

# The Michigan Forester

Number 80 Fall/Winter 2014/2015

## *A Thank You from the LP Chair...*

SAF Folks,

I would like to thank all who attended our Michigan SAF Fall Conference. We truly appreciate that you attend SAF events and make SAF a priority in your life and career.

A special thanks needs to be extended to Dave Neumann and DNR staff that helped David organize the presentations and field tour. David was a much needed partner in planning this conference and I am very pleased with the content and flow of the program. Thanks Mr. Neumann!

Another special thanks to Bill Botti for a wonderful evening of entertainment during our banquet. It was a joy and pleasure to share the evening with Bill!

For those of you who signed up and need a record of your CFE credits you can view your CFE records on-line through the National SAF website. Log in with your account information and you should be able to view the records within your account. If you are not an SAF member or for some other reason you need a paper copy of the CFE records please e-mail me at [Jason@Darlingforestry.com](mailto:Jason@Darlingforestry.com) with your name and address. I will send them out as soon as I can.

Thanks again for all who participated in our Michigan SAF Conference this fall in Petoskey. I hope to see you in the spring!

Jason W. Darling  
L.P. Chair



## *2015 SAF Spring Conference*

**When:** April 9-10, 2015

**Where:** Ramada Inn, Marquette, Michigan

**What:** A focus on trends in technology and human resources.

**Why:** Better forest management with state of the art equipment and the most talented people.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>MICHIGAN'S FORESTRY CONSULTANTS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>DNR LOWLAND CONIFER DEMONSTRATION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FIRE &amp; WILDLIFE IN THE LAKE STATES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>GCC OFFERS FOREST TECH PROGRAM.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>THE FIRST MEETING.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2013 MEMBERSHIP PIN RECIPIENTS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>EDUCATION FUND REPORT.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>BUDGET STATUS REPORT.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>FORD FORESTRY CENTER TURNS 60.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>FOREST BIOMATERIALS UPDATE.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>MTU STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE.....</b>	<b>11</b>



Michigan SAF has a Facebook page! Log on and "Like" our page to keep up to date on forestry events and connect with other MSAF Fans!  
[www.facebook.com/michigansaf](http://www.facebook.com/michigansaf)

Have something to contribute or would you like printed copy of the *Michigan Forester* Please contact Tori Irving at [irvingt@michigan.gov](mailto:irvingt@michigan.gov) or at (906) 458-1210.

# Michigan's Forestry Consultants

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**3** **Gerald Grossman, CF**  
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Newberry, MI  
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**4** **Dean Reid, CF**  
D&S Forestry  
Services Co.  
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**5** **Jerry Lambert**  
Forest Resource  
Services  
Frederic, MI  
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**6** **Richard Cooper**  
Honor, MI  
231-325-2175

**7** **Paul Drysdale, CF**  
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and Consulting  
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**8** **Scott Erickson**  
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Manistee, MI  
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**9** **Doug Lee, CF**  
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**10** **Bill Rockwell, CF**  
Plum Line & Metro  
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**11** **Robert A. Cool, CF**  
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**13** **Justin Miller, CF**  
Green Timber  
Consulting Foresters, Inc.  
Pelkie, MI  
906-353-8584

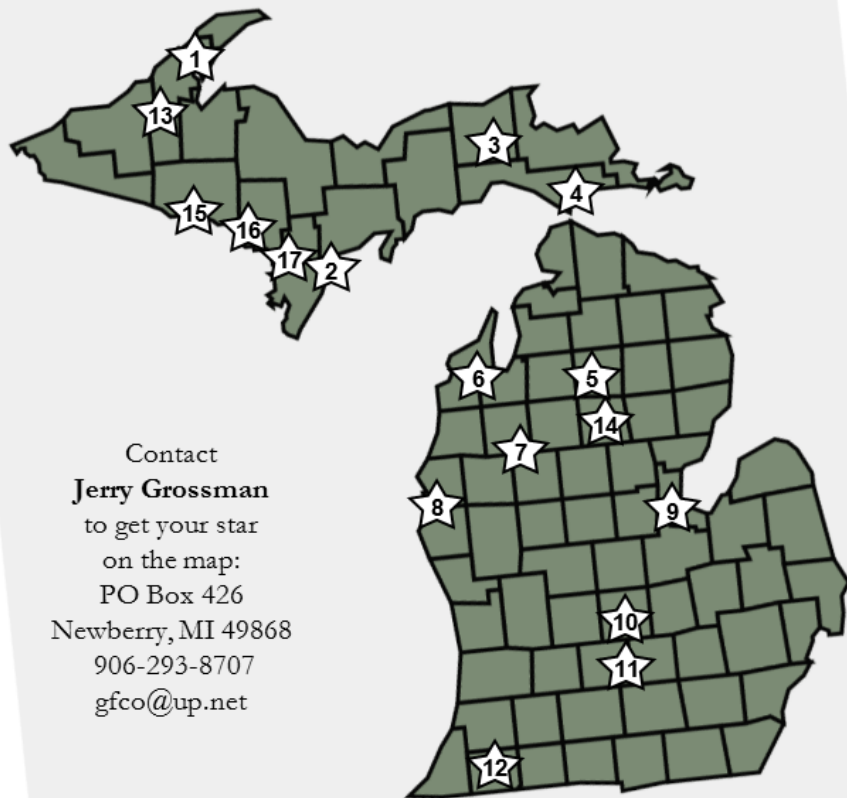
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**15** **Brock VanOss**  
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**16** **Bill Hasse**  
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Bark River, MI  
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*The STARS of Michigan's Forests!*



Contact  
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# *Michigan Department of Natural Resources*

## *Lowland Conifer Demonstration Harvest*

A significant portion of Michigan's state forest grows on sites with seasonally saturated soils. Management of these sites is important to help maintain healthy forests as well as improve wildlife habitat. With that in mind, the DNR Forest Resources Division (FRD), in coordination with Weyerhaeuser, hosted a field tour and discussion of lowland conifer management on Feb. 25, 2014.



Close to 100 foresters and wildlife biologists attended from the DNR's Forest Resources and Wildlife divisions, Michigan Conservation Districts, the forest products industry and private consulting firms. The tour showcased two sites, an active timber harvest on state land and a recently completed harvest on private land. Both sites represented typical challenges associated with harvesting and regenerating lowland conifer types.

At each site the participants were divided into groups and rotated between stations where DNR silviculturists, planners and biologists joined forest industry representatives to present information and field questions. The stations focused on: harvest design, regeneration techniques, organic soil concerns, hydrology, low-ground pressure harvesting equipment, wildlife habitat, markets, and acceptable regeneration.



The active harvest site on state land was designed to demonstrate different silvicultural techniques and harvest methods for regenerating lowland conifers where the water table was at or near the surface. Half of the treatment area was set up to be strip cut, the other half had retention islands established. Both methods were designed to serve the purpose of seed dispersal and to help regulate the hydrology of the site. The state harvest site was divided into two harvesting areas of equal size, approximately 15 acres each. Each site had a different sale layout designed to accomplish the objectives: one harvest area had four leave strips approximately 100 feet wide, while the other harvest area had five leave islands. The equipment being used at the site had specialized tracks secured over the tires which, according to the operator, reduced the ground pressure to less than that of a human footprint. Following harvest, staff will monitor the establishment of natural regeneration using the different sale designs.

The site on private land was similar to the state land in the species composition and high water table. Discussions focused on providing opportunities for loggers to operate on high ground if conditions became too wet to operate on the lower sites. The wildlife benefits of harvesting in the transition zones was discussed, as this is often some of the most heavily used areas by woodcock, deer and snowshoe hare. Regeneration surveys were completed at a couple of locations to show that while it takes a few years to see the results, a fully stocked stand does develop following harvest. The species composition showed that the stand was becoming restocked with cedar, hemlock, spruce, fir and aspen – all species that were present in the parent stand.

The intent of this field day was to bring together foresters, biologists, loggers, industry reps and others to discuss different ideas for managing lowland conifers. The day was a great success with everyone going home with a better understanding of options for management in these types.

The DNR would like to thank Todd Johnson and Weyerhaeuser for their partnership in this project.



## *Fire and Wildlife in the Northern Lake States*

Shelby A. Weiss, Applied Sciences Program, Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Throughout the northern Lake States, land use change has affected many native ecosystem types. A number of these ecosystems are fire-dependent, and can be defined as those in which composition, structure, and function changes when fire is removed. The Lake States Fire Science Consortium (LSFSC), funded by the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP), is a network of fire managers and scientists interested in the fire-dependent ecosystems of the northern Lake States region (<http://www.lakestatesfiresci.net/>). To enhance the existing understanding of natural disturbances, vegetation, and wildlife and the integration of this knowledge into the management of land, the LSFSC has initiated an information exchange concerning wildlife that are associated with fire dependent ecosystems. Wildlife species whose regional distribution and abundance were historically highly associated with fire-dependent ecosystem types can themselves be considered fire-dependent because vegetation patterns of their habitats were provided by the ecological process that is fire. Some charismatic species, such as the Federally Endangered Kirtland's Warbler, have been relatively well studied; however, much less is known about many other fire-dependent wildlife species in the northern Lake States. In fact, a gap analysis of peer reviewed literature on fire effects and wildlife conducted by Dr. Jessica Miesel (Michigan State Univ.) indicated that our existing regional knowledge of the interactions among disturbances, vegetation, and wildlife in fire-dependent ecosystems is still grossly incomplete (see: <http://www.lakestatesfiresci.net/KnowledgeGapProject.htm>). For many land management professionals, relevant information is lacking; in many instances, lists of fire-dependent wildlife species do not even exist. Currently, the LSFSC is mid-way through a three-year effort (2013-2015) to increase the knowledge base needed for managing wildlife species associated with fire-dependent ecosystems in the northern Lake States.

Thus far, the LSFSC has synthesized current information in state *Wildlife Action Plans* and requested input from colleagues regarding unpublished theses and dissertations and other ongoing research, inventory, and monitoring. Lists have also been developed of fire-dependent wildlife species and these were provided to resource managers and scientists for critique. Throughout northern Michigan, 44 birds (seven of which are listed as State Threatened or Endangered), 13 mammals (two of which are listed as State Threatened or Endangered), and 9 reptiles and amphibians (one of which is listed as State Threatened or Endangered) were identified as being associated with six habitat types within fire dependent ecosystems. One habitat type, dry coniferous forests, includes red pine/white pine forests, jack pine forests, jack pine openlands, and Great Lakes pine barrens and this habitat type is occupied by such species as Vesper Sparrows, heather voles, and North American racers. On the opposite end of the continuum, wet coniferous forests include conifer lowland forests, black spruce swamps, poor and rich conifer swamps and tamarack swamps and are occupied by such species as boreal chickadees and moose. Many of our fire-dependent wildlife species occupy more than one habitat type, with a few, such as Black-backed Woodpeckers, occurring in as many as four different fire-dependent forest types. Moving forward with this work, the LSFSC plans to conduct interviews this winter with land managers and wildlife professionals in an effort to 1) evaluate what they are doing in terms of inventory and monitoring, research, and management of fire-dependent wildlife species, 2) identify potential areas for collaboration with LSFSC, and 3) gather feedback on the needs of managers and researchers that the LSFSC might be able to meet. Investigators also plan to create maps with wildlife range and distribution data and overlay them with land ownership patterns to identify regional hotspots of fire-dependent species occurrence.

Principle investigators for this project are Dr. Greg Corace (Seney National Wildlife Refuge) and Dr. Lindsey Shartell (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources). For more information: [Greg\\_Corace@fws.gov](mailto:Greg_Corace@fws.gov) or 906.586.9851x14.





### ***GCC is Now Offering a Two-Year Forestry Technology Program***

Over several months, Gogebic Community College (GCC) collaborated with Michigan Technological University's (MTU) school of Forest Resources and Environmental Science to develop a two-year Associate of Applied Technology degree in Forestry Technology that began last fall.

"Forestry is so dominant in the (Upper Peninsula) region, so we were looking at finding a school that could open the doors (in this field) for those students that might not have had the opportunity," said Christopher Hohnholt of MTU's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. "Jim Lorenson (GCC President) is an alum of the MTU School of Forestry program so, it just made sense to reach out to GCC to pitch this program."

MTU and GCC have always had a strong relationship ensuring a seamless process for students transferring on to MTU and want to continue to do the same with this program.

Ken Trzaska, Dean of Instruction, along with, faculty member, Bill Perkis worked diligently over several months with Hohnholt to develop this program and to ensure that future graduates experience a smooth transfer process for those interested in continuing on to MTU.

GCC's program prepares individuals to assist foresters in the management and production of forest resources or to transfer to MTU. The program centers on students gaining experience and training in the field on conducting a forest inventory, to build strong field skills and competency, tree identification expertise, timber measurement, logging and timber harvesting, forest propagation and regeneration, forest fire fighting, resource management and operations, equipment operation and maintenance, record-keeping, sales and purchasing operations, and personnel supervision. The program requires approximately 64 credits of study with approximately 44 of those credits as core to forestry.

The program is designed for students who are interested in immediately finding gainful employment after completing the Associate of Applied Science degree or for those students interested in transferring to Michigan Tech's School of Forestry Resources and Environmental Science program.

For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at Gogebic Community College at (906) 932-4231, ext. 207, (800) 682-5910, ext. 207 or visit our website at [gogebic.edu](http://gogebic.edu).

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

**How to Enroll in Conservation Programs**  
January 29, 10-12 at the Mio Community Center  
January 29, 4-6 pm at the West Branch  
Community Center  
Contact Lora Freer at (989) 343-0923

**Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters**  
February 2 & 3  
Bellaire, Michigan at the Shanty Creek Resort  
Contact Justin Miller at  
[Justin@greentimberforestry.com](mailto:Justin@greentimberforestry.com)

**MSU Graduate Student  
Forestry Research Symposium**  
February 12  
MSU Chittenden Hall

**SFI Conference - 20th Anniversary**  
February 25  
Glandstone, Michigan at the Terrace Bay Inn  
Contact Amanda Sumerix at (517) 853-8880

**Conflict, Collaboration, & Consensus  
in Natural Resource Issues**  
Tustin, Michigan at the Kettunen Center  
Contact Georgia Peterson at (517) 353-9435

**DNR Forest Stewardship Program Workshops**  
March 18 & 19, 24-26  
Various Locations throughout the UP and LP  
Contact Mike Smalligan at (517) 284-5884

**MSAF Spring Conference**  
April 9 & 10  
Marquette, Michigan at the Ramada Inn  
Contact Chris Hohnholt at (906) 487-2417

**For more upcoming events and  
additional information, visit:**  
<http://michigansaf.org/Calendar/calendar.htm>

## *The First Meeting*

Recently, SAF Member, Doug Heym, acquired a number of past issues of something called the *Michigan Forester*. This **is not** a publication of MSAF, but an annual that was published by the Forestry Club of the University of Michigan. They belonged to Phil Dinehart, a U of M forestry grad that passed last winter. In addition to notes about the school's staff, students, summer camp, conclave, annual MSU/U of M foresters banquet, and Paul Bunyan Ball, there are short articles about forestry, such as what, in 1935, the USFS was looking for in a new forester. The annuals published during the war are particularly compelling. Over the next few editions of the MSAF *Michigan Forester*, issues of this historical publication will be reprinted.

A special thank you to Doug Heym for sharing these documents and beginning the search for a permanent home so that they can be preserved and enjoyed by forestry enthusiasts! Please enjoy the following article titled, *The First Meeting*.

Editor's note: From its inception to about the 1960's, the U of M forestry program published a 'newsletter' for alumni and students. The number of publications per year varied and so did the length. The January 1916 edition noted that the previous year there are been more printings but as of this edition the student editors were going to limit the printing to two per year. By the 20's and 30's, it seems to have gone to one per year. The length of the 1916 edition is about 40 pages and the 1939 is 100. One letter to the editor from 1916 gives one an idea of the 'newsletters' purpose: "To me it seems to serve two purposes; first, to furnish interesting news items to the undergraduates of their own doings and of the alumni. In a measure it acts like the society column in a newspaper. ... The second purpose, it gives the alumni a clew[sic] of their fellow classmates."

Over the next few issues of the Michigan Forester, I'll try to provide a few interesting notes from the past gleaned from the University of Michigan Forester. On page 3 of the January 1916 edition, there is a description of the first meeting of the forestry club for the 1915 to 1916 school year. The dean of the program gave a brief description of the history of forestry and of the school. From the University of Michigan Forester, January 1916.

The Forestry Club held its first meeting this school year in room F. 214 of the new Natural Science Building on October thirteenth. The meeting commenced promptly at seven-thirty with a short business session after which Professor Daddy Roth gave us one of his very interesting addresses which he is so capable of doing.

....

I recall the birth of the Forestry Department of this University in West Hall with two students and the grand equipment of three calipers. In those days it took a lot of enthusiasm for one to go into Forestry, so the boys had to consider the fact that they had gained one hundred percent in the number of calipers, that is from zero to three sets. This is not the case today, for today Michigan has a Forestry School without any excuses or promises.

The rise of Forestry in the United States has been very rapid. The United States Forest Service is an institution the rate of progress and efficiency of which the world has never witnessed before. A few of the major points in this development are as follows:

In 1880 Sargent made the first report of tree species in the United States. At this time he made a statement to the effect that in time the trees would be all logged off. This started a discussion and a few men began to foresee this condition as Sargent saw it. These people were given the name of Denudeatics or a new type of maniac.

In 1882 the American Forestry Association was organized at Cincinnati and later met at Montreal. Mr. Fernow and Mr. Little were instrumental in making these meetings a success.

In 1888 Dr. Fernow and Professor Spaulding made some very valuable investigations on wood and its properties.

In 1898 the establishment of the Forest Reserves took place. The law of the creation of these reserves went thru as a rider on the Sundry Civics Bill.

In 1900 Mr. Pinchot was made Chief Forester of the United States. At this time there was not a real forester in the United States with an acre of land in his charge, while today the Forester controls more timber on the stump than any one else.

In 1903 the University of Michigan Forestry School was opened and it has been growing in efficiency ever since. It also grew in numbers up till 1911, at which time it had two hundred members. The opening of Forest Schools in other parts of the county took a great number of these.

In 1904-05 Congress turned over the Forest Reserves to the Department of Agriculture which was one of the best things that ever happened to Forestry.

In 1909 Roosevelt increased the area of the National Forests by the addition of twenty million acres of land. At the present time we have one hundred and sixty million acres in the National Forests.

## *MiSAF Members Receiving Membership Pins in 2015*

Submitted by Craig Kasmer, Awards Chair

Every Spring Conference and Fall Conference, Membership Recognition Pins are handed out at the evening banquet. Please take a moment to see if your name is on the list of pin recipients for this year. If it is, be sure to attend one (or why not both?) of the conferences this year; if you recognize a friend/colleague/neighbor etc. that is on the list, please let them know that they are on the pin recipient list.

***10 Year Pin 20125 Recipients***  
(Member Since 2005)

***20 Year Pin 2015 Recipients***  
(Member Since 1995)

***30 Year Pin 2015 Recipients***  
(Member Since 1985)

***40 Year Pin 2015 Recipients***  
(Member Since 1975)

Mr. Bryan Carlson  
Mr. Paul Drysdale  
Mr. Scott King  
Mr. Keith Martell  
Mr. James Scarlata  
Mr. James Schmierer

Ms. Heather Butler  
Mr. Anthony Fulich  
Ms. Debra Huff  
Mr. Joe Jarecki  
Mr. Boyd Kahler  
Dr. Deborah McCullough  
Dr. James Pickens  
Mr. Chad Radka  
Ms. Barbara Van Alstine

Mr. Tim Baker  
Dr. Donald Dickmann  
Mr. Gregory Lusk  
Mr. Richard Mergener  
Mr. Gerald Tomandl

***50 Year Pin 2015 Recipients***  
(Member Since 1965)

Dr. James Kielbaso

***60 Year Pin 2015 Recipients***  
(Member Since 1955)

Dr. John Schultz  
Mr. Joseph Zylinski

### Michigan SAF Education Fund - 2013 Budget

Prepared by Chad Fate (As of April 2013)

Beginning Balance	\$ 886.25
<b>Income</b>	
Raffle Tickets Spring/Fall	\$1,000.00
2013 PLT Teacher Sponsorship (Pass through from MI SAF Account)	\$ 650.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
MSU Scholarship	\$ 250.00
MTU Scholarship	\$ 250.00
PLT Teacher Sponsorship 2012	\$ 650.00
PLT Teacher Sponsorship 2013	\$ 650.00
National SAF Education Fund (2/3 raffle ticket sales)	\$ 660.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 76.25</b>

## Michigan Society of American Foresters

### Year 2014 Budget and Report – DRAFT

Revenue	Expected 2014 Revenue	Revenue Received as of December 31, 2014
Membership Dues	\$2,500.00	\$2,872.27
Interest	\$50.00	\$34.37
Spring Conference Proceeds	\$1,500.00	\$1,708.57
Fall Conference Proceeds	\$1,500.00	\$1,165.37
Michigan Forester Ads	\$1,000.00	\$1,425.00
Donations, Sponsorships, etc. <sup>1</sup>	\$250.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,800.00</b>	<b>\$7,205.58</b>

Expenses	Budgeted for 2013	Funds Disbursed as of December 31, 2014
HSD Dues	\$250.00	\$215.82
Chapter Dues	\$500.00	\$660.00
Michigan Forester	\$300.00	\$-
Society Administration	\$400.00	\$315.88
Honorariums <sup>2</sup>	\$800.00	\$600.00
Meeting Attendance Support	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Donations, sponsorships, etc. <sup>3</sup>	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Leadership Academy	\$2,250.00	\$1,603.99
Awards	\$500.00	\$341.31
Student Participation Support	\$500.00	\$313.06
UP Auto Tour	\$900.00	\$600.00
Fall 2013 Conference Balance <sup>4</sup>	\$1,195.72	\$1,195.72
2013 Expenses <sup>5</sup>		\$811.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,095.72</b>	<b>\$8,657.28</b>

Budget Balance:           \$(3,295.72)           \$(1,451.70)

Cash on Hand:           \$11,148.26           \$9,696.56

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

**Prepared by: Lee Mueller, Treasurer**

<sup>1</sup> New sources.

<sup>2</sup> Editor, Education Fund, Treasurer, and Secretary each receive \$200.00

<sup>3</sup> In 2014, \$500 to MSU Research symposium.

<sup>4</sup> Corrects an error in split of 2013 fall conference proceeds with MTU.

<sup>5</sup> Checks for 2013 expenses that were cashed by recipients in 2014.





The SAF Michigan Tech Student Chapter was well represented by Lauren Rusin, Chair, and Mitchell Beach, Treasurer, at the recent festivities in Alberta, MI.

A weekend long event held at the Ford Center in Alberta, MI marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the donation of the Ford Sawmill and property to Michigan Technological University. The event was held in conjunction with the Michigan Tech School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science (SFRES) Alumni Reunion and the Michigan SAF, UP Chapter Summer Field Tour. Festivities included tours of seven different forest research sites on the property, historic village tours, a car show, wildlife viewing, blueberry picking, alumni award ceremonies, live music, and a pig roast.

The event was well attended by over 130 alumni and friends, foresters, car enthusiasts, and members of the general public. A few visitors were quite excited to see the property and knew it very well from its early days as a school forest. Jim (James) Johnson, 'year, and Jim Bailey, 'year, were part of the original crew that helped with the setup of the long-term cutting trial experiment. They were happy to see that it was still an active experiment that was continuing to not only provide work for graduate students but also answer important societal and ecological questions!

The evening's presentations included a mention of updates and future directions for the center by Andrew Burton, Director of

the Ford Center. Terry Sharik, Dean of SFRES, talked about continual linkages between the School and Ford Motor Company. A final, keynote address by Robert Kriepke, the Ford Motor Company historian, was standing room only in the conference center.

## *Celebration marked the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ford Center at Michigan Tech's Research Forest*

By Tara Bal, MI SAF UP Chapter Vice-Chair



Tours of the variable diameter limit cutting trial experiments were given by Wilf Previ- ant, PhD candidate, who has been recently studying the long-term treatments for his dissertation.



The Michigan Tech school forester, Jim Schmierer, talks about stream best management practices and recent bridge construction in the Ford Forest.

### *2015 SAF Officers*

*State Chair: Georgia Peterson.*

*UP Chair: Tara Bal.*

*LP Chair: Jason Darling*

*MSU Student Chapter Chair:  
Ryan Zimmerman*

*MTU Student Chapter Chair:  
Lauren Rusin*

# *An Update on the Michigan Biomaterials Initiative*

Tara L. Bal and Terry L. Sharik May 2, 2014

School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University

'Biomaterials' refers to any organic materials extracted from ecosystems, such as wood and products made from wood, but also includes mushrooms, maple syrup, berries, or consumptive wildlife; not just woody biomass. From a life cycle perspective, the issue is that of how to extract these materials from ecosystems without compromising their integrity; how to process these materials in a myriad of ways to fully utilize the resource; how to market them regionally, nationally, and globally; and how to recycle these "green materials" through the same or other materials, or back through ecosystems (Figure 1).

As a lot of readers may know, last October, Michigan Tech and the MISAF worked together to host a conference on "the Role of Education, Research, and Technology in a Michigan Biomaterials Initiative" in Traverse City, MI. The conference was a great success in that it connected people from a wide variety of sectors in the state of Michigan that all have a vested interest in Biomaterials. Delegates from Maine, North Carolina, Virginia, and Oregon presented on how each of their states have 'rebranded' or 'reinvented' themselves to remain or become leading biomaterials academic programs in the country. Conference goers were then charged with identifying barriers, educational programs, partnerships, and knowledge or research gaps related to biomaterials. The conference proceedings are available online at [www.mtu.edu/forest/biomaterials](http://www.mtu.edu/forest/biomaterials).

The next step was to convene a statewide committee of various stakeholders to drill down on the major barriers to moving forward with biomaterials and start developing strategies for moving forward. In March, 30 stakeholders came together at Michigan Tech for the first meeting of the Biomaterials Initiative Steering Committee. The committee went through highly anticipated 'speed dating' exercises (Figure 2) to introduce themselves to others in the room and formulate a vision and a mission for the initiative. Committee members then went on to more specifically identify topical areas for addressing critical issues related to Michigan Biomaterials under 1) trends and future markets, 2) private lands, 3) state and federal lands, 4) health of the supply chain, and 5) policy issues related to biomaterials. A number of issues and ideas came up that could be potential action items. As a result, the committee decided that the next step will be to officially formulate a strategic plan for moving forward with the initiative over the summer, with a follow-up meeting this fall.

The challenge that we currently face is getting representation from as many stakeholder groups as possible to participate in this development (i.e. not only managers, academicians, landowners, agencies, and timber industry folks, but also recycling, auto industry, pulp processing, investment, marketing, rural development, policy makers, regional planners, and transportation for example). During the steering committee meeting, large gaps in our stakeholder participants were identified, particularly community and economic development expertise. Thus, please let us know if you are able to fill some of these voids or might be able to recommend someone who might. Cooperation and participation among stakeholders has been identified at every meeting and survey of stakeholders so far as perhaps the greatest barrier we would face in making progress. It is also what seems to set us apart from very successful biomaterial initiatives in other states. Let's see if we can't start to close that gap.

Contact us:

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*Tara L. Bal, PhD, CF*, Research Assistant Professor and Master of Forestry Degree Program Director [tlbal@mtu.edu](mailto:tlbal@mtu.edu)  
School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University, Houghton MI



Figure 1. Life-cycle assessment of biomaterials.



Figure 2. The Michigan Biomaterials Initiative Steering Committee goes through a round of speed-dating to share ideas (photo by Hannah Abbotts).

## *Michigan Tech Student Chapter Update*

The Michigan Tech Student SAF chapter has been extremely busy this year! The school year is almost through and our club created many memories at The Otter River Cabin, in the Noblet Forestry Building, and together in the woods. We began the last semester with our annual Adopt-a-Highway clean up in the Keweenaw. Four club officers journeyed to South Carolina in October to attend the SAF national conference. They competed in quiz bowl and attended sessions for three days, meeting forestry professionals from around the country. Club members attended The Logging Congress and The MSAF spring convention in Escanaba. Twenty-seven club members participated in the Midwestern Foresters' Conclave in Cloquet, MN April 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Overall, our team took 7<sup>th</sup> place and made lasting friendships with forestry students from Missouri University to Stevens Point. A grant from the Plum Creek Foundation allowed us to purchase a new throwing axe, protective foot guards, and rent two vans for transport. The club has registered for The International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) and will be the second chapter in The United States.

We hope to bring more students to the national convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, which is a joint effort this year between SAF, Canadian Institute of Forestry, and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations World Congress. Our fundraising efforts have included a raffle, Christmas tree sale, and many t-shirt sales. We finished the year strong, having raised regular meeting attendance from 12 to 25 people, and plan to continue improving in the 2014-15 school year.

Please contact Lauren Rusin ([Larusin@mtu.edu](mailto:Larusin@mtu.edu)) with any questions or comments – We love to hear from alumni!!



John Lalonde and Mike Stanley, MTU SAF members at The 63<sup>rd</sup> Midwestern Foresters Conclave in Cloquet, MN.