

# Hidden Beach News

## Park Stewardship Education August, 2011

Friends of Negwegon State Park(FNSP) hosted an invasive specie workshop at Negwegon State Park.

Learning how to recognize, control, and eradicate phragmites along the Lake Huron shore was the topic of the workshop conducted by Daria A. Hyden and Suzan Cambell, Biologists; Yu Man Lee, Herpetologist all from Michigan Natural Features Inventory; Jennifer Muladore, Biologist, Huron Pines and Lindsay Ross, DNR Stewardship.

The workshop began at Alcona Township Hall with presentations followed by a trip to Negwegon State Park for hands on identification of invasive phragmites and native noninvasive phragmites. About 50 educators, Master Gardeners, shore owners, students, and community members attended.



Red indicates the location of invasive phragmites treated by Huron Pines in October.

## DNR Friends Summit May, 2011

Mary Culik, FNSP member, attended the first DNR sponsored Friends Summit at the Ralph A. Mac Mullan Conference Center in Roscommon.

Maia Stephens, DNR Recreation Programmer, facilitated the 2 day meeting. Each Friends group was asked to send one representative. The conference focused on topics such as fundraising, projects, 501(c)3 issues, and grant writing. This meeting was a great success and the next summit is planned for April, 2012.

## STUDENTS VISIT NEGWEGON

October, 2011

Environmental Science class from Alcona High School and Christie Thomas' eighth grade class visited Negwegon State Park.

The visit was hosted by Brandon Schroeder, Community Based Education Coordinator, Eric Ostrander, Negwegon State Park Supervisor, and Friends of Negwegon State Park.

The students were introduced to the different ecosystems in the park and they explored possible Community Based Education projects involving the park.



## A NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

BY  
JIM LARSON

Sunrise Garden Club grant will help the FNSP project to create a demonstration garden near the parking lot in Negwegon.

This project is still in the development stage. Working with Great Lakes Sea Grant Educator, Brandon Schroeder it was suggested that we should think in terms of natural communities rather than gardens. Thus we have adopted a goal: "to foster understanding and appreciation of the natural communities of Negwegon through familiarity with its native plant species". Natural communities include animals, birds, and reptiles.

We envision an introductory garden and then use the trails to hike to the selected natural communities. A complex project involving many elements of the community, as we ideally want this one to be, requires net-working, fund-raising, relationship development and promotion. We have given ourselves 5 years to accomplish this project: January 2012 to January 2017.

We hope to involve students in Community Based Educational projects throughout this long range project continuing our partnership with Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative.

## NRTH COMMITTEE REPORT

by  
Jim Larson

Negwegon is one of three state parks represented on a DNR committee focusing on north-east Michigan; the other two are Thompson's Harbor and Rockport. The committee is thus named NRTH. Neither of the other two parks has succeeded in developing a Friends Group (one more reason for all of you to be proud of your accomplishment.) But we believe the environment along Lake Huron needs the care and attention of more than the Friends of Negwegon.

We have entered into a partnership with the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative to develop teams of students, teachers, and volunteers from four county school districts Alcona, Onaway, Presque Isle, and Alpena to work on a series of seven strategies designed by the Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy publication detailing these strategies is available on line at [www.conserveonline.org/workspaces/lakehuron.bcs](http://www.conserveonline.org/workspaces/lakehuron.bcs) and is titled The Sweetwater Sea, Strategies for Conserving Lake Huron Biodiversity.

We encourage you to look at it; one of the outcomes of our involvement will, we hope, be the establishment of Friends Groups at Thompson's Harbor and Rockport.

Hello Negwegon Friends Group!

My name is Eric Ostrander, and I am the new Unit Supervisor for the Harrisville State Park and Negwegon State Park. I started my new position here on August 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year (2011). I'm originally from Au Gres, MI, and I attended Lake Superior State University, where I received an Associate's Degree in Natural Resources Technology and my Bachelor's Degree in Parks and Recreation Management in 2001. I began my DNR career at Rifle River Recreation Area, where I spent 5 years as a summer ranger, from 1998 to 2002. In the summer of 2002 I was hired here at Harrisville State Park as an E8 Level Parks and Recreation Officer. During my winter layoffs from the MI DNR I spent 4 winters working with the National Park Service at Death Valley National Park doing interpretation. I spent 5 years total at Harrisville, and then promoted to a Lead Worker 9 at Algonac State Park in 2007. I was at Algonac State Park from 2007 until 2010, when I transferred to Tawas Pt. State Park. I then interviewed for the Harrisville Unit Supervisor position in July of 2011, and started here in August. I'm very happy to be back up here in North East MI, and I'm looking forward to working with the Friends Group now and in the future. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Negwegon State Park! Thank you!



August Invasive Specie Workshop

