



HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST

NEWS RELEASE

USDA – Forest Service

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For Immediate Release Date
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Hiawatha National Forest Celebrates Volunteers

Escanaba, MI – On Monday, October 27, the Hiawatha National Forest held its 7th annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony. Over 35 volunteers and guests gathered at the Alger County Heritage Center for refreshments, recognition, and a special presentation by Forest Service Historian John Franzen.

In 2008, over 170 volunteers helped the Hiawatha National Forest to accomplish its mission. Approximately 4500 hours were donated by volunteers in wildlife surveys, recreation trail maintenance, adopt-a-forest trash pick up, and plant restoration and non-native species removal.

“Volunteers are so important for everything we do,” states Autumn Jauck, Volunteer Coordinator for the Hiawatha National Forest. “They help us complete projects that would otherwise take years to accomplish, or maybe not get done at all.”

Some of the projects accomplished in 2008 include: Grand Island patrol and maintenance, Big Island Lake Wilderness patrol and maintenance, OHV Trail patrol program, restoration of heritage sites, summer educational outreach, restoration of native plants on Grand Island, native seed collection, non-native species removal, greenhouse maintenance, trash pick up, wildlife surveys and tracking, trail building and maintenance, and staffing and maintenance of Valley Spur ski trails.

“For all their contributions on the ground and for the energy and ideas they share with us, we want to show our appreciation,” commented Dick Anderson, Supervisory Forester and Recreation Program Manager for the

Hiawatha National Forest. "Volunteers are an indispensable component of our operation on the Munising District. A sincere thank you goes out to all who gave of their time and effort."

If you would like to become a volunteer for the Hiawatha National Forest, please contact Autumn Jauck at 906-387-2512. Many different opportunities exist to suit a wide range of interests and abilities.

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