

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Volume XXVIII

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August, 2010

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Number 7

Association News

Annual Meeting a Success. About 50 MFA members met at Cole Canoe Base near West Branch to conduct our necessary business and to see what the Boy Scouts are doing to manage their 1,500-acre camp. MFA member and Camp Director **Gus Chutorash** was our host. Thanks, Gus, to you and your staff for putting out the welcome mat for MFA.

Teacher Workshops. At the August board meeting, the board of directors endorsed an initiative to reach **school teachers** across Michigan with information on good, science-based, sustainable forest management and the benefits thereof. We will continue to support teacher workshops at Michigan Tech and will also support a workshop to be conducted by Trees for Tomorrow, Inc. of Eagle River, Wisconsin. More detail on this effort will be available in the next issue of *Michigan Forests*.

New Membership Category. Also at the August board meeting, the board approved a new membership category for accounting and law firms. This was conceived and constructed by MFA Vice President **Dave Wright** in hopes that it will enable MFA to compile a list of knowledgeable **lawyers and accountants** who can provide sound advice to our members on matters related to forest management. Perhaps even beyond the normal scope of management – including advice on passing lands on to the next generation. Watch for more information in *Leaves* and *Michigan Forests*.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Swan observations sought. Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is seeking information on trumpeter swan sightings and asks the public to report any observations to the Wildlife Division at www.michigan.gov/wildlife, or 517-373-1263. Trumpeter swans are native birds that were once thought to be extinct. After populations were found in the West, some swans were reintroduced into Michigan in 1989, '90 and '91. They can be distinguished from their non-native cousins, the mute swans, in several ways. Perhaps the easiest is the color of the bill – trumpeters have black bills; mutes have orange bills. DNRE listserve

New Sturgeon Reef Seems to be Working. An artificial reef constructed in 2008 in the Detroit River near Fighting Island attracted lake sturgeon in the spring of 2009, when they spawned there for the first time in 30 years. Sturgeon eggs and fry were found there last spring. Whitefish and walleyes also spawned on the new reef. Lake sturgeon have long been in population decline; this joint project between the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with additional help from the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy and others, was designed to help population recovery. Another such reef is being considered between Harsen's and Dickinson Islands. The Detroit River was once considered a lost cause for fish and wildlife because of pollution and dredging. The Wildlife Volunteer

Pileated Woodpecker Now at Home in Lower Michigan. The pileated woodpecker is becoming more and more common in Lower Michigan as forests mature. After an absence that spanned several human generations, Michigan's largest woodpecker is finding southern forests to its liking. Its rectangular excavations in tree trunks are a sure sign of the presence of pileated woodpeckers. This is another in a growing list of forest-loving species returning to Lower Michigan. The Wildlife Volunteer

Forest Health

Just a'lookin' for a home.. Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell C. Redding recently announced that 43 counties in PA are now under a quarantine that is intended to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. The e-forester

Alternative Energy

This is not Sci-Fi! Cyclone Power Technologies of Pompano Beach, FL has developed an engine that runs on biomass. It has been installed in a robot that reportedly can feed itself and produce up to 18 horsepower. According to Cyclone Power, the robot can “find and process biomass in a manner similar to eating.” Find more at www.cyclonepower.com.

Biomass Magazine

This isn't Sci-Fi either.. “Northern Ireland farmer William Taylor introduced his prototype Livestock Power Mill recently and claimed that the world's 1.3 billion cattle, using treadmills for eight hours a day, could produce 6% of the world's electricity requirement.”

News of the Weird



“Energetically Autonomous Tactical Robot” (EATR)
(Is that a chain saw on the arm?)

Traverse City Light & Power to develop biomass facility.

Back in April, the board of Traverse City Light & Power (TCL&P) voted to move ahead with a biomass-burning facility. The plant is expected to consume about 100,000 tons of chips annually from clean forestry residues and other biomass sources such as pallets. Studies by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and local foresters showed there is plenty of wood available to support the project. A local survey showed area residents support the project by a more than two-to-one margin. In addition to providing the lowest electric rates for its customers, TCL&P said the plant would also mean locally generated electricity, lower greenhouse gas emissions, local investment and job creation.

Biomass

Biobaler likes Brush. Plagued with honeysuckle, autumn olive or buckthorn? This may be your answer. Stempower Resouces, in Minnesota, contracts with this “Biobaler” produced by the Anderson Group Co. of Quebec.

The biobaler harvests and bales vegetation from 1 to 8 inches in diameter. This is of interest to biomass-burning power plants, and also should be of interest to forest landowners. Grapevines? Multiflora rose? Stay tuned....

Biomass



Miscellaneous

Eco-Friendly Floor Finish. Vermont Natural Coatings of Hardwick, VT has developed a substitute for polyurethane that's made from whey, a byproduct of the dairy industry. Reportedly, the finish is tough, dries fast, doesn't yellow and emits no toxic fumes. More good stuff from cows.

Hardwood matters

Study Favors Forests for Flood Control. A study done at Purdue University looked at the Muskegon River watershed and modeled different scenarios 30 years into the future. The most effective ways to decrease future water runoff and flooding appear to be controlling urban sprawl and adding forests.

The e-forester

Michigan Horses Found Positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The Michigan departments of Community Health and Agriculture have received confirmation of the presence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in horses in Barry and Calhoun counties and a suspected case in Cass County. This disease is transferred by mosquitoes and can be transferred to birds and other mammals, including humans. People are cautioned to minimize exposure to mosquitoes.

MDA listserve