

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Spring/Summer 2013 Newsletter

Need to contact us?

☎ Call the DNR at 231-534-5569 or USFS at 1-800-821-6263;

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

📄 Send a note to Adopt-a-Forest, 3730 Mill Rd, Grawn, MI 49637

🌐 Find 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, please e-mail takacs@mi.gov and ask us to update our records.

Big thanks goes to Cascade Engineering, Grand Rapids, MI for a generous donation of



\$150. The donation acknowledged Adopt-a-Forest volunteer Chris Newberg for his countless hours cleaning up trash in the woods. We

appreciate Chris' dedication and Cascade Engineering's support.

There are currently 750 known illegal dumpsites in the State of Michigan. Are any near you? You can search the list at

<http://www.cleanforests.org/search2.shtml>

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.



Volunteer coordinator
Ada Takacs has moved to new digs. She is now stationed at the DNR office in Grawn. You can contact her at: 3730 Mill Road, Grawn, MI 49637 or 231-534-5569. Her e-mail is still takacs@michigan.gov

Many sites were cleaned up by Township and County officials this year. To name a few who sent in progress reports:

Beaver Creek	Benton
Berlin Charter	Blair
Burleigh	Edwards
Ellis	Grayling
Green Lake	Greenwood
Maple Forest	Sherman
Valley	Vienna

...and of course, **Ogemaw County Sheriff's** crew went on multiple cleanups for the 14th year in a row! These agencies obviously care about their communities and

WE APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS!

Our trash site data is better than ever! We "Earthpoint" every single report that comes in. This allows us to confirm that we are listing the sites under the correct county, township and section. This website is free and can be found at...

<http://www.earthpoint.us/townships.aspx>



Forestry forum designs and hosts our www.cleanforests.org website and is also a great place to get all of your forestry questions answered. From fixing chainsaws to managing forests, forestry forum has your answers!

Check them out at www.forestryforum.com

GOOD LUCK!

Welcome to the team Meagan! Meagan Lietzke is a student assistant for the Department of Environmental Quality who has been assigned to work with us on Adopt-a-Forest projects. Meagan is getting her degree in Biology and Criminal Justice at Olivet College and aspires to be a Conservation Officer. She worked on this newsletter and will be contacting many volunteer groups encouraging them to start planning their spring cleanups. If you hear from her, wish her luck with her studies.

We're sad to report that long time Roscommon County volunteer Ron McLean lost his cabin in the 20,000+ acre Duck Lake Fire in Luce County last spring. We know how much Ron loves the woods and we wish him and his family the best of luck in rebuilding.

486 volunteers reported removing 1309 cubic yards (equates to 436 pickup truck loads) of trash from the woods last year. Reports listed 2200+ tires and indicated that 37% of all trash found was recycled. If you worked on a cleanup and didn't let us know, it's like it never happened. Please remember to fill out a progress report at www.cleanforests.org/progressreport.htm



GET YOUR MICHIGAN RECREATION PASSPORT!

By purchasing a Michigan Recreation Passport, you get access to state parks, boat launches, campgrounds and recreation areas. You also get Passport Perks shopping discounts from around the state! For more information about the recreation passport and passport perks go to: <http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport>

GET FIT WHILE ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS!

We're putting the "out" back into workout! The DNR is partnering with fitness instructors throughout the state to provide fitness-focused classes in the great outdoors; pilates on the beach, yoga in the woods, and bootcamp fitness are just a few of the many ways you can use state parks for fun AND fitness this year. For more information visit www.michigan.gov/stateparks



FIRST TIME CAMPERS!

For anyone who hasn't camped in a state park before but wants to give it a try, the DNR has again partnered with Gander Mountain to offer the First Time Camper program – all the gear, guides and good times included! Use of gear, two nights of camping, and instruction on how to pitch a tent, start a campfire and more is all available for just \$20. 20% of the nearly 300 families that have taken advantage of this program continue to camp in state parks today! Learn more at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365-234646--,00.html>

EMBER AWARENESS



Fire Prevention week is April 21-27, 2014. Be "ember aware" and make sure all debris pile and campfire embers are completely out before leaving your fire.

www.michigan.gov/preventwildfires

Litter Arrests

We often get questions asking if illegal dumpers ever get caught and what happens to them. Here are a few tidbits from Conservation Officer reports. To find out more, visit: www.michigan.gov/dnr under *Law Enforcement and Bi-weekly CO reports.*

Fall 2012

CO Jon Skiba contacted two subjects late at night on the side of a back road. When he stopped to see if they needed any help, he located an open beer can in one of the subject's vehicles. After checking to see if they had any warrants, he advised the subject to empty out the beer can. The subject emptied the beer, but then threw the empty can in the ditch along the road. The subject was ticketed for littering, and warned for open intoxicants.

CO Sean Kehoe received a litter complaint and responded to the area. CO Kehoe took photos of the litter and then went to an address he found in the trash. CO Kehoe interviewed an individual who admitted that she and her husband were cleaning out a new house they had purchased. She advised CO Kehoe that her husband had taken the trash to a landfill and even produced photos of the trash on the trailer. CO Kehoe observed that the trash in her photos matched some of the trash in the photos he had taken. CO Kehoe left a contact number and a short time later the husband contacted CO Kehoe and admitted that he dumped the trash instead of taking it to a landfill. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of an illegal camp on state park property. CO Wells walked into the illegal campsite and observed a large amount of litter spread about due to the evening's partying activity. CO Wells had to wake the multiple subjects and had them pick up the entire area including putting out the fire. Enforcement action was taken to address the trespass and other violations.

CO Rich Stowe received two complaints of household trash being dumped on state land in Grand Traverse County. CO Stowe located the dump sites and was able to develop the identities of the responsible parties. Contact was made and a ticket was issued for littering.

CO Brian Olsen received a complaint of litter dumped on private land. The CO checked the pile and located a name and address. He then went to the address and discovered that the name he found in the trash was that of the previous owner who had moved out of state. The new owner had hired a subject to remove some garbage from the premises. CO Olsen contacted the subject hired to do the cleaning and obtained a confession to dumping the garbage on private land.

CO Andrea Erratt received a litter complaint involving a large amount of household material dumped on state land, including tile and carpeting. A name found in the trash pile led CO Erratt to a subject who advised his son was supposed to take the trash to the dump. A ticket was issued to the son and the site ordered to be cleaned up, which has already been done.

CO Sean Kehoe received a complaint of deer carcasses being dumped at a boat launch. On site, CO Kehoe located deer carcasses, garbage bags, butchering papers, gloves and other evidence that the carcasses had been processed, and then dumped. CO Kehoe also discovered a kill tag on one of the carcasses. CO Kehoe was able to track down the owner of the kill tag and issued the subject a ticket for littering.

CO Kris Kiel checked an area known for illegal dumping on the side of the road and located a large cardboard box full of garbage. The box contained items that made CO Kiel think someone had emptied out the total contents of a vehicle. Among the garbage, a business card and an invoice from a used car sale (with a name) were found. CO Kiel contacted the name on the business card and a phone call was made to the suspect. A ticket was issued and the litter site will be cleaned up.

CO Derek Miller investigated a litter violation where a large amount of household trash was found on private land while working another complaint. Some pill bottles and old mail sent him to an address in Washtenaw County where he learned that a caretaker to the owner of the pill bottles dumped the debris. A ticket was issued for litter.

CO Mike McGee located three bags of garbage which had been dumped at a local lake access site. CO McGee located items with names inside of the bag and subsequently located the person whose garbage it was. CO McGee issued a ticket for litter and the garbage will be cleaned up.

