



# Delta Earth News

DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tree Catalog Special Insert



## Board of Directors

**Jack Herrick** Chairman/Treasurer  
**Benny Herioux** Vice-Chairman  
**Allen Porath** Secretary  
**Russ Ross** Director  
**Dave Nelson** Director

## Associate Board Members

**Dave Silvius**

## District Employees

**Rory Mattson** CEO / Forester  
**Lori Mathews** District Manager  
**Katie Leaym** Admin Assistant  
**Holly Moss** MAEAP Specialist  
**Tyler Tankersley** CTAI Technician  
**Steve Wery** Parks Manager

All programs and services of the Delta Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

## Delta Conservation District 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting August 7, 2019

Social Hour – 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner – 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting – 8:00 p.m.

### Pioneer Trail Park Pavilion

For Dinner Tickets  
Call: (906) 553-7700  
After June 11th for Ticket Price

#### Meeting Activities Include

- \* Dinner
- \* District Reports
- \* Big Tree Contest Winner
- \* Door Prizes & Raffle

### Presentation – Delta County Forest

## The Delta Conservation District Board of Directors Monthly Meetings Schedule:

The monthly meetings are open to the public at 6PM EST. The Board discusses and manages the operations of the Delta County Parks and the Delta Conservation District. The community is encouraged to attend and participate. Public Comment is always a scheduled agenda item.

October - No Meeting	April 9, 2019
November 6, 2018	May 14, 2019
December 18, 2018	June 11, 2019
January 8, 2019	July 9, 2019
February 12, 2019	August 27, 2019
March 12, 2019	September 24, 2019

Please see our website: [www.deltacd.org](http://www.deltacd.org)  
Meeting dates are subject to change. Please call to confirm dates.

*The meeting will be held under the provisions of the Open Meetings Act (Act 267, P.A. 1976) at the following locations:*

*October through April*  
**USDA Service Center - Gladstone**  
**2003 Minneapolis Avenue (behind Subway)**  
**Gladstone, MI 49837**

*May through September*  
**Delta Conservation District**  
**6822 US Highway 2 - 41 & M35 (Pioneer Trail Park Pavilion)**  
**Gladstone, MI 49837**

## Events Calendar: Meetings/Workshops and Other

- APR 26/27** Annual Spring Tree Sale. Trees can be ordered now until tree pickup dates, but because of limited supply on some species, order early. Tree pickup dates and times are: Friday April 26 - 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday April 27 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pick-up orders at the U.P. State Fair Grounds in Escanaba - Barn #10. Contact the District for additional information.
- MAY 7** An informational/educational meeting to explain and answer questions for incentive programs and cost-share opportunities for forest-landowners. Agenda items will include, but not limited to, (1) reducing your property tax; (2) Michigan's right to forest legislation; (3) new state wetland regulation changes (4) forest certification – Michigan's 2 systems; (5) Tree Farm enrollment; (6) projects: all cost-share financial incentive programs (Federal, State & Local). This session will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the First Baptist Church banquet hall 319 Walnut St. in Manistique (across from the court house). See article in this newsletter for more information or contact our office.
- MAY 13** Delta County Parks & Campgrounds open for the season. Weather dependent. Please contact our office for information and reservations. Many new and exciting activities will be introduced this year.
- MAY 14** An informational/educational meeting to explain and answer questions for incentive programs and cost-share opportunities for forest-landowners. Agenda items will include, but not limited to, (1) reducing your property tax; (2) Michigan's right to forest legislation; (3) new state wetland regulation changes (4) forest certification – Michigan's 2 systems; (5) Tree Farm enrollment; (6) projects: all cost-share financial incentive programs (Federal, State & Local). This session will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the First Baptist Church banquet hall 319 Walnut St. in Manistique (across from the court house). See article in this newsletter for more information or contact our office.
- JUNE 28/29** Abate Motorcycle Extravaganza – “Great U.P. Poker Run”; Public is welcome; Pioneer Trail Park; Friday & Saturday night - outdoor party, dance, food; Saturday – poker run.
- AUG 7** The 68<sup>th</sup> Delta Conservation District Annual Meeting. Social Hour, Dinner & Meeting – 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the pavilion at Pioneer Trail Park; This year's presentation will be: The Delta County Forest – “What's currently going on out there and how will that property be managed into the future”. Contact the office for tickets and additional information.
- AUG 24** **“Walk in the Forest”** – An informational/educational outdoor event for the purpose of demonstrating with completed on-the-ground techniques the do's and don'ts of game species management (a picture paints a thousand words). This event is open to the public and highly recommended for both private forest landowners and professional land managers. Phase 1 was presented at Bay College in 2017 as an indoor classroom; this event or phase 2 will inform and educate you with completed on-the-ground habitat work. This workshop will be held on the new Delta County forestland in Cornell Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. See article in this newsletter for more information. Also contact our office for location map in Cornell Twp.
- SEPT 21** Pioneer Trail Park's annual Halloween Spooktacular for registered campers (Pioneer or Fuller). Make your reservations early. Please contact our office for information and reservations.

## Informational/Educational Sessions

Informational/educational sessions will be held this spring. The first meetings are this spring to explain and answer questions on incentive programs, project cost-share opportunities, property taxes and liability protection for forest-landowners. Owning forest land for recreational activities or other interests can be expensive so why not learn all there is to reducing the cost. You own it, pay the taxes but is it really yours to do what you want. Many landowners wonder about that! Learn about new legislation and protections for forestland property owners. It can truly be yours if you are informed and protected. Are you interested in knowing how to get more money from your timber sale? Are you proactive or reactive – learn to be proactive. Learn all the new possibilities for cost-share programs that are available to forest landowners. The 2 sessions will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the First Baptist Church banquet hall 319 Walnut St. in Manistique (across from the court house - see calendar of events in this newsletter). For more information contact our office.

A **“Walk in the forest”** is planned for late summer (see calendar of events in this newsletter). An outdoor event for the purpose of viewing and critiquing completed on-the-ground techniques; the do’s and don’ts of game species management (a picture paints a thousand words). This event is open to the public and highly recommended for both private forest landowners and professional land managers. This workshop will be held on the new Delta County forestland in Cornell Twp. This 1400 acre forest has many different timber types and past harvesting techniques that will be shown, reviewed and commented on. Is there a difference in how you harvest (cut) timber? What is the difference in forest management -vs- wildlife management when harvesting timber? After this workshop you will be able to conduct habitat projects and harvest timber with a reasonable assurance of an expected outcome. Food plots, seeded walking trails and tree and shrub plantings just to mention a few will also be observed and discussed. For more information and location map contact our office.

## New Wetland Bills Approved for Michigan

Did you know that three independent boards have now been created in Michigan to provide oversight to the DEQ & the states wetland regulations have been rewritten?

Environmental Rules Review Committee (SB 652) – this committee reviews any administrative rules that the DEQ wants to adopt.

Environmental Permit Review Committee (SB 653) – this committee would hear disputes related to permits and/or permit applications. Also under this specific law – if a landowner wants to further appeal a permit application decision, he/she can appeal the unfavorable decision to an environmental permit review panel by submitting a petition to the DEQ director. This panel would consist of different members than the original review committee.

Environmental Science Board (SB 654) – this board would advise the governor and any state offices, department, or agency on issues affecting the environment or the management of natural resources in the state.

All business conducted by the three review groups mentioned above must take place at public meetings held in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Rewrite Wetland Legislation (SB 1211) – This bill is too large to discuss the changes in Michigan’s wetland legislation in this newsletter. The most important parts that private landowners should be excited about are (1) the new definition of a wetland & (2) the change in regulations for forest roads in wetlands. The Delta County Conservation District board of Directors believes that these approved bills will now help private landowners on disputes with the DEQ on wetland issues and would like to thank term-limited Senator Tom Casperson for listening to the people of the Upper Peninsula and spear-heading these new and changed bills through the Michigan legislature.

Any work done in wetlands, deciding if it is a wetland or what are the regulations can be confusing. The Conservation District offers this service to any private landowner who needs help. Please contact our office for assistance (906) 553-7700.

## Delta Conservation District - Conservation Resource Assessment

Please rank the FIVE most important natural resource issues or areas facing our community in the next decade. Rank 1 – 5, with 1 being the most important issue and 5 being the least important.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural issues                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Threatened/endangered species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry issues                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree and plant health issues  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive species issues                | <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality issues          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/tourism                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland regulations           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil erosion and sedimentation control | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat issues       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storm water management                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)        |

Which areas of our community are most in need of natural resource conservation assistance?

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Are there any educational meetings or workshops you would like the Delta Conservation District to hold; and if so, what?

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Do you know of any areas that require attention by the Delta Conservation District?

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Are there any natural resource/environmental issues or concerns on your personal property that you need information and/or a site visit to address? If so, please provide contact information below.

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If you're interested in being a volunteer on natural resource projects, park recreational projects, or during tree sale, please provide your contact information and we will be in contact.

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We would like to thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. It is an important tool in developing our future goals, 5-year work plan and setting District policies for meeting the resource needs of our community.

Please return this survey by April 1, 2019 to the Delta Conservation District office,  
6822 US Highway 2 41 M35, Gladstone, MI 49837 or fax to 906-786-1020 or email [lorimathews@deltacd.org](mailto:lorimathews@deltacd.org)



# 2019 Delta County Annual Big Tree Contest

*Sponsored by the Delta Conservation District*

We will be looking for the biggest:

**Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)**  
**Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*)**  
In Delta County

Each year, the Delta Conservation District selects a different species to be judged. The tree must be located on a Delta County property that either you have permission to be on or that you hold ownership. The winning tree will be determined by trunk circumference measured at 4 1/2 feet above the ground level. If the tree has multiple trunks, and they separate below the 4 1/2 foot mark, select and measure the largest trunk only. If there should be a tie, the total tree height shall be the factor in determining the winner. The winning tree entries will be verified by the Delta Conservation District.

A \$25.00 check and one ticket to the Annual Meeting will be awarded for the Biggest Tree in each category (see above). Monetary awards will be distributed at the District's Annual Meeting on August 7, 2019.

Be sure to enter your "Biggest Tree" and win some cash at the same time. **You must submit your nomination on the entry form below by July 19, 2019** at the Delta Conservation District, 6822 US Highway 2 41 M35, Gladstone, MI 49837 (Pioneer Trail Park).



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## 2019 BIG TREE ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Circumference to the Nearest Inch : \_\_\_\_\_

## A Message from the New District Conservationist

My name is Mike Van Wyk, and I was hired on last September as the new District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Gladstone, replacing Tom Tauzer following his retirement. My role is to provide assistance to private landowners to tackle an array of natural resource concerns on their properties through guidance and NRCS' financial assistance programs. My coverage area includes Delta and Schoolcraft counties.

A little bit about me, I was raised in SE Wisconsin, south of Green Bay, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2008. I got my start with the agency in Oklahoma and spent two years working in the NW corner of the state in the dust bowl region and another two years in the far eastern part of the state on the fringes of the Ouachita Mountains. I moved to Kansas in 2012, taking a district conservationist position in the far east central part of the state.

Outside of work, I am an avid outdoorsman and enjoy hunting, fishing and camping. I'm looking forward to exploring the many outdoor opportunities the upper peninsula has to offer.

I've enjoyed meeting and working with folks here in the UP so far and look forward to building relationships with many more. My office is located at 2003 Minneapolis Ave in Gladstone and you can call me at 906-428-1060 x3.

## TREE SALE

### Volunteers Needed!!

The Delta Conservation District is looking for volunteers to help out with our Annual Tree Sale. We will be needing volunteers beginning Tuesday, April 23rd, through Saturday, April 27th. Any hours you could spare would be greatly appreciated. Please call Lori Mathews at (906) 553-7700, if you are interested in helping!



**WE ARE ON THE WEB!!!**

**[www.deltacd.org](http://www.deltacd.org)**

## DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

6822 US Highway 2 41 M35  
Gladstone, MI 49837

Phone: (906) 553-7700

Fax: (906) 786-1020

Email: [lorimathews@deltacd.org](mailto:lorimathews@deltacd.org)

Web: [www.deltacd.org](http://www.deltacd.org)

**“Reforestation our Earth,  
one TREE at a time.”**



## Forestland Project Financial Assistance

Now that the Federal Farm Bill has been approved the Conservation District is ready to continue with sign-ups for financial assistance to private forest landowners for forestry, wildlife and stabilization/restoration projects. For those of you who already have contacted us, we didn't forget you, we will be contacting you shortly. For those of you who haven't yet, you haven't missed a thing. Contact our office at (906) 553-7700 and someone will take down initial information. After that we will contact you for a personal office visit to establish what forestland projects you want to do and the best/easiest financial program to meet your needs.