



THE RIVER GUARDIAN

2021 Annual Wine & Cheese Meet & Greet – Save the Date!

From the President

David Smith

I'm pretty excited.

After 36 years as a public school teacher, the end of May and beginning of June was an exciting time. The school year was over and the summer break was beginning. It was the start of a time for recovery from the past and planning for the future. On the river, I can't help but have the same type of excitement at this time of the year.

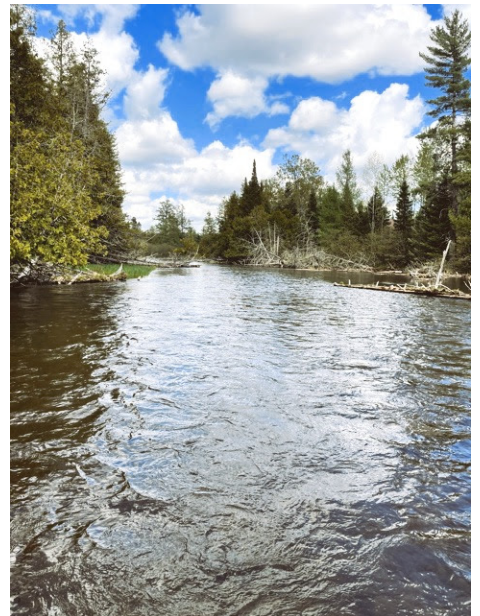
I'm also excited to be a part of two ARPOA activities scheduled for this summer; the Annual Meeting and our Purple Loosestrife Removal events.

Both were cancelled last year due to the pandemic. One is a chance to see old friends and make new ones in a pleasant social setting. The other is strenuous, dirty work that's fun and satisfying and worthwhile for the river.

I hope I'll see you at the Annual Meeting and I encourage you to sign up for the Purple Loosestrife days. Being outdoors and with new CDC guidelines, both should be safe.

Hope to see you on the river.

David



SAVE THE DATE!

The ARPOA Annual Wine & Cheese Meet & Greet

Saturday, July 17th, 3-5pm
at Gates Au Sable Lodge

Join fellow property owners on the banks of the beautiful Au Sable River to enjoy fun food and door prizes, renew your dues, and hear current news about issues affecting the river.

Seating will be socially distanced; masks are welcome.

RSVP at arpoa.mi@gmail.com or mlevin@mickilevin.net.

Voting on Proposed Bylaw Changes

When our bylaws were originally written, they conformed to the laws that existed at the time. Since that time there have been changes in the law as well as technological advances. The proposed bylaw changes are designed to bring us into accord with current law and provide for the use of technology, such as Zoom meetings, while reflecting accurately the way our organization operates.

You can review the bylaw changes in preparation for the membership vote at the July 17th Annual Meeting here: <https://arpoa-mi.org/arpoa-bylaws/>

The Purple Loosestrife Project: A Brief History

This year we are hosting two Purple Loosestrife Removal events: Tuesday, August 3rd and Saturday, August 7th. Each event will run from 10am to 2pm and include lunch and all the tools and instruction you need to participate (you will need to bring your own waders).

Email arpoa.mi@gmail.com to let us know of your interest or questions. You can also sign up at this year's Annual Meeting July 17th.

Please help us keep the river healthy by rooting out this invasive species. Just a few hours of your time makes a lasting difference!



Treasurer's Report

Margot Surridge

It's that time again—membership contributions are due! You can pay by credit card through PayPal, or by mailing a check made payable to ARPOA to:

**ARPOA
PO BOX 15
GRAYLING, MI 49738**

Individual/Family: \$35

Club/Corporate: \$75

Sustaining: \$100

Please be sure to include your current address with your payment and any contact changes that occurred this past year. Thank you for your past support. We were able to assist many non-profit organizations with a similar mission to protect and preserve the Au Sable River because of your generosity.

Best wishes and hope to see you all at our Annual Meeting!
Margot

Be a River Guardian!

Be sure to attend the ARPOA Annual Meeting on July 17th to hear the latest updates on the health and status of the river. In the meantime, we still have some stretches of the river available if you would like to sign up as a River Guardian today.

The Au Sable River Property Owners Association initiated the River Guardians project several years ago. The Mainstream and South Branch are divided into reaches and volunteers are recruited to float their section at least twice a year and report to the project leader. The reports include the date of the float and any issues requiring further investigation, such as indication of PFAS foam/contamination, invasives, obstructions to navigation, erosion, unpermitted structures in or out of the stream, etc. This information is shared with the appropriate agency for further attention. The ARPOA is not an enforcement entity but acts as a conduit between property owners and the State and Federal agencies designated to protect and preserve the natural resources of Michigan.

If you have any questions, you may contact Steve Poullos at poullos@msu.edu or any ARPOA board member. We will also have a sign-up sheet at the Annual Meeting and can answer your questions in person. Thanks to all who have signed up and we look forward to working with other property owners to help keep this valuable resource clean and beautiful.

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

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