

# Michigan Forest Association – *Leaves* Newsletter

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Please note the new email address above. The old email address ([mfa@i-star.com](mailto:mfa@i-star.com)) is being phased out.

We wish all our members Happy Holidays:

*Happy Hanukkah*

*Merry Christmas*

*Happy New Year*

We invite you to join us in some New Year's resolutions. Your Executive Director will start the ball rolling: 1. I will attempt to get the newsletter sent out earlier each month. 2. I will reorganize the office by trashing mountains of things no longer needed and by rearranging things for more efficiently, especially making things easier to find. If the Board had taken a good look at my office, they probably would have fired me years ago. 3. When possible, I will check my email daily and keep the inbox cleaned out. I will try to operate more like Bill Cook, at whose efficiency I marvel.

Now that I have shared my shortcomings with the members, I will give you my wish list for the membership and the state. 1. I hope you become more active in MFA, for your sake and ours. 2. I hope you invite at least one friend or acquaintance to join MFA, for their sake and ours. We need more members to be as effective as our mission warrants. 3. I hope a few members, not previously involved, volunteer to tow and man the Wanigan at various events so that we can use it more and use it more effectively. 4. I hope you manage your woodlots more like Adrian Hendriksma did, for your sake and the benefit of the land you own. 5. I hope a lot more members can attend the Annual Meeting this year. 6. I hope the people of Michigan find a way to use the low quality materials our forest lands produce to provide energy for our homes and our vehicles to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and to improve the quality of our forest lands.

It will certainly take us a while to reach these goals, but, if we don't set goals and work toward them, we are not likely to improve. Your support and your comments are invited.

Best wishes to all,

*Mac Smith*

## **2007 MFA Board meetings**

Friday, February 9 at the MUCC office, 2101 Wood St in Lansing. (Lynne Boyd, head of the Forest, Mineral, & Fire Management Division, DNR and the new State Forester are invited.)

Friday, May 11 at the John Van Dyke residence in Trout Lake

Friday, August 10 at the Annual Meeting in Mio

Friday, November 9 at BJ's Restaurant in Gaylord

All meetings start at 9:00 am except the August meeting at 8:30 am. Visitors are welcome.

Mark your calendars now for the **2007 Annual Meeting** to be held Friday and Saturday, August 10 and 11 in the Mio area. Mio is located along the famous Au Sable River and near the site of the Mack Lake fire which burned over 25,000 acres and destroyed 44 homes in May, 1980. It will be a new area for most of our members and has many interesting things to see. Tentative visits include the Weyerhaeuser plant in Grayling, a new US Forest Service complex, Tim Boonstra's state-of-the-art maple syrup operation, timber management sites, and a new secondary processing plant. There will be adequate lodging in Mio. The Annual Meetings are packed with information and you can always learn a lot from the experiences of other members. It is also a place to make new friends and to enjoy visiting old friends. Most members who have ever attended an Annual Meeting continue to attend year after year. Come join us!

**Leaves by email** – It was originally intended that we would email *Leaves* directly to each member who elected to receive it that way. We discovered that this was not possible for technical reasons. Our plan now is to post the newsletter on the MFA website and notify members who have email with a link that they can click to see it on the web site. They can read it on the website, download it to their computers, or print it, or do all three. So far 314 people have responded and 209 of them (almost exactly 2/3) have elected to get *Leaves* by email. We regret that some members have resented this program. We did not intend to discriminate against members who don't have email; our goal was to increase the efficiency of our operation as much as possible. Your comments are invited – contact the Executive Director or any Board member. This program will be on the agenda for discussion at the February Board meeting starting at 9:00 am, Friday, February 9, 2007 at the MUCC office at 2101 Wood St, Lansing.

**Michigan State University** and the **Michigan Maple Syrup Association** will be co-sponsoring an educational program from 9:30 am-3:30 pm on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at the Doherty Hotel Conference Center on US-127 Business Loop in downtown Clare. This year's emphasis will be on operations inside the sugar house. There is no beginner's session this year. Cost is \$40 per adult and \$15 per child aged 6-13. More information is available from Extension Agent Russell Kidd at 989-275-4670 or [kidd@msue.msu.edu](mailto:kidd@msue.msu.edu) or from local extension offices.

Members who wish to sign up for **MUCC** 's Michigan Out of Doors magazine or dues for National Woodland Owners Association (**NWOA**) at a discounted price through MFA can still do so by sending your check payable to Michigan Forest Association to 1558 Barrington, Ann Arbor MI 48103-5603. The fee for MUCC is \$20 and for NWOA is \$32 or \$52 for both. MFA sends a single check to each organization to cover all participating members. You can include the amounts in your MFA dues check or send a separate check if your MFA dues have been paid.