



UPLC



FALL/WINTER 2021

# CONNECTIONS

(NEW LOGO - SAME MISSION)

FEET ON THE GROUND...



**"A FEW SIMPLE TIPS FOR LIFE: FEET ON THE GROUND, HEAD TO THE SKIES, HEART OPEN...QUIET MIND."**

*-Rasheed Ogunlaru*

*What would change for you if your community went on a hike after work, or if your organization held meetings in nature? What if your classes met under pine branches or if doctors prescribed nature walks? If book clubs read together while leaning against the trunks of ancient oaks?*

As we all slowly, cautiously, emerge from pandemic-enforced solitude, we have learned that the answers to these questions are just as obvious as they seem: More time together in nature is good for our physical, mental, and spiritual health. We are more eager than ever to work together to protect land and create new opportunities for our community to receive the benefits of nature. With the Dead River Community Forest, we hope to create a place for all people to walk trails where we can learn from the past and receive the peace of nature.

It's been a long year and a half and there are more stories to tell than we could fit in this newsletter - Read on for more information about how your support kept our feet on the ground and our hearts open to hope. We couldn't have made it through without you.

**Thank you.** - Andrea Denham, Executive Director



## UPLC is ready to SHINE with NMU

What would it mean for our community to have an outdoor classroom just a couple miles off-campus? Northern Michigan University students and faculty are about to find out! UPLC is excited to announce an official partnership with NMU's S.H.I.N.E. Initiative (Sustainability Hub for Innovation and the Environment) at the Dead River Community Forest. We kicked off the new partnership this fall with three classes initiating research projects in the current Vielmetti-Peters reserve and the future Dead River Community Forest, and there's so much more to come. We're proud to partner with Northern - *naturally!*



## ...HEAD IN THE SKY...



## DNR Community Forestry Grant Kicks Off New Education Program

Keep your eyes open for exciting updates to the Vielmetti-Peters Reserve! Thanks to an education-focused grant from the DNR and hundreds of hours of service from many volunteers, UPLC spent much of our summer working with Michigan State University-Extension and Green Timber Consulting Foresters to design 11 new interpretive signs. We also wrote and put on five educational programs for elementary and secondary schools, and produced a new page on the website along with a brochure - all covering our Forests for the Future Program. There is now a small "learning area" out on the Reserve near the decking area with several benches and a small platform. The new signs will likely be installed in Spring 2022. This is just the beginning!

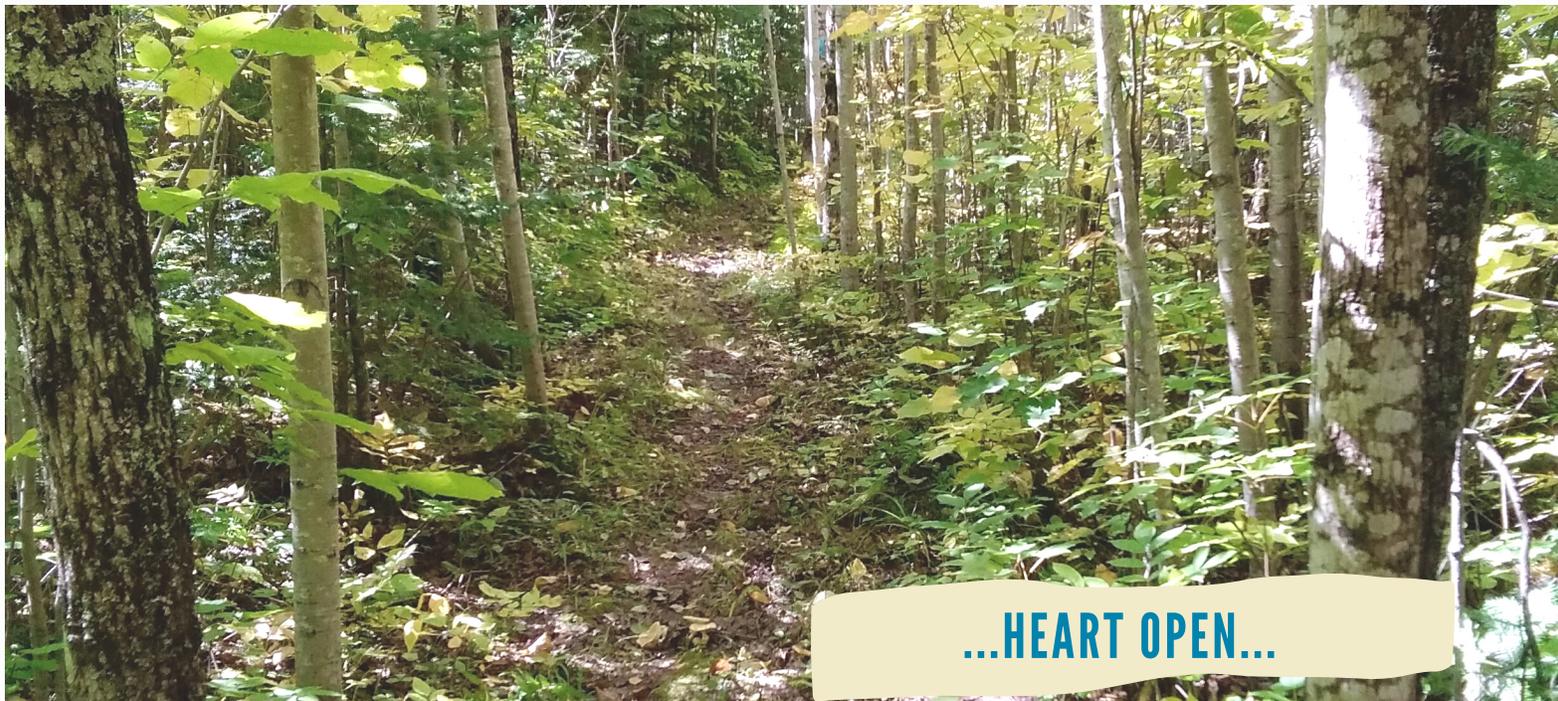
## Celebrating 5 years of the Chocoday Bayou

In August, UPLC volunteers and staff put on the "Lands Alive!" Art Walk, celebrating five years of the Chocoday Bayou Nature Preserve! 11 talented artists set up displays throughout the preserve and local artist SawftSea painted a mural on the bird watching hut. Thank you for making the Bayou the gem that it is!

## New logo = new apparel

With a new logo comes new hats, t-shirts, stickers and more! By wearing UPLC apparel, you're doing more than donating the proceeds of the cost of the item. You're spreading the word about UPLC to everyone who sees you wear it. The online shop will be open until November 30th so order today!





**...HEART OPEN...**

*Working together to protect land for our neighbors  
and for the next generation*

Close your eyes and picture a long autumn drive in the Western UP. It's sunny, there's a chill in the air, and the colors in the trees are so vivid that you can't look away. You get out of your car at a historic site and join the North Country National Scenic Trails as you walk along a mighty river. The trail takes you up a steep slope to a breathtaking overlook as you enter the Mike Dempsey Memorial Preserve, a project nearly two years in the making. The crisp wind fills and opens your heart as you take in the rolling hills and roaring river below. Despite unforeseen setbacks caused in large part by the immense changes the UP experienced in the last year and a half, UPLC initiated and is within days of completing two land protection projects - the Mike Dempsey Preserve in Ontonagon and a private Conservation Easement in Republic. We haven't stopped working on the Dead River Community Forest, either - check out the insert for a detailed look at the DRCF project. UPLC's heart is wide open to the protection of critical lands.



**"When we see land  
as a community to  
which we belong,  
we may begin to  
use it with love and  
respect"**

*- Aldo Leopold*



### **You can protect land forever.**

- Join the Cedar Society -

Do you want your efforts to protect land in the Upper Peninsula to continue after you? Our staff can provide you with sample language and discuss ways we can meet your philanthropic goals together in your legacy plans. Check out our website at [www.uplandconservancy.org/cedar-society](http://www.uplandconservancy.org/cedar-society) for more information and to get started today. *If you have already chosen to continue protecting land for future generations, please let us know today so that we can thank you for your dedication to the future of the UP and welcome you to the Cedar Society!*





**UPLC**

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**...QUIET MIND.**

## **NEW STAFF - NEW TECH - RENEWED CAPACITY**



Your support has returned UPLC to full staff capacity! We are pleased to introduce Clare Fastiggi, Lands Program Manager, Emily Hautzinger, Administration Manager/Communications Associate, and Jordann Stephenson, a MARESA Intern helping with our social media communications! Clare started with UPLC as a Summer Stewardship Assistant in Spring 2021 and then moved into a contract as "Digital Continuity Project Lead." We are very happy to continue working with her in her new role! We've honed in our procedures and improved our technology in order to increase our efficiency and effectiveness, and we're feeling great about heading into 2022 as a team.