



# Great Lakes Presentation Series

~ 6:30-8:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays Jan-May '07~

Portage Lake District Library in Houghton

## November 30, 2006 - *Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald: Weather or Not to Go*

Explore the events that led to the loss of the 1000-foot freighter, Edmund Fitzgerald, during a November storm in 1975. Young shipping enthusiasts will participate in activities about Great Lakes shipping and receiving ports and the cargoes on the lakes. Special guest, Capt. Bill Hanrahan, will describe how the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald has resulted in improved ship safety and communication.

## Jan 8- *Life Aboard Ship: What It Takes To Be A Ship Captain & Deck Hand*

Find out about work and life aboard Great Lakes ships. Special guest, Capt. Dave Laban, a Houghton resident, will describe his experiences aboard ship for the past two decades. Special guest, Derek Wiitanen, an NMU student from Dollar Bay, will describe what its like to be a summer deck hand for the past two summers. After the opening presentation, K-6 students will participate in activities to learn more about Great Lakes shipping: cargoes and their products, parts of a ship, shipping lingo, tools used by captains and deck hands to do their jobs, and a game of safely navigating a ship through the harbor!

## Feb. 12 - *The Lake Superior & Great Lakes Bath Tub*

When is a watershed like a bathtub? Discover how bathtubs are like watersheds, and why watersheds are important. We'll examine the Lake Superior watershed to discover why knowing about watersheds is the first step to protecting the water quality of a stream or lake, U.S. and Canadian geography and population centers, the water cycle, and how much available fresh water there is in the world.

## March 12 - *Great Lakes Water in Motion*

Follow water movement through the five Great Lakes through engaging demonstrations, as water moves downhill from Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean, how the Great Lakes affect local weather, seasonal temperature layering and mixing of water in lakes, changing water levels, and how lock systems work.

## April 16 - *Challenges to the Great Lakes* (Note: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

Find out the top ten threats to the Great Lakes and what we can do about it. Students will make wetland models, trace pollutants, test water quality, find how tiny a part per million is, investigate invasive species, and more.

## May 14 - *How Do We Know if the Great Lakes Are Healthy?*

At 5 pm, 6 pm, and 7 pm, Dr. Marty Auer, a scientist at Michigan Tech University, will lead three 45-minute scientific excursions aboard MTU's research vessel, *Agassiz* (preference to Gr. 1-12 students) to show how the Great Lakes are studied. At 6 & 7 pm, Bob Kahl with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will describe impacts of aquatic invasive species and display live specimens. MTU students will demonstrate dissection of a lake trout, and guide microscopic inspections of plankton, and more. , will be displayed from 5-8 pm at the library. To register, call Chris Alquist at 482-4570.