



Tall Ship coming...

KEWEENAW LAND TRUST

NEWS

a community partner dedicated to protecting the quality of life in the Keweenaw through land conservation

Volume 8 Number 1

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Teamwork Has Protected Bete Grise

Best Remaining Example of Great Lakes Coastal Plain Marsh by Jeff Knoop

Once staked for subdivision and facing development, 1,103 acres, including 1.5 miles of Lake Superior shoreline, are now forever protected thanks to an extensive partnership organized by The Nature Conservancy's Michigan Chapter (TNC-MI).

Here referred to as Bete Grise South (BGS), this project comprises lands to the south of the Mendota Ship Canal and is part of a larger effort to protect an extensive wetland system in the Lac La Belle Watershed and bordering Bete Grise Bay.

For KLT, this project builds on the successful partnership with the Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District (HKCD) and the earlier *Joseph and Mary Lizzadro Lakeshore Preserve* success. In a similar arrangement, the BGS land acquisition was facilitated by TNC-MI, with a Michigan Coastal Restoration grant allowing the HKCD to purchase the land and KLT to hold a conservation easement on 1,040 acres. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provided the \$447,000 grant that is administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Coastal Management Program. TNC-MI retains ownership of an adjoining 63-acre parcel with critical shoreline and fragile dunes.

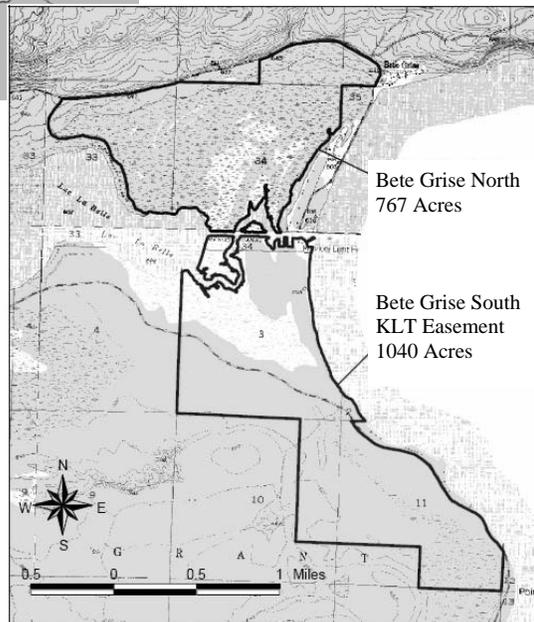
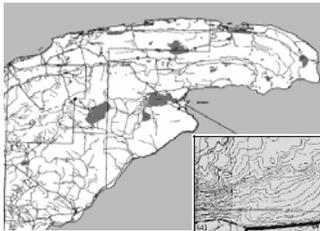
As Director of Conservation for TNC's Upper Peninsula program, I coordinated the partnership efforts, developed the baseline documentation and worked closely with KLT's Pat Toczydowski to develop the conservation easement and management goals. Sue Haralson and Gina Nicholas of the HKCD worked diligently last year on the Coastal Restoration grant for the BGS acquisition,

and submitted an additional Coastal Management Program grant proposal this year to fund development of the BGS management plan (see related story page 3). The partnership extends to the local community, with the South Shore Association contributing funds and volunteers to help with long-term stewardship of the land.

Stretching along Lake Superior from Lac La Belle to Point Isabelle, Bete Grise is recognized by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Program as the single most important coastal plain marsh community remaining in the upper Great Lakes region due to its size, diversity and intact hydrology. Characterized by a high diversity of grasses and sedges, coastal plain marshes host a variety of rare and declining migratory and nesting bird species, as well as providing critical habitat for spawning fish and breeding amphibians.

The project area provides habitat for more than 300 species of flora as well as large, wide-ranging mammals like moose and black bear. The area offers excellent blueberry picking and a chance to see interesting carnivorous plants including sundew, bladderwort and pitcher plant. Visitors are likely to spot sandhill cranes and bald eagles, both of which actively nest here. The coastal plain marshes of the Great Lakes act as natural water purification systems, and above all, form the base of the food chain for the entire Great Lakes ecosystem. During the last 150 years, significant loss of this important wetland habitat throughout the Great Lakes coincided with a decline in both water quality and the fishing industry, touted as one of Earth's finest fisheries just decades ago.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 20th 7PM	KLT board of directors meeting MTU Business School Open to the public
July 4th	Horse Tail Scramble
July 9th	Bete Grise dedication
July 10-16	Denis Sullivan event
August	Marsin Conservancy Field Day TBA
September 19th	KLT Annual Membership Meeting

Please check out the KLT website for other announcements and updates www.keweenawlandtrust.org

The President's Corner: "What Matters Most"



This phrase comes from a paper by the Trust for Public Land in which readers are asked to look at material goods with which we've surrounded ourselves and then measure this against natural areas open to the public. I found it a very effective paper which made me once again recognize how precious our natural areas are.

As KLT is primarily involved in protecting natural areas, I would like to take the phrase "What Matters Most" and apply it to our personal lives, assuming that for most of us, natural areas are an important part of our personal lives. I realize that it's pretty cliché to ask ourselves what we would like our epitaphs to read, but it's a good exercise, so let's do it once more. How about "His mountain bike had the best components that money could buy," "The beauty of their spacious house and grounds impressed one and all." Or maybe "She donated over \$5000 to the KLT." Or even, "He made the best deal for conserving the largest piece of land on the Keweenaw."

Of course, these are worthy aspirations and in fact we would like not to discourage anyone from having these as their goals (especially number three). But we would like to suggest that measuring our success as individuals and as

conservationists only in terms of dollars raised and acres saved misses the higher goal, the bigger picture. To quote from the Trust for Public Land, "Acres and dollars say very little about land conservation's success in restoring a sense of commonwealth to a world that is increasingly made up of haves and have-nots. Acres and dollars do say something meaningful about individual places but say little about relationship. Most importantly, by counting acres and dollars alone, we will never be able to put forward a positive vision that amounts to more than playing catch-up with America's insatiable hunger for developing land."

How do we live our lives with that higher goal of creating a change in our culture—creating the culture which would, say, value a wetland over a Walmart? I don't have the answer to this, although I suspect that it has to do with establishing relationships with people, even people with different values, and with nurturing relationships between people and land, even if that land is not "natural."

I believe that KLT is on the right track in this regard and that as we, each of us, give of ourselves, we will see epitaphs like, "Her generous spirit inspired a generation to cooperate in the conservation of natural areas." Or "His example of simple living taught us what is indeed valuable." And even if there is no epitaph at all, as we give of ourselves at every opportunity, including those offered by KLT, we will be rewarded in ways unexpected in common hours.

KLT Board of Directors 2004-2005

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Ann Mayo-Kiely
Calumet

Evan McDonald
Executive Director

Pat Toczydlowski
Project Specialist

What does a tall ship have to do with land conservation?

Tall Ship S/V Denis Sullivan is coming to the Keweenaw

For those of us who live here, Lake Superior has a special significance and we want her waters to be clean and protected. We know that the health of Lake Superior, and all of the Great Lakes, depends on the management and use of the surrounding lands. KLT, the MTU Dept of Education and Pier Wisconsin



S/V Denis Sullivan photo by Chris Winters of Pier Wisconsin

are organizing a tall ship sailing event to explore the important links between land and water conservation. During the July 10-16 event, participants will learn maritime history and how to sail a tall ship while on this adventure. Besides being a replica Great Lakes schooner, the 137-foot S/V *Denis Sullivan* is also a fully equipped research lab studying the water and its inhabitants as part of its mission. Come aboard!

Peer the depths with a remotely operated vehicle with a video camera. Learn about Lake Superior in ways you never could before! Yes, at \$1400/person this trip is expensive, but it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and will give you an unforgettable experience. All meals and lodging are included. Beginning and ending in Houghton, planned

stops include Bete Grise Bay, Manitou Island, Copper Harbor, a visit to Superior Shoals and studies over some of the deepest waters in Lake Superior. For this event to happen in 2005 we need people to sign up! Visit the KLT website or call the office at 906-296-9720 to find out more. Visit Pier Wisconsin's website to learn about their mission and the S/V *Denis Sullivan* at <http://www.pierwisconsin.org>

Bete Grise Watershed Management Plan

By Bruce Petersen, USDA District Conservationist

The Houghton/Keweenaw Conservation District (HKCD) has applied for a MDEQ 319 Watershed Planning Grant for the Little Gratiot River Watershed which is 25,308 acres in size. The Little Gratiot River watershed eventually outlets through the Mendota Ship Channel. The Watershed study also encompasses the surrounding hillside watershed drainages totaling 16,003 acres which also contribute flows into the Bete Grise area of Lake Superior. The total watershed study area totals 41,311 acres. If funded, a Watershed Manager can be hired and, working with the large number of named partners in the grant, will over two years produce a watershed management plan. That Management plan can then be used to pursue implementation dollars needed to correct any natural resource problems identified in the management plan.

The Bete Grise area has had a documented, historic seasonal tribal presence. The treaty of 1842, signed by the Chippewa Indians, affected many tribes in the Midwest including the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC). The 1842 treaty conveys to the Chippewa Nation hunting and gathering rights within the ceded territory. The Bete Grise Watershed area falls within that ceded territorial area and has been used and continues to be used by the KBIC for seasonal hunting and gathering.

One of partners included in this water-

shed study is the KBIC. The KLT, the Keweenaw National Historic Park and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) were all invited to meet with the KBIC and



Photo courtesy Evan McDonald

From left, Sue Haralson of HKCD, Marcia Raley of Eagle Harbor, David Kenaga of MI-DEQ Coastal Management Program, and Gina Nicholas of HKCD on a visit to Bete Grise

the HKCD on February 2 of this year at the new tribal college in Baraga to discuss the Bete Grise watershed planning grant application. KLT's Evan McDonald, Frank Fiala from the Keweenaw Historical Park and Jeff Knoop from TNC were all invited and in attendance at the meeting.

Summer Cohn, the KBIC's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Stephanie Chau, also from the KBIC's Office of Planning and Development were present as well as many of the KBIC's elders. An excellent, traditional meal was served by the elders as part of the meeting.

The meeting's main purpose revolved around the need to inform the KBIC's staff and elders about the various partners involved with this watershed management grant and just what has been done to date with the MI-DEQ grant application process. During the course of the meeting the various partners and participating groups spoke about their involvement and natural resource concerns found within the watershed.

Probably the most important part of the meeting was to ask the tribal community if they had any concerns about the seasonal tribal presence and culturally significant artifacts that have been found within this watershed area. KBIC tribal observations and concerns were noted and will be used in the planning process to insure that this area's cultural resources are not disturbed. The tribal community will also assist the Watershed Planner with a general educational outreach effort to better inform the public about the important tribal seasonal hunting and gathering presence in this area.

We hope that the HKCD will receive funding for the Bete Grise Watershed Management Plan grant through the DEQ. Once funded this study will be the first within the State of Michigan to take into consideration not only the natural resource base of the watershed area but also the tribal cultural significance found within the same study area.

Manitou Island Update

The Keweenaw Land Trust is a recipient of a Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program Grant from the State of Michigan to perform an assessment of the structures at the Manitou Island Light Station. The KLT plans to contract this work to an eligible architect/engineering firm that has a background in historical preservation. The planning work will allow the KLT to prioritize stabilization work and provide the framework for rehabilitation of the historic structures of the Station.

In addition, local botanist and KLT member Janet Marr will conduct a rare plant and plant community survey of Manitou Island. Past botanical surveys of Manitou have been very limited in scope so Janet's work has the potential for some exciting discoveries.



Field Trip to the George Hite Dunes Marshes Preserve

Sunday July 31, 2005, 1:00 PM Walk the ancient rolling sand dunes along Lake Superior among gentle whooshing pines and watery swales. We'll look for rare plants, mushrooms and enjoy the natural surroundings. Eagle Harbor Township owns this 360 acre preserve and KLT holds the easement to guarantee its protection. Bordering this preserve is the Redwyn Dunes Nature Sanctuary owned by the Michigan Nature Association. Learn about the responsibilities KLT has in monitoring conservation easements such as this one. We will monitor threats by invasive plant species as well. Meet on Hwy M-26, approx. one mile east of the Jam Pot, along the Great Sand Bay. Call or email Dana Richter to let us know you're coming: 906-482-3361, dlrichte@mtu.edu.

Stewardship Volunteers Needed!

KLT is looking for volunteers for a few hours or an afternoon each year to help with monitoring our conservation easements. KLT currently holds six easements on properties in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.

One such easement covers 57 acres bordering the Covered Road on the way to Redridge. This easement is intended to allow natural processes to occur to preserve native biodiversity and to protect the scenic beauty of the Covered Road. Another easement protects a 260-acre farmstead and working forest near Nissula. This easement assures that the property remains predominately forested and managed for production of quality sawtimber and enhancement of wildlife habitat. It also protects the scenic landscape created by the farm fields by ensuring that the property is not subdivided or developed in the future.

The monitoring requires touring and documenting the condition of

the property. KLT volunteers are often accompanied by the landowners, providing an opportunity to discuss any changes to the property within the past year and future plans for the property. Prior to this visit, the volunteer will review the easement terms, the baseline document that details the property's natural features and condition, and previous monitoring reports. Volunteers fill out a brief report after the monitoring visit, a copy of which is also provided to the landowner. Volunteers also periodically update photographs of the property. Any such expenses are covered by KLT.

While KLT is obligated to uphold the terms of each easement, our approach is not to police the protected properties but to strengthen our relationship with the landowners who have generously donated the easement to KLT. These members are our most dedicated partners in land protection and responsible stewardship. Strong relationships with the landowner and annual review of the ease-

ment can prevent potential conflicts, particularly if the protected property changes hands.

KLT is indebted to past board

member Steve Albee for his commitment to KLT easement monitoring, taking on most of this task in the past few years. As the number of easements is

expected to grow, KLT would like to start a volunteer stewardship program where KLT members at-large make a multi-year commitment to adopt an easement, conduct the annual stewardship visits, and make some good friends. No special skills are needed. Volunteers will work in teams and training will be provided! If you are interested, contact Norma Boersma (482-4153, norma@mtu.edu) or the KLT office (296-9720).



Steve Albee, Dave Harmon and Norma Boersma on a monitoring visit at Covered Road in 2004.

Meet Board Member Erik Lilleskov

Erik Lilleskov joined the KLT board last fall. He came to the Keweenaw three years ago with his wife, Elise Nelson, and two sons, Eli (age 10) and Ben (age 6). They are new to the north woods, having lived in the east coast, west coast, and Alaska. Drawn here by a position as a research ecologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Houghton, Erik has fallen in love with the Copper Country, or as he likes to think of it, the "north coast" of the U.S. He and his family love the sense of community here, and are active in Ski Tigers.

Erik brings to the board his training as a field naturalist at the University of Vermont, as a forest ecologist at Cornell University and as a mycologist at the University of California, Berkeley. This background provides an understanding of the natural and historical processes that create unique landscapes, and deepens his appreciation for the Keweenaw. He sees this as an exciting time to be a part of KLT: "With all the changes occurring in the region, KLT has the opportunity to make a huge difference—to keep the natural areas of the Keweenaw intact and accessible to all those who value this unique, beautiful and wild corner of the world. I hope I can contribute to realizing the vision of keeping the Keweenaw unspoiled."

Erik shows the heights to which some beavers will go

Teamwork Saves Bete Grise

continued from page 1

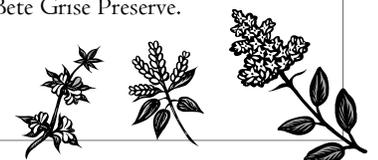
Land acquisition of 767 acres for the sister component at Bete Grise North is slated to be funded by a National Coastal Wetland Conservation Program \$1 million grant through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"Bete Grise Bay was one of only 16 projects funded nationwide this year, so it shows how significant this area is," said Christie Deloria, who leads the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's U.P. Ecological Services Office. "It is a priority worthy of preservation because it's really a unique site, probably one of the last remaining coastal estuarine marshes in the upper Great Lakes."

Both grants require matching partner funds and TNC is spearheading fundraising efforts

in cooperation with the other partners and numerous private donors to generate an additional \$450,000. The total project cost for Bete Grise North and South will be \$1.9 million, with long-term management and ownership of the preserve being a joint effort between the project partners.

"With land increasingly fragmented while the cost of shoreline continues to dramatically rise, we have little time left to save these last great places like Bete Grise," said Helen Taylor, State Director of TNC-MI. "We're grateful to our partners for their assistance in stepping forward to protect this remarkable place. We couldn't have done it without their help." Join us at 2 PM, July 9th to celebrate this success as we dedicate the Bete Grise Preserve.



Reading the Landscape of the Keweenaw 2005

Fresh Water Studies is the focus of six art and natural history field trip programs being offered by Reading the Landscape in July and August of 2005. Scientists and artists from around the UP will join us to expand our understanding of Keweenaw's waters, its shorelines, wetlands, and streams.



Photo by Paul Blumberg

2004 participants capture subtleties of water

Participants will be provided with graph paper journals to capture their ideas through the various artistic approaches of six different artists. This year's program starts with a broad picture of Lake Superior as seen from satellite remote sensing, moves to wet and sandy shoreline areas of Lake Superior, and goes on to examine the fish and aquatic insects of our streams. All sessions meet on Saturday at various locations.

Six non-profit sponsors are helping the KLT create this 2005 program, including Copper Country Audubon, Gratiot Lake Conservancy, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, Keweenaw County Historical Society, Michigan Nature Association, and the North Woods Conservancy.

Please call 906-289-4514 if you'd like a brochure mailed to you. On the internet you may visit the Gratiot Lake Conservancy web site (<<http://www.mlswa.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/GLCnews.htm>>) to download a copy of the Reading the Landscape brochure and registration form.

The cost is \$15.00 per session; limited to adults age 16 or older. Register early; session size is limited. **KLT will sponsor a scholarship for a financially challenged person in exchange for an article about their experience in the fall newsletter.** Call KLT office at 906-296-9720 for scholarship information.

A short outline of the summer schedule is given below.

Saturday, July 2 Water From Above

Broaden your view of fresh water from atop Brockway with artist Kayo Miwa and limnologist Judith Budd.

Meet at the Eagle Harbor community building.

Saturday, July 9 Coastal Wetlands

Learn the plants and ecology of the Bete Grise wetland with watercolorist Carl Mayer and botanist Janet Marr. Meeting location TBA.

Saturday, July 16 Dune Formation

Look into the ephemeral nature of coastal dunes with environmental artist Marilyn Dammann and geologist Bill Rose. Meeting location TBA.

Saturday, July 23 Freshwater Fish

On a local stream, explore what fish know that you don't with fly tying expert Ray Weglarz and retired DNR fisheries biologist Bill Deephouse. Meet at the Eagle Harbor community building.

Saturday, July 30 Water Bugs

(Investigate water bugs and stream quality with creative designer John Van Pelt and wetland biologist Walt Summers.

Meet at Gratiot Lake's public access boat landing.

Saturday, August 6th Lake Processes

Discover movement in the Lake Superior coast with Lake Superior artist Mary Brodbeck and Sea Grant educators Ron Kinnunen and John Schwartz. Meeting location TBA.

Unless otherwise noted, all workshops run from 9:30am-2:30pm.

Saturday, August 13th An Evening Conversation on the Great Lakes (5:30pm - 7pm)

Please join us just after the Eagle Harbor art fair. The public is invited to the Eagle Harbor community building for an evening presentation by Barbara Spring, author of The Dynamic Great Lakes. No charge.



BOTANY WORKSHOP

The Keweenaw's Gratiot Lake Conservancy is sponsoring their second botany workshop open to anyone interested in learning how to identify local native plants. The workshop will be held near Gratiot Lake and Eagle Harbor on 4 and 5 June (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) and will be taught by botanist Janet Marr. Space is limited and advance enrollment is required. The fee for this 2-day workshop is \$70 (\$55 for Gratiot Lake Conservancy members.)

Workshop activities will take place both inside the classroom and outside where plants are growing in their natural habitats. What will you learn in this workshop? Discover what a dichotomous key is and why it's so useful in identifying those puzzling "what IS that plant" plants! Use a hand lens and dissecting microscope to get up close and personal with flower and other plant parts that are important in plant identification. Learn plant collecting techniques and how to prepare an herbarium plant specimen complete with informational label. Make a plant collecting book to take home with you.

For further information, please contact the Gratiot Lake Conservancy at belh@bellatlantic.net or PO Box 310, Mohawk, MI 49950 or call 906-337-5529. Registration forms are available on the Gratiot Lake Conservancy's web page at: www.mlswa.org

Notes from KLT Executive Director Evan McDonald

Setting High Standards



The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is an umbrella organization assisting land conservation organizations in the U.S. and Canada. Over fifteen years ago, LTA developed a set of *Standards and Practices* (S&Ps) to help build robust, ethical and efficient organizations capable of meeting land conservation objectives and perpetual stewardship obligations. The S&Ps have helped younger land trusts like KLT avoid missteps and benefit from the collective experience of the LTA. At the organizational level, several standards address areas critical to running an ethical and efficient organization. The remaining standards more specifically address land transactions and stewardship. Adoption of LTA's S&Ps has been voluntary, and LTA offers training to assist land trusts with implementation.

The land conservation movement is one of the fastest growing non-profit sectors, with about 1500 land trusts now working in the United States. In the zeal to conserve land, some land trusts have made honest mistakes and others with questionable motives have abused the tax benefit components of the process for individual gain. To me, the problem is like that of the tax system itself. The tax code is complex, in large part to create fairness across a diverse taxpayer base. Most Americans pay their taxes, accepting their personal responsibility to support the governmental services provided as a common good, but a few self-serving individuals abuse loopholes inherent in that complex tax code. Recently, investigative journalists have exposed abuses such as fly-by-night "land trusts" that were created as a front for developers to attribute conservation values to golf courses or unbuildable lots in subdivisions. Other problematic incidents revealed that land trusts accepted highly overvalued appraisals on donated lands or easements, in some cases to increase income tax deductions for donors. The press's scrutiny and the attention of congressional committees examining charitable organizations, including land trusts, have led LTA to thoroughly examine and revise the S&Ps. These issues have prompted LTA to be proactive about land trust problems and propose intelligent and well-considered solutions. One posed solution calls for the establishment of an accreditation system for land trusts that could be phased in over several years.

No legitimate, experienced land trust would knowingly make such mistakes, especially if versed in the S&Ps. KLT has a great record, having accomplished much with few resources while embracing the highest ethical standards and operating with complete transparency for donors, members and the community. For these rea-

sons KLT is a sponsor member of LTA and formally adopted the original S&Ps several years ago and adopted their revisions this past month. We are also in the process of implementing improvements indicated by a recent LTA organizational evaluation. KLT is in the midst of an intensive self-examination phase as we update our strategic plan and set new priorities and conservation objectives.

The ultimate success of any land trust program can be summed up as the protection of as much land as possible and protecting it forever. Forever is a long time, and we should not take that concept lightly. I can stress that the legal tools available for land conservation are deeply rooted in the private property rights upon which our society is based. Without belaboring this or its implications, having an ethical and sustainable society is in everyone's best interest and a prerequisite for permanent conservation success. In the long term, if successful, the nature of a land trust's work will change. After acquiring all the lands and conservation easements it is possible to acquire, the responsibility will shift to stewardship of those protected lands. KLT is far from that ultimate stage of land trust maturity, as we aim to protect many more acres of the Keweenaw, but we cannot lose sight of our future responsibilities. Knowing that our accomplishments will live on and benefit others long after we are gone is both sobering and inspiring.

The ultimate success of any land trust program can be summed up as the protection of as much land as possible and protecting it forever.

While dealing with organizational details such as fundraising or record keeping are not as exciting as working directly on projects to protect places like Bete Grise, we know they are also essential for success. Indeed, fundraising is currently a critical need for KLT, as general operations are the engine of our land protection work and they need to be funded. Occasionally it is possible to find volunteers who like bookkeeping or organizing fundraising events - please let me know if you are one of them! More often the inquiries from potential volunteers are about getting involved directly with land stewardship tasks. Board member Norma Boersma and KLT Project Specialist Pat Toczydlowski are developing our land stewardship volunteer program, described elsewhere in this newsletter. We will continue presenting important information about the S&Ps and KLT's progress implementing improvements in future newsletters to help our members and supporters understand the organizational and ethical foundations of good land conservation work.

Join the Keweenaw Land Trust—Renew Membership

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

I support the mission of the Keweenaw Land Trust. Enclosed are my membership dues:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$10 | Student | <input type="checkbox"/> | I would like someone to contact me with further information. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$20 | Basic Member | <input type="checkbox"/> | I would like to consider donating land or a conservation easement. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 | Protector | <input type="checkbox"/> | Please send an acknowledgment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 | Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Please send information on Planned Giving and the KLT Endowment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$250 | Steward | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$1000 | Conservator | | |

**Dues and contributions are tax deductible. Please mail to:
Keweenaw Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 750, Houghton MI 49931**

MEMORIALS: *KLT Honors Three Supporters*

Mary Sinish

We are saddened by the passing of Mary Sinish this past February. A resident of Stanton Township near Oskar Bay, Mary donated 40 acres of undeveloped land to KLT in 2002. That preserve is known as the Marsin Conservancy, and now has a parking area and walking trail constructed by the Boy Scouts. This is a highly active birding and other wildlife area and an eagle nest is visible from the property.

As a youth, Mary spent summers on the shoreline property that was owned by her parents. After retiring from teaching in the late 1980's, Mary and her husband moved to the property. A few years later she bought the 40 acres that she donated to KLT with the sole intention of making the land available to the public, especially to children, to provide opportunities to learn about nature and enjoy an outdoor experience.

Mary's vision for her property came from her early days at a Wisconsin summer camp and from learning about Camp Nesbitt in the Ottawa National Forest. About early plans for her property, Mary said, "You can't learn about trees and water in school like math or English." As the Canal Road development continues, the Marsin Conservancy will become an increasingly important natural area protected by KLT. Mary's generous donation and vision will be appreciated by generations to come. For this we remember and honor her.

Martin Sotala

KLT is also saddened by the loss of Martin Sotala, who died this April. He was a strawberry and vegetable farmer in Boston Location. Many also know Martin for his fine singing voice and other musical talents.

Martin was born in Hancock and also directed choir and tuned pianos. Many will miss Martin's pickling cukes, onions, potatoes, cabbages, pie pumpkins and other fine crops. Area children bought their carving pumpkins from him.

KLT honors Martin for facing the challenges of farming for market considering our short growing season and the necessary battles with hungry deer and other pre-market hazards. We'll miss Martin even more considering how few are willing to serve the community in this way, and especially since he also made fine music and kept our pianos in tune.

Jim Rooks

Jim Rooks, naturalist and historian, died March 10, 2005. Jim held a deep appreciation and love for the land and water of the Keweenaw and was one of its most dedicated stewards. The fish, the birds, the plants, the big trees, the rocks, the history—Jim knew these subjects very well and his ability and desire to share that knowledge with others was legendary. For over 20 years Jim resided in Copper Harbor where he and his wife Laurel owned The Laughing Loon gift shop and Bear Tracks nature tours—outposts that have served to welcome a generation of naturalists exploring the Keweenaw. More common though was to find Jim unexpectedly, like a rare migrant or rising trout, somewhere in the Keweenaw, greeting you with a smile and a story.

Thankfully, Jim was also an active conservationist—best known for his role in protecting the old growth Estivant Pines in the 1970s (and again in the 1980s). His activism continued to the present with advocacy to protect migratory birds from the hazards of communication towers and to preserve Hunter's Point from development. Jim did not hesitate to speak out on behalf of the Keweenaw and it is sad to realize that this important voice is no longer active in our peninsula. "A great tree has fallen," quoted from one of the many tributes to Jim, describes appropriately the good friend and mentor he was to so many. We hope that Jim's example and passion will encourage the rest of us to try to fill the gap he leaves behind—we owe it to him to try.

Gifts in honor of his memory will go to environmental organizations which Jim endorsed and can be made to the Jim Rooks Memorial Fund at the First National Bank of Calumet, 219 Sixth St., Calumet, MI 49913.



KEWEENAW LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 750
Houghton, MI 49931

info@keweenawlandtrust.org
906-296-9720

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to renew your
membership!***

www.keweenawlandtrust.org

8th Annual HORSETAIL SCRAMBLE



Be sure to mark your calendars for this year's HTS. As usual it will be on the Fourth of July at 1 PM at Churning Rapids. Those faithful of you know that the HTS is a 5k Trail Walk or 10k Trail Run over woodland trails and along beautiful streams.

This is the major fundraiser of the year for KLT so we hope as many of you as possible can join us. Even if you can't join, please feel free to support the event. All KLT members will receive an application in a separate mailing and there will be extras at the run.

The HORSETAIL SCRAMBLE will be run in conjunction with Sue Ellen and Terry's annual (13th - wow!) Fourth of July Celebration for those who care to join us after the run. We'll have corn on the cob, strawberry short cake, and beverages, but if you do plan to stay, please bring a dish to share. In addition to the celebration, the Heart & Hands of the Keweenaw award will be given out. New for 2005 will be an additional award for a youth. Hope to see you all there!

Heart & Hands Award



**Celebrate a Copper Country person who
has given of his/her
heart and hands to promote
Peace, Justice or the Environment.**

Award will be announced on **July 4th, 2005.**

Nominations due by June 17, 2005 to:

President of the Board, H&H Award

53044 Hwy M203, Hancock MI 49930

Call 906-482-6827 for a nomination form.