

LANDSCAPES

Newsletter of the
Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Your Partner with Nature



Summer 2026

Conservation on Lake Beulah: Vision and Cooperation

Friends of Kettle Moraine Land Trust will know about our wonderful preserve on the bluffs above Lake Beulah in the town of East Troy. Aptly named **Beulah Bluff Preserve**, the 8-acre site sits on a bluff above the lake and offers a tranquil view over it. The preserve comprises oak savannah, prairie, and woodland sections, with trails running through them and a viewing platform. Fortunately for us and for Lake Beulah itself, our preserve forms one part of a mosaic of properties preserving natural ecosystems around the lake.

With valued volunteer support, we are actively restoring Beulah Bluff. Bill Wucherer, one of KMLT's Site Stewards for the preserve notes that Beulah Bluff's natural landscape stands out; neighbors love it. "They like what we're doing. I engage people when they come to the Bluff about what plants you can see and learn about here," he said.

Our preserve realizes the conservation dream of its former owners, the Tarman-Ramchek family, who wanted their homestead to remain a place of peace and beauty for the community. They were not alone. KMLT and other groups with properties on the 812-acre Lake Beulah all take land conservation and shoreline restoration seriously. Several communities have property that lines more than two miles of the lake's five-mile-long shore. These communities and some individual property owners work hard to preserve natural shoreline, tamarack swamp, and other ecosystems that contribute to Lake Beulah's health and water quality. The groups have begun working together with each other and with KMLT to strengthen these efforts. Among them are Divine Word Seminary and Camp Charles Allis.

Camp Charles Allis has a 100-plus year history at Lake Beulah. It started as a settlement house for immigrants in the city of Milwaukee, said Camp member Tom VanDen Bogart. Supported by the Allis Chester family, the house served as a resource for learning English and helping



Birds eye view of Camp Charles Allis on Lake Beulah

community. As Milwaukee grew, the settlement house land became very valuable, and the group decided to sell its city property and buy 26 acres on Lake Beulah. At the time, settlement house members could take a trolley from Milwaukee almost to Lake Beulah and then hike and row across to the property to camp, said life-long Camp member Tom Bernhardt.

Over time, Camp Charles Allis evolved. In 1909, a clubhouse was added, and a pre-Civil War era building was converted into a boathouse. Families came to stay and ate communal meals. Now, anyone can join the family-oriented camp after a two-year trial and a vote by existing members. Many families have been visiting Camp for generations. Its mission is to provide guests with a tranquil setting in which to connect with the outdoors. (*continued on page 2*)

Lake Beulah, continued



KMLT staff and a student from Divine Word College work together, restoring habitat at Divine Word Seminary.

Camp Charles Allis has always had a strong focus on environmental stewardship, VanDenBogart noted. The camp is home to nine endangered plant species, including aquatic plants located on the natural shoreline. The property includes a tamarack swamp, which plays an important role in maintaining water quality. Camp members work on designated projects while there, including invasive species removal. Children get involved in these projects, learning the value of preserving native habitat as they get older. VanDenBogart said these opportunities also provide children with the ability to communicate that importance to others.

Camp Charles Allis recognizes the importance of ensuring that its restoration and conservation efforts are not lost in the future, VanDenBogart said. With this in mind, the Camp board is studying methods to preserve its open space for future generations of Camp families.

Divine Word Seminary

The seminary – located across the lake from Beulah Bluff Preserve and Camp Charles Allis – was founded by the Society of the Divine Word, a Catholic missionary religious order begun in Holland in the 19th century. Starting in 1921, it provided a seminary education to high school aged students for many years. It also ran summer camps under the name, Camp Richards. By 1991, however, students studying there only rarely joined the Society, and the school was closed. The 250-acre property has become a retirement and retreat center for the community.

Members of the Divine Word community said that while they have always protected their property from development or other uses, environmental stewardship was less of a priority until about 15 years ago. In response to

a call by the church for an increased commitment to care for creation in 2015, the Divine Word community began collaborating with KMLT and with Protect Lake Beulah – a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving the natural resources of Lake Beulah – to restore native habitat on its property.

To eliminate invasive plants such as buckthorn, Divine Word has done controlled burns and re-seeding on parts of the property, which includes a bluff, lake front, and a tamarack swamp with an island in the middle that hosts several species of rare local plants.

Community members reflected on how all life on Earth is connected and interdependent. When a species becomes extinct or land is damaged, they believe, one voice of God is silenced. Recognizing this interconnection of life, the society has worked environmental stewardship into its teachings for students at its college in Iowa. This spring, students from the college visited the seminary on Lake Beulah and learned from KMLT and Protect Lake Beulah staff about the work being done there and the importance of habitat restoration. The trip was success, they said, creating enthusiasm among the students and momentum for environmental restoration efforts.

Going forward, Divine Word will continue habitat restoration in partnership with KMLT, including seeking grant funding to restore an oak stand at one side of the property as woodpecker habitat.

A New Collaboration



To further the goal of improving shoreline habitat and water quality on Lake Beulah, Camp Charles-Allis, Divine Word Seminary and others recently formed the Lake Beulah Natural Shoreline Coalition, which will work together with private property owners to preserve existing natural shorelines on the lake, providing education

and help with shoreline improvement projects. The coalition will apply for grant funding to support these efforts, VanDenBogart said.

The coalition recognizes the value of natural shoreline for keeping sediment and runoff out of Lake Beulah's water, where it can cause harmful algal blooms and degrade fish habitat. Natural shoreline, of course, also preserves the original beauty of the lake environment and supports wildlife, something these organizations have always valued and are determined to save.

KMLT Summer Interns 2026

KMLT welcomes Allison and Gethin to our summer internship program this year. A huge thank you to our supporters of the Kenneth and Betsy Ingle and James and Lois Benes Internship Program. The program is only possible because of your donations. Read about what Allison and Gethin are up to and how your support makes a difference to the next generation of conservation stewards and the land we work with.

Hey! My name is Allison, and this is my second year as an intern for KMLT! During the school year, I'm up in Stevens Point pursuing a degree in soil sciences and land management. When I'm back home in the summer, I have this fantastic opportunity waiting for me. As an intern, I don't just clear invasives. I've also learned what running a nonprofit entails;

writing grants, local and team communication, partnership collaborations, and more. KMLT is great for exploring personal interests as well. I've had so much fun working on expanding my knowledge of topics like fungi while also broadening what I know about land management and environmental outreach.

Hello! I'm Gethin and this is my first Summer with KMLT. I'm a recent biology graduate from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, with minors in environmental ethics and philosophy. I'm passionate about restoring and preserving Wisconsin habitats, with a special interest in insects. I'm excited to be maintaining these amazing natural spaces and hopefully seeing some niche Wisconsin species!



Allison and Gethin at Beulah Bog State Natural Area. KMLT's intern program exposes students to a wide array of local natural areas to enhance their experience.

You're Invited to Beulah Bluff Preserve!

KMLT is proud to be a part of the vital conservation work happening on Lake Beulah. Join us on August 15 to celebrate conservation at Lake Beulah at our Open House. Drop in for a tour and family friendly craft activities. Get to know your neighborhood preserve, discover new trails, and how to get involved. Tours will take place every half hour, led by dedicated land stewards. All ages are welcome!

Saturday August 15 | 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.



Events and Stewardship

Check us out at www.kmlandtrust.org.

Sign up to receive emails, newsletters and check event details.

Save the Date! Petersen Island Woods Brick Terrace Commemoration

Saturday September 26

Fourth Saturday Stewardship

Occurs once a month, every fourth Saturday. No experience is needed. Adults and children under 18 welcome with adult chaperone. Visit our website events page.

Walworth County Parks Partner Events

Family Insect Fest at Price Park, July 11

Seed Collecting and Spreading at Natureland, September 12

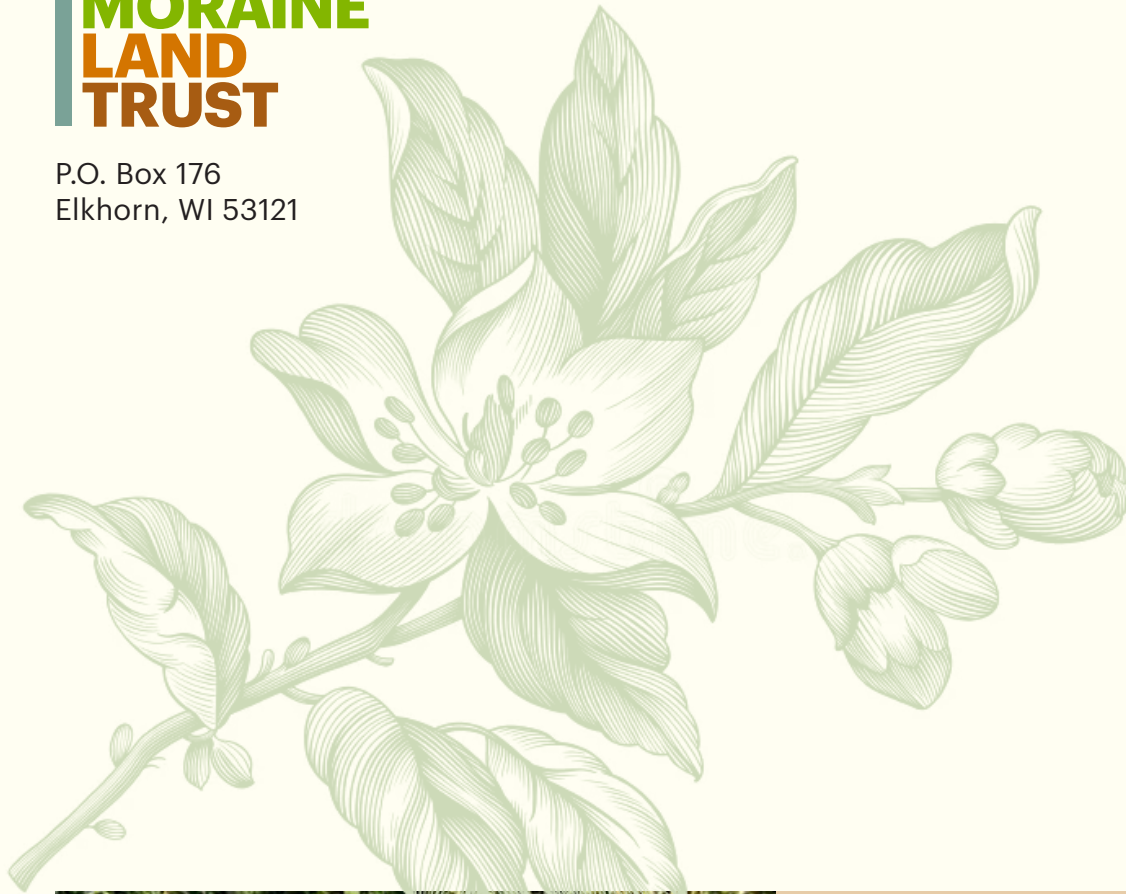
Seed Collecting at Price Park, October 11

Scan the QR code to Register for events & stewardship



KETTLE MORaine LAND TRUST

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Brick Campaign—Leave Your Legacy

This summer, KMLT invites you to leave a lasting legacy at Petersen Island Woods Preserve on Lauderdale Lakes. Through August 1st, supporters who make a special gift to KMLT can receive a personalized commemorative brick to be installed at the Eastern Terrace Trailhead – a meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special connection to the preserve, or show your commitment to protecting this treasured landscape.

Scan the QR code below to reserve your brick and become a permanent part of Petersen Island Woods. Thank you for helping ensure this special place remains protected and enjoyed for generations to come.



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Become a KMLT Board Member – Join our amazing team!

Support our growing organization and help guide and shape the future of conservation in our region. For more than 20 years, we have grown to serve more communities in Walworth County. Reach out to Dave DeAngelis to learn more and to apply.

info@kmlandtrust.org. Call us with questions, 262-379-4283.



Check out Healthy Lakes and Rivers and discover best practices to improve habitat and water quality at your shoreline!
<https://healthylakeswi.com/>