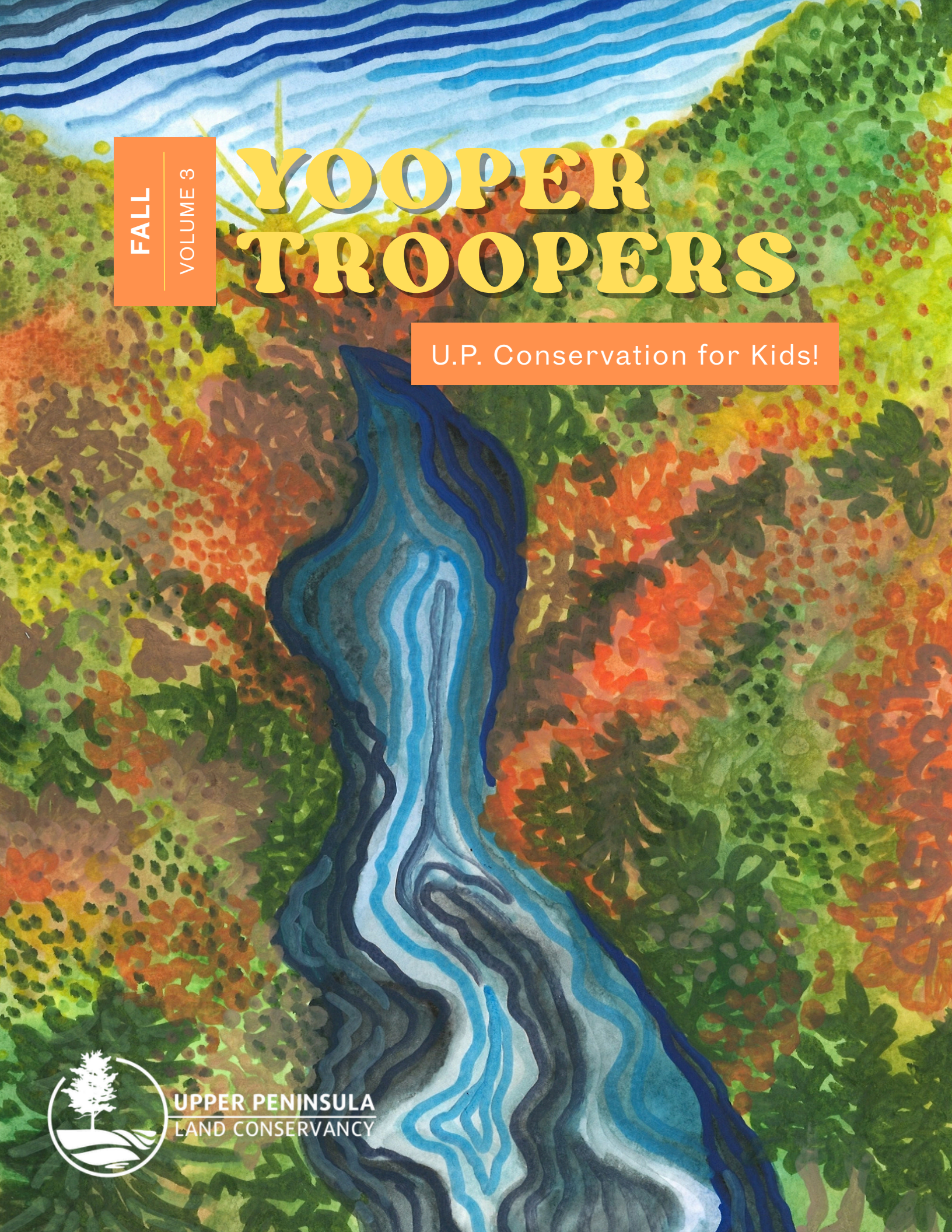

FALL
VOLUME 3
YOOPER TROOPERS
U.P. Conservation for Kids!
UPPER PENINSULA
LAND CONSERVANCY

Yooper Troopers is a youth conservation magazine designed by **Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy (UPLC)** for 3rd-5th graders. It centers youth voices, Upper Peninsula conservation topics, outdoor education, and UPLC's three pillars of connection:

Connecting contiguous land,
Connecting people with one another, and
Connecting people with the land.

UPPER PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY

For more information and PDF copies of issues, visit our website at ***www.uplandconservancy.org/youth-magazine***

Art and content for *Yooper Troopers* was created by Jenny Kalejs, a **2026 Michigan Healthy Climate Fellow.**

EGLE
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Marion C. Vander Veen Family Great Lakes Education Fund

Community Foundation OF MARQUETTE COUNTY

Calling all Yooper Troopers!

(Yes, that's you!)

Are you a 3rd-5th grader interested in submitting a question, observation, drawing, or idea for a future issue of *Yooper Troopers*?

With your guardian's permission, email your work to **uplc@uplandconservancy.org** or call us at 906-225-8067 to set up a time to drop by our office!

Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy
1907 Presque Isle Ave
Marquette, MI 49855

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MORE INFO ABOUT DRCF

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Dead River Community Forest

What is it?

The Dead River Community Forest (DRCF) is **186 acres** of protected land along the Dead River, just outside of Marquette, MI. It's a beautiful place to visit and is home to many creatures. Like these:



Fisher
(Pekania pennanti)



White-tailed deer
(Odocoileus virginianus)



Black bear
(Ursus americanus)



Coyote
(Canis latrans)



Barred Owl
(Strix varia)

Why is it called the Dead River?

HISTORY LESSON

The Upper Peninsula sits within the homelands of the Anishinaabe peoples, whose language, **Anishinaabemowin**, carries deep relationships to land and water. One early Anishinaabemowin name for the Dead River was **Jiibay-Manidoo-Ziibi**, meaning the river of spirits or the river of ghosts! This could be because there was a burial ground near the mouth of the river, or due to the river's dark color and occasional ghostly fog.

Later, during the French colonial period, the river was called **Rivière des Morts or "the river of the dead".** After the British took control of the Great Lakes in 1763, maps referred to this twisting tributary as the Dead River.

Barb
the Barred Owl Bard



"Bard" is an old-timey word for a poet who writes story-songs!

Meet the fall

YOOPER TROOPERS!

One of BB the black bear's favorite friends to visit at Dead River Community Forest is Barb, the Barred Owl Bard. She is especially vocal in the fall, and eager to perform her latest songs and poems.

Recently, Barb put the finishing touches on a song she's particularly proud of – **"The Ballad of the Dead River."** She wrote it to honor her beloved home: the forest that provides her shelter, the circle of life that keeps her fed, and the river that provides clean drinking water to all creatures big and small. Barb is passionate about using her art to raise awareness about the importance of caring for special natural places like the Dead River Community Forest.



BB
the black bear

BB met Barb at her favorite stage – a mighty white pine above the river. He looked up expectantly.

"Good day, BB," squawked Barb. "Thank you for coming to the world premiere of my new song. Without further ado, I proudly present..."

BB is always happy to enjoy a performance of his friend Barb's latest song.

Remember? In the summer issue of ***Yooper Troopers***, we learned that the call of the Barred Owl kind of sounds like:

The Ballad of the Dead River

Who cooks for you?
Who cooks for you all?
I'll cook you a tale of
Dead River in fall –

Three parts water,
Two parts rock,
A handful of leaf litter
into the stock –

Stir the pot and
you'll have a stew
to nourish the health
of birds, fish, humans, too –

Sing with me, friends
for my owl call is true –
Care for the river
That cooks for you!



MEET MORE *YOOPER TROOPER* FRIENDS IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

The most feared animal on the planet?

SPIDERS.

They might seem a little creepy crawly, but they're actually our friends.

Spiders eat flying insects (like mosquitos and flies) in our homes, and they're helpful on farms too, where they eat pests that can harm crops.

Most spiders' venom is ONLY toxic to insects, so they aren't dangerous to us. Michigan has just two spiders that can hurt people: The **Black Widow** and the **Brown Recluse.** Both are shy and not aggressive. Biting is a last resort!

All spiders spin silk, but not all make webs. Some hunt on foot and use silk to wrap their prey. Others use silk to make little bundles that hold their eggs and keep them safe.



Black Widow



Brown Recluse

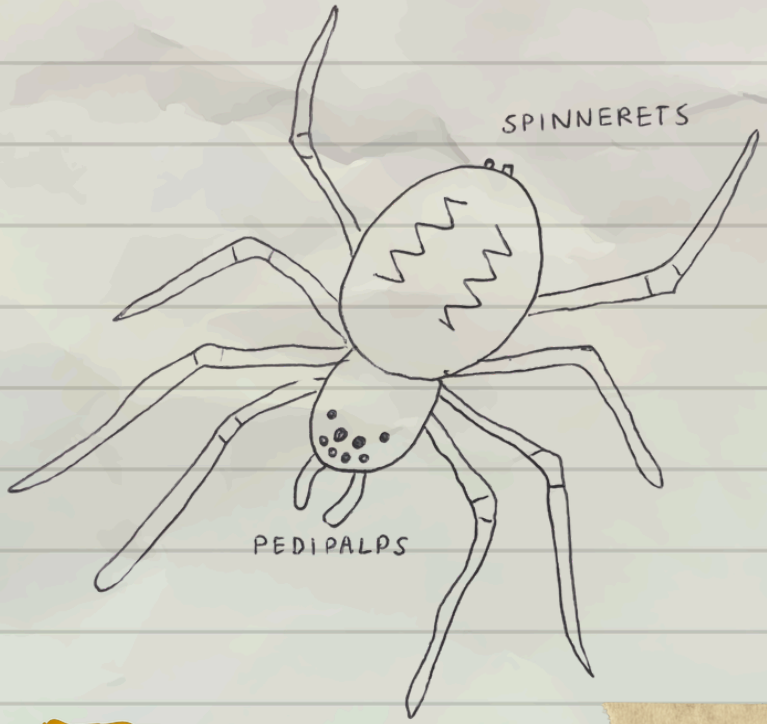


Odilon Redon, *The Smiling Spider.* 1887, lithograph.

This famous work of art depicts a spider with a sinister grin!

SPIDER FACT SHEET:

- Spiders are not insects – they are **arachnids.** Other arachnids include ticks, mites, and even scorpions!
- Spiders have **eight legs** and **eight eyes**.
- Female spiders are often much larger than males. Males often perform elaborate dances to impress the females.
- Most spiders only live for a year or two. They start out small in the spring and get bigger later in summer.
- **Spinnerets** are organs on the back of spiders that spin silk. Baby spiders often use their first silk to “balloon” or fly off to new habitats.
- **Pedipalps** are little “arms” that help spiders grip, taste, smell, and move around. They also house spiders’ reproductive structures.



Spider expertise provided by **Carmen Greenwood,** entomologist (bug expert!) and UPLC board member.

Howdy, neighbor!

Local spiders you might be lucky enough to see:



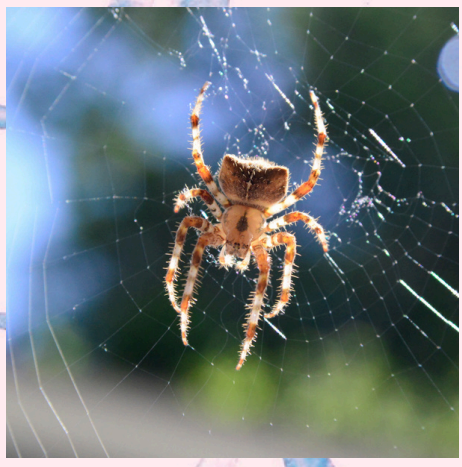
Wolf spiders (Lycosidae family) –
Wolf spiders do not spin webs. They hunt on foot and trap prey using silk. They also use silk to make protective pouches for their eggs. Mother wolf spiders carry their egg case and newly hatched spiderlings on their back to keep them safe.



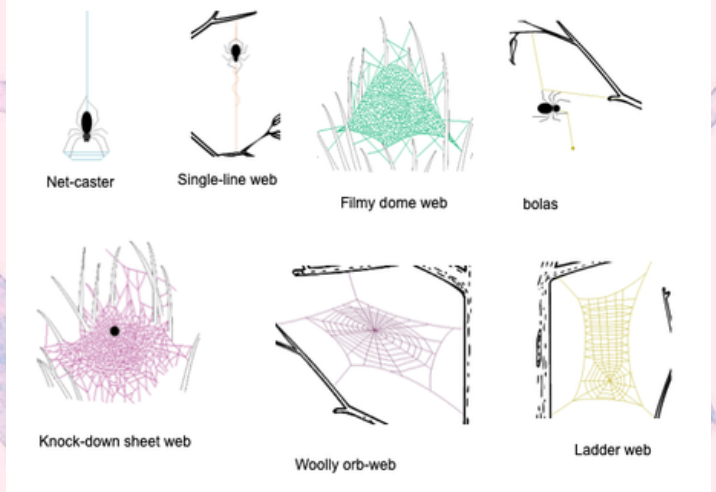
Crab spiders (Thomisidae family) –
Crab spiders often sit on flowers and ambush their prey. Some can even change color to blend in with their surroundings!



Jumping spiders (Salticidae family) – Jumping spiders are the largest family of spiders. They do not spin webs, but run down their prey and use silk to keep it still. They often have two big eyes (of eight total) and have excellent vision. Males in this family are especially good dancers!



Orb weaving spiders (Aranaeidae family) –
Different species build different types of webs.
Some examples:



YOUTH ART GALLERY

FALL



"Fall Birch Trees"
Jaxson Blondeau,
2nd grade.
Cherry Creek
Elementary School



"Turkey"
Emma Huff,
Kindergarten.
Sandy Knoll
Elementary School

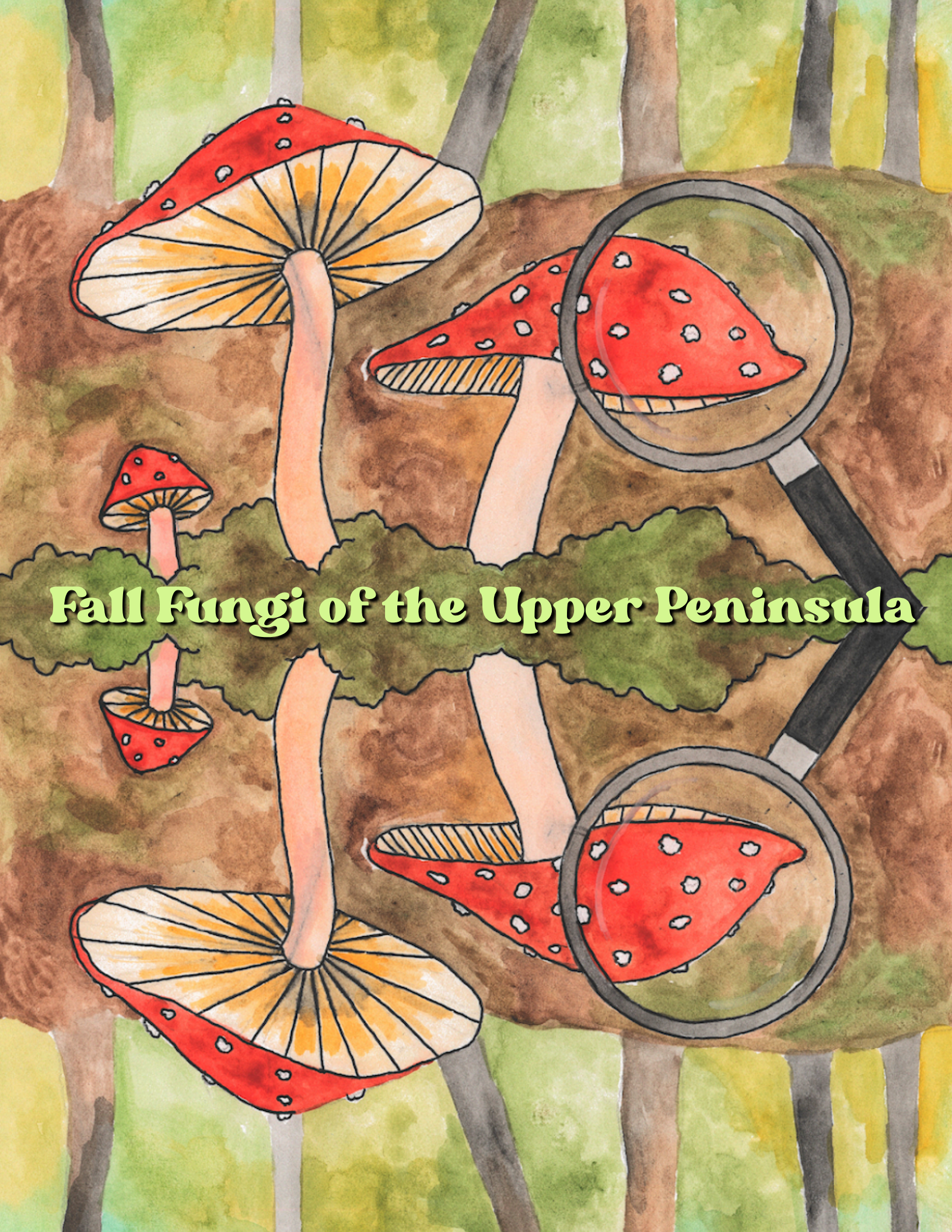




"Owl"
Molly Bisek,
5th grade.
Cherry Creek
Elementary School

Interested in submitting art, wildlife observations, questions, poems, and more to future issues of ***Yooper Troopers?***

With your guardian's permission, email your work to:
uplc@uplandconservancy.org


Fall Fungi of the Upper Peninsula



Golden Chanterelle *(Cantharellus cibarius)*: Found from late July to late fall. Notable for their false gills that can look like melted wax, their apricot smell, and flesh that pulls like string cheese.



Black Trumpet *(Craterellus fallax)*: Found in mid-summer to late fall. Often hard to see due to its black color but has a distinctive smell of roses and chocolate.



Hedgehog *(Hydnum repandum)*: Found from late summer through mid-fall. Distinctive for having spines (like a hedgehog!) instead of pores or gills under the cap.



Oyster Mushroom *(Pleurotus ostreatus)*: Found from early summer through fall. Oysters grow on dead or dying trees, smell a bit salty, and often host little black and red beetles.

Honey Mushroom *(Armillaria mellea)*:
Found from late summer to late fall. Small, gilled mushrooms that grow in clusters on dead wood. The "Humongous Fungus" in Crystal Falls, MI belongs to the Armillaria genus. It has been growing (mostly underground) for 2,500 years and weighs as much as three blue whales!



Chicken of the Woods *(Laetiporus sulphureus)*:
Sometimes found twice a year: in late-June and again in late fall. A bright orange "bracket fungus" that likes to grow on oak trees in the UP.



Giant Puffball *(Calvatia gigantea)*:
Found from late summer through mid-fall. Can be the size of a volleyball or bigger! They seem to spring up overnight in grassy fields.



Mushroom information provided with thanks to former UPLC Board Member Adam Berger.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

1. Jiibay-Manidoo-Ziibi or Rivière des Morts in English
2. Barb's species (common name)
8. Type of mushroom with spines under the cap (common name)
9. BB's species (common name)
11. Type of mushroom that smells like roses and chocolate.
12. Silly name for a huge Honey Mushroom growing underground in Crystal Falls, MI

Down

3. Spiders are not insects, but _____.
4. One of two spiders in Michigan whose venom is toxic to humans
5. Spiders have _____ legs and _____ eyes.
6. Organs on the back of spiders that spin silk
7. Little "arms" that help spiders grip, taste, smell, and move around
10. Type of spider that sits on flowers and ambushes prey

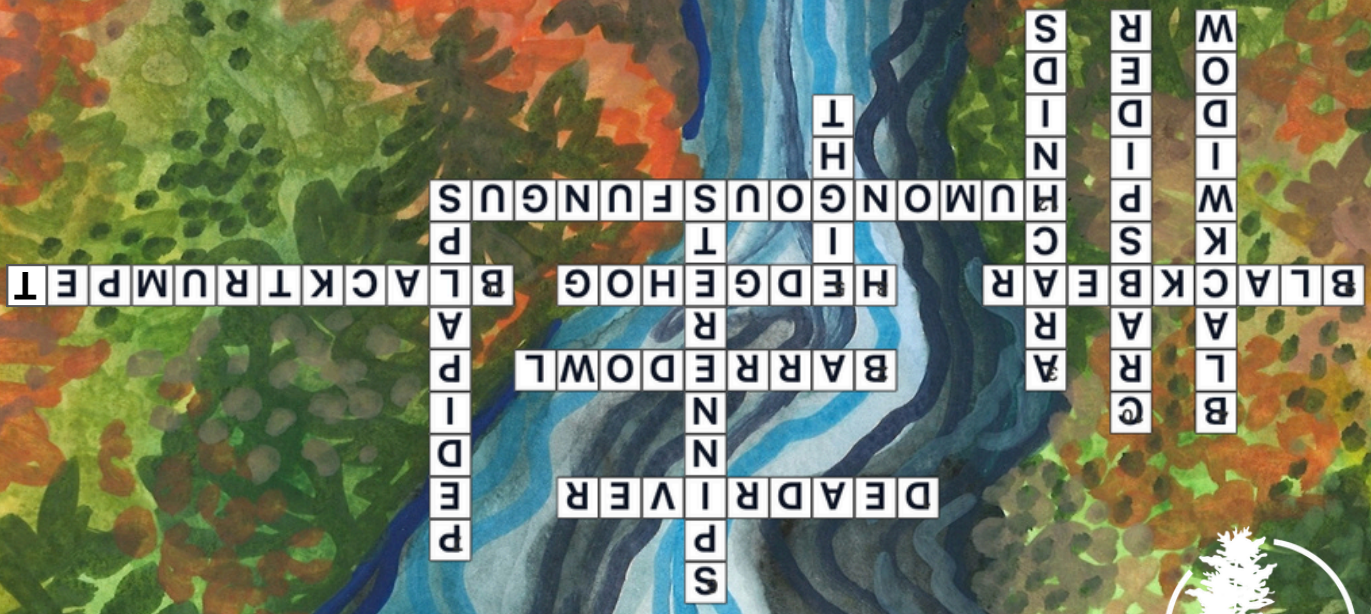
Answers on back cover!

Help UPLC keep on trooping!

UP Land Conservancy is a donor funded and volunteer supported organization. You can get involved and help protect ***Land Today for Life Tomorrow*** by visiting:

uplandconservancy.org

Crossword Answers:



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