



Photo by David Beadle



March 2015 Newsletter

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Event Calendar

Tree Sale pre-payment
deadline April 7th.

Tree Packing Party at Urka
Farm in Brethren, 9 am-3 pm,
April 15

Tree Sale and pre-order
pickup, April 17th & 18th, Urka
Farms.

Earth Day Celebration,
Wednesday, April 22 at MCD
Property, 4-6 pm, 9 mile Road.

Tree Sale Order Form Now Available



Our 2015 Tree
Sale Order form is
now available. A
copy is attached
with this
newsletter. Or,

visit our Store & Tree Sale at:
www.manisteedc2.org

Bald Eagles on Portage Lake by Allen Taylor

The Portage Lake Watershed Forever group is working hard to protect and preserve the wetlands, wooded areas and shorelines around Portage Lake and in the Portage Lake Watershed that provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including eagles. The latest accomplishment (2012) was the purchase of 2.4 acres of property on the east end of Portage Lake, with 342 feet of shoreline. This property was purchased with private donated funds and it is now a Onekama Community Preserve called Eagles View Wetlands.



Photo by Off Call II
Charters

Photos are of the property from the M-22 side looking toward Portage Lake. For more information about wetlands and shoreline protection through Portage Lake Watershed Forever,

visit: <http://portagelakewatershed.com/wetlands/>



Photo by Ginny
and Bob Simonton

Forester's Corner--Forestry and Wildlife by Josh Shields, District Forester



For some, the terms "forestry" and "wildlife habitat" invoke conflicting views or conflicting objectives. However, forestry can often be a useful way to promote wildlife habitat. Numerous types of forest management practices, including selection harvesting, clearcutting, and shelterwood methods, can be both profitable and beneficial to wildlife if careful thought is given to the implementation of such practices.

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Volunteers Needed for Tree-Packing Party

A big thanks to those generous souls who have volunteered to help us pack trees for our sale. We still need a few more helpers for our tree-packing party on **April 15th at Urka Farm in Brethren**. If interested, please email: susan.spencer@macd.org

Visit our website today at www.manisteed2.org

Forestry and Wildlife, continued

For example, acorns from oak trees provide an important source of hard mast for many species of wildlife, ranging from blue jays to white-tailed deer to woodland mice. The wood from oak species such as white oak is also highly valued. Shelterwood harvesting is one method that is used to harvest mature oak trees while also helping oak seedlings grow tall and become mature oaks; such a method can therefore provide a way to produce a sustainable supply of merchantable oak wood and food for wildlife.

Another example is the use of group-selection harvesting methods to create forest canopy openings just large enough so that underrepresented tree species can remain a part of the forest. Yellow birch is a species that benefits from this type of harvesting in northern hardwood forests; it is valuable as a veneer tree, and is also favored by many forest arthropods and songbirds as compared to other tree species in the forest. For more information about the many ways that forestry can be used to enhance wildlife habitat, contact Josh Shields, forester with the Manistee Conservation District, at 231-889-9666 (Office Phone), 989-220-9236 (Mobile Phone), or via email at joshua.shields@macd.org.

Revive Old Apple Orchards



According to Michael Phillips, author of "The Apple Grower" and "The Holistic Orchard," those old, overgrown trees can actually produce fruit again. The answer lies in wise, judicious pruning--not heavy or aggressive--pruning. At the recent annual Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference in Traverse City recently, Phillips spoke about the need for competent pruning as the surest method

for bringing back productivity in old apple trees. To learn more, please visit: <https://mismallfarmconf.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/bringing-back-abandoned-fruit-trees-pages.pdf>