

Nature News



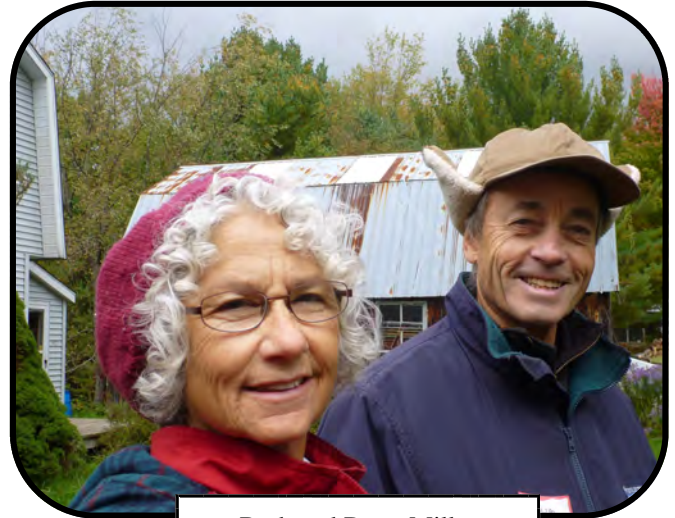
Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

Fall 2014

A Grand Celebration!

On Saturday, October 4, the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy gathered to celebrate the conservation easement of Barb and Doug Miller.

This easement brought 240 acres of land under our protection. This property was once slated to become a subdivision built around a dredged lake. Thankfully one property owner wouldn't sell so the project floundered. On a whim Doug's father picked up the property "dirt cheap." Doug and Barb were then able to buy it from him in 1973 at the "dirt cheap" price! Later the Millers, intending to sell part of the tract, put an ad in *Mother Earth News* hoping to attract like-minded neighbors. It worked; Marco and Kathy Menezes saw the ad, bought the property next door and became wonderful neighbors helping to keep the area undeveloped. Thus a beautifully rich tract with diverse wildlife habitat, a creek, a marsh and a working forest will stay that way—forever.



Barb and Doug Miller

Thanks to Barb and Doug Miller for this unique place, rich in conservation values.

It was a grand day for a celebration! The weather, much nicer than the forecast, didn't deter our intrepid members. There were smiles all around!



Larry Copley



Richard Harvey, Floyd and Denise Justus



Margo Copley



Sarah Quackenbush



The Millers were presented with an easement identification sign for their property and a beautiful Ducks Unlimited print as a token of our appreciation.



Max Yancho

Max Yancho, District Forester with the Wexford Conservation District, shared his insights on habitat improvements land owners can undertake after studying the history of their land and deciding on their goals.

Max and Doug then led us on a walking tour of our new easement.





Habitat Improvement

Max Yancho, Wexford Soil Conservation District Forester, shared his thoughts on improving habitat during our annual meeting.

Defining habitat as *the place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows*, Max talked about the three elements in the definition.

- 1) Place, the most important element, considers the soil, the water, and the climate. Plants and animals will live and grow where they find optimal conditions for their species.
- 1) Plants and animals interact and effect habitat in positive and negative ways. The return of wolves to Yellowstone changed the grazing habits of the elk which allowed Aspen to grow which improved stream beds improving trout habitat.
- 1) Where plants and animals live and grow is the element we can affect the most. Planting, harvesting trees, maintaining open spaces and removing invasive species can encourage specific plants and animals. Trees and shrubs that produce cherries and berries encourage the birds. Cedars will provide winter cover for deer.

So think critically about the existing habitat on your property and decide of your goals. What plants/animals do you want to encourage? Do you have limitations of place? How much time and effort do you want to invest?

Then talk with a professional forester about how you can manage your forest to create the habitat you want.

Don't forget to make your donation to CALC! Help us keep Northern Michigan a place of beauty and a home for wildlife. You can make a difference!



Annual Meeting



Bylaw Change - CALC has an endowment fund with the Cadillac Area Community Foundation that has grown to more than \$100,000. We may withdraw 4% annually (if earnings allow). Withdrawals can not be used for operating expenses and our fund document outlined acceptable uses for this money - land acquisition, defense, improvements to property, scientific research and education. In 2008, concerned about the cost of defending an easement, we amended the bylaws to restrict the use of the fund for legal defenses only.

Because we now qualify for an insurance program that will provide for legal defenses, the bylaw restriction is no longer necessary. During the annual meeting a bylaw change restoring the five original uses outlined in our fund document was approved.

Election - We kept our capable officers
Chairperson - Larry Copley
Vice-Chair - Steve Cunningham
Secretary - Margo Copley
Treasurer - Fred Sprague



Thank You! - We gave big thank-yous to Ruthann French and Steve Kalisz who are retiring from the board because of term limits. They have been great assets to CALC.

Thanks also to Steve Cunningham for explaining easements with his bundle of sticks—the Millers will keep the sticks representing the right to hunt and fish, harvest crops and timber, use mineral resources, sell or bequeath the land while giving CALC the stick representing the right to develop their property.





You can make a difference!

At the end of the day do you ask yourself, "What did I do today that means something?" It's hard to have an effect on state or national happenings, but locally you can make a big difference. If you want to be part of something that benefits the community, CALC is the place for you.

If you love nature, CALC has many needs that your skills can fill.

If you like to be part of a group that makes decisions, call us and we will tell you what it's like to be a board member.

If you want to dip your toe in to test the water or if you have limited spurts of time better suited to a special project, here is a partial list of help we need:

- Removing invasive species; cleaning trails at Waldeck Island
- Developing educational phone-scan markers for Waldeck trails
- Removing diseased or potentially dangerous trees on Waldeck
- Monitoring easement properties with spring walk-throughs to check compliance with easement agreements
- Folding newsletters and stuffing envelopes (6 times a year)
- Providing hors d'oeuvres for the special events

We'd love to have your help. Give us a call at 231-775-3631 or e-mail us at calc@calc-landtrust.org

CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Larry Copley, Chair
- Steve Cunningham, V. Chair
- Margo Copley, Secretary
- Fred Sprague, Treasurer
- Tom Anderson
- Henry Cortez
- Richard Harvey
- Bob Hess
- Tasha Lapinski
- Nathan Piwowarski

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Garth Aslakson, Easements
- Lindsey Hall, Bookkeeping
- Vicki Long, Website
- Pat Pavegio, Newsletter



"Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year."

~ Chad Sugg

Mission Statement

The Cadillac Area Land Conservancy protects ecologically significant, scenic, and farm lands for current and future generations and fosters an appreciation of the natural environment in Missaukee, Osceola, Wexford and northern Lake and Mason Counties.



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