

# 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.**

**Friday:** Board of Directors Meeting all morning. Registration all morning.

Afternoon: Tour **managed hardwood forest** at Camp Tamarack. See: ash salvage, invasive species treatments, giant tulip poplars. Visit **Sawmill** at Camp Tamarack. Archery Shoot (ages 6 and up) with certified range instructor.  
Evening: Dinner and Auction

**Saturday:** Morning: Registration and Continental Breakfast

**How do I sell timber?** Jeff Steinkraus, consulting forester. Tour Steinkraus' hardwood forest.

Afternoon: Tour of Neal Ferguson's **walnut plantation**. Discuss: Controlling deer damage, Planting techniques. Presentation on Thousand Cankers Disease and other forest diseases and pests: Roger Mech, DNR  
Demonstration of "Brownie" Orchard Picker.

Evening: Dinner, Speaker: author Dan Parker on Civil War

### Limited bunking & camping available at Camp Tamarack;

**Registration form** is now available on the MFA web site at [www.michiganforests.com](http://www.michiganforests.com).

Hard copy can be obtained by calling the MFA office at 517-663-3423.

Also, lists of nearby lodging and camping facilities are available on the web site and from the MFA office. Give us a call...

### News from Our Members

**On Beech and Lightning.** You may remember that last month we published a question about whether beech trees ever get hit by lightning. **Jerry Tomandl** reported having heard that old-timers built barns with beech timbers because beech trees are never hit. We asked you for your thoughts. Last month we published notes from Warren Suchovsky and Keith Martell. This month we have two more:  
"I am pretty dog-gone sure that I saw a lightning-killed beech in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, near Sable Lake, in a large stand of mostly beech (which now is mostly dead beech). I did not think much of it at the time, other than the tree was 'striking'".

**Bill Cook**, Escanaba

"I have to admit you've sucked me into this whole beech-lightning thing! Stuck here at my desk, the best I could do was consult Google. Here's an interesting couple of explanations. Basically stating that they get hit maybe just as often as any other similarly sized/shaped tree, but sustain much less damage.

<http://skullsinthestars.com/2012/11/03/are-beech-trees-ever-struck-by-lightning-1889/>

"MO extension (which was cited by the previous) claims it's due to higher oil content in the wood making it a poor conductor.

<http://extension.missouri.edu/extensioninfo/article.asp?id=1804>

"That said, Google image search yielded no pics of lightning damaged beech trees...

"Pretty fascinating stuff!"

**Andy Henriksen**, East Lansing

Check out Andy's links. It is pretty interesting, but the jury is still out. There will be a prize for the first picture we receive of a beech tree with an identifiable lightning strike.

Dear Editor:

Keith Martell's note on beech last month also mentioned that "the tips of Canadian hemlock always point east..", quoting *Trees of the Eastern and Central United States and Canada*, by William M. Harlow. Keith's comment generated yet another note: "A bit more about hemlock, (Eastern or Canada). According to Wm. M. Harlow and Ellwood S. Harrar in their 1950 McGraw-Hill *Textbook of Dendrology*,

Eastern Hemlock terminal shoots tend to curve away from the direction of prevailing winds. This would explain their tendency to point eastward. The authors mention that this feature may even be used as a 'natural compass'. May come in handy if you forget your compass. I wonder if Daniel Boone knew about this..."

Malcolm Hearl, Richmond, MI

Dear Editor:

I am having difficulty with trespassing neighbors and I don't know what to do about it. The neighbor and some of his friends were cutting firewood from my woods until I put up a fence. Since then I have seen them throwing wood over the fence from my side and loading it into at least 5 different pickups. Their kids walk all over shooting at who-knows-what – not hunting – just shooting. They have shot up my "No Trespassing" signs. The sheriff says I need to catch them in the act, but he is a half-hour away and does not seem very supportive. I've thought about one of those trail cameras, but I'm afraid it would just be shot up. I think these people are harassing me – partly because I'm getting older and I live alone. Would any other MFA members have experiences like this and offer any suggestions?

Name withheld by request.

We received a letter from **Tom Erickson**, of Ironwood. Tom has been a member of MFA since he was introduced to us by board member Ed Aho, of Connor Lumber, in 1974. Tom will be 95 in September. He is suffering from macular degeneration and cannot read well any more. Still, he is mentally sharp and would enjoy hearing from his old friends. You may send messages via the MFA office.

## Wildlife News

**DNR is Looking for Frog & Toad Surveyors.** Michigan's 18<sup>th</sup> annual Frog & Toad Survey will take place this spring. The DNR Wildlife Division is looking for volunteers. If you would like more information, contact Lori Sargent at 517-373-9418 or [SargentL@michigan.gov](mailto:SargentL@michigan.gov). DNR listserve

**Kirtland's Warbler at Record Levels in 2012.** Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) says in its 2012 annual survey report that Kirtland's warbler numbers reached an all-time high last year. The 2012 survey recorded 2,063 singing males – up from 1,805 in 2011. The low point was 167, recorded in both 1974 and 1987. During those low-population years, all known Kirtland's warblers were nesting in the northern Lower Peninsula. The 2012 numbers include 38 in the Upper Peninsula, 23 in Wisconsin and 4 in Ontario. Well-managed jack pine forests, with all ages represented has helped these little birds come back from the brink of extinction. Finding nesting birds in other regions besides the northern Lower Peninsula suggests they are safer now than ever in their recorded history. DNR listserve

**Take a Big Bite.** Research at the University of Liverpool has indicated Tyrannosaurus rex had a very forceful bite – a force of almost 12,800 pounds. That would make it the hardest-biting terrestrial animal ever known. Smithsonian

## Forest Health

**Pest Risk Maps are Available.** The US Forest Service, through the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET), has developed maps displaying risk related to various forest health threats from invasive insects and diseases. Find them at <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/nidrm.shtml> the e-forester

## Education

**Students Watch Bluebirds on Local TV.** Students at Penny Road Elementary School in Cary, North Carolina can watch nesting bluebirds through a tiny camera hidden in a bluebird house. The school yard is a certified unit of the National Wildlife Federation's *Schoolyard Habitats* program. Students become connected to the outdoors – at least remotely – and, reportedly, students exposed to such things attain higher math scores than those taught through a more traditional curriculum.

National Wildlife



## Markets

**Cellulose Nanocrystals strengthen Plastics.** Research being done at State University of New York School of Environmental Science and Forestry shows that tiny "Nanocrystals" of cellulose, when added to plastics, can immensely increase the strength of the plastic. "Adding one ounce of nanocrystals to one pound of plastic increases the strength of the plastic by a factor of 3,000", says Chemistry professor Dr. William T. Winter. Such use of cellulose could provide new markets for biomass. The e-forester

## Miscellaneous

Nominations sought for Forest Legacy Program. The Department of Natural Resources will accept nominations for lands to be included in "Forest Legacy Areas". Under this program, the DNR uses federal and matching funds to purchase development rights on certain forest lands. Lands must be nominated by their owners; lands remain in private ownership under the program. This is a way for landowners to assure that lands will remain in forest, rather than be subject to development. Applications are due by June 14. Application and more information can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/private](http://www.michigan.gov/private) DNR listserve