

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Going Away for the Winter? Please let MFA know where you will be so we can send your magazines and newsletters to the proper address. It will help you get your mail on time and will save us money. Thanks.

MFA Welcomes New Board Member. At its September 6 meeting, the MFA executive committee appointed Dr. Karen Potter-Witter to fill a vacancy on the board of directors. Dr. Potter-Witter is a professor of forest economics at Michigan State University. "Karen's knowledge of forestry and economics makes her a 'natural' fit for our board. She will be a great addition," said MFA president Collin Burnett.

Dues Notices Coming Soon. Many MFA members will receive dues notices soon. We appreciate your prompt responses. Please note, too, that donations are needed to the Michigan Forest Foundation to enable us to continue with our educational efforts.

Wildlife News

Hundreds of Dead Deer Found in Southwestern Michigan. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is being blamed for a number of dead deer found this summer in 17 counties in southwestern Michigan. EHD is a virus disease carried by a biting fly, or midge. Infected deer often immerse themselves in water to cool themselves; thus dead animals are often found near water. Biologists with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) say this is a fairly common event and is not expected to have a great effect on the state's deer population. EHD is not considered to be a threat to humans.

Battle Creek Enquirer

Kicked Out of the Family. Skunks are no longer members of the weasel family (Mustelidae). Despite the outward similarities to weasels, mink, otter and others, DNA evidence has shown that skunks belong in a family of their own. There is probably a life-lesson here – if you're a skunk.

Natural History

Alternative Energy

Biomass Grants Available. The [U.S. Forest Service](http://www.usfs.gov) recently announced the award of nearly \$4 million in grants for wood energy projects around the country to help expand regional economies and create new jobs. The grants, totaling \$3.9 million, will be distributed to 20 small businesses, tribes and community groups to develop renewable energy projects.

The e-forester

Solar Cells Show Promise. According to findings of a research consortium including the US Department of Agriculture, photovoltaic, or solar, cells convert sunlight into energy at an efficiency rate about ten times greater than that for green plants.

Michigan Farm News

Safety

Look Out Below! Ash trees killed by the emerald ash borer are becoming dangerous. They rot at the ground line and can fall without warning. It does not have to be a windy day. Loggers are becoming more wary about cutting them, as the tops break off when they start to fall and can come back on the cutter. Be aware when you're in the woods.

Forest Health

Michigan Counties Declared Disaster Area. Ten counties in Lower Michigan have been declared either Primary or Contiguous Natural Disaster Areas by the state and federal governments. Farmers in these counties are eligible to apply for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA Farm Service Agency. Counties included in the designations are: Primary – Branch, Cass, Hillsdale and St. Joseph; Contiguous – Berrien, Calhoun, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lenawee and VanBuren. To our knowledge, no such designations are available to tree farmers.

DNR listserve

Help! Help! Help is available for Luce County forest owners affected by the Duck Lake Fire. For landowners in that area, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency have announced that landowners affected by this summer's fire in Luce County can sign up for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). The EFRP application period will run through October 9. To qualify, a landowner will receive a visit from a DNR forester, who will evaluate the conditions and determine eligibility for program practices – work that can be cost-shared through the EFRP. Residents are not required to be present during these site visits, but may accompany the forester during inspections.

Deb Huff

Weeds are Getting Tougher. Herbicide resistance is increasing. At least 21 species of weeds have developed resistance to glyphosate and some of those are developing resistance to alternative herbicides.

The e-forester

Tree Watering Tips. DNR forester Kevin Sayers offers the following tips for maintaining healthy trees in this time of drought stress. "Drought stress might not kill trees outright, but it weakens them and makes them more susceptible to other problems such as winter injury or secondary disease and insect problems later. It's important to recognize some common symptoms of drought stress on trees and how to provide needed care. Being proactive with watering will help ensure these trees survive until adequate rainfall returns."

Syptoms of drought stress:

- In deciduous trees, leaves may curl or droop, turn brown at the margins, fall prematurely and exhibit early autumn coloration.
- In evergreen trees, needles may turn to yellow, red and eventually brown.
- In severe or prolonged droughts, leaves may drop prematurely or become brown and remain attached. Twigs or entire branches may experience dieback.

When watering trees, do:

- Prioritize the plants that need watering first and most often. Newly planted trees should be a priority, as should high-value trees.
- Provide long, slow soakings to saturate the soil.
- Water newly planted trees weekly and established trees every two to three weeks.
- Water under the tree's dripline (from the trunk to the edge of the tree canopy).
- Provide 1 inch of irrigation per week (depending on recent rainfall) using the following methods:
 - Sprinkler: Place an empty container or rain gauge nearby to measure about 1 inch of irrigation.
 - Hand watering via hose: Let water run slowly until the ground is saturated 10" or 12" deep and moist near the base of small trees or at various points under the dripline of large trees.
 - Five-gallon bucket: Most newly-planted trees need 5 to 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter (at knee height) each week.
 - Soaker or trickle hoses: Saturate the soil under the dripline to at least 10" or 12" deep.
- Use mulch to help retain soil moisture and save water. Apply 3" to 4" of organic mulch under the tree canopy, but not touching the trunk.

Don't:

- Water during the middle of the day. Most of the water applied at the hottest and most windy time of day is immediately lost to evaporation.
- Use mist sprinklers. As much as 70% of water may be lost to evaporation.
- Water frequently and lightly. This may help the lawn stay green, but is ineffective for most trees.
- Use fertilizer. Fertilizer salts can cause root injury when soil moisture is limited.

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance

Miscellaneous

U.S. Population Hits 100 Million π . On August 14, 2012, at 7:42 P.M., according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the United States population hit 314,159,265, or 100 million times the mathematical constant Pi (π). Put that in your file of useless information. John MacInnis

American Forests Book Now Available OnLine. The book *American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery*, by Douglas W. MacCleery first published by American Forests in 1992 is now available on line. Visit the American Forests webpage for the download link. Forest Timeline