

Nature News



Fall 2016

You're Invited!

CALC Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 23—1:00 p.m.

Clam Lake Township Hall

8809 E. M-115



Help us celebrate birds and the new things happening on our Waldeck Island Nature Preserve.

Do join us and bring a friend or two.

Events

Dedication of the new Sandy Hansen memorial wildlife viewing platform built in Sandy's memory by the Hansen Family Foundation. Sandy was an avid birdwatcher.



Back Yard Birds: Winter and Summer - a photo show by local photographer Jim Higgins

Tours of the Waldeck Island Nature Preserve to see the new platform, chipped trails and signage.

Refreshments



This is the time of year when many organizations fill your mailbox with requests for donations. CALC is no exception. If we are to continue protecting land here in Northern Michigan we need your

Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt. –John Muir



Caring for God's Creation

Fred Sprague and Steve Cunningham, two of CALC's board members, recently invited people of faith to spend a Sunday afternoon in August learning why Christians have a special responsibility to take care of the earth and discussing ways to be good stewards of the environment. The event was held at the Bob Borak Easement near Mesick, a beautiful piece of property that Bob and his family have been lovingly managing since 1967.

Bob, almost 90 years young, is a retired DNR forester and bought this 125-acre piece of land when he was working in Cadillac. He and his family have planted many trees on the old farmland and now have about 30 acres of red and white pine. The property also has three food plots for wildlife, three wet areas and a sugar bush. It is definitely a little piece of heaven!



Event sponsor Steve Cunningham, easement holder Bob Borak and CALC Chair Larry Copley



Fred Van Dyke, Executive Director of the Au Sable Institute and former professor of environmental science, was the featured speaker. Fred is co-author of the book, *Redeeming Creation: The Biblical Basis for Environmental Stewardship*. His latest book is *Between Heaven and Earth: Christian Perspectives on Environmental Protection*.

Fred titled his remarks ***5 Things I Wish Everybody Knew About God and His Creation***

1. In the beginning all God created was good and had an intrinsic value.
2. Man was put into the Garden of Eden to tend to it and protect it.
3. Humans have a unique capacity, given by God, to care for other species.
4. We rule over the birds, fishes, cattle,...but as good rulers we must be servants to those we rule.
5. There is hope for the future.

Fred asked us to make an informed study of God's creation and have deliberate and frequent contact with the out-of-doors. We should also demonstrate a concern for the environment entrusted to our care.

After Fred's talk, Bob's daughter Irene Borak led the group on a walk along wooded trails to observe the plantings done to encourage wildlife and to talk about the conservation measures being used.

Inspirational moments during the event:

- Steve Cunningham telling how his whole world view changed at age 16 when he saw a rubbish-filled lot cleaned up for Earth Day. Learning more about environmental care when he attended the Au Sable Institute camp has guided his career and his faith. He urged us all to get outside and get involved in taking care of the Earth.
- Bob Borak moved the audience when he explained how having an easement on his property has set his mind at ease. He said he can now rest easy knowing that this piece of land will be protected forever by the conservancy.





Johnson Preserve Kick-off

In July CALC held a meeting at the Cherry Grove Township Hall to let the neighbors of the new Carl T. Johnson Preserve know about our plans and to solicit their ideas for how the preserve could best serve them. CALC Chair, Larry Copley, led the discussion. We were glad to get the neighbors input on possible access points, trail development and what recreational activities we might allow. Many neighbors are already enjoying walking on the property.



Max Yancho, a forester with Drysdale Forestry & Consulting and a CALC board member, talked about forest management in general and then gave specifics on the planned selective timber harvest to take place this winter. He assured the audience that although it would look pretty messy right after the cutting, the end result would be a more diverse habitat better for the trees and the wildlife.



Johnson Preserve in the News

We were pleased to be featured in the August issue of *Township Focus*, a publication of the Michigan Townships Association. Thanks to Supervisor Ron Vaughan for his support of the preserve and such nice publicity. The article is below.

In Cherry Grove Township (Wexford Co.), the township owns two boat launches and one cemetery—but no parks. So Supervisor Ron Vaughan is particularly supportive of plans for the 40-acre Carl T. Johnson

Model Forest Preserve, a property owned by the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy (CALC). A model demonstration site for sustainable forestry practices, the long-term goal is to provide public access with walking paths in a park-like setting.

“It will be a great addition to our township as we don’t have any land that the township owns to provide outdoor recreation,” enthused Vaughan. “The property’s central location on a main county road will make it easily accessible for people looking for more of a local park experience.”

Township support includes newsletter articles and meeting space so CALC can keep the community updated about the preserve and promote volunteer opportunities to help maintain trails and access.

Visit www.calc-landtrust.org/preserves for the Johnson preserve location and more details.

Sit a Spell

As you walk through the Oliver or Johnson preserve you will soon be able to sit and relax on benches donated by two of our readers.



- Muriel Stehouwer will place a bench on the Johnson preserve in memory of Dr. Ed Stehouwer. Look for it after the up-coming timber harvest.
- Ann Kahner is donating a bench and some trail signs for the Oliver preserve in loving memory of Richard Kahner and Laurie Cigna Kahner.



Needed

The CALC office needs a commercial grade, 4-drawer, tan file cabinet. If you have one you could donate, please call us at (231) 775-3631.



On Fire!

After dry-weather delays, all conditions were a “go” when Steve Cross and Dan Valley supervised a controlled burn on the Oliver Family Nature Preserve. CALC will establish native prairie grasses such as Turkey Foot and Little Bluestem in the burn area. These grasses and the shrubs planted last spring will provide a wildlife-friendly habitat.



Research shows that native plants really are better for wildlife, particularly birds according to an article in *Jack Pine Warbler*. Native plant species have larger insect populations which means more food for birds. Invasive plants, on the other hand, are often inedible.

Research by Dr. Doug Tallamy shows that alien ornamentals support 29 times less biodiversity than do native ornamentals. Even a modest increase in native plant cover on suburban properties significantly increases the number and species of birds.

We will be working on the Carl T. Johnson preserve next spring to eradicate the invasive Autumn Olive on that property. Experiments are underway to find the best control methods. Check out our web page for more information on this project—calc-landtrust.org.

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*Autumn...
the year's last,
loveliest smile.*

- William Cullen Bryant

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.