

April 22, 2010

Happy Earth Day! From the budding trees to the hatching bugs, spring sure has sprung and we're off to a very busy field season. We've got some really great projects planned this year and, in honor of [National Volunteer Week](#) and Earth Day, we'd love for you to read about upcoming [volunteer opportunities](#), sign up and get involved this year. As a volunteer, you'll be a part of a pretty big group of citizens who take the time to help out their community.

How many of the 10 million Michiganders volunteered in 2008?

See the [Huron Pines eNews answer](#).

Conservation Opportunities in Northern Michigan—we're currently accepting applications for our May-October AmeriCorps positions but they're filling fast. Visit [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) to learn more.

Below is the 4/22/10 update for Huron Pines.

- Volunteer Opportunities in Northeast Michigan
- Ocqueoc River Watershed gets a boost—Silver Creek Super Project
- Invasive Species Program Update: Aerial survey completed, seeking SWAT Team Crew Leader
- Huron Pines AmeriCorps—Service at HeadWaters Land Conservancy

Huron Pines

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Volunteer Opportunities in Northeast Michigan

Whether you think it's fun to collect and study bugs, get your hands into the dirt and plant things, learn about land stewardship and management options, talk to others with similar concerns about our natural resources, cook and deliver food to other volunteers, or just kick back and watch the whole thing unfold from the 'set-up area,' you can be a Huron Pines volunteer and get into something good for the summer!

Our [11/11 Volunteer Program](#) is an open invitation to get involved by putting at least one, and we hope many events on your calendar. Take an opportunity to get outside and help conserve our region's natural resources. Sign up for an event in an area you've never visited before. Learn something new. It's free, it's fun, and it's good for Northeast Michigan.

Join us for the kick-off event on May 15 at the Lewiston Lions Park Pavilion on East Twin Lake from 10am-12pm. Learn how to enhance your property while improving

water quality – and eat lunch! For more information and RSVPs, please call (989) 344-0753 ext. 21.

There are many more events to come and we are looking for partners to help sponsor the programs. We'd like to thank the Lewiston Lions and Lioness club, as well as the North Branch Area Foundation for jumping in and supporting the volunteer program. Interested in sponsoring an event? Please [contact our office](#).

Ocqueoc River Watershed gets a boost—Silver Creek Super Project

“Huron Pines comes through once again with terrific project leadership,” notes US Fish & Wildlife Service Biologist, Andrea Ania. Her comment was in response to the recent funding announcements for the Silver Creek Super Project. Through the Sustain Our Great Lakes Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recently granted Huron Pines funding to complete several restoration projects and an education campaign in Silver Creek and the greater [Ocqueoc River watershed](#). We would like to thank the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for granting a total of \$133,510, which will be put toward stream restoration, public education, and invasive species removal.

In addition, through the US Fish & Wildlife Service – Fish Passage Program, Silver Creek is set to receive another boost. USFWS has granted \$40,000 for the purchase of three culverts. The total contribution from USFWS now totals \$68,000, with funding from both the Fish Passage and Partners Programs.

The Presque Isle County Road Commission has also provided instrumental support, especially at the early stages of development. Jerry Smigelski, Presque Isle County Road Commission Superintendent, also expressed how impressive the project momentum has been, “You guys have done a wonderful job securing funding. Once we know what is required in terms of culvert diameters, lengths and what velocities and discharges we’re dealing with, I can order the structures, we’ll get the permit and we’ll get started.”

“Looking at the original cost estimate of \$600,000 for the project, I was admittedly intimidated,” noted Huron Pines Project Manager, Patrick Ertel. However, in the last year, Huron Pines has raised \$445,000 of cash and in-kind match. We believe in taking a watershed approach to restoration, having the most impact on the resource and getting the most bang for the buck. Therefore, we packaged these sites into one “super project.” Ania noted, “The strategic approach to restore the entire tributary brings greater benefit to the whole Ocqueoc system.”

Bundling project sites into a larger effort compounds the benefits to all of the partners, funders, and most importantly, the river.

Two sites are on the schedule for construction this summer and with the recent funding announcements, three more sites are in the process of being scheduled. Please visit [Silver Creek Super Project](#) to learn more.

Invasive Species Program Update—Aerial survey complete, Seeking SWAT Team Crew Leader

On Monday, Huron Pines Ecologist Jennifer Muladore participated in an aerial survey for [phragmites](#) on the Lake Huron coastline from Mackinaw City to Oscoda. Funded by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the survey established a baseline of where the invasive reed is located. While patches seemed to be smaller and sparser farther north, it is clear that phragmites is becoming a problem along the entire shoreline, with more infestation in the more developed areas near coastal towns. To view a map of phragmites occurrences on Lake Huron, visit [Invasive Species](#). See photos from the survey on the [Huron Pines Flickr page](#).

If you are a landowner with invasive species on your shoreline, we still have cost-share funding available for 2010 treatments. Download a [landowner interest form](#) and get your name on the list for site visits and treatment by our AmeriCorps SWAT team this summer.

Huron Pines is hiring an AmeriCorps SWAT crew leader to supervise our invasive species treatments. Duties will include monitoring and treating invasive species, supervising a crew of AmeriCorps members, and interacting with landowners and the public. This is a seasonal, full-time position. View the [position description](#). Interested in applying? Please contact Jennifer Muladore at jennifer@huronpines.org or (989) 344-0753 ext. 31.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps—Service at HeadWaters Land Conservancy

Come spring, summer, fall or winter, Abigail Ertel, a [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) member at HeadWaters Land Conservancy, has an event for you. As a second year AmeriCorps member, Abigail's service has really taken off and she has expanded the Conservancy's outreach efforts and polished the Volunteer Monitoring Program. Read more about her service at [AmeriCorps @ HeadWaters Land Conservancy](#).

Join Abigail and volunteers on **Saturday May 1st** for a [Tree Planting event](#) to celebrate Join Hands Day. Volunteers will be planting hundreds of trees just east of Gaylord. If you are interested in this event or would like more information, please call (989) 731-0573 or email land@headwatersconservancy.org.

Want to get more involved in the AmeriCorps program? We are currently recruiting nine AmeriCorps members for service beginning in May and running through October 2010. Visit [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) to learn more and view the [AmeriCorps Member Application](#). Huron Pines is a not-for-profit organization and an equal opportunity provider. For additional information, please contact Casey Ressler, Huron Pines AmeriCorps Coordinator, at casey@huronpines.org or (989) 344-0753 ext. 30.

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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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