

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Spring 2013

Introducing... CALC is always looking for hard-working people who are committed to land preservation. We've been very fortunate to find four such people to add to our board. Meet Bob Hess and Brian Maturen below. We'll introduce Henry Cortez and Tasha VanDusen in our next issue.



Bob Hess

Bob, a native of western Minnesota, is now a retired wildlife biologist. He began his career in Minnesota, but spent the majority of his career working for the Michigan

DNR in Gladwin, Grand Rapids and Mio field districts focusing on managing state lands for forest and wetland wildlife. He also spent part of his career in Lansing supervising the Natural Heritage Program which included the nongame wildlife and endangered species program. This assignment included the reintroduction of the peregrine falcon, trumpeter swan and pine marten to Michigan.

Bob lives with his wife Mary on their property in northeast Lake County in a house they built largely from recycled barn materials. They have established prairie grasslands with native grasses and wildflowers, created and restored wetland habitats, and are managing their forestlands for wildlife and timber.

Bob works for land conservation because he believes in maintaining natural habitats and minimizing fragmentation.

Brian Maturen

Brian graduated from Central Michigan University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He currently works at the Department of Environmental Quality in the

Remediation and Redevelopment Division in the Cadillac Office. He work primarily on compliance and enforcement issues involving soil and groundwater contamination problems.

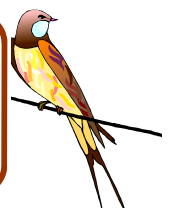
Brian and his wife Connie have three teenage daughters, Emilie, Brianna, and Alyssa, two Labrador retrievers and one cat. Brian says he enjoy hunting, fishing, following his children's high school events, and spending time outdoors on their property.

Brian learned about CALC from discussions with Steve Cunningham. Brian decided to join CALC because he believes it's important to conserve our natural resources and he wants to give back to the community.



Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.

~ Mahatma Gandhi





Busy as Beavers

Getting easements is no easy task and some days it doesn't seem as if we're making progress, yet when we look at the calendar, we see that our board members, all with busy lives, and our volunteers are busy doing things to fulfill our mission.

In February - Larry Copley, Fred Sprague & Ruthann French attended the Annual Missaukee Conservation District Meeting and set up our display table. They watched a great presentation by The Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy on their activities to save land on Lake Superior.

In March - Steve Kalisz attended a "Timber Tax Workshop" put on by Michigan State Extension, hosted by the Wexford-Missaukee Soil Conservation Districts. He put up our display which generated some interest and discussed the possibility of doing another "Ties to the Land" program.

Kate Miller, a young CALC volunteer, is working with Vicki Long to develop an interactive brochure for Waldeck Island, our public nature preserve.

Mark Johnson, an instructor at the Career Tech Center, will be bringing a class to Waldeck Island in the near future to clean up and refurbish wood duck boxes. This is a yearly project in Mark's class.

On April 21st Ruthann French and Larry Copley will have a CALC information table at the Transition Cadillac Earth Day Celebration held in the city park from 2:00-5:00 pm.

On April 22nd Tasha VanDusen and Larry Copley will meet with representatives from county conservation districts and Gary Nobel from the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly. They will explore grant possibilities to improve stream beds and shoreline in the watershed, and hopefully gain a conservation easement.

Celebrate Earth Day - April 22

Visit the American Forests' web site at www.americanforests.org Their Global ReLeaf program plants trees in every state and 38 countries around the world. Millions of trees have been planted in areas damaged by natural causes or human activity. The site includes a Personal carbon footprint calculator.

Have a Picnic for Earth - a project of The Nature Conservancy celebrating the planet we live on. People around the world will be heading to their favorite spot to enjoy good food in the company of great people. For picnic recipes, tips for a green picnic, and a world map of picnic locations visit <http://nature.org/earthday>

Take part in Transition Cadillac's Earth Day event. (see above article)

Give someone special a wooden watch from we-wood.us They plant trees for every watch sold.

Visit www.wikihow.com/Celebrate-Earth-Day for ways to celebrate - plant trees, make recycle crafts, take a nature hike, clean up litter in a park, start a compost bin...

Find Earth Day events using the interactive map at www.michigan.gov/deq

Search for "earth day" on the My North web site at www.mynorth.com for events ranging from a week of workshops and a parade in Traverse City to making seed balls in Ludington.





We thanked all of our 2012 Cadillac Area Land Conservancy donors in our last issue. Now we need to thank those who generously donated to CALC's endowment fund in the Cadillac Area Community Foundation. Their donations enables us to protect our current easements while freeing up operating fund to secure future easements. Thanks to all!

Rod W. Bellows
Robert Borak
Larry and Margo Copley
Thomas Harris
Harvey's Home Services
Samuel Hogg

John F. Itnyre
Frederick Lawless
Douglas Miller
Pat and Leo Paveglio
James Petersen
David R. Peterson

Christine Potter
Matthew Russell
Laurel Sprague
Glenn Verbrugge



We also greatly appreciate the generosity of these folks:

Attorney David Peterson, a long-time CALC supporter, who helped with a deed/ title issue.

Larry and Margo Copley who covered the costs of resolving this issue.

Lakeside Title owner David McCurdy who gave us a discount on title insurance.

Good News



The Rural Heritage Conservation Extension Act of 2013, if passed, will make permanent the enhanced tax incentive for conservation easements set to expire at the end of 2013. The provision allows all taxpayers to deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income for donations of conservation easements and carry forward the deduction up to 15 years. Under the provision there is a bonus that allows ranchers and farmers to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income for donations of conservation easements. The bill also disallows a deduction for easements on golf courses.

(The bill, sponsored by Senator Baucus, has been read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.)

Further Afield

We are working to protect our local wildlife, but we thought you might be interested in wildlife a little further afield. Shirley Sanderson visits Africa and other exotic places with her camera in hand. Her beautiful photos of wild and endangered animals are available on her Wandering Eye web site, www.WanderingEye.net. The profits from her

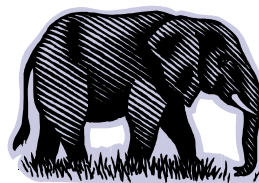
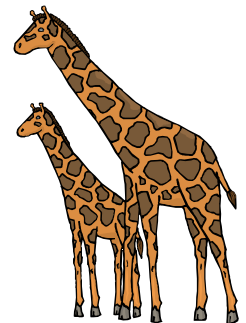


photo sales go to the Wilderness Trust to aid in conservation and research. Take a look!



Free Bird Booklet

Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) has published a new booklet, *Agricultural Practices That Conserve Grassland Birds*, with excellent information on practices farmers and others can use to protect grassland birds and wildlife. Get your copy at the MNFI website.

<http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/mnfi/pub/>



New Director

Heart of the Lakes, an advocacy group that's been of great help to us, has a new executive director. He's Jonathan Jarosz and he's no stranger to Michigan's land conservancies. Jonathan has worked as a conservation planner and consultant to non-profits for the past fifteen years. He has a degree in Resource Development from MSU and graduate certificates in Watershed Management and Geographic Information Systems.

Welcome, Jonathan!

(Julie Stoneman, who served as Interim Director, will continue to play a key role in the Heart of the Lakes Advanced Conservancy Excellence program.)

CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Larry Copley, Chair
- Fred Sprague, Vice Chair
- Margo Copley, Secretary
- Lindsey Hall, Treasurer
- Henry Cortez
- Ruthann French
- Richard Harvey
- Bob Hess
- Steve Kalisz
- Brian Maturen
- Nathan Piwowarski
- Craig Pullen
- Tasha VanDusen
- George L. Rock, Director Emeritus

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

- Garth Aslakson, Easement Baselines
- Vicki Long, Website
- Kate Miller, Service Projects
- Pat Paveglio, Newsletter
- Chris Schumacher, Corridor Marketing

*First a howling blizzard woke us,
Then the rain came down to soak us,
And now before the eye can focus -
Crocus.*



~ Lilja Rogers

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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