



**TRAVEL TRAILER CLUB OF THE MIDWEST**

May, 2020

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**Campgrounds remain closed per Executive Order 2020-59. Stay home/Stay safe. Please continue to monitor the [TTCM.org](http://TTCM.org) website for updates.**

Hello everyone,

I hope this note finds you well and healthy. Just wanted to write you a note and update on our campgrounds . Currently our Campgrounds are in lockdown mode. We are anticipating a green light from our Governor to open in May. If this dilemma has taught us anything it is that things can certainly change and that still might be the case. I will be in touch with you through the Web about specific start dates once more clarity arrives. Again this is subject to change based on any direction from the Governor! Unfortunately, there will be some measures taken for safety as we come out of this and will change some of our procedures and ways of doing business. Those are coming into focus as we speak. So I ask that we have patience as we sort through things after we get the okay to open.

Thank You 🙏 your President Gene Kowatch

Well that was quick. April came and went in a week, or so it seemed. Thanks to everyone for being patient as we muddle through this minor setback, I say minor because we all know it could be a lot worse...Thank the good Lord he is watching over us. Hope to get the Campgrounds open soon. Last summer went quick and we are losing time for this year already. Sure am looking forward to the community dinners when things get back to normal. Remember all hands-on deck will make for a smoother opening for both Campgrounds. Be sure and get your paperwork in if your running for office.

Please remember we can all help settle misunderstandings , by going to the source of the issue, your board members are always here to help if we can.

See you all soon ,let's get camping!

Your VP. George Behler

### **Election News**

This is the final reminder to send in your resumes for the election. You can email me at [JJHUTCHINS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:JJHUTCHINS@YAHOO.COM) , mail to me 5343 Ann Arbor Rd Jackson Mi 49201.

I hope everyone is healthy and that our snowbirds finally find their way home again once all these restrictions are lifted. I'm ready to get camping and make the most out of this season!

Jessica Hutchins

Hello Fellow Campers!

Well these are certainly different times for everyone. It seems that everything we have planned for the summer is in jeopardy. I am very disappointed that the campground will not be open as it normally is. We are trying to follow the Governor's guidelines no matter what we may think should happen. I know it is very frustrating, however we want to make sure our environment is safe for everyone.

As you may know, this is an election year for the board of the campground.

I have been your treasurer for the past term of 3 years, and I plan on running for the position again.

I have been in the work force for a very long time, and have worked with financial information for most of those years. I would appreciate all of your support in the upcoming election in September.

Thanks and stay safe and healthy.

Hope to see you soon!

Regards,  
Cheryl Vogel  
TTCM Treasurer

#### **Hesperia News**

Hi Everyone.,

Hope you all are well and staying safe. We are well here and have been staying in for the last five weeks, it's better than getting sick. You sure can get a lot of work done around home when you can't go places.

Not knowing when the campgrounds will be opening we can't set up times for things going on.

We will have the water taken care of so when we can open it will be ready to go. When it warms up a bit we will have to go over and pick up the rest of the leaves that didn't get done last fall because of the rain.

Hope to see everyone when it is safe.

Directors,  
Clione, Bob and Lefty

#### **Bellevue News**

Hello from down south---

Bill O. put on Facebook and the campground phone "TTCM is closed until further notice".

My plans are the same I plan to be at the campground on April 26 and have the water turned on April 27.

Herm and Bill

## **Bellevue and Hesperia forestry evaluation**

### **Bellevue campground (82 acres)**

This parcel contains a mixture of lowland hardwoods that is seasonally wet, and two stands of very nice oak saw timber. The lowland hardwoods consist primarily of red maple saw timber and pole timber on very wet soils. There is also a considerable amount of dead ash trees that were killed by the emerald ash borer. This timber type is present on the majority of your property. Timber harvest here would be very difficult due to the very wet soils. Consequently, any harvest activity would need to take place in a very dry year. The prescription for this stand would be to remove defective, poor quality, high risk and mature trees to improve stand health and to weed the garden so to speak.

The oak stand contains a mixture of white and black oak and hickory saw timber of very nice quality. There are two stands of oak that consist of roughly 15 acres and are located in the center of the property. This stand has very high potential to produce very nice quality saw timber. A light timber sale is recommended here to improve the stand composition and health by removing deformed, defective, high risk and mature trees for saw timber. This harvest should be undertaken in the summer/fall when the soils are dry and there is no risk of soil rutting. This harvest is the highest priority at the Bellevue camp.

### **Hesperia campground (72 acres)**

This parcel contains a mixture of very high-quality northern hardwoods on dry soils and lowland hardwoods on very wet soils. The northern hardwood stand represents roughly half of the timberland on the property and is the highest priority for needed management. Species present here include sugar maple, red maple, beech, black cherry, hickory, hemlock and white pine. The stand was high graded in the past with no regard for the future. Most of the higher quality trees were removed during that harvest. Consequently the stand composition consists of many poor qualities and high-risk trees that need to be removed to improve stand health and to allow for regeneration of sugar maple in the understory.

Additionally, the beech trees are currently infected with beech bark disease and will be dead in the next few years. These trees should have been removed in the previous harvest. Any harvest activity here needs to remove any beech that is useable for sawlogs as well as other defective and damaged sugar maple in the stand. The lowland hardwood stand consists primarily of red maple, dead ash trees and hemlock. Soils are very wet and will restrict any harvest activity here to when the ground is dry or frozen. This stand should be weeded as well by removing poor quality and high-risk trees. This harvest would be secondary in importance and will take a very dry year to implement.

The other item of importance when harvesting here would be to protect the cold-water stream from any damage and to leave buffer strips adjacent to this important resource.

Both campgrounds contain woodlots that can be vastly improved for the future while providing excellent income on a sustained basis for the club. Both parcels should have the timber marked by a registered forester. Bids should then be solicited from reputable sawmills with the highest bidder awarded the sale. I can assist you with this if you wish to proceed.

The other item I mentioned to you was the Qualified Forest Program which is a tax relief program for forest landowners. Both of your parcels would qualify if you desire to participate in the program. You can see the details on the program on the website for MDARD and search for the Qualified Forest Program. You would need a management plan written by a Registered Forester and the plan submitted by September 1. The plan and tax relief are for a 20-year period and gives a 16mil tax reduction. I can also assist you with this by writing plans for both parcels if you so desire.

Hopefully this helps you. Feel free to call me anytime with questions.

Respectfully  
Randy Kuipers  
Michigan Registered Forester #499

Thank you Scott Bouwman for your assistance!

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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Bellevue, MI 49021  
Phone 269-763-3551  
Email: [bellevue\\_campground@yahoo.com](mailto:bellevue_campground@yahoo.com)

**DIRECTIONS:**

**From I-94: North on I-69 to Exit 48. Go west on M-78 approx. 1 mile to Babcock Road, turn left (South).  
At end of Babcock Road turn right (West).  
Campground is approx. 0.8 miles on your right.**

**Hesperia Campground**  
6777 E. M-20  
Hesperia, MI 49421  
Phone: 231-338-6124  
Email: [ricg@casair.net](mailto:ricg@casair.net)

**DIRECTIONS:**

**From Hesperia: head 3.5 miles West on M-20.  
From White Cloud: West 16.5 miles on M-20.**

Cyndi Behler  
348 Gibbs Street  
Whitehall, MI 49461

**DELIVER TO:**



**TRAVEL TRAILER CLUB OF THE MIDWEST**  
Since 1963