

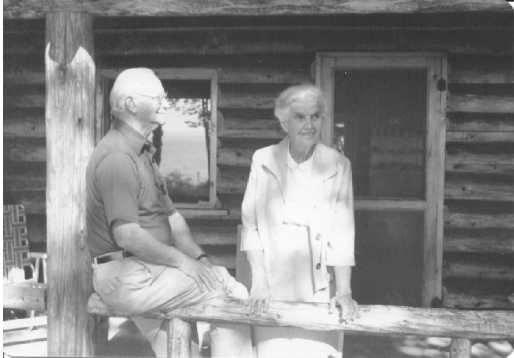


Upcoming Events

November 7 - FOLK General Membership meeting at the Portage Lake District Library. See article for more details.

FOLK Receives Generous Donation

FOLK recently received a very generous donation from the Sewell family in memory of their parents, Herbert M. and Anna B. Sewell.



Herbert and Anna Sewell at their Keweenaw Bay cabin, summer 1973

The elder Sewells owned 83 acres of land a short distance from the proposed James River pulp mill site on Keweenaw Bay. Both had passed away before the proposed mill was made public, but their son believed that the mill issue would have "taken years off their lives."

Herbert Sewell's father lived in Houghton and picked up the property in 1889. He died young in 1904, when Herbert was only 2 years old, and his widow thankfully paid the property taxes until she died in the 1940's. Herbert and Anna then acquired the property, and in the early 1950's built the small cabin that was to be their get-away for several decades to come.

Herbert was a university professor in Madison, and loved the rugged wilderness of his Keweenaw acreage. Being in academia, he had some flexibility in the summers, so he and his family made frequent vacation trips to their UP acreage. After he retired, he and Anna spent June, July, and August at their Keweenaw paradise, where he loved to putter. Anna died in 1985, and Herbert in 1989.

The Sewell family feel their parents would have been very grateful for the work FOLK did to educate the public about the environmental problems that went hand in hand with a paper/pulp mill of this size, and would have wanted to send a substantial donation to assist "...in further protecting the Keweenaw environment." The FOLK board thanks the Sewell family for this generous donation. We gratefully and humbly accept the challenge.

FOLK General Membership Meeting – Nov. 7

FOLK's annual General Membership Meeting will be held on November 7 at the Portage Lake District Library conference room. The meeting will be held at 6:00 PM, followed by a light meal served buffet style. Ted Soldan will give a presentation about Earthwatch on Isle Royale, which will begin at 7:00 PM.

FOLK members can expect to come home with some memorabilia. Some vintage FOLK t-shirts and tote bags were recently discovered, and will be given away at the meeting. So plan to stop by and learn what FOLK has been up to this past year, have a bite to eat, listen to a talk, and enjoy the company of fellow FOLKers.

Endangered Species Listing for the Coaster Brook Trout by Connie Sherry

On September 17, 2007, Constance Sherry interviewed Ms. Leslie Tewinkle, member of the Ecological Services Team of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The following paragraphs summarize that interview and the status of the petition to have the Coaster Brook Trout listed as an endangered species, as understood by Ms. Sherry.

Before the Coaster can be listed as an Endangered Species it must first be recognized as a distinct population. That recognition requires the completion of two steps by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

1. A so-called 90-day finding must be made, based on information available to and understandable by laymen. Such a finding has just received funding and should be completed before the end of 2007.
2. If the first finding is positive, then a 12-month finding must follow. This will be based on specific studies and scientific evidence such as geographical behavior and genetic differences. So far, one such study has shown significant genetic differences. However, there are three distinct populations of Coasters in Lake Superior: the one in the Salmon Trout River, one on Isle Royale and one in the Lake Nippigon area in Ontario. Any genetic differences must be specific to the taxon. Therefore, additional genetic studies must be made on these more widely distributed populations.



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:

\$ _____

Public Hearings on Kennecott Eagle Project Well Attended

NMU's September 10 public hearing on the Kennecott Mine permit was packed with people. Of those that spoke, most were opposed to the mine. On the way into the large room, participants were handed cards and were asked to fill them out, especially if they wanted to speak. Once the meeting got started, the moderator (a retired judge who was not from the DEQ) called the names of the speakers from the audience one at a time. The speaker then walked to the center of the room, stood at a podium, and identified themselves. The decision makers from the Department of Environmental Quality sat in the front of the room and listened to the speaker. The moderator timed each speaker, and issued warnings when the time was nearly up.

Several members of FOLK attended the meeting, and most spoke on a variety issues, from the mismanagement of the Otter river watershed to the mismanagement of a mine in the suffered subsidence near Ishpeming, to ideas for a compromise on the permitting of the mine.

There were two speakers that were in favor of the mine, while everyone else spoke against it, often with voices shaking with emotion. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community was well represented at the meeting, and several members of the tribe spoke. Many at the podium did not appear to be used to public speaking and seemed fearful about the whole process, but get up they did, one by one, and said their piece.

It was encouraging to see the community stand up and make their voices heard. The public comment period ended on October 17.

Otter Lake/Sturgeon River Watershed Committee

Steering Committee member Dave Rulison has been busy encouraging participation in a revitalized Otter Lake/Sturgeon River Watershed Committee. This group was active a number of years ago, and for a variety of reasons became dormant. The problems of the watershed, however, have continued as shown in the figures below. Sedimentation has plagued the Otter River especially. Otter Lake has become a resting place for all the sediment that has flowed into the river due to poor forestry, farming, and road construction practices. The figures show a picture of how the lake has filled in over the years, but a trip on the lake itself is very instructive. Previous watershed committee members put up signs which marked the end of the delta in 1978. Since that time, the delta has crept into the lake a visible and alarming distance.

Preliminary meetings of the committee have included people from FOLK, Michigan Tech, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Soil Conservation Service, and local landowners. Anyone interested in participating in this important project is encouraged to contact Dave Rulison at 334-2553.

