

April 1, 2009

Nature's got the best April Fool's joke today. More snow! But, many of us are still hopeful to see those first green shoots come up. As we get ready to plant our gardens, Rob Burg, the Historian at [Hartwick Pines State Park](#) thought about a highly intensive land management practice.

## **What year did the State of Michigan officially begin a Forest Fire Control program?**

See the [answer](#).

Below is the 4/1/09 biweekly update for Huron Pines.

- Get help with a Conservation First Responder
- Join us at the Au Sable Valley Recreation Expo April 25-26
- Using Native Michigan Plants- Seeds and Sales
- Events

Thank you!  
Huron Pines

[www.huronpines.org](http://www.huronpines.org)

## **Get Help with a Conservation First Responder**

Today marks the official kick-off of the [Conservation First Responder Program](#). The program is designed to assist landowners looking for land management advice. We have recruited foresters, wildlife biologists, and soil scientists to serve as volunteer first responders. The first responders will literally “walk the land” with landowners and address any concerns they have about land management.

In addition to this service, the first responders will also help landowners create a management plan to meet their goals. They will cover topics such as timber removal, invasive species, stream bank erosion, and wildlife food plots. They will also provide information on cost-share incentive programs available in Michigan that can help landowners cut the costs of implementing their management plans.

If you are interested in participating in the Conservation First Responder Program, contact Chris Homeister at [chris@huronpines.org](mailto:chris@huronpines.org) or call (989) 344-0753 x14.

## **Join us at the Au Sable Valley Recreation Expo April 25 – 26**

Kick-off the opening of Trout Season in Grayling. This year's first ever Au Sable Valley Recreation Expo will be held April 25-26 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in Grayling, Michigan. Outdoor enthusiasts are guaranteed to have a good time when vendors across the country will be displaying fly fishing gear, camping equipment, canoes, kayaks, and tons of other great gear. There will also be fish and wild game

cooking demonstrations along with presentations on the Au Sable River's rich heritage throughout the weekend. Hear about [Invasive Species](#) and what Huron Pines is doing as well as an update on [Au Sable River Restoration](#).

The Au Sable Valley Recreation Expo is a family event with admission prices of \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and free admission for children 15 years and younger. Learn more at <http://www.ausableexpo.com/>

## **Using Native Michigan Plants- Seeds and Sales**

When planning your garden this year, try to use native Michigan plants. Many invasive species were introduced through ornamental planting. Do your part and be conscious of what seeds and plants you are using. We have a number of resources about purchasing native plants and landscaping on our website. Visit [Native Plants](#) and [Landowner Resources](#) to learn more.

### **Where to get native seeds and plants**

A number of Conservation Districts hold annual tree and flower sales. By purchasing plants from these sales, you are not only getting a great product, you are supporting conservation in your county. To find the district nearest you, visit [Local Conservation Districts](#). Visit [www.macd.org](http://www.macd.org) to learn more about tree sales.

In addition, there are several other sales by nonprofit groups such as [Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council](#). Learn more about their [Native Plant Sale](#). Lastly, the [Michigan Native Plant Producers Association](#) has a list of [Sources for Michigan native plants and seeds](#).

## **Events**

The [Pine River-Van Etten Lake](#) Watershed Summit is on Thursday, April 23. It begins at 10am at the Greenbush Township Hall and the Watershed Management Plan for the area will be presented. For more information contact Brad Jensen at [brad@huronpines.org](mailto:brad@huronpines.org).

Events at the [Grand Traverse Conservation District](#): A full program description and schedule can be found at [www.NatureIsCalling.org](http://www.NatureIsCalling.org) or by calling (231) 941-0960. The Nature Center is located at 1450 Cass Rd. just 1.5 miles south of South Airport Rd. in Traverse City.

- April 6 Seedling Sale Pre-Order Deadline
- April 7, 10:00 – 11:30am PEEPERS – Turtles
- April 8, 6 – 7 pm Basic Tree & Shrub Planting Workshop
- April 11, 1 – 4 pm Native Landscaping Clinic
- April 14, 10:00 – 11:30am PEEPERS – Frogs & Turtles
- April 17, 12pm – 6pm and April 18, 8am – 4pm Annual Seedling Sale

**[Support Conservation in Northeast Michigan today!](#)**

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

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