

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance

A Year in Review: Accomplishments for 2008

2009

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Arbor Day Celebration 2008

On a warm beautiful Friday, 800 second and third graders arrived at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing excited to attend the State Arbor Day Celebration. Buses brought classrooms from Lansing, St. Johns, Owosso, Eagle, Williamston, Holt, Grand Ledge, Okemos and East Lansing. Smokey the Bear visited with children serving as a reminder to use fire responsibly. Twenty four natural resource activity stations educated children about water quality, soil, trees and wildlife. Classrooms attended the zoo, learning about wildlife from around the globe. After lunch, children, teachers and chaperones attended a tree planting ceremony with Jason Colthorp as the Master of Ceremonies. A juggler captivated children by tossing apples, bowling balls and wooden blocks. Entertainment continued with a cross cut saw race performed by Forestry, Parks and Recreation-City of Lansing and Lansing Board of Water and Light. Every year a class is chosen to help plant the ceremonial tree donated to Potter Park by Ayles Tree Service. This year, Miss Deb Jenness's class from Kendon Elementary received the honor.

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance (MADA) organizes the annual celebration. MADA is housed at Eaton Conservation District in Charlotte. In Michigan the last Friday in April is designated as Arbor Day. Arbor Day 2008 fell on April 25th. MADA would not be able to provide this event if it was not for our volunteers from Consumers Energy, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ingham County Parks and Forestry, Parks and Recreation-City of Lansing. This is an annual event that MADA has been providing since 1993.

MADA is a coalition of organizations and agencies dedicated to the promotion and celebration of Arbor Day throughout Michigan. Our dedication comes from our belief in the importance of trees and their role in community health and well-being.

"It was the best day of my life because we got a tree at the end of the day." *Student*

"It was a perfect mix of fun and education. The game type activity stations were a lot of fun but the kids also enjoyed examining the trees." *Teacher*



Kendon Elementary chosen to help mulch the ceremonial tree

1st Place Poster by: Wolfgang Stark

Poster Contest 2008

Every year Michigan Arbor Day Alliance coordinates the National Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest for Michigan. Fifth grade students across Michigan are invited to participate in the contest. The chosen winner for the state of Michigan moves on to compete in the National Contest. Each year a theme is chosen for the contest. In 2008 the theme was, "Trees are Terrific Inside and Out". Thirty-six schools and 900 students participated in the contest. The winner, Wolfgang Stark was from Gateway North Elementary in St. Johns, MI. Wolfgang received a \$100.00 savings bond, presented with a plaque at the State Arbor Day Celebration and his poster was displayed on billboards in the greater Lansing area courtesy of Adams Outdoor Advertising. His teacher, Jennifer Newman, received \$50.00 for school supplies. The second place winner received a \$50.00 savings bond and the teacher received \$25.00 towards school supplies. The third place winner received a book about the environment. All winning schools received a tree to plant on their grounds.



Program Growth

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance has been hard at work formulating a vision plan for the first time in the program's history. The mission of Michigan Arbor Day Alliance is to promote and facilitate Arbor Day through a progressive network for the stewardship of forestry and natural resources in Michigan's communities. Through the vision plan, Michigan Arbor Day Alliance has decided to focus on the following goals: strengthen fundraising/financial plan, build a marketing and communication plan, partner with municipalities, create a membership network, continue building strong agency and partner support, define Michigan Arbor Day Alliance as an organization, and develop education materials and programs. The following goals range in being accomplished from one to five years.

For 2009, Michigan Arbor Day Alliance has determined that establishing a membership network and reaching out to municipalities is well within our reach of accomplishment for the year. The program has recently launched a membership campaign for individuals, organizations and children. Individual membership levels range from \$10.00 to \$250.00. Organization memberships are available for \$75.00 and children memberships are available for \$5.00. We are currently working to create a municipality celebration kit with resource materials for celebrating

Arbor Day. The kit will contain event planning tips, press release templates, proclamation templates, volunteer management and more.

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance is also in the process of creating Arbor Day education trunks that schools can rent to supplement existing classroom material. Education Trunks will be available for prekindergarten, kindergarten through fifth grade, sixth grade through eighth grade and ninth grade through twelfth grade. Funds are being sought for this project through grants and donations. Trunk materials will provide teachers with the opportunity to provide hands on learning opportunities, curriculum ideas, games, art projects and more. This is a service Michigan Arbor Day Alliance feels is greatly needed for the community in order to increase environmental knowledge and understanding.

Example materials likely to be found in Education Trunks:

- Tree cookies
- Laminated field guides
- Books
- How a tree grows kit
- Leaf collection
- Tree ring dating kit
- Games
- And more!

In order to help schools attend the State Arbor Day Celebration, Michigan Arbor Day Alliance is offering a bus stipend to participating classrooms for the 2009 celebration. Through educator feedback it was made aware that schools are increasingly finding it more difficult to attend field trip events. This has proven to be a great success as schools who normally would not be able to attend the event are registering.

Upcoming Events

Project Learning Tree Workshop

March 21st, 2009

GM Delta Lansing Facility

Lansing, MI

9:00am to 4:00pm

Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents and community leaders working with youth from preschool through Grade 12.

Project Learning Tree uses the forest as a "window" into natural and built environments, helping people gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them, as well as their place within it.

Learn more at www.michiganplt.org

State Arbor Day Celebration

April 24th, 2009

Potter Park Zoo

Lansing, MI

10:00am to 2:00pm

Elementary classrooms are invited to attend from Ingham, Eaton, Shiawassee, Clinton, Ionia and Jackson counties. Students learn about various natural resource topics, interact with Smokey the Bear, visit Potter Park Zoo, attend a noon-time ceremony and enjoy the outdoors!

Community Support

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance would not be able to provide a great program for the community without our sponsors, partners and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who made our 2008 program a great success!!!

-  Adams Outdoor Advertising
-  Arboriculture Society of Michigan
-  Ayles Tree Service
-  City of Lansing-Department of Forestry, Parks and Rec.
-  DTE Energy
-  Eaton Conservation District
-  Ingham County Parks and Rec.
-  Lancour & Associates
-  Lansing Board of Water and Light
-  Michigan Department of Natural Resources
-  Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association
-  Potter Park Zoo
-  Consumers Energy
-  Metropolitan Forestry Consultants
-  Van Pines Nursery
-  Financial Technology Inc.
-  Michigan Environmental Council

- 🌳 Leopold Education Project
- 🌳 Fenner Nature Center
- 🌳 Woldumar Nature Center
- 🌳 Lenawae Conservation District
- 🌳 Clinton Trail Tree Farm
- 🌳 Eaton County Parks and Recreation
- 🌳 Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 🌳 Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery
- 🌳 United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
- 🌳 Ingham Conservation District
- 🌳 Nature Conservancy-Friends of Shiawassee River
- 🌳 Michigan State University-Herpetology Club
- 🌳 Michigan State University-Forestry Club
- 🌳 General Motors Lansing Delta-Habitat Area