

2018 Finances

Michigan Tree Farm had \$28,364.25 at the beginning of 2018 and \$32,282.36 at the end of the year. Gross income was \$27,563.74 and total expenses were \$23,645.63 for a net gain of \$3,918.11 in 2018.

Michigan Tree Farm Committee operates on donations; it does not charge dues or fees to Tree Farmers. The American Forest Foundation donated \$11,231.13 for expenses such as Field Days, inspections and attending the National Leadership Conference. The DNR Forest Stewardship Program and Forests for Fish donated \$16,077.43 to support free inspections. Interest earned \$25.18 and other donors gave \$230. Funds for Wheels to Woods transportation grants are accounted for separately in 2018.

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



Bill Brand and his son Eli hosted 175 students on a Wheels to Woods trip to Northland Harvesting in Newberry to learn about logging during the MFA and Tree Farm Annual Celebration on September 14.

The Brands owns a 40-acre Tree Farm in Luce County that is certified through the Grossman Forestry Tree Farm Group.

Goals and Objectives for 2019

Our primary goal is to provide great customer service to 900 Tree Farmers and 110 Inspecting Foresters.

- Provide 300 inspections, at no cost to landowners, to 200 current and 100 new Tree Farmers
 - Pay foresters up to \$200 for providing inspections, which is only part of their actual costs
- Host 10 Tree Farm Field Days with Conservation District foresters and other partners
- Celebrate the 70th anniversary of Tree Farm coming to Michigan on June 10, 2019
- Pass the third-party audit with PricewaterhouseCoopers to validate your great forest stewardship
- Pay for 100 "Wheels to Woods" field trips to a forest for 10,000 students, teachers and parents
- Partner with MFA to host the Annual Celebration in Grand Rapids on Sept 13-14, 2019
 - Look for registration form with first-timer discount in the summer Tree Farm newsletter



Michigan Tree Farm 2018 Annual Report

American Tree Farm System:

Helping families care for their forests since 1941



Mark and Laura Viel are growing "blue ribbon hardwoods" in their 80-acre Tree Farm in Newaygo County.

January 2019

Michigan Tree Farm Committee
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Website: www.TreeFarmSystem.org/Michigan

The Michigan Tree Farm Committee is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 (such as 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 neighbors that they are proud of how they manage their forest.

Tree Farm certifies natural and planted forests, not nurseries or Christmas trees. When Tree Farm started in 1941, many landowners had to plant trees to restore forests that were cleared in the 1800s and burned in the early 1900s. Seventy-seven 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 on June 10, 1949 (*our 70th anniversary is in 2019*). There are 900 Tree Farmers from all 83 counties in Michigan with land totaling 252,000 acres. There are 110 foresters that provide free site visits for Tree Farmers. The Michigan Tree Farm Committee does not charge you for a visit because we want foresters to provide independent advice and an unbiased review of your Tree Farm. You are welcome, but not obligated, to hire Tree Farm foresters for other services.



Mary and Dale Patterson were happy to get a new sign in October for their 50-acre Tree Farm in Clinton County. They joined Tree Farm in 1979 and a forester had not been out for a visit since 2004.

Our goal is for a forester to visit your Tree Farm every five years to answer any questions and help you stay current with the Standards of Sustainability.

Please contact us, or your forester, if you would like a visit to your Tree Farm in 2019.

2018 Accomplishments

- 125 Tree Farmers attended 6 Field Days in Kent, Gladwin, Luce, Mason, Manistee and Otsego Counties. Please email kaytlyn@martellforestry.com if you would like to host a Field Day in 2019.
- Foresters provided 190 free site visits to 89 new and 101 current Tree Farmers in 2018.
- We sent out newsletters in January and July to keep you informed about Tree Farm and other forestry matters. Email srobbins@michiganforest.com if you would like occasional email updates.

- The committee held quarterly business meetings. Our meetings in 2019, open to any Tree Farmer, will be March 21 (Gaylord), June 10 (White Cloud), September 12 (Grand Rapids) and November 21 (Gaylord). Please email brittany.vanderwall@macd.org if you would like to attend a meeting.
- Tree Farm paid \$34,038 for 127 Wheels to Woods trips (www.WheelsToWoods.org) in 2018 that impacted 14,604 people – 12,322 students, 518 teachers, 97 outdoor educators and 1,667 parents. Email smalliganm@michigan.gov if you want to host a school group at your Tree Farm.
- 150 landowners from Tree Farm and Michigan Forest Association (MFA) met for a combined Annual Celebration in Newberry on Sept. 14-15. There was a 75% discount for those attending the first time, and this discount will be offered for the Sep 13-14, 2019 meeting in Grand Rapids.

2018 Awards

- Sally Hightower in Gladwin County won the 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award. Sally bought her 40-acre Twisted Oak Tree Farm in 1979 and has been in Tree Farm since 1981.
- Gary Bucklin, a consulting forester in Escanaba, won the 2018 Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector of the Year award. Gary helped 28 landowners join Tree Farm in 2018 with a free initial inspection.
- Scott Robbins earned the 2018 Volunteer Service Award for his work as the Administrator for the MI Tree Farm Committee. We appreciate Scott's great service to our Tree Farmers and foresters.
- Kayti Brinkman won the Young Forester of the Year and Mike Smalligan won the (middle-aged) Forester of the Year from the MI Society of American Foresters for their service to landowners.



Brittany VanderWall, Kayti Brinkman and Sally Hightower, the 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year



Brittany, Gary Bucklin, 2018 Inspector of the Year, Bill the Elk and Kayti