

Nature News

Quarterly Newsletter from the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Winter 2010



2009 ... A GOOD YEAR!

by Ruthann French, Chair

As the New Year unfolds, like fresh trackless snow on hillsides or forest lanes, I reflect on our accomplishments. Your CALC Board had a busy year enlisting three new board members, winning an ACE grant, and, most importantly, adding three new conservation easements! These easements put 206 acres under our protection. CALC now serves fifteen different landowners protecting over 1,400 acres!

The three landowners donating their development rights to CALC are to be commended. The **Conradson, Fairman** and **Cunningham** families, of Osceola, Lake and Wexford counties, demonstrate a strong land ethic and respect for the natural world as they protect and conserve their land for future generations.

The teamwork needed to negotiate a conservation easement requires many hours of dedication and expertise. I would like to thank **Jim Skipper** for his service last year. I would also like to thank the members of the Land Committee: **Steve Cunningham, Steve Kalisz** and **Nathan Piwowski**.

Thanks also to **Margo Copley** who provides the organizational glue that holds this board together. The commitment to private land protection and habitat conservation fuels the energy of this board. As my first year as board chair closes, I have been honored to work with these fine people.

I look ahead with excitement for the new growth that the ACE grant will bring. I anticipate opportunities for networking, training for board development, strategic planning and fundraising. I walk with curiosity into the mystery of those unexpected gifts that will come along the way.

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 Piwowski
- Kurt Schindler
- David Smith
- Gary VanHouten
- George L. Rock, Director Emeritus

OTHER COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

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

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together.

~Verna M. Kelly



Worth a Read

In the early 1900s, a deadly fungus killed billions of chestnut trees in a mere 20 years, bringing the tree to the brink of extinction. A recently discovered stand, growing in a remote pocket of Warm Springs, Georgia, may help resurrect the tree.

In her moving book, *American Chestnut: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree*, Susan Freinkel explores what it means to lose a species and what it takes to bring one back.

(Note: You can find this book at the library!)

We Need You!

Did you hear that The Academy of Conservation Excellence has chosen CALC — over other Michigan conservancies — to receive a matching grant of up to \$18,500 towards its accreditation costs?

Accreditation means meeting Land Trust Alliance's standards to assure our ability to preserve land forever. We will be working to improve our planning, the soundness of our conservation projects, our ability to maintain long term stewardship of the land we preserve and our recordkeeping and financial management.

In order to receive the full grant, we must, of course, match the \$18,500. The hard work done by the CALC board and other volunteers on this project will help make the match. However, your financial support is needed. **Please consider making an additional donation toward this project.** Your support will enable us to continue protecting the land and its resources.

Mail your donation to CALC, 124 1/2 N. Mitchell Street, Ste. 115, Cadillac, MI 49601. **Thank you!**

Meet Mary Newhouse Newest CALC Board Member

Mary grew up in Ohio and lived in a variety of places from Washington DC to Utah before moving to Michigan three years ago. She has worked in recreation and land use planning for the Indiana DNR and for the USDA Forest Service as a landscape architect. Mary has developed master plans for state parks, designed interpretive sites and nature trails, worked in historic landscape preservation, done aesthetic resource management and recreation facility and landscape planning.



Since coming to Cadillac, Mary has helped reactivate the Pine River Audubon Society, serving on their board for the last three years. She also serves on the Wexford County Conservation Board. She is very interested in wildlife and environmental education, has a love for the outdoors and likes to travel around Michigan and the UP any chance she gets. Now retired, she's pursuing a second career in art, currently honing her skills at watercolor painting with nature as her favorite subject!

Looking for...



We need a high-quality scanner with a feeder that will accommodate large documents. Can you help?

We are also looking for volunteers to work on some special projects, such as updating our brochure. If you can help, please call the CALC office at (231) 775-3631 and leave a message.



The Cunninghams and Ruthann French, CALC chair, sign the easement.

A UNIQUE GIFT

by Steve Kalisz

Steve and Maria Cunningham recently signed a conservation easement agreement on 50 acres of woodland in Selma Township. This may be one of the more unique conservation easements donated to CALC due to the Cunningham's dedication to forest and wildlife management and their commitment to utilizing all the by-products from Steve's portable sawmill. The mill will operate with guidance provided by their Forest Stewardship Plan.

The Forest Stewardship Plan, written by a professional forester, is part of the easement document and will be revised and updated every 15 years with CALC's concurrence. It will assure that the Cunninghams' wishes for the management of their property will be

followed. Changing concerns for the health of the forest will be addressed, allowing for the treatment of forest diseases or invasive species as well as the periodic harvesting of timber. As Steve puts it, "Forest property often includes many dynamic systems that can benefit from the principles of good stewardship, all the while generating some income through forest products for the land owner."

The Cunningham easement is also special because it establishes permanent wildlife corridor habitat on property specifically identified as land used by black bears migrating out and away from the Mitchell Swamp wetland complex. These corridors not only benefit black bears but also many other forms of wildlife including white tail deer.

Conservation easements protect the land in perpetuity and provide many benefits for both the natural inhabitants and people in general. Besides the obvious good of restricting commercial and residential development in key areas, these easements can create and maintain green space, scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, and ensure that lands that are producing agricultural or forest products can continue to do so.

"We really don't own anything. We're really just the caretakers as long as we're alive."

There are particular advantages to protecting woodlands. Effects of extreme weather are moderated through wind, dust and snow drift reduction. Noise is buffered. The shade cools us in summer.

Most importantly, watersheds that give us drinking water are protected without expensive water treatment plants. The food chain of microorganisms → invertebrates → larger wild critters is maintained. As biologists would say, the ecological integrity of this place has been retained.

CALC is excited to accept the development rights to this special property. The Cunningham's personal philosophy that, "We really don't own anything. We're really just the caretakers as long as we're alive," exemplifies the stewardship principles so evident in many of our members.

Our thanks to the Cunningham family for protecting this unique resource!



Thanks to our 2009 FALL Membership Drive Donors

Benefactors (\$501-1,000)

- Robert & Rudean Fairman

Steward (\$101-500)

- Robert & Jo Ann Gulyas
in memory of Walter E. Boyce
- Mark McCartney
- Thomas & Diane Rensberry

Protectionist (\$51-100)

- Jay Andreini
- Jim & Sharon Blackburn
- Ronald & Bobbi Blackman
- Robert & Julia Borak
- Ruth Ann French
- Joe & Denise Godfrey
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hansen
- Robert & Mary Hess
- Jim & Leigh Hinkamp
- Floyd & Denise Justus
- Fred & Pat Lawless
- John & Mary McCurdy
- Bud & Ann Oliver
- Edwin & Barbara Patterson
- David & Betsy Randall
- Patricia Richardson
- Cheryl Rock & Dr. Jeffrey Dysart
- George & Vickie Rock
- Mark Smith
- Edward & Muriel Stehouwer, Sr.
- Lois Thompson
- Kenneth Walker

- Mark Wyckoff

Preservationists (\$26-50)

- Rod & Mary Bellows
- Don & Alida Bevans
- Homer & Ester Boughner
- Sperry & Gertrude Claypool
- Scott & Sue Conradson
- Steve & Maria Cunningham
- Cynthia & Dave Foley
- William & Wilma Gaylord
- John & Andrea Grix
- Tom & Lindsey Hall
- Richard Harvey
- Janice Heuer & Andrew Bonczyk
- Richard & Diana Heydenberk
- John & Joane Iler
- Tom & Diane Jobson
- Mathew & Cynthia Johnstone
- Kathleen Kelso
- John & Kimbra Klarquist
- Gaylord & Sue Kurtz
- Paul & Charlotte Larsen
- Phyllis Meyer
- Douglas & Donna Nelson
- David & Judy Peterson
- Mrs. William Peterson
- Nathan & Jennifer Piwowski
- Don & Anita Samardich
- David & Elaine Smith
- Shari Spoelman & Gary Van Houten

- Arthur & Dorothy Stenman
- John & Karen Worden

Conservationists (\$25)

- Bill Allen
- James Anderson
- Allan & Beverly Armstrong
- Tom & Karen Basch
- Tom & Debra Bihlmeyer
- John & Lois Bishop
- Peter & Mary Buehler
- Larry & Margo Copley
- Charles & Leta Mae Corwin
- Bob & Chris Gamble
in honor of of Marriette Potvin
- Precia & Eric Garland
- Robert & Beth Garner
- Max Gould
- Clara Handy
- H. R. Hodgson
- David & Joy Hogg
- Bill & Joan Irvine
- Jim & Sarah Lawless
- Susan Loney
- Herbert & Beverly Ludwig
- Tom & Martha Lund
- Patrick & Donna McCormick
- Pat & Leo Paveglio
- Kurt & Colleen Schindler
- Reggie Sprik
- Alan & Jolyn Stockwell



CADILLAC AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

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