

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Annual Meeting set for Aug 13 & 14, 2010. Mark your calendar now for the 2010 annual meeting at the Cole Canoe Base near West Branch. Cole Canoe Base is a boy scout camp on the Rifle River. We will visit their managed forest and see some of their streambank restoration work. Much more. Mark the dates; details will follow.

Second annual MFA bus tour scheduled for September 23 through 26. This time we'll go to Sault Ste. Marie and take the train through the Agawa Canyon. Colors should be just about at their peak. Watch for more details soon.

Leaving home for a while?

Please let us know. The post office will not forward your mail from MFA. In fact, they send it back and charge us for it. Send us your temporary address and the effective dates and we'll all benefit. Thanks.

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

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

2009 a record year for hunter safety. There were no fatalities during the November deer season -- for the first time in history. In fact, only one hunting fatality occurred during the whole year; that during the spring turkey season. Mandatory hunter safety training and blaze orange are given a large portion of the credit. DNR listserve

Bovine TB Zone Shrinks. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced it will reduce the size of the Modified Accredited Zone related to bovine tuberculosis to a small area in northeast Lower Michigan. MDA listserve

Information sought in **wolf poaching.** DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service officials are seeking information on the person responsible for killing a wolf in Ontonagon County between Nov. 12 and 16th, 2009. A reward of up to \$6,500 is offered. Call the DNR "RAP" line at 800-292-7800 or the USFWS at 989-686-4578. DNR listserve

DNR seeks information on **denned bears.** If you should come upon a denned bear in the northern Lower Peninsula this winter, please take time to record the location and report it to the DNR at 989-275-5151 or 517-373-1263.

New Record Pumpkinseed at 2.15 lbs. A new state record pumpkinseed sunfish was caught Oct. 26 in Lake Nepessing in Lapeer County. The year 2009 saw several new record fish caught. In addition to the pumpkinseed, new records were set for Great Lakes Muskellunge, brown trout and redear sunfish. DNR listserve

Moose and Wolves Affect Biodiversity Pattern. Researchers from Michigan Tech University have found an unexpected relationship between location of moose carcasses and plant diversity. It seems that the carcasses create "hot spots" of fertility around the kill sites, leading to rapid microbial and fungal growth that provide increased nutrients for plant growth. Read more about it at: <http://www.mtu.edu/news/stories/2009/november/story19659.html> The e-forester

Forest Health

Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM). State and federal officials are working to find ways to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer in the Upper Peninsula. The pilot project involves surveys to track the spread and then will search for ways to slow the spread when new outbreaks are found. The e-forester

Legislation

Some interesting proposed legislation:

SB 54 would expand the "Bottle Bill" to include non-carbonated beverage containers.

HB 5081 – 82 would create a reward program and fund that would award littering informants ½ of the littering civil fine.

HB 5309 – increase the number of allowable designated shooters to shoot animals on behalf of crop damage permittee to 15.

SB 627 -- would waive helmet requirement for operator of an ORV on his own agricultural property.

MUCC news

Alternative energy & Sustainability

American Tree Farm System updates sustainability standards. The American Forest Foundation has announced adoption of new standards for its woodland certification program -- the American Tree Farm System. New standards require a management plan and consideration of unique cultural, historical or wildlife values. The e-forester

Study examines Use of Wood in Coal-Fired Power Plants. This "TechNote" from Penn State University focuses on resource impacts of co-firing coal power plants with wood or converting plants to wood. Find it at:

<http://woodpro.cas.psu.edu/WoodPro%20Word%20HTML%20files/WoodPro%20TechNote%202009-4.htm>

The e-forester

Safety

Wood Chipper/Grinder Video. The North Carolina Forestry Association has produced a 21-minute video on safe operation of wood chippers and grinders. It is designed for loggers and others who work around such machinery. Distribution is by the Forest Resources Association. Write to FRA, 600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 350, Rockville, MD 20852. Refer to stock no. 09-A-7.

Miscellaneous

Campground hosts sought. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is looking for hosts to serve in state park and state forest campgrounds. Ron Olson, DNR parks chief, said, "Campground hosts stay as our guests and, in return, help welcome other campers to our beautiful state parks, recreation areas and state forest campgrounds." For more information, contact Pamela Ames for state parks (517-467-7401) or Ada Takacs for state forests (989-275-5151). DNR listserve

Porcupine Mountains one of America's best destinations. America's Best and Top Ten, a web site that lists the best travel destinations in the U.S., has named the Porcupine Mountains to its top ten list for the 3rd consecutive year. Virgin timber, secluded lakes and miles of wild rivers and streams are some the area's recognized attributes. DNR listserve

Private forests have big economic impact. The National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) helped sponsor a study of the economic impact of private forests. Private forests were found to generate about \$277 per acre in state GDP and, per 1,000 acres, 8 jobs, \$270,000 in payroll, \$9,850 in state taxes and \$733,000 in annual sales. Way to go! The e-forester

Planting machine for sale. We received a letter recently advising us of a Whitfield model SP 3202 one or two-person planting machine for 3-point hitch. Call Tom Jerdon at 269-470-4000.

The **Forest History Society** offers good publications for those with an interest in reading and preserving the history of our forests. Learn more about this organization from their website at <http://www.foresthistory.org>. Better yet, download a membership form at <http://www.foresthistory.org/Friends/AnnualFundForm.pdf>. Enjoy ...

Conservation Officers now better trackers. Conservation officers received training last spring in tracking skills. They are now better able to find lost hunters and track fugitives. DNR listserve

Snowshoe making workshop. The DNR will host a snowshoe-making workshop at Escanaba on Jan. 23. Cost is \$160 and includes all needed materials and equipment to make one pair of snowshoes. Call Neal at 906-492-3415 DNR listserve

Don't come unglued... Researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa have found traces of compound adhesives on stone blades in a cave near the Indian Ocean coast. The adhesives, which would have fastened the blades to wooden hafts of arrows or spears, were a mixture of plant gum and red ocher or fat. They would have to have been heated carefully over a fire to create this stone age superglue. Efforts to recreate these compounds demonstrate it wasn't particularly easy. Find the story at: <http://web.wits.ac.za/NewsRoom/NewsItems/compoundglues.htm> Natural History