

Nature News

Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Spring 2024

Conservation Easement in Mason County secured!

By Dave Foley, *CALC Board Member*

In 1978 Wayne Andersen purchased the first parcels of what eventually would be 117 acres in Mason County located about 14 miles south of Manistee in Victory Township.

In talking with Andersen he said, "My original reason for purchasing the land was for recreational purposes, primarily hunting deer, upland birds and waterfowl. But," he continued, "I was concerned about how fast the land was being developed and I wanted to buy land while it was still available."

The property includes two ponds - the 2.5 acre North Pond and the 2 acre South Pond. On each body of water Andersen has planted aquatic vegetation and installed water control devices to control depth for waterfowl. Much of the land, prior to Andersen's purchase, had been subjected to timber harvests.

In the 1990s a forest management plan was instituted and the red and white pine were again thinned and the ponds dredged. About 20 years



Above - View of one of two ponds on Andersen property.
Below - Two track through property and hardwoods.

Story continued on next page...





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ago Anderson reached out to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy in hopes of protecting the land with a conservation easement. Because his land was in Mason County, neither conservancy felt they wanted to take on a property that far from other lands managed by these organizations. It was through the Land Conservancy of West Michigan in 2021 that Andersen found out about the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy.

This easement is located in the Big Sable Watershed and protects a critical component of the existing wildlife corridor connecting the US Forest Service (USFS) Huron-Manistee National Forest Lake Michigan Recreation Area to the north and west with additional USFS land to the east. The Andersen easement will permanently protect the wetland and forest ecosystems across the property boundaries.



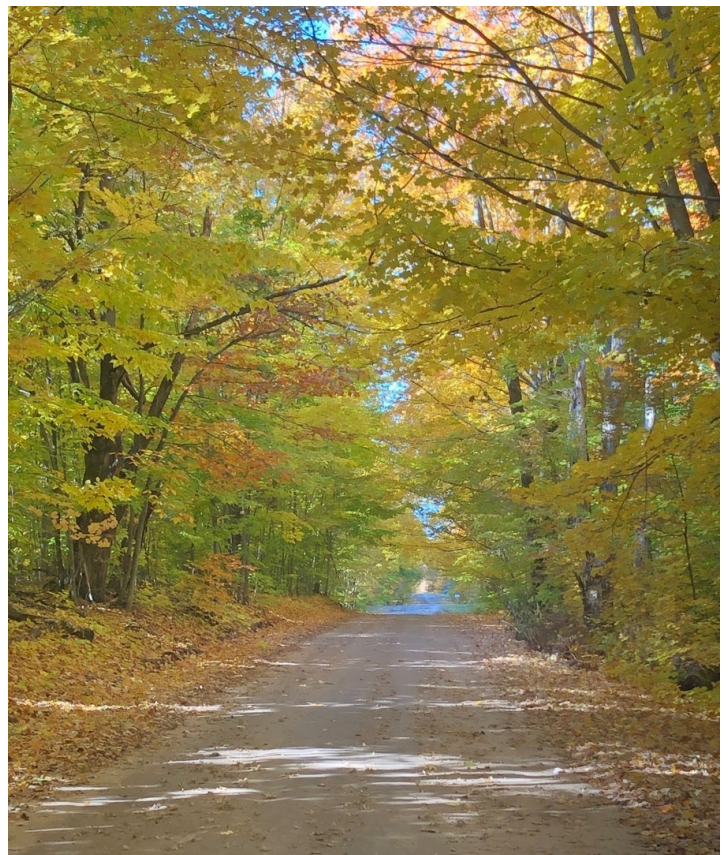
Above - Creek that feeds the Big Sable Watershed on the Andersen property.

Left - Pine grove on the Andersen property.

Below - The road that brings you to the property in fall.



Recommended activities for the next ten years include initiating a chemical treatment program to control the growth and spread of autumn olive, improve ground cover in forest openings to improve wildlife habit and continue selective harvests in the red and white pine units.





In Memoriam of FRED LAWLESS

By Fred Sprague

Late last January at the age of 96 our friend Fred Lawless left us for a better world. Fred had a great love for people. He spent 42 years as a social worker retiring in 1992 from many years in Lake County where he built fond memories of helping struggling families.

In 1967 Fred began combining tracts along Sanborn Creek into what is now 134 acres of stream and forest protected by a conservation easement. The sign on the south gate reads "Lawless Land", but it is maintained well. Fred saw to that with his tractor and his chainsaw. Surrounded by a forest of mostly oak, the property has small wildlife food plots and plantings of fruit trees.

As much as Fred loved people, he also greatly loved the land. He thoroughly enjoyed deer hunting but had a certain aversion to actually killing them. In more than 50 years of hunting on the property, he shot only one. It is fitting that he is now where the lion lies down with the lamb.



Above - Fred and his wife Pat, celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Left - Fred and his grandson on his favorite toy.



Join us on...

**Saturday, June 8th @ 10:00 a.m.
Picnic Celebration and Ribbon Cutting
at Waldeck Island Preserve**

**Sunday, October 13th @ 2:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker at
Carl T. Johnson Hunting &
Fishing Center**

More Information to Come!

Mission Statement

To protect natural, scenic, and farm lands for current and future generations, and foster an appreciation for the environment in Missaukee, Osceola, Wexford, and northern Lake and Mason counties.



Director's Corner

Chris Gentry
Executive Director

In March I had the pleasure of representing CALC at an event of the Mason County chapter of Citizens Climate Change Lobby. It was a nice evening where I had the opportunity to share the land preservation work CALC is doing throughout our region.

In April CALC is participating in two Earth Day events – I'll again be in Ludington for AFFEW's (A Few Friends for the Environment of the World) event on April 20 while on April 21 CALC board and staff members will participate in Cadillac's Earth Day Celebration.

These types of events provide CALC the opportunity to tell our story, answer questions, and build relationships with conservation partners throughout our region.

We'd like to be able to talk to more groups, organizations, and individuals about all this. Often times, like in those instances above, we are steered to them by CALC supporters. If you can suggest a group, service club, organization, or individual that may be interested in hearing about how CALC is preserving land in our region please let us know.

Whether in Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola, Lake, or Mason Counties – we'd like to be there.

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Contact us at:

www.calc-landtrust.org
231) 775-3631
calc@calc-landtrust.org

Many thanks to our CALC 2023 Monitoring Team!

A big shout out to the volunteers who have given of their time to ensure that the conservation values protected through CALC easements are being maintained.

Alan Anderson
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Thank You!

*Interested in hearing more
on how to preserve your land
with an easement?*

Call CALC at 231-775-3631

or email us at

calc@calc-landtrust.org