

## Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Thursday, July 16, 2020



**Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA)** is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation that was formed almost a quarter of a century 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.



### Michigan Waterfront Alliance Launches [Facebook](#) Page

The President and Board of Directors of [Michigan Waterfront Alliance](#) are pleased to announce that we have launched a [Facebook](#) page dedicated to promoting our organization's mission and goals. Visitors to our [Facebook](#) page will find photos and posts related to our primary mission of "creating or preserving state laws, and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable use of Michigan's incredible natural heritage of immense freshwater resources". Readers of this newsletter are encouraged to like, follow, and frequently visit our new [Facebook](#) page. To visit [Michigan Waterfront Alliance's](#) new [Facebook](#) page, [click here](#).





For Those Interested in Learning More About Michigan's Vast Inheritance  
of High Quality Inland Lakes, A Visit to the **Michigan Inland Lakes  
Partnership** Website is Well Worth the Time and Effort!!

The purpose of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (Partnership) is to engage state and local agencies, Native American Nations, outreach institutions (universities and other educational institutions), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, industries and citizens in a collaborative effort to ensure the quality, sustainability and ecological diversity of lakes, while considering society's needs. The Partnership will promote communication and cooperation between partners, communities and citizens interested in the management of Michigan's inland lakes, educating leaders, and strengthening stewardship efforts.

The Partnership will support efforts to research, monitor, evaluate and regulate ecosystem impact sources, such as nutrient enrichment, exotic species, soil erosion, consumptive uses, overcrowding and others, in order to develop and promote proactive, sustainable and science-based management practices. The Partnership will encourage a system of voluntary and regulatory management approaches.

The Partnership will proactively address lake management needs. The value of lakes to society is rising rapidly; an enhanced investment of human and financial resources dedicated to lake management is appropriate. Cooperative development and support for legislation and budgets is key to increasing the scope and amount of public and private dollars and resources available for lake management.

To visit the [Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership](https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/) website point your browser to:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/>

# 2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment



## Join us!

The Michigan Inland Lakes Convention takes place every two years, and serves lake enthusiasts, researchers, managers, and educators. The Convention is hosted by the [Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership](#), a collaboration of diverse organizations with a common mission to advance stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes. We invite you to join us online, September 16-18, to learn and share the latest innovations and ideas in lake stewardship, and to network with others who share your passion for lakes! This year's theme is **"Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment"**.

## Going Virtual in 2020

The 2020 [Michigan Inland Lakes Convention](#) has been moved to a virtual format. 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. Registration fees will be dramatically reduced relative to a face-to-face event: \$30 all-inclusive for 3 days, \$15 for speakers, and FREE for students! These nominal registration fees will support technical and administrative costs and cover student participation.

## Call for Exhibitors

Non-profit organizations, agencies, and academic/Extension programs are invited to share their work, programs, and resources with lake enthusiasts, managers, educators, and researchers during the virtual Convention. While the call for presentation abstracts is closed, you can still request to be featured on the Convention website. Contact [Julia Kirkwood](#), Convention Co-Chair, to provide a link or PDF file. **Deadline: July 15.**

## Call for Contributors

We invite your business or organization to support the virtual Michigan Inland Lakes Convention. Join the organizations, agencies, and businesses that are helping advance stewardship of our inland lakes through learning, networking, and exchange of ideas. Even in a virtual format, your contribution will help support technical and administrative costs as well as scholarships to support student participation. Review our [Contributor Opportunities](#) for a description of available options. **Deadline: August 15.**

## Convention Contacts

You are welcome to direct any questions you have about the 2020 Convention to its Co-Chairs: [Julia Kirkwood](#) of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, or [Jo Latimore](#) of Michigan State University. You can also subscribe to the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership [email list](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) (Convention hashtag: **#MILC2020**).

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



**Did you know that a very high percentage of every dollar made available to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance goes directly to pay for our pro-active efforts in Lansing to pass legislation that benefits Michigan's water resources, and the unique 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 the 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.

**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.



# Join [Michigan Waterfront Alliance](#)!



- 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.

