



NATURE NEWS

Kettle Moraine Land Trust
P.O. Box 176
Elkhorn, WI 53121



NEW WEBSITE UNVEILING



Watch for the official launch of our new website in October

STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER EVENTS

October 13, Friday - Price Park 8 - 12
October 20, Friday - Beulah Bluff Preserve 1 - 4
November 4, Saturday - Natureland Park 9 - 1

Visit our website for details and to register or call 262-949-7211

STAFF

Maggie Zoellner, Executive Director

Sue Heffron, Assistant Program Manager

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OUR OFFICERS AND BOARD

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KETTLE MORaine LAND TRUST

YOUR PARTNER WITH NATURE

Behind the Scenes at KMLT - The Other Work of a Land Trust

There is a seasonal rhythm around the work of Kettle Moraine Land Trust. Spring, summer and fall are busy with community events where volunteers help people appreciate the wonders of nature. But late fall, winter and early spring are equally busy in doing the behind-the-scenes work of the Trust. This is where the expertise of staff and volunteers are utilized in stewardship activities on our preserves and monitoring our easements.



Prescribed burn at Jackson Creek Preserve

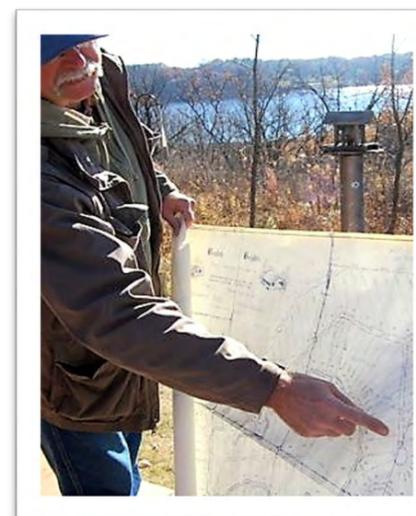
Taking care of land can be less difficult in the fall and winter after leaves have dropped from deciduous trees. Branches needing trimming or invasive shrubs to cut are more visible. Brush piles can be burned in winter with less danger of harming other living plants. Seeds collected in fall can be scattered in winter and early spring; they are hardy and will start to grow in the spring. Early spring sees the sprouting of garlic mustard, one of our most common invasive species, and it's the best time of year to pull it, roots and all, out of the ground. And many volunteers are available to help in spite of colder temperatures.

In addition KMLT has a responsibility to monitor our four easements. That means inspecting, documenting and photographing the property to make sure the easement conditions continue to be met, and recommending

maintenance tasks and plans for the future. The inspection reports are written up and filed per Land Trust Alliance requirements. This time-consuming process has multiple steps that often require focused time available in the off-season.

The Trust also works with Walworth County and others on land management plans. These can be formal agreements or guidelines, that are reviewed, discussed and updated. Many landowners contact the Trust to discuss the possibility of donating their property as a preserve or easement. Fall and winter is a convenient time for exploration and planning.

Your membership supports these efforts as much as it supports the educational events we sponsor. The behind-the-scenes work of the Trust is critically important to fulfilling our mission, which is to "preserve the natural heritage of the Kettle Moraine watersheds and nearby lands



Landowner reviews survey with KMLT



Seed collecting - Whitewater High School

in Walworth County, Wisconsin through partnerships in land conservancy and resource management."

Volunteer opportunities are always available. Please contact Maggie Zoellner at 262-949-7211 for volunteer information, and thank you for your support.

From The President

Preserving Thoughts from President Dave DeAngelis

As you're reading this, you're probably preparing for fall and winter... some of you are getting ready for a trip south where you can continue to enjoy summer weather and activities. Some of you are getting out the winter gear to be ready for that first snowfall (I hope it isn't soon!)

The Land Trust had a busy summer, just like you did, filled with many community activities to educate and enrich peoples' experiences with nature. Three of these are highlighted in other articles in this newsletter.

But the Trust needs your support now more than ever. As you're thinking ahead to the next seasons, we're planning for a vibrant 2018 with new community programs. We're also doing important work on our lands that may not be as exciting as hosting hundreds of people to meet Monarch butterflies, but is a critical part of our responsibility as a Trust.

Please consider a gift to the Trust now. It will help fund important year-round activities. You can go to our website, kmlandtrust.org and click "Donate Now" or use the enclosed remittance envelope. If you already donated, thank you... please consider a second gift. I urge you to remember KMLT as holidays and warmer climates beckon. We will be here, doing the important work of caring for special places. And as always, thank you for your support.



Partnerships and Community Business Support - Thank You!



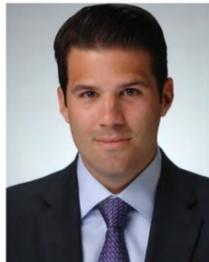
Board Adds Legal Expertise

Justin DeAngelis

We are happy to welcome Justin DeAngelis to the board of directors. Justin was elected at the June board meeting. A Chicago resident, Justin has spent summers at Lauderdale Lakes since he was a child.

Justin is an attorney with Quarles & Brady and graduated from UW-Madison and IIT's Chicago Kent School of Law. He specializes in patent and intellectual property law for clients in the United States and around the world. In his spare time, Justin also volunteers for LaunchU, a non-profit group that helps underserved but motivated scholars reach their academic goals.

Justin joins the other board member volunteers, including his father - President Dave, who share their time and talents to help protect important lands and waters in Walworth County.



Community Comes Together

Making a difference at County Parks and at Home

Kettle Moraine Land Trust hosted three community events this spring and summer. First was the annual Mother's Day Bird and Nature Walk at Price Park. Birding experts Jim Marrari, Barb Carstens, and Lisa Granbur, along with KMLT Executive Director Maggie Zoellner, led participants through several woodland and prairie trails in the park, and identified more than thirty-five bird species, from red-tailed hawks and barn swallows, to the infrequently-seen gray catbird and black-billed cuckoo. One of the participants said, "What a great way to spend Mother's Day morning – so interesting to see the variety of bird life in our own park!"



Jim Marrari and Barb Carstens (on the left) point out bird sightings at Price Park.

Second was Wild Edibles. Many adventurous and hungry people gathered at Natureland Park on Saturday, July 15th to learn about safe, edible wild plants. Led by Master Naturalist Chris Lilek and Maggie Zoellner, the participants learned how to look for edible leaves, berries and flowers among the plants in the park. Many kinds of plants were harvested, including gooseberries, plantain and clover that were washed and put into a community salad for everyone's enjoyment. Naturalist Chris brought acorn bread and wild violet jelly to share, as well as sumac tea for the beverage.

Next was Meet the Monarchs!, which took place in Price Park on August 19th. Butterfly educator Lori Harris brought Monarchs in all stages of their life cycles, from eggs on milkweed leaves to caterpillars to the chrysalis stage to the full-grown butterfly. Attendees could choose a butterfly treat such as watermelon or flowers and enter a secure tent to experience hand-feeding the beautiful creatures.

New this year was planting the prairie. Thanks to a generous donation of native prairie plants, KMLT was able to work with Walworth County on site preparation in a prairie area of the Park, and then help people plant and water the new plants. The plants, including bee balm, purple coneflower and butterfly milkweed, will continue to grow and provide nourishment for butterflies and other pollinators next spring.



All ages are welcome to lend a hand.

These activities that reached hundreds of community members reinforce KMLT's mission to preserve local lands by educating citizens about the importance of habitat and protection. You can participate this fall in Stewardship Workdays and have the satisfaction yourself of helping the land and spending a good day outdoors. See the back page for volunteer information, and support our work with a donation now.



Chris Lilek, Master Naturalist, helps identify a wild edible.

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