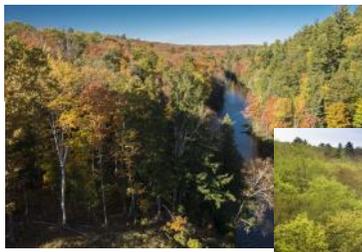


inside this issue ...

Reaching Further, Together

UPLC is working with partners and landowners to protect land in new areas and in new ways!

THANK YOU!



Spring & Summer 2018



Three-season view from the new CR510 bridge looking at the "Bridges" parcel of the Proposed Dead River Community Forest.

Information and Updates from the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy

U.P. Land Conservancy

connection



The Power of Community

By the Numbers ...

Number of Conservation Easements: 22
Acres: 3,128

Number of Preserves: 11
Acres: 1,488

Number of Reserves: 24
Acres: 1,458

Trade Lands: 1 Conservation Land for Sale!



-Creative Ideas for Conservation - by Andrea Denham, Assistant Director

The Dead River Community Forest has been UPLC's dream for a few years, and we'd like your help making it happen now! So, what is it? A year-round, accessible community resource that is a hub for environmental education, multi-use recreation, and the permanent protection of a healthy ecosystem! The McClure Basin Association has agreed to sell UPLC 161 acres adjacent to the 123-acre Vielmetti-Peters Conservation Reserve reaching from the north boundary all the way up to the Dead River, *and* they will donate 25 acres near the new County Road 510 bridge as a part of this project! All told, the Dead River Community Forest will protect 3.5 miles of riparian corridor along the Dead River and provide innumerable benefits to the region. **Why do we keep calling it the "Community Forest"?** While UPLC will own the land, the resources on the land and management decisions which affect land will be based around what will bring the most benefit to the community,

Story continues on the next page!

Officers:

President Bruce Ventura
Vice President Jean Mclean
Acting Secretary John Yonkers
Treasurer Adam Berger

Board Members:

Chelsea Bromley - Robb Ferguson - Jim Peck
Lora Loope - Grant Petersen - Andrew Rickauer
Brock Robinson - [Your Name Here?](#)

Staff:

Chris Burnett Executive Director
Andrea Denham Assistant Director
Jill Sekely Summer Stewardship Intern

Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy
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Marquette, MI 49855

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A representative from the NTN scoping sustainable multi-use trails

Introducing Jill Sekely, Summer Stewardship Intern!

Jill Sekely, a conservation-driven honorary Yooper, has joined our team this summer as a stewardship intern! Jill's conservation credentials include a B.S. in Biology from Michigan Tech, a slew of plover-crazy summer research positions in Texas and Nebraska, and a recently completed dual Master's degree in International Forestry from universities in Freiburg, Germany and Edmonton, Canada. Her main focus at UPLC this summer is coordinating and conducting annual monitoring visits to each of UPLC's 67 unique conservation properties, which is an essential part of our operations that allows us to ensure the continued protection of our lands. Since beginning in May, she's visited 19 properties. Some, like the Vielmetti-Peters Reserve, are hidden in plain sight just at the edge of Marquette, and some are tucked deep in the Upper Peninsula wildlands. She's walked in the footsteps of gray wolves and bobcats at the Harris Lake Conservation Easements, listened in on breeding birds including chestnut-sided warblers and scarlet tanagers at the Debelak Conservation Reserve, and has done valiant battle with lots – LOTS – of mosquitoes. She can't wait to keep exploring the wilds of the UP: both inside the land trust world and outside deep in the woods!



...Proposed Dead River Community Forest, Continued...



and based on feedback from the community. The DRCF will be a demonstration area for various styles of sustainable forestry (including management for maple sugar and other forms of traditional, low-impact harvests) and the carefully-planned harvests will provide positive local economic impact while protecting a sensitive watershed and rare plants. It will be an official outdoor classroom available to schools and regional universities for research and outdoor learning. We've been working with our partners at the Noquemenon Trail Network to design miles of stable, erosion-resistant multi-use trails (that means bikes and skis, too!) in the more durable areas and we will protect forever-wild areas unavailable for forestry and recreation.

How to make this dream a reality: We need YOU now! Do you have any thoughts, feedback, or ideas for us? We want you to work with us! If you are interested in volunteering for and/or helping plan the DRCF, call Andrea at the office. We've submitted more than \$160,000 in grant requests. If those all come through, **we'll need to raise \$60,000 in the next two years!** Dream with us and, please, donate to the Dead River Community Forest online or with the insert!

Event Reports and Announcements!

"Over the River and Through the Woods" 5k Trail Race Still Growing!



The OTR&TTW on May 6th was a delightful success! We raised more than \$2,500 towards the management and protection of lands like the Vielmetti-Peters Reserve! There were 62 racers and many more participants at the dinner and silent auction after-party at the Ore Dock Brewing Company on a beautiful spring day. The overall winner, Alex Dennis (with a time of 18.41!) had a smile on his face from the beautiful scenery as he crossed the line.



Upcoming "Paddle and Picnic" to raise funds for the Chocoley Bayou Nature Preserve on August 25th

Join UPLC and the Chocoley Bayou "Preservers" at the

Chocoley Township Marina from 2-7 for a fun day on the water raising funds and awareness to support the perpetual protection of the Bayou! We'll have donated kayaks and canoes available to rent, a guided hike and paddle, and a fun adult/child team "race" before the potluck picnic and music begins. \$15 for individuals and \$20/family available at the event to help raise \$20,000!

PROTECTING LAND IN AND AROUND GRAND MARAIS

Grand Marais West: New Conservation Easement!

Bill and Kathy Davis are long-time pillars of the conservation community in the Upper Peninsula, and they are no strangers to UPLC as founding members of the organization! They donated a conservation easement to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) years ago, and one of TNC's perpetual objectives has been to support the smaller land conservancies with which they are partners. TNC has decided that one way to do this in the UP is to step back from smaller land projects in the Grand Marais area and pass them on to us to continue to ensure the protection of these places. We now protect the Davis' four acres, along with 150 feet of Lake Superior shoreline complete with a Piping Plover nest!



Deer Park: New C.E.!

Edith "Teddy" Maynard is a retired research biologist with a gorgeous 80-acre camp, which has a rare, natural stand of Red Pine mixed with Jack Pine; and significant habitat for prairie warblers among other state-protected species. The camp, complete with bear stories and hiking trails, will be donated to our partners at TNC as part of Teddy's legacy plan. It will likely be a part of TNC's Conservation Buyers Program (read more about ours below)—but it will never lose permanent protection as TNC has donated a conservation easement on it to the U.P. Land Conservancy! Teddy's land will never be heavily, irresponsibly cut like the land adjacent to it, no matter who owns it. It will forever remain a haven for both humans and bears!

Introducing *Melodus*: New Nature Preserve!

If you've ever been to Grand Marais, Michigan, chances are you've been out to Coast Guard Point and the lighthouse. That lovely, windswept area is famous amongst conservationists and birders for several rare species, including the Huron Tansy, Pitcher's Thistle, and of course, *Charadrius melodus*, the Piping Plover. Thanks to The Nature Conservancy, UPLC now owns a small parcel stretching from the road to the shore between beach houses. We will protect this land *in perpetuity* from development and overuse in hopes of helping the near-threatened birds and rare plants continue to re-establish on the gravel beach. We hope to eventually open this area for public access (outside of nesting season) once a stable trail and knapweed removal are completed!



NEW Conservation Buyers Program—Land For Sale!



We get it—You want to create your home or camp with a healthy ecosystem, healthy water, thriving native plants and space for you and yours to explore, enjoy, and tend. If you're in the market for high-quality conservation lands, consider buying property from UPLC that is already permanently protected with a conservation easement! We're currently selling a buildable parcel of land in Grand Marais with 175' of Lake Superior shoreline, a rare wooded dune-and-swale complex, and some truly incredible birding (plovers!). Call us for more information!

Leaving a Legacy of Protected Land

Are you concerned about what will happen to the land and community of the Upper Peninsula in the future? We sure are! Are you considering including UPLC in your legacy planning, whether with a donation of money, stock, or land as a way to address that concern? If you've got questions about the tools and resources available to you to leave the legacy of protected land, we'd love to talk to you! Remembering UPLC in your legacy plans ensures that your love for the natural world is continued, and it's one of the easiest and most effective ways to make a lasting impact into the future.

Focusing on Land & Community—Our Revised Mission and Vision Statements

The following statements were approved by the board of directors in June as part of our strategic planning process. Our vision of a bright future: "The Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy envisions a future where residents and visitors enjoy clean waters, abundant wildlife, inspiring scenery, working lands, and a thriving economy. We see a future where our community values and supports UPLC as a vital institution that protects and contributes to the quality of life in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. We will be an integral link between a healthy ecosystem and a healthy community as we prepare the land for changes such as those due to global climate change and shifting demographics. The U.P. Land Conservancy will prepare for and meet these changes with a broad base of support and the financial independence to fulfill the commitments we have made."

In order to achieve this vision, our revised mission statement is

"The Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy promotes healthy ecosystems and communities by providing permanent legal protection and ecological management of conservation lands and by engaging the public in the protection and enjoyment of these lands."

2018
Spring & Summer
Newsletter

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2208 US Hwy 41 South
Marquette, MI 49855

Upcoming Events...

Protecting land is as easy as playing outside with us!

- * June 30th Wildflower Hike at the Chocolate Bayou 10 am at the Main Street Trailhead
- * July 21st Explore the Proposed Dead River Community Forest-10am at the Vielmettt-Peters Reserve Trailhead
- * August 11—Annual Indian Lake Outing (RSVP Required) Call or email for details!
- * August 25 Chocolate Bayou Nature Preserve "Preservers Paddle and Picnic" Fundraiser
- * 2-7pm Chocolate Township Marina
- * September 29th Annual Bald Mountain Adventure (RSVP Required) Call or email for details!

All events are posted on our website at www.uplandconservancy.org/events and are on Facebook. RSVP's are very appreciated but only necessary when specified. RSVP to these events by emailing uplc@uplandconservancy.org—follow us on Facebook and Twitter @uplandconservancy and sign up for our e-newsletter to catch the most up-to-date information on weather-dependent events!