

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter from the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Fall 2010

A Perfect Day...A Perfect Easement

A Red-tailed Hawk landed on a branch then swooped away. In the distance a Ruffed Grouse drummed. The sun was bright and warm. We were sipping apple cider and munching doughnuts. It was October 10th, a perfect fall day in northern Michigan! We were gathered to dedicate the land conservancy's latest easement on a 50 acre parcel owned by Maria and Steve Cunningham.

On hand was a large map showing where radio-collared bear have been tracked. The Cunningham property lies in the heart of prime bear habitat. It also lies in an area between large tracts of state and federal forest lands, making it a valuable piece of an important wildlife corridor. The conservancy puts an emphasis on preserving these key parcels of land.



The dedication ceremony, led by Steve Cunningham, was poignant. Steve had a bundle of sticks, each stick representing a right belonging to a property owner:

- the right to hunt and fish on the property
- the right to harvest crops or timber
- the right to use mineral resources
- the right to convey or bequeath the land to others
- the right to sell the property
- the right to prevent trespass

The last stick represented the right to develop the land. Steve broke off a small piece of the stick for himself, representing his 3-acre building site, and gave the rest of that stick, and only that stick, to the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy. All the other sticks (rights) are his to keep. It was a very good picture of what a conservation easement means to all involved.*

We ended the afternoon with a walk around the beautiful property and watching Steve's friend, Dave Porter, run the portable band saw set up on the property. The smell of freshly-sawn lumber filled the air.

Our thanks to the Cunningham family for hosting this meaningful event and, of course, preserving this wonderful piece of land for future generations.

* Steve credits his college professor Rollie Barlow with the idea for this visual metaphor.



Protecting Land in Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola and Lake Counties





Still Working

The process of accreditation continues. We are honing our business and land stewardship practices. We are going to ensure that the conservancy is an organization with a vital mission and procedures in place to protect your easements FOREVER!

The board members and CALC volunteers have logged an impressive 287 hours of work toward this effort. That is the equivalent of a \$5,740 match for the ACE grant!

The board will be doing 255 hours more to match the third phase of the grant. Whew! Give 'em a big "Thank You!" when you see them.



Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held at beautiful Kettunen Center as part of their *Fall Family Fest*. Despite a rainy start, we had a nice turnout at our early morning business meeting. Later in the day we presented a



program on wildlife corridors. As you know, preserving wildlife corridors so that animals can safely travel between large swatches of state and federal forests in the four county area is CALC's flagship project. The results of the scientific bear collar study clearly show that the Mitchell Swamp is a prime bear nursery. Of course, bears can easily roam 30 miles or more and do not stay confined to Mitchell Swamp. The corridors they need are best preserved through the CALC Wildlife Corridor Plan.



The rain ended and we were free to enjoy other Fall Family Fest presentations. One of the highlights was Jim McGarth's

Nature Discovery Program. He brought live reptiles for the audience to handle—captivating session for all ages!

It was a grand event, and we thank Kettunen Center for letting us share the day.



Is your organization looking for a guest speaker? CALC would love to come and talk about wildlife corridors and our mission.



Climate Change

What impact will climate change have on the Great Lakes area? An increase in temperature could cause an increase in pest populations

and pesticide use. Reduced ice cover on the lakes means more evaporation and warming. A change of a few degrees seems minor to humans, but most animals need more ideal climates. More species are expected to move north, but the lakes will be a barrier to movement across the straits. Cold-water fish like Brook Trout, Lake Trout and Whitefish are expected to decline dramatically. We are already seeing evidence that storms are becoming more intense—heavy storms are about 25% more common today than 50 years ago. This can increase sediment and nutrient loads in rivers.

To learn more about climate change in Michigan visit www.nature.org/kim_hall





2010 Donors

There's still time to add your name to this illustrious group. Just send your donation to the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy, 124½ N. Mitchell, Suite 115, Cadillac, MI 49601.

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CALC Location a Winner

Have you seen the CALC office? We are in the Masonic Temple Building, above Atomic Closet (formerly The Apple Tree) on the corner of Mitchell and Beech Streets.



The Clam Lake Masonic Lodge is very good to us. The lodge is part of the “oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world. Making good men better under the brotherhood of man by the fatherhood of God.” The lodge’s projects include juvenile diabetes, student-learning centers for dyslexia and speech pathology, Beacon Project of volunteers, Shrine hospitals and burns centers for children, and numerous local community and civic programs and projects.

For more information on the Masons, or if you need some nice office space, contact Ron Hamilton, our landlord, at (231) 775-2617.

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OTHER COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

- Brandon Benschel, Website
- Sue Conradson, Clam River Greenway
- John Grix, Endowment Fund
- Pat Pavaglio, Newsletter
- Fred Sprague, Conservation Easements

The leaves fall, the wind blows, and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools.

~ Henry Beston



CADILLAC AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

124½ N. Mitchell, Suite 115
Cadillac, MI 49601
(231) 775-3631 • www.calc-landtrust.org