

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Winter 2018



2017 Ends With a Bang!

We saw a lot of work come to fruition when CALC added two new easements in December. We now have over 2,300 acres of land protected...forever!



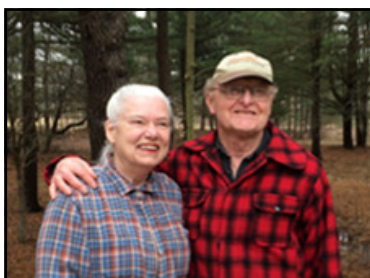
The Zandstra easement began in 2004 when David and Muriel Zandstra purchased land for a retirement home. They have gradually purchased six more parcels of land until they now have almost 240 acres of land under their new easement in Osceola County.

The Zandstras have been working hard since retirement to improve their property and mitigate the negative impact humans have had on the land. Their efforts include planting native trees, culling alien species, enhancing wildlife habitat and removing human litter. They, of course, want those improvements to last forever and a CALC easement is the perfect way to make sure that happens.



The easement is part of the Muskegon River watershed and the swamp/creek area is part of the head waters of the Hersey River, a known trout stream. It serves as a refuge for a variety of birds and animals. This easement could be the first step to fully protect the headwaters of the Hersey River system.

All of CALC's easements present unique features and complicating issues. This particular easement contains abandoned oil field pads, a pumping well, pipes and equipment and the Zandstras do not own the mineral rights—things that could well make a property ill-suited for an easement. CALC's due diligence, however, revealed the closed wells have no



The Zandstras

issues according to the DEQ and the possibility of oil exploration on the property is miniscule. The Zandstra's efforts to regenerate native plant species, their use of a sound forest management plan, the wildlife-friendly environment and the opportunity to protect the Hersey River headwaters were some of the deciding factors in the easement process. It's been a long undertaking, but we are finally able to welcome David and Muriel as CALC easement holders.



Bill Westveer, Rick Christner and Dave Zandstra spreading wildflower seeds



(See our next newsletter for a description of our second easement)

*To those who have always wondered how they might best serve the wider world,
wildlife conservation is, at its core, one of the purest forms of giving.*

~Thomas Kaplan



*Thanks to all our
generous donors*

*We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.*

~ Winston Churchill

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(since the last newsletter)

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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.

You can leave a gift through a bequest, trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity.

For information, call the CALC office at (231) 775-3631.



A Winter Walk

Come one, come all and join the Community of Harrietta for a candle-light walk around the Oliver Family Preserve on Saturday, February 10, 2018. Bring your snowshoes or cross country skis or simply come for a hike.

We will meet at the Village Hall, 122 Davis Street in Harrietta, at 6:40 p.m. and carpool to the Oliver Family Preserve located on 30 1/4 Road at the east village limits.

After the walk we will meet back at the Village Hall for coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and comradery. Enjoy small town fun at its finest!



For more information call Patti Dunning at 231-335-7749 or 815-871-8705 (cell).

The Editor Gets Out - Pat Paveglio

My contribution to CALC is usually sitting in front of a computer compiling the newsletter, so I am always excited to get out and **DO** something. Helping to rid the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve of its invasive Autumn Olive was that something.



The frost was on the pumpkin as the crew of volunteers moved through the trees using pole saw blades to cut the invasive. Then, true to the old Brylcreem jingle, a little dab would do it. Cleverly designed homemade daubers ensured that the herbicide would reach the roots and kill the plant.

Thanks to Tom Anderson and Larry Copley for heading up the 4 work bees and the Wexford County Conservation District for cost-sharing.

Jim,
Larry,
Tom,
Leo,
Eric,
Teresa,
Mart,
and
Marty



You too can get out and **DO** something. Call to volunteer.

Annual Event Drew a Crowd

Neither rain nor cold kept folks away from our annual meeting. As usual, we started with a good program - Black Bears of Northern Michigan by Vern Richardson of the DNR Wildlife Division. Vern stressed that the bears are always on the look out for food, food and more food. CALC works to keep land undeveloped so that bears have corridors to travel as they look for that food. Vern's program was a nice introduction to the tour of the new Harris easement, 130 acres in a prime bear corridor.



Tom Harris & Fred Sprague study the tour route.

Like the food-seeking bears, the audience found the refreshments to their liking and enjoyed socializing. A few hardy souls zipped up their raingear and took a tour of the Harris easement. A good time was had!





Found a smart and creative volunteer to take over our web site. Eric Zeitz is our new web guru. Welcome aboard!

Thanks to Vicki Long for doing the job so well for so long. Enjoy your retirement!

Remembering Marguerite Harris who passed away on December 20th. Please keep her husband Tom and their family in your thoughts. Their easement was the focus of our annual meeting this fall.

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*Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and
warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and
for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.*

~ Edith Sitwell



Meet Marty Williams

Marty, a Cadillac native, is a financial analyst at Training Mask and a new CALC board member. He brings a love of the out-of-doors, youth and enthusiasm to the board. He is also following in his father's footsteps —Mart Williams once served on the CALC board.



Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve Open

Most of the tree tops from the timber harvest have been removed and we once again welcome the public to use the preserve located south of Benson Road on 33 Road. Enjoy this open area. Grab your snow shoes and break trail through the quiet woodlands. Take a friend or two and share the experience.

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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