



UP Environment

UPEC: THE UP'S OLDEST GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



Fall 2017

September Celebrate the UP! in the Sault...

U.P. ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION TO MEET IN SOO FOR FIRST TIME



SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – Everything from the area's Native American origins to recent endeavors to clean up toxic hotspots and benefit fish and wildlife habitat will be explored in a celebration of the St. Mary's River and Eastern Upper Peninsula Sept. 16 at Lake Superior State University's Walker Cislser Center.

The day-long program of local, natural themes is the creation of the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition. The public is welcome.

UPEC's annual forum has been celebrated for nine years in the central and western U.P., but the Sept. 16 event will be its first in Sault Ste. Marie. The EUP's longstanding Sierra Club chapter, Three Lakes Group, is organizing the event.

"We are planning a positive, festive environment," said Dave Aho, a TLG member and UPEC board member. "We are interested in getting residents and visitors to better appreciate how fortunate we are to have this vast area of natural resources here where we work and play, and what we need to do to keep it all healthy."

The event will allow participants to hear talks from a variety of natural resource experts while visiting with

vendors, including area businesses that are connected to the EUP land and water. The programs start at 9 a.m. and will conclude around 4 p.m. Participants may come and go as they please and get lunch on their own in LSSU's Quarterdeck dining hall, which adjoins the Cislser Center. Area businesses interested in participating should contact Aho or a member of the planning group.

"We'll have a great variety of speakers talking about so many aspects of the St. Mary's River and its surroundings," said Roger Blanchard of the Sierra Club. "This is the program to attend if you're interested in learning about the history of the former tannery, or the Native American settlements along the rapids, the islands and wetlands in the St. Mary's River and surrounding watershed, trails on land and water, as well as studies by entities from near and far that bring us information on American marten, snowshoe hare, invasive species and much more."



After the programs, participants are welcome to take guided paddling tours of the lower St. Mary's islands, check out the newly restored Little Rapids off Sugar Island, take a relaxing nature hike, tour Algonquin ski/bike trails, and much more, including a hands-on tour of LSSU's Aquatic Research Laboratory.

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Celebrate the UP! Speakers on Sept. 16:

Paula Antunes Ph.D., senior research scientist at AquaTox Testing and Consulting Inc. and adjunct faculty at Algoma University, will talk about her work with the Binational Public Advisory Council to assist with the Remedial Action Plan for the St. Mary's River.

Bernie Arbic Ph.D., retired LSSU mathematics professor and local historian, will discuss area history related to the books he has written about Sugar Island, Sault Ste. Marie and the Soo Locks.

Wayne Barry, retired educator, founder of the Sault Ste. Marie Area Recreation Trails Group and member of the Sault's Non-Motorized Transportation Committee, will talk about local efforts to improve hiking/walking, paddling and bicycling resources.

Ellen Benoit, who has worked with policy and program development with the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission since 1987, will discuss recent work on coastal zone management, trails initiatives, and more.

Nick Cassel, invasive species program coordinator for the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District, will discuss his work on management of invasive species, such as garlic mustard and phragmites, on both public and private lands.

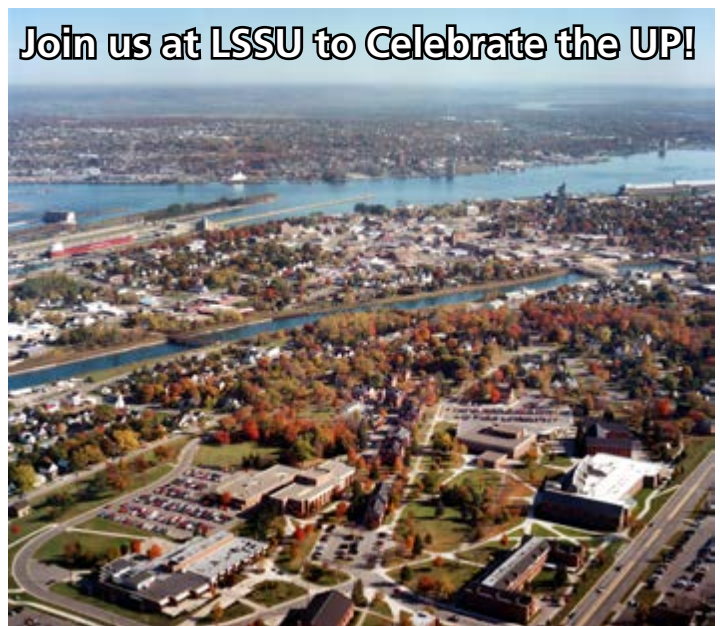
Eric Clark, lead biologist for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Inland Fish and Wildlife Dept. since 2008, will talk about his research on wildlife population interactions with landscape processes and climate, including projects with snowshoe hare and American marten.

Lisa Derickx, who has worked for a variety of environmental organizations in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. and is author of "A Guide to the Identification and Control of Invasive Species in Ontario's Hardwood Forests," will outline her work as the St. Mary's River RAP coordinator.

Denny Doherty, retired science teacher, will talk about his crew's latest community project, Voyageur Island Park in the St. Mary's River, where they have installed handicap-accessible docks and ramps, board walks, viewing platforms and trails.

Ashley Moerke Ph.D., LSSU biology professor, will outline several LSSU Aquatic Research Laboratory projects, including the recent restoration of the Little Rapids on Sugar Island, and will discuss plans for the lab to expand into the Center for Freshwater Research and Education.

Elliot Nelson, Eastern U.P. extension educator with Michigan Sea Grant who works in aquaculture, ecotourism and K-12 Great Lakes literacy, will discuss bringing science to coastal communities to help them achieve economic and environmental sustainability.



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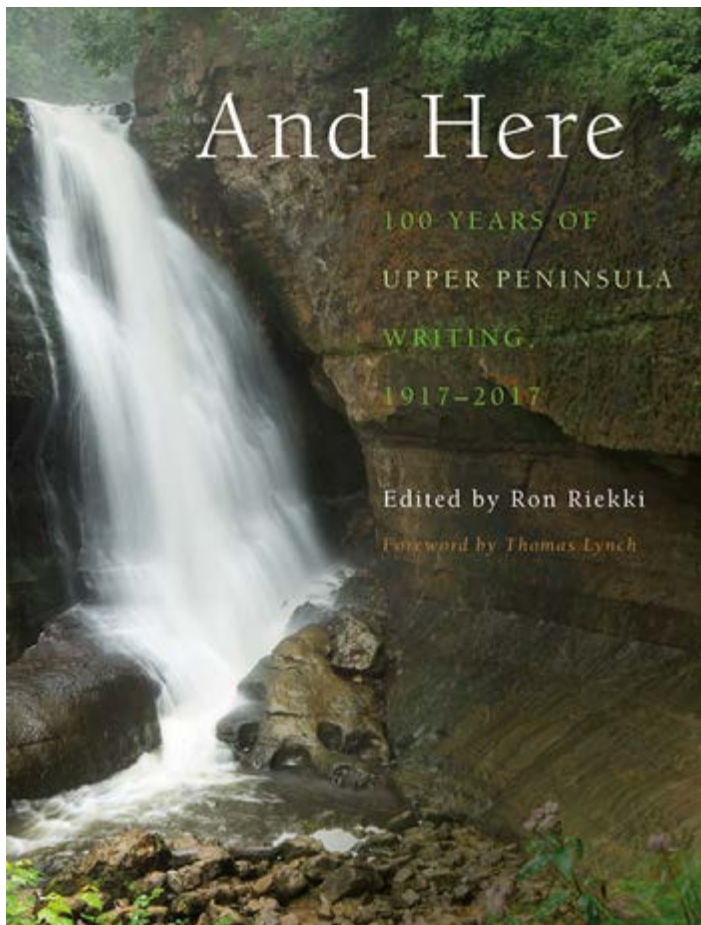
UPEC is Michigan's oldest grassroots environmental group. It started in 1976, with the mission of helping the region recover from many years of natural resource exploitation. UPEC is a self-styled watchdog to industry and government, but seeks partners and promotes reasoned dialogue as it works to protect the special lands and waters of the U.P.

"The issues have changed over four decades, but UPEC's steady purpose has not," said Horst Schmidt of UPEC.

He noted the group has expanded its reach since 2003, awarding several environmental education

grants to teachers and educational institutions around the U.P. Grants of up to \$500 are awarded each year to projects that UPEC board members deem most likely to achieve the group's goals of fueling environmental education, appreciation and respect for U.P. natural resources.

Register for Celebrate the U.P. 2017 in Sault Ste. Marie, read more about UPEC and sponsoring organizations, or find out how you can help, by checking out group websites -- tlgsierraclub.org/celebrate, upenvironment.org -- and Facebook pages -- Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition and Three Lakes Group of the Sierra Club.



Book Note...

And Here - 100 Years of Upper Peninsula Writing, 1917-2017 Edited by Ronald Riecki

Upper Peninsula literature has traditionally been suppressed or minimized in Michigan anthologies and Michigan literature as a whole. Even the Upper Peninsula itself has been omitted from maps, creating a people and a place that have become in many ways "ungeographic." These people and this place are strongly made up of traditionally marginalized groups such as the working class, the rural poor, and Native Americans, which adds even more insult to the exclusion and forced oppressive silence. *And Here: 100 Years of Upper Peninsula Writing, 1917-2017*, gives voice to Upper Peninsula writers, ensuring that they are included in Michigan's rich literary history. Ambitiously, *And Here* includes great U.P. writing from every decade spanning from the 1910s to the 2010s, starting with Lew R. Sarett's (a.k.a. Lone Caribou) "The Blue Duck: A Chipewa Medicine Dance" and ending with Margaret Noodin's "Babejianjisemigad" and Sally Brunk's "KBIC." Taken as a whole, the anthology forcefully insists on the geographic and literary inclusion of the U.P.—on both the map and the page. *Reprinted with permission from the MSU Press.*

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Menominee River's New Protectors Rally Against BACK FORTY Mine

by Horst Schmidt



On a beautiful, sunny July afternoon, I headed to the twin cities of Menominee, Michigan, and Marinette, Wisconsin where the Menominee River flows into Lake Michigan. These twin cities were originally logging and later manufacturing towns. The Menominee River drains a large part of the central UP fed by the Paint, Michigamme and Brule rivers, their tributaries and lakes.

In July I had met Regina Chaltry (above) of Join the River Coalition at a meeting of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, where she and three colleagues asked the MDNR to consider the danger of Aquila Resources' proposed open-pit Back Forty gold, copper and zinc mine next to the Menominee River. The Council listened, but declined to take any action. The DNRs of Michigan and Wisconsin have been working to restore fish habitat, especially the sturgeon, for decades. The Coalition felt the opening of the mine would create new environmental hazards for the river. At Regina's invitation, I attended the Coalition's event in Marinette a week later.

Major pollution at the mouth of the Menominee River is the legacy from nineteenth- and twentieth-century economic growth. This year the Menominee River Area of Concern, with assistance from the Michigan Office of Great Lakes and the federally-funded Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, has finished the clean-up of the lower river to the tune of **41 million** tax dollars. *

Today, when you drive on US 41 through both cities across the interstate bridge, you see cleaned-up towns, an island park, shipbuilding, and other waterfront activities. From even a decade ago, the local communities have seen major improvements in their quality of life. The presence of

the river draws tourists and summer residents to the area. Fly fisherman flock here. Wisconsin and Michigan DNR fisheries biologists have been successful in restoring the sturgeon population. Residents and visitors value a clean river.

Hallelujah! A new group, Save the Menominee River-Stop the Back Forty Mine (aka the Join the River Coalition: <http://jointherivercoalition.org/>) has taken up the good fight to stop the proposed Aquila Back Forty mine. It is made up of citizens on both sides of the Wisconsin-Michigan border. Ron Hendricks has been leading the charge to stop the mine for 14 years with the organization called Front Forty, which is now part of the Coalition. Join the River Coalition formed last April because of the fear that the MDEQ would approve the mining project.

To raise awareness, the Coalition held a rally/picnic/protest/entertainment event on July 29 on Stephenson Island County Park in Marinette on the Wisconsin side next to the interstate bridge, a collaborative effort with the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin. Even though the tribe now resides in east central Wisconsin, its origins lie at the mouth of the Menominee River. Their creation myth is centered in the area. Tribal members hold sites along the length of the river sacred, including areas at the proposed mine site. They are completely opposed to the mine and to the potential destruction of their heritage. Guy Reiter, a member of the tribe, has headed their opposition with significant support from his tribal members.

We gathered at the park during the early evening hours. Regina, who was one of the organizers, got us going for the protest march across the bridge and back with people of all

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ages holding signs to make drivers and passengers going across the bridge aware of the potential damage from the Back Forty project. While people were gathering, tribal members played exciting, innovative drum music. What protest would be complete without t-shirts, bumper stickers along with arts and crafts for fundraising? Before and after the march, the group held a potluck along with tribal members selling grilled grass-fed beef sandwiches.



Protesters got a lot of honks and high signs as we were marching. At the same time, a crew of photographers were gathering movie footage for a documentary. It was neat to watch one man, Doug Osman, as he went with his crew, asking people for comments about the proposed mine. Native American speakers brought up the challenges and the importance of keeping alive their traditions which include treating the environment with respect.

As darkness fell a large sheet was hung over a beam on the park building in preparation for a talk with slides by Al Gedicks, retired University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse professor, who has worked for years with Native Americans to oppose the dangers of sulfide mining. Al gave a dynamic presentation in which he talked about pollution, sulfide mining, MDEQ and Native American rights. Here is his summary, called Defending Water, Defending Life:

“Opponents of Aquila Resources’ Back Forty metallic sulfide mine project have been repeatedly told that public opinion and citizen opposition to the project will have no influence on whether the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues permits for the proposed mine. These statements from the DEQ are part of the psychological warfare that the mining industry employs to discourage citizen organization to oppose ecologically destructive mining projects.”

“The history of Wisconsin grassroots resistance to the Crandon metallic sulfide project from 1976-2003 and the Penokee Hills open pit iron mine from 2011 to 2015

demonstrates the power of Indian and environmental alliances to defeat large mining corporations that fail to recognize Indian treaty rights and obtain a social license to operate from those communities affected by mining projects. A social license indicates a community’s acceptance or approval of a mining project. It is intangible and unwritten, and cannot be granted by the Michigan DEQ or any other state agency or legal authority.”

“After Exxon’s defeat at Crandon and the grassroots campaign to enact Wisconsin’s Mining Moratorium or ‘Prove it First’ law, the mining industry was forced to acknowledge that controversial projects can be stopped dead by local people and communities, threatening shareholder value and destroying executives’ careers. Anti-mining activism is a global social movement.” **

It is gratifying to know that the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a new ally to continue as a watchdog to the MDEQ and the mining company.

Mining companies assure regulatory agencies from whom they want projects approved - and the public who are interested in mining jobs, that there will be no mishaps or negative impacts on streams and lakes. However, these assurances - given as pacifiers - don’t hold up if there are major precipitation events or the company slips in its vigilance. State governments, in their desire for economic development, frequently do not require sufficient funds to pay for post-closure clean-up, leaving the cost to tax payers and permanent damage to the environment. Environmentalists share concerns about mining impacts because they are aware of almost two centuries of mining and post-mining catastrophes in this country, many of which still haunt us today.

For more information on the Back Forty Mine and environmental concerns, see the reports from Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition Mining Action Group (formerly Save the Wild UP.) See:

<http://savethewildup.org/>

“Mine proposed on Michigan-Wisconsin border prompts concerns”: <http://archive.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/mine-proposed-on-michigan-wisconsin-border-prompts-concerns-b99647859z1-364814071.html>

<http://www.aquilaresources.com/projects/back-forty-project>

Notes:

Explanations of work done in the Menominee AOC are available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and from the Michigan Office of Great Lakes: <https://www.epa.gov/menominee-river-aoc> and http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3677_15430_57388--,00.html

“Ecological health of U.P. river improving”:

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/06/menominee_river_aoc.html

* To learn about Areas of Concern (AOCs): http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3677_15430--,00.html

** Summary from Al Gedicks’ email to the author, dated July 31, 2017.

Barriers to Upstream Movement in Trout Streams Can Stop Spawning Runs and Critical Movement to Cold Water Summer Refuge

by Bill Ziegler

Typically, headwaters provide the ground water springs that create trout streams. Many larger trout mainstems are heavily dependent on headwater spring activity and tributary trout streams to provide good spawning habitat that allows successful natural reproduction, especially for brook trout. Brook trout require ground water percolating up through clean gravel for their spawning to be successful. Unfortunately, trout are not as capable of passing upstream barriers as their relatives, the salmon. One very common barrier to upstream trout movement in Michigan is poorly installed culverts. Any angler, land manager, or fish biologist driving around a trout watershed can count great numbers of stream road crossings; the majority employing culverts.

Upstream trout passage to cold water refuge is also critical, especially on more marginal trout waters. If stream water temperatures rise above 70 F it can be fatal to brook trout. As trout streams warm on hot and or droughty summers trout need to move toward headwater spring areas or cold water tributaries to survive. This major annual trout upstream movement was well documented by research biologists on the Ford River and Escanaba River watersheds in the Navy submarine Extreme Low Frequency (ELF) Antenna research project in the Central UP in the 1980's. Brook trout moved long distances upstream to coldwater tributaries to survive lethal water temperatures that developed in the Ford and Escanaba River mainstream. Barriers to trout movement in those two river systems would be fatal to brook trout populations that live in those stream systems.

natural bottom that provides current breaks and lower flow velocity. A properly sized bottomless box culvert provides the next best fish passage at road crossings. If a typical culvert is used it must be large enough to handle peak flows and also be deeply recessed into the sediment to allow gravel and sediment to provide a more natural flow regime to allow trout to pass up stream.



The worst possible stream crossing is a “perched” culvert (above.) Fish would have to jump to enter the downstream end of this culvert and then make its way with high velocity over the steel corrugation which is normally impossible. There are numerous examples of perched culverts around the Western UP where I managed trout for the DNR during my career. Many other culverts are undersized and block trout with flow velocity or placement that is too much for trout to swim upstream through them.

In the 1990's and 2000's one of the worst streams, in terms of critical trout migration during the DNR Fisheries Trout Habitat Restoration program, was the lower Schwartz Creek within the Upper West Branch of the Escanaba River where the culvert blocks migration (see photo)

Erich Ziegler, Crystal Falls Forest Park science teacher, conducted a stream crossing inventory and study of the entire Fence River watershed in Iron County as part of his Masters Thesis at Michigan Tech University. The Fence River - with portions rated as a Michigan Blue Ribbon Trout Stream - has been an outstanding trout stream although it has declined in recent years. Several factors have contributed to this decline including aggressive logging in the entire watershed, excessive beaver impact on some tributaries, and road crossing barriers fragmenting the watershed.



Culverts are often used by road commissions, land managers, and land owners for convenience and expense. A bridge offers the best fish passage for trout due to the



Ziegler inventoried 31 stream road crossings on the Fence River and its 18 tributaries. In his summary assessment “one-third of the 31 crossings in the...watershed...were deemed to be impassible...” while “...19% (6) were determined to be marginal for trout passage.” This means less than half of the stream crossings were found to be passable to trout. Most trout watersheds in Michigan would have a much higher number of road stream crossings than this remote Fence River system. These culvert barriers fragment the trout habitat of the stream and greatly limit its potential to maintain a productive brook trout fishery. Unfortunately, water temperature conditions in the Fence River have deteriorated over time where trout movement for summer cold water refuge and spawning is critical. These limitations contribute to the Fence River’s trout population being lower than its historical population, reducing its current potential stem.

In addition to the Fence River stream crossings, Ziegler verified the work done previously by the DNR on Schwartz Creek, confirming that this stream crossing was impassable by brook trout. With this information Dickinson County authorities were asked to remove and replace the crossing. Due to its interest in fishing habitat, the Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited took over the project from Erich. Golden Creek, a tributary of the North Branch of the Paint River in Iron County and Ottawa National Forest, is another example. These poor road crossings block off trout movement to over ten miles of top quality trout water on the Golden and 15 miles on Schwartz Creek. Working cooperatively with local DNR foresters we got them to replace several inadequate culverts at a DNR road stream crossing the Fence River tributary of Smith Creek. The DNR replaced this culvert crossing with a small bridge making almost six miles of cold ground water rich habitat available to trout.

Maintaining the state’s trout stream resources is a major priority for recreation and ecological health. Citizens, road commissions, and land managers can help maintain con-

nectivity and access of trout to critical habitat in streams by making proper stream crossings when the need arises. Area DNR fisheries biologists, DEQ officials, or Natural Resource Conservation Service staff can help people who need to construct stream crossings properly designed, trout friendly crossings. Properly placed stream crossings, in addition to passing trout, are much less likely to wash out, reducing future expenses.

Leading experts in the US are confidently predicting many miles of water that support trout will decline with climate change. During my 35 year fisheries career--mostly in the UP--our surveys measured a decline in some of the UP’s best known stream reaches that support trout. As some rivers and creeks become more marginal for supporting trout, stream trout movement to survivable water temperatures and spawning habitat become even more critical. By better planning of stream crossings, a major barrier to maintaining good trout habitat can be avoided. We are fortunate in



northern Michigan to have a number of streams where if we protect quality trout habitat trout natural reproduction will maintain a quality trout fishery. A strong naturally reproducing trout stream can produce better trout populations than any level of stocking. If we protect or enhance these fragile stream habitats and water quality we can enjoy good trout fishing for many decades to come.

Attention ECONOFOOD Shoppers

UPEC appreciates receiving your receipts. If you haven't been saving them, now is a good time to start. The last time we received \$189. Every receipt counts and adds up! Send your receipts to PO Box 673, Houghton MI 49931. We'll put your contributions to good use.



Environmental Games and Activities: Who Am I?

Looking for an interactive activity for youth that teaches about adaptations and habitats? "Who Am I?" requires little preparation and can be enjoyed by multiple ages.

by Nick Baumgart, Michigan State University Extension

Looking for a great, interactive activity for all ages? Need something that teaches about habitats, adaptations and species identification all in one? Look no further! The "Who Am I?" activity is just what you are looking for! Youth and adults will enjoy this engaging activity.

You will need pictures of living creatures of all kinds. These can be mammals, fish, reptiles, insects and birds. Another option is to have pictures of trees, flowers, shrubs and other plants. You decide if you want to use specifics such as mammals, just trees or include a variety. Pasting these pictures on heavier paper and laminating them will help them last and be repeatedly used again. Lastly, punch a hole near the top of the picture and place a loop of string in the hole so the picture can be suspended around a participant's neck.



Now you are ready to play! Have each participant select one picture without showing anyone what it is. Place the picture around another person's neck with the picture showing on their back. Each person's task is to determine what organism their picture is. They accomplish this by asking yes or no questions about the organism. Examples may be, "Do I eat meat?" "Am I cold blooded?" "Do I have feathers?" "Do I have fur?" "Do I live in Michigan?"

Questions such as "What do I eat?" and "Where do I live?" are not acceptable since they can't be answered yes or no. After asking three questions to one person, it is time to move on to another person for more questioning.

A person can move their picture to their front side when they have correctly identified the organism in their picture. A sample scenario would be: "Do I have feathers?" Yes!

"Do I swim?" No. "Do I eat meat?" No. "Am I seen at a bird feeder?" Yes. "Am I a chickadee?" Yes! Congratulations!" You may place your picture to the front to indicate you have identified your picture.



Some participants may have difficulty identifying their picture. After sufficient time, gather the group together to discuss and help with those not identified. At this time, it would be appropriate to ask specific questions that are not answered yes or no. Some may have difficulty determining what an animal is such as a fisher, coyote versus wolf, or specific species of fish or bird. No worries! You decide how detailed an answer you are looking for. Just be sure to allow for some level of success. Those answering questions can learn just as much as those asking. Anyone unsure how to answer should ask for help.

The greatest value of this activity is in the interactions and questioning strategies that are involved. However, final discussion is important to recognize what has been learned. Ask the following: Did you learn something new about some organisms? Did you learn how to ask the right questions? What was helpful? Other questions will surely be asked that will lead to some great discussion and positive learning. There are no winners or losers in this activity.

Michigan State University Extension encourages participation in new experiences that are safe and expose youth to science involvement with 4-H science: Asking questions and discovering answers.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

Education Grant Enables Wildlife Discovery Boxes

by Rachel Roll Foccia



In early spring of 2017, the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC) awarded Clear Lake Education Center (CLEC) an Environmental Education grant to fund a brand new project: **Our Woodland Neighbors Discovery Boxes**. The boxes each contain a lifelike ecosystem diorama including signs of one particular animal, as well as other features. The goal of this project is to provide interpretive and educational experiences for participants to observe evidence of wildlife closely, with a broader application to increase awareness of what can be seen if one is paying attention to details.

As of early August, three boxes – white-tailed deer, eastern cottontail rabbit, and beaver – have been completed, and two others – coyote and raccoon – are currently under construction. The three completed boxes have already been used in a number of programs. During the Life of Lake Superior program on Animal Tracking, the boxes were used as an introduction to the observation skills necessary when looking for animal tracks in the wild. During presentations for the More Kids in the Woods program, discovery boxes were on hand both as an exploratory extension and, in one instance, as an integral part of a nature observation program. The completed boxes, in the interim, are on display at Clear Lake for use by rental groups such as Our Global Kids, an organization that seeks to expose urban families to the wealth of cultures and environments extant in the country.

Rachel Roll, the Clear Lake intern (above) who has constructed each of the boxes thus far, determined to use entirely real materials so as to enhance the legitimacy of the dioramas. In each box, a different substrate material and different plants reflect the particular environment in which each animal would likely be found. Each also includes less obvious evidence of at least one other woodland creature.



Her experience thus far in presenting the boxes to both children and adults has been overwhelmingly positive; it seems that, while not everyone wants to wander around in the forest with their nose to the ground, nearly everyone is interested to see what they might find if they did so.

With the success of the first half of these discovery boxes, and their intended use during autumn and spring school programs, there is no doubt among the Clear Lake staff that they will become a valuable asset to a variety of classes and interpretive endeavors. They promise to be especially valuable in travel presentations, where programs are brought to classrooms and opportunities for hands-on exploration of the wild natural world are limited.

Clear Lake would like to thank UPEC for their support of our mission – connecting people of all ages and abilities to the natural world.

HELP Us With Your Address



UPEC is transitioning to a new database for greater functionality and one of our challenges is to reduce duplicate newsletter mailings and fine-tune summer/winter addresses. For the last newsletter we sent out around 2200 copies, but we received about 60 as returned. Each return

costs us 49 cents. Let us know when you expect to return to the UP and when, sadly, you depart in the fall. Then label one winter address, the other summer.

UPEC
P.O. Box 673
Houghton, MI
upec@upenvironment.org

Have You Considered...

.....An IRA Charitable Rollover to UPEC? Its a way of giving without having to pay taxes on the donated amount of funds dispersed. We would send you a written acknowledgement of your donation for your records.

As of December 18, 2015, the IRA Charitable Rollover was passed by Congress and signed into permanent law by the President, allowing taxpayers age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to the charity without first having to recognize the distribution as income. The key is the money goes directly to the charity from your IRA account.

Charitable donations from 403(b) plans, 401(k) plans, pension plans and other retirement plans do not qualify for the tax-free treatment.

Should you have tax-related questions, see an accountant for more details as well as how to set up a rollover.

Giving: A Benefit, Not a Cost

Americans gave \$390 billion to charities last year. Individuals were responsible for 72% of the giving. Environmental and animal welfare organizations received just 3%, or \$11 billion. There are thousands—maybe tens or hundreds of thousands—of charitable organizations in the US. Presumably they are just as deserving as UPEC. However, environmental organizations take on the tough task of keeping our environment safe and healthy.

UPEC takes its role of educating the public seriously. We fund grants to schools to develop environmental activities with their students. Our recently implemented conservation grants have gone to land trusts, museums, and conservation groups.

We have a major 'gold' rush going on in the UP. Mining companies are staking new claims on our public lands. UPEC's Mining Action Group is waging battles against new mining activity. Companies are leasing public lands to explore new sites for mining. We are engaged in extensive discussions and arguments with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources.

The work is overwhelming. "Today's battles for our environment involve extensive technical work to counter mining companies in their relentless quest for more metals and keeping state agencies from making bad decisions. Technical work done by experts is expensive and necessary to stem future pollution.

Consider this tax-free vehicles as well as posthumous gifts as a way to help us carry on our work. If you value air, water and land, there is no better investment.

Climate Change or Habitat Loss? Study Weighs Future Priorities for Conserving Forest Migrants

Hot off the press. If you are interested in birds, see: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/climate-change-or-habitat-loss-new-study-weighs-future-priorities-for-conserving-forest-migrants/?utm_source=Cornell%20Lab%20eNews&utm_campaign=78986fdf3c-Cornell%20Lab%20eNews%208_15_2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-78986fdf3c-309847845



Celebrate the UP
Sault Sainte Marie
UPPER PENINSULA ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
Hear from natural resource experts about the history of the former tannery, the Native American settlements along the rapids, the islands and wetlands in the St. Mary's River and surrounding watershed, trails on land and water, as well as recent endeavors to clean up toxic hotspots to benefit fish and wildlife habitat. Learn about: American martens, snowshoe hares, invasive species, and more.
Programs are free and open to the public.
September 16
Lake Superior State University's Walker Cisler Center
Sault Sainte Marie
Lunch will be available to purchase at the Quarterdeck cafeteria. Programs start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. Participants may come and go as they please.
To register for this event, please go to tgsierraclub.org/celebrate/
After the programs, participants are welcome to:
• take guided paddling tours of the lower St. Mary's islands
• check out the newly-restored Little Rapids off Sugar Island
• take a bike tour of Algonquin ski/bike trails
• tour LSSU's Aquatic Research Laboratory
DC Sponsored by UPEC and the U.P.'s Sierra Club Chapter, Three Lakes Group

Yes! I Want to Partner with UPEC in Making a Difference!

Please complete, attach a check, and give to a UPEC board member or mail to UPEC: PO Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931

Or you can contribute on-line through justgive on UPEC's website: www.upenvironment.org/join-donate/

I'd like to support UPEC's goals by enclosing a contribution for (please check one):

- Regular Membership (\$25)
 Supporting or Organizational Membership (\$50)
 Student/Low Income Membership (\$15)
 Lifetime Membership (\$500)
 Contact me - I want to volunteer!
 Gift Membership (please provide person's name and mailing address on reverse side of this form)
 In Honor or Memory of _____
* (Please circle correct category, and provide person's or family's name and mailing address on separate sheet of paper)

Contributions beyond membership are suggested for these UPEC funds - (please indicate amount of donation)

- Environmental Education fund
 Community Conservation Grants fund
 UPEC/SWUP Mining Action Group (MAG) fund

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
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**Call UPEC at:
906-201-1949**

Check your newsletter's mailing label for your membership status. Phone and E-mail information is optional - UPEC does not share members' contact information with any other organizations. Thank You for your support!

How to Contact Your State Legislators

37th District Senator Wayne Schmidt
517-373-2413 SenWSchmidt@senate.mi.gov
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107th District Rep. Lee Chatfield
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108th District Rep. Ed McBroom
517-373-0156; EdMcBroom@house.mi.gov
109th District Rep.
517-373-0498;
110th District Rep. Scott Dianda
517-373-0850; ScottDianda@house.mi.gov
For more info: www.legislature.mi.gov

UPEC's Mission

"As the longest serving environmental organization in Michigan's U.P., the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC) strives to preserve the unique cultural and natural resources of the Upper Peninsula through public education, the promotion of sound land stewardship, and reasoned dialogue with communities, governments, industries and others with whom we share this land."

One of the great dreams of man must be to find some place between the extremes of nature and civilization where it is possible to live without regret.

Barry Lopez



Lightfoot Bay



**Upper Peninsula
Environmental Coalition**

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About UPEC...

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition and the recently formed Mining Action Group has a four-decade track record of protecting and seek to enhance the unique environmental qualities of the U.P. through public education and monitoring of industry and government. UPEC and the recently formed Mining Action Group, seeks common ground with diverse individuals and organizations to promote sound planning and management decisions for all the region's natural resources.

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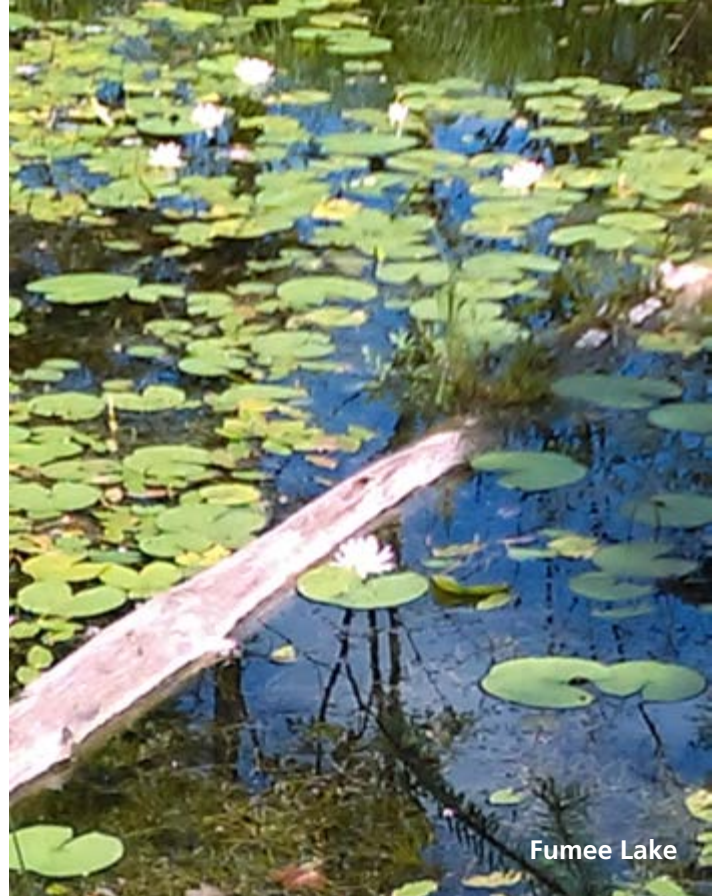
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