SECURING THE FUTURE–ONE COASTLINE AT A TIME

Keweenaw LAND TRUST

A community partner protecting land, water, and quality of life through conservation, stewardship, and nature connections

Newsletter

September, 2024



KLT is overjoyed to announce our latest conservation success! In August, KLT closed on the purchase of a coastal property in Keweenaw County we are calling the Jacob's Creek Nature Area. The protection of Jacob's Creek marks a major milestone in coastal conservation in the Keweenaw Peninsula. Boasting a quarter mile of Lake Superior shoreline, 52 acres of forest, and a stretch of Jacob's Creek, this parcel has tremendous conservation value. Protection of undeveloped Lake Superior shoreline and access to its waters are among the highest of KLT's conservation priorities, based on community input and regional conservation plans. Furthermore, it ensures perpetual public access to the shoreline as the shore is being increasingly privatized. Elizabeth Stieg, Executive Director of the Carl's Foundation, a key supporter of the project, said, "This was an important parcel to preserve. The trifecta of proximity to other conserved lands, access to the lake for the community and visitors alike, and the landscape itself" inspired the Carl's Foundation's support. When asked, Kurt, a neighbor of the property who has been passionate about its conservation, couldn't choose a favorite aspect: "Gosh! There's so many!"

Wooded dunes rise from the lake, studded with large oak trees and white pines sloping inland to wetland swales lined with native shrubs. Beavers have dammed portions of the creek, creating multiple ponds throughout the parcel. As Kurt said, "The beavers created this habitat." A trail created by both wildlife and people leads to the top of a steep sand dune from which you can catch breathtaking views of Lake Superior. Melissa Lewis, another key supporter of the project who grew up in the Keweenaw mentioned that protecting a natural space for the wildlife that calls Jacob's Creek home inspires her.

The property is well suited for low-impact recreational use–keeping with KLT's mission for its protected lands. As with other KLT nature areas, the site will be open for low-impact public use and enjoyment during daytime hours (no overnight use). We are overjoyed that the public can respectfully and responsibly enjoy the beauty of this nature area.

Jacob's Creek Nature Area is part of one of the larger stretches of undeveloped shoreline remaining along this section of the Keweenaw's north shore.





As development pressure continues to grow in the UP and throughout the state, coastal conservation is of the utmost importance. "Michigan is likely going to be very important as the climate continues to change. There is so much that we need to be able to preserve and protect in some way related to biodiversity and climate change" notes Elizabeth Stieg.

This relatively small parcel is one small step in continuing to protect our shared landscapes and make the Keweenaw, Michigan, and the region more resilient.

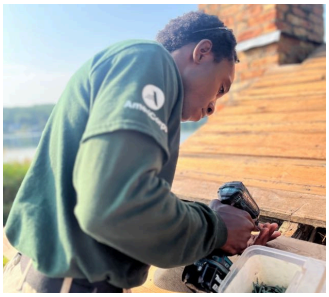
This project would not have been possible without the generous support of a handful of contributors. KLT would like to extend immense gratitude to The Carl's Foundation, Melissa and Phil Lewis, and two anonymous donors. We are so grateful to these individuals, foundations, and the broader KLT community for your continued support.

Together, we protect land, water, and quality of life in the Keweenaw.

PARTNERSHIP PERSPECTIVE: AMERICORPS NCCC









In partnership with Swedetown Trails Club, KLT applied for and was chosen to host an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team this summer. In July, six young people: Monté, Naomi, Quinn, Jahari, JC, and Melina traveled from the NCCC home base in Vinton, Iowa to Hancock to begin their eight-week service term.

The AmeriCorps NCCC program gives young adults hands-on service experience with nonprofits around the country. Team members gain experience in different professional paths, travel to new places around the country, and provide valuable service, addressing community needs in the areas of energy conservation, infrastructure improvement, natural and other disaster services, and urban and rural development. Teams serve at three to four different service sites throughout their 10-month term.

During their service with KLT and Swedetown, they completed numerous projects focused on helping KLT catch up with ecological and infrastructure stewardship needs. They rebuilt structures, built and placed wooden benches and trail signage, installed boardwalks, planted native species, helped manage invasive species, cleared and maintained recreational trails, and more! See if you can spot their efforts when you visit a KLT property this fall.

KLT and Swedetown are incredibly grateful for the AmeriCorps NCCC team's hard work, dedication, and service. We would also like to thank special project leaders, Chris, Lou, and Dave for sharing their talents and tools!

I am so grateful to have been put on this project
and am so happy to have been able to contribute to maintaining
the beauty of the Upper Peninsula.
-Naomi, AmeriCorps NCCC Volunteer

SILVER ISLAND ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

The songs in the cabin during the rain;
Floating on a buoyant transparent lake with a far horizon;
Stories by the beach fire;
The earth rocket.

Bill Rose's poem (excerpted above) was inspired by the majestic land and waterscapes on and around Silver Island, nestled in Lake Superior off the coast of the Keweenaw Peninsula, and donated to KLT by Bill and Nanno Rose in 2023.

Silver Island has long served as a muse and inspiration for many, which is one reason KLT launched a pilot Artist-in-Residence program there this summer and fall. Thanks to a grant from the Land Trust Alliance, KLT is welcoming three artists to live in the small, rustic cabin on the island, allowing the surrounding natural beauty to influence their artistic expressions. Whether capturing images of the island's wildlife or composing music inspired by the rhythms of Lake Superior's waves, the possibilities for artistic expression are endless!

The first artist to reside on the island was Laura Smyth, poet, writer, and novelist. She spent a week-long retreat reading, writing, and exploring the juxtaposition and similarities between island life and her past in and around New York City. Bonnie Loukas and Tom Oliver will call Silver Island home for their respective residencies during the month of September. Bonnie, an interdisciplinary artist practicing printmaking, oil painting, letterpress, and book arts, will be examining the island's flora through a series of small paintings. Later in the month, wildlife photographer, Tom will focus on the fauna of the island. His love of birds guides his eye and respective images.

The Artist-in-Residence program is about more than art; it's about connection, inspiration, and stewardship. It reminds us that nature and creativity are intertwined, each nourishing the other in countless ways. By providing artists the time and space to create, KLT is nurturing both the artist and the environment, ensuring that the beauty of Silver Island and other KLT-protected lands inspires generations to come.


LAURA SMYTH


BONNIE LOUKAS


TOM OLIVER

HONOR THEM WHILE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Honorariums

As we commemorate life's milestones and special occasions, we often seek meaningful ways to express our appreciation and love for those dear to us. Consider honoring your loved ones with a unique and enduring gift that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come. By dedicating an honorarium gift to KLT's Land Purchase Fund, you can honor graduations, retirements, birthdays, holidays, weddings, and other significant moments by contributing to the conservation of our precious natural landscapes. Instead of traditional gifts, why not mark these occasions with a donation toward protecting land? To honor someone special in your life, simply visit our website to donate in their name.

Memorials

Losing a loved one is difficult, and KLT understands the significance of honoring their memory in a meaningful way. KLT is honored to be entrusted with leaving a legacy to your loved ones. By dedicating memorial gifts to our Land Purchase Fund, we ensure that the memory of those who have passed on lives on through the creation of permanent nature areas. These protected lands will serve as places of beauty to be enjoyed by countless individuals for years to come. In a world facing increasing complexity and human-induced change, the importance of safeguarding our landscapes for future generations cannot be overstated. Land is a lasting memorial. Online donations can be made in memory of a loved one by visiting our website.

Recent gifts given in living honor of

Danielle Ahrens and Izaak Lauer
Bruce and Judy Wolck
Linda Zimmer
Evan McDonald
Kerrie Richert
Karen and Mike Needham
Devon Sweeney
Karen Siekas

...and in memory of

JoAnne Panther
Brett Henderson
Evelyn Louise Albrecht
Bernie Karjala
Willian D Jackson
Britta Marie Ylisto Hall
Ted and Gertrude Uitti
Michael J. Smith
John Sullivan
Aubrey W. Gibson
Ken Cygan
David Norgard
Bill Briggs
Jeffrey Alan Cummings



Photo by Haley Goodreau, Boston Pond

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Meeting

OCTOBER 23RD

6:30–7:30PM*

THE ORPHEUM THEATER
HANCOCK, MI

*With social time, pizza, and cash bar before and after the meeting.

TOGETHER, WE WILL

- Select board members
- Look back at the successes of the past year
- Build community

KLT Staff

- Pat Toczydlowski, Interim Executive Director; Project Specialist
- Jill Fisher, Botanist & Stewardship Manager
- Carolyn Meingast, Office Manager
- B Lauer, Communications & Program Specialist
- Curtis Perala, Marsin Property Manager

KLT Board of Directors

- Nancy Langston, President (Chassell)
- Stan Vitton, Vice President (Hancock)
- Bill Leder, Treasurer (Houghton)
- Alex Hirzel, Secretary (Hancock)
- Mike Abbott (Atlantic Mine)
- Mare Grohowski (Hancock)
- Calvin Koski (L'Anse)
- Evan Lanese (Hancock)
- Jim Northey (Atlantic Mine)
- Jamie Robertson (Allouez)
- Louie Vencato (Hancock)



KLT Staff (Curtis Perala not pictured)

Become a KLT Member!

Memberships apply to a household!

Donate to become an annual member!

Money

Suggested donation of $50
($20 for students)

Or

Time

10 hours suggested

Member benefits

- Support meaningful conservation work
- Special member events
- Elect directors
- Printed newsletters
- Connect with the KLT community

DONATE TO BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please provide your current information if updates are needed.

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email Address _____

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP GIVING LEVEL (JOIN OR RENEW)

- ☐ $20 Student Membership
- ☐ $50 Supporter
- ☐ $100 Guardian
- ☐ $250 Steward
- ☐ $500 Champion
- ☐ $1000 Giving Circle

☐ I am interested in receiving information about planned giving

☐ Other $_____

Donations are tax deductible. Please mail this form and payment to our office:

49902 Limerick Street
Hancock, MI 49930

Donate online
https://keweenawlandtrust.org/donate

KLT respects your privacy and confidentiality. We do not sell your data and respect requests for anonymity.

49902 Limerick Street
Hancock, MI 49930

(906)482-0820
info@KeweenawLandTrust.org

KeweenawLandTrust.org

@TheKeweenawLandTrust

@KeweenawLandTrust

Our records indicate your one-year membership period started on

Upcoming Events

Tyke Hikes
Sundays, Sept. 8th- Oct. 27 | 12:30-1:30pm
Various KLT Nature Areas (see website)

KLTea Time
Friday, Oct 4th | 11am-1pm
KLT Office

Guided Tour of the Abbaye Peninsula*
Sunday, Oct. 13 | 1pm
KLT protected lands on the Abbaye Peninsula

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 23rd | social at 5:45pm
The Orpheum Theater

*For KLT members only; registration required

To learn more...
Visit the "Upcoming Events" page on our website for detailed descriptions of all events and registration forms.

https://keweenawlandtrust.org/upcoming-events