

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Register Now for Annual Meeting 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.

Revenue from harvest of timber is an important and significant part of the camp's budget and has been for many years. We will visit their managed forest with camp manager and forester Gus Chutorash. We will also see some of their streambank restoration work on the Rifle River.

Camp staff will conduct basic canoeing instructions in a pond to help MFA members refresh their skills or learn from scratch. Cole Canoe Base will furnish canoes and their transport. Alternate on-land tour of a local rail fence factory will be available for those who don't wish to paddle.

Reservation form has been sent in previous mailings; it and motel list are available on the web site, or write or call the MFA office. See address and phone number above. Some campsites will be available at the camp

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 **Ag Expo** at East Lansing July 20 – 22, Walnut Council, July 25 – 26, **Genesee County Fair**, week of August 16, **SumMore Fest**, Southfield, August 28 – 29, **Woods 'n Waters Outdoor Weekend**, Imlay City, September 10 – 12, and the **Livingston County Family Field Day**, Howell, September 18. To transport the trailer you need a ¾-ton pickup or equivalent. It must have electric brake hookup, as the trailer is heavy. We'll be needing lots of help! To volunteer, give a call to the MFA office or drop us an e-mail at miforest@acd.net. We can pay mileage for people who tow the trailer for MFA.

WILDLIFE NEWS

No Change in Rate of TB in 2009. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) reports the rate of deer infected with bovine tuberculosis in Deer Management Unit 452, their core area of concern, to be essentially unchanged from 2008. The 2008 and 2009 rate was 1.9% of the population infected. The surrounding area showed a rate of 0.4%. Michigan Farm News

Cougar Photographed in Menominee County. The DNRE has agreed that an animal caught by a trail camera in Menominee County looks like a cougar. DNRE listserve

Forest Health

Thousand Cankers Disease threatens state's walnut trees. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), announced an exterior state quarantine against Thousand Cankers Disease of black walnut. This is a relatively newly recognized disease that has been causing death of black walnut trees in the American West. The quarantine restricts movement of walnut logs, green lumber and nursery stock from Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Utah. Firewood also is quarantined from these states.

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) is a fungus disease carried by the walnut twig beetle. This is similar to the way Dutch elm disease is spread. Early symptoms include yellowing and thinning of the crown. Find more information at : www.michigan.gov/mda or at <http://www.thousandcankerdisease.com/>. MDA listserve

Chestnut quarantined. MDA has announced an exterior quarantine on chestnut nursery stock that may be infested with chestnut gall wasp. This exotic pest from China has been in the U.S. since 1974. It causes reduced nut crops and even death of Asiatic, European and American chestnuts. The quarantine applies to chestnut nursery stock from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. MDA listserv

Legislation

Tax woodlots same as farms. House Bill 5924, introduced by Rep. Brian Calley (R-Portland) would provide the same 18-mill exemption to woodlots with a management plan as is currently applied to agricultural land. Michigan Farm Bureau associate legislative counsel Rebecca Park said, "...there's no reason it shouldn't be classified as agricultural property and be included in the 18-mill exemption. Timber is seen as an agricultural commodity." Michigan Farm News

Safety

Use Caution in Applying Insect Repellents. MDA suggests we use caution when applying insect repellents – especially to children. They suggest not using repellents containing DEET on children less than two months old, and when applying repellents to children, apply them to your own hands, then rub on the child. Avoid eyes, mouth and ears. MDA listserv

Be Careful with Propane Tanks. The Michigan Propane Gas Association (MPGA) cautions us about handling propane, listing the top 5 risky behaviors of some Michigan farmers: 1. Using rags, tape and epoxy to stop leaks in gas lines. 2. Storing propane cylinders inside barns, homes and garages. 3. Tampering with safety devices so they can overfill portable cylinders. 4. Connecting portable cylinders to home heating systems. 5. Leaving propane cylinders in car trunks. For more information, contact Joe Ross at 517-333-3133 ext 4, or joe@joerosspr.com.

History

People interested in forest history of the Manistique area should read: Lumberjack , by William S. Crowe, Third edition, edited by his granddaughters. Mr. Crowe came to Manistique as a young man in 1893, during the lumbering era, and describes his experiences in the lumber industry. The book, ISBN 0-9650577-3-9, is available from North Country Publishin, 355 Heidtman Road, Skandia, MI 49885; telephone 906-942-7898 Herman L. Miller

Miscellaneous

Land for Sale. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is offering more than 60 parcels of land in 12 counties for sale this summer. Sale is by sealed bid; bids are due August 2. Most parcels are in the northern Lower Peninsula, with a few in the Upper Peninsula. Find more information at www.mi.gov/landforsale . DNRE listserv

Michigan Recreation Passport available this fall. Starting Oct. 1 of this year, Michigan residents will be able to gain access to all 98 state parks and recreation areas, 133 state forest campgrounds, 879 miles of trails and every state-administered boating access site in Michigan – all for \$10 when you renew your vehicle registration. This will replace the \$24 annual park sticker MUCC Insider

New 72-Hour Fishing License available. Michigan residents can now purchase a fishing license for a weekend. The 72-hour license is now available for \$21 for Michigan residents (\$9 for resident seniors) and is valid for all fish species. DNRE listserv

Mosquitoes are not repelled by repellents, rather their sensors are blocked, making it hard for them to detect our presence. They are attracted by certain colors, however – especially blue. The Michigan Landscape (I have to say I'm skeptical of this one. Is that why mosquitoes walk all over our arms, hands and faces looking for a spot that wasn't treated?) Ed.

Timber Framing Classes Scheduled for Porcupine Mountains. The DNRE has announced classes in timber framing to be held at the Porcupine Mountains State Park July 9 -13 and 14 – 17. Cost is \$395 per participant. Call Beth Allen at 906-884-4188 or e-mail to ontcoedc@charter.net. DNRE listserv

West Virginia develops Master Plan for Forest Industry. State Forester Randy Dye, of West Virginia, announced a 12-point master plan for the future of West Virginia's forest products industry. Among topics of concern are taxation, timber markets, and transfer of property between generations. His points could fit almost equally well in Michigan. The e-forester