

inside this issue >>>

- > Love and Legacy: New Trade Lands Program Initiated
- > Racing to Protect Land: Race Series Success
- > Your Story is Our Story : Kathy Peters
- > Notes from the Board of Directors
- > Forests for the Future means GROWTH
- > **You** are the reason for this years' success.

>> **THANK YOU** <<

Winter
2015/16

The UPLC is engaging with the whole community, and the community of conservationists around the country, to rally together to protect the Chocolay Bayou. Read on for details!



Information and updates from the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy

U.P. Land Conservancy

connection



This Year By The Numbers >>>

- **FOUR major Closings:** Peshekee Wetlands and Harris Lake West easements; Spruce River Trade Land, and Forests for the Future Timber Reserve
- **6,035 total acres protected**
- **34 Easements**
- **17 Preserves**
- **24 Working Forest Reserves**



Harris Lake West is one of our biggest additions of the year! Combined with Harris Lake East, the Troutds and

UPLC are now protecting 160 acres of prime riparian habitat. Read next spring's report for details and results from the plant survey (volunteers needed!).

Chocolay Bayou Preserve Project

Partnering with the community to create community space

With the world around us so full of conflict, it is heartening to see organizations with differing goals join together and work in harmony to preserve something truly special. This is exactly what we are witnessing with the "Chocolay Bayou Preservers"—a band of representatives from a dozen or so organizations



determined to protect the unique ecosystem of a 14-acre bayou from development and ensure that it remains open for



- 14 acres of surprisingly diverse habitat
- 1/3 mile upstream from Lake Superior
- **\$175,000 fundraising goal needs to be met by May 9th, 2016**
- Involving nearly a dozen local and national organizations (support letters still coming in!)
- **Contact us to get involved! (906) 225-8067**

public education and enjoyment. The Bayou is historically significant as the boundary line between two Native American treaties and the location of early sawmills and kilns. Furthermore it is bordered by the combined Iron Ore Heritage Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail! The future preserve will contain a bird observation trail generously designed and donated by Lon Emerick and will host educational programming. It's in an ideal location for the UPLC to increase public awareness of our mission. We look forward to holding the Chocolay Bayou in perpetual protection for the benefit of our community and our earth, and **with your help, we can do that**. Spread the word, donate, and volunteer to protect land **today** for **life** tomorrow.

Accreditation Update >>

Things are rolling along smoothly in our quest for accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance. We are sure learning a lot about what it takes to "take it to the next level" and ensure that our practices are sustainable and can be easily tracked. A consultant with the LTA is coming to meet with us in February for a progress report!

Passing on a Legacy of Love

New Trade Lands Program Initiated with Spruce River Canoe Camp

Rick Laister's story can be described as nothing less than an Adventure, with a capital A. He stumbled across the UPLC while looking for someone to take over the care and keeping of his dream, hoping for someone to take on his mission as his health failed and he began to realize that he would not be able to accomplish his goals on his own. Rick's life reads a bit like those of his heroes, John Muir and Aldo Leopold: he traveled across the country, witnessing environmental destructions and victories in Angeles National Forest, in the Big San Nita Canyon and on the Kern Plateau. His family hand-built gliders, and Rick took those skills into canoe and kayak building. He spent years on a gold claim, panning with "an old Sourdough" whom he likens to a drawing of Rip Van Winkle. Those years of intimacy with the land were his foundation, as was the land ethic he developed while operating an antique store in the remote town of Rocky Bar, MT, where he lived like a traditional homesteader. After marriage and children kept him in a more "civilized" area, he dedicated himself to "passing on the love of wilderness to another generation and giving them a Place to love."



"Going to the wilderness is returning to our first love"
-Rick Laister

More than 500 trees were planted in a clearcut in Oregon by a church youth group he led. He focused on introducing inner city youth (even those who threw rocks at his car) to the steadying power of slow living in the woods. He witnessed lives changed by the wilderness, and that's why he bought Spruce River Canoe Camp.

He wanted to use it as a base from which to explore and to teach others how to explore; he planned to buy other properties in the UP while staying at Spruce River, restore them to a more natural state, and then sell or donate them to land conservancies such as the UPLC. Which is why, as his health declined, he came to us. Although the Spruce River Camp is too small for a Conservation Preserve, we felt the power of Rick's dream. Selling Spruce River Canoe Camp to a conservation-minded buyer will fulfill two missions at once: it will be a source of long-term funding for the UPLC, and it will also be a way to see Rick's legacy continue beyond the lives he has already so deeply touched. *If you're interested in helping see Rick's dream live on, call us today.*



The Spruce River Canoe Camp is a 4.2 acre historic property that we would like to sell to a conservation-minded buyer. It includes a "Pikku Sauna" and a privy, as well as the cabin and all of the historic furnishings, like the cast-iron woodstove and handcrafted kayak. Access to the Spruce River provides miles of paddling and fishing!

Notes from the Board of Directors >>>

from Jim Peck, Board President

Wow! 2015 was a very productive and busy year for UPLC—two easements, one trade land, and 22 conservation reserves added, plus outreach activities that included a race series and an educational field trip for 7th and 8th grade students. On behalf of the Board of Directors, **"Hail to the Donors" for your support in these endeavors!** Increased activity requires increased overhead (maintaining a dynamic and deserving staff, paying the freight for developing our preserves and reserves, etc.). ***This overhead is good and indicative of a growing and vital organization.*** There is also the unavoidable overhead such as rent (ours increased 33% in 2015 and is scheduled to increase another 33% in 2016) and office upkeep. As indicated in this newsletter, 2016 is promising to be an equally busy and eventful year. Therefore, UPLC will continue to focus on expanding its membership and fundraising efforts in 2016 and will be **counting on your continued and expanding support.** Together we are accomplishing our mission of "Land Today for Life Tomorrow;" **YOU** make this happen—**Thank you!**

Forests For The Future Boosts Conservation Reserve Program—Chris Burnett, Executive Director >>>

The Forests For the Future Foundation (FFF) was established by the late Fred Prince, a man passionate about good hardwood timber management. To ensure that the legacy he began would endure, Fred left 7,000 acres to several land trusts and other conservation organizations—including 1,015 acres scattered across the UP that were recently gifted to UPLC as "Conservation Reserves." You probably know that most of the properties UPLC protects are *Conservation Preserves*, where we are the sole owners, or *Conservation Easements*, where we own only the development rights. This year we have two additional land categories: "*Trade Lands*" (like Rick's camp above) are properties that do not qualify for permanent protection, and which we sell to support the protection of higher priority properties. A fourth category is for properties we own and sustainably manage by restoration forestry principles—*Conservation Reserves*. These provide an ongoing source of funding and allow us to demonstrate ecologically sound forestry practices. We will be contracting with a consulting forestry company to begin management of these lands soon, and are excited to see these lands restored according to Fred's dream and in line with UPLC's mission.

THANK YOU to the 2015 UPLC Members and Contributors >>>

PROTECTORS

Sandy & Mark Ehlert
Brad & Beth Cardinale
Bill & Kathy Davis
Don Miller
Jim & Norma Matteson
Jim Peck

BENEFACTORS

Bruce Ventura & Tina Hall
Robb Ferguson

SPONSORS

Mark Murphy
Gary Seevers
Jean McLean
Jerry Mohlman
Ralph Cook

SUPPORTERS

Marge Forslin
John Parlin
Scott Hickman & Debra Laurie
Terry O'Neill
Art & Paula Saari
James & Barbara Kidder

Kathy Peters
Marquette Food Coop
Mary & Bill Davis
Robert Anderson

FAMILY

Lauri & Kevin LaBumbard
Mary Martin
William & Janet Joswiak
Brent D Moore
Chris Burnett
Darlene Walch
Don & Mary Snitgen
Grant & Heidi Thomas
Keith & Vada Kepler
Loraine Campbell
Margaret Jensen
Paul & Zhuang-Zhong Lehmborg
Steve & Debi Peters

REGULAR MEMBERS

Ruth Almen
Alfred & Mary Ann Joyal
Sue Altmann

Thanks to Joe Mahaney for help setting up the new website!

FRIENDS

Jane Ryan
M.J & Jacoba Lexmond
Laura Pernice
Laurel Hill

RACE SPONSORS

Bruce Miller, D.D.S.
Fox Marquette
Jean McLean
Jim & Norma Matteson
Jim Peck
Marquette Food Coop
Lowe's Hardware Marquette
Synergy Fitness
Smith Paving
Ore Dock Brewing Company
Advanced Center for Orthopedics

IN MEMORY OF LEW PETERS

Alfred & Mary Ann Joyal
Barbara & Tom Buchkoe
Bill & Kathy Davis
Bill Olson
Cynthia & Gary Shaffer
Diane & John Manchester

Fred & Kathy Maynard
James & Nancy Carter
Jeanne & Garane Garane
Carolyn & Bob Myers
John & Jan Rebers
Karen Johnson
Lauri & Kevin LaBumbard
M.J & Jacoba Lexmond
Mary Carnahan
Paul Marin & Betsy Little
Roger & Lucille Contois
Sheila Ward & James Berner
T.G. & A.L. Froiland
Thomas & Mary Knauss
Tish Osborn

OTHER

Dr. Jim Heron *in memory of Jay and Mona Scriba*
Susan Marshall *in memory of Lily Hivala Korpi*
Nick Adair *in honor of Todd Streicher's Birthday*
Dale Thomas
Econo Foods
Jeff & Jessica Caldwell
Pride Printing

Over the River and Through the Woods Races a Continued Success >>>



The Second Annual Snowshoe Race/Trek at the future Vielmetti-Peters Reserve will be held February 13th, to be followed by a potluck dinner, awards, and silent auction! Register online or by mail.

The 2015 race series raised nearly \$5,000!

We might be able to use a Yooper 's traditional phrase here: "HOLY WAH, EH?" An expression of surprise, a feeling of being impressed, maybe an acknowledgment of work done and difference made...that's exactly how we feel about the success of our first year of races at the future Vielmetti-Peters Reserve. The Trail Run had fewer participants than the snowshoe race, but with a lower overhead cost, it ended up raising a comparable amount—and with approximately 200 participants between the two races, the outreach impacts are immeasurable. As a growing organization, we are thrilled to introduce active, outdoor-loving members of our community to a beautiful natural area where they can connect to the land. In bringing folks to the Future Reserve, we are creating new connections in our community, strengthening the relationship between the UPLC and local businesses, and introducing the community to our work. If you don't want to race, you are welcome to come hike or for dinner!

My Story is Our Story: Kathy Peters shares why she's working with the UPLC to protect her land

If you've already read about our race series, you may have noticed an important, operative word in the phrase, "races at the **future** Vielmetti-Peters Reserve." Kathy "Racer Number One" Peters explained why she's choosing to protect this land through the UPLC: *"In a busy world,"* Kathy says, *"a walk in the woods is refreshing."*

For the past 30+ years a forester managed the Lew Peters land at the end of Brickyard Road. Kathy knows that forestry "isn't just cutting down all the trees...a well-managed forest and selective cutting allows the forest to continue to be productive." Giving the land to UPLC as a reserve assures a healthy forest while keeping the land open for community enjoyment. "Lew and I watched the city spreading to the west and decided that we wanted to preserve this land for generations of people to enjoy." Kathy grew up in a New York City suburb, with a botanist mother and a geologist father. Even in the shadow of a huge city, her mother always found undisturbed places to search for wild flowers. "When she visited Marquette, we enjoyed exploring this forest together. This land has a nice variety of habitat for trees and plants. Midway Creek is our 'river.' The waterfall and spring are great places to discover and explore."

By working with the UPLC, Lew and Kathy's dream of giving folks a quiet place to explore is already coming to fruition, as we have been conducting educational programs for kids as well as hosting events on the Future Reserve. Other folks just come to walk and listen to the woods. We are very excited to have a place so close to town to show you, and to give you a place to come discover and explore.



"The land determines everything"
says Kathy

Upcoming Opportunities for Involvement >>>

- Annual Meeting and report on Tuesday, January 26th, from 6-9 pm at the Marquette Federation of Women's Clubs
- Eastside Ramblers Benefit Concert for the Chocolay Bayou Preserve at the Chocolay River Brewing Company on Saturday, February 20th. Potential Hike to the property at 6, fun local music starts at 7. Snacks provided, donations encouraged!
- Botany inventories needed on multiple properties in spring
- Trail work at Tory's Woods and Gamber-Brisky Preserves, May
- Invasive species removal volunteers needed in June
- **Room on the Board!** Do you or someone you know have a passion for protecting land and skills to share? **We need you!**

Wish you were more involved, but don't have the time to join the board?

Join a Committee!

*The UPLC depends on committees to accomplish the conservation goals we have set. **Your skills and interests are vital to our mutual mission, no matter the time you have available.** Some committees are ad-hoc, meaning they only meet until a project is complete; and others meet once a month all year round. If you'd like to be involved in stewardship, fundraising and outreach, finance, legal needs, strategic planning, policy and procedure writing, or administration...you name it,*

We want to hear from you!



Land Today for Life Tomorrow[®]

2208 US Hwy 41 South
Marquette, MI 49855



30% post-consumer content

2015/16
Winter
Newsletter

New Faces >>>



Andrew Rickauer grew up in the mountains of Colorado where he enjoyed as much time as he could exploring and learning about the outdoors. He left the mountains to attend school at Northern Michigan University where he studied Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management. After graduating,

Andrew returned to the mountains to manage a ski area and eventually got his MBA before returning to Marquette with his wife to start a family. Andrew now lives in Marquette and works at Thrivent Financial and is raising three adventurous girls. He still enjoys spending as much time as he can outdoors, exploring, learning, and teaching his girls about the great outdoors. He learned about the UPLC through the trail race series!



Andrea Denham comes to the staff of the UPLC as the new assistant director after working as the Echo Lake Preserve Assistant with The Nature Conservancy for two years. She preceded her return to Marquette with years of exploration and naturalist guiding and wilderness hiking in Yosemite National Park, getting her

WEMT in Haines, Alaska, rafting in the Yukon, and leading wilderness trips with the Girl Scouts of Alaska. She graduated from NMU with a degree in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management and is very excited to bring her outreach and programming experience to the UPLC. Andrea spends most of her free time playing outside with her mutt dog Patch and also works at Beth Millner Jewelry.