



Protecting Upper Peninsula Lands and Places for a Sustainable Future

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Acres
Protected
to Date:
1430

Yuletide Greetings

from the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy Board of Directors

2003 has certainly been a banner year for the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy!

Those of you who have been reading the Mining Journal, listened to the radio or watched televised news, scanned previous issues of our newsletter, or have received other mailings from the conservancy know that we have been quite busy pursuing projects and securing much needed funds to maintain our operations. We've held a number of workshops, engaged in publicly funded research, and have worked closely with several landowners interested in protecting land from the rapacious march of development. As expected, the pace of placing conservation easements on properties and the receiving of land donations has hastened as more and more residents of the UP understand the need for and benefits that come from sound conservation practices that preserve the social, economic, and environmental heritage of our region. By this time next year, we anticipate having protected more than 3000 acres between Ironwood and Sault Ste. Marie, and will be furthering our mission across the entire Lake Superior Basin by serving as the fiscal agent for the Lake Superior Land Trust Partnership. And we would not be able to be in the position to engage such conservation efforts were it not for YOU, our supporters.

Many of the great strides we have taken in 2003 would have not been possible were it not for the efforts of our new Land Protection Coordinator, Heidi Volkhardt, who came on board in July. Heidi is a tire-

less worker who has infused a good many ideas and initiatives into the operations of the conservancy. And she is always ready to answer your questions, visit sites for future conservation initiatives, and aptly handle the day-to-day activities of the organization. Feel free to give her a call whenever the impulse to protect land comes to you!

Now, at the end of the year, we hope that you will think of us as you get ready to make your final charitable donations for 2003. We certainly do live in times of financial constraints and the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy is in the same boat as many other worthy organizations. The one thing that we offer that is relatively unique, however, is a perpetual return on your investment; every dollar you contribute to the conservancy goes toward preserving land and maintaining a quality of life in our region for generations to come. And your contributions can enrich you as well since they qualify as tax deductions. So, please, help us and our foundation sponsors to keep up the work by donating what you can to the cause.

Here is wishing you and yours' the best of holiday seasons!

Jim Cantrill, President
*Central Lake Superior
 Land Conservancy*

A Donor's Perspective on Land Conservation

Dale Thomas and Roni Wiesner shared a life long interest in the outdoors. Both were avid hunters, anglers, hikers, canoeists, and lovers of the woods. Dale is a native of Grand Marais and Escanaba; Roni was from Israel, Australia, and Venezuela. After witnessing widespread over-development near their residence in Door County, Wisconsin, they decided it was time to protect their two 80 acre parcels in Delta and Menominee Counties from the same fate. Roni contacted the CLSLC back in 2002, explained their desire to protect these properties, and took action to put both properties in conservation easements. She and her husband want these lands to remain undivided and undeveloped for future generations of wildlife, hunters, hikers, and lovers of wild places.



*Dale with his late wife
Roni*

This past May, Roni passed away unexpectedly at the age of fifty-four: she never had a chance to see their properties protected as she wished. But Dale wasn't about to let go of his wife's dream of protecting the lands she loved. In December 2003, both properties were placed in conservation easements. Roni's lands are now preserved in her memory.



Property in Menominee County

Everyone who knew her

knows she would be very pleased with the recent protection efforts! It has been such a pleasure for the CLSLC to work with Dale and to learn about his late wife Roni.

What is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between you and a land trust or conservation group which places restrictions on the land use in perpetuity. An easement is a practical way to protect property, retain ownership, and to sell it or pass it on to heirs.

New and Improved Website in 2004!

As of January 2004 we will have a 'New and Improved' website! The website was created by K2 Media Lab of Marquette. Our website is just another way you can learn more about the conservancy and obtain information regarding your land protection options. Would you like to download information on conservation easements? Or how about information on donating land? Want to learn more about the conservancy's projects? Check us out on the web at www.clslc.org.

The CLSLC Board of Directors

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CLSLC Partners 2003

Central Lake Superior
Watershed Partnership

People and Land (PAL)-
Kellogg Foundation

Environmental Protection
Agency-Great Lakes National
Program Office
(GLNPO)

Charles Stewart Mott
Foundation

Land Trust Alliance Midwest
Lake Superior Land Trust
Partnership

The Nature Conservancy-
Upper Peninsula Office

Mission Statement

The Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy (CLSCL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group founded in 1998 to help further environmental sustainability in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan through the promotion of conservation-based land use and ownership. To ensure that the character of our region is maintained the CLSCL facilitates the protection of natural, agricultural, recreational, historic, and scenic lands for environmental conservation. Through protection tools such as conservation easements and land donation, the CLSCL assists the region to realize that local economic development should be well planned, visually pleasing, ecologically sound, and conducted in an environmentally benign manner. By encouraging regional stakeholders to accept personal responsibility for conserving what is best in our natural environment, the CLSCL helps promote greater collective ownership in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Why Native Plants?

Native or indigenous plants are plants that are native to a particular region and have evolved and adapted to grow here (i.e. Michigan). Native plants support a variety of wildlife while preventing pollutants (such as fertilizer and pesticides) from running off into lakes, streams, or wetlands.

900 Acre Parcel in Marquette County Protected!

In early December 2003 the CLSCL finalized a conservation easement on 900+ acres of property in western Marquette County. This property is located approximately ten miles northwest of Big Bay and adjacent to the Huron Mountain Club. The property, currently owned by The Nature Conservancy, contains old growth hemlock and white pine forest, deep rocky gorges and premiere upland habitat for a variety of nesting neo-tropical migrant birds such as the Willow Flycatcher, Oven Bird, Black-throated Blue, Green Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Magnolia Warbler. The CLSCL is really excited about this land protection effort! For more information on how you can protect your land investment please contact Heidi at the CLSCL.



Mt. Benison Property

Financial Incentives of Conservation Easements

A donation of a conservation easement can result in significant income tax, estate tax, and property tax benefits. Contact the CLSCL for more information on how conservation easements can create tax benefits.

Riparian Buffer Restoration Money Still Available

Do you live on a lake, stream, or river within Marquette County? Does your lawn go all the way down to the waters edge? If you answered "Yes!" to both questions, you may be eligible to receive money for riparian buffer restoration, thanks to funding from the Great Lakes National Program Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. This money can be used by private landowners for the installation of a buffer strip, which includes native plant materials and bio-engineering.

Buffer strips are areas of vegetation along a lake, stream, river, or wetland. They act as filters and are critical to maintain the integrity of freshwater riparian ecosystems. They provide organic inputs necessary for in-stream life, provide wildlife habitat, and filter sediments and pollutants before polluted runoff can "run off" into the water body.



Property without buffer strip

If you are interested in learning more about this project or want more information on buffer strips and native plants, please contact Heidi at the CLSCL. Help protect the integrity of crucial riparian habitat throughout the Lake Superior Basin!



Property with buffer strip

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2003 Projects and Successes!

- 900+ acre parcel protected in Marquette County
- Transfer of 80 acres to the Ottawa National Forest
- Acquired 65 acre Ford Eagle Preserve
- 80 acres protected in Menominee County
- 80 acres protected in Delta County
- Buffer restoration grant
- Fiscal agent for the Lake Superior Land Trust Partnership

Private Foundation donates a \$10,000 Matching Challenge Grant

When does \$10,000 become \$20,000? When donors like you give money to the CLSLC in 2003. All donations received in 2003 will be doubled! For any first time or increased private donation given to the CLSLC was matched 100% up to \$10,000, thanks to a generous grant from a private foundation. Donors can designate their donation to either the operating fund or endowment fund through the Marquette County Community Foundation. It's not too late to give in 2003!

Looking for an organization to donate to in 2004?

Join the many contributors of the CLSLC by donating your time or money for a good cause-Land Protection! The conservancy is always looking for ways to expand programs and stewardship. With your help we can expand our programs and stewardship throughout our service area. Contributors may also gain additional federal and state tax advantages by donating to the conservancy's endowment through the Marquette Community Foundation. All donations are tax-deductible.

CONSERVANCY WISH LIST:

- Four-wheel drive vehicle for fieldwork and site visits
- Lap top computer and projector (used for presentations)

Want a Bug Hat? Contact Heidi at 226.2461