

KEWEENAW LAND TRUST

KLT

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

Volume 7 Number 1

May 2004

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

KLT Board of Directors meets on the third Monday of each month, 7 PM at the KLT office, room 305 of the E-center in Lake Linden. Open to the public

Gratiot Lake Conservancy botany workshop May 29th and 30th (see page 3)

Horsetail Scramble
July 4th at Churning Rapids

Lizzadro Preserve Dedication
August 7th 1 PM at the preserve

Annual KLT membership meeting in September, watch for announcement

Walkin' Jim Stoltz benefit concert
October 1st 8PM at Calumet Theatre

Please check out the KLT website for updates on other activities and events.
www.keweenawlandtrust.org

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Dunes Marshes Project 2004

Eagle Harbor Township lands are diverse and unique

The 360 acre Dunes Marshes parcel was acquired thanks to grant funds from the Michigan Coastal Management Program of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, a generous match donation from Eagle Harbor resident George Hite, the support of Eagle Harbor Township residents and elected representatives, the patience of Walt Arnold of the Lake Superior Land Co. and the conservation easement in progress with the KLT.

A little over a year ago Jim Rooks, a naturalist and biologist from Copper Harbor, Michigan, who has frequented these areas for years, wrote "Thus the Dunes and Marshes are intertwined, inseparable. Together they work as one ecosystem. In short, they are shallow lakes surrounded by dunes with diverse plant communities complete with old dune blowouts and steep inner dunes..."

The rich marshes south of Cat Harbor continue down and across the eastern (inland) portion of the 360 acre Dunes Marshes parcel and well into the western portions closer to Lake Superior, where one is abruptly confronted by the tallest of the MDNR designated Critical Dunes.



Doug Sherk explaining lay of the land at Dunes and Marshes. From left to right Dave Toczydlowski, Damon McCormick, Doug Sherk, Pat Toczydlowski, Jim Wachowski and Bruce Olson. Photo Evan McDonald

The Dunes Marshes tract of land is the culmination of the vast Dunes Marshes complex which stretches back behind the south shores of Lake Superior between Eagle Harbor and the Great Sand Bay Dunes and Lake Superior.

The ancient bedrock rises suddenly to form a steep ridge above the lower southern portion of the

parcel, adding even more geological and biological diversity. The tract also contains at least two small lakes, numerous ponds, swales and marshes with dune ridges in between, as well as Owl Creek, a direct tributary to nearby Lake Superior.

The Dunes Marshes Lands are wonderful and unique lands. They are part of the stop-over areas for the great migrations as well as the home to many permanent resident species.

The people coming to this area have been able to enjoy the natural resources of these lands for many years. They and future generations will now be able to do so forever, thanks to the efforts of the Keweenaw Land Trust in helping us fulfill the grant requirement for a conservation easement to protect the Dunes Marshes Project lands in perpetuity. ■

Doug Sherk is the Eagle Harbor Township Supervisor and a past KLT board member. He lives on the shores of Lake Superior.

The President's Corner

Changing Faces

By Terry Kinzel

KLT's by-laws require that a board member serve no more than two consecutive terms. A couple of years ago I was off the board for a year or so. I was amazed upon returning how the faces had changed. I knew most of the folks of course, but in places of responsibility there were new energetic faces. I took this as a major success. KLT had passed from the hands of us who envisioned it sitting around our kitchen table a dozen years ago, to a new generation, ready to continue with the task. This was great. I recognized that the success was not complete however, when President Christa Walck left due to term limits last summer; the campaign which brought me to be president was not extreme in its competitiveness.

This past year has seen further changes. To my regret, board members Valorie Troesch and Bob Butler resigned. They will both be missed. Valorie had brought years of energy, dedication, and special skills to the board. Bob brought skills which greatly improved our accounting and budgeting process, especially important as we have expanded with the hiring of Evan as executive director. We all thank Valorie and Bob for their efforts.

Because of the work load, the board elected to fill these vacancies prior to the annual meeting. I am pleased to introduce a brand spanking new board member and reintroduce an old face who was willing to step in and provide much needed work.

The first is **Christian Giardina**, a researcher with the Forest Service. We will call on Christian to give a more detailed accounting of himself in a future newsletter, but suffice it to say that he spends much of his time interrogating trees, trying to find out what they're up to with all this carbon that's flitting around. He brings much needed membership development skills to the board.

I'm sure you all know **Dana Richter** well – founder and past president of KLT, birder and mushroom hunter extraordinaire, and an all-round community guy. While Dana continued to put in many volunteer hours for KLT, especially on the land management committee, even after he left the board, we are certainly glad to have him back on the board itself. ■



HorseTail Scramble

There are lots of happenings this summer which should be of interest to KLTers (*see calendar first page*). I want to remind you especially about the **HorseTail Scramble**. The 7th (do you believe it?) annual HTS will be held at Churning Rapids on July 4th.

Not only is this a major fund-raiser for KLT, it is usually a bundle of fun. For those of you who don't want to run 10k on a summer afternoon, the fitness walk is a delightful 5k amble through rolling woodlands. And of course we hope you stay for the celebration and the Heart & Hands Award. All KLT members will receive a flyer. We hope to see you on the 4th, and please bring friends and relatives. ■



KLT Board of Directors 2003-2004

Terry Kinzel, President
Hancock Township

Emily Fiala, Vice President
Hancock

Mark Roberts, Treasurer
Hancock Township

Pat Toczydlowski, Treasurer
Osceola Township

Mark Gleason
Houghton

Joe Kaplan
Hancock

Dana Richter
Hancock Township

Christian Giardina
Houghton

Bruce Peterson
Houghton

Evan McDonald
Executive Director

Meet Volunteer Janet Marr

I was born and raised in the Central American country of Panama and lived about a mile from the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal. After 18 years of experiencing sun, rain, jungle, city, mountains, oceans (and, incidentally, never having seen snow), I moved to Houghton in 1974 to attend Michigan Tech, graduating with a B.S. and M.S. in biological sciences.

During my first ecology class field trip at Tech, I realized that I hardly recognized any of the local flora—it all looked so exotic and foreign! Slowly but surely, I started putting names on plants. Since then, as a botanist, I've conducted rare and aquatic/wetland plant surveys throughout the Upper Peninsula (including the Keweenaw and Isle Royale) for various agencies, engineering companies, conservancies, and other groups. Recently I quit my seasonal botanist job with the Hiawatha National Forest in order to do botanical contract work a little closer to home.

The Copper Country sure has changed since the mid 70s when I first moved up here—more 'no

trespassing' signs, houses, malls, and roads. My favorite raspberry patch is now a parking lot! When I first heard about the Keweenaw Land Trust (KLT) being formed, I got pretty excited. Here was a group of people who not only valued conservation, but more importantly, were willing to do something about it. What could I do to help?

As a volunteer, I compiled species lists as part of the baseline documentation process for various properties that KLT has been involved with i.e., properties they either own outright or on which they monitor conservation easements. I've also been involved with various aspects of the Electric Park project (Osceola Township recently received a grant to buy the historic 40 acre parcel with a matching grant from the Keweenaw National Historic Park.)

My husband Bob and I are working on baseline documentation in preparation for having a conservation easement put on the deed for our 140-acre parcel near Bos-



ton. The conservation easement, which will be monitored by KLT, will assure that the acreage will remain undivided by future owners. Most of the property, a mixture of uplands and forested/open wetlands, will be left as it is to let nature takes its course. A very small portion of the property, where we currently live in our log cabin with three feline friends, will remain available for the owner's residence and out-buildings. ■

Are you interested in volunteering for KLT, but not sure how to go about it? Contact Evan McDonald for more information or to let us know the sort of volunteer work that you'd like. 296-9720 evanmcdonald@keweenawlandtrust.org

What IS that plant?

The Gratiot Lake Conservancy is sponsoring a botany workshop on May 29th (Saturday) and May 30th (Sunday) 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



This local flora class, taught by botanist Janet Marr, will be held in the Eagle Harbor and Gratiot Lake areas of the plant-rich Keweenaw Peninsula and is open to any one interested in learning how to identify local native plants. The workshop will be taught at a beginning/intermediate level and activities will take place both **inside** the classroom and **outside** where plants are growing in their natural habitats.

What will you learn in this workshop? Discover what a dichotomous key is and why it's so useful in identifying those puzzling "what **IS** that plant" plants! Use a hand lens and dissecting microscope to get up close and personal with flowers and other plant parts that are important in plant identification. Learn plant collection techniques and how to prepare an herbarium plant specimen complete with informational label. Make a plant collecting book to take home with you!

Space is limited and advance enrollment is required. The workshop fee is \$70 (\$55 for Gratiot Lake Conservancy members.) For further information or to register contact the Gratiot Lake Conservancy at belh@bellatlantic.net or P.O. Box 310, Mohawk, MI 49950 or call 906-337-5529. ■



Protecting Our Land with KLT: One Family's Story

By Dave Harmon & Susan Dlutkowski

Ever since 1990, when we were lucky enough to purchase one of the very few parcels of non-CFR land on Covered Road, we have had the idea of preserving the property. Our land totals about 57 acres and includes over 1,600 feet of frontage on this unique



A fall shot of Covered Road - our property is down a ways and on the left.

scenic road. The terrain is highly varied, with most parts rolling and wooded, a few open areas that are growing in, and three perennial creeks, one of which has been dammed by beavers numerous times and now is surrounded by riparian vegetation and some wetlands. It is a lovely piece of property, and we are privileged to own it.

We say "privileged" because we strongly feel that land ownership is not primarily about rights, but about responsibilities. We knew we wanted to do something to ensure that the natural values we enjoy on our land will be there for everyone who comes after us, humans and non-humans alike. We both have a background in environmental conservation, so we knew what land trusts do and what a conservation easement is. Once the KLT was created in 1996, we could see that here was an organization we wanted to be a part of. We joined right away and have been members ever since.

We began to seriously think about an easement in late 2000. Our first step was to write down some general goals for preserving our land. We agreed that our primary goal was to preserve its biodiversity and other natural values, including the aesthetics. Our thinking was further sharpened by some excellent books about conservation easements that KLT lent us from its library. Most

important, we drew on the experience of two friends who had done a preservation-oriented easement with The Nature Conservancy on their spectacular property nearby on Lake Superior. Their help was invaluable.

All this set the stage for what proved to be a long gestation period for our easement — nearly two years, in fact. There were a couple of reasons it took that long. First, we wanted our easement to be comprehensive in what it protects. We thought long and hard about every aspect of our property and what might be done with it in the future. We covered everything from logging to light and noise pollution to mineral rights. Second, we wanted to take as much time as we thought necessary to work out our plans for the land. This turned out to be a great move. By taking a methodical approach we gave ourselves the chance to really think things through, so that now we are fully sat-

isfied that our preservation plans are not only what we want, but are what will be effective in preserving the land over the long term.

Most people, we hasten to add, will probably neither want or need an easement as elaborate as ours. That's OK. A fairly simple easement with only a few protective provisions can be a very effective conservation document. One of the beauties of a conservation easement is that it can be precisely tailored to your needs.

Once we firmed up the contents of our easement, the whole process — including working with the KLT's lands committee and having a lawyer review the easement donation — took about five months. We completed our

easement in August 2003. It's no exaggeration to say that doing this easement has been one of our proudest accomplishments as a family. We brought our two young daughters with us to the courthouse when

we signed the documents and we celebrated that night like it was a birthday. Knowing that our land will be protected in perpetuity has made it even more valuable in our eyes.

If you have property in the Keeweenaw that you love, we highly recommend that you explore the options KLT has to offer. We are also glad to share the expertise



The wetland / riparian area along Keranen Creek, the main watercourse through the property

Notes from a Nature Walk

KLT and the Copper Country Audubon Club have been sponsoring spring nature walks.

On Saturday May 8th 2004, Joe Kaplan led a bird walk through the Keweenaw Land Trust's 40 acre Marsin Conservancy in Oscar Bay. Nine people attended this walk on what turned out to be a beautiful morning. A total of 29 bird species were observed on the property including a singing sedge wren, clay-colored sparrow, northern water thrush, and a territorial sharp-shinned hawk.

On the following day (Mother's Day), seven people joined Joe for a walk through the Trust's Paavola Wetland Preserve near Boston Pond. Despite the cool wind, 18 bird species were seen or heard, including hermit thrush, Nashville warbler, ovenbird, pied-billed grebe, ruffed-grouse, and sandhill crane. ■



Update on Manitou Island

The National Park Service (NPS) has recommended that the Keweenaw Land Trust be conveyed the Manitou Island Light Station that includes almost a mile of Lake Superior shoreline. A signing ceremony with Secretary of Interior Gail Norton is planned in early June in Traverse City and will be attended by KLT representatives. The NPS favorably viewed KLT's plans for preservation of the historic buildings and protection of the surrounding 93 acres. The site is among the first to be conveyed in Michigan under the auspices of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 which authorizes the transfer of Light House properties, free-of-charge, to non-profit organizations. The NPS has asked KLT for use of the Manitou application as a model of success for others interested in applying for lighthouse ownership through this program. This KLT project will combine protection efforts for a site that holds significant values for both cultural and natural resources. The light station is among the oldest on the Great Lakes and is also a major migratory corridor where thousands of birds stop over during spring and fall migrations. ■



Great Lakes Executive Director Development Program

In March, KLT President Terry Kinzel and Executive Director Evan McDonald attended a workshop for the Great Lakes Executive Director Development (GLED) Program presented by the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL).

For many years, ICL has been conducting a program aimed to help new executive directors (E.D.'s for short) and the boards of non-profit conservation organizations take full advantage of the latest strategies in organizational management. The 2003-04 program was underwritten with support provided by the George Gund foundation.

Evan attended the first of two workshop events in the series in October 2003 - an intensive week-long, boot camp for E.D.'s! Two dozen participants spanned a range of environmental conservation organizations from around the entire Great Lakes Basin, including

Canada. An E.D. has to wear many hats, but each individual brings unique strengths to the task. The October workshop identified approaches to take advantage of individual strengths and anticipate concerns in the areas of human resources, financial management, fundraising, planning, and outreach.

Evan left the workshop with plans and strategies for implementing new approaches with the KLT board and committees. During the winter, Evan also participated in GLED consultations and conference calls for feedback and fine tuning some of his efforts.

In the March follow-up session, the GLED program invited board members to participate in the workshop dialogue, an approach that has proved effective over the years. Evan and Terry traveled to the Ecology Retreat Center north of Toronto for a three-day session where the

E.D. and board member perspectives are merged into a common organizational strategy that involves both the board and professional staff in the process. Both Terry and Evan returned with new ideas and priorities for improving KLT's effectiveness, especially important as KLT continues to experience the growing pains that success brings.

Top priorities include improving the KLT membership development program, new board member recruitment, and establishing staff responsibilities. Besides the knowledge gained from the program, Terry and Evan now have a network of friends with a diversity of perspectives and professional experience to tap into for advice and encouragement. ■



It's who you know... notes from KLT executive director

It's who you know...



While that expression often gets a bad rap, smacking of inside deals and favoritism, it has another meaning that describes community – the people you know. When I started as executive director I was seeing your names on a mailing list. Now I have faces and voices to go with many of the names and I'll meet more of you as time goes on. Getting to know you makes all the difference, and I'm inspired to find so many caring and generous people with a commitment to making a difference.

I have found that most of you are active in the community and supporters of other organizations as well. Of course you are! Because that's the kind of people you are. You support KLT because our efforts are really not just about land conservation, but about community, harmony, and finding balance in a world that often seems out of whack.

Essentially, the members **are** KLT. You provide the bulk of the financial support to cover KLT's operating costs. Members provide input for the direction we take as an organization; the board members and I listen to what you have to say. Members often get involved as volunteers, working for special events or on committees, maybe taking the significant step to becoming a volunteer board member.

To build our membership base of support we need to get the word out about what KLT is doing for the Keweenaw and our community. This is a key challenge we

are facing as an organization, and it's who **you** know that is going to help KLT succeed. We are gearing up to recruit new members and I am asking for your personal involvement.

As a starting point, a new member application was included with this newsletter – to be passed along to a relative or friend who might support KLT's efforts. If you are ambitious in your recruiting efforts and want more copies, let me know and I'll send them to you. We have kept the basic membership inexpensive and added a student membership rate to encourage everyone to participate in our

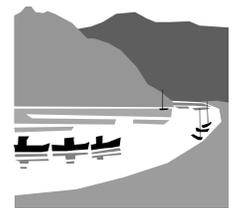
land protection mission. KLT is grateful that so many of you contribute significantly more than the basic level.

Right now KLT has about 160 member households. That number is too small given the success we've had and the important work we are doing for the Keweenaw. Let's change that! As individuals, together we reach far and wide in this community. If each member household could recruit just one new member for KLT, we would double our membership this year! I'm not asking you to recruit lots of people. I'm asking you to recruit just **one** new member because recruiting just one might take some time. I'm not talking about slipping the application under somebody's door and running away. (That's **my** patented approach, and no one else can use it!)

Seriously, aren't you proud to support KLT? Don't you wish everyone shared your love of the land



and this place? I'm asking you to actively recruit someone you know who is not a member. I think that might start with conversation over a cup of coffee. I don't want you to coerce them to join...I want you to convince them to join because they share these values. Tell them why you are a member yourself and what that means to you. Maybe you can make it tangible by driving along the Lake Superior shoreline toward Copper Harbor to show them the realtor signs springing up everywhere. Then you can stop at the Lizzadro Preserve and say that this beautiful place is going to be here, open, undeveloped, for people to visit and enjoy for generations to come because of KLT's efforts to protect it.



I know you'll find the best way to share this message because I know you KLT members have your hearts in the right place. ■

Evan McDonald has been executive director of KLT since October 2003. He can be reached at 296-9720 evanmcdonald@keweenawlandtrust.org

Join the Keweenaw Land Trust—Renew Membership

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

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

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$10 | Student | <input type="checkbox"/> | I would like someone to contact me with further information. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$20 | Basic Member | <input type="checkbox"/> | I would like to consider donating land or a conservation easement. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 | Protector | <input type="checkbox"/> | Please send an acknowledgment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 | Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Please send information on Planned Giving and the KLT Endowment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$250 | Steward | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$1000 | Conservator | | |

**Dues and contributions are tax deductible. Please mail to:
Keweenaw Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 750, Houghton MI 49931**

Heart & Hands Award

Celebrate a Copper Country person who has given of his/her heart and hands to promote **Peace, Justice or the Environment**. Award will be announced on **July 4th, 2004**.

Nominations due by June 11, 2004 to: President of the Board, H&H Award, 53044 Hwy M203, Hancock MI 49930

Call 906-482-6827 for a nomination form.

Keweenaw Point Advisory Committee Seeks Public Input

The Keweenaw Point Advisory Committee (KPAC) was formed by the Michigan DNR to advise on future management of the recent 6,275 acres purchased by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy. The Committee was selected from a broad range of constituencies, including local governments and key user groups. The Committee is charged with management issues such as recreational access, shoreline usage, forest management, roads, trails and camping. The committee will present its recommendations to the DNR in the fall of 2004.

All meetings of the KPAC are open to the public and public comment is taken at each meeting. Meetings are at 6:30 PM, the first Tuesday of the month, currently being held at the Allouez Township Hall, but may move to Copper Harbor in summer. Minutes from each meeting will be at all local public libraries and can be viewed at <http://www.keweenawnow.com/>>www.keweenawnow.com.

The tip of the Keweenaw is criss-crossed with logging roads and motorized recreation has been on the rise. In the UP all state lands are open to motorized recreation unless posted closed (opposite downstate). Many people feel that more protection of Keweenaw Tip is needed, that roads and motorized recreation should be limited, especially restricted on shores and where critical plant and wildlife habitat exists. Many also feel that hiking trails have not been given enough emphasis in the Keweenaw--which should be a place to go to hear birds and lapping water instead of the incessant drone of motors.

Keweenaw Land Trust members are encouraged to provide input on the way they believe the Tip of the Keweenaw lands should be managed. Comments can be emailed to Ron Yesney of the DNR at yesneyr@michigan.gov. Or obtain a comment form and map from KLT Board Member Dana Richter, 906-487-2149 drichter@mtu.edu. ■

KEWEENAW LAND TRUST

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Houghton, MI 49931

evanmcdonald@keweenawlandtrust.org
906-296-9720

Remember!
Memberships Expire
On June 30th

Please renew now

www.keweenawlandtrust.org

More events to mark on your calendars.....

Reading the Landscape

Six Saturday explorations of the environment of the Keweenaw in the company of a naturalist and an artist will deepen your own reading of the landscape.

June 26	Birding	7:00 AM
July 10	Copper Falls	9:30 AM
July 17	Mosses	9:30 AM
July 24	Water	9:30 AM
July 31	Bats	6:30 PM
Aug. 7	Invasive plants	9:30 AM
Aug. 14	Open House (free)	2:00 PM

\$12 per session. If you sign up for four or more sessions, the fee is \$10 per session. Sessions are limited to 15 adults, age 16 or older.

Write or call for registration form:

READING THE LANDSCAPE
299 E. North St
Eagle Harbor MI 49950
906-289-4514

Keweenaw Trail Festival!

The premier trail running event of the UP will take place on **July 10th and 11th** this year.

Included will be a 10k trail run at McLain State Park on Saturday morning, a trail climb up Lookout Mountain near Eagle Harbor Saturday evening and a 25k run on the Maasto Hiihto/Churning Rapids Trails on Sunday morning.

The organizers have always used the Festival to support environmental causes. This year they will be dividing the proceeds between the Gratiot Lake Conservancy and the **Keweenaw Land Trust**, so please show your support.

Volunteers are still needed – if you can help please call Jeff Crumbaugh at 715 823 9138.