

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Monday, July 3, 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.







July 2023: Lakes Appreciation Month

July 01, 2023

WHEREAS, lakes are among Michigan's most valuable natural resources; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan is home to more than 11,000 inland lakes and its 3,000 miles of shorelines are shaped by four of the five Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, these lakes and shorelines are critical resources to Michigan's environment and quality of life, providing sources of drinking water, irrigation, energy, commerce, recreation, scenic beauty, and habitat for fish and wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, these beneficial uses have been of vital importance to Michigan's history, growth, and financial health; and,

WHEREAS, these lakes are ranked among the best in the nation in regards to water quality, biological diversity, and integrity of healthy native plant and animal communities; and,

WHEREAS, invasive species, natural shoreland loss, and nutrient stressors continue to threaten the health of our lakes and shorelines, which will intensify as a result of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and the Department of Natural Resources administer programs to monitor lakes, manage fisheries, permit aquatic invasive species control activities, and promote the best land management practices at the shoreline and shorelands; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Chapter of the North American Lakes Management Society engages state and local agencies, Native American Nations, outreach institutions like universities and other educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, businesses, industries, and residents in a collaborative effort to ensure the quality, sustainability and ecological diversity of lakes with considerations of society's needs; and,

WHEREAS, maintaining the health of our lakes and shorelines is the responsibility of every resident, and through the Michigan Clean Water Corps, community volunteers have been organized and trained as lake monitors to bring education, resources and assistance to lake properties and their owners across the state; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan and the United States continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and support efforts to sustain and enhance the quality of our nation's lakes; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan recognizes the need to protect these lakes and shorelines for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim July 2023 as Lakes Appreciation Month in Michigan.



Photo by Scott Brown



Photo by Scott Brown

If not YOU, then who? We need YOU!

Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is the only all-volunteer non-profit organization in Michigan that is 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 ongoing expense.

To put it in blunt "no ifs, ands, or buts" terms, without **YOU** 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



"Coastal and waterfront communities depend on clean water as the foundation of a healthy and growing economy. Visitors from around the world are drawn to clean and pristine beaches, lakes, and other waterways, and local communities benefit from the economic activity that occurs when visitors spend their money in hotels, restaurants, shops, and other services. Similarly, residents of waterfront communities regularly use beaches and other waterways for recreation and community-building.

In short, clean water is the thread that ties waterfront communities together, drives their economies, and provides a quality of life for residents and a positive experience for visitors." ¹

¹ Alvarez, S., Lupi, F., Solís, D. and Thomas, M.. (2019). "Valuing Provision Scenarios of Coastal Ecosystem Services:

The Case of Boat Ramp Closures Due to Harmful Algae Blooms in Florida", *Water* 11, No. 6: 1250. https://doi.org/10.3390/w11061250



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2023

EGLE Media Office, EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov, 517-284-9278

Jeff Johnston, EGLE Public Information Officer, JohnstonJ14@Michigan.gov, 517-231-9304

EGLE seeks grant applications for water conservation best practices

Project will focus on identifying innovations and tech advancements to support sustainability

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is announcing a request for proposals (RFP) for a project to identify innovations and technological advancements in water conservation best practices that can benefit Michigan's water sectors and support long-term sustainability of Michigan's water resources. The project also will advance Michigan's goals under the MI Healthy Climate Plan to protect public health and the environment and develop new clean energy jobs by making Michigan's economy 100% carbon-neutral by 2050.

The project will inform Michigan's <u>Water Use and Water Conservation and Efficiency</u> <u>programs</u> and further the state's water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives established under the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers' <u>Great Lakes</u> <u>Agreement and Compact</u>.

Eligible to apply are for-profit and nonprofit entities; educational institutions; and federal, state, tribal, and local units of government. Individuals are not eligible. One chosen applicant will receive a maximum of \$100,000. The grant is co-funded by the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund (MGLPF) and funding appropriated by the Michigan Legislature to the Michigan Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC) through the federal American Rescue Plan Act. It will be administered by EGLE's Office of the Great Lakes (OGL).

The anticipated project award period is December 2023 to November 2024. Applications will be evaluated on project readiness and feasibility for completion within the 12-month time frame. Project tasks include:

- 1. Develop and implement an engagement and dissemination strategy to involve Michigan water sectors in the project to maximize the benefits of the project results and findings.
- 2. Summarize existing Michigan water sectors' processes to review and/or change water conservation best management practices (BMP).
- 3. Research innovation and technological advancements in water sector water conservation BMPs and their impacts within the business and industry sectors in other Great Lakes states and provinces and other innovative jurisdictions.
- 4. Summarize findings that will advance Michigan water sectors' water conservation BMPs within the business and industry sectors to help contribute to Michigan's water conservation and efficiency program goals as well as practices that may also contribute toward achieving Michigan's climate and carbon neutrality goals.
- 5. Present project results and findings to the Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC), the council's Water Conservation and Efficiency Committee, and business and industry sectors to inform and advance innovation in their sectors' water conservation and efficiency practices and contribute toward achieving Michigan's climate and carbon neutrality goals.

A webinar will be held Tuesday, July 25, at 2:00 pm to explain this funding opportunity. EGLE staff will present details of the RFP, the application process, and answer questions from the audience. The webinar is free, <u>but registration is required</u>.

Complete applications must be received no later than 5:00 pm, Monday, August 28, 2023. Email Kimber Frantz, <u>FrantzK@Michigan.gov</u>, with the subject line "Water Conservation BMP Application" and the application attached as a PDF file. Maximum attachment size is 10 megabytes. Applicants unable to submit by email should contact Kimber Frantz by email or phone, 517-275-0829.

Questions or comments regarding the program or application process may be directed to OGL's Great Lakes Senior Advisor and Strategist Emily Finnell, FinnellE@Michigan.gov or 517-599-1330; or Great Lakes Policy Specialist Simon Bélisle, BelisleS@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6390.

MSU Extension Lakes, Streams & Watersheds



Adding treetops into lakes (a practice called fish sticks) adds visual appeal to a shoreline property and creates a great place to view wildlife. Illustration credit: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

The long lived benefits of trees

by <u>Erick Elgin</u> and <u>Jo Latimore</u>

<u>Michigan State University Extension</u>

June 15, 2023

Trees provide valuable lake habitat long after their lives on land have ended.

Michigan State University Extension recognizes that the benefits of trees on our lakefront properties are many. The cool shade provided by the outstretched limbs of a maple tree not only provides a place to sit and enjoy the lake, but also reduces our energy bills by shielding our homes from the sun. Trees add a calming element to our yards that brings us closer to our lakes. Imagine the sounds of the rustling leaves of the quaking aspen or cottonwood tree with the call of a belted kingfisher as it swoops down to the lake to grab an unsuspecting fish. Trees also provide habitat for wildlife we love, like songbirds, squirrels, and owls. Trees truly enhance shoreline living for us and the animals that live around the lake.

However, we often overlook the benefits of trees that materialize long after their lives along our shorelines have ended. After growing for decades, shoreline trees eventually die and fall into lakes where they play new roles. These partially submerged logs now begin to provide important habitat for fish, turtles, birds, and more. These fallen trees also slow the energy of waves, reducing erosion and preventing sediment suspension, thereby improving water clarity. Fallen trees also boost the lake food web by providing a place for attached algae called periphyton to live. These periphyton then support grazing invertebrates like mayflies, snails, and caddisflies, which are food for amphibians, birds, and fish.

Fish especially benefit from fallen trees. Peer into the water around a fallen tree in late spring or early summer, and you may see smallmouth and largemouth bass building their spawning nests around them. Or look for strings of yellow perch eggs draped across the submerged wood. You may see bluegill who are attracted to fallen trees because they eat the invertebrates grazing on the periphyton. Northern pike may also be present because they use fallen trees for cover while they wait to ambush their prey.

To read more of this article. click here



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 27, 2023

CONTACT: Lynn Sutfin, 517-241-2112, Sutfinl1@michigan.gov

MDHHS recommends Michiganders and visitors avoid foam on waterbodies

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding Michigan residents and visitors to avoid foam on Michigan waterbodies such as lakes, rivers and streams.

Foam can form on any waterbody. Natural foam is usually off-white and/or brown, often has an earthy or fishy scent and tends to pile up in bays, in eddies or at river barriers such as dams.

Sometimes foam can contain harmful chemicals or bacteria. This can include high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-containing foam is usually bright white in color, lightweight and may pile up along shores or blow onto beaches. Some studies in people have found that that repeated high PFAS exposure is linked to liver damage and thyroid disease, among other health effects.

If you come in contact with any foam, MDHHS recommends you rinse off or bathe as soon as possible. According to current science, the risk of PFAS entering the body through skin contact is low. However, coming into contact with foam without rinsing off or bathing can lead to accidentally swallowing foam or its contents.

"We advise you to avoid contact with foam if you can, but if you accidentally come into contact with foam, you should rinse off as soon as possible," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Rinsing off in general after water activities is always a good idea."

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) also recommends that people do not allow their animals to come into contact or swallow foam on waterbodies. Animals are at risk of swallowing foam built up in their fur when grooming themselves. If animals do come into contact with foam, they should be rinsed off and bathed with fresh water. Pet owners with questions related to animals and foam ingestion should contact their veterinarian.

Anyone with questions about exposure to PFAS or foam can call the MDHHS Environmental Health hotline at 800-648-6942.

More information is available on the MPART website.

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Defined by a 250 Million Year Natural History, and the Extraordinary Capacity to Breath Air, the Bowfin that Inhabit Michigan's Lakes and Rivers are Deserving of a Little Respect

Story, photo, and video by Scott Brown

Usually observed scouting for their next meal of crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed or an occasional crayfish within the cool, calm, dimly lit waters that exist just beneath dense vegetative canopy formed by the large leaves of white and yellow pond lily, the primitive fish commonly referred to as bowfin (scientific name *Amia calva*) is one of only two surviving members of a once diverse taxon of freshwater fish known as Halecomorphi that first appeared around 250 million years ago during the early Triassic period.

Bowfin are also frequently referred to in much less deferential terms such as mud fish, dog fish, or swamp trout by those with little or no knowledge or appreciation for the species incredible natural history, or for their extraordinary capacity to "breath" both water and air. Although the often large, powerful fish is known to put up a good fight after being hooked, the ancient species lack of popularity with the sport fishing community is reinforced by the fact that the bony species is not considered edible.

Capable of living up to thirty-three years, and of growing to lengths of up to thirty inches, bowfin possess olive or brown coloration, and are adorned with dorsal fins that extend for a large portion of their cylindrical shaped bodies. While male bowfin are identified by the presence of a distinctive black eyespot on the base of their tail, females are identified by their longer length, and the absence of the eyespot at the base of their tail. Fisheries biologists familiar with the natural history of the unusual species believe that the eyespot that appears on the tail of the male evolved in order to confuse potential predators for just long enough to allow the powerful swimmer to escape predation.

Now limited to lakes and rivers located in the eastern United States and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, bowfin possess the extraordinary capacity to breathe both water and air – a trait that is enabled by the presence of conventional gills that serve to exchange gas in the water, and a gas bladder that serves to help them maintain buoyancy while also allowing them to breathe air by means of a pneumatic duct that is connected from the foregut to their gas bladder. With the ability to break the surface in order to gulp oxygen laden air from the earth's atmosphere, bowfin are capable of surviving aquatic hypoxia – a condition that produces large scale fish kills that is usually caused by severely polluted, warm waters that gradually become devoid of life sustaining dissolved oxygen.

To view a brief video of a large female bowfin that I recently captured with my trusty Go Pro 10 while snorkeling in a southern Michigan inland lake, click on the large arrow symbol that appears below.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2023

Jeff Johnston, EGLE Public Information Officer, <u>JohnstonJ14@Michigan.gov</u>, 517-231-9304

Kevin Walters, EGLE Aquatic Biologist, <u>WaltersK3@Michigan.gov</u>, 616-250-8637

Boating, fishing outreach events to mark Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week

More than 50 boat landing events are planned across the state to mark this year's Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week, July 2-8. Public awareness about the impacts of harmful, nonnative aquatic plants and animals is critical to protecting Michigan's ecosystems, tourism, and economy.

The boat landing events are part of the 10th annual Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Landing Blitz, in which local partners such as lake associations and Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) give boaters tips to prevent the spread of invasive species and comply with recently updated laws for recreational boating. The Landing Blitz website allows you to search for an event near you. Similar AIS Landing Blitz events will be held in each of the Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces.

Help prevent the spread of AIS by following these simple steps:

Required actions: It's the law in Michigan

- Remove all aquatic organisms, including plants, from watercraft and trailers before launching or transporting.
- Remove all drain plugs and drain all water from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells before transporting a watercraft.
- Dispose of unused bait in the trash, not in the water.

Recommended additional actions: Protect our waters by following these steps

- Clean boats, trailers, and equipment by removing plants, debris, and mud before leaving the access area. Dispose of the material in a trash receptacle or otherwise away from the water body, if possible.
- Wash boats and trailers before leaving the access area, if possible, or at a nearby car wash or at home.
- Dry boats and equipment for five days before launching into a different water body.
- Disinfect live wells and bilges with a bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach to 5 gallons water.)

A prerecorded <u>NotMISpecies</u> webinar from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) called "Clean It Up, Drain It Out, Dry It Off: Boating Hygiene for the 21st Century" shows how easy it is to clean, drain, and dry boats and trailers to help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.

"Recreational boaters and anglers can play a key role in helping prevent the spread of invasive species," said Kevin Walters, aquatic biologist with EGLE. "Instead of spreading invasive species, we're asking people to help spread the word about simple steps that can be taken when out recreating on Michigan's waters."

Events at boat launches are contingent on weather and volunteer availability. Contact Kevin Walters at <u>waltersk3@michigan.gov</u> for a list of events.

AIS Awareness Week is sponsored by EGLE's Water Resources Division, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, federal agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations. For more information about AIS Awareness Week or the AIS Landing Blitz, visit Michigan's invasive species webpage at Michigan.gov/invasives.



Before leaving and before launching... inspect everything!

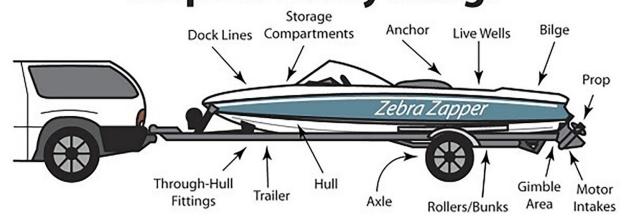




Photo by Scott Brown

White water lily

Scientific Name: Nymphaea odorata



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

July 13, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

<u>Can this moth help save monarchs? Swallow-wort biological control efforts in Michigan</u>

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.

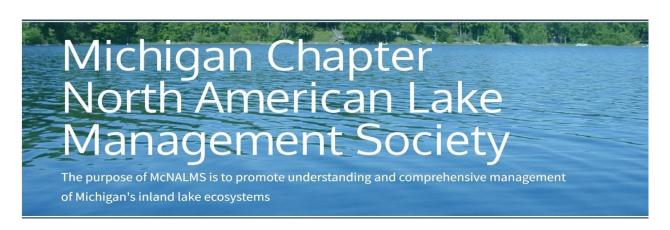
Michigan.gov/EGLEevents

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:

Joel Roseberry: RoseberryJ@michigan.gov

Alana Berthold: BertholdA@michigan.gov





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



Events Listing

All times Eastern. "\$" indicates there may be a cost to participate.

NEW July 13, 1:00 PM: Harmful algal blooms in Michigan's recreational waters. Presented by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). <u>More details</u>.

July 25, 1:00 PM: Landscaping over septic systems. Presented by Beth Clawson, Michigan State University Extension. Host: Michigan State University Extension. More details.

NEW July 25, 2:00 PM: Aquatic invasive species in commerce - July summit. Host: Aquatic Invasive Species in Commerce. <u>More details</u>.

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 <u>You</u> 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 <u>your</u> 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 <u>your</u> behalf and on behalf of protecting Michigan's water resources in our state capitol??

Did you know that Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a proactive member of the collaborative lake conservation focused organization known as the <u>Michigan Inland Lakes</u> <u>Partnership???</u>

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 <u>United States House of Representatives</u>, the <u>United States Senate</u>, and to the <u>United States</u>

<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> 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



ATTENTION READERS!!!

In order to add your friends, neighbors, and/or fellow lake or watershed conservation focused association member emails 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