



Great Lakes Times

The Voice of the 2007 NACAA Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference

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Michigan Association of Extension Agents

July 2007

Arriving in Time for Sunday Events?

We welcome you to the NACAA conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It will be great to see you in just a few days. While there will be many things going on, we wanted to make sure that you had a heads-up on just some of what will happen on Sunday, July 15.

The complete program with all events for each day is now available on our website www.nacaa2007.msu.edu. Click on "Program Brochure and Highlights", at the 2nd lighthouse button and then where it says "Click here for a 2007 AM/PIC Program Brochure".

Following is just a few of Sunday's highlights.

Sunday Workshop
"Creating Posters Using Power Point"
Presenter: Susan Kerr.
Registration is limited.
Register today by e-mail to
kvines@psu.edu

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| 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM | Register for the conference on the second level Center Concourse of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel |
| 10:00 – 11:00 AM | Sunday Morning Prayer Service with Reverend Phil Seitz (former Extension Agent and now an Episcopal Priest) in the Amway Pearl Room. |
| Noon – 3:00 PM | Welcoming Hospitality provided by Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana Extension Agents in the trade show & poster display area in DeVos Place. Register for the conference then come over and get refreshed with a bite to eat. thanks Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana! |
| 1:00 – 6:30 PM | Trade Show, Poster Session and Computer Lab are open! |
| 2:00 – 5:00 PM | Workshop: Creating Posters Using PowerPoint - Susan Kerr, Extension Educator, Washington State University Extension – Klickitat County will provide a workshop on creating posters using PowerPoint. This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the basics of creating posters using PowerPoint as well as emphasize the hallmarks of good posters. Handouts will be provided for participants' future reference. This session will be held in the NACAA computer lab in Vandenberg B of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Participation is limited. Register by sending an email to Karen Vines, kvines@psu.edu . |
| 3:00 – 4:00 PM | First Timer Orientation and Reception, DeVos Grand Gallery D—If this is your first conference we invite you to come and learn a little about the NACAA conference. Whether you are a member or family, in fact, whatever your connection to the conference, we invite you to join us for this informal time to make the most of your conference attendance. |
| 6:00 – 6:45 PM | Parents Orientation for Sons & Daughter Program, DeVos Grand Gallery A & B—Come learn how we are planning to take good care of your children and all about the fun they will have. |

Travel information for Grand Rapids, Michigan

NACAA and the Michigan Association of Extension Agents are glad that you are coming to Michigan in July for the 2007 AM/PIC. We want you to have a pleasant arrival & stay. Below you will find information for your arrival based on whether you will be arriving by plane or automobile. Please do not hesitate to call Stan Moore, Executive Vice-Chair for Fiscal and Logistical Management, for additional information at 231-533-8818.

If you are traveling by car, as with any larger city, Grand Rapids seems to always have construction. Luckily this is north of the hotel at this point and most of you will be traveling in from the south. The road work is on US-131 from Pearl Street (the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel exit) north to the edge of town.

To get to the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel go north on US-131 to the Pearl Street exit 85B. Go east (right) on Pearl Street about 2 blocks and you will see the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel on your left. You may drop off passengers and luggage here and also can have your car valet parked (\$15 per night) if you wish. For self parking (much cheaper) see instructions below.

There are several parking alternatives. For a map of all the area parking lots, and a separate rate sheet, check out our web site www.nacaa2007.msu.edu and look under "Inside Grand Rapids".

Overnight parking at the parking garage connected to the headquarters hotel has been negotiated to \$9.00 per day. This parking is located across the street from the hotel (on your right) and is connected by a sky bridge.

There is also parking available behind the hotel, under the Devos Place convention center. To get to this parking go just past the hotel and take a left on Monroe Ave. Take another immediate left behind the hotel to get to the parking area. You can drop off passengers and luggage prior to parking at the rear of the hotel. This parking is also \$9.00 per day.

The cheapest alternative, if you don't mind a little inconvenience, is to use the Dash lots. Dash lot 7 and 8 are \$2.00 coin per entry, so they are a great alternative if you will just be parking your car for the week. Dash lot 8 can be entered at any time. Dash lot 7 has more limited times of entry (see the map and rate sheet on the web).

There is a free shuttle from Dash lot 7 (walkable from Dash lot 8) that has a stop at the Amway Grand Plaza hotel.

Welcome to Michigan—with a Smile!

We are excited about your plans to travel to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Because of this, we will have a warm smile to greet you as you travel through the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids and arrive at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Our friendly greeters will be wearing green vests with name tags. Look for them in the baggage area of the airport and in the hotel lobby. They will be ready to help you with transportation, as well as parking and conference questions. In addition, a local greeter will be on hand to help you with questions on local attractions, shopping, entertainment, and restaurant choices.

Welcome to Michigan, we hope your visit is enjoyable and memorable!

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Flying into Grand Rapids?

NACAA Shuttle service from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport:

- Saturday, July 14—FREE—from 8 am to 9:30 pm
- Sunday, July 15—FREE—from 8 am to 7:30 pm
- Friday, July 29—FREE—from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel shuttle service offered daily, every 30 minutes, 7 am to 9:30 pm outside of Gate B. Cost is \$15

Taxi—Metro Cab, call 616-827-6500

Things to do During the Week!

Monday, 7:00 – 8:00 AM—Early Morning Coffee & Networking

Take this opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee and breakfast snacks on us and meet with Agents/Educators with similar interests at tables labeled with subject matter and with discussion questions. The purpose is simply to help you meet colleagues in your field early in the week. Join us in the Grand Gallery!

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday—Educational lunch sessions

We have a great line-up of educational sessions for you to choose from. You will need a ticket for the lunch sessions that you plan to attend and we encourage you to pick up those free tickets when you register. Check the list of sessions offered on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday on our website at www.nacaa2007.msu.edu . Click on "Program Brochure & Highlight" to see what is offered.

Wednesday—If you are not going on a tour, check out this workshop: *START YOUR BLOG TODAY!* - Blogs are a great way to communicate with your clientele and market Extension. Can a blog replace your newsletter? In this session you'll learn how a blog can be used to improve your educational program with Susan Schoenian, author several blogs including the "Shepherd's Notebook" blog at: <http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com/> and the Meat Goat Performance Test blog at: <http://mdgoatstest.blogspot.com/> and John Dorner, Electronic Communications Coordinator. Then, we will walk you through creating and configuring your very own blog. This is a hands-on session so by the end of the session, you will have your first article online. This session will be held on Wednesday, July 18 from 9:00 AM to noon in the NACAA AM/PIC computer lab. Participation is limited. Register by sending an email to Karen Vines, kvines@psu.edu .

Thursday, 7:00 – 8:30 AM—Prayer Breakfast

We are offering this opportunity for those who are interested in spiritual refreshment with colleagues before heading home from the conference. This event features a full hot breakfast buffet in the Ottawa Room of Courtyard by Marriott for \$10 (cost is reduced because of a donation by FCF). Tickets should be purchased at a table in the registration area. The agenda includes music, a representative from the Fellowship of Christian Farmers (FCF) and Andy Smith, professor of Bible at Cornerstone University. We invite all to come.

Conference Proceedings available on Flash Drive

Each NACAA active member attending will receive a 1 gigabyte flash drive along with a conference bag. We are happy to provide these for you not only as a remembrance of your visit to Grand Rapids, Michigan, but as useful tools for you in your work.

Purchase of the flash drives was made possible by donations from the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Soybean Checkoff.

The conference proceedings will be loaded on the flash drives along with other documents pertaining to the conference.

Please stop by the computer lab after registering and take your new flash drive for a test drive!

Lodging in Grand Rapids

All attendees will be housed in the beautiful Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. This premier hotel is the site of many of our activities and is conveniently connected to DeVos Place Convention Center where other events will be held. We are convinced that you will enjoy this hotel of distinction.

We apologize to those who preferred to stay at another hotel, but we needed to have you at the Amway in order to meet our contractual obligations. Thank you for understanding.



*Michigan
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Hosting the nation's Extension agents in 2007!

We're on the web at:

www.nacaa2007.msu.edu

"The purposes of an Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference are to provide professional improvement opportunities to members as they strive to improve the effectiveness of their respective programs, to encourage high standards of professional performance, provide stimuli and incentives to help members to develop new methods, new approaches and new projects."

NACAA Policy Handbook, 2005

Send your articles,
stories
and pictures for
Great Lakes Times
to
thelen22@msu.edu

Michigan's Commitment to You!

Our commitment as we have worked to prepare to host you has been to:

- Host a conference characterized by Creativity, Excellence and Teamwork.
- Help plan a high quality program that is viewed as valuable by all participants.
- Enhance the reputation of Michigan State University.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships statewide with key leaders in industry, commodity groups and Extension supporters.
- Involve all of MAEA members and others in the Extension family including those in sister organizations, Extension administration and our family members.
- Provide high customer service where attendees feel honored, respected, listened to and helped.
- Strongly support the mission and goals of NACAA.

Please let us know how we do in meeting this commitment by sending an e-mail to thelen22@msu.edu.

