

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance

A Year in Review: Accomplishments for 2011

2011

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Introduction

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance (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.

Since 1993, MADA has organized the annual State Arbor Day Celebration. MADA has developed program services to foster the celebration of Arbor Day throughout the year: Go Green Youth Challenge, workshops, education materials, seedling giveaways, municipality assistance and much more. MADA is housed at Eaton Conservation District in Charlotte.

2011 marked several staff changes within the Eaton Conservation District. In October, Jennifer Hunnell took over as the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance Program Coordinator for Rachael Wood. The Conservation District would like to thank Rachael for all the hard work she has done over the years. Many of our current programs would not have been possible without her dedicated efforts.

Arbor Day Celebration 2011

On a warm beautiful Friday, 1,168 second and third graders arrived at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing excited to attend the State Arbor Day Celebration. Buses brought classrooms from Lansing, Bath, Eaton Rapids, Charlotte, Williamston, Sunfield, Perry and Laingsburg, just to name a few. 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. Every year a class is chosen at random to help plant the ceremonial tree donated to Potter Park by Ayles Tree Service. This year Kendon Elementary in Lansing was the lucky class selected.



Students engaged at an activity station.

Go Green Youth Challenge 2011

This year, MADA rolled out a new program feature, the Go Green Youth Challenge (GGYC). The GGYC engages Michigan youth in environmental stewardship, community development and service-learning through a statewide effort to plant trees in Michigan. Children, pre-K through 12th grade, are challenged to collect coins, as an individual, classroom or club, from January - April. The coins collected directly fund community tree plantings.

The team that raises the most for the GGYC, is awarded a tree planting in their community and an invitation to the State Arbor Day Celebration in April at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing.

Tree planting sites include cities and towns, school yards and conservation areas such as stream bank stabilization and habitat restoration. Through a survey, participants can provide input on where trees should be planted throughout Michigan.

In the spirit of the GGYC, local units of government, public educational institutions, public libraries, non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, churches and tribal governments were offered the opportunity to apply for a GGYC Tree Planting Grant!

The GGYC raised a total of \$20,850 for tree planting in Michigan. MADA would like to thank everyone who participated including the sponsors, ITC, DTE Energy Foundation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Eaton Conservation District and Michigan State University Federal Credit Union.

Want to learn more? Send an email to gogreenyouthchallenge@gmail.com to receive updates or visit our blog, www.gogreenyouthchallenge.wordpress.com



Grand Prize Team and Representatives from ITC, DTE and MADA.

GGYC Grand Prize Winner

Congratulations to Daniel Axford and Oxford Elementary-Extended Day Program

“We are very excited to have won the Go Green Youth Challenge. We think “green” in our Oxford Schools, and our motto is “creating a world-class education today to shape tomorrow’s selfless, global leaders.” With this being said, we believe that raising money to help plant trees in our state is a wonderful way to help ensure a healthy environment for our future leaders,” said Linda Travnikar, team representative.

A ground breaking ceremony was held at Daniel Axford Elementary. Students participated in an interactive discussion about why and where we should plant trees. They also had the opportunity to ask tree questions from a forester. After the ceremony, 15 trees were planted with the help of volunteers from the GGYC Grand Prize Team, Oxford Parks and Recreation, ITC, DTE Energy Foundation and MADA. The tree planting sites included Daniel Axford Elementary, Oxford Elementary and Seymour Lake Park. Photos of the event and planting can be viewed at, <http://www.miarborday.citymax.com/photoalbum.html>.

GGYC Tree Planting Grant Projects

Montcalm County 4-H Fair Association

Our first tree planting project took place October 9th at Montcalm County Fair Grounds. The project was spearheaded by the North Central and Country Kids 4-H Clubs. Youth and adults from the Clubs were joined by Master Gardeners and other



Group photo of Montcalm 4-H volunteers

volunteers to complete the planting. A total of 27 people attended the tree planting event which was coordinated with National 4-H week.

The area was originally open soy/corn field. Tree planting was needed for a visual screen, shade cooling of barns and pavilions, beautification, erosion and odor control. Volunteers planted 88 trees and shrubs on the grounds! Here's what some of the volunteers said about the planting:



Even the youngest volunteers help out!

"The birch tree with the bushes look so nice at the end of the show arena." Mrs. Aaron Esch, 4-H parent

"I felt like Johnny Apple Seed. All of the trees in the place look so great. I can't wait til' spring and summer to see their progress." Paula Plank, 4-H Leader

Many teen 4-Hers were interested in tree identification due to school projects and recorded nursery tag information for their projects. This led to the proposal of a future education opportunity...to add tree identification signs to each tree planted before next year's fair.

Village of Leonard

On November 1st, 2011 fourth and fifth grade students from Leonard Elementary gathered at the Polly Ann Trailhead in Leonard, MI for a special field trip – to plant trees.



Students participate, watch & learn

During the second GGYC tree planting of 2011 two flowering dogwoods and two red maple trees were given new homes. The planting was a collaborative effort between the Village of Leonard and the Elementary School. There were 84 participating students, accompanied by teachers, staff and the school Principal. Parents, Village Trustees and the Addison Township Supervisor were also in attendance.

This project's main goal was to inspire and encourage a greater awareness and ownership for the participating students and community members. Students were encouraged to assist with the planting and to ask questions. A variety of questions were raised, ranging from the meaning of "native" trees to why did they "break up" the root system prior to putting the tree in the hole.

During the planting, President Michael McDonald spoke of the importance of trees to the community, introduced the Go Green Youth Challenge and explained why they were doing the project. He also issued a challenge of his own – to participate in the program again next year. For the students, the planting was a wonderful end to a beautiful fall season. "The enthusiasm and sincere interest I saw in the students faces sure made all the effort worthwhile..." said President McDonald.



President McDonald addresses students

City of Frankenmuth

The City of Frankenmuth's Heritage Park needed help. Around 80% of the park's trees are ash. While native and beautiful, an infestation of Emerald Ash Borer beetles caused damage to the majority of them. Treating the trees by using trunk-injections of insecticides proved too costly for the park system's budget. As a result, many of the trees were, or will be, removed.

In order to maintain the atmosphere of the park, 32 trees of three other Michigan species were planted. sycamore, tulip tree and honeylocust replaced the missing ash trees. These species were chosen because they are faster growing and will provide the desired aesthetics to the park sooner than would other species. The City also wished to diversify the tree population, avoiding a situation like this in the future. In addition, the planting allowed the City to rectify existing design flaws within the park. A few trees were also planted in nearby Memorial Park.

The trees were planted by the Frankenmuth Department of Public Works and Department of Parks and Recreation. They will provide much needed shade for the many events the City holds in the park, including their annual car show.



Photos of the completed planting in Heritage Park

Arenac Conservation District

Six Cub scouts and their parents joined staff from the Arenac Conservation District to plant 30 trees. The trees were planted on District property, in an area that is the future site of a Conservation Education Center. The ten white spruce, red maples and sugar maples will serve as a starting block for a network of nature trails and gardens that will have a native species focus. Scouts learned how important trees are to the environment for oxygen, energy and wildlife habitat.



Planting a young spruce

One boy really seemed to understand the message, telling project organizers about how trees are being cut down in the rainforest everyday and that it "will hurt our world."

Conservation District staff taught the boys about proper tree planting; how to space the trees so they weren't competing with each other, how to plant them straight and, as District Administrator Dawn Hergott says, "green side up." Scouts asked plenty of questions and really got involved in the planting, many getting right

down into the dirt.

Here's an account by Dawn Hergott:

"...the boys really got into the planting. One boy was down on the ground breaking up the clump of dirt and placing it around the tree. I showed him that if he just broke it up a bit and turned the grass side down he wouldn't have to work so hard. He told me "that is a good idea, wish I'd known it before"."



Village of Lake Odessa

The Village of Lake Odessa has been a Tree City USA for 25 years. As such the Village is dedicated to urban forestry. That's why this GGYC tree planting, lead by the Village Department of Public Works, took place. Much of the Village's public property is forested with ash trees. Unfortunately, like many other areas of southern Michigan, an Emerald Ash Borer problem has caused destruction and necessitated the removal of many of the trees.



Planting trees in the park



Village DPW workers Tom Pollock, Lynn Pennington, and Derek Desgranges

By replacing the missing ash trees with other species like tulip tree, Bloodgood London plane tree, dawn redwood and frontier elm, the Village hopes to restore these public areas. A total of 15 trees were planted in various locations around the Village. By planting multiple species, the areas' diversity will be increased, hopefully preventing such large-scale removals in the future. The project will also provide shade to a community park and maintain the desired, park-like atmosphere.

City of Southgate

The word of the day was "mud." Not in a sense of failure, but as in a dirty, difficult obstacle. Record rainfall in the City of Southgate made planting conditions tricky on the first Saturday in December. Students from Mrs. Stright's class along with City workers and other volunteers planted 27 trees along a nature trail that runs between the Southgate Andersen High School and the neighboring Southgate Nature Center. The planting was a continuation of previous projects; the hope being to



Say "trees"!

plant trees along the entire trail.

The trail is utilized by dog walkers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts in addition to the students. Classes from Southgate High frequently make use of the nearby wetland area, observing food web dynamics and other natural phenomenon to reinforce classroom lessons. Students also help out with the upkeep of the area; organizing cleanups, invasive species removals and trail maintenance, as well as caring for the previous trees planted.



Students dig in, with City Forester Bob Tarabula supervising

Students participating in the planting learned proper tree planting methods and the biology behind the trees they were planting. Various floodplain species were chosen for the site due to its wet soil conditions. The trees will help beautify the area for recreational visitors. It is also a way for Southgate to contribute to the Downriver Linked Greenway Initiative. The Initiative strives to promote non-motorized transportation and recreation by connecting southeastern Michigan communities via a network of trail systems and greenways.

2011 E-Statement Greening Efforts

Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) continued its commitment to tree plantings this year with their paperless statement initiative. MSUFCU encouraged members to switch from paper to E-Statement, with a goal of converting 2,000 members. MSUFCU then provided Michigan Arbor Day Alliance with \$2,000 to purchase and plant trees.

School grounds were the focus of tree plantings this year. With the help of volunteers from MSUFCU, the City of Eaton Rapids and Eaton Rapids High School, 33 trees were planted at Lockwood Elementary, the Athletic Field Complex and Eaton Rapids High School. In East Lansing volunteers planted 100 trees at William Donley Elementary, MacDonald Middle School and East Lansing High School.

Over a 50-year lifetime, a tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion. Studies have shown that trees enhance community economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists people linger and shop longer along tree-lined streets, apartments and offices in wooded areas rent more quickly and have higher occupancy rates, and businesses leasing office spaces in developments with trees find their workers are more productive and absenteeism is reduced. These are just a few of the benefits trees provide to communities.



Volunteers work together!

To date we have planted 478 trees around the state!

Upcoming Events

Keep updated on MADA events:

Website: www.miarbordayalliance.com/pressreleases

Facebook: www.facebook.com/miarbordayalliance

E-newsletter: Latest issues can be found at www.miarbordayallianc.com/pressreleases

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, email the contact below

Environmental Education Workshops

Project Learning Tree

PreK-8 Workshop

January 28, 2012

Port Crescent State Park Headquarters, Huron County

8:30am to 3:30pm

Project Learning Tree

Places We Live, Biodiversity and Forests of the World

January 28, 2012

Detroit Zoo

Royal Oak, MI

9am to 3pm

Project Learning Tree Early Childhood – Growing Up WILD Workshop

February 11, 2012

DeVries Nature Conservancy

Owosso, MI

9am to 4pm

Project WILD K-12 and WILD Aquatic Educator Training

February 12, 2012

Detroit Zoo

Royal Oak, MI

8:30am to 5pm

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.

Learn more at www.michiganplt.org.

Project WILD is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among K-12 educators. It's based on the premise that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning

about our natural world. It is part of the [No Child Left Inside](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10369_51120---,00.html) Initiative in Michigan. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10369_51120---,00.html.

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Activities are specifically targeted for ages 3-7. Learn more at www.projectwild.org/GrowingUpWILD.

Community Tree Walks

Dates to be determined

Citizens from area communities will be invited to participate in community tree walks to learn about Tree Identification, Proper Planting Techniques, Pests, Disease and much more.

State Arbor Day Celebration

April 27th, 2012

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 provide a great program for the community without our sponsors, partners and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who made our 2011 programs 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.**
-  **ITC Holdings Corporation**
-  **Lancour & Associates**
-  **Lansing Board of Water and Light**
-  **Meijer**
-  **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**
-  **Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association**
-  **Potter Park Zoo**

- 🌲 Consumers Energy
- 🌲 Metropolitan Forestry Consultants
- 🌲 Van Pines Nursery
- 🌲 Woldumar Nature Center
- 🌲 Lenawae Conservation District
- 🌲 Michigan Forest Association
- 🌲 Eaton County Parks and Recreation
- 🌲 Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 🌲 United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
- 🌲 Project Learning Tree
- 🌲 Michigan Energy Options
- 🌲 Ionia Conservation District
- 🌲 Michigan State University Forestry Club
- 🌲 General Motors Lansing Delta-Habitat Area
- 🌲 Harris Nature Center
- 🌲 Mid Michigan Environmental Action Council
- 🌲 City of Eaton Rapids
- 🌲 Michigan State University Federal Credit Union
- 🌲 Flower Garden
- 🌲 City of East Lansing-Public Works & Environmental Services
- 🌲 Rita Black

Contact Information

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