

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 Web site: www.michiganforests.com

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Association News

ANNUAL MEETING IS AUGUST 15 & 16!!

There's still time, but we need your registration by August 1
The MFA office will be closed beginning Thursday, August 7.

Visit prime northern hardwood stands!

Tour Manthei Veneer Mill in Petoskey; see other industrial plants!

More info on the MFA website at www.michiganforests.com

Wildlife News

Young Forests Needed. Many wildlife species such as the bobcat, woodcock, and ruffed grouse survive best in young forests. The successful Kirtland Warbler initiative depends upon habitat restoration in the form of clearcuts in northern Michigan's Jack Pine forests. Early successional forests, or young, dense stands of saplings and brush thickets may arise from abandoned agricultural lands, clearcuts or wildfire. Remember that a timber harvest isn't just a means to manage your forest but the wildlife that dwells there too. A healthy forest is diverse in both plant and animal species as well as age. SAF e-forester

Want Fish & Wildlife + Trees? Check out the publications page on the website "Woodland Fish and Wildlife" for information on many topics such as habitat for Osprey, Beaver or Bat in your woodlot. <http://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/>

Being Attentive to Bees Best Bet for Blueberries! A Michigan State University study finds that an investment in wild bee habitat near the state's blueberry agricultural fields pays for itself in 4 years or less. Planting perennial wildflower field borders increased the wild bee population, which in turn increased blueberry pollination and seed production in addition to berry size! North Carolina University researchers found similar reactions by blueberry plants to an increase in wild bee species diversity. Good news for blueberry lovers the world over. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/04/140403105816.htm>
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/05/140509172906.htm>

Forest Health

2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) Amended by 2014 Farm Bill. These amendments allow the USFS to designate federal forests that have been ravaged by insects and disease in order to streamline the logging and removal of dead, dying, and diseased trees. Restorations plans will be developed collaboratively with the USFS and other stakeholders such as environmental, tribal and citizen groups as well as the home state's department of natural resources. In Michigan this special designation was placed on lands in both the Upper & Lower peninsula.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediafb?contentid=2014/05/0096.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>
<http://earthfix.opb.org/land/article/new-rules-make-it-easier-to-log-damaged-federal-fo/>

Forest Products

Do You Chop Your Own Firewood? Ever dream of a way to get the job done quicker and easier? So did a Finnish man by the name of Heikki Karnä who, realizing that axe design hadn't changed much since the Stone Age set about designing what he calls the Vipukirves (Leveraxe in English). A woodcutter since age 6, by using his curved blade axe, Karnä has split his work load in half, and in half again! Visit his website, watch his video & wonder why no one thought of this before. <http://www.vipukirves.fi/english/description.htm>

Pine Trees to the Rescue! Leelamine, a substance found in Pine Bark, is one of a new class of potential drugs that could be used to treat melanoma – associated with skin cancers – by disrupting the communications between cancer cells. Did you know that over 60% of medicines used to treat cancers come from plants and animals? Penn State researchers say more research is needed before the drug is available for human trials. <http://news.psu.edu/story/316399/2014/05/20/research/pine-bark-substance-could-be-potent-melanoma-drug>

Legislation

Northern Long-Eared Bat vs. the Economy. Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania have voiced their disapproval of the US Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) effort to list the Northern Long-Eared Bat as an Endangered Species. USFWS is concerned about the bats' survival, which is threatened by a fungal disease known as White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) currently found in 25 states. The opposition argues the listing will threaten the forest products industry and that WNS is unrelated to forest management activity. <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20140424/METRO06/304240123>

Alternative Energy

Biomass-based Energy Generation Should Benefit from Proposed EPA Rule for CO2 Emissions. In 2007 the US Supreme Court ruled the US Environmental Protection Agency could regulate Carbon Dioxide, (CO2), as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act. The recent EPA announcement proposing to require the nation's power plants to reduce their CO2 emissions to 30% less than 2005 levels by 2030 is therefore simply movement in the same direction. The good news for states is the absence of rules specifying how this goal is to be reached. Many techniques are available including: carbon capture and sequestration, cap and trade regimes, and alternative fuels. Alternative methods of electricity generation such as solar and wind power have no emissions while the new algae technologies use CO2 capture to fuel algae growth before it is refined into biofuels. Of course, Biomass from Agriculture and Forestry will figure prominently in our future fuel choices. <http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/10474/epas-co2-reduction-proposal-could-be-positive-for-biomass-energy>

Invasive Species

Native Fungus 1 – Invasive Tree Species 0. An invasive species combat team with 2 native members, the Ambrosia beetle and the fungus *Verticillium nonalfalfae*, have scored against the notorious tree species *Ailanthus altissima*, commonly known as the Tree of Heaven (only the Lord knows why, as the tree seems to have no earthly reason to exist). Introduced in the eighteenth century, the tree is considered a nuisance in 80 % of the US and has proven to be very difficult to eradicate. Its many, many seeds and a prodigious sprouting ability can overwhelm and outcompete in both urban and rural forests. Penn State researchers have determined that direct inoculation of 30 million fungal spores (normally spread by the beetle) with a hatchet to the trunk is what it takes to kill the tree, sprouts and all! At this time, neighboring trees of other species appear unharmed. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/05/140508111030.htm>

Miscellaneous

“Life on earth is inconceivable without trees” – Anton Chekhov.

One More Reason to Plant Trees! Research has shown that urban dwellers who live with trees experience positive mental health benefits and time spent walking in a forest can lower heart rate. Well, the latest from researchers of the USFS Pacific Northwest report findings that strongly suggest a link between trees, humans, and death. It seems the Emerald Ash Borer has been able to make a positive contribution to our knowledge of how trees affect the health of humans. By looking at communities affected by EAB tree loss, Geoffrey Donovan and his team were able to quantify this relationship. EAB has killed more than 100 million trees in the US and this loss has now been associated with “an additional 15,000 human deaths from cardiovascular disease and an additional 6,000 deaths from lower respiratory disease”. <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/45454>

Have You Photographed Your Woodlot Throughout the Years? You may be able to help with the Forest History Society's new “Repeat Photography Project”, designed to illustrate forest changes over time. FHS has created an online database to collect and showcase photo sets from their own collection with the help of institutions and individuals, hoping to contribute to an understanding of processes such as disturbance, succession, and human intervention. Find out more at <http://repeatphotography.org/intro/>

Do You Know Marvin Nelson? He and his family are due Congratulations! Marvin Nelson Forest Products, Inc. has been named Michigan's Logger of the Year by the Michigan Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee (FSI) and Michigan Assoc. of Timbermen. <http://www.dailypress.net/>