



# MICHIGAN NATURAL SHORELINE PARTNERSHIP

Promoting Natural Shoreline Landscaping to Protect Michigan's Inland Lakes

Volume V Issue 1

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

January 2015

## 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 began in 2008 as a result of a conversation between Jane Herbert (MSUE) and John Skubinna (MDEQ). This conversation led to the vision of a comprehensive approach to protecting Michigan's inland lakes from the #1 threat – “*loss of natural shorelines/near shore habitat loss*”. There is an uphill challenge to changing a culture of seawalls and turfgrass at the water's edge - which the MNSP Partners recognize and are committed to rising to this challenge. We have accomplished an incredible amount of work in such a short time frame. The educational resources, policy changes and training opportunities that have been created provide the foundation to enable a statewide network of people to be more informed and capable of doing the work that must be done. Other states are now even developing their own natural shoreline contractor training program.



Jane Herbert

However, each organization/partnership must occasionally look at where they have been and where they want to go as they meet their goals/changes happen in order to continue to be successful and relevant. One significant change that is happening to the MNSP is that Jane Herbert will be retiring in early 2016. She is currently in part-time status and while still involved in the MNSP, her level of involvement is reduced. Natural shoreline bio-engineering on inland lakes is very different from how stream restoration is done and there isn't as much research available. Jane led the way for Michigan's lakes by searching out this information, mentoring with others that were doing this work in other states and bringing it back to the MNSP. Her leadership and expertise were an integral component in becoming such a successful partnership and achieving the goals that we set forth. I will personally miss her involvement both from a professional and personal side. I will miss the 5 minute phone calls that turn into 30 minutes or longer as I bounce ideas off her. I will miss the opportunity to learn about shorelines and life.

So if you happen to talk to Jane wish her well in her next endeavor and thank her for her leadership and commitment to inland lakes. In the meantime, the MNSP is still here and we have a lot of work ahead us. We will be looking ahead for ways to strengthen our capacity as a partnership and identifying opportunities to build on what has already been accomplished. Michigan's lakes are waiting.

## CNSP Update

by Jane Herbert, Michigan State University Extension

### **Attention Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals – recertification process recently restructured!**

The Certified Natural Shoreline Professional Training Program has recently restructured the recertification process to better serve the needs of the contracting community. Upon completing the program and passing the examination, certification is valid for three years. Continued registration (3 years) only requires a \$25.00 processing fee and the completion of the re-registration form.

Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) are **no longer required** for continued registration on the MNSP Website. However, we encourage your continued participation in educational programs that enhance your professional expertise. If you have any questions please contact Bob Schutzki, [schutzki@msu.edu](mailto:schutzki@msu.edu) or 517-420-4041.

### **Certified Natural Shoreline Professional – 2015 certification training scheduled**



This year's CNSP classroom training is scheduled for March 10 – 11 in East Lansing, Michigan on the campus of [Michigan State University](http://Michigan State University). The hands-on field day and exam will be located in the village of [Paw Paw](http://Paw Paw) on June 3.

Please note that the East Lansing training is the **only** CNSP training being offered in 2015. Cost for the training is \$300 per person and includes the two days of classroom instruction, lunches, reference manual, exam, and the one-day hands-on field exercise. Seating is limited so register soon. Click [here](#) for

a downloadable registration form. If you have questions about the training please email Dr. Robert Schutzki (MSU Department of Horticulture) at [schutzki@msu.edu](mailto:schutzki@msu.edu) or call 517-420-4041.

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### Hold the Date!

A one-day field session on **Wednesday July 22, 2015** will provide hands-on experience rebuilding a 25-foot long section of seriously eroding bank using prefabricated, [BioD Block](#) soil lifts.

The session will be located on Maple Lake in Paw Paw and will be hosted by the Village of Paw Paw and the [Van Buren County Conservation District](#). Watch this e-letter and your inbox for registration information. Information regarding this event will also be posted on the MNSP [website](#) and Facebook [page](#).



### Change happens!



One thing's for certain, things are always changing and that goes for my role with the MNSP. As I have officially moved to a half-time appointment with MSU Extension, I will no longer be involved with the CNSP certification training.

The change to half-time is of my own choosing as I transition towards retirement in early 2016. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as part of the CNSP instructional team since 2010. We have accomplished much and it's been extremely rewarding to meet all of you and to follow your successes in restoring natural shorelines on inland lakes across the state. Best wishes on your 2015 natural shoreline projects and please keep in touch! Jane

## Great Lakes Conference Celebrates 25 Years

by Dr. Lois Wolfson, MSU Institute of Water Research



The Great Lakes are a valued resource to Michigan, providing water for recreation, consumption, and power; world-class fisheries, and multiple other uses. They are subject to a variety of challenges including invasive species, conservation and restoration; tributary impacts, habitat loss, harmful algal blooms, and other water quality issues. Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the conference will address many of these key topic areas and highlight some of the latest research and

management efforts being developed for the Great Lakes and its surrounding watershed. The conference will be held at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing on Tuesday, March 10. It is free and open to the public; however, advanced registration by Thursday, March 5th is requested.

Please visit: [www.iwr.msu.edu/events/ANRWeek](http://www.iwr.msu.edu/events/ANRWeek) to see a complete agenda and registration form.

To register for the 25th annual Great Lakes Conference, [click here](#).

For further information, contact: Lois Wolfson <[wolfson1@msu.edu](mailto:wolfson1@msu.edu)>, 517-353-9222.

## Shoreline and Shallows Conference Registration Open

by Dr. Lois Wolfson, MSU Institute of Water Research

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership's 2015 Shoreline and Shallows Conference will return to Michigan State University's Kellogg Center on Wednesday, March 11, in East Lansing, MI. The title of this year's conference is "Challenges and Successes" and will feature a natural shoreline research and policy presentation by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. This year's conference will also include two presentations on design considerations when planning for river bank versus lakeshore restoration. Guidance on costing out natural shoreline projects will be offered and speakers will explore subtle siting details that may be affecting two of the Certified Natural Shoreline Partnership demonstration sites.

The agenda for the one-day conference, along with a link to online registration, is available at [www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org) and then clicking the MNSP Shoreline and Shallows Conference option on the menu bar. Early bird registration is \$35.00 and includes lunch. Regular registration after February 25 is \$45.00, including lunch. Walk-ins are accepted but lunch is not guaranteed. The conference is sponsored by the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership. Co-sponsors 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 further information, please contact: Lois Wolfson at [wolfson1@msu.edu](mailto:wolfson1@msu.edu) or 517-353-9222.



## Michigan Shoreline Educator Training: A Train-the-Trainer Program

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) is offering a professional training for individuals interested in becoming a part of the MNSP Shoreline Educator Network (SEN).

**Topic:** Participants will learn how to conduct homeowner workshops on the benefits of natural shoreline landscaping, bioengineering and erosion control on inland lakes.

**Course**       Healthy Lake Ecosystems  
**Content:**     Ideas for Natural Landscapes on Lake Shorelines  
                    Problems with High Impact Landscape Methods  
                    Use of Native Plants in Shoreline Landscape  
                    State of Michigan Rules and Regulations

Participants will receive the ***Shoreline Educator Network Homeowner Tool Kit*** which includes:

- MNSP Homeowner Manual
- Shoreline Brochures for Homeowners
- Workshop Presentation
- Workshop Promotion Materials

### Date and Location:

**April 24, 2015**

**8:30 am—4:00 pm**

Mid Michigan Community College  
 1375 South Clare Avenue  
 Harrison, Michigan 48625

### Registration:

Register online at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/MNSPEducator2015/>

Fees include lunch, refreshments & workshop materials

**Early Registration:** \$65

*Ends: March 1st*

**Normal Registration:** \$75

*Ends: April 16th*

**On-site Registration:** \$85

### Questions:

Contact Marybeth Denton at 989-539-7805 or [Denton.Marybeth@anr.msu.edu](mailto:Denton.Marybeth@anr.msu.edu)

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## Apply Now for the 2015 Lake and Stream Leaders Institute!

Submitted by Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University

**“Caring for Michigan’s lakes and streams through education, leadership and citizen action.”**



Each of us has a role to play in protecting Michigan’s magnificent lakes and streams. Are you ready to play your part? If so, the Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute is looking for you! The Institute is an outstanding experience for people who are willing to step up in their communities and within their organizations as volunteers, leaders, or professionals. We invite you to apply for the Class of 2015!

Since 2002, the Institute has developed local water resource leaders who are familiar with current lake and stream science and management practices, and have the leadership skills to work through challenging issues with their communities. Participants gain an understanding of the regulatory landscape, organizations, and agencies that guide water resource protection and management in Michigan, and learn how to develop productive partnerships. The Institute is a partnership program of Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., and the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

“I feel far more confident taking proactive steps in my lake community and providing information to persuade or motivate others,” wrote a 2013 Institute graduate who is a Lake Association Board Member. “I am more prone to speak up, even to a less than receptive audience. I feel more connected and vested in my own lake.”

The Institute combines classroom and small group learning, 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 independent project which is shared with their peers and Institute alumni during a Poster Symposium on graduation day. After graduation, participants can engage in an Institute Alumni Program that promotes continued opportunities for learning and service.

“You will meet enjoyable, good spirited people who are kindred to your own care and concern for our lakes and streams,” says a 2013 Institute graduate. “Spending time with such kindred spirits is energizing, motivating, and promotes hope and courage and stamina to keep trying to be a positive force for our beautiful Michigan Water-Wonderland. And an added bonus is spending time at the delightful locations of the meetings. It is balm to a nature lover’s soul and a true educational retreat.”

Past participants have included natural resource agency staff, lake association and non-profit organization leaders, natural resources students, drain commissioners, educators, and interested citizens. Today, nearly 100 Institute alumni are hard at work for Michigan’s lakes and streams in a variety of ways, such as leading lake associations, working within state and local natural resource agencies, serving on planning commissions, and monitoring water quality.

Make plans to be a part of the Class of 2015! The first session will take place May 15-16 at the DNR’s Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center on Higgins Lake. The second session will be held July 31 – August 1 at Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) near Kalamazoo. 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, 2015. Tuition for the 2015 Institute is \$375, and includes all instruction, materials, meals, field trips, boats, and overnight lodging at the RAM Center and KBS. Limited scholarships are available.

For application forms and more information about the 2015 Institute, visit the website: <http://goo.gl/zec62q>, or visit MSU Extension (<http://msue.anr.msu.edu>) and search for “LSLI”. You can also contact the Institute Director, Dr. Jo Latimore, at MSU ([latimor1@msu.edu](mailto:latimor1@msu.edu) or 517-432-1491).



## Michigan Lake & Stream Associations 54th Annual Conference

### “Managing Aquatic Invasive Species in Inland Lakes”

Friday & Saturday  
May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Boyne Mountain Resort  
Boyne Falls, MI

Registration is open to the public

For more information or to register for the conference, [click here](#)

## Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

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

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

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