



Photo by Scott Brown

Starry stonewort

(Scientific Name: *Nitellopsis obtusa*)

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance
Update for Thursday, June 15th, 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.



facebook



Photo: Scott Brown

Lake Awareness Day Focuses on Protecting Michigan's High Quality Inland Lakes

by Lois Wolfson

MSU Extension / Institute of Water Research

Key organizations from around the state that work to manage and protect Michigan's lakes met with legislators, staff, agency personnel, and others during the May 18 forum held at Karoub Associates, a block from the State Capitol. The coordinators of the event prepared infographics and posters with information that highlighted Water Quality and Quantity in inland lakes; Stressors and Impacts; Economics and Ecological Values and Solutions and Support. The event was organized by members of Michigan Waterfront Alliance; Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS), Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society (MAPMS), Michigan Aquatic Managers Association (MAMA), FLOW (For Love of Water), MSU Institute of Water Research and MSU Extension.



Photo: Great Lakes Fisheries Commission

MWA Supports Passage of Governor Whitmer's Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 State Budget that (Finally) Enables the Battle Against an Onslaught of Terrestrial and Aquatic Exotic Invasive Species in Michigan

MWA Encourages Readers to Contact Their State Representatives and Senators to Support the Governor's 2024 Budget Recommendation

Michigan Governor Whitmer's Fiscal Year 2024 executive budget proposal includes \$64 M in funding that along with matching funding from Illinois will enable the completion of a significant modification to the Joliet, Illinois-based Brandon Road Lock and Dam that will help keep highly invasive carp from the entering the Great Lakes in addition to \$12 M in funds to establish for the first time in Michigan an exotic invasive species rapid response task force.

In an era marked by the steadily increasing presence of highly invasive exotic terrestrial and aquatic species whose very existence represents a significant threat to Michigan's economy and culture, funding to create a multi-agency invasive species rapid response task force that will be dedicated to preventing the introduction and establishment of new invasive plant and animal species, and will also work pro-actively to limit the spread and harmful influences of the many exotic invasive species that are already present represents a vital step in Michigan's battle against exotic invasive species.

It is important to point our that the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in the Chicago Area Waterway System located near Joliet, Illinois is a critical point for on-going collaborative efforts designed to help keep invasive bighead, silver, and black carp from entering the Great Lakes. The project that is being jointly funded by Michigan and Illinois involves installing layered technologies that when complete will include an electric barrier, underwater sound, an air bubble curtain, and a flushing lock that has been designed to prevent the movement of invasive carp while simultaneously allowing barge traffic to pass through the lock passage.


To learn more about the Brandon Road Lock and Dam as it exists today, visit the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers facility dedicated website by [clicking here](#)

To download a copy of Governor Whitmer's proposed Fiscal Year 2024 state budget, [click here...](#)

To find your Michigan Senator based on your home address, visit <https://senate.michigan.gov/FindYourSenator/>

To find your Michigan Representative based on your home address, visit <https://www.house.mi.gov/>

Natural Resources



- Climate and carbon sequestration, \$2m
 - Expands carbon credit program that sells carbon sequestration credits to Michigan companies for the preservation of vital carbon sequestering ecosystems and lands
- Forest land management, \$3m
 - Expands and purchases equipment for forest management operations, improving habitat preservation
- Invasive Species and Habitat Strike Team, \$12m
 - Creates an invasive species response task force that will lead and accelerate efforts to prevent the intrusion of new, and contain current, invasive species in Michigan
- Aquatic invasive species prevention, \$64m (FY23 Supplemental)
 - Provides required match for the construction of the Brandon Locks to prevent the desolation of the Great Lakes ecosystem by invasive carp and other aquatic nuisance species
- Emergency response and fire management, \$4m
 - Expands and equips the state firefighting force to meet increased foreset fire and emergency response demands stemming from the changing climate

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Photo by Scott Brown

ROCK BASS
(Scientific Name: *Ambloplites rupestris*)



**Legislation Intended to Usurp the Authority of Local Units
of Government to Regulate Sand and Gravel Mines Now
Under Consideration in Michigan's State Legislature**

Sponsored by Representative Pat Outman (R-Belvidere Twp.), Representative Tyrone Carter (D-Detroit), and Representative Angela Witwer (D-Delta Charter Twp.), if passed into law Michigan House Bills [4526](#), [4527](#), and [4528](#) would act to usurp the authority of local units of government and allow a sand and gravel mine, crushing facility, or storage facility to operate anywhere within a community—regardless of the zoning that may be in place— and completely undermine the capacity of local government officials to effectively balance the needs of all property owners within the borders of their jurisdiction.

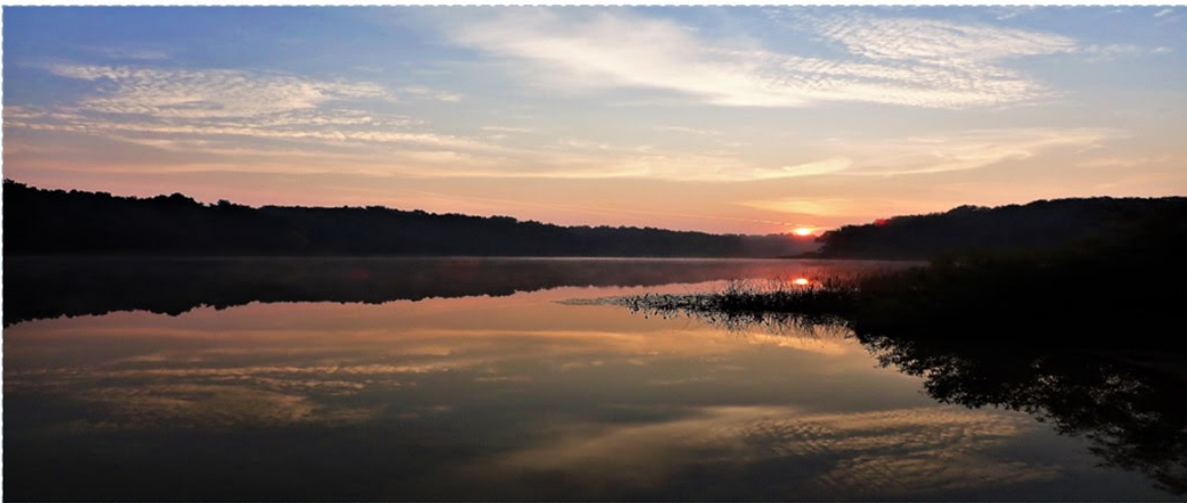
Under the three-bill package now under consideration by the Michigan state legislature, no local regulations could apply to issues that are now inherently

local in nature, including hours of operation, truck routes, noise, dust control and fencing. If your community currently has aggregate mining operations permitted, this legislation would also allow the owner/operator to move from your locally approved permit to a new site approved by the state—leaving your township with virtually no authority to regulate a mining operation already in operation in your community.

Please exercise your constitutional right to express your opinion regarding this anti-democratic legislation by contracting your state representative and senator;

To find your Michigan Senator based on your home address, visit <https://senate.michigan.gov/FindYourSenator/>

To find your Michigan Representative based on your home address, visit <https://www.house.mi.gov/>



“The mere mention of the familiar water-sports should be sufficient to emphasize the appeal of lakes to our physical natures. But the appeal is deeper. Lakes are attractive not alone for their beauty but to a large extent because they portray so faithfully our own emotions and intensify the condition of our physical environment. During periods of calm, winter's solitude is accentuated by the icebound expanse and, in summer, tranquility is reflected from the unbroken surface.” **Dr. Irving Day Scott**, State of Michigan Geological and Biological Survey Publication 30, Geological Series 25, *Inland Lakes of Michigan*, 1920.

Do you...

- like the outdoors, native plants, and wildlife?
- have a passion for habitat restoration?
- enjoy sharing what you learn with others?





Michigan
CONSERVATION STEWARDS
Program

MSU Extension’s 2023 Conservation Stewards Program now registering for 7 cohort locations

Now registering!

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program from Michigan State University Extension offers 10 weeks of instruction this fall, including weekly online course content, in-person lectures, field instruction, and more.'

7 locations statewide!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../msu-extension-s-2023...>



June 6, 2023

Contact: [Jay Wesley](#), 269-204-7057 or [Jeremiah Blaauw](#), 906-235-7679

Fish kills may be more common during summer heat

With increasing temperatures across Michigan, anglers, boaters and lakefront property owners may discover dead fish or other aquatic animals. While such sights can be startling, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone that it is common — summer heat conditions can cause fish and other creatures such as turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish to die.

“The majority of summer fish kills are due to low oxygen in the water, a natural phenomenon associated with weather,” said Jeremiah Blaauw, DNR fisheries biologist. “However, some other factors such as chemical treatments of aquatic plants and algae can increase the risk of a fish kill.”

Environmental conditions strongly affect the stress level of fish; temperature and dissolved oxygen concentrations are key variables. Fish need oxygen just as humans do, but fish absorb dissolved oxygen (oxygen gas that is dissolved in water) directly through their gills into the bloodstream.

During periods of hot, calm weather, dissolved levels of oxygen in nutrient-rich lakes often decline, while the metabolic rate in most fish — the number of calories needed to accomplish basic life-sustaining functions like respiration — increases. That means fish in these systems often are being pinched by both temperature and oxygen at the same time.

“'Nutrient-rich' sounds like a good thing, but that isn't necessarily true when it comes to water quality,” Blaauw said. “Our lakes often have artificially high concentrations of nutrients due to human-connected sources like wastewater or fertilizer runoff. The nutrients support dense growth of plants and algae. While plants and algae produce oxygen during the day through photosynthesis, they consume oxygen at night via their own respiration. This situation can lead to oxygen crashes during warm summer nights.”

Spawning stress is another factor that plays a critical role in many fish mortality events. Due to the wide variations in climate from north to south in Michigan, sunfish can spawn from May through early July. During the last five years, these three months had the highest numbers of fish kill reports through the DNR's Eyes in the Field system.

Most fish kill events are the culmination of a series of causes. For example, the following scenario occurs every year in southern Michigan. Bluegills are stressed from spawning activity. At the same time, a period of hot weather causes water temperatures to rise rapidly. Herbicide is applied to control algae and invasive plant species. This combination of stressors depresses the immune system, and bacteria already present in the lake infect bluegills and result in an outbreak of columnaris disease.

Learn more about fish kills at Michigan.gov/FishHealth.

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 nonnatural causes, call the [nearest DNR office](#) or Michigan's Pollution Emergency Alert System at 800-292-4706.



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

[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.



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



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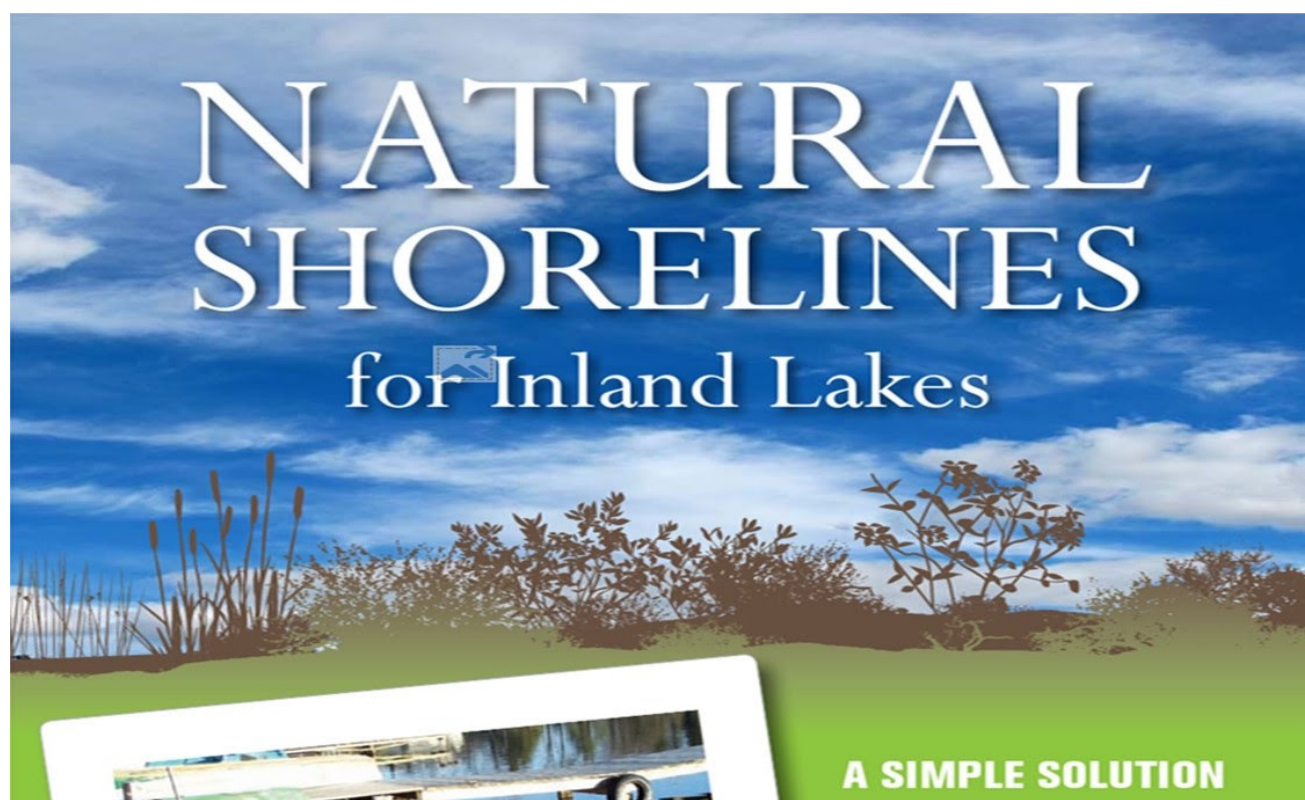
Recorded webinars in this series:

[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



Events Listing

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

June 30, 11:30 AM: Making lake life great (*how individuals and governments can keep our inland lakes well loved and well protected*). Presented by Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. Host: Michigan Environmental Council. [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](#)
