

# Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Spring/Summer 2010 Newsletter

Need to contact us?

☎ Call DNRE at 989-275-5151 x 2049 or USFS at 1-800-821-6263;

✉ E-mail [cleanforests@cleanforests.org](mailto:cleanforests@cleanforests.org) or visit or [www.cleanforests.org](http://www.cleanforests.org)

✉ Mail Adopt-a-Forest, 8717 North Roscommon Rd, Roscommon, MI 48653

Sign up for our e-mail list! To receive the latest program information for your area, e-mail [takacsam@michigan.gov](mailto:takacsam@michigan.gov), and join our group!

## HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL



Most communities host some type of "Household Hazardous Waste Day" in the late spring or early fall. Products such as paints, cleaning products, oils, batteries and pesticides require special care when disposing of them. Improper disposal can include pouring them

down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers or discarding in the trash. The dangers of improper disposal methods can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

To safely dispose of leftover products containing ingredients considered to be household hazardous waste in your area visit <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/tsd/>.

## SPECIAL THANKS!

To the Michigan Forest Resource Alliance for your support as our fiduciary for the past several years! Welcome to the Michigan Society of American Foresters, our new fiduciary.

To see where your county stacks up in number of trash piles, visit [www.cleanforests.org](http://www.cleanforests.org) and click on the map of Michigan.



## RECYCLING - How to Make a Difference

1. At the checkout counter bring canvas or reusable shopping bags to carry purchases.
2. Switch to fluorescent bulbs, which last about 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs and use 75 percent less energy.
3. Save paper by using both sides of copy paper and stationary, make scratch pads from used paper, make two-sided copies, send memos and letters via email.
4. Switch from paper to cloth napkins and from paper towels to sponges or old, usable small cloth towels.
5. Rent, borrow, or share infrequently used items (ladders, tools, folding chairs) instead of buying them.
6. Buy used instead of new. Buying from secondhand stores reduces the use of resources and saves money.

## Avoid dumping on public land

When you are raking lawns and cleaning yard debris this spring, avoid the temptation of hauling waste to the nearest parcel of public land. Not only is it a fire hazard, it also encourages further illegal dumping. Composting the material is a much more environmentally-friendly alternative. Remember, the only materials legal to burn (with a burning permit) are grass, leaves, brush and stumps. For further information, go to [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit).



## WATER USAGE TIPS:

- ☛ Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
- ☛ Adjust sprinklers so that only the lawn is watered— not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- ☛ To minimize evaporation, water lawns and gardens in the morning or evening.
- ☛ If water easily runs off the lawn, split watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
- ☛ Choose shrubs and groundcovers for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.
- ☛ Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around pumps.
- ☛ Don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
- ☛ Adjust lawn mower to a higher setting. Taller grass blades help shade roots and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.

## Natural Resources and Environmental Quality

Gov. Jennifer Granholm issued an executive order, which took effect in January 2010, creating the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE). The order combines the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) into one agency. Structurally, the public will see the resource and environmental divisions of the two departments realigned into three units: Resource Management, Stewardship and Environmental Protection. The public also will see a stronger regional structure, where regional directors will manage planning, coordination, and communication across programs. These four regions will be based on Michigan's major watersheds: Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Superior. This watershed focus will result in a stronger emphasis on healthy ecosystems and a more rapid response to evolving local issues. Current DNR and DEQ programs such as camping reservations, hunting/fishing licenses, environmental permits and other current programs continue to function as before, with the same contact information.

There are currently 998 known illegal dumpsites on public land. To locate sites in your area, visit <http://www.cleanforests.org/search2.shtml>

## DID YOU KNOW ?

- One freshwater mussel can cleanse as much as one gallon of water per hour. They suck water in, filter out bits of algae, bacteria and other particles and then release it back into the river cleaner than before.
- Worldwide, the equivalent of almost 270,000 trees is either flushed or dumped in landfills daily and roughly 10 percent of that total is due to toilet paper.
- In California, a glass company uses old, recycled glass bottles to make 2.5 million wine bottles per day.

### White-Pages Phone Books Fading Away

In response to the decline of landlines and increased Internet use, some phone companies are putting a stop to the automatic delivery of residential white pages. AT&T, among others, has introduced an "opt-in" program, which would give people the option to continue receiving a print copy of their local directory. Business and yellow pages are not affected and an informational insert in those directories will explain the available opt-in choice.

### **NEW!** Recreation Passport funding Michigan's outdoor recreation

Starting Oct. 1, 2010, you can show your support for Michigan's great outdoors when you register your license plate! Just check "YES" when asked if you want to support the Recreation Passport. For only \$10, you can enter all of Michigan's state parks, recreation areas and boat launches.

The \$10 Recreation Passport will do more than get you into the state parks.

- 80% will be used to rebuild and maintain state parks and recreation areas.
- 10% will be directed to each county, city and township parks through grant funding.
- 7% will go toward state forest campgrounds, pathways and non-motorized trails.
- 2.75% will support state park cultural and historic resources.

The Recreation Passport legislation was created to prevent drastic cuts to park and forest programs. It will take the support of outdoor enthusiasts like you to make the idea a reality. Check "YES" on every license plate you renew to support green spaces and recreation in your community and throughout Michigan.