

June 24, 2009

This week's question comes from long-time conservationist Carol Moncrieff Rose. Carol volunteers her time with the Montmorency County Conservation Club, Upper Black River Watershed Restoration Committee and of course, Huron Pines!

What invasive species of the Great Lakes can be used to keep pesky squirrels from eating your freshly-planted spring bulbs?

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

[Special opportunity for nonprofits: 2009-2010 AmeriCorps Host Site applications](#)

Below is the 6/24/09 update for Huron Pines.

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Thank you!
Huron Pines

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One-on-One Conservation Assistance: Conservation First Responder Program

Thank you Conservation First Responder volunteers! The Huron Pines Conservation First Responder Program continues to serve the community of Northeast Michigan. As of June 23, 41 landowners have participated in the program and our volunteer experts have made recommendations for a total of 2,527 acres of land.

We would like to thank the dedicated group of conservation first responders for volunteering their time and skills to meet with landowners. Our conservation first responders have been able to meet with landowners, free of charge, to discuss land management options. First Responders assist with projects such as shoreline greenbelts, private tree farm operations, streambank restoration and attracting wildlife. The most common site visits are with landowners looking for a second opinion on what should be done with their property.

To see where our Conservation First Responders are going, visit [Conservation First Responder](#).

The program continues to receive thanks from its participants. Jackie Rickard, of Houghton Lake, said, "I was able to talk to a person face-to-face and not a recording." Another landowner, Charlie Strahm, of Crawford County, said that his first responder gave him the peace of mind that his property is in good shape for a variety of wildlife.

If you're interested in participating in the Conservation First Responder Program, please contact Chris Homeister at (989) 344-0753 x 14 or email chris@huronpines.org.

Cleaning Up Roscommon County

Have you ever been on a peaceful nature hike and suddenly come upon an unsightly pile of trash? If you have, then you know that illegal dumping is a big problem in Michigan. As of March 31, 2009, there were well over 1,000 known illegal dump sites around the state. By county, Grand Traverse, Roscommon, Cheboygan, Kalkaska and Montmorency counties have the highest numbers of dump sites.

That's why Huron Pines is working to address this problem starting with the 53 sites in Roscommon County. With the Michigan Department of Natural Resources [Adopt-a-Forest](#) program and [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#), we are developing a program to pull together local businesses and volunteers to clean up illegal dump sites.

Through a combination of volunteer workdays and adopted sites, we are hoping to reduce the number of trash sites by at least 75%. To date, volunteers have cleaned 10 sites in Roscommon County and 8 sites in Crawford County— removing 70 cubic yards of trash, 1,100 pounds of metal and three dozen tires.

Want to help clean up Roscommon County? Visit [Cleaning Up Roscommon County](#) or contact our Huron Pines AmeriCorps Water Quality Specialist, Dan Schultz, at (989) 344-0753 x 14.

Restoration 101

We had a great day on the Main Branch of the Au Sable last week. Huron Pines staff and AmeriCorps members joined forces to learn about river restoration and install large woody debris. In addition, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation film crew documented the day's events.

See the photos at [Restoration 101 - Au Sable River Large Woody Debris](#).

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.

Otsego Conservation District: Conservation Kids Camp

The [Otsego Conservation District](#) is offering a free summer day camp. The day camp for grades K – 1 will be Monday, July 13, grades 2 – 4 on Tuesday, July 14 and grades 5 – 6 on Thursday, July 16. All activities will take place outside in the Otsego County Demonstration Garden (800 Livingston Blvd, Gaylord, MI). To view the flier, visit [Conservation Day Camp](#).

For more information, please contact Huron Pines AmeriCorps member [Emily Sewell](#) (989) 732-4021.

Upcoming Events

Watershed Workshop: Septic System Maintenance & Lakescaping: Saturday, June 27, 9am – 11am, Oscoda, Michigan, Greenbush Township Hall, contact [Jamie McCarthy](#)

at (269) 344-7117

Learning about Michigan's new water withdrawal laws hosted by the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited: Tuesday, June 30, 8:30am – 3:00pm, Ramada Au Sable Valley Inn & Conference Center, 2650 S. I-75 Business Loop, Grayling, Michigan, visit [Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited](#)

Higgins Lake Greenbelt Presentation hosted by the Higgins Lake Foundation: Saturday, July 11, 10am – 12pm, Gerrish Township Hall- Roscommon, Michigan, contact [Jennifer Muladore](#)

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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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