



Janet Avery

December 3, 1926 – March 11, 2006

Upcoming Events

July 12 – Highway cleanup followed by Steering Committee meeting at the roadside park (weather permitting). Call 334-2553 with questions.

The Difference Between Liberals and Conservatives: A Book Review

Moral Politics, by George Lakoff (1996 University of Chicago Press) is subtitled, *How Liberals and Conservatives Think*. This book is worthwhile reading for anyone perplexed by the surprising rise of the far right in our country, and is interested in countering the grip the right is gaining. Mr. Lakoff is also a regular contributor to NPR news and public affairs broadcasts.

Development in UPPCO Reservoirs

Upper Peninsula Power Company/Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (UPPCO/WPSC) continues to pursue sale of properties adjacent to several of their hydroelectric reservoirs in the UP. Thanks to a head's up from Nancy Warren of UPPAC (<http://www.uppac.com/>) FOLK attempted to get a seat on the "Focus Group" that is supposed to provide public input regarding the shoreline development plans for the several (continued on back page)

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Janet Avery, a fighter for the environment like no other. Who among us has the courage she and her husband Bud showed in their efforts to save their beloved corner of the world?

Janet was educated and taught school in Lower Michigan. From childhood on, Janet longed to live near Lake Superior, and in 1980 she and Bud moved to their summer cottage on Gratiot Lake in Keweenaw County. She taught composition and technical writing in the Department of Humanities at Michigan Technological University (MTU) from 1981 to 1991. She was a conscientious and caring teacher and was much beloved by her students over the years.

For the next 25 years, she worked to protect the environment of the Keweenaw. Janet was an active and articulate citizen at local land use planning meetings, and she was instrumental in the early phases of protecting Bete Grise from over-development. As founder and president of AWAKE (Association Working Against Keweenaw Exploitation), she vigorously sought integrity and accountability for mining activities proposed in the western Upper Peninsula and in Wisconsin.

Janet Avery was a long time friend to FOLK. Her commitment and dedication to what she believed in has been an inspiration to many of us in FOLK who had the pleasure of working with her over the years. Her example of activism is at the very core of our democratic society, "We wanted to inform people what was going on, because they didn't know..." (Daily Mining Gazette, 8-30-05) She cared, she acted and she inspired.

When the AWAKE board disbanded the organization in August, '05, they decided to donate part of their assets to FOLK to continue questioning the safety of Kennecotts proposed sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog Plains. To date, FOLK has used the funds to co-sponsor two public forums on the mining issue. Both forums were held at MTU, the first dealt primarily with the state's new mining rules, and the second focused on Kennecott's proposed sulfide mine. FOLK also is funding the NO SULFIDE MINE billboard in Keweenaw Bay. Many thanks to Janet, Bud and the board for their contribution to this issue.



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. By joining FOLK, you support this goal.

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Date _____

- ☐ Individual (Annual Membership) - \$10 \$ _____
- ☐ Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual) - \$5 \$ _____
- ☐ Organization (Annual) - \$35 \$ _____
- ☐ **Check here if you want an acknowledgement**
- ☐ I would like to contribute to FOLK's Educational Fund. \$ _____
- ☐ Additional Contributions: \$ _____

Total enclosed:

\$ _____

An Update on the Proposed Sulfide Mine on the Yellow Dog Plains

A coalition of groups, including FOLK, have come together to oppose the siting of a sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog Plains. Several recent events have shed some positive light on the work we've been doing.

- A Kirkland's Warbler, a federally recognized endangered species, was located near the proposed mine site.
- The Coaster Brook Trout was nominated for endangered species designation.
- All Michigan tribes passed a resolution to oppose sulfide mining in the state of Michigan
- Judge Paula Manderfield issued a stay, which effectively delays the permit application. This ruling by Judge Manderfield came as a result of court action by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, The Huron Mountain Club, and the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve.

While this is all clearly good news, the battle is far from over. Members of the FOLK Steering Committee have attended numerous public hearings, forums, and lectures to keep up to speed on this complicated issue. There is still time to contact the Governor, the DEQ, and other political entities to express your concerns about this potentially dangerous mine.

FOLK Membership Dues

The FOLK Steering Committee decided that December of each year will be when membership dues are to be paid by members in good standing. Since we are an all volunteer organization, we have not yet managed to produce and maintain a database of members and their payment status. We depend on you to maintain your membership by annual contributions. If you have not yet paid for last December, please consider mailing the attached membership form with your payment. If you know of anyone you think would be interested in receiving the FOLK newsletters, please contact us, and we'll gladly add them to our mailing list. Your membership dollars allows us to continue to produce newsletters, as well as sponsor other folks active in the environmental movement. Thanks to all of you for your loyalty and support.

(continued) impoundments in the western UP. All attempts to join this group ended in failure.

UPPCO/WPSC has declared these meetings to be closed to the public, and allows no recording of the meetings. They also resisted allowing members of the focus group to choose an alternate until recently. Steering Committee member Ted Soldan was allowed to join as an alternate to the UPEC position on the focus group.

Ted has been in contact with several members of this group, and reports that their frustration level is high at the two meeting so far. UPPCO/WPSC allows very little input from the group members, and spends a great deal of time explaining the company position on this sale. Those joining the focus group hoping to contribute input from their constituents regarding the rules governing the "project lands" feel shut out of the process.

When UPPCO built these facilities for hydroelectric power generation, they entered into an agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to manage the project lands (100' – 200' outward from the high water mark of the shore) for endangered species and water quality. Many people close to this issue feel that UPPCO/WPSC can sell any property they own for development consistent with local zoning ordinances. Many of us feel if the new residents treat the property between theirs and the water as accessible for docks, stairways, roads, view corridors, and footpaths, the character of these wilderness lakes will change forever, and change inconsistently with the agreement between FERC and UPPCO/WPSC.

Please consider visiting the UPPAC website and becoming involved. Once these wilderness lakes are lost to development, they are lost forever.

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