



Michigan Tree Farm - 2020 Annual Report

Community - Recognition – Legacy

2020 Accomplishments

The pandemic slowed us down, but Tree Farmers, foresters and the MI Tree Farm Committee still got a lot done in 2020.

Site Visits. One important Tree Farm benefit for you is a visit with a professional forester in your woods every five years. Michigan has 131 “inspecting foresters” and 43 of them provided 144 free site visits to Tree Farmers in 2020.



Field Days. Another Tree Farm benefit is learning from other Tree Farmers and having fun at a field day in their woods. Tree Farm only hosted one field day in 2020 because of the pandemic. We hope to offer ten field days in 2021. Contact Nia Becker at 517-599-5913 or Nia.Becker@macd.org to host a field day or to request a site visit with a Tree Farm forester.

Billboard. The committee partnered with the Lamy family in Crawford County to update a billboard on their Tree Farm. Look for these smiling faces along I-75 north bound between Grayling and Gaylord, around mile marker 266.

Michigan Forest Celebration. Michigan Tree Farm partners with Michigan Forest Association to co-host the Michigan Forest Celebration for landowners and anyone else who loves forests. The 2020 Celebration was cancelled because of the pandemic. **Look for a great event in Petoskey on September 17-18, 2021 with visits to the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, local Tree Farms and forests protected by conservation easements with the Little Traverse Conservancy.**

Next Generation. You can include contact information for children or other heirs on your Tree Farm so we can send them newsletters and contact them for future Tree Farm visits. You take great care of your woods for decades and we want to help you keep your Tree Farm in the family. Contact James at 517-488-6044 or JamesGray@NaturalCapitalForestry.com.

Wheels to Woods. Michigan Tree Farm gave \$9,843 in grants to 24 schools to visit a forest or forest products company for an educational field trip. Wheels to Woods helped 2,820 students, 124 teachers and 208 parents in 2020. The pandemic greatly reduced the number of field trips in 2020 from prior years.

Huge Green Signs. Tree Farmers love to post the big green sign to brag about their excellent forest stewardship. If your Tree Farm sign is old and faded, we will provide a new “Certified Family Forest” or “Certified Tree Farm” sign for free. This year we purchased twenty-four giant signs that are four times bigger than typical Tree Farm signs. If your Tree Farm is on a busy highway, we will install a large 4’ x 4’ sign for you. Pictured at right is James Gray and Jim Malloy at the Goodale Family Tree Farm in Grayling on the east side of I-75 north bound and just north of the M-72 overpass, around mile marker 255. The normal sign is in the background. If you need a regular sign or have a good place for a giant sign, contact Mike Smalligan at 517-449-5666 or SmalliganM@Michigan.gov.



2020 Awards. Recognizing great work in the woods is one of the highlights for Tree Farm every year.

Outstanding Tree Farmer. The Michigan Outstanding Tree Farmer of 2020 is the Dilley Family in Newaygo County. Newt and Ann Dilley joined Tree Farm in 1954, which makes the Dilley family the oldest family-owned Tree Farm in Michigan. Sixty-six years later, the fourth generation of the Dilley family is helping to take great care of their woods and the White River that passes through their 100-acre Tree Farm. The Dilley family started a fund at the local community foundation to honor Newt's 90th birthday by investing in projects that protect the White River. The family planted trees to protect the riverbank, preserved a 5-ac prairie and worked with a forester to harvest timber and develop a Forest Stewardship Plan. A video of the Dilley Family Tree Farm is at www.ForestsForFish.org/Videos (and also stories featuring previous Outstanding Tree Farmers, Sally Hightower, 2018 and Paul & Maude Bigford, 2019).



Outstanding Forester. Joe Lazzari is the Michigan Outstanding Tree Farm Forester of 2020. Joe lives in Kalamazoo and works for Mark Janke Consulting Foresters in Allegan. Joe has helped 17 landowners join Tree Farm and visited 3 more current Tree Farmers since 2018. Thank-you, Joe for your great service to Tree Farmers in southwest Michigan.



Appreciation Award. Scott Robbins retired from the Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) in October. Scott has been the Administrator for the Michigan Tree Farm Committee for the past 9 years and we are grateful for his excellent service to landowners, foresters and the committee. Scott answered countless phone calls from landowners, sent hundreds of welcome letters to new Tree Farmers and helped Michigan pass certification audits in 2014 and 2019. We will miss Scott's contributions and wish him great success fishing at the family cottage on Lake Gogebic. We are pleased that Ray Gurley, the new Director of Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Policy for MFPC, will continue to serve as Administrator so our phone and address remains unchanged.

2020 Finances. The Michigan Tree Farm Committee, a 501c3 nonprofit, had \$32,877 at the start of 2020 and ended the year with \$41,020. Gross income was \$43,562 and total expenses were \$35,419 for a net gain of \$8,143.

Michigan Tree Farm Committee operates on grants and your donations; it does not charge dues or fees to Tree Farmers. American Forest Foundation granted \$8,810 for program administration. The DNR's Forest Stewardship Program (with funds from US Forest Service) granted \$15,100 to support free inspections and \$16,753 for program administration. Interest earned \$20 and 30 Tree Farmers donated \$2,479. The Michigan Tree Farm Committee administers Wheels to Woods transportation grants to help build your forest legacy and those funds are accounted for separate from Tree Farm.

BUY LOCAL. *If you donate cash or land to the American Forest Foundation, only 0.1% comes back to Michigan. 100% of your donations to the Michigan Tree Farm Committee stays in Michigan to provide services to you and other Tree Farmers.*

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help deliver Tree Farm or Wheels to Woods in Michigan. Please send your check payable to "Michigan Tree Farm Committee" to 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 100, Lansing, MI 48933.

Contact Information. Michigan Tree Farm Committee, 110 West Michigan Ave, Suite 100, Lansing, MI 48933.

Office Phone: 517-853-8880. Email: rgurley@MichiganForest.com. Website: www.TreeFarmSystem.org/Michigan.

The Michigan Tree Farm Committee is an equal opportunity provider. January 2021.