

ADOPT-A-FOREST

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests

Spring/Summer 2019 Newsletter

Need to contact us?

Call the DNR at 231-534-5569

E-mail: cleanforests@cleanforests.org

Mail: Adopt-a-Forest, 2122 South M-37, Traverse City, MI 49685

Visit us at www.cleanforests.org

If you received this newsletter in hard copy, you've been missing out on important Adopt-a-Forest mail! Most of our communications are by e-mail. If you want to receive the latest program information for your area, e-mail takacs@mi.gov and ask us to update your record.

We Are Family

We appreciate volunteers of every age and love to see children learning how to care for Michigan's great outdoors. Consider coordinating a family cleanup today to give back to the land and model a great conservation ethic!



If you completed a cleanup recently, please submit a progress report at www.cleanforests.org/form-progress-report. These statistics are very important when competing for program funding.

Shout-Out!

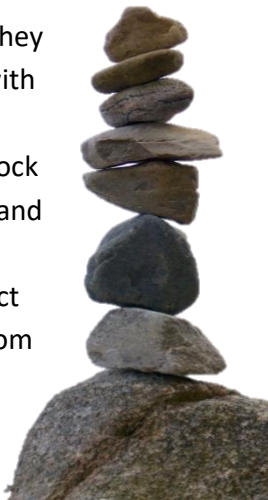
A big shout-out to Norm Fred (far left), an Adopt-a-Forest volunteer since 2014 and founder of the Boardman River Clean Sweep Nonprofit. Norm and his volunteers have been installing monofilament recycle bins for excess fishing line collection, a project funded by the American Canoe Association. Each year, Norm leads numerous river and forest cleanups, and has been removing trailer loads of garbage from public land since 2004!



Into the Woods...

With spring finally upon us, we need to do our best to prevent the spread of invasive species and remember to leave no trace. Here are tips for appreciating nature with minimal impact:

- Brush off all sediment, plants, or debris from boots, waders, clothing, pockets and hems, shovels, knives, equipment, and other field gear.
- Rinse all surfaces with water when leaving an area and let gear dry before next use.
- Use an adhesive/lint roller over all fabric clothing and footwear to remove small or embedded seed and plant material. Bag used adhesive sheets and dispose in trash. **Tip: these rollers are also great for removing ticks!
- Take *photos* of the beauty that you find but leave it there! If everyone takes what they want, we will be left with nothing.
- If you stack “cairns” (rock towers), take a photo and then redistribute the rocks. The rocks protect the soil underneath from erosion and serves as habitat for many burrowing insects and critters.



Follow Adopt-a-Forest on Facebook
facebook.com/MichiganAdoptAForest

Dump Sites

There are currently 661 known illegal dumpsites in 62 counties in the State of Michigan. New sites are found daily. Are any near you? You can search the list at www.cleanforests.org/dumpsite%20search

Many sites get cleaned up but never reported. If you are interested in volunteering to scout the sites AND REPORT BACK on what you find, contact Ada Takacs at takacs@michigan.gov for individual site maps specific to your area.

Mother Earth on Mother's Day

Adopt-a-Forest volunteer Karen Martin, her husband, son, and dogs celebrated Mother's Day by cleaning a large dumpsite in Cheboygan County. It took about 5 trips to get the site cleaned, which had been littered with household debris, including a car seat. Karen even took steps to reduce her waste by repurposing empty dog food and cracked corn bags instead of trash bags. Thank you Karen and family for your dedication to Mother Earth and Michigan forests!



Be My Valentine...

Sgt. William Webster and CO Ethen Mapes discovered a couch dumped along a dirt road near Boyne City. CO Mapes dug through the cushions and was able to find mail and a Valentine's Day card belonging to a local subject. CO Mapes interviewed the subject in Boyne City where the individual admitted to dumping the couch along the road after he found the dump closed. The subject was given 24 hours to pick up the couch and one week to provide a receipt from the dump; proving that he disposed of it legally. A citation for littering was also issued.

Welcome Huron Pines AmeriCorps Members

The DNR has partnered with the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program to provide hands on experience in conservation. This year the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program has 30 members, seven of which will be serving with the DNR across Michigan and assisting with Adopt-a-Forest.



Listed below are the Huron Pines AmeriCorps members who will be serving with the DNR until early November and assisting with cleanups:

- Daniel Foley- Atlanta
- Matt Sand- Gladwin
- Jessica Applin- Lansing
- Meg Sanders- Lansing
- Sam Peterson- Pigeon River Country
- Megan Machusko- Roscommon
- Claire Gregory- Traverse City

Report All Poaching (RAP) Hotline Text or Call 1-800-292-7800

If you witness a natural resource violation in Michigan such as illegal dumping in progress, remember that you can either call or text the Report All Poaching (RAP) hotline. Please provide as much information as possible when reporting the incident. You can find more information at www.michigan.gov/RAP.

#TrashTag Inspires a Social Movement

Originating in 2015, the #TrashTag movement has sparked new momentum in March of this year after an Arizona loan officer called young people to action by sharing a photo of Drici Tani Younes, an Algerian activist, at a site covered in litter before and after he cleaned it.



After calling "bored teens" to action, Roman added, "We all have that where we want to save the world, we want to be the superheroes especially with all these movies going around, so it's a good feeling that my contribution to the world is, 'let's do a little cleanup.'"

Thanks to all our Adopt-A-Forest volunteers for being superheroes! Spread the word...take photos of your cleanups to inspire others and share them with a #trashtag!



Litter Arrests

It doesn't pay to litter! Here are a few tidbits from our Conservation Officers.

To find out more, visit:

www.michigan.gov/dnr

***Managing Your Resources;
Rules, Laws and Enforcement;
Bi-weekly CO reports***

2019:

CO Josh Jackson received a complaint of litter dumped on state land. The caller advised the CO of the exact location. CO Jackson located the litter which included five grocery bags full of various household items. The CO dug through the bags and located a card with the suspect's name. When CO Jackson contacted the suspect, he admitted to dumping the bags of trash. After a citation was issued, the suspect headed to the scene to clean up the area.

CO Sidney Collins received a complaint of furniture and trash dumped on state land in Montmorency County. CO Collins was able to find a receipt identifying the owner of the trash and furniture. The information was turned over to the prosecutor's office.

CO Andrew Monnich received a call from CO Eric Smither who was not working at the time about some garbage bags containing deer parts on a road in Lenawee County. CO Monnich responded to the area and located several bags containing a total of three deer. CO Monnich was able to locate a pile of mail that was frozen to the deer carcasses. On one piece of mail was the individual's brand-new proof of registration for a vehicle. COs Monnich and Smither were able to contact the owner who admitted to being lazy and dumping the bags. A citation for littering was issued and the subject went back to the location and cleaned the mess up.

CO Ethan Gainforth received a complaint of a camper that was dumped on state land in Clare County. The information provided was that the camper was filled with large amounts of trash from the suspect's residence. After interviewing the suspect, with

assistance from CO Steve Lockwood, a confession was obtained for the large littering violation. Enforcement action was taken, and the suspect will be required to remove the camper from state land as part of the judgement.

CO Mike Drexler followed up on an illegal dumping complaint with a park ranger from the Pinckney Recreation Area. CO Drexler and a park ranger searched through a dump truck amount of illegally dumped trash and building debris to locate several pieces of evidence pointing to a suspect. CO Drexler contacted the subject at his residence and the subject admitted to the waste being his from a burned down garage on his property. A citation was issued and the subject was advised he would need to clean the site or be charged restitution for the cleanup.

CO Carter Woodwyk received a complaint of littering in Hillsdale County. When the CO arrived at the complainant's residence, the complainant gave the CO an empty prescription pill container with a possible suspect's name on it that he located in the litter pile. When the CO saw the name on the pill bottle, he immediately recalled giving a citation to the same suspect for littering in the Lost Nation's State Game Area (SGA) earlier in the year. Coincidentally, this suspect has an arraignment coming up to determine his fine amount for previous littering. The CO plans on informing the judge of this most recent incident, and the excessive amount of litter disposed of on the complainant's private property, before the arraignment happens.

