

Summer 2007



Lake Michigan along  
US 2  
Photo courtesy of  
Jeannine McKenzie

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition

## U.P. Environment



Chippewa County Courthouse  
By Rex Marsh

### U.P.-Style “Celebration” Preparing to Hit the Road

UPEC’s first traveling art show, “A Celebration of the Upper Peninsula as Home,” will be making its debut August 2 at the Bonifas Art Center in Escanaba. The first artists’ reception will be held there on August 17 from 1-3 p.m.

Board President, Jon Saari, notes that the show, which features the work of eleven U.P. artists (for a complete listing of names, see the Winter 2007 edition of this newsletter), offers the viewer a unique perspective.

“Artists see the wider world with their senses,” he writes, “and reflect it back to the rest of us with colors, lines, textures, frames and surprising images. They are often the first to sense disturbances and to hold them in the steady gaze of their art. They speak indirectly; their art seldom has the insistence of a poster or the certainty of an ideology.”

The show uses the idea of home as its center because, he explains, “Home is where we want most to be, where we have chosen to root our lives and to get to know a place deeply and broadly. It sets man-made and natural places together: the house in the yard, the camp in the clearing, the canoe on the lake, the trail in the woods. At home nature is familiar and approachable, and in small doses we are most at ease with it.”

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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).

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(*Celebration* continued from page 1)

With a financial assist from Plum Creek Timber Products, the show itself will have many homes over the next six months. After its premier in Escanaba, it will make four more stops:

- Marquette Arts and Culture Center Gallery in Marquette, MI, September 13– October 11 (Reception)
- Nicolet College, Rhinelander, WI  
October 19-November 19 (Reception Oct. 20, 7-9 p.m.)
- Finlandia University, Hancock, MI  
December 20-January 31, 2008 (Reception Dec. 20, 7-9 p.m.)

Alberta House Gallery, Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
February 9-28 (Reception Feb. 9, 2-4 p.m.)

One of the artists, Eric Munch of Calumet, describes his work this way. “For most of my landscape photographs, I use a 4 X 5 view camera in conjunction with a 120 size-reducing film back. This camera type permits for the most control over the creation of an image in that it allows one to achieve uniform sharpness from close up to infinity with most lenses, including telephotos, which on most cameras have a shallow focus. The view camera also has a limited ability (more than most) to modify the way the image is projected onto film...

“For example, wide-angle lenses, if pointed up or down, tend to distort parallel vertical lines and render them as not parallel. The view camera can correct this distortion and some others. It does this through its ability to position the lens and film standards' angles independently. The image, projected upside down onto the camera's ground glass, is viewed by putting a black cloth over one's head. I consider this to be a very important part of the creative process - I am essentially in a 'dark room', isolated from distractions. The upside down rendition of the subject abstracts it and, I feel, helps makes my compositions simpler. On the down side, a view camera can be next to useless in strong winds, it can take longer to set up, and one can't look through it at the moment of exposure.

“I use conventional B&W and color film; B&W I process myself (although I have done my own color film and print processing in the past, too). I print my B&W images on Ilford Multigrade FB paper, using traditional processing means.”

You can see one result, Munch's photo, “Superior Shoreline, between Eagle Harbor and Copper Harbor,” on page 13.

Finally, Pres. Saari explains just how this particular exhibit is a celebration.

“Celebration is not just fireworks and partying. At the deeper levels, we honor what we celebrate. We honor the U.P. not because it is an easy or convenient place to live, but because it tempers us with long winters and black flies and rewards us with quiet outings in beautiful and remote places.”

To which can only be added, here-here.

-Editor

## Memorial Shelter Victim of Spring Wildfire

On Friday, April 27, the Ottawa National Forest undertook two controlled burns in an area about a mile and a half northwest of the Oren Krumm shelter, on Baraga Plains. The Baraga Plains is a rolling, sandy glacial outwash. While there are areas of wetlands and small lakes on the Plains,

Most of the area is home to jack pine and related drought-tolerant trees and, in some years, an abundant crop of blueberries, sugar plums, and other fruits. Before the era of fire suppression, areas of the Plains burned fairly frequently, perhaps on an average of every 30 years at a given

location. More recent management has resulted in less frequent burning, and an increase in available dead and live wood for wildfire fuel. The prescribed burns that took place that Friday were intended to provide a small area on the Plains where the natural process of fire could take place. Prescribed natural fire not only has ecological benefits, but it often results in great blueberry crops for several years.



The fire as seen from Doug's house 18 miles north of the fire on that Sunday afternoon.

Conditions were excellent for a prescribed burn that day, and the fires went off without a hitch. The Forest Service monitored the fire sites on Saturday and put out any hot spots. Sunday, wildfire potential became extreme due to high winds, very low relative humidity, and tinder dry fuels due to a long-term drought. The Forest Service once again monitored the fire, but only sent one fire truck to the area where the fire took off that day. They were successfully putting out hot spots, but eventually the engine needed more water, and left the area to fill up. While it was gone, a hot spot erupted and, by the time they returned, the fire was out of control.

The fire raced southeastward toward the Sturgeon River. My wife Marjory and I visited the burned area two weeks later, well after the fire was out, and it was apparent that the intensity of the fire had varied greatly within the fire perimeter, due to different forest types, stronger winds in some areas, terrain, and, of course, the luck of the draw. The fire "crowned" in some areas, resulting in charred trees from the ground to their tops. In other areas, only a light ground fire occurred, resulting in minimal damage to larger vegetation. In most areas, enough ground vegetation and small trees and shrubs burned to bake the needles of conifers and turn them yellow. Often, all the needles on trees, even on some of the taller trees, were affected.

(Cont. on page 5)

(*Spring Wildfire* cont. from page 4)

Marjory and I began hiking to the shelter from the Tibbets Falls trailhead. (Be careful where you park at the trailhead; a number of tall aspens are down or leaning over the trail, apparently due to very strong south winds at some point. I would not park there on a windy day unless you have a chain saw since a good gust could drop one of the aspens onto the road.)



The North Country Trail less than ¼ mile west of the shelter.  
Photo courtesy of Doug Welker

As we walked downstream toward the shelter, we monitored the amount of fire damage. None of the three bridges and two boardwalks between the falls and the shelter were damaged, even though there was at least a ground fire near some of them. We entered an area where the fire had obviously jumped the river, as there were burned trees on the south side. The NCT, though, was in excellent condition all the way to the shelter. In fact, we did not walk any section of the NCT that day that was not perfectly passable.

It was obvious as we approached the shelter area that the fire had crowned in some of the large pines along the river. At the junction of the shelter trail and the NCT, the sign there was in perfect condition even though a ground fire had been just a few feet away. Another sign with the shelter area map was likewise untouched, even though a fairly intense fire had burned nearby.

We also visited the first campsite, and found its sign in perfect condition, and the large trees nearby did not seem to be seriously damaged. We did not visit the second campsite. The wilderness latrine with privacy screening was untouched, though a ground fire had been just a few feet away. Likewise, the benches at the fire ring had not been damaged, though the fire came to within three or four feet of them.

The shelter, on the other hand, was another story—it burned completely. Not a trace of wood was found. The intense heat of the fire melted a glass item into a blob, and warped the cooking grate for the campfire.

Marjory and I followed the NCT west from the shelter to where the fire had been very intense. While the NCT was in excellent shape, most of the paint blazes had been burned off.

(continued on page 6)



(Spring Wildfire cont. from page 5)

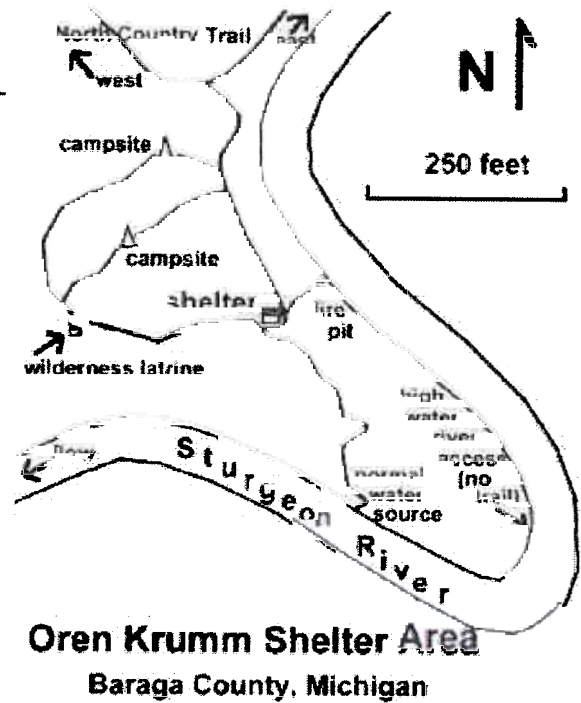
Someone had placed blue flagging on the NCT everywhere the fire had been severe. Thanks to whoever did that!

When we reached the trailhead at Forest Road 2233, at the east boundary of the Ottawa, we discovered that the sign that the chapter had installed had been burned, and the Ottawa's sign was nearly burned. The two posts holding the signs had been badly burned. Nearby we found the remains of a carsonite post, which had been partially melted.

The shelter was built on land owned at the time by Wisconsin Electric Power Company. About three miles of the NCT was also built on their land. The current owner is now officially We Energies. We Energies is attempting to sell the land where the shelter was located, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is beginning negotiations to purchase some of the land We Energies is selling in the area. If the sale goes through, it will probably be finalized in 2008 and will likely involve an intermediary, such as a land trust.

One interesting complication is that the Michigan DNR does not permit shelters on State Forest lands, and if the sale goes through, the land purchased would be an addition to the Baraga State Forest. However, our local DNR office and We Energies are working to have the sale language stipulate that the DNR would have to accept all developments in existence on the land at the time of the sale. This would include the NCT, various signs, the wilderness latrine, several bridges and boardwalks, etc. If the shelter does not exist at the time of the sale, it will not be grandfathered in.

At this time, We Energies has given the NCT Association permission to rebuild the shelter. Their terminology is very specific. We would need to construct a new shelter that is very similar to the shelter that burned. This probably means an open-fronted, lean-to design. The size could differ slightly, but the amenities the shelter provides could not exceed what were there before. In other words, no closed in building, no attached sauna (!), etc. An argument might be able to be made for using a more fireproof siding, although I believe the main reason the shelter burned was the lack of a "fireproof" space around the building. The location could also be slightly different. To be sure the shelter is in place before it can no longer be grandfathered in, we need to act soon. That means building a new shelter this summer.



-Doug Welker, Board Member

## Not Just A Shelter

While the loss of the North Country Trail shelter is very unfortunate, the loss is of particularly great significance because it had been built as a memorial to Oren Krumm, a Michigan Tech student and son of Marj and Ray Krumm, who died suddenly of a rare disease in the '90s. The shelter could be rebuilt, but the shelter logbook, where Oren's friends and various shelter visitors over the years had expressed their thoughts about Oren and on the shelter, and added comments on their hikes, overnight stays, and the weather, is irreplaceable. The shelter was also the base of operations for a number of Eagle Scout projects along the trail in the area.

It is amazing how many people have used this shelter, and care deeply about it. Within a week of the fire and before there was a formal announcement that the shelter had burned, I began receiving emails, many from people I had never heard of, asking how they could help.

Marj hopes that perhaps those who visited the shelter over the years and added their comments to the logbook could recollect some of what they wrote and some of the thoughts they had while there. She would like to reconstruct as much of the logbook info as possible. Recollections need not be perfect. If you can think of anything you wrote or thoughts you had while there, please send them to Marj at [mkrumm@up.net](mailto:mkrumm@up.net) or Marj Krumm, P.O. Box 1, Pelkie MI 49958.

-Doug Welker



*U.P. Environment*

What was left of the Oren Krumm Shelter after the fire.  
Photo by Doug Welker

## The Keweenaw Green Cemetery Project

Recently - at least quite recently for those of us in the United States - there has arisen a new mode by which we can act upon

the sensitivities and values we hold dear within our environmental conscience, that being, the manner we wish to have our corporeal body disposed of upon our death, and the relationship of that body with the Earth.

This is often an uncomfortable topic for many to contemplate at whatever age we might be at but, fortunately, there is a movement developing that is helping to broaden our consciousness about personal funeral planning, one that is compatible both with sustainability and ecological concerns.

That movement involves the use of green burial and the development of green conservation cemeteries. A green burial is one where there is no embalming of the body; where only a simple wooden casket or shroud is used (instead of a standard wood, steel, or plastic casket which contains non-biodegradable and toxic substances), and where a burial is directly into the earth (instead of being encased in a sealed concrete vault).

A green cemetery, sometimes established as a conservation cemetery, is one that attempts to maintain the cemetery land site in as natural a state as possible. Hence, there would be no manicured lawns, no polished granite headstones, no potted or artificial flowers. Instead, a new tree might be planted, or a native stone might be used, as a grave marker. Instead of asphalt car lanes, a simple hiking trail might meander through these woods, perhaps connecting with a broader trail system.

Green cemeteries are often in forested or meadow lands where the long term goal is to restore and preserve the land as a healthy ecosystem. It should also be noted that the green cemetery philosophy discourages cremation due to concern of toxic off-gassing, particular of mercury from dental fillings, during the cremation process.

In addition to environmental issues, another major factor which motivates the green burial/ green cemetery movement involves finding reasonable options to the current high costs and ostentatious consumption of conventional funerals.

The understanding would be that all irrevocable pledges and contributions would be received contingent upon successful state licensing of the cemetery. If legal or other issues prevent the establishment of the cemetery, then all funds would be returned in full and all pledges waived. For more information about this green cemetery project, please contact either Keren Tischler, (906) 487-9050; kbtischl@mtu.edu; or Vern Simula, (906) 482-3270, vsimula@up.net.

- Vern Simula [former UPEC Board Member]







Overlook at Bay Cliff in Big Bay  
Photo courtesy of Michigan Tech University

## **7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium – Action for a Superior Future..... A Successful Weekend!**

(The Lake Superior Youth Symposium is designed to bring together young people and their teachers with the goal of learning about and celebrating Lake Superior. We are all neighbors around this Great Lake and this weekend provides a chance for us to meet, talk, and share our stories. Many different aspects of life around the lake – human, plant and animal –

are shared throughout the weekend. Guided by experts in their areas, participants (teachers and students attend

sessions together) have opportunities to learn about plant and animal life in and around the lake, the geologic history of the area, environmental issues and concerns, stewardship skills, and the history of the people who were here before us. In the end it is intended that everyone walks away with a new or renewed sense of appreciation for this magnificent body of water we all live around.)

Over 130 middle and high school students and their teachers attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium held at Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay, Michigan, this past May. Participants came from Thunder Bay, Ontario, northern Wisconsin, the Keweenaw Peninsula, the central and eastern U.P., Wawa, Ontario and even from downstate Lapeer. This event was coordinated by three Marquette Area Public School teachers – Holly Warchock, and Ron Strazzinski and myself – with assistance from Ann Joyal and Susan Nazarko of the Seaborg Center for Math and Science at Northern Michigan University.



Joining Water—Students were asked to bring a small sample of water from their community. They poured their samples together at the start of the symposium to honor the water that binds them.

Photo courtesy of MTU

The weekend began with an opening ceremony which included students coming to the front, adding water to a basin and stating why Lake Superior was special to them. It was amazing to hear the young people share their thoughts about Lake Superior. Later that evening everyone was treated to a slide show presentation by Scot Stewart. Scot shared beautiful photos and spoke of his many adventures around Lake Superior.

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*Symposium* cont. from page 9)

Friday was filled with 25 different sessions which included geology hikes, Native American arts and music, learning about native Lake Superior fish, biodiesel production, invasive species and ecology of the lake, as well as many other topics. It was great to hear from so many students as well as adults about all they learned during the various sessions. Friday evening participants listened to Tom Farnquist explain how the bell from the Edmond Fitzgerald was recovered.

Saturday found the entire group heading to the Munising area and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for another day full of activities. Many chose to participate in full day excursions including a nine mile hike at Pictured Rocks, biking around Grand Island, canoeing down the AuTrain River or learning about carnivore research taking place at Pictured Rocks. Others chose shorter sessions which included cultural tours, hikes, stream studies and Native American arts and culture. Even though the bus ride was lengthy, everyone had a truly enjoyable day exploring this area.

In addition to each of the days' activities the group was lead through a series of problem solving skills by Paul Olson of the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development. Paul shared his knowledge of teaching young people how to become active in their own communities. By Sunday morning each school group was able to present a plan they were going to implement in their school or community. Not only did students learn about Lake Superior they also walked away with skills to be used as active citizens.

Everyone who participated had a wonderful time (even the young man who confessed to being "talked into coming" and by the end had to make sure he thanked everyone who he had contact with for making the weekend so special for him.). None of this would have been possible if it weren't for the presenters who were willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the participants. Every one of them was truly amazing. We also need to recognize the educators who took the time to bring the students to this event. It is great to see young people and their adult leaders working side by side learning new skills, information and ideas. One more thank you goes to the **Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition** for providing grant money to a number of students so that it was possible for them to attend this symposium. **UPEC** has been a great supporter of this program for a number of years and it has been very much appreciated!

For other photos and to learn more about this symposium., go to [www.mtu.edu](http://www.mtu.edu). The next Lake Superior Youth Symposium will be held in spring of 2009.



Students learn how to ID species of fish  
Photo courtesy of MTU

-Karen Bacula, UPEC Board Member

*U.P. Environment*

## **UPEC Sends Comments to UPPCO on their Draft Shoreline Management Plan**

(Following are excerpts from written comments sent to the Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) on behalf of UPEC by our V.P. Bill Malmsten, in response to that company's proposed management plan of the Cataract, Prickett, Bond, Victoria, Au Train, and Boney Falls basins. Malmsten noted the proposed plan "would severely degrade the natural conditions of the Basins, making them poorly suited for enjoyment by our members." In addition, he said, "This intense level of development is inconsistent with the provisions and intent of the operating licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission" otherwise referred to as FERC.)

Our objections to the draft SMPs center on the proposed non-project use of project lands, specifically the proposed granting of easements to property owners of lands bordering the project lands for the following purposes: The installation of private boat docks up to 150 feet in length. The installation of power lines to power lights on the docks with up to 300 watts per dock and to power boat lifts on the docks. The clearing of view corridors up to 200 feet in width through the projects lands so that bordering property owners will be able to view the basins from their homes. The construction of four-foot wide pathways through the project lands from private homes to their private docks on the basins.

- **Boat Dock Installation:**

Perhaps the largest negative impact would occur as a result of the proposed dock installations. A total of 837 individual lighted boat slips with electric powered boat lifts would be allowed in the six basins. It is unclear whether the electric power could be used by dock owners for other purposes such as powering boat lights or electronic music sound systems. The negative impact on the scenic values of the basins by the docks alone would be severe. When 837 boats are added to the docks, the affect would be devastating on the scenic and environmental values of the basins.

The environmental studies commissioned by UPPCO provided a detailed description of the basins, the associated project lands, and the flora and fauna present. However the impact of the proposed development on the flora and fauna was not covered or was not covered adequately. Many of the wildlife species noted in the studies, such as eagles, loons, and great blue herons, are know to be sensitive to human activity. The increase in boating activity, and the disturbance of shoreline habitat with 150 ft long boat docks would neither protect nor enhance environmental conditions for wildlife in and around the basins.

- **View Corridors:**

While the View Corridors up to 200 feet in width are intended to provide a view of the basins from the homes on lands bordering the project lands, such clearing would also make the homes visible from the basins. Our members and others who are visiting the basins to view the natural beauty of the landscape would be negatively impacted when the view of nature is replace by the view of private homes. Wildlife using the habitat provided by project lands would be negatively impacted by the clearing of the view corridors and by the increase human activity in the view corridors. The presence of the view corridors would neither protect nor enhance the scenic,

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## EXPLORING THE TWO HEARTED COUNTRY

(Lest we forget the point of all our efforts, here is a UPEC member's account of a trip to one of her favorite places in the U.P. - the Two Hearted River.)



Early August is my favorite time in the U.P. - not too hot or too cold and no black flies. Birds are laying low but you can't ask for perfection.

The Two Hearted River area is about as remote and wild as it gets in the Eastern UP, and during two days of canoeing we only saw three cabins. We stayed in a small, primitive campground overlooking the river. Primitive means a hand pump for water and outhouses. Timing our arrival to avoid weekend crowds, we had the river to ourselves and shared the campground with only one other party at the opposite end.

Having to depend on a shuttle service to take us upstream the first morning, we got a relatively late 10 AM start for the estimated 6 hour trip to the campground. The overcast sky and a temperature in the high 60's was ideal for steady paddling and a breeze kept the mosquitoes at bay. The 50% chance of rain luckily never materialized.

The upper stretch of the Two Hearted River is small and mostly uncleared. The current starts out quite fast with riffles over rocks and gravel and then alternates between faster riffles and slower, deep water. The terrain is hills of hardwoods at first with lowlands of mostly tag alder and Red-osier Dogwood and cedar swamp downstream.

Our focus was on staying upright as we constantly skirted downfalls and logjams. We stayed dry but not without some tense moments, getting hung up on logs or fighting the bushes on the banks while squeezing through canoe-width openings. The second of two portages was fairly rough and long and we were glad to have only a minimum of gear along.

We saw and heard many robins feasting on the ripening dogwood berries and several groups of warbler-size birds whose identity mostly escaped us since the binoculars were safely tucked away in our packs and stopping would have been difficult. Some of the sandbanks were covered with joe-pye weed in bloom along with a smattering of other wet-loving plants. There were quite a few butterflies nectaring on the flowers, but the river held our attention so that we only picked out Monarchs readily.

The lower stretch of the Two Hearted River is a little wider with considerably fewer obstacles, which made for a more leisurely trip the next day. It was cool but the sun was shining as we got an early morning start.

Moderate current and fairly deep water alternate with short, light riffles over gravel bars. Low hills of hardwoods and conifers rise up from the river's occasionally steep banks, which is probably why some of the big White Pines escaped the loggers. The last stretch of the river parallels Lake Superior quite closely and in spots dunes line the banks. On a previous trip when a strong, northerly wind was whipping up the surf on the lakeshore, we could hear it fade in and out with each loop of the river, long before the it spills into the lake.

We had the binoculars at the ready but the birds were laying low. Several times we saw Spotted  
(Continued on page 15)



*(Two Hearted Country cont. from pg. 14)*

sandpipers feeding on sandbars in the river. Once we heard a loud slap behind us as from a beaver tail, but it eluded our eyes. Movement and noise in a bush had us stumped for a while. A red squirrel was sitting in a pine above the bush dropping cones.

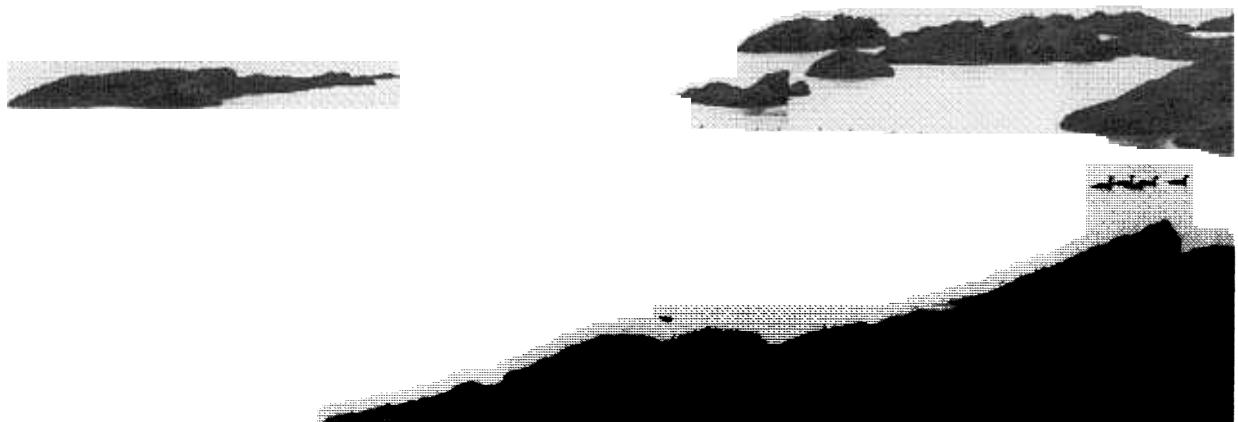
One last adventure in the Two Hearted area was an after-dinner hike. Near the campground was a two-track which we hoped would lead to Lake Superior. Walking was hard in the loose sand, so when we unexpectedly came across the North County Trail leading in the same direction we followed that. Walking was easier but progress was still slow - lots of tasty, ripe blueberries at the trailside.

The terrain was mostly flat with jack pine the dominant tree, and the low-growing blueberries and bracken fern as understory. Not the sort of place we expected to see a coyote but Russ got a glimpse of one.

Suddenly we came to a very steep bank down which led moss-covered log steps. The flora changed dramatically and became much more diverse and indicative of a richer, moister soil. You could actually feel the change in humidity as we descended. A mixture of hardwoods and conifers, the trees were much larger and by their size may not have been cut since the early days of logging. The layered understory included one bush that surprised us, Labrador Tea, which we previously had only associated with open bogs.

This band of moist woods was not much more than 50 yards wide and changed to an even narrower and slightly uphill band of dry woods before opening to a low dune and Lake Superior beach. As far as we could see to either side, the coast appeared undeveloped, most of it protected by state land. We would have liked to stay for the sunset but walking back in the dark seemed a bit foolhardy.

By Ilse Gebhard, UPEC member



“Superior Shoreline, between Eagle Harbor and Copper Harbor’  
Photo copyright 1983 by Eric Munch

*(UPEC Comments cont. from pg. 12)*

recreational, and environmental values of the project as required by the project licenses and by the Standard Land Use Article.

While the conveyance of easements is provided for in the license agreements for certain purposes under certain circumstances, the clearing of View Corridors is not among the listed possible purpose for easements.

- **Pedestrian Paths and Wooden Walkways:**

The four-foot width of the pedestrian paths would seem to be wider than necessary for foot travel. The presence of wooden stairs and walkways could negatively affect the scenic values of the project. The provision allowing the storage of docks, boat lifts, and ramps on the pedestrian paths within in project lands would negatively affect scenic values of the project.

- **Predetermined Outcome of Planning Process:**

UPPCO seems to have used the elaborate planning process to try to justify the intense level of development that they had already decided upon before the planning process began.

As a member of the eastern basin Focus Group, I attended every eastern basin focus group meeting. At each meeting I made most of the points that are listed above. The members of the eastern basin focus group were largely opposed to the intense development of the basins. Yet the opinions of the focus group members seemed have been largely ignored in the draft SMPs in favor of the desires of Natterra Land Company managers, the purchaser of the bordering non-project lands.

I understand that Wisconsin Public Service (UPPCO's parent company) 2005 report to stock holders indicates that UPPCO sold a portion of its real estate holdings for 5.9 million dollars, with the possibility of realizing up to an additional 3.0 million dollars as certain contingencies are resolved. If in fact those contingencies include the project land easements being granted to Natterra's lot purchasers, then it may be clear why UPPCO is favoring Natterra over the needs and desires of the people. It appears that it will be very difficult for UPPCO managers to objective in the development of Shoreline Management Plans and that close scrutiny by The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is in order.

- **Conclusion:**

The rapid development of the shorelines of lakes and streams for home construction in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is causing wildlife habitat, and scenic and recreational opportunities to disappear. The licensing agreements for the hydroelectric projects were designed to protect the shorelines from development for wildlife habitat and for the scenic and recreational enjoyment by the public. UPPCO is trying to cash in on the demand for shoreline lots by developing the project basins in conflict with the spirit and letter of the licensing agreements. The process used to develop the SMPs is flawed because of UPPCO manager's bias for development. An Environmental Assessment by a neutral party is needed in order to determine the affect of the proposed development on the scenic, recreational, and other environmental values of the project. We believe that the proposed easements through project lands should not be allowed.

-WilliamMalmsten, UPEC Vice President

## Non-Ferrous Metal Mining Update

(While the Yellow Dog Plains and the name Kennecott spring to mind whenever metallic sulfide mining of U.P. wilderness areas comes up, the following report from PEC board member and Central U.P. Sierra Club member David Allen reminds us that the Plains aren't the only focus of exploratory drilling. And Kennecott isn't the only company interested in what lies below the surface of U.P. forestland.)

I went down to the Shakey Lakes area of Menominee County June 16 to participate in a survey of macroinvertebrates (bugs) at six selected sites around the proposed mine site. We noted that Aquila (a mining company) had at least two rigs drilling away and the parking lot around their field office was full of cars—evidence of action. They have announced their intent to apply for a permit in the fall of 2008 and are conducting the various baseline surveys the part 632 law and regulations require. The little streams around the mine site are, to use that overused word, pristine. The country around the site is nice. We need to be watchful and to let Aquila know that we are being watchful. The Water Sentinels will be doing another macroinvertebrate survey in early fall. Let me know if you might want to participate. (dakken@nmu.edu or 906-228-9453)

-Dave Allen, Board Member



Old Growth hardwoods in  
Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness  
Photo courtesy Doug Welker

### More Upcoming North Woods Native Plant Society Field Trips

August 4-5 (Sat. & Sun) - Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness  
with Doug Welker, geologist, and 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 over Saturday night.

August 18-19 (Sat. & Sun.) - Aquatic Plant workshop by the Gratiot Lake Conservancy

August 25 (Sat.) - Big Iron River near Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park  
With Ian Shackleford, USFS botanist

Sept. 29 (Sat.) - Public Lands Day, Ottawa National Forest, Ian Shackleford, USFS botanist  
*U.P. Environment*