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For Immediate Release

For more information contact:
Shannon White (517) 324-1828

Taylor, Keweenaw County Historical Society Win Prestigious UP History Awards

NEWBERRY, MI: Carol Taylor and the Keweenaw County Historical Society received the Historical Society of Michigan's top awards for the preservation of Upper Peninsula History on June 27 at the 60th Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference.

Carol Taylor, a member of the Luce County Historical Society for over 30 years, was awarded the Charles Follo History Award. The Keweenaw County Historical Society received the Superior Award.

Taylor, building on the life work of her late husband, Sprague Taylor, has built a valuable and accessible archive of Upper Peninsula history for more than thirty years. In addition to her work sharing information and doing research on the area, she worked tirelessly to preserve and restore the old 1894 Luce County Sheriff's Residence and Jail, which is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. It was cited for both its architectural and historical merit and now serves as the Luce County Museum.

The invaluable collection of Mrs. Taylor's archive has helped a number of researchers through the years as they completed their own work on the history of the Upper Peninsula. This generosity continues to provide the public with historical information of the region such as the photographs and information used for kiosks and information signs at the Tahquamenon State Park.

The Historical Society of Michigan presents the Follo Award each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and promotion of Upper Peninsula history. It was established in 1979 to honor the memory of Charles Follo, an Escanaba schoolteacher who promoted and helped advance historical understanding of Michigan's U.P.

"The Follo Award is the highest recognition given to an individual leader in UP history by the Historical Society of Michigan" according to the Shannon White, the Society's Education and Awards Coordinator. "Mrs. Taylor's generosity and genuine love of history and the Upper Peninsula area shows how an individual can ensure that knowledge and information is passed down to future generations."

In a similar fashion the Historical Society of Michigan established the new Superior Award in 2006 to recognize organizations that make important contributions to UP history.

This year the award was given to the Keweenaw County Historical Society.

The Keweenaw County Historical Society was organized in 1981 by a small group of local residents in an effort to preserve area historic sites. Since that time the



Awardee Carol Taylor with HSM Board President, Kendall Wingrove and Keweenaw County Historical Society President, Virginia Jamison.

Society has taken on a number of projects to restore and make accessible to the public important sites in the county. The hard work of volunteers developed an entire campus of restored sites now open to the public. Visitors can tour the restored Eagle Harbor Light Station containing the Keweenaw shipwreck museum, a commercial fishing museum, a viewing deck and exhibits. Also open to the public is the restored Phoenix Church, the Bammert Blacksmith Shop, the Rathbone School and the Central Mine, all restored to their late nineteenth century condition.

The Keweenaw County Historical Society's membership numbers over 1,000 and continues to publish the Superior Signal newsletter containing in-depth articles on Upper Peninsula history. The Society recently acquired the Life Saving Station on Eagle Harbor Marina and a school building in Gay and has begun work on both. With the continued hard work of the members and volunteers the new sites are sure to be a noteworthy addition to the Keweenaw County Historical Society's work in restoration and preservation of Upper Peninsula history.

Keweenaw County Historical Society President, Virginia Jamison, was on hand to receive the Superior Award on behalf of the organization at the Upper Peninsula History awards banquet held at the Erickson Cultural Center in Curtis, Michigan.

The Charles Follo and Superior Awards are presented each year at the Historical Society of Michigan's Upper Peninsula History Conference. Territorial governor Lewis Cass and Henry Schoolcraft, who explored and wrote about the UP, founded the Society in 1828.

During the State History Conference, to be held on Mackinaw Island October 2-4, the Society will present its annual State History Awards. For more information on the Society's awards visit www.hsmichigan.org or call (517) 324-1828.

The Historical Society of Michigan
1305 Abbot Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: (517) 324-1828
FAX: (517) 324-4370
E-mail: hsm@hsmichigan.org