



## E- Newsletter - November 2011



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### Volunteers Needed for 2012 Expo Planning

By Diane Ursu

A few skilled individuals are needed to help put together the upcoming MMBA Expo. People are needed for the following tasks:

- Create a poster and distribute
- Market the expo to both vendors and attendees
- Select and order awards for the FAFL recipients and the Mountain Bike Patrollers (separate award for the patrollers, not the same as the FAFL)
- Invite vendors to purchase a booth at the expo and to donate items for our silent auction, and possibly even a raffle

If interested, please email Diane Ursu at [communications@mmba.org](mailto:communications@mmba.org). Your help is quite needed and greatly appreciated.

### CPS Update

By Dennis Murphy

The CPS results for 2011 will finalize November 14, in time to order trophies. Trophy winners should plan to attend the MMBA Annual Expo to receive their award.

The 2011 CPS season was a success with approximately 200 additional race entries over 2010. Planning is under way for 2012 with some new ideas under consideration for implementation.

Watch BikeReg.com to register for the series points race for 2013.

### Fort Custer Trail Separation becomes Official November 14, 2011

Event: Open house from Noon-4pm on Monday, November 14

Fort Custer Recreation Area - Trail Separation  
Announcement

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The anticipated separating of the trail system at Fort Custer Recreation Area (FCRA) has progressed rapidly over the past few months and is nearing its final stages of completion. The MI-DNR, Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), is pleased to announce the official trail separation date. Monday, November 14, 2011 will be the beginning of separated trail use at Fort Custer Recreation Area and a new era of safer, well-defined trail use. An Open House is planned at FCRA from noon until 4 p.m. on the November 14 in order to celebrate this accomplishment and to provide information and interim trail maps to guests. This separation effort has increased the trail distance at FCRA from 24 miles of trails to over 30 miles of trails thanks to the tremendous volunteer efforts of the major trail groups, and some much needed development funding from the Parks and Recreation Division.

Beginning on November 14, the trails used by equestrians and mountain bikers will have separate trail heads, and except for the shared use on the Blue Loop around Whitford-Lawler and Jackson Hole Lakes, the two groups will have their own trails.

Beginning the separate trail use by both mountain bikers and equestrians in the fall will give both groups and all visitors some time to become accustomed to the new trail layout, and correct minor issues that each group may identify. The fall separation will also allow the Parks and Recreation Division and all trail participants to make use of the winter months to help spread the word about the separated trails throughout their respective communities. Dog sledders (mushers) will benefit by having opportunities to try out the trails with dog teams and provide further input from their perspective prior to the trails getting active again in the spring. Finally, the PRD will have time to GPS the final trail system, prepare and print quantities of official trail maps for distribution beginning in the spring, and make needed trail sign postings.

It has been a long and consuming process to get to this point. We in the PRD thank everyone involved from the public input process, to the volunteers, to the continued group involvement in future planning and use of the Fort Custer Recreation Area. Your involvement, passion and perseverance throughout this trail separation effort will make Fort Custer Recreation Area an even better and pleasant place for all of our outdoor trail enthusiasts.

### **DNR Exceeds Participation Goal for First Year of Recreation Passport**

The Department of Natural Resources today announced that the participation goal for the first year of the Recreation

Passport was met and exceeded by Michigan citizens. The Recreation Passport, an optional \$10 fee that can be paid at the time of motor vehicle renewal, is the new funding model for Michigan state parks and state forest recreation programs.

In 2011, the programs first year, the DNR set a goal of 24.3 percent participation by Michigan motorists. Final tallies for the first year show that the goal was met and exceeded, with 24.7 percent of Michigan motorists checking Yes to support the Recreation Passport when renewing their motor vehicle registration. In total, the revenue generated by the sale of the Recreation Passport was \$18,816,500.

We appreciate the support of Michigan citizens who support our state parks and state forest recreation programs by checking Yes when they renew their motor vehicle registration at the Secretary of State, said DNR Director Rodney Stokes. We also are grateful for the strong support of Secretary of State Ruth Johnson and her staff. Without their partnership, we would have had a tougher climb toward our goal in our first year of implementation.

Stokes said the DNR has set a participation rate goal of 30 percent for 2012. The price for the Recreation Passport in 2012 remains unchanged at \$10.

We are very pleased to partner with the DNR in promoting our state parks and helping to preserve them for future generations, said Johnson, who kayaks, sails, and camps with her family at state parks across Michigan. We have such an exceptional park system that truly contributes to our quality of life.

The funds raised in the first year of sales for the Recreation Passport are split according to a formula in the law that created the program. The Secretary of States Office is reimbursed \$1 million for administrative costs, and the state parks operational budget (\$10.7 million) and the Michigan Water Ways budget (\$1.03 million) each get an amount equivalent to the revenue that the former Motor Vehicle Permit (window sticker) system brought in averaged over the last three years. After that revenue is deducted, the remaining revenue for 2011 was divided as follows:

State Parks Capital Outlay (50 percent)	\$3,043,250
State Parks Maintenance (30 percent)	\$1,825,950
Local Park Grants (10 percent)	\$608,650
State Forest Recreation (7 percent)	\$426,055
Cultural/Historical Facilities in State Parks (2.75 percent)	\$167,379
Marketing (0.25 percent)	\$15,216

Even if you think you will never go to a state park or enjoy one of our state forest campgrounds or trails, supporting the Recreation Passport is a good way to support your county, community, or township parks, Stokes said. Ten percent of the revenue is dedicated to a grant program to help improve parks in local communities.

Stokes added another good reason to support the Recreation Passport is the Passport Perks program, a discount program supported by hundreds of Michigan businesses around the state that offer discounts for persons who purchased a Recreation Passport. For more information on the program, including a list of participating businesses or how to become a Passport Perks partner, [click here to learn more about Passport Perks](#).

The participation rate for the first year is a significant step forward and we hope that more Michigan residents will support the passport program and take advantage of the more than 700 Michigan businesses that offer discounts through the Recreation Passport Perks Program, said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division.

For more information on the Recreation Passport, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

The [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#) is committed to the conservation, protection, management, accessible use and enjoyment of the States natural resources for current and future generations.

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