



Delta Earth News

Delta Conservation District

Tree Catalog Special Insert



Board of Directors

- Jack Herrick** Chairman/Treasurer
- Benny Herioux** Vice-Chairman
- Russ Ross** Director
- Dave Nelson** Director
- Dan McNamee** Director

Associate Board Members

- Dave Silvius**

District Employees

- Rory Mattson** CEO / Resource Specialist
- Heather Bliss** District Manager
- Holly Moss** MAEAP Specialist
- Tyler Tankersley** CTAI Technician
- Sara Kelso** Forester
- Lori Mathews** - CTAI Program Asst
- 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 70th Annual Meeting August 10, 2021

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 15th for Ticket Price

Meeting Activities Include

- * Dinner
- * District Reports
- * Election
- * Door Prizes & Raffle

Presentation – To Be Determined

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 20, 2020	April 13, 2021
November- NO MEETING	May 11, 2021
December 8, 2020	June 8, 2021
January 12 & 21, 2021	July 13, 2021
February 9, 2021	August 24, 2021
March 9, 2021	September 21, 2021

Please see our website: 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

**Delta County Service Center - Escanaba
2920 College Ave. (Commissioner Meeting Room)
Escanaba, MI 49829**

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

- MAY 13** **Opening Day of Reservations for Delta County Campgrounds.**
- APR 24/25** **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 23 - 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 24 - 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 5** **Forestland Assistance & Incentives:** An informational/educational session to explain and answer questions for private landowners who own forest land. Discussed will be assistance, programs, and/or financial opportunities that exist today in helping forested landowners reach their property goals and objectives. This session will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday, at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Escanaba, (1001 N. Lincoln Rd.- located on the highway by the U.P. Fairgrounds). See article in this newsletter for more information or contact our office.
- MAY 6** **Baiting vs Alternative Plantings:** An informational/educational session to assist landowners interested in game species. Alternatives to artificial feeding and baiting by using plantings (food plots and/or natural browse - wildlife plantings) instead of feed/bait to assist in your viewing and/or harvesting of game will be discussed. This session will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Escanaba, (1001 N. Lincoln Rd.- located on the highway by the U.P. Fairgrounds). See article in this newsletter for more information or contact our office.
- MAY 12** **Timber Sales:** An informational/educational session to explain what forested landowners need to know about when, where, who, why, what and how to harvest timber on their property. This session will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday, at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Escanaba, (1001 N. Lincoln Rd.- located on the highway by the U.P. Fairgrounds). See article in this newsletter for more information or contact our office.
- JUNE 25/26** **Abate Motorcycle Extravaganza:** "Great U.P. Poker Run"; Public is welcome; Pioneer Trail Park; Friday & Saturday night - outdoor party, dance, food; Saturday will feature the poker run.
- JULY 17** **Fuller Park's Annual Sand Sculpture Contest** for registered campers (Pioneer OR Fuller). Held at Fuller Park. Make your reservations early. Please contact our Delta County Parks office for information and reservations (906-786-1020).
- AUG 10** **The 70th 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 to be determined. Contact the office for tickets and additional information.
- OCT 2** **Pioneer Trail Park's Annual Halloween Spooktacular** for registered campers (Pioneer OR Fuller). Make your reservations early. Please contact our Delta County Parks office for information and reservations (906-786-1020).
- OCT 17** **Delta County Parks & Campgrounds closes for the season.**

Landowner Meeting and Workshop Descriptions **(See Events Calendar for Dates, Times & Location)**

Forestland Assistance & Incentives: What assistance, programs and/or financial opportunities exist today in helping forested landowners reach their property goals and objectives? Owning forestland for recreational activities or other interests can be expensive so why not learn all there is to reduce the cost. Learn how to reach your property goals and objectives with very little financial investment. Agenda items will include, but not limited to:

- Site Visit – why all forest landowners should have a site visit as their 1st step
- Forest Management Plan – why all forest landowners need a plan as their 2nd step; your plan should be written to achieve your goals/objectives; your plan should be based on decisions that help you achieve your goals/objectives
- Financial incentive to cover the cost of having a plan developed
- Introduction and discussion on possible projects that forest landowners can receive financial assistance with (Federal, State & Local)
- Property tax programs for forestland similar to the homestead exemption
- Other NO cost programs that forest landowners can take advantage of that complement their goals/objectives

Baiting vs Alternative Plantings: This session will help private landowners who are interested in game species. With baiting/feeding banned in the entire Lower Peninsula and a section in the Upper Peninsula, it doesn't take much imagination to guess that baiting/feeding in the entire state of Michigan may be banned in the next couple of years. For private landowners, there is an alternative option. The question is, do you want to be proactive or wait until you are told NO? Alternatives to artificial feeding and baiting by using plantings (food plots and/or natural browse – wildlife plantings) instead of feed/bait to assist in your viewing and/or harvesting of game will be discussed and demonstrated through the use of PowerPoint slides and experts with on the ground experience sharing their proven techniques.

Timber Sales: This session will assist forest landowners as to when, where, who, why, what and how to harvest timber on their property. Agenda items will include, but not limited to:

- Do you need a timber sale contract (type) and with whom?
- When and how to harvest for maximum return (both quantity and quality)
- When and how to harvest for maximum financial gain
- When and how to hire a forester
- When and how to hire a logger
- Environmental conditions and permits if any are needed
- Harvest roads vs skidding roads
- Different harvest techniques (species dependent)
- What harvesting equipment is best for your job
- Timber regeneration after harvest (what to expect: timber vs wildlife)
- Tax implications (revenue received – best course of action)
- Forest product markets and trends

Wolves in the U.P.

Rory Mattson

Should wolves be hunted and/or trapped in the U.P. to control their numbers? The answer to that is absolutely, **YES**. The MDNR seems to believe that there isn't enough science to make intelligent decisions on harvest regulations. They would rather make harvest decisions by bringing together stakeholder groups and use that body to make management decisions based on opinion (wolf lovers vs non-lovers). There is plenty of science and/or harvest data from other states or countries to prove exactly what should be done.

Wisconsin has the best data available on the internet for easy access (DNR). Other states include Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Alaska, and our neighbor, where the wolves in the Lake States originated from, Canada. Interested individuals shouldn't only look at harvest data but should also research each state or country to determine what that data is based on.

Wisconsin's data shows that wolves are responsible for more than 31% of deer killed in 17 northern counties. Also, they kill more than gun-deer hunters in the four-county area of Iron, Ashland, Douglas and Forest. Wisconsin state law sets a wolf season to begin the first Saturday in November through the last day of February, unless the wolf is listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. On January 3, 2021, wolves were de-listed again in the Lake States, turning management control over to the states. Michigan (really the U.P.) reached its goal of a viable population of 200 wolves for 5 consecutive years in 2004. In 2012, Michigan's legislature enacted Public Act 520 which designated the wolf as a game species.

In 2013, Public Act 20 was signed into law which gave the NRC the authority to designate the wolf a game species, and regulate the hunting and trapping of wolves. Currently, according to the MDNR, the minimum winter population (lowest during the year) is 695 divided among 143 packs.

Wolves do have an impact on deer and moose populations. This impact, in combination with factors such as severe winters, have reduced U.P. populations to historic low levels. Michigan (DNR-NRC) now has the ability to influence this system by reducing the wolf population and allowing the deer and moose populations to recover from multiple severe winters.

Reproduction rates, immigration and emigration are the factors in a wolf populations' ability to compensate for human-induced mortality. Harvest studies conducted in Canada, Alaska, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin and Idaho have set the benchmark for wolf management. Social and biological science relevant to wolf harvest is generally agreed that a 30% harvest will have NO impact on a free-ranging wolf population. Studies also show that historically in the Great Lakes area, declining numbers of prey (bison, elk, deer, caribou and beaver) have caused wolf populations to decline prior to bounties being established in the 1800's, not regular hunting or trapping.

Other important data:

- Wolves kill a minimum of 20 (full-size) deer per year.
- Wolves kill 80% to 90% of all moose that they attack (usually conducted over several days).
- Wolves usually have 4 to 6 pups per year.
- Life span can be 13 years.
- Wolf pack usually consists of alpha pair, young of the year, some of last years young, few older wolves.
- Wolves need to be managed for other reasons which included, but not limited to: local economic revenue (hunting seasons), property values (camps), wildlife viewing opportunities (tourism), livestock predation and pet predation.
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Forest Landowner Financial Assistance Now Available

There has never been a better time to receive financial assistance on forest land projects. Funding is available for your private forest land projects through different programs depending on individual landowner needs. Projects include but are not limited to: wildlife habitat projects, game species habitat projects, forest management activities – management plans, timber harvesting, brush control, tree and shrub plantings, wind-breaks, forest health, invasive species control - and local property tax reduction programs, etc.

Forest management plans will be written based on individual landowner goals & objectives. It is important that the plan, when implemented, will achieve your desired outcome.

The Michigan Qualified Forest Program (QFP) provides a property tax exemption for private landowners who actively manage their forest lands. The goal of the program is to fuel regional economies through forest activities and individual tax savings. Three major benefits of the program are: (1) 16 mill reduction in taxes on non-homestead forested property, (2) prevention of the “uncapping” of a property’s taxable value when a parcel changes ownership, (3) your land stays private – allowing public access is not a requirement. To qualify, forest land ownership must be a minimum of 20 acres and have a forest management plan written by a qualified forester.



Delta County Parks Registration Dates

March 19th, Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm- Registration for **Fuller Park ONLY**

March 26th, Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm- Registration for **Pioneer Park ONLY**

Priority will be given to in-person reservations on the above dates only.

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 20th, through Saturday, April 24th. Any hours you could spare would be greatly appreciated. Please call the office at (906) 553-7700, if you are interested in helping!



Delta County Parks Update : Last year was trying times at the Delta County Parks due to the emergency closures and COVID-19 restrictions. To ensure safety and compliance, we had to close our Parks store, shower house, laundry facilities, rustic camping, and operate with only one restroom open at both Pioneer Trail and Fuller Park, while limiting visitors and ensuring social distancing. We hurdled challenges to make sure we could still responsibly keep the Parks open for the community to enjoy; we share the love for our Parks. We appreciate everyone who stuck with us and ended up having a great and safe camping season in lieu of the pandemic. We are hopeful that this year will be even better and more fantastic for our guests, as we anticipate all our facilities open and running like normal, while maintaining a clean and conscious environment for all to enjoy. New to the Parks this year are gorgeous rustic cabins: four to be placed at Pioneer Trail, overlooking the tranquil waters of the Escanaba River, and six to be placed at Fuller, nestled under a majestic Hemlock forest within walking distance to Lake Michigan. These rustic cabins provide an awesome opportunity to expand our camping facilities, allowing for even those who do not own some type of camping trailer to experience the beauty and serenity of our county lands. Each cabin can sleep up to 6 people with sleeping privacy and living space. Guests can also enjoy a mesmerizing glow of a warm campfire next to their cabin and picnic table dining. Personal bedding and camping supplies must be brought in by the guests. Staff of the Delta County Parks are excited to be in the process of getting these cabins ready for the community, and the goal is that they will be available for booking in the 2021 Camping Season. More details to come!

For more information, please contact Delta County Parks at (906) 786-1020 or check our website for camping updates at www.deltacountyparks.com.



Delta County Parks will soon be hiring seasonal staff to work in the Parks for the 2021 Camping Season. There will be positions to work in the office and on the grounds, so please spread the word to anyone seeking in a fun way to spend the summer while making money! Those interested are encouraged to call the Parks office at (906) 786-1020 for more information.

“Reforesting our
Earth, one TREE at a
time.”

WE ARE ON THE WEB!!!
www.deltacd.org

