

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

6120 South Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Phone & FAX 517-663-3423

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E-mail miforest@acd.net

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Web site: www.michiganforests.com

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Association News

We are sad to report the passing of our friend and former executive director, McClain B. "Mac" Smith, Jr. on Oct. 29. Arrangements for a memorial service are incomplete now; we'll let you know as soon as we hear. Likewise, we've not yet heard of preferred causes for donations. Mac was our director for 18 years, having retired in the spring of 2007. He was afflicted by mesothelioma, the form of cancer commonly associated with asbestos exposure.

There's a good flow of dues payments coming in now in response to last month's mailing. Thanks to all of you for responding so quickly. We are also getting good information from you on acreage owned. Ownerships vary in size from 1/2-acre to thousands of acres.

MFA member **Walter Huber** sent a donation to the annual meeting saying he was sorry he couldn't attend, but wanted to support it because "(MFA) is a great organization." Thanks, Walter.

We have over 30 good responses of Famous & Historic Trees in response to our news release seeking locations of such trees. The most recent was a large cedar tree kept by a settler to provide shade for his horses. The settler received a land grant from President Grant in 1873.

Several of you have sent in suggestions for keeping deer from eating your little trees. Thanks – we'll try to get them in the winter magazine. There's still time to get a note to us on what you're doing. Please let us know by the middle of this month.

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.

Alternative Energy

E85 now available. With over 1,800 fueling stations available nationwide, the blended 85% ethanol/15% gasoline fuel called E85 is coming into its own, reports the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition. Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri have the most stations with 357, 188 and 112, respectively. Michigan has 95. But don't plan to spend a lot of time in your E85 car in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Alaska or Hawaii – they don't have any stations yet. Michigan Farm News

Heat-Treat that Firewood. The U.S. Dept of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has issued a federal order requiring all hardwood firewood entering the United States from Canada to be heat-treated. The e-forester

Michigan Tech / Wolverine Power Team up for Research. Wolverine Power Cooperative has asked Michigan Tech to help determine the feasibility of using waste wood for power generation. The e-forester

Windmills OK under P.A. 116. The Michigan Department of Agriculture has clarified language in the Open Space Act, stating that erection of wind generators will not disqualify lands from listing under the act. Michigan Farm News

Forest Health

Now it's in the central U.P. The emerald ash borer has now been found in Delta County near the village of Garden Corners. Bill Cook

Forests to Benefit from Climate Change; Acid Rain. "After more than 20 years of research in the northern hardwood forests of Michigan, scientists at Michigan Technological University's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science have reached a surprising conclusion: Moderate increases in temperature and nitrogen from atmospheric pollution actually improve forest productivity. The e-forester

Beech Bark Disease is killing native beech trees across the eastern Upper Peninsula and northwestern Lower Peninsula. Forest health specialists in the Department of Natural Resources have recommended a ban on movement of beech logs or firewood from July 15 to November 15.

Wildlife News

Blue Tongue Killed Deer near Clinton River. Blue Tongue, or epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) appears responsible for a die-off of about 50 deer in Oakland and Macomb counties. This virus disease has been around a long time and is not considered a threat to the deer herd statewide. It is spread by insect bites. It is not transmitted from one animal to another and not transmissible to humans. Michigan Farm News

Blast 'em if You See 'em. Officials from the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources encourage hunters to kill any wild hogs they might see during the deer hunting season. Wild hogs have been seen in most Michigan counties in recent years. They pose a threat to forest reproduction, to other wildlife and to domestic hogs, so blast 'em if you see 'em. Michigan Farm News

Kirtland's Warbler Population at Record High. This year's census of the Kirtland's Warbler, our rare and endangered little bird of the jack pines, counted 1,791 singing males. That's the highest number since counts began in 1951. The low point was 167, reached both in 1974 and 1987. So the birds have increased tenfold in the past 20 years. This is largely due to a recovery plan that has involved planting or seeding about 3,000 acres annually. It is a good combination of commercial harvest and artificial regeneration, demonstrating that commercial timber harvest can be used to the benefit of endangered species.

The warblers have spread from their traditional habitat in the northern Lower Peninsula to places in the Upper Peninsula, northern Wisconsin and Ontario. Definitely good news for these little birds. DNR listserve

Timber Markets

World paper markets are expected to continue to increase, according to an article in the September issue of MediaPost. Even though recycling is at record levels, virgin fiber is still the primary resource, as fiber can only be reused about six times. The e-forester

Miscellaneous News

Safety Videos Available. Three new safety training are available from the Forest Resources Association. Subjects of the videos are : Log Loader Safety for Truck Operators, Load Securement for Logs: Tree Length and Cut Up Wood, Skidder Safety and Efficiency. Information is available from Forest Resources Association, Inc. 600 Jefferson Plaza, Suit4e 350, Rockville MD 20852. Phone 301-838-9385.

Forestry Tour to Chile. Dr. Frederick J. Smith, Vice president of Anglatin Ltd, invites us to accompany him to Chile in early March, 2009. Says Dr. Smith: "I will be the guide. We will visit the best of Chile, see world class forestry sites, and of course enjoy the Chilean cuisine and wine." More information is available at his web site www.anglatin.com.

Putting Trees to Work. "Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers and colleagues are working to find out whether energy from trees can power a network of sensors to prevent spreading forest fires. What they learn also could raise the possibility of using trees as silent sentinels along the nation's borders to detect potential threats such as smuggled radioactive materials. The e-forester

Czech this. The Czech Republic has adopted a new forest program that will enhance the forests by introducing different kinds of trees and limit the numbers of game. This program is intended to reverse some of the damage done to the forests during 40 years of communist rule.

The e-forester

Michigan Tech Places at Forestry Conclave. In September, Michigan Tech hosted the Midwestern Forestry Conclave in which forestry students compete in various events of skill and daring. Southern Illinois University placed first, University of Missouri was second, and Michigan Tech placed third. Tech placed first in wood identification, dendrology (tree identification) and match splitting. Tech students also placed in the men's bolt throw, men's pulp toss, women's pulp toss, women's tobacco spit, men's tobacco spit and men's log roll.

Bill Cook

Leader Cows? "Cattle can sense the earth's magnetic field and often use it to face north or south when grazing or resting, according to research published by a German scientist in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The scientist used GoogleEarth.com to view and analyze images of 8,500 cows in 300 pastures around the world. The position of the sun and wind direction were not a factor in the cattle's tendency to face north or south. Deer showed similar alignment patterns, according to the study."

Michigan Farm News

Soy stops mosquitoes. "The results are in – soy oil is a promising solution for mosquito infestations. The United Soybean Board (USB) and soybean check-off recently helped develop a soy based larvicide. The larvicide was sprayed from a helicopter to test its effectiveness in killing mosquito larvae in a pond near Gillette, Wyo. Emulsified methyl soyate was sprayed onto the pond to prevent mosquito larvae from surfacing to take in air. After 24 hours, the larvicide demonstrated a 75 percent control rate of the larvae with no impact on nontarget species. After 16 days, greater than 90 percent control of the mosquito larvae continued."

Michigan Farm News

Interesting Meetings

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