

# 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](mailto:miforest@acd.net)

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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. Plans are being made for an optional canoe trip and children's activities. [Reservation form enclosed](#); more information next issue.

**MFA bus tour to Agawa Canyon** 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. After the canyon tour we will spend a day visiting sites of interest in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Cost will be \$589 per person for members; \$629 for non-members, double occupancy. Single occupancy will be \$775 for both members and non-members. Write or call the office for details. A deposit of \$150 made payable to Gail Andrus Travel can be mailed to the MFA office to hold your place. [Reservation form is enclosed](#).

**New member incentive.** Once again we are offering an incentive for folks to enroll as members. The new member must join for 3 years (\$120) and MFA will provide a two-hour visit with a forester. The new member will be given a list of participating foresters from which to choose.

**Wanigan trailer is popular.** Our educational trailer "The Wanigan" is enjoying a brisk year of increasing demand. We are glad for this, but it comes with a cost: we need to staff it and we need to move it. If you're wondering whether you should volunteer to provide one or both of these services, let us help you with the decision: YES. Staffing the trailer is fun – you get to meet and visit with folks who are interested in forests, trees and related subjects. You don't need to be an expert in all these things – we have a form for information requests in the trailer. To transport the trailer you need a ¾-ton pickup or equivalent. It must have electric brake hookup, as the trailer is heavy. To volunteer, give a call to the MFA office or drop us an e-mail at [miforest@acd.net](mailto:miforest@acd.net).

### WILDLIFE NEWS

**Wolverine Bites the Dust.** The only known wild wolverine in Michigan has died. First spotted in the Thumb in February, 2004, it was found dead recently by hikers at the Minden Bog in the Minden City State Game Area. Conservation officers said there was no visible sign of trauma; the animal was taken to the DNRE veterinary lab for closer examination. This was the first wolverine ever verified in Michigan. Biologists say that if wolverines were ever native here, they were driven out about 200 years ago. Director Rebecca Humphries had issued an order protecting this wolverine from harassment or harm. It was thought to be alive and well until it was found dead.

P.S. An examination by DNRE veterinarians showed she died of natural causes.

DNRE listserve

**Wolf tracks confirmed in Cheboygan County.** DNRE and USDA Wildlife Services Division have confirmed at least two sets of wolf tracks in Cheboygan County. A local landowner reported seeing three sets recently. DNRE says this may be described as a pack.

DNRE listserve

**Bovine TB found in Emmett County.** An Emmett County beef herd has been found infected with bovine tuberculosis in a routine inspection recently. This will lead to testing all cattle herds within a 10-mile radius. Farmers are advised to take measures to keep deer away from cattle feed in areas where bovine TB has been found.

MDA listserve

**Help needed for Annual Frog & Toad Survey.** DNRE biologists are seeking volunteers to help with the 15<sup>th</sup> annual frog & toad survey. "There are about 200 (survey) routes statewide...We could really use some new volunteers in all parts of the state," said Lori Sargent. Volunteers would drive the route, stopping and listening for calling frogs and toads at certain spots. For more information or to volunteer, contact Lori Sargent at 517-373-9418 or [SargentL@michigan.gov](mailto:SargentL@michigan.gov).

DNRE listserve

**Bald Eagle shot in Clinton County.** The DNRE is investigating the shooting of an immature bald eagle in Clinton County in February. Anyone with information related to this is encouraged to call the DNRE at 800-292-7800.

DNRE listserve

**Hog Trappers Sought.** A training session for feral hog trappers will be held at the Bengel Wildlife Center, headquarters of the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, at 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath, Michigan on May 12 from 6 to 9:30 P.M. MFA has contributed funds for construction of one trap for this program; it would seem appropriate to contribute a trapper as well. If you're interested, please contact the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy at 517-647-7677 or [wildlife@miwildlife.org](mailto:wildlife@miwildlife.org) for more information. If you are working on this project, we'd like to know, too.

**Leave the babies alone...** The DNRE reminds us not to assume that baby birds or animals we find have been abandoned. Forest mothers will leave young ones alone for hours. Better not to pick them up -- If you know the mother is dead, you can call a nearby DNRE office, where you may be referred to a licensed rehabilitator. DNR listserve

## Forest Health

**Emerald ash borer detected in the Soo.** Michigan Department of Agriculture has confirmed the detection of emerald ash borer in Sault Ste. Marie. MDA listserve

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## Alternative Energy & Sustainability

**CWEP funded.** The Community Wood Energy Program (CWEP), authorized under section 9013 of the 2008 Farm Bill, is a competitive grant program designed to assist communities in installing high-efficiency, biomass-fueled heating systems. Five million dollars is available for states, counties or municipalities as matching grants. BTEC Newsletter

**Plum Creek Joins Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) as Sustaining Member.** MFA member Plum Creek's Director of Renewable Resources has joined BTEC board of directors. BTEC is a non-profit association dedicated to advancing the use of biomass for heat and other thermal energy applications. More information is available at [www.biomassthermal.org](http://www.biomassthermal.org) and [www.plumcreek.com](http://www.plumcreek.com). BTEC newsletter

## Timber Markets and Products

**Paper or e-mail?** International Paper has launched a new website called [down2earthonline.com](http://down2earthonline.com). It contains discussion of some issues comparing environmental and economic effects of paper vs. electronic media. Foregoing the use of paper in order to "save a tree" may actually work in reverse. Without a market for pulpwood, which is used to make paper, landowners may opt to sell their land for development. The e-forester

**Keyed beams rediscovered.** Builder and PhD civil engineer Joe Miller studied the strength properties of keyed beams in his research at Michigan Tech. Keyed beams have been in use since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Keyed beams are spliced using a notch and key system. During his research, Miller found a book in the Tech library describing research on the same topic done by Edward Kidwell in 1897. Results? "I tested his methods, and everything he said appears consistent with our observations," says Miller. "To be reinvestigating a concept that's been around three hundred years is kind of cool." Michigan Tech Research

## Safety

**Fire season will be here soon.** The DNRE issued a reminder that spring is our most dangerous time for wildfires. Permits are required for any open burning when the ground is not snow-covered. For counties in the northern two-thirds of the state, visit the burning permit website at [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit) to see whether burning is allowed on a given day. The site is updated daily by 10 AM. If you don't have access to a computer, you can call toll-free 866-922-2876. In southern counties, permits are available by calling your local fire department. DNRE listserve

## Miscellaneous

**Volunteers sought.** DNRE is seeking volunteers to help control invasive plants from state recreation areas in southern Michigan. Find more information at [www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers), or call Laurel Malvitz-Draper at 248-359-9057. DNRE listserve

**Mini-Courses at University of Michigan Biological Station.** Two mini courses are being offered June 16 – 20 at the U-M Biological Station at Douglass Lake, near Pellston. The topics are Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature; and Forest & Landscape Ecology. Cost is \$475 each. Find more information at <http://lsa.umich.edu/umbs/courses/minicrses>. Bill Cook

## Scholarships available.

**Ben Meadows Company** is offering two \$2,500 scholarships for students entering their junior or senior year in a full-time natural resource curriculum at the baccalaureate level. Applications are due by June 30, 2010. All necessary information can be found on the Ben Meadows website at [benmeadows.com](http://benmeadows.com). The e-forester

**Michigan Forest Foundation** also offers a scholarship in honor of McClain B. Smith, Jr. for students enrolled in a full-time natural resources curriculum. Applications can be downloaded from the MFA website, [michiganforests.com](http://michiganforests.com). Click on "Michigan Forest Foundation" and scroll down for a link to the application. This scholarship can range from \$500 to \$1,500.