

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Christa Walck, KLT President

June 2, 2001. 3PM. It is cold and wet, and Keweenaw Bay roars. I am deciding whether to pack up camp and head for town, hesitating, torn between the possibilities of time at camp and time at home, when I am startled by the sudden and uncharacteristic landing of the resident bald eagle on the birch tree twenty feet from my face. I decide to stay a while longer.

8PM. It is still cold and wet. Fog dances on the bay, obscuring my view of the Quincy mine shaft, 20 miles away by eagle-flight, mute witness to an earlier phase of Keweenaw development. Dinner eaten, gear gathered in the kitchen, rain falling in a gentle mist, I decide I will forego my customary 3-mile walk, and step outside to pack the car. I am immediately met by the lone yearling deer who survived the long winter, and now enters the camp yard like he owns it, and, uncharacteristically, trots right toward me. I go back inside, chop a few apples, and offer them up to him, standing back to watch him eat. I decide to take my walk after all.

Wind at my back, I pace steadily up the thin strip of black asphalt unfurling before me, enveloped in the dusky green glow of tall maples spreading out on either side. Ovenbirds and veeries sing out from the darkening woods. At the top of the hill, a large black form materializes from the mist. I hope for Bear, but I soon recognize the big black dog that lives there, guardian of his domain. He watches me, quiet as earth, lean as wolf.

I turn back. Wind in my face now, I pull my rain hood tight, narrow my vision to the asphalt at my feet. Here I am, I think, in the heart of the land of Keweenaw, and all I can see is asphalt. So, I close my eyes and walk unsteadily down the hill, listening to the patter of rain on leaf, the rush of water in the gully racing toward the bay, smelling the clean scents of grass and lilac.

And as I walk, I think: Keweenaw Land, Trust. Not Keweenaw-Land-Trust. I have become so inured to the phrase, KeweenawLandTrust, the words running swiftly together, that I do not hear each word clearly. I do not hear Land and then Trust, I hear LandTrust, with its promise of organization, solidity, structure, which is a good thing. We need this organization. This little pause after land, though, makes a difference in what I hear. I like the way it sounds, spoken in this new way—Keweenaw Land, Trust! Almost like a command, or a reminder of purpose, that we, the members of this Keweenaw Land Trust, hold in trust the Keweenaw Land, as we trust in the land that is Keweenaw.

Our worthy mission to be a “community partner dedicated to preserving the quality of life in the Keweenaw through land conservation” is so clear to me on this simple walk. The quality of my life in the Keweenaw depends on the conservation of the land that I see and hear and smell as I walk. Equally, the quality of life of that eagle, that deer, that dog, depends on the conservation of that land. In the truest sense, they are as much our community partners as the human partners we usually envision, and about whom we will tell you in this report.

As we end another year of service to the Keweenaw Land, dedicated to its conservation in ways both small and large, let us remember to look beyond the asphalt of our human intentions to recognize the quality of life all around us. Even with the rain of development narrowing our vision at times, let us keep in mind and heart our larger purpose, for in Keweenaw Land we trust.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Dana Richter, Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2001(ending June 30, 2001)

## I. Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Revenues:	2001	2000
Membership and member donations	\$4,515	\$4,610
KLT T-shirt sales	42	104
Mason's pancake breakfast fundraiser	200	-
Interest on accounts	63	-
Michigan Economic Council Grant	<u>-</u>	<u>800</u>
Total Revenues	\$4,820	\$5,514
Expenses		
Printing (newsletter), copying and supplies	\$ 637	838
Postage, P.O. Box and Bank Box Rental	340	274
Meeting expenses (Annual, workshops)	561	216
National Land Trust Rally	-	250
Common Ground Workshop	-	800
Organizational Memberships (LTA & MLUI)	475	250
Liability Insurance (LTA comprehensive)	450	-
Indemnity Bonding (KLT president & treasurer)	90	90
Incorporation renewal fee	20	10
Sixmile Creek Preserve: signage	32	-
Survey (Paavola Wetland)	500	-
Property taxes <sup>1</sup>	762	252
Donations:		
Northwoods Conservancy, 7-mile Point purchase	100	-
Trout Unlimited, Mouth of the Gratiot purchase	500	-
Public Access Keweenaw, webpage	<u>133</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenses	\$4,600	\$2,980
Net Revenue	\$220	\$2,534
Carryover	\$6,347	\$3,813
Current Funds Available	\$6,567	\$6,347

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<sup>1</sup> In 2001, KLT paid property taxes on Sixmile Creek Preserve, and in 2000 on Paavola Wetland. KLT received title to these properties during the tax year and thus incurred taxes from the time of receipt of title until KLT applied for tax exemption; in subsequent years, no property taxes will be owed.

## TREASURER'S REPORT (continued)

Fiscal year 2001 (ending June 30,2001)

### II. Statement of In-Kind Donations

Board members and volunteers contributed in-kind donations of time, professional services and out-of-pocket expenses:

	2001	2000
Total Hours	822	1,260
Valued @ \$10/hr.	\$8,220	\$12,600
Attorney pro-bono services	300	300
Airline Frequent Flyer Miles	-	500
Miscellaneous out-of-pocket expenses	<u>107</u>	<u>600</u>
Total	\$8,627	\$14,000

### III. Endowment Funds

	2001	2000
Keweenaw Community Foundation Endowment Fund	\$18,204	\$12,020
Note: Total includes proceeds of Horse Tail Scramble Fundraiser hosted by Terry Kinzel and Sue Ellen Kingsley	\$5,641	\$3,661

### IV. Land Assessed Value

	2001	2000
Paavola Wetlands Preserve (30 acres)	\$ 7,600	NA
Sixmile Creek Preserve (200 acres)	<u>28,026</u>	-
Total	\$35,626	

*The KLT Board of Directors is grateful to everyone who donated their time, funds, and land to advance the mission of the Keweenaw Land Trust! Thank you!*

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Dana Richter (chair), Jim Boyce, Dave Harmon, Pat Toczydlowski,

## I. Membership

Current membership: 128 households  
Net increase in membership in 2001: 8

Membership categories remain: Basic \$20, Protector \$50, Guardian \$100, Steward \$250, Conservator \$1000.

## II. Activities

Our main activity this past year was to maintain and update the membership database and make modifications that provide specific member information as easily accessible as possible. Anyone who has been involved with an active mailing list knows that it is a constant task due to changes in names and addresses. Attention to detail is needed to keep all addresses viable and for this we give credit to Dave Harmon who keeps the KLT database.

To simplify membership records, the board adopted a new policy regarding membership renewals starting with the annual meeting this year. All memberships will now be due the beginning of our fiscal year, July 1, instead of the date on which a member initially joined KLT.

All Horse Tail Scramble participants and donors were sent newsletters this past year. Cards and letters of appreciation continue to be sent to all donors to KLT.

## III. Future Plans:

- Maintain and increase membership.
- Recruit an enthusiastic member volunteer to work on a land protection map of the Keweenaw area to provide as a KLT member benefit.

# LAND MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Dana Richter (chair), Steve Albee, Jeff Flam, Joe Kaplan, Greg Kudray, Pat Toczydowski

## I. Activities and Future Plans

The committee has had a busy year working with several new projects in various stages of development, along with continued diligence overseeing ongoing land protection projects.

Thanks to the craftsmanship of Mark Roberts, a wooden sign was constructed to designate KLT ownership of the **Six-Mile Creek Preserve** gifted from the Nature Conservancy. The ruggedness and seclusion of this 200-acre site at the head of Keweenaw Bay offers its own measure of protection. KLT has partnered with Trout Unlimited to explore the possibility of a stream enhancement project on the creek.

The Boy Scouts (in particular, Eagle Scout candidate Will Lewis,) are ready to begin construction of a trail beginning at the #9 Road and meandering to take in interesting features on the way to the pond at the **Paavola Wetlands Preserve**. KLT has met with area teachers and science outreach educators to inform them that this wetland site is available for use, and will be more readily accessible when the trail is completed. An inventory completed for KLT by Mike Fitzgibbons, an MTU Forestry student, makes interpretation and study of the natural features of the Paavola Wetlands Preserve easier.

KLT is exploring ways to expand the Paavola Wetlands Preserve. One possibility is purchase of an adjacent 80-acre parcel that would allow us to protect the entire pond. Another is a possible additional donation by the Masons of a contiguous small parcel that would provide U.S. Highway 41 frontage access. To facilitate this, KLT paid for a boundary survey of the line where the KLT and Masons properties meet.

Projects under review and development include:

- An easement to protect a large amount of forested property north of Hancock which includes many opportunities for public recreation.
- A voluntary joint initiative of adjacent landowners to maintain the natural and scenic qualities of a unique road corridor and creek watershed near Houghton, potentially involving multiple conservation easements.
- Donation of a 40-acre forest and wetland property west of Houghton.
- A nature/study center in collaboration with math/science community outreach educators at a site on Portage Lake.

Exciting times are ahead of us! If these projects with landowners are carried to completion by KLT, the area we help to protect will jump from about 300 acres to over 1000 acres. Working with property owners who approach KLT with concern for the future of their land, and those who have entrusted protection of their land to us, is truly rewarding.

## **PUBLICATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Members: Christa Walck (chair), Emily Fiala, Sue Ellen Kingsley, Valorie Troesch

### **I. Activities**

We published two newsletters since the last annual meeting, and included a copy of the KLT Strategic Plan in the spring newsletter. Sue Ellen Kingsley edited the fall newsletter, and with her departure from the committee, Valorie Troesch took on the job of editing the spring newsletter. We thank them both for the continuing professional quality of our newsletter, which is our main vehicle of outreach to our membership. The Board decided to reduce the number of newsletters from three to two per year and move towards electronic delivery with a webpage. Although a KLT webpage is an unmet goal this year, a new volunteer has agreed to take on this challenge, so expect us to be on-line next year.

True to our mission of being a community partner, our major outreach activity this year was the Common Ground Initiative: Sustainable Development in the Keweenaw, co-sponsored with Keweenaw Industrial Council. Christa Walck co-chaired Common Ground, and Jim Boyce was an active participant. Following up on the one-day workshop in April 2000, Common Ground sponsored two public meetings on land use planning, one in Houghton County in December 2000 and one in Keweenaw County in February 2001. A \$15,000 grant from the Americana Foundation to Common Ground through the Keweenaw Community Foundation funded not only the workshops but also ownership and topographical maps of Keweenaw County, prepared by the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) and additional maps prepared by the Center for Science and Environmental Outreach at MTU to support land use planning; as well as the publication of public meeting results, which have been distributed to all municipal officials in the two counties. As a result of our efforts, Keweenaw County townships are working together to update the county's land use plan, and Houghton County is on the verge of establishing a Planning Commission. Land use planning is critical to accomplishing KLT's mission of preserving the quality of life in the Keweenaw through land conservation.

Other outreach activities included helping to fund the PAK (Public Access Keweenaw) website, hosting the second annual Winter Snowshoe Walk at the Paavola Wetlands Preserve. Emily Fiala has continued to take on the responsibility of ensuring that our events are publicized in the local media.

Finally, we produced this 2000 Annual Report. It has been another busy year.

### **II. Future Plans**

- KLT Web page
- Continue to support Common Ground Initiative and PAK.

# FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Members: Steve Albee (Chair), Sue Ellen Kingsley, Terry Kinzel, Valorie Troesch

## I. Activities

The primary fundraising event for the past year was the third HorseTail Scramble held at Churning Rapids on July 4, 2000. The event brought in a total of \$5,641.00 for the Keweenaw Land Trust Endowment Fund. This total included \$2,000 in challenge pledges from Bruce Rukkila CPA, Mike Lahti State Farm Insurance, Steve Zutter Edward Jones investments and an anonymous contributor, plus an additional \$100 was donated in memory of Skip Kindred who died unexpectedly just prior to the Scramble. Portage Health System and Keweenaw Memorial Medical Center supported the Fitness Run and Walk.

The fourth annual Horse Tail Scramble will be held again this year (2001) on July 4. Pledges to match the first \$2,000 have been received and more are being sought. Portage Health System and Keweenaw Memorial Medical Center are again supporting the Fitness Run and Walk as part of their community wellness programs.

A second fundraiser, thanks to the Copper Country Masons, was conducted on February 4<sup>th</sup> for KLT. The Masons held a pancake breakfast at their facility near U.S Highway 41. This well-attended breakfast raised \$200. In addition, the Masonic Grand Lodge of Michigan will match this amount with another \$200. Keweenaw Land Trust will use this money to help pay for a \$500 land survey of the boundary line between the KLT and the Masons properties. A survey was needed because the Masons may donate an adjoining 8 acres, which would provide KLT with access to U.S. Highway 41.

A third activity of the committee was the development of a brochure that succinctly describes planned giving options KLT members and KLT friends may wish to consider in their estate planning. The brochure will be published this summer.

## II. Future Plans

- Continue the Horse Tail Scramble with a major effort aimed at increasing challenge pledges.
- Publish and distribute the planned giving brochure.
- Focus fundraising campaigns on specific objectives noted in the strategic plan.

# **BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Members: Emily Fiala (chair), Jim Boyce, Pat Toczydlowski

## **I. Strategic Planning**

The Board Development Committee worked with Steve Albee to develop a final draft of the KLT strategic plan, which was adopted by the Board on March 19, 2001, and printed in the Spring 2001 newsletter.

## **II. Board Development**

Following the annual meeting, the Committee developed information packets and conducted an orientation session for new board members.

## **III. Recruitment**

The committee identified skills needed on the Board and KLT members who could potentially provide these skills. This information was passed on to the nominating committee.

## **IV. Future Plans**

- Review and update strategic plan annually.
- Recruit new Board and committee members throughout the year
- Build a scholarship fund to enable Board members to attend regional or national meetings/conferences
- Develop a mechanism for annual assessment of Board



## **A Strategic Plan for the Keweenaw Land Trust**

**Mission Statement:** The Keweenaw Land Trust (KLT) is a community partner dedicated to preserving the quality of life in the Keweenaw through land conservation.

**Strategic Direction:** KLT intends to create a landscape of protected open spaces across the Keweenaw through conservation easements and land acquisition, and along with supporting education programs, stewardship projects and community partnerships.

**GOAL:** Protect open space in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

- Strategy: Utilize conservation easements or conservancy ownership to protect open space on private property.

**Actions to be undertaken.**

1. Paavola Wetlands Project expansion (Mason and Cohodas properties)
2. Kinzel-Kingsley Project (conservation easement).
3. Covered Road Project (conservation easement).

**GOAL:** Maintain a stewardship program for KLT properties and easements.

- Strategy: Develop individual management plans for KLT properties.
- Strategy: Develop baseline documentation for each KLT easement and monitor each easement with an annual inspection.
- Strategy: Seek out opportunities to encourage use of KLT properties.

**Actions to be undertaken:**

1. Prepare a management plan for the Paavola Wetlands.
2. Develop and maintain a schedule for annual monitoring of KLT easements.
3. Prepare a management plan for the Six-Mile Creek property.
4. Develop a partnership agreement with a community partner for stewardship of the Six-Mile Creek property.

**GOAL:** Increase public awareness about the value of protecting open space.

- Strategy: Utilize traditional and non-traditional information distribution channels such as newsletters, websites, and events to raise public awareness.
- Strategy: Sponsor workshops on the “how to” of preserving open space while reinforcing the values associated with open space protection.
- Strategy: Maintain a depository for documents, literature, and other materials pertaining to open space protection and management.

**Actions to be undertaken.**

1. Generate and distribute (two to three) newsletters per year.
2. Create and maintain a web site (KLT.org).
3. Support the annual Horsetail Scramble.
4. Seek out and engage a dynamic annual meeting speaker.
5. Move document depository to George Wright Society offices.

**GOAL:** Strive to be a leader in land protection in the Keweenaw.

- Strategy: Maintain a public relations and information effort in the local media about KLT activities.
- Strategy: Network at the local, state, and national conservancy levels.
- Strategy: Participate in meetings in the Keweenaw which address land use issues in general and open space concerns in particular.

**Actions to be undertaken.**

1. Participate as a coalition member in Public Access Keweenaw.
2. Convene meetings of regional conservancies.
3. Attend regional, state, and national land trust meetings.

**GOAL:** Build community partnerships which help KLT achieve its mission.

- Strategy: Build a network with other conservancies and land stewardship organizations.
- Strategy: Develop working relationships with school administrators, teachers, other youth group leaders, e.g. scout troops, to promote environmental education opportunities.

- Strategy: Promote the concepts of open space and sustainable development among business, governmental, and non-governmental organizations.
  - Actions to be undertaken.**
    1. Work with schools and scout troops to improve access to Paavola Wetlands for environmental education opportunities.
    2. Promote and support the Common Ground effort.
    3. Develop and maintain liaison with Keweenaw Community Foundation through its environmental advisory committee.

**GOAL:** Strengthen KLT's organizational management skills.

- Strategy: Develop a set of protocols for membership recruitment and retention.
- Strategy: Build an administrative structure that will integrate board members and volunteers (members as well as friends of KLT) into productive working committees.
- Strategy: Develop a financial plan that integrates budgeting and fund raising with KLT's strategic plan.
- Strategy: Pursue board development through more focused recruitment criteria, incorporating an emphasis on director training.
  - Actions to be undertaken.**
    1. Complete 2001-2005 Strategic Plan
    2. Establish a nominating committee to operate year-round on board recruitment.
    3. Conduct a workshop on "the how to" of volunteer recruitment and management.
    4. Seek out and examine fund raising techniques.
    5. Develop a financial plan tied to the strategic plan.

Adopted March 19, 2001 by the Keweenaw Land Trust's Board of Directors.

