

November 12, 2009

Share your view with us: submit a photo of your property, wildlife, seasons, or anything Northeast Michigan to be posted on [the Huron Pines photo site](#). E-mail Jennifer@huronpines.org.

While warmer days lately have had us thinking spring, winter is still on its way. Even as the snow starts to fly, some summer critters stick around. **What is a butterfly that stays in the area over the winter?**

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

Below is the 11/12/09 update for Huron Pines.

- Introducing the 2009-2010 Huron Pines AmeriCorps Members
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Thank you!
Huron Pines

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Introducing the 2009-2010 Huron Pines AmeriCorps Members

The newest group of [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) members has begun service in Northeast Michigan. Through the program, qualified members directly serve for a year with nonprofit conservation groups and conservation districts. This year's members will provide assistance with habitat restoration, volunteer engagement, environmental stewardship and new conservation services. To learn about each member and see some of the team building activities they did at their recent orientation, visit [the Huron Pines AmeriCorps 2009-2010 member photo set](#).

Huron Pines welcomes two members in our office: Liz Padalino and Neil Sauter will be serving as stream specialists focusing primarily on our small dams program, creating inventories and prioritizing dams that may need removal throughout our service area.

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. Contact Casey Ressler at casey@huronpines.org or (989) 344-0753 ext. 30 for more information.

Hodges Creek Project Update

[Hodges Creek](#) is a small tributary to the East Branch of the Black River, located in Montmorency County. Like many small crossings in northern Michigan, the Hodges

Creek/Black River Road crossing suffered from undersized culverts, impeding fish passage and hydrologic flow, and sediment input from the adjacent roadway. The creek is an important nursery stream for the Black River watershed, providing spawning habitat for brook trout and other aquatic species.

Over the last two years, Huron Pines and partners have replaced two 24” culverts with a single six foot embedded culvert, allowing free movement of fish and reconnecting over six river miles to the greater Black River watershed.

This project could not have happened without the generous support from our partners:

- Montmorency County Road Commission
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Upper Black River Watershed Restoration Committee
- Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited

For more on Hodges Creek and other [road/stream crossing improvement projects](#), contact Program Director Lisha Ramsdell at lisha@huronpines.org or (989) 344-0753 ext. 29 for more information.

Muskegon River Habitat Survey Complete

Huron Pines has [completed the field work](#) for the first watershed-wide survey using the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#)' recently developed Nonwadeable Habitat Assessment Protocol. The project consisted of sampling 35 one-mile river segments from Houghton Lake down to the mouth of the river in Muskegon. For every 1-mile survey reach, measurements were gathered for depth, substrate, instream habitat, riparian vegetation, development and river/floodplain width. All work was completed from a boat or canoe.

The next step is for the DNR to compile the data and interpret what the situation is in each stretch of river. In addition to gaining a broad scope of the condition of the Muskegon River, DNR fisheries biologists can now begin to assess what the limiting factors for habitat are in each river segment. From that knowledge, prescriptions for habitat enhancement activities—directly related to what each stretch of river needs—can be developed and implemented, improving the habitat, fisheries and overall health of the Muskegon River.

Read more about what our staff found on the river [here](#), or contact Restoration Project Manager Patrick Ertel at patrick@huronpines.org or (989) 344-0753 ext. 19.

Announcements and Updates

Mio Pond Project Complete: The habitat improvement work at Mio Pond is now complete and operators are refilling the pond gradually, taking advantage of the high flows we've had recently due to all the rainfall to keep outflows downstream more stable. View [photos](#) of the initial drawdown and fish habitat construction on our [photo site](#), and learn more about the project and its fish habitat benefits [here](#). Contact Eric Nelson at eric@huronpines.org or (989) 344-0753 ext. 14 for more information.

Pine River-Van Etten Lake Newsletter Available Online: The [PRVEL Coalition](#)'s fall newsletter is now posted on our website. Click [here](#) to read articles about watershed planning and the Alcona County road/stream crossing work, how the group is increasing its visibility in the area, and a water quality report.

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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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