

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter from the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Spring 2011

Easement Monitoring: Required Fun!

by Gary VanHouten

Spring is upon us and this is traditionally the season when the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy (CALC) monitors its conservation easements. Land owners with CALC conservation easements can expect to be contacted soon by letter or phone to arrange a convenient time for their property to be monitored.

CALC Board members and a few other intrepid volunteers assume the role of easement monitors to ensure that the land put into an easement yesterday remains protected today and tomorrow. In addition to being important for land protection and preservation, monitoring is invariably an enjoyable activity. It allows the monitor to walk the easement property lines, often accompanied by the landowner. The monitor makes sure any questions are addressed, helps the owner better understand the easement and provides stewardship assistance. It typically turns out to be a mutually enjoyable way to spend a few hours on a fine spring day.



This easement holder follows generally accepted agricultural and management practices.

CALC is mandated by federal and state law to monitor, uphold and defend, if necessary, the provisions of our easements. Therefore it is critical to get a good look at property lines; protected natural areas such as woodlands, stream corridors and wetlands; past problem areas and high activity areas such as residential areas, building clusters, roadside areas, and trails. By establishing an effective easement monitoring system, CALC attempts to deter potential violations. We also welcome the opportunity to establish and maintain good communications and positive relationships with the owners of easement properties. CALC attempts to monitor its easement properties at least annually. We update and keep all documentation such as reports, photographs and maps of the monitored property and any of its activities.

So, while it's true that monitoring is a required activity, it's a not-so-well-kept secret that it's also fun!



This use of natural resources is A-OK!



This lumber operation follows the owner's forest management plan



Ties to the Land a Success!

by Ruthann French

CALC would like to thank board member Steve Kalisz for coordinating this educational event. The two-part seminar on family successional planning wrapped up on Saturday, April 9, with many favorable comments from the participants.

“Just what we were looking for—an informative and practical guide for preserving our land intact for our children. Highly recommended to families looking for successional planning assistance.”

~ Robert & Mary Hess

In addition to the 75-page workbook guide and DVD that each participant received, a panel of professionals spoke about estate planning, tax law, conservation easements, and land retention programs.

“I really liked the entire program, especially the chance to get answers from the specialists for my questions on estate planning.” ~ Dave Smith

CALC would like to provide future **Ties to the Land** workshops for other families seeking this assistance.

“Other landowners would benefit from this program which explains this important subject that people don’t deal with soon enough in their planning. Do it now before it is too late to preserve your wishes into the future!” ~ Tom Harris & daughter Jennifer

Protection of family properties and businesses takes forward thinking.

“Taking the long view for land based transition businesses or family owned lands is critical to consider for heritage assets and good stewardship.” ~ Nathan Piwowarski, panelist

The best fertilizer on the land in the boot steps of the owner...

~ Clint Bentz, the founder of Ties to the Land

Celebrate Earth Day

Go green on April 22 and make Earth Day more than just another day with a title.



Practice the 3 Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Reduce your plastic consumption, use reusable grocery bags, buy recycled products, use biodegradable plastics if you must use plastic, don’t drink bottled water, recycle your paper and cardboard, start a compost bin....

Join the Parks Clean-up

On Saturday, May 7, 9:00 a.m., volunteer to help clean the parks in Cadillac. More information at www.cadillac-mi.net



Welcome To Our New Board Members



Vicki Long

My husband Matt and I have lived in northern Michigan over 16 years. We moved from Manton to Stone Ledge Lake last year

and love it here. We live across the lake from Waldeck Island. I am active in the Stone Ledge Lake Association.

I am a marketing professor with DeVry University and work full-time from my home. I also have my own consulting business, which is more of a community service. I volunteer my time to help local businesses brainstorm new marketing ideas.

Cadillac is a super community. I am very active in the Cadillac Chamber of Commerce, am on the Leadership board and an Ambassador; I'm also on the Cadillac Wexford Library Board and a member of the Friends of the Library.

Most of my marketing experience has been in the manufacturing industry where I was responsible for bringing all their advertising and marketing in house, and expanding their marketing program using the internet and technology. With a very diverse business background, I have also worked in the healthcare industry, retail management and, years ago, in natural resources.

My other passion is writing. I have published two works of fiction. I also like to take photos, travel, garden, read, and spend time outdoors. You can find me on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, as well as on my website, www.vickilong.com.

I look forward to new experiences being on the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy board.

Craig Pullen



I was born and raised in Cadillac, and grew up just a few miles from my grandparents' 80-acre Cherry Grove Township farm. Cutting wood and making maple syrup taught me to love the land. Our family has been making maple syrup on the family farm for more than 100 years, continuing today with my father and my son. My wife and I were fortunate to move to a house on the corner of the farm, which proved to be a wonderful place to raise our son and daughter.

With a love for land, maps and math, surveying was a natural career fit. After graduating from Ferris in 1989, I began working for Wade Trim and now work for Wilcox. I have been greatly blessed to have a career in my hometown in the field I love. The past 21 years have given me an appreciation of land related issues and an understanding of the importance of proper management, care and governance.

I have served as a board member and president of the Northern Chapter of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors. I also teach a basic surveying class at Baker College—a rewarding experience.

I am an active member of my church, enjoy golfing, Ruffed Grouse hunting, trout fishing the Pine River, and walleye fishing in Canada.

Being part of a profession that often divides land, it will be refreshing to serve in a capacity to preserve the wholeness of land. I look forward to serving on the CALC board and hope to draw upon my experience as a land surveyor.



Thank you...

Thanks to Kurt Schindler for his service on the CALC board. Time constraints have forced him to leave us. We wish him well.

Thanks to Jason Rydquist and Jim Higgins for permission to use their wonderful photographs in our publications.

Thanks to Paul Drysdale for his Waldeck Island forest management plan.

Thanks to Denise and Floyd Justus for their trail maintenance on Waldeck Island.

Thanks to Steve Kalisz for presenting our Ties to The Land program.

Thanks to Brandon Bensel for his work on our web page.

CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ruthann French, Chair
- Steve Cunningham, Vice Chair
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- Richard Harvey
- Steve Kalisz
- Vicki Long
- Mary Newhouse
- Nathan Piwowarski
- Craig Pullen
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OTHER COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

- Brandon Bensel, Website
- Maria Bensel, Office Staff
- Sue Conradson, Clam River Greenway
- John Grix, Endowment Fund
- Pat Paveglio, Newsletter
- Fred Sprague, Conservation Easements

*If you've never been thrilled to the very edges of your soul
by a flower in spring bloom, maybe your soul has never been in bloom.*

~Terri Guillemets



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