

Forest Service Open House To Address Project on Hiawatha

Would Affect 64,000-Acre Niagara Area

By Paul Gingras

The U.S. Forest Service is inviting the public to an open house to discuss a forest-management project involving a 64,000-acre portion of the Hiawatha National Forest called the Niagara Area.

A Hiawatha National Forest project to promote timber cutting and wildlife habitat improvement will be explained at an open house Wednesday, January 30, at the St. Ignace Ranger Station. The project includes a 64,000-acre portion of the forest called the Niagara area and involves clear-cutting, forest thinning, and road building, with the goal of creating forest products to support the regional economy while developing a variety of ecosystems that support plant and animal species, said District Ranger Stevan Christiansen.

In total, logging is proposed on about 5,000 acres of the Hiawatha. The plan, called the Niagara

Project, involves large tracts of land surrounding East Lake in Brevort Township. The project area reaches from northern Mackinac County to southern Chippewa County. Eighty-eight percent of the land within its boundaries is owned by the Forest Service. Most private land in the area is near Ozark in Moran Township and on the east shore of East Lake.

The open house will introduce the project and will include a public comment period, Mr. Christiansen said. The Forest Service will provide displays detailing the plan, and members of the agency will be available to answer questions.

The Forest Service intends to use timber sales to speed up the process of creating a variety of forest types and ages, Mr. Christiansen explained.

The project calls for clear-cutting certain areas to generate young aspen stands that support animals

such as grouse.

The project also calls for thinning other areas to allow for better tree growth. These areas support animals such as red-shouldered hawks and goshawks, Mr. Christian said.

The forest plan for the eastern Hiawatha seeks more white pine and hemlock stands and a variety of ecosystems, making it resistant to emerald ash borers and other pests, he added.

Public reaction to similar projects focused on the environment, he said.

Foresters expect reactions to how timber harvests will affect wildlife ecology. Access for off-road vehicles may also be a concern. Threatened and endangered species could be addressed, in particular, whether the proposed plan will allow for adequate habitat for

the Canada lynx and the hart's tongue fern. Finally, a large portion of the area is composed of sensitive limestone-based land forms called karst, which include underground caverns, ridges and towers, sink-holes, and other topographic features.

Mr. Christiansen said the extent to which the karst should be protected is a topic to consider.

The open house will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The St. Ignace Ranger Station is at W1900 West US-2.

More information on the Niagara Project is available at www.fs.fed.us/r9/hiawatha/planning.htm.

The ranger district can be contacted at 643-7900 or by e-mail at lhylop@fs.fed.us.

Comments will be most useful, Mr. Christiansen said, if received by Sunday, February 17.

Teens To Make Repairs at Pickford

Free home repairs will be offered to elderly, disabled, and low-income residents in the Pickford area this summer, during a one-week "TeenServe" workcamp July 6 through July 13.

Approximately 300 to 350 teens and adult leaders will be coming from all over the country, and will be staying at Pickford Public Schools. They are sponsored by TeenServe, a Wisconsin based, nonprofit corporation, and local sponsors. Six-person crews consisting of at least one adult and five teens will spend their days completing home repairs or painting projects for the elderly or others who

cannot complete the work themselves because of physical or financial need. There is no charge to these families for labor or materials.

Work will consist of building wheelchair ramps, roofing, and interior and exterior painting. The program's goal is to serve up to 130 individual job sites within a 25-mile radius of Pickford Public Schools. Anyone with a need for some home repair may apply to be a worksite.

For more information, contact Paul Gruenberg at Pickford United Methodist Church at (906) 647-6195, or Dave or Sue Kamper at (906) 647-3011.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Community Will Be Served If Goehring Stays on as Museum Mentor

To the Editor:

As a summer resident of Boot Island, I subscribe to *The St. Ignace News* and read it regularly. Amy Polk's clear, complete coverage of Les Cheneaux events has impressed me ever since she began working for the paper.

Last week in particular, the article about Annegret Goehring deserves praise. Amy Polk obviously had an in-depth interview with Mrs. Goehring. The well-written sketch includes enough biographical information and touches on the range of talents and expertise which Mrs. Goehring brought to her career with the Les Cheneaux Historical Museum. It is so rare to find a person with artistic ability who also has organizational skills. Add to that her passion for historic preservation, and you have someone who is close to indispensable.

My late husband, Jack Kausch, and I became involved with the Les Cheneaux Historical Association when Mrs. Goehring approached him to produce slide shows for the museum. We were always treated as respected friends, not as "those summer people." We were introduced to other involved members of the Les Cheneaux community. It was then that we truly began to feel that this lovely place was our second home.

It is with sincere regret that I have learned of Mrs. Goehring's retirement. Wouldn't the community be better served if she were requested to remain on staff as a mentor until a new curator has experienced a summer season in the position?

It is highly unlikely that a candidate for the position of handling both the historical and boat museums can be found on such short notice, and such an employee will need expert guidance. A transitional period would give assurance to concerned members of the community that their historical treasures will continue to be preserved in the manner that they have been under Annegret's Goehring's leadership. If she can be persuaded to stay during a transition, the community will not lose a valuable resource.

Betsy Kausch
Birmingham

St. Ignace News Policies

Letters:

All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we do often add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

Weddings:

Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$32.80.

Internet:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at stignacenews.com.

Contact:

The St. Ignace News
359 Reagon Street
PO Box 277
Saint Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-9150 (phone)
(906) 643-9122 (fax)
e-mail: news@stignacenews.com

Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



Romney Clan 7 for 10 in State Elections Since '60s

Mitt Romney's decisive victory in the GOP presidential primary last week was the seventh time a Romney won a statewide contest in Michigan. They had three losses.

Before Mitt, it was, in this order, father George, mother Lenore, ex-sister-in-law Ronna, and brother Scott. The tally:

- George Romney: His first partisan undertaking was in 1961 as a Republican candidate from Oakland County to be a delegate to the convention that produced Michigan's Constitution of 1963.

As 1959 founder of Citizens for Michigan, he was the driving force behind calling of the Constitutional Convention, and had sought to become its president, but a deadlock developed as Romney had his first in a long career of clashes with party conservatives. He had to settle for being one of three vice-presidents.

In 1962, he resigned as head of American Motors to run for governor, his first bid for statewide office. He was unopposed in the primary. In the general, he defeated one-term Governor John Swainson with a narrow plurality of 80,573.

In 1964, he was opposed in the primary by auto dealer George Higgins, a former state senator who carried the torch of conservative dissatisfaction with Romney but got a mere 80,608 votes. Romney was re-elected by a plurality of 382,913, defeating Congressman-at-large Neil Staebler, former Democratic state chairman.

In 1966, the first election for a four-year term under the new constitution, Romney won a third term with a plurality of 527,047, defeating Democratic State Chairman Zolton Ferency.

- Lenore Romney: At a contentious meeting of party pooh bahs at a hotel across the street from the Capitol, she won consensus leadership support for the 1970 nomination over U.S. Representative Don Riegle (who later was a 1976-94 senator as a Democrat).

George Romney complained that then-Governor Bill Milliken, who had been Romney's lieutenant governor and inherited the job in 1969 when Romney joined the Nixon Cabinet, was lukewarm for Lenore.

She won a narrow 14,048-vote primary victory over conservative state Senator Robert Huber, and got only 33% against popular 1959-76 Senator Phil Hart, the "Conscience of the Senate," after whom a Capitol Hill building is named.

- G. Scott Romney: Brother of Mitt, he was touted by then-Governor John Engler to be the 1998 Republican State Convention choice nominee for attorney general. The nomination went instead to John Smietanka, who was the 1994 AG nominee and lost in 1998 to Jennifer Granholm.

There's some validity to the Engler camp contention that there would not be a Governor Granholm today if Scott Romney, who has the moves, eyes, chiseled jaw, and intensity of the father, had been the GOP AG nominee on 1998 ballot.

Appointed by Engler in August 2000 to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Romney in November was elected to an eight-year term with 1,719,103 votes (about 45,000 short of his father's best showing).

According to the 2001-2002 *Michigan Manual*, he was "George Romney" on the ballot (actually, according to Election Bureau records, it was "George Scott Romney"), but on the manual's listing of MSU trustees he's "Scott Romney."

However presented, Scott is a chip off the old block with potential to carry the torch, although maybe not with the ambition. Years ago, before brother Mitt was elected governor of Massachusetts, Scott, in a conversation we had while waiting for a ferry to Mackinac Island, said, in so many words, "Keep an eye on Mitt."

- Ronna Romney: Ex-wife of Scott and former Republican national committeewoman, she lost with 48% of the 1994 primary vote against former Republican State Chairman Spencer Abraham (who won the open seat for one term).

In 1996, she narrowly defeated businessman Jim Nicholson, a Metro Detroit civic activist, to win the GOP nomination and then got 48% in a losing challenge of Senator Carl Levin.

The star atop the family tree would be if Mitt wins the Republican nomination and becomes the first Michigan-born U.S. president.

Car Talk

What candidates drive has been of particular interest in the Motor City and elsewhere in Michigan.

So it was in 1984, when Senator Carl Levin made a big issue in a TV ad of the fact that GOP challenger Jack Lousma, an ex-astronaut who at the time was gaining in popularity, had a family member's Toyota in his driveway.

So it was in 1990, when Republican challenger John Engler made an issue of Governor Jim Blanchard using a "jet copter," while stressing his own travel by "my Merry Oldsmobile," which was pictured with Engler outside the Leland High School on the cover of *The Detroit News*' "Journey of John Engler" book on his successful campaign that year.

Now comes the same newspaper with a timely question of whether presidential candidates "drive what they preach," amid all the talk about global warming and fuel efficiency.

Editorial cartoonist Henry Payne and Richard Burr, associate editorial page editor, crafted a commentary on whether the contenders' personal priorities are consistent with their public policies.

For starters, they noted that Republican Mike Huckabee, a Baptist minister who touted to the paper his support for hiking federal fuel efficiency laws, "strays from his scripture." It says he drives two of the biggest light trucks (16 and 12 miles per gallon) "on the planet."

The slate of cars driven by other candidates is posted on The Detroit News Web site.

George Weeks retired in 2006 after 22 years as political columnist for The Detroit News. His weekly Michigan Politics column is -syndicated by Superior Features.

Two Tasks May Prevent Frozen Pipes

When the outside temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, water pipes in homes with little insulation are likely to freeze and break, reported State Farm Insurance, and homeowners can avoid frozen pipes by having adequate insulation where pipes run along outside walls, floors, and ceilings, disconnecting outside garden hoses, wrapping exposed pipes with insulating sleeves or tape, and sealing foundation cracks that let air freeze pipes in crawlspaces.

Two simple tasks homeowners can do to help protect pipes and homes when a severe freeze is predicted are to open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to piping under sinks and vanities near exterior walls, and to run a small trickle of water at vulnerable cold and hot faucets.

A one-eighth-inch crack in a pipe can spew more than 250 gallons of water a day, destroying floors, furniture, and appliances, the company reported.

McGinnis, Schlosser, Nelson Earn Honors

Jessica McGinnis of St. Ignace, Chad Schlosser of Cedarville, and Elliot Nelson of Pickford were named to Michigan State Uni-

versity dean's list for the 2007 fall semester. Students must earn at 3.5 grade point average or better to qualify.

Church Notes

Father Michael Steber of Escanaba will succeed the late Monsignor Louis Cappo as pastor of St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette and St. Mary Mission in Big Bay, the Diocese of Marquette announced January 14. Msgr. Cappo died December 10, 2007, at the age of 87.

Replacing Father Steber as pastor of St. Anne Parish in Escanaba will be Father Francis DeGroot, who currently serves as pastor of Resurrection Parish in Menominee. The appointments will take effect February 15.

Both priests have previously served churches in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Father Steber, 53, at one time was pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Goetzville and Our Lady of the Snows Mission in Hessel, as well as moderator of Sacred Heart Parish in DeTour and St. Florence Mission on Drummond Island.

Father DeGroot, 54, was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Rudyard, St. Mary Mission in Trout Lake, and Holy Family Mission in Barbeau in 1996. While in the eastern U.P., he was also involved in prison ministry. In the past, he served as dean of the Sault Ste. Marie Deanery.

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

359 Reagon Street, PO Box 277, Saint Ignace, MI 49781

Telephone (906) 643-9150 • Facsimile (906) 643-9122

Hessel Office: 138 Pickford Avenue (906) 484-2268

www.SaintIgnaceNews.com

USPS Periodical Publication Number - 462-380

ESTABLISHED 1878

Published each Thursday at Saint Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan

Entered in Saint Ignace, Michigan Post Office as Periodical Mail Matter, Act of March 3, 1879

Periodical Postage Paid at Saint Ignace, MI • Additional Postage Paid at Gaylord, MI

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Ignace News, PO Box 277, St. Ignace, MI 49781

Volume 128, Number 42 Thursday, January 24, 2008

Publisher/Editor

Wesley H. Maurer, Jr.

Associate Publisher

Mary R. Maurer

Publisher 1975-1995

Wesley H. Maurer, Sr. (1897-1995)

Editor

Ellen Paquin, news@saintignacenews.com

Staff Writers

Amy Polk, amy@saintignacenews.com

Ryan Schlehuber, ryan@saintignacenews.com

Karen Gould, karen@saintignacenews.com

Paul Gingras, paul@saintignacenews.com

Advertising Department

Tammy Matson, David Moyalson

ads@saintignacenews.com

Print Shop Manager

Sherry Cece

Circulation Manager

Wendy Colegrove



Subscriptions:

\$35 in Mackinac, Chippewa, Emmet, Luce, and Cheboygan counties.

\$42 elsewhere in the United States and military post offices.

\$30 for the Web edition at www.saintignacenews.com

We take Visa, MasterCard, and Discover

The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.