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## THE RIVER GUARDIAN

### HOLIDAY 2020

**ARPOA BOARD:** David Smith, President; Micki Levin, Vice President; Margot Surridge, Treasurer; Julie Gibbs, Web Director; Howard Johnson, Cedars for the Au Sable; Steve Poulos, Chairman River Guardians; Boyd Dillon, David Long, John Blakemore, Adolph "Dolph" Greenberg.



### From the President

David Smith

As the year 2020 draws to an end, a number of things are on my mind.

The weather is definitely changing. The long-range forecast is suggesting a milder and wetter winter for Michigan. We'll have to see how that is born out. We had a five-inch snowfall around Thanksgiving, but it was gone after a few days of above 40° temperatures. We sat on our dock one evening with friends socially distancing and enjoying a fire in the burner. It's unusual to be able to do that comfortably after Thanksgiving. River water temperatures are down a lot in the morning from low and mid 60s this summer to mid 30s this past week. In spite of colder water, however, we've seen more kayakers than ever this November.

The election season is (finally!) coming to an end. More Americans voted this November than ever before and that's a good thing. Like the weather forecast, we'll have to wait and see what kind of effect the results have on the river.

Something we don't have to wait to see the results of is the Covid 19 pandemic. I really miss visitors and visiting and I'm hopeful that, with the help of the vaccines especially, next summer will be closer to normal. In spite of the virus, some volunteering is happening. The Anglers of the Au Sable September Clean Up took place but without the pre and post gatherings. It was very different, but the river was successfully cleaned. Our own Association, on a much smaller scale than usual, was able to treat close to nine miles of the Mainstream for Purple Loosestrife. Also, some Association members repaired a fence at a Mainstream landing. Hopefully we'll be able to do a lot more in 2021.

Stay healthy. Stay safe. And I hope to see you on the river.

David



### ARPOA Volunteers Do a Good Turn



Early in November, two Association members, Joe Hemming and David Smith, took advantage of beautiful weather and made a few repairs to the fence at the Townline takeout. This section of fence is quite old and needs regular TLC to help it last until it can be replaced.

After straightening a fence post, they replaced several rails using hand tools to cut and fit the rails and fasten them with large spikes. Hemming, whose cabin is close by, instigated the project

and was very pleased with the result. He said, "Keeping the fence in good repair should encourage river users to take better care of the landing."

This kind of work fits perfectly with the ARPOA mission of "To preserve, protect, and enhance the Au Sable River watershed..." The repaired fencing is just north of a newer stretch of fence that was installed in April of 2017 by ARPOA volunteers partnered with the US Forest Service. The fence served to keep cars off newly seeded areas and help protect the upstream riverbank.



### Treasurer's Update

Margot Surridge, Treasurer

In support of our mission, in Fiscal year 2019/2020 we made donations to Cedars for the Au Sable and Michigan State University – Research supporting our Grayling community waterways and the MGFC- TU North Branch Gauge Station. Your Board will be deciding at our upcoming meetings how best to support our River through your contributions. Please feel free to send your suggestions to us.

Currently we have 268 members on our roster. 82 members have not as of yet submitted their membership contribution. I will be submitting a third reminder notice in December. Please submit your contribution prior to December 31 to remain as a member in support of the Au Sable River. Every dollar contributed is used in support of the Au Sable. Our suggested contributions are as follows: Family/Individual \$35.00, Sustaining \$100, and Club/Corporate \$75. Your membership contributions should be sent to ARPOA Box 15, Grayling, Michigan 49738 or you can also renew on PayPal at [arpoa-mi.org](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arpoa-mi.org). In addition we will be starting a membership drive this winter. Please let us know if you know of a new property owner who may be interested in joining our organization. Our email address is [arpoa.mi@gmail.com](mailto:arpoa.mi@gmail.com). Once again, if you have suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from members on ideas to protect and preserve the Au Sable.

We thank you for your continued support of the Au Sable River Property Owners Association!

Margot Surridge, Treasurer



### Have you seen a problem tree on the river?

Volunteers with the Au Sable River Watershed Committee deal with problem trees in the Au Sable Mainstream and South Branch.

Understand that the Committee volunteers will take care of trees that have fallen in the river that interfere with navigation or are causing erosion issues. Also, that the blockage will be opened by about eight feet and that the wood cut out will be left in the river.

If you have a problem tree, send an email to [ausabletrees@gmail.com](mailto:ausabletrees@gmail.com).

Please include pictures, gps (lat and long) if at all possible, otherwise a detailed description of location with directions is important. Also include contact information. An ASRWC volunteer will contact you to arrange a site visit.



### DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?

If you do, here is a great way to donate to the Au Sable River Property Owners Association. Just log on to <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose us. Amazon automatically donates 0.5% of the purchase of eligible products to our organization.

### ARPOA website

Looking for copies of old newsletters or more information on the Au Sable River Property Owners Association visit our website at [www.arpoa-mi.org](https://www.arpoa-mi.org) or join us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/A.R.P.O.A.MI/>.

