

# Leaves

## Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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

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### Association News

## Annual Meeting at St. Charles August 15 & 16

Sign up now for the Annual Meeting at Hartley Outdoor Education Center at St. Charles.

**Registration form** can be found at <http://www.michiganforests.com/2008annmtgreg.pdf>

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### A letter from the President

I recently attended a Great Lakes Forest Alliance conference in Madison, WI entitled "Crisis or Opportunity". The general view was that the regional forest-based economy is being shrunk by severe international competition. In Michigan we are seeing those pressures, and far more, across most sectors of our economy. We lead the nation in economic crisis! Opportunity can be forced by crisis. Hard times make us seek new paths and search for opportunity that in good times we are blinded to by comfortable habit.

On to the opportunity – we have gained in our efforts to get the many organizations with interest in Michigan's forests' myriad of benefits to come together and work on a plan for encouraging sustainable use of our great resource and to educate our citizens. A very diverse and comprehensive group, far too many organizations to list here, has committed to an ongoing effort to find areas of cooperation and innovation for serving private forest owners and the citizens of our state. The timing of this effort could not be more opportune. There is a wave of change on the horizon.

The vacuum left by changes in the economic use of our forests, forced by global competition, is drawing us toward revolutionary change. The great need for alternative energy sources and mitigation of atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions is pulling our forest-based economy towards an exciting new and different future. The importance of working together to guide the path of these changes could not be greater.

Meeting these challenges will require our best collective efforts. The Michigan Forest Association should provide leadership and energy to shape the response to these forces. Our membership has an opportunity to provide the vision, human energy and funds. We need people willing to offer their time and ideas. If you cannot physically help, your donation of funding for this process can make your Michigan Forest Association heard. I believe we have a very special moment in time that is critical in shaping how we use and sustain Michigan's forests for many decades.

The people of our state a century hence should be able to look back to our time as one of crisis averted and opportunity seized. In the early 1900s, people with vision set us on a path to sustainable multiple use and growing benefits by developing and implementing the concept of Conservation. The members of the Michigan Forest Association need to recognize that we are now seeing our time and opportunity to shape the next century of Michigan forest Conservation. Forces of tremendous change are on their way and how we face them will determine whether they bring crisis or opportunity.

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Watch this newsletter for more information as things develop. Ed.

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

We have had several questions about this. Michigan United Conservation Clubs, publisher of the magazine, is now handling the subscriptions. You will save \$2 per year through this change. Most subscriptions expire at the end of July, so now is the appropriate time to pay. Sorry for the confusion this may have caused.

## **NOTICE TO M F A MEMBERS**

Amendments are proposed to the MFA Bylaws, articles IX and X. The current and proposed wording for these articles are provided below. Action will be taken at the MFA annual meeting at St. Charles on Saturday, August 16 at 5 P.M.

### **ARTICLE IX OF THE BYLAWS AS IT CURRENTLY READS:**

#### **ARTICLE IX Presidents and Vice Presidents**

Section 1: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee. The President shall appoint the chairperson of each standing committee and shall sign all contracts made for and in behalf of the Association. The immediate past President shall be an ex officio member of the Board.

Section 2: The President and Treasurer shall have authority to execute all deeds and nonfiscal documents for and on behalf of the Association.

Section 3: The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall assist the President and shall preside in the event of sickness or inability of the President to perform the duties imposed upon, or incident to, the office of the President. In the event both the President and the Vice President become indisposed the Board will designate a Board member to serve as President.

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### **ARTICLE X OF THE BYLAWS AS IT WILL READ IF THE AMENDMENT IS APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THEIR BOARD MEETING ON May 9, 2008:**

#### **Article IX Presidents and Vice Presidents**

Section 1: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee. The President shall appoint the chairperson of each standing committee and shall sign all contracts made for and in behalf of the Association.

Section 2: The immediate past President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board and shall chair the Nominating Committee.

Section 3: The President and Treasurer shall have authority to execute all deeds and nonfiscal documents for and on behalf of the Association.

Section 4: The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall assist the President in the event of the President's sickness or inability to perform the duties of the President. The Vice President shall chair the Legislative Committee.

Section 5: In the event both the President and the Vice President become indisposed, the Treasurer will preside. If the Treasurer is indisposed, the Board will designate a Board member to serve as President.

**ARTICLE X OF THE BYLAWS AS IT CURRENTLY READS:**

**ARTICLE X  
Treasurer**

Section 1: The Treasurer is responsible for supervising the collection, protection, and disbursement of all association funds. The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the operating budget and insuring that obligations do not exceed income during the fiscal year. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping the President and Board informed at all times of the Association's financial situation.

Section 2: The Treasurer will have the financial records of the Association audited annually at the close of each fiscal year. At the request of the Treasurer, the President will appoint an ad hoc committee of three Board members to audit the collection and disbursement of the Association's money. The auditing committee's report will be submitted to the Association at the first Board meeting of the new fiscal year and will become a permanent part of the Association's financial records.

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**ARTICLE X OF THE BYLAWS AS IT WILL READ IF THE AMENDMENT IS APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THEIR BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2008:**

**Article X  
Treasurer**

Section 1: The treasurer shall serve as Chief Financial Officer of the Association and chairman of the finance committee as described in article VIII, Section 2. This includes overseeing the formation of the annual budget, financial activity and investment of association funds.

Section 2: The treasurer shall preside in the absence of the president and vice president.

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***Other Fascinating News***

**Keep off the Grass.** Michigan State Police are asking people to be on the alert for marijuana plants. Growers often set out their plants in openings in the woods, farm fields, backyards and the shores of lakes, streams and swamps. To report a suspected marijuana grow site, call 1-800-235-HEMP (4367). Callers can remain anonymous.

**Alcohol from Wood.** Mascoma Corp. will build a fuel-grade ethanol plant south of Sault Ste. Marie that will use wood as the raw material. This is a result of cooperative agreements with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, JM Longyear, Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University. It is Mascoma's first commercial-scale plant. Look for more information at [www.mascoma.com](http://www.mascoma.com).

Bill Cook

**Biomass Facility Slated for Construction Near Marquette.** Renewafuel LLC, a subsidiary of Cleveland Cliffs Inc., will build a \$10 million plant to make 150,000 tons of high-energy, low-emission bio-fuel cubes annually. The plant will be located at the Sawyer International Airport. The fuel produce will be used as an alternative to coal at some of Cleveland Cliffs' mining operations.

Lansing State Journal

**Woody Biomass Website.** The Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council has launched a new website dedicated to promoting woody biomass as an alternative fuel source. Its purpose is to provide a clearinghouse for information across the U.P. Check it out at [www.upwoodybiomass.org](http://www.upwoodybiomass.org).

Tom Ward

**Wolf! Wolf!** The DNR is seeking information on the killing of a wolf in June in Delta County. Conservation officers and wildlife personnel found the wolf's radio collar in the woods north of Bark River. It had been cut from the animal; the collar was all that was found. This particular wolf had been wearing the collar since 2001 and had contributed much to the DNR's knowledge of wolf movements and activities. A reward is offered for information leading to apprehension of the perpetrators. Contact the Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800.

**"Don't Mess with Coaster Brook Trout"** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has filed a voluminous science-based response to the decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that found coaster brook trout could be an endangered fish, and thus be placed on the Federal endangered species list.

The USFWS made the preliminary determination based on a petition filed by the Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter and the Huron Mountain Club in what appears to be an attempt to block a new mine near Marquette. The coaster brook trout are found throughout the state, particularly in a river that runs near the mining site.

The DNR response contains scientific evidence that refutes many of the criteria claimed in the SUFWS order. The DNR believes that placing the coaster brook trout on the endangered species list would have a considerable impact on how fishing would be done in the Great Lakes. DNR Fisheries Division Chief Kelley Smith said such a decision "would create issues for timber harvest and impact oil, gas and mineral exploration."

Michigan Forest Products Council

**Skidder Safety Video Released** The Forest Resources Association has released a new Skidder Safety and Efficiency Video, designed for logging professionals to use at employee safety training meetings. With the assistance of a 17-page discussion leader's guide, a logging contractor or foreman can use the 19-minute DVD to lead a two-hour workshop.

The video provides a means for loggers to improve the implementation of appropriate safety routines, maintenance measures, and overall efficiency while personnel are on or near a skidder. Units cover "Skidding and the Environment," "Best Management Practices," "Skidding Safety," "Additional Safety Tips for Cable Skidders," and "Lock-out/Tag-out."

FRA has also developed a power-point program and leader's guide on Northern Forestry Aesthetics.

Forest Resources Association members may order the video, in DVD format, and guide and/or the aesthetics workshop CD and guide at \$50 per set, domestic shipping included; the price is \$100 per set for non-members. Forest Resources Association, 600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 350, Rockville, MD 20852 301-838-9385.

### **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 encourage them to apply.

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

## **Interesting Meetings**

July 20 – 25, Higgins Lake, Michigan. The Academy of Natural Resources. Contact Kevin Frailey, [Fraileyk@michigan.gov](mailto:Fraileyk@michigan.gov) or 517-373-7306

August 15 –16 St. Charles, MI. Michigan Forest Association annual meeting. See page 1 of this newsletter or visit the MFA web site at [www.michiganforests.com](http://www.michiganforests.com).

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