

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Spring/Summer 2017 Newsletter

Need to contact us?

Call the DNR at 231-534-5569

E-mail us at cleanforests@cleanforests.org

Send mail to Adopt-a-Forest, 2122 South M-37, Traverse City, MI 49685

or 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 your record.

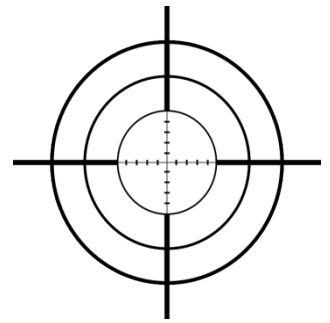
WE ARE FAMILY



This has been a very busy year for Adopt-a-Forest volunteers with retirements, new grandchildren, families moving, job changes, major surgeries, etc. Many of you have sent notes or called Ada to keep her updated...please know that we care about you and wish you the best of everything. The program would not be the huge success it is without our volunteer family.

A huge "shout out" goes to Gary Collins for his dedication to keeping our forest clean. Mr. Collins graciously volunteered his time as well as provided heavy equipment free of charge to be used at a Adopt-a-Forest cleanup site at the Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport. The site looks amazing and it's all thanks to those who are driven by nature like Mr. Collins!

TARGET PRACTICE: Many unofficial shooting ranges pop up around the state this time of year and debris gets left behind and causes additional dumping. If you are using public land to sight in your guns, have a plan to carry whatever you brought with you BACK OUT.



Volunteer

- Are you planning an upcoming cleanup and need more volunteers? If so, send Ada an email at takacs@michigan.gov
- DNR sponsors many conservation projects across the state. If you're interested in doing more, visit www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers
- Are you a scouting group? You can earn Conservation Awards for Adopt-a-Forest projects. Visit www.michigan.gov/dnrscouting for more info.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) has been detected in Michigan and is on the DNR invasive species

watch list. HWA is a tiny insect that feeds on the sap from hemlock shoots and branches. While these insects are feasting they secrete a white wax for protection.

When the adelgid feeds on hemlock they can kill the needles, shoots, and branches of the tree.

There are more than 100 million mature hemlocks in Michigan. Hemlocks provide important habitat and winter cover for many wildlife species.

Young adelgids can be carried by birds and moved on nursery stock, logs, or firewood.

Think you've spotted Hemlock Woolly Adelgid? Follow these steps to prevent contamination:

- Step 1:** Do not touch or remove potentially infested material from the site.
- Step 2:** Take photos, record the time and date of observation, as well as the location of the affected trees.
- Step 3:** Report findings to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: MDA-info@michigan.gov
or
MDARD Customer Service Center:
800-292-3939

Welcome Huron Pines AmeriCorps Members



The DNR has partnered with the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program to provide hands on experience in conservation. This year the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program has 30 members in which 9 will be serving with the DNR across Michigan and assisting with Adopt-a-Forest.

Listed below are the Huron Pines AmeriCorps members who will be serving with the DNR until early November and assisting with cleanups:

1. **Angel Squalls** (Lansing DNR-southern MI)
2. **Dan Ariza** (Traverse City DNR-Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie and Kalkaska Counties)
3. **Doug Tyran** (Grayling DNR-Crawford, Alcona, Oscoda and Iosco Counties)
4. **Hannah Lundin** (Lansing DNR-southern MI)
5. **Jason LaPointe** (Atlanta DNR-Presque Isle, Montmorency and Alpena Counties)
6. **Jenna Johnson and Kim Burgos** (Cadillac DNR-Wexford, Missaukee, Mason, Lake and Osceola Counties)
7. **Lyndsay Morrison** (Gladwin DNR-Gladwin, Clare, Arenac, Isabella, and Bay Counties)
8. **Tara Buehler** (PRC DNR-Pigeon River Country)

Spring is here along with the next generation of wildlife. When you are outdoors this season, remember to
LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD!



Also be sure to follow proper boot cleaning protocol to prevent the spread of invasive species.

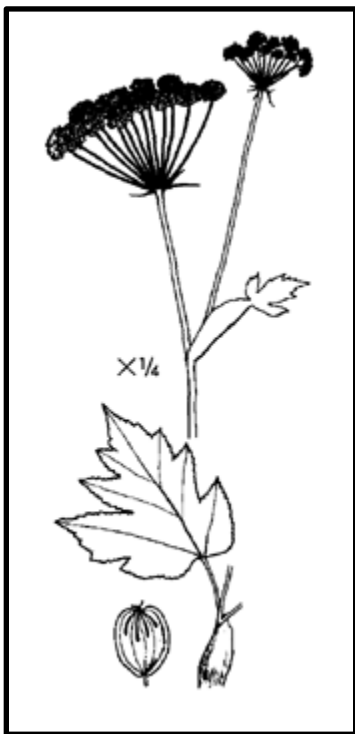


Dump Sites

There are currently 618 known illegal dumpsites in 60 counties in the State of Michigan. New sites are found daily. Are any near you? You can search the list at www.cleanforests.org/dumpsite%20search

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.

SAFETY ALERT:



Watch out for wild parsnip this spring and summer! Interaction with this plant may cause skin sensitivity which can result in

burns, severe rash and blistering. Wild parsnip can be found in open areas, fields, pastures, disturbed areas and road sides.

Decontamination Zone

Be mindful of spreading invasives.

Here are tips to help avoid the spread of invasive species such as the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid when moving in between spots in the forests:

a. Cleaning Options:

- i. By hand: Before leaving a site, remove all sediment, plants, or debris from boots, waders, clothing, pockets and hems, shovels, knives, equipment, and other field gear.
- ii. Brushing: Use a boot brush or pick to remove clods of dirt from boot or wader treads. If there is a nap to clothing material, brushing with the nap will remove plant material and seeds rather than embed it further.
- iii. Adhesive roller: Use an adhesive roller over all fabric clothing and footwear to remove small or embedded seed and plant material. Bag used adhesive sheets and dispose of in trash.

b. Rinse Well:

- i. Rinse all surface areas with potable water if possible.

c. Dry Thoroughly:

- i. Dry thoroughly (≥ 2 days, if possible), preferably in the sun, before using gear in a different body of water.





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*

2017:

CO Christopher Knights received a complaint from a homeowner on Williams Lake in Oakland County. The complainant watched ice fishermen just behind his home until the later hours of the night. The next day he looked outside of his window and noticed large amounts of garbage left behind. CO Knights made contact with the resident who had already taken the initiative and picked up all the trash and placed it into garbage bags. CO Knights went through the bags and located a tip-up with a name on it and came up with an address. CO Knights made contact with the individual and after interviewing him, identified other individuals who had also been fishing. CO Knights made contact with all the anglers to find out why the trash was left. Not one of them had a good reason for it, so CO Knights issued all of the fisherman involved littering tickets and gave warnings for leaving a tip-up unattended.

CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint from Michigan State Police and Sault Tribal Police regarding a subject they had arrested a day earlier on unrelated charges. They advised that he had a tent set-up on state land and had been staying there for a while. CO Freeborn went out to the scene and documented the "camp" with a large amount of litter around it. CO Freeborn made contact with the suspect in jail and advised him he had to remove all his belongings from state land when he gets out in to avoid a litter citation.

CO Ken Kovach completed a littering case investigation that was generated earlier this fall. The suspect had been evading contact by the CO, but after several attempts, CO Kovach located the suspect as he was walking out of his residence. CO Kovach obtained a full confession to the illegal dumping. The subject commented to the CO that he thought he was in the clear as he hadn't seen him at his residence in some time. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Byars was patrolling the Maple River State Game Area boat launch off Wilson Road when he noticed a fresh pile of burnt barrel litter that wasn't there a couple days ago. CO Byars searched through the litter and found two bank cards with the same name from a bank in St. Johns, Michigan. CO Byars found that the suspect was also out of St. Johns. CO Byars made contact with the suspect and he admitted that it was his trash but said he did not put it there. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough located a recently discarded pile of debris which included cabinets, tires and a kids baby pool in an area in Calhoun County where dumping has been problematic. CO McCullough was able to obtain a couple of potential suspect names. The investigation led to several different residences and revealed the vehicles used to dump the trash had been borrowed. Upon contact, the suspect admitted to the illegal dumping and a citation was issued.

CO Thorn located a large pile of trash left in the Dansville State Game Area. CO Thorn located letters, bills and other personal effects with names and addresses. The individual was contacted and confessed to the illegal dumping. A citation was issued and the individual was required to pick up all of the garbage.

COs Steve Lockwood and Josh Wright were on a fish patrol conducting surveillance of multiple anglers on Secord Lake in Gladwin County. The COs witnessed one of the anglers throw an empty beer can into the woods. When the COs made contact with the subjects, they were cited for littering and failure to license an ORV.

CO Isaac Tyson observed two subjects fishing a local Branch County lake. The fisherman packed up their gear and left the scene, leaving three beer cans floating in the lake. CO Tyson contacted the group and asked about the cans. One subject stated that he was going to come back and get them the next day. A citation was issued for littering.

