

# CONNECTIONS

FALL - 2022



## DEAD RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST UPDATE

A huge celebration is in order, thanks to you and this amazing community for stepping up and acting - The Dead River Community Forest is officially, permanently, legally protected! We finally closed on the purchase of the property on October 5th, 2022. Hundreds of individuals, families, businesses, and organizations resoundingly put their support forward for this local forest - land for the community, created by the community, and managed with direct input from the community. THANK YOU!

The work is not done, though we've officially bought the property - we fell short of our goal to raise enough money to buy the property AND build the trails with adequate infrastructure. Right now, we're working on drafting a land management plan that will be presented for community input in early 2023. Because of this, we respectfully thank you for visiting the property *only with a UPLC official until the new trails are complete* (expected fall '23). We want to ensure we cause as little disturbance and damage to the land as possible until the trails are ready - including signage so that no one gets lost, it's pretty wild out there! There is much more to come on the proposed trails and programs and how you can help make them happen. We are so excited to plan and build with you!

*Huge thanks to the McClure Basin Association for working with us and being patient as we dealt with the pandemic and other setbacks. Thank you to our friends at The Nature Conservancy and the USFS Community Forest Program for their support (in so many ways). We would not be at this milestone without grants from the Americana Foundation, Bull-Hirvonen Family, Lerner Family, Trout Family with the Community Foundation of Marquette County, and YOU!*





# THE TIMES, THEY ARE A-CHANGING...

There are few who continue to entirely deny the changes to our weather patterns, the disconcerting shift in the regularity of the seasons, or the increasing intensity in what once was the soft rhythm of rain on the roof. As a science-grounded organization, UPLC recognizes that the progressively severe storms in the fall and winter, as well as the hotter, drier summers, are caused by human impact. It is one of our jobs as a mission-based organization to not only take action to mitigate the negative effects of human-caused climate change but to also help our community adapt to the many challenges that come because of it.

## LAND TODAY FOR LIFE TOMORROW

UPLC's core mission is to ensure the permanent legal protection of critical lands in the UP, so climate change is integrated into our work. Setting aside land from development is an impactful and essential first step in the right direction, and our impact is greater and our goals are met more quickly and effectively when we all join together towards a mutual objective. The actions we take today will determine the outlook on our future, and the future of generations to come. So, here's what we're doing about climate change right now, and how you can join:

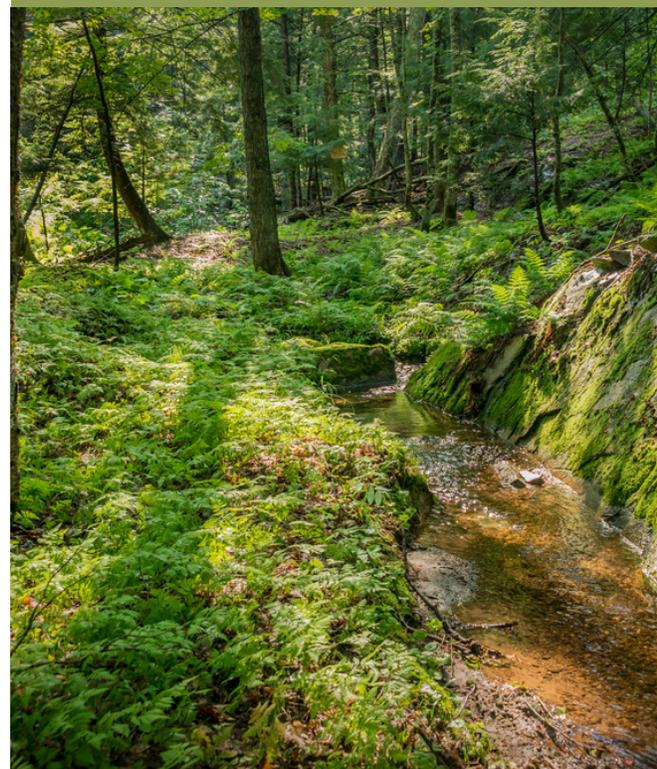
- **[Forests for the Future:](#)** Our innovative forest management program includes climate change mitigation plans and custom restoration proposals for each "FFF" property. In 2023, UPLC will be expanding the education component of this program so landowners and their neighbors can learn more about adaptation management options for their land. You can start learning how to manage your forest for climate change mitigation today by reading about the basic principles of the FFF program on signage at the Vielmetti-Peters Conservation Reserve in Marquette.
- **[Strategic Planning for a Resilient Future:](#)** UPLC's strategic plan is nearly complete - now we need your input! Tell us what you love about the lands and waters in the UP that are important to you and provide feedback on our bold-yet-achievable goals for 2026.
- **[Direct Action Needed:](#)** UPLC relies on folks like you to provide experience and hands-on skills to reach our goals. Consider joining a committee or volunteering your time for a project!



## JOIN THE CEDAR SOCIETY

How do you envision the future of the Upper Peninsula?

If you're like us, you see crystal-clear rivers, recreation opportunities, healthy forests, and a thriving economy. The Cedar Society is a group of dedicated UPLC supporters who are protecting the future with their legacy plans. A bequest, delayed gift of stock or other appreciated assets is one of the most effective ways to protect wild places for generations beyond you. It can have tax benefits for you and your loved ones as well. For more information on this mutually beneficial, smart way to give, contact us today!





**“TO LOVE A PLACE  
IS NOT ENOUGH.  
WE MUST FIND  
WAYS TO HEAL IT”**

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

## **RESTORING POLLINATOR HABITAT**

Traveling long distances through the UP, small and neatly packaged plant plugs reached the UPLC office on a Friday afternoon. These plugs of native Michigan plants were awarded to UPLC through “Project Wingspan”, a program facilitated by an organization known as the Pollinator Partnership. The Pollinator Partnership works with a network of volunteers to “increase the quality, quantity, and connectivity of pollinator habitat across the Midwest and Great Lakes Region”. Project Wingspan aims to collaborate with land stewards and organizations like UPLC to protect and support endangered pollinator populations such as monarch butterflies and rusty-patched bumble bees (RPBB) by cultivating and protecting their native habitats.

Equipped with shovels, gloves, and a few hundred plant plugs, we embarked out on a Sunday morning to a conservation easement next to the Ford River. There, UPLC staff met with landowners and volunteers from WildOnes - a nonprofit whose mission is to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices. Together we burrowed out spots along the river bank, gently loosened the soil away from the roots of each teeny plug, and secured over 200 pollinator-friendly plants in their new home. Species of native wildflower plugs planted included common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and blazing star (*Liatris spp*).

Now, why is this so important? Today, pollinators are facing several threats from disease and habitat loss to non-native species. This once-eroding bank along the Ford River was stabilized by another party in the early 2000s. However, since then, non-native invasive flora began to spread and native plants were few and far between. With help from Project Wingspan and efforts from the landowner, this area is now being transformed into a feeding and breeding habitat for pollinators along the river, which will help continue to contain the bank, protect the water and fish habitat, and allow our natural community to begin to thrive again along this migratory corridor.

The work does not stop here! UPLC, in partnership with the landowner and volunteers, will continue to monitor the plugs and supplement the area with other native plant species to encourage a thriving, diverse ecosystem. Thank you to all the volunteers and partners that helped get these precious plants ready for pollinators!





UPPER PENINSULA  
LAND CONSERVANCY

WE  
MOVED!



102 W Washington St  
Suite 213  
Marquette, MI 49855

## WINTER EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

**NOV**

**Giving Tuesday/#Give906 day**  
Tuesday, November 29th, all day  
Virtual - Let's hit a monumental goal!

**JAN**

**New Years Eve Office Party**  
Saturday, December 31 4-8 pm  
UPLC's new office!

**FEB**

**UP 200 Parties**  
Friday, February 17 2023 - 4-9pm  
TWO locations! - UPLC office & Chocolay Bayou



# YOUR U.P. YOUR DIRECTION



*Note from the Executive Director*

## YOUR UPLC

Dear Friends,

The warm months came and went in a flash of brilliant sun and color this year. Spring was a blur as we moved to a new, beautiful office in downtown Marquette while preparing for the summer field season, and simultaneously raising the final \$100,000 needed to purchase the Dead River Community Forest. We launched full-speed into summer by hiring and onboarding seasonal staff, negotiating the closing and finalizing the documentation needed for DRCF, and launching an exciting strategic planning project. Add warm sunshine, long hikes, the Bayou Art Walk and a few beach days...and in the blink of an eye, we've purchased Dead River, extended our summer staff's tenure by two months, and are now putting the final touches on the strategic plan all while wrapping up fieldwork. Holy wah, eh? With everything going on, we love hearing stories about how all the "office work" makes a difference to you. Sarah, a budding mycologist in NMU's environmental studies program with an affinity for fungi and a contagious passion for Northern forests, recently shared her story:

*"I think what draws me to the natural world is the connection we all share with it. Once you establish a relationship with nature, you realize you want to protect and care for it- like a mycelium network, we're all connected". Sarah recently joined UPLC on our Fall Mushroom Hike and expressed her amazement with the fungi she saw, remarking "I was surprised to learn about the medicinal properties of chaga and birch polypore- I would have never thought that I could pull something off a tree to use as a bandaid... something that makes the U.P. special is the abundance of these rare species that have the potential to heal us in different ways." Like many of us who live here, Sarah's summer was spent hiking along the Dead River, kayaking, and swimming in Lake Superior. She also voiced an urgency to protect the freshwater resources in the U.P., explaining, "Water is the source of all life, and we are so fortunate to have the access we do." She noted, "the way this community comes together to enjoy and protect the environment around us is something that gives me hope for the future."*

You have an exceptional opportunity this fall to shape the landscape of the UP for current and future generations of Yoopers, like Sarah. Together, we are entering a new chapter in this rapidly changing world. UPLC's strategic plan is a bold promise to ensure that community conservation is at the core of that future, with healthy forests and waterways, and lands that are habitable and welcoming to all.

Your generous support today - financially, through volunteering, or simply sharing your love of the land with friends - is critical to the accomplishment of our mutual goals.

*Thank you for protecting Land Today for Life Tomorrow with UPLC!*

*With Gratitude, Andrea Denham*

**YOUR LAND CONSERVANCY  
NEEDS YOU**