

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Dow Gardens Whiting Forest Woodlot Management Series Begins February 15!

Join MFA, Little Forks Conservancy and Dow Gardens this winter at Whiting Forest in Midland, MI for this exciting series conducted by Forest Management Professionals. Sunday 02.15 learn about management plans, land health assessment & wildlife habitat. On Saturday 03.14 the topics include woodlot management plans & strategies, plant ID & invasive species control, and timber cruising. The series concludes on Friday 04.17 with lessons on urban forest products, timber harvest and forest resource utilization. Each session includes classroom time and field tours of Whiting Forest, including an on-site milling demonstration the last day. Mark your calendars and plan to attend all 3 sessions. Participation is limited to 30 individuals each day and registration includes snacks & lunch. Cost: \$60.00 for all 3 seminars or \$25.00 each. For more information and to register go to: www.dowgardens.org or call 989-631-2677.

2016 MFA Annual Meeting Needs Volunteers !!! Want to Help?

Please contact us with your ideas...

MFA's 2015 Teacher Workshop in the Works!

Please help us spread the word! The date is set for June 22-26 & we need your help to make this event a success. Please let your favorite teacher, (or your child's, or your grandchild's) know about this special opportunity to not only learn some forestry basics, but learn how to teach them too!

Wildlife News

MME's – Mass Mortality Events - What Causes Them? How to Stop Them? Large die-offs in the animal kingdom have caught the attention of scientists on both coasts. They recently published results from a study of scientific papers on the topic from 1940-2012. Over the past 72 years, it was found that these events are becoming more frequent (at the rate of about one more per year, each year-that's about 70 MME's in 2012, planetwide) and the number of fatalities per event has increased. "They turned up 727 such papers documenting MME's of 2,407 global populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and marine invertebrates". While disease was the largest cause of death, human activity, especially environmental contamination, was runner up. Admittedly, the rise in frequency could be attributed to increased awareness, yet we begin to wonder if there is a message out there that humans are not translating correctly. www.cbs.com

Go Native for Your Woodlot or Backyard Habitat. Especially in urban areas, native plant species are depended upon by our native birds and insects. Although preliminary, recent research being conducted by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center indicates the native Carolina chickadee will bypass non-native tree species and fly further afield to find the native insects on native trees that she wants to feed her chicks. Apparently, about 80% of suburbia's planted landscape contains species from Asia which means native insects haven't evolved to feed on them or overcome their natural defenses. In fact, many insects, such as the Monarch butterfly caterpillars, have evolved to feed only on one specific plant, milkweed leaves in this instance. The lead researcher says "if you have a lot of trees that are not native, to the birds it's almost like there are no trees at all". As we change the composition of our sub/urban yards, so goes our forests and woodlots, as plant seeds disperse by wind, birds, and small mammals. So Go Native with your landscaping and help our friends, small and tall. [National Wildlife magazine](#)

Forest Health

\$ 1 Million Dollars!!! That's new funding for a new program within Michigan's DNR to help train private & public lands foresters to work with landowners in limiting soil erosion and sediment runoff from timber harvests, implementing best management practices. The strategy is part of a "Regional Conservation Partnership Program" created as part of the 2014 Farm Bill that helped direct a \$40 million conservation investment in Michigan. Over 130 partners from business, ngo's, universities and governments came together to prioritize and design 5 statewide conservation projects that include water quality, wildlife habitat in addition to the forest health initiative.

MI Forest Products Council

Forest Products

Verso Corporation Acquisition of NewPage Holdings Inc. Complete.

In the works for about a year, Verso, (headquartered in Memphis, TN) has finished the paperwork to purchase NewPage, a UP based paper mill here in Michigan. According to the press release, the transaction was worth about \$1.4 billion!

MI Forest Products Council

Legislation

What Did Governor Snyder Do? On Thursday, January 15, 2015, essentially vetoing SB78, the Honorable Governor Snyder returned the legislation unsigned, stating "I believe that biodiversity is an essential component of sustainable forest management...(t)he proposed legislation...causes confusion and inconsistencies and could make it more difficult to sustainably manage Michigan's Public forests..." Read the letter here:

<http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-57577-345408--,00.html>

Alternative Energy

The Wind Tree by French R&D firm "New Wind" is the latest in wind turbine technology. It is designed to look like a tree and operate silently in urban environments. Initial installations will be made in March of 2015 on the streets of Paris. Watch the video here: <http://www.slashgear.com/silent-tree-shaped-wind-turbines-to-debut-in-paris-04361822/>

Opportunity Blowing in the Wind - Michigan's Wind Farms Grow More Than Energy Over Past 10

Years. In 2004, our state had 3 wind turbines in 2 locations producing about 2 megawatts of power. Now, a decade later we have reached the goal set out in state law that requires Michigan utilities to get 10% of their power from renewable sources! Statewide, we have 19 wind farms with more than 700 turbines creating 1,455 megawatts! But that is not all, apparently wind has also generated 1000's of jobs: construction, operations & maintenance, engineering, and factory work at the nearly 40 wind turbine component manufacturers.

MLUI

Invasive Species

Emerald Ash Borer Update (EAB) - Survivor Ash! By now (hopefully) we all know its name & what it looks like, having been a resident of our state for perhaps up to 20 years. We should know that our native birds have discovered it as a food source, that a parasitoid wasp has been released that lays its eggs in EAB larvae, and that electric zapper traps baited with female hormones are waiting for the males. Protections such as trunk injections of imadacloprid are available for individual trees but those in the forest, well...If you happen to see mature trees in your woodlot or random forest wanderings that seem to have escaped EAB mortality, it is possible they may be Immune! The US Forest Service wants to know! There is a new website to report these sightings:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/tools/ash/> At this time they are beginning with 10 counties in SE Michigan and 7 in NW Ohio, so if you or someone you know lives in one of these areas, please keep a lookout & inform the USFS. Private woodlot owners are a primary line of defense in the fight against invasives of all types. Sadly, there is one more thing. Researchers in Ohio believe they have found evidence that the EAB has decided to feast upon another tree species: White fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). Read more here:

<http://webapp2.wright.edu/web1/newsroom/2014/10/09/wright-state-university-researcher-discovers-destructive-emerald-ash-borer-may-have-spread-to-a-different-tree/>

Miscellaneous

One of Only 19 in the World! Headlands International Dark Sky Park in Emmet County, Michigan that is. Prior to Thomas Edison there would have been no need for a place like this, but now, well, our lives are lit electrically round the clock. The park is open year round, 24/7 with plenty to do day and night. Enjoy miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline, over 550 forested acres and plenty of trails. If you would like to see the night sky in all of its celestial glory, visit the website for their educational program schedule.

<http://www.emmetcounty.org/darkskypark/>