

# Michigan Forest Association – *Leaves* Newsletter

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The Executive Director apologizes for late publication of this issue of *Leaves*.

The **MFA Board** met with Lynne Boyd, DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division Chief and her assistant, the new State Forester, Dr. Donna LaCourt on Friday, February 9 at the MUCC office for a very productive meeting. See Spring *Michigan Forests* for the full report.

**Michigan Forest Foundation scholarships** from the M. B. Smith, Jr. Scholarship Fund are available for students of forestry and other natural resources related to forestry. They are available to qualified students who are Michigan residents and to other students attending Michigan Colleges. Applicants must be enrolled in college or accepted for enrollment. Applications must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from one of the student's teachers, a member of the clergy, or an employer. The applicant must also furnish a letter of recommendation from a member of the Michigan Forest Association. Scholarships of up to \$500 will be awarded at the discretion of the MFF Board. Deadline for applications for the 2007-2008 school year is May 1, 2007. Applications are available from the MFA office.

**Michigan Technological University, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science**, with partial support by the **Michigan Forest Foundation** will again offer the **Forest Ecology & Resource Teacher Institute on July 15-20, 2007**. This highly acclaimed course is coordinated by MTU along with the Western U. P. Center for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education. Only twenty spaces are available. Institute topics include Tree Identification, Forest Measurements & Data Analysis, Forest Soils, Forest Ecology, Forest Health: Insect Pests & Exotic Species, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Biology, Forest Management, Silvicultural Prescriptions & Forest Products.

The actual cost of the Institute is \$1,781, but, because of MFF support and a departmental stipend, the charge to teachers is only \$850, which includes room, meals, field trips, instructional materials, and **three graduate credits from Michigan Tech University**. The Institute will take place at the Ford Forestry Center at Alberta on US 41 south of L'Anse. Application forms are available at <http://wupcenter.mtu.edu>. Click on program & Resources for Teachers, then on Forest Resources Institute, then on Application (pdf). Application deadline is May 25. For more information contact Course Coordinator, Joan Shumaker-Chadde at 906-487-3341 or [jchadde@mtu.edu](mailto:jchadde@mtu.edu)

**MUCC requests help to prevent rolling back ballast water regulations** – Background: In less than one generation, aquatic species have radically changed our Great Lakes' ecosystem. Every eight months a new invasive enters our lakes primarily through the discharge of ballast water. Frustrated with the lack of action on the federal level, the 2005 Michigan legislature took the reins and created the first ballast water permit requirement in the nation. PA 32 and 33 of 2005 prohibit ocean-going vessels from discharging ballast water into Michigan's waters (including the Great Lakes) after January 1, 2007, unless they have a permit issued by the DEQ. This requirement was set after years of study and deliberation. The general permit gives ocean-going vessels the option of installing four commercially available technologies, or choosing to install alternative technologies that have equivalent effectiveness.

State Senators Michael Prusi and Randy Richardville have introduced a bill that would roll back the requirement of the new ballast water permits until January 1, 2008. This action is apparently at the request of the shipping companies. Mucc's position is that the shipping companies have had ample notice. Currently Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Indiana are considering requirements for ballast water permits. If Michigan backs down, it may delay decisions by the other states and Mucc is also seeking action at the federal level. Also we don't need further invasives if we wait another year. **Mucc requests that, if you agree that the ballast water discharge requirements should remain in effect, you contact your Senator to let him or her know. If you do not know how to contact your Senator, April at the Mucc office (517-346-6472) will be glad to supply the information for you.**

February 28, 2007 was the end of the grace period for dues payable November 1, 2006. Normally the Executive Director contacts as many delinquent members as possible before dropping memberships. This process was started in early February but not yet completed. The Executive Director will still attempt follow up calls as soon as possible. If you have questions about your status, please call the MFA office at 734-665-8279. I will return calls as soon as possible, but there may be delays of a few days if I am away from the office.