

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership



Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

Protecting Michigan lakes through conservation and restoration of natural shorelines

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Vol. VIII Issue 2

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

July 2018

News and Notes...

Compiled by Julia Kirkwood, MNSP Chair

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Water Resources Division-Nonpoint Source Program



The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year. Thanks to our committed partners, much has been accomplished towards healthier lake shorelines. We are still going strong and working on updating and developing new information and adapting our programming so we can be more effective.

The MI Shoreland Stewards Ambassador Training will be ready in 2019. The information will be available on-line and will be self-directed. If you know of a lake association that is interested in promoting healthy lake stewardship, please help them connect with the [Shoreland Stewards Program](#). A toolkit will be available to help lake associations get started, which will include videos and promotional materials for volunteers to use.



Looking for more information on dealing with challenging high energy sites? We are working on developing additional technical guidance for higher energy lakes and helping people understand the “continuum” of natural shoreline protection - from low to high energy sites. Look for more information over the next year.

Finally, we are partnering with the [MI Inland Lakes Partnership](#) and the [Michigan Clean Water Corps \(MiCorps\)](#) to host the [3rd Biennial MI Inland Lakes Convention: Working Together for Healthy Lakes](#). It will be held on Thursday and Friday, Oct 4th & 5th in Grand Rapids at the Crowne Plaza hotel near the airport. There will be sessions for contractors and property owners. Hope to see you there!

MNSP 10th Anniversary Highlights By the Numbers:

137 Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals Listed

507 Properties Qualified as a MI Shoreland Steward

25 Lake Associations registered on Shoreland Stewards website

*HAVE YOUR OWN SHORELINE EVENT?

Remember, if you are hosting a natural shoreline related event you can have it posted on the MNSP website and Facebook page. kirkwoodj@michigan.gov

MNSP Welcomes New Partner: *Karen Boase, Coastal Zone Management Program*



Michigan's coastal communities are special places where people connect to the waters of the Great Lakes. These communities face unique coastal management challenges to maintain shorelines that are ecologically healthy, culturally vibrant and safe for recreation.

[Michigan's Coastal Management Program](#) in the [Office of the Great Lakes](#) supports our state's coastal communities and works to manage the nation's longest freshwater coastline. It provides grant funding and technical assistance to help coastal communities manage their unique resources. The program celebrates its 40-year anniversary in 2018.

Michigan's Coastal Program focuses on 5 program areas:

- ◆ Coastal Habitat
- ◆ Coastal Hazards
- ◆ Community Development
- ◆ Public Access
- ◆ Water Quality

Michigan's Coastal Program looks forward to working with the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership to facilitate nature-based solutions to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance Great Lakes coastal ecosystems. The programs share common goals to support functional ecosystems and shorelines that are resilient to natural processes.

Karen Rae Boase¹ is the Coastal Program's Habitat Specialist and will be the key contact for collaboration with the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership. Her more than 17 years' experience in natural resource management guides her work to advance preservation, restoration, and protection activities for coastal areas.

Prior to her position in the Coastal Program, Karen was an Enforcement Specialist for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division. Karen has held several positions related to permitting, pollution prevention, compliance assistance, and enforcement programs. Karen also worked at the Southeast Michigan District Office dealing with soil erosion and sedimentation control and wetlands, inland lakes and streams.

Karen¹ completed her graduate course work with the emphasis in Botany at Eastern Illinois University and earned a Bachelor Science in Botany from Eastern Illinois University.

Wading Through Shallow Waters: Critical Landowner Considerations for Successful Natural Shoreline Projects

by Alison Gaye Blind

You say you want a natural shoreline, or you think you do. However, recognize that wading your way through the shallow waters of natural shorelines can be a challenge, even if you are a knowledgeable landowner. The work to create a natural shoreline is as much an art as it is science. Designing a solution that works is very site specific. Your shoreline may be the right candidate for a completely natural shoreline or it may have too much wave energy to go “totally natural”. The amount of existing development on your lot may also restrict options for an all-natural shoreline. Do you know enough to be able to understand what works and what doesn’t in terms of shoreline protection, and if you don’t know or are not sure, where do you begin? And what type of company does the work you are looking for?

There are dozens of possible companies to choose from, but which one should you choose? Michigan’s best kept secrets are our [Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals](#) (CNSP). A CNSP has more than a leg up on the competition. They understand not only how natural shorelines work, but what it takes to keep them working. They can save landowners thousands of dollars lost to the traditional landscaper or seawall contractor learning curve.

The CNSP Professionals listing on the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership website is the place to start. You may have to work a little to dig out the right company that will be best for your property needs, as the CNSP program has attracted professionals from a broad range of interests. You can sort by county, professional’s name, location, and more. Wading through this list is well worth your time. Once you have several companies from your area pulled from the list check out their websites for more information on their expertise. Some have expertise at knowing which native plants are best and others are best at installation. And other companies have expertise at understanding what is best for your shoreline. **Consultants** are CNSPs that may not always do the installation work on your site, though some companies do both. The **consultant** gathers site information and comes up with the best practices for your property in partnership with a **contractor** (the company that would do the installation).

Remember, if there is any construction going on at the shoreline a permit is more than likely needed. The **consultants** are the folks that normally do the permitting when construction is needed at the lake edge. They know what the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is looking for in a permit application which requires a set of detailed drawings. It is the landowners opportunity to “sell” their design to state regulators. Having a **consultant** who knows and speaks the language, can save you time and money. The **consultant** can help you ask the **contractor** the right kinds of questions and can be there to lead you through the process. Their business thrives off successful projects, so these folks work hard on your behalf. Additionally, **consultants** have no biases to one shoreline type over another. Consultants are generally not in the business of selling shoreline protection structures. They also understand that while natural shorelines are generally the best option for complex shoreline ecosystems, they may not always be the best option for your shoreline.

(continued on page 4)

Critical Landowner Considerations...

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The shoreline protection you discuss with your consultant and contractor should sustain fish and wildlife, protect your shoreline from erosion, pollution and degradation, and protect your property from wave action. Knowing how your professional intends to create your shoreline whether it be soft or hard, and what to expect of the outcome, are the two most important questions a landowner needs answered.

Gaye is a Certified Natural Shoreline Professional (CNSP), CNSP Educator, and Natural Resources Specialist with Prism Science & Technology, LLC. Located in St. Joseph, Michigan; with over 36 years of combined experience in critical dunes, inland lakes, ponds, streams, Great Lakes coastal waters, wetlands, floodplains, and in marine safety and environmental protection response. Gaye holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Science from Purdue University, and has advanced studies in Environmental Biology from Western Michigan University.

Recent Lake-Related News:

Alien-looking blob discovered in southern Michigan lake: suspicious aquatic oddity attached to boat is actually an indicator of good water quality

Posted on July 9, 2018 by Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife



As an aquatic ecologist at Michigan State University who works closely with Michigan State University Extension, I receive a lot of emails and phone calls about mysterious or unusual discoveries in Michigan lakes. I enjoy responding to them, because it gives me a chance to chat with Michigan residents about all sorts of interesting aquatic phenomena.

This story begins with one of those messages. A boat owner pulled their pontoon out of Juno Lake (Cass County, in southern Michigan), and discovered a weird, alien-looking, gelatinous blob attached to it below the water line. Was it an invasive species? Toxic algae? Eggs of an alien from outer space!? They contacted a friend on a neighboring lake who happens to be a volunteer in our statewide [Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program](#), and she reached out to me with a photo and inquiry about the aquatic oddity. I was excited to let her know that they'd discovered a colony of bryozoans!

Photo Credit. C. Daly

[Click here](#) to continue reading this article...

Recent Lake-Related News

New Online Tools for Aquatic Invasive Species Identification: learn to identify and report invasive species using MISIN: the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

Posted on June 13, 2018 by [Paige Filice](#) and [Tara Eavy](#), Michigan State University Extension



Close your eyes. Imagine you are on a boat. You have been fishing for some time with no luck when suddenly something tugs at your line. You swiftly reel it in to find yourself looking at a fish you have never seen before! You are unsure of what to do. Is this a native fish or an invasive species? Where can you find more information? If it is invasive, who should be notified? This scenario is not necessarily fictional. Many of the first discoveries of new invasive species in Michigan have been by anglers and boaters!

One of the best resources for learning to identify and report invasive species is the [Midwest Invasive Species Information Network \(MISIN\)](#). MISIN recently added twelve new training modules on [prohibited and restricted aquatic plant and animal species](#) that are unlawful to possess, introduce, import, sell or offer for sale as a live organism in Michigan, except under certain circumstances, due to their invasive potential. With the addition of these training modules, MISIN now features 78 on-line trainings on terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals.

[Click here](#) to continue reading this article...

Landscaping workshops for lakefront property owners being offered by Michigan State University Extension and The Michigan Natural Shorelines Partnership focused on creating and managing natural shoreline landscapes on inland lakes.

Posted on July 23, 2018 by [Beth Clawson](#), Michigan State University Extension



In Michigan, many are attracted to the splendors of lake living. We are drawn to the water, beautiful views, and the natural habitats. We want access to recreational activities such as boating, fishing, swimming, and other water sports. However, intensive use and concentrated development along shorelines can create erosion and reduce natural habitat. Restoring natural shorelines can protect beaches from high wave energy and erosion while promoting water quality for recreation and promote wildlife habitat for fisheries.

Photo Credit: Beth Clawson

Michigan State University Extension and The [Michigan Natural Shorelines Partnership](#) members are offering workshops about creating and managing natural shoreline landscapes on inland lakes. MSU Extension along with conservation districts and other local partners is offering two August workshops in southwest Michigan to help you to learn how to create, restore, and manage the natural shoreline on your lakeshore property and help protect Michigan's inland water resources. You'll also learn ways to work with existing hardscapes and seawalls. The first workshop will be held at the Branch County Fairgrounds in Coldwater on Saturday, August 18 from 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM. This workshop includes a light lunch and a tour of nearby Gravel Lake. The second workshop will be in Kalamazoo County at the Vicksburg Community Center on Saturday, August 25.

[Click here](#) to continue reading this article...

Do you care about clean water and healthy fish habitats in your inland lakes?

Check out Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership today!



by Joe Nohner
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership is composed of resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders seeking to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in the naturally formed lakes of the Midwest.

Established in 2009, the Partnership has been hard at work conserving inland lake ecosystems to benefit fishes. This work considers all of the biological, chemical, and physical components of fish habitat from water quality to woody habitat, and from fish passage to mitigating fish kills. The Partnership fosters collaborations to accomplish this work through fish habitat science, education and outreach, and conservation.

What have we achieved? Later this year, the Partnership will release its assessment of fish suitability, threats to fish habitats, and lake management recommendations for over 40,000 lakes within our footprint. The Partnership has conducted targeted outreach that has reached over 60,000 individuals and awarded over \$900,000 in funding through [our aquatic conservation grant](#). We're growing quickly, and just last year we awarded \$272,000! In Michigan, we've funded projects promoting bioengineering on high-energy shorelines, piloting septic effluent mitigation with native riparian plants, supporting outreach for the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program, and more.

How can you join the Partnership? We encourage you to [sign up for the Partnership's email list](#). We'll send you quarterly updates on Partnership activities and resources, invitations to webinars we're hosting on inland lake conservation, and a request for proposals when our grant is opened in August. If there are Partnership activities that you are interested in, reach out to our coordinator [Joe Nohner](#) to become involved. You can also follow the Partnership at our [website](#) and on [Twitter](#). If you know of someone that might be interested, please forward this email to them!

Joe serves as the Coordinator for the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership and Inland Lakes Habitat Analyst for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Upcoming Programs/Events of Interest:

Registration for the 2018 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention (MILC) is now open.



Working Together for Healthy Lakes 2018 Joint Conference

Key Dates and Useful Facts About This Year's Biennial Convention:

Location: Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids - Airport

Dates: October 4th & 5th, 2018 (with opening Welcome Reception scheduled during the evening of October 3rd)

Direct link to registration and other important Convention information: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/convention/>

Key registration deadlines: Register by September 14th to receive the early registration rate. Last day to register is September 28th.

Convention Coordinator: Jo Latimore

2018 Theme: Working Together for Healthy Lakes

Who should attend: Lake enthusiasts, lake leaders, educators, research scientists, and water resource professionals who are interested in policy, conservation, and recreational use of our inland lakes. The workshops and presentations are designed to engage, educate and empower.

Organizations behind this year's jointly planned Convention: [Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership](#), a collaboration of government agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations, and industries with the common mission of promoting collaboration to advance stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes, and the [Michigan Clean Water Corps](#), the statewide volunteer lake and stream monitoring program.

2018 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention Info continued on next page....

...2018 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention

Program Highlights:

- ◆ Two outstanding keynote speakers at the 2018 Convention – Michigan native Lisa Borre, and now a prominent inland lake researcher and writer from the [Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies](#) in New York, will share her experiences in local to global collaboration for healthy lakes. We'll also be joined by Bill Creal, the former Water Resources Division Chief of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, who is currently Research and Innovation Director for the [Great Lakes Water Authority](#). He will share his perspectives on effective partnerships to protect our waters.
- ◆ The program includes concurrent sessions and discussions, in-depth workshops, field trips, educational resources and displays, and a poster session.
- ◆ Concurrent sessions focus on natural shorelines, citizen science/human dimensions, contaminants, invasive species, water law, lake levels, aquatic plant identification, lake stewardship, water conservation, fish habitat, lake management and monitoring, natural resources management, public health/septic systems, and volunteers.
- ◆ Workshops focus on becoming Shoreland Stewards Ambassadors, citizen science for aquatic macroinvertebrates, lake management, and remote sensing for algal concentrations in lakes.
- ◆ An off-site tour is planned on Friday, October 5th, focused on cooperative efforts to control invasive European Frog-Bit on Reeds Lake.
- ◆ The latest draft agenda is available on the Convention website: <http://bit.ly/milc2018>.

Partner organizations working behind the scenes to organize this Convention:

- Michigan Aquatic Managers Association
- Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership
- Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan State University Institute of Water Research
- Northwestern Michigan College

Convention supporters:

- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations
- Michigan State University Extension
- Aqua-Weed Control

Where to find more details:

Web: <http://michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu/convention>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/michiganinlandlakesconvention/>

Twitter: @Mich_Lakes

Instagram: mich_lakes

MSU Extension “Introduction to Lakes” Online Course Dates Set for January 22 - March 15, 2019

Introduction to Lakes is a six-week on-line course specially designed for citizens and professionals that are interested in learning about inland lakes

For complete details, visit: https://www.canr.msu.edu/introduction_to_lakes_online/

Take the leap and learn more about **lakes!**

Join **MSU Extension** for
6 weeks of online
learning

Learn about:

- Lake ecology*
- Shorelines*
- Aquatic Plants*
- Water Law*
- & More!*

Search for **Introduction to Lakes** at
<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/>

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UNIVERSITY | Extension

Photo Credit: Paige Filice



Michigan Water School

ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

Local, State and Tribal elected and appointed officials and staff wanting to gain access to resources and knowledge about water management are encouraged to attend this workshop!



September 17 & 18, 2018

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Northwest Michigan
Horticultural Research Station**
6686 S Center Hwy, Traverse City, MI

Registration: \$175
(Includes materials and lunch each day)
(Space is limited)

Partial scholarships available.
Contact Terry Gibb at gibb@anr.msu.edu

Certificate upon completion
of two-day session.

INVESTIGATE:

- Factors that impact Michigan water
 - The Blue Economy
 - Fiscal benefits of water management
 - Incorporating water into local planning and placemaking
 - Risk assessment approaches
 - Resources to help address water problems
 - Water policy at the federal, tribal, state, and local levels
- 

REGISTER: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/waterschool09172018>

For more information contact Emily Proctor (231) 439-8927 or email proctor8@anr.msu.edu or
Mark Brederland (231) 922-4628 or email brederl@anr.msu.edu

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Honoring the Past, Preparing for the Future: Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Becomes Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations

By Scott Brown
MLSA Executive Director



Formed in 1961 by an enthusiastic group of waterfront property owners who recognized the potential for common-interest driven voluntary lake and stream associations to contribute to preserving our freshwater resources and our riparian rights, Articles of Incorporation formalizing the establishment of the Association of Michigan Lakes and Streams Associations (AML&SA) were filed with the State of Michigan on Monday, January 28th, 1963. Launching our now 57 year old organization with no more than a mere 400 bucks cash on hand, an initial membership listing of just a few lake associations, and an abundance of commitment, ideas, and energy, the fledgling organization would establish a Board of Directors, open a central office, begin a monthly newsletter, grow to over 100 associations, launch the now widely circulated *Michigan Riparian* magazine in 1965, and hold ten consecutive highly successful annual conferences by the year 1970.

Submitting the necessary paper work with the Michigan Attorney General Charitable Trust Division and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to change the name of the organization in early 1970, the abbreviated and much easier to pronounce name Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (ML&SA) would be approved on Friday, June 12, 1970. Achieving steady membership and revenue growth throughout the decade, the organization's first Executive Director, Mr. Donald E. Winne, a retired public high school teacher and administrator from Elkhart, Indiana, and by then a full time lakefront resident of Corey Lake in St. Joseph County Michigan, would be hired in the late 1970's, and a new central office established in downtown Three Rivers. At about the same time, an energetic and always enthusiastic Pearl Bonnell of Long Lake, Michigan, located near Alpena, would be hired as Director of Operations. It is important to note that Pearl's lakefront residence would remain the de facto ML&SA northern office until her retirement many years later. Often referred to as the "dynamic duo", Pearl and Don devoted nearly three decades of their highly productive lives travelling throughout the state while working with lake associations to improve their capacity to preserve and protect their respective freshwater resources.

It is interesting to note that although the original founders of our organization envisioned serving an active membership comprised of both lake and stream property owners associations, for reasons that are not yet well understood, the concept of stream property owners associations never really took hold in Michigan. A comprehensive review of ML&SA year-to-year membership revealed that with the important exception of our individual and corporate members, our membership has always been comprised primarily of voluntary lakefront property owners associations.

Honoring our past, and recognizing the vital role Michigan's lake associations in preserving the health and vitality of our inland lake heritage for the future, our Board of Directors recently voted to change the name of our organization to Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations (MLSA). Wikipedia defines **stewardship** as "an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources". Readers should know that although we have changed our name to more accurately reflect the mission and people we strive to serve on a day-to-day basis, our organization remains steadfastly committed to the idea that pro-active lakefront property owner voluntary associations are in the best position to advocate for riparian rights, and inland lake protection and preservation in Michigan.



Michigan Conservation Stewards Program

Now Enrolling!

In-person, online & expert led field sessions on:
 Ecological Foundations
 Michigan Conservation Heritage
 Terrestrial Ecosystems
 Aquatic Ecosystems
 Ecosystem Threats



**Concurrently with Kalamazoo, Oakland, &
St. Clair Counties
September - October 2018**

Learn more:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/conservation_stewards_program/

Photo Credit: Elizabeth Pollock

The **Michigan Conservation Stewards Program** (CSP) is volunteer leader training program designed for those interested in science-based ecosystem (aquatic and terrestrial) management principles and sharing this knowledge with others to help Michigan Communities.

CSP is currently enrolling participants for programs being held this Fall 2018 in **Kalamazoo, St. Clair** and **Oakland** counties. Visit the CSP program page for complete details on this MSU Extension program: https://www.canr.msu.edu/conservation_stewards_program/

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

Promoting natural shoreline landscaping to protect Michigan's inland lakes...

www.mishorelinepartnership.org



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