Nature News

Newsletter of the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

Fall 2026

Richard Harvey Preserves Land in Wexford County

By Steve Cunningham



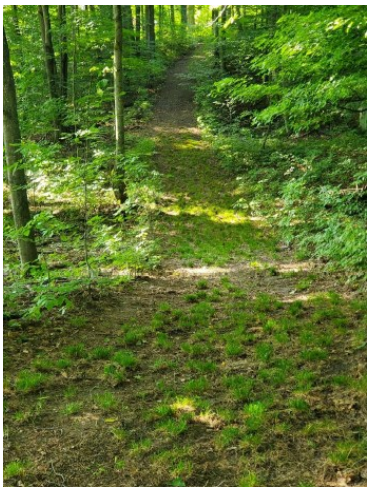
Richard Harvey and Board Chair, Shari Spoelman finalizing the conservation easement

High in the hills of Harrietta surrounded on all sides by National Forest land, a new 43 acre conservation easement has been donated to the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy.

The owner, Richard Harvey has lived softly on this property in an off-grid hand built log home since 1977. To say that Richard's land and residence are unique is quite the understatement. A captured spring seep provides the home with water and solar panels and a generator provide electricity. The heat for the long Michigan winters, all comes from the hardwood produced on the property. The home, garden and outbuildings (some moved or reassembled from other locations) are nestled at the base of a large fish hook shaped ridge, all heavily forested. Slightly lower than the house lies a small open field filled with pollinator plants and fruit trees. It is all quite idyllic.

The forest surrounding the residence is typical of a mature northern hardwoods, all carefully managed under an approved Forest Management Plan. However, if you go for a walk in these woods, you will come across magical small spring seeps, some of which run year around and vernal pools which look like the kind of places where elves should live. These seeps are not typical in most woods. The micro environments surrounding these damp locations look odd at first, because here you find the delicate ferns and other plants and critters associated with untouched wet spots, yet you are high in the hills. The property is a haven for all kinds of songbirds, hawks, ravens, turkeys, deer and bear. Being a private parcel in the midst of a large block of undeveloped land in the Huron Manistee National Forest, it is a natural for protection with a conservation easement held by CALC.

If you ask Richard why he has decided to donate an easement on this property to CALC, he will give you a list. First and foremost is his passion and commitment to environmental protection. His observations of how land splits and fragmentation negatively effects land, has helped shape his land ethic which values conservation easements as a useful tool in land protection. His deep love for this particular place on earth motivated him to protect its unique characteristics. Then there are the feelings he gets from being part of something greater than himself. That motive has also led Richard to be one of CALC's longest serving volunteers, serving on the board and as land monitoring coordinator.



Thankyou Richard for this generous donation and to Lynn (Pareglio) Heil, his niece, and Richard Deuell who gave him great assistance in drafting the easement.

Board of Directors
Shari Spoelman, *Chair*
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CALC Summer 2026 Scrapbook



May 16 - Bird Walk at Menezes and Miller Properties in Hersey



CALC tile in the Cadillac community mural project



July 25—Clam River Streambank workshop with the Clam River Partnership



July 17-18 Festival of the Arts in Cadillac



Osprey have arrived at the platform at Waldeck Island Nature Preserve

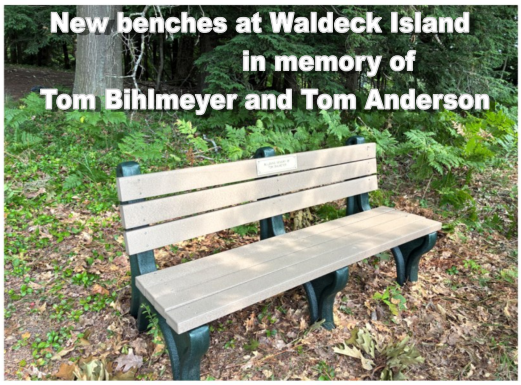
photo credit Terry Cockeram



Ongoing work at YMCA community native plant and education garden



Aug 29 - Ripple Effect Festival in Lake City



New benches at Waldeck Island in memory of Tom Bihlmeyer and Tom Anderson



Shankland family on the river overlook platform installed at the Oliver Preserve thanks to them and Richard Harvey.



Director's Corner

Chris Gentry, Executive Director

Land Preservation Begins with Community

The Cadillac Area Land Conservancy exists because our community believes that protecting the forests, wetlands, waterways, farms, and open spaces of northern Michigan is an investment in our future. While our work focuses on the land, CALC's true strength has always been the people who make this work possible.

Since 1995, the Cadillac Area Land Conservancy has protected upwards to 3000 acres through conservation easements, nature preserves, and collaborations across our region. And we are growing. These successes are the result of partnerships with landowners, donors, and volunteers who share a common vision of preserving the natural beauty and rural character that make our communities special.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit**, volunteer leadership** is essential to fulfilling our mission. Our Board of Directors provides strategic guidance, financial oversight, and long-term vision, ensuring that the Conservancy remains accountable to the community and focused on protecting the lands we all value.

Volunteers also make our preservation work possible. They help monitor conservation easements, care for preserves, support educational programs, assist with fundraising events, and advocate for land conservation throughout our communities. Every hour donated expands our ability to protect more land and connect more people with nature.

CALC's need for community involvement has never been greater. As more landowners explore conservation options and our organization continues to grow, we need volunteers who are willing to share their time, expertise, and passion. Whether serving on the Board, a committee, helping with stewardship projects, supporting outreach efforts, or assisting at events, every volunteer plays a meaningful role in protecting the places we cherish.

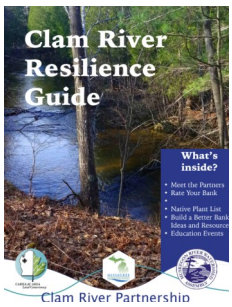
Conservation is more than preserving land—it is preserving a legacy. Together, our volunteers, members, donors, and partners ensure that future generations will enjoy the same clean waters, healthy forests, wildlife habitat, and scenic landscapes that enrich our lives today.

If you are interested in all of this and want to know more give us a call or email to talk about options. If you are already involved, maybe you know someone that would want to get involved – let's get together! Together, we can ensure that conservation remains a community effort for generations to come.

From the Mail Bag…. "Have you wondered where our logo came from?"

"Do you like our logo? When CALC was in our infant stage we thought we should have a logo. Where did it come from? We could not afford a professional to design and produce one for us. Tom Rensberry had a 12 year old son who had artistic ability, so Tom asked Brian if he could design one for us. He gave him an outline of what CALC was looking for. What we have now was Brian's first crack at it. We decided to use it. The logo cost nothing but a couple of Dairy Queens. Hope you like it" - *Tom Rensberry*

Clam River Partnership



This year, three organizations came together to form the Clam River Partnership. These groups consist of CALC, the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, and the Missaukee Conservation District. A grant was received from the Ice Mountain stewardship Fund and this money was used to create a Clam River Bank Care Guide. This guide was mailed to all the landowners on the Clam River. This partnership also conducted streambank restoration on two different locations on the Clam River with three volunteer planting days, a streambank restoration workshop at the Clam River pathway and a restoration bus tour. This has been a great partnership and has really increased awareness of streambank issues on the Clam River. If you would like to see the Clam River, check out the Peckham 100 acre Woods which has a conservation easement on it and is part of the Lake Township Park system.

Cadillac Area Land Conservancy

ANNUAL MEETING

CADILLAC AREA Land Conservancy

- *Everyone is welcome!*
- *Attend annual business meeting*
- *Hear about upcoming events*
- *Learn about DNR Fisheries*
- *Learn about conservation storytelling*

OCTOBER 18
2:00pm
Carl T Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center

Our mission

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.

FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS:

Mark Tonello

- **DNR Fisheries Biologist**
- **28 years of experience managing fisheries in Northern Michigan**





Bob Garner

- **Host of PBS "Ask the DNR"**
- **Former Producer and Host of "Michigan Outdoors" and "Michigan Out-of-Doors"**
- **Helped establish Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund**

Calc-land trust.org @CadillacAreaLandConservancy

Mission Statement

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