

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Spring/Summer 2016 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

Visit 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.



Thank you to Susie Shipman who left Grand Traverse Resource Recovery at the end of December. Susie has spent countless hours

scouting trash sites, working with volunteer groups and media, and facilitating recycling and hazardous waste cleanup efforts. We hope to see Susie and her husband Eddie at future cleanups. We wish you well, Susie!

A huge "Shout Out" goes to five volunteers from Hamilton and Hayes Townships, Clare County. Together they removed 20 yards of waste, 43 tires, and some scrap metal from State land. They uncovered a meth dumpsite and caught a person in the midst of dumping yard waste. Hamilton Township Board hosted the cleanup day, and Jim Keysor of Keysor Excavating donated his time, backhoe, and fuel to this cleanup. Thank you Tressa Hubbard, AmeriCorps Member, Conservation Program Developer, for sharing this.



NEW MOBILE APP

DNR technology staff are working on a mobile app that will allow citizens, foresters, law enforcement, etc. to use smart devices to report trash that has been illegally dumped on public land. They will also be able to send in updates when trash gets cleaned up as well as photos. This new system will update our database quicker and will save data entry time compared to the existing system.

Recycle....Recycle....Recycle....Recycle....Recycle....Recycle

Cell Phones – Have you been trying to figure out a good use for your broken or disconnected cell phone? Call 1-888-901-SAFE (7233) or visit their website at www.donateaphone.com. The Donate-a-Phone campaign accepts all models of cellular phones (working or not). This organization refurbishes and sells the phones or programs them with emergency numbers and distributes them to victims of domestic violence.

Medicine – Unused and outdated medicines should be disposed of carefully because they can be dangerous if they get into the water supply. Many communities have medicine collection drop-offs. Search "medicine disposal" on-line for information specific to your community.



Spring is here, bringing the next generation of wildlife. When you are outdoors this spring, remember to **leave wildlife in the wild!** It is not uncommon for deer to leave their fawns unattended for up to eight hours at a time.

Program Support

DTE Energy Foundation, a long-time friend of Adopt-a-Forest, recently granted the program \$2500. The funds will be spent on items such as equipment rental, work gloves, trash bags, etc. for volunteer groups. Do you need something for your cleanup? Contact Ada at takacs@michigan.gov



There are currently 628 known illegal dumpsites in 59 counties in the State of Michigan. New sites are found daily. 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.

Volunteer?

- Are you planning an upcoming cleanup and need more volunteers? If so, let us know about it. Click here http://www.cleanforests.org/index.php?app=cm&ns=dynform&ref=event_announcement
- DNR sponsors many conservation projects across the state. If you're interested in doing more, visit www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers

Public land in Luce County is getting a face lift this season! Community corrections leader Eric Gravelle will be working with crews to clean up at least twelve known illegal dumpsites in the county. If you see them working in the woods, let them know we appreciate their efforts.

SAFETY ALERT:

Hazardous waste can also be corrosive. The acid from discarded auto batteries can eat away many substances. Some wastes are poisonous to humans or wildlife, while others can cause cancer, birth defects, or other serious medical problems. Please use caution and wear protective clothing when working on forest cleanups.

CONGRATS!

The Natural Resources Commission presented Plum Creek with a *Partners in Conservation Award* for working with the DNR to create and maintain critical deer wintering habitat. The North Country Trail Hikers Chapter of the North Country Trail Association also received the award for their efforts to build, maintain, promote, and protect more than an 80-mile portion of the trail.

WASTE REDUCTION

Each individual generates about 1.5 tons of solid waste per year – about 4.5 pounds per person, per day. If we continue this pattern, each of us will have created 90,000 pounds of trash in our lifetime.

Below are a few practical ways to reduce the amount of waste you create:

- Before buying, consider how much waste will be created from your purchase. Can the item and its packaging be reused or recycled?
- Use cloth shopping bags instead of paper or plastic bags at the grocery store.
- Avoid buying packaged foods with disposable, non-microwavable dishes. If you must buy them, reuse the dishes as picnic plates, plant saucers or pet dishes.
- Donate usable clothing and household items.
- Use reusable mugs/containers for coffee and other beverages.



Litter Arrests

It doesn't pay to litter! Here are a few tidbits from our Conservation Officers.

To find out more, visit:

www.michigan.gov/dnr under

*Law Enforcement and
Bi-weekly CO reports.*

2015:

CO Rob Freeborn received a litter complaint on State land involving household trash. After locating the trash pile on a power line and searching through the piles, CO Freeborn located several pieces of paper with the person's medical records which stated the subject's name, address and phone number. CO Freeborn was also able to locate a homework assignment from what appeared to be the subject's daughter that was titled "Waste" which explained that garbage was supposed to be taken to the landfill and not to be dumped elsewhere. After locating the subject and getting a confession, CO Freeborn showed the subject the homework assignment that he had found in the trash piles and advised if she had any future questions about where trash goes, she should refer to her daughter. The subject received a ticket for the litter and was given until the next day to clean it up, which she did.

Sgt. Jon Wood responded to a complaint from the DNR Forest Resources Division of a subject who was dumping loads of brush and tree clippings on State land in rural Clare County. Timing could not have been worse; FRD staff was at the location inspecting the area after a massive clean-up that involved bringing in dumpsters and utilizing community volunteers. The volunteers had spent numerous hours cleaning garbage and debris from the State land just days prior. Sgt. Wood was able to track the suspect down using the information gathered by witnesses. The suspect stated that he knew better than to dump on State land but he happened to be going through the area and thought it would be convenient. A ticket was issued for dumping and the suspect was ordered to clean up all materials that he dumped.

On a separate litter complaint, Sgt. Wood received information about a pile of household litter that had been dumped at the end of a dead end road. While searching through the pile, Sgt. Wood located a package with a shipping label attached. The package led to a nearby residence. The occupants informed Sgt. Wood that the suspect was a previous tenant and no longer lived at the address. After making several phone calls and checking numerous databases, Sgt. Wood was able to track down the suspect at a different address about 20 miles away. After interviews, the suspect was issued a ticket for the littering violation.

CO Jason McCullough was able to catch up with two suspects who dumped garbage on State land. In the first case, two subjects went out and dumped a toilet. Unfortunately for them, they also left a receipt which led back to the duo. Both suspects put the blame squarely on the other. CO McCullough was able to quell the disagreement when he issued tickets to both subjects for littering on State land. In the second case, the litter suspect dumped household refuse which also contained his most recent receipt for his monthly car payment. In this case, one payment ultimately led to another as CO McCullough issued him a ticket.

CO Duane Budreau and Sgt. Greg Drogowski double teamed a trash dumper. Sgt. Drogowski found a pile of dirty diapers and other household trash on State forest land along with a signed letter in the trash. The name led to the suspect, whom CO Budreau located and eventually received an admission from. A littering ticket was issued with cleanup of the trash required.

CO Troy Vangelderren responded to a litter complaint of a large quantity of household waste being dumped. CO Vangelderren was able to locate names in the trash pile. Follow up interviews led to three young men who ultimately confessed to dumping the trash. The three high school aged young men were paid to take the trash to a landfill. The subjects decided to keep the money they had been paid in advance and use the money for a local prom instead. CO Vangelderren met the subjects at the large dump site and supervised the cleanup, including following them to a licensed landfill. Enforcement action was taken as well.

**GIVE A HOOT
DON'T POLUTE!**