

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Reminder! Many of you MFA snowbirds are getting ready to fly back home to our lovely mitten. Welcome back & may we add one more thing to the 'to-do list'? Please change your forwarding mail address with the MFA office at the same time as you notify the US Postal Service. Each mailing we get pieces returned to us – this costing money going & coming & going – paying for postage 3 times!

Please UPDATE Your Email Addresses Too! We often have important & exciting news to pass along!

Wanigan, What Exactly Does That Mean? Apparently borrowed from the Algonquian language (like our state name) it originally meant a 'storage box'. In English, especially in Alaska, it has come to mean a small, movable room, something on wheels or skis that becomes towable, like the MFA Wanigan! Our educational trailer makes appearances upon request. In April we were at the State's Earth Day celebration at Constitution Hall in Lansing & the MSU Forestry Dept. Alumni Arbor Day gathering. During the month of May the trailer will be at Fort Custer Educational Center for the state finals of the Envirothon, a high school level science quiz bowl & in Mount Pleasant for the Isabella Conservation District's **Environmental Education Day**.

MFA Field Days! The Post-Harvest Forestry Field Day in Vicksburg was a success. The weather was beautiful, lots of members of MFA & the MI Walnut council showed up & everybody enjoyed themselves while learning a lot. What's next you ask? We have a few ideas up our sleeve: a Chainsaw Safety Training day, visits to member's tree farms, & maybe a portable mill demonstration! What do you suggest we do in your neck of the woods? Contact your MFA chapter representatives with your ideas (or Lisa @ L1D1P@comcast.net 517 763 8637).

MFA Annual Meeting in August is Gonna be Great! So Save the Date!

Bright & Early Fri Aug 14th & Sat 15th in Munising, MI.

Fri: Learn something interesting in the morning, then tour with us in the afternoon, followed by an auction

Sat: Tour an active Timber Harvest & then – rumor has it – there will be a boat ride...
then, banquet, awards and raffle drawing.

MFA Website Unveiling is Getting Closer and We Want Your Photos!

We want pictures of you! & Your Forests! & You visiting other Forests!

Watch this space in May for more details – meanwhile, start diggin' em out & gettin' em digitized!

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

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

There have been some very interesting posts lately and our 'likes' just keep growing.



Rich & Karen Serfass Went to Washington! & Got Something Done for the Nation's Forestland Owners!

As American Tree Farmers, MFA Board Members Rich & Karen Serfass went to lobby Congress as part of the Forest Foundation campaign "Forests in the Farm Bill", also much championed by Michigan's own Senator Stabenow. I'm sure she appreciated the help.

Forest Health

April 15th – It's Not Just About Taxes! For Roger Mech & Bob Heyd of the MDNR **April 15th** is the opening date of Oak Wilt Transmittal Season. To prevent this disease from infecting trees especially in the red oak family, actions such as pruning and timber harvests should be avoided from April 1st til August 1st. The fungus enters the tree two ways, through an open wound or from tree to tree through the root systems, which in oaks are commonly 'grafted' or joined. More information is available here: <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDNR/bulletins/fea22e>

Forest Products

Statewide Wood Energy Team (SWET) for Michigan. The US Forest Service funded a 3 year project to support the development of our state's SWET, similar to teams in Wisconsin & Minnesota. This program will attempt to move along wood energy projects with four main goals: 1) identify opportunities & limitations, 2) develop outreach resources, 3) engage stakeholders, especially those around highly eligible sites, and 4) create success stories in deployed technology. SWET will incorporate past project results, research & inventories. For more information contact either Ray Miller or Bill Cook at the MSU Forest Biomass Innovation Center; 906-786-1575, rmiller@msu.edu, cookwi@msu.edu.

FutureMark has Passed/Past. By the time you read this, the FutureMark paper mill in Manistique, MI will have closed. Citing the inability to find a new owner or return to consistent profitability after coming out of a bankruptcy, the seemingly abrupt decision to close was announced Wednesday 03.18. Current reports cite Wednesday 03.25 as the last day of business. State Senator Tom Casperson has been seeking potential buyers and hopes the people of Manistique remain optimistic. ForestBusinessNetwork

Wildlife News

Forest Condos! Snags (aka standing dead or dying trees), downed hollow logs, live trees with cavities – forest dwelling critters of all types need these places for survival. From mammals, birds & insects to reptiles and amphibians, even fish need these structures. A healthy woods is one with diversity, not only of structure, age & tree species but of life forms as well. Thanks to Oklahoma State Extension for this informational pamphlet – to download yours, click here: <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5202/Snags%20L-270.pdf>

MFA Partner News

Michigan Society of American Foresters held their spring meeting in Marquette on April 9 & 10. The focus was on "Forestry's Future: People, Products, and Technology" and it was well attended with over 160 participants. In true UP fashion, a snowstorm arrived and gifted attendees with 8 inches of snow on Friday morning!

MSU Shadows Collection furniture line unveiling has been postponed but is eagerly awaited. The Campus Wood Recovery program will utilize wood sourced from dead, diseased and dying tree removals from the campus to create fine furniture and small items such as frames and cutting boards. The lumber is made on a portable mill and kiln dried on site. The line will be sold through the MSU Surplus Store. Watch this site for info on the grand opening!