



Kingbird Nest in Greenwood Reservoir (Marquette Co)  
Photo courtesy of Jeannine McKenzie

The weekend of March 16-17 marked a small transition in land protection efforts in the Upper Peninsula. For the UPEC Annual Meeting, we had the attention of two outstanding visitors: Doug Scott, wilderness advocate and historian, from the Campaign for America's Wilderness in Seattle; and Bart Koehler, from The Wilderness Society's Wilderness Support Center in Juneau, Alaska. The Upper Peninsula is no longer a flyover zone between the wild splendors of the West and the national political corridors in Washington, D.C. We are on the map as a place deserving support for our own local national wonders, and can expect our two visitors to be dropping in regularly.

For Doug Scott the visit was a homecoming of sorts. His career as a wilderness advocate had started in Michigan in the 1960s, when he was a graduate student in forestry at the University of Michigan. He researched the maturing of the idea of wilderness, both intellectually and politically, as it came to fruition in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Later he worked on bringing Isle Royale National Park under the Act, but after the Michigan Wilderness Bill of 1987 (which brought eleven areas, (Cont. on page 4)



Moose on Isle Royal  
Photo courtesy of Doug Welker

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### **Don't forget those Econo Foods Slips!**

Thanks to you and Econo Foods, UPEC has earned several hundred dollars over the past few years by submitting grocery receipts from the store collected by UPEC members. That amount represents 1% of total gross receipts from all the slips.

While that may not seem like a lot, 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!

Either save them throughout the year and mail them off to us before the end of May, or simply hand them to a UPEC board member whenever you attend a meeting—whichever is most convenient. It's one of the easier ways you can offer your support.



**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, call 1-(800) 386-3326 or view their website at:  
[www.earthsharemichigan.org](http://www.earthsharemichigan.org)*



### **About UPEC...**

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a 30-year track record of protecting and seeking to maintain the unique environmental qualities of the U.P. through public education and watchful monitoring of industry and government.

UPEC seeks common ground with diverse individuals and organizations in order to promote sound planning and management decisions for all the region's natural resources.

Our newsletter, the *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 from our website at [upenvironment.org](http://upenvironment.org).



### **UPEC Officers, Board and Staff**

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## 2007 Doors Project: A Portal to Beauty and Wild Places in the Imagination

Artist Mary Wright could be called a citizen of the U.P. She's lived and worked in more than half a dozen U.P. communities. But it was her L'Anse upbringing, she said, that led her to her line of work. Simply stated, she said, "We were allowed to daydream."

It was that opportunity to dream, she said, which has led her to orchestrate 28 community art projects over the past ten years.

"It's exciting to gather people in a community from all varying aspects of artistic ability and create (artwork) in a public space. And displaying (that work) in a public space is a powerful expression of community."

Wright says dreams, too, often are the inspiration for the theme of her projects—dreams and not so obvious everyday objects.

"I choose objects from regular life and doors have a really strong symbolic meaning. First of all, when you come up to a door and get ready to open it, you don't know what's on the other side, so" simply turning a doorknob becomes "an act of exploration and adventure. It's a passage or portal to the other side." A side, she added, where we don't always know what lies ahead.

In 2005, one of the artists excited by Wright's vision of community art was Lisa Wiljanen. The Ishpeming artist painted two pieces for the Finn Grand Fest, a huge celebration of Finnish culture held in Marquette that year. That project, which relied heavily on the use of blue and white paint, the colors of the Finnish flag, engaged people from all walks of life in painting chairs and benches which, in turn, provided artistic seating for visitors throughout the event. Wiljanen provided a bench with the image of the Mackinac Bridge and a chair which featured pictures of her Finnish-American family.



Peregrine Falcons  
By Lisa Wiljanen

When Wright informed UPEC of her newest project, we chose Wiljanen to create the six doors we wanted to include in the exhibit. To that end, Wiljanen was asked to join the paddling group led by board member Doug Welker through the Trap Hills.

(Continued on page 14)

*(President's Desk cont. from page 1)*

10 of them in the U.P.) Scott had little reason to reconnect with Michigan. We had "done wilderness" and the job was finished, or so it seemed.

On Friday evening Doug Scott gave a well-attended illustrated talk on "Protecting Michigan's Wild Places: Past, Present, and Future," held in the old-fashioned front room of the Federated Women's Clubhouse. During the social hour, Ray Nurmi from Snowbound Books hosted a book-signing by authors (not all could be present) who have written about Michigan's environment: Eric Hansen on U.P. hiking trails; David Dempsey on Michigan's ruin and recovery, on the Great Lakes, and on Governor Milliken; Doug Scott on America's wilderness system; and Katie Alford and Craig Klungness on the incompatibility of roads and wild areas. (See related story on Page )

Saturday witnessed a private gathering of conservation interests at the New York Deli and Italian Place: Five hours of face-to-face conversation on land protection in the U.P., without PowerPoint presentations or computers. Only 35 or so could be invited, and they represented a wide range of U.P.-based conservancies and groups as well as state-wide environmental groups and some individuals (a writer, a filmmaker, a uranium activist). Scott and Koehler participated actively, especially in the morning session on specific land protection proposals: A citizens' proposal for a new National Recreation Area with wilderness in the Trap Hills, a part of the Ottawa National Forest; and two conservancy-based proposals to extend protection east and west of the McCormick Tract Wilderness Area in western Marquette County.

Perhaps the best way to summarize the discussions is to cite the Land Protection Scale document created as a common reference point for the discussions. Chris Burnett, forester with the local Soil Conservation District, asked me weeks before the gathering, what do you mean by "land protection"?

The scale was my answer (*See scale on page 6 -Ed.*). Its virtue is that it is not only descriptive (so many acres of the forested area in Michigan are in this or that ownership category) but prescriptive: the high-low rankings on the scale indicate vulnerabilities in protection (lower rankings) as well as potential solutions (higher rankings), both for public and private lands. Here are several of the main points that emerged through the discussion.

The Gold Standard of land protection is land protected under the federal Wilderness Act of 1964. The full community of life is protected over large areas of intact habitats, where human impacts have been marginal and will remain so. It takes an act of Congress to create such protection or to undo it, both of which are very difficult to achieve. So far, 107 million acres are protected nationally (most in Alaska), or 7.5 percent of the land base. In the Upper Peninsula, less than 3 percent of the land base has this degree of protection (Isle Royale, Seney Wildlife Refuge, McCormick, Sylvania, and the Sturgeon River Gorge are among the largest pieces). The Porcupine Mountains are the only state-designated wilderness park. Within the public lands of Michigan, both national and state (together about 30 percent of the forested land base), there are opportunities to bring new lands under this highest standard, so that a "decent sampling" of representative habitats can have additional protection.

(President's Desk cont. from page 4)

2. Lands owned by conservancies as sanctuaries and lands with enforceable restrictions written into their deeds (called "conservation easements") provide examples of the highest form of protection on private lands. Unfortunately, such conservancy-protected lands are only a small fraction of the forested land base, probably no more than a percent or two. This percentage can be greatly improved, both through so-called "working forest easements" on corporate lands (The Nature Conservancy has been pioneering this approach in the Upper Peninsula) and through conservation easements on private or family forest lands.
3. The private or family forests are a neglected part of the system, which is unfortunate because they make up about 55 percent of the forested land base in Michigan. Without protection gains in this low-ranked sector, we are failing to address the full spectrum of issues in land protection. Family forests are vulnerable to short-term calculations, to family crises and generational transitions, as well as development pressures. Tools such as conservation easements, forest management plans and incentive programs can be helpful here, as can watershed councils and township planning.
4. Protection of the surface of lands is short sighted if it fails to address the issue of severed mineral rights. An estimated 90 percent of lands (probably higher in the Western Upper Peninsula) have such severed rights, where the sub-surface owner is a different entity than the surface owner. In Michigan, the sub-surface owner is legally the dominant estate and has rights to explore and eventually exploit mineral deposits, with a nod and reasonable compensation to the surface owner. A surface owner's bill of rights should be on the state political agenda, for all protection of land surfaces is compromised if any and all lands (both public and private) can be converted into industrial mining sites.

This gathering of conservation interests was a useful stimulus to our thinking about mid-term and long-term land protection. True enough, we have a sulfide mining crisis in the U.P., but we also need to be thinking about how to change the landscape so that it will be less vulnerable to a variety of threats far into the future.

-Jon Saari, Board President



*U.P. Environment*

Doe with twin fawns (look for the 2nd tail)  
Photo courtesy of Jeannine MacKenzie



## A High-Low Protection Scale for Michigan's Forested Landscape (19.2 million acres)



Spectacular, rarely used campsite in the Trap Hills  
Photo courtesy of Doug Welker

HIGH

Statutory wilderness under 1964 Federal Act (public) < 1.5%  
Wild River corridors (public)?  
Conservancy-owned lands (private) < 1%  
State-designated wilderness parks (public) < .3% The Porkies

Lands with recorded conservation easements (private)?

Research Natural Areas on federal lands (public)?  
National Parks (public)

Old Growth and other designations under FSC certification within forest plans for federal and state forests (public)?

Timberlands with enforceable FSC or comparable certification (public and private) = 20%

Experimental Forests (public)  
National Forests (public) = 13.9%  
Wildlife refuges (public)  
Scenic and Recreational River corridors (public and private)

Educational tracts (universities, schools, nature centers)  
City green spaces  
Zoned riparian and shoreline areas

Lands enrolled under CFA or QFP with forest management plans  
Lands enrolled in agency-assisted enhancement programs, with or without plans

Corporate, family or private forests = 56.5%

Abandoned farms, camps, fields with absentee landowners  
Delinquent tax lands

Lands with severed mineral rights, subject to potential mining > 90%?

Small undeveloped parcels within city limits  
Small undeveloped waterfront parcels

LOW

JLS 3.17.07

*U.P. Environment*

## The Savin' of the Green

A packed room marked Douglas Scott's return to the U.P. at our annual spring meeting held at the Women's Federated Clubhouse in Marquette this last St. Paddy's Day weekend. People outside the clubhouse may have been wearin' the green that Friday evening, but, thanks to the efforts of Scott and others before him, larger parts of the country are remaining green, primarily due to the passage and enforcement of the 1964 Wilderness Act.



Lake Medora in Keweenaw Co.  
Photo by Editor

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Scott's interest in the wild lands of Michigan began as a graduate student in forestry at the University of Michigan in the '60s. During that time, he was tapped to go to Isle Royale and make a study of the island's potential for wilderness designation. Later on, he also helped to establish the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. However, it was the federal Wilderness Act of 1964 that became his passion. Since it was enacted, Scott has had a hand in almost all the significant legislation that has extended and defined the Act. For his efforts, in 1997 he was awarded the Sierra Club's highest honor, the John Muir Award.

Scott began his presentation that evening, "Protecting Michigan's Wild Places: Past, Present, and Future," by offering a little background. Scott told the standing-room-only crowd that by the early 1900s, wilderness was already disappearing at a rapid rate from this country. With the exception of the landmark ruling in 1872 that created Yellowstone National Park, our first national park, there were no legal protections for the 14 million acres which had been designated as wilderness by 1939. Without a legal basis for their protection, wilderness boundaries were routinely moved, shrinking the areas, to allow incursions into the wilderness for such things as logging. The problem, Scott told the group, was "that there was no national policy, no definition (of what constituted a wilderness), no nationwide system of areas to be protected, no uniform management, and policy that was controlled exclusively by federal agencies." Acquisition of lands ended entirely with the advent of World War II.

However, in 1947, things began to change. About that time, Scott said, "Deep thinkers in the (Wilderness Society) came up with an idea for a nationwide system" and asked then-executive director of the Wilderness Society, Howard Zahniser, to create it. Zahniser spent the next nine years meeting with experts in the field, and in 1956 Hubert Humphrey introduced the result – the Wilderness Act, a creation that Scott termed "a truly a bipartisan effort." While it was hotly debated in Congress, members of both parties could be found to support its passage and, in 1964, Lyndon Johnson signed the Act into law.

"Congress," Scott said, "now was the only body that could designate a wilderness" and, even more importantly, "an act of congress was needed to undo a designation."

(Savin' of the Green cont. from page 7)

"The Act doesn't preserve land," he explained, "It preserves choice." It's given us the option of preserving land today with the freedom to decide what to do with it years later.

Since the passage of the Act, our wilderness system has grown from 54 areas to 648 areas of land set aside for preservation throughout the United States. But it wasn't until 1987, when the Michigan Wilderness Bill was passed, that any Michigan lands were included in that system. Since then, fourteen areas have been designated as wilderness in the state, covering 249,911 acres, of which 246,011 acres are in the U.P. Some of the acreage includes Isle Royale, the Seney Wildlife Refuge, the McCormick Tract, and the Sylvania Wilderness in the Ottawa National Forest. Currently, a case is being made by some environmentalists, including UPEC, to designate at least a portion of the Trap Hills as a federally protected wilderness area.

What constitutes a wilderness? Scott acknowledged that sometimes the definition has been problematic. Early definitions described wilderness as a pristine area, completely untouched by human hands – a description so lofty as to exclude nearly every acre of land in the county given our history of exploration and logging. The Wilderness Act, he said, has helped to qualify that. The first sentence of the Act he said "defines the ideal" ("Wilderness...is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." ), but it's the second sentence which goes on to offer the more realistic definition. It notes that a wilderness designation may be applied to undeveloped land which "retains its primeval character and influence, without *permanent* (Ed.'s italics) improvements or human habitation..." This, he noted, opens up the definition considerably.

Although it may seem jarring, Scott pointed out that it is helpful to set wilderness boundaries right up against a developed area. "Boundaries matter," Scott said. "It strengthens the hand of the strong administrator and steadies the hand of the weak one." A boundary abutting a busy highway or other obvious landmark of civilization provides more protection to the wilderness area. Borders creep, he noted. By having a wilderness border run alongside such a dramatic point of human-made demarcation, it keeps civilization from creeping any further into the wilderness.

Finally, he said, the question remained of how much land is too much to be left undeveloped? It was Scott's opinion that there was little danger in setting aside too much land under the wilderness designation, even here in the U.P.

"However much wilderness is preserved in the U.P.," he said, "future generations are unlikely to feel we preserved too many acres. Rather they will be more likely to judge that we protected too few."

Scott, the author of *The Enduring Wilderness: Protecting our Natural Heritage Through the Wilderness Act* (Fulcrum Publishing) and the web-based *A Mandate to Protect America's Wilderness: A Comprehensive Review of Recent Public Opinion Research*, ([www.leaveitwild.org/reports/reports.html](http://www.leaveitwild.org/reports/reports.html)) is a former lobbyist for the Wilderness Society and director of the Sierra club. Currently, he is the director for the Campaign for America's Wilderness.



## North Woods Native Plant Society Field Trips

The North Woods Native Plant Society is interested in understanding and preserving the native plants and habitats of northern Wisconsin and the western U.P. of Michigan. We schedule field trips every summer to visit some of the unique and remarkable plant communities of the north woods. The trips are free and open to anyone who wants to learn more about our native ecosystems and pledges not to destroy, remove, or disturb them.



Black Bear. Photo by  
Jeannine MacKenzie

**May 12** Copper Falls State Park near Mellen, WI, 9:00 am - noon  
Participate in a discussion of how climate change will affect forest ecosystems with Colleen Matula, WIDNR forest ecologist, and Karen Danielson, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) forest ecologist. Observe incredible geologic formations, hike along the confluence of the Bad and Tyler Forks Rivers in a northern dry-mesic forest of white pine, maples, and oak. Difficulty level: moderate, 2-4 miles on trails.  
Bring water, snack, rain gear and hiking boots.

Directions: Meet at the Park entrance at 9:00 am. From the intersection of Highways 13 and 169 in Mellen, go northeast on 169 about 3 miles to the park entrance. WI Park vehicle sticker needed. (\$24 annual/\$7 daily for WI vehicles; \$10 annual/\$3 daily for WI resident 65 and over; \$35 annual/\$10 daily nonresident.)

Camping is available. <<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/copperfalls/>><http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/copperfalls/>

**June 9** Upper Brule River SNA; Douglas County, WI, led by Josh Horky, botanist, 10:00 am  
Experience three aquatic ecosystems - bog, conifer swamp, and hardwood swamp, each with their own group of native plants. Expect to see rare sedges, the Lapland buttercup, and possibly orchids. On an optional visit to the nearby pine barrens, we'll seek Pasque flowers and other spring specialties.  
Bring: bug dope, rain gear, water, trail snacks, and a sack lunch. Be prepared to get your feet wet.

Directions: From the intersection of Hwys 53 and A in Solon Springs, go east and north on A for 3.4 miles, then north on Hwy P for 2.6 miles. Turn east on Stone Chimney Road and continue 1.9 miles to a parking area at its end.

**July 21** Miscoano Swamp SNA, near Pembine, WI with Quita Sheehan, botanist, 10:00 am  
Experience walking through a large cedar swamp, a northern wet-mesic forest featuring nearly pure stands of pole-sized white cedar to mixtures of white cedar, balsam fir, and black spruce with black ash and elm along a stream. We'll expect to see many native forest floor species and Botrychiums are a possibility. We may have a herpetologist with us to add an extra dimension to the trip.

(Optional: a visit to a local authentic Thai restaurant after the hike)

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(Plant Field Trips cont. from page 9)

Bring: bug dope, rain gear, water and trail snacks. Be prepared to get your feet wet.

Directions: From the intersection of U.S. Highway 141 and County Highway Z in Beecher (about 4 miles south of Pembine), go east on Z 1.6 miles, then south on Miscauno Lane 0.25 miles to the northwest corner of the site.



Sturgeon River in Sturgeon River Gorge  
Photo courtesy of Doug Welker

We'll have more details on the following trips as the time approaches:

**August 4 and 5**, Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness, MI, Doug Welker, geologist, & Steve Garske, botanist

On Saturday we'll explore the steep, north-facing, seeping slopes; on Sunday we'll head upstream to the falls. Those interested may join us for an optional camp-out Saturday night

**August 25**, Big Iron River near Porkupine Mtn Wilderness State Park, MI, Ian Shackleford, USFS botanist

**September 29** Public Lands Day, Ottawa National Forest, MI, Ian Shackleford, USFS botanist

### Other events of interest:

**May 26 and 27** Native Plants of the Keweenaw workshop by the Gratiot Lake Conservancy, Eagle Harbor, MI. For info: <http://www.mlswa.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/>

**June 2 and 3** Breeding Bird Census, Ottawa National Forest Doug Welker plans a canoe trip on the Perch River on Sat afternoon for BBC participants. NWNPS people may join them. Be at Camp Nesbit, south of Kenton, at 1:00 pm eastern time. For info about the BBC, email Steve Babler at [sbabler@fs.fed.us](mailto:sbabler@fs.fed.us)

**Aug 18 and 19** Aquatic Plant workshop by the Gratiot Lake Conservancy. Info soon at <http://www.mlswa.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/>

To receive email notices throughout the summer, including more details about our U.P. trips, contact Sherry Zoars at [thezoars@excite.com](mailto:thezoars@excite.com)

## 2007 Grant Winners!

At our annual spring meeting, UPEC board members awarded over \$3000 in Environmental Education grants to seven U.P. educators. Here are the successful applicants along with a description of their projects:

- Shawn Oppliger of the Western U.P. Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education was awarded \$500 for the purchase of several pairs of snowshoes. The shoes will be used by students from Houghton, Baraga, Gogebic, Ontonagon and Keweenaw Counties for winter science field trips.



Earlier Environmental Education Grant project

Smaller

Chuck Delpier, a teacher from Negaunee Middle School, was given \$500 for the purchase of two additional Garmin Cx GPS units. The 2006 ING Unsung Heroes Award recipient uses the satellite systems to teach his students not only how to navigate the woods, but also to bring home to them just how close potential sites of pollution may be to their neighborhoods.

He writes, "Whether it is a proposed sulfide mine in Marquette County, rusted barrels with potential toxins on the floor of Lake Superior or effluent from pulp mills, most young people envision these scars in distant countries. A few clicks on a G.P.S. allow kids to discover that these atrocities are within a few miles of their current location!"

- Sarah Janda from the Marquette County Conservation District was awarded \$500 for the Leopold Education Project (LEP). Named after Aldo Leopold, writer of *A Sand County Almanac*, the program uses Leopold's book and hands-on outdoor experience to provide educators with a curriculum that teaches Michigan natural history and conservation ethics, plant life and bird and animal track identification, as well as habitat studies and an exploration of ecological relationships.

Charles Eshback, the Western U.P. Stewardship Director for the Michigan Nature Association (MNA), was given \$500 toward the completion of the Robert T. Brown Nature Sanctuary, an 18 acre site supporting a classic northern fen, just southwest of the village of Painesdale. The sanctuary has been used for more than 40 years by Michigan Tech and other area schools, Eshback writes, "for the study of water quality and the ecology of the fen's plant community and surrounding forest." To both protect the sanctuary and to make it more accessible to students, MNA has been constructing a cedar log boardwalk along with a viewing platform. The UPEC award money will be used to help complete a second platform and create interpretive signs, a teachers' guide to the fen and four wetland ecology reference books for Jeffers High School faculty. Once the project is completed, Jeffers H.S. students, under the direction of biology teacher Mike Benda, will become the official MNA Sanctuary Stewards for the site.

(Continued on page 12)

(Grant Winners cont. from page 11)

Three central U.P. teachers, Kristy Gollakner from Gwinn Middle School, Karen Bacula of Marquette Senior High, and Kim Parlato of Bothwell Middle School, received awards to provide scholarships so more of their students could attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium, scheduled for this May at Baycliff Health Camp in Big Bay. A total of \$1050 in scholarship money was given to the three schools. This will allow the students to participate in the three-day conference which features field trips and many different types of presentations on the environment, history and culture of the Lake Superior region.

UPEC Environmental Education Grants are awarded once each year in March. For more information about the grants and to see a sample application, you can go to UPEC's website at [upenvironment.org](http://upenvironment.org).

-Ed.

## ➔ SCENIC MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES A PHOTO CONTEST:

### **Beauty and the Blight**

Do billboards bug you? As you enjoy Michigan's scenic beauty, do you find it marred by 17,000 commercial billboards? Michigan is second only to Florida as the state with the most billboards!

Photo contest rules:

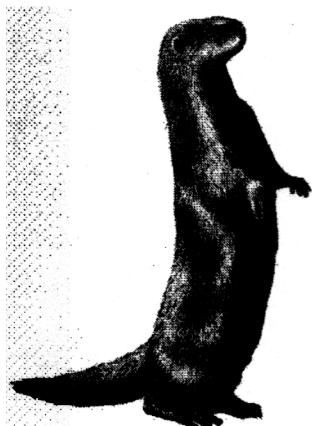
1. Take a photo of a blighted scene in Michigan and team it up with a photo of a beautiful scene.
2. Submit the photos by mail to Scenic Michigan, 445 E. Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI, 49770 or by e-mail to [info@scenicmichigan.org](mailto:info@scenicmichigan.org). Please include your name, address, phone and e-mail address if you have one.
3. Any Michigan resident is eligible to enter. Students are encouraged to participate.
4. Deadline: August 1, 2007

Prizes: 1st place: \$100 2nd Place: \$50 3rd Place: \$25 (Prize money generously donated by Pam and Jack Frucci of Grosse Ile)

All photos submitted become the property of Scenic Michigan to be displayed or published to support Scenic Michigan's ongoing effort to protect and enhance Michigan's scenery.

For more information, contact Scenic Michigan at (231) 347-1171 or visit the Scenic Michigan website at [www.scenicmichigan.org](http://www.scenicmichigan.org).

## Meet our Two New Board Members



Otter  
By Mike Keranen

As should be obvious by now, we covered a lot of territory at this spring's meeting. In addition to the presentations, book signing and strategy meetings, two new board members joined us—or, rather, one new member came onto the board and we welcomed back another.

Our newest board member is Patrick St. Germain, an artist and accountant from Marquette. St. Germain will be one of the artists featured in UPEC's traveling show, "A Celebration of the Upper Peninsula as Home." A resident of the central U.P. for over 25 years, he has exhibited his U.P.-inspired work throughout the upper Midwest and other parts of the country, including two showings at the Detroit Institute for the Arts and an exhibit at the Office of the Governor in Lansing. He has been written up in the *New Art Examiner*, *Detroit Monthly*, *D.I.A. Magazine*, and other regional publications.

Some of St. Germain's works are in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institute, the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.; the Madison Art Center, Wustum Museum and University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Wisconsin; and at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. Locally, his work is permanently installed in the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University and at the Marquette County Court House.

You can find an example of one of St. Germain's works, "Passions Advance," on the back page of this newsletter. It's a 22x30 inch watercolor on paper which he will be exhibiting in UPEC's "Celebration..."

We are also pleased to welcome back teacher and community organizer, Karen Bacula, onto the board. She first served in 1999 and left in 2003 when her schedule became too hectic. However, she's always remained on the membership roll and available whenever we needed her.

Bacula puts her zoology background to work by teaching science in the Marquette Area Schools and expresses her interest in environmental education and the arts through her involvement with the Lake Superior Youth Symposium and the Hiawatha Music Co-op. For the past year, she has been incredibly busy putting together the various programs and field trips for the 2007 Lake Superior Youth Symposium, which she serves this year as its co-coordinator. In addition, Karen is currently board president for the Hiawatha Music Co-op and coordinates their community concert series.

Before her earlier exit from the board, Bacula was instrumental in helping to establish our annual Environmental Education Grant program. We are absolutely delighted she has agreed to return to active participation on the board despite her many other obligations.

Welcome to both of you!

-Ed



(Doors cont. from page 13)

"It was gorgeous," Wiljanen said. "I hadn't canoed in probably 25 years so it was something to go the five-six miles (of that trip). Everything," she said, a note of awe creeping into her voice, "was so massive." The sky was such an intense blue that day, Wiljanen observed, that some looking at her paintings may think she exaggerated the shade. But, she said, they would be wrong. She didn't.

In order to share that overwhelming sense of size, Wiljanen painted the figure of a fisherman into the corner of one piece to provide the viewer with some perspective. Next to the looming hills, she said, the fisherman appears to be just a tiny object.

Working from photos, some of which she and Welker took during that trip, Wiljanen created six doors for us: five of the Trap Hills and one of Eagle Rock. The latter is a pilgrimage site fronting the Yellow Dog Plains where Kennecott Mining has proposed to mine nickel.

UPEC's doors, which - just to make life that much more interesting for Wiljanen who sometimes has to move them around in order to work on them - are made of steel, have watercolor pencil illustrations on one side and UPEC-provided text describing the scene on the other. Many of our doors will be drawn with a map to show visitors how to visit that place.

Wright noted, "I'm pleased to have UPEC engage in the Door Project because, of course, environmental concerns are important not only to me, but to all of us. And any chance to promote preservation, respect and appropriate enjoyment of our beautiful nature ... I get, I take advantage of it."

Besides nature studies and other, more personal themes, many of the doors will be "Grandma Doors." These are doors on which people paint pictures of their grandmothers to honor the venerable ladies. One Grandma door in particular tickled Wright; it depicted someone's 100-year-old grandmother riding her motorcycle.



Paddling on Victoria Basin by  
Lisa Wiljanen

Pending city approval, Wright said the Door Project will be installed at the Lower Harbor in downtown Marquette the week before Mother's Day. And she's hoping the exhibition won't come down until just before Halloween. That way even people coming up for color tours in the fall will be able to enjoy them.

During roughly that same time frame, a second Door Project will be installed in Hancock. Copper Country residents who wish to participate in that one, she said, should contact the Community Arts Center in Hancock at (906) 482-2333. Following the exhibition, the doors will be returned to the people who created them. Or, in our case, back to UPEC where we're hoping to give our own particular portals to beauty a second life. -Ed.

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\*If you make your check out to the Mar-  
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you can take a 50% tax credit on your  
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OR you can make a contribution directly  
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Send all contributions to: UPEC, Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931

**UPEC is grateful for your timely and generous response!**

### **"Passions Advance"**

(Here is the artist's explanation of the inspiration that led to the work shown on the back cover.)

"Passions Advance" is the folding together of two events:

Event One: Maggie (the artist's wife) and I hiked into a lake that is still wild and un-  
ashamed. The sky was a deep U.P. blue and the bugs and clouds were lazy in the afternoon  
sun. We swam and kicked back on the warm rocks and just listened. Just listened to no one.

Event Two: I was sitting on a boulder that edged the lake watching a silent golden sunset. A  
splash/crash came from the shadows on the north side. I thought it was a fallen tree or won-  
dered if the bass in the lake were a hell of a lot bigger than I remembered. It was quiet for a  
few moments but then I heard the labored sound of a snorting animal. Out of the shadows  
swam the head and full rack of a bull moose going south with a passion. His black silhouette  
rolled a white line across the glass continuum. The line turned into bubbles, and the bubbles and  
the moose dissolved into shadows. In the blackness I just listened to no one.

-Patrick St. Germain

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