

# Leaves

## Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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### Association News

**Annual Meeting info is on the website.** It is right in the middle of our Home Page. Find it at <http://michiganforests.com/>

**Stories and case histories still needed.** Last month we asked for stories on your woodlots telling of your management activities. We received a good one from Malcom Hearl. Others have told us they have the data, but so far they haven't sent them in to us.



**MFA loses a good friend.** We're sad to report the passing of MFA member Joyce Chapel's husband Alan in January. Alan logged many miles towing our display trailer, *The Wanigan*, to events all over southeast Michigan, where Joyce has staffed it for numerous Project RED (Rural Education Day) events.

**Teacher workshop is filling up.** Response to our workshop has been good – both in terms of teacher registration and in sponsorships. There is room for about a dozen more teachers, and sponsorship openings are still available. Give us a call.

### WILDLIFE NEWS

**Cattle Testing for TB Follows positive tests in deer.** The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has announced establishment of a "Potential High Risk Area" around three different Presque Isle County deer taken during last fall's hunting season. The deer were determined to be positive for bovine TB, and now cattle and bison herds within 10 miles of the deer-kill locations must be tested.

MDA listserve

**New England Salamanders are developing tolerance to road salt.** A study at Yale University has shown that salamanders breeding in roadside ponds are developing tolerance to the increased levels of salt found in roadside ponds. Salt levels may be 70 times higher there than in woodland ponds further from public roads. Surviving salamanders from these roadside ponds seem to be "tougher" than those from less contaminated ponds.

The e-forester

**Livestock and Dog Owners Can Protect Against Wolf Attacks.** The official de-listing of wolves from the endangered list allows landowners to kill wolves attempting to kill or injure the owner's livestock or dogs. Owners taking advantage of this ability must do the following: 1. Report the kill by calling 800-292-7800 within 12 hours. 2. Keep the dead wolf until DNR takes possession (within 12 hrs.) 3. Don't move the dead wolf unless leaving it in place would impede farming practices. Take photo before moving it if it must be moved. Otherwise, wolves are still protected and DNR will prosecute cases of poaching.

DNR listserve

**Hunter's Rights Protected in National Forest.** A lawsuit over noisy firearms and snowmobile use on public land in the Huron-Manistee National Forest has resulted in support of hunting and snowmobiling by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The plaintiff claimed his right to enjoy the land was infringed upon by hunters and snowmobilers, but the Appeals Court disagreed. MUCC

**Nevermore.** Birds of the corvid family – jays, crows and ravens – make tools, cooperate and hide food from potential thieves. Researchers in the Austrian Alps have evidence they also communicate by wagging a stick or bit of moss, thus saying, "Come here" to other ravens. This is said to be the first such communication documented in non-apes.

Smithsonian

**Bird-brained Advice?** How does a woodpecker avoid brain damage? By striking the tree straight on, minimizing damaging rotational forces to its brain. Life lesson: when beating your head against a wall, do it straight on.

Mich Arbor Day Alliance

## Alternative Energy

**Enviva Lands Purchase Agreement for Wood Pellets.** U.S. wood pellet manufacturer Enviva, with plants in the US South, has signed an agreement with a European energy provider for 240,000 metric tons of wood pellets per year. The e-forester

**Mich. Public Service Commission says Renewable Energy is Cheaper than Coal.** In a new report, the Michigan Public Service Commission states that all renewable energy sources cost significantly less than (new) coal plants per megawatt/hour. The PSC also reported that Michigan is on track to meet its goal of 10% renewable energy by 2015. 25 x '25

## Forest Health

**American Chestnut turns a corner.** Researchers at Penn State working on restoration of American chestnut into eastern forests have switched from a major emphasis on cross-breeding to testing and outplanting. The e-forester

**More Biocontrols for Ash Borer.** US Department of Agriculture scientists are working on biological controls for the emerald ash borer. Small parasitic wasps have been released in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland. Now, in addition, researchers are working with a fungus that causes a disease of the beetles. One of the released wasp species has become established in Michigan. Michigan Farm News

## Legislation

**Bill Aims to Take Over Control of Federal Lands.** Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg (R-CO) has announced plans to sponsor a bill that will require the state to wrest control of most of Colorado's mountains higher than 14,000 feet and more than 23 million acres of federal public land, including most of Roosevelt National Forest and most of Colorado's Bureau of Land Management holdings. National parks and monuments would not be affected. The e-forester

## Markets

**Forest Products Employees Urge Review of Runoff Ruling.** The Pulp and Paperworkers' Resource Council has urged the Obama administration to ask the Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that identified forest roads as a point source of pollution. The e-forester

**Forest Service Report Declares Wood to be "Green".** A study by the US Forest Service argues that wood is a good choice in "green" construction. Revenue generated from the sale of wood goes back into sustainable practices on the land, thus benefiting the forests and producing a "win-win" for the economy and the environment. Mich Arbor Day Alliance

**Verso Uses Waste-wood for Electricity.** Verso Paper Corp. has completed a \$45 million renewable energy project that allows it to use waste wood-based biofuel to generate more than 95% of its on-site electricity generation at its pulp and paper mill in Quinnesec. The project delivers 28 megawatts, equivalent to the amount of electricity used by 18,000 homes in a year. The e-forester

## Miscellaneous

**New Report Explains Carbon Jargon.** Dovetail Partners has issued a new report called, "Carbon 101: Understanding the Carbon Cycle and the Forest Carbon Debate". Find it on the Net at: <http://nafoalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/DovetailCarbon101Jan2012.pdf>. The e-forester

**DNR Purchases Land to Create Menominee River State Recreation Area.** DNR Director Rodney Stokes authorized purchase of 2,354 acres in the Upper Peninsula to create the Menominee River State Recreation Area. The area includes two parcels on the Menominee River south of Norway, MI. They will add to the existing Menominee River Natural Resource Area, currently managed jointly by the Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources. DNR listserve

**Molpus Woodlands Acquire 90,000 Acres in U.P.** The Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC, a timberland investment management organization headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, has, on behalf of a client, entered into an agreement to purchase 90,000 acres in Baraga, Houghton, Iron and Ontonagon Counties. The e-forester

**State Park Volunteers needed.** Volunteers are being sought to combat invasive shrubs in natural areas in southeast Michigan state parks. Find more information at [www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers) DNR listserve

**Prehistoric Sleep Numbers.** Archaeologists from the University of the Witwatersrand have discovered the oldest-known mattress in a cave in South Africa. Dated to about 70,000 years ago, the mattress was made of sedges and grasses and contained laurel leaves, which have some insect-killing properties. Smithsonian