
LANDSCAPES

Newsletter of the
Kettle Moraine Land Trust

Your Partner with Nature

Fall 2026



Summer Wrap Up and Ready for What's Next!

As KMLT wraps up the summer, we reflect on the support from our community with gratitude. KMLT ran another successful ten-week internship program and hosted our second annual Partner Appreciation Luncheon. During stewardship days, our three public preserves saw improvements in trail accessibility, removal of invasive plants, and were awarded funding from the Kettle Moraine Garden Club to enhance a public entranceway with native plants. It's been a fruitful summer thanks to your support. Keep reading to learn about the internship program firsthand from summer interns **Allison** and **Gethin**; and see what else we have been up to and what's next this fall for KMLT!

KMLT Summer Internship Program

Hi! My name is **Allison**, and I've been an intern at Kettle Moraine Land Trust for the last two summers. Right when I started, I knew I would love the variety of work, scheduling, and community. It was my first dive into conservation and land management, and I couldn't have asked for a more welcoming experience. From the start, I was able to learn so much about both fieldwork and office work that goes into stewardship. The hands-on experience was far beyond any classes I had taken in high school.

Over my time with the team, we conducted several land and water surveys, cleared acres of invasives, found several undocumented plants that hadn't been found on our preserves previously, and had some of the most amazing learning experiences with wildlife and the outdoors. I couldn't have asked for better outreach opportunities than what were offered to me and the other interns. It was a fantastic way to get my foot in the door and really find out what being a part of the conservation and land management community really is all about.

I found out it's not just about pulling weeds and the flora you find. More importantly, it's about the people you involve and the minds you put together to make it happen. Nothing will ever beat a cold July morning, walking up the hill at Petersen Island Woods to see the opening of dewy tussock sedge, the turkey vultures flying over the lookout at Beulah



Allison and Gethin conducting an aquatic species survey at Jackson Creek Preserve

Bluff on a windy afternoon, or the exciting greetings I'd find at the office after a long weekend. What started as a post for an intern opportunity my mom found on Facebook turned into a passion I plan on continuing for the rest of my life. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be a part of the KMLT team and family.

Gethin | This Summer at Kettle Moraine Land Trust as an intern has really taught me a lot! I'm thankful to everyone at KMLT for giving me this opportunity and learning experience. I am fresh out of college, so I haven't had many professional experiences so far. (*continued on page 2*)

KMLT's New Board Member and More!

Welcome Caitlin

KMLT is excited to welcome Caitlin Reinartz to the board and as the new Land Stewardship Chair. Caitlin attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and studied Forest Management. Caitlin is a firm believer that Wisconsin is the best and most beautiful state in the union. She spent her childhood playing outside and was inspired to work to preserve our region's natural areas during camping trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness when she was in middle and high school. Caitlin worked as a forester with the Urban Ecology Center and is currently the coordinator of Branch Out Milwaukee.



Caitlin at Jackson Creek Preserve during a site survey with staff and volunteers.

Annual Luncheon

More than 2500 volunteer hours went into supporting KMLT in 2025. This August we thanked and celebrated our fabulous volunteers and community partners. For our 2nd annual luncheon, we welcomed Jim Killian, our neighbor from Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, as he shared his story of the unique geology and waterways in our area and about protecting over 200 acres in Williams Bay. Jim's story resonated with us as we continue to work together to take care of the natural areas we love.



Dave DeAngelis, KMLT President thanking partners our 2nd annual Partner Appreciation Luncheon at Parish Hall in Williams Bay.

Join the KMLT Board!

We are looking for active, caring members of the community to join our KMLT team as board members. How do you know if KMLT is the right place for you? Reach out to talk with us, and meet us at one of our preserves for a tour! Do you want to support a growing organization? Have experience with communications? Are you interested in land stewardship and conservation? Do you enjoy engaging with your community and have a passion for education? Join our dynamic and talented team. Board meetings take place every other month and are virtual. Email info@kmlandtrust.org or call 262-379-4283



After an afternoon of strategic planning, the KMLT team, Board and Staff, enjoyed the local pizza, laughs and views at Grassway Organics' Pizza on the Farm in East Troy.

Summer Wrap Up, continued

I applied for this position to see if I would be interested in conservation. During these 10 weeks I quickly realized I am passionate about conservation, and I'm not afraid to do some work to help the environment. I was shown how an organization like KMLT runs while also seeing how managing land can really create good habitat. I never thought much about plants before this internship, and now I am curious about everything I find. Walking through preserves like Beulah with Matt and some of our volunteers really opened my eyes to all the cool plant species around the area. Now I know how to look out for the shooting stars and compass plants of the prairie, among many others.

From conducting an aquatic species survey to pulling garlic mustard for hours, this position has really let me cherish these beautiful preserves—and the people who make it happen! Volunteering, donating, and spreading the word really make an impact. It was so positive to be able to see so many people come together for what was important to them. I got to attend two of the fourth Saturday stewardship days, and

mulched trails in Beulah while chatting with longtime volunteers. I also staffed a booth with my fellow intern Allie at the fish jamboree! We got to show the kids a snapping turtle shell after they caught their fish. I hope, going forward, I can have an impact on the places I'll come to love, too, whether that's a public park or conservation easement or even my yard. I've been able to meet great people through KMLT and make connections with the local organizations to hopefully give me a foothold in this career field.

We invite you to visit the preserves this fall and be a part of the landscapes that have been supported by the hands of the next generation of conservation stewards. The preserves and other natural areas will thrive because of them. Thank you, Allison and Gethin. Thank you to the supporters of the James and Lois Benes, and Kenneth and Betsy Ingle Internship Program, named for two families that have left a legacy of conservation in their paths, too.

Please donate to KMLT internship programs to keep the program thriving for future interns, and for a future of conservation and stewardship.

Wendell Berry Reflection

Wendell Berry | 1934–2026

Wendell Berry died on August 31. A professor and writer of fiction, poetry and essays, he was most essentially a Kentucky farmer who loved and cared for land. Berry believed that industrialization takes away people's sense of their relationship to and dependence on nature. He also suggested that mechanization – interposing machines between the person and the work – starts to unravel small communities, particularly in rural areas like the Kettle Moraine.

Writing in 1971, Berry noted that urbanization – part of industrialization – in the U.S. was so extensive that people would think it was “madness” to try to live a life based on “devotion to a place and devotion to the land.” He followed such a life anyway, he added, “for I believe [these devotions] hold the only possibility, not just for a decent life, but for survival.” He continued, writing, “the life that is most decent [is] the life that is most generous and wise in its relation to the earth.”

In our KMLT community, we meet many people like you who are living Berry's “decent” life of devotion to the land. When you volunteer and donate, you help us in our preservation work. If you're a landowner participating in our Biodiversity Projects or placing your farmed or natural land in conservation easements with us, you help ensure that your land will remain as a farm or preserve for generations to come. You, our community, make a commitment that brings you a better understanding of your relationship to natural systems. You are part of a family that cares about preserving and appreciating land and the abundant biodiversity it can support. We plan to keep providing you and others like you with tools to help you remain devoted to rural land in the southern Kettle Moraine region. Enjoy the poem by Wendell Berry on the back page. Read more Wendell Berry, and know that 55 years later, you are living the “decent” life that helps our community survive and thrive.

Fall 2026 Events and Stewardship

Check us out at www.kmlandtrust.org.

Sign up to receive emails, newsletter, and event details. Scan the QR code to register.

Art of Tree ID with Seno K/RLT, November 7

Join us at the Seno Conservancy and learn the art of tree ID, discovering what makes each tree unique. Then turn your new tree knowledge into a set of homemade cards using print making tools.



Register for events here

Seed Collecting Season!

Fall is a great time of year to experience the preserves in a different way. The change in temperature and sunlight is a cue for plant senescence; flower petals dropping, leaves turning brown, and the nutrients of the plant going to the production of seeds. When collecting seeds, we follow these seasonal cycles as well as other seasonal observations. Birds and insects migrating, the sound of crickets, and the wind gently guiding leaves off the trees.

Join us for any of our upcoming volunteer stewardship days to help us collect seeds from the preserves this fall. Seed collecting is family friendly; adult chaperone is required for ages under 18. Gain service hours and enjoy time outside with a conservation community of friends.

Seed Collecting at Price Park Friday, October 9

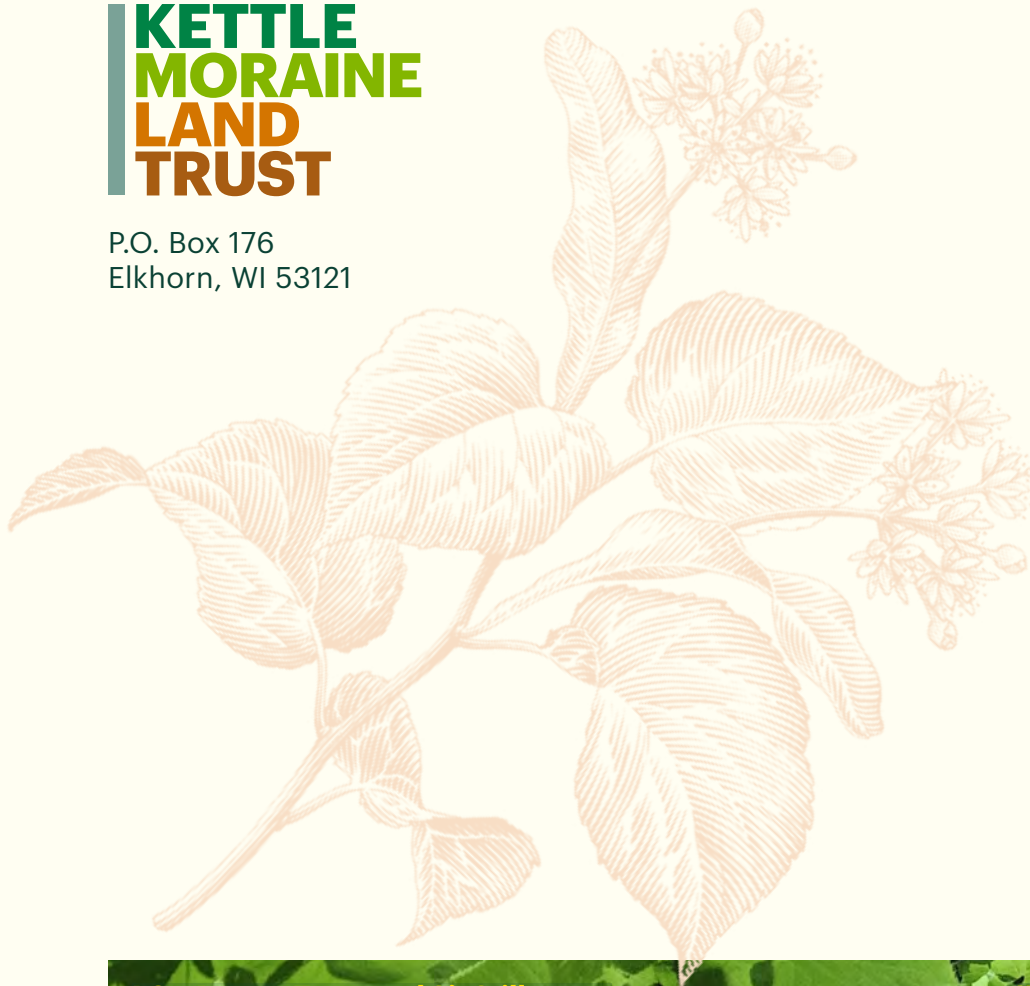
Seed Collecting at Jackson Creek Preserve Saturday, October 16

Fourth Saturday at Beulah Bluff Preserve Saturday, October 24

Fourth Saturday at Jackson Creek Preserve Saturday, November 14

KETTLE MORaine LAND TRUST

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I Go Among Trees and Sit Still

I go among trees and sit still.
All my stirring becomes quiet
around me like circles on water.
My tasks lie in their places
where I left them, asleep like cattle.

Then what is afraid of me comes
and lives a while in my sight.
What it fears in me leaves me,
and the fear of me leaves it.
It sings, and I hear its song.

Then what I am afraid of comes.
I live for a while in its sight.
What I fear in it leaves it,
and the fear of it leaves me.
It sings, and I hear its song.

After days of labor,
mute in my consternations,
I hear my song at last,
and I sing it. As we sing,
the day turns, the trees move.
—Wendell Berry

**Published in *A Timbered Choir:
The Sabbath Poems, 1979-1997***

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