

Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests Adopt-a-Forest Spring 2009 Newsletter

Need to contact us?

☎ Call the DNR at 989-275-5151 x2049 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

If you received this newsletter in hard copy, it's likely that 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 send an e-mail to takacs@michigan.gov asking us to update our records.

Better Safe than Sorry!

Each year fire departments respond to between 10,000 and 12,000 wildfires. **The #1 cause of wildfires in Michigan is burning debris**, such as grass, leaves, brush and trash. Yard cleanup chores; when mixed with dry, warm, windy weather; result in about one-third of all wildfires each year.

A burn permit is required any time the ground is not snow covered. Recreational camp and cooking fires are exempt but still require the same degree of caution as any other outdoor fire.



In the Upper and Northern Lower Peninsulas permits are issued by going on-line at www.michigan.gov/burnpermit or by calling toll-free 866-922-2876. The system has been streamlined this year and does not take much of your time. In southern MI contact your local township or fire official for information on burning regulations in your area.



Zoom Zoom Zoom

Senate Bill No. 131 of 2009 as introduced would require that driver education courses include information regarding the importance of recycling and opportunities to support statewide recycling efforts. The course will also require an anti-litter message.

Congrats to the Lansing Motorcycle Club

The *Lansing Motorcycle Club* was recently awarded a *Partners in Conservation Award* from the Natural Resources Commission.

Members of the Lansing Motorcycle Club officially joined the program in 2003 and have been working on major cleanups since. They have removed 25+ truckloads of trash from public land and have worked on many special projects over the years including trespass encroachment cleanups, scrap tire removal, tree planting near ORV trails, and trail maintenance.

LMC attempts to incorporate trail rides or races with tree plantings in order to get ORV users active in "giving back" to state land.

The Lansing Motorcycle Club continues to be one of the DNR's best advocates for sustainable forest management. The trails and public land restored from their efforts will be used for generations to come.

Congratulations to the Lansing Motorcycle Club members. **We appreciate your continued support!**



BRIGHT IDEA

Replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) saves energy, money and protects the environment. An extremely small amount of mercury essential for fluorescent light operation is sealed in the CFL glass tubing.

The highest source of mercury in our air comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal. Coal is the most common fuel used in Michigan to produce electricity. A CFL uses up to 75% less energy than an incandescent light bulb and lasts up to 10 times longer. A power plant will emit about 10mg of mercury to produce the electricity to run an incandescent bulb compared to only 2.4mg of mercury to run a CFL for the same time. Therefore, in Michigan, a regular incandescent light bulb actually releases much more mercury into the environment than a CFL.

CFLs also reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO₂). If every household in Michigan replaced one 75 watt incandescent light with a compact fluorescent light (CFL), it would prevent 624 million pounds of CO₂ from being discharged into the air and save nearly \$40 million dollars every year! This would be equivalent to removing 46,000 cars from the road.

Source: Michigan DEQ

CFL Recycling at Home Depot

The Home Depot has announced an in-store collection program for used CFL bulbs. This program is offered in all stores nationwide. Customers can turn in unbroken, burned-out CFL bulbs to the Returns Desk. The bulbs will be recycled and responsibly disposed of by an environmental management company. For more information, visit www.homedepot.com/ecoptions

We're Glad You're Here!

Welcome to Daniel Schultz, Environmental Coordinator for Huron Pines AmeriCorps. Dan will be covering the eleven-county area in the northeast portion of the Northern Lower Peninsula.

He has already started working with Adopt-a-Forest volunteers in Roscommon and Cheboygan Counties (rank as #2 and #3 most trashed in the state) to set up cleanups this spring. If you run into Dan in the field, let him know we appreciate his efforts.

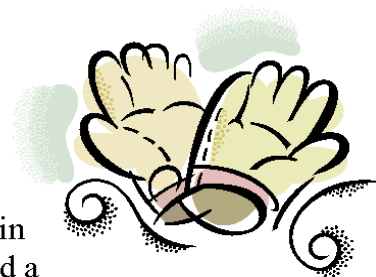
Enforcement is an important component of the Adopt a Forest program. We get many questions regarding:

- What laws cover illegal dumping?
- How are we enforcing the laws?
- How do new laws affect the program?
- How we use community service workers, jail release programs, and technical rule violators?
- The latest on motion sensor cameras?
- How to receive a supply of enforcement posters?
- How to report dumping in progress? and
- How to collect evidence?

This information and more is available on our new **ENFORCEMENT** page at <http://www.cleanforests.org/enforcement.shtml>

YOUR EFFORTS COUNT!

Progress reports submitted last year (88 total) showed a nineteen percent decrease in the number of volunteers and a twelve percent decrease in the amount of trash removed from public land compared to 2007.



Might the decreases be from soaring gas prices last year? Or maybe they're reflective of the areas staying clean once the trash is removed.

No matter the reason, good or bad, make sure your efforts are counted! Reports can be submitted at <http://www.cleanforests.org/progressreport.htm> or you can drop a note to Ada at takacs@mi.gov asking for a progress report form. Efforts are combined statewide and statistics are reported to the media and Legislators when questions arise about the program.

There are currently 1,083 known illegal dumpsites on public land. To locate sites in your area, visit <http://www.cleanforests.org/search2.shtml>