Michigan Forests a heritage worth discovering

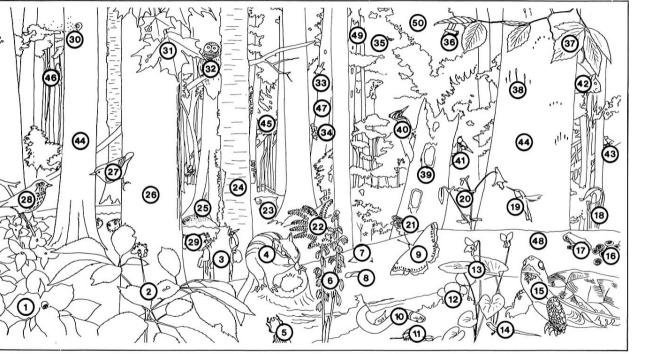


Produced by the Nongame Wildlife Fund, Natural Heritage Program, Wildlife Division, in cooperation with the Press Office, Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Painting by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen

Before settlers arrived, most of Michigan's 36 million acres were covered by forests. Today more than 18 million acres are still forested, but only a few thousand widely scattered acres have the massive oaks, maples, pines, and hemlocks that once dominated our forests. Fortunately, the forests that have regrown are a rich variety of complex natural communities, from the small oak-hickory woodlots of the south to the sprawling forests of beech-maple, aspen-oak-pine and cedar-spruce-fir found in the north.

Just as varied and complex are peoples attitudes toward these forests—obstacles to remove, raw materials to harvest, habitat for wildlife, playgrounds to enjoy, green cathedrals that inspire, autumn tapestries that delight, a storehouse of knowledge yet to be discovered. To protect these values, it is critical that wise decisions be made about how Michigan forests are managed. Because wise decisions require an informed and active citizenry, it is a goal of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to support public education and to encourage public involvement in natural resource management. This poster has been produced as a step toward achieving that goal.



Michigan's wildlife needs your help 26. Sugar Maple27. White-breasted Nuthatch American Ginseng

28. Wood Thrush

. Barred Owl

42. Gray Squirrel

45. Eastern Hemlock

50. Forest Opening, Windfall

43 Pine Marten

46. Porcupine

47. Basswood

48. Moss

34. Oyster Mushrooms

Scarlet Tanager

Fastern Chipmunk

15. Wood Turtle

20. Columbine

22. Lady Fern

16. Bird's Nest Fungus

21. Polyporus Mushrooms

Patent Leather Beetle Striped Coral-root

Contributions to the **Nongame** Wildlife Fund on the Michigan income tax form support critically important work on Michigan's endangered plants and animals and nongame wildlife including forest species such as the scarlet tanager, red-shouldered hawk, American ginseng, pileated woodpecker, great trillium and wood turtle.

The Nongame Wildlife Fund also produces educational materials, such as this poster, to promote understanding enjoyment and stewardship of our rich natural heritage.

