



# Huron Pines

## Annual Impact Report

### 2015

*Protecting the Great Lakes  
by conserving the forests, lakes & streams  
of Northeast Michigan*

*Connecting*



*Water*



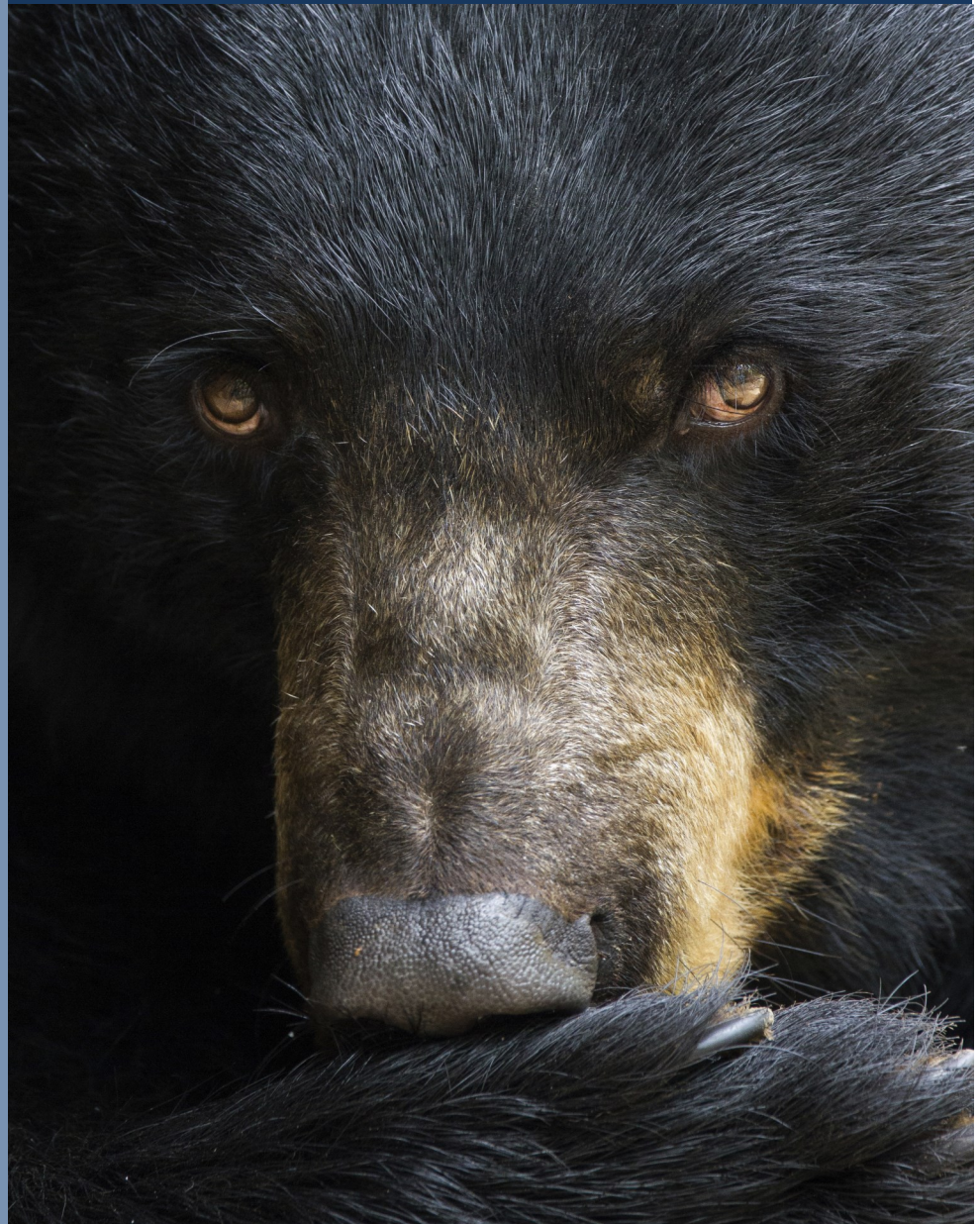
*Wildlife*



*Community*



*Sustainability*





**43**

*years building  
strong projects &  
partnerships*

**150+**

*partners engaged  
in 2015*

**2.7**

*million dollars  
raised for  
conservation in  
2015*

## Our Leadership

*Long-term planning & science for Great Lakes impact*

With this annual report, we give a heartfelt thanks to the many supporters who helped make last year so productive. The year 2015 went down as our highest impact year ever in terms of the benefits we provided to water, wildlife and our communities. Huron Pines fills a unique role and we know that without the help of so many, our important work would not get done. This report offers a snapshot of a few of our programs, but it just scratches the surface—we hope you join us on a tour or at an event to discover more of what’s happening and why we are so optimistic about the future. We see a future with vibrant communities, large blocks of intact land and reconnected rivers, and both our conservation and civic groups working together toward shared goals. We have a way to go to reach that vision, but thank you for travelling the path along with us and helping us make the region a better place to be.

*Jerry Rucker, Board Chair — Brad Jensen, Executive Director*

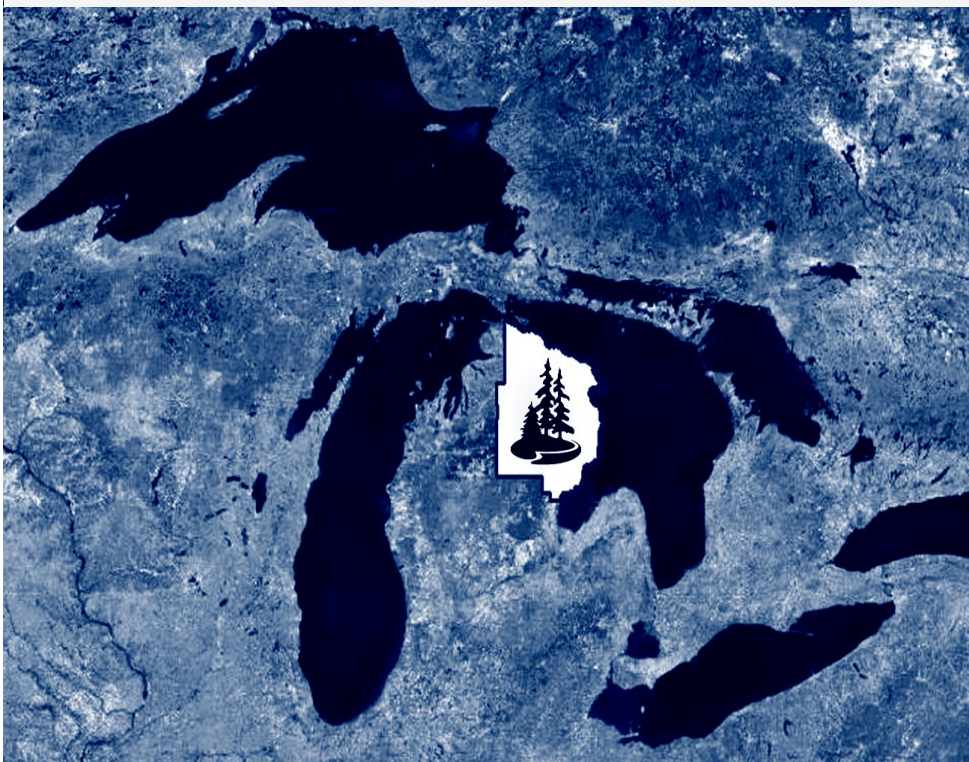


*Our work connects people to Northeast Michigan's amazing land and the conservation of healthy ecosystems.*

# Our Impact

*Protecting the Great Lakes by conserving the forests, lakes & streams of Northeast Michigan*

Huron Pines is a nonprofit organization with a staff of ecologists, geographers, biologists and environmental educators who care about keeping Northeast Michigan's wild places healthy and resilient for future generations. Located right in the center of the Great Lakes system, we have the unique privilege and responsibility to protect our treasured lands teeming with wildlife, and to sustain the world's most important source of fresh water. Our organization has been working to protect the Great Lakes by conserving the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan since 1973. In 2015 we made great strides improving the health of our region's world-class natural resources by reconnecting stream systems, keeping pollution from our rivers and lakes, restoring native plant communities, protecting Michigan's rare wildlife and instilling an ethic of stewardship in our citizens and visitors.



*Our work protects Great Lakes coastal habitats that are home to rare wildlife found nowhere else in the world.*



## 15

*watersheds are located in our service area*

## 20%

*of the world's fresh water is here in the Great Lakes*

## 467

*miles of Great Lakes coastline in our service area*



# Our Water Program

*Making connections for healthy rivers & lakes*

Barriers like dams and flawed road/stream crossings constrict and obstruct the flow of a river. At Huron Pines we decide which barriers are priorities to replace by comparing data from each one, including if fish could get through and whether the road is eroding into the water. When we reconnect a stream, we're reconnecting a living system. Fish can now swim to reach upstream habitat where before they were blocked. Turtles can now travel along the unrestricted river rather than risking the road. Plus, we can often pool our resources with road commissions to take on large projects that both make our rivers healthier and our roads safer and less costly to maintain. With our Song of the Morning Dam Removal project, we witnessed a whole river coming back to life and an incredible transformation from dam and impoundment to a free-flowing stream spanned by a new timber bridge. This was just one of three timber bridges completed in 2015, along with 11 other road/stream crossing improvements that reconnected streams.

**5**

*years prioritizing projects using our science-based Megalist*

**14**

*priority projects completed to reconnect rivers in 2015*

**114**

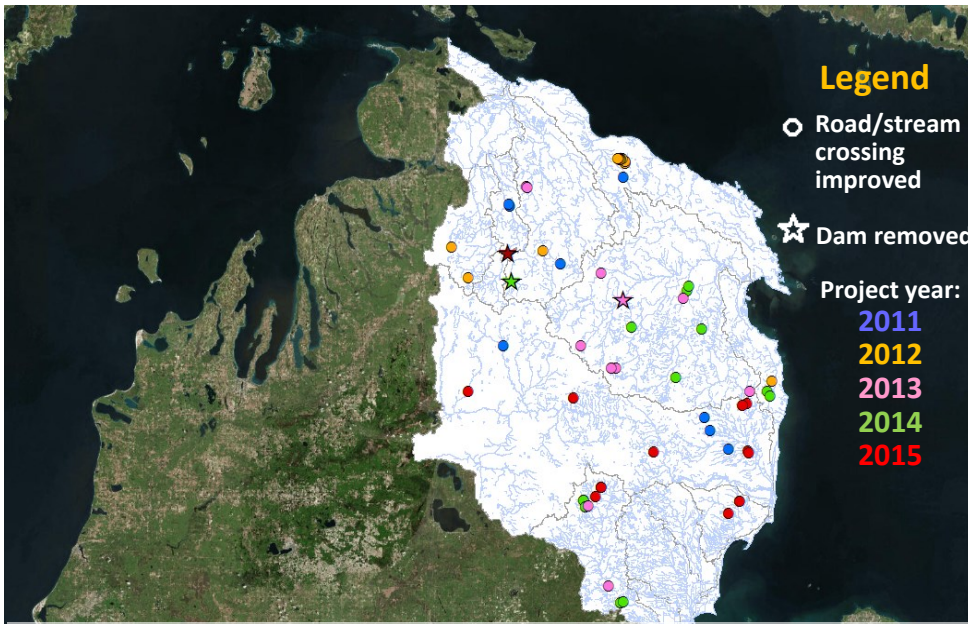
*priority barriers remaining on our Megalist*



*Aerial & ground-level views of Song of the Morning Dam prior to removal*



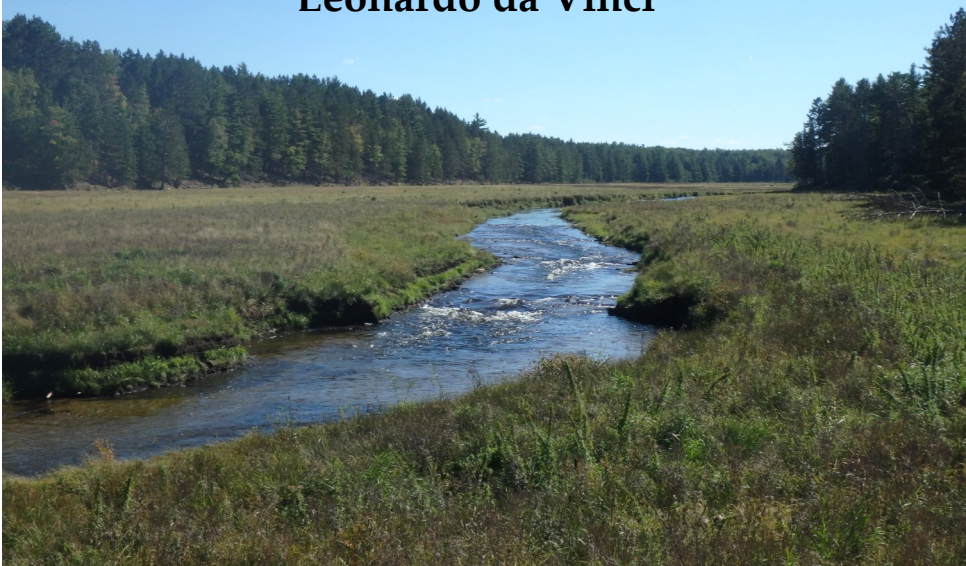
*Our Song of the Morning Dam Removal project reconnected the Pigeon River after more than a century of fragmentation.*



Since 2011 we've been using our science-based Megalist—a database of projects that are high priority for Northeast Michigan based on field inventory data & input from our Resource Advisors Committee. This map shows projects we've completed in the last 5 years that reconnected streams, color-coded by year.

*“When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come.”*

**Leonardo da Vinci**



New timber bridges at Houghton Creek (before and after shown) & the E. Branch Au Sable have opened up river habitat & improved community infrastructure.



**3**

*dams removed in the last 5 years*

**55**

*road/stream crossing sites improved in the last 5 years*

**1,379**

*road/stream crossing sites inventoried in the last 5 years*



7

*inland lakes  
inventoried for  
invasive species in  
2015*

75

*acres of forest  
wildlife openings  
restored: Pigeon  
River Country*

90%

*success rate for  
phragmites  
treatment*

## Our Wildlife Program

*Protecting special upland and coastal areas that are home to Michigan's rarest wildlife*

Huron Pines takes an ecosystem approach to protecting and restoring high-quality wildlife habitat. By battling invasive species, restoring native plant communities, installing instream habitat structures and connecting wildlife corridors, we are sustaining diverse Michigan landscapes that support rare and threatened species along with our state's prized game and nongame animals. We have a unique ability to work with people across ownership boundaries to improve the health of public or private lands and protect rare plants and animals like Pitcher's thistle, wood turtle, Hines' emerald dragonfly and the Kirtland's Warbler. In 2015 we made great progress preserving special areas like Lake Huron coastlines where we're keeping invasive plants like phragmites at bay and Pigeon River Country State Forest where we're restoring native grasslands and forest openings for elk and other wildlife.



*Michigan's incredibly diverse wildlife and native plant species depend on healthy lands and waters. We work with public and private land managers to enhance wildlife habitat and preserve ecosystems, focusing on vitally important areas like Lake Huron's wetlands and the Pigeon River Country State Forest.*



*We work with private property owners to help them meet their land management goals—often to attract more wildlife.*



*Threatened Pitcher's thistle*

25 acres phragmites treated in 2015

Known Pitcher's thistle range

*Huron Pines & partners are protecting threatened Pitcher's thistle plants & wetland wildlife habitat by managing invasive phragmites at the Charity Islands in Saginaw Bay. This map shows 2015 work at Big Charity Island.*

*"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility."*  
**Wendell Berry**



*Since 2009 we've been the lead organization coordinating the fight against invasive species through our Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)*



**3**

*miles of river targeted to improve instream habitat diversity*

**162**

*landowners provided resources or onsite services*

**225**

*acres of sensitive habitat protected for threatened plants and animals*



# Our Community Program

*Inspiring people to care & protect our natural resources*

Northeast Michigan is an outdoor lover's paradise, and Huron Pines works hard to preserve the untrammled feeling that calls residents and visitors from far and wide to experience our quieter, natural world. Our work is driven by a desire to make sure that our Great Lakes resources will continue to be healthy and that our region's people are trained and empowered to aid in the protection of natural resources. In 2015 we made big impacts in communities across Michigan. We dug into visioning for the future of our innovative Huron Pines AmeriCorps program which for 8 years has placed college graduates to help solve the toughest environmental challenges across Michigan. We held special tours with traditional and new partners to connect on the importance of natural resource protection across sectors. We provided conservation leadership in our region through efforts like the Kirtland's Warbler Initiative and were inspired by the many hands-on volunteers who came to join us in protecting and enjoying Northeast Michigan's natural resources.

**30+**

*organizations  
participated in our  
Nonprofit Leaders  
Series in 2015*

**768**

*people attended our  
2015 events &  
workshops*

**2,421**

*hours volunteers  
spent in hands-on  
conservation &  
trainings*



*We know that caring about natural resources begins with seeing, touching, feeling & experiencing the peace, adventure & opportunity for learning offered by the outdoors. We love our Northeast Michigan home, here in the heart of the Great Lakes, & we connect people with tools & resources to be better stewards.*



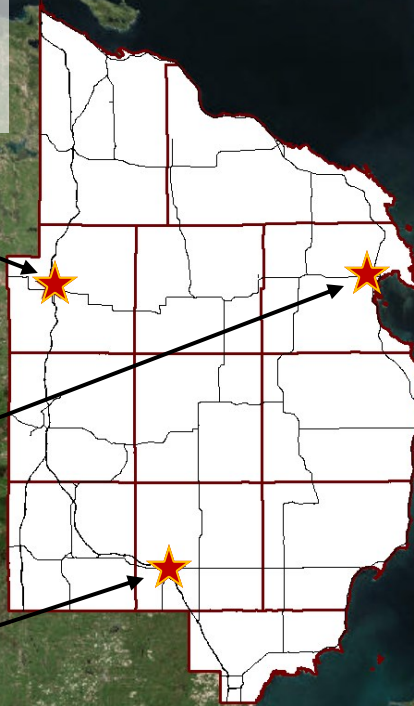


## 2015 Focus Communities

**Gaylord:** Our Nonprofit Leaders Series is providing ongoing training for nonprofits across the region.

**Alpena:** We're working with many **community** partners to protect wetland habitat & fight invasive species

**West Branch:** To build on recent projects protecting the Rifle River, we've expanded partnerships to launch a Rifle River Prosperity Network



# 300+

community leaders  
& elected officials  
toured projects in  
2015

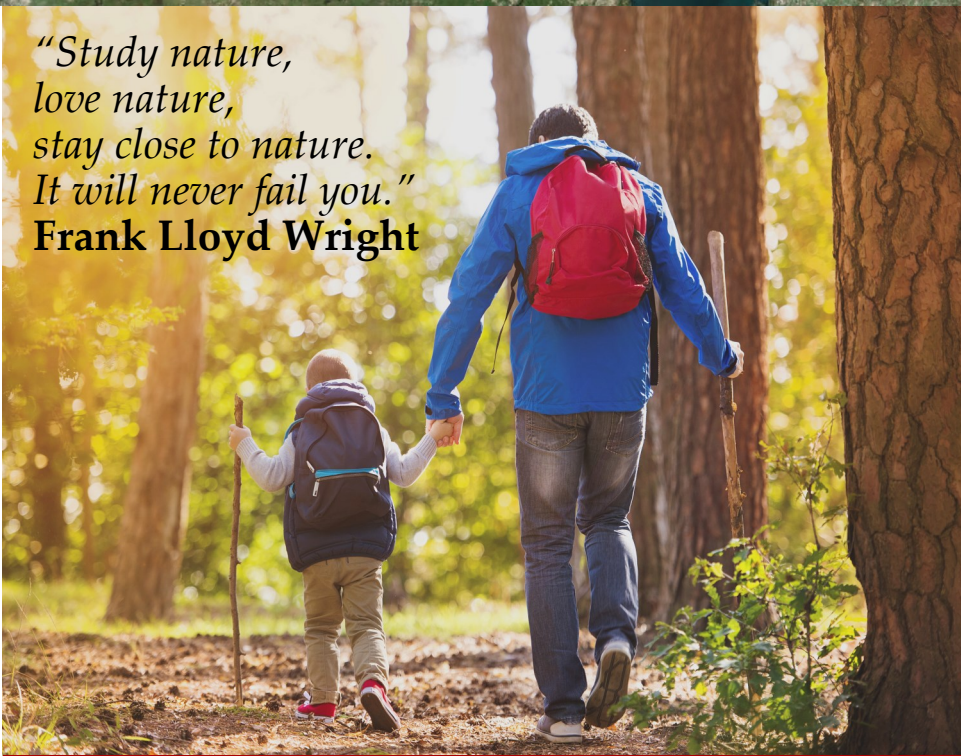
# 222

students brought  
to explore our jack  
pine ecosystem  
in 2015

# 20+

partners involved  
in Kirtland's  
Warbler  
conservation

*"Study nature,  
love nature,  
stay close to nature.  
It will never fail you."*  
**Frank Lloyd Wright**



In 2015 Huron Pines along with a volunteer planning committee hosted the revived Kirtland's Warbler Festival in Roscommon, MI. Hundreds of attendees came to celebrate the Kirtland's Warbler and enjoy wildlife-themed workshops.



# Our Sustainability

*Investing in top-notch people & programs for big impact*

During more than four decades spent protecting the Great Lakes by conserving the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan, Huron Pines has taken the time to listen to the many partners who appreciate our work and help make it possible. We work in a complementary role with local, state and federal partners to use public funding for a portion of our projects, and we connect locally to make resource management a collaborative effort, breaking down barriers among government agencies and people. Our approach to building strong private-public partnerships aims to bring everyone together for the benefit of our Great Lakes water, wildlife and communities. We invest in staff development to be able to provide a high level of technical support to people across our service area, and because of our burgeoning partnerships with business, foundation, individual and government funders who are seeking better ways to do things, Huron Pines is poised for even more success as we diversify our base of support.

**1**

*long-term strategic vision document developed*

**1**

*new website launched to better serve our region*

**1**

*list of priority projects (Megalist) updated and restructured*



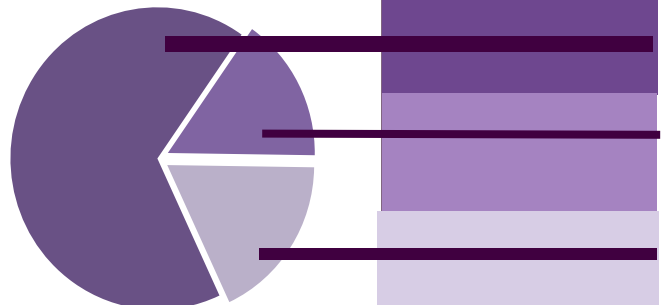
*Board of Directors  
(photos above)*

- Jerry Rucker, Chair**
- Joe Jarecki, Vice Chair**
- Judy Kalmanek, Secretary**
- Connie Schrieber, Treasurer**
- Anne Belanger**
- Ned Caveney**
- Chip (E. James) Erwin**
- Daryl Poprave**
- David Smith**
- Robert Stuber**
- New in 2016: Meaghan Gass**

*Staff (photos at right)*

- Brad Jensen, Executive Director**
- Lisha Ramsdell, Associate Director**
- John Bailey, Watershed Project Manager**
- Melissa Buzzard, Stewardship Specialist**
- Abigail Ertel, Community Programs Lead**
- Jennie Jandron, Program Manager**
- Susan LaVanture, Accountant**
- Brian Marshall, Habitat Specialist**
- Shelley Martinez, Development Services**
- Josh Leisen, Watershed Project Manager**
- Joy Leisen, Special Projects Coordinator**
- Jennifer Muladore, Ecologist**
- Ken Reed, Habitat Specialist**
- Jill Scarzo, Program Assistant**

## 2015 Program Spending



# Our Financials

Revenues	2015	2014
Annual Giving	\$45,007	\$46,883
Contributions	\$347,652	\$258,647
Contractual Services	\$192,719	\$189,755
Federal Grants	\$1,651,600	\$1,351,192
State Grants	\$512,471	\$43,405
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,749,449</b>	<b>\$1,889,882</b>
Expenses	2015	2014
Program Expenses	\$2,324,122	\$1,615,306
Management Expenses	\$362,496	\$314,802
Fundraising Expenses	\$58,961	\$58,353
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,745,579</b>	<b>\$1,988,461</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$3,870</b>	<b>-\$98,579</b>

*“Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history & romance as a sacred heritage for your children’s children.”*

**Teddy Roosevelt**



**10**

*dollars leveraged for every one dollar of local investment*

**10+**

*new projects started in 2015*

**100+**

*contracts administered in 2015*

→ **Water Program 67%**

→ **Wildlife Program 16%**

→ **Community Program 18%**



# Our Thanks

*Investing in healthy natural resources benefits all*

Huron Pines' ability to accomplish so much for Northeast Michigan and the Great Lakes is only possible because of the support of an incredible array of funding agencies, organization and individuals. We seek to involve everyone in the stewardship of our natural resources, and we work hard to align priorities with our partners so that we can leverage and build on existing support and enthusiasm. This helps us stretch each dollar further for maximum benefits to Great Lakes ecosystems for the good of all who enjoy and depend on them—so you can be sure we are developing and completing the most important projects to really benefit the land and water we all enjoy. When people come together to invest in healthy water, wildlife and communities, everyone wins—so if you're not already a Huron Pines member, make your tax-deductible contribution today at [www.huronpines.org.donate](http://www.huronpines.org.donate).

## 50%

*increase in total support from previous year*

### Major Donors



Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation



THE  
CARLS  
FOUNDATION

Rollin M.  
Gerstacker  
Foundation



From an anonymous donor-advised fund



From the People Fund



Michigan Department of Military & Veterans Affairs- Camp Grayling

### Great Lakes Heroes

Anglers of the Au Sable

Bay Area Community Foundation

Consumers Energy Foundation

Great Lakes Commission

Michigan Audubon Society

Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society

J.A. Woollam Foundation

### Watershed Champions

Au Sable River Property Owners Association

County of Crawford

Community

Foundation for Southeast Michigan- Suggested by Sally Binard from the Frank W. Lynch & Roberta Jane Lynch Endowed Family Fund

*"The environment, after all, is where we all meet,  
where we all have a mutual interest.  
It is one thing that all of us share."*  
**Lady Bird Johnson**



SUSTAIN OUR GREAT LAKES



**Morley Foundation**

**patagonia**  
World Trout Initiative



Pigeon River Country Association



**The Elizabeth, Allan, & Warren Shelden Fund**



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative



**112%**

*increase in  
business  
supporters from  
previous year*

Peter & Virginia Gustafson

Joe & Judi Jarecki

Plum Creek Foundation

**River Patrons**

Eric Bankhead & Connie Schrieber

Canada Creek Ranch

Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan- Mr. & Mrs. O.B. Eustis Memorial Fund

William & Linda Demmer

The Chip & Betsy Erwin Family

David Irani & Laurel Moore

Jennifer & Michael Koralewski

James Kure

Otsego County Community Foundation

Otsego Wildlife Legacy Society

Jerry & Fran Rucker

Schwab Charitable-suggested by Raymond & Frances Hoobler from the Hoobler Fund

John G. Shedd Aquarium

Jeffrey Twyman

Upper Black River Council

William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## Sustainers

Anonymous  
Black Lake Association  
Harold (Tim) Blanchet  
Community Foundation for  
Southeast Michigan-  
suggested by Mr. & Mrs.  
Robert L. Anthony IV from  
the Cathy & Bob Anthony  
Fund  
Consumers Energy  
Flygirls of Michigan, Inc.  
Beach & Marianne Hall  
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Thomas Mudd  
Paddle Hard Brewing LLC  
Roger Rasmussen  
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Roscommon County  
Community Foundation  
Roscommon Rotary Club  
#2814  
Paul & Carol Rose  
Pat & Vicki Springstead  
Twin Lakes Property Owners  
Association  
Walmart Facility #1542,  
Gaylord

## Partners

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Ruth Addis & Marj Schloff  
AJD Forest Products  
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Mary K. Wolf  
Terrance & Lisa Yarema  
Robert Yaske  
Stanley Yolkiewicz

## In Honor Of

Abigail Ertel & her dedication  
to Kirtland's Warblers &  
other conservation issues.  
She also helped a  
couple of Texans  
& we are grateful!  
from Anonymous  
Chip & Betsy Erwin  
from Dirk VanKoughnett &  
Katherine Erwin  
Jim & Judy Gaskell  
from Ronald & Valerie  
Beatty  
Mike Grant  
from Barbara Fosmire  
Tom Green  
from Josh Green  
Joe Jarecki  
from Glenn & Moon Seagren  
Bruce & Tammy Kohnert  
from Anonymous  
Marilyn Kohnert  
from Bruce & Tammy  
Kohnert  
Mrs. Claudine Osborn  
from Throck Osborn

## In Memory Of

Charlotte D. Adams  
from William R. & Charlotte  
Adams  
Mrs. Susan Baldwin  
from Dr. James & Mrs. Mikel  
O'Neill  
Kim W. Beck  
from Carol Morley Beck  
Martin Beer  
from Karen Beer  
Bonnie & Bing Benghauser  
from Karl Benghauser  
Ed & Dolores Bozynski  
from George & Janet  
Bozynski  
Ralph & Irene Burchi  
from Alan Burchi & Barbara  
Patek  
Stephanie Ebling  
from George Ebling  
David A. Feighan  
from Patricia A. Feighan  
Robert & Barbara Grant  
from Ken & Susan Hirth  
Bill Gregory  
from Bob & Karla Grant  
Arnot B. Heller II  
from Jennifer & Jason Hill  
Russ Holmes  
from Robert & Jane Sparks  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Ingle  
from Don & Sis Pierce  
Celeste Jensen  
from Jerry Jensen  
Kolby from Benjamin Duby  
Ken Kleimola  
from Roy Tassava  
William S. Koepke  
from Nancy Koepke  
Joe Kutkuhn  
from Roger & Mary Fechner  
Jeffrey Moses  
from Susan Malkes

Jerry Myers  
from Glen & Gwen Catt  
William Myers  
from Sharon Myers  
Jerry Nunn  
from Brad Jensen &  
Rebecca Benson  
Jerry Nunn from Kelly Trainor  
Jean Petoskey  
from Merrill Petoskey  
Edward Petrucha  
from James & Barbara Bailey  
Edward Petrucha  
from Marian Hebekeuser  
Edward Petrucha  
from Ralph & Yarmilla  
Kleinedler  
Edward Petrucha  
from Marian Kovarik  
Edward Petrucha  
from Linda & Marcos Salazar  
Edward Petrucha  
from Alan & Sherry Schlicht  
Edward Petrucha  
from Beverly & Stephen  
Slisko  
Ralph Piske  
from Jerold & Sharyn Scovie  
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