



CENTRAL LAKE SUPERIOR LAND CONSERVANCY

Protecting Upper Peninsula Lands and Places for a Sustainable Future

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**Acres
Protected
to Date:
2,648**

Yuletide Greetings from the CLSLC Board

It's the holiday season once again, and we at the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy have a number of significant yearly accomplishments to reflect upon as a new year draws near. In reading this annual wish for a joyous yuletide to you and yours', rest assured that we are still busy finishing a multitude of detailed tasks needed to complete a number of easements and our legal reporting requirements for 2007. Our board has grown and, over the past four seasons, we have significantly increased the number of acres held in conservation easements or donated to our organization to be held in the public trust. As I will shortly step down as President of your organization, handing off my leadership position to other able hands, I know that I can depend on our loyal members to play an equally vital role in further protecting this special place.

Through coming months, we will continue establishing easements, working in conjunction with various partners who love this land of the "Third Coast," and making new contacts with land owners across the Upper Peninsula. We will be moving along with various strategic initiatives such as our continuing corporate sponsorship drive, an increased emphasis on the Peshekee Trace Project, and expanded outreach activities. Of course, your local conservancy can only continue with the support of individuals like you, and the search for charitable donations in a time when so many other worthy causes exist is never ending. Nonetheless, we at the Conservancy recognize that people like you value local, on-the-ground efforts to ensure sound conservation practices in our region and we believe that we can count on you to help fund our continuing operations across our homeland. On behalf of all of us at the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy, I do thank you for how you have enriched our efforts thus far!

Here's wishing you the very best of seasons as you enjoy this season of light and the riches nature provides throughout the winter ahead.

Jim Cantrill, CLSLC President



Upcoming Easements

In 2007 the CLSLC will be closing on a number of conservation easements to add to the acreage we currently protect in the Upper Peninsula. One property is located on Au Train Bay in Alger County and includes over 1000 feet of beautiful Lake Superior shoreline. Another property is located on Munising Bay in Alger County and also includes Lake Superior frontage. Both properties include a wetland component and are home to many species of plant and animals.

These are prime areas and, by working with the CLSLC to place conservation easements on their parcels, the landowners are protecting their land from the pressures of development forever.



CLSCL Annual Meeting

The CLSCL will be holding their Annual Meeting on January 17th, 2008 at the Marquette Federated Women's Clubhouse. The meeting starts at 7:30pm and our guest speaker this year will be Bruce Closser of Closser and Associates. Bruce will present information on conservation easement appraisals. There will be food, fun, and updates on our local conservation efforts. Please call Jackie to RSVP at 906-225-8067, or just show up as you will. We hope to see you all there!

No Ordinary Preserve

In October 2006, largely through the generosity of the Debelak family in Alger County and the persistent effort of Vice President Bill Davis, CLSCL became the owners of 320 acres of remote land. Located within the headwaters of Johnson Creek (a tributary of the Au Train River), this area had been remote backcountry for the farming communities of Traunik (Slovenian) to the southeast, Limestone (Swedish) to the east, and Eben Junction (Finnish) to the north. The land had never been cleared for farming, and no buildings were ever constructed.

The land had, however, been selectively and proudly logged by the Debelak family since the 1940s, as numerous logging trails attested. And it was the expectation of Patricia Debelak, who donated the lands to honor the memory of her husband and son, that select logging would continue on the property. The property, she wrote, "should be preserved in its predominantly natural state, subject to any forest management plan that respects the same."

CLSCL has now formally adopted a Forest Stewardship Plan for the Debelak Preserve that will honor Patricia Debelak's wishes and meet our own future vision for this property. It is no ordinary plan, just as this property is no ordinary preserve. Experimental silviculture will be used in part of the Preserve to restore the rich biodiversity the land once possessed but then lost through conventional logging practices. The problem is "mapleization" or too many trees of one species. The goal is to restore a greater diversity of tree species on 190 acres of upland hardwoods, and thus produce a future forest that is more disease resistant, more adaptive in the face of climate change, and more diverse in plant and animal habitats.

Chris Burnett, a consulting forester with a PhD in biology, has been assisting CLSCL with management plans for the Debelak Preserve, just as he did earlier with a salvage logging operation at the Ford Eagle Preserve near Republic. The plan sets aside several reserve areas where there will be no active management: an upland forest reserve (27 acres), a lowland forest reserve (70 acres), and a riparian protection zone (35 acres). The active management on 190 acres of upland hardwoods will use an old German silviculture technique (rarely used in this country) called "expanding gap group selection." The loggers create a series of irregularly spaced half-acre gaps or holes in the forest, leaving behind a reserve of unusual but desired tree species. The understory will also be planted with absent but desired species appropriate to the soils (eastern hemlock, white pine, white spruce). Every ten years the gaps will be expanded through four more cuttings, so that after 50 years the entire upland parcel will have been reshaped into a more diverse future forest. It will then be left unmanaged as an Old Growth reserve, to be revisited after 100 years.

This experimental approach is attracting interest already from foresters and others in the field of forest restoration. It could potentially be applied elsewhere in the U.P. to lands that have recovered from the devastation of the Great Clear-cut (1880-1920) but are now (due to selective northern hardwood logging) less "productive" forests, in the full sense of the term, than they might be. CLSCL's interest is not maximum timber production (which on our values scale from one to ten ranked last at #10), but restoration of a diverse natural forest (ranked #1). The Debelak property, with its unique mission, opened up this opportunity for us. By mimicking typical disturbance patterns in hardwood forests through expanding-gap silviculture we are being stewards not only of a place but of a process that opens up a more promising future for Upper Peninsula forestlands. It is fitting that the Dukes Experimental Forest, which earlier in the last century helped foresters discover the most effective timber production strategies in northern hardwood forests, lies only a few miles away to the northwest.

Jon Saari, Trustee

The CLSCL Board of Directors

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CLSCL Partners 2007

Superior Watershed Partnership
Upper Peninsula Invasives Council
(UPIC)

Hiawatha National Forest

Environmental Protection Agency-
Great Lakes National Program
Office

Land Trust Alliance Midwest

Lake Superior Land Trust
Partnership

The Nature Conservancy-
Upper Peninsula Office

Marquette County Conservation
District

US Fish and Wildlife Service

New Law Eliminates "Pop-Up Tax" On Conservation Land

A powerful incentive for private land conservation has been signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm, eliminating the "pop-up tax" on the sale or inheritance of land covered by qualified conservation agreements and allowing families to pass down property without a huge tax bill.

In the past, property taxes on conserved lands, like developed lands, rose significantly even though their development is permanently limited, creating a disincentive for landowners to enter into conservation agreements, otherwise known as conservation easements. To afford the higher taxes, new landowners needed the option of developing the land.

The new law, Public Act 446 of 2006, prevents the taxable value of the conservation property from "popping up" to the state equalized value (SEV) when it is sold or passed on to family. This means that both current and future landowners have a strong incentive to keep the affected lands intact with habitat, environmental, and scenic benefits.

"This is a huge step forward for private land conservation in Michigan," said Tom Bailey, chairperson of the Heart of the Lakes board and executive director of the Little Traverse Conservancy. "It will mean that many thousands of acres of privately owned land in our state will be protected from development."

This is the result of more than a year of legislative effort by Senator Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) and Representative David Palsrok (R-Manistee). The law also eliminates the pop-up tax retroactively for lands that have been covered by conservation agreements since the cap on property taxes was put in place by Proposal A in 1994. Residences and buildings on land covered by the law will still be subject to reassessment to the current SEV, but it gives conservation property the same tax treatment as protected farm land.

Tax Incentive Approved by Senate Finance Committee!

Recently, the Senate Finance Committee approved the "Habitat and Land Conservation Act of 2007" by unanimous voice vote. This bill includes the provisions of S. 496 -- permanent extension of the conservation easement incentive -- and provisions from several other environmental bills including Senator Crapo's bill providing tax credits for landowners who improve endangered species habitat on their land (S. 700).

Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-MT) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) made strong statements in favor of the bill, and Senator Hatch spoke out against a proposed-yet-never-adopted amendment requiring some or all conservation easement donations to get pre-approval by the Treasury.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

There will be a membership survey available for everyone to fill out starting January 17, 2008. This survey will help the CLSLC assess how well we are able to service the community and how well we serve our members. So, that we may conserve paper we are pleased to announce that this survey will be in an electronic format. Please log onto our website at www.clslc.org and follow the link to the survey. If you would like to participate but do not have internet access, please contact the CLSLC and we will send out a hard copy for you to complete.

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 2008!

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

Carl & Darlene Furmanek
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Krista & Jim Clumpner
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Marge & John Forslin
Greg Cleary
James & Barbara Kidder
James & Mary Sherman
Dan Collins & Nancy Aten
Darlene Walsh

2007 Members Thank You!

Don & Mary Snitgen
Eugene & Jean Elzinga
Cliff & Judy Egeler
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Marjorie Barnese
Bob & Marian Allbritten
Don Tinson & Annette Schaffer
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Susan Ritter & Greg Sutherland

Benefactor \$500+

Craig & Phyllis Stien

Protector \$1000+

Jim Cantrill & Beth Casady
William & Kathleen Davis
William & Joanna Stein

Thanks for your generous support in the name of land conservation in 2007. If, in this season of plenty, you have the means and desire to make an additional contribution as a valued member of your local conservancy, please know that you have our deepest gratitude. However, even if you feel that you cannot make any more tax-deductible contributions this year; know that we at the CLSLC remain in your debt. YOU are our best ambassador, and we encourage you to keep land conservation in mind throughout 2008.

The CLSLC Board of Directors



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

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



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.

Grant Funds Received:

NORCROSS Foundation

This year the CLSLC requested funding from the NORCROSS Wildlife Foundation to leverage funds for the purchase of a new and much needed computer system that is compatible with GIS software. The CLSLC was awarded \$2650 in June of 2007. The CLSLC now has a computer that is compatible with the mapping software that we will use for property inventory and baseline evaluation.

Marquette Community Foundation George E. Romney Fund

In 2008 the CLSLC will assist the Marquette community in the fight against invasive non-native plant species. This is made possible by a grant from the Marquette Community Foundation and United Way of Marquette County. This \$500 grant will be used for marketing materials to help get the word out about our Volunteer Invasive Species Monitoring Network Program. This network of community volunteers will assist with the proper removal of invasive plants in Marquette communities. The CLSLC hopes to increase community involvement in the battle against invasive non-native plant species in Marquette county! Please contact the CLSLC if you would like to participate in this program.



Waste Management Metal Box Program

The CLSLC was recently presented with a check for \$ 1,065 from Waste Management of Marquette, MI. As part of Waste Management's commitment to the community they serve, the local Waste Management site created a program to give back to the community. Each month Waste Management of Marquette chooses a local Marquette County non-profit to share 50% of their scrap metal collection reimbursement check. Over the past year the program has been quite successful and WM looks forward to continued success and partnerships with Marquette County non- profits.

2007 Piping Plover Season Results

The Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy received a two year grant in 2005 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to protect piping plovers in Grand Marais, MI. The objective was to increase the reproductive success of piping plovers by protecting the nests and chicks at Grand Marais, decrease human and other disturbance to the birds, educate the public and also increase interest and support of local landowners. The CLSLC has had great success with all chicks fledging for the past two years and record volunteer involvement. Due to this success, the CLSLC was awarded another two year grant for the 2007/08 field season. This season our protection efforts were focused on three sites, Grand Marais on Lake Superior, and two additional sites added at Gulliver Outlet on Lake Michigan and Vermillion point on Lake Superior. The outcomes for 2007 are as follows: Port Inland (near the Gulliver site) had two pairs on the east break wall beach and three chicks fledged. There were three pairs of plovers on the Gulliver Lake outlet beach and a total of two chicks fledged. The Grand Marais site had three pairs; two on agate beach and one at lone-some point. A total of 10 chicks fledged from Grand Marais this year which exceeded our expectations. The piping plover grant will continue into the 2008 season and we foresee another productive year for the plovers!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The CLSLC is proud to announce the addition of two new board members: Walt Lindala and Teresa Chase!

WALT LINDALA

Walt Lindala, a native of Chassell, MI, has worked in the world of broadcasting and news making since 1987. Currently, Walt is the News Director of Sunny 101.9, WKQS-FM and has been with them since 1997. Walt is a very active member of the Marquette community and has participated in a number of public service ventures. He served as co-chair of the entertainment committee for FinnGrandFest 2005, is an officer with the Marquette Area Blues Society, and is active in several City of Marquette arts groups as well as the Northern Michigan University Alumni Association. Walt is also the



founding member of the Marquette based "Flat Broke Blues Band" and many hours of Walt's time off are spent with the band. Walt will assist the CLSLC with marketing and outreach.

TERESA CHASE

Teresa Chase joins us from Alger County where she has lived for the past 16 years with her husband and two children. Teresa is a District Ranger with the Hiawatha National Forest in Munising. Before moving to Munising, Teresa lived in Moscow, Idaho where she worked on the Clearwater National Forest.

Teresa has a B.S. Degree in Natural Resource Economics from Montana State University. Teresa is excited about working with CLSLC and believes conservation of open space is an important value to people.



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Welcome to Charlotte Giesfeldt, winter intern for the CLSIC!!

Charlotte is originally from Manawa, Wisconsin and is a senior in the Geography Department at Northern Michigan University. Her focus of study at NMU is Physical Geography. In her spare time she loves to go camping and enjoys the outdoors. This past summer Charlotte worked in Yellowstone National Park and she claims it was the best experience of her life. Charlotte is assisting the CLSIC with the mapping of our properties as a project for her Geographic Information Systems class. We are excited to have Charlotte as a part of our team this winter!

CLSIC Merchandise

Make a donation of \$100 or more and receive a bug hat! Pull down the bug net from under the brim and you're ready for summers in the UP! Choose from tan or dark green.

Contact the Conservancy for more information!

Thank you to Northland Outfitters in Germfask for making our bug hats!



Conservancy Wish List:

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

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.