

6120 South Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Phone & FAX 517-663-3423
Volume XXV

E-mail miforest@acd.net
August/September, 2007

Web site: www.michiganforests.com
Number 9

Annual Meeting A Success!

The annual meeting for 2007 was held at Mio on August 10 & 11. The weather was beautiful and the meeting was fun and well-attended. There will be a more thorough report and some pictures in the coming issue of Michigan Forests. Many thanks to meeting chairmen Bob Ojala and Leon Erbe. Unfortunately, Leon was unable to be there for the actual meeting, but he sent greetings and a fishing report from Alaska.

House bill would encourage production of wood for energy

State representative Barb Byrum has sponsored House Bill 4727, which would provide incentives for people to cut and deliver wood to biomass energy plants. Producers would be paid \$5 per dry ton for wood delivered to plants that produce liquid biofuels. The bill is currently in the House Agriculture Committee; Rep. Byrum, in a recent letter, encouraged us to write our representatives to urge its passage.

MFA does not have a position on the bill itself, but is currently working on a policy that encourages development of markets for low-quality wood. Such markets would help improve woodlands all across Michigan.

New Red Pine Handbook Available

The USDA Forest Service has released an up-to-date guide for managing red pine. The new guide includes recommendations for managing red pine on extended rotations as well as the more traditional management regimes. It also includes current information on forest insects and diseases. You can download or order a copy of the handbook at the Forest Service North Central Research Station web site. Search on "North Central Research Station".

Sirex Woodwasp located in Macomb County

Lansing -- The Michigan Departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Natural Resources (DNR), along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), announced the confirmation of Sirex Woodwasp in Macomb County. A single specimen was collected from a trap on July 6 and later identified by the USDA.

Sirex woodwasp is a wood-boring insect native to Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa and is a potentially serious pest of commercially produced pine trees. It was first detected in North America in Oswego, N.Y. in 2004, and has since been found throughout central New York, northern Pennsylvania, and southern Ontario.

The larvae of this exotic pest are responsible for damaging the tree. It severs the tree's conductive tissues, interrupting the transport of water and nutrients. Adult females lay their eggs in two- and three-needled pine trees, including: Austrian, jack, red and Scotch pines.

"At this point, we don't know whether this is part of an established Michigan infestation," said MDA Director Mitch Irewin. "We don't anticipate this pest to have a major economic impact on the state's nursery, landscape and Christmas tree industries. We will, however, vigorously monitor this exotic pest and its potential to impact our forest systems."

The trap is one of more than 250 trapping locations established throughout Michigan through a cooperative effort that includes the USDA, MDA, DNR, Michigan Technological University and Michigan State University. This work is part of an international effort to delimit the extent of the infestation in North America.

"Since the Sirex find in New York we have been monitoring Michigan's pine resource," said DNR Director Rebecca A. Humphries. "The network of traps and trap trees established across Michigan will provide excellent data. This information will be used by the workgroup to assess and develop a proactive response."

Sirex Woodwasp is not expected to significantly impact healthy landscape pine trees in the state. Its impact on vigorous, well managed pine plantations in Michigan, while not yet fully defined, is likewise not anticipated to be severe.

For more information on this pest, please visit www.aphis.usda.gov, and in particular the USDA's Pest Alert on the Sirex Woodwasp.

Meetings

Sept. 10 & 11. Forest Guild Northeast Regional Meeting -- Lake Fairlee Camp, Fairlee, VT
Topic: Carbon and Forestry in the Northeast: Management, Measurements, and Markets
Lynn Daly, Registrar, lynn_daly@alohafoundation.org 802-333-3405

Oct. 17. Michigan Forest Competitiveness Conference, Lansing. Watch for special mailing on this soon.

Nov. 3. 5th Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop, Bryan Ohio. More info as available.

Nov. 3. MFA Chapter 11. Nov. 3, 2007. Jeff Tuller, Chairman -- jeff.tuller@straightturn.com 989-723-9522

New Grouse Trail Mix Available

The Ruffed Grouse Society reports the development of a seed mix for grouse walking trails, logging roads and decking areas. It contains four types of clover, birdsfoot trefoil and a small amount of chicory. The seed mix was developed by AMPAC Seed Company of 32727 Hwy. 99E - PO Box 318 Tangent, OR 97389.

Thanks –



A big thanks goes to Alan & Joyce Chapel, of Lapeer, for transporting and staffing the Wanigan several times this season. They transported it three times for a total of over 500 miles! This is an essential service if we are to take the trailer to a variety of events. Pictured at left is Alan Chapel preparing the trailer for another move.

Letters

Dear Michigan Forest Foundation,

Thank you for your recent gift toward our Forest Management Teachers Institute. The institute is being held this week and we have 17 participants! A final report will be sent to you in September.

Stacey Cotey, Michigan Technological University

(Your Forest Foundation contributed \$5,000 to this training event for teachers.)

Thank you for the scholarship. It is very much appreciated.

Dan Whitman

(Dan received a \$500 scholarship from the Mac Smith scholarship fund, which is part of the Michigan Forest Foundation.)