

Purple Loosestrife Takes Big Hit in 2012 by Glen Eberly

Thanks to our new tactics and 17 dedicated volunteers from our ASNBAF ranks, we delivered a “Big Hit” to this pretty but very bad invasive plant during late summer and early fall in 2012.

After four years of digging, pulling, sweating and, yes, probably a little swearing, we added a new weapon to our 2012 Purple Loosestrife (PL) fight. Roundup is a premixed, off the shelf, herbicide which the Michigan DNR allows volunteers to use on private land to combat invasive species. Roundup is rainproof (will not wash off the plant leaves) in 10 minutes and is safe, as it attacks an enzyme found in plants but not people or pets. Careful application requires a shield be utilized behind the targeted plants to protect the innocent. Visible results are evident in six hours! This new tool considerably reduced our tedious labors and proved to be both effective and efficient.

We will petition the MDNR this year in an effort to gain approval for use of Roundup on state land.

Your PL Team for 2012 was: Debbie and Bill Anderson, Eric Bankhead and Connie Schrieber, Bruce Cameron, John and Jane Dallas, Bill and Pat Duncanson, Glen and Martha Eberly, Bill and Janet Ross, George Shaw and Bonnie Marsh, and Larry and Margie Warner. Thank them for their hard work when you see them on the river or about town.

Results: 17 volunteers spent 67 hours attacking PL and destroyed 792 plants.

Keep an eye out for this pretty but bad purple plant this summer and notify one of the above volunteers if you see it on your property, or destroy it yourself. There are some “look a likes” so be sure of accurate identification before you pull, dig or kill PL.

Anyone who would like to join our PL Team for 2013 is welcome. Contact Glen Eberly or Debbie Anderson to get involved.



The Foundation remembers Bill Stenglein, a past board member for many years and Paul Kott, a river keeper for the past 3 years. Their dedication to the river and the organization is appreciated.



Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation

955 Morley Road, Grayling, MI 49738

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

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

‘THANK YOU’ to all of our contributors - your support is greatly appreciated!

River Keeper Program Update

by Eric Bankhead, Network Lead

For the 4th year now, 19 riverkeepers will be observing and reporting issues that concern the well being of the North Branch, our favorite river.

This past winter Steve Sendek was asked to trap beaver . He was successful although some did manage to elude him , like the one who left his toe behind in the trap. Although that one did escape, Steve was still able to put a dent in the population of trouble makers and hopefully a decrease in the amount of destruction taking place.

This spring our partner, Huron Pines, was hired to help with tree falls and wandering logs from the pre-Christmas snow storm and spring high water. There were large tree falls at Twin Bridges and Lovells Bridge. Above Dam 4 the river was completely blocked due to a downed tree. Trees blocked safe wading and boating just above Kellogg Bridge and the Morley Road access.

The Foundation allocates funds each year for river maintenance which includes tree falls and large woody debris movement. Over the last four seasons more than \$2,000 has been spent to clear and relocate troublesome trunks and branches. When writing your check to the Foundation remember your support allows this maintenance work to continue and the river kept open and safe for your enjoyment..

Thanks for Your Time and Concern for the River.

Eric Bankhead 989-348-6704

North Branch - Dam 4 Access Site Repair by Glen Eberly

Any of you who have recently visited the Dam 4 access site on the North Branch, would have to agree with me that its state of disrepair resembles an access site to the Detroit River rather than to our beloved and pristine North Branch. Well, help is on the way, in the form of volunteers from our ASNBAF with some assistance, we hope, from some TU Chapters.

We are in the process of developing a plan and budget to replace the fencing that borders the access site. With volunteer labor, the project should not be expensive. Steve Johnson, a fellow board member, has even offered to supply the cedar posts and rails from some recent cuttings he made in his swamp. Wouldn't it be great to complete a project like this and only have to purchase nails?? What an organization!!

Approvals will be obtained from the Crawford County Road Commission, the MDNR, and Natural Rivers. Isn't government wonderful? We will also notify the abutting land owners of our plans, as a courtesy. We hope to have the Dam 4 Access repaired by July 1st.

A second access site that is being reviewed for needed improvement is the Morley Road Access. We are requesting a Huron Pines Engineer to suggest the best plan for repair of this site. It is quite possible that we can have Morley Road improved before the end on August.

Anyone interested in being a part of these repair projects are certainly welcome. Just call Glen Eberly or John Dallas and we will be pleased to add you to the volunteer list.



Dam 4 Access Site

Thandara on the Main



The pictures show the current site, in bad shape, and a reconstructed site on the Au Sable Main Stream that exemplifies the standard access fencing that we will utilize.