
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Thursday, January 1, 2026

1 message



Photo by NASA

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Update for Thursday, January 1, 2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



**MICHIGAN
WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE**

Michigan **W**aterfront **A**lliance

P. O. Box 392

Mecosta, MI 49332-0392

michiganwaterfrontalliance.com

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 proactive 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.

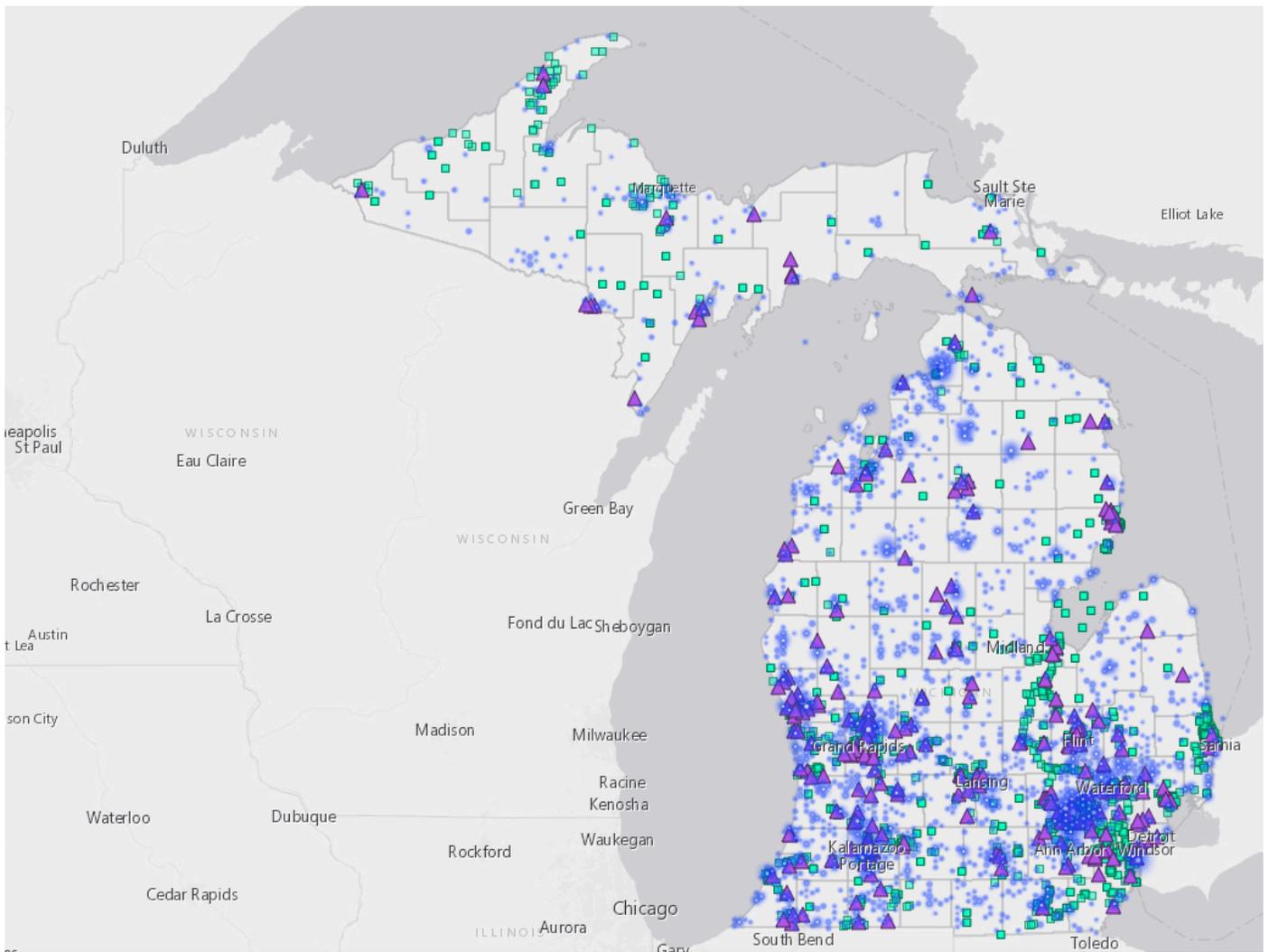


facebook



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY





Michigan PFAS Action Response Team

Learn more about how MPART is addressing the threat of PFAS contamination in Michigan

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Michigan PFAS Action Response Team

Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) was established in 2017 to address the threat of PFAS contamination in Michigan, protect public health, and ensure the safety of Michigan's land, air, and water, while facilitating inter-agency coordination, increasing transparency, and requiring clear standards to ensure accountability. MPART is charged with providing recommendations to the departments' directors and coordinates efforts between them.

MPART is a multi-agency organization involving a collaboration of several state departments such as the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), and Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA).

To learn more about MPART, what they do and the resources they offer,

visit the [MPART website!](#)



ICE THICKNESS GUIDE



MICHIGAN



STAY OFF!



0-3"

STAY OFF
THE ICE!

4"

WALKING,
ICE FISHING,
SKATING

5-7"

SNOWMOBILES
& ATVS

8-12"

CARS & SMALL
TRUCKS

12-15"

MEDIUM HALF
TON TRUCKS

30"+

YOUR PET T-REX

MICHIGAN STORM CHASERS



Michigan Department of Natural Resources



DNR News

Dec. 12, 2025

Contact: [Jon Mayes](#), 517-284-5954

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board recommends projects totaling \$45 million to boost outdoor recreation

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board has recommended that the Michigan Legislature approve 60 recreation development projects and 15 land acquisitions totaling \$45 million to be funded in 2026.

The board this year considered a total of 100 applications seeking over \$56.6 million in funding. In a competitive process, all eligible applications were evaluated based on scoring criteria approved by the Trust Fund board.

The panel recommends funding to state and local agencies for development projects and land acquisitions aimed at furthering access to public outdoor recreation.

This year, the board recommended \$19.1 million for development project grants and \$25.8 million for acquisition grants.

Inside those amounts, there were 55 development grants totaling \$17,704,000 and 10 acquisition grants totaling \$10,266,000 recommended to be awarded to local units of government. In addition, five development projects totaling \$1,430,000 and five acquisition purchases totaling \$15,600,000 were recommended for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources."

"The Trust Fund continues to be a tremendous source of funding for important projects and land acquisitions across Michigan," said Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Scott Bowen. "Since 1976, more than 3,000 projects or acquisitions have been funded with the help of Trust Fund dollars, creating an outstanding legacy spanning nearly half a century."

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is a restricted fund that was established in 1976 to provide funding for public acquisition of lands for resource protection and outdoor recreation, as well as for public outdoor recreation development projects. It is funded through interest and earnings on funds derived from the revenues of state-owned oil, gas and minerals.

Over the past 49 years, the Trust Fund has granted more than \$1.3 billion to state and local units of government, across 3,015 allocations, to develop and improve recreation opportunities in Michigan.

“From a Keweenaw Heartlands land acquisition in Keweenaw County to a Salsinger Trailhead land purchase as part of the Joe Louis Greenway in Detroit, to dozens of development projects scattered all over our state, the Trust Fund is making substantial progress every single year,” said Dr. Brandy Brown, chairwoman of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board.

The Trust Fund board's recommendations will go to the Michigan Legislature for review as part of the appropriations process. Upon approval, the Legislature will forward a bill to the governor for signing.

A list of the final recommendations made by the Trust Fund board is available at Michigan.gov/MNRTE.



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 will explore 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.

Upcoming webinars

Jan 14

[In a Stranglehold: Can We Prevent Invasive Mussels from Muscling in on Native Populations?](#)

Feb 04

[Habitat Protectors: New Team Targets Invasive Species on State Lands](#)

Mar 25

[Old Data, New Insights: Tracking Invasive Plant Trends in Michigan's State Parks](#)





Our long-term vision is to address Michigan's most pressing lake, stream, and watershed conservation and stewardship challenges and provide research-based, timely support to clientele and partners.

The Michigan State University Extension Center for Lakes and Streams stream lines lake and stream research, engagement, and education activities at the university and highlights the many programs MSU Extension and its partners offer throughout the state. The MSU Extension Center for Lakes and Streams is not a physical center with a brick-and-mortar headquarters. It is a team of Extension educators and outreach faculty based throughout Michigan with a shared mission of advancing the conservation and stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes and streams.

To achieve this vision, the Center will welcome affiliated faculty from various departments at MSU and will invite external stakeholder input. Affiliates and stakeholders will support the work of the Center by identifying emerging issues and assisting with the prioritization of research and education activities. The Center will welcome stakeholder input from diverse perspectives, including state agencies, tribal partners, other Michigan universities, local and regional decision makers, agricultural producers, and nonprofit, community and riparian organizations.

[Want to learn more?](#)

Reach out to the Center for Lakes and Streams Director

Dr. Jo Latimore at latimor1@msu.edu.

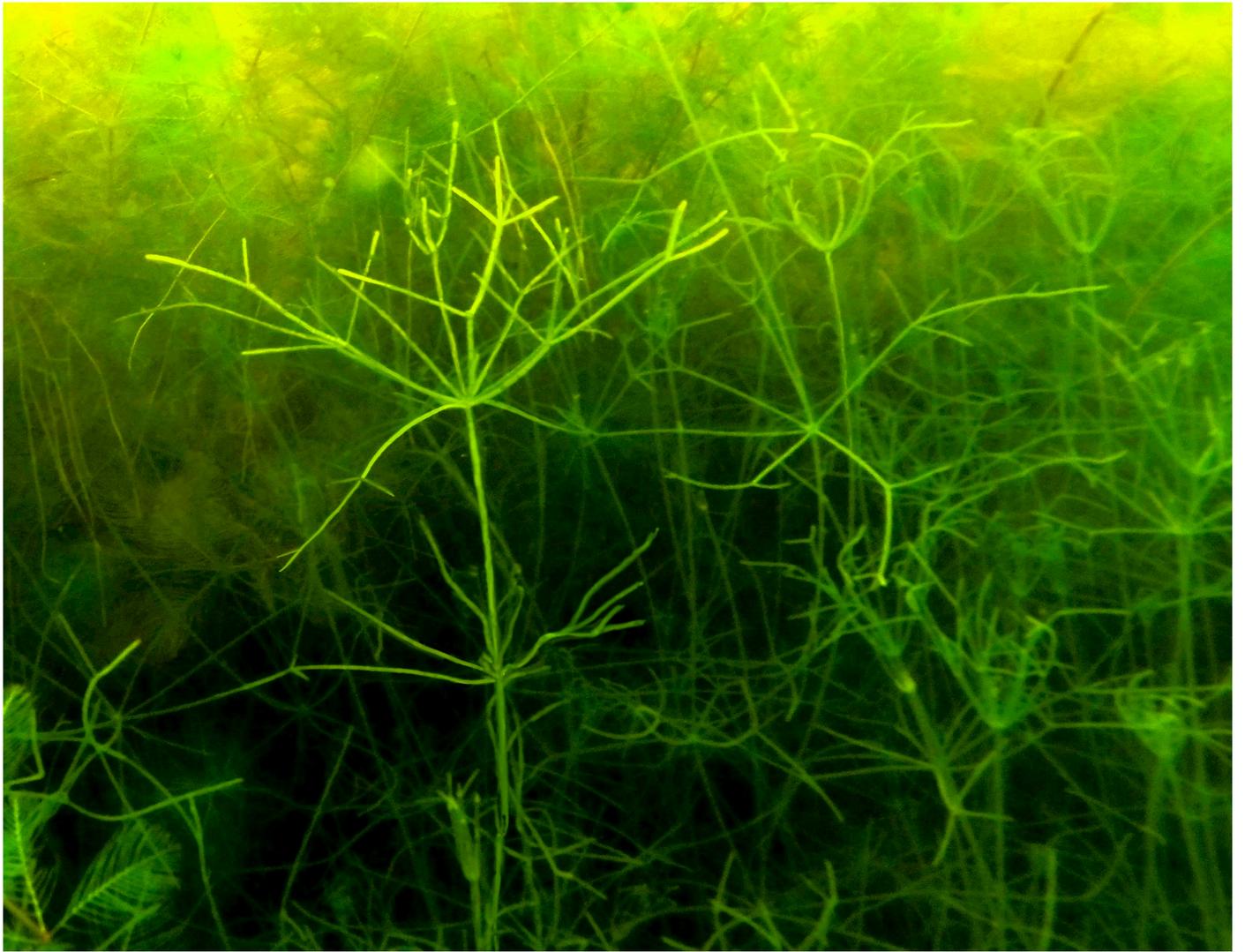
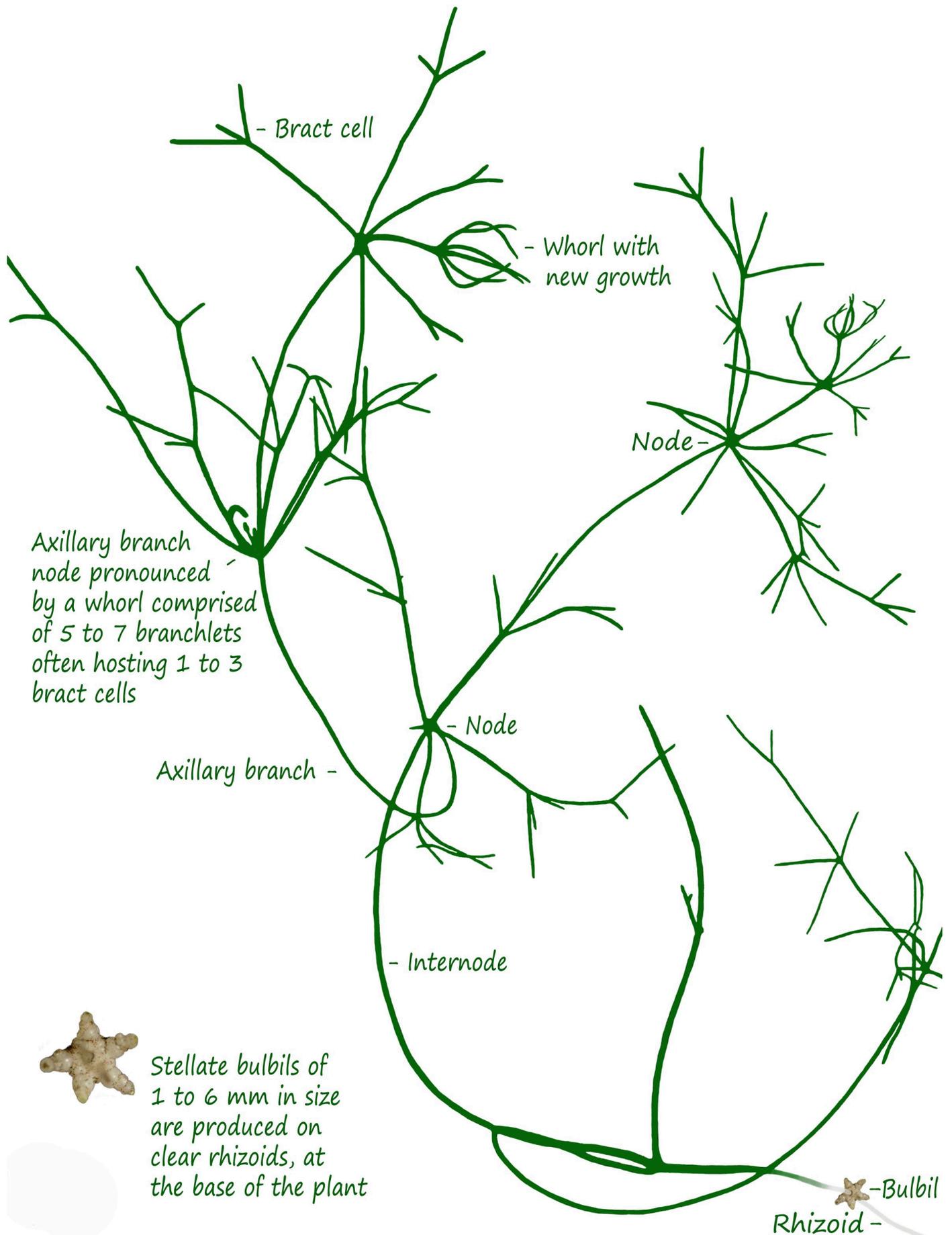


Photo by Scott Brown



Starry stonewort

Scientific Name: *Nitellopsis obtusa*



**6 WEEK ONLINE COURSE
STARTS IN JANUARY!**

canr.msu.edu/lakesonline

Introduction to Lakes Online

Course Overview

Introduction to Lakes Online is designed for interested individuals, decision makers, local leaders, resource professionals, and lakefront property owners interested in gaining knowledge about inland lakes and connecting with others who have a similar interest. In this introductory course, participants increase their knowledge and understanding of the following six topics:

- Lake ecology
- Watersheds
- Shorelines
- Aquatic plant management
- Michigan water law
- Community involvement

Course instructors include Bindu Bhakta, Erick Elgin, Paige Filice, Dr. Jeremy Hartsock, Julia Kirkwood (EGLE), Dr. Jo Latimore, Brad Neumann, Mary Reilly, and Dr. Lois Wolfson (retired).

This award-winning six-week course is offered once a year and consistently draws strong interest. Since its launch in 2014, more than 2,500 people have participated, with 98% saying they would recommend it to a friend or colleague. For many, Introduction to Lakes Online is their first experience with an online course—and it's designed to be user-friendly. The course features a simple, easy-to-navigate website, clear instructional videos, and weekly reminder emails, all of which contribute to high participant satisfaction.

Questions? Contact Paige Filice at filicepa@msu.edu.

To learn more about Intro to Lakes Online and/or to register for the class that begins in January,

[click here](#)



Apply today for a Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant!

We're excited to announce that for our sixth season, the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program has \$35,000 in grant funding available to support aquatic invasive species education across the state!

Who can apply?

This grant is open to organizations committed to protecting Michigan's waters and educating boaters about aquatic invasive species. Eligible applicants include:

- **Lake associations**
- **Watershed groups**
- **Local or tribal governments**
- **Schools**
- **Nature centers**
- **Non-profit organizations**

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas and organizations with statewide impact are strongly encouraged to support local groups in their area.

What can be funded?

Projects should focus on outreach and prevention pathways for aquatic invasive species. No local match is required. We encourage applicants to contact program staff to confirm project eligibility before applying.

Funding (up to \$3,000 per project) can be used for:

- **Educational signage**
- **Invasive species removal tools**
- **Outreach materials (e.g., swag, handouts)**
- **Supplies for booths or presentations**

Note: Ineligible expenses include invasive species eradication, mechanical boat washing stations, and indirect staffing costs (e.g., fringe benefits).

Application details

This is a competitive funding opportunity. Applications will be reviewed and ranked based on group eligibility, project significance, anticipated outcomes and target audiences. Learn more and apply on the [Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant website](#).

Deadline to apply: January 30, 2026

Questions?

Contact Kelsey Bockelman at bockelm4@msu.edu.

Learn more about this funding opportunity

Apply today! ►



What We Would Like Readers of this Newsletter

to Know about Michigan Waterfront Alliance

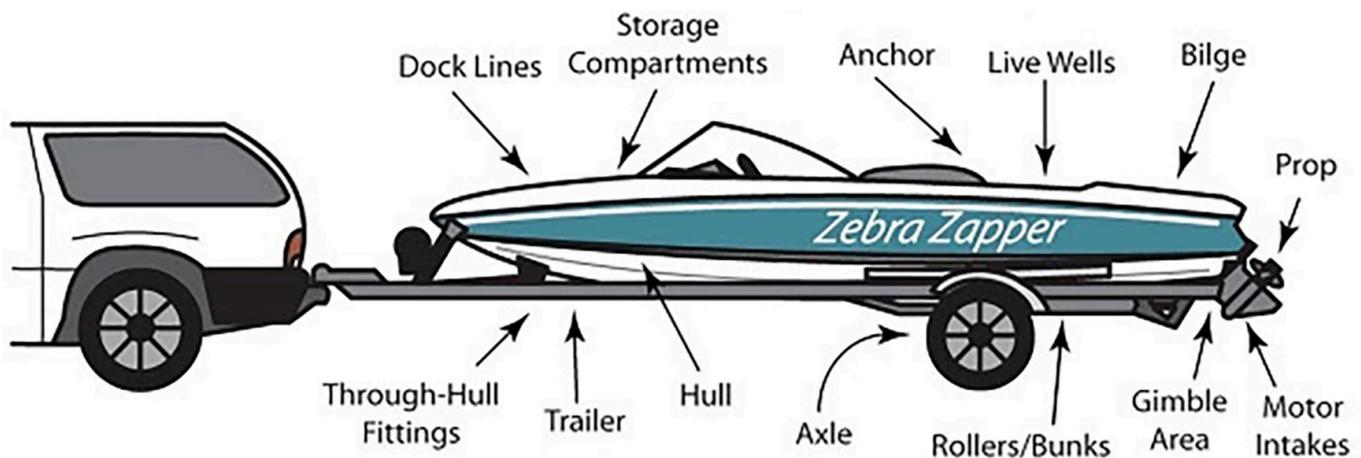
Our Mission:

Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c)4 non-profit corporation formed to protect, preserve, and promote wise use of the inland waters of the State of Michigan. Our mission will be accomplished by active participation in the legislative process, court cases, and/or direct involvement with related state agencies or departments. This membership-enabled corporation maintains the ability to influence legislation through lobbying, an action that is not permitted by 501(c)3 non-profit organizations.

- Michigan Waterfront Alliance is one of just a few non-profit organizations that is permitted by law to influence our state's legislative process in regards to the enactment of state laws, regulations, or policies whose implementation and enforcement ultimately have a direct impact on Michigan's vast natural legacy of high quality freshwater resources by lobbying. Lobbying is defined as the act of attempting to influence decisions made by government officials. Enabled through direct communication and pro-active advocacy, lobbying involves various activities aimed at persuading policymakers, especially state legislators, to support or oppose specific legislation, regulations, and/or other government actions.
- The vast majority of the revenue derived through membership or by donations to Michigan Waterfront Alliance is utilized to compensate our Lansing-based lobbyist - Michigan's longest serving multi-client lobbying firm, Karoub Associates.
- Not a single person who works for Michigan Waterfront Alliance, including the Officers and Directors of our Board of Directors, receive any form of monetary compensation.
- Those who work to enable the day-to-day operation of Michigan Waterfront Alliance are motivated by the desire to contribute in some modest way to the conservation of Michigan's extraordinary valuable natural legacy of high quality inland lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.
- It is important for our readers to understand that most of the revenue we receive through the payment of individual, association, or corporate dues as well as donations to Michigan Waterfront Alliance go directly to support our Karoub Associates enabled Lansing-based lobbying efforts that occur on behalf of our freshwater resources,

associations, and lakefront property owners (riparians). A small percentage (about 10%) of our total revenue goes to fund the payment of non-discretionary administrative expenses.

- The fact is, only a small fraction of the thousands of readers of this newsletter have thus far chosen to become individual, association, or corporate members, and/or to donate to Michigan Waterfront Alliance.
- In order for Michigan Waterfront Alliance to sustain our commitment to working on behalf of the preservation of our precious inland lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands, and the protection of the riparian rights of lakefront property owners, we desperately need many more of our readers to make the wise decision to become Individual, Association, or Corporate members, and/ or to make a generous donation to our efforts by becoming a Bronze, Silver, or Gold MI Healthy Lakes Champion today!!!



Bringing a boat

When a watercraft is part of your fishing routine, remember to “Clean, Drain and Dry” boats, trailers and all equipment and gear after each use on any lake, river or stream. State law requires:

- Making sure watercraft and trailers are free of all aquatic organisms and plants before transporting or launching.
- Removing drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks and live wells before transporting watercraft over land.

Drying boats, trailers and gear is an important step to ensure live organisms, like hard-to-see zebra mussel larvae, plant fragments and didymo cells, don't travel to the next fishing spot. Between sites, do one of the following:

- When possible, dry boats, trailers and gear in the sun for five to seven days.
- Wash boats and trailers with a pressure washer.
- Apply a chemical disinfectant like those listed above.
- Dry surfaces with a towel.

Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is the responsibility of everyone who uses Michigan's valuable fresh-water resources. For more information on invasive species and prevention methods, visit Michigan.gov/Invasives.

Michigan's Invasive Species Program is cooperatively implemented by the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Natural Resources.

EGLE
EGLE



Events Listing

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

January 14, 9:00 AM: [In a stranglehold: Can we prevent invasive mussels from muscling in on native populations?](#) Presented by Michael Hillary, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Host: Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

January - March, 2026: [Introduction to Lakes Online course](#). (6 week course. Enroll by January 27.) Host: Michigan State University Extension Center for Lakes and Streams. \$

February 17-19, 2026: [2026 Invasive Species Forum](#). Host: Invasive Species Centre.

You may also wish to explore these websites for additional events, recordings of past events, and more:

[Michigan Inland Lakes Convention presentation recordings](#)

[Michigan Lakes and Streams Association](#)

[Michigan State University Extension Center for Lakes and Streams](#)

[Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership](#)

[North American Lake Management Society](#)



**MICHIGAN
WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE**

Please join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

We Need the Support of People Like You 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 owned and operated 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 Problem is Real---

***The loss of natural shorelines is the biggest threat
to the overall health of Michigan lakes***

National Lakes Assessment

Shoreland development is impacting Michigan's lakes causing issues such as poor water quality, erosion, and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Taking action on your property now can help reverse these effects and protect the health of your lake.

To learn more about the mission, goals, and unique educational opportunities provided by the

Michigan **N**atural **S**horeline **P**artnership

[Click here](#)



**MICHIGAN
WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE**

BRONZE
MI Healthy Lakes

Champion

\$250

Donate

SILVER
MI Healthy Lakes

Champion

\$500

Donate

GOLD
MI Healthy Lakes

Champion

\$1000

Donate

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE MI HEALTHY LAKES CHAMPION TODAY!!!

YOUR GENEROUS DONATION OF \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 WILL AMPLIFY OUR CAPACITY TO LOBBY FOR THE PASSAGE OF COMMON SENSE LEGISLATION THAT IS PENDING IN LANSING IN REGARDS TO REGULATING WAKE BOATS AND SEPTIC TANKS!!! AS OUR READERS ARE WELL AWARE, OUT OF CONTROL WAKE BOATS ARE DAMAGING OUR LAKES, AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DYSFUNCTIONAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS ARE DEGRADING OUR LAKES, RIVERS, STREAMS, AND GROUNDWATER!!!

TO BECOME AN MWA MI HEALTHY LAKES CHAMPION

[CLICK HERE](#)



**MICHIGAN
WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE**

**Please Consider Donating, and/or Becoming a Dues Paying
Member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance Today**

**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 is 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.





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 about 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 is 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
