



FOLK

Friends of the Land of Keweenaw

www.folkup.org

Ted Soldan - Editor

Newsletter

October 2009

Upcoming Events

October 13 - Steering Committee meeting at Fran Whitman's home in Pequaming. Call Fran at 524-5252 for more information.

Mid-November - FOLK annual meeting.

Please stay tuned for the exact day, time, and place.

FOLK Educational Fund

At the September FOLK steering committee meeting, it was decided to discontinue the Educational Fund. A close look at our finances determined that most of our expenses were educational in nature, so there was no real need to maintain a separate fund balance. Our thanks go out to the many FOLK members that have contributed to the fund over the years. As always, if you have questions or concerns about this change, please feel free to contact us.

FOLK Tote Bags Now For Sale

Several FOLK members have asked when we'll be selling our surplus FOLK tote bags. Starting this October 1, you can buy as many as you'd like for \$5 each plus shipping while supplies last.

Shipping will be \$2.41 for up to 5 bags, and \$5.15 for 6-10. If you'd like more, please contact us for a shipping quote. Please allow 6 weeks for delivery. These bags make great stocking stuffers for Christmas, and helps spread the word about FOLK.

LED Light Bulbs

By Ted Soldan

LED light bulbs have recently become available at the store where I shop. The first one that caught my eye was not attractive to me. The price tag was \$41! After doing some research and thinking about it for a while, I decided to make the purchase. This bulb is now in daily use in my home, and if it works out, I may begin replacing my other bulbs with these.

There are several advantages to LED lights. They consume much less electricity than other bulbs. Their lifespan can be 50,000 to 60,000 hours, compared to around 1,000 hours for incandescent bulbs, and from 1,200 - 20,000 hours for compact florescent bulbs. LED lamps have the added advantage that they do not contain mercury, like all florescent bulbs do. While not compatible with all dimmers, LEDs can be dimmed with the proper hardware.

News from the Yellow Dog

A lawsuit filed by the National Wildlife Federation, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Huron Mountain Club, and the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve was rejected by Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Paula Manderfield. The suit alleged that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources not be allowed to lease 120 acres of state land to Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company. The company intends to use this land to site mining facilities for the Eagle Mine. Judge Manderfield denied the suit on jurisdictional grounds, not on the merit of the suit.

In response to a petition by local businessman Joe Cram, the Marquette County Road Commission unanimously passed a resolution that any power provided to the proposed mine will be underground. This was done to protect the tree canopy above the road.

A lawsuit requesting reversal of the permits issued to Kennecott by the DEQ was denied by Administrative Law Judge Richard Patterson. Patterson did say that the portal to the mine should be moved from Eagle Rock, however. The plaintiffs in the case have until September 18th to submit written exceptions to the ruling, and Eagle Rock should not be fenced in so native and non-native alike may visit it.

Due to a drop in commodity prices, there has been NO Kennecott activity at the site since December, 2008.

Michigan Waters Ballot Initiative

A group has formed that is interested in putting the issue of sulfide mining on the May, 2010 ballot. According to their web page, <http://www.miwater.org> no environmental issue that has made it to the ballot has failed in Michigan. The trick is getting this issue on the ballot. 400,000 valid signatures need to be gathered within a 180 day period. According to their FAQ, the group is now in the fundraising phase of their project, and once complete, the ballot initiative will be launched, and the clock will start ticking.

A visit to this group's website is informative. Many of us feel the sulfide mine being proposed on the Yellow Dog Plains is just the tip of the iceberg. We need to make every effort to insure this mine is either stopped, or properly regulated in order to preserve the precious water resources we, and future generations will depend on.



FOLK

FOLK, formed in 1989, was established to oppose the siting of any paper/pulp mill in Keweenaw Bay. FOLK continues to promote a healthy environment in the Keweenaw Peninsula and the Lake Superior Watershed.

(Please Print) Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone 303--0919 Date _____

- ☐ Individual (Annual Membership) - \$10 \$ _____
- ☐ Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual) - \$5 \$ _____
- ☐ Organization (Annual) - \$35 \$ _____
- ☐ Check here if you do **NOT** want a FOLK tote bag
- ☐ Additional Contributions: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Send to: FOLK · PO Box 213 · L'Anse, Michigan 49946

2009 "Heart & Hands" Award Goes to Barbara Hardy and Rick Loduha, Sustainable Keweenaw Resource Center

by Ted Soldan

Each year the Martha and Floyd Heart & Hands Society present an award to a local person or group that has made a difference in our community. Alums of this award include FOLK members Linda Rulison, Candy Peterson, and Shalini Suryanarayana. This year's award was presented to Barbara Hardy and Rick Loduha for their work with the Sustainable Keweenaw Resource Center at Finlandia University.

I met with Barbara and Rick at the SKRC at Finlandia's Portage Campus in the Jutila Center. My goal, in addition to learning about the Resource Center was to get a good definition for "Sustainability." After we all got acquainted and I was shown around the center, I asked the question with my pen poised. It turned out that a good definition for sustainability is just as hard for the experts as it is for us lay people. Rick said he felt that sustainability should not be pinned down to a hard and fast set of rules, but should be the broadest possible definition. He said that sustainable design could also be called "good design." He quoted Buckminster Fuller, who said "If you are going to be a designer, you have to decide if you are going to make sense or make money." My personal favorite comes from the American Friends Service Committee web page: "Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Barbara and Rick felt that the current trend toward globalization is not the avenue to sustainability, but rather to focus on community to get people to connect. Their main tool to accomplish this through the resource center is the web page www.skrconline.net. Their goal is not to filter out ideas, but to get all the ideas on the table.

Another tool the center is running with is their "affinity wall." This is a large ideas board that covers one wall of the center and asks, "What is Sustainable Keweenaw?" Anyone with an idea about that can write it down and pin it up on the wall, hopefully sparking some dialog and more community interaction and involvement.

The wisdom in all this appears to be, finding out what is available for your energies locally, and putting your energy there as much as possible. By working together as neighborhoods, we can capitalize on our strengths and bit by bit make the world a more sustainable place.

Baloney Detection Kit

As Carl Sagan once said, "There's a lot of baloney out there." While that may be true, how do those of us somewhat less brilliant than Carl tell the difference between what is true, and what is baloney? That is the million dollar question, because if you can sift through the baloney, you'll likely make better decisions.

"The Baloney Detection Kit" video is available on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUB4j0n2UDU>

(It is easier to go to YouTube and type in Baloney Detection Kit in the search window than to try to type the above url into your browser window)

The video is narrated by Michael Shermer of the Skeptic Magazine. He does a fine job pointing out the various pitfalls associated with the sloppy thinking that makes us vulnerable to all the baloney swirling around us. The purveyors of this blizzard of baloney have a great deal to gain if they can convince you to believe them. Once you understand their motivation and follow some basic rules, you too can begin living a baloney free life.

The 10 questions to ask when confronted with potential baloney are:

1. How reliable is the source of the claim?
2. Does the source make similar claims?
3. Have the claims been verified by somebody else?
4. Does this fit with the way the world works?
5. Has anyone tried to disprove this claim?
6. Where does the preponderance of evidence point to?
7. Is the claimant playing by the rules of science?
8. Is the claimant providing positive evidence?
9. Does the new theory account for as many phenomena as the other theory?
10. Are personal beliefs driving the claim?

Some of you are probably used to weighing incoming facts against the similar criteria to those above. If not, the rules are really pretty simple, and with some practice, you too can become an expert baloney filterer.

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