

# Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Fall 2020

## CALC's Annual Meeting 2020

Fall brings nippy weather, brilliant colors and Brad West's special program on

### Wild Fall Mushrooms in Michigan

Sunday, October 4th, 3:00 pm

Caberfae Ski Club, 1 Caberfae Lane, Cadillac, MI 49601

After a brief CALC business meeting, Brad West will tell you about fall mushroom hunting.



You can learn:

- How to identify mushrooms
- Where to look for them
- How to clean and cook them

Brad has been hunting mushrooms most of his life. He learned from his grandmother and mother when he

was a youngster. Now living in the Kalamazoo area, he plans his free time exploring the state of Michigan for many different mushrooms, spring through fall. Learn how to easily identify 5 - 6 of the fall edibles and enjoy a sample of Brad's mushroom soup and dips.



Please bring some warm clothes if 6' spacing needs move us outdoors.

This program is open to the public and free of charge.

We do ask that you call to register at 231-775-3631 or email [calc@calc-landtrust.org](mailto:calc@calc-landtrust.org)

**Mask will be required due to the current Covid status.**



*A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye.*

~ Unknown





## Good News from Washington, D.C.

The Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law. The bill was passed with 73% of the Senate and 72% of the House voting yes!

The act guarantees mandatory, permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million a year and earmarks \$1.9 billion annual for the next five years to address maintenance backlogs on public lands and to help ecosystems and communities adapt to climate change.

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## On the Ballot

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund's Proposal 1 will be on your November 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot. The MNRTF receives money from mineral, oil and gas leases and royalties. It would raise the cap on how much money the trust fund can receive. The money in the trust fund is used to improve, maintain and purchase land for Michigan's state parks and recreation areas **and** environmental land conservation. This is all possible without using tax-payers' money.



To learn more visit the Ballotpedia website and search under Michigan for Prop 1.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Michigan\\_2020\\_ballot\\_measures](https://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_2020_ballot_measures)

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## Easement Property for Sale

One of our easement holders still has their home and land for sale — 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 via email [calc@calc-landtrust.org](mailto:calc@calc-landtrust.org) or phone (231) 775-3631.

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

~ Chad Sugg



## Many Hands

Our preserves are maintained by volunteers. Thanks to Kerry Sprigg and Richard Harvey for mowing the Oliver Family Nature Preserve parking lot and trails. Dan Valley is also

helping out at the Oliver preserve.

Kathy Simon is a new volunteer at CALC's Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve. Although Kathy lives on 40 acres a mile or so down the road, she likes to use the trails at Carl T. for walking. The groomed trails make it easier for Kathy and Belle, her 13½ year-old dog. Kathy uses her own brush hog to help maintain the trails.

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We've said it before but it bears repeating:

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."*

~ Sherry Anderson

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## Remember . . .

"In good times and in hard times, nature offers unique inspiration and solace. Fortunately, we don't have to go far to find it. After all, In Michigan, you're never more than six miles from an inland lake! A blue sky and warm sunshine can be found on our favorite beaches, in our neighborhood parks and outside our windows. Nature is all around us — especially when we need it most."

~ Helen Taylor, State Director,  
The Nature Conservancy

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## Walk to the Park

287 mayors have pledged that all their residents will live within a 10-minute walk of a park by the year 2050.



## Moving Forward With Our Strategic Plan

Perpetuity is a long time. CALC has pledged to keep our preserves open to the public and to monitor our easements on private land to be sure their owners are complying with their agreements in perpetuity.

Our long-term strategic plan looks at how CALC can be here into perpetuity and protect the lands we all love. It takes financial strength from supporters like those of you reading this newsletter. It also takes substantial legacy gifts such as Debra Kohn's and the CALC board's wise and conservative investment strategies.

Thanks to Debra, CALC, normally an all-volunteer organization, is now able to hire a part-time office manager. CALC has long benefitted from Margo Copley's willingness to work hard to keep the office running, but Margo is ready to retire.

To keep CALC moving forward and ensuring that we will be here into perpetuity, Norma Roelfsema has been hired to run the office. Margo couldn't be more pleased with this move and this particular choice. Welcome, Norma!

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## Cooperation - Always a Good Thing

CALC annually monitors easements for their compliance with their agreements. This year there was a flooding problem on one easement. A culvert was needed to solve the problem, but a culvert can have a negative impact on the environment.

To solve the problem, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) was contacted and they agreed to oversee the culvert project. CALC and EGLE coordinated with the landowner to assure that the terms of the easement were met and EGLE regulations were not violated. It was a win-win for all parties because they were able to work together.

## Welcome Norma!

Hope you have a chance to meet our new office manager, Norma Roelfsema, soon and give her a big CALC welcome.

Four years ago, Norma retired early from Grand Valley State University's College of Business. Her first grandchild was born and this gave Norma the opportunity to help take care of her. Now she has a brother and a new cousin. Norma feels very fortunate to be able to spend time with them and watch them grow. She looks forward to "Grammy Days" with all of them.



About the time Norma retired, she took on the responsibility of secretary/treasurer at the Caberfae Ski Club where she has met a lot of Cadillac area residents. Being a part of the ski club has been a wonderful experience. She and her husband started weekend skiing when their third son took up high school skiing in 2008 and in 2013 they found a home right around the corner from the ski hill. It might be the smallest place in the village, but they already have great memories. The family frequents the cabin during all seasons and hopes to spend part of their retirement years with their Caberfae Village family.

Norma and her husband Steve raised three boys in Greenville, Michigan. All three are now married. Two live in the Grand Rapids area and third son moved out to Utah. After 20 years in Greenville, The Roelfsemas moved to Cedar Springs. It shortened their trip to Caberfae by 20 minutes!

Not only does Norma downhill ski, but she enjoys cross-country skiing, hiking and exploring our National Parks. Her youngest son moved to Salt Lake City, Utah and she and Steve like to travel west and visit the mountains.

Norma says she's hoping they find a vaccine for COVID soon so they can continue to explore and visit their kids. She's looking forward to learning all about the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy and meeting our team of volunteers.



*Autumn doesn't always promise that winter will come, but she works hard until every colored leaf has reached its destination. ~ Terri Guillemets*





## A Friend

When I first started editing this newsletter in 2009, Margo Copley was the secretary. I didn't know much about easements and knew nothing about CALC, except that I liked the people involved.

Margo was the one who gave me information to put in the newsletter. She was one of the excellent and necessary proof-readers. We didn't always agree on wording or the inclusion of articles not directly related to CALC, but we managed to work together even though we had very different personalities.

Margo is

- An introvert
- A detail person
- Always planning ahead
- Focused
- Conservative

I am

- An extrovert
- Sketchy
- Procrastinator
- Scattered
- Liberal

As the years passed, we've proved that opposites really do attract. We have become good friends. We often lunch together, share laughs, gossip and keep the newsletters coming. Margo, and her husband Larry, care deeply about CALC and have worked tirelessly to make it successful. She is an amazing woman. I am really, really, really going to miss her input but the lunches are still on.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Cunningham, *Chair*  
Tom Anderson, *Co-chair*  
Marco Menezes, *Secretary*  
Fred Sprague, *Treasurer*  
Cyndy Foley  
Dave Foley  
Chris Gentry  
Sam Hogg  
Rose Denny  
Marty Williams

### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

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



Larry & Margo who kept our ship afloat.  
Bon Voyage!

### *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.*