

# CELEBRATE the UP! 2018 Program

Lake Superior Sunset - Paul Stark

## FRIDAY - March 23

**6-9 PM** - James Mills & his film 'American Ascent' and discussion - GLRC 202 from 6-9 PM.

## SATURDAY - March 24

Time	Room 202	Room 104	Room B003
9-9:15 AM	Introductory Remarks, Outline day's events, lunch, outdoor events, movie. Jean Ellis presents the Verna Mize award.		
9:15 - 9:30 AM	Break	Break	Break
9:30 - 10:15 AM	Isle Royale	Jean Ellis	Evan McDonald
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Break	Break	Break
10:30 - 11:15 AM	Erika Vye	Troy Zorn	Ray Sharp
11:15 AM - 12 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12 - 1 PM	Keynote Speaker: Dudley Edmondson - My Connection to Nature		
1 - 1:15 PM	Break	Break	Break
1:15 - 2 PM	David Flaspohler	Kathleen Heideman	Mel Visser
2:15 - 3 PM	Nancy Warren	Jerry Jondreau	Nathan Miller
3 - 3:15 PM	Break	Break	Break
3:15 - 4 PM - Room 202	UPEC Round Table: Jon Saari, Maggie Scheffer, Kathleen Heideman - Board members will talk about UPEC's achievements in 2017, focusing on conservation, environmental education, and mining.		
4:30 - 6 PM	Outdoor Activities - Meet at MTU Trails - Where: Trailhead is on Sharon Ave, across from football field.		
7 - 9 PM	Movie: Saving Snow - School of Forestry Resources - Hesterberg Hall G-02		

**Isle Royale** - Hear about **2018 research projects** and planning initiatives, including American marten habitat use, assessing seasonal lake trout use of spawning reefs, studying impacts of climate change to boreal lake ecosystems, snow-shoe hare density estimates, eagle and osprey productivity, common loon productivity, forest song bird surveys, and acoustic monitoring of bats.

**Jean Medlyn Ellis** - **Epic. Effective. Inspiring** - Verna Grahek Mize's successful thirteen-year struggle to stop Reserve Mining Company's dumping of taconite tailings into Lake Superior serves as an inspiration in today's environmental issues.

**Evan McDonald** - **"How the Pilgrim River Watershed Project happened and what this conservation success means for our community"** - Evan will overview the history of the Pilgrim River Watershed Project, highlighting the contributions of numerous community partners that led to permanent protection of about 1600 acres. The project benefits wildlife, protects water quality, and provides ample public recreation and education opportunities, while supporting the local forest products economy through sustainable forest management.

**Erika Vye** - **"Discovering our rich geologic heritage - opportunities for education and sustainable economic growth"** - Geotourism is rooted in significant geologic features and landscapes that present opportunities for sustainable economic growth, education, and destination stewardship. This session explores examples of ongoing efforts to promote this growing field here in the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale.

**Troy Zorn - Efforts to rehabilitate coaster brook trout Upper Peninsula streams** - A discussion of the MDNR led experiment that aims to rehabilitate coaster (migratory) brook trout populations in several tributaries to Lake Superior. He will share some findings thusfar, and interesting results from partners studying brook trout in these waters.

**Ray Sharp - An Occurrence at Sturgeon River Bridge - What happened, and what could have happened** - Following a 4-vehicle accident at the Sturgeon River Bridge on US-41 south of Chassell, 5,500 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel spilled from an overturned tanker truck onto the roadway, snow-covered embankments, and frozen river below. Ray Sharp of the Western U.P. Health Department coordinated public information for the 17-day cleanup and restoration operation conducted by the EPA, DEQ, and local public and private partners. Ray will describe what happened, and how it could have been a lot worse.

**Dudley Edmondson** - Dudley is the author of the landmark book, *“Black & Brown Faces in America’s Wild Places,”* profiling African Americans in nontraditional vocations and avocations in the outdoors. Edmondson also contributes to newspapers and magazines and lectures regularly about diversity in the outdoors.

**David Flaspohler - Bird conservation in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula in the next half century 2018-2068** - This talk will review the diversity of birds that can be found in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula with an emphasis on breeding species. Dr. Flaspohler will briefly describe what he views as the major forces that are or will be impacting birds of this region in the next half century including forest management, energy development, habitat fragmentation, climate change, and others. Finally, he will discuss ways that both professional scientists and citizens can aid birds through citizen science and democratic activism.

**Kathleen Heideman - TAKING IT PERSONALLY: Poems of Solastalgia** - Solastalgia is defined as “a form of homesickness one gets when one is still at home, but the environment is changed.” Kathleen M. Heideman will read poems of solastalgia from her newest book, *Psalms of the Early Anthropocene*, published in 2017 by Winter Cabin Books. Multimedia visuals, including watercolors and photos, accompany the poetry read.

**Mel Visser - PCBs: Inconvenient Truths Through Time** - Ninety years ago, PCBs were welcomed into our lives as a life non-toxic and property saving coolant. This stable family of 209 chemicals found many commercial, household, and consumer product uses. Sixty years ago, birds were disappearing from our Great Lakes and eventually PCBs and DDT were implicated. PCBs were banned 40 years ago, in 1978. Fish consumption advisories were issued as a temporary measure. In spite of much research and cleanup action, PCBs are still well above target levels.

**Nancy Warren - The Big Bad Wolf or Is It?** - Except in the movies, wolves pose little risk to humans and stories about wolves are often embellished by those who believe century old myths. We will discuss the benefits of wolves to the ecosystem and the politics of wolf management.

**Jerry Jondreau & Katy Butterfield - Gathering the Pieces** - View several short videos related to the local Ojibwe culture and history. A discussion will follow the films.

**Nathan Miller - Walking Paths & Protected Areas of the Keweenaw** - Learn about some of the Keweenaw’s best hiking trails with an introduction to this handy guidebook. An essential tool for anyone aspiring to see more of the region’s most scenic trails!

**UPEC Activity Update** - Maggie Scheffer - “Stepping Out for Environmental Education”, Jon Saari “Stepping Up for Land: The Community Conservation Grant program”, Kathleen Heideman - “Mining: Digging Up the Facts.”

## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

*Mark & Christine Troudt, Friends of the Land of the Keweenaw, Great Lakes Research Center, Visiting Women & Minority Lecturer/Scholar Series and the Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion - State of Michigan’s King-Chavez-Parks Initiative, Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, MTU Departments of Social Sciences and Civil & Environmental Engineering, School of Forest Resources & Environmental Sciences.*

**A special thank you to organizers Linda Rulison, Joan Chadde, and Horst Schmidt**



Sunrise Over Copper Harbor - Scott Pearson

**David Flaspohler** has taught ornithology for over 25 years, including 20 years in the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science at Michigan Technological University. He has conducted research in the Upper Peninsula and other parts of the Great Lakes region as well as in Hawaii and Latin America. He received his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Flaspohler

Gidigaa-Bizhi. **Jerry Jondreau** is a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. He is currently the Director of Recruitment at the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science at Michigan Technological University and previously worked as the Tribal Forester for his reservation. Jerry and his family exercise their Treaty Rights within the ceded territory and strive to maintain the linkages between past, present and future generations.



Jondreau

Ziigwanikwe. **Katy Butterfield** is a licensed Ojibwe Educator from the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe located in Northern Wisconsin. She has been working in the education field for over 10 years. Katy holds a Bachelors degree from the College of St. Scholastica in Secondary Social Studies and Ojibwe Language and Culture Education. Katy is currently working on educating their children from home, combining Ojibwe culture and traditional practices with the needs of modern life as a way to help reclaim their way of life for the future generations.



Butterfield

**Dudley Edmondson** is the author of the landmark book, *“Black & Brown Faces in America’s Wild Places,”* profiling African Americans in nontraditional vocations and avocations in the outdoors. Edmondson also contributes to newspapers and magazines and lectures regularly about diversity in the outdoors. A long-time volunteer with BOLD & GOLD, Dudley is committed to helping diverse groups of young people enjoy the outdoors.



Heideman

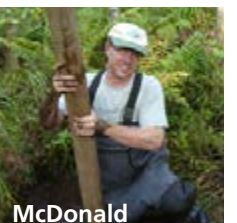
**Kathleen Heideman** is a writer, artist and environmentalist working in Michigan’s wild Upper Peninsula. She is a fellow of the National Science Foundation’s Antarctic Artists & Writers Program, and the recipient of numerous artist residencies with watersheds, forests, private foundations and the National Park Service, including residencies on Isle Royale, Apostle Islands, and Sleeping Bear Dunes. She serves as a UPEC Board Member. Curious woman.



Edmondson

**Isle Royale National Park** - Explore a rugged, isolated island, far from the sights and sounds of civilization. Surrounded by Lake Superior, Isle Royale offers unparalleled solitude and adventures for backpackers, hikers, boaters, kayakers, canoeists and scuba divers. Here, amid stunning scenic beauty, you’ll find opportunities for reflection and discovery, and make memories that last a lifetime.

**Evan McDonald** has a background in biology and ecology and worked for several years as a research scientist studying forest ecosystems. Since 2003, Evan decided to focus his energies on land conservation and habitat restoration as the executive director of the Keweenaw Land Trust (KLT). The KLT is a local non-profit that serves the western Upper Peninsula and works in community partnerships to advance land conservation, stewardship and education programs.



McDonald

**Jean Medlyn Ellis** is a retired educator. Her interest in Verna Mize’s campaign to save Lake Superior began when petitions appeared in local venues. After Verna Mize recounted her experiences in a seminar at MTU, Jean felt that more people should hear about this remarkable woman and her efforts to preserve Lake Superior. Contacts with relatives and friends along with internet information and archival records led to a successful nomination for Ms. Mize to the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame in October 2017.



Ellis



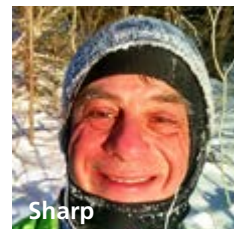
**Nathan Miller** is the Project Coordinator for The Keweenaw Land Trust and all-season adventurer, photographer, and recreational advocate. He has a Master of Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany - 2012.



**James Edward Mills** is a freelance journalist and an independent media producer. In a career that spans more than 20 years, he specializes in telling stories about outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, acts of charitable giving and practices of sustainable living. He is the producer of a blog and podcast series that focuses on adventure culture called The Joy Trip Project. The Project is a newsgathering and reporting organization that covers outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, acts of charitable giving and practices of sustainable living.



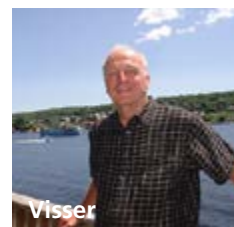
**Ray Sharp** is the Director, Community Health Promotion Division at Western U.P. Health Department. Ray is active outdoors in all seasons in the Upper Peninsula, enjoying trail running, cycling, kayaking, skiing and snowshoeing.



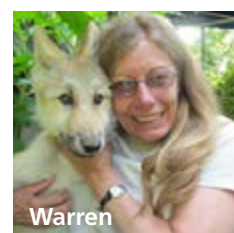
**Erika Vye** received her Ph.D. from the Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences Department at Michigan Technological University with a research focus on improved communication of Earth science to the broader public. She works for the Center for Science and Environmental Outreach and is active in the advancement of geoheritage and geotourism opportunities for the Keweenaw. She recently co-authored the book *“How the Rock Connects Us - A Geoheritage Guide to Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale.”*



**Mel Visser** got his first sniff of PCBs in 1954, but didn’t know it. He studied chemical engineering at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology and worked at developing process to make pharmaceutical chemicals at The Upjohn Company until 1980 when he became responsible for corporate environmental compliance. On retirement his industrial and regulatory experiences led him to wonder why PCB concentrations in the Great Lakes were not decreasing. Work with the EPA, and finally Arctic travel to plug into international research led Mel to an understanding of the recalcitrance of PCBs in our waters. His quest was published as *“Cold, Clear, and Deadly: Unraveling a toxic legacy.”* Since then Mel has continued to follow the lack of progress in achieving reduction of PCB levels in the waters of the northern hemisphere.



**Nancy Warren’s** passion for wolves began more than 25 years ago. What started as a curiosity, turned into a quarter of a century of volunteering and advocating for wolves. She supports an education-focused, science based approach to wolf management not decisions based on politics. Nancy served on the MI DNR Wolf Roundtable contributing to the development of the guiding principles for the MI Wolf Management Plan and currently serves on the MI Wolf Management Advisory Committee. In 2013, she became the Executive Director and Great Lakes Regional Director for the National Wolfwatcher Coalition. She also serves on the advisory boards of the Timber Wolf Alliance and Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf and worked with the Keep Michigan Wolves Protected Campaign. Nancy is active on several non-wildlife boards including Northwoods Alliance, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition and Ontonagon County Commission on Aging.



**Troy Zorn** enjoys working with others to collect and use information to better understand, protect, and manage fishes and habitats in Michigan streams. He is a research biologist, working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division since 1987, an adjunct assistant professor at Michigan State University, and an ad hoc graduate faculty member at Michigan Technological University. He pioneered modeling stream fish assemblages at the species level in Michigan, led development of Michigan’s stream survey program, and developed habitat suitability models for 68 common fishes in Michigan. His modeling of fish community responses to water withdrawal contributed to flow protection legislation for all types of Michigan streams. Troy is currently working on developing decision support tools from the state’s stream survey data, Michigan’s first statewide management plan for inland trout, a statewide trout angler survey, and research to rehabilitate coaster brook trout and restore Arctic grayling in Michigan. He has a B.S. degree from Lake Superior State College, and M.S. and Ph. D. degrees from The University of Michigan.

