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## Michigan Waterfront Alliance Special Update for Friday, August 22, 202

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Photo by Scott Brown

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Welcome to a Michigan Waterfront Alliance  
Special Update for Friday, August 22, 2025



**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 DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2025

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## **Jump into lakes and stewardship with both feet on World Lake Day, August 27**

***EGLE invites Michiganders to join United Nations' first annual recognition***

With more than 11,000 lakes in our midst and four Great Lakes surrounding us, you could say every day is lake day in Michigan. But Wednesday, Aug. 27, is officially the

first [World Lake Day](#), declared by the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly and dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and sustainably managing the world's lakes.

The State of Michigan is marking the occasion with a [proclamation by Governor Gretchen Whitmer](#), and the Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) in Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is seizing the day to invite all Michiganders to connect with local water resources, learn about lakes, take steps to steward and safeguard our waters, and reflect on the wonders of our Great Lakes State. A list of opportunities to get involved is below.

"Michigan's lakes – Great and small – are not only vital to our environment, they are essential to our identity," said EGLE Director Phil Roos. "EGLE is honored to join the United Nations in celebrating World Lake Day and promoting good stewardship of these precious freshwater resources."

[The U.N. suggests](#) participating in activities related to education and raising awareness of the importance of lakes, and the preservation, conservation, restoration, and sustainable management practices of lakes and ecosystems.

The OGL encourages Michiganders to take time on World Lake Day – or any day – to learn about, care for, and enjoy Michigan waters, through actions as simple as picking up trash or joining an organized cleanup, swimming or wading, boating or fishing, reading a book or article, or supporting organizations advancing research or stewardship. Among the opportunities to engage:

- [Register to join](#) the "Lakes for Life: Global Voices, Local Action" webinar, 1-2:30 p.m., Aug. 27, sharing powerful lake stories, youth-led action, and science-based solutions across continents. This live celebration, co-hosted by AquaVox, Water Solutionaries and Shedd Aquarium, will bring together leaders, experts, educators, and community members including Emily Finnell, head of the OGL, to highlight the importance of lakes in sustaining life, biodiversity, and livelihoods around the world.
- Check out water-related webinars such as ["Fostering Connections to Michigan's Water Wonderland for Wellness and Stewardship."](#) Past and future EGLE webinars are



featured on EGLE's [webinar series](#) and [past events and recorded webinars](#) webpages.

- Enjoy the outdoors in and around Michigan waterways safely and sustainably by following [tips for responsible recreation](#).
- Observe wildlife in your backyard, a nearby water body, or anywhere. Consider exploring tools and resources to identify Michigan flora and fauna while contributing new biodiversity data to science, such as iNaturalist, Seek, or eBird. Or share photos and reflections on [EGLE's Facebook page](#) or on personal social media accounts using the hashtag #WorldLakeDay.
- Read up! The [Library of Michigan's](#) searchable Read Michigan BiblioBoard lists more than [100 eBooks related to the Great Lakes](#) – all [Michigan Notable Books](#) selections. The [Library of the Great Lakes](#) and partners chose two books for its 2024-25 [Great Lakes, Great Read program](#): “The Water Walker” by Joanne Robertson for children and “The Best Part of Us” by Sally Cole-Misch for adults. Or curl up with EGLE's inviting and information-packed 2024 [Michigan State of the Great Lakes Report](#).
- Find interactive [EGLE Classroom](#) lessons and webinars on topics like [Great Lakes literacy](#), the federal [Clean Water Act](#), and the [urban water cycle](#), experience hands-on learning with materials from the [Environmental Education Resource Lending Station](#), or explore the [From Students to Stewards toolkit](#) for place-based educational resources related to water resources and protection of lakes and streams.
- Explore Michigan Department of Natural Resources educational opportunities, such as the [Academy of Natural Resources](#), [Nature Awaits](#), or [Nature at School](#).

In a way, World Lake Day is a late-summer complement to the annual Michigan Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week held by EGLE and partners in early June to focus on resources and activities related to our waters.

Globally, World Lake Day highlights the crucial role lakes play in worldwide ecosystems, economies, and cultures.

In July, the 2025 World Lake Conference in Brisbane, Australia, laid some of the groundwork for the observation.

**“Lakes are lifelines for drinking water, biodiversity, recreation, climate resilience, and more,” said Michigan Great Lakes Senior Advisor and Strategist Emily Finnell, who addressed the conference on topics including stewardship. “Michigan offers powerful examples of how communities can unite to safeguard these vital waters for future generations.”**

**Michigan features more than 3,200 miles of coastline along four Great Lakes, 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, and enough groundwater to fill Lake Michigan over again. The Great Lakes hold more than 21% of the world’s fresh surface water, and more than 40 million people in the U.S. and Canada rely on the Great Lakes for their drinking water.**

**The UN’s designation of World Lake reflects growing international recognition of freshwater lakes as critical resources and defenses against the worst impacts of climate change. The observation will be held each Aug. 27 – the date of the first World Lake Conference in 1984 in Shiga Prefecture, Japan. Michigan has had a sister state relationship with Shiga Prefecture since 1955 because of their shared commitment to lakes. Japan’s largest freshwater body, Lake Biwa, is in Shiga.**

**The International Lake Environment Committee Foundation has [more information about World Lake Day](#). Learn more about caring for Michigan’s lakes on OGL’s [Stewarding the Great Lakes](#) webpage, including links to local events, videos, educational resources on topics such as invasive species identification, proper disposal of old medications, and information on how to volunteer with the [Michigan Clean Water Corps](#).**

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Photos by Scott Brown



**MICHIGAN  
WATERFRONT  
ALLIANCE**



# **Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!**

**We Need the Support of People Who Care about Preserving  
and Protecting our Extraordinarily Valuable Inland Lakes  
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...!!!**



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



**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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