

Nature News



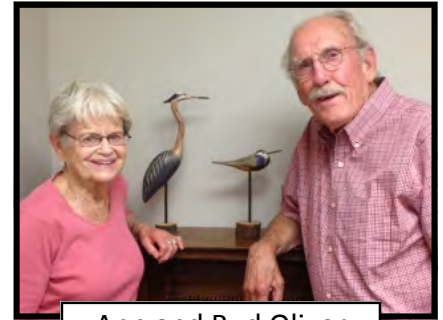
Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

Spring 2015

OLIVER FAMILY PRESERVE

CALC's mission is to protect ecologically significant, scenic, and farm lands... and we can do that in two ways: through easements—agreements between property owners and CALC; or preserves—lands that CALC owns. We first became the owners of a preserve when George Rock donated beautiful Waldeck Island to us. We are delighted to announce that we now have a second preserve, The Oliver Family Preserve, given to us by Ann and Bud (Floyd) Oliver. This 15 acre parcel on the outskirts of Harrietta is a little gem with Slagel Creek running through it and access to the US Forest Service lands on its border. Big thanks to the Olivers! We hope you will enjoy reading Bud's memories of this piece of land as much as we did.

(See below)



Ann and Bud Oliver

Bud's Memories

The history of Harrietta is tied to the development of the Toledo, Ann Arbor, and Northern Michigan Railway...now known as the Great Lakes Central Railroad. This railway reached Cadillac in 1887 and was extended diagonally across Wexford County reaching Harrietta in 1889 where a sawmill to harvest hardwood was built by Mr. Frank Gaston. This railroad line is on the Northern boundary of the property.

In 1892 Harrietta became only the second place in the United States to manufacture alcohol and acetate of lime by combining smoke from charcoal kilns with steam and then condensing it into a liquid. In 1893 due to a dwindling supply of hardwood, the coal kilns and chemical plants were relocated to Yuma.

With the forests gone, Harrietta became more of an agricultural center in the early 20th century using the railroads to reach various market places. Early in the 1900's my grandfather, James (Jim) Oliver, moved to Harrietta and built a home just behind where the Village Hall is located. Both the Village Hall and my grandfather's home are still there. The Village Hall appears about the same as I remember it back in the 30's and 40's. However my grandfather's home and farm have been through many changes and renovations.



When you entered my grandfather's home there was a large wood burning cooking and heating stove on the left and table and chairs, cupboards, and a milk/cream separator near the window on the right. I was infatuated with the separator and loved to crank the handle and separate the cream from the milk. The cream was normally used for making butter and the skim milk was fed to farm animals.

My grandfather didn't have a lot of land for pasturing his milk cows so my father, Forrest Oliver, purchased this 15 acre parcel of land as additional pasture. As you drive toward Harrietta on the Boon Road the sign that says "Village of Harrietta" is the Western boundary of the property.



Bud's Memories continued

I had always been interested in and enjoyed this parcel of land and asked my mother, Frances Oliver, if she would leave it to me when she died...and she did. So, along with my wife Ann, we have owned this property since my mother died in 1996. Now we have donated it to CALC.

The terrain of the property is unusual and fairly rugged. The front along the Boon Road is relatively flat. As you hike north toward the rear of the property, approximately a quarter of the way back, there is a ravine that meanders across the property with a small creek flowing west. Eventually this small creek flows into the beautiful Slagle Creek that flows through the northwest corner of the property. This very nice creek eventually flows through the Harrietta Fish Hatchery and beyond, finally reaching the Manistee River. As a young boy I loved hiking this property, fishing on Slagle Creek and picking and eating the yummy blackberries that grew on the northern portion of the property.



When my grandfather died in 1940 the pasture-land became dormant so my father had several acres of Scotch and Red Pine Christmas trees planted on the land. Because of the ruggedness of the terrain, my father's health, my going to high school and college and moving to California, these trees were never properly cared for or harvested.

As you reach the northern boundary of the property and cross the railroad tracks you enter a 78 acre parcel of The Huron Manistee National Forest. Unfortunately this portion of the national forest has very limited public access. This land donation will allow individuals better access and use of this federally owned property.

We donated this property to the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy and encourage the public to use and enjoy it for a wide variety of activities—hiking, fishing, trapping, bird watching, photography, education and physical activities without seeking permission or having severe restrictions. Ann & I hope you enjoy your visits to this Cadillac Area Land Conservancy open space property and the adjacent federally-owned national forest! - Floyd (Bud) Oliver

Our Plans for Oliver Family Preserve

We are beginning to formulate plans for our new preserve and there may be opportunities for you to lend a hand. We have received a USDA grant to help finance the work.

Thanks to Steve Kalisz of Old School Forestry we have a forest management plan that includes some timber harvesting—removing the Scotch Pine and thinning the Red Pine.

We would like to remove all invasive and noxious plants and replace them with native grasses and wildflowers.

We would like to make some walking trails with a stone walkway over the creek.

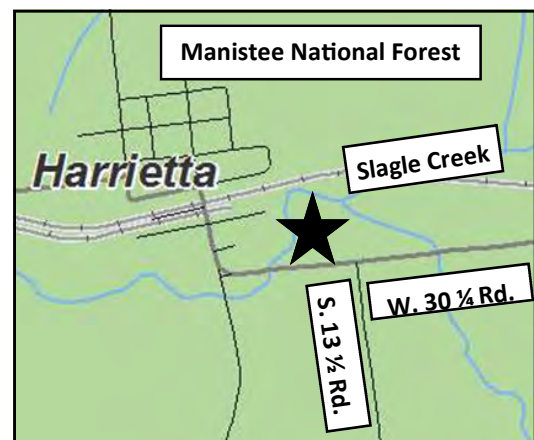
We would like a small graveled parking space.

We would like to have a dedication ceremony when the Olivers come for the summer and are discussing the feasibility of holding our annual meeting on the property.

Meanwhile, stop by and take a look—visitors welcome!

Directions to Oliver Family Preserve

From the intersection of M-115 and 34 Roads travel West approximately 6 miles; turn North on 23 Road and go approximately 2 miles; turn West on 30 ¼ Road and go approximately 4 miles to the Village of Harrietta. The property borders Harrietta on the West and 30 ¼ Rd on the South.





Welcome, Ron Johnson CALC's Community Liaison

We are excited to have a new face in the office. Ron Johnson has been hired as a community liaison. We thank Richard Loughmiller for leaving a legacy making this position possible. Ron will help us raise public awareness and grow our donor base.



Ron lives in Tustin, which is geocentric to the three main counties covered by CALC—Wexford, Osceola and Missaukee.

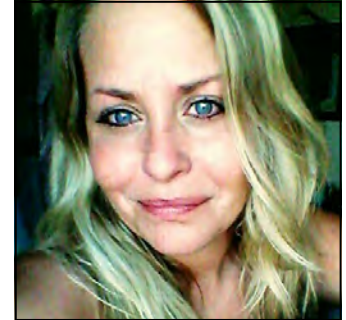
Ron has a great appreciation for the outdoors—he hunts, fishes, hikes, camps and enjoys nature, wildlife and birds. There's always a variety of birds at his bird feeder, including three varieties of woodpeckers (downy, hairy and pileated). Deer travel daily across his property and there is an occasional bobcat or woodchuck; turkeys wander across the front and side yards at their leisure.

Ron's appreciation of the outdoors extends to his family and fosters concern that his grandchildren (three with a fourth on the way) may not be able to enjoy the same outdoors that the rest of us enjoy today. This creates an urgency to ensure that they and their children will have a solid foundation of conservation lands to enjoy and where they can go to commune with nature.

Ron has a BA in Business Administration (with a Marketing emphasis) from Ferris State University and an MBA from Western Michigan University. Ron plans to use his education and extensive experience in sales and marketing to help collaborate with area agencies and businesses to expand the breadth and depth of our services. This will include functioning as a community liaison while deploying as the development director and networking with the community and across the counties served by CALC.

Welcome Rosanne Denny CALC's New Board Member

We are also excited to have a new board member. Rosanne (aka Rose) told us she wanted to serve on the CALC board because she has a sincere appreciation of the land and waterways in Northern Michigan, and because she's deeply concerned about her children's future.



Rose has a passion for the outdoors and the area she lives in. She cares about what her family eats and doesn't like all the genetically modified and processed food, so she believes it's critical for us to protect our farmland.

Rose graduated Magna Cum Laude from Baker in 2013 with a Bachelor's of Applied Science in Human Services. Her computer, research and writing skills will be appreciated! She currently serves on the Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority's Board of Directors and is a member of the Wexford County Housing Council.

Earth Day—April 18, 2015

The theme of this year's Earth Day is *Mobilize the Earth™*. Social and environmental issues have taken a backseat for world leaders, but the world can't wait. So this year, Earth Day is a platform to make noise – for everyone to demand that something be done. Rally. March. Vote. Petition. Do something. If we make enough noise maybe the powers that be will be forced to pay attention. Learn more at www.earthday.org





Thanks...

...to Lindsey Hall, former board member/ treasurer, who is stepping down from her bookkeeping chores. Lindsey put our financial records into electronic format and pleased our accountants.

...to Mike Figliomeni of McCurdy, Wotila & Porteous, P.C. who drafted our service contract gratis.

...to Richard Loughmiller and his widow Marlene for helping us move the organization forward.

...to all our volunteers! (National Volunteer Week, April 12-18)

CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Larry Copley, Chair
- Steve Cunningham, V. Chair
- Margo Copley, Secretary
- Fred Sprague, Treasurer
- Tom Anderson
- Rose Denny
- Richard Harvey
- Bob Hess
- Tasha Lapinski
- Nathan Piwowarski
- Max Yancho

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Vicki Long, Website
- Pat Paveglio, Newsletter
- Dave Smith, Planned Giving

The Iron Belle Trail

The DNR now has a name for a new hiking and bicycling trail that will run from Belle Isle to Ironwood. First proposed in 2012 by Governor Snyder, the trail will link numerous existing trails to provide a 1,259-mile hiking route and a 774-mile bicycling route.



Segments of the trail will open throughout 2015. Michigan is a national leader in designated trail miles with more than 12,000 miles of recreational trails. Visit the DNR website for e-mail updates or to learn more about trail offerings.

www.michigan.gov/dnrtrails

*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

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.



124 1/2 NORTH MITCHELL STREET
SUITE 115
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601

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

(231) 775-3631