

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Summer 2011

New!

Yup! We're looking good with our newly designed web page and brochures. Thanks to ACE grant funds we were able to enlist Stacy Niedzwiecki to help develop our new image. We are working hard to gain public awareness and spread the word about our important mission. Check out our new brochure and webpage at calc-landtrust.org. Let us know how you like it.

Thanks to board member Mary Newhouse who worked with Stacy on these projects.

Summer Celebration Honoring Easement Holders

CALC recognized our valued easement holders at a summer picnic and garden tour hosted by the CALC board. Property owners, board members and volunteers shared great food and lively conversation. Avoiding the steamy July heat in air conditioned comfort, guests were welcomed by CALC Chair Ruthann French. She unveiled our new publicity materials and presented easement holders with signs to identify their property as protected and preserved land. (continued on page 2)



Ruthann French



Pat Lawless



Steve Cunningham



Bob Borak



Nancy VandenBrock



Margo and Larry Copley



Reggie Sprik



Richard Harvey with new sign



Diane Rensberry



Summer Celebration (cont.)

After dinner, the group moved down the road to the Copley farm, an easement property, for a tour of their incredible vegetable garden, more food, and more fellowship. A good time was had by all!



Ruthann French and Bev Kalisz



The group admiring Larry Copley's garden



Tom Rensberry, Nancy VandenBrock, Diane Rensberry, and Bailey in the onion patch

Thanks to the Cherry Grove Church of the Nazarene for allowing us to use their beautiful facility.



A Job Well Done

We've completed all projects undertaken for the ACE grant. We have done a lot of organizational planning and now have newly designed brochures, web page and flyers, as well as new projection equipment and a camera thanks to the grant. We worked more than 590 hours to meet the grant's matching fund requirement. Thanks to all for your hard work—time well spent ensuring our future.

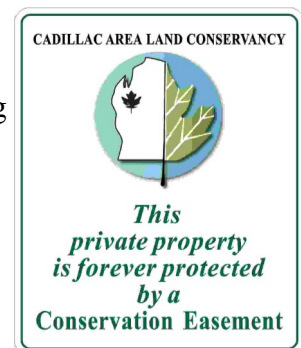
Mark Your Calendars



We're making plans for our annual get-together. Please reserve Saturday afternoon October 8, 2011. We are looking forward to telling you about our recent activities, showing you our new publications, and enjoying the great outdoors. We appreciate your commitment to CALC's mission and look forward to seeing you.

Sign of the Times

Our easement holders can now have signs to post on their property identifying their land as an easement holding. The 9"x11" PVC signs read, "This private property is forever protected by a conservation easement," and features the CALC name and logo. The signs will raise community awareness and recognize our landowners for their farsighted vision in protecting and preserving their property. Contact your monitor or the CALC office for a sign for your property.





Waldeck Island Invaded!

by Steve Kalisz

CALC's island in Stone Ledge Lake has been invaded. Not by space aliens or human enemies, but by plants that have a negative impact on the island's natural processes. They are known as "non-native invasives" and can displace important members of the native plant communities on the island. This is also a common problem throughout the regional landscape and getting more difficult to control every day.

Like some of the island's Honeysuckle shrubs, they can appear to be a beautiful flowering plant. Most folks would not notice the difference between the native Honeysuckle and the four species of non-native invasives that are a problem in Michigan.

The National Invasive Species Management Plan defines an invasive species as "a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." For purposes of most non-native invasive species discussions, "non-natives" are those species that did not occur in Michigan's ecological communities prior to widespread European settlement.

Why are they bad and how are they controlled? They are bad because they displace other important and sensitive native plants. More importantly, they simplify the local ecosystem and make it much less diverse and less complicated which disrupts the ecological processes that are beneficial to our natural communities. An example would be Autumn Olive taking over a rare Oak Savannah ecosystem displacing the wild Lupine plant necessary for the threatened and endangered Karner Blue Butterfly to exist. Unfortunately, eradication of non-native invasives is practically impossible except for small areas where the initial invasion has just occurred and even then the window of opportunity is small. Usually, the most effective and efficient method for controlling woody plants is to cut the stems back close to the ground, usually later in the fall, then within 5 minutes of the cut, swab the stump with a herbicide/silvicide that is of a recommended concentration and is registered for such use.

The occurrence of non-native invasives throughout the state is a serious problem that few folks notice. It is a complicated topic and requires much more discussion than provided here. One expert on the subject of control once told me, "You can win small battles but never seem to win the war."



STORIES: We want to hear from you! We are looking for articles, stories, and testimonials to use on our web page and newsletter. Please send contributions to 124½ N. Mitchell, Suite 115, Cadillac, MI 49601 or calc@calc-landtrust.org.

BOARD MEMBERS: We're looking for committed, dedicated, hard-working volunteers to serve on our board. If you're that person, please contact a board member or call the office at (231) 775-3631.

*Summer afternoon - Summer afternoon...
the two most beautiful words in the English language
~ Henry James*

CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ruthann French, Chair
- Steve Cunningham, Vice Chair
- Margo Copley, Secretary
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- Richard Harvey
- Steve Kalisz
- Vicki Long
- Mary Newhouse
- Nathan Piwowarski
- Craig Pullen
- David Smith
- Gary VanHouten
- George L. Rock, Director Emeritus

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- Tom Bihlmeyer, Waldeck Island
- Sue Conradson, Clam River Greenway
- John Grix, Endowment Fund
- Denise & Floyd Justus, Waldeck Island
- Vicki Long, Website
- Pat Paveglio, Newsletter
- Fred Sprague, Conservation Easements

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.

(231) 775-3631

www.calc-landtrust.org
calc@calc-landtrust.org

124½ NORTH MITCHELL STREET
SUITE 115
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601



CADILLAC AREA
Land Conservancy