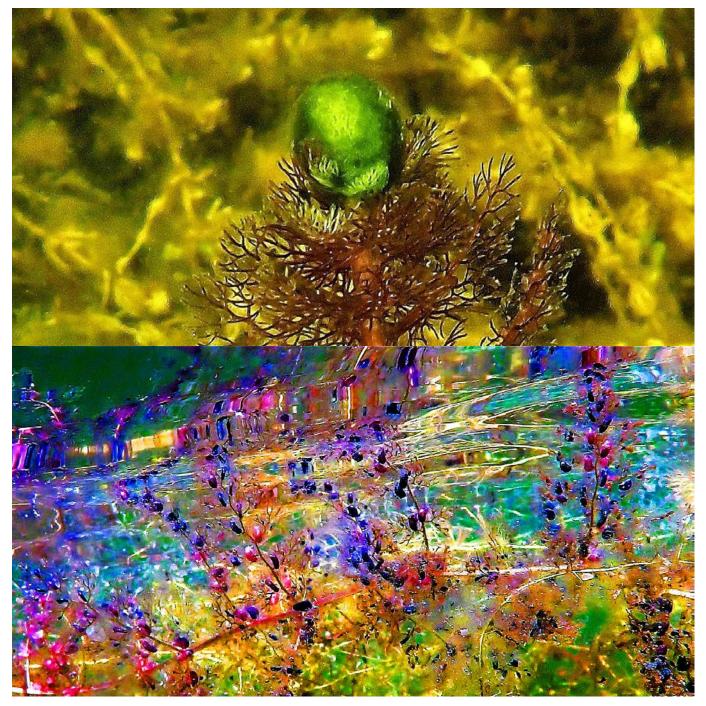


Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Friday, December 15, 2023

1 message

William Brown <scottb1952@gmail.com> Reply-To: scottb1952@gmail.com To: olivia.kasle@gmail.com Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 5:30 AM



Photos by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Friday, December 15, 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.







Upper Left Photo: McNALMS President Melissa DeSimone (right) Introduces Guest Speaker Nicki Poulan, MI Boating Industry Association Executive Director

Upper Right Photo: Guest speaker Ethan Hellier, Water Sports Industry Association Midwest Government Affairs Manager

Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society Hosts a Highly Successful "Current Perspectives on Wake Boats" Focused Lunch and Learn Event

Representatives from the Recreational Boating Industry and MI Department of Natural Resources Share Sharply Contrasting Perspectives

Regarding Criteria for 'Safe and Responsible' Operation of Wake Boats

by Scott Brown

MWA Newsletter Editor

As indicated by the fact that almost all of the eighty seats available in Room 134 of Michigan State University's Brody Hall were occupied by registration fee paying attendees, and by the ultimately friendly and constructive tone that defined the exchange of ideas and differences of opinion that occurred throughout the "Current Perspectives on Wake Boats" themed session, by all important measures, MI Chapter, North American Lake Management Society's (McNALMS) Friday, December 1, 2023 / 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Lunch and Learn event was a great success!

Following a simple but a tasty sandwich, soup, salad, coleslaw, chips, and cookie (and don't forget the great chocolate brownies!!!) lunch, McNALMS President Melissa

DeSimone introduced and welcomed the first speaker of the day - Michigan Boating

Industry Association Executive Director Ms. Nicki Poulan. The first of two speakers

presenting the recreational boating industry perspective on wake boats, Ms. Poulan first

reminded the audience that with 850,000 + registered watercraft, and 1,500 boating related
sales and service focused businesses with annual sales valued at \$11.7 billion, Michigan

represents the United States third largest marine market. Ms. Poulan also emphasized the
pro-active role of the Michigan Boating Industry Association (MBIA) in funding and
promoting a statewide campaign dedicated to reminding wake boat operators to "wake
responsibly", and also highlighted the fact that in addition to contributing to efforts to
help thwart the spread of exotic aquatic invasive species by supporting a Clean Marina

Program, MBIA also helps educate Michigan's boaters about the need to always "Clean,
Drain, and Dry".

The recreational boating industry perspective regarding safe and responsible operation of wake boats was also presented by Ethan Hellier, <u>Water Sports Industry Association</u>

Midwest Government Affairs Manager. In addition to focusing upon the considerable

economic contributions of Michigan's flourishing boating industry, a significant portion of Ethan's presentation relied upon the findings of a scientific study whose results suggest that the potentially harmful impacts to shorelines and shoreline infrastructure caused by the high energy wakes generated during wake boarding or wake surfing can be substantially negated by operating a minimum of (only) two hundred feet from shore. Each of the recreational boating industry representatives suggested that along with operating a minimum of two hundred feet from shore, wake boat operators can "wake responsibly" by avoiding repetitive passes, and by keeping music at "reasonable levels." See the Water Sports Industry Association Wake Responsibly graphic that appears below.



Supported by a MI Department of Natural Resources fisheries staff authored Power Point presentation entitled "A Literature Review of Wake Boat Effects on Aquatic Habitat", MI DNR fisheries biologist Dr. Joe Nohner provided an attentive Lunch and Learn audience with a substantially different perspective regarding what responsible wake boat operators must do in order to help ensure that the high energy wakes produced by their extraordinarily heavy watercraft do not harm shorelines, shoreline-based infrastructure, or cause re-suspension of bottom sediments. Sharing with the audience the peer reviewed results of a significant number of scientific studies that have been conducted in recent years in order to better understand the potential impact of wake boats on aquatic ecosystems, Dr. Nohner's scientific research-based presentation concluded with his discussion of "best operating practices" that "minimizes harm to the natural resources

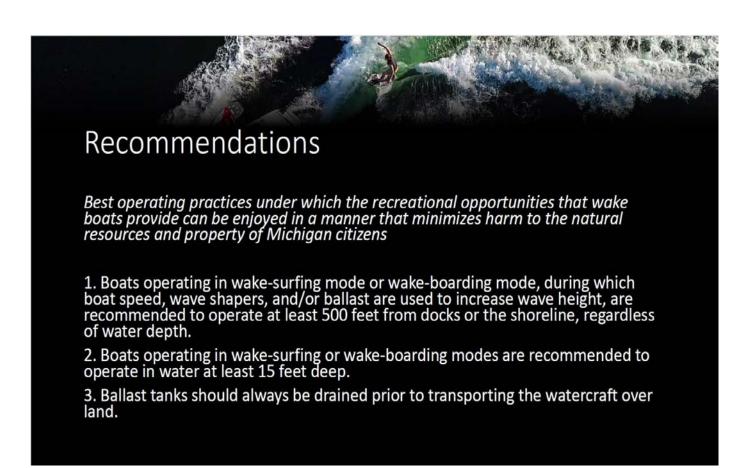
and property of Michigan citizens". See the slide entitled Recommendations that appears below for greater detail.

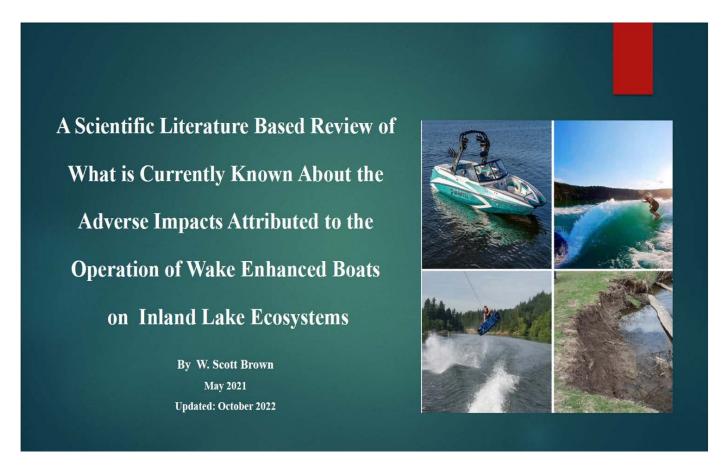
Click here to view a recording of each of the event's presentations

<u>Click here</u> to download a copy of MBIA Executive Director Nicki Poulan's presentation

Click here to download a copy of WSIA Midwest Government Affairs Manager Ethan Hellier's presentation

<u>Click here</u> to download a copy of MI DNR Fisheries Biologist Joe Nohner's presentation





Click here to download a pdf version of our impacts of wake boats presentation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2023

Jeff Johnston, EGLE Public Information Officer

JohnstonJ14@Michigan.gov, 517-231-9304

EGLE Chooses Alliance for Water Efficiency to Research Innovations and Technological Advancements

in Water Conservation Best Practices

The <u>Alliance for Water Efficiency</u>, a leading non-profit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water, has been selected to receive \$89,648 in funding to conduct 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 <u>MI Healthy Climate Plan</u> 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> program and further the state's water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives established under the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers' <u>Great Lakes Agreement and Compact</u>. The Agreement and Compact detail how the states and provinces act together to protect, conserve, restore, improve, and effectively manage the waters and water-dependent natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin.

In 2008, Michigan law required water sectors including public water supply, agriculture irrigation and non-irrigation, and business and industry to adopt generally accepted water management practices or environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures. Since then, agriculture and public water supply sectors have established processes to conduct reviews of their sector-specific water conservation practices on a periodic basis to reflect advancements and innovations in science, research, and technology. Other sectors, primarily from business and industry, may be advancing their practices. However, they do not have an established process to review and update conservation measures to reflect advancements achieved since the practices were developed.

This research project will further Michigan's water conservation efforts by gathering and sharing the latest information on innovative practices for the business and industry sectors to support advancements in achieving Michigan's water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives.

The grant is co-funded by the <u>Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund</u> (MGLPF) and funding appropriated by the Michigan Legislature to the <u>Michigan Water Use Advisory</u> <u>Council</u> (WUAC) through the federal American Rescue Plan Act. It will be administered by the Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) <u>Office of the Great Lakes</u> (OGL).

For more information, please contact OGL's Great Lakes Policy Specialist Simon Bélisle, BelisleS@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6390, or Great Lakes Senior Advisor and Strategist

###



Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

We Need the Support of People Who Care about Preserving and Protecting our Extraordinarily Valuable Freshwater Resources for Future Generations Now!!!

 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 Michigan Waterfront Alliance today...!!!



The <u>Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS)</u> and the <u>Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA)</u> are pleased to announce the 2024 *Lake Research Student Grants Program*. The purpose of the program is to promote student efforts to work on inland lakes and/or with lake communities to enhance inland lake management. Projects that increase the

understanding of lake ecology, have direct applicability to Michigan lakes, strengthen collaborative lake management, address inland lakes fisheries, build lake partnerships and/or expand citizen involvement in lake management are eligible for consideration. This year, McNALMS and MLSA expect to fund one or more projects from a total pool of \$4,000.

Proposals may be part of a larger project. Proposals will be funded for one calendar year.

To learn more about the McNALMS / MLSA 2024 Lake Research Grants Program, click here

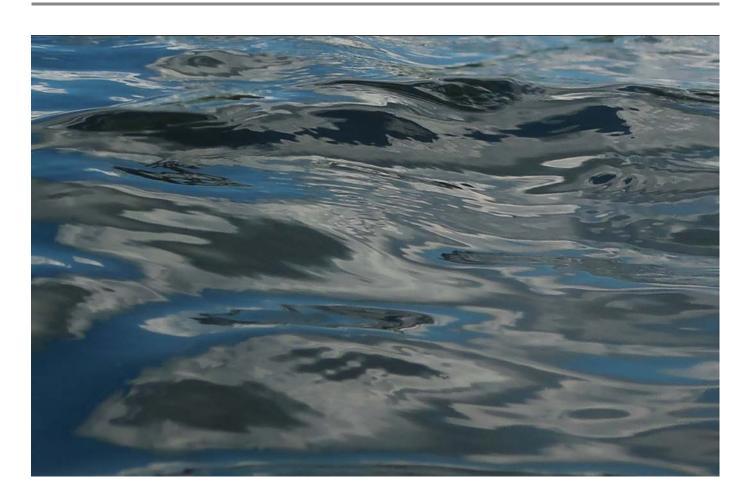
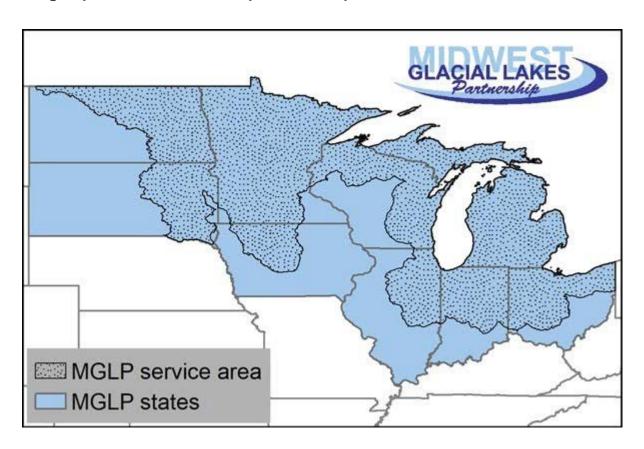


Photo by Scott Brown



Request for proposals: 2025 Lake Conservation Grant

We are seeking project proposals for funding from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) <u>2025 Lake Conservation Grant</u>. The MGLP is one of twenty partnerships that span the nation under the umbrella of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). The MGLP area of focus is glacial lakes and their watersheds (see figure). Nine Midwestern states, numerous federal agencies, tribal governments, and private natural resource entities have been integral partners in the development and operation of the MGLP.



We support conservation projects that work toward meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the MGLP Strategic Plan (<u>midwestglaciallakes.org/resources</u>). Projects should benefit glacial lake fish habitats, which include the chemical, physical, and biological components of the habitats that fishes found in glacial lakes use throughout their lives. We have directed funding toward a wide range of aquatic conservation projects that

benefit imperiled, endangered, and recreational fish species and their habitats. We typically fund 3-5 projects annually between \$30,000 and \$100,000, but larger projects will be considered for funding up to a maximum of the approximately \$300,000 expected for distribution. Previous projects have been successfully implemented because the contributions and capabilities of many partners have enabled accomplishment of project goals that none of the partnering entities could complete on their own.



Examples of past MGLP projects that have restored natural shorelines (left; photo by Mark Keiser), removed fish passage barriers (center; Joe Nohner), and assessed nutrient loading in the watershed (right; Jerry Sweeten).

Projects considered for funding must align with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and can range in scale from single-site projects to multiple sites to entire glacial lake watersheds. Projects should address the processes that cause fish habitat impairments as opposed to managing or treating the symptoms of those causes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- projects that implement or demonstrate new approaches
- watershed-level nutrient control projects;
- water quality and erosion control measures;
- native vegetation or wetland rehabilitation;
- natural riparian or in-lake habitat restoration and protection;
- barrier removal for improved native fish passage;
- fish population or watershed assessments needed for project evaluation;
- habitat assessment, prioritization and planning for future habitat projects;
- evaluating current and future habitat conditions;
- projects addressing climate change adaptation or mitigation through fish habitat;
- projects training biologists and managers on inland lake fish habitat management tools and approaches; and
- community outreach and education on the importance of and how to better conserve glacial lake fish habitat.

In addition to conducting independent outreach and/or education, successful applicants will be expected to work with the MGLP to coordinate media and public outreach to raise the profile of MGLP-funded projects.

If you have a lake conservation project aligned with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and need financial assistance, we encourage you to submit a proposal for project funding. You can learn more and download application materials at the Lake Conservation
Grant
page of the MGLP website. You can submit your application by emailing it to MGLP Coordinator Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov or 517-599-6825.

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership brings together resource agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance fish habitats in naturally formed lakes of the Midwest. We foster collaborations on fish habitat science, education and outreach, and conservation.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 8, 2023

Media Contact:

Danny Wimmer

Owner of Sunken Lake Michigan Barge Bound Over for Trial to Face Criminal Charges for Environmental Offenses

LANSING – Today, the owner of the twice-sunk barge, Donald Lewis Balcom, 88, of Traverse City, was bound over to face trial on seven charges, including trespassing and felony water pollution, announced Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. The charges against Balcom were announced in June after years of efforts by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to work with Balcom toward a resolution of the issue of the sunken industrial barge and alleged contamination to Grand Traverse Bay on the northeastern coast of Lake Michigan.

Balcom owns Balcom Marine Contractors, and is alleged to have first illegally sunk the barge in 2020 on Lake Michigan bottomlands near Greilickville. The barge became partially submerged and released oil into the waters of Lake Michigan. In May of 2021, after being ordered by EGLE and the U.S. Coast Guard to move the barge, Mr. Balcom had it towed to a new location in Grand Traverse Bay just off the shore in Northport, where it illegally sunk for a second time. The barge sunk on Lake Michigan bottomlands close to shore, approximately 20 feet from the end of a residential dock. The barge remained there for over two years until Balcom arranged for the barge to be hauled ashore nearby only after criminal charges were issued by the Attorney General. The barge remains there today, still in violation of state law.

"I relaunched the environmental crimes unit to fully harness our criminal prosecuting authority in defense of the State's natural resources," said Nessel. "My Department is committed to protecting the Great Lakes whenever they come under threat, and this relaunched Unit serves that promise. The alleged pollution and trespass, or treating the Grand Traverse Bay as a dumping ground for abandoned vessels, are criminal offenses against the Great Lakes which are central to both our way of life in Michigan and the livelihoods of many of our residents."

The charges against Balcom are brought by the Attorney General's environmental crimes unit and include a felony for the release of hazardous substances (oil) to waters of the State, as well as misdemeanors for trespass, marine safety violations, and placement of fill material (the barge) on Great Lakes submerged lands without a permit.

Balcom will next appear for a pretrial conference before the Leelanau County Circuit Court on December 27th.

###

Please note: For all criminal proceedings, a criminal charge is merely an allegation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The Department does not provide booking photos.

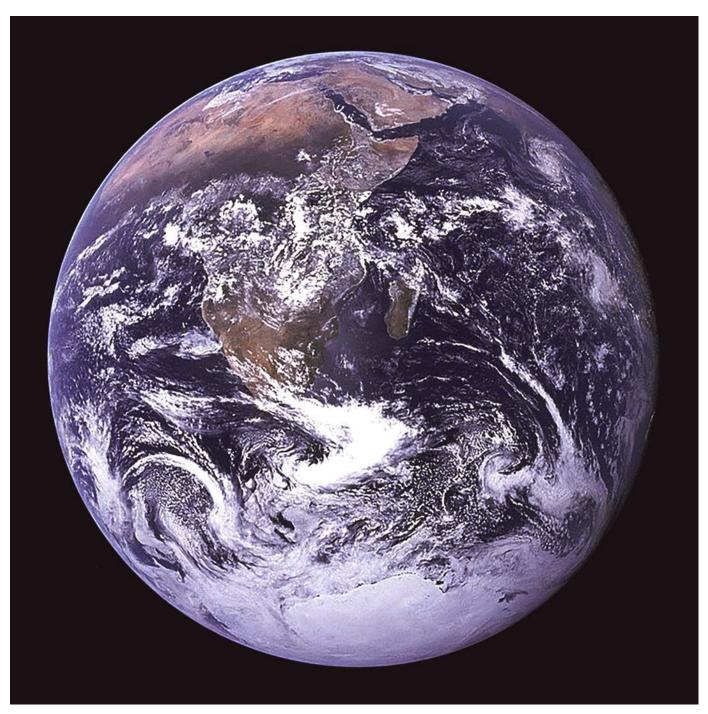


Photo by NASA

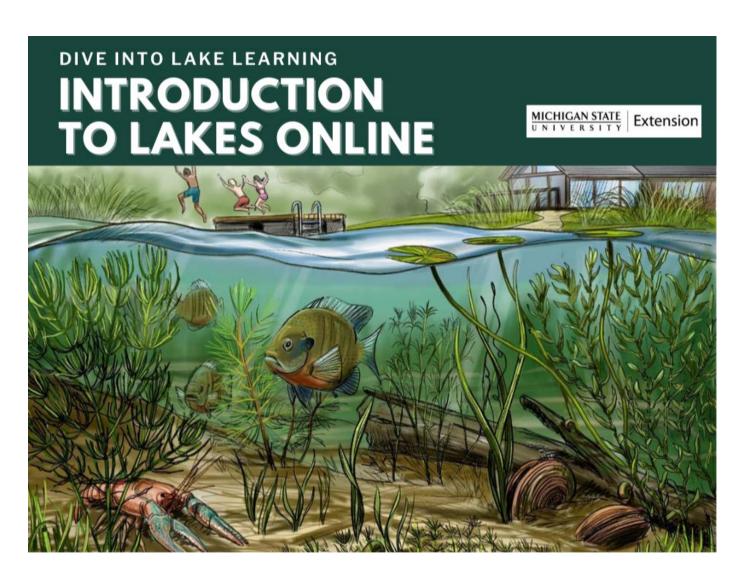


Michigan Environmental Council—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization—is a coalition of nearly 100 organizations created in 1980.

Our mission is to champion lasting protections for Michigan's air, water, and the places we love.

In our vision, Michigan is a national environmental policy leader where a powerful network of advocates has built a track record of enacting enduring and equitable policies that protect the health of our communities and offer unparalleled stewardship of our land, air, and water in the face of climate change.

https://www.environmentalcouncil.org/



MSU Extension's popular Introduction to Lakes Online course is back this January

From lakefront property owners to local government officials, this course has something for everyone. Over 1,800 people have participated in the class since it was first offered in 2015 and we'd love to see this number grow.

Course topics include lake ecology, watershed management, shoreline protection, aquatic plants, Michigan water law, and community engagement. Each topic is explored via video lectures, interactive activities, discussion forums, and additional learning resources. We also host three live Ask-an-Expert webinars featuring experts from Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

This year the course will kickoff on January 30, 2024.

Registration is open until January 28.

The cost is \$115 per person.

Register by January 12, 2024 for an early bird price of \$95 per person.

Scholarships are available.

A course schedule and registration details are available on the Introduction to Lakes website at www.canr.msu.edu/lakesonline.

Course website



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.

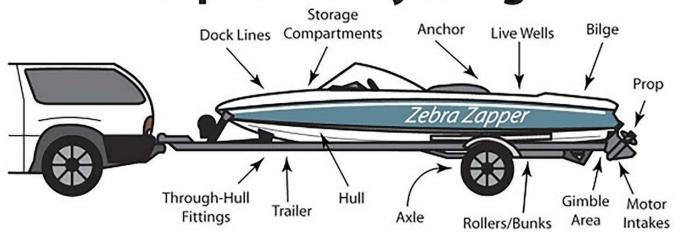
Thank you for reading and considering this hopefully convincing appeal for donations - no amount is considered too small - all donations of money are happily received and acknowledged within the context of the generous spirit that prompted them!!!!!!!

Click here to become a dues paying member of MWA

Click here to make a generous donation to MWA



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 <u>NotMISpecies webinars</u> are available at <u>Michigan.gov/EGLE/Outreach</u> under "Featured Webinar Series."

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 / 9:00 - 10:00 AM

<u>Dirt Never Hurt, but Invasive Species Do - Engaging ORVers to Stop Invasive Spread</u>

In the off-roading world, a muddy 4x4 is a badge of honor, but dirt, mud and trail debris also can carry invasive plant fragments and seeds from one beautiful landscape to another. When the North Country Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area staff set their sights on educating motorized trail users about the importance of cleaning their vehicles, the question was, "How?" Vicki Sawicki, NCCISMA program coordinator, and technician Zach Peklo will share some unique approaches to reaching this transient and fast-moving audience and helping them embrace the beauty of clean rides.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 / 9:00 - 10:00 AM

What's the damage? Ecology and Effects of Invasive European Frog-bit in the St. Mary's River

European frog-bit was first detected in southeast Michigan in 1996 and has since spread along the coastal areas of lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan and to some inland lakes. Kevin Kapuscinski, associate professor and assistant director of research at Lake Superior State University's Center for Freshwater Research and Education, has been studying the aquatic invasive plant and its effects on native ecosystems and water quality since 2019. He will share what's been learned about plant reproduction, removal efforts and impacts based on research in the St. Marys River in the Upper Peninsula.



Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society

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

Join McNALMS

If you share an interest in protecting and restoring Michigan lakes, we invite you to join the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) and add your voice to our growing and active effort. With membership, you receive our informative newsletter; access to our parent organization's newsletter (national NALMS); reduced registration to our biennial Lunch and Learn meeting; eligibility to apply to our Student Grants and other financial assistance programs; information on other grants, courses, fact sheets, and announcements; and becoming a part of a network of individuals and corporations interested in lake conservation.

Click here to join McNALMS

Click here to download and read the Spring 2023 McNALMS Newsletter



Events Listing

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

January - March 2024: <u>Introduction to Lakes online</u> (6-week online course) Host: Michigan State University Extension. \$

January 4-5, 2024: 4th Annual Harmful Algal Bloom Virtual Research Symposium. Host: Algal Bloom Action Team of the North Central Region Water Network.

January 25, 2:00 PM: <u>Charting the course for a comprehensive point-intercept</u> <u>database</u> (aquatic plant survey data management). Presented by Alex Bajcz, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. Host: AlS Detectors, University of Minnesota.

NEW February: <u>AIS (aquatic invasive species) Management 101.</u> (6-week online course) Host: University of Minnesota AIS Detectors Program.

February 7, 9:00 AM: What's the damage? Ecology and effects of invasive European frogbit in the St. Marys River. Presented by Kevin Kapuscinski, Lake Superior State University. Host: Michigan Invasive Species Program.

NEW February 12-15: <u>2024 Invasive Species Forum</u>. Host: Invasive Species Centre.



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

Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here

Unsubscribe

This message was sent to olivia.kasle@gmail.com from scottb1952@gmail.com

William Brown William S Brown 5989 Sibley Road Chelsea, MI 48118-1261

