



KETTLE MORAINE LAND TRUST, LTD.

Serving the Southern Kettle Moraine lakes area in Walworth County, Wisconsin

ANNUAL REPORT: 2009

Dear Friend of Kettle Moraine Land Trust:

I'm writing to update you on our Land Trust's progress and to seek your support in 2010.

At Lauderdale our accomplishments include:

- We continued our efforts to remove invasives from Island Woods, which is the first property acquired by the Land Trust.
- We have "rolled up our sleeves," partnering with our Lake District, to find a solution to allow our Aqua Skiers continued use of their Don Jean Bay wetlands for ski shows. This is important, since KMLT holds a Conservation Easement on the property under which the District promises good protection of the flora. A solution has been agreed to that provides more flora protection via board walks and matting
- We hosted an Elkhorn High School class for "A Day in the Island Woods" where they learned about invasive control and the habitat of kettles/moraine
- We continued our participation in the LLIA Fish Jamboree via youth education
- We launched a defense of the community's shared use of the parking area in Island Woods at the east end of Oak Park Road

At Lake Beulah, we have been meeting with the Lake Beulah Protective and Improvement Association, the Lake Beulah Management District, and the Town of East Troy to understand the Lake Beulah challenges. We adopted the Beulah Bog owned by the DNR, and established a "project area" including The Bog and other largely undeveloped land near the northwest corner of Lake Beulah. By adopting The

Bog, we agreed to actively work to remove invasives, and to make trail access more friendly for the lake community.

We also own the Jackson Creek Preserve south of Elkhorn. This property is an important part of Delavan Lake's surface runoff control. Our challenge will be to educate landowners, and tenants, about the potential solutions on their lands. We will also need to explain the funding that would ensure that they would not lose income if they install the solutions we propose.

But the most exciting year-end news is the commitment we have received from the Delavan Lake Sanitary District for a long-term program to reduce the pollution entering Delavan Lake from surface runoff. This funding, complimented by a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation of Chicago, allowed us to hire a full time Program Manager, and to open a local office. We met with the Delavan Lake Improvement Association, the Delavan Lake Sanitary District, and the Town of Delavan for over a year to understand the challenges. This brought us to the point of proposing a multi-year effort to reduce the surface runoff pollution that is currently entering Delavan lake.

Please review the Annual Report, and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Gerald Petersen, *President*
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.

2009-2010 Board of Directors

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Ramcheck

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MAGGIE ZOELLNER ANNOUNCED AS PROGRAM MANAGER OF KLMT



Jerry Petersen, President of the Kettle Moraine Land Trust (KMLT), recently announced the appointment of Ms. Maggie Zoellner as their new Program Manager. Ms. Zoellner is the land trust's first full time employee. Her office is at the Lutherdale Church Camp north of Elkhorn. She will be responsible for the direction of KMLT projects across Walworth County. Initially, most of her energy will be directed toward the launching of the Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) project in partnership with the Delavan Lake Sanitary District (DLSD). The goal of this project is to dramatically reduce the pollution entering Delavan Lake from its very large watershed. The Board of the DLSD feels that "it's time to stop treating symptoms, and start treating pollution at its source" for the benefit of Delavan Lake.

Ms. Zoellner comes to the KMLT with extensive experience in environmental management in both Wisconsin and Illinois. Most recently, she managed Natural Resources for the Lake County Forest Preserve District in Libertyville, Illinois. In this position, she developed restoration and management plans, and then organized and managed the teams to accomplish them. This included planning strategy, goals, and objectives for a \$3 million scope of effort.

WORK DAY AT ISLAND WOODS FOR ELK HORN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STUDENTS

KMLT Board Members Don Henderson and Herb Sharpless hosted a workday for Elkhorn High School science classes last April at Island Woods. The conservancy management plan calls for controlling invasive species such as Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn and the science teachers were looking for a field experience for their Advanced Placement Biology, Environmental Science and Chemistry students.

The teachers, Deanna Brunlinger and Bridget Trewyn, met with Don and Herb to plan a day for students to experience several jobs that need to be done and developed stations for the various tasks. Stations included water quality testing via pontoon boat, plant identification by use of keys, cutting down Buckthorn and pulling Garlic Mustard.

About the experience, Deanna said, "We teach students to identify plant species and animal species if we see them, do water quality testing on a pontoon boat on the lake, identify and remove buckthorn, and identify and remove garlic mustard. We loved it! It was a great day of like-minded adults and students coming together to improve the quality and restore the natural area."

There was time for exploration too: Deanna said, "While removing garlic mustard, we also found many fun critters including several toads, mushroom species, and an owl pellet, which we promptly dissected! The kids enjoyed the physical labor and sense of accomplishment that comes when you see the before and after pictures of an area infested with invasives quickly made devoid of them. We saw many bird species on the lake while enjoying a lazy boat ride to the water testing sites."

Additionally, Deanna said, "We were contributing data to an organization committed to the quality of the water and resources in the area." And the KMLT appreciates the work the students and teachers did that day!



KMLT ADOPTS THE BEULAH BOG. 78 ACRES OF PROPERTY ADJACENT TO LAKE BEULAH

Beulah Bog State Natural Area (BBSNA) is a 78-acre property owned by the Wisconsin DNR. It was protected because of its very rare occurrence of Northern Lowland Forest Vegetation found in Southern Wisconsin. In 2009, KMLT Board Member Eric Tarman-Ramcheck proposed adopting the bog through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. The adoption of a state natural area by an organization provides financial or volunteer support for its upkeep. KMLT choose to adopt BBSNA and utilize volunteer support to restore the endangered oak savanna ecosystem.

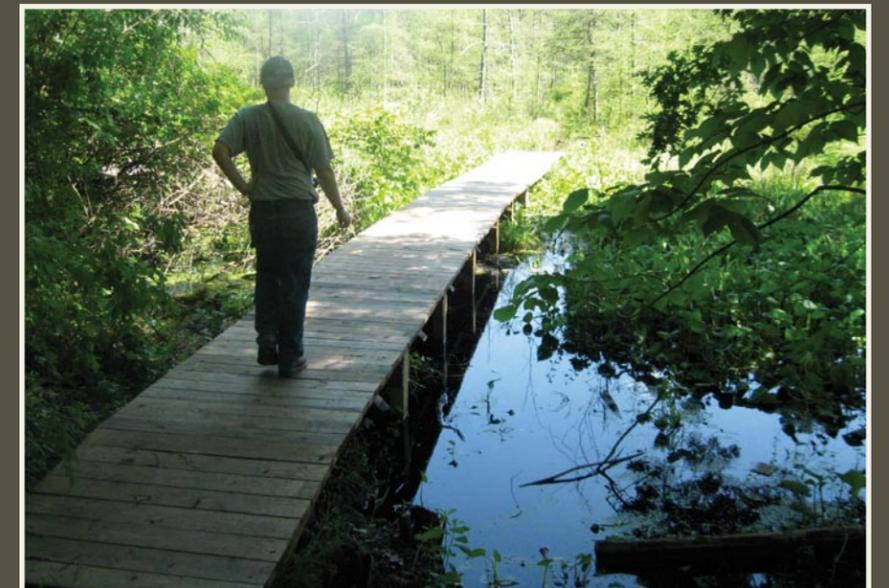
Eric said, "It has been a very exciting year with the land management of Beulah Bog State Natural Area

"A lot more great endeavors have been accomplished than I ever expected when I first spearheaded the restoration of an oak savanna there in the beginning of 2009. I contacted a few conservation biologists in charge of our State Natural Area Program from the Endangered Resources Bureau and they approved the plan that I wrote that stated the oak savanna restoration needed there.

"Through our adoption, we are cleared a few acres of brush around the parking lot that has increased the visibility of the bog and open grown oaks from Stringers Bridge Road. This also has dramatically reduced the frequency and density of dumping of construction waste on BBSNA. We also created a few miles of firebreaks/trails that have been used to keep our prescribed burning confined to the uplands of BBSNA.

"In 2009, we had over 250 hours of volunteer time donated to the restoration of BBSNA, which totals more than \$5,000 in donated labor time and some expenses. It was an amazing year and it continues to be a great project that is benefiting a natural area that the KMLT and the DNR are working hard to restore."

If you would like further information on Beulah Bog SNA, please contact Eric Tarman-Ramcheck at Ericxtr@gmail.com or 262-470-6997.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF KMLT

— 2000 —

Founded at the initiative of the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association.

Accepted title to the 35 acre preserve, Island Woods, on the Lauderdale Lakes peninsula.

— 2001 —

Received IRS designation as a 501(c)(3) public non-profit corporation

Co-sponsored a workshop on conservation subdivisions featuring the nationally recognized authority Randall Arendt.

— 2002 —

Obtained DNR Environmental Sensitive Area designation for two natural areas near Lauderdale.

— 2003 —

Accepted a Conservation Easement from the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District for the Lauderdale Lakes Country Club to protect 57 acres of open space-including over 1,500 feet of shoreline and six acres of wetlands.

— 2004 —

Purchased a 5-acre marsh, which added over 1,000 feet of riparian shoreline to our Island Woods preserve.

Contribute to a new County Conservation Subdivision Ordinance

Donated a Conservation Easement on Island Woods to the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association and the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District.

Constructed a public overlook on the southern edge of Island Woods.

— 2006 —

Accepted the North Lake Conservation Easement donation of 14 lakefront lots

Worked with the Town of LaGrange, to pass mandatory Conservation Subdivision Ordinance.

— 2007 —

Opened the Island Woods Preserve trail.

Received the 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award as part of the Lauderdale Lakes Partnership, which includes Lauderdale Lakes Conservancy (KMLT), Lauderdale Lakes Management District, Lauderdale

Lakes Improvement Association, and the Town of LaGrange.

Changed our name from Lauderdale Lakes Conservancy to Kettle Moraine Land Trust to reflect expansion of efforts into Walworth County.

— 2009 —

Entered into agreement with Delavan Lake Sanitary District to implement the Watershed Initiative Network program.

Adopted the Beulah Bog on Lake Beulah; it is owned by the DNR and will be managed by the Land Trust.