



THE NORTH BRANCH

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE AU SABLE NORTH BRANCH AREA FOUNDATION

Spring Summer 2014

The Huron Pines Au Sable Restoration Projects / US Fish and Wildlife Grant

Our requests to develop a comprehensive program for the renovation of the West Branch of Big Creek has received much attention. The upper reaches of this North Branch tributary have been defined by Kenny Reed, of Huron Pines as ,” a virtual desert.”

We all are well aware of the heavy sand load that has ruined this previously excellent brook trout fishery and nursery, by covering precious gravel which provides both aquatic insect habitat and spawning gravel, both vital for a healthy cold water fishery. This same damaging sand load moves down stream and negatively impacts the North Branch.

The stream has had preliminary assessments (walk downs) by Kenny Reed and Sam Prentice of Huron Pines, Neal Godby, MI DNR Fisheries Biologist, Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Executive Director of MI Trout Unlimited and Aaron Snell, a Stream Restoration / Fisheries Biologist who has been contracted by Huron Pines for this and other habitat restoration projects. Aaron Snell, with 13 years of experience in watershed management, will develop a restoration plan. Board Member and Big Creek property owner Steve Johnson has been “point man” for many of these walk downs and is providing input regarding restoration tactics. Gary Neumann, Steve Johnson and Glen Eberly have represented ASNBAF on the Huron Pines Steering Committee, providing input for watershed projects.

There are 14 beaver dams in the upper stretches of the stream, at the beginning of the cold water stretch, that require removal. The permits are being obtained by Neal Godby. Once the dams are removed and a thorough in stream assessment has been made, a program can begin to restore Big Creek. We know that the Huron Pines grant will not do all of the restoration work needed on Big Creek but it will give us a good start.

A possible new tool in restoration will be explored. Dredge and Disperse, a process of dredging sand from the stream bed and blowing it well up on the banks, may be a very effective way to open up gravel without the need to move sand downstream. Both the MI DNR and Huron Pines have agreed to explore this process. Huron Pines has contacted Restoration Dredging, Inc., a Michigan company with years of experience in this process, to determine the feasibility of utilizing this process on Big Creek.



Improved road crossing on Crapo Creek.

ASNBAF has committed \$30,000 to Huron Pines in support of the Au Sable Restoration Project, which includes road stream crossing improvements, invasive species removal, small dam removal, in-stream habitat, natural shoreline restoration, native plantings, and habitat restoration and enhancement. Lots of good work for the Au Sable!! We join many other like minded partners who share a mission and passion to protect and improve our beloved Au Sable Watershed. We will keep you advise of progress on this important activity.

Sediment in the Big Creek and other streams comes from a number of sources. One of those sources is deteriorating and undersized road stream crossings where runoff from the road adds to the sediment load.

From the Presidents Desk

by Bill Ross

It was a long cold winter but several members of the Board were busy on your behalf. Just an example of a few efforts:

- Glen Eberly and Gary Neuman are serving on the Steering Committee for the Huron Pines Au Sable River Watershed Project.
- Board members attended the hearing for the request of new regulations for the Grayling Fish Hatchery.
- New signs have been put up at Dam 4 and Morley Road access sites.
- We have committed \$30,000 to the Huron Pines project, most of which will be used for sand removal. Please consider this effort when you make your annual contribution to the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation.



The date for this years Annual Dinner is July 12th. We will be updating you on all of our projects at this important meeting. Please Plan to attend, meet your neighbors and support your Foundation.

North Branch Foundation Annual Dinner

Enjoy an evening out with your neighbors and friends. The dinner is a chance to meet new people and find out what's going on.

Friends welcome!

**Please make reservations with
Debi Anderson by July 7th**

344-7477 or DebbieA20@aol.com or use the coupon



Saturday, July 12, 2014

6:00 p.m. Meeting and

Greeting

7:00 p.m. Dinner

**Fuller's North Branch Outing
Club**

\$30.00/person



Come Join Us!

The Battle against Purple Loosestrife (PL) - 2014!

by Glen Eberly

As previously noted, we are not allowed to use chemicals (Roundup) on state land in the fight against PL. We can use it on private property with property owners permission.

The DNR has agreed to allow us to have our own Certified Herbicide Specialist for the North Branch. Bob Marcereau has volunteered to go through the comprehensive certification process and become our "lead herbicidist". His role will be to supervise our volunteers in the proper and safe use of herbicide application to PL plants on state land along the Au Sable North Branch. More on his progress as it develops. Thank you Bob.

We will be watching for PL plant growth and start our volunteer attack by early August. We have had tremendous support from property owners who have taken the fight personally and "whacked" PL on their own lands. Thank all of you who have joined the fight. Just be sure you hit PL and not a look-a-like friendly purple plant of which there are a few.

Our PL destruction teams are the same as last year, unless you notify me otherwise. We suggest **Pat Duncanson** look out for the hornet nests this year. She is the first recipient of the **Purple Loosestrife Cross** awarded to PL battlers injured in the fight. The medal will be awarded at our Annual Dinner in July. Don't miss this historic event.

Show Off Your Property This Year-Free Stewardship Site Visits Offered by Huron Pines

Many local partners including the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation are partnering with Huron Pines on a holistic conservation project for the Au Sable River Watershed. This prioritized restoration project will address natural resource threats, engage active local and regional partners that are driven to protect the river and also provide educational opportunities to residents. One unique component of this project is the opportunity to meet one-on-one for stewardship site visits with local landowners that are interested in managing their property to benefit natural resources. These initial site visits are free-of-charge and are the first step in achieving your conservation goals.

As part of this project, Huron Pines is working closely with members of the North Branch Area community to improve degraded road/stream crossings, increase the quality of aquatic habitat in the West Branch of Big Creek and target the management of purple loosestrife in 2014 and 2015. Huron Pines would like to meet with property owners in the area to identify how they would like to enhance their property to benefit natural resource conservation. A site visit will allow landowners to review property management goals with knowledgeable Huron Pines Staff who can offer stewardship recommendations based on your needs, answer natural resource management questions and provide information about conservation programs to assist you in reaching your management goals whether you own 100 feet of river frontage, 10,000 acres of land or any parcel size in between. Huron Pines can offer their knowledge on managing invasive species, enhancing wildlife habitat, controlling streambank erosion and providing more diverse aquatic habitat. After completing the free site visit, Huron Pines can assist you in implementing conservation practices on your property through a cost-share agreement or refer you to additional partners that are working to achieve similar goals.

To fill out a site visit request form, please visit <http://www.huronpines.org/sitevisit.asp>, or contact project manager Sam Prentice at samuel@huronpines.org or 989-448-2293 ext. 17 to learn more about this project.

This great opportunity is made possible through a generous grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Sustain Our Great Lakes Program as well as additional partner funding through the Au Sable River Prioritized Restoration Project. Huron Pines is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to conserve the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan by coordinating large scale river restoration, watershed management, conservation leadership and land stewardship projects. This mission is accomplished by using a hands-on approach to improving natural resources, providing technical support to grassroots conservation partners and building partnerships between the public and private sectors. Find out more about Huron Pines' work in the region by visiting www.huronpines.org.



Kenny Reed from Huron Pines is meeting with a land owner to discuss good stewardship practices that would benefit the natural resources of his land.

The Foundation at Work

Signs were purchased and so far two have been put up at Morley Road and Dam 4 asking fisherman and boaters to be respectful of the river and property.



The battle with Purple Loosestrife continues. Volunteers will be out this summer doing their best to rid the river of this pest.



Plans are in the works to improve the Morley Road access.

A "Thank You" goes out to all of our contributors

Anonymous	Robert Grant	Jerry and Fran Rucker
Delton Baerwolf	Jim and Shirley Graves	Vivek and Amy Sarin
Eric Bankhead and Connie Schrieber	Ken and Liz Gribble	Keith Scharf
Mark and Rebecca Cook	Cythia Infante	George Shaw and Bonnie Marsh
Susan Cooper	Harvey Kern	Jake Shinner
Dick and Mary Ann Daane	Jean Lilly	Lee Stiles
John and Jane Dallas	Barbara McLennan	CT Symons
Jim and Rose Dugdale	Tom Mudd	John and Royale Thompson
Glen and Martha Eberly	Mary Neal	Neil Wallace
Paul Feldman	David and Terry Oeming	Larry and Marge Warner
Robert Gillenwater	Keith Pethrick	Mary Wylie
		Friends of Ginny Williams



Ginny Williams, a long time member and supporter of the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation died on May 5, 2014. Ginny and her husband, Jim, moved to the North Branch after living many places around the world. Jim died in 1998 and Ginny stayed to live out the rest of her life on the river. Jim was instrumental in encouraging stream improvement using large woody debris.

Ginny requested that donations in her memory go to the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation.



Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation

955 Morley Road, Grayling, MI 49738

I (we) am planning on attending the North Branch Foundation Dinner on July 12th.

Number of Person: _____

Enclosed is _____
\$30.00 / Person

Here is my (our) contribution to support the Foundation:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contribution: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please return to:
Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation
c/o Connie Schrieber
955 Morley Road
Grayling, MI 49738

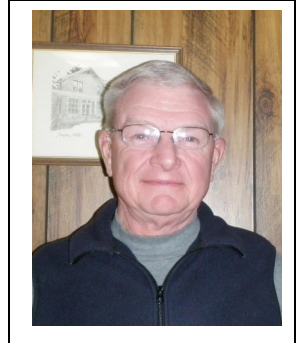
Au Sable North Branch Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) not for profit.

LOVELLS TOWNSHIP NEWS**by Gary Neumann, Township Supervisor**

Lovells Township recently amended its Zoning Ordinance to permit short term rentals in the Township's Green Belt (G-B), Recreational & Residential (R-R) and Residential (R) Districts. A short term rental is defined as the lease or rental of a dwelling, for monetary compensation, for a period of less than 30 days. This Zoning Ordinance amendment became effective on May 2nd, 2014.

Prior to November of 2005, Lovells Township had no restrictions on short term rentals, as defined above, in any of its zoning districts. However, effective November 25th, 2005, our Zoning Ordinance was amended so that short term rentals were only permitted in our Commercial and Business (C-B) Districts. In a survey conducted in 2013 this complete prohibition on short term rentals outside the C-B Districts was lauded by 48% of respondents while 46% of respondents thought the prohibition was unfair and an infringement on their private property rights.

I want to assure all property owners in the Township that your board approached this issue with the due diligence it deserved. No board member was unaware of the essentially even split the issue generated in our survey results. Consequently, significant time and discussion, over many months, was devoted to the issue. Ultimately, there was a consensus on the board that short term rentals should be allowed in the G-B, R-R and R Districts, but that they only be allowed with restrictions.



First and foremost, a short term rental will only be allowed pursuant to the issuance of a special use permit. To obtain a special use permit an application must be made to the Township Planning Commission (PC), with the fee for that application currently set at \$350.00. The PC will hold a public hearing on each application, and the owners of all dwellings within 300 feet of the proposed short term rental dwelling parcel boundary will be notified in writing of the public hearing. The public hearing location, date and time will also be published in the Crawford County Avalanche newspaper, in accordance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act.

The PC can approve, or approve with conditions, a short term rental application only upon finding that the proposed rental complies with all of the general standards for a special use permit plus numerous specific short term rental standards that are spelled out in the short term rental ordinance. Specific standards include, but are not limited to: (1) a requirement to provide off street parking; (2) that renters are aware they may not trespass on neighboring properties; (3) that campfires must be located in a designated "fire pit"; (4) that the name and telephone number of a contact person who is responsible for responding to questions or concerns be available to the renter(s); and many other standards.

Should you desire a copy of the entire short term rental ordinance feel free to contact Gary Neumann at lovellstownship@gmail.com or at 989-348-9215 on T/W/T between 9 AM and 3 PM.

RIVER KEEPERS START 5th YEAR**by Eric Bankhead**

Yes, your River Keepers are starting their 5TH year of keeping the river in GREAT shape. We have had one of our founding Keepers retire this year. Jack Hipchen is allowing others to enjoy keeping their eyes on the river this season. If you see Jack in or on the river or in Lovells please give him a tip-of-the-hat and a BIG THANK YOU for his volunteering on the river. Taking over Jack's Reach 9, that's Black Hole to Twin Bridges, is the team of Gary and Marcia Boyd, they good and fun people.

The high water events this spring have not done much damage or caused many issues for the river, some minor clearing should take care of most issues. Many have floated and report little trouble with passage down the river. If you see or have any problems with safe floating or wading please report then to your River Keeper, a contact list and reaches are available on the Lovells Township website. <http://www.lovellstownship.com/>

**Speaking of High Water**

As the record amounts of snow melted this spring, and the river reached a high not seen in many years, there were many reports of flooded yards and roads. The spring growth is also the time of year that streams receive high levels of our region's biggest pollutant: sediment. When the banks of a stream are unable to handle the pressure of high volumes and velocities, sometimes the easiest way to rebalance the system is for the road or culvert to give way. In this photo of a road/stream crossing in Cheboygan County, the culvert was undersized and this year's water was too much for it, washing out the entire road.

Over the past three years seven road/stream crossing on the North Branch Watershed have been improved with the support of the Foundation. Thank you to all of our contributors for making these improvements possible.

What's going on this summer in Lovells

Beaver Beer and Banjo

6pm to 9pm

**Saturday, July 19, 2014
Riverside Tavern**

This event is a revival of a 1950's dinner that featured beaver. Pat Harwood (a Lovells businessman, fly tier and trapper) would save some of his trapped beaver. His wife, Margie would roast the beaver and take it to Roy Scott's Bar (now the Riverside Tavern), where everyone from town was invited a free beaver dinner.

The Lovells Township Historical Society will be serving up a delicious beaver stew, beer will flow and Barry VanGuilder will be making toes tap to pickings on his banjo.

Glen Eberly



Lovells Bridge Walk

**Saturday, August 16,
2014**

**Sponsored by the Fire
Department**

Au Sable North Branch Foundation

Annual Meeting

Saturday

August 30, 2014

10:00 am

**Lovells Township
Hall**

Enjoy Summer!

Old Kellogg House Tour

2pm to 5pm

Sunday September 21st, 2014

Have you ever driven across Kellogg Bridge and wondered who built that 2 story log house on the northeast corner, what does it look like inside, when was it built, who lived there, what was the family like, was that the only building, how did that make a living back then? Well this is your chance to get answers to all those questions and more as the Lovells Township Historical Society is holding a Fund Raising Event at the Old Kellogg House.



Advance sales only, Tickets are \$25 each, Limited to 100 Tickets one for each year of its age. Refreshments and snacks provided.

Contact LTHS Board Member Eric

Bankhead at 989-348-6704 or email him at ebank@m33access.com for tickets for a once in a life time Historical Tour of the Old Kellogg House.

Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation

955 Morley Road • Grayling • MI 49738

Officers—

Bill Ross, President

989-348-7130

Glen Eberly, Vice President

989-348-3084

Connie Schrieber, Treasurer

989-348-6704

George Shaw, Secretary

989-316-2224

Bill Duncanson, Past President

989-348-9364

Directors—

Debi Anderson	989-344-7477
John Dallas	989-348-6662
Bob Grant	989-348-7574
Ken Gribble	734-420-0506
Dale Hernden	989-344-0801
Steve Johnson	989-344-1053
Bob Marcereau	989-348-3987
Gary Neumann	989-348-9848
Jerry Rucker	989-348-8738
Jim Shiflett	517-930-0622
Tom Wessels	231-271-6151
Chuck Wheeler	989-348-9665

Mission Statement: To preserve, protect and enhance the natural endowments of the watershed of the North Branch of the Au Sable River for the benefit of wild fish and game and public enjoyment and appreciation.

