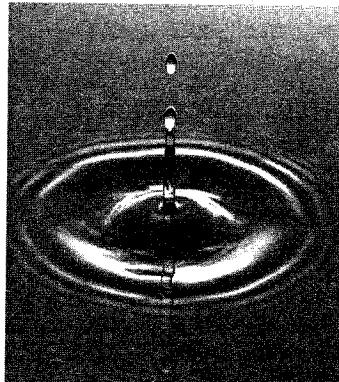


Summer 2005

In this Issue



Ah, summertime. Warm breezes...the gentle splash of a paddle...the haunting cry of the loon...*the proliferation of invasive species... the sound of raw sewage being released into the lakes?*

Let's face it. We may be able to go on summer vacation, but pollution and other threats to our most abundant and precious natural resource- water- never do. So what better time to focus on issues affecting water quality than when we're fortunate enough to spend time playing in and around it?

That's why the focus of this issue is water issues. In April we were fortunate enough to have Dave Dempsey as our guest speaker at our annual spring meeting. The environmental advisor to former-Governor James Blanchard, acting director for the Michigan office of Clean Water Action (CWA), a former member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Dempsey currently serves as Great Lakes policy advisor to CWA. Not incidentally, he is also the author of *On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21st Century*, which was recently named one of Michigan's Notable Books for 2005 by the Library of Michigan. I'll share some of his remarks with you in this issue.

In addition, we also have an article by someone who our president, Jon Saari, calls "an activist extraordinaire" - Cynthia Pryor. Pryor is the executive director of Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Inc. and a leading force in the resistance against metallic sulfide mining on the Yellow Dog Plains.

We also have stories about some budding environmentalists, elementary and middle school beneficiaries of this year's Environmental Education Grants. And we'll hear from yet another of our favorite activists, former newsletter editor and current UPEC board member, Suzanne Van Dam, who is interested in the size of footprints we're leaving behind on the sand.

So sit back in your beach chair, take another sip of cool, clean Michigan water, and read those and other stories about some of the things that are happening just inches away from your toes at water's edge. It may not relax you, but it's sure to inform you. Enjoy!

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition

U.P. Environment

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UPEC Action...

- UPEC sends kids to environmental camp, a symposium and out to pick up the trash!
- UPEC hosts Dave Dempsey at April meeting
- Join us as we paddle alongside and picnic with Connecting Waters, Connecting People

Newsletter Editor: Susan Rasch

Got Articles?

How about poems? Drawings? Photos? Essays? A really thought-provoking letter?

UPEC is always looking for submissions from our readers and others of a conservation bent for publication in our newsletters.

What are we looking for? Creative works inspired by a knowledge of and passion for the U.P. Our next edition, the fall issue, will focus on wolves.

What will you get out of it? The satisfaction of sharing your work with those most likely to appreciate it, along with extra copies of that issue of the newsletter. Oh—and perhaps inclusion in an anthology published by UPEC down the line.

Interested?

Send your submissions to the e-mail or mailing address shown in the box below.

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 at srasch@up.net.



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, please call: 1 (800) 386-3326 or view the website at: www.earthsharemichigan.org



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U.P. HIKING GUIDEBOOK ARRIVES

After walking some 900 miles searching for the U.P.'s fifty best hikes, I'm happy to announce the project's completion. My guidebook, *Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula*, will be on shelves later this summer. Thanks to all who helped along the way.



Hikes with water themes aren't hard to find in this book—23 of the outings feature waterfalls and 20 border the shorelines of Lakes Superior, Michigan or Huron. Picking one favorite water-themed hike is a difficult task. For the moment, I'll duck any effort at ranking and opt to mention a route that is not well-known but pulls me back time and again. That is the seemingly endless stretch of state-owned Lake Michigan shoreline south of Gould City.

This book is part of the Falcon Guide Series (www.falcon.com) and the ISBN# is 0-7627-2588-5. I expect to do some talks/slide shows this fall. Houghton, Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie would be likely venues. Send an e-mail message to ehansen@wi.rr.com with U.P. book side show in the title line if you wish to know the dates of those events.

Eric Hansen

SHORT, SWEET, AND SPECTACULAR: THE BEST ONE MILE-HIKES IN THE TRAP HILLS

Some of the most memorable viewpoints in the Trap Hills - rock balconies offering vistas that, on a good day, can reach 50 miles—are a mere one mile walk. Each of these hikes is doable in little more than an hour if you are motoring by on your way to the Porkies.

Hit the url below for a pdf that contains descriptions of and directions to three of the most impressive scenes: www.northcountrytrail.org/pwf/shorthikes.doc
The pdf prints out to form a brochure.

UPEC has teamed with Northwoods Wilderness Recovery and several other groups to form the Trap Hills Conservation Alliance which is actively working for long-term protection of the Trap Hills.

Eric Hansen

It is the Little Things...

By Cynthia Pryor

So far, it has only been the little things that demonstrate the level of concern and respect Kennecott has for our lands and people. When the CEO of Kennecott Minerals first visited Big Bay, he offered to help us with our "cut-throat" (a western trout). He had not been briefed that our trout of concern was the Coaster Brook Trout! I commented then that Kennecott had severely underestimated the people of this area in their level of opposition to a sulfide mine.

Kennecott has conducted exploration drilling for the last few years on the Yellow Dog Plains. Drilling waste was dumped and stored in several unlined waste pits that should have been regulated, lined and tested according to current state regulation. We had a lab analyze one of these pits and found high levels of copper, nickel, arsenic and manganese in violation of acceptable amounts—all being discharged directly into the ground.



*Sediment load as a result of Kennecott's failed diversion
Photo courtesy of Cynthia Pryor*

DEQ comment? "You're right. We will now have Kennecott line those pits." Penalty? None.

Recently, a new culvert system failed on the Salmon Trout River. This project was done by Kennecott as a "service to the community."

Of course, Kennecott did not want this to fail. Who would? But it did. Ninety-eight tons of sediment went into this exceptional river.

Penalty? None.

Kennecott proposes an underground mine directly beneath the Salmon Trout River. The new sulfide mining statute states that a mine must be designed, constructed, operated and closed – without "polluting, impairing or destroying" our waters and environment. A Kennecott lawyer calls this notion only "words of art." I call it the only way a sulfide mine could ever be permitted in this state –with zero discharge of pollutants into our waters.

If the simple things like drilling pits and culvert construction have polluted the Yellow Dog Plains, I fear a "simple" failure with a sulfide mine! Penalty? Our waters.

Look at the outline of our state surrounded by blue and think about it. These are *our* waters to protect. It should be up to us to ultimately decide what happens with our waters. I believe that Kennecott truly has underestimated the people of the U.P. and Michigan. We love our waters, we love the Great Lakes and we love the land we live in. I urge you all to think about what that means when and if Kennecott files an application for a nickel mine on the Yellow Dog Plains.

(reprinted with permission from the Summer/Fall 2005 The Yellow Dog Howl's Annual Report)

Great Lakes on the Brink: The Looming Fight Over our Freshwater Seas

(If you were unfortunate enough to miss it, here is the gist of what Dave Dempsey spoke about at this spring's annual meeting in Marquette. Ed)

According to Dave Dempsey, Michigan has a central role to play in the preservation of the Great Lakes. That's because, he reminded us,

- Michigan is the only state in the union that lies entirely within the Great Lakes Watershed (although Ontario, he noted, also has a sizable stake in its preservation).
- Michigan is the only state that touches on four of the five Great Lakes.
- And Michigan residents are unique among United States residents in their strong identification with the lakes.

Given this close connection with the largest concentration of freshwater bodies in the world, he warned that if Michigan residents don't set the standard for Great Lakes and groundwater regulation, we can be sure that others won't either.

"The only way we're going to rescue them is to capitalize on our love of the lakes." Just like charity, Dempsey noted, "The real effort begins at home."

The problem is, for many years, he said little was done to protect the lakes. Just like the forests, people thought of the lakes as being inexhaustible. But he pointed out the lakes are vulnerable despite their size. That's because they are what Dempsey called "closed systems."

(Continued on Page 11)

And Dempsey's Call to Action



In a recent e-mail, Dave Dempsey reminded UPEC that the Michigan Environmental Council and other conservation groups are asking legislators to enact the provisions of "Great Lakes, Great Michigan." This is a six-point program MEC and its member groups put together to fill a critical need. Dempsey pointed out Michigan is the only one of the eight Great Lakes states that has no water conservation legislation. He warned that leaves us especially vulnerable to water export proposals from outside the Great Lakes Basin. The proposal is a lengthy document, but Dempsey distilled its basic points for us. He noted the six-point legislative program includes bills that would:

1. CREATE A FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Require permits for large water users. Institutions that use lots of water from the Great Lakes don't always need permission from the state to withdraw water. We need to pass a new law that will require permits for any water user capable of withdrawing more than 2 million gallons a day, or 100 million gallons a year.

2. PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES

Close the loophole that threatens smaller lakes, streams, and wetlands. Even if we had a strong permit law, some smaller water uses could damage nearby streams or wetlands. We should reform our current laws, the Inland Lakes and Streams Act and the Wetland Protection Act, to protect these small bodies of water. All uses should be included in the law, including pumps that draw from groundwater to increase lake levels.

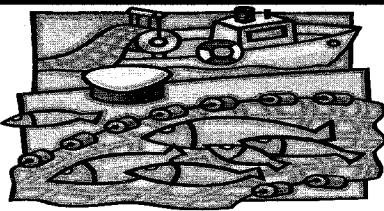
3. PREVENT SALE OF GREAT LAKES WATER

Prohibit private sale of water without legislative approval. Michigan needs to take control over its water to ensure it continues to be available for Michigan residents and businesses. We should

(Continued on Page 11)

Sylvania Aquatic Nuisance Study

By Tom Church



The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition was awarded a grant for the Sylvania Project during the 2005 boating season. The goal of the project was to educate the visitors and guests coming to Sylvania Wilderness and Recreation Area of Ottawa National Forest about the challenges, issues and control techniques related to Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS). Using the Wisconsin DNR's "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" materials and format, we had contact and dialog with over 1600 people in 621 groups with 808 watercraft during the roughly 4 month boating season, with UPEC representatives working an average of more than 20 hours per week.

Although many individuals already knew about ANS issues and control methods, the majority of individuals did not fully understand the different varieties of ANS or the control techniques necessary to limit the spread of the various species. Even individuals from the same group had widely ranging previous knowledge and misconceptions. The handout materials provided were important as part of the educational effort, especially the small wallet size cards with bullet points for identification and control techniques.

(continued on page 12)

UPEC Helps Student Attend Outdoor Camp

(In April, UPEC awarded nine Environmental Education Grants ,totaling more than \$3,000. Here is how one of those grants was used.)

On May 16-18, 2005, Clear Lake Education Center hosted 39 Junior High students from both Delta-Schoolcraft and Marquette-Alger School Districts. The students, grades 6-8, nominated themselves to attend this three-day Outdoor Education Camp. With the help of a \$250 grant from UPEC, one of the students, Marshall Fleagle (Big Bay de Noc School), was awarded a scholarship enabling him to attend the camp for a second year.

Marshall is diagnosed with high-functioning autism. Last year he was able to attend, accompanied by an aide. This year, however, his parents could not find an aide to come with him. With the financial assistance from UPEC, (Clear Lake Education Center) was able to award Marshall the \$75 fee to attend, as well as pay \$175 for a qualified Center staff member to act as Marshall's aide during the three-day camp.

Both Marshall's parents and teachers feel he has benefited greatly from this hands-on education experience. He was able to attend all the classes with the other students. Those classes included Aquatic Studies, Ecology, Wildlife, and the High Ropes Challenge Course. We often see that the "non-traditional" students seem to be most engaged in the application-based experience we provide.

*(Submitted by Suzanne Flory,
Executive Director. Clear Lake Ed. Center)*



GWINN TRASH BASH A SMASH!

“...many students thought that we would have nothing to clean up ...because ‘they had already picked up all the garbage (last fall).’ Unfortunately, they were quite mistaken...”

As part of our pre-Trash Bash class work, we discussed what we picked up last fall during our smaller-scale watershed clean up. Students looked up the amount of time it would have taken those things to biodegrade if left on the ground in our community. Since the kids brought up the concern how the trash they collected went to a landfill and would take so long to biodegrade, we discussed recycling as well. Gwinn seems to be at a turning point. Forsyth Township has just opened its own transfer and recycling center that accepts paper, cardboard, and metal for free recycling. I am hopeful this is the first step to an eventual full scale recycling program here in Gwinn. Students seem to understand the importance of recycling and seem to care about taking care of the environment.



Students learned many things during our Trash Bash this spring. When we did our clean up last fall, many students thought that we would have nothing to clean up when we came out this spring because, “they already picked up all the garbage.” Unfortunately, they were quite mistaken and witnessed first hand how the areas they had cleaned in the fall were again trashed this spring. These areas (offered) particularly good lessons since they are areas where most of the garbage came from students!

We cleaned up eight different sites within Gwinn and KI Sawyer and were assisted by several community members and organizations in addition to UPEC. The vests (UPEC’s) money allowed us to purchase were invaluable, however, due to students being near roads during our clean up.

After spending an entire day picking up garbage, many students mentioned how they are never going to litter again. Other commented how they are going to say something to the next person they see littering. Students also seemed to have a better appreciation of how ugly litter can make our community and how important their help is in keeping our community clean.

Students received a lot of compliments from community members and passersby. (The students) seemed quite pleased with themselves! By the time the day was done, we had removed 2,826 pounds of trash from the ground and waters within our community! Unfortunately, there is still a lot out there to keep my next year’s 8th Grade Trash Bash busy again.

As a wrap-up activity... about forty students chose to write their parents and nearly eighty students wrote to our Township Supervisor (about their clean-up experience).

(Submitted by Kristy Gollakner of Gwinn Middle School.)

Kristy was one of the successful applicants for the Environmental Education Grants. This is part of the letter she sent UPEC telling us about that event.)

FOOTPRINT OF THE U.P.



Global Footprint Network
Advancing the Science of Sustainability

As Yoopers, we tread pretty lightly on the earth. Many of us heat with locally grown wood from sustainably-harvested forests. Some of us raise our own chickens, hunt, or fish rather than rely on huge factory farms for pork and beef. And by and large, the culture here discourages ostentatious signs of wealth, and most residents avoid the flashy cars and big trophy houses so prevalent down state.

But our soils are not very fertile, requiring us to import most of our food; our winters are long, requiring months of energy-intensive heating and snow removal; and our communities are rural, requiring long distant commutes and the burning of fossil fuels to transport people and goods.

So, given our desire to live a modest lifestyle combined with the geographic realities of living in the north woods, just how sustainably are we living here in the U.P.? Just how big is our footprint?

The “Ecological Footprint,” a concept pioneered by an innovative and energetic organization called *Redefining Progress* (RP), is a useful tool that measures “how much nature we have, how much nature we use, and who gets what. It represents the amount of biologically productive land and water a population requires for the resources it consumes and to absorb its waste,

using prevailing technology.” One of Redefining Progress’s staff members, Susan Burns, came to the Houghton area to speak at Michigan Tech and Finlandia University this past spring semester. Her words were partly a warning and partly a pep talk for concerned environmentalists, urging us to let the footprint concept inspire action rather than resignation. Without reducing the dire consequences of our current lifestyle, she offered hope and positive steps that can be taken on a personal, regional and national level.

Designed by economists, the footprint translates our human activities into the number of acres or hectares needed to sustain those activities. When we take the earth’s biologically productive areas and divide it by the number of people, we see that only 1.8 hectares are available per person, which does not even take into consideration space for non-human species.

Not surprisingly, the rate of consumption is unequally distributed: the American Footprint uses more than 9 global hectares, the average European about 5 global hectares, and the average Afghani uses less than 1, providing a standard of living that does not meet minimal life needs. If everyone on earth consumed resources like Americans, we would need 5

globes to support us; if everyone lived like an Afghani, there would be earth and resources left over, but the human population would be insufficiently nourished. Taken all together, the average person worldwide requires 2.2 global hectares of land to support his or her lifestyle, meaning that we are consuming 20% more resources than are available.

How can we consume more resources than actually exist? *Redefining Progress* likens this phenomenon to individuals who live beyond their means, overshooting their budget by spending down their savings account to support their current lifestyle. In other words, when we consume more resources than the earth can regenerate and produce more waste than the earth can absorb, we are moving into “Ecological Overshoot.” As RP explains, we can “exceed ecological limits for a while, but this ‘deficit spending’ leads to the destruction of ecological assets, on which our economy depends, such as depleted groundwater, collapsing fisheries, CO₂ accumulation in the atmosphere, and deforestation.”

As Susan Burns commented to the students, “The bad news is, we’re overdrawn; the good news is at least we finally have a statement and know how much we have to eventually get back to a balanced budget.”

(continued on page 10)

“If everyone on earth consumed resources like Americans, we would need 5 globes to support us...”

Page 8



Students at Fort William, Ontario

UP Students Attend 6th Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium

(Joan Chadde was another of our successful applicants for an Environmental Education grant. She used the money for student scholarships to the Youth Symposium. The grant paid entirely for one Lake Linden-Hubbell Middle School student and helped 14 other students from Jeffers High School in Painesdale to attend.)

About sixty students and teachers from the UP joined another 100 students from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ontario at the 6th Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium hosted by the Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute in Thunder Bay. Students in grades 7-12 from throughout the Lake Superior watershed were invited to attend the Symposium from Thursday, May 12 through Sunday, May 15, 2005.

Participants explored the challenges and accomplishments of managing and protecting Lake Superior. Students took field trips to Ontario and Canada's longest suspension footbridge, visited Kakabeka falls, the arctic microclimate at Ouimet Canyon, a fish hatchery, alternative housing designs, Fort William Historical Park, and much more. Student presentations, musical performances, films, and an art & cultural festival rounded out the event.

The Lake Superior Youth Symposium has been held every two years since 1995, hosted by a different educational institution each time as its location circles Lake Superior, alternating between Wisconsin, Ontario, Minnesota, and Michigan. This year's symposium coordinator was teacher Douglas Jones, a science teacher at Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute in Thunder Bay. (The largest symposium hosting 400 students and teachers was held by Michigan Tech in 2001.)

The 2007 symposium will be held at Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay, MI, north of Marquette, and hosted by a group of teachers from Bothwell Middle School.

(Submitted by Joan Chadde, Ed. Dir. For Western U.P. Center for Science, Math, and Enviro. Ed.)

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(FOOTPRINT continued)



How does the footprint concept relate to the U.P. which is 85% forested and sparsely populated?

Well, for starters, our footprint may be considerably higher than most people would assume. The ecological costs of trucking in greenhouse-grown foods, and the need to commute by private car over long distances in cold weather increase our footprint substantially. We do have ample resources on which to rely—replenishable forests, healthy streams, and decent fisheries—but those will only continue to exist if we safeguard them from pollution, overconsumption, and population pressures.



For the past several years, UPEC has been discussing the need for regional planning, particularly the need to collect data to establish baseline information about both our natural resources and the pressures exerted on those resources from consumption, mining, sprawl, pollution, and second home development. The noted environmentalist E.O. Wilson praised the footprint concept, saying he considered it to be “one of the most significant recent ecological inventions because of its ability to communicate complex scientific information in relatively simple terms to explain the relationship between human consumption and the natural environment.”



Understanding the consumption habits of local residents, and placing those habits in a global context could be a first step to designing a sustainable U.P.



*Submitted by
Suzanne Van Dam, Board*



How Big is Your Footprint?

Suzanne Van Dam



Redefining Progress offers a simple on-line quiz to help identify the hidden costs of our lifestyle choices, both individually and collectively. For example, the quiz asks questions such as

- How much of the food that you eat is processed, packaged and not locally grown?
- Compared to people in your neighborhood, how much waste do you generate?
- How often do you drive in a car with someone else, rather than alone?"

In less than 5 minutes you can complete the quiz and calculate how many acres of land are needed to sustain your personal lifestyle based on food, mobility, shelter and the goods and services you use. See: (<http://www.myfootprint.org/>).

In addition to using the quiz to determine the individual's footprint and the more distant global one, the concept has been successfully used on a regional level in places as disparate as London, Toronto, Nova Scotia, and Sonoma County, California.

In London, footprint assessments were used to create a new community housing project that modeled “One Planet Living.”

In Sonoma County, officials applied for a grant from the EPA to collect information about local resources and calculate the average footprint of residents in their county. Even in this environmentally aware community, they discovered that they were living well beyond their means, with each person requiring 22 acres of land and sea.

**As the Sonoma project website reports,
“If everyone in the world consumed
like the average person in Sonoma
County, we would need four more
Earths!”**



(Great Lakes on the Brink continued from Page 5)

allowing contamination to build up over time. Only 1% of the water is renewed each year. That means fully 99% of what we see when we look out over the lakes is what has collected over the last century. Given such a slow rate of exchange, the impact of pollution can accumulate, slowly increasing the toxicity of the water.

He noted that some strides had been made in clean-up and protection. Horror over such ecological nightmares as the sight of the Cleveland's Cuyahoga River on fire in the '60s and the pollution of Love Canal led to the creation of the Clean Water Act in 1972 and a greater awareness of the vulnerability of our water systems. But even that legislation wasn't enforced as vigorously as the outcry might have suggested. Although the Act limited the discharge of phosphates, Dempsey pointed out it wasn't until five years later that the regulation was seriously applied. Even then, he noted, dishwasher soap was exempted from the agreement, so phosphate content was still high.

The '90s have brought even more challenges to the lakes. The Zebra Mussel and other invasive species are a growing problem. A growing dead zone in Lake Erie has led to concerns that the lake might actually be dying. And what Dempsey classified as "new/old chemical" threats - fire-retardants, PFOs and mercury pollution from coal-burning plants—continue to pose serious threats to water quality today.

However, probably the greatest source of modern concern, the conservationist said, was the hot potato of water export, an issue that is only going to get hotter over time. By 2025, he noted, 3 billion people in 52 countries will not have enough water to drink. Still, we continue to use up groundwater at an alarming rate. The United States is one of the top 5 depleters of groundwater in the world (most notably of the Ogallala Aquifer). As population growth in neighboring states continues to rise, so will pressure to tap into the Great Lakes for the burgeoning population's expanding water needs.

A case in point: the Aral Sea. Once counted the 4th largest lake in the world, Dempsey said modern needs for cotton and rice irrigation have dramatically shrunk its banks. It is now ranked 8th.

(Dempsey's Call to Action continued from Page 5)

amend the Great Lakes Preservation Act to prohibit the private sale of water unless the project has received legislative approval.

4. ADOPT FAIR VETO GUIDELINES

Create a fair public process for the Governor to veto water loss. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) allows the Governor to veto projects that will cause a loss of water from the Great Lakes area. However, Michigan lacks a process for using this law. We should adopt clear guidelines for veto decisions, including public notice and hearings.

5. PROMOTE CONSERVATION

Enact state water conservation or stewardship certification. Michigan should be a leader in promoting conservation and efficient water use. Each group of large water users (like agriculture or manufacturing) should agree on standard conservation measures for that group. Each permitted user should agree to use generally accepted conservation practices. Higher standards should apply if overuse is causing water conflicts or damage to natural resources.

6. COLLECT MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION

Improve Data Collection. Currently, agricultural interests do not report with the same accuracy as other users, and pumps that draw from groundwater to increase lake levels do not report at all. All water users in Michigan should report with the same format.

(Aquatic Nuisance Study cont. from page 6)

Some interesting data from the project:

- 30% of watercraft were from Michigan
- 54% of watercraft were from Wisconsin
- 16% of watercraft were from Illinois, Indiana & other states
- 70.4% of watercraft were non-motorized
- 26.0% of watercraft had gas powered motors
- 3.6% of watercraft had electric motors
- 65% sought non-motorized recreation with an avg. group size of 2.7 people
- 35% were primarily fishing with an avg. group size of 2.4 people



The U.S. Forest Service - Ottawa National Forest staff, including Bob Evans, Sue Trull and Ian Shackleford were very helpful in setting up the program and helping to identify various samples of Aquatic Species. The project staff did a great job. Thanks to Corban and Joe Bolton and their cousin Bobby Clementz for their willingness to start up conversations about ANS with total strangers. A huge THANK YOU goes to Mary Carol and Cameron Coleman. Mary Carol was paid staff and Cameron was our star volunteer. They were a great team and made a point of knowing details or finding answers related to ANS. Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition did a great job of administering the project with the help of Tom Church and Suzanne Van Dam.

The project grant was awarded through the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund, coordinated by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council located in Petoskey, Michigan. Funding for this grant program was made available by the Office of the Great Lakes, through a grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Join Us!

On **Wednesday, August 17**, UPEC members are encouraged to join a group organized by Northwoods Wilderness Recovery to demonstrate our concerns about metallic sulfide mining in the Upper Peninsula. Called Connecting Water, Connecting People, the group is traveling 300 miles by kayak, canoe, and foot from the shore of Lake Superior to Lake Michigan to draw attention to two potential mines within these watersheds, one on the Salmon Trout River and the other along the Menominee River.

We will be linking up with the group at 2:30 p.m. at Van Riper State Park's Peshekee Cabin Unit. That's a few miles west of the state park on U.S. 41, just before the bridge over the mouth of the Peshekee River. From there we'll canoe and kayak west along the shore of Lake Michigamme to the Michigamme Park.

At 7 p.m. we will get together again at the Michigamme Park for a potluck and public education session. Please be sure to join us for either or both of these fun and important events.

If you want to continue the adventure, you're welcome to rejoin the group the following morning about 8 a.m. and paddle with them on the next leg of their journey—across the lake and down the Michigamme River. For more information, go to www.northwoodswild.org.

You're Invited!

**Come join us at Camp Nesbit
for all or part of UPEC's fall retreat
Friday, Sept. 23—Sunday Sept. 25**

We'll be doing trail work, planning our new webpage, discussing ways of utilizing the tremendous pool of talented artists and writers we have in the U.P. to lead others into encounters with nature, and—oh yeah—doing some marshmallow-roasting, canoe-paddling, hiking and blue-gill-fishing. Here's a run-down of our agenda:

Friday, Sept. 23

7 p.m. Arrival
 Potluck dinner
 Campfire

Saturday, Sept. 24

8:30-Noon Trail Work (boardwalk site preparation and construction)
Noon-1 p.m. Lunch
1-3 p.m. Artists and Writers Meeting
4-6 p.m. Board Meeting with Website Discussion
6 p.m. Spaghetti Feed
Dusk Campfire

Sunday, Sept. 25

Morning Light trail work along Deer Marsh Trail

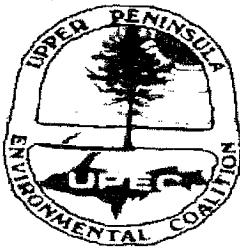
Camp Nesbit has heated cabins with bunk beds. A fridge and stove are available in the kitchen building for independent meal prep. You will need to bring a sleeping bag or other bedding and any food you may want for breakfast and snacks. Lodging is free, but you do need to call (906) 524-7899 or e-mail srasch@up.net to make reservations.

Directions: Camp Nesbit is 8 miles south of Sidnaw. Follow M28 to Sidnaw and turn left at the Norway Lake sign. Follow that road several miles to the Norway Lake/Camp Nesbit sign. Turn left. From there, just follow the signs to Camp Nesbit.

**Upper Peninsula
Environmental Coalition**

P.O. Box 673
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: (906) 524-7899
Email: srasch@up.net
www.upenvironment.org



Protecting and maintaining the unique environmental qualities of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by educating the public and acting as a watchdog to industry and government

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 UPEC Environmental Education Fund
 UPEC Endowment Fund*

*If you make your 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 Michigan State Income Tax (up to \$200. for individuals, \$400 for couples). OR you can make a contribution directly to UPEC. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, dues and contributions are tax deductible.

Send all contributions to: UPEC, Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931
UPEC is grateful for your timely and generous response!