

April 15, 2009

Many of you don't need to be reminded that trout season kicks off April 25. What you may not know is how [Huron Pines is getting ready for anglers](#). As Neal Godby, a Fisheries Biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, prepares for another busy field season, he casts this question:

What is a splake and how do you identify one?

See the [answer](#).

Below is the 4/15/09 biweekly update for Huron Pines.

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Thank you!
Huron Pines

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Thank you W.K. Kellogg Foundation and DTE Energy Foundation

We are pleased to announce two new sponsors for the [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) program.

The **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**, which strives to increase community leadership, policy for social change and early childhood development, has committed \$100,000 over the next two years.

The **DTE Energy Foundation**, which focuses on supporting community leadership projects that enhance the success of nonprofits, has pledged \$50,000 over two years as well.

We would like to thank these foundations for their generosity and commitment to conservation. With their help, we will be better able to meet the conservation needs of Northeast Michigan. Please read below to find out about some of the great hands-on work projects our members are able to do because of support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and DTE Energy Foundation. We would also like to thank the Michigan Community Service Commission for their continued support.

Invasive Species Program Update

Alien invaders, mass containment, environmental collapse . . . Are we talking about a horror movie or the mounting problems of [invasive species](#)? Unfortunately, we are

talking about the reality of non-native invasive species that are increasingly becoming a problem in Michigan. As many of you already know, introduced species like zebra mussels can cause immense environmental changes. But, this story can have a happy ending thanks to help from [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) member Tim Engelhardt.

As the Huron Pines AmeriCorps [Invasive Species Coordinator](#), he is building a great invasive species program along with Huron Pines staff and partners. The program will focus first on coastal Lake Huron invasive species in Northeast Michigan, specifically phragmites. We will also be targeting buckthorn and purple loosestrife. All of these colonize wet areas and roadsides and choke out native plants and wildlife habitat. The goal of Tim's service is to set up a protocol for inventory, monitoring and removal of these species before they become a widespread problem. To learn more, [click here](#).

Introducing the Trout Unlimited Water Monitoring Program

We would like to share a new hands-on volunteer opportunity for TU members. The Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited (MCTU) is starting a volunteer data collection program, developed and implemented by MCTU's monitoring specialist and [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) member, Kristin Nelson.

The volunteer data collection program aims to provide hands-on volunteer opportunities for TU members while providing meaningful data to state agencies. This data will be available to help agencies improve management of Michigan's coldwater fisheries. To learn more about the program or how you can get involved, please visit [A New Way to Help Conserve and Protect Michigan's Coldwater Fisheries](#).

Statewide Herp Atlas Project Seeks Amphibian and Reptile Observations

The MDNR recently announced that the statewide Herp Atlas Project is continuing in 2009. The Herp Atlas Project is the first statewide inventory of reptiles and amphibians ever conducted in Michigan. The purpose is to document the distribution of Michigan's reptiles and amphibians, collectively known as herpetofauna or herps.

Wood frogs typically announce their presence right about now. If you hear something that sounds like a group of laughing witches at night, you may just be listening to them. If you have observed a reptile or amphibian, please submit your observations. In addition, if you would like to volunteer for the project, please contact Lori Sargent at SargentL@michigan.gov or by calling (517) 373-9418. Please leave your name and mailing address. Written requests for information may be sent to Herp Atlas, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

More information on Michigan's Herp Atlas Project may be found on the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Get your Calendar out! Upcoming Events

These events along with other regional events are also listed on the [Huron Pines Calendar](#).

- [Big Water Clean-up](#): Saturday, April 18, 10am, Mio, contact [Thomas Buhr](#)
- [Grand Traverse Conservation District](#) Annual Seedling Sale: Friday, April 17, 12–6pm and Saturday, April 18, 8am–4pm, Boardman River Nature Reserve, Traverse City, call (231) 941-0960
- [Au Sable River Water Monitoring](#): Monday, April 20, 6pm, AuSable River Center, Roscommon, contact [Tom Dale](#)
- [Pine River-Van Etten Lake](#) Watershed Summit: Thursday, April 23, 10am, Greenbush Township Hall, Oscoda, contact [Brad Jensen](#)
- Attracting Birds to Your Yard by Eleanor Washburn: Thursday, April 23, 7pm–8pm, [Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve](#), Roscommon, contact [Tom Dale](#)
- [Hartwick Pines](#) Earth Day Celebration: Saturday, April 25, 10am–4pm, Grayling, contact [Craig Kasmer](#)
- [Au Sable Valley Recreation Expo](#): Saturday April 25 and Sunday, April 26, Ramada Inn Conference Center, Grayling, contact [Chris Homeister](#)
- Spring Water Sampling for the [Pine River-Van Etten Lake](#) Watershed: Saturday May 2, 9am–1pm, Oscoda, contact [Gene Stagner](#)
- [Mason Griffith Founders Chapter](#) Annual Fundraiser Banquet: Saturday, May 2, Grayling Ramada Inn, contact [Mark Hendricks](#)
- The Grow Show & Spring Tree Sale: Saturday, May 2, 9am–4pm, Oscoda County Fairgrounds, contact the Oscoda County Conservation District at (989) 826-8824
- Huron Pines AmeriCorps and Sturgeon For Tomorrow–[Sturgeon Habitat Restoration](#): Saturday, May 9, 10am, Black River, Onaway, contact [Chris Homeister](#)

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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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