

40 acres (and no mule)

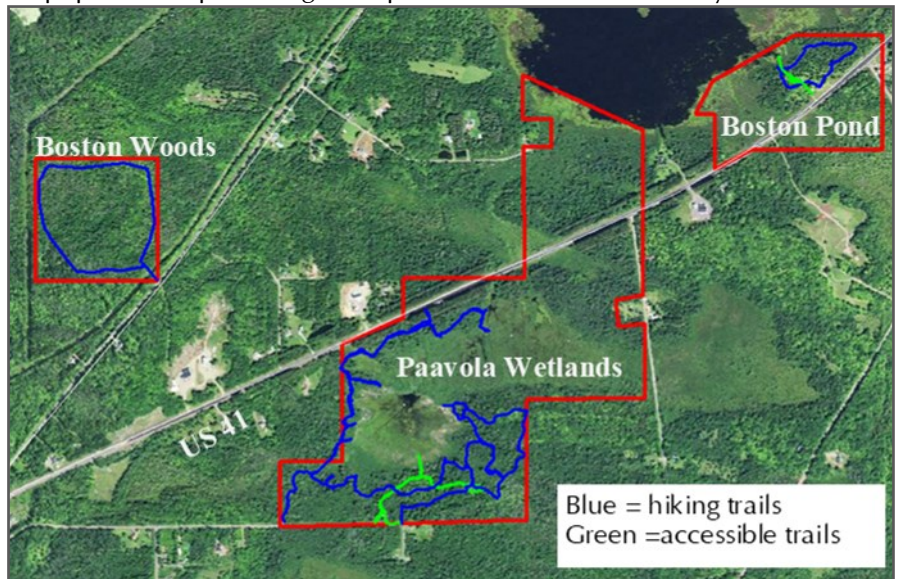
KLT is honored to receive this land donation on behalf of our community – and nature.



Patricia Heiden, a Houghton resident and professor of Chemistry at Michigan Tech, donated 40 acres to establish the **25th nature area owned and managed by KLT**. Patricia enjoyed her 40 acres outside town as a place to walk her dogs and dream about a retirement retreat, but ultimately decided she preferred to entrust the land to KLT as a place she can continue to enjoy **and** share with others. “**Boston Woods**” was a farmstead that now overgrown provides excellent wildlife habitat with its young forests and shrub habitats, scattered sentinel white pine and oak, and a small clearing with the homestead ruins and gnarly heritage apple trees. Black ash stands have succumbed to the ubiquitous emerald ash borer offering opportunities to underplant species that might be more resilient to invading pests and climate change as an experiment in directed habitat succession. Patricia noted the property is wetter than it was as the black ash trees no longer help to dry out the site through evapotranspiration.

Visiting this site with muck boots is now a good idea more of the year. The property is near KLT’s Paavola Wetlands and Boston Pond Nature Areas just north of Hancock. This generous gift follows the Lily Creek Nature Area – another donated ‘40’ close to Hancock that has become popular and protects green spaces in areas that are likely to see increased development.

The Community Foundation of the UP awarded KLT a Sustainable Forest and Wildlife Fund grant to help get Boston Woods ready for visitors by paying for lots of hand and battery powered tools that were used by a small army of volunteers from Somero Enterprises and Michigan Tech students on Make a Difference Day. These groups brushed out a loop trail around the property. A lot of tires were hauled out and the Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) paid for disposal under their tire cleanup program. The SWP crew also cleared vegetation to create a trailhead parking area on the north side of Boston Road about 0.7 miles NE of its intersection with US-41.



Grab your snowshoes and **check out Boston Woods**. Let us know if you (and your dogs) love it as much as Patricia and her dogs do!



Staycations—What's on your 2023 bucket list?

As a land conservation organization we are always **focused on the land** but sometimes good lands come to us with buildings. Many land trusts will not own buildings as it takes staff time and resources but if you are one of those who have spent time at KLT's Lightfoot Bay, Point of View, or the little Din Egen cabin, you come away having had a deeper connection to the land and water being protected there. So if you need some solitude, consider reserving one of these RUSTIC cabins (outhouses and poor if any cell phone service) and allow the time it takes to let nature seep into you in a meaningful way. Recharge your nature batteries, there's no app for that! We anticipate taking reservations for all of our reservable sites in 2023. HOW DO RESERVATIONS AT KLT WORK?

First, email cabins@keweenawlandtrust.org to request a reservation. You will be sent a reservation form to submit. If a reservation is available you'll be given the go ahead and information you need. Stay and have a great time! Remember to give KLT a donation for your stay. Did you use it for only a few hours? Donate a little. Did you use it a LOT and use firewood and have a lot of people there? Donate more. Families and non-profit groups can volunteer for KLT - our goal is to have people connect with nature and for them to help us maintain these special places so future generations will also get to enjoy them.



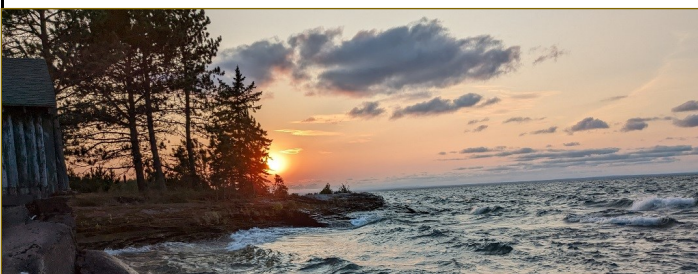
Did you know **Marsin Natuer Retreat** is available for reservations **year round**? Much has been done to benefit user groups like turning the garage into a 3-season lobby/mud room: a space halfway between inside and outside when the weather is iffy or for messy projects like potting native plants! With 3 futons, one full bed and 4 singles now 10 people can sleep on mattresses. Two more can sleep on the futon in the rustic cottage that was revamped last year. Groups will benefit from the spacious coatroom and room darkening curtains for presentations. See what's blooming in our native plant demonstration gardens!

We are pleased that our Giving Tuesday requests for **Lightfoot Bay** more than covered our \$5K match to secure an important parcel guarding the entrance and open water at the mouth of the bay. Thank you to all who contributed as well as our match donor. After the land purchase, the additional funds will be used to update cabins, signage, trails and the sagging woodshed. Did you know the little cabin has a wood



The **Din Egen** cabin has a new roof! It has a propane cook stove and heater for the shoulder seasons. It has no running water inside but the creek running outside is soothing. It and has 1 futon and a sleeping loft for a few more on camping pads. This can be a good place for your extra visitors if they like a rustic retreat or a little get-away for you with access to Portage Lake.

Point of View is the last private land before the county park at the tip of Point Abbaye. Now that is out there! This remote site has no running water except for the Lake Superior currents running along the bedrock shoreline. It has a propane cook stove



KLT Summer Interns Made Good Things Happen!

Work smarter not harder – is a motto often said by KLT staff as we try to manage our 3700 acres of private lands and monitor the 4000 acres of conservation easements. We strive to do the most with what we have. We had some success with the AmeriCorps program but our recruiting efforts did not work for us last year when not one applicant applied for the positions we offered, a common situation after pandemic shut downs. Pivoting quickly, we revamped our plans and brought on 4 part-time summer interns who had already expressed interest in helping KLT. Continuing our own summer intern program will provide KLT with the most effective and flexible boots on the ground that staff can depend on. Not only will this intern program get things done but it also provides young people in our area an opportunity to gain valuable experience in natural resource stewardship and to understand the work of land trusts.

We will be looking for summer interns again this summer so direct good candidates our way! **If you would like to support young people in our summer internship program** please write “summer interns” on your contribution to come do volunteer work alongside them as we line up regular workdays this summer.



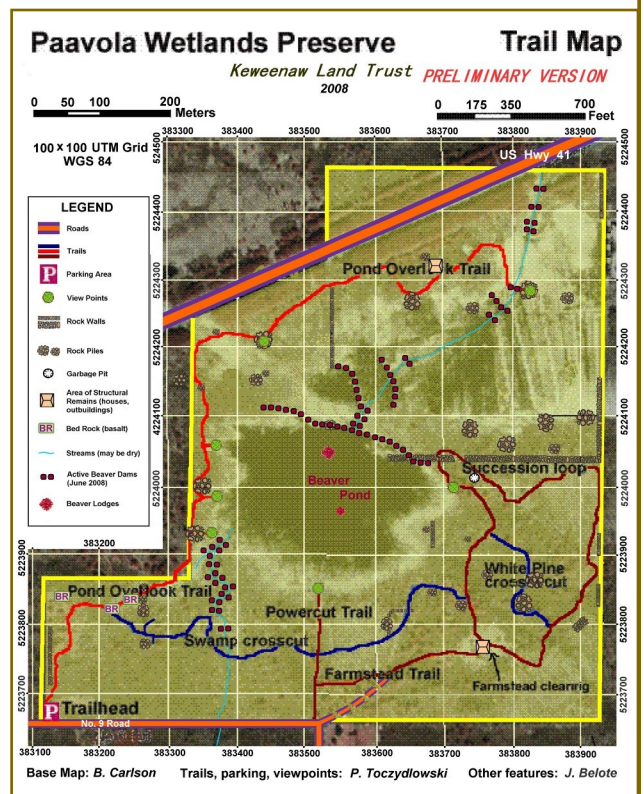
Left Photo: Hayden Huckins and Nora Sullivan plant natives to naturalize the shoreline at Marsin. Right Photo: Intern Kyle Naperala at Boston Pond with Valorie Troesch and Jill Fisher planting milkweed and other natives for Project Wingspan to improve monarch butterfly habitat—photo Marcia Goodrich.

Site Stewards: A great way to connect to land and KLT

KLT has 5 (part time) staff and plenty to keep them busy. Our summer interns helped a lot but we can still use volunteers. We are looking for people to adopt a KLT Nature Area and fall in love with it. We hope these site stewards can really get to know a place and help us spot issues, control invasive species, maintain trails and help us on work days to maintain healthy habitats and improve public access. **We hope to build a community of site stewards to help each other to get trained in techniques to take care of the land.**

Jim Belote was an example of such a steward for Paavola for years. To the right is a map he helped develop showing site features like the beaver dams that were present at the time. Jim retired from his work at Paavola but lucky for us a new neighbor stepped to the plate. Leigh Lathrop contacted our office asking if he could help us with Paavola and has since been clearing trails and helping us with this highly visited site. We are grateful to those who do adopt our sites and help us care for them!

If you have a favorite KLT nature area and would like to adopt it as a site steward, contact Carolyn Meingast or Jill Fisher in our office. Each site can have more than one steward which can be helpful. We hope to have group meetings and workshops for site stewards and have this group as a supportive resource to help each other and work together when needed.

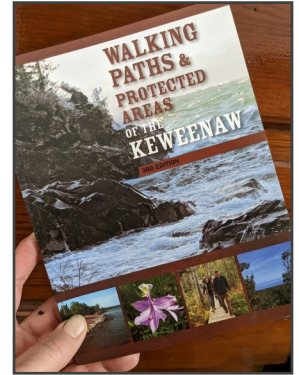


Little Known Adventures

Do you have a copy of this book in your house?

When my husband and I moved here in 1998, we were lucky to have met Joan Chadde and find out about this book so we could acquaint ourselves with the area. Our copy has dates and notes about our visits like “good place for picnic” or “come back in the fall”. Get a copy for yourself or as a gift for \$15 - we still have at least 20 copies in our office. This book does not have all of KLT’s properties and trails - that is why you should view the interactive map on our website for new places and adventures to share. For starters, here are a couple Little Known Adventures not in the book.

Happy trails! -Jill



Point Mills - North Trailhead—

Bonnie and Richard Faleschini donated this land to KLT in 2021 in memory of Thomas and Helen Smith. While we need time to make the main property safe for visitors, we have put in a new trail on the north side of Point Mills Estate Road. This property has the interplay of the mining era’s claim on the land and nature’s effort to take it back. The new trail head atop the large hill (look for flagging in the trees) on the north side of the road - the trail goes through ancient sand dunes, follows old roads and fresh cuts through stately oak woods. Join us here for our February full moon snowshoe hike.



KLT Member Sarah Kuhl leading a Tike Hike at the new trail this past fall.

Sally M. Ollila Memorial Woodland—Part of the Pilgrim River Project, John Ollila gave this serene little parcel to KLT in 2016 as a tribute to his mother. It is a lovely part of the river, with a beautiful flood plain forest, rich spring ephemerals, crystal clear waters and cobble river bottom—so important for macroinvertebrate and fish habitat. While only 22 acres, this parcel is big on charm and offers solitude in any season. The parking area is obvious in summer but filled in by the snowplow in winter, so park carefully on the shoulder of the road. KLT staff will put in trails in 2023 but with the river on the south side, the road on the east and a large river bank on the north, you can really wander around and have a good time.

Hunting is not allowed here - a good thing to remember during hunting season!

Directions: Only 3 miles from M-26, take Green Acres Road and continue as it turns into Superior Road and slow down once you pass Elsie Road on your right, the gate that marks this nature area will be on your left about 800 feet after you passed Elsie Rd.



In blue = HKCD land, you can walk on this too.

Evan answers: *What's the **Big Deal** in Keweenaw County?*

We often get asked the same question: *Why are there so many land conservation organizations in the Keweenaw region?* Or people ask us about something in the news, like *What is the big land deal in Keweenaw County about and how is KLT involved?* Here are some answers.

The Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) made headlines with their recent purchase of ~31,000 acres in Keweenaw County for about \$27 Million (learn more about TNC and this project at www.nature.org/keweenaw). The land TNC acquired is known and loved by many for its ecological importance, beauty, and recreational uses—but the future of that land was uncertain until this deal went through. The backstory for why TNC got involved and who made that happen is important and goes back to efforts begun years ago. The protection of places like the “Keweenaw Tip”, Bete Grise, Brockway Mountain, Mt. Baldy, and more during the last couple decades, built momentum and raised public awareness to pursue similar land conservation projects. In fact, TNC had a hand (if not a whole arm) in helping make many of these projects happen.

Many organizations and individuals want to conserve more land in Keweenaw County, recognizing that their recreation trail networks and ongoing conservation efforts were vulnerable given how much land is in private corporate ownership. For example, the Copper Harbor Trails Club is an energetic group that enjoys the trails and wants to see them expanded. Pretty much everyone in Keweenaw County knows everybody else so the conversation about the future of these lands grew over time to involve more individuals and then organized stakeholder groups (including KLT) that all want to see permanent public access and natural resource protection. **The local community driven process** led to formation of the Keweenaw Outdoor Recreation Coalition (KORC) in 2018 to champion the goals of motorized and non-motorized user groups to secure acreage for access and conservation, and for long-term stewardship of these lands and trails (see www.keweenawoutdoorrecreation.org).

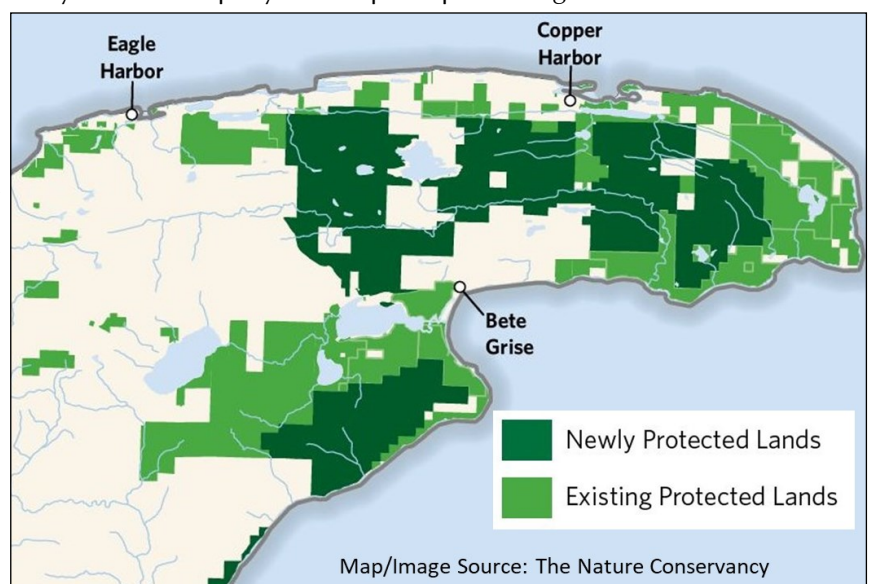
Many KORC volunteers rallied grass roots community support, engaged local and state officials, explored conservation and funding approaches to pursue current opportunities—and all that activity was noticed by TNC. **When TNC looked into the opportunity, at the quality of the available lands, and at the community interest and commitment, they decided to make the Big Deal on behalf of the community partnership.** This is a big and very expensive project, and it's the kind of acquisition that TNC does well. TNC's intent is to serve as an interim conservation holder of this property, engaging with the community partnership to plan and arrange for the appropriate local and state entities to eventually assume ownership and management oversight of these lands, allowing TNC to step back and pursue other conservation goals.

TNC is arranging a facilitated planning process involving a diversity of stakeholder and interest groups to achieve these outcomes for the newly acquired lands in Keweenaw County. The process will consider the goals for conservation and recreation, the ownership and management approaches, the coordination of the entities involved, and the long-term sustainability of the entire endeavor. I am excited to represent KLT in this planning process and I hope my own years of experience with land conservation can help.

Land conservation happens because of the people involved, many of them behind the scenes doing unglamorous but important work. Too many people and organizations are involved in this **Big News** story to name them all here. But I think Gina Nicholas with the Keweenaw Community Forest Company (a non-profit promoting forest conservation and sustainable forest management) should be singled out. Gina nurtured a fledgling organization to get off the ground and become KORC, and her vision, commitment and diligence has put the pieces together to achieve many great conservation projects over the years.

I hope this answers the first question, showing the benefit and impact of having a variety of entities caring about the same area. Organizations, like people, have different strengths, histories, networks, resources, and priorities. And like people, organizations can do their own thing some of the time and chose to team up for larger aims when that makes sense. This story started with people who cared and shared a vision and

that's really the big deal.



'Tis the Season! - so many ways to help

All of us have a different capacity to give. Many feel a sense of this area "being discovered" which has merit given that the Keweenaw Visitors Bureau stated we saw the most visitors and money spent ever in a single year at the end of 2021. We are in an interesting position where we still have much good land and lakeshores to protect but with a small local population to help us with that work. If you would like to help protect local lands, waters and quality of life in the western U.P. then...

Please consider these ways to give:

For those with financial resources:

Appreciated stock – if you donate stock you've owned for at least a year to KLT, you can receive a tax deduction for its market value at the time of donation plus avoid paying capital gains tax. KLT maintains a brokerage account at Edward Jones in Calumet and their staff can assist you with a stock donation to benefit KLT (906-337-0356).

IRA's – if you are 70 ½ or older, you can gift up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a charity like KLT. These gifts count toward your annual required minimum distribution and none of the gift value is counted as income.

Some employers offer matching programs – several of our donors take advantage of these programs that double or triple their charitable gifts to KLT. Check if your employer offers a program and sign up today!

Real estate – land gifted to KLT will be evaluated for merit as a conservation holding or let KLT use its experience with land transactions to market land with proceeds directed by the donor to benefit our mission-related programs. You can deed land to KLT now, reserve its use for your lifetime, or give land in your will. Contemplated gifts of real property should be discussed in advance with KLT staff.

Plan now to give in the future – a simple way to help sustain KLT is to designate KLT as a beneficiary for all or a percentage of your investments and life insurance policies. It is good to check that you have named back-up or contingent beneficiaries for these!

OR

Consider KLT in your **estate plans** to be named as Keweenaw Land Trust, Inc., a Michigan non-profit corporation, the address of which is 101 Quincy Street, Suite 303, Hancock, Michigan 49903. Our FEIN is 38-3299537.

If your finances are limited but you still want to help, you can consider:

Giving your time and talents – we are building a volunteer database that will help us match up your offers to help with projects on our list and communicate better with our volunteers. Sign up and let us know how you can help in the field or office.

Inviting a friend to support KLT – share a newsletter or visit a KLT nature area with a friend and invite them to send in a donation to become a supporting member.

Our work is ever more important with increasing pressures on the natural landscapes we love. The more you give the more we can do – together we are making a lasting impact.

You could:

Make monthly donations — An easy way that bit by bit adds up to really help KLT throughout the year. This can be easier for budgeting and allow you to give more than you could in one single gift. You can even make automated payments to know you're helping without having to think about it—contact Carolyn@keweenawlandtrust.org to find out how to set this up.

Give a memorial or honorarium in recognition of a family member or friend.

Here is a creative way our new Board member, Nancy Langston, has given to KLT in past years. She paints portraits of her friend's dogs and asks that they make a donation to KLT in return! KLT has benefited from many of her donations in this way. What an artistic and great way to give! Thanks Nancy!



Join the KLT as a new or renewing member!

Please provide your current contact information

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

I would like to receive email notices about: ☐ Upcoming events; ☐ General KLT News; ☐ Volunteer workdays

Choose your membership giving level:

☐ \$20 STUDENT Membership

☐ \$50 Supporter ☐ \$100 Guardian ☐ \$250 Steward ☐ \$500 Champion ☐ Other \$ _____

_____ I am interested in receiving information about planned giving to support KLT

KLT respects your privacy and confidentiality. We do not sell our lists and we honor requests for anonymity.

Thank you for your gift! Dues and contributions are tax deductible. Please mail this form and payment to:

Keweenaw Land Trust, 101 Quincy Street, Suite 303, Hancock MI 49930

The Torch is Passed at KLT's Annual Meeting

**KLT is fortunate to have had so many strong Board members over the years—
we miss them when they go but we are also excited to welcome the new Board members!**

The KLT held its 2022 Annual General Membership Meeting on October 26 at the Jutilla Center in Hancock, MI and also live streamed via Zoom, (**email info@keweenawlandtrust.org to get a link to the recording**). Nearly two dozen KLT members and supporters attended in person and an additional sixteen joined online. For those who wanted to know about KLT's finances, Treasurer Bill Leder presented an annual summary, including findings of KLT's most recent audit.

KLT had a lot to celebrate this year, with reports highlighting the donations that created the Keweenaw Sandhills and Boston Woods Nature Areas. Much conservation work was done on the Abbaye Peninsula, including the land trade with the State of Michigan for KLT's acquisition of Pequaming Marsh and an addition to Koski Shores Nature Area on the Abbaye Peninsula. Other acquisitions included the Abbaye North Shore Coastal Conservation Area donated in memory of Mike Davis and Bill Hall. KLT also made progress toward completing a land purchase to expand the Lightfoot Bay Nature Area, with the help of Mary and Joe Hovel as interim conservation buyers.

We bid farewell to the four members that stepped down from the Board this year: Ellen Aiken, Maria Janowiak, Lisa McKenzie, and Leo Wheeler—all upstanding people who made great contributions to the Board's governance work and strategic vision. KLT is grateful for their service and all they contributed to help make a lasting difference. Five new Directors were elected at the Annual Meeting and so we welcome Evan Lanese, Nancy Langston, Denis Stolter, Jamie Robertson, and Stan Vitton. They will bring new perspectives, and a diversity of skills and personal interests to help the organization move forward in the coming years.

KLT Board of Directors 2022-2023

Steph Tubman, President - Hancock
Nancy Langston, Vice-Pres. - Chassell
Bill Leder, Treasurer - Houghton
Alex Hirzel, Secretary - Ripley
Christine Handler - Houghton
Calvin Koski - Aura

Evan Lanese - Hancock
Erik Lilleskov - Houghton
Jamie Robertson - Allouez
Denis Stolter - Cuba, MO
Louie Vencato - Hancock
Stan Vitton - Hancock

KLT Staff

Evan McDonald, Executive Director
Pat Toczydlowski, Project Specialist
Jill Fisher, Botanist & Program Manager
Carolyn Meingast, Office Manager
Curtis Perala, Marsin Property Manager



101 Quincy Street, Suite 303
Hancock, MI 49930

(906) 482-0820

info@KeweenawLandTrust.org

www.facebook.com/KeweenawLandTrust

www.KeweenawLandTrust.org



Blue lobelia in powerline cut at the new Boston Woods Nature Area.

Upcoming Winter 2022/23 KLT Events

Dec 13th–Jan 6th: Christmas Trolls Story Trail - The pages of Jan Brett's enchanting book will lead you to the clearing by Lily Creek. On the day of our Solstice Celebration (Wed Dec 21st) there will be 10 little trolls hidden in the clearing for you to find by flashlight or firelight.

Jan 22nd, 2pm: UNLEASH the HOUNDS at Churning Rapids! Dogs, take your humans for a snowshoe hike! Park at the Christensen Rd. trailhead 53044 M-203. About 4.5 miles north of Hancock Beach.

January Story Trail - Snowflake Bentley is one of our favorite non-fiction winter books! The pages of this book will be up along the goat trail at the Pilgrim River Community Forest for the month of January.

February Story Trail - Fiddler of the Northern Lights is a beautiful winter classic! The pages of this trail will be up at Point Mills the month of February.

Feb 4th, 6pm: Full Moon Snowshoe Hike at Point Mills (weather permitting)
- Meet along Point Mills Estates Road and watch the moonrise over Portage lake and shed light on our path through the new trail on the north side of this road, dress warm!

Feb 19th, 1pm: Winter Time at Lightfoot Bay - Snowshoe hike and warm up meet up at the cabin.

March 25th, 2-4 pm: Snowshoe fun at Hungarian Falls with KLT staffers Carolyn Meingast and Jill Fisher.

