

# The County Agent

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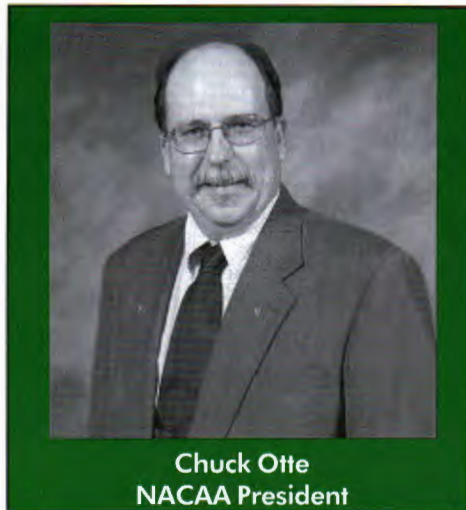


**Michigan -  
state of  
great  
agricultural  
diversity!**



# TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE

"Transforming the Future", is what we do every day. So it is only appropriate that this is our theme for the 92<sup>nd</sup> NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC). When AM/PIC Chair, Phil Durst, floated that idea past me over two years ago, I got excited, I got real excited! Those three words sum up what all of us do every day in our respective counties, regions or states.



Chuck Otte  
NACAA President

If you have attended an AM/PIC before, feel free to skip the next couple of paragraphs. If you have never attended an AM/PIC before, please keep reading. As I traveled to the four regional meetings this winter I had the opportunity to visit with many NACAA members from all around the country. As we talked about our Association, several members talked about how hard it was getting to recruit those new employees into joining NACAA. In many states there is a growing trend for the new staff to specialize more. There is strong pressure for these new employees to join one of their subject matter associations. Now, nothing against those associations, I used to belong to one. But many of the members in those associations are going to be hard pressed to relate to what we all do on a daily basis in our Extension work.

I missed far too many AM/PICs at the start of my Extension Career. But once I started attending, I found a cadre of professionals who were facing the same opportunities and challenges that I face on a daily basis. The energy and ideas that bounce around at an AM/PIC are enough to power a small city! You just need to attend one, and you'll be attending the rest of your life. If you have any questions about an AM/PIC there's a special message for you on page 9. Once you get to Grand Rapids, there'll be several events for you First Timers. If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact me before we get to Grand Rapids.

The job that I am doing today is far different than the job I did when I started 25 years ago. I hold the same position, even have the same desk and chair. But most everything else has changed. Everything EXCEPT helping the people that walk in the office, call on the phone or drop me an email, transform their futures. I think we all know that change is happening and it is happening at what seems the speed of light some days. This AM/PIC is focused on helping you transform right with the world around you!

It has been a real pleasure working with the Michigan team to put this meeting together. The NACAA Committees are busy lining up their professional improvement speakers. The Michigan Team, Phil and I are busy putting the last minute details together. As you look through this issue you can see what we've been doing. In response to the suggestions of the Futuring Committee and your ongoing request to maximize professional development opportunities, we have tried to whittle a few more minutes off the general sessions and apply that time to those other educational activities.

The spouses program (page 22) is a beacon that is sure to invite your spouse to the "Port of Grand Rapids"! Make sure your spouse gets to see this issue! The Sons and Daughters activities (page 27) make me want to be a kid again. Life members really need to be planning their trip to Grand Rapids! I've been to Grand Rapids several times the past couple of years, and you are really going to enjoy this one! The 4-H Talent Revue will be showcasing our 4-H'ers in a venue unlike any we've had before. The facilities are top notch and the people have been great to work with!

I could go on and on, but then we'd have to add more pages to this issue. This is going to be a grand meeting. Start making your plans now to join us in Grand Rapids and start transforming your future!

# WELCOME TO GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

## Come, join us in Michigan!

The Michigan Association of Extension Agents is pleased to invite you to join us in Grand Rapids for the NACAA Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference. We are planning an outstanding conference this July 15-19, and we don't want you to miss it.

Come and you'll find a great educational program! Our theme is "Transforming the Future". As Extension Agents/Educators our work with communities, businesses, producers and families is all about transformation through education. This conference will prepare, energize and inspire you for that role through speakers, workshops and tours.

Sunday, at the Inspirational Session, our focal point will be

"Transforming the Future: Beginning with Self". For Monday's General Session, we'll focus the theme on "Transforming the Future: Changing our Communities". Thursday, we are looking at "Transforming the Future: Impacting the World". Come, learn and grow with us!

Come and you'll find a great welcome and great program for families and life members! From tours to workshops and special events, spouses, kids and retirees will be glad they came. Not only will they have fun and learn, but we're sure they will make good friends in Michigan.

Come and you'll find Michigan the state of Great Lakes, Great Sights and Great Times! What a great place to take a vacation before or after the



**Phil Durst**  
AM/PIC Chair

conference, possibly exploring the west coast of Michigan and visiting our many lighthouses. Or perhaps you would like to travel to destinations like dynamic Greenfield Village at the Henry Ford Museum, peaceful Mackinac Island or the great Upper Peninsula. This is your opportunity to explore and enjoy.

We are eager to host you for the 2007 NACAA AM/PIC. We believe that you will find this conference not only a great asset to you professionally and personally, but economically as well. Please check out our website and the following pages for more information. If you have any questions, please contact me or any of our fine committee chairs. I hope that you will come and join us in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

[www.nacaa2007.msu.edu](http://www.nacaa2007.msu.edu)

## The County Agent

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# Great Educational Programs!

## Inspirational Speaker: Jay Laffoon

*“Transforming the Future: Beginning with Self”*

Be ready for an evening that will get you fired up and excited about being someone who truly makes a difference in people’s lives. Sunday evening, our inspirational speaker, Jay Laffoon, will energize you as he speaks with passion and enthusiasm that is contagious.



Speaking professionally since the age of 17, Jay Laffoon is known for his energy and enthusiasm – a combination of power-packed delivery and laugh-out-loud humor that holds audiences captivated. Through real-life illustrations, Jay motivates and inspires his audience to action.

Jay started communicating as a teenager through the ministry of Youth for Christ. Twenty years later, Jay’s motivational presentations are in demand by corporations and businesses across the United States. In addition, Jay is an author and along with his wife Laura, he is the host of *Celebrate Your Marriage* Conferences. Jay and Laura have two children and reside in Alma, the heart of rural Michigan.

## Keynote Address

*“Transforming the Future: Changing our Communities”*

Dr. Rick Foster, vice president for programs at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, has the expertise and experience to address the issue of *“Transforming the Future”*. As our Keynote Speaker for the NACAA conference, Foster will relate a vision for community change that will be of application to every member.

Foster’s programming duties include guiding Foundation efforts in food systems, rural development and leadership development. Programming initiatives for which he is responsible include some with which NACAA members have been involved: Food and Society, Mid South Delta Initiative, People and Land, Networks for Rural Public Policy, the Kellogg National Leadership Program and the new Kellogg Leadership for Community Change Program.



Rick received his advanced degrees in agricultural education from Iowa State University in Ames. He joined the Foundation in 1991 as a visiting professional while on sabbatical leave from the University of Nebraska, where he served as a professor of agricultural education. Prior to joining the Foundation he worked in international development activities in Africa and Central America, and was instrumental in establishing the School of Agriculture for the Humid Tropics (E.A.R.T.H.) in Costa Rica.

Rick is a provocative speaker, desiring to challenge assumptions and to get people thinking. We are convinced that you will be roused as he speaks on *“Transforming the Future: Changing our Communities”*.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations.” To achieve the greatest impact, the Foundation targets its grants toward specific areas. These include: health; food systems and rural development; youth and education; and philanthropy and volunteerism. Within these areas, attention is given to exploring learning opportunities in leadership; information and communication technology; capitalizing on diversity; and social and economic community development.

## International Extension Work Symposium

This session, Thursday afternoon at the NACAA conference, will look abroad at the opportunities and realities of international work and also look homeward at how Agents/Educators can use international experience in their communities.

Included will be a panel of NACAA members who have had international Extension experience, representatives of organizations who sponsor such and program directors. You'll learn how others have dealt with unexpected situations, how they have learned to be cross-culturally effective and how Agent/Educators have shared their experiences with people back home and what they learned.

This is an opportunity for NACAA members to share, learn and explore opportunities for international work. If you are considering international work or have had international work opportunities, this session will provide an opportunity to share questions, concerns, principles and methods.

Often, NACAA members work in home communities where few have opportunity to travel abroad and where viewpoints can be very limited. Extension Agents/Educators can help improve understanding and help to broaden perspectives.

This session will be a great follow-up on the day's theme of "Transforming the Future: Impacting our World". See how you can impact the world, whether locally or abroad, at this session on Thursday afternoon in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



## What Will Be in the Fields Tomorrow?



*"I really own the place and I know just about every hill and hollow on it. It's part of me. I know all about it being in the family so long. I don't know what I would do without it now."*

What Will Be in the Fields Tomorrow? It is a question many people are asking. It is a question that Extension Agents/Educators deal with regularly. External forces are at play – energy costs, changing lifestyles, temptations for young people to leave, rising land values, and others. The VOICES Project at Michigan State University Museum created a readers' theatre script for public group reading that explores these issues and provides a framework for discussing them.

This program will be presented on Thursday afternoon at the NACAA conference and a discussion will follow. NACAA members, spouses and life members are invited to attend. Those participating will learn how they can use this same tool in their communities.

*"In a world that is increasingly polarized, explorations such as this [script] provide a safe place to open up that dialogue."*

Wendy Weiland. MSU Extension, Charlevoix, MI  
– cast member, multi-generational family farmer

Included are numerous starting points for civic dialogue –inside and outside of agriculture: Where are future farmers coming from? Are food and commodity the same thing? What about the aging farmer? Gender issues in agriculture; land values and the value of land; what does quality of life have to do with life choices around farmers, farming and local food.

*Fields* was developed from oral history interviews by Cynthia Vagnetti. Audience surveys and 'talk-backs' assessed content, authenticity and the potential for community/public education. A separate ag-focus group included 22 farmers (commodity and smaller farmers involved with sustainable and organic practices) and regional Extension professionals.

Participants will receive a copy of the script which can be effectively performed even as an unrehearsed reading by amateurs. Use it to bring people of diverse viewpoints together and to explore the issues that impact agriculture and society.

VOICES Project principal founders are Julie Avery and Cynthia Vagnetti of Michigan State University and playwright Barbara Carlisle. VOICES is supported by a grant from The W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the MSU Museum.

Photo Credit: Rufus Ragsdale – Jacksonville, Texas – Cherokee. Photo by Cynthia Vagnetti from *People Sustaining the Land*, 2002.

## Lunchtime Educational Seminars and Workshops

Lunch time in Grand Rapids, Michigan will be time to feast on great educational programs! Here is a menu of options available to date. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday will feature premier experts speaking about the hottest topics facing agriculture today. Join Michigan State University and industry guest speakers for some excellent professional improvement opportunities. Bon appetit!

### **Building Entrepreneurial Capacity for Agriculture Economic Development**

A diverse clientele of new or existing businesses have learned how to apply concepts from business planning tools to strengthen business ideas. Learn how to turn business ideas into profits and build entrepreneurial capacity in your region or state. Dr. Chris Peterson discusses the success of the Michigan State University Product Center.

### **Land Use Decisions and the Dramatic Effect on Agriculture**

The dynamics of land use decisions and the effect on agriculture will be the topic of this session. Learn about new and innovative research results and strategies from Dr. Soji Adelaja, one of the premier land use speakers in the nation from the MSU Land Policy Institute.

### **Managed Intensive Grazing and Forages for Dairy Profitability** – Courtesy SARE

This is "grass roots education". 2005 SARE Producer Grant recipient, Howard Straub and MSU Extension Educator, Jerry Lindquist present different aspects of a managed intensive grazing dairy farm and the forages

used for maximizing profits in a Michigan dairy farm. This multi-generational farm operation is described as a pioneer for dairy grazing and an environmental conservationist. Learn some of the key management principles from this nationally-recognized farm.

### **Opportunities and Challenges in More Localized Food Systems** – Courtesy SARE

A clear trend in the food world is the growing number of consumers thinking about where their food was produced, how it was produced, and the viability of the farmers producing it. More and more this means 'local', 'organic' and/or 'pasture-raised'. There is increasing opportunity among Extension educators to bridge the gap between producing and consuming to help identify opportunities for farmers to tap into these rapidly growing segments of the marketplace. Dr. Mike Hamm, Mott Professor at MSU, will discuss opportunities in direct market and organic markets in parts of the country that under-produce and under-market compared to consumer purchases.

### **Sustainable Farming with Cover Crops**

– Courtesy SARE

Participants will learn about incorporating cover crops into a farming system. Dr. Dale Mutch, Extension specialist from MSU/KBS will discuss current applied research projects around cover crops in field crop, fruit and vegetable systems. An NCR-SARE producer grant recipient will discuss how he is using cover crops in his seed corn operation. "*Managing Cover Crops*

*Profitably*”, the third edition hot off the press will be presented to participants by the National SARE office.

### **Resistance Issues with Anthelmintics in Cattle**

– Courtesy Intervet

The growing incidence of resistance associated with dewormers in cattle will be discussed during this session. Learn of the challenges and recommendations from researchers working in the livestock industry.

### **Issues and Answers with Turfgrass**

This informative session will highlight some of the driving questions associated with turfgrass and put the participants on par with what’s going on in this industry. The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) is a unique program designed to make fundamental advances toward environmental protection on golf courses. Dr. Kevin Frank, Michigan State University, will focus on land grant university research being done in Michigan around the MTESSP, water use, loss of effective pesticides and fertility challenges. This excellent presentation will keep all participants not only driving for show, but putting for dough.

### **Environmental Opportunities for Animal Agriculture: Extension’s Critical Role**

This is a must see session for all animal science attendees. This session is presented by Dr. Dave Beede, Meadows Chair Professor, Dairy Nutrition, Nutrient & Environmental Management at Michigan State University. Dr. Beede’s discussion will include current and pending standards for air and water quality, opportunities for climate profit centers for livestock farmers to benefit from aggressive, strategic environmental stewardship, and the role of Extension in applied research and education to help capture the opportunities for environmental, social and economic sustainability.

### **Invasive Species Arrive, Survive and Thrive**

Natural resources and Agronomy & Pest Management Educators will both benefit from this excellent session dealing with Emerald Ash Borer and Soybean Aphids. Learn about invasive species that have originated in the Midwest and are spreading across the country. Michigan State University Researchers will provide what to expect with recent research and how it applies to your local clientele.

### **Let’s Talk About Bio-Fuel Alternatives**

Several sessions will be presented looking at the changing face of agriculture and alternative fuels. Bio-diesel, ethanol, and cellulosic energy will be topics during professional improvement seminars.

### **Why Cellulosic Ethanol is Nearer than You Think**

Hear from one of our nation’s leading experts in cellulosic ethanol production, Dr. Bruce Dale, MSU Professor of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. Dr. Dale will present an optimistic approach to his research on The Ammonia Fiber Expansion (AFEX) process and what may be in store for the cellulosic ethanol production industry. Several myths about ethanol production will be clarified. Finally, some opportunities for rural communities to capture economic opportunities in the bio-fuels revolution will be discussed.

### **University Jobs Fair!**

Universities will have the opportunity at Grand Rapids to recruit employees. Invitation to attend the conference has been extended to graduate students in Extension Education programs across the country and to Canadian Extension workers. Together with some of our members seeking advancement, these individuals are a great pool of qualified applicants for open positions. We have a room for job postings and information. In addition, some universities may send representatives to talk with potential employees. Come and check out the University Jobs Fair Monday and Tuesday at the NACAA conference.

For more AM/PIC Information

[www.nacaa2007.msu.edu](http://www.nacaa2007.msu.edu)

*Photos throughout this publication are courtesy of the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Travel and MAEA members.*



## Grand Rapids a "natural" for 2007

If you're looking for professional improvement opportunities connected to natural resource management and protection, Grand Rapids in 2007 is for you! If your family is looking for an outdoor vacation that includes woods, sand and water, bring 'em along! The 2007 AM/PIC has something for anyone interested in learning more about natural resources. And we're "going green" all the way and setting the pace for future AM/PICs by recycling and using bio-based products.

Practically every 2007 Professional Improvement tour will include aspects of natural resource protection and management – a given when you're touring a state that boasts 11,000 lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams. And don't forget our 3,288 miles of beautiful Great Lakes shoreline! Choose a tour that explores irrigation water use and management in high-value seed corn, farmer-driven research in non-chemical weed control, land use strategies to preserve farmland and open space or vegetated solutions to urban storm water pollution. These are just a few of the many possibilities.

You'll view breathtaking landscapes from your tour bus window and see how Michigan State University Extension is equipping Michigan citizens to protect and preserve their special home. An outdoor family vacation in Michigan's sparkling Lower Peninsula or spectacular Upper Peninsula will leave everyone with a greater appreciation for nature and the systems that support it. Grand Rapids is truly a "natural" for 2007. Go to [Michigan.org](http://Michigan.org) and click on "travel ideas" to get started.



## Will this be your first time?

If you have not attended the NACAA conference before, you'll be in for a treat by coming to Grand Rapids, Michigan! Right from the start we want to treat you special and help you out. There will be a designated place for First-Timer's to check-in at registration. There, we will have knowledgeable people on hand to make sure you understand how to get the most out of this conference. We will be there to serve you!

As you fill out your registration form check the spot on the form and make plans to attend the First-Timer's Luncheon on Monday. This free lunch is an opportunity to meet other first time attendees and to learn about the association.

If you arrive in Grand Rapids by Sunday, be sure to attend the First-Timer's Orientation and Reception on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 pm.

There are many educational opportunities awaiting you but one that we want to call attention to is the Early Career Development session on Tuesday morning. This session is especially for Agents/Educators just like you.

Our goal is for you to benefit so much from this conference that next year you will want to be a "second time attendee" and so on and so on! If you have never come before, come this year. Come and check out this great professional improvement conference of NACAA!

First-Time attendees employed after July 1, 2002 pay no registration fee for this conference! That is a \$215 benefit and certainly not one to miss. But even if you have worked longer than that cutoff, we want you to come. The NACAA conference will not only help you in your career, but is a great chance to meet and develop friendships with colleagues from around the country who work in the same fields as you. Come and meet them!

For more AM/PIC Information

[www.nacaa2007.msu.edu](http://www.nacaa2007.msu.edu)

# 92nd Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference TENTATIVE PROGRAM

## FRIDAY, JULY 13

7:00 am Pre-Conference Livestock Seminar and Tour

7:00 am Pre-Conference Horticulture Tour

8:00 am - 5:00 pm NACAA Board Meeting

## SATURDAY, JULY 14

8:00 am NACAA Board Meeting

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Life Member and Spouses Hospitality

6:30 pm Michigan Donor & NACAA Heritage Gala (By Invitation)

10:00 pm Michigan Meeting

## SUNDAY, JULY 15

8:00 am - 7:00 pm Registration

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Commercial Exhibits & NACAA Educational Exhibits Set Up

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Scholarship Selection Committee

9:00 am - Noon Regional Directors and Vice Directors Workshop

9:00 am - 1:00 pm NACAA Poster Set Up

9:30 am - Noon Nominating Committee Meeting

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Past National Board Luncheon

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm National Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Luncheon

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Life Member and Spouses Hospitality

1:00 pm - 6:30 pm Computer Center Open

1:00 pm - 6:30 pm Commercial and Educational Exhibits Open

1:00 pm - 6:30 pm NACAA Poster Session Display

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm State Officers Workshop

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Program Recognition Council Workshop

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Extension Development Council Workshop

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Professional Improvement Council Workshop

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm NACAA Educational Foundation Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm First Timer Orientation and Reception

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Get Acquainted Dinner - Wisconsin

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

State President Rehearsal for Flag Ceremony and Opening Rehearsal

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm

Parents Orientation for Sons and Daughters Program

6:15 pm - 6:45 pm

National Leadership Rehearsal for Sunday Program

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Sons and Daughters Get Acquainted Mixer

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Opening Session and Inspirational Program

8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Ice Cream Social - Missouri

9:00 pm

State Pictures

10:00 pm

Michigan Meeting

## MONDAY, JULY 16

6:30 am - 7:45 am

Voting Delegates Breakfast (Meal by Invitation & Ticket)

6:30 am - 7:45 am

Administrators Breakfast

7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Computer Center Open

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Registration

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

University Jobs Fair

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Commercial and NACAA Educational Exhibits open

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

NACAA Poster Display

8:00 am - 10:00 am

General Session

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Life Member and Spouses Hospitality

10:00 am - 10:20 am

Break - North & South Dakota

10:30 am - 11:40 am

Trade Talk Concurrent Sessions

11:45 am - 1:15 pm

First Time Attendee Luncheon

11:45 am - 1:15 pm

PRIDE Luncheon

11:45 am - 1:15 pm

Professional Improvement and Search for Excellence Luncheons

11:45 am - 1:15 pm

Exhibits, Poster Session-meet the authors

11:45 am - 1:15 pm

Educational Luncheon Seminars (pick up tickets at registration)

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Committee Workshops for all NACAA Members

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Life Members Business Meeting

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Leaders Meeting

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Break & Donor Recognition

3:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Region Meetings and Candidate Presentations

# National Association of County Agricultural Agents July 15, 2007 - July 19, 2007 Grand Rapids, Michigan

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner – Iowa & Illinois  
 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm 4-H Talent Review  
 9:30 pm - 11:00 pm State Pictures  
 10:00 pm Michigan Meeting

## **TUESDAY, JULY 17**

7:00 am - 8:30 am Achievement Award Recognition Breakfast  
 7:00 am - 8:30 am Life Members Breakfast  
 7:00 am - 7:00 pm Computer Center Open  
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration  
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm University Jobs Fair  
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Commercial and NACAA Educational Exhibits open  
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm NACAA Poster Session Open  
 8:30 am - 11:30 am Delegate Session  
 8:30 am - 11:30 am Extension Development Council Seminars  
 8:30 am - 11:30 am Program Recognition Council Seminars  
 11:45 am - 1:15 pm Communication Awards Luncheon  
 11:45 am - 1:15 pm Poster Session Awards Luncheon  
 11:45 am - 1:15 pm Educational Luncheon Seminars (pick up tickets at registration)  
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Life Member and Spouses Hospitality  
 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm Professional Improvement Council Seminars  
 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm JCEP Seminar presented by JCEP Traveling Team  
 3:00 pm - 3:15 pm Break - Minnesota  
 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Commercial Exhibits and Poster Session close and take down  
 5:30 pm States Night Out  
 7:30 pm Silent and Live Auction Preview  
 8:00 pm Live Auction  
 10:00 pm Michigan Meeting

## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 18**

7:00 am Assemble for Kansas/Nebraska Breakfast and Professional Improvement Tours  
 8:00 am - 6:00 pm Professional Improvement Tours

6:00 pm Michigan BBQ at the Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
 10:00 pm Michigan Meeting

## **THURSDAY, JULY 19**

7:00 am - 8:30 am National Committee Members Breakfast  
 7:00 am - 4:00 pm Computer Center Open  
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Life Member and Spouses Hospitality  
 8:30 am - 10:00 am Extension Development Council Meeting  
 8:30 am - 10:00 am Professional Improvement Council Meeting  
 8:30 am - 10:00 am Professional Development Council Meeting  
 8:30 am - 10:00 am NACAA Policy Meeting  
 9:00 am - 11:00 am General Session  
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration  
 11:45 pm - 1:15 pm Educational Luncheon Seminars  
 11:45 pm - 3:30 pm International Extension Work Symposium  
 11:45 pm - 1:30 pm SARE Luncheon and Search for Excellence Presentations  
 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm "What will be in the Fields Tomorrow?" Educational program for initiating discussions on sustainability.  
 3:30 pm NACAA Board in President's Room  
 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm DSA & AA Recipients, Hall of Fame Recipients, NACAA Board Members, Region Directors, Past Officers, Special Assignments, Special Guests, Council Chairs, Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Assemble for Banquet  
 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Annual Banquet  
 9:15 pm - 11:00 pm President's Reception  
 9:30 pm Michigan Meeting

## **FRIDAY, JULY 20**

8:00 am - 5:00 pm NACAA Board Meeting

## **SATURDAY, JULY 21**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm NACAA Board Meeting

# NACAA ANNUAL MEETING PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT TOURS

Michigan boasts the second most diverse agricultural production in the United States. Learn how our natural resources near the Great Lakes offer opportunities and challenges to agricultural production and wise land use. Lunch will be provided on all full-day tours, as well as drinks and snacks. Many tours travel over only two or three counties and the first stop of every tour is within the first hour after departing the conference center. A historical or point of interest is included on nearly every tour. All tours will require some moderate walking (unless otherwise noted) so wear comfortable walking shoes.

moderated climate that supports the nation's second most diverse agriculture. While the region receives ample annual precipitation, seasonal variation makes irrigation important for profitable production. This tour will focus on the challenges facing producers who irrigate in a changing regulatory and political environment. Stops will highlight irrigated seed corn, commercial vegetable and fruit



production systems. The tour will wind through areas producing everything from apples to watermelon, celery to grapes and peppers to zucchini. A final stop in the lovely beach town of South Haven ([www.southhaven.org](http://www.southhaven.org)) will provide shopping and relaxation on beautiful Lake Michigan. Pack a beach towel and sunscreen and be prepared to enjoy Michigan's great southwest.

## #1 Everything You Wanted to Know about Blueberries!

The heart of the blueberry industry is western Michigan. This tour will take participants to blueberry farms, packing and processing facilities



and MSU research facilities. At the 200-acre Woodland Acres Farm, owned and operated by the VanderKooi family, visitors will learn about cultural practices, varieties and crop management problems. They will see hand-picked berries processed and packed for fresh market at Lakeside Pick and Pack. At the West Michigan Blueberry Co-op they'll see fruit processed for use in muffins, pies, yogurt, and other baked goods. The stop at MSU's Trevor Nichols Research Complex will highlight cutting-edge research and education using Integrated Pest Management. Visitors can pick their own blueberries or purchased tasty products at Reenders Blueberry Farms, a west Michigan tourist destination attracting thousands of visitors each year. This family-owned enterprise consists of 600 acres of blueberries, a packing plant for processing fresh blueberries, a farm market, a nursery and an agricultural machinery museum.

## #2 Southwest Michigan Irrigated Production Tour

Southwest Michigan is blessed with a unique combination of topography, soil types and a lake-

## #3 Flower Production, Historical Farming and the Air Zoo

Get your fill of beauty and history during a tour that shows cases southwestern Michigan's greenhouses and history. It begins at Henry Mast Greenhouse, one



of Michigan's largest wholesale greenhouses. Next it's on to Wedel's Nursery, Florist & Garden Center, a family-owned business that has grown and expanded during its 60 years in business. During lunch at historical Celery Flats in Portage, visitors can learn about the area's celery growing history, which dates back to 1856. After a stroll along the Portage Creek Bicentennial Trail, prepare for takeoff at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, where aviation history comes alive with flight simulators. The stop at Kalamazoo Specialty Plants will feature a wholesale/retail greenhouse in production year-round with specialty plant material and a look at River Street Flowerland, which strives to create an exciting shopping experience offering more than 100

varieties of herbs, nearly 1,000 perennial varieties, beautiful annuals and a wide selection of ornamental trees & shrubs. *Required fee \$25*

### #4 From Field to Fork – A Visit to Michigan’s Agri-Food System

This tour will start at the new, \$21 million Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative cook plant, where visitors will learn how 16 turkey producers formed a cooperative three months after their processor announced it was leaving. The next stop will be at the J.A. Besteman Co., the state’s largest independent wholesale organic produce and specialty food distributor. We’ll see the fun side of Michigan’s agri-food industry when we enjoy lunch at Fifth Third Ballpark, home of the West Michigan Whitecaps, a minor league baseball team that is part of the Detroit Tigers farm system. A behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium operations will give us a look at the concessions that serve 125,000 hot dogs each season and 3,500 pounds of pork chops. Then, we’ll tour two fruit packing operations that market through Riveridge Produce and see how fresh Michigan sweet cherries and fresh-cut apple slices travel from the farm to the consumer. *Inform of special dietary needs (vegetarian and/or non-pork).*



### #5 Fruit Ridge Agri-Tourism

The highly concentrated fruit growing area northwest of Grand Rapids is locally and nationally known as “The Ridge”. The area is recognized as one of the world’s prime fruit growing regions, which requires a large support system to meet its research, education, and production needs. See how MSU answers the challenge



at the Clarksville Horticultural Experiment Station. Then, visit four apple farms, each with its own on-farm marketing strategy from very commercialized agri-tourism to small U-pick operations. We will enjoy lunch at Klackle’s Cornucopia Farm Market, a very successful farm market. A successful third generation farm market, Robinettes Apple Haus [www.robinettes.com](http://www.robinettes.com), has recently added a winery and wine tasting room. We will also stop at a local farm equipment shop providing specialized equipment and the Wilbur-Ellis distribution center that have been instrumental in support of the fruit industry.

### #6 Southwest Michigan’s Diverse Fruit Industry

This tour will visit many of the different types of fruit farms in Southwest Michigan. The first stop is a blueberry farm near Paw Paw, to view blueberry harvest and packing operations. The next stop will be one of the largest grape vineyards in Michigan. This stop will focus on mechanization in the grape industry. Fruit processing is an important part of the region’s economy and Honey Bear Packing will be receiving and canning cherries when the tour visits. After lunch we will visit St. Julian’s Winery the oldest winery in Michigan. We will then visit a diversified fruit tree orchard with a roadside market located near Kalamazoo. The final stop will be Tillers International, [www.tillersinternational.org/](http://www.tillersinternational.org/), an institute dedicated to maintaining the knowledge of low-tech animal powered agriculture and disseminating this knowledge to third world farmers.



### #7 Manure Treatment Methods Aid the Environment and Increases Profits

This tour emphasizes the environmental and economic value of manure in three manure management systems. The first stop examines how anaerobic digestion of food waste and manure at the John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids saves money and helps the zoo meet its mission of sustainability. There may be an opportunity to look behind the scenes at the zoo. The second stop is Shady Side Farm, a poultry operation that composts manure and industrial waste sawdust using an in-vessel composting system. You’ll learn how industry and agriculture can work together to solve waste management

problems. Then it's off to the 2,000-cow Scenic View Dairy. This stop emphasizes how the anaerobic digester has become a



profit center for the farm. The final stop will be at Zeeland Farm Services to view value added soybean products marketed around the world.

### #8 Vegetable Production in Western Michigan

One of Michigan's special horticultural production areas is located only 20 minutes west of downtown Grand Rapids in the Hudsonville area. Large areas of dried lakebeds provide rich organic soils for vegetable crops like celery, onions, lettuce and radishes. Couple a unique soil with a favorable climate created by Lake Michigan's moderating influence, and you'll find yourself in the state's salad bowl. On this tour we will see many aspects of vegetable production – from large-scale, diverse operations, to small-scale, direct-marketed truck farms. There will be a stop at a highly specialized celery farm (Did you know that a celery plant can grow more than three feet tall?) and a visit to a company that manufactures vegetable transplanters. We'll round out the day with a tour of a farm museum.



### #9 Great Lakes Fisheries

This tour starts aboard the Steelhead, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR) research vessel. Biologists will discuss research underway to sustain this valuable sport fishery. The tour will move north to Ludington where we will visit Consumers Energy's Pump Storage Facility on 400-foot bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan. This electrical generation plant pumps water to an 842-acre reservoir, which is released through turbines to generate as much as 1,872

megawatts of power. We'll then head to the Ludington Municipal Marina, where members of the Ludington



Charterboat Association will treat you to a Great Lakes fish boil and discuss their industry and long-term work with Sea Grant Extension. Our last stop will include a visit to Jensen's Fishery and Bluffton Bay Marina in Muskegon. Jensen's is one of two remaining state licensed trap net fisheries on lower Lake Michigan. You'll learn about the commercial fishery and the transition this business is making to develop business in eco-tourism.

### #10 Economic Development and Native American Issues

Michigan is home to several Native American communities, and on this tour you'll have the chance to learn about them at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways owned and operated by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. Ziibiwing (which means "by the water" in Ojibwa) began as a grassroots organization to address the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act in 1993. Since then, Ziibiwing has grown into a first-class cultural center and museum that preserves and portrays the history, culture, and arts and crafts of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and other Great Lakes Anishinabek. Other stops include Nimkee Health Clinic and the Elijah Elk Cultural Center/7<sup>th</sup> Generation. The 7<sup>th</sup> Generation program has greenhouses, gardens, wood shops, stone carving and other cultural activities that promote the preservation of Native American culture. Visitors will learn how the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has prospered, promoted economic development and improved the lives of tribal members.



### #11 A Walk on the Wild Side; Nature Lovers and Garden Enthusiasts

Take a walk on the wild side and immerse your senses in lush gardens, pristine woodlands and gentle wetlands

during this hands-on tour. See a prime example of an urban outreach garden designed by MSU Extension Master Gardeners that showcases the newest plants and growing methods.



You will spend time learning about innovative, self-supporting programs developed by Kent County residents. A walking tour of area gardens will inspire you to add new plants to your home landscape and will be followed by lunch in a historic northern Kent County inn. After touring a scented woodland garden, we will visit a local nature preserve to explore how MSU Extension has developed a new program that supports volunteer work in a conservation setting. Our last stop will remain a mystery. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and definitely bring your camera.

### #12 Historic Barry County, Direct Markets and Ethanol

Leave the hustle and bustle of the big city and enter beautiful Barry County—home to more than



350 lakes. Your first stop will be Otto's Turkey Farm and retail store. As you continue on to the county seat of Hastings, you will learn about land use issues – a topic that will continue throughout the day. While in Hastings, tour the restored historic courthouse and eat lunch at the Barry County MSU Extension office. Then it's on to Charlton Park Historic Village, where you'll see a recreated Michigan pioneer village. Then it's time for ice cream at MOOville Creamery—a family-owned dairy direct market. The final stop will take you to U.S. Bio Woodbury, Barry County's new ethanol plant, which produces 50 million gallons of ethanol and 160,000 tons of dried distiller's grain per year from more than 16 million bushels of corn.

### #13 Land Use Issues in Kent County ¾ day tour

Learn about Kent County's Purchase of Development Rights Program by touring the first farm to be preserved with its owner and a



member of the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board. You'll then visit an agri-science center, where students learn about natural resource issues through hands-on experiences. You'll hear presentations about MSU Extension's land use educational initiatives, including the innovative Citizen Planner program. The third stop will take you to the Grattan Township office, where lunch will be served. Participants will learn how Grattan Township officials have implemented some of the most groundbreaking land use policies for protecting agricultural lands, while allowing for development. The last stop on the tour is the original location of Heffron Farms, a direct sales business.

### #14 Neighborhood Art, Antiques, & Eats ¾ day tour

Grand Rapids is known as the city of neighborhoods. See for yourself what the city's vibrant and diverse neighborhoods have to offer. On this tour you'll sample ethnic foods from the Pol-



ish west side to East Indian cuisine on the east side of town. We will walk the Avenue of the Arts in the Heartside neighborhood and visit with local artists in their studios. There will also be an opportunity to visit neighborhood art galleries. There are many antique stores along our route and you'll have the chance to visit them during a one-hour shopping stop at the Eastown business district. Admire your purchases as you enjoy lunch at Cherie Inn—an East Hills neighborhood favorite. The tour will finish by winding through Heritage Hills, Grand Rapids' largest historic district, where you'll hear about how many of the large Victorian homes there were saved from demolition.

## #15 Christmas Tree Production and Agribusiness Marketing

This tour will focus on several different crops and how the farm operations diversified to meet challenges and expanded



their market opportunities. Klackle Orchards, a third generation family fruit growing operation with 300 acres of apples and other crops has annual production of nearly 200,000 bushels of apples. A desire to sell more of the apples directly to the customers and to share the excitement of the harvest season resulted in the Klackle Orchards Family Fun Farm, an agri-tourism operation and the Cornucopia retail farm market. We will then visit two of our most progressive wholesale Christmas tree farms, Mathisen and Korson Tree Farms. These farms both started specializing in cut Christmas trees but expanded into offering a range of nursery stock. These growers intensively produce over eight different varieties of trees along with providing wreaths and roping for the holiday season. We'll visit West Michigan Bean formed by local growers to market their colored-bean varieties (cranberry, light red kidney, etc.). The last stop will be at a small acreage fruit farm with a developing market.

## #16 Turf, Ornamentals and Floriculture Research at MSU

MSU is at the cutting edge of research in turf, ornamentals and floriculture and during this tour you



will learn about all three. The Hancock Turf Research Center visit will highlight a 56-acre facility devoted to studying and improving turf for golf courses, sports fields, commercial sites and homes. We'll then see the 29

acres of ornamental research at the MSU Horticulture Farm. Following lunch you'll tour the MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building and the surrounding DeLapa Perennial Gardens, Annual Trial Gardens, 4-H Children's Garden and the Clarence Lewis Landscape Arboretum. Explore this seven-acre complex of annual and perennial flower trials and display gardens, see student-designed and built landscapes and hear how the nationally recognized 4-H Children's Garden use the Web to educate children in plant science and horticulture. Our last stop will offer a review of floriculture research. *Dress for the sun.*

## #17 Fruit & Vegetable Production & Processing, Value Added Agriculture and Great Lakes Ecology

This tour offers highlights of Oceana County, a major agricultural production area and a thriving



tourist destination. It begins at NJ Fox and Sons, a major West Michigan fruit growing operation to watch cherries being harvested. From there you'll travel to Peterson Farms, the largest fruit processing plant east of the Mississippi River. The next stop is Country Dairy, a pioneering value-added farm that bottles milk, makes cheese and ice cream, where you'll tour the processing plant and enjoy lunch. At Greiner Farms visitors will hear from leaders of a new cooperative that has helped Michigan asparagus growers compete with foreign competition by shifting millions of pounds of processed asparagus into the fresh market. Then it's on to Eugene Kokx and Son Farm, a diversified vegetable production operation. The tour finishes with a thrilling ride over the Silver Lake Sand Dunes, a unique part of the Lake Michigan Shoreline ecology that draws thousands of tourists annually. Required fee \$13.

## #18 Forestry and Forest Products

Grand Rapids has been a world center of furniture design and manufacturing for nearly 150 years. Michigan's forests are keys to the success of that industry, providing fine hardwoods for many of the products made in the



region today. This tour will begin in the forest—MSU's W.K. Kellogg Experimental Forest, to be exact.



Established on abandoned agricultural land, Kellogg Forest is known worldwide for research on tree breeding and genetics, planting techniques, plantation establishment and management. We will then head to the nearby W.K. Kellogg Biological Station and the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, noted for efforts to restore trumpeter swan populations in the Midwest. After lunch we will tour the Kellogg Manor House, the restored former summer home of cereal giant W.K. Kellogg. The tour will conclude in Grand Rapids with a visit to one of the area's furniture manufacturing facilities.

## #19 Dairy Production, Cheese and Local Issues

This tour begins at one of the biggest milk manufacturing plants in the Midwest. It will then take you to Steve & Sons Grassfields



Cheese, a sustainable farm that produces and processes organic milk. At River Ridge Farms we'll see a 1,000-cow dairy on the banks of the Grand River, an environmentally sound operation that has been verified under the voluntary Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program. You'll enjoy a leisurely lunch at the Coopersville Farm Museum. During the return drive through the "Fruit Ridge" agricultural production center northwest of Grand Rapids you'll learn about land use issues and visit Robinettes Apple Haus, which has recently added a winery and wine tasting room. *No open-toed shoes allowed.*

## #20 Potatoes, Beans and Gliders

Montcalm County is Michigan's number one potato-producing county. This tour will take you to the MSU Potato Research Farm, where you'll learn about research on soil quality, disease



predication, insect control, potato breeding, new variety evaluation and storage demonstrations. The tour will also stop at several farms and highlight crop rotation, innovative planting and harvesting equipment, marketing practices, on-farm storage and sorting, and pest management. Additional stops include West Michigan Bean, a five-farm cooperative bean storage and processing plant, and a museum where gliders were manufactured during World War II.

## #21 Direct Marketing in Southwest Michigan

Our direct market sampler tour starts at the beautifully restored Crane's U-Pick. We'll then head around the corner to award-winning Fenn



Valley Winery to sample the fruit of the vineyard. Lunch and a tour of the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center will follow. Research and Extension conducted at the center reflect the diversity of southwest Michigan agricultural production. At Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm we'll see orchards of heritage apple varieties and the home of the annual world cherry pit spitting competition. The next tour stop will give us the chance to relax as we stroll along the St. Joseph pier. The final stop is at DeGrandchamp Farm, where we'll see the farm market and nursery and pause for a unique taste of southwest Michigan.

## #22 Beef Production and Direct Marketing

This tour of beef production and marketing facilities begins at Oak Row Angus, a progressive purebred Angus operation with an extensive A.I. and embryo transfer program. Our next stop will take us to the equally innovative 1,000-cow Hardy Dairy Farm. We'll then head to Jones Family Meat Market, a third generation, family-owned packing facility with retail sales counter. The market uses composting to handle the offal and slaughter facility waste products. The last two stops combine the Heffron Farms family-owned Holstein steer feedlot and on-farm retail meat market. You'll see how one farm has developed a program to market a commodity direct to the consumer and survive in today's competitive retail market place.



## #23 Intensive Livestock Production in Michigan

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a voluntary environmental program that gives farmers the opportunity to receive certification for following environmentally sound practices. It has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan's legislature as a unique alternative for meeting environmental compliance on livestock farms. This tour will take you to leading beef, pork and turkey production farms that have received MAEAP verification. You'll see a 4,000-hog finishing operation and a 60,000-bird turkey farm that are sited less than a mile apart. The tour includes a new 3,400-sow farm that is using wean-to-finish management in contract finishing barns and a 4,000 head totally slatted beef barn and a modern feed mill producing pelleted feeds for turkeys and hogs.



Leaders in the development of the Michigan Turkey Growers processing co-op will share their experiences in product marketing. Lunch will be at the historic Saravilla Inn and include a visit by a local Gratiot County historian.

## #24 Southwest Michigan Wineries

The Southwest Michigan Wine Trail [www.miwinetrail.com](http://www.miwinetrail.com) located in the "Lake Michigan Shore" Viticultural Area will be the focus of this tour. Many of these wineries are focused on winery sales to tourists and summer residents from Chicago. The tour begins at Karma Vista Vineyards near Coloma where Joe Herman is transitioning from tree fruit to high quality vinifera wines. The Karma Vista stop will include tours of the vineyards and tasting rooms. Lunch will be at Tabor Hill one of the oldest wineries in Berrien County. After touring the vineyards a catered lunch will be served at Tabor Hills restaurant overlooking the vineyards. The Round Barn Winery and Distillery is an older Michigan winery focused on French Hybrid grapes. This winery is now distilling brandies in an Amish round barn. The final stop will be Domiane Berrien, which focuses on handcrafted wines.



## #25 Innovative Forage Production for Dairy & Livestock

Join us for a look at diversified forage production and meet the researchers who set the new world record yield for dryland alfalfa. We'll start the



morning in Michigan's dairy heartland at the Straub Dairy Farm, one of the national leaders in managed intensive grazing. Learn about a national cooperative of dairy grazers that opens each farm's financial records to all members. Next we'll travel to Tirrell's Centennial Sheep Farm, where brassicas, including turnips and rape, allow the farm to extend the grazing season into February. Next we'll take an ice cream break at Mooville Creamery,

a family-operated dairy farm that produces tantalizing ice cream. MSU researchers will join us there to reveal research findings that can lead to higher alfalfa yields. We wrap up the day with the Haywood Dairy Farm that formed a cooperative venture with four other dairy farms to jointly own and operate their high capacity forage harvesting equipment. *Significant walking.*

### #26 Ornamental Nursery Production from the Test Tube to the Consumer

Western Michigan's climate, soils and expertise combine for some of the best ornamental plant nurseries in the United States. This tour will take you to a specialized seedling nursery that sells conifer seedlings to the Christmas tree and ornamentals industries.



Next, we'll visit Spring Meadow Nursery to see how a propagation nursery has developed a strong branding effort to market new woody ornamentals. You'll tour Veldeers Tulip Gardens, the only retail tulip farm and display gardens in Holland, Michigan. Lunch will include a stop by beautiful Lake Michigan. Then it's on to Zelenka Nursery, one of the largest wholesale nurseries in the United States. You will see plant production from propagation to final shipment. The day's final stop will be at Walters Gardens Inc., the largest perennial plant grower in the U.S., where you'll see tissue-cultured liners to state-of-the-art greenhouse using biomass-boilers and large fields of blooming perennials. If you are interested in ornamental plants, this tour is for you.

### #27 Muskegon River Valley Diversity in Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Muskegon River Valley provides a natural resource base for great recreation, agriculture and lifestyle. Twin Creek Farms has earned the reputation of being one of the top equine reproductive facilities in the state of Michigan. Specializing in mare and stallion management for frozen and transported semen as well as world wide marketing of top breeding and show horses. Then you'll tour Storey Farms and see how young farmers can grow

and prosper as contract livestock producers. Next, it's on to Sackett Potatoes, 1997 EPA Stewardship Award winner, to learn how high-tech storage



facilities can spread marketing from August thru early summer. Sacketts also grow peas for Gerber Baby Foods and seed corn for Pioneer Hybrid Inc. Over lunch you will learn more about the Muskegon River watershed and what is being done to protect this important resource. A walking tour of Nestlé Waters Ice Mountain water bottling plant will give you a close look at the economic impact of our water resource. We will also visit Sanctuary Ranch, Michigan's premier whitetail deer hunting preserve, where you'll hear about their nutritional program, and maybe even see a record rack.

### #28 Upland Vegetables and Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center

This tour begins at Mechanical Transplanter, a leader in vegetable transplanting equipment. Next we'll head to High Acres Fruit Farm, grow-



ers of grape tomatoes and peppers. Then it's time for lunch and a fruit and vegetable tour at MSU's Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center. The research and Extension conducted here reflects the diversity of southwest Michigan's agricultural production. After lunch we'll visit L.H. Piggott and Girls, growers of tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables, where we'll tour the packing shed and farm market; and Leitz Farms, where you'll learn about tomato, cucumber, squash and melon production. We end the day with a walk along St. Joseph's North Pier and lighthouse on beautiful Lake Michigan.

**#29 MSU Farms and Agricultural Security**

Visit Michigan's Emergency Operations Center and learn how it would function during a full-scale disaster. Next,



you'll tour MSU's Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, a laboratory that was established in response to Michigan's PBB contamination in the early 1970s. Today it is a Level III laboratory that is prepared to deal with avian influenza and other pandemic or exotic diseases. Next we'll take a windshield tour of MSU's farms, with narration on plant and animal research followed by lunch at the MSU Horticulture Farm. Then it's off to Spartan Stadium, home of the Big 10 MSU Spartans, including a view from ground level – the way the players see it – to the top of the 10-story tower overlooking the stadium. The final stop will be a tour of the MSU Dairy Processing Facility, which is used for teaching, research, and processing. While there, participants will end their day with a must-have—a scoop of MSU Dairy Store ice cream.

**#30 Organic Agriculture Production and Marketing**

Organic farming is a growing and diverse alternative for farm families. This tour will showcase organic farm operations and exciting MSU research and training programs.



Our first stop will feature the organic apple and cherry research at MSU's Clarksville Research Station. The next stop is the MSU Student Organic Farm. This facility provides hands-on student learning on a year-round community supported agriculture (CSA) operation. While there, you'll learn about MSU's new organic agriculture certificate program. Lunch will be served at Koenigsnecht Dairy and will feature a vast array of organic items from local producers. We will tour the 100-

cow dairy and learn about their grazing system and organic milk marketing program. The final stop will be at Grahams Organic Farm near Rosebush. This 850-acre organic farm produces corn, soybeans, spelt, barley, turkeys, broilers, eggs and beef. They grind and mix organic feed for retail and operate an impressive livestock processing facility.

**#31 Sustainable Agriculture at Kellogg Biological Station**

MSU's W.K. Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) is known for sustainable farming and ecological research. In 1997 the KBS Extension Land and Water Program began researching organic farming and established eight acres for OCIA-certified organic field crop production. You'll learn about the program's work to conduct farmer-



driven research projects involving cover crops and organic farming. Much of this research focuses on non-chemical weed control ([www.covercrops.msu.edu](http://www.covercrops.msu.edu)). You'll also tour the National Science Foundation-supported Long-Term Ecological Research site, where research is driven toward understanding ecological interactions for annual and perennial field crops. You'll enjoy lunch at KBS overlooking beautiful Gull Lake, followed by a sustainable agriculture farmer panel discussion of local agriculture. The day's final stop will be at Gilmore Car Museum, which began in 1963, and has eight historic barns filled with vintage automobiles. *Required fee \$5.*

**#32 Downtown Grand Rapids and the Grand River: Beautiful Solutions to Water Pollution**

This downtown Grand Rapids excursion is a great opportunity to see how the city is encouraging the use of vegetated solutions to reduce water pollution. A combination walking and bus tour will visit East Hills neighborhood *Center of the Universe* – the city's first zero-storm water discharge site. Located on a restored brownfield, this mixed-use building complex is certified by the U.S. Green Building Council and constructed entirely of non-toxic and recycled materials. It incorporates a green roof, porous parking lot, rain gardens and

other innovations in vegetated, on-site storm water management. All practices are designed to intercept, treat and infiltrate polluted urban



runoff before it reaches the Grand River. The last stop is a two-hour luncheon cruise on the Grand Lady Riverboat. Experience the Grand River while learning about the importance of this historic Michigan waterway and ongoing efforts to protect it. This tour is sponsored by Michigan Lake and Stream Associations and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. *Comfortable shoes are recommended for moderate walking with stairs. Required fee \$13.*

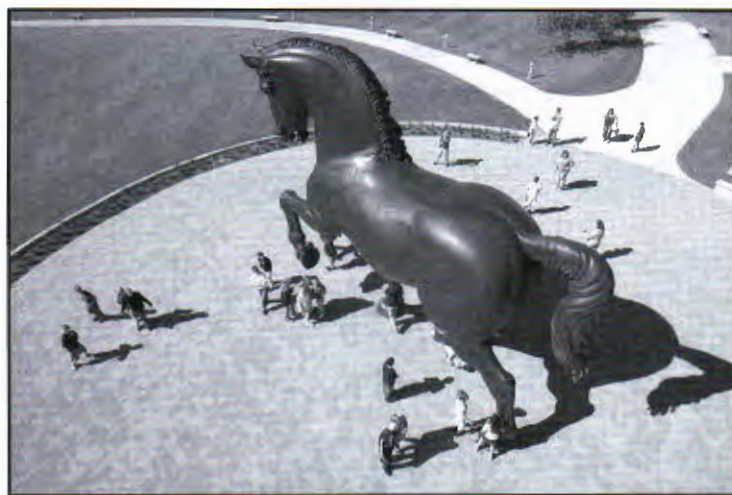
**#33 Gardens and Historic Muskegon Homes**  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  day tour

Tour the former residences of Muskegon's most famous lumber barons, Charles H. Hackley and Thomas Hume, which feature lavish woodcarvings, outstanding stenciling, marvelous



stained glass and period furnishings in the highest tradition of Victorian decorative arts. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places and was rated by AAA as "One of Michigan's best examples of Victorian Homes." A stop at the Muskegon Mercantile Museum Store offers custom items designed from the Hackley House. The famous Monet Garden in Giverney, France provided the inspiration to transform a vacant city lot into a picturesque pocket park called the Monet Garden of Muskegon. This park is maintained by Muskegon County Master Gardeners with support from the City of Muskegon and The Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Learn the story of how a local businesswoman and Master Gardener's idea grew into a shared vision and commitment by the City of Muskegon. The return trip includes a stop at Swanson Pickle Company, a large pickling cucumber grower and processor.

## A Bar-B-Que in the Gardens



Capping off a day of great Professional Improvement Tours at the 2007 AM/PIC, the Wednesday Evening Bar-B-Que will be held at one of the most uniquely beautiful destinations in West Michigan, the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. The Michigan Association of Extension Agents and the Garden Staff invite you to explore the outdoor nature trails and boardwalk, take in the world-class sculptures located in the outdoor Sculpture Park, or enjoy the wonderful Children's Garden. You may also visit the lovely indoor galleries, or see the largest tropical conservatory in the state of Michigan, featuring over 500 species of tropical plants. Michigan's Farm Garden highlights many of the crops commercially produced in the state. Staff from the gardens and MSU Extension will be on hand to help you to learn more about the plantings and sculptures at this spectacular facility.

NACAA will have the gardens and facility all to ourselves as we enjoy a pork Bar-B-Que dinner, compliments of Michigan Agents. Seated at tables throughout the conservatory and its facilities, you can recount the sights of your tour with friends and colleagues. But you won't want to linger long over dinner; we're sure that you will be eager to explore the beauty that characterizes the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park!

To learn more about the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park on the web at: [www.meijergardens.org/gardens\\_experience/](http://www.meijergardens.org/gardens_experience/)

# Great Family and Life Member Programs!

## 2007 Michigan Spouse Tours and Workshops

### Full Day Tours

#### Tour 1 Saugatuck Experience - The Art Coast of MI



Saugatuck is a community that celebrates diversity. This quaint area is the embodiment of small town America - harbor villages where visitors turn back the pages of time and enter a simpler life where everyone is made to feel welcome. This tour will begin with a trip aboard the Star of Saugatuck II, a 150 passenger, authentic sternwheel paddleboat. The 1½ hour cruise is on the scenic Kalamazoo River and enters majestic Lake Michigan, weather permitting. As you enjoy lunch aboard the boat, the captain will provide narration pointing out local landmarks and points of interest, as well as, local and maritime history of the area. We'll pass by 'Singapore' - a lumbering town buried under Lake Michigan's living dunes. The cruise offers many photographic opportunities as river life is abundant, and you may see a variety of animals in their natural habitat, such as fox, deer, turtles, blue heron, ducks, Canadian geese and on occasion a bald eagle.

No trip to Saugatuck would be complete without some shopping. Throughout its history, artists have been drawn to the area's towering dunes, pristine beaches and jewel-like setting on Lake Michigan's eastern shore.

Extra fee of \$10 .

#### Tour 2 Sand-n-Surf



Southwest Michigan is blessed with a rich heritage of maritime history and natural beauty. This tour will take you to nearby Allegan County's Lake Michigan coastline to enjoy a diverse group of activities which include a visit to the harbor community of Saugatuck, a lesson about the history of the area and the abandoned port city of Singapore, Michigan, shopping, and an afternoon on the beach. The tour begins with a breathtaking hour-long 4-WD thrill ride among the dunes of the Saugatuck coast, which are unique to the Lake Michigan shoreline. The next stop is a visit to Saugatuck, a local center for the arts, which features a diverse array of restaurants and shops that include art, kitchen supplies, handmade crafts, clothing and souvenirs. Participants will then board the bus for an afternoon at one of the area's white sand beaches.

Light to moderate walking. Bring beach attire, sunscreen, towels and a change of clothes.

Extra fee of \$10 .

#### Tour 3 For the Nature Lover



Our first stop will be the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, established by cereal maker W. K. Kellogg in 1927 and then donated to Michigan State Agricultural College (now Michigan State University), where fisheries and wildlife experts could best manage its resources and use the Sanctuary as a center for research and education. The next stop is Brook Lodge and Conference Center, owned by Michigan State University, where we will first enjoy lunch and then a history lesson about the center. The historical evolution of the estate is a remarkable story as its origins date back to Dr. W. E. Upjohn, founder of the Upjohn Company.

Then it's on to the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery. This facility produces a wide range of fish species for both inland and Great Lakes waters. Coolwater species produced at this

facility include steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, lake sturgeon (the only facility to rear this species), walleye, northern pike, channel catfish and northern muskellunge.

Extra fee of \$10

**Tour 4 Charter Fishing - Catch & Cook Tour**

Experience the thrill of fishing the Great Lakes. Lake Michigan's renowned sport fishery is only a short distance from Grand Rapids. Come join your friends for fun and fellowship on board Grand Haven's professional Charterboat fleet. You'll be fishing for Great Lakes king salmon, coho salmon, steelhead, brown, and lake trout. Expect the time of your life trying to muscle in one of these challenging Lake Michigan gamefish. During July the fishing is best in the morning, so you'll have **be ready to board the bus at 5AM**. We'll leave the dock at 6AM sharp and return to shore by noon where everyone's catch will be prepared for a family-style lunch at the Old Boys Restaurant in nearby Spring Lake. Expect to return to your hotel by 4:00PM. Cost is \$50 per participant. All tackle and lunch is included. Participants are required to have a valid Michigan fishing license on Great Lakes waters. Even in summer, it can be chilly on the lake, so plan on dressing accordingly. Soft soled shoes are a must.

Extra fee of \$50

**Half-day Tours**

**Tour 5 Winery Tour**

Award-winning Michigan wines are produced throughout the western tier of counties along the shores of Lake Michigan. The climatic conditions are just as conducive for specialized ornamental plants as it is for grape growing. Join other AMPIC visitors to learn what environmental conditions make this

area so productive and for a walking tour of a unique ornamental nursery nestled in pristine woodlands. This will be followed by vineyard wagon tour and tasting at Fenn Valley Winery. A complimentary wine glass and box lunch will be served. The tour will return to the hotel in early afternoon.

**Tour 6 Audubon Tour & Nature Hike**



Pickerel Lake Nature Preserve is one of Kent County's hidden jewels. With a long history of conservation, one man kept the property undisturbed while he made a subsistence living off the land and lake. Today visitors enjoy pristine native flora and fauna, including a vast collection of birds and even beaver. This tour will encompass a three mile exploration around the lake which now welcomes foot traffic on protected walkways and boardwalks. Participants will also learn how some invasive plants have made their way to this environment and are impacting the native ecosystem. Lunch at a historic country inn.

**Tour 7 Urban Gardeners Tour**

Three West Michigan gardeners will open their private oases to guests on this tour. Three design techniques will show how



these MSU Master Gardeners fit these urban gardens into the tiniest of city lots to lots where there are no boundaries. All three have been featured in either magazines or on public garden tours and are known for exquisite perennial plantings and their creative container designs. Light walking. Tour will return to hotel around noon. Lunch will not be provided on this tour.

**Tour 8 Grand Lady Riverboat Tour**



The Grand River is what gives Grand Rapids its name and its importance in the development of many industries along its banks throughout history. Although the river is no longer used for commerce, we will get a lesson on its importance to "Furniture City" in years past as we cruise along it on the Grand Lady. The Grand Lady is constructed in the style of the paddlewheel steamboats that served the communities along the Grand River during the 1800's. This will be a leisurely tour, and you will enjoy lunch on the riverboat. Both decks and pilothouse are designed for Michigan's unpredictable weather, but comfortable shoes and perhaps some bug spray are recommended. This half-day tour will leave the conference center in mid-morning and return early afternoon.

Extra fee of \$15

## Spouses Workshops

*Tuesday, July 17, 2007*

*9 - 11 AM - Spouses Workshops*

### **Workshop A Recognizing True Antiques in Furniture City, USA**

This workshop will actually take place in the Van Andel Public Museum – what better place to learn about the furniture industry made famous by Grand Rapids? Meet the people who made furniture... Tour a 19th century factory... See 150 years of “product” and find out how our community’s identity was born. Workshop will be led by an author of a book on all things furniture in Grand Rapids. This session will require a short walk to the Museum.

### **Workshop B Gardening With Children**

Learn the joy of teaching youngsters about horticulture during this two hour hands-on workshop. Under the tutelage of Junior Master Gardener Coordinator Judy Sink, participants will discover many ways of teaching budding gardeners how to plan, plant and care for plants, as well as their interaction with the soils and growing environment.

### **Workshop C Basic Fly Tying**

The fly tying class will cover the basics of tying the three most common flies: streamers, nymphs, and dry flies. Gregg Start from Schrems West Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited will cover how and when to use each fly, as well as basic trout stream entomology. These flies work not only in Michigan, but all over the country where trout streams are found.

### **Workshop D Great Lakes Shipwrecks**

The Great Lakes are inland seas, and the water can be treacherous to those who sail these lakes. As a result, Michigan’s lakes are the final resting place of over 5,000 sunken vessels. Each shipwreck has its story. The legend of the Edmund Fitzgerald, lost on Lake Superior in 1975, remains the most mysterious and controversial of all shipwreck tales heard around the Great Lakes. Mr. Terry Begnoche from the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum will recount the sinking of the Fitzgerald and the underwater expeditions mounted to locate the vessel and recover artifacts. The underwater footage is phenomenal.

### **Workshop E Gerald R. Ford Museum**

The Ford Museum’s permanent exhibits allow visitors to actually participate in history while reviewing the lives of President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford. President Ford died on December 26, 2006 and was interred on the grounds of the Museum in Grand Rapids. This workshop will start out with a short film of President Ford’s life, and then turn to a self-guided tour of the museum. There will be a special exhibit during the time of the NACAA meeting called “**The Enemy Within: Terror in America, 1776-Present.**” This session will require a short walk to the Ford Museum.

### **Workshop F Wild Game Handling and Processing**

Learn to handle, prepare and preserve wild game using safe food techniques and tasty recipes. Dr. Al Booren, Professor and Extension Specialist, MSU Dept of Food Science and Human Nutrition, teams with Mr. Fritz Blohm of Butcher and Packer Supply, Inc. to provide information on readily available wild game process and preserving techniques for venison, duck and rabbit. You’ll come away with a variety of wild game preservation and preparation tips that you can use back home. There will also be products available for taste testing.

### **Workshop G Sell Your Stuff on E-Bay™**

The on-line auction website e-Bay™ has become a very popular (and sometimes profitable) way to sell used items, search for bargains or to sell homemade crafts. Participants of this session will learn some of the basics about marketing items on e-Bay™, tips for developing successful auction titles, methods for receiving payments, and where to find information on how to determine e-Bay™ auction and PayPal™ account fees.

*11:30 AM - 1:45 PM - Spouses Luncheon*

*2 - 4 PM - Spouses Workshops*

### **Workshop H Recognizing True Antiques in Furniture City, USA**

See workshop description for Workshop A.

### **Workshop I Gardening With Children**

See workshop description for Workshop B.

### **Workshop J Astronomy 101**

A presentation on the current sky, including constellations, planets and other easy-to-see features. The show is live and highlights the prominent stars and



constellations of the current season. It includes tips on constellation and star identification, the cultural and mythological origins on the stars, and current advances in space science. This session will require a short walk to the Van Andel Museum.

**Workshop K Basic Fly Tying**

See workshop description for Workshop C.

**Workshop L Great Lakes Shipwrecks**

See workshop description for Workshop D.

**Workshop M Wild Game Handling and Processing**

See workshop description for Workshop F.

**Workshop N Sell Your Stuff on E-Bay™**

See workshop description for Workshop G.

*Thursday, July 19, 2007*

*9 - 11 AM - Spouses Workshops*

**Workshop O Learn to Knit**

Knitting has become increasingly popular among all age groups over the past few years, so here is your chance to learn if you have missed out. This session is for novice knitters or those who would like to learn basic techniques. We will cover how to select needles and yarn, finding patterns and instructional books, casting on, knit and purl stitches, and finishing your work. As time and interest permit, stitch patterns and other simple techniques can be covered. This is a hands-on lesson that includes a simple project to take home.

**Workshop P Making Herbal Soaps**

Herbal fragrance has been used to cultivate moods for centuries. Learn by doing during this session where participants will learn tricks and techniques to making deliciously scented homemade soap. The results will surprise you!

**Workshop Q Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?**

Everyone has personal belongings, such as wedding photographs, a baseball glove or a yellow pie plate, that contain meaning for them and for other family members. Planning to pass on such items can be challenging and may lead to family conflict. The issue impacts families regardless of their financial worth, heritage, or cultural background. This program provides people with practical information about the inheritance of personal

property and family decision-making. This curriculum was created by University of Minnesota Extension and will be presented by Michigan State University Extension Educators trained by the original author.

**Workshop R Vintage Fashion Show & Tea**

Clothing from the late 19th and early 20th century is displayed by Museum staff while visitors enjoy a cup of tea and treats. Authentic clothing from the era of our grandparents, great-grandparents, and even great-great-grandparents is pulled from the Museum's education collection for a close-up look. The program also includes a guided tour of the exhibition *Streets of Old Grand Rapids* and a ride on the 1928 Spillman Carousel. This session will require a short walk to the Van Andel Museum.

**Workshop S Hook to Cook - Great Lake Fish Preparation - AM only**

Michigan's abundant fishery resources lead to good eating. This workshop covers everything you ever wanted to know about the handling, preservation, and preparation of Great Lakes Fish. Michigan Sea Grant Extension Program Coordinator Chuck Pistis will introduce you to food safe methods for smoking, pickling and canning of fish, how to fillet and what you need to know when you buy fish at the market.

*11 AM - 1 PM - Lunch on Your Own*

*1 - 3 PM - Spouses Workshops*

**Workshop T Learn to Knit**

See workshop description for Workshop O.

**Workshop U Making Herbal Soaps**

See workshop description for Workshop P.

**Workshop V Cooking with Michigan Commodities**

It all began with a 4-H foods demonstration in southern Wisconsin entitled, "Make Mine Milk". Now Deanna House, author of several cookbooks, presents lively fun-filled presentations as she shares quick and easy recipes with audiences in many venues. Today's featured topic will showcase Michigan commodities. Come join the fun & food!

**Workshop W Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?**

See workshop description for Workshop Q.

## Lighthouse Luncheon for Spouses



“Tour” Michigan lighthouses at the spouses’ luncheon on Tuesday. With over 110 lighthouses dotting the long coastlines of Michigan, the Great Lakes State is truly the lighthouse capital.

Terry Pepper, known as the authority on western Great Lakes lighthouses, will speak at the Spouses Luncheon, sharing history, stories and pictures. For the past thirteen years, he has done exhaustive research on the lighthouses and the men and women who operated them. Summers have found Terry directly involved in restoration of lighthouses. His most recent project has been in Cheboygan in northeastern Michigan.

Terry joined the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association in 1999. This group is dedicated to preserving our lighthouses, their history, and to develop a new generation of preservationists. In December 2006, Terry was hired as GLLKA’s first Executive Director, and now he enjoys going to work each day!

Terry shares his collection of photos and vast knowledge of lighthouses through his award-winning, non-commercial website, “Seeing the Light”, [www.terrypepper.com/Lights](http://www.terrypepper.com/Lights). His work has been published in numerous books and periodicals.

You will be entertained as this lighthouse advocate and enthusiast shares his spirited and humorous interpretation of the stories of the men and women who protected the Great Lakes mariners.

Spouses, whether you take the opportunity to visit the shoreline communities and lighthouses along them, you won’t leave Michigan without “touring” Great Lakes lighthouses!

## 4-H Talent Revue will roar into town!

Action-packed entertainment, extraordinary 4-H youth and the hum of Harley-Davidson motorcycles will fill the air of the DeVos Performance Hall on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 as the 4-H Talent



Revue, “*Live to Perform, Perform to Live*” takes the stage. This dynamic, fast-paced performance is one that you and your family will not want to miss! The audience will be wowed by the abilities of these 4-H members, entertained by the creative and comical emcee and impressed with the electrifying grand finale.

Arriving on Saturday, July 14, these gifted 4-H’ers selected from the North Central States will start preparing for the hippest, hottest 4-H Talent Revue that the National Conference has ever seen. Working with choreographers, sound technicians and lighting experts, the youth will bring energy, flair and exceptional talent to the stage.

And what a stage it will be! You will watch the show in DeVos Performance Hall, the same site where premier orchestra and opera performances are held. The professional stage, lighting and sound will help you fully see, hear and enjoy the exhibitions of talent and passion.

Fun for family members of all ages, the Michigan Association of Extension Agents invites you to sit back, relax and enjoy the ride as the 4-H Talent Revue teaches you what it is like to “*Live to Perform, Perform to Live*”.

During their stay the 4-H Talent Revue, performers will see the sites of Grand Rapids as local 4-H members help them tour the city. A stop at the Van Andel Museum will be one of the highlights for the participants, as the youth view a planetarium show, ride a half century old carousel and go on a scavenger hunt throughout the museum. A themed cast party, individual welcome bags and making friends from many states will add to the memories that these lucky 4-H’ers will take with them.

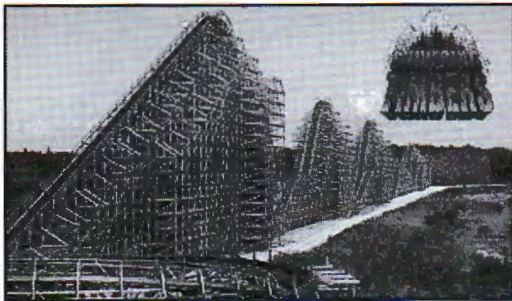
## 2007 Michigan Sons and Daughters Program

### Sunday- July 15

We are excited to welcome sons and daughters to the NACAA conference. Many have attended before and for others, it will be the first of what we hope is many times attending. Have you kept in touch with friends you made at last year's conference? Sunday evening's activity will enable you to renew those friendships or make new ones. The evening will be spent playing a wide variety of age-specific games. You won't want to miss this! **Plan to bring pins to trade with others.**

### Monday - July 16

Are you ready for high intensity action? Michigan's Adventure has more than 60 rides and attractions



including six roller coasters. Since opening in 1998, Shivering Timbers has been consistently ranked as one of the finest wooden roller coasters in the world. You will get drenched at the WildWater Adventure Waterpark, Michigan's largest waterpark. The 10-acre waterpark has body slides, tube slides, three wave pools, kiddie play areas, family raft slides, and the Funnel of Fear—a giant funnel water slide that opened in 2005. Don't miss the 1,500-foot-long rapid river ride that will carry you through a rocky canyon filled with geysers and a waterfall!

### Tuesday- July 17

Have you ever wanted to sail on a big lake in a Square Topsail Sloop? **Youths to age 11** will get that opportunity aboard the *Friend's Good Will*, the only one of its type



operating on the Great Lakes. It has a rig height of 80', sparred length of 101', beam of 16' 10", and draft of 8' 9" (Do you know what those nautical terms mean?). In

addition to sailing on the *Friend's Good Will*, you will visit the Michigan Maritime Museum and complete the harbor walk. The museum features history exhibits on rescue efforts on Lake Michigan by the Coast Guard. The harbor walk features a lighthouse and historic markers along the Black River that is both interesting and informative. The harbor walk will end with a swim in Lake Michigan at the South Haven beach. Due to space limitations, adults cannot go on the tall ship. **Space is reserved only for youth.**

Lake Michigan has a wide diversity of marine life, some native and some invasive. **Youths ages 12 and older** will travel out on Lake Michigan on three research vessels, the *D.J. Angus*, *W.G. Jackson*, and the *Shenehon*. These research vessels ply the Great Lakes, gathering information about the lakes. You will participate in activities such as plankton sweeps and determining water clarity. You will also participate in a hands-on, interactive presentation about invasive species in the Great Lakes. Due to space limitations, adults cannot go on the research vessels. **Space is reserved only for youth.**

### Thursday - July 19

Sun, surf and sand describes the P.J. Hoffmaster State Park perfectly! **Youths up to age 11** will travel to the park, which features forest-covered dunes along nearly three miles of Lake Michigan shore. Its sandy beach is one of the finest in Michigan. At the Gillette Sand Dune Visitors Center, you will participate in a variety of programs that will help you understand the



unique environment of Great Lakes sand dunes. After you have gone through the Center, you will be able to spend several hours at the beach swimming in Lake Michigan.

Riding sand dunes is a thrilling experience! **Youths age 12 and up** will travel to Silver Lake to participate in a safe, fun-filled, 7-mile dune ride. As you ride on the dunes, the drivers will tell the history and explain the constant changing of the sand mountains. In addition

to the dune rides, you will tour a historic lighthouse. After the dune rides and lighthouse experiences, everyone will come together and spend several hours at the beach swimming in Lake Michigan.

### **Thursday Evening - Going away activity**

Sons and daughters of NACAA members are going to have a grand time at their Thursday evening farewell party. The party will be throughout two floors of the Van Andel Museum, a museum with an old fashioned carousel to ride and a planetarium that features mind-boggling, 3-D audio-visual experiences! Eating pizza beneath the 75-foot skeleton of a finback whale, kids will finish out a great week in Grand Rapids. They'll enjoy time with new friends and old friends, none quite so old as a 3,000 year-old mummy. Michigan is a great place to bring your sons and daughters!



For more information about any of these sites, check out their webpages:

- Michigan's Adventure Park:  
[www.miadventure.com](http://www.miadventure.com)
- Friends Good Will Ship:  
[michiganmaritimemuseum.org](http://michiganmaritimemuseum.org)
- Research vessels:  
[www.gvsu.edu/wri/education](http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/education), select Research Vessels
- and [www.glerl.noaa.gov/products/vessels.html](http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/products/vessels.html)
- Hoffmaster State Park:  
[www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.aspx?id=457](http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.aspx?id=457).
- MacWoods Dune Rides:  
[www.macwoodsdunerides.com](http://www.macwoodsdunerides.com)
- Van Andel Museum: [www.grmuseum.org](http://www.grmuseum.org)



## 2007 LIFE MEMBER TOURS

### **Life Member Tour #1 Gardens, Gardens, Gardens!**

If you love gardening, this tour is for you! The first stop is Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, a spectacular botanic garden and world-class sculpture park in Grand Rapids. Walk the outdoor nature trails and boardwalk. Enjoy more than 160 works in the permanent sculpture collection sited both indoors and outdoors on the 125-acre property. Tour the largest tropical conservatory in Michigan. Then it's on to Michigan State University Extension's Kent County office for lunch and a visit to the demonstration gardens developed and maintained by Master Gardeners. This masterful space features a creative use of boulders and showcases popular landscape plants. With gardening tips in hand, it's on to several area homes with gardens featuring shade tolerant plants. Would you believe gardens with over 500 varieties of hostas? Moderate walking.

All day tour  
Cost \$15 including lunch

### **Life Member Tour #2 Dutch Heritage, Holland MI**

It's too late for Tulip Time, but there's a lot to experience in this bustling town on Lake Michigan. A guide in Dutch dress will discuss Dutch heritage as we drive through Victorian-styled downtown Holland. We'll travel to Holland State Park on Lake Michigan, walk the sandy beach and get a history of the *Big Red* lighthouse. Lunch will be at one of the most unique senior activity centers in western Michigan. Then we're off to Windmill Island with its beautiful gardens and authentic, working Dutch windmill. Our final stop is DeKlomp Wooden Shoe and Delft Factory, the only blue and white delftware factory in the United States. Talk with the artists as they mold, hand-paint and glaze delftware in the old-world tradition. Watch wooden shoes carved on machines imported from the Netherlands. There'll be an opportunity for you to make some purchases to remember your visit. Moderate walking.

All day tour  
Cost \$15 including lunch

**Life Member Tour #3  
Agricultural Diversity**

Ottawa County, just west of Grand Rapids, ranks first in Michigan in diverse agriculture. Our first stop is a celery processing and promotion cooperative where we'll see tons of celery being packaged for the wholesale market and learn how celery is produced on west Michigan's muck fields. It's on to the Zeeland Farm Services to tour a state-of-the-art soybean processing plant. Lunch will be served in downtown Zeeland, named after the Province of Zeeland in the Netherlands. Walters Gardens, Inc., the largest producer of perennial flowering plants in the world, is located just a mile away! The bus will take us around their production fields of perennials, some in full flower. We'll end the day at a blueberry farm. If the weather cooperates, you may be able to pick your own blueberries! For anyone interested in antique farm machinery, there'll be a surprise for you. Moderate walking.

All day tour  
Cost \$15 including lunch

**Life Member Tour #4  
Along the Lakeshore in Grand Haven**

Spend a leisurely day in Grand Haven, where the Grand River flows into beautiful Lake Michigan. Our first stop will be City Hall to learn about community and economic development activities in this important tourist destination. Then it's on to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. Their education curator will introduce us to the rich history of the area including maritime industries, logging, commercial fishing and shipping. After lunch at one of the city's many fine restaurants, we'll re-board the bus for a guided tour of the waterfront. Then you'll have some time to explore on your own. Shop in the unique stores and galleries that line Washington Avenue. Stroll the boardwalk along the Grand River to Lake Michigan. Walk the Grand Haven Pier with its two lighthouses and refurbished catwalk. Check out the catch of the day at Chinook Pier, home to the area's charter fishing fleet. Moderate walking.

All day tour  
Cost \$15 including lunch

**Life Member Tour #5  
Michigan's Maritime Heritage**

Experience the shoreline of Lake Michigan, one of the largest bodies of fresh water in the world! We'll head west less than 30 miles to visit landmarks of Michigan's maritime past and witness current coastal activities. Our first stop brings us to the sandy beach at Holland where the President of the Michigan Lighthouse Association will give us a guided tour of the famous *Big Red* lighthouse. Then it's south to Saugatuck, a resort and boating community. We'll board the *Star of Saugatuck* and enjoy lunch while cruising past lovely homes and cottages, forests, wetlands and a panorama of dunes. Our next stop will be the Keewatin Maritime Museum, located aboard the *SS Keewatin*, a 350-foot, Titanic-era steamship that once sailed the Great Lakes. If time allows, you will be able to visit the unique shops and galleries near the boat docks of The Art Coast of Michigan. Moderate walking.

All day tour  
Cost \$15 including lunch

**Life Member Tour #6  
Historic Homes in Grand Rapids**

One of the largest urban historic districts in the United States is within blocks of our convention site. Heritage Hill's 1,300 homes date from 1848 and represent over 60 architectural styles. We'll tour two carefully preserved homes in this historical district. The Meyer May House, one of the last prairie-style homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, was built in 1908 for the founder of May's of Michigan clothing store and restored to its original splendor by the Steelcase Corporation. The Voight House Victorian Museum, a gabled French chateau-style home built in 1895, reflects the gracious elegance of the Victorian era. After visiting the homes, a professional guide will take us on an informative bus tour of Heritage Hill. Lunch will be served at the Women's City Club, an elegant, historic, Victorian clubhouse in the Heritage Hill area. Moderate walking.

Half-day tour  
Cost \$15 including lunch

## Life Member Breakfast to Feature Abraham Lincoln

Join Abraham Lincoln (NACAA Life Member Joseph W. "Bill" Ames) at the Life Member's Breakfast on Tuesday July 17, 2007. Bill has been bringing Lincoln to life for adults, youth and children since the 1980's.



Ames will be portraying our great Land Grant College history. His talent for making Lincoln come to life in his presentations will give us a deeper appreciation for the beginnings of the system of education that developed the Extension Service in which we all have had the privilege of working.

In 1968, Ames grew a beard, and he and his family dressed up for a Heritage Day Parade in Vicksburg, Michigan. He was told by many that he really looked like Lincoln. The beard was still there when he took a job as Extension Agriculture Agent, but he was soon asked to shave it off.

The beard later came back, and he started giving his Lincoln presentations. The early 80's found him involved in helping farmers through very challenging times as many of them were losing their farms. At the county Annual Agriculture Banquet, he presented Lincoln's life as an example of one who suffered great pain and loss, yet survived.

Bill retired in 1995 and found time to devote to an in-depth study of Lincoln, his family, the people around him, and the Civil War. After this breakfast, you will feel that, for a while, you have truly been with Lincoln.



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# Great Location and Options!

## Conference Hotels

### Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

[www.amwaygrand.com](http://www.amwaygrand.com)

The Amway Grand Plaza has been making history since the original hotel - The Pantlind - opened in 1913. You will enjoy the old-world character and splendor of this four-diamond hotel with features such as gold-leaf ceilings in the Pantlind lobby, beautiful ballrooms and a collection of art on the walls. By 1925, The Pantlind was rightfully ranked "One of the Ten Finest Hotels in America."

That distinguished history paved the way for the new Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in 1981, combining the graceful heritage of The Pantlind with the modern amenities of the new Glass Tower. Many meetings and the hospitalities will be located in the hotel whereas others will be in DeVos Place, connected to the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

As a guest, you will be treated to fine service in a luxury facility at a very reasonable cost. We have negotiated a nightly room rate of \$105 for NACAA guests. Pool and fitness facility use is available for a guest room fee of \$5.00 per 24 hour period of use.

### Days Inn

[www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com)

The Days Inn Grand Rapids Downtown is a full service, award-winning hotel that has consistently received a "foursunburst" rating. This hotel is located directly across from the Gerald R. Ford Museum and next to the Van Andel Museum and is just a five minute walk from the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and DeVos Place Convention Center. They offer free parking and a continental breakfast each morning. This facility has a pool and free in-room internet access. We have negotiated all this for \$84 per night.

### Courtyard by Marriott – Downtown

[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

Located in the heart of the Grand Rapids downtown entertainment district, this up-scale hotel is just a five minute walk through enclosed walkways from the NACAA headquarters hotel and location for the

conference. It features spacious rooms that combine comfort and functionality. This hotel is a nonsmoking facility and has an indoor pool and fitness facility. The room rate is \$105 per night for up to 4 persons per room.

## Grand Rapids, Michigan

Named one of America's Most Livable Cities, Grand Rapids offers big-city excitement and small-town charm. It is a bustling city filled with art, culture, museums, restaurants, universities and business. You'll enjoy walking along the Grand River and exploring the shops in town. Some of our tours are walking tours of the historic homes and the gardens of Grand Rapids.

### Flying into Grand Rapids

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport of Grand Rapids is served by eight major carriers, with 120 daily scheduled non-stop flights from 16 major markets. The second busiest airport in Michigan has many options to make it easier to find the flight you need. Michigan hosts will be there to greet you in the beautifully renovated terminal. The airport is only 20-30 minutes from the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

### Airfare discount

Northwest Airlines is offering a 10% discount (when tickets are purchased at least 30 days in advance. A 5% discount applies to tickets purchased less than 30 days in advance.) to all attendees between the dates 7/11/07 and 7/22/07 for the July 15-19 conference.

Fliers may receive the discount through the airline website, [www.nwa.com](http://www.nwa.com). • Click on "NWA Discount Travel E-Cert Redemption" at the bottom of the Flightstab area • Complete the Flight Search section either entering own WorldPerks membership number or as a guest • At the question: "Do you have an E-Cert Fare, electronic voucher or meeting agreement?", select "Meeting arrangement" • Enter NYUQH as the WorldFile number • Complete transaction or price check. Flights listed will show the 10% meeting discount.

**Airport shuttle**

Grand Rapids is also offering you a FREE airport shuttle via motor coach to the hotels. They are joining us in working to entice you to come to Grand Rapids!

Free shuttle will be offered:

Saturday, July 14 8 am – 9:30 pm

Sunday, July 15 8 am – 7:30 pm

Friday, July 20 6 am – 7:30 pm

Please help us identify your arrival time by indicating on page 37.

City shuttles and taxis will be available at other times. Please help us know when to expect your arrival.

**Parking**

Guests at the Days Inn get free parking. Overnight parking at the parking garage connected to the headquarters hotel, the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, has been negotiated to \$9.00 per day. We are also working on other parking alternatives. Check our website Inside Grand Rapids button for a city map with parking areas noted. Parking in the DASH lots cost \$2.00 upon entry no matter how long the vehicle is parked there.

**Coming by boat?**

There are two car ferries that cross Lake Michigan. The Lake Express, [www.lake-express.com](http://www.lake-express.com), traveling between Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Muskegon, Michigan crosses the lake in two and one-half hours. The Badger, [www.ssbadger.com](http://www.ssbadger.com), departing out of ports in Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI is an old steamer that in 2002 was named “Ship of the Year” by the steamship historical society of America

**AM/PIC Ticket Policy and Registration Packets**

Tickets will be required for admission to all non-general admission meal events, such as the lunchtime seminars/brown bag sessions, the annual banquet, etc. General admission meals such as the welcome meal will only require an official name tag.

No tickets other than the banquet tickets will be put into the registration packets. They will be picked up at the appropriate registration site, such as the tour tickets at the tour registration booth. Each registered individual will have a separate registration packet. Spouses and sons and daughters registration materials will not be with the agents or life members. They will need to be picked up at the respective registration booths.

**Position Announcement  
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY**

**Associate Dean of Extension Field Operations**

*Department # 0255 Position #4193 Requisition #6926*

Clemson University seeks applications and nominations for the position of Associate Dean of Extension Field Operations. We seek an individual who has strong administrative skills and a clear understanding of the mission of Extension in the 21st Century. The Associate Dean of Extension Field Operations answers directly to the Chief Operating Officer of Extension. The successful candidate must possess strengths in the following areas:

1. Establishing and supporting an effective program delivery process within Extension Field Operations.
2. Budget development and fiscal management.
3. Developing staffing plans which reflect the best balance between need and funding.
4. Coordinating effective marketing and public relations plans.

The Carnegie Foundation classifies Clemson University as a “Doctoral/Research University-Extensive,” with over 17,000 students. Clemson’s mission is to fulfill the covenant between its founder and the people of South Carolina to establish a “high seminary of learning” through its land-grant responsibilities of teaching, research, and extended public service. Learn more about the university at: [www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu).

The Clemson Extension Service in South Carolina consists of 46 county extension offices which employ 475 staff members. Clemson Extension’s mission is: to engage the citizens to help build a better South Carolina, focusing upon research-based information in agriculture, environment, food safety & nutrition, economic & community development, and youth & family.

For a full position description, please go to: <http://findjobs.clemson.edu/>

All applicants must submit a letter of application, an updated resume, and three (3) letters of recommendation by May 11, 2007 to:

Michael J. Simmons, Program Coordinator  
107 Barre Hall, Box 340120  
Clemson University  
Clemson, SC 29634

*Clemson University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.*



**REGISTRATION FORM**

**NACAA ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE**

July 15 - July 19, 2007

Registration forms must be postmarked on or before May 15, 2007: Late fee is \$100 - **Return ALL forms together** Please fill out all forms completely. Enclose proper payment where needed. Detailed information about activities is available in other parts of this publication. **Registration will be in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in the Center Concourse on the 2nd level.**

**ON-LINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.NACAA.COM - SECURE SITE - EASY TO USE**

**For Insurance Liability reasons - Name Tags will be required at ALL EVENTS (meal functions, bus trips, conference sessions - everything). NO EXCEPTIONS**

**SEND FORMS AND PAYMENT TO:  
NACAA AM/PIC 2007 Registration  
252 N. Park Street  
Decatur, IL 62523  
Phone: 217-424-5144 Fax: 217-424-5115 E-mail: nacaemail@aol.com**

**PARTICIPANT'S NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First)  
(Preferred first name on tag) \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** - daytime (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

(for emergency conference contact)

**E-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written confirmations will be mailed starting June 11, 2007 - hotel confirmations will be sent electronically or via U.S. Mail.**

Are you an NACAA Member  YES  NO  
Check your region:  NC  NE  W  S

**SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS** can be made on request for those having special menu or accessibility needs during the meeting. Please contact the registration office at the above address two weeks prior to the event to make a request.

**ANNUAL BANQUET**  
Thursday Evening July 19, 2007; 6:30 p.m.  
Tickets are required. 1 ticket per registrant is already included in the price of full registration. Pick up tickets when registering. Do you plan to attend:  Yes  No  
Number planning to attend \_\_\_\_\_



If your spouse, child(ren), and/or guest is attending the conference, please complete:

**SPOUSE NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First)

**GUEST'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First)

**CHILDREN'S NAMES AND AGES (if attending):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST-TIMER'S**

Is this your first NACAA AM/PIC?  Yes  No  
If so, please register at the "First-Timer" Registration area, where you will receive materials and a brief orientation. Also, see special "First-Timer" information on page 9 in this publication.

First time and worked less than 5 years?  Yes  No  
**NACAA members attending for the first time and employed after 7/1/02 will have registration fees waived.**

Complete the following:

Date of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The First-Timer's Luncheon is provided for first-time attendees on Monday, July 16, 2007. Your Spouse/Guest is welcome. Number planning to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

(This event takes place at the same time as the Spouse's Tour; please select one or the other).

**REGISTRATION FEE INFORMATION**

*Check ALL Blocks That Apply to You*

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name  First Name

NACAA Member	Agent Fee # Attending	+	Spouse/Guest Fee # Attending	=	Total Fees to be Paid
First Time Attending <small>employed after 7/1/2002</small>	(Waived x _____)		(\$170.00 x _____)		\$ _____
Regular Member	(\$215.00 x _____)		(\$170.00 x _____)		\$ _____
Life Member	(\$215.00 x _____)		(\$170.00 x _____)		\$ _____
<b>OTHERS</b>					
Sons & Daughters <small>(participating in activities)</small>	(\$150.00 x _____)				\$ _____
Visitor	(\$215.00 x _____)		(\$170.00 x _____)		\$ _____
University or USDA Administrator	(\$215.00 x _____)		(\$170.00 x _____)		\$ _____
Guest of NACAA President	(Waived x _____)		(Waived x _____)		\$ _____
National Donor	(Waived x _____)		(Waived x _____)		\$ _____

**PART-TIME ATTENDANCE**

Number Attending Each Day: Sun \_\_\_; Mon \_\_\_; Tues \_\_\_; Wed \_\_\_; Thurs \_\_\_  
 Daily Fee (\$100 x Number of Days \_\_\_ x Number of People \_\_\_) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attending only Thursday Night Banquet: (\$50 x Number of People \_\_\_) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOURS/ACTIVITY FEES**

Life Member Tours (pre-pay please) (\$15 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adults wishing to attend **# of Adults Attending**  
 Sons' & Daughters' activities - must pay entrance fees for:  
 Michigan's Adventure - Monday, July 16 (\$30 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 P.J. Hoffmaster State Park or Silver Lake Sand Dunes (Thursday, July 19) (\$15 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Fee: Applies to all registrants listed above whose registration form and fees are postmarked after May 15, 2007 - \$100 per individual** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FEES PAYABLE WITH REGISTRATION: (Make checks payable to NACAA)** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED IF FEES ARE NOT PAID AT THE TIME OF REGISTERING (I.E. WAITING FOR SECONDARY FUNDING). IF A PERSONAL CHECK/COUNTY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION IS NOT SENT WITH THE REGISTRATION - YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE PLACED ON HOLD UNTIL THE MONIES ARE RECEIVED.**

**IF PAID BY CREDIT CARD:**

\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Discover Card \_\_\_ American Express - No other cards will be accepted.

Person's Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_; Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_; (List all numbers 16 digits for Visa, MC or DISC or 15 digits for AMEX)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(IF CARD INFORMATION IS INCORRECT OR NOT ACCEPTED DURING THE CARD APPROVAL PROCESS, YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE DELAYED)

**CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY**

There shall be a 90% refund of registration fee when a request is made 30 days or sooner before the AM/PIC (June 15 or before). There shall be a 75% refund of registration fee if request is made from 15-29 days before the AM/PIC (June 16 - June 30). There shall be a 50% refund of registration fee if a request is made less than 15 days and prior to the end of the AM/PIC (July 1 - July 19). No refunds will be given if a request is made after the close of the AM/PIC (July 19). Appeals due to emergency will be handled on a case by case basis by the NACAA Board. Requests must be made in writing to the NACAA 2007 Registration, Scott Hawbaker, 252 N. Park Street, Decatur, IL 62523. Refund for part-time attendance is the same, except there will be no refund for the banquet. Members and guests eligible for fee waivers will be refunded upon verification by the National President.





**LODGING INFORMATION**  
**THIS MUST BE RETURNED WITH REGISTRATION FORM**

**PARTICIPANT'S Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

**HOUSING INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Reservations will be made in the order received. **First come – First served**
2. **Every attempt will be made to place you in the hotel you request - however, the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel will be filled first before placing individuals in the Days Inn or Courtyard by Marriott.**
3. **All reservations must be made with this housing form. You will not be allowed to make reservations directly with the contracted facilities - all reservations must accompany a NACAA AM/PIC Registration and will be handled by NACAA.**
4. Room rates do not include tax which is 13%.
5. **Rooms will be held only with a first night's deposit** – check or credit card. (Checks should be made to NACAA - not the hotel)
6. The registration form must be postmarked before May 15, 2007 to guarantee accommodations.

*Please number your preference in each box (1,2,3)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amway Grand Plaza Hotel<br>(connected to the Devos Place - headquarters hotel) | \$105 + 13% tax (\$118.65 total), Standard, Double, Triple or Quad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Days Inn<br>(5 minute walk from the meeting site)                              | \$84 + 13% tax (\$94.92 total), Standard, Double, Triple or Quad   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courtyard by Marriott<br>(5 minute walk from the meeting site)                 | \$105 + 13% tax (\$118.65 total), Standard, Double, Triple or Quad |

**PAYMENTS AND TYPE OF ACCOMMODATIONS**  
**Room Reservation should be made in the following name:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

Company Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card to Guarantee Room and Used at Checkout**

Master Card \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_

American Express \_\_\_\_\_

Person's name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ - \_ \_ \_ - \_ \_ \_ - \_ \_ \_ -

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

**Requested Room Type**

- |                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ___ 2 Queen Beds                     | ___ Handicap    |
| ___ King                             | ___ Smoking     |
| ___ First Available                  | ___ Non-Smoking |
| ___ Rollaway (1 per room \$15/night) | ___ Crib        |
| ___ Other (please describe)          |                 |

**Every attempt will be made to accommodate your lodging request.**

**If you are sharing a room with other adults (other than spouse) you must list name in order for their name to be on the room as well. It is strongly recommended to send in your reservation forms together in order for the lodging reservations to be made correctly.**

Sharing Room With: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a roommate? Yes  No  ( Male  Female)  
 NACAA will make every attempt to find you a roommate, however you are encouraged to find your own roommate as it may be difficult to determine roommate availability until early July, 2007.

**TRAVEL**

Please check if you are arriving by:  
 Plane \_\_\_\_\_  
 Automobile \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

See pages 31-32 for more information.

**Flying into Grand Rapids**

Free shuttle will be offered from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport:

Yes, I need shuttle service on these dates:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, July 14 | 8 AM – 9:30 PM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, July 15   | 8 AM – 7:30 PM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, July 20   | 6 AM – 7:30 PM |

## Jim Watson's Service Remembered

Jim Watson's life and service as a county agent in Florida was remembered by friends and retired agents February 26th at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake in Madison County. Fellow agents were his lifelong friends and he cherishes their friendship.

A prominent public servant he was widely known. All regarded him with affection at every level. Now, ninety years old and retired, his career in agriculture and 4-H youth was appreciated.

Service in World War II prepared him for responsibility and leadership in Florida Cooperative Extension Service as County Agent. His father, William L. Watson, was the first Duval County Agent. His greatest dream was fulfilled when he was appointed third agent for Duval County. A liberty ship was named for his father in 1944 to commemorate wartime work of Florida 4-H Club program.

He was inducted into both Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame and Florida Hall of Fame and later 4-H Hall of Fame. His "Hi Neighbor" TV program earned the National Farm Broadcasting Award followed by the

Freedom Foundation George Washington Honor Medal. Proud to have been part of the Greater Jacksonville Fair, a scholarship was established in his name by the fair for students in agriculture.

His leadership extended to the National Association of County Agents as Southern Director for three terms and also Secretary-Treasurer.



## Recognition of the first "County Agent"

Based on an idea initiated by the Life Members of NACAA from Pennsylvania (PACAA), Dr. Daney Jackson, Penn State University Director of Cooperative Extension, presents a plaque to the Bedford County Pennsylvania Commissioners on February 27, 2007 commemorating the appointment of A.B. Ross as the first County Agent on March 1, 1910 by the Office of Farm Management, USDA.

Mr. Ross was stationed at Schellsburg, PA in Bedford County Pennsylvania.



*Pictured are the three Commissioners, Dr. Daney Jackson, Director of Penn State Cooperative Extension and Janice Stoudnour, County Extension for Bedford County, PA.*





**Register on-line today at: <http://www.nacaa.com>**

**ANNUAL MEETING AND  
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES**

**2007**

**Grand Rapids, MI . . . July 15-19**

**2009**

**Portland, OR....September 20-24**

**2008**

**Greensboro, NC . . . July 13-17**

**2010**

**Tulsa, OK....July 11-15**

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***The County Agent***

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:  
***The County Agent*** - NACAA, 252 N. Park Street  
Decatur, IL 62523 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker



\*\*\*\*\*ALL FOR ADC 64240

Charles Otte  
PO Box 28  
119 E 9th St  
Junction City KS 66441-2504

4/16/07

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