



Huron Pines

Conserving the Forests, Lakes and Streams of Northeast Michigan



Conservation First Responder Program

On-The-Ground Conservation

All across Northeast Michigan there are landowners who have questions about attracting wildlife, managing their forest or improving water quality. Unfortunately, many of these questions go unanswered because often there is not that single place to go for getting all the answers. It's frustrating for landowners and it ultimately results in less conservation.

Through our Conservation First Responder program, Huron Pines is able to handle calls from landowners and use our network of volunteers to provide on-site help. Our volunteers providing First Responder assistance have the practical experience to help landowners with concerns about forest management, wildlife, water quality, invasive species control and other issues.

Our organization knows from experience that one-on-one access to resource experts who can "walk the land" with property owners is the most important type of assistance for ensuring good land stewardship.

We're Looking for Some Great Volunteers to Serve as Our Conservation First Responders

Huron Pines is seeking 10–20 people with a strong background in natural resources who can help serve as part of our volunteer Conservation First Responder team. As calls come into HP, we will arrange a time for a nearby volunteer to meet with the landowner.

The role of these volunteers is to talk with the landowner about the issue/question, record basic information about the problem, put the landowner on the track to getting his/her problem addressed and follow up with HP by providing a brief summary (and photo if applicable).

In addition to a strong background in natural resources, volunteers working on this program need to be able to conduct 1 to 3 site visits per month (within their county), be willing to donate their time and travel, and have very good interpersonal skills. E-mail accessibility is also desired. Our staff volunteers need to be very familiar with the main programs available to help landowners, as well as answers to common questions about wildlife, forest management, and water quality.

Major Responsibilities:

- Talk with landowners about their issues/questions.
- Conduct site inventories.
- Record basic information about the problem.
- Direct the landowner to getting their problem addressed.
- Follow up with Huron Pines with a brief summary and photos of site.

Qualifications:

- Background in forestry, conservation, wildlife management, land stewardship, water quality, etc.
- Familiarity with the many conservation programs available to landowners.
- Physical ability to conduct site inventories.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Basic computer skills—Microsoft Word and ability to check and send e-mail.

Time Commitment: 1–3 site visits on a monthly basis, with 2 volunteers within each county.

Contact Brad Jensen at (989) 344-0753 ext. 18 to sign up.



Landowners: This Program Is for You!

Tired of getting the runaround when you have a question about plants, soil, forest health or other natural resource concerns? Would you like to improve wildlife habitat but aren't sure how to get started? Don't know who to call among all of the different agencies and organizations? Try the Conservation First Responder Program at info@huronpines.org or (989) 344-0753 ext. 21.

Huron Pines coordinates a volunteer network of resource professionals who can help. When you give us a call, we will

- follow up with your phone call/e-mail within 3 days,
- provide a free site visit from one of our volunteer resource professionals that live in your area, and
- direct you to the appropriate place for further conservation help, as appropriate.

Many programs are available to help landowners with the management of their property. Depending on your interests for the land and what's best for the resource, some programs even provide partial funding to help. If you're interested in land and water conservation, contact Huron Pines today.

The Conservation First Responder program is available to people in the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon. We are able to provide this help through our network of resource volunteers, providing the personal, front-line help that landowners need.



Become a Host Site

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is planning for its second year and is currently taking applications for additional host sites. The purpose of the program is to enable local grassroots and conservation organizations to protect the natural resources of northern Michigan. In partnership with the AmeriCorps Program, each host site will be responsible for providing members with supervision and guidance while promoting an ethic of service and fostering an appreciation of natural resources. Conservation organizations interested in hosting a member can learn more about the program and download the application form at www.huronpinesamericorps.org.

Schedule for 2008-2009 Huron Pines AmeriCorps Host Sites

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • Deadline for Host Site Applications | June 2, 2008 |
| • Selection of Host Sites | June 16, 2008 |
| • Member Position Descriptions Due | June 26, 2008 |
| • Host Site Memorandum of Understanding and Position Descriptions finalized | July 3, 2008 |
| • Announce Position Descriptions | July 21, 2008 |
| • Member Interviews | Mid-August |
| • Member Start Date | October |

Huron Pines is able to offer this unique program through the generous support of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Michigan Community Service Commission and the individual host sites. Additional support provided by the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan.



Nathan Skibbe (Huron Pines) pounds willow stakes to help restore the eroded slope at Claybanks on the Au Sable River.

Project Update

In the past six months the nine members serving Huron Pines AmeriCorps have already made a meaningful impact on their communities, natural resources and host sites. Members are creating stewardship outreach programs, developing new projects for their host site, delivering presentations to various audiences, engaging volunteers and implementing conservation projects. The following is a list of activities completed by members:

- Over 160 volunteers have participated in clean-up projects, restoration efforts and conservation education for adults and students.
- Seven new projects have been created including numerous organizational communication plans, an advocate mentor program, a rain garden demonstration site and an educational day at a local nature preserve.
- 1,000 conservation minded people receive an environmental eNewsletter twice a month.
- Over 850 adults and students have been reached through public outreach efforts.
- Michigan Envirothon has been revitalized with 24 groups participating in the state competition.
- Eight restoration projects will be completed by the end of summer.
- One educational kiosk was created for a local watershed group and a "Toolkit for Watershed Protection" CD was produced (a copy of the CD is available by calling Huron Pines).



Casey Ressler (Huron Pines), Erin Howard (GTCD) (both far left) and Svenja Drebes (MACD) (far right) participated in a Michigan Envirothon event for students in Traverse City, which was organized by Svenja.

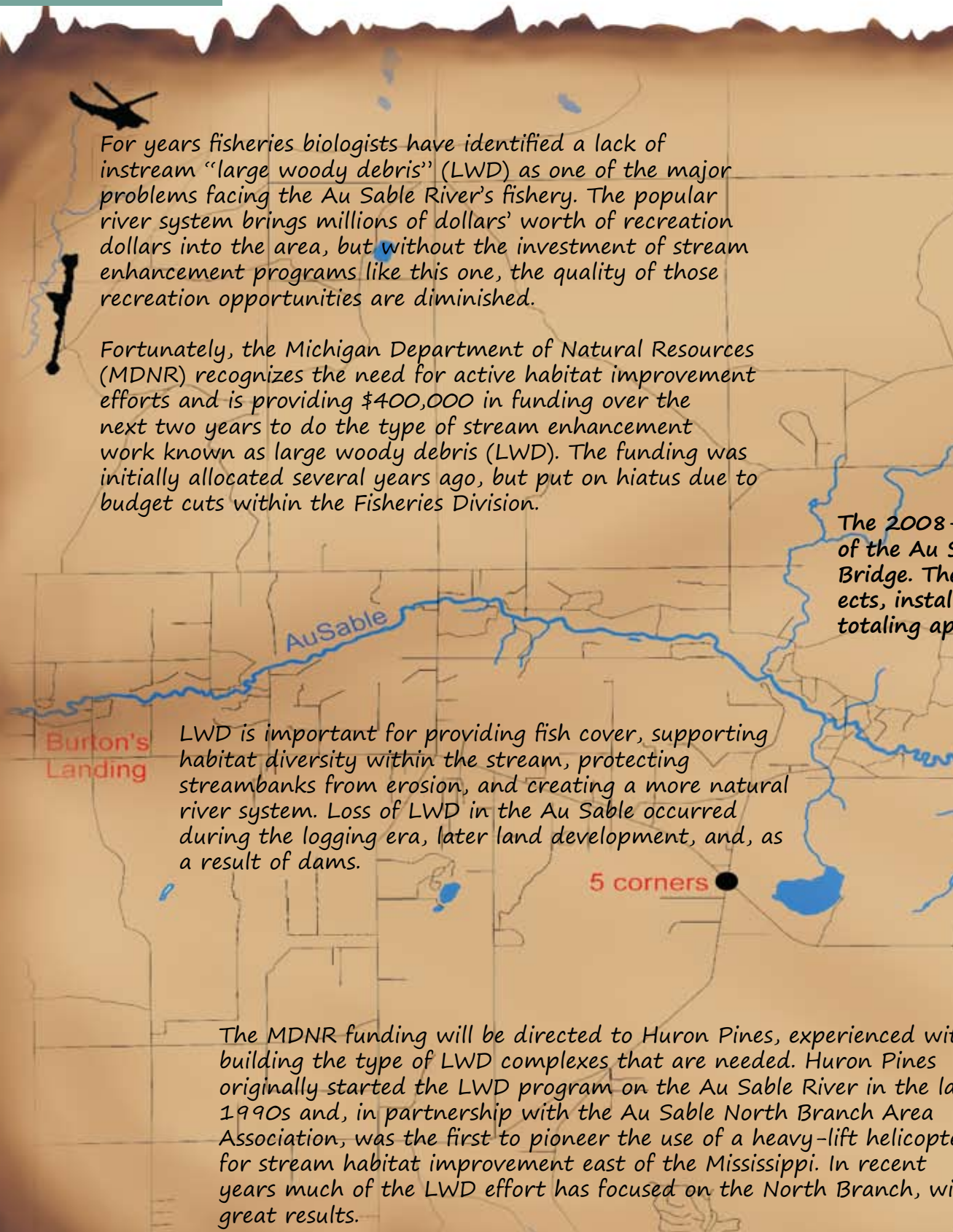


Several Huron Pines AmeriCorps members have helped organize local conservation district tree sales.

Visit www.huronpinesamericorps.org for position announcements and current member activities.



Au Sable River Large Woody Debris



For years fisheries biologists have identified a lack of instream "large woody debris" (LWD) as one of the major problems facing the Au Sable River's fishery. The popular river system brings millions of dollars' worth of recreation dollars into the area, but without the investment of stream enhancement programs like this one, the quality of those recreation opportunities are diminished.

Fortunately, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recognizes the need for active habitat improvement efforts and is providing \$400,000 in funding over the next two years to do the type of stream enhancement work known as large woody debris (LWD). The funding was initially allocated several years ago, but put on hiatus due to budget cuts within the Fisheries Division.

The 2008-2009 project of the Au Sable from Burton's Bridge to the 5 corners. The work will include installing about 200 LWD structures, totaling approximately 100,000 lbs.

Burton's
Landing

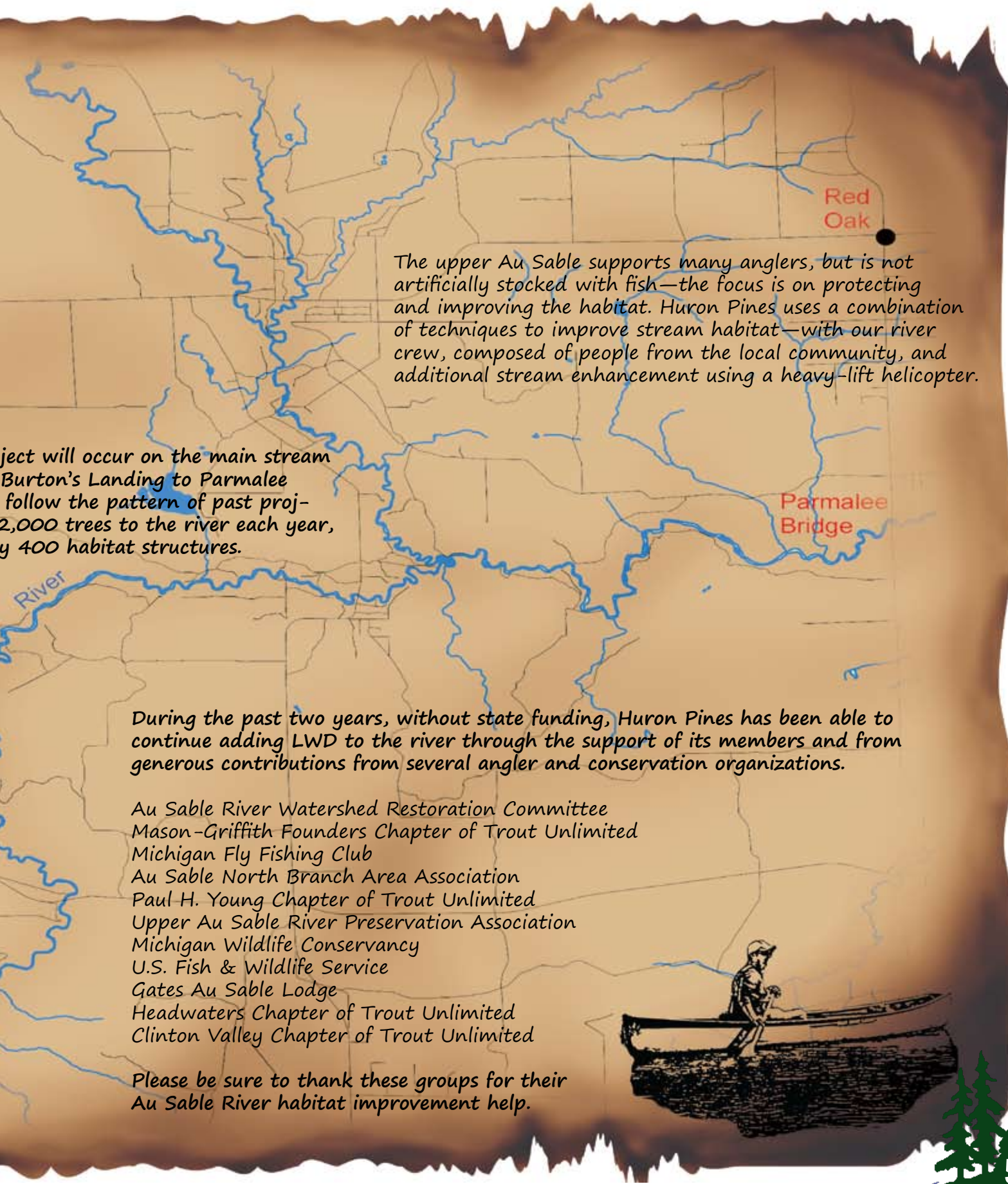
LWD is important for providing fish cover, supporting habitat diversity within the stream, protecting streambanks from erosion, and creating a more natural river system. Loss of LWD in the Au Sable occurred during the logging era, later land development, and, as a result of dams.

5 corners

The MDNR funding will be directed to Huron Pines, experienced with building the type of LWD complexes that are needed. Huron Pines originally started the LWD program on the Au Sable River in the late 1990s and, in partnership with the Au Sable North Branch Area Association, was the first to pioneer the use of a heavy-lift helicopter for stream habitat improvement east of the Mississippi. In recent years much of the LWD effort has focused on the North Branch, with great results.



is: Restoring Our Natural Treasures



The upper Au Sable supports many anglers, but is not artificially stocked with fish—the focus is on protecting and improving the habitat. Huron Pines uses a combination of techniques to improve stream habitat—with our river crew, composed of people from the local community, and additional stream enhancement using a heavy-lift helicopter.

Project will occur on the main stream from Burton's Landing to Parmalee. We will follow the pattern of past projects and plant 2,000 trees to the river each year, along with 400 habitat structures.

During the past two years, without state funding, Huron Pines has been able to continue adding LWD to the river through the support of its members and from generous contributions from several angler and conservation organizations.

- Au Sable River Watershed Restoration Committee
- Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Michigan Fly Fishing Club
- Au Sable North Branch Area Association
- Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Upper Au Sable River Preservation Association
- Michigan Wildlife Conservancy
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Gates Au Sable Lodge
- Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Clinton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Please be sure to thank these groups for their Au Sable River habitat improvement help.



2008 Members January 1–April 30

A Special Thanks to Our Major Membership Contributors for the Past 12 Months

River Patrons \$1,000-\$2,499

Eric Bankhead and Connie Schriber
Dawson Kure Family
Calvin and Julie Gates
Wolverine Power Cooperative

Sustainers \$500-\$999

Raymond Gage and Mary Stephenson
Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Paul and Carol Rose
Pat and Vicki Springstead
Twin Lakes Property Owners Association

Partners \$100-\$499

Alpena County
Gregory Bovee
Otto and Darlene Brantley
Cheboygan County
Glen and Martha Eberly
Jim Gregart
Higgins Lake Foundation
Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
Honig Family RSJE
Iosco County
Greg and Diana McComas
Rick and Anne Meeks
Hank and Terri Milius
Montmorency Conservation District
Montmorency County
Montmorency County Conservation Club
Philip and Lora Myers
Bruce Myles
Walter Novak
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Oscoda County
Otsego County
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Keith and Wendy Petherick
Presque Isle County
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Roscommon County
Nathaniel Rowe
Colman and Gloria Sanders
Robb and Chrissy Smith
Laurie Smith Tudor
John and Mary Wylie

Supporters \$50-\$99

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Don and Kathy

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Jon and Mary Lou Hunter
Gary and Linda Kesler
Marilyn Kohnert
Frank and Theresa Krist
Leif and Lois Lindblom
Robert and Jill Myllyoja
Helen Pasakarnis
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Qua
Tim and Heather Rawlings
Leo and Sylvia Schuster
Jerry Smith and Linda Arlt-Smith
Joseph Schwartz
Richard and Judy Walle
Mark and Deborah Weber

Other Contributors

Walter Bock
Robert Bulszewicz
Charles Butkiewicz
Eric Center
Steve Chappell
Keith Colombo
Brian Crabtree
Nancy Davison-Snake River Outfitters
Luke Farhat
Ruth Farro
Calvin Funderburk
Larry Gorick
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Jon Waske
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Brian Worrell
Don Zwier

Project Supporters

Anonymous—Ocqueoc River Watershed
George Barker—Pigeon River Habitat Initiative
Carroll and Patricia Browning—Ocqueoc River Watershed
Thomas Buhr—Au Sable River Watershed Restoration Committee
Citizens National Bank—Ocqueoc River Watershed
FishAmerica Foundation—Thunder Bay Road/Stream Crossings
James and Marie Francis—Ocqueoc River Watershed
Freshwater Future—Huron Pines AmeriCorps

Special Thanks

- Kelley D. Smith, MDNR Fisheries Chief, for speaking at our Annual Meeting
- Elaine Carlson, MDNR Wildlife Division, for speaking at our Annual Meeting
- Matt Gillard, State Representative for 106th District, for speaking at our Annual Meeting
- Paul Morand for donating the willows for the Claybanks Restoration Project
- Abby Ertel for volunteering time and labor for the Claybanks Restoration Project
- Thomas Buhr for volunteering time and labor for the Claybanks Restoration Project
- 4-Mile Welding for loaning equipment used for the construction of the Grayling Fish Hatchery Bridge
- Rusty Gates—Gates Au Sable Lodge, David and Susan Skibbe—Riverside Framing & Gallery, The Fly Factory, Jay's Sporting Goods, Simms Fishing and Snake River Outfitters for donation of promotional items for the MFFC Expo
- Sandy Millikin—Parrot's Perch for donation of a fax/copy machine

Membership Gifts In Honor Of

Jerry Nelson's Birthday from Ann Nelson
Dave Smrcek (for the Ocqueoc River Watershed Commission) from Wolverine Power Cooperative

In Memory Of

William Myers from Sharon Myers

Grand Traverse Conservation District—Huron Pines AmeriCorps
City of Grayling—Grayling Stormwater Project
Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan—Alcona County-Black River Watershed
Great Lakes Commission—MiCorps Stream Monitoring
Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association—Ocqueoc River Watershed
Thomas and Barbara Harkleroad—Ocqueoc River Watershed
Headwaters Land Conservancy—Huron Pines AmeriCorps
Higgins Lake Foundation—Higgins Lake Greenbelt Project
Kiwanis Club of Rogers City—Ocqueoc River Watershed
Ernest and Deborah Liebold—Pine River/Van Etten Lake Watershed
Vera Mical—Ocqueoc River Watershed
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts—Huron Pines AmeriCorps
Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited—Huron Pines AmeriCorps
Michigan Fly Fishing Club—Au Sable River Restoration and Protection
Michigan Fly Fishing Club—Sucker Creek Road/Stream Crossing in the Alcona County-Black River Watershed
Michigan Tree Farm Committee
Muskegon River Watershed Assembly—Huron Pines AmeriCorps
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments—Thunder Bay Road/Stream Crossings
Otsego Conservation District—Huron Pines AmeriCorps
John and Beverly Rossetto—Ocqueoc River Watershed
Nancy Shutes—Ocqueoc River Watershed
William and Larue Simons—Pine River/Van Etten Lake Watershed
Dan and Jeanne Stock—Pine River/Van Etten Lake Watershed





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Jill Scarzo
Program Assistant



The Huron Pines Strategic Plan



Huron Pines recently updated its strategic plan to reflect the changing trends in conservation in Northeast Michigan. After interviewing many of our partners, our board learned that the three things people appreciate most about Huron Pines are our ability to take a leadership role in coordinating large projects, our ability to create opportunities and promote Northeast Michigan through our projects, and our “start to finish” capability—the power to take projects from conception to completion.

Read more about the future direction of Huron Pines at www.huronpines.org.

Our Work Recognized

In March and April, Huron Pines received two awards recognizing our service in Northeast Michigan. On March 20, Huron Pines and the City of Grayling accepted the 2008 Exemplary Efforts in Environmental Protection Award on behalf of the Grayling Stormwater Project. The award was presented by the Michigan Rural Water Association.

Huron Pines also received the award for Excellence in Cold Water Conservation from the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Patrick Ertel (left) accepting the TU award from Chapter President Bob Thorsen (right) and MC George Blaha (center).



Helping Huron Pines Succeed

Seasonal Staff

Each summer, Huron Pines employs a crew of workers to help with erosion control projects and Large Woody Debris installation on the Au Sable River. Without the hard work of our restoration crew, many of our on-the-ground projects would not be completed. The crew for this year, led by Ken Reed, is

- Kevin Kennedy
- Kyle Kennedy
- Mitch Reed
- Stosh Sendek



There are three creel clerks surveying the Upper Muskegon River this summer. This fisheries project is funded through MDNR. The creel clerks are

- Jason Lorenz
- Craig Cotterman
- Scott Walrath

Huron Pines AmeriCorps

The Huron Pines AmeriCorps members that are serving directly with Huron Pines have really made a difference in our ability to carry out projects. **Casey Ressler**, our outreach coordinator, and **Nathan Skibbe**, our volunteer coordinator, have been working to increase our membership and volunteer base and are coordinating multiple workdays, presentations, and other activities this summer. Other Huron Pines AmeriCorps members include

- Svenja Drebes—Michigan Association of Conservation Districts
- Katie Duggan—Freshwater Future
- Erin Howard—Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Brenda Irish—Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
- Jessica Moyer—Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited
- Erin Riopelle—HeadWaters Land Conservancy
- Emily Sewell—Otsego Conservation District

Support our valuable work:
become a member at
www.huronpines.org/contribute

Join Huron Pines

When you become a member or renew your existing membership for 2008, you'll receive . . .



- Huron Pines environmentally friendly tote bag
- Our quarterly newsletter
- Discounts at Huron Pines events and workshops
- Biweekly eNews updates on regional conservation news

Just send in the enclosed donation envelope or fill out the form below and send with your tax-deductible donation to Huron Pines.

Thank you for helping to protect Michigan's environment!

Choose one:

- \$2500 Watershed Champion
- \$1000 River Patron
- \$500 Sustainer
- \$100 Partner
- \$50 Supporter
- Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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*Please make checks payable to
Huron Pines.*

This organization is an equal opportunity provider.

Huron Pines is a not-for-profit, nongovernmental, 501(c)(3) organization serving Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon counties.

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