
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Tuesday, November 15, 2022

1 message



Photo by Scott Brown



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Photo by The Cottage Journal

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance
Update for Tuesday, November 15th, 2022



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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Provide an Array of Valuable Ecosystem Services to our Aquatic Ecosystems

Michigan's Once Diverse and Extraordinarily Abundant Mussel
Populations Now in Severe Decline or Extinct

Article and Photo by Scott Brown

Snuffbox, pimpleback, white catspaw, elk toe, slipper shell, Wabash pig toe, fat mucket, deertoe, three ridge, maple leaf, and three horned warty back represent just a small sample of the hundreds of unique common names that humans have assigned over the course of the past two hundred fifty years to members of two indigenous families of freshwater mussels that inhabit North American waters. In spite of their only vaguely descriptive and sometimes amusing common names, aquatic ecologists who have observed the “flamboyant” reproductive strategies and studied the unique life cycles of freshwater mussels have suggested that the venerable “creatures of the substrate” represent one of our planet’s most fascinating and grossly under-appreciated animals.

The vast majority of the freshwater mussels that are indigenous to North American rivers, streams, and lakes are members of the diverse Order Unionoida, and includes two hundred eighty-six species within fifty-eight genera of the Family Unionidae, and five species representing two genera within the Family Margaritiferidae. Even though approximately one thousand freshwater mussel species within the Order Unionoida inhabit freshwater ecosystems distributed across the planet, North American rivers, streams, and lakes situated east of the Rocky Mountains continue to support at least one third of the species within the diverse Order, and therefore host the greatest diversity of freshwater mussels on earth. It is also important to note that freshwater ecosystems distributed throughout Canada and the United States, including many located within the Laurentian Great Lakes region, and especially Lake Michigan, also currently host massive infestations of two highly invasive non-native species of freshwater mussels within the *Dreissena* genera of the Family *Dreissenidae*:

Dreissena rostriformis bugensis - quagga mussels; and *Dreissena polymorpha* - zebra mussels. Moreover, North American fresh and brackish water ecosystems also host two increasingly widespread exotic invasive mollusks within the *Corbicula* genera of the Family *Cyrenidae*: *Corbicula fluminea* - Asian clams; and *Corbicula largillierii* - freshwater clams.

Ranging in size from three to twenty-five centimeters (1.18 - 9.84 inches), native adult freshwater mussels within the Families Unionidae and Margaritiferidae possess calcareous exoskeletons that consist of two distinctive hinged shells that are referred to as valves that provide both structure and protection to an otherwise highly vulnerable gelatinous body. A highly variable set of characteristics that include size, shape, thickness, texture, color, and pattern forming special features such as ridges, rays, chevrons, bumps, and warts that often adorn the distinctive shells of freshwater mussels serve to enable the ability of aquatic ecologists to reliably identify each species in the field. Freshwater mollusks possess a delicate soft tissue body that consists of a mouth, a relatively large stomach, a kidney, an

intestine, an in-current siphon, an ex-current siphon, large filamentous gills that enable the extraction of oxygen, a foot that allows the unique creature to slowly move short distances, and remain anchored to substrates even in the presence of strong currents, and ligaments that permit the organism to open and close its surrounding shells. Comprised of neurons and glial cells that are supported by a network of connective tissue, Unionid mussels also possess a rudimentary sensory system that allows the sightless creatures to sense motion induced by nearby fish or potential predators. Representing the longest living invertebrates on earth, freshwater mussels living in optimal habitat are capable of achieving lifespans that often exceed fifty years.

[Click here](#) to continue reading this article





DIVE INTO LAKE LEARNING
**INTRODUCTION TO
LAKES ONLINE**

MICHIGAN STATE
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An illustration of a person with long brown hair, wearing a purple wetsuit, blue diving mask, and blue snorkel, swimming underwater. The person is looking towards the viewer. In the background, there are green water lilies, a large turtle swimming, and several small fish. A blue house is visible on the shore in the background.

**6 WEEK ONLINE COURSE
STARTS JAN. 10**

canr.msu.edu/lakesonline

Learn about Michigan's inland lakes online from MSU Extension

Registration for the award-winning Michigan State University Extension [Introduction to Lakes Online](#) course is now open! This six-week online course kicks-off January 10th and is designed for anyone interested in inland lakes, including concerned citizens, decision makers, local leaders, resource professionals, and lakefront property owners. Course topics include lake ecology, watershed management, shoreline protection, aquatic plants, Michigan water law, and community engagement.

These topics are explored via video lectures, interactive activities, and discussion forums. Additional resources are also provided for those looking to dive deeper into a topic. Participants communicate with each other and instructors through lively discussion forums and biweekly Ask-an-Expert webinars.

Registration is open now through **January 8, 2023**. The cost of the course is \$115 per person. Register by December 19, 2022 for an early bird price of \$95 per person.

A certificate of completion is awarded to those who complete the course. Participants can also receive 16 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification credits and credits in the MSU Extension Master Citizen Planner, Master Gardener, and Master Naturalist programs.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Michigan State University Extension Introduction to Lakes On-line



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters is awarding grants to organizations addressing aquatic invasive species awareness through education and outreach. \$25,000 total is available for groups across Michigan (up to \$3,000 per award). Grants can be used for signage, outreach materials, events, and much more!



For more information, please visit canr.msu.edu/cbcw/minigrants

**CLEAN BOATS
CLEAN WATERS**

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Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants

Clean Boats, Clean Waters grants supply up to \$3,000 to organizations communicating aquatic invasive species prevention information through outreach materials and in-person educational events to boaters. This funding opportunity is competitive, and applications will be subject to a review process and ranked based on program eligibility, project significance, and overall strategy. Examples of previous grant funded projects can be found at the bottom of this webpage.

Applicants are highly encouraged to partner with other conservation organizations and to conduct boater outreach on a regional scale. Organizations qualified for the [Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program \(MISGP\)](#) (e.g., CISMAs) should pursue MISGP funds to perform boater outreach activities. CISMAs can provide support to organizations in their area that are applying for this funding.

CBCW is a joint effort between Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Funding for CBCW and this grant opportunity is provided by a short-term grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in partnership with EGLE.

The grant application period is now open. Applications will be accepted until **December 16, 2022**.

Applicants will be informed by March 2023 of grant award.

Eligible organizations

- Local or tribal units of government
- Lake associations/watershed protection groups
- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations

Funding amount

- The grant request amount should range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per grantee.
- There is no match or cost sharing requirement.
- Funds will be distributed via a one-time reimbursement of eligible expenses.
- Any budget or project changes after a grant has been awarded must be approved in writing.

Required grant activities

Grantees must complete all of the following activities:

- Grantee agrees to host a minimum of three outreach events with CBCW approved outreach materials.
- Grantee and/or volunteers will review required CBCW training materials (approximately 1 hour of educational instruction).
- Grantee and/or volunteers will collect and report data on the number of people contacted, volunteer hours (if applicable), number of outreach materials distributed, and latitude/longitude of locations (minimum of waterbody name, county, and township) for all events and signage.
- Grantee will submit one narrative report of all grant funded activities and expenditures to MSU Extension. A template will be provided to assist with narrative report creation.
- The narrative report must contain a minimum of five photos of products and/or outreach conducted. Narrative report is due October 31, 2023, or at the time of reimbursement request.
- Grantee will submit all receipts/invoices for reimbursement by October 31, 2023. MSU Extension will not issue payment to the grantee until all receipts have been submitted. One-time payment will be issued within 60 days of receiving receipts and report of grantee activities.

For more information regarding MI Clean Boats, Clean Waters Aquatic Invasive Species Grants, [click here](#)

[Click here](#) to download the 2023 MI Invasive Species Grant Program application.

Note: The grant application will download as a Microsoft Word file. If you have accessibility issues, please contact Kelsey Bockelman at bockelm4@msu.edu



Helping You Enjoy and Protect Your Lake With Healthy Shorelines!

Why Natural Shorelines? *Michigan's inland lakes need them!*

The loss of natural shorelines is the biggest threat to the overall health of Michigan Lakes.

The National Lake Assessment (NLA) results indicate that inland lakes across the nation need better care. Overall, the water quality in Michigan's inland lakes is really good. However, the Michigan results of the National Lake Assessment indicate that, *lakeshore habitat and physical lakeshore complexity are major stressors* for Michigan lakes with over 50% having poor lake habitat complexity. This means our lakes are losing too much natural vegetation both on the land and in the water.

2012 Michigan NLA Lake Condition and Stressors



To learn more about the mission, goals, and lakefront homeowner education focused programs of the inland lakes stewardship dedicated non-profit organization known as the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, [click here](#)



Photo by Scott Brown



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



>> 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!!!



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](#)
