

# Leaves

## Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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### Association News

**Register Now for Annual Meeting!** This year's meeting will be in Houghton. That's a long way for most of us and it will be important for you to **register early**. Please have your registration information in to the MFA office by **July 31** so we can have things prepared for you when you get there. The office will close Tuesday, August 7. Thanks.

**Teacher Workshop Filling Up.** The teacher workshop scheduled for July 30 – Aug 3 at Higgins Lake is filling up. This workshop will be good for 3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at Michigan State University. We have had several inquiries about graduate credits. The teacher workshop to be held at Michigan Tech July 9 – 13 will confer 3 graduate credits at Michigan Tech. Deadline for application to the Tech workshop is May 1, so if you know someone who might be interested, tell them soon.

### WILDLIFE NEWS

**Wild Hogs: It's not over.** The Michigan Department of Natural Resources can now begin enforcing the December, 2010 Invasive Species Order (ISO) on wild hogs. The ISO declares certain wild boars are illegal to own in Michigan. Some private hunting facilities have already sold their wild boars; others are suing the state over the ISO.  
MUCC

### Alternative Energy

**An Ill Wind...** Vermonters for a Clean Environment, a non-profit group, has sued the Forest Service over plans for a wind power facility involving 15 wind generators on the Green Mountain National Forest.  
The e-forester

### Forest Health

**Elm Survivors Cloned.** Scientists at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, have successfully cloned American elms that have survived repeated epidemics of Dutch elm disease. This is considered a breakthrough, as it is the first *in vitro* cloning of mature elm trees.  
The e-forester

**"Friends of Firewood" Launched in West Virginia.** West Virginia University extension specialist Dave McGill has begun a project to raise the level of awareness of the firewood industry in West Virginia. Currently, firewood producers operate in an informal economy; McGill's project will involve peer-to-peer networks and educational opportunities to promote healthy forests and a healthy firewood industry.  
The e-forester

**Large Predators Needed to Maintain Forest Health.** Research at Oregon State University has shown that, across the Northern Hemisphere, populations of large herbivores such as moose, elk and several species of deer, are far higher than at any time in history, causing damage to forest ecosystems. The loss of large predators from these systems is cited as a major cause of the high herbivore populations. Researchers say this is crippling the growth of young trees and reducing biodiversity. This also contributes to deforestation and results in less carbon sequestration, a potential concern with climate change. Wolves are named as the key missing predator in most cases.  
The e-forester

**American Chestnut Being Reintroduced.** American chestnut was once the dominant tree in much of the forest land of eastern North America, but it was effectively eliminated by the Chestnut Blight in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In much the same way as the Dutch elm disease did half a century later, the blight moved through the Eastern forests, killing every chestnut in its path. Now, over the next 3 years, blight-resistant chestnuts will be planted on reclaimed coal fields in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. The e-forester

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid found in Berrien County.** The hemlock woolly adelgid, a small, aphid-like insect that has devastated hemlock stands in the Northeast, has been found in New Buffalo, in Berrien County, according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The origin of this infestation is unknown, but an investigation is underway. "Nurseries, landowners and landscapers should never accept hemlock from quarantined areas, and never accept hemlock without proper certification," said Gina Alessandri, the MDARD's Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division Director. MDA listserve

## Climate Change

**Massachusetts' Forest Carbon Threatened by Development.** Scientists at the Harvard Forest and the Smithsonian Institution have noted that, if current trends continue, Massachusetts forest carbon storage will be reduced by 18% over the next 50 years by development. Harvesting, they said, would have a much smaller impact. The e-forester

## Markets

**Project Development Constrained by Government Policies.** Allowing whole tree chips for biopower generation would increase project development by 500 percent, according to Bob Synk, of the Parton Group in Lilburn, GA. Synk based his statement on a case study in Georgia in which recoverable quantities of logging residues were compared to the recoverable quantities if total tree chips were included with the residues. The federal government has more than 20 definitions of biomass; current IRS rules allow only residues; not total tree chips, for tax credits. The e-forester

## Miscellaneous

**Plants Grown from Forgotten Squirrel Cache.** After more than 30,000 years underground in Siberian permafrost, fruits of the plant *Silene stenophylla* were found by researchers at the Russian Academy of Sciences' research institute in Pushchino. The fruits were found in a forgotten squirrel cache 38 meters underground. Tissue scraped from the fruit and bathed in nutrients grew into fertile plants with healthy, viable seeds. Scientists report this is the oldest tissue ever to be grown into live plants. Science News

**American Forest Foundation Launches Online Mapping Tool for Woodland Owners.** The American Forest Foundation, sponsor of the American Tree Farm System, has a new tool for landowners. MyLandPlan.org is an easy-to-use, fun, and interactive website created to help woodland owners protect the land. It will allow people to go online, map the features of their property, and track their progress as they make improvements on the land. (We went to the site to try it out and couldn't get into the site, but others have done it successfully. Give it a try at [www.mylandplan.org](http://www.mylandplan.org) and let us know how it works.) The e-forester

**Keeping Wood Preservatives in the Wood.** Research at Michigan Tech is aimed at preventing wood preservatives from leaching out of the wood and into the ground, where they can be toxic to soil organisms and other wildlife. The e-forester

**Trashing Trash Sites.** Michigan's Adopt-A-Forest organization is seeking information on illegal dump sites on forest land. Check it out at [www.cleanforests.org](http://www.cleanforests.org). Adopt-A-Forest