

e-Quill

Park Update

A very early spring put a quick end to skiing and snowshoeing but enabled the park to open our campgrounds and cabins well ahead of schedule. It also permitted park staff to complete a number of important maintenance projects including repairs to the log walls at the Union River cabin, re-roofing of the Lake of the Clouds cabin, boardwalk repairs on the Pinkerton Creek and Lake Superior Trails, and cutting of blown down trees on 18 miles of park trails.

With operations now in full swing, our focus will be on safety, visitor service and keeping facilities in the best possible condition for this season. One of our goals is to address a backlog of trail and backpack campsite maintenance items.

In May, Paul Squires joined the park staff filling a full-time park ranger position vacated when ranger Mike Rafferty retired. Paul is assigned to work primarily in the park interior, performing trail maintenance, and enforcing park rules

and regulations. He has worked at numerous Michigan state parks and also has experience working in Alaska with the National Park Service. He is an EMT, an avid hunter and is very excited about working in Michigan's largest state park. If you see him on the trail, please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome him to the Porkies. We look forward to a great 2010 summer and hope to see plenty of visitors out enjoying the park this season.

See you on the trail.

- Robert Sprague
Park Manager

Timber Framing Classes will Construct Stage Roof

Hands-on timber framing classes will be offered in July at the Park. Participants will construct a roof for the Peacehill stage to be used at our upcoming Porcupine Mountains Music Festival. The classes run from July 9-13 and July 14-17 with ten slots open in each session. Cost is \$395 per participant and includes lunch each day, course materials and a ticket to this year's festival. The classes will be taught by David Suutula, assisted by Steve Stier, and will cover the basics of the timber frame art, use of hand and

power tools, layout and erection of the structure. David and Steve have a combined experience of over 40 years. They will guide participants through design, layout, boring and chiseling mortises, forming and pegging tenons, cutting wind braces and assembling bents for the 20-foot-by-20-foot timber-framed stage roof. All skill levels are welcomed, but keen interest is required. This is an active hands-on workshop, so come prepared to work hard, learn a lot and have a great time.

The two classes will be held at the Porcupine Mountains Folk School. The first session (starting July 9) will be for beginning timber framers. The second session (which starts July 14) will engage advanced wood workers, contractors and graduates of the previous session. You are also encouraged to check out our Porkies Website for the Folk School schedule of classes and check back often for classes as they are added

To enroll in the class, please contact Beth at 906-884-4188 or by e-mail at ontcoedc@charter.net. You are also encouraged to check out our Porkies Website for the Folk School schedule of classes and check back often for new classes being added.

Artist Shares Project



AIRP artist Carol Seago (right) guiding students through the process of making memory photo ornaments.

Highway 105 Clean Up

Six volunteers spent 2 1/2 hours in late May picking up trash from the park entrance to the permit booth at Lake of the Clouds. That amounts to 16 miles of highway clean up sponsored by the Friends of the Porkies. Thanks to them, the season is off to a clean start.

