



Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Fall 2006 Newsletter

Need to contact us?

 Call the DNR at 989-275-5151 x 2049 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

WE KNOW THAT YOUR TIME IS WORTH A LOT! If you are receiving this newsletter and would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send us a note via e-mail or regular mail or leave us a message at 989-275-5151 x 2049.

If you volunteer to remove illegally dumped trash from public land, THANK YOU for your time and efforts.

Alphabet Soup

Our IFMAP and AVL programs are colliding.

Clear as mud? What does this mean? We are in the process of combining trash sites identified by using AVLs (automatic vehicle locators) and setting up a system to automatically download them to our IFMAP (Integrated Forest Monitoring Assessment and Prescription) program, which will eventually be used by field staff for forest inventories. This will allow program managers to automatically print county-wide and trash site maps complete with aerial photos if needed. These will be readily available to volunteers once the project is complete.

If you plan to enjoy the outdoors by a campfire this fall, please use firewood from a local source. Many insects and exotic diseases can be spread by moving firewood. For more information visit:

www.emeraldshorer.info



Volunteer Group Honored



Congrats to the McMasterville Volunteers!
They were chosen to receive the "AuSable River Festival Parade Robert Townsend Memorial Trophy" for their continued efforts to improve the environment and service to the community; particularly for their participation in the Adopt-a-Forest and Adopt-a-Road programs in eastern Crawford County.

*Trophy depicted is not actual trophy received

Progress reports indicate that 954 volunteers have removed 558+ pickup loads of trash from public land in 2006, including more than 3,000 old tires.

If you have returned a progress report this year, thank you! If you worked on a cleanup and have not submitted a report, please send one in today so your efforts are counted.



Drip. Drip. Drip.

If your house sits on a one-half acre lot, and you get a storm that drops one inch of rain, your yard [and trees] just received 13,577 gallons of water.

Source: USGS "Water Science for Schools." For more information visit <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html>



UPDATES

The Adopt-a-Forest Guide got a facelift with many additions to the *Trash Disposal* and *Safety* sections as well as a new *Frequently Asked Questions* section. Check it out at www.cleanforests.org/guide.shtml, or we'll gladly send a hard copy through the mail—just let us know you're interested.

STRATEGIC PLAN Item # 16:

"Utilize website to encourage alternative disposal methods"

www.cleanforests.org/disposaloptions.shtml

This page explains REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE and COMPOST basics. It gives suggestions on how to reduce unwanted junk mail and dispose of difficult items such as electronic waste, batteries, propane tanks and railroad ties. It also gives listings of known community-wide cleanups.

Unedited Responses from Kids Litter Survey

How have you littered by accident?

- I was running and I feel that's when I dropped it.
- I was holding it out the window and my Dad made a turn and it flew out of my hands.
- I was looking out a window and my taffy fell out of my mouth.
- Neighbors dog opened our trash bag.
- It just happened.

Source: PA Cleaner Ways 2000

Concerns from the Field

We receive many reports of sites staying clean and volunteers expanding their areas each year to find trash. We're happy to hear it.

Unfortunately, we also receive many reports of sites being re-trashed immediately.

The Ogemaw Community Corrections Crew even reported that they were removing trash from a trail and heard a commotion off in a distance. When they left the cleanup site, they discovered that a new dumping took place while they were out there. VERY FRUSTRATING TO SAY THE LEAST!

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

We are working on a Community Cleanup Guide to try to help communities make legal disposal easier and cheaper for citizens.

We continue to work on educational projects (such as the new poster) that teach the perils of dumping on public land.

We are finding that most old piles have been removed and remaining piles are more recent. Recent dumpsites are easier to enforce because the dumpers are more likely to still be in the area and the evidence has not been damaged from years of exposure to the elements.

We are also searching for funds for motion sensor cameras to place at known dumpsites to catch dumpers red-handed.

If you have other suggestions, feel free to contact us or attend one of our Trash Team meetings--the next one will be in March 2007.

