of inland waters, Lake Superior. Along the banks of those rivers, and beside the shores of the big lake, vast swaths of forest protect the watershed's pristine quality.

A certain aura permeates the UP, a feeling that the big wild begins here and runs, with little interruption, north to the Arctic. The coastline and epic storms of Lake Superior, our planet's largest freshwater lake, seem not to be of the Midwest, but of the Canadian bush.

Thing is, change is in the air, and it may not be for the better.

Poorly planned development is never a good thing, but the UP may be facing something considerably more challenging: a land rush for mineral rights and a new mining era. Prospecting companies are active in the western UP, and Kennecott Mining Co. alone has bought up the mineral rights for nearly a half-million acres in Marquette and Baraga Counties.

Up on the Yellow Dog Plains, a fabled back of beyond, Kennecott has plans for a significant mine project. Unfortunately, unlike the UP mines of the past, Kennecott's proposal involves sulfide mining, a process with a heightened set of risks for water pollution.

Wisconsin has set a moratorium on this technique. This "show me" stance postpones any mining until there is proof there would be no harm.

The proposed mine site is 100 feet from a tiny brook that becomes the Salmon Trout River, and the irony of the connection to Hemingway's love of the UP could not be greater.

Hemingway had a high regard for the wily trout of the Upper Peninsula. The Salmon Trout River shelters a spawning run of coaster brook trout--fish that enter the big lake and grow to a size that dwarfs their creek-dwelling cousins before returning to their native stream to spawn. Their sheer mass and brilliant color (dazzling scarlet bellies) would take any angler's breath away.

(Big Trout continued page 10)



The Quiet is Deceptive on the Sulfide Mining Front

Things have been quiet on the non-ferrous metal mining front this summer and fall. Sure, Kennecott has been out and around, visiting schools, county commissions and various non-governmental organizations. Those who tend to oppose Kennecott's mine on the Yellow Dog plains, straddling the Salmon-Trout, have been quietly working, too.

A group of Water Sentinels has been sampling the water and evaluating the immediate habitat at 13 sites along the AAA and Northwest roads. (Ed. note: The author explains: "Water Sentinels are Sierra Club volunteers who watch and measure water quality of a few select streams. It is a nationwide program. We have about 6 or 7 who are active on the Yellow Dog.") Joe Wagner, a hydrologist who works for the Central Lake Superior Watershed and the National Resource Conservation Service, has been sampling further downstream, while Chauncy Moran (a volunteer with the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve—and who knows more about the Yellow Dog and adjacent waters than anyone else I know) and NMU biologist "Mac" have been working further upstream. The DEQ and Whitewater Associates, a consulting firm specializing in biological services, are doing more baseline measurements this fall on the various tributaries to the east branch of the Salmon-Trout. Finally, three hydro-geologists are picking apart Kennecott's hydro-geological data.

Meanwhile, the working group and the DEQ have been hammering out rules. Draft 8C has been presented and minor changes are expected shortly. But draft 8C is likely to be the framework for the rules to be submitted to the legislature about mid-December.

The draft 8C rules are sort of middle-of-the-road in the sense that some states have stronger rules, others weaker. Some of its inadequacies include:

- "implement a plan for remediation" (Draft 6C) was changed to "implement a plan for remedial action" in 8C (this could be just warning posters?)
- goes beyond exceptions to the liner standard agreed upon by the work group to include "bedrock"

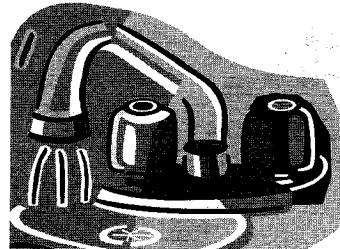
Some things missing from the rules include:

- No socioeconomic impact statement is required (but is this necessarily bad?)
- No siting requirements to suggest that some sites should be off-limits
- No consideration of past performance (but the legislation does require the applicant to demonstrate that the selected technology is proven) - In other words, no Wisconsin Moratorium

(Sulfide Mining continued on page 13)

The Great Lakes Loophole

By Tony Clarke



(This story originally ran in late August in the *Toronto Star*. Thanks to UPEC members Dana Richter and Dave Harmon for sending it on to us. It is reprinted with the permission of the author.)

A striking loophole, known as article 207.9, lurks in the final draft of the Great Lakes Annex Agreement and it should raise alarm bells for those committed to preserving and protecting the world's largest body of fresh water. Under that article, water bottling companies will have free rein to extract water from any of the five Great Lakes and package it for human consumption, provided the containers they use are 20 litres or smaller in size.

This loophole spells nothing less than a bonanza for the bottled-water industry. Today, bottled water is the fastest growing segment of the global water industry. In the past decade alone, consumption of bottled water has more than doubled in the U.S. while, in Canada, it now outpaces that of coffee, tea, apple juice or milk.

In both countries, close to a fifth of the population depends on bottled water for their hydration needs. Worldwide, the bottled water industry rakes in billions of dollars annually. Unlimited access to the Great Lakes basins also provides a monumental gift to some of the world's largest brand name corporations. Fifteen years ago, the bottled water industry in North America was composed of hundreds of independent, locally based firms.

Now, the industry is dominated by four giants of the global food and beverage market: Nestle, Coca-Cola, Pepsico and Danone. More recently, Coca-Cola's takeover of Danone's bottled water operations in North America, including its flagship product, Evian, means that the industry will be dominated by the "Big-3."

At the same time, these companies traditionally pay next to nothing for the water they extract. In the U.S. and Canada, Nestle and Danone generally take their water from rural springs, while Coke and Pepsi get their water directly from municipal water systems.

Yet, regardless of the source, these corporations pay little for their water extractions compared with the prices they charge for the product. Studies show the mark-up for bottled water is often thousands of times that of ordinary tap water. By granting the bottled water industry unlimited access to the Great Lakes, this rip-off will undoubtedly accelerate.

As well, the decision to allow unlimited bottled water takings does not square with the Annex's own stated objectives, namely, to ensure efficient use and conservation of water supplies.

How can new or increased water withdrawals from the lakes be governed by efficiency of use and conservation rules if the bottled water industry is allowed to take what it wants for its rapidly expanding

(*Loophole* continued page 22)

Freshwater: How Much of it is in the Great Lakes?

About three-fourths of the Earth is covered with water. Of this, 97% is saltwater, which people are unable to drink. Another 2% is frozen in glaciers. That leaves only 1% of the water on Earth available for human consumption.

Our Great Lakes represent 20% of all fresh surface water and 95% of the United States' fresh surface water. What would it look like if poured into a glass?

1. Get a liter container marked with milliliters (equal to 1,000 ml.)
2. Fill that container with water. This represents all the water on Earth.
3. Of this, 97% is undrinkable ocean water: Pour out 970 ml of water.
4. Another 2% of water is unobtainable, frozen in the ice caps: Pour out 20 ml. more.
5. That leaves just 1%, or 10 ml., of the water left in the container. This represents all the water available for people to drink and use for crops. 20%, or 2 ml, of that amount represents all the water contained in the Great Lakes.

This exercise helps you to see just how precious—and rare—fresh water is, doesn't it?

(The above exercise is part of the curriculum, Great Lakes in My World, recently developed by the Alliance for the Great Lakes. The education kit, designed for kindergarten through eighth grade, consists of a 480-page book with 80 hands-on activities (indoor and outdoor) for students which address state learning standards and benchmarks for Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. It includes a set of 60 illustrated and informative Great Lakes Creature Cards and a CD with supplemental materials. The kits are available for \$40, plus shipping, at <http://www.greatlakes.org/edu/education.asp>. For more information, call Stephanie Smith at (312) 939-0838 (ext. 5), or email her at education@greatlakes.org.)

KCF Forms New Council

The Keweenaw Community Foundation, a charitable organization which awards grants for Community Development, Arts and Culture, Education, Environment, Health and Human Services, and other categories in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties, has formed a Natural Resource Council. This is a coalition of almost 50 local, U.P. and state representatives who are interested in pursuing further cooperative efforts to protect our natural resources.

The Council's mission is to establish a natural resource data base for the KCF area which can be used to educate the community regarding land use via accessible information and local programming, and to create avenues to strengthen funding.

The group recently turned its attention to the protection of watersheds and the need for the public to understand their importance to the area and our quality of life here. For more information, go to www.k-c-f.org. (From information submitted by Doug Sherk)

UPEC Lends a Hand on Public Lands Day

On Saturday, September 24, thousands of volunteers helped with hundreds of projects across the nation as part of National Public Lands Day. At one of three such projects in the U.P., several UPEC members helped build a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk on the Nesbit Lake Interpretive Trail, south of Sidnaw. The trail leads from Camp Nesbit, on Nesbit Lake, to Norway Lake in the Ottawa National Forest. Before the boardwalk was constructed, the trail was impassable to persons in wheelchairs, and hikers often had to contend with muddy, wet ground.



UPEC was joined by various Forest Service personnel and a large and energetic group from a Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin, sportsmen's club. After the work session, the volunteer trail-workers were treated to a fantastic lunch (provided mainly by the Forest Service and some members of the sportsmen's club).

Camp Nesbit is a former CCC camp that has been renovated for public use. It is used by a number of organized groups during the summer, but in spring and fall 6th graders from each of the public schools in the Copper Country Intermediate School District spend several days here learning about nature and just having fun.

(Submitted by UPEC Board Member Doug Welker)

Isle Royale Plan Ready for Review/Comment

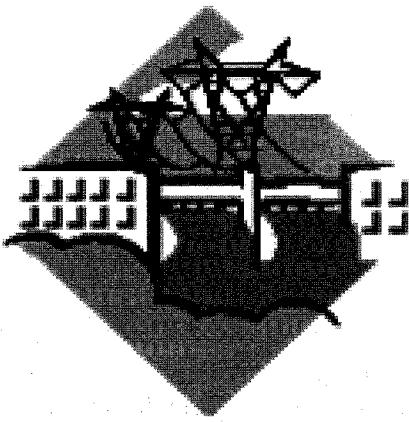
A draft version of the Isle Royale Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (WBMP/EIS) is now available for public review and comment through Dec. 21, 2005. Requests for CD copies of the draft can be made by writing to Superintendent, Attn: WBMP, Isle Royale National Park, 800 East Lakeshore Dr., Houghton, MI 49930, or by email at isro_wbmp@nps.gov. The plan is also available for review on the park's website at www.nps.gov/isro. Click on "Management Documents." Park officials promise to respond to substantive public comments and will publish those responses in their final plan.

A press release from the park notes that the development of the WBMP/EIS incorporated eight years of planning, a multitude of scientific studies and several opportunities for public participation to ensure protection of the park's most enduring resource – wilderness.

The purpose of this final plan is two-fold:

- to outline steps for preserving Isle Royale's wilderness character, natural resources, **and cultural** resources, while also providing for the use and enjoyment of the park's wilderness **and backcountry** by current and future generations
- and to provide accountability, consistency and continuity in managing Isle Royale's **wilderness** and backcountry.

The park will be hosting an Open House, December 12 from 4-7p.m., at the Houghton **Headquarters** Visitor Center (see address above). Staff will be available at that time to answer any **questions you may**



Thoughts on Rebuilding or Not Rebuilding the Dead River Dam

On July 12, 2005, the Marquette Board of Light and Power (MBLP) voted 4-0 to initiate the bidding for the rebuilding of the dam on the Dead River at Tourist Park in Marquette. While this decision came as a disappointment to those involved in efforts not to have the dam restored, they have not given up hope. Chair of the MBLP, Dr. Craig Stein, stated that the MBLP's decision was just the first step in rebuilding the dam, and the MBLP could change their decision based upon various circumstance—for example, if the bids turned in are higher than expected.

Citizens for a Free-Flowing Dead River, an informal Marquette-based group that includes some Trout Unlimited and UPEC members, met since that decision and made plans to continue educating the public about the benefits garnered by not rebuilding the dam. One new proposal recently brought up by the group and brought to the attention of the MBLP by Carl Lindquist of the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership was to look at adding to the turbines at the upriver Forestville Dam instead. To date, the MBLP has not researched this option.

The power produced at the dam was only 3/4 megawatts. While reportedly this could supply the power to five hundred homes, the MBLP did not look at conservation efforts that could reduce the demand for power. If MBLP customers dialed-down their thermostats, or if the MBLP used money to supply customers with compact fluorescent bulbs or made other efforts to reduce demand, this could lead to no need to rebuild the dam. (As a sidebar, the U.P. Steel Project will look to use microwaves to process iron ore, which has the potential to reduce energy costs by 50%. Here we are talking about reducing power consumption by more than one hundred megawatts at one place.)

Another circumstance recently arisen that could lead to the MBLP deciding not to rebuild the dam is the new energy bill which creates a new category of tax credits, known as clean renewable energy bonds, which can be issued by local governments or electricity cooperatives to help pay for wind, solar, biomass and other specified projects. The MBWL may be able to apply for these newly formed bonds, thus not have to spend fund to rebuild the dam.

The Citizens for a Free-Flowing Dead River will continue its efforts to have the dam not be rebuilt since we believe it is economically feasible to not go ahead with the project and to adopt other options.

(Submitted by UPEC Member Chris Fries)

Call of the Wild - U.P. Style

The first time I heard that long, drawn-out howl echoing through the woods, I did what human beings both here and abroad have probably done for centuries: I froze. I felt a tingling somewhere along the back of my neck of hairs standing on end - a response I was sure had nothing to do with the early-morning chill.



That's when I knew there were wolves in the woods. In *my* woods. Right out back in the forested acreage behind the house we had just bought.

That was better than four years ago. It wasn't until this past summer that I actually got my first look at them. At one, anyway. One morning I happened to glance out the dining room window and there he was, this large, powerful-looking animal, dog-trotting at a casual, steady pace along the edge of my yard.

Recently, I learned it's this easy gait, which a wolf can keep up for as many as 20 hours at a stretch, that helped bring the *Canis lupus lycaon* back into northern Michigan. Since the 1960s, once the better than century-old wolf bounty was lifted and the animals' status was changed to "endangered," wolves have migrated into the U.P. from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ontario - places where their numbers have always been higher.

DNR biologist Brian Roell, Wolf Coordinator for Michigan, estimates there are now 405 wolves in the U.P., not including those on Isle Royale. Some disagree with that number, a fact which doesn't surprise him. The 405 figure was "a conservative estimate," Roell admitted, "the lowest number which we can defend with solid, empirical data." Actual numbers may be higher - possibly even much higher during the summer when, like me, people are more apt to encounter them. Following the spring birth of pups and into the warm summer months, when game is plentiful and easier to catch, the wolf population surges. But not for long. Given the 40-60% mortality rate of wolves up to age six months and the 20-40% mortality rate for adults, by the time Roell and his colleagues take to the woods to count them in January, those numbers have declined sharply. And, since it's snow which makes tracking wolves possible, it's that lower winter number which becomes the official population count.

Given the rise in their numbers, some people have expressed concern about the wolves' impact on the deer herd. Roell reported those fears weren't supported by the numbers. It has been estimated that a wolf will take down between 15-20 deer a year. Some studies, he said, even place that number higher, at 30. But even if it turned out the number were actually closer to 40, given the population of 405 wolves, the animals could be held responsible for removing, at most, 16,000 deer from U.P. forests each year. Compare that, he said, with the 62,000 deer harvested each hunting season. Or the 54,000 lost each year to winter stress.

"It's winter," he stated with conviction, "that controls the deer (numbers)."

Recently the DNR attempted to gain the means to control the size of the wolf population. Once their numbers rose over the 200 the DNR determined was necessary for the secondary level of recovery in 2002, the state changed the wolf's status from "endangered" - denoting a strong possibility of extinction - to "threatened" - meaning they still needed protection but not as much as before. That left the door open for Michigan (and co-applicant Wisconsin) to apply for and receive lethal control sub-permits through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

The biggest impediment to the wolf's permanent return to the U.P. is their social, rather than their biological, carrying capacity.

(Wolf continued page 15)

(Sulfide Mining continued from page 5)

And some of the items are good:

- two-year baselines for water and hydrogeological studies
- an Environmental Impact Statement is required
- the synergistic (or interaction) effects of various problems must be considered
- transportation impact must be included.

What now? Now is the time to get involved. Formal hearings are scheduled so that you can present testimony, and/or prepare written testimony. A number of meetings will be held to help prepare you to do this. Presenters will include Michelle Hawley, attorney for NWF, Marv Roberson, biodiversity and mining staff member in the Mackinac chapter of the Sierra Club, and somebody from Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) - all were on the working group, and all are quite knowledgeable. And (I presume) that the final draft rules will be available. For those who can't wait, email me and I can send you a copy of Draft 8C (dallen@nmu.edu).

This is not the time to demand "Just say no!" You should prepare informed opinion on selected items.

Below is a calendar of meetings; dates are pretty well fixed but actual locations are subject to change. For further information , call Amanda Hightree, Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club, in her Lansing office: (517) 484-2372 or email her at mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org

Meeting Calendar:

- 11/21 -- Rules workshop in Marquette
- 11/29 -- Rules workshop in Escanaba in the morning
- 11/29 -- DEQ Open House on rules in Escanaba in the afternoon
- 11/29 -- Rules hearing in Escanaba
- 11/30 -- Rules hearing in Marquette (UpFront @ 7:30?)
- 12/ 3 -- Rules workshop in Ann Arbor (morning) and Grand Rapids (afternoon)
- 12/ 7 -- Rules hearing in Lansing
- Sometime in December or January, rules go to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.
- 12/31 -- Rules are supposed to be promulgated by this date.

Kennecott could apply for a permit at any time, and so could Minerals Processing Corporation (near Menominee). They have stated to some reporters that they would hold off if the approval of rules seemed likely. Then it would be two to three years at best for the permits to be approved. As far as we know, neither Kennecott nor MPC have applied for any permits.

(Submitted by Board Member David Allen)

Call of the Wild - U.P. Style

The first time I heard that long, drawn-out howl echoing through the woods, I did what human beings both here and abroad have probably done for centuries: I froze. I felt a tingling somewhere along the back of my neck of hairs standing on end - a response I was sure had nothing to do with the early-morning chill.



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(Wolf continued page 15)

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- two-year baselines for water and hydrogeological studies
- an Environmental Impact Statement is required
- the synergistic (or interaction) effects of various problems must be considered
- transportation impact must be included.

What now? Now is the time to get involved. Formal hearings are scheduled so that you can present testimony, and/or prepare written testimony. A number of meetings will be held to help prepare you to do this. Presenters will include Michelle Hawley, attorney for NWF, Marv Roberson, biodiversity and mining staff member in the Mackinac chapter of the Sierra Club, and somebody from Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) - all were on the working group, and all are quite knowledgeable. And (I presume) that the final draft rules will be available. For those who can't wait, email me and I can send you a copy of Draft 8C (dallen@nmu.edu).

This is not the time to demand "Just say no!" You should prepare informed opinion on selected items.

Below is a calendar of meetings; dates are pretty well fixed but actual locations are subject to change. For further information , call Amanda Hightree, Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club, in her Lansing office: (517) 484-2372 or email her at mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org

Meeting Calendar:

- 11/21 -- Rules workshop in Marquette
- 11/29 -- Rules workshop in Escanaba in the morning
- 11/29 -- DEQ Open House on rules in Escanaba in the afternoon
- 11/29 -- Rules hearing in Escanaba
- 11/30 -- Rules hearing in Marquette (UpFront @ 7:30?)
- 12/ 3 -- Rules workshop in Ann Arbor (morning) and Grand Rapids (afternoon)
- 12/ 7 -- Rules hearing in Lansing
- Sometime in December or January, rules go to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.
- 12/31 -- Rules are supposed to be promulgated by this date.

Kennecott could apply for a permit at any time, and so could Minerals Processing Corporation (near Menominee). They have stated to some reporters that they would hold off if the approval of rules seemed likely. Then it would be two to three years at best for the permits to be approved. As far as we know, neither Kennecott nor MPC have applied for any permits.

(Submitted by Board Member David Allen)

Finding the Bowl in the Wood

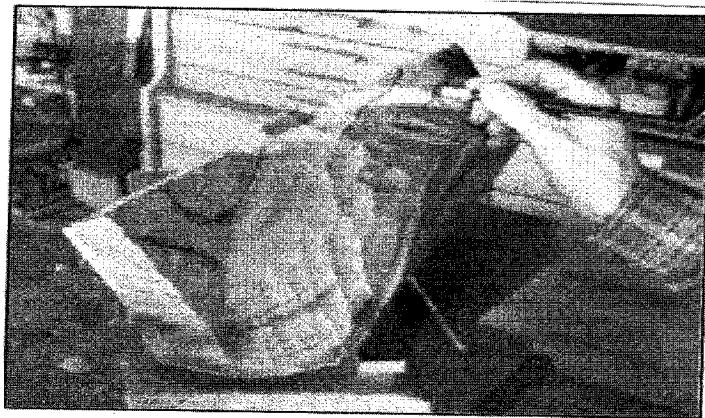
By Steven Schmeck

I guess I finally qualify as an "old timer." I have been working with wood for over fifty years now. Back in the 50's, our family used to spend Augusts visiting an elderly Finnish gentleman near Forest Lake. On rainy days not suitable for adventuring in the woods or heading to the Lake Superior beach at AuTrain, Henry Endahl would let me work in his basement workshop. He would patiently show me how to use a tool, for instance a saw or spoke shave, explain its traditional uses and give instruction in the tool's care and sharpening. Then he'd be sure I knew where the scrap woodpile was and head up the stairs, trusting this kid with his tools and shop. That was the beginning of my long relationship with Upper Peninsula woods and the tools used to work them into useful and beautiful objects.

I'll briefly describe the process I used in converting a freshly-cut black cherry log section (pictured above) into a carved bowl. I begin by selecting the wood, looking for signs of internal character and getting a feel for whether a particular piece gives any indication that it wants to be a bowl. You can see that this piece of cherry has some interesting coloring about an inch in from the inner bark. I oriented the future bowl so that this grain would show just below the rim.



I laid out the design features (like legs and feet), alternatively carving and redrawing the position of the parts to be left. I primarily used heavy gouges and a mallet at this stage.



(Bowl continued on page 21)

(Wolf continued from page 12)

Department. Up until then, the DNR was only allowed to offer advice and equipment for the hazing of wolves that people complained were threatening their farm animals or pets. With the sub-permit, conservation officers were actually allowed to kill problem animals.

However, in September those permits were revoked after the Humane Society and several conservancies filed suit in district court. Roell said the move effectively tied the DNR's hands when it came to responding to wolf complaints. Unsure of the full extent of the ruling, the department stepped back from using even motion-sensing sirens or fire crackers to scare away wolves that had become a problem. Roell worried the ruling might actually reduce the wolf's chances of being accepted by people of the state. If the DNR couldn't—or wouldn't, as he said some people would interpret it—help when called upon, he was concerned people would say, "The DNR won't do anything, so I'll take care of it." We don't want that," he said. "That's not good for the wolves."

He said at this point he felt the issue was no longer biologically-driven, as he noted it should be, but had moved squarely into the political arena where he did not believe was in the best interest of the animals. Roell concluded that the biggest impediment to the wolf's permanent return was their social, rather than biological, carrying-capacity. One study, he said, put the highest sustainable number for wolves in the U.P. at 800. But the biologist said he suspected we were probably already at that limit. Anything more and people likely would begin to feel threatened.

Since September, the DNR has asked for and, in mid-October, received a clarification of the ruling. The lack of a sub-permit, the judge said, does not hinder the state from using non-lethal hazing techniques to encourage a wolf to leave a particular area where it is perceived as a problem. The matter of the sub-permit has yet to be resolved. In the meantime, the DNR has applied for a lethal control permit in its own name, rather than through another agency, such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Roell expected the state would not receive an answer on that until sometime next year.

How Much Do You Know About Wolves?

Here are some of the things people "know" about wolves. Problem is, none of them are true.

1. The DNR brought the wolves into the U.P.

Actually, the DNR DID bring in 4 wolves in 1974. All of them were dead within a year. 1 was hit by a car, 2 were shot, and 1 died in a trap.

2. All members of a wolf pack reproduce.

Usually, only the alpha male and female of the pack—which may be made up of as many as six wolves—have litters.

3. Wolves have been known to attack people.

There are only 2 confirmed reports of wolf attacks—and neither of those were in the lower 48 states despite having good-sized wolf populations. Biologist Brian Roell noted one "attack" consisted of a man trying to hand-feed his sandwich to a wolf in Alaska and getting bitten on the fingers.

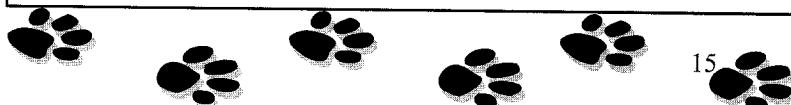
4. Wolves who appear fearless of humans are likely to become problems.

Roell said many instances where people said they had been stared at or even stalked by a wolf are basically a misunderstanding. Like most animals, wolves are curious creatures. When you enter their domain, they want to know who—and what—you are. Once they've satisfied their curiosity and decided you're not a threat, they'll wander off and leave you alone.

5. Wolves stake out a small area in which to hunt.

Wolves range widely up to 100 miles. Sometimes more. Unless a site is easy-pickings (pet food or garbage—especially meat—left out in the open), a wolf usually moves on after a day or two.

(Information based upon DNR and National Wildlife Federation booklets. For more interesting facts about wolves, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr or www.nwf.org/wolves.)





Students work to get logging road back into shape in a clear-cut to minimize erosion during the spring melt runoff.

"We began looking into the possibility of a school forest at CLK about two years ago with one major obstacle – finding forested property that we could use for educational purposes," said Soumis. "Darrell and I were getting nowhere with our efforts," continued Soumis, "that is until we talked with Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor." It was Lehto who informed Soumis and Hendrickson about the partnership established between the school and the township back in the early 80's and also who set the groundwork for getting the school forest revitalized.

With the Help of UPEC and Others, CLK Students Revitalize School Forest

The Calumet, Laurium, Keweenaw (CLK) Intermediate School Forest located across from the Calumet Waterworks Park is a 43-acre parcel of forested land acquired by Calumet Township approximately 25 years ago. At that time, Calumet Township granted the CLK Schools permission to use the property as a school forest. Some educational activities took place shortly after the agreement was made, but the property had slowly been forgotten over the years – until recently, that is, when a team of CLK teachers showed interest in initiating a school forest program. Calumet High School science teacher, Mr. Corey Soumis, and Washington Middle School science teacher, Mr. Darrell Hendrickson, led the initiative.



District Forester Jim Rivard shows students the growth ring patterns on a cut red pine

With the help of the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council (UPRC&D), Soumis and Hendrickson began forming a broader partnership that included Jim Rivard, a former UPEC board member and the Houghton/Keweenaw Conservation District Forester.

(UPEC Help continued Page 18)

UPEC Environmental Education Grants Due March 15!

Mini-Grant FAQs

WHO? K-12 educators in Upper Peninsula schools, public or private, who desire to create or further enhance an environmental education program or ongoing activity in their school.

WHY? To provide financial assistance in creating an environmental education program or ongoing project that is in need of support.

WHAT? Grant may not be used for salaries, but all other expenses (for example, transportation, meals, supplies, honoraria) are acceptable. Grant recipients will be required to present a final report that includes an accounting of funds expended and outcomes achieved upon completion of the program. Progress reports will be edited & published in the UPEC newsletter.

HOW MUCH? Depending on the quality of the application as evaluated by the UPEC board, several monetary awards of up to \$500 each will be made during a 12-month period.

WHEN? March 15, 2006

HOW DO I APPLY?

Please e-mail completed applications to us at: srasch@up.net or send a hard copy to:
UPEC
P.O. Box 673
Houghton, MI 49931

Date of Application _____

Name of Applicant/Contact Person _____

Organization/School _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-mail address _____

Project Name _____

First Time or Existing Program? _____

Length of Program's Existence _____

Number of Students Involved _____

Number of Adults Involved _____

On a separate sheet, please address the following points and attach additional information as needed:

- Rationale for Program/Project—Attach a detailed description, 1 page minimum
- Time frame for project (i.e. one day, 6 months, ongoing)
- Expected date(s) of project
- Total budget for Program/Project (Attach a breakdown of anticipated or known costs)
- Other funding sources (If an existing program, attach list of previous funding sources, including in-kind contribution.)
- If these other sources are not available, are there alternative opportunities for funding? If so, please describe.
- Does this program provide for community outreach and education? If so, how?

2006 Priority Points!

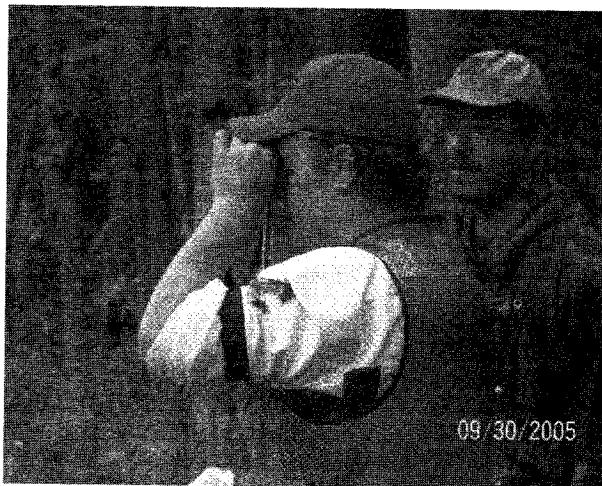
Once again this year, special consideration will be given to quality grant projects that address the potential impacts of sulfide mining on human and natural communities.

(UPEC Help continued from page 16)

"With the guidance of the U.P. RC&D and Jim, we began putting together a grant application that we felt would be successful," explained Soumis, "and so in mid August of 2004 we sent our materials in to the Michigan DNR to be considered for an Outreach & Education grant."

In January of 2005, Darryl Pierce, CLK Superintendent, was notified of Soumis' and Hendrickson's successful application. The school was awarded a \$5000 grant through the Forest Stewardship Program,

funded by the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, to create a forest stewardship demonstration area along Gardener's Creek Nature Trail, which runs throughout the property. Additional grant funding for the purchase of forestry-related tools and equipment was received from the Copper Country Intermediate School District's Service Learning Program (\$1000) and from the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (\$500).



Professional Forester Jim Rivard instructs a student in the use of a sighting compass.

Following notification of the grant award, Rivard consulted with the school forest team and provided them with a list of certified foresters who could write a Michigan Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. The group determined goals and objectives for the property, and conditions and components of the land were evaluated.

Then various teachers and students in woodshop, pre-engineering, computer-aided drafting, art, and science classes went to work on several school forest projects related to the management plan. The most significant project was the creation of 22 tree species identification signs and 15 forest stewardship interpretive signs which were placed throughout the school forest. The interpretive signs describe various forestry topics, including sustainable forestry, forest management, private forest landowner management options, timber stand improvements, clear-cuts, wildlife habitat shelters, deer ex-closures, riparian zones, logging roads, forest openings, and forest measurements.

Another significant project was an approximately 5-acre modified clear-cut of a mature aspen/birch stand in which all aspen and birch trees were harvested while the pockets of balsam fir and hard maple were left intact. From this harvest, the students were able to sell 90 tons of pulp, 4 cords of aspen bolts, and 16 birch sawlogs. Six large, mature aspen logs were also harvested and milled into lumber for bridge decking and other trail maintenance projects using a portable sawmill. Students erected a 20' x 20' x 12' high deer ex-closure within the clear-cut in an attempt to monitor the effect of deer browsing on regeneration within a small area. A number of digital game cameras will be purchased as soon as funding is available so that the clear-cut and other areas can be monitored for wildlife use patterns.

The approximately \$1000 earned from the timber harvest will be put back into the school forest for various improvement projects.

(Submitted by Corey Soumis,
one of our 2005 UPEC Environmental Education Grant Winners)

U.P. For Sale?

This fall, newspapers around the state picked up the breaking story: better than one million acres of U.P. forestland were suddenly up for grabs. Mead-Westvaco Timber and International Paper Co. had quietly put 650,000 and 452,000 acres, respectively, on the market, raising the specter of "no trespassing" signs and gates popping up faster than mushrooms in the woods this spring.



While under the ownership of the afore-mentioned paper companies, much of that forestland remained accessible to the public. However, new owners would be under no obligation to continue that practice. So it was with a small - a very small - sigh of relief that UPEC noted the recent purchase of the Escanaba company's holding by the western company, Plum Creek Timber. Board member David Allen, a recent retiree from Northern Michigan University with an extensive background in management, economics and operations research, noted that Plum Creek had pretty much laid to rest its earlier unsavory reputation as "the 'Darth Vader' of the forest industry for its non-sustainable practices. It has moved well past that," he said, "becoming a major supporter of SFI (the Sustainable Forestry Initiative) and, to a lesser extent FSC (the Forest Stewardship Council which certifies forest units worldwide as being sustainably managed)."

"(Plum Creek) has always been sportsman-friendly, and I expect this to continue," he added. "And its forestry practices have improved greatly—I expect this to continue. But it has a long record of selling developable land (lake and stream shore) - I expect this to continue as well."

According to a Great Lakes Consortium story aired October 3, the Michigan Nature Conservancy, which had worked alongside Gov. Granholm to secure a conservation easement on the earlier sale in 2002 of 390,000 acres in the U.P., once again is talking to the governor about ways to keep this even bigger parcel open to the public. At this time, however, there is no indication the matter has been taken up with Plum Creek for discussion. When asked to comment on the timber sale, an email response from Lisa Niemi, Conservation Coordinator for the conservancy, noted that "Due to its scale and potential impacts of the UP landscape, we remain concerned and continue to monitor the situation."

Of course, one of the biggest obstacles—other than soliciting the cooperation of the new owners—is the money involved in purchasing an easement. The 2020 agreement came with a \$58 million price tag. That money is still in the process of being raised.

In the meantime, there has been no word of any sale pending on the remaining 452,000 acres of IP land. UPEC will continue to closely watch the situation and will report any new developments (no pun intended - I hope) in the spring edition of the newsletter.

(Submitted by Susan Rasch)

Connecting Water, Connecting People - *What's Next?*

(In August, Northwoods Wilderness Recovery (NWR), embarked on a month-long canoe, kayak, and hiking trek from Marquette to Menominee. The Trek, called "Connecting Water, Connecting People", was coordinated with public meetings in eight locations to raise awareness of the threats that metallic sulfide mining has created on the people and water of the Upper Peninsula. Some UPEC members joined the Trek along the way at Lake Michigamme.)

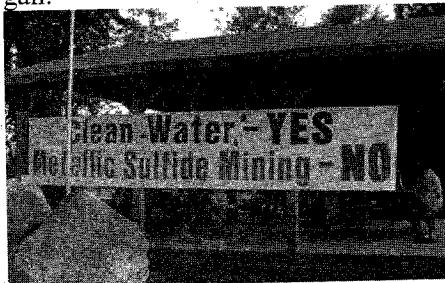
Aiming the canoe for the shoot of clean water between the crashing waves behind it, I yelled out to Doug, "Here we go!" We sliced through some white water and then a curling wave came over our bow. We heeled to our side. "Too far left," I thought, as Doug abandoned the overturning boat and stared back at me with a worried look from the water. I gave a smile to Jackie who was watching from shore to see if she wanted to run the rapids.

From August 6 to August 30, Jackie Camelet, Doug Cornett, and I ventured from Marquette to Menominee by kayak, canoe, and foot. We kayaked from Marquette to Big Bay and hiked the Salmon-Trout River and to the headwaters of the Yellow Dog. We canoed from Lake Michigamme to the Menominee River and then down to Lake Michigan.

All these waters are at risk. The latest threat is from the pollution that could be generated from two potential metallic sulfide mines - Kennecott's proposed Eagle Project on the Yellow Dog Plains and Mineral Processing Corporation's Back Forty Project near Sixty Islands of the Menominee River.

Every adventure has its challenges. Our Connecting Water, Connecting People Trek was no exception. The 291-mile trip offered many physical, mental and spiritual trials.

During our 25-day journey, we hosted informational meetings in Marquette, Big Bay, Michigamme, Republic, Norway, and Menominee, and camped near the potential mine sites at the Yellow Dog Plains and Sixty Islands. We talked to fisherman, boaters, hikers and others we met along the way about the importance of clean water. We got others on the water and in the woods to see the beauty of our Upper Peninsula natural areas. We brought this issue to the public through radio, TV, and newspaper interviews, and have thus far raised over \$4,000 to oppose the metallic sulfide mining menace in Michigan.



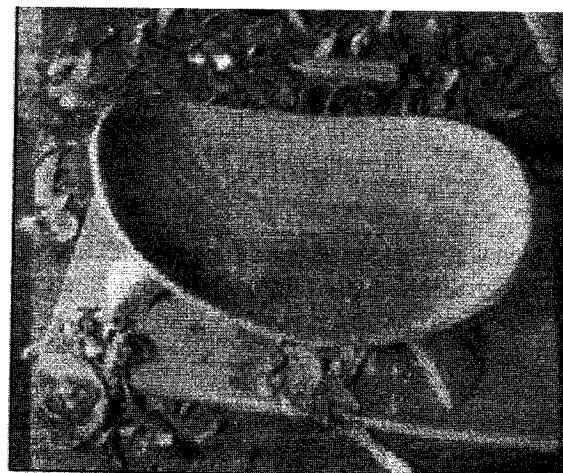
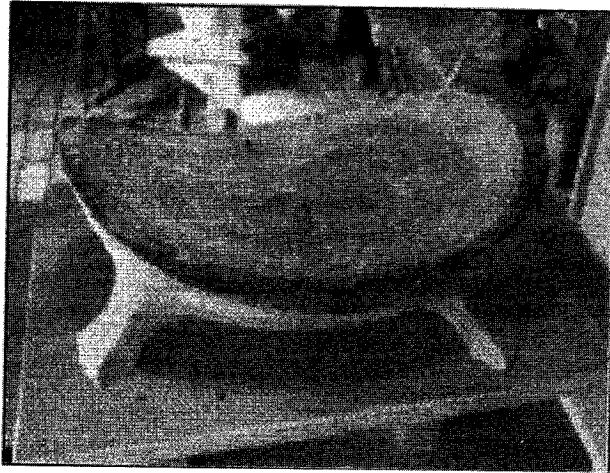
Republic Gathering Photo Doug Cornett

Although we have finished our trek, Connecting Water, Connecting People is not finished. Over the next few months, we will continue to connect people through kitchen table meetings, public gatherings, and other events across Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Contact us to get involved or to host a gathering.

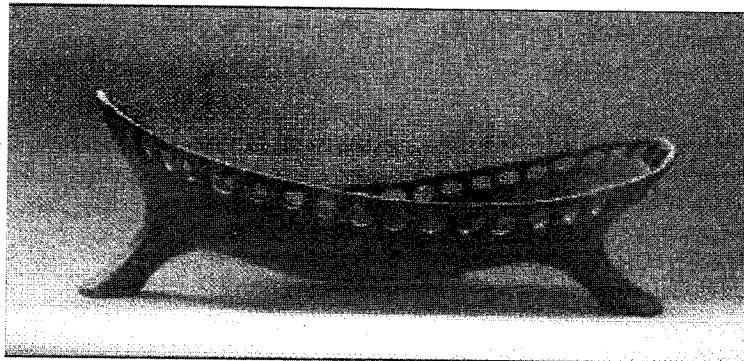
(Submitted by Rob Cadmus, one of the Trek leaders)

(Bowl continued from page 14)

Eventually the bowl shape emerges. All through the process I remain open to little messages the log/bowl may be sending me regarding how I should possibly modify my original plan. On this bowl, I changed the leg and foot profiles several times to keep them in harmony with the evolving lightness of the piece. In the two photos below you can see the how the feeling of the bowl changed as the sides were carved thinner.



When the bowl was nearing the finishing stage, I was pretty comfortable with its progress, especially liking the low sweep of the underside. But something said "Lighten up the rim!" So I did. The finished bowl reflects the character of the wood, the mark of the tools used to create it and the thought processes and physical work involved in its creation. I believe that the 'success' of a piece like this is strongly influenced by maintaining a sensitivity for the character of the wood and being receptive to changes that character may suggest.



You can view this process on some of my other bowls in the Art Gallery section of www.ManyTracks.com or contact me at sschmeck@up.net or by phone: (906)644-2598.

Loophole Continued from page 6)

market? Although the Annex clause assumes these bottled water takings will be used for regional consumption, the global nature of the bottled-water industry, dominated by players like Nestle, Coke and Pepsi, suggests otherwise.

Even more disturbing is the danger that Article 207.9 provides yet another tool for corporations to open the floodgates for bulk water takings and exports. Under international trade treaties like the North American Free Trade Agreement, water is understood to be an economic good.

Once water, as an economic good, is extracted and sold for commercial purpose, no government or regulatory regime would be allowed to put a ban or even a quota on it. In other words, since Article 207.9 permits companies to extract water for the Great Lakes basin for sale as bottled water, it triggers the provisions and rules of NAFTA. Once this happens, there is nothing to stop a bulk water export company or consortium of companies from using the rules of NAFTA to compel governments to lift their restriction on bulk water takings from the Great Lakes. To be sure, the architects of the Annex want to conserve and protect the Great Lakes basin against bulk water takings. But, the Annex also makes it clear that its regulatory measures are subordinate to international trade treaties and laws. In short, the rules of NAFTA trump the standards and measures outlined in the Annex to prevent bulk water takings.

Moreover, any government that slaps a ban on a bulk water taking could be sued directly by a water extraction company for violating NAFTA's rules. In British Columbia, for example, the Sunbelt Company filed a legal challenge claiming \$10 billion (U.S.) in lost profits because the government imposed a ban on bulk water exports.

Article 207.9 opens the door for costly trade challenges that benefit corporate interests, not to mention the loophole itself is nothing more than a huge gift to the bottled water giants. Without article 207.9, which allows water to be taken from the Great Lakes and sold for commercial purposes, the rules of NAFTA would likely remain dormant. If the architects of the Annex really do want to protect the Great Lakes from bulk water takings, then they must remove Article 207.9.

Hurricane Damage to the Great Lakes?

Hurricanes may not pop into mind when you think of the Great Lakes, but that doesn't mean they are always unaffected by these natural disasters. A memo first reported by Greg Gordon of the *Star Tribune* appears to hedge on the fed's promise of \$20 billion in the 2005-06 budget for Great Lakes protection. Environmentalists worry money designated to fight such threats as the proliferation of invasive species and the release of raw sewage and other pollutants into the lakes are about to end up a casualty of hurricane clean-up costs.

A recent e-mail response from Clean-Water activist Dave Dempsey about these fears reported he was "disappointed, but not too discouraged. The memo is not signed by or authorized by the President. Until he decides on a level of funding for the Great Lakes, I will continue to be optimistic that the commitment will continue."

He added that momentum for Great Lakes restoration, which has been building in the region over the years, could even lead to increased funding in the future.

However, it was still critical, he noted, for voters to let their legislators know how important Great Lakes protection was to them. On page 3, you'll find contact numbers for area legislators. Please take a few minutes to call, write or email lawmakers and let them know how seriously you take the federal government's earlier commitment to fund programs for the preservation and protection of our vulnerable Great Lakes. And while you're at it, ask what they can do to close up that loophole. If those of us who live alongside these waters won't speak up for them, who will?

(Submitted by Susan Rasch)

Oh, No—Your Membership Expired?!

Well, UPEC's commitment to protecting and preserving our beautiful U.P. hasn't!

We're still here

- fighting the potentially devastating effects of metallic sulfide mining on our pristine U.P. waters and one of the few remaining habitats of the coaster trout
- protecting the solitude of the Sylvania Wilderness, one of the most beautiful wild areas in the nation
- offering grant money to educate our youth about environmental issues in the U.P. today through hands-on activities
- helping other conservancies purchase U.P. forest land that would otherwise go into private hands
- providing a voice in Lansing that brings important U.P. water, woodland and wildlife issues to the attention of our legislators

just to name a few things your membership dues allow us to do.

If your membership is current, thank you for your continuing support. None of the above things would be possible without you!

However, if your membership has lapsed, we'd like to thank you for all your past help and ask you to think about renewing that support once more. Our commitment to the U.P. is as strong today as it was when UPEC first formed better than thirty years ago. Then, as now, we couldn't have done a thing without you. It is your financial contribution which allowed us to make - and continue to make - a difference.

Please take a moment to complete the membership application on the back page and return it to us in the envelope provided. We still need your help in keeping this unique part of Michigan wild and beautiful.

**Upper Peninsula
Environmental Coalition**

P.O. Box 673
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: (906) 524-7899
Email: srasch@up.net
www.upenvironment.org



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Connie Julien
37980 South Entry Rd.
Chassell MI 49916
Mem.Exp: June-06

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



Yes! I Want to Help UPEC Make a Difference!

Name: _____

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

UPEC Land Acquisition/Protection Fund
 UPEC Environmental Education Fund
 UPEC Endowment Fund*

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

Regular Membership (\$20)
 Supporting Membership (\$50)
 Student/Low-Income (\$15)
 Other (\$)

*If you make your check out to the Marquette Community Foundation (MCF) and put UPEC FUND on the memo line, you can take a 50% tax credit on your Michigan State Income Tax (up to \$200. for individuals, \$400 for couples). OR you can make a contribution directly to UPEC. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, dues and contributions are tax deductible.

Send all contributions to: UPEC, Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931
UPEC is grateful for your timely and generous response!