

KETTLE MORAINE LAND TRUST

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Kettle Moraine Land Trust

KMLT WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The staff of the Kettle Moraine Land Trust has doubled! We are pleased to announce the hiring of Melissa Hunter as Program Assistant. Melissa brings a wealth of people management skills to KMLT along with a keen passion for land conservation. Melissa has a Masters degree in Psychology and is interested in how people think about and interact with nature. Melissa will be assisting with communications, outreach and membership management.

With more hands on deck, Program Manager Maggie Zoellner will be able to devote more time to working on conservation and stewardship projects with both public and private landowners.

The natural resources we've protected so far and those we are improving depend not only on our committed staff and board of directors, but also KMLT members and volunteers. Together we are a successful team making a change for the better!



*Maggie Zoellner, Program Manager and
Melissa Hunter, Program Assistant.*

BEULAH BLUFF PRESERVE IS OPEN



*Braided rope intertwined with native grasses
graced the ceremonial opening on June 19th.*

The Tarman-Ramcheck family joined KMLT board president Jerry Petersen in officially opening Beulah Bluff Preserve this summer. It was a joyous celebration that culminated 3 years of work by Jerry to forge a protection strategy that would insure the rare habitats and scenic view the property hosts would be protected forever. The 8-acre preserve contains remnant prairie and oak woodlands and is an important site for groundwater recharge.

The focal point of the property is its summit rising over woodlands and wetlands that allows a significant vista of Lake Beulah and the surrounding area. Over 85 native species, including state threatened and rare plant species are found here.

Beulah Bluff Preserve is located at the corner of Beulah Heights Rd. and Bakavi Way in the Town of East Troy. More information about KMLT preserves can be found at our website: www.kmlandtrust.org

OUR MISSION

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



RESTORING THE LAND

Years ago Bill and Kathy Tarman-Ramcheck built a geodesic dome home on property that had been in their family for generations. More recently, they sold the home-
stead to Kettle Moraine Land Trust.

The home had a screened porch, deck, barn, chicken house and pig shed on a bluff overlooking Lake Beulah from the west. When the property was sold to KMLT (funded by a grant from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund), all of the buildings had to be removed in order to create the new preserve.

Bill, Kathy, daughter Stephanie and son Eric, wanted the land preserved. Eric had already begun the process with a wonderful prairie restoration. The family also wanted to protect the property from any future development that might destroy the beautiful oak savanna. As a public preserve, the land and the views of Lake Beulah would be safeguarded for generations to come.

A professor at the Carroll University of the Sociology of Sustainability, Bill put his personal philosophy into practical action. Under his direction, family and volunteers deconstructed the buildings for "reuse, repurpose and recycle." The tire planters stacked against the barn for insulation were broken down: the plants were transplanted, and the tires were recycled. Rocks from the tire wall filled the basement when the main house was removed. Fences and posts were recycled or donated. Aluminum siding and roofing, copper wiring, scrap steel, and cast iron from the bathtub were sold to the recycling company. More than 1700 lbs. of steel alone was recycled!

Cedar shake shingles were carefully removed for reuse, and beams from the screen porch were salvaged. The deck's foundation was saved to create an overlook for the new preserve. Nails from the reusable lumber were pulled and recycled.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so today. Or, if you would like to make an additional donation, Thank You! Contributions go towards protection, stewardship and education. Use the enclosed envelope or donate on line at www.kmlandtrust.org

When all the materials had been recycled or removed, KMLT partnered with the East Troy Fire Department who burned the remaining home structure as part of a fire fighting training exercise. KMLT Volunteers helped build the new overlook and an information kiosk.

The result? Today the preserve is open to the public. The family has the satisfaction of knowing that, while they enjoyed the property for many years, future generations will also be able to enjoy it and learn from it even longer.

For photos of the deconstruction, go to "Our Conserved Lands" page at www.kmlandtrust.org and click on Beulah Bluff Preserve.



Kathy and Bill Tarman-Ramcheck

KMLT HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL WIDLIFE

Wildlife lovers gathered at beautiful Price Park near East Troy to enjoy a fascinating presentation about coyotes in Southern Wisconsin. A Wisconsin DNR wildlife biologist provided enlightening background on these highly adaptable and resourceful animals, including their ability to thrive in rural, suburban, and urban areas. The wildlife biologist said urban coyotes even learn to look both ways before crossing busy streets! Everyone had their coyote questions answered and got to see pelts of coyotes, as well as other wild dogs including wolf and fox. One attendee later wrote to KMLT saying, "You are doing great things for the land and wildlife in the county! Keep up the good work!"

KMLT helps Walworth County restore some of the best natural areas within county parks. Find out more about county parks at <http://www.co.walworth.wi.us>



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." - Aesop

Aimee Balistreri, Sophie Balistreri, Susan Beamesderfer, Tom Bernhardt, Jennifer Bernhardt, Charlotte Calkins, John and Kathryn Calkins, Isabelle Calkins, Barb Carstens, Dan Carter, Virginia Coburn, Jim and Nannette Doubler, East Troy High School Students, Elkhorn Area High School Students, Joe and Debbie Ferrari, Jeremy Hartranft, Ed Heffron, Kathleen Henderson, Betsy Ingle, Carolyn Johnson, Ben and Jen Johnson, Josephine Johnson, Lucas Johnson, Sam Johnson, Vanessa Howe-Jones, Veryan Johnson, Zach Kastern, Peter Klassen, Mary Knipper, Bill Lee, Dale Malvitz, Chris Mann, Jim Marrari, Cap McQueeney, Eleanor McQueeney, Lucia and Pat McQueeney, Walter Mirk, Jane Miscavage, Paul Mozina, Tom Olechowski, Susan Paddock, Carol Petersen, Floyd Pochowski, Jan Sharpless, Linda Sharpless, Nancy Sharpless, Peg Sorenson, Kathy and Bill Tarman-Ramcheck, Eric Tarman-Ramcheck, Bud Vance, Tom VanDenBogart, Peter VanKampen, Monica Zoellner, Steve Zoellner.

Would you like to volunteer? Find out about ways to help by contacting our office at 262-949-7211 or email info@kmlandtrust.org

INVASIVE SPECIES: KMLT FIGHTS BACK

Invasive plant species are a dire threat to the health of natural communities. They invade quickly and out-compete native plants for sunlight and nutrients. In a distressingly short time, wildflowers, native grasses and shrubs diminish in size and no longer produce seed. Soon the native plant communities that took thousands of years to evolve dwindle and even disappear. Gone are not only beautiful plants but also the food resources and habitat for wildlife to live in and rear young.

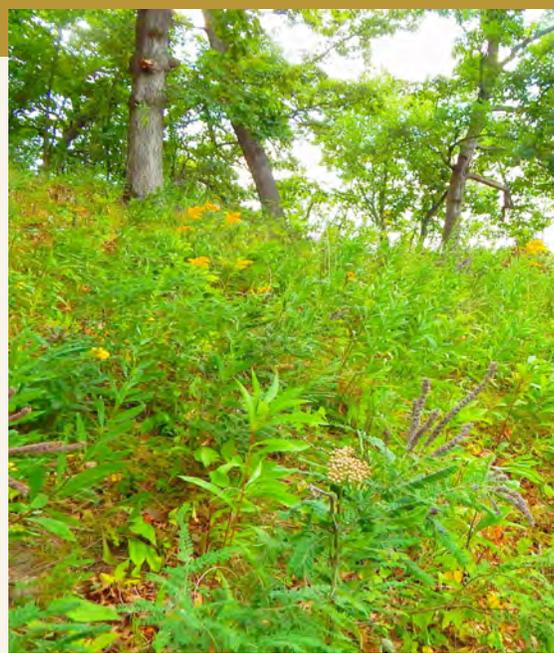
Chances are you have seen some of these invasives in your own yard: buckthorn shrubs and garlic mustard are especially common in Walworth County.

A whopping 52 new species have recently been added to the list of invasive terrestrial plants regulated by the Wisconsin DNR; the list now totals 116 species. These plants threaten our forests, prairies and parks. Terrestrial plants grow on land, whereas many invasives you may already know, like Eurasian water milfoil or Purple loosestrife, grow in water or wetlands.

The first step to successfully stopping the spread of invasive species is to determine which invasive species are present and where they are growing. The Wisconsin DNR has awarded a \$3,500 grant the Kettle Moraine Land Trust to help identify invasive species that have invaded large woodlands and grasslands in the northeastern portion of Walworth county. KMLT will produce maps and management plans to guide efforts to combat invasives and improve opportunities for native plants to increase in abundance.

The target for the grant award is large woodland properties, especially camps and nonprofit organizations. But we can all do our share. Visit the DNR site on invasive species at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives> to learn more about invasive plants and what you can do to help.

Land stewardship is a lifelong endeavor that we pass on to future generations. Having reliable information to make informed decisions is good for the environment, and a smart investment in our communities.



A local woodland after invasive plants are cleared - wildflowers, sedges and grasses flourish.

FALL 2015

NATURE NEWS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 17 OKTOBERFEST 5K FUN RUN
Elkhorn, Wisconsin



The Oktoberfest Fun Run supports local non-profits including KMLT!

For more information see our website
www.kmlandtrust.org

OUR PROGRAM MANAGER

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OUR OFFICERS AND BOARD

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