

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Thanks for your support. Your dues responses are coming back at a rapid rate. And many of you are including donations for the foundation as well. Some have changed your membership category. Your support is much appreciated.

MFA Mobilizes Help for High School Forestry Program. Those of you who receive this letter by e-mail received a plea for help at the end of September from New Lothrop High School. New Lothrop HS, with the help of MFA board members Dan Keane and Jeff Tuller and the Saginaw and Shiawassee conservation districts, has qualified for a grant from Pepsi Corp. to help stage a forestry field day. MFA members were urged to go to a particular website and vote for the New Lothrop program. If they were within the top ten, they would receive a grant. When the plea went out, New Lothrop was in 13th place with three days to go. Jeff Tuller reported that New Lothrop surged into 10th place after the plea went out to MFA. Thanks to everyone for your support; for those of you not on the e-mail list – sorry there wasn't time.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Kirtland's Warbler continues to do well. Our little jack pine warbler, once on the brink of extinction, is continuing its recovery thanks to the good work of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team and the help of American Forests. The population is estimated at 3,600 this year – up from about 330 birds thirty years ago, when the recovery plan was enacted. The key to the success here is in the management of large areas of jack pine. Jack pine occupies the sites of lowest productivity for trees and so management needs some financial assistance. Stands are clearcut and replanted with the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan DNRE, American Forests and others. Another important activity is the control of cowbirds, that lay their eggs in the warblers' nests. This is one of the great success stories from the endangered species act.
American Forests

Wolf! Wolf! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is once again considering de-listing of the grey wolf in the northern great lakes region. This is in response to petitions submitted by the departments of natural resources in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The recovery goal set by the USFWS have been met for over ten years and the current wolf population in Michigan and Wisconsin exceeds the goal by more than ten times.
DNRE listserv

Call in Those Tag Numbers. The DNRE is asking hunters, trappers and other woods people to report any tagged or collared animals you may come across. In a cooperative study with Mississippi State University the DNRE has tagged does, fawns and various predators with ear tags or radio collars. If you should find one of these, please call in the information on the tag to any DNRE office in the Upper Peninsula.
DNRE listserv

DNRE Confirms EHD in SWMI. The DNRE has confirmed a diagnosis of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in deer in Berrien, Cass and Ottawa counties. This virus disease causes extensive hemorrhaging and results in loss of appetite, progressive weakening, excessive salivation, high fever, rapid pulse and respiration, and eventually unconsciousness and death. Due to the high fever, deer are often found sick or dead in or near bodies of water. The disease is transmitted by a biting fly (midge). There is no evidence the disease can be passed on to humans. The DNRE would like to collect samples from diseased deer, so property owners finding dead deer that may have died from EHD are urged to call the nearest DNRE office to report it.
DNRE listserv

Bear Bites Hunter. Sometimes you get the bear; sometimes the bear gets you. A bow hunter was attacked in his tree stand in Emmet County by an adult bear and three cubs. The attack may have been prompted by the odor of fried food from a party the hunter attended just before taking to the woods. He was treated for bite wounds to his leg.
DNRE listserv

Feral Hogs not Considered "Invasive". The Natural Resources Commission considered naming feral hogs as an invasive species, but decided not to – at least not now. This is becoming a property rights issue, since one result of a designation as "invasive" would be to ban wild hogs from fenced game ranches. Invasive or not, hunters are urged to shoot any hogs they might see during the hunting season.
Michigan Farm News

Forest Health

Hope for the elms. Researchers have identified several prospects for returning elms to our streets as viable shade trees. Some of these are hybrids of Asian elms; others are varieties of American elm. Each has its drawbacks, but the effect is that elms can be expected to make a comeback.

Tree Farmer

Maine Offers "Firewood Exchange". Maine forestry officials have announced a new program to help protect Maine's forests from destructive insects hitchhiking in firewood. For the Labor Day weekend they planned to have rangers stationed at a rest area on I-95 to prevent firewood from being brought into the state. Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle are the insects considered to be the major threats.

The e-forester

Alternative Energy

Traverse City Light & Power NOT to develop biomass facility. Oops! Since we told you last month about the pending facility at Traverse City, we have been informed that the plant will not be built due to environmental concerns. We regard this as unfortunate, since a market for the low-quality trees and other biomass now crowding both public and private forests would help land owners keep their forest lands productive.

Massachusetts restricts wood-burning facilities. Massachusetts regulators have proposed to strictly regulate the ability of wood-burning incinerators to earn renewable power certificates. Burning renewable fuel is not enough. The draft rule would require biomass incinerators to improve efficiency by 60% to earn full energy credits. There is some concern that this may have ramifications for the future of biomass power nationwide.

The e-forester

Biomass Power? Is this what they mean by powering a vehicle with biomass? MFA member **Mike Wasilco** gave us this photo to pass along. The car was reportedly built by Ross Howard of La Barge, Wyoming for the annual 4th of July parade. Reminisce



Legislation

Bills would Modify Qualified Forest Law. Senate bills 1400 and 1401 and House bills 6291 and 6292 would increase the number of acres a private landowner could enroll in the Qualified Forest Property Recapture Tax Act from 320 to 640 acres. The bills would also reduce penalties for withdrawal and impose deadlines on DNRE for responses to applications.

Michigan Biomass

Miscellaneous

Research Center Renamed. The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is retooling and renaming the Upper Peninsula Tree Improvement Center near Escanaba. The facility is now called the MSU Forest Biomass Innovation Center. This reflects a new focus for the facility.

Growmichigan

US Sets Duties on Chinese Paper. The United States has set combined duties ranging up to 313.8 percent on coated paper from China, and duties of up to 38 percent on the same product from Indonesia. Beijing has accused the United States of using its trade laws in a protectionist manner, whereas Washington says its actions are a justified defense against unfair trade practices.

The e-forester

Recreation Passport Available now. When renewing your license plates this year, you can check an option that will grant you access to all state parks and recreation areas for an additional \$10. This replaces the former annual state park sticker. Just check "yes" when renewing your license plates.

DNRE listserve

Timber Investments: Archaic, Boring ... and Profitable. Timber investments have a reputation for being old-fashioned and dull, but from 1987 to 2009, the NCREIF Timberland Index has shown an average return of 14%, compared to 9.4% of the S&P 500. Visit [Seeking Alpha.com](http://SeekingAlpha.com)

The e-forester

Nature Study Programs at Hoffmaster State Park. Saturday programs at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park in Muskegon will offer programs on Michigan Snakes, Michigan Trees, Michigan mammals, Bats, Woodpeckers and Wild Turkeys starting on Oct. 9 with snakes and progressing down the list on successive Saturdays. More information from Elizabeth Tillman, park interpreter at 231-798-3573.

DNRE listserve

Pass the Bugs, Please. Did you ever wonder where birds get the energy to fly? It seems that insects are quite nutritious. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is working on a policy to promote insects as a food source for people. A 100-gram serving of grasshoppers, for instance, contains 20.6 grams of protein, 6 grams of fat and 153 calories. Crickets are lower in fat and protein, but higher in Calcium. No mention of ash borers.

National Geographic