

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

6120 South Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Phone & FAX 517-663-3423

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E-mail miforest@acd.net

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Web site: www.michiganforests.com

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Association News

Sorry for the Error. Our apology for the omission of 4 pages from the winter issue of *Michigan Forests*. You should soon have the missing pages.

Annual Meeting will be Aug 19 & 20. The annual meeting for 2011 is a work in progress. So far, arrangements have been made for meals and lodging at the Fort Custer Education Center at Battle Creek. The Education Center is a modern facility built in 2009 with comfortable sleeping rooms and meeting rooms. Fort Custer owns and manages 7,500 acres – the largest ownership in a 12,000-acre block of woodland on the outskirts of Battle Creek. We will tour the property at annual meeting and see timber sales, prairie restoration and other activities. We may catch a glimpse of their nesting eagles. Other properties making up the large block of wild land are the Fort Custer State Recreation Area, Veterans' Administration grounds and nearly 1,000 owned by the Calhoun Conservation District.

Other possible activities include a biomass equipment demonstration and a visit to the Binder Park Zoo. Stay tuned – we will keep you advised through the newsletter.

Registration forms are available on the MFA website at www.michiganforests.com.



The Education Center at Fort Custer.
Guaranteed to have less snow in Aug.

Saginaw Bay Grant Proposal Clears First Hurdle. The grant proposal for developing assistance to landowners in the Saginaw Bay watershed that we wrote about last month has been endorsed by state forester Cara Boucher and forwarded to the US Forest Service. We will be in competition with several other states for funding. We expect an answer sometime in March.

MFA Member Elected SAF Vice-President. MFA member William H. "Bill" Rockwell, of St. Johns, MI, was elected vice-president of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), in a fall election. SAF is the national society of professional foresters; Bill Rockwell is president of Strategic Resources Systems in St. Johns, an associate in Metropolitan Forestry Consultants of Lansing, and a partner with The Plum Line of St. Johns and Antrim, NH. Congratulations, Bill. The Forestry Source

MFA Board Rates "Family Forest Issues." The National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) sent us a list of ten issues facing forest landowners and asked us to rate them. We sent them to our board members and asked them to rank the issues. Our board agreed with other NWOA members on the top issues: #1 was markets; #2 was taxes. We also agreed with voters from other states in placing Certification and Wildfire near the bottom. Other issues were (in no particular order) Property rights, Stewardship incentives, Invasive species, Service foresters, Keeping forests as forests, and Landowner liability.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Bear with us. Several bears over 500 pounds were shot last fall in Michigan. One, in Menominee County weighed 515 lbs. dressed; it had an estimated live weight close to 600 lbs. A 560-pounder was shot in Lake County with a muzzleloader and one that weighed 486 lbs dressed was taken with a bow in Crawford County. Woods & Waters News

Forest Health

New beetle found in Alabama. The redbay ambrosia beetle, native to India and Asia has been found in Alabama for the first time. This tiny beetle carries a fungus that kills redbay and sassafras trees. The e-forester

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Confirmed in Three Michigan Counties. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed small infestations in Emmet, Macomb and Ottawa counties. These infestations are believed to be related to shipment of infested nursery stock into Michigan. MDA listserve

MDA Imposes Quarantines for Walnut and Chestnut. It is now illegal to move walnut or chestnut plants or any parts of plants that can harbor the walnut twig beetle or the chestnut gall wasp into Michigan from infested states. This is to prevent introduction of thousand cankers disease in walnut and chestnut galls. Bill Cook

New Book About Invasive Species. The Wisconsin DNR is selling the new 62-page "A Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants in Wisconsin" for \$5.00 plus \$1.90 for shipping and handling. Find information at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp>.

Bill Cook

Alternative Energy

Minnesota Loggers see boon in biofuels. The BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota says the logging industry should capitalize on opportunities to sell wood for energy production. That could add jobs, while also helping the state become more energy-efficient.

The e-forester

BCAP is Back. The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (pronounced "beecap") has been reinstated by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) after undergoing some updates and improvements. Space doesn't permit adequate explanation in this newsletter, the following quote is taken from the FSA website. "Matching payments may be available for the delivery of eligible material to qualified biomass conversion facilities by eligible material owners." Lands must be harvested under approved management plans. Check it out – you might be eligible...

Farm Energy.org

EPA Backs Off on Biomass Regulations. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has decided to defer regulating green house gas emissions from biomass burning for 3 years. This may be of benefit to wood-fired power plants. The agency said it needs 3 years to assess the global warming effects of burning wood and other biomass, other than fossil fuels, for energy.

The e-forester

Miscellaneous

Mouse Bucket. Consider this little gem from Richard Wedepohl, of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners' Association: Put a few inches of antifreeze in a 5-gallon bucket. Run a rod through the bucket near the top and thread an aluminum can onto the rod. Smear peanut butter on the can and place a ramp on the bucket ... "so that the mice can easily get up to the top edge of the bucket. Once they're at the 'brink' the smell of the peanut butter is so enticing that the mice will try to jump onto the can. Can spins, mouse goes plunk."

(Wisconsin) Woodland Management

Tax Information. Income taxes on timber income can be confusing. Find good information on the National Timber Tax website at www.timbertax.org

Woodland Management

You can also find a US Forest Service Tax Tips bulletin at the US Forest Service's *Cooperative Forestry* website.

The e-forester



A mouse bucket can be a simple and inexpensive way to prevent mice.

Farm Bureau Questions MSU's Commitment. Responding to a restructuring plan in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) at Michigan State University, Michigan Farm Bureau stated in part, "we believe the loss of departments and program's identity, including those with strong national reputations, will result in dilution, not improvement." The restructuring plan would reduce the number of academic departments in CANR from 13 to 8. Forestry was one of the departments slated for elimination. The plan has not yet taken affect.

Michigan Farm News

Van Buren Named Conservation District of the Year. Van Buren Conservation District was named 2010 District of the Year at the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) in December. The Van Buren District was selected for its participation in the Michigan Envirothon, publication of newsletters and press releases, and its first ever "River Rescue" in which it pulled more than 1,700 pounds of trash from the Paw Paw and Black River watersheds.

MACD listserv

Michigan State Forests Keep Dual Certification. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) has announced that they have once again been dually certified sustainable. The certifying agencies are the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Our state forests are thus recognized as being well-managed for the long-term by independent raters. Some forest researchers have said these are the best-managed forests in Michigan. Most of the 4 million acre state-forest system was not worth paying taxes on and was allowed to revert to state ownership 100 years ago. The DNRE has brought the land back into productivity over the past century. We should be proud.

DNRE listserv (with editorial comment.)

Question: Can we deck logs on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands? This question was recently posed to the MFA office after one of our members was told he would not be allowed to use CRP land for a temporary log landing. We checked with Conservation Chief Dale Allen, of the Michigan State Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the USDA. Here is his response:

"Procedure allows authorized uses of CRP acreage on a case-by-case basis during the life of a CRP contract, except during the primary nesting period (May 1st through July 31st). Each request shall be documented in the local FSA County Committee minutes as authorized in advance of the activities. I would think that a logging landing would be such a use. Of course, the cover would need to be re-established at the participant's expense after the logging is completed."

It's best to check before going ahead.