



School Forest Annual Report

Please submit before June 30 to:
School Forest Program, DNR - Forestry
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4044
Or e-mail to: amykay.kerber@dnr.state.mn.us
School Year: 2008-2009

School Forest Name: **Dean Makey School Forest**
School Forest Site Coordinator: **Chris Hanson**
Address: **12149 Knollwood Drive**
City: **Baxter** State: **MN** Zip Code: **56425**
Phone: **218-454-6665** Fax: **218-454-6687** Date: **June 2009**
E-mail: chris.hanson@isd181.org

School Forest Numbers and Support

Please indicate the estimated number of people participating for the entire school year in all school forest activities:

Teachers = ~15
Students = ~1000

Resource Professionals = 4
Volunteers = ~15

Did your School Forest host a Field Day? Yes No

Did a DNR Forester assist you with any school forest activities? Yes No
If so, who? **Dean Makey**, dean.makey@dnr.state.mn.us 218-833-8700

Please list any other natural resource professionals who assisted you with school forest activities and how they helped you.

Dean Makey, DNR forester: Maintenance work on trail and informative signs; numerous outdoor classroom presentations; year round tree planting maintenance; work to secure grants and volunteers; assist teachers in planning and implementing forest programming; volunteer at *Race for the Cure* public running and charity event working at forest parking lot running a water/aid station; continuously update forest map to reflect new work in school forest.

Brainerd Public Utilities Commission and Dean Makey completed 1.5 acres of mechanical site preparation for 5th grade tree planting, donating 1 day of "brush hog" equipment and operator, and project supervision.

Kent Montgomery: Trail & parking area mowing and maintenance, chair school forest committee meetings, coordinate and align school forest activities, secure grants and volunteers, work as a volunteer to coach student athletes using the forest, and provide natural resource expertise as needed to support classroom visits.

Gary Carson, NR Instructor at Central Lakes College, administered the grant from Central Lakes College for the construction of a wetland observation deck on school forest property.

Jake Frie, County Forester, **Gary Carson**, **Dean Makey**, and **Kent Montgomery** led learning stations at School Forest Forestry Day.

Dean Makey School Forest 2009 Report – page 2

Please list any changes to your site, school forest committee, teaching staff, etc. the School Forest Program should know about.

A **wetland observation deck** was constructed on the edge of one of the School Forest wetlands. The deck materials were purchased using a grant from Central Lakes College. The deck was constructed by volunteers, Ray Sipper and Jim Dunn.

On May 28, 2009, **Lakeland Public TV News** aired a feature story about the Dean Makey School Forest and the recent construction of the wetland observation deck. The feature included interviews with Dean Makey, Robin Halverson, and students about their present and future use of the Forest.

Class Visits to School Forest

Please fill in one entry for each visit, event, or activity that happened in your school forest. Please feel free to attach additional pieces of paper.

Date: **7-08** Leaders: Emily Lanin Grade(s): All ages - Community Event
Activity Description: Local 5 km Running event (“Race for the Cure”) around the school forest and using public access parking lot as a water stop with school forest personnel volunteering. 500+ participants.

Date: **8-08 through 10-08** Leaders: Chris Hanson, Charity Meyer Grade(s): 5 - 8th
Activity Description: Cross Country running practices held 3-5 times weekly on forest trails.

Date: **9-08** Leaders: Robin Halvorson and team teachers Grade(s): 5th
Activity Description: Grade level “Forestry Day”; demonstration and activity stations on many aspects of forestry; coordinated with local DNR professionals; attended by 460+ students and teachers.

Date: **9-08** Leaders: Dalen Hodge Grade(s): 8th
Activity Description: Orienteering

Date: **9-08** Leaders: John Zemke and Jay Sannes Grade(s): 6th & 7th
Activity Description: Tree identification project for 10 classes of science students.

Date: **10-08 and 5-09** Leaders: Chris Hanson Grade(s): 7th
Activity Description: Bud capping effectiveness annual study + release cutting.

Date: **10-08 and 5-09** Leaders: Dalen Hodge Grade(s): 8th
Activity Description: Bud capping and release cutting project.

Date: **11-08 through 2-09** Leaders: Mary Claire Ryan, Kent Montgomery, Diane Meyer
Grade(s): 1 - 8th Activity Description: Cross country skiing practice and cross country ski camp on groomed school forest trails. (Grooming contracted with Brainerd Nordic Ski Club.)

Dean Makey School Forest 2009 Report – page 3

Date: **4-09** Leaders: Dean Makey, Robin Halverson, Betty Harrison Grade(s): 5th
Activity Description: Tree planting project planning and classroom presentations on project implementation.

Date: **4-09** Leaders: Robin Halvorson, Betty Harrison, Dean Makey Grade(s): 5th
Activity Description: Arbor Day planting of 900 trees on 1.5 acres; 6 classes for approximately 180 students and teachers participated with the planting; DNR provided seedlings and tools.

Date: **5-09 and 6-09** Leaders: Dean Makey, Robin Halverson, Betty Harrison Grade(s): 5th
Activity Description: Watered tree seedlings planted earlier in the month; watered two times – 900 seedlings done by 120 students each time; DNR assisted with water supply.

Date: **All (academic) year** Leaders: Ken Perry Grade(s): 5 - 8th
Activity Description: School Bird club monitors bird populations, migrations, and habitat. Numerous field excursions throughout the year (esp. fall/spring) to sight birds.

Date: **Fall and (mainly) spring** Leaders: Kari Roberts Grade(s): K - 3
Activity Description: Nature hikes with after school children's program.

Date: **5-09 to 6-09** Leaders: 5 - 8th grade teaching staff (Hanson, Halvorson, Lang, Ebinger, Almen, Peabody) Activity Description: Multiple class visits for nature drawing, nature walks, and scavenger hunting.

Date: **All year** Leaders: N/A Activity Description: Trails are open to the public for hiking, skiing, and wildlife viewing. Unknown but increasing number of individuals are taking advantage of the maintained trails.