

April 8, 2010

Today's question honors the world's first national park. This park, founded March 1, 1872, established a precedent for conserving some of the world's finest natural places.

What was the world's first national park?

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

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

Below is the 4/8/10 update for Huron Pines.

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Huron Pines
www.huronpines.org

Thank you Anglers of the Au Sable and ORVIS

[Anglers of the Au Sable](#) and [ORVIS](#) have teamed up for the second year to further enhance the in-stream habitat of the South Branch Au Sable River. Focusing on the reach from Smith Bridge to the mainstream Au Sable, the Huron Pines Restoration Crew aims to place at least another 300 trees. This year's work continues efforts from last fall when 313 trees were placed in 91 habitat complexes. Taking advantage of the weather and lower than normal water levels for this time of year, the crew plans to be donning their waders and firing up the saws Monday morning.

To learn more about our river restoration projects, visit [Stream Enhancement with Large Woody Debris](#).

Getting our Project Priorities Straight

Many people have asked, "How does Huron Pines select a project?" Project ideas come to us from a variety of sources including [watershed plans](#), resource inventories and from partners and landowners that bring a problem to our attention. In order to manage all of these potential projects Huron Pines has developed a database to track and prioritize work for future years. To date we have identified nearly 200 priority sites with total estimated

costs of over \$12 million. To learn more about the project selection process and to find out how to submit a project for inclusion on our list, visit [The Mega List](#).

Resources for Landowners

Online Resources for Landowners

We recently updated our online resources for landowners. We've gathered a variety of information on topics such as managing your septic system, hazardous waste disposal, recycling and spring burning. There are also forestry resources and information about native plants. Please visit [Landowner Resources](#) to learn more.

Time for Tree Sale

Most county conservation districts hold annual spring tree sales. These events are not only a critical source of funding for the districts, they are also a great place to purchase native conifers, hardwoods and shrubs. To find the tree sale closest to you, please visit <http://www.macd.org/>.

Family Succession Planning

Looking for resources to help transition family forest land from one generation to the next? There are two upcoming Family Forest Ownership Succession workshops for landowners. The sessions are divided into two parts.

Part I: Thursday, May 13 from 6:30-9:00pm at the Carl T. Johnson Center in Cadillac or Thursday, July 1, 6:30-9:00pm at Bay College in Escanaba

The Part II: Wednesday, June 9, 6:30-9:00pm in Cadillac or Thursday, July 29, 6:30-9:00pm in Escanaba

For more information on these workshops, please contact Georgia Peterson, MSUE State Leader for Natural Resources and MDNRE Forestry Outreach Coordinator, at petersog@msu.edu or 517-335-7383. To learn more about family succession planning for forest lands, please visit <http://www.tiestotheland.org/>

\$\$ U.S. Farm Bill—Forest Management Planning

What is a forest management plan? Essentially, a forest management plan is a road map for your forest land that will help guide your management decisions to reach your goals while protecting the health of your forest. A forest management plan includes an inventory and map of the natural resources on your land, your objectives for your land and defined schedules of activities (or conservation practices) that will help you meet your goals while protecting the health of the forest. Examples of forest management plan activities might include timber harvesting, wildlife habitat development, invasive species removal, and erosion control.

Currently, there are funds available through the U.S. Farm Bill to assist landowners in developing forest management plans. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Service administers the program. The sign up period for Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) funds is March 22-April 16. If you have not worked with the USDA before you will need to make an appointment with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Huron Pines AmeriCorps—Service at Otsego Conservation District

April sure is a busy time for [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) member Jessica Kane, the Natural Resource Education Coordinator at the [Otsego Conservation District](#). They're planting in the greenhouse, getting ready for the tree sale, hosting native plant workshops and presenting at area schools. Learn more about her service at [AmeriCorps Service Update—Otsego Conservation District](#).

Don't miss the [Otsego Conservation District Tree Sale](#) April 23-24. While you're there, ask a forester which trees are best for your site and pick up free handouts on conservation. A variety of trees and shrubs are sold as bare-root seedlings and profits make landowner assistance and other services provided by the District possible.

Not sure how to use native plants? The District is also hosting a [Native Plants Workshop](#) on April 29 from 6-7pm at the demonstration greenhouse.

Get Your Fish On!

Michigan OutofDoors University, a program of Michigan United Conservation Club, is presenting "Get Your Fish On!" Join anglers and conservationists from around the region at the Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel to learn how to find and maintain your favorite fishing hole. Patrick Ertel, Huron Pines Restoration Project Manager, will be there with the [River Model](#) discussing the how and why of river restoration.

Registration is \$15 for MUCC members and \$30 for non-members, which includes a 1-year membership to MUCC. College students can receive the MUCC member price by calling 517-371-1041 to register by phone. To register and learn more about the event, please visit <http://www.michiganoutofdoors.com/>. Space is limited, so sign up today to reserve your spot!

Sturgeon Guarding Program Seeks Volunteers

The Sturgeon For Tomorrow (SFT) program is seeking individual citizens, as well as groups, businesses and organizations to step forward to help protect one of the most valuable resources in Michigan. Each spring, mature lake sturgeon, a threatened fish species in Michigan and rare throughout the United States, briefly leave Black Lake in Cheboygan County, seeking spawning sites in the Black River. The sturgeon is highly prized in our culture and when spawning on the shallow rocky beds, become vulnerable to poaching.

For over a decade the Sturgeon Guarding Program has proven that citizens who watch over the river and report any suspicious activity have greatly reduced the unlawful take of this valuable fish, thereby assuring protection and growth of the species. Shifts are available for those who wish to get involved, and coordinators are on site to assist and answer questions. In addition to "guarding" the fish, volunteers can also play a key role by recording the number of fish they see as well as their activity.

Many volunteer dates are open, and interested persons should contact Ann Feldhauser at (906) 346-9511 or (906) 201-2484 or Brenda Archambo at (231) 625-2776 for more information. The SFT Web site also is available at www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org

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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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