

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

MFA is Looking For a Few New Board Members.

Just a reminder that nominations are due by **Friday, October 10, 2014.**

Thanks! We had such a great time at the MFA Annual Meeting and we want to thank those attendees who have taken the time to return their surveys and provide input for future meetings! Thank you very much.

Forest Field Day! November 01, 2014 10:00am – 4:00pm

Visit Old Growth Beech/Maple forest in southwestern Michigan!

Join MFA's Southwest Region and landowner Gary Sherman for a **Forestry Field Day** at 13651 East V Avenue, Vicksburg, MI (about 12 miles SE of Kalamazoo).

This field day is at a *30-acre* wood lot that has been in Mr. Sherman's family for nearly a century!

A forester has marked these woods for an improvement harvest using patch cuts.

The objective was to use small clear cuts to release and allow advance regeneration.

162 trees were marked with an estimated volume of *58,500 board feet*.

The sale was competitive 'lump sum sealed bids' and the buyer paid *\$44,030.00* for this timber!

Lunch and refreshments will be provided and there is no charge to attend.

Hayrack ride and other assisted transportation available for the tour.

Please call Pete Klink at 517 238 4048 for more information and we hope to see you there.

Wildlife News

Beware the Hidebehind! As we move towards hunting season, there is an old forest threat that is making a resurgence, the HideBehind! Undocumented reports from the timber trade state this beast will follow you through the woods, hiding behind a tree when you turn to catch a glimpse.

Smithsonian National Zoo, a National Treasure. This summer was exceptional at the Washington D.C zoo, where they experienced an endangered species baby boom! Black-footed ferrets, fishing cats, red pandas, giant pandas, a strange North American bird species called the 'loggerhead shrike' that impales their prey on thorns, tiger cubs and more. Some are released into the wild when they are ready, others are traded to zoos world-wide or kept in our nation's capital. Seeing is believing, especially for those species we've never heard of before – check out the many webcams that stream live from the zoo here:

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/webcams/> or search the YouTube Smithsonian channel here:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SmithsonianNZP> and prepare to be amazed.

Forest Health

Yoda, a 7 foot tall, 650 year old Douglas Fir has died. Extreme drought in New Mexico has made life tough for some of the worlds oldest trees over these past 15 years. Alive since the discovery of the 'new world', Yoda succumbed to drought stress over the summer. Thankfully others, some older than 1500 years, have survived. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com>

Forest Products

Alternatives to Timber Production on your Woodlot. Would you like to know more about the ways that non-traditional forest products from your forestland can supplement your annual income? Activities such as leasing hunting rights or raising specialty products such as mushrooms or ginseng could help private woodland owners maintain their forests as forests. Ask your Professional Forester and go to The Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) website for more information, just click here: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/forestlands_can_offer_much_more_than_just_hunting_opportunities_and_timber

Legislation

Arrested Deforestation Worldwide. Global companies and countries including the US, Wal-Mart and Cargill all pledge to halt deforestation and begin replanting in an effort to slow climate change. The “New York Declaration on Forests”, a global initiative brokered by the United Nations Development Programme, would reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 4 to 9 billion tons through reducing deforestation over the next 15 years. Critics say the pledge sets goals that are too loose and has no enforcement mechanism. e-forester

Alternative Energy

TMAT, That’s Where Its At! Thermal Molecular Adhesion Turbine, that is...A Northern Michigan tech company, Sol Electrica Renewable Energy Inc, working out of the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center in Muskegon, has developed “...a miniaturized power plant for customers to supply their own electricity from natural gas,”. Still in the research phase, customers could include large electricity consumers such as big box stores, hospitals, schools and municipal governments. Read all about it here: http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2014/09/company_at_renewable_energy_ce.html

Invasive Species

Native Invasive: Poison Ivy! Does anyone like this plant? Probably not! Ridding your garden or forest of this vine comes with nasty consequences (remember that old Coasters tune? “you’re gonna need an ocean of calamine lotion”) but researchers at Virginia Tech have found a natural fungus that targets only poison ivy. While general herbicides do the trick, they also threaten nearby desirable plants. Humans appear to be the only species so highly reactive as goats, deer and birds all eat the seeds and leaves with no problem. Until the fungus becomes commercially available, consider raising goats. MISIN

Is Your Forest in the “Norm”? USDA FS states that 2/3’s of forests in the Northeast and Midwest contain non-native species. Japanese honeysuckle, Garlic mustard, and Multiflora rose are among the most common. Fragmentation of forested areas contributes to the introduction and spread of these invasive species. Many are fast growing and without native enemies (except alert landowners). This means that you are the first line of defense in protecting the health of your woodlot. Learn to recognize the most common invasives in your area and what it takes to remove them from your woods. MISIN

Miscellaneous

Do You Remember? Would a Picture Help? The Forest History Society has an extensive photo collection online that recently grew to include pictures of the Civilian Conservation Corps taken by CCC member Ed Sincic over a three year period in Michigan & Illinois. Follow this link to search the entire collection: <http://foresthistor.org/Research/photos.html>

Amazing Satellite Photo Shows America’s Tree Population. The USFS, NASA and others have teamed up to represent the entire USA tree population on a map! It is part of a project to calculate how much carbon it may be possible to store in the world’s forests. <http://inhabitat.com/amazing-map-shows-every-tree-in-the-united-states/#ixzz3E9rpyWp0>



Far Out! Really Far Out, In Space! This man-made leaf could help humans to travel far into space by making oxygen in a place where plants don’t grow, in zero gravity! Julian Melchiorri has suspended photosynthesis machines called chloroplasts into a silk protein that he claims is the ‘first man made biological leaf’. <http://www.cnet.com/news/this-man-made-breathing-leaf-is-an-oxygen-factory-for-space-travel/>