

# YELLOW JUG OLD DRUGS PROGRAM®

Great Lakes Clean Water Organization  
3681 Trask Lake Rd.  
Barton City, MI 48705



## Yellow Jug Old Drugs®

### The Problem

Most Michigan residents live within a short drive to one of the Great Lakes and usually within walking distance to a nearby stream, river, or inland lake. Water in Michigan is abundant, cleaner than it was years ago but not as pure as it could be. Wherever we reside in the State, or in the Great Lakes region, we should be concerned about the emerging issue of trace amounts of pharmaceutical compounds showing up in our surface, ground water, and municipal water systems.

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE) studies throughout the US reveal the presence of trace amounts of pharmaceutical compounds in surface and ground water. Pharmaceutical contamination of water has a negative impact on the aquatic ecosystem including fish, birds, and other wildlife. A study conducted by the US Geological Survey concluded that 80% of streams sampled contained detectable levels of compounds found in common medications. According to the DNRE, wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove or process most compounds found in medications that end up being discharged into our surface and ground water. Even if you live in a more remote area, you should be concerned. Your drinking water may be affected, and many medications including antibiotics, can destroy the beneficial bacteria necessary for a septic system to operate properly.

### The Solution

Pharmacists, health professionals, waste management authorities, municipalities, and government agencies agree that action is needed to keep unused/unwanted drugs from going into our water and landfills, but most communities in Michigan do not currently have collection programs. As a result the practice of flushing drugs down the drain or sending to a landfill continues. What is needed is a comprehensive state-wide approach to collecting and disposing of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe and approved manner. The Yellow Jug Old Drugs program is providing that solution.

Following a survey of Michigan Pharmacists, the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program was piloted in May of 2009 in Northeast Michigan pharmacies. The Yellow Jug Old Drugs program is now available to pharmacies throughout Michigan.

Great Lakes Clean Water Organization has received grant funding from United Water, Covanta Energy, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, and NMSAS Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force. Local pharmacies also help support the program and Great Lakes Clean Water continues to seek additional grant support.

Individuals bring in unused/unwanted/expired drugs to their local pharmacy for proper disposal. (Non Controlled substances only.) Collection and destruction of controlled substances is coordinated by law enforcement agencies including the Michigan State Police and county Sheriff departments and other law enforcement entities.

The Yellow Jug Old Drugs containers and contents are picked up at pharmacies and are then transported to a Covanta Energy Waste-to-Energy Facility for secure and assured destruction.

## Description of Organization

Great Lakes Clean Water Organization is a Non-Profit 501(c) 3 Corporation based in Michigan. State of Michigan Corporation #7040V and is governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Great Lakes Clean Water Organization Mission is to:

Promote the collection and disposal of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe and approved manner. This will keep harmful effects of drugs out of ground water, surface water, and municipal water systems in Michigan and the Great Lakes region.

**989-736-8179**

[info@greatlakescleanwater.org](mailto:info@greatlakescleanwater.org)

**FAX 1-888-868-2055**

Additional information including a list of participating pharmacies and their contact information is available at: [www.greatakescleanwater.org](http://www.greatakescleanwater.org)

For a Pharmacists perspective on the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program feel free to contact a participating pharmacy to ask them how the program is being received by people in their community.

A few Pharmacists that have been involved since we began in May 2009

Jim Straley, Neimans Pharmacy Alpena, MI 989-356-2191

John McLean, McLean Pharmacy Rogers City, MI 989-734-0991

Julie Blust, Gilbert's Pharmacy Oscoda, MI 989-739-7585

Dave Snyder, Lincoln Pharmacy, Lincoln, MI 989-736-8138

**Cost for the program are currently \$25 per month per pharmacy**

***In addition to being the right thing to do, several pharmacists have stated that \$25 per month is inexpensive advertising that gets new, potential customers through my door.***

**The Yellow Jug Old Drugs program is now available throughout Michigan. Complete section below and return by fax 1-888-868-2055 *Thank You***

-----  
\_\_\_\_\_ **YES, I would like to participate in the Yellow Jug Old Drugs Program and would be willing to support program cost of \$25 per month to be able to provide this service in my community**  
*(This is not a contract for services)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **I am interested in participating only if there is some grant funding available to help cover the cost for our pharmacy**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I am interested in learning more about the Yellow Jug Old Drugs Program please contact me**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Pharmacy Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact Person**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**County**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Area Code Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**E-Mail or Fax #**