

# The Michigan Forester

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## ***Summit to Focus on Forest Products Industry Growth***

The Department of Natural Resources is finalizing plans for the Governor's Summit for Growing Michigan's Forest Products Industry, which will be held April 23 in Lansing. This invitation-only event will bring together timber and forestry leaders, legislators, university and financial industry representatives, DNR staff and others to drive discussions of growth and opportunity to make this vital asset an even bigger factor in the state's economy.

The Summit was a result of Governor Snyder's Special Message on Energy and the Environment last fall, which focused on improving rural economies – especially those tied to land-based industries. The timber industry, which generates \$14 billion annually and directly employs 26,000 Michiganders, has the opportunity to lead in this area by improving one of the state's major rural economies.

The daylong Summit will feature a series of speakers and several breakout sessions with Governor Snyder setting the stage for the event by going over goals for growing the timber industry. Additional speakers will help frame a business plan for Michigan's forest products industry on both statewide and global levels. The afternoon will be devoted to developing priorities for action, a panel discussion and work group breakout sessions. (Cont'd on page 5)

## ***Forestry Studies and Spruce Grouse Sighting on the Baraga Plains***

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Observing a wild animal in nature is an exciting experience. It brings us closer to nature and makes us feel we are a part of it. Many protected or threatened species are often difficult to spot, not only because of their population size, but also because of their elusive habits. (cont'd on page 5)

Submitted by  
Kristin Brusso



Photo by Kristin Brusso

Have something to contribute or would you like printed copy of the *Michigan Forester*? Please contact Tori Irving at [toriirving@gmail.com](mailto:toriirving@gmail.com) or [irvingt@michigan.gov](mailto:irvingt@michigan.gov) or at (906) 458-1210.

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*The STARS of Michigan's Forests!*



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I am looking forward to the next few years as I predict some exciting times for foresters and forest management. I am excited to be Chair of the Michigan Society of American Foresters. Having served at the national level as a council member, vice president and president, I am fully convinced that state societies and chapters are where the action is for the majority of our members. That's where

### *A Message from the Chair...*

## *LOOKING FORWARD*

members make the connection with SAF. The bulk of continuing education happens at the local level. Most of the projects and accomplishments of SAF occur at the state and chapter levels. Communication at the grassroots level is very effective. It creates partnerships and allows us to connect with others at the local level, which I believe is extremely important. This helps us to be relevant in our communities and allows foresters to help our neighbors and community leaders learn about the positive aspects of good management.

The Society of American Foresters will be facing many challenges over the next few years regarding the viability of the organization. We must determine from members what they want from SAF at the national and local levels and develop programs to provide what members need as well as continuing our leadership by influencing policy at the state and local levels.

I would like to see us strengthen our influence over the next few years. We can do this by external communication within our communities, taking on leadership roles within our communities and work with partners in all natural resource disciplines. Foresters must become involved in their communities in any way they can. There are many different ways to become involved. The Michigan Society of American Foresters needs to be in the forefront leading forestry and natural resource management. By doing so, it will provide the economic, social and biological benefits and commodities the states citizens expect and need to maintain and improve our quality of life.

As Foresters we need to make sure that we are leaders in natural resource management, not merely followers of direction imposed by others. We are best prepared to make the professional decisions regarding management of our forests. To do otherwise will merely relegate us to technicians carrying out the directions of others. This is an exciting time to be a Forester as we face the opportunities and challenges of managing our states forests in a sustainable manner to provide all of the commodities and services that the people of the state ask and demand from us. I am confident, that as a profession, we are well prepared for the task.

Bernie Hubbard  
Chair, Michigan SAF

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

### **Midwestern Foresters Conclave**

*April 5-7, 2013*

Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI

### **Sustainable Forestry Conference**

*April 11, 2013*

Florence, WI

### **Heating the Midwest with Renewable Biomass**

*April 24-26, 2013*

Carlton, MN  
Black Bear Casino & Resort

### **Michigan Association of Timbermen Annual Convention**

*April 26-27, 2013*

Boyne Mountain Resort  
Boyne Falls, MI

### **Michigan SAF/CIF Spring Conference**

*April 30– May 1*

Lake Superior State University  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

### **SFEC Webinar: Wood Utilization- The Zero Waste Solution**

*June 18*

### **68th Annual Lake States Congress & Equipment Expo**

*September 5-7, 2013*

UP State Fair Grounds  
Escanaba, MI

For more upcoming events, visit:  
<http://michigansaf.org/Calendar/calendar.htm>

## *Answering a Simple Question: Decay Resistance of Canada Yew*

Canada yew (*Taxus canadensis*) is a shrub that is not so economically important. In the northern Lake States it is one of our few evergreen shrubs and usually indicates undisturbed or old-growth northern hardwood sites. The shrub never gets more than about six feet high. Canada yew has come under pressure in some areas due to its palatability to white-tailed deer. Why deer prefer to browse this species is a mystery, as the red berries are known to be very poisonous to humans. Apparently the foliage is not harmful – at least to deer.

The related Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) gets to be a moderate sized tree. In the 1980s the bark was found to contain an anti-cancer drug named “taxol” (later, “paclitaxel”), particularly effective against ovarian cancer. The drug was also shown to be present in Canada yew, and some harvesting took place to extract taxol for medical use. Now the drug is made synthetically and is widely used to treat a variety of cancers.

The wood of any of the yews is of little commercial importance, because even Pacific yew only ever gets to be about a foot in diameter. Perhaps the greatest use of Canada yew is in ornamental plantings. Certain cultivars make nice hedgerows and borders along buildings. The wood of yews is considered to be resistant to decay, but this comes primarily from field observations throughout the centuries. Try to find actual field or lab data on the wood decay resistance of any of the yews and one comes up with a blank,

So what does it matter, knowing about the decay resistance of Canada yew? A few years ago a lengthy article appeared in a major journal on the ecology of Canada yew. The article covered all the various aspects of growth and survival of the shrub. A premise of the article was that Canada yew was under threat in certain parts of its range due to over-browsing by deer. The authors conducted numerous field studies and found that small patches of Canada yew could be entirely killed by deer. However, it was found that larger patches of Canada yew

(Cont'd on page 8)

## *Summit (cont'd from page 1)*

The DNR has developed goals and actions to frame the Summit and push industry growth. The goals include:

- Increasing the economic impact of the timber industry on state and regional economies from \$14 billion in 2010 to \$20 billion;
- Doubling the export of value-added timber products;
- Increasing timber-related careers by 10 percent;
- Supporting existing industry; and
- Encouraging community-based industry development.

Key actions that will inform the Summit include:

- Identifying opportunities and challenges for the timber industry including emerging markets;
- Developing a framework for communication and collaboration among the forest industry, financial community, economic development support network, government and universities;
- Aligning resources within state government and universities to address goals and actions identified in the summit; and
- Increasing public awareness of Michigan's timber industry.

In addition to these goals and actions, the Summit will serve as an opportunity to highlight Michigan's forest products economy in a way that the DNR hasn't been able to in more than a decade. Bringing the right people together and promoting active discussions about ways Michigan can attract external interest in this growing industry will be beneficial to the timber industry as well as the state and local economies. This event is expected to feature a lot of optimism, ideas and opportunities.

Because the Summit is by invitation only, a report will be compiled following the event detailing the presentations, discussions and decisions. Please check the next issue of *The Michigan Forester* for an overview of the Forest Products Industry Summit.

*Submitted by Bill O'Neill, State Forester and  
Chief of the DNR's Forest Resources Division*



This is not the case for the Spruce Grouse, a friendly species of bird closely related to the Ruffed Grouse, the Sharp-tailed Grouse, and the Greater and Lesser Prairie-chicken (Sibley, 2003).

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012, while enrolled at Michigan Technological Universities School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science Fall Practicum in Wildlife Ecology, I happened upon my first Spruce Grouse on the Baraga Plains just outside of L'Anse, MI. This sighting occurred in the afternoon while traversing the Goose Hunting trail on the outskirts of the Ford Center property. Upon pulling off to the side of the dirt path to observe grey wolf tracks in a small, sandy clearing I was startled by rustling in the bushes just in front of me. At first I could not see him; he blended in so well with the surrounding jack pine thickets, but after a few moments of searching I spotted him, a curious male Spruce Grouse.

The level of tameness (or rather ecological naiveté) he portrayed was shocking to me, he was comfortable with me at a distance of just five feet and he even allowed me to walk back to my car and return with my camera. In fact, at the sight of the camera, he hopped up on a small log and strutted back and forth like a super model on a run-way.

Michigan Tech is well known for their field practicum courses which take place in Alberta, MI at the Ford Forestry Center. The university owns a 5,500 acre tract of land which is used for an array of field studies and extensive research projects (Michigan Technological University, 2013). It additionally functions as the primary tool for educating students enrolled in Forestry, Wildlife Ecology, and Applied Ecology in intensive field work strategies. Throughout the Ford Forest there is a diversity in forest type and age class including mixed deciduous (dominated primarily by sugar maple), natural old growth red pine, and jack pine dominated plains.

Throughout these ecosystems an array of wildlife can commonly be observed or heard from afar. Wildlife cameras set up in fall 2012 recorded footage of black bears, gray wolves, flying squirrels, pine marten, coyotes, and a variety of other more commonly observed species (i.e. raccoons, porcupines, white-tailed deer, etc). During the same semester, moose tracks were also observed on the Baraga Plains, just around the corner from where I spotted my first Spruce Grouse.

Spruce Grouse are one of the few wild birds that are curious enough to come within feet of a human without thinking twice. For this reason they have also been called "fool hens" (Robinson, 1980). This makes for easy viewing if you know where to find them, but it has also been hard on their populations as they are sometimes mistaken for ruffed grouse by hunters. Rare in Michigan, Spruce Grouse have been listed as a Species of Special Concern (MDNR, 2013). Though the species is primarily found throughout Canada and Alaska, populations also exist in the northeastern and northwestern corners of the United States (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2013). In New York, the species is listed as endangered (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 2013).

Spruce Grouse have a variety of calls and vocalizations and like Ruffed Grouse will commonly "drum" when other males are present as a territorial threat or when females are nearby in a courting display. Drumming is a display in which males beat their wings in such a way that they create a series of thumping noises (Sibley, 2003). Spruce Grouse drumming is similar to that of the Ruffed Grouse, but quieter. While a Spruce Grouse can only be heard from up to 100 yards away, Ruffed Grouse can be heard at distances up to one mile (Robinson, 1980).

In contrast to these courtship behaviors, prairie chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse are known for their lekking behaviors in which multiple males will gather in a field or opening and display for nearby females. This courtship behavior is primarily composed of vocalizations and physical displays, but these grouse species do not drum the way Ruffed Grouse and Spruce Grouse do (Sibley, 2003).

Fortunate to have not only spotted a Spruce Grouse in nature, but also to have been given a fantastic opportunity to capture him on camera, I feel very blessed. I can now share my experience not only through stories, but through pictures!

#### Works Cited

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Spruce Grouse in the Baraga Pains

Photo by:

Kristin Brusso

## *MiSAF Members Receiving Membership Pins in 2012*

Submitted by Craig Kasmer, Awards Chair

Every Spring Conference and Fall Conference, Membership Recognition Pins are handed out at the evening banquet. Please take a moment to see if your name is on the list of pin recipients for this year. If it is, be sure to attend one (or why not both?) of the conferences this year; if you recognize a friend/colleague/neighbor etc. that is on the list, please let them know that they are on the pin recipient list.

### *10 Year Pin 2012 Recipients*

(Member Since 2002)

Mr. Benjamin J. Williams  
Ms. Andrea L. Anulewicz  
Mr. Kevin Beck  
Mr. Christopher Bont  
Mr. Kevin D. Byers  
Ms. Tara Lee Eberhart  
Mr. Thomas E. Jacques  
Mr. Michael T. Jensen

Mr. Patrick Marolla  
Ms. Sheila Madahbee  
Dr. Dennis M. Merkel  
Mr. Todd A. Penrose  
Mr. Adam M. Petrelius  
Mr. Harry W. Squibb  
Mr. Eric G. Stoddard

### *20 Year Pin 2012 Recipients*

(Member Since 1993)

Mr. Robert Gerald Burnham  
Mr. Carl Ekdorn  
Mr. Dominic E. Fucciolo  
Mr. James Todd Green  
Mr. John Mitchell Hamel  
Mr. Kevin A. Haustein  
Mr. Joseph John Kaiser  
Mr. Kirk Dale Kass  
Ms. Lauri K. LaBumbard  
Mr. Frank J. Laurence  
Mr. Daniel M. Racine

### *30 Year Pin 2012 Recipients*

(Member Since 1983)

Mr. Jon M. Larry  
Mr. Douglas Alan Lee  
Mr. Stephen Ralph Nelson  
Ms. Jean E. Perkins  
Mr. Jim A. Thompson  
Mr. Russell P. Kidd  
Mr. John R. Gwaltney  
Ms. Phyllis A. Dorman-Green  
Mr. William E. Cook

### *40 Year Pin 2012 Recipients*

(Member Since 1973)

Mr. Stephen T. Kalisz  
Dr. Donald F. Holecek  
Mr. Dennis A. Good  
Mr. Robert J. Cadorn

### *50 Year Pin 2012 Recipients*

(Member Since 1963)

Mr. Robert A. Borak  
Mr. Dan J. Bulmer  
Mr. Marion G. True  
Mr. Gerald A. Rose

### *60 Year Pin 2012 Recipients*

(Member Since 1953)

Mr. John R. Hornick  
Mr. Marlin R. Caris

## Michigan SAF Education Fund - 2013 Budget

Prepared by Chad Fate

Beginning Balance	\$ 886.25
<b>Income</b>	
Raffle Tickets Spring/Fall	\$1,000.00
2013 PLT Teacher Sponsorship (Pass through from MI SAF Account)	\$ 650.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
MSU Scholarship	\$ 250.00
MTU Scholarship	\$ 250.00
PLT Teacher Sponsorship 2012	\$ 650.00
PLT Teacher Sponsorship 2013	\$ 650.00
National SAF Education Fund (2/3 raffle ticket sales)	\$ 660.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 76.25</b>

## Michigan Society of American Foresters

### Year 2013 Budget Status Report

Revenue	Revenue received as of 12/31/2012	Expected 2013 Revenue
Membership Dues	\$ 2,510.00	\$ 2,500.00
Interest	\$ 50.35	\$ 50.00
Spring Conference Proceeds	\$ 2,560.00	\$ 1,500.00
Fall Conference Proceeds	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Michigan Forester Ads	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,000.00
Reimbursements	\$ 1,688.00	\$-
PLT Honorarium	\$ 250.00	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ 8,108.35	\$ 6,750.00

Expenses	Funds Dispersed as of 12/31/2012	Budgeted for 2013
HSD Dues	\$ 247.59	\$ 250.00
Chapter Dues	\$ 505.50	\$ 500.00
Michigan Forester	\$ 646.98	\$ 300.00
Society Administration	\$ 385.29	\$ 250.00
State Chair	\$ 31.80	\$-
MI Forester Editor Honorarium	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Education Fund Honorarium	\$-	\$ 200.00
Secretary Honorarium	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Treasurer Honorarium	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Students to Nat'l Meeting	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
National Meeting	\$ 1,432.09	\$ 1,500.00
Donation to Nat'l Raffle	\$ 88.78	\$ 100.00
Leadership Academy	\$ -	\$-
Awards	\$ 36.00	\$ 100.00
PLT Honorarium	\$ 250.00	\$ 200.00
Web Hosting	\$ 370.00	\$-
Greenbook Printing	\$ 3,376.00	\$ 2,860.00
MSU Research Symposium	\$-	\$-
Conclave	\$-	\$ 500.00
UP Autotour	\$-	\$ 600.00
Education (PLT scholarship)	\$-	\$ 650.00
Misc	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Total	\$ 8,470.03	\$ 9,610.00

Total Michigan SAF cash as of: February 26, 2013 \$ 8,259.45

**Michigan Society of American Foresters has cash assets only.  
Prepared by: Lee Mueller, Treasurer**



### *Yew (cont'd from page 4)*

were browsed only on the outer portions, since deer would not expend the energy to penetrate the interior of the patch. Therefore, the authors speculated, living portions of large patches of Canada yew were protected from deer by the outer branches that remained stiff and intact for long periods even after death. This feature of Canada yew branches provides living branches a refuge to make seed and continue to reproduce – decay resistance as a survival mechanism.

This assertion is based solely on observation. Stems of Canada yew appear to be decay resistant, but just how decay resistant? How to test this? It was done with a couple good students, a lab and some wood decay fungi. Take branches of Canada yew,

and branches of a couple other woody species for comparison: northern red oak representing a decay susceptible species, and eastern white cedar representing a decay resistant species. Without going into all the gory fungal details, Canada yew was tested in the pathology laboratory as part of a class exercise at Michigan Tech using pure cultures of common wood decay fungi: one a brown rot and one a white rot. All wood, composed primarily of cellulose and lignin, is decayed by fungi in two different ways called brown rot (degrades cellulose) and white rot (degrades lignin).

After 16 weeks of incubation under ideal decay conditions in the laboratory, using sufficient replicates and controls, branch wood of Canada yew was shown to be significantly more resistant to decay than northern red oak when exposed to *Gloeophyllum trabeum*, a brown rot fungus, and *Trametes versicolor*, a white rot fungus. Using the same fungi, Canada yew was shown to be equal in resistance to eastern white cedar when exposed to the brown rot fungus, and more than twice as resistant to decay than eastern white cedar when exposed to the white rot fungus.

Canada yew branch wood was indeed demonstrated to be resistant to decay – as much or slightly more-so than Eastern white cedar. This feature of the dead

branches of Canada yew very likely restricts deer browse only on the outer portions, while the inner portions of a patch are left alone and able to continue to reproduce – reproductive “refugia,” the ecologists say. The results may have relevance to survival of Canada yew under pressure from deer browse. With a couple curious and capable forestry students, a small piece of the deer/plant ecology puzzle was put in place.

The paper was recently published in an article titled, Resistance of Canada Yew (*Taxus canadensis*) Branch Wood to Two Wood Decay Fungi, coauthored by Dana L. Richter, Amy M. Berns (MS Graduate Student, Forestry, MTU), and Clare F. Frederick (Undergraduate Forestry Student, MTU), in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Vol 12, No. 2, pp160-163 (December 2012).

Submitted by  
Dana Richter

Canada Yew

Photo by  
Bill Cook

