

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Annual Meeting. Register Now! Here's a rough agenda:

Friday, Aug. 19. Board meeting in the morning at Fort Custer. All members welcome.

Demonstration of Hoelscher "HedgeHog" for pulling out unwanted brush.

Presentation on the recent oil spill into the Kalamazoo River.

MFA Business meeting.

Barbecue

Saturday, Aug. 20.

Tour forests, prairies & wetlands at Fort Custer

Visit Binder Park Zoo;

See animals in natural setting

Discuss forest management

Banquet, auction and raffle drawing.

Registration information is available at the MFA website at www.michiganforests.com, or call the MFA office.



Teacher Workshop. Our teachers' workshop, "*An Introduction to Forestry and Sustainable Forest Management*" is shaping up well. Teachers are registering and members and other interested parties are signing up as sponsors. Registration information is available at www.Treesfortomorrow.com; sponsorship information can be obtained by calling the MFA office. As of this writing, the class is half full, so don't delay. Thanks for your support of this important project.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Moose Population Estimated at 500. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has estimated the Upper Peninsula's moose population at 500 as of January of this year. About 430 are in Marquette, Baraga and northern Iron counties; the rest are in the eastern UP. DNR research biologist Dean Beyer says this may indicate a slow-down in growth of the herd, compared to the previous decade.

DNR listserve

Wolverine on Display. The only wolverine to have been verified as living in the wild in Michigan is now on display at the Bay City Recreation Area at 3582 State Park Drive. (It's dead now.) The visitor center is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

DNR listserve

Coyotes are important predators. Information recently published by Mississippi State University suggests coyotes are the leading predators of deer in a portion of the Upper Peninsula. Next in importance is the bobcat. The study involves fitting animals with tracking devices. The preliminary results are based on data from 57 adult deer and 44 fawns during the period from Jan 1, 2009 to Aug. 31, 2010. During that time, 13 fawns were killed by coyotes, 9 by bobcats, 5 by unknown predators, 4 by abandonment, 2 by black bears, 2 by cars, 2 by wolves and 1 by bald eagle. Among adult and yearling does surveyed, 6 were killed by coyotes, 3 by wolves, 2 by bears, 2 by drowning, and 1 each by birthing complications, cars and unknown predator. The study is scheduled to continue for a couple more years. It is supported by Michigan DNR, Safari Club International, and other groups. A similar study is underway in South Carolina and one is scheduled to start this year in northern Wisconsin.

(Milwaukee) jsonline.com

Frog & Toad Survey in 16th Year. Michigan Department of Natural Resources is again looking for volunteers in all parts of the state to help with the annual frog & toad survey. Call Lori Sargent at 517-373-9418

DNR listserve.

Forest Health

Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Revised. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) revised the emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantine in February. The rules may seem confusing, but here is the take-home message: DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD! Wherever you are, get your firewood locally. We have a great deal at stake here.

Michigan Forest Health Report Available. Foresters with the DNR have released a report on Michigan's forest health, giving an overview of the various insects and diseases that have threatened our forests over the past year. Find this very informative report at www.michigan.gov/foresthealth.
DNR listserve

Hope for the Hemlock. The US Forest Service reports promising results from some new approaches to control of the hemlock wooly adelgid, which has devastated hemlock stands across the Northeast. The treatments, applied in western North Carolina, include aerial application of an adelgid-killing fungus, releasing predator beetles and chemical treatments.
The e-forester

And yet Another... Customs and Border Protection agents discovered a Brown Fir Longhorned Beetle in a container of crafts from China.
The e-forester

Remember, Only You -- The Department of Natural Resources cautions us to be especially careful with fires this spring. Less than average snowfall in the northern parts of the state could mean very high fire danger. Spring is Michigan's risky season for fires and debris burning is still our leading cause of wildfires.
DNR listserve

Alternative Energy

EPA Ruling Causes Concern. This is a complicated story, and there isn't adequate space here to tell it all, nor do we understand it all, but here is the gist of the concern: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers carbon dioxide harmful to human health and thus can regulate it. They do not acknowledge that burning of fossil fuels adds carbon to the atmosphere that has been sequestered for eons, and thus is a different scenario from the burning of biomass, which merely recycles carbon that is already in circulation. While forestry activities currently are under a 3-year moratorium from the EPA rules, the fundamental problem still exists and will become evident when the moratorium expires.
Michigan Farm News

New Fuels Anticipated. It is expected that a new generation of liquid biofuels will become available in the next decade using wood as well as agricultural and forestry residues. This technology is expected to become commercially competitive and generate much less greenhouse gases compared to fossil fuels. Such second-generation liquid biofuels produced from woody biomass rather than from food crops would also reduce competition with food production.
The Northern Logger

Miscellaneous

Cedar Siding from Red Pine? The Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) in Minnesota says red pine can be made more dimensionally stable and resistant to splitting through a special heat treatment. Called "Thermally modified wood", the product is the result of a process developed in Finland over the past 15 years. It is a two-part process that heats wood to between 374 and 482 degrees F. NRRI believes this may open up new markets for red pine.
NRRI

World's Tallest Pine. A ponderosa pine in Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest was found in January that measured 268 feet tall – the tallest in the world. Three other ponderosas in the same stand would have qualified also as world records. The tallest pine is listed, along with tall trees of other species, at conifers.org.
The e-forester

Learn About GIS. A three-day conference in Redlands, CA will allow you to learn how to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to your best advantage. Sponsored by Esri Software Company, this conference features technical presentations, face-to-face discussions with GIS experts, discussion groups, demonstrations and more. May 24 – 26, 2011. Find more information at <http://www.esri.com/industries/forestry/index.html>
Collin Burnett

Letters

One More Comment about the Mouse Bucket. John Santeiu of Garden City informs us that RV antifreeze works in the mouse bucket and will not harm pets if they should drink it.