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EN 111 class along Yellow Dog River  
Photo by Glynnis Kimberlin



Emily with garbage from beach clean up  
Photo by Ben Rebertus



Protect the Earth walk to Eagle Rock  
Photo by Zac Luhellier

## The Howl

Special Edition  
Dedicated to the  
volunteers that bolster our  
mission to preserve and  
protect this wilderness



Rocky ledge along Baraga Creek in McCormick  
Wilderness Area  
Photo by Emily Whittaker



West branch of Yellow Dog River  
Photo by Emily Whittaker



Walk, Paddle, and Roll fundraiser  
Photo by Emily Whittaker



Ben and Jerry measuring the forest  
Photo by Emily Whittaker





## Yellow Dog Board of Directors

Wow the summer is over. Seems like only yesterday I was talking about the woods waking up and now it is ready to retire for another winter. The ground will freeze and the rivers will ice over. Most precipitation will fall as snow, and lay in heaps waiting for the spring thaws to release them in great torrents.

We have held Kennecott mining at bay for another year and aren't worried if their holding ponds will break or over flow and poison our water. With the sulfide mining issue hopefully being on the ballot for next year, we all need to educate the public on the problems with sulfide mining.

If we all discussed the issues with our families, friends and co workers and encouraged them to discuss it with their families we can stop the threat of acid mine drainage poisoning our water.

If you aren't convinced that sulfide rock mining is bad, please visit our web site [www.yellowdogwatershed.org](http://www.yellowdogwatershed.org) and follow the links, or just google; sulfide mining, hard rock mining or acid mine drainage.

In the meantime, try to attend our fundraisers, outreach events, and informational session. Please check the web site for scheduled events this winter.

-Lorin Lardie, Chair, Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

From left to right in the front row: Mike Davis (Secretary), Ben Kent, Chauncey Moran (Vice Chair). From left to right in the back row: Marcia Gonstead, Lorin Lardie (Chair), Lynn Roovers (Treasurer), Gale Hausfeld, Bill Kinjorski. Not pictured: Jan Zender

## Academic Service Learning and the YDWP

By Rochelle Dale

Academic Service Learning at Northern Michigan University involves a partnership between the classroom and a community organization. Over the summer, Emily, Jan Zender and I, discussed the various ways in which a Freshman Composition class might be able to work with the Preserve. Emily was looking for ways to increase student participation and gain fresh perspectives, and I was looking for a means to enthuse and motivate students to care about what they write while at the same time introducing them to our natural environment.

We decided on a plan. Since the Preserve relies on volunteers for a major portion of its work load, Emily and the board members wanted to highlight some of their accomplishments in this issue of the newsletter. My EN 111 class became the means to make this happen. Students interviewed eleven of those volunteers and then scrupulously wrote, revised, and edited volunteer profiles for publication in this issue. In order to give students a sense of place that the volunteers and other members are so passionate about, we traveled to a section of the Yellow Dog River near Bushy Creek one sunny September day. For many, this trip was a discovery: "As soon as I got out of the van, I realized this was why I came to Marquette." Another student wrote: "The trip really made me realize what incredible wilderness is in the Marquette area and how it truly needs to be protected . . . there really aren't many rivers like this left anymore." And still another wrote: "Once I got there, I never intended to leave . . . the view of waterfall after waterfall stole my heart. There is no other way I can express my love for the wilderness except that is the reason why I came to Marquette and NMU."

Others were impressed by the people they met and interviewed. They were pleased to get to know someone out of their own peer group. One student said that he "wouldn't mind hanging out" with his new acquaintance. Another student expressed her admiration of her interviewee's woodland knowledge and concluded with "the interview experience was awesome."

In their journal entries following the trip to the river, most students used words like peaceful, relaxing, or calming to describe the effects of the river. After reading their words and after listening to many class discussions, I realize anew the importance of incorporating the natural world, our environment, into the class room. I appreciate again the power of the natural world and the effect it can have on us, its necessity in our daily lives. At Northern, we are surrounded by wonders: the Great Lake, the many rivers and waterfalls, small inland lakes, and mountains that we can climb. We are fortunate, and these students know that: "The Yellow Dog is a beautiful river, and I wish everyone could see what we got to see."



Rochelle's EN 111 class posing near Bushy Creek.  
Photo by Emily Whittaker

What follows in the middle section are profiles of both volunteers and the Yellow Dog River conducted by the students at Northern who fell in love with the river on that warm and sunny September day when "the river was like glass reflecting the trees."

# Executive Director's Report

By Emily Whittaker

Another summer has passed and my one year mark as Executive Director has gone by. Overall, I feel that I have brought a renewed presence and energy to the group and the work that we are doing. I put in many hours and consider it a pleasure to be working to protect a landscape so remarkable as the Yellow Dog River valley. Below are some of the highlights from the past six months, including a few favorite projects of mine.



Left: Emily assisting Powell Township School's 7&8 grade ID macroinvertebrates.



Right: Rochelle Dale and Devin Post assisting in invasive plant survey.

**McCormick Wilderness Stewardship Project-** After receiving a grant from the National Forest Foundation in conjunction with REI, we began work on the three pronged project to assist the Forest Service in reaching baseline standards for this wilderness area. We completed field work surveying the wilderness for non-native invasive plant species, as well as campsites and day use areas, and collected water samples to be analyzed for chemicals associated with air pollution. Surveying the wilderness brought me and our crew to some very remote areas deep in the interior of the wilderness. Currently, we are working on mapping the plants and campsites and the water samples are being analyzed in the lab. All of this information will be put together in a management plan that the Forest Service will use for future actions regarding each of these elements.

**New Program Manager Hired-** We have a good variety of projects going on and we needed an extra hand to help fulfill our priorities. With grants that we have acquired, we were able to hire Adrienne Bozic as the newest staff member. Ms. Bozic brings an immense wealth of knowledge, skill, and experience to the table as a 10+ year ecologist for various state and federal agencies. Adrienne is also wrapping up her master's thesis at Northern Michigan University describing two rare orchid communities in the Grand Sable Dunes. So far, she has assisted with our Nature Mapping program, water monitoring, new program scoping, and mapping/data analysis for the McCormick project. We welcome Adrienne and look forward to all of the great work that is yet to come.

**Academic Service Learning-** One of my favorite projects this season was working with a group of NMU students and their instructor, Rochelle Dale, in a partnership that introduced new faces to the river. In the middle section of the newsletter, you will find a description of the project, along with 11 profiles written by this class that highlighted our volunteers. It was an honor to show these students the river and to expose them to our group's mission. Take a look at this special section of the newsletter.

**Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival-** On November 5 and 6 of this year, we hosted this first environmental film festival the U.P. has ever seen. In partnership with Downwind Sports, Students Acting to Save MI's Water, and Patagonia, we brought 8 films to the community to expose us to what other communities are facing and to realize that the environment is a global system. Our action here affects people elsewhere and vice versa. Films covered coal extraction in Appalachia, environmentalism in conjunction with religion, hardrock mining law reform, urban organic farming, recreation in conservation, wilderness fragmentation due to transportation systems, and more. Participants agreed that this was a must for next year so look for the next film fest in 2010!

**Beach Clean Up-** As a part of the Alliance for the Great Lakes region wide beach clean up, YDWP chipped in on September 19 to collect garbage from Squaw Beach, the local access to Lake Superior. Over 200 lbs. of refuse was collected in 1.5 hours with the help of Yellow Dog board members and community volunteers. Among the most astounding items collected were parts of a bed frame, circuit breakers, rugs, and full beer cans! Its unfortunate that these things would ever be thrown at one of the most beautiful beaches on the lake. But it is a great thing to have more people willing to alleviate the problem than creating it!

**Workshops-** We offered three workshops over the past six months in attempt to reach out and educate the community. These workshops include Sustainable Forestry, Introduction to the Clean Water Act, and Nature Mapping. Take a look at our events page to see about more educational events that are fun and informational!

**Fundraising-** YDWP participated in the Great Lakes Walk, Paddle, and Roll which helped us raise funds through outdoor events and online donations. Thanks to everyone who participated and donated! YDWP is also accepting receipts from Econo Foods. The store gives back 1% of total sales collected from receipts. If you shop there regularly, send us your receipts in the mail at P.O. Box 5, Big Bay, MI 49808. The more we collect, the more we get back!



Participants of Nature Mapping Workshop learning scale

**Battery Recycling-** For over 3 years now, YDWP has been recycling batteries for the communities of Big Bay and Marquette. We had drop spots at the Marquette Food Co-op and at our office in Big Bay. Unfortunately, this program is discontinued for the time being. The entity collecting our batteries cannot handle the large volume it receives and is therefore closing shop. We are working right now to find a local solution to battery recycling and hope to be able to bring this very popular program back to you very soon. Until then, please DO NOT drop more batteries off at the drop spots. We appreciate your cooperation.



## Sulfide Mining Update

By Cynthia Pryor

Sulfide Mining Campaign Coordinator



Cynthia discussing Mining Law Reform at the Environmental Film Festival

### The MiWater Ballot Initiative – What it IS . . .

Earlier this year Michigan residents Maura and Duncan Campbell began a journey that we involved in the sulfide mining debate had only dreamed about. They began a process to determine the feasibility of a 2010 ballot initiative that would help protect the state of Michigan from the effects of metallic sulfide mining. This initiative would take courage, resolution and lots of money – about \$1.5 - 2 million. The Campbells are convinced it can be done. This summer the MiWater Campaign was launched and in October of this year, ballot petition language was sent to the State Board of Canvassers for inclusion to the 2010 ballot. The summary of the ballot initiative is as follows:

*A proposal to amend Part 632 (Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, MCL 324.63201 et seq, by adding Section 63206 to:*

- (1) prohibit uranium mining and processing until new rules have been established to protect against the special risks associated with those activities;*
- (2) require a mining area to be located more than 2,000 feet away from any water body unless it is proven that the mining operations will not cause any injury to groundwater or water bodies;*
- (3) require a permit applicant to provide a regional ground water and surface water analysis to enable an assessment of all potential impacts to groundwater and surface waters from the proposed mining operations;*
- (4) require a permit applicant to show that another mine in the United States or Canada: (a) is similar to the applicant's proposed mine in all relevant ways, and (b) operated for at least 5 years and has not harmed natural resources or caused any exceedance of applicable environmental criteria for at least 10 years after closure; and*
- (5) prescribe additional requirements for reporting, notification, permit review, permit amendments, and enforcement.*

This proposal is to be voted on at the November 2, 2010 General Election. The MiWater campaign intends to use a professional signature gathering organization, along with volunteers to gather more than 400,000 registered voter signatures within a 180 day timeframe. Criteria for signatures is obtaining roughly 304,000 authenticated registered voter signatures on a petition by May 2010. Once the signatures are gathered and authenticated, the process enters its final stages of getting it on the ballot. In rare cases, the legislature will vote to approve a ballot measure prior to the general election. If the legislature takes no action it goes to the ballot and if passed only a three-fourths majority vote in the state legislature can overturn it.

### ...and What it ISN'T

What the ballot initiative ISN'T is a ban on mining in the state of Michigan. Opponents to the initiative have taken a very aggressive stance that this initiative will be a total ban on mining in the U.P., will take away our much needed jobs and hurt the U.P. beyond repair. Recently, four U.P. legislators released a press release that we quote in part:

#### U.P. Lawmakers Issue Joint Statement Condemning Anti - U.P. Ballot Proposal

*As elected leaders from the U.P., we view a recently-announced ballot proposal to ban mining under the clever guise of protecting water to be nothing more than an attack by special interests on the U.P. and its people, heritage, and economic future.*

*Additionally, a statewide precedent could be set where ballot initiatives could negatively impact other industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, or siting of renewable energy facilities.*

*A couple from Grosse Pointe is leading this effort to place on the ballot before the state's voters in 2010 the question of banning future mines in the U.P. They even resort to the disappointing scare tactic of creating a ban on future "uranium mining" in this proposal, even though no "uranium mining" activity has ever existed, nor has any uranium ore been discovered, in our state*

*The changes they seek won't strengthen Michigan's recently enacted mining law and regulations - the strongest mining law in the country. They will BAN any future mining. These proposed changes create an iron-clad guarantee that there will be no future nickel, copper, gold or other metal mining in the UP.*

*And that road to nowhere is a road to economic devastation for the families that live and work in the Upper Peninsula, and for the communities of the region. While people in the U.P. are struggling to find work during these challenging economic times, wealthy backers of this ballot proposal are using misinformation and scare tactics in an effort to make the U.P. their private playground.*

The uninformed response of our U.P. lawmakers and the rhetoric contained in their press release, show an astounding lack of statesmanship and representation of the people they were elected to serve. Whom are they representing in this release - if not the special

interests of global hard-rock (sulfide) mining companies from around the world. These mining interests care about getting the ore out - not about our land, water, wildlife and the people who live, work and play here.

When the DEQ rules for Part 632 were written, they were to be a comprehensive, logical and scientific expansion into the necessary detail required to uphold the precepts of a good metallic sulfide mining statute. Language written concerning third party hydrogeological studies, siting (the proposed mine's proximity to water and other important features), the inclusion of uranium mining - were all discussed at length and dismissed by the DEQ as unnecessary. Unnecessary to whom or what? Unnecessary to the real and known danger of this type of mining to our waters? We all commented and went on record in opposition to these rules without these necessary items as a part of them. Now the MiWater Ballot Initiative is doing what should have been done in the first place. Thank you MiWater!

The notion that in these hard times that we need jobs - any kind of jobs - is a pat and easy way out of discussing the real issues. Kennecott and the Chamber of Commerce came to Big Bay last year and offered us jobs fixing tires, serving food and doing laundry. Shocked residents attending the meeting just looked at them and said, "What! THIS in exchange for our place - the Yellow Dog Plains?"

Why is it incomprehensible that we would want mining companies coming into water-rich Michigan - from who knows where - able to prove they can do it right and do it safely? Do it safely and do it right the first time, because there is no second chance once things start going wrong.

Please call each and every U.P. legislator and tell them to do their job. Represent the people, ALL the people and do things right.

Contact: Sen. Mike Prusi, (517) 373-7840  
Sen. Jason Allen (517) 373-2413  
Rep. Mike Lahti (517) 373-0850  
Rep. Steve Lindberg (517) 373-0498  
Rep. Judy Nemat (517) 373-0156



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P.O. Box #7288  
Detroit, MI 48207

#### **Kennecott Eagle Mine Project Update** by Cynthia Pryor

Due to the extreme complexity of this issue and the many fronts going on simultaneously, here is an update of events that have taken place in the past year to date:

**February 14, 2009.** Rio Tinto officially deferred (put on hold) the Kennecott Eagle Project until commodity prices rise. There has been no Kennecott activity on the Yellow Dog Plains since December 2008.

**May, 2009.** The Coaster Brook Trout Threatened and Endangered petition was denied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sierra Club and the Huron Mountain Club will be filing an appeal.

**July, 2009.** Judge Paula Manderfield dismisses DNR Public Trust case due to lack of jurisdiction. This decision has been appealed by the petitioners (National Wildlife Federation, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Huron Mountain Club and the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Inc) to the Michigan Court of Appeals. All briefs filed and awaiting the setting of court dates.

**August 19, 2009.** Kennecott submits DEQ wetlands permit applications for wetland fill for their "south road" now called "Woodland Road". The DEQ indicated there will be public meetings and public comment taken. The road is proposed to exit the mine site onto the AAA, to the Clowery road and cross the Yellow Dog heading south, crossing several streams, rivers and wetland areas, including the headwaters of the Mulligan Creek, Dead River, Escanaba River and their associated tributaries and wetlands. This will be a "private" road except for an approved three mile portion of county road where it joins US 41/28 and crosses to the proposed Humboldt Mill site. A letter written by YDWP in September 2008 to the DEQ and the DNR, assured that Kennecott must submit addendums to their mining permit for any new haul road and any new electric run to the mine site from CR 550.

**August 18, 2009.** DEQ Contested Case decision made by Judge Patterson. The judge sided with Kennecott and the DEQ on all matters except the use of Eagle Rock as the portal for the mine. He has recommended that the portal be moved elsewhere and that the Rock not be fenced in and therefore, accessible by native and non-native alike. He indicated the Rock was sacred to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and should not be used as a mine portal. This recommendation was forwarded to MDEQ Director Chester who has returned this judgment back to Judge Patterson for further consideration. All are allowed new briefs on this matter which are due to Judge Patterson by December 7<sup>th</sup>. The judge will then consider these new briefs along with the existing court information and either support his ruling or reverse it. There is no time-line for his re-consideration.

**December 1, 2009.** Public Hearing on MDEQ proposed decision to approve Kennecott's Humboldt Mill permit.

**December, 2009.** The U.S. EPA has not yet set dates for public hearings for Kennecott to obtain UIC permits for the proposed Eagle Mine. KBIC, along with several Midwest tribes, have entered into consultation with the EPA concerning Eagle Rock. The EPA has to issue a proposed decision on any permits and have public comment before issuing them to Kennecott. The DNR has stipulated that the project cannot continue on state land until all permits are obtained, including the EPA permits.

# Riverwalking (Summer-Fall 09)

By Chauncey Moran, Yellow Dog Riverkeeper

It was 4 AM November 6, 2009 when the alarm went beep beep 10 times in seemly louder succession to signal the rising up to begin the days adventure to the south entrance of the McCormick Wilderness Area. YDWP had been awarded a grant to assess certain attributes of the tract by the US Forest Service. This would be some of the final days of data gathering. Our task was to photograph, map, and record camping sites on Lakes Margaret, Bull Dog, and White Deer; as well as take water samples of each of those lakes for lab analysis. We used strict EPA protocol for most accurate sampling results. We would also measure water temperature, Dissolved oxygen, Specific Conductance, pH, and nitrates. My partner would be Lakewalkerr, a notorious back woods fixture of that area. His knowledge, passion, and commitment would be necessary to accomplish our tasks in the two days we had dedicated to the project. Though out the next two days of portaging and paddling the canoe, we encountered ½ ice covering the lake, 2 foot waves at 30mph headwinds, and air temperatures in the 20's, standard UP conditions. We stayed the course and accomplished our goals. Our spirits remained in tact because of the strong bond of friendship that we have developed over many years; and like any relationship it requires reaffirmation at times. In all these many years Lakewalkerr, has never taken/accepted compensation for his dedicated activities looking after our precious resources in the central UP. He does it; because he cares about future generations having opportunities for the same experiences that he had. If you are ever in the McCormick and approached by a tall Marine looking guy who ask pointed questions if you seem lost or your behavior to the wilderness lacks in the leave no trace ethic, you will be fortunate to listen to his words of wisdom about the area, and if he decides your behavior is ignorance and you listen, you may find a trail that is on no map, a story of the past, or even half of his peanut butter and banana sandwich. Best of all you will meet the best woods friend the Creator has provided me. Herein are some of the activities; apologies to the brevity.



Chauncey with beer cans from the beach clean up  
Photo by Emily Whittaker

## June

- Due to heavy rains an evaluation of many woods roads in watershed developed rutting and riling; we went about recording those areas, and where appropriate we contacted the land owners and the MCRC. All areas did not affect surface water quality in the streams.
- The Warbler survey did not identify any singing males although reports in July did not reveal sightings
- Water keeper Conference in New York yielded numerous insights into the overall challenge to all watersheds throughout the world. Humbling, but insightful more later...
- Beginning of the monitoring of our 20 site in the Yellow dog watershed

## July

- Numerous hikes to the Yellow Dog Plains with folks interested in the proposed future activity that could affect air, water, and quality of life for the region.
- Completed 20 monitoring sites with the help of the following volunteers: John Anderson, Nancy Moran, Jeremiah Moran, and any who prayed for our success....
- Land stewardship and forest harvest field trip with Gerry Mohlman, retired DNR forester complete with the contact logger who executed the job. Organized by Emily Whittaker.
- World famous Mining Consultant Jack Parker gave rock mechanic seminar at Powell Township school and overview of the Mining Permit application submitted by Kennecott Minerals. Well attended with several questions from the audience...

## August

- Yellow Dog Summer begins at NMU and continued on the Plains with walk from Clowery Bridge to Eagle Rock. Numerous tribal communities attended.
- Fred Rydholm Celebration of Life. Numerous friends and relatives told several unforgettable anecdotal musings of their personal and loving experiences with Fred. Presently project underway to put all photos and movies of the event into a documentary. Stay Tuned.
- Remapping of Island Lake Trail for future hikes and current USFS projects grant fulfillment
- Plant survey with Steve Garski
- MUCC guide of the Yellow Dog Plains. George Lindquist MUCC vice- president, Cynthia Pryor, and I guided MUCC board members around some of the areas that would be affected by the proposed Kennecott Mining operations.
- Met with DEQ personal about continuing sediment deposition into the Little Pup at monitoring Site 5.30.
- Monitored high water after days of heavy rains, more than 4 inches.

## September

- Lake Superior Beach Cleanup with other YDW members
- Water sampling at wetlands in Champion Township with Cynthia Pryor
- Smartwood evaluation of Longyear LLC lands with Emily Whittaker and Longyear staff.
- Discussing cultural opportunities on the Yellow Dog Plains with John Anderton's class from NMU. Their sincere interest, attentiveness, and dialog gave inspiration to the writer.



## October

- Attended NRC meeting in Ontonagon speaking about DNR role in youth programs.
- Jan Zender met with Reuter's news writer Nick Carey to discuss the jobs issue in the proposed future mining district centered around the Yellow Dog Plains. Special appreciation to Dave and Marcy Cella for their UP hospitality, venison, and carrot cake.
- Monitoring on the Huron River watershed with Jeremiah Moran, Geri Larson, and several volunteers sorting invertebrates at Dave and Marcy Cella's. Excellent cuisine included.
- Attended fundraiser for the Lake Superior Watershed Partnership at Up Front and Company.
- Attended Marquette County Road Commission meeting concerning Woodland Road for proposed mining operation and hauling of ore. I reminded the Commissioners that MDEQ and MDNR evaluations were not yet complete and what was the hurry to grant turnover of the road for construction.
- Attended MiCorp conference including stream flow gauging and geomorphic overview sessions. Beginning to consider monitoring program for Lake Independence through the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program. Opportunity to expand our watershed monitoring protocol, grant funding, and collaboration building...

## November

- McCormick Wilderness Area evaluation of campsite and lake water chemistry sampling with Emily Whittaker and John Anderson. Most exciting 4 day adventure.
- Complete the 20 monitoring sites with Nancy and Jeremiah Moran. Grant funding provided equipment and additional personnel in the person of Adrienne Bozic; who is a most excellent field partner. All other commitments are strictly volunteer.
- If you have a passion for the river and an attitude of perseverance for learning the truth we are in need of your services.

As usual this is partial list of activities; since some of that work (volunteer) requires no record, it shall remain confidential, and unrecorded, or photographed; the innocent and guilty shall remain anonymous; but not vindicated or excused; perhaps forgiven of action if repentance should surface.

Many of you who work beside me in spirit add spring to my steps in walking your rivers and watersheds. Your prayers and personal commitment to future resource protection will only be realized when future generations begin undoing what past generations have done and recognized your efforts may have pointed the way....Take a breath ...Remain Hopeful and Faithful.... Find true Joy in The Creator while continuing in stewardship to the Creation

**Rrr**



Top left: Chauncey and Jeremiah in the McCormick Wilderness Area  
Bottom left: Bill O'Boyle, Chauncey, and Susan Houston enjoy the breeze on top of Eagle Rock  
Right: Narrow leaved Gentian in bloom

## *Special Edition Volunteer Profiles*

By EN 111 students at Northern Michigan University

### Place Profile



Starting from Bulldog Lake in the Ottawa National Forest and stretching to its mouth at Lake Independence, the Yellow Dog River covers over 51 miles. For some people, this river is an obscure waterway and for others it's a long stretch of heaven. In the summertime, the deeper pockets of water are used as swimming pools and fishing holes. During other seasons, the river can be a colorful place to capture the beauty of nature or to take a peaceful walk through the canopied forests.

Knowing that, as a class, we were going to be hiking through the trails right next to the river was something that most of us did not see coming. A field trip for a college course seemed odd, but we soon realized this area needs to be persevered for future generations to come. We had heard so much about the river and the background behind it, but actually being able to be there was a joyful experience that we all felt. Emily Whittaker was telling us where we were going to walk, but no one seemed to be paying attention; we were all focused on the water and the sounds surrounding us.

We were amazed by the beauty of the drive. One student explained his thoughts along the way: "It was quite the drive. There were never ending turns and the road was really bumpy." And when we piled out of the vans, we sunk into about three inches of the loamy soil. Hiking the half-a-mile upstream on a narrow path made us realize why the volunteers do what they do. Some of us fell; we tripped and took hold of branches to be stable along the way. As we climbed the hills and grabbed the tree limbs to help us slide down to the bottom, the sun caught the dewed leaves and threw tiny

rainbows in every direction. The sound of rushing water filled our ears, and the sweet smell of wet mulch filled our noses.

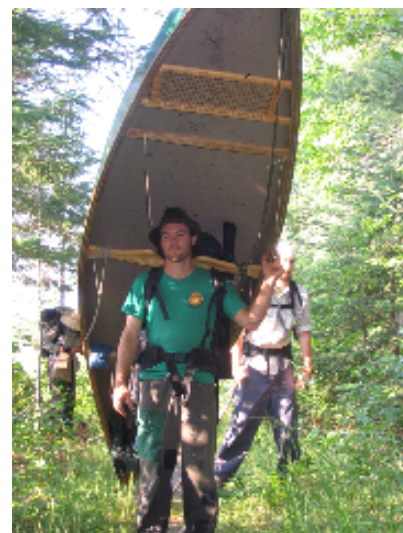
As we trekked farther up the Yellow Dog River, we couldn't help but feel relaxed and overcome with awe and the tranquility of nature. For those with cameras, the pictures will not be worth 1000 words but millions. When we took the pictures of the trails, it seemed that there were never ending scenes to capture. "I stayed in the back so I wouldn't hold up the group taking a lot of photos of pretty much everything," one student shared. There are many places on the river where the water flows over boulders creating magnificent waterfalls. Other parts were so calm; the water reflected the tree line and the blue sky above. The color spectrum in the water ranged from deep chocolate browns to amber yellows where the sunlight hit the surface just right. The pristine condition with abundant natural filters on the Yellow Dog River makes the water so clean that one could even drink from it. Overall, our trip away from the classroom helped us discover that no matter how far away we have come, we are home.

**By Melissa Millis, Damian Peters, Glynnis Kimberlin**

### Marc VanGrinsven

The volunteers at the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve strive for preservation of the wild-life and the health of the river and surrounding areas. Marc VanGrinsven is one of these special volunteers who donates all the time he can while attending school in Washington. Marc is not your typical young man. Instead of racing around in power boats, he prefers the simplicity of a birch bark canoe. As he told us of his adventures in the McCormick Wilderness, he would smile in such a way that you could tell that it was much more than just trees to him, it was something worth working to protect. Marc said that, "It is under a great threat that can be avoided." He found out about the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve indirectly through a lot of things: friends, the mining issue, and SAVE THE WILD U.P. He has done a few things to help the Yellow Dog community. Most recently he portaged a canoe one and a half miles so that other Yellow Dog volunteers could get around to do plant surveys. Not only does he portage canoes, he makes them as well. As a project for his graduate thesis, Marc built a Birch Bark canoe. He tells us that he wants to go on a big paddle trip to raise awareness of sustainability of using birch bark canoes. He cares a lot about this area since his first real connection with the McCormick Wilderness happened at its head waters.

When we asked Marc what his favorite part of this area is he laughs and says "Trout! No, it's a really wild and scenic river, and it still has that character to it." He tells us that he has had many profound experiences that have shaped his thinking, and he really likes those places that allow him to have new perspectives. While talking to Marc, it was clear that this place means so much to him and that his memories are outlined in every ripple of the river. Even though this young man is no longer living in this area, he comes back at least twice a year. He goes camping in the winter and hangs around in the summer for a few months. This summer, however, that will not be the case. Marc says that next summer he plans to go on a trip with his canoe starting at Lake Superior and ending at the Pacific Ocean. However, he hopes to spend as much time as possible in Big Bay. When I told him that he was crazy he laughed and replied, "Some people are crazier, and that is my inspiration." He also told us that he really wants people to know that there is a lot to preserve and that it is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy massive wilderness that is both protected and unprotected: "It's so beautiful it's unbelievable."



Marc portaging this summer  
Photo by Emily Whittaker

**By Michelle Stewart and Kaitlyn Pappas**



### *Sue Belanger: A Look on the Outside*



Sue during the beach clean up.

Photo by Emily Whittaker

Before we met Sue Belanger we knew she must be a compassionate person because it takes a lot for a person to volunteer their free time to an organization. Sue is a unique individual. You may have spotted her driving down MI 550 toward Big Bay with an orange kayak on top of her vehicle. You would notice the two bumper stickers plastered to the back of the kayaks. One sticker would read “Protect Watersheds” and the other “Fresh Water.” Helping raise awareness for the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve is one of the many ways that Sue helps the organization. Recently, she has been actively involved with the Preserve by participating in the Big Bay beach clean-up. In addition, Sue was also a part of the Walk, Paddle, and Roll fundraiser. Previously, she has written letters to congress for the organization and been involved in public hearings. Also, she tries to help resolve the mining issue. It is an important topic in the Big Bay area. She feels very strongly about this particular problem. In her opinion, the land being used for mining is quite disturbing. Her worst fear is that the rivers would no longer exist. In fact, the beautiful countryside of the Upper Peninsula is one of the things that brought her back to the area.

After graduating from Northern Michigan University, she moved to Texas to pursue a teaching career in Biology. After 10 years away from home, she moved back to the Upper Peninsula and settled down on the Yellow Dog, where she is still residing today. Sue admits that there is no one favorite part of the river for her. She simply says that her favorite part of the river is that it is there. Since she has moved home, she has been very active in the Marquette community. Besides being a part of the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Sue created an organization for kids to study after school. The program, SWAMP, is still running today at the local Marquette YMCA. Sue is also a massage therapist and manager of the Tu Kaluthia Café. Although she enjoys these activities very much, her passion lies in her kayaking job. We could tell she cared very much about this job by the way her eyes lit up and her constant referral to the subject. Here she teaches people, young and old, how to kayak.

Her love of kayaking sparks her love for the Yellow Dog River and the surrounding area. She tries to “help out whenever possible!” Inspired by her education background, Sue hopes “A whole new generation of kids becomes aware and actively involved in nature.” She also believes, “technology and video games have become too much a part of our younger generation’s lives. Exploring nature and becoming educated about nature is key to future generations and particularly to the Yellow Dog River itself.”

Next time you find yourself traveling down MI 550, look for the orange kayak with the two bumper stickers, and you know you are following a hard-working Yellow Dog River Preserve volunteer who is dedicated to preserving and saving the river for ourselves and future generations.

**By Kalya Walenta and Chelsey Furlong**

### *Seth Bernard: Music to the Yellow Dog's Ears*

A man with a mission, Seth Bernard is set on getting the message out to people. While music is his passion, the Yellow Dog Watershed has always been a dear place to him, so naturally he combined the two. “Music is effective as it travels through the air,” a marvelous reason why Seth chose music to get the word out that the Yellow Dog River needs protection. For years now, the Yellow Dog has been under constant threat by mining companies out for money, though certain people such as Seth realize there are far greater resources to be utilized.

Although from just outside of Lake City, Michigan, Seth is associated with the U.P. through long standing family ties. He explains his initial involvement with the land up here: “I have family roots in the UP that go way back. My great grandpa, Samuel Bernard, was a logger on the Yellow Dog plains, and my grandpa, also Samuel Bernard, was a rail road guy in Marquette, so that whole area is dear to my heart and soul. So when we learned about the proposed mine and everything like that, we felt very protective and inspired to do something. We played some benefits; we worked with a lot of people connected to the area in order to help us speak out about things that are not right and not fair.”

“Rivers are the veins of the land and we have to protect them and our water.” Seth muses about the great importance of this Preserve. The river has extra meaning for Seth, he believes that the creative process happens when people are alone and that ideas surface when in solitude within a natural environment such as the wilderness of the Yellow Dog. The beauty and raw inspiration serve to help Seth do what he loves most, making music. “I was very attracted to singer-songwriters who used music to communicate ideas, illustrate and talk about important pieces of information from our time, and use music as a sort of alchemy to put energy back out into the world.” The words Seth creates leave their mark on society and lead a new generation to take up the cause.

The music is drawn from additional inspiration; Seth is inspired by the people, by the spirit of the folks in the area who stand up against the cooperation and try to protect the environment. Seth continues to advocate his stance, as he claims “Hopefully my music has been useful-in making people more aware of the problems since word doesn’t travel quite as fast the further one gets away from the UP.” Through music Seth Bernard hopes to make people have a greater understanding and appreciation for the Yellow Dog River and perhaps become active members of the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve. Today Seth performs for weddings, music festivals, and even has his own website <http://www.earthworkmusic.com> which features some beautiful examples of his work.

**By Matthew Jazdyk & Karmen Whitham**



Seth playing for YDWP  
Photo by Chauncey Moran

### Interview with Dan Cardin

Dan Cardin is from Ironwood, Michigan, a town in the western Upper Peninsula close to the Wisconsin border. When we met with Dan, he was a nice, easy to talk to person who enjoys coloring with his daughter Jade. After high school, Dan came to Marquette and attended Northern Michigan University earning an undergraduate degree. Then, Dan and his wife, Michelle, moved to Fairbanks, Alaska where he went to graduate school for three and a half years. They came back to Marquette, Michigan shortly after.

Dan and Michelle live close to the Yellow Dog, on County Road 550, and Michelle knows the executive director, Emily Whittaker. After talking with Emily, Dan told her he was interested in volunteering for the nonprofit organization. As a result, he has volunteered there for about one year. Since Dan has a background in computer science, he helped the Preserve redesign their website. When he started volunteering at the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve (YDWP), they had a website that was difficult to maintain. Emily had trouble creating, updating, or deleting the web pages. Dan switched them over to an easier website called Wordpress.

The reason Dan cares about the Yellow Dog is because of the people. He likes that there are people who care about the land and want to protect it. Dan approves of the Preserve's goal and mission statement: "to preserve and protect The Yellow Dog Watershed for the benefit of present and future generations." This goal is fulfilled by the YDWP when they acquire land that they keep open and accessible to the public.

When he's not volunteering at the preserve, Dan is keeping busy with his two children, daughter Jade (3 ½ years old) and son Jasper (7 months old) Michelle and Dan are trying to remodel their home; every weekend they try to improve some part of it. They are developing useful carpentry skills in the process. Dan says, "It would be nice to spend more time on Yellow Dog stuff, but it's hard to do with kids and a house that needs remodeling."

Dan had one story to share about the YDWP annual party which he and his family attended for the first time in June 2009. Dan says, "It is a really nice party where everyone brings a dish to pass and exchanges stories. The event took place on private property in a huge field right next to the Yellow Dog River. But we had to leave the party shortly before dark because little bugs called noseums came and started biting everyone." Despite this, Dan still enjoys the Yellow Dog River and volunteering. I'm sure he made many friends at this event, which is another reason he enjoys volunteering.

**By Alisa Fox and Jamie Anderson**

### Jerry Mohlman

When first arriving at the road that leads to Jerry Mohlman's 510 property, one wonders how someone could possibly live out here in the middle of nowhere, although this is not something that Jerry considers a problem. He is quite content on his 180 acres of remote land. In fact, the amount of time he spends there throughout the year would probably add up to about six months. This is impressive, because in the winter the road is not drivable so he has to snowshoe.

A recently retired forester for the Department of Natural Resources, Jerry knows everything there is to know about trees and how to keep the forest prospering. As he showed us around his own forest, he pointed out which trees were which and how you should cut certain trees down so that others will grow. His land contains many different trees, as he has tried to create a mixed forest. It consists of sugar maple, hemlock, cherry, beech, oak, aspen, and red maple trees.

Jerry's vast knowledge in forestry is what he used to help the Yellow Dog Watershed. He was doing a compartment job for the DNR around Eagle Rock, and knew that the Watershed was interested in what happened to that land. He invited them to come out and see what he was doing, so they would be more at ease. First, the Watershed asked Jerry to do a Maple syrup workshop, but he was unable to since he hadn't yet begun making maple syrup. Instead he did a forestry workshop for them. During the workshop he showed members of the watershed and other attendees how to keep a sustainable forest. His favorite part of the workshop was how everyone responded positively, asked him good questions, and how Jerry got to meet people who care as much as he does about keeping the forest sustainable and alive.

He has set up his solo maple syrup operation this past summer for the spring. With just under a thousand trees tapped on his property, his chances for success are high. Jerry has built three small buildings to house the equipment he needs for his production; these are the only buildings on his property. One contains a vacuum that pumps the sap from the trees into the next building- this is the only part in the production that uses electricity. By using a vacuum you can retrieve more sap. The next building holds an evaporator which preheats the syrup. The sap travels to these buildings from tube lines throughout the forest. Jerry wanted to make maple syrup in order to find both preserve the forest, and at the same time help with the general costs of the land. If it works out, he would like to show others how to run and operate the same machinery on their land. Jerry hopes that his efforts will persuade others to look for alternate methods of making money off the land and thereby prevent pressure on the forest to become commercialized.

Originally Jerry is from Waterford, MI. He attended Michigan Tech University and later transferred to University of Michigan. Now living in Gwinn, MI, he describes himself as "low profile person". He enjoys reading. One of his favorite books is *Walden*, and he says that Henry David Thoreau is kind of a hero to him. He started buying his land on 510 when he was 25 years old in 1984. He was first attracted to the land for its three waterfalls. Jerry's plans for the future are continuing the production of maple syrup and eventually doing private forestry.

**By Stephanie Dietz and Kayla Collins**



Jerry on his property  
Photo by Stephanie Dietz



### Emily Sprengelmeyer

A non-traditional student at Northern Michigan University and an Environmental Science major, Emily Sprengelmeyer is an active volunteer for the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve. Being a full-time student, a full-time employee at the Marquette food co-op and a young married woman, she manages her time wisely using every spare minute available to help the Preserve in any way she can. Emily attended the Madison area Technical College in Madison, Wisconsin for one year before transferring to NMU to work towards an environmental science degree. An Indiana native, Emily enjoys hiking, camping, and can't wait for the snow to cross country ski. She loves the beautiful country that the Watershed has to offer, which is what brought her to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Prior to moving to the U.P., Emily went online to look for possible places to volunteer. She started reading an article on the sulfide mining and stumbled upon the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve. Shortly after finding the Preserve, Emily scheduled an interview with the coordinator who told her everything that she needed to know about the Watershed Preserve up front and straight forward. She began volunteering in July of 2009, making her a relatively new volunteer for the Preserve. Her major tasks are clerical duties such as working on spreadsheets and looking up addresses and phone numbers. She also helps with promotional activities. Emily would like to become involved in nature mapping as well because she believes that it would be an excellent opportunity to learn about the various plants and animals in the watershed. She says that she loves living in the U.P. and would like to stay after graduation. As long as Emily lives in the U.P., she plans on volunteering for the Preserve.

We asked her why she volunteered in the past and continues to do so, and whether or not she would recommend volunteering to others. She responded by saying, "Yes, I would. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, become involved in the community, and experience new things. It also brings people closer." She believes that the Preserve is doing an excellent job in trying to keep the watershed just the way it is. She agrees with the Preserve's values and mission and will continue to do her best to help out in the future. An environmental science degree major, it is no surprise that she would volunteer for the Preserve to help save the Watershed.

**By Justin Leverett**

### Dan McConnell Profile



Dan leading a plant walk  
Photo by Emily Whittaker

If you are hiking along the Yellow Dog River and see a plant you don't know, you could take a picture of it and ask Dan McConnell what it is. Dan is a twenty-four year old Botanist for the Hiawatha National Forest, and an alumni of Northern Michigan University. He moved to the Upper Peninsula in 2003 to attend Northern, and began volunteering for the Watershed preserve in 2007.

Dan heard about the group through conservation efforts, advertisements, and other people. Living in Munising during the summer and Marquette in the winter, Dan makes it out to the preserve six or seven times a year. Dan also volunteers for the Native Plant Program for the Hiawatha National Forest. He had moved up to the U.P. with intention of volunteering, and so he has.

"It's unique, and so wild, and undammed," Dan says about the river. "You don't find anything like it anywhere else in the Midwest anymore." The river is important to him. Working with the river has changed his view of people in general. He has a lot of respect for the conservation minded people. Dan's plant hike is his favorite project he has done with the preserve. He organized a Native Plant Hike where he brought interested people out to see the plants and different species of the area. Dan answered any questions about plant uses, and shared any other information he could think of. He often talks to Emily about the plants in the Watershed and helps her with any questions she might have.

In his free time Dan enjoys hiking, fishing, photography, and botanizing. Since he can do all of these activities in the watershed, Dan is a good fit for the group. Being a botanist and a man who enjoys the outdoors, the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve is the perfect place for Dan to volunteer.

**By Sam Schaff, Jesse Larson**

### Aleta Daniels

Aleta Daniels is a 23 year old student who started working with the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve in June of 2009. She had been looking for a watershed in the Upper Peninsula to volunteer with and came across the Yellow Dog. That enticing name had caught her attention and upon browsing the website, she decided to get involved. Aleta has hopes to move to the U.P. some time soon to attend Michigan Tech. In the mean time, she contributes from her home town of Petoskey, Michigan, where she volunteers at another watershed. She completes sporadic tasks for the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve such as updating and scoping the blog to help make corrections, helping any other volunteers in her area, gathering contact information, and putting ads in local newspapers to help spread the word about the watershed. Aleta aspires to help preserve the natural beauty and state of the Yellow Dog for as long as possible. She hopes that consumers use the water in a resourceful manner. She is aware that fresh water is scarce in many places of the world and a lot of people, especially in Michigan, have taken it for granted since we have such an abundance. The thought of water pollution worries Aleta, knowing it will ruin the future of fresh water rivers. She feels it is important to preserve the river because "even all the small minute streams affect us in the long run." When this golden brown curly haired environmental activist is not volunteering her time, Aleta enjoys walking her dogs through the woods, working in her garden, and reading. She is also an accomplished ribbon holding horse back rider. Even with a never ending list of hobbies, Aleta found the time to earn an undergraduate degree in Zoology from Michigan State University. Also, she is currently in transition to begin graduate school at Michigan Tech. Aleta is a very free spirited person and would stop nothing short of capturing and appreciating all of life's purest, simplest joys.

**By Kellie Flavin and Andrew Brim**

### John Anderson

A carpenter, a Vietnam veteran and an environmentalist, John Anderson is the kind of guy that would rather be hiking in the middle of the woods than anything else. He is the sort of person who always has to be doing something; as he said, "I have never been bored a day in my life." John Anderson is one of the volunteers for the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve and has been with the organization for nearly eight years. John got involved with the Preserve when he met another member while hiking in the McCormick Wilderness. He was instantly inspired by the cause and joined soon after. When asked what his favorite part about volunteering for the preserve is, he responded, "I have a good feeling that I am making a difference in the world." John does a very important job for the preserve. He and another member monitor the water quality for PH and temperature, among other things, at twenty different sites on the river. This process takes nearly a month and is done twice a year. This is important in order to have records of the water's integrity, should something change, as in the case of sulfide mining. Excluding his time spent in the Army, John has lived in Marquette for his entire life. John volunteers for several other organizations, including Bay Cliff, a summer camp for physically handicapped children. Since he once was a union carpenter, John has volunteered to help build houses for people through his church. Perhaps the greatest feat in his career was the participation in the construction of the Superior Dome. Now that John has retired, he still finds odd jobs to keep him busy; however, he likes to spend most of his time enjoying the outdoors. Some of John's hobbies include mountain biking, cross country skiing, hiking, kayaking, and photography. John says some of the highlights of his life were getting married and retiring. John's parents were the true reason he was inspired to be more aware of our environment. John strongly believes that we need to preserve our natural resources and wishes that everyone would become environmentally friendly. Because of this he encourages everyone to get involved; in fact, he encouraged me to join the watershed preserve. John compared himself to a watershed, saying that he was just one of the many small feeder tributaries that makes up the whole watershed. "One person could never hope to accomplish all the work that is involved in an organization as complex as this one. Many small tributaries, or volunteers, need to come together to keep the Yellow Dog Watershed in pristine condition."

**By Rory Jackson**

### Paul Wright

It's a drizzly, cold, dreary day on the campus of Northern Michigan University. We trudge across campus running questions through our heads. We're on our way to an interview with one of the many volunteers who donates time to the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve.

His name is Paul Wright, and his day job is the assistant manager for the NMU Bookstore. He is a local man who only wants what's best for his kids and his home. Paul has lived in the area of the Yellow Dog River for eight years and joined the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve about five or six years ago to learn about this area and to meet local, like minded people.

Paul helps in everyway he can: attending fundraisers, doing interviews for documentaries, and also by providing testimony for the group in their case against the sulfide mines. He was a passionate supporter of the preserve when they were organizing the purchase of Pinnacle Falls from Fred Rydholm, an acquisition which ensures that the falls will always remain open to the public. When we ask about how much time he spends working with the watershed he replied, "only a couple hours a month." We can tell he would love to do more, but his schedule doesn't allow for it. Paul has helped more then most by only volunteering only those few hours. A person's donating of their time and energy no matter how much is admirable.

Paul is avidly against sulfide mining, mainly because he lives only a few miles away, as the crow flies, from the location of where Kennecott wants to mine. He uses every contact at his disposal, such as a lawyer friend he knows, to help in the preserve's cause. Paul is against the mine not just because of the damages it will cause to the environment, but also because his kids, ages 10 and 12, play in the area and the increasing truck traffic and road construction would be a major detriment to their safety and health. He also likes to go fishing on the river with his son and daughter. The mining would possibly take this time with them away.

Paul Wright is a fascinating person. Paul answered our questions directly and with plenty of explanation. He is an engaging, easy to talk to, down to earth man donating as much of his time as he can to a cause he believes in, to protect a place he calls home and the people he loves most. This world would be a lot better off with more Paul Wrights.

**By Phillip Hartman and Rachel Cranford**

### Nancy Moran

Nancy Moran is a founding member of The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve. In fact, her whole family has been committed to volunteering their time since the start of The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve back in 1994. Volunteering is important to Nancy because it's for a good cause that she feels strongly about. Nancy likes to volunteer as a family activity to show her son that hard work for a good cause has many rewards. She also feels it's important to preserve the river for future generations. Since the start of The Preserve, Nancy has helped to organize many fund raisers and spent many hours along the river collecting samples. Nancy and her husband have their own equipment for checking the water samples they collect. Nancy identified an endangered bird species, the Kirtland Warbler. This small and endangered bird has made a home along the Yellow Dog River, when it's not in the Bahamas for winter. She continues to track and survey the nesting habits and movements of the Kirtland Warbler. One of her best times on the river was the first time she spotted one of the small birds. She has spent many hours from that day helping members of Fish and Wildlife to survey and track these birds. She hopes to find nests so that the area can be protected. In five years, she would like to see a colony of these rare birds in the areas. Nancy is a small lady with brownish red hair and a friendly outgoing personality. She is an artist who enjoys spending time in the woods along the river, drawing or painting and watching the wildlife in their own environment. Nancy balances her busy day of working on the river, taking her nine year old son to karate class, and even home schooling him. She spends a lot of time on and around the river and even lives there. She is passionate about the river as a habitat because she and her husband also like to spend time hunting and fishing there. The river provides an excellent location for these activities. Nancy explained that the river flows into Lake Superior which is one of the largest fresh water lakes in the world. And describing the river as her own back yard, we could see how seriously she takes her commitment to preserving this important natural resource.

**By Dan Braund and Sami Vierk 12**



## New Members

Thank you to all who have donated, renewed memberships, or given in the name of someone.

### Caretakers

Milton & Elizabeth Bates  
Laurie Corbin  
Steven Garske  
Tom Lakenen  
Kathy & Fred Maynard  
Don & Joan Miller  
Petoskey Regional Audubon Society  
Joyce Stamper  
Kenny Svenson  
Tracy Walklet  
Cindy Walters & Sue Kartman  
Nancy Irish  
Amy Fletemier

### In Loving Memory of Fred Rydholm

Robert Brebner  
John & Julie Dixon  
Maggie Dupras

### In Loving Memory of Helen Foley

Jo Foley

### Renewing Members

John Anderson  
William Manierre  
Linda and Emmi Fleury  
Laurie and Mark Tallio  
Don and JoAnn Potvin  
Chris Burnett  
Maura and Ken Davenport



Island Lake (McCormick Wilderness Area) in the afternoon. Photo courtesy of Zac Luhellier.

## Events

Yellow Dog Events are always fun and they support our organization. Please check the dates and see if you can make any. Call 906-345-9223 if you need more info or check our website.

### Outdoor Events

Cross country ski  
January 30

Snowshoeing  
February 20

Spring Hike  
May 22

All events: Meet at Cram's  
General Store in Big Bay at  
10am. Call to RSVP.

### Fundraisers

**Backcountry ski and lunch:** Ski into the McCormick Wilderness Area with a guide to a winter camp. Hot lunch and drink will await along with some local history about the area. Limited space available, call to RSVP. Date to be announced. Donation accepted.

### Education

**Maple Syrup workshop:** Visit a sugar bush during sap season and learn how maple trees provide a valuable resource

**Reading the Forest:** The Nature Conservancy's Forest Ecologist will lead us through the Yellow Dog watershed and teach us how to interpret a forest's history

**Spring plants:** Learn what comes up first and how to identify all the green buds.

Dates, Times, and Location TBA

### Board Meetings

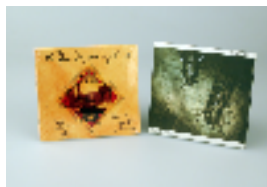
December 13- Planning session, closed to members.

February 17- Huron Mountain Realty office at 6pm

April 21- Meeting in Marquette, Community Room of Peter White Public Library at 7pm

June 26- Celebrate the Dog at Mike and Mary's along the Yellow Dog

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**YD T-Shirt**

Protect the River  
cotton short  
sleeve: \$15  
Circle your size.

M, L, XL, XXL  
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**Baseball Caps**

YDWP hats: \$15  
Circle your color.

Dark Green, Navy,  
Orange, Denim,  
Black, Khaki

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**Postcards**

Package of 12 cards  
with all different  
photos. Waterfalls,  
sunsets, river shots:  
\$5

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**Watercolor Notecards**

Lilies, dragonfly, turtle,  
feathers, and more.  
Pack of 10 different  
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\$20

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20=\_\_\_\_\_

**Donations and Membership**

**Funds**

General Fund: \_\_\_\_\_  
This helps support our administration, rent,  
and supplies.

Sulfide Mining Campaign: \_\_\_\_\_  
This supports our work to keep sulfide min-  
ing out of the watershed.

Water Monitoring: \_\_\_\_\_  
This supports our ongoing efforts to conduct  
science and collect baseline data.

Land Conservation: \_\_\_\_\_  
This supports saving the wild places!

Total Donations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels**

River Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Yearly renewal at \$15

River Caretaker: \_\_\_\_\_  
Yearly renewal at \$25-\$100

River Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
5-year renewal at \$150-\$500

River Steward: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lifetime membership at \$1000+

Total Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

**Holiday Memberships**

It's so hard to think of a good gift for mom  
and dad these days. The good news is, you  
can give them a gift that makes everyone  
happy. Give folks a holiday membership to  
the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve.

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Their address: \_\_\_\_\_

Their city/state/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount I'll contribute: \_\_\_\_\_



**Check Out**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Parting Shot

*A human alone in the wilderness is a human at peace.*



**Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve**  
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