

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Winter 2019

Make Hay When the Sun Shines — Make Trails When It Rains (or snows)

Neither rain nor snow....stops the mail carriers nor the intrepid CALC volunteers who gathered at the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve to do trail work last October. A big wind knocked down trees in the area giving us piles of free wood chips. They had to be spread on the trails started by the summer's youth volunteers (see our Fall 2018 issue) before the snow fell in earnest so we ignored the cold and the rain and the snow and got to work.

Kylie and Will operated the tractors, Margo brought the cider and doughnuts and the rest of us wielded shovels and rakes. The weather may have been cold, but the work and the comradery kept us all warm. We all hope you can get out and enjoy these new trails!



Leo, Tom, Larry, Pete
and others



Will



Kylie and Fred



Pastor Jeff Kroondyk of the Cadillac
Christian Reformed Church was
instrumental in getting the youth
volunteers who started the trail work.



Marty and Mart



Tax Time? Get a break with a QCD

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can transfer money, tax-free, from an IRA (individual retirement account) to a charity such as CALC. It's called a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution).



How does that work on your tax return?

According to Glenn Ruffenach from the 10/22/18 Wall Street Journal:

"Normally when you pull funds from an IRA, you receive a Form 1099-R, which shows the amount withdrawn. The form, though, doesn't show donations made to charity."

"So let's say you pull \$20,000 from your IRA and instruct your IRA custodian to send \$5,000 of that money directly to a charity. Even though your taxable income, in this case is \$15,000, the Form 1099-R will show that you withdrew \$20,000. And the IRS will expect to see that figure on your tax return. Otherwise, it might seem as if you have underreported your income."

"For IRS instructions on how to enter a QCD on your tax return, go to irs.gov and search for: IRA FAQs-Distribution (Withdrawals)....."

One reader's advice: If you wish to donate money to a charity from your IRA, ask your plan's custodian to send the check to you (as mentioned above). In this way, you can make a copy of both the check and the attached receipt and have that paperwork ready if the IRS come knocking.



It's easier to take than to give.
It's nobler to give than to take.
The thrill of taking lasts a day.
The thrill of giving lasts a lifetime.

~ Joan F. Marques

A Big Thank You

Richard Hansen and his family foundation have donated the funds to build a parking lot at the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve. The current parking area is rutted, rocky and overgrown. We will keep you posted as the parking lot progresses, but this donation is a huge stepping stone to having more people using the preserve. Thank you, Richard!



And a Reminder: The current parking lot at Carl T. is not plowed in the winter. You can park along an empty lot on Powell Drive and walk, carefully, down 33 Road to the main entrance.

Getting Techie

We're getting pretty up-to-date at the Carl T. Johnson Nature Preserve. The new trailhead sign on the preserve has three QR codes on it.

What's a QR code? It's a machine-readable code of black and white squares that can be read by the camera on your smartphone. (You can find a free app to do this from your phone's app store.)

The codes on our sign link to articles on the CALC website. Two of the articles are about CALC's co-founders Tom Rensberry and George Rock and the third links to our home page where you can keep abreast of our latest happenings.

Don't have a smart phone? Just go for a walk on our new trails instead. Visit our webpage when you get home.





We know there is a real person behind every gift – a person giving from their heart, motivated by an interest in supporting our work and a commitment to CALC's mission. We know your gifts are freely bestowed and you inspire us to work even harder in return!

GUARDIAN \$1,000 +

Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Bender
Richard Hansen
Sam Hogg and Dr. Lauren Rule
Old School Forestry
Tom and Diane Rensberry

PROTECTOR \$250-\$999

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SUPPORTER \$ 50-\$99

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John Smith
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Glenn and Berniece Verbrugge
Larry & Marilyn Visser
Evelyn Westmaas
Mart and Teresa Williams
Marty Williams

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Glenn and Berniece Verbrugge

Cadillac Area Community Foundation Memorials

Jack and Kathy Itnyre for Marvin
Frank
Fred and Sharon Sprague for
Marguerite Harris
Dorothy Stenman for Chuck
Atwell
Mart and Teresa Williams for
Marguerite Harris



Swimming Weather?

Mandy, the Copley's new dog, thinks 21° is the perfect temperature for a dip in Slagle Creek on the Oliver Family Preserve. The Copleys said they did not join her in the water.



We recommend a winter walk (without the dip) through the preserve located on the outskirts of Harrietta. See our webpage for directions.

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Pete Eliot, *finance*
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Good Work, CALC

Hope you saw the article in the Cadillac News about the 93+ acres that Keith and Leanna Johnson gave to the state of Michigan in order to protect the wetlands and wildlife habitat on that property.

CALC Executive Committee members, especially Marco Menezes, were the movers and shakers who introduced the Johnsons' idea of protecting the property to the DNR and helped make this donation happen.

The Natural Resources Commission reports that the property is covered in a mix of wetlands and uplands providing significant habitat for many game species, many species of songbirds and many species of reptiles and amphibians. The wetlands feed into Lake Mitchell.

The property will be attached to the William Mitchell State Park. Plans are under wraps until the deal is finalized, but it will be a great addition to the park.

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.