

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

6120 South Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Phone & FAX 517-663-3423

E-mail miforest@acd.net

Web site: www.michiganforests.com

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Association News

Michigan Forests Editor Dies. Don Ingle, editor of *Michigan Forests* magazine since its inception, died March 9 in a house fire. It is a tragic loss and MFA will miss him greatly. More about Don will be written in the next issue of *Michigan Forests*, which will be dedicated to his memory.



Don Ingle, Michigan Forests editor, writer, jazz musician and long-time friend of MFA, died March 9

Annual Meeting info is on the website. A great meeting is being planned in Houghton by Chris Hohnholt at Michigan Tech and Byron Sailor at Baraga. Check it out on the website at www.michiganforests.com. Please register as early as you can to help with the planning of this event.

Please note: Saturday's activities are printed on the back side of the registration form you received in the mail.

Teacher workshop still has space. There are still spaces available in the workshop, "Introduction to Sustainable Forest Management" to be held July 30 – August 3 at the RA MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake. Find information on the MFA website or call the MFA office.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Barred Owls Barred? Federal wildlife officials are considering the killing of barred owls to favor the endangered, and less aggressive northern spotted owl in Oregon, Washington and northern California. The e-forester

Wisconsin Deer are Above Target Levels. Wisconsin's deer herd is 44% higher than the desired level, forcing changes in deer hunting regulations for the coming season. As is also true in Michigan, the highest population levels occur in the southern part of the state. Bill Cook

Most Michiganders like having Wolves. A study at Michigan State University has revealed that most Michigan residents like having wolves in their home state. Eighty-two percent of those surveyed said they value knowing that there are wolves in Michigan. UP residents generally placed a lower value on wolves, but even there 61% said they value them. Bill Cook

Wild Hogs Caught in Michigan. Trapping efforts led by the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy have resulted in the capture of 20 wild hogs in Midland County. All have been Eurasian wild hogs, rather than feral domestic hogs, according to the conservancy. Most of the hogs were juveniles, but a big boar and pregnant sow were also caught. Wild hogs are considered by many experts to be a significant threat to our forests and wildlife, as well as a disease threat to domestic hogs. Mich. Wildlife Conservancy

Four Michigan Men Arrested on Wildlife Violations. An undercover investigation conducted jointly by Michigan and Colorado wildlife officials led to the arrest of four Michigan men on charges including importation of illegally taken game from another state. Wildlife involved included otter, bobcat, mink, marten and elk. DNR listserve

Alternative Energy

Dow Corning has a Permit. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has issued a permit for installation of a biomass gasification system. This could provide a needed market for low-grade wood in central Michigan.

Michigan Biomass

Verso Plant is On Line. Verso Paper is now operating its biomass power plant at the Quinnesec pulp and paper mill. The plant is anticipated to provide 95% of the mill's power needs; it will consume 364,000 green tons of forest residues annually. This, too, will serve to improve markets for low-grade wood.

Michigan Biomass

Fracking Isn't Tainting Groundwater. A study at the University of Texas at Austin says that groundwater contamination associated with natural gas production from deep shale deposits results from poor management of wastes, rather than the fracturing process itself. The study was funded by the university with no industry contributions. It doesn't downplay drinking-water problems associated with shale-gas production, but concludes the risks are "very similar, if not exactly the same, as the impacts that we see from conventional gas development."

Science News

Forest Health

Plants can Smell Disease and React. Patricia Sarai Giron-Calva, a Mexican researcher, says plants can detect odors from diseased plants and respond by increasing their resistance. It's a process much different from that in animals, she says. Animals can respond to odors in a second or less; plants in her study required exposure up to a day before they responded.

The e-forester

Climate Change

Trees Find Needed Nitrogen, Even with Increased CO₂. A ten-year study at Michigan Tech conducted in Rhineland, WI, showed that trees found the necessary nitrogen to deal with increased levels of carbon dioxide without depleting soil nitrogen. This was contrary to what some scientists expected to find.

The e-forester

Plant Zones Shift. A new map of U.S. plant hardiness zones shifts much of the country about half a zone warmer. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the changes are due, in part, to better mapping accuracy as well as any actual climate change that may be occurring. Find your zone by zip code at: www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov

Science News

Markets

Wooden Skyscrapers? Recognizing wood to be the environmentally friendly building material, some architects are planning high-rise buildings to be made of wood. A 30-story wooden skyscraper is being planned for Vancouver, while Norway and Austria are considering 17 and 20-story buildings.

The e-forester

Miscellaneous

Travel to Europe with Wisconsin Association. The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association is sponsoring a trip to Austria, Germany and Switzerland September 13 – 25. MFA members are invited to participate. Contact **Ginger** at Free Spirit Travel 608-742-5533.

Urban Forests Declining. A national study by the US Forest Service indicates urban tree cover in the United States is declining by about 4 million trees per year.

The e-forester

Fossilized Forest Found in China. A 300-million-year-old forest, preserved in volcanic ash, has been discovered in northern China. The prehistoric forest was preserved in much the same way as the ancient Roman city of Pompeii; the forest floor is said to be preserved in amazing detail. An internet search on "fossilized forest" will reveal related stories.

The e-forester

Scholarships Available. Scholarships are available from the Michigan Forest Foundation for students enrolled in natural resource programs. Contact the MFA office or visit the MFA website for an application form. Scholarships are also available from the Ben Meadows Company. Find applications on the Ben Meadows website.