

EMMET CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3434 Harbor-Petoskey Rd., Harbor Springs, MI



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2011-2012

A Year of Workshops

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District Meetings

The District meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9am in the Emmet County building located at 3434 M-119 in the lower level conference room. All meetings are open to the public.

Timber Management Field Day

Thanks to a generous donation from the Baiardi Family Foundation, the Conservation District was able to conduct our first Forest Management Field Day, free of charge for local area property owners.

46 attendees boarded a bus at Boyne Highlands and traveled around Emmet County touring different types of timber properties.

Keith Martell and Lynn Stephens, private foresters explained management practices at each site. The tours included an unmanaged red pine stand, a managed red pine stand for comparison, a stand presently under harvest and mixed hardwood stands.

Jeff Brueker, a forester and buyer for a local lumber mill and



Don Stacks, DNR forester were also on hand to answer any question the group may have. Lunch was provided half way through the tour at the lovely home of one managed timber property owner.

Hardwood Timber Management

25 people attended the Hardwood Timber Management workshop held at the fairground community center on February 25th.

Russ Kidd, MSU Extension Forest Educator presented "Managing Privately Owned Woodlands for Profit & Pleasure"

He explained that owners need to start with a idea or goal for their property.

He then went on to discuss why it's important to work with a forester to develop a management plan, whether you want to harvest your timber or develop it for recreational use, i.e. hunting or wildlife habitat.

He also covered hiring a logger and the importance of checking their insurance and having a written contract. Foresters usually will recommend loggers and even receive bid offers for the property owner.

**Financial Report
Fiscal Year 2011-2012
Receipts and Disbursements as of
Sept. 30, 2012**

Income	
County Grant	2,500
Interest	228
Tree Sales	8,336
Donations	1,306
Workshops	3,590
Other	830
Total Income	16,790
Expense	
District Operations	17,100
Tree Sales	4,895
Total Expense	21,998
Net Income	-5,208
Beginning Fund Balance	36,650
Ending Fund Balance	31,442

The Conservation District has compiled a list of local Foresters and can provide this information to interested property owners.



Our **Master Naturalist** series added a new class this year. The class traveled to Mackinaw City to learn about our local raptors and witness the spring migration of eagles, hawks and falcons across the Straits of Mackinac with Steve Baker, a member of the Petoskey Audubon Society.



Steve Fouch was our presenter at our **“Backyard Fruit Tree Workshop”** in April. Topics Steve covered included, selection of fruit varieties for our area, site preparation and growing for quality, tips on planting and tree nutrition, proper training and care of young trees, pruning of older trees, protection from deer and other critters, insect and disease control and finally proper harvesting and handling.



In any season, any weather and any place nature journaling makes us slow down observe, reflect and embrace our connection to our living environment. Sara Tisdell who has a BA in art and MS in outdoor education lead a wonderful workshop in June titled **“Nature Journalingrecording the extra-ordinary in life”**. She taught simple methods for capturing what you see, hear and feel in sketches, words and other media. You didn't have to be an artist....you just had to enjoy the beauty of Northern Michigan.

Our last workshop of the year **“Landscaping with Native Michigan Wildflowers”** brought Vern Stephens, owner of Designs by Nature up to Emmet County to share why it's important to plant natives, site selection and preparation, installation and maintenance and benefits to wildlife and pollinators. Vern is a member of the Wildflower Association of Michigan and brought a wonderful variety on native wildflowers with him for sale. The Conservation District was able to sell the flowers to help cover the cost of the workshop.



Thank You to the Following People for Their Generous Donations in Support of the District in 2012

Benefactors

Baiardi Family Foundation

Patrons

Pat Duffy
Dee Irwin
Russ LaBeau
Marilynn Smith
Cydney Steeb

Donors

Mike Tiedeck

Friends

Audry Bauer
Joyce Cather
Terry Clayton
Roxanne Cook
John Day
Joel Donaldson
Fran Gano
Lawrence Goethals
Stephen Hume
Henry Lenick
Susan Mallory
Bob Rossman
Patricia West

Volunteer Recognition

The District received many hours of volunteer labor this past year. It would have been impossible for us to accomplish our work without this volunteer assistance. We would like to thank them all for their help.

Pat Duffy

Dee Irwin

Terri Law

And the Emmet County
Master Gardeners