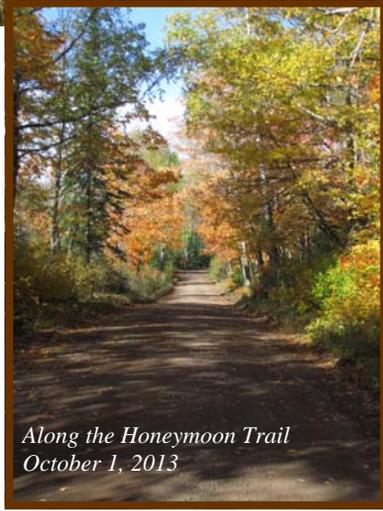




Superior National Forest

Fall Color Report, *October 1, 2013*



*Along the Honeymoon Trail
October 1, 2013*

A woodland in full color is awesome as a forest fire, in magnitude at least, but a single tree is like a dancing tongue of flame to warm the heart.

- Hal Borland

The woods this week is moving swiftly from a dancing tongue of flame to a forest fire of color. Try as I might, there is no way to capture the

autumn woods on film, any more than a DVD of a fireplace can really replace a burning hearth. People know that truly experiencing is always superior to even the highest of high definition – that’s why concert tickets for an event that will last a scant two hours can cost hundreds of dollars, yet people balk at spending fifteen dollars for a CD of the highest of quality which will last for years. Autumn is no different. There are subtleties in the light, aromas in the air, noises in the leaves, which can’t be replayed in the living room. In addition, just as in a concert, you are a part of the event in the fall. You can shuffle your own feet through the leaves, try to catch a falling leaf, bury yourself in a pile with twigs and broken leaves tangling your hair. Or you can stand quietly as a deer, contributing no more to the scene than a soft inhalation of breath. Either way, you become aware that we are part of the autumn, aware that humanity, despite our air conditioning and furnaces, is no more immune to the passage of the seasons than are the leaves on a maple. A palpable connection exists between us and the natural world, and a walk in the autumn woods with the air cool on your face and the sun warm on your back is a way to reaffirm and solidify that connection.



Superior National Forest is close to or at peak color this week. The strip along the shore of Lake Superior is a bit behind the rest, the yellows of the birches and aspen on the shore aren’t yet as bright as they will be. Inland though, the maples and other hardwoods are in full glory. We hope you can come to this concert in person, but if not, turn your furnace or air conditioner off, open your windows, take a seat in the sun, and enjoy these pictures.