

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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About your Michigan Out-of-Doors magazine ...

Several people have asked why the renewal of their MOOD magazine was not listed as an option on their dues notices. Good question. The answer is that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), publisher of the magazine, will bill you directly.

Other members asked about the expiration date shown on their address labels. It was listed as February. That has been corrected to July.

Thanks for noticing these things and bringing them to our attention.

Emerald Ash Borer Discovered in U.P. --- again – and yet again

A second and then a third discovery of the ash borer have been made in the U.P. The new ones are near Moran and at Straits State Park, both in Mackinac County. The first one in the U.P., at Brimley appears to have been eradicated, but it also appears that people are continuing to ignore or defy the ban on moving firewood across the bridge. The outlook isn't good if we don't change our ways.

Meanwhile, the USDA is researching the possibility of fighting this exotic pest with some of its native biological enemies. According to a report by James Bowes of the Michigan Department of Agriculture published in The Michigan Landscape, field trials of three tiny parasitic wasps were begun last summer.

We are asked to watch for any new suspected outbreaks in the U.P. or the level II quarantine zone, which includes the northern Lower Peninsula, about 10 counties in southwestern Lower Michigan and Huron & Tuscola counties in the Thumb. Up-to-date information on the quarantine zones and the signs and symptoms of the ash borer can be found on the web sites: www.michigan.gov/eab and www.emeraldashborer.info.

DNR Accepting Applications for Tree City USA and Tree Line USA

Communities and utilities have until December 31 to apply for Tree City or Tree Line designations, according to a DNR news release. These designations are intended to work for the health and long-term care of trees along community streets and utility lines.

There are 4 criteria for the Tree City USA: 1) have a designated tree board or responsible department; 2) have a community tree ordinance; 3) spend an average of at least \$2 per capita on tree-related activities; and 4) have an annual Arbor day proclamation and celebration during the calendar year.

The 3 criteria for utility certification as Tree Line USA are: 1) demonstrate the use of proper tree care practices near utilities; 2) provide evidence of annual worker training for tree care; and 3) provide evidence of public education and commitment to community tree planting.

Application forms can be found online at <http://www.mi.gov/dnrtcusa>. For more information, contact Kevin Sayers, Urban Forestry Program Coordinator for the DNR at 517-241-4632 or sayersk@mi.gov.

Michigan House Bill Would Relax Easement Restrictions

House Bill 4981 was introduced in the House in June. It would "revise the law governing the grant of roadway easements over state-owned land to individuals owning nearby private land." An analysis of the bill is available at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

House and Senate Call for Renewable Fuels

The House of Representatives adopted a resolution last month calling for meeting 25% of the nation's fuel needs with renewable resources by 2025. The Senate passed the same resolution in June. This move to establish an energy policy for the nation should help with resource management issues, eventually.

Georgia Picks Pine Over Corn

According to the *Savannah Morning News*, Range Fuels was to start work on the nation's first commercial cellulosic ethanol plant in Georgia. It is projected to produce 40 million gallons of ethanol and 9 million gallons of methanol annually.

"Although researchers are looking at everything from fast-growing eucalyptus to switch grass for the sources, state forestry officials, university researchers, politicians, and investors have largely focused on wood materials, particularly by-products from Georgia's nearly \$18 billion industry."

The e-forester

Schwarzenegger Vetoes Bill Mandating LEED Standards

"California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has vetoed state Assembly Bill 888, which would have required builders to reach the LEED "gold" rating for commercial buildings larger than 50,000 square feet. Schwarzenegger, who has made environmental protection a cornerstone of his administration, wrote in a letter to the state assembly that, 'if implemented, provisions in this bill would create a bias for certain building materials over others without a clear benefit. For instance, the use of construction materials made from California forest products is highly discouraged in favor of foreign grown bamboo and wheatgrass."

The e-forester

New Deer Regulations Proposed

The following appeared on the agenda for the Natural Resources Commission Nov. 8 meeting:

"Bovine tuberculosis (TB) continues to be a concern in free-ranging deer and elk of Northeast Michigan. Disease control permits were created to assist agricultural landowners in managing deer on their property in a county with one or more documented cases of TB. This amendment changes the definition of landowners eligible to receive disease control permits, from agricultural landowners to any landowner in a county with a documented case of TB. Landowners within 30 miles of a documented case of TB, even if their residence is outside of the county, are eligible to receive these permits. Expansion of disease control permits from agricultural landowners to any landowner will increase the Department's ability to manage deer in these counties. The increase in the TB incidence rate in 2006 underscores the need to more broadly apply the tools used to manage deer populations.

In addition to expanding the type of landowner eligible to receive these permits, this amendment will replace the plastic seal used to tag a deer with the same tag as utilized for deer damage control permits.

Disease control permits will also be available to landowners for chronic wasting disease (CWD) or other disease in deer as determined by the Director.

One technical change with this resubmittal is eliminating the requirement of possessing a valid deer hunting license to utilize a deer disease control permit during a deer season."

The commission's minutes had not been posted as of this writing, so we don't know whether the new regulations were approved.