



Grand Traverse
Conservation District

December E-News



Happy Holidays!

A few of us from the Conservation District got together last weekend to make natural holiday ornaments for our trees and to give as gifts. Visit the “community corner” at www.greenhour.org to see a few that we made and learn how! See more tips below.

Forestry Assistance Program

Many of you may have heard that the Governor vetoed the Forestry Assistance Program line item in the DNR budget. As a result, the District lost our Forester, Daniel Schillinger. That’s the bad news.

The good news is that Daniel and his wife Janelle recently welcomed a new baby girl, Paige Marie into their family!

Daniel is starting his own forestry consulting business and will be a part-time stay-at-home dad. ***Congratulations Daniel and Janelle!***



Boardman River Nature Center

Construction on the Nature Center is well underway!

One of the neatest things about the building is that we are using insulated concrete foam construction. It’s an 8” concrete wall with 2.5 inches of foam insulation on the inside and out, giving us an energy efficient, green building that goes up quickly.

The walls around the classroom and most of the exhibit area are complete up to roof level. The rest of the building will be formed today and the concrete cores will be poured tomorrow.



Earlier this week, Fred Campbell, our architect and construction manager, came over and asked for a camera, because twice, while Cornelli was pumping the concrete, a bald eagle tried to land on the pump truck boom—that’s got to be a good sign!

The rest of the walls will be formed and poured tomorrow, weather dependant. Then, the crews will start setting roof trusses next week.

Help your holidays “go green!”

1) Give a gift that will help a child be curious about the

natural world, such as a certificate for a custom Discovery Hike, science kits, a kite, a tree you plant together or live plant kits from the District’s spring sales (gift certificates are available).

2) Skip material gifts all together! *Give a charitable gift to the District or Nature Center in honor of a loved one (gift acknowledgements will be sent). Give online at <http://www.gtcd.org/donations.shtml> * Or, give an experience: performance/event tickets, a camping trip, cooking classes, guided nature hike, or a hot air balloon ride.

3) Use local products for your holiday meals and gift baskets including local wines, dried fruits, locally made jams & jellies and lots more!

4) Wrap your gifts with newspaper (Sunday comics are great!), cloth that can be reused or wrapping paper made with recycled content. Save and re-use ribbon from year to year. If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet!

5) Recycle holiday cards you receive or make gift tags out of them for next year.

6) Take unwanted gifts or older items that have been replaced to a charity shop, instead of throwing them away.



Happy Holidays from all of us at your Conservation District!

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