

July 9, 2008

We're back with another issue of the eNews because we wanted to reach our members and supporters with an announcement about an opportunity that can really benefit the rivers we all enjoy.

Below is the 7/9/08 biweekly update for Huron Pines.

Thank you!
Huron Pines
www.huronpines.org

Concerned about dams on our trout streams? Let's do something!

We've long known that trout rivers are hampered by dams and by now most of you have heard about the recent tragedy on the Pigeon River. With events like this, it's evident that what resource professionals and anglers have been saying for years is becoming common knowledge: **dams are not good for fish.**

The key step, now, is to move forward with long-term, cost-effective solutions to help all of our rivers start to recover from the impacts of the many dams throughout the region. There are many types of potential projects to help the river and the fishery, but pulling them together takes funding, technical resources, and many different groups coming together for the common good of a river.

We're fortunate that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Midwest Region Fish Passage Program has a funding program that provides federal dollars for the voluntary removal of dams. The program provides grant awards available to not-for-profit organizations in order to reconnect aquatic habitat.

If you or your organization is interested in working with Huron Pines to develop proposals to address problems created by dams, contact Brad Jensen at brad@huronpines.org.

The deadline for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Program is this fall; however, new project proposals involving Huron Pines go through a technical review process. Our Resource Advisory Group makes sure we develop the best possible ideas into successful project results. The process provides a high level of scrutiny for our projects from several of our key partners in the science community, and we found that it leads to getting the biggest bang for the conservation buck. To pull together a great proposal for dam project, your input is needed now.

Trout Unlimited Youth River Conservation and Fishing Camp

The Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited brought youth from their River Conservation and Fishing Camp to help restore much needed fish habitat on the Au Sable River. Huron Pines assisted the group with their efforts by helping place Large Woody Debris. To learn more about the day, please visit <http://www.huronpines.org/article/78>.

A few notes of thanks . . .

We'd like to offer a special thanks to the **Old Au Sable Fly Shop** in Grayling for asking their patrons to make a contribution to conservation and sending those donations along to Huron Pines. Their support helps to fund work on the Au Sable River, some examples of which are described at <http://www.huronpines.org/watershed/3>. To keep up the high-impact conservation work we're doing, we need more businesses using their clout to bring projects to fruition.

We also want to give thanks to **"the soil guys"** in the NRCS Grayling office. These professionals took time out of their regular schedules to recently lead a day-long training for Huron Pines staff and our AmeriCorps Members, reminding us that everything starts with soil. The training was one of many Huron Pines is coordinating, in partnership with NRCS, to help conservation partners in northern Michigan. Our workshops are being done on a monthly basis and are open to Conservation Districts and our conservation partners. Be sure to contact our office if you would like to receive notices about future training opportunities.

Northeast Michigan Events

We've had great support this year from a wide-variety of partners and people, all with a common cause of wanting to see on-the-ground work done to protect and improve wildlife habitat and water quality. As someone who likes the types of things we do, you might also want to check out these other offerings from some of our partners:

July 11-13, Fullers North Branch Lodge is once again hosting the **Michigan Fly Fishing Festival**. Learn more about it by visiting their website at <http://fullersnboc.com:80/news/event.php?id=144>.

On July 19, our friends at **HeadWaters Land Conservancy** are having their annual gathering. Learn more about voluntary land protection agreements and talk with their staff and board at Gates Au Sable Lodge. Give them a call at 989-731-0573 for more information.

Finally, we're happy to note that the **Grayling Farm Market** is up and running on **Thursdays from 2 to 6**. They're conveniently timed for those of you coming up to the area for the weekend and the market is located right on Business Loop I-75, just south of where it crosses the Au Sable River. It's also just a short walk from there to the Huron Pines office, if you are interested in meeting with staff to talk about a project. Give us a call and to let us know you're coming . . . and feel free to bring some fresh strawberries to the office!

For membership information, please visit:
<https://secure.bytepro.net/huronpines/contribute>

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contact Casey Ressler: info@huronpines.org

*Huron Pines is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to conserve the forests, lakes and streams
of Northeast Michigan.*

Huron Pines
501 Norway Street
Grayling, MI 49738
Phone 989.344.0753
Fax 989.348.7945
www.huronpines.org