

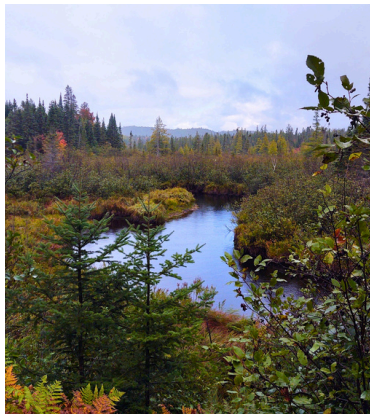
CONNECTIONS

UPPER PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY
FALL - 2025

Dear UPLC partners and supporters,

I have had a spectacular first couple of months settling into the role as Executive Director with the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy! I feel like I landed exactly where I am meant to be. Thank you for your votes of confidence, mentorship and words of support as we collectively set a foundation for UPLC's next chapter. I am inspired by current initiatives and projects that UPLC has underway and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the days and years ahead. Some recent highlights include:

- With the help of partners and volunteers, we built $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of new trail and planted over 1,800 native plants at the Dead River Community Forest with over 350 hours of volunteer service.
- We're excited to have Noah Gostonski on board as our 2025 Seasonal Stewardship Assistant. Since September, he has been out on the land completing annual monitoring visits and getting to know the forests, wetlands, and shorelines we protect.
- Our team is growing! UPLC was selected to host a MI Healthy Climate Fellow for an 11 month fellowship starting in January 2026. As our "Connections Coordinator," the Fellow will focus on building and sustaining partnerships that will expand our conservation impact and community engagement across the UP.
- UPLC staff and partners are nearing completion of several significant land protection projects that will protect key wildlife habitats and freshwater resources, enhance a portion of the North Country Trail, and protect family camps (like the one below) that preserve our region's natural heritage.



This historic dovetail log cabin sits on the banks of Mulligan Creek. Many log buildings like this once dotted the UP, reflecting the life, culture, and log carpentry skills Scandinavian immigrants brought to the region. With persistence and care, the landowners and their friends relocated this historic sauna which originally stood on a Finnish farm in Keweenaw Bay.



I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you over coffee, over the phone, via email, hand written letters or on the land. For those I have yet to meet, I look forward to connecting soon! UPLC is hosting an office open house on Wednesday, November 19th and will also have a few more volunteer opportunities this fall.

Please reach out!

emily@uplandconservancy.org or 906-225-8067.

Sincerely,

Emily Leach

TRAILS, TREES, AND TENDING TO THE LAND

The gateway between the Vielmetti-Peters Reserve (VPR) and the Dead River Community Forest Bayous Parcel has been established! These trails will allow visitors to VPR to explore deeper into the woods, with paths that will eventually lead all the way to the Dead River banks. This milestone comes alongside significant habitat restoration work: 1,800 new trees, shrubs, and wildflowers have been planted to improve forest health, enrich wildlife habitat, and restore the natural beauty of the Bayous. Thanks to our partnerships with the American Bird Conservancy, Noquemanon Trail Network, Superior Watershed Partnership, and students from NMU's Outdoor Recreation program, along with the dedication of numerous local volunteers, the forest is becoming more accessible and resilient!



FOREST FORENSICS

Tory's Woods Nature Preserve, a 230-acre sanctuary donated to UPLC in 2014 by John and Tory Parlin, features three miles of trails through mixed forest and sensitive wetland habitat. Located in Deerton, about 4 miles south from the Tyoga trail, the landscape holds many clues to past logging and human activity. Through forest forensics, we can read the landscape by looking for downed trees, shifts in forest structure, overgrown logging roads, and remnants of old structures to uncover the stories they tell about natural disturbances, regrowth, and sustainable forestry practices. On November 8th, in partnership with MSU-Extension, UPLC invites you to explore Tory's Woods at our annual Forest Forensics guided hike, where participants will discover how history and ecology intersect in our Upper Peninsula forests. Visit our webpage for more information!

VOLUNTEERING HIGHLIGHT



UPLC volunteers came together this October to provide long-awaited stewardship at the Bridges Parcel of the DRCF. With the help of neighbors and many others familiar with the preserve before its acquisition, volunteers carefully marked trails, cleared brush, and removed trash (including a decades-old rusty water heater) to prepare the site for autumn visitors drawn to the scenic 510 Bridge.

The day concluded with a volunteer picnic, celebrating the hard work and community support that make projects like this possible. Special thanks to Lee and Lisa for assisting with trash disposal and hosting the picnic!

Next, UPLC has plans to tackle new projects and signage at Gamber-Brisky Preserve. Stay tuned for updates!



Lisa5201 via Getty Images.

CONSERVE THE UPPER PENINSULA, CONSERVE NATIVE POLLINATORS!

Uncovering the critical relationship between preserving healthy ecosystems in the UP and sustaining the pollinator population the world depends on

Article and photos (except where credited)
by Carmen Greenwood, PhD

MANY PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THE GLOBAL POLLINATOR CRISIS,

BUT, DID YOU KNOW that both wild and domestic pollinators are facing extensive threats that overlap in many cases?

Honey bees, our domestic pollinators that are used commercially for some of our important food crops, are facing threats from numerous viral and bacterial diseases, parasites and colony collapse disorder.

Native pollinators, our wild bees and wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths (primarily) are facing threats from habitat fragmentation and loss, invasive species, and diseases that sometimes spill over from honey bee colonies. Native pollinators help to support our food production, but they are also vital to sustaining wild plant diversity. Protecting their habitat in turn, protects plant diversity.

These 4 groups of insects (bees & wasps, flies, butterflies & moths, and beetles) constitute the majority of our native pollinator wildlife and many of them are currently in decline. Some of them can only thrive in wetlands, old growth forest, or other unique natural habitats – habitats often conserved by your own UP Land Conservancy!

Flies (Diptera)

Small flies are probably our most important pollinators in the forest understories here in the north country. Most are harmless, like this fungus gnat (Diptera: Sciaridae).

But, even blood-feeding flies, like mosquitoes, are nectar feeders and important pollinators.



Some hover flies are known to be “saproxylic” meaning they reproduce in tree holes full of water most often found in old growth forest. Many saproxylic hover flies are declining.



Ines Carrara via Getty Images.

Butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera)

Moths and Butterflies are in the same insect order. Moths serve as important pollinators of nighttime blooming flowers.



Many specialized relationships between a specific plant and a specific moth or butterfly make them important drivers of plant diversity.



Bees & wasps (Hymenoptera)

About one third of our native bee species use old exit holes left behind by beetles, in trees, usually in old growth forest, to protect and provision their offspring.



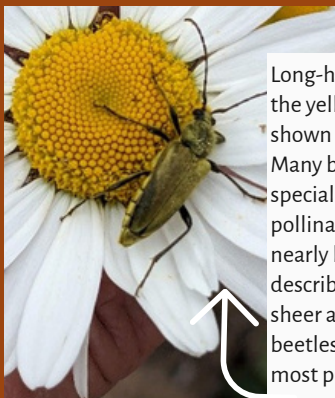
Ewa Saks via Getty Images.

Land conservancies like UPLC protect old growth forest habitat, critical for both native bees and saproxylic hover flies.



Beetles (Coleoptera)

Long-horned beetles, such as the yellow velvet longhorn shown here, feed on pollen. Many beetle families specialize in certain plants, pollinating as they feed. With nearly half a million species described worldwide, their sheer abundance makes beetles among the planet's most prolific pollinators.



Didier Descouens
via Wikimedia

By safeguarding and restoring habitat, land trusts play a vital role in supporting pollinators whose ranges stretch far beyond any single property. UPLC has helped advance this work through efforts such as:

- ✈ USING POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY NATIVE PLANTS IN HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS
- ✈ PARTNERING WITH LOCAL GARDENERS AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO OBTAIN SUSTAINABLY SOURCED, NATIVE FLOWERS & SHRUBS
- ✈ FOCUSING LAND PROTECTION EFFORTS TOWARDS IRREPLACEABLE OLD GROWTH FORESTS & WETLAND HABITAT
- ✈ ENGAGING IN SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY THAT CONSIDERS THE MIGRATION SEASONS OF POLLINATOR SPECIES WHEN HARVESTING TIMBER

For more information about native pollinators visit: Xerces.org and Pollinatorpartnership.org



UPLC

1907 Presque Isle Ave
Marquette, MI 49855



WE'RE HIRING!

Position Title:
Connections Coordinator
Dates of Service:
1/21/2026 - 12/18/2026,
Full time
Salary:
\$45,000

UPLC's Connections Coordinator, a MI Healthy Climate Fellow, will help us build partnerships, host inclusive community events, and gather input from people across the Upper Peninsula. Their work will help us better understand local conservation priorities, strengthen collaboration, and guide our outreach and strategic planning efforts.

Learn more and apply at :
Uplandconservancy.org



YOUR GIFT TODAY WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON TOMORROW

Take advantage of your **FINAL OPPORTUNITY** to have your gift matched 1:1 and support the expansion, enhancement, acceleration of conservation efforts across the UP



UNLOCK \$150,000 IN FUNDING FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION

Learn more and help us reach our goal at
Uplandconservancy.org/donate



\$78,975

\$150,000 GOAL