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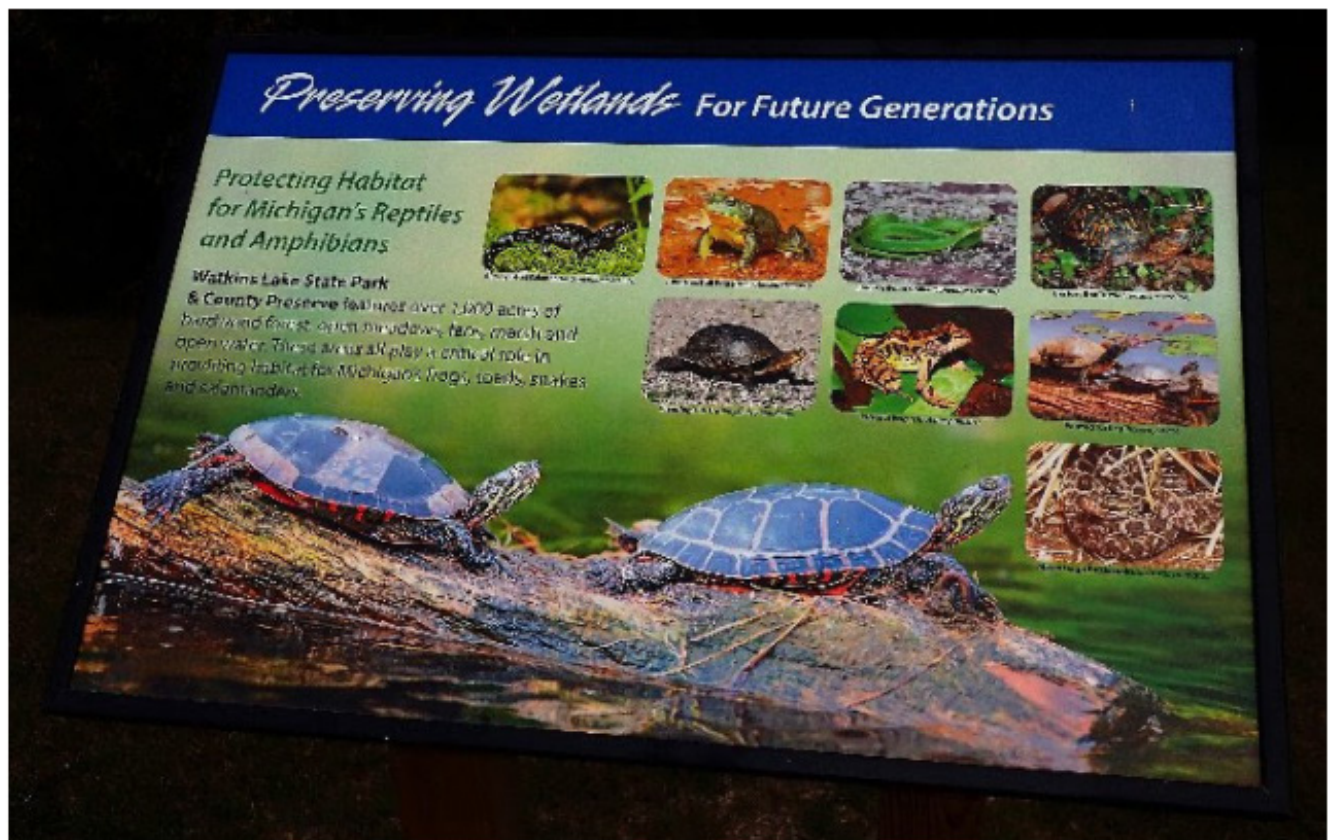
Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation formed over twenty years ago in order to effectively advocate for the creation or preservation of state laws, and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable and wise use of our state's immense treasure 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.

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## ATTENTION READERS!!!

In order to add your friends, neighbors, and/or fellow lake or watershed conservation focused association member e-mails to our growing list of water resource conservation minded people who would like to receive this Michigan freshwater resources focused twice monthly newsletter, contact Editor Scott Brown at [scottb1952@gmail.com](mailto:scottb1952@gmail.com)



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## **Soon to be Back in Session, the Michigan State Legislature Will Ponder the Status of Legislation that, if Passed, Would Act to Severely Limit the Authority of Local Units of Government**

If passed by both the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate, Michigan [House Bill 4722](#) would serve to amend [Public Act 110, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act](#), to prevent local units of government from passing ordinances that would prohibit short term rentals in areas that are zoned residential. In areas such as northern Lower Michigan that are blanketed with inland lakes possessing lakefront homes that serve as high demand short term vacation rental properties, the ability to rent to vacationers on a short term basis during the summer months usually plays an important role in allowing property owners to be capable of affording the considerable mortgages that are often associated with lakefront properties in Michigan.

The Michigan House of Representatives will also be tasked this fall with considering Senate Bill 429 that would add Part 639 (Sand and Gravel Mining) to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), that, if passed would:

- Specify that mining would be considered authorized under Part 639 if it had received a local permit for mining, zoning approval, or other governmental authorization, or was not required to have obtained an authorization because of nonregulation or because the mining was a legal nonconforming use.
- Specify that Part 639 would preempt an ordinance, regulation, resolution, policy, or practice of a governmental authority created by statute, municipality, or county that prohibited or regulated certain aspects of a mine.
- Prohibit, except for minimal extraction activities or for certain exempt activities, a person from engaging in mining except as authorized by a mining permit, which would have to be obtained from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (DEGLE).

Passage of Senate Bill 429 into law would effectively strip local units of government of the authority to deny or approve gravel mining permits. It is important to note that the Michigan Senate has already acted to overwhelmingly pass bills to strip local governments of authority to issue gravel mine permits.

The bills currently set no limits on hours of operation for gravel mines, and they would also be allowed to operate within a block of schools, churches, or areas zoned residential. Opponents of the legislation suggest that the bills would destroy the quality of life for many people across the state who live in quiet, rural areas.

Senate Bill 429 (S-3) would add Part 639 (Sand and Gravel Mining) to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to do the following:

- Specify that mining would be considered authorized under Part 639 if it had received a local permit for mining, zoning approval, or other governmental authorization, or was not required to have obtained an authorization because of nonregulation or because the mining was a legal nonconforming use.
- Specify that Part 639 would preempt an ordinance, regulation, resolution, policy, or practice of a governmental authority created by statute, municipality, or county that prohibited or regulated certain aspects of a mine.
- Prohibit, except for minimal extraction activities or for certain exempt activities, a person from engaging in mining except as authorized by a mining permit, which would have to be obtained from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

Our readers are encouraged to contact their respective state representative or senator to express their support or opposition to the proposed legislation.





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
CARING FOR MICHIGAN'S OUTDOOR PLACES AND STORIES SINCE 1921



Contact: [Joanne Foreman](#), 517-284-5814

## NotMISpecies webinars offer help for backyard invasive species problems and more

*Register now for upcoming sessions*

New sessions in the [NotMISpecies webinar series](#) will offer an abundance of information, resources and field experiences to help identify and manage invasive species in Michigan.

Supported by Michigan's Invasive Species Program, the regular, hourlong webinars are designed to keep participants informed of available programs, current research and emerging issues in the state and the Great Lakes region. Question and answer sessions and links to resources help attendees get the most out of each presentation.

To register for these upcoming events, click on the title of each session below to go to the registration page.

[“Fowl play”](#) (9:00 AM - Wednesday, Sept. 15) explores the work of protecting Michigan's managed waterfowl hunt areas from the threat of invasive species. DNR wildlife biologists Jeremiah Heise from Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area and Zach Cooley from Pointe Mouillee State Game Area share their experiences and techniques for managing and restoring Michigan's Wetland Wonders to provide prime habitat for waterfowl viewing and hunting.

[“Just do it!”](#) (9:00 AM - Thursday, Oct. 21) offers an invitation to learn about invasive species management by volunteering for a state park stewardship workday. DNR natural resource stewards Kelsey Dillon and Emily Leslie will share information about the program and its focus on special habitat areas in need of protection. Learn how you can get involved in preserving your favorite places for future generations.

If you are new to the series, it's easy to catch up on topics including collaborative efforts in invasive carp management, early detection and response for aquatic invasive species, and the threat posed by spotted lanternfly. Recorded versions of all previous [NotMISpecies webinars](#) are available at [Michigan.gov/EGLEEvents](https://Michigan.gov/EGLEEvents) under “Featured Webinar Series.”

Michigan's Invasive Species Program, a collaborative effort of the departments of Natural Resources; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Agriculture and Rural Development, coordinates and supports invasive species initiatives across the state and provides support through the [Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program](#).



## **Rapidly Propagating Invasive *Phragmites australis* Threatens The Biological Diversity and Ecological Viability of Some of Michigan Most Valuable Wetlands**

The capacity of Michigan's wetlands to support a biologically diverse and highly beneficial array of desirable fish, plants, and wildlife is currently being limited by the rapid statewide spread of a giant invasive wetlands plant. Capable of rapidly establishing dense wide area monotypic meadows comprised of individual plants that are known to be capable of growing to a height of fourteen feet, invasive *Phragmites australis*, also known as common reed, acts to push out highly beneficial native wetlands plants such as cattails (*Typha latifolia*), and many other native plants that serve to support the highly sensitive ecological functions of wetlands.

The increasing threat posed to Michigan's once incredibly diverse wetlands is primarily posed by the fact that invasive phragmites rapidly acts to dramatically alter the structure and function, and therefore the quality of the wetlands that often surround and contribute so much to the quality and natural vitality of our rivers, streams, and inland lakes by dramatically changing the plant species composition, by interfering with critical nutrient cycles, and by altering hydrological regimes.

Capable of rapidly establishing extraordinarily dense stands comprised of up to 20 stalks per square foot, perennial non-native phragmites spreads through windblown seeds, soil transfer, and via fragmentation of stems and rhizomes. A highly adaptive invasive plant, phragmites is capable of thriving in both brackish and freshwater marshes, along rivers and streams, near the shore of lakes and ponds, and is also often observed lining roadsides and ditches. Robbing fish, native plants, and wildlife, and in particular waterfowl, of vital nutrients and physical space, the overall impact of the increasing list of problems associated with the prolific spread of invasive phragmites is exacerbated by the fact that it also blocks access to water for swimming, fishing, and many other recreational endeavors, spoils shoreline views, has a negative impact on property values, and due to its capacity to rapidly produce an extraordinary amount of highly flammable bio-mass, a distinct fire hazard.

Those engaged in attempts to control the highly invasive, perennial wetlands plant have discovered that utilizing an array of techniques, including the use of herbicides, mechanical harvesting, and prescribed fire, represents a viable, albeit expensive, strategy to control the non-native plant, and of allowing native wetland plants to gradually reestablish themselves.





**Invasive phragmites acts to push out highly beneficial native wetlands plants such as cattails (*Typha latifolia*), and many other native wetlands plants that serve to support the highly sensitive ecological functions of wetlands.**



To observe the capacity of invasive phragmites to deprive fish, native wetlands plants, and wildlife, and in particular waterfowl of critical habitat and nutrients, we would invite the readers of this newsletter to pay a visit to St. John's Marsh. Located just north of the North Channel of the St. Clair River, and fronting on Lake St. Clair's Bouvier Bay, St. John's Marsh is considered one of the most biologically diverse freshwater deltas in the United States - hosting 160 species of plants, including increasingly rare species of prairie wildflowers such as blazing star, and tall sunflower and marsh grasses such as big blue stem. It is important to note that the **DNR Wildlife Division manages the Natural Area as well as the adjacent 3,000 acre St. John's Marsh with prescribed fires.**



September 03, 2021

Contact: [Lucas Nathan](#), 517-599-9323; or [Joanne Foreman](#), 517-284-5814

## Invasive New Zealand mudsnails found in Shanty Creek in Antrim County

*Anglers urged to step up prevention efforts during salmon season*

Invasive New Zealand mudsnails have been detected at the mouth of Shanty Creek, a tributary of the Grass River in Antrim County. The snails were found during routine monitoring in May by the Grass River Natural Area Stream Watch project and confirmed through DNA analysis by Oakland University in August.

[New Zealand mudsnails](#) were first discovered in the United States in Idaho's Snake River in 1987. Since then, the snails have spread throughout the western states and into areas of the Great Lakes by attaching themselves to boats, waders and equipment.

The Grass River is now the sixth river system in Michigan known to be infested by the mudsnails. Their discovery in the Pere Marquette River in August 2015 signaled the first detection in a Michigan inland waterway. In 2016, populations were confirmed in the Boardman and Au Sable rivers. By 2017, the invasive snails were found in the Upper Manistee and Pine rivers.

Michigan's salmon season, which peaks in September and October, draws thousands of anglers to Michigan's premier rivers.



"This is a time when people are likely to visit multiple rivers and streams over a few days," said Lucas Nathan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources aquatic invasive species coordinator. "If they are not cleaning equipment thoroughly each time, there is a potential to introduce New Zealand mudsnails into new waters."

**What harm can a snail do?**

This brown to black, one-eighth-inch long mudsnail, a native of New Zealand, is considered invasive and is prohibited in Michigan due to the environmental harm it can cause to rivers, streams and lakes. Because the snail reproduces by cloning (females develop complete embryos without fertilization), a single snail can start an entire population.





One snail can produce over 200 young in a year. Since few natural predators or parasites of this species exist in North America, their numbers grow rapidly each year. In some locations in western states, researchers have documented snails reaching densities of 300,000 per square meter. With that many mud snails, food for other stream invertebrate populations can become scarce.

Fish that feed on native invertebrates like mayflies and caddisflies may find it more difficult to forage in rivers invaded by New Zealand mudsnails. Fish will consume New Zealand mudsnails, but due to the snail's thick shell, equipped with a tightly closing "hatch" called the operculum, they are difficult for fish to digest, offer the fish little nutritional value and can be excreted alive. Substituting mudsnails for native food sources can reduce the growth, condition and ultimately the abundance of key sport fish including trout.

#### What is being done?

Since the initial detection, the DNR and Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy have incorporated mudsnail monitoring into their standard sampling procedures, increasing the potential for early detection in several rivers and streams each year.

Volunteers across the state, like those with the Grass River Natural Area Stream Watch, conduct regular monitoring of streams and rivers through the [Michigan Clean Water Corps](#), or MiCorps, to determine stream health and look for invasive species. Other partners, including universities and cooperative invasive species management areas also engage in annual monitoring.

Emily Burke, conservation and education specialist with Grass River Natural Area, Inc., said she was able to identify New Zealand mud snails while sampling Shanty Creek thanks to invasive species identification training provided by the CAKE (Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska and Emmett) CISMA in the spring.

"The [Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program](#) has been instrumental in fostering the development of CISMA's across the state, creating a network of local invasive species resources," Nathan said. "At the same time, the grant program supports research efforts like Oakland University's New Zealand mudsnail project, which has raised awareness among anglers, trained citizen scientists and developed an important partnership with Trout Unlimited, which helped to initiate the New Zealand Mudsnail Collaborative."

Following Burke's report, a team from Oakland University conducted monitoring on 15 sites in the Grass and Elk rivers but found no additional infestations. Local and state partners will continue to monitor the area and use outreach opportunities like Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week to educate the public about preventing the spread of New Zealand mud snails and other harmful species.

#### What can you do?

The most important means of prevention is practicing good recreational hygiene. After a visit to one of Michigan's lakes, rivers or streams, be sure to clean, drain and dry your boat, trailer and equipment before heading to a new destination.

The New Zealand mudsnail's small size requires careful examination and cleaning of places where plants, mud or debris can be found on poles, nets, waders, boots, buckets, kayaks, canoes and flotation devices. Anything that has been in the water or at the water's edge should be inspected before it is packed or loaded.

The [NZMS Collaborative](#) offers these simple steps for cleaning boots and waders:

- Stomp and inspect as soon as you leave the water to remove attached debris.
- Brush waders, soles and laces to loosen remaining debris and mud.
- Spray boots and waders thoroughly with a disinfecting agent.
- Rinse after 20 minutes.
- Dry waders thoroughly before next use.

The short video, [New Zealand Mudsnail Ecology and Fishing Gear Decontamination in Michigan](#), available at [NZMSCollaborative.org](#), provides a demonstration of this cleaning technique as well as information on how to identify the invasive snail.

Additional information on New Zealand mudsnail, including how to report a suspected discovery of the snail, can be found at [Michigan.gov/Invasives](#).



## **We Need Your Help!**

**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.

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.



## -DNR NEWS-

August 26, 2021

### Share your thoughts with the DNR at upcoming meetings

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to providing Michigan residents the opportunity to share input and ideas on policy decisions, programs and other aspects of natural resource management and outdoor recreation opportunities.

One important avenue for this input is at meetings of the public bodies that advise the DNR and, in some cases, also set policies for natural resource management. Frequently check the [DNR boards, commissions, committees and councils webpage](#) for updates.

The links below will take you to the webpage for each group, where you will find meeting details such as location and agenda (when finalized). Please check these pages frequently, as meeting details may change and sometimes meetings are canceled.

#### September meetings

- [Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee](#) – Thursday, Sept. 23, 9 a.m. (Contact: Barbara Graves, 517-284-6135).
- [Equine Trails Subcommittee](#) – Wednesday, Sept. 22, 1 p.m. (Contact: Annalisa Centofanti, 517-331-6219).
- [Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee](#) – Wednesday, Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m. (Contact: Patrick Hanchin, 231-330-5290).
- [Michigan Historical Commission](#) – Thursday, Sept. 9, 9:30 a.m. (Contact: Michelle Davis, 517-331-7374).
- [Michigan Natural Resources Commission](#) – Thursday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m. (Contact: Victoria Lischalk, 517-599-1067).
- [Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup](#) – Thursday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. (Contact: Annalisa Centofanti, 517-331-6219).
- [Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council](#) – Friday, Sept. 24, 8:30 a.m. (Contact: Kimberley Korbecki, 517-284-5876).
- [Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee](#) – Wednesday, Sept. 29, 1 p.m. (Contact: Sheri Giffin, 517-335-2591).
- [Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council](#) – Wednesday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m. EDT (Contact: Stacy Welling Haughey, 906-226-1331).
- [Wolf Management Advisory Council](#) – Wednesday, Sept. 1, 9 a.m. (Contact: Victoria Lischalk, 517-599-1067).

#### Upcoming opportunity to serve

The [Equestrian Trails Subcommittee](#) is seeking active equestrians who have an interest in serving on this subcommittee as a statewide tourism equine industry representative. The position is for a four-year term, and will identify and promote partnerships and pack and saddle recreation opportunities and collaborate with trail riding communities. Please complete the [online application](#) by Sept. 10. Contact [Annalisa Centofanti](#) with questions or for more information.

DNR COVID-19 RESPONSE: For details on affected DNR facilities and services, [visit this webpage](#). Follow state actions and guidelines at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](#).

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to .

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## **Michigan Waterfront Alliance**

**is a proud member of the**

### **Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership**

#### **A Collaborative Partnership Dedicated to Protecting Michigan's Vast Heritage of High Quality Inland Lakes**

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (MILP) is made up of a broad range of organizations and agencies that have a common interest - protecting inland lakes. Explore this site to learn more about Michigan's lakes, the organizations involved with the Partnership, and how you can be a part of the effort. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Michigan has more than 11,000 inland lakes. Most are high quality resources highly valued by society for recreation and as places to live. These cultural demands place significant stresses upon these ecosystems, often resulting in undesirable changes. How can these lakes be strategically managed to minimize undesirable changes and protect them for this and future generations?

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 MILP Coordinating Council is the decision-making body of the Partnership. The Council sets the goals of the Partnership, and all Council Partners have a vote in the activities and policies of the Partnership. The Council currently meets four times per year. Coordinating Council member organizations are listed alphabetically below. Clicking on an organization name will take you to that organization's website.

To learn more about the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, and its ensemble of inland lake protection focused collaborative organizations, [click here](#)



## 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.

**Click here to Join MWA**

**Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here**

[Unsubscribe](#)

This message was sent to [walter\\_kozio1@comcast.net](mailto:walter_kozio1@comcast.net) from [scottb1952@gmail.com](mailto:scottb1952@gmail.com)

William Brown  
Michigan Waterfront Alliance, Inc  
5989 Sibley Road  
Chelsea, MI 48118-1261