

June 10, 2009

This week's question comes from the [Great Lakes Better Backroads Guidebook](#). Now in its third edition, the goal of the guidebook is to improve water quality by providing instructions for the design and maintenance of non-paved backroads. Huron Pines is working on a number of road/stream crossing sites. Be sure to read about the [Silver Creek Super Project](#) and [Funding for the Pine River-Van Etten Lake Watershed](#) to learn more.

What is the single most effective management practice to prevent sediment, a highly contaminating pollutant, from flowing into rivers?

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

Below is the 6/10/09 biweekly update for Huron Pines.

The busy season is here! Be sure to check the [Huron Pines Calendar of Events](#).

- Silver Creek Super Project
- Special Opportunity for Nonprofits: 2009-2010 AmeriCorps Host Site applications
- Funding for the Pine River-Van Etten Lake Watershed
- Pigeon River Habitat Initiative: Spring Update
- Michigan Association of Planning Conference Scholarships Available
- Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited: Thunder Bay Clean-up June 13
- Governor's Service Awards June 18
- Au Sable River Day June 20

Thank you!

Huron Pines

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Silver Creek Super Project

Located in [Presque Isle County](#) in Northeast Michigan, the [Ocqueoc River Watershed](#) encompasses approximately 94,394 acres. The river is known for having the largest waterfall in the Lower Peninsula and is located in an area of karst topography characterized by sinkholes and the "undergrounds," where a tributary disappears and re-emerges several hundred feet downstream.

In 2006, Huron Pines completed the [Ocqueoc River Watershed Plan](#). The plan outlined a number of severe erosion sites that were contributing sand and other pollutants to the Ocqueoc River. It also noted a number of barriers to fish passage. Several sites on Silver Creek, a high quality, coldwater feeder stream to the Ocqueoc River, ranked high on our priority list. Therefore, we launched the Silver Creek Super Project.

This project, approved by the [Huron Pines Resource Advisory Group](#), will address all road/stream crossing (RSX) sites in the upper three miles of Silver Creek. The focus of the project is to protect stream habitat by preventing sediment entry and to reduce fish passage obstacles. By coordinating the restoration of all of these sites, project resources will be better utilized and resource impacts will be realized on a watershed scale. The goal of this project is to improve 10 sites where roads cross Silver Creek. The total estimated project cost is \$500,000 and the planned completion date is December 2010. Please visit [Silver Creek Super Project](#) to learn more.

We would like to thank the Ocqueoc River Commission, Michigan Fly Fishing Club, Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wolverine Power Cooperative and the Presque Isle County Road Commission for partnering with us on this project.

Special Opportunity for Nonprofits: 2009-2010 AmeriCorps Host Site applications

Thanks to a partnership between the Michigan Community Service Commission and Huron Pines, nonprofit conservation groups can obtain some much needed help through the [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) program. The program is designed to provide local nonprofits and conservation districts involved in the natural resource management of Northeast Michigan with highly qualified individuals for a one-year term of volunteer service. Through the program, a full-time AmeriCorps member is placed with groups to directly serve for 1,700 hours from September 2009 through September 2010.

Applications are now being accepted from organizations interested in participating (due July 2, 2009). This is a competitive process and host sites will be selected based on the impact members would have in Northeast Michigan. The selection committee will finalize their decision by July 20, 2009.

[Download the Host Site Application Form 2009-2010](#). To view the application as a pdf, please [click here](#).

For more information about the program, visit [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) or contact Lisha Ramsdell at lisha@huronpines.org or (989) 344-0753 x29.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is supported in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, DTE Energy Foundation, Huron Pines and contributions from host sites.

Funding for the Pine River-Van Etten Lake Watershed

Alcona County: The US Forest Service has partnered with Huron Pines and the Alcona County Road Commission to address stream crossings within parts of the Pine River-Van Etten Lake Watershed. The project will utilize \$1 million in stimulus funds to improve road/stream crossings (RSX) sites.

We would like to thank the dedicated volunteers that make up the [Pine River-Van Etten Lake Watershed Coalition](#) including Carole and Joe Plunkey, Walter Joslin, Eugene Stagner and Daniel Stock.

To learn more, please read [Stimulus funding to help Alcona watershed](#).

Pigeon River Habitat Initiative: Spring Update

Our Habitat Specialist is busy this spring working with landowners and local governments to help conserve the buffer lands of the Pigeon River State Forest. As outlined in the [Pigeon River Habitat Initiative Strategic Plan](#), this year's efforts center on land use planning, landowner stewardship, land protection and sustainability.

We've met with Charleton Township and planning commissions in Cheboygan County, Otsego County and the Village of Vanderbilt. We've conducted 91 total landowner site visits and a landowner gathering was held in April to generate additional site visits. We've coordinated wildlife plantings on 200 acres and Forest Stewardship Plans covering 2,691 acres. In addition, a geographic database to better target priority parcels, develop new strategies for working with private landowners, and provide recommendations to local units of government is currently being developed.

One of our key project partners, [HeadWaters Land Conservancy](#), recently completed a conservation easement on a 400-acre parcel with the Pigeon River flowing through it. This latest conservation easement addition brings the total up to 10 conservation easements permanently protecting 2,889 acres since the PRHI has been working with private landowners.

For more information, please visit [Pigeon River Habitat Initiative](#) or contact Eric Nelson, eric@huronpines.org or call (989) 344-0753 x14.

Michigan Association of Planning Conference Scholarships Available

The Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) exists so that Michigan will consist of healthy, safe, attractive, and successful communities built first and foremost on quality community planning. Each year, they host a conference for planners, local officials and students to learn about planning and network with other officials from around the state. They are currently looking for nominations of enthusiastic planning officials to participate in this year's Planning Michigan conference (September 30 - October 3) to be the first MAP Board Scholarship recipients. Learn more at [Scholarships for Fall MAP Planning Conference](#).

Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited: Thunder Bay Clean-up June

The Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting a river clean-up in Alpena at the 9th St. dam on Saturday, June 13 from 12–3pm. For more information, please read the [June 13 Clean-up flier](#) or contact Nathan Skibbe at nskibbester@gmail.com.

Governor's Service Awards June 18

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern will recognize outstanding individuals, organizations, and businesses during the 2009 Governor's Service Awards, June 18 at the Governor's Lansing Residence. The Governor's Service Awards are given annually to individuals, businesses, and organizations to acknowledge their commitment to serving their communities through volunteerism. For more information, please visit [2009 Governor's Service Awards Finalists Announced](#).

Au Sable River Day June 20

Please join the Au Sable River Watershed Restoration Committee on June 20 to help clean up several landing sites on the Au Sable River. Volunteers will work on Burton's Landing, Keystone Landing, Louie's Landing and the road ends at Thendara Road and Whirlpool Road. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Bob Andrus, randrus@netscape.com.

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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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