

June 17, 2010

Nearly two inches of rain have fallen on Grayling in June alone. With all the rain we've been getting lately here in Northeast Michigan, we got to thinking about water, specifically, the Earth's oceans. While the Great Lakes contain one-fifth of the world's freshwater, oceans cover 71% of the Blue Planet's surface and contain 97% of the world's water. Ever wonder what's in there?

## **What percent of Earth's species do the oceans support?**

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

The spring newsletter is here! Check it out at [June 2010 Huron Pines Newsletter](#).

Below is the 6/17/10 update for Huron Pines.

- Environmental Program a Must for Michigan's AmeriCorps—Huron Pines AmeriCorps Grant Renewed
- Anglers of the Au Sable Contribute \$25,000 for North Branch Restoration
- Presque Isle County Volunteer Day
- Otsego County 11/11 Volunteer Event Up Next—Ford Fix-Up on the North Branch Au Sable
- Thank You Paul H. Young, Challenge and Kalamazoo Valley Chapters of Trout Unlimited
- Celebrate and Conserve the Rivers you Love to Fish at the Michigan Fly Fishing Festival

Huron Pines

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## **Environmental Program a Must for Michigan's AmeriCorps—Huron Pines AmeriCorps Grant Renewed**

We would like to announce the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program received a green light for continuing the program for another three years! The [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) received over 600 applications for AmeriCorps funding this year and they chose Huron Pines for federal competitive funding. Although relatively small, the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program stood out for its ability to adapt to the changing needs of our region and for the high-quality, professional members the program attracts. Marcy Bishop Kates at the [Michigan Community Service Commission](#) noted, "The program thrives largely because of the careful attention to detail paid by all staff, because of very qualified and well-prepared members, and because of the clear impact the members are able to make on northern Michigan and her residents."

We would like to thank our partners, AmeriCorps members and dedicated board and staff for making this such a strong program. Learn more about the program at [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#).

### **Anglers of the Au Sable Contribute \$25,000 for North Branch Restoration**

As announced in the last eNews, the [North Branch Au Sable River](#) is getting a big boost! The US Forest Service, through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, recently awarded \$475,000 to improve at least eight road/stream crossing (RSX) sites within the North Branch, part of the Au Sable River Watershed. In addition, the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation committed \$25,000.

Today, we would like to add another key partner in this project—[Anglers of the Au Sable](#). The group recently committed \$25,000 of much needed non-federal match funds to the North Branch “Great Eight” RSX project.

### **Presque Isle County Volunteer Day**

Northern Michigan provides some of the most beautiful streams that give people a place to fish, canoe or simply enjoy. Protecting these rivers and the tributaries that feed them requires strong partnerships, a common goal, and most importantly, dedicated community members.

On Thursday, June 10, nearly 40 people attended a Huron Pines hosted event along Silver Creek to learn about what work is being planned to protect and restore this highest quality tributary of the Ocqueoc River. The attendees included local residents, federal biologists, Huron Pines AmeriCorps members, Presque Isle Conservation District, the road commission, and many others. Everyone on hand was able to learn about what the restoration of Silver Creek entails and what features of the stream will be monitored to capture changes throughout this process.

See photos from the day at the [Huron Pines Flickr](#) page. A special thanks to Ralph Stedman for sharing his river expertise and David Smith for being a spectacular photographer.

Supporters of the restoration efforts on Silver Creek are the Presque Isle County Road Commission, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Great Lakes Commission – Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, Wolverine Power Cooperative, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Paul H Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Ocqueoc River Commission.

### **Otsego County 11/11 Volunteer Event—Ford Fix-Up on the North Branch Au Sable**

Eight opportunities left to join Huron Pines staff and volunteers to learn more about your local watershed! Next up in the Huron Pines [11/11 Volunteer Program](#), Otsego County!

Known locally as “the ford,” the project site is located at the Ford Rd end. It was once a serious source of pollution to the North Branch Au Sable River and was closed in 2001. Since that time, the area has healed nicely but there are a few details that need attention. Currently, ORV traffic still crosses the river at this location. Barricade boulders have been moved and need to be repositioned. Additionally, woody debris will be placed in the stream to encourage natural channeling, provide excellent instream habitat and discourage ORV traffic.

Want to join us? Expect to get your hands dirty! This project will be strenuous and physically challenging. Meet at 9:00am at the Ford Rd end ([click here for a map](#)). Work will end at noon and lunch will be provided. Please bring work gloves, waders and/or boots and don't forget to pick up your 11/11 Volunteer T-Shirt! Help spread the word – [Event Flier](#). Space is limited. RSVPs required. Please call Jill at (989) 344-0753 x21 or email [jill@huronpines.org](mailto:jill@huronpines.org).

We would like to thank our sponsors, the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation, Lowe's Heroes and the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

### **Thank You Paul H. Young, Challenge and Kalamazoo Valley Chapters of Trout Unlimited**

Although we're in the height of the field season, it is important to step back and thank the partners that make our projects possible. Today, we'd like to specifically thank several groups for their foresight and dedication to the proactive protection of natural resources in northern Michigan.

Realizing the importance of developing programs that prioritize high-impact projects and the need to provide non-federal match to large U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service grants, the [Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) and the [Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) awarded Huron Pines \$4,155 and \$3,000 respectively for the [Small Dams Program](#), helping restore the rivers that are dear to them. Their dollars will help with public and partner education efforts as well as developing the processes to inventory, prioritize and ultimately remove dams in Northeast Michigan.

The [Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) has also seen the need for greater efforts of education when it comes to small dams and has contributed \$750 to that cause through their Stanley Weber Special Fund.

Thank you to all the groups for supporting the development of new programs at Huron Pines.

### **Celebrate and Conserve the Rivers you Love to Fish at the Michigan Fly Fishing Festival**

Now in its fourth year, the [Michigan Fly Fishing Festival](#) is a great opportunity to celebrate northern Michigan's rivers and streams while strengthening conservation efforts in the region. The Fuller's North Branch Outing Club is hosting the 2-day festival where there will be catch and release tournament, free fly fishing, fly tying, casting lessons, scotch and wine tasting and many other activities to benefit Huron Pines.

Todd Fuller, the Festival's founder and proprietor of Fuller's North Branch Outing Club, launched the event so the people using the river could also be the people protecting the river, "This festival is a great way for anglers and outdoor enthusiasts to celebrate while helping the rivers they love to fish. Our coldwater streams play such a vital role in Northeast Michigan and I want to help bring people together to advance the long term conservation of this precious resource."

The Festival runs Saturday from 10am – 6pm through Sunday, July 18 from 10am – 3pm. Huron Pines will be bringing the River Model. Tickets are \$10. Event sponsors include Dewar's, The Wilshire Financial Group, Gill's Pier Winery, Mackinaw Harvest Music and Fuller's North Branch Outing Club.

Fuller's North Branch Outing Club is located at 6122 E. County Road 612, Grayling, Michigan 49738. For more information about the festival, please visit [Fuller's North Branch Outing Club](#) or contact Todd Fuller at (989) 348-7951, [info@fullersnboc.com](mailto:info@fullersnboc.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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