

e-Quill

Snowshoes and Knitting Needles



Mid-winter snowshoe hikers on the shore of Lake Superior

The Park partnered with the Folk School to offer a combination program knitting and snowshoeing class in February. We had ideal weather with temperatures in the mid-20's, no wind and abundant sunshine. Ten participants signed up for the hike with some of them from the Folk School knitting class. We had a great hike as we worked our way to and along the Lake Superior shoreline from the Whitetail Cabin parking lot. Most of the participants brought their own snowshoes and the park pro-

vided a few pairs for those without. For some, this was their first big snowshoeing adventure. They all did great.

This is not the first time the Park's interpretive program has partnered with the folk school. We have worked together on special events, bat programs and more. Now it appears the possibility for more combination programs is limitless. Who would have thought snowshoeing and knitting??? But hey... it worked.

- By Bob Wild
Park Interpreter

Grammy Winner to Headline Porcupine Mountains Music Festival

The Music Selection Committee has been busy and several acts have been booked, including the legendary Buckwheat Zydeco (2010 Grammy Winner), That 1 Guy, Po' Girl, the Ragbirds, Frontier Ruckus, Krista Deter, Hymn For Her, Seth Bernard and Daisy May, Sam Corbin and Jen Sygit, Charlie Parr, Dave Boutette, Rory and Dale Miller and the Children of the Porcupine Mountains.

Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, Junior along with his band "Buckwheat Zydeco," preeminent ambassadors of Louisiana zydeco music, have gigged with everyone from Eric Clapton and U2 to The Boston Pops. The band performed at the closing ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympics to a worldwide audience of three billion people. Buckwheat even performed for President Clinton twice, celebrating both of his inaugurations. The band has also appeared on several TV network shows and played just about every major music festival in the world, including the



Buckwheat

New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Newport Folk Festival, Summerfest, San Diego Street Scene, Bumbershoot, Montreaux Jazz Festival and countless others.

The 6th Annual Porcupine Mountains Music Festival will be held August 27 - 29. Tickets can be purchased at 25% off until April 15th. Tickets are \$10 each for children ages 7-12 regardless of when purchased or whether for 1 day or a 3-day pass. Children ages 6 and under receive free admission. For more information visit porkiesfestival.org or call 906-884-2653 or toll free 1-800-344-5355.

- Cheryl Olson
PMMF Committee

Spring Clean-up Scheduled for May 22

You are all invited to help us with our annual litter pick-up. We will again cover the area of Highway 107 from the park main entrance sign to the Lake of the Clouds permit booth. Please meet at the Park Headquarters at 8:30 a.m. EST to sign-in, get a safety vest and receive a brief orientation before setting out. Volunteers are encouraged to wear protective gloves and sturdy walking shoes. Garbage bags will be provided. We usually complete the clean up by 11:00 a.m.

- Barb and Dave Braithwaite

Skiing at the Porkies



Friends of the Porkies who are also ski patrollers: From left to right: Mary Ross, Barbara Braithwaite, Jerry Linn, Jim Waters and Howell Smith.

Ski season at the park is in full swing with 5,155 tickets distributed as of mid-February. The hill management (Porcupine Mountains, LLC) kicked off the season with a ski pass sale on the first Saturday of December. Also at the chalet were shoppers looking for deals at the ski swap and people snapping up the advance Porcupine Mountains Music Festival tickets at 50 percent off of the gate price.

A nice mid-season interlude was *Telefest*, which was held on February 12-14. The weather cooperated although snow depth was less than ideal. Nonetheless, about 200 telemark skiers took part in the great ski conditions offered by the woods and west end of the ski hill. Down Wind Sports of Marquette and Houghton, sponsors of TeleFest for the past several years, had a shop set up in one corner of the chalet, demo equipment for trials, commemorative T-shirt sales, shopping discounts on clothing and gear and Saturday night entertainment.

Future plans for hill expansion and improvements remain unclear. One chair lift has not been in operation for 3 seasons and the hill management is in the process of exploring alter-

natives to that lift service. They now serve the in-the-woods skiers by offering limited "snow cat" rides to the outer edges of the ski area.

- Barb Braithwaite
Ski Patrol



Katherine Larson, AIRP 2008, *Union River*.
Oil Paint on Canvas Katherinelarson.com

Get Outdoors

You probably already know that kids just don't spend as much time playing outside as kids used to. It is a huge issue with wide reaching ramifications. Physiologically, childhood obesity and early onset of diabetes are linked to decreased exercise. Philosophically, who are going to be the future scientists, hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, wildlife photographers, campers, nature lovers and stewards of our lands if children don't get outdoor exposure? How will all of this affect the health of future generations, or for that matter, the health of the natural world?

Luckily, some believe it is not too late. In fact this past fall the park worked with several other organizations, including the United States Forest Service, Michigan Technological University and Michigan State University Extension Office 4-

H, to arrange a *Michigan Get Outdoors Summit* for the Upper Peninsula (UP). The AmericInn of Silver City hosted the event of over 80 educators, resource personnel, health officials and concerned citizens from across the Western UP.

The premise of the summit was to identify and address the challenges of getting kids and families outside and to share successful programs that address the topic. A common misconception is that this is an issue that only faces people from urban areas. In reality, this is an issue even for people who live in an area of bountiful recreational opportunities like here in the UP.

Some of the ideas that came from the summit are: ways to increase outdoor time in schools, better marketing for already existing opportunities for recreation and to provide safe green spaces near cities and towns for recreation. You can help. Take a kid fishing, hiking, camping or just go outside. Don't underestimate how such a simple act can affect our future.

We thank all of the members of Friends for your continuing efforts to support and preserve the park and its resources for all to enjoy forever.

- Bob Wild, Park Interpreter

Order 'em up!



ABCs in the Porkies
T-Shirts, Sweatshirts,
Hoodies

porkies.org/gift.html

Park Update

The past winter was a good one. Despite the predicted El Nino impacts of below average snowfall and above average temperatures, we had plenty of snow and excellent conditions for skiing and snowshoeing. The park's cabins and yurts saw plenty of activity over the winter and it is not hard to notice the increased number of snowshoers exploring throughout the park. A big thank-you to the many folks who generously donated money toward the maintenance of the cross-country ski trails. These donations help a great deal in covering the costs of fuel and spare parts for the trail groomer and will assist us in continuing the program.

Park projects included improvements to the interior of the Union Bay toilet building and repairs to park cabins. We also prepared next winter's firewood supply for the cabins and yurts. Plans for the upcoming season include replacing

the roofing on two of the park's historic rental cabins and the installation of additional moldering toilets in the park interior. Repairs to the historic Presque Isle River suspension bridge are planned for next fall.

After over 30 plus years of service each, auto mechanic Jim Rogan and park ranger Mike Rafferty retired this winter. Their "can-do" attitude and extensive knowledge of park operations will be greatly missed. In February, Matthew Van Tuyl joined the staff as a lead park ranger. Matt will be at Lake Gogebic State Park from April through November and assigned to our park's winter sports area from December through March. Matt comes to us from Silver Lake State Park, collects old Jeeps and is excited to be living and working in the U.P. Please take the time to introduce yourselves to Matt and welcome him to the U.P.

- Robert Sprague
Park Manager

The Artist-In-Residence Program Begins its Fourth Year

The summer of 2009 kicked off proudly for *Friends of the Porkies* as we were able to start displaying many of the art pieces donated by past Artists-In-Residence (AIRP). The park staff established an exhibit wall at the Visitor's Center that showcases art pieces from the *Friends* collection. It is exciting to be able to display and share with the public each new season's donations from the artists. Be sure to enjoy these artworks when you visit the park.

This year also saw the grand opening of the *Friends of the Porkies* web store. It was started just before the Christmas shopping season allowing

friends from across the country to give Porkies gifts. The store continues to feature items produced by artists of our Artist-In-Residence Program with sales helping to support the program. Please visit the Web Store at porkies.org/gift.html

Artist-in-Residence applications are available online for the upcoming season with a deadline for applying in March and jury selections being announced in April. If you are an artist, love the wilderness, and are interested in this opportunity for creative inspiration, please download application at porkies.org/artist.html

- Sherrie McCabe
AIRP Director

Renewal Membership Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that annual memberships expire on December 31. If you have not already done so, please send in your renewal

today. You may renew online through our web site or mail to: Friends of the Porkies, P.O. Box 221, Ontonagon, MI 49953. Annual memberships are \$25 (includes two names at the same address). Please email me at: chuntoon@charter.net if you have any questions about your membership

- Carol Huntoon
Membership Chair



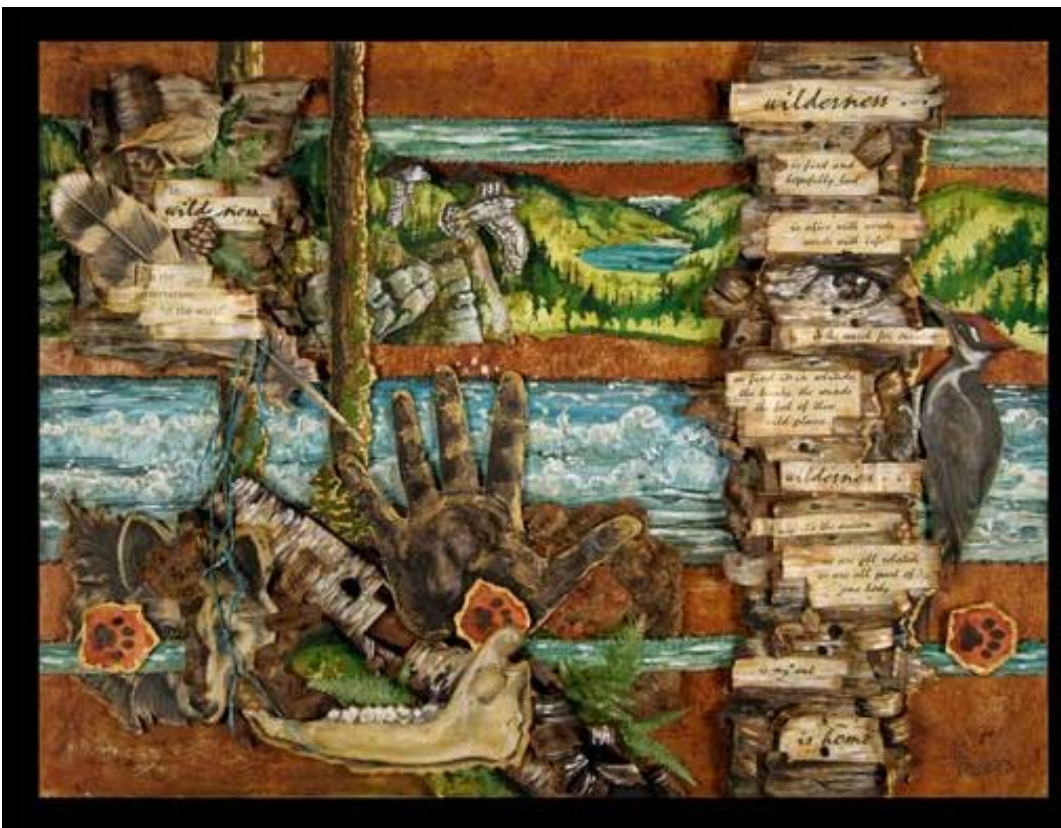
Quill Editorial Staff

Editor: Carol Huntoon
Communications:
Barb Braithwaite
Layout: Barb Kilmer

FRIENDS OF THE PORKIES



P.O. Box 221
Ontonagon, MI 49953



Lori Taylor, AIRP 2008, *Wilderness Preservation*.
Mixed media Loritaylorart.com