

# Leaves

## Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

6120 South Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Phone & FAX 517-663-3423

E-mail [miforest@acd.net](mailto:miforest@acd.net)

Web site: [www.michiganforests.com](http://www.michiganforests.com)

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### Association News

***"An Urgent National Need.*** *There is no more important lesson for the American people to learn than the need of growing and conserving forests and trees. Our future development as a nation will largely hinge upon the success with which we can spread this gospel."*

--John J Tigert- U.S. Commissioner of Education, 1921-1928.

Submitted by Ken Ford

Did you know that MFA sponsors an annual workshop for teachers called *An Introduction to Sustainable Forest Management?* It will be held this year from July 28 – August 01 in Roscommon, MI. The workshop provides teachers with field-based training in the benefits of sustainable forest management and gives them tools to incorporate these lessons into the classroom. Do your children or grandchildren have a favorite teacher? Perhaps they would be interested in attending... Contact us at any of the above methods for more information and maybe a registration brochure or two. Thanks.

### Wildlife News

**Look Out for Confused Waterfowl!** Michigan's DNR has reported that species such as the grebes, mergansers, and long-tailed ducks have been showing up in odd spots such as icy driveways, confusing them for inland open water bodies. Due to the placement of their feet, the birds cannot take off for flight on dry land and they become stranded. If they are not rescued and returned to open water, they risk starvation. Apparently the extreme cold has meant more ice closure towards the center on our bays and lakes. Rather than be forced towards the deeper water, the waterfowl have been moving inland, looking for open bodies of water. Please contact the MDNR if you happen upon one of these poor stranded souls. [michigandnr.com/dlr](http://michigandnr.com/dlr)

**Did You Know** that the Sea Lamprey is one of the oldest invasive species in the Great Lakes? Discovered in Lake Ontario in 1835, it now lives in all 5 lakes. Like many other successful invasives, it has no native natural predators to stop its spread. The international Great Lakes Fishery Commission reports significant sea lamprey population declines due to management efforts, some 10% of premanagement numbers, yet they are still a threat to our native game and predator fish species. [agbioresearch.msu.edu](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu)

**Wow! Busy Bees! (and We Thought Deer Were Adaptable)** Urban bees in Toronto are really learning how to survive in a human-dominated environment. Univ. of Guelph researchers have discovered that two species of bees are substituting plastics for plant based materials for hive construction! [sciencedaily.com](http://sciencedaily.com)

**Just How Hungry Would You Have To Be?** Wintertime survival for all those species without central heating must be difficult to say the least. There are times when I would like to invite the cute ones inside to share the warmth, but some bugs? Nope. Let 'em freeze (especially those nasty forest pests: Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Alelgid, and the Asian Long Horned Beetle). Except they don't, do they? They manufacture their own antifreeze – glycerol and sugars that lower the freezing point of their fluids. Meaning that they should taste sweet, in the winter, at least. What would you do if while splitting firewood a beetle grub fell out of it's winter hidey hole and onto your chopping block? Pop it in your mouth? Or take Thor Hanson's word for it... [audubon](http://audubon)

### Forest Health

**Diversity Isn't Just Another Buzzword.** No one truly knows what the future may hold for the future of our forests; new insects, fire, and changing climate conditions are just a few of the concerns we have for its health. "Because each species will respond differently to changing conditions, maintaining a wide diversity of species and age-classes in your woodland and across the surrounding landscape is a prudent management approach." [WednesdayWoodlandWord](http://WednesdayWoodlandWord)

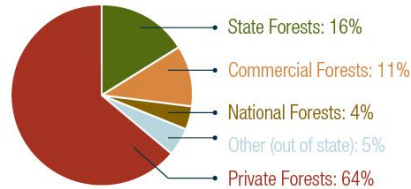
**Who Likes Venison?** Deer management and forest management aren't always on the same page and that is ok, because it is the owner's objectives that should drive a management plan. However, it is important to understand the consequences for woodlands when the deer population gets too large or is not large enough. Like most systems there is evidently a delicate balance between these two forest dwellers. Too many deer and there are not enough un-nibbled seedlings to replace trees after harvest or disturbance. Not enough deer and seedling production is interfered with by species that outcompete the slower growth of seedlings.

northernresearchstation nrs.fs.fed.us/news

## Forest Products

**You Make the Difference!** Without private landowners there would not be much of a timber industry...

**NONINDUSTRIAL,  
PRIVATE FORESTS:  
LEADING SOURCE  
OF TIMBER SUPPLY**



michiganforest.org

**Wood Skyscrapers?! Yes!!!** Wood is being billed as the "world's most advanced building material". It is a renewable resource, a carbon sink, and a source of competition for architects as they vie to be the one to built the tallest 'wood high-rise'. The process of using wood to build up employs an engineered product called CLT, or cross laminated timber. This is made up of layers of wood that are perpendicular to each other, giving it "immense strength in two directions" that is extremely lightweight. Apparently CLT requires much less energy to produce than bricks, concrete, steel and aluminum AND it provides much better insulation than concrete or steel, further lowering energy use. But what about fire you may well ask; evidently the peculiar way that wood burns, charring the outside and sealing off the wood inside from damage, means better fire safety than metal, which will melt. The city of Stockholm, Sweden has approved the construction of a 34-story wood tower and Chicago is not to be left behind, where a firm has designed a wood building of 42 stories. Texas will undoubtedly build one bigger...

Popular Science

## Legislation

**\$30 Million Dollars!!!** That is how much the US Dept of Ag will spend this year on the "Chiefs' Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership", a joint effort of the US Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2014 will see initiatives in 12 states on 13 forest restoration projects intended to enhance forest and watershed health on public and private lands. The Farm Bill provides money for private landowner assistance while the public lands initiatives will be funded through the Forest Service budget. While Michigan doesn't receive a share this time around, 8 Wisconsin watersheds that end in Lake Superior will be restored by the Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership.

SAF e-forester

## Alternative Energy

**New Word of the Month: Torrefaction.** This is a biomass processing technique to produce a charcoal-like fuel – by heating biomass such as wood chips in an oxygen-free reactor to temperatures above 500 degrees Fahrenheit. This process releases the moisture and volatile organic gases, which are recaptured and then burned as fuel for the reactor itself. This results in a 30% reduction in the mass while using only 10% of the potential energy content of the material. This torrefied biomass can be burned to produce electricity in a plant such as MSU's T.B. Simon Power Plant, which accepts alternative feed-stocks, and in a conventional coal-fired power plant without conversion. One benefit of biomass-generated energy is a steady fuel source unlike other alternatives such as wind and sun that can be intermittent.

[msue.anr.msu.edu/news/will\\_michigans\\_energy\\_future\\_include\\_plant\\_biomass](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/will_michigans_energy_future_include_plant_biomass)

**New Chemical Process Converts Forest Biomass to Gasoline.** Biodiesel, made from plant-based oils, has been available for use in modified diesel engines but now scientists at the University of California-Davis have developed a new technique for conversion of forest materials into gasoline that will power our car engines without modifications. This technology could open up not only new markets for renewable fuels, but forest products as well.

## Miscellaneous

**Beware, Tax Season Draws Ever Nearer.** If you do your own taxes, here is an internet resource you may be unaware of: the Nation Timber Tax Website-Tax Management for Timberland Owners. If you ask a professional, it is still to your benefit to be well informed.

<http://www.timbertax.org/>

**Belle Isle is Michigan's Newest State Park.** On Monday, February 10, 2014, Michigan officially welcomed Detroit's historic Belle Isle as our state's 102<sup>nd</sup> State Park. The City of Detroit will retain ownership of the land while management responsibilities will fall to the DNR. This 982-acre island contains more fun than you could have in a day with the wonderful Conservancy Building, nature trails, an aquarium and a 200-acre woodland area. How long has it been since you visited?

Michigan DNR press release