

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

Volume XXX

May-June, 2012

Number 5

Association News

Please accept our apology. To say this is late doesn't begin to tell the story. We hope to have a new editor for Michigan Forests magazine soon; that should help us get Leaves out on time.

Workshop for Teachers is Underway. The 2012 teacher workshop starts Monday, July 30 at the R.A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake. After being filled up (25 teachers) and accruing a waiting list, then suffering some cancellations and calling on those on the waiting list, we will have 21 teachers – I think. We have had wonderful support from our many friends in forestry and the forest products industry.

Annual Meeting is Coming Soon. Many of you are registered for the annual meeting in Houghton. I look forward to seeing you there.

WILDLIFE NEWS

Put Your Birdfeeder Away or Risk Feeding Bears. There has been an increase in nuisance bear reports in the Upper Peninsula this year. One common attraction for bears is birdfeeders. DNR advises that we put birdfeeders away for awhile to prevent bear encounters.

DNR listserv

Cougars Caught on Camera. The DNR has confirmed reports of cougars in the Upper Peninsula. One of the big cats was caught by a trail camera near Skanee, in Baraga County in May, and another was confirmed after being photographed in northern Marquette County in July. So far, all confirmed sightings have been adults.

DNR listserv

Birds' GPS Discovered. Researchers at Baylor University have identified the spot in the brain stems of pigeons that senses the earth's magnetic field and allows them to navigate. They haven't figured out how it works, however.

Science News

Endangered Species on Track to Recovery. Nearly 100 species once in danger of extinction are now on track for a full recovery, thanks in large part to actions under the Endangered Species Act. Some Michigan species on this list are the Grey Wolf, Bald Eagle and Kirtland's Warbler.

Science News

Alternative Energy

Wood Fuel Makes a Comeback. Wood fuel is making a comeback in popularity in the United States and Europe, thanks in large part to pellet technology.

The e-forester

Vermont Bans Fracking. Hydraulic fracturing (fracking), a process widely used to extract natural gas has been banned in Vermont as a means to protect groundwater. Vermont thus became the first state to ban the procedure.

The e-forester

Forest Health

DNR Planning Quick Salvage of Fire-Killed Timber. DNR foresters are already working to sell timber killed in the Duck Lake Fire in northern Luce County. Bid opening was scheduled for June 22. This quick action will help hold further damage from insects and decay to a minimum.

DNR listserv

Keep Your Firewood at Home. This is the season when many of us are traveling around the state and to other states. It's tempting to take firewood from home and avoid paying \$5 for a little bundle big enough for one night's campfire. But firewood often harbors the insects and diseases that killed the trees in your woods. And often those insects and diseases can spread from the firewood into the woods around your campground. Even though the emerald ash borer is now found throughout the Lower Peninsula, there are other pests not known to be in Michigan that can be spread through firewood. Our friends in the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development tell me people are now smuggling firewood. I guess we can no longer assume people didn't know they shouldn't move firewood if they are smuggling it. We need to adopt a motto: **"BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT"** and leave what's left behind for the next guy.

Dogs are Getting to the Root of the Problem: Southern foresters are looking into the possibility that dogs could be trained to detect root rots before symptoms appear above ground. Researchers in the School of Forestry and Wildlife at Auburn University are working with the EcoDogs Program in the university's Animal Health and Performance Program.

The Forestry Source

Climate Change

Southwestern Fires Unusual. A study at Southern Methodist University suggests the large wildfires occurring in the American Southwest are truly unusual and exceptional in the long-term record.

The e-forester

Markets

Natural Gas Price is Expected to Top that of Wood Pellets Soon. A new report issued by FutureMetrics LLC predicts that the price of natural gas will be higher than that of wood pellet fuel within the next three to eight years.

The e-

forester

Birch Syrup? Forest owners in Latvia have tapped birch trees for their sap for centuries. The idea is gaining ground in parts of Europe and the Northeast.

American

Forest Foundation

Miscellaneous

Notable Quote: "Money doesn't grow on trees, but trees can create prosperity." Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

American

Forest Foundation

Blast Those Hazard Trees! A crew of 5 workers eliminated 37 hazard trees along a mountain road with explosives – all in about 2 hours. Steep terrain and other factors made it unsafe to attempt this work with chain saws. One wonders whether this approach might have application in Michigan in areas with lots of ash.

The e-forester

Ben Meadows Scholarships. Ben Meadows Company is again offering two scholarships of \$2,500 each – one for academic achievement and one based on leadership. The scholarships are administered by the Society of American Foresters. Instructions and complete requirements can be found on the Ben Meadows website.

The e-forester