

October 29, 2009

Get your Northeast Michigan conservation events on our [calendar](#). E-mail [Jennifer@huronpines.org](mailto:Jennifer@huronpines.org).

## **Standing anywhere in the state, what is the maximum distance you can be from a Great Lake?**

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

Below is the 10/29/09 update for Huron Pines.

- Hot Off the Presses: Huron Pines Fall Newsletter
- O.B. Eustis Award Nominations
- Huron Pines AmeriCorps 2009 Wrapup
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Thank you!  
Huron Pines

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

### **Hot Off the Presses: Huron Pines Fall Newsletter**

An [electronic version of our newsletter](#) is now available for download from our [website](#). This issue's focus is the power of our many volunteers throughout our service area. Without the time and efforts of the many volunteers that contribute to our projects, conservation in Northeast Michigan would not be successful.

Interested in volunteering? Fill out our new [volunteer form](#) and send it to [Huron Pines](#). We'll contact you with projects that meet your interests throughout the year.

### **O.B. Eustis Award Nominations**

The late O.B. Eustis was widely respected as an industrialist, an environmentalist, and a nature columnist. Since 1995, Huron Pines has been a proud partner with the [Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan](#) (CFNEM) and the O.B. Eustis Award Committee to recognize the legacy he left. [Huron Pines is now accepting nominations through December 31, 2009 for the awards given in his honor.](#)

Winners are recognized based on their efforts to balance environmental protection with economic development. **Each winner selected will be able to designate a \$500 award to a conservation project in Northeast Michigan.**

The nominees for the O.B. Eustis Award may come from the 11-county service area of Huron Pines, which includes the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon. The winners will be recognized at the Huron Pines Annual Meeting on February 6, 2010. View a [nomination form and award criteria here](#), or contact Jill Scarzo at [jill@huronpines.org](mailto:jill@huronpines.org) or (989) 344-0753 ext. 21.

## Huron Pines AmeriCorps 2009 Wrapup

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#) has been very successful. We retained 100% of our members, tripled our volunteer recruitment goal and completed 50 on-the-ground conservation projects. To date Huron Pines AmeriCorps members have utilized 647 volunteers providing a total of 2,645 volunteer hours. Of these totals 151 were baby boomers, 52 were students and 280 were new volunteers. For the first two years of Huron Pines AmeriCorps members created or revived 13 new projects; of those 12 have been adopted and implemented.

Special thanks goes to the AmeriCorps members serving at Huron Pines: Tim Engelhardt, Chris Homeister and Dan Schultz. Tim organized the new [Invasive Species](#) program, educating the public about invasive species, organizing volunteer projects, and working with landowners to remove phragmites from lakeshores. Chris headed up the [Conservation First Responder](#) program, coordinating volunteer resource professionals to visit landowners and answer questions related to managing their land. Dan helped to clean up over half of the illegal trash dump sites in Roscommon County, taking it off the top of the list of worst counties for dump sites in Michigan. He also conducted a [stormwater study](#) for the Village of Roscommon, providing recommendations for future efforts to improve water quality on the South Branch Au Sable River.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is planning another strong year of service in 2010. **There is [still one position left](#), located in Alpena with Michigan SeaGrant.** Contact Casey Ressler at [casey@huronpines.org](mailto:casey@huronpines.org) or (989) 344-0753 ext. 30 for more information.

## Fish Habitat In Mio Pond

[Consumers Energy](#) has began lowering the water level at the Mio Pond impoundment in order to begin maintenance work on the dam located in the town of Mio. With more bottomlands exposed, Huron Pines will manage a crew placing 50 whole trees, a spawning reef, and 50 smallmouth bass spawning benches at designated locations in the impoundment. According to [Department of Natural Resources](#) Fisheries Biologist Steve Sendek, “these structures should help enhance fish populations in the aging pond by restoring lost woody cover and restoring spawning habitat. Woody structure has been slowly disappearing in the pond over time resulting in decreased productivity. This drawdown gives us an opportunity to do work that would be very costly to conduct if the pond was fully flooded.”

View [photos](#) of the initial drawdown on our [photo site](#), and learn more about the project and its fish habitat benefits [here](#). Contact Eric Nelson at [eric@huronpines.org](mailto:eric@huronpines.org) or (989) 344-0753 ext. 14 for more information.

## Natural Resource Announcements

**Huron Pines in the News:** New grants from the [Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation](#) will fund conservation and education projects in eight Michigan counties, and swell total RMEF support for the state's [Pigeon River Habitat Initiative](#) to more than \$190,000. RMEF has been a major supporter of the Pigeon River Habitat Initiative in each of the past four years and in 2003. Contributions have helped secure conservation easements, develop forest stewardship management plans, provide technical assistance for landowners, offer cost-share programs to help with wildlife plantings, and more. View the [complete press release](#) on our website.

**Upcoming Mapping Seminar:** The Great Lakes Observing System Mapping Workshop for Lake Huron will be held on Monday, November 9th, 2009, from 9:00am-4:00pm for the general public at the [Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#) in Alpena, Michigan with a late afternoon session specifically for teachers from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Participants should pre-register by November 6 with Brandon Schroeder ([schroe45@msu.edu](mailto:schroe45@msu.edu) or (989) 984-1056) or Cindy Anderson ([ande1172@msu.edu](mailto:ande1172@msu.edu) or 989-984-1060).

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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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