



Photo by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance
Update for Monday, May 1st, 2023



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.





Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
Caring for Michigan's outdoor places and stories since 1921

April 28, 2023

Media contact: DNR-Public-Info@Michigan.gov

DNR rejects proposed Camp Grayling lease expansion

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs had sought to lease 162,000 acres of state forest land for training

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has declined a proposed 20-year lease of approximately 162,000 acres of state forest land to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The DMVA had sought to lease the land, located around the National Guard training camp in Grayling, to accommodate low-impact military training activities.

“We appreciate the many comments we received on this proposal and the commitment people have to public lands,” said Acting DNR Director Shannon Lott. “Public concerns and feedback from Tribal governments, coupled with our own review of the proposal, led us to decide against a 20-year lease on such a significant portion of state-managed land.”

The decision was made after months of public input and after consultation with interested Michigan Tribal governments.

Memorandum of Understanding

Under a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between the DNR and the DMVA, the DMVA will be able to apply for limited land use permits to conduct exercises on up to 52,000 acres of eligible land. The permits would allow the Michigan National Guard to conduct low-impact training on specified areas of land, which would remain open to the public and Tribal members at all times. The MOU also provides that the permits

will not allow military training to take place in any protected or sensitive habitat areas or within a certain distance of inland lakes and designated trout streams.

The DMVA may apply for permits using the same system and be evaluated under the same regulations that apply to all other public events and activities on state-managed public lands, including individual events, research projects and large gatherings. The DMVA will pay fees and costs associated with applying for a permit, the same as other members of the public.

People who want to legally use the land for hunting, fishing, camping or other recreational pursuits would continue to be allowed, without restriction, on land in use by the Michigan National Guard under a land use permit.

Background on lease proposal

Michigan military leaders last winter proposed a lease of up to 162,000 acres of state forest land around Camp Grayling to conduct periodic, low-impact activities such as cyber and electronic warfare, and operation of space and communication systems.

Protecting water and maintaining public access to land were key concerns expressed by fishing, hunting and conservation groups throughout the public comment period, which opened in June 2022 and remained open for eight months, much longer than a typical DNR public comment period. The DNR and DMVA also hosted Tribal consultations to get feedback from governments about the DMVA's proposed use of additional state-managed public land.

More information is available on the DNR's [Camp Grayling proposal webpage](#).



Photo by Scott Brown

**Once A Common Sight in Local Wetlands and Lakes,
Once Abundant Populations of Iconic Northern Leopard Frog in Decline**

Loss of Wetlands, Natural Shorelines, and Acidification of Freshwaters

Exacting a Heavy Toll on the Vulnerable Frog Species

For those of us who misspent the first twelve years or so of our lives happily slogging around the marshes and natural shorelines that were still so plentiful in southern Michigan in the late fifties and early sixties, seeing a northern leopard frog take a protective giant leap back into the water brings back many fond memories.

A sure sign of the fact that we have failed to protect the freshwater gems that have contributed so much to our culture and to our lives in general, the significant loss of once abundant northern leopard frog populations is just one reliable indicator that it is high time to step up as a society and begin to invest in restoring the freshwater ecosystems that we so thoughtlessly destroyed or degraded over the course of the past half century.

Once the most abundant and widespread of frog species in North America, northern leopard frog (scientific name: *Lithobates pipiens*) is a smooth-skinned, green, brown, or sometimes yellow-green frog that is covered with large, oval dark spots that are each surrounded by a lighter halo or border. Adult male northern leopard frogs are capable of reaching 4.5 inches in length while the female of the species is capable of growing to be slightly larger.

Found throughout most of Canada and the United States with the exception of the southeastern states, and capable of thriving in a wide range of healthy aquatic freshwater ecosystems ranging from the wetlands and natural shorelines that often surround inland lakes to small ponds, once abundant populations of northern leopard frog have experienced severe decline over the course of past fifty years due to deforestation, widespread loss of wetlands, habitat fragmentation, and increasing acidification of the waters of a wide range of small freshwater ecosystems that were once capable of supporting the rapidly reproducing frog species.



News Release

April 25, 2023

Contact: [Joanne Foreman](#), 517-284-5814; [Lucas Nathan](#), 517-599-9323; or [Bill Keiper](#), 517-342-4087.

Ready for trout season? Don't forget invasive species prevention!

The flies are tied and rods and waders are ready as the April 29 statewide trout opener approaches.

Before heading out to that favorite fishing spot this season, the departments of Natural Resources and Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy are asking anglers to

prepare for one more thing: decontamination.

Michigan's trout streams are under increasing threat from harmful species that affect habitat and food sources for trout and other fish. Both didymo (rock snot) and New Zealand mudsnail can be moved to new locations on waders, nets and gear.

[Didymo](#) is a microscopic diatom (single-celled alga) that thrives in cold, low-nutrient streams generally considered pristine. Under the right conditions, prolific growth, or blooms, result in thick mats that can cover river and stream bottoms, reducing habitat for macroinvertebrates including mayfly and caddisfly nymphs, which are important food for fish.

Didymo cells are believed to be native to at least parts of the Great Lakes basin; however, blooms are a recent phenomenon. Didymo blooms were first observed in Michigan waters in 2015 in the St. Marys River and then in the Manistee and Boardman rivers in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Scientists are still researching the causes of blooms. Regardless of its native/non-native status, didymo has the potential to spread to new areas when cells attach to anglers' waders and gear.



Didymo

New Zealand mudsnail

[New Zealand mudsnails](#) are only about 1/8 inch long and can be difficult to see. However, these snails can change the aquatic habitats they live in by reaching extremely high densities. When that happens, they can outcompete native

macroinvertebrates, leaving fish food in short supply. The mudsnails have no nutritional value, which can negatively affect the overall condition of fish that feed on them.

New Zealand mudsnail populations are known to be present in the Au Sable, Boardman, Grass, Pere Marquette, Pine and Upper Manistee rivers in Michigan. Mudsnails can survive out of water for several days. Because of their small size, they are easily transported on boats, anchors and fishing gear such as waders and nets.



New Zealand Mudsnail

Plan to decontaminate

To prevent these damaging species from hitchhiking on your waders and gear, make plans for decontamination before heading to the water.

Always Clean, Drain and Dry your waders, boots, boats and other gear between trips or before moving to a new body of water. Take extra precaution in areas with known or suspected didymo or New Zealand mudsnail infestations. In addition to removing debris and mud, the State of Michigan recommends using a chemical disinfectant to achieve maximum decontamination for didymo and New Zealand mudsnail. Possible disinfectants with documented effectiveness for these species include:

- Products such as Formula 409 Antibacterial All-Purpose Cleaner applied to waders and gear.
- Bleach: Apply a solution of one-half cup (4 fluid ounces) bleach to 5 gallons of water and let stand for 20 minutes.
- Virkon Aquatic: Apply a solution of 20 grams per liter of water and let stand for 20 minutes (see manufacturer's label for additional guidance).

Any chemical disinfectants should be applied to waders and gear on land, at a reasonable distance from the water, to avoid accidental discharge into surface waters.

Research into the effectiveness of products such as Formula 409 Antibacterial All-Purpose Cleaner as a decontaminant for other aquatic species and diseases is ongoing. The Michigan Invasive Species Program will update its recommendations, as needed, based on the best available information to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Report new detections

Public reporting plays an important role in early detection of invasive and nuisance species. Anyone encountering suspected didymo or New Zealand mudsnail in new locations is asked to photograph and report the find.

To report didymo, use the [Eyes in the Field online reporting system](#). Be sure to add up to three photos to aid in verification.

To report New Zealand mudsnail, make note of the location, date and time of the observation. This will aid in verification of your report. You may be asked to provide your name and contact information if follow-up is needed.

- Contact Lucas Nathan, DNR, at NathanL@Michigan.gov or 517-599-9323, or Bill Keiper, EGLE, at KeiperW@Michigan.gov.
- Or use the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network online reporting tool
- Or download the MISIN smartphone app at MISIN.MSU.edu/tools/apps/#home and report from your phone.

For more information on decontamination or aquatic invasive species, visit Michigan.gov/Invasives.





Photo by Scott Brown

DANA NESSEL



MICHIGAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 27, 2023

Media Contact:

[Danny Wimmer](#)

Department of Attorney General and EGLE Take Action Against Bay County Contractor for Illegal Destruction of Wetlands

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has announced that the Department of Attorney General and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) have filed a lawsuit against P & P Contracting Services, Inc., Paul

Satkowiak, and Prizza Satkowiak, for their destruction of regulated wetlands in Bay County.

P & P Contracting Services, Inc. is alleged to have illegally dredged and drained surface water from the wetlands and filled nearly five acres of the wetlands with, among other things, harmful sugar beet production waste. Lab results show that the defendants' activities have injured surface waters, resulting in the destruction of regulated wetlands and the harmful discharge of injurious materials into state waters. Despite EGLE's warnings and a directive to stop, defendants' have continued their illegal activities.

"We depend on our wetlands to filter our drinking water and provide habitat for our wildlife," said Nessel. "It remains our priority to protect the wetlands and the waters of our state. We will not hesitate to hold bad actors accountable who destroy our natural resources for their own personal gain."

P & P Contracting Services is a contracting company that hauls and disposes of production waste from sugar beet processing in Bay County. Prizza Satkowiak is the company's registered president and director, and Paul Satkowiak its operator. In late summer or early fall of 2020, Mr. Satkowiak acquired an interest in a roughly 15.84-acre parcel of property in Bay County, a large portion of which is a regulated wetland.

"Michigan's wetlands are critical to a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem, and we are obligated to act when a blatant violation of wetlands and water protection laws like this one take place," said Jerrod Sanders, assistant director of EGLE's Water Resources Division. "This company and these individuals were not receptive to efforts to work cooperatively to resolve these substantial violations. That led us to take this legal action to protect Michiganders from the damage done to important freshwater resources that benefit all Michigan residents."

This lawsuit seeks relief under the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to hold the defendants accountable for their destruction of the state's natural resources, and to restore the wetlands to their prior condition.



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

<https://michiganwaterfrontalliance.com/>

MWA Mission Statement "This corporation is formed to protect, preserve and promote the wise use of inland waters – lakes, streams, rivers, creeks and the waters and bottomlands of the state of Michigan.

The Michigan Waterfront Alliance January 2023
Newsletter is available for download by clicking here



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!](#)

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.

Contact Kelsey Bockelman at bockelm4@msu.edu

EXTENDED!



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

Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society

The purpose of McNALMS is to promote understanding and comprehensive management of Michigan's inland lake ecosystems

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

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](#)

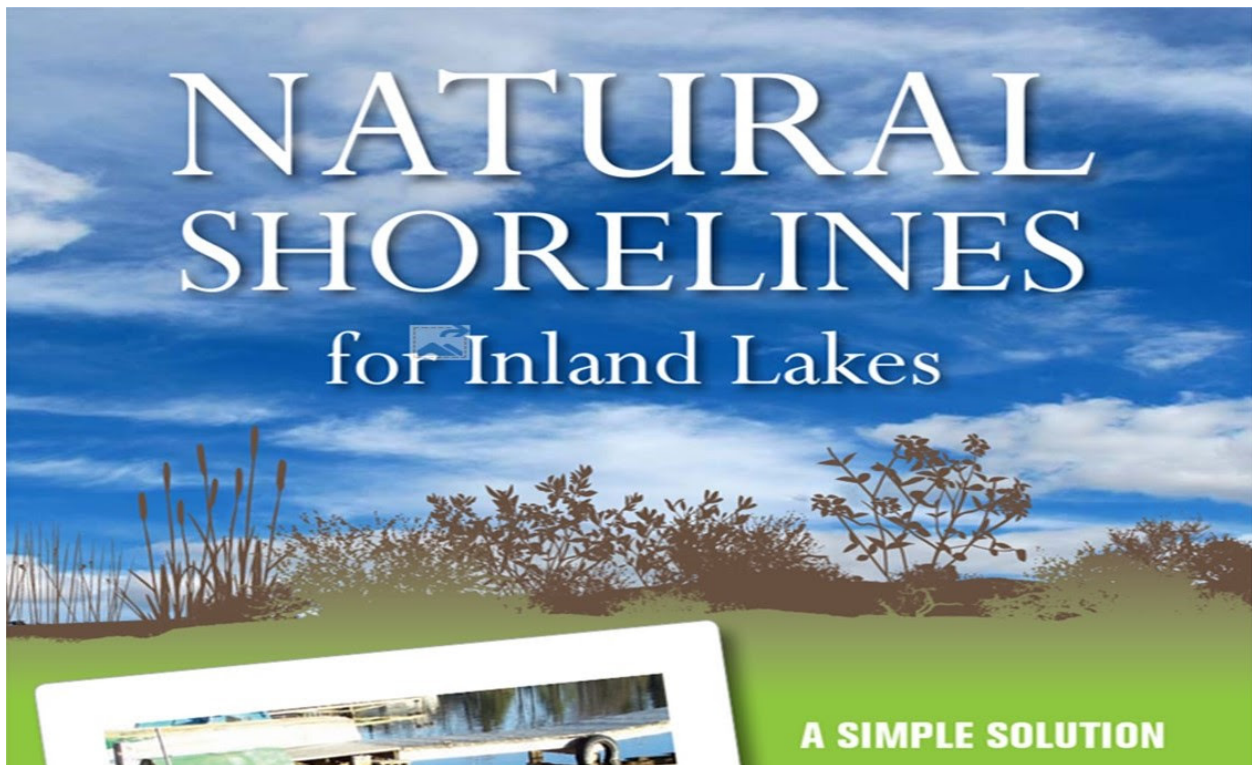
Invasive swallow-wort vines, kin to native milkweed plants, are disrupting the life cycle of monarch butterflies. *Hypera opulenta*, a defoliating moth that can only develop on invasive swallow-worts, was discovered in Ukraine and is now approved for field releases in North America. Marianna Szucs from 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.

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



Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
Caring for Michigan's outdoor places and stories since 1921



State parks, trails, and waterways

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



Virtual Lake Learning Opportunities

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: 2023 MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program volunteer training. Host: Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps). [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.](#)

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

\$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!!!



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



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](#)