

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Summer 2018



Whistle while you work?

Maybe they weren't whistling, but Mark Johnson's agriscience and natural resources students were once again working hard on our Waldeck Island Nature Preserve

cleaning out wood duck nesting boxes.



Roger Barnett Pine River	Katlin Booms Marion	Bailey Schierbeek McBain	Chris Pfau Mesick
-----------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------

Wood ducks nest in cavities, but because they can't make their own cavity, they seem to appreciate man-made nest boxes located near water. The students removed the bedding from last year's nesting and replaced it with fresh shavings—not so easy when the bedding is frozen in the box due to our late spring. Several of the nest boxes are in pretty bad shape so the students hope to get some replacement boxes made before nesting season. Thanks to Mark and all his hard-working students!!!



SAVE THE DATE
✓
July 26

The book review of *Saving Arcadia* in our last issue caught the eye of one of our readers. Vickie Essenmacher not only read the book, she has arranged for the author to come to the Cadillac Wexford Public Library at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26 to talk about her book!

Saving Arcadia: A Story of Conservation and Community in Great Lakes, is the compelling story of how a fledgling organization with limited experience, resources, and expertise set out to save over 6,000 acres of unique land from development. Masterfully told by Heather Schumaker, it also serves as a guide for community organizing.

Vickie Essenmacher, the reader who arranged for this Friends of the Library program, is a great community activist herself. She was the mover and shaker who brought the J. Seward Johnson life-sized bronze sculptures to Cadillac in 2012.

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



Kids + Outdoors = Fun

Research tells us that kids get tremendous benefit from playing outdoors.

Our very own wonder-worker, Margo Copley, has two delightful granddaughters that she introduces to nature whenever she can. An article she wrote for *The Northern Camper* magazine is below.



Making leaf angels

Super Easy Scavenger Hunt

Do you ever have a hard time keeping your pre-schoolers engaged in walking on nature trails? Try this easy-to-make scavenger hunt made with the materials you have on hand. It is amazing how this simple game motivates them.

For each child use an 8 ½ X 11" white paper with their name on top. Make a grid with as many blanks as their attention span allows. Use their crayon box to make a different colored circle within each box of the grid. Bring a pen and pail or reusable bag and start your walk. Have them gather an item for each color on the grid and you write down what it is. Place the item in the bag. They will run everywhere looking for the colored items.

Besides color identification, it can be a learning lesson if much of what they gather is man-made trash that has no place in nature. Also the gathering of natural materials should be small items so as not to disturb natural habitat. The color palette that represents nature will inspire awe over the beauty that surrounds them.

*Teaching children about the natural world
should be treated as one of the most important
events in their lives.*

~ Thomas Berry

Celebrate Life!

Birthday? Anniversary?
If you have had a lot of these celebrations you have probably accrued a lot of "stuff".



We suggest a more meaningful way to celebrate these milestones is by encouraging your family and friends to make a donation to a "good" cause you care about. Everyone involved feels the warmth of giving to a cause that makes a difference. Of course, we suggest CALC as an important cause that is working to protect land in perpetuity.

An easy way to make a donation is to use Facebook and Network for Good as a reliable way to give. You can use the HELP section of Facebook to set it up.

HELP excerpt:

You can create a birthday fundraiser by filling in the following items:

1. The nonprofit you want to raise money for.
2. The amount of money you want to raise.
3. The date you want your fundraiser to end.
4. A title and description for your fundraiser.

Happy _____!
(fill in the blank)



Results:

We have already received 15 donations totaling \$360 in celebration of Anita Hunt's special occasion! Thanks, Anita. The donations are greatly appreciated.



More Whistling While They Worked?

After some weather delays, CALC volunteers had a planting day at the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve on May 5th. Native plants and shrubs were planted to give food and shelter to the local fauna and enhance the appearance of the preserve.

The planting was made possible by the Wexford County Conservation District. They provided advice and the plants and, working through a USDA grant, gave us a cost-sharing deal and took care of the paperwork. The shrubs included White Spruce, Sand Cherry, Magenta Crabapple, American Plum and American Hazelnut.

Thanks to all the volunteers who dug the holes, put down weed barriers and placed tubes around the seedlings to deter the deer. Special thanks to Mark Howie for using his plow and tractor to prepare the ground.

The Carl T. Johnson Preserve is 39 acres of prime wildlife habitat with the entry off 33 Road, (off M-55 in Cadillac West) just beyond Benson Road. It is an area across the highway 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, in turn, gave it to CALC in order to open it to the public.



Jeff and Jim from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Office in Cadillac inspecting the results



Larry and Mandy give their approval



220 plants! — a BIG job made easier by our wonderful volunteers

*Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.*

~ Frank Lloyd Wright



Our thanks to Tasha Lapinski who needs to simplify her life a little and is stepping down from her role as CALC board member and office volunteer.

Tasha says, “Thank you for everything that you do and for the amazing experience of being on the board and working with such a great group of volunteers.” We say we will miss her enthusiasm, knowledge and fun personality. She will be hard to replace.

If you would be interested in working with our great group of volunteers doing such important work as a board member or office volunteer, do call us at (231) 775-3631.

*Volunteers don't get paid,
not because they're worthless,
but because they're priceless.*

~ Sherry Anderson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

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

Plastic Woes

Did you know...

- The world uses a trillion plastic bags a year?
- The “working life” of a bag is 15 minutes

Estimates for how long that bag will last range from 450 years to forever.

Kudos to Nation Geographic. They are now mailing their beautiful magazine in a paper wrapper. This will save more than 2.5 million single-use plastic bags every month!

~ taken from June 2018 issue of *National Geographic*

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
1241/2 NORTH MITCHELL STREET
SUITE 115
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601

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

(231) 775-3631