

Spring 2014

CARLTON COUNTY RESOURCE AND RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 1

Carlton County's Unwanted Medication Program, *Take it to the Box*, is Working Successfully.

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Carlton County's safe medication disposal program *Take it to THE BOX* is beginning its 4th year in operation. Over 1,000 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals have been collected and properly disposed of since the program began in 2011.

The *Take it to THE BOX* program consists of three drop-off boxes for unwanted medications located in the lobbies of the Carlton County Sheriff's Office, City of Cloquet Police Department, and City of Moose Lake Police Department. The drop boxes are safe, secure, and anonymous. A law enforcement officer transports the collected medications to an incinerator. This is the safest and preferred method of pharmaceutical disposal.

Carlton County Sheriff Kelly Lake explains, "With this program in place, we have been able to properly dispose of unwanted medications, reducing the risk of burglaries, thefts, and abuse of these drugs, and at the same time have created a way to keep our environment safe."



Flushing is no longer a recommended method of medication disposal. Research has found medications, hormones and personal care products in rivers and streams around the country. These materials cannot be removed during the waste water treatment process. Therefore keeping them out of the water in the first place is an imperative step citizens can take.



Deputy Sheriff Soderstrom packs unwanted medications for proper disposal.

What about medical sharps?

Proper disposal of unwanted medication also reduces the chances of accidental poisoning and abuse. A report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimates there are more than seven million people abusing prescription drugs in the US.

"In 2011 only a few counties in the state had unwanted medication disposal programs. Today, there are 145 permanent drop-off locations across the state," stated Zoning and Environmental Services Administrator Heather Cunningham. "The growth in such a short amount of time shows how effective and needed a safe medication disposal program like *Take it to THE BOX* is."

Medication should be kept in the original container. Remove your name, address and any other identifying information but leave the name of the medication. Drop the medication into the disposal box opening. NO needles, syringes or thermometers. Household medications only. No medication from businesses can be accepted.

Area residents with questions about the program should call Karola Dalen, Carlton County Resource and Recycling Coordinator at 218-384-9178.

Carlton County residents can *Take it to THE BOX* and bring their unwanted medicines to three convenient drop-box locations:

Carlton County Sheriff's Office
317 Walnut Avenue
Carlton, MN 55718
218-384-3236
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

City of Cloquet Police Department
508 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720
218-879-1247
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday

City of Moose Lake Police Department
600 Highway 73
Moose Lake, MN 55767
218-485-8404
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday



Do not dispose household medical sharps in your household trash. They pose a significant danger to garbage and recycling handlers. Household medical sharps can be dropped off at the Carlton County Transfer Station free of charge. Place sharps in a puncture resistant container such as a laundry detergent bottle, and label with a "Household

Medical Sharps" sticker (available at Transfer Station) or label "Danger Medical Waste." The Transfer Station summer hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



Golden Winged Warbler

Private forest landowners in Carlton County can harvest timber to create habitat that will

help one of the most imperiled migratory songbirds in North America: the golden-winged warbler (GWWA). From 1966-2010, this species experienced one of the most precipitous declines of any songbird in the United States. Historically, the GWWA nested in early successional forest sites created by natural disturbance that stretched from northwestern Minnesota to Appalachia. Declines of this bird can be attributed to fragmentation or loss of young deciduous forest breeding habitat, hybridization with the blue-winged warbler, and nest parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird. Today the GWWA management region that includes northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin represents a last stronghold for the GWWA, containing approximately 57 percent of the world's remaining nesting population. As a result, Minnesota is a key state in an international initiative to save the golden-winged warbler from further population decline. Successfully achieving GWWA population goals will require creating, restoring and maintaining forested landscapes with balanced distributions of young and mature forests in Minnesota.

Carlton County land owners can play a pivotal role in creating habitat for this species on their property with as little as 10 acres. In addition to providing support for the golden-winged warbler, young forests also create important habitat for other declining species like the American woodcock, as well as more common game species like ruffed grouse, black bear, deer and wild turkey.



An incentive program is in place for habitat restoration projects on private lands in Carlton County. The incentive payments are designed to offset the expense of the projects, compensate landowners for trees reserved from harvest, and promote the creation of golden winged warbler habitat immediately.

To learn more about this program, contact Erin M. Loeffler, Soil Conservation Tech USDA-NRCS, 4850 Miller Trunk Hwy. St.2B, Duluth MN 55811, 218-720-5209 ext. 114.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

Upcycle: Turn old stuff into useful stuff.



Turn a laundry detergent bottle into a watering can. Instructions @

<http://www.kristanlynn.com/2011/04/reuse-repurpose-upcycle.html>



Spring cleaning?

Many items such as paint, fuels, and pesticides cannot go into the garbage. They need special handling to keep them out of lakes, rivers and streams, as well as drinking water. Bring it to us!

**Carlton County
Household Hazardous Waste Facility
& Product Reuse** Carlton Co. Transfer Station,
1950 Highway 210, Carlton

OPENING FOR THE SEASON
Tuesday, May 6th
Open Tuesdays *AND* Saturdays
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Call 218-384-9178 for accepted items.

STAFFED RECYCLING CENTER HOURS

Barnum (Behind Fire Hall)

Year-Round Hours

Monday: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Carlton County Transfer Station

April 1 - October 31

Monday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Carlton (County Highway 1)

April 1 - October 31

Monday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Moose Lake (Next to Arena)

Year-Round Hours

Thursday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thomson / Esko (Next to Town Hall)

April 1 - October 31

Monday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Perch Lake (Next to Town Hall)

Year-Round Hours

Monday: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Carlton County
**Zoning
&
Environmental
Services**

www.carltoncounty.com

384-9176

1-800-862-3760