MICHIGAN REGISTERED FORESTER

Spring 2025 Newsletter

Program Operations Update

Included in the envelope with this newsletter is a Registered Forester patch for you to display on your favorite piece of forester clothing or gear. As of the printing of this newsletter, the program has 147 participating foresters and is in good financial standing. The board of foresters continues to approve sponsorship funding to support various conferences and workshops that provide continuing education credits for all of you. New in 2025 will be several print advertisements to promote the value in choosing a Registered Forester. Those ads will be in some of your favorite outdoor publications including Woods-N-Water News and Michigan Out of Doors magazine. Your new advertisement is shown near the bottom of this newsletter. Please email or call Matt Watkeys, DNR Forest Marketing and Outreach specialist, with any feedback. His contact information is near the end of the newsletter.

The Board of Foresters has passed a process for Registered Foresters to received $20 discounts on registration renewal fees for attending an approved conference that provides continuing education, up to a maximum of $60 in discounts. Registered Foresters will be required to provide proof of attendance upon registration renewal. See more information below.

Meetings of the Michigan Board of Foresters occur monthly on the last Monday of each month in-person and virtually. Information on how to join can be obtained from Matt Watkeys, the schedule and locations are below. All meetings are open to the public and recorded under the Open Meetings Act rules. Meeting minutes are posted on the Registered Forester website.

2024 CE Audit and 2026 Renewal

The Registered Forester program participants were audited in December of 2024 for review of their continuing education credit documentation. Per the CE Policy, five percent of the total number of registered foresters were randomly selected for auditing. All seven that were drawn for audit successfully demonstrated compliance with the CE requirement per PA116, Sec. 53509. This audit will take place during each renewal cycle so please maintain accurate records of the courses and meetings you attend.

All registrants in the program will renew by May 30th of even numbered years. This means that next year, 2026, is a renewal year! More to come on that later in the year.

Conduct Corner, By Gerald Grossman, Michigan Registered Forester #567

PA 116 includes 14 requirements that each Michigan registered forester shall comply with. Every Michigan registered forester should review them periodically. This Conduct Corner is intended to stimulate discussion and review of “real world” situations.

Do you think the following situation is covered in PA 116?

You are a consulting forester who wrote a forest management plan for a landowner, who subsequently used it to enroll in the Qualified Forest Program. The plan recommended leaving an appropriate Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) along a designated trout stream. You find out that the landowner has instructed the logging contractor to clearcut the RMZ in a fashion that is clearly not in conformance with Michigan's Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality. What do you do?

Consider for discussion purposes:

Sec. 53513 (j) *A registered forester shall "*Provide forestry services in a manner that will ensure the public health, safety, and welfare and if, in his or her professional judgment, any of these are endangered, notify the client or employer and give appropriate recommendations or instructions." Sec. 53513 (k) "If a client or employer fails or refuses to follow recommendations or instructions under subdivision (j), notify the responsible governmental department or agency of the threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

Would the discussion be different if you are administering the timber sale as an agent for the landowner? Does it make any difference if you are a procurement forester working for a mill purchasing the wood? Does it make any difference if you are a Michigan registered forester working for the logging contractor?

REMINDER:

Did you know PA 116 includes the requirement that a Registered Forester "Not issue a forestry plan, map, specification, or report prepared by that registered forester or under his or her actual supervision unless it is endorsed with the registered forester's name and certificate of registration number."

Complaint Process

The violations committee of the Michigan Board of Foresters received two complaints against two registered foresters in good standing in 2024. The complaint process was followed and the registered foresters in question provided documentation requested by the violations committee. One case was dismissed, and one case included a letter of caution issued by the Board of Foresters through recommendations of the violations committee. Any person may lodge a complaint against a registered forester. PA116 of 2018, Section 53517 has a specific set of guidelines that the violations committee follows. These are the third and fourth official complaints in total the committee has handled since the program was revamped in 2018. Program participants should be confident in the high-quality work being done around the state.

Fun Fall Event

Great Lakes Logging and Heavy Equipment Expo in Escanaba September 4-6, www.gltpa.org

Continuing Education Credits

Do you want to get $20, $40, or up to $60 off your renewal fees in 2026? Keep your registration receipt for attending in-person continuing education conference opportunities and submit them during the renewal phase April-May 2026. Your fees can be reduced up to $60 with $20 per attendance receipt submitted.

Mark your calendars for the Michigan Society of American Foresters spring meeting in Gaylord, April 10-11, 2025. www.michigansaf.org. 10 CE credits are awarded for attending both days. Non-SAF members are welcome to attend.

Other options to obtain continuing education credits can be found at these web page links.

- Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Michigan www.sfimi.org
- The Society of American Foresters (SAF) www.ForestEd.org
- The Arboriculture Society of Michigan www.asm-isa.org
- www.forestrywebinars.net (all online options)
- www.fistausa.org and search the Resources tab for online training. If you or the company you work for are a member of Great Lakes Timber Producers Association, courses are less than $50.

Remember to follow the continuing education policy for the Registered Forester program to assure you obtain credits from the proper sources! That policy is listed on this website:
https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/private/registered-forester

Michigan Board of Foresters 2024 – 2026

Chairperson: Gerald Grossman, representing the Association of Consulting Foresters
Vice-Chair: Joyce Angel, representing the Michigan Society of American Foresters (SAF)
Secretary: Brenda Haskill, of the Michigan DNR, representing state agencies with forestry staff
Member: Melinda Jones, of ReLeaf Michigan, representing the municipal, urban and community forestry field
Member: Todd Penrose, of Holli Forest Products, representing Forest Product Industry and Private Logging
Member: Julia Burton, of Michigan Technological University, representing forestry faculty of a SAF accredited University forestry program
Member: Emily Silver, of the Michigan Forest Association, representing private landowners
DNR Staff Support: Matt Watkeys, Michigan DNR Forest Resources Division

For contact information, terms, and Committee involvements, please see the complete Board list at:
https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/boards/foresters/members

MFA Announces new Executive Director

Nicole Frost has been named as the new Michigan Forest Association Executive Director. Please join us in welcoming Nicole to the new role! She can be contacted at: (517) 816-7879, or
Nicole.Frost@michiganforests.org
https://michiganforests.org/

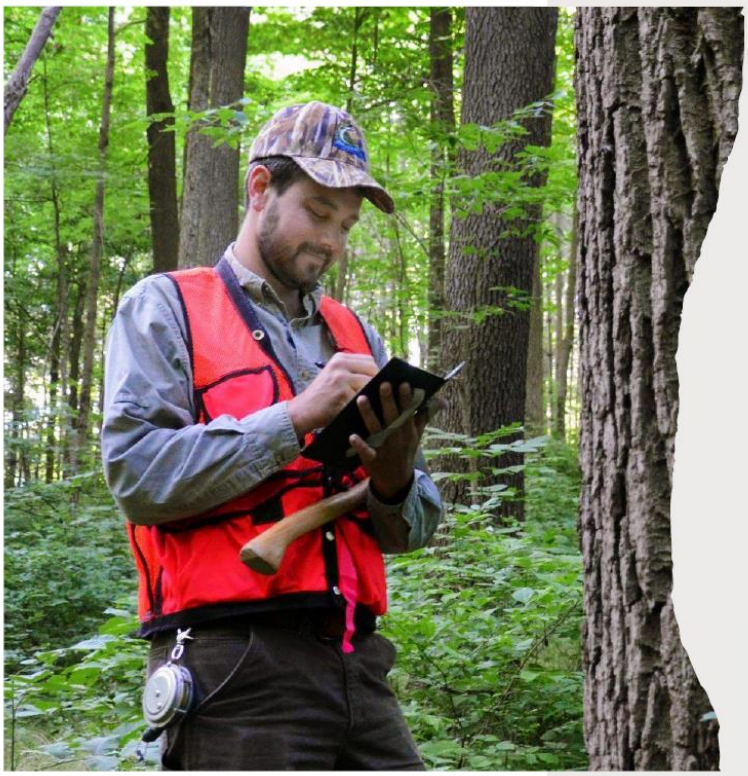
Board of Foresters 2025 Meeting Schedule and in-person Locations

February 24 – Marquette
March 31 – Grayling
April 28 – Marquette
May 26 – Memorial Holiday – N/A
June 30 – Grayling
July 28 – Marquette
August 25 – Grayling
September 29 – Marquette
October 27 – Grayling
November 24 – Marquette
December 29 - Grayling

Marquette DNR Customer Service Center
1900 US-41, Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 458-6965
Grayling DNR Customer Service Center
1955 Hartwick Pines Rd., Grayling, MI 49738
(989) 370-9557

ALL MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AT 3:00 PM EST

To participate in a Registered Forester Board Meeting virtually via Teams, please contact Matt for the Marquette location meetings, and Brenda for the Grayling location meetings. Phone numbers are listed above.



Program support – please contact Matt Watkeys
Marquette CSC, Attn: Matt Watkeys, 1990 US-41, Marquette, MI 49855
watkeysm@michigan.gov
(906) 458-6965 call or text

www.michigan.gov/registeredforester