

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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Association News

Annual Meeting. Register Now! We will be at the Fort Custer training center at Battle Creek. The combined properties of the Fort Custer training center, Fort Custer state recreation area, VA hospital and the Calhoun Conservation District form a 12,000-acre block of wild land next to the city of Battle Creek. We will see management activities of the training center on their 7,500 acres. Included in this will be timber management with consultant Mark Janke, prairie management and wetlands management. We may catch a glimpse of their resident eagles. Also included will be a presentation by the Enbridge pipeline company on the recent oil spill and cleanup activities. More is being planned.

Qualified Forest Property. MFA is working with a consortium of interested groups to make the Qualified Forest Property Act a friendlier bit of legislation. Aspects in need of fixing are the total restriction on structures, and various administrative provisions.

Teacher Workshop. Our workshop for teachers to introduce them to the principles of forestry and sustainable forest management will be held August 8 – 12 at Higgins Lake. Registrations are coming in. This workshop is being conducted by **Trees for Tomorrow, Inc.** of Eagle River, Wisconsin. They have a long history of such projects; we are capitalizing on their experience. The cost for the week is \$800. Teachers are asked to pay \$50; the rest is to be covered by sponsors. If you would like to sponsor a teacher or a portion of a week for a teacher, you may send donations to **Michigan Forest Foundation** at 6120 S. Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 and mark it "*Teacher Workshop*". Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Bovine TB is still with us. Two areas in the northern Lower Peninsula have been designated "High-Risk" areas by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). Each area describes a circle with a 10 mile radius around points where infected deer were shot last fall. One area is on the line between Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties; the other straddles the line between Iosco and Ogemaw counties. All cattle within these circles must be tested for bovine TB. Last year there were three high-risk areas.
MDA listserve

Ornithological Congress. The fifth annual ornithological congress will be held in Petoskey April 6 – 9. This is an opportunity for people to discuss topics of importance for bird conservation. It is open to all. Contact Karen Cleveland, 517-241-4250.
DNR listserve

Eastern Cougars Extinct. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has declared the eastern cougar subspecies to be extinct, but this has no relationship to cougar populations in Michigan according to Russ Mason, Wildlife Chief for the DNR. There is no unanimity of thought among cougar researchers as to how many subspecies of cougar exist or have existed, but they are all listed as state endangered and will remain thus protected until they reach a viable, self-sustaining population level. If you should see a cougar in Michigan, there is an online observation form; the DNR would like to know about it.
DNR listserve

Bay City Man Pleads Guilty in Wolf Killing. A Bay City man has pled guilty to the illegal killing of three wolves in Mackinac County in January. He was sentenced to 365 days in jail, with 90 days to be served immediately and the remaining time suspended if all terms of his 24-month probation are met. He was also ordered to pay \$3,000 in restitution for the wolves, \$590 for the replacement of tracking collars and \$1,500 in fines and court costs. His hunting privileges were revoked for three years and his rifle was condemned.
DNR listserve

Forest Health

Ash Borer Workshops. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host a series of workshops in the Upper Peninsula in April. The workshops will help landowners prepare for the eventual arrival of the emerald ash borer. Workshops are scheduled for Iron Mountain April 6, Houghton April 19 and Ironwood on April 20. For more information contact DNR foresters Ernie Houghton, 906-786-2351, or Gary Willis, 906-353-6651. DNR
listserv

Big Grant for Forest Health. A plant geneticist at Penn State has received a \$3.7 million grant to develop genomics resources to address forest health issues affecting hardwood trees. The e-forester

Alternative Energy

Biomass Plant for Wisconsin. A proposed biomass power plant to be built in Stevens Point, Wisconsin would meet all environmental standards for pollutants according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. It is expected to take 2 years to build the plant and would lead to employment of 150 people when it is up and running. The e-forester

Surveying Attitudes on Biomass. Dr. Karen Potter-Witter, forestry professor at Michigan State University, is conducting a study to determine landowners' attitudes toward timber harvesting – especially for biomass. The e-forester

Verso Plans Energy Production. Verso Paper has plans to produce 95% of the energy needed at its Quinnesec paper mill. They recently received a \$10 million grant from the Michigan Magnet Fund. Michigan Biomass

Legislation

Happy Anniversary. This month marks the 100th anniversary of the Weeks Act, which provided for federal purchase of private lands and called for cooperative efforts among state and federal governments and private landowners for fire protection. The Weeks Act has been hailed as highly instrumental in bringing forest cover back to the eastern United States. The e-forester

Miscellaneous

Stronger OSB. The Natural Resources Research Institute in Hermantown, MN is exploring bonding Oriented Strand Board (OSB) with a magnesium-based binder rather than the traditional petroleum-based binder. Advantages appear to be lower energy cost and fewer emissions. The board is stronger and stiffer than boards made with petroleum-based binders, but considerably heavier. Businessnorth.com

Did You Hear That? Bryan Pijanowski, associate professor of forestry at Purdue, is researching the ecological importance of sounds in an effort to create a new scientific field that would use sound as an ecological measure of a landscape. He says sounds could be a first indicator of environmental change. The e-forester

Greener Than thou? A study by the Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials found that wood is the “greenest” way to go. According to their report, production of steel generates 26 percent more greenhouse gas and concrete 31 percent more, than production of wood. The e-forester

Scholarships Available. Ben Meadows Company, in cooperation with the Society of American Foresters, offers two scholarships to students in a natural resources program. One scholarship is for academic achievement; the other is based on leadership. Each is \$2,500. Apply by June 3 The e-forester

Scholarships are also available from the Michigan Forest Foundation to students in a natural resources program. Find application form on the MFA website at www.michiganforests.com.

Check Out This New Video. Michigan State University forestry student Brett Kuipers and forestry professor Dr. Karen Potter-Witter announce a new video about forest management on private lands. View it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIC95YBxt7M> (For those who may have to type in the address, the character after the capital X is a lower case L.) Brett Kuipers

Letters

Mouse Bucket Warnings!! We received two letters in response to our item describing the “Mouse Bucket” for catching mice **Aaron Hunt**, of Grand Marais, and **Bob Caouette**, of Newberry both warned of the danger to pets posed by using antifreeze. Bob has used the idea, but with water in the bucket instead of antifreeze. He says it works just as well – even if it freezes, the mice can't get out. editor