



*a community partner protecting land, water, and quality of life
through conservation, stewardship, and education*

NEWS

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Din Egen Woods: A Place of Refuge for Portage Lake Paddlers

What was once known as “Welfare Woods” is now Thine Own Woods – or Din Egen Woods in Swedish, as it was named by landowners Jill and Tom Newhouse and Jo Ann Carlson. A 5-acre sliver of land located at Grosse Point south of Dollar Bay, Din Egen Woods is an excellent spot for paddlers on Portage Lake to rest, spend the night, and take in the expansive views of the surrounding waterway.

The Din Egen Woods area, like so much land in the Copper Country, was exploited heavily by humans over many years. Following commercial logging, “Welfare Woods” was a place where needy people could obtain firewood. Heavily logged and abutting a broad expanse of stamp sands deposited into Portage Lake from nearby mills, the land was not considered very desirable. This made it affordable for Margaret Nelson Carlson, a nurse from a copper miner’s family in Calumet, to purchase a parcel in the 1930s. Her daughters Jill and Jo Ann recall how the long trek from the woods across the stamp sands to the lake seemed like trudging across the Sahara Desert—hot, arid, gritty, and barren. Gradually nature and humans worked to reclaim the land. By 2004 the site was considered a beautiful outdoor venue for Jill and Tom Newhouse’s daughter Thea’s wedding.



Tom and Jill Newhouse alongside the Din Egen Woods cabin

The central feature of the property is a simple, contemporary cabin constructed by the Newhouse and Carlson families in the 1970s. Designed by Tom and located adjacent to a small creek, the cabin has withstood countless spring floods and the occasional beaver dam blowout upstream. In late 1977 the cabin received a Michigan Governor’s Award for Design Excellence and was included in the Design in Michigan Exhibition, with Governor William Milliken the primary signatory.

After decades of enjoyment, Jill, Tom, and Jo Ann realized that they would not be able to care for Din Egen Woods forever. Following in the footsteps of the Uitti family at Princess Point, the Newhouses approached KLT to see if there was interest in accepting the donation of Din Egen Woods as a water trail campsite. The property is situated along a stretch of shoreline



with few opportunities suitable for overnight rest stops, something KLT and the Keweenaw Water Trail have been working to address.

KLT accepted the donation of Din Egen Woods from the family in January 2017. Along with the property, the Newhouses also generously contributed to KLT’s Land Stewardship Fund, money that will help prepare the site for visitors in the short-term and take care of the property. KLT anticipates opening the cabin for overnight use this summer following the construction of a small parking area on Lower Point Mills Road, re-roofing the cabin, and constructing a new access trail through the woods. Interested in helping? Email nathan@keweenawlandtrust.org.

KLT Adopts the Keweenaw Water Trail

KLT is excited to announce that it has adopted the Keweenaw Water Trail! The Keweenaw Water Trail Association (KWTa) was formed in 1995 by canoeists and kayakers to promote the responsible and safe recreational use of waters along the Keweenaw shoreline. Dedicated to preserving the scenic beauty and increasing the low-impact use of Lake Superior, KWTa's mission closely aligns with KLT's work to protect shoreline access for the community.

In recent years, KWTa's leadership dwindled to just Wendy Sharp and Mike Stockwell, whose passion for Keweenaw paddle sports kept the effort afloat for the past two decades. Realizing they would not be able to keep the organization alive forever, Wendy and Mike decided the time has come to hand off responsibility to another group to continue the KWTa mission. KLT enthusiastically accepted their request to manage the Keweenaw Water Trail moving forward. The merger comes with the KWTa website, remaining stock of waterproof maps, and seed funds for future water trail projects.

Adopting the Keweenaw Water Trail is a good fit with KLT's continuing work towards protecting and promoting recreational use of the Lake Superior shoreline. Shoreline conservation and access came out on top in KLT's 2013 review of its Conservation Priority Themes due to overwhelming public opinion in favor of protecting lakeside property before it is lost to private development. In just the past few years, KLT has established several new nature areas on the Keweenaw Water Trail: Din Egen Woods, Princess Point, Le Chance Creek Nature Area, as well as our coastal conservation sites on the Abbaye Peninsula. All of these sites offer paddlers a place to rest, whether for an hour or overnight. Lands open to the public are essential for paddlers on the Keweenaw Water Trail. KLT is helping to fill gaps for shoreline access, particularly for sites that can offer overnight use – critical in foul weather.

KLT plans to continue to enhance the Keweenaw Water Trail and looks forward to working with the community to protect and steward shoreline access for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to purchase a Keweenaw Water Trail map (\$4/pickup, \$8/shipping) or volunteer, please call 482-0820.



Sights along the Keweenaw Water Trail, from left: Tyler Mace and his son Sam paddle at Lac La Belle; James Bandeff inspects the ice formations clinging to the shoreline near Horseshoe Harbor; and Jim Taddeucci, John Diebel, and John Mancini pose a photo near Montreal Falls with Bare Bluff in the distance.

Save the Date! Breakers to Bridge 2017

Following last year's successful, albeit drenched, inaugural run of the Breakers to Bridge Paddle Festival, KLT and the Michigan Tech Outdoor Adventure Program are excited to team up again to host a repeat event on **Saturday September 9th**. Mark your calendars today and stay tuned for more information. In the works are course improvements designed to ease transportation logistics and boost safety, a new finish area at East Houghton Waterfront Park, and a shorter loop category to entice paddlers not interested in the full 10-mile paddle. Registration will open soon and we look forward to sharing more as plans for this exciting event unfold. Check for updates at www.breakersbridge.com



Tackling Invasive Species with KISMA

The Upper Peninsula faces a growing variety of threats and some of the most pressing are invasive species. These non-native plants and animals can cause havoc on our local ecosystems, turning once-vibrant habitats into monocultures devoid of the diversity that makes the northwoods healthy. Emerald ash borer, giant knotweed, glossy buckthorn, and Eurasian watermilfoil are just a few of the dozens of invasives currently impacting our region.

To repel these invaders, the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA) was established for Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties. One of many cooperative management areas across the state, KISMA was tasked with collaborating with partner organizations, private landowners, and the community in an attempt to limit the spread of non-natives on the landscape.

KLT has been a KISMA partner since its inception, but starting this year KLT will be the new fiscal agent for KISMA. Working closely with Sigrid Resh, the KISMA coordinator, KLT will take a more active role to facilitate the initiative. Sigrid had the lead in preparing an application that secured \$261,000 from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program to support KISMA's work into 2020. Sigrid and KLT are committed to advancing the initiative to continue the fight against the invasive species impacting our region. Once the grant project is underway, Sigrid and KLT will begin reaching out to strengthen KISMA partnerships and to provide community members and landowners with helpful information on what can be done. We have a long road ahead of us and will need your assistance in gaining the upper hand on these nasty invaders!



"As the KISMA Coordinator, I am thrilled we received funding to mitigate invasive species impacts across land ownership boundaries and ecosystems in the Keweenaw region. This support and an additional \$93,000 in match of labor and supplies is the reinvigoration KISMA needs to reconnect with partners and create a strategic plan for prevention, early detection, and control of invasive species in the Keweenaw. Proposed outreach and education with special events and our new weed crew will foster community understanding, awareness, and actions of more stakeholders. Furthermore, it is wonderful for KISMA to have the support of KLT both as the fiduciary manager and as a mentor for community collaboration."

~ KISMA Coordinator Sigrid Resh, second from left

Finlandia Goes for a Hike!

For the second year in a row, Finlandia's Winter Woods Snowshoeing class visited several KLT nature areas. That's probably because Nathan was in charge! The beginner snowshoe class had a tame winter to contend with, which made learning easy and enjoyable. More often than not students were wearing fall jackets rather than winter parkas due to the above-average temperatures. The class inspired those students without their own snowshoes to immediately start looking for a pair of their own. Exploring the northwoods is addictive!



Students explore the snowy grounds at the Marsin Nature Retreat

Calling All Volunteers!

Have you ever wanted to help the Keweenaw Land Trust conserve, steward, and share our protected lands? You're in luck! This winter KLT revamped its volunteer system to better track volunteer skills, jobs, and hours contributed. KLT now has a new system to avoid lost or mismatched information, ensuring volunteers will not miss opportunities to contribute.

To make the most of the new system, KLT needs to collect accurate data from prospective volunteers. If you are interested, please fill out the new volunteer form included with this newsletter. One volunteer form per person, please! Even if you have already volunteered for KLT, we would appreciate it if you submit a new form so our info is up-to-date. Additional forms can be found on the website at www.KeweenawLandTrust.org.



Volunteering is awesome!

KLT has many exciting volunteer opportunities in the coming year. Several nature areas are in need of site stewards to care for them on an ongoing basis - see Jay Fedorocko's story on the opposite page. The Steve Farm Nature Area, Princess Point, Hungarian Falls, Finlander Bay, Pilgrim Community Forest, Din Egen Woods, and Manitou Island Light Station are all in need of long-term caretakers. KLT is organizing a week-long Leave No Trace-led push in August to address impacts in the Hungarian Falls gorge, an effort that will need volunteers with a broad range of volunteer skills, from community organizing to education to good ol' trash pickin'. In September there will be ample opportunities for people to volunteer for the Breakers to Bridge Paddle Festival at aid stations, tracking paddlers on the course, and assisting at the start/finish lines. There will also be some site-specific projects at Lightfoot Bay, the Huron Bay Field Station, and Din Egen Woods.

If you have a particular skill you think might be useful to enhance our work, let us know! KLT appreciates the support of trained professionals, including legal/real estate advice, accounting, forestry, birding, and other natural resource or naturalist skills, to name a few. All donated time or services may help KLT meet grant match requirements, further supporting our work! No matter your level of service, KLT is grateful for your donated time as we work to protect and steward lands in the Western U.P. Together, we can make a positive impact on our shared landscape!

Give KLT a Leg Up on Fundraising

Looking for other ways to help promote our mission in the community? KLT has a growing need for volunteers to assist with outreach and fundraising - and this involves much more than just asking for donations. We have many ways you can help strengthen the organization through these efforts. Volunteer tasks could include:

- KLT Events – volunteer at the Breakers to Bridge Paddle Festival, the KLT annual meeting, lead a guided hike, or other special events. We welcome your ideas!
- New Member Recruitment – help the Land Trust grow. Talk to your friends, neighbors and community groups about the Land Trust. We can provide you with materials and training.
- Community Events – tend information booths at community fairs and outreach events.
- Fundraising Campaigns – prepare mailings, help write fundraising appeals, or serve on the KLT Fundraising Committee.

Think creatively! There are many opportunities to promote KLT fundraising and outreach. The easiest is to tell someone why you support KLT yourself and take them on a hike to one of our nature areas. Your ideas, time, and skills are valuable assets. From planning a community art competition to hosting a group of potential donors at your home to filming a video of local KLT properties or recording a public radio announcement, we need you! Please contact nathan@keweenawlandtrust.org for more information or if you have an idea you'd like to share.

Volunteer Highlight: Jay Fedorocko, in his own words

Kathy Gottberg once said, "Real luxury is not working like a maniac to take an expensive vacation--it is living a life you enjoy every day."

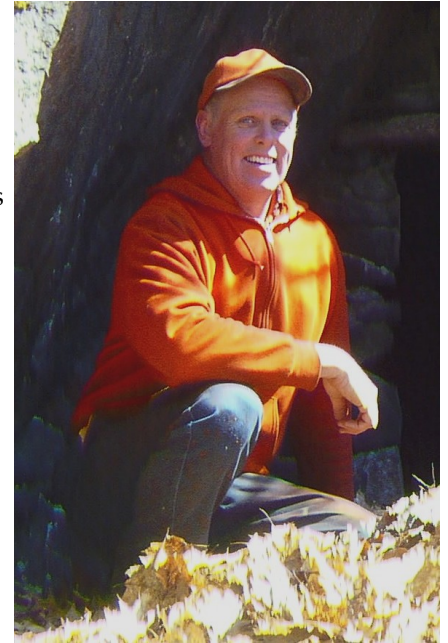
I spent 35 years being paid to 'work' as a forester, six days a week. At the end of the day, I came home to 'play' at the family pizza business and keep the horse farm running smoothly. Free pizzas and watching the horses graze as the sun rises behind them? Work is indeed in the eye of the beholder!

I began the transition to retirement in 2014. After repeatedly passing the Little Brothers firewood operation on my way to town, I decided to volunteer and wound up putting 300+ hours of time in that year alone. I enjoyed myself and helped the elderly stay warm during a chilly winter. It's safe to say I'm hooked and this year I plan to volunteer there at least 200 hours.

While working part-time at the airport, I would stop at the Boston Pond Nature Area for my lunch break. I decided it needed some help and approached Pat and Nathan about volunteering as a site steward. They welcomed me onboard and I quickly took care of knapweed pulling, making firewood for Marsin from fallen trees, helping to clear trails, and making the area more presentable to visitors on the Copper Country Trail National Byway (US-41). I'm aiming to volunteer at least 100 hours there this year, as well as additional hours helping at other sites.

I enjoy my days experiencing the Copper Country by volunteering for KLT and Little Brothers. I am helping my quiet lifestyle and giving back to my beloved Copper Country and its people what little I can. My life is essentially complete at this time and I am content. There might be one more addition to my life that would make for completeness... we'll see.

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." ~Mae West



Remembering Sharon Emley



"If I cry tomorrow at the dedication of the Steve Farm Nature Area, don't worry 'bout me. I'm just happy!! A bunch of my wonderful family is here and it is already on Google maps!"

With heavy hearts we say farewell to Sharon Emley who drowned while snorkeling in the South Seas, doing something she loved in one of her favorite spots. We celebrate Sharon as a courageous and accomplished woman who shared so much with so many. A lawyer by training who served as a public prosecutor in Alaska, most of us knew Sharon through her active lifestyle and many passions. Sharon maintained her strong family connections to the Copper Country while wandering land and water for new adventures, touching many lives along the way. She was very pleased to work with her cousins to donate their grandfather's farm on Lovell Creek to KLT as a gift for others to enjoy and a lasting legacy to their family connections to this land. About 40 descendents of John and Josephina Steve gathered for a celebratory dedication of this Steve Farm Nature Area in 2014. Our hearts and thanks go out to the family as Sharon, Mike McCarthy, and Larry Miller have all passed on since.

"Sharon had such an adventurous spirit and lived to be active in the outdoors. She also loved being around people - Sharon and her husband Don got involved with all sorts of community events as volunteers. Her warmth, friendship and generosity made a difference in my life and I am sure that many other people can say the same thing about Sharon. We will miss our dear friend." -Evan McDonald

A Legacy Protected – John Ollila

My mother Sally, in full Sally Maria Wilhelmina Piippo Ollila, was born in 1917 on an 80-acre farm, a portion of which I donated to KLT to become the Sally M. Ollila Memorial Woodland. The property was homesteaded by her father John Piippo about 1900. Immigrant farmers-to-be put their names in one hat, so to speak, and the land company had available tracts in another. Names and sites were paired in a drawing, and by good fortune the family was assigned one of the best sites on the Pilgrim River. I had heard a story in my youth, and had it confirmed by 'Spence' Carlson (a retired Jeffers High School teacher) that the Piippo family had set up in error at the Superior Road bridge on the Pilgrim as had his relatives at the Paradise bridge. When the mistake was discovered, both families liked where they were, and deeds were exchanged.

My mother was the youngest of nine children, and as the youngest her chore was to fetch the cows for milking from the common pasture, the wooded land I have donated. Yes, believe it or not, the well stocked woodland you will visit used to be pasture! My mother worked as a bookkeeper in Detroit for a shipping company after graduating from high school two years early in 1933, and as a note of family history, all nine children, including seven girls, graduated – unheard of in that day. My father worked for Davey Tree Company stationed in various towns downstate. We'd begin school up here; he'd move us to some town in the Lower Peninsula about deer season; and he'd return us to Houghton about Memorial Day. My brother, sister, and I would spend the summers with our mother picnicking along Superior or by poor rock piles so I could hunt copper, picking thimbleberries and raspberries in the woods, and swimming in the Pilgrim while she read and had coffee. It is from my mother that I inherited my love of being outdoors doing quiet things.

My mother was very well read, having read all the books her college educated children left at home -- I recall encountering her absorbed in my copy of the *Bhagavad Gita*. My mother became ever more liberal as she grew older, loved diverse people, and had no patience for misogynists (it should be noted her 1946 wedding vows did not say obey). She grew the most weed-free, perfectly mulched strawberry field in the history of the Copper Country, which was her twice daily opportunity to be outside with her hands in the dirt, her alone time.



The Pilgrim River is a defining feature of the property

I have given the land to KLT in her honor because she grew up on the site, paid attention to the details of life, loved being outdoors, and passed these ethics on to her children. One anecdote: when told she would need cataract surgery, she declined, saying that she could see well enough to sew and read, and besides it made cross country skiing much more exciting because she could only tell if she was on a hill when she began to accelerate. The Sally M. Ollila Memorial Woodland has been established in her memory.

The Sally M. Ollila Memorial Woodland protects 22 acres of forest and half a mile of frontage along the Pilgrim River. Visitors can enjoy fishing the Pilgrim's excellent trout fishery, hiking the rolling terrain, or watching for birds that call this nature area home. Located along Superior Road just south of Elsie Road, the property is open year-round for free, non-motorized recreation.

Join the KLT as a new or renewing member!

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ Please Circle: Summer - Winter - Permanent

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 ☐ 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.

***** New: Give a FREE gift membership to a friend or family member! *****

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Keweenaw Land Trust, 801 N. Lincoln Drive Suite 306, Hancock MI 49930

Recycling Reduces Waste and Generates Excitement in Our Local Schools

By Joan Chadde, Director of the Western U.P. Center for Math, Science and Environmental Education

Focusing on our youth is one way to shape future behaviors and develop positive lifelong habits. Middle and high school students in Houghton County are being introduced to waste reduction and recycling strategies with funding for recycling education provided in part from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality through the Community Pollution Prevention Grant program.

The grant was awarded to Houghton County in partnership with the Copper Country Recycling Initiative to increase recycling by households and businesses and provide a new cardboard recycling facility in Houghton County. The award also included funding to create educational lessons for local students in grades 4-12. Lessons are designed to meet teachers' curricular needs and capture students' curiosity through inquiry, using prior knowledge and varied learning styles. Over the 2-year grant period, the program aims to engage 40+ teachers and more than 1000 students in a variety of activities that promote waste reduction and recycling.

Middle school classes will participate in activities that encourage waste reduction, reuse, and recycling through demonstrations and several hands-on activities. Students will be challenged to design a way to separate different materials in a single waste stream and consider how to pack waste-free lunches by avoiding single-use packaged items, using a reusable box or bag, and using durable items instead of disposable materials. High school classes will also conduct a 'garbology' study to analyze trash at their school to determine how much garbage could have been recycled.

Ultimately, students will be empowered to think critically about the choices they make and how they personally can reduce the amount of garbage generated in our community. More information can be found at: <http://wupcenter.mtu.edu> and by searching Pollution Prevention at www.michigan.gov/deq

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The Breakers to Bridge Paddle Festival returns September 9, 2017!

Leave No Trace to Bring Hot Spot Program to Hungarian Falls

Coming this summer! The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and its Traveling Trainers team are partnering with the Keweenaw Land Trust to host community events and educational activities from August 21-28, 2017 as part of the Hot Spot Program. The scenic and popular Hungarian Falls gorge has regularly experienced vandalism, trash dumping, damage to vegetation and trees, and trail erosion over the years on both KLT's nature area and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) forestland. With the help of the Traveling Trainers and community members like you, KLT and its partners hope to create solutions to address these negative impacts afflicting this popular recreational asset.

With more than 11 billion visits to public lands in the United States each year, many outdoor areas across our nation are negatively impacted by recreational use. We are literally loving our land to death. The reason is usually not malicious or intent to harm nature and wildlife, rather it's simply lack of knowledge or skills. The end result however is usually the same: litter, invasive species, dog or human waste, trail and campsite erosion, water pollution, filthy or inappropriately sited campfire rings, and more.

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics calls these areas Hot Spots, or areas that are damaged but can recover again with a motivated community and proper training. This Leave No Trace Hot Spot training includes a series of special workshops for KLT and MDNR representatives, community stakeholders, local officials, and volunteers, as well as advocacy events for the general public conducted by expert Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers. By identifying and working with Hot Spots and their communities across the nation, we can rapidly move toward recovering and protecting the places we cherish for generations.



Hungarian Falls was chosen as one of twelve Hot Spot locations for 2017, and KLT is excited to learn from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics how to best address the issues we and the MDNR face there. We hope to involve the community as much as possible in this effort! Be on the lookout for information on how you can help with this important cause.

