

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Dues Due? If you haven't already done so, please send in your dues payment to the MFA office. If you haven't received a notice, you are probably on the March payment schedule. Thanks.

Foundation News

Scholarships Awarded. The Michigan Forest Foundation is pleased to announce the award of three scholarships from the McClain B. Smith, Jr. scholarship fund. Recipients were: Dustin Reagan of Sears, MI, Bradley Wadaga of Baraga, and Drew Walterhouse of Eaton Rapids. The McClain B. Smith, Jr. scholarship is given to outstanding students enrolled in natural resource programs. More information can be found on the MFA website.

Letters:

Dear Michigan Forest Foundation, I am honored to be one of the McClain B. Smith Jr. Scholarship recipients. Thanks to your generous support I will be able to attend Michigan Tech with fewer financial worries. I am planning to major in Forestry/Wildlife Ecology and hope to be able to play an active part in improving the forests, natural resources, and wildlife in the Upper Peninsula. I promise you my education is a priority and this scholarship will not be taken for granted. I will work hard at earning good grades and learning as much as possible as I work towards my degree. Once again I would like to thank you for your generosity and support. Sincerely, **Brad Wadaga.**

Michigan Forest (Foundation), I would like to express my gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the 2010 McClain B. Smith Scholarship. I am proud to be a new member of your association and am very happy to be involved in what the association promotes.

Thanks again, **Drew Walterhouse.**

*Wanted: Clinometer
for use in DeVries
Nature Conservancy in
Owosso. (No budget for
purchasing.) Call the
MFA office.*

WILDLIFE NEWS

EHD now found in Allegan County. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) has identified Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in deer in Allegan County. In our last newsletter EHD was reported 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.

Forest Health

New book available on invasive species. "A Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants in Wisconsin" has recently been released by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The book is 62 pages long and sells for \$5 plus \$1.90 for shipping. For more information, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp>

Bill Cook for SAF

Reminder: Don't take firewood to deer camp. In order to prevent further spread of injurious insects such as the emerald ash borer, don't take firewood from home when you go to deer camp. Cut wood or buy wood in the area of your camp. In addition to the emerald ash borer, which is pretty much everywhere in Michigan now, there are other pests that are in nearby states but so far have not been found here. One is the Asian longhorned beetle (eats maple); another is thousand cankers disease (kills walnut). We have a lot to protect in our woodlands, so please take this seriously. It is every bit as serious to our woodlands and economy as the Asian carp is to the great lakes.

Housing is Threat to Private Forests. Parcelization, fragmentation, highest and best use – these are familiar terms to those acquainted with private forest lands, especially in the East. The US Forest Service reports in “Forests on the Edge: Housing Development on America's Private Forests” that more than 44 million acres of private forests are likely to see dramatic increases in housing development over the next thirty years. Michigan's Lower Peninsula appears to be in line for such increases. Housing development decreases the benefits the public will derive from those forests.

The Forestry Source

Alternative Energy

EPA undermines renewable energy. The National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) has told the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Nutrition in September that recent actions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) undermine the renewable energy goals of the Obama administration and threaten jobs in rural America. The EPA no longer recognizes biomass as a renewable energy source, considering the carbon dioxide produced in the burning of biomass to be air pollution – the same as if it were from fossil fuels.

Michigan Farm News

Legislation

Estate Tax may be taken up by U.S. Senate. S. 3664, The Family Farm Estate Tax Deferral Act would remove the estate tax burden on family forests if the land stays in the family and is managed sustainably. If no action is taken, starting in 2011, a 55% tax will be levied on estates valued over \$1 million. As you know, it doesn't take a huge estate to reach that value. The American Forest Foundation urges us to weigh in on this by writing to our U.S. senators. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FIOug1JD8> to see a video they are distributing.

Fixing the Qualified Forest Property (QFP) law. Rep. Darwin Booher, of Evart introduced legislation that would revise the QFP to eliminate the ban on buildings, increase the amount of acres permitted and ease the penalty for withdrawal. The first of two bills in the House received a hearing on Nov. 9 before the Committee on Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources. The upshot was that it was tabled 'til Nov. 30. Further action is not considered likely in this legislative session.

Miscellaneous

New tree genus discovered. According to the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*, a new genus of trees has been discovered in Honduras. The genus is in the family *Aptandraceae* – a group related to the sandalwoods. The new genus is called *Hondurodendron*, “tree of Honduras”.

The e-forester

Doctor writes “Park Prescriptions”. Dr. Daphne Miller at the University of California – San Francisco prescribes outdoor walks as treatments for health problems ranging from heart disease to attention deficit disorder.

National Wildlife

Snowshoe Lacing Classes at Hartwick Pines. Three two-day classes in lacing snowshoes will be offered at Hartwick Pines State Park, 4216 Ranger Road, Grayling, MI this winter. Dates are: December 11-12, January 15-16, and February 26-27. Call 989-348-2537 or go to www.michigan.gov/hartwickpines

DNRE listserv

Moon Trees? Jerry Peak, director of the Pioneer Museum of Alabama, says the museum's “Moon Tree” attracts a lot of attention and generates questions. “Moon Trees” were grown from seeds that were taken to the moon and back again by the Apollo 14 mission in 1971. Seeds of loblolly pine, sycamore, sweetgum, redwood and douglas-fir were included in the space trip. The US Forest Service germinated the seeds and developed seedlings for planting across the country. At least four sycamores were planted in Michigan. One was planted on the capitol grounds in Lansing; another in the City of Wyoming. These did not survive. The others were planted at Fernwood Botanic Garden in Niles, and somewhere in Jackson. Does any of our readers know of the whereabouts or condition of these trees? Next year they will be forty years old...

Forester Jobs Available! DNRE is hoping to fill several full-time forester positions. Deadline for application is Nov. 26th. Go to www.michigan.gov/mdcs and look under “MI Jobs”.

DNRE Forest Management Div.