
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Monday, April 17, 2023

1 message



Photo by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance



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 Scott Brown

Explosion in the Popularity of Wake Boat Enabled Water Sports in Michigan Poses a Significant Threat to Our Increasingly Vulnerable Inland Lakes

"...wake boat operators often irresponsibly operate their extraordinarily heavy, ballast water laden water craft within waters that are too shallow, too close to shore, and/or dangerously close to vulnerable swimmers, paddle boaters, fisherman, and other quiet water users."

Wake boats, also referred to as wake enhanced boats, are designed to generate the high energy wakes that are required to enable wake surfing and wakeboarding. Wake surfing, the significantly more popular of the wake enabled water sports due to the fact that it is safer and much easier for most people to master than wake boarding, involves riders who surf the substantial wake that results from shifting ballast water to the aft (rear) corner on the side of the boat that is to be surfed. Enabled by

operating speeds ranging from 8 - 13 mph (13 - 21 km/h), wake surfers are not attached to their boards, and are not supported by tow ropes. In contrast, wakeboarding, whose rise in popularity began in the late 1990's, usually involves more athletically inclined participants who strive to perform acrobatics while airborne during high jumps that are achieved by using the enhanced wakes produced by their supporting water craft as transient 'launch' ramps. Engaged at speeds ranging from 18 - 30 mph (29 - 48 km/h) , wakeboarders are attached to their board, and pulled along well behind their supporting boat by a tow rope of up to 85 feet (26 meters) in length.

Steadily escalating occurrences of natural shoreline degradation, and shallow water habitat disturbance, in addition to an increasing number of safety related incidents, and reports of damage to waterfront property, have occurred primarily as a direct consequence of the fact that many wake boat operators often irresponsibly operate their extraordinarily heavy, ballast water laden water craft within waters that are too shallow, too close to shore, and/or dangerously close to vulnerable swimmers, paddle boaters, fisherman, and other quiet water users. The myriad of ecological impacts that are likely occurring due to a dramatic increase in popularity of enhanced wake dependent water sports, and in particular wake surfing, have been exacerbated by the fact that protracted periods of often intense near shore, and/or shallow water incursion by multiple wake boats simultaneously operating on popular lakes on weekends, results in an unrelenting barrage of high energy wave action .

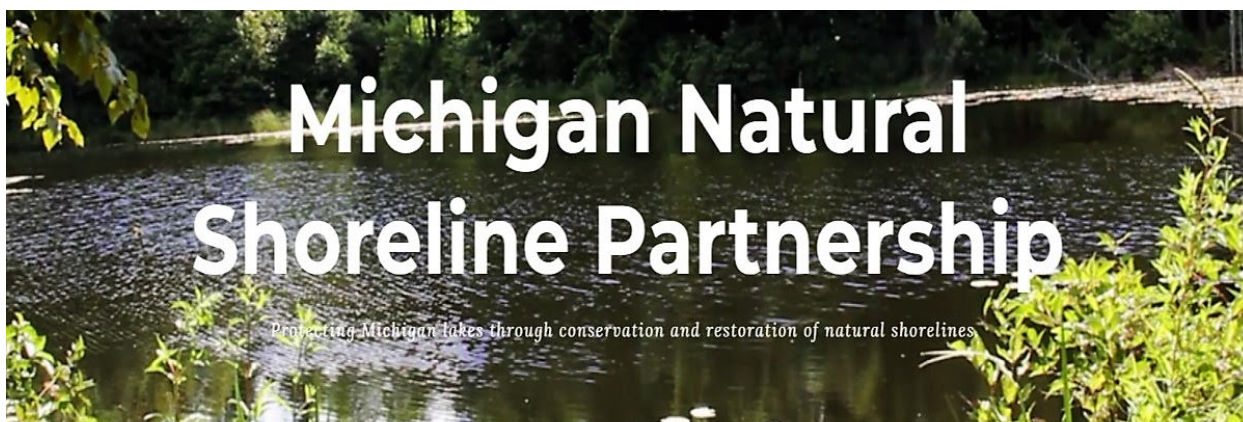
The significant potential for wakes generated by passing boats to harm nearby shorelines has also been clearly demonstrated by the fact that even small outboard motor propelled aluminum fishing boats passing at moderate speeds within 500 feet (152 meters) or less of shore are capable of creating wakes of sufficient magnitude to inflict damage to shoreline property and natural habitat.

In addition to the potential for high energy waves created by wake boats to have a negative impact on shorelines from distances of up to 984 feet (300 meters), turbulence generated by wake boats operating in support of wake surfers is capable of disturbing ecologically sensitive habitat situated in relatively deep areas of the lake's basin.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of this article



Photo by Scott Brown



Helping You Enjoy and Protect Your Lake With Healthy Shorelines!

Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program

Property owners can take an online questionnaire to assess their lakefront property to see if it qualifies for a Shoreland Steward Recognition level. Find out what is being done well and what might need improving! *(Note: not every property can qualify)*

[Find out more about the program.](#)

[Go directly to the survey and see if your property qualifies!](#)



Michigan Department of

Natural Resources

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April 14, 2023

Contact: [Jeremiah Blaauw](#), 906-623-5767, ext. 9 or [Gary Whelan](#), 517-242-2764

MI DNR says fish kills may be common during spring thaw

After ice and snow cover melt on Michigan lakes this spring, it may be more likely for people to discover dead fish or other aquatic animals. While such sights can be startling, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone that it is normal, since winter conditions can cause fish and other creatures such as turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish to die.

"Winterkill is the most common type of fish kill," said Gary Whelan, DNR Fisheries Division research manager. "As the season changes, it can be particularly common

in shallow lakes, ponds, streams and canals. These kills are localized and typically do not affect the overall health of the fish populations or fishing quality."

Shallow lakes with excess aquatic vegetation and soft bottoms are more prone to this problem, particularly when a deep snowpack reduces sunlight for the plants. Canals in urban areas also are quite susceptible due to the large amounts of nutrient runoff and pollution from roads and lawns and septic systems that flow into these areas, especially from large storm events.

Fish and other aquatic life typically die in late winter but may not be noticed until a month after the ice leaves lakes. That's because the dead fish and other aquatic life are temporarily preserved by the cold water. Fish also may be affected by rapid changes in water temperature due to unseasonably warm temperatures leading to stress and, sometimes, mortality.

Fish can become easily stressed in winter due to low energy reserves because feeding is at a minimum in winter. They are then less able to handle low oxygen and temperatures swings.

"Winterkill begins with distressed fish gasping for air at holes in the ice and often ends with large numbers of dead fish that bloat as the water warms," Whelan said. "Dead fish and other aquatic life may appear fuzzy because of secondary infection by fungus, but the fungus was not the cause of death. The fish actually suffocated from a lack of dissolved oxygen from decaying plants and other dead aquatic animals under the ice."

Dissolved oxygen is required by fish and all other forms of aquatic life. Once daylight is greatly reduced by ice and snow cover, aquatic plants stop producing oxygen and many die. The bacteria that decompose organic materials on the bottom of the lake use the remaining oxygen in the water. Once the oxygen is reduced and other aquatic animals die and start decomposing, the rate that oxygen is used for decomposition is additionally increased – that means that dissolved oxygen levels in the water decrease even further, leading to increasing winterkill.

For more information on fish kills in Michigan, visit [Michigan.gov/Fishing](https://www.michigan.gov/Fishing).

The public is welcome to report fish kills using the [Eyes in the Field website](#); such reports are valuable to the DNR's ability to manage the state's aquatic resources. If you suspect a fish kill is due to non-natural causes, call the [nearest DNR office](#) or Michigan's Pollution Emergency Alert System at 800-292-4706.

WE'RE HIRING

Invasive Species Outreach Technician

Crew Leader & Crew Members

At careers.msu.edu for Job #848516

Stop aquatic invasive species through boater education and outreach! You can help protect Michigan waters from invasive species by teaching boaters about invasive species, giving demonstrations on proper boat cleaning, and conducting invasive species surveys.

EXTENDED!



Contact Kelsey Bockelman at bockelm4@msu.edu

[Click here](#) to apply for this MSU Extension job opportunity



Join McNALMS

If you share an interest in protecting and restoring Michigan lakes, we invite you to join the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) and add your voice to our growing and active effort. With membership, you receive our informative newsletter; access to our parent organization's newsletter (national NALMS); reduced registration to our biennial Lunch and Learn meeting; eligibility to apply to our Student Grants and other financial assistance programs; information on other grants, courses, fact sheets, and announcements; and becoming a part of a network of individuals and corporations interested in lake conservation.

[Click here](#) to join McNALMS

[Click here](#) to download and read the Spring 2023 McNALMS Newsletter



NotMISpecies Webinar Series

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](#) explores 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. Recorded versions of all previous [NotMISpecies webinars](#) are available at Michigan.gov/EGLE/Outreach under "Featured Webinar Series."

Upcoming webinars in the series

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[Vampires of the Great Lakes: A review of the binational sea lamprey control program](#)

The sea lamprey is often depicted as the poster child for invasive species in Michigan. With rows of teeth in their circular mouths, these parasitic fish attach themselves to larger sportfish and literally suck out their blood and internal fluids!

Join Ross Shaw, communications and policy associate with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, to learn more about the fascinating history of this species and the multi-faceted control program that keeps their populations in check.

Thursday, May 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[To infinity...and beyond \(beauty\)! Highlighting a statewide ornamental invasive plant outreach program.](#)

Did you know that many invasive plants in natural areas originally arrived as ornamental garden plants? That's why the *Go Beyond Beauty* program recognizes garden professionals and community members who have committed not to sell or use high-priority ornamental invasive plants. Shelly Stusick, program specialist at Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network, will provide an overview of the recently expanded *Go Beyond Beauty* program and highlight the benefits of partnering with local nurseries, garden centers and concerned citizen groups to provide ornamental invasive species education.

Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[Life's a beech! Another disease is threatening Michigan's majestic giants](#)

Beech leaf disease was first detected in Michigan in 2022, raising concern about the future of the state's 37 million beech trees, already decimated by beech bark disease. Join Simeon Wright, DNR forest health specialist, to learn about the potential impacts this new disease might have on Michigan's forests, what's being done to address it, and how to spot the symptoms of beech leaf disease on your trees.

Thursday, July 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[Can this moth help save monarchs? Swallow-wort biological control efforts in Michigan](#)

Invasive swallow-wort vines, kin to native milkweed plants, are disrupting the life cycle of monarch butterflies. *Hypena opulenta*, a defoliating moth that can only develop on invasive swallow-worts, was discovered in Ukraine and is now approved for field releases in North America. Marianna Szucs from the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University will describe research efforts to establish this moth in Michigan, and the importance of climate match and genetic diversity of the biocontrol agent.

Recorded webinars in this series:

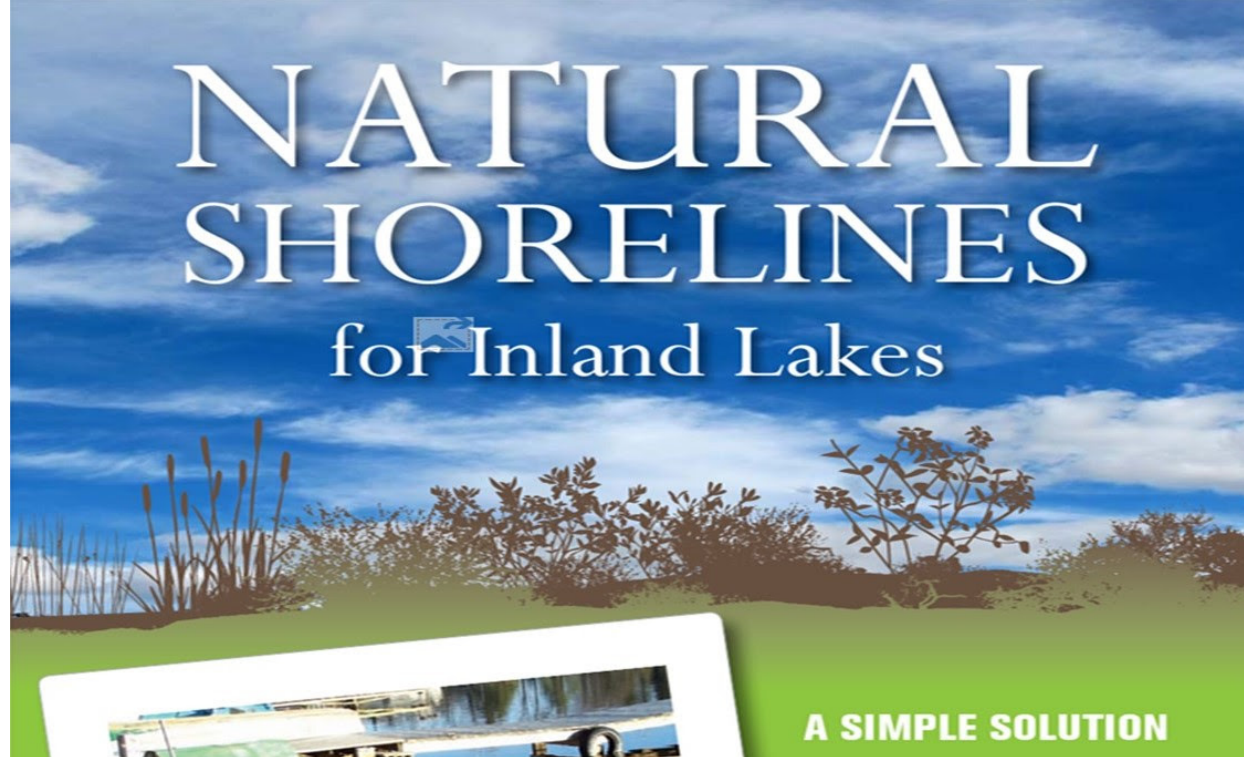
[Lobster mobsters: An update on Michigan's red swamp crayfish response](#) (recorded 2/07/23, 60 min)

Though sometimes called “mini-lobsters,” invasive red swamp crayfish are anything but sweet. Once they show up in an ecosystem, they quickly take over, leaving little or nothing for the locals. Dr. Lucas Nathan, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the Michigan DNR, is intent on turning the tide of infestation in southeast Michigan. Join him to hear about recent advances in research and management of this combative crustacean.

[If you can't beat 'em, find something that will eat 'em: Biological control for invasive knotweeds](#) (recorded 1/18/23, 61 min)

When infestations of invasive species become too large to control chemically and mechanically, biological control can be a cost-effective alternative. Marianna Szucs from the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University will provide a brief background on the practice of classical biological control and share her lab's efforts to establish two host races of the knotweed psyllid (jumping plant lice) that are adapted to different knotweed species.





The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP), a collaboration of state agencies, academia, nonprofit organizations and private industry, was formed in 2008 with the belief that a change was necessary in shoreline development practices in Michigan from high impacting methods that change the natural riparian condition to healthier and sustainable erosion control practices that:

1. *Restore/Preserve the ecological function of the shoreline.*
2. *Effectively stabilize shoreline erosion.*
3. *Are attractive options to lakefront property owners.*

Partnership Objectives:

1. *Train contractors and landscape professionals about shoreline technologies and bioengineered erosion control.*
2. *Educate property owners about natural shorelines and technologies that benefit lake ecosystems.*

3. *Research, demonstrate, and develop natural shoreline technologies that benefit lake ecosystems.*

4. *Encourage local and state policies that promote natural shoreline management.*

MISSION:

Protecting Michigan lakes through conservation and restoration of natural shorelines.

<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>



If not **you**, then **who?**

We need **you!**

Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is the only all-volunteer non-profit organization in Michigan that is completely dedicated to reaching out on a daily, pro-active basis to our state representatives and senators in regards to their on-going need to act now to protect our precious inland lakes, wetlands, rivers, and streams.

Please do not expect other lake associations, other individuals, and other corporations to fund MWA's efforts in Lansing.

If **you** want your voice to be heard in Lansing **you** need to be the other lake association, the other individual, and the other **corporation** to make a generous contribution to helping fund our on-going efforts in Lansing.

Please don't count on others to support the only organization in Michigan that is completely dedicated to voicing your legitimate concerns to our state legislators in Lansing.

We hire professional lobbyists - **Karoub Associates** - who understand the intricacies of dealing with state government - to reach out to our legislators. As you might imagine, the cost of hiring a professional, highly respected Lansing-based lobbying firm whose downtown Lansing office's are located within a literal stone's throw of Michigan's state capitol

building is expensive - we believe, however, that to have someone in constant contact with our state senators and representatives it is more than worth the significant on-going expense.

To put it in blunt "no ifs, ands, or buts" terms, without **your** generous support we will be unable to continue our erstwhile efforts in Lansing.

Please also remember that with the exception of a few relatively minor expenses related to keeping our website updated, and on-line, and a few relatively minor costs associated with distributing our e-newsletter, **all** of our membership and donation derived income goes to paying our downtown Lansing-based lobbying firm, and our attorneys. No exorbitant employee salaries or fringe benefit packages to pay!!!!!!!!!!

It is also important to note that last year **Michigan Waterfront Alliance** lawyers took a case all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court in order to get the State of Michigan to do it's job in protecting our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Thank you for reading and considering this hopefully convincing appeal for donations - **no amount is considered too small** - all donations of money are happily received and acknowledged within the context of the generous spirit that prompted them!!!!!!!!!!

[Click here](#) to become a dues paying member of MWA

[Click here](#) to make a generous donation to MWA



The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) brings together resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in naturally formed lakes of the Midwest. We foster collaborations on fish habitat science, education and outreach, and conservation. For more information, stop by our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), or reach out to our coordinator, [Joe Nohner](#).

Spring 2023 MGLP Lake Conservation Webinars

On thin ice: Are lakes feeling the heat?

Sapna Sharma

April 18, 1:00 P.M., [Register here](#)

Our planet is experiencing accelerated climate warming, with dramatic consequences not only on lake ecology, but also on the ecosystem services we rely on from our freshwater resources. Lakes with seasonal ice cover, which represent more than half of the world's lakes, are especially sensitive to a changing climate, as ice cover is a strong determinant of lake ecosystem functioning. Lakes are losing ice cover at unprecedented rates. On average, ice duration is shorter by 17 days/century. However, in the past 25 years, lake ice loss is 6 times faster, with some lakes not freezing every winter. By the end of the century, over 200,000 lakes may no longer regularly freeze and almost 6,000 lakes may permanently lose ice cover with climate warming. With reduced ice cover, lakes may stratify earlier which can lead to

elevated water temperatures, primary production, and likelihood of algal blooms, some of which may be toxic. Mitigation of greenhouse gases is essential to preserving this ecological, cultural, and economically important resource.



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Do you like to spend your summers outdoors? What if you could get paid for it, too? We've got just the thing! We're hiring!

Starting rate is \$15/hour.

Know someone that might be interested?

To learn about these opportunities, visit

www.Michigan.gov/DNRJobs



Photo by Scott Brown



Virtual Lake Learning Opportunities

April 18, 2:00 PM: On thin ice: Are lakes feeling the heat? Presented by Sapna Sharma, York University. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. [More details.](#)

April 19, Noon: A model for evaluating septic pollution. Host: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. [Register.](#)

April 19-21: 2023 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention (*hybrid event with in-person and virtual options*) Host: Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership. [More details.](#) \$

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

NEW April 25, 9:00 AM: Vampires of the Great Lakes: A review of the binational sea lamprey control program. Presented by Ross Shaw, Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Host: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. [More details.](#)

May 2, 2:00 PM: Shoreline Living Volume Two: Property owner experiences in lakefront conservation. Presented by Erin Fuller, Van Buren (Michigan) Conservation District. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. [More details.](#)

May 9, 2:00 PM: Conservationists' perspectives of governance in the Iowa Great Lakes. Presented by Austin Holland, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Host:

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. [More details.](#)

May 16, 2:00 PM: Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters- A new program for protecting the wonderful waters of Wisconsin. Presented by Pamela Toshner, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. [More details.](#)

NEW August 20-24: 153rd American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids, Michigan (*hybrid event: virtual and in-person options*). Host: American Fisheries Society. [More details.](#) \$



>>> **We Need Your Help!!!**
<<<

Why You Should Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance today?

Do you care about your favorite lake, river, or stream?

Do you care enough to contact your state senator or representative about issues that may affect the quality of your waterbody?

Do you keep track of the bills that are important to your lake, river, or stream that may have been introduced in the Michigan House or Senate?

The good news is that Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is doing this for you.

And while we're at it - we will remind you that the activities and efforts of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance are conducted entirely by passionate volunteers who donate their own time and personal resources to helping preserve and protect Michigan's extraordinary freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, stream and wetlands.

Did you know that not a single person who works directly on behalf of our non-profit organization receives

compensation of any sort - financial or otherwise?

Did you know that with the exception of paying our attorneys to represent your interests, and the best interests of preserving our freshwater resources in court, that the majority of the relatively modest amount of revenue we generate from memberships is entirely dedicated to paying our Lansing-based lobbyist to work on your behalf and on behalf of protecting Michigan's water resources in our state capitol??

Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a pro-active member of the collaborative lake conservation focused organization known as the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership???

Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance was a 'platinum' level sponsor of the 2022 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention??

Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a founding member of the Michigan Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, a collaborative effort that is comprised of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and several statewide

non-profit organizations that is dedicated to stopping the introduction and spread of exotic aquatic invasive plants and animals??

Did you know that our volunteers often reach out to elected members of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and to the United States Environmental Protection Agency in regards to resolving federal government level issues that pertain to protecting Michigan's freshwater resources??

Why not become a pro-active part of our efforts to help preserve and protect Michigan's incredible freshwater resources for future generations by becoming a member today??

Please remember that we rely entirely upon 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

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!!!



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



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](#)