

Photo by Scott Brown

**Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance**  
**Update for Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

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**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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## Michigan's Governor Whitmer Signs Legislation that Overturns 2018 "No Stricter than Federal Policy" Law

by Scott Brown  
MWA e-Newsletter Editor

Serving to restore the authority of the State of Michigan to enact and enforce environmental regulations potentially more stringent than those passed by the United States Congress and enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency, Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed Michigan Senate Bill 14 which would (again) allow state agencies to better protect Michigan's natural resources by tailoring their rules, regulations, and policies to better suit Michigan's unique environmental stature.

Introduced by State Senator Sean McCann of Kalamazoo, the now enacted legislation was written and introduced in order to help preserve and protect Michigan's natural resources, and in particular the earth's greatest supply of freshwater, from "federal environmental standards that are usually set to the lowest common denominator".

It is important to point out that the language of Michigan Senate Bill 14 effectively reverses a 2018 state law passed in the final days of Governor Rick Snyder's administration that was known as the **"no stricter than federal" policy** — that acted to severely limit the authority of Michigan state government to establish and enforce more stringent environmental regulations than the federal government in many cases. Passage of Senate Bill 14 also helps to "immunize" Michigan environmental law from the destabilizing influences



associated with the "who controls Congress" driven “ebb and flow” of federal law based environmental regulation.

The bill’s Michigan Senate sponsor, Senator Sean McCann also indicated that passage of the legislation made effective by Governor Whitmer’s signature will help “ensure our state can act swiftly with the best science available in the future.”



Photo by Scott Brown

## Coontail, Hornwort

Scientific Name:  
*Ceratophyllum demersum*

Did you know that the perennial, herbaceous submerged aquatic plant commonly referred to as coontail that is often dismissed by riparian property owners and other not very well informed lake users as a "pain in the xxx" nuisance actually provides a host of important ecological services that help promote good water quality, clarity and biodiversity??

The often abundantly growing coontail -

- Utilizes or stores a high quantity of nutrients that would otherwise be available to support water clarity inhibiting algae growth;
  - Secretes a hormone that help suppress algae growth;
  - Helps remove toxic metals such as lead, zinc, and copper from the sediment;
  - Serves as an important source of oxygen for fish and other other aquatic animals that need dissolved oxygen to live;
  - Provides shade that helps cool the water - cool water is capable of hosting greater concentrations of dissolved oxygen;
  - Serves as critical habitat for a diversity of fish, and the myriad of aquatic invertebrates that fish depend upon for growth and survival
  - Plays an important role in achieving and sustaining high quality inland lake ecosystems that are capable of supporting a wide variety of recreational uses
-

## Training and Outreach

### WEBINAR

#### 2023 Septic Smart Week: Know Your Septic System!

**Monday, September 18, 9:00 - 10:00 AM**

Michigan's residents rely on over 1.3 million septic systems to treat the wastewater generated in their homes. Proper septic system use and routine care are vital to protecting public health and preserving our highly valued groundwater, lakes, streams, and waterways. Learning about septic systems can help you avoid costly repairs.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Onsite Wastewater Program is kicking off [Septic Smart Week](#) with this 1-hour webinar, which will be recorded. While this event is targeted to homeowners served by a septic system, all interested persons are welcomed to attend. Webinar attendees will learn about:

- the basics of septic systems,
- tools on how to locate a septic system, and
- use, operation, and maintenance tips.

You'll leave this webinar with access to educational materials and a boost in your ability to manage your septic system. Mark your calendar and register today!

The SepticSmart program is a nation-wide initiative to share information on the proper care and maintenance of septic systems and encourage public stewardship in caring for these systems. For more information, visit [epa.gov/septic](http://epa.gov/septic).



**[Michigan.gov/EGLEevents](https://Michigan.gov/EGLEevents)**

PROGRAM QUESTIONS:

Marisa Faraldo: [FaraldoM@Michigan.gov](mailto:FaraldoM@Michigan.gov)



#### REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:

Alana Berthold: [BertholdA@Michigan.gov](mailto:BertholdA@Michigan.gov)

Joel Roseberry: [RoseberryJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:RoseberryJ@Michigan.gov)

Individuals needing language assistance or accommodations for effective participation at this event should contact Joel Roseberry at 517-599-9494 by September 5 to request language, mobility, visual, hearing, translation, and/or other assistance.

EGLE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation in the administration of any of its programs or activities, and prohibits intimidation and retaliation, as required by applicable laws and regulations.



Aquariums and water gardens add beauty and tranquility to our homes. Many plants and animals that we use in aquariums and backyard ponds have been imported from other parts of the world. While they are excellent to enjoy they may be harmful to Michigan's native ecosystems if they are released into the wild. Although Michigan's winter temperatures stop some exotic species from reproducing in our lakes and streams, this is not always the case. Some species survive and thrive, negatively impacting the environment, decreasing recreational opportunities and causing severe economic consequences.

It is never safe to release water garden or aquarium plants and animals into the natural environment, even if they appear to be dead.

Together we can keep Michigan's waterways healthy and pure

- Never release an aquatic plant or animal into a waterway (lake, river, storm drains, retention ponds)
- Give or trade unwanted fish or plants with another hobbyist, retailer, environmental learning center, aquarium or zoo. Use the [RIPPLE Fresh Water Protector network map](#) to find a participating retailer nearest you.
- Unwanted hitchhiking species are common. Inspect and rinse any new plants to rid them of seeds, plant fragments, snails and fish.
- Build water gardens away from other waters. Check out the MSU Extension [Smart Gardening fact sheet on water gardening](#) to learn more.
- Contact a veterinarian or pet retailer for guidance on humane disposal of animals.

To learn more about the Michigan State University Extension Invasive Species program, [click here](#)

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## **MSU Extension**

### **Conservation Stewards Program**

#### **MSU Extension's 2023 Conservation Stewards Program now registering for 7 cohort locations**

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program offers 10 weeks of instruction delivered between September and November 2023, including weekly online course content, in-person lectures, field instruction, and more.

Michigan State University Extension's Conservation Stewards Program (CSP) is now enrolling participants for its Fall 2023 programs, which will span 10 weeks beginning the week of September 11 and running through the week of November 13. In 2023, CSP will be offered across 7 cohort locations, including:

- Capital Area (Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties)
- Grand Traverse County
- Oakland County
- St. Clair County
- Washtenaw County
- Wayne County
- West Michigan (Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties)

Each week of instruction, this hybrid program combines virtual, self-paced lessons with in-person evening sessions at various locations within each cohort's region. Additionally, 1-2 Saturday in-person field trips within each cohort's region will take place, along with participants completing applied capstone projects related to restoring and conserving Michigan's ecosystems, with guidance provided by a local mentor.

The last date to register will be Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, with partial scholarship opportunities available. For additional details of the 2023 Conservation Stewards Program and to register, please visit [events.anr.msu.edu/micsp2023](https://events.anr.msu.edu/micsp2023).

#### **About the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program**

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program is an educational program offered by Michigan State University Extension and many partner organizations geared toward those who are enthusiastic about learning science-based ecosystem management principles and sharing this knowledge with others to help improve their local communities. Through CSP, participants learn essential strategies to understand and help restore and conserve ecosystems in Michigan communities. To learn more about CSP and the 2023 cohort locations, please visit the website at [canr.msu.edu/csp](https://canr.msu.edu/csp).

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).





## NALMS 2023 Registrations are Open!

The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) and [Pennsylvania Lake Management Society \(PALMS\)](#) invites you to attend our 43rd International Symposium, to be held October 22–26, 2023 in Erie, Pennsylvania. We are excited to share that both attendee and exhibitor registrations are now open, as well as registrations for workshops and field trips!

At a time when climate change, invasive species risks, and cultural pressures threaten the natural environment and biodiversity of our fragile ecosystem, the opportunity to highlight and mesh the State of Pennsylvania and its rich diversity of aquatic habitats is long overdue.

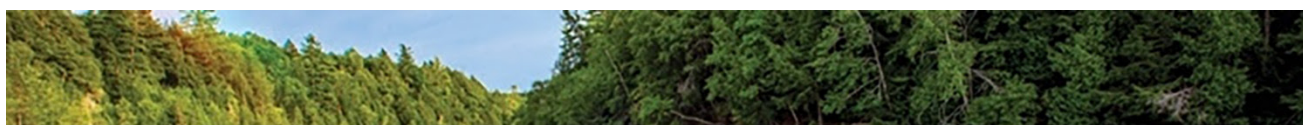
NALMS' Symposium typically attracts an international collection of 500–600 lake management professionals, academia, and citizen attendees. The Symposium promotes the exchange of lake and reservoir management science, produces material for NALMS' high-quality publications, provides a rare opportunity for networking, as well as an opportunity to recognize excellence in the field of lake and reservoir management.

**[Register as an Attendee](#)**

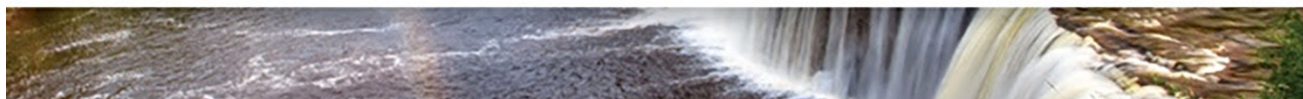
**[Register as an Exhibitor](#)**

**[Become as Conference Sponsor](#)**

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 14, 2023

Jeff Johnston, EGLE Public Information Officer, [JohnstonJ14@Michigan.gov](mailto:JohnstonJ14@Michigan.gov), 517-231-9304

Robert Sweet, Grant Specialist, [SweetR@Michigan.gov](mailto:SweetR@Michigan.gov), 517-512-9765

## 19 watershed organizations share \$600,000 in EGLE conservation, education grants

Next request for proposals to be available soon



The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) today announced 19 grants totaling approximately \$600,000 for projects that will support watershed organizations with conservation and educational efforts.

The Watershed Council Support grants are funded under Michigan's Public Act 166 of 2022. Grants are limited to \$40,000 per applicant, and the projects will be completed within a year of receiving the grants.

Among the activities funded are organizational and administrative support for watershed organizations; and outreach and educational activities for a variety of watershed issues including new efforts for underrepresented audiences, installing best management practices to control nonpoint sources of pollution, developing watershed management plan elements, water quality and aquatic life monitoring, assessment of environmental justice issues and audiences, and desktop and field inventories of nonpoint sources of pollution.

Michigan-based organizations and projects selected to receive funding:

- Adrian: River Raisin Watershed Council, \$39,940.
- Allegan: Allegan Conservation District, \$40,000.
- Alma: Healthy Pine River, \$31,400.
- Beulah: Benzie Conservation District, \$32,338.
- Big Rapids: Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, \$25,729.
- Camden: Little Long Lake IN-MI Watershed Association, Inc., \$12,750.
- Gaylord: Huron Pines, \$12,000.
- Grand Rapids: Kent Conservation District, \$40,000.
- Hancock: Copper Country ISD/Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, \$39,419.
- Harbor Springs: Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, \$39,955.
- Kalamazoo: Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, \$39,931.
- Marquette: Superior Watershed Partnership, \$40,000.
- Petoskey: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, \$39,850.
- Plymouth: Friends of the Rouge, \$39,987.
- Rochester Hills: Clinton River Watershed Council, \$18,750.
- Saginaw: Saginaw Conservation District, \$16,075.
- Saginaw: Saginaw County Health Department, \$19,960.
- Taylor: Friends of the Detroit River, \$39,988.
- Twin Lake: Muskegon Conservation District, \$36,711.

A total of 52 applications requesting over \$1.8 million were received in response to the request for proposals.

The grants are issued by EGLE's [Nonpoint Source \(NPS\) Program](#), which helps local stakeholders reduce pollution and excess runoff by supporting efforts to develop and launch watershed management plans. The NPS program typically issues three requests for proposals each year with the next available later this month. It will be posted at [Michigan.gov/NPS](https://Michigan.gov/NPS).

To stay up to date on EGLE news, follow [Michigan.gov/MIEnvironment](https://Michigan.gov/MIEnvironment).

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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 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.

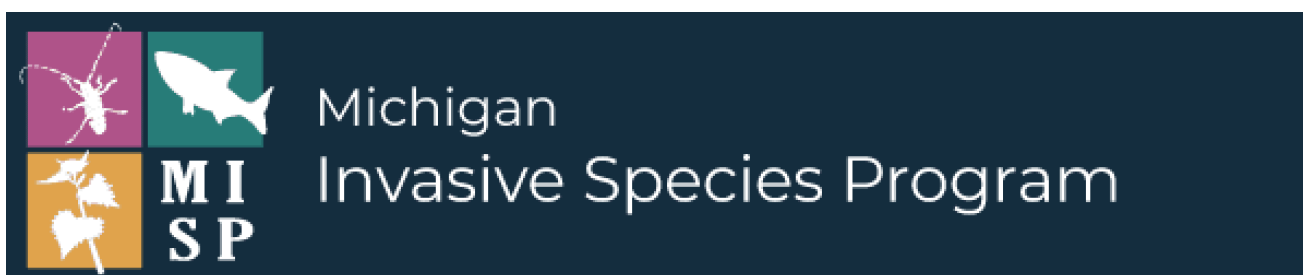
Please also remember that with the exception of a few relatively minor expenses related to keeping our website updated, and on-line, and a few relatively minor costs associated with distributing our e-newsletter, **all** of our membership and donation derived income goes to paying our downtown Lansing-based 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.

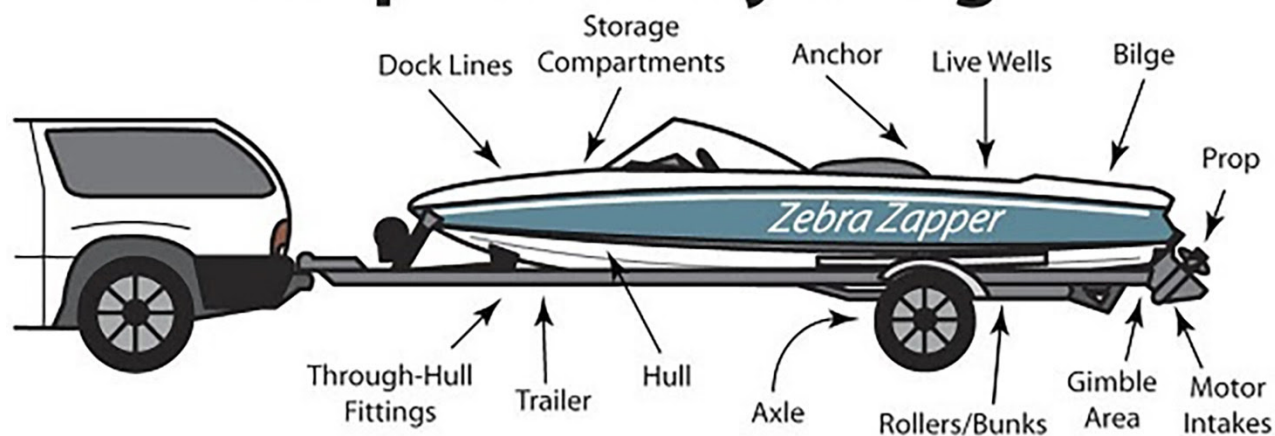
**Thank you** for reading and considering this hopefully convincing appeal for donations - **no amount is considered too small** - all donations of money are happily received and acknowledged within the context of the generous spirit that prompted them!!!!!!!!!!

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

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



Before leaving and before launching...  
**inspect everything!**





## 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](https://Michigan.gov/EGLE/Outreach) under "Featured Webinar Series."

Tuesday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

### [Where the Sidewalk Ends: Choosing Resilient Trees for Tomorrow's Urban Environments](#)

Ash, elm and chestnut trees once were as common in cities as the streets that bear their names. Our canopy today is much less diverse due to insects, disease, invasive species and poor species selection. Lawrence Sobson, DNR urban forester and partnership coordinator, will share examples of ideal tree species, how to assess urban sites and provide the information you need ensure the trees you choose can live for the next 100 years.

Tuesday, November 7, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

### [Must You Find Another Shrubbery? Understanding the Impacts of Invasive Box Tree Moth in Michigan](#)

Box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) was first detected in Michigan in fall 2022. This invasive pest, native to East Asia, poses a major threat to the boxwood plant, an ornamental shrub that is a valuable part of the U.S. (and Michigan) nursery and horticultural industry. Join Susie Iott, MDARD invasive species program specialist, to learn more about identification, impacts and the state's response to limit the spread of this invasive pest.



**[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.*

August 17, 1:00 PM: Conservation planning in municipalities: Case studies of urban wetlands and waterways. Presented by Ronda Burnett, Missouri Department of Conservation. Host: Society of Wetland Scientists. [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](#). \$

September 6: Understanding algal blooms: State of the science conference (*hybrid event: virtual and in-person options*). Host: Ohio Sea Grant. [More details](#). \$

September 18, 9:00 AM: Knowing your septic system - SepticSmart 2023. Presented by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Onsite Wastewater Program. Host: Michigan EGLE. [More details](#).

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**>>> 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](mailto:scottb1952@gmail.com)



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### 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](#)

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Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here

[Unsubscribe](#)