



Winter / Early Spring 2023

UPEnvironment

WE ARE BACK ... LIVE IN PERSON!

UPEC proudly presents our 14th annual



comedy • music • learning • fun!

march 10-11, 2023 • ishpeping & marquette

in-person & on-line • free to all, all welcome

upenvironment.org • yoopersmile.com

streaming at facebook.com/upenvironment/live

program inside!

WHY to celebrate this wonderful place we call home with a smile!

WHO you! free to all & everyone is welcome!

WHEN & WHERE (all times eastern)

friday, march 10 • 4-10pm

- partridge creek community farm, facebook.com/upenvironment/live 4-6:30pm
- ramba mountain bike trailhead, e. division street, ishpeing 6:30-7:30pm
- ore dock brewing company, 114 w. spring, marquette 8-10pm

saturday, march 11 • 8am-6pm

- crib coffeehouse, 401 n. 3rd, marquette 8-10am
- peter while public library, 217 n. front, marquette 10-4pm
- landmark inn, 230 n. front, marquette 11am-6pm
- women's federated clubhouse, 104 w. ridge, marquette 11am-5pm

HOW in-person: at all locations • online: events at library will be livestreamed at facebook.com/upenvironment/live; all other events will be recorded & posted

friday, march 10

TOURS OF PARTRIDGE CREEK COMMUNITY FARM • 4-5:30pm
UPEC ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (open to all) • 5:30-6:30pm
Partridge Creek Community Farm, facebook.com/upenvironment/live

Tour the Community Farm and then find out what UPEC has been up to. From 4-5:30, find out how Partridge Creek Community Farm is achieving its dream of a community that grows and eats nutritious, local, and equitably produced food year-round. Then at 5:30 stay for our Annual Meeting. Hear from board members about our activities, including updates from UPEC's Mining Action Group. We'll unveil the winner of our 2023 Photo Contest, and announce the recipients of the 2023 Environmental Education and Community Conservation Grants.

RAMBA FAT TIRE BIKE CLUB INTRODUCTION & DEMONSTRATION ON IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL • 6:30-7:30pm
RAMBA Mountain Bike Trailhead, East Division St. near Malton Rd., Ishpeing

Learn how to get your Fat Tires on and CRUSH winter on two wheels! Join UPEC Board Member Dave Aho and members of the Ranger Area Mountain Bike Association (RAMBA) for a fun introduction on how to ride snow bikes. Adult attendees might get a chance to try a short ride.



COMEDY & MUSIC • 8-10pm • No cover, \$10 suggested donation
Ore Dock Brewing Co., 114 W. Spring, Marquette

COMEDY with DEVON GRICE • 8-9pm
Hosted by UPEC Vice President Evan Zimmermann

Originally from Detroit, Devon Grice lived in Marquette for 15 years. She's back in Detroit now but loves ripping on the UP in the most light-hearted of ways. And when she switches up, audiences are surprised to hear such raucous candor coming from someone so darling.



MUSIC with RAMBLE TAMBLE • 9-10pm
Instrumental surf-rock

From "Apache" to "Wipeout!" to "Whole Lotta Surf," RAMBLE TAMBLE, Marquette's V8-powered surf band, can surf 'em all. Draped in tie dye, soaked in reverb, and bathed in sunshine, you'll be glad you brought your Ray Bans as you move and shake to their sparkling surf sounds.



saturday, march 11

UPEC FILM FEST • 8-9:50am
Crib Coffeehouse, 401 N. Third, Marquette

Wake up, rev up with a cup of good coffee, your favorite pastry, and some fun, informative videos. Everyone is welcome to drop by the Crib to start the day off with good things to drink and eat – and good company! Food & beverages for purchase. We'll be screening three video interviews conducted by Dave Aho, UPEC Board Member – see details below.

Video #1 • "Bike-Friendly Soo" **Interview with Roger Blanchard, Co-founder, Bike-Friendly Soo**

The objective of Bike Friendly Soo is to make Sault Ste. Marie a Bicycle Friendly Community, a designation from the League of American Bicyclists. Roger Blanchard started the group Bike Friendly Soo in 2017, and they have been working with Sault Ste. Marie to develop a plan for making the town bicycle friendly. **Roger Blanchard** is a former professor of chemistry at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie MI and an avid cyclist.

Video #2 • "Ojibwe Apothecary Botanical Sanctuary" **Interview with Monica Cady, Sault Tribe**

Sault Tribe Member Monica Cady has turned her once-manicured lawn into a permaculture-demo site. "Lots of native plants have volunteered. It's now a Pollinator garden with: asters, golden rod, milkweed, elecampane, cup plant, heal-all, yarrow, and more edibles and medicinal plants." **Monica Cady** graduated from Prescott College with a B.A. in Sustainable Community Development with Indigenous Perspective. She is the recipient of the United Plant Savers Native Medicinal Plant Conservation Award.



Video #3 • "Keeping Community Investments in the Community" **Interview with Dr. Phil Bellfy, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University**

Phil Bellfy was the only bidder who stepped up to save an abandoned school in Chippewa County. He'll tell us how he plans to honor the "community investment" that local people have made over the years in the building, and his ideas for fixing it up and turning some of the rooms into places for community events. **Phil Bellfy** is Professor Emeritus of American Indian Studies, Michigan State University.



CELEBRATE THE UP! 2023 KEYNOTE ADDRESS • 10-10:50am **"Under New Management: What Can We Expect from Lansing?"** **Jenn Hill, State Representative, 109th District** Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front, Marquette

A community leader focused on building a more resilient Michigan, Jenn Hill was elected to the State House in November. In this year's CUP keynote address Jenn will share her thoughts on which environmental issues will be priorities for the new Democratic majority in the state legislature.



BREAKOUT SESSION #1 • 11-11:50am **"Spiritual Grounding in a Changing Climate"** **Stacy Craig, Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (presenting via Zoom)** Landmark Inn, 230 N. Front, Marquette

It has been said we are treating the impacts of climate change as an enemy to our cheerfulness, rather than what pain truly is: an alert for what needs attention. Using resources of the Unitarian Universalist "Side with Love" movement, we'll discuss about how to use spiritual grounding for creating communities of care. **Stacy Craig** is a Unitarian Universalist Minister with UU Fellowships in Ashland, Wisconsin, and the Keweenaw.



saturday, march 11 (continued)

BREAKOUT SESSION #2 • 11-11:50am
"Native American Trail Marker Trees"
Bill Van Kosky, Marquette Regional History Center
Women's Federated Clubhouse, 104 W. Ridge, Marquette



Native Americans living in the Great Lakes woodlands often intentionally bent trees into different shapes in order to mark trails. Trail marker trees have a distinct shape, with one shape going upward, making a turn and then going upward again, although other shape variations have been discovered. In this presentation, **Bill Van Kosky** of the Marquette Regional History Center will tell us about this fascinating topic and share photos of trail marker trees that can still be seen today in the area.

BREAKOUT SESSION #3 • 11-11:50am
"What the Latest DNR Fish Surveys Are Telling Us"
Cory Kovacs, Michigan DNR Fisheries Division
Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front, Marquette



The DNR's fish surveys provide insight into population trends of some of the UP's most cherished wild species. The DNR's **Cory Kovacs**, who is responsible for managing the waters located in the Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit, will share the latest results. Cory graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife in 2003. He has held his current position with Michigan DNR Fisheries Division since 2011.

LUNCH AT LANDMARK • 12-12:50pm
Landmark Inn, 230 N. Front, Marquette

Indulge in local dinner favorites, mouth-watering weekly specials, and the all-day weekend brunch available for purchase.

BREAKOUT SESSION #4 • 1-1:50pm
"Why Do Salamanders Cross the Road? 2023 Update"
Kathleen Henry, Superior Watershed Partnership
Landmark Inn, 230 N. Front, Marquette



Hundreds of blue-spotted salamanders at Presque Isle Park used to be killed by vehicles during their spring migration – until a special road closure helped protect them, and salamander-spotting turned into a popular nocturnal activity! **Kathleen Henry** will help us learn more about local salamander research and advocacy efforts, led by NMU students and professors in collaboration with Superior Watershed Partnership.

BREAKOUT SESSION #5 • 1-1:50pm
"Bad River & Enbridge Line 5: What Are the Risks?"
Chairman Mike Wiggins, Mashkiiziibii (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa)
Women's Federated Clubhouse, 104 W. Ridge, Marquette



In 2019 the Bad River Tribe sued Enbridge to shut down Line 5 through its reservation in northern Wisconsin. In November 2022 a federal court ordered the Tribe and Enbridge to come up with a joint proposal to shut down and purge the pipeline to avoid a "catastrophic" rupture. Bad River Chairman **Mike Wiggins Jr.** will share the latest on the struggle to assert the Tribe's sovereignty. Before becoming the chairman of the Bad River Band, Wiggins served as a conservation warden for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Today, he is a vocal leader in the protection of the Penoque Hills and maintaining safe groundwater.

we live in a beautiful place ... celebrate it!

BREAKOUT SESSION #6 • 1-1:50pm
"COP27 Learning and Outcomes: The Way Forward"
Dr. Shardul Tiwari, Michigan Technological University
Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front, Marquette



Since 2019, Michigan Technological University has been an official observer organization for United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) on Climate Change annual conference, also known as COP. A cohort of MTU students and professors attended the COP27 conference in 2022 and presented their research and education work. In today's event, **Dr. Shardul Tiwari** will lead a conversation about the importance of the UNFCCC in addressing climate change. Shardul Tiwari (MSc, PhD) is a research scholar and teacher at Michigan Technological University. His research focuses on energy justice, energy policy, and the integration of renewable energy technologies in the U.S. electricity market.

BREAKOUT SESSION #7 • 2-2:50pm
"Saving the Menominee River"
Nancy Stencil, Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Inc.
Landmark Inn, 230 N. Front, Marquette



The Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Inc. is a grassroots campaign to stop the Back Forty Project, a controversial sulfide mine that threatens the Menominee River. **Nancy Stencil** of the Coalition's Board of Directors will provide an update on ongoing litigation, community-led resistance, and alarming new mining designs that include both open pit and underground mining, and onsite storage of toxic waste.

BREAKOUT SESSION #8 • 2-2:50pm
"Community-Centric Conservation: The Dead River Community Forest"
Clare Fastiggi, UP Land Conservancy
Women's Federated Clubhouse, 104 W. Ridge, Marquette



Clare will present on UP Land Conservancy's progress in protecting 165 acres of the Dead River Community Forest in Negaunee Township. Partnerships, community input, and priority conservation areas are at the center of this project. Learn more about who UPLC is working with and how DRCF will be a place for connections—connecting people to the land, connecting protected lands together, and connecting people with each other on the land through community engagement and local stewardship. A graduate of NMU, **Clare Fastiggi** joined the UP Land Conservancy in 2021. She is the UPLC Lands Program Manager.

BREAKOUT SESSION #9 • 2-2:50pm
"Climate Change and the UP: What to Expect and How to Prepare"
Dr. Michael Broadway, Northern Michigan University
Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front, Marquette



Michigan, and the surrounding Great Lakes states, are not immune to extreme effects of climate change. This presentation focuses on two manifestations of climate change for the Upper Peninsula: the increase in extreme precipitation events and the number of days that exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and concludes with a consideration of how communities can prepare for extreme weather events. **Dr. Michael Broadway** is Professor Emeritus of Geography and the former Dean of Arts & Sciences at Northern Michigan University.

BREAKOUT SESSION #10 • 3-3:50pm
"Equitable Climate Action Downstate: A Look at Ann Arbor's Work to Become Carbon Neutral by 2030"
Dr. Missy Stults, City of Ann Arbor (presenting via Zoom)
Landmark Inn, 230 N. Front, Marquette



Join us for this rapid and engaging session looking at lessons learned and current activities unfolding in one Michigan community to address the goal of community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030. **Dr. Missy Stults** is the Sustainability and Innovations Director for the City of Ann Arbor.

saturday, march 11 (continued)

BREAKOUT SESSION #11 • 3-3:50pm
"A Winning Strategy for Stopping Mineral Exploration Projects"
Ron James, Environmental Activist / Businessman / Landowner
Women's Federated Clubhouse, 104 W. Ridge, Marquette

Ron James will share experiences with two mineral exploration projects in central Wisconsin. His presentation will explain the details of drilling and filling requirements in Wisconsin and how a resolution that the Marathon County Board passed affected these two proposed sulfide mines.

BREAKOUT SESSION #12 • 3-3:50pm
"We Are Unstoppable! – A Toolkit for the Climate Activist!"
John Forslin, Climate Activist
Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front, Marquette



Join us for an up-beat presentation on tools and resources for the individual activist. John will share a rich resource directory so that you can take home climate change knowledge and put it to use right away. **John Forslin** has been posting and talking about climate actively since becoming a member of the worldwide Climate Reality Project in 2015.

BREAKOUT SESSION #13 • 4-4:50pm
"Tools for the Citizen Climate Scientist – and Family!"
John Forslin, Climate Activist
Landmark Inn, 230 N. Front, Marquette



This session explores the opportunities families have to make and report local weather observations to national systems and thereby learn and understand the factors affecting climate worldwide. **John Forslin** has been posting and talking about climate actively since becoming a member of the worldwide Climate Reality Project in 2015. He has degrees in Math Ed and Information Technology Strategic Planning, and retired from the DNR Forest Management division, having been a technology manager.

BREAKOUT SESSION #14 • 4-4:50pm
The UP Needs More Wilderness!
Tyler Barron, ELPC / Keep the UP Wild
Women's Federated Clubhouse, 104 W. Ridge, Marquette



We'll get the latest on how more than 60 state and regional organizations are teaming up to protect four tracts of Upper Peninsula land under federal wilderness designations. The coalition, called "Keep the UP Wild," is seeking the highest level of wilderness protection for the Trap Hills, the Ehlco Area, Norwich Plains, and a 2,000-acre addition to the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness area. **Tyler Barron** is a policy advocate at the Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), working on Midwest climate change and clean energy solutions, and Great Lakes and natural resources protection advocacy issues.

CELEBRATE THE UP! PARTY • 5:00pm
Landmark Inn (6th floor), 230 N. Front, Marquette

Cap off our 2023 celebration of the UP by joining us for a meet-and-greet with complimentary appetizers in the Sky Room.

go ahead ... show us your yooper smile!



MEET YOUR UPEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

Vote online through March 9 to affirm the UPEC governance team

Dave Aho, Rudyard. Dave was born in the rural UP mining community of Ishpeming and was the youngest of seven children. The family lived in a minimalistic household with a strong emphasis on nature and self-reliance. After receiving a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering and Technology from Central Michigan University, and working in the automotive industry for many years, he and his wife Stephanie moved back / to the Upper Peninsula. While in the UP, he worked in the Information and Technology field, lastly retiring from Lake Superior State University. Dave is a vocal supporter of protecting our natural world and all those who live in it, he is active in groups such as: the Sierra Club, Habitat for Humanity, local animal shelters, and other advocacy groups.

Steven C. Garske, Marenisco. Areas of interest: Ecology, botany and plant taxonomy, wilderness and rewilding, organic gardening, alternative energy, and defining and promoting a sustainable UP economy. B.S. in Biology, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and M.S. in Biology, University of Minnesota Duluth. Steve has worked full-time as a biologist since 2001. He has served as Save the Wild UP Board Secretary from 2013 through 2016, and as UPEC Board Secretary since July 2018.

Kathleen M. Heideman, Marquette. Interests include environmental stewardship, wetlands, sulfide mining threats, ecopoetics and landscape painting. B.F.A. Minneapolis College of Art & Design, and M.A. Northern Michigan University. Heideman is the author of Psalms of the Early Anthropocene (Winter Cabin Books); Fellow of the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists & Writers Program; Artist in Residence with Isle Royale N.P. and Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L. She served as president of Save the Wild UP (2014–16), and joined UPEC to found the Mining Action Group.

Connie Julien, Houghton. Current President of the Peter Wolfe Chapter of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Areas of interest: forestry, Lake Superior, water quality, quality of the UP environment, and non-motorized trails. B.S. and M.S. in Chemistry, and M.S. in Business Administration, all from Michigan Technological University. Served on the UPEC Board since the late 1980s; first as a Coalition Rep to UPEC for FOLK, then as an At-large member of UPEC board. Employment background: chemist, research office manager, and web page designer. Was an original member of FOLK Steering Committee and editor of the FOLK newsletter in the 1980s.

Ryan Leary, Skandia. Ryan currently lives in Skandia on a small farm with his wife and daughter. Going to “camp” in the UP with his dad since he was a young kid, these trips exposed him to nature and the natural world in ways that shaped his being. He earned a B.S. in Forestry from UW-Stevens Point and a Master in Natural Resources from Utah State. Leary worked as a biologist for varying agencies throughout the Pacific Northwest from 2003 to 2015, mainly in stream habitat monitoring and fisheries. Since moving to the UP full-time in 2015, his efforts have focused on building the farm and raising his daughter.

Jon Saari, Marquette. Areas of interest: ecological history, protected lands in UP, local land trusts, and community conservation grant programs. B.A., Yale University, M.A. and, Ph.D, Harvard University. Worked as a historian at Northern Michigan University 1971–2005; taught modern Chinese history, historiography, Finnish-American immigration history. Lived in East Asia for five years. Wife Christine, artist and writer. Joined the UPEC Board in the late 1970s, and served as President 2001–2010.

Horst Schmidt, Hubbell. Horst comes to the Keweenaw via Milwaukee and Eagle River (Wisconsin), moving to the UP full-time in August of 2013. Horst has a background in social services with community organizing skills from social justice work. As he has dug into his new home, Horst sees newly invigorated communities with people willing to work together. As part of his community involvement, Horst sees a greater need than ever for environmental groups and tribes to work together, as well as drawing in other sectors to fix past mistakes and avoid future degradation. Growing, vibrant, healthy communities needs to be everyone's goal.

Evan Zimmermann, Marquette. Evan fulfilled his life goal to move from Wisconsin to the UP in 2010 after years of visits for outdoor recreation. Technology Coordinator for the Marquette Food Co-op. He studied Computer Science at Concordia University (Wisconsin) and earned a BA in English, finding balance in modernity with poetry that celebrates symbiosis with our natural environment. He believes that the UP can be a model society for preserving the wilderness while building community and engaging our creative spirit.

All UPEC members are encouraged to vote online through March 9 at openenvironment.org/vote. You will be emailed this link to the online ballot along with a password and voting instructions. If you do not receive an email notification, or are not sure of your membership status, send a note to upec@openenvironment.org and we'll respond.



P.O. Box 673
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UPEC's 14th Annual Celebrate the UP Event!
March 10-11 • free • in-person/online • everybody welcome
upenvironment.org/2023-celebrate-the-UP

Support UPEC by becoming a member or renewing your membership today! Just fill out the form below. All memberships run with the calendar year. Not sure if your membership is current? Email us at upec@upenvironment.org. (All memberships expire on January 1.)

UP Legislators

US Senate
Gary Peters (D)
202-224-6221
peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary

Debbie Stabenow (D)
202-224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov/contact

US House
Jack Bergman (R)
202-225-4735
bergman.house.gov/contact

Michigan Senate
37th: John Damoose (R)
517-373-2413
senatorjohndamoose.com/contact/

38th: Ed McBroom (R)
517-373-7840
senatoredmcbroom.com/contact/

Michigan House
107th: Neil Friske (R)
517-373-2629
house.mi.gov/repdetail/repNeilFriske

108th: David Prestin (R)
517-373-0156
house.mi.gov/repdetail/repDavidPrestin

109th: Jenn Hill (D)
517-373-0498
housedems.com/Jenn-Hill/

110th: Greg Markkanen (R)
517-373-0850
gophouse.org/member/repgregmarkkanen/posts

Yes! I want to partner with UPEC to make a difference!

Name(s)

Address

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I'd like to support UPEC's goals by ...

Becoming a member / Renewing

- Regular Member \$25
- Supporting/Organizational Member \$50
- Student/Low Income Member \$15
- Lifetime Member \$500

This is a gift membership
Please give us the recipient's name and contact information in the space below this form.

- I want to volunteer! Please give details below.
- Please send me a digital (PDF) version of the newsletter from now on instead of paper

Making an additional contribution

- \$ UPEC General Fund
- \$ Mining Action Group
- \$ Community Conservation Grants
- \$ Environmental Education Grants

My contribution is in honor/memory of

Please give us the honoree's contact information on the space below this form; or, if a memorial, the name and information for a family member.

Please clip and mail along with your check to: UPEC, P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931

Thank you for your support!

You can also join, renew and donate online at upenvironment.org/join-renew