

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Volume XXXI

June, 2013

Number 6

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

Timber Sales 101: 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 Dr. Dan Parker on *Insights into the Civil War*

Limited bunking & camping available at Camp Tamarack

Registration form is now available on the MFA web site at 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...

AND, a form is available on the website for ordering **raffle tickets**. This is an important fund raiser for MFA; prizes are attractive: a hand-held Garmin GPS unit with topo maps, a hard maple table from Mich. Maple Block, and 3 cash prizes. If you can't attend the meeting, here's a way you can help.

Teacher Workshop Set for July 29 – August 4.

Here's a great deal for your favorite teacher: 5 days at the R.A.MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake, stimulating program on sustainable forestry, 3 SB CEUs from Michigan State University, all for \$100! Find information on the MFA web site.

Volunteers Needed. There are vacancies on the boards of directors of both the MFA and the Michigan Forest Foundation. If you know of someone who might be interested in serving – or if you, yourself are – please let us know.

From the Membership...

More about Beech and Lightning. "We would like to add to the discussion of Beech being preferred for barn building because of being less prone to lightning strikes. It reminded us of a saying in our native Germany that went: 'Seek out Beech, but avoid Oak' when caught in a thunderstorm in the woods or on a hike. We were instructed by this, in German rhyming, saying from early childhood on. However, I did not witness any proof of this theory – if only I knew the lumber used to build the house my family rented, for lightning struck it during construction (1908) which was still visible in the massive beams in the attic. Interesting topic – looking forward to hearing more about it. Best regards, Peter & Lonhilt Klose"

White Oak Trees Dying. "Last fall I contacted MI Forest about some of my 35 year-old white oak trees dying. I had contacted a local forester and we have examined the white oaks. Earlier I found that all of the dead oaks had fallen bark and there were tracks very similar to the tracks on my ash trees. I Googled for information about the emerald ash borer moving onto oaks because there were no more live ash trees. At the rate my trees are dying it will not be long before my entire white oak planting of 1000 trees will be gone. I have not found any native white oaks that have been attacked, nor any evidence on my northern red oaks planted at the same time, next to the white oaks. Any answers?" V & N, Lapeer County

Note: Your editor visited the site with DNR Forest Health Specialist Roger Mech in mid-June and determined it is a condition known as ***oak decline***. It is likely related to moisture stress over the past couple of years and secondary invasion by two-lined chestnut borer (a native pest) and Armillaria root rot (also a native pest). It is a beautiful 35 yr-old hardwood plantation – beginning to need a thinning, but otherwise in good condition.

Wildlife News

Bean Leaves Trap Bedbugs. An old Balkan wives’ tale says you should spread bean leaves on the floor next to beds to control bedbugs. A team of researchers at the University of California, Irvine, tested the idea and found that the bean leaves have little hairs on their undersides that latch onto the feet of the bugs. The researchers are hopeful this will lead to a mechanical control for these bloodsucking pests.

Natural History

Kestrels do better in Remote Areas. A study from Boise State University indicates that kestrels, commonly considered to be tolerant of human activity, have better nesting success if they’re far from the influence of people. Nests near roads and developed areas had high rates of abandonment and birds had elevated levels of stress hormones.

The e-forester

Forest Health

Battling the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Great Smokies. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is using 3 methods to battle the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA): Soil treatment under hemlock trees with a systemic insecticide, Spraying with insecticidal soap, and Importation and release of tiny predatory beetles from the HWA’s original home in Japan.

The e-forester

Adding Insult to Injury. Researchers at Michigan Tech University have determined that hemlocks in winter deeryards suffer from too much soil nitrogen; the source is deer urine. The elevated nitrogen levels in the soil favor other tree species, such as sugar maple, over hemlocks.

Your Week in Trees

Predatory Wasps Battle the Emerald Ash Borer. Three species of little wasps that parasitize only ash borers offer some promise in controlling the emerald ash borer (EAB). They have been imported from China, where they normally prey on EAB. They have been tested as to their host specificity and found to have a taste only for EAB. More than a dozen states have released them.

The e-forester

Legislation

Qualified Forest Program now in Ag. Governor Snyder signed legislation last week that transfers the Qualified Forest Program (QFP) from the Dept. of Natural Resources to the Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). Our contact in DARD is Rich Harlow, 517-335-3466, harlowr@michigan.gov.

DNR listserve

Markets

Minnesota Encourages Biofuels. Pending legislation in MN would delete the word “ethanol” and replace it with “biofuel” in the state’s renewable energy mandate.

The e-forester

Solid Engineered Timber Offers Truly Sustainable Structures. Development of solid engineered wood products, such as cross-laminated timber provides structural and technical capabilities that are truly sustainable, in contrast to other common materials such as concrete and steel.

The e-forester

Miscellaneous

Forestry Conference to Address Loggers’ Issues. Hosted by Congressman Dan Benishek, of Crystal Falls and two Wisconsin congressmen. The event is scheduled for June 23 – 24th at the Potawatomi Carter Casino and Hotel, 618 State Highway 32, Wabeno, Wisconsin. Contact Kimberlee Rietveld in Congressman Benishek’s office at 877-376-5613, Ext 5 or Kimberlee.Rietveld@mail.house.gov

Timber Cruising Satellite planned. The European Space Agency has plans to build a satellite equipped with a radar system that can sense tree trunks and branches from orbit. It will be called “Biomass” and is expected to launch in 2020.

The e-forester

Visit Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Join the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association for a tour out West September 23 to October 2. For more information, contact Free Spirit Travel, Portage, WI 800-444-0383

Amphibious ATV. Gibbs Sports Amphibians, of Auburn Hills, MI, has produced an amphibious ATV with retractable suspension that transforms quickly from land to water and goes as fast on the water as it does on land (45 mph). It’s called the Quadski and is on sale now.

Popular Science



Tour of 1812 Historic Sites Set for Oct. 13 & 14. Visit battlefields and other historic sites related to the War of 1812. Sponsored by the Michigan Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial 1812 and the Detroit Historical Society, the bus tour departs from Lansing on Oct. 13. For more information, contact James McConnell at jam1776@sbcglobal.net

DNR listserve