

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Winter 2016



A Timely Decision

We are sad to report the death of Deborah Kohn, long-time CALC supporter and conservationist.

Deborah grew up in Mesick. At an early age she suffered a devastating bout with polio. Surviving the iron lung, she excelled in school and became an elementary teacher in Traverse City. She loved genealogy, gardening, reading and traveling. She was a staunch supporter and founding member of the Mesick Museum.

Deborah's parents purchased two parcels of land in Wexford County during the 1950's. The first was a 24-acre parcel overlooking the Manistee River. In 2005, at Deborah's urging, the Kohn family placed a conservation easement on this property.

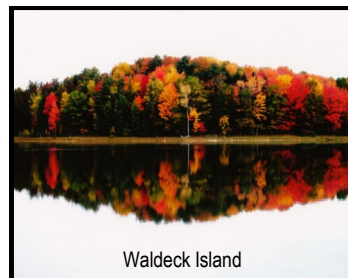
On December 3, 2015, Deborah placed an easement on the second parcel, 162 acres of farmland, northern hardwoods and red pine, wishing to protect this property in perpetuity. She died 17 days later, knowing that she had protected and preserved a beautiful piece of Northern Michigan. Her legacy will live on. Thanks, Deborah!



A Fitting Memorial

Two years ago we lost Sandy Hansen, another supporter of CALC's mission, who died after a brief battle with cancer.

We have been working with Sandy's family since then to find a way to honor this woman who so loved the natural world, birds in particular.



Waldeck Island

To share Sandy's appreciation of the environment with others, we will be building a wildlife viewing platform on the approach to Waldeck Island, our preserve on Stone

Ledge Lake. The Hansen Family Foundation will provide the financial support for this project.

After hearing of the family's gift to CALC, board member Bob Hess went out to mark a potential site for the platform. As he marked the spot with a flagged stake a bald eagle flew over the site and the wetland the platform will overlook. It seemed like a confirmation...

Mackinac Bridge Climb in CALC'S future

-see page 2





Climb the Bridge!



Thanks to CALC board member, Bob Hess, and CALC chair Larry Copley, we have been allotted a permit to climb the Mackinac Bridge. 25 of these sought-after permits are issued each year to non-profit organizations around the state. The non-profit can hold a raffle or an auction or find some other way to use the permit to benefit the group. We have decided to hold a raffle.

Pat Paveglio, our newsletter editor, has agreed to head up this event, sadly forfeiting her chance to win the climb. She would love to have some help planning the raffle.

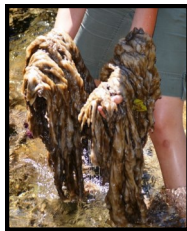
Some decisions have been made already - \$10 tickets will be sold in March, drawing will be held April 1st (no joke) at the After 26 Café. Can you help us with others?

- What shall we call our raffle?
- Where can we sell tickets?
- How should we advertise?

Please call Pat at 231-779-6116 if you can help us get the full benefit of this wonderful, exciting way to get CALC some much-needed publicity and, perhaps, add a little money to our coffers.

Eeuww!

“Rock snot” is one of the newest invasive species found in Michigan waters. *Didymosphenia Geminata* is a freshwater algae discovered forming mats in the St. Mary’s River near Sault Ste. Marie late this summer. It crowds out native algae and invertebrates. Yet another environmental threat to our Great Lakes.



<http://www.mlive.com>

Good News for Easements

It’s not often we get good news coming out of Washington, but recent legislation makes the tax incentive for people placing conservation easements on their land permanent. Glen Chown, Executive Director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy said, “We estimate more than one million acres a year will be preserved across the US annually as a result of this.” (The tax incentive law had expired in January of 2015, but this new law is retroactive to cover that gap.)



Another incentive in the law gives you the ability, at age 70½, to make a donation to your favorite non-profit from your IRA up to \$100,000. Needless to say, CALC would be happy to receive your IRA donation.

Thank you to all those on Capitol Hill who are champions of conservation and the Land Trust Alliance who took a leading role in getting this legislation passed.



CACF Endowment Fund Donors

Our future becomes more certain with every dollar donated to our fund in the Cadillac Area Community Foundation. Those dollars also benefit the community. Thank you!

- Anonymous
- Rod and Mary Bellows
- Tom and Marguerite Harris
- Richard and Marcia Harvey
- Sam Hogg
- John and Kathy Intyre
- Bill and Joan Irvine
- Denise and Floyd Justus
- Gary Koester
- Ron and Eyde McCarty
- Pat and Leo Paveglio
- Fred and Sharon Sprague
- Laurel Sprague



Michiganders generously support nonprofits.
Four-fifths of Michigan residents donate cash, goods or services annually.
We thank these generous donors who supported our mission in 2015.

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Blue Fish Aquarium LLC

In memory of Marlene and Dick Loughmiller
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In memory of George and Vickie Rock
Maria and Dick Bensel

In memory of Dave Smith
Larry and Margo Copley
Denise and Floyd Justus
Pat and Leo Pavegio
Fred and Sharon Sprague

In memory of Larry Terrell
Beverly Brighton
Pat and Leo Pavegio



New Endowment Fund

We have a lot to be thankful for in this issue—a new conservation easement, a wildlife viewing platform and donations from so many of you. We have added easements and preserves this year. We have been busy and it looks as if this trend will continue. It takes many volunteer hours and dollars to keep us going. With that in mind, we have added a new endowment fund under the Cadillac Area Community Foundation.



Why add a new fund when we already have an endowment fund? The original fund has strict guidelines—the income from this fund (Cadillac Area Land Conservancy Agency Endowment Fund) could only be used to cover the legal defense of easements as well as needed acquisitions and improvements. That fund now has enough income to pay for our Terraforma insurance (not available when the fund was established) and cover our deductible in a legal case. We rest easier knowing we have the wherewithal to defend our easements.

The new fund will be more flexible. As more land comes under our protection and we have more work to do, we may need more than volunteers to get that work done. We may have more expenses than we can cover with our fall fund drive. As you look at your giving plans for 2016, please keep this new fund in your mind. It's another way to insure our continued success.

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If we had no winter,
the spring would not be so pleasant:
if we did not sometimes taste
of adversity,
prosperity would not be so welcome.

~ Anne Bradstreet



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.