

# Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Summer 2016

## A New Preserve!

Exciting news! CALC is adding another preserve that will be open to the public! The Carl T. Johnson Preserve, our third preserve, is 39 acres of prime wildlife habitat near the corner of Benson and 33 Roads across the road from the Mitchell Swamp, one of the best bear breeding nurseries in the state. The property was bequeathed to the Rotary Club of Cadillac by Carl T. Johnson, local conservationist and steward of the land. The Rotary Club has, in turn, given it to CALC in order to open it to the public.

This winter there will be a selective timber harvest for good forest management.\* Then CALC will begin working on their long term goal of making it a park-like setting made for exploring and roaming. We envision trails, gravel parking spaces and other user-friendly improvements. As with our Waldeck Island Preserve, the neighbors will undoubtedly be its most frequent visitors and will hopefully help us maintain the preserve.

CALC is looking for public input on the development of this preserve and volunteers to help maintain it. Please join us on July 30; bring your ideas!

\* The proceeds from the timber sale will be shared with the Rotary Club



## Carl T. Johnson, 1911-2008



Carl was well known throughout Michigan. In 1942 he was sworn in as the youngest mayor of Cadillac, an office he held until he resigned to enlist in the U.S. Cavalry. Carl T. was instrumental in founding the Michigan Bear Hunters' Association and was the founder of the Michigan Conservation Foundation. In 1963 he was appointed to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission and served 17 years. In 1969 he was recognized as one of the 10 most outstanding citizen conservationists in America and received a special award in Washington, D.C. On May 16, 1992, a dream that Carl had for years - the Carl T. Johnson Hunting & Fishing Center - was dedicated in Cadillac. To say that Carl T. enjoyed the out-of-doors would be an understatement.

**Join us!**  
**Johnson Preserve Kick-off**  
Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.  
Cherry Grove Township Office  
(4830 E M-55, Cadillac)

We will hold a short  
meeting  
to talk about our  
plans and  
gather public input



Questions? Call Larry Copley, CALC  
Chairman, at (231) 876-0351



## Thanks

A belated and big thanks to Cadillac Area Festivals and Events for making our Mackinac Bridge raffle possible. We were able to get our raffle license through them—saving us money and endless paperwork. We would not have tackled the event without their help.

Also thanks to Lakeside Title for giving us a reduced price on one of our title searches—much appreciated!

## More Thanks

More thanks go out to our new office volunteers. Board member Tasha Lapinski is spending an afternoon a week doing much needed office chores, and Lori Johnson, a very sharp Baker College student, is volunteering 2 hours a week doing our QuickBooks entries. Thanks, Ladies, you're the best!

## Have Someone to Remember?

Is there a special someone you would like to be remembered? Someone who loved being outdoors enjoying nature? Consider purchasing a bench for one of our preserves—a place for people to sit and enjoy the beauty around them. Give us a call. (231) 775-3631



*To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.*

~ Helen Keller

## (George) William Irvine

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Bill Irvine in May 13, 2016. Bill was one of CALC's earliest board members, when CALC was just getting off the ground. At that time there were very few board members with the type of skills that Bill brought to the board. His background in natural resources was a much needed skill that kept CALC's mission in the forefront. Bill was a forester and wildlife biologist for the Huron-Manistee National Forest. He played a major part in the recovery team that helped save the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. In later years he still attended our conservancy events with a smile on his face. He will be remembered fondly.

Thanks to Bill's family for naming CALC as one of the beneficiaries of his memorials.



## Reminder

If you love northern Michigan and want to preserve it for your grandchildren and your grandchildren's grandchildren, you may want to consider a bequest to

CALC in your estate plans.

Richard Loughmiller founded a Perpetual Preservation Bequest Society to honor and recognize future donors now for the gifts they will give us later. Richard hoped his own bequest to CALC would empower the conservancy to purchase heritage properties that would otherwise be developed.

You too can leave a gift through a bequest, trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity to the conservancy. To learn



## CALC Hard At Work

CALC board members are out-door people, but much of the work running the conservancy involves sitting in meetings and shuffling papers. But everyone had a chance to get their hands dirty when they spent the last Saturday in April working on the Oliver Family Preserve. Fifteen volunteers planted over 400 wildlife friendly shrubs—chokecherry, magenta crabapple, hazelnut and Staghorn sumac—and then built deer-proof cages for them all. Kudos to all, especially Dan Valley who is heading up the Oliver improvement plans and is a real dynamo.



Getting out in the fresh air brings smiles to Larry Copley, Tom Anderson and Dan Valley as they bushwhack a hiking trail for preserve visitors.



Instructor Mark Johnson shows the kids how to make the dirt fly...



...and so they did!

After the volunteer day, the work continued. Dan, Larry and Tom roughed in 2,050' of a closed-loop hiking trail. They put up boundary markers and took down the old wire fence. Dan also prepared for the anticipated controlled burn, which was postponed because of the high fire danger. Dan also marked the hiking trail (follow the blue blazes) and put up bluebird boxes. Dan's future plans include pruning the apple trees and putting one or two geocaches on the property. If you have some time to spare, he'd appreciate your help.

Mark Johnson's Agriscience and Natural Resources class from the Wexford-Missaukee Career Tech Center spent three days building sturdy steps and a bridge over Slagle Creek. Thanks Mason, Rylie, Olivia, Joe, Gavin and Spencer. A great job!

Come out and see the results of all this hard work!



A bridge for keeping hikers' feet dry



Steps under construction



Assembling tubes to protect the new shrubs from nibblers



## Viewing Platform Going Up

Ed Richards, of E & S Construction, is working in the heat to build a wildlife viewing platform on Waldeck Island. The tall structure will give folks a good view of local birds—waterfowl, wading birds, songbirds, even the occasional eagle. We plan to enhance the habitat by adding nesting islands and loafing sites for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife.



The platform is a memorial to Sandy Hansen. We thank the Hansen Family Foundation for honoring her love of nature in this way.



We hope you will come and enjoy the view when the work is done. Please let us know what birds and animals you see and send us photos that we can share with our members on Facebook and in the newsletter. Email photos to us at [calc@calc-landtrust.org](mailto:calc@calc-landtrust.org). We think Sandy would like that.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Copley, *Chair*  
Steve Cunningham, *Vice-Chair*  
Margo Copley, *Secretary*  
Fred Sprague, *Treasurer*  
Tom Anderson  
Rose Denny  
Richard Harvey  
Tasha Lapinski  
Nathan Piwowarski  
Dan Valley  
Max Yancho

### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Bob Hess  
Lori Johnson, *Office help*  
Tasha Lapinski, *Office help*  
Vicki Long, *website*  
Pat Pavaglio, *newsletter*

*Summer afternoon . . .  
summer afternoon - the two  
most beautiful words in the  
English language.*

~ Henry James

### *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.*