



Huron Pines

Conserving the Forests, Lakes and Streams of Northeast Michigan



2013 Annual Report

About Huron Pines



Our Mission

Huron Pines' mission is to conserve the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan.



Our Strategic Goals

1. **Provide leadership** necessary to identify natural resource enhancement opportunities and coordinate those programs where Huron Pines can have the greatest impact in restoring, enhancing or sustaining the region's natural resources.
2. **Improve and protect present levels of water quality** while at the same time reconnecting stream habitat through the removal/remediation of human-created fish passage barriers, controlling runoff and reducing nutrient loading.
3. **Maintain and improve present levels of forest cover** and increase acreage of managed forests, with our forests composed of indigenous communities functioning so they sustain forest health, quality wildlife habitat and sustainable productivity.
4. **Integrate a conservation ethic** into all aspects of our communities, including their local decision making, land use, schools, business and households.

Contact Us

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Our Service Area

Watersheds

Au Gres River
Au Sable River
Black River
Cheboygan River
Coastal Lake Huron
East Branch Au Gres River
Manistee River
Muskegon River
Ocqueoc River
Pigeon River
Pine River/Van Etten Lake
Rifle River
Sturgeon River
Tawas River
Thunder Bay River



7,380 Square Miles
4,423,731 Acres
5,005 River Miles
172,800 Lake Acres
517 Shoreline Miles

Letter from Our Leadership

2013 marked 40 years of conservation efforts at Huron Pines. It was both interesting and satisfying to look back at some of the projects we have completed with various partners over those 40 years—to look back and know we have had a positive effect on the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan.

Although looking back at our accomplishments is always fun, it is also important and exciting to look forward to the future. During the year, the board and staff had a number of discussions trying to forecast what Northeast Michigan might look like over the next 40 years. What new invasives might we expect and what and where might they have an impact? What about population change, and what effect will the future economy of Northeast Michigan have on the use of our natural resources? What might changes in weather patterns do to the forests and are there some management efforts that we can take to protect biodiversity? How might the Great Lakes and our coldwater streams be affected by a change in climate? How can we create projects that ignite the imaginations of young people so they become future caretakers?

Moving forward into 2014 with a look to the future, we plan to organize regional meetings inviting those interested to discuss such topics with us. We will look at the needs and opportunities in each of the areas of Northeast Michigan because they are not all the same. We hope to make many new partners who will help us to identify future projects so that 40 years from now we can again look back with interest and satisfaction and know we had a positive impact on a most beautiful place. We look forward to sustaining the relationships we have and to building new. Thank you to all who have supported us over the past 40 years. We thank all of you for your volunteer time, monetary contributions, network connections and passion for conservation and our communities. Let's keep growing our successes for Northeast Michigan's natural resources together!

—Connie Schrieber, Chair

—Brad Jensen, Executive Director



Connie Schrieber (*right*) talks with Huron Pines volunteers at the 2013 Appreciation Celebration.

2013 Highlights

24 Acres of Downtown Commercial District Treated for Stormwater Runoff



**22 Volunteer Projects
1000+ Volunteers
5000+ Hours of Service
3,479 Students and 3,195 Adults Reached**

**3 Project Tours for Local Leaders
1 Economic Roundtable Hosted
3 Regional Partner Networks Initiated
1 Alliance Formed for the Protection of the Kirtland's Warbler**



**10 Fish Passage Barriers Removed
400+ Road/Stream Crossings Inventoried
51 River Miles Reconnected
486 Tons of Sediment Prevented from Entering High-Quality Streams**



**135 Acres of Public Land Restored
16 Acres of Private Land Restored
600 Acres of Land Protected Through Invasive Species Control Projects in the NE MI Cooperative Weed Management Area
300+ Landowner Site Visits Completed
1 Region-Wide GIS Mapping Analysis Developed to Protect Wildlife Corridors**

Protected a Unique Geological Area with Projects Designed to Minimize the Impact of Human Access

High-Impact Projects

Huron Pines coordinates large-scale, high-impact and long-term habitat restoration and enhancement projects to benefit the lands and waters of Northeast Michigan.



Science-Based Prioritization

The Huron Pines strategy of using science-backed prioritization to get large impacts out of small investments has become a successful model for watershed restoration throughout the Great Lakes region.

We start with site inventories and reports generated through our own projects or partner groups; assemble and prioritize sites based on need, impact and feasibility; and group them in a way that makes sense to open up entire branches of stream or connect large tracts of land. This enables us to stretch our funding across political and geographical boundaries to benefit more area.

Coordinating large-scale projects also boosts the economic impact of our work—by doing multiple projects at a time, we can bring more dollars to a region that desperately needs it while raising the profile of the

fantastic natural resources Northeast Michigan offers to locals and visitors alike.

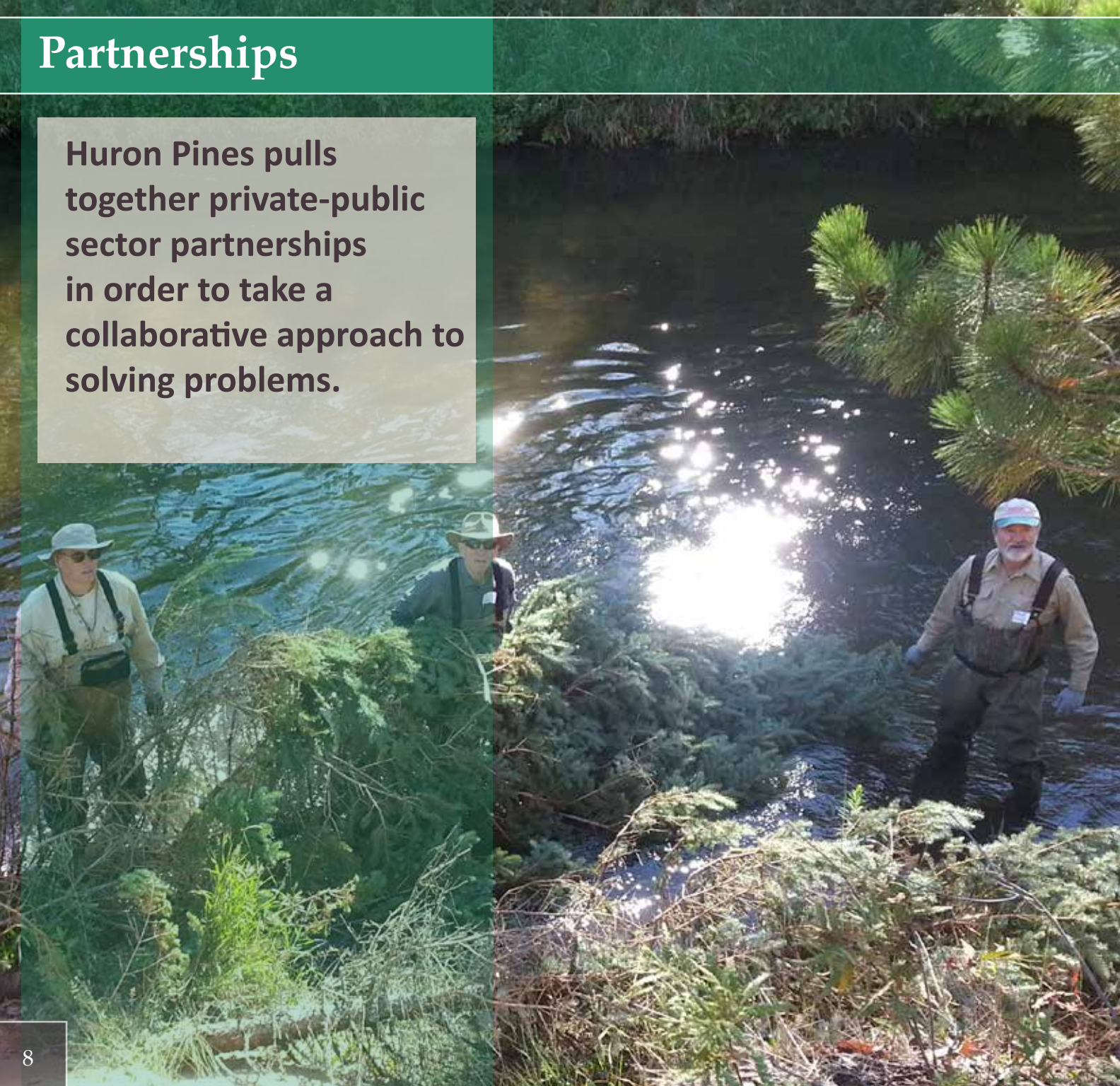


Huron Pines is an organization with great professionalism and great care for our state's environment and we are proud to partner with them to protect natural resources in the Rose City area.

**—Cindy Rosebrugh
City of Rose City**

Partnerships

Huron Pines pulls together private-public sector partnerships in order to take a collaborative approach to solving problems.



Lasting and Locally Grounded

By always making sure that we have a range of partners at the table from planning to construction, Huron Pines is able to form lasting partnerships that bring deep expertise to locally grounded projects. By spending time building relationships during a project, we ensure the long-term success of both the on-the-ground construction work and the conservation ethic within each partner that is needed to maintain our high-quality natural resources into the future.

The partnerships we foster can be small or large groups, but in all cases the benefits are huge. From sharing resources to overlapping projects and leveraging funds for bigger causes, partnerships make things happen.



Three words come to mind immediately when I think about Huron Pines: deep, nimble and able.

“Deep” is a good description because few organizations have the capacity to take on a task that is as challenging as developing a new organization for the Kirtland’s warbler, an iconic endangered species.

I say “nimble” because in order to take on this challenge, Huron Pines had to shift resources and make a significant commitment of time, money and energy to the Kirtland’s Warbler Initiative.

Finally, Huron Pines is “able.” I’m surprised and pleased with what we’ve accomplished in just one year of the Kirtland’s Warbler Initiative.

—Bill Rapai
Kirtland’s Warbler Alliance Member

Communities

Huron Pines promotes our natural assets and links them to economic, community and family development opportunities in order to improve the quality of life in the region.



Moving Forward Together

Northeast Michigan has had a rough few years. Populations are declining, average income is consistently below the state average and unemployment soars above the state average in all counties of our service area. While our focus is traditionally on completing natural resource conservation projects, we know that the only way we can ensure sustainability of our projects is to have local support and regional—even national—attention.

Huron Pines works with local leaders, residents and schools to raise awareness about conservation issues facing Northeast Michigan, getting volunteers and students involved in learning about the special forests, lakes and streams that make up the region with the intent that they will carry on a legacy of protecting these places into future generations.



The Saunders Dam removal project is a perfect example of a true collaborative partnership. Seeing everyone from the previous landowner to agency partners and local residents pull together to support the project at the groundbreaking ceremony has become a lasting reminder of why we do what we do.

**—Lisha Ramsdell
Huron Pines Program Director**

Financial Strategy

In 2013 Huron Pines developed several new multi-year and multi-funder programs. These included the new Au Sable Watershed program, a land stewardship program, and the Kirtland's Warbler Initiative. Developing new projects means using reserves to refine the projects to the point where funding from outside sources can be pursued. Even after funding has been granted reserves are used for matching funds until additional contributions can be raised. One of Huron Pines' strengths has been successful years where the reserves have grown, giving us the opportunity to go after projects we feel are important to our mission and service area.

During the last five years, Huron Pines has totaled approximately \$1.2 million in project investments by our supporters in Northeast Michigan. This is made of individual donors, partner organizations, businesses and our local communities. This support helps us complete our on-the-ground projects and is used to leverage funding that comes to Northeast Michigan from outside sources. Often this is in the form of competitive grants from state/federal government or private foundations. Because of the investment of our local and regional supporters, we have been able to attract about \$6.5 million in outside support the last five years. These are funds that come into the region and not only help us improve wildlife habitat, protect drinking water, restore streams and help private landowners, but also provide an infusion of good jobs, hire local contractors, purchase locally sourced materials and supplies, improve public infrastructure and strengthen the economy.

Project Partners and Sponsors



January 1–December 31, 2013

	2013	2012	2011
Revenues			
Annual Giving	\$46,895	\$42,795	\$35,919
Contributions, other support	301,079	109,315	246,676
Contractual Services	104,586	103,714	79,375
Federal Grants	1,155,381	1,918,588	859,338
State Grants	34,817	223,101	308,419
Total Revenue	\$1,642,758	\$2,397,513	1,529,727
Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$1,401,479	\$2,160,402	\$1,205,061
Management Expenses	325,518	251,837	150,255
Fundraising Expenses	33,900	10,032	12,176
Total Expenses	\$1,760,897	\$2,422,271	1,367,492
Change in Net Assets	\$-118,139	\$-24,758	\$162,235

2013 figures are projections for January 1 to December 31, 2013.
 2012 figures are audited financials for January 1 to December 31, 2012.
 2011 figures are audited financials for January 1 to December 31, 2011.

For every dollar contributed by those in NE Michigan, the return on investment has been five dollars in cash contributions from outside the region. What's more, when we include in-kind donations of labor, equipment and materials that more than doubles that cash contribution—meaning that every \$1 into Huron Pines equals \$10 of value for the region, for a total benefit of \$10 million in project value in the last five years. It goes to show that with strong local support great things are achieved!

Agency Funders



Contributors



\$20,000+

The Carls Foundation
Great Lakes Fishery Trust
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative
Network (WIN)
The Elizabeth, Allan, & Warren Shelden
Foundation

\$5,000+

Anglers of the Au Sable
Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation
Bay Area Community Foundation

Watershed Champions \$2,500–\$4,999

Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout
Unlimited
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Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited

River Patrons \$1,000–\$2,499

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Clinton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Community Foundation for Northeast
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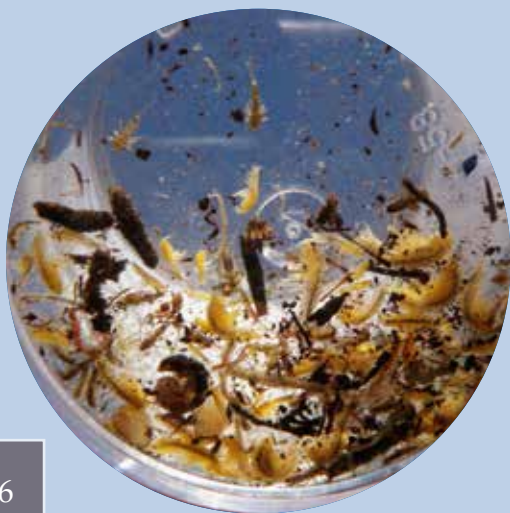
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The Erwin Family (*pictured*)
Dirk VanKoughnett and
Katherine Erwin

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