

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Volume XXXII

November 2014

Number 10

Association News

MFA New Board Members.

The board had a good meeting on November 7th at Hartwick Pines. As there were only 2 nominations, there was no contest for the board seats to be vacated by Larry Becker and Leon Erbe. Gentlemen, Thank You for your service to the MFA Board of Directors! Now, let's welcome Kathy Worst and Lisa Parker, both from Michigan's southern lower peninsula.

Don't Forget To Join Our Michigan Forest Association Facebook Page.

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/MichiganForestAssociation/>

Michigan Forest Pathways – Where Forest & Forestry Resources Come Together for all Users!

Sponsored by MFA and Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Forest Pathways is a website that promotes "science-based forestry and resource conservation" and is the place to go when you seek information about your family woodlands, from taxes to ecology. There is also an event calendar that lists forestry educational opportunities around the state.

<http://miforestpathways.net/>

Forestry Field Day A Success!

Thank You to Pete Klink! It was a cold, clear Saturday morning that warmed into a beautiful Michigan day in the forest. About 25 members and friends gathered to learn about a typical Beech/Maple forest in southwestern lower Michigan. We toured a young Black Walnut stand that had been planted by squirrels and talked about pruning, crop tree selection and how to bring them along to ensure their future health and value. Walking the trails through the main woodlot, Pete told us about his strategy to improve forest health with the harvest he had marked and what he expects to accomplish there in the future. We look forward to the spring when we plan to tour the woodlot, post harvest. Please make plans to join us!

Wildlife News

Just a Reminder as Deer Season is in Full Swing...Please - you found the perfect tree to set your blind, it provides easy sight lines to the deer paths in your woods *and* has no branches below to ruin that sight line and get in the way of your climb up to your seat - Please do not place metal 'screw in' steps up the trunk of your perfect blind tree...it may ruin the economic value to be realized in a timber sale

Forest Health

Public Input Process Works on the Bitterroot National Forest. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates, among other things, that the public has a voice in natural resource decision making. This is good and important but it hasn't always worked to the betterment of our natural resources, nor has the public been satisfied with the process. Recent changes (USFS March 2013, modeled after the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act HFRA), designed to improve the process include public involvement before the decisions have been made. This means true inclusion into the decision making process, rather than ignored comments after a decision has been reached. It also means projects are actually implemented, rather than being stalled by the courts after public objections to agency decisions, which means that USFS activity designed to improve forest health can actually reach that objective.

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_ccf66562-6a15-11e4-a254-5bc5ee8e696a.html

Forest Products

Did You Know That October 19 – 25th was National Forest Products Week?!? Thank you to Reps. Ribble (R-WI) and Schrader (D-OR) for pointing this out and highlighting it with these facts: The Forest Products industry employs some 900,000 persons with a payroll of about \$50 billion, contributes nearly 4% of US manufacturing GDP worth about \$210 billion annually, and is placed in the top 10 manufacturing employers in 47 of these 50 nifty United States!
<http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/221429-celebrating-national-forest-products-week>

State Forest Products Firm Buys Texas-based Bigs! UFP Western Division, Inc., a subsidiary of Universal Forest Products, Inc., a holding company head-quartered in Grand Rapids, MI since 1955, has purchased Bigs Packaging and Lumber LLC of Dallas, TX. Universal says the addition of Bigs will increase its customer base and opportunities as, according to its website, “the companies of Universal Forest Products combine to create the nation’s leading manufacturer and distributor of wood and wood-alternative products to supply wood, wood composite and other products to the retail, construction, and industrial markets. <http://www.woodworkingnetwork.com>

Legislation

Does Public Input = Litigation? In a 2014 research piece published in the Society of American Foresters’, *Journal of Forestry*, it was found that of the nearly 80 laws that govern land management activities by the US Forest Service, it was the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Forest Management Act that were most often used as a foundation for litigation, not by citizens but by non-profit environmental groups. It is to be hoped that the changes recently established by the USFS will help to prevent these delays by ensuring all interested parties are brought to the table early on.
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Alternative Energy

On-Site Conversion from Biomass to Liquid Biofuel Possible With New Mobile Processor. Purdue University researchers have developed a new method of converting biomass into biofuels that reduces the costs considerably. Capable of using biomass stocks such as wood chips, corn stalks, and switch grass, the mobile unit is a less expensive production method as it eliminates the need to transport such bulky, high volume stocks to a central conversion site. Instead the transformation from solid to liquid can take place at the harvest site. The resulting liquid fuel can then be trucked more cheaply to a permanent refinery site for further processing. The H2Bioil method involves adding hydrogen to the feed stock in a special reactor and then heating the contents super fast to temperatures over 900° F within a second. Amazing! <http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2014/Q4/new-versatile-process-efficiently-converts-biomass-to-liquid-fuel.html>

Invasive Species



City of Madison, WI Creates ‘Forestry Fund’ To Fight Emerald Ash Borer. Residents will pay an average of \$8.00 more in annual property taxes to finance the prevention efforts in their city.

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Not Another One! Spotted Lantern-Fly Detected in Pennsylvania. The cost of globalization soars with each new pest that immigrates. This newest threat hails from Asia and is potentially a hazard to fruit growers nation-wide as its native host plants include grape and apple species. As always, early detection is key and woodland owners are on the front lines.

<http://ento.psu.edu/news/2014/the-spotted-lanternfly-a-new-insect-pest-detected-in-pennsylvania>

Miscellaneous (or Respect Your Elders)

After 250 years, Bur Oak Pulls Up Roots and Moves 500 Feet Across the Campus of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor! The move cost some \$400,000.00 but at 700,000 pounds and with a 44-foot diameter root ball, there were not a lot of options for the tree when the administration decided the building it lives next to needed to expand. Declining interviews from the likes of NPR & ABC news, the Tree released a statement saying, “Oooo, that was quite a ride!” Watch the video:http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2014/11/u-m_tree_move_video.html

Kentucky Bur Oak Giant Gets the Respect It Deserves. In what is being called a model for others, a developer has accorded nearly ¾ of an acre of living space to an iconic Bur oak that others would have removed with chainsaws. Recognizing the centuries it took this tree to grow and realizing it could live for a few more, the tree has retained its place in the landscape as Ball Homes protects it and prepares to build a neighborhood around it. For more information click [here:](http://www.venerabletrees.org/about/venerable-trees-media/)

Interested in Michigan’s Champion Trees? Think You May Have One in Your Woodlot? The Michigan Botanical Club maintains a registry that you can access online here: <http://michbotclub.org/registry/>