

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Spring 2020

Songs on the Wing

Having trouble keeping a positive outlook in these uncertain times? We're sharing a little of Al Batt's e-newsletter that brightened our day.



Al says:

*I listened to a male cardinal sing his spring song.
"What-cheer, cheer, cheer, birdy, birdy, birdy."
A black-capped chickadee whistled, "Spring's here,"
"Sweet-ie," "Love you," or "Fee-bee."
A white-breasted nuthatch celebrated the increasing
daylength by giving voice to "Wha-wha-wha."
Blue jays voiced a musical queedle-queedle.
Drumming woodpeckers provided a percussive
accompaniment.*

On the wings of a song, the birds return and we can look forward with hope to spring.



Photos by Jim Higgins

For more information on Al, visit his website <http://www.albatt.com>
We guarantee you'll enjoy his book, *A Life Gone to the Birds*
To receive his e-newsletter, email allenbatt@gmail.com

Success!



In June of 2019 the federally endangered piping plovers nested at The Nature Conservancy's Zetterberg Preserve at Point Betsie for the first time in several decades! There are an estimated 74 pairs of piping plover nesting in the Great Lakes area.

This may be due in part to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that has made significant strides in its cleanup efforts. Visit them at <https://www.glri.us/>

If you find yourself on the shore in an area where the plovers might be nesting, you can help by:

- Reporting the location of any nests
- Staying away from nest enclosures and breeding areas
- Always keeping your dogs leashed
- Packing out your food waste and garbage
- Leaving driftwood and algae on the beaches

A quote for these times: "If I'm going to be a caged bird, I'll sing the best song I can." ~ Wes Craven

❖ Protecting Land in Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola and northern Lake and Mason Counties ❖



Family Fun at the Oliver Preserve

Back in February, when there was a bit more snow on the ground, the village of Harrietta hosted its 2nd Annual Candlelight Snowshoe Hike at the Oliver Family Preserve. Patti Dunning reported that more than 20 people attended the event, and some of them were very young! These kids are learning the value of exercise and being out-of-doors.

Everyone enjoyed their time out in the woods. They also enjoyed the refreshments at the village hall afterwards. Patti says they hope to make this an annual event and welcome all to join in the fun next year.



It is so rewarding to hear how these spaces, protected by CALC, are being enjoyed by all ages and bringing a community together in such a positive and healthy way.

Thanks for the event and the pictures, Patti!



ProtectMI

We all know, or are learning anew, the joy of exploring outdoor spaces with our families. The natural beauty of this state and our little corner of it are an integral part of our communities. Those spaces keep us healthy and moving.

ProtectMI is an education campaign organized by Heart of the Lakes, Michigan Environmental Council, mParks, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and the Nature Conservancy. It is supported by the resources of the sponsoring organizations. Its purpose is to raise public awareness of and appreciation among Michigan residents for all types of public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan.

Check out the ProtectMI webpage at <https://protectmi.org/>

And get out and enjoy one of CALC's public spaces: Waldeck Island, Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve or Oliver Family Preserve. See our website for directions.

<http://calc-landtrust.org/PublicPreserves>

Thanks to these donors whose donations came in after we went to press last quarter:



- Mary & Lew Bender
- Patricia Richardson
- Chris Schumacher
- Martha Irvine in continued memory of Bill Irvine

"The Earth is what we all have in common."

~ Wendell Berry

We're Here

CALC is here for you. Every state on COVID-19 lockdown has realized the importance of allowing everyone to get outside. The economic impact is unknown, but the need for public outdoor spaces has never been more recognized. CALC provides those spaces! And the reality is that CALC will still need your financial support when this is over. United we will stand in supporting what is important.



New Faces

Last issue we introduced you to new board members Chris Gentry and Sam Hogg. We're delighted to add another two members to our board, Cyndy and Dave Foley. These new board members will help guide CALC into the future. We are in good hands!

Meet Cyndy



My interest at Albion College was visual art. But even after an enticing semester off campus in Manhattan, apprenticed to a sculptor, I chose finally to forego the NYC art world for northern Michigan. I got the job of high school art teacher and for my working years supported my

family and my own art work by teaching Kindergarten -12th grade art for Cadillac.

All of my childhood summers were spent in northern Michigan on Burt Lake, right across the road from an amazing parcel of conservancy success, the Colonial Point Forest Project of the Little Traverse Conservancy.

Wanting to live out-of-doors has lead me to take several NOLS courses (National Outdoor Leadership School based in Lander, Wyoming) in various wilderness areas in North America.

My three strands of interest and endeavor for all of my adult life have been visual art, being outdoors in wild places, and my family.

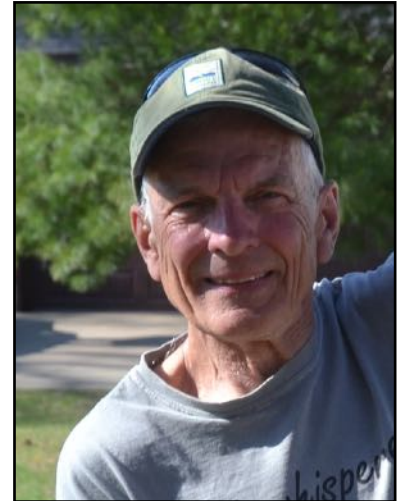
I look forward to joining the work of the conservancy process. I want to learn more about the process and contribute my time and energy to the continuation and expansion of nature preserves in our part of Michigan.

Meet Dave

A Cadillac resident since 1974, I taught at Cadillac Junior High for 29 years and coached cross country for 27 of those years as well as spending time coaching track.

Although I began freelance writing in 1976, after retiring in 2003, I made that my day job. In addition to writing a column for the outdoor page of the *Cadillac News*, I am a staff writer for *Boundary Waters Journal* and *Silent Sports* magazine. During the summer I work part-time at 3 Y camps teaching canoeing and wilderness skills.

When I was a just a kid, I would go on walks with my grandfather, Ray Foley, through the woodlands near his farm. He was Kent County's Conservationist of the Year back in the 1950s and from him I learned to love and value our untamed lands. I have always admired the work of CALC and feel that it is my turn to step up and do my part.



"The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations."

~ John Paul II



A Way to Give

IRA, RMD, IRS, QCD. What in the world?! Those of us in the retirement years soon learn those government acronyms. The Secure Act of 2019 upped the age to 72 for starting the required withdrawals (RMDs) from retirement accounts. However, distributions that go directly to charities, such as CALC, can still begin at age 70 ½. These direct distributions are excluded from income for IRS tax purposes. Please see your tax advisor for more information. (Ask about Qualified Charitable Distributions.)



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Worth Reading

Univ. of Washington environmental psychologist Gregory Bratman reports, "Evidence is there to support the conclusion that contact with nature benefits our mood, our psychological well-being, our mental health, and our cognitive functioning." Two hours per week in nature are associated with people reporting improved health and well-being.

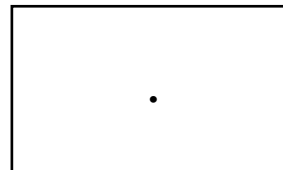
Taken from "The Nature Antidote" by Jill U. Adams, winter 2019 issue of *Audubon Magazine*

Climate vs. Weather

Weather refers to short-term changes in the atmosphere ... It will tell you what to wear each day.

Climate describes what the *weather* is like over a long period of time in an area.

Weather



Climate



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.