

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Teacher Workshops. July 30 –Aug 3 at the R.A.MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake.

Annual Meeting 2012. August 10 & 11, with possible additional activities on the 9th and 12th. Registration information will be available soon.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Bat Killer Confirmed. The white-nose syndrome that's been killing bats in 16 U.S. states and 4 Canadian provinces has been confirmed to be the fungus, *Geomyces destructans*. This comes from the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wis. The fungus is widespread in Europe, but doesn't cause the destruction that we're seeing in North America.

Science News

Cougar in the U.P. Confirmed by DNR. The Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of a cougar in Houghton County in the Upper Peninsula. The animal has been photographed by a trail camera; the photo clearly shows a radio collar. This is the third time this animal's image has been captured by trail cameras. No radio collar studies with cougars are active in Michigan; the DNR is investigating possible links to studies in South Dakota, Utah and Montana, where there are active studies.

DNR listserv

Native Bees are Better Pollinators than Honeybees. A study at Cornell University has found that native bees are two to three times better pollinators than the non-native honeybees, are more plentiful than previously thought, and are not as prone to diseases as honeybees. Research involving a dozen researchers and several universities is continuing across the Northeast. Cornell Entomology Professor Bryan Danforth estimates there are about 450 native bee species in New York state. "Native bees may have been doing a lot of pollinating work all along but not getting credit for it", Danforth said.

Michigan Farm News

They're Off! Wolves are now officially off the endangered list. The de-listing is scheduled to take effect Jan. 27, 2012. This will return management responsibility for wolves to the state level.

DNR listserv

Alternative Energy

Mascoma fully financed. The cellulosic ethanol plant scheduled for construction at Kinross, MI by Mascoma Corporation has entered into definitive agreements with Valero Energy Corporation to develop this first-of-its-kind 20 million gallon per year commercial-scale ethanol facility. Valero is the nation's largest independent oil refiner and a leading ethanol producer. Valero will provide the majority of the financing; the remainder will come from awards by the U.S. Department of Energy. Construction is anticipated to start by year-end, 2013.

Acutias LLC

RenewaFuel Plant is for Sale. The biomass pelletizing plant in Marquette County, built by Cleveland Cliffs Co., has ceased production and is for sale.

Michigan Biomass

"Super" Yeast Turns Pine into Ethanol. Researchers at the University of Georgia have developed a "super strain" of yeast that can efficiently ferment ethanol from pine pretreated with heat and chemicals.

The e-forester

Legislation

Easy Easement over state land proposed. House Bill 4298 would require the Department of Natural Resources to grant a roadway easement over state land to an individual's property under certain conditions. The House and Senate have each passed a version of the bill; version S-2 awaits attention in the House.

Michigan Farm News

Forest Health

Purdue Has a Website on Thousand Cankers Disease. Researchers at Purdue University have developed a new website aimed at educating landowners and foresters about Thousand Cankers Disease, a fatal fungal disease that is threatening black walnut trees in the Eastern United States. The website includes information on identification of the disease, how it is spread and how to report it. Go to www.ppd.l.purdue.edu and scroll down to the link for Thousand Cankers Disease.

The e-forester

No New Ash Borer Outbreaks in the U.P. this Year. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has reported the results of its annual emerald ash borer survey. No new infestations were found in the Upper Peninsula. MDARD encourages campers and hunters to acquire their firewood locally; not bring it from Lower Michigan, where the ash borer and other threats to forest health are found. These threats can easily be transported in firewood and start new infestations in locations where they are stacked to be burned. Michigan outdoor people should leave their wood at home and buy firewood near their camping or hunting destination.

MDA listserv

Markets

Hardwood Markets Growing Stronger in Asia. The USDA has released figures showing increasing exports of U.S. hardwoods to Asia. Shipments to China increased by 72 percent in 2010 over 2009; the majority of this is in lumber form, rather than logs. Current U.S. exports into southeast Asia are close to \$1 billion and growing.

Hardwood Matters.

Miscellaneous

Winter Tip. MFA member and consulting forester **Paul Drysdale**, of Cadillac, advises that the mineral spirits sold as "GREEN", meaning environmentally friendly, is not very friendly to paint guns in freezing weather. "...IT FREEZES!", Drysdale comments. "Unlike regular mineral spirits, the "green" mineral spirits freeze solid. While I am not sure if the freeze I experienced was hard enough to damage the internal parts of my paint guns, it did render them useless for the day as they were frozen solid. The mineral spirits container in my storage shed was frozen solid as well."

Money Available for Stewardship Plans. The Department of Natural Resources has announced grants are available to cover approximately half the cost of having a management plan written under the Forest Stewardship Program. Call Shawna Meyer at the DNR for further information 517-335-3355.

DNR listserv

Cross-Laminated Timber Panels available for Construction. Cross-Laminated Timbers (CLTs) are large wooden "panels" made of several layers of lumber glued together. They can be produced in almost any size and can be used to form one-sheet walls for buildings. Such panels may provide an opportunity for wood to replace steel and concrete in some markets.

The Forestry Source

Gibson Guitar Factories Raided. Gibson guitars, formerly a Michigan Company; now operating in Tennessee, was raided by armed government agents in August and about \$1 million in lumber and guitars was confiscated. Gibson CEO Henry Juszkiewicz said he assumes the raids were connected to imported lumber and alleged violations of the Lacey Act. This law reads that you are guilty if you did not observe a law even though you had no knowledge of that law in a foreign country.

The e-forester

Wood is Good.... and "Green". A new U.S. Forest Service study has indicated that wood should have a prominent place in "green" building. ***Science Supporting the Economic and Environmental Benefits of Using Wood and Wood Products in Green Building Construction***, is a review of scientific literature that found that using wood in building yields fewer greenhouse gases than using other common materials. "The argument that somehow non-wood construction materials are ultimately better for carbon emissions than wood products is not supported by our research," said David Cleaves, Forest Service Climate Change Advisor.

Michigan Farm News

Forest Management Guidelines for Michigan now available. The Michigan Society of American Foresters has published a booklet titled, Forest Management Guidelines for Michigan. It can be viewed online at: <http://michigansaf.org/Business/MSAFguide/MainPage.htm>.

Michigan SAF

Volunteers Needed for Stewardship Workdays. The Department of Natural Resources has announced a schedule of volunteer stewardship workdays to be held throughout January in southeastern Michigan parks and recreation areas. More information is available on the DNR website at: www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers.

DNR listserv