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.

Volunteer:

- Are you planning an upcoming cleanup and need more volunteers? If so, let us know at takacsa@michigan.gov
- The Michigan DNR sponsors many conservation projects across the state. If you’re interested in doing more, visit www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers

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.
Trailer Donation

A trailer was donated to the Boardman River Clean Sweep organization by BackCountry Outfitters and Patagonia Foundation. It can safely carry up to 2,000 pounds. BRCS has worked on many cleanups since and the trailer has been very useful.

Thanks to all BRCS volunteers including Brad Fisk and Rick Williams for their efforts in assisting the organization and committing to keeping our Grand Traverse County forests clean.

Welcome Huron Pines AmeriCorps Members!

The DNR has partnered with the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program once again to provide hands-on experience in conservation. This year the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program has 30 members in which 7 will be serving with the DNR across Michigan and assisting with Adopt-a-Forest during their service.

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

1. Rachel Straughen (Traverse City DNR)
2. Natalie Mooney (Lansing DNR)
3. Alex Sayski (Grayling DNR)
4. Stephanie Hoyle (Gladwin DNR)
5. Megan Machusko (Roscommon DNR)
6. Jacob Grochowski (Atlanta DNR)
7. Aren Calton (Pigeon River Country DNR)

Trashy the Bear

Meet Trashy the Bear who was discarded on a trash pile illegally dumped on the Hiawatha National Forest. This short story tells how Trashy was found during an annual cleanup planned by the U.P. Clean Forests Coalition on the Sault Ste. Marie Ranger District. He becomes their mascot and gets to travel to new places.

Trashy the Bear can be found on Amazon and CreateSpace. Check it out!
Wheels to Woods

Have you heard of the Wheels to Woods program? Wheels to Woods provides funding to PreK-12 schools and other youth groups to pay for transportation costs for forestry-related field trips. Any PreK-12 school in Michigan is eligible to apply for funds to go on a field trip to a school, private, or public forest or to visit a forest products company. Wheels to Woods reimburses actual transportation costs up to $350 per bus and $1,000 per school. For more information visit www.wheelstowoods.org.

Blowing in the Wind

Volunteers got a laugh as they investigated a report of paper flying everywhere at a site in the Upper Peninsula. After further investigation they realized that yes it was paper—from birch trees! The bark from nearby paper birch logs had stripped off and was blowing in the wind. We gladly marked that site as cleaned!

Busted!

If possible, always take a photo of trash piles before you start your cleanup. Proof of dumping will likely be in the form of an address on a magazine or discarded mail. If your find proof of dumping and the item is too large to mail, make a note in the comments of your progress report and save the item for later follow-up so law enforcement can be contacted with evidence of dumping.

Keep in mind that license plate registration information is purged by the Secretary of State after 30 months of non-renewal. For abandoned vehicles, title identification numbers (VINs) are maintained for only 10 years.

If dumping appears to be recent and proof of offender is very obvious, leave the pile in place and call the DNR RAP Hotline at 1-800-292-7800 so enforcement action can be taken.

Safety Alert!

Lifting incorrectly can result in a variety of injuries including back strain.

Proper lifting method:

- Stand close to the load with feet apart to lift
- Bend knees and keep your back as straight as possible
- Get a firm grip on the load and make sure your vision is not blocked.
- Test lift load to be sure you are capable of picking it up without straining. If not, ask for help.
- Lift using leg muscles, not back muscles.

Lights, camera, action!

WARDENS TV show on Outdoor Channel

In January 2017, the show expanded from covering Montana to Michigan to show viewers the dedication the men and women in natural resources fields have as well as offer educational opportunities to those watching.

Can you guess which program was promoted on one of the episodes? Our very own, Ada Takacs was interviewed on the Adopt-a-Forest program in Episode 806: Illegal Blinds. She explained the program and what the public can do to help. You can check out the episode and show at: http://outdoorchannel.com/wardens
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

2018:

CO Quincy Gowenlock and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Joshua Boudreaux received a complaint of deer carcasses being dumped in Chesaning Township. Upon arrival, the COs noticed there were kill tags still attached to the carcasses. Further investigation came back to a suspect located only four miles away. The COs contacted the suspect and after a brief conversation, he admitted to dumping the deer carcasses. When asked why he dumped the carcasses, the suspect stated that he always dumped carcasses and didn’t think it was wrong. CO Gowenlock asked the suspect if he owned property, would he want people dumping carcasses and trash on his land. The suspect stated, “well putting it like that, no I wouldn’t”. The suspect was cited for littering and was immediately sent back to the area to remove the carcasses and dispose of them properly.

While on patrol CO Greg Patten spotted a large smoke cloud that he could see from two miles away. CO Patten went to the area to investigate. A volunteer firefighter that lives nearby was at the scene. The firefighter said that a subject was burning a vehicle and tires and fled the area when he arrived. The local fire department arrived to extinguish the blaze. Further investigation after the property owner showed up revealed that an unknown individual cut the front end off a junk vehicle on the property. The suspect was involved in the larceny of car parts and fire investigation is still outstanding.

COs Jared Ferguson, Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy followed up on several complaints of ice shanties without names and addresses and litter on several inland lakes in Dickinson County. The COs documented several shanties with pictures and locations for future enforcement action.

COs Bobby Watson, Chris Lynch, Michael Evink, and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon took part in a Little Bay de Noc patrol on a busy weekend. Fifteen violations were written, along with many warnings, and many more contacts. Among the violations written were; possession of short fish, fishing with too many lines, fishing without a license, unattended lines, failure to register ORV/snowmobile, and litter.

While refueling his patrol truck at a local gas station, CO Duane Budreau observed a subject pull into the station and flick a lit cigarette in the direction of the gas pump. CO Budreau was using. As the subject exited his vehicle and started towards the door, CO Budreau confronted him about the litter and the unsafe disposal of his cigarette. CO Budreau was not in uniform, so when confronted, the subject provided a challenge of his own and spoke to CO Budreau with some aggressive language. CO Budreau then identified himself and pointed to the patrol truck where the cigarette butt came to a rest about 20 feet away. The subject immediately changed his tune and retrieved the litter. Enforcement was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski and PCO Charles Jones were on patrol near the Manistee River when the local dispatch had a BOL for littering. The vehicle was spotted and a traffic stop conducted. A Manistee County deputy conducted an interview for the littering issue with the driver. After some investigation, it was determined that two of the three vehicle occupants had multiple warrants. Both were taken to the Manistee County Jail.

While patrolling in rural Gladwin County after dark, CO Steve Lockwood and PCO Amanda McCurdy located several vehicles parked on the side of a county road. There were also several subjects outside the vehicles walking and milling around. As the patrol truck got closer, the COs observed an item being thrown from one of the vehicles. Contact was made with the subjects. Several beverage cans were located in the nearby tree line. One of the subjects admitted to throwing the cans out of the vehicle. A citation was issued for littering on state land.