



LEELANAU CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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News Release

Date: Immediate to September 11, 2017

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Ties to the Land: Family Forest Ownership Succession

Area forest landowners are invited to “**Ties to the Land**” Workshop on **Saturday, September 16th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm** at the Grand Traverse Conservation District, Boardman Nature Center Community Room, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City.

This day-long workshop will be a great starting point for any family wanting to learn how to “hand down” their forest land from one generation to the next. Ties to the Land is a program that will help you in practical ways to facilitate family succession as well as estate planning. Ties to the Land focuses on succession planning, the human side of estate planning. This workshop will focus on strategies to maintain family ties to the land from one generation to the next; building awareness of the key challenges facing family businesses; and motivating families to address the challenges. It is a facilitated and interactive workshop with DVD-based components that provides effective tools families can use to decide the future of their land. The Ties to the Land presentations, video clips and discussion work best with multiple family members participating in the workshop. This is a tremendous opportunity for forest owners to learn how to effectively plan your forest legacy.

Some forests and other rural lands may be converted to a different use because owners didn't take charge of the succession process in time. There are many reasons for this:

- Landowners may have a strong desire to pass their land on to their children but have not yet done the work necessary to ensure that result.
- Many landowners haven't talked to their children about who will take care of the family forest after they're gone.
- Some owners have realized their children may lack the skills to manage the family land or may not be interested in doing so.
- Others assume that succession planning will be too expensive, and they aren't sure what the benefits will be. Other owners wait for their children to take the initiative. Or maybe they just don't know what to do next.

Local workshop presenters from the natural resource, legal and business sectors will provide the essential tools and resources that help woodland owners make the decisions necessary to achieve their objectives and pass their land to succeeding generations.

Price: \$65.00 per family, \$15.00 per additional family member – snacks/lunch provided.

Registration: Contact District Forester Kama Ross at 231-256-9783 or kama.ross@macd.org by September 11th.