



Kirtland

Community College

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K.L. Cool, Director
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing MI 48909

Don!
Bob!
Jerry!
Great!
Thanks

Dear Mr. Cool:

The 1996 Kirtland's Warbler Festival was held on May 18 and 19 and included events and activities on the Kirtland Community College campus and in communities in Roscommon, Crawford, Ogemaw, and Oscoda Counties. Approximately 1,300 people participated in birding and nature tours and seminars.

Under the auspices of the "Partners in Protecting the Jack Pine Ecosystem", the community partnership of business, education, and natural resource managers was successful in establishing a strong foundation for future Festival and educational programs.

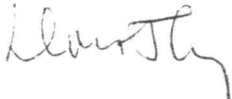
Our belief in the benefits of community cooperation has been reinforced by the many new visitors to the area and the national attention our efforts have received. Calls from individuals from throughout the United States and Canada as well as articles in publications such as the Wall Street Journal and national birding magazines have emphasized the environmental and economic importance of the jack pine ecosystem.

The support, participation, and leadership provided by personnel from the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality was instrumental in making this partnership work and in making the Festival a success. From Lansing to the Upper Peninsula, DNR staff from the Executive Division, Foresters, Forest Management Division, Wildlife Division, Parks and Recreation, and the Fisheries Division, participated in planning activities, nature tours, seminars, and informational displays. I particularly appreciated the support received from Don Inman from Region II Headquarters, Bob Hess from the Mio Field Office and Jerry Weinrich from the Houghton Lake Wildlife Research Station.

As Co-Chairperson of the 1996 Kirtland's Warbler Festival Planning Committee, Bob Hess provided the leadership necessary to successfully expand the Festival from a single county event to a four county festival integrating campus and community activities. Without his commitment and his understanding of the natural resources we were promoting, there is no doubt that the Festival would not have been as successful.

I am pleased with our first year efforts for an expanded Festival and am excited about the opportunities available through the community partnership to use our unique wildlife and natural resources as the basis for educational programs for individuals of all ages, but particularly for children. The participation of the Department of Natural Resources in the partnership is very important and much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dorothy N. Franke".

Dorothy N. Franke
President