

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Fall 2018

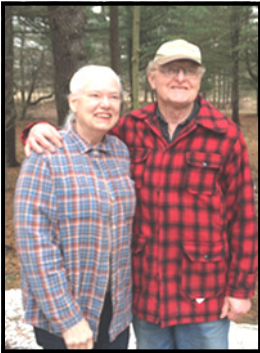
CALC Annual Meeting

Reclaiming Land for Nature

Saturday, October 13, 2:00-4:00

Zandstra Easement

11655 220th Avenue, Reed City



- A look at revitalization projects
- Walking tour of the property (golf cart available if needed)
- Light refreshments
- BYO camp chair and dress for the weather



Do join us on the 13th to see what hard work can do! Muriel and David Zandstra have been planting native trees, culling invasive plants, enhancing wildlife habitat and removing human litter on their 240 acre easement in Osceola County. This acreage serves as a living model for restoring heavily human impacted land. Several ongoing projects demonstrate how such areas can be returned to a natural setting.



Bill Westveer, Rick Christner, & Dave Zandstra spreading wild flower seeds on pollinator plots

Directions: From 131 take exit 159 (Ashton), take 11 Mile Road west approximately 1/2 mile to 220th Avenue. Turn right (north) on gravel road and drive 2/3 of a mile. The Zandstra's driveway is on the left (west).

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy.
You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer,
you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

~ Author Unknown



Bookin' It

CALC was well represented at Heather Schumak's library talk in July. Heather's the author of *Saving Arcadia: A Story of Conservation and Community in the Great Lakes*. The Friends of the Library booked this program after reading Leo Paveglio's review of the book in our newsletter. It was, by the way, a really inspiring program, showing what a dedicated bunch of volunteers can achieve.

(Leo's latest book review is below)

2 More of Interest

The Friends of the Library have two more library programs that might tempt you:

- 1) Oct. 6, 11:00 - Loreen Niewenhuis, author of *A 1,000-Mile Walk on the Beach*, talking about her three grand walks around the Great Lakes
- 2) Nov. 10, 11:00 - James Dake, author of *The Field Guide to Northwest Michigan: Its Flora, Faun, Geology, and History*

(see <http://friendsofthecadillaclibrary.com/> for details)

Book Review by Leo Paveglio

The Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan

The Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's surface fresh water. They provide drinking water, recreation and employment for millions of Americans. Yet we tend not to comprehend their vastness nor their value. Perhaps they are simply too large to comprehend. Keith Richards, the iconic rocker and founder of the Rolling Stones, may have illustrated this difficulty best. "You go and look at Lake Superior, and you say, 'Look at all that water.' And that's just the top!"

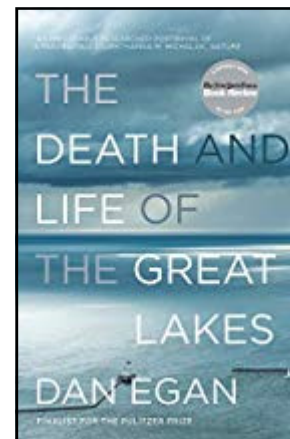
Our efforts to "improve" the Great Lakes have resulted in unanticipated consequences. Dan Egan explores the challenges facing the Great Lakes and looks to the future.

Initially the Great Lakes were isolated from the Atlantic Ocean by falls. The Erie Canal, constructed in the early 1800s, connected Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean. The goal of the canal was to improve commerce and open the area to settlement. The unintended consequence was that the canal and subsequent improvements also provided a pathway for ocean dwelling organisms to colonize the Great Lakes. While zebra and quagga mussels and the lamprey eel are well known invaders, the full list is extensive and a catalog of their biological and economic impact is depressing.

The Great Lakes were also physically isolated from the Mississippi watershed. Chicago, as a burgeoning outpost of western expansion, used Lake Michigan as its source of fresh water as well as the repository for its human waste. When the folly of this approach became apparent, the next solution was to create the Chicago Sanitary Canal to divert Chicago's sewage into the Mississippi River. The canal linked the Great Lakes and Mississippi watersheds. One of the more salient concerns is Asian carp invading the Great Lakes. Equally as devastating is the spread of zebra and quagga mussels into the Mississippi River watershed – think in terms of nearly all of the states east of the Rocky Mountains.

The Great Lakes have become, both wittingly and unwittingly, the receptacle for sewage and chemical runoff. In recent years fresh water supplies for major cities have become temporarily unfit for human consumption due to toxic algal blooms fueled by an excess of runoff phosphorus. Controlling nonpoint-source pollution is a problem resisting a solution. The lakes are also threatened by the potential diversion of water from the Great Lake watershed to arid areas of the US. Addressing the threats facing the Great Lakes is a daunting undertaking because they are both international and intrastate. The challenge is to bring two countries, seven states and two provinces to agreement.

Egan traces the history of the Great Lakes and details many of the challenges by relating the accounts of people who have strong connections to the lakes. Keith Richards noted that what we see is just the top; as Paul Harvey might say, Dan Egan tells the rest of the story.





The Work Goes On

You read about two work projects in our summer newsletter done by local volunteers, but in July we had a great group of teenagers from all over the country help us create a walking path through our Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve. They were taking part in a Youth Unlimited SERVE mission trip. Steve Cunningham was the worksite coordinator for the Cadillac Christian Reformed Church hosting the team.

The teens dug out saplings, leveled the ground, spread mulch and found downed trees to outline the trail that starts at Joelle Drive. "I'm enjoying this project, enjoying nature and doing something for the community," said volunteer Brielle Vervelde, 15, of Iowa.

We think Carl T., former owner of this property and a noted conservationist, would be pleased to have you come out and enjoy a walk on the trail. "It was Carl T.'s vision to have a conservation easement on the property and to not have it developed. He left this land for a reason, to be wild and natural forever," said Steve Cunningham, CALC board member. "Now the neighbors can walk this trail."



WORK BEE - Saturday, October 20, 9:30

We have 3 loads of donated wood chips waiting to be spread on the trail. Can you help? It's a great opportunity to breathe in some crisp fall air, get a little exercise and make this preserve even more user-friendly. Dress for the weather and bring tools if you have them. (If weather is iffy, call 231-876-0351 for status.)

Thanks!



*In every walk with
nature one receives far more
than he seeks.*

~ John Muir



From left to right: Aneka Pollema, Iowa; Gabriella Sorenens, Minnesota; Brielle Vervelde, Iowa; Joey Veurink, Minnesota; Steve Cunningham, co-ordinator; Jackson Riddler, Iowa; and Pastor Eli Groenendyk, Minnesota



Land for Sale



This vacant land is for sale. It was left to us by Deborah Kohn and has many worthy features:

- Good soil for farming
- Ideal for hunting
- Potential sustainable timber harvest
- A 5-acre building envelope
- Capped tax rate due to its conservation easement

If you or anyone you know is interested in this property located at 8229 West 6½ Road, Mesick, contact the CALC office and we'll put you in touch with our real estate agent.

LOOK!

We've added a new name to our volunteer list. Sandy is our new bookkeeping volunteer. Welcome, Sandy! And thanks!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Copley, *Chair*
Steve Cunningham, *Vice-Chair*
Marco Menezes, *Secretary*
Fred Sprague, *Treasurer*
Tom Anderson
Rose Denny
Marty Williams

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Sandy, *bookkeeping*
Pete Eliot, *finance*
Richard Harvey, *monitoring*
Bob Hess, *preserves*
Pat Paveglio, *newsletter*
Eric Zeitz, *website*



Congratulations

Several wedding guests of Doug and Kathy Hozak made a donation to CALC to celebrate their union - a lasting gift! Thanks to all and best wishes!

You too can make a donation in honor of a special person or a special occasion. . . and Christmas is coming.

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.