

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

Volume XXXIII

September 2015

Number 07

Association News

Hey Members! Are any of you registered accountants? MFA is looking to hire CPA to perform an audit sometime after the new fiscal year begins on November 01, 2015.

Please contact the main office if you are able to help or if you know of someone we should contact. Thank You!

October 15th is the Deadline! Your nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President & Board of Directors seats are requested – please submit the names of those you deem worthy to the main office by Thursday 10.15.2015. Election Ballots will be mailed out shortly afterwards.

We Think the MFA Annual Meeting was a Smashing Success! Again, our thanks go out to Members Chris Hohnholt, Bill Cook, and Deb Huff! We want to know what you think too – please watch your mailboxes for the official follow up survey.

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

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

Forest Products

Subject to Approval: Grayling, MI may be the new home of ARAUCO NA's "single largest continuous particle board press". The \$325 million investment in Crawford Co. could bring 250 jobs to the area and provide Non Industrial Private Forest Land Owners with a market for non-lumber grade products! If authorized by state and local agencies & the ARAUCO Board of Directors, construction on the new mill could begin in late 2016. Thanks Bill Cook – Notable MFA Member & MSAF Communications Chair – for the Good News.

Miscellaneous Cool Stuff

Harvest SuperMoon Lunar Eclipse !!! This is one Not To Be Missed – on Sunday Sept 27th, Michigan will have one of the best seats in the house for a fantastic astronomic event (& you won't have to stay up too late or get up early!) When the moon rises at 7:17pm it will be a SuperMoon – this happens during the phase when the moon's orbit brings it closest to Earth. As this occurs before the sun sets the moon will appear red, known as a blood moon. So, this in and of itself will be spectacular, but it gets better – just after 9:00pm Earth will start to move between the moon and the sun, and the shadow of Earth will fall upon the SuperMoon, in a Lunar Eclipse! This eclipsed moon will also be red, as we will be "seeing the projection of all the sunsets on Earth at the time being cast on the moon". The total eclipse will begin about 10:11pm and last until nearly 11:30pm. Pick your spot now with a view to the south because if you miss it, you will have to wait until 2033 for the phenomenon to occur again. (and pray to the weather gods for clear skies).

Wildlife News

Are you an amateur birder? Birds share our forests with us and yet, I do not know many of them. When I am out and see or hear a bird I don't know, I don't carry a field guide, but I always have my phone. There is a new app out from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology – Merlin – to help me out with identification. Here is the link to the app & a blog by a new user:

http://blog.nature.org/science/2015/08/25/ode-to-merlin/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=637b92918e-Cornell_Lab_eNews_2015_09_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-637b92918e-303026001

It's Decided! The Greater Sage Grouse of Western US Doesn't need the extra protections of the ESA (endangered species act).

The National Audubon Society estimates current sage grouse populations levels to be between 200,000 – 500,000. This is a significant drop from 16 million birds that used to inhabit the grasslands of the western US, according to the Nature Conservancy. Instead of greater restrictions that could have been imposed by the ESA listing of the grouse, it was determined by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) that the ongoing landscape-scale collaborative conservation efforts are doing the job. In what the Dept. of



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mypubliclands/16759453414/>

the Interior is calling the “largest land conservation effort in US history”, partners that include the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, agencies from 11 states, non-profit conservation organizations and private landowners have made a concentrated and successful effort to preserve public & private lands for greater sage grouse habitat. This effort has been judged by the FWS as effective in preserving the species from extinction, therefore no additional protections will be imposed. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/historic-conservation-campaign-protects-greater-sage-grouse>

Forest Health

1000 Cankers Disease is a Real Threat to our Black Walnuts that HAS NOT Reached Michigan.

It has come to our attention that unscrupulous and unsavory characters have been circulating the rumor that this problem is on our doorstep, AND that the solution is to harvest your black walnut, Right Now. This threat is native to the Western US and is considered a ‘disease complex’ because it is a one-two punch of a beetle that carried a fungus. The MDNR issued a ‘Consumer Advisory’ last week that you can read here:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_28248-364774--,00.html

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Presence is Confirmed in Western Michigan. This invasive pest was introduced on imported nursery stock and is a serious problem in many states along the east coast. This is the first time it has been found in Michigan in a natural hemlock stand. An “alert citizen working in the area” first discovered its infiltration in Ottawa County in June and it was recently confirmed to also be in Muskegon County. You, private forest landowners, are one of the first lines of defense in our fight against introduced threats to our forest resources. More info here: http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_3628-364897--,00.html

“If your tree looks sick, tell someone – quick!” MSU Extension is looking for Citizen Scientists to partner with in their EYES on the FOREST project. This program hopes to engage forest landowners in establishing Sentinel Trees that will be inspected regularly for signs of pest infestation. “If you see something of a different sort – then don't hesitate – please report”. Please get involved: Contact Russell Kidd at kidd@msu.edu or get more info here: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/getting_the_public_involved_in_tracking_and_reporting_on_invasive_species