

Keweenaw Land Trust

NEWS

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

Volume 6 Number 1

May 2003

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ✓ KLT Board of Directors meets every third Monday of each month, 7 P.M., MTU School of Business
- ✓ June 19—KLT Annual Meeting, 7 PM, Forestry Building, MTU, Houghton
- ✓ July 4: Sixth Annual KLT Fund-Raising HorseTail Scramble at Churning Rapids Trails

Inside this issue:

President’s Corner	2
KLT Board of Directors	2
Sixth Annual Horsetail Scramble	3
Search for Executive Director	3
KLT to Hold CE’s	4
Training for Baseline Documentation	5
KLT Needs You!	6
Land Management & Operations Report	6
Conservation Fund’s Ed McMahon Visits	7
Membership form	8

A Year to Celebrate! KLT Annual Membership Meeting Set for June 19

Robert Stottlemeyer to Address KLT “Global Climate Change as Opportunity”

Plan now to join us at KLT’s Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m. on June 19th in the auditorium of the Noblet Forestry Building on the campus of MTU. Our guest speaker will be Robert Stottlemeyer. Bob currently serves as Chief of the Reference Ecosystems Project in the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. Drawing on his long-term research in our national parks, Bob will discuss the role that “baseline” sites play in documenting global climate change. He will describe how “open space” initiatives, particularly on private lands, provide opportunities to protect water quality and species diversity. Most important for KLT and its members, he will explain how opportunities exist for individuals, organizations and communities to make choices with impacts that last beyond our lifetimes. Bob is an excellent photographer and promises to share his message with

pictures as well as words.

Bob knows the Keweenaw well. He lived in this community from 1979 until 1990, when he served as the director for the Great Lakes Area Resources Tudy Unit, a cooperative effort between the National Park Service and Michigan Technological University. We welcome him back for this visit.

Other agenda items include regular reports to our membership from the President, the Treasurer, and the Land Management and Operations Committee. KLT also hopes to be able to introduce its first Executive Director to the membership at this meeting. The membership will elect the new Board of Directors, and we will say goodbye to our President, Christa Walck, who has served two full terms on the Board and must leave, at least temporarily, due to KLT Bylaws provision on term limits. Light refreshments will be served.

Urgent!

**\$83,000 Local Matching Funds Required
For Coastal Restoration Grant to Preserve
Swedetown Creek Nature Corridor**

See story on page 4



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President's Corner

This is my last column as President of KLT. In the three years I have been President, a lot has changed at KLT. We have grown up as an organization, moving beyond the stage when KLT was mostly a dream in its founders' minds, to becoming a venture into the real world of land conservation, and then to getting organized internally to make a great leap forward. This is the year of the leap.

Two years ago, as I was preparing for my sabbatical of rest and relaxation, we invited the Executive Director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Glenn Chown, to the Keweenaw to share his vision for land trusts. Glenn was so impressed with the beauty of the area and the quality of our board and members that he challenged me to use my sabbatical to leave a legacy—a land trust with grants in hand for paid staff, an office, and a professional land protection plan. It seemed like a pipe dream, but here we are. In a few short weeks we will bring an Executive Director on board, open an office in Lake Linden at the E-Center, start work on two big conservation easements to protect Lake Superior lakeshore and Swedetown Creek gorge, and embark on a more strategic approach to protecting land in our region. It has taken a lot of hard work from a relatively small core of dedicated people to get here, and it is going to take a lot more work from a lot more people before we reach the next stage in our life cycle—the stage of “making it!”

Our funding from Land Trust Alliance and Americana Foundation and the generous donations from our members and friends give us a short window of opportunity to build a base of financial support in the community that will carry us into the future. I would challenge everyone, as Glenn challenged me, to leave the legacy of a Keweenaw that remains one of the Last Great Places well into the future. For this to happen, we need each member to pass the word along to their neighbors, their friends, their colleagues and families, people who have the good fortune to live here or people who come to experience our special part of the world for a short time, that KLT is an organization that deserves their support. KLT has about 150 households as members today. Surely there are more than 150 households in our region who care about what happens to this landscape and our quality of life. We all need to let others know about the good work we are doing, and invite them to join us. While some organizations rely on a few big donors or grants to do their work, my vision for KLT is a large and expanding network of supporters who have been touched by their experience here and give what they can to make their dreams for the Keweenaw a reality.

See you at the Annual Meeting!

Mark Your Calendars!

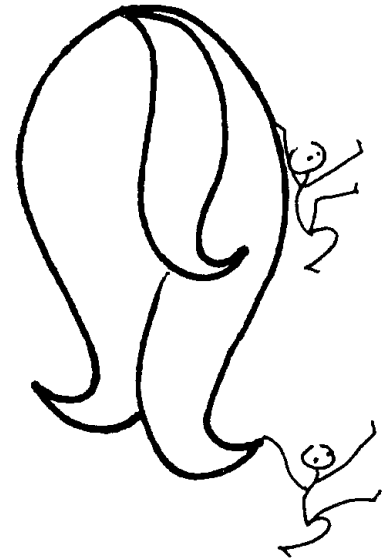
Sixth Annual Horsetail Scramble July 4th

July 4, 2003 marks the date of the 6th HorseTail Scramble, our annual fund-raiser supporting the Keweenaw Land Trust's endowment fund. This year, as in past years, the Scramble will include a 10K Trail Run and a 5K Fitness Walk over woodland trails at Churning Rapids, home to Sue Ellen Kingsley and Terry Kinzel, about 4½ miles past the Hancock Beach on M203 heading towards McLain State Park.

As last year, Jim a ton of Belgian draft horse, will lead off the Scramble. We will have organic cotton HorseTail Scramble T's from Patagonia. There is no entry fee but, if you want a T, we're asking for a donation of \$15. And as the Scramble is a fund raiser we hope that anyone who can will donate what they can. (Please make checks out to the Keweenaw Community Foundation).

As usual, the HorseTail Scramble will be held in conjunction with Sue Ellen's and Terry's annual Fourth of July Celebration. All scramblers and all KLT members are invited to join in. Music will be provided by Finn Street. There will be corn on the cob, Bill's surprise, and strawberry short cake. Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting to save on paper products. The annual Heart and Hands Award (for peace, justice, and the environment) will be presented and there will be games for children of all ages.

The Scramble starts at 1 PM and everything follows from there (the feast at 3 PM). Please join us - have fun - and support KLT's endowment.



Search for 1st KLT Executive Director Underway

KLT hopes to have its first Executive Director begin work in June. KLT received \$15,000 from LTA-Midwest to hire its first Executive Director, and we had to raise 100% in matching funds to achieve our \$30,000 budget for ED salary, training, and opening our first KLT office. We achieved the match, thanks to generous donations from our membership, a \$5000 matching grant from the Americana Foundation, and matching funds from the Lake Linden E-Center, where we will open our KLT office.

Twenty applications were received in response to newspaper and electronic advertisements for the position. A search committee is interviewing potential candidates and has been impressed with the qualifications of the applicants.

The Executive Director will report to the Board of Directors, and will work with the established committees. Primary responsibilities will initially include organizational development, community outreach, and land stewardship and protection.

The KLT Executive Director will be housed in an office at the E-Center in Lake Linden. Funding is currently available for a half-time position, thanks in large part to a grant from the Land Trust Alliance Midwest. Our hope is that the transition from an all-volunteer organization to one with a paid professional staff person, will eventually enable us to expand the position to full-time.

KLT to Hold Conservation Easements on Dan's Point and Swedetown Creek

Dan's Point Acquisition to be Lazzardo Memorial

At long last, the Michigan DEQ approved a \$258,700 grant to purchase and place an easement on a 24-acre parcel along M-26 with 623 feet of Lake Superior shoreline at Dan's Point, between Eagle Harbor and Copper Harbor. Our partner, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District (HKCD), will own and manage the property, and KLT will hold the conservation easement to protect this land in perpetuity. Dan's Point is denoted as a high quality bedrock plant community in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory's study of Bedrock shorelines. This is KLT's first project in Keweenaw County, and the first land acquisition for HKCD.

This acquisition will protect shoreline from development and provide public access to Lake Superior at a time when access is diminishing. We hope to link this property to other local preserves and acquire permission from local landowners to develop a non-motorized hiking trail from the shoreline to Brockway.

Funding to purchase the property comes from the Great Lakes Coastal Restoration Grant, provided through the Michigan coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. We are extremely grateful to Gina Nicholas, the current owner of the property and a KLT member, for providing nearly all of the 25% match required by the grant. The property will be named in memory to her grandparents, Joseph and Mary Lazzardo.

Peg Kohring of the Conservation Fund will conduct the baseline documentation as part of a grant with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We thank Tami Anderson of HKCD for her work on the grant proposal, and look forward to working with her and Sue Haralson of HKCD to finalize the acquisition.

Swedetown Creek Nature Corridor Funded \$83,000 Local Match Needed

After more than one year of waiting, the City of Hancock recently received notice that its proposal to purchase the Swedetown Creek gorge and nature area was approved. The Keweenaw Land Trust is partnering with the City and the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club (KNSC) on this project. KLT will acquire and maintain a conservation easement on the property that is purchased by the City. This grant allows our community to preserve and protect this renowned Keweenaw treasure in perpetuity.

The City was awarded a \$333,000 grant to be applied toward the purchase of about 180 acres in and around the gorge area. This award signifies state and national recognition that the Swedetown Creek gorge is a nationally and globally significant habitat that merits preservation. Funding for this project comes from the Great Lakes Coastal Restoration Grant, provided through the Michigan coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

This grant requires a 25% local match of \$83,000. We are looking to our members, supporters, and the community to help meet and, hopefully, exceed this match. Both KLT and KNSC are committed to raising these funds. Matching funds are needed to cover the expenses of acquisition not included in the grant. These non-covered expenses include a significant portion of the appraised property values, legal fees, baseline inventory expenses, and supplies and materials to install barriers to protect the area from motorized traffic.

The Swedetown Creek gorge area is imminently threatened by development and motorized traffic. The gorge contains a unique combination of geologic features and a great diversity of plant and animal life. The Michigan Natural Features Inventory identifies the gorge as part of the Glacial Drainage Channel. The gorge cuts into the four to twelve mile-wide ridge that forms the copper range

KLT to Hold Conservation Easements Swedetown Creek, Continued

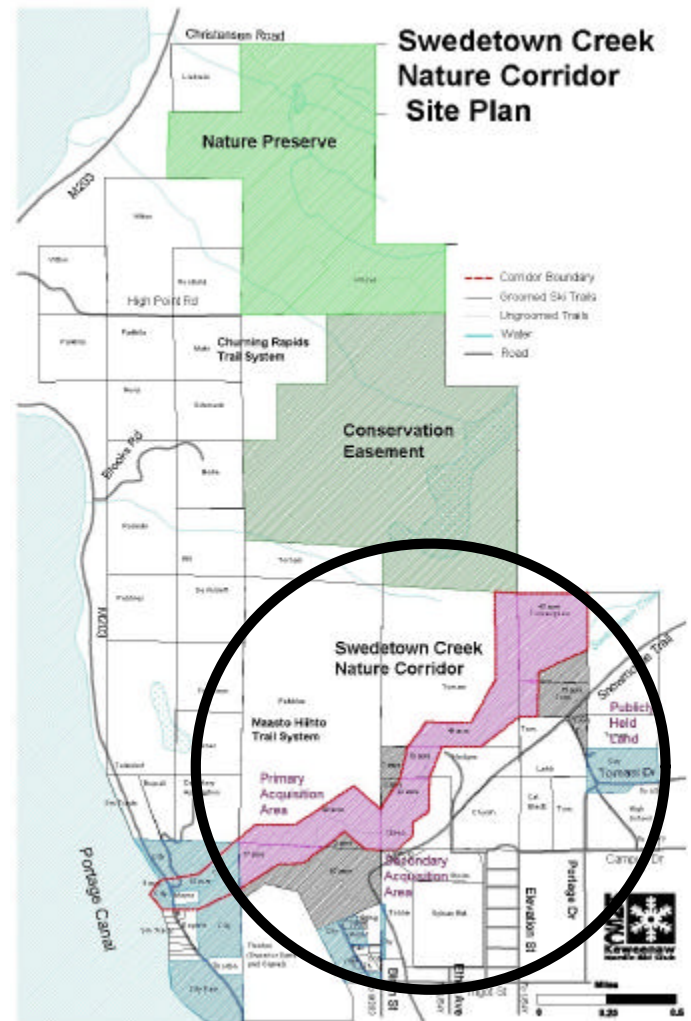
(Continued from page 4)

along the narrow spine of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The exposed rock at the bottom of the Swedetown Creek is part of this 1.1 billion year old mid-continent rift. According to the Michigan DNR, Swedetown Creek is classified as a top quality trout tributary stream. The gorge offers a diverse ecosystem that is home to many individual species of plants and animals that are threatened or of special concern.

The circled area on the map shows the property proposed to be acquired. This project is important to KLT because it connects with the Kinzel/Kingsley Conservation Easement already held by KLT and a Nature Preserve (both are to the north of the Swedetown Creek nature corridor). This project is also part of the development of the Hancock-Calumet non-motorized corridor, one of the priority areas identified for preservation by KLT.

The most important part of the project is working with the landowners to get their consent to sell portions of their property to the City. We do not take this work for granted.

Work on this project begins immediately, and your help is needed now. For more information about how you can help, contact Valorie Troesch at 482-4041 or vtroesch@mtu.edu. Contributions can be mailed directly to KLT. KLT is a 501(c)(3) organization.



Editor's Note: Thanks to Jeff Parker and the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club, who developed this map.

Baseline Documentation Training

As KLT has the opportunity to do more CEs, we need more qualified people to prepare baseline documentation. These baselines clearly state the values to be conserved, such as wild plant communities, sustainable forests, or open space (no development). The baseline is the document KLT uses to monitor properties annually to assure that the easement has not been violated.

Greg Kudray, a long-time KLT member, has conducted all of KLT's baselines to date. He recently accepted a job with The Nature Conservancy in Montana, and we need to train more people to do baselines. The Conservation Fund provides this training, so its regional representative Peg Kohring will be leading a baseline training session on May 26 for KLT members and local land professionals in conjunction with her preparation of the baseline for the CE at Dan's Point.

KLT Needs You!

KLT is putting out a call to its members to consider serving on our Board of Directors. When KLT was formed, the decision was made to limit the terms of board members to no more than two, 3-year consecutive terms. KLT's Bylaws reflect this policy. The rationale behind term limits for Board members is to promote the infusion of fresh ideas into the organization, to encourage active member involvement, and to avoid dependency on a few members to carry the organization. Although there was not unanimous agreement, time has proven that this policy can serve KLT well. Term limits also means, however, that the Board regularly loses members. For the organization to remain viable, we must continuously recruit new

volunteers to serve on the board. This year, we are losing 2 active board members. We are calling on our membership to consider service on the board. The board meets monthly. A member is not required to serve on a committee, but we encourage committee work because it involves the volunteer in the heart of KLT's work. This is an exciting time to serve, as board members can watch KLT mature and thrive. This is also an opportunity to help KLT grow as we begin to work with our first Executive Director. Interested members should contact the nominating committee chaired by Emily Fiala at fiala@portup.com or call her at 482-8920.

Land Management & Operations Committee

With the advent of spring the LM&O committee has a long list of projects. They include inspecting and working on our preserves, monitoring conservation easements held by KLT, helping prepare baseline document reports, and shepherding the preparation of conservation easements (CE's).

We continue to work with three landowners to help ready their CE's and baseline documentation. CE's are unique to each landowner, so this process can require considerable time. At present, one set of landowners has completed the required tasks, and the LM&O Committee expects to recommend acceptance of their donation to the KLT Board.

The committee will soon begin KLT's annual conservation easement monitoring. We have two easements to monitor. These are the Simi Working Forest Easement near Nisula and the Kingsley-Kinzel Working Forest and Recreation Easement north of Hancock. These monitoring tours are important because they strengthen the relationship between the landowners and KLT, and they help avoid misunderstandings and easement violations.

One of our top priorities for all preserves is to install signage. This identifies the property as under the protection of KLT, and that they are nature preserves open for enjoyment by the non-

motorized public. Each of our preserves will receive special attention. The Paavola Wetlands, north of Hancock, will require some trail brushing and the trail will be extended to the beaver pond. A foot bridge over this creek is in the preserve's future.

Six-Mile Creek Preserve is located at the head of Keweenaw Bay in Baraga County. Access to this property is difficult, as it is surrounded by steep slopes and a wetland. The objective for this season is to get a better feel for this property and then determine objectives for its management.

The Marsin Conservancy located on Red Brick Road saw a lot of activity last year with the installation of a new road culvert, construction of a small parking area, and a walking trail staked out. This season we will brush three boundary lines and brush and mark the nature trail.

The Committee still needs **Preserve Stewards**. Anyone who lives close to one of the preserves and wants to make a positive impact on the environment is an ideal steward. The LM&O Committee is also asking for volunteers from the ranks of members and friends to help out on some of the other work details. We will try and make them interesting and not too torturous. Please call Steve at (906) 482-2615 or contact me at salbee@up.net. Let us know your interests.

Conservation Fund's Ed McMahon Visits

Community Planning Expert Visits Copper Country

"You *can* take beauty to the bank," Ed McMahon, Vice President of The Conservation Fund, told more than two hundred Copper Country residents who attended one of his presentations during his March 31-April 1 visit to Michigan Tech, Houghton, and the Keweenaw. McMahon expounded on the economic, social and environmental benefits of enhancing a community's historic and natural character.

McMahon offered practical and proven lessons on how residents can protect their community's identity while stimulating a healthy economy and safeguarding natural and historic resources.

Recognizing the Keweenaw's attraction as both a tourist destination and a desirable place to live for those escaping the traffic, congestion, crime, and pollution of the city---McMahon described the Upper Peninsula as one of the nation's "last best places." McMahon encourages Copper Country residents to "create your own future."

He explained, "Community character deteriorates one building at a time. It can also improve one building at a time. Be proactive, not reactive. Have a plan that identifies the community's unique resources. Name one business, individual, or community that was successful without a plan. Simply stated, 'failing to plan, is planning to fail.' "

"Image affects everything," asserts McMahon. People can locate a business anywhere. People can travel anywhere. Therefore, communities need to consider what makes their locale special or attractive. "Tourism is the #1 or #2 industry in 38 states," McMahon observed. When deciding where to vacation, sameness is *not* a plus. Tourism involves *more* than marketing. Marketing is what gets you to visit a place the first time. But if the tourist gets there and it's not what they were told, than bad word of mouth happens. People don't return, and they discourage others from going there."

In a 2002 survey by the American Association of Realtors, homeowners ranked the amenities they look for when choosing a community in which to live: walking trails ranked as number one (36%), followed by parks (26%), playground (21%), daycare (14%), soccer (9%), and golf courses (6%).

When asked how to manage potential conflict between motorized and non-motorized recreation, McMahon recommended designing ways to accommodate both forms, but in separate places.

"Growth and change are inevitable," observes McMahon. "The important question is not *whether* a community will grow, but *how* will it grow? Development isn't the problem. Rather problems arise when the following questions are not asked first: Where do you put new development? How do you arrange it? And what does it look like?"

McMahon advocates regulation as a last resort. He recommends first using education, incentives and voluntary initiatives to achieve a community's goals. People won't preserve what they don't understand.

McMahon's experience over the past twenty years assisting over 100 communities with issues relating to historic preservation, open space protection, community design, and tourism has helped him to identify how communities become successful. Successful communities develop a shared vision, create an inventory of local resources, minimize regulations, meet the needs of landowners and the community, team up with public land managers, pay attention to aesthetics, and recognize the role of nongovernmental organizations.

McMahon's visit to the Copper Country was sponsored by thirty organizations and units of government. A 30-video by McMahon titled *Community of Choices* or a 60-minute video titled the *Dollars and Sense of Protecting Community Character* may be borrowed from the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education by contacting Joan Chadde at 487-3341 or email jchadde@mtu.edu. McMahon's book titled, *Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities* is available at North Wind Books in Hancock.

Several articles by Ed McMahon are available online: <http://www.plannersweb.com/articles/>.

Editor's Note: This article was written and contributed by Joan Chadde, Director of the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education.

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Remember!
Memberships Expire
On June 30th

Please renew now or at
KLT Annual Meeting

www.keweenawlandtrust.org

Join the Keweenaw Land Trust—Renew Membership

Name _____ **Phone #** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

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 and the KLT Endowment.

Dues and contributions are tax deductible. Please mail to:
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