

Facts of the Week

Week of 27 October

- ❖ We held our first annual PAC Pheasant Hunt and Game Roast at John and Bill Zellar's hunting camp. All monies donated went towards our Political Action Committee which helps fund our efforts in Lansing. The weather was just about perfect and we released roughly 50 pheasants for the hunters. Following the hunt we gorged ourselves on various wild game. Those participating in the pheasant hunt were Bill and D.J. Zellar, Andy Hinkson, Randy Kerr, Doug Scheuneman, Bill and Emmett Brand, and my son, Thomas, and I. The birds proved to be wiser than us as we harvested only half the birds.

We raised \$650.00 for the PAC fund, all the hunters contributed as well as Mark LaCombe, Bruce Rye and Bruce Devereaux. I would like to thank all of the guys for contributing to our PAC fund. I would also like to thank Bill Brand for donating the birds and the Zellars for allowing us to use their camp. We are already thinking about next year.

- ❖ Participated in the Public Advisory Team (PAT) meeting. This group is working on the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process, which will look at "Natural Communities" that occur on state owned property. This group was established back in early 2000 and since the certification of state land it was decided to get this group active again. A major focus of some of the participants of PAT is the establishment of Old Growth. I feel our role in this group is to minimize the amount of acres that will have limited timber harvesting. We are working on the selection process, once that is flushed out we will start the size delineation and management regimes. The summaries of a few "Natural Communities" that I have reviewed all have a timber management component in them. Often timber is harvested to create or maintain the community. I will keep you updated on this process.
- ❖ GLTPA and MAT conducted a logger meeting in Kenton, to discuss issues with the Forest Service. Recently the Ottawa Forest sent a letter to producers outlining new procedures regarding the removal of non painted trees. The new procedure will impact the efficiencies and productivity of producers working on forest service land. Roughly, a dozen producers participated in this meeting and a follow-up in woods meeting was scheduled for Monday the 3rd of November. This new policy is coming from the top down so we will start to work on a solution to this problem.

Week of 03 November

- ❖ Participated in the logger/forest service meeting and from what I could tell they are allowing notification within 48 hours of any removal of a non painted tree. This meeting also addressed the inadequate marking of timber in regards to logging equipment. Please contact your local district for specific guidelines to the removal of non painted trees.
- ❖ Transportation and Logging committees held conference calls to discuss policy issues that needed to be included into our policy book. It is our hope to have the policy book finished by the end of 2008 and published in early 2009. I guess this isn't our hope it will be done.
- ❖ Our State Christmas tree was harvest in Suomi. It was a blue spruce roughly 65 feet tall and by Jan Hamill's count 101 years old, I will refrain from any age jokes here. The weather once again held for us and we got the tree down and to Lansing with little problems. I would like to thank Dave Holli and Holli Forest Products for the cutting and hauling of the tree. Dave's employees were a great help in wrapping the tree as well. Again thanks Dave for your generosity.

Week of 10 November

- ❖ Participated in another PAT meeting. The staff from DNR was to rework the model to see if some of our changes would result in different areas being selected for potential Biological Stewardship Areas (BSA). Once this work is presented again to the PAT Team we will give our approval for the department to continue work on the rest of the state.
- ❖ The Marketing/Manufacturing and Legislative Committee held conference calls to look at policy issues that need to be included in our book. The Legislative committee will have oversight to the development of our policy book. I and a few other directors will be the main policy writers.
- ❖ I participated in the Lakes States Federal Timber Purchasers conference call which looks at funding and budgeting issues as well as organizational structure. The group for the time being will become an official committee of FRA. Jon Lamy passed the Chairman position to Chris Chase of Timber Products, thanks Jon for your leadership.
- ❖ Unfortunately I have been selected for Jury duty this month and a few days have been consumed for this purpose.
- ❖ I hope all the hunters have a safe and successful deer opener; I will be spending much of my time over the next couple of weeks in the woods in search of a buck. If you need to get a hold of me please contact Jan and she can relay the message to me.

Legislative Action

It does not look good for any of our bills to get passed before the end of the year. Treasury for reasons unknown to us has changed their position on **Senate Bill 880 and 881 and House Bills 6320 & 6352**, they now oppose them. With the session ending this year we will have to get these bills redrafted for the next session which we are already lining up legislators to help us. We just have to figure out who plays well together and who is going to run against some in the next elections in 2010. I know it is crazy but that is what our political system has come to. We will also continue to work on the Slasher bill as well as try and amend the Michigan Business Tax, so 2009 will be another busy year for MAT in Lansing.

Upcoming Events

Silver Bells Parade-Capitol Tree Lighting	21 November 6pm	Lansing
Traverse City DNR Open House	24 November 3pm – 7pm	TC Field Office
Traverse City DNR Open House	25 November 3pm – 7pm	Kalkaska Field Office
Turkey Day MAT Office Closed	27 & 28 November	
NIPFC Meeting	01 December 9:30am – 3pm	Northern MI
Gladwin DNR Open House	02 December 3pm – 6pm	Gladwin Field Office
Newberry DNR Open House	02 December 4pm – 7pm	McMillan Twp Hall
FMAC Meeting	03 December 1pm – 5pm	Lansing MI
Shingleton DNR Open House	03 December 4pm – 7pm	Wyman Nursery
Cadillac DNR Compartment Review	04 December 9:30am	Cadillac Library