

May 20, 2010

It's fire season! According the Michigan DNRE, Crawford County's Meridian Boundary Fire was estimated at nearly 9,000 acres as of noon today. Much of the Huron Pines service area is covered with a very fire-adapted ecosystem, Michigan jack pine forest. One of the jack pine's fire adaptations is their serotinous cones.

At what temperature do jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) cones release their seeds?

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

Below is the 5/20/10 update for Huron Pines.

- A sure sign of spring—The Huron Pines Restoration Crew
- 11/11 Volunteer Program
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Huron Pines

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A sure sign of spring—The Huron Pines Restoration Crew

There is always a competition between the return of the robins to Northeast Michigan or the first sighting of our Restoration Crew Leader Ken Reed, as to which gets the honor of signifying the start of spring. Though robins were heard first, when we saw Ken, we knew it was time to put the winter months of planning behind us and dust off the waders. As soon as the snow melted, Ken was out on the South Branch Au Sable River.

There tends to be at least a few spring skeptics every year. But, as Ken fired up the chainsaw on May 12 to begin work on the East Branch Au Sable, even the doubters put their winter gear away. The Huron Pines Restoration Crew began placing trees on the East Branch Au Sable River last week and they haven't looked back.

We have an ambitious goal this year of trees to put in the river; we're hoping to place 2,600 trees between the East Branch and South Branch before the snow flies. The crew is well on their way to 300 by the end of May. Their dedication and hard work is what turns an ambitious spring goal into a successful reality in the fall.

To keep track of our progress throughout the field season, visit [Stream Enhancement with Large Woody Debris](#). In addition, visit our [Huron Pines' YouTube Channel](#) to view videos of a heavy lift helicopter placing trees in the Au Sable River.

11/11 Volunteer Program

The nearly forty people who attended the May 15 kick-off of our [11/11 Volunteer Program](#) in Montmorency County left with a head full of new ideas for greenbelting and an armful of materials to get them started. Restoration Project Manager Patrick Ertel demonstrated a variety of erosion control techniques and Ecologist Jennifer Muladore provided a number of options for native plantings. It was great to see people not only get enthused about caring for their shorelines, but leave with the knowledge to implement new conservation practices. See photos from the day at the [Huron Pines Flickr](#) page.

Several groups helped Huron Pines by sponsoring the event. Thank you Lewiston Lions Club, Lewiston Lioness Club, Montmorency Conservation District, Montmorency County Conservation Club, and Twin Lakes Property Owners Association.

The next 11/11 Volunteer event takes us to Crawford County on May 29 where we can utilize up to 30 people to assist with stream monitoring in the Manistee River. If you would like to don your waders, collect aquatic insects and learn how they indicate water quality, please RSVP by contacting Jill Scarzo at 344-0753 x21 or email jill@huronpines.org

AmeriCorps Week 2010

[Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) members really shined during this year's AmeriCorps Week events. Abigail Ertel, the AmeriCorps member serving at [HeadWaters Land Conservancy](#), organized the 2010 Huron Pines AmeriCorps Week project in Gaylord. She coordinated four project sites with volunteers installing native plants gardens at two Habitat for Humanity homes, building a compost demonstration site at the [Otsego Conservation District](#) Demonstration Garden, and helping out at the Habitat ReStore. Way to go Abby!

To see photos from the project, please visit [2010 AmeriCorps Week](#).

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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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