

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Annual Meeting at St. Charles in August

Learn about cougars and wild boars in Michigan. EAT wild boar at the Friday night barbecue!
(See insert.)

Personals

Executive Director Emeritus **McClain "Mac" Smith** sends greetings from Ann Arbor, where he is still battling the cancer that forced him to retire. "Some days are better than others", he says. "I don't do much of anything and it takes me all day to do that!" He advises us all to "Stay cool" in these days of warming temperatures. Mac's address is 1558 Barrington, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

MFA vice president **Dave Wright** reports he is continuing to improve with his brain cancer treatments.

Wanigan's Travels

Our educational trailer, the "Wanigan", has made an appearance at the Delta Township "Greener Delta" event at Grand Ledge and is on the way to Lapeer for "Wild Lapeer" day later this month. Next, it will be at Grayling in mid-May for the Kirtland Warbler Festival. Thanks to **Ron Bullen, Keith Abrahamson, Alan & Joyce Chapel, Ted Reuschel, Jerry Thiede** and **Leon Erbe** for transport and staffing. We are still looking for volunteers.

Board meeting in Trout Lake

The boards of directors of the association and the foundation will meet Friday, May 9, at **John & Squeek Van Dyke's** Wegwas Lodge at Trout Lake. If you'd like to attend and are not a board member, you're welcome. Please notify the MFA office at the above number so we'll be sure to have food for you.

Woodland Hospitality

Thanks for your response to our appeal for woodlands available for school groups. We've had several offers from Genessee to Baraga counties. We could use more...

Scholarships still available

The board of directors of the Michigan Forest Foundation has approved scholarships for high school students to attend a week-long forestry program at the Trees for Tomorrow camp in northern Wisconsin. If you know of interested individuals, please notify the MFA office.

A scholarship is still available for a teacher to attend the Teachers' Workshop at Escanaba sponsored by the Temperate Forest Foundation.

Applications are still being accepted for the McClain B. Smith, Jr. scholarship for students of forestry or natural resources management. Contact the MFA office.

Only You....

April and May are Michigan's worst fire months. And most of our fires start as a result of debris burning. DNR fire prevention specialist Paul Kollmeyer warns "It only takes a short time after the snow recedes to dry out the dead grass and leaves..." Any open burning requires a burning permit. In southern Michigan, permits are available from local fire departments; in the U.P. and northern Lower Peninsula they can be obtained from the DNR online at www.michigan.gov/burnpermit or by calling toll-free 866-922-2876. Burning permits are free of charge.

New Legislation

Senate Bill 1069 and House Bill 5698 would provide incentives for landowners to protect their land from development. The incentives would be in the form of state income tax credit. Both bills are currently in committee. Senator Tony Stamas of Midland and Representative Joel Sheltroun of West Branch are sponsors.

"At the federal level, effective in 2006, Congress raised the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of adjusted gross income in any year to 50%; allowed qualifying landowners to deduct up to 100% of their income; and extended the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for voluntary conservation agreements from 5 to 15 years. The federal incentive expired December 31, 2007, but efforts are underway to permanently extend the tax incentives for conservation easement donations and bargain sales. The Senate version of the Farm Bill includes a permanent and retroactive extension." H.R. 1576 is a stand-alone bill that would make the easement incentive permanent.

Heart of the Lakes Newsletter

Alternative Energy

Federal fuel buyers are now required to give preference to qualified biobased fuel products under a "BioPreferred" program administered by USDA.

Michigan Farm News

Vortex Hydro Energy, of Ann Arbor, plans a demonstration of power generation from the current of the Detroit River. The project would be used to power lights on a dock near Hart Plaza. Unlike turbines, this system would not alter the flow of the river nor interfere with fish migration.

Energy Tidbits

"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) a grant of \$100,000 to conduct a wood stove change-out program. The goal of the program is to replace older inefficient wood-burning stoves with the latest technologically advanced stoves available in the industry. Generally, a wood burning appliance installed prior to 1990 is eligible for change-out.

"The 2008 Woodstove Change-out Grant Program is a collaborative effort between the DEQ; Michigan United Conservation Clubs; Hearth, Patio, and Barbeque Association; and EPA. The goal of this program is to reduce total air emissions of particulate matter from wood smoke, while extracting more usable heat energy from the wood being burned."

Contact the DEQ at 800-662-9278

Michigan Farm News

Interesting Meetings

May 9, Trout Lake, MI. **Michigan Forest Association** board of directors meeting. Contact MFA 517-663-3423, or miforest@acd.net.

May 30 – June 1, The **Master Woodland Steward** Program will be offered at R.A. MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake, Michigan. Contact Roscommon County MSU Extension Office 989-275-4670 or log onto www.for.msu.edu/mws

June 23 -25, Madison, Wis. **Crisis or Opportunity?** Sustaining and Strengthening Forest-Based Industries in the Great Lakes Region.

For a more thorough list of upcoming events, visit <http://www.miforestpathways.net/1-calendar.htm>.