

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Fall 2007 Newsletter

Need to contact us?

☎ *Call* the DNR at 989-275-5151 x2049 or USFS at 1-800-821-6263;

✉ *E-mail* us at cleanforests@cleanforests.org;

✉ Send a note to Adopt-a-Forest, 8717 North Roscommon Rd,
Roscommon, MI 48653; or

🌐 Find us at www.cleanforests.org

Hello - Goodbye

THANKS to Les Russell, Baldwin District Ranger, who has stepped down from Trash Team duties. We are grateful for your years of support! WELCOME to Steve Goldman, Mio District Ranger, who's taking the Adopt-a-Forest lead for the USFS.

We're glad you joined us!

ABOVE AND BEYOND

It's obvious that volunteers really go above and beyond the call of duty when cleaning up trash on public land...but some are just plain amazing.

The Cherry Capital Paddle America Club conducted a Boardman River Clean Sweep in May of 2007.

Six teams totaling 65 people worked along the Boardman River. A lot of people put their time and effort into planning and fundraising for this project as well as during the cleanup.

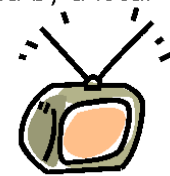
The Keystone (Boardman) Pond was the biggest trouble spot because three feet of water was drained behind Boardman Dam, making a lot of trash that was once submerged in water visible. Complicating things was the fact that the trash was sitting in mud that appeared to be bottomless. Most people would just paddle on.

Instead, volunteer Jim Heffner somehow managed to get out of his whitewater kayak and don snowshoes. He then walked across the mud flats and picked up the exposed trash. Visit our website at www.cleanforests.org to see the photos. Someone should send this guy a medal!



The Freecycle Network™ is made up of 4,169 groups with 4 million+ members across the globe. It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by a local volunteer. Membership is free.

Check it out at www.freecycle.org



Countdown to Digital TVs

Americans with older, analog televisions which received signals by antenna must switch to digital by February of 2009. Subscribers to cable or satellite service should ask their providers if they need special equipment for digital reception. If you don't buy a digital model, a converter box will change digital signals back to analog. The boxes range from \$50 to \$75 each. For more info, go to www.dtv.gov or call 1-888-225-5322.

What does this mean for Adopt-a-Forest? When equipment becomes outdated, we often see a surge in dumping on public land. There are currently 48 known trash sites around the state that have TVs in the pile.

Cathode ray tubes (CRTs), the leaded glass picture tubes found in computer monitors and televisions, contain a high lead content. These CRTs are cause for additional environmental concern when dumped on public land and exposed to the elements.



Have you ever wondered how much the trash you're hauling weighs?

FYI, one pickup load generally holds up to 3 cubic yards.

The U.S. EPA uses the following conversion factors:

- Residential waste (uncompacted): 150-300 pounds per cubic yard.
- Commercial-Industrial waste (uncompacted): 300-600 pounds per cubic yard.
- Municipal solid waste (compacted): 500-1,000 pounds per cubic yard.

That's a lot of weight to be throwing around!

Please make sure to use proper lifting techniques when working on trash cleanups. Also, heavy loads can shift when driving, causing accidents. Safely secure your load.

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE



Back by popular demand, Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests t-shirts have been ordered! The MCCF logo will be pocket sized and embroidered on heavy weight 50/50 t-shirts. The shirts are beige and come in sizes medium, large and x-tra large. They will cost \$15 and the proceeds will be used for education projects related to trash disposal. Check out the website at www.cleanforests.org for more information.

I ♥ Dad

Joyce Belloli (Roscommon) decided to give a gift that lasts forever to her father and father-in-law on Father's Day...she made a donation to the Adopt-a-Forest program in their names.

This is a great way to let someone know you're thinking of them.

Tax-deductible donations made to the MFRA-Adopt a Forest program are used to further our mission of ridding Michigan of illegally dumped trash.



According to Steven R. Stein, Senior Consultant with R.W. Beck, Inc. in Maryland, it costs **\$2,683 per ton to dispose of trash illegally dumped in Michigan's forests.**

Steve took the tonnage figures and volunteer hours we provided and calculated them with the disposal costs and a value of volunteer time based on an index of volunteer rates determined by the "Independent Sector" (18.77/hour in 2006).

The cost was averaged over the past four years to account for any abnormal variance. This estimate does not include vehicle or fuel costs or administrative time/expenses paid by sponsoring agencies.

TO THE RESCUE



Many volunteers receive assistance in various ways before, during and after public land cleanups.

We wish we could send a thank you to everyone who ever helps in any way.

The Michigan Geocaching Organization reported a lot of assistance for their project in Roscommon County. To name a few:

- ❖ Waste Management, Inc. donated four large dumpsters worth nearly \$2500.
- ❖ Gary's Drywall (Grayling) donated use of a heavy duty dump trailer.
- ❖ Home Acres (Gaylord) donated dumpster space.
- ❖ Sharp's Corners (Roscommon) donated a tank of gas.

Chad and fellow volunteers made a HUGE impression on the community when they decided to paint "TRASH FROM OUR WOODS" and "www.cleanforests.org" on a boat dragged off public land. The boat was full of stinky unsightly trash and caused quite a stir as it was pulled through town.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Adopt-a-Forest program; therefore, it's important that they're represented on our Trash Team.

We are very pleased to announce that Debbie Hollis (Ogemaw Co) and Chad Lytle (Roscommon Co) have agreed to join the team!