

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

We Beg Your Pardon... Things got away from us last fall. First, there was the busy Christmas tree season; then the furnace broke down. We thought we'd be able to salvage a November – December issue of *Leaves* at Christmas time, but we were caught in the aftermath of the ice storm and lost power for 5 days. After that, we went on a long-scheduled vacation and that killed any hope of getting a newsletter out before the end of the year. Some of the items in this issue were entered back in November. My sincerest apology to all of you, especially those who wait at the mail box each month for *Leaves* to arrive. I hope it won't happen again.

Teacher Workshop Approved. Your board of directors approved a teacher workshop for 2014 at the R.A. MacMullan Conference Center to be held July 28 through Aug 1. Participants will be introduced to the concept and practice of sustainable forest management, including visits to timber harvest operations and industrial plants. Cost to a participating teacher is \$100. What a deal!

Wildlife News

Kirtland's Warbler needs help. Huron Pines, a conservation group in Gaylord, is attempting to raise \$10,000 to help sustain habitat for the Kirtland's Warbler, Michigan's rarest bird. The warbler is being considered for removal from the endangered species list; if this happens, certain funding sources will no longer be available for replanting of its jack pine habitat. Contact Shelley for more information at Huron Pines, 4241 Old US 27 South, Suite 2, Gaylord, MI 49735, or, 989-448-2293, or, info@huronpines.org. Huron Pines

Asian Carp Reproducing in the Great Lakes. A report from the U.S. Geological Survey and Bowling Green University confirms that grass carp, an Asian native species, are reproducing in the Lake Erie watershed. This is not considered good news for the future of the Great Lakes fishery. *Michigan OutofDoors*

Old Hawk. An uncommon, dark-phase red-tailed hawk has been observed for 27 winters at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, leading biologists to believe it's the same bird. That would make it more than 27 years old. The oldest known red-tail lived almost 29 years. *Wildlife Volunteer*

Old Bear. Bear #56 is dead. This was the oldest bear recorded in the Minnesota DNR's tagging study and possibly the oldest bear in the world. She was tagged in 1981, when she was already 7 years old, making her 39 ½ years old when she died of old age. During her long life she raised 21 cubs to 18 months *Wildlife Volunteer*

Isle Royale Decision Due. Biologists and park managers at Isle Royale National Park faced a decision last fall as to whether to allow the native wolf population to dwindle and die or to break from their traditional "hands off" policy and introduce a few wolves to keep the population going. The decision was due to be made last fall. *Audubon*

Forest Health

Google Earth Map Shows World Forest Changes. Scientists at the University of Maryland have developed a map from more than 650,000 satellite images that tracks forest cover. Their study indicates that the world lost over 2 million square kilometers of forest between 2000 and 2012. However, the recorded losses include areas burned, logged and blown down; we know these setbacks don't necessarily mean permanent losses. *Science News*

New Quarantine Rules in the U.P. for EAB. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has announced a change in the quarantine for emerald ash borer in certain counties in the Upper Peninsula. All areas that have been under quarantine are now under Level II quarantine. Ash logs and other regulated products may be moved from the eastern U.P. to the Lower Peninsula, but may not be moved outside the quarantine zone. *MDARD listserve*

Can the EAB Take the Chill? Emerald ash borers may not be able to survive this winter's cold temperatures. One study by the US Department of Agriculture suggested that temperatures of minus 30 Fahrenheit could kill up to 90% of the bugs. *The e-forester*

How to Help Ice-Covered Trees? After an ice storm such as the one that hit lower Michigan at Christmas time, many landowners ask what is the best way to care for their ice-coated trees. It seems that the best help we can give them is to let them recover on their own. Shaking or striking them to knock the ice off can cause more damage than the ice did.

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance

Forest Products

Paper or Power? Paper towels are better than the electric blowers that we have always wondered about. So says a study at the Mayo Clinic. It seems that, not only are paper towels more sanitary (people get impatient with the blowers and leave with wet hands), but they are also more energy efficient. "(Paper Towels) are more efficient, they don't spatter germs, they won't dry out the skin and people prefer them." Other than that, they're about the same.

National Woodlands

Big Paper Merger. Verso Paper Corp. has announced plans to acquire NewPage Holdings, Inc. for a reported \$1.4 billion. The deal is expected to be closed in the second half of this year.

The e-forester

Legislation

Wisconsin Senator Pushing for National Forest Mgmt Reform. U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, of Wisconsin says, after having visited the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, she is supporting Wisconsin's timber industry as one of her top priorities. She is calling for increased funding for national forest management.

The e-forester

Alternative Energy

Valero, Mascoma part ways. Valero Energy Corp. is no longer involved in the wood ethanol project with Mascoma Corp. in Upper Michigan, near the Soo. Mascoma is said to be looking for financing.

Michigan Biomass

Rainforest Microbe may help in Biofuel Production. Scientists at the US-based Joint BioEnergy Institute at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have found a microbe in the soil of the rainforest that can dissolve lignin. This may aid in biofuel production from wood and other cellulosic materials.

The e-forester

Coppicing Gene Identified. Researchers at the Sainsbury Laboratory, University of Cambridge, have identified a gene in willow that affects the tree's ability to sprout from the stump (coppice) after the tree is cut. This discovery will be important in developing strains of willow and other species for short-rotation biomass plantations.

The e-forester

Miscellaneous

Plant More ... Breadfruit? Researchers at the University of British Columbia have identified three compounds in breadfruit that act as insect repellents. Breadfruit has long been used in this way in Pacific Regions.

Nursery Management.

Sweet-Smelling Compounds Work as Well as DEET. Researchers have discovered a batch of compounds that repel mosquitoes as well as DEET does. They have also discovered what cells and proteins allow mosquitoes to detect DEET. The newly discovered chemicals smell a little like grapes. Mosquitoes of the world, take heed!

Science News

Old Foresters? Interesting stories appeared in the Wildlife Volunteer, published by the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy. A red-tailed hawk almost 30 years old and a black bear that almost reached 40. Makes me wonder whether we have any old foresters still beating the brush at similar relative ages. Let's see, if a dog's year is equivalent to 7 of ours, what would be the value of a bear-year? Probably about 2 ½. So, does anyone know of a forester still working at a ripe old age equivalent to a 40-year-old bear?

Ontario Clearcut Research. Canadian researchers investigating ways to regenerate conifers in mixed stands came up with the following results after ten years: 1) Conifers (mainly jack pine and balsam fir) regenerated best in areas sprayed with herbicides before cutting. 2) Aspens and other hardwoods regenerated best in clearcuts and worst when cutting was followed by spraying. 3) Spruce wood quality was best after partial cutting, but the trees were shorter.

e-Insights

There's Gold in Them Thar Trees. Australian scientists have discovered that eucalyptus trees may offer a new way to locate gold deposits. The trees have shown that they can take up gold from deposits as deep as 35 meters and then display traces of the precious metal in their leaves.

Science News

Deep-Frozen Plants Come Back After 400 Years. Traces of green are showing up on the fringes of the receding Teardrop Glacier in Canada. Moss-like bryophytes are growing after having been buried under glacial ice for centuries.

Audubon