

For Better Fishing and Hunting

# AU SABLE NORTH BRANCH ASSOCIATION

400 South Franklin Street, Saginaw, Michigan  
May, 1944

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- ARNOLD BOUTELL, Vice President
- L. P. KEFGEN, Vice President
- J. GEORGE O'BRIEN, Secretary
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Dear Member:

Maybe, when you joined the Au Sable North Branch Association you thought it was "just another one of those things".

We're happy to tell you that it definitely is not, for we who love the old North Branch country are truly serious in our desire to keep it one of the best places in the world to enjoy the great outdoors for all time to come.

With this in mind we are enclosing our first report to show you that even in these restricted war times we have not forgotten that our sole excuse for existence is the promotion and encouragement of those things that make for more and better fishing and hunting.

We are receiving the finest cooperation from the Department of Conservation and in turn have pledged to the Department our support in anything that is for the general good of the cause.

This may mean that our members will be called upon to help remove beaver dams, fight fires, plant willows, or other projects of this nature where we will actually have to take off our coats and go to work. The Department is short handed right now, and there are some things that can't wait until the war is over.

If the occasion requires we feel certain that we can depend upon you to "come through", for we know that your interest in the Au Sable country is as deep rooted as ours.

Assuring you that we sincerely appreciate your interest and wishing you good luck and good fishing, we are

Yours truly,

*G. S. Garber*  
G. S. Garber, Pres.



*Au Sable  
1950's  
may 8th  
306.00*

# AU SABLE NORTH BRANCH ASSOCIATION.....NEWS

May 5, 1944

THE AU SABLE NORTH BRANCH ASSOCIATION is one year old this spring. We have seventy-seven paid members who own over 6,000 acres of land along the North Branch and its tributaries. Thirty-one of our members own cabins on these streams and all are genuinely and sincerely interested in good sportsmanship and the promotion of better hunting and fishing and the encouragement of conservation in general for which this association was formed.

AS A MEMBER you will be interested in this the first report of some of the things that have happened during the past year.

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NINETY-EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETEEN yearling and adult Brook Trout were planted by the Department in the North Branch last spring as well as 100 adult Rainbows.

SO FAR THIS SEASON two thousand adult Brookies have been planted.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE planting of Brook Trout have been filed this spring by members of the Association requesting the planting of these fish all the way from the forks of Big Creek and the North Branch to Mershons and we are assured by the Conservation Department that as far as possible our requests will be granted.

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FISH PLANTING for the duration offers a real problem for the Department due to the difficulties of maintaining sufficient help at the various hatcheries and the problem of getting food for the fish. You can be sure that Commissioner Hoffmaster and his able associates are doing everything in their power to keep the hatcheries open and operating to the best of their ability and when we get Hitler and Hirochito properly taken care of they'll be ready to go "all out" once again in the important business of keeping our lakes and streams properly stocked with game fish.

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DROP IN AT THE GRAYLING HATCHERY and have a visit with the Superintendent the next time you are up that way. He'll be glad to see you and to talk over with you some of the problems involved in the raising of Brook and Brown trout in wertime.

LOOK UP HARRY ALDRICH, the Regional Supervisor, for the Conservation Department at the Headquarters in Roscommon or Mert McClure, the District Supervisor at Grayling. Tell them you're a member of the

Au Sable Association and make it a point to get acquainted. They're great guys...you'll like them.

THEY'RE INTERESTED IN THE SAME things we are...more and better fishing and hunting, and they are working to that end three hundred and sixty-five days in the year. We have a lot in common and should know each other better.

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PROBABLY THE BEST NEWS OF THE YEAR for our members is the fact that the beaver are to be removed from the East and Middle Branch of Big Creek.

FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS the beaver in these streams have been a real problem. They've built their dams in the East Branch all the way from the forks of the West Branch to Griffins. They've stripped the willows and cover from several miles of this fine stream and left it barren and desolate.

SO COMPLETELY AND THOROUGHLY have they clogged up this stream with their dams that it has become impossible for fish to get over them; and miles and miles of ideal spawning grounds, capable of reproducing thousands of Brook and Brown trout, have been isolated.

WITHIN THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS the beaver have been steadily increasing in this locality and last summer they had moved into the Middle Branch and built at least six dams within a distance of two or three miles from the mouth of the stream.

YOUR OFFICERS HAVE BEEN WORKING with the Department on this problem for the past year and have received splendid cooperation from Commissioner Hoffmaster and the various Department Heads concerned.

MR. H. R. "SPIKE" SAYRE and Harry Aldrich made a trip to Saginaw last winter and met with your Secretary and Jim Graves and we spent several hours hashing over the problem and a possible solution.

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT that the Department has agreed to the removal of ALL OF THE BEAVER from these streams as well as the removal of the dams. Orders have been issued to the District Supervisors to steel trap the beaver out of the waters in question and this will be done as soon as the woods green up and the danger of fire is past and the field men are available for this job.

WE HAVE OFFERED OUR active cooperation to the Department in the matter of the removal of the dams, so don't be surprised if you are called upon some of these days to "lend a hand". Like all other state departments the Conservation Department is operating with a minimum of help this year and they may have to call on us for assistance.

IF WE SEND YOU AN "S.O.S." get into your old clothes, your fishing waders, and come and find out for yourself how Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, nature's greatest engineers, build these dams so tight that even the

fish haven't a Chinaman's chance to get through or over them.

THE REMOVAL OF THE BEAVER AND THE BEAVER DAMS will be a most welcome relief to those of us who still like to fish the small streams once in awhile and more important still it's going to open up miles and miles of spawning waters for the reproduction of fish at a time when we need to take advantage of every opportunity to keep our streams well stocked.

THE REMOVAL OF THE BEAVER from Big Creek will mean more fish not only in Big Creek, but in the North Branch as well.

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HERE'S A SUGGESTION WE THINK IS WORTH passing on. There's nothing new about it. As a matter of fact, we got the idea from the Indians, but it's good conservation. LET'S NOT TAKE MORE FISH THAN WE CAN EAT.

THE LEGAL LIMIT ON TROUT is fifteen in a day, but for the past few years some of the boys who fish the North Branch have made it a point to quit when they got what they wanted to eat. There's no particular point in trying to stick until you get your limit each time you go out except for whatever personal satisfaction you can get out of coming back to camp and throwing out your chest as you tell the boys, "I got the limit".

MANY TIMES where there are several fishermen in camp this practice results in a whole pan of fish in the ice box when you're ready to leave for home and nobody wants them.


WHEN THE FISH ARE COMING and most of the boys in camp are fishing it's no trick at all to get more fish than you can eat. Why not under these circumstances set your limit for the day at six, eight, or ten, instead of sticking for fifteen, just to have something to brag about? In that manner you'll have all the fish you want to eat and there will still be some left for next time.

IF YOU LIKE TO FISH FOR THE JOY OF FISHING, after you get what you want to eat why not try putting them back in the river. Once a fish is in your net you've had all the fun there is out of that particular fish. If you've already got all the fish you want to eat why not put the rest of them back and they'll be there for you next time when you may really need them,

YOU'VE HAD A WORLD OF FUN on the old North Branch....let's keep it so that our children....and their children will have the same opportunity.

Yours for more and better fishing and hunting,

AU SABLE NORTH BRANCH ASSOCIATION

  
J. George O'Brien, Secretary