

# Nature News



Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

Summer 2012

Double Fun!

Two special events are taking place this summer.

The first is the Philanthropist Awards Banquet honoring our very own George and Victoria Rock. (See details below.)

The second was a gathering of our biggest supporters at the Bob Hess property in Luther. (See page 3.)

## Cadillac Community Foundation's 2012 PHILANTHROPIST AWARDS



Join us in honoring one of our founders,  
George Rock and his wife Victoria for their philanthropy.  
Learn about the Rocks' land conservancy efforts, humanitarian achievements,  
volunteer service, and philanthropic endeavors which have enriched so many lives.

August 22, 2012, 6:00 - 8:00 pm,  
Fox Hills Event Center located at 7640 S. Mackinaw Trail

Tickets for this event are \$35 each and include a buffet dinner. A very limited number of tickets are available and may be reserved by calling (231) 775-9911, or by sending a check to the foundation office at 201 N. Mitchell Street, Suite 101, Cadillac MI 49601.

The oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it.

-Aldo Leopold



## Waldeck Island Plan

Waldeck Island is CALC's eleven-acre preserve located in Stone Ledge Lake. Open to the public, it is enjoyed by many walkers, skiers and photographers. It is our job to protect the ecosystem of the island. Mary Newhouse, a CALC board member, is working on a management plan that will encompass all aspects of our stewardship responsibilities.



Last year Forester Paul Drysdale donated a forest management plan—one building block in the umbrella plan that Mary is developing.

When completed, the Waldeck Island management plan will bring us one step closer to accreditation by meeting the Land Trust Alliance standards for land conservancies.



## Walking—With a Purpose

by Craig Pullen

This spring Fred Lawless, an easement holder, took Larry Copley on a walk through Fred's beautiful property near Sanborn Creek. The two men were able to enjoy all the nature northern Michigan offers, but they also had a serious purpose for their walk. Larry was there as a CALC monitor. He was making sure that all the terms of the Lawless easement were being met and answering any question Fred had. Before the walk, Larry studied the terms of the easement and the description of the property on file in the CALC office. During their walk, Larry observed the key conservation values of the property and looked to see if any permitted uses were being exercised by the landowner. He found that all the terms of the easement were being met and no unnatural alterations of the property had taken place. Any changes caused by natural events, such as storms or fires, were noted for future monitors.

CALC has now completed most of the annual easement monitoring - part of its fiduciary duties to easement holders. Having an organization responsible for doing this gives peace of mind to easement holders. They know that the terms of the restrictions in their easement are being met.

A recorded deed restriction is similar to an easement, with one weakness. There is no one to ensure that the restrictions are enforced if a new property owner does not abide by them. We believe this makes conservation easements more meaningful than deed restrictions.

Your contributions to CALC help ensure that we will have the strength to enforce easements into perpetuity for the greater public good of preserving natural and open land.



## Summer Picnic

On Saturday, July 21, Bob and Mary Hess of Luther treated 42 CALC supporters and potential members to a fine spread of pulled pork and barbecued chicken at their home east of Luther.



Our host, Bob Hess



Ron McCarty drove the tractor/wagon provided by Rockwell Lodge

A guided wagon tour of the Hess's property was the highlight of the afternoon. Bob demonstrated how he executed a management plan of seven water impoundments, controlled burns and selective logging. The results of these efforts are a restored wildlife habitat and the elimination of invasive species such as spotted knapweed. The replanting of native grasses and flowers now emulates a prairie environment.

This 80 acre piece of property has transitioned from an abandoned farmstead, red pine plantation and unattended woodlot to a diversified habitat similar to a pre-settlement environment. Many species of wildlife not previously seen now call the Hess property home.





## In the Works

Steve Cunningham reports that CALC has three new conservation easements nearing completion.



The process of completing an easement agreement is a long one. People who love their land take their stewardship responsibilities seriously. The easement document for these three will protect the values they hold dear, and yet give them freedom to enjoy and utilize their property.

### CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Larry Copley, Chair
- Steve Cunningham, Vice Chair
- Margo Copley, Secretary
- Lindsey Hall, Treasurer

- Fred Sprague
- George L. Rock, Director Emeritus

### OTHER VOLUNTEERS

- Richard Harvey
- Steve Kalisz
- Mary Newhouse
- Nathan Piwowarski
- Craig Pullen
- David Smith
- Garth Aslakson, Easement Baselines
- Bob Hess, Easement Baselines
- Vicki Long, Website
- Pat Paveglio, Newsletter
- Chris Schumacher, Corridor Marketing

## What We Take for Granted

Here in the north we look at trees and breathe fresh air, thanking CALC for helping preserve the land. We hope Detroit can reclaim their once-thriving city and find what we enjoy every day.

At its peak, around 1960, Detroit was home to 1.8 million people. That number has fallen to 713,777 today. So what do you do with all that abandoned land and property?

One answer is open space and farms. In fact, locally grown food has become Detroit's rallying cry for urban renewal. A recent story in the New York Times said "gardens are everywhere. You can't drive through the city without seeing them."

Organizations like the Detroit Food Policy Council have made it their goal to eliminate inner-city food deserts and turn abandoned blocks into productive plots of land.



A Detroit urban farm

### 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.*