

# Leaves

## Newsletter of the Michigan Forest Association

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### Association News

#### **MFA's Annual Meeting is just around the corner – Have You Registered Yet?**

We have lots of fun in store for the weekend of August 14 & 15 in **Munising!** Not only will you reconnect with old friends and learn a great deal on the field tours, there are plans for a boat tour of legendary **Pictured Rocks** (& some lucky MFA members who register early get tickets at a very discounted price!)

#### **New for 2015** is the ability to **Register Online!**

Simply go to the new website (still under construction) at [michiganforests.org](http://michiganforests.org)

\*\*\*While you are there, look around and then tell us what you think – email, phone, or in person at the meeting\*\*\*

[Michiganforests.com](http://michiganforests.com) is still active and the Annual Meeting info is at the bottom of the home page with links to the Agenda, Registration Form and Raffle Ticket pre-sales.

#### **MFA Annual Meeting Raffle Ticket Pre-sales!**

You know you want that Hard Maple Table! or how about a new Stihl Chain-Saw?

If you are not able to join us in Munising or you simply like to get things done early, you can buy your raffle tickets from the comfort of your home.

Download the form from the old or new website, write a check and pop it all in the mail.

We will complete your tickets, & mail you the stubs! What could be easier?

#### **MFA Website Unveiling is Getting Closer Still & We Want Your Photos!**

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

Find those pics of your favorite woodlands over time...when you first bought your property, pre & post harvest, regeneration, wildlife, what ever you love about your lands! ps. It would be great if you were in the pictures too!

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

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

### **Wildlife News**

**UP Antlerless Deer given a reprieve.** The Michigan Natural Resources Commission has decided that over the 2015/2016 season, bow hunters in the Upper Peninsula will not be allowed to harvest antlerless deer. This is part of an effort to help the white-tailed deer population up there recover after 3 very harsh winter seasons. The restrictions do not affect firearm season. More information here: <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDNR/bulletins/1095437>

**Extinction is Forever! Vanished, No More...** On Tuesday 06.16.2015 the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) announced that the Eastern Cougar, once the most widely distributed land mammal in the western hemisphere, has probably been extinct for at least 70 years. They are proposing its removal from

the Federal Endangered & Threatened species list. Habitat loss through deforestation devastated the population of white-tailed deer, the big cat's most common prey at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and human hunting likely contributed to the great cats' demise. Closely related to the Florida panther and the Western Cougar, the only subspecies' left with sustainable breeding populations, FWS states that sightings east of the Mississippi have most likely been that of the Western Cougar, who are known to have migrated east. The proposal is open for public comment until August 17, 2015. More here: <http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=FCA80842-063F-1657-BC5E7C57A4928F54>

**Chronic Wasting Disease** found in Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan free ranging white tailed deer. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time the neurological disease has been found in our state although it is established in 17 other states in the nation. Also affecting mule deer, elk and moose, symptoms include unusual behaviour such as allowing humans to approach closely. The MDNR took immediate action to prevent the spread of CWD by prohibiting feeding and baiting stations that encourage large numbers of deer to gather. The probability of only one infected deer is very low so there is now a 3-county quarantine zone. The MDNR will be pursuing methods to decrease the population within this zone and 'out-of-season' hunting permits are being distributed. All deer taken will be checked for the CWD as well as any roadkills that are reported. As of 07.02 MDNR reports 96 negative tests. Call the RAP (Report All Poaching) hotline at 1-800-292-7800 to report any abnormal deer activity. Click here for more info: <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,4579,7-186-25806---,00.html>

### Forest Health

**Spruce Budworm Outbreak** expected this season in Michigan's Upper and Northern Lower Peninsulas, warns Bob Heyd of the MDNR. Although periodic episodes of defoliation are expected from this native insect, it can be deadly for older spruce and fir trees. There are remedies to protect your older landscape trees but the time for action is now. Click here for more information: <http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/sbw/budworm.htm>

### Forest Products

**American Family Forest Owners Integral to US Forest Products Industry.** Unfortunately the two biggest threats to their economic inclusion are development pressure and being 'uninterested' in forest management. 'Uninterested' forest landowners don't: do much with their land, plan for the future, think harvesting is good for their woods. As MFA members you are not 'uninterested' but how about your friends and neighbors? Do you talk with them about the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable forest management and your involvement with MFA? Nationwide, like here in Michigan, industry relies upon the private landowner for raw materials. The American Forest Foundation is researching private woodland owner engagement with an initiative called "Vanishing Pieces of the Puzzle: The Importance of Family Forests to Conservation Goals". Read more here: [https://www.forestfoundation.org/piece-of-the-puzzle-wood?utm\\_source=WIT021814&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=PuzzlePiecesWeekInTrees](https://www.forestfoundation.org/piece-of-the-puzzle-wood?utm_source=WIT021814&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=PuzzlePiecesWeekInTrees)

### Alternative Energy

**Hillman Power Company, LLC in Hillman, MI** is the only state facility licensed by the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) to receive biomass through the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). This is a new grant program thru FSA to assist foresters and farmers in the harvest and provision of biomass for energy. Applications are accepted beginning June 30, 2015 and provide financial assistance for such projects as ash salvage harvests. This is particularly helpful in those areas where a commercial cut is not possible due to a lack of markets. In the southern Lower Peninsula, where transportation costs to the northern lower are a barrier, this program may provide a method to accomplish non-commercial forest health cuts without landowner financing. Contact your forester and read more here: <http://www.forestbusinessnetwork.com/49512/usda-energy-biomass-retrieval-incentives-to-begin-june-30/> and here: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/energy-programs/BCAP/index>

**Why Not in Michigan? USDA Acting Chief Economist, Robert Johansson** blogged on June 8, 2015 that "An industry that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase forest growth, and create jobs sounds too good to be true. But that is the reality of the emerging wood pellets market in the Southern U.S." I say: Why Not in Michigan? See more at: <http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/06/08/study-finds-increasing-wood-pellet-demand-boosts-forest-growth-reduces-greenhouse-gas-emissions-creates-jobs/#comment...>