

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

Volume XXXII

February, 2014

Number 2

Association News

Going Away for Awhile? Don't forget to tell MFA where you'll be. When we send a magazine or newsletter to the wrong address, the post office sends it back – and charges us postage. Then we need to readdress it and send it again – and pay more postage. So to save money for MFA and to get your mail on time, let us know your winter address. Thanks.

MFA Board Meeting Held 02.07.2014. Your board of directors met in Lansing on February 7. Among the items of business was the approval of a proposal from the executive committee to work on modernizing our website. Watch for more news on this in future newsletters.

In attendance at the board meeting were **Julie Crick**, the newly appointed MSU Extension Forester at Roscommon, and **Mike Smalligan**, recently named as Stewardship Coordinator for the DNR. Both expressed eager anticipation to work with MFA and our members on improving people's perception and understanding of forest management.

19th Annual Quiet Water Symposium- Saturday March 01, 2014. MFA will once again be present at the Quiet Water Symposium held in East Lansing, MI at MSU's Agricultural Pavilion from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visit their website for more information at quietwatersymposium.org. Ticket prices are: Adults- \$10.00, Students- \$5.00 and kids 12 and under are free.

Wildlife News

An American Toad's Home. As part of their commitment to sustainable forest harvests, Verso Paper Corp. will partner with Michigan agencies to find and map vernal pools in the UP in an effort to prevent the unwitting destruction of the seasonally wet areas online.wsj.com

Asian Carp: Dinner or Destroyer? Several years have now passed since we first became aware of the potential of this invasive species to enter the Great Lakes and destroy our recreational fishing not to mention the ecological balance of the world's largest freshwater system. While the US Army Corps of Engineers consider several containment methods, and others push legislative solutions, some people are eating the darn things. Simply google "Asian carp recipes" to find several sites to embark on your newest culinary explorations!

Name That Tune. Volunteers at Audubon's Guilford Salt Meadows Sanctuary in Connecticut are playing purple martin sounds through a speaker system in hopes they will attract martins seeking nesting sites next spring. Audubon

HOO? The Northern Spotted Owl, whose dwindling population led to scaled-back logging across the Northwest, is continuing to decline. The current suspect in this population decline is the Barred Owl, which is larger and more aggressive and is moving into the spotted owl's territory. Now, federal wildlife managers are testing their hypothesis by shooting barred owls to remove them from spotted owl habitat. Time will tell... The e-forester

Forest Health

Hemlocks Fighting Effects of Woolly Adelgid. The Forest Service says hemlocks are holding their own against the non-native insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid. For now. Acres of hemlock forest are holding steady, but the data may be misleading because of a high level of hemlock forest regeneration in the East and hemlock mortality in the South. The South has lost a tremendous amount of hemlock, as has the Northeast. The regeneration in the Northeast has balanced the loss of mature trees, but that region may soon show a net loss of hemlock, too. The e-forester

Forest Products

Traditional Medical Remedy Proven Clinically Effective. For centuries, traditional healers have used an extract from the bark of the White Birch tree to help wounds heal faster. Now, European University researchers have proven this clinically, an important finding as the natural compound doesn't come with dangerous side-effects sometimes associated with modern drug compounds. examiner.com

New Tree-Wear is Latest in Fashion! A pulp mill in Minnesota has converted from making pulp for paper, to producing pulp for clothing in what is being called the "hottest forest industry product on the market". Known as chemical cellulose it is blended into thread and may be part of that new dress or suit you just bought. The e-forester

2014 Ag Exporter of the Year goes to Connor Sports. The Amasa, MI - UP manufacturer uses Michigan sourced Hard Maple to create 'strip flooring' for sporting events such as the NCAA Basketball tournaments. The company has expanded its exports to some 25% of overall business and put more people to work. Great Job! www.michiganfarmnews.com

New Ideas for Maple Syrup. Two scientists at the University of Vermont are experimenting with harvesting sap from sapling maples by cutting the tops off the little trees and applying vacuum tubes to the cut stems. Apparently, the process offers some increases in production. Your Week in Trees

Legislation

Passage of new U.S. Farm Bill. Healthy Trees and Forests are an important component of this bi-partisan bill. Highlights include the removal of the cap on the number of forested acres that can be enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program and initiatives that will help to create new economic opportunities for forestry. Follow the link for more information: http://www.stabenow.senate.gov/linkeddocuments/farm_bill/2014/fb_healthyforests.pdf

1st Round E.Q.I.P. Application Deadline Fast Approaches. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that **February 21, 2014** is the deadline to apply for the 1st round of their Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding. "This is a great way to get cost-share to develop a Forest Management Plan." – Andrea Stay, NRCS-CD, Charlotte, MI USDA NRCS

MUCC Sponsors Petition Drive. Michigan United Conservation Clubs has informed us of a proposed citizen-initiated law that would mandate fish and wildlife management decisions be made based on sound scientific principles. A petition with more than 258,000 valid signatures is needed before the "Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act" can be presented to our Legislature. This is time-sensitive and includes a provision to fund the DNR against aquatic invasives such as Asian carp. See <http://www.citizenswildlife.com> for more information and to download a petition.

Snyder, Levin, and Stabenow All Aboard Against Invasive Species. In separate actions all three have declared war against invasive species. During the 2013 "Great Lakes Week" our Senators introduced the *Stop Asian Carp Act* and just lately, Levin admits to having a "real passion" for the long term protection of the Lakes against invasion. Not to be outdone, Snyder announced he wants to spend some \$14 million on the problem. Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

Alternative Energy

Transparent Paper. Solar Cells are made with some nasty stuff that is not so environmentally friendly calling into question the benefits derived from solar energy. New technology could make this argument null by using transparent paper to replace materials in solar cells currently made from nasty stuff. American Forest Foundation

Firewood Needed. The Michigan Association of Timbermen (MAT) is responding to reports of people in dire need of firewood this winter. If you would like to help, call the MAT office in Newberry 906-293-3236.

Chemicals Could Improve Efficiency of Biofuel Production. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin – Madison say they have found a better way to extract sugars from lignin and cellulose fibers – by adding dilute sulfuric acid to a cooking compound. This is anticipated to ease the cost of producing cellulosic ethanol. The e-forester

Miscellaneous

Yep, We Knew That! It seems that city folks who live near 'urban green space' experience long lasting positive mental health effects. No surprise to those of us who regularly spend time in the woods! American Forest Foundation

Out With the Old... The historic Forest Fire Experiment Station at Roscommon, where the fire-fighting standard double moldboard plow was developed, is about to get a new shop building. This is the place where military surplus vehicles are converted to fire-fighting machines. The new building will replace one that is nearly a century old. The benefits in terms of improved working space and technological additions will be enormous. DNR listserv