



Photo by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Update for Friday, September 1, 2023

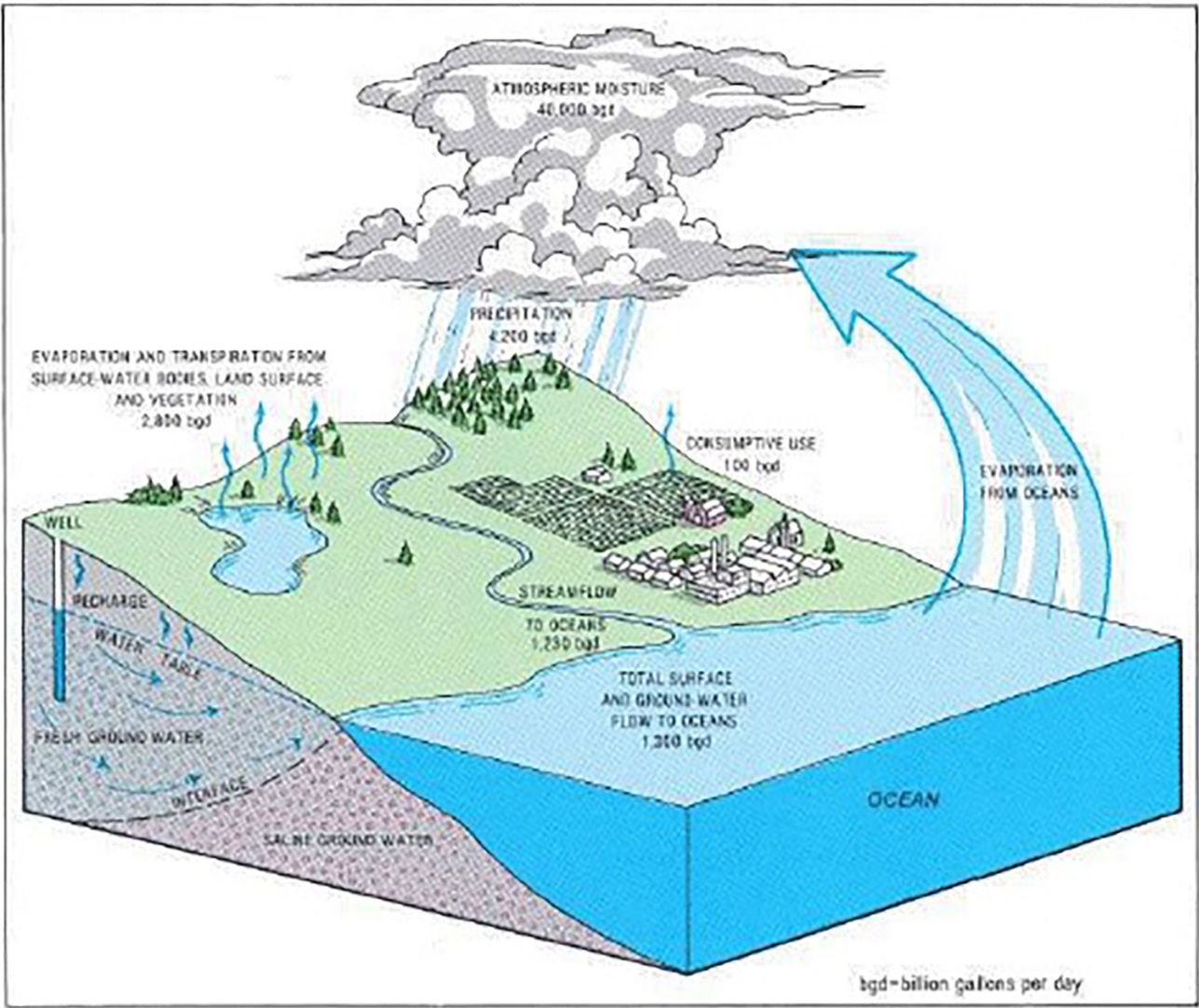


Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation formed over twenty years ago in order to effectively advocate for the creation or preservation of state laws, and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable and wise use of our state's immense treasure 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



Graphic by USGS

Ground Water Aquifer Depletion Becoming a Significant National and State Issue

by Scott Brown
MWA e - Newsletter Editor

The freshwater that lies beneath the earth’s surface that is often referred to as groundwater has served as a vital life sustaining resource on earth for millions of years. In the modern era, rural communities, businesses, farms, and private residences located a

long distance from lakes, rivers, streams, or urban water systems depend almost entirely upon groundwater wells for fresh potable water. In the past one hundred years, however, ground water consumption in many areas of the United States, and in particular areas that support intensive agricultural or mining operations, has surged as progressively more powerful and effective technological means are used to extract and consume greater volumes of groundwater. Simply put, in many areas of the United States groundwater is being extracted at rates that mother nature in all her glory is not capable of restoring. It is important to note that the United States Geological Survey reports that approximately 10% of the ground water aquifers in the United States fell to their lowest level on record last year.

In a recent interview with the New York Times, Don Cline, United States Geological Survey associate director for water resources indicated that “there’s almost no way to convey how important this issue is...” In Kansas, for example, ground water aquifer depletion has already resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of corn that an average acre is capable of producing. In Michigan’s Ann Arbor township, groundwater wells serving homes, businesses, and farms are failing at a steadily increasing rate due to the extraordinarily high volumes of groundwater that are being extracted by a local aggregate mining operation. Causing local groundwater aquifers to drop to record low levels, the fact that the mining operation is paying to lower, and/or to otherwise restore the groundwater wells of those negatively affected by their operation is of little or no consolation to residents, business leaders, and state and local government officials who view progressively depleted groundwater aquifers as a significant challenge.

Local governments, and/or planning commissions charged with reviewing and/or approving permit applications from those proposing to conduct aggregate mining or other high volume groundwater consumption operations in a particular area need to be acutely aware of the fact that such operations are capable of having a significant influence on local groundwater aquifer levels. Local officials charged with making decisions regarding large scale groundwater extractions would be well advised to conduct a hydrologic study of the area under consideration before approving high volume groundwater withdrawals. Local officials charged with making groundwater extraction related decisions in areas hosting inland lakes that rely on ground water as their primary water source should also be mindful that lower ground water aquifer levels may also equate to lower inland lake levels.





To help ensure your safety, and the safety of friends and family on-board your watercraft this weekend, please insist that everyone wear a **United States Coast Guard** approved life jacket!!!



DRINKING WATER: PROTECTING MI SOURCE

an **EGLE** Webinar Series

Register today for Protecting MI Source Webinar Series!

Our drinking water comes from a variety of sources including groundwater, rivers, and lakes. There are thousands of water supplies providing drinking water to the public and hundreds of thousands more private water wells supplying water to millions of people in Michigan and millions more across the Great Lakes Region. Knowing and understanding the quality and quantity of the source is a critical first step in planning and developing sustainable approaches and managing our drinking water resources. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) presents [this webinar series](#) to highlight how agencies, communities, universities, local organizations, and citizens can promote and protect drinking water sources. A question-and-answer period will follow each presentation.

This webinar series is provided through a collaborative partnership with EGLE, the Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University (IWRMSU), and the Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA). More webinars will be added throughout the year.

Upcoming webinar in the series

October 3, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

[Blooming Waters: Understanding Harmful Algal Blooms and Safe Drinking Water](#)

Harmful algal blooms are a growing concern across the nation, and Michigan is no exception. These blooms can produce toxins that pose significant risks to both human health and aquatic ecosystems. In this webinar, we will delve into the fascinating science behind algal blooms, their causes and detrimental effects, and examples of efforts taken to prevent drinking water exposures.

Key Topics to be Covered:

- **Understanding the Science:** Discover the factors that contribute to the formation of harmful algal blooms and the conditions that foster their growth.
- **Monitoring Michigan's Waterways:** Learn about EGLE's efforts to track and detect harmful algal blooms in various surface water bodies.

- **Safeguarding Drinking Water:** Explore Michigan's efforts to ensure the safety of drinking water systems and protect the health of its residents.

Michigan.gov/EGLEevents

PROGRAM QUESTIONS:

Sara Pearson: PearsonS@Michigan.gov

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:

Alana Berthold: BertholdA@Michigan.gov

Joel Roseberry: RoseberryJ@Michigan.gov



Use water safety smarts at beaches, breakwalls and piers

If your plans include swimming at state parks, especially along the Great Lakes, be sure to brush up on beach safety before anyone goes in or near the water.

Many, but not all, state parks on the Great Lakes offer designated swimming areas that have additional safety measures and visual cautions. These areas are identified by buoys or buoys and markers, a beach flag warning system, and water depth less than 5 feet at the time of buoy/marker installation. You may also find other designated swim areas in places other than state parks.

It's important to visit Michigan.gov/BeachSafety for details on state-designated swim beach locations, the beach flag warning system, tips on escaping Great Lakes currents, and more. If you're at a beach with a flag warning system, check the color upon arrival and recheck throughout the day because conditions can change rapidly.

- Green flag = low hazard. Calm conditions. Enter the water, but exercise caution.
- Yellow flag = medium hazard. Moderate surf and/or currents. Watch for dangerous currents and high waves.
- Red flag = high hazard. High surf and/or strong currents. It's recommended that you stay on the beach.
- Double red flags = water access closed. Dangerous conditions. Respect the new law that prohibits water access and do not enter the water.

Buoys and markers typically are installed before the Memorial Day holiday weekend and come down after Labor Day. After swim buoys are removed, that stretch of beach is no longer a designated swim area, and swimmers should use the same caution entering the water as they would any other non-designated swim beach along the Great Lakes.

A few other cautions:

- There are no beach guards at state parks, so never swim alone, always keep close watch of children and bring U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets, especially for new and inexperienced swimmers.
- Water currents near piers, breakwalls and outlets of rivers can be extremely hazardous.
- Visitors in areas without designated swim beaches should use extreme caution because they will not have the benefit of the beach flag warning system or other visual cautions.
- Check local weather reports and lake conditions and learn about different Great Lakes currents and how to escape them.

For more information, contact [Pat Whalen](#) at 269-838-1196.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

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.



Michigan.gov/EGLEevents

PROGRAM QUESTIONS:

Marisa Faraldo: FaraldoM@Michigan.gov

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:

Alana Berthold: BertholdA@Michigan.gov

Joel Roseberry: RoseberryJ@Michigan.gov

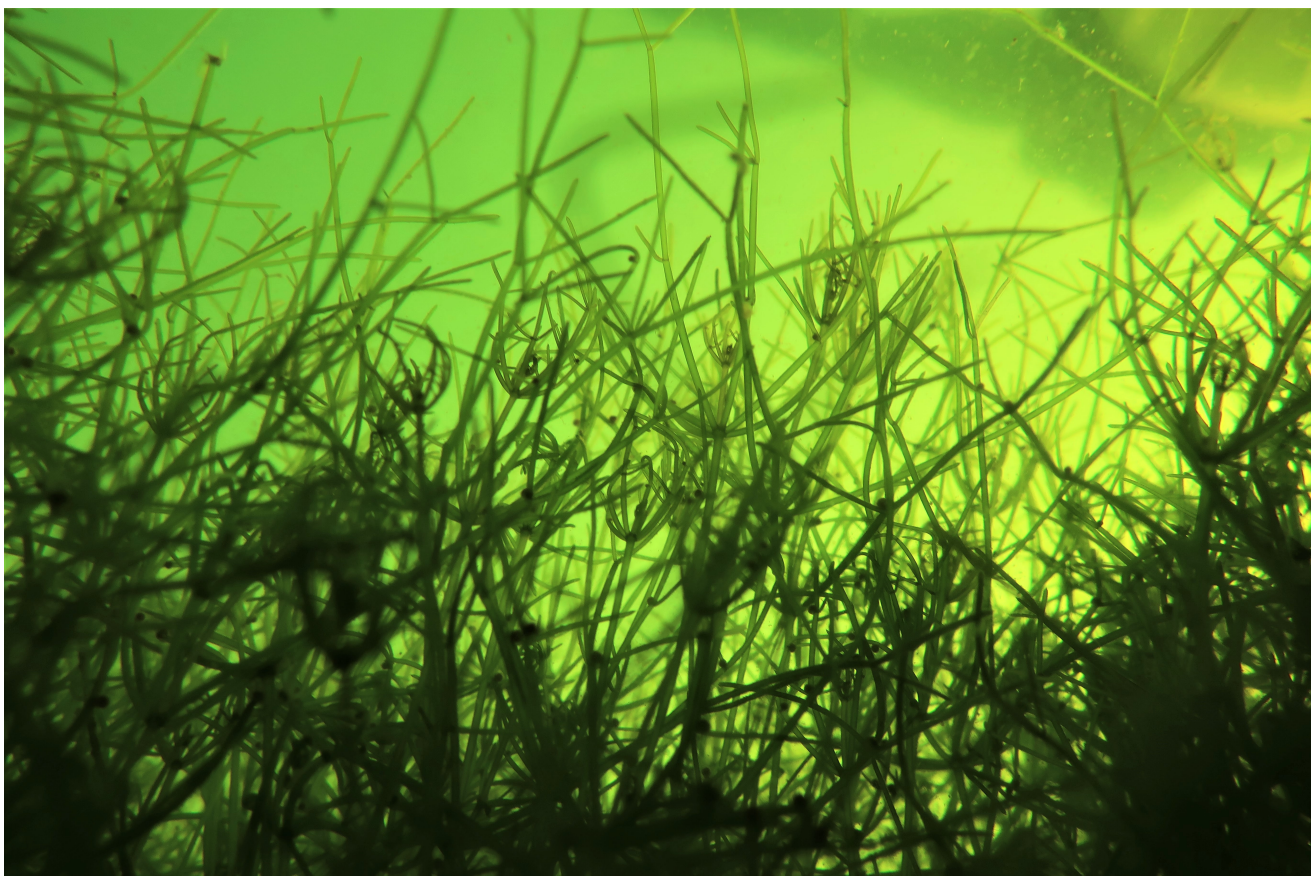
Individuals needing language assistance or accommodations for effective participation at this event should contact Joel Roseberry at 517-599-9494 by September 5 to request language, mobility, visual, hearing, translation, and/or other assistance.

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.



White-stemmed pondweed

Scientific Name:
Potamogeton praelongus



Starry stonewort

Scientific Name:

Nitellopsis obtusa

What Does Exotic Invasive Starry Stonewort Have in Common with Our Native White-stemmed Pondweed???

by Scott Brown
MWA Newsletter Editor

- **Capable of growing in water depths of up to 20 feet, both these submerged plant species prefer moderately productive, aquatic macrophyte dominated freshwater lakes hosting good water clarity;**
 - **Both white-stemmed pondweed and starry stonewort contribute to the natural capacity of healthy inland lakes to achieve and sustain good water clarity, and thus the capacity to support even greater aquatic plant growth and water clarity;**
 - **Within their native distribution ranges, the capacity to support abundant growth of starry stonewort and/or white-stemmed pondweed are considered reliable bio-indicators of good water quality (and clarity);**
 - **Highly sensitive to the water quality diminishing influences of cultural eutrophication, worldwide, the number of inland lakes capable of supporting abundant growth of white-stemmed pondweed, and starry stonewort is steadily diminishing.**
 - **Home to thousands of inland lakes that have been invaded by exotic starry stonewort over the course of the past fifteen years, it is important to point out that Michigan now hosts the greatest abundance of starry stonewort and starry stonewort friendly lakes on the planet~!**
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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!

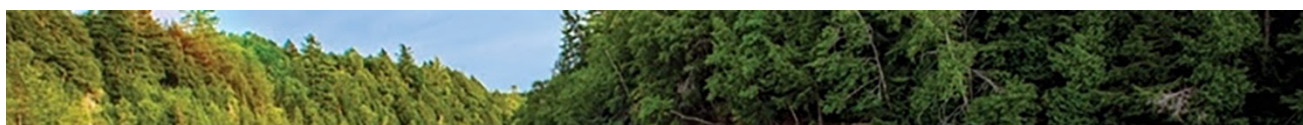
At a time when climate change, invasive species risks, and cultural pressures threaten the natural environment and biodiversity of our fragile ecosystem, the opportunity to highlight and mesh the State of Pennsylvania and its rich diversity of aquatic habitats is long overdue.

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.

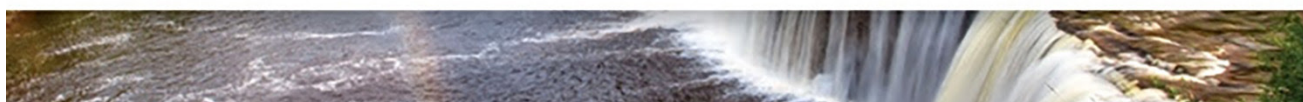
[Register as an Attendee](#)

[Register as an Exhibitor](#)

[Become as Conference Sponsor](#)



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 17, 2023

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

Robert Sweet, EGLE Grant Specialist, SweetR@Michigan.gov, 517-512-9765

\$3.5 million in grants announced for 11 projects to control or prevent nonpoint source pollution

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announced today more than \$3.5 million in [Nonpoint Source \(NPS\) Program](#) grants. These funds will support 11 projects that will prevent, reduce, or eliminate polluted runoff and other nonpoint sources of pollution.

The purpose of these grants is to implement priority recommendations in approved watershed management plans developed to restore impaired waters and protect high-quality waters by reducing NPS loads of sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and other contaminants. These Nonpoint Pollution Control grants are funded through the Clean Michigan Initiative and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. The projects recommended for funding will:

- Replace two misaligned and undersized road-stream crossings in the Lake Charlevoix watershed, as well as implement green infrastructure practices in East Jordan, restoring natural flow and protecting a high-quality watershed.
- Protect seven priority properties in the Paw Paw River, Boardman River, and Thornapple River watersheds with water quality-based permanent conservation easements covering 371 acres and 17,000 feet of stream and lake frontage.
- Implement agricultural best management practices and replace failing septic systems in the Bass River, Pigeon River, Deer Creek, and Rush Creek watersheds to address sources of sediment, nutrient, and *coli* impairments.
- Develop local ordinance recommendations to better protect wetlands and water quality in three communities in the Huron River watershed.
- Implement agricultural best management practices in the Gun River watershed to address sources of *coli* and phosphorus impairments.
- Stabilize 375 feet of streambank on the Clinton River to stop erosion and restore habitat.
- Reduce volumes contributing to combined sewer overflows in the Red Run watershed by installing green infrastructure at the Detroit Zoo.
- Leverage Farm Bill funding to implement agricultural best management practices, install a two-stage channel, and conduct education and outreach in Mill Creek, a coldwater tributary to the Lower Grand River.
- Install green infrastructure practices at a parking area within the Clinton River Watershed to treat storm water runoff and reduce impervious surfaces in a system with flashy hydrology.

The following Michigan-based organizations have been awarded funding:

- Allegan: Allegan Conservation District, \$269,753.
- Ann Arbor: Huron River Watershed Council, \$221,918.
- Clinton Township: Charter Township of Clinton, \$100,000.
- Galesburg: Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, \$137,726.
- Grand Haven: Ottawa Conservation District, \$592,613.
- Grand Rapids: Kent Conservation District, \$124,754.
- Okemos: Michigan Nature Association, \$442,311.
- Petoskey: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, \$323,672.
- Rochester Hills: City of Rochester Hills, \$142,480.
- Royal Oak: Detroit Zoological Society, \$700,000.
- Traverse City: Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, \$500,000.

Nonpoint Pollution Control grants are offered via an annual request for proposals. The next opportunity to apply is later this summer at [Michigan.gov/NPS](https://www.michigan.gov/NPS). EGLE's Nonpoint Source Program also will release separate requests for proposals supporting watershed planning efforts and conservation and educational projects by watershed councils.

Additional information is available on the Nonpoint Source Program website, [Michigan.gov/NPS](https://www.michigan.gov/NPS), or from Robert Sweet, Nonpoint Source Unit, Surface Water Assessment Section, EGLE Water Resources Division, at SweetR@Michigan.gov or 517-512-9765.

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

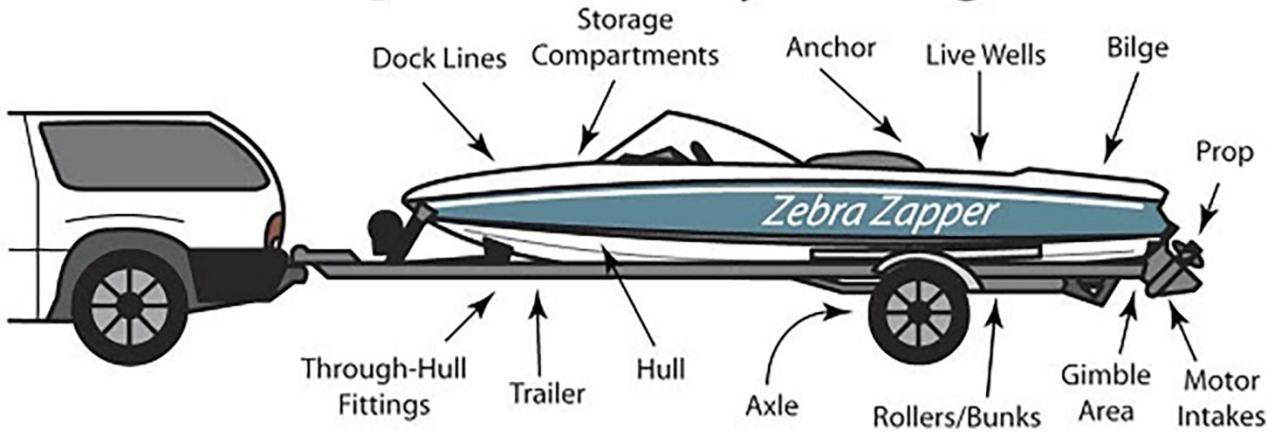
Thank you for reading and considering this hopefully convincing appeal for donations - **no amount is considered too small** - all donations of money are happily received and acknowledged within the context of the generous spirit that prompted them!!!!!!!!!!

[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 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.

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](#).



>>> 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](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

