

Nature News



Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

Summer 2014

New Easement!

The Cadillac Area Land Conservancy is very pleased to announce that Barb and Doug Miller have put an easement on their beautiful and ecologically significant property in Osceola County.

The easement process can be a long and tedious process with reams of paper, hours of volunteers' and owners' time and lots of mandatory legal documents, but the rewards are great.

Note: Special thanks to Dave McCurdy at Lakeside Title LLC for doing the complicated title search at a special rate.

Ruthann French and Steve Cunningham tell the story below.

Old Friends Lead to New Easement

Old friendships lead to new relationships with the land. When Barb Miller called Ruthann French, a long time friend and a CALC board member, for more information about conservation easements, it was a "blast from the past"



conversation. Their fond memories of cross-country skiing across their woodlands surfaced as Doug and Barb explored ways to protect the land

they have cherished since the 1970s. Ruthann knew this couple and their adult daughters would be good candidates for the development of an easement because of their stewardship and love of their woodland home in Osceola County. Their early years of living "off the grid" with Doug's ingenious inventions of alternative energy systems brought this unique family to a place that definitely deserves preservation.



Baseline work done by CALC volunteer Larry Copley and landowner Doug Miller



This beautiful property was purchased by Doug's father for \$50 an acre.

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Old Friends Lead to New Easement *(cont.)*

The friendship grew between Doug and Barb and CALC volunteers over the next two years as they walked the land, chatted over a pot of soup and homemade bread and shared their mutual conservation principles.

Now that friendship has culminated in CALC's newest conservation easement—240 acres of marsh, upland hardwoods and old field succession protected forever. The property, located in Hersey Township in Osceola County, contains a wealth of diverse habitats for wildlife including a large marsh, the head waters of Procter Creek, a tributary of the Muskegon River and a great stopover during fall and spring bird migrations. In addition to the marsh, there are acres of hardwoods, a working forest which includes a beautiful rustic sugar shack, a lowland conifer swamp and old farm fields reverting back to the wild. Thanks to Barb and Doug Miller this diverse, naturally unique place, rich in conservation values, is now permanently protected.



CALC friendships will continue to grow because the Millers have invited the larger CALC community to come to their property this fall for our annual membership meeting. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet Doug and Barb, hear about their life “off the grid” and see firsthand the latest piece of property protected through CALC's efforts.

Thanks to all who support CALC and special thanks to Doug and Barb for their generous gift.

Annual Meeting - Saturday, October 4th - Save the Date!

Mark your calendars/ save that date! Our annual meeting will be held on at Barb and Doug Miller's property on Saturday, October 4th—stay tuned for details.

It is possible, I think, to say that... a Christian agriculture [is] formed upon the understanding that it is sinful for people to misuse or destroy what they did not make. The Creation is a unique, irreplaceable gift, therefore to be used with humility, respect, and skill.

~ Wendell Berry in *The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture*

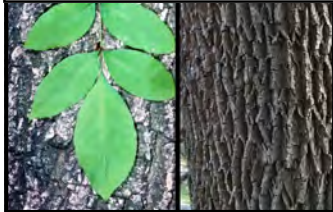


A Nasty Tree Killer

by Pat Paveglio

We've lived through the Chestnut Blight that killed 3.5 billion trees and Dutch Elm Disease that killed 200 million elms, but now we have a new super killer—the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) that is expected to kill **7.5 billion** ash trees across the U.S.

Ash has distinctive bark with deep furrows and a diamond pattern.

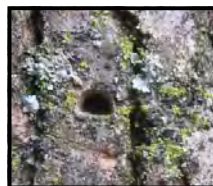


Discovered in 2002 in Canton, Michigan, this exotic invader probably arrived in shipping containers. The adult beetles are metallic green and about the size of a grain of cooked rice.

The larval stage of this insect tunnels under the bark preventing the tree from transporting water and nutrients throughout the tree, girdling and eventually killing it.



Signs of the presence of the EAB are D-shaped holes about 1/8" in diameter.



A classic symptom of infestation is seen when the tree begins to sprout along the trunk (epicormic sprouting). The tree is trying to create food along its trunk. Sadly, trees at this stage will not survive. Other symptoms are crown dieback, bark splits and woodpecker feeding.

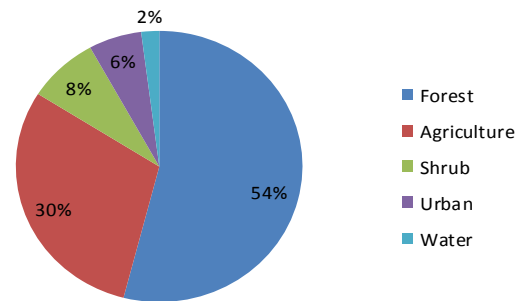
There is no treatment for large tracts of trees, but if you have a beautiful ash in your yard, you might be able to save it, **if** you start early enough, have the time to continue treatment and are willing to spend the money. If the tree is over 20" in diameter, you will need to call in a professional.

For a thorough decision-making guide and lots of good information visit the Emerald Ash Borer website at www.emeraldashborer.info. This site is a multinational effort by the USDA Forest Service, MSU, Purdue and Ohio State to provide accurate and timely information.

Thanks to Bart Heil, Midland City's Parks and Recreation Supervisor (and my favorite son-in-law) for his expertise.

Give us Land, Lots of Land...

Michigan has 37 million acres of land.



Working lands are comprised of 19.3 million acres of forest and over 10 million acres of farmland. We need large areas of land for agriculture, tourism and recreation, forestry and mining.

In our little corner of the state, we have added 246 acres to our protected land. We now have 1,714 acres under conservation easements. Spread the word and help us add more!



Remembering the Rocks

Two of our member families sent notes reminiscing about the Rocks. Fred and Pat Lawless credited George's knowledge and commitment to the environment and preservation of natural resources with leading them to consider an easement on their property. "Through his help with that decision we are now able to leave a legacy to those who will enjoy a portion of this earth in the future." They extend their "condolences and gratification for a truly dedicated gentleman to a lasting cause," and commend all of us for advancing his initiative.



George & Vickie Rock

Bud and Ann Oliver also have many good memories of George and his wife Vickie. They write, "We have been at their home near Stone Ledge Lake many times and have had his famous tour of their 80-acre farm several times too. I remember one time he had a brand new white SUV and the roads or trails he took us on were unbelievable. He really took us on a whirlwind tour on trails that were barely navigable. And he didn't drive slowly...as you might think he would." They add, "It is really nice that Margo knew them so well and perhaps this is why the Copley family is so involved in the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy! Great!"

(We couldn't agree more.)

CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Margo Copley, Secretary
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- Henry Cortez
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- Richard Harvey
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- Garth Aslakson, Easements
- Lindsey Hall, Bookkeeping
- Brandon Bensel, Website
- Pat Pavegio, Newsletter

The land is the only thing in the world worth working for,
worth fighting for,
worth dying for,
because it's the only thing that lasts.

~ Margaret Mitchell
in *Gone With the Wind*

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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