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## **UPPER PENINSULA HISTORY CONFERENCE VISITS ESCANABA**

ESCANABA, Mich. - The Historical Society of Michigan's 57th Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference is coming to Escanaba. The Delta County Historical Society and Bay College is teaming up with the official state historical society to put on the three-day event, to be held the weekend of June 23-25.

The gathering will feature workshops, lectures, tours, music, meals and a variety of other activities geared for laymen and professional historians alike.

"We move the annual Upper Peninsula History Conference each year to feature a different area and the rich heritage of the UP," said Historical Society of Michigan Executive Director Larry Wagenaar. "It's been many years since we held the conference in this key area of Upper Michigan."

Pre-conference activities begin on Friday at 9 a.m. with a workshop offered by Jeanne Drewes of Michigan State University and the Michigan Alliance for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Her presentation focuses on Disaster Planning and how smaller institutions can develop a straightforward plan to deal with damage to their collections.

Tours are also on Friday's agenda. One includes the history of Escanaba with stops at the Gas & Steam exhibit, the local historical village, and the logging industry museum among other sites. The second tour will take participants to the Fayette Historic Town site, a deserted 1880s company town in eastern Delta County.

An outdoor barbecue and historic cemetery tour at 6 p.m. at the Pioneer Trail Park rounds out Friday. Local musician Catherine Mosrski will perform after the barbecue.

Saturday's activities commence at 9 a.m. with keynote speaker Peter Strom focusing on the Lighthouses of Delta County. He will reveal fascinating stories from the lives and times of people that manned nine lighthouses in the county as well as their history.

Following the keynote address, a block of three concurrent activities run between 9:45 and 11 a.m. Collector and Appraiser Dennis Moberg will explore a famous arms maker and outdoor outfitting firm in Marble Arms: Webster L. Marble, the Man & His Company. Author Gene Scott will focus on ghost and nearly-ghost communities in UP Shadownowns: the Story of Lost Communities. A third option, aimed to provide hands-on workshop experiences, features training on Basic Curatorial Skills for local historical societies and museums by Robert Myers of the Berrien Springs Historical Association.

The second morning block begins at 11:15 and runs through noon and offers three more activities. The first is a presentation by Northern Michigan University professor Russell Magnaghi. He discusses the darker history of Bed sheets in the Peninsula: Rise and Fall of the KKK in the UP. Brenda Laakso will present a second option in Fayette: Story of a Company Ghost Town. Finally another workshop session will round out this block of breakouts with three members of the Marquette Historical Museum, Kaye Hiebel, Jo DeYoung-Patrie and Tina Harris leading Exhibit Skills for Historical Societies and Museums.

A noon luncheon features Karl Bohnak as keynote speaker. Bohnak is a well-known weather anchor and meteorologist at TV 6 in Marquette. He will discuss Upper Michigan Weather Extremes: the Biggest the Worst, the Hot the Cold. Following lunch conference attendees can hear reports from UP Historical groups.

For the first time at a UP History Conference there will be third set of breakouts in the early afternoon, offering the most content ever offered at this summer meeting. The third block begins at 1:45 and runs

through 3 p.m. and offers two more activities. Anne Jousma Miller, who operates the local Kipling House Bed & Breakfast, will explore Gladstone: Chicago of the North? A second option allows participants a rare look at Lake Michigan underwater when Blue Water Diver owner Rick Malone addresses Diving the Wrecks of Lake Michigan.

Saturday concludes with the Annual Upper Peninsula Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. in the Bonifas Art Center. The annual Charles Follo and Superior Awards, honoring outstanding individuals and historical organizations in Upper Michigan, will be presented. The banquet will be followed by a special screening of a play by the Escanaba Theatre Group entitled Ghosts of the Lighthouse.

The conference concludes Sunday with a tour at 9 a.m. to Hermansville to visit the IXL Museum and the Vietnam Veterans Museum.

The 57th Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference is sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) in cooperation with the Delta County Historical Society, the Delta County Chamber of Commerce, the Bays de Noc Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bay College and the New Page Corporation.

Those interested in attending must register no later than June 16 by going on-line at [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org) or call toll-free (800) 692-1828. Members of the Historical Society of Michigan are eligible for a registration discount.

Residents who live in the underserved Upper Michigan counties can apply for a grant from Michigan's Rural Arts & Culture Program that will cover the conference fee. Residents in the following counties are eligible: Baraga, Dickenson, Keweenaw, Luce, Menominee, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft. Five grants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Best Western Pioneer Inn in Escanaba is the official conference hotel and is offering a special conference lodging rate of \$59 per night; contact them at (906) 786-0602.

For more information on the 2006 Upper Peninsula History Conference or to see the full conference program visit [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org) or call toll-free (800) 692-1828.

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