



WELCOME TO OUR OCTOBER 2019 eNEWSLETTER

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 - Zebra Mussels & Micro Plastics
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 - 3 Lake & Stream Events this Fall

MLSA's New Executive Director



We want to hear from you!

Phone: (989) 831-5100

E-mail: info@mlswa.org

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NEW! Follow us on

At our September 24, 2019 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. voted and selected Melissa DeSimone to become the Executive Director of MLSA. The Executive Director is responsible for carrying out the managerial functions of the MLSA Corporation and reports to the Board of Directors. Melissa comes to MLSA from the field of education with a masters degree in administration. She has 10 years of teaching experience, part of which was in Pennfield, MI. She is also a long time volunteer with MLSA's region 3 and secretary of the Gravel Lake Association in Van Buren county.

Melissa DeSimone said, "I am very excited to be chosen as the Executive Director for MLSA and look forward to helping lead the way in the protection of Michigan's waterways."

MLSA President Mike Gallagher said, "Melissa's experience as a science educator and her strong passion for working with riparians to help maintain or improve the quality of their lakes, will quickly be noticed by the MLSA members."

Melissa DeSimone can be contacted by:
Email: melissa.desimone@mlswa.org
Phone: (989)831-5100 x103

Arriving Soon... Cliff Bloom Articles in the Fall *Michigan Riparian Magazine*

By Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

The 2019 FALL Edition of **THE MICHIGAN RIPARIAN** magazine (Vol. 54, No.4) is being mailed this week.



The Fall issue features two timely articles by Attorney Cliff Bloom. The first article, "Three Important Michigan Appellate Court Decisions Regarding Deed Restrictions and Road Ends and Plats" reviews recent Michigan Court of Appeals decisions that have potential riparian property impacts. The second article, "Hazards to Navigability" discusses what riparians can do about hazards on their lake/stream, and some of the liability riparian property owners face if they create a hazard to navigation.

Magazine subscribers in Michigan will be the first to find the Fall issue in their US Mail boxes. Subscribers in other parts of the country (and, YES, we have many in other states), should look for delivery late in the week of October 21, 2019.

Not yet a subscriber to the only magazine designed and published for lake and stream front property owners and enthusiasts? It is easy to subscribe on-line at: <https://www.mi-riparian.org/>

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Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. is a non-profit, primarily volunteer organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and effectively managing Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes and streams as well as advocating for the protection of riparian property rights.

Our Collaborative Partners

[Michigan Waterfront Alliance](#)

[Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society](#)

NOTE TO **RIPARIAN** MAGAZINE SUBSCRIBERS: Please call The Michigan Riparian office at 989-831-5100, or e-mail swagner@mlswa.org. with any changes regarding your mailing address. If you subscribe through your Lake/Stream Association, please ensure they record your new mailing address information. THE MICHIGAN RIPARIAN is mailed at a postage rate that does not include “free” forwarding. If you want the magazine to “follow you” we suggest enrolling in the pre-paid **US Postal Service Premium Forwarding Service**.

Save the Date!
Michigan Lakes and Streams Association
59th Annual Conference
Friday & Saturday
May 1-2, 2020
Crystal Mountain Resort | Thompsonville, Michigan



EGLE/DEQ Awards Only 13 Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Grants

By Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

The EGLE/DEQ Water Resources Division has just announced it awarded \$12,300 under the Aquatic Invasive Plant (AIS) Control Grant Program for 13 projects to control aquatic invasive plant species using chemical or physical methods. The grant application deadline was July 1, 2019, and the \$12,300 in grants will be dispersed on or about April 2020.

The grants to lake associations and local governments in 12 counties will reimburse only permit fees for the inland lake projects. Work to control invasive species will take place for the following “grantees”: Big Bass Lake in Lake County, Birch Lake in Cass County, Brownwood Lake in Van Buren County, Clark Lake in Jackson County, Duck Lake in Calhoun County, Higgins Lake in Roscommon County, Lake Lansing in Ingham County, Nepessing Lake in Lapeer County, Round Lake in Mason County, Sand Lake in Lenawee County, Thompson Lake in Livingston County, and West Twin and East Twin lakes in Montmorency County.

The final tally by EGLE/DEQ found 53 grant applications were submitted via the SIGMA system requesting a total of \$44,400. However, the grant acceptance rate was only a small 24.5%. EGLE/DEQ states applicants who were denied grants “**included**” in their proposals native aquatic plant treatment, or their applications were incomplete. EGLE/DEQ further claimed

[Michigan Clean Water Corps \(MiCorps\)](#)

[MDEQ Water Resources Division](#)

[Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#)

[Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership](#)

[Michigan Loon Preservation Association](#)

[Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership](#)

[Freshwater Future](#)

the law that established Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Grant Program specifies the money be used for invasive plant control.

MLSA is concerned about such a low grant application acceptance rate (24.5%), especially because in the real world, riparians and their lake managers generally apply for one ANC permit each year to control the full spectrum of AIS and nuisance plants. Being required to apply for 2 ANC permits (one for AIS and another for all other plants) is burdensome and incurs extra costs, with many lakes having to double their ANC Permit expenses.

EGLE/DEQ further announced the Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Grant Program will continue in 2020. For more information on the grant program, visit www.Michigan.gov/AIPControlGrant

MLSA will now attempt to work with state officials for the 2020 cycle to increase both the grant application submission rate (only 53 lakes in 2019), as well as the grant acceptance rate (only 24.5% in 2019).

Thank you! AIS Survey Honor Roll

by Melissa DeSimone, MLSA Executive Director

As you may recall, we have been requesting that our lake association members complete a survey about AIS treatments on their lake. We have had over 130 responses and already received some staggering data.

- **More than 70%** of the lakes that responded are treating for AIS.
- A total of **\$2.1 million** was spent in 2018 by these lakes.
- On average each lake spent **over \$22,000** on AIS treatment last year.

Thank you to all the lakes that have participated so far! The list can be seen here: https://www.mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AIS-Survey-Lake-Honor-Roll-THANK-YOU.xlsx-10_10_19-1.pdf

It's not too late! We want EVERY LAKE to participate, if you have not already taken our survey you can follow this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmTujLJF18GGQno0stt0tN7P0OutNZF17K9ulJypwB5uk3ag/viewform?usp=sf_link

Middle School Students Use Zebra Mussels to Measure Microplastic Pollution in Lakes

By Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

After reading the title to this article, riparians might be wondering:

- Can Zebra Mussels really be useful for something?
- Is our lake/stream polluted with Microplastics?
- Can Middle School Students do scientific work providing needed data?

The answer to all three questions is: YES!

Quinn Hughes and Tyler Clair, both seventh-graders at Minnetonka, MN Middle School West, care about the environment and have inquiring minds. One of their most recent projects — a research paper on microplastics in four Minnesota lakes, including Lake Minnetonka — earned them first place at the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair held March 1-2, 2019, when they were sixth-graders.

In their project, titled “Microplastics in Our Water; a Study of Minnesota Lakes indicated by Dreissena polymorpha (Zebra Mussels)”, Quinn and Tyler discovered Lake Minnetonka is home to more micro plastics than Lake Superior, Lake Mille Lacs and Lake Pelican.

Quinn and Tyler conceived the idea to study micro plastics after watching a documentary about micro plastics in Lake Superior. They contacted a Loyola University professor who taught them how to measure microplastics in a lake by taking samples of zebra mussels and dissolving the mussels in a potassium hydroxide solution, which leaves any microplastics intact and floating at the surface of the solution. They then counted and viewed the amount of microplastics using a simple microscope.

The skill and ability levels needed for this science project are about equal to what a riparian needs to do all the testing involved with the Michigan Cooperative Lakes/Streams Monitoring Program (CLMP). To read the entire science project paper prepared by Quinn and Tyler, follow this link to the report on our website:

[https://www.mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/RESEARCH-PAPER_Hughes_Cclair.pdf](https://www.mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/RESEARCH-PAPER_Hughes_Clair.pdf)

MLSA will provide more info about the techniques used by the young scientists in a “Part 2” article in the MLSA November eNewsletter.

Interesting Lake & Stream Events Happening Soon

By: Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

MiCORPS CONFERENCE BEGINNING SOON

The 15th Annual MiCorps volunteer monitoring conference will take place Oct. 23 at the Kettunen Center. Conference sessions will focus on citizen science for coldwater resource protection, use of lake monitoring data, monitoring of streams, aquatic plant and insect identification, and volunteer recruitment.

Presenters on the agenda include: Erick Elgin, Mike Gallagher, Julia Kirkwood, and Dr Jo Latimore. Register by October 15 at

<https://micorps.net/resources/conference-registration/>

LSLI GRADUATION ON OCTOBER 18, 2019

The 2019 Lake and Stream Leaders Institute (LSLI) will graduate 19 participants from a broad array of backgrounds at its final session at MSU in East Lansing on October 18. During that session, participants will present their independent projects. The implementation team (Erick Elgin, Julia Kirkwood, Lois Wolfson, and DrJo Latinore) valued the support of many individuals that contributed time and knowledge to LSLI, including Mike Gallagher (Michigan Lakes and Streams Association), Sarah LeSage (EGLE/DEQ), and former representative Brian Gunderman (MI DNR)

McNALMS Lunch and Learn Program

on

Harmful Algal Blooms: Ecology, Impacts, and
Management Options



featuring

Dr. Ann St. Amand, PhycoTech, MI
Dr. West Bishop, SePRO Corp., NC

Wednesday, November 6, 2019
Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI
11:00am - 2:30pm

To Register, go to: https://events.anr.msu.edu/mcnalms_HABs/

Cost including lunch: \$30 members; \$35 non-members; \$28 students

For more information, contact mcnalms@mcnalms.org

Regional Meetings of MLSA

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

The next Region 3 meeting will be May 16, 2020 and all are invited to come join the discussion. You can contact Craig DeSimone (cucad4@hotmail.com) to be added to the region email list or for more information about the meeting.

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

Several Lake Associations in Northeast lower Michigan have expressed a possible interest in having MLSA Regional meeting in their area. MLSA has agreed to explore the level of interest. If you would like to participate in such a meeting contact MLSA at: info@mlswa.org. Additionally, Rex Vaughn, Cedar Lake, in Alcona/Iosco County, cell 810-516-6686, has agreed to facilitate questions and answers for lakes in his area. If there is a sustainable level of interest, MLSA will assist in coordinating Regional Meetings in Northeast Michigan.

If other parts of the state have a similar interest, please contact MLSA at: info@mlswa.org

ICYMI...
You Told Us, We Listened



Our organization was formed in 1961 as the **Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, INC** (MLSA). MLSA was created as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation made up of organizations, corporations, associations, and individuals who share the goal of preserving and protecting Michigan's vast heritage of freshwater resources and protecting riparian rights. Through the years the dedicated work of MLSA members achieved much and "Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, INC" became a "brand name" for all things riparian, and the same was associated with the often used vernacular term of "Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, INC."

In 2018, the then Board of MLSA voted to change our name to **Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations, INC**. (Still "MLSA" and use of the plural for association). The reason in short was to focus on inland lakes and stewardship.

Since then we have been faced with constant questions like the following small sample:

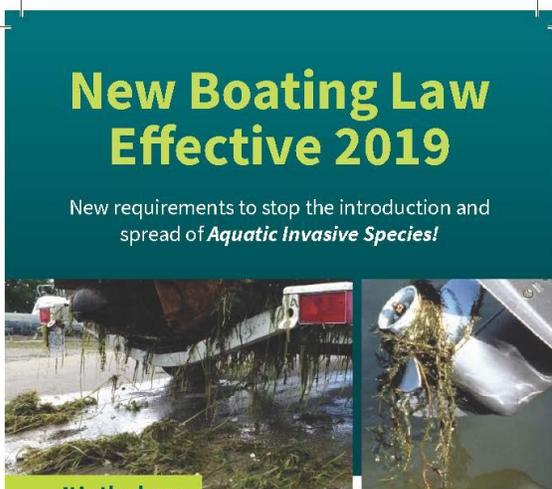
- Are you still doing what the former MLSA did?
- Where do individual members fit-in for an organization that says it is for "Lake Stewardship Associations"?
- My lake association is so much more than just "stewardship." How do we fit-in if we also do social, recreational, and community/neighborhood building?
- Can we still call you "Michigan Lakes and Streams" as that is what we called you for so long and see no reason for the change?
- Our lake has an inlet and an outlet, which are streams (as many lakes do), so aren't you going to help me with those resources?

Accordingly, we have heard your concerns and respect the needs of our current and future members! On August 8, the MLSA board held a Special Meeting and voted with a "super-majority" to change our legal name to "**MICHIGAN LAKES AND STREAMS ASSOCIATION, INC**" (MLSA) as it has

been used by so many people for so many years. We also committed ourselves to using a strategic plan to serve, educate and represent our members as in the past. We also resolved to take steps and initiate programs that significantly expand our educational efforts and focus on riparian rights.

We appreciate the direct and critical input from so many of our members and other interested parties. Without you, positive change would not be possible. **You told us, we listened...** we then took action, and the best of MLSA is yet to come! Continue to join us, and work with us, as we expand MLSA! The waters we love will appreciate what we do!

NEW BOATING/WATER LAW BROCHURE FROM DEQ



It's the law:

A person shall **NOT**...

-  Launch or transport watercraft or trailers unless they are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.
-  Transport a watercraft without removing all drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
-  Release unused bait into the water.



*Violation of the law is a state civil infraction.
Violators may be subject to fines.*

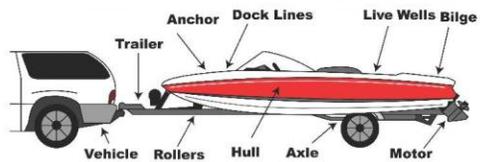
Follow these steps:

- 1. CLEAN** boats, trailers and equipment.
- 2. DRAIN** live wells, bilges and all water.
- 3. DRY** boats and equipment.
- 4. DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash.

www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies

Aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil are often introduced and spread through recreational boating and angling activities and can have long lasting negative impacts such as reduced native species diversity, waterways choked with weeds and reduced opportunities for fishing, boating and swimming. Fortunately, boaters can help prevent the spread of invasive species with just a few simple steps:

- INSPECT** boats, trailers and equipment and remove all mud, debris and aquatic plant material from trailers and watercraft before launching or retrieving a watercraft. Use a hose or power washer when available and dry all equipment thoroughly before leaving the access area.
- DRAIN** live wells, bilges and all water from boats before leaving the access site. Disinfect live wells and bilges with a bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach to 5 gallons of water) when possible. Fish diseases and microscopic life stages of aquatic invasive species can be hiding in seemingly clean water, so draining is an important step.
- DISPOSE** of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water. Release of bait and minnows can lead to the unintended introduction of aquatic invasive species.
- DO NOT TRANSFER FISH** to water bodies other than where they were caught. This helps prevent the spread of both aquatic invasive species and fish diseases.

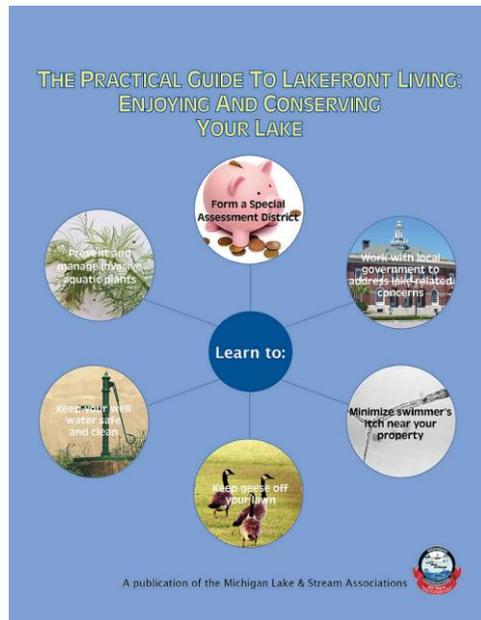


Inspection points on boats, trailers, and vehicles for aquatic invasive species decontamination.



DEQ Environmental Assistance Center: 800-662-9278

01/2019

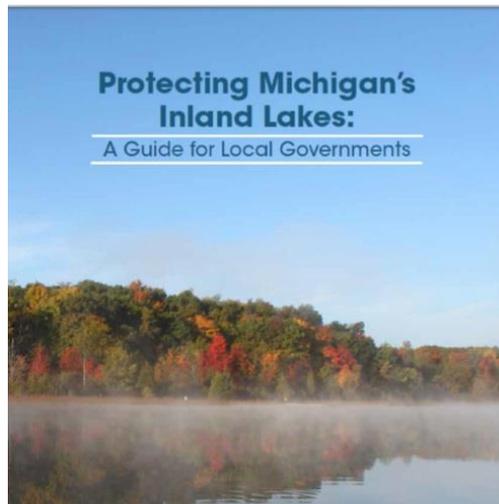


Available from MLSA

**The Practical Guide to Lakefront Living:
Enjoying and Conserving Your Lake**

Lake ecology, natural shorelines, swimmers itch, fishing with conservation in mind, e-coli bacteria, dock riparian rights, algae blooms, Michigan boating law, watershed management, aquatic invasive species, and Special Assessment Districts, are just a few examples of the important topics that are covered in this unique guidebook that was written and published by MLSA with Michigan's lakefront home owners in mind!

[Click here](#) to order the guidebook now!



Available for download by [clicking here](#)
The guidebook is also available in printed form from
Michigan Lakes and Streams Association
by contacting melissa.desimone@mlswa.org



Read about the latest news, events, and programs of the

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

by [clicking here](#)

Learn about an exciting opportunity to qualify
your lakefront shoreline for recognition by visiting the

[Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program website.](#)

To download the January 2018 edition of the Michigan
Natural Shoreline Partnership newsletter, [click here](#)



MICHIGAN NEEDS HEROES
TO PROTECT AGAINST AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS



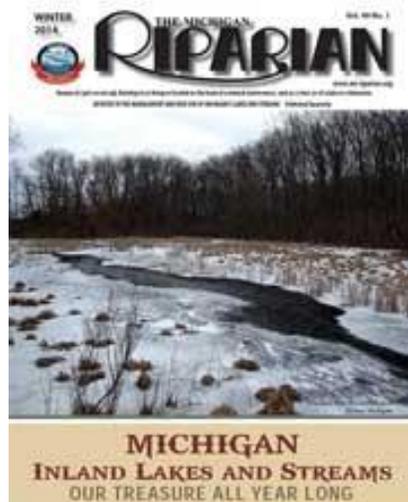
Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program

Created to Help You Prevent New
Introductions of
Exotic Aquatic Invasive Species

Always strictly adhere to the mantra

"Clean - Drain - Dry - Dispose"

www.micbcw.org



The Michigan Riparian

An Affordable Opportunity to be Well Informed
and to Support Our Family of Lake and Stream

Stewardship Focused Organizations

www.mi-riparian.org



The **Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program** (CLMP) has been an important component of Michigan's inland lakes monitoring program for over 40 years, which makes it the second oldest volunteer monitoring program for lakes in the country. The primary purpose of this cooperative program is to help citizen volunteers monitor indicators of water quality in their lake and document changes in lake quality over time.

Since 1992, the **Michigan Lakes and Streams Association** (MLSA) has administered the CLMP jointly with the Michigan Department of **Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy** (EGLE).

For more information about the CLMP, please visit <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/> or contact Jean Roth of MLSA at jroth@mlswa.org
