

# Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter from the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Spring 2010

## Protected, Preserved — But Not Idle

Property owners who put a conservation easement on their land don't have to stop using that land or taking advantage of its natural resources. Easement owners can grow crops, harvest lumber, generate energy, hunt and fish and use their land in many productive ways.



For example, Steve Cunningham, a modern-day Paul Bunyan, has been using his portable band saw to harvest downed trees from a friend's property. Steve can also, according to his forestry plan, harvest timber on his easement property. Forestry plans are developed with the help of professional forester and are approved by the CALC board.



Steve's stack of drying walnut is a resource that he can use now. His wooded property is a wildlife corridor that connects large swaths of federal and state land. It is a resource that will be preserved forever — a benefit to all of us.

Larry Copley tends a two-acre garden, but he and his wife Margo have 30 more acres of land farmed by their neighbor, Ray Nixon. Besides working full time at his "real" career, Ray raises beef cattle as a hobby. Two years ago the Copley field grew alfalfa, last year corn, and this year it will grow sorghum. The Copley's easement requires that "generally accepted agricultural management practices (GAAMPS) as defined and



recommended in the Michigan Right-to-Farm Act" are followed. There are very few usable farming sites left in the four townships surrounding Cadillac. To see this farming heritage preserved forever is rewarding. The Copley farm also happens to be in the important wildlife corridor in Cherry Grove Township, and like the Cunningham easement, connects large sections of federal and state land.

*(continued on next page)*



Protecting Land in Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola and Lake Counties





## - But Not Idle *(continued)*



Denise & Floyd Justus live in one of the windiest spots around, so their Osceola County farm sports a windspire - a simple and elegant way of producing electricity and reducing their carbon

footprint. When running full tilt, the windspire can produce enough electricity to make their electric meter run backwards! This family is committed to preserving the agricultural nature of their land and have a conservation easement agreement with CALC.

Other easement owners take advantage of their maple trees to make syrup. CALC is currently working with a family in Mesick. They run a large sugar bush operation on their property. The syrup will continue to flow under the planned terms of their easement.

Yes, our easement properties are protected and preserved, but they are not idle. They are being utilized in many ways. Someday, it may even be possible to sell carbon credits on an easement.

Thanks to the easement owners who let us tell their stories. Remember, if you're thinking of visiting, their land is private property - call first.

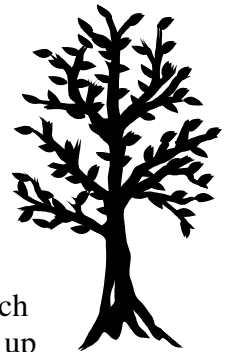


### African Proverb:

If you want to go quickly, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.

## Living Greener

- ◆ Did you know that line drying your clothes in the spring and summer can prevent about 700 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per household?
- ◆ Use reusable shopping bags! Each year 100 billion plastic bags end up in US landfills where they take 500 -1,000 years to decompose.
- ◆ An estimated 30% of household water usage is flushed down the toilet. If your toilet is more than 30 years old, upgrade to a low-consumption toilet and save up to 4 gallons per flush.
- ◆ If every home in the U.S. replaced just one burnt-out light bulb with an ENERGY STAR CFL, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.



## For the Birds

The birds have returned from their winter headquarters. Aristotle was among the naturalists of his time who watched the seasonal movements of birds. He knew that cranes went south for the winter, but he thought other species of birds hibernated. This belief persisted through the 1800s. People believed that the migrant species that arrived to replace those headed south for the winter were birds changing from one species into another. A pamphlet published in 1703 stated that many birds flew to the moon to spend the winter! The people who could imagine a large bird flying great distances thought smaller birds hitched rides on their backs.



Taken from *Heron Tracks*  
Seven Ponds Nature Center newsletter





## Your Board at Work

It was a glorious spring evening—a time to be outside enjoying the fine weather after a day at work, but your dedicated board was hard at work in a windowless room. Why? Because the board is working to make CALC a better organization. Led by the capable Lyn Jenks, a public relations and fundraising consultant, the group talked about its values, vision and goals.

Everyone agreed that the core values espoused by this organization should be:

- **Integrity** - having honesty and respect for landowners, the environment, and each other
- **Ethical Behavior** - making sure that what we do is in the best interests of our environment
- **Stewardship** - providing perpetual care for the land in our trust
- **Fiscal Responsibility** - ensuring our mission's sustainability
- **Volunteerism and Teamwork** - working with others to achieve our goals in the most cost-effective and responsible way
- **Cultural, Economic and Natural Heritage** - recognizing our area's environment as a precious resource worthy of preservation

As the board members work to set goals and plan for the future, they are asking many questions.

- How do we identify landowners interested in leaving a legacy?
- What land areas most need to be preserved?
- How do we generate the funds needed to protect our easements?
- How do we identify supporters and potential donors?
- How do we increase public awareness of our organization and its mission?
- How can we better involve our members?

The board will continue to work on its vision and set goals. Your input is important—let us know your thoughts. Our e-mail is [calc@core.com](mailto:calc@core.com).

## Rain Garden



Have you checked out the Cadillac Wexford Public Library's Rain Garden? The garden was planted during the spring of 2009. By design, surface runoff from the library's parking lot drains into the rain garden, instead of draining directly into Lake Cadillac. The garden filters out pollutants like oil, salt and sediment. Rain gardens also absorb and cool water, slowly releasing the water more naturally as groundwater, helping improve the water quality of the lake. The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly received grants from the Cadillac Area Community Foundation and the Wege Foundation to implement the project.

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"

~Robin Williams

### CALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ruthann French, Chair
- Steve Cunningham, Vice Chair
- Margo Copley, Secretary
- Lindsey Hall, Treasurer
- Richard Harvey
- Steve Kalisz
- Mary Newhouse
- Jim Peterson
- Nathan Piwowarski
- Kurt Schindler
- David Smith
- Gary VanHouten
- George L. Rock, Director Emeritus

### OTHER COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

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







## Thanks to Our Donors!

Thanks to our donors who have made generous contributions to the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy's Endowment Fund. This fund, under the auspices of the Cadillac Area Community Foundation, is used to protect easement properties against encroachment, development, or misuse—in perpetuity. The endowment fund is vital to our mission.

- Rod Bellows Family
- Andrew Bonczyk & Janice Heuer
- Larry Copley Family
- Peter & Heidi Eliot
- Frederick Eyer Family
- Theodore Fasing Family
- Thomas Harris Family
- Harvey's Home Services (Richard Harvey)
- Gerald Herring Family
- David Hogg Family
- Samuel Hogg
- John F. Itnyre Family
- Floyd Justus Family
- Deborah Kohn
- Frederick Lawless Family
- John MacLeod Family
- Mark McCartney
- Patrick McCormick
- Edwin Patterson Family
- James Petersen Family
- David R. Peterson Family
- George Rock Family
- Gordon Roush Family
- Laurel Sprague
- Kerry Sprigg
- Wexford County Herbal Society (Flo Nye)
- Woodsong Builders, LLC (Jim Peterson)

If you would like to join these donors in supporting our mission, send your contribution to the Cadillac Area Community Foundation, 201 N. Mitchell Street, Suite 101, Cadillac, MI 49601. Visit their website ([www.cadillacfoundation.org](http://www.cadillacfoundation.org)) for more information about the tax benefits of a donation.

### Good News



More than 80% of the Two Hearted River watershed is now protected through public and private partnerships, thanks to a recent acquisition by the national Nature Conservancy. It added 520 acres to the McMahon Lake and Swamp Lakes preserves. The area's rivers and streams drain into Lake Superior, the world's largest freshwater lake.



#### **CADILLAC AREA LAND CONSERVANCY**

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