

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

MFA Bus Tour to Biltmore Estate & Great Smoky Mtns. Contrary to what you may have heard, the bus tour is STILL ON. The dates are Oct. 22-25; the cost is \$619 per person, double occupancy; \$839 single occupancy. There may be a few seats still available -- call "Gail Andrus Travel" at 616-363-9835 or 800-532-231.

Confusion – R – Us. Sorry for the confusion on the dues notices. The original notice said to send all checks made out to Michigan Forest Association. We should have said to make Foundation contributions payable to Michigan Forest Foundation. So, in an attempt to correct the situation, we sent a notice to make checks payable to the foundation. Here's the real deal: dues payments should be payable to Michigan Forest Association; contributions to the foundation can be written to Michigan Forest Foundation. As for the checks we've received, we'll transfer the donations to the foundation. Thanks for your quick responses.

Help Your neighbor. Please note you can give a one-year membership in MFA for \$20. Great Christmas gift!

New Items in the MFA Store. We have a couple of new items in the MFA store -- MFA Tee shirts at \$20 each and ceramic mugs from the annual meeting for \$5. Order from the MFA office in Eaton Rapids.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Unfair Game. An Illinois man faces up to 90 days in jail and several thousand dollars in fines for illegally purchasing fish and game and for illegally purchasing resident fishing licenses. DNR listerve

Migrating Birds Aren't Fussy. A study at Purdue University suggests overnight stops for migrating birds just need to provide the basics – food and protection. Woodlots in the middle of agricultural fields are as well-used as wilder, more remote spots. The e-forester

Forest Health

CRAFT helps with environmental risk assessment. The U.S. Forest Service has launched a new web-based tool for assessing threats to the environment related to forest management decisions. Training workshops are planned. Find more information at <http://www.forestthreats.org> Perdita Spriggs, USFS

Chestnut returning? Researchers have planted 500 American chestnut seedlings in national forests in North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee, according to a recent article in the *Charlotte Observer*. These are hybrid trees and are resistant to the blight that wiped out the chestnut from eastern forests in the early 20th century. After one year in the field, they are doing well. The e-forester

It's True – Red Maple IS taking over the world! Well, eastern North America, anyway. Songlin Fei, of the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry, has documented what many people have observed across the eastern half of the continent, i.e. red maple is taking over oak hickory forests. The answer lies in our approach to forest management. Find more at http://www.extension.org/pages/Researchers_Delve_into_Reason_for_Red_Maple's_Proliferation The e-forester

BaseLine Data on forest biomass being established at Woods Hole. Scientists at the Woods Hole Research Center are producing a high-resolution national biomass and carbon dataset for the year 2000 to estimate the amount of biomass and standing carbon stock for the conterminous United States. The e-forester

Oak Wilt Database. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is joining a national initiative to create a database on the occurrences of oak wilt. Likely sites should be reported to Dr. Gerard Adams at Michigan State University. 517-355-0202; gadams@msu.edu. Tom Stone

Asian Longhorned Beetle. After the discovery of the Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester, Mass., New Hampshire state officials are encouraging forest owners to be watchful of signs of this immensely serious pest. The telltale signs of infestation by this beetle are emergence holes as big as a dime in maple trees. Michigan forest owners should be watchful as well. More information is available by doing a search on “Asian Longhorned Beetle”. **The e-forester**

Legislation

In Washington:

S. 787 increases water regulation. The Clean Water Restoration Act would lose the term “navigable” as a condition for regulation according to the American Farm Bureau Federation, exposing many activities to court challenges and delays. **Michigan Farm News**

H.R. 45 would require licensing of gun owners. The bill would require a firearm license in order to possess a gun. **Congressional Research Service**

In Lansing:

HB 4286 would require state lands to be open to hunting unless public safety or management concerns dictate they should be closed. **The Michigan Landscape**

Alternative energy

Biomass Crop Assistance Program. The USDA’s Biomass Crop Assistance Program provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities to produce heat, power, biobased products or biofuels. For more information, search “USDA BCAP”. **The e-forester**

Biomass is big in Oregon. Recognizing biomass harvesting as a sustainable way to manage forests, Oregon boasts 64 biomass sites – 18 of them generating electricity. **The e-forester**

Shocking maples. Scientists at the University of Washington have found that native maples generate a tiny amount of electric current – a couple hundred millivolts. That’s not enough to run your car radio, but it can operate a small electronic circuit. **The e-forester**

New Biomass Toolkit. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has released a Woody Biomass Desk Guide and Toolkit to help increase awareness of the use of woody biomass for energy. Find more on the NACD web site. **The e-forester**

Michigan State University lands stimulus grant. MSU will receive \$1.7 million in stimulus funding to study the environmental benefits and consequences of cellulosic biofuel crops. **The e-forester**

Miscellaneous

Green Building Workshops. The Forest Products Society, Great Lakes Forest Alliance, Dovetail Partners and other organizations are offering a series of workshops on “Green” building. They are intended for builders, architects, forest products companies and forestry professionals. They will be held at Madison Oct. 14, Lansing Oct. 28 and Minneapolis Nov. 5. Find more at www.greenworkshops.org. **Stefan Bergmann, Forest Products Society**

Drowsy or Drunk? Working tired is just about as bad as working drunk, according to a study cited in the Northern Logger and Timber Processor. A person who has worked for 21 hours has the same reactions as a person whose blood alcohol level is 0.10%. That’s above the legal limit for drivers in most states. **Northern Logger**

U of M and USFS working on Urban Environmental Education. Six graduate students at the University of Michigan have partnered with the US Forest Service’s Urban Connections Program to try to build and support a generation of potential forest stewards. More information is available on the Forest Service’s Region 9 website. **The e-forester**

New IRS Rule. Lump-sum timber sales are now required to be reported on form 1099-S. That’s why timber purchasers are now asking for your tax ID number. For more information, consult your accountant or visit the timber tax website at www.timbertax.org. **The e-forester**

Announcing Michigan's Out-of-Doors University. The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is planning to offer seminars and workshops on topics related to our ability to hunt, fish, trap and recreate outdoors. The sessions will be modeled after MUCC's successful 2009 Deer Management Symposium. A survey is underway to determine appropriate topics. You can enter the survey at <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2ke6xgpfyx0iapr/start>

MUCC Insider

Interesting Events

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

Green Building Workshops. Madison Oct. 14, Lansing Oct. 28 and Minneapolis Nov. 5. Find more at www.greenworkshops.org.

See Bill Cook's Michigan Forest Pathways web site for a complete list. (Miforestpathways.net)