



Michigan Tree Farm 2017 Annual Report

American Tree Farm System:

Helping families care for their forests since 1941



Field Day at the Pierce Family Tree Farm in Iosco County at the Michigan Forest Association and Michigan Tree Farm meeting in September

January 2018

Michigan Tree Farm Committee

110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 100, Lansing, MI 48933

American Tree Farm System

The American Tree Farm System was started in 1941 by the Weyerhaeuser forest products company to showcase good forest management on private forest land. Tree Farm is now administered by the American Forest Foundation in partnership with 44 state committees and 16 independently managed groups (including Grossman Forestry and Green Timber Consulting Foresters in Michigan). Tree Farm's "Standards of Sustainability" help the public understand the benefits of forest management and allow foresters and independent auditors to certify Tree Farmers' exemplary forest stewardship. Tree Farmers display the "big green sign" to show their neighbors that they are proud of how they manage and protect their forest.

Tree Farm certifies natural and planted forests, not seedling nurseries or Christmas trees. When Tree Farm started in 1941, many landowners had to plant trees to restore forests that were cutover and burned in the 1800's and early 1900's. Seventy-six years later, Tree Farmers are still forward-thinking landowners who love to plant trees and improve their forest for their family and future generations to enjoy.

Michigan joined the American Tree Farm System in 1949. Today there are about 900 Tree Farmers in Michigan with more than 250,000 forested acres located in 80 counties. There are 101 active Inspecting Foresters that provide site visits for Tree Farmers. The Michigan Tree Farm Committee does not charge landowners for an inspection because we want foresters to provide independent advice and an unbiased review of a Tree Farm.



Collin Burnett and Stan Saylor discuss forest management while touring the Caveney Family Tree Farm in Ogemaw County during the MFA and Tree Farm annual meeting on September 23.

The 2018 MFA & Tree Farm annual meeting will be in Newberry and Naubinway on September 14-15, 2018.

2017 Accomplishments

- Tree Farm hosted eight Field Days in 2017 in Kalamazoo, Ottawa, Mason, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Ogemaw and Otsego Counties. Would you like to host a Field Day at your Tree Farm in 2018?
- Tree Farm foresters provided 143 inspections for landowners. Your Tree Farm inspection, which should happen every five years or so, is an opportunity to get professional advice about your forest.
- The committee sent out newsletters in January and June to keep you informed about Tree Farm and other related forestry matters. Email srobbins@michiganforest.com if you would like email updates.

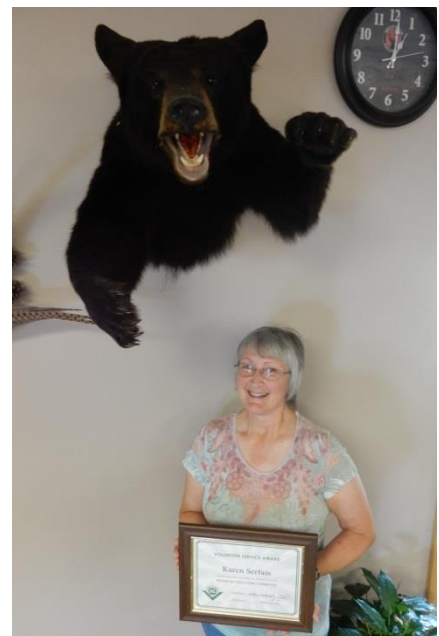
- Brittany VanderWall, Kaytlyn Brinkman, Nick Sanchez, Travis Kangas and Mike Smalligan attended the National Leadership Conference in Greenville, SC in February. The National Leadership Conference is an opportunity to network with the American Forest Foundation and other state committees to learn about how they serve landowners and deliver Tree Farm in their state.
- The committee met quarterly to conduct Tree Farm business. Quarterly meetings in 2018, open to any Tree Farmer or forester, will be March 1 (Gaylord), June 14 (St Ignace), September 13 (Newberry) and November 29 (St Ignace). Call Scott Robbins at 517-853-8880 if you would like to attend.
- Tree Farm paid \$35,859.50 for 121 Wheels to Woods trips (www.WheelsToWoods.org) in 2017 that impacted 10,679 people – 8,806 students, 440 teachers, 105 outdoor educators and 1,328 parents. Call Mike Smalligan at 517-284-5884 if you want to host a school group at your Tree Farm in 2018.
- Tree Farm joined up with the Michigan Forest Association at their annual meeting in East Tawas on September 22-23. This was an opportunity for 100 forest owners in both organizations to network with other landowners and to learn about how “Great Forests make Great Lakes.”

2017 Awards

- The Bruggink family and their Moose Tree LLC Tree Farm in Montcalm County won the 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award at the MFA and Tree Farm combined meeting in Tawas.
- Mark Janke, a consulting forester in Allegan, won the 2017 Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector of the Year award at the MFA and Tree Farm combined meeting in Tawas in September.
- Karen Serfass earned the Volunteer Service Award in September for her ten years of outstanding work as the Treasurer of the Michigan Tree Farm Committee. Karen was the president of the Michigan Forest Association from 2003 to 2006 and has hosted field days at her forest with her husband Rich.
- Mike Smalligan won the 2017 National Leadership Award by the American Forest Foundation at the National Leadership Conference in Greenville, SC in February.



Mark and Hilde Janke, Nick Sanchez, Bob and Jane Bruggink



Karen Serfass, our awesome Treasurer

2017 Finances

The Michigan Tree Farm Committee had \$41,728.52 at the beginning of 2017 and \$42,356.70 at the end of the year. Gross income was \$82,563.11 and total expenses were \$81,934.93 for a net gain of \$628.18 in 2017.

The Michigan Tree Farm Committee does not charge dues to Tree Farmers and instead operates on donations. The American Forest Foundation donated \$9,436.18 which was used for expenses like Field Days, inspections and the National Leadership Conference. Ten donors, primarily the US Forest Service, gave \$38,835 for Wheels to Woods field trips for students. The Committee received \$19,000 on behalf of seven partners to send to the USFS for the National Woodland Owner Survey. The DNR Forest Stewardship Program donated \$14,900 from the Forests for Fish project to support free inspections. Interest earned \$41.93 and other donors gave \$350.

Please consider a donation to help deliver Tree Farm in Michigan. Tax deductible donations made payable to the "Michigan Tree Farm Committee" can be sent to 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 100, Lansing, MI 48933.

Goals and Objectives for 2018

Our goal is to provide great customer service to 900 Tree Farmers and 140 Inspecting Foresters.

- Update the Michigan Tree Farm Committee Bylaws at the March 1 meeting in Gaylord
- Provide 150 Tree Farm inspections, at no cost to landowners, to 100 current and 50 new Tree Farmers
- Pay foresters \$100 for each on-site inspection (with "Forests for Fish" funding from the DNR and USFS)
- Host ten Tree Farm Field Days in partnership with local Conservation District foresters
- Pay for 100 "Wheels to Woods" field trips for 10,000 urban and rural students, teachers and parents
- Diversify and expand the funding sources for the Michigan Tree Farm Committee
- Partner with the Michigan Forest Association for a combined meeting in Newberry on Sept 14-15

2018 Michigan Tree Farm Committee

Administrator - Scott Robbins, Michigan Forest Products Council - srobbins@michiganforest.com

Chair - Brittany VanderWall, Presque Isle Conservation District - brittany.vanderwall@macd.org

Vice-Chair - Kayti Brinkman, Martell Forestry - brinkmank16@gmail.com

Secretary - Nick Sanchez, Montcalm Conservation District - Nick.Sanchez@mi.nacdnet.net

Treasurer - Julie Crick, Michigan State University Extension - crickjul@anr.msu.edu

Communications - Amanda Hattis, Michigan Forest Products Council - asumerix@michiganforest.com

Training Facilitator - Mike Smalligan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources - smalliganm@michigan.gov

Regional Coordinators

- West UP - Cory Howes, JM Longyear - corymhowes@gmail.com
- Central UP - Gary Bucklin, consulting forester - gbucklin1@gmail.com
- East UP - Travis Kangas, Louisiana Pacific Corp - Travis.Kangas@lpcorp.com
- Northeast LP - Nia Becker, Clare Conservation District - nia.becker@macd.org
- Northwest LP - Josh Shields, Manistee Conservation District - joshua.shields@macd.org
- Southern LP - James Gray, consulting forester - jamesgray@naturalcapitalforestry.com

SAVE the DATE – Combined Michigan Forest Association & Tree Farm meeting – Sept 14-15, 2018
(more information at MFA website www.MichiganForests.org this summer)