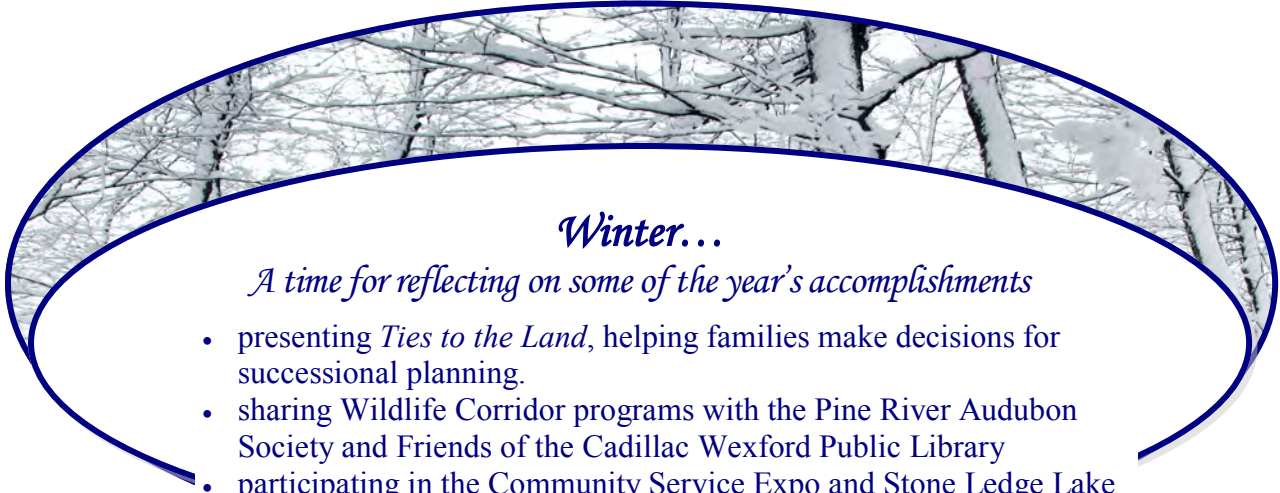


Nature News



Quarterly Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

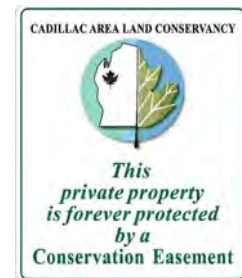
Winter 2012



Winter...

A time for reflecting on some of the year's accomplishments

- presenting *Ties to the Land*, helping families make decisions for successional planning.
- sharing Wildlife Corridor programs with the Pine River Audubon Society and Friends of the Cadillac Wexford Public Library
- participating in the Community Service Expo and Stone Ledge Lake Association meeting
- celebrating with our easement holders at a summer picnic
- designing signs to identify easement properties
- completing our ACE grant with a professionally designed webpage and new publicity materials
- a fall Members' Day at the Tom Harris property
- increasing our donor base



Thank you, Meijer

Meijer, Inc. made a \$1,000 donation to the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy in November. CALC Chair Larry Copley and Treasurer Lindsey Hall received the check from Becky Northrup of the Cadillac Meijer store. This donation will be used to assist in the preservation of conservation easements donated by landowners in the greater Cadillac Area. CALC appreciates this donation and the many contributions Meijer has made to the Greater Cadillac Area.



Larry and Lindsey happily accepting a donation from Meijer



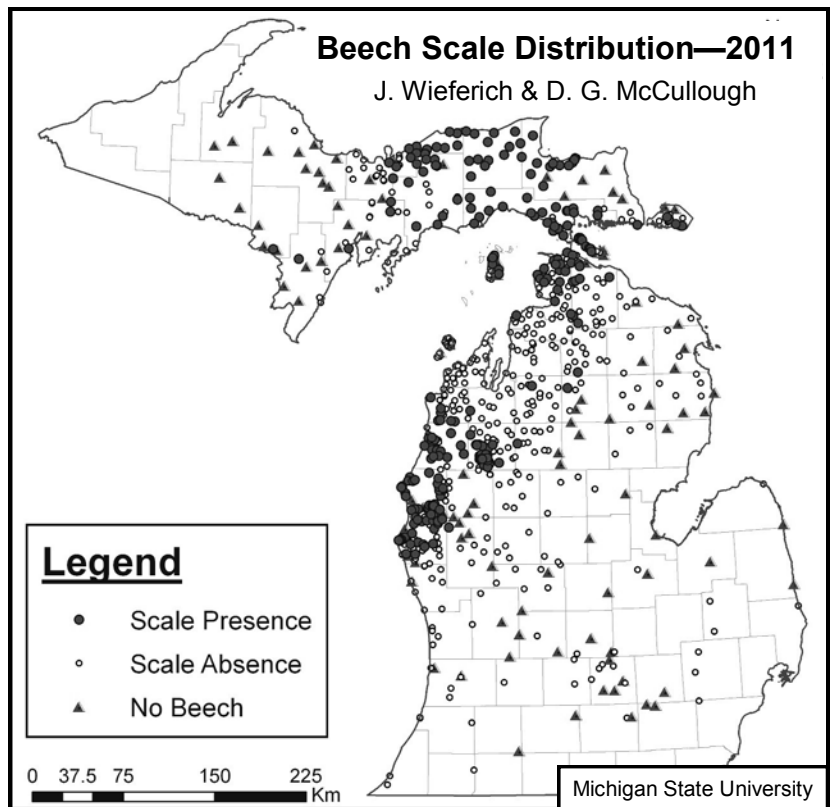
Beech Bark Disease – A Serious Threat to Michigan Forests

by Steve Kalisz, Registered Forester

You may have noticed a white, wooly, wax-like substance coating beech trees as you visited your favorite northern Michigan woodland recently. This is the initial stage of beech bark disease, BBD as it is known to those who study such things. The white stuff is actually many tiny scale insects which create small holes in the inner bark. These small holes provide entry points for the *Nectria* fungus which weakens and eventually kills the beech tree by creating dead spots. In time, so many dead spots exist that the trees are weakened and eventually snap at some point up the main stem. This very unsightly occurrence is known as “beech snap”.

BBD was accidentally introduced into Nova Scotia in 1890 from Europe and since then has caused considerable mortality to beech forests of the NE United States and Canada. BBD was first noticed in Michigan in two areas—Ludington State Park and near Newberry in the U.P. Since its discovery there in 2000, BBD has spread considerably (see map). As BBD spreads through Michigan forests and woodlands the number of live beech trees will greatly diminish.

Rarely we find some beech trees that are resistant or partially resistant to the scale. Since the fungus usually doesn't invade the tree without the scale's help, researchers are focusing their attention on those trees. Lately, cuttings have been collected from scale-resistant beech then grafted onto beech root stock to develop scale-resistant beech seed orchards.



Professional foresters differ in their approach on how to slow the spread of the disease. Some “sanitize” timber stands during harvests by removing all beech trees whether they have scale present or not. Some look for resistant beech and then harvest. Whatever the choice, clearly a scale-infected beech should not be moved between July 1st and November 15th, the time interval when the scale insect is active and is likely to be distributed widely. Eradicating the disease is not an option since both the scale and fungus can be spread by the wind.



So there is hope. But, the next time you pass close to a healthy beech tree in Michigan, pause and reflect on what our woodlands will be like when just a few rare trees remain and the deep forests of silvery barked beauties are no more.



Thanks to everyone who donated so generously in 2011. We could not continue our conservation and preservation without your support.

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Our Spring issue will recognize those who donated to the CALC Endowment Fund in the Cadillac Area Community Foundation.



Winter...

A time for thinking about the future

- expanding an awareness of our group and its mission in the community
- establishing new easements protecting environmentally sensitive land
- promoting public use of Waldeck Island
- identifying key properties that would extend known wildlife corridors
- looking for new venues for our Wildlife Corridor program and displays
- increasing our membership
- developing a Charitable Bequest Society

Stay tuned for further developments!

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- Steve Cunningham, Vice Chair
- Margo Copley, Secretary
- Lindsey Hall, Treasurer
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- Steve Kalisz
- Mary Newhouse
- Nathan Piwowarski
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- Tom Bihlmeyer, Waldeck Island
- Sue Conradson, Clam River Greenway
- Vicki Long, Website
- Pat Paveglio, Newsletter
- Fred Sprague, Easements



Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour.

~ John Boswell

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.

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