

May 27, 2009

The spring showers are finally here. And, we couldn't be happier. Not only are our gardens soaking it up, but we've been waiting for a rainy day to ask today's question.

How fast do raindrops fall?

Speaking of gardens, see some native Michigan plants on our [Au Sable River Greenbelt](#).

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

Below is the 5/27/09 biweekly update for Huron Pines.

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Thank you!

Huron Pines

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Learn about Invasive Species – Phragmites Training June 10

Iosco County, East Tawas: We are enlisting interested local citizens to assist in the [Campaign to End Phragmites in Iosco County](#). Phragmites is a perennial wetland grass that has been threatening ecosystems along lakes, streams, ditches and in wetlands for many years in Northeast Michigan.

On **Wednesday, June 10 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** Huron Pines will be holding a training session to educate volunteers in proper identification of invasive and native phragmites, proper data collection, reporting, and how you can get involved. The event will be held in the Harbor Room at the **Tawas Bay Beach Resort**.

Space is limited for the event. Part of the training will be held outdoors so be prepared to head outside. For more information and to reserve a spot for the training event please RSVP to Tim Engelhardt at (989) 344-0753 x14 or tim@huronpines.org.

We are also offering a cost share program to private landowners in **Iosco and Alcona counties** for removal of phragmites. Funds provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service will cover 75% of the total project removal costs up to \$1,000; with the remainder being covered by the landowner. [Download the Invasive Species Cost Share Application](#). The deadline is June 1.

Upper Manistee River Watershed: Bugs will tell the story

Crawford / Kalkaska County: Aquatic organisms are a telltale sign of water quality. Because many of them are very sensitive to pollution, you can tell a lot about water quality by just looking at what's living in the river.

Huron Pines and the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited are doing just that. Through support from the [Michigan Clean Water Corps \(MiCorps\)](#) program, the groups recently partnered to coordinate a volunteer water sampling program on the Upper Manistee River. The primary objective of the program is to produce high-quality data to assist natural resource managers in aquatic resource management decisions.

Saturday, May 30 marks the first official sampling event on the Upper Manistee River using MiCorps practices. Throughout the summer, sampling will be held at five sites. Volunteers are encouraged to help collect aquatic macro-invertebrates (underwater "bugs" and other organisms) for identification and counting.

Live near the Upper Manistee? To learn more about this project, please visit [Sampling on the Upper Manistee River Watershed](#) or contact [Patrick Ertel](#).

Want to learn more about sampling aquatic organisms and water quality? Go to [Volunteer Stream Monitoring](#) to learn more.

We would also like to thank the [Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) for their continued support of conservation projects such as the Roscommon Stormwater Study, Hodges Creek Road/Stream Crossing, Silver Creek Super Project, River Protection Fund, Fish Passage Inventory Project and volunteer programs.

Au Sable River Greenbelt and River Restoration

Crawford County, Grayling: On May 20, Huron Pines and the Au Sable River Property Owners Association helped keep the Au Sable River clean by hosting a demonstration river greenbelt.

Volunteers planted over 200 native Michigan plants while learning about preventing erosion. Our staff used two great techniques to prevent erosion: using [native plants](#) and [woody debris placement](#). We would like to thank to the Au Sable River Property Owners Association and the landowner for their participation.

See photos at [Au Sable Greenbelt and River Restoration](#).

Large Woody Debris – May Update

Crawford / Roscommon County: Our Restoration Crew is up and running. We've welcomed back two members from last year and brought on some new talent for this

season. The crew started in late March adding trees to the river, finding new landowner permissions and meeting with landowners to review their property for potential tree donations and/or placement sites. The crew is also maintaining naturally fallen trees that have blocked navigation on three of the four major branches of the Au Sable River: the Main, North and South Branches. Learn more about [Stream Enhancement with Large Woody Debris](#).

To date, we have placed just over 600 trees this year from Grayling downstream to Parmalee Bridge. The goal for this field season is 2,300. Our biggest challenge is finding new landowners to donate trees. If you or someone you know would like to contribute to habitat enhancement on the Au Sable by donating trees, please contact Patrick Ertel at (989) 344-0753 x19 or patrick@huronpines.org.

North Branch Au Sable River Action Plan

The [North Branch Au Sable River Action Plan](#) is now available.

There are a number of conservation and landowner groups working diligently to protect and restore the North Branch Au Sable Watershed. This Action Plan aims to unite the efforts of those groups through education, collaboration, and a sharing of people, financial, and expert resources. As a result, independent conservation groups and landowner associations will be able to support and advance common goals to protect, restore and enhance the North Branch Au Sable Watershed.

Otsego Conservation District – Soil Erosion Workshop June 11

Learn about soil erosion control on Thursday, June 11 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. The Otsego Conservation District, with support from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Huron Pines, is hosting a workshop designed to inform participants of the regulations and permits regarding soil erosion plus materials and techniques that you can use to control it. Read the [workshop flier and agenda](#).

There are a variety of erosion control materials available that offer many advantages over simply installing silt fencing. Learn more so you can provide an expanded service for customers. The workshop will be a combination of indoor instruction at the MI DEQ Gaylord office followed by outdoor instruction at the Five Lakes Natural Area. Please RSVP by June 8 by calling the Otsego Conservation District at (989) 732-4021.

Learn about other northern Michigan events by visiting the [Huron Pines Calendar](#).

Support Conservation in Northeast Michigan today!

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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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