

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership



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

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Vol. VI Issue 2

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

July 2016

News and Notes...

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



It is July again and that means it is “**Lakes Appreciation Month**”! Each year the [North American Lakes Management Society](http://www.nalms.org) (NALMS) promotes activities to help raise awareness about lakes. Recently, Governor Snyder signed a proclamation to recognize Lakes Appreciation Month in Michigan.

This year the MNSP has a new program to show appreciation for Michigan’s inland lakes. The [MI Shoreland Stewards Program](http://www.mishorelandstewards.org) is designed to recognize inland lake property owners for protecting their lakes through best management practices.

During this month you can:

- ◆ Register and take the survey to see if your property qualifies. (if you live on a lake, that is)
- ◆ Promote the program to individual property owners.
- ◆ Encourage lake associations to register on the site.
- ◆ Put a link to the program website on your website.

We want to recognize YOU
for protecting Michigan's inland lakes.

Become a MI Shoreland Steward!

- 1 Take the online questionnaire to determine if your lakefront property qualifies as a gold, silver or bronze stewardship level.
- 2 Learn important tips on how you can protect your lake and improve your shoreland.
- 3 Once you complete the questionnaire, you can print a stewardship certificate. If you want to let everyone else know you're a MI Shoreland Steward, purchase a sign to display in your shoreland.

www.mishorelandstewards.org

A Common Map is an Uncommon Treasure

By Nick Meekhof

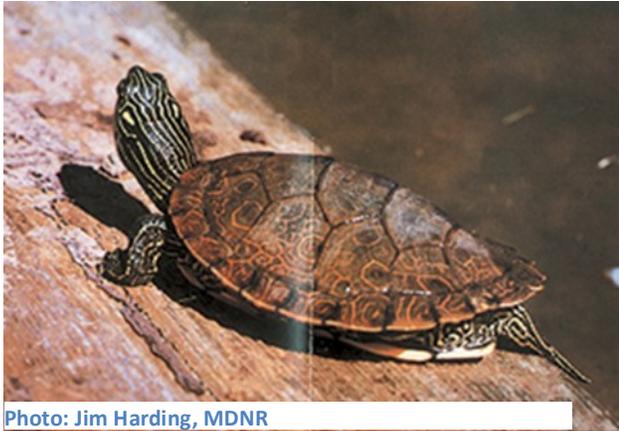


Photo: Jim Harding, MDNR

In the American classic, *Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck says there are three types of people: those who swerve to hit, those who swerve to miss, and those who simply focus on the road.

The object in question? A turtle.

Steinbeck's metaphor shows how some people will go out of their way to make life difficult for others out of amusement, while others will keep on plugging ahead, oblivious to any impact they might have on their surroundings.

But there are those virtuous few who will inconvenience themselves in order to help those in need. They swerve to miss. They might even stop the car, pick up the turtle, and shuttle it across the road themselves. Maybe *you've* done this before.

It's worth reflecting on. Metaphorically, of course, but even at face value, we Michiganders see a fair amount of turtles now and then. They cross the road, they appear in front yards, they bask on logs, and they sit in ponds. But nobody is ever overtaken by a turtle, the way a swooping hawk or a darting deer might cross your path. Turtles are always happened upon, appearing out of the blue, often in a state of dogged confusion. A turtle doesn't take anyone's spot, or assume the right-of-way. They may be looking forward to a nice sunny boulder all day before they find a seat that's not taken.

Take the common map turtle, for example. Even more skittish than their relatives, *Graptemys geographica* will jump at the slightest disturbance, diving underwater at the very thought that danger may be nearby. And it's a shame, too. Common maps are quite the acrobats; if you leave them alone long enough, they will scratch and claw their way up to perch on the highest seat in the pond. Like most Michigan turtles, they favor large lakes, rivers, and oxbow bends with plenty of places to sunbathe.

"Common" is a bit of a misnomer; in Michigan they're only widespread in the southern and western Lower Peninsula. To find one you'll have to be very cautious and quiet, but if you do, it's a real treat. Common maps are beautiful specimens, as turtles go. Both their Latin and common names reflect the map-like outlines on its carapace, or shell, while narrow yellow stripes continue the pattern on its neck, legs, and tail.

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“...an Uncommon Treasure”

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Typically, they eat a steady diet of crayfish, snails, and other mollusks, though the portions vary by gender. Female common maps have large heads, enabling them to crush their catch with strong jaws. Males are generally smaller and leave the crushing to the females, content to nibble on smaller species. They rely heavily on natural shorelines, burying a clutch of eggs near water in the late spring. Roughly 70 days later, a bunch of baby maps hatch and make their way to the water.

Unfortunately, these turtles don't fare so well in a world of jet skis, beaches, waves, and wakes. That's why preserving natural shorelines is crucial to the common map's well-being. Without a proper habitat, turtles will have to hit the road in search of a new place to live and reproduce—and we all know that can be a difficult, dangerous journey.

This is where the reptile meets the road, so to speak. Be a “swerve to miss” person. Preserve their natural habitat. Go out of your way to help the little guys out.

Source

"Common Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*)." www.michigan.gov/dnr. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 2015. Web. 18 Feb. 2015.

Multiple Aspects of Lakes and their Inhabitants Featured During the Michigan Inland Lake Convention

By Lois Wolfson
Michigan State University

If you didn't attend the 2016 **Michigan Inland Lakes Convention**, then you missed out on hearing about a multitude of topics relating to inland lakes. The Convention, held April 28-30 at Boyne Mountain Resort, and sponsored by the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership and its members, consisted of two plenary talks, eight workshops, one field trip, 19 concurrent sessions with 39 presentations, and nearly 40 exhibits.

The first plenary talk by David Mifsud focused on amphibians and reptiles. He discussed the range of species that occur in various habitats across Michigan and why they are important to aquatic ecosystems. Many of these organisms are bio-indicators, meaning they are sensitive to pollutants and toxins. Thus, their presence or absence in a particular habitat provides an indication as to overall habitat quality. Major threats to their existence are habitat loss and fragmentation, chemical pollution, excessive nutrient loading to lakes, invasive species, water level alterations, the drawdown of lakes, and predators that are adapted to urban development. Maintaining connectivity between habitats and structure within habitats will help provide the needed conditions for these species.

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2016 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention

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Rebecca Williams, reporter and producer at Michigan Radio, and host of the Environment Report, provided the second plenary talk by focusing on reaching people who might not share the same passion or enthusiasm as another person might. In her humorous presentation entitled “What’s under a rock is interesting. But why should we care?”, Rebecca gave examples of what works with audiences and keeps them listening to what is being said. Her take home message included telling just one story at a time, being clear about the focus of the story, being careful about using jargon, writing the story like a conversation, and finding out what matters to the audience and making sure to relate to them.

Workshops, which were held the day prior to the plenary talks focused on a variety of subject matter, including aquatic plants, fish, copper toxicity, wild rice, lake and wetlands protection and photography. Many of the sessions were interactive and hands-on. In the aquatic plants workshop, participants used keys to identify plants and learned techniques for creating their own plant collection. The fish workshop included a review of the various fish species in Michigan, important features of habit, fish stocking, and lake treatments for aquatic vegetation. The workshop on copper first discussed the history of the metal and had the audience take part in a quiz about copper. The focus then turned to the effects of copper treatment in lakes, various formulations of copper, its environmental fate, and risk assessments.

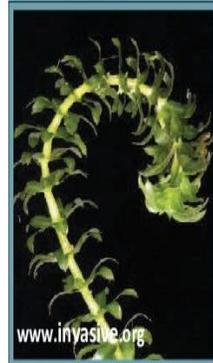
The workshop with “Mahnoomin” in its title, was all about wild rice and provided a historical, cultural, and ecological look into the importance and potential restoration of wild rice. Participants were treated with a taste of wild rice during the session. The photography workshop discussed basic camera features but also provided examples concerning the subject, close-up images, exposure compensation, and lighting differences. A full day workshop on tools for local governments to use for protecting Michigan’s inland lakes consisted of seven presentations. These included regulatory information, local wetland ordinances, shoreline protection overlay districts, and developing a master plan for a community, with specific information on site plan reviews, natural features setback, and storm water management.

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Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Plant Watch List

Aquatic invasive species on the watch list have been identified as being an immediate and significant threat to Michigan's natural resources. These species either have never been confirmed in the wild in Michigan or have a limited known distribution. Early detection and timely reporting are crucial for preventing establishment and limiting impacts. For more information on these plants, visit: www.misin.msu.edu

Be on the lookout for these invasive species!

<p>Yellow Floating Heart <i>Nymphoides peltata</i></p>	<p>Water-chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i></p>	<p>Parrot Feather Water-milfoil <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i></p>	<p>Water Soldier <i>Stratiotes aloides</i></p>	<p>Hydrilla <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i></p>
		 <p>www.invasive.org</p>	 <p>Leif Willey, UFL</p>	 <p>www.invasive.org</p>
<p>Brazilian Water-weed <i>Egeria densa</i></p>	<p>European Frog-bit <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i></p>	<p>Water Lettuce <i>Pistia stratiotes</i></p>	<p>Water Hyacinth <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i></p>	<p>European Water-clover <i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i></p>
 <p>www.graysharbor.wsu</p>	 <p>www.dnr.wi.gov</p>	 <p>www.invasive.org</p>	 <p>www.invasive.org</p>	

These species are currently allowable for sale and possession. Please contact the DNR if these plants are observed outside of cultivation.

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

Michigan DNR Wildlife Division
Phone: (517) 641- 4903 ext. 260
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

Revised: June 2015

2016 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention...

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A wide variety of information was presented during the concurrent sessions. Examples of topics included invasive species, particularly Eurasian water milfoil and starry stonewort; natural shorelines, online learning tools and mobile apps, E. coli testing, trends in the water quality of lakes, climate change, conflict resolution, habitats, septic systems, aeration, swimmer's itch, methods for controlling aquatic plants, riparian rights and water law, underwater robotics, and basic lake research.

The majority of the convention presentations, either as MS Power Point or pdf files are posted at: <http://michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu/convention> under plenary presentations, workshops, and presentations.

The next Convention will be held in 2018. The following topics ranked the highest in the evaluations: aquatic invasive species prevention and management, lake water quality, aquatic plant management and restoration, fisheries and habitat management, communicating lake protection and management issues, nonpoint sources pollution, and leadership. Other topics were mentioned and will be considered. In 2017, the coordinating organizations of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership will hold individual conferences, workshops, and seminars. Announcements will be made in this newsletter as well as other outlets.

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