



THE NORTH BRANCH

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE AU SABLE NORTH BRANCH AREA FOUNDATION

Spring/Summer 2020

Protecting the North Branch for Over 75 Years

From the Chairman's Desk

As I write this on April 20, 2020, I am sitting 37 floors above North Michigan Ave, "The Magnificent Mile", in Chicago, Illinois. Like all of you, Sue and I are in lock down mode and have been since early March. We dream daily about returning to our cabin on the North Branch when it is allowable to do so. One of the things that is helping us cope with our social isolation is the certainty that someday soon we will again be able enjoy watching the river roll by, wetting a line, and hiking the pine scented forest. We are all fortunate to have North Branch memories to draw on during this time. Sue and I hope that you and your families are well and are either enjoying the river now or finding peace and consolation in the fact that you soon will be.

Your board conducted its first 2020 board meeting via teleconference on April 11. We are pleased to announce that at that meeting John Porteous was unanimously elected to the board. Welcome John. We continue to monitor the status of the Otsego Lake drain replacement project. High level waters from the lake are drained into the North Branch and we want to be sure that there are no negative impacts on our river as a result. We have formed a committee that is offering suggestions and monitoring the project that has yet to secure funding. We will keep you updated. The Luttenton Study will be going ahead this summer. Please see Glen Eberly's article in the *News* section of our web site. Our Watershed Committee members will float the river to identify any erosion sites that may need remediation. Let us know if you need any help in dealing with same.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our annual dinner which we plan to hold on Saturday July 11, 2020 at the Lovells Township Hall starting at 6 pm. Please RSVP by June 30. To make your reservations, contact Sue Inman by email, text or phone: inmansue2@gmail.com or 312-446-7225 (cell). Keep an eye on our web site for any updates. Thank you for your support,
Mike

Beaver Control on the North Branch

by Bill Anderson

Steve Sendek, a retired DNR fisheries biologist, has been involved in many North Branch in-stream projects for most of his DNR career and, over the last decade, his small company has continued to work on many projects enhancing and protecting our beloved North Branch. Steve and his crew have been involved in mitigating streambank erosion, building new cover and restoring aging structures. His work will help manage the sand and improve the health and propagation of brook trout and the invertebrates they feed upon.

Another project that Steve assists North Branch property owners with is the trapping of nuisance beaver. In a cold water system, beaver activity causes sand and sediment to enter the river. Sand and sediment are no friends of trout and the invertebrates because sand covers what would otherwise be gravel used for spawning and invertebrate development.



The above photos are of Steve crossing the North Branch with his traps and of him with a 35 pound beaver he recently trapped. This beaver and others trapped will be frozen and later cooked into a beaver barley soup that will be served this July 18 at the Lovells Township Historical Society's "Beaver, Beer, and Banjo" event. Please plan on attending this lively and entertaining evening for the benefit of the Historical Society. (Editor's note: The Beaver, Beer & Banjo event is currently on hold due to the Stay Home, Stay Safe order from the state. Please check their web site @ www.lthsmuseums.org for updated information. We will also include updated information on our web site.)

Ella Bush - First Recipient of William (Bill) Ross Memorial Scholarship

Ella lives in Grayling and is a first year, 21-year-old student enrolled in Technology Management-Associates in Applied Sciences program at Kirtland Community College in Grayling. She will graduate in May, 2020.

After completing the technology management degree, Ella would like to get a job as a manager at a nursing home facility, or in a healthcare related facility because she loves helping others. Once she gets a job she would like to go back to school to earn an associate's degree in medical assisting as well.

"This scholarship means so much to me knowing that my goal is to make it out of college with little to no debt at all as well as getting a career of helping those who need help to get back to everyday life. I am so blessed and honored to receive this scholarship here as a college student at Kirtland Community College" stated Ella.



Annual Dinner



Depending on the status of the current "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order from the state of Michigan, the Foundation has tentative plans to hold our Annual Dinner on Saturday, July 11 at the Lovells Township Hall. Current plans are refreshments and appetizers at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. The cost will be \$30 per person. Please RSVP by email, text or phone to Sue Inman: inmansue2@gmail.com 312-446-7225 (cell) We will post any updates on our web site but we remain hopeful that this event will still take place this year.

New Director joins ASNBAF Board

Hi, my name is John Porteous and I am both humbled and honored to be your most recent board member. Our 75+ year old organization speaks to the level of fresh water conservancy commitment that the friends and residents of the North Branch possess. I am delighted to carry this stewardship spirit forward.

My wife Leslie and I live with our chocolate labs, River & Zoe, on the North Branch. We have been visiting & vacationing in the Grayling/Lovells area for almost 30 years. We're the proud parents of 2 awesome daughters that have grown to love the Ausable watershed as much as we do. We recently celebrated our 2nd anniversary as full time Lovells residents and we are super excited to call Lovells & the North Branch our home.

As a retired IT business and data analyst, within the financial sector, I will attempt to bring a data driven perspective to the significant conservation tasks that lay before us.

I recently celebrated my first year as a board member of the Lovells Township Historical Society. You are welcome to reach me via e-mail at jlporteous@gmail.com.



We appreciate your tax deductible donations that make our work possible. We can also accept credit card donations on the web site. Please use the form below to help us maintain and improve our North Branch

Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation

www.ausablenorthbranch.org

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

Name: _____	Contribution Amount: _____
Address: _____	In Memory/Honor of: _____
_____	_____
E-mail: _____	

Please return to:

Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation - c/o Marjie Warner P.O. Box 2524 Grayling, MI 49738

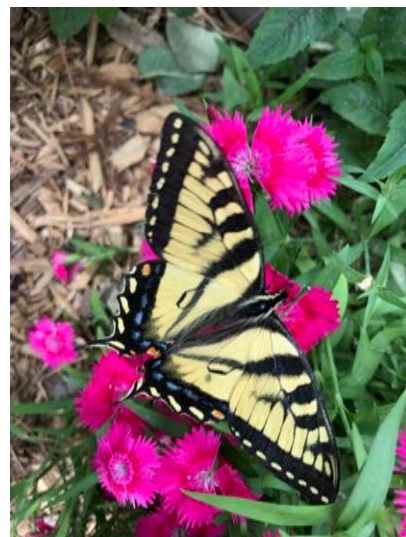
Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 not for profit.

2020 Photo Contest

We received some outstanding photos last year, so we are holding another photo contest this year. We will be awarding prizes for the top photos and posting the others on our web page. Please send your photo entries to: northbranchphotos@gmail.com.

Web Site

We realize that information changes quickly and dramatically in this environment. As a result, we will be publishing updates and articles on our web site in an effort to keep you as well informed as possible. In addition to articles on fish studies, water quality and the new USGS water gauge at Kellogg Bridge, we will try to keep our Events Calendar updated with the latest information on local events.



THANK YOU!! To Our 2020 Supporters

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and Bettie Buss Susan
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Special Donations

Bill & Debi Anderson, in memory of Michael Malbin
David & Linda Horn, in memory of Bill Ross, in honor of Janet Ross
Rosemary Malbin, in memory of Michael Malbin
Terry & David Oeming, in memory/honor of Paul Calkins
Suzy Reider, in memory of Gretchen Ferguson
Jim & Linda Ross, in memory of Bill Ross, in honor of Janet Ross
Ida & Jim Wine, in memory of Bill Ross

UPCOMING EVENTS

Foundation Annual Dinner
July 11, 2020 Lovells Twp. Hall
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Foundation Annual Meeting
Sep. 5, 2020 Lovells Twp. Hall
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Officers

Mike Inman, Chairman
312-446-7244 (cell)
989-348-2922 (cabin)
Neil Wallace, Vice Chairman
248-891-5446
Marjie Warner, Treasurer
313-663-1331
Bob Weed, Secretary
248-310-6884

Directors

Bill Anderson	219-771-9178
Eric Bankhead	989-348-6704
Glen Eberly	989-348-3084
Steve Johnson	989-344-1053
Gary Neumann	989-348-9848
John Porteous	317-403-2891
Jerry Rucker	989-348-8738
Tom Wessels	231-271-6151

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.

