



Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Spring 2004 Newsletter

Need to contact us?

- ☎ Call the DNR at 989-275-5151 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

Spring is a great time to clean out your basement or garage and dispose of large items.

Often, the discards get hauled away for a fee by yard-clearing businesses.

Sometimes the trash gets dumped illegally on public land without the original owner even knowing it.

It makes sense to require landfill receipts when paying to have your trash hauled away. Remind your friends and family to do the same.



Neighbor-wood Watch*

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first discovered in Michigan in 2002. It's believed to have been present at least 5 years prior to its discovery. This beetle is capable of killing ash trees of all sizes, including trees that appear to be healthy.

Firewood transported from infested areas is illegal and risks further spread of EAB. Efforts to reduce the spread of this insect are dependent on early detection in your area.

We are asking that volunteers look for signs of EAB during their regular volunteer activities.

- What to look for:*
- ◆ Sprouts
 - ◆ Crown dieback
 - ◆ D-shaped exit holes
 - ◆ Woodpecker activity
 - ◆ S-shaped borer galleries under the bark

For further identification information, visit www.emeraldashborer.info

Please contact Kerry Gray at 517.241.1833 or at grayk@michigan.gov if you see signs of EAB in your area and believe it has not been reported.

*Thanks Kristin, MSUE

You Can Plan on It!

The Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests held a strategic planning session in January 2004.

Thirty-eight specific tasks were identified as priorities to advance our program. A five-year completion plan is underway.

If you would like a copy of the strategic plan, let us know. Volunteers are the backbone of our program and we appreciate any input you can give us on program needs. You can also pick up a .pdf copy at www.cleanforests.org. Updates will be posted as things progress.

Strategic Plan Item #6

"Trash Team attendance expanded to include VOLUTEERS, corporate, and other identified representatives."

Would you like to make program decisions?

We meet 3 or 4 times a year (usually in Cadillac, but we're willing to move). Our goal is to have at least one volunteer representative at each meeting. If you'd like to help, contact Ada Takacs at 989-275-5151, Ext. 2049 or at takacs@michigan.gov.

Upcoming Events: *Our volunteers are busy this spring! Do you have cleanups planned in your area? Let us know and we'll post them on our website and mail out notices to local volunteers. Here are a few of the groups that are working hard to make Michigan a better place to live...*

Iosco County

Jose Lake Association 5th Annual Cleanup

June 12, 2004 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Contact Jose Lake Store and Resort at 989-257-3313

Wayne County

Faith Tabernacle Church, Highland Park

July 10, 2004 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Contact Beverly Bright at 313-966-5146

Emmet County

Harbor Springs North Country Trail and the Wilderness State Park volunteers need large equipment donated to scoop up shingles. Call Jerry Keeney at 231-526-9597 if you are willing to donate your time and equipment.



Conservation Officer Mark Lutz of Crawford County located piles of telephone books apparently thrown from a vehicle by a Verizon sub-contractor who was supposed to deliver them to area homes.

Verizon Customer Relations was notified and **immediately** took action by removing and properly disposing the phone books. They will likely be able to identify the sub-contractor based on the location of the illegal dumping. MCCF appreciates Verizon's speedy response and their desire to be responsible stewards of our land.

1 Decade + 2 Years + Caring Teacher = Success

The **Pine River Middle School 7th Grade Class** and their teacher, **Terry Anderson**, just completed their 12th year of participation in the Adopt-a-Forest program. 197 cubic yards of trash have been removed by Pine River Middle School volunteers since 1992—that equates to 65+ pickup truck loads! They finished with a bang this year...after removing 70 cubic yards of trash, they planted 10,000 red pines in their school forest.

Mr. Anderson is taking a well-deserved retirement in June and will be sorely missed by our program. Not to fear, however, because the **Pine River Middle School 6th Grade Class** has decided to continue the program under the leadership of Mark Livingston.

Thanks to Terry Anderson and his students for a job well done over the years. Also, a hearty WELCOME to Mr. Livingston. We appreciate your stepping up to the plate to continue Pine River Middle School's efforts!

Rattlesnake Etiquette



The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake is the only venomous snake in Michigan. It has a status of *Special Concern*, is protected by the state, and is a candidate for federal listing.

Volunteers are encouraged to report rattlesnake sightings on-line at the MDNR Wildlife Division website: http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/wildlife/pubs/massasauga_obsreport.asp or by calling the Michigan Natural Features Inventory office at 517-373-4815 to request a form.

Living with the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

workshops are being offered to volunteers who are interested in learning more about the Massasauga. The workshop includes:

- + how to safely co-exist with this shy, docile snake
- + life history, status and conservation of the Massasauga in Michigan
- + Community resources to address your questions
- + opportunities to observe a live Massasauga and other "look-alike" snakes
- + a short hike to explore typical habitat.

For further information, contact Daria Hyde at 517-373-4815 or hyded@michigan.gov

What to do if you hear or see a Massasauga:

- Keep your distance.
- If you hear a rattle or buzzing sound, STOP! Look, but don't move - the snake may be close to you. Slowly move away after the snake has been located. Do not pick it up or kill it.
- Report all sightings and locations to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at (517) 373-1263. Include a photograph if possible.

How to prevent snake encounters:

Learn how to identify the snakes in your area. Cut grass low. Keep brush, wood piles, and pallets of materials away from structures.