

Over 50 Native Cedar Seedlings Harvested

Marlene Swiss, along with her husband Michael, neighbors and fellow property owners along the north branch of the Au Sable donated over fifty native cedar seedlings to the “Cedars for the Au Sable” project for planting this fall.

Marlene and her “helpers” harvested the emerging native cedars from the local riverbank, put each in its own growing pot, and cared for them until they were large enough for replanting along the river. The cedar seedlings are now 12 to 24 inches in height.

“The cedar seedlings will now be planted and protected on the north branch and other branches of both the Au Sable and the Manistee rivers”, says Howard N. Johnson, chairman of the “Cedars for the Au Sable” project. Marlene’s cedar seedlings, together with the more than 20, 000 already planted on the two rivers, have begun the reforestation of our native Northern White-cedars. Cedar trees are important to maintain the cool water of the river and provide fish cover for the trout as well as reducing soil erosion.

The Au Sable Area Foundation has supported the “Cedars for the Au Sable” project for many years and is very proud of our area residents for their help providing the native cedar seedlings.

Marlene and her volunteers plan to continue collecting the little cedars and make them available to the “Cedars for the Au Sable” project. If you would like to begin your own cedar collection, please contact Howard at [hnjohnson @aol.com](mailto:hnjohnson@aol.com) or 989-280-0381.