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THE RIVER GUARDIAN

SPRING 2022

From the President

David Smith

Things are kind of weird around this bend of the river recently.

A few days ago, I woke up to snow. Not just snow in the air but enough snow to cover the ground! During the last week of April! Michigan is known for the possibility of snow in every month of the year. But this much this late? It's kind of weird.

I'm writing this the weekend of the Trout Opener and we attended the open House at the Old Au Sable Fly Shop, the first one in a couple of years due to Covid. There was tasty food and lots of good friends to catch up with. All in all, a very enjoyable time.

I know that Michigan has been on a path to open up after the height of the pandemic for a while now but, for a number of reasons, we've been dragging our feet. Spending time with that many people after so long was great. But it was kind of weird too. I'm hoping, with more (cautious) practice, that feeling lessens and then goes away.

Every time I look out the window and see the water flowing past, or stand on the bank and hear the river rushing by, I am reminded of how fortunate we all are to have the Au Sable River to recreate in and on, advocate for, and work hard to protect and improve. And that's not weird at all.

I look forward to seeing you on the river.

David



River Etiquette Sign Installation

We need your help!

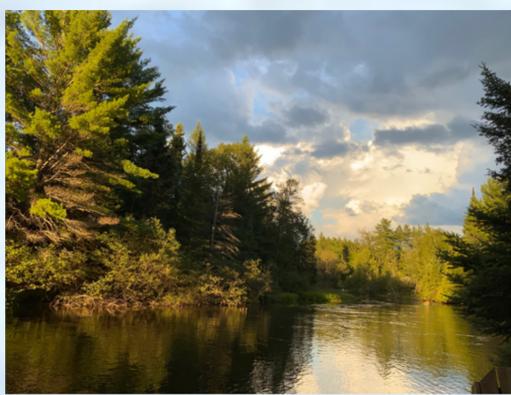
The board of the Au Sable River Property Association has approved a project to create and install river etiquette signs at 28 sites along the Au Sable River. These sites include road ends, canoe launches and private canoe liveryes. The River Etiquette Committee is asking for your help with the installation of these signs this spring and early summer.

We plan to have several half-day work projects to complete the work by early summer. Each of the work projects will have a well-trained team leader. The most difficult task will be digging the required hole; however, we have purchased a gas-powered hole auger to help with this job. The other tasks for each installation will be much easier.

Each sign installation is subject to weather conditions, approval of Miss Dig at each site and availability of volunteers. Our plan is to announce upcoming installations via email and/or text and at that time ask if you are available to help at the time and date specified. Some installations will be on weekdays and some on weekends.

If you have a desire to help with the project and wish to be informed of any upcoming planned work, please contact the River Etiquette Committee chairperson Howard Johnson at ausablecedars@gmail.com or (989) 280-0381.

If you have family and friends that can lend a hand, that would be great too. Please reach out to Howard if you have any questions or comments. Thank you!



Be a River Guardian

It looks like spring is finally here. It is always fun to get out on your home water or favorite stretch to see what has changed over the winter but it is certainly comforting to see that most things remain the same.

If you are out and about and see something that needs attention, please let us know. You may contact me (poulios@msu.edu) or any ARPOA board member if you see something amiss. Better yet, sign up to be a River Guardian. River Guardians are assigned a specific stretch of the river and wade or float it at least twice during the season and report back on any issues such as:

- Downed trees or any other debris impeding navigation
- Severe erosion
- Any suspected contamination
- Hazardous in-stream structures
- Purple Loosestrife or other invasive species
- Trash or debris
- Unpermitted construction along river
- Any other issues you believe need attention

Some of the issues we can attend to on our own but most we will refer to the appropriate regulating agencies. The ARPOA is not an enforcement entity but acts as a conduit between property owners and the State or Federal agencies designated to protect and preserve the natural resources of Michigan.

To those who generously participated last year, thank you! If you would like to be assigned to the same stretch as last year, let me know. If you have not participated in the past and would like to this year it, let me know. The stretches of the river are as follows:

Mainstream
 Frederic to Pollack Bridge
 Pollack Bridge to Grayling (park in town)
 Grayling to Burton's Landing
 Burton's Landing to Wakeley Bridge
 Wakeley Bridge to McMaster's
 Mc Masters to Parmalee
 Parmalee to Camp 10
 Camp 10 to Mio Dam

South Branch
 Roscommon to Chase Bridge
 Chase Bridge to Smith Bridge
 Smith Bridge to the Mainstream

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Steve Poulios (poulios@msu.edu) or any ARPOA board member.

PFAS Update from the Michigan Army National Guard

A Grayling Town Hall meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 from 6:00 8:00 p.m. at Kirtland Community College in Community Room A. An open house session will be held during the hour prior to the meeting. All representatives will be present during this time to answer questions.

Click here for more information: [Grayling PFAS Update](#)



The Au Sable River has a rich tradition of skilled and talented people whose passions include boat building, rod making, quilting, painting, photographing, and fly tying.

Visit Lovell's Museum this summer and discover the various arts and crafts that have enriched its history. Go to [Artisans of the Au Sable](#) for a schedule of events.

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 <http://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 or join us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AR.P.O.A.MI/>.



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