

The Upper Peninsula Environment

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July–September 2000

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Central U.P. Forest Landowners Cooperative

*Report of Archie Hendrick and
Greg Corace*

On July 27, a meeting of forest landowners in the central Upper Peninsula was held at the Skandia Township Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to gauge local interest in forming a cooperative to assist private forest landowners in: developing and implementing sustainable forestry management plans for their woodlands, jointly marketing members' timber and other forest products, and establishing local facilities to manufacture value-added wood products from co-op members' timber.

Chris Burnett, consulting forester with Big Creek Forestry of Marquette, and former UPEC board member, facilitated the meeting.

Meeting attendance was well beyond our expectations. We were hoping to draw 25-30 people; instead, over 60 people showed up. Forest landowners at the meeting had anywhere from 10 to several hundred acres each; one family at the meeting owns over 6,000 acres. We also had a number of loggers, foresters and bandsaw mill operators present, many of whom have expressed interest in working with the cooperative.
(Cont'd on p. 2)

Dear UPEC Members and Supporters:

In the interest of saving paper (too many trees die in the UP as it is!), copier usage, postage and the sheer volume of stuff clogging your mailboxes, we are going to try including the renewal notice here rather than as a separate mailing. Therefore, if you have not yet done so, it is time to renew your 2000 UPEC membership. If you have had a change of address, **please** indicate so on the renewal form so that our mailing list can remain current. Please also consider also becoming involved with the UPEC board and newsletter. Your input is welcome and invaluable!

Please complete the form below and return to us with your check or money order. If you wish to contribute to the UPEC Endowment Fund, send your check or money order to **The Marquette Community Foundation (MCF), 129 West Baraga Ave., Suite D, Marquette, MI 49855**. Note: this is a new address. Please add "UPEC Endowment Fund" on the memo line of your check. Please do not delay, we (and the UP environment) need your support!

Thank you and Sincerely,

Sandra Harting, Treasurer
(906) 288-3181

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

My dues are enclosed (check one of the following):

Regular membership (\$15)

Student/Senior/ Low Income membership (\$10)

Supporting membership (\$50)

Send your check or money order to: **UPEC, PO Box 847, Marquette, MI 49855**

Here is an extra contribution of \$_____ to help protect the Upper Peninsula environment.

I would like to ensure the long-term viability of UPEC by contributing \$_____ to the UPEC Endowment Fund. Note: For endowment contributions only, if you send a separate check to: **The Marquette Community Foundation (MCF), 129 West Baraga Ave., Suite D, Marquette, MI 49855** and add "UPEC Fund" on the memo line of your check, you are entitled to take a 50% tax credit on your MI state income tax (up to \$200 for individuals, \$400 for couples).

Cooperative (Cont'd)

SPEAKERS:

Jim Birkemeier, Consulting Forester, Timbergreen Forestry, and founding member of the Sustainable Woods Cooperative, Lone Rock, Wisconsin

Jim discussed his philosophy of managing individual trees with a goal of growing large trees while harvesting lesser quality trees in the stand. He also discussed the Sustainable Woods Co-op (SWC) located in Lone Rock, WI. SWC is a sustainable forestry land-owners co-op with over 100 members and a land base of 30,000 acres.

SWC member lands are Forest Stewardship Council-/SmartWood-certified, and the Co-op itself is a SmartWood-certified chain-of-custody facility. SWC saws and dries its members' timber and sells lumber through its retail outlet. It also mills hardwood strip and plank flooring for sale to homeowners and building contractors. SWC members built and operate their own solar drying kiln, an operation that adds significant value to members' harvested wood.

Katie Fernholz, Forester, Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC), Minneapolis, MN

Katie was on hand to represent the Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC). CFRC was established by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to promote responsible forest management through the organization of sustainable forestry cooperatives and associations of private forest land-owners.

Katie provided basic information about the nature of

ownership of forestland in the Lake States (MI, WI, and MN) and provided a handout titled Forming a Sustainable Forestry Cooperative. This paper outlines ten steps to forming a forest land-owners cooperative. She emphasized that these steps are merely suggestions and not a blueprint that will fit every cooperative endeavor.

She emphasized that CFRC is ready and willing to help us with all phases of developing a co-op in the central U.P., including acting as advisors to a planning committee and assisting with a feasibility study, marketing plan and business plan. NOTE: As an indication of its willingness to assist us, CFRC has committed \$1,500 to fund the activities of a planning committee for a central U.P. cooperative!!

Archie Hendrick, Alger County Forest Landowner

Archie described how he and his wife Carol spent a great deal of time figuring out how to get a detailed forest management plan written for their property and to get a timber harvest under way.

When they bought their property in 1990, they knew very little about managing forest-land. They needed a timber stand improvement harvest, but were concerned that it be done in a way that would meet their goals of improving wildlife habitat, enhancing their recreational opportunities and protecting the aesthetic qualities of their forest and meadows.

With a lot of reading, phone calls and interviews, they finally had a management plan in place, and hired a consulting forester and logger who were committed to helping them meet their management goals. Throughout the process of developing the management plan and conducting the

harvest, the Hendricks received cost-sharing reimbursements through the Stewardship Incentive Program.

Archie said he learned some very important things during the process:

- Landowners can harvest timber AND improve fish and wildlife habitat, protect the biodiversity of their forests, and enhance the aesthetic and recreational benefits of their properties.

- Individual landowners carry little or no weight in the marketplace. Few landowners can produce large volumes of timber on a regular basis. Consequently, landowners do not have the leverage necessary to negotiate better prices or services from the forest industry, or to access new or more distant markets.

- Landowners and loggers are at the bottom of the food chain with respect to the dollars they receive relative to the price wood commands at the retail level. The real money comes from the value-added processing of wood into marketable forest products.

Steve Pisca, Wood Procurement Division, Colonial Craft, St. Paul, MN

Steve explained that Colonial Craft is a major manufacturer of wood products with plants in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Alabama. Colonial Craft is the exclusive provider of hard maple window grills for Andersen Windows. The company also produces architectural moldings, wood parts for barbecue grills and other products.

Colonial Craft was the first SmartWood-certified chain-of-custody wood product manufacturer in the nation. He further explained the company's commitment to purchasing wood from landowners who are managing

and harvesting their forests in accordance with the principles of sustainable forestry advocated by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Steve discussed the company's interest in working with landowners and wood processors to find new and better ways to use nontraditional grades and dimensions of wood in the company's products. Doing so could result in landowners receiving better prices for wood that might otherwise end up in the pulp mills, while relieving Colonial Craft of the expense of buying sawlogs and milling them into small dimension products.

DISCUSSION

During the discussion period it was clear that cooperative models in place in Wisconsin and elsewhere are not directly applicable to the central Upper Peninsula. A cooperative venture in this area will have to be tailored to take advantage of this region's specific natural, human and financial resources.

Many people were interested in discussing the specifics of Colonial Craft's hard maple wood needs. Steve Pisca fielded questions about grades and dimensions of the Company's hardwood purchases as well as prospects for the company's use of other species of wood in the future.

Others in attendance were interested in finding out more about Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)/SmartWood certification. Katie Fernholz, of CFRC, explained that FSC is different from other types of certification, in that it entails an independent, third-party evaluation of land-owner management plans and practices. As such, FSC certification has a high degree of credibility with consumers.

Chris Burnett, a Smart-Wood-certified Resource Manager with Big Creek Forestry of Marquette, explained that SmartWood is an implementing agency for

FSC certification. He was able to answer a number of questions posed about the specifics of the certification process.

Loggers and sawmill operators were concerned about what a forest landowners cooperative would mean for them. Archie Hendrick emphasized that one of the goals of the co-op organizers is to work with area loggers and sawyers for our mutual benefit.

With a member land base of thousands, or even tens of thousands of acres, the co-op could coordinate and schedule the harvesting of members' lands over 3 years, 5 years or even longer periods of time. Loggers selected to work with co-op members to meet their long-term forest management goals could spend less time drumming up business and more time in the forests harvesting timber.

Loggers might also enjoy the benefits of working with one client, the co-op, with a large land base of acreage rather than dealing with many clients with smaller amounts of forest acreage. With careful management of our timber stands over time, our forests will grow more and better quality wood and, therefore, loggers will be harvesting more valuable timber.

Sawmill owner/operators could benefit as well from the co-op's ability to access new and different markets for locally grown and processed lumber, dimension parts and wood products. With a large land base, co-op members can generate larger volumes of wood on a more regular basis, thus becoming a more reliable consumer of sawmill services.

Co-op representatives should sit down with local sawmill operators to discuss how best to meet the needs of co-op members and purchasers of co-op wood products. Some cooperatives have their own sawmills and employ their own sawyers, but that is an expensive way to start a co-op. Given that there are a number of interested sawmill

operators in the central U.P., the co-op should carefully explore the possibility of contracting for these services.



FOR WHOM, THEN, SHALL WE VOTE???

By now we're **sure** you've noticed it's an election year, and perhaps you would like to know more about the candidates and where they stand on environmental issues.

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) Education Fund has launched a public education campaign to encourage citizens to

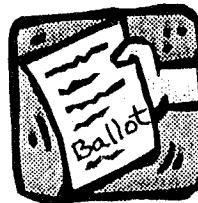
"vote environmental."

The Great Lakes Regional Office of the LCV Education Fund invites you to visit the League's website:

www.voteenvironment.org and the Michigan "Ask your candidates" section on the website www.voteenvironment.org/stateresources_michigan.html

Please take some time to inform yourself about the candidates, and

remember to vote!



ROADLESS: National Forest Roadless Initiative Proposal

Report from Chris Fries

On June 28, UPEC Board Members Dave & Judy Allen and Chris Fries, along with Central Upper Peninsula Sierra Club Group Chair John Rebers, carpooled to Manistique from Marquette to voice their support for the National Forest Roadless Initiative proposal. The Hearing was hosted by the Hiawatha National Forest at the Schoolcraft County Courthouse.

Forty to sixty people attended the hearing, with the vast majority represented by persons connected to the forest industry speaking against the proposal. Their comments, however reflected a lack of understanding of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in that most of their comments addressed the closing of all roads in the National Forest, and reflected a great deal of hyperbole.

Dave Allen spoke in favor for the "Roadless Policy," since it embodies a long overdue recognition of the range of values maintained on our National Forests. He applauded the Forest Service's efforts, and offered the following suggestions and comments:

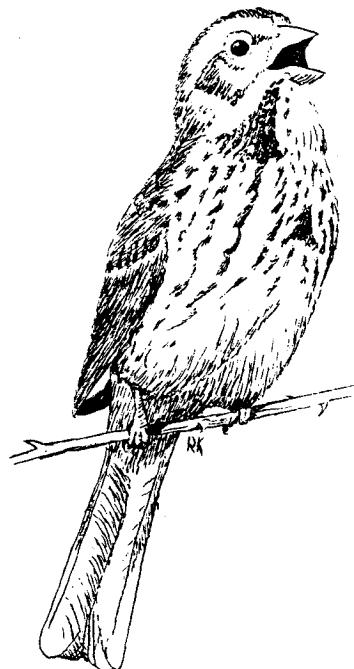
"Given the relatively small difference in timber removals between the stewardship and commercial harvest alternatives, I favor the stewardship option. Ecological integrity, not commercial return, should determine stand treatments. Off-road use of skidders and other logging equipment will cause damage. The harm should be weighed against the overall ecological well-being of the resource, not economic viability."

Judy Allen made the point that we lose much of our National Forest values because of road building activities. She spoke in favor of the stewardship option, because she believes ecological integrity, not commercial return, should determine stand treatments.

Chris Fries thanked the Forest Service for hosting the hearing, and mentioned he felt blessed since his family owned property bordering the Hiawatha National Forest, and therefore he had the opportunity to enjoy the National Forest on a frequent basis. He too supported the Roadless Initiative, and urged the Forest Service to create stronger, consistent guidelines for responsible ecological management of our roadless areas.

He indicated he believed Prohibition Alternative 3 was the best of the listed alternatives, but that the FS should also prohibit high-impact activities such as new routes for off-road recreational vehicles. Furthermore, the proposed policy also needed to better address the protection of roadless areas less than 5000 acres.

Currently a request has been made by our group to the Hiawatha National Forest for a transcript of the public comments, and once these are available we will share them with the UPEC members.



MARQUETTE COUNTY FORESTRY COMMISSION

Report from Chris Fries

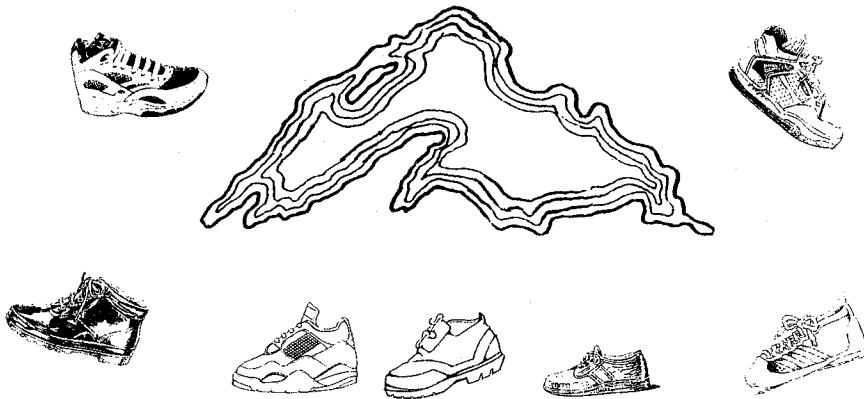
With Marquette County being the largest county in the State of Michigan, it dawned on members of the UPEC Forestry Committee that we are largely ignorant of the plans for the county's forests. Therefore, on August 2, UPEC Board Members Dave Allen and Chris Fries attended the monthly meeting of the Marquette County Forestry Commission to rectify this situation.

At the meeting we introduced ourselves to commission members Charles Bergdahl, Norm Holms, Ken Salo (Chair), and Marquette County Senior Planner Al Feldhauser. We told the group that we had no hidden agenda: we were there to gather information and learn about the plans for the county's forests.

One thing we learned is that the county is currently working on a new plan. We also learned that they invested in a GIS system last year which, combined with a database system, gives the county a very useful tool for planning and analysis.

The UPEC representatives requested information regarding the works of the commission, in order to gain insight into their past workings and, as mentioned before, to gain knowledge about the plans for the county's forests. Al Feldhauser supplied some of this information within several days, and we appreciate his doing this.

The commission meets the first Wednesday's of each month in the Marquette County Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about Marquette County's plans for its forests, please attend.



The "WALK TO REMEMBER" goes full circle around Lake Superior

by Sandra Harting

In the last issue of the newsletter, I wrote about the "Walk to Remember," a spiritual walk with the Protect the Earth Eagle Staff that circled Lake Superior. The purpose of the walk is to honor the dream of the Anishinabe (Ojibwa) activist Walt Bresee: bringing public attention to the need to protect the water, in general, and the Big Lake in particular.

We began the journey with a water ceremony on June 26 at the Bad River Reservation in northern Wisconsin and will end in the same manner on Friday, August 25. A big *miigwetch* (thank you) to the UPEC members who participated in this very important and significant journey. Although many of the stretches were difficult, injuries (with the exception of blisters!) were few, and, as of this writing, it has not rained on the walk.

I was with the walk in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula, and found it to be one of those experiences that changes one forever. It had special relevance, not only because Lake Superior is where I do my mercury research, but also because I am a woman. Protecting the water is traditionally the job of women—all women.

Some of the people the walkers met along the way did not always understand the need to protect Lake Superior, as it is considered the "cleanest" of the Great Lakes. However, Superior is the most vulnerable of the Lakes: since most of its incoming water is from precipitation, it has little chemical capacity to buffer acid rain, besides having a very long regeneration time of 191 years, more or less.

This latter fact might make one think that Superior could "absorb" a lot of contaminants—"the solution is dilution" argument. However, seen another way, one could—and should—argue that once fouled, it would be a LONG TIME before the lake could recover. Superior is the cleanest of the Great Lakes in many respects, a good argument to keep it that way for future generations.

People encountered along the route seemed unanimously opposed to diversion or removal of Lake Superior water, that the Lake should not be for sale. Proponents of shipping our water to the "Third World" argue that we are selfish in "hogging" water while others die of thirst or water-borne disease.

Those who proposed bulk export of Superior water intend to sell it. Third world citizens who have the money to buy water ALREADY have access to safe drinking water—it may not taste as good as Superior's, and it may cost more, but it is available.

However, those without money will STILL die of thirst and water-borne disease. The motive here is profit, period. If an area is so populous that it has exceeded its water supply, bringing in water would be a short-term fix at best. Some other resource will quickly be exhausted, if it is not already, such as food, fuel and, in some areas, space. And, in the long run, even more suffer and die.

If we truly want to help with worldwide water shortages, we should export, FOR FREE, to the poorest citizens such low-tech solutions such as windmills and solar-operated water pumps, desalination systems, and thermophilic (heat-loving) composting systems to safely treat waste. And, most importantly, we should aid in the worldwide empowerment and education of women in order to help reduce human population (especially ours, since we consume so much in the way of resources, relative to others in the world).

Topics such as this were discussed all along the walk. Now, as the circle is nearly complete, the question being discussed is "What Next?" One of the walkers was a young child of perhaps seven or eight. He is, like many American kids (and adults), very materialistic.

His mother told me what she tells him when he gets into one of his "I want" moods: "We all have many things that we think we want and think we need. All that we really need is clean air, safe food, and clean water. Without those we are finished, plain and simple."

Good advice for all of us.



THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

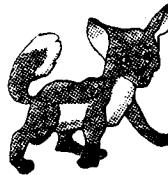
Jennifer Day, Director of Public Affairs for the IJC's Great Lakes Regional Office, informs us that the IJC has just released its *Tenth Biennial Report on Great Lakes Water Quality*.

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the International Joint Commission assesses the adequacy and effectiveness of programs and progress to restore and maintain the health of the Great Lakes. It reports its findings and makes recommendations to the governments biennially.

This report will be of interest to those who are concerned with Great Lakes issues, and the U.S. and Canadian governments' progress in restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Human health concerns, from eating Great Lakes fish to cleanup of contaminated sediment, air deposition of persistent toxic substances and urban land use, as well as monitoring and information needs, are cited as major concerns in the new report.

Your attention is called to the "Open Letter to Great Lakes Leaders and the Great Lakes Community," which focuses on the most crucial points of the commission's assessment of progress.

The report is available to the public free of charge on IJC's website at www.ijc.org or in hard copy by contacting the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office in the U.S. at P.O. Box 32869, Detroit, MI 48232, phone (313)226-2170; or by email to commission@windsor.ijc.org



HELP!!

A List of Available Wildlife Rehabilitators

from Friederike Greuer

Should you happen upon injured wildlife or orphaned baby animals, it helps to know where to turn in your local area to help them. The following rehabilitators are featured on the web site www.wildliferehab.virtualave.net/contact.htm and can be contacted as follows:

Escanaba....906/789-1124
Eric & Sandy Chapman, licensed wildlife rehabilitators
echapman@up.bresnan.net

Specialties: squirrels, raccoons

Gwinn.....906/346-7440
Julie Robson, Lilliput Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
lil1234@aol.com

Specialties: raptors, deer, rabbits, squirrels

Houghton....906/482-6257
Friederike Greuer, licensed wildlife rehabilitator
ffgreuer@mtu.edu

Specialties: raccoons, squirrels, other mammals

Houghton....906/482-7419
Bill Alwin, licensed wildlife rehabilitator
Specialties: birds and mammals

Republic.....906/376-8202 or 376-2456

Aileen Todd, Animal Instincts
ikey@up.net

Specialties: White tailed deer, raccoons, song birds, rabbits, chipmunks

If you are unable to contact any of these people, try your local DNR office. Most rehabilitators gladly accept donations of any kind, whether it is a bag of animal food or some old sheets and towels. All of us try to do our very best for the creatures, but we cannot guarantee anything from our efforts on their behalf.



FEEDBACK

IS SERIOUSLY AND SINCERELY SOLICITED FROM READERS

What would you like to see addressed in the newsletter? Tell me and I'll chase it.

What would you like to have the board work on? Tell them.

Phone numbers and emails are in the box on page 7.

Newsletter items can come to the Houghton address: PO Box 673, Houghton, MI 49930

Like, tell us....

Membership in UPEC is open to all individuals and groups who wish to support the goals of the Coalition. Applications for membership should be sent to P.O. Box 847, Marquette, MI 49855.

UPEC is a nonprofit organization [IRS 501(c)(3)] and dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Upper Peninsula Environment is published four times per year. Articles, press releases, or correspondence intended for the newsletter should be sent to UPEC c/o Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931.

Volunteer Stream Cleanup Grants

Grants are available for the Volunteer Cleanups of Michigan rivers, streams and creeks from the Michigan River Network (MRN). Funding provided by PA 291 Year 2000 through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Grants will range from \$500 to \$5,000, with a 25% match requirement. For more information, or to receive the Grant Application Packet (GAP):

- Contact the MRN – Scott McEwen at 231-347-1181
- Send an email with your address to Scott McEwen at smcewen@freeway.net
- Download the GAP from www.deq.state.mi.us/swq/docs/gapcover Select: Volunteer Cleanup of Michigan rivers, streams and creeks

Write Your Reps!

Here are the addresses and phone numbers for state and federal lawmakers that represent the U.P. Let them know what you think about the issues!

Senator Spencer Abraham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4822
Fax: (202) 224-8834

E-mail:
michigan@abraham.senate.gov

Senator Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6221
Fax: (202) 224-1388

E-mail: senator@levin.senate.gov

Representative Bart Stupak
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4735
Fax: (202) 225-4744

E-mail: stupak@hr.house.gov

Both State Senators at:
State Capitol, P.O. Box 30036,
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

State Senator Don Koivisto
(517) 373-7840

State Senator Walter North
(517) 373-2413

All State Reps at:
State Capitol, P.O. Box 30014,
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

State Representative Pat Gagliardi
(517) 373-2629

State Representative David Anthony
(517) 373-0156

State Representative Michael Prusi
(517) 373-0498

State Rep. Paul Tesanovich
(517) 373-0850 or 800-PAUL110

About UPEC . . .

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

UPEC Board Members:

Bill Malmsten, Ishpeming (President)
485-5909

Jon Saari, Marquette (Vice-President)
228-4656; jsaari@nmu.edu

Sandra Harting, Toivola (Treasurer)
288-3181

Chris Fries, Marquette (Secretary)
228-8477; cfries@nmu.edu

David & Judy Allen, Sierra Club, Marquette
228-9453; dallen@nmu.edu

Karen Bacula, Marquette
226-6172

Patti Clancy, Marquette
225-1890

Greg Corace, Chassell Twp.
523-4082; 487-3417

Friedericke Greuer, Houghton
482-6257

Connie Julien, FOLK, Chassell
523-4057; cjulien@portup.com

Greg Kudray, Chassell
523-4817

Bill Robinson, Marquette
226-2723; wrobinso@nmu.edu

Doug Welker, Pelkie
338-2680; dwelker@up.net

Newsletter Editor: Holley Linn
487-6734

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

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

- Regular Member (\$15)
- Supporting Member (\$50)
- Student/Senior/Low Income (\$10)

Here's an additional contribution of \$_____

I'd like to ensure the long-term viability of UPEC by contributing \$_____ to the UPEC Endowment Fund.

NOTE: If you make the endowment check out to the Marquette Community Foundation (MCF) and put "UPEC Fund" on the memo line, you can take a 50% tax credit on your MI state income tax (up to \$200 for individuals, \$400 for couples). Mail Endowment Fund contributions to MCF, Attn: UPEC Fund, P.O. Box 185, Marquette, MI 49855. Or you can send your contribution directly to UPEC and take a regular tax break. Please send membership dues to UPEC at P.O. Box 847, Marquette, MI 49855.

Thanks for helping to support UPEC!

UPEC BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm, Wednesday,
October 11, 2000

Ford Forestry Center
Alberta, MI



The Upper Peninsula ENVIRONMENT
Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
c/o Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 673
Houghton, MI 49931

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