



Winter 2022

# UPEnvironment

## UPEC PRESENTS OUR 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL



**March 11–12, 2022**

**Free • Online • Open to everybody**

[upenvironment.org/2022-celebrate-the-up](https://upenvironment.org/2022-celebrate-the-up)

# Re *Wild* the U.P.!

“Rewild the U.P.” is the theme for this year’s Celebrate the U.P.!, the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition’s 13th annual festival of everything that makes our peninsula a wonderful place to live. This year’s celebration will be held virtually via livestream on Friday, March 11, 5–9 pm ET, and Saturday, March 12, from 9:30–4:30 ET.

Read on for the schedule of presentations — there are lots of great things in store. Plan to join us and let’s celebrate together this terrific place we call home!

# Re Wild the U.P.!

Friday, March 11

5:00–9:00pm (all times Eastern)

**WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS 5:00-5:15pm**  
Horst Schmidt, UPEC President • Evan Zimmermann, UPEC Vice President

**NATIVE AMERICAN TREATY RIGHTS IN MICHIGAN • 5:15-6:00pm**



**Chairwoman Whitney B. Gravelle, Bay Mills Indian Community.** In the spring of 2021, Gravelle was elected Chairwoman for the Bay Mills Indian Community. She is the former tribal attorney for the Bay Mills Indian Community and the former chief judge of the Bay Mills Tribal Court. Gravelle is a citizen of the Bay Mills Indian Community and mentors Indigenous youth through the Boys & Girls Club Tribal Youth Program. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the Michigan State University College of Law.

**UPEC ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (open to all) • 6:00-7:00pm**

**Find out what we've been up to.** This is an opportunity to hear from board members about our activities in the last year to keep the U.P. safe, including updates on the work of UPEC's Mining Action Group, investigations into energy, advocacy on the issue of wolves, and our bi-monthly livestreams on environmental issues. We will also announce the recipients of the UPEC Environmental Education and Conservation Grants.

**WOLVES AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT • 7:00-8:00pm**

**John Vucetich, Distinguished Professor, Michigan Technological University.** Vucetich is a distinguished professor at Michigan Technological University and author of more than a hundred technical papers on conserving biodiversity. He testified before Congress about conserving biodiversity. His writing appears in *The New York Times*, *Natural History*, and *The Conversation*. He also authored *Restoring the Balance* (John Hopkins).



**YOOPER TOURS ON THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL – MOVIES FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL • 8:00-9:00pm**

**Alex Maier, Documentary Filmmaker.** Alex Maier is a long-distance hiker and filmmaker. He hiked across Michigan's Upper Peninsula and made a movie about the hike, called *Yooper Tours*. He explores how spending time in nature is beneficial for enhancing perspective on life.



**All times Eastern. For livestream options, go to [upenvironment.org/2022-celebrate-the-up](https://upenvironment.org/2022-celebrate-the-up)**

**PREVIOUS PAGE** A selection of entries from UPEC Photo Contests. **LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM** *Pictured Rocks* by Adam Campbell-Olszewski, *Sun in Winter* by Christian Leathers, *Wind and Waves* by LeAnn Pulda, *Porkies Escarpment* by Jake Ring. **RIGHT** *Dune Run* by Adam Manninen.

# Saturday, March 12 • 9:30am–12:00pm

**WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS • 9:30-10:00am**  
Horst Schmidt, UPEC President • Evan Zimmermann, UPEC Vice President

**Environmental Education Keynote and Panel Presentations:  
THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION • 10:00 am-12:00pm**

**Join a panel of place-based educators** from across the U.P. to learn about the wide-ranging initiatives inspiring youth to become stewards of the Lake Superior region. This session explores the meaningful ways place can increase student engagement and promote a greater understanding of environmental issues within our communities.

## Keynote: FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP IN THE U.P.

**Emily Gochis** is the Regional Director of the Western U.P. MiSTEM Network and the Program Director for the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative. Her work is to foster STEAM & place-based opportunities for students and educators. Additionally, she is a PhD candidate at Michigan Tech with a focus in geoscience education.



## EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEWARDS

**Abbey Palmer, Community Food Systems Educator, Michigan State University Extension.** Abbey Palmer works with schools and farms throughout the Upper Peninsula. She coordinates educational activities for people of all ages at MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (UPREC). Her areas of focus include land-based learning for K-14 students and their teachers, season extension, food policy councils, and seed saving.



## NURTURING OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH LAND AND WATER

**Erika Vye, Geosciences Research Scientist, Great Lakes Research Center, Michigan Tech University.** Erika is a geologist and geoheritage specialist with expertise in formal and informal place-based education initiatives that broaden community Earth Sciences literacy. As a part of the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative she leads field trips, place-based stewardship projects, and teacher institutes that celebrate the Lake Superior region.



## INVADING CLASSROOMS AND COMMUNITIES: STUDENT STEWARDS PREVENTING INVASIVE SPECIES SPREAD THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION

**Beth Christiansen, Great Lakes Education & Outreach Specialist, Center for Freshwater Research and Education at Lake Superior State University.** Beth, a non-formal educator with the Center for Freshwater Research and Education, has fifteen years experience teaching secondary science and seven years facilitating and developing non-formal place-based environmental programming. Beth is a certified NGSX facilitator and develops unique professional learning for educators focusing on place-, problem-, and project-based stewardship education.



## INSTILLING STEWARDSHIP WITH REAL-WORLD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Darrell Hendrickson, Teacher Consultant, Washington Middle School 6th grade LSSI Team.** Darrell Hendrickson, a retired middle school science teacher, has incorporated Place-Based Education (PBE) since 2004, promoting cross-curricular stewardship projects that linked students to the place they live. Darrell continues to mentor and promote PBE with the 6th grade Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative team at Washington Middle School in Calumet.



## POETRY READING • 12:00-12:45pm

**M. Bartley Seigel, 2021-2022 U.P. Poet Laureate.** Seigel is author of *This Is What They Say* (Typecast Publishing); founding editor-in-chief of the new poetry letterpress, *Simple Machines*; and founding editor emeritus (alongside Roxane Gay) of the avant-garde literary magazine, *PANK*. Seigel's poetry has been anthologized in *And Here: 100 years of Upper Peninsula Writing, 1917-2017* (Michigan State University Press), and *Rewilding: Poems for the Environment* (Flexible Press), among others.



## INTRODUCTION TO THIS AFTERNOON'S PROGRAM • 12:45-1:00pm Horst Schmidt, UPEC President • Evan Zimmermann, UPEC Vice President

## REWILDING THE UP: WOLVES A PANEL DISCUSSION ON PROTECTION AND HUNTING • 1:00-2:30pm Moderator: Terri Bocklund, UPEC Board Member

**Current proposals for a wolf hunt in the U.P.** have once again stirred controversy about a species that has long elicited strong feelings in both supporters and detractors. Our panelists will examine this complex issue from a variety of perspectives, all of which are grounded in facts, not fear and misinformation.

### SHOULD WE HUNT WOLVES? HOW SCIENCE AND ETHICS INTERACT

**John Vucetich, Professor, College of Forest Resources and Environmental Sciences, Michigan Tech University.** (For a bio of Dr. Vucetich, please see p. 2)



### SCIENCE? WHAT SCIENCE?

**Nancy Warren, Executive Director, National Wolfwatcher Coalition.** Since 1993 Nancy has been committed to dispelling myths and unfounded fears associated with wolves by investigating facts and studying the scientific research. For wolves to survive there needs to be human tolerance and she believes education is the way to increase social tolerance.



### THE POLITICS OF WOLVES IN MICHIGAN

**Molly Tamulevich, Michigan State Director, Humane Society of the United States.** Molly Tamulevich is the Michigan State Director for the Humane Society of the United States. She has worked in animal protection for the past 13 years. She received her master's degree from Michigan State University with a focus on human-animal studies.



### LET WOLVES LIVE: CULTURAL CONNECTION AND SPIRITUAL RESTORATION FOR PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Dr. Nichole Biber, Elementary School Librarian, LTBB (Waganakising) Odawa Tribal Citizen.** Nichole volunteers with the Anishinaabek Caucus, serving as the lead for the Wolf Preservation Team. Through a narrative of collective survival, she strives to communicate how Wolves are necessary to both the science of ecological balance, and to the continuation of Indigenous spiritual teachings that identify Ma'iingan, Wolf, as brother.



### BASING WOLF MANAGEMENT ON SOLID WILDLIFE SCIENCE

**Jeff Towner, Certified Wildlife Biologist, UPEC Board Member.** Jeff was field supervisor for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in North Dakota, with responsibility for the Gray Wolf, which was listed as endangered. He worked in two African national parks and was the anti-poaching officer for the Mountain Gorilla Project of the World Wildlife Fund.



## GOOD NEWS FOR THE U.P. ENVIRONMENT: MOVING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS • 2:30-3:30pm

**Jenn Hill, Marquette City Commissioner, Candidate for State Representative, and Energy Policy Advocate.** Jenn Hill is a community leader focused on building a more resilient Michigan. As Vice President of the Citizens Utility Board of Michigan, Jenn leverages her experience to advocate for consumer-first energy policies and keep more money in Michiganders' pockets. Taking on the U.P.'s high electric rates, Jenn facilitated workshops where County Commissioners from the U.P.'s 15 counties sought common ground to deal with the region's aging infrastructure. She currently works at 5 Lakes Energy to bring the benefits of electric vehicles and green building to the U.P.



## KEEPING THE U.P. WILD: SEEKING WILDERNESS DESIGNATION ON THE OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST • 3:30-4:30pm

**Howard A. Learner, President and Executive Director, Environmental Law and Policy Center.** Howard A. Learner is an experienced attorney who is responsible for ELPC's overall strategic leadership, policy direction and financial platform. Mr. Learner served as the General Counsel for Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, specializing in environmental, energy, economic development and civil rights litigation and policy development. He serves as Vice-Chair of the (Cook County) Forest Preserve Foundation.



**Jon Saari, Professor Emeritus of History, Northern Michigan University.** A current Board member and former President of UPEC, Jon has been a thoughtful environmental advocate for the U.P. for many decades.



**Joe Hovel, Director, Northwoods Alliance, Inc.** Forester, ecologist, activist, Joe Hovel has been a longtime advocate for enhanced protection of land in the Michigan-Wisconsin borderlands.



## OPEN DISCUSSION • 4:30-5:30pm

Moderators: Horst Schmidt, UPEC President • Evan Zimmermann, UPEC Vice President

**The 2022 Celebrate the U.P. concludes** with an opportunity for our participants to raise issues, questions, and concerns with the U.P. and the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition.

For livestream options, go to [upenvironment.org/2022-celebrate-the-up](https://upenvironment.org/2022-celebrate-the-up)



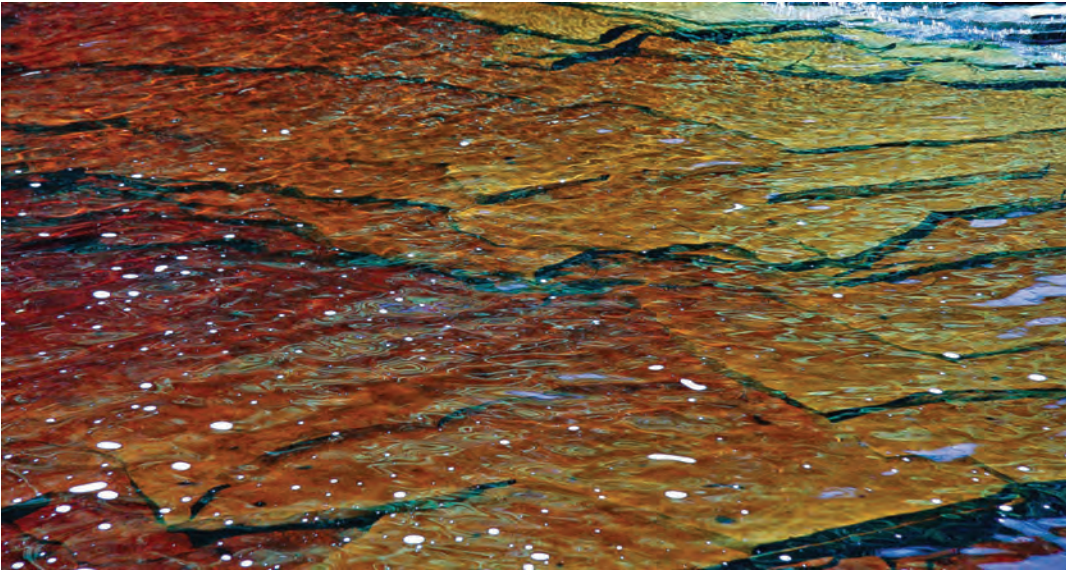
Re  
Wild  
the U.P.!

UPEC thanks all the presenters at this year's event—and you, our audience participants, for being part of it! If you value the work UPEC does, please support us with a membership or donation.

[upenvironment.org/join-renew](https://upenvironment.org/join-renew)

# THE 2022 UPEC PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Here are the top three images from this year's contest. Thanks to everyone who entered!



“Presque Isle” by Phil Bellfy

“The Pause” (Feldtmann Lake, Isle Royale)  
by Gala Malherbe



“Porcupine Quills” by Phil Bellfy

# ELEVEN MINI-GRANTS BOOST SCHOOL GARDENS

*A report from one of UPEC's 2021 Environmental Education Grantees*

*Joan Chadde, Director, Project Coordinator and Michigan Tech Center for Science & Environmental Outreach*

COVID-19 changed the plans of the Michigan Tech Center for Science & Environmental Outreach (CSEO), who, in collaboration with the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Friends of the Land of Keweenaw (FOLK), and Keweenaw Land Trust, initially planned a 50th anniversary celebration of Earth Day in April 2020. Instead, in Spring 2021, the partners created a \$75 Garden Mini-Grant Program to help start or improve existing school or community gardens before the end of the school year. In addition to the \$500 received from UPEC, another \$350 was provided by the Friends of the Land of Keweenaw, in order to meet all eleven \$75 mini-grant requests.

Portage Lake District Library bought gardening books for children and adults. Stanton Township School purchased grow lights to start plants indoors in the spring. BHK Great Explorations Program at Baraga Elementary purchased garden gloves, tools, and hoses for their after-school classes for grades 3–5 students.”

Gardening is a popular learning tool because of the interdisciplinary education it provides. Gardening is a great way for students to learn so many things. When they are working in the garden, they are thinking about soil and soil characteristics, and how to improve the texture or fertility of their soil. They are watching the weather and looking for what insects might be helping or harming their plants in the garden. They can read about gardens, use them to create art, or add them to the school lunch menu or for snacks.”



COURTESY OF JOAN CHADDE

BHK Great Explorations Program at Baraga Elementary

Eleven grants were awarded. Grant recipients could choose what garden-related items to purchase with the \$75. The grant award recipients were: Barkell Elementary School, Baraga High School, BHK Great Explorations Program @ Baraga Elementary, Chassell Elementary School, Houghton Middle School, Jeffers High School, Grow Another Row KYYF community garden, Portage Lake District Library, South Range Elementary School, and Stanton Township Public Schools.

## Shop at Tadych's Marketplace? You can help UPEC at the same time!

*Do you shop at Tadych's Marketplace (formerly known as Econofoods)?* If you do, please save your receipts and donate them to us. Keep an envelope handy at home where you can deposit the receipts after shopping. When it's full, mail them to us. We turn them in to Tadych's "We Share" program and get a donation!

**And that donation is significant — we recently received a check for \$471.82!** Thanks so much to our faithful receipt-savers — you are making a difference!

## UPEC Board of Directors

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# Re Wild the U.P.!

**UPEC's 13th Annual Celebrate the U.P. Event!**  
March 11-12 • free • online • everybody welcome  
[upenvironment.org/2022-celebrate-the-UP](http://upenvironment.org/2022-celebrate-the-UP)

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

**UP Legislators**

**US Senate**  
Gary Peters (D)  
202-224-6221  
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

Debbie Stabenow (D)  
202-224-4822  
<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. House**  
Jack Bergman (R)  
202-225-4735  
<https://bergman.house.gov/contact/>

**Michigan Senate**  
37th: Wayne Schmidt (R)  
517-373-2413  
<http://www.senatorwayneschmidt.com/contact/>

38th: Ed McBroom (R)  
517-373-7840  
<https://www.senatoredmcbroom.com/>

**Michigan House**  
107th: John Damoose (R)  
517-373-2629  
[JohnDamoose@house.mi.gov](mailto:JohnDamoose@house.mi.gov)

108th: Beau LaFave (R)  
517-373-0156  
[BeauLaFave@house.mi.gov](mailto:BeauLaFave@house.mi.gov)

109th: Sara Cambensy (D)  
517-373-0498  
[SaraCambensy@house.mi.gov](mailto:SaraCambensy@house.mi.gov)

110th: Greg Markkanen (R)  
517-373-0850  
[GregMarkkanen@house.mi.gov](mailto:GregMarkkanen@house.mi.gov)

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

Name

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This is my ...  
 Year-round address  
 Primary address; I also have a seasonal address

*If you have a seasonal address, please give it, and the approximate dates you are there, on the space below this form.*

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

**Becoming a member / Renewing**

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

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

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

**Making an additional contribution**

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

My contribution is in honor/memory of

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

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

**Thank you for your support!** You can also join, renew and donate online at [upenvironment.org/join-renew](http://upenvironment.org/join-renew)