



Upcoming Events

March 22 FOLK Steering Committee meeting in Tapiola, MI. Please contact Linda Rulison for details at 906.334.2553

March 9 Keweenaw County Commissioner public hearing regarding Gratiot River Park.

April 22 Earth Day

Activities Update

Feb 25 FOLK sponsored Dave Anderson to represent us at the mining rules committee meeting in St. Ignace.

FOLK General Membership Meeting Minutes Monday, Nov. 8, 2004

FOLK members reaffirmed their commitment to the environment and agreed to continue with our goals of educating and informing ourselves and our communities on environmental issues. Following a brief introduction of Steering Committee members and general members in attendance, the group began its annual meeting.

The meeting was called to order by outgoing president Linda Rulison. The minutes from the Nov. 6, 2003 meeting, at which time FOLK agreed to join the Eagle Alliance in opposition to sulfide mining exploration on the Yellow Dog Plains, were read by Becky Darling, secretary, and approved by consensus. Treasurer Deb Lyttinen reported that FOLK's checking account has \$583.96, our Savings Account has \$369.10 and that our Legal Defense Fund CD, which matures on 3/15/05 is at \$4,251.40. Our funds support our educational mission through our newsletter and web page.

Greg Kudray, who has left the area, maintains the FOLK website, www.folkup.org and has requested continued dialogue regarding the content of the site. All members were encouraged to interact with FOLK through the website.

Rosemary Grier, chair of the Fundraising Committee, reported that FOLK's biennial rummage sale fundraiser, earned our treasury approximately \$300. She thanked member workers and their families and donors for the efforts toward the sale. Grier, who also coordinates our Adopt A Highway participation then distributed hats and patches to the members in recognition of our 15 years of participation in that program. Connie Julien was recognized for making FOLK a charter member of the statewide litter cleanup program. It was noted that when FOLK questioned the use of herbicides by the Baraga County Road Commission in 1998, that practice was ended. Grier also presented John Evans with our Adopt A Highway certificates for display.

During the Watershed/Forestry Committee report, Chair Dave Rulison gave an overview of FOLK's participation in the Otter River and Sturgeon River (continued on back)

Yellow Dog Mine Call to Action

In 1990 when Keweenaw Bay was threatened by James River Corporation's plans to build a bleach craft paper mill on it's shores, many of you joined FOLK's efforts to stop the mill from being built. We were told that our efforts were useless because James River was just too big. Too much money and power were involved. But we were successful - and today the bay remains a haven for people and wildlife.

Today a new threat is on our doorstep. Kennecott Mining Company is proceeding with plans to mine sulfides in the Yellow Dog plains. Governor Grandholm has signed a bill establishing regulations for mining but there is reason to believe that pollution will result even if the regulations are followed. FOLK, along with many other organizations, believe that the only way to ensure the long term health of this watershed is to have NO MINE.

This newsletter is an appeal to ask for your support again. Our first need is financial. We need to send knowledgeable representatives to meetings all over the U.P. to make our voices heard. We will network with other organizations to avoid a duplication of efforts and more newsletters will follow to ask for your attendance at meetings and to contact your legislators. If you are not yet familiar with this issue, and would like to learn more, contact the Eagle Alliance, P.O. Box 5, Big Bay, MI 49808 or on line at www.ydeaglescry.com. The time to get involved is now! Please let us hear from you.

Keweenaw Commissioners to Hold Public Hearing regarding Gratiot River County Park Land Acquisition

On March 9 at 6:00 PM, the Keweenaw Commissioners will hold a public hearing ., at the courthouse in Eagle River pursuant to submitting a MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application to add 100 acres and 4,000' of Lake Superior shoreline to the Gratiot River County Park. The addition is contiguous with and on the northeast side of the existing County Park. It will essentially double the size of the park and protect fast-disappearing public recreational access to Lake Superior in perpetuity. Following the public hearing, the Comissioners will vote on whether or not to submit the application at its regularly scheduled public meeting.

The acquisition will cost the County absolutely nothing. The Trust Fund Grant will provide 75% of the cost, and the North Woods (continued on back)



FOLK

FOLK, formed in 1989, was established to oppose the siting of any paper/pulp mill in Keweenaw Bay. FOLK continues to promote a healthy environment in the Keweenaw Peninsula and the Lake Superior Watershed. By joining FOLK, you support this goal.

(Please Print) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Date _____

- Individual (Annual Membership) - \$10 \$ _____
- Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual) - \$5 \$ _____
- Organization (Annual) - \$35 \$ _____
- Check here if you want acknowledgement or renewal.** \$ _____
- I would like to contribute to FOLK's Educational Fund. \$ _____
- Additional Contributions: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Send to: FOLK · PO Box 213 · L'Anse, Michigan 49946

FOLK General Membership Meeting (continued)

Watershed activities. He noted that our interaction with the DNR through compartmental reviews and meetings brought attention to the need for enforcement of Best Management Practices on state lands in the watershed. Currently there is a sign, donated by Camp Kitwin, at the Otter Lake monitoring site, which measures the sediment in the Delta.

A FOLK timeline, reviewing FOLK's accomplishments since 1990, was presented by the Rulisons during discussion of OLD BUSINESS. It included FOLK's successful opposition to the James River Paper Mill, along with publishing of our Sustainable Development Report in 1990. FOLK also participated in opposition of the Copper Range Solution Mining project in 1996. FOLK was represented as an environmental stakeholder on the Torch Lake Public Action Council from 1997-2000. Our organization participated in formation of the Keweenaw Initiative for Bete Gris in 1999, and participated in the Commonground Sustainable Development activities that year. In 2000, FOLK actively opposed DEQ and Army Corps of Engineers wetland permit requests for development at Bete Gris. FOLK also helped to sponsor Ed McMahon's presentation on local community planning that year. FOLK members participated in the Forest Initiative in 2003, and began sponsoring local students' participation in the Great Lakes Youth Symposium. Our organization's latest environmental project involves support of the Yellow Dog Watershed and Eagle Alliance in working toward a statewide moratorium on sulfide mining. Members have worked diligently toward many efforts in achieving our mission of "promoting a healthy environment in the Keweenaw Peninsula and the Lake Superior watershed."

During NEW BUSINESS, it was stressed that FOLK needs new Steering Committee members and any members present were encouraged to participate in our efforts. A new position of Media Contact person was created. The slate of officers was accepted and voted in as follows: John Evans, president; Bob Darling, vice president; Deb Lyttinen, treasurer; Becky Darling, secretary; and Linda Rulison, media contact person.

Milt Salo updated the group on zoning issues concerning mining in Baraga Township. He will continue to participate in that discussion. Member Pat Toczydlowski spoke of the need to address invasive species in the watershed. Members are encouraged to become involved with the many issues in our watershed, and FOLK will continue to educate through our newsletter, website and public meeting participation.

Newsletter News

Mike Denofrio, long time editor of the FOLK newsletter has moved on to other projects. In an effort to provide more timely newsletters, the Steering Committee authorized Ted Soldan to compose, layout, and print the newsletter on his personal computer. Betsy O'Leary, our layout editor, has agreed to work on the newsletter on an as-needed basis. The Steering Committee thanked Mike and Betsy for the hard work and artistry that was involved to make the FOLK newsletter the success it has been.

Gratiot River Public Hearing (Continued)

Conservancy will donate the other 25%. The value of the parcel will be determined by State appraisal.

Please come to the public hearing and County meeting to voice your support for this action. If you can't attend the meeting (or even if you can), please write a letter of support for the project. These letters will also be included in the grant application package. Letters should be addressed to:

Frank Stubenrauch
Chair, Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners
5095 4th Street
Eagle River, MI 49950

Other interesting facts you may choose to include in your letters:

- 85% of Keweenaw County residents live within 5 miles of this parcel
- It is close enough to Houghton-Hancock for day trip
- Keweenaw County has a more tourism-based economy than any other county in the state; this project will protect one of the "special places" that tourists and residents have visited for generations
- Public access to the Lake Superior shoreline is increasing rare; it must be protected or it will be gone
- The shoreline contains potential habitat for coaster brook trout
- The shoreline contains bedrock outcrops and bedrock glade communities recommended for acquisition by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI).
- The parcel provides critical linkage to other protected State, Conservancy, and private lands.
- The first race of the Keweenaw Trail Running Festival is held at this site (beginning in 2005)
- This portion of shoreline is described as "one of the most scenic stretches of undeveloped shoreline remaining on the Keweenaw Peninsula" by MNFI

Friends of the Land of Keweenaw
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