

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Reserve These Dates! August 16 – 17, 2013 MFA Annual Meeting Camp Tamarack, Jones, MI.

Tour managed hardwood forest at Camp Tamarack. See: ash salvage, invasive species treatments, giant tulip poplars More!
Sawmill at Camp Tamarack. Archery Shoot. Bonfire. Chainsaw demonstration.

Tour Neal Ferguson's walnut plantation. Discuss: Deer management. Thousand Cankers disease. Planting techniques.

Limited bunking available at Camp Tamarack; Holiday Inn Express and Super 8 available in nearby Three Rivers.

Shipshewana is less than an hour's drive. Winery tours in Paw Paw, less than an hour's drive.

More details coming soon.

Wildlife News

Birds Find Use for Cigarette Butts. Researchers at St. Andrews University in Mexico City discovered that urban birds – house sparrows and house finches – commonly line their nests with cigarette butts. The nicotine in the butts functions as a natural pesticide, keeping down the number of parasitic mites. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-20607413> Your Week in Trees

Bovine TB is Still With Us. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development reports the positive testing of a dairy herd in Alpena County for bovine Tuberculosis. This disease also affects deer. MDA listserve

Lyme Disease Tied to Fox Populations. Research at the University of California, Santa Cruz found a higher correlation between Lyme disease occurrence and red fox populations than with deer numbers. Deer ticks pick up the bacterium that causes Lyme disease most often from small rodents, which are – or are not controlled by foxes. Fox populations are affected by coyote numbers, so it's hard to know who to blame... Natural History

Forest Health

Chestnut comeback? You've heard about this before, but here's a nice slide show about the research being done on breeding blight resistance into American chestnut. Find it at [/Environment/guardian.co.uk.chestnut](http://Environment/guardian.co.uk.chestnut). If you're not inclined to look for this on the internet, please check out the photo on this page. It shows two woodsmen in a grove of huge chestnut trees near what is now the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in western North Carolina, taken ca. 1910. It's not hard to see why the chestnut tree's demise due to the blight was mourned by many.

Your Week in Trees

Walnut Twig Beetle found in Ohio. The walnut twig beetle, carrier of the fungus that causes Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), has been discovered in southwestern Ohio, according to the Ohio Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture. So far, no trees have been found to be infected with TCD in Ohio. The e-forester



Watch for Japanese Knotweed. Another plant brought here as an ornamental threatens to take over some sites in Michigan. Japanese Knotweed is on the state's Prohibited and Restricted Species list, meaning it cannot legally be sold or moved in Michigan. See photo on this page. DNR listserve



Beetle Battle Continues. The Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) has now been found in Clermont County, Ohio. That is the county that includes the City of Cincinnati. The USDA has allocated \$15 million to fight the pest in Ohio. Unlike outbreaks in New Jersey and New York, where the affected areas were urban, the Ohio outbreak is in forest stands as well. Nursery Management

Alternative Energy

Solar Heat with Beer Cans? See a new use for those empty beer and pop cans at: <http://planetforward.org/idea/beer-cans-heat-up-the-solar-scene/> Your Week in Trees

US Now Ahead of Canada in Wood Pellet Exports. A report by Wood Resources International says the United States surpassed Canada as North America's largest exporter of wood pellets. The US South and British Columbia are the continent's primary pellet producing regions. The e-forester

Markets

New Hampshire Biomass Plant Burns Millions of Tons of Wood Chips. Schiller Station has burned more than 3 million tons of wood chips at its biomass plant in Newington, NH, over the past 6 years. That represents about \$95 million boost to the local economy through the purchase of the chips. Most of the chips (60%) came from NH, 25% from Mass. and 15% from Maine. The e-forester

Miscellaneous

DNR Announces Community Forestry Grant Recipients. Urban Forestry grants have been awarded to 18 Michigan communities by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in cooperation with the US Forest Service. These grants are for tree planting, tree inventories, management plans and education and training projects. More information on these grants can be found at www.michigan.gov/ucf. DNR listserve

Review Period Extended. The Michigan DNR has extended the review period for the Regional State Forest Management Plans. Comments will be accepted now until March 8, 2013. DNR listserve

New Sign System for Snowmobiles. Snowmobilers should be aware the DNR has changed the sign system on snowmobile trails. Some signs have been discontinued; new ones have been added. Visit www.michigan.gov/snowmobiling to find details. DNR listserve

Hurricane Sandy Hit New York Botanical Garden. The old-growth forest at New York Botanical Garden was hit hard by Hurricane Sandy. Find a New York Times story at <http://green.blog.nytimes.com/2012/11/05/am>. Your Week in Trees

Conservation Districts now have Foresters to Help Landowners. Private landowners can now contact their local conservation districts for advice on how to get help in managing their forest lands. In a cooperative program involving DNR, MDARD and local conservation districts, thirteen conservation district-employed foresters will provide on-site technical assistance to assess land quality and potential. These foresters can help landowners identify objectives for their land. After an initial visit including these actions, owners will be referred to private consulting foresters for more detailed assistance. More information can be found at www.michigan.gov/forestryassistanceprogram. MDAlistserve

MSU to Help India with Forest Management. Researchers at Michigan State University will help India with forest management to reduce that nation's greenhouse gas emissions. The project is made possible by a federal grant awarded by USAID. The e-forester