



The Michigan Forester

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Fall/Winter 2005 (Number 58)

From the Chair

Comments from the State Chair

Don Howlett (incoming state chair for 2006) and I attended the SAF National Convention in Ft. Worth in October. We represented the Michigan Society during the one and one-half days that the House of Society Delegates (HSD) met. I thought that you would be interested in the outcome of that session. HSD is a deliberative body that consists of representatives of all state and multi-state societies; each society has a place at the table and a voice to express opinions and to vote on motions and resolutions. HSD is advisory to SAF Council, which can accept or reject HSD recommendations.

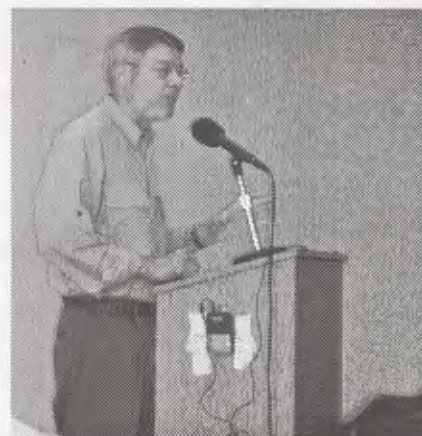
A major item on the HSD agenda this year was the Volunteer Organizational Structure (VOS) Task Force report. You will recall from reading the report or from the summary of it in my last column, that many changes in the structure and organization of SAF were proposed by the VOS Task Force. To put it mildly, HSD did not look favorably on the VOS proposals; with a few exceptions, the recommendation to Council was not to accept them. At their December 3, 2005, meeting, Council accepted or acted upon every one of HSD's recommendations. Let me summarize the major outcomes:

- An annual national meeting of SAF will continue to be held.
- The current structure of SAF—HSD, 11 council districts, Forest Science and Technology Board, and Working Groups—will be retained, without adding an additional regional governance layer.
- A page will be established on the national SAF web site to display national committees and task forces and their charters, membership, and vacancies
- The Forest Science and Technology Board will examine its current structure and

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Don Dickmann, Michigan SAF Chair 2005

A Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year!

I hope all of you had a happy and eventful holiday season. This edition of the "Editor's Letter" is going to be very brief, because this issue is full of good reading, and you shouldn't waste your valuable time on my ramblings! There is especially quite a bit of good discussion about conservation easements in the "Viewpoints" section. I'm very grateful to all of you who contributed. Please keep 'em coming...it makes my job much easier.

—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 SM Word documents or compatible format. **All materials for publication should be submitted to:**

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Issue

Winter/Spring 2006
Spring/Summer
Summer/Fall

Submission Deadline

February 28
June 30
October 31

Forest Management Advisory Committee Meeting Summary October 17, 2005, Mason Building, Lansing

DNR Director Rebecca Humphries welcomed the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) and committee members were introduced.

FMAC's Purpose:

Assist the DNR in balancing environmental, social and economic issues in implementing forest resource responsibilities.

Serve as an advisory committee and provide recommendations (written when appropriate) to the DNR and the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) on forest resource management issues.

First priority of the FMAC is to develop Generally Accepted Forest Management Practices (GAMPs).

Top Issues Facing State Forest Resources in the Next 3-5 Years:

Committee identified the following issues:

- Fragmentation/parcelization/property taxes
- Ecological Services (i.e. carbon sequestration)
- Sale of industrial forest lands
- Funding (especially long-term)
- Protection of biodiversity
- Deer overabundance
- Invasive species (native and exotic)
- Retention of wood utilization (forest based) industry
- K-12 forest management principles
- Review if current forest inventory data are sufficient to process future operations inventory needs
- Family forest system (role of these ownerships, statewide)
- Future of Commercial Forest (CF) lands
- Tax equity for private lands
- Future roles of non-traditional products
- Training needs of DNR personnel
- Finite land and increased number of recreational activities
- Access to public and private lands
- Signage
- Management and utilization of private forests
- Wood energy
- Timber supplies
- DNR outreach and communication
- Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs)

Expectations of the Committee:

The Committee identified the following expectations:

- Committee listens and be listened to
- Change the way we approach forest management. Need to look at forest sys-

tem as a whole, not just the backdrop to other natural resource issues. Need to balance ecological, economic and social aspects.

- Open communication
- Open and honest forum to discuss issues
- Ask questions if you do not understand an issue or a committee member's position on an issue
- Be upfront
- Be aware of biases you may be bringing to the meeting.
- Think "What can we do about this issue?" when evaluating an issue
- Use the committee as a forest clearinghouse to discuss policy issues
- Start and end meetings on time
- Ability of the committee to tour areas to give a better understanding of forest management issues
- Multi-disciplinary approach, big picture, statewide

Committee's Information Needs:

- Lynne Boyd will provide committee with white paper on issues affecting state forest systems in a global economy.
- Lynne Boyd will provide copy of a presentation given at the recent National Association of State Foresters meeting.
- Provide committee with maps of public and Commercial Forest (CF) lands and forest cover type.
- Create a webpage for FMAC, both for public and committee use.
- Review of DNR technological resources (i.e. IFMAP), their capabilities and limitations.

Committee Structure, Process, Logistics:

Chair/Co-Chair

Lynne Boyd was nominated and accepted role of Committee Chair. Bill Cook was nominated and accepted role as Co-Chair. Each of these positions will serve a three-month term. After three months, the positions will be reviewed. Subcommittee chairs will be identified and filled as needed.

Consensus, Voting, Quorum, Surrogate members

Most decisions will be made based on consensus ("Can live with...") of the committee with concerns/issues of those who disagree to accompany decision.

A quorum of two-thirds (12 out of 19) present and voting members is required to make any decision, consensus or voting. If there are less than 12 members present at a meeting, the meeting can be held, but no decisions can be made without a quorum.

Should a vote be necessary, ten (10) votes in the affirmative will be required to pass a vote. Those members who voted against a decision can provide concerns/issues to accompany decision.

If a committee member is unable to attend a meeting, he/she may send a surrogate. The surrogate may comment on issues, but is a non-voting member of the committee.

Meeting Summary

Kerry Gray will take notes during the FMAC meetings. Kerry will email a draft meeting summary to committee members, and members will have one (1) week to provide comments. If no comments are received, the meeting summary will be considered approved.

Public Comments

Public citizens can ask to be placed on the agenda to provide comments on an issue for an upcoming FMAC meeting up to one week prior to the meeting. If public citizens are placed on the agenda, they will have a maximum of five minutes to provide comment. Public citizens may also provide comment on the day of the FMAC meeting by filling out a card, they will receive a maximum of three minutes to provide comment. Public comment period will be during the meeting, prior to any decisions the Committee is scheduled to make.

SALE OF FORMER MEADWESTVACO TIMBERLANDS IN THE U.P.

Plum Creek to Buy Timberland in Michigan

Oct. 3, 2005 (Press Release) - Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. today announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to purchase approximately 650,000 acres of timberland in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan from Escanaba Timber LLC. The transaction, valued at approximately \$345 million, is subject to customary closing conditions. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2005.

The forestlands, which have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) standard, contain an attractive mix of timber species and age profiles including mature mixed hardwood stands and conifer plantations. Plum Creek will continue to manage these forests to the SFI standard, as it does all of its timberlands. With the addition of this land, the company will own and manage approximately 1.2 million acres of productive forests in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Plum Creek will sell a significant portion of the pulpwood harvested from these lands to the New-Page Corporation Escanaba, Mich., pulp and paper mill under the continuation of an existing long-term supply agreement. "This acquisition is consistent with Plum Creek's strategy of making accretive timberland purchases," said Rick Holley, president and chief executive officer. "The addition of these well-managed lands expands our participation in attractive hardwood timber markets and complements our current ownership in the region."

Plum Creek will finance the transaction using a combination of 1031 like-kind exchange funds and debt. Plum Creek is one of the largest private timberland owners in the nation, with approximately 8 million acres of timberlands in major timber producing regions of the United States and 10 wood products manufacturing facilities in the Northwest.

SOURCE: Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.

Smurfit-Stone to make permanent closures at three North American mills

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 4, 2005 (Press Release) - Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation today announced plans to permanently close production capacity at three North American containerboard mills as part of the company's ongoing assessment and restructuring efforts. Smurfit-Stone plans to permanently close:

- the #2 paper machine at its Fernandina Beach, Florida, linerboard mill;
- its New Richmond, Quebec, linerboard mill; and
- its Bathurst, New Brunswick, medium mill.

Smurfit-Stone's total containerboard manufacturing capacity will be reduced by approximately 700,000 tons. The rationalization process will result in a workforce reduction of approximately 565 employees.

The company expects to take a pre-tax charge of approximately \$302 million during the third quarter 2005, nearly \$260 million of which is non-cash, as a result of these closings. These charges are estimates and will be finalized during the third quarter. "These actions, while extremely difficult, are necessary to address the market realities facing Smurfit-Stone, in particular, the declining growth rate for containerboard and oversupply in the northeastern portion of North America," said Patrick J. Moore, Smurfit-Stone chairman, president and chief executive officer. "As with any decision of this magnitude, key considerations included operating costs, long-term strategic fit, system contribution, and our ability to provide our customers with the highest quality products and services.

"This difficult decision in no way reflects on the hard work and dedication of our employees at these mills. It is our intent to work closely with government authorities, local communities and unions as we make that difficult transition," added Moore.

One of the major long-term issues confronting Smurfit-Stone's packaging operations is the slowing demand for packaging in North America, as manufacturing is being shifted overseas. "We are in a mature industry that has struggled to achieve adequate returns," Moore said. "We have been unable to pass along

inflationary costs, such as energy and fiber, to our customers. In addition, the manufacturing exodus overseas has had a strong impact on containerboard demand throughout North America."

Smurfit-Stone's #2 paper machine at Fernandina Beach has been idle since April 2001. The New Richmond and Bathurst mills have an annual production capacity of 235,000 tons of linerboard and 243,000 of corrugating medium respectively. Both mills have been recently idled due to market conditions. The closures will result in the permanent lay-offs of approximately 295 employees in New Richmond and 270 employees in Bathurst.

"The packaging industry is undergoing swift changes, and Smurfit-Stone is in the process of assessing its entire asset base to determine how to stay ahead of the market," Moore said. "While extremely difficult and painful, the decisions we have announced today are the first steps toward better positioning the company for future growth and success."

Prentiss & Carlisle acquires Banzhaf & Co Consulting Company

Bangor, ME -- Prentiss & Carlisle, an 80-year-old forest management firm, today announced its acquisition of George Banzhaf & Company (GB&CO), one of the oldest forest resource consulting companies in the United States.

According to Donald P. White, president of Prentiss & Carlisle (P&C), the acquisition adds nearly 300,000 acres of northern Michigan timberland to the 1,090,000 acres in Maine currently managed by P&C. It also adds the GB&CO consulting and appraisal business -- directed by George Banzhaf & Company President Samuel J. Radcliffe -- to the P&C team.

"Prentiss & Carlisle is as vertically integrated a company as there is in this business," said White, "but the capability to provide our clients with certified appraisals was the one piece we were missing. Now it will become a highlight of our service portfolio. "On the other side, we bring the talents of 60 professional employees, including 15 licensed foresters, to Banzhaf clients. This merger expands the geographical range and the skill sets of both companies."

According to Radcliffe, the acquisition affirms a strong belief held by both George Banzhaf and his son Bill -- that success should be measured by how well a company serves its clients and provides for its employees. "George Banzhaf & Company has been a venerable name in the forestry consulting industry for decades," said Radcliffe. "Although in one sense this is the end of an era, the acquisition of GB & CO by such a strong organization as Prentiss & Carlisle brings a secure future to our employees and a broader mix of consulting and land management talent to our clients. It also creates exciting challenges for me personally, and I look forward to joining the P&C team."

Radcliffe, now a vice president of P&C, will oversee P&C's Lake States operations, making Prentiss & Carlisle one of the few multiregional management firms in the country. He will also lead the development of an expanded consulting and valuation team.

"Prentiss & Carlisle now has the ability to service long-term management contracts in both the Midwest and Northeast, and we will be better able to provide appraisal and due-diligence consulting on a national scale," said White. "To acquire a renowned firm like George Banzhaf & Company -- a firm with an established reputation for excellence, a very similar corporate culture, and a staff with complementary skills and a work ethic that rivals ours at Prentiss & Carlisle -- is just the opportunity we were seeking," said White. "We are dedicated to growing the appraisal side of our business and to providing the high level of service we've become known for in all areas of forest management and consulting."

Contact: Donald P. White, president
Prentiss & Carlisle

More Viewpoints on Conservation Easements and Michigan's Commercial Forests

Dear Editor:

We are writing in response to an article in the summer/fall issue of the *Michigan Forester*. Consulting Forester Glen D. Tolksdorf's article *Conservation Easements on Michigan Commercial Forests Lands*, leaves the impression that conservation easements and commercial timber production are not compatible. He concludes his remarks by urging readers to not allow conservation easements on commercial forest lands.

HeadWaters Land Conservancy, which helps forest landowners in 11 counties of northeast lower Michigan has, as a matter of policy, been placing conservation easements on forested lands that specifically encourage good forest management. HeadWaters Land Conservancy easements encourage landowners to follow the **Forest Management Guidelines for Michigan**, published by the Michigan Society of American Foresters in 1998. Further, our conservation easements specify that all forest management activities, including growing and harvesting of timber, must be implemented in accordance with the recommendations contained in a Forest Management plan prepared by a professional forester or other qualified natural resource specialist.

Conservation easements address the problem of land fragmentation by not allowing subdivision of valuable forested properties. To that end, we have a program that concentrates on ownerships larger than 300 acres called the Big Lands Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to protect the last of the largest intact private forest properties in northeast Lower Michigan. Paul Call of the Weyerhaeuser Company, offered this thought concerning HeadWaters' forest management policy in a recent HeadWaters news release.

"HeadWaters' Big Lands Initiative fits well with Weyerhaeuser's environmental policy of practicing sustainable forestry. The Initiative helps to retain forestland parcels intact so that they are available for long term forest and wildlife management."

HeadWaters Land Conservancy is dedicated to continually working with owners of all forested tracts, large and small, and will continue to encourage them to conduct timber harvesting programs, wildlife management, and wise use of all land resources. HeadWaters' policies of land management are very compatible with sustainable forestry objectives, and we welcome the opportunity to work with professional foresters, forest industries, and dedicated private landowners to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Roger Rasmussen,
Former Regional Director
of the Michigan DNR and
current HWLC board member

Fred Gottschalk
Executive Director,
Headwaters Land Conservancy

Dear Editor:

The summer/fall issue of *The Michigan Forester* included the viewpoint that Michigan's Commercial Forest Program and conservation easements are mutually exclusive. It goes on to argue that conservation easements are bad for Michigan's economy in general and the timber industry in particular.

(Continued on page 9)

Michigan's Forestry Consultants... The Stars of Michigan's forests!

- 1** Glen Tolksdorf, CF
Tolksdorf Forestry
Calumet, 906-482-9366

- 2** Kevin Burns, CF
Northwoods Consulting
Sagola, 906-396-3024

- 3** Dean Francis
Upper Michigan Land Management and Wildlife Services, Inc.
Escanaba, 906-786-3488

- 4** Gerald Grossman, CF
Grossman Forestry Co.
Newberry, 906-293-8707

- 5** Donald Tracey
Donald Tracey Forestry Corp.
Cheboygan, 231-627-4610

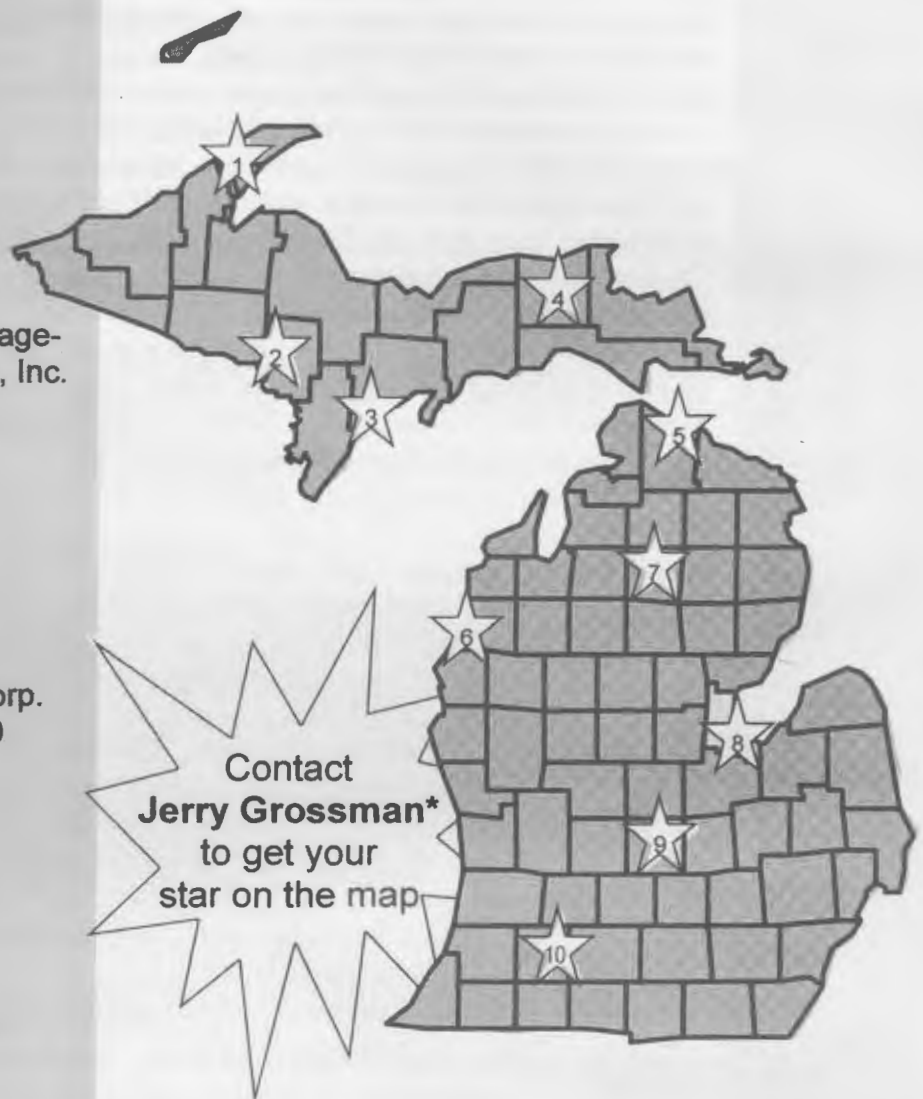
- 6** Scott Erikson
MichiTree, Inc.
Manistee, 231-723-9946

- 7** Jerry Lambert
Forest Resource Services
Frederic, 989-619-2882

- 8** Doug Lee, CF
Lee Forestry Services
Auburn, 989-662-0139

- 9** Bill Rockwell, CF
Plum Line & Metropolitan Forestry Consultants
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- 10** Tom Stadt, CF
Tree Tech Forestry Consultants
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The Commercial Forest Program (CFP), which is Part 511 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994, offers landowners of at least 40 continuous acres a significant tax break. In return landowners are required to manage their properties for commercial timber production. CFP landowners are also required to allow access by the public for hunting and fishing. CFP is a voluntary program; owners are free to leave the program at any time by simply paying a withdrawal penalty. Therefore it offers minimal protection against parcelization or development.

It is difficult to make generalized statements about conservation easements because each one is unique and is tailored to a property's natural resources and the wishes of the landowners. A common easement restriction is that the property cannot be subdivided. Easements may allow for some development but greatly restrict how much and where it may occur. Many easements do allow for the commercial harvest of forest products, although some silvicultural systems such as clearcutting may be restricted. An important difference with the Commercial Forest Program is that most conservation easements on property held by individuals do not include public access. Conservation easements also do not guarantee a property tax break. However, because conservation easements are perpetual they are far better than the Commercial Forest Program at protecting our forests from parcelization and development.

While it is true that some conservation easements may not allow timber harvesting, those few restrictive easements are not as great a threat to our commercial wood supply as parcelization. Owners of smaller tracts of forestland tend to be less likely to harvest timber than owners with larger holdings.

The idea of placing permanent restrictions on private property is certainly not for everyone. But conservation easements can be compatible with the Commercial Forest Program so long as timber management is allowed and public access is not restricted. By working together these two programs can be important tools in maintaining our supply of timber, public access to outdoor recreation, and private ownership of our precious forest resources.

—Ernie Houghton, Escanaba, Michigan

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to last issue's "Viewpoints" article, "Conservation Easements on Michigan Commercial Forest Lands". Author Tolksdorf makes a number of incorrect statements that would lead readers to believe that conservation easements have no place in forest management. I strongly disagree. In fact, over time, I believe that lands placed under conservation easements may supply more commercial wood products than those not under easement.

Tolksdorf states, "The (conservation) easements can prohibit road construction, residential and commercial building, timber harvesting..." The key word is "can". Sure, conservation easements CAN be written to prohibit most any activity that goes against the grain of conservation. The basis of a conservation easement is to restrict development rights. The owner of the land and the holder of the easement will cooperatively determine what, if any, additional restrictions will be included in an easement. Many easements allow sustainable forestry practices to be carried out. Some require it.

The Viewpoints article goes on to imply that lands enrolled under the Commercial Forest Act in Michigan could not have conservation easements placed on them, and vice versa. This is not the case. In talking with one of the DNR's Service Foresters, I was told that land holdings with conservation easements could be enrolled in the Commercial Forest Reserve, so long as the easement allowed sustainable timber harvesting and public access for hunting and fishing, as required by the act. (Of course, the land would also have to meet CFR requirements of productivity, etc.)

Tolksdorf also states, "Most conservation easements have been promoted by environmental organizations for permanent preservation on private, commercial, industrial, city, township, state and federal forest lands." As mentioned above, easements are written cooperatively by the owner and the easement holder. No landowner is forced into an easement that is contrary to his or her wishes. And, what constitutes "most"? Does that mean the greatest number of easements? The greatest acres involved? The following paragraphs describe a

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very large conservation easement project, covering many (most?) acres that will be protected against development, but will continue to be sustainably managed for forest products, providing jobs in the U.P. and contributing to our economy.

The "Northern Great Lakes Forest Project" is a unique partnership between The Nature Conservancy, the State of Michigan, The Forestland Group, and many foundations and private individuals. It places 248,000 acres under a working forest conservation easement. That means the land will continue to be owned by The Forestland Group, it will remain on local tax rolls, it will allow sustainable forestry to continue, but it will have restricted future development. Another 23,338 acres will be owned by TNC; these acres will also continue to be sustainably managed for forest products.

How can this be a bad thing for the forest industry or residents of the U.P.???? The only real restriction is that the land cannot be developed. Responsible, sustainable forestry will continue on these acres of forestland.

This brings up another point. Conservation Easements aim to restrict development. Development and associated parcelization would truly have negative impacts on the forest industry and associated economies. Once land is broken into smaller and smaller parcels, it becomes more difficult to manage. This brings us back to my earlier prediction that in time, lands under conservation easements will produce more forest products because those will be the lands that CAN be managed for forest products.

Sincerely,
Lauri LaBumbard, Forester

Private Lands Need a Higher Management Priority

Forests are a major feature of our Michigan landscape. The fact is, only four other states have greater acreages in forest cover than Michigan. They are: Georgia, Oregon, Alabama and North Carolina. All totaled, approximately 19 million acres of forestland exist in Michigan covering a little more than half of the state. These forests are located primarily in the northern 2/3 of the state.

The largest forest ownership category in Michigan is held by more than 320,000 private individuals. More recently these owners have been referred to as family owned forests. Collectively these people control nearly 53% or about 8.5 million acres of the state's forest land. These non-public lands provide a large range of environmental and economic benefits to the state of Michigan.

These owners hold large acreages of high quality timber. They currently contribute more than half of the annual timber supply needs. In addition, their lands provide us with numerous recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking just to name a few. Their contribution to our tourism industry is difficult to quantify yet it's significant. They contribute to cleaning our air and water; and they play a tremendous role in the overall welfare of all of our wildlife species.

The movement toward reliance on private lands in meeting the needs of society has never been greater and this trend shows no signs of reversing. As more and more restrictions are placed on how we are to use and manage our public land resources, the onerous will be placed on the family owned forest to meet society's needs.

Over the years, many studies and surveys have been conducted on this ownership category. One of the underlying focuses of these studies was to learn more about these individuals. How did they acquire their land? Do they live on the land? How much land do they own? What is the single most important reason they own their land? What motivates them to be active stewards? Where do they get information to guide their decision making for the land? These are among a few of the many inquiries made as a part of these studies.

Some of the findings weren't surprising, some were. Among the findings that raise concern is the

fact that only a small percentage (about 20%) of private forest landowners received any professional assistance, whether governmental or from the private sector prior to engaging in activities such as harvesting. What this likely means is that a lot of private landowners are making important decisions for their forests without being fully aware of the impacts of their decisions. Furthermore, it's likely any discussion regarding viable options for management were missing from the equation.

Another finding showed that only about 5% of current forest owners have a purposeful, written plan in place that sets out how they want their forests to be managed. The operative word here is managed verses being cut. Although many private forest owners initially express little interest in cutting trees on their land, ultimately most do. How, when and where they have it done and how much they are willing to reinvest in stewardship of their land is almost always a function of whether they've planned ahead. The most satisfied landowners tend to be those who've planned ahead and the inverse is the least satisfied tend to be those who didn't.

Additional studies confirm the number of private land owners to be on a steady increase. It may sound trite, but we're not making any more land. More owners equates to smaller parcels. The importance of this fact is, as the average parcel size declines, owners are less likely to actively manage their forests for sustainable timber and non-timber benefits. Small forest parcels produce less timber, which can force heavier cutting in the short-term to meet landowner financial needs.

As is the case with so many things in life, timing is everything. Perhaps now is the time to place a higher priority on the management of our private land forests before it is too late. Private lands have been labeled as being the least managed and most

under utilized ownership category in the state. It is not likely this trend will reverse itself as long as they continue to be the most underserved ownership category in the state.

Providing family forest owners with opportunities for education and assistance may offer the best prospects for future generations. The ultimate goal for any assistance program should be to help the family forest owner to make the same management decisions they would make if he or she had a technical background in natural resource management.

The one common denominator in every natural

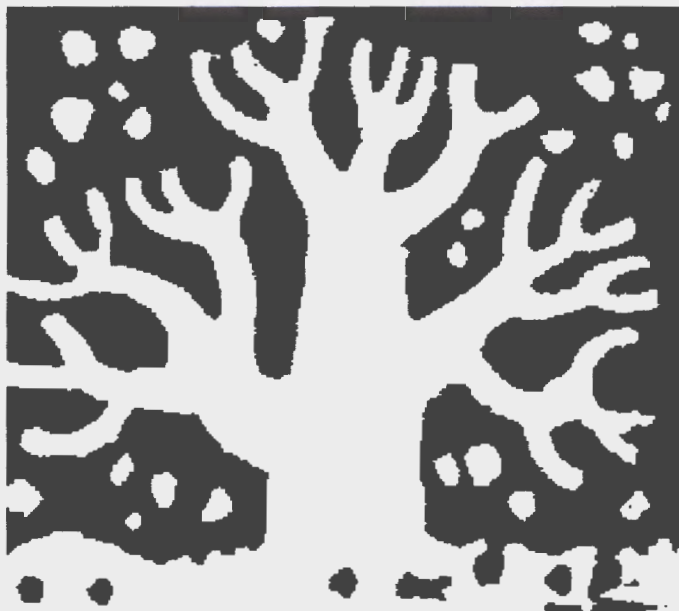
resource issue or concern across all ownerships is the human factor.

Knowledgeable landowners and informed citizens, those who use natural resource professionals when making decisions and gathering facts, tend to make decisions more consistent with principles of sustainable resource management.

The unique aspects and contributions of our family owned forests must not continue to be overlooked. Michigan is

blessed with a wealth of natural resources found on all ownerships lending to the quality of life of its citizens. By coming together and recognizing all the land as one provides us with the greatest gift to the future for conservation on the land.

—Rick A. Lucas, Conservation District Forester



Jerry Grossman, Forester of the Year 2005:

Jerry is president of Grossman Forestry Company, which has been serving family forest owners since 1990. His interest in the practice of forestry is both wide-ranging and far-reaching.

Jerry is an RAB ISO 14000 Environmental Lead Auditor and an American Tree Farm System Group Certification Lead Auditor as well as a Tree Farm Inspector. In July of 2005, the Grossman Tree Farm Group received a certificate of conformance to the American Forest Foundation Standards for Sustainability. This is only the 8th Tree Farm Group Certification in the nation.

In addition to running a consulting firm, Jerry has served on Michigan's Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, Michigan Technological University's Forest Technician program advisory board, the SAF accreditation team for the University of Illinois at Champagne and as president of the Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters.

Jerry has served the state society as secretary-treasurer, treasurer, finance chair for the 1998 national convention and the 2004 state chair. In addition to being an active SAF member, Jerry also encourages and supports attendance at SAF meetings by his staff foresters.

In recognition of his contributions to forestry, Jerry has received the Michigan Forest Association Woodland Service Award, the Michigan Forest Stewardship Program Outstanding Steward Award and the Michigan Society of American Foresters Young Forester of the Year Award.

It is for this dedication to the practice and profession of forestry and to the Michigan SAF that we award the 2005 Forester of the Year Award to Jerry Grossman.

Jason Stephens, Young Forester of the Year 2005:

Jason is a graduate of Michigan Technological University. While at MTU, Jason served one year as chair of the student chapter of the Michigan SAF.

After a stint with Hydrolake Leasing Company, Jason began his career with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in January of 2002 as a forest technician. Within a year he was promoted to the forester level and in February of 2005 was promoted again to the position of silviculturalist.

Jason has helped with the state's forest certification work through being an internal auditor, leading an effort to update silvicultural guidelines, helping develop cover type analyses for the eight state forest management units which were audited this September, helping assess timber harvest trends and through carrying out an array of other inventory, silviculture, and timber sales-related work. In particular, he has been an important contributor to the development and rollout of the new State Forest IFMAP inventory system.

It is for this dedication to the sustainable use of Michigan's forest resources that we award the 2005 Young Forester of the Year Award to Jason Stephens.

Dr. Donald Dickmann, Retired Forester of the Year 2005:

Dr. Dickmann is Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University, Department of Forestry. Dr. Dickmann retired from MSU in 2004, where for 31 years he taught a generation of young foresters the art as well as the science of forest management. In addi-

tion to teaching undergraduates, Dr. Dickmann has mentored many graduate students who themselves have gone on to become faculty members.

Dr. Dickmann has written numerous scientific articles in the areas of intensive culture of poplar, oak and pine regeneration, fire ecology and plant ecology. In addition, he is the author or co-author of several books, including the recently published *The Forests of Michigan* and *Michigan Forest Communities-A Field Guide and Reference*.

Dr. Dickmann served as a member of the North American Poplar Council and sat on its Executive Board. He also served on the Editorial Review Board of *Tree Physiology*, the Editorial Advisory Board for *Forest Science*, the Board of Directors of the Michigan Forest Association, and served as Chair of the Society of American Foresters' Tree Physiology Working Group.

A popular speaker, Dr. Dickmann frequently has been called upon by the Society of American Foresters to provide information on the latest in forest science research. Dr. Dickmann also is serving as the 2005 state society chair and as a member of the House of Society Delegates.

It is for his dedication to the practice and teaching of forestry and for his service to the state society that we present the 2005 Retired Forester of the Year Award to Dr. Donald Dickmann.



***Three Foresters of the Year for 2005, with various SAF Fellows behind them:
Front row, left to right: Jason Stephens, Jerry Grossman, and Don Dickmann
Back row, left to right: Bernie Hubbard, Mike Moore, Ron Scott, Bill Rockwell,
Jerry Thiede, and Karen Potter-Witter.***

ELECTION OF McCLAIN B. SMITH AS AN SAF FELLOW

SAF President John Helms has notified the Michigan SAF of the election of Mac Smith as SAF Fellow. The election as "Fellow" is the finest formal respect we, as a society, can bestow upon a colleague, friend, and forester. Most of our membership has probably met Mac over the many years of service that he has provided to the forestry profession. He serves as an excellent role model for all foresters, both young and old. Mac has been an SAF member for 45 years and is currently the Executive Director of the Michigan Forest Association.

As stated by President Helms in his letter to Mac; "... this is an exceptional recognition bestowed upon you by your peers for outstanding service to the Society and to the profession. It is an honor that few receive and one that you richly deserve."

What is a "Fellow," anyway?

Fellows are members of the SAF who have rendered outstanding service to forestry and the Society and demonstrated (1) a strong continuing commitment through direct SAF volunteer activities, and (2) exemplary action, sustained leadership, and advancement of the forestry profession at the local, regional, national or international level in at least one of the following areas (a) application of forestry, or (b) education, or (c) research, or (d) technology transfer.



Lower Peninsula Chapter Meeting

4 March 2006

MSU Campus (East Lansing), Natural Resources Building, Room 183 ("Polar Bear Room")

The Lower Peninsula Chapter will host a rare get-together during MSU's Agriculture and Natural Resources Week on Saturday, March 4th from 9:30am-3:30pm. This meeting will be held jointly with the Walnut Council. The first half of the day will be spent discussing hardwood resource markets in the Lower Peninsula, and the second half will explore the science and politics behind deer habitat impacts, and reaching population balances. For more information, contact Collin Burnett (734-604-4278) or Georgia Peterson (petersog@msu.edu or 517-335-7383).

Society of American Foresters 2006 National Convention

25-29 October 2006

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

"In 2006, the national convention theme is "Our Woods: Wild and Working." we believe that forests can remain an important part of our social and ecological landscape, producing both ecological and economic services. If we fail to capture both the wild and working components of forests, society's demand and new land-use patterns will surely change the landscape so that it no longer meets our nation's needs and its ecological and social values will decline. Therefore, we encourage you to think about your role in helping to meet a set of services and to continue to do so in sustainable ways...We invite you to come and tell your story."

—2006 Convention Program Committee



(Continued from page 1)

determine if any changes are necessary.

- A shared responsibility will be established between the national vice-president and the immediate past president for oversight of national committees and task forces.
- The idea of a web-based "Ask the Expert" program was scuttled. Instead, SAF staff is producing a "Roots of Forestry" directory on the national web site that will provide back issues of the *Journal of Forestry* to members.
- The responsibilities of the Investment Committee and the Gift Acceptance Committee have been consolidated into the new charter of the Finance Committee.
- HSD recommended several ways that student members could be brought into the decision-making structure of SAF, both at the local and national level. Council passed these recommendations on to a subcommittee for further deliberation.

There was one part of the VOS report that everyone agreed with—the Forward. There the problems confronting SAF were clearly laid out, especially waning membership. SAF clearly cannot continue on its present path, shedding members every year. HSD recommended that Council engage the membership from the grassroots up to evaluate the scope and operation of SAF. Council directed the current SAF president and vice-president to bring to Council sometime in 2006 their suggestions for how to engage the membership. HSD also presented to Council a list of 50 suggestions on how to more effectively support state and chapter societies.

Many HSD representatives expressed concern that no Forester's Fund grants were given in 2005 and that investments of Forester's Fund monies have performed miserably. As a result of HSD actions, a report from the new Finance Committee will be made available each year to the membership that will detail the investment instruments, distributions, earnings, and balances of the Forester's Fund. Council voted to authorize \$4000 in Forester's Fund grants for 2006.

Some members of the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) are unhappy with the SAF Code of Ethics, and some have actually quit SAF.

The issue apparently is over wording in the ethics Preamble and Principle and Pledges 1 and 2, specifically—in the view of some ACF members—undo emphasis on service and responsibility to society vs. landowner rights. A motion was passed by HSD to direct the SAF Ethics Committee to discuss with the ACF Ethics Committee possible ways to resolve this issue. (I voted against the motion because I didn't like the idea of few members representing an organization outside SAF calling into question a code of ethics that was, after much deliberation, voted into effect by our membership.) A member of Council who also belongs to ACF will discuss these concerns at this year's ACF National Convention. The chair of the SAF Ethics Committee also will pursue resolution of the conflict.

HSD also moved that the SAF bylaws be amended to remove the percentage limitation on fellows and the limitation on the number of individuals that may be nominated for fellow. Council passed a change in the bylaws that establishes a District Fellows Committee—made up of at least five fellows, one from each state or multi-state society—that is appointed by the district council representative. This committee will forward fellow nominees to the district representative, who will carry them to Council for action.

Finally, Michael Goergen, Executive Vice-President and CEO, presented to HSD the 2004 annual report. This report is nicely done and available on the national SAF web site. I recommend you take a look at it. We also received a draft of a new Communications Handbook, which should be out some time early in 2006. This handbook will be excellent, covering small and large group communications, as well as working with news media and local and state governments. I believe this handbook also will be available on the web site.

I have enjoyed serving this past year as state chair, and I hope that I have at the least kept us on course. I look forward to being engaged in the society for years to come. The best to you all in the coming year.

—Don Dickmann, Michigan SAF Chair & 2005 Retired Forester of the Year

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DON'T FORGET to renew your annual Michigan SAF membership.



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.

Deadline for the next issue is February 28th!



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