

The Michigan Forester

Number 83 Summer 2016

What Goes into a State Conference?

Submitted by Tara L. Bal, PhD, CF, UP Chair

Rather than just write a few paragraphs summarizing the last spring conference “People in the Forest”, I thought I would take the opportunity to lay out a few tidbits about the state conferences that most members are probably not aware of! Unless you’ve been active in the planning process, it is relatively easy to not realize all of the working pieces that come together to make a workshop or conference run smoothly.

That being said, don’t let the idea of running a conference discourage you from running for a SAF office! With the assistance of your team and a checklist reminder, no one should be just thrown in to their responsibilities without a “passing of the torch”. So, what are the things to keep in mind when planning on *hosting* or *attending* a conference?

Themes

The theme of the Spring 2016 MSAF State Conference was “People in the Forest: The Importance of Communications in Forestry”. It may not have been the most highly attended conference (~118, ~135 record), but there were a lot of different faces then we normally see with a more technical theme! This is important, as one of the goals of SAF is to promote professional development opportunities for all its members, which are a diverse group of people in a diverse professional field.

When deciding a new conference theme, consider the previous ones. Mix it up or at least try not to repeat the same topics and speakers too consecutively. The past MSAF State Conferences are listed online back to the 1990s, most with agendas and speakers listed. You can also find the most recent Spring conference there: <http://michigansaf.org/Tours/1-MainTours.htm>

(Cont’d on page 10)



There’s a lot of “behind the scenes” planning that goes on to get a conference room packed like this! Photo Courtesy of Tara Bal.

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2016 Michigan SAF
Fall Conference
Tree Tops Resort
Gaylord, Michigan
October 6-7, 2016

2016 SAF National
Convention
Madison, Wisconsin
November 2-6, 2016

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

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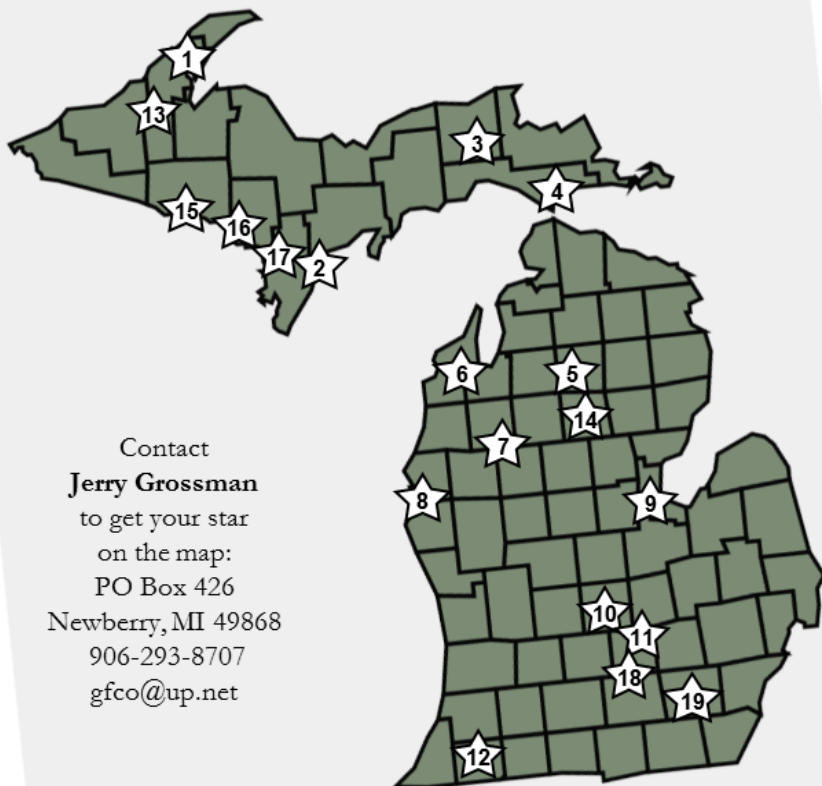
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The STARS of Michigan's Forests!



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DNR and Forest Service cooperate on the Good Neighbor Authority

Submitted by David Price, Michigan DNR, Forest Resources Division

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has long managed state forests to provide both timber and wildlife habitat. Now, the DNR is working to do the same thing on federally-managed lands in Michigan's three national forests.

To do this, the DNR has signed on to a program authorized in the 2014 federal farm bill called "Good Neighbor Authority or GNA." GNA allows state resource agencies to assist the U.S. Forest Service on timber and watershed restoration projects across the country.

Michigan is the second state in the country to sign a GNA agreement, for each of the three national forests in Michigan – the Huron-Manistee in the Lower Peninsula and the Ottawa and Hiawatha national forests in the Upper Peninsula.

"Our foresters are setting up timber sales on forest service land with forest service prescriptions, but using our timber sale process," said Derek Cross, a DNR forest inventory and planning specialist for the western Lower Peninsula. "We may start writing some (forest) prescriptions too – but that's something to be worked out in the future."

The Good Neighbor Authority's cooperative agreements allow them access to more resource professionals without expanding federal budgets. The DNR will be paid for its work on federal land through the proceeds from timber sales.

"It seems like this is a good relationship for both of us, helping them get things done that they haven't been able to do in the past," Cross said. "We're also able to get work done in some of the smaller, harder-to-get-to forest stands with our contacts."

In the Lower Peninsula, the DNR is currently working on a project in Wexford County, near Cadillac, on a 118-acre red pine plantation that is approximately 70 years old. DNR foresters are marking trees for removal to improve growth of the remaining forest. The timber sale will be advertised for competitive bidding when the marking is completed. Other upcoming projects in Lake and Newaygo counties involve additional pine thinning.

On the east side of the Lower Peninsula, the DNR has entered into agreements with federal officials for projects involving oak, aspen and mixed pine-hardwoods tracts.

Susan Thiel, the Grayling unit manager for the DNR's Forest Resources Division, said the work on the east side of the state is just getting underway. "The federal paint color protocol is different than the colors we use for the state," she said. "That's the biggest difference."

Thiel said DNR foresters will be working out of the Mio Field office will have the most GNA work this year. "They (the projects) range from clear cuts to thinning," Thiel said. "We're managing for aspen and we're managing for oak. Some of the oak harvests are for regeneration and thinnings to promote growth of the existing trees – it's the exact same management as we're doing on the forests here except were following the feds' prescriptions. The sale will be administered through our process."

Mike Stimak, the timber program manager and contracting officer for the Huron-Manistee National Forest, said the folks he's been working with at the DNR have been "great."

"Overall I have been exceedingly pleased with the willingness and cooperation of the DNR," Stimak said. "They have been fantastic. I see GNA as (an) opportunity to get more of the Forest Plan implemented. It takes time and planning to get it all this together – it can be almost a three-year process from the time we start the NEPA process until timber sales are sold –I can see GNA as being positive in moving this along."

Stimak said he can envision an expanded role for the DNR in terms of helping to get NEPA surveys completed, implementing restoration projects and in the planning of future projects. "To me it's a wide-open field for opportunities that will be opened through this new authority," Stimak said. Cross said the DNR would like to have all GNA timber sales in the Huron-Manistee National Forest prepared for bidding by Oct. 1.

Bob Tylka, a DNR timber management specialist for the western Upper Peninsula, said there are two Good Neighbor Authority projects currently underway on the Ottawa National Forest in the western U.P. A crew is working on a 191-acre project in the DNR's Baraga Unit, marking a 76-year-old mixed red pine and white pine stand for a selection cut. "I took their information and wrote the prescription using their form and it was approved by the feds before we translated it back into our system," Tylka said. "It's mostly a red pine thinning, but we're opening it up enough to turn it into a mixed-pine stand." The other U.P. project, near Iron River, is similar and is being administered from the DNR's Crystal Falls office. "We anticipate the program growing," Tylka said.

Timber sale work is also underway in the Hiawatha National Forest in the eastern U.P, with about 480 acres of timber sales being prepared by DNR foresters from the Sault Ste. Marie and Shingleton offices.

David Price, who oversees forest planning and operations for the DNR Forest Resources Division, said the Good Neighbor Authority "is absolutely a positive development.. This will help all three national forests in Michigan accomplish their goals," Price said. "And the timber sale revenue the Forest Service realizes will remain in the state, so they can use those dollars to conduct additional work on those forests."

Total GNA timber sales being prepared by the DNR in fiscal year 2016 is 1,362 acres.



Michigan Department of Natural Resources forester Andrew Hallfrisch, of the Cadillac DNR office, marks trees for an upcoming timber cut on national forest lands.

Oak Restoration Workshop in Southwest Michigan

*Submitted by
Jordyn Richardson, Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division*

On May 17 & 18, in southwest Michigan, an Oak Restoration Workshop was held at the Barry State Game Area and Yankee Springs Recreation Area to discuss oak regeneration. Oak ecologists and silviculturists from across the country led discussions about workshop objectives:

1. Recognizing current challenges and impediments to oak regeneration/restoration
2. Identifying promising silvicultural treatments that favor oak
3. Highlighting sources of information that supports oak ecosystem restoration
4. Discussing the significance of oak regeneration monitoring and approaches to accomplish monitoring.

Attendees ranged from Michigan DNR staff from three Divisions, US Forest Service and the Northern Research Station, Conservation District Foresters, The Nature Conservancy, and Universities.

Day one of the workshop was a classroom day where attendees had the opportunity to present and discuss different aspects of oak regeneration. Topics discussed included: Oak, Fire and Mesophication, past, current and future trends of oak in the eastern United States, oak-Pine ecosystem restoration with fire, case studies of seasonality and repeated burns in Michigan, potential effects of future climate change on the oak resource, silvicultural treatments that promote oak ecosystems, and oak ecosystem restoration and unified monitoring protocols for National Forests in the Eastern Region.

Day two of the workshop was a field day where attendees traveled to various oak sites around the Barry State Game Area and the Yankee Springs Recreation Area to apply concepts learned in the classroom to field sites with disparate treatment histories. Attendees discussed the importance of setting clear objectives, treatments, monitoring protocols, and evaluating regeneration success.



Wheels to Woods

Submitted by Mike Smalligan, Michigan DNR, Forest Resources Division

Nature Deficit Disorder

“Nature Deficit Disorder” describes how children are disconnected from nature because they spend most of their time inside with smartphones, television and computers instead of playing outside with their friends, classmates and families. An author named Richard Louv popularized the term in his 2005 book “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder.” This is true of both urban and rural children, and getting worse as more children have smartphones instead of hiking sticks. However, many organizations are working hard to get children outside to discover Michigan’s beautiful forests.

Wheels to Woods

Wheels to Woods, hosted by the Michigan Tree Farm System in partnership with the DNR Forest Resources Division, works to do just that. School field trips are a great way to get students outside to learn about the forest, but many schools in Michigan do not have adequate funding for transportation. Through Wheels to Woods, foresters are helping teachers by providing transportation costs up to \$1,000 per school for any educational field trip to any forest.

In the first half of 2016, Wheels to Woods funded 75 field trips that brought 6,145 students, 250 teachers, and 991 parents outside into the forest. Students have studied Great Lakes coastal forests, wetlands, forest management, invasive plants, endangered species, maple syrup, birds, predators and even exploring the forest by canoe. Students have gone to nature centers, county parks, state parks, family forests, national forests and forests owned by their school. Most of the first 75 trips have been urban schools in the southern Lower Peninsula, although all schools in Michigan are eligible. Wheels to Woods is supported by generous donations from the United State Forest Service, DNR Forest Stewardship Program, Michigan Tree Farm System, American Forest Foundation, Michigan Forest Products Council, Michigan Association of Timbermen, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Michigan Forest Foundation, Michigan Project Learning Tree, Michigan Society of American Foresters, and other foresters and forest products companies. Wheels to Woods has obligated 85% of its available funds, and needs to raise more funds to offer grants to schools in the fall of 2016. Wheels to Woods has applied for additional funding from the national SAF Foresters Fund. The first 75 trips have cost only \$4.50 per student. *(Cont'd on page 11)*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Logging Congress

September 8-9
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Project Learning Tree Workshops

September 14 & October 1
Contact: Ada Takacs takacs@michigan.gov

Tree ID and Forestry Tour for Woodland Owners

September 23
Chippewa Hills High Schools
Remus, Michigan
Contact: Nick Sanchez nick.sanchez@mi.nacdn.net

MSAF Fall Conference

***TOPIC: The Birds and the Bees:
Strategies for Management***

October 6-7
Tree Tops Resort
Gaylord, Michigan

Heating the Midwest

October 11-13
Island Resort & Casino
Harris, Michigan

SAF National Convention

November 2-6
Madison, Wisconsin

Michigan Forest Association Board Meeting

November 4
Hartwick Pines State Park

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



The 5th annual Heating the Midwest with Renewable Biomass Conference and Expo is getting closer! The event will take place October 11 – 13 in Harris Michigan, at the Island Resort and Casino (14 miles west of Escanaba). This year’s theme is “Adopting Renewable Biomass Heat: Investing In Tomorrow’s Sustainable Communities.”

Did you know that every year, nearly 1.2 million households ‘export’ more than \$2.2 billion energy dollars out of the United States? And, according to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) estimates, in the Midwest region alone, there is over TWO BILLION dollars exported for oil and propane and a lost job potential of 130,000+ jobs. This money does not circulate through the local and regional economies, does not generate commerce, and does not create or support jobs. Based on each state’s ability to sustainably produce biomass fuels, the conversion of those 1.2 million households would generate more than \$419 million in new annual income.

Our goal for this conference is to provide you with the information needed to support local biomass for heat and combined heat and power applications to foster future sustainable communities in the Midwest! You will have the opportunity to join the pre-conference tour and visit locations that use a biomass system, manufacture biomass systems, and produce woody biomass. Topics at the 2016 conference will include: investing in our communities with biomass, developing new markets for wood heating, biomass technologies, and much more! The event also offers a Biomass Heating Expo with indoor and outdoor exposition areas where 30+ vendors, businesses and organizations will demonstrate the latest in biomass technologies, information and support.

New to this year’s event is a two-part technical workshop, “In the Trenches with System Designers and Installers.” Members of AIA, AEE, and BPI will be eligible to receive up to 7 continuing education credits for attending the workshops at this conference. HVAC contractors will receive a certificate of course completion.



We hope you will come out and enjoy everything this great event has to offer! More information can be found at: www.heatingthemidwest.org

MiSAF Members Receiving Membership Pins in 2016

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 Recipients

(Member Since 2006)

Mr. Jesse Bramer
Mr. Jeffrey Breuker
Mr. Brett Kuipers

Mr. James McFarland
Ms. Brenda Haskill
Mr. Michael Schreiber

20 Year Pin Recipients

(Member Since 1996)

Mr. James Ferris
Ms. Kathleen Halvorsen
Mr. Lloyd B. Martindale
Mr. Lawrence Pedersen
Mr. Michael J. Shepard
Mr. Warren H. Suchovsky

30 Year Pin Recipients

(Member Since 1986)

Mr. Stephen I. Albee
Mr. Bruce E. Maki
Mr. Peter G. McCurdy
Mr. William J. O'Neill (Fellow)
Ms. Karen L. Rodock
Mr. Glen D. Tolksdorf

40 Year Pin Recipients

(Member Since 1976)

Mr. Stephen Kelley
Mr. Don Krejcarek
Dr. H. William Rockwell
(Fellow)

50 Year Pin Recipients

(Member Since 1966)

Mr. Gary W. Carr (Retired Member)

60 Year Pin Recipients

(Member Since 1956)

Michigan SAF Education Fund - 2015 Prepared by Chad Fate	Budgeted Expenses	Budgeted Revenue
Beginning Balance		\$493.27
Income		
Raffle Tickets Spring		\$800.00
Raffle Tickets Fall		\$800.00
Donations Spring		\$150.00
Donations Fall		\$150.00
Expenses		
MSU Scholarship	\$250.00	
MTU Scholarship	\$250.00	
Raffle prizes/supplies spring	\$150.00	
Raffle prizes/supplies fall	\$150.00	
National SAF Education Fund (2/3 raffle ticket sales)	\$1,066.67	
Balance		\$526.60

Budget and Report

Michigan Society of American Foresters		
Year 2015 Budget and Report		
Revenue	Expected for 2015	Revenue Received as of March 31 st , 2015
Membership Dues	\$2,600.00	\$1,760.00
Interest	\$45.00	\$8.77
Spring Conference Proceeds	\$1,750.00	\$-
Fall Conference Proceeds	\$1,000.00	\$-
Michigan Forester Ads	\$1,200.00	\$900.00
Donations, Sponsorships, etc. ¹	\$250.00	\$-
Total	\$6,845.00	\$2,668.77

Expenses	Budgeted for 2014	Funds Disbursed as of March 31 st , 2015
HSD Dues	\$225.00	\$-
Chapter Dues	\$550.00	\$-
Michigan Forester	\$100.00	\$-
Society Administration	\$400.00	\$288.14
Honorariums ²	\$800.00	\$-
Support for Chair Attendance at National Meeting	\$1,500.00	\$-
Donations, sponsorships, etc. ³	\$1,100.00	\$-
Leadership Academy	\$800.00	\$-
Awards	\$200.00	\$-
Student Participation Support	\$500.00	\$-
Total	\$6,175.00	\$288.14

Budget Balance: \$670.00 \$2,380.63
 Cash on Hand: \$9,696.56 \$12,077.19

Michigan Society of American Foresters has cash assets only.

Prepared by: Lee Mueller, Treasurer

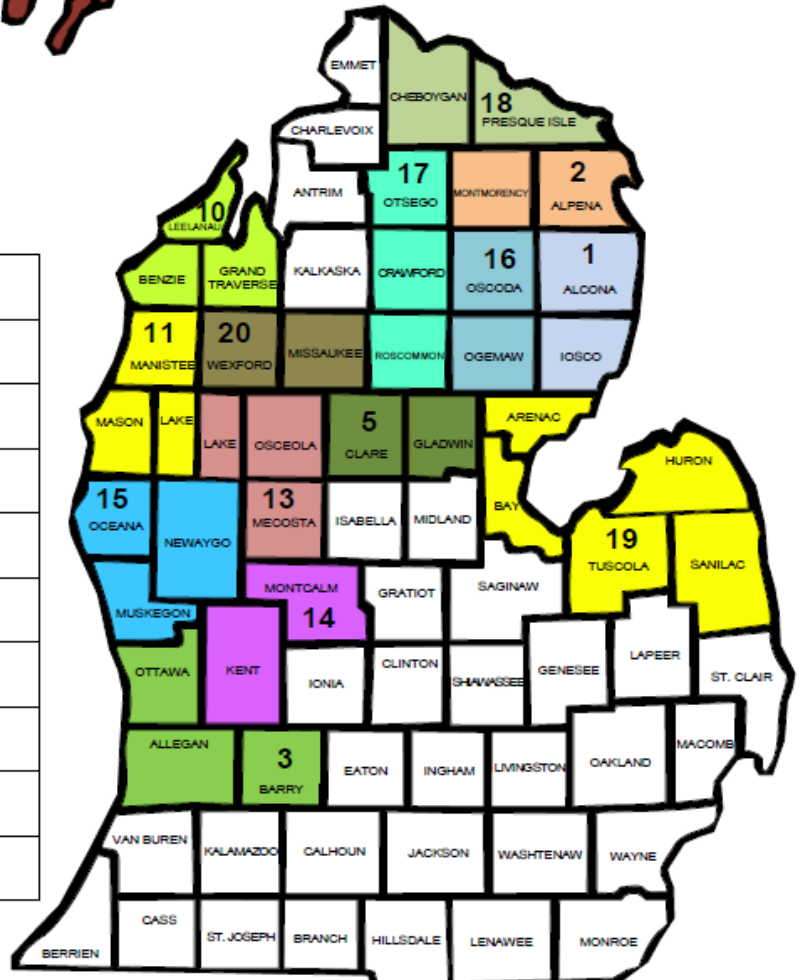
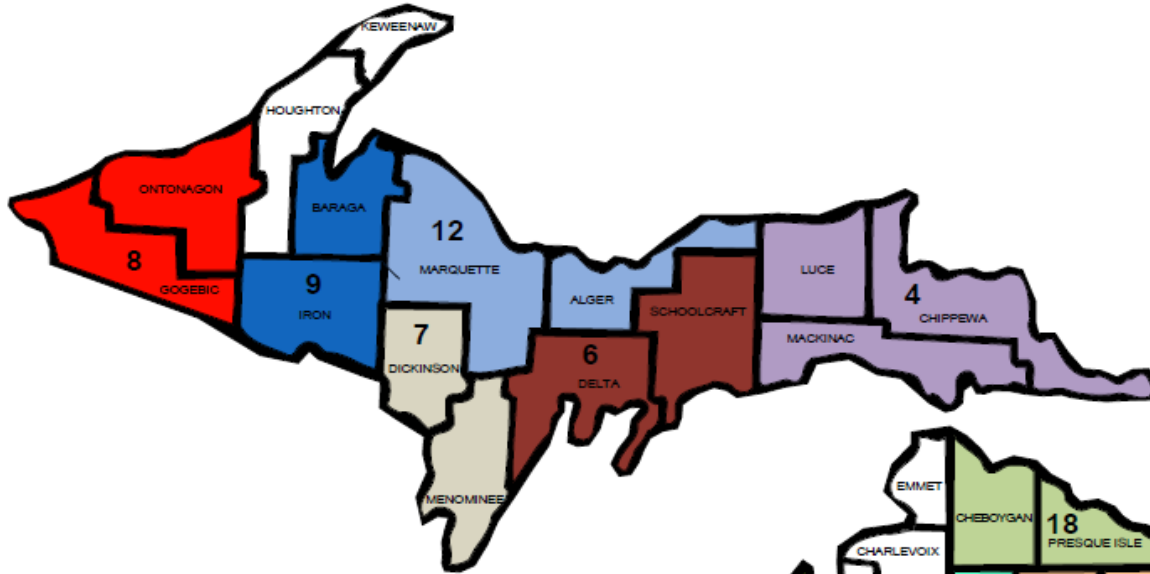
¹ Donations, contributions, or other sponsorships.

² Editor, Education Fund, Treasurer, and Secretary each receive \$200.00 at end of year.

³ Sponsorships or donations to conferences, education, or other initiatives.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FY 2016



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2	Alpena Brook Alloway 989-356-3596, ext. 3
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4	Chippewa Luce Mackinac Travis Kangas 906-635-1278
5	Clare Bryan Shideler 989-539-6401
6	Delta Rory Mattson 906-553-7700
7	Dickinson A.J. Campbell 906-774-1550, ext. 180
8	Gogebic Cory Howes 906-663-4512
9	Iron Roger Jaworski 906-875-3765
10	Leelanau Kama Ross 231-256-9783

11	Manistee Joshua Shields 231-889-9666, ext. 102
12	Marquette Matt Watkeys 906-226-2461, ext. 128
13	Mecosta Rick Lucas 231-796-0909, ext. 3
14	Montcalm Nicholas Sanchez 989-831-4606, ext. 5
15	Oceana Michael Paling 231-861-5600, ext. 5
16	Oscoda Lora Freer 989-826-8824
17	Otsego Diane Bomer 989-732-4021
18	Presque Isle Brittany VanderWall 989-734-4000
19	Tuscola Anne Collins 989-673-8174, ext. 3
20	Wexford Larry Czelusta 231-775-7681, ext. 3

Planning Team

I've been fortunate to work with a great group of people on the SAF conferences I've worked on (Chris Hohnholt, Andy VanDyke, Amber Oja, Lauren Rusin, and others). Don't take on an entire conference event by yourself! (maybe just a workshop). Delegation is key. The earlier you start, obviously the better – but that's usually not realistic. About 3-4 months out of the last conference, Lauren, Amber and I had biweekly conference calls for about 30 minutes, moving up to once a week for the month before, mostly to delegate jobs and just check if any of us needed help. By divvying up responsibilities for getting speakers, sending emails, and making contacts, no one person gets overwhelmed.

Venue Details

In the UP, traditionally the conference has swung back and forth between the eastern and western ends, as distance to travel is an important consideration. On the western end, we get some northern Wisconsin folks, but less from downstate. Once the *region* is chosen, then you can move on to city or location, but in cases, its often more of a choice of specific hotels, universities, town halls, field stations, etc that are big enough to fit your audience, and have hotels nearby (if it's a 2 day conference especially) and easily accessible parking. Sometimes, there might be a great place for a field trip and that determines the rest of the conference location.

What do most people ask about when considering a conference? Food. Food is probably the number one driver of registration costs (by far the biggest expense) and if you've been going to these things for a long time, you probably noticed the cost going up. Food is a big reason why. That, and coffee, coffee, coffee. At some venues, we are charged each time they refill the pot! Besides food (and beverage) considerations, there may also be room charges, set up charges for tables, podium and microphone and screen rentals, costs for parking, costs for service, and you get the picture.

Other factors to keep on that checklist include the banquet, awards to be given out, sending out save the date reminders, snail mail registrations, email registrations (usually with a link to pay online that National provides us with), keeping track of registration for nametags, and awarding CFE credits. We also traditionally have a raffle to support the Education Fund, which Kayti Brinkman did a great job on this spring (kaytlyn@martellforestry.com if you have a raffle item to donate). It's not a lot to do all at once if you can delegate these jobs out, but they do add layers to planning process.

Field Trips are often expected as a part of most conferences, which makes sense given that a lot of our profession takes place outdoors (or at least, not in a conference room setting). Weather is a factor to keep in mind, especially with the Spring SAF meetings, typically held in March-April in the UP where there could still be feet of snow on the ground. Consider the distance people have to travel – no one wants to sit on a bus for hours or drive a train of cars through someone's private property. And if it's an SAF sponsored event travelling somewhere, we have to get it insured!



Having access to student groups is handy when stuffing and addressing 500+ envelopes.

Speakers

How do you find speakers? Pretty much just start asking people if they are available on the dates. Sometimes the conference theme is broad enough that many people could fit what they do into the topic, other times a conference theme writes itself if you have a few speakers in mind and want to tie together their topics. Most often, planners approach specific people or jobs that relate to the topic they have in mind, but sometimes your network does this for you when someone hears about a conference you are planning and makes a suggestion or volunteers. Speakers don't have to be the most articulate on the subject, just willing to share their focus or experiences with us. We don't have a budget for bringing in speakers, so a pass on registration and their celebrity forestry status is their incentive. It's ok to not have a speaker lined up as you close to a conference, but having them in place earlier may help get people interested and registered! Plus it's easier to have your booklets and agendas to send out over emails and to get them printed well beforehand.

Another consideration to planning speakers is to keep it mixed up. If every presenter is from the same place, that gets pretty boring after a while and you may be passively excluding people from registering just because they think there won't be anything pertinent for them. There are a few people in the state who get asked to present at these things *a lot* (you know who are) and though we love them, its nice to give them a break and to hear from other voices once in a while. Probably the most difficult issue I have with speakers is getting a picture and biography from them (you also know who you are) and making sure they keep to their allotted time during their actual talks.

Speaking of the agenda, usually you can play with the amount of time you allow for each talk (longer if you have less people lined up). However, did you know the average person will tune out after about 10-15 minutes? For college students, it may be closer to 7 minutes. To keep your audience engaged, try to switch up speakers as often as possible or have a longer session that is more untraditional. When Susan George from Weyerhaeuser, spoke at the Spring Conference on interviewing skills and critiques, she didn't use a PowerPoint but kept the audience going with interactive questions and group discussions, so your brain was constantly moving to a new activity.

New Ideas

You may have noticed in the recent conferences a call for sponsors. This is relatively new for Michigan SAF, (we've probably always had sponsors, just not as 'officially'). This is in trying to follow more of the format from National, and is a win-win. Sponsors get recognition on the materials we hand out, usually have a booth or table at the event for their merchandise or services, and we get an increase in the conference budget, which means more coffee for all. I'd like to see us continue to get support and recognition from some big names, and people just need to be made more aware of it as a possibility.

(Cont'd on page 12)

State Conf. (cont'd from page 10)

Don't be afraid to try something new at a conference. One of my goals for next year is to include a 'Call for Speakers' and allow some time to give students or more professionals a chance to share their interests. It may or may not be related directly to the conference theme, but if someone really wants to spread the word on a Michigan forestry issue, they should have a local outlet for that. Seems like something I've seen around at other conferences, but for some reason, not recently at MSAF events. If there's no time for extra speakers (even 5-8 minutes talks), just making students aware that they can bring a poster and we'd include the title in the booklet, is a nice way to keep students engaged, keep professionals aware of projects going on, and provides a great networking opportunity during breaks.

Thoughts going forward

Hopefully, this article has informed or inspired you on aspects of conference planning without getting you apprehensive about the details. Get active and participate in your local chapter – being a part of SAF has expanding my “networking” skills a 100x – not only allowing me to meet new, important people in the field, but getting my name in front of them too. Just suggesting ideas, locations, themes, sponsors, or a getting us a deal on printing could all be really helpful!

Ideally we'd imitate National SAF and other organizations and plan out conferences well in advance, knowing the locations and themes to help us better prepare. That will take some time, but we are making headway. Tricia St. Pierre, LP Chapter Chair, and crew are working diligently on the Fall 2016 Conference in Gaylord, October 6-7, “Birds and the Bees”. We also have the themes and locations for next year's conferences in hand: “Foresters for Fish!” in Marquette (UP) March 30-31 and Grayling (LP), September or October 2017, and have started working with the DNR, university researchers, American Fisheries Society, and other fish groups for planning speakers. Suggestions and volunteers are always welcome.

Wheels to Woods

(cont'd from page 5)

What Can a Forester Do?

There are a variety of things that foresters can do to help get students outside and into a forest.

1. Volunteer with a local scout, church or other youth group to help them go hiking or camping in the woods this summer.
2. Foresters can host an educational field trip this fall for a nearby school. Call your local school and



offer to host a trip. The Society of American Foresters and the American Forest Foundation together published an excellent guide called “Walk in the Forest” to help foresters bring teachers and students outside into the forest, and it is available at www.plt.org/resources. 3. “Like” the Michigan Tree Farm System Facebook page to see lots of photos of students outside exploring the forest.

4. Share the news about Wheels to Woods funding with teachers at your local school. The one page application form is available at www.TreeFarmSystem.org/School-Forests. 5. Donate to the Michigan Tree Farm System to help offer Wheels to Woods again this fall. Donations are tax deductible and all funds are used for the schools. Send a check payable to the “Michigan Tree Farm Committee,” with “Wheels to Woods” on the memo line, to 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 100, Lansing, MI 48933.

Project Learning Tree.

Did you know that Michigan's Project Learning Tree has trained more than 3,000 teachers and informal educators in outdoor education curriculum about forests? Project Learning Tree is sponsored by the American Forest Foundation, the same national organization hosting the American Tree Farm System. Foresters also can get PLT training and resources, so contact the Michigan PLT Coordinator, Ada Takacs of the DNR Forest Resources Division, at 231-534-5569 or takacs@michigan.gov for a schedule of PLT workshops.

To learn more about Wheels to Woods, contact Mike Smalligan, DNR Forest Stewardship Coordinator, at smalliganm@michigan.gov or 517-284-5884.

New Voluntary Registered Forester Program Update

Submitted by Brenda Haskill, Michigan DNR

Many of you know the Michigan Registered Forester program has been going through a revision process at the hands of a working group comprised of foresters from each area of the forest industry in the state. They met every 6-8 weeks and hammered out an improved program over the last 2 ½ years.

The current voluntary registered forester program does not have a board of oversight, does not require continuing education credits, and does not provide the backing necessary for a program that allows professional foresters in Michigan to set a higher standard. The Registered Forester program is the only Michigan specific program for foresters in that gives them a qualification beyond their 2 or 4 year university degree. Nationally, foresters in Michigan can also voluntarily participate in the Society of American Foresters Certified Forester program.

The language for the new voluntary registered forester program incorporates all the key improvements that have been needed since its beginning in the 1980's. The Michigan Board of Foresters will be reenacted and comprised of 5-7 foresters representing the various sectors of the industry. They will oversee complaints, new registrants, and outreach to spread the word about the benefits to hiring a registered forester. Marketing the benefits of the new program to landowners and foresters in the state will be crucial to its continued success.

A new component of the program will be a requirement that all registered foresters complete 24 hours of continuing education credits every 2 years. Another change will be an increase in program fees. To provide the Board of Foresters with some financial backing, the cost to participate in the registered forester program will be \$200 every two years under the new structure.

The working group held two open meetings in 2015 for all foresters in Michigan to review and discuss the entire program and its proposed updates. They heard comment and took survey responses on pieces that didn't line up with the expectations and desires of the entire profession and have adjusted the language of the new program accordingly.

The proposal is for the new voluntary program to move from its current home within Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) division and be housed under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Two years ago LARA removed themselves from the position of oversight and requested to remove the entire registered forester program. After request and pleas from the registered foresters in the state to save the program, Governor Snyder issued a directive to the DNR to find a way to retain the program and give the foresters in Michigan the program they desired.

The move from LARA to DNR, along with the language outlining the new program must gain legislative approval through revision of the Occupational Code under which foresters and registered foresters operate in Michigan. LARA will continue to hold the occupational code for foresters and registered foresters but will no longer have oversight of the program. Oversight shall be managed by DNR.

The group is convening yet again in mid-August to review the final bill language before it is turned over to a legislative bill writer. It is hopeful that the bill is ready for presentation and committee assignment along with hearings as soon as the legislative session reconvenes early in the fall. The working group would like it to be passed into law in late 2016 and ready to enact on January 1, 2017. Questions or concerns should be directed to Paul Drysdale, paul@drysdaforestry.com or Brenda Haskill, haskillb@michigan.gov.

A Little Bit of History

On the following pages are two different historical publications. The first is an editorial from the *Journal of Forestry*. It was published in August of 1942 and expressed SAF's support for the Tree Farm system. The copy of this journal was submitted by Mike Smalligan.

The second publication is from the University of Michigan's, *The Michigan Forester*, which was put together by the UM Forestry Club. The author of this article is Bruce Buell, Logging Superintendent of the Patten Timber Company in Amasa, Michigan. He talks about the practical side of forestry. The copy of this publication was submitted by Doug Heym.

Thanks to both gentlemen for these documents. If you have any historical publications or photos that you think would be beneficial to our publication, please contact Tori Irving at irvingt@michigan.gov or toriirving@gmail.com or at 906-458-1210.



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Public Relations Work in Forestry

GEORGE A. DUTHIE, '08

*Chief, Section of Information, United States Forest Service,
Washington, D.C.*

THERE are a number of good expressive words in the English language that are falling into disuse because of certain sinister meanings that have become attached to them. One of those words is "propaganda". Unfortunately, the synonymous use of the term "public relations" for "propaganda", by those who wish to avoid the latter's unwelcome sound, has created in some minds a very inaccurate idea as to the full meaning of the term.

Public relations as applied to the work of a forester includes all that is done for the purpose of making the general public, or any particular part of it, conscious of the value of forests, of the need for their protection, preservation, extension and wise use. Public relations not only creates the consciousness of the need for forestry, but goes farther and stirs to action those who in some way must contribute to the conservation of the forests and to the advancement of forestry. This opens up a broad field of endeavor in which all foresters must labor. None can engage in true forestry work and escape doing something in public relations.

Take for example a forester in private employ. One might imagine that with a single owner to satisfy he could divest himself of duties of a public relations nature and give his attention entirely to silvicultural management.

The experience of private foresters has been all to the contrary. The tendency from earliest times has been to regard forest land as public commons. People go upon private forest land to hunt, fish, pick berries or whatnot, with no thought that they are trespassers. The public relations problem of the forester for a private forest may, therefore, be visualized from statistics in the annual report of the Chief Fire Warden for the Washington Forest Fire Association for 1934 which shows that 18 percent of the fires on the properties of the Association members last year originated from their own operations, logging, brush disposal and land clearing as compared to 68 percent started by trespassers such as recreationists, berry pickers, incendiaries, etc.

In public forestry, public relations takes on added significance. Every citizen has certain rights including the right to go upon the forest and the

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Public Relations Work in Forestry

(Continued from page 13)

right to know how it is managed. It is, therefore, the forester's duty to create and keep active a public appreciation of the need for protecting, improving and developing the property in order that continuous support of the forest enterprise may not fail through lack of appreciation of its worth.

Many devices are employed to reach the public. The printed page, posters, pictures, exhibits, lectures, motion pictures and radio are the favorite tools, to which should be added what, in my opinion, is the most effective of them all—the forester's personal contacts. Opinions may differ at times as to the best devices for educating the public. Some prefer newspaper publicity; others believe motion pictures and lectures, carrying a more dramatic appeal, are more effective. But the forester who is perplexed as to choice of the best method to reach his public will do well to divest himself of prejudice in favor of any particular method. A safer approach is to consider the psychology of the audience and adopt the device or combination of devices that will make the strongest appeal to that group.

It is hard to overemphasize the importance of local personal contacts for they without a doubt lay the foundation for the success of broader appeals. Goodwill developed through general publicity can be quickly offset by the hostility of forest users and neighbors who have been made antagonistic through indifferent or unfortunate contacts with forest officers. The forester in the woods who is dealing with a local public, either in groups or as individuals, will find that wisely planned personal contacts furnish altogether the most fruitful public relations approach.

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