

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Spring 2012

PERPETUAL PRESERVATION BEQUEST SOCIETY

The Cadillac Area Land Conservancy announces the formation of a Perpetual Preservation Bequest Society to recognize and honor donors who plan to leave a future gift to the Conservancy with a bequest, trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity.

We are also pleased to announce that former CALC chairman Richard Loughmiller and his wife Marlene are the Bequest Society's inaugural members. Richard says, "I love our natural heritage in northern Michigan. When I made my estate plan, I wanted to help preserve that heritage for my grandchildren, and my grandchildren's grandchildren.

Hopefully my gift will enable the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy to purchase heritage properties that would otherwise be developed. I challenge others to include the Conservancy in their plans."

To learn more about making preservation of our natural heritage part of your estate plan, contact the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy at (231) 775-3631.



Reducing Your Estate Taxes

A conservation easement removes the development potential of your property and will typically lower its market value. This, in turn, lowers the estate tax for your heirs and could make a critical difference in their ability to keep your property intact for future generations.

(Note: Do remember there's no substitute for professional tax advice.)



A Conservationist Pioneer: Meet Dick Loughmiller

by Larry Copley

Recently, I spent an afternoon with Dick Loughmiller, inaugural member of the CALC Perpetual Preservation Bequest Society. I wanted to understand what motivated him to take this generous step to preserve heritage landscapes for posterity.

Mr. Loughmiller was born and raised in Shelby, Michigan, located in Michigan's Fruit Belt. As a young man Dick worked as a field and orchard hand growing and harvesting various crops. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing, and developed a deep appreciation for the natural world.



One occasion in particular left an indelible mark on the psyche of young Dick. While spraying an apple orchard, it became patently obvious that in addition to removing the pests, other wildlife was being killed. Historically, this event coincided with the publishing of *Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson, a book credited with helping launch the environmental movement.

Dick earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Central Michigan University and a Master's Degree from the University of Michigan. After several years of teaching, Dick made the life-changing decision to remain in education but to go into educational sales, working with schools throughout Michigan. This decision led the Loughmiller family to settle in Cadillac because of its relatively central geographical location.

Cadillac benefitted from Dick's presence; he became involved in organizations working to make Cadillac a better place to live. It was Dick Loughmiller who gave Cadillac the official motto, "The Four Season Capital of Michigan." He helped get the Cadillac Footlites started, and helped pass Cadillac's first educational operating millage. He was also a prime advocate of the popular Clam River Greenway.

Many of Dick's efforts were oriented toward the preservation of the natural environment, and he served as a long-time chairman of CALC. As chair, Dick learned that if land conservation efforts are to succeed, it's necessary to have funding available to do things like purchasing land to save a stand of old growth trees or secure a wildlife corridor. He believes that you need to put your money where your heart is.

Toward this end Dick and his wife are helping CALC ensure its mission. The future funding provided by the Loughmillers will allow CALC to make land acquisitions and ensure that heritage landscapes in the Cadillac area remain forever.

Dick and Marlene challenge their peers to join with them in CALC or similar organizations to ensure that our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren have the same opportunities to enjoy the outdoor beauty provided by this special Northwestern Michigan landscape.



Thanks!

to these generous people who contributed to the CALC endowment fund in the Cadillac Area Community Foundation in 2011.

Rod and Mary Bellows

Michelle Cook's
Cadillac High School Ecology Class

Larry and Margo Copley

Charles and Leta Mae Corwin

Robert and Elizabeth Garner

Bill and Wilma Gaylord

John and Andrea Grix

Thomas and Marguerite Harris

Gerald and Becky Herring

Sam Hogg

Jack Itnyre

Kathleen Kelso

Deborah Kohn

Fred and Pat Lawless

James and Sarah Lawless

Dave and Betty Randall of
Maple Hill Farms

Doug and Barb Miller

Edwin and Barbara Patterson

Leo and Pat Paveglio

David and Judy Peterson

Gordon and Patricia Roush

Dave and Elaine Smith

John Smith

Laurel Sprague

Kerry Sprigg

Richard and Evelyn Westmaas

Richard Harvey of
Harvey's Home Service
also made a memorial contribution
to the CALC endowment fund
in memory of Candy Lakin.

Thanks!

to the Lions Club for inviting CALC to speak at their March Meeting. Larry Copley and Chris Schumacher presented a program on the Wildlife Corridor.



Spring is when you feel like whistling
even with a shoe full of slush.

~Doug Larson

The first day of spring is one thing,
and the first spring day is another.
The difference between them is
sometimes as great as a month.

~Henry Van Dyke

CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Larry Copley, Chair
- Steve Cunningham, Vice Chair
- Margo Copley, Secretary
- Lindsey Hall, Treasurer
- Richard Harvey
- Steve Kalisz
- Mary Newhouse
- Nathan Piwowarski
- Craig Pullen
- David Smith
- Fred Sprague
- George L. Rock, Director Emeritus

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

- Garth Aslakson, Easement Baselines
- Bob Hess, Easement Baselines
- Vicki Long, Website
- Pat Paveglio, Newsletter



Spring Cleaning

by Mark Johnson



On a chilly day in late February, members of the Natural Resources Class at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center visited the Waldeck Island preserve to check on the status of the Wood Duck nest boxes positioned around the island's perimeter. Four students from the program accompanied their instructor, Mark Johnson, on the trip to clean out the boxes and prepare them for the upcoming nesting season. The lake was still covered with ice, but spring nesting season was just around the corner.

In all, the students spent almost two hours using a ladder to check ten individual boxes, removing old bedding material, and replacing the bedding with fresh pine shavings. At least three of the boxes showed signs of use, and eggshells were removed along with old bedding.

"This is kind of a dirty job, but the students love it because it's hands-on, and it's a real life management activity that natural resource managers might actually be doing. It's the kind of learning they come to my class for," said Johnson.



All of the boxes were in good condition, and none needed to be replaced. By now, birds should be moved into the boxes and nesting, and hopefully there will be baby Wood Ducks seen on Stone Ledge Lake this summer as a testament to the efforts of the class.

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.

(231) 775-3631

www.calc-landtrust.org
calc@calc-landtrust.org

124½ NORTH MITCHELL STREET
SUITE 115
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601



CADILLAC AREA
Land Conservancy