

Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Monday, April 27, 2020



Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation formed over twenty years ago in order to effectively advocate for the creation or preservation of state laws and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable and wise use of our state's immense treasure of high quality freshwater resources. Our primary mission will be accomplished by pro-active participation in Michigan's legislative process (lobbying), by participating in court cases whose outcomes may have significant statewide ramifications, and/or by direct involvement with natural resources management, or environment focused state agencies or departments.



In Case You Missed It...

'Recreationist Willingness to Pay for AIS Management',

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center Produced

Webinar Now Available for Viewing as a Video on YouTube

A Friday, April 10 webinar entitled '**Recreationist Willingness to Pay for AIS Management**' produced by the [Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center](#) featuring presentations by research associates Dr. Lucia Levers and Dr. Amit Pradhananga that focused on exploring the findings of their intensive research into the question of whether recreationists would be willing to pay for aquatic invasive species management in Minnesota is now available for viewing as recorded video on YouTube.

To view the approximately 63 minute video, [click here](#)

Michigan Waterfront Alliance Seeks a Viable and Sustainable Means of Funding the Management and Control of Aquatic Invasive Species

Primarily attributed to the overland transport of small-craft boats, recreational boaters are known to play a key role in the unintentional introduction of an increasingly diverse array of often harmful exotic aquatic invasive plant and animal species within thousands of public boating accessible inland lakes in Michigan. A multitude of problems associated with the introduction of aquatic invasive species have been compounded by the fact that neither the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) are presently capable of providing any level of funding assistance to lakefront communities striving to protect valuable public natural resources from the often deleterious influences of exotic species. In the absence of state funding, or other viable funding options, lake associations and township officials are therefore left little choice but to work together in order to deploy [Public Act 188](#), the Township Public Improvements Act, that provides township officials with the means to assess inland lake property owners for the cost of managing or controlling aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Recognizing the inadequacy and unfairness associated with Michigan's only AIS funding mechanism, Michigan Waterfront Alliance is pro-actively seeking to establish a viable and sustainable means of stakeholder-based funding that would permit recreational boaters to voluntarily contribute to funding earmarked for aquatic invasive species management. Rather than supporting an outright increase in boater registration fees, Michigan Waterfront Alliance is working pro-actively in Lansing to promote the creation of a donation check-off box that would allow recreational boaters to voluntarily contribute funds to support AIS management efforts during the once every three year process of registering their water craft with the Michigan Secretary of State.

The efforts of Michigan Waterfront Alliance are supported by the findings of a number of academic research projects, including the [Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center](#) sponsored research that is discussed in the previous article, which strongly suggests that the majority of the public stakeholders of our inland lakes, primarily recreational boaters, would in fact be willing to contribute more in terms of resource user fees, for example, in order to support enhanced funding of programs designed to prevent, manage, and control exotic aquatic invasive species.

2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment



An Important Message from Jo Latimore (MSU) and Julia Kirkwood (EGLE), 2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention Co-Chairs: The **2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention: Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment** has been moved to a virtual format, **September 16-18**. The novel corona virus has greatly impacted the way we work and live, and we are adapting our Convention to match the fluid environment of our lives during this pandemic. Though we realize there is huge value to the in-person networking that takes place between sessions, we must prioritize the safety and health of our participants, partners, sponsors, volunteers, and staff. The new format also has some major benefits, such as the ability to reach a much larger audience, archived presentations that will be available to the public, and significantly decreased cost.

There are some unknowns regarding future programming, but we feel it is in the best interest of everyone involved to make the switch to a virtual program now to ensure a successful event in the fall. We are exploring appropriate formats and platforms for the conference, and we will be communicating more details regarding programming soon.

Registration fees will be dramatically reduced, but a nominal fee will still be requested to support technical and administrative costs as well as scholarships to support student participation.

If you are interested in giving a presentation or workshop at the virtual convention, we invite you to submit an abstract. The deadline for submission is June 10.

To learn more about the 2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention or to submit an abstract, visit the convention dedicated web page by [clicking here](#).

You Can Help Amplify the Power of Our Voice in Lansing By Becoming a Member and/or by Donating to Michigan Waterfront Alliance

By becoming an Individual, Association, or Corporate member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance, and/or by making a donation to our non-profit organization, you will be contributing to enhancing our ability to help preserve and protect our extraordinary treasure of freshwater resources.

The fact is, a very large percentage of the funds generated by membership dues and your generous donations are utilized by our organization to fund our capacity to effectively lobby the state legislature on behalf of protecting Michigan's freshwater resources, and the unique interests of our member waterfront communities. In the coming year, for example, Michigan Waterfront Alliance will be engaged in intensive lobbying efforts focused on encouraging our state legislature to (finally!) create a sustainable revenue source with which to fund the management of an increasingly destructive array of aquatic invasive species that continue to invade and degrade our inland lakes, streams, and wetlands. Our lobbying efforts in the new year will also focus on protecting the right of local governments in Michigan to regulate short-term vacation rentals and to pass zoning ordinances designed to protect local water resources. As a founding member and key partner in the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, [Michigan Waterfront Alliance](#) will also continue to work on a collaborative basis in 2020 with the [DNR Parks and Recreation Division](#), and the [Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy](#) to develop and implement new programs and initiatives intended to prevent or minimize the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals.

Please consider becoming a member, and/or of donating to Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

[Click here](#) to visit our Membership page.

[Click here](#) to visit our Donation page.



- Are you tired of funding the management of aquatic invasive species on your lake that were introduced by recreational boaters using the local MI Department of Natural Resources public boating access site?
- Are you just a bit angry that recreational boaters using your lake are not being asked to contribute their fair share to combat the negative influences of aquatic invasive species?
- Are you worried about the fact that your lakefront residential property values are being negatively influenced by the steadily increasing presence of aquatic invasive species?
- Are you concerned about the fact that it is nearly impossible to find an inland lake in Michigan that does not currently host one or more potentially harmful aquatic invasive species?
- Are you aware of the fact that inland lakes are Michigan's most valuable natural resource, and that our state legislature has thus far appropriated almost nothing in the way of budget resources to help ensure they remain healthy and viable?

If your answer is **yes** to any of these important questions, please help ensure that your voice is heard in Lansing by joining **Michigan Waterfront Alliance** today.

Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!!



Did you know that a very high percentage of every dollar made available to MWA goes directly to pay for our efforts in Lansing to pass legislation that benefits Michigan's water resources and the interests of waterfront property owners?

Only You Can Help Amplify the Power of Our Collective Voice in Lansing By Becoming a Member and/or by Making a Generous Donation to Michigan Waterfront Alliance !

By becoming an Individual, Association, or Corporate member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance, and/or by making a donation to our non-profit organization, you will be contributing to enhancing our ability to help preserve and protect our extraordinary treasure of freshwater resources. The fact is, a very large percentage of the funds generated by membership dues and your generous donations are utilized by our organization to fund our capacity to effectively lobby the state legislature on behalf of protecting Michigan's freshwater resources, and the unique interests of our member waterfront communities. In the coming year, for example, Michigan Waterfront Alliance will be engaged in intensive lobbying efforts focused on encouraging our state legislature to (finally!) create a sustainable revenue source with which to fund the management of an increasingly destructive array of aquatic invasive species that continue to invade and degrade our inland lakes, streams, and wetlands. Our lobbying efforts will also focus on restricting the operation of wake boats to areas of large lakes that will help ensure that shorelines and critical shallow water habitat are not damaged or destroyed. As a founding member and key partner in the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, [Michigan Waterfront Alliance](#) will also continue to work on a collaborative basis in 2020 with the [DNR Parks and Recreation Division](#), and the [Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy](#) to develop and implement new programs and initiatives intended to prevent or minimize the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals.

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