

# Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Summer 2019

## A Big Job Well Done!

We've been reporting on Will Gullekson's Eagle Scout project of making improvements to the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve. He's now closer to his badge and our preserve has four new benches and 21 signs giving information about the plants growing on the preserve and about Carl T. Johnson himself. Will didn't forget wildlife in his improvement plan; there are now 17 bird boxes and two bat boxes around the preserve, improving the habitat.



On June 1, Will and 10 members of Troop 125 gathered in Will's garage to build posts and assemble the benches for the preserve. At one point, they even had the help of a Cub Scout! There was lots of teamwork as they drilled and sanded. During the assembling, a member of troop 125 made sure fellow scouts had a turn using the drill so all the boys had a chance to help build the benches. The troop and volunteers enjoyed hot dogs when the work was done.

June 15 was the day to install all the sign posts and benches, but someone forgot to tell the weather. The meeting time changed from morning to afternoon to avoid working in the rain. The time change and weather may have affected how many people showed up, but those who came had one goal in mind—to work! Six scouts and seventeen volunteers braved the weather to help Will.

The event began with Will outlining the work to be done. Will's dad and fellow troop member John demonstrated how to install both posts and benches while Will gave step-by-step instructions. Thanks to Dan Valley, who brought his tractor and auger the day before to drill 50 post holes in the pouring rain, everything was set to go. The volunteers split into groups and headed off to work. Things went smoothly and the posts and benches were quickly installed.

After the event, pizza was served and everyone gathered to enjoy a moment of rest after all the work. Two boys even sat on one of the newly installed benches to eat. Later, a member of the local ecology club arrived with the bat boxes which were then installed.



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## Big Job . . . continued



Testing the new benches

It just so happened that June 15 was Will's birthday. A special birthday cake decorated with a preserve theme including tiny bird boxes was served after the pizza. What a birthday gift Will gave to everyone who uses the Johnson Preserve. Thank you Will, Troop 125, the donors, and the volunteers who helped along the way. We certainly think after all that work, Will has earned his Eagle Scout badge!

*- Thanks to Sandy for the pictures and the reporting*



## Thanks!

Thanks to these organizations, businesses and individuals who helped bring Will's project to fruition. Visit the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve to see all the improvements.



- Boy Scout Troop 125
- Cadillac Rotary
- Home Depot
- Dan Valley
- B.C. Pizza
- Mark Mitchell
- Bob and Sue Olenzak
- Dan Bailey
- Mr. Filkins
- Mrs. Host

## Park It!

The parking lot at the Carl T. Johnson Preserve is now complete. Park your vehicle and walk the trails or just sit on a bench and breathe the fresh air. Entrance is south of Benson Road on 33 Road. Thanks again to Richard Hansen and his family foundation for this gift.



## Thanks

Thanks to Tom and others who helped spiff up the Oliver Family Preserve in time for Bud and Ann Oliver's annual visit to Michigan and the Harrietta Blueberry Festival on August 3rd.

Because it's important to keep the trail and parking lot free of tall weeds and brush so the preserve is a pleasant place to visit, we are looking for volunteers willing to do that job. **Maybe you?** Call (231) 775-3631 to volunteer.



The outdoor recreation industry in Michigan generates \$26.6 billion a year in consumer spending





## Please Consider Us...

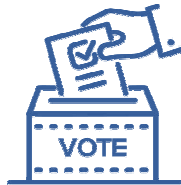
There is a donation envelope in this newsletter. It will be one of many envelopes you'll receive from many worthy causes this year. We hope you will consider us as one of the causes you support.

We are small, but mighty, because of volunteer support, physical and financial. We have no paid staff. We buy no property. Sometimes we do big jobs in small stages as money becomes available. We really rely on your generosity to keep us going. Please consider making a donation, large or small, to CALC

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## On the Ballot - 2020

One issue we should all agree on is Senate Joint Resolution O, passed unanimously by the Michigan Legislature. The resolution will lift the cap on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and dedicate all future revenue from the sale of state-owned minerals to the protection of public lands and the development of public outdoor recreational facilities - a definite YES!



## Plan for the Future

Another way to help CALC is by planned giving. You can leave a legacy for CALC that will help us protect special natural areas forever. Planned gifts can take a number of different forms including bequests and beneficiary designations.

**Bequests** are one of the simplest and easiest ways to create a legacy. You can make a bequest gift by naming Cadillac Area Land Conservancy in your will or living trust.

**Beneficiary Designations** are another easy way to make a legacy gift by using a beneficiary designation. Designations may be made in a life insurance policy, an IRA, other retirement plan assets or a trust.

To learn more call our office at 231-775-3631.

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*Giving is not just about  
making a donation,  
it's about making a difference.*

~ Kathy Calvin

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## The Buzz on Mosquitos

NPR's *Goats and Soda* newsletter published an article by Susan Brink to help us avoid the hated (and sometimes dangerous) mosquito. From drinking gin and tonic to spraying themselves with mouthwash people try a lot of supposed repellents. Here's some research results:

### WHAT WORKS:

- Products containing Picaridin (seems to be better than DEET)
- Products containing DEET
- Products containing picaridin and IR 3535
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus or PMD
- The perfume Victoria's Secret Bombshell - bugs hate the smell!

### WHAT DOESN'T:

- Vitamin B1 skin patches
- Citronella candles
- Bug-repellent wristbands
- Ultrasonic devices



More at <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/06/30/623865454/a-guide-to-mosquito-repellents-from-deet-to-gin-and-tonic>



## Happy Anniversary!

Our beautiful state parks have been creating outdoor experiences and camping adventures for 100 years. Visit your favorite park or a new-to-you one and join the celebration!



## Goal Oriented?

The Nature Conservancy's goal is to plant 1 billion healthy trees across the world by 2025. Want to help? Visit [plantabillion.org](http://plantabillion.org).



## Volunteer Power

Ethiopian citizens planted **353 million** trees in a single day in an effort to reverse deforestation and help fight climate change—the largest one-day mass planting in history!

## Missing Eagle Scout

The newsletter gremlins must have deleted our Spring issue photo of Nathan Piwowski whose own Eagle Scout project was making a trail on Waldeck Island. He has gone on to serve CALC in many, many ways. Here's his smiling visage.



*In every walk with  
nature one receives far more  
than he seeks.*

*~ John Muir*

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### *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.cadillaclandconservancy.org](http://www.cadillaclandconservancy.org)  
[calc@cadillaclandconservancy.org](mailto:calc@cadillaclandconservancy.org)

(231) 775-3631