


Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Fall 2008 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

If you received this newsletter in hard copy, it's likely that 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 send an e-mail to takacs@michigan.gov asking us to update our records.

MOST WANTED LIST

The reports are in and these are the 12 counties with the most dumpsites:

County:	Known trash sites:
Roscommon	62
Grand Traverse	56
Cheboygan	49
Kalkaska	36
Montmorency	35
Dickinson	30
Allegan	27
Mackinac	27
Mason	27
Wexford	27
Menominee	27
Barry	26

If you live or work in one of these counties and are interested in organizing a county-wide cleanup, we can help! We have funding available for disposal costs on a pre-approved basis. We can also provide maps and help advertise your cleanup event. Contact Ada Takacs at 989-275-5151 x 2049 or takacs@michigan.gov.

To find out where illegal piles are in your area, visit <http://www.cleanforests.org/search2.shtml>

GET YOUR EFFORTS COUNTERED—SEND IN YOUR PROGRESS REPORTS!



For nearly 10 years, 4-H Challenge Club members have been picking up trash along a seven mile stretch of a U.S. Forest Service road.

This year's event included a trip to an area on Stockton Road that is used as an unofficial shooting range. Shot up debris of all shapes and sizes was collected and removed.

The Challenge Club urges everyone to have fun in the outdoors, but then to leave it cleaner than you found it.

Congrats to **Bill Kabelman** of Strong's for receiving the *Prestigious White Hat Award* for his years of volunteer service to the Hiawatha National Forest.

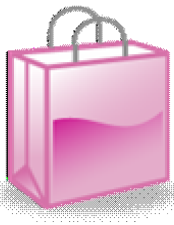
The *Prestigious White Hat Award* is given annually for hard work and continued support in cleaning up the forests of the eastern Upper Peninsula. It's for a job well done and for a person who continually goes that extra mile and genuinely cares about our forests.



The award consists of a certificate and a white hat with the cleanup logo. Bill has attended all 11 of the annual Hiawatha cleanups, and supported the cause with a positive attitude and willingness to work.

The Adopt-a-Forest program is successful because of volunteers like Bill Kabelman and groups such as the 4-H Challenge Club.

We appreciate their efforts and continued support!



Paper or Plastic?

Neither! Please consider using reusable tote bags when shopping...

Did you know?

- ❖ Introduced just over 25 years ago, society's consumption rate is estimated to be well over 500 billion plastic bags annually. That's almost 1 million per minute.
- ❖ According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually with an estimated cost to retailers of \$4 billion. An estimated 12 million barrels of oil is required to make that many plastic bags.
- ❖ Four out of five grocery bags in the U.S. are now plastic.
- ❖ Plastic bags cause over 100,000 sea turtle and other marine animal deaths every year when animals mistake them for food.
- ❖ The average family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store.
- ❖ Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade and break down into small toxic bits that can contaminate soil and waterways.
- ❖ Each high quality reusable bag you use has the potential to eliminate an average of 1,000 plastic bags over its lifetime.
- ❖ Many worthy non-profit organizations sell reusable totes as fundraisers.

This is one small way to save landfill space, support a good cause, help the environment, use less oil and keep retail prices low.

Source: www.reusablebags.com

≈ MAKING A DIFFERENCE ≈

In its remarkable 18 year history, the **Motor City Blight Busters**, in conjunction with its coalition of community partners, can proudly claim 120,000 volunteers who have contributed more than 658,000 volunteer hours. They have painted 684 homes, boarded up and secured 379 abandoned buildings, renovated 176 houses and built 114 new ones.

They demolished 113 houses with sledgehammers and undertook 3,850 neighborhood cleanups that resulted in 1,550 dumpsters of trash and 70,000 garbage bags.

For more information about the Motor City Blight Busters, visit <http://www.blightbusters.org/>

Strategic Plan Item #15

Develop a media packet.

Do you have marketing experience? Experience working with different types of media? How about some free time? If so, volunteer your time to develop a media packet highlighting Adopt-a-Forest efforts that will be distributed across the state.

Interested parties can contact Ada Takacs at 989-275-5151, ext 2049 or takacs@mi.gov

HEAVY METAL

It seems as if metal reclamation is at an all-time high.

We've heard stories of people causing safety issues by removing metals that are still in service, such as manhole covers and bolts from fire hydrants. In Chicago a man was electrocuted by attempting to steal copper wire from a transformer.

We receive many questions about the legalities of removing abandoned scrap metal from forest lands in Michigan.

Volunteers and metal reclaimers should make sure they understand what's lawful and what is not.

If you are collecting metals from public land, make sure to view the *Frequently Asked Questions* on our home page at www.cleanforests.org

The Adopt a Forest program has once again applied for scrap tire grants from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). If approved, these locations will have large tire piles removed:



Baldwin	Benzie	Escanaba	Harrison
Kalkaska	Manton	Mio	Onaway

Volunteers have removed 69,000+ tires from public land since 1991. Disposal for a large portion of these tires were paid for through DEQ grants.

If you are familiar with large tire piles on public land in the above areas, please let us know.

"Thanks a million to the [Adopt-a-Forest] volunteers"
Donna A Jones, Flat River State Game Area