



Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation

955 Morley Road, Grayling, MI 49738

River Keeper Program

The Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation (ANBAF), in keeping with its purpose and mission has adopted and has created a River Keeper Program that will provide a continuing benefit to the North Branch. The River Keepers Program will give members and other river beneficiaries the opportunity to participate in “hands on” stewardship of the North Branch. We have enlisted a network of volunteer River Keepers to assist with this endeavor; the following is the breakdown of the river sections or “Reaches”, of the North Branch, the River Keeper’s Reach assignments and their contact information.

Reaches of the North Branch and River Keepers contact information

Reach #	Reach Description	River Keepers	Phone
1	Dam 2 to Black Hole	Roger Fechner	348-4880
		Jack Hipchen	348-1329
2	Black Hole to Twin Bridges	Jack Hipchen	348-1329
		Roger Fechner	348-4880
3	Twin Bridges to Lovells Bridge	Glen Eberly	348-3084
		Martha Eberly	same
4	Lovells Bridge to Dam 4	Bill Duncanson	810-287-5159
		Pat Duncanson	same
5	Dam 4 to Jackson Hole	Gary Neumann	348-9848
		Arnie Ochs	348-3204
6	Jackson Hole to Kellogg Bridge	John Thompson	344-0733
		Royale Thompson	same
7	Kellogg Bridge to Morley Road	Bruce Carman	348-1229
		Brain Crabtree	586-612-8787
8	Morley Road to Island Street	Larry Warner	313-920-4512
		Marjorie Warner	same
9	Island Street to Flashlight Bend	Bill Anderson	344-7477
		Debi Anderson	same
10	Flashlight Bend to Mouth of North Branch	Tom Wessels	231-510-3420
		Bob Grant	348-7574
	River Keeper Network Lead	Eric Bankhead	348-6704

River Keepers Duties

Be initial contact for issues on their Reach.
Distribute ANBAF River Keeper brochure to Reach residents.

Any time a River Keeper is on the river, observe river and/or take calls from others concerning:

- Location of river blockage from tree fall and/or large woody debris movement.
- Location of new erosion or other contamination.
- Location of failing or hazardous in-stream structures.
- Location of Purple Loosestrife or other invasive species.
- Location of excessive trash or debris.
- Location of signage issues.
- Location of abnormal water quality.
- Location of beaver activity.
- Note commercial canoe / kayak / tube rental traffic.
- Note access site issues.
- Note unpermitted construction along river.
- Note anything else that may be detrimental to the river.

Budget

The ANBAF has entered in to a contract agreement with Huron Pines for '**River Maintenance**' in 2010. These monies will ONLY be spent on In-River maintenance, which is relocating large wood debris that may have moved during the last few years that impeded navigation or use of the river and/or new tree falls that impeded navigation or use.

Partners List

North Branch Area Residents
Huron Pines
Townships of Lovells, South Branch, and Chester
Counties of Crawford and Otsego
DNR
Other interested parties and groups