



**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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Michigan Clean  
Water Corps



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# Lake Monitor Training

The 2021 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program Annual Training is going virtual!

Please join us **online on April 29, 2021** for our annual lake monitoring training. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend this free event! The training is required for new participants to the program and for anyone signing up for a new parameter. It is also beneficial for people looking for a refresher or those curious about how CLMP may help protect their favorite lake.

**Important:** There are two steps involved in becoming a CLMP lake monitoring volunteer:

Attend this free training session.

Enroll your lake in the CLMP.

The 2021 lake enrollment system is not yet available. We will announce the opening of CLMP enrollment via the MiCorps email listserv as soon as it is available. There are [fees](#) associated with enrollment. [Join the MiCorps email listserv.](#)

Date: April 29, 2021

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

[Click here](#) to download a printable agenda...

The [Michigan Clean Water Corps \(MiCorps\)](#) is a network of volunteer water quality monitoring programs in Michigan. It was created through Michigan Executive Order #2003-15 to assist the [Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy \(EGLE\)](#) in collecting and sharing water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs. [About MiCorps.](#)



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

## State awards \$3.6 million for invasive species prevention and management projects

The state of Michigan today announced that a total of \$3.6 million in grants for 29 projects to combat invasive species will be awarded through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.

"Protecting our water and preserving our environment are essential to ensuring our economy, families, and communities succeed," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "I am proud to see the DNR, MDARD, and EGLE collaborate to prevent and manage the spread of invasive species in our state. These grants will impact every corner of our state and help all Michiganders thrive."

The program – cooperatively implemented by the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Natural Resources – addresses prevention, detection, eradication and control of aquatic (water-based) and terrestrial (land-based) invasive species in Michigan through four key objectives:

- Preventing the introduction of new invasive species.
- Strengthening the statewide invasive species early detection and response network.
- Limiting the spread of recently confirmed invasive species.
- Managing and controlling widespread, established invasive species.

### Improving prevention and management

This year's grants will provide funding for a range of efforts targeting aquatic invasive species:

- Investigating the current extent of [didymo](#), or "rock snot," in Michigan waters and studying the triggers that promote its growth.
- Expanding survey and enhancing management of [European frog-bit](#) across all 15 counties in the Upper Peninsula.
- Initiating a program in northern Michigan and U.P. high schools to develop student-led stewardship projects to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Implementing a mobile boat wash program in northern Michigan to educate boaters on "Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose" actions to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Funding also will support projects to improve management of terrestrial invasive species:

- Supporting expanded survey and treatment of [hemlock woolly adelgid](#) in West Michigan.
- Developing a risk assessment to prioritize treatment of [Japanese knotweed](#) in the western U.P.
- Assessing the impact of [beech bark disease](#) on tree health and regeneration.
- Surveying for the presence of [beech leaf disease](#) in Michigan and studying the distribution of the invasive nematode (microscopic worm) associated with the disease.

### Support in every Michigan county

This year's grants also will support 20 regional [Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas](#), the network of partnership organizations working to manage and control invasive species and provide service to all 83 counties in the state. CISMA



projects include enhanced education and outreach, technical assistance to landowners, and survey and treatment of high-priority invasive species.

## Program background and progress

In 2014 the state Legislature designated \$5 million in annual funding to address invasive species. This support substantially enhanced Michigan's Invasive Species Program for aquatic organisms, supported a formal program for terrestrial species and initiated the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.

This cycle marks the seventh year of program funding. To date, more than \$25 million has been awarded to support 173 projects by units of government, nonprofits and institutions. Because of Michigan's Invasive Species Grant Program:

- More than 494,000 acres of land and water have been surveyed for invasive species.
- More than 38,500 acres have been treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants.
- 206,000 people have been provided with information about invasive species through direct contact, including face-to-face interactions at boat washes, workshops, trainings and other events.
- An additional 23,221,000 people were reached through grantees' indirect outreach efforts, including mail, newspapers, social media and handouts.

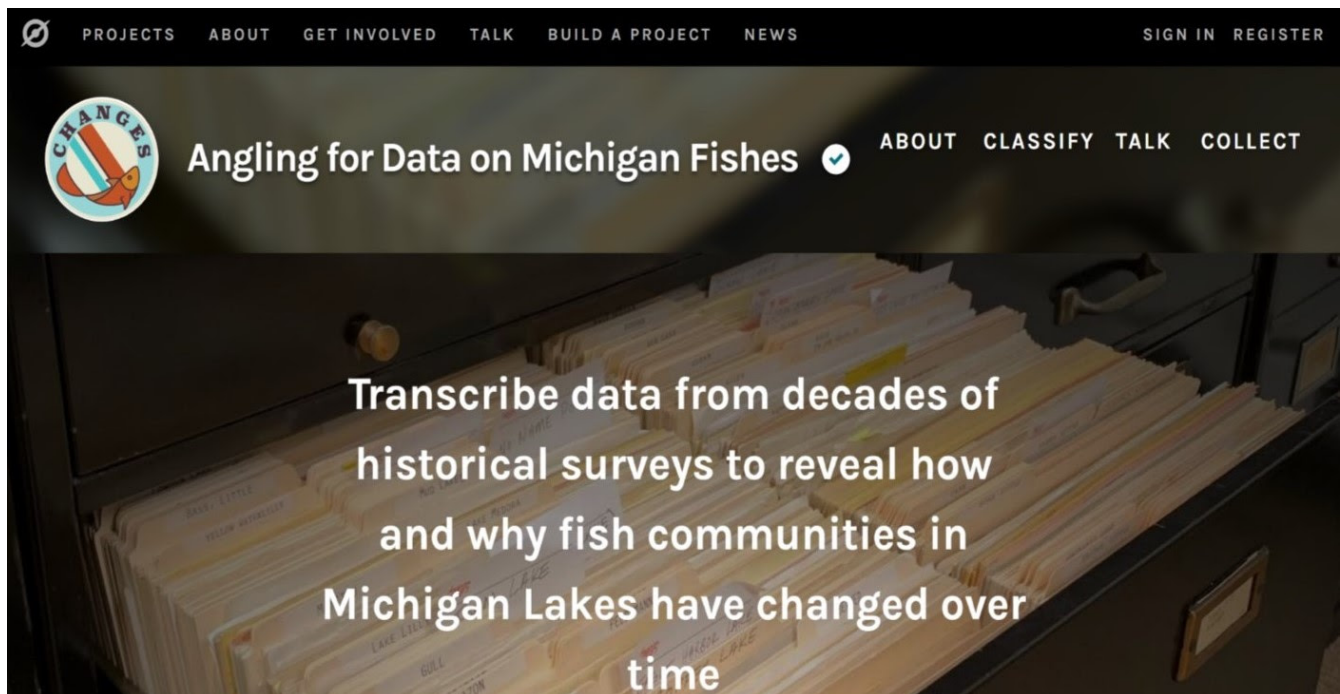
## Over \$5 million requested

The program began accepting grant applications for this funding cycle in October 2020. This year, 41 applications were received, requesting more than \$5 million in support. Grant applicants were asked to commit to providing at least 10 percent of the total project cost in the form of a local match.

The [full list of grant recipients, project descriptions and award amounts](#) is available on the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program website at [Michigan.gov/MISGP](https://Michigan.gov/MISGP).

*Michigan's Invasive Species Program is cooperatively implemented by the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development; Environment, Great Lakes and Energy; and Natural Resources.*





## Seeking Volunteers to Help Transcribe A Century's Worth Of Fish Observation Records

A new project from the University of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources asks volunteers to help transcribe more than a century's worth of fish observation records, captured on a variety of paper cards, from lakes throughout Michigan.

Volunteer contributions to the project will allow researchers and resource managers to better understand how factors such as development, invasive species, deforestation, and climate change have affected fish populations over the last hundred years. The research team will utilize the latest in data science to combine data on fish, habitat characteristics and management approaches from a variety of historical surveys in new ways, allowing them to build models that explain how and why fish populations have changed over recent decades, predict what changes are likely to occur in the future, and test which management strategies will improve the resilience of fish populations.

Learn more, and get involved at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/jmschell/angling-for-data-on-michigan-fishes>



# European frog-bit: Be on the lookout for this aggressive invasive plant

Erick Elgin, Michigan State University Extension

European frog-bit is a prolific invasive aquatic plant that is creating a mess along the shores of the Great Lakes.



## What is European frog-bit and how did it get to Michigan?

European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) is a free-floating aquatic plant with multiple miniature lily pad shaped leaves. This prolific invasive species is spreading along the shorelines and wetlands of Lakes Erie, Huron and Ontario. European frog-bit was brought from Europe to the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa in 1932 as an ornamental plant. By 1939, it had escaped and spread to the Rideau Canal in Ottawa, Canada (Catling and Dore, 1982). Since then it has continued to spread into several rivers, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron and other inland waters. In Michigan, European frog-bit is now common along the coastline of Lakes Huron, Erie and Lake St. Clair where emergent vegetation like cattail and phragmites protect European frog-bit from waves and currents. Figure 1 displays the current Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) European frog-bit locations in Michigan. It is important to note that at this time there are very limited sightings in Michigan's inland waters and it would be good to stay that way.

## Why should we worry about European frog-bit?

European frog-bit is listed on Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Plant Watch List, which identifies species that present an immediate and significant threat to Michigan's natural resources. European frog-bit produces dense, floating mats that cover large areas of shoreline. These mats can hinder recreation, reduce waterfowl and fish habitat, and reduce light conditions for beneficial native aquatic plants. To learn more about the impacts of European frog-bit, see the State of Michigan [Invasive Species Alert for European frog-bit](#)

## How to identify European frog-bit?



European frog-bit is predominately free-floating, meaning it rarely roots to the bottom of a waterbody. However, in water under two feet deep, European frog-bit can become rooted. The leaves look like miniature lily pads, about the size of a silver dollar. In contrast, Michigan's native water lilies have sturdy roots anchored to the waterbody bottom and have much larger leaves.

To identify European frog-bit, look for:

- Free-floating or rooted plant with leaves that arise from a single point
- Leaves are round/heart shaped and resemble little (0.5 – 2.25 inches) water lilies
- Leaves have a dark purple underside with a spongy area around the midvein of the leaf
- White flowers with three petals and a yellow center

For more identification tips see the [MISIN European frog-bit fact sheet](#).

What should you do if you identify European frog-bit?

Report it immediately, especially if found in inland lakes, rivers, streams, ponds or wetlands. The report can be submitted through [MISIN](#), to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – Water Resources Division at 517-284-5593 or by contacting your local [Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area](#) (CISMA). It is important that sightings are reported immediately because early detection is the essential first step for successful control.

How can you help combat the European frog-bit invasion?

First, take precautions to prevent spreading European frog-bit from one water body to another. This means carefully cleaning your equipment, boat and trailer before traveling to another waterbody. If you would like additional information about decontaminating your equipment please visit the [Clean Boats Clean Water Program](#). You can also assist with removal efforts directly. If you live on the east side of the state contact your [local CISMA](#) to find out about European frog-bit pull events.

As new invaders come into Michigan it is critical that they are reported as soon as possible so that eradication can be successful. European frog-bit is spreading rapidly along the coasts of Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, but there is still hope for our inland waters. Also, we might be able to keep European frog-bit from spreading further in the Great Lakes by controlling it where it is currently found. It is important that boaters and anglers take time to clean off their equipment, boats and trailers after leaving these infested waters and before entering other waterbodies. Working together, we can keep this plant invader contained and in check.

Reference:

Catling, P. M. and Dore, W. G.. (1982). Status and identification of *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* and *Limnobium spongia* (Hydrocharitaceae) in Northeastern North America. *Rhodora*, Vol. 84, pp. 523-545.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).





## Bring the Mobile Boat Wash to your community!

### MSU MOBILE BOAT WASH

It's not too soon to start looking forward to summer, right?

Contact us to book the Mobile Boat Wash for your 2021 event! We will bring our boat cleaning systems, provide boat washes, and educate boaters about how they can help prevent the spread of invasive species. As always, the MBW services are completely free.

Check out [our flyer](#) to learn more.

E-mail us at [latimor1@msu.edu](mailto:latimor1@msu.edu) in order to get the best date.



The Mobile Boat Wash unit is an outreach program from Michigan State University designed to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species.

[Click here](#) to visit the MSU Mobile Boat Wash website...

[Click here](#) to visit the MSU Mobile Boat Wash [Facebook](#) page...

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## MNSP Shoreline and Shallows Conference

and



## MGLP Lake Conservation Webinar Series

Present the online conference:

# A New Wave of Thinking

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

### AGENDA

- 10:00am EST *Introduction* – Julia Kirkwood, Chair, Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership and Joe Nohner, Coordinator, Michigan Glacial Lakes Partnership
- 10:10 *Social/community acceptance of natural shorelines: Lessons from 20 years of promoting soft shorelines* – John Hartig, Visiting Scholar at University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research and Board of Directors of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Detroit
- 11:10 *Promoting lakeshore protection: An introduction to social marketing* – Dr. Bret Shaw, Associate Professor, Department of Life Sciences Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI and Dr. John Haack, Emeritus University of Wisconsin Extension Natural Resource Educator, Madison, WI
- 12:10 BREAK
- 1:00pm EST *How Waves Work* – Brian Majka, Senior Restoration Ecologist, GEI Consultants
- 2:00 *Defining No-Wake Zones for Wake Surf Boats – A Data Driven Approach* – Alex Ray, Recreation Management Consultant, Payette Environmental Services, LLC
- 3:00 *Wave Energy and the Bioengineering Continuum* – Jen Buchanan, Watershed Protection Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Petoskey
- 4:00 Adjourn

Please join the [Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership](#) and [Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership](#) on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 for our virtual free conference on Zoom.

Register on the [MNSP](#) website or directly at [Shoreline Conference](#)

*Co-sponsors: Michigan State University Institute of Water Research; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; MSU Extension; and GEI Consultants*

[Click here](#) to download a flyer



## for the "A New Wave of Thinking" on-line conference

**[Click here](#) to register for the  
"A New Wave of Thinking" on-line conference...**

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### **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.

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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**

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

**Unsubscribe**

This message was sent to [roberttfrye@gmail.com](mailto:roberttfrye@gmail.com) from [scottb1952@gmail.com](mailto:scottb1952@gmail.com)

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