

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Spring/Summer 2011 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.

Field Notes:

One of our long term, award-winning, volunteers **JAMES HUNT** retired from his "real" job this year. Congrats Jim! He got so much done when he was working full time that we're excited to find out how much more time he'll have to dedicate to the program ☺

A special thanks to **WILLIAM NICHOLAS!** He took the time to cut a 17-foot fiberglass boat into pieces before disposing of it. The disposal cost to the program was \$48.46 instead of the \$500+ originally quoted by the landfill.



The **GRAND TRAVERSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT** has gone "above and beyond" again with their Boardman River Clean Sweep 2010 project. They had nearly 80 volunteers. Watch the video at:

www.youtube.com/user/TheGTCD#p/a/u/0/TUiu4JQGXb8

SQUEAKY CLEAN

Have you heard about the *STATEWIDE CLEANUP* campaign? We are tackling nearly 1,000 trash sites and our goal is to have them cleaned by National Public Lands Day on September 24, 2011!

Many of these sites have already been cleaned but not reported. Please search the trash list and send us updates:

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

Disposal funding is available on a pre-approved basis.

Here's a few groups that have already committed:

- ❖ Home Depot has 71 stores and are working with employee crews from each location to clean up trash in their areas.
- ❖ Alcona County Commissioners are working with Township officials to clean their county.
- ❖ The Lansing Motorcycle Club is focusing on Kalkaska County.
- ❖ Boy Scout Troop 86 (Onaway) is working on sites in Montmorency, Cheboygan and Presque Isle.
- ❖ Michigan GeoCaching Organization is working with their membership to plan cleanups across the state.
- ❖ You _____.

New top 10 most dumped counties in the state:

*number of known trashsites

Montmorency	35*
Roscommon	33
Kalkaska	32
Menominee	31
Wexford	31
Dickinson	30
Mackinac	29
Allegan	26
Grand Traverse	26
Crawford	25



To honor scouts who make a commitment to participating with the Department of Natural Resources in stewardship of Michigan's natural resources, we have created a Conservation Stewardship Award.

By completing activities and other scout achievements and providing conservation stewardship service hours, younger scouts can earn a Conservation Stewardship patch and older scouts are eligible to earn a Stewardship medal.

For more information visit:

www.michigan.gov/dnrscouting

Have you cleaned up trash from public land? If so, please report it so we can remove sites from the list.



**Saturday, May 21st
is National "Walk
in the Woods
Day"...as if we
needed a reason...**

Steve Cross—Fire Specialist for the Cadillac Department of Natural Resources—recently retired. Steve was a charter member of the Adopt-a-Forest "Trash Team" and wrote scrap tire grants for the program every year. Grants Steve wrote aided in the disposal of nearly 80,000 tires. We appreciate his support over the years and wish him best of luck in retirement!

– Creatures of Habit –

A Wexford County volunteer tells me he drove by a pile of trash for months that appeared to gain a new small brown bag just about every day.

It appeared as if someone had the habit to stop off in the woods to drink a 20-ounce beer and leave the bottle and bag behind.

After watching the pile grow, the volunteer decided to go clean it up. What he found was about 40 bottles that had a 10 cent deposit on them AS WELL AS bills and loose change in just about every bag...his total "earnings" for cleaning up the pile was about \$80. Perhaps he should have waited longer!

Do you fish? If so, make sure to properly dispose of all bait and containers! Release of live bait may spread invasive species in our waterways...even dumping soil from worm containers can spread invasive plant seeds.



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.

August 2010

CO Nick Torsky located a large litter pile and evidence that led to a confession from a suspect. A ticket was issued.

CO Eric Bottorff and PCO Quincy Gowenlock followed up on a complaint of a camp on state land that had been there beyond 15 days, had extensive litter, and live trees cut. The subjects were contacted and enforcement action was taken. The subjects cleaned up their camp site and returned it to the condition it was in prior to their arrival.

September 2010

CO Dave Painter responded to the complaint of a litter pile dumped in Iron County. After multiple interviews a confession was obtained from two subjects who admitted to dumping the litter. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson received a littering complaint in Ortonville Recreation Area. He received it from park employees who found three bags of household trash in a high use illegal ORV area. The park employees left the trash, made their rounds, and returned three hours later with equipment to remove the trash. To their surprise, the trash was on fire. The park employees put the fire out, sifted through the ashes and found contact information. They turned the information over to CO Schwiderson, who interviewed the man at the household. The man advised he and his wife were out of town at the time; however, his adult son may be responsible. Investigation continues.

October 2010

CO Brian Brosky was patrolling on the Pere Marquette River when he observed a person drinking beer on the opposite side of the river, using illegal gear and attempting to snag salmon. CO Brosky travelled to the other side of the river and contacted the person as he was walking to his vehicle. The subject was only carrying a fishing pole. While writing the person a ticket for snagging, CO Brosky asked him where his beer can was. The subject admitted to leaving his trash out along the river and was ticketed for litter as well.

October 2010

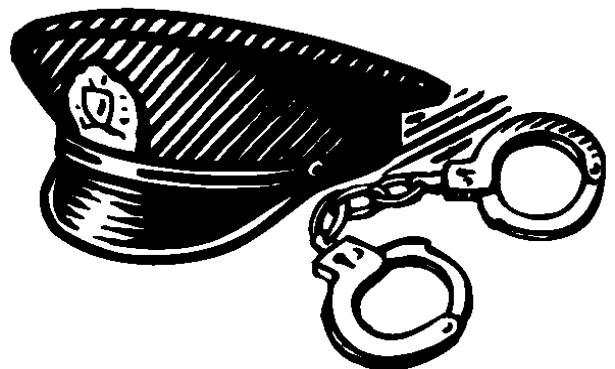
CO Jay Person was contacted in reference to a complaint of litter located on state land. The litter was lying near a party spot where a large, old, white pine tree had been cut down for firewood for the party the night before. Following up with names on the litter led Officer Person to the responsible party who dropped the litter and the subject who cut the large tree. Tickets were issued for the violations and a large sum of money was collected for restitution on the tree.

November 2010

CO Kelly Ross investigated a litter complaint on state land. Nine large bags of garbage had been dumped off the back side of a gas well. Investigation revealed several names all related to one address. Upon contact with a subject there she said she had given her son money to take the trash to the dump. The son pocketed the money and dumped the litter on state land. Enforcement action taken.

CO Chris Holmes was on patrol at the Sugarloaf Lake Access site late one night when he located two large trucks with several teens who had just "turfed" the parking area and dumped trash from their vehicles. CO Holmes ticketed the teens for litter and other violations at the access site and required they return and repair damages the following day. A check of the area found the access site cleaned and repaired the following day with the teens headed to court to answer for the violations committed.

While on patrol, CO Rich Nickols heard the radio traffic BOL (be on lookout) come across his county radio. The BOL was for a vehicle very near his location whose occupants were throwing trash out the window. CO Nickols located and stopped the vehicle in question and one of the backseat passengers admitted to the littering. Enforcement action was taken.



January 2011

Working with Sgt. Greg Drogowski on a litter case involving a large quantity of household trash dumped on state land, CO Andrea Erratt met with the subject and his wife. CO Erratt obtained a confession from the husband that he had dumped the garbage on state land while in the process of moving. He was ticketed for litter and he and his wife will clean up the garbage in the spring after the snow melts.

CO Pete Purdy investigated a large illegal dumping complaint on state land. CO Purdy located the evidence and interviewed a subject who confessed to the illegal dumping activity. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was ordered to clean up the littered site.

March 2011

CO Chris Bowen responded to a litter complaint and located a large pile of trash along a remote county road. Among the trash, he found mail with a name and address, which led him to a subject who confessed to dumping his trash in lieu of taking it to the transfer station.

After receiving a complaint about a large amount of litter dumped in a ditch, CO Seth Rhodea was able to retrieve numerous letters with addresses on them. Upon contacting the subject listed on the address, the subject stated that his daughter's boyfriend had taken the trash and said he was going to throw it away. When CO Rhodea contacted the boyfriend, he admitted that he had put the trash in the ditch instead of paying to haul it to the dump. Enforcement action was taken.

April 2011

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a littering complaint where numerous containers of soy milk were located along a road in Newaygo County. Several mailboxes in the area were damaged by someone throwing the milk containers from a moving vehicle. CO Ginn recovered close to 100 discarded containers, and began the investigation by going to the manufacturer with a lot number. CO Ginn determined that the soy milk was sold to a local food bank for distribution in Newaygo County. After a lengthy investigation, CO Ginn developed a suspect. During the interview the subject admitted to taking the large amount of soy milk and upon finding out that none of his friends wanted it, he went out and dumped it throughout the County. A ticket was issued for the littering violation and restitution will be sought on several of the damaged mailboxes.

April 2011

CO Mark Leadman investigated a complaint in which a subject dumped a truckload of litter on state land. He was able to determine who the suspect was and issued a ticket for the litter violation.

CO Sean Kehoe investigated a deer carcass dumping complaint on private property. Evidence at the scene led to a subject who admitted to the littering violation as well as the purchase of too many deer tags. A ticket was issued for the littering violation.

CO Sean Kehoe investigated another littering complaint where a subject left broken glass on state land from a window he had used for target shooting. CO Kehoe was able to use witness information and other evidence to track down the subject. The subject was ticketed for the violation and ordered to clean up the site.

WARNING: Chemical Suicides

In January 2011, a "chemical assisted suicide" occurred in Lake County Michigan. Eight first-responders were hospitalized and the outcome could have been much worse.

If you are volunteering on public lands and come across a vehicle with someone slumped over, please be aware of your surroundings and make sure YOU are safe before trying to assist.

Call 911 immediately.

What to look for:

- Signs posted on the vehicle warning of chemicals in use.
- Taped or otherwise sealed doors and windows.
- Containers with chemicals or spilled contents.

If any of these signs are present do NOT put yourself in harms way. Do NOT open the vehicle doors. Call 911 and tell them you suspect a chemical-assisted suicide.

Chemically assisted suicides originated in Japan and are becoming much more commonplace in the United States. Commonly used household chemicals are mixed in confined spaces, which causes death.