



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

NEWS

Volume 22 Number—Winter 2020

Last Year Today: 2019 in Review!

Last year was full of challenges, opportunities and successes for KLT. We were quite busy and while we were unable to get newsletters out we did get important mission work done. So let us now bring you up to date on the main highlights for 2019. The accomplishments reported here and the work in progress are possible because the KLT staff, the Board of Directors, volunteers, donors, partners and members all play a critical part to make great things happen.



Lily Creek is KLT's 21st nature area located at the corner of Salo and Wildwood Roads just north of Hancock. Parking along the shoulder of the dead-end Wildwood Road makes this a safe place to get your dog or kids out for a snowshoe.

In the last days of 2018, KLT received a generous gift of land from the Kemppainen Family Trust to establish the Lily Creek Nature Area, a 40-acre wooded wonder with cedar and hemlocks shading rapids and pools along a quarter-mile stretch of Lily Creek. Sadly, Paul Kemppainen passed away in 2018 - his wife Ann then followed through on arrangements begun in advance to create this lasting and living legacy that honors Paul and their shared affection for the outdoors. Neighbors Mark and Kathy Roberts helped develop a marked trail for you to hike or snowshoe.



KLT hosted a winter solstice snowshoe hike at Lily Creek to give thanks for the returning light and to celebrate this special gift of land to all of us. Ann Kemppainen (3rd from the left in photo above) and friends were among many that enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day in the snowy woods.



KLT hosted the music group **Red Tail Ring** for the **Deep Winter Concert** at the historic Whirl-I-Gig in L'Anse. This dynamic duo with their banjo, guitar and vocals had their shadows dancing on the wood walls of this old hall. The weather was quite blustery that January night a year ago and kept some people home, which is too bad... because this was a great band to land jam to!

One stewardship goal for the **Huron Bay Field Station**, acquired in 2015 with a USFWS grant, was to remove the 8 miles of 10' fence enclosing the property as the final step to decommission its use as a private 'game farm'. The fence spanned $\frac{3}{4}$ the width of the Abbaye Peninsula, choking off deer migration to winter yards. Green Timber Consulting Foresters staff and KBIC tribal hunters harvested the captive deer which tested negative for CWD, giving KLT the green light to remove the fence. BEEM Fence Co., the high fence experts from Lake City, Michigan, took two winters to get this difficult job done. Deer, black bear, moose, wolves and coyotes were recently seen on the property. Many thanks to Baraga County Community Foundation and others that

helped pay for this critical and costly work that let these mammals range again across the Peninsula.



Want some big, heavy rolls of used fence? BEEM has a special machine to reroll old fencing. It took a lot of cuts to take the fence down so most will probably be sold as scrap.



Come on in! The KLT office moved from the basement to the 3rd floor at 101 Quincy St. We like our new space and all the renovations!



Chris Alquist taking a break from story telling to try out a winter survival shelter constructed at last year's **Family Spring Break Fun Day at Marsin!**



KLT Board Members stepped to the plate in snowshoes last winter! Lynette Potvin led an outing at **Churning Rapids** early February and Maria Janowiak led one at the end at **Lightfoot Bay**. Clay Hixon led a snowy hike at **Hungarian Falls**.

Bird Surveys Help Conservation Take Flight on the Abbaye Peninsula

Ellie Roark completed a 2nd spring of bird survey work across Point Abbaye. She is a rare bird herself, thriving on the isolated life of a resident scientist working for weeks out of KLT's rustic and remote cabin at **Point of View**. Ellie's work, funded by Copper Country Audubon and the Wilson Ornithological Society, helped build the case for KLT to receive a GLRI-Migratory Bird Habitat Protection grant to conserve more land on the Abbaye (see page 6 story). Tom and Nancy Kurkowski are year round Abbaye residents and joined Ellie for a hike last May (photo at right). Tom recently offered KLT his breadth of accounting and investing experience by serving as a new member of KLT's Finance Committee.



NATIVE PLANTS SYMPOSIUM

INSPIRATION FOR HOME GARDENERS

Saturday, April 13 at 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Michigan Tech Campus, Houghton, MI
UJ Noblet Forestry Building, Room G002

Join us as we learn about native and beneficial plants that are suited to the Keweenaw's unique conditions. Experienced gardeners will share their stories and offer advice for creating beautiful, nature-friendly gardens. The public is welcome at this free event.

KLT co-hosted the **2nd Annual Native Plants Symposium** on Michigan Tech's campus this past April. Over 60 people attended the half-day conference that covered a variety of interesting topics and gave people a chance to interact with other gardeners. KLT Director Maria Janowiak and KLT staffer Jill Fisher were among the presenters. The upcoming **3rd Symposium** is taking shape with an all new line up of speakers. *Look for details to be announced later this spring.*



To protect the historic farmhouse and liven up the setting, KLT asked Calumet High School Art seniors (above) to create **security panels** to cover windows **at the KLT Paavola Farmstead**. They studied the work of the Finnish design collective, Marimekko, using a color palette and patterns reminiscent of former farm life. Make a family visit to the Paavola Nature Area to check it out!

In the spirit of the **Happy Hallowoods** in October, Superior AmeriCorps volunteers and Chris Alquist dressed for the occasion to welcome everyone to the Paavola Wetlands for games, snacks, stories and crafts. We were lucky to have a beautiful fall day to soak up outside!



Experience the Keweenaw promoted a wide assortment of outdoor activities throughout the region over Memorial weekend, including 2 opportunities with KLT. A Friday night family frog listening/learning hike and bonfire at Boston Pond was led by KLT volunteer and MTU grad student, Lizzy Montgomery. A Saturday morning family friendly hike at the Pilgrim Community Forest offered a chance to learn about watersheds with KLT volunteer Hannah Abbotts. Thanks to our great volunteers for leading these family expeditions!

To ensure that **conservation easement lands** are being protected, KLT monitors each of these properties every year, which now total 20 projects over 4,000 acres. This large and important task was made easier in 2019 with help from two dedicated volunteers, Olivia Ghormley and Kerrie Richert. Olivia served as a volunteer summer intern to gain experience and learn about conservation work. She did a fantastic job, earning the Allstar award for best spiker of KLT summer volunteers (a nod to her awesome volleyball season at MTU this year)! Kerrie spends winters on his Texas ranch that is protected with a conservation easement, which gives him a valuable perspective when he visits with KLT easement landowners during his summers here in the Keweenaw. Both are joyous people with contagious smiles that brightened our summer field season work even more.



An easement monitoring visit at **Churning Rapids** during the summer of 2019. Sue Ellen Kingsley (one of the easement landowners), trail club representatives and a friend joined Kerrie for the annual inspection. Photo by Kerrie Richert.

KLT Received National Accreditation And why that's a big deal.

When the news came last year that the Accreditation Commission gave KLT the thumbs up, we joined about 500 other organizations that have also made the same journey...towards perpetuity: To meet the promise that KLT is protecting lands forever. That's what all of the accredited land trusts have promised to do. Besides meeting a goal that the KLT Board of Directors set for the organization many years ago, the process itself made KLT a better, more efficient, and more effective organization. Attaining the accredited status is a recognized distinction that allows us to display a SEAL like this one:



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

Those concise terms reflect the core values of meeting the requirements to be accredited. And this is not a one and done achievement. The Commission will revisit accredited land trusts every 5 years to review, evaluate, and provide guidance as part of the renewal process. ***Sustainability in any realm is an active, ever evolving process because it requires us to continually improve in the face of new challenges and changing times.*** This is about the long haul. Are you in it with us?

Wild Edibles! Michelle Jarvi (at left), with MSU Extension, came from the eastern U.P. to the Keweenaw to lead two **foraging workshops**. The first was field oriented and the second a seminar and cooking demonstration at Marsin. Michelle is standing in a patch of blue bead lilies, the leaves of which are edible and taste like cucumbers. You can eat the young leaves but not any other part of this plant! That's the kind of thing you can learn at a foraging workshop.



Those attending the foraging workshops left much more knowledgeable and with a taste for native edibles!



World renowned bryologist Janice Glime led Moss Madness at Marsin. To support the event and for the benefit of future Marsin Nature Area visitors, Janice (at left in photo above) wrote a guide to the many mosses found at this site. She introduced the group to many of the notable species, helping participants correctly identify examples from the property. Email or call the KLT office to request a copy of her Bryophyte Interpretive Tour of Marsin.



KLT welcomed Rachel Smith (left) to the KLT team, our first experience having help from an **AmeriCorps** member. In addition to working on outreach and events, Rachel's gardening expertise was used to take out invasive plants and plant natives in their place. Rachel's service was a short but productive trial showing us the value of having an AmeriCorps member's assistance. KLT applied to the **Huron Pines AmeriCorps** and received support for a full time member for 2020. We are very excited to welcome Deanna Seil (above) to join us in February!

KLT Board Members Work Hard!

And eventually they need a break. Clay Hixson was a stellar Board Member, particularly devoted to Hungarian Falls, and earned a break when his second term ended in 2019. Dave Harmon also departed the Board, after graciously serving as Treasurer when we needed one. The 2019 Board elections brought in Alex Hirzel. With energy and ideas—Alex is a great addition to the team. MANY thanks to Clay and Dave and welcome to Alex!

KLT Board of Directors 2019-20

Erik Lilleskov, President - Houghton
Maria Janowiak, Vice President - Chassell
Bill Leder, Treasurer - Houghton
Christine Handler, Secretary- Houghton

Ellen Aiken - Houghton
Alex Hirzel—Ripley
Bill Ledar - Copper Harbor
Lisa McKenzie - Hancock
Lynette Potvin- Hancock
Steph Tubman - Hancock

KLT Staff

Evan McDonald, Executive Director
Pat Toczydlowski, Project Specialist
Jill Fisher, Program Coordinator
Curtis Perala, Marsin Property Manager
Deanna Seil, *AmeriCorps Member*

Conservation Expanded at Princess Point

Eric Heideman first connected with KLT as a neighbor of our water trail camp site at Princess Point on the Portage Waterway across from the Sturgeon River Sloughs. Eric greatly enhanced the value of that site by donating the family woodlands nearby to conserve the **Arthur and Lempi Living Forest** and a long stretch of undeveloped shoreline, named in honor of his grandparents. This 35 acres has mature conifer and hardwood forest of exceptional quality, studded with vernal pools and harboring deer in the winter. Eric's family had the first camp in this area that was visited from the water before the Bootjack Road was put in. A trailhead off that road and primitive campsites near the water are planned. The aerial photo at right shows the meandering Sturgeon River Sloughs with KLT lands outlined in red and accessible from the water or along the Bootjack Road.

**Arthur and Lempi Heideman
Living Forest**



A GEM for hunters was added to the Huron Bay Field Station with the first $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of habitat trail cleared and seeded with forage (photo above with Evan installing a temporary barrier to protect seedlings). Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS) are premier walk-in hunting sites that favor game birds but benefit a host of wildlife and make nice hiking trails during the non-hunting season. The MDNR promotes the GEMS and granted KLT funds to get started. The Ruffed Grouse Society pledged funds to help add more of the ~3 miles of habitat trails planned for the Abbaye GEMS, the 20th such site in the state (learn more about the GEMS program on the MDNR website).

Koski Woods added to Pt. Abbaye protected lands!

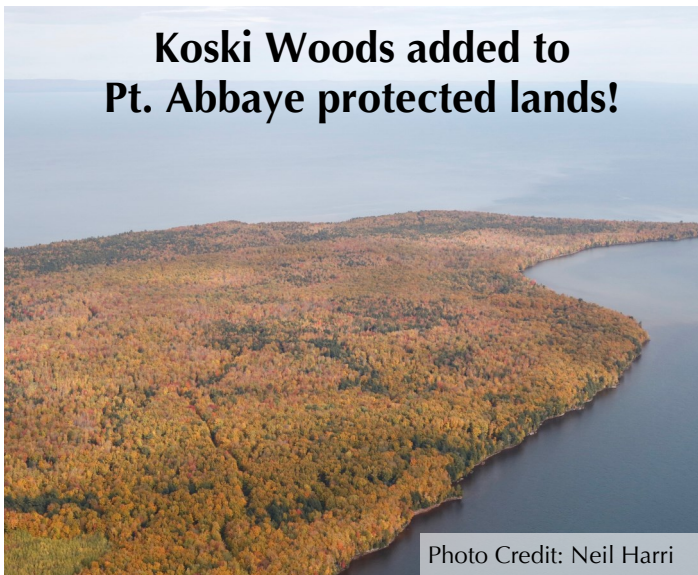


Photo Credit: Neil Harri

This past spring KLT's conservation efforts on the Abbaye Peninsula were rewarded with a \$250,000 grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Migratory Bird Habitat Conservation program of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, competing with projects across the Mississippi Flyway. By fall, 365-acres was set aside as the **Koski Woods**. The Koski family has multi-generational ties to the Abbaye and 5 members with an ownership interest all signed off as our most important conservation partners for this project. The Koskis live close to the land and carefully managed this property over decades, now contributing high quality habitat to KLT's network of conservation lands on the Abbaye. Their patience through the long process and support from Copper Country Audubon, UPEC, John Woollam and the USFWS all contributed to this success and are greatly appreciated.

Join the KLT as a new or renewing member!

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

Your last gift to KLT was on «**Last Gift Date**». «Note»



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www.KeweenawLandTrust.org

Jill says "Get Your Boots On to Read!"

The next Story Trail will be up at our new Lily Creek Nature Area for the month of February.

Read the pages of the story along the trail as you take in the snowy forest around you! Safe parking for getting kids and dogs in and out of the car!



«Formal Greeting»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

Upcoming 2020 KLT Events

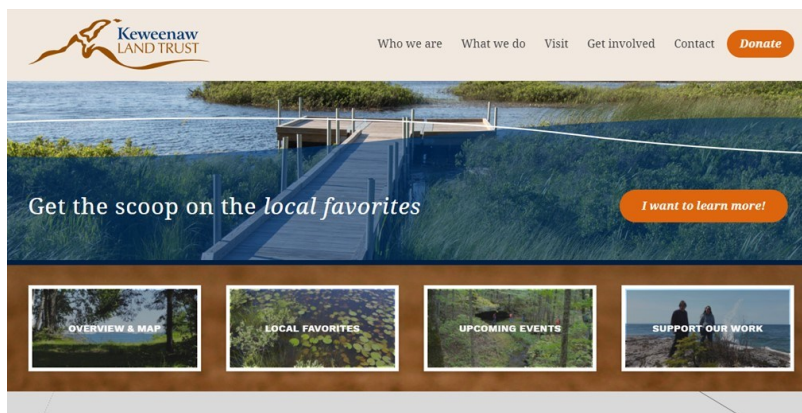
Feb. 9th, 2:00 - 4:00 PM KLT's Natural History Book Club with Peter Wohlleben's *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from A Secret World*.

Check out the new KLT office at 101 Quincy St, enjoy a cup of tee and snacks, and discuss how trees communicate.

Feb. 23rd 2PM : UNLEASH the HOUNDS! Dogs, take your humans for a snowshoe at Churning Rapids. Parking is at the Christensen Rd trailhead 53044 M-203. About 4 1/2 mi from Hancock if you start measuring at the Hancock Beach.

March ??, 10 AM: Snowshoe at Hungarian Falls Nature Area with a most experienced guide and KLT fan, **Clay Hixson!** From US-41 turn down Golf Course Rd and park where the plowing ends. If coming from M-26, turn up W. 21st St. (also Hendrickson Rd.) until you get to Golf Course Rd and turn left to find parking. Well behaved dogs, children and adults are welcome!

In spring 2019, KLT was awarded a **Community Marketing Mini-Grant** from the **Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region**. For the rest of 2019, our staff, board members and many skilled volunteers helped convert our old website to the new format developed by Monte Consulting as part of the grant funded work. The new website was rolled out at the beginning of December.



The website is a work in progress, with more content being added steadily. If you have feedback or corrections please email jill@keweenawlandtrust.org. We hope the improved website will help you find new adventures with interactive maps! You can populate a map with information using pull down menus organized by activities and site amenities.