

Joanie and Gary McGuffin

Discover the Boreal and Explore the Greatest Lake on Earth



The Boreal, circling the northern hemisphere like Earth's halo, is the largest remaining intact forest ecosystem on the planet. Its health and well-being are inextricably linked to every one of our lives in a myriad of ways. If you know the Boreal as a paddler, then you know its immense beauty and diversity of life! If you have never heard of the Boreal, then let me tell you that you have held it in your lungs today as oxygen. The Boreal is a forest of freshwater, a Being made up of water just as you are. You have also held it in your hand as toilet tissue! It's time we all came to know this place where billions of songbirds breed, millions of tons of carbon are stored and hundreds of sovereign Indigenous Nations live--their cultural wisdom being a singular path to human survival in these Climate Changing times. The Boreal is a paddler's paradise for the vast network of lakes, rivers and, most accessible, the freshwater Great Lakes shoreline on Lake Superior's North Shore. We all need a place to plant our seeds of Hope for the Future. The Boreal is a place to begin a journey of personal connection to the Greatest Forest on Earth and the Greatest Lake on Earth.

Joanie and Gary McGuffin have spent a lifetime together canoeing rivers, lakes, and coastlines with a particular love for the Boreal and Lake Superior. Their combined skills as authors, photographers, paddlers, and wilderness adventurers have led to eight best-selling books celebrating paddling and the beauty of these landscapes, hundreds of public speaking engagements across North America and around the world, and conservation work that led to their founding of the land trust, the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy. For many of the Symposium's 27 years, the McGuffins have shared their love of paddling and the natural world.

<https://www.superiorconservancy.org>

This year, we are especially fortunate to have Joanie and Gary from the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy with us, as they have also been part of the advisory committee of the new Smithsonian traveling exhibition "Knowing Nature: Stories of the Boreal Forest/Historias del bosque boreal." The bilingual exhibition (Eng./Spa.) will start a national tour at the Michigan State University Museum on April 19th. We get a preview! Some of Joanie and Gary McGuffin's exquisite photographs of the boreal will be included in the exhibition.

[Knowing Nature: Stories of the Boreal Forest/Historias del bosque boreal](#)

[Michigan State University Museum](#) , East Lansing, Michigan - 4/15/2023 - 11/12/2023

