

September 17, 2008

In honor of the opening of grouse season, we'd like to focus on this beautiful bird. Nathan Skibbe, the Volunteer Coordinator serving with Huron Pines AmeriCorps, asks this about the year-round Michigan resident:

On average, how many eggs are in a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) clutch?

See the [answer](#). Learn more about [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#).

Below is the 9/17/08 biweekly update for Huron Pines.

Thank you!

Huron Pines

www.huronpines.org

When Trees Fly- Look up September 22-26

With the help of the US Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Construction Helicopters, Inc., we are coordinating the tenth season of our Large Woody Debris program. Whole trees will once again be flown by helicopter and placed in the [Au Sable River](#) as habitat enhancement work continues.

The fish love it; large woody debris structures serve a number of functions in the river system including critical fish habitat. In addition to providing habitat diversity for numerous species of fish, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, the debris protects streambanks from erosion and buffers the effects of high water flows.

Historically, trees entered the river system as they died and fell along the riverbank. However, during Michigan's logging boom, most of the trees were removed to allow downstream transport of timber. With fishing and recreation playing such a critical role in Northern Michigan's economy, we need to do everything we can to support conservation.

There will be two days (22nd-23rd) spent downstream of the Alcona Dam from Thompson's Landing to Rollways. On the 24th-26th, the focus will be in the headwaters, from Wakeley Bridge to McMaster's Bridge on the main stream. Funding for this project was provided by the State of Michigan and the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act.

For more information, please contact [Patrick Ertel](#).

What's happening in Northeast Michigan? Partners in the News

Big water fall clean-up a success

September 6th marked a successful day for the Big Water Fall Clean-up on the Au Sable River from the town of Mio downstream to Alcona pond. The day started with all the volunteers meeting at the Mio launch to sign-in and have coffee and doughnuts. From there everyone was assigned a specific stretch of river to clean and with trash bags in hand, volunteers began cleaning up. Everyone walked away that day with the satisfaction of helping an organization that protects one of Northeastern Michigan's true treasures, the Au Sable River.

Learn more about [Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association](#).

Local club controls aggressive invasive plant

Purple Loosestrife is spreading along the streambanks of the North Branch of the Au Sable River but with the green light from the MDNR, the Lovells Hook and Trigger Club collectively took action. The small grassroots organization has uprooted over 700 plants to date. This non-native invasive will need to be controlled for years to come but with the combined efforts of organizations such as the Lovells Hook and Trigger Club, Au Sable North Branch Watershed Restoration Committee and individual volunteers, partners are working together to eliminate this threat.

Critical information collected by Trout Unlimited Chapter

The Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited records volumes of stream data on both the Pigeon and Black rivers. Specifically, they record data on flow rates and water temperature-both of which are vital to maintaining a long term conservation strategy. This baseline data helps resource professionals see trends in a particular stream segment. It also helps professionals to develop future projects, target restoration efforts, and maintain the overall viability and health of the river.

Learn more about the [Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#).

Why Join Michigan's AmeriCorps?

Being an AmeriCorps member means making a commitment to your community and actually being the change you hope to see. It means taking a chance to really make a difference through conservation projects. It means networking with partners and forging new relationships that can last a lifetime. It means you are a part of the solution.

Positions are still available with the **Huron Pines AmeriCorps** program. Members strengthen conservation organizations and meet a number of community and natural resources needs. Huron Pines AmeriCorps members serve in four areas: Volunteer Recruitment, On-the-Ground Restoration, Public Outreach, and New Initiatives. This is a one-year commitment to serve with conservation nonprofits impacting Northeast Michigan.

Find out how to get involved with [Huron Pines AmeriCorps](#).

For membership information, please visit:

<https://secure.bytepro.net/huronpines/contribute>

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To **unsubscribe**, send an email to: newsletter-unsubscribe@lists.huronpines.org

For questions about this email or if you are unable to automatically subscribe/unsubscribe, contact Casey Ressler: info@huronpines.org

Huron Pines is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to conserve the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan.

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