



Annual Report 2018





Huron Pines board and staff retreat, June 2018.

Letter from the New Huron Pines Board Chair

As I step into my new role as Chair of the Huron Pines Board, I see Huron Pines continuing its focus on the connection between individual projects and their impact on the health of the Great Lakes Basin.

I was first introduced to Huron Pines in the late 1990s while serving as Unit Manager for the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRCSF) with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Working with Huron Pines on several bridge and culvert replacements, I observed their expertise and was impressed by the number of partners that participated in each project. That holistic approach to conservation—of expertise combined with broad participation—resonated with me, and is why I was happy to join the board just over a decade ago.

When I retired, I wanted to continue to be involved with conservation projects in the area, and was pleased that my role on the Huron Pines board allowed me that opportunity. I hoped my experience managing the PRCSF, and my attention to detail, while keeping in mind the big picture, would help Huron Pines accomplish its mission to conserve the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan.

I'm excited about the new initiatives that further our important goal of integrating a conservation ethic into all aspects of our communities, including:

- School forests – working with schools to develop and implement management plans for their school forests, which engage students, link to the school curriculum and involve the local community

- Protected places – working with partners and the public to develop management plans for our new nature preserves in Alcona and Presque Isle counties, as well as for the conservation easement Huron Pines will hold on the North Point Peninsula in Alpena, which The Nature Conservancy purchased and is in the process of transferring to Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, with frontage on both Thunder Bay and Lake Huron
- Coastal stormwater – working with Lake Huron coastal communities to plan and implement stormwater runoff strategies that reduce polluted runoff to improve water quality

Thank you for your support of Huron Pines.

Joe Jarecki, Huron Pines Board Chair

Our work demands the strength of our board, staff and partners to support sustainable communities rich with protected natural resources.

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- Sarah Topp**
Huron Pines AmeriCorps Coordinator
- Emily Vogelgesang**
Environmental Education Coordinator
- Jennie Zoll**
Director of Finance and Administration



A Leap of Faith for a Lasting Impact

Brad Jensen, Executive Director

How does a project begin at Huron Pines? It's the question I get asked the most. Well, here goes: We learn of a problem, we decide if it's a priority we can take on, we work through our network of partners to develop the right solution, and then we take a leap of faith and move ahead to address the issue. Sounds simple, but here's the secret...nine times out of ten, there is no financing in place when we take that leap. Our invasive species program, Huron Pines AmeriCorps, removing failing dams, providing help to landowners—what these ambitious programs all have in common is that we started building them before the financial support was in place.

The communities in Michigan where we do most of our work face real economic challenges. Our approach allows us to act nimbly and address mission critical issues when we see the greatest need, without waiting for the funding to fall into place.

I can acknowledge that such a model causes discomfort for some people and can collapse completely if you're not very optimistic about the future—but I am. Huron Pines just finished 45 years of programming and I think retaining this sort of start-up mentality is what I appreciate most about our organization and staff.

We have strong partners and generous donors who make our work possible, and we're very grateful for that. After years of working together, our many partners and donors understand the challenges we face, and have expressed the desire to be that "first funder in" on a new initiative. And that's made all the difference for us.

In 2018, we took another big leap of faith and launched three new programs. We identified key issues, worked together with partners on solutions and dedicated the time and talent to start making a difference. Last year, generous supporters got behind our new initiatives and we'll use their investment to make a meaningful

difference for decades to come. Our new efforts will add value to existing programs, including:

Putting environmental education into action through hands-on forest management that combines classroom lessons, desktop inventories and school forest field trips to help students create and implement Forest Management Plans on their school forest property that can include up to 80 acres of land. We have about two dozen school districts in our 4.5-million-acre service area and want to work with each of them in the years to come. A quarter of the schools have already started to move ahead with us on the effort.

Connecting the public to conservation by providing opportunities to explore diverse natural habitats and education on how to care for them on nature preserves owned and managed by Huron Pines. Having our own preserves gives us a way to showcase restoration and stewardship activities, encourage easy access to nature and work more closely with our neighbors.

Improving water quality along the Lake Huron coast by working with every coastal community along the lake's northern shore to put a stormwater management program in place, including planning and financing green infrastructure that can reduce runoff and improve water quality. Polluted runoff flowing into lakes every time it rains is one of the major issues that harm water quality and it's a problem we know how to help communities fix. Anyone interested in reducing stormwater runoff, from Mackinaw to Au Gres, is someone we want to talk to.

Thank you for your help in making this work possible and for taking a leap of faith with us as we work to meet emerging and ever-changing needs. Together, we're making a difference.



"Our approach allows us to act nimbly and address mission critical issues."

Milligan Creek Gets a Fresh Start

River restoration often requires an infrastructure overhaul that involves diverting traffic, transporting equipment and resurfacing roads. So when Milligan Creek needed two new road/stream crossings, the Cheboygan County Road Commission was a welcome partner, providing the unique skills required to remove the old culverts and install new fish passage structures, giving the Upper Black River tributary some much-needed attention. The project restored 14 miles of upstream trout habitat on Milligan Creek, improving angling opportunities and shoring up infrastructure for Cheboygan County.

The Nuts and Bolts of Construction

With Huron Pines project management and partner support, the Cheboygan County Road Commission began construction in the summer of 2018 to replace two undersized culverts on Milligan Creek at Brady and Waveland roads. The old culverts were replaced with new 35-foot-wide structures that allow water to flow freely, and are large enough for anglers and wildlife to navigate easily while providing improvements in traffic flow, road safety and day-to-day maintenance.



As Brent Shank, Engineer/Manager at the Cheboygan County Road Commission, explained, “We used to have calls for water backing up, and would have to allot man-hours to handling debris pile up.” The old culverts also left the river disconnected, sometimes completely, by low flow in the summer.

The updated road/stream crossings, which replaced culverts from the 1950s, have a 50-plus-year lifespan. Other improvements include wider roads and better drainage, designed to prevent flooding, sediment build-up and pollution that can come from extreme weather washing water from the road into the river.

Connected River Systems and Improved Fish Habitat

Milligan Creek flows north from Duby Lake until it feeds the Upper Black River a few miles north of M-68. A cool- to coldwater trout stream, the health of Milligan Creek is important for supporting quality habitat and stream health in the region. Some species of fish that live in the Black River and Black Lake utilize Milligan Creek, particularly those seeking colder water.

According to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries biologist Tim Cwalinski, Milligan Creek is a key tributary to the Black River in its lower reaches. “The creek supports a unique brook trout community, but can warm up considerably in the lower reaches,” Cwalinski said. “These culverts acted as a complete barrier to upstream fish movement, especially in low water periods. These low water periods often coincided with warm summer temperatures which is when brook trout upstream migration was typically prevented.”

Replacing the culverts is already paying dividends, with cooler water temperatures and more consistent water flow.



Key Partners and Shared Success

For large-scale projects, the collective funding and labor resources not only make the work financially possible, the shared support brings key players together to work on a singular vision. As Shank explained, “If Huron Pines is bringing something to the table, I’ll bring something too, because it benefits everyone.”

The project support and funding for Milligan Creek came from the Michigan DNR Aquatic Habitat Grant, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Fish Passage Program, the Walters Family Foundation and the Cheboygan County Road Commission. In addition, local landowners and the Upper Black River Council played key roles in championing the project over the years.

Measuring Success and Looking Ahead

As Ross Nave, a property owner on Milligan Creek said, “In the long run the project is going to be a big help. It’s just beautiful and a blessing for the river.” The reconnected stream miles now support a healthy river corridor that promotes birding, hiking, kayaking, scenic views and, for homeowners and fishermen, the benefit of improved trout habitat. “Brook trout streams are getting rare these days,” Nave said. “It’s nice to see one coming back.”

As Huron Pines Watershed Project Manager Josh Leisen explained, “We’ve made huge strides over the last decade to improve the health of rivers and streams across the region.” Huron Pines plans to reconnect close to 100 more miles of river in 2019 with two small dam removals and ten more road/stream crossing improvements across the region, including two more projects in Cheboygan County on Elliot Creek.



Water runs freely under the new Waveland Rd. crossing over Milligan Creek. The final touches on the project will conclude this spring when the roads are resurfaced with asphalt to prevent excess sediment from entering the water. Photos: Tom Cadwalader

Monitoring Wood Turtles at Milligan Creek

Huron Pines and the Odawa Tribe Research Wood Turtles near the Upper Black River



If there's a race to reconnect river miles, there's one slow and steady neighbor watching the progress unfold. As part of the construction at Milligan Creek, Huron Pines had the opportunity to work alongside the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, who have been following wood turtles, monitoring their behavior in the area and relocating especially at-risk turtles.

Bill Parsons, Inland Fish & Wildlife Biologist in the Natural Resource Department with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, researches wood turtles in the Cheboygan River Watershed as part of a long-term survey that aims to learn more about the nesting locations, seasonal habitat and threats to the population.

"One of the turtles near Milligan Creek is moving almost two miles," Parsons said. "She travels two miles from Stoney Creek in this annual migration, lays eggs on a gravel road, then spends two weeks getting home."

Parsons found that the turtles often nest in poor locations on gravel roads near culverts, travel long distances, and make themselves susceptible to raccoons and other predators eating the bulk of their eggs. This is particularly concerning to Parsons, who points out that wood turtles

don't become reproductive until 10-16 years of age, and only lay eggs once per year.

In the 2018 season, 10 females were affixed with transmitters near Milligan Creek. One particular turtle was on the forest edge near an actively farmed hayfield, and is now having its movements monitored seasonally. During construction of the new culvert, Huron Pines joined Parsons to track and sometimes relocate turtles that were deemed at-risk.

Wood turtles, listed by the state as a species of special concern, are a culturally significant clan animal for the Odawa Tribe. "The tribe has a youth conservation corps with teenage students employed near this area," Parsons said. "They helped the past couple summers in the tracking of these turtles."

Parsons is quick to thank private landowners adjacent to Milligan Creek who have been cooperative in allowing researchers access to property, and even proactive in building nesting habitat for the animals, adding that sandy, south-facing habitat is helpful for the turtle life cycle, "so the wood turtles have a safe place to bury eggs."

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Conservation Service Leads to Inspiring and Diverse Career Environments



Huron Pines AmeriCorps Coordinator Sarah Topp cuts a cake at a celebration for Huron Pines AmeriCorps members and supervisors.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps members complete 1,700 hours of conservation work each year and the benefits go well beyond their ten months of service. These dedicated conservationists and educators leave with valuable experience they carry forward into their lives and careers.

In 2018 alone, Huron Pines AmeriCorps members restored or improved 1,315 public river miles, 376 public trail miles and 30,909 public acres of land, and engaged 3,140 volunteers in almost 25,000 hours of service. These numbers are a small measure of their long-term impact on Michigan's natural resources.

The Huron Pines AmeriCorps program began as a way for people just starting their careers to gain hands-on conservation experience while giving back to Michigan communities. Over more than a decade, the program has helped cultivate the next generation of leaders in conservation. There's nothing we enjoy more than hearing about where our alums have landed, so we thought we'd share a few stories with you.

There and Back Again

When Sarah Topp became the new Huron Pines AmeriCorps Coordinator in 2018, she returned not only to her hometown of Gaylord, but to AmeriCorps itself. She first served as a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member with Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) in 2015.

"I coordinated their On the Ground program, which is a wildlife habitat improvement program that gets volunteers on public land, planting trees and building habitat for game species," Topp said.

Topp parlayed her Huron Pines AmeriCorps experience into full-time conservation work with MUCC, building partnerships and expanding their state-wide footprint, before recently taking on the role as the Huron Pines AmeriCorps Coordinator. Now she recruits new members with a passion for natural resources and places them in conservation roles at host sites across the state. She leads orientation programs, manages project funding, coordinates

member communications, develops trainings and more.

"I found that I really liked working with people and helping them find their career path," Topp said. "It's nice to be reminded of where I was, and to see again and again how the experience opens doors."

Hands-on Experience

Former Huron Pines AmeriCorps member Daniel Moffatt recently purchased a historic farmhouse where he plans to follow a dream of pairing small-scale farming with community education on regenerative agriculture and the local food system. To prepare, he currently works as a farmhand on an organic vegetable farm in Northeast Michigan.

On the farm, Moffatt still draws on his experience with Huron Pines AmeriCorps. "Tree and plant species, watershed knowledge and environmental volunteer involvement—these are the things that continue to influence my life today," he said.

Moffatt served with Huron Pines AmeriCorps as Education Coordinator with the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena in 2012.

"During my service both teachers and community partners inspired me," Moffatt said. "I knew that someday I wanted to be on the other side of the table."

Bringing Nature to the City

Angel Squalls works for the City of Detroit GSD Forestry Department as Associate Forester, where she assists with the management of daily forestry operations and residential forestry concerns, and organizes Mayor Duggan's 10,000 Up program.

"We will plant 10,000 trees in the City of



Clockwise from the top: Jon Prins with a fresh catch during a trip to Alaska. Angel Squall plants her first tree with the DNR Urban Forestry Division. Daniel Moffatt in the field with a group of students during his Huron Pines AmeriCorps service.

Detroit over the next three years, to increase tree canopy in neighborhoods, replacing trees that have been removed from disease, and bring all the benefits of trees to residents,” she said.

Before entering her career, Squalls came to her 10-month service with Huron Pines AmeriCorps in 2018 having already served with the D-YES AmeriCorps program in which she provided energy education and weatherized homes for low-income families in Detroit. With Huron Pines AmeriCorps, Squalls was Cooperative Programs Developer for the Michigan DNR Urban Forestry Division in Lansing, where, among other things, she reviewed grant applications, assisted in event planning, provided environmental education and outreach and, of course, planted trees.

“All the knowledge I gained with AmeriCorps and Huron Pines through tree planting and educational workshops on forest health and urban forestry really made the difference for me,” she said.

Focused On Corporate Responsibility

When Jon Prins served with Huron Pines AmeriCorps he was looking to switch industries and shift career focus. “I wanted to do something different with my work outside of corporate America, to follow my passion for the outdoors,” he said.

Prins served with the Grand Traverse Conservation District in 2009 focusing on marketing and outreach following the construction of a new nature center near Traverse City. The

service paid off. After he finished, Prins worked full-time with Grand Traverse Conservation District before leaving to earn his masters of business administration at the University of Colorado, and then working for agencies, start-ups and apparel brands, among others, on sustainability issues.

Prins now works for furniture maker Steelcase in Grand Rapids as a senior member of the sustainability team. He collaborates cross functionally to help envision and achieve Steelcase’s sustainability aspirations. His work involves managing external stakeholder relationships, translating insights into action and finding ways to make Steelcase’s work more timely, efficient and robust.

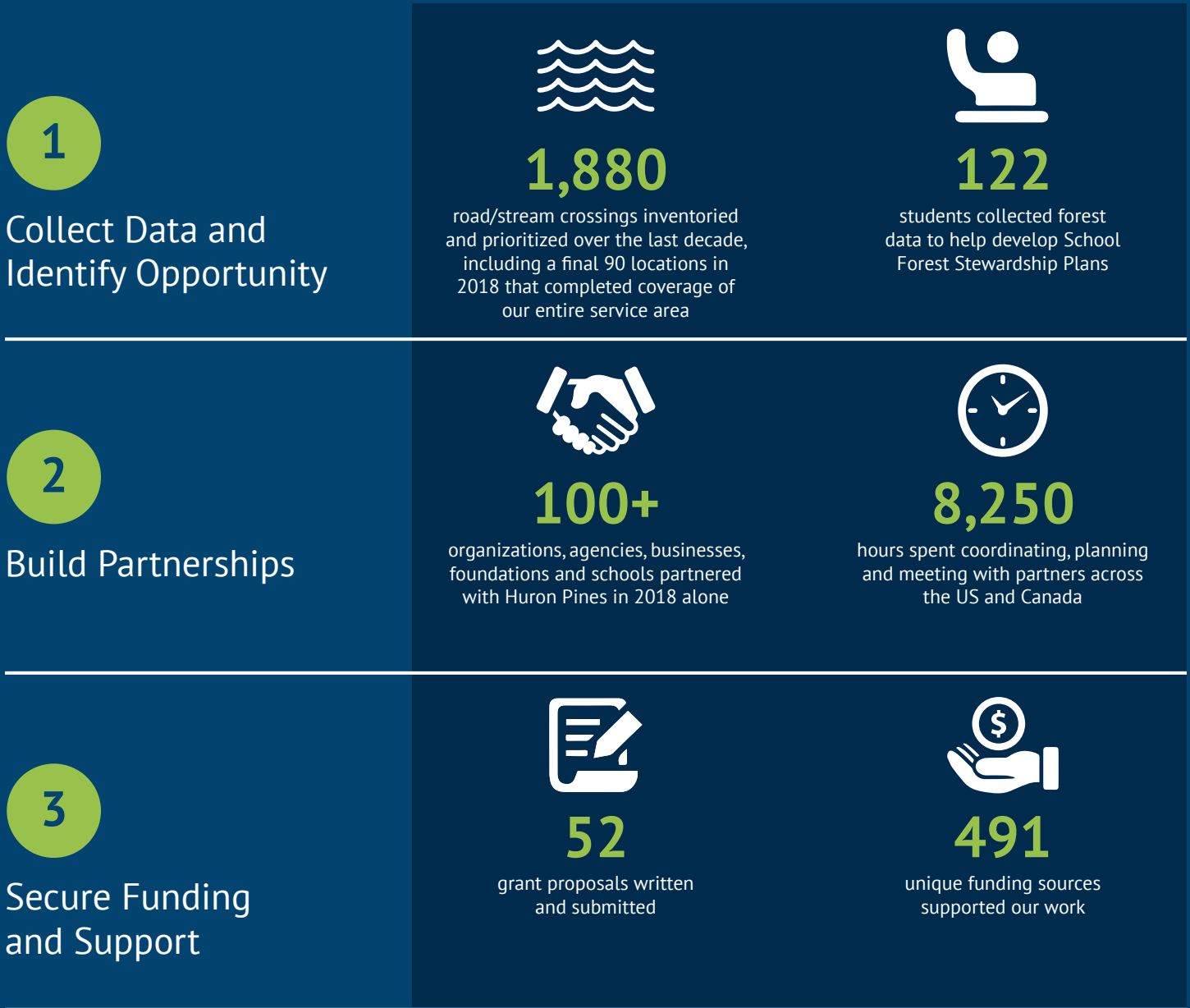
“For any role in sustainability—non-profit or for-profit—you’re trying to influence behavior and communicate in a way that’s empathetic. I learned those skills in AmeriCorps—to take that passion for conservation and translate it in a way that resonates.”

For Prins, and for all Huron Pines AmeriCorps alums, the experience is indispensable for building skills and making professional connections. Sometimes, more importantly, it solidifies a connection to nature that lasts a lifetime.

“I know a lot more about what’s going on in the forest. I carry that with me to this day,” Prins said. “I can still identify all the spring flowers and plants, which adds a level of enjoyment that I can pass on to others. That part of AmeriCorps will always live on.”

Setting a Course for Success

Our work includes everything from river restoration and invasive species removal to environmental education and community capacity building. While the details of each project are different, the process that gets us from start to finish is almost always the same. Here's a glimpse into how we got things done at Huron Pines in 2018.



4

Prepare and Plot a Course of Action



47

permit applications
submitted and approved



35

partnership agreements
and project contracts
drafted and signed

5

Celebrate Success



90th

stream barrier removed



1,548

people reached through community
programs and education initiatives

6

Monitor and Evaluate



79

properties monitored and retreated
for persistent invasive species



56

in-person interviews conducted to
evaluate member experience in the
Huron Pines AmeriCorps program

7

Adapt and Scale



23

school districts slated to create
Forest Stewardship Plans over the
next 10 years to fulfill the long-term
goal of the Huron Pines School
Forest Program



500

river miles connected by the end
of 2019 as a result of a decade of
watershed restoration

Leadership Development from the Inside Out(side)

Through professional development programs, hands-on workshops and regional facilitation roles, Huron Pines seeks to develop the skills and capacity of our staff and partners in order to build vibrant, sustainable communities rich with protected natural resources.

Starting with a Strong Foundation

Our staff is our greatest strength, which is why we encourage everyone to take advantage of development opportunities like conferences, classes and trainings.

In 2018, two of our staff members, Jennie Zoll and Jennifer Muladore, were invited to participate in Leadership Learning Lab, an eight-month program focused on developing nonprofit leadership skills. "The session on storytelling was one of my favorites," Zoll said. "I was able to turn a personal experience from my job into a story that connects people to the impact of our work."

The program was supported by the Frey Foundation, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, Otsego Community Foundation, Roscommon County Community Foundation and NorthSky Nonprofit Network, and included monthly meetings on topics ranging from fundraising to board development.

"I really enjoyed getting to know leaders of other nonprofits in our area. Even though our organizations tackle very different issues, we all struggle with similar needs as leaders in our organizations," said Muladore. "We now have a network of women across Northeast Michigan who are rooting for each other to achieve our missions and make our communities better places to live."

Building Capacity

The Nonprofit Leaders Series started over five years ago with supporting partnership from Otsego Community Foundation when our two organizations saw a need in the nonprofit community for collaborative learning, access to training, leadership resources and networking.

The program has continued to grow each year reaching new people, introducing new topics and branching out to new cities. The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan joined as a program partner in 2018, allowing us to reach even more of our Northeast Michigan audience.

"We see a strong connection between vibrant communities and smart, nimble and prepared organizations," said Abby Ertel, Community Program Lead and one of the series organizers. "Strong partners allow us to accomplish more to protect our natural resources and provide meaningful benefit to the people and communities where we serve."



Jennie Zoll
Director of Finance and Administration



Jennifer Muladore
Ecologist



Abigail Ertel
Community Program Lead



Lisha Ramsdell
Associate Director

Over 123 people attended four workshops in 2018 to learn everything from the basics of board governance to tips for effective marketing. In the year ahead, we plan to reach new cities and cover brand new topics. Stay tuned for details on the 2019 Nonprofit Leaders Series.

Securing the Future of the Great Lakes

In 2018, Huron Pines began facilitating a partnership of Lake Huron community foundations and conservation organizations focused on clean water action. The Lake Huron team is the only bi-national Great Lakes team with partners in the U.S. and Canada.

"Focusing on Lake Huron health from coast to coast has been an exciting opportunity for Huron Pines," said Lisha Ramsdell, Huron Pines Associate Director. "The 'one water' approach has allowed us to meet new partners, share ideas and develop a strong plan for engaging communities in clean water protection."

The Great Lakes One Water Partnership was established by the Council of Michigan Foundations to advance water management for the economic, environmental and cultural benefit of communities throughout the Great Lakes Basin. Huron Pines, the Bay Area Community Foundation (Bay City, MI), Community Foundation Gray Bruce (Owen Sound, Ontario), the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan (Alpena, MI) along with other local conservation partners are developing a set of actionable community recommendations to ensure the long-term sustainability of Lake Huron and the entire Great Lakes region.



Clockwise from top: Members of the Huron Pines board take a hike, led by Wendy Frye, through a wooded trail at the Hubbard Lake Nature Preserve. A view of the open grassland at the Emily Min Hunt Nature Preserve. Birders in their natural habitat, during a "Bird Walk and Coffee Talk" event at Hubbard Lake last September.

Preserving a Future for Protected Land

Looking Ahead and Planning for the Hubbard Lake Nature Preserve

The Hubbard Lake Nature Preserve was a welcome and generous—if unexpected—gift that marked a turning point in our land protection efforts. John and Wendy Frye originally purchased their Hubbard Lake property in 2003. The 80-acre piece of land became a place of peace, relaxation and recreation that they wanted to see protected and enjoyed for generations. In the summer of 2018, they decided the best way to achieve that goal was to donate the property to Huron Pines to develop our first public nature preserve.

We set a goal to raise an initial \$65,000 to prepare the land for daily public use and to start a permanent endowment fund for the long-term care of the property. During the initial fundraising phase we were able to open the preserve to the public for a few events including an open house, a bird watching hike and an invasive autumn olive removal workshop. It was a great

opportunity to meet our new neighbors and provided an exciting preview of possible uses for the property.

Thanks to the generous support of the Besser Foundation, individual donors and businesses, we raised over \$38,600 in 2018. With the initial investment we are able to open to the public for daily use beginning in June of 2019 and to start a long-term Hubbard Lake Preserve Fund with the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. We continue to explore additional funding opportunities to expand community and education programs at the preserve.

We will be hosting monthly events at the Hubbard Lake Nature Preserve from June through September. We'll kick things off with a Grand Opening on June 20, 2019 followed by a nature hike, an invasive species training and a trail run and yoga. We'll be sharing details throughout the spring and summer. Find the full schedule at huronpines.org/hubbard-lake.

Wide Open Spaces

The Thunder Bay Audubon Society has donated the Emily Min Hunt Nature Preserve to Huron Pines. The 438-acre parcel of land is located off Shubert Highway across from Long Lake in Presque Isle County. The mixed hardwood forest is home to what was once a working apple orchard. The former orchard provides open grassland habitat for birds and other wildlife moving between water, woods and open land.



Min Hunt will be a great companion property to the Hubbard Lake Nature Preserve as they offer different ecosystems that will allow us to engage in different restoration, stewardship and education initiatives. We look forward to sharing more about this exciting new development in the coming months.



It Takes a Team

A Collaborative Approach to Invasive Species Management in Northeast Michigan



Shelby Bauer removing European frog-bit from the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary.

This summer will mark 10 years since Huron Pines began coordinating invasive plant management efforts across Northeast Michigan. We've treated over 1,000 acres, provided education and resources to thousands of people and established a dynamic partnership of over 40 conservation groups, local leaders, state and federal agencies and landowners to help direct invasive species action in Northeast Michigan. While the species being treated may change, the approach to treatment stays the same—early detection and rapid response with a special focus on unique and protected areas.

We prioritize the protection of wildlife habitat by treating emerging threats (like new invasive species or existing species spotted in new locations). We also focus education and management efforts on important natural areas and public lands, to prevent the spread of invasive plants before they become difficult to manage. We rely on landowners, partner organizations and our on-the-ground stewardship technicians to gather the data needed to prioritize treatment across the region.

Through surveys, shared databases and hands-on inventories of shorelines, streambanks and entire cities, we can make

informed decisions about how to protect and improve important habitat. “The goal is to help every person who asks, in some way,” explains Shelby Bauer, Huron Pines Stewardship Team Lead. “Whether that means sending our technicians to treat directly, or providing information for people to treat themselves. We want to help anyone that asks.”

Bauer joined Huron Pines as Stewardship Team Lead in the fall of 2018. She's responsible for managing the Huron Pines invasive species program that includes securing funding, planning inventories and treatment schedules and hiring and coordinating the summer crew of stewardship technicians. She understands the whole process inside and out because she started in 2017 as a stewardship technician with Huron Pines and returned in 2018 to lead the stewardship crew. Her first-hand experience provides her with insight into the challenges the region faces in fighting invasive species.

One of the biggest challenges is the scale of the problem. Invasive plants are everywhere, and even when Huron Pines is able to tackle over 100 properties each summer, that only represents a fraction of the acres that could or should be treated.

The future of invasive species management in Northeast Michigan will require

a collaborative approach with increased landowner and volunteer involvement. “One goal is to connect with universities to get more students involved so they can gain hands-on experience while protecting threatened habitat,” Bauer said. “We're also building partnerships with lake associations, municipalities and conservation groups to provide training and resources so the people who know these areas best have the tools to monitor invasive species and in some cases, provide treatment themselves.”

Our ability to build effective partnerships, educate landowners and treat invasive species has been made possible with the support of our generous funders. Thank you to the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary, Au Sable River Property Owners Association, Besser Foundation, Consumers Energy, DTE Energy Foundation, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - EPA, Iosco County Community Foundation, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality - Coastal Zone Management Program, Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Sustain Our Great Lakes, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited, The Carls Foundation, Saginaw Bay WIN, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the U.S. Forest Service.



A Huron Pines Stewardship Technician treats invasive Japanese knotweed in Harrisville.

Into the Woods

School Forest Program Establishes New Learning Opportunities

Every school district in Michigan, at one time, held forest property for school and community use. In many school districts, that forest property has become underutilized or forgotten. Huron Pines has set out to change that. Our goal is to help every school district in the region turn their forest into an engine for environmental education.

We believe children should have a chance to learn and experience nature in their own backyard and that schools should have the support they need to make that happen. Through place-based stewardship, students connect with their own unique environments in new ways. The more students understand and appreciate the natural world around them, the more likely they are to preserve and protect it, which helps support Michigan's economic, recreational and environmental health.

What started as a Huron Pines project, in partnership with the Michigan DNR and Vanderbilt Area School, has grown into a new priority program for Huron Pines. The Huron Pines School Forest Program continues to grow as we partner with more school districts, conservation organizations and funders.

The program at Vanderbilt Area School has evolved from the initial creation of a Forest Stewardship Plan to ongoing classroom activities to keep students involved with the school forest in new ways each semester. For new partners like Gaylord and Alcona schools, students are just beginning to connect what they're learning in the classroom with the data they're collecting in the forest. Both schools took their first forest trips to collect data for their Forest Stewardship Plans in the fall of 2018. They are using the data to draft stewardship plans and to set goals for the long-term use of the forest.

As Huron Pines Environmental Education Coordinator, Emily Vogelgesang explains, "While we're providing the guidance, at the end of the day it's the district's property and our role is to give the students, staff and community the tools they need to gather data and make informed recommendations and decisions about the future of their school forest."



Emily Vogelgesang leads Alcona High School students during a school forest trip to collect data. Photo: Julie Goldberg, The Alpena News

"If the data shows tons of invasive plants on the property, the stewardship plan will need to address invasive treatment in order to maintain forest health. If a school's goal is to add more recreational access, the plan could include trail building and recreational space for the school and community."

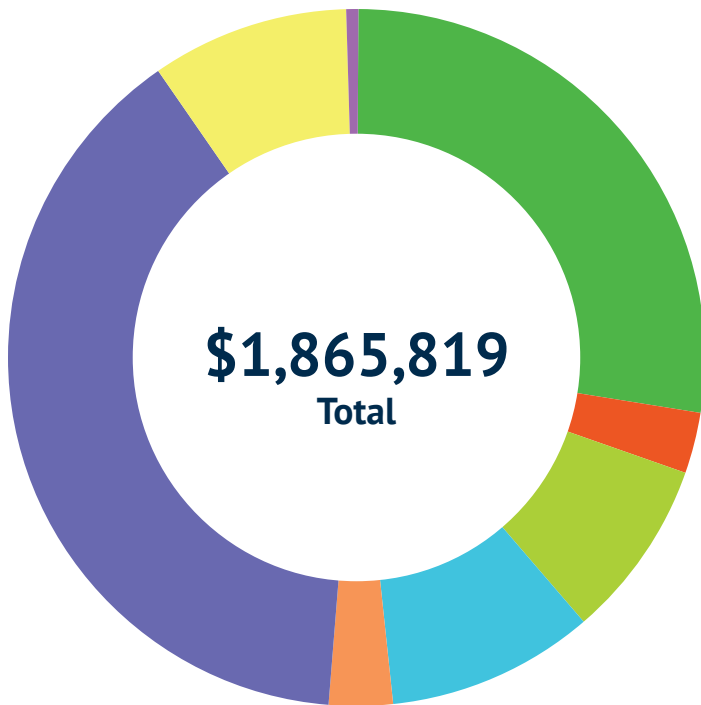
The potential for how schools can use these school forests is limitless. "Working with students over an entire school year, they get invested in the process, and the hope is they will help facilitate new uses over time," Vogelgesang said. "Management of land is long-term. We want students to make their school forest a place that they can call their own, a safe space for learning, the same way a traditional classroom is."

The program also introduces students to career opportunities with the help of conservation and industry partners. "The forest industry and land management agencies are huge employers in the region," Vogelgesang said. "The School Forest Program is a way for kids to see throughout their K-12 lifespan that there's a space for them to do this work in their own community."

"We want students to make their school forest a place that they can call their own, a safe space for learning, the same way a traditional classroom is."

As an emerging program, Huron Pines is actively seeking funding to continue to strengthen and scale the School Forest Program. Thank you to our early funders for supporting our work with new schools in 2018 and beyond: the Americana Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, Michigan DNR, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Michigan Forest Foundation and Project Learning Tree.

2018 Huron Pines Program Expenses



27.5%	Huron Pines AmeriCorps	\$513,380
3%	Environmental Education	\$51,556
8%	Community Development	\$153,388
10%	Invasive Species Management	\$181,954
3%	Land Protection	\$56,413
39%	Healthy Water Initiatives	\$731,153
9%	Wildlife Habitat Improvement	\$169,450
.5%	Public Policy	\$8,525
100%	Total	\$1,865,819

Financial Overview

In 2018, we received more support from individuals, businesses and foundations than ever before. In addition to increased support, the "Contributions" and "Net Income" section of the financial statement for 2018 include a generous gift of property, our first nature preserve at Hubbard Lake.

After achieving our annual financial goals and building cash reserves for future program expansion, we were able to invest in long-term sustainability by adding to our Huron Pines Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. In 2018, we also established a separate endowment to secure future maintenance of the Hubbard Lake Nature Preserve. Thank you for your support. Together we can continue to make our region a better place for all.

Revenue	2017	2018
Annual Giving	\$41,500	\$104,042
Contributions	\$288,074	*\$602,631
Contractual Services	\$284,902	\$263,241
Federal Grants	\$1,360,673	\$1,028,345
State Grants	\$320,400	\$644,741
Total Revenue	\$2,295,549	\$2,643,000

Expenses	2017	2018
Fundraising	\$16,688	\$23,858
Management	\$416,253	\$361,435
Program	\$1,855,555	\$1,865,819
Total Expenses	\$2,288,496	\$2,251,112
Net Income	\$7,053	*\$391,888

* Includes Hubbard Lake Nature Preserve property donation.

Contributions

Grants

These amounts represent the total amount awarded by each grant or entity, not the specific portion of the grant spent in 2018.

\$1,000,000+

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Aquatic Habitat Grant Program
Habitat Improvement Account
Wildlife Habitat Grant Program
Coastal Zone Management
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Sustain Our Great Lakes

\$500,000-999,999

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
United States Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Fish Passage Program

\$100,000-499,999

Corporation for National and Community Service
Eagle Creek Renewable Energy
Michigan Community Service Commission
Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program
The Carls Foundation
The Healthy Watersheds Consortium

\$50,000-99,999

Bay Area Community Foundation
Great Lakes Fishery Trust
The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation
U.S. Forest Service
Walters Family Foundation

\$10,000-49,999

Besser Foundation
Consumers Energy Foundation
Elizabeth, Allan & Warren Shelden Fund
The Americana Foundation
The Conservation Fund (Saginaw Bay WIN)

\$5,000-9,999

Leon P. Martuch Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Michigan Forest Foundation

\$2,500-4,999

Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan
Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

\$1,000-2,499

Au Sable River Property Owners Association
J.A. Woollam Foundation
Michigan State University Extension
Otsego Community Foundation
Presque Isle Electric & Gas
Sustainable Forestry Initiative
William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Photo: Sally Slicker

\$500-999

Ann Arbor Trout Unlimited
Rotary Club of Grayling

Business and Organization Gifts

\$1,000-2,499

American Bird Conservancy
Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation
Children's Zoo at Celebration Square
Higgins Lake Foundation
Mayfair Plastics
The Nature Conservancy-Michigan Field Office

\$500-999

Chemical Bank-Midland
Consumers Energy
DTE Energy
Fischer Insurance Agency
Flygirls of Michigan, Inc.
Huntington Bank
Line 45
M&M Excavating Inc.
Tawas Beach Club
Treetops Resort

\$100-499

Avery Lake Property Owners Association
Big Bear Lake Association
Cedars for the Au Sable
County of Otsego
Finley's Riverside Cabins
Hartland Audubon Nature Club
Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
Jansen Warehousing
Martell Forestry, Inc.
Moju Creative
Montmorency County Conservation Club
Opal Lake Association
Recreation Fishing Club
Thunder Bay Audubon Society

\$1-99

Black Lake Preservation Society
Bradford Lakes Association
FM Global Foundation

Lewiston Garden Club
P.E.O. CU Chapter
Rolling Oak Brewing Company, LLC

Individual Gifts

\$5,000+

John and Wendy Frye

\$2,500-4,999

The Chip and Betsy Erwin Family
Erwin/VanKoughnett Family Fund at
The Chicago Community Foundation

\$1,000-2,499

Eric Bankhead and Connie Schrieber
Gregory and Cecilia Bator
Frank W. Lynch and Roberta Jane Lynch
Endowed Family Fund at the Community
Foundation for Southeast Michigan as
suggested by Ms. Sally L. Binard
William A. and Linda Demmer
Beach and Marianne Hall Fund for NE Michigan
at the Community Foundation for Northeast
Michigan
Joe and Judi Jarecki
Peggy Kusnerz
Scott Reimann
Jerry and Fran Rucker

\$500-999

Richard and Marilyn Bachelor
Anne and Daniel Danosky
The Honorable Alton T. Davis and
Sandra Kay Shellfish
Kathy Erwin and Dirk VanKoughnett
David Ewert
David Irani and Laurel Moore
Brad Jensen and Rebecca Benson
Judy Kalmanek
Harvey Kern
Keith and Catherine Konvalinka
Jennifer and Michael Koralewski
Thomas Mudd
Paul and Carol Rose
Eric R. and Laura Showalter

Nancy Smith
Mr. and Mrs. R. Thomas Snyder
Donette and Gary Spiekerman
Pat and Vicki Springstead
Peter and Suzanne Thomson
Rick and Carol Vidrio

\$100-499

Elizabeth Abood-Carroll and David Carroll
Ruth Addis and Marj Schloff
Ann Gerace-Almonee
Bill and Debi Anderson
Kirk Anderson
Robert Andrus
Cathy and Bob Anthony Fund at the
Community Foundation for Southeast
Michigan as suggested by Mr. and Mrs. Robert
L. Anthony IV
Dick and Marilyn Augustine
Michael Ault
Peter and Chiara Barbier
Rudolf Becker
Dana Bensinger
Patrick and Judith Benson
Mary and Timothy Blackwood
Tim Blanchet
Mike and Ginger Bohl
George and Janet Bozynski
Norm and Valerie Brecheisen
Douglas and Kathryn Brehm
Larry Brickler
Larry and Joanne Brock
James Bull
Sam Burckhardt and Richard Wilson
Don and Kathy Burkley
Thomas and Gloria Cadwalader
Al Cambridge
Glen and Gwen Catt
Anne and John Cauley
Ned Caveney
Angela Ceely
Patrick Chatterton
Colby and Tim Chilcote
Michael A. and Sandra S. Clark
Robert and Judy Cosgriff
Bob and Gay Courtois
Ann and Richard Craig
Norma Crouch
John Dempsey and Margo Lakin
William R. and Mary Elizabeth Derwin
Nancy Dextrom
Michael and Darcy Dombrowski
Patricia Donath
Janet Ekstrum
Roger and Dagmar Eriksson
Abigail and Patrick Ertel
Dale and Norma Ewart
Jamison Faliski
Roger and Mary Fechner
Daniel and Rene Ferguson
Valerie Flood
Christopher and Laura Fluke
Doug Forman

Linda and Oz Forrester
Scott and Christine Foster
Dale and Sandy Franz
Steve and Corrine Freeman
Hannah French
Belinda Friis
Paul Gambka
Meaghan Gass
Noelle George
Mark and Kelly Gilling
Leo Goddeyne
Jim and Shirley Graves
Allison and David Graw
Pamela Griffin
Peter and Virginia Gustafson
Michael Hachigian
Jan Hack
Rick and Robin Hagopian
Genevieve Hartwig
Jerry Heinrich
Dick and Judy Henry
Bob Hess
Jennifer and Jason Hill
Frank Hinzmann
Ken and Susan Hirth
Carol Hollenshead and Bruce J. Wilson
Kristin Howland
Bruce Hull and Margaret Mitchell
Mike and Sue Inman
Kurt Jagoda
Jerry Jensen
David and Myra Juhnke
Emily and Robert Kemnitz
George Killat
Margaret, Charles and Chandler King
Chris and Ellen Klebba
Katie Koch
Marilyn Kohnert
William Kusey
Bernard and Nancy Lamp
Paul Lerg
The Lewis Family Charitable Fund at the
National Christian Foundation Eastern Michi-
gan recommended by Michael and Kathy Lewis
Leif and Lois Lindblom
John R. Lindsay
Jenny and Anton Llakmani
Davin Lopez
The Love Family Cottage
Patricia Lunden
Jack and Julie Marlette
John C. Marsh
John and Nancy Marshall
James Maslanka and Catherine Giebel
Randy and Jeanette Mateer
Mike Mathieu
Paul D. and Susan McEwen
Mike McGraw
Rick and Anne Meeks
James and Andrea Mertz
William D. Middleton
Allen and Jean Moberly
Jenny Morton

Tom Mundt
Sharon Myers
Jennifer Nelson
Katie Olson
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Palmer
Nancy Parker
Keith Petherick
Mary Lou Petrach
Charles Pfeffer
Kenneth W. Pierce
Ben and Kris Pinti
Joseph and Carole Plunkey
Ryan Polk
John Ragan
Lisha and Mark Ramsdell
Robert and Jean Ramseyer
Kurt Ranka
William Rapai
Dave Reynolds
Mark Rice
Theresa Richter
Richard Ritter Jr.
Dr. Nathaniel and Melody Rowe
James and Dorothy Schramm
Angela Sclabassi
Sharyn Scovie
Glenn and Moon Seagren
Robert Seaman
Jim and Pat Shaffer
John Shreves
Ronald H. and Kristin A. Sorgenfrei
Michael and Suzanne Sorrentino
Robert and Jane Sparks
Bob and Jane Spence
Melanie Spriggs
Barbara Spuhler
Walter Stansbury
Joe Stevens
Richard Stevenson
Daniel and Jeanne Stock
Ben and Debbie Stosick
Joseph and Jane Swallow
Andrew C. Tarkington DDS
Robert and Mary Louise Tarkowski
Nanci Tayler
Lisa Tobin
Sarah Topp
Katherine Trevathan
Tom Trevillian
Jay and Bev Trucks
Claire Turcotte
Sean Turner
Eric VanPoucker and Ronald J. Smith
John and Liz Wade
Jennifer Warner
Celeste Watts
Tom and Janet Wessels
Pete Wilson
Ronald and Carolyn Zeilinger

\$1-99

Hillary Ackerson
The Adamo Family

William R. Adams
 Fred and Diane Alati
 Lori and David Anderson
 Anonymous (2)
 Mikaela Ashton
 Brenda Banwell
 George Barker
 Brennan Barney
 Victoria Barrows
 Kenneth and Shelby Bauer
 Don and Liz Bauman
 Ronald and Valerie Beatty
 Kristen Benghauser
 Betty Bennett
 Dan and Roseanne Betlej
 Sally Binard
 Ethalinda Blackman
 Cathy Boatin
 Kathleen and David Boyd
 Carol Brand
 Ben Bravo
 Paul Bray
 Jim and Kathy Bricker
 Michael H. and Bernice A. Brown
 James and Christina Budzynowski
 Robert and Amy Bulszewicz
 Bradford and Donna Bur
 Jim and Gina Burke
 Harriet Butz
 Richard and Marsha Carlson
 Lori and Mark Carter
 Dr. Lynn S. Cohen and Stephen B. Cohen
 Margaret Comfort
 Frank and Kathy Cordray
 Peg Cowdin
 Richard and Penelope Crawford
 Deirdre Curran and Roger Anderson
 Michael and Terri Cwik
 Tom and Phyllis Dale
 Mark Delaney
 Dan and Kandy Dennis
 Brian Doughty
 Steve Draper
 Susan Duncan and Larry Van Wagoner
 Bob and Linda Eder
 Craig Ekstrum
 Gary Etzler
 Larry and Pat Farris
 Ruth Favro
 Mrs. Pat Feighan
 Antonio Fernandez
 Larry and Vickie Fields
 Barbara and Eugene Fleming
 Sharon Fortner
 Jim and Marie Francis
 T. Eduardo and Maria Garcia
 Robert Gillenwater
 Robert Gillis
 Tom and Joann Green
 Lorne and Shirley Greenwood
 Heidi Grether and Edward Groves
 Ken and Elizabeth Gribble
 Mark and Susan Griffin
 Kathy Hansen
 Thomas and Michaela Hector
 James and Rebecca Heindl
 Joe and Betsy Hemming
 Patrick and Deborah Hentschell
 Patrick Heraghty
 Jody and Craig Hinkle
 Thoralf and Victoria Hoelzer-Maddox
 Michael and Susan Horner
 William Houston
 Dana Howard
 Stan and Theresa Hubbell
 Stacey Huber
 William and Sheryl Isenstein
 Elizabeth Jacob
 Doug Jager
 Jansen Family
 Ron Joyce
 Joseph Keefe
 Sue Keller
 Gloria Kershaw
 Gary and Betty Kibby
 Mr. and Mrs. Herb and Linda Klingel
 Carolyn Knutson, gift membership for Richard
 Mousseau
 Mark Koski
 Gary Kovelle
 Carol Kugler
 Randy Kursinsky
 John and Jessica Kusku
 Jerry and Susan La Vanture
 David E. Larson
 Ben Lehr
 Joshua Leisen
 Arnie Leriche
 Bob Linsenman
 Elizabeth Littler
 David and Julianne Lockwood
 Tom Lorenz
 Robin-Marie and Terence Loucks
 Ronnie Macko
 Jan Manzella
 Cheryl McCormick
 Tim McMannis
 Kim McNeil
 Noreen Mehlhose
 Ken and Kathy Melvin
 Herman and Dorothy Miller
 David A. and Sheryl A. Molstead
 Mike Monroe and Candace Henig-Monroe
 John and Connie Morgan
 Thomas G. and Rosemary Mullaney
 Sandra Murphy
 Roy Mytych
 Lawrence Nanni and Kathryn Frisby
 David and Nancy Neal
 Rebekka Neelis
 Gary and Tess Nelkie
 Gary Neumann
 Al Ochsner
 Daniel O'Connor
 William Paquette
 Michael and Donna Parr
 Dick Pastula
 Donald and Dorothy Peacor
 Rich and Barbara Pearson
 Ryan Pemberton
 Christie and Mike Perdue
 Delores Peyton
 Barbara Pfau
 Don and Sis Pierce
 Jack and Ruth Pilon
 Roy and Cindy Prentice
 Robert and Jean Radin
 Keith Radwanski and Erin Fanning
 Carol Ramaswamy
 Mark Randolph
 Sharcy Ray
 Diane and Robert Reeve
 Virginia Reichenbach
 Jack and Phyllis Richards
 Brian Rippon
 Julie Rivard
 Steve and Karen Rodock
 George and Jeanette Roe
 Frank Rosinski
 Keith Ross
 Ralph and Nancy Rucinski
 William and Linda Rzepka
 Nellie M. Sabin
 David R. and Maureen Sanders
 Neil and Joan Satovsky
 Robert and Ruth Sawyers
 Tony and Jill Scarzo
 Mike Seelman
 Bill and Denise Semion
 Pete Sermo
 Heidi Shaffer
 George Shaw and Bonnie Marsh
 Joan Shively
 Chris Siciliano
 Susan Siepierski
 Cindy and Dan Sikarskie
 Peter Simpson
 Ronald and Helen Skover
 David Smith and Marie Harrington
 Diane E. Smith
 Jerry Smith and Linda Arlt-Smith
 Stewart and Carol Smith
 George and Elizabeth Smojver
 Harold Sorenson
 Joey Spano
 Gretchen Spreitzer
 Alan Staffeld
 John Stanley
 Bill and Charity Steere
 Sindy Steffner
 Morrie Stevens
 Bob and Debi Stuber
 Anna Sylvester
 Jerome and Sherrienne Szpondowski
 Colleen and Norman Tabaka
 Karen Tetzlaff
 Brion and Jason Thompson
 Ellen Thompson
 Keri Topouzian

Helen Tull
Janet Unalp
Stewart Vining
Kim Vnuk-Kronick
Emily Vogelgesang
Neil Wallace
Judy Walle
Phillip R. and Nancy A. Walters
Larry and Marjorie Warner
Matthew Watkins
Michael Wells
Arlene Westhoven
Chuck Wheeler
Joseph Wildberg
Charles Williams
John and Gene Williams
Jane Winters
Katie Wolf
Richard Wolff
Mary Wolner
Stanley and Linda Yolkiewicz
Nicholas and Jill Zielinski
Jennie and Mike Zoll

In Honor Of

Gifts made in honor of the names in bold

Andy and Nancy Agren
from Kathy and Mike Lewis

Anglers of the Au Sable
from Anna Sylvester

John R. Dempsey
from John Dempsey and Margo Lakin

Chip and Betsy Erwin
from Kathy Erwin and Dirk VanKoughnett

Ferguson & Tank Families
from Daniel and Rene Ferguson

Wendy Frye
from Mike and Ginger Bohl

George
from Ryan Pemberton

George
from Mary Wolner

Huron Pines volunteers
from William R. and Mary Elizabeth Derwin

Huron Pines' work at the Tawas Beach Club
from the Love Family Cottage

Joe Jarecki
from Glenn and Moon Seagren (2)

Brad Jensen
from Margaret Comfort

Bruce and Tammy Kohnert
from Marilyn Kohnert

Douglas S. Middleton
from William D. Middleton

Carole Plunkey
from Leif and Lois Lindblom

Sam Prentice
from Roy and Cindy Prentice

Jerry Rucker
from Steve Draper
from Antonio Fernandez

Trout streams-cold and clear water

from Kurt Ranka

Stuart White

from P.E.O. CU Chapter

Zoo management team: Aimee, Emily, Gary,

Megan, Robin & Syndi

from Nancy Parker

In Memory Of

Gifts made in memory of the names in bold

Charlotte Adams

from William R. Adams

Annie

from Sharyn Scovie

Raymond and Beverly Banwell

from Conne Terova and Brenda Banwell

Floyd and Clara Benghauser

from Kristen Benghauser

Brian Benjamin

from Cindy and Dan Sikarskie

Jess Bennett Jr.

from Betty Bennett

Margaret Bowen

from Bradford and Donna Bur

Ed and Dolores Bozynski

from George and Janet Bozynski

Gunter Buergerhoff

from Gary Etzler

Aaron Eliot Cohen

from Dr. Lynn S. Cohen and Stephen B. Cohen

Christopher T. Cowdin

from Peg Cowdin

Kenneth C. Crouch

from Norma Crouch

Angela and John R. Dempsey

from John Dempsey and Margo Lakin

David G. Dickinson

from Jane Winters

Edward James Erwin IV (Jed)

from Eric Bankhead and Connie Schrieber

from Don and Liz Bauman

from Harriet Butz

from Angela Ceely

from Abigail and Patrick Ertel

from Jamison Faliski

from Doug Forman

from Hannah French

from Jan Hack

from Huron Pines Staff

from Brad Jensen and Rebecca Benson

from Margaret, Charles and Chandler King

from the Kronick Family

from Jenny Morton

from Ryan Polk

from the Julie and Mark Pulte Charitable
Foundation

from Lisha and Mark Ramsdell

from Julie Rivard

from Jerry and Fran Rucker

from Nancy Smith

from Gretchen Spreitzer

from the Toupouzian Family

from Katherine Trevathan

Dr. David A. Feighan

from Mrs. Pat Feighan

Bob and Barb Grant

from Ken and Susan Hirth

James and Joan Graw

from Allison and David Graw

Veronica Greason

from Ethalinda Blackman

Dr. Daniel Gulden

from Ronald and Valerie Beatty

Robert M. Hector

from Thomas and Michaela Hector

Ruth Joyce

from Ron Joyce

Marietta Ann Kusey

from William Kusey

Mike Luke

from Deirdre Curran and Roger Anderson

Jerry Myers

from Glen and Gwen Catt

William Myers

from Sharon Myers

John and Stuna Niko

from Gary and Betty Kibby

Wendy Petherick

from Kristin Howland

William F. Piper

from Nellie M. Sabin

Rosemary Pope

from Dick and Judy Henry

Jerold Scovie

from Sharyn Scovie

Andrew Smojver

from George and Elizabeth Smojver

Jim Telinda

from Robert and Amy Bulszewicz

Ted Thomas

from Ralph and Nancy Rucinski (2)

Dick Walle

from Judy Walle

Thomas and Jeanette Worley

from Patrick and Judith Benson (2)



Photo: Mark Ramsdell

Huron Pines Donor Spotlight

Shining a Light on Our Funding Partners

With hundreds of miles of pristine rivers, streams and lake shorelines in Northeast Michigan, winding through forests, across fields and along the rocky shores of Lake Huron, it is easy to understand how donors are excited to join forces with Huron Pines in championing their protection. The Walters Family Foundation is an example of a funding partner that found a focused friend in Huron Pines.

“We were delighted to find such a professional organization as Huron Pines serving the northeast part of the state which many could argue is underserved by conservation agencies. Huron Pines has scientists, professionals and project managers engaged in all aspects of a single project,” said Pete Walters, Walters Family Foundation co-founder and foundation treasurer.

“We were delighted to find such a professional organization as Huron Pines serving the northeast part of the state.”

The Walters Family Foundation was started in 2014 by Pete and Carol Walters along with their three adult children. The foundation is a result of their family’s combined passion to support efforts related to conserving our natural environment, celebrating arts and culture, advancing economic vitality and empowering people to reach their full potential through innovative learning initiatives. One of the inaugural grants from the foundation was to Huron Pines to support the Milligan Creek road/stream crossing project that reconnected the Upper Black River system allowing trout better access to upstream habitat, a fish that Mr. Walters and his sons had fished for years in the Black River. This is an example of a project that leveraged federal, state and foundation grants, was managed and directly executed by Huron Pines staff, and now provides benefits for fisherman, the community and the natural environment (see pg. 4 for more on Milligan Creek).

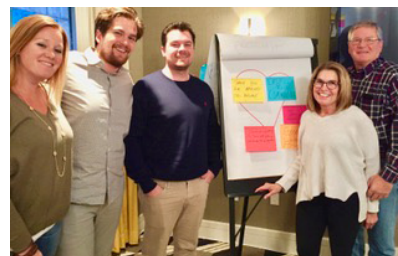
As a relatively new family foundation, the Walters have worked to support programs that focus on collaboration and impact, two words that drive the daily work of Huron Pines. “One of the things we like most about Huron Pines is that they do the work themselves. They are either overseeing contractors, working directly with partners, or they have developed volunteers to help them. They are not lobbying or petitioning for change, they are actively doing the work, and so our funding has an immediate impact on the local environment,” said Walters.

“One of the things we like most about Huron Pines is that they do the work themselves...so our funding has an immediate impact on the local environment.”

The Walters Family Foundation partnership on Milligan Creek has allowed Huron Pines to accomplish even more than the initial government grants would allow. This is a great example of collaboration, working together to leverage dollars to accomplish the greatest amount of work toward protecting and conserving our natural resources.

“They really understand our work, the need for our projects, the type of solutions we use to restore nature,” said Brad Jensen, Executive Director at Huron Pines. “They’re very interested, supportive, and truly care about natural resources in our region.” The Walters Family Foundation works to understand the unique needs of the organizations they are funding, often traveling to visit work sites and talking directly with those involved most closely with the grant and project.

Huron Pines continues to be grateful, not only to the Walters Family Foundation, but to all private and individual funders who are essential in supporting healthy water, protecting vital places and building vibrant communities throughout Northeast Michigan.





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Gaylord, MI 49735