



LEELANAU CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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News Release

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Forestry Field Day at Interlochen Center for the Arts

Join area landowners for a Forestry Field Day on **Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm** at **Interlochen Center for the Arts, 4000 Highway M-137, Interlochen.**

The workshop will include an indoor presentation in the morning, and a field tour of some of Interlochen's nearly 1,000 acres. The Forestry Field Day is presented by the Forestry Assistance Program, Benzie, Leelanau and Grand Traverse Conservation Districts, Michigan Tree Farm System and the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

This workshop will aid landowners in weighing different factors to consider when making management decisions on their forested property. The Field Day will also introduce the American Tree Farm System, a voluntary forest certification and education program for forest landowners.

Consulting Forester Daniel Schillinger of Schillinger Forestry and Northern Michigan Tree Doctor, will present the current forest management plan he prepared and the practices he is overseeing on the Interlochen property including oak wilt management, red pine plantation thinning and wildlife habitat enhancement projects.

Jenna Johnson, DNR AmeriCorps Forest Health Technician, will provide information on identification and treatment of oak wilt, a 100% fatal fungal disease of red oaks. The workshop will include a tour of oak wilt sites and the treatments that have been used to contain the spread of this non-native disease.

Heather Hettinger, DNR Fisheries Biologist, will share how healthy and diverse forests help protect and enhance fish and other aquatic wildlife habitats. A tour of some important forest/lake/wetland habitats will be provided in the afternoon field session, highlighting enhancement practices to improve forest and habitat quality and diversity.

Robert Foulkes, owner of White Oak Timber Frames, will demonstrate a portable sawmill and share how that equipment can enhance management on private lands by utilizing trees on site.

Mary O'Brien and Daniel McCormick are California-based environmental artists (www.watershedsculpture.com) who will be working with the Interlochen Arts Academy Ecology and Visual Arts students as they study the conversion of a pine plantation to a native forest. They will share how they strive to have science inform the artistic decisions that will be made in the pine plantation.

Kama Ross, District Forester for Benzie, Leelanau and Grand Traverse Conservation Districts will provide information about the Forestry Assistance Program which provides free on-site technical assistance to area landowners, and how you can save on forestland property taxes through two state funded programs.

Please register by **September 1** by contacting Kama Ross, District Forester with the Leelanau, Benzie and Grand Traverse Conservation Districts at **231-256-9783** or kama.ross@macd.org. Cost for the workshop including a continental breakfast and lunch is **\$5.00/person**. For directions and an area map, visit www.interlochen.org.