

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Annual Meeting. Register Now!

Friday, Aug. 19. Registration open all morning in Education Center

- 8:30 Board meeting in the morning in the Education Center at Fort Custer. All members welcome.
Noon Lunch in Mess Hall (Building 2716)
1:00 – 3:00 Demonstration of Hoelscher "HedgeHog" for pulling out unwanted brush.
3:30 Welcome and history of Fort Custer.
4:15 Presentation on the Kalamazoo River watershed with references to the recent oil spill and the significance of the 12,000-acre block of wild land.
4:45 MFA Business meeting.
6:00 Barbecue
7:00 Entertainment

Saturday, Aug. 20.

- Morning Tour forests, prairies & wetlands at Fort Custer
Afternoon Visit Binder Park Zoo;
See animals in natural setting (children will receive a coupon to acquire food for giraffes)
Discuss forest management (MFA will assist with ocular screening of woodland for oak wilt.)
Evening 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 nearly full. Registration information is available at www.Treesfortomorrow.com; Sponsors are still needed; donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted. Sponsorship information can be obtained by calling the MFA office. Thanks for your support of this important project.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Missing Maples. A study by Michigan State University conducted across the Upper Peninsula says sugar maple seedlings and saplings are missing from many stands where conditions indicate they should be present. Deer are the culprits.
The E-forester

Bears surveyed in Canada. Check out this video clip on tagging black bears from one of our friends in upstate New York. http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=vJRDpTUirJI&vq=medium
John Kramer

Baiting reversal proposed. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) proposed a regulation change to lift the deer baiting restrictions in the Lower Peninsula. Final action on the proposal is scheduled for the next NRC meeting June 9.
DNR listserv

Report is for the birds. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar and Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Harris Sherman have released the 2011 State of the Birds Report, the nation's first assessment of birds on federal lands. Go to <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>
The E-forester

DNR supports de-listing wolves. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources supports a federal proposal to remove wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin from the endangered species list and return management responsibilities to the states. The proposal was written into the Federal Register on May 5, opening a

60-day public comment period. Instructions for submitting public comment can be found at www.regulations.gov, using docket number FWS-R3-ES-2011-0029

DNR listserve

No Magic Number for saving endangered species. University of California-Berkely (May 16) – “A new study offers hope for species such as the Siberian Tiger that might be considered ‘too rare to save’, so long as conservation efforts can target key threats. The study, published in the journal, Trends in Ecology and Evolution, shows that population sizes required for long-term viability vary, both within and among species, and depend on the specific circumstances in which the population is found. Estimates of viable population sizes were typically reduced to hundreds rather than thousands of individuals for populations that were relatively stable.” The e-forester

Forest Health

New Strain of Chestnut. Six hundred fifty seedlings of a new, blight-resistant, strain of American chestnut have been planted on MeadWestvaco land in West Virginia. They are 1/16 Chinese chestnut and 15/16 American. Tree breeders have high hopes that this will become a breeding ground for restoration of the chestnut, which was nearly exterminated by the chestnut blight, accidentally introduced from Asia in the early 20th century. The E-forester

Management Guide available for ash stands in Michigan. The Michigan Society of American Foresters has released *Silvicultural Guidelines for Upland Hardwoods with an Ash Component*. This guide was developed by foresters in the Department of Natural Resources; it advises landowners to “prepare for the emerald ash borer by working with forestry professionals to obtain a forest management plan that prescribes harvest practices designed to reduce, but not eliminate, the ash component of their upland hardwood stands.” The E-forester

Don't Forget: It's illegal to move firewood out of the Lower Peninsula. The quarantine against moving firewood of any species into the Upper Peninsula is still in effect. This is to protect against moving emerald ash borer, beech bark disease, oak wilt, Asian longhorned beetle, thousand cankers disease, gypsy moth and others we may not know about yet. MDAlistserve

Alternative Energy

How Much Wood... The ethanol plant slated for construction at Kinross, in the eastern Upper Peninsula would consume about a million green tons of hardwood per year. A recent study by Drs. Larry Leefers and Michael Vasievich indicates there is annual growth of 4.2 million tons within 150 miles of the plant site. That's 1.8 million tons more than is being harvested in that same area. Find the study at www.michiganforestbiofuels.org. It is titled “Timber Resources and Factors Affecting Timber Availability and Sustainability for Kinross, Michigan.” Bill Cook

Miscellaneous

Water Pollution. After thirty years' successful protection of our water resources from stormwater runoff from logging sites through state agencies, a U.S. Circuit Court in Oregon has ruled that permits should be required from the Environmental protection agency (EPA). The National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) stated, “Heaping new and unnecessary permit requirements on top of forests that already lead the world in environmental quality will add job-killing costs and litigation to rural areas hardest hit by the economic downturn. Instead of improving the environment, this action will cause forest owners to struggle even more against the economic forces that drive forestland into other uses that threaten water quality....” NAFO

DNR Plans attack on 1,000 illegal dumps. Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests is working on cleaning up nearly 1,000 sites on state forest land where people have illegally dumped trash. Their goal is to have them cleaned up by National Public Lands Day, September 24, 2011. www.cleanforests.org

WANTED:

Fresh-cut oak logs,

6 – 8" diam.

3 – 4 ft. long.

With bark on.

Brian Steinberg

Inchworm Microgreens Farm

Ann Arbor, MI

734-646-2679