



MICHIGAN NATURAL SHORELINE PARTNERSHIP

Promoting Natural Shoreline Landscaping to Protect Michigan's Inland Lakes

Volume I, Issue 1

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

August 15, 2011

The New Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

by John Skubinna, MNSP Facilitator

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) is excited to introduce its new e-newsletter. Since its inception in 2008, the Shoreline Partnership has been busily working to do its part to encourage the use of attractive, environmentally sound landscaping methods for inland lake shorelines in Michigan. With fifteen member organizations, nearly 100 Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals, and the newly formed Natural Shoreline Educator Network, the community of shoreline professionals and educators has grown by leaps and bounds in the past three years.

The Shoreline Partnership newsletter has been created to help us keep this rapidly expanding community of shoreline professionals up to date on the latest happenings of the MNSP, it's members, collaborators and volunteers.

The MNSP newsletter will be issued quarterly via electronic distribution to everyone wishing to be included with updates on the MNSP events, operations, trainings and general news about the partnership. Please join us in sharing the latest in your projects and success stories in our newsletter. If you would like to be included in the distribution of the e-newsletter, or you have ideas for articles of interest to the natural shoreline community, please make submissions to the newsletter editor, Scott Brown, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, at sbrown@mllswa.org.

In each issue of the newsletter, announcements of notable developments within the Shoreline Partnership programs, and the shoreline professional community, in general, will be included. Much has happened during the formation of the partnership and the creation of its education programs in the past three years, and much is anticipated in the coming years from the partnership. These announcements will be provided to keep everyone up to date.

News and Notes from the Facilitator

Compiled by John Skubinna, MNSP Facilitator

The Shoreline Partnership Kicks off a Self-Evaluation Process and Begins to Plan for the Future

During the next partnership business meeting, the MNSP will begin to 1) Evaluate the progress made towards meeting it's mission, 2) Set priorities for the future, and 3) Create a process for evaluation of its progress for the future. This extremely important meeting of its members will set the direction and priorities for the Shoreline Partnership in the years to come. This business meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at Constitution Hall in Lansing**. All voting members are encouraged to attend! Your input is greatly needed at this meeting. For details about this meeting, contact Shoreline Partnership Co-chair, Amy Lounds, DEQ, at loundsa@michigan.gov.

The Shoreline Partnership is Now on Facebook

The MNSP **Facebook** page is now available to everyone interested in natural shoreline management. It is available to share details of shoreline events, projects or workshops that you may be planning or have attended. It can be used to share pictures of projects, advertisements for shoreline events and trainings, videos and so much more. You can ask questions of MNSP experts or see what other shoreline professionals have been up to. To get access to the **Facebook** page, go to the **Facebook** page link on the MNSP web site at www.mishorelinepartnership.org.

Year Two of *Certified Natural Shoreline Professional* a Success

Jane Herbert, MSU Extension Land & Water Unit
Kellogg Biological Station

Several members of the MNSP collaborated again this year to develop and deliver **Certified Natural Shoreline Professional (CNSP)** at two locations. This popular certification training program, targeted to professional landscape and marine contractors, was held in Brighton and in Cadillac.

Thirty contractors from around the state attended the Brighton program, hosted by Kensington Metro Park. All thirty successfully completed the three-day classroom component, one-day field exercise on Kent Lake, and the 100-question certification exam.

The classroom component of the Cadillac program was hosted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center. The City of Cadillac hosted the one-day field exercise at Cadillac Lakefront Park on Lake Cadillac. Twenty-eight contractors successfully completed the Cadillac training to become Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals.



Contractors practice design concepts in small groups during the Cadillac training. (Photo: Jane Herbert)

The field component of CNSP provides hands-on experience constructing a natural shoreline on an inland lake. The field exercise results in a 100-foot long demonstration site that includes bioengineered shoreline erosion control and a six-foot wide buffer strip on native shoreline plants. The demo sites, which take about three years to establish, are available for use by school groups, Master Gardeners, the MNSP Educator Network, and others.

The MNSP would like to thank all of the hosts, and their staff, for helping to make year two of CNSP a success.



Contractors place a pre-vegetated **Root Carpet™** on the lake bed while others prepare to wave break it with coir fiber logs. (Photo: Jane Herbert)



Newly completed natural shoreline demonstration site on Kent Lake, Kensington Metro Park. (Photo: Jane Herbert)

News and Notes from the Facilitator

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New MSU Extension Brochure on Natural Shoreline Landscaping is Now Available

MSU Extension has updated and revised its brochure *Natural Shoreline Landscaping: The act of creating landscapes that restore and preserve Michigan's lakeshores for today and for future generations*. This popular brochure provides examples of natural landscapes and information on their benefits. It is now for sale through the MSU Bookstore for 50¢/copy, or for 43¢ / copy for those buying 10 or more copies at once. To find it, go to www.bookstore.msue.msu.edu and search for **Extension Bulletin E-3158**.

The Shoreline Partnership Agrees to Sponsor the 2011 McNALMS Conference

The MNSP partners voted unanimously to sponsor the 2011 annual conference of the **Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society** to be held in Tustin, MI on Sept. 22 and 23. The MNSP is proud to support this conference which will feature a tour of the Shoreline Partnership's demonstration project constructed in May 2011 on Lake Cadillac, as well as featured shoreline expert Jane Herbert from MSU Extension. For more details on the conference, look for registration information at www.mcnalms.org.

Master Citizen Planner Project to Help MNSP Develop Shoreline Education Programs for Local Governments

The Shoreline Partnership's Policy committee launched an effort to gather information on local ordinances governing shoreline uses. To assist in this effort, MNSP has eagerly agreed to accept the Master Citizen Planner Project Report to be prepared by Paul Sniadecki, Certified Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer, Milton Township, Cass County, entitled **The Status of Lake & Natural Shoreline Friendly Ordinances in Michigan**. This report will help the committee to better plan shoreline management education efforts for local government staff and officials, a priority for MNSP in the coming year. Members interested in assisting MNSP in delivery of these programs, should contact committee co-chair, Amy Lounds, DEQ, at loundsa@michigan.gov.

Van Buren Conservation District Holds a Successful Workshop for Riparian Property Owners

The **Van Buren Conservation District** held a workshop for riparian property owners on July 16, 2011 at the Van Buren Youth Camp on Great Bear Lake, Bloomingdale, Michigan. Sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Trident Dock and Dredge, Inc., the event featured Van Buren Conservation District speakers who are a part of the MNSP Shoreline Educator Network, and a walking tour of shoreline environments at the youth camp. Details of this well attended event will be highlighted in an article in an upcoming October edition of the MNSP Newsletter, or may be found at the Van Buren CD web site, www.vanburencd.org.

MNSP Web Site to Feature a Searchable Database for its Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals

Having difficulty finding a contractor that has passed the Shoreline Partnership's **Certified Natural Shoreline Professional (CNSP)** course in your area of the state? MNSP's Contractor Training committee has decided to update its on-line CNSP list with a searchable database that will enable readers to find a contractor by county, city, company name, or by firm or organization type. The database will be coming soon to www.mishorelinepartnership.org later this fall.

Nineteen CNSP Earn Re-certification Credits at Kellogg Biological Station's Shoreline Workshop

Nineteen professionals who are currently **Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals** earned re-certification credits while assisting MSU Extension complete a soft engineered shoreline project at Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) on Gull Lake, Hickory Corners, MI. Attendees participated in construction of a shoreline project using soil lift technologies to stabilize 80 feet of moderate energy shoreline on Gull Lake. The project was sponsored by MNSP, Cardno JFNew, Inc., Trident Dock and Dredge, KBS, and Project GREEN, a Michigan plant industry fund. Project design and workshop details can be obtained by contacting featured instructor, Jane Herbert, MSU Extension, at jherbert@anr.msu.edu.

The Q & A Corner

by Julia Kirkwood / DEQ Kalamazoo District Office

Where are some sources for native plants?

This is a question that many of you may still have and that also appeared on our educator training surveys. There are many sources for native plants, though distance to the sources may vary throughout the state. The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership does not maintain a list of up to date suppliers – as the sources change frequently enough to soon make a list obsolete. We like to utilize the resources already available when possible to be more efficient. Two sources identified in the MNSP Property Owner Guidebook specifically related to native plants are: **Michigan Native Plant Producers Association**, www.mnppa.org and **The Wildflower Association of Michigan**, www.wildflowersmich.org. Another source is the **Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association's** website www.PlantMichigangreen.com, which can also provide information about sources in addition to lots of other useful information.

If you live in the Upper Peninsula, particularly in the western side, going below the bridge to purchase plants may not be appealing to you. Also, remember finding plants that are grown from sources closest to home is always best because they will be most similar genetically than a plant grown much further away. Therefore, nurseries located in Wisconsin may be your best option. Ah, but how to find them? I did a quick search on the internet using the key words “native plant nursery + wisconsin” and easily found ten native plant sources in Wisconsin. I then clicked to the **Google Maps** tab and amazingly enough, the ten sources I found were mapped, plus a whole lot more both in Wisconsin and Michigan. Now, I can say that I can tell there are a few missing from the Michigan map, but the point is there are sources out there and ways to find them. The more folks in Michigan that use native plants, the easier they will become to find – it's the old law of “supply and demand” plus a little bit of internet technology and old fashioned word of mouth.

If you have other specific questions you might like answered please send them to kirkwoodj@michigan.gov.

Educator Tool Kit Update:

A recent “Tool Kit” addition is an activity that is used with the plant list. This activity will help people become more familiar with using the recommended plant lists to choose plants to meet their specific needs. This additional tool is available for download from the MNSP website in the section dedicated to MNSP Educators.

I am planning a review and update of the “Tool Kit” for this fall. I have a list already started of items I need to change or update. Please send ideas, comments and errors you may have found to Julia Kirkwood kirkwoodj@michigan.gov.

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