

Litterers

This past year, I made a concerted effort to be calm in the face of litter, to just pick it up and move along with my day without fuming and steaming about it. I worked so very hard to have a Zen attitude about the way I would like the Earth to be treated and the way others often treat our environment. I hit a wall yesterday. I lost my calmness, threw up my hands and thought “Really? REALLY? Really.”

On the way up to Lake Brownwood State Park on Thursday (State Highway 279), the shoulders of the highway were covered with every type of litter one can imagine. There was pink insulation, glass and plastic bottles, plastic shopping bags, fast food containers and this all easily identifiable while travelling at 60 MPH.

I find it hard to believe that I am the only one to see the debris on most of our roadways. In addition, I do not think I am the only person who finds the litter incredibly insulting and intrusive. Therefore, I can complain and do nothing or I can complain and do something.

Here is my plan of action. I would like all of those who are insulted by the amount of litter in our area to head up their own campaign to defeat litterers. If you see someone littering, yes, this includes cigarettes out the window, Styrofoam cups or feed sacks flying out of the back of pickups, report the litterer. Go to www.dontmesswithtexas.org and click on the report-a-litterer link.

The information needed to report the litterer is: Texas license plate number (Texas plates only), make of vehicle, time of day, location, date, who tossed (driver, passenger or accidental), what was tossed. TxDOT compares the information to the vehicle registration database and when an exact match is located, a Don't Mess with Texas litterbag along with a letter reminding them to keep their trash off our roads is sent.

My wish for the new year is for people to care about the earth and to stop littering. It is up to each of us to step up and say no to litter and no to *litterers*. Really.