



# CENTRAL LAKE SUPERIOR LAND CONSERVANCY

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WINTER /2008-09

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**Protecting Upper Peninsula Lands and Places for a Sustainable Future**

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**Acres  
Protected  
to Date:  
2,668**

## AuTrain Bay Conservation Easement

Brock Robinson and Jane Blameuser of Green Bay, WI have recently placed a conservation easement on their 20.4 acre property on Lake Superior. This property is situated on the east side of AuTrain Bay and is bordered by the Hiawatha National Forest to the east and north. This parcel includes an amazing 1,030 ft. of Lake Superior frontage that is primarily composed of sedimentary rock slabs. The land is part of an ancient beach ridge complex consisting of a mixed hardwood upland forest and lowland swale cedar swamp. Because the landowners wish is to have this property remain in its predominately natural state forever, they have erected temporary structures called yurts. Including this type of non-permanent dwelling will ensure a reduced human impact on this truly spectacular land. This conservation easement donation is the most valuable real estate of any that the CLSLC has attained in our nine year history! Thanks again to Jane and Brock for being such great stewards of the land and for being a pleasure to work with throughout this process.



## Patagonia Environmental Internship Program

Every year, Patagonia sponsors employees to volunteer for non-profit organizations. This year Mark and Michelle Grinsel, employees of Patagonia in Ventura, CA, had the opportunity to volunteer for the CLSLC as piping plover monitors in Grand Marais, MI for two weeks in July.

Through the program, employees can leave their jobs at Patagonia for up to two months to work full-time for the environmental group of their choice. Patagonia continues to pay employees' salaries and benefits while they're gone, and the environmental group gets them for free. About 600 employees have interned for groups worldwide since the program began. Once the volunteers return to Patagonia, it is their responsibility to share their experiences with others encouraging the volunteer spirit that Patagonia promotes.

Please remember Patagonia when you need to purchase outdoor wear as this will help to fund this worthwhile program.

A huge thank you to Patagonia for allowing Mark and Michelle to participate in this program!



*L-R: Jean Carpenter,  
Michelle Grinsel and  
Bill Davis*

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

## JoAnn Schaffer & Family

JoAnn Schaffer and her family have been working with the CLSLC to protect this 80-acre parcel in Forsyth Township. JoAnn has come up against some towering odds trying to bring together, from a distance, four co-owners of the parcel to do what she feels is right for the land. After two years of hard work, this easement is in its final editing stages and should close in 2008! The parcel contains a mature mixed hardwood forest with an extensive natural wetland habitat on the east end. The property is also bordered to the north and east by the Escanaba River State Forest. Thanks again to JoAnn and her family for coming together to protect this very special place.





The year just past has been one of both accomplishments and challenges. With the continuation of the expanded federal tax incentives for 2008 and 2009, there has been an increase in conservation easement interest and work load here at the CLSLC. Our staff, board members, and member volunteers have assisted in monitoring existing easements and visiting new prospective conservation easement parcels. As we anticipate closing several easements in 2008 and early 2009, your local conservancy remains dedicated to pursuing new qualified conservation easements far into the future. However, extraordinary economic turmoil and hard times during this election year has led to lower contributions which in turn has caused the CLSLC board to reduce the hours of our protection coordinator, even in the busiest of seasons. Yet we are steadfast in our commitment to preserving what is so special about our part of the world.

Elsewhere in this newsletter we have documented our success in preserving Lake Superior shoreline through our Robinson/Blameuser conservation easement and our fourth year of unprecedented success in protecting the endangered piping plover in Grand Marais, MI. We also plan to complete the expanding gap silviculture at the Debelak preserve this winter and continue to participate in the carbon credit trading program as a registered tree farm associate. At the same time, we are actively working with the Laughing Whitefish Audubon group to continue the breeding bird survey and analysis that will document progress on that improving habitat. And, indeed, the Peshekee Trace Project in the Michigamme Highlands is still a priority in our strategic planning process; with the kind financial assistance of the WE-Energies Foundation, the CLSLC will be able to have an expanded outreach effort in that area in 2009.

Outgoing board members, Jim Cantrill and Dennis West, are coordinating the outreach committee campaign to attract corporate donors and business partners. I believe that we will reap the benefits of their hard work for many years after their departure. In addition, Ron Sundell is similarly term limited this year and we have involved him in additional stewardship committee site visits before he departs.

The CLSLC is now actively recruiting new board members from a diverse pool of community professionals. We would like to invite any interested members who would consider volunteering to contact us as we have much work to do and need a variety of assistance both in the office and out in the field.

On a personal note, I want to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Jim Cantrill for his leadership, hard work, and generosity over the past decade as our “founding father” and president. For eight years he has been very patient as I have learned the ropes of the land trust movement and I’ve greatly appreciated his counsel and leadership. I am thankful that he will continue to assist us as a volunteer member as his unique skill set and vision are irreplaceable.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, the members and backbone of the CLSLC, for your continued support. We will be announcing a capital campaign and our ten year celebration in 2009 and are excited by our prospects to preserve unique land in the Upper Peninsula. We couldn’t plan any of this except for the generosity of our members and friends who share our love for this land. These are trying times and many organizations fail during economic upheaval due to lack of donations and diminished grant funding. I am confident that, with the generous support of our membership coupled with their volunteer hours and donations, we will continue to grow and expand our portfolio of protected land into 2009 and beyond!

Bill Davis, CLSLC President

The CLSLC  
Board of Directors

**OFFICERS**

- President**  
William G. Davis
- Vice President**  
James Matteson
- Treasurer**  
Sarah Davis
- Secretary**  
Marge Forslin

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Robert Anderson  
Dr. James Cantrill  
Teresa Chase  
Walt Lindala  
Angie Lucas  
Susan Peimer  
Dr. Jon Saari  
Dr. Ron Sundell  
Dennis West

**STAFF**

Lynnea McFadden  
*Protection Coordinator*

Central Lake Superior  
Land Conservancy  
P.O. Box 7135  
Marquette, MI 49855  
Phone: 906.225.8067

E-Mail:  
clslc@charterinternet.com  
[www.CLSLC.org](http://www.CLSLC.org)

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy is to promote the protection of natural, agricultural, recreational, historic, and scenic lands through the use of conservation easements, land donations, and education.

**Conservancy Wish List:**

- Four-wheel drive vehicle to conduct fieldwork
- Lap-top computer and projector—used for presentations
- Volunteers for stewardship monitoring on properties

## Increased Tax Incentive Extended

The strongly debated Farm Bill, which Congress enacted on May 22, 2008 with an override of the President's veto, renews a powerful tax incentive which has helped conserve a million or more acres of land across the US. This incentive expired January 1st, but is now retroactive to the beginning of the year and will last through 2009.

The incentive, which applies to a landowner's federal income tax, will:

- Raise the deduction a donor can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allow farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
- Increase the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

Landowner donations to conservation organizations have resulted in millions of acres of working lands and natural areas being conserved for the future. According to the Land Trust Alliance, many conservation groups reported an annual doubling of the number of conservation agreements completed in 2007. This substantial increase is in response to the same incentive that had expired in January. Land trusts in the United States have cumulatively saved more than 36 million acres from development, which is equal to an area the size of New England.



## Goodsearch Fundraiser Reminder



Please don't forget that the CLSLC will earn a penny every time you search the Internet if you use the Yahoo-powered search engine [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). Goodsearch donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

## Econo Foods We Share Program

The CLSLC participates in the We Share Program created by our local Econo Foods store. This program is offered to local non-profit groups and Econo Foods donates 1% of total receipts that our organization collects. Please remember to send in or drop off your Econo Foods receipts to the CLSLC! You can do this by mailing them in to PO Box 7135 Marquette, MI or drop them off at 1030 Wright St. anytime.

## Downwind Sports

Please be sure to mention the CLSLC when you make a purchase from Downwind Sports in Marquette! Downwind Sports will donate 1% of the individual sale to the organization in the form of a merchandise credit. The CLSLC will then have the ability to acquire some much needed field gear. The only catch is that the customer has to specifically request that 1% of their sales receipt should go to the CLSLC!

## Your Membership is critical to the CLSLC

A membership donation to the CLSLC is a gift that is invested in the permanent protection of one of our most threatened resources—open space. Thank you to all of our current members for your generous contributions. To those not currently members of the CLSLC, we hope you will consider joining an organization that helps protect of the natural character that makes the Upper Peninsula so unique and appealing. Your support makes a difference! We hope you will support the CLSLC again in 2009!

### Yes, I want to help the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy protect the natural beauty of our area!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (w): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have permission to print your name in our newsletter or other materials?

- YES  
 NO

Complete both sides of this form and return to:

Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy  
P.O. Box 7135  
Marquette, MI 49855

## Student \$15-\$29

Krista & Jim Clumpner  
 Paul Duby  
*Angie & Scott Lucas*  
 Randy & Jane Ryan  
 John & Jean Van Dyke  
 Gary & Nancy Zebko

## Regular Member \$30-\$49

Loraine Campbell  
*Elizabeth Carpenter*  
 Dan & Lori Kill  
*Ingrid & Phillip Matthaei*  
*Jean Mather*  
 Mike Penko & Barbara Bonner  
*Martha Pfaff*  
 Don Tinson

## Family \$50-\$99

*Robert & Valentyna Anderson*  
*Cliff & Judy Egeler*  
 Barbara & Richard Boss  
 Marge & John Forslin  
 Scott Hickman & Debra Laurie  
 Carol Gamber & Cary Gottlieb  
 Dan Hornbogen  
 James & Barbara Kidder  
 Paul & Z.Z. Lehmborg  
*John & N. Ileana Renfrew*  
 Bill Rutter & Deb Rhead  
 June Schaefer  
 Joann Schaffer  
*Nancy & James Trivisonno*

## 2008 Members Thank You!

Darlene Walsh  
*Eva Wendling*  
*Cadi Reiss Whitney*  
 Alan Willis

## Supporter \$100-\$249

Daniel & Constance Arnold  
 Charles & Virginia Foreman  
 Fred & Elaine Gewirtz  
 Robert & Susan Goodrich  
 Fred & Ann Joyal  
 Keith & Vada Kepler  
 Michael & Julie Kinsel  
 Robert & Meredith Kulisheck  
 Thomas & Sue LeGalley  
 April & Walt Lindala  
 Walter & Delora Loope  
 Bob & Carolyn Myers  
 Terry & Frances O'Neill  
 Lew & Kathy Peters  
*Charles Raleigh*  
 Art & Paula Saari  
 Don & Mary Snitgen  
 Donald Snowdon & Lynn Moon  
 Martin & Joan Steindler  
 Mark & Christine Troutd  
 Dennis & Kayla West  
 Carl & Yvonne Zimmer

## Sponsor \$250-\$499

Jim & Norma Matteson  
 Mark Murphy  
*Susan & Clayton Peimer*  
 Terry Seethoff & Kari Stordahl  
 Craig & Phyllis Stien  
 Dale Thomas

## Benefactor \$500+

## Protector \$1000+

Jim Cantrill & Beth Casady  
 William & Kathy Davis

## Trustee \$2500+

Ralph & JoAnn Cook

A name in *Italic* font denotes new membership.

We thank you all for your generous support of land conservation in the Upper Peninsula during 2008. As you review your end of year gifts, we appreciate your consideration of again contributing to CLSLC.

YOU are our best ambassador, and we encourage you to keep land conservation in mind throughout 2009.

**Look in the mail for an invitation to our  
 ANNUAL MEETING  
 Saturday, January 24, 2009  
 at the Federated Women's Clubhouse  
 in Marquette, MI.**



Please accept my financial donation for the following category of membership of the Conservancy:

- |  |                       |                                   |                          |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 - \$29   | <b>Student</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 +  | <b>Benefactor</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 - \$49   | <b>Regular Member</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 + | <b>Protector</b>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 - \$99   | <b>Family</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2500 + | <b>Trustee</b>           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 - \$249 | <b>Supporter</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000 + | <b>Director's Circle</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - \$499 | <b>Sponsor</b>        | other _____                       |                          |

Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy is a 501 (c) (3) organization established May 1999.  
 Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy.

- I own land in the Upper Peninsula and am interested in learning more about how I can help protect the natural beauty of our area through the establishment of a conservation easement or land donation.
- I am interested in volunteering for the conservancy.

Complete both sides of this form and return to:

**Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy  
 P.O. Box 7135  
 Marquette, MI 49855**

## NEW PROTECTION COORDINATOR

I have seen such great community support for the CLSLC during the past three years that I have served as the Protection Coordinator; but the time has now come for me to pass on the torch. I am moving on to a new position with the Federal Aviation Administration and thus leaving the Protection Coordinator position. I have truly enjoyed my position and I hope to continue staying active with this wonderful organization. Lynnea McFadden will replace me as the new Protection Coordinator. She comes to the CLSLC with a strong background in Conservation Biology and Landscape Ecology, and she has worked closely with many conservation-minded organizations in the central U.P. area. She is excited about the opportunities that are in store for the conservancy in the upcoming years and looks forward to continuing the momentum that the CLSLC has gained. Thank-you for showing such great community support for the CLSLC and look forward to the future!



*New Protection Coordinator,  
Lynnea McFadden*

*Jacelyn Kosey*

### Vision Statement

The Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy (CLSLC) 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 CLSLC 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 CLSLC 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 CLSLC helps promote greater collective ownership in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

### Wisconsin Energy Foundation Grant

On October 28, 2008, Rod Miller and Les Kowalski, representatives from the Wisconsin Energy Foundation, presented Dr. Jim Cantrill, outreach chair, with a check for \$3200. This donation will fund the two newsletters that the CLSLC will produce in 2009 as well as an informational brochure that will go to landowners in the Peshekee Trace target area. This brochure will include information on invasive plant and animal species as well as information on conservation easements and how landowners can help in the fight against invasive species in the Upper Peninsula. If you want more information about this grant or the program that it will fund, please contact the CLSLC at 906-225-8067. Thanks again to the Wisconsin Energy Foundation for their generous donation to the CLSLC!



### Piping Plover Update

The 2008 piping plover protection field season was yet another successful step towards the conservation of these endangered birds! This year the CLSLC was responsible for piping plover protection in Grand Marais and Gulliver, MI. In Grand Marais, our piping plover biologist, Jean Carpenter, monitored four pairs of piping plovers that hatched a total of ten eggs. Of those, a total of ten chicks fledged which is a 100% success rate. In addition, three eggs were recovered and fledged through the captive rearing program after an adult plover died. Jean has done a great job with education and outreach in the Grand Marais area and the proof of that is in the 550 hours of volunteer hours logged in Grand Marais alone this year!

In Gulliver, our piping plover biologist, Anna Young, monitored three nests but predation and storms caused two nests to fail. Six eggs were recovered and four chicks were hatched and fledged through the captive rearing program. In addition, one additional chick fledged naturally. This is the second year that Anna has served as a piping plover biologist for the CLSLC. In those two years, Anna has created a new network of local landowners for volunteer monitoring and 352 hours were logged this year which is a substantial increase from 2007.

Overall, this season there were 68 pairs of piping plovers that nested in the Great Lakes region. Of those 68 pairs there were 71 nests in total, 112 wild chicks fledged and 28 fledged chicks from the captive rearing program. These numbers are evidence that the conservation efforts put forth by all of the partner organizations, volunteers, and landowners over the last few years have been a huge success.

This will be the final year that the CLSLC will serve as a lead agency in piping plover protection. In May of 2008, grant funds were awarded to the Nature Conservancy by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to further piping plover protection in the Great Lakes. The participating partners include the Detroit Zoological Society, AZA institutions, Lake Superior State University, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Wild Shores, and Little Traverse Conservancy. The CLSLC will participate as a subcontractor in this project and will hire and supervise two piping plover monitors for Grand Marais and Gulliver outlet nesting areas in 2009.

A sincere thank you to Jean and Anna as well as the volunteers, landowners, and partner agencies that have helped to make this program a success over the last four years!

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### **CLSIC Partners 2008**

**Alger County Conservation District**  
**Cliffs Natural Resources, Inc.**  
**(Formerly Cleveland-Cliffs)**  
**Downwind Sports**  
**Econo Foods**  
**Environmental Protection Agency—**  
**Great Lakes National Program Office**  
**Hiawatha National Forest**  
**Lake Superior Land Trust**  
**Partnership**  
**Land Trust Alliance Midwest**  
**Laughing Whitefish Audubon**  
**Marquette Community Foundation**  
**Marquette County Conservation**  
**District**  
**NORCROSS Wildlife Foundation**  
**Patagonia**  
**Superior Watershed Partnership**  
**The Nature Conservancy—Upper**  
**Peninsula Office**  
**Upper Peninsula Power Company**  
**(UPPCO)**  
**Upper Peninsula Invasives Council**  
**(UPIC)**  
**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Waste Management of Marquette**  
**Wisconsin Energy Foundation**

### **Alger County Conservation District Grant Funds Awarded**

Liz Coyne, the watershed manager for the Alger County Conservation District, has secured funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for watershed protection and restoration around Alger County, with an emphasis on the AuTrain River watershed. This funding will be used to initiate planning, restoration and protection activities such as bank stabilization, native plant restoration, improved road stream crossings and other conservation projects in Alger County. There will be a stream health survey completed and the CLSIC may participate in this process to assist in the identification of potential sites for restoration and conservation. The CLSIC has a number of conservation easements and one preserve in Alger County and may be able to participate in this grant as a partner providing sites for improvement and a landowner education component.

### **UPIC Website to be launched ([www.upicweeds.org](http://www.upicweeds.org))**

On May 15th, 2008, The Nature Conservancy was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, through the Pulling Together Initiative (PTI), to support the Upper Peninsula Invasives Council (UPIC). The PTI grant “provides support on a competitive basis for the formation of local Weed Management Area partnerships.” The main goals of the grant are to prevent, manage, or eradicate invasive and noxious plants through a coordinated program of public and private partnerships and to increase public awareness of the adverse impacts of nonnative invasive plants. This includes conducting volunteer workdays, education, inventories, mapping, and serving as a forum which will include a website that will list future workshops and weed workdays.

The CLSIC has provided \$500 for the creation and upkeep of the website associated with this project. This was made possible by a grant from the Marquette Community Foundation and United Way of Marquette County. The website will serve as a central hub for community education and awareness regarding invasive plant species. Please visit [www.upicweeds.org](http://www.upicweeds.org) for more information on how you can help with the ever growing problem of invasive species in the Upper Peninsula.