



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.





Minnesota Leads the On-Going Battle with Exotic Aquatic Invasive Plant

and Animal Species

by Scott Brown, MWA Board of Directors

Pro-active Support from the Minnesota State Legislature, and an Aquatic Invasive Species Surcharge on Watercraft Registrations Provide the Necessary Resources to Enable an Effective Battle Against Exotic Aquatic Invasive Species

Responding to increasingly widespread infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, starry stonewort, zebra mussels, and spiny water fleas that are known to represent a significant public health threat, and that may also severely limit the capacity of affected aquatic ecosystems to support desirable native aquatic plant and animal species, the Minnesota state legislature has acted to establish a well-funded and intensely pro-active [Minnesota's Invasive Species Program](#).

Providing robust funding appropriations and enabling sustainable funding mechanisms in order to effectively administer programs that are dedicated to curbing the spread and harmful influences of aquatic invasive species, Minnesota's state legislature seems to understand that rapidly propagating exotic aquatic invaders represent a dire threat to the current and future recreational status and economic value of their state's vast natural legacy of high-quality inland lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands that forms the basis of Minnesota's \$16 billion dollar freshwater ecosystem-based tourism industry.

Minnesota's robust Invasive Species Program includes a [Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) administered [Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant](#) that is intended to help local entities such as lake associations, watershed districts, cities, and counties fund the control of curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush. Minnesota also administers a program entitled [Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid](#) that is dedicated to preventing or limiting the spread of non-native, aquatic invasive species at the county level. Revenue provided by the program is allocated based upon each county's share of watercraft trailer launches, and watercraft trailer parking spaces. The Minnesota Department of Revenue, for example, has certified \$135,409 to be utilized for aquatic invasive species prevention efforts in Washington County, Minnesota for 2021. County officials will utilize the funds in partnership with the [Washington County Conservation District](#) in order to provide countywide aquatic invasive species control focused operations, including watercraft inspections, early detection, rapid response, and outreach education efforts. It is important to point out that Minnesota's aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention aid program has provided \$10 million dollars to Minnesota counties each year since 2014.

Minnesota's robust spending to support the fight against exotic aquatic invasive species doesn't stop with the \$10 million dollars that is annually appropriated to counties through the AIS prevention aid program, the state legislature also appropriates a \$9 million budget to the Department of Natural Resources in order to support operations related to aquatic invasive prevention and enforcement each year. What is particularly important for our readers to understand is that Minnesota funds its robust exotic aquatic invasive species management programs in large part by levying a \$10.60 aquatic invasive species surcharge on each three-year watercraft registration, a \$5.00 aquatic invasive species surcharge on the sale of each non-resident fishing license, an annual AIS control activities dedicated appropriation from the Minnesota state legislature, and a modicum of federal funding. Minnesota's lake associations spend an additional \$1.65 million per year on activities related to the protection of their respective lakes from the potential ravages of exotic aquatic invasive species.

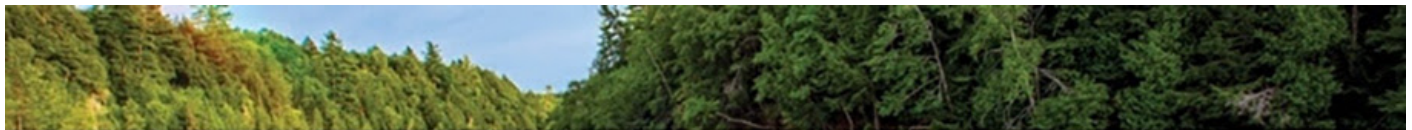
To read more of this article regarding Minnesota's aggressive program to combat the negative influences of exotic aquatic plant and animal species, [click here](#)



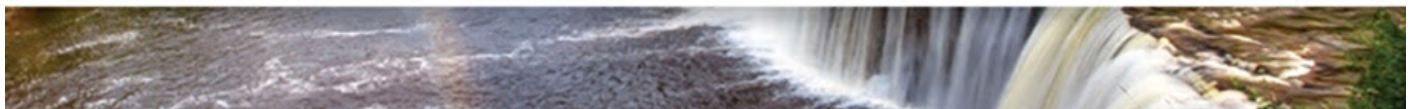
A few updates from the MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP)...

The 2021 MiCorps CLMP training held on-line last week was recorded, and those recordings are now available for viewing. You can find links to both the session video recordings and copies of the presentation slides in PDF format by visiting <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/lake-training/>.

Remember, enrollment for the 2021 CLMP closes on Monday, May 10. You can find instructions at <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/become-a-volunteer/>.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



EGLE awards 27 grants to conduct stream clean-ups and monitoring through MiCorps program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2021

Nick Assendelft, Public Information Officer, AssendelftN@Michigan.gov, 517-388-3135

Tamara Lipsey, Aquatic Biologist, LipseyT@Michigan.gov, 517-342-4372

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) today announced \$75,000 in grants to 27 local governments and nonprofit organizations for stream cleanup and monitoring through the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) Program. These annual grants help foster local stewardship and a sense of community while providing valuable data used to protect Michigan's waters.

The MiCorps Volunteer Stream Cleanup Program provides grants to local units of government to clean and improve Michigan waterways. Local governments often partner with nonprofits or other volunteer groups for the cleanups, which include removal of trash and other manmade debris from streams and stream banks.

The cleanup grant program began in 1998 and is funded by fees from the sale of Michigan's specialty water quality protection license plates, available from the [Secretary of State's Office](#).

The organizations selected to receive cleanup funding in 2021 are:

- Benzie Conservation District: \$750.20
- Clinton Conservation District: \$1,400.00
- City of Ecorse: \$2,545.00
- Genesee County Parks: \$4,300.00
- Grand Traverse Conservation District: \$1,730.00
- Missaukee Conservation District: \$4,547.71
- St. Joseph Conservation District: \$2,155.00

The MiCorps Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program provides grants to enable local governments and nonprofits to conduct volunteer-based water quality and stream habitat monitoring through benthic macroinvertebrate surveys and habitat assessments. Three types of monitoring grants are available. Startup grants get groups started with learning and planning, implementation grants fund the first two years of official monitoring and maintenance grants help groups that are already monitoring to replace equipment and continue their programs.

The organizations selected to receive funding in 2021 are:

Startup Grants

- Detroit Zoological Society: \$4,247.43
- Eaton County Conservation District: \$4,965.01
- Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds: \$4,975.53

Implementation Grant

- Berrien Conservation District: \$13,048.02

Maintenance Grants:

- AuSable Institute: \$1,354.50
- Benzie Conservation District: \$2,000.00
- Flint River Watershed Coalition: \$1,920.00
- Friends of the St. Clair River: \$2,000.00
- Friends of the Rouge: \$1,963.37
- Grass River Natural Area: \$1,999.20
- Kalamazoo Nature Center: \$2,000.00
- Little Forks Conservancy: \$1,974.53
- Macatawa Area Coordinating Council: \$1,876.25
- Manistee Conservation District: \$2,000.00
- Missaukee Conservation District: \$2,000.00
- Muskegon River Watershed Assembly: \$1,999.83
- St. Joseph County Conservation District: \$1,583.25
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council: \$2,000.00
- Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay: \$2,000.00
- White River Watershed Partnership: \$1,606.00

MiCorps was established in 2004 by EGLE to engage the public in collecting water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs. MiCorps is

administered for EGLE by Michigan State University, in partnership with the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association and Huron River Watershed Council.

Questions about the grant award process should be directed to Dr. Paul Steen, Huron River Watershed Council, at 734-769-5123, extension 601, or PSteen@HRWC.org; or Tamara Lipsey, Lake Michigan Unit, Surface Water Assessment Section, Water Resources Division, EGLE, at 517-342-4372 or LipseyT@Michigan.gov.

###



We Need Your Help!

Why You Should Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance?

Do you care for your lake, river, or stream? Do you care enough to contact your state senator or representative about issues that affect your waterbody? Do you keep track of the bills that are important to your lake, river, or stream? The good news is that Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is doing this for you. MWA hires a lobbying firm to keep track of issues and bills which may affect Michigan's waterfronts, and remain in constant contact with senators and representatives. These lobbyists have relationships with those serving in our state legislature, willing to present bills that MWA would support to help protect Michigan's inland waterways, and help to defeat bills that may be detrimental to our waterways. There is an old saying that "you can't fight city hall." This may be true if you do not know how, but with the help of MWA's attorneys, MWA has the experts that know how to

deal with legal issues. There have been laws interpreted incorrectly when it comes to our lakes, rivers, and streams. MWA, with its attorneys, has argued these cases when we believe the law has been misinterpreted.

While the MWA Board of Directors is made up of volunteers, it is expensive to hire lobbyists and attorneys. The Michigan Waterfront Alliance membership is made up of individuals, lake associations, and corporations who care about Michigan's lakes, rivers, and streams. Would you like to be more involved? You can by becoming a member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance and by becoming an active partner in MWA. Membership in MWA is inexpensive:

**We rely entirely on membership dues to fund
the operating costs of our organization...**

**TO BECOME A MEMBER OF
MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE VISIT OUR
>>>>> MEMBERSHIP PAGE <<<<<**

Annual Dues are:

\$50 for an individual;

\$100 for a lake association; and

\$200 for a corporation

With support from individuals like you, lake associations, and corporations, we can continue to work together as a unified voice choosing to protect Michigan's water resources for future generations. Thank you for your consideration!!!



PROTECT YOUR LAKE
FROM INVASIVE SPECIES
NOW SCHEDULING
2021 EVENTS
MOBILE BOAT WASH
PROJECT

The MSU Mobile Boat Wash team's spring/summer 2021 event schedule is filling up quickly, help prevent exotic aquatic invasive species from invading your lake - schedule your lake community's MSU Mobile Boat Wash team visit before it is too late!

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...

MICHIGAN LAKE AND STREAM
LEADERS INSTITUTE PRESENTS

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FOR LAKE AND STREAM ORGANIZATIONS

FREE WORKSHOP

JUNE 8, 1:00-4:00PM

[HTTPS://EVENTS.ANR.MSU.EDU/2021LSLI](https://events.anr.msu.edu/2021LSLI)



Jenn Wright

Executive Director
Grass River Natural Area



Dr. Michael Everett

Professor of Practice
Michigan State University



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

Effective Communication for Lake and Stream Organizations

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 1:00 - 4:00 PM EST Online (Zoom)

In this free, interactive online workshop, we will explore effective communication techniques for advancing lake and stream stewardship and conservation. We'll look at both external communication (how we talk about water resources and our work with outside audiences) and internal communication (how organizations share and discuss goals and values internally). You'll leave with ideas, tools, and inspiration on how to improve communication for your organization. We will be joined by two experts in organizational success for natural resource organizations: Dr. Michael Everett, faculty member in the

Department of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University, and Jenn Wright, Executive Director of the Grass River Natural Area in Bellaire, Michigan.

This workshop is presented by the [Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute](#), a leadership development program benefiting Michigan's lakes, streams, and watersheds. The Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute is a cooperative effort of Michigan State University Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2021LSLI/>



Invasive species pose a threat to Michigan's environment, economy, and sometimes even human health. What is at stake? What is being done? This webinar series will explore how agencies, universities and locally led organizations are working together to protect Michigan's natural resources through the [Michigan Invasive Species Program](#). If you are concerned about the impacts of invasive species or interested in the techniques used to control them, join us as we examine species-specific actions, innovations in research and technology, and programs designed to help communities prevent and manage harmful invasive species. A question and answer period will follow each presentation.

Upcoming Webinars in the Series

June 24, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[Big, hungry fish: What's being done to prevent invasive bighead, silver and black carp from entering the Great Lakes](#)

Silver carp jumping into boats. Fishing nets full of bighead carp. Could this be the fate of the Great Lakes? Currently, there is no evidence of any live bighead, silver, or black carp,

commonly called Asian carp, in the Great Lakes. Michigan continues to play an active role in regional collaboration to protect the Great Lakes from this potential invasion. DNR Senior Water Policy Advisor Tammy Newcomb will explain the threat posed by these invasive fish, current monitoring and surveillance programs, and Michigan's partnership with Illinois and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide a long-term solution to protect the Great Lakes.

July 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[Hey! What's that in your backyard? An introduction to Michigan's Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas](#)

Wouldn't it be great if there were a local resource you could go to for help with invasive species on your property? Spoiler alert: there is! Michigan is home to 22 Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas, or CISMAs, that are on the front line for prevention, detection, and control of invasive infestations. Katie Grzesiak, Nick Cassel, and Fallon Chabala, representatives from the Michigan Invasive Species Coalition, will discuss what a Cisma is, how they can help with management of invasives on your property, and the benefits of partnering with your local Cisma.



**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 roberttfrye@gmail.com from scottb1952@gmail.com

William Brown
Michigan Waterfont Alliance, Inc
[5989 Sibley Road](#)
Chelsea, MI 48118-1261

iContact
TRY IT FOR FREE ▶