

**The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) at Michigan State University
October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006**

RREA is vital to delivering forestry programming and education to citizens and organizations in Michigan. Each dollar of RREA funding is leveraged with approximately \$6 of state and private funds. Examples of successful programs benefiting directly from RREA support include:

<p><i>Oak wilt treatment efforts are directed toward preventing structural hazards and future resource damage.</i></p>	<p>I. In a partnership with the USDA Forest Service, MSU Extension staff assisted in mechanical treatment for the prevention of oak wilt. This disease continues to be a problem throughout Michigan, causing rapid die-off of red oaks in local areas. Since the predominant source of local spread is root grafting, severing these underground connections has been a proven—albeit expensive—method to slow the spread of this disease. MSU Extension staff assisted in trenching 41,014 feet (over 7 ½ miles), resulting in a treatment of 226 acres in 2006. The state also continues to emphasize prevention of oak wilt spread as well as other</p>
<p>pest and disease problems through its “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign.</p>	

II. The Master Woodland Steward program provides important forestry education among forest landowners. In addition, MSU Forestry Extension staff assisted Extension Fish and Wildlife staff in delivering the pilot program “Conservation Stewards.” In 2006, 85 participants were involved in these two programs. Both require a volunteer component, where participants assist in projects relating to forestry and natural resource stewardship. This will result in a total of over 3,000 potential volunteer hours in the coming year. Participants’ reviews of both programs are very positive. Most planned to complete at least one forestry or other natural resource practice, such as tree planting and conducting an inventory, in the next year.

III. MSU Extension offered the Facilitator Excellence program to DNR staff. This three-day workshop offers an opportunity to learn about, and practice, meeting facilitation skills and tools. The goal of this workshop was to help them gain greater confidence facilitating both internal and external (public) meetings, and promote successful outcomes using appropriate facilitation tools. A total of 36 DNR staff members participated, totaling 864 staff-hours of intensive training. Participation evaluations of this program have been wildly positive.

“Thank you! It means so much to learn and feel like I excel at something new and unexpected...” – workshop participant

A Facilitator Excellence workshop participant practices her facilitation skills.

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