



# Community Canopy

Michigan's Urban and Community Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2015

The Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council (MUCFC) promotes, recognizes, and supports effective and sustainable urban and community forestry throughout the state.

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## TREE HEALTH

**INVASIVES – Autumn Olive** - Deciduous shrub or tree growing up to 6 m (20 ft.) 9 m (30 ft.) in width. Its form is rounded, with dense branches.

**Reproduction:** Primarily by seed. It also sprouts vigorously from the root crown following cutting or fire.

**Leaves:** Oval, with finely pointed tips. Their margins are wavy but do not have teeth. They are bright green above, and a distinctive silvery-scaly below. Leaves range from 5 to 10 cm (2-4 in) in length. They leaf out in mid-March.

**Fruits/Seeds:** Silvery with brown scales when young and ripen to a speckled red in September and October. Fruits are eaten by a variety of birds and mammals, which disperse the seeds widely.

**Habitat:** Moderately shade tolerant and occurs on a variety of soil types. It spreads rapidly in old fields and is also found in open woods, along forest edges, roadsides, sand dunes, and other disturbed areas. It poses a particular threat to prairies, savannas and open woods, particularly where fire is infrequent or has been completely suppressed.

**Comments:** An alternate host for oat crown/leaf rust and an overwintering host of soybean aphid; early leaf-out more important than late senescence for carbon gain; growth rates higher in light; leaves decompose more rapidly than some natives and are high in nitrogen

**Similar Native Species:** Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia Canadensis*); It has opposite leaves, rather than alternate, and it does not grow as tall. Typically, it ranges from 1-4 m (3-13 ft.) tall while autumn olive can grow twice as tall.



# Michigan State University Extension Concerns:

## What are lichens and what are they doing to my trees?

[Michigan State University Extension](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/what_are_lichens_and_what_are_they_doing_on_my_tree) educators and specialists have recently received several calls from individuals concerned about strange growth on the branches or trunks of trees. In examining photos of the trees, the “problem” turned out to be lichens. This, as it turns out, is not a problem at all. [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/what\\_are\\_lichens\\_and\\_what\\_are\\_they\\_doing\\_on\\_my\\_tree](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/what_are_lichens_and_what_are_they_doing_on_my_tree)



## OAK WILT Diagnosing and preventing

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/oak\\_wilt\\_diagnosing\\_and\\_preventing](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing)



## Pine false webworms are active in Scots pine

We are finding large numbers of pine false webworms, *Acantholyda erythrocephala* (Hymenoptera: Pamphiliidae) in Scots pine fields in Michigan’s Kalkaska and Missaukee counties. If you are not actively scouting your fields, these insects can easily go unnoticed.

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/pine\\_false\\_webworms\\_are\\_active\\_in\\_scots\\_pine](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/pine_false_webworms_are_active_in_scots_pine)

## Can wasps save the ash tree? Native Americans are giving it a try

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi are fighting emerald ash borers the natural way and hope to preserve a part of their heritage in the process.

<http://swmichigan.secondwavemedia.com/features/Can-wasps-save-the-ash-tree-Native-Americans-are-giving-it-a-try-1001.aspx>

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## December

Pesticide Winter Series: Top Tree Challenges for 2016 - Sponsored by MNLA

Date: **December 3**

Location: Clinton Twp, MI

Details: [http://www.mnla.org/event/pesticide\\_winter\\_series\\_4](http://www.mnla.org/event/pesticide_winter_series_4)

2016 International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Conference and Trade Show (Ft. Worth, TX August 13-17, 2016 )

Deadline: **December 4**

Details: [http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/resources/events\\_Conference\\_2016Call-for-presentations.pdf](http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/resources/events_Conference_2016Call-for-presentations.pdf)

## January

Pesticide Winter Series: Emerging Issues and Ideas - Sponsored by MNLA

Date: **January 14**

Location: Clinton Twp, MI

Details: [http://www.mnla.org/event/pesticide\\_winter\\_series\\_4](http://www.mnla.org/event/pesticide_winter_series_4)

Great Lakes Trade Exposition - Sponsored by MNLA

Date: **January 26-28**

Location: Lansing, MI

Details: [www.glte.org](http://www.glte.org)

## February

2016 Municipal Forestry Institute – Sponsored by Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA)

Date: **February 21-26** *register by December 1*

Location: Shepherdstown, WV

Details: <http://www.urban-forestry.com/mfi-2016>

Pesticide Winter Series: Pollinators and Pesticides - Sponsored by MNLA

Date: **February 25**

Location: Clinton Twp, MI

Details: [http://www.mnla.org/event/pesticide\\_winter\\_series\\_4](http://www.mnla.org/event/pesticide_winter_series_4)

## March

Pesticide Winter Series: Weeds, Turf and Trees - Sponsored by MNLA

Date: **March 10**

Location: Clinton Twp, MI

Details: [http://www.mnla.org/event/pesticide\\_winter\\_series\\_4](http://www.mnla.org/event/pesticide_winter_series_4)

# MAGAZINES

### Arborist News:

<http://viewer.epaperflip.com/Viewer.aspx?docid=1ee7afcc-6b5d-408e-aff0-a2f800b715b6>

### Arbor Age:

<http://read.dmtmag.com/i/560672-arbor-age-fall-2015> (see archive folder tab for previous issues)

### Cities and the Environment:

<http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cate/>

### CityTREES

<http://read.dmtmag.com/i/566672-september-october-2015>

### The Michigan Landscape

<http://michigan-nursery-and-landscape-association.epaperflip.com/v/SeptemberOctober-2015/>

### Tree Services Magazine:

<http://www.treeservices-digital.com/Oct2015#&pageSet=0&contentItem=0>



# MICHIGAN COMMUNITY NEWS

## Michigan's Project Learning Tree Educator of the Year!

Congratulations Jennifer Edwards. Jennifer is the lead science teacher at Ronald Brown Academy in Detroit. Jennifer has made it her goal to bring environmental education into urban setting since 2009. She has created an atmosphere where students are able to find some aspect of science they love. From day one of the school year, her students are exposed to Project Learning Tree (forestry education) lessons, and she seeks out opportunities to take her students on field trips where children learn about forest ecosystems, help remove invasive species, and explore green careers. Jennifer also guides other teachers at her school and throughout the district to help bring environmental education into more classrooms.

## Detroit Aims to Link Green with Growth

What makes a city "green?" That's a key question as Detroit digs out of decades of economic distress and rebuilds. Detroit has shown signs of revitalization, at least in its central core and in scattered neighborhoods. But will a turnaround city also be a clean and healthy city? Or could it turn into another pollution-plagued Beijing, where rapid economic growth has led to poisonous air? The public and private sectors have embarked on multiple efforts that promise a more sustainable ecosystem even as the city rebuilds. The M-1 Rail streetcar project could lessen residents' dependence on private automobiles, which could mean less air pollution.

<http://www.freep.com/story/money/business/michigan/2015/04/25/detroit-green-sustainable-environment-mallach/26234977/>

## Where the Greening of Detroit Plants Trees

The nonprofit Greening of Detroit has planted about 85,000 trees in Detroit in the past 25 years. It has recently begun to map its work. This map shows the location of 12,000 trees planted by the organization. Many of those are on the west side along the Rouge River. Additional trees there capture rainwater and prevent it from running off dirty paved surfaces into the river. Check out the map:

<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2015/04/26/greening-of-detroit-plants-trees/26429937/>



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

**General Urban Forestry Job Search Results for MI:**  
Query for jobs based on your area of interest and location

[www.simplyhired.com](http://www.simplyhired.com) and [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)

<http://www.asm-isa.org/jobposting.html> and <http://www.for.msu.edu/undergraduate/jobs>

# GRANTS

## **Michigan Office of the Great Lakes – 2016-17 Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grants**

Deadline: **December 18**

Details: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ogl-czm-fy17rfp\\_502408\\_7.pdf?20151012151045](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ogl-czm-fy17rfp_502408_7.pdf?20151012151045)

## **USFS Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program Grant**

Deadline: **January 15**

Details: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>

## **National Urban & Community Forestry Council (NUCFAC) Announces 2016 Call for Proposals**

Deadline: **November 23**

Details: [www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac.shtml)

## **Healing Our Waters Grants Available**

Details: <http://www.freshwaterfuture.org/grant-programs/healing-our-waters-grant-program.html>

Deadline: **None** (First come, first served)

## **Misc. Other Grants**

<http://reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities>

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/mbs/workingtogether/?cid=fsbdev7\\_001659&width=full](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/mbs/workingtogether/?cid=fsbdev7_001659&width=full)

# TOOLS YOU CAN USE

## **EPA Launches New Tool to Support Community Interest in Green Infrastructure**

EPA has released a new web-based tool that helps local officials and other community members consider the benefits and uses of green infrastructure.

<http://www2.epa.gov/communityhealth/green-infrastructure-wizard>



## **Quantifying Stormwater Benefits of Trees and Soil - Part 1: Overview of models and calculators**

Tree best management practices (BMP) stormwater benefits have been quantified in a number of different ways. Factors that typically influence which method is most applicable include project goals (i.e., what will tree BMP stormwater quantification be used for), ease of use, model cost, and accuracy. This blog series describes uses and pros and cons of a number of representative models and calculators.

<http://www.deepproot.com/blog/blog-entries/quantifying-stormwater-benefits-from-trees-part-1-overview-of-models-and-calculators>

## **New Research - Modeling How Green Infrastructure Impacts Urban Runoff**

New U.S. Forest Service research introduces a modeling tool that can be calibrated to match observed runoff or an entire watershed.

<http://actrees.org/news/trees-in-the-news/research/modeling-how-green-infrastructure-impacts-urban-runoff>

### New Research - Are Urban Trees A Remedy For Noise Pollution?

That's the premise behind a new study that explores how urban green spaces constitute an important factor in ameliorating the negative perception of noise in cities.

<http://actrees.org/news/trees-in-the-news/research/are-urban-trees-a-remedy-for-noise-pollution>



### Project Learning Tree Activity – West Nile Virus

In response to the alarming increase of West Nile virus in some communities, researchers at Auburn University have been studying factors that influence outbreaks of the disease. One factor they studied was the effect of urbanization on mosquito populations. According to Dr. Graeme Lockaby, as the percent forest cover decreases, the risk of contracting West Nile virus increases. To help educate others about West Nile virus, PLT has teamed up with Auburn University to develop an activity for middle and high school students. The activity can be used in general science, biology, ecology, environmental science, and health classes. Download the activity "[West Nile Virus: Forests Help Reduce the Risk](https://www.plt.org/stuff/contentmgr/files/1/d4889c3bd8d9dd492fad49f5d4849a79/files/west_nile_virus_activity.pdf)".

## TREE SPOTLIGHT: Catalpa Tree (*Catalpa Speciosa*)



**Common Name:** Northern catalpa or cigar tree.

**Scientific Name:** *Catalpa speciosa*.

**Origin:** Native to North America.

**Height:** 75 feet

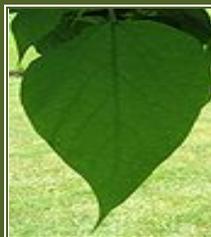
**Diameter:** 3 feet

**Crown shape:** Medium size with spreading, crooked branches and an irregular shape.

**Growth rate:** Fast.

**Soil Requirements:** Moist well-drained soils.

**Uses:** Furniture, interior trim, cabinetry and ornamental.





## Become a Tree City/Campus/Line USA

The annual deadline for certifying/recertifying is December 31, 2015!

For information on the Tree City USA program visit [www.arboday.org/programs/treeCityUSA](http://www.arboday.org/programs/treeCityUSA) or contact Kevin Sayers at 517-284-5898.

### NOTEWORTHY NEWS

#### ***Are You A Tree "Volcano Mulcher"? Hope Not***

Smothered Roots — Volcano mulching essentially plants a tree too deeply. Even if you plant at the right height, the mounds and mounds of mulch will act like additional soil volume, seriously limiting the tree's chance to flourish.

<http://actrees.org/news/trees-in-the-news/newsroom/are-you-a-tree-volcano-mulcher-hope-not/>



#### ***New Survey Highlights Chicago's Relationship with Trees***

Chicago and its seven surrounding counties have more than 150 million trees, which make our area's communities healthier, more sustainable and more beautiful. But the trees that grow in the Chicago area are under serious threat, with one of every five Chicago area parkway trees likely to soon be destroyed by the emerald ash borer beetle.

<http://www.stateforesters.org/news-events/blog/new-survey-highlights-chicago%E2%80%99s-relationship-trees>

#### ***Out Of The Classroom And Into The Woods***

Kids in the U.S. are spending less time outside. Even in kindergarten, recess is being cut back. But in the small town of Quechee, Vt., a teacher is bucking that trend: One day a week, she takes her students outside — for the entire school day. It's called Forest Monday.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/05/26/407762253/out-of-the-classroom-and-into-the-woods>

#### ***Green Infrastructure As A Tool To Help Reduce Deadly Flooding***

In a *CNN* Opinion piece following harrowing floods across Texas, Harriet Festing at the [Center for Neighborhood Technology](http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/26/opinion/neighborhood-technology/index.html) outlines the tools neighborhoods need to help reduce deadly flooding. Part of that arsenal is a strong green infrastructure including trees and other greenspace to help filter and absorb excess water.

<http://actrees.org/news/trees-in-the-news/newsroom/green-infrastructure-as-a-tool-to-help-reduce-deadly-floods>



#### ***In Defense of Tall Trees***

Identify the valuable and strongest large trees in cities and towns. Then work to keep them.

<http://www.gardenclubofnewhaven.org/uploads/9/3/4/3/9343583/indefenseoftalltreesctwo-landswinter2015.pdf>

### ***A Difficult Duo: Landscape Trees And Lawn Maintenance Equipment***

A new survey finds that nearly two thirds of surveyed park trees had at least one mechanical wound from lawn maintenance and related equipment.

Details: <http://actrees.org/news/trees-in-the-news/research/a-difficult-duo-landscape-trees-and-lawn-maintenance-equipment/>



### **The Destructive Reputation of October Snowstorms**

Major snowstorms and the month of October are not something most people would think of as going hand in hand. Typically the month brings thoughts of cool, clear nights, resulting in perhaps the first frost or freeze of the season. However, recent years have shown us that we can see big snowstorms prior to Halloween, and sometimes they are very destructive. This is due to the heavy, wet nature of most early-season snowfalls, which can weigh down tree branches and power lines, causing them to break.

<http://www.wunderground.com/news/october-snowstorms-recent-history>

## Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council Members:

**Amy Mangus** – SE MI Council of Govt. (SEMCOG)

**Joan Chadde** – Michigan Tech. University

**Douglas Schultz** – P.M. Blough, Inc.

**Bill Drews** – Woodland Tree Services, Inc.

**Ryan Edwards** – City of Lapeer

**Kerry Gray (Chair)** – City of Ann Arbor

**Dean Hay** – Greening of Detroit

**Geoff Kempter** – Asplundh

**Rich Kobe** – Michigan State Univ. Forestry

**Lee Mueller** – Davey Tree Expert Co.

**Margaret Studer** – Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

**Marshall Baeckeroot** – Oakland Community College

**Annie Kruike** – Arboriculture Society of Michigan

**Bruce Morrison** – Grand Rapids Community College

**Ada Takacs** – DNR

**Kevin Sayers** – DNR

**Interested in being on the council? Please consider nominating yourself or someone you know to fill the currently vacant At-Large position on the board.**

**For more information please contact or visit:**

[www.michigan.gov/ucf](http://www.michigan.gov/ucf) Kevin Sayers, Urban Forester / [sayersk@mi.gov](mailto:sayersk@mi.gov) / 517.284.5898

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**Funding provided by: Michigan DNR and USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, equal opportunity employers**

