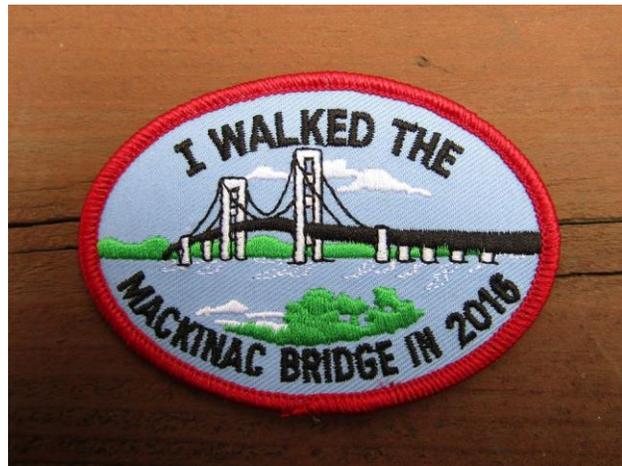




March 25, 2020 - THE CHALLENGE IS ON! Governor Whitmer says just because we are sheltering in place, that doesn't mean we have to stay stuck inside! We should get outside for some fresh air –but remember to wear a face mask if you go with someone, and practice safe social distancing. So, we are reinstating our “Virtual Walk to the Bridge” we did a couple of years ago! It is simple - just keep track of how far you walk each day and let us know each Friday. We will accumulate miles walked and mark it on our Michigan map. Since we already “walked” to the Mackinac Bridge, let's continue across the bridge and across the Upper Peninsula to beautiful Copper Harbor. If we have lots of participants, we can make it to Copper Harbor before the Governor's ban is lifted - or at least before the black flies hatch in Copper Harbor! Please join us! Email Jan your miles at jan@thebasc.org, on Friday, March 27, and we will post our total for the week. Then email us your miles each Friday until we make it across the U.P. Have any ideas for our next walk? Let us know. It's going to be nice out

today, so get started! Have fun, and be safe out there!

March 26, 2020 - How many of you went for a walk yesterday? I'm sure you all walked enough miles around Buchanan and Niles to have virtually made it across the Mackinac Bridge and into the Upper Peninsula. Here are some fun facts about the Mackinac Bridge to ponder as you walk: Construction on the "Mighty Mac" began on May 7, 1954, and the bridge was opened to traffic on November 1, 1957. The bridge is five miles long, which translates to 26,372 feet! If you want to physically walk across the bridge, that is allowed for a few hours on Labor Day. But you won't be alone because 30,000 people walked the bridge in 2019! If you are afraid of heights, don't look down because the roadway is 199 feet above the water at midspan. Oh, and if you wanted to walk the distance of all of the main cables on the bridge, that would be 42,000 miles! Here is a photo of our beautiful bridge and your patch for completing your walk across it - just change the date to 2020!





March 28, 2020 - For the week of March 21 – 27, our walkers reported 64 miles! That is fabulous! You are making great time. Our "virtual" journey across the U.P. began in Mackinaw City, just below the Mackinac Bridge. We crossed the bridge and walked northwest, skirting along Lake Michigan through the towns of Epoufette, Naubinway, and Gould City, landing us near Milakokia Lake. The lake is 1956 acres and you will find a State Forest Campground nearby with 35 campsites. Enjoy your stay here before hitting the virtual road again toward Copper Harbor!

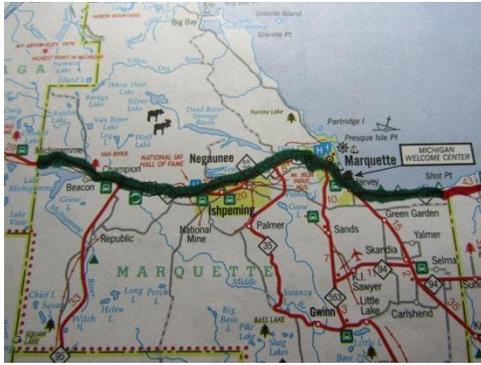
ADDED CHALLENGE – PHOTO-A-DAY

Starting this week, how about getting out your camera and shooting some photos. Select your best shot each day and make a collage. Bring them to Show and Tell at our Post COVID-19 Party (more on that later!). Have fun with it!

April 6, 2020 - Congratulations to all of our walkers! Last week you all walked a total of 89 miles, in your hometown. We even heard from some of our "snow birds" in South Carolina, who logged 41 total miles! So, as we continue on our virtual walk across the U.P., we leave our camp at Milakokia Lake, shoot north past Seney National Wildlife Refuge, head west on the 25 mile "Seney Stretch," dubbed the "most boring road in Michigan," straight and flat. This was Ernest Hemingway's stomping grounds in his short story, "The Big Two-Hearted River." We keep going through Munising and past the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, one of two designated National Lakeshores in Michigan. Just outside of Munising, we pass through Christmas - Michigan. Heading west along the Lake Superior shoreline, as we near Marquette, our walk ends near Shot Point, in Chocolay Township. Nearby, we see Lakenenland Sculpture Park, the creation of sculptures built from scrap iron. Stroll (or drive) through the free display, open around the clock every day of the year. It's open free to the public 7 days a week. Keep walking, everyone! And remember to take a photo a day and complete the scavenger hunt (found in the tote in front of the senior center).

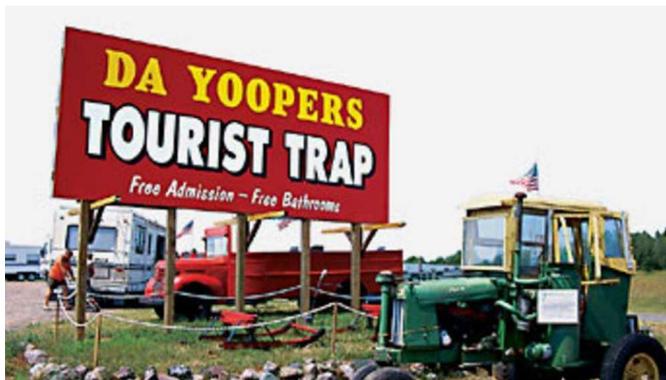


Lakenenland Sculpture

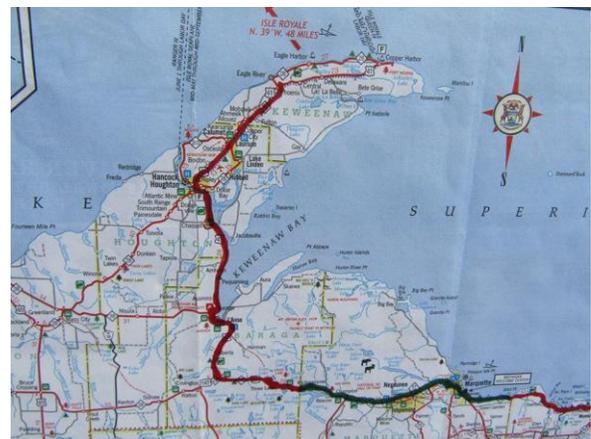


April 12, 2020 - The report from our walkers this week was a total of 52 miles walked! This brings us to Michigamme on our "Virtual Walk Across the Upper Peninsula." We left Shot Point and headed west through Marquette, the largest city in the U.P. at 21,355, and home of Northern Michigan University, the U.P. 200 Dogsled Race, hiking and biking trails, and much more. Then we veered inland away from beautiful Lake Superior. If you loved the names Milakokia Lake and Chocolay Township that we passed in the last two weeks, how about Ishpeming, Negaunee, and Michigamme? They sort of roll off the tongue, eh? Okay, we are REALLY

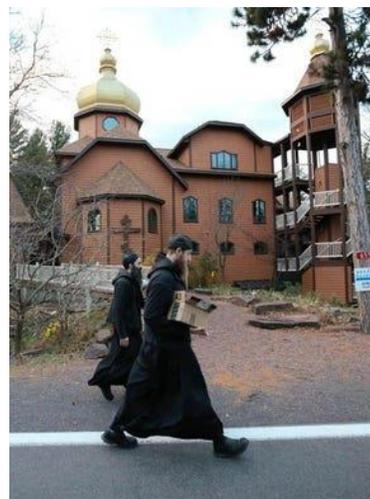
in da U.P. now! Stop in at Da Yoopers Tourist Trap and Rock Knockers Rock Shop in Ishpeming, and check out the National Ski Hall of Fame. Negaunee is Iron Ore country, and home of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum. We pass Van Riper State Park, where 59 moose were transported by air from Algonquin Provincial Park in Canada and released in 1985. See the "Moose Crossing" signs? We end our walk this week at Michigamme, an unincorporated community of about 300 people, on the shores of Lake Michigamme. Lake Michigamme is one of Michigan's largest lakes, at 4,292 acres, with average depths of 40 to 50 feet. In season, you could catch walleye, pike, bass, and perch. Enjoy your stay in Michigamme, and as Dory would say, "Keep on walking, just keep walking."



April 19, 2020 - Our walkers reported 51 miles this week, and 40 miles biked, for a total of 91 miles on our virtual walk across the U.P.! We are at Eagle River, Michigan, only 23 miles from Copper Harbor! Woo Hoo! Leaving Michigamme, we passed through L'Anse, at the bottom of Keweenaw Bay on Lake Superior. Then we headed north along the bay through Baraga, named for Bishop Frederic Baraga, the "Snowshoe Priest." A shrine for Bishop Baraga, who became the Bishop of the Upper Peninsula, is located between L'Anse and Baraga. The Sand Point Lighthouse is located in Baraga, but it belongs to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and is not open to the public. Leaving Baraga, we continued north along Keweenaw Bay to the city of Houghton, home to Michigan Technological University



(Michigan Tech), where students from all 50 states and 60 nations get degrees in engineering, science, technology, and more. Crossing the Portage Canal Lift Bridge, we arrived in Hancock, Michigan. The city is home to Finlandia University, and has a strong Finnish population. It's sister city is Porvoo, Finland. The Keweenaw Peninsula has a rich copper mining history, and many ghost towns remain from the copper boom during the mid-1800s. When the copper deposits dwindled by the mid-1900s, Michigan had produced 11 billion pounds - 5 million metric tons - of copper. Originally named Red Jacket for the Chief of the Seneca Tribe, Calumet was a bustling town during the copper mining hey-day, and had a population of 60,000 in 1890, when it was considered for the capital of Michigan due to the importance of the copper mining industry. In 2011, the population was only 727. Passing through many small mining company towns, we end on the western edge of the Keweenaw at Eagle River. Eagle River is the county seat of Keweenaw County. Its population was 71 at the 2010 census, which makes it by far the least-populated county seat in the State of Michigan. Today, along the Lake Superior shore near Eagle River, you will find the Holy Transfiguration Skete, a Byzantine Catholic monastery and community, which is known for producing jams and other foodstuffs from berries collected in the nearby forests (visit their shop, the Jam Pot). Holy Transfiguration is one of only a few Byzantine Catholic monasteries in the United States. This area is so rich in history, that we must return again to take it all in. Congratulations, walkers. You are almost to beautiful Copper Harbor!



April 26, 2020 - Our walkers did 75 miles last week! Leaving Eagle River on Hwy 41, we travel the 23 miles to Copper Harbor on one of the most scenic roads in Michigan. Copper Harbor, at the northern tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula, is often called the Gateway to Isle Royale. The passenger ferry, Isle Royale Queen IV, offers transportation between Copper Harbor and Isle Royale National Park in the summer months. Copper Harbor is an adventure-seekers paradise, offering mountain biking and hiking trails, kayaking, Lake Superior, inland Lake Fanny Hooe, Manganese Falls, Copper Harbor Lighthouse, old growth Estivant Pines,

Ft. Wilkins State Park, and much more. Spring flowers and bird migrations, summer sunsets, fall colors, and winter solitude are all here and breathtakingly beautiful. Take in the views before

we depart, from Lake Superior's rugged shoreline to the top of Brockway Mountain, where on a clear day, you can see Isle Royale, 60 miles to the northwest. Now, let's head back south, along Lake Superior, through Eagle Harbor and Eagle River, past historic Evergreen Cemetery. Buried here are many of the copper miners, who migrated here from Cornwall, England, and some who lost their lives working in the mines. We make it back to historic Calumet, headquarters of Keweenaw National Historic Park. You can't miss the 9,392-pound piece of float copper on display along Hwy 41 at the park headquarters. Now we will begin the "scenic route" across the Upper Peninsula, back to Mackinac Bridge. What other sites will we see, and what else can we learn about our Upper Peninsula?



May 3, 2020 - The senior walkers did 61 miles this week in the virtual walk across the Upper Peninsula. Leaving Calumet, we follow along southerly, back to Hancock, and across the Portage Canal to Houghton. We make a stop at the A.E.Seaman Mineral Museum of Michigan Tech, which features a worldwide mineral collection with the largest public exhibit of minerals from the Great Lakes Region. This official Mineral Museum of Michigan is home to its own nationally and internationally recognized mineral collection and to the University of Michigan mineral collection, co-owned by the museum and the University of Michigan. Together, these two collections of approximately 50,000 mineral specimens began assembly in 1838. The collections are housed on the campus of Michigan Technological University and should not be missed. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8y7GbuQDHA>

We continue on to Toivola (which means "hopeful" in Finnish) and Donken, lumber towns in the 1930s that are now abandoned ghost towns. We pass Twin Lakes State Park and Mass City, named for the mass copper mined in the area. Jogging west we end this week near Rockland in Old Victoria, the site of a copper mine that operated near the Ontonagon River off and on for several years. The Victoria Dam and Flowage is nearby, which produces electricity for the area. Old Victoria currently has four cabins, restored and furnished to suit the time period, including two boarding houses and a family home. It is now one of the Keweenaw Heritage Sites in the Keweenaw National Historical Park. Enjoy the time in Victoria before continuing our scenic tour across the U.P.



May 10, 2020 - This week our walkers and bikers accumulated 60 miles. This took them from Victoria to Porcupine Mountains State Park, or the Porkies, as it is nicknamed. Yes, there are mountains in Michigan! The highest peak in the Porkies is 1958 feet (the highest point in Michigan is Mount Arvon in the U.P. at 1979 feet), and the views from the basalt and conglomerate escarpment offer striking views of Lake Superior and Lake of the Clouds. The Porcupine Mountains were named by the native Ojibwa people, supposedly because their silhouette had the shape of a crouching porcupine. The Porkies is home to the most extensive stand of old growth northern hardwood forest in North America west of the Adirondack Mountains, spanning at least 31,000 acres. And, yes, you will find porcupines in the park, as well as a large variety of other wildlife, including lots of black bears! The Presque Isle River in the park offers some amazing waterfalls. Enjoy your tour of the Porcupine Mountains, and get out there for a walk next week! We want to hear from you.



May 17, 2020

This week our walkers left Porcupine Mountain State Park and went south to Wakefield, then took Highway 2 east toward the bridge. They ended at Watersmeet, Michigan. A number of waters actually meet here: the Ontonagon River flows north into Lake Superior, the Wisconsin River flows south into the Mississippi River, and the Paint River flows east into Lake Michigan. You will find a nice visitor center for Ottawa National Forest. The 19,000 acre Sylvania Wilderness lies waiting to be discovered. It is known for its unique fishing, sparkling clear waters, majestic scenery, and back country camping. Transportation throughout the Wilderness is by foot or canoe, with motorized boats allowed only on Crooked Lake. If you have time, head just a few miles north to the village of Paulding, home to Bond Falls, one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the Upper Peninsula, and the mysterious Paulding Lights. Enjoy your time in Watersmeet! Keep walking!



May 24, 2020

Our virtual walkers are spending Memorial Day at Bewabic State Park, just west of Crystal Falls, Michigan, after walking a cumulative 40 miles last week. Bewabic State Park is a public recreation area covering 315 acres on the shore of Fortune Lake, four miles west of Crystal Falls in Iron County, Michigan. The state park's rich Civilian Conservation Corps history is evidenced by the CCC structures still in use.

Beginning in 1933, President Roosevelt's "Tree Army" in Michigan, operated 46 CCC camps with 7,400 enrollees. But they did more than plant (millions of) trees. They stocked fish, built roads, and fought forest fires. In Michigan, the CCC built 504 bridges and 222 buildings, many of which are still just as beautiful and sturdy as they were nearly 100 years ago. Read more about the Civilian Conservation Corps in Michigan at the Michigan History Center website: https://www.michigan.gov/.../0,9075,7-361-85147_87219_87222-4...

