



AuSable River Watershed Committee

PO Box 157 • Grayling, MI • 49738



Spring Bulletin

Spring is here with a vengeance and there will be projects on the river starting before you know it. Right now a bunch of folks are clearing roads and sections of rivers thanks to the March Lion that rolled through the region a few weeks ago.

The goal of this bulletin is to provide you with a comprehensive list of projects going on throughout the watershed in 2012. It allows for organizations still planning events to avoid busy times so they can count on a good turnout. It helps potential volunteers to “plan out their dance card” over the next few months in order to tailor service to the river with the other demands of life.

Undoubtedly we won't have all the projects going on this year listed. There are others yet to be determined. In light of that, expect to see an update or two this season. In the future, the Au Sable River Watershed Committee (AWC) will have its own website where folks can go to get the latest on projects and events. This year we just have to use email and snail mail.

If we have not received your organization's project schedule this year please email it to tombuhr@prodigy.net or send to PO Box 157, Grayling, MI 49738. We will get it listed right away.

In addition to schedules there are two other things I want to bring to your attention.

The first is the initiation of a tree removal fund. The unprecedented level of downed trees this spring has really stretched the resources of entities such as Huron Pines – they have played a huge role in tree removal over the years – to address it. The AWC Executive Committee has earmarked \$3000 this year to help pay for the service. Much more is needed going forward. A level of \$10,000 has been suggested. Most years much less than that will be spent. Huron Pines has agreed to be the agency that will handle this crucial service. They have ample experience. We do need to raise the monies and are hoping that organizations and individuals would consider donating to this fund. Many of you have received a letter specifically addressing this issue.

The second thing I wanted to address involves an effort to study brown trout migration patterns on the Au Sable that will start this May. Anglers of the Au Sable, Grand Valley State and the DNR Fisheries Division are teaming up to do this project. The results could produce huge dividends for fisheries management in the future – see an article about it in the latest issue of *The RIVERWATCH*. While costly, money is not the major concern. The project needs dozens of volunteers. Twice a week each section, North, South, and Main, must be floated in order to locate the trout. We probably need at least 30 volunteers per section so nobody gets burned out. If you are interested in participating please contact Steve Sendek at sendeks@michigan.gov.

Here's the schedule as of 4/1/2012. The code for each group is the following: Au Sable River Watershed Committee (AWC); Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association (ASBWPA); Anglers of the Au Sable (AOTA); Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited (MGFTU); Gahagan Nature Preserve (GNP); Upper Manistee River Association (UMRA); Huron Pines (HP); Huron Pines AmeriCorps (HPA); Friends of the Mason Tract (FOM).

Date Project

Volunteers

APRIL

4/5	FOM – Deadfall Removal From Mason Tract	8
4/tba	FOM – Rehab Three Mason Tract Signs	4
4/tba	FOM – Inspect All Access Stairs	2
4/14	MGFTU – Deward Cedar Tree Planting	6
4/19	MGFTU – Kolka Creek Beaver Dam Removal	6
4/25	MGFTU – Insect Survey	8
4/26	MGFTU – Insect ID	4

(Throughout the season, FOM will stock maps at trailheads and replace missing maps at map posts.)

MAY

5/tba	FOM – Inspect/Replace Missing or Broken Rail at the Durant's Castle Site	4
5/9	MGFTU – Upper Manistee General Survey	2
5/16	MGFTU – Au Sable Structure Survey	8
5/21	AmeriCorps Service Begins.	
5/21	HP/ASBWPA – 4366 Erosion Project	4
5/22	HP/ASBWPA – 4366 Erosion Project (Cont.)	4
5/23	HP/ASBWPA – Loud's Rest Erosion Project	8
5/24	HP/ASBWPA – Loud's Rest Erosion Project (Cont.)	8
5/29	ASBWPA – Big Water Cleanup	12
5/30	HP/ASBWPA – Buttercup Erosion Project	20

(In May – AmeriCorps will contact schools for fall partnership program and begin permits for Mead’s Landing erosion project and Deerheart Valley Rd, road-end repair.)

JUNE

6/1	MGFTU – Upper Au Sable Temperature Survey	2
6/2	GNP – MiCorp Insect Survey Au Sable	8+
6/5	HP/ASBWPA – Gator Hole Erosion Project	8
6/6	HP/ASBWPA – Gator Hole Erosion Project (Cont.)	8
6/9	MGFTU – Williams Tract Spawning Riffle Con.	8
6/20	MGFTU – Au Sable Road-end Main.	12
6/23	MGFTU- Au Sable Road-end Main.	12
6/23	HP/ASBWPA – TU Challenge Chapter/Bear Island Erosion Project	25
6/30	AOTA- Au Sable Telemetry Study	90+

(In June, AmeriCorps will finish permits and work on Road Stream Crossing Inventory.)

JULY

7/5	ASBWPA – Big Water Cleanup	12
7/11	MGFTU – Williams Tract LWD	12
7/14	MGFTU – Williams Tract LWD	12
7/29	ASBWPA – Big Water Cleanup	12

(In July, AmeriCorps will work on Purple Loosestrife landowner permission and Tributary inventory. FOM will assist with the invasive species remediation; six volunteers will be needed.)

AUGUST

8/tba AWC – Purple loosestrife Inventory	8
8/tba AWC- Purple loosestrife Removal	10+
8/tba MGFTU – Au Sable Structure Maintenance	
8/25 MGFTU – Frederic Mill Site Restoration	12

(In August, AmeriCorps will work on Purple Loosestrife inventory and removal. FOM will assist with remediation; six volunteers will be needed.)

SEPTEMBER

9/5 MGFTU – MiCorp Insect Survey	8
9/6 MGFTU – Insect ID	5
9/8 AOTA – River Cleanup	250+
9/8 ASBWPA – River Cleanup	50+
9/8 HP/ASBWPA – Rosen’s Landing Erosion Project	8
9/8 GNP – Au Sable MiCorp Survey	8+
9/11 MGFTU – Upper Au Sable Fish Pop Survey	6
9/12 MGFTU – Upper Au Sable Fish Pop Survey	6

(In September, AmeriCorps will work on Education Partnership and finish Purple Loosestrife activities.)

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

10/6 UMRA – Manistee MiCorp Survey	10+
11/2 AmeriCorps member service ends	
11/3 MGFTU – Au Sable Redd Surveys	12

(In October, AmeriCorps will work on data entry.)

TO BE DETERMINED

FOM – Pursue replacement of 2 unrepairable signs at the north trailhead; two volunteers needed.

FOM – Add gravel at Chase Bridge access site; four volunteers needed.

FOM – Document possible need for access stairs at the Leland and the Willows Road access sites.

FOM – Replace the outhouse at Chase Bridge with a new one or a port-a-potty sponsored by the canoe liveries; two volunteers needed.

FOM – Pursue project approval for replacement of the Thayer Creek loop bridge.

For More Information:

Friends of the Mason Tract – xcjones@charter.net

Mason Griffith Founders TU – www.masongriffithtu.org

Au Sable Big Water Preservation Association – www.asbwpa.org

Huron Pines/AmeriCorps – www.HuronPines.org

Anglers of the Au Sable – www.ausableanglers.org

Gahagan Nature Preserve - www.gahagannature.org

Upper Manistee River Association - www.umrasite.org

Au Sable River Watershed Committee – tombuhr@prodigy.com

I hope you have a great year and thank you for your service.

Thomas Buhr

AWC Chairperson