

# 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.

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

**Leeches Don't Lie.** Tom Gilbert, a geneticist at the University of Copenhagen, has found that terrestrial leeches can retain DNA from their feeding victims for up to four months. This enables scientists to search for rare animals in the tropical rain forests of Malaysia and other Asian countries. After testing 25 leeches in Vietnam, Gilbert found DNA from mammals – two of which were extremely rare.

Popular Science

### Forest Health

**Is Beech Immune to Lightning?** Here's a question to ponder: Have you ever seen a beech tree that has been struck by lightning? Timber buyer, forester and MFA member **Jerry Tomandl** says he once knew an old-timer (and Jerry is no spring chicken) who was searching for beech trees suitable for barn timbers. They had to be beech in order "to protect the barn from lightning."

"How's that?" Jerry asked.

"Well, did you ever see a beech tree with lightning scars? There you go."

Well, have you? Let us know. Send us a picture...

**Ohio Adds to Asian Longhorn Arsenal.** In lieu of cutting all trees within a half-mile of known Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) infestations, some communities in southwest Ohio are injecting some trees within the half-mile zone with insecticides that will kill the ALB.

Your Week in Trees

**Most Trees are a Sip Away from Death.** Researchers at the University of Western Sydney in Richmond, Australia have determined that trees in most forests live very close to the limits of their ability to transport water to their crowns, making them vulnerable to drought. Broadleaf trees appear more vulnerable than conifers.

Science News

**Forest Health Report Available from DNR.** The DNR's report, 2012 Forest Health Highlights, is now available for viewing on the DNR website. Search for **Michigan DNR Forest Health**. You will find the report and also an opportunity to subscribe to an informative forest health newsletter.

### Alternative Energy

**Marginal Lands Could be Very Productive.** Researchers at Michigan State University have concluded that marginal lands (those unsuited to crop production) could be very productive of energy through growth of mixed-species cellulosic biomass. They estimate up to 5.5 billion tons of ethanol could be produced in this manner in the Midwest alone.

The e-forester

## Legislation

**Forestry Bills Introduced in the Senate.** Bills now moving out of committee in the state Senate would modify the Qualified Forest Act by easing the recapture tax, expanding the number of acres eligible in a single ownership, allowing structures (although not exempting them from taxes) and other changes. Another, less popular, change is the addition of a 2-mil annual fee to support the administration of the law.

These bills appear to be a genuine effort to help private forest landowners. You are encouraged to contact your state Senator to let him know how you feel about these; we will attempt to keep you posted as the bills progress.

## Markets

**Minnesota Mill Converting to Chemical Cellulose Production.** Sappi Ltd has announced it will convert its pulp and paper mill in Cloquet, MN to production of chemical cellulose, which is used to make rayon and other products. Stewardship News

## Miscellaneous

**Tax Tips for Landowners.** Here are some good sources of information for timber taxes:

MFA member and forester **Susan Metcalfe** will conduct two seminars in February – one in Oscoda on Feb 6, and one in Gaylord on Feb. 20. Contact her at [metcalfeforestry@yahoo.com](mailto:metcalfeforestry@yahoo.com).

Free webinar on Feb. 13, Noon to 1:30 Eastern time. Presenters: Dr. Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist, US Forest Service, and Dr. John Greene, Retired Research Forester, US Forest Service. Contact Brandon Hatchett, [hatchet@uga.edu](mailto:hatchet@uga.edu). To access the webinar, go to <http://forestrywebinar.net>. Shawna Meyer, DNR

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2012 Tax Year. Visit this website by Drs Linda Wang and John Greene: <http://www.timbertax.org/developments?TaxTip2012-Final.pdf> Bill Cook

**Forest Service Management Guides Available Online.** There is a new version of the silvicultural guide for Northern white-cedar and another on Harvesting Systems for the Northern Forest Hardwoods. Find them at: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/41699> and <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/39931> respectively. Bill Cook

**Call Before You Cut.** Call Before You Cut (CYBC) is a multi-state project aimed at contacting landowners before they make sudden, uninformed decisions about harvesting timber. You can find information on it at <http://callb4ucut.com>. The project is active in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, but not Michigan. Your Week in Trees

**Sprawl Threatens up to 34 Million Acres of American Forest by 2060.** Forest Service scientists, along with partners at universities and other agencies have released the results of a new study of the potential expansion of urban development. Development is anticipated to increase by 41 percent by 2060, affecting between 16 million and 34 million acres of forest. (By comparison, Michigan's total land area is 36 million acres.) The e-forester

**The Maple Leaf...** Of the 10 species of maple native to Canada, which one do you suppose is represented by this leaf outline? The picture below left is taken from Canada's new \$20 bill and is causing some controversy. Many people think it looks like a Norway maple leaf rather than any of the native maples. The picture on the far right is the Canadian flag, which features a more native-looking leaf. Your Week in Trees

