

Remember to

RENEW

your membership  
for 2024!



Go to: [porkies.org/memberships/](https://porkies.org/memberships/)

## Friends = Volunteers

The Friends is an all-volunteer organization. Our Board members, committee members, and volunteers sustain and grow our activities and programs. This year, volunteers donated 2,597 hours of their time, traveled 7,576 miles, and provided us with \$484 in non-reimbursed supplies. Those numbers translate into \$88,030.88 in-kind dollars, and that's just what's reported.

Watch the bimonthly eQuills for specific volunteer requests. The Park Interpreter, Katie Urban, needs volunteers to assist in the archery program.

Thank you, Friends members, for your generous donation of your time, talents, energy, and gifts!

## 2024 Board of Directors

<b>President:</b>	Joanie Hawley
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jim Bradley
<b>Secretary:</b>	Eric Carlson
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jane Rasmussen
<b>Board Members:</b>	
Jerry Blake	Darla Lenz
Geri Hawley	Lu Opperman
Debby Kisor	

## Financial Report 2022/23

*As of September 30, 2023*

### Income

Donations	\$11,488
2022-23 Education-Interp	\$9,769
Grants	\$2,215
Interest Income	\$26
Memberships	\$4,380
Merchandise Income	\$2,491
Folk School Income	\$8,272
Other Income	\$3,590
Total Income	\$42,231

### Expenses

Administrative Expenses	\$1,724
Advertising/Publications	\$1,043
Contracted Services	\$6,172
Dan's Cabin Maintenance	\$130
2022-23 Educ & Interp Exp	\$9,769
FS Instructor Fees	\$6,703
Grant Outlays	\$2,215
Helmet Fund	\$350
Insurance	\$5,371
Membership Expenses	\$663
Merchandise Expense	\$2,082
Prof Memberships	\$235
Programs & Events	\$860
Telephone, Heat & Rent	\$1,889
Total Expense	\$39,206
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$3,025</b>



The Quill  
November 2023



## A Tribute to Sally Berman

The Friends Board would like to thank Sally for her extensive volunteer efforts over the years, including serving as board president. Sally's dedication is truly commendable!

Her instrumental role in receiving the 2016 Governor's Volunteer Organization of the Year Award is definitely a highlight. In 2022 she focused her attention on securing funds for the purchase of three colorblind viewers at three iconic overlooks: Lake of the Clouds, Summit Peak, and Nawadaha on the Presque Isle River.

This is just one of many thoughtful and inclusive initiatives that Sally has undertaken. She has been involved in everything from acquiring grants for school visits to volunteering at the Folk School during classes and gatherings. As a Lifetime Member, Sally will continue to promote, volunteer and support the PMWSP and Friends and her local community. Sally's goal is that every visitor to the park be amazed. Thank you, Sally!

## The Year in Review

In 2023 the Friends had a busy year, starting off with a Giving Tuesday partnership with Copper Shores Community Health Foundation (formerly Portage Health) for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (M-DNR) Outdoor Skills Academy. This program, managed by Katie Urban, received over \$9,200 in funds. We thank our members for their generous support.

We welcome Holly Page as our new communications coordinator and thank Laura Burke for her significant contributions and design work.

### Some of the year's highlights:

- The Artist-in-Residence Program brought five artists to Dan's Cabin
- The 17th Porcupine Mountain Music Festival saw over 1,624 attendees and 184 volunteers
- The Folk School held 21 classes with 114 students
- Summer Solstice Day and the Folk School Open House had over 100 attendees
- The Outdoor Skills Academy "Arrows Away" program reached 350 visitors, doubling the number from last year!



*Enjoying Lake Superior Day 2023*

## Save the Date

- **February 6:** Folk School Class registration begins
- **February 9-11:** Midwest Telefest
- **February 24:** Snowburst
- **May TBD:** Park Roadside Clean-up
- **June 20:** Summer Solstice Celebration
- **July 7:** Folk School Open House
- **July 21:** Celebrate Lake Superior Events
- **August 23-24:** Porcupine Mountains Music Festival
- **October TBD:** Friends Annual Meeting

## The Year Ahead

The Friends are excited for 2024. The launch of our Trails Working Group has improved trails as well as meeting the needs of volunteers who have expressed the desire to “do work in the Park”. We see the Trails Working group as a great start. We will be identifying trail maintenance days on our website and social media.

Our successful Folk School is now a member of the Folk School Alliance. Our members can now take advantage of other Folk School programs across the U.S. The Artist-in-Residence Program is looking forward to meeting and having new artists in Dan’s cabin.

The Outdoor Skills Academy is reaching out to many Park visitors and the archery program has grown by leaps and bounds. The Park mini-grant program which focuses on history of the Park has funds for schools and we are looking to expand this to homeschools. We have grant money for teachers to provide transportation to and from the Park. We can’t forget the Porcupine Mountain Music Festival on August 23-24, 2024, which engages many volunteers for a very successful event.

Lastly, we would like to recognize two individuals who have made significant contributions to the Friends: Sally Berman, our past president, who has been tireless in her volunteer activities over the years, and Eric Hopper, artist-in-residence chairperson, who took over for Sherrie McCabe and has worked diligently this past year to continue this program and expand it. Thank you for your efforts.

## Trails Working Group

In 2023 our Trails Working Group hosted a volunteer work day in June and completed tree clearing on the Nature Trail, Visitor Center Trail, and ski hill to Deer Yard segment. Individual volunteers cleared large branches on the multi-use trails in September and October.

The Trails Group has had several field visits to the Deeryard Trail to continue evaluation of drainage improvement needs. We’ve been able to match up the M-DNR inventory data to sites on the ground. Our proposed work includes several hardened dips to improve drainage and reconstruction of the trail on a hill to reduce the ruts and gullies that are forming. M-DNR has accomplished some work on this and the Friends will see where we can contribute any funding and assistance with implementing drainage improvements such as culverts.

**Background on the Trails:** In 2021, the Friends initiated a innovative way to raise funds to help build, repair, and restore the trails in the Porkies. The Friends sell annual decals for \$25 to support the Trails fund. This dedicated account provides the Park with funds to repair and maintain ski, snowshoe, hiking, and biking trails as well as improve accessibility to multi-use activities such as disc golf and interpretive areas. In addition, it generates funding so the Friends can provide tools for volunteer days in the Park.

**How you can help:** Provide funding for tools such as brush whips and leaf blowers, buy a trail decal, or volunteer at porkies.org for one of our trail clearing days.



## Artist-in-Residence Program

The Artist-in-Residence Program was created to offer writers, composers, visual and performing artists and artisans an opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the Porkies and express it through its art forms.

This unique program is possible because there is a residence in the Park where artists can stay. The first Folk School class built the timber frame structure now known as Dan’s cabin, named after Dan Urbanski who was a strong advocate for artists. The cabin was built in 2007 and has housed artists for the last 17 years.

This program takes a significant amount of volunteer time to ensure that it runs smoothly. This year Eric Hopper was the director of the program, taking over for Sherrie McCabe, who ran the program for 16

years. Many thanks to Eric for a very successful year and his dedication to ensuring that the artists were comfortable. We will be looking for AIRP directors as Eric, due to other commitments, had to step down. Thanks, Eric, for all that you did—this was another great year!

**AIRP applications are open  
through February 14, 2024  
Details at [www.porkies.org](http://www.porkies.org)**

In addition to the art that each artist will donate to the Friends, artist Mick Grochowski, who did a presentation at the music festival, donated eight prints worth \$50 each and they are available for purchase on our website. All proceeds go to the AIRP. Thank you, Mick, for your generous donation.

The 2nd biannual Labor Day Art Exhibit was held in the Ontonagon Theater. It was well attended and was a great way to showcase the work of the artists in residence. Many thanks to Eric, the theater, and all the volunteers who made that happen.



*Mick Grochowski's painting "Super Moon Over Ocean View Pier"*



### 2023 Artists in Residence:

**Lorraine Bubar**

*Paper cutting*

**Mick Grochowski**

*Oil painting*

**Ken Reif**

*Oil painting*

**Kelly Meredith**

*Painting*

**Alison Young**

*Audio narrative*



# The Porcupine Mountains Folk School

*Come to meet, grow, hammer, stitch, craft, and be inspired!*

The Porkies Folk School was off and running in early June with the Aldo Leopold Bench, Greenland Kayak Paddle, Whisk Broom, Watercolor Painting, and Beginners' Knitting classes. The students had lots of fun and learned many new skills.

*"Wonderful class! First bench of many!"*

A new weaving class was well received in July. The students used mini handheld looms to learn weaving basics and to create their own unique designs. This class was featured in our new promotional video which can be found at [porkies.org](http://porkies.org). The video was made possible by a grant from the Porcupine Mountains Ontonagon Area Convention Visitor's Bureau and Jake Ring, Videographer.



*"Everything about this Folk School is spectacular!"*

Who would have thought that we'd have 90-degree weather in September when we held our blacksmithing classes?



*"Thank you for the great time."*

Our final class of the year was much cooler and we were thankful for our heater. The students created beautiful charcuterie boards and had fun in the process.



*"I enjoyed the class and the fellowship of all involved."*

The friendships that are made during classes are special and the cooperation among students is priceless. Another fantastic year run by our tireless volunteers. Thank you to everyone who made it possible!



# Discovering Copper: The Mini-Grant Program

For several years, the Friends have been matching funds for awarded grant money from the Keweenaw National Historic Parks to bring students to the Porkies. They learn about the importance of copper in the history of the Park, Park geology, and the cultures of the peoples who left their stamp here. Educators, give your students a day that they will remember in this exceptional outdoor classroom by applying for a mini-grant. There are three new copper field trips to choose from. The online application form and important information about the program are on the web site at [porkies.org/mini-grant-program/](http://porkies.org/mini-grant-program/).



## DO IT ALL AT PORKIES.ORG

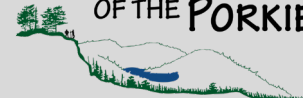
Our web site is mobile device friendly and interactive. It's easy to find all our events and workshops because they are listed in one place on the site. The home page focuses on news of important Friends events. On other pages, you can apply for a mini-grant, download the Artist-in-Residence application, become a member, or renew, donate, or purchase merchandise.

Make [porkies.org](http://porkies.org) a favorite or bookmark because you'll want to return throughout the year to see what's new.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:

[@friendsoftheporkies](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoftheporkies)

**FRIENDS  
OF THE PORKIES**





# A Time of Reflection for the 17th Porcupine Mountains Music Festival

This year's 17th Porcupine Mountains Music Festival presented by the Friends of the Porxies experienced success once again, reaching a total attendance of 1,624 throughout the two-day event and a volunteer force of 184. The music festival was supported in part by an award from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The festival got off to a good start, as Myron Elkins formerly of Albion, MI now based in Nashville took the stage with the band playing their country/rock influenced originals.



Jackie Venson and drummer Rodney, from Austin, TX  
Photo by David Braithwaite

At the conclusion of his set, a dark shelf cloud parked over the grounds and opened up a downpour, causing a festival pause. Once over and the stage dried, the show went on with all performers playing their full sets. By the time headliner Jackie Venson's set wrapped up, the day ended only an hour later than planned. From Austin, Texas, Venson's impressive guitar skills were on display, as was the aptitude of her drummer Rodney...who while blind and left-handed, played a right-handed drum set up, creating a unique sound all his own.

Smithsonian Folkway's artist Charlie Parr, Seth Walker from Texas, and the Way Down Wanderers who had a jaw-dropping spoon player who got a great deal of attention. Newcomer Gabe Stillman delivered an unrivaled high-energy blues set, and from Pittsburgh, PA soulful R&B (with horns!) band The Commonheart closed out the festivities on a high note.

In addition to the main stage happenings, the Chalet Stage hosted 11 performers and the Busking Barn 22 performers.

The festival was a time of reflection for its festival family losing one of their own, Dale Venema of Ontonagon. While Dale's absence was profoundly felt, his presence was all around in the warmth of the

Attendees enjoyed a wide variety of performing styles including



Thomas Jackman, a Busking Barn favorite, plays for the crowd  
Photo courtesy of Knox and Abigail Keranen

Busking Barn. It was decorated with personal items, photos, sayings and artwork connecting attendees to Dale himself. Barn Stage organizer Eric Hopper, (who received the Barn leader's torch passed by its founder Dale years ago), handed out sheet music to Dale's original song "Carbon Credits" and led the audience in singing the chorus. It was a heartfelt tribute.



The children's tent area, coordinated by Tara Strelow of Ontonagon, was bustling with activity, joy, smiling faces, and bubbles too! Photo by David Braithwaite

The 18th Porcupine Mountains Music Festival will be held August 23 and 24, 2024. Advance ticket sales are now available at [porkiesfestival.org](http://porkiesfestival.org).



## Park Interpreter Educational Programs

The Porcupine Mountains Interpretive staff had another fantastic year! Park Interpreter Katie Urban and Seasonal Interpreters Dani and Morgan were able to reach more visitors than ever before, and in a much wider range of locations. There were programs being run on the sandy beaches, in the rocky rivers, to secret waterfalls and much more.

With the new range of topics and locations, over 6,000 visitors got to learn something new about the beautiful Porcupine Mountains. The Friends were able to support this summer's success by purchasing new animal furs from a local trapper to use for hands-on learning in many different programs. This included new raccoon, skunk, beaver, and coyote furs to help teach the park visitors how to keep themselves and local wildlife safe and happy.

The Friends partnered with the Portage Health Foundation #GivingTuesday in both 2021 (\$9,425.64) and 2022 (\$9,471.88) to raise a grand total of \$18,897.52 for the Kids' Outdoor Skills Academy. This program is dedicated to getting kids outside and learning new lifelong skills. Money from this program was used to purchase new archery equipment last year and was used this year to purchase an enclosed archery trailer to store all the equipment to keep it clean, dry, and safe. "Arrows Away" is a visitor favorite program that was expanded to reach over 350 people this last year, teaching park visitors and school groups alike!

The Friends of the Porkies support the Interpretive Program at the Porcupine Mountains in many ways, such as fundraising for special projects, purchasing equipment and supplies, volunteering for events, or partnering on projects and programs. To learn how you can help with these programs, visit our web site:

**Donate:** <https://porkies.org/donations/>

**Volunteer:** <https://porkies.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer/>