

December 22, 2008

Our question this week comes from our [Huron Pines AmeriCorps Invasive Species Coordinator](#) Tim Engelhardt about a serious wetland invader- Phragmites. While it is native to Michigan, there is a non-native, invasive variety of phragmites that is threatening and overtaking wetlands and coastal areas.

Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) plants can grow up to 15 ft. in height, but what percentage of the plant's mass is underground?

See the [answer](#).

Check out our latest newsletter, [December 2008](#).

Below is the 12/22/08 biweekly update for Huron Pines.

Happy Holidays!

Thank you!

Huron Pines

www.huronpines.org

Protecting the Pigeon River Country

The [Pigeon River Country State Forest](#), located in Northeast Michigan, is the largest tract of contiguous undeveloped land in the lower peninsula of Michigan. It is home to many types of wildlife, including the state's only elk herd, and three of Michigan's finest trout streams: the Pigeon, Sturgeon and Black rivers.

There are concerns over the ecological integrity of the forest as private parcels surrounding the state forest come under increased development pressure and important wildlife habitat is quickly being fragmented. Prompted by these concerns, the [Pigeon River Habitat Initiative](#) (PRHI) partnership was formed in 2001 as a collective of private

citizens, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations all with an interest in

preserving the ecological integrity of the Pigeon River Country.

In order to protect the ecological integrity of Pigeon River Country, the PRHI steering committee recently approved a [2009-2012 Strategic Plan](#) focusing on four main areas: land use planning, landowner stewardship, land protection and sustainability. To learn more about the program visit [Pigeon River Habitat Initiative](#).

Thank you Restoration Crew

We would like to thank our hard-working 2008 Restoration Crew. Led by Ken Reed, the crew consisted of Mitch Reed, Kyle Kennedy, Kevin Kennedy, Stosh Sendek, Nathan Skibbe and Jason Lorenz.

Ken began in April and was joined by crew members in May. They worked through the field season until the ground was thoroughly frozen in November. Beyond the 1,500 trees they placed in rivers for stream habitat, the crew helped with the Otsego Lake demonstration greenbelt, erosion control on the Upper Black, streambank stabilization on the Ocqueoc and the Grayling stormwater project. Thanks for all your hard work!

Huron Pines Annual Meeting- *Focus on Invasive Species*

The Huron Pines Annual Meeting will be **Saturday, February 7** at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Gaylord from 9:30-1pm. Please join us in electing officers and discussing invasive species in Northeast Michigan. The meeting is free to members and \$10 to non-members.

Seating is limited and reservations are required. To register, please email jill@huronpines.org or call (989) 344-0753 x 21 by February 2, 2009.

Don't forget to give the gift of **Conservation this holiday season. Visit [Membership Information](#) to learn about becoming a member and helping conserve Northeast Michigan's natural resources.**

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Huron Pines is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to conserve the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan.

Huron Pines
501 Norway Street
Grayling, MI 49738
Phone 989.344.0753
Fax 989.348.7945
www.huronpines.org