

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Spring 2018

The Ultimate Easement of 2017

Although conservation easements are often similar—wooded areas with wildlife and water features—the CALC board works hard to accommodate the particular needs and wishes of each easement holder. The last easement of 2017 belongs to a family wishing to remain “under the radar.” So we’ll tell you about the property and its conservation values without revealing its exact location. As in all cases, property under a conservation easement is private property and does not give public access.



A big beech tree on the property

The almost 108 acre property is in the Pine River Watershed and protects a critical component of a wildlife corridor connecting the Pine River Valley with a large tract of private land along a creek. The creek is in a natural wetlands and is an important link to the Pine River. The property will help support wildlife habitat links and protected wetland ecosystems across property boundaries. Most nearby parcels have been converted to agricultural acres or rural residences, making this wildlife corridor and preserved wetland even more critical to wildlife and water quality.



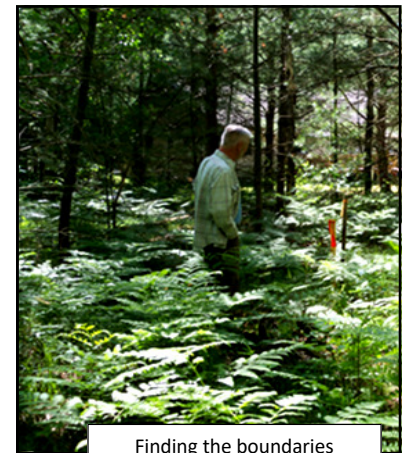
The family has built many trails

The Pine River is designated a Michigan Natural River. It flows into the Manistee River and then into Lake Michigan. The creek is primarily a groundwater fed system. The protection of this riparian wetland corridor and adjacent forested uplands will help maintain the quality

and quantity of flow in the Pine, as well as help maintain the high water quality of the Manistee.

Thankfully, the person owning the mineral rights on the property has agreed to honor the easement restrictions on mineral extraction. Often we can’t find the mineral rights owner or the owner isn’t always cooperative, so this was a nice surprise.

If all goes according to the owners’ plan, the property will eventually become a CALC-owned preserve. In the meantime, the family is busy maintaining trails, enhancing the property and enjoying this beautiful place.



Finding the boundaries

The poetry of earth is never dead

~ John Keats, “On the Grasshopper and Cricket”



Winter Fun

The community of Harrietta gathered for a candle-light snowshoe walk around the Oliver Family Preserve on February 10th.

The best part of the evening just might have been the hot chocolate, cookies and conversation after the walk.

There's talk of making this an annual Valentine event so stay tuned.

Thanks to Patti Dunning for organizing the walk.



Tax Break

At an age where you are required to withdraw money from your IRAs every year? You can send all or part of the withdrawals to charities and use these gifts to reduce your taxable income in 2018. IRA-to-charity transfers (known as "qualified charitable distributions" or QCDs) still work; the new tax law made no changes to these rules. Individuals over 70 ½ can transfer as much as \$100,00 annually from their IRA directly to most types of charities. The transfer is excluded from your income and counts toward your required minimum distribution for the year.

The new tax law changes the standard deduction (going up) and some itemized deductions (capped or eliminated) which make QCDs more attractive.

Natalie Choate, a lawyer specializing in retirement benefits at Nutter McClennen & Fish, says, "Basically the new tax law heightens the attractiveness of QCDs for those eligible to use them and who are charitably inclined."

Do we need to add that we would be happy to be

the beneficiary of such a donation? See your tax preparer for details.

Taken from: March 5th, Wall Street Journal, "Ask Encore" by Glenn Ruffenach

Thanks

Thanks to the mystery donor who made a \$300 on-line donation through Just Giving. (Please call the office at (231) 775-3631 so we can officially thank you.)

Thanks to Cadillac Area Community Foundation donors Fred & Sue Eyer, Jack Itnyre and Nathan & Jennifer Piowovarski

Thanks to Bill & Wilma Gaylord, Dorothy Stenman, Shari Spoelman & Gary VanHouten, and Larry & Marilyn Visser who made donations directly to CALC for operations.

We depend on your generosity to accomplish our mission.



Celebrate Earth Day!

Cadillac will celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 22, from 1:00-4:00 in the Cadillac Commons. CALC will be there, so stop by the table and say, "Hi!"



Work With Us

Come get your hands in the dirt and help us plant seedlings and put in tree tubes and barrier mats at the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve on April 21st. Work will start in the morning but feel free to drop by anytime—we'll work 'til the job is done.

Wear your grubby clothes and gardening gloves. Bring a hammer, shovel or scalping tool if you can.

Call Larry Copley at (231) 876-0351 and let us know you're coming. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

The preserve is located on 33 Road just past Benson Road.



Many Hands

The Cadillac Christian Reform Church youth group is going to help build trails at the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve this summer.

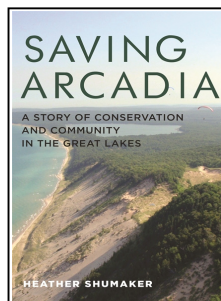
Sounds like a win/win for everyone!

Saving Arcadia - by Leo Pavaglio

I bought this book after I read it. Not the normal process, but this is not a normal book. I passed it by when I first found it on the shelf at a local bookstore and only read it when I found it available at the library, after all, the price was right.

Saving Arcadia is the compelling story of how a resources, and expertise set out to save over Along the way they helped organize and collaborate with farmers, governmental groups, and environmentalists.

In the late 1960s and early 70s Consumers storage water plant similar to one they constructed under the specter of eminent domain, Consumers farmland and immense sand dunes with the dunes were removed, fields were leased to farmers and economics stalled the plans for development and the land languished for over twenty-five years before the conservancy made saving Arcadia a priority.



fledgling organization with limited experience, 6,000 acres of unique land from development. negotiate with farmers, governmental groups,

Power began buying land to build a pumped storage ed near Ludington. By paying top dollar and Power acquired over 6,000 acres of prime fruit intention of flooding it. The homes and buildings and logging contracts were written. Changing

This story is told by Heather Schumaker who breathes life into each heartbreaking setback and every sweet success. Along the way we follow her growth from a fresh-out-of-school visionary with a degree in land resources to a skilled negotiator, organizer, and legal mind. We watch the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy grow from a gleam in a dreamer's eye to an organization professionally managing thousands of acres and hundreds of volunteers. We watch individual land owners, conservationists and people who simply loved the Arcadia tract become effective advocates for the area.

I bought this book after I read it because it needed to be on my bookshelf. *Saving Arcadia* is more than a celebration of a years-long effort. It is a compelling story masterfully told by Schumaker. It also serves as a guide for community organizing. It is the beginning chapter in a project with no end date. It is available locally at Brilliant Books and Horizon Books.

Saving Arcadia: A Story of Conservation and Community in Great Lakes, by Heather Shumaker © 2017



Memorials

Marguerite Harris is being remembered by Fred and Sharon Sprague and Mart and Teresa Williams who made memorial contributions to the Cadillac Area Community Foundation. The foundation also made a donation in memory of Marguerite.



Marguerite Harris

CALC donations were made by:

- Dr. & Mrs. Itnyre in memory of Marvin Frank.
- Dorothy Stenman in memory of Chuck Attwell.
- Eileen Mist in memory of Larry McConnell.

Thank you for remembering in such a meaningful way.

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

~ Doug Larson

Opportunity

The Michigan Lake and Stream Associations are gathering for their 57th annual conference on Friday and Saturday, April 20 & 21, at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville. Topics will include lake ecology, managing invasive Starry stonewort, non-chemical control of invasive phragmites, aquatic plant identification and more. Visit their website for more detail.



MICHIGAN LAKE
AND STREAM
ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

<https://www.mymlsa.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Copley, *Chair*
Steve Cunningham, *Vice-Chair*
Marco Menezes, *Secretary*
Fred Sprague, *Treasurer*
Tom Anderson
Rose Denny
Tasha Lapinski
Marty Williams

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Pete Eliot, *finance*
Richard Harvey, *monitoring*
Bob Hess, *preserves*
Pat Pavaglio, *newsletter*
Eric Zeitz, *website*

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.

CADILLAC AREA LAND CONSERVANCY
1247 NORTH MITCHELL STREET
SUITE 115
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601

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

(231) 775-3631