



# The Michigan Forester

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Summer/Fall 2005 (Number 57)

Spring Meeting Highlights

## Challenges of Deer Management from an Ecosystem Perspective

Restoring white-tailed deer to their previous range in the early 1900s, after being exterminated from many areas during a century of exploitation, has often been touted as one of wildlife management's greatest success stories. Ironically, now, after decades of overprotection, one of the greatest challenges of wildlife management is to balance this important game species with its forest habitat. Winning support of hunters to reduce deer populations to levels compatible with the forest ecosystem is a critical challenge with important consequences, not only to solving this conflict, but to the future of hunting as well. The health and sustainability of forest ecosystems will likely be dependent on increasingly aggressive strategies to bring deer populations into balance. Further exacerbating this problem is the declining numbers of hunters, and their increasing age. If this challenge is not met, and conflicts between deer and society continue to grow, alternative, untraditional solutions are likely to follow.



*Dr. Gary Alt, retired Supervisor, Deer Management Section, Pennsylvania Game Commission*

While Michigan and Pennsylvania have similarities, I did not come here to

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tell you how to manage your deer herd. I did not come here to tell you how to manage your forests either. The people of Michigan will decide that. But I was asked to come here and talk about my experiences of running a deer management program in Pennsylvania. One statistic that I think is relevant is that in both states only about 8% of the total population hunts. The relevancy of this in Pennsylvania, at least, is that we have a very small minority of our society that is deciding how all wildlife management

*(Continued on page 4)*

## A Letter from the Editor

This summer, I had the opportunity to attend my 20th high school reunion in north-central Indiana. How time flies. Seeing all those people that were once such a big part of my life dredged up many dim and fuzzy memories. Most are not worth repeating. Of course, much of the catching-up process with old acquaintances involves talking about our current careers. The conversation went something like this, "So, what are you doing these days, Georgia?" "I'm in Forestry Extension through MSU and the Michigan DNR," I reply. "Oh," he or she blankly responds. I struggle to explain what that means, but it's so much harder to describe than others' more straightforward responses like "I'm a teacher" or "I'm a pediatrician." Being in the forestry profession is so rewarding, but so hard to share with those who don't hear the music, so to speak.

The summer's little "blast from the past" also led me to spend some time pondering why and how I found this career in the first place. There are some vague memories of loving the outdoors and caring about the condition of the environment. Yes, I considered myself to be a *\*gasp\** environmentalist during my formative high school years. But I don't remember these attitudes ever translating into hostility toward the timber industry.

Unless my experience is a freakish anomaly, this suggests that it is possible to help young people differentiate between exploitation and conservation of resources. As members of our profession, it is important that we all take some time to emphasize the important role that forestry plays in forest health, water and air quality, wildlife, and economic health to both adults and young people. We can do this simply by being able to communicate clearly about our careers to friends, family, and old high school acquaintances. Any suggestions out there?

—Georgia Peterson



Society of American Foresters  
*Growing better all the time*

### HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE MICHIGAN FORESTER NEWSLETTER

Everyone is welcome to submit articles, photos, ideas or suggestions! E-mail submissions are preferable, but other delivery systems are accepted. Articles should be MS Word documents or compatible format. **All materials for publication should be submitted to:**

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publish Date</u>
Fall 2005 Year	Nov 15	Dec 2005
In Review	Jan 15	Feb 2006

## Grossman Forestry Tree Farm Group receives Certificate of Conformance

The Grossman Forestry Tree Farm Group received a certificate of conformance to the American Forest Foundation (AFF) Standards for Sustainability on 7/7/05. The certificate was issued following an independent audit conducted by Steve Ruddell with Forecon, Inc. (Falconer, New York). According to Mr. Ruddell, The Grossman Forestry Tree Farm Group has well-defined procedures, and the Group Members are in full conformance with and are consistently applying the AFF Standards for Sustainability. The charter group encompasses 19 landowners covering over 42,000 acres in Michigan. According to the Group Manager, Gerald Grossman plans are in place to increase the acres in the Group to 100,000 acres within the next 24 months.

The Grossman Forestry Tree Farm Group offers landowners an efficient way to show their commitment to long term sustainable forestry. It also shows forest products companies, forest products consumers, and government agencies that the Group members are dedicated to sustainable forest management practices.

The American Tree Farm System Group Certification process is an internationally recognized system to certify sustainable forest management. The four pillars for the Tree Farm System are Water, Wildlife, Recreation, and Wood. According to Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President, Forestry Programs, American Forest Foundation, "Group certification continues to demonstrate to the forestry community that there is a way to economically, efficiently, and credibly certify groups of small family forest owners in the United States, keeping them competitive with continually increasing certified forest lands around the world."

The Grossman Forestry Company is a privately owned forestry consulting firm that assists Michigan's private landowners with forestry and wildlife management. The company currently employs seven full-time consulting foresters with secretarial support. Call Gerald Grossman (906-293-8707 or [www.grossmanforestry.com](http://www.grossmanforestry.com)) for additional information.

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## DNR Announces Forest Management Advisory Committee

The Department of Natural Resources today announced a 16-member committee to assist the department in balancing the environmental, social and economic issues surrounding forest management. The committee members range from timber producers to university representatives to environmental interests, and it will assist the DNR with management problems, opportunities and challenges related to the state's forests.

"I am very pleased to name this committee of stakeholders who will help us tackle some of the issues related to managing public forestlands and will help assist private forest owners with their concerns," said DNR Director Rebecca Humphries. "Our state forests are used for a variety of purposes, from hunting to hiking to timber harvesting, and we need to make sure we have a balanced approach to management so that all stakeholders are heard and any potential conflicts are resolved."

Sixteen individuals were named to the Forest Management Advisory Committee.

They are:

- Steve Arwood of Heart of the Lakes in Lansing
- Joel Blohm of Great Northern Lumber in Lincoln
- Bill Bobier, a former state representative from Hesperia and now owner of Earthscape Resource Management in Lansing.
- Bill Cook of the Michigan State University Extension Service-UP Tree in Escanaba
- Leland Crawford of International Paper in Norway
- Thomas Dunn of the Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan in Lansing
- John Fowler of DT Fowler Manufacturing Company in Lapeer

*(Continued on page 10)*

is implemented for all of society. We were able to do that in the 20<sup>th</sup> century but I do not believe it will be allowed to continue very far into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is not an issue until that minority of society demands the wildlife agency do things that have enormous negative consequences on natural systems or on the impacts to the rest of society. That's a collision I think we're headed for right now with deer management.

Forest certification of our state forests is threatened by the lack of regeneration due to over-browsing from deer in Pennsylvania. I do know Michigan is in the process of getting certified and certainly over-browsing will be an issue you will have to deal with.

Which brings us to the age-old question: How many deer should there be? The answer depends upon who you ask and on their value system. If you ask hunters, they often say we should have more deer. Farmers say we should have fewer. But, we should stop talking about the numbers of deer and start talking about the impacts of deer. Because as these forests lose their ability to regenerate, as we lose the vegetation of the lower understory, you cannot grow deer there the way you once did.

Our state governments have a responsibility to properly manage our natural resources for current and future generations. That is the key. We hold these natural resources in public trust and we are the ones responsible for managing them. We have an obligation to make the right decisions about reaching that mission, especially as it relates to the health and sustainability of our forest ecosystems. We need to discern what public attitudes and levels of understanding are for various issues. It tells us where we need to focus our educational efforts to try to bring them along about what really is at stake and what needs to happen. The attitudes of our society will often change as they learn more about these issues. We must continue to educate our public, and especially our hunters, on the relationship between deer and their habitat, and the relationship between nutrition and the ability of deer to reproduce and survive. In terms of balancing deer with our forests, we have some very serious issues at hand. There has to be compatibility of forest ecosystem management with recreational hunting. Somehow we have to put the "hunt" back into hunting. We have to find a way to get hunters to exert more energy, to get further back off the road, to help us balance these deer herds with those forest ecosystems. The future of sport hunting is at stake if hunters will not, or can not, balance deer herds with our forests and the needs of society.

The impacts of the decisions we make today as managers will be etched in history for hundreds of years in our trees and in the composition of our forests, as well as the other plants and animals that make up this ecosystem.

*Synopsis of the speech given by Dr. Gary Alt at the Michigan SAF Spring Meeting on June 9, 2005. Gary retired as Supervisor of the Deer Management Section of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Edited by John Pilon, Michigan SAF Treasurer.*

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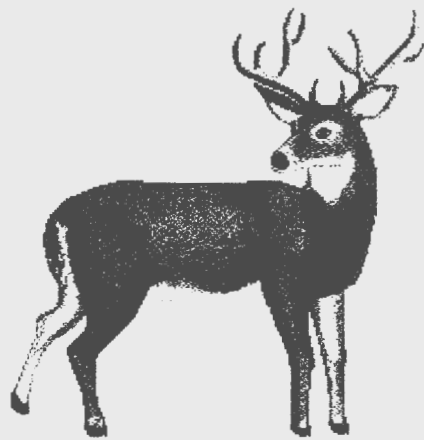
"Forests & Whitetails – Striving for Balance"  
Michigan SAF 2005 Spring Conference

"The management of deer and the management of vegetation remains divorced".

Quoting from one of the presenter's publications, Michigan SAF President, Don Dickman aptly introduced the spring conference. Of the 200 people attending, about 50 were wildlife biologists and conservation group members; not exactly a marriage, but a step in the right direction. Gary Alt, the keynote speaker (retired Pennsylvania Game Commissioner) further set the direction of the conference by outlining the challenges of deer management from an ecosystem perspective rather than the outmoded agricultural paradigm. These challenges include differing values among groups of people, an animal with enormous impacts on vegetation, universal sprawl, crop losses, life and death on the highway, and lack of forest regeneration. Alt recommended managing for acceptable deer impacts rather than for specific deer densities. He said the best way to do this is through hunting policies supported by research, education, and political ac-

tion.

The next three speakers brought the challenges home to Michigan. Brent Rudolph (Michigan DNR Wildlife Division) reviewed the history of deer population levels and deer management in Michigan. Joe LeBouton (PhD candidate at Michigan State University) explained a model of how deer affect advance forest regeneration at stand and landscape levels. Tom Ward (Michigan State Forester with NRCS) gave an update on cost-sharing programs that relate to deer habitat management via practices such as food plots, winter thermal cover, and forest stand improvement.



The following two speakers discussed some of the complexities of deer impacts on vegetation dynamics. Jean-Pierre Tremblay (PhD candidate at Laval University Quebec) explained how deer at low densities can increase plant community structure and succession rate while deer at high densities can do the opposite. David Flaspohler (Faculty at Michigan Technological University) reported on studies done on North Manitou Island in Lake Michigan where the deer population has been greatly reduced following years of very high densities. Both of these researchers emphasized the need for a precautionary principle as deer impacts on vegetation can result in stable altered states from which re-

covery rates may be very slow.

Ben Payton (Faculty at Michigan State University) warped up the first day by asking if we can rely on Michigan deer hunters as a management tool. Recent survey data show that about 50% could be counted on the shoot more does, but this situation is a moving target given current demographic trends among hunters and changing deer population levels.

On the second day of the conference, two speakers addressed deer impacts in relation to forest certification. Gary Donovan (International Paper) reported on chronic failure of northern hardwood regeneration in the south-central Upper Peninsula that has resulted in a minor nonconformance with regard to the company's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification. A major nonconformance rating is expected in the near future. Conversion to conifers or selling the land are among the options being considered. Later in the morning, Jesse Randall (PhD candidate at Michigan State University) explained how deer browsing and sedge competition interact to suppress hardwood regeneration in this area, and he reported on efforts to use herbicides as a solution. Meanwhile, hunters in the area are still developing food plots to increase the deer herd. Dave deCalesta (Wildlife Analyses Consulting) clarified the "disconnect" faced by forest certification auditors from a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) perspective. How can a certifying agency write conditions for a landowner to reduce deer impacts when state game agencies control the herd?

Susan Stout (US Forest Service) provided some ideas about how even-aged silviculture can be effectively used to regenerate timber where deer populations are high, but she repeatedly emphasized that there is nothing that can be done silviculturally that is as effective as controlling deer numbers. She summarized much of the dilemma by explaining that in chronically over-browsed areas, where people complain about too many deer and too few deer, they are both right.

Bill Moritz (Michigan DNR Wildlife Division Chief) presented data showing a close correlation between deer population levels and pulpwood harvest levels as well as with winter weather. He explained the need to balance competing interests, but emphasized that single-species management is no longer acceptable; ecosystem management is the future.

In his closing remarks, Gary Alt exceeded the humorous and rousing style of this keynote address. He emphasized that the deer resource is not fragile and the need to change the hunting culture in order to balance habitat with deer numbers and break the cycle of under-harvesting does.

*-Chris Burnett, Alger-Marquette Conservation District Forester*

**Gypsy moth** - Heavy defoliation is occurring in oak and aspen along the I-75 corridor between W. Branch and Grayling, and along the US-27 corridor between Roscommon and Grayling. In some areas, defoliation of spruce, white pine and other non-preferred hosts is occurring. This is often an indication of larval overpopulation and may lead to a population collapse in these areas in 2006. Current feeding will continue for another week or so before most caterpillars pupate.

**Jack pine budworm** - Ground surveys are turning up heavy populations of this insect in many areas of the North Central Lower and Upper Peninsula. Feeding is occurring on sapling-, pole- and sawlog-sized jack pine. Jack pine over 50 years old that has suffered 2 or more defoliations during the past 3 years is at highest risk of top kill or mortality. A resource assessment presently being done by the MDNR Forest Health Program will be used to assist unit staff in conducting pre-salvage and salvage operations on state lands during the coming months.

**Redheaded pine sawfly** - Larvae of this red pine pest began hatching in the Grand Traverse and Sault Ste. Marie Forest Management Units and are being monitored. Heavy defoliation can be caused top kill and mortality in young red pine plantations. Several areas were treated with pesticides last summer to control this pest. Impacts are heaviest on trees that suffer loss of both current and 1-year-old needles.

**Larch casebearer** - This introduced needle-mining insect has been active in the Lower Peninsula since last year. While populations are usually brought under control within 2 years by parasite natural enemies, concurrent heavy defoliation can cause branch dieback or tree mortality from subsequent eastern larch beetle attacks. Feeding continues throughout the year, with larvae forming shelters from silk-lined needles that they attach to twigs.

**Arborvitae leafminer** - The insect is active on northern white cedar in the northern Lower Peninsula now. Feeding causes needle browning and dieback in ornamental and natural stands.

### **New Bug in the Woods**

A previously unknown psyllid was detected in Bismarck, North Dakota, by an Assistant City Forester. The psyllid is inflicting damage on black ash and Manchurian ash throughout Bismarck. The pest has since been found in eastern North Dakota. The psyllid appears to cause dieback, predisposing the ash to decline and premature death. The psyllid was tentatively identified as the cottony ash psyllid, *Psyllopsis discrepans*, by the NDSU Systematic Entomology Lab in Fargo, North Dakota. The psyllid is native to UK, Northern Europe, and Russia. It has been reported in Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and is believed to have been in Alberta since 2000. Cottony ash psyllids are native to Central Europe and Scandinavia and were first reported in North America from a single male specimen found in Nova Scotia in 1921.

Damage from this aphid-like insect appears as leaflet curling from the edges and tips, or a more general leaflet and leaf crumpling and deformation known as 'cauliflowering.' Some trees in Bismarck show severe damage. The damage appears similar to that of certain herbicides.

This insect feeds in the phloem on the undersurfaces of leaflets with a piercing-sucking mouthpart. It inserts feeding stylets into the leaf mid-rib or veins. The feeding injury and liquid removal causes leaflet curling,

Information Adapted from website at:

[www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/ndsucpr/Years/2005/june/23/ent\\_23june05.htm](http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/ndsucpr/Years/2005/june/23/ent_23june05.htm)

*Written by: Dr. Gerald Fauske, Research Collection Manager, NDSU  
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David Nelson, State Entomologist, ND Dept. of Agriculture  
Michael Kangas, Forest Health Specialist, ND Forest Service*

## Conservation Easements on Michigan Commercial Forest Lands

Conservation easements have been enacted more in the State of Michigan than ever before. A conservation easement is a legally recordable document restricting the use and/or development of a particular described property. The easements can prohibit road construction, residential and commercial building, timber harvesting, camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing, snowshoeing, ATV and snowmobile use, and so forth. The easement document once it is recorded, is a permanent lifetime restriction on the parcel. Most conservation easements have been promoted primarily by environmental organizations for permanent preservation on private, commercial, industrial, city township, state and federal forest lands.

The Michigan Commercial Forest Act (original Act N. 94 of Public Acts of 1925), was designed to promote and protect our commercial forest lands. The Act promotes wise management of our timber resources to guarantee future generations of renewable wood products. Today the Commercial Forest Act states that you must have a minimum of 40 acres of commercially producing timber forest land, a certified forest management plan on file, and allow public use of Commercial Forest Lands for hunting and fishing. The benefit to the Commercial Forest Act to the landowner is a property tax incentive of \$1.10 per acre per year.

Conservation easements are currently being placed on Commercial Forest Lands within Michigan. The current Commercial Forest Act law in Michigan does not allow leasehold rights to be placed on Commercial Forest Lands. Conservation easements, once it is recorded in the landowner's county Register of Deeds office, is a "Lifetime Leasehold" on the Commercial Forest Land, especially when consideration (payment) is received in exchange for the conservation easement.

Act 451 of 1994, Part 511, Commercial Forests, 324.51113(1) states "commercial forest shall not use that land in a manner that is prejudicial to its development as a commercial forest." Currently the timber industries throughout Michigan and Wisconsin are having a difficult time finding timber resources to supply their mills. We are not harvesting enough timber because of increased restrictions on timber lands, dramatic loss of timber sales from national forest lands (primarily due to lawsuits from environmental organizations), large blocks of commercial forest lands have been and currently being purchased by conservancies, with many sold back to local, township, county and state entities, with conservation easements attached to these lands restricting timber harvesting and many other public uses.

A balance must be maintained between preservation and commercial forest lands. Conservation easements and Commercial Forest Act properties have to be regulated separately to maintain this balance. If the timber industry throughout Michigan and Wisconsin, start to close several facilities because they are not able to obtain our timber resource through increased regulations; it would be a loss of several thousand jobs, tax base and negative economic effects on everyone through price increases on wood products such as paper, tissue, furniture, home building, etc. Property taxes would also increase due to tax exempt properties, a large majority from private 501-C non-profit tax exempt conservancies. Unemployment levels would rise creating more stress on state programs and thus increasing income tax levels and so forth.

Conservation easements and the Commercial Forest Act are separate, and should

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Michigan's Forestry Consultants... The "stars" of Michigan's forests!



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be maintained that way to minimize increased regulations and hardship on future generations. Conservation easements are currently being placed on commercial forest lands. Contacting our state elected Senators and Representatives to not allow conservation easements on commercial forest lands, will help protect the future of our commercial producing forest lands and economy for the well-being of our children and future generations to come.

*-Glen D. Tolksdorf, Consulting Forester*

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## Scenes from the Spring Meeting in St. Ignace

*Hmm, anyone see this connection on the way up from the LP?*



*Can you tell which is the 50 year SAF member?*

*Relaxing after a long day of mind-broadening...*



*A flock of DNR Service Foresters...guess which one retired!*



*Cara & Dennis working on certification...geez, give it a rest for awhile!*

(Continued from page 3)

- Dr. Margaret Gale of the Michigan Technological University School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science in Houghton
- Mark Janke of Menasha Packaging Company of Otsego
- Des Jones of the Michigan Tree Farm in Augusta
- Dr. Dan Keathley of the Michigan State University Department of Forestry in East Lansing
- Bill Manson Jr., regional representative of the Michigan Snowmobiling Association in Grand Rapids
- Warren Suchovsky of Suchovsky Logging, LLC of Stephenson
- Sam Washington, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs in Lansing
- Gordon Wenk, director of the Environmental Stewardship Division at the Michigan Department of Agriculture in Lansing.
- Anne Woiwode, state director of the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club

Leanne Marten, forest supervisor for the Huron-Manistee National Forest, will serve as a U.S. Forest Service advisor to the committee.

"This committee represents the diverse viewpoints that the DNR needs to ensure that our forest management practices are balancing economic opportunities, recreational users and environmental concerns," Humphries said. "This committee will give direct input to the department regarding forest management, and provide expert insight into many of the issues and concerns we have about our state forests."

Humphries said the first meeting of the committee will be announced at a later date.

### **Michigan SAF Fall 2005 Meeting**

3-4 November 2005

Garland Resort, Lewiston

The SAF Fall Conference will be hosted by the Lower Peninsula Chapter, focusing on the effect of invasive species on silvicultural practices. Our featured speaker will be Faith Campbell, Senior Policy Representative for introduced forest insects and diseases from The Nature Conservancy. Contact Rick Myrick ([rick.myrick@macd.org](mailto:rick.myrick@macd.org)) or Quentin McNichols ([qmcnichols@fs.fed.us](mailto:qmcnichols@fs.fed.us)) for more information.

### **Society of American Foresters 2005 National Convention**

October 19-23, 2005

Fort Worth Convention Center

Fort Worth, Texas

Register now for SAF's 2005 National Convention. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about real-world solutions to the day's most pressing issues. From educational sessions covering the latest trends and developments, to unmatched peer-to-peer networking opportunities and a showcase of new products in the Exhibit Hall, SAF's National Convention is the must-attend educational event of the year.

REWARDS! ...opportunity to stretch your thinking...exposure to new tools, techniques, and processes...opportunity to earn up to 29 CFE credits...chance to explore practical ideas you can adopt in your work...

REGISTER TODAY: [www.safnet.org/natcon-05/](http://www.safnet.org/natcon-05/)

## Michigan Society of American Foresters

### Year 2005 Financial Status Report

Revenue	Expected 2005 Revenue	Revenue Received as of July 8, 2005
Membership Dues	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,615.00
Interest	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.26
Meetings	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (539.81)
Contributions		\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,015.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,082.45</b>

Expenses	Budgeted for 2005	Funds Disbursed as of July 8, 2005
HSD	\$ 240.00	\$ 232.18
Chapter Dues	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Michigan Forester	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 650.00
General Administration	\$ 350.00	\$ 6.00
State Chair	\$ -	\$ -
MI Forester Editor Honorarium	\$ 200.00	\$ -
MI Forester Bus Mgr Honorarium	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Secretary Honorarium	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Treasurer Honorarium	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Student Chapters	\$ -	\$ -
UP Auto Tour	\$ 500.00	\$ -
National Meetings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Donation to National Raffle	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Leadership Academy	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Misc	\$ 100.00	\$ -
CFE	\$ -	\$ -
Awards	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Awards Display	\$ -	\$ -
Membership	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Communications (display)	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Policy & Legislative Event	\$ -	\$ -
Recruit - Reinstate (Image & Outreach)	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,390.00</b>	<b>\$ 888.18</b>

Total Michigan SAF cash as of:	July 8, 2005	\$ 5,432.91
Total Forester Fund cash as of:	July 8, 2005	\$ 4,319.89

**Michigan Society of American Foresters has cash assets only.**

**Prepared by: John Pilon, Treasurer**

**And now for the fine print.  
A brief list of current officers**

2005 Chair: Donald Dickmann  
 2006 Chair-elect: Don Howlett  
 2004 Past-chair: Gerald Grossman  
 Secretary: Jason Middlestadt  
 Treasurer: Jack Pilon  
 Council representative: John Kotar

Awards: Ernie Houghton  
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 Continuing Forestry Education: Debra Huff  
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 U of M Student Chapter Chair: John Witter

## SEE YOU IN LEWISTON!

Look inside to get details on the 2005 MSAF  
Fall Conference!



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SAF offers a wide variety of opportunities to volunteer and assist in making this the best professional organization around. Take advantage of the benefits you receive from SAF. One easy avenue is to help with the publication of the Michigan Forester. Become a reporter, a photographer or simply help review the content. Contact Georgia Peterson or any other member of the executive team to learn how you can help SAF today.

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**Deadline for the next issue is November 15!**



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