

November 26, 2008

As we get ready for seconds of delicious Thanksgiving treats, we thought you'd like a double helping of Huron Pines trivia today. Our two new Huron Pines AmeriCorps members, Chris Homeister and Timothy Engelhardt, have these questions about tomorrow's iconic bird.

- 1. What is a baby turkey called?**
- 2. Wild turkeys often spend the night in trees. What species of tree do they prefer?**

See the [answer](#).

Below is the 11/26/08 biweekly update for Huron Pines.

Have a great Thanksgiving and travel safely!

Thank you!

Huron Pines

[www.huronpines.org](http://www.huronpines.org)

### **Dam Update- Song of the Morning Ranch**

As discussed at our [Dam Summit](#), we're starting to develop the framework for inventorying dams throughout Northeast Michigan. The inventory will target sites where we can have the most impact, much as we've run our road/stream crossing and streambank stabilization programs through the years.

Many of our partners heard about the tragedy that occurred this year on the Pigeon River. Excessive sediment came flowing out of the impoundment at Song of the Morning Ranch this summer, polluting this pristine river and killing fish downstream. With time, rivers can recover, but it's pretty obvious to us that what's necessary to restore this river system is the removal of this dam.

To view aerial photos of the site and learn more, visit [Dams](#) or watch for our upcoming newsletter.

### **Raise \$500 for an Environmental Project- the O.B. Eustis Award**

The late O.B. Eustis was widely respected as an industrialist, an environmentalist, and a nature columnist. Since 1995, Huron Pines has been a proud partner with the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan (CFNEM) and the O.B. Eustis Award Committee to recognize the legacy he left. **Huron Pines is now accepting nominations through December 31, 2008 for the awards given in his honor.**

Winners are recognized based on their efforts to balance environmental protection with economic development. **Each winner selected will be able to designate a \$500 award to a conservation project in Northeast Michigan.**

The nominees for the O.B. Eustis Award may come from the 11-county service area of Huron Pines, which includes the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon. The winners will be recognized at the Huron Pines Annual Meeting on February 7, 2009.

View the [Nomination Form](#) or contact Jill Scarzo at (989) 344-0753 x21 or [jill@huronpines.org](mailto:jill@huronpines.org).

### **Resource Watch—New White Pine Fungus**

Area foresters are dealing with an unknown disease that has been afflicting young white pine. Landowners in western Oscoda and eastern Crawford County contacted the DNR three years ago about white pine dying along the Au Sable River. The small understory white pine trees were turning brown. Blister rust was not causing the problem.

The diseased area has grown significantly, with infection being found along the Manistee and Au Sable River corridors and spreading to some inland areas. This is a significant problem because young white pine trees replace many of Michigan's aging oak stands. Flagging, meaning the tree begins to turn brown, has also started to occur on bigger canopy white pine.

A USDA pathologist diagnosed the disease as a form of *Diplodia* fungus. The fungus was identified as *Diplodia scrobiculata*, which until recently was considered a subspecies of the more common *Diplodia pinea*. Both species of *Diplodia* have the potential to exist as latent pathogens within the host tree, meaning that the fungi can be present without causing visible symptoms, but when the tree is stressed (i.e., by drought or hail damage) the fungi can spread and cause disease symptoms.

*Diplodia scrobiculata* has been noted as a weak pathogen of jack pine and red pine. In terms of research to date, however, it is virtually unknown on white pine. Because of this, management recommendations are unavailable at this time.

The [Michigan DNR](#) is cooperating with Michigan State University and the USDA Forest Service to study how this disease affects white pine in north central Lower Michigan. Forest health specialists are currently planning to re-visit sites on state land to assess how fast the disease is spreading. Stay tuned for more information.

**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](http://www.huronpines.org)