

# Foresters Work for Future Generations, Says New Reforestation Manager Allmaras

By Karen Gould

The work of Marjorie Allmaras will not be complete for about 100 years. She manages the reforestation program at the Hiawatha National Forest in St. Ignace and makes sure trees that are planted today meet forest growth requirements for years to come. That includes plantings that attract and sustain wildlife in the region.

"Generally, you're doing stuff for future generations," she said, "and you're reaping the benefits of previous foresters."

She uses the Hiawatha National Forest Plan, which divides the forest into sections and details the desired goal for each area.

"Trees live for a really long time

and you can't really plan for things on such a short rotation as 10 years out," she said. "You really have to think about the landscape in the long term, 100 years or so, usually."

When the number of trees on a section of land drops below the minimum requirement set in the forest plan, she goes to work. She also monitors the forest to make sure natural regeneration of trees continues.

She is a University of Idaho graduate with a bachelor's degree in forestry. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador for two years, teaching reforestation and organic gardening at the high school level. She also worked on the Tahoe National Forest for a

year. Ms. Allmaras came to St. Ignace in November after seven years on the Umatilla National Forest in the Blue Mountains of Washington and Oregon. In that job, she worked in reforestation and in the fire program, designing fuel breaks that will stop a fire or slow it down enough to allow firefighters to move in and fight the blaze.

Although she had never been to Michigan, the Great Lakes drew her to St. Ignace. She loves water, and where she was stationed in southeast Washington, only a narrow river flowed through the area. Lakes there, she said, actually are ponds connected to the river and

serve as fish hatcheries for salmon.

"The biggest one, I think, was three-quarters of an acre, and those were the lakes," she said. "I was really missing water."

Her first project when arriving here involved analysis of areas near St. Martin Point on the east side of the district and Brevort on the west. Foresters now will determine what needs to be done to meet the forest plan objectives of those areas.

Ms. Allmaras enjoys the field work and knowing she will have an impact on the future of the forest and future generations.

"It's my responsibility to do the best I possibly can," she said, "so they will have a good result."



Marjorie Allmaras arrived in St. Ignace in November to manage the reforestation program at the Hiawatha National Forest.

## Fore!

33 Teams Turn Out To Try Their Golf Skills on Lake Huron Ice at St. Ignace



Top: Mike Hough of St. Ignace winds up as he aims to hit his golf ball on one of the 18 frozen fairways on Moran Bay during the 15th annual Ice Golf Chip Scramble in St. Ignace Saturday, March 7. In the distance is the St. Ignace shoreline near American Legion Park. (Photographs by Andrea Insley)

At right: A decorated golf cart sled competition was added to this year's Ice Chip Golf Scramble, an idea contributed by St. Ignace residents Todd Insley (right) and Chris Paquin (middle), who played last year with a cart sled resembling the General Lee vehicle from the television show "Dukes of Hazzard." The two men arrived this year with a sled resembling a Budweiser delivery truck, complete with a stereo system, an exhaust pipe that blew smoke, a horn, sliding doors for access to storage, and cup holders. The duo beat out 10 teams to win the decoration competition. They were accompanied by Mr. Paquin's son, Christopher (left), who served as their caddie for the day.



At left: The "greens" on the playing field between Mackinac Grille and American Legion Park were a little rough, owing to warmer weather that made the surface of the bay slushy for players.

## Moran Township

# Three Construction Projects Approved in New Budget

By Ryan Schlehuber

Painting and repairs to Gros Cap Church, upgrading the bathroom at the township hall, and adding a driveway to the proposed Fish Heritage Park site on US-2 are three projects that are slated in Moran Township's 2009-10 budget, which is \$1,000 lower than last year. The township board approved the \$313,011.87 budget of at its meeting Wednesday, March 4.

The three construction projects will cost \$15,000 each.

The township wants to add a driveway for access now to the site of the proposed Fish Heritage Park, a property that years ago housed Gustafson's Fishery. The seven-acre property has no access point yet. The township board would like to eventually develop a park there.

Another proposed project is a joint exploration with the City of St. Ignace and Mackinac Island State Park Commission to construct a pedestrian bridge over I-75 just north of the Mackinac Bridge, just south of the ramp to St. Ignace, to connect Father Marquette National Memorial to Straits State Park and the Welcome Center.

The group is asking Governor Jennifer Granholm for a state-funded feasibility study for the bridge, which will promote more use of the memorial site and a proposed new museum there. The former museum was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt.

Township Supervisor Jim Durm said the township will need to update its recreation plan in order to qualify for federal funds for

such a project.

The board tabled discussion on renewing a four-year contract with Dick Oliver of Curtis, the township's contracted assessor, because he was unable to attend the meeting. The board is seeking answers as to when all residential and commercial buildings can be fully inspected. The township would like them inspected every four years before Mr. Oliver's contract expires.

Cynthia Oliver, Mr. Oliver's wife, who assists him in assessing township property there as well as in three other townships, said at the meeting they are in the midst of converting the township's written assessment records into a digital format.

The board agreed to hold a special meeting with Mr. Oliver soon, although it did not set a specific date. His contract expires Tuesday, March 31.

Chuck Malcolm, owner of Town and Country Motel, complained to the board about his difficulty in ending his contract with Waste Management, his waste disposal provider. He told the board he was unable to break the contract until November, even though the company is raising its rates.

Mr. Durm said he will speak with the township's attorney about the matter. He added that once the township is fully updated with 9-1-1 emergency service, the board will discuss the possibility of a township-wide contract with a waste pick-up service company, giving that company exclusive rights to township residents and businesses.

## Brevort Lake

# 20 New Cribs Now on Lake

Twenty-four members of the Straits Area Sportsmen's Club, Brevort Lake Association, and other volunteers worked in freezing temperatures on Brevort Lake Saturday, February 28, to assemble 20 fish cribs that will sink to the bottom of the lake in the spring.

The new cribs are sitting on top of the ice just south of the

center reef, and snowmobile riders are asked to use caution when riding through the area.

The sportsmen's club has been assembling and sinking cribs in the lake for more than 25 years. They create a habitat for smaller fish and provide protection from larger predators. The 20 new cribs will bring the total number of cribs in the lake to 123.



Keith Doepker hammers a spike into a fish crib on Brevort Lake Saturday, February 28, while Ray Lowetz holds the log in place. (Photograph by Louis Colegrove)

# Bed and Breakfast Inns, Fences Are Topics Eyed by Clark Twp.

By Jonathan Eppley

The Clark Township Board of Trustees began reviewing the township zoning ordinance at a special meeting Thursday, March 5. The Planning Commission completed updates in December, and since then the Mackinac County Planning Commission has reviewed the articles and recommended changes to the township planning commission, which were addressed in January. The articles are now being reviewed by the township board and will be returned to the township planning commission for final changes and adoption.

"The planning commission put in a lot of time and effort into this," said Township Clerk Mike Miller, who was a township planning commissioner during the ordinance update process. "Keep

in mind that the zoning ordinances are a work in progress all the time. Things are going to come up and there's going to have to be amendments made to them."

Of the revisions recommended by the township board at the special meeting, one was also recommended by the county planning commission, regarding bed and breakfast establishments. Both the county planning commission and the township board want clarification as to whether the term "proprietor" would allow for a manager to reside in a bed and breakfast establishment, or if the owner would have to live on the premises.

Some communities believe that absentee ownership of such establishments degrades residential neighborhoods and can lead to situations where developers pur-

chase multiple homes for operation as bed and breakfast units. Such manager-operated businesses, whether on the islands or in neighborhoods on the mainland, are more commercial by nature than a family-operated home that rents out rooms, and neighbors feel more comfortable that guests will behave.

The township board is recommending to the township planning commission that the wording be taken out of the article because it is too restrictive. Mr. Miller said as long as someone lives in the establishment, owner or manager, it's OK.

The board is also asking that restrictions concerning the use of temporary dwellings during the construction of a permanent dwelling, be clarified on what types of temporary dwelling are

allowed and for how long.

Deck setbacks are being recommended to allow for decks on waterfront property to extend horizontally past the ordinary high water mark, provided the deck does not exceed two feet vertically above the high water mark (581.5 feet above sea level).

The board is also recommending that fences on residential properties bordering commercial properties be allowed to be higher than six feet, but not to exceed eight feet, to allow for more privacy.

Other recommended changes include minor changes, alphabetization of definitions, and clerical error corrections.

The township board will hold another special meeting Thursday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. to further review township zoning ordinance articles.