



## MICHIGAN NATURAL SHORELINE PARTNERSHIP

*Promoting Natural Shoreline Landscaping to Protect Michigan's Inland Lakes*

Volume V Issue 3

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

July 2015

### *News and Notes...*

Compiled by Julia Kirkwood, MNSP Chair  
*Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Resources Division-Nonpoint Source Program*

Did you know that July is “Lakes Appreciation Month”? Each year the North American Lakes Management Society (NALMS) promotes activities to help raise awareness about lakes. Below is some information from NALMS about this opportunity.



You work on them. Play on them. Drink from them.

But do you take time to really appreciate your local lake?

Lakes Appreciation Month is a time to think about where you would be without water. It is also a time to think about the threats facing your lakes. Growing population, development, and invasive plants and animals put stress on these waterbodies. All life relies on water. And as you know, we can no longer afford to take for granted that these water resources will always be there and always be usable.

One way you can help promote Lakes Appreciation is by sharing your experiences through NALMS' [“Show Your Lakes Appreciation Challenge”](#). It is a photo contest with opportunities for prizes and recognition. The NALMS website offers other suggestions for how you can help support “Lakes Appreciation Month”.

From a shoreline perspective share your photos of examples of natural shorelines, write an article for a local lake association newsletter, or give a short presentation about natural shorelines for a local group.

What is the MNSP doing during this month? Well, we are putting out this newsletter for one. And we are hosting a field day in Paw Paw on Maple Lake to help contractors and others that are interested in learning how to install Bio-D blocks. Registration is through the Van Buren Conservation District. And we also hope to have our re-designed MNSP website ready to go by the end of July. The URL will remain the same [www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org). We are making it a little more user friendly and will be providing more educational information as to why natural shorelines are so important.

## Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes: Lake and Wetland Protection Tools for Local Government



Michigan has 11,000 inland lakes and over 1,850 units of government who share a role in keeping those lakes clean for future generations. Four workshops will be held in Michigan during the summer of 2015 to help local officials and concerned citizens understand the benefits of inland lakes to communities, the regulations that govern them, and the opportunities for enhancing protection at the local level.

Workshop dates and locations:

- ◆ **July 21: Franklin Twp. Hall, 3922 Monroe Rd. (M-50), Tipton (Lenawee County)**
- ◆ **August 3: Kensington Metropark Farm Center, 2128 W. Buno Rd., Milford (Oakland County)**
- ◆ **August 6: North Central Michigan College Library Conference Center, 1515 Howard St., Petoskey (Emmet County)**
- ◆ **August 10: Van Buren Conference Center, 490 S. Paw Paw St., Lawrence (Van Buren County)**

Each workshop will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and lunch will be provided. The fee is \$20 per person and registration is required 10 days prior to each workshop. Topics will include: the importance of inland lakes and wetlands, what you can do at the local level, natural features setbacks, existing legal framework, and how to get started in your community.

The workshops are funded in part with an EPA Wetlands Program Development Grant and are hosted by the Van Buren Conservation District with support from the Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and MSU Extension.

For more information or to register, visit [www.VanBurenCD.org](http://www.VanBurenCD.org) or contact Erin Fuller at 269-657-4030 x112 or [erin.fuller@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:erin.fuller@mi.nacdnet.net).

To download a workshop brochure and registration form, [click here](#)

*Hold the Date!*

## CERTIFIED NATURAL SHORELINE PROFESSIONALS TRAINING



BioD-Block soil lift system for shoreline protection

### Maple Lake Shoreline Restoration

This one-day training will provide Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals and others with hands-on experience constructing encapsulated soil lifts using the prefabricated, BioD-Block soil lift system. The project will repair an eroding bank on Maple Lake near Paw Paw, MI. This training is hosted by the Van Buren Conservation District and taught by members of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership.

**July 22, 2015**

**8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Maple Lake, Paw Paw, MI

Lunch Provided

Registration fee: \$75 (\$60 for current  
Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals)

Registration deadline: July 15.  
Space is limited – register early!  
Register online:  
[www.VanBurenCD.org](http://www.VanBurenCD.org)  
Or call 657-4030 x 112



HOSTED BY  
**VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
1035 E Michigan Ave.  
Paw Paw, MI 49079  
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## Make Way for the Cardinal!

By Nick Meekof  
Student Intern

*MDEQ Office of Environmental Assistance*



Photo: D. Spalink, U-M Herbarium

Cardinal red is a tasteful color. Inspired by Catholic priests and inspiring the “red carpet,” the color resonates with class, virtue, and royalty. Stanford University even adopted “The Cardinal” as its official athletic mascot—not the bird... *the color*.

But of course, the most refreshing place to see cardinal red is in a natural setting. Cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*) prefer swamps, floodplain forests, and wet shores, though their beauty is even more regal than a Harvard campus banner. They can be found all over the Lower Peninsula, as well as along the Lake Michigan counties in the Upper Peninsula.

Cardinal flowers reach their greatest splendor in their early years, stretching up toward the sun until they are nearly four feet tall, offering a full bouquet of saintly crimson with each stalk. They make striking additions to the

waterfront. Like shoreline superstars they catch the eye of anyone passing by and wave at them in a breeze. Peak blooming occurs during the heat of late summer.

But the limelight fades, and so too do the cardinal flowers ease back into modesty after a few years, scaling back in size and presenting their famous cardinal red a little more sparingly. They still dazzle shorelines, but with less glamor than in their adolescent years.

Another elegance of the cardinal flower is its high standards for pollination. Hummingbirds are the only ones fit for the job, though bees will occasionally visit to collect nectar. This preference also makes it an excellent species for native shoreline projects; not only does it beautify the shoreline with its own

(Continued on next page)

***Lobelia cardinalis...***

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***Lobelia cardinalis***

Photo: R. W. Smith, U-M Herbarium

charming appearance, but it also attracts hummingbirds to the property.

If you're looking to plant some cardinal flowers near your natural shoreline, you'll need to know a few things. They are best planted just above the water level in rich, moist soil. They prefer partial to full sunlight, and, like all good things, they don't last forever. You may be able to anticipate a nice, tall garden of cardinal red buzzing with hummingbirds for the first couple years, but eventually the show must go on, and *Lobelia cardinalis* will shrink naturally back into place among the rest of your waterfront display. In the meantime, sit back and enjoy the show!

#### Sources

Michigan Flora Online. A. A. Reznicek, E. G. Voss, & B. S. Walters. February 2011. University of Michigan. Web. February 24, 2015. <http://michiganflora.net/species.aspx?id=703>.



# MDNR's Least Wanted Aquatic Invasive Plants



Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Natural Features Inventory are collaborating on the implementation of an Early Detection Rapid Response Program, which seeks to locate and eradicate occurrences of the following species:

***Be on the lookout for these invasive species!***

**Flowering Rush**  
*Butomus umbellatus*



www.kingcounty.gov

**Water Chestnut**  
*Trapa natans*



invasives

**Parrot Feather Water-  
milfoil**  
*Myriophyllum aquaticum*



www.invasives.org

**Water Soldier**  
*Stratiotes aloides*



Leaf Wilts, U.S.

**Water Lettuce**  
*Pistia stratiotes*



www.invasives.org

**Water Hyacinth**  
*Eichhornia crassipes*



www.invasives.org

**European Frog-bit**  
*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*



www.dnr.wi.gov

**Brazilian water-weed**  
*Egeria densa*



www.graynabob.wsu

**If you have seen any of these aquatic invaders, note their location and contact:**

Michigan DNR Wildlife Division Invasive Species Program  
Phone: (517) 641- 4903 ext. 260  
[www.mi.gov/invasivespecies](http://www.mi.gov/invasivespecies)

Questions about other aquatic invasive plants? Contact the DEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program at 517-284-5593, [www.mi.gov/anc](http://www.mi.gov/anc)



## MiWaters 101 Workshops

***Due to high demand, the morning session for the July 27th workshops is closed, and a third session has been scheduled for August 17.***

This summer, the DEQ, Water Resources Division (WRD), will launch a new information system called MiWaters. MiWaters is a state of the art, comprehensive, Web-based, permitting and compliance database that will replace over 25 software applications and databases currently used by the WRD (some of which are over 30 years old).

The DEQ is hosting informational sessions to provide an overview of the system and the changes it will effect. Due to high demand, the morning session for July 27th is closed. You can still register for the following options.

1. The July 27 afternoon session, with a focus on Wetlands, Inland Lakes and Streams, and Great Lakes and Dunes programs.
2. The new August 17 morning session, which is intended for ALL users and permittees in Water programs.

**The new August 17 morning session, which is intended for ALL users and permittees in Water programs.**

### **Who should attend?**

**Permittees and Applicants; also invited are consultants, stakeholders, contractors.**

### **What is MiWaters?**

**MiWaters will establish a streamlined electronic permitting process, allowing Michigan to fulfill federal electronic reporting requirements, and providing an online component for access to public information. The focus of MiWaters will be permitting and compliance, including the following areas:**

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits (including storm water permits)
- Groundwater Discharge Permits
- Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) Permits
- Part 41 (sanitary wastewater) Construction Permits
- Land and Water Interface Permits

It will also include:

- Reporting of untreated or partially treated sanitary wastewater.
- Pollution event and complaint reporting and tracking.
- Streamlined inspection processes, including capture of inspection results by inspectors while in the field.

Brief "How To" video tutorials focusing on specific features of MiWaters, as well as step-by-step written instructions, will be available soon on-line at the MiWaters website:

[www.mi.gov/miwaters](http://www.mi.gov/miwaters)

### **Workshop Registration Questions:**

Alana Berthold

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517-284-6854

## A Look at White Water Lily (*Nymphaea odorata*)



Photos by Scott Brown



Possessing broad floating leaves and large flowers sporting brilliant, ultra-white petals, white water lily (scientific name: *Nymphaea odorata*) is one of the most easy to identify icons of natural shorelines throughout most of North America. Extending from shallow near shore areas to water depths of usually no more than six feet, abundant white water lily's often form a dense vegetative overhead canopy that serves to cool summer waters and is a vital component of the complex aquatic habitat that makes natural shorelines so attractive to frogs, turtles, fish, snakes and a myriad of other aquatic borne-species. Firmly anchored in the sediment, large cylinder shaped rhizomes are sturdy enough to penetrate dense meadows of Starry stonewort—making white water lily one of the few rooted aquatic plants in Michigan capable of effectively competing with the invasive macro-algae.

Source: Borman, S., Korth, R., & Temte, J. (2014). Through the Looking Glass: A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants-Second Edition. Stephens Point, WI: Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

# Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

Promoting natural shoreline landscaping to protect Michigan's inland lakes

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

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