

# Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

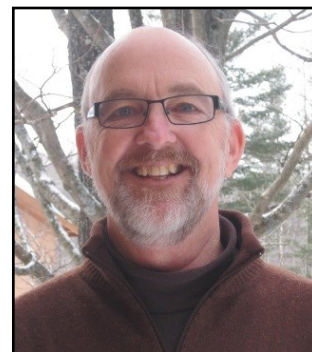


Winter 2021

## Lost: A Board Member — Found: An Executive Director

A year ago we introduced our newest board member, Chris Gentry. This year we are over-the-moon happy to announce that Chris has agreed to serve as CALC's Executive Director.

For 25 years CALC has been an entirely volunteer organization. For a number of years, it has been apparent that a consistent staff presence has been needed to serve the growing needs of the conservancy. Recognizing this need several years ago the board was able to start building the financial capacity to engage a part-time staff – first, in the fall, Norma Roelfsema, Office Manager, followed by Chris in December.



Chris brings 40 years of non-profit organizational leadership and management experience to CALC and already has goals to move us forward.

Right out of the gate he wants to focus on:

- our organizational structure
- smoothly integrating with Norma's work
- reviewing all easement agreements and management plans
- getting up to speed with pending projects and seasonal tasks and keep them moving forward

His longer term outlook includes:

- helping to grow the board leadership and expand our volunteer base
- expanding and maintaining awareness of CALC's work and opportunities throughout the areas we serve
- actively looking for protection and preservation opportunities throughout CALC's five county reach
- collaborating with other organizations to maximize protection and preservation capacity
- exploring funding possibilities and opportunities

Chris says he wants to make it easier for board members and other volunteers to serve their land preservation passions by handling the organizational administrative details and minutia that has been so time consuming in the past. CALC is still a volunteer centered organization that can only thrive with the leadership, participation, and passion of the community.

Welcome aboard, Chris. Thanks to Debra Kohn and other legacy donors for making all this possible.



**3rd Annual Candlelight Snowshoe Hike**  
**January 30, Oliver Family Preserve**

(Details inside)



We weren't sure what our finances would be at the end of this uncertain year, but these donors, who care about preserving the beauty of Northern Michigan, not to mention the wildlife, waterways and farmland, have once again been very generous.

### **Guardian - \$1,000 +**

Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Bender  
Peter and Heidi Eliot  
Rotary Club of Cadillac  
Foundation  
Richard Hansen  
Dan Minor  
Sam Hogg and Dr. Lauren Rule

### **Steward - \$500-\$999**

Dave and Cyndy Foley  
Ruthann French  
Thomas Harris  
Denise and Floyd Justus  
John and Nancy Silander

### **Protector - \$250-\$499**

Anonymous  
Dick and Maria Bense  
Larry and Margo Copley  
Steve and Ria Cunningham  
Bud and Ann Oliver  
Jim and Shirley Petersen  
Tom and Diane Rensberry  
Cliff Sjogren

### **Conservator - \$100-\$249**

Anonymous  
Bruce Baker  
Dr. Tom Basch  
Lawrence and Nancy Beckwith  
John and Lois Bishop  
Richard Harvey & Marcia Calkin  
Sperry and Gertrude Claypool  
Richard Deuel  
Cheryl Rock and Jeffrey Dysart  
Frederick and Sue Eyer

Steve and Dee Frisbie  
Bill and Wilma Gaylord  
Chris and Julie Gentry  
Fred and Sue Goetz  
Janice Heuer  
David and Joy Hogg  
Anita and Jim Hunt  
Marilyn and John Irvine  
Ann Kahner  
Steve and Bev Kalisz  
Kathleen Kelso  
Garold H. and Sandra F. Koester  
David and JoAnne Lawless  
Frederick and Patricia Lawless  
John McCurdy  
Marco and Kathy Menezes  
Edwin and Barbara Patterson  
Pat and Leo Paveglio  
Mike and Leslie Pratt  
Patricia Richardson  
Norma and Steven Roelfsema  
Gordon and Patricia Roush  
Andy and Marietta Smith  
Kerry Sprigg  
Reggie Sprick  
John and Jan Trimberger  
Shari Spoelman and Gary  
VanHouten  
Ron and Ann Vaughan  
Glenn and Berniece Verbrugge  
Larry and Marilyn Visser  
Evelyn Westmaas

### **Supporter - \$50-\$99**

Anonymous  
Rod and Mary Bellows  
Guy Benson  
Robert and Julia Borak  
Esther Boughner

Sue and Scott Conradson  
John and Andrea Grix  
Tom and Diane Jobson  
James and Sarah Lawless  
Vicki and Matthew Long  
David and Joyce Petrakovitz  
Christine Potter  
Elaine Smith  
Jerry and Marlene Stilson  
Pete and Mary Swearengen

### **Other Contributors**

Baker College  
John and Kimbra Klarquist  
Ada Lush  
Mary C. and Dave Newhouse  
Chris Schumacher

### **Cadillac Area Community Foundation**

Tom Harris  
John and Kathy Itnyre  
Pat and Leo Paveglio

### **Cadillac Area Community Foundation Endowment Fund**

Anonymous  
Virgina Bieri  
Cheryl Brooks  
Johnson Insurance Agency  
Gary Pomeroy  
Fred and Sharon Sprague

### **Memorials**

**In memory of Bill Irvine**  
Martha Irvine



## Work Bee for Bats - Pat Paveglio

It was a chilly, drizzly day (as it always seem to be). Our crew gathered on Waldeck Island and Tom showed us the new tools purchased with a donation from the Hansen Family Foundation.

Dave, the crew newbie, got the job of digging a hole for a v-e-r-y



tall pole with two bat houses attached. All hands were needed to raise the pole.



My role was photographer, until I mentioned that if Margo were here, she would have brought donuts. I was then told they'd gladly call me Margo if I'd get

donuts. So as they moved to the Oliver Family Preserve to install the second bat pole, I hurried to find cider and donuts. The rain started just as the crew finished the job - and the donuts. A third pole of bat houses will be placed on the Kohn Family Nature Preserve.



Tom, Dave, Richard, Steve, Dan

The bat houses were built and donated by Debra-Ann Brabazon's high school ecology club. The club will monitor the houses as part of their bat population study. We are all hoping bats will find these new accommodations to their liking. Stay tuned.

As always, it was good to be outdoors, no matter the weather, and it was great to share in the camaraderie of this great work crew. Thanks to all!

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*To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold. ~ Aristotle*

## Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

January 30<sup>th</sup> is the date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual snowshoe hike at the Oliver Family Preserve in Harrietta. Bring the family out to join in the fun and experience the outdoors at night.



There will be a full moon a few nights before and luminaries along the path, but if it's cloudy, you might want to bring your own headlamps.

Sunset that evening is at 5:50 so by 6:30 it should be dark enough to start. If you want to meet at the village hall beforehand, you should arrive no later than 6:15.

Coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and fellowship will be available in the village hall after the hike.

For more information, call Patti Dunning at (231) 335-7749.



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The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis found that outdoor recreation in 2019 contributed \$10.1 billion to Michigan's economy, created 123k jobs, and \$4.7 billion in wages. Given the rise in outdoor participation during COVID-19, it is likely these figures will be even higher for 2020.

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*Land conservation isn't expensive...it's priceless.*

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## The Places They Go

The Arctic tern can travel more than 49,000 miles every year; The Jemez Mountains salamander never moves more than 10' from its home. Scientists know that if you want to protect a species and its habitat, the first step is find where it is and where it's going



"Animals move in all sorts of ways and places and spatial scales;" says David Mehlman, director of The Nature Conservancy's migratory bird program, "to fully conserve them, we have to protect all the places they go."





Photo by Leo Pavaglio

## An Arctic Visitor by Dave Foley

It never occurred to me that snowy owls migrated through the Cadillac area. Then one day, canoeing on Lake Mitchell as the ice was breaking up, we looked up to see a white object about the size of a carry-on suitcase sitting on shore. As we approached, we could see it was a snowy owl. I figured the sighting was a fluke and never expected to see another one around here.

Then Cyndy and I joined the Pine River Audubon Club for an evening of birding near McBain. It was April 6th, and we were told that sandhill cranes had been spotted in cornfields east of town. Our car caravan drove slowly along dirt roads, binoculars in hand. A cry of, "Look there's a snowy!" instantly riveted everyone's attention. It looked like a whitish lump, perhaps a plastic trash bag blown up against row of corn...then it moved! The wings stretched open and the owl, never lifting more than a few yards off the ground, swept across the field and landed. A few spontaneous "Oohs" and "Aahs" came from the human watchers. Like a performer responding to the audience, the owl rose again and made an encore flight skimming just above the land.

"There's another one," a voice called. We saw a second feathered bundle sitting on the snow. Its brilliant whiteness made the snow look drab by comparison. A car coming the other way informed us there were two more owls around the corner.

The owls were there. The first one perched on a fence rail, apparently unconcerned about a fleet of cars lined up along the road or the woman raking leaves in her garden. The owl, she told us, was one of a pair that had been hanging around for several weeks. The second one, a smaller greyish-white bird, was sitting atop a telephone pole. Neither of the owls paid us any attention.

Four owl sightings! Even the long time Auduboners were saying it was an extraordinary to see that many owls. We learned that while the sandhill cranes always come in big numbers this time of year, seeing this many snowy owls was a rarity.

Yet snowy owls can regularly be seen throughout the winter in this part of the state. Though their home is the Arctic tundra lands, before winter arrives the owls migrate south into the Upper Midwest seeking open areas where they can hunt voles, rats, muskrats, rabbits or, occasionally, cats. Unlike most owls, these birds, accustomed to the long hours of daylight in the Arctic, can often be seen hunting during the day. Their propensity to perch on telephone poles and fence posts near barns and farmhouses makes them accessible to human observers. If you locate one, it's likely you'll see the owl again since snowies, if they can find a place to roost and the hunting is good, may spend an entire winter in one area. Seeing them this time of year, however, can be a challenge as their whiteness provides near perfect camouflage against a snowy background.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Gentry

### OFFICE MANAGER

Norma Roelfsema

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Cunningham, *Chair*  
Marco Menezes, *Vice-chair*  
Tom Anderson, *Secretary*  
Marty Williams, *Treasurer*  
Cyndy Foley  
Dave Foley  
Sam Hogg

### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Sandy, *bookkeeping*  
Pete Eliot, *investment*  
Richard Harvey, *monitoring*  
Marty Williams, *social media*  
Pat Pavaglio, *newsletter*  
Eric Zeitz, *website designer*

### 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.*