

# Keweenaw Land Trust

# NEWS

*a community partner dedicated to preserving the quality of life in the Keweenaw through land conservation*

Volume 5 Number 1

May 2002

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ☞ KLT Board of Directors meets every third Monday of each month, 7 P.M., MTU School of Business
- ☞ May 18:: Deed Transfer Celebration for additional acres at Paavola Wetlands at Masonic Lodge
- ☞ June 25– KLT Annual Meeting, 7 PM, Gloria Dei Church, Hancock
- ☞ July 4: Fifth Annual KLT Fund-Raising HorseTail Scramble at Churning Rapids Trails

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## Help Shape KLT's Vision 2002 KLT Annual Meeting Annual Membership Meeting Set for June 25th

We usually invite a lively guest speaker to our annual meeting to help create an exciting vision of land protection and energize us to tackle next year's work. This year, we will try something different: We invite you, our members, to be the lively speakers who help us build our vision for land protection in the Keweenaw and point us in the right direction for next year. Join us at Gloria Dei in Hancock at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 25 for our 2002 Annual Meeting.

We will still have a great guest—Renee Kivikko, Director of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Midwest. Renee helped KLT assess its strengths and weaknesses this winter, and started the new Lake Superior Keweenaw Moonrise Land Trust Partnership (see page 2). Renee will share her perspective on land protection in the Midwest, and she will also facilitate a visioning exercise for us.

To prepare for this visioning, the KLT Board has done its homework. We began by working with Renee in a one-day workshop to assess KLT against LTA standards. We learned we need to be clearer about our protection goals and develop a proactive land protection strategy. Next we worked with Conservation Impact consultant, Mark Willuhn, in a two-day workshop to develop a

land protection strategy. During this workshop, we first developed a vision statement and identified three key criteria for preserving our "quality of life" in the Keweenaw: (1) healthy biological systems, (2) public access to open space, and (3) appropriate development that minimizes fragmentation. Then we identified threats to quality of life, opportunities to partner with other institutions, and specific places in our

three-county area that we believe deserve protection. Finally, we worked with KLT member Keren Tishchler to produce a map of our three-county service area that visually reflects our strategy.

At the annual meeting, we will present the results of these efforts and use them as a springboard

to develop a broad-based vision that meets the needs of our membership.

We thank the Land Trust Alliance for funding these activities with a \$5000 grant. Our thanks also go to former KLT Presidents Greg Kudray and Dana Richter, The Nature Conservancy's Tina Hall, and KLT members Kate Alvord, Kristine Bradof, Bill Deephouse, Carol MacLennan, Janet Marr, Keren Tischler and Dave Todczykdlowski for generously donating their time to work with the KLT Board on these activities.



*Keweenaw Moonrise*

*Photo by K. Troesch*

## KLT Joins Lake Superior Conservation Collaboration

KLT has joined other Midwest and Canadian land trusts to protect our shared resource, the Lake Superior Basin. The Lake Superior Land Trust Partnership hopes to successfully use a partnership model to protect more land than any organization working independently could do alone. The Partnership allows a small, young land trust like KLT to connect with experienced professionals and to learn of funding opportunities.

The goal of the partnership is to strengthen the land conservation community's capacity to identify and protect critical areas, and coordinate efforts to leverage individual resources. The partnership will create mechanisms to share talents, tools and knowledge among members, and undertake projects in areas not served by a land trust. LTA Midwest, funded by the Mott Foundation, facilitates partnership meetings in Ashland, WI.

## KLT Partners With City of Hancock & HKCD

January 2002 was a busy month for KLT. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Coastal Management Program announced a \$7 million grant competition for coastal and water quality restoration projects in the Great Lakes region. This is a one-time appropriation through the U.S. Department of Commerce. Only state and local governments were eligible to apply, but they could partner with non-profit organizations and boost maximum funding to \$500,000.

KLT quickly partnered with the City of Hancock and the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District (HKCD) to apply for two grants totaling \$751,700 to protect the Swedetown Creek Gorge in Hancock and shoreline at Dan's Point in Copper Harbor. On April 29 and 30, KLT Board members Valorie Troesch, Christa Walck and Steve Albee met with grant administrator Maureen Houghton for site visits on both properties. Final determinations of awards will be made in July. Both grants require 25% matches and, if awarded, will require fundraising for the match.

The Swedetown Creek gorge – well known to those who ski or walk the Maasto Hiihto trails – is a local treasure. It has been described as “the rainforest of the Keweenaw.” The Michigan Natural Features Inventory lists the gorge area as a Glacial Drainage Channel. The gorge is globally significant because of its exposed 1.1 billion year old mid-continent rift. But it is an area threatened by development and increased motorized traffic. KLT, as a partner with the City of Hancock and the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club, submitted a \$493,000 grant proposal to acquire public ownership of the Swedetown Creek gorge. KLT would acquire and manage a permanent conservation easement on this property.

The gorge area connects with property owned by Terry Kinzel and Sue Ellen Kingsley. Terry and Sue Ellen are in the process of establishing a conservation easement on their property (see accompanying article in this Newsletter). So this is a project whose total is greater than the sum of its parts. The grant would add an important resource to the list of protected lands in the Keweenaw. The KLT Board recently identified the creation of a non-motorized nature corridor between Hancock and Calumet as one of its priority areas of protection. The Swedetown Creek gorge represents the starting point for this corridor.

KLT also partnered with HKCD to propose acquiring a 24-acre parcel of land with 600 feet of Lake Superior shoreline in the Dan's Point area. The owner is seeking a conservation buyer for the property and, if the grant is approved, HKCD will own the property and KLT will hold the conservation easement. This would be the first acquisition for HKCD, and the first easement for KLT in Keweenaw County.

Dan's Point is listed as a site of very high significance by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, because of the excellent occurrence of the globally rare “bedrock beach” plant community. This property is important to KLT because it is in the Brockway Mountain viewshed, a priority area for protection, and its acquisition could be the first step in developing a nonmotorized trail connecting Brockway, the shoreline, and two existing preserves owned by Michigan Audubon and Michigan Nature Association.



# Don't Miss These Upcoming KLT Events

## May 18—Celebrate the Addition of Ten Acres to the Paavola Wetlands

KLT is again grateful to the Copper Country Masons for donating additional land to the Paavola Wetlands! This gift is a ten acre parcel adjacent to the 30 acres previously donated in April 1999. With this additional land, the property now has frontage on the Historic Corridor of U.S. Highway 41.

The Masons will host a ceremonial deed transfer for KLT members and friends, neighbors, and the general public. This will be a time for celebration, fellowship, and a nature hike into the preserve. This event is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM** at the Masonic Lodge north of Hancock on U.S. 41.

Although many members of the Masons and KLT participated in this project, three individuals made it a success. Howard Anderson, previous Masons board member, initiated and moved this project along. Howard and his wife Selma are members and strong supporters of KLT. Dana Richter, a founding member of KLT and former board member and officer, continues to be a tireless worker on the Land Management Committee. Last, but not least, Steve Albee, current chair of the Land Management Committee. All three put in many hours on this project. Hats off to all for a job well done!

This additional property provides greater protection to the watershed that encompasses the Paavola Wetlands Nature Preserve. This donation helps fulfill the mission of the Keweenaw Land Trust to be a community partner dedicated to preserving the quality of life in the Keweenaw through land conservation.

## July 4—The Fifth Annual HorseTail Scramble

You all are invited to the Fifth Annual HorseTail Scramble sponsored by the Keweenaw Land Trust. The Scramble is a walk/run (5K Fitness Walk & 10K Trail Run) over woodland trails following the tail of Jim, the one-ton Belgium draft horse. All proceeds go to the Keweenaw Land Trust Endowment.

There is no entry fee. To receive a shirt, a \$15 donation is requested. The Scramble is a fund-raiser, so we encourage donations above \$15. Checks should be made to Keweenaw Community Foundation. We have received pledges to match the first \$1,500 so we want to take advantage of the whole match. KLT is also seeking local business sponsorships to strengthen the size of the match and challenge the scramblers. Portage Health System and Keweenaw Memorial Medical Center are sponsoring the Fitness Walk as part of their community wellness programs.

The Scramble is being held in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth of July Celebration at Churning Rapids. Scramblers are invited to join in the music, feast, and festivities following the scramble. Water and fruit will be available to all scramblers. If you stay for the celebration, please bring a dish to share. Music will be provided by Finn Street.

Let's see all you cruisers on July 4<sup>th</sup>. **Race/walk time is 1:00 PM.** The place is at Churning Rapids, 53044 Hwy M-203, Hancock (4.5 miles past the Hancock Beach on M-203 towards McLain Park).

# The Kinzel-Kingsley Conservation Easement

As we go to press, the Keweenaw Land Trust Land Management Committee is in the final phase of completing the details for accepting a conservation easement from Terry Kinzel and Sue Ellen Kingsley.

The Kingsley-Kinzel conservation easement contains 490 acres of forest cutover land in the Spring Creek watershed in Quincy Township. This is located between Lake Annie Road on the east, and the Hancock Canal Road (M-203) on the west. Lake Annie lays about a half mile to the northeast while to the south is the area referred to locally as "40 Acres".

Terry and Sue Ellen want to realize the following three goals with this conservation easement:

- ✍ Maintain a large open space with recreation trails available to the non-motorized public;
- ✍ Practice vegetative management with the overall objectives of achieving biological diversity, wildlife habitat, and water quality protection; while on the uplands attain an uneven-aged stand of high quality northern hardwoods; and
- ✍ Manage the property in such a way as to encourage similar easements and land management practices on property contiguous or in proximity to theirs.

For example, Terry and Sue Ellen have developed a system of non-motorized recreation trails which they loosely refer to as the Churning Rapids network. Going even further, they have cooperated with the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club in linking it with the Maasto Hiihto system.

This conservation easement represents a significant contribution to KLT and to the community. Knowing this, we thought you readers might be interested in learning how Terry and Sue Ellen feel about the course of action they are following. We asked them to address a few questions.

**KLT editor:** What led you to put a conservation easement on this parcel of land ?

**Terry Kinzel:** The land was originally part of the old Quincy Mining Company holdings that eventually ended up with Tech Ventures. We were familiar with it because it is adjacent to another parcel we own. When it became clear that the property was going to be put up for auction, we tried



to organize a group to purchase it, but we couldn't raise the money. It was purchased by others and then heavily clear-cut for its timber resources. When it came back on the real estate market, we were able to purchase it.

My dreams for it include allowing it to reforest and be managed as an uneven-aged Northern Hardwood timber stand that will become an ongoing economic asset to the community, and to remain an undeveloped area for community non-motorized recreation in perpetuity. Both of these dreams will take more than our lifetimes to be realized, and a conservation easement is a good way to accomplish them.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Kinzel-Kingsley Easement, continued

*(Continued from page 4)*

**Sue Ellen Kingsley:** As a large mammal—albeit with only two feet—I roam over a fairly large territory. I find it very distressing when I lose one of “my” trails to development. (I consider motorized vehicle use to be part of development.) In the short 18 years that I’ve lived in Houghton County, I’ve lost dozens of “my” trails, so putting the conservation easement on this property is a way of ensuring that at least some of my trails aren’t lost.

**KLT editor:** Putting a conservation easement on one’s property doesn’t require a land owner to allow public access on it. Why do you open this property to the public?

**Sue Ellen Kingsley:** I confess that I don’t pay very close attention to whomever “owns” the land, water or air through which I roam. So, it would be hypocritical of me to try to keep other large two-footed mammals off this property. Besides, when others become attached to the trails, they protect them and take care of them.

**KLT editor’s note:** At different times throughout the interview both Terry and Sue Ellen disclaimed any thoughts that what they are doing should be considered as anything noble or altruistic. They both feel strongly for the land, want to protect it, and a conservation easement is a tool that allows them to accomplish their dreams. It’s that simple!

### Land Trust News

- ? In 2002 the Land Trust Alliance Rally will be held in Austin, Texas Oct. 26-29. Attending the rally is a great way to learn about land trusts and land conservation. For more information, go to [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org).
- ? LTA opened a Midwest regional office, headed by Renee Kivviko (see Annual Meeting article). Find out how this new initiative serves Midwest land trusts at <http://www.lta.org/regionallta/midwest.htm>. In April LTA Midwest held its second annual Midwest Rally in Ann Arbor, where KLT President Christa Walck conducted a workshop on Community Outreach.
- ? Tax Incentives: Learn about the new bills before Congress which could dramatically increase tax incentives for land conservation, at [http://www.lta.org/publicpolicy/grassley\\_baucus.htm](http://www.lta.org/publicpolicy/grassley_baucus.htm).

## Check out KLT's New Website

We finally achieved our goal of having our own website—check it out at [www.keweenawlandtrust.org](http://www.keweenawlandtrust.org). Take a look at the “protected lands” section, which includes extensive information and photographs of our two preserves, Paavola Wetlands and SixMile Creek, and a downloadable version of the Michigan Model Conservation Easement which you can use to craft your own easement. If you want more information on land conservation, go to the links page where you will find dozens of sites to help you, including several good local sites.

We sincerely thank pastyNET for hosting our site free of charge, and a giant thanks to Sue Hill

for donating her valuable time and expertise to design and maintain the site, and for providing the cool photo that serves as the webpage background. Sue is the MTU School of Business computing support specialist. Her specialty is creating web pages and she likes to do technical animation. She has led an interesting life, earning a PhD in Physics from MTU and doing postdoctoral work in faraway places including New Mexico (at the Very Large Array where the film Contact was shot) and England. But she returned to the Copper County because she missed the trees and the water. She enjoys hiking in the Keweenaw, except when she runs into mother bear with her cubs.

## Land Conservation From the Heart Peter Forbes to Come in November

We are very excited to announce that Peter Forbes, a Fellow for the Trust for Public Land Director of the new Center for Land and People, and the keynote speaker at the Land Trust Rally in Baltimore last fall, will be joining us November 9-10 to share his experiences in land conservation and, more importantly, to help us share our own stories of what makes the Keweenaw our special place. Forbes is the author of The Great Remembering: Further Thoughts on Land, Soul, and Society, a lyric and visionary essay in which he explores how our work in land conservation can change not only how we approach land use, but also how we approach our relationships with each other, our sense of community, and our responsibilities as citizens in a shrinking world. KLT has copies to share with members.

Forbes' perspective on land conservation may surprise you. He worries that land trusts are becoming mired in the nuts and bolts of doing deals and measuring success in counting acres saved or in the scientist's quest for saving rare species or unique geology—all of which are important to land conservation, but which may miss the more intangible success of saving those places that are special to us and have a place in our heart. These are places that we want to remember, not forget, and that we want to be able to visit today, tomorrow, a hundred years from now. They are where we have experiences that make us who we are, that shape our community and make our surroundings our home. Forbes is concerned that increasing commercialization is detaching us from our landscape. Drenched in 30,000 advertisements before one is 10 years old, the average person in the U.S. recognizes 1000 corporate logos, but may not be able to name more than 10 native plants or animals.

We believe Peter Forbes will inspire us in our mission and help us sharpen our vision and planning efforts over the next year. We are looking for sponsors to share the cost of Forbes visit or donate airline miles. If you can help, please contact Pat Toczydlowski or Christa Walck.

## Meet the KLT Board– Mark Roberts

In 1985, having grown tired of endless sunny days and temperatures above 100, I moved to the UP from Tucson to begin a new life as a professor of mineral economics at Michigan Tech. My interest in mineral economics is motivated by the fact that we all use large quantities of minerals, metals and energy to enjoy our modern lifestyles, but yet we wish to preserve and enjoy the natural world. As a scholar, I have studied this conflict and have learned that land use planning and preservation is one way to balance these goals.

An important lesson I learned from Tucson is that urban sprawl and development can dramatically change a place. After observing the results of rapid growth and development, I came to realize that there are only a few ways to maintain the natural character of land that is so critical towards defining the lifestyle of a region. Either important lands must be publicly owned or they must be managed by conservation minded groups such as a land trust. Absent this, once growth begins, the pressure to develop land is impossible to moderate.



This lesson became apparent after we lived in Hancock for a few years. We lived close to the Maasto-Hiihto ski trail but by the early 1990's we saw signs that growth was beginning. We knew that the only way to have a real say in our immediate neighborhood was to own it, so we bought land north of Hancock and gradually built a new home. Hancock has indeed expanded to fill our old stomping grounds with homes, schools and a hospital.

Despite what this picture implies, I am not a farmer and I do not plow up the land. But I do need to move lots of snow. Garbo, our dog, is my good buddy while wandering the woods and enjoying the sunsets from our fields. Don't let the Arizona tourism council fool you—we get as many beautiful sunsets here on the Keweenaw as they do in Tucson. I enjoy spending as much time outdoors as possible. I especially enjoy exploring the world on skis, foot, bicycle and kayak and having open spaces to wander through is very important to me. Maintaining public accessibility to land is a major concern that land trusts can address.

## Meet the KLT Intern– Salvadora Hernandez

I am very close to finishing my first year as a Master's student in Environmental Policy at Michigan Tech. I got married in June 2001 and moved to Houghton because my husband, Jason, started a job as a professor at Tech the year before. I learned about the KLT through my research with a professor last summer and wanted to know more about what it did.

Now, a little more background information: I was born in Mexico and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico when I was nine. I lived there until I moved to Northern Indiana to go to college at the University of Notre Dame. I received a double major in sociology and pre-professional studies (pre-medicine) in May 2000. During my time there, I was involved in ballroom



dancing, crew, first-aid team, interhall football and softball, intramural basketball, and was even part of a Mariachi band.

I enjoy spending time outside, even though I do not get a chance to do that very often. I spent a lot of time this past winter trying out snowshoes for the first time. Lucky for me, I enjoy winter sports, especially downhill skiing. Although an internship is part of my program requirements at Tech, I am very excited about helping KLT in their mission. I am looking forward to spending my time this summer with the KLT and my new chocolate lab puppy, Pennant (as in, "The Giants win the Pennant! The Giants win the Pennant! The Giants win the Pennant!").

**KEWEENAW LAND TRUST**

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***Remember!***  
**Memberships Expire**  
**On June 30th**

**Please renew now or at**  
**KLT Annual Meeting**

**Join the Keweenaw Land Trust—Renew Membership**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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**I support the mission of the Keweenaw Land Trust. Enclosed are my membership dues:**

- \$20 Basic Member
- \$50 Protector
- \$100 Guardian
- \$250 Steward
- \$1000 Conservator

- I would like someone to contact me with further information.
- I would like to consider donating land or a conservation easement.
- Please send an acknowledgment.
- Please send information on Planned Giving.

**Dues and contributions are tax deductible. Please mail to:**  
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