



NATURE NEWS

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



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Watch our website for date and details of a special fall event!

Want to volunteer? Send an email to info@kmlandtrust.org and we'll be in touch.



STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER EVENTS

September 15, Sat. - Natureland Park 9 - 12
October 27, Sat. - Price Park 9 - 12

Please register for these workdays - lunch is included.

Visit our website for details 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

Magical Places – Our Lakes of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

This time of year includes an abundance of sunshine, laughter and backyard barbecues. Sometimes our summer respites include a refreshing swim or boat ride in a nearby lake. The 20+ beautiful lakes found across the Kettle Moraine Land Trust service area – Walworth County - offer a chance to cool off and a boost to our spirits on hot days.

Lake shorelines also offer wildlife much needed food and sheltered places to rear their young. Some lakes have cottages and year-round homes ringing the shoreline. Others like Pleasant Lake, a 145 acre lake in northern Walworth County, have more than half its shoreline blanketed in woodlands and wetlands. Having so much of the natural environment left along the lake's edge means that birds, fish, turtles and other critters have ample space to feed and rest undisturbed.



Turtle Bay on Pleasant Lake. Keeping nature in balance and here for our enjoyment requires us to take positive steps to protect and tend to natural habitats.



Signs like the one above on the shore of Pleasant Lake remind boaters that wildlife need undisturbed habitat to successfully rear their young.

It's not only wildlife that need natural areas, we do too. If you are lucky you have childhood memories of adventures into dappled woodlands, or jumping across mud puddles and chasing after frogs. Current thinking is that time in nature builds confidence, inspires creativity and relieves stress. It's not only children that benefit from time outdoors exploring nature, adults do too!

So much of Pleasant Lake's shoreline remains natural because two Girl Scout camps staked their claim on the shores a long time ago. Large landowners like camp organizations are important partners for KMLT. Camps are rich mosaics of woodlands, meadows and wetlands that host native plants and wildlife. KMLT volunteers have lent a hand in helping remove invasive brush that threatened to over-run native wildflowers at one of the camps. This is one of many lakeshore camps where KMLT has helped keep nature flourishing. We are your local conservation organization, working to protect beautiful lands and waters for your enjoyment and future generations!

From the President

KMLT has been very busy the first six months of 2018. Thanks to our members and donors, we were able to impact many young minds across Walworth County. We facilitated events where second graders poked through prairies and saw wildlife close up. High school students helped clear invasive species and learned about water quality testing in our local lakes. The KMLT Team is passionate about our mission of being your connection to nature.

The Kettle Moraine Land Trust board of directors is challenging you to make an impact this summer. **Give \$100 or more by September 1st and the board will personally donate an equal amount.** Your donation is needed to continue inspiring conservation and to protect more unique and irreplaceable natural lands.

Thanks.
Dave DeAngelis, KMLT President



Oh What a Year We've Had...So Far!

KMLT reached into all corners of Walworth County with spring activities!

There was Books, Birds and Butterflies at four local libraries where people came to learn about native plants – and take home a complimentary one for their garden!



Bird Walk co-leader Jim Marrari at Beulah Bog

There was the Mother's Day bird walk at Beulah Bog State Natural Area, soggy and wet but full of migrating and native birds. Derek Sallman, Friends of the Mukwonago River, and Jim Marrari, KMLT volunteer, led the walk. The leaders then put the list of birds seen on the worldwide database ebird.org to further scientific knowledge.



Delavan Library patron views native plant displays

Two school field days rounded out the May activities. Elkhorn Area High School science classes spent a day at Beulah Bluff Preserve. They learned the history and geology of the area, the fundamentals of water quality testing, and then got to work clearing brush on the west slope. The students came away with an education in nature and left a more beautiful view for visitors to come.

Whitewater Middle School sixth graders visited Bluff Creek State Natural Area and studied life in the creek and prairie. The outdoor class was divided into field stations about underwater critters (you had to catch them first!), water quality testing, and life on the prairie, including why the use of prescribed burns are important.

Executive Director Maggie Zoellner visited East Troy's elementary school and taught the second graders about why their wonderful school prairie is important to local wildlife. KMLT also co-hosts volunteer workdays with Walworth County Parks throughout the year.



Maggie Zoellner leads second graders into a prairie to discover its secrets.

Summer isn't over and neither are the KMLT activities. A fall gathering is in the works for Petersen Island Woods Preserve and on the back of the newsletter, you'll see that two more workdays are scheduled for County Parks.

Other good news is unfolding so sign up for email notices through our website to keep in the know!

The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share. - Lady Bird Johnson

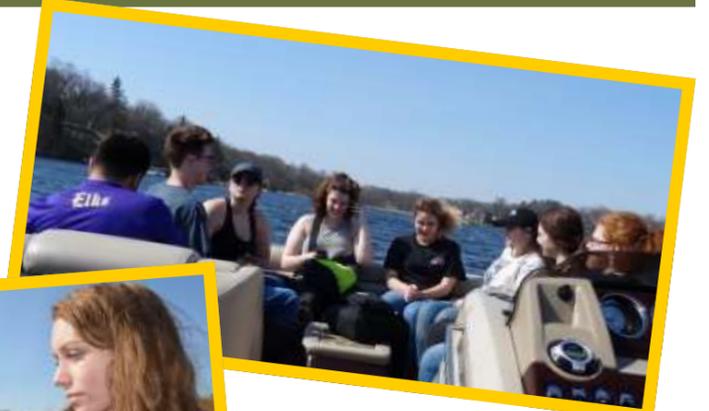
Hepatica at Beulah Bluff Preserve



Volunteers take a break from shrub planting at Natureland Park on June 15th.



Field Notes: Conservation Education in Action



Day in the Woods with Elkhorn Area High School science students. From left, Maggie Zoellner, KMLT Executive Director, teaches students how to identify trees; student with water testing instrument; students on pontoon boat getting ready for water testing.



Whitewater 6th Grader Field Days: Clockwise from left: testing water clarity at Bluff Creek, testing dissolved oxygen; netting underwater critters, then sorting them for classification; Jared Urban, WDNR, demonstrating his fire gear; Ginny Coburn, volunteer, finds spring prairie plants.



The Directors' Summer Challenge is on! Give \$100 or more and every dollar will be matched by the KMLT Board of Directors! Young and old alike benefit from KMLT programs and projects. Donate easily at www.kmlandtrust.org!