PROJECT PARTNER: Huron-Manistee National Forests

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION:
Chittenden Nursery served as a hub of activity during the reforestation efforts of the 1930’s. With much of the eastern and midwestern United States stripped of their forests, and urban unemployment driving men to the Civilian Conservation Corps, the US Forest Service created Chittenden Nursery with CCC members as the primary laborers. Opened in 1934, the nursery supplied seedlings and transplants for regional planting and featured several buildings, including a greenhouse. The nursery operated for almost forty years before finally being closed in 1973 due to insufficient demand for seedlings. In cooperation with the CCC, the US Forest Service leveraged the nursery’s production of pine, spruce, and hardwood trees to reforest more 101,000 acres in the Manistee National Forest between 1934 and 1942. Read more about Chittenden Nursery’s history — viculture Magazine.

The forest itself is nationally recognized for its thousands of lakes, rivers, and streams. If you like to fish in pristine freshwater conditions, canoe, or simply enjoy the tranquility of a forest stream, don’t miss out on this project! Additionally, a unique dune ecosystem can be explored where the forest touches the eastern waters of Lake Michigan – enjoy the beach! Hikers will enjoy the hundreds of miles of trails. You can learn more about all the Huron-Manistee National Forest has to offer at www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf.

WHAT: In order to rehabilitate the historic cone shed, volunteers worked with HistoriCorps field staff to learn new skills, such as:

- Repairing and repainting siding and roof vents
- Installing period appropriate windows
- Replacing current doors with period appropriate doors
- Repainting the structure
**WHERE:** Chittenden Nursery, Wellston, MI (map). Nearest town: Wellston, MI. Has all amenities.

HistoriCorps is a service learning partner of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture committed to the preservation and stewardship of significant resources on public lands.

“Tree Lifter in Operation at Chittenden Nursery.” Photo from The Forest History Society