

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Spring/Summer 2014 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.



Thanks a ton to Steve Jaynes and Joyce Belloli for making a donation in memory of Steve Leusby. Their donation will assist volunteers in returning Michigan's forest land to its original beauty.

We would also like to thank Jeffrey Bieszki and David Johnson for their donations in memory of Raymond I. Rzepecki, Jr. and his love of the time he spent in Michigan's forests. This donation came with matching funds from Waters Corporation!

There are currently 674 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.

The **Two-Trackers 4WD Club** (Muskegon and Osceola Counties) have been working on cleanups for 15+ years. There are many groups across the State who work tirelessly in our forests every year. Thanks to all for setting a great example for our youth.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS!

SAFETY ALERT:

Adopt-a-Forest volunteers have reported finding remnants of "exploding targets" on public land. Once the ammonium nitrate and aluminum become active, they are explosive. If you come across an unexploded target during cleanups, please leave it undisturbed and call your local law enforcement. Watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfGU1PKmuFY> to find out how these targets work.

There are many unofficial shooting ranges on public land that get cleaned up each year around the state. If you use public land as a shooting range, please be mindful that anything you leave behind is considered litter and could result in a fine.



723 volunteers reported removing 1440 cubic yards (equates to 480 pickup truck loads) of trash from the woods last year. Reports listed 3400+ tires and indicated that 57% 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

SAFETY ALERT

One-pot meth labs have become very popular on public land. Your safety is important to us. If you see soda bottles with unknown substances or tubes coming out of them, lithium batteries, or ammonia or other chemicals, this could be a one-pot meth lab.

Please do not disturb the site. **If you suspect Methamphetamine related activity, call 1-866-638-4847 (METH TIP).**

Be "ember aware" and make sure all debris piles and campfire embers are completely out before leaving your fire.

www.michigan.gov/preventwildfires



Did you remember to move your woodpile away from your home?

Wood stacked on the side, porch or deck of your home or cabin make great spots for embers to land during wildfire.

Make sure to protect your home before a fire comes to your area by moving wood piles AWAY from any structures during the summer months.



Recycle



Students in K-12 schools across the US and parts of Canada can collect used markers and send them to a conversion facility where they will be transformed into clean-burning fuel. ColorCycle is also a great opportunity for teachers and their students to explore eco-friendly practices. Visit <http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx> for more information.

Who owns Michigan's forests?



Private – 51%

State – 21%

Federal – 14%

Forest Industry – 12%

Other – 2%

County-wide Cleanup

Grand Traverse is listed as the county with the most illegal dumpsites in the state.

Volunteers aim to bump Grand Traverse off the list!

A county-wide cleanup is planned for Saturday, September 27th.

To volunteer, contact Ada Takacs at 231-534-5569 or takacs@michigan.gov

Want to plan a county-wide cleanup in your area? We can pay for disposal costs on a pre-approved basis.



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/Winter 2013

CO Mike Hearn was contacted by the Kalkaska County Prosecutor's office regarding a case with a subject arrested for unlawful disposal of solid waste. He was tasked with locating some litter sites on state land for the subject to clean up as part of a court order. CO Mike Hearn located three large litter sites, marked them, and typed up directions for the clean-up.

CO Mark Leadman was able to contact a subject responsible for dumping a pickup load of garbage on the Little Lake snowmobile trail. The subject left identifying court paperwork in the trash along with other family member's mail. Contact with the court personnel listed on the paperwork led to the subject confessing to the litter and an agreement that he would clean it up. Additional enforcement action was taken.

CO Doug Hermanson located a pile of trash on public land and located a shipping label mixed in with the garbage. He tracked the subject down who turned out to be living in a camper. The subject was unemployed with no source of income. He was given the option of returning to the area and cleaning up the entire site instead of a ticket. He agreed and cleaned up the site.

CO Mike Hammill received a complaint of trash being dumped in the woods. CO Hammill recovered evidence that led to a subject in Marquette. With the help of CO Mark Leadman of Marquette County, CO Hammill was able to find who was responsible for the littering and issued a ticket.

CO Doug Hermanson investigated an incident involving the dumping of livestock on CFA lands. A complaint was reported that two cows had been dumped in the area of a logging job. CO Hermanson was able to retrieve tag information from the animals and locate the owners. Enforcement action was taken against the livestock owners for the litter.

CO Marvin Gerlach located parts of an ice fishing shanty and an abundance of litter on a local lake. During the course of the investigation, CO Gerlach determined the litter was left by three juveniles. They had built an ice shanty together and placed it on the lake but failed to remove it before it froze in. They then cut the shack apart and left parts of it and a large amount of litter on the ice. CO Gerlach also found out that the boys had borrowed the money to purchase the materials for the shanty a few months earlier but had failed to pay back their debt. CO Gerlach gave them the option of paying back the money, cleaning up the debris and garbage they left on the lake and also other garbage in the area, or each receiving tickets for litter and for failing to place name and address on the shanty. The young men chose the first option resulting in a cleaned up lake and hopefully a lesson learned about responsibility.

CO Jeff Robinette received a RAP complaint about a large amount of litter being dumped on Commercial Forest property. CO Robinette was able to obtain a name from items in the garbage. An investigation led to the owner of the garbage being ticketed for littering and cleaning up the mess.

CO Brian Olsen received a complaint of litter on State land near a logging operation. CO Olsen was able to locate evidence within the litter pile and made contact with several subjects. The investigation led the CO to a delivery truck driver from Chicago. After contact with the company and the driver, CO Olsen was able to obtain a confession from the truck driver. Enforcement action was taken.