

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Volume XXVIII

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May, 2010

Web site: www.michiganforests.com

Number 4

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. Cole Canoe Base will furnish canoes and their transport. Reservation form enclosed; more information next issue.

MFA bus tour to Agawa Canyon Canceled. Evidently more of our members have been there than we thought. We're considering southern Indiana as a destination for a future trip. Let us know what you think.

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. Also, we'll try to pair you with a more experienced worker. Coming events are the Wild Turkey Festival in Grayling on June 5 and Ag Expo at East Lansing July 20 – 22. 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.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Michigan to get Funds to Reduce Wolf Damage. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans a demonstration project to show "proactive, non-lethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss from predation by wolves, or to compensate livestock producers for livestock losses caused by wolves". A total of \$90,000 is planned for the project., which is part of a 10-state, \$1 million effort. Meanwhile, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is seeking delisting of the wolf in order that lethal measures may be taken.

Michigan Farm News

Sharptail Season opens this fall. The Natural Resources Commission has announced an open season on sharptail grouse in the eastern Upper Peninsula from Oct. 10 to 31. Specifics on bag limits and open locations are available in the 2010 Hunting and Trapping Guide and on the DNRE website at www.michigan.gov/dnrhunting.

DNRE listserv

Deer Range Improvement funds spent on private lands in U.P. The DNRE has approved deer habitat improvement projects on U.P. private lands where the public has access. A total of \$50,000 has been approved for this initiative.

DNRE listserv

Forest Health

Governor Declares Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week. The week of May 23 has been declared Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Awareness Week. Campers and travelers are reminded that they should not move firewood from one campground to another because that may spread harmful insects and diseases. Firewood transport has been shown to be the most important transport vector, yet many people continue to carry firewood from one part of the state to another. Stiff fines and even jail time are prescribed by law for violators of the ban on firewood movement. EAB has killed about 30 million trees in Michigan in the eight years it has been here. EAB is not the only problem that is spread in this way – oak wilt can be spread through firewood movement and the frightfully destructive Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB), which has not yet been found in Michigan, is

also spread by firewood transport. The ALB has been found in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Campers coming here from the Northeast could easily bring this pest with them.

Campers, look at the thousands of dollars you have spent on equipment. Is it too much to ask for you to spend another \$5 on firewood to help keep destructive bugs out of our forests?

Forest Tent Caterpillar appearing. Forest tent caterpillars have been hatching out all over the Lower Peninsula this spring. We can expect to see defoliation of aspen, oak and maple at the jaws of these voracious little feeders, according to Roger Mech, of the DNRE. Forest tent caterpillar is a native pest that runs in cycles that pop up every 10 to 15 years and last from two to five years. This caterpillar does not make tents as does its relative, the Eastern tent caterpillar. DNRE listserve

Status Report available from DNRE. A report called 2009 Michigan Forest Health Highlights is now available on the DNRE web site at www.michigan.gov/foresthealth. This report gives the status of populations and monitoring efforts of more than a dozen forest pests, including the Asian Longhorn Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer.

Alternative energy & Sustainability

“Save a Tree”? Have you wondered about the comparative sustainability, or “greenness” of paper compared to electronic media? International Paper has provided some interesting information on their web site at <http://www.internationalpaper.com/apps/d2e/down2earthonline>.

Bill Cook

Timber Markets and Products

Mushrooms are forest products, too. Learn how to grow mushrooms at a session in Charlotte on June 5. Sponsored in part by the Eaton County MSU Extension. It runs 9 to 3; the cost is \$45. For more information, go to <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/eaton/mushroomworkshop.pdf>.

Michigan Farm News

Morbark develops conversion kits for chippers. Kits are now available for Morbark grinders to allow them to make high quality standard size chips or sawdust. High quality chips are used for paper, but why sawdust? Sawdust is the preferred material for wood fuel pellets and for co-firing with coal. It is also used for animal bedding and cellulosic ethanol. Sawdust has been in short supply in some areas during the slow economic time; now, with this conversion kit, a chipper can convert an entire tree to sawdust.

Morbark

Safety

Fire Danger Still High. The DNRE warns that fire danger is still high across northern Michigan. Extreme caution is urged. Note: a MFA member wrote to tell us of a fire started from a stick of firewood thrown into a lake. High wind fanned a spark from the top of the stick and blew it into the woods starting a fire. The watchword: BE CAREFUL!

DNRE listserve

Vaccinate against Rabies. Officials from the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Community Health urge pet and livestock owners to see that their animals are vaccinated against rabies after a confirmed case of rabies in a pet dog in Oakland County.

MDA listserve

Miscellaneous

Academy of Natural Resources. Courses for educators are being offered by the DNRE at the R.A. MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake from July 18-23. Courses are offered on three separate tracks. College credits available. 15 meals, 5 nights lodging for \$295. Tuition assistance may be available. Contact Kevin Frailey at DNRE at P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48933 or 517-373-7306.

Michigan Science Teachers Ass'n.

Register to Canoe the Grand River. An expedition on the Grand River is planned for July 14 to 26. Billed as a family-friendly “Journey of Discovery”, the trip will start at the river’s source south of Jackson and end at Lake Michigan. The public is invited to join all or part of the journey. Find more information at www.tiny.cc/grandriverexpedition2010 or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GRE2010>.

DNRE listserve

Vicksburg Family Donates 906-Acre Conservation Easement. Rob & Regina Richardson of Kalamazoo County donated the development rights to their 906-acre farm to the state. This is the largest such donation to have occurred to date. Such donations may be made to the state, a local government unit, a land conservancy or other qualified entity. Donors reap certain tax benefits in addition to the satisfaction that comes from knowing the land will never be developed. Michigan’s Development Rights Program now stands at 106 easements totaling over 21,000 acres. More information is available at www.michigan.gov/farmland.

MDA listserve

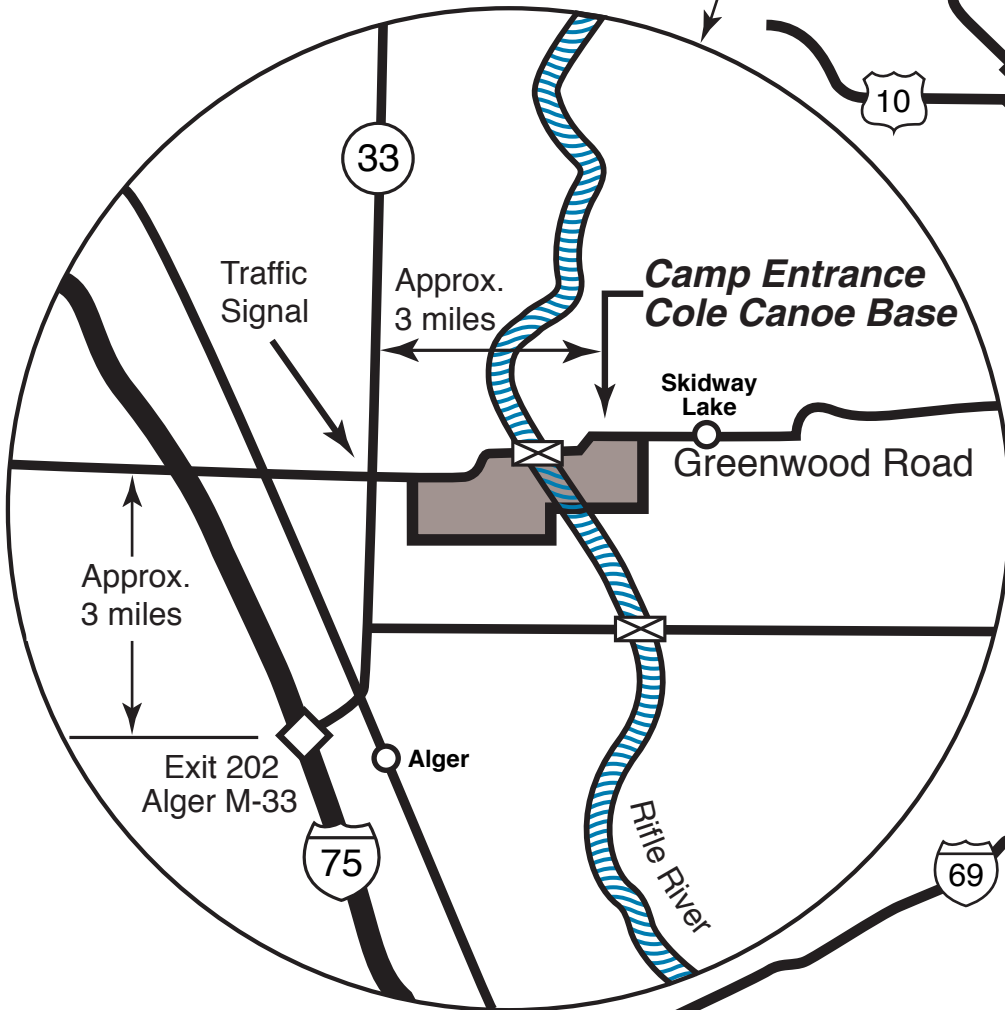
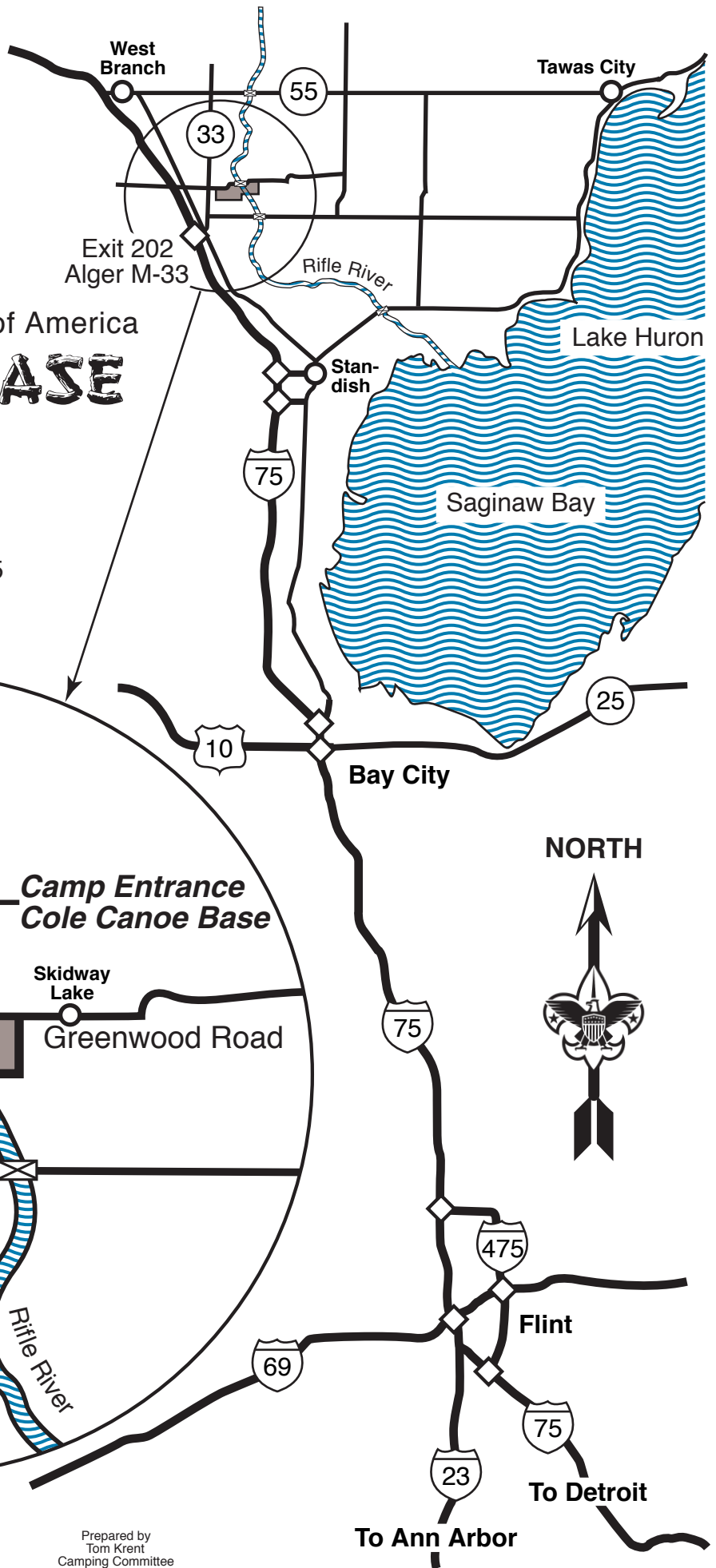
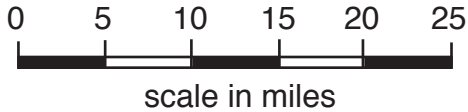


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June 2005

To Ann Arbor

To Detroit