

earth & faith



Been Scheelk, project coordinator of the Northern Michigan University EarthKeepers, pats dirt around a newly planted tree on Wednesday afternoon at Presque Isle to celebrate Earth Day. It marks the beginning of an effort to plant trees throughout the Upper Peninsula. (Journal photo by Julia Woehrer)

By Journal Staff

MARQUETTE — Representatives of 10 faith traditions marked Earth Day 2009 with a ceremonial tree planting next to the Presque Isle Pavilion in Marquette Wednesday afternoon.

The event included the blessing and planting of a small evergreen, the first of many trees the interdenominational faith-based volunteer group will plant this year. The EarthKeepers will join the Superior Watershed Partnership and Cedar Tree Institute to try to plant 12,000 trees in 15 counties on a single afternoon.

On May 3, volunteers at about 100

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churches and temples across the Upper Peninsula plan to put the seedlings in the ground.

Participating faith groups include Lutheran, Catholic, United Methodist, Presbyterian, Jewish, Baha'i, Unitarian Universalist, Zen Buddhist, Quaker and Episcopal.

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