

Celebrating 20 years of protecting Kansas lands!

stewardship notes

Winter 2010-2011
Volume 21, Number 2



The Newsletter of the Kansas Land Trust

[ANNUAL REPORT]

A Letter from the President

The strength of the Kansas Land Trust is its members. I doubt that the organizers of the KLT ever imagined that in 20 years, KLT would hold 42 easements protecting in perpetuity more than 15,500 acres of land across the State of Kansas. It is your generosity, your enthusiasm, your backing of a sometimes daunting mission, that has and will continue to help KLT protect lands in our state that are facing increasing development pressures. The KLT Board of Directors really appreciates your loyal membership.

Your contributions are essential not only for the expenses associated with the basic work we do to preserve lands through conservation easements and to monitor and enforce those easements forever, but they are also critical to us so that we can pay the mundane but necessary expenses to keep the lights on and to run an organization that requires lots of maps and file cabinets in addition to electronic storage. You have provided the facilities for protecting thousands of acres of land.

But to continue to protect our prairies and woodlands, we need more members. We cannot continue to expand unless we recruit more people like you. KLT has always been a membership-based operation, believing that when many people come together and each gives what he or she can, we can realize grand dreams!

This we know: none of us alone could have protected 15,500 acres of the Kan-

sas we love in the past 20 years. With that record of success, we ask you to spread the word to your family, your co-workers, and your friends who might be interested in joining this effort. We need them and they need us.



CATHERINE
HAUBER
President

Every time I sign a new conservation easement, I experience the realization that my children and all who follow after me will enjoy the same beautiful landscapes that I have gazed upon at each dedication-nature at its finest. Each of you can participate in this legacy through your contributions and continued support. It is difficult to imagine how different this landscape might have been without the breathtaking sea of grass that stretches as far as you can see across Rod Moyer's 7,000-acre ranch in the heart of the Flint Hills, or without the dazzling colors of the wildflowers on the Akin Prairie in Douglas County in early June, or the wondrous beauty of the Bacon's 500-acre ranch in Chase County.



DESIGNED TO LAST (photo courtesy of Bruce L. Hogle). Early settlers adapted to the Flint Hills' thin, rocky soils. "Chapman fence posts" are salvaged steel pipe anchored in limestone not suited for other purposes. Such posts are still found in use on the Bacon and Moyer Ranch easements.

This thrill, of being a part of an organization that is dedicated to the preservation of open spaces, never leaves me. I hope that you share the same excitement when you tell your friends that you have helped protect more than 24 square miles of Kansas.

Send your friends to our website or let us know their names and addresses and we will send them an invitation to join. Thanks.

Cath Hauber

A partner at Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP in Kansas City, Kate was recently recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* in Real Estate Law.

stewardship notes

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Member of the



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Kansas Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that protects and preserves lands of ecological, scenic, historic, agricultural, or recreational significance in Kansas.

KLT utilizes a variety of long-term land protection mechanisms, but primarily accepts donated conservation easements from willing landowners. Conservation easements are legal agreements by which landowners voluntarily restrict the type and amount of use permitted on their property. KLT is a §501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations of easements or land to KLT for conservation purposes may have potential tax benefits for donors. KLT is funded by individual contributors, foundations, corporations, and government agencies.

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[SENSES OF PLACE]

Dartmoor, Devon, England, Morning and Afternoon

Dartmoor, 368 acres of moorland in southwestern England, known to readers of Sherlock Holmes for its devilish inhabitants and mysterious terrain, seems far distant from the wind-swept and sun-blessed prairies of Kansas. Yet, in a day spent walking Dartmoor, I came to feel that places, like cultures and people, which are described or known primarily through difference, may also prove to be profoundly similar.

Geared up with hot pasties, candies, plenty of water, and an ordinance survey map, four of us—Alex, Andrew, Liz, myself—plus Jessie, the black dog, left the thatched-roofed village of Dunsford for the moor. I set out, thinking that Emily Dickinson had said she'd never seen a moor, yet knew just how the heather looked. Never having trekked across a moor, I was also uncertain about the heather. Another poet was on our collective minds, as we had determined that our trek would not be aimless, for we would be seeking the memorial stone of Ted Hughes, British Poet Laureate at the time of his death in 1998 and lover of these moorlands.

Our path lay initially on a logging road, a dark and densely replanted forest rising up on either side with light slanting through the trees as it might through slats. But eventually we passed through a stile, and land and light opened up before us. Clouds were boating across the sky, and long reaches of rolling grassland stretched out from our feet, dipping and rising. The clouds' images maneuvered their way over these dips and rises, scudding slowly and deliberately, momentarily darkening the swelling green. On a clapper bridge, made of immense, rectangles of granite, two pairs laid side by side and thus a wagon's width, we crossed a

tumultuous brook of clear water. Watching the water hiss and steam around chunks of granite set at odds in the brook, I began to see that this green Dartmoor was granite-based.



ELIZABETH
SCHULTZ

On the other side of the brook, our way lay upward, and we started trudging. We passed an abandoned farmstead, granite walls still outlining enclosures for gardens, pens. Stunted fruit trees hovered near by. Three Dartmoor ponies nibbled grass congenially as we passed. We followed paths, perhaps created by human, certainly by sheep, for occasionally they scampered briskly ahead of us in a line, more assured of their course than we. Despite following the compass and the map's directions, we found ourselves blundering across tussocky, hummocky ground. What had appeared initially as grasslands, I realized soon enough, was a boggy, often soggy landscape. Dartmoor's granite—the largest area of granite in Britain—lies well disguised beneath peat, heather, and moist green sphagnum moss. For the walker, this meant one foot up and the other down, and occasionally the foot which came down sank with a jolt into collected rain water. I learned to hop from one green footstool to the next. But still we climbed.

On the long ridge up ahead of us ap-

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peared three tors, weathered granite outcroppings characteristic of Dartmoor's summits. For the human traveler, they provided landmarks, shade, a place to pause and eat our pasties, not quite so hot now. As if exposing the earth's tough and ancient skin, the tors stood worn and creased and grey above the land's rough green hide. They also seemed eye-catchers against the sky, reorganizing the horizon as commas do in long sentences. For the swallows and swifts darting around them, these barren tors were home.

As we stood with the tors overlooking the moors swelling to the horizon, Ted Hughes' memorial stone seemed a figment of local lore or the mapmaker's imagination. We checked our grid references, realized we'd overshot our mark, and retraced our steps. For a while we followed a rough road of cut granite, made by ancient peat harvesters. Increasingly, swaths of heather appeared, dappling the moor deep purple. Letting space and time unfold around me, I con-

tinued stumbling across the lumpy land, meadow pipits springing up at my feet as if to keep me alert. Eventually, Liz and I pulled up a dry spot on a slope to watch Alex, Andrew, and Jessie become minute figures in the distant landscape as they forged ahead and back and forth with the map. Liz also spotted a low knoll near them with a singular grey spot in its center. The knoll I learned later was probably a discard pile for medieval tin miners, whereas the grey spot turned out to be the poet's elusive memorial.

We celebrated together at the stone. We celebrated Hughes, Dartmoor, the day, our own perseverance and friendship. Jessie leapt joyously. Cleared of clouds and contrails, the sky above and around us was unmarked, boundless blue, and cupped by these green moors, Hughes' memorial stone seemed to be the very center of the world. As I feel in sauntering Kansas prairies, for a moment my finite self may be fused with infinity.

Audited Financial Statements

Based upon the Independent Auditors Report
by Berberich Trahan & Co., P.A. (9/11/2009)

Balance Sheet (as of 12/31/2009)

| ASSETS | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | \$38,058 |
| CD/Savings/Investment | \$391,682 |
| Fixed Assets | \$0 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$419,016 |

| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Liabilities | \$0 |
| Equity | |
| Stewardship Fund, Restricted | \$154,592 |
| Grants, Donor-restricted | \$73,121 |
| Board-designated, Unrestricted | \$191,303 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | \$419,016 |

Income & Expense (2009)

| INCOME | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Member Contributions | \$55,382 |
| Grants | 60,353 |
| Interest | 4,861 |
| Merchandise Sales | 3,194 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,424 |
| Stewardship Fund, Restricted | 49,464 |
| Stewardship Fund, Unrestricted | 174,800 |
| Easement Purchase Funds * | 2,725,879 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$3,075,357 |

| EXPENSES | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Operating Expenses ^ | \$246,184 |
| Easement Purchase Funds * | 2,697,633 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$2,943,817 |

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| NET INCOME | \$131,540 |
|-------------------|------------------|

* Army & NRCS easement purchase payments to landowners that simply "pass through" KLT.

| ^ OPERATING BREAKDOWN (% by function) | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Program Services | \$184,029 | 75% |
| Management | 58,282 | 24% |
| Fundraising | 3,873 | <2% |
| Total | \$246,184 | 100% |

^ Note: the American Institute of Philanthropy's *Charity Rating Guide* recommends that "60% or more of your charitable donation should go to program services" and "less than 40% should be spent on general administration and fundraising."

KLT is proud to be one of the "most highly efficient charities" spending "75% or more on programs."

List of Contributors to the Kansas Land Trust

We extend our sincere gratitude to these supporters who contributed to the Kansas Land Trust between September 1, 2009, and October 31, 2010. Please let us know if your name has been omitted or misspelled.

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continued on page 6

continued from page 5

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Success Spurs Need for Sustainable Organizational Development

BY JASON FIZELL, Executive Director

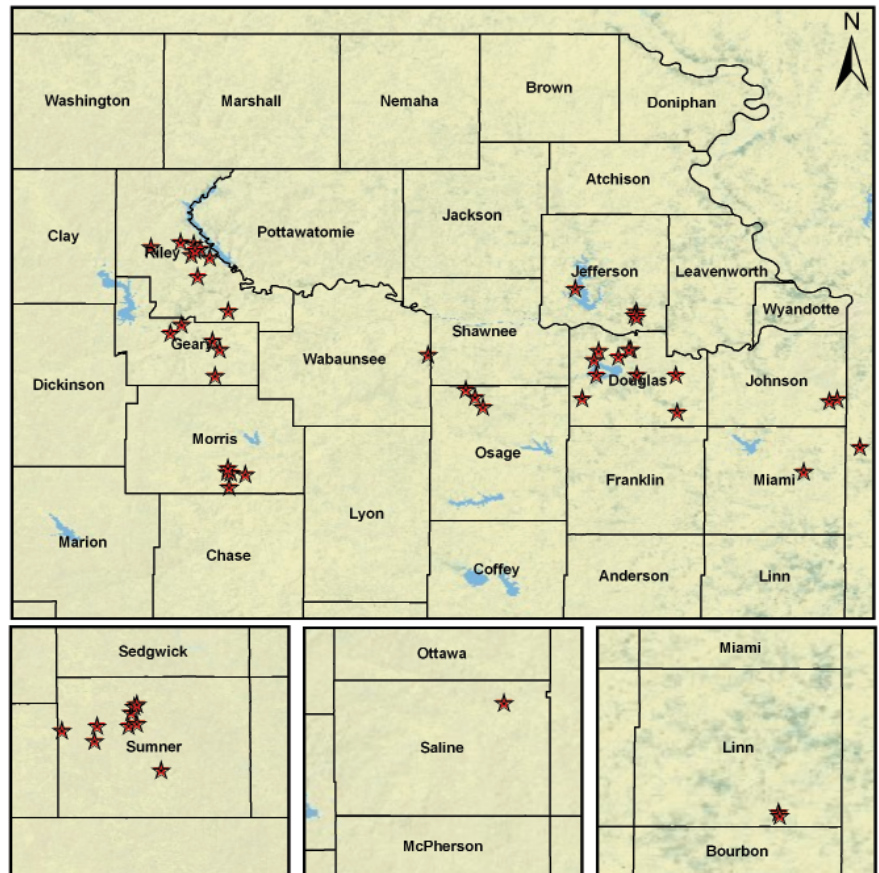
These figures illustrate KLT's recent rapid growth in terms of both the number of properties and acreages now permanently protected. This 20-year labor of love for Kansas lands—driven by our members' generous, ongoing contributions—is now bearing more fruit than ever before.

Increasingly crucial clustering of protected properties is evident in Douglas, Jefferson, Riley, Geary, Morris, and Sumner counties. Meanwhile, Johnson, Miami, Osage, Linn, and Saline counties all show incredible potential for continued land protection and future victories.

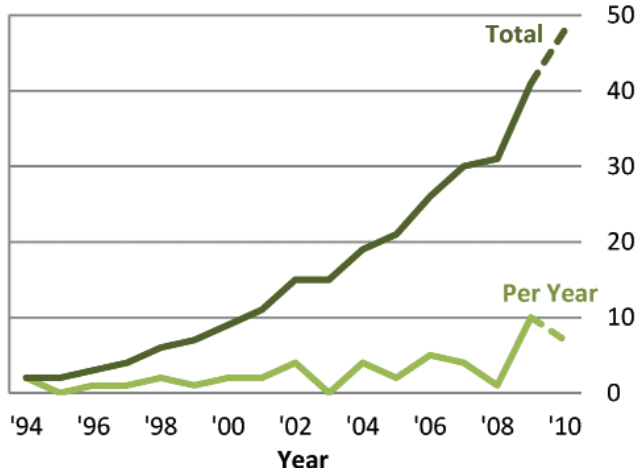
Naturally, KLT benefits greatly from our "early adopters" becoming long-term advocates: indeed, as landowners of now-protected properties share the benefits of conservation easements with neighbors and family members, KLT is handling an unprecedented number of inquiries and applications from interested landowners.

We recently mailed our membership renewal notices for 2011. Please heed President Kate Hauber's call to help KLT to grow our base of support: pass along the names and contact information for like-minded friends and family—as well as consider increasing your own membership contribution—to help KLT keep pace.

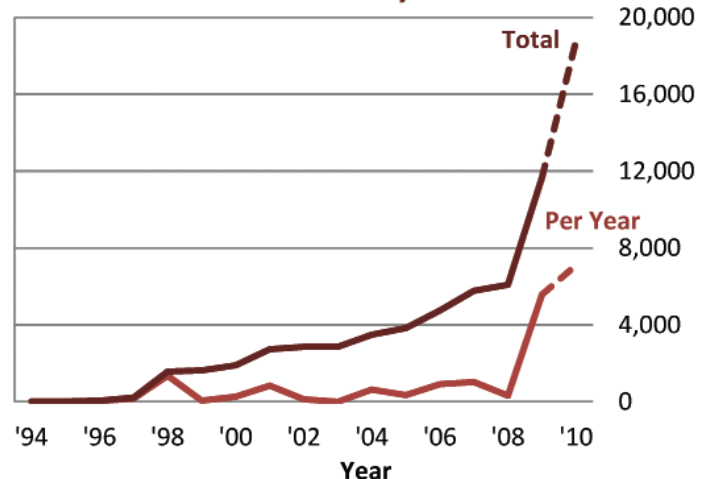
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of Properties Protected by KLT



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Annual Report



& Thanking Our Members

ABOVE: Mary Miller & Charles Stansifer



Appreciation Receptions to Thank Members

KLT started regional Member Appreciation events in 2010 with a reception in Lawrence on Oct. 3 for eastern Kansas members. Prize-winning author and former KLT board member Donald Worster presented a talk and slide show, "America's Breadbasket and Our Changing Climate." The event also featured volunteer awards and the auction of a donated copy of the Baby Elephant Folio of Audubon's Birds of North America. A Member Appreciation reception for Manhattan-area members will be held in early 2011; information will be posted on our Facebook Page and our website at www.klt.org.

AT LEFT (FROM TOP): Kathy & Mike Riordan, Shirley Domer & Haskell Springer, and ease-ment donor Bob Lichtwardt & KLT board member Valerie Wright



[www.facebook.org/
KansasLandTrust](http://www.facebook.org/KansasLandTrust)

KLT's Facebook page is a great way to keep informed of special events as well as to get a sneak peek of new photos as well as read stories about recently protected properties, ongoing stewardship efforts, and landowners who have protected their land. Here's an example of a recent post by Jerry Jost:



WOOD DUCKS ON THE BLUE RIVER (by Charles Gabrielli). These colorful ducks are paddling a preserved stretch of river in southern Johnson County. Thanks to Bo and Bill Stueck, who worked with KLT to protect this endangered waterway from threats associated with subdivision and development.