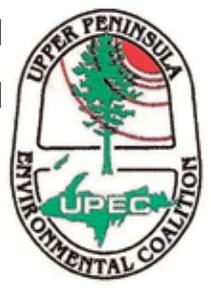


UP Environment



Fall 2014

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition's quarterly newsletter.
UPEC is the UP's oldest grassroots environmental organization.
Join us for UPEC's next Board meeting: Sunday, Oct. 12
at the Ford Forestry Center in Alberta from 1 to 4 p.m.



Lawmakers subvert science; seek to silence citizens

By Nancy Warren, UPEC Board Member

In August, the Michigan Legislature passed the inaccurately named Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to continue a highly unscientific wolf hunt. This measure was bolstered by Michigan Senator Tom Casperson's false claims that the public needs protection from "marauding" (May 2013 statement in support of SB288) wolf "herds" (Senate Floor statement on April 2013 and Sept. 2013 *MLive* interview) roaming the UP (the public does not need protection). Cries perpetuated by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Safari Club International, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, that "hunting rights" (Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management) are in jeopardy (they're not) added further pressure for this legislation.

The initiative's name is deceptive as it has nothing to do with conservation and it is not based on science. Michigan's own world-renowned wolf scientists have repeatedly rejected the efficacy of using a hunting season to manage



A wolf roaming the Ontonagon River Valley region of the western UP. Last year's wolf hunt had a severe impact on a pack around the east branch of this river system. Trail cam photo

wolf conflicts. Casperson even misrepresented Dr. Rolf Peterson's testimony opposing the wolf hunt legislation, referring to him as "Dr. Wolf." Rather, the initiative was driven *Wolf Politics* See Page 6

UPEC, 3 others intervene in Sylvania motorboat lawsuit

By Robert Evans, UPEC Board Member

David and Pamela Herr, seasonal cabin owners on Crooked Lake near the Sylvania Wilderness border, filed suit against the U.S. Forest Service on May 13. The Herrs allege that the Forest Service regulation prohibiting the

use of gas motorboats on the wilderness portion of Crooked Lake is illegal. About 95% of Crooked Lake lies within the Sylvania Wilderness, but the northernmost portion of the lake where the Herrs and a few other people own property is outside the wilderness.

Background

In 1995, the Forest Service issued Amendment 5 to the Ottawa National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan, prohibiting the use of gas-powered motors on the portion of Crooked Lake that falls within the boundaries of the Sylvania Wilderness. Three riparian owners (Kathy Stupak-Thrall, Bodil Gajewski and Michael Gajewski) challenged this amendment in court. U.S. District Court Judge Robert Holmes Bell eventually ruled against the Forest Service in 1997, stating that Amendment 5 was "invalid as applied to these Plaintiffs." Bell enjoined the Forest Service "from implementing the restrictions of Amendment No. 5 against the Plaintiffs and their guests." (*Stupak-Thrall v. Glick-Sylvania Lawsuit* See Page 2



Amy and Dave Freeman (in canoe with signatures) receive a send-off from Duluth as they head east to the UP. They are sailing and paddling to the White House to celebrate the Wilderness Act's 50th anniversary and to protect the Boundary Waters and wild places from sulfide mining. Photo by Aaron Klemz, Friends of Boundary Waters

UPEC continues its advocacy for Sylvania Wilderness

Sylvania Lawsuit From Page 1 man, U.S. District Court, Western District Michigan, Northern Division, 1997). Judge Bell did not specifically apply this ruling to the other riparian owners on Crooked Lake.

In 2006, the Forest Service issued a new Land and Resources Management Plan for the Ottawa National Forest. This plan continued the motorboat restrictions contained in the 1995 plan. It recognized Bell's injunction and stated that the restrictions did not apply to the plaintiffs in the 1995 litigation. It noted, however, that Bell's injunction did not apply to other riparian owners on the lake. According to the Herrs' complaint, they purchased their property on Crooked Lake in 2010, four years after the Forest Service issued the 2006 Forest Plan.

UPEC's Decision to Intervene

On July 25, UPEC, the Friends of Sylvania, Sylvania Wilderness Cabins, and Timothy Schmidt, owner of this resort on Crooked Lake, filed a motion in U.S. District Court for intervenor status in the Herr lawsuit. The intervenors, referred to in the filing as the "Wilderness Supporters," are being represented by the Environmental Law and Policy Center. The intervenors are seeking to ensure that their aesthetic, recreational, environmental, riparian, and financial interests in restricting gas motorboats on Crooked Lake are adequately represented in the litigation.

The motion to intervene states:

Motorboat usage on Crooked Lake adversely impacts the Wilderness Supporters' Sylvania Wilderness experience and, in some cases, also has an adverse impact on their riparian and financial interests. Their interests will continue to be harmed if Plaintiffs succeed in their lawsuit or reach a resolution with the United States Forest Service that is unfavorable to the Wilderness Supporters.

USFS Motion to Dismiss

In a related development, the U.S. Forest Service filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit on July 18. The Forest Service argues that the Herrs' claims against the motorboat restrictions in the 2006 Forest Plan are barred by the six-year limitations period in 28 U.S.C. § 2401(a). The Forest Service also argues that the Herrs failed to exhaust administrative remedies with respect to the 2006 Forest Plan. Finally, the Forest Service argues that a letter sent from the Forest Service to all riparian owners on Crooked Lake in 2013, reiterating the existing rules governing the use of motorboats within Sylvania Wilderness, is not a "reviewable agency action", as the Herrs claim.

Current Status

On August 14, a hearing on the motion to intervene was held in U.S.

District Court in Marquette. The judge heard arguments from all sides, and ultimately decided in favor of granting intervenor status for the Wilderness Supporters, including UPEC. The judge also set a timeline for the parties to present arguments related to the U.S. Forest Service's motion to dismiss. A hearing on this matter is expected this fall.

In UPEC's view, it is critical that Forest Service wilderness regulations (and specifically the regulation prohibiting use of gas motorboats within wil-



The serenity, beauty, and integrity of Sylvania remains threatened. Photo by Robert A. Evans

derness) ultimately be strongly affirmed by the court. Sylvania is a gem that UPEC and other organizations fought hard to have designated as wilderness back in the 1980s, and we will continue to fight to protect its wilderness character from intrusions such as unauthorized gas motorboat use.

About UPEC...

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a 40-year track record of protecting and seeking to enhance the unique environmental qualities of the UP through public education and 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.

UP Environment is published four times a year and available online to share with family & friends. Send your comments or contributions to UPEC by standard mail at P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931, or e-mail us at upec@upenvironment.org. You can also visit us at www.upenvironment.org

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Michigan, Wisconsin DNRs coaxing sturgeon comeback

By Bill Ziegler

The sturgeon fishery on the Michigan/Wisconsin Border, the Menominee River is very historic and unique. The Menominee Indian Tribe lived in this watershed and thrived partly due to its productive sturgeon fishery. The primitive sturgeon formerly flourished in Lake Michigan's Green Bay and annually ran up the river 83 miles to Sturgeon Falls, site of the present Sturgeon Falls Dam. Most of the Menominee Indian settlements were located at confluences with major tributaries or rapids in the Menominee that were concentration points for sturgeon, whitefish, walleye, and other fish that annually ran the river. Between ample seasonal fisheries, wild rice, and agriculture, the Menominee tribe flourished in the range of the sturgeon runs. Indian villages were sparse above the Great Lakes fish run area of the Menominee.

The sturgeon fishery declined greatly in the Great Lakes due to overfishing and loss of habitat mostly due to damming the rivers and water pollution. The sturgeon runs in many rivers were largely lost, although the species survived at a reduced level in the Menominee River.

The lake sturgeon is an extremely long-lived fish and can live over 100 years, although they are not prolific in terms of natural reproduction. As a result, they do not recover quickly if their numbers are greatly reduced for any reason. Female sturgeon do not sexually mature until they are about 25 years old. Once they mature, the females only spawn on average about once every five years. As a result, a sturgeon population cannot sustain a high mortality rate.

Sturgeon can grow very large with lake sturgeon typically larger than river fish. Most of the sturgeon in the lower Menominee (below the first "Hattie Street" dam only 2.5 miles upstream) are lake residents much of the year. The sturgeon in the Menominee established a resident population of fish in part of their old range after the five hydro dams were built between 1909 and 1927. Until recently, the resident sturgeon inhabited about 39 miles of their former 83 miles of river. Game wardens have recently reported that a few sturgeon have been caught below the Sturgeon Falls Dam near their former upper limit. These fish are likely the result of a long-term cooperative stocking effort between the Wisconsin and Michigan DNRs headed by Tom Thuemler and Greg Kornely of the Wisconsin DNR Fisheries.

The current Michigan state record sturgeon is 193 pounds. A sturgeon was recently captured by the Wisconsin DNR in Lake Winnebago's Wolf River that was 87.5 inches in length and weighed about 240 pounds. In the Menominee River a typical 10-year-old sturgeon is about 24 to 29 inches in length. A typical 25 to 30-year-old fish is about 50 inches and 25 pounds. A 60-inch fish is usually about 40 to 45 years old and weighs about 60 pounds.

The current minimum size limit for Menominee River sturgeon is 60 inches, although no sturgeon may be possessed below the lowest (Hattie Street) dam in the mouth of the river. The no possession rule was initiated when new angling pressure from anglers residing outside of Wisconsin and Michigan greatly increased the mortality rate on the limited number of large fish in the mouth of the river.



Michigan Conservation Officer Terry Short of Menominee (left) and science teacher Erich Ziegler of Crystal Falls-Forest Park holding a large sturgeon before returning it to the river.

Photo by Bill Ziegler

Sturgeon anglers must obtain a tag to be placed on any possessed fish. These tags may be obtained from the respective state DNR or a license agent in either Michigan or Wisconsin. Only one sturgeon may be taken per year. Wisconsin charges \$20 (\$50 for nonresident) for a sturgeon license. To date, the cash-strapped Michigan DNR has not elected to charge a fee for sturgeon fishing, even though considerable effort is expended managing these fish. The Menominee River sturgeon angling season starts the first Saturday in September and runs until Sept. 30.

Most sturgeon angling takes place from the White Rapids Dam downstream to the McAllister Bridge. Anglers do catch sturgeon below the Hattie Street Dam although the fish must immediately be released. Any angler who catches a sturgeon in Green Bay, Lake Michigan, or most other waters must release it immediately. An extremely limited spear fishery does take place in Northern Lower Michigan's Black Lake in February. More details on that may be obtained from contacting the Gaylord DNR Office at 989-732-3541. Sturgeon regulations can be specifically referred to in the Michigan and Wisconsin DNR fishing guides.

The Michigan and Wisconsin DNR fisheries staff have cooperated for many decades conducting a large population Sturgeon Comeback See Page 4

Sturgeon monitoring aids recovery efforts on Menominee

Sturgeon Comeback From Page 3
tion estimate of the Menominee sturgeon population. Until 1990 the population estimate was conducted once each decade. After that a more limited effort was conducted approximately annually to keep in closer contact with this vulnerable fishery. Four index stations covering over 30 miles of river are regularly surveyed. The survey effort requires a considerable participation by both DNR fisheries staff.

Typically four large electrofishing boats are used in formation to catch these fish in a large open river. We often find the sturgeon just above or below rapids, although they

surveyed the fish it usually took two strong individuals to handle the fish without them breaking away. Their skin is tough, similar to shark skin, and made up with dermal denticles and bony plates rather than scales. They are one of the more primitive fish found in Michigan.

Sturgeon spawn in the spring (typically May) and under normal habitat conditions would run out of a large lake up a river. This migratory pattern played a role in a recent mystery that was observed in Menominee River sturgeon. A few adult fish were found floating in the lower sections of the river with fractured skulls. At first DNR authorities were quite concerned that this was the result of attempted poaching. After the fish were examined by a Federal Forensic Lab it was concluded that these fish were damaging themselves on the concrete sills below the spillways as they attempted to move over the dams spillways as they moved downstream. Fish ladders were installed in the five dams in the sturgeon's historical range to allow fish to pass upstream, but they did not work. New technology is being tried by the Michigan and Wisconsin DNRs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and hydropower operators to make upstream and downstream sturgeon passage a reality again.



A young sturgeon. The area below Grand Rapids typically produces the most juvenile sturgeon.

Photo by Bill Ziegler

can also be scattered through deeper pools and river runs. The survey can get rather exciting trying to net a large sturgeon at the head of a rapids in the electrofishing boats just before shooting the rapids with the survey boat. One or two additional boats transfer the captured sturgeon to the workup boat to minimize stress on the fish. The fish are measured and tagged with a small internal pit tag similar to what veterinarians inject under the skin of dogs. These tags are not lost the way the historical external sturgeon tags used to be, and can give considerable detailed information on each fish for many decades to come. The fish need to be checked with an electronic pit tag reader to obtain tag information. From this information biologists can follow sturgeon recruitment, survival rates, and movement patterns to evaluate and adjust the current regulations.

Although sturgeon spawn in several locations, historical records and decades of survey work have determined that the Grand Rapids is still the most important sturgeon spawning area in the Menominee River. The Grand Rapids was modified to create the Grand Rapids Dam and Power Canal and reducing approximately two miles of major rapids to one mile of whitewater. The area below Grand Rapids typically produces the most juvenile sturgeon in the joint surveys. Although larger sturgeon are found in all the surveyed areas, the deeper areas of the Menominee River in the Wausaukee Bend area are good habitat for larger fish along with the mouth of the river.

A large sturgeon is an extremely powerful fish and many anglers who hook them rarely land them. When we

Sturgeon's diet consists of aquatic insect larvae, small mollusks, invertebrates, and injured or dead small fish. Anglers typically fish for them with night crawlers deployed on the bottom with a large weight. The sturgeon has a mouth on the bottom that it uses to suck up its food. Anglers hoping to land a sturgeon must have a strong rod similar to those used for salmon. The method to fish for them is similar to pursuing catfish. Catfish are also present below Grand Rapids on the Menominee River. Even if you don't catch a 60-inch sturgeon or choose to keep one, you may catch some catfish to eat. It is a thrill to catch and handle sturgeon, even if you release this fish. With the price of replica fish mounts similar to actual fish mounts, you could have the pleasure of retaining the mount and still release this special fish to live and spawn for many more years.

Anglers can obtain sturgeon information at DNR Fishing web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr The fisheries biologists who manage the Menominee are currently in Escanaba and their phone number is 906-786-2351.

*Bill Ziegler graduated from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources with a fisheries degree. He worked as a federal fisheries biologist in the UP, northern Wisconsin, and Minnesota, (the upper Great Lakes and middle Mississippi River). Recently retired, he spent the last 24 years as a Michigan DNR fisheries management biologist in Crystal Falls. Bill writes for the outdoor page of the **Iron Mountain Daily News** and two Michigan outdoor magazines.*

Would proposed Gay stamp sand removal benefit environment?

By Horst Schmidt

There was a public hearing at the Schoolcraft Township Hall in Lake Linden on June 24 regarding a request by Torch Lake Industries of Hillsdale, Illinois to remove 2.15 million tons of stamp sands from the Lake Super-



Old retaining wall amid the stamp sands surrounding Gay's abandoned Mohawk Stamp Mill. The sands have degraded a wide beach and benthic zone.

Photo by Kevin R. Cassell

rior shoreline in a 46-acre area south of Gay. The sand would be shipped by boat to the Chicago area. Company officials estimate the project would operate for five years by dredging the stamp sand that has moved into the paleochannel of an ancient river bed in the vicinity of the old coal dock area. One use of the sand would be for roofing materials resistant to moss, lichens, and algae.

The presenters were Linda Hansen of the Baraga DEQ office, Tom Graf, DEQ Great Lakes Submerged Lands section, and Charles Kerfoot, MTU Lake Superior Ecosystem Research Center. Tom Logue of Torch Lake Industries was also present.

Torch Lake Industries' request has been made to the DEQ under Part 325 of NREPA covering Great Lakes bottom lands and Part 13, the permitting section. After the hearing, the state has until October 11 to make a decision. An Army Corps of Engineers permit, which has separate requirements, will also be necessary should the state rule to move forward.

Part 325 says the bottom lands are held in trust by the state. The Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) defines the boundary between the public land and private property. The OHWM boundary has been determined to be 602.6 feet above sea level. The company would be able to dredge all stamp sands down to the natural base shoreward of the OHWM. DEQ reviews an application for riparian rights, public trust, and consistency with similar projects.

Linda Hansen emphasized all stamp sands are not equal, referring in particular to Torch Lake's twice ground stamp sand and chemicals from milling practices. Regarding similar projects, the following are on the table:

1. Greensands Inc. has also requested a permit near Gay. They are not yet at the point where the State of Michigan has a completed application.
2. The Army Corps of Engineers and DEQ are pursuing a project to stop the spread of stamp sands in this area onto Buffalo Reef. Buffalo Reef is a major spawning area for lake trout. Regional Native Americans and other citizens are concerned about the loss of this spawning habitat and potential effects on the fishery.
3. Under Schoolcraft Township auspices, but related to concerns over stamp sand migration, a permit was issued in May to dredge Traverse Bay Harbor which is adversely effected by the southward movement of the Gay stamp sands.

Professor Kerfoot presented his group's research in the area which

shows significant movement of the original deposits southward from 1932 and continuing to the present. The amount of the deposits is approximately 10-16 million metric tons. The stamp sands have a high copper concentration that kills the benthic (lake bottom) life in the area. Kerfoot's research group verified this level of toxicity by planting organisms in ponds surrounded by sands. The plants died within two weeks. Buffalo Reef, as mentioned above, is in danger of being engulfed by the sands. Underwater photos show boulders with and without stamp sand. Areas without stamp sands have algae conducive to life while areas with sands are barren.

Traverse Bay has a harbor of refuge designation. The sands have overtopped the breakwater. According to residents, they have significant changes in sand depth in front of their homes. My own tour of the area encountered houses that sit lower behind a dune-like stamp sand landscape. A very dynamic beach environment exists where the Big Traverse River runs through extensive wetlands behind the sands before heading into the lake.

There were more than 50 people at the meeting and comment session. Most attendees appear to be affected land owners. They appeared to be somewhat skeptical toward the state people in regards to the project. Their main concern is the effects of the proposed project on their properties.

Is this proposed project a good idea? It appears to remove some problem sands from the shore where they have the ability to overwhelm the littoral ecosystem – that is if the company follows the rules and the methods of removal do less harm than if the sand is left in place. Concerns expressed by the DEQ and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding Buffalo Reef and Greensands Inc.'s interest would indicate that sound environmental engineering could help improve the area.

Legislature's actions regarding wolves: An assault on Constitution & science?

Wolf Politics From Page 1
by those who want to hunt and trap wolves for sport, out of hatred, or because of misplaced fear. This act has been the third attempt in less than two years to silence the hundreds of thousands of registered Michigan voters who signed petitions exercising their constitutional right to challenge two laws allowing wolves to be hunted.

The Scientific Fish and Wildlife Act will become effective 90 days following the close of the legislative session, approximately March 2015. It will allow the politically appointed Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to designate species as game and establish the rules and regulations for hunting or trapping that species. First on their list, will be the wolf—after all, this is the sole reason that the act was passed. No one knows which species will be next—it could be the Sandhill Crane or almost any other traditional non-game species. What we do know is that any Michigan citizen who disagrees with those decisions will no longer be able to challenge them because, as an administrative body, NRC decisions cannot be contested, except through the courts.

As a diversionary tactic, the act added free hunting and fishing licenses for active military personnel (who currently pay only one dollar for them). This provision will result in the loss of federal payments from Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson excise tax funds which are allocated to states based on the number of paid licenses purchased by their residents. These taxes support programs for the management, conservation, and restoration of fishery resources.

With \$27.5 million in federal funds plus an additional \$14 million of state funding, the control of aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp, is already considered a high priority. Yet, the third provision of the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Act contains an appropriation of \$1 million to control invasive aquatic species such as Asian carp with no mention of how it will be funded. No one is fooled: the very obvious real purpose of this allocation was to stop a third referendum because laws with appropriations cannot be challenged by citizens.

The act's passage poses several legal questions. Article 4, Section 24 of the Michigan Constitution stipulates that a law cannot contain multiple unrelated subjects. This act contains three. Because this was a citizen-initiated law that contains an appropriation, it also raises a constitutional question, because any law proposed by an initiative petition should be subject to referendum.

On Nov. 4, there will be two wildlife referendums on the ballot. The first challenges Public Act 520 of 2012, which specifically designated the wolf as a game animal.



Photo by Bob Landis

The second challenges Public Act 21 of 2013, which authorized the NRC to designate species, such as the wolf, as game. It is important that voters say “No” to both, because if either law is allowed to stand, a wolf hunting/trapping season could still take place this year.

Voting “No” does not affect the rules or regulations of any species currently hunted or trapped or the methods used to hunt those species, nor does it affect current laws that allow the lethal control of problem wolves. Voting “No” impacts only wolves and restores wolves to the nongame status. DNR will still retain the ability to manage wolves through non-lethal and lethal measures. Livestock producers and dog owners will still be allowed to kill any wolf in the act of attacking their animals. Livestock producers will still receive fair market value compensation for any animal killed by a wolf, and livestock producers will still be granted permits allowing them to designate up to ten shooters/trappers to kill wolves on their property following a verified loss. Voting “No” on both referendums means there would be no wolf hunting/trapping season in 2014.

The referendums that voters will see in the November election will ask two important questions:

1. ***Should Michigan's population of 636 wolves be a hunted game species, and***
2. ***Should an unelected body who is not obligated to utilize peer-reviewed scientific data or consider citizen input during the decision making process be allowed to designate wolves as game species?***

I believe the answer to both is a resounding “No!” For more information, contact nancy@wolfwatcher.org

Anatomy of a political struggle:

Michigan's citizens & legislature wrestle over wolves

January 2012 - Michigan wolves removed from federal protection with an estimated population of 687 wolves. Michigan DNR allows lethal control of wolves responsible for livestock losses. Producers authorized to kill any wolf "in the act" of attacking livestock.

December 2012 - Michigan legislation passes during the lame duck session designating the wolf a game species, allowing for a hunting and/or trapping season to be set. Governor Rick Snyder signs legislation and it becomes Public Act 520.

January 2013 - A wide variety of stakeholders including conservation groups, animal welfare organizations, Native American tribes, wildlife biologists, faith groups, veterinarians, hunters, farmers, and concerned Michigan citizens come together to challenge PA 520 through the veto referendum process.

March 2013 - In just 67 days, over 250,000 signatures are collected from throughout each of the 83 Michigan counties and submitted to the Secretary of State. Michigan's wolf population estimated at 658.

May 2013 - Implementation of PA 520 suspended pending the outcome of the Nov. 4, 2014 referendum. However, in a deliberate attempt to circumvent voters, legislators pass and Governor Snyder signs Public Act 21 extending authority to the politically-appointed Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to designate species (not just the wolf) as game. NRC begins the process of adding wolves to the list of game species.

July 2013 - Using their newly-granted power under PA 21 and despite testimony of leading wolf biologists opposing it, the NRC once again designates the wolf as a game species and established a wolf hunting season. The lone member of the NRC with an advanced degree in natural resources management votes no on both items. She has since resigned from the NRC.

A second signature gathering effort begins, this time challenging PA 21.

October 2013 - While signatures were still being gathered for the second referendum (PA 21), Michigan's first wolf hunt in almost 50 years begins with 22 wolves killed.

November 2013 - A new group called "Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management" (CPWM), made up of hunting/trapping interests and endorsed by the very legislators who sponsored the laws designating the wolf as a game species and allowing the NRC to designate game species, begins gathering signatures calling for the "Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act." The initiative recycles language from PA 21 allowing the NRC to designate game species.

An investigation by *MLive.com* reveals that false or incomplete data was used to justify the need for a wolf hunt. (http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/11/michigans_wolf_hunt_how_half_t.html)

March 2014 - 229,000 signatures, again collected in every county, were submitted challenging PA 21.

May 2014 - Michigan's wolf population is now estimated at 636. The Board of Canvassers certifies signatures for the second referendum suspending PA 21.

Different ways to support UPEC

Consider contributing to UPEC in honor or memory of a special friend or loved one.

When you make a gift on behalf of another person, we will send an acknowledgment of the gift to that person or his/her family, so enclose mailing information. When you contribute on behalf of someone else, encourage them to become a UPEC member through your gift.

Do you or someone you know have a wedding in the future? Consider making it a "green wedding" by designating UPEC as a recipient of honor gifts. UPEC has a JustGive link at its website that you can use to do this.

July 2014 - The Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management signatures are certified by the Secretary of State and submitted to the legislature for approval. There were almost 300,000 signatures in support of this nonscientific and non-conservation-oriented approach to wolf management.

August 2014 - Both the Michigan Senate and House pass the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act allowing the NRC to designate a species as game, granting active military personnel free hunt/fishing licenses, and allowing for \$1million to combat the threat of Asian Carp. This act will become effective Spring 2015.

November 4, 2014 - Election Day. Voters are asked to cast "No" votes on the two wolf hunting referendums. This would suspend PA 520 and PA 21 and begin restoring a more scientific approach to wolf management in the state.

Remembering & renewing the spirit of Aileen Fisher

Day camp nurtures environmental stewards

By Maggie Scheffer, UPEC Board Member

On Aug. 5, for the third consecutive year, children in Iron County enjoyed a full day of outdoor education at the Iron County Museum in Caspian. Funded in part by a UPEC Environmental Education Grant, the Aileen Fisher Environmental Day Camp provided varied experiences designed to increase children's awareness of local natural history, deepen their understanding of healthy ecosystems, and develop a sense of respect for the natural world.

The day camp was named after Aileen Fisher, writer and naturalist who grew up in Iron River and lived nearly a century (from 1906 to 2002). Fisher wrote over 100 books for

processing to a group of older children. The reward for their work: a bowl of Roger's Wild Rice Fruit Salad.

Adjacent to the rice camp, children were further immersed in traditional Native American life as they learned from Ron Jones about the many useful items that could be made as a result of a successful hunt. Seated in a circle within a tepee, Ron explained cultural etiquette and spiritual reverence of indigenous traditions.

Nancy Warren, UPEC board member and Timber Wolf Alliance representative, spoke about human and wolf co-existence, dispelling common myths and misinformation about wolves in our region.

Active outdoor games kept everyone moving throughout the day while emphasizing the balance of nature. No one went hungry, especially those participating in the making of "Funtastic Foods" who made their own nutrition packed smoothies from seasonal fruit and yogurt.

During the conclusion to the day's activities, 30 volunteer presenters and adult leaders joined all 40 children for a moving performance of a song, pledging actions that we can take to reduce human impact on the environment.



Nick Baumgart, an MSU outdoor shooting sports/environmental education leader, looks closely with campers at an unusual insect larva found by a child during the environmental scavenger hunt.

Photo by Maggie Scheffer

children, most in rhyming text, exploring plant and animal topics and arousing young readers' curiosity and appetite for outdoor discovery.

At the beginning of the day, children were challenged to think of themselves as stewards of the environment, which requires an awareness of one's relationship to the natural environment and a personal sense of place within it. As stewards, we recognize the interdependence of all life, and assume responsibility for its care and protection.

Young children were introduced to the web of life, with a story by Aileen Fisher and an active outdoor game. Others re-purposed cardboard cracker and cereal boxes to construct a "magic recycled wallet" in which they kept their local currency for purchases in the museum gift shop. Cardboard tubes became whimsical puppets, while jewelry was fashioned with clay and wood beads and other natural treasures.

Roger LaBine of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa set up an authentic wild rice processing camp and provided hands-on experience with each phase of



Possibilities abound when it comes to up-cycling! A day camper shows a puppet sourced from a cardboard tube and fabric scraps.

Photo by Maggie Scheffer

One day, one place, one effort to draw children outdoors to learn from their environment; yet if this camp could be multiplied many times over for children throughout our region, imagine a generation that might begin approaching solutions to environmental concerns as true stewards of our natural resources.

Maggie Scheffer is an educator, gardener, and advocate of outdoor play.

Copper Harbor students garden around the Keweenaw

By Lloyd Wescoat

The students and teaching staff at the Grant Township School in Copper Harbor would like to thank UPEC for the Environmental Education Grant they received this year. The money was used to purchase hand tools, gloves, and a garden cart used to plant a sunflower garden and a raised bed vegetable garden. At the end of the school year, UPEC's funding also supported a field trip to Michigan Tech where students toured various campus gardens. The whole project has enriched the education and experiences of nine very thankful children and their teacher.



joyed getting the squares filled and learning about the hand pump for watering on dryer days. Back in the classroom, we noticed that the garden can be seen from the school windows – just another reason to gaze outside, into the distance!

During an end-of-year field trip to Michigan Tech, students visited the Great Lakes Research Center's limnology lab to learn about aquatic food chains and the need to pro-



Photos by Lloyd Wescoat clockwise from upper left: Students have put a garden sign where the Fort Wilkins gardens once grew; Karen Opplinger, a student interested in sustainable agriculture and a Wadsworth Garden employee, talks about companion planting; Copper Harbor students expressed their gardening experiences through art; and PhD candidate Hans Lechner explains the boulders' individual "stories."

Our late (and wet!) spring delayed both the planting season and finishing touches to the community garden, but the Copper Harbor students led the pack and were the first to get something in the ground! A temporary fence was put up around their raised bed until the whole garden was fenced in, protecting it from deer and other intruders. A rainy planting day did not dampen students' spirits; they en-

tect the waters of Lake Superior. They also visited a couple of on-campus gardens:

1. The new sustainable kitchen garden at Wadsworth Hall (a student dormitory with dining facilities) where they learned about companion planting, and
2. The Keweenaw Boulder Garden near Dillman Hall to learn about their geologic past.

Graduate and undergraduate student experts led these sessions, enriching the visits with their knowledge and passion for science!

2015 Environmental Education Grant applications are due Monday, January 5. See UPEC's website for details.

Ah, the dilemmas of copper

By David Clanaugh, Editor

The very concrete opening scene in Bill Carter's book on the dilemmas of the global copper mining industry reminded me of a colleague-friend in Houghton intent on gardening who, a few years ago, was testing the soil for heavy metals. Just as the soil in Carter's Bisbee, Arizona backyard proved unsafe for growing vegetables and had to be removed and replaced, likewise adjustments in soil and location can be necessary closer to home. Corporate pollution literally privatizes water, air, soil and our bodies long after particular companies have declared bankruptcy! Horst Schmidt's Page 5 article in this newsletter about the Gay stamp sands provide another reminder that historically there has been no free lunch when it comes to copper extraction—the waste endures and poses dilemmas through the slow and sometimes seemingly imperceptible violence of its ongoing presence.

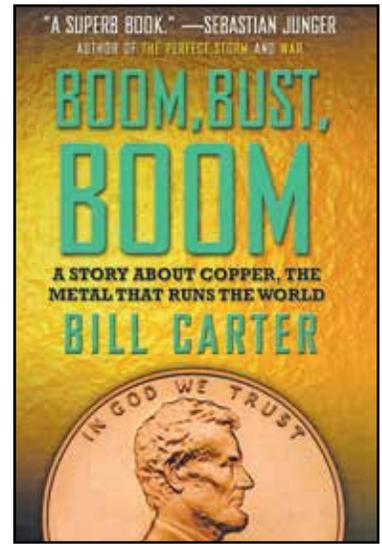
What is particularly helpful about Carter's book and makes it a worthwhile read is that he doesn't demonize folks in the mining business or who promote new projects, thus avoiding simplistic moralization and polarization. Instead, Carter distributes accountability by reminding us how the walls in our homes harbor copper wires and pipes while our cars and electronics add to the demand for this metal. Indeed, copper uniquely fuels the infrastructure of modern culture with all the attendant costs of degraded landscapes and the social ills of boom-bust economics.

Carter's interviews with miners, geologists, corporate executives, tribal defenders of community and environment, and ordinary citizens remind us that, before birth, we were all implicated in this complex modern copper culture. Through accident, inertia, reflection, and choice we end up in different roles in this

modern sweep of complex systems, reaping different benefits and consequences, imposing our needs and desires on each other, and struggling to merely make livings while also seeking better ways to live on this planet. Sometimes the line between becoming a corporate geologist and an environmental activist can be quite thin, so it behooves all of us to consider how we have come to our current positions as we try to perturb entrenched patterns and interests in ourselves and others.

Bill McKibben has succinctly noted regarding the need to end the fossil fuel addiction that we are all hypocrites. This is not the core issue, however; instead, the imperative involves what all of us as individuals and as parts of a collective must do to learn from our past so as to make better choices in an unfolding future.

Carter briefly mentions the Copper Country as the birthplace of modern U.S. copper mining, yet he provides numerous parallels and reminders that all communities struggle with similar issues in the teeth of modern life and globalization. As havens for artists and heritage, Bisbee and Calumet have lots in common including poor rock and mining tailings. I encourage you to chew on this book—it provides much food for thought about how environmental and social change activists can more compassionately, strategically, and effectively work toward our goals.



Casperson an MLCV adversary; Foster receives advocate status

Environmental Scorecards From Back Page

Democrat 109th District Rep. John Kivela received ratings of 57 and 56; he faces a general election challenge from Republican Pete Mackin. Democrat incumbent Scott Dianda in the 110th District rated 57 and 64; he faces a challenge from Republican Bob Michaels.

The Sierra Club recommends “No” votes on ballot initiatives concerning PA520 and PA21 (see Page 1 story about the wolf hunt). Additional Sierra Club endorsements include:

- Democrat Gary Peters who is battling Republican Terri Lynn Land for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Carl Levin,

- Democrat Jerry Cannon who is seeking to unseat 1st Congressional District Representative Dan Benishek,
- Democrat Mark Schauer who is squaring off against incumbent Republican Governor Rick Snyder, and Democrat Mark Totten who is challenging incumbent Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette.

Schauer has MLCV's endorsement while Cannon has a nod from the National League of Conservation Voters Action Fund.

You can find more information about the candidates online at michiganlcv.org/track-how-elected-officials-vote/scorecard and michigan.sierraclub.org/politics/articles/Scorecard.html

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Don't forget those Econo Foods slips: a slow & steady way to support UPEC!

Thanks to you and Econo Foods, UPEC has earned several hundred dollars during recent years from grocery receipts collected by UPEC members. That may not seem like a lot, but when you're a non-profit organization every little bit helps. Of course, that amount could be even higher this year if more of us were to save our slips and send them in! For a family that spends \$100/week on groceries at Econo, this would translate into \$52 of annual support for UPEC.

Either save receipts throughout the year and mail them to us, or give them to a UPEC board member— whichever is more convenient. It's one of the easier low-cost ways you can offer your support. Thanks!

How to Contact Your State Legislators

37th District Senator Howard Walker
 571-373-2413 SenHWalker@senate.mi.gov
38th District Senator Tom Casperson
 517-373-7840; SenTCasperson@senate.mi.gov
107th District Rep. Frank Foster
 517-373-2629; FrankFoster@house.mi.gov
108th District Rep. Ed McBroom
 517-373-0156; EdMcBroom@house.mi.gov
109th District Rep. John Kivela
 517-373-0498; JohnKivela@house.mi.gov
110th District Rep. Scott Dianda
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MLCV & Sierra Club scorecards provide ballot guidance

By David Clanaugh, Editor

Two state-wide environmental groups, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) and the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club (MC-SC), have rated current lawmakers, many seeking re-election this fall. The two groups also offer endorsements and recommendations about ballot proposals.



In addition to providing guidance about candidates, these organizations provide insights into policies concerning public lands, energy, water and air quality, forestry, and wildlife management. UPEC has worked on a variety of issues with both groups. Last year UPEC sent former board member Gabriel Caplett to MLCV meetings to help identify 2013-14 legislative priorities. These priorities have been energy, water, and public lands.

MLCV and MC-SC have a scorecard system based on a 0-100 scale with higher numbers being better. MLCV published a report for the 2013-2014 legislative session while the

MC-SC ratings are dynamic and based on real-time actions by the politicians (the numbers in this article are from Sept. 10).

The two groups respectively rated state senators and representatives as well as the two major political parties. In the Senate the respective party ratings are Democrats 94/83 and Republicans 20/17. Republican 38th District Senator Tom Casperson has 23 and 0 ratings, and also received MLCV "adversary" designation for his sponsorship of stalled legislation to undermine biodiversity principles in managing state forests. Casperson's general election challenger is Democrat Christopher Germain. Republican 37th District Senator Howard Walker received 23 and 30



ratings, but is not seeking re-election. Republican Wayne Schmidt and Democrat Phil Bellfy (who has a Sierra Club endorsement) are seeking this seat.

In the House the Democrats rated 81 and 79 while the Republicans rated 40 and 43. Republican 107th District Rep. Frank Foster rated 36 and 45, but lost the primary election to Tea Party challenger Lee Chatfield for the Republican nomination. Foster received water advocate recognition from MLCV because he called for strict monitoring of water use by companies that frack for gas and oil. Democrat Jim Page will face Chatfield in the general election. Republican 108th District Rep. Ed McBroom received 50 and 51 ratings and is being challenged by Democrat Grant Carlson who has a Sierra Club endorsement.

Environmental Scorecards See Page 10

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