

# EARTH WEEK EMPOWERS YOUTH

The Wildlife and Conservation classes from East Troy High School helped improve the fish habitat in the Mukwonago River at the former Rainbow Springs golf course on Earth Day, April 22, 2013. Maggie Zoellner, Program Manager for Kettle Moraine Land Trust, organized the Earth Day event so students could work side by side with professionals in the conservation field and gain an appreciation for natural areas close to home. Approximately 40 students assisted the WDNR fisheries biologist by creating brush bundles that will be installed along the banks of the Mukwonago River in areas where golf course crossings have been removed. The Rainbow Springs property straddles Walworth and Waukesha counties, and is now called Southern Kettle Moraine Waters. The 968-acre property, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, contains excellent habitat for fish, including trout, and is classified as an outstanding water resource.

Volunteers were on hand to show the students how to cut invasive shrubs and use the woody stems to build the 10' long brush bundles. When water levels drop later this summer, the brush bundles will be anchored to the stream banks to help stabilize areas where golf cart bridges and culverts have been removed. The bundles also provide habitat for small fish. *(continued below right)*



## ACCREDITATION AWARD

For over a dozen years the Kettle Moraine Land Trust has assisted landowners and communities to conserve the lands they love. Now, the Kettle Moraine Land Trust has been awarded the national seal of land trust excellence by an independent commission – the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Accredited land trusts have met national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

Land trusts are non-profit, non-governmental conservation organizations run by local people who have a shared passion for preserving their communities' natural heritage. In Wisconsin, there are nearly 50 land trusts. The Kettle Moraine Land Trust is at the top of its field since less than 10% of the land trusts in Wisconsin are accredited. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.



## WHY DOES NATURE MATTER?

### PHYSICAL

In nature one can find a variety of settings for various levels of informal recreation such as hiking, canoeing, fishing, running and cycling.

### MENTAL

Nature restores us from mental fatigue, provides artistic inspiration and educational development.

### SPIRITUAL

Preserving the natural environment allows for reflection, inspiration, a sense of place and a connection to something beyond human concerns.

### SOCIAL

Families, couples, seniors, students, social clubs and organizations of all types find rewarding personal relationships through picnics, events, festivals and casual encounters in nature.

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Preserving ecosystems and biodiversity provides clean water, ensures wildlife species health and maintains critical ecosystem functions such as clean air and drinking water.



*(cont.)* Elkhorn High School also lent many hands in caring for the Earth when more than 20 students and teachers spent the day at Island Woods Preserve resurfacing footpaths, hauling out trash and cutting invasive species. Their efforts will help improve the health and resiliency of the oak woodlands that grace the rolling terrain of this preserve. But not everything was work and no play – students also had the chance to explore the kettle ponds, and gather water samples for testing and classroom analysis.



## SCIENTISTS INVESTIGATE JACKSON CREEK

The Kettle Moraine Land Trust is in the second year of managing a grant for a scientific study of Jackson Creek, located in central Walworth County. Jackson Creek is the major surface water source for Delavan Lake – one of the largest lakes in Walworth County at 2,200 acres. Scientists from the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) are mapping habitats and drainage patterns along Jackson Creek and noting significant land use changes in order to develop a plan to protect the creek. Protection plans are critical to ensure continued health of creeks and rivers, and the lakes they drain in to.



The Natural Resource Conservation Service is also contributing to the protection plan effort. Field staff gather elevation details that help explain how the creek functions during rain events.

Scientists are investigating how deep, fast or slow Jackson Creek flows throughout the year and also determining the quality of the water throughout the creek system. Water temperature readings have been recorded at 7 different locations every 24 hours for the past year. Water temperature is collected by a stationary battery-powered data logger that is secured in the creek bed. Findings from the data loggers are important because they show that even though in 2012 Southeast Wisconsin experienced its worst drought in more than 50 years, Jackson Creek continued to flow. This means the creek is nourished by groundwater and not solely by surface water runoff from adjacent lands. Perhaps even more important is that data loggers showed that in some locations creek water rarely exceeded 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees F) the entire summer. According to Tom Slawski, lead SEWRPC scientist, this is significant: "Cold water inputs to Jackson Creek are critical to help sustain a healthy fishery and aquatic community by keeping water from becoming too hot, as well as sustaining adequate dissolved oxygen levels within the water for organisms to live."

Study will continue this year on the entire Jackson Creek watershed. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and KMLT staff will join the effort by collecting additional habitat information on fish, aquatic insects and other water-dwelling creatures.

Scientific inquiry is leading to a better understanding of the unique problems and extraordinary natural riches for both wildlife and humans along Jackson Creek. The Jackson Creek River Protection Plan will be shared with local communities later this year. The Kettle Moraine Land Trust will help implement plan recommendations by providing technical expertise to landowners, and partnering on priority creek improvement projects.



Jackson Creek Preserve, aptly named since the creek meanders naturally through this 24-acre property, is owned and managed by the Trust. Wetlands and prairie habitat alongside the creek provide a diverse home for a wide assortment of birds, amphibians and other wildlife.

## LEARN, GROW AND ENJOY!

### AND BEULAH BLUFF PRESERVE WALK

Throughout the year Kettle Moraine Land Trust members enjoy many opportunities to learn, grow and enjoy. Learn about native plants and wildlife through presentation by local experts. Grow your skills by joining others to restore native woodlands, streams and prairies. Enjoy our local natural riches by participating in guided hikes and nature outings. All these events, opportunities and more are available to members of the Kettle Moraine Land Trust.

The contribution of our members is the reason why the Trust can have a meaningful impact on local communities. Every year the Trust hosts an annual meeting so members can learn about the accomplishments and future goals for land conservation and environmental programming. Members also receive invitations to special member-only events. Don't wait, be part of the growing conservation movement in Walworth County!

Stay connected with conservation opportunities through the Kettle Moraine Land Trust website. Visit our website at [www.kmlandtrust.org](http://www.kmlandtrust.org) and sign up to receive notices of events, stewardship volunteer opportunities, nature and bird hikes, paddling trips and membership invitations.

### BEULAH BLUFF PRESERVE WALK SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST 10:00 AM

Please register for the first public tour of this important natural area. Learn about plans to remove existing buildings and restore the site to native habitat with a peaceful overlook of Lake Beulah.

262-949-7211

## OUR CONSERVED LANDS



- A** Island Woods Preserve
- B** Jackson Creek Preserve
- C** Beulah Bluff Preserve
- 1** Lauderdale Lakes Country Club Conservation Easement
- 2** North Lake Conservation Easement
- 3** Hartranft Conservation Easements

OUR PARTNERSHIPS Delavan Lake Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) Beulah Bog State Natural Area

## BECOME A KETTLE MORAINES LAND TRUST MEMBER

**YES!** I WANT TO JOIN KETTLE MORAINES LAND TRUST AND HELP PRESERVE OUR NATURAL TREASURES!

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

- Member \$35-\$99
- Conservationist \$100-\$249
- Naturalist \$250-\$499
- Visionary \$500-\$999
- Legend Builder \$1000 and up

I wish to make a contribution in the amount of:

\$

### Payment Options (please check one)

- Enclosed is a check for the full amount to: **Kettle Moraine Land Trust**
- I wish to make monthly automatic payments of \$\_\_\_\_\_; enclosed is a voided check.
- I wish to make a contribution of stock; please contact me with information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Area/Lake of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any that apply:

- I would like my gift to be anonymous.
- The matching gift application for my, or my spouse's, employer is enclosed.
- I am interested in including KMLT in my will/estate plan. Please contact me.

Please mail this completed form with your check to:  
**Kettle Moraine Land Trust / P.O. Box 176 / Elkhorn, WI 53121**

Thank you for your generosity! The Kettle Moraine Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization serving the southern Kettle Moraine lakes area in Walworth County, Wisconsin.





Stop by for a cool beverage and tangy BBQ-style hors d'oeuvres and see what the Kettle Moraine Land Trust is doing for your community. Relax on the lawn of the Lake Beulah Yacht Club and enjoy the lakeside view! Visit our website for details and location information: [www.kmlandtrust.org](http://www.kmlandtrust.org).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2013  
5:30-7:30 PM

Kettle Moraine Land Trust's  
Lawn & Lake Happy Hour

YOU'RE  
INVITED

POSTAL PATRON

A SPECIAL INVITATION



KETTLE MORAINES LAND TRUST  
PO BOX 176  
ELKHORN, WI 53121  
[www.kmlandtrust.org](http://www.kmlandtrust.org)

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Delavan, WI

## ADVANCING CONSERVATION IN WALWORTH COUNTY

The Kettle Moraine Land Trust is looking for your ideas! We are reaching out to local communities and asking for help to identify important land conservation sites and environmental programs for Walworth County. Conservation efforts are more successful when several organizations who share at least one common goal work together. Goals like ensuring clean water, protecting agriculture and open space, access to nature areas and maintaining important wildlife habitat are common to many municipalities and local organizations. These goals are also key elements found in thriving cities and rural areas of southern Wisconsin.

To gather community ideas, Kettle Moraine Land Trust is meeting with individuals and groups and listening to thoughts and concerns about land conservation and environmental stewardship. As a local non-profit conservation organization, protecting important ecosystems including our working agriculture lands, ensuring healthy lakes and streams, and providing community parks, are benefits we bring to communities throughout Walworth County.

In order to understand local ideas and opinions about land conservation and environmental challenges, we need your help! Please complete the **Advancing Conservation Survey** found at: [www.kmlandtrust.org](http://www.kmlandtrust.org). Survey information will be used to prioritize conservation sites, environmental education and protection programs offered by the Kettle Moraine Land Trust.



## OUR MISSION IS:

To preserve the natural heritage of the southern Kettle Moraine lakes area and nearby lands through partnerships in land conservancy and resource management.

Please see our website,  
[www.kmlandtrust.org](http://www.kmlandtrust.org)  
for more information.

"CONSERVATION IS A STATE OF  
HARMONY BETWEEN MEN AND LAND."  
- ALDO LEOPOLD



IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

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NEWS FOR 2013 FROM THE:

# KETTLE MORAINES LAND TRUST

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Dear Walworth County neighbor:

Mark August 23rd on your calendar for our upcoming Kettle Moraine Land Trust's Lawn & Lake Celebration. This year it will be at the Lake Beulah Yacht Club in East Troy from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Come see how the Kettle Moraine Land Trust is helping your community. Also help celebrate our National Accreditation, and the acquisition of our third preserve, the Beulah Bluff Preserve. Accreditation involves special recognition by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission. To qualify, a trust must be performing at a very high level when all of its responsibilities are considered. Kettle Moraine Land Trust received this recognition late in 2012 and has joined the top ten percent of all trusts nationally who are now accredited. Our second reason to celebrate is obtaining our third preserve, which overlooks Lake Beulah. Plan to come to our Lawn & Lake Happy Hour Celebration for fun and information about all our activities.

KMLT's mission is "to preserve the natural heritage of the southern Kettle Moraine lakes area in Walworth County through partnerships in land conservancy and resource management." Owning and managing nature preserves, open to the public, is one of our best tools to achieve this mission. Our oldest preserve is the Island Woods Preserve at Lauderdale Lakes. Our second oldest preserve is the Jackson Creek Preserve on Hwy 67, south of Elkhorn. Beulah Bluff is a great addition to the land trust's holdings, both in terms of its habitat quality and its location to serve our focus areas in Walworth County. Another way to protect land is partnering with landowners using conservation easements. Currently KMLT holds four Conservation Protection Easements, and also helps manage the Beulah Bog Natural Area for the State.

Preserves are a great youth education opportunity. Every spring the Kettle Moraine Land Trust hosts high school groups at our preserves and other public natural areas. The students learn about our management program to restore and maintain preserves free from invasive species and abundantly blessed with high-quality native species. More wildlife species are likely to find the habitat they need where native plants flourish. The Baltimore oriole (shown at right) is one of many bird species that use the Trust preserves.



This year the Trust won two new grants; one each from the Donnelly Foundation of Chicago, and Wisconsin Energy Foundation. Kettle Moraine Land Trust directors and staff are working with interns, and community leaders, to identify and rank land parcels that are important to preserve and protect. The project focus for this effort is the greater Lake Beulah and Whitewater Lake areas. Both have great habitat parcels to consider. Our goal is to work with the landowners, and interested support groups, to implement long-range protection plans for one important local conservation site starting next year.

Land Trusts are public non-profit corporations referred to as 501(c)(3)'s by the IRS. Our role is to bring dedicated volunteers, and funding resources, to work with landowners in our project areas. Kettle Moraine Land Trust strives to make a real difference in the quality of life here in Walworth County. The Trust is privileged to have about one hundred volunteers giving time and resources to maintain and restore the best of our natural assets for the enjoyment and education of all our citizens. The Kettle Moraine Land Trust is growing. Please consider joining us.



*Jerry*  
Sincerely,  
Jerry Petersen

## MEET THE KETTLE MORAINES LAND TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jerry Petersen**  
*KMLT Board President and Executive Committee Chairperson*

Jerry worked for General Electric's Nuclear Power and Aerospace Divisions in the 1960's. He then directed the Corporate Research & Development Center for Alfa Chalmers for 20 years. In the volunteer sector, Jerry served as a director of the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association for 20 years and then as its president for four years. He served on the Town of LaGrange Planning Commission for 10 years. He was a founder of the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District, and served as its chairman from 1990 through 1996. Jerry has served on the Walworth County Land Conservation Committee and, amazingly, he still had the time and vision to establish the Kettle Moraine Land Trust, serving as its president from 2000 to the present.



**Mary Knipper**  
*KMLT Board Vice President and Governance Committee Chairperson*

Mary is a retired medical professional with a background in pharmacology and clinical research. She is the past president of the Delavan Lake Improvement Association and helped establish the Walworth County Lakes Association. Mary has served on the board of directors of Wisconsin Lakes, an organization that advocates for and represents the 15,000 lakes throughout Wisconsin, and was recently elected to serve as president of this state-wide organization. Mary joined the KMLT board in 2008.



**Herb Sharpless**  
*KMLT Board Secretary and Stewardship Committee Chairperson*

Herb worked for Bell Laboratories and Lucent Technologies, where he managed a worldwide design team that developed communication system hardware. In retirement, Herb joined the Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity and served as their building chairperson for several years. He also helped form the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District and is currently the treasurer of the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association. Herb enjoys working with volunteers; he also snow skis, windsurfs and bikes the Midwest with his wife, Jan. Herb joined the KMLT board in 2003.



**Bill Huxhold**  
*KMLT Board Treasurer*

Professor Huxhold is the chair of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Department of Urban Planning. His primary research interests involve institutional adoption of Global Information Systems (GIS) technology in public agencies and urban neighborhood improvement through GIS applications. Bill has written several books about GIS systems and in 2011 was inducted into the GIS Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association. He has been a member of the KMLT board since 2008.

## BEULAH BLUFF PRESERVE - A NEW ADVENTURE

The Land Trust is extremely proud to be owners of our third preserve: the Beulah Bluff Preserve. The site is near about a thousand Lake Beulah area homes, so many will be able to enjoy its great habitat. It also offers wonderful education opportunities for all ages, as well as the opportunity for any so inclined to just relax and bond with nature.

The Trust acquired the preserve property from Bill and Kathy Tarman-Ramcheck last fall. Due to its elevation, it offers great views of Lake Beulah. The Trust acquired the land using a State Stewardship Grant and several donations. The Tarman-Ramchecks have the right to continue living in their geodesic home on the property through 2015, but the northern half of the preserve is open to the public, who can park along Bakavi Rd, north of Beulah Heights Road. The Tarman-Ramchecks and Trust volunteers will work together to dismantle the house and restore the site. Reusable materials from the buildings will be recycled into new construction projects in an eco-friendly manner. Once the home is removed, a viewing platform will be constructed where the home currently rests and all of the land will be opened to the public. A visit to this site will inspire the senses and be a feast for the eyes. From a restful bench, hopefully installed this year, one can view Lake Beulah in a peaceful natural environment surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature. The Trust has the expertise needed to manage this new preserve. Both Beulah Bluff and Island Woods Preserves are similar in that they are both undeveloped nature land lying across the road from lakefront homes. Both properties are elevated, providing good lake views, and both enjoy undisturbed native habitat.

Kettle Moraine Land Trust also helps manage the Beulah Bog State Natural Area located about half a mile to the north of Beulah Bluff Preserve. For several years a strong partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, who owns the bog, has resulted in significant improvements to this natural area. Volunteer workdays where students and adults help restore the land, as well as guided education tours on the site are important ways Kettle Moraine Land Trust members can improve wildlife habitat and enjoy our local natural resources. The proximity of Beulah Bog State Natural Area and Beulah Bluff will broaden the nature resources open to the public near Lake Beulah, as well as add a lake view



Bill, Eric and Kathy Tarman-Ramcheck

for the public to enjoy. The Trust plans to conduct youth education programs at Beulah Bluff Preserve. A preliminary land management plan has been completed that will continue to increase the size of the bluff-top prairie, and improve the oak woodlands. Fortunately the Tarman-Ramchecks' son Eric has been actively managing their land and restoring the native prairie and woodland habitats for more than a decade. Eric is a naturalist with professional land restoration experience who has been unwavering in his dedication

to improve the health and diversity of local natural ecosystems. The Kettle Moraine Land Trust is interested in hearing neighbors' and lake groups' suggestions for this exceptional new preserve.

Give us a call, or e-mail us at [maggie@kmlandtrust.org](mailto:maggie@kmlandtrust.org) if you have suggestions, questions, or want to participate in tours and volunteer workdays.

SERVING THE SOUTHERN KETTLE MORAINES LAKES AREA IN WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN