

2020 KUUF Annual Report of Green Sanctuary Committee

Submitted by Carol Ekstrom, chair

(G. S. committee: Linda Belote, Heidi Bresnehan, Paul Mitchell, Lora Repp, Anne Roberts, Linda Rulison, David Watkins,)

This was a very active year for GS with three new sustainability initiatives, a new brochure, a fund raiser, a collaborative grant proposal, a front page DMG article, and the start of new Action Project with great potential called, “Grow an Extra Row; Gardening Our Souls”

Brochure:



“Grow an Extra Row; Gardening our Souls”:

The goal of the project is to work together to provide extra vegetables for those in the community who would benefit from fresh produce and a smile. The project is off to a good start. Twelve eager gardeners: MacDonald family, Lora Repp, Heidi Bresnahan, Rulisons, Ekstroms, Tammy Gajewski, Joan Chadde, Paul Mitchell, Miyoko Wisti, Tom Hoornstra, and Dave Watkins, have started preparing an Extra row at their home gardens, or at the communal garden at Heidi’s property. Members are encouraged to come and help out any time. Paul is identifying the SNAP families who will be part of the program; Lora Repp is organizing the produce distribution plan; Heidi Bresnahan is coordinating activities at the communal garden; Jan Dalquist, Miriam Pickens, and Heidi are composing poems, while Miyoko and Carol are making flower bouquets to distribute with the deliveries. We still need volunteers to gather favorite veggie recipes, and to help deliver the produce. Everyone will be invited to a Green Tour of the gardens later in the season.



Communal garden

UPEC grant: GS, KLT, CSEO together applied for, and received a \$500 grant for planning Earth Week.

Worship Services with a Green Focus:

Sept 29: Visiting minister, Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher, "Walking with Epicurus to Paradiso" According to most reports, we have no more than 12 years to keep our planet from becoming un-supportable for life. Writing from her cabin in the forest near Traverse City, Stephanie Mills, guided by Epicurus, offers a way to lessen the weight of our feet and turn our path toward hope and health, toward Paradiso.

Oct 13: Indigenous People's Day. Jerry Jondreau of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Katy Bressette of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe presented "Original Instructions-Ojibwe Stories and Perspectives about our Earth and our Responsibilities." Bob Wheeler moderated.

May 3, "Grow an Extra Row", Paul discussed how the new GS program to grow a little extra for folks who could benefit from fresh vegetables fits the KIUF Mission and Vision.

Forums on Green Living and Green Tours:

June 9/19: Forum, "Walk the Talk." Green Sanctuary committee plus BHK's Kathy Waara discussed what works and what doesn't to live more sustainably with our planet.

Oct 20: Local Foods. Rachel Pressley discussed the importance of feeding ourselves with locally-made foods. Local foods Potluck.

Dec. 8: Forum. "How to Enjoy a More Sustain-able Holiday Season." And Holiday Christmas Party. Green Sanctuary committee demonstrated ways to make traditional holiday activities more sustainable with gift giving and wrapping, holiday decorations, food preparations, and party planning. Members created info for a "How to Green Your Holidays" flyer which was emailed to our Green Interfaith Group.

RE Kids Green Activities: - a family Solstice Event took place on June 18, with many activities such as yoga, paper marbling, and enactment of seasonal changes of the sun- earth- moon, and a nature hike. The children also took a very active role in the Holiday Christmas party by bringing Reuse-Recyclable Gifts wrapped in reuse-recycled wrappings, and providing ideas for our Holiday Flyer.

Reintroduction of American Chestnut Tree: Dr.Terry Sharik lead this program in 2016. The four trees that we planted around the BHK parking lot and behind Econo are doing well. A description of the event, the informative brochure, and the Chestnut Recipe Book have recently been placed on the KUUF webpage under Green Sanctuary>Justice.

Expanding Recycling in the KUUF area:

Many KUUF Members assisted in the test run of the Recycling Survey of the County. The result of the Survey is expanded recycling for the entire County with the possibility of curbside recycling at the BHK within the coming year.

G.S. met with BHK to discuss how we could collaborate on sustainability measures. We plan to share in the purchase and use of a roller composter that is user friendly for kids. We are continuing discussion on financing a solar demonstration project for the BHK building, and will look for grants to augment the KUUF funds that have been proposed.



composter

Gardening: Barry Fink continues to keep the flower garden at the KUUF road sign in continual bloom. The HfH landscaping project, and Daffodils on the Rocks project have been suspended until there is a sufficient number of volunteers.

Green Film Series: This is our largest outreach project to the community. The series celebrated its 10th year with a good offering of diverse films and diverse discussion facilitators (see attached flyer.) The name was changed to 'The Sustainable Film Series'. Three of the 5 films/discussions were on-line due to the Coronavirus and the quick maneuvering of Joan Chadde. Total attendance for the series was 187.



The program received two notable donations this year:

1. The **Sustainability Film Series** recently received a \$700 donation from the Keweenaw Coop Market & Deli as part of their Bring a Bag Campaign which donates each year the savings from not having to purchase paper bags for customers, to two local community organizations/programs.

2. KUUF donated \$400 dollars to the program through the generous donation of Miriam Pickens and the Mug Project.

Mug Project:

A big "Thank You" to Miriam Pickens for making this creative, enjoyable project possible. She offered a Saturday 'Pot Workshop' to the community. She donated a large number of bisqued pots she had thrown, plus her glazes for participants to create their own "masterpieces".



Fall Local Food Potluck: Oct. 20,2019. A delicious potluck following Rachel Pressley's presentation. KUUF board decided to permanently designate the third Sunday in Sept. potluck as the Local Food Potluck.

Dare to Share/ Grandparents Closet: Entries are being updated and added to our website.

Adopt a Highway: – no report.

Get UU Out! : - took two snowshoes this past winter: one on the edge of Quincy hill in Dec. and one at Maasto Hiito in January. Both walks had approximately 12 people.



Other: The following GS Action project were inactive this year: Environmental Book Group; postcard Sunday; plant Sale, Habitat for Humanity volunteering and landscaping. The Environmental Justice Webinar discussion group is on hold. The Carbon Offset Funds were not used this year.

New Sustainability Practices:

1. Finding Fresh Fall Footpaths to Fellowship: Twelve members took part in our fall “Gold Stars” campaign to reduce our individual carbon footprint by walking, or biking, or carpooling to church. The KUUF Carpool map is available at <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1gavxZIOBVM6nApKW6sRp6FYq7rofZpeh&usp=sharing>



2. GIG: Green Interfaith Group: We started a “GIG”. Its purpose is to share ideas on how to make our community more environmentally friendly and to order supplies as a group. We are compiling a Green Supplies Directory to share with the community. Members so far are: Church of the Resurrection, Catholic; United Methodist; PLUC; Gloria Dei Lutheran; Evangel Baptist; Glad Tidings Assembly of God; Good Sheppard Lutheran; Grace Lutheran- S. Range; and St. Albert the Great Catholic.

3. Public Film Screening: – “Paris to Pittsburgh”. We sponsored an evening of film and discussion with Dr. Sara Green on July 19 at the BHK. 19 people attended with numerous questions which lead to a very productive discussion.

Publicity: The film series was featured in a Front Page article in the DMG on June 9,2020. <https://www.mininggazette.com/news/2020/06/sustainability-film-series-a-decade-old/>
The Film Series has its own webpage, <http://www.sfi.mtu.edu/Chadde/GreenFilm2013Flyer.pdf>

Budget: 2019 G.S. Budget: \$200.

<p>Income:</p> <p>\$ 400 Mug Project</p> <p>200 GS Budget</p> <hr/> <p>\$ 600 Total</p>	<p>Outgo:</p> <p>\$ 0 Refreshments for Green Films donated</p> <p>20 BrochurePrinting</p> <p>400 DonationSustainableFilm Series</p> <hr/> <p>\$ 420 Total</p>
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\$ 180 Excess of Income over Expenses

How to Green Your Holidays

Holiday Party Planning

- △ Encourage guests to share rides.
- △ Send electronic invitations.
- △ Use reusable/washable tableware, plates, cups.
- △ Bring your own tableware to community events.

Gift-Giving

- △ Purchase locally made items all year long to use for holiday gift-giving.
- △ Give food—either locally grown or homemade.
- △ Donate \$ to a worthy cause in someone's name.
- △ Give services, rather than items, as gifts.

Holiday Decorating

- △ Use LED lights for your holiday lighting.
- △ Use dripless natural beeswax candles purchased locally.
- △ Decorate large potted plants with lights and ornaments.
- △ Avoid non-biodegradable tinsel, sparkles, shiny paper.
- △ Buy "new" decorations at a 2nd hand shop.
- △ Decorate an outside tree with suet balls for birds.
- △ Save kids' holiday art projects for decorating and wrapping.
- △ Make ornaments from nature— like birchbark, pine cones, drift wood, found objects.

Gift-Wrapping

- △ Reuse cards & make your own gift tags
- △ Save & reuse wrapping paper & gift bags each year
- △ Use colorful comics and decorated paper bags
- △ Make your own bags from leftover fabric and make boxes from reused paper.

Holiday Food Preparation

- △ Serve locally-sourced food & drink which supports our local growers!
- △ Use a microwave instead of oven, if possible, to save energy.
- △ Compost food waste or give to a local farmer to make compost or livestock feed.
- △ To reduce food waste, send leftovers home with guests

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • keweenawuu.org • Tel: 906-482-5586.
 Office: 203 E Montezuma Ave, Houghton.
 We are a welcoming congregation of people with diverse religious and spiritual beliefs...
 Join us at 10:30 am Sundays in the conference room of the BHK Child Development Center, Houghton.

Sustainability Film Series: Issues & Dialogue

3rd Thursdays each month, January - May 2020

Location: 6002 Hesterberg Hall, Michigan Tech Forestry Bldg.
Time: 7:00-8:30 pm; enjoy coffee, dessert, and facilitated discussion
 (Formerly Green Film Series) **Cost:** FREE. \$5 suggested donation

Jan. 16 - Saving the Dark (57 min.)

80% of the world's population live under light polluted skies. What do we lose when we lose sight of the stars? Excessive and improper lighting robs us of our night skies, disrupts our sleep patterns and endangers nocturnal habitats. Saving the Dark explores the need to preserve night skies and ways to combat light pollution.

Feb. 20- Banking Nature (90 min.)

A provocative documentary that looks at efforts to monetize the natural world—and turn endangered species and threatened areas into instruments of profit. It's a worldview that sees capital and markets not as a threat to the planet, but as its salvation—turning nature into "capital" and fundamental processes like pollination and oxygen generation into "ecosystem services."

March 19 - Saving Snow (57 min.) *World Water Day*

Follows skiers, snowmobilers, sled dog guides, and other winter sports lovers from across the country who are struggling with a warming climate. Ski towns and the snow sports industry are paving the way towards a clean energy future.

April 16 - Seed: The Untold Story (94 min.)

For 12,000 years, humans have been cultivating seeds and building empires. In the last century, 94% of our seed varieties have been lost. As many irreplaceable seeds are nearing extinction, high-tech industrial seed companies control the majority of the world's remaining seeds.

May 21 - Seven Generations River (27 min.)

A new Great Lakes documentary reveals how a Native American tribe, the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi Indians in SSE Michigan, is adopting scientific methods to preserve and protect its traditional culture and the river on which it relies. While never removed from their ancestral lands, the Pokagon are seeing their way of life fractured.

Co-sponsored by: Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative • MI Tech Great Lakes Research Center • Keweenaw Land Trust • Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • MTU Dept. of Social Sciences • Sustainable Futures Institute • Coordinated by the MTU Center for Science & Environmental Outreach.







Full schedule: <https://blogs.mtu.edu/csco/>

