



UPPER MANISTEE RIVER ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 282 • GRAYLING, MICHIGAN 49738

SUMMER NEWSLETTER JULY 2015

The purpose of this Association is to preserve and protect for future generations the Upper Manistee River system and its drainage as a world-class natural resource.

The UMRA Annual Meeting will be Saturday, August 15 at 9:00 A.M. at the Bear Lake Township Hall. Come early and join us for coffee and pastries. We will feature a special speaker. The speaker will be Jeremy Geist, a Michigan resident who has been hired by National Trout Unlimited to work on cold water preservation and restoration in Michigan. He will be speaking about TU's work in Michigan as well as reporting on the State of Trout of the Upper Manistee River. (Please note, we always attempt to schedule the meeting on the 3rd Saturday in August)

Also at the annual meeting, we will conduct **A LIVE AUCTION** of a \$150 Old AuSable Fly Shop Gift Certificate. This certificate was given to us by an individual who won it last year but generously donated back to the UMRA. The Old AuSable Fly Shop has many non fishing items, such as clothing, paddling supplies, outdoor art, and of course, a full line of fly fishing items.

President's Message

Dave Boberg

I am excited to say that we are doing very well. We have several large projects going again this summer with the continuation of our HIA grant monies from last year. In addition we are still looking towards the future and applying for grants and looking at donations for the next few years down the road. We also have our sights on a few small projects this fall as well.

It is also exciting to see not just that we are doing projects to help maintain the beauty and integrity of the Upper Manistee River for years to come. But it's how we are doing it. We have developed important relationships with other conservation organizations who share our common goal.

The relationships have us working on a measurement tool and protocol to look at the efficacy of sand trap maintenance with the Anglers of the AuSable.

We have always worked closely with many of the Midwest TU chapters, but we now have a "friend" at the national level of TU.

SEEDS out of Traverse City continue to be an important partner in our Habitat Improvement Account (HIA) work.

(President's message continued)

The Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) has received a grant to work on our road crossings. These need to be mapped and evaluated and then potentially repaired. This is a big project.

We are working closely with MiCorps to publish our bug study data online so there is tangible evidence regarding the past and future health of the river. This will really help validate all of the work all of our bug study volunteers have done over the years.

Even though we will have our Annual River Cleanup and Volunteer Day in September this year, there are two other groups also scheduling river clean ups as well.

Our relationship with the Michigan National Guard continues to grow, as they will most likely be an important partner in the future.

And I am sure there are others that I have not included here.

I also feel that we have a really good relationship with the Michigan DNR at this point. We have had some important meetings with them recently and although we don't always agree on things, it is important for us to realize that we are all in this together to protect Michigan's outdoor beauty and overall health.

So these are very exciting times to be part of our great organization. Once again, I urge everyone to do whatever you can no matter how small to help us achieve our goals. I hate beer cans in the river as much as everyone else, but that is a losing battle. So instead of complaining about it, I pick up a few here and there. Even though we take care of the big projects, it's these little acts that really help all of us.

Is your neighbor, fishing buddy or canoe partner a member of UMRA? Why not ask them to join. We have thousands of people using the river every weekend. If just twenty of those individuals joined UMRA, we would have that much bigger of a voice.

Our electronic foot print continues to grow. I really feel this will be important down the road, just in case we need to "mobilize the troops" to send an email blast or share Facebook postings, etc. on critical matters.

Keep watching our website and Facebook page. We are trying to keep up on those with bigger type projects and issues. As always, you can contact us at umra@umrasite.org if you have concerns or questions. We are hoping to see a lot of you at the Annual Meeting and also the Fall River Clean Up. Thank you all for your support.

Stream Projects

Jim Anderson

Many good things are happening on the Upper Manistee River. This is the second year of \$50,000 grant and the crew started working in the river in June. This summer there are 43 sites identified in the area of the Tree Farm/Livingston Property and the Yellow Tree area. The sites are either restoring previously built DNR fish habitat structures or creating new structures. In addition to the fish habitat work we are in the process of getting bids for cleaning out two sand traps. Both of the traps are located above Cameron Bridge road in the Deward area. We are hopeful that by September we will hear that the two grant requests submitted will be funded for next year. Those grant requests are to do fish habitat work on the North Branch of the Manistee River downstream from the former Flowing Well Property and improve two access sites. The access sites are: Tree Farm and 3 Mile Bend. At each of those sites there is a need to improve or construct a better access for

(Stream Projects continued)

all river users. Contributions from organizations and individuals continue and we are very appreciative of those contributions. Without your help our good work would not be possible.



Before: Old structure, sparse, completely submerged



After: New structure, dense, great fish cover, improved bank stabilization

River Clean-Up September 19, 2015

Dave Boberg

Our fourth annual River Cleanup and Volunteer Day will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2015. Once again we will rendezvous at the Old Ausable Fly Shop around 9:00 am. There everyone will receive their beat assignments for the portion of river to clean, or projects to work on. After the work is done, there will be a great cookout back at the Old AuSable.

This event is held in conjunction with several other local conservation groups. It continues to get bigger each year and we hope this year to have our greatest participation to date.

If you can help out in any way, please email us at umra@umrasite.org. Remember, we not only need people to be in the river picking up trash, but we have a lot of dry land volunteer items and projects as well.

Please watch our Facebook page for more details to come.

Pipeline Safety

Info gathered and condensed by Tad Randolph

All pipeline markers provide the name of the pipeline operator, product being transported and a telephone number for reporting pipeline emergencies.

Always call **811**, the national “Call Before You Dig” telephone number, prior to any excavation. 811 is a free, national, one call number that connects a caller from anywhere in the country to the appropriate local one call center. Professional locators are then sent to the proposed excavation site within 2-3 business days to mark the approximate locations of pipelines and underground utilities so you can safely dig around them. This is a **free** service paid for by utility companies to protect you, your family and your neighbors. Excavation activities may include installing mailboxes, sprinkler systems, concrete sidewalks or steps, building a deck or fence, and planting trees or shrubs.

Recognizing a Leak

If a pipeline leak involving crude oil, natural gas or natural gas liquids occurs, you might see:

- Dirt being blown or appearing to be thrown into the air
- A white vapor stream or mist-like cloud over the pipeline
- Unexpected frost or ice on the ground
- Continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas
- Dead or dying vegetation in an otherwise green area
- Discolored snow or vegetation
- A dry area in a wet field
- Flames coming from the ground or appearing to burn above ground
- Liquid on the ground
- Oily sheen on water surfaces

You might hear a roaring, blowing or hissing sound.

You might smell an unusual skunk or rotten egg odor.

What To Do In An Emergency

What you should do in a pipeline emergency situation:

1. Stop work immediately and move as far away from the leak as possible (upwind, if possible)
2. Avoid contact with escaping liquids and gases
3. Call **911**
4. Call the toll-free, 24-hour Enbridge **1-800-858-5253**
5. Follow instructions provided to you by Enbridge and local emergency responders

If you do not know the location of the pipeline leak, shelter in place:

- Immediately go indoors and close and lock all windows and outside doors
- If you are operating equipment or a motorized vehicle, turn the engine off and immediately go indoors
- Turn off appliances or equipment that circulate air such as exhaust fans, gas fireplaces, gas stoves, heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Turn down furnace thermostats to the minimum setting and turn off air conditioners
- Leave open all inside doors
- Avoid using the telephone, except for emergencies, so that you can be contacted by emergency response personnel
- Stay tuned to local radio and television (battery-operated) for possible information updates
- Even if you see people outside, do not leave until told to do so

What you should not do in an emergency situation:

- **Do not** touch any liquid or vapor could that may have come from the pipeline.
- **Do not** drive into the area or start your car
- **Do not** light a match
- **Do not** turn on or off anything that may create a spark, including cell phones, telephones, light switches, vehicle alarms and flashlights
- **Do not** operate pipeline valves

Pipeline Safety continued

What happens next?

- Enbridge personnel may shut down or isolate sections of the pipeline or facility
- Enbridge and local emergency responders will work as a team to control the situation
- Enbridge will work with applicable agencies to remediate any impacts caused by the leak

If you wish more information, contact the following sites:

E-Mail: USpublicawareness@enbridge.com

Website: enbridgeUS.com/publicawareness

Facebook: facebook.com/Enbridge

or visit this website: <http://enbridgeus.com/In-Your-Community/Pipelines-in-Your-Community/Resources/Brochure-Kit/>
(This information courtesy of Justin Ritter, Public Awareness Coordinator for *Enbridge*, Houston, TX)

Water Quality Sampling

Bob Thorsen

The Spring Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Event on the Upper Manistee was held on Saturday May 30th. The group of 28 citizen scientists was greeted by the usual damp weather that has been the norm on bug sampling weekends. After a brief introduction and orientation the teams of volunteers dispersed to the five sampling sites. The groups returned at noon, samples in hand and enjoyed a hot lunch under the cover of the Eagle's back porch.

The use of river bug surveys to gauge water quality is widely accepted within the scientific community. Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) has developed a protocol for evaluating rivers such as the Manistee River. Teams of volunteers capture and sort river dwelling bugs (mostly benthic macro invertebrates) to determine both the diversity and density of the various critters. The information helps to monitor long term trends and overall health of the river environment, serving as "canaries in the mineshaft." The amount and variety of bottom dwelling river critters provide one of the best indicators of water quality. The information gained through the volunteer monitoring process is then available to agencies such as the MDNRE for scientific evaluation and resource decision-making.

The volunteer sampling process is the only tool available that provides long term reliable data concerning the health of our river. There is nothing else. It is up to us to protect the river and to maintain a defensible database of scientifically recognized information. The survey teams are led by knowledgeable and trained leaders who take the time to answer questions and ensure high quality results. This is a great project for families and we especially welcome kids (good eyes!). The future success of this volunteer stream monitoring process within the Upper Manistee Watershed will ultimately rest with the local community.

2015 represents the 6th year of the project and the volunteer support continues to be amazing. "Bug" collecting is a very fun and educational event that is ideally suited for both the young and old and everyone in between. I hope that you have an opportunity to join us at a future event.

The 2015 Fall event will be held on Saturday October 3, 2015, starting at 9 AM at the Kalkaska Eagles.

Please call Bob Thorsen (248) 318-5220 or email: sockeyebob@att.net if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

Financial Update

Mark Rais

As of July 18, 2015, our year-to-date income is \$32,666.00. This amount includes a \$19,000 Habitat Improvement Grant through the State of Michigan. Our expenses amount to \$8,246. Thus, our net income is \$24,420.00. However, Net Income will be reduced substantially during the summer as disbursements to the Restoration Committee's budgeted expenses are paid. Other disbursements will include river patrols, and Portable toilets.

As of July 2015, the Upper Manistee River Foundation had a balance of \$73,282.00. Undistributed earnings for future Restoration Projects totaled \$13,490. Many generous donations have been received with dues payments and memorials for men and women, who truly love the Manistee River. We appreciate your support.

If your newsletter envelope contains a dues envelope it means that our records show that we have not yet received your 2015 dues. Please renew your membership today, as we appreciate your continued support.

Misbehavior on the River

Many of our members have asked what to do regarding inappropriate river behavior. If you see illegal behavior on the river try to get a good description of the person(s) and of the watercraft, including the MC number if there is one and then call your respective Sheriff Department.

Contact your County Sheriff Dispatch at:

Kalkaska County 231-258-8686 (listen for prompts)

Crawford County 989-348-4646 (listen for prompts)