

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Fall 2021



You are invited to the CADILLAC AREA LAND CONSERVANCY'S ANNUAL MEETING

WITH GUEST SPEAKER HEATHER SHUMAKER

Heather is the author of *Saving Arcadia*, a narrative nonfiction book about Great Lakes land conservation that's been called a "page-turning environmental action thriller." *Saving Arcadia* has won state and national awards including: Michigan Notable Book Award, Eric Hoffer Award finalist, and Next Generation Indie Book - Environment Winner.

Heather's other books include children's fiction (*The Griffins of Castle Cary*, (Simon & Schuster), and early childhood education books, *It's OK Not to Share* and *It's OK to Go Up the Slide* (Penguin Random House). She's co-hosts the podcast "BookSmitten," and speaks in the US and internationally.

OCTOBER 3, 2021, 2:00 P.M.
CARL T. JOHNSON HUNT & FISH CENTER
6087 M-115, CADILLAC, MI 49601

Please register for this free event.

Email calc@calc-landtrust.org, or call 231-775-3631.

Let us know how many will be attending
and a reminder email will be sent
prior to the event.

**HEATHER WILL BE SIGNING BOOKS
AND HER BOOKS WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**



Bird News

- Sadly a 2019 Cornell Labs study shows that America has lost **3 billion** birds in the last 50 years.
- Birdwatchers can now tap a button on a smartphone, record a bird song and then see a list of potential species with the free Merlin ID app - <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> Great help to old ears!
- Global Big Day is an one-day birding blitz for birders around the world. Over 50,000 birders from 192 countries found over two-thirds of the world's bird species in a single day during the 7th annual count.
- The Florida legislature passed the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act with bipartisan, unanimous support. The act will secure wildlife habitat, protect headwaters, sustain working farms and protect coastal estuaries. It will be a huge benefit to the flora and fauna of the state. Nice job!
- For a beautiful, glossy, quarterly magazine filled with bird photos, drawings, articles and research, join the nonprofit Cornell Lab of Ornithology and get *LivingBird* a treat for the mind and the eye.

Contact: LivingBird, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithica, NY 14850. Phone: (607) 254-2473. \$44 a year.



Remembering “Bud”

On the outskirts of Harrietta the entrance of the Oliver Family Preserve looks like any other field, but when you step onto the trail it's another world — a watery oasis with a diverse environment. This property, owned by the Oliver family since the early 1900s, was a special place to Bud. He and his wife Ann donated it to be preserved and enjoyed by others forever.



Floyd “Bud” Oliver was a Cadillac boy who loved being out of doors, fishing, hunting and skiing. He remembers fishing and helping his grandfather herd cattle on the preserve.

Bud passed away recently, just after his 90th birthday. He and his wife Ann, a Cadillac girl, came back to visit their summer cottage every year. He was a “people person” and will certainly be missed by family and friends.

Bud's family suggested memorial donations be made to the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy.

Looking For

We are looking for help monitoring our easements. It's a chance to enjoy being outdoors, possibly meeting a like-minded easement holder and helping us fulfill our obligation to monitor every easement every year. The job usually takes two or more hours.



Our experienced monitors will be happy to show you the ropes, offer advice and help fill out the monitoring form. If you can help, give us a call at 231-775-3631 or email calc@calc-landtrust.org.

I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. ~ L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables

Buzzing

The Clever Hiker has a blog on how to protect yourself from those ubiquitous, annoying, and sometimes dangerous mosquitos. Mosquito-borne illnesses are expected to get worse as the climate warms. This blog discusses chemical repellents, prevention tips and some natural remedies



You might try thinking of these bloodsuckers as food for birds and fish and see if that helps.

<https://www.cleverhiker.com/blog/mosquitos-hiking-how-to-protect-yourself>



Plant a Pocket Prairie (seeds enclosed)

At one time vast areas of this country were covered with prairies—grasslands dominated by herbaceous plants. There are stories of men on horseback riding through grasses taller than their heads. These grasslands, which seemed to offer endless agriculture and grazing opportunities, were exploited and are now in danger of disappearing altogether.

When Michigan was settled there were probably about 2.35 million acres of prairies mostly in the southern part of the state. These rich grasslands were easy to clear and farming quickly wiped out nearly all of them, replacing them with pastures and cultivated fields.

We now realize the value of these vanishing environments.



Prairies provide valuable habitat

Some prairie animals have disappeared from Michigan: the lark sparrow and the prairie chicken. Many others are threatened or endangered. The sparrows, upland sandpipers, bobolinks, meadowlarks, and northern harriers have dropped in number as grasslands disappear. The badger has lost critical habitat and the federal endangered Karner blue butterfly depends on Michigan's remnant prairies and oak barrens.

Prairies prevent erosion

Farmers often plant buffer strips of grass along streams or agricultural ditches to prevent runoff. Grasslands also help to anchor the soil along streambanks and ditches to reduce sediment load in waterways. The federal Farm Bill helps to restore grasslands by offering farmers financial reimbursement for conservation practices, including the planting of grasslands and buffer strips.



Prairies clean and filter water and sequester carbon

Prairies have deep, dense root systems and trap precipitation so water can percolate down into the soil, where it can be cleaned and filtered. Grasslands also pull carbon dioxide from the air and release clean oxygen.

You can help! Plant a pocket prairie! Seeds enclosed!

Replace your lawn or set aside an area to plant a small prairie called a pocket prairie. Thanks to CALC board member Marco Menezes, you will find a package of seeds in your newsletter envelope. For directions on planting and maintaining your miniature prairie go to The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, <https://www.wildflower.org/magazine/native-plants/make-pocket-prairie> or WisCONTEXT, <https://www.wiscontext.org/fall-time-start-planting-native-prairie-plot>



To find some small prairies look no further than the Oliver and Carl T. Johnson preserves. Also look along old RR right of ways and old cemeteries.

In Newaygo County prairie openings hold a large portion of the world's population of those federally endangered Karner blue butterflies. The Bengel Wildlife Center in Bath Township, just north of Lansing, has eight acres of prairie grasses and wildflower. The Seven Ponds Nature Center in Dryden has periodic burns on their prairie. The Minong Prairie is 13 miles north of the Ohio state line in the Petersburg State Game Area. One of the Michigan Nature Association's highest quality prairie/savanna remnants is The Sauk Indian Trail Prairie Plant Preserve west of Sturgis

NOTE: Prairies flourish with occasional burns, but don't set fire to your pocket prairie. The neighbors won't like it!



Director's corner

The Cadillac Area Land Conservancy has four preserves open to the public for quiet outdoor recreational pursuits. These were special places for each donor family and each of them wanted to preserve their property forever; sharing them with all of us in doing so. What gifts they all are!



CALC oversees these preserves in honor of the Johnson, Oliver, Rock, and Kohn families. While CALC holds "ownership," these properties belong to all of us to use and enjoy. It falls on all of us to help take care of them.

Recently a number of issues have cropped up – littering, dogs off leash, parking in non-designated places, motorized vehicles on trails, etc.

For all who visit the preserves, if you observe bad behavior or issues, please let the CALC office know (231-775-3631) so that these things can be addressed. Your help picking up litter will also help maintain these natural areas.

All of us working together will ensure that our preserves continue as special places for all of us.

Editor's Boo-Boo

Your editor was very pleased to get two phone calls from women who were willing to help fold newsletters. One of those BIG piles of paper on her desk swallowed the name and contact information of the first caller. If that caller was you, please call again and forgive me for my losing you.



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

~ unknown

Public Land Strategy 2021-2027

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources developed a strategy for our 4.6 million acres of land held in the public trust and administered by the DNR. It provides objectives and strategies important to:

- The health and well-being of Michiganders
- The quality of life in our state
- Our heritage and identity

Some of the goals are:

- Address invasive species
- Use prescribed burning
- Provide public water access on the Great Lakes, lakes, rivers and streams
- Increase public land ownership in areas that lack public lands
- Manage over 13,000-miles of trails
- Facilitate responsible mineral development

There's more. To read the entire strategy, go to
"DNR Public Land Strategy."



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Visit our webpage at www.calc-landtrust.org

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.