

KLT at 25: Looking Back and Forward

Some Banter Between KLT's Board President and Executive Director



Erik Lilleskov, Board President

Evan: Erik, you've been involved with KLT for many years now, having joined the Board of Directors soon after I was hired as Executive Director in 2003. It's quite appropriate that you and I are now having this conversation about KLT's past and future.

Erik: If you're saying we are getting old, definitely!

Evan: Is there anything that stands out for you regarding how far KLT has come in the last 25 years?



Evan McDonald, Executive Director

Erik: Where to start? The early days remind me of the children's story, *The Little Engine that Could*, always hauling a heavy load saying "I think I can, I think I can!" It was a daring move by the early Board, making the transition from all volunteers to adding staff in the early aughts. One big change is that the projects that seemed so daunting at the beginning have become almost routine as the staff has grown in number, skill and connections. Which means none of you can retire! Although it is still remarkable that we have no full-time staff! I bet not everyone knows that. And what about for you?

Evan: Some mileposts do stand out. Like you, I could tell that KLT first hiring an E.D. was a major step for an effort started entirely by volunteers. I agree that steady progress with growing the staff has made a real difference in our effectiveness and productivity. I'm always aware of how KLT's conservation work is supposed to be permanent...to outlive us. To achieve that comes down to the people involved, and the community and culture that has been created around KLT as an organization. Its beginnings were humble but always serious,

purposeful, and committed to perpetuity. The Board and staff are building a solid foundation for KLT's long-term wellbeing. I see the accumulated wisdom in the policies and practices of the Board of Directors and how it governs the organization.

Erik: We have come a long way with Board governance, but it was not always smooth sailing, as you know! There was stress and tension at various times years ago, mostly about money issues...like how are we ever going to pay for these ambitious projects the staff keep proposing? And how do we decide what KLT should be doing? I remember when you brought the concept of policy governance to the Board. That really helped us how figure out how to work together effectively, clarifying lines of authority and communication—it was transformative!

Evan: Yes, all part of the organization's growing pains, especially for how we approach risks. I think we've learned that we can take risks to do important things without being reckless, without jeopardizing the organization itself.



Go to the Visit menu on our website to find 25 insiders tips from our staff and Board on great KLT adventures!

25 years: The Founders

25 years ago, there was core of us who met frequently around each other's kitchen tables to discuss our concerns about this beautiful landscape and how little public lands we knew were available to explore. My then partner, Jeff Flam, and I had been living in the UP for about 5 years and we didn't own land. In our explorations of the woods and lakes, we were completely in love with the area and wanted to ensure in perpetuity that others could have the same opportunities. So, with other likeminded people, we began conversations and explored modalities for achieving this end. Land trusts seemed to fit what we were wanting to achieve, people in the community empowering themselves to protect the beauty and availability of the landscape in ways they felt good about. We wanted community involvement and concern, and local decision making.

I now look in awe at all that the Keweenaw Land Trust has achieved and continues to grow toward and I am grateful. We started with a vision and now that vision has exceeded our wildest dreams. I am proud to be a founding member and am currently enjoying exploring the many landscapes one by one. - Cynthia Drake

I was a founding KLT member, and its first president 25 years ago!

I remember gathering at Terry and Sue Ellen's home, talking about how to protect some of the land that was being sold by the Ventures Group, despite the fact that none of us could afford to buy it. Starting a conservancy seemed like a pipe dream at the time, but we just kept working away. I wrote to several land trusts in Michigan with questions about how they started.

I remember sitting at Pat T-11's kitchen table, wading through the dense IRS instructions for the application for 501-c3 status. And the excitement when we were approved and became an official nonprofit organization.

I remember our first land acquisition was dropped in our lap by another organization, and walking that property in Baraga County as new landowners!

I am so proud of the Keweenaw Land Trust and what it has accomplished.

To the next 25 years indeed!

- Michelle Morgan



KLT's first President, Michelle Morgan, Botanist Janet Marr, and Jeff Flam inspect the 6 Mile Creek property, the first land acquisition. KLT just completed trading this parcel with the MDNR for one at Pequaming as part of the Abbaye Peninsula-Huron Bay Conservation Initiative.

Annual Membership Meeting, June 24, 1997

Treasurer's Report

All funds handled since opening Superior National Bank Checking Account, 8/8/96

Revenues:

from memberships and donations	\$1,554
Michigan Environmental Council Grant for outreach and development	\$686
Total	\$2,240

Expenses:

secretarial and treasurer supplies	\$ 73
stamps and P.O. Box fees	209
printing of brochures and outreach materials	409
meeting rooms and community presentation room	120
attorney and accountant consulting fees	160
indemnity bonding of president and treasurer	90
IRS filing fee for 501c3 status	150
Land Trust Alliance membership (6/97)	150
Total	\$1,361

Current Funds Available (6/13/97) \$ 879

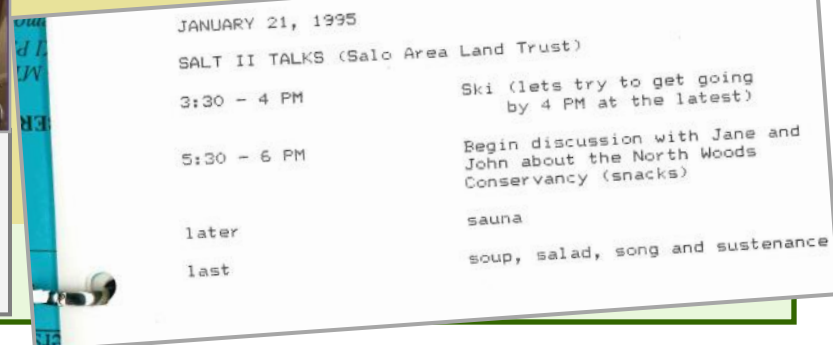
Respectfully submitted

Dana L. Richter, Treasurer

The KLT founders, a handful of concerned citizen volunteers will all tell you **it all started around a kitchen table**. You can see from the memories here as well as an initial organizing meeting, which included a ski outing and sauna, that the KLT beginnings were humble and with a local flavor. But that the concepts of how to take this fledgling organization into a meaningful and lasting non-profit that would stand the test of time were well founded. The membership fee was \$20 per household and 36 people signed on. A steep learning curve was ahead! Having \$879 to work with in 1997, that first team of volunteers put things in motion and in the direction that led to what KLT is today. Thank you!



Erwin Simi reviews easement documents at his kitchen table, with Steve Albee. This was KLT's first conservation easement and first land protection project. The current owner has planted red pine over much of this property, which had been farmland during much of its history.



(Continued from page 1)

Erik: Agreed. Looking back, is there anything you wish we had done differently?

Evan: I'll answer that, but I first want to say that I think we had to encounter serious problems and have setbacks so we could learn what we needed to learn. I did not enjoy past conflicts and stress, but we came out the other side with the improvements we now enjoy. I don't have any major regrets about what we have accomplished. I do feel bad about some of the project opportunities we could not pursue because we did not have the resources needed. We have done a lot rubbing two nickels together...but we could do so much more if we had more nickels!

Erik: I think I have a few in my change jar! This reminds me of how much our community has stepped up in the last few years to support organizational growth. People have voted with their contributions to say what KLT does is important to them. And it has been amazing what the staff has been able to accomplish with grant writing and building relationships with some wonderful foundations—your combined skill in this area is truly impressive.

Evan: Is there any experience you've had with KLT that touched you deeply, in a very personal way?

Erik: Definitely. Having spent a great deal of time on the Board, I have been moved by the dedication of Board members and the staff to making sure the mission is fulfilled in good times and bad—there is so much that goes on behind the scenes and I watch all these folks with busy work and family lives giving their time to support KLT. I especially remember how everyone stood up when Covid first hit, when we didn't know how KLT would weather the storm. What a great bunch of folks! How about you?

Evan: Yes, many things have affected me deeply and I could say so much in response, but a few stand out. I was...and I still am really touched by a conversation I had with Mary Sinish in her kitchen soon after I started this job, almost 20 years ago now.

Erik: Is this before Mary donated the property that became the Marsin Nature Retreat?

Evan: Yes, I knew a bit about Mary's ideas from file notes and what Board members had told me. When I sat down with Mary, she told me about her vision and hopes for a project to benefit the community. She explained how she had sought out good advice and had been steadily putting the necessary pieces together, the property, financial resources, and so forth. She wanted to work with KLT to make this all happen. Mary died unexpectedly just a few months after that conversation. We did not have anything formal or official in place to make that project happen so I did not know if anything would come of what Mary had planned. Right before Mary's funeral her trust manager contacted me and said that her estate wanted to go ahead with the project and that we would work together to formalize the arrangement. That conversation with Mary took on new meaning...and weight. Her guidance was still fresh in my mind...but I also felt a personal responsibility...a moral burden to make sure we achieved her vision. Another deeply touching experience involved Sharon Emley who was a friend to me and KLT, and such a one-of-a-kind person. Sharon was one of the donors of the property that created the Steve Farm Nature Area and we celebrated that accomplishment with Sharon towards the end of her life. She was so happy about it! I miss her but remembering her joy still warms my heart. And then we have John Woollam whose financial support for many KLT projects over the years is almost unbelievable! He loves the shoreline of the Great Lakes, so we're fortunate to have a lot of it here worth protecting. With Mary, Sharon and John as examples of philanthropy, I am just humbled. What a legacy they leave for all of us.



Mary Sinish at her kitchen table many years ago. Her home has become the Marsin Retreat.



Sharon Emley (in dark blue tank top with name tag) and her extended family at the Steve Farm Nature Area dedication on July 26, 2014.

Erik: For sure. I've learned how so much of this work comes down to the personal relationships that are built around shared values and goals. You and Pat really do connect with landowners, donors, and project partners in a profound and personal way. I don't think KLT's projects could have happened without those relationships.

Evan: Trust is in KLT's name and has a double meaning. People must trust us before any project is possible.

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25 years of Land Protection

By KLT Project Specialist Pat Toczydlowski

A well-worn copy of “The Land Trust Standards and Practices Guidebook: An Operating Manual for Land Trusts” survived the 2009 office fire and remains in my desk, with sticky note tabs on key pages. In 1996 the first KLT Board studied this national guide for sound and ethical land transactions and incorporated its example policies and procedures into KLT’s operating vision, as we waited for an actual land project opportunity. Erwin Simi trusted us to take on our first conservation easement in 1999 to protect the farm and managed forest he grew up on and retired to. The Copper Country Masons donated 10 acres to seed the Paavola Wetlands in 1999, now among our most visited nature areas covering 215 acres. After initial trepidation due to its scale, KLT pursued and received its first competitive national land acquisition grant in 2006 to protect Lightfoot Bay. Successes with competitive programs that provide essential financial support speak to the quality of our natural resources, our partnerships, and the growth of this organization. The founders’ vision is being realized through a growing base of protected lands that sustain a diversity of native wildlife and a robust program of outdoor nature connections.

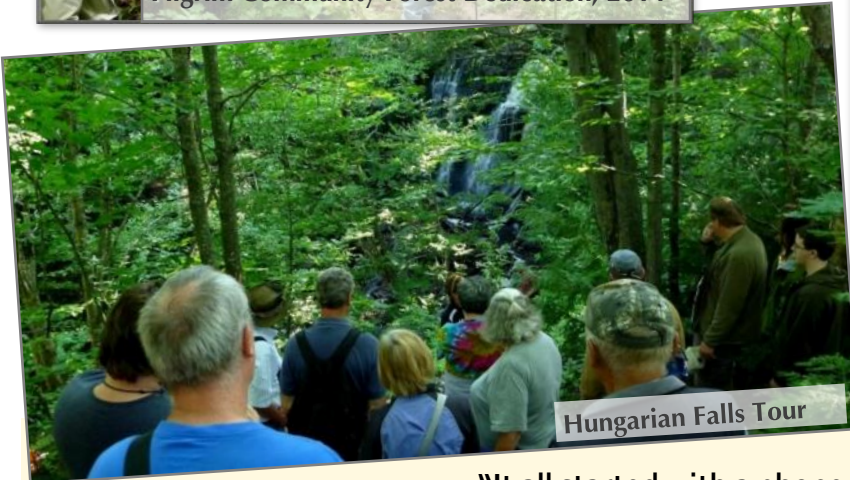
No two projects are alike, and best practices and the legal framework we work within are not static. The broader land trust community supports its members, including our staff, in adapting to the demands of protecting land ‘forever’ and refining ways to work strategically and to remain relevant – tackling projects from wild lands to urban greenspaces and community gardens. Our community and the pressures on our landscape are also in flux. Residents used to be able to count on long hard winters, plentiful biting insects, and lousy internet service to counter the rapid rate of development many other places have seen over the last 25 years. But we can no longer count on being an obscure place to live as we see that the ‘quality of life’ aspects we hold central to our

mission are more broadly discovered and appreciated. KLT must strengthen its base of support as project costs will rise and timelines to act will shorten.

Some certainties remain – a deal is not done until it is and, in that moment, comes a sense of tremendous relief and satisfaction from working with the landowners and the professionals who guide us through the twists and turns. The biggest certainty is that KLT protected lands will persist to satisfy and inspire future generations of outdoor and nature enthusiasts.



Pilgrim Community Forest Dedication, 2014



“It all started with a phone call”

- Evan reminisces on the Hungarian Falls project.

Clay Hixon, a regular visitor to Hungarian Falls called to notify KLT that the property was for sale. That is the way of so many projects —those realized and those that don’t make it—someone with a strong desire to protect a favorite place facing some kind of change. Clay went on to become a Board member and helped KLT acquire that Hungarian Falls parcel. Clay still acts as a land steward for that nature area. He made an amazing video of the waterfall raging during the 2018 Father’s Day Flood—see it on KLT’s YouTube channel.



Lily Creek Dedication 2019



Point of View Dedication 2019

(Continued from page 3)

Erik: KLT has protected a lot of different places now. Do you have a favorite?

Evan: The KLT projects sort of feel like my children...I don't want to play favorites! We do have lots of cool spots I have enjoyed. I'm always drawn to creeks and streams...it goes back to a childhood fascination, having an irresistible urge to explore them, looking for pools and waterfalls, trying to see if there are any fish or crayfish scurrying around. So, getting to know the Pilgrim River has been quite special for me. That valley is wonderful with many feeder creeks to commune with. What about you, favorite KLT lands?

Erik: I love the Pilgrim too because it is right in my backyard. So many places to explore and mushrooms to collect! Same for Churning Rapids! But it depends on my mood. I love Dunes and Marshes for the incredibly beautiful landscape and sense of geologic history. And wow, the shoreline sites on Huron and Keweenaw Bays—and all the new lands on Point Abbaye—provide such a great opportunity to spend time communing with forests and the Big Lake.

Evan: Looking back is nice but what about looking at what's ahead for KLT in the next 25 years? What do you see for challenges and opportunities?



Erik: Looking ahead does feel different than looking back, and I have mixed feelings and notions about what we are likely to face. We are clearly at a number of cusps. For example, we have had incredible conservation opportunities because of the currently low cost of land in our area. We are already seeing changes on that front in response to recent pressures, especially Covid. And our area is recognized as a destination for climate refugees. This makes our conservation work that much more urgent as more people are wanting to move here. I also wonder at what point we will be making the transition from a strong land protection program to a stewardship organization—there is only so much land and as the available pool shrinks and costs rise there will be a point where the demands of stewardship will compete with those of protection, unless we grow sufficiently to accomplish both. We can look to the Lower Peninsula to see what that is like! On the Board, we have a view that generally revolves around the organization's health. Much of the time the staff are in the trenches with the actual work of getting projects done, so you might answer the question about KLT's future differently.

Evan: Modern life gives us so many distractions that can take us away from the natural world. I worry that people will have a diminished relationship with nature and the outdoors. To me, that relationship seems essential for people to care about our landscape and act to help protect it. For a land trust to be sustained, it needs to have a community with a substantial number of people that have a deep connection with natural landscapes.

Erik: The Covid pandemic has shown us something clearly: more people have been spending more time outdoors, for a variety of reasons, but one is because being outdoors is a way for people to handle anxieties. We'll get through this pandemic, but I don't think we will ever run out of anxieties that will send people outside in the future!

(Continued on page 13)

25 years of Outreach

The Keweenaw Land Trust is a community partner protecting land, water, and quality of life through conservation, stewardship and education.

It is so important, it is the last word in our mission.

Connecting with school children:



Hancock Middle Schoolers make interpretive signs at Paavola.



Mary Sinish donated her property to create Marsin and benefit youngsters, and so many have benefitted from her vision.



Students from L'Anse on a field trip to Lightfoot Bay for a day of outside learning.

Environmental education is imperative to help children learn about, and then care for the environment. We have worked with many school groups, scout troops, 4-H, teachers and other partner organizations to help encourage the next generation by getting them outside to learn. If we can inspire them to seek connections, they can grow to make informed and responsible decisions to protect the natural world as adults.

Educational events for adults:

After all, we can all learn to be better stewards of the land.



Jim Bess teaching land owners how to naturalize their shorelines during a workshop at Marsin



Ian Shackelford from the Ottawa Natl. Forest teaching how to tackle invasive barberry



Bill Deephouse teaching others how to read a trout stream



Apple grafting workshop with Dave T-11

Having fun outside:



Pressing cider at a KLT Annual Meeting

Do you have fond memories of the Horsetail scramble?

Do you still have the T-shirts?



Snowshoe events explore winter scenes.

Looking forward: Getting people outside has always been a KLT goal. We strive to engage all age groups to have fun and to learn. We hope that our many self-guided activities have helped people get out and stay safe during the Covid pandemic.

Where is our next story trail? Go to the **Get Involved** tab on our website and look for **Current Events** or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.



Pat describing the project at Lightfoot Bay.

We don't call them preserves

because that sounds like something delicate that should be saved and not touched, or something sealed in a jar for special occasions. We call these lands **nature areas** because that is what they hold and what we protect for people to enjoy. Get muddy, touch the merchandise, and most importantly...explore!



25 years of Stewardship



We don't call them docks, we call them floating observation platforms. Docks are a place to launch from or bring things in – a transition zone. A platform is a place where you intend to stay for a while, for quite a while, if the sun is warm and the sounds are soothing. When day turns to night, the platforms are a good place to view the stars.



Looking forward: This summer we plan to call to action a group of land stewards to help us manage our lands. We will provide tools, training, and staff support for these individuals...and we can learn from them. In addition we are going to implement regular workdays so anyone who wants to lend a hand can help in the management of these public lands and develop stronger feelings of ownership and protection.

Interested? Email carolyn@keweenawlandtrust.org



This was a fence—many animals and people don't miss it.



Improvements and Amenities: We invest time and funds to have signs, pavilions, fire pits, accessible paths, benches, picnic tables, and parking areas. Did you know a KLT built outhouse costs about \$5K each? Aren't they some of the nicest you've been in? But we need to pay to have them pumped out – one of many costs you may not ever think about until the outhouse needs it. Donating for the land is easy as we see that as meaningful (*which it is!*) and as a place we can go visit (*which we can!*). But there are other expenses to be able to welcome people to visit and enjoy these places safely. These habitats are critical for wildlife and those habitats need our help to stay healthy. We need to manage invasive species that crowd out native diversity. We need to take steps to help mitigate the impacts of climate change that will harm our local habitats.

Organizational Highlights

KLT established by an all-volunteer group

1998 resolution to follow the Land Trust Alliance Standards & Practices

Board Pres. Christa Walck pushes for an Exec. Director

Keweenaw Land Trust



2003: Evan McDonald is hired as the first staff and Exec Director



2005: Pat Toczydlowski hired as 2nd staff & Project Specialist



Land Protection Milestones

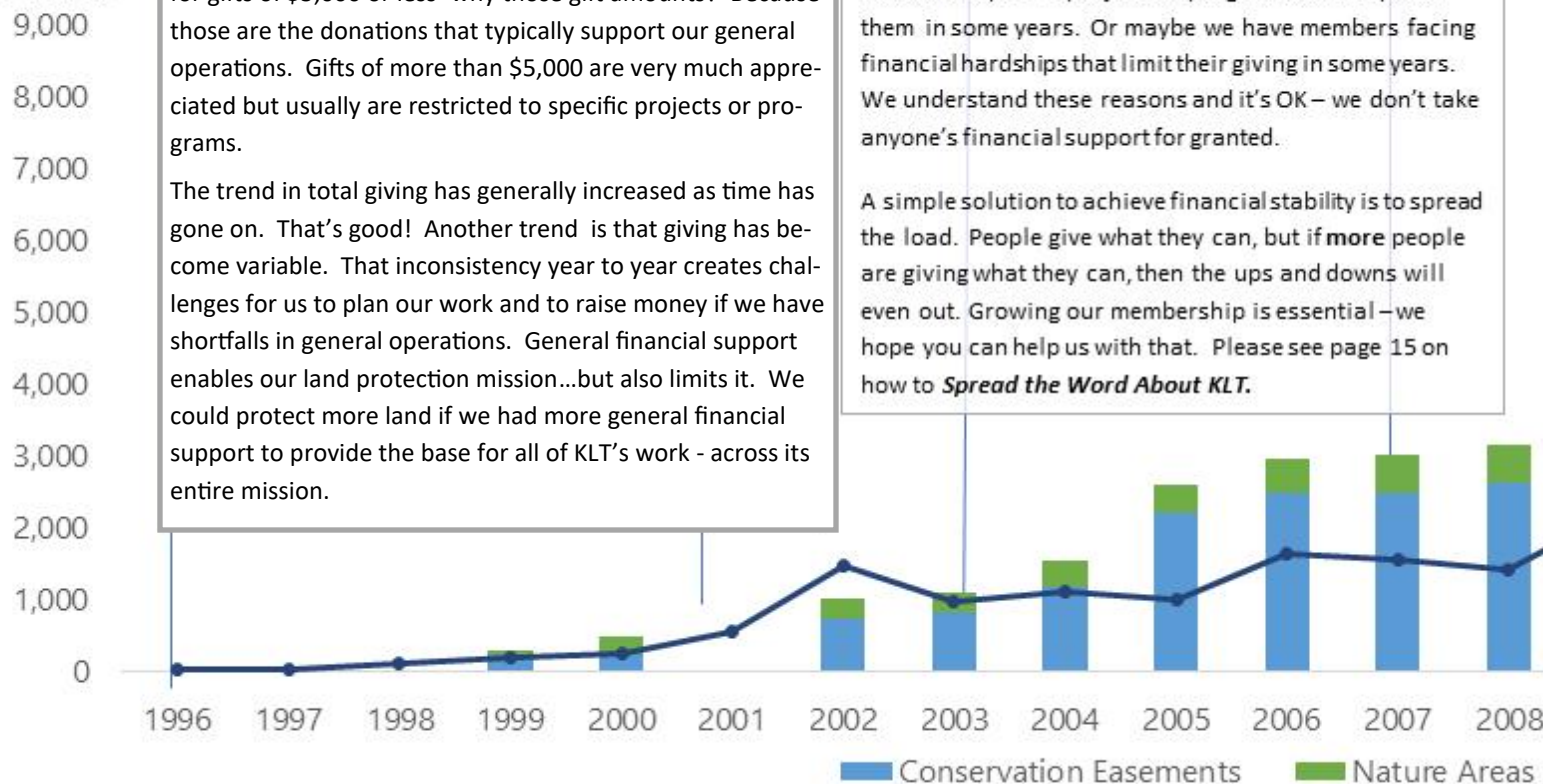
1st Conservation Easement: Simi
1st Nature Area: Paavola- 30 acres

2006: KLT accepts Marsin Nature Retreat

2005: CE acres jump as 1040 acres added with Bete Grise South Preserve

2007: 1st acquisition at Light foot Bay

Acres





2014: Having launched the organization as **founders**, Terry Kinzel and Sue Ellen Kingsley complete the Copper Island Kayak Challenge to support KLT in yet another way.



2020 Carolyn Meingast hired as Office Manager



2012: Nathan Miller hired as Project Coordinator till 2018. He now is E.D. for the Copper Harbor Trails Club



2018: Jill Fisher hired as Botanist & Program Manager



KLT achieves LTA accreditation

The Pilgrim River inspired a big partnership to protect a jewel of a river. Some Projects are in the works for years.



Largest land acquisition of HBFS adding 1345 acres. Successes build on each other as momentum for future projects



Your donations are not just a number to us. Every gift, no matter the amount, is appreciated and helps protect land in our area.

We thank you for supporting KLT for 25 years now!

Total Gifts

\$140,000

\$120,000

\$100,000

\$80,000

\$60,000

\$40,000

\$20,000

\$0

2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

— Total Donations

25 years: Then and Now



Photos Above show the transformation of the Paavola farmstead. Potatoes were farmed in the early 1900's. Did you know 7 children slept in the upstairs bedroom? Farming ceased and the beaver pond was created in the 1970's. It has undergone changes through time as well—make a visit to see for yourself. The beavers repurposed the old lodges to fix the dam after it blew out from the Father's Day Flood in 2018.

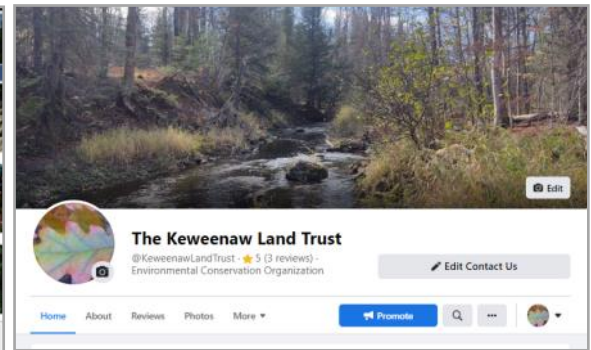
Below: The remains of an abandoned mobile home gave way to the pavilion, paths and floating platform at Boston Pond. Both the Paavola and Boston Pond sites were part of the National Byways Grant in 2012 to enhance accessibility and share the story of these sites.



Photos: (Left) Norma Veurink and Pat Toczydlowski stand in wetlands at Paavola in the early 2000s. Pat started with KLT as a volunteer in 1996, joined the staff in 2005, and has gained invaluable experience working on land deals since then. (Right) Pat is pictured with Program Manager, Jill Fisher, at KLT's new Abbaye North Shore in fall of 2021. They are enjoying some well deserved cookies after hosting 18 AmeriCorps members at a training entitled "Land Trusts 101" - they had a lot to share with those just starting out in conservation related careers!

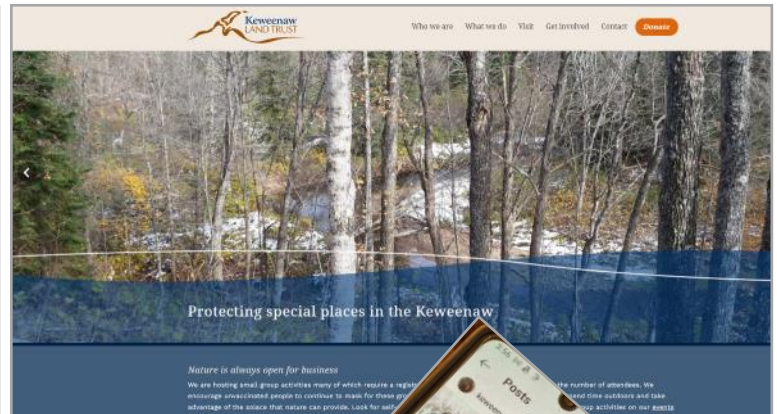
The KLT newsletter quality has improved over time with more staff, better printers and software. *Notice the difference?*





Like the newsletter, information shared thorough the website has improved with new technology and grants to do major overhauls. These glimpses of the website are from 2004, 2007, 2014 and the last update in 2018 made possible with a mini grant from WUPPDR. With the demands of technology,

we've needed to hire professionals to help with these tasks as we move to more mobile forms of communication. Did you know we have an Instagram and a YouTube channel with past natural history talks and Native Plant Symposiums?

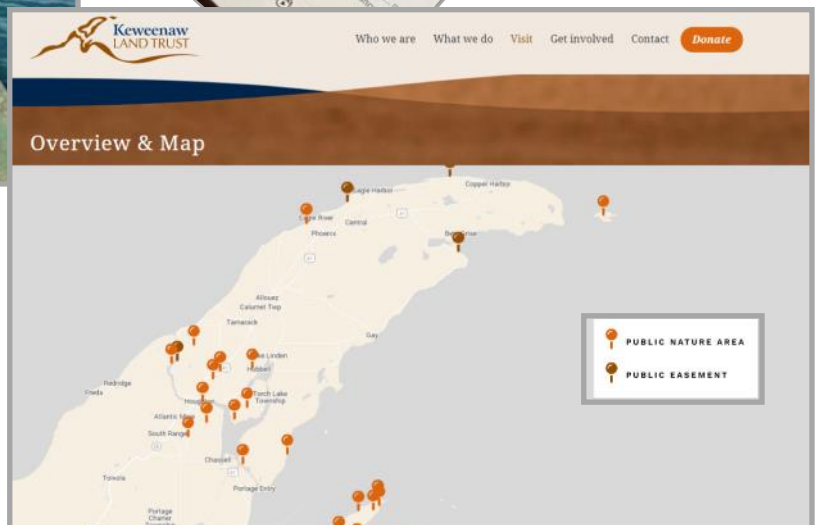


And now, social media in your hand and ...



KLT's website is easier to use on a smartphone.

It is a good thing that the KLT project map needs to be updated almost every year. We have some work to do to add our newest nature areas to the website and get them ready for members to explore. 24 Nature Areas in 25 years, that is almost one per year! Which will be the next? We've got projects in the works and it is always fun to see them turn out. We operate on Pat's KLT motto: "We're good people doing good things, let's hope it all works out!"



25 years of Ups.....

and Downs



Community! The 2013 Dam Jam fundraiser for Hungarian Falls.



A 2009 fire in the E.L. Wright building destroyed KLT's office. Patricia VanPelt and Evan are smiling because no one was hurt.



"This accreditation achievement and the use of the accreditation seal are extremely significant to KLT in moving forward! It signals to the land trust community and to the general public within KLT's sphere of influence that it has reached a level organizational sustainability. The accreditation program has organizational sustainability as a core purpose."

Steve

Steve Albee



How cool is that?! KLT hosted the tall ship S/V Denis Sullivan in the Keweenaw...twice, for Land to Sea Adventures.



The Fathers Day Flood in 2018 was quite a natural disaster for the region. Photo above shows damage to the roadway near the Pilgrim Community Forest. The photo below shows the damage to the foundation of the Marsin Retreat Center that required extensive repair.



(Continued from page 5)

Evan: Probably true! I think we have had a sense that the Keweenaw region has been living on a kind of borrowed time. The wave of development pressure that has impacted other regions has been coming our way slowly but steadily. I agree with your observation that things are changing-- just in the last 18 months our area has seen a huge increase in real estate activity. On my drive to and from the office, I've seen more new home construction projects this year than in the previous 15. Our landscape is facing dramatic change that will amplify challenges but also create opportunities.

Erik: Many people have taken access to natural areas for granted because there is so much timber land, but it is important to realize that is also changing rapidly. If people see these trends and don't want to lose this good thing we have in the Copper Country, then they may want to support KLT in the future even though they did not feel the need to do so before.

Evan: That would be a good thing. Hopefully enough people will see that the opportunities we have for conservation in the next 25 years will not come again. We all must roll up our sleeves and keep at it to have the future we want...to have the Keweenaw we want for generations to come.

Erik: I think we should connect this back to the KLT founders. They were visionaries, concerned about a future we would face if we did not have a land trust in this community. We owe them a debt of gratitude. And I don't think we'd be having this conversation if not for them.

Evan: Here, here! **A toast to the KLT founders and the next 25 years!**



A fun outing after a productive Board retreat up in the Keweenaw. **We've been fortunate to have so many great people serving on the Board over the years.**

Board of Directors

Board Elections for 2022

The Board elections during the 2021 Annual General Membership Meeting in October were a bit strange, with over 40 people divided across video stream and in-person participation. But the results were clear and unanimous as the group re-elected Bill Leder and Lisa McKenzie, with Louie Vencato and Calvin Koski elected for their first terms. We welcome the newcomers, Louie and Calvin, and thank Lynette Potvin as she leaves the Board after her 6 years of excellent service!

KLT Board of Directors 2021—2022

Officers

Erik Lilleskov, Board President
- Houghton
Steph Tubman, Vice President
- Hancock
Bill Leder, Treasurer
- Houghton
Christine Handler, Secretary
- Houghton

Directors

Ellen Aiken - Greenville, SC
Alex Hirzel - Ripley
Maria Janowiak - Chassell
Calvin Koski - Aura
Don Lee - Houghton
Lisa McKenzie - Hancock
Louie Vencato - Hancock
Leo Wheeler - Houghton

Then and Now: KLT's Home

Once KLT left the "kitchen table" stage, it has always found a home for its office in an historic building. We like that. The first office was set up in 2003 in the former St Joseph's School in Lake Linden (left photo), which had become the E-Center. Next was the move to another former school, the E.L. Wright Building in Hancock (center photo), where we made new friends in that space! Our most recent home is the former Wisti Law Offices (right photo). The current owners, Jim Northey and Sonia Goltz have donated a portion of the office space in memory of Steve Albee. We miss Steve and we are grateful for their support.



Partner Support

Projects have been woven from many threads of partnerships throughout the 25 years of KLT's history.

MI Department of Natural Resources
 Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
 Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
 Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative
 Copper Country Community Art Center
 Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
 MI Department of Natural Resources
 National Scenic Byways
 Norcross Wildlife Foundation
 US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Carnegie Museum of the Keweenaw
 Shaw and Betty Walker Foundation
 Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
 J.A. Woollam Foundation
 Keweenaw Community Foundation
 MI Coastal Zone Management Program
 Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
 Baraga Community Foundation
 Pilgrim River Watershed Project
 Keweenaw Community Forest Company
 Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Soyring Family Foundation
 Northwood Alliance
 Partnership in Watershed Restoration
 Stewards of Bete Grise Preserve
 Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula
 MI Lighthouse Assistance Program
 Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area
 Western U.P. Planning & Development Region

Local K-12 Schools
 Land Trust Alliance
 Copper Country Audubon
 Landowner Partners
 Portage Health Foundation
 Huron Pines AmeriCorps
 Copper Country National Byway
 Michigan Technological University
 Pilgrim River Watershed Project
 Local units of government
 The Carls Foundation
 Leuthold Family Foundation
 Keweenaw Trails Alliance
 Keweenaw Water Trail
 Michigan Nature Areas
 Klungness Family Foundation
 Great Lakes Fishery Trust
 Americana Foundation
 The Nature Conservancy
 US Forest Service
 Keweenaw Geoheritage
 Plum Creek Foundation
 Partners in Forestry
 Reading the Landscape
 Plum Creek Foundation
 Lux Foundation
 Finlandia University
 our membership

Future Partners

With so many partner organizations contributing to our mission success, we hope we did not forget any of them. Our apologies for any omission. Behind the names of these organizations and collaborations are people—far too many to name here. They are real heroes to us. **Thank you to all of our partners—we could not have done it without you!**

Fabric made from many threads is stronger.

Become a KLT member or renew if you already are one!

Please provide your current contact information if different than printed on this mailing

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

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

Why Your Support Matters

Thanks to the many supporters like you, over the last 25 years we've been able to protect nearly 8,000 acres across Michigan's western Upper Peninsula to maintain the integrity of the environment and our quality of life. Because the Keweenaw Land Trust is a small non-profit, your contribution makes a tremendous impact. Every dollar of support to the organization helps to conserve more land, ensure the long-term stewardship of nature areas, and provide fair wages for KLT staff. We operate on a very lean budget which means every dollar is carefully spent.

- Please support our work by renewing your membership or making an additional end-of-year donation.
- For 2021, special tax laws in response to the pandemic allow charitable deductions for donations up to \$300 for individuals and \$600 for married couples filing jointly.

Spread the word about KLT

Another way to support our work is to introduce the KLT to potential new members. Many people have heard about us but you could take them on a KLT adventure and explain how we are trying to get 25 new households to support our work to help us in our 25th year! Let them know what we contribute to outdoor adventures and protection in this area.

- Pass this newsletter on to a friends or neighbors—you can even request more copies to share! Or you can download or print *newsletters* and *information brochures* from our website.
- Share interesting links from KLT's Facebook page and KLT's website.
- Talk up KLT with your family and friends—take them to your favorite KLT nature area. Think about people who are new to the Copper Country and introduce them to KLT!

Get Involved

- Become a volunteer—there's a form on the website where you can sign up or call the office.

Create a Legacy

Land conservation is a long-term commitment, and we appreciate those who would like to make a planned gift or bequest to the organization as part of their own legacy. It can be as easy as naming KLT a beneficiary.

- Go to www.keweenawlandtrust.org/donate to learn about other ways to give, including legacy gifts and land donations. Please call our office to make an appointment if you prefer to discuss your plans in person.



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Early Winter KLT Events

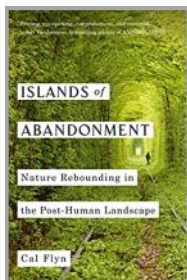


Now - Jan 10th *Snow Birds* Story Trail at Lily Creek – You’ve heard of birds who migrate to warmer climates in winter—but what about those who persevere through snow and freezing temperatures? Elegant verse and striking illustrations salute the brave and resourceful birds who adapt to survive the coldest months.

We’ve got a great line up of winter themed stories from the T-11 family library to act as little carrots to get you and your family and friends outside! Look for details on story trails and our monthly snowshoe hikes this winter on our website under **Get Involved—Upcoming Events**

January Snowshoe at KLT’s new Point Mills—Not open to the public yet but Board Member Alex Hirzel and staffer Jill Fisher will lead you on a snowy hike through the stamp mill ruins and the rebounding habitats.

February Snowshoe at Lightfoot Bay—this has turned into an annual event as winter is a great time to check out wetland habitats that might be “too squishy” in the warm seasons.



Winter is a great time for the **KLT Natural History Book Club**. You can get started on *Islands of Abandonment* over the holidays! It is applicable to our hike at Point Mills!

Beth Millner Jewelry in Marquette selected KLT as a fundraising project this year. KLT inspired this design and you can order this pendant from her website. Each pendant is \$150, with \$50 going to KLT.

Makes a wonderful gift!

<https://www.bethmillner.com/pages/fundraiser-program>

