



Photo by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Update for Thursday, December 1st, 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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Photo by Randy Claramunt (MDNR)

Michigan Awarded \$5 Million Grant to Remove Dams and Barriers that Obstruct Upstream Fish Migration and Degrade Aquatic Habitat

Michigan has been awarded \$5 million in grants from the non-profit National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that will be dedicated to funding removal of several dams and culverts that are the primary cause of long-term declines in many migrating native fish populations due to fragmentation of critical river, stream, and creek habitat located in northern Michigan. The grant will enable local projects whose primary aim will be to restore the natural pathways that enable connectivity and robust aquatic habitat that many native fish species ultimately depend upon during their life cycles for migration back and forth between the Great Lakes, for spawning, for foraging, and for protection against predation. The river and stream aquatic habitat restoration projects are also expected to benefit at risk populations of eastern massasauga

rattlesnake, pickerel frog, and several species of increasingly rare freshwater mussels.

The **Michigan Department of Natural Resources** will manage the grant-funded projects in collaboration with several local conservation groups and Indigenous tribes with an intended goal of reconnecting nearly 200 upstream miles of rivers and streams situated in fourteen Michigan counties. Rivers, streams, and creeks where the grant money will fund aquatic habitat connectivity restoration efforts include:

- Twin Lakes Creek in Cheboygan County
- AuSable River in Crawford County
- Carr Creek, Dana Lake, and Little Bay de Noc in Delta County
- Wycamp Creek in Emmet County
- Two Mile Creek in Gogebic County
- Boardman/Ottaway River in Grand Traverse County
- North Branch Cole Creek in Lake County
- Spring Creek in Luce County
- McAlpine Creek in Mackinac County
- Silver Lead Creek in Marquette County
- Little Muskegon River and Buckhorn Creek in Mecosta County
- Stony Creek in Oceana County
- East Branch Big Creek and AuSable River in Oscoda County
- Hayden Creek in Van Buren County

In addition to the project leadership role of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, several groups including the **Conservation Resource Alliance of Traverse City**, **Huron Pines** in Gaylord, **Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians**, **Michigan Trout Unlimited**, **Muskegon River Watershed Assembly**, **Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy** in Marquette, and the **U.S. Forest Service** are each also expected to make significant contributions to the overall success of the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** grant funded aquatic habitat restoration initiative.

A leading contributor to the fact that many native fish populations in the United States have suffered severe declines over the course of the past one hundred years, more than two million dams, culverts, and other barriers that act to prevent native fish from migrating upstream to spawn are present in the United States. The long-term effects of the many physical barriers that prevent life sustaining fish migration is best exemplified by the fact that Atlantic salmon, a coldwater species that was once found in abundance in every river north of the Hudson River, that seeks to spawn and raise their young in rivers, then migrates back to the ocean to feed, grow, and then again attempts to return upstream to spawn, is now a threatened species.



Photo by Scott Brown

DIVE INTO LAKE LEARNING

INTRODUCTION TO LAKES ONLINE

MICHIGAN STATE
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**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



Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners

Managing Michigan's Water Resources Since 1899



FACTS ABOUT DRAIN COMMISSIONERS

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONERS

- Michigan's drain commissioners, sometimes called water resources commissioners, administer laws involving flood protection, stormwater management, and soil erosion and seek to protect Michigan's water resources in the process.
- Today, drain commissioners strive to balance the need for proper drainage with water quality and natural resource management in a cost-effective manner, resulting in public health benefits.
- Drain commissioners are county-level officials typically elected to four-year terms (counties with a population under 12,000 may opt to have the drain commissioner's duties performed by the county road commission).
- With the goal of making land habitable and usable, one of the first laws passed when Michigan became a state led to the establishment of drain commissioners.
- The Drain Code of 1956 is the primary statute, or law, that spells out the responsibilities of the drain commissioner and provides the process for constructing and maintaining county drains.
- Some county drains are historic creeks or natural watercourses, while others are underground pipes.
- Many counties have 100 or more established drains, and some have over 1,000 drains. In some cases, primarily in northern Michigan, the drain commissioner's primary duty is maintaining lake levels.
- Not all drains are part of the county drainage system. Some, such as roadside ditches, are the responsibility of the county road commission or private property owners. If you have a question as to whose jurisdiction a drain falls under, please contact your local drain commissioner's office.
- Each drain administered by a drain commissioner's office has a contributing area (similar to a watershed) called a drainage district. A watershed is an area of land that captures rainwater and eventually carries it to the nearest lake, river, stream, or drain, and everyone lives in a watershed.
- Drain commissioners inspect, repair, and clean drains that are part of a drainage district, as needed. Preventative maintenance helps extend service life, like an oil change on your car.
- The costs of drain maintenance are paid through drain assessments to property owners and governmental units within a drainage district based on the benefits derived.

The Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners (MACDC) is the professional association for county drain and water resources commissioners. For more information, contact MACDC at: 517-484-9761 or admin@macdc.us.

Learn more about the important mission and goals of your county drain or water resources commissioner by visiting the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners [website](#) . To download a copy of the Facts About Drain Commissioners document that appears above, [click here](#)



Just added to our list of lake-related webinars - learn about how groups have dealt with the communication challenges around aquatic invasive species management in this December webinar series from [North East Aquatic Plant Management Society-NEAPMS](#).

**Find this and more on our lake webinar page!
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/online-learning>**



Winter Webinar Series!

COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES OF INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

**Session 1: December 5th,
2022; 10AM-12PM**

**Session 2: December 12th,
2022; 10AM-12PM**

North East Aquatic Plant Management Society-NEAPMS

Sign up for our next Winter Webinar series:

The Communication Challenges of Invasive Species Management treatments. Public stakeholder support is often key to moving these projects forward. Presenters will talk about strategies for stakeholder communication and several case studies with varying outcomes.

Registration is free!

Please register for each session of the NEAPMS Webinar Series: The Communication Challenges of Aquatic Invasive Species Management individually at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/9040204820729146126>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the webinar.

Webinar Schedule:

Session 1: December 5th, 2022; 10:00 AM-12:00 PM:

Social Impact Assessment in Invasive Species Management, Dr. Sarah Crowley, University of Exeter, UK Science and Fiction: Working to Address Procella COR Disinformation on Lake George, Dave Wick, Lake George Park Commission, New York

Session 2: December 12th, 2022; 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

HIGHLIN: Grassroots to 501(c)3 – Pulling Together as a Community, Gerry Lauro, Highland Glacial Lakes Initiative, New Jersey Water Supply, Recreation, and the Public, Oh My!: Managing Hydrilla in a Lotic System, Heather Desko, New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Lake Winnepesaukee Variable Watermilfoil Control Project, Amy Smagula, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Virtual Lake Learning Opportunities

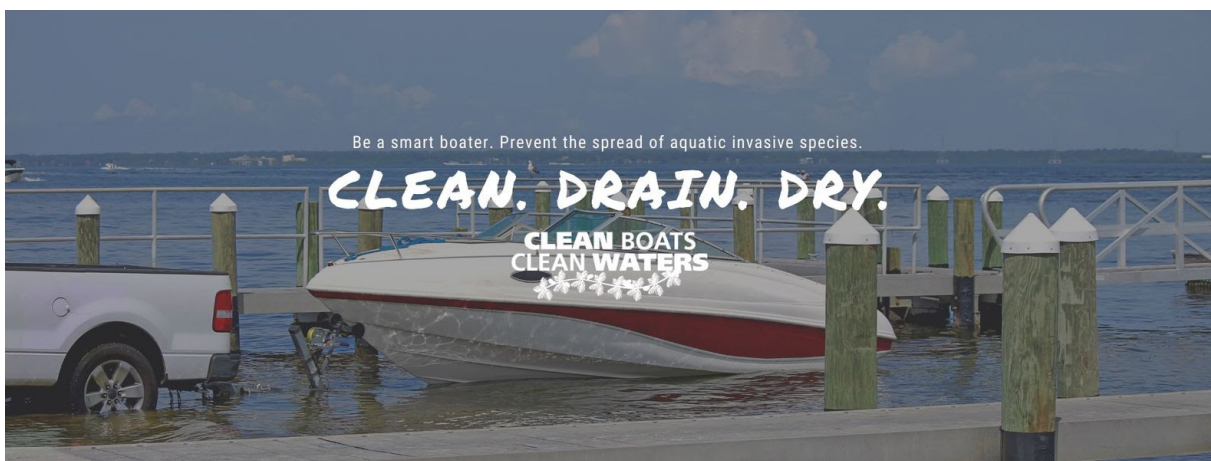
December 5-7. 2022 Great Lakes PFAS Summit. Host: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. [More details.](#)

December 6, 11:00 AM: Coming in hot: Early detection and rapid response priorities in SE Michigan. Presented by Shikha Singh, JLW CISMA. Host: Invasive Species Centre. [Register.](#)

NEW December 7, Noon: Forecasting HABs (*harmful algal blooms*) and developmental impacts of neurotoxin exposure on aquatic populations. Presented by Richard Stumpf, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Jessica Ward, Ball State University. Host: North Central Region Water Network. [Register.](#)

January 10 - March 8: Introduction to Lakes Online. (6-week online course about inland lake ecology, management, and protection.) Host: Michigan State University Extension. [More details.](#) \$

April 24-28, 2023: 13th National Monitoring Conference. (hybrid conference with limited virtual format) Host: National Water Quality Monitoring Council. [More details.](#) \$



We have been thrilled seeing all the great final projects from the 2022 Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant season come in! Our groups this year have completed projects ranging from educational boat tours to installing several decontamination tool signs at boat launches.

While our final report is still wrapping up, we are ecstatic to see the final impact numbers as well as the new applications for next year's grantee cohort!

As a reminder, applications for the 2023 grant season are due by December 16th.



Photo by Friends of the Rouge

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**

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY** | Extension

EGLE

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

Shoreline & Shallows Conference

Habitat for People, Fish and Wildlife



SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 9, 2023
In person

www.mishorelinepartnership.org

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](#)

[Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)