

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Oswald Tree Farm Tour a Success. A field day was held at the Tree Farm of former MFA president Oswald Zeidler on October 5. MFA board members Keith Martell and Lynnwood Stephens were the main promoters. Activities included field tours of aspen and northern hardwood stands, European larch plantation, and wildlife management activities. Over 50 people attended and had a good time in spite of the rainy weather. **Note:** Chairmen Martell & Stephens are also organizing next year's annual meeting, which promises to be fun regardless of the weather.

Forester Registration Threatened. The state's registration of foresters through the Michigan Occupational Code has been proposed for repeal. MFA has testified in favor of retaining registration as a way for landowners to discern who might be trustworthy advisors in land management matters. Thanks to a huge effort by the Association of Consulting Foresters, the State Senate has agreed to reconsider the proposal.

Wildlife News

Birds Know Speed Limits. Did you ever wonder how birds judge when it's time to get off the road? Behavioral ecologist Pierre Legagneux, of the University of Quebec I Rimouski, says it's related to the speed limit rather than the speed of your car. Over time, the birds learn how close they can allow a car to approach before flying off.

Science News

Kirtland's Warbler Maintaining High Numbers. The rare Kirtland's warbler is maintaining its population at or near the record levels of the past few years. Again this year, population surveys showed more than 2,000 singing males. In 1974 and in 1987 that number was less than 200. These rare little birds are also showing up in Wisconsin and Ontario. Michigan DNR, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team have partnered with Huron Pines and other conservation organizations to start a new program: The Kirtland's Warbler Initiative, whose goal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of this, the rarest songbird in North America.

DNR listserve

Federal Government Seeks to Expand Lynx Set-aside. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking to expand the area set aside for Canada Lynx in northern Maine, where 6 million acres were designated. It doesn't appear that timber management would be off-limits in protected areas, but activities would likely be somewhat curtailed.

The e-forester

Bees Get a Buzz. A new study at Newcastle University in England suggests bees remember the locations of blossoms that are laced with caffeine, such as those of the coffee plant. Bees seemed to get a memory boost from the caffeine.

Science News

Forest Health

Thousand Cankers Disease Confirmed in Ohio. The Thousand Cankers Disease of black walnut has been confirmed in Butler County, in southwestern Ohio. This is a fungus disease that's carried by the walnut twig beetle. It forms many, many (hence the name) small cankers on the twigs and branches. Eventually, the cankers coalesce, girdling the tree and killing it. There is no known treatment yet.

The e-forester

Forest Products

Wooden plug used to seal molasses leak. A leak in a pipe that has allowed about 233,000 gallons of molasses to leak into Honolulu Harbor has been plugged by a wooden "cork" wrapped with cloth. The wood swelled as it absorbed water and stopped the leak.

Your Week in Trees

Weyerhaeuser Developing Cellulose Fiber Reinforcement for Plastics. The Weyerhaeuser Co. is developing cellulose fiber reinforcement for plastics, which could be used in place of glass. The initial product is using cellulose as a reinforcement for polypropylene, including a cutting board that is reportedly selling well.

The e-forester

Chicago Architects Design Wooden Highrise. The well-known architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) has developed a structural system using wood as the main building material. Wood construction would result in lower CO2 emissions and have the advantage of being renewable. Your Week in Trees

Charge It... Researchers at the University of Maryland are working on rechargeable batteries for large-scale energy storage. Wood is a promising material – both as a base for the batteries and as an active part of the battery. Wood slivers coated with tin may work out in sodium-ion (instead of Lithium) batteries. Woodland

API Challenges Cellulosic Volume Requirement. The American Petroleum Institute (API) has filed a lawsuit challenging the EPA's 2013 cellulosic volume requirement under the renewable fuel standard. Representatives of the biofuels industry have called the move frivolous. The e-forester

Cellulose Being Used in Insulation Panels. Cellulose from waste paper is being used as filler in insulation panels in the European Union. Cellulose has excellent insulation properties and is, of course, renewable. The e-forester

Legislation

Maryland Enacts Forest Preservation Law. A new law in Maryland is aimed at maintaining the state's current percentage of forest cover. Tools and tax benefits are made available to forest landowners. Your Week in Trees

Alternative Energy

Woody Biomass Project at MSU. A new, long-term plan to use woody biomass on the Michigan State University campus is now underway with the planting of the first of six 10-acre plots of hybrid poplar. The trees will be harvested, chipped and burned – probably at 6 years of age, in order to have a sustainable six-block project. The e-forester

Miscellaneous

State acquires land at Crisp Point. Transfer of land ownership on 3,810 acres in Luce County was completed in August under the Forest Legacy program of the US Forest Service. The transaction was made possible by a \$4.5 million grant from the Forest Service and a \$1.5 million donation by the former landowner. Representatives of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which will administer the land, point out that this is not a 'land grab' by the state – rather it is the fulfillment of the wishes of the former owner. The DNR will manage the land in the same manner as the adjacent state forest land. The new acquisition includes 2 miles of Lake Superior shore. The e-forester

Tuliptree is OLD. The tuliptree, common in Michigan's southern counties, can trace its lineage back to the time of the dinosaurs. No wonder they get so big... Your week in Trees

"BiodiversiTree" Study. A study by the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center is set up to monitor the ups and downs of thousands of trees over the course of a century. More than 18,000 trees of sixteen species will be planted on a 32-acre site that has grown only corn for the past 35 years. Part of the study is to determine how biodiversity helps forests survive. The e-forester

Rabies a Concern in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) cautions that rabies can infect all species of mammals. They urge vaccinating dogs, cats, ferrets, horses and select livestock. Signs of rabies include lethargy, depression, aggression, seizures, a change in behavior, difficulty swallowing, excessive salivation, difficulty walking, and eventual death. A laboratory test is needed to make a definite diagnosis; this is not possible on live animals. Rabid bats have been found in several Michigan counties this year. MDARD

Forests Disappearing in Western Ohio. More than two-thirds of the forests in Mercer and Auglaize Counties in western Ohio have vanished over the last 70 years. The main reason for this loss of forest land is farmers converting forest to row crops. The e-forester

DNR Seeking Outdoor Recreation Partners and Sponsors for 2014 Season. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is looking for support from partners and sponsors for the 2014 recreation season. Opportunities include volunteering as an instructor for various statewide campaigns, sponsoring statewide event campaigns and donating to projects such as the Outdoor Adventure and Discovery Center in Detroit or the Mill Lake Outdoor Center in Chelsea. Contact Mark Turek at 989-225-8573. Springport Signal