



The Conservation Newsletter

Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District

\$258,700 Grant Awarded To HKCD To Purchase Dan's Point

Prepared by Sue Haralson, District Administrator

Since January 2002 Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District and Keweenaw Land Trust have been working together diligently to acquire grant funds to purchase Dan's Point.

Their hard work proved successful! Just recently the Michigan Coastal Management Program, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce and the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District signed the Coastal Management Program Grant Agreement for the Dan's Point Land Acquisition, a \$323,900 Project. (75% Grant of \$258,700 and 25% Local Match of \$65,000) Gina Nicholas, owner of the property has generously agreed to contribute the 25% local match in consideration that the property be named the Joseph and Mary Lizzadro Lakeshore Preserve in memorial of her grandparents.

Dan's Point is a 24-acre parcel with 643 feet of Lake Superior Shoreline at the northernmost point of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Eagle Harbor Township, Keweenaw County. This property is highlighted as a high quality bedrock plant community in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory's Study of Bedrock Shorelines. The property will be owned by the District and protected by a conservation easement from Keweenaw Land Trust for the purposes of noninvasive public access, education, and conservation.

Keweenaw County's Dan's Point To Be Named Joseph & Mary Lizzadro Lakeshore Preserve

The primary goals of this project are to protect high conservation value Lake Superior Shoreline from development, increase public awareness and the need to protect such properties through on-site education, and provide public access for noninvasive recreation to the north shore of the Keweenaw Peninsula which is dominated by private ownership. A secondary goal is to acquire the first of two properties that will enable an extensive non-motorized trail linking conservancies and public lands from shoreline to mountaintop in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

This will be Keweenaw Land Trust's first project in Keweenaw County and the first land acquisition for Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District.

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**600 E Lakeshore Dr., #2
Houghton, MI 39921
(906) 482-0214**

Meet Your Conservation District Directors and Staff

Marsha Klein, a life-long resident of the area currently serves the District as Board Chairperson and has been a Director for three years. She resides with her husband, Dan in the Calumet area. Marsha is a graduate of MTU in Forestry and is a MSU Certified Master Gardener.

Tami Anderson, appointed a Board Director in August 2002 to fill the vacancy left by the departure of former Board Chairman, David Heath, was also elected a Board Director along with Stephen Danis at the 2002 Annual Meeting.

Tami is a native of the Upper Peninsula who has lived and worked in Houghton County for eighteen years. She was Administrator/Executive Director for the District from 2000-2002. Tami graduated from Central Michigan University in 1983 with a B.S. in Recreation Management.

We regretfully accepted the resignation of **Tom Tervo** as Board Director this year. Tom moved out of our District area and was no longer eligible to serve on our Board. We wish him well.

Scott Noble of Torch Lake Township was appointed to take Tom's place on the Board. He has a desire to assist the district in its efforts to increase visibility and expand services. Scott has a M.S. in Forestry from Michigan Tech University's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science.

Mark Weber has been a resident of Keweenaw County for over twenty-five years residing in Fulton. Mark is employed with the Good Will Farm in Houghton, which serves high-risk youth in a residential setting. Mark has served with the HKCD Board for nearly six years. He is an avid gardener and active explorer of our area's rich mining history. His passion for conserving the natural resources of our pristine environment has been an asset to the mission of our District.

We also regretfully accepted the resignation of **Stephen Danis** as Board Director this year due to personal reasons. We wish him well.

Sue Haralson has been working with the District as Administrator since October 2002. Her previous experience of administrative/office management and computer skills qualified her for the job. Sue is a lifelong resident of Houghton County living with her husband, Bob in Lake Linden.

Jim Sweeting, our Forester/Wildlife Biologist, has been on hand since 1999 providing state and local government organizations along with private landowners with practical on-the-ground technical assistance in the areas of forest and wildlife management.

Jim and his wife Gail have lived in the area since the mid 70s and have a farm on the Chassell/Painesdale Road. Jim is a graduate of Michigan Tech University with a Bachelor of Science Forest Management and has a Master of Science Degree in Wildlife Ecology from South Dakota University.

Bruce Petersen is the District Conservationist that provides technical assistance to the Houghton Keweenaw, Baraga, Ontonagon and Keweenaw Bay Tribal Conservation Districts. This technical assistance helps landowners/land users who have various environmental concerns and want to pursue various grant opportunities and/or would like to enroll in one of the USDA Farm Bill Programs.

Soil Conservationist (vacant) This position, which is housed in the Baraga Area Service Center, provides Technical Assistance to the Western UP.

Altogether our District Board and Staff makes up a good team ready to take on the area's conservation challenges. Give us a call and we will be happy to assist you with your environmental/conservation concerns.

Come to our meetings and meet the people who manage your Conservation District! Monthly meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday in the UPPCO Building in the 1st floor Conference Room at 6 pm and are open to the public.

We encourage your attendance and welcome your involvement in our activities.

HKCD 52nd Annual Meeting October 18th at the Mariner North in Copper Harbor

Now is the time to call 482-0214 to reserve your \$15.00 ticket for our Annual Meeting and Dinner.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet your Conservation District Board Directors and Staff along with our co-workers: Michigan Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Torch Lake Superfund Project Engineers, Copper Country Ducks Unlimited, Keweenaw Land Trust, North Woods Conservancy, Keweenaw Industrial Council, Western UP Planning & Development Region, and the Houghton and Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners.

The Meeting will begin at 4 pm followed by a \$15.00 smorgasbord and guest speakers, Phyllis Green, Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park and Jim Rooks of Copper Harbor to round out an evening you won't want to miss.

Come and join us for an enjoyable evening.

We hope to see you there.

RECYCLING IN THE KEWEENAW

Numerous businesses in the Keweenaw support the recycling of:

Tires Fine Line Tire, Hancock; The Tire Shop, Hancock; Usitalo's Service, South Range; Dick's Service, L Anse and Dave's Auto, Laurium

Used Motor Oil Houghton County Transfer Station

Refrigeration Units— Julio Contracting, Superior Crafts, Pillowman Appliance and Brian Bekkala Repair
Tag indicates that a unit's Freon has been removed and tagged by a professional Freon remover.

Packing Peanuts, Bubble Wrap and Used Coolers The Shipping Shop, Houghton

Rechargeable Batteries Wal-Mart, Swift True Value Hardware and Radio Shack

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Car Batteries | Metal | |
| Other Large Appliances | Latex Paint | Plastic & Glass |
| Magazines | Cardboard | Newspapers |

For a complete list of these businesses along with a detailed list of the recycled items they handle, contact the District Office at 482-0214.

Information courtesy of Environmental Sustainability Committee, Michigan Tech University

For questions or comments, contact: 906 487-3341 or kbradof@mtu.edu
Or visit: <http://www.esc.mtu.edu> and <http://emmap.mtu.edu/gem>

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
\$20,000 PRIVATE LANDS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROJECT
Prepared by Jim Sweeting, Forester/Wildlife Biologist

The Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District is again offering free forestry and wildlife assistance to any private, non-industrial landowner in Houghton-Keweenaw, Baraga, Ontonagon and Gogebic Conservation Districts with the help of a \$20,000 Private Lands Technical Assistance Grant Project. These Conservation Districts contributed \$10,000 that was combined with a \$10,000 Grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Whether landowners have a lot in town where they want to improve the habitat for songbirds or acreage outside of town where they want to see their forest managed or increase wildlife numbers, all landowners qualify.

Part of this year's grant project included Education Presentations that provided sound principles of natural resource conservation to approximately 400 4th thru 6th graders in the 5 county area schools.

The students and I really appreciated you coming to our fifth grade classroom at Houghton Elementary and making a Wildlife Education Presentation. The students and I were fascinated and enlightened by the presentation. It was amazing how well you held their attention on a stormy afternoon just before their spring break. The students did quite well on that quiz you gave them at the end of the presentation, so I know they learned a lot from it. Sincerely, Lois Jamabekar, 5th Grade Teacher, Houghton Elementary

The Conservation District has always tried to help private landowners practice sound conservation and this service helps by focusing on two very important natural resources, our forests and our wildlife. Through our District Forester and Wildlife Biologist, Jim Sweeting, we want to give landowners practical, specific information about forestry and wildlife that works on their land. We want to encourage and excite landowners with the conservation possibilities on their property.

If you are interested in learning more about this free service or want to be put on the list for a free conservation site visit, call the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District at 482-0214.

**Conservation District Sponsors Teens to Attend
 Lake Superior Youth Symposium**

During April two area students, Alexandra Chesney of Hancock and Nicole Krug of Jeffers, attended the Lake Superior Youth Symposium held in Ashland, Wisconsin. Both girls enjoyed learning about energy-saving products and how to preserve Lake Superior.

Nicole Krug reported, Even something you do to a little river might affect Lake Superior. Any good things you do to a small stream will result in goodness for Lake Superior.

Alexandra Chesney explained, It really was a different experience from being assigned a paper in school where we don't have any type of inspiration from being outside.

The Earth Tunnel at the Houghton County Fair Is a huge success!

Through the combined efforts of the Houghton County Fair Association and the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, the Earth Tunnel from the Midland Conservation District was on display in the Youth Building at the Fair Grounds.

This walk through tunnel display shows the underside of the earth. On the outside of the tunnel there are shrubs, onions and carrots growing. Inside the tunnel, when you look up, you see the roots of these plants, the onion bulbs and the carrots. In the sides of the tunnel are small windows showing snake, rabbits and mice burrows.

Children of all ages enjoyed this unique perspective of the earth.

We extend a special Thank You to the Houghton County Fair Association for sharing the expense of getting the Earth Tunnel here.

We would also like to thank Judy Szyszkoski of Chassell for bringing this unique display to our attention.



Hanna and Aaron Langfoss of Marshfield, WI, explore the tunnel while visiting with their Grandma.

Keweenaw County Soil Survey Complete

On May 28th the Keweenaw Soil Survey marked the end of a project to classify and map the soils in Keweenaw County. The Final Acre Ceremony was held on May 28th at 1 pm at the Keweenaw Courthouse. The ceremony included comments from Sheri Davie, Regional Director of U. S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Keweenaw County Commission Chairperson Frank Stubenrauch, United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service Personnel, and the Keweenaw Soil Survey Staff. After the inside



HKCD Chairperson Marsha Klein takes a turn with the soil auger

comments everyone went outside on the courthouse lawn to observe the last soil boring with an soil auger to symbolize the final acre being mapped in Keweenaw County. Cake and refreshments were served by the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District who hosted the ceremony.

The Keweenaw Soil Survey progressed in two stages. First, there was soil survey fieldwork on Isle Royale in 1989 and 1990. Then soil survey fieldwork was completed on the mainland from 1998 to 2003. This soil survey will show the location of all the different soils in the county on an aerial photo background. Detailed descriptions of each soil type and the properties of the soil will be available.

Soils properties include soil texture, permeability, density, bearing strength, water table depth and duration, common vegetation, and more. During the soil inventory some 56 soils were classified. Six were newly classified soils. These new soils were named Bete Grise, Betsy Bay, Copper Harbor, Gratiot, Lac La Belle, and Montreal.

Initial copies of the field soil maps are available through the NRCS Dwight Jerome, Resource Soil Scientist in the Marquette USDA office.

In the coming months an interim soil report will be available in the USDA-NRCS offices, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District and from the NRCS Resource Soil Scientist. A published survey report from the Government Printing Office will be released after the final technical review in March of 2004.

Backyard Conservation—You Can Do Your Part!

Prepared by Barry Bubolz, USDA Soil Conservationist

So, you're not a farmer or the owner of a large tract of land? Do you believe you must own from 10 to 100 acres or more to do something to benefit the environment? Well, this is far from the truth! There are numerous types of environmental practices you can perform right in your own backyard!

The area around your home is a great place to enhance wildlife habitat. First of all, you need to understand what type of wildlife you would like to attract by providing the right food, water and cover.

Let's use songbirds as an example. There are various ways to provide food for the birds. The most obvious is the use of a bird feeder. Another way to attract songbirds is to provide fruiting shrubs and trees such as gray and red osier dogwoods, serviceberry, high bush cranberry, hawthorn, nannyberry, crabapple and mountain ash. These species provide a small fruit (berry) that songbirds utilize. It is best to plant a variety of shrubs since different species provide their fruits during different seasons.

Water is extremely critical to songbirds and many types of wildlife. Maintaining a birdbath, keeping water as fresh as possible is an easy way to provide water for songbirds.

The winter's cold and wind causes many songbirds to search for evergreens and other dense vegetation. Planting a few evergreens such as White or Norway Spruce and Balsam Fir provide this needed cover. When these evergreens are planted near food sources they complement each other in providing an excellent songbird habitat.

On June 12th Barry Bubolz was transferred to Shawano, Wisconsin. We will miss him and wish him well.

Help Save Hunter's Point

Hunter's Point Public Access Is Threatened By Development

Grant Township has applied for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to purchase approximately 8.9 acres of Hunter's Point that includes 4,700 feet of shoreline.

Grant Township needs to raise \$195,000 to complete the purchase.

Help Grant Township save Hunter's Point from development by making a tax deductible donation to the Hunter's Point Project and writing a letter of support to:

Hunter's Point Project
P.O. Box 76
Copper Harbor, MI 49918

For more information:

www.hunters-point.org
grantsuper@pasty.com



Spread the Word

Torch Lake Superfund Site Progress Report

Prepared by Andrea Paladino, NRCS Civil Engineer

Superfund site construction for the summer of 2003 has had a strong kickoff on Gull Island and Point Mills. Brenda Jones, our new EPA Project Manager, along with a group of EPA Employees traveled here in May to plant Red Pine, White Cedar, Beach Grass and various other vegetation on the island, a 13-acre parcel of land located in Torch Lake near Hubbell. A local contractor was hired to seed and mulch a portion of the island where the trees were planted and along the shoreline. We believe these test plots will be successful options for covering the island due to its unique characteristics.

Bacco Construction worked in June to complete the Point Mills site after a winter shutdown due to unworkable weather conditions last fall.

The current year's project sites include: Boston Pond, Calumet Lake, Isle Royale Sands and Michigan Smelter. The construction began on Boston Pond on July 14th and Calumet Lake started on July 22nd.

We are looking forward to another successful construction season!

United States Department of Agriculture

Prepared by Bruce Petersen, District Conservationist

This summer season has started out with a bang, or I guess a downpour. Again, for the second year in a row we have had a 100-year plus storm rainfall event, which is about 4.5 inches of rain over the course of 24 hours. In this area Baraga, Ontonagon and Keweenaw Counties experienced various degrees of flooding and county road washout damages. When these intensive storms occur the USDA — NRCS can assist sponsoring units of government through our Emergency Watershed Program (EWP). This program can assist the sponsoring unit of government with erosion protection, the improvement and protection of culvert inlets, channel sediment cleanout and debris removal.

This spring about 25 Damage Survey Reports (DSR s) were completed within the three weather-damaged counties mentioned above. Those completed DSR s contain sociological and economic impacts, engineering cost estimates, an engineered design and a thorough damage assessment of the sites. Once a DSR is done with the sponsoring unit of government and if monies become available at the national level, cost-share assistance can be used for the facility erosion protection and channel flow restoration. Hopefully, along with Marquette and Gogebic Counties we can get some much needed economic help for this area's flood damaged sites.

Maria Stoneberg, a Forestry Student at Tech, is our Student Trainee this summer. This summer the NRCS employed 22 summer trainees around the State of Michigan. Earlier this summer Maria spent most of her time assisting Barry Bubolz, Soil Conservationist, USDA-NRCS Service Center, Baraga, with the finalization of some of his projects prior to his departure to Shawano, Wisconsin. Then Maria worked with the Torch Lake Superfund crew and myself getting as much experience as possible with a real diversity of environmental projects. We are very glad Maria is here and hopefully she can come away with both an enjoyable summer experience as well as an opportunity to learn about the Conservation Districts and the NRCS.



Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
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**CALL 482-0214 NOW to make your reservations for the
Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District 52nd Annual Meeting**

Oct. 18th at 4 pm at the Mariner North in Copper Harbor

**After the meeting a \$15.00 Smorgasbord Dinner will be served followed by guest speakers:
Phyllis Green, Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park
and Jim Rooks of Copper Harbor.**

**This is a great time for a picturesque ride to the northernmost part of our Grand State.
*We hope to see you there!***

For additional information:

Visit our web site at www.hkconserve.com

E-mail us at hokew@mi.nacdnet.org

Or call the District Office at (906) 482-0214



Managing Our Natural Resource