

# Leaves



## Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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### Association News

Deb Huff – Editor



#### Invasive species - Multi Flora Rose – this plant will rip your skin!

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) is an invasive plant that looks and smells great, but is a real threat to our forest systems. It invades forest edges and understories, replacing regeneration and native plants. It will rip your skin with its recurved thorns, making walking through the woods painful and difficult. It also presents a challenge to many wildlife species that encounter it. It easily outcompetes our native roses, and is difficult to eradicate. Unfortunately, it was introduced to the eastern United States in 1866 as rootstock for ornamental roses. Beginning

in the 1930s, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service promoted it for use in erosion control and as “living fences” to confine livestock. State conservation departments recommended multiflora rose as cover for wildlife since they did not realize how the dense thickets would devastate prairie, wetland and forests systems. More recently, it has been planted in highway median strips to serve as crash barriers and reduce automobile headlight glare. Now, its tenacious growth habit is recognized as a problem on all natural ecosystems. It is designated a noxious weed in several states, including Iowa, Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Do not plant this rose and contact your forester for eradication advice. A video that shows and describes the plant may be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVInJsDg7TM>

Photo credit: **Flowers in April** - James H. Miller-USDA, Forest Service [Invasive.org](http://Invasive.org).

#### **Forest Taxes and YOU – A workshop Sponsored by Michigan Forest Association and MSU Extension**

**March 6, 2017 9:30 am – 3:00 pm**

#### **How you can make the most of your forest and pay your taxes too!**

Learn about State tax programs, income taxes, and estate taxes. What are your options? Listen to an assessor talk about how property is classified and what it means to you. Don't miss it, but you need to register ahead! Free parking! Join us! Small registration fee of \$25 to cover materials and lunch.

**Michigan State University, Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI**

**Michiganforests.org or contact [info@michiganforests.org](mailto:info@michiganforests.org) Debra Huff 517-651-5401 or Georgia Peterson**

**[517-517-353-9435](tel:517-517-353-9435) or [petersog@msu.edu](mailto:petersog@msu.edu) **CALL AND REGISTER NOW****



## **New Particle Board plant being built by Arauco in Grayling!**

A new particle board plant is moving forward in the Grayling, MI area. It will be built by Arauco, Inc., and is expected to be the largest 'continuous' single-line particleboard press in North America.

The facility is to be located at 5851 Arauco Road, with the manufacturer also doing business for the project as Flakeboard America Limited. The ARAUCO plant property comprises 640 acres situated approximately five miles south of downtown Grayling. ARAUCO plans to utilize only 150 acres, or 25% of this acreage for the plant operations, which will be located on the far west side of the property (near the I-75 exit ramp) in order to optimize the logistics for transporting raw materials and finished.

According to the Arauco website, "The ARAUCO Grayling Particleboard Plant project is now in the engineering and design phase. The plant footprint acreage has been cleared of trees and debris and the property boundaries are in process of getting fenced and secured. Depending on the weather, construction will most likely begin in the spring of 2017."

It is reported that the plant will use hardwood and softwoods from local sawmills and other area suppliers, as well as using chips and will burning tree bark to supply power to the plant. It is projected to create up to 250 permanent, full-time jobs, with potential ancillary jobs also.

This project was made possible through efforts by the county and the State of Michigan. The DNR sold the 640 acres of land at a much reduced rate after it was designated as a renaissance zone. In addition, the state negotiated an agreement of no payment of property taxes for 12 years, and then an increase of 25% payment of property taxes in year 13, 50% in year 14 and 75% in year 15. This abatement was approved by both the county and the township. Additionally, grants from the MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Authority) and through a loan from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development will help pay for \$8 million dollar cost of the water and sewer lines needed.

### **An Urban Forestry Talk at MSU regarding Developing Livable Cities via Urban Forestry**

All are welcome to attend a talk by Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk at MSU, Natural Resources Building, Room 225, on February 14, 2017 from 4-5 pm. This presentation discusses current advances in urban forestry research, from assessment of benefits to better understanding of the many relations between urban nature and urban people, and from resource management innovations to research to identify successful urban forest governance. More information on this speaker series can be found at <http://www.for.msu.edu/events>

### **Board Meeting in Lansing on February 10, 2017 at the MUCC office on Wood Street.**

All are welcome to the Board meeting in Lansing at the MUCC Building on Wood street, on February 10, 2017 – please let us know if you are coming so we can arrange a lunch! Contact Lisa Parker for details [lisa.parker@michiganforests.org](mailto:lisa.parker@michiganforests.org)

**Teacher Workshop being planned for June 19-23, 2017 at the RAM Center at Higgins Lake.** Contact Bill Botti for more information! 517-663-3423