

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Annual Meeting a Success. About 80 people assembled at the Fort Custer Training Center in Battle Creek August 19 & 20 for the Association's 39th annual meeting. Thanks to Kathy & Denny Worst for their role in planning and to John Mitchell, Environmental Manager of the Center's property, for making this an interesting and enjoyable meeting. See more about it in the fall issue of *Michigan Forests*.

Annual Meeting 2012. Next year's meeting will be in Houghton. Much of the meeting will take place on the Michigan Tech campus, where we'll get to see their "rhizotron" – a tunnel with glass walls under a forest stand. We will also visit school forests in the Houghton vicinity. We are investigating the possibility of hiring a bus to haul people from the Lower Peninsula, with possible pickup points at Grand Rapids, Lansing and Clare. We're looking at crossing the Lake on the ferry and making a stop at the Peshtigo Fire Museum on the way. If this sounds as if it would be of interest to you, please contact us by Sept. 15. This would not be an obligation on your part – just an expression of interest at this point. Thanks.

Teacher Workshops get Good Reviews! Our workshop for teachers, "*Introduction to Forests and Sustainable Forest Management*", ran from August 8 through 12; it was attended by 23 teachers from around the state. There were many good comments; one teacher from Detroit commented, "I learned that Michigan forests are alive and thriving, and not threatened, like I had been led to believe." We have six new members as a result of this workshop. Welcome, **Richard Bottorff, Barb Giallombardo, Dawn Levey, Pamela Michaels, Heather Peterson, Lee Williams!** The workshop was organized and conducted for MFA by Trees for Tomorrow, of Eagle River, Wisconsin. We hope to be able to offer this opportunity to teachers again next summer.

Likewise, the workshop at Michigan Tech, "*Forest Ecology & Resources*", sponsored by the Michigan Forest Foundation, the Western U.P. Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education and the Michigan Tech School of Forest Resources & Environmental Science, was well received.

Together, these two workshops introduced 45 teachers to the principles and application of scientific forest management. They, in turn, have promised to take that information to their students. Tax-deductible donations for next year's workshops can be sent to Michigan Forest Foundation at 6120 S. Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Connecticut Cougar Passed through Michigan. A cougar killed by a car in June near Milford, Connecticut started his journey in the Black Hills of South Dakota, according to scientists at the U.S. Forest Service's Wildlife Genetics Laboratory in Missoula, MT. The big cat's genetic makeup gives more than 99% certainty that he came from S. Dakota. His travels took him through northern Minnesota and Wisconsin in the winter of 2009-10. He was seen several times and left his genetic mark in scats and hair. He disappeared in late spring of 2010 and was not seen until June of this year, when he was killed on the Wilbur Cross Parkway in CT. Biologists assume the cat's travel route took him across the U.P. and Ontario, across the St. Lawrence, through the Adirondacks, down the Hudson valley to the area where he was killed.

Science News

Feral Pig Found to have Pseudorabies. A feral pig trapped in June near Midland was infected with pseudorabies, a viral disease that could cause great economic harm to hog farmers. The Michigan Department of Agriculture has said there will be no effect on commercial pork from this discovery.

mlive.com

Forest Health

People say they would help... A survey taken by The Nature Conservancy found 80% of Americans are willing to take extra measures to stop the spread of forest pests such as the Asian longhorned beetle.

Nature Conservancy

Maple Seedlings Killed. A study by Michigan State University researchers shows a significant lack of sugar maple regeneration in parts of the Upper Peninsula is caused by deer. “No sugar maples are regenerating ... near Escanaba...” the study said, although regeneration of maple seems adequate in the deeper snow areas. Results of the study were published online in *Forest Ecology and Management*.
The Forestry Source

First Hybrid Chestnuts Planted in the Wild. The US Forest Service, University of Tennessee and the American Chestnut Foundation have made test plantings of hybrid chestnuts. This is the first trial in a forest setting. The American Chestnut was once a very important tree in eastern forests, both economically and ecologically. It may also have good possibilities for Michigan forests.
The e-Forester

Alternative Energy

Frontier to use more wood. The 40 million gallon-per-year Frontier Renewable wood ethanol plant in Kinross Township in the eastern Upper Peninsula has received a permit modification to allow it to use wood for its energy input. It had originally planned to use natural gas.
Michigan Biomass

Safety

Drowsy is Same as Drunk. The Institute of Business Publications' Safety Alert says a person who has been awake for 21 hours has the same sluggish performance and lack of safety awareness as a person with a blood alcohol level of 0.10% -- beyond Michigan's legal limit.
The Northern Logger & Timber Processor

Tree Farm

Forestry Association Partners with Tree Farm. The Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA) has announced a partnership with the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) that will allow certain LFA members to receive ATFS Certification for their sustainable management practices under a group certificate held by LFA.
American Forest Fdn

Tree Farm History Available for Research. The Forest History Society is now the official archive for the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). A complete inventory of the ATFS Collection is now available online at www.foresthistory.org/ATFS
Forest Timeline

Miscellaneous

State Identifies Home-Grown Wood. The state of New Jersey promotes home-grown wood products through a logo applied to those products. It's part of the “Jersey Grown, Jersey Fresh” program of the state's department of agriculture.
The Forestry Source

Help for Native Pollinators. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service provides technical assistance and the Farm Service Agency can provide financial assistance for creating habitat for native pollinators. These flower patches can help fill the gap if something happens to your local honeybee population.
Conservation Notes

Formerly Unknown Fungus Seen. Scientists at the University of Michigan and other universities have identified a soil fungus previously known only from its DNA found in the soil. It's not very exciting – not pathogenic, nor symbiotic, but it's evidently very common. It represents a new class of fungi, called *Archaeorhizomycetes*.
The e-forester

Become a Citizen Forester. The organization called “Greening of Detroit” has set out to plant 4000 trees this fall and is looking for volunteers to help. MFA member **Lee Mueller** is the Community Forester leading this project. Lee sent this message: “...we have created a new volunteer position “Citizen Foresters”, for returning volunteers and individuals inquiring about additional volunteer opportunities and leadership roles. Citizen Foresters will assist Community Foresters and Greening staff to manage the larger number of volunteers and also to provide a tree planting demonstration and to help reinforce proper planting techniques.

“If you are looking for a great opportunity to explore urban forests, work outside, contribute to Detroit's green infrastructure, assist with creative alternatives to intercepting rain water, or meet and network with others while working to make Detroit a better place, sign up to become a Citizen Forester! Applications are available on our website. www.greeningofdetroit.com Applications can be found in the HAPPENINGS section.” Lee Mueller