

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

ANNUAL MEETING WAS GREAT!!

About 100 people attended. Many thanks to the meeting committee: Lynn Stephens, Keith Martell, Dave Wellman, Mike Elenz and Deb Huff. Outstanding job!

Prize winners:

Hard maple table from Michigan Maple Block: Shirley Businski, Lansing

Garmin GPS from anonymous donor: Paul Sabatos, Onaway

Cash prizes from MFA: Bernie Baudoin, Indiana, Steve Merquie, Okemos, Chris Hohnholt, Chassell

Vacant MFA Board Seats

Are you interested in serving on the governing board of the Michigan Forest Assn.? Do you know someone who would be great as a MFA board member? Nominations are due into the MFA office by

Friday October 10, 2014

Wildlife News

Bats Proposed for Listing. The US Fish & Wildlife Service is considering listing certain bat species as endangered because of the threat of a disease known as White Nose Syndrome. The disease is caused by a fungus that is found in caves and infects hibernating bats, causing them to awaken in mid-winter. That results in lost energy reserves and, ultimately, in the death of the bats. If bats are listed as endangered, it will become a violation of federal law to kill one – even accidentally. This prospect is troubling to the forest products industry, as bats roost in trees during the summer.

Dovetail Partners

Moose Drool may benefit grazers. Scientists at the University of Cambridge say something in moose saliva appears to reduce the amount of a toxin called *ergovaline* produced by some grasses as a defense mechanism. Interesting thought – you might improve your pasture by spraying with moose spit. It's not on the market yet...

Science News

Wolf Population Essentially Unchanged. Biologists at the Michigan DNR say that according to this year's wolf population survey, there is no significant change from last year. This despite the taking of 22 wolves in last year's hunting season. Michigan Farm News

Wolverines are Safe After All. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has withdrawn the wolverine from its list of species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Wolverines are apparently doing ok in the Mountain West.

The e-forester

Build the Right House. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a new website for birdwatchers. Visit www.nestwatch.org to see how to attract the right bird with the right house.

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance

Coyotes Helping Bird Populations in Chicago Parks. A study in nature preserves in the Chicago area has revealed that the presence of coyotes tends to discourage feral cats from roaming those areas. Thus, coyotes serve to protect birds and other animals that might otherwise have fallen prey to cats.

National Wildlife

Forest Health

Hunting is Helping Indiana Parks. A 17-year policy of allowing deer hunting in Indiana state parks has resulted in recovery of wildflowers and other vegetation that had disappeared due to deer browsing.

The e-forester

Forest Products

Wood Pellet Market Rising in Europe. The market for wood pellets in Europe is expected to rise this year to quadruple the levels of 2009.

The e-forester

Legislation

Forester Registration Survives. Governor Rick Snyder saved Michigan's forester registration by sending the related bills back to the Legislature unsigned.

Alternative Energy

Wood Heat Initiative in New York. The State of New York is dedicating \$27 million to build a sustainable, high-efficiency, low-emission wood heating sector in New York.

Northern Logger

Invasive Species

New Quarantine Issued by MDARD. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) issued a Michigan External Quarantine for the Balsam Woolly Adelgid (BWA). BWA is an insect that attacks true firs. It has the potential to cause severe losses to Christmas tree growers and to naturally occurring balsam fir in northern Michigan. The Quarantine regulates the movement of fir species into Michigan from California, Idaho, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia. Canadian provinces of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Prince Edward Island are also affected by the quarantine.

MDARD listserv

Miscellaneous

U of M Joins Smithsonian Global Network. A 57-acre research plot in the George Reserve, near Ann Arbor, has been added to a Smithsonian Institution global network used to study tropical and temperate forests. The network contains some 4 ½ million trees of 8,500 species.

The e-forester

European Old-Timer. The Fortingall Yew, in Scotland (pictured at right), is believed to be 5,000 years old and is thus the oldest tree in Europe. Maybe the oldest in the world. That makes it older than the Egyptian pyramids.

Your Week in Trees



Forest is Best Stream Buffer. Research at the Stroud Water Research Center has determined that forest is the best buffer for prevention of stream pollution, and these buffers should be at least 100 feet wide. Their report says, in part, "The ecosystem benefits of wider forest buffers for streams include nitrogen pollution removal, soil sediment trapping, bank erosion prevention, improved temperature control, increased quantity of large woody debris, stream channel widening, improved channel meandering, and healthier habitat for macroinvertebrates and fish. Meadows and grass buffers do not provide as many benefits."



Forest Runoff is Good for Fish. Recent research in Canada shows that yellow perch grow faster in areas bordered by forest.

Your week in Trees

Vertical Forests Planned for Milan (pictured at left). Milan, Italy, that is. But isn't this cool? The plan is to reap many of the benefits of forests in a very urban situation. Air filtering, cooling – even wildlife habitat might be brought into the city.

Your Week in Trees

Forest Products Company Sues Rainforest Alliance. Resolute Forest Products is taking legal action against Rainforest Alliance, which serves as an auditor for the Forest Stewardship Council, claiming their report is biased. The matter received an injunction that will keep the audit from being released to the public.

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