



# THE NORTH BRANCH

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE AU SABLE NORTH BRANCH AREA FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2016

## From the President's Desk



NORTH BRANCH WITH DNR, ASNBAF AND ANGLERS PERSONNEL

Ah, Spring is passing. The loons are on the nest, Mayflies are hatching and the first bright colors of Spring, not from Mother Nature, but from Mother Nature lovers - kayaks - are on our pristine rivers and lakes. Folks are tidying up their cottages in prep for another delightful summer in Northern Michigan.

How fortunate we are to be able to enjoy this magnificent up North environment. But, with the pleasure comes some work and I reflect on the amazing base of dedicated and capable volunteers that give of their time, talents and finances to preserve, enhance and protect our Au Sable North Branch Watershed.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of all non-profits and your Board of Directors is exemplary. They bring diverse views to our meetings, but work towards consensus and support the decisions made. Each demonstrates a passion in carrying out their duties. **Please join me in thanking our volunteers for their service!**

Two of our Board are retiring after many years of service: Connie Schrieber and Jim Shiflett. Read more about these special people in this newsletter. Connie's duties as Treasurer have been assumed by Marjie Warner and the newsletter administration has been taken on by new volunteer, Erica Elliott. We will likely replace Jim by moving an Alternate Board Member to active duty or by recruiting a new Board Member.

Our major projects this year are to continue the important restoration work on the North Branch and the West Branch of Big Creek. The river stretch below the Lovells Bridge has been mapped and 35 structures (parallel logs, 3 log bundles and arrowhead drift dams in front of islands) are being proposed in the first half mile. Anglers of the Au Sable will submit a permit request to DEQ and Natural Rivers shortly to authorize this work to be done in 2016 or 17. We will contact affected property owners to request permission to place the proposed structures. Additional restoration work will be done on the Blue Water Property and Jaeger Property in the upper reaches in Otsego County to supplement work done last year. Anglers will spend approximately \$70,000 on North Branch restoration work this year.

Upon review, restoration work done on the upper reaches of the West Branch of Big Creek has been very successful. Mason - Griffith TU Chapter will spend significant Habitat Improvement Grant funds in a continuation of the work started last year. We are contributing \$10,000 towards this restoration work. Anglers is also helping to fund this cause.

Our Purple Loosestrife Warriors will continue the ongoing battle against this bad invasive.

And finally, we look to you, our donor members, to let us know what needs to be done to carry out our mission. Just contact any Board Member or your River Keeper with issues needing attention.

Enjoy your time up North!!!  
Glen



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA ELLIOTT  
AU SABLE RIVER

## Grayling Hatchery (Fish Farm Fight)

by: Glen Eberly

Most of you are aware of the litigation by the Anglers of the Au Sable against the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the proprietor of the Grayling Hatchery.

Your Board of Directors voted in October to contribute \$5,000.00 to the Anglers for the Grayling Fish Farm Fight. This donation is consistent with our past policy of assisting other groups such as Huron Pines, Cedars for the Au Sable and HeadWaters Land Conservancy in their efforts to enhance and protect our entire Au Sable Watershed.

The Anglers are not totally against fish farms, but the permit granted to the Grayling Hatchery is deemed woefully inadequate to protect the water quality of the Au Sable. The DEQ has actually admitted that the permit, as issued, will allow degradation of the Au Sable water quality.

The Michigan Platte River Hatchery was the same type of flow through hatchery as the current Grayling Hatchery. That hatchery failed badly and destroyed Platte Lake and the Platte River below it. After losing an expensive legal battle, paid for by the Platte Lake Property Owners Association and concerned citizens, the state was forced to install systems to assure high water quality. The Anglers goal in its legal battle is to force the state to demand that these same protective measures be put in place for our river.

The hearings on this battle are about to conclude in Lansing with a decision expected in early 2017. We will update you regarding this threat to our watershed in our next newsletter. You can learn more about this issue at the Anglers of the Au Sable website ([www.ausableanglers.org](http://www.ausableanglers.org)).



## Follow the Money by Bill Duncanson

The Foundation approved a \$1,000 donation (your money) to the HeadWaters Land Conservancy at its May meeting. What's in it for Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation donors? Plenty!

The Conservancy enters into Conservation Easements with land owners to, generally, protect their land from development in the event of property transfer. The Conservancy accepts significant financial responsibility to carry out the land owner's requirements in the easement. The easement does not permit public access or a transfer of ownership to the Conservancy at a future date. The owner maintains full right of ownership, including the right to sell, in accordance with the desire for the future use of the property as stipulated in the easement.

The total river frontage protected from development on the Au Sable river system is over 9 miles and about 30% of this is on the North Branch. At this time, the Conservancy has six easement agreements with riparian property owners on the North Branch and a pending easement will increase the protected North Branch river frontage to nearly 3.5 miles and 400 acres.

HeadWaters Land Conservancy has been a loyal supporter of our Foundation. Our donation benefits the North Branch Foundation by keeping our special river as is. Plus our donation qualifies for a matching funds grant so Headwaters receives \$2,000 from our donation. We are thrilled to have two organizations working towards the same purpose, to preserve and protect the natural endowments of your river.

HeadWaters can be contacted at:  
Website: [HeadWatersconservancy.org](http://HeadWatersconservancy.org)  
Phone: 989-731-0531



## A BIG Thank You to Those Who Support the Foundation!

Anonymous  
Jim and Nancy Allardyce  
David and Kathleen Bremer  
Bruce and Carol Carman  
Susan Cooper  
Benjamin Duby  
Bill and Pat Duncanson  
Glen and Martha Eberly  
Roger and Mary Fechner  
Paul and Linda Feldman  
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Karla and Bob Grant  
Scott and Cindy Hill  
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Mike and Sue Inman  
Chip and Betsy Irwin  
Jim and Karen  
Anton Kalb  
Harvey Kernli  
Darby Kuenzel  
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Ruth Lowe (Dan Alstott)  
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Leonard Mazur  
Marcy Ng  
(Barbara McLennan for Dr. Barry Breakey)  
Barbara McLennan  
Bill Middleton  
Frank Moore  
Tom Mudd  
Mary Neal  
Gary Neumann  
David Oeming  
Duane and Nancy Peterson  
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Keith and Wendy Petherick  
Suzanne Reider  
Jerry and Fran Rucker  
Keith Scharf  
Jamey and Sandy Seals  
Jake Shinnors

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital  
(Dr. Barry Breakey)  
Bruce and Katherine Shurtz  
Keith and Susan Spaulding (Dan Alstott)  
Ruth Stenglein (Andy)  
John and Courtney Sullivan  
Keith and Peggy Traver  
David and Joyce Triezenberg  
John and Shirley VanDam  
Neil Wallace  
Garrett and Bonnie Walworth  
Larry and Marj Warner  
Bob and Susan Weed  
Jim and Laurie Wendland (Dan Alstott)  
Tom Wessels  
Chuck Wheeker





## Join us for the 2016 Annual ASNBAF Dinner!

When: Saturday, July 9th  
Social Hour starting at 6pm, followed by Dinner at 7pm

Where: Fuller's NBOC  
6122 E County Rd 612, Grayling, MI 49738

Cost: \$30/person

RSVP to: Debi Anderson  
DebbieA20@aol.com or 219-242-1900

Provided will be:  
Smoked BBQ Pork and Turkey  
Side Dishes - Baked Beans, Coleslaw  
Beer, Wine, and Soft Drinks  
Dessert

The meat is being provided by the Food Truck from



## Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation

10389 Island Street, Grayling, MI 49738  
www.ausablenorthbranch.com



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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:**  
Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation  
c/o Marjie Warner  
10389 Island Stret  
Grayling, MI 49738

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

## River Keeper Program Update by Eric Bankhead

The 7th year of the North Branch River Keepers Program has begun. The Keepers will be looking out for the North Branch, perusing the river for issues such as excessive trash, log jams, hazards to safe wading or floating, zoning violations, fighting Purple Loosestrife, or anything else that may be detrimental to the River.

All river maintenance is paid for by your donations.  
**Thanks for Your Concern for the River!**

Visit our website [www.AuSableNorthBranch.com](http://www.AuSableNorthBranch.com), and click on the 'River Keeper Program' page for contact information on your Reach.

**Right:** Ken Reed 'Remediating' a Large Willow blocking safe wading and safe boat passage, located just below the Riverside Tavern in Lovells. This Willow reached from bank to bank.



## Lovells Township News - Ticks by Gary Neumann, Township Supervisor

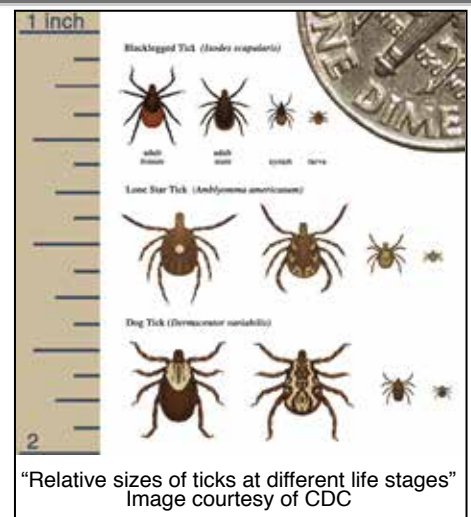
With the arrival of warmer weather, a common topic of discussion in the township has been about the abundance of ticks. While ticks have been a nuisance for years, there is no doubt that their numbers have dramatically increased the past three or four years.

In Michigan, we have five different ticks; the American Dog tick, the Black-legged tick, the Lone Star tick, the Woodchuck tick and the Brown Dog tick. Only the Black-legged tick (formally called the Deer tick) is a vector of Lyme disease. The first confirmed case of that disease occurred in Michigan in 1985. The other named ticks, however, are vectors for other diseases, such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Powassan encephalitis, monocytic ehrlichiosis and tularemia.

Historically, distribution of ticks in Michigan was centered in the western upper peninsula. But they have spread south, and now most counties (from Charlevoix south to the Indiana border) along the Lake Michigan shoreline are considered "endemic" for Lyme disease. Interestingly, as of 2015, no counties (from Presque Isle south to the Ohio border) along the Lake Huron shoreline have been identified as "endemic" for the disease. But clearly tick populations are moving from west to east in the lower peninsula. At some future date it is likely that most of the lower will be considered "endemic" for Lyme disease.

The following prevention and treatment techniques are effective against ticks when we are working or recreating in wooded environments. Over the counter products containing DEET (20-30%) or permethrins will repel ticks. Wearing long pants with the pant legs tucked into boots or socks will reduce the number of ticks that reach the skin. It is very important to perform frequent checks for ticks and they can be anywhere on your body. Transmission of a disease from a tick bite; however, is unlikely to occur before 36 hours of tick attachment. If an attached tick is discovered it should be removed using fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick firmly and as closely to the skin as possible. With a steady motion pull the tick's body away from the skin and don't be alarmed if some of its mouth parts remain in the skin. Then clean the area with an antiseptic. If, after removal of an attached tick, a fever, rash, or body/muscle ache develops, have a physician evaluate for a tick borne disease. The early diagnosis and proper treatment of tick borne diseases are critical strategies in avoiding the costs and complications of infection and late-stage illnesses.

Additional information is available at: [www.michigan.gov/documents/emergingdiseases/resize\\_307382\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/emergingdiseases/resize_307382_7.pdf)





Thank you Connie and Jim! from ANBAF

**Connie Schrieber** recently retired as treasurer of the ANBAF and editor of "The North Branch" newsletter. Connie served as treasurer for sixteen years and was the editor of the newsletter since the first edition in 1997. She was first elected as a board member in 1997 and served as vice president and president before becoming treasurer in 2000. Connie was instrumental in organizing the annual summer dinners at Fullers and has been an active fundraiser for the ANBAF. Prior to becoming fulltime residents, she and husband Eric Bankhead spent much time on the North Branch eventually buying a home on the river in 1994. There they spent most weekends, holidays, and vacations until moving in full time in 2004. Now when you see Connie hiking, biking or kayaking with Eric or other friends **be sure to give her a big thank you** for her many years of dedicated service to the ANBAF, the river and the surroundings she loves.



Connie Schrieber

We would also like to extend our thanks to **Jim Shiflett** for his nine years of service on the Board of Directors for the foundation. Although Jim is leaving his post as a Director, he is still working to improve and preserve the Au Sable River system. Jim will remain active with Anglers of the Au Sable and Cedars for the Au Sable, and you may even run into him at Fuller's North Branch Outing Club. We wish Jim the best of luck in his future ventures and appreciate his efforts and dedication to the North Branch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**ANNUAL DINNER**

July 9  
Fuller's NBOC  
Cost \$ 30/person  
See page 4 for details

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL BEAVER, BEER, & BANJO**

July 23, 6-9pm  
Lovell's Tavern

**LOVELL'S BRIDGE WALK & LOG DRIVE**

August 20, 8am-1pm  
Lovell's Township

**BOARD MEETINGS**

2nd Saturday of each month  
Lovell's Township Hall

Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation

955 Morley Road • Grayling • MI 49738

Officers

- Glen Eberly, President  
989-348-3084
- Bob Grant, Vice President  
989-348-7574
- Marjie Warner, Treasurer  
313-663-1331
- George Shaw, Secretary  
989-316-2224
- Bill Ross, Past President  
989-348-7130

Directors

- Debi Anderson 219-242-1900
- Eric Bankhead 989-348-6704
- John Dallas 989-348-6662
- Bill Duncanson 989-348-9364
- Mike Inman 989-348-2922
- Steve Johnson 989-344-1053
- Gary Neumann 989-348-9848
- Jerry Rucker 989-348-8738
- Neil Wallace 248-891-5446
- Robert Weed 989-348-5793
- 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.