

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Fall 2019

Going Batty

That's what we're going to be doing at our annual meeting—learning about bats, bluebirds and sustainability. We will visit the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve's newly-installed bat houses.

CALC Annual Meeting October 10, 6:00 p.m.

Cherry Grove Township Hall, 4830 East M-55

Special Program:

Engaging Community in Sustainability
by Debra-Ann Brabazon

Also:

- Short business meeting
- Refreshments
- Caravan to preserve to visit bat houses*

*We'll also celebrate the Hansen Family Foundation's parking lot donation and preserve improvements made by Will Gullekson and his scout troop.

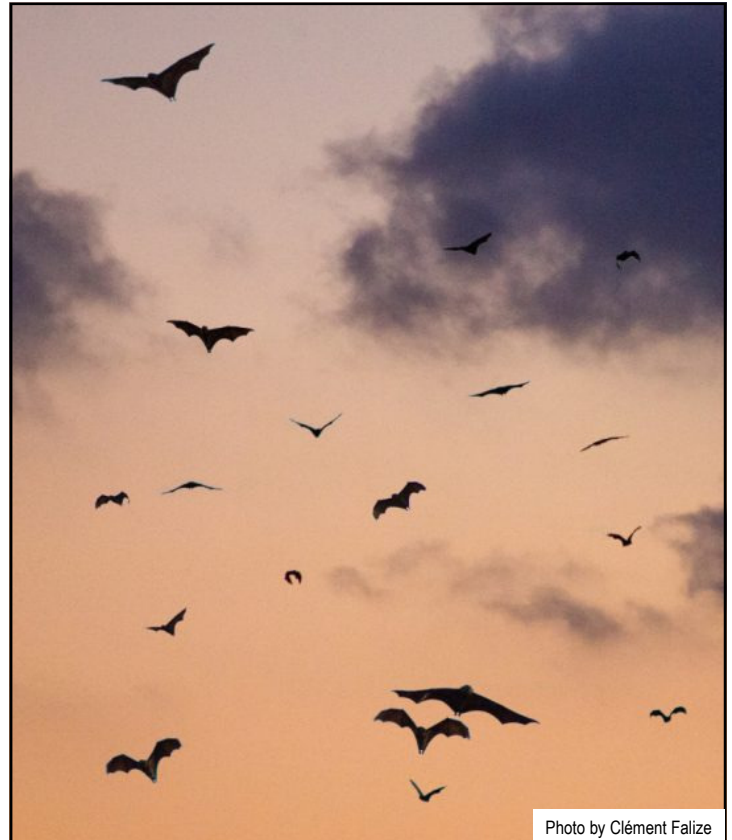


Photo by Clément Falize

Did you know?

- Bats are only mammals able to fly.
- A brown bat can catch 1,200 mosquito-size insects in one hour.
- Bats make up a quarter of all mammals.
- More than 50% of bat species in the US are either in severe decline or listed as endangered.
- An anticoagulant found in vampire bat saliva may soon be used to treat human cardiac patients.
- The average lifespan of a bat varies, but some species can live to be 30 years old.

But . . .

- They are not blind
- They are not flying rats
- They are not annoying pests
- They will not fly into your hair and build a nest
- They don't always hang upside down
- They won't attack you and give you rabies

P.S. - by Pat Paveglio

Sandy, the author of the article on Will Gullekson's Eagle Scout project wanted to thank Amy Gullekson, Will's mother, for all her help in writing the article and supporting the project.

I'd like to add my thanks for the new trails. My husband and I went out to walk them and check out the work. We not only enjoyed the walk, we startled a fawn and three other deer. That added to our pleasant walk. We tried out one of the benches—it worked just fine!





#GivingTuesday!

Do you have a Facebook account and plan to make a donation to CALC?

What: Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and is a movement to create an international day of charitable giving. It is a very important day for non-profits like CALC, because matching funds are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please consider making a donation early in the day, so hopefully we will qualify for the matching funds! Last year, matching funds were gone by 8 a.m. Early bird gets the worm!

Where: www.facebook.com/CadillacAreaLandConservancy/ or scan the QR code below. We will have a Facebook event for Giving Tuesday. Just click into the event and donate, it is that easy! Also, please share and post the event, so friends and family will join us in a successful day of charitable giving!

When: Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Why: We are a small, but mighty, organization because of our volunteer support! We really rely on your generosity to keep us going. Please consider making a donation to CALC, whether it is large or small. Thank you!



Bye Bye Birdie

Recent news: there are 3 BILLION fewer birds today than in 1970.

Look Around

Sign up to track seasonal changes in plants and animals with Nature's Notebook.

Citizen observers have already contributed 15 million records, which were cited in 13 research studies in 2018.



- 1) Register at naturesnotebook.org
- 2) Choose your location and the species you will track
- 3) Record your observations on their data sheets and enter your results online.

Trash-talking Statistics

Every year The Royal Statistical Society chooses a "Statistic of the Year." This year's winner is 90.5%. That's the amount of plastic that has never been recycled. Specifically, 90.5% of the 6.3 billion metric tons of plastic waste produced on our planet since about 1960. Perhaps more distressing, the United States recycles less than 10% of its plastic waste, a number that is declining, while our plastic production continues to increase. Short-term monetary goals dominate our voluntary, market-based recycling programs. When raw material (petroleum) prices are down, recycling plastics becomes "too expensive."

Meanwhile, many countries are recycling 30-40% of their plastics by setting long-term national goals and policies. Making Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) the law of the land has made manufacturers responsible for all of the costs of their products, including environmental. EPR motivates producers to consider environmental costs when designing packaging – with LESS plastic. Restricting single-use plastic items, like drinking straws and plastic silverware has reduced waste and increased demand for more durable goods as well. Higher recycling statistics are achievable! (taken from Huron Tracks – 3/19)



Leadership Change; Mission Remains



Above:
Paperwork
Right:
Fighting invasives



It's not always easy to embrace it, but change is inevitable. Since 2011, CALC has been under the very capable leadership of Larry Copley. As CALC Chair, Larry has done everything from dealing with the endless paperwork involved in easements and preserves to daubing a herbicide on invasive Autumn Olive.

Larry is stepping down at this time because he has been diagnosed with CLL (Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia) - not a life-threatening disease, but one that makes him susceptible to every flu or cold bug going around. If you know Larry, you know being inactive is not easy for him.

CALC will, of course, continue with its mission. We will continue under the leadership of Steve Cunningham. Steve is a DEQ retiree and spends as much time as possible in the outdoors. He lives by his values placing an easement on his property. Steve is a hiker, cross-country skier, fisherman and hunter. He will bring enthusiasm and charisma to

CALC's efforts to recruit volunteers so we can continue to save undeveloped land.

We thank Larry for his contributions to our mission and taking his turn in the CALC dynasty of great leaders. He took over from Ruthann French in 2011. Ruthann made huge strides in enhancing our public image and started to bring CALC into compliance with national standards. Larry went further and made CALC an organization that donors can rely on to meet those standards, putting much needed structure in place. He also strove to increase endowment funds that make our enforcement pledges sustainable, while keeping operational expenses to a minimum.

Larry oversaw the donation and development of three preserves that now provide trails, benches and a viewing platform so the public can enjoy the outdoors in many ways. During his tenure he also finalized 5 easements that limited development on hundreds of acres thanks to the like-minded land owners that share belief in CALC's mission and worked with Larry to negotiate the contracts that CALC enforces into perpetuity.

Larry brought his skill set and Steve will bring his. Rest assured that CALC's mission will carry on through the volunteer hours and dollars donated by people like you.

LARRY AT WORK



Schmoozing



Helping



Planting



Trail-building



Recruiting

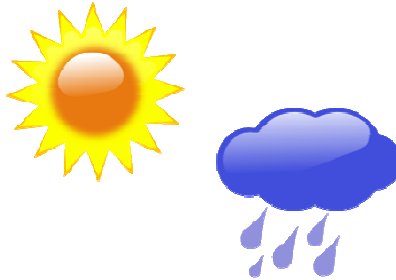


Whether Or Not

by Al Batt

There is fake news. I suppose weather predictions could be faked, but the weather we get is definitely not fake weather.

*Whether the weather be fine,
or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold,
or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather,
whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not.*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Cunningham, *Acting-Chair*
Tom Anderson, *Acting Co-chair*
Marco Menezes, *Secretary*
Fred Sprague, *Treasurer*
Rose Denny
Marty Williams

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

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

Large Tracts for Sale

The Kohn farmland near Mesick is still for sale —160 acres, with approximately half cleared for possible farming in one of the best soil areas of the county. There are also rolling woods for recreation and a five acre building spot where a new owner could build their dream house.

One of our easement holders also has their home and land for sale. Some special person could own over 237 acres in Osceola County with a majority in woodland, dissected by Hersey Creek. It's about 2 miles west of the village of Ashton.

For more information, contact CALC's office at email calc@calc-landtrust.org or phone (231) 775-3631.

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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