

Land Today for Life Tomorrow

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U.P. Land Conservancy

Connections "Phase Three"



By the Numbers ...

Number of Conservation Easements:	24
<i>Acres:</i>	3,164
Number of Preserves:	11
<i>Acres:</i>	1,488
Number of Reserves:	25
<i>Acres:</i>	1,612
Total Acres Protected by the UPLC:	6,264
Number of Acres 'Adopted:'	69
Number of Donors: in 12 months :	264
Grants received in 12 months:	\$90,000
Public Donations in 12 months:	\$23,350
Total funds needed to hit our August operations goal:	\$16,182.00

Board Officers:

Daniel Watkins, President
Jean McClean, Vice President
Chelsea Bromley, Secretary
Adam Berger, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

<i>Brock Robinson</i>	<i>Grant Petersen</i>
<i>Jim Peck</i>	<i>Andrew Rickauer</i>
<i>Robb Ferguson</i>	<i>Student Directors:</i>
<i>Marc LaBeau</i>	<i>Caden Reed</i>
<i>Delora Loope</i>	<i>Samuel Kapp</i>

Staff:

Andrea Denham, Executive Director
Christopher Burnett, Ph.D. Assistant Director
Adina Daar, Administrative Office Manager
Newly Hired: Lands Program Manager
Elise Oswald, Summer Stewardship Intern

Sending Off Dr. Chris Burnett, Exiting Executive Director

In our fall newsletter, Chris wrote an article looking back on his seven-year tenure with the UP Land Conservancy (two years on the Board, five years as Program Manager and then Executive Director). In that article, he named many of the events that you'll read about in the next pages as the "three phases of UPLC" — entering year 20 marks our entrance into **Phase Three: Community Conservation.**



Chris' award-winning photo of the Peshekee Headwaters Conservation Easement

Community Conservation is a part of our strategy to connect people to the land—a deepening of our mission to protect Land Today for Life Tomorrow. In the coming years, we will be focusing on the impact the land we protect has on the community immediately surrounding it—Chris has given our new ED, Andrea Denham, an excellent foundation to enter this next stage in our organizational growth.

With Chris at the helm, UPLC skyrocketed from a grassroots group with one staff to a nationally accredited organization with four staff, a restoration-focused forest management program, and triple the acreage of land protected.

Thank you, Chris!

Please join us in wishing Chris all the best in his "graduation" to retirement!



UPLC: A Twenty-Year Timeline

1999: A Great Big Idea

Legend has it that a couple of local folks were walking in the woods attempting to solve local problems they could foresee impacting their beloved community from Climate Change, industry changes, and a major demographic switch. From the conversation came the idea for a way to permanently protect land in the Marquette area.



An early reconnaissance mission



Our first logo

2001-2003

The Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy Begins

Incorporated as an 501(c)(3) organization in July of 1999, early volunteers were full of fire and passion for grassroots efforts to protect land and preserve a way of life for the community. Early projects focused on assessing community needs in the face of urban sprawl and non-native invasive species control and removal.

2003-2012 Slow and Steady Growth

CLSLC worked hard on protecting and restoring endangered Piping Plover nesting habitat and began to focus on protecting privately owned land through Conservation Easements for land owners who have sensitive riparian buffer zones. Our first Preserves were acquired during this time as we continued to make connections and work with the community to protect lands that are important to us all. We were also involved in forming early partnerships for conservation organizations across the Great Lakes Basin.



Protecting and restoring riparian buffer zones on private land



New name, new logo!

2012: The Upper Peninsula Land

Conservancy Emerges: As we grew in the previous decade, the board and decided that it was time to hire permanent staff and expand beyond the central region of the Peninsula. We rebranded as the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy as we determined to seek national accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance and adopted those principals into our work.

2013-2015: UPLC Rises

With multiple year-round staff dedicated to the mission of protecting Land Today for Life Tomorrow, the organization flourished as we gained our first Working Forest Reserve. During these years, we acquired multiple open-to-the-public nature preserves and began hosting our public outreach events, like the annual "Over the River and Through the Woods" 5k. Fundraiser race..



Public outreach at Blueberry Festival



2016-2018: Growing Deep Roots

With our public profile growing, the staff focused efforts on both expanding our outreach and land acquisition efforts. In the span of three years, both our annual donors and land protection doubled, including the Herculean effort to save the Chocloy Bayou from development. We doubled our staff capacity in this time, initiated service learning partnerships with local educational entities, and attained national accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance!

2019 and Beyond: The Future of the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy

Two words sum up our new phase: *Community Conservation*: Working with the community to protect land for the community. While we transition staffing structure from two part time staff to three, and enjoying the increased visibility of moving our office into downtown Marquette, we are taking the time to implement new infrastructure and focus all our acquisition efforts on the Dead River Community Forest and expanding partnerships with our community. **We are thrilled to be working alongside you for the next 20 years.**



Enjoying the panorama with the community

New Faces



Adina Daar,
Office Manager

A lifelong learner and ever-curious naturalist, Adina grew up in Florida where love and respect for nature and wildlife were cultivated at a young age.

She moved to the Upper Peninsula in 2018 and quickly became involved with the UPLC as an 'Enthusiastic Supporter' before joining as the **Office Manager**. Prior to life in the UP, Adina traveled the world as a research consultant helping companies develop and improve many of the products and services we interact with every day. In 2016 she fell in love with the emerging discipline of Biomimicry (which is looking to nature for inspiration for solving big challenges) eventually receiving a degree and professional certification in the area. She brings a wide array of experience to work for the UPLC and is passionate about supporting mindful and future-focused conservation efforts.

Elise Oswald
Summer Monitoring Intern



Elise Oswald is UPLC's **Summer Stewardship Intern**. She grew up in Escanaba and loved camping with her family around the UP. Her favorite spot to camp was Grand Marais, where she swam, picked blueberries (eating more than she saved) and started her agate collection. Elise received her bachelors in Environmental Science at Northern Michigan University in 2017. Currently, she enjoys mountain biking, swimming and hanging out with her extended family members.



Dan Watkins
Board President

Dan first gained an appreciation of protected lands growing up in western Washington state. He continued to develop his love and respect for the outdoors as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenya, and later as a graduate student in Colorado and Idaho. Now, as a practicing physical therapist in the Marquette area, Dan works toward the betterment of his community by promoting fitness and functional independence. He feels privileged to work with the Board of Directors at UPLC to reinforce the connection between human health and the natural environment, and we feel privileged to have him as our **new Board President!**

Have you considered including your support of UPLC as part of the legacy you leave behind?

For sample language or to discuss other ways to meet your philanthropic goals, call us at (906)225-8067 or email uplc@uplandconservancy.org today. If you have already included UPLC in your estate planning, we'd love to thank you!

Thrivent Financial allows folks who invest with them to donate to charities of your choice on a quarterly basis in several different ways, including mini-grants. *UPLC has been given more than \$7,000 through Thrivent programs to date!*

Upcoming Events...Protect land, play outside!

- **Exploration Days:** Off trail adventures! **Saturday, June 29 10-3 Dead River Community Forest: Bayous.** Come see proposed trails to the North of the Vielmetti-Peters Reserve. **Indian Lake Exploration: Saturday, August 31 (all day, RSVP)** See the expansion! **Bald Mountain Adventure: September 28 (all day, RSVP),** learn about this ongoing project at peak fall colors
- **Guided Hikes:** On trail hikes with a guide. **Tory's Woods Hike** Saturday, **July 27th 1-4** —see the new interpretive signs designed by NMU students.
- **Walk and Wonder Series:** Easy walks with a guide. **Biomimicry with Adina! Thursday, 8/8 6-7 pm** A short walk in the neighborhood to explore nature's genius right in front of us. **Leaf Peepers at the DRCF Bridges: October 5th, 5-7pm** Fall colors at the 510 bridge.
- **20th Anniversary Celebration! Wednesday, August 21. Open house 3-6, Dinner and music** at the new office 6-9 *Short Presentation and introduction to new staff and the plan for the next 20 years.*

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. RSVP by calling or emailing uplc@uplandconservancy.org—follow us on Facebook @uplandconservancy and sign up for our e-newsletter to make sure you've got up-to-date information on weather-dependent events!

-Volunteers Needed-

Not enough time to be on the board but still want to help? Awesome! From addressing envelopes or fixing our computers to trail building, we can only protect land today for life tomorrow *together*—Consider joining a committee or volunteering for projects!



Land Today for Life Tomorrow™

148 West Hewitt Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855



30% post-consumer content

2019
Summer
Newsletter

Two Jims: Former Board Presidents reflect on 20 years

Jim Cantrill, UPLC's first Board President, recently reflected. “The idea of a local conservancy grew out of discussions related to sustainability in the Marquette region and a plan was hatched between myself and Karl Lindquist in a crummy little backwoods shack one wet afternoon. We turned to others with experience in the land trust movement... (we) recognized that it might be a tough sell in the UP... Our strategy was to slowly build capacity though public outreach focusing on the economic advantages to be had to land owning taxpayers, secure some introductory easements as examples, and build a diverse board. Our activities were largely self-funded, though ... We were opportunists who took on projects that, today, would not warrant consideration simply because it allowed us to build capacity. In the end, and after a few stumbles along the way, the strategy worked: By the end of nine years, our little land conservancy grew from having zero dollars in assets to more than \$3,000,000 in land holdings. It's great to see that the legacy continues to flourish!”



Jim Peck, our recently-retired Board President, had this to say: “‘Life’s a dance you learn as you go’ neatly sums up my 9 years as a board member (2011-2019). Major challenges during the early years of my tenure included establishing policies compliant with Land Trust Alliance (LTA) standards, and establishing a stable paid staff position. Marge Forslin, former board president, and Dr. Chris Burnett, a previous board member and soon-to-be-former staff member, were major forces pushing the board to meet these challenges during these early years. Thanks to these folks and to the many board members and volunteers UPLC is 20 years old, LTA accredited (2018), and thriving in its effort to protect ‘land today for life tomorrow.’”