

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Web site: www.michiganforests.com

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Association News

Register Now for Annual Meeting!

Join us at Cedarville

There's still time to reserve the weekend of August 21 & 22 on your calendar for the MFA annual meeting at Cedarville. A registration form is available on the MFA web site at <http://michiganforests.com/meeting2009.htm>

Visit the wooden boat school.
Evening cruise among the Les Chenaux Islands.
Much more!

Presentations on wild birds and **Carbon** credits.
Visit award-winning Tree Farm

Children's activities are being planned.

Find the entire meeting agenda on the MFA website at www.michiganforests.com

MFA Bus Tour to Biltmore Estate & Great Smoky Mtns

Your initial response to the bus tour has been strong. The bus is **half full** and the trip isn't 'til October. The members-only time has expired, so, if you have non-member friends who might be interested, feel free to invite them. The dates are Oct. 22-25; the cost is \$619 per person, double occupancy; \$839 single occupancy. \$150 will reserve a seat for you – make check to "Gail Andrus Travel" and send it to MFA at 6120 S. Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, 48827.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Wolf! Wolf! I can't remember what we reported last about the listing of the wolf on the endangered species list. Whatever it was, it has changed. According to a Department of Natural Resources news release on July 1, the gray wolf was removed from the list in May and reinstated in June. The importance of this is that it is no longer legal to shoot a wolf that is killing your animals.

DNR Listerve

Forest Health

Wasps released to control ash borer. A tiny wasp was released in Evanston, Illinois this summer that may help control damage from the emerald ash borer. The wasp lays its eggs in the eggs of the ash borer. The tiny wasp larvae then hatch inside the borer's egg and eat it from the inside out. The wasps are specialized to prey only on ash borers; they pose no danger to animals or humans. Initial releases are in urban environments. Reportedly there have been encouraging tests in Michigan.

Evanston News

Insecticides for ash borer are described in a new bulletin that “provides the most up-to-date information and research on if, when, and how to treat ash trees.” Find it at emeraldashborer.info.
The e-forester

Improved American Chestnut may soon be available. Researchers at the University of Georgia have developed a means for inserting an anti-fungal gene into the DNA of American chestnut. They hope this will lead to blight-resistant chestnut. The chestnut blight devastated eastern North American forests in the first half of the twentieth century by killing virtually all of the American chestnut, which was the dominant species in many areas. The root systems have survived by sending up sprouts, providing chestnut material for research.
The e-forester

Hybrid Chestnut being developed at Purdue. Researchers at Purdue University have developed a chestnut that is about 94% American and 6% Chinese. The Chinese species has resistance to the blight; that trait has been bred into the new hybrid. Trees should be available for planting in the next decade.
The e-forester

Alternative Energy

NewPage has discontinued work on **biofuels gasification** at their pulp and paper mill at Escanaba. They had announced a joint venture in 2007 with Chemrec AB, of Sweden. High costs were cited as the major reason for the change in plans. They may take another look at it in the future.
Bill Cook

Clean Energy Act passes House. The US House of Representatives passed HR 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, on June 26. It includes an expanded definition of renewable biomass, making it much more likely that private forests will benefit from its provisions.

Interesting Events

MFA Annual Meeting at Cedar Campus near Cedarville Aug. 21 & 22

MFA bus tour to Biltmore Estate and Great Smokey Mts. Oct. 22 – 25

See Bill Cook's Michigan Forest Pathways web site for a complete list.

Miscellaneous

It was a very good year... Michigan's maple syrup production this year was the highest since 1947. This year's production of 115,000 gallons was 10% above last year's take. Michigan ranked 5th in the nation this year, behind Vermont, Maine, New York and Wisconsin, respectively. Wisconsin set a record at 200,000 gallons – up 33% from last year.
Michigan Farm News

Zebra mussel shells are useful for keeping squirrels from eating spring flower bulbs. Ground-up shells added to the soil add a distasteful texture to the ground that prevents the squirrels from devouring the bulbs. The shells will not prevent deer from eating the shoots that develop from the bulbs, however.
Huron Pines eConservation Trivia