



## MICHIGAN NATURAL SHORELINE PARTNERSHIP

Promoting Natural Shoreline Landscaping to Protect Michigan's Inland Lakes

Volume III, Issue 1

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

January 1, 2013

### *News and Notes...*

by Jane Herbert

Senior Water Resource Educator  
Greening Michigan Institute  
Michigan State University Extension

#### **Registration now open for 2013 Certified Natural Shoreline Professional trainings**

The MNSP's flagship program, **Certified Natural Shoreline Professional**, is targeted to professional landscape and marine contractors working at the water's edge. To date, the MNSP has certified 145 professionals from across Michigan. This intensive four-day training equips contractors to expand their business services to include natural shoreline landscape design and bioengineered shoreline erosion control.

#### **The 2013 training schedule is below.**

- Paw Paw, Michigan: February 5,6,7 (classroom component)  
June 5 (required field day and exam in Paw Paw)
- Brighton, Michigan: February 19,20,21 (classroom component)  
June 6 (required field day and exam also in Paw Paw)

Please note that those registering for the Brighton location will be required to travel to Paw Paw in Van Buren County to complete the training. A link to more information and a downloadable registration form is available on the [MNSP website](#). Please contact Jane Herbert with any additional questions. [jherbert@anr.msu.edu](mailto:jherbert@anr.msu.edu) or 269-383-8852.

### **The "Shoreline Educator Network" (SEN) Update**

Submitted by

Julia Kirkwood

MDEQ- Water Resources Division

Non-Point Source Program

#### **Building the "Shoreline Educator Network"**

The MNSP continued to build the "Shoreline Educator Network" this year by hosting two workshops with a total of forty two participants. The first was held in Oakland County on November 8<sup>th</sup> and the second was held on November 8<sup>th</sup> in Roscommon at the Ralph A. MacMullan Center on Higgins Lake. Both groups of participants brought up some great questions and provided timely insight to help make these workshops productive and successful. A big thank you goes out to the Higgins Lake Foundation that provided financial support. With their support we were able to keep the cost of the workshop reasonable.

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## Building the “Shoreline Educator Network”

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A new “SEN” listing will soon be posted on the MNSP website for both public and SEN private viewing. Please let me know if your status or contact information has changed or if I made any errors.

### Providing Support to the “Shoreline Educator Network”

To support the “SEN” the MNSP Outreach and Education hosted a recent webinar on “Shoreline Permitting” with support from the Department of Environmental Quality’s Office of Environmental Assistance. This webinar was meant to help educators feel more comfortable with shoreline permitting information. It was a review of information, provided some more basic details on the bioengineering minor permit category and gave an update on changes to seawall permitting. If you have not seen this yet it is available at this link and will also be available as a link on the MNSP website.

[http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3308\\_3333-265165--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3308_3333-265165--,00.html)

### Got Natural Shoreline Information?

Don’t forget! Post your Natural Shoreline Workshop information on the MNSP website or Facebook page. We send people there to help find out about what is going on in the state. If you have some great photos of natural shorelines send those too! We are always looking for more examples.

Thanks for being a part of the “Shoreline Educator Network”, without you we could not reach as many people.

Julia Kirkwood  
MDEQ- Water Resources Division  
Non-Point Source Program  
Co-Chair MNSP Outreach and Education Sub-Committee  
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## MICHIGAN LAKE AND STREAM ASSOCIATIONS

### 52nd Annual Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton Riverfront Bay City

Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27, 2013



To learn more about the ML&SA Annual Conference, [click here](#)

## Apply Now for the 2013 Lake and Stream Leaders Institute!

Submitted by

Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife



Photo: Dr. Jo Latimore

**What is the key to protecting Michigan's lakes and streams? People! People who are ready to step up in their communities and within their organizations, as volunteers, community leaders, or professionals, or are just interested in protecting their lake or stream, can make a difference. If this sounds like you, consider applying for the Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute of 2013!**

### About Lake and Stream Leaders Institute

To be effective, aspiring lake and stream leaders need to be familiar with current aquatic science and management options and have the leadership skills necessary to work through sometimes challenging issues with a variety of interested stakeholder groups.

That is the idea behind Michigan's Lake and Stream Leaders Institute. Since 2002, the Institute has developed local water resource leaders who promote lake, stream, and watershed management through partnerships between local communities and natural resource agencies, and encourage their neighbors and colleagues to take part in good resource management. Participants learn about the ecology of lakes and streams, develop strong leadership skills, and gain an understanding of the institutions and legal frameworks that guide lake and stream protection and management in Michigan.

The Institute itself is a partnership program, developed and run by Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., and the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, with financial support from the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Past participants have included natural resource agency staff, lake association and non-profit organization leaders, drain commissioners, educators, and interested citizens. Today, nearly 100 Institute Alumni are found across Michigan, leading lake associations, working within state and local natural resource agencies, serving on planning commissions, monitoring stream and lake quality, and more.

The Institute employs a combination of classroom activities, field experiences, and independent work. Instructors are leaders and experts in their fields, including university faculty, extension educators, state and local agency professionals, leaders from non-profit organizations, and Institute Alumni. Participants attend Institute sessions, complete homework assignments, and conduct an applied project, which is shared with their peers and Institute alumni during a Poster Symposium on Graduation day. After graduation, participants can become engaged in an Institute Alumni Program that promotes communication, continued learning possibilities and opportunities for service.

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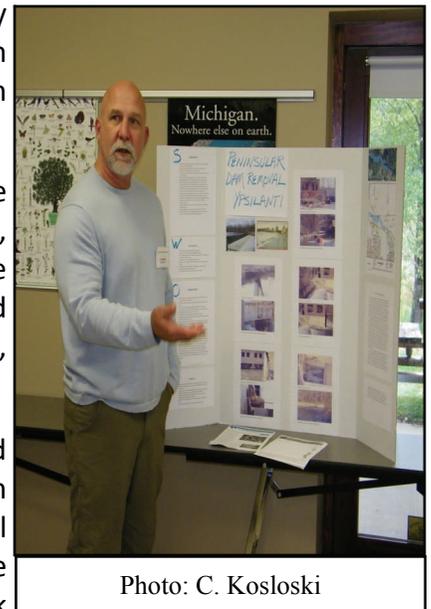


Photo: C. Kosloski

## Aquatic Restoration: Choosing Your Natives Wisely

Submitted by Justin Burchette

Huron Pines Americorps, Otsego County Conservation District



Throughout the United States more than 50% of the original wetland habitats have been lost since pre-European settlement. While there are several reasons for this decline, one of the most prominent has been agricultural activities. It has been shown that in the last 50 years agricultural activities have been responsible for 70% of wetland destruction (Dahl et al., "Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 1998-2004." 2006).

Considering the incredible amounts of ecological benefits of healthy wetlands (water filtration, erosion control, flora and fauna habitat, recreation opportunities, etc.), it is no wonder that many organizations and individuals are making a concerted effort to restore these ecosystems. This implies an economic benefit, and it has been calculated that the total value per hectare (about 2.5 acres) per year of wetlands is \$14,785 (Costanza et al., "The value of the world's ecosystem services and capital." 1997). Even if you are not an eco-geek, that should be a good enough reason to care!

Aquatic restoration is a rather broad concept, just as is aquatic ecosystems. According to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI), there are 33 natural community types in Michigan that are wetland, ranging from bogs and muskegs, to wet prairies and northern wet meadows. The first step in determining how to restore a site would be to determine what natural community type you should use as a guide for restoration. This involves doing a detailed assessment of the vegetation present on your property and may involve calling in a professional. If you did want to spend the time doing it yourself you will want to explore MNFI's website – specifically pre-settlement vegetation maps and the various natural community types. Here you could also utilize their key to natural community types to help decipher what direction you may take in your restoration efforts.



The next step is proper site preparation. This includes removing invasive species that could hinder your restoration efforts. An interesting study of the various site preparation techniques carried out on a wetland prairie in Oregon has shown that solarization and fall herbicide application is the most effective treatments for initially decreasing invasive plant cover and reducing their presence in the seed bank. Tilling the soil can bring up invasive seed out of the seed bank, and surface burning does little more than kill present vegetative cover (Pfeifer-Meister et al., "Dominance of native grasses leads to community convergence in wetland restoration." 2012).

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## Aquatic Restoration: Choosing Your Natives Wisely

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Since many of the aquatic restoration efforts currently taking place are within open areas (i.e., little tree cover), chances are your restoration will require you to select native grass and wildflower seed mixes or plugs. The researchers of the study above noted that over a period of three years initial diversity of their research sites was lost due to an overabundance of native bunchgrass. Other studies have noted similar results in other habitats. They go on to suggest that in wetland restoration scenarios one should limit or suppress native perennial grasses from the initial planting in order to allow other species to establish, then go back 1-2 years later and include more native grasses. Occasional selective disturbance and regular management is also necessary in order to maintain not

only an invasive free habitat, but one that is also rich in diversity and capable of supporting multiple species of organisms (Pfeifer-Meister et al., "Dominance of native grasses leads to community convergence in wetland restoration." 2012).

For more information about aquatic restoration and/or native plants contact Justin Burchett by calling (989) 732-4021 or emailing [jburchett@otsegocountymi.gov](mailto:jburchett@otsegocountymi.gov).

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Justin Burchett is a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member serving at the Otsego Conservation District as the Education Coordinator. The Otsego Conservation District is home to a state-of-the-art native plant nursery that houses over 50 plant species. You can view their selection by visiting [www.otsego.org/conservationdistrict](http://www.otsego.org/conservationdistrict) and clicking on "Native Plant Nursery."

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is a program of Huron Pines and is supported in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Michigan Community Service Commission, Huron Pines and contributions from host sites. Huron Pines is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and an equal opportunity provider.

## Shoreline and Shallows Conference to Highlight Shoreline Restoration and Habitats

Kellogg Center in East Lansing to Host Third Annual MNSP Sponsored Event on March 6, 2013

Submitted by  
**Lois Wolfson, Ph.D.**  
MSU Institute of Water Research

The third annual Shoreline and Shallows Conference, a program of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP), will be presented Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Titled "Natural Shorelines and the Habitat Connection," the conference will highlight lakeshore habitats, shoreline restoration and habitat improvement, as well as wave energy in relation to plant selection.



Bob Kirschner, Restoration Ecologist

Featured speakers will be Bob Kirschner, Director of Restoration Ecology at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, Michael Meyer, Research Scientist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Dennis Albert, Landscape and Wetlands Ecologist formerly with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and now at Oregon State University. Jim Brueck, Certified Natural Shoreline Professional and owner of Native Lakescapes, LLC, will share case studies about balancing native plant selection and design with fluctuating lake levels and aesthetics, and Jane Herbert with MSU Extension will discuss the current status of the Natural Shoreline Demonstration Sites that have been installed as part of the Certified Natural Shoreline program.

The cost to attend is \$35, which includes lunch and coffee breaks. Certified Natural Shoreline Professional continuing education units may be available for attending this conference. The conference co-sponsors along with the MNSP include the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division; Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University; MSU Extension Greening Michigan Institute; Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., and the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society.

For more information, contact Lois Wolfson, Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University at [wolfson1@msu.edu](mailto:wolfson1@msu.edu), 517-353-9222. Additional information and registration will soon be available at [www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org).



Ford Lake (Ypsilanti) MNSP Demonstration Site: September 2010

## Michigan Conservation Stewards Program in Oakland County: Spring 2013 Session Scheduled for February 23 to April 29, 2013

Are you looking for a great opportunity to learn about conservation and natural science and assume critical leadership roles through volunteering your time, knowledge, and skills in conservation management in your community? Individuals who take part in the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program (CSP) can learn how to effectively take part in informed, scientifically-based conservation and resource management and work to sustain healthy ecosystems across Michigan.

MSUE and its partners are offering this volunteer training and leadership program designed for individuals who are interested in natural resource conservation and ecosystem management, natural history, outdoor recreation, natural areas, the region's environmental issues and challenges, and strategies to help restore and conserve ecosystems in Oakland County.

Topics include Conservation Heritage, Ecological Foundations, Making Choices to Manage Natural Resources, Emerging Ecosystem Issues, and Managing Forestlands, Grasslands, Wetlands, and Lake and Stream Ecosystems. There will also be a volunteer expo highlighting conservation opportunities available in southeastern Michigan. The series of classes, led by experts in various fields of conservation and natural resources, will include lectures, interactive learning and field experiences.

This intensive program consists of nine evening classes held from 6-9 pm on **MONDAY EVENINGS** (February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15, 22, 29 (April 29<sup>th</sup> session runs from 6-10 pm) at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford. Three **ALL-DAY SATURDAY** field sessions will be held from 9-4 pm on February 23 at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center, Bloomfield Hills; March 23 at Indian Springs Metropark, White Lake; and April 13 at Independence Oaks County Park, Clarkston.

**Early Registration fee is \$275/participant if application packet and payment are received on or before February 1, 2013. Late Registration fee is \$300/participant if application packet and payment are received on or after February 2, 2013.** Deadline to register is February 15, 2013. Space is limited. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first served basis. Limited scholarships may be available.

Program partners include ITC Transmission, Michigan State University, the Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, E.L. Johnson Nature Center, and Clinton River Watershed Council.

Become part of the network of dedicated, well-prepared volunteer Conservation Stewards who understand, actively contribute to or lead significant conservation management activities on public and private lands. Obtain a brochure and an application packet online at:

[http://www.oakgov.com/msu/Pages/classes\\_activities/natural\\_resources\\_classes.aspx](http://www.oakgov.com/msu/Pages/classes_activities/natural_resources_classes.aspx)

or call (248) 858-0887 to request registration materials by mail. The deadline to submit applications is February 15, 2013. Please call (248) 858-0887 for more information.

## Lake and Stream Leaders Institute 2013

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Photo: Dr. Jo Latimore

These diverse events offer Alumni a chance to keep up on developments in water resource science and management, partake in new field experiences, and stay connected to their fellow Alumni.

### Dates, Venues and Tuition

Make plans now to take part in the Class of 2013! The first session will take place May 17-18 at the Michigan DNR's Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center on Higgins Lake. The second session will be held July 26-27 at Kellogg Biological Center (KBS) near Kalamazoo, and will include ample time for hands-on lake and stream field activities. The final one-day session, including the Poster Symposium and Graduation, will take place in October in the Lansing area. The application deadline is March 30, 2013. Tuition for the 2013 Institute is \$375, and includes all instruction, materials, meals, and overnight lodging at the RAM Center and KBS. Limited scholarships may be available.

After graduation, Institute Alumni can keep in touch with fellow Institute graduates through participation in annual Alumni Events. These diverse events offer Alumni a chance to keep up on developments in water resource science and management, partake in new field experiences, and stay connected to their fellow Alumni.

To learn more about the 2013 LSLI, please contact the Institute Coordinator, Dr. Jo Latimore at MSU ([latimor1@msu.edu](mailto:latimor1@msu.edu), 517-432-1491).

## Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

Promoting natural shoreline landscaping to protect Michigan's inland lakes

[www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org)

[www.facebook.com/MNSP1](http://www.facebook.com/MNSP1)



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