

Leaves

Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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Association News

Spaces Still Available for MFA Teacher Workshop.

How many of us have kids or grandkids in school? Don't you want them to learn about Sustainable Forestry from an attendee of the MFA Teacher Workshop? Help us spread the word about this amazing opportunity for teachers to learn from the best at an amazingly affordable price at only \$100.00/week!!!

More information here: <http://michiganforests.org/mfa-teacher-workshop/>

MFA Represented on Great Lakes Coast Guard Ice Breaker, the Hollyhock.

Vice President John MacInnis & board members extraordinaire Bill Cook & Dave Wellman were aboard the Hollyhock on March 1st as the ship sailed the Straits of Mackinaw.

Watch the videos shot by crew member Willy Arndt on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4tl-fK7-JU> Thanks to Bill Cook

MFA Website Design Moving Forward!

The next meeting is scheduled for April 1st, Have you got a great idea or suggestion for your new site? Please contact Lisa at L1D1P@comcast.net or call 517 763 8637 and let her know.

Call for Forest Photos!

MFA is Seeking Member Pictures to Fill the New Website,
Now is the Time to Begin Gathering Your Favorite Shots.

Do you have photos of: you & your family in your woodlot, your woods over time, before & after harvest, a visit you made to any of the fantastic forests in our state (or the world over, for that matter) or any other forest pics you think we would all like to see?

Please contact Lisa at L1D1P@comcast.net or call her at 517 763 8637.

Don't Forget:

2 Sessions Left: Dow Gardens Whiting Forest Woodlot Management Series

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.

Learn about management plans & strategies, land health assessment, plant ID & invasive species control, forest inventory, timber cruising & harvest and more!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend a session:

Saturday 03.14 and Friday 04.17.2015.

Participation is limited to 30 individuals each day and registration includes snacks & lunch.

Cost: \$25.00 each.

For more information and to register go to: www.dowgardens.org or call 989-631-2677.

Wildlife News

Forest Clear-Cuts Provide Wildlife Habitat for Migrating Warblers and Woodcock. Not the prettiest of harvest methods, clear-cuts provide benefits not found with single tree logging. Clear-cutting mimics natural disturbance such as wildfire that has been largely excluded from our forests and can be used to create specific sized openings in a forest. Many of our native species (aspen, birch) regenerate best in sites such as these. Watch how the “Habitat Machine” does it at a site in Cheboygan County, MI. <http://interlochenpublicradio.org/post/spreading-good-news-about-clear-cuts>

Forest Health

Geologists Mark Beginning of the ‘Age of Humans’ or the Anthropocene Epoch as 1610 When Global Dip in Atmospheric CO2 Indicates Regrowth of Forests in Americas, after Europeans decimated populations a century earlier by sharing diseases such as smallpox. The thinking goes that after some 50 million humans died, the decline in agriculture allowed the forests to reestablish, resulting in a measurable decrease in atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide. This resulted in a ‘golden spike’ – a recognizable global impact that can be documented in sediments, or in this case ice cores. The debate will not be easily resolved as others support the deposition of radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons testing in 1964 as the point at which humans became the “most powerful force on the planet”. There are some 9 historic events that are currently discussed as being this beginning. Bloomberg.com provides a synopsis of the debate here: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-11/the-year-humans-started-to-ruin-the-world> or go direct to Nature.com to read for yourself: http://www.nature.com/search?q=anthropocene&q_match=all&shunter=1425898492358&sp-a=sp1001702d&sp-m=0&sp-p-1=phrase&sp-sfvl-field=subject%7Cuournal&sp-x-1=ujournal&submit=go

Forest Products

America’s 1st ‘Tall Wood’ Building to be in Minneapolis. Architect Michael Green has drawn up plans for a 7 story office building constructed of ‘Mass Timber’, an industry term that refers to: LVL-laminated veneer lumber, LSL-laminated strand lumber, & CLT-cross laminated timber. Google the architect’s “Ted Talk” & go to rethinkwood.com for more neat info. Thanks to Ben Schram

Vienna & Stockholm Prove That it is Not Always Bigger in Texas (or Minneapolis) as they have wooded skyscrapers planned at 25 & 34 stories, respectively: http://www.popsci.com/next-futuristic-building-material-wood?utm_source=WIT030615&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WeekInTrees Thanks to Georgia Peterson

Legislation

MSUE & MFA Member Dr. Karen Potter-Witter Release New Qualified Forest Program Bulletin Available for Free Download Here: http://shop.msu.edu/product_p/bulletin-e3234.htm

Alternative Energy

It Has Been Nearly 2 Years Since Governor Snyder’s Timber Summit. The BioMaterials Initiative spearheaded by MI Tech U & MI State U is a good start, but what we need are markets, especially in the southern lower peninsula. How about an expansion of biomass electricity generating power plants, or wood pellet manufacturing facilities? Michigan has access to international shipping through the Great Lakes & the St. Lawrence seaway and Europe is hungry for pellet feed-stocks. It’s just an idea (& my opinion, your editor –Lisa Parker)

MFA Partner News

Forestlandowners.com – The 2015 National Conference of Private Forest Landowners will be held from June 02-05 in Virginia Beach at the Hilton Oceanfront. Check the above website for more info.

Miscellaneous

NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center to Build Instrument to Measure Carbon Stored in World’s Forests. The GEDI (Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation) lidar will be one of only ten devices allocated a place annually on the International Space Station (ISS), in 2018. Using LiDar to map the worlds forests between the 50th North & 50th South parallels, resesarchers hope to calculate forest biomass and stored carbon & learn how it may change over time. Follow this link for great animations & the full story: <http://www.businessinsider.com/nasa-gedi-will-image-the-worlds-forests-in-3d-2015-3> Forest Business Network