

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

ANNUAL MEETING WAS FUN !

About 80 people gathered in the Munising Ice Arena for the 2015 MFA annual meeting. Warm weather made the cool temperature inside the arena most welcome. Pasty lunch, Pictured Rocks tour, visits to the Dukess Research Station and area wood-using industries, catered dinners – a great time in the U.P! See more of the annual meeting in the Fall, 2015 *Michigan Forests*. Many thanks to Chris Hohnholt, Bill Cook and Deb Huff for putting together such a fine meeting – and making it happen at the height of the tourist season.

Coming Events

Sept. 11 Tree Farm Field Day at Onaway. Contact Brittany VanderWall at Brittany.vanderwall@macd.org or 989-734-4000

Sept. 12 Tree Farm Field Day at Howard City. Contact Nick Sanchez at nick.sanchez@mi.nacdnet.net or 989-831-4606, ext. 106

Sept. 12 Tree Farm Field Day at Kingsley. Contact Kama Ross at kama.ross@macd.org or 231-256-9783, ext. 264

Sept. 12 Walnut Council Field Day at Leslie. Contact “Rob” at office@techtoolingJackson.com or 517-782-8898

Sept. 24 – 26 Forest Connections Conference at Bay City. Sponsored by Michigan Society of American Foresters and Michigan Forest Association. Contact Jason Darling at jasonposthardwoods@gmail.com or Debra Huff at huff.debra@gmail.com

Wildlife News

Grouse Season Opens Sept. 15. Is this a holiday yet? The Forest Products Council refers to it as the “Nation’s best”.
Michigan Forest Products Council

Third Deer Tests Positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The Michigan Department of natural Resources announced that a third free-ranging deer has tested positive for CWD in Lower Michigan’s Ingham County. All three positive-testing deer have been found within a mile of each other.

Michigan Forest Products Council

Forest Health

Pokagon Band fighting EAB. The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians is releasing thousands of stingless wasps whose favorite food is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The wasps lay their eggs in the larvae or the eggs of the ash borer. Both the wasps and the EAB came from China. The EAB arrived about 15 years ago in wooden crating; the wasps have been intentionally brought in after studies showed they serve as natural controls of EAB in their native China. The Pokagon Band is hoping to protect the black ash on tribal lands from predation by the EAB. Black ash is the preferred wood for basket making, an important tradition and source of revenue.

Your Week in Trees

Oak Wilt Season Ending. Oak Wilt is a serious disease that has affected oaks in most parts of Michigan. It spreads long distances by wind-blown spores and, once it infects an oak, it can spread from tree to tree through root grafts. This is very much like the Dutch elm disease that devastated our elms a few decades ago. Late August / early September is a good time to check your oaks – especially red, black and pin oaks. If some have mysteriously died this summer, you should call a forester to come and check it out. There are ways to control the spread of this disease.

Your Week in Trees

Miscellaneous

How Many Trees are there? According to researchers at Yale, there are more than THREE TRILLION trees on the planet. That is a very high number – more than eight times some previous estimates, according to the folks at Yale.

The e-forester

DNR Open-House for Ogemaw and Roscommon Counties. On September 9 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host an open house to discuss plans for state forest management in Ogemaw and Roscommon counties. The event will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Roscommon Field Office.

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DNR Open-House for Alger and Marquette Counties. On Sept. 10, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host an open house to discuss plans for state forest management in Marquette and West Alger Counties. The event will take place from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Sands Township Hall, 987 State Highway M-553, Gwinn, MI.

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“Big U.P. Deal” is 10 Years Old. The big forest land purchase by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Luce County that preserved about 423 square miles of forest land for forestry, recreation and conservation happened ten years ago. Governor Rick Snyder, DNR Director Keith Creagh and TNC State Director Helen Taylor gathered at the Mouth of the Two Hearted River Campground to observe the anniversary.

Michigan Forest Products Council

Detroit Teens Visit Grayling Area. More than 120 Detroit high school students visited the Grayling area August 3 & 4. The students were employed by The Greening of Detroit to plant and maintain trees in the city. They visited local industries and logging jobs and stayed at the R.A. MacMullan Conference Center.

Michigan Forest Products Council

Kudzu: How Bad is it, Really? Whenever we hear the name, we picture mounds of greenery covering trees, poles, buildings and anything else too slow to get out of the way. Many thought the entire South would be covered by now. It's been almost 80 years since enthusiastic planting of kudzu began in the United States; Bill Finch, horticulture and science advisor to the Mobile, Alabama, Botanical Gardens says in *Smithsonian* that he grew up in the South fearing that kudzu would have covered everything by now, but finds it isn't so. He refers to the fear of kudzu as “a myth”. Finch says, “People only believe the myth of kudzu because it's all they see from inside their cars while driving down the interstate.” He points out that the vine cannot stand up against browsing by goats or cows and doesn't do well in shade. We can be glad that kudzu may not be as bad as we thought, but we can also be glad it's not well established in Michigan.

Smithsonian