



# Michigan Tree Farm's 2021 Annual Report

## *Community - Recognition – Legacy*

### 2021 Accomplishments

**Site Visits.** One benefit of the American Tree Farm System for you is a visit with a forester in your woods. Michigan has 109 Tree Farm foresters and 33 of them provided 142 site visits to Tree Farmers in 2021. Please contact your forester at least every 5 years to ask for a walk in your woods and to keep your forest management plan current. A directory of our Tree Farm foresters, and other information about Tree Farm, is available at [TreeFarmSystem.org/Michigan](https://TreeFarmSystem.org/Michigan).

**Field Days.** Another Tree Farm benefit is learning from other landowners and seeing how they manage their woods at a field day. Tree Farm hosted 4 field days in 2021 (Ludington, Pellston, Munising & Ishpeming) and we hope to offer 10 field days in 2022. Contact Brittany VanderWall at 231-286-2751 or [Brittany.VanderWall@macd.org](mailto:Brittany.VanderWall@macd.org) to explore hosting a field day in your woods. Tree Farm will provide up to \$750 for costs like food, bus, toilets and gifts like chainsaw, chaps, helmet, etc. Conservation district foresters will help plan, advertise and host the field day.

**Michigan Forest Celebration.** Michigan Tree Farm partners with Michigan Forest Association to co-host the annual Michigan Forest Celebration for landowners and their families. The 2021 Celebration was a hybrid of online webinars and limited regional field days because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Look for a great, in-person Michigan Forest Celebration in Roscommon on August 12-13, 2022 with Michigan Forest Association celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

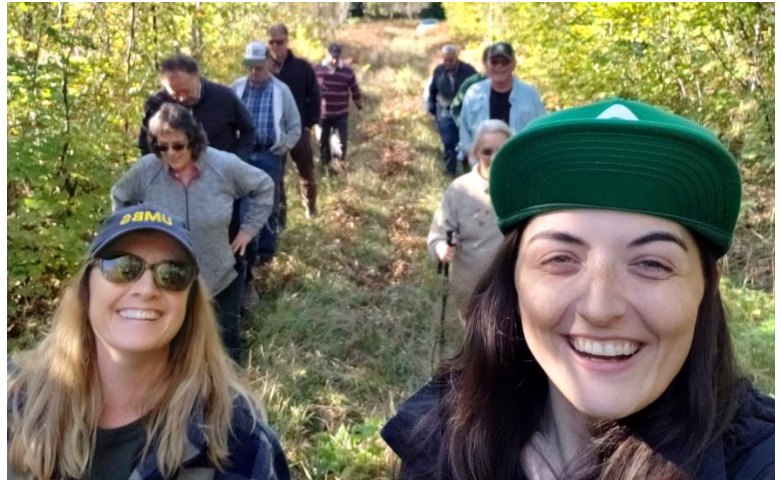


Photo: Maureen Stine and Brittany VanderWall lead the Tree Farm field day at MFA's woods in Pellston in September.

**Next Generation.** You can include contact information for your 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, and we want to help you keep your Tree Farm in the family. Contact James Gray at 517-488-6044 or [JamesGray@NaturalCapitalForestry.com](mailto:JamesGray@NaturalCapitalForestry.com).

**Wheels to Woods.** Michigan Tree Farm gave \$6,104 in transportation grants to 20 schools for 1,265 students to visit a forest or forest products company in 2021. The pandemic greatly reduced school field trips in 2021 from prior years.

**Huge Green Signs.** We still have more of the large 4'x4' Certified Family Forest or Certified Tree Farm signs if your Tree Farm is on a busy road. Contact Mike Smalligan at 517-449-5666 or [SmalliganM@Michigan.gov](mailto:SmalliganM@Michigan.gov) to request a giant sign.

**FREE Oak Seedlings.** American Forest Foundation awarded MI Tree Farm \$5,000 in 2021 to provide 5,000 oak seedlings to Tree Farmers. We are offering a \$1 per oak seedling rebate up to \$100 directly to the first 50 Tree Farmers that buy oak seedlings in 2021, 2022 or 2023 from a conservation district ([MACD.org](https://MACD.org)) or seedling nursery. To request your rebate, just send a copy of your invoice showing oak seedlings you bought to Julie Crick at [CrickJul@MSU.edu](mailto:CrickJul@MSU.edu) or in the enclosed envelope. Questions about the rebate, call Julie at 989-390-0317. Questions about trees, call Mike at 517-449-5666.

**Foresters for the Birds.** Bird populations in North America have declined by a third since 1970 but you can manage your Tree Farm for better songbird habitat. Tree Farm supports the new *Forestry for Michigan Birds* which is hosting workshops and field days in 2022. Contact Michael Paling at [Michael.Paling@USDA.gov](mailto:Michael.Paling@USDA.gov) or 906-251-3065 for more information.

## 2021 Awards. Recognizing great work in the woods is one of the highlights for Tree Farm every year.



**Outstanding Tree Farmers.** The Michigan Tree Farm Committee decided to honor two outstanding Tree Farmers in 2021 – one in the Lower Peninsula and one in the Upper Peninsula. Our award winners were introduced in our summer 2021 newsletter, and we want to honor them again here for their great work in the woods.

Tom and Kay Johnson, left, are Upper Peninsula Outstanding Tree Farmers of 2021. Their 39-acre woods in Marquette County has been in Tree Farm since 1995. They hosted a field day in September in partnership with MFA and the Michigan Forest Celebration. The Johnsons use their woods primarily for recreation and hunting.

Adam Wais, right, is Lower Peninsula Outstanding Tree Farmer of 2021. Josh Shields, Manistee & Mason-Lake Conservation District forester, nominated Adam for his great work in the woods. Adam bought his 61-acre woods in Mason County in 1997 for hunting and other recreation. Adam is using funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to reduce invasive autumn olive and replant native wildflowers and grasses for pollinator habitat.



### Forester of the Year.

Matt Watkeys, now the Director of Alger Conservation District,

is the 2021 Forester of the Year. Matt provided 70 Tree Farm site visits since 2013 as the Marquette Conservation District forester, enrolling 50 new Tree Farmers and visiting 20 current Tree Farmers. Matt and his wife Tina own a 20-acre Tree Farm in Alger County where they hope to build a new home someday when lumber prices are back down to normal.

**2021 Finances.** The Michigan Tree Farm Committee, a 501c3 nonprofit, had \$41,020 at the start of 2021 and ended the year with \$51,271. Gross income was \$50,976 and total expenses were \$40,725 for a net gain of \$10,251.

Michigan Tree Farm Committee operates on grants and your donations; it does not charge dues or fees to Tree Farmers. American Forest Foundation granted \$16,221 for program administration. The DNR's Forest Stewardship Program (with funds from USDA Forest Service) granted \$16,730 to subsidize free site visits and \$14,828 for program administration. Interest earned \$11 and 45 Tree Farmers (4% of 1,079) donated \$3,185. Michigan Tree Farm 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 stay 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 with a check payable to "Michigan Tree Farm Committee" sent to Post Office Box 717, Roscommon, MI 48653 in the enclosed envelope.

**Thank you for taking great care of your Tree Farm and sharing your love of the woods with family, friends and neighbors!**