

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Fall/Winter 2010 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

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 send an e-mail to takacs@mi.gov asking us to update our records.

WARNING: Bottle Bombs

In April of 2010, at least two "Works" bombs were left in the yards of York Township [Washtenaw County] residences, creating a dangerous situation since the pop bottle bombs can quickly detonate.

Washtenaw County Deputy Keith Mansell said he was dispatched to a home near the Saline city limits for an unexploded pop bottle bomb. When he arrived, he discovered a 20-ounce bottle in the yard and moved it from the front yard. It detonated 30 seconds later. The same thing happened at a neighboring home.

A "works" bomb is described as Drano [sodium hydroxide] and foil mixed inside a bottle. The chemical reaction makes a volatile build-up of gases and subsequently detonates the bottle with a great amount of force, with the chemical substance in the bottle becoming boiling liquid at that point. The explosion can be severe enough to cause second- or third-degree burns or blindness.

Source: AnnArbor.com News

While no known bottle bombs have been found during Adopt-a-Forest cleanups, volunteers are urged to be careful:

If you find a plastic bottle during cleanups, examine it carefully before you move it. Be especially cautious if it contains liquid. If it shows signs of swelling or melting in any way, do not touch it! Call 911.

SQUEAKY CLEAN

There are nearly 1,000 known illegal dumpsites on public land in Michigan. We also have a database of approximately 1,200 volunteer groups. If each group cleaned up one site, public lands would be cleaner than ever! That's why we'll be asking for your help in 2011.

We are planning a STATEWIDE CLEANUP campaign around National Public Lands Day on September 24, 2011.

We'll be looking for volunteers to scout and cleanup trash as well as donations from businesses and groups to support this massive effort.

Please mark your calendar and plan to be part of the big cleanup.





Hip Hip Hooray!

Grand Traverse County used to rank as the number one most trashed county in the State of Michigan... but a few concerned county and township officials changed that!

The Grand Traverse County Resource Recovery (GTCRR) recently reported 14 trash sites cleaned.

GTCRR Manager Bob Osterhout checked out Acme's site and found it to be clean; East Bay was cleaned up by their township supervisor, Glen Lile; and Marvin Radtke, Jr., Paradise Township's Planning and Zoning Administrator cleaned up Paradise Township.

Resource Recovery's Manager and their Marketing Specialist, Kim Elliott, reviewed and identified quite a few of the sites on the list to verify which were removed and what sites still needed cleaning.

This effort knocked Grand Traverse County off the Top 10 list! We appreciate their hard work and dedication to public lands 😊

New top 10 most dumped counties in the state:

*number of known trashsites

Roscommon	39*
Montmorency	34
Wexford	34
Kalkaska	32
Menominee	31
Dickinson	30
Mackinac	29
Allegan	27
Crawford	27
Barry	26

—2010 reports of cleanups are only about 50% of previous years. Make sure your efforts count... Send in a progress report today!

Burning of household trash, a practice that threatens the environment and the health of Michigan residents, will be illegal under recently proposed amendments to the open burning provisions of the air pollution and solid waste management rules.

The proposed changes will eliminate the current exemption that allows the burning of household trash – including plastics, rubber, shingles, treated wood and other rubbish – as of April 1, 2011. Burning leaves, brush and other yard clippings [with a permit], as well as recreational campfires, would still be allowed.



Rain Drops Keep Falling on My Head...

About 40% of domestic water use is from flushing the toilet. Older toilets use about 5.5 gallons per flush and newer toilets use approx 1.6 gallons per flush.

About 30% of domestic water use is from bathing. Regular showerheads have a flow rate of 5-7 gallons per minute. Low-flow showerheads have a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute.

About 20% of domestic water use is from washing machines. One load uses about 40 gallons. Full loads are the most efficient. Front loading washers use about 24 gallons per load.

One load in the dishwasher uses 10-25 gallons of water. Washing by hand with the water running uses 30 gallons. Dishwashing in the sink with a stopper uses 10 gallons.

Brushing your teeth is an easy way to save water! Leaving the water running while brushing for approximately 2 minutes uses 6 gallons of water. Turning the water off, except to rinse, only uses ¼ to ½ gallon of water!

Source: USEPA

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.

9/20/10 – 10/3/10

DISTRICT 6

CO Vicki Goss received a complaint from a lady who was disgusted with her neighbors for not properly disposing of their deer carcasses. She complained of the odor and the possible diseases her dogs and grandchildren may be exposed to. After the complaint was taken care of and two days later the CO found household trash belonging to the same lady dumped on state land. Another visit was made to the original complainant for clean up and an appearance ticket.

9/6/10 – 9/19/10

DISTRICT 5

CO Chuck McPherson and PCO Jeff Panich investigated a litter pile on state land and located a receipt and other identifiers in a large pile of construction debris. PCO Panich identified a suspect and upon interviewing him, obtained a full confession to having dumped three trailer loads of construction debris including shingles, drywall, and other building materials.

8/9/10 – 8/22/10

DISTRICT 4

CO Mike Wells responded to a litter complaint in Newaygo County on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands that included a large pile of shingles and household debris. CO Wells located the site and obtained information in the litter as to a suspect. The investigation took CO Wells to a Kent County residence where he was informed that the owner of several rental units had paid the subject to use his dump truck to haul the debris to the landfill. An interview with this subject resulted in a confession that the subject pocketed the money and dumped the load on Federal Land. The subject informed CO Wells that he was happy he got caught due to how guilty he felt for dumping the trash in the woods. The subject even offered the use of his dump truck for future litter initiatives on State and Federal Lands.

DISTRICT 8

CO Jeff Walker has been responding to numerous complaints of illegal use of the firearm range in Dansville. Patrons have been shooting at things other than targets such as signs, posts, baffles and backstops. Patrons have also been very disrespectful to other users by leaving litter and garbage on the range. CO Walker has taken enforcement action in every instance.

7/12/10 – 7/25/10

DISTRICT 7

CO Jeff Rabbers received a complaint of trash dumped in the Lowell State Game Area (SGA) and was able to identify the owner of the litter. The subject first denied being involved, but when confronted with the evidence admitted that the property was his and agreed to clean up the litter.

6/28/10 – 7/4/10

DISTRICT 6

CO Jeremy Payne and PCO Jeff Panich patrolled Lake Isabella on the 4th of July to check compliance with water balloon issues. The year before CO Payne and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly issued approximately 300 verbal warnings for boaters throwing water balloons at each other and leaving them in the lake. After last year's water balloon issue the lake looked like a landfill with thousands of broken balloons floating on the water. This is not only a litter issue, but an environmental hazard to the aquatic species, birds and mammals. This year COs Payne and PCO Panich stopped at numerous homes along the lake with a friendly reminder that the law will be in full force this year with no verbal warnings issued. After the patrol this year the COs reported that not a single water balloon was thrown in the water.

6/14/10 – 6/27/10

DISTRICT 5

In late May, CO John Huspen received a complaint of litter on state land. His investigation led him to two subjects. After weeks of tracking the subjects from several different residences, he was finally able to catch up to the pair who admitted to dumping on state land. The site was cleaned up and enforcement action was taken.

5/17/10 – 5/31/10

DISTRICT 4

CO Jeff Ginn assisted the Michigan State Police with a littering complaint. Among the litter was an untagged wild turkey carcass. CO Ginn and the trooper located an address in the trash. Upon arrival at the residence, CO Ginn observed an uncased firearm, turkey decoy, camouflage clothing and blood in the bed of a truck in the driveway. After a short interview, the subject admitted to not tagging the turkey. Tickets were issued for the tagging violation and littering.

4/19/10 – 5/2/10

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Painter investigated a large litter pile of building materials in Iron County and found information that led to the three responsible subjects. Contact was made and enforcement action was taken.

4/5/10 – 4/18/10

DISTRICT 1

CO Mark Leadman was patrolling a problem litter area near Forestville when he observed three subjects unload a computer and then shoot it numerous times. When they left it behind, he contacted them and ticketed one for litter.

DISTRICT 3

CO Carl VanderWall found a large litter pile on state land with names and addresses of the owners. The CO is attempting to locate the person responsible so that enforcement action can be taken and the site cleaned up.

DISTRICT 6

COs Phil Hudson and Nick Atkin investigated an illegal dump area on an area of state land and located information on the owner of the garbage. The owner was contacted and enforcement action was taken for the littering violation.

DISTRICT 8

CO Rich Nickols located a large amount of trash dumped in the local game area. CO Nickols' investigation took him to two different residences where he was unable to make contact with the owners. A few hours later a subject called the county dispatch to turn himself in for the litter violation. CO Nickols received a full confession and the subject cleaned up the trash site. Enforcement action was taken.

3/22/10 – 4/4/10

DISTRICT 1

CO Trey Luce followed up on a litter complaint from last fall where a subject had dumped a pick up load of litter on state land in Marquette County. After tracking the subject through numerous past addresses, contact was made. Following several more interviews with others, the original subject was ticketed for the violation. The subject also agreed to clean up the mess.

DISTRICT 6

CO Ken Lowell responded to a complaint of litter being dumped along a remote road in Montcalm County and found names on pieces of paper from the trash. The CO contacted one of the subjects whose name appeared in the trash. The man claimed that he did not know that it was illegal to dump trash on someone else's property. Enforcement action was taken.

3/8/10 – 3/21/10

DISTRICT 1

CO Marvin Gerlach investigated a litter complaint in Menominee County. The subject stated that the garbage must have flown out of his truck when he was driving in on a two track road to help a friend. He was unable to explain why the five bags flew out together and landed underneath a pine tree. A ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 9

CO John Borkovich investigated a littering complaint involving household items and a deer carcass. The carcass had a tag on it that led the CO to a subject whose information was on the kill tag. In lieu of a ticket, the subject cleaned up his mess along with the entire area.

