



# The Michigan Forester

Published by the Michigan Society of American Foresters

Summer 2007 (Number 62)

## Comments from the State Chair

We are halfway through another MSAF year and well into a hot summer. Our Society has already accomplished a number of things and we have a number more planned. It's a good year to be a forester in forestry in the Society of American Foresters!

Let me first announce that Ernie Houghton is our 2007 Vice-chair to be State Chair in 2008. Congratulations and thanks to Ernie for taking on this important job! You may have noticed that we did not hold an election for this position. To make a long story short, we had some problems with the process, so in June the Executive Team voted and agreed to appoint Ernie as Vice-chair. Our by-laws do state that an election is required, but the Executive Team felt that at this point in the year it was best to get the position filled and move forward. If anyone has a concern, (other than Ernie) please contact me.



We also have a new Secretary through 2008. Jason Mittlestat has stepped down after two years in this position and Martha Sjogren has stepped up. I'd like to thank Jason for his hard work and thank Martha for the hard work yet to come. There is always room for more volunteers in SAF, so let me know if we can find a place for you!

Our spring meeting on Emerging Technologies in Woody Biomass Use was a big success; we had about 75 people attend the 3 days of speakers, panel discussions, and field visits in Escanaba and we made more money than we spent. In addition, I won a prize at the MSAF Education Fund raffle! I'd like to thank Bill Cook, Don Howlett, Ray Miller, and Jack Penagor for organizing such a timely and interesting meeting.

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The planning for the fall meeting is well underway by the LP Chapter. The topic will be Forest Management in Riparian Areas. There will be indoor and outdoor sessions and maybe even a canoe trip. The meeting will take place in the Roscommon/Grayling area in October. Ideas and suggestions are still welcome!

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From the Chair

## A Letter from the Editor

Summer somehow managed to slide by, and we will soon be careening into fall. I hope that this newsletter finds you satisfied by all your summer excursions and adventures.

If you are lucky enough to have ever traveled overseas, do you find yourself eyeing the forested lands, evaluating their health, size & vigor? My husband and I had the good fortune to visit Scotland in June. I couldn't help but notice any forested stands we came across. Surprisingly, there seemed to be large swaths of pine plantations and various hardwood stands on the mountainsides in the middle of the country. And yes, Scots Pine was healthy and plentiful.

One of the best purchases I made was a small, eight page bulletin on forestry at a little local museum for 20 pence. In it, the author described the Scots version of "Rosie the Riveter" during the second World War. It seems there were women's logging camps there, harvesting timber for pit props, sleepers and telegraph poles for the war effort. The Women's Timber Corps did everything from felling to bucking to hauling the logs to sea. Unlike the "colorful" entertainment we hear about from our own historical logging camps, these ladies' only source of enjoyment—at least officially—was a visit from a mobile cinema every two weeks.

Anyone familiar with Scotland knows that the weather there is usually pretty clammy—possibly the reason why whisky was created. It makes me thankful for some aspects of our modern times, where fellow foresters and loggers can (usually) find a warm place to eat and sleep after a challenging day in the field.

—Georgia Peterson

Scots pine in its native habitat.



### 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:**

**Editor: Georgia Peterson**  
**c/o MDNR FMFMD**  
**PO Box 30452**  
**Lansing, MI 48909**  
**Phone: (517) 335-7383**  
**Fax: (517) 373-2443**

#### Issue

**Fall 2007**

#### Submission Deadline

**November 15**



*(Continued from page 1)*

MSAF did approve an updated position statement on fire. Our old position had expired and the Executive Team felt that it was worthwhile to update and approve a new version that will be good through 2012. The text is included in this issue of the Michigan Forester for your review.

The election process for 2008 will be a little different this year. For those members with an email address, voting at both National and State level will be done on-line. Those that do not have an email address will still receive a paper ballot. You should receive your email with your unique URL on October 1<sup>st</sup> and you'll have to about November 1<sup>st</sup> to cast your vote. SAF has moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

On a local note of interest, Christel C. Kern of the Ecology & Silviculture of Lake States Forests Research Work Unit of the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station will be re-measuring the northern hardwoods experimental plots in the Dukes Experimental Forest this summer. These plots are some of the original northern hardwoods research conducted by the North-Central Station. The data will be analyzed and they'll write-up their results this fall and winter. Perhaps there will be a workshop on northern hardwoods in 2008?

I recently had the privilege of attending the retirement party of Maclane [Mac] Smith. As many of you know, Mac has been the Executive Director of the Michigan Forest Association (MFA) for the past 18 years. Mac is also an SAF member and Fellow. At the retirement party we presented Mac with his SAF 60 year membership certificate. Mac has been an important part of Michigan forestry for a long time. I first met Mac when he was my Surveying and Mapping instructor at forestry camp in 1980. May we all live as long, be as active and provide as much to the forestry community. Thanks Mac!

—Doug Heym, 2007 State SAF Chair

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## **A Day in the Life...**

If you have a moment, take a peek at Bill Cook's ongoing efforts to create a "Day in the Life" series of professionals in forestry on the Michigan SAF website ([www.michigansaf.org](http://www.michigansaf.org)). If you happen to know young people who are soon to start a new school year and are looking for career options, this is definitely a place to browse. To-date, browsers can read about an arborist, association director, Conservation District forester, consulting forester, entomologist, forestry Extension Educator, firefighter, lobbyist, silviculturalist, and more!

There are lots of you out there who have yet other unique and interesting stories to tell about your own careers. Please consider contacting Bill and providing him with another "Day in the Life" to share with young people and other citizens who need to know about the diverse and exciting field of forestry.

## FIRE MANAGEMENT—A POSITION STATEMENT

### Introduction

Fire is a natural element of many natural ecosystems in Michigan, including forests, savannas, and prairies. These ecosystems have evolved with fire, and it plays an essential role in sustaining their viability and vigor. Land managers use prescribed fire to restore fire-adapted ecosystems and reduce fuels, but unplanned or uncontrolled fires—wildfires—can be destructive to ecosystems, to property, and even to human life. Fire management comprises the appropriate use of prescribed fire as well as the prevention and suppression of wildfires.

### Position

The Michigan Society of American Foresters (SAF) supports stable and adequate funding for wild-fire suppression and ongoing training in fire management agencies and local fire departments. Programs that educate landowners and local governments of the danger of wildfire and methods for minimizing risk also are sorely needed, as are fuel reduction programs.

Michigan SAF also supports the use of prescribed fire under proper weather and fuel conditions to achieve clearly defined land management objectives. Prescribed fires must be conducted under conditions that minimize the potential health hazards and visibility effects of smoke. The benefits of prescribed fire also must be weighed against the risks of it escaping. A cadre of highly trained and experienced personnel is essential for proper implementation of prescribed fire, and Michigan SAF advocates recurring training of personnel in agencies and organizations doing prescribed burning.

*A position adopted by the Executive Committee of the Michigan Society of American Foresters on March 20, 2002, and revised and extended on May 30, 2007, which will expire after five years unless revised, extended, or withdrawn. The Michigan Society of American Foresters is the scientific and educational association of professional foresters, including consultants, researchers, professors, students, and employees of public agencies and private firms. The Mission of SAF is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry to benefit current and future generations.*

### Background

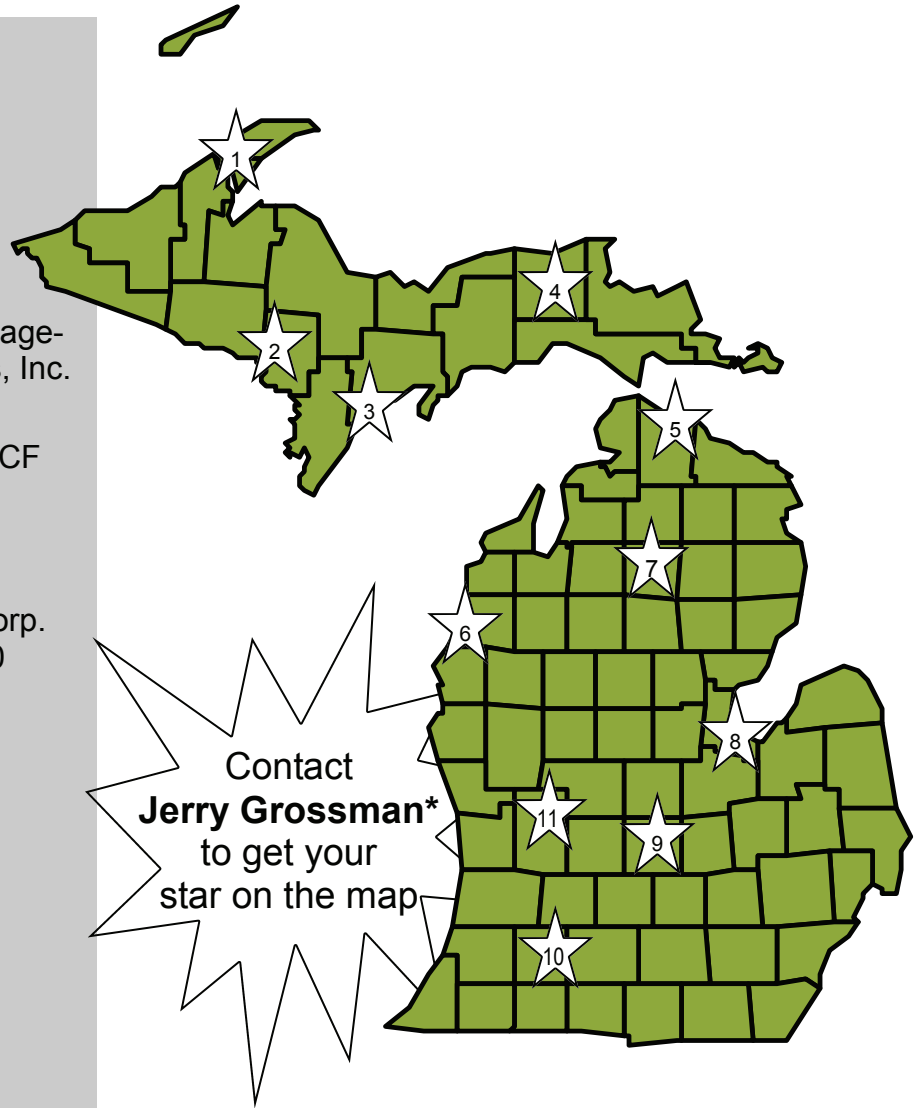
Michigan's fire history has taken some extreme turns. During the millennia preceding the major Euroamerican settlement that began in the early 1800s, fires were a common occurrence in Michigan ecosystems, with Native People effectively using it as a land management practice. During the period of rampant forest exploitation that began in the mid 1800s, wildfires of catastrophic proportions—the effects of which can still be seen—burned back and forth across the Michigan landscape. By the 1920s little forest was left to burn. Eventually, fire prevention and suppression efforts improved so that fire was effectively excluded. The last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed a growing recognition by ecologists and foresters that fire was a natural part of ecosystems adapted to it and intentional prescribed fires were needed to reintroduce this potent disturbance agent.

Nationwide and in Michigan, the risk of catastrophic wildfires is high. Conifer forests—those dominated by species like pines, spruces, and firs—are at highest risk. Many of these forests have matured without the low-intensity maintenance fires that historically occurred, resulting in dense stands containing large fuel loads. Fires that ignite in such forests can quickly become raging conflagrations that are difficult and very expensive to suppress. It is likely that a warming of the climate will only accentuate this problem. Another alarming trend is the dramatic rise in permanent or recreational homes in or near fire-prone ecosystems. This increasing rural population increases the probability that a wildfire will be ignited, as over 90%

*(Continued on page 6)*

# 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, ACF & 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  
St. Johns, 989-224-4600
- 10 Tom Stadt, CF  
Tree Tech Forestry Consultants  
Augusta, 269-760-3565
- 11 Steve Ruddell, CF  
Forecon Inc.  
Rockford, 616-874-9934



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**Jerry Grossman\***  
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*(Continued from page 4)*

of Michigan wildfires are human-caused. People in forests also greatly complicate fire-fighting strategies as saving lives and structures becomes the highest priority for fire-fighter ranks already stretched thin.

**Issue:** The “wildland-urban interface” refers to areas where human communities and wild natural communities abut; the “wildland-urban intermix” occurs where human and wild communities intermingle (both abbreviated WUI). The interface and intermix present unique challenges for fire managers in areas where the wild community is fire prone. Forests dominated by red and jack pines that occur in northern Michigan are particularly risky (Haight et al. 2004). Professional foresters can help to educate people living in high-risk WUI areas on the danger of wildfire, as well as on landscaping and building materials and designs that can mitigate fire danger. Local governments also need to be advised of potential wildfire risks when crafting zoning ordinances and building and insurance codes. The national Firewise program (<http://www.firewise.org>) and Michigan State University Extension (<http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/intro.cfm>) produce excellent materials and programs for educating people about wildfire risks and mitigation.

**Issue:** During the last few decades the accumulation of fuel to dangerous levels has occurred in many conifer forests, due principally to exclusion of the low-to moderate-intensity fires that once burned through them. Recent research has shown that these fire-prone Michigan ecosystems still burn more frequently than hardwood-dominated, fire-resistant ecosystems, but the frequency of fire is much lower than in pre-Euroamerican settlement times (Cleland et al. 2004). The federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and the Healthy Forests Initiative that grew out of it are designed to accelerate fuel-hazard-reduction activities, especially in the WUI. Thinning dense stands may be necessary before prescribed fire can be employed to maintain safe fuel levels. Forest managers need to be actively engaged in assessing fuel levels and implementing fuel-reduction treatments where necessary. Funding for these activities on both the state and federal level must increase and, in fact, investments in fuel reduction treatments could pay for themselves by lowering future wildfire suppression costs (Snider, Daugherty, and Wood 2006).

**Issue:** “Fire-dependent” Michigan ecosystem types, such as jack pine or paper birch, depend on fire for natural regeneration and forest type perpetuation. Endangered species, like the Kirtland’s warbler and Karner blue butterfly, utilize specific habitats that historically were created by frequent fires. Certain stand characteristics that were historically common, such as the open, low-growing understory of mature red and white pine forests, were maintained by occasional surface fires. Numerous pests are controlled by fires that burn across the forest floor where these organisms complete part of their life cycle. Finally, the now-rare savannas and prairies of Michigan owe their very existence to regular fires. Only through implementation of regular prescribed burning by knowledgeable and experienced

professionals can these species and ecosystems be maintained or restored to their historic condition.

**Issue:** Failing to allow professional flexibility in the use of prescribed fire as a management tool can adversely affect both forest values and citizen welfare. Land management agencies and industrial landowners must implement fire-management policies that include both fire suppression and prescribed fire. Exclusion of either will continue to bring unwanted consequences. Use of prescribed fire—as with any tool—has a negative side: prescribed fires occasionally escape and become wildfires, and they produce smoke which can be an annoyance and a health hazard. Professional fire managers and foresters need to build the regular implementation of prescribed fire into their long-range plans and seek adequate funding to carry them out. They also must exercise diligence and responsibility when carrying out fire plans.

### **Final Discussion**

The goal of modern fire management is to minimize fire's destructive effects while maximizing its long-term ecological and social benefits. This goal can be accomplished only by a combination of a high standard of professional expertise in both wildfire suppression and prescribed fire implementation, increased public awareness of fire's danger and benefits, and adequate local, state, and federal funding.

### **References:**

- Cleland, D.T., T.R. Crow, S.C. Saunders, D.I. Dickmann, A.L. Maclean, J.K. Jordan, R.L. Watson, A.M. Sloan, and K.D. Brosofske. 2004. Characterizing historical and modern fire regimes in Michigan (USA): A landscape ecosystem approach. *Landscape Ecology* 19:311-325.
- Haight, R. G., D.T. Cleland, R.B. Hammer, V.C. Radeloff, and T.S. Rupp. 2004. Assessing fire risk in the wildland-urban interface. *J. Forestry* 102(7):41-48.
- Snider, G., P.J. Daugherty, and D. Wood. 2006. The irrationality of continued fire suppression: an avoided cost analysis of fire hazard reduction treatments versus no treatment. *J. Forestry* 104:431-437).
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## **Michigan Forest Association Proposal for Michigan Government to Target the Forest Industry for Economic Development**

The citizens of Michigan are in urgent need of an expanding and more diversified economy. The forest resources of Michigan, both public and private, are capable of producing a greater sustainable harvest of economic benefits. Natural resource leaders can be decisive contributors to the essential solutions. We must develop a strategic direction for managing all our forests by raising our forest based economic sector to a Target Industry status. By focusing our efforts, we can make a larger contribution to a stronger economy while maintaining healthy forests.

A targeted status for our forest based industries is needed because of Michigan's weak economy and is possible because of untapped forest resource capacity. Michigan is losing manufacturing jobs and energy costs are rising. A large wood surplus (growth over harvest) exists, which could provide the basis for forest industry expansion and employment and provide cost effective energy solutions. Challenges, such as forest ownerships breaking into smaller units, work against economic efficiency and ecological integrity and must be addressed. We need to better inform the general public on the wise use of forest resources. Michigan needs targeted public policies that lead to new and more efficient wood using plants and woody biomass energy production while continuing recreational opportunities and environmental benefits.

Important work was underway in the 1980s and 1990s that targeted forestry as able to contribute important economic benefits to the people of Michigan. We urge leaders to review some important documents from that era, including A Statewide Forest Resources Plan—Direction for the Future approved by the Natural Resources Commission on 11-5-82. This is still official policy. This plan concluded, "Michigan's forests can best serve the state's people if management of those forests emphasizes economic development." Other essential works include, The Great Lakes Forest Resource Assessment developed by the Great Lakes Forest Alliance and Forest Resources as part of the Real Economy (Being part of the solution) by Dr. Henry Webster et al. (2004).

"Natural resources intelligently used are capital assets for economic growth," wrote Dr. Webster. He also said, "Sustainable development intelligently applied recognizes that the first thing to be sustained is the fabric of society." This insight and conclusions from these publications provide essential ingredients to the strategic vision for managing and utilizing Michigan's forests and other natural resources.

Previous efforts in Michigan and the Lake States were developed and enhanced with support from several Governors' Conferences. We recommend a Governors Conference on forests and forestry in 2007 or early 2008 as a gathering place for the best thought on the future of our forests.

We can create jobs and diversify Michigan's economy with enlightened policies with a targeted strategy for our forests.

--Michigan Forest Association



## **Mac Smith Retires as Michigan Forest Association Executive Director**

I suppose that old foresters truly do retire – although many of us thought that Mac would work forever... Mac has had a significant positive influence on a very large number of Michigan Foresters and landowners. Mac taught the first forestry class I took as a freshman in Ann Arbor (26 years ago – time does fly). After the first early morning class it was apparent that lots of coffee was in order. No matter, the topic was interesting (fire), and Mac was a willing and able instructor. A generation of foresters will remember Mac at Golden Lake as he taught classes, ran the camp and of course canoed across Golden Lake wearing his hard hat – Safety First!!!

At the end of the day, there are a few ideas that Mac taught everyone who was willing to listen.

Do the right thing,  
be thoughtful,  
be considerate of others and their ideas,  
be humble,  
be kind hearted,  
love this wonderful resource that we call the Michigan Forest.

Mac – your legacy will live on for many decades.

—Gerald Grossman ACF & CF  
Michigan Registered Forester #567

*Note: Bill Botti has now officially taken the position as executive director for Michigan Forest Association. The MFA office has therefore moved from Ann Arbor to Eaton Rapids. The new office address is: 6120 S. Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. The e-mail address will remain: miforest@acd.net.*



## **Someone out there deserves recognition!**

As the 2007 Fall SAF Conference approaches, don't forget that we're looking for nominations for the following awards:

**Forester of the Year:** Recognizes service to professional forestry. Nominations must include the signatures of ten SAF members in good standing. Please include a brief biographical sketch.

**Young Forester of the Year:** Recognizes service to professional forestry and the state society by an individual age 35 or under. Please include a brief statement on why the candidate has been nominated.

**Retired Forester of the Year:** Recognizes service to professional forestry and the state society since retirement. Please include a brief statement on why the candidate has been nominated.

If anyone has any person they believe are worthy of a nomination for these awards please email the Michigan SAF awards chair, Craig Kasmer, at [kasmerc@michigan.gov](mailto:kasmerc@michigan.gov) or telephone him at Hartwick Pines State Park at 989-348-2537.

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## **Mark your calendars for the Fall 2007 Michigan SAF meeting: Forest Management in Riparian Areas 30-31 October 2007 Ralph A. MacMullan Center, Roscommon**

The interaction between forests and surface water is a very complex and diverse system. Attend the fall meeting to discuss thorny problems like beaver vs. trout, and take a tour of some successful management examples in riparian areas. For more information, contact Georgia Peterson at [petersog@msu.edu](mailto:petersog@msu.edu) or 517-335-7383 or John Pilon at [pilonj@michigan.gov](mailto:pilonj@michigan.gov).



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

2007 Chair: Doug Heym  
2006 Past Chair: Don Howlett  
2008 Chair-elect: Ernie Houghton  
Secretary: Martha Sjogren  
Treasurer: John Pilon  
District V Representative: Bernie Hubbard

Awards: Craig Kasmer  
Sustainable Forestry Initiative: Ron Scott  
Continuing Forestry Education: Debra Huff  
Membership: Amy Douglass  
LSSU Liaison: Bernie Hubbard  
MSU Liaison: Karen Potter-Witter  
MTU Liaison: Margaret Gale

Foresters' Fund Chair: Mike Elenz  
MSAF Webmaster: Bill Cook  
Policy Team Coordinator: Bill Rockwell  
Communications Team Coordinator: Bill Cook  
Science & Tech Team Coordinator: Les Homan  
Autotour Coordinator: Glenn Moll  
Newsletter Editor: Georgia Peterson  
Newsletter Business Manager: Bill Hasse

Upper Peninsula Chapter Chair: John Penegor  
Lower Peninsula Chapter Chair: Georgia Peterson  
MSU Student Chapter Faculty Advisor: David MacFarlane  
MTU Student Chapter Chair: Margaret Gale  
U of M Student Chapter Chair: John Witter

## Michigan Society of American Foresters

### Mid-Year 2007 Budget Status Report

<b>Revenue</b>	Expected 2007 Revenue	Revenue Received as of Mid-Year
Membership Dues	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,640.00
Interest	\$ 35.00	\$ 15.02
Meetings Proceeds	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.17
Michigan SAF Education Fund	\$ 800.00	\$ -
National SAF Education Fund	\$ 400.00	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,935.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,655.19</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	Budgeted for 2007	Funds Disbursed as of Mid-Year
HSD	\$ 225.00	\$ 224.42
Chapter Dues	\$ 540.00	\$ -
Michigan Forester	\$ 800.00	\$ 700.00
General Administration	\$ 500.00	\$ 75.60
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	\$ 500.00	\$ -
State Meetings		\$ -
Michigan Bird Council Travel Support	\$ 200.00	\$ -
UP Auto Tour	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -
National Meetings Attendance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Leadership Academy Attendance (chair-elect)		\$ -
Awards	\$ 350.00	\$ 115.66
Misc (audit)		\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,215.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,115.68</b>

Total Michigan SAF cash mid-year:	\$ 6,411.90
Total Michigan SAF Education Fund cash mid-year:	\$ 4,748.63

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

**Prepared by: John Pilon, Treasurer**

## SEE YOU AT THE RAM CENTER!

Join the LP Chapter as it hosts  
the Fall 2007 meeting  
30-31 October 2007



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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 15th!**



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