



# FOLK

Friends of the Land of Keweenaw

[www.folkup.org](http://www.folkup.org)

Ted Soldan - Editor

## Newsletter

June 2009

### Upcoming Events

**July 14** - Highway Cleanup – Meet at the Arnheim Road at 4:30. Steering Committee meeting to follow at the roadside park. Call 334-2553 for more information.

**August 1st and 2nd** **Protect the Earth** summit in Marquette. More information at [www.yellowdogsummer.wordpress.com](http://www.yellowdogsummer.wordpress.com)

### FOLK Newsletters Available in Online Archive

For the last 4 years, we've archived our newsletters in PDF format on our web page [www.folkup.org](http://www.folkup.org). If you'd like to review a previous newsletter just click on the Newsletter link on the left side of the page where you'll see them listed. Note they are available in PDF format, so you'll need Adobe Acrobat to view and print them.

### Check your Mailing Label

You can help us a great deal by keeping your address information up to date. When you get a newsletter, please take a moment and make sure your name/address is correct. If not, please contact us with the correct information. FOLK spends money each month because perfectly good newsletters are returned to us as undeliverable. Even if you're leaving for a few months, it helps us to know and keep our records straight.

Also, check the expiration date next to your name on the front of the newsletter. That tells you when your annual dues payment is due.

### TED – Ideas Worth Spreading

I recently stumbled across an extraordinary talk at [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com). It was by filmmaker Yann Arthus-Betrand, in which he discussed his latest film project, a movie called "Home." With stunning images Arthus-Betrand portrays the beauty and fragility of life on our planet. If you'd like to hear his speech, go to [ted.com](http://ted.com) and in the search window, type in arthus-betrand, and choose the first option. His movie is available for free at [www.youtube.com/homeproject](http://www.youtube.com/homeproject)

**TED** Ideas worth spreading

### News from the Yellow Dog

\* It appears that Chinese mining giant Chinalco's purchase of a major stake in Rio Tinto has collapsed. The deal seemed to be on shaky grounds ever since the Australian Government expressed concern over ownership of a substantial percentage of Rio Tinto by the Chinese national corporation. Rio recently fought an expensive battle to stave off a takeover by mining rival BHP Billington. It now appears BHP and Rio Tinto are in talks about asset sales or joint ventures.

\* The DEQ permit allowing Kennecott to use the Humboldt Mill has missed its deadline, and is on hold until late summer or early fall, according to Jim Sygo of the DEQ. The facility has been idle since the mid 1990s. It was purchased by Kennecott in September of 2008. If approved by the DEQ, Kennecott plans to spend \$80 million refurbishing the facility, and use it to crush and concentrate the ore coming from the proposed sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog. At a recent public hearing about 40% of the comments were opposed to granting the DEQ permit, while a majority favored granting the DEQ permit because the community needed the jobs. Among the issues at stake are the potential permeability of the tailings pit, and possible mercury contamination.

\* The site on the Yellow Dog is currently quiet with the project on hold pending an upturn in the economy that should bring renewed demand for the minerals.

### Coaster Brook Trout Denied Federal Protection

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has found that a petition to list the coaster brook trout, a form of brook trout found in the Great Lakes and its tributaries, as endangered is not warranted." This was according to a press release from the US Fish and Wildlife Service on April 18, 2009. While admitting the coaster is in trouble, the agency determined it is not a distinct population segment, and therefore not eligible for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

At one time, coasters had over 50 runs in the US waters of Lake Superior. Now they are limited to 4, the Salmon Trout River, and 3 on Isle Royale. The Salmon Trout River watershed is an area of concern if Kennecott continues plans to develop a sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog Plains. Damage to this watershed could destroy habitat necessary for the last stream the coasters use outside of Isle Royale.

The Fish and Wildlife Service went on to say they are initiating a multi-agency brook trout rehabilitation plan which, "calls for protecting coasters from overharvest; restoration of stream habitat; and redesign or removal of dams blocking stream access."



## 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 STEVE SOLDAN

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Telephone 16518944289 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
- ☐ Contribution to FOLK's Educational Fund. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Additional Contributions: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Additional Pricket Lake Property Could be Bought for National Forest

1,258 acres of land surrounding Prickett Lake could potentially be acquired by the Department of Interior to become part of the Ottawa National Forest. According to Emily Miller from The Trust for Public Land, \$2.8M is needed to purchase the acreage. The money was allocated in President Obama's budget, but the amount was trimmed to \$1.5M, which is not enough to complete the deal this year. FOLK is urging anyone interested in seeing this land return to the public trust to write their US senators and congress people to fight for the increase in funding. The appropriation is part of the Interior Appropriations Bill. Michigan residents should contact Senators Stabenow and Levin. UP residents should contact Congressman Stupak.

This purchase is especially important because of the recent purchase of 2,000 acres upstream of Prickett Lake. The close proximity of these two sections means that a large section of the Sturgeon River watershed will be protected.

See the FOLK home page [www.folkup.org](http://www.folkup.org) for a fact sheet and sample letters to Michigan Senators and Michigan's first district congressman.

## Sustainable Keweenaw Event a Success

by Linda Rulison

A new group has recently formed called "Keweenaw Sustainability Project" or KSP. Visit them at [www.keweenawsustainability.org](http://www.keweenawsustainability.org). Their mission is "To have our Keweenaw neighborhoods and communities become even better places to live and do business, now, but especially over the long-term future, as we encounter changing economic, social and environmental conditions."

In early May the Project hosted a presentation entitled, "Sustainable Keweenaw: Learning from Northern Communities", which FOLK sponsored along with other area community organizations, businesses and congregations.

The topic of the presentation was "How can we use ideas from the northern Swedish communities to reduce our carbon footprint, promote economic development, and revitalize our communities?" To answer this question Mary Rehwald, Coordinator, "Green Team Network of Early Adapters of Sustainability," Chequamegon Bay Region and former Ashland city councilor and Irene Blakely, Chair of Chequamegon Alliance for Sustainability and former mayor of Washburn, Wisconsin were invited to the Keweenaw to share their experience with The Natural Step program which they have helped to implement in areas of Wisconsin. The Natural Step is a scientific framework developed in Sweden. It is based on

sustainable principles that bring about systematic changes in local business, government, education, energy production, waste disposal, transportation, and agriculture.

Both the May 6th evening public meeting and May 7th breakfast meeting for Business & Governmental Community were well attended. Interest and enthusiasm for starting several local projects led to the formation of a focus group of which FOLK is a part of. Two outcomes are Energy-efficient community lighting: contact Elmore Reese at [elmore@thimbleberrypress.com](mailto:elmore@thimbleberrypress.com) and School food: contact Susan Burack at [sburack@pasty.net](mailto:sburack@pasty.net)

## FOLK Supports Middle School Students to Lake Superior Youth Symposium

by Linda Rulison

The 8th Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium was hosted this year by the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN from May 14-17. Given that FOLK's main goal as a non-profit organization is to educate the public on issues that affect the Lake Superior Watershed, we thought we could help educate the area's youth by supporting students to attend this great activity. For the last four symposiums we have financially helped send two to four middle school students to this event. Again this year FOLK supported two more middle school students

Students, as well as chaperoning teachers and parents, were treated to wonderful keynote speakers and sessions. The opening keynoter was Dr. Jay Austin from Large Lakes Observatory of Minnesota-Duluth who spoke on "Lake Superior: Canary in the Coalmine?" Students were also offered a variety of workshops such as: Digital Data plotting, flint knapping, global warming and climate change and Field Trips to the US EPA's Research Laboratory, geocaching, hiking trails along Lake Superior, and many more.

This year's symposium was enjoyed by almost 600 students coming from numerous communities around Lake Superior including the US and Canada. The weather was wonderful, the presenters were inspiring and the students were fabulous! FOLK looks forward to continuing to support this educational activity.

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