

NATURE NEWS



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

Winter 2008

Copley Farm is Preserved for the Future with a Conservation Easement from CALC



Dick Bensel
CALC Board Chair

To fully appreciate why Larry and Margo Copley have placed a Conservation Easement on their

property, it is necessary to explain their philosophy that land is eternal and ownership is temporary.

Looking at the dog-eared "Abstract of Title to the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 20 Cherry Grove Township, Wexford County Michigan," it is apparent the forty acres that is the Copley Easement has a long recorded history. The United States Government patented the property on July 8, 1878. Following this date the property changed hands 35 times until Neil and Stella Copley, Larry's parents, purchased it through foreclosure sale in 1933 for \$1,000.

The Copley Farm served as the economic foundation and home base for the family as well as a secure launching platform that allowed Larry to learn about the natural beauty of the area.

In addition to helping his father about the farm, Larry spent untold hours exploring the surrounding landscape while hunting, fishing and hiking. From these activities Larry began to develop an intense love of the land and its wild inhabitants, which continues to this day.

During his productive years away from the farm, Larry always considered the Copley Farm as the center of his universe. Nearing retirement in 1996 he took steps to return to his roots by renovating the old farm home. In this phase of his life Larry is dedicated to preservation of the land to insure that both man and wildlife can move forward into perpetuity complementing one another. (cont. page 7)



"The black eye was a side effect of my daily walk in the woods, not someone striking me!!

No, Dick didn't force me to commit to an easement!"

-Larry

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New and Renewed Memberships

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Margo Copley, Secretary
Della Bednarick, Treasurer

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Thomas Harris
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Joy VanDrie
Gary VanHouten

MAJOR COMMITTEES

Ed Stehouwer, Clam River Greenway
Tom Rensberry, Conservation Easements
Ruthann French, Promotion

PROJECT COMMITTEES

John Grix, Endowment Fund
William Gaylord, Farm Land Preservation
Steve Cunningham, Wildlife Corridors
George L. Rock, Newsletter
Bill Irvine, Tours
Joy VanDrie, Membership
David Smith, CALC Grants



Joy VanDrie
Membership Chairperson

From growing up on my parents hobby farm in Boon, where as a child land seemed abundant, to having had the pleasure of experiencing the 'green belts' of England, to the experience of owning a home on a few acres and having fast growing children with the need to explore nature, it has become apparent to me and my family that there is a need for greater stewardship of our land here in the US. As the new membership chair for CALC, I believe it is my duty as well as the rest of the Board, to applaud and inspire you.

We have the capability of giving our children the opportunities that only nature can provide in its vastness of open land. A few minutes of your time can assist us in communicating the need for land conservancy. Let us empower ourselves and those around us to talk to our neighbors, our friends, our families and extend a request of consideration to support CALC so we can continue to expand our inventory of easements. It is by educating the public on the benefits of an easement that we can truly strive to fulfill the promise to give back.

Let's give back to nature and our children, what once was theirs, to explore once more. Thank you for your commitment to help fulfill the promise and empower others to do the same. 🐾

“A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children.” - Audubon

Steward

Chemical Bank Cadillac
Heidi & Peter Eliot
Ted & Millie Fasing
Robert & Jo Ann Gulyas
Tom & Marguerite Harris
Joyce & David Petrakovitz
Diane & Tom Rensberry

Protectionist

Margaret A. Baker
Rod & Mary Bellows
Jim & Sharon Blackburn
Ron & Bobbi Blackman
Robert & Julia Borak
Mr. & Mrs. Sperry Claypool
Charles J. Dumanois, M.D.
Cindy & Dave Foley
John & Andrea Grix
Robert & Mary Hess
Jim & Leigh Hinkamp
Mr. Floyd Justus
Deborah Kohn
Fred & Pat Lawless
John MacLeod
Bud & Ann Oliver
David & Betsy Randall
Cheryl Rock &
Jeffrey Dysart, M.D.
George & Victoria Rock
Jo Nel Scovel, D.O.
Edward Stehouwer, M.D.
Elise Schlaikjer
Cynthia Sorensen &
Henry Rueter
Craig & Connie Weidner

Preservationist

Thomas M. Basch, M.D.
Nancy & Larry Beckwith
Don & Alida Bevans
Paul Drysdale
Richard Harvey
Dick & Diana Heydenberk
Tom & Diane Jobson
Gay & Sue Kurtz
Paul & Charlotte Larsen
John & Mary McCurdy
Phyllis J. Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Patterson
David & Judy Peterson
Mrs. William R. Peterson
Mike & Leslie Pratt
Don & Anita Samardich
Kurt H. Schindler
Doug & Sheri Sprik
Reg Sprik
Elise P. Schlaikjer
David & Elaine Smith
Mary E. Walker
Kenneth Walker
Mary E. Weber
Mark A. Wyckoff
Dan & Sharon Zakrajsek

Conservationist

Bill Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Anderson
James E. Anderson
Allan & Beverly Armstrong
John & Lois Bishop
Homer & Esther Boughner
Larry & Margo Copley
Charles & Leta Corwin
Robert & Elizabeth Garner
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Fitzgerald
William Gaylord
David A. Hogg
Bill & Kim Holland
George (Bill) Irvine
John & Kimbra Klarquist
Sarah & Jim Lawless
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert G. Ludwig
Tom & Martha Lund
Patrick & Donna McCormick
Jo Myers
Missaukee Conservation District
Doug & Donna Nelson
Fred Rodenburg
Chris Schumacher
James Skipper
Kerry Sprigg
Art & Dorothy Stenman
Jolyn & Al Stockwell
Wexford County Herb Society
John & Carol Wheat
Wayne & Dee Williams

Wexford / Missaukee ISD Students Work on Waldeck Island



Heather Dexter
Agriscience Instructor W/M ISD

On Friday, November 16th, 2007 the Agriscience and Natural Resources class from the Wexford-Missaukee Career and Technical Center ventured out to Waldeck Island to assist in some fall grooming. The students were able to work on raking trails, felling leaning trees, bucking downed trees that blocked obvious trails, loading wood & grooming canopy in select areas. Students operating chainsaw equipment on the island completed thorough chainsaw safety knowledge and performance testing over the course of the marking period in class. The weather was still relatively nice and allowed us to complete quite a bit of work. While on the island Mrs. Dexter (Agriscience Instructor), explained the importance of the microclimates on the island & reviewed the variety of tree species that exist. We discussed returning in the spring and the projects that would be completed then, including; hanging and filling wood duck houses, a continuation of trail grooming & tree felling and planting tree seedlings.

During the course of the year students in the Agriscience program complete a diverse curriculum that includes: chainsaw, wood splitter, sawmill, tractor & log-skidder safety, aquaculture, water quality, poultry production, greenhouse management, soil science, forestry management, landscaping and floral design. 🌿



Kicking around on Waldeck Island.

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This downed tree has to go!



Safety First!

Contributors to the CALC Endowment Fund 2007



John F. Grix
Chairman
Endowment Fund Committee

On behalf of Richard Bensel, Chairman of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy Board of Directors, I would like to thank the following contributors for their generous donations to the CALC Endowment Fund. These donations allow us to maintain and protect our easements by protecting our area's beautiful and unique natural resources. Started in 2002 with a \$25,000 gift the endowment fund has grown to nearly \$70,000 today.

Thank you again for your generosity and support for the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy.

- Rod & Mary Bellows
- Homer & Esther Boughner
- Mr. & Mrs. Sperry Claypool
- Robert J. Eggle, Jr.
- Robert & Elizabeth Garner
- John & Andrea Grix
- Sam Hogg
- Kathy & Jack Itnyre
- Tom & Diane Jobson
- Richard Harvey
- David & Judy Peterson
- Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Patterson
- Ruth Rague
- George & Victoria Rock
- Laurel Sprague
- Cynthia J. Sorensen &
- Dr. Henry H. Rueter
- Kerry Sprigg
- Arthur & Dorthy Stenman
- Mike & Anne Smith Zdrodouski



Copley Farm Conservation Easement

(cont. from page 1)

Enhancing this philosophy, Larry worked as a temporary employee of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources assisting in a black bear study. During this endeavor Larry trapped, collared, tracked and visited black bears for several years.

Incidentally, during this time there was a minimum of five sightings of black bear either on the Copley Farm or on adjacent open lands. These sightings emphasize the importance of maintaining agricultural land to generate food sources and travel routes outside traditional riparian waterways of the area.

Through their Conservation Easement, Larry and Margo have insured that their land in Cherry Grove Township will be managed in ways that will continue a quality of life essential for the survival of both humans and wildlife. No matter how many times they view wildlife, they are reminded how valuable and eternal the land is to provide an environment for all to enjoy. 🐾



Meet Your Director - Richard Harvey



Richard Harvey
CALC Board of Directors

When I was growing up on the outskirts of Cadillac in the 50s, the kids in my neighborhood tramped through the “woods”, built forts in the scrub brush and, in general, lived out-of-doors. Today, I live with my wife Marcie in a self-built log home, off the power grid, not too far from the small town of Harrietta. My little estate of “Harrietta” is 40 acres of beautiful wooded land, surrounded by even more wooded federal land, so I am still able to enjoy living out-of-doors – cross-country skiing, hiking, and just watching nature from the front porch.

I’m a self-employed carpenter and jack-of-all-trades, very interested in living green and being as self-sufficient as possible. When my property taxes went up several years ago, I decided I needed to sell some property. I was lucky to be able to sell to the forest service so the character of that land has stayed the same. Now I’m involved in the Land Conservancy, to see more land preserved so that future generations can have their turn at living out-of-doors.

My interest in preservation has also involved me in the Wexford County Historical Society. I also serve on the board of CCTV 2 & 98. I enjoy traditional music and never miss The Wheatland Music Festival. I also dabble in some traditional arts and crafts: chip carving and paper cutting in particular. ♫

Editor’s Note: Welcome to the CALC Board, Richard. We need new blood and fresh ideas. Thank you for committing time to support our cause – a better future for those who follow us!

Clam River Greenway Looks to Finish



Edward B. Stehouwer
Chairman
Clam River Greenway Committee

The Clam River Greenway Committee salutes the folks that put a brick in the pathway. Your contribution helps us press on to the finish line of completing the Greenway from Lake Cadillac to the CASA Sports Park. The city just approved the final plans for Phase III and bids for constructing this stretch from Haynes Street to River Street will soon be coming in. Watch for dirt to be flying sometime in May!

The following people purchased brick(s) for the Greenway Path in 2007. Some of the bricks have been put in place. The rest will be put in place this spring:

Fred & Rochell Carroll
Carolyn Brines
Don & Anita Samardich
Mary McCurdy
Andy VanAlst
Jack & Pat Keller
Robert & Susan VanDellen
Betty Morrison
Laurie Maury
Stanley Tencza
Scott Reagan
Jo Berry
Wilcox Professional Services
Carol Potter
Shari Spoelman
Sherri Baller
Becky Rodenbaugh





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AMERICA
THE
BEAUTIFUL!

Let us help you
keep it that way



Waldeck Island

Nature News is a quarterly newsletter published by the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy. For information on how you can contribute or volunteer for projects, please contact the organization at the CALC address or call (231) 775-3631. We can also be found on the internet at www.calc-landtrust.org. The latest newsletter can be read by clicking on [Nature News](#). CALC is a non-profit organization under the IRS 501 (c) code.