

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Fall 2015

A Grand Old Time!

More than 60 people gathered at the Harrietta Township Hall for the dedication of the Oliver Family Preserve and the CALC annual meeting on September 19th. Good friends, good food and good programs were the order of the day.

Larry Copley, CALC Chairman, gave a warm welcome, introduced the Oliver family and presented Ann and Bud with personalized notecards featuring photographs of the preserve, a small token of our appreciation.

Larry then described the preserve property and outlined CALC's planned improvements. We have already harvested the Scotch Pines and thinned the Red Pines. (A big thanks to the Shannahans, neighbors to the East who gave the timber-cutters access to the back of the preserve.)

Bob Hess brought in samples of prairie grasses—Turkey Foot and Little Bluestem— that we hope to establish and encourage with a controlled burn in the spring. Bruce Tower, DNR Forest Fire Supervisor from Mecosta County was on hand to explain the procedure for doing controlled burns. With thoughts of the raging wildfires in the West, we paid close attention to Bruce's presentation and appreciated all the required safety precautions he puts in place.

The morning's rainy skies cleared after the program and those who wanted to see the preserve up-close went for a tour of the preserve led by CALC board members Tom Anderson, Rose Denny and Bob Hess.

Pat Paveglio made sure nobody went home hungry with a spread of cookies and other goodies topped off with coffee or cider.

Thanks to all who helped make this such a special event!



Larry Copley
Welcoming us



Bud Oliver
Sharing memories



Ann Oliver
Opening gift



Bruce Tower
Forest Fire Officer Supervisor



Pat Paveglio and Margo Copley
Helped plan the event



The Oliver Family
(from left) Bud, Missy, Kristina, Peter, Christine, Ann



Plan a Visit

To make your own visit the Oliver Family Preserve take 34 Road (Boon Rd.) West from M-115; turn North on 23 Road; turn West on 30 Road (becomes 30¼ Road). The property borders Harrietta on the West and 30¼ Road on the South. Watch for our sign.

More Photos ...



BIG Numbers

Heart of the Lakes, the umbrella organization for land conservancies, reports that Michigan’s conservancies added 9,549 more acres in 2014. That brings the total to 597,516 acres of natural, scenic and working farms and forest land in the state.



There are 2.1 million farms across the United States. Farmland has decreased by more than 7.5 million acres since 2007, farmers have reached their oldest average age at 58 years, and although 87% of all

farms are operated by families or individuals, 3/4 of them had sales of less than \$50,000—only 3% of the total value of farm products sold.

The U.S. Forest Service calculates that trees in the conterminous United States are saving more than 850 human lives a year and preventing 670,000 incidences of acute respiratory symptoms by removing pollution from the air.



1/3 of the world’s largest cities are water stressed. 43% of urban water supplies come from moving water from one watershed to another, moving 130 billion gallons of water a day a distance of 16,800 miles at a cost of \$90 billion a year.



Climate change will force 314 bird species out of most of their current ranges by the end of the century, according to a new study from the National Audubon Society.



Who Knew?

Opossums may save lives! (and you thought they were just road decoration)



Venomous snake bites cause thousands of deaths each year, especially in developing countries. Treatment for snake bites are expensive and often inaccessible. A team led by Claire Komives from San Jose State University has identified a protein from the blood of opossums, an animal known for its ability to survive snake bites.

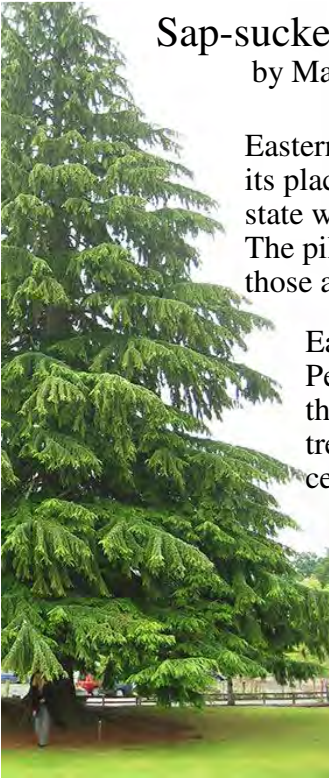
The possum antivenom can be cheaply produced in large quantities by engineered bacteria, and so far it has produced no negative side effects on mice unlike traditional snakebite treatments.

For more information see the Royal Society of Chemistry’s web site—<http://www.rsc.org/>



Sap-suckers Threaten Hemlocks

by Max Yancho, Drysdale Forestry & Consulting



Eastern Hemlock is not one of the most common tree species in Michigan, however, it has its place on our ecosystem and at one time was a hallmark of our climax forests. As the state was settled giant hemlocks could be found growing alongside towering white pine. The pillars of some of the older barns in the region are typically single logs harvested from those ancient hemlocks. It is a species of historical and ecological importance.

Eastern Hemlock can be found at the northern limits of its range in the Upper Peninsula, but this slow growing species can be found all the way down to Georgia in the higher elevations of the Appalachian Mountains. It is a very, very slow growing tree that can live completely shaded and suppressed in the understory of forests for centuries before finally reaching the canopy. It is a tree of great patience.

There is currently a very real threat of losing eastern hemlock from our forests. In parts of the country this has already happened. In the southern and central portions of the eastern hemlock's range hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), a foreign sap-sucking insect from Japan, has killed millions of trees. The most devastating damage has

occurred in the Appalachian Mountains where hemlock is one of the principal canopy species. This small insect, similar to the scale insect that can be found on Beech trees suffering from Beech Bark Disease, will suck the sap out of a tree near

the needles. One insect does little damage, but thousands feeding year after year slowly kill the tree.

There is currently a ban on all imported hemlock plant stock and nursery stock into Michigan. Despite this ban, there have been some localized outbreaks that were quickly controlled by the State.

There are efforts to try and use predatory insects from Japan to fend off the adelgid and field trials have seemed effective. Here in Michigan we may also be at a slight advantage in the fight against this foreign invader because of our cold winters. Major HWA population diebacks have occurred in during the coldest winters.

Hopefully Michigan's hemlocks never have to weather a outbreak of HWA, but if they do may there be patience and perseverance in the name of conservation to overcome the challenge.



Adelgid infestations are easily recognizable by the appearance of tiny "cotton balls" at the base of hemlock needles.

To the Rescue

The San Juan Preservation Trust in Washington State discovered that a neighbor clear cut on one of its preserves. Terrafirma, our insurance carrier, backed their lawsuit and they obtained a \$100,000 settlement.



Tree Therapy

A recent University of Wisconsin study found that across all strata of society, people who live in a neighborhood with less than 10% tree canopy were much more likely to report symptoms of depression, stress and anxiety.



Time to give..

This is the time of year when your mailbox fills with donation requests, ours among them. Please consider supporting us as we pursue our mission to protect this beautiful area making it an attractive place for your children and grandchildren, keeping our watersheds clean and providing a protected home for our local flora and fauna. We rely upon your generosity.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Copley, *Chair*
Steve Cunningham, *Vice-Chair*
Margo Copley, *Secretary*
Fred Sprague, *Treasurer*
Tom Anderson
Rose Denny
Richard Harvey
Bob Hess
Tasha Lapinski
Nathan Piwowarski
Dan Valley
Max Yancho

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Vicki Long, *website*
Pat Pavaglio, *newsletter*

Avoid Capital Gains Taxes

If you have appreciated stock or other real or personal property, you may wish to avoid the exorbitant capital gain tax (a federal rate as high as 23.8 percent, plus applicable state taxes) on the sale of these assets.

Instead, consider a gift of this property to CALC. Not only will you receive a full income tax deduction for the value of these assets, but you will also avoid the capital gain tax burden from the sale of this property.

As always, see your tax accountant for advice.

*I give best when I give from that deeper place;
when I give simply, freely and generously, and
sometimes for no particular reason.
I give best when I give from my heart.*

~ Steve Goodier



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.