



FOLK Friends of the Land of Keweenaw

Grassroots Stewards of the Western Upper Peninsula

WINTER 2019 FOLK NEWSLETTER

FOLK celebrated its 30th year anniversary in September at the Orpheum Theater in Hancock, MI. Many of you were there to celebrate our years of grassroots work. Pizza, music by Cheap Therapy (below, left) and camaraderie were shared by all. Our loyal supporters were recognized and thanked for their continued support over these past years. Many things have changed during the years but one thing remains true, "We must all be guardians of our Democracy" (President Obama). Continuing together as a grassroots organization is one important way that we all can be "guardians of our Democracy". We greatly appreciate your continued support.

Your FOLK Board of Directors

Musical therapists doing their magic for the FOLK crowd.



Three FOLK activists who were there at the beginning, from the left: Rosemary Grier, Catherine Andrews and Linda Rulison

FOLK in action: 2019

- FOLK's general membership meeting was held on April 3 featuring Friends of the Huron Mountains, who presented a Viewshed Analysis of areas from where proposed wind turbines could be viewed.
- We welcomed two new members on the FOLK board, Stacey and Mike Kowalczyk, who own and operate Otter River Outfitters, a clothing store in downtown Houghton.
- The FOLK board sent the US EPA a letter supporting KBIC's request for authority to regulate water quality for all surface waters within the L'Anse Reservation. The request is still under review by EPA. Check our website for information on their ruling when we know the details.
- During 2019 the Torch Lake PAC (Public Advisory Council) moved forward on cleanup of legacy mining problems in the Torch Lake area. A summit of experts came up with ideas that will be experimentally implemented in 2020. FOLK members attended the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) meeting held at the MTU Great Lakes Research Center on July 16th & 17th. It was the first time our local PAC hosted an SPAC meeting.
- During the 2019 highway pick-up season FOLK volunteers picked up over 18 bags of litter and a variety of car parts along our two-mile stretch of US 41 at the Houghton-Baraga county line.
- FOLK signed on to two letters with Wisconsin Resources Protection Council to financial backers of Aquila Resources, Inc. The first one was in April to Osisko and the second one was in October to Orion with 59 other environmental, tribal, sport fishing and faith-based organizations, questioning "How much longer are you willing to continue your investment in a project that has misrepresented the status of mine permitting to both the public and those who have invested in this unviable project?" "Aquila announced that it has received final approval for the last state permit needed for the Back Forty zinc and gold mine project, next to the Menominee River in Menominee County. Aquila's claim is completely inaccurate and should be of major concern to your investors." The letter pledged that groups will "continue their efforts to protect the water, sacred sites and the right of communities to oppose destructive mining projects."
- The local biomass plant, the L'Anse Warden Electric Company, and a short interview with FOLK board member Catherine Andrews, were featured in the sold-out premier of *Planet of the Humans* at the Traverse City Film Festival in July.
- FOLK members attended two of the Governor's U.P. Energy Task Force meetings. One was held in Hancock on September 9th with Enbridge, SEMCO Energy, and Northern Natural Gas presenting information on their services. The other one was in Escanaba on November 13th with representatives from the Attorney General's office & the U.S. Energy Information Administration via video conference. <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/>



FOLK

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Remembrances from FOLK actions past

Membership Form

FOLK Friends of the Land of Keweenaw

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*Dear FOLKs, Please
consider adding a
donation to your
annual membership.
Thanks!*

Please print) Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Optional) Email _____ Phone (____) _____ Date _____

☐ Individual (Annual Membership / Jan-Dec): \$10

☐ Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual): \$5

☐ Organization (Annual): \$35

☐ I would like to contribute to FOLK's legal fund. \$ _____

☐ I cannot afford the annual membership fee but would still like to be listed as a member.

☐ I am not a member but I would like to receive the newsletter.

☐ I want to get involved with FOLK! Please contact me by: (circle one) email or phone.

☐ Other _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____