

November 25, 2009

Huron Pines gives thanks for our many 2009 volunteers, partners and supporters. Join us in kicking off another successful year in 2010 at the **Huron Pines Annual Meeting, scheduled for February 6th**. As attendees from the past few years have told us, it is the event to meet and exchange ideas with conservationists and community leaders from all across the region. Put the date down on your calendar and watch for details in the coming weeks.

Ever wonder what happened to the one that got away? **How fast can a turkey fly?**

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

Below is the 11/25/09 update for Huron Pines.

- Thank You to Our 2009 Volunteers
- Conservation First Responder Update
- Upcoming Events
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Thank you!

Huron Pines

[www.huronpines.org](http://www.huronpines.org)

### **Thank You to our 2009 Volunteers**

From getting in the stream and helping to restore natural fish habitat, to helping out with landowner visits to discuss natural resource management, to removal of invasive species - our volunteers were just about everywhere this year. Normally we'd list everyone that helped out, but that list of names is getting too long: In 2009, we continued to have a steady increase in the total number of volunteers (with several hundred this year helping us out). At the same time, we are pleased to report a sharp increase in the number of people who give their time to multiple projects on a continuing basis for us. More returning volunteers and more first-time volunteers equaled more impact in 2009 for conservation.

It's those efforts that have helped us overcome many of the economic challenges that are out there. Not-for-profit organizations like Huron Pines are designed to help fill the ever-increasing gap in services that neither the government or private business sector already cover. More than ever, we count on our volunteers and supporters to help us fulfill that role. All of our Board members and staff are very appreciative of the volunteer efforts this past year. For all of you that have been a part of it, thanks!

Sign up to volunteer during one of our [11/11 volunteer events](#) through our [website](#), or fill out a [general volunteer form](#) and we'll contact you throughout the year with opportunities that match your interests.

## Conservation First Responder Update

The [Conservation First Responder](#) program wrapped up the field season with 43 site visits to landowners looking for conservation assistance. The 12 volunteer first responders helped landowners make decisions about forest, wildlife and shoreline management in nearly every county in our service area.

As the availability of resource professionals to help individual landowners continues to decrease over time, Huron Pines sees the need to continue to fill the gaps. To volunteer to be a first responder or to set up a site visit for 2010, contact Eric Nelson at (989) 344-0753 ext. 14 or [eric@huronpines.org](mailto:eric@huronpines.org).

## Upcoming Events

**Stewardship Network Annual Conference:** Join fellow land managers, ecologists, volunteers, homeowners and nature lovers of all kinds for the Stewardship Network's energizing and informative annual conference: The Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems! The group will be partnering with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network to host their 2010 conference on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> in East Lansing, MI. For more information, please visit the conference website at [www.StewardshipNetwork.org/2010Conference](http://www.StewardshipNetwork.org/2010Conference).

**State Park Public Input Workshop:** State recreation officials will be holding a 'Public Open House' to seek input on the proposed long-range action goals for Negwegon State Park in Alcona County, the Rockport property in Alpena County, and Thompson's Harbor State Park in Presque Isle County. The open house will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 500 W. Fletcher Street, Alpena, MI 49707.

## Black River Rope Swing Video

As the [Huron Pines crew](#) finished the final phase of work on the Cheboygan Black River to improve sturgeon habitat, the project was documented by Sunrise Communications. The final site—called the rope swing because of the extensive erosion caused by people climbing the steep bank and using a rope swing to jump into the river—was repaired with cedar terraces and brush along with topsoil, seeds and mulch fabric.

To learn more about the project from the many partners who were involved, [click here](#). Also visit the [main project page](#) on the Huron Pines website for information about the other phases of the project, including the [Huron Pines AmeriCorps 2009 Spring Service Project](#). Contact Patrick Ertel at (989) 344-0753 ext. 19 or [Patrick@huronpines.org](mailto:Patrick@huronpines.org).

**[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.*

Huron Pines • 501 Norway Street • Grayling, MI 49738

Phone 989.344.0753 Fax 989.348.7945

[www.huronpines.org](http://www.huronpines.org)