

# Leaves

## Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

**6120 South Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827**

**Phone & FAX 517-663-3423**

Volume XXV

**E-mail [miforest@acd.net](mailto:miforest@acd.net)**

October, 2007

**Web site: [www.michiganforests.com](http://www.michiganforests.com)**

Number 10

### Old News is Good News

Maybe it's old news by now, but MFA member **Mike Moore** sent a report that MFA member **NewPage Corporation**, which operates the paper mill in Escanaba, is exploring development of a plant to produce fuels from woody biomass at Escanaba. This exploration would be done pursuant to an agreement between NewPage and Chemrec AB, a Swedish company. The project would use black liquor, a byproduct of the paper-making process and normally considered a waste product. The liquor would be gasified and converted to higher value biochemicals and biofuels. Michigan State University has also been involved in this project through the research of Kris Berglund, professor of forestry and chemical engineering and materials science. Further information can be found at the web site of the MSU Office of Biobased Technologies, [www.bioeconomy.msu.edu](http://www.bioeconomy.msu.edu).

### Where will it be?

Rumors and reports abound of a proposed wood-based biofuels plant to be built somewhere in Michigan. Who knows where? There is surplus wood just about everywhere...

### New Report on Sustainable Wood Procurement

A new report from the World Resources Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) has released a publication on the effects of wood procurement practices related to where trees are harvested or purchased. It looks at 10 issues related to sustainability, recycled fiber and others. Find it on the WBCSD website.

### News of the Birds

Known among the DNR folks as "The Warbler", or "The Wobbler", or just "The Bird", the little Kirtland's warbler has been a hot topic within the organization off and on for decades. Was it worth the extra effort required to save this species from extinction? Some said "yes"; some said "no – we don't miss the dinosaurs, do we?" A recent news release from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources cites data showing a strong recovery over the past 30 years.

The Kirtland's warbler nests only in young jack pines 4 to 20 years old. The combination of active and effective fire control and poor timber markets for jack pine led to a gradual reduction of suitable young jack pine stands for warbler nesting. Population monitoring began in 1951; the lowest numbers since then were 167 pairs – all of them in the northeastern Lower Peninsula. However, active jack pine management programs begun in the 1970s with funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and leadership from DNR wildlife and forest management people, have resulted in a ten-fold increase in 2007, when surveys showed 1,697 pairs. What's more, "The Bird" was found to be nesting in Wisconsin this year (the first documented), and others were found across the Upper Peninsula and in northern Ontario.

DNR wildlife biologist Elaine Carlson noted, "In addition to generating habitat for the Kirtland's warbler, the jack pine management program provides valuable forest products as well a habitat for a variety of plants, songbirds, game animals and other wildlife." Mark this down – it's a government program that worked. More information can be found on the DNR web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

### Changing Your E-mail Address?

When you send your new address, please don't forget to include your name. Sometimes it's not reflected in the e-mail address and we have trouble figuring out who you are.

### Renewal Time

Many of you will find a renewal notice folded inside your newsletter. It will indicate the level of dues you paid last year. You may change your level simply by circling the desired new level, writing in the new amount and sending a check for the appropriate amount. Your prompt attention to this will be appreciated.

## Fires Burning up Budgets

"The Jackson Hole *Star Tribune* has reported that an analysis of the US Forest Service budget shows the agency might soon spend virtually all of its average annual \$4.5 billion federal appropriation fighting fires that threaten homes on the rim of national forests. The report, which was issued by Headwaters Economics, a nonprofit consulting firm in Bozeman, Montana, found that the nation's taxpayers are bound to spend even more as increasingly affluent Westerners continue to seek solace in wild country subdivisions. For more information, visit the *Star Tribune* website."

And, according to a study done at Colorado State University, people are moving into the so-called "Wildland Urban Interface" in increasing numbers. This is having effects on national forest budgets and management. More information is available at the Colorado State University website and the site of *The Coloradoan*. *The E-forester*.

## New Urban Forestry Guide Available

The US Forest Service has produced a guide for development, management and protection of urban forest resources, helping managers deal with the many stress factors faced by urban trees. View The Technical Guide to Urban Forestry at the website of the Forest Service's Northeastern Area. *The E-forester*.

## New Bugs Being Checked Out

"Entomologists at Virginia Tech are studying a beetle from Japan that may be a natural predator of Adelges tsugae, or hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Scientists hope the beetle will curb the rapid spread of the HWA without damaging forest ecosystems. This story may be found on the Virginia Tech News website." *The E-forester*.

## Meetings

- Nov. 3 5th Tri-state Woodland & Wildlife Workshop. 8:15 – 4:00 Bryan Middle School, 1301 Center St., Bryan, OH Register online at <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu> or by calling MSU Extension at 517-788-4292
- Nov. 3 MFA Chapter 11 contact Jeff Tuller at [jeff.tuller@straightturn.com](mailto:jeff.tuller@straightturn.com) 989-723-9522
- Nov. 3 Step it Up 2 – Who's a Leader? West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Sierra Club and others host an event to learn more about what our elected officials are doing to lead us toward a new energy future.
- Nov. 9 MFA board of directors meeting. Hartwick Pines State Park, Grayling, MI
- June 23 – 25, 2008 Crisis or Opportunity? Sustaining and Strengthening Forest-Based Industries in the Great Lakes Region. Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin