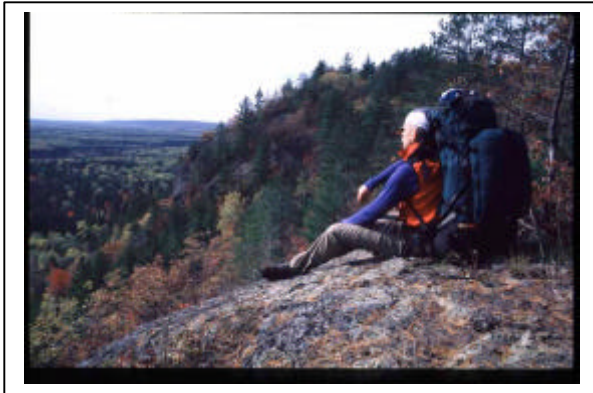


The Poetry and the Practicalities of Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula



Eric Hansen will present a slide tour of the Upper Peninsula's best hikes and offer his thoughts on the land, its compelling themes and its almost mythic place in the imagination of people throughout the Midwest. The author of *Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula – A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in the U.P.*, Eric walked 900 miles while researching that project.

He found miles of quiet Lake Superior shoreline, thumping waterfalls and sparkling cascades, and high rock balconies with knock-your-socks-off views that stretch 50 miles and more. Hansen will cover hidden gems like Shining Cloud Falls and the fabled Falls of the Yellow Dog as well as scenic viewpoints like the Trap Hill's Norwich Bluff and the Tip of the Keweenaw's Bare Bluff. His slide shows are popular – twice drawing overflow crowds of more than 300 people.



He has highlighted the U.P.'s natural heritage in adventure features in *Backpacker Magazine*, the op-ed pages of the *Chicago Tribune*, and in numerous interviews on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Also a conservation activist, Hansen is part of a widespread citizens campaign to block ill-advised proposals for metallic sulfide mining in the U.P. In 2006, The Outdoor Writer's Association of America awarded him first prize for conservation and environment newspaper writing for his *Chicago Tribune* op-ed essay (available at www.eric-hansen.com) which highlighted the U.P.'s iconic coaster brook trout and the threat of metallic

sulfide mining there.

Widely traveled, he is a veteran of 26 treks to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, successful ascents of most of the high peaks in Glacier National Park and a telemark-style ski descent of Colorado's highest peak.

--

--In a January 20, 2006 audio file WUWM's Jane Hampden interviews Eric Hansen on his then brand new U.P. guidebook. This interview is a broad, reflective look at the iconic landscape we know as the Upper Peninsula. About 14 minutes long.

http://www.wuwm.com/programs/lake_effect/view_at10.php?articleid=57

(drag the audio bar to the 17 minute, 50 second mark to begin Eric Hansen's segment)