

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Dues notices will be coming out soon to most of you. The board of directors voted to set annual dues at \$40, so if you have been paying at the \$35 level, please be prepared for this modest increase.

Also in the dues notice will be a request for information on your **forest property**. We will ask for acres by county. This is to give us an idea how much forest land we collectively represent. No information will be disseminated with your name on it. We hope you will help us with this information.

A news release went out a couple of weeks ago asking for information on **famous and/or historic trees** in Michigan. This is a follow-up to a project MFA did in 1976 with a grant from the Bicentennial Commission. We have received some interesting nominations; if you know of a tree or group of trees with historic significance, please send the information to the MFA office. This project is being headed by MFA members **Mike Moore, Kevin Sayers** and Bill Botti.

Several members have responded to our appeal for volunteers to serve on deer advisory committees to the DNR. Thanks to you all for your interest – the representatives have not yet been selected.

MFA member **Kevin Kalmbach**, of Grand Rapids has suggested we poll the membership on various issues from time to time. His first suggested topic is "**What are you doing to keep the deer from eating your little trees? How well does it work?**" Please respond via e-mail or U.S. Mail to the MFA office and we'll publish the results in the magazine. Thanks, Kevin, for the idea. We will entertain other topics for future issues. Please send us your ideas.

Are you planning a Chapter or other regional event? Let us know so we can help publicize it. There may be help available, too, in the form of mailing labels and postage from the MFA office.

Your MUCC dues and magazine subscription will be billed directly from MUCC. You won't receive a second bill from MFA for the Michigan Out-of-Doors magazine.

Wood Energy

Booze-making bugs. According to researchers from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth, they and Mascoma Corporation have engineered a new bacterium that decomposes wood at high temperature and produces ethanol as its only product.

The e-forester

Mascoma Corp. is reportedly getting closer to its goal of building an ethanol plant in the eastern Upper Peninsula that would use wood as a feedstock. Agreements are said to have been reached with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, JM Longyear, Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University that will help make Mascoma's first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant a reality.

Wisconsin Woodland Management

Pennsylvania has developed guidelines for **harvesting forest biomass** as an alternative energy source. Information is available on the web site of the PA Department of Conservation. MFA is participating in a Michigan effort to develop similar guidelines.

The e-forester

A wood pellet plant is scheduled to open in Hayward, Wisconsin this fall, according to the Great Lakes Timber Professional. The plant will be able to use any species of wood that grows in Wisconsin and is expected to provide a much-needed market for the low-grade wood that crowds many forest stands.

Ash Borer News

Now it's in the western U.P. The emerald ash borer has now been found in Laurium, in Houghton County. It was found in an old cemetery and appears to have been there for a number of years. Bill Cook

Natural enemies released in Indiana. Enemies of the ash borer, that is – it's a species of wasp that lays its eggs in the eggs of ash borers. The wasp larvae hatch out and eat the ash borer eggs from the inside out. The release was done in June by researchers at Purdue University, with permits from the Indiana and U.S. Departments of Agriculture.

Wisconsin Woodland Management

Purple traps are part of a nationwide survey effort. They have probably been taken down by now, but the purple traps that appeared in the U.P. generated a lot of questions. They were designed to get an idea of how widespread the ash borer is in that region, rather than waiting until the trees start showing the symptoms. Why purple? Evidently the bug has royal tastes.

The Michigan Landscape

Sudden Oak Death

Sudden Oak Death is a fungus disease affecting oaks in California and Oregon. It hasn't shown up in the wild anywhere else, but it has been found in nurseries in 20 states. Researchers at the ARS Soil Plant Nutrient Research Unit at Fort Collins, Colorado and US Forest Service have discovered that extracts from Alaska yellow cedar heartwood will slow the spread of the disease. The disease is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora ramorum*, a relative of the fungus that causes potato blight (*P. infestans*). The fungus and the disease were unknown before 1990.

The Michigan Landscape

Deer Baiting and Feeding Banned

Since the confirmation of a case of **Chronic Wasting Disease** (CWD) in Lower Michigan in August, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has implemented its response plan by banning all baiting and feeding of deer in the Lower Peninsula. This does not apply to food plots or farm fields, but does prohibit placing or scattering anything to attract or feed deer. Baiting and feeding may still take place in the Upper Peninsula under certain restrictions. More information is available on the web site www.michigan.gov/chronicwastingdisease.

The Michigan Farm Bureau, citing Michigan's failure to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from the state's deer herd, has come out in support of the feeding and baiting ban, even though it will hurt some of its members. The MFA board has not met since the ban was issued. The next meeting is November 7 and this will likely be on the agenda.

Interesting Meetings

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