

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Volume XXVIII

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February, 2010

Web site: www.michiganforests.com

Number 2

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. Plans are being made for an optional canoe trip and children's activities. Mark the dates; more information next issue.

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.

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.

MFA board member wins photo contest. Geoff Kegerreis, of LeRoy, and his wife, Sue, won a photo contest sponsored by Roland, an electronic musical instruments company. The photo shows a Roland amplifier on an inflatable ottoman and Sue with her guitar on an inflatable couch. All in a pine plantation. Congratulations, Geoff and Sue!
Doug Trembath

WILDLIFE NEWS

Michigan Wildlife Conservancy goes Whole Hog. The Michigan Wildlife Conservancy (MWC) has teamed up with the USDA Wildlife Services branch in an effort to control the spread of wild and feral hogs in Michigan. Trapping the hogs in cage-like pens seems to be the most productive way to catch them. A goal of 90 traps (approximately one per county) has been set; construction of a trap costs about \$450. Funds and volunteers are being sought to help with this program. MFA has donated \$450 for construction of a trap. Contact the MWC at 517-641-7677.

No Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in 2009. Dr. Steve Schmitt, veterinarian with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) has announced that no sign of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was found in any of 1,134 deer tested last year. Schmitt warns against complacency, however, stating, "CWD is like a terrorist attack. It's one of those things you always have to guard against."
DNRE listserv

Wolf! Wolf! The DNRE is planning a survey of the northern Lower Peninsula to detect the presence of wolves. The survey will take place from February 16 to March 12. The public is asked to report any wolf sightings in the survey period to the Gaylord Operations Service Center at 989-732-3541, ext. 5901. Observation reports can be submitted year-round at www.michigan.gov/wolves.
DNRE listserv

Forest Health

Prune now. Winter is a good time to do your tree trimming, because the risk of introducing oak wilt or other diseases is reduced and tree stress is minimized.
The e-forester

UP Counties Added to Quarantine. Alger and Chippewa Counties have been added to the emerald ash borer quarantine zone in the Upper Peninsula. The beetle is spreading and we have ourselves to blame, as firewood is still the major factor in its movement across the state.
The Michigan Landscape

Alternative energy & Sustainability

Paper Batteries? Don't laugh – with inks made of silver and carbon nanomaterials, paper can be used for energy storage. Research at Stanford University in California indicates this is promising technology. This may be useful in powering electric vehicles and might even lead to paper electronics some day. The Northern Logger & Timber Processor

CO2 Feeds Tree Growth. Increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide appears to be making some trees “grow like crazy” according to researchers at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and University of Minnesota – Morris. The e-forester

Timber Markets

Prices on the Rise. The DNRE expects timber revenue to exceed previous expectations due to recovering stumpage prices. Weekly Scoop, Michigan Forest Products Council

Smurfit-Stone Closes Ontonagon Mill. The Smurfit-Stone company announced it would close its Ontonagon mill and its mill in Missoula, Montana as of December 31. One hundred eighty-two people were employed at Ontonagon. Great Lakes Timber Professional

Safety

Hypothermia Quiz. Winter is upon us and for folks who work outdoors, colder temps are an added safety risk. Answer *True* or *False* to the following questions and find out how much you know about the risks.

1. You can only develop hypothermia if the temperature is below freezing.
2. If you think someone has frostbite, it's best to massage the affected areas gently.
3. Since you don't sweat much in cold weather, you don't need to drink the same amount of water to stay hydrated and healthy.
4. If you have hypothermia, you'll know right away because your body will shiver.

Answers are at the bottom of the page. The Northern Logger & Timber Processor

Miscellaneous

Speedy trees in the East. According to a new study soon to be published by the National Academy of Sciences, forests in the eastern United States are growing at a rate unprecedented in the last 225 years. The e-forester

Volunteers Needed. The DNRE is looking for volunteers to cut invasive shrubs in natural areas within state parks and recreation areas. For more information, visit the DNRE website at www.Michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers and link to the “Calendar of Volunteer Workdays”. DNRE listserve

More volunteers needed. Headwaters Land Conservancy in Gaylord is seeking volunteers who could monitor compliance with terms of conservation easements. Contact HLC at 110 South Elm Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735, (989) 731-0573.

Proposal Would End Forestry Department at MSU. One of the ways Michigan State University is considering cutting costs is by eliminating the Department of Forestry. The proposal would relegate forestry to the status of “program”, which would mean it would not likely offer an undergraduate degree in forestry. The final decision will be made in the spring by Provost Kim Wilcox and President Lou Anna Simon. MSU currently has the oldest continuous undergraduate forestry program in the United States – it was established in 1902. The Michigan Forester

Wood I.D. on your Iphone? Need help identifying a piece of wood? Check it out through your Iphone or Ipod with “I.D.Wood” available at itunes.apple.com for \$2.99. Pictures and keys are available to help you with the wood I.D. Hardwood Matters

New Grinder produces “Bio-Sawdust.” Wood pellet manufacturers often use sawdust as their raw material. Lately, sawdust has been in short supply in some areas due to the sluggish economy. Bandit Industries, Inc. in Remus, MI has developed a “Beast” grinder that makes the equivalent of the sawdust that would be produced at a sawmill, calling it “bio-sawdust”. Purportedly, this makes pellet production more efficient. This could help provide a market for some of our surplus low-grade wood. Great Lakes Timber Professional

Apply for Artist-in-Residence. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is accepting applications for the Porcupine Mountains' Artist-in-Residence program for spring, summer and fall of 2010 and winter of 2011. Contact Sherrie McCabe at 906-884-2345 for more information. DNRE listserve

Answers to the quiz: 1. *False.* Hypothermia occurs whenever your body's warming system can't keep up with heat loss. Hypothermia is more likely to happen when temperatures plunge, but it can happen at temps of 40 degrees or below. 2. *False.* Massaging frostbitten skin can damage tissue permanently. The best way to help someone with frostbite is to soak the affected area in lukewarm water. 3. *False.* Sweat evaporates fast in cold air, so you are actually sweating the same amount, it just doesn't seem that way. So you need the same amount of water to stay hydrated in the cold. 4. *False.* Hypothermia warning signs include shivering, but hypothermia can also impact mental functions so you may not know you have it.