

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Last Chance! Register by Aug. 5!

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.

Other Association News

Wanigan a Hit at Ag Expo. Many visitors discovered that the *Wanigan*, or educational trailer, is a comfortable respite from the heat and a good place to go for information about trees and forestry. When oriented properly with the prevailing winds, the trailer catches a nice breeze and feels at least ten degrees cooler inside than outside in the sun. Many thanks to MFA members who volunteered to staff the display this year: **Ted Reuschel, Mike Moore, Debra Huff, John MacInnis, Dennis Good.** The next appearances for the *Wanigan* will be at the Wood Expo in Charlotte, Sept. 6 & 7, and Woods 'N' Waters show in Kalamazoo Sept. 20 – 22. If you'd like to volunteer for part of a day, please give us a call at the MFA office, 517-663-3423.

Wildlife News

Fishers Return to Lower Peninsula. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has confirmed the presence of fishers in the Lower Peninsula. Although there have been reports of fishers south of the Mackinac Straits, a recent report from Presque Isle County was the first one to be confirmed by the DNR. Fishers are members of the weasel family that prefer to live in large tracts of mature conifer forest. They are famous as the only predators that can successfully prey on porcupines, although porkies are said to compose a small portion of their diet. The fishers' return to Lower Michigan is evidence of the recovery of our forests from the overharvesting that took place at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries.

DNR listserve

Five Ways to Stop Asian Carp:

1. Poison them. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is working on poisonous microparticles designed to kill Asian carp exclusively.
2. Shoot them. Some species leap out of the water, providing targets for “extreme aerial bowfishing”.
3. Eat them. Asian carp, although difficult to debone, are said to be tasty. They are available in Chicago for about \$15 per pound.
4. Trap them. USGS is developing baits that would allow large numbers of carp to be trapped.
5. Block them. The Army Corps of Engineers has installed electric weirs to block carp from traveling into Lake Michigan. Popular Science

Forest Health

American Chestnut Revival. Lots of people are working on bringing back the American chestnut from near-extinction after the fungus blight wiped out nearly all of them from the eastern United States. There have been several different approaches. Last May the American Chestnut Foundation planted some Chinese-American hybrids in Pennsylvania; the State University of New York at Syracuse has planted chestnuts that have been modified with a gene from wheat that enables the tree to produce a blight-fighting enzyme. Meanwhile, certain individual trees survive and grow in several states, including New York and Michigan. The e-forester

Increased CO2 allows more efficient water use by trees. The Forest Service, Harvard University, and others have completed a study that suggests trees respond to higher atmospheric carbon dioxide by using water more efficiently. The e-forester

***Ailanthus* is now officially “Invasive”.** Tree-of-Heaven, or Chinese sumac, *Ailanthus altissima*, or simply *Ailanthus*, this fast-growing tree has been declared an invasive exotic species and is causing great concern to foresters in Pennsylvania and other parts of the country. Matthew Kasson, who received his doctorate in plant pathology and environmental microbiology from Penn State, says the *Ailanthus* “is the number one cause of native regeneration failure in clearcuts in Pennsylvania.” The e-forester

Ontario Research shows Diversity leads to Resilience. Researcher Bill Parker, of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, has begun a study of species mixtures in tree plantings to help lend resilience to new forests. “A resilient ecosystem can experience a disturbance and return to its former state,” Parker said. E-Insights

Forest Products

Fewer Shattered Bats. The US forest Service conducted research on all the shattered bats from the second half of the 2008 major league baseball season, then made recommendations for improved dimensions, drying techniques and other factors. The result has been 50% fewer shattered bats. Your Week in Trees

More Maple Bats. More than half – 64% of the 60,000 bats sold to Major League Baseball last year were maple. Your Week in Trees

Miscellaneous

Landowner Workshop

Would you like to learn about opportunities to earn income from your property by developing a natural resource business? An upcoming workshop sponsored by Michigan State University Extension will help you understand natural resources opportunities in Michigan, and what you could do on your own land for hobby or income. Our featured speaker is Dr. Daryl Jones, coordinator of the Natural Resources Enterprises Program at Mississippi State University. The workshop will be held on Saturday, August 24th from 9:00am-5:00pm at the University Center, 80 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. Registration is \$35, which covers materials and refreshments. An optional box lunch is available for an additional \$11 per person. To register online, go to <http://www.events.anr.msu.edu/NRbusiness>. For a printable brochure with mail-in registration information, go to <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/events/admin/eventdata/NRbusiness/NRE%20workshop%20brochure.pdf>.

Don't Squeeze It! Squeezing a bee sting may release more venom. It's better to scrape with a fingernail, knife or credit card to remove the stinger. Northern Logger

Grants Available from PLT. Project Learning Tree is offering grants up to \$3,000 through their Greenworks! Program to help students learn about and improve the environment at their school and in their neighborhood. Deadline for application is September 30.

Humans not-so efficient at using water during high temperatures. As heat and humidity rise, your body may divert energy to keeping cool, rather than performing your job. To reduce the risk of a heat disorder, drink plenty of fluids including cool water, diluted iced tea, artificially sweetened lemonade or preparations like gatorade. The Northern Logger