

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Volume XXXI

August, 2013

Number 8

Association News

ANNUAL MEETING a SUCCESS. The 41st MFA annual meeting was held at Camp Tamarack, near Jones, MI in Cass County. Watch for details and photos in the Fall issue of *Michigan Forests*. Our thanks go out to Jeff Steinkraus, Neal Ferguson and Deb Huff for putting it together.

Third Annual Teacher Workshop is now in the record book. Attendance was lower than the first two workshops, due mostly to a misunderstanding on promotional material. We are making plans for the fourth workshop and will be more intentional with the promotions this time. Major sponsors this year were the Lynn and Stanley Day fund of the Southeast Michigan Community Foundation, AJD Sawmill, Weyerhaeuser, Michigan Association of Timbermen, and Michigan Society of American Foresters.

Next year's teacher workshop will run from July 28 to August 1. Tell your favorite teacher...



Teachers approach a timber harvester at this year's teacher workshop.

Other Association News

Property Rights Do you have any stories property rights problems? There is a legislator willing to take this on – if it's an issue for people. Send us a note if you have a story that may be of interest.

Wildlife News

Forest Interior Birds May Benefit from Clearcuts. A Forest Service study in Pennsylvania suggests that young forests in clearcut areas may be of benefit to forest-interior-dwelling birds. The study suggests the young forest habitat may be just as important as mature forest for some bird species.

The e-forester

Dead Bear not Guilty. The DNA of a wounded bear killed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not match that of the bear that attacked a 12-year-old girl near Cadillac in early August. The DNR offers the following suggestions for dealing with a bear attack:

- Travel in small groups and make noise to avoid surprising bears.
- Stand your ground and then slowly back away if you encounter a bear. Do not turn away. Do not show fear and run. Do not play dead.
- Make yourself look bigger and talk to the bear in a stern voice.
- Fight back if actually attacked with anything at hand – a backpack, a stick, bare hands.
- Carry pepper spray, which has been shown to be effective in fending off bear attacks.

DNR listserv

Forest Health

Duck Lake Burn is Recovering. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sold salvage rights to timber damaged in last year's Duck Lake Fire in the Upper Peninsula. Most of the 21,000 acres burned are expected to regenerate naturally; over a million jack pines have been planted in areas not expected to regenerate from seed.

The e-forester

Deer Worse than Global Warming. A study by The Nature Conservancy concludes that whitetail deer pose a larger threat to forest health than global warming. "While we acknowledge that climate change is a long-term stressor that will lead to significant changes in eastern forest ecosystems, high deer populations have had a much greater negative impact currently and over the last several decades." Similar studies by the US Forest Service have reached similar conclusions.

Your Week in Trees

Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut Confirmed in Ohio. Thousand Cankers disease has been confirmed on walnut twigs in Butler County in southern Ohio. This disease was first discovered on black walnut trees planted in Colorado in 2003. So far, there is no known treatment.

The e-forester

Rx for Invasive Species: Goats. Goats are being used in and around the nation's capital to control unwanted vegetation. Under the supervision of a professional forester, these goats are said to be the environmentally friendly answer. Contact Brian Knox for information at 410-770-4502. Or, forests@earthlink.net

Your Week in Trees

Forest Products

States Fight LEED Program. Several states have accused the group *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) of unfair standards in approving only wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for use in Leed-certified buildings. Wood products certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), all of which are in North America, are rejected by LEED in favor of FSC-certified wood, 90% of which is produced outside North America. The points of contention seem to be social issues, such as workers' rights. Many builders seek LEED endorsement in this time of booming green-building market. Georgia governor Nathan Deal issued a ban on LEED certification of state government construction projects last year. Alabama, Maine, Mississippi and North Carolina have passed or are considering similar measures.

The e-forester

Timber Skyscrapers. Architecture and engineering firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) has developed a structural system for skyscrapers that uses timber as the main structural material. Production of wood uses much less energy than that of steel or concrete; wood use in construction reduces the carbon footprint of the building by up to 75%.

The e-forester

Don't throw it out! Some automakers are using old logs and other wood as trim in car interiors. Logs from the bottom of Lake Michigan, even old fence posts are finding use in some vehicles. So think twice before you burn that old shed.

Your Week in Trees

Wood Houses Lead to Better Indoor Air. A study in Finland found that inhabitants of wood houses are more content with indoor air quality than those who live in houses made of concrete or brick.

Your Week in Trees

Wood Pellets are Hot. Markets are good for wood pellets, due largely to environmental policies in Europe. So far, most of the export activity is in the U.S. Southeast.

The e-forester

New Bill Allows Wood Fuel for Renewable Energy Tax Credits. Introduced by Sen. Angus King, of Maine, this bill would make wood heating in residential and commercial buildings eligible for renewable tax credits. It's called the Biomass Thermal Utilization Act of 213 (S.1007 and H.R. 2715).

Michigan Biomass

Western U.P. Cooperative Could Lead to Profitable Tree-farming. About two dozen people gathered in Bruce Crossing in early August to learn about the possibility of growing hybrid poplar on abandoned farm fields. Representatives from Michigan Tech, Traxys Energy, and others discussed the possibility of growing fast-growing poplars for fuel.

The e-forester

Connor Sports named "Michigan Agriculture Exporter of the Year". The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDRD) has announced that Connor Sports, of Amasa, Mi, has been named "Michigan Agriculture Exporter of the Year". Connor Sports produces sports flooring from northern Michigan hard maple and ships it all over the world.

MDARDlistserv

Miscellaneous

Looking for a Forestry School? The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is published a *Guide to Forestry and Natural Resources Programs* online at the SAF website at SAFnet.org; then click on EDUCATION.

The e-forester

DNR Offers New Living Resources Patch. In spite of the fact that this year's featured species is extinct, the Passenger Pigeon is the Living Resource of the year. The patch (pictured at right) can be purchased online from the Michigan e-Store.

DNR listserv



Vaccinate Mosquitoes to Avoid Malaria. Malaria isn't actually caused by mosquitoes, but by the parasite *Plasmodium* carried by them. Up until now, malaria control has focused on eradicating mosquitoes, but Johns Hopkins biologist Rhoel Dinglasan has found that *Plasmodium* needs to bind to a certain protein in the mosquito's gut in order to infect humans. Dinglasan has developed a vaccine that's given to humans which blocks production of the offending protein when the mosquito sucks it in with the vaccinated person's blood. When that protein is blocked, the mosquito cannot pass the *Plasmodium* on. Lab tests have shown that the human antibodies can make the mosquitoes benign – although still annoying.

Popular Science