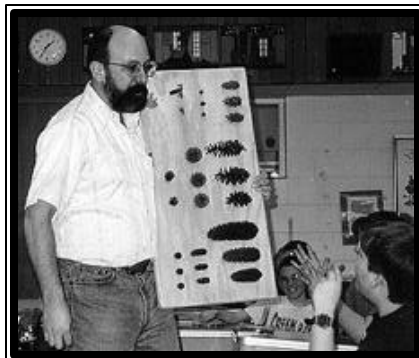


FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS

by Bill Cook, MSU Extension Forester in the Upper Peninsula

The T.R.E.E. program (Teaching Responsible Environmental Education) was developed by the MFRA to reach school children at the fourth and fifth grade level. It is in these classes that students are introduced to topics such as the history of the State Michigan, photosynthesis, and the tropical rain forest. It is an excellent opportunity to embellish these themes with information about our own forest right here in Michigan.



several modules with a number of show n'tell materials. Rarely, do I use all modules in a single presentation. Rather, I let the class help drive the topics of a particular session. The program is highly interactive. I ask them a lot of questions and allow them to ask me a lot of questions. We have fun with the material. The program is always evolving, often from cues given to me by the kids.

Current Material List

- MFRA T.R.E.E. poster kit
- Tree "cookies" for each student
- Three cedar cookies
- Light bulb & jars
- Cone board
- Sugar pine cone
- Teacher Packet

I have adapted the T.R.E.E. program to what I simply call a "Forestry Program for 4th and 5th Graders." This program has been very well received by over 50 classes. I began developing this presentation in the Fall of 1997. It consists of

Teacher Packet:

- Program evaluation
- NHLA Forest Resource Book
- MFRA Forest Fact card
- MFRA FIA update brochure
- Green Gold booklet
- List of U.P. trees
- Tree community handout
- Tree ID characteristics
- Game sheet
- Game sheet answers
- SAF forest facts
- Wood products list

Topics potentially covered include:

- ❖ Forest history from glaciation, to near complete forestation, to where we are today.
- ❖ Some Michigan forest facts.
- ❖ Tree identification features and key U.P. tree species with a stress on differing silvics.
- ❖ Forest associations and community distribution.
- ❖ Tree morphology, annual rings (2/season), growth, CO₂ and O₂ ratios, and photosynthesis.
- ❖ Natural vs. artificial regeneration.
- ❖ Forest products (i.e. 10,000+ products and Levi's hip tag paper made in Munising).
- ❖ Wildlife habitat requirements.
- ❖ Recreation, watersheds, and soil protection.
- ❖ U.P. harvest (cord pile from Ironwood to Detroit).
- ❖ U.P. growth (cord pile from Detroit to Miami).
- ❖ U.P. growing stock (over 4.5 times around the earth!).
- ❖ Introduction to silvicultural systems.

Some Sample Forest Tidbits:

About half the state is forested.

MI has the fifth largest forest area.

Acre = about a football field.

Every U.S. person uses one 16" dbh, 100' tall tree/year.

Logging boom timber value worth more than the gold from the California gold rush.

3 national forests, 6 state forests in MI.

Over 11 billion trees in MI.

Forestry is #1 economy in the U.P.

More forest in the USA than 100 years ago.

30,000,000 trees planted each year in MI.

About



MICHIGAN FOREST
RESOURCE ALLIANCE

is private non-industrially

in MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Any questions or comments can be directed towards

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