

WILDCAT FALLS PROTECTED AS A COMMUNITY FOREST

Joe Hovel, Northwoods Alliance



CASEY CLARK

Wildcat Falls on the Scott & Howe Creek at low summer flow.

Most land conservationists well know: important projects require enduring effort, vigilance, perseverance, patience, and dedication to be successful. The story of the Wildcat Falls Community Forest in southern Ontonagon County exemplifies this process. The 160-acre project is an ecological marvel, even by UP standards where natural bounty is plentiful. A rather challenging but short hike of less than a mile exposes visitors to old-growth forest, a 25-foot waterfall on a trout stream in a canyon, magnificent rock outcrops formed a billion years ago, and a plethora of understory flora and fauna, including rich seasonal wildflowers.

Long considered a special place by generations of visitors, the property was an isolated part of the Ottawa National Forest for decades. About twelve years ago, the Forest Service entered into a land trade agreement; justified by the isolated location of this tract, the property was to be swapped for increased acreage to help simplify forest boundaries. A small group of activists, led by Northwoods Alliance (NWA), protested the public loss of this area as early as 2009. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) offered a variety of opportunities for objection to the trade. In 2011, the small group prevailed in an admin-

“The synergistic combination of unusual plants, a waterfall on a pristine trout stream, rock outcrops, old growth forest, vernal pools, and more make a visit to Wildcat Falls a special experience.” – Rod Sharka

Administrative appeal of the land swap, correctly stating the loss of the old-growth cedar and hemlock was not properly disclosed in the Environmental Assessment (EA). A new, rewritten EA in 2012 set the path for reopening the trade. A second appeal by a growing group of conservationists was denied in 2012. The group then had no recourse but the federal court system, where their position was denied in late 2014. Moving to the appellate court, consideration was denied by the appeals panel at the beginning of 2016. By the end of 2016, the trade was completed.

In 2017, NWA assembled several conservation-minded investor partners to successfully negotiate a purchase of the Wildcat Falls tract, engaging with the recipient of the land after the trade. The short-term conservation investors then requested NWA develop a permanent and publicly beneficial conservation solution. Previously, NWA had helped secure a successful grant with the USFS Community Forest Program to assist with the Pilgrim River Watershed Project near Houghton, and identified this program again as a possible avenue to establish the Wildcat Falls Community Forest. NWA immediately began fundraising for the 50% financial match to the Community Forest Program. In very early 2018, UPEC recognized the quality of the project and made the first of several notable grant awards needed to complete the project. In the spring of 2019, the Community Forest Program ranked the Wildcat Falls proposal number 4 in the nation out of 15 funded projects.

RICK PLONSKY



Aquatic ecologists Casey Clark and Rachel Hovel sample organisms from the falls during a bio-blitz in May 2018.



RACHEL HOVEL

(top) Rock outcrops in mid-winter; (bottom) the lower drop of the falls.



RICK PLONSKY

“We have had a long history on this project. Over a decade on one conservation project may seem daunting. However, ten years is insignificant in the life of 150-year old trees and billion-year old rock. Protecting this special place for future generations was well worth the effort.” – Joe Hovel



Vernal pools at Wildcat Falls house tiny fairy shrimp. | DAN DUMAS, SWISHER COMMUNICATIONS FOR WXPB

Earlier this year, the fundraising effort wrapped up with over 100 individual donations ranging from \$10 up to \$30,000. Besides the UPEC grant, the project gained financial support from Friends of Sylvania Wilderness, John C. Bock Foundation, James D. & Jane P. Watermolen Foundation, James E. Dutton Foundation, Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula, Copper Country Trout Unlimited, Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, and the Weyerhaeuser Community Fund.

Currently, the Northwoods Alliance is seeking community input into the final decisions for the Community Forest Plan. Under the Community Forest program, a project must display community benefits, thus it is essential to develop a plan which defines these uses while protecting the unique ecological resources of this project. You can contact NWA at northwoodalliance.org/contact.

WE WANT YOU!

Next spring is time for our biennial Board of Directors election. We are looking for individuals who care about keeping the UP from suffering again from abuses of our land, air, and water. If you have a policy interest, been involved in environmental activities in your area, have knowledge of environmental issues, or simply have a passion for the UP, we need your voice and your energy on the UPEC Board! Please contact me, Horst Schmidt, President of UPEC, at horsthear@yahoo.com for more information. Climate change is posing new challenges for organizations such as UPEC, so if that is your issue, we'd love to hear from you.

If you want to be involved in a different way, we also are looking for people with communication talents and a keen eye for local happenings and issues. We need writers and reporters for our upcoming UP-focused news service,

which we plan to launch soon. We would love to have you as a correspondent who can tell us what's going on in your area, good and bad, so we can share your news with the entire UP and beyond. Don't worry if you think your writing skills aren't up to par. Video and social media skills are a plus! Besides writers, we're looking for people who can help us with a UP-wide community calendar. A great job for those who are detail-oriented. With growth, we may need managers to help run the operations. We need you because you have a skill or talent we didn't know we needed or existed! Food editor? Definite possibility. We are desperate for a grant writer! There are projects we can start if the necessary personnel can be pulled together. Everything is going electronic so it doesn't matter where you live. We can always meet via Zoom. So please get in touch with me at horsthear@yahoo.com. Let's talk!

MICHIGAN BOBCAT: CREATURES OF STEALTH

Bill Ziegler, Outdoors Writer and Wildlife Photographer

Bobcat are an extremely stealthy animal. Although bobcat are relatively common, especially in Northern Michigan, most avid outdoor enthusiasts rarely see this elusive wild cat. Bobcat are primarily nocturnal, which also leads to fewer sightings by outdoors enthusiasts. With the proliferation of game cameras, bobcat are recorded, but not as often as many other wild creatures in the Northwoods.

“Michigan Department of Natural Resource Wildlife Division surveys reveal bobcat are present throughout Michigan,” said Adam Bump, Michigan DNR Furbearer Specialist. Michigan DNR has not conducted widespread bobcat population estimate surveys, although their monitoring of

bobcat harvest indicates that the “Michigan bobcat population is stable to increasing,” based on relative abundance. Wisconsin DNR, has been conducting bobcat population estimates throughout an area ecologically similar to Michigan. Wisconsin DNR Wildlife surveys indicate the state’s fall population to be 3,800 bobcat as of 2019. This is an increase since their initial population estimate of 1,600 in 1983. Wisconsin considers their current state bobcat population to be “robust.”

Tyler Petroelje, Research Biologist for the Michigan DNR/State University of New York–UP Predator Study completed bobcat population estimates in two out of three study areas



TYLER PETROELJE

A collared UP bobcat that is part of the UP Predator Study conducted by the Michigan DNR and the State University of New York. The study found that bobcat preyed upon deer fawns among other species, although in relative terms coyotes had a much larger impact on fawn mortality—mostly due to their much higher population density than that of bobcat.



of their long-term study. Petroelje stated that for the Escanaba study area bobcat were found to have an average density of 0.8 individuals per ten square miles. For the Crystal Falls study area, the estimate was a little higher at 1.0 per ten square miles. Petroelje said they are still waiting on the genetic analysis from the fur snare survey for bobcat abundance in the Baraga/Kenton area (2017–2019) though bobcat populations North of Highway M-28 appear lower than both the Escanaba and Crystal Falls areas, with very few bobcat detections during the survey. To give some perspective, Petroelje indicated coyote abundance was at least five times that of bobcat in the same UP areas.

Michigan DNR Wildlife studies indicate an adult bobcat typically weighs 15 to 35 pounds. Adam Bump stated females tend to be smaller than males and a 30-pound bobcat is considered a big cat. Bobcat live their lives as solitary animals other than mating or the rearing of young. Bump said a typical litter of bobcat is one to four young. They use dens but do not dig their own; rather, they use other animals' underground dens or hollow logs, crevices in rock, etc. Bobcats typically mate in February

(top) A bobcat hunting in Iron County in an area frequented by snowshoe hare. Snowshoe hare abundance has increased in the last couple of years in some locations in the county. Increased snowshoe hare activity has drawn in bobcat to those locations. (bottom) A bobcat on a morning prowls along a woods road in Iron County.





A bobcat stalking through the ferns in the Ottawa National Forest in an area frequented by snowshoe hare. Daytime photos of bobcat have been hard to come by; even with a game camera most of my photos of bobcat are at night.

and March with a 50-day gestation period. Bobcat young are born in the spring and according to scientific literature can live up to 12 years in the wild.

Bobcats prefer a habitat mixture of younger successional forest, brushy areas, and edges with a mixture of heavy cover swamp habitat. Bump has not observed the pronounced population cycling that has been documented in the bobcat's relative the Canada Lynx, which is associated with fluctuations in the lynx's main prey, snowshoe hares. Canada lynx are native to the boreal forest of Canada, and they range across most of Canada and Alaska, as well as portions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the U.P. Bump's DNR data do indicate more of a cycle in UP bobcat populations than in the Northern Lower Peninsula. Perhaps this is due to more ups and downs in prey like snowshoe hare as a primary food in the UP. Bump stated that bobcat are typically more generalists as a predator than Canada Lynx, preying on a variety of rodents, ground birds, and some fawns. Petroelje of the UP Predator Study said that bobcat are effective predators on fawns, but to put it in perspective not nearly as much as coyote, due to bobcat's lower population density compared to coyotes.

Bump has observed that "the Southern Lower Peninsula bobcat population seems to be expanding but it is likely not as robust as the Northern Lower or Upper Peninsula. Anecdotal, we seem to be seeing an increase and expansion. Some of this could be the increase in use of trail cameras, but in some preliminary bobcat work on State Game Areas, we have been able to get pictures of bobcats in areas we expected they might be."

Bump thought that bobcats do not substantially compete with other Michigan predators although their prey does overlap with some. I have had trail camera photos of a bobcat in a standoff with a large raccoon over food.

Michigan has a limited and regulated hunting and trapping season for bobcat. All harvested bobcat must be registered with the DNR and the annual limit is one to two depending on area of State and private or public land (see page 4 of the Michigan Fur Harvester Digest).

Highly experienced predator hunters consider bobcat to be very challenging to hunt. One seasoned UP predator hunter told me coyotes can be difficult to lure out for a shot with predator calls, although he considered bobcat to be the most

difficult. According to him, bobcat would hang up at the edge of cover and watch motionless for long periods of time making sure there was no danger. Another seasoned hound hunter that sometimes hunts bobcat reports that they are not easy for the dogs to consistently scent and run. He felt winter was the only period when his dogs could stay on a bobcat scent.

As stated previously, bobcats are extremely stealthy. They are mostly nocturnal, making sightings even more rare. It took me many years living, working, and photographing wildlife in the UP just to get a couple of decent daytime bobcat photos. If you happen to observe one of Michigan's most elusive creatures you should consider yourself lucky.



BILL ZIEGLER

A bobcat out on an early morning prowling in the snow. Adult bobcat typically weigh 15 to 35 pounds.

ANNOUNCING THE 2021 UPEC GRANTS PROGRAM

Up to \$500 for Environmental Education projects • Up to \$10,000 for Community Conservation

Environmental Education Grants

Are you a teacher with a great idea for getting your students interested in the environment? We invite you to make your idea a reality through our Environmental Education Grant program. For over 15 years, UPEC's Board has approved grants of up to \$500 to support educator-promoted environmental projects within schools or other educational organizations. UPEC believes this grant series is especially important

because schools are strapped for dollars to do innovative environmental education programs. Grant applications are due on March 1, 2021.

Special consideration will be given to fund at least one grant that uses the arts (visual arts, dance, or music) to advocate for environmental protection. This grant award is made from a gift to UPEC in memory of the late Bonnie Miljour.

For 2021, applicants may propose either an in-person project (you may include a virtual component), or an all-virtual project.

In 2020, UPEC funded these programs:

- The Dickinson Conservation District for the Shark Tank Sustainability program, in which students compete to develop the best project in areas such as managing invasive species or improving water quality.
- The Ontonagon Conservation District for its Educational Outreach Brochures project. The brochures provide basic information about the District and its activities.
- Michigan Tech's Center for Science & Environmental Education for Earth Day: Celebrating 50 Years of Stewardship, a week-long program with a wide range of stewardship activities for kids.
- Gwinn Middle School for its Salmon Release Field Trip. Students care for eggs and help raise hatchlings before the fish are released into the wild.
- Aspen Ridge Middle School for its student-initiated West End Trails project. The young conservationists will



LIZ WIENER

use the money to upgrade the school's trail system and make it more accessible.

- MSU Extension for its ongoing Life of Lake Superior project, a holistic effort to encourage environmental awareness and more sustainable lifestyle choices.
- Superior Hills Elementary School for its Superior Hills Outdoor Learning Spaces project, which includes a natural playground.

Environmental Education Grant FAQs

- **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** Educators in Upper Peninsula schools, public or private, or other groups and institutions wanting to create or enhance an environmental education program or support an ongoing activity.
- Grants will be funded to provide financial assistance to quality environmental education programs and/or ongoing projects in need of support. We welcome proposals that provide hands-on experiences for young people in outdoor settings.
- Grants may not be used for salaries, but all other expenses (for example, transportation, meals, supplies, honoraria) are acceptable. Grant recipients will be required to present a final report that includes an accounting of funds expended and outcomes achieved upon completion of the program. Reports may be published in the UPEC newsletter and may be edited.
- **COVID-19:** UPEC supports pandemic safety measures, and we require all grant applicants to abide by whatever safety directives are in place at the time the project is carried out. If you have questions on any matter related to the pandemic and our grant program, get in touch with us at upec@upenvironment.org.
- **HOW MUCH?** Depending upon the quality of the application as evaluated by the UPEC board, grants of up to \$500 each will be made for projects completed over the next 12-month period. We welcome new proposals and seek to help new projects receive funding.
- **WHEN do I need to apply?** Applications are due March 1, 2021. Selections will be made by the end of March. **For more information and the application form, go to upenvironment.org/environmental-education-grants.**

Community Conservation Grants

UPEC's Community Conservation Grant Program is designed to challenge UP communities to promote conservation values within their watershed or local area. The program honors the late Tom Church of Watersmeet, a long-time UPEC member whose bequest made this fund possible. The program is also supported by the Saari Family Fund and many individual donors. Grant applications are due on January 8, 2021.

In the past short-sighted actions by corporate or individual landowners often degraded the UP landscape. Today, state and federal environmental programs as well as the private conservancy movement work to protect natural areas for public benefit and to safeguard significant populations of wildlife and the ecosystem processes that support them. UPEC's Community Conservation Grants initiative focuses on communities that want to step up the protection of conservation values in their locality.

UPEC wishes to encourage more proactive stewardship with this program. Grants could be awarded for finding ways to enhance native plant and animal life and the systems that support them. They can be for starting a community forest or preserve, or restoring a stream or wetland, or putting on a program about local medicinal plants, rare frogs, or top predators. These are only examples; local communities can come up with their own ideas.

The grants, up to \$10,000 each, are for planning or implementing local conservation projects that engage a variety of stakeholders within a community, from recreational and sportsmen's groups to naturalists, township officials, churches, and schools. The UPEC Board anticipates the program will stimulate grassroots conservation activity in localities throughout the UP.



Lands along the West Branch of the Ontonagon River, part of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, have been protected with the help of a UPEC Community Conservation grant.

IAN SHACKLEFORD

Community Conservation Grant FAQs

- WHO? Conservation activists inspired to step up the practice of conservation values within a community are the target. Most of these activists have been affiliated with a local land conservancy seeking to set up a community forest or related land protection initiative (Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Keweenaw Land Trust, Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy, Northwoods Alliance). But other groups have also applied for educational exhibits at museums and a county-wide watershed education program.
- WHY? Despite extensive public land in the UP, land in private ownership (corporations and individuals) offers new opportunities to enhance protection through community action. Degraded landscapes can be restored, and good ones protected from development by creative use of tools such as conservation easements and by educational campaigns.

- WHAT? Grants may be used as a local match to purchase land, but other purposes related to a community land initiative are also suitable, such as educational videos, legal expenses, or wildlife inventories. A detailed budget is expected, as well as a final report on how the money was actually spent. Grants may not be used for salaries.
- HOW MUCH? Grant awards have varied from \$1500 to \$10,000, depending on the likelihood of the award to contribute permanently to conservation values in a community. Will the grant have a lasting impact? Are diverse community stakeholders engaged? Motivated activists and strong groups are the keys to long-range protection.
- WHEN do I need to apply? Applications are due January 8, 2021.

For more information and the application form, go to upenvironment.org/community-conservation-grants.

UPEC LIVESTREAMS:

Changing the way we reach our members and the world • upenvironment.org/livestreams

In the last issue of the newsletter we introduced you to our new series of digital livestreams. Growing out of the need to find new ways to connect during the pandemic, our three livestream shows have quickly blossomed into an important means of outreach. With several offered each month (on your choice of Facebook Live or Zoom), we are exploring a wide range of timely issues. Here's a list of livestreams to date in each of our three shows.

This Is It! covers all things environmental. The shows flow out of what we see happening in our world with a focus on local events, bringing forth informed perspectives on the latest issues:

- Marquette Spaceport: Development at Any Cost? (November 5)
- The Crisis of Expertise and the Impact on the COVID-19 Pandemic (October 15)
- Waste No More: New Legislation Points Toward Recycling in Michigan's Future (June 27)
- What If I Sneeze Outdoors?: How Michigan is Planning for Covid-Responsible Recreation (May 30)

The Energy Show focuses on UP energy issues like dealing with Line 5, high electric costs, and the alternative paths we might take for a brighter future.

- Line 5: Where Do We Stand Now? plus, How Your Vote Affects Michigan's Environment This Year (October 29)
- Transportation Next: Michigan's Big Plans to Become

Smart, Clean, and Electric (September 24)

- What We Don't Know About Line 5 — What Troubles Us About Enbridge (August 20)
- The Power Behind the Power Lines: How UP Electric Utilities Work (July 30)
- Enbridge Line 5—Decision Time *and* Large Solar Farms & Migratory Birds (June 13)
- The Future of Energy in the UP: Make Your Voice Heard (June 8th)

Let's Talk is where we connect people who are building community through visionary, imaginative, inspiring, and creative efforts. It starts conversations about the meaning and implications of a range of relevant community issues.

- Beach Clean Up! A Passion for the Environment (September 3)
- Intentional Communities: Living Sustainably with a Shared Purpose (July 23)

You can view recordings of all these streams anytime on our YouTube channel (see upenvironment.org/livestreams). We'd love your ideas on topics for future shows. We've created a short survey where you can quickly give us your ideas:

upenvironment.org/survey

Your participation in our streaming programs, and your input and suggestions, will help shape the future of the Upper Peninsula's environment.

HIGHPOINTERS BAG MOUNT ARVON

Mark Comstock, Vice President, Highpointers Club

The Highpointers Club (highpointers.org) was started by Jakk Longacre from Sturgis, Michigan, in 1987 after he posted an article in the October 1986 issue of *Outside* magazine asking aspiring “high pointers” to contact him. The club’s purpose is “to promote climbing to the highest point in each of the 50 States; provide a forum for education about the high points; aid in the preservation and conservation of the high points and their environs; provide a vehicle through which persons with this common goal can meet and correspond with one another; maintain positive relationships with owners of high points on private property; assist in the care and maintenance of high points; and support public and private efforts to maintain the integrity and access to state highpoints.” At its beginning, the Highpointers Club consisted of nine members; now, it has approximately 2,500 members! A quarterly magazine, *Apex to Zenith*, publishes articles supporting the club’s ends, lists of accomplishments by members, feature stories, and updates on activities.

The club hosts an annual convention in one of its four regions: the East, Midwest, South, and West. The club votes two years in advance on a location that will host a convention on a rotating basis for each of the four geographic locations. The first convention was held in Michigan on Mount Arvon in Baraga County on April 25, 1987. It was attended by the nine original members, including founder Jakk Longacre. Exactly 16 years later, on April 25, 2003, the club held a special “Jakk’s Ashes Ceremony” where five of the original nine members posed for photos after the passing of Jakk.

The thirty-third annual convention also was held in Michigan, July 25–27, 2019. This convention, hosted by myself with the help of Mary Groeneveld, had 220 people attend! The photos accompanying this article were taken there. The conventions always hold certain activities during the three-day period, which runs from Thursday through Saturday. The convention starts on Thursday with an “Icebreaker” evening, followed on Friday with a “Liar’s Club” evening where we swap climbing stories. The convention ends in a Saturday night banquet where there is a full dinner, an awards ceremony, and of course the voting for the site of the convention two years into the future. One of the highlights of each convention is a group trip to the summit of the featured high point with a watermelon ceremony at the summit or near the summit depending on the difficulty of the summit. This was something that founder Jakk Longacre started at the first convention and has been a staple ever since.



COURTESY MARK COMSTOCK

There are many side trips available for the convention attendees, which are set up to show off the beautiful sights available in each of the convention areas. Some of the highlights at the 2019 convention included visits to Baraga State Park, Sturgeon River Canyon Falls, Sturgeon River Gorge, Alberta Historical Museum, Pinery Indian Cemetery, Bishop Baraga Shrine, Herman Hills Sugar Bush Maple Syrup, L’Anse Township Park, Baraga County Historical Museum, and of course, Mount Arvon, the state’s highest natural point at 1979 feet. At that time Mount Arvon was owned by the Weyerhaeuser Company [ed. note: it is now owned by Lyme Timber] and they did a fabulous job of grading the roads to the summit, which can be quite narrow and winding. The drive is best done with a four-wheel-drive vehicle but can be carefully navigated by a two-wheel-drive vehicle as well. The road is well marked with blue diamond signs on the way to the summit.

There is a lovely glade at the summit with picnic tables, two benches, a US Geological Survey marker and sign, and a sign-up register that is kept up by the club. While the view is not as dramatic as standing on the top of a narrow summit, there is a beautiful view just a short distance away from the actual high point. It is truly the Upper Peninsula at its best!

UPEC MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Connie Sherry and Ralph Horvath honored by North Country Trail Association. Two UPEC members, Connie Sherry and husband Ralph Horvath, recently received the 2020 Honor Award from the Peter Wolfe Chapter of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA). They work as a chainsaw team to help across all sections of trail overseen by the chapter, as well as adopting their own section of trail to maintain. “Connie does the chainsawing and Ralph helps clear the trail after she chainsaws,” said Connie Julien, president of the chapter and a UPEC Board member. “On their own adopted section they do a little bit of everything.”

NCTA promotes the 4,600-mile-long North Country Trail and organizes and supports the 37 local chapters that maintain the trail across eight states. The Peter Wolfe Chapter maintains 120 miles of trail in the central and western UP.

Nancy Warren, environmental advocate and champion of wolves, celebrated for service on Board of Directors.

Nancy Warren of Ewen was recognized at the UPEC Board's October meeting for her decades of commitment to the UP environment, particularly its wildlife, as well as her recently concluded 10-year tenure on the Board. Through the magic of Zoom, Nancy was virtually presented with a birdseye maple plaque as a token of our affection and appreciation (we later mailed the real thing to her). UPEC is not the only organization to take note of Nancy's accomplishments: she was the 2018 winner of the Michigan Environmental Council's prestigious Petoskey Prize for Environmental Leadership.

Reflecting on her service with UPEC, fellow Board member Jon Saari observed: “UPEC has long been a collective of activists, each expert in one passion or another yet

committed to the teamwork that holds a group together. Nancy's passion was and is wolves—she knew their habits, loved their beauty, and was their tireless defender. And for UPEC she could do everything, from researching bylaws or brochures to designing and selling UPEC tee-shirts. We and the wolves were fortunate to have the gift of her mind and energy on our side!”



Upon receiving her UPEC plaque, Nancy thanked the Board. “I am so humbled,” she said. “Working on environmental causes is a labor of love and I will never give up fighting for clean air, water, healthy forests, and wildlife decisions based on science.”

Nancy went on to observe that her next fight will be over the Trump administration's decision in late October to remove virtually all gray wolf populations in the Lower 48 states from the Endangered Species List. This decision, if not blocked in court (lawsuits are pending), will return management of these populations to the various states in which they are found. In Michigan, this may not mean an immediate return to wolf hunting, but the pressure to allow it will be intense.

Going shopping? You can help UPEC at the same time!



Do you shop at Econofoods? If so, please save your receipts and donate them to us. Keep an envelope handy at home where you can deposit the receipts after shopping. When it's full, mail them to us. We turn them in to Econofoods' "We Share" program and get a donation! **Turn your Amazon shopping into a force for good.** If you shop on Amazon, bookmark smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2561218. Login there, make your purchases, and Amazon donates a portion of the proceeds to UPEC!

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What, exactly, are these people doing? See article on p. 10.

Support UPEC by becoming a member or renewing your membership today! Just fill out the form below. All memberships run with the calendar year. Not sure if your membership is current? Email us at upec@upenvironment.org – we'll be glad to help!

UP Legislators

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Making an additional contribution

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

My contribution is in honor/memory of

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

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

Thank you for your support!

You can also join, renew and donate online at upenvironment.org/join-donate