

Nature News

Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy



Fall 2024

New Sprague Family Conservation Easement!

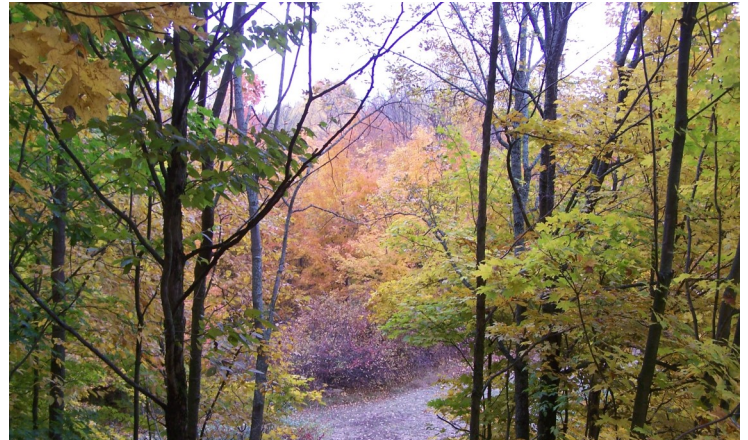
On July 17, 2024 Fred and Sharon Sprague finalized a conservation easement with the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy permanently preserving their property that has been in the Sprague family since approximately 1900.



Sprague's property, is located in Wexford Township of Wexford County, consists of 80 acres of primarily forested land. The main forest cover types consist of northern hardwoods, aspen, and upland mixed. While the majority of the property is wooded, there are small acreage

semi-open areas which add to the diversity of the land-scape. Several of the semi-open areas include wildlife food plots.

Site visits have revealed signs and sounds of deer, bear, squirrels, coyote, and ruffed grouse. Other likely wildlife present include raccoons, fox,



bobcat, turkeys, woodpeckers, and a variety of songbirds.

The property is surrounded by state and federal forest lands. The new conservation easement links up with the local public land to ensure future development does not further fragment a wonderful area of forest and open space providing wildlife corridors and habitat. Local water resource quality is also protected by prohibiting site development that might have caused potential contamination to nearby Fletcher Creek.

Generations of the Sprague family have enjoyed hunting and general outdoor recreation on the site. Protecting the property with a conservation easement ensures future owners will have the same experience.



On June 8, 2024 the new bridge at Waldeck Island Preserve had a ribbon cutting celebration with over 35 people attending. President Shari Spoelman did the cutting with the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce in attendance

❖ Protecting Land in Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola and northern Lake and Mason Counties ❖



Join us for our 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

with Outdoor Enthusiast and Writer
Joan H. Young



Date: 10/20/2024

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Carl T. Johnson Hunt
& Fishing Center
6087 M-115
Cadillac, MI 49601

*Complimentary
admission and
refreshments
included!*

Have you ever hiked or thought about hiking the North Country Trail? A short day hike or the whole 4800 miles stretching from North Dakota to New York? Our guest speaker was the first woman to hike the entire trail, and she has now hiked it twice!

Joan Young has enjoyed spending time outdoors her entire life. Highlights of her adventures included Girl Scouting. Scouting provided yearly training of camp skills and the opportunity in a 10-day canoe trip. Joan has participated in numerous short backpacking excursions. She was selected to attend the Senior Scout Roundup in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, as a teen. This was an international event to which 10,000 girls were invited. She has also ridden her bicycle from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean.

North Country Cache and North Country Quest recount stories of her first trail adventure. A planning guide, How to Hike the North Country Trail, will be available in August 2024.

She writes an award-winning outdoor column for the Ludington Daily News and Mason County Press. For the past 12 years she has also written fiction, including short stories, mysteries and mysteries for children.

You may find out more on Joan's website at:
booksleavingfootprints.com/meetauthor.htm



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In Memoriam of **DOUG MILLER**

By Jessica Miller

Doug Miller passed away this past February. He died at home, close to the people and land that he loved. Doug began his career as an engineer at Boeing, helping to design the landing gear of the 747. In 1973, Doug and Barb and their two young daughters moved to their 240 acres outside of Hersey, where Doug built their house, and where they raised goats, chickens, and rabbits, and grew much of their own food.

In 1977 Doug wrote and published *Vegetable and Herb Seed Growing for the Gardener and Small Farmer*, a small book which is still referenced in articles today. He was an excellent tennis player, learned to windsurf in midlife, and loved to be out on the waves in Lake Michigan or in the turquoise waters of Bonaire. He played music throughout his life—trumpet, guitar, fiddle, and piano. He was always reading and always learning. One of his favorite things to do was to walk or sit on their property, observing and wondering at the many different forms of life that call it home.

In 2014, Doug and Barb finalized the conservation easement that will hopefully protect the entirety of their beautiful land for years to come. Doug was active in efforts to keep a proposed large potash mine from devastating the area; this effort continues.

Doug remains in the gusts of wind that ruffle the waters of his marsh, in the beavers that ingeniously engineer their dams that control its flow, in the sand hill cranes that trumpet as they glide in to a landing, in the cardinal flower waving along the banks, in the maples he used to tap for syrup, in the otters frolicking in the pond, in the morels that pop up in the spring. We miss him.



Doug looking over his property.



On August 30th staff and family members of Hanger Clinic - Cadillac braved the rain for a company volunteer day at the Johnson Preserve. They worked to clear overgrown trails. Thanks Hanger!

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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

The Cadillac Area Land Conservancy (CALC) partners with landowners and our community to conserve and protect land in northern Michigan to protect clean water, natural resources, wildlife, working farmland and our cherished 'up north' way of life for now and future generations.

As a private not for profit organization we rely on the generous financial support from individuals and businesses to fund our conservation efforts. We encourage you to consider a charitable gift to CALC. There are many ways to contribute.

Ways to financially contribute to CALC include:

- Monthly financial contributions automatically debited from your bank or charge card.
- Direct payments by cash or check.
- Gifts of stock.
- An IRA charitable rollover, which permits eligible IRAs to make an annual tax free distribution from an IRA directly to CALC.

Ways to "in kind" contribute to CALC include:

- Gifts of real property and assets such as residences, farmland and open space.
- Volunteer your time and labor for easement monitoring and maintenance.

Ways to establish planned gifts to CALC include:

Bequests and estate gifts. Donors may bequeath a specific amount, a percentage of an estate or a residual after other distributions are fulfilled.

Consulting with your legal counsel and/or tax advisor is recommended when considering a charitable financial gift.

For further information on ways to contribute to Cadillac Area Land Conservancy please contact Chris Gentry, CALC Executive Director at chris.gentry@calc-landtrust.org or by phone 231-775-3631.

*Interested in hearing more on how to preserve your land
via a conservation easement?
Call CALC at 231-775-3631 or email calc@calc-landtrust.org*

Denise Justus Adds 20 Acres to Justus Conservation Easement

Floyd and Denise Justus purchased their 67-acre farm in 1995. The property, in Sherman Township, Osceola County, it had remained in agricultural use since the late 1800's owned by the Larson family who initially were Swedish immigrants.

The couple established a conservation easement with the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy in 2004 to perpetually preserve the property for agriculture, wildlife habitat, and wetland protection.

This past spring, Denise finalized the addition of a 20 acre parcel to the original conservation easement. The couple had previously purchased the parcel with the intent of adding it to their original protected acreage. This was delayed when Floyd became ill and passed away. The Justus's love their land and want to keep it in its current natural state forever.

Noteworthy for its open rolling hills, scenic vistas, wetlands and natural drainage, the property includes significant natural habitat for wildlife, plants and ecosystems that let them thrive. The acreage is situated at the headwaters of the Pine River watershed, helping secure quality area water resources.

With the new addition the entire 87 acre farm is now perpetually preserved ensuring its continuing wildlife enhancement, water quality protection, and local agricultural heritage.

In a previous article Denise said: "A quote attributed to Andy Warhol probably best sums up what Floyd and I believed about land conservation:

'I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own.' "



Denise Justus and Chris Gentry signing conservation easement addition on June 13, 2024.