



MICHIGAN LAKE STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS

Dedicated to Protecting & Preserving Michigan Lakes
www.mymlsa.org

Welcome to our September 2018 Newsletter...



2018 General Elections Provide an Excellent Opportunity for Local Leaders to Become Familiar with

"Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes: A Toolkit for Local Governments"



RECENT NEWS

MLSA Board of Directors Elects new Officers

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Michigan is known for its lakes – the Great Lakes, of course, but also our more than 11,000 inland lakes that have a special place in many of our hearts. Once the water quality of a lake is degraded it is very difficult and expensive to improve; preventing lake water quality problems is much cheaper and easier in the long run. The power to protect inland lakes is shared among all levels of government and all people have a stake in the outcome: clean water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, etc. Local governments have an important role in helping to protect inland lakes through planning because not all aspects or features of inland lakes are protected by state and/or federal laws and regulations.

The 2018 mid-term general elections will inevitably place a lot of new comers into positions of authority at all levels of government. If history is a reliable indicator, we know that the vast majority of our newly elected government officials, and particularly at the local level, will have succeeded in getting elected even though they possess little or no knowledge of the state laws that permit local governments to pass ordinances designed to protect local water resources such as inland lakes.

In order to familiarize local government officials, MLSA created our 'toolkit for local governments" section that we feel is a "must read" for new township officials. Don't let your new local government officials get away with telling you that they have no authority to regulate local water resources - point them to this section of the MLSA website!

To visit the "Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes" web page,

[click here](#)

Benchmark AIS Prevention Actions?

By Paul J. Sniadecki
MLSA Board Director

NOTE: Definition of "Benchmark" from Merriam-Webster:

- a) something that serves as a standard by which others may be measured or judged;
- b) a point of reference from which measurements may be made.

This monthly MLSA newsletter and *The Michigan Riparian Magazine* provide on-going coverage of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issues around our home state of Michigan. Most often the news has not been promising about actual preventative measures being deployed. Many readers, including myself, have asked the questions:

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

Our Collaborative Partners

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- Is Michigan doing enough to prevent AIS in its over 11,000+ inland lakes?
- What are other states doing?

The truth is that many states have implemented pro-active and stringent requirements to stop AIS infection and contamination in their water bodies. Perhaps the time has come for Michigan to rapidly “benchmark” relative to prevention practices occurring in other states, and then quickly implement even more stringent legislation and administrative rules/procedures in Michigan.

In the real world, results-based leaders embrace bench marking. They adapt and do what has been successful for others. Many times they also go a step beyond what the leaders are doing as a tactic to become the new market/technology “leader.” Results based leaders also rarely fall into the trap of “analysis paralysis.”

If the Michigan legislature and DNR/DEQ were to begin bench marking for AIS prevention for inland lakes, where are some of the obvious places to look? The following is a brief synopsis of easily located information. Most likely there are additional states with some of the following requirements in place, or are in the process of implementation:

FUNDING FOR AIS PREVENTION VIA WATER CRAFT

STICKERS: Oregon, Idaho, Nebraska, Washington State, Nevada, and Minnesota.

MANDATORY AIS INSPECTIONS with DECONTAMINATION / DISINFECTION : Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Washington State, Lake George New York, Wyoming, Minnesota, Vermont, Utah, and New Mexico.

STATE FUNDING FOR AIS PREVENTION: Since 2014, the Minnesota legislature provides \$10 Million to local counties for the specific purpose of funding local AIS prevention and control activities. Wisconsin uses \$4.5 Million for AIS each year, sourced 100% from fuel gas tax. California uses \$5.98 million for AIS prevention, with the majority of the funds coming from water craft registrations and “mussel stickers.”

COORDINATED and FREE STATE WIDE ACTION FOR AIS: Since 2017, University of Minnesota Extension has conducted a “*Starry Trek*” each August to search for infestations of the AIS Starry stonewort. In 2018, 225 trained volunteers searched 187 lakes of Minnesota’s 10,000 lakes. They found one (1) new infestation which raised the Minnesota DNR maintained database total to 14 lakes with Starry stonewort. The “*trek*” took place at essentially the same time around the state and generated media attention to the challenges presented by all AIS. The Minnesota DNR maintains a verified database listing all

water bodies in Minnesota that are AIS infested, with only less than 7% of Minnesota's lakes on the infested waters list.

In summary, it is clear there are actions that Michigan can take to prevent the spread of AIS. Is it time to benchmark? What can you do help make that happen?

MiCorps
Monitoring Michigan's Water Quality


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save the date...

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY LAKES

OCTOBER 4-5, 2018//GRAND RAPIDS
MICHIGAN INLAND LAKES CONVENTION/MICHIGAN CLEAN WATER CORPS

2018 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention

Thursday & Friday
October 4th & 5th, 2018

Crowne Plaza Hotel Grand Rapids (Airport)

To learn more or to register for the upcoming Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership Conference, [click here](#)



Exotic Invasive Starry stonewort: Essential Information for Michigan Lakefront Property Owners

Article and Photos by Scott Brown
MLSA Executive Director

Editor's Note: This article appeared in *The Michigan Riparian Magazine* approximately three years ago. Starry stonewort has now been successfully introduced to hundreds of Michigan's inland lakes - the vast majority of the

inland lakes currently hosting perennial growth of the species exist in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula.

Starry stonewort (scientific name: *Nitellopsis obtusa*), a member of the Characeae family, considered a highly beneficial, though increasingly rare “connoisseur of clean waters” (Lambert, 2009; Stewart, 1996) within its native range of Europe and Asia, was first observed as an aquatic invasive species within the North American waters of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1978, and was later discovered in the St. Clair-Detroit River system during the summer of 1983 (Geis, 1980; Geis *et al.*, 1981; Schloesser *et al.*, 1986; Nichols *et al.*, 1988).

First detected in Michigan inland lakes in February of 2006 (Pullman and Crawford, 2010), successful colonization of over two hundred inland lakes had been confirmed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality by the spring of 2014. Due to the repeatedly observed ability of invasive Starry stonewort to degrade ecologically sensitive areas of critical shallow water habitat within colonized inland lakes, federal and state government agencies, including the United States Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, have classified Starry stonewort as a highly invasive aquatic species. Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations frequently receives questions from lakefront property owners about the dense meadows of invasive Starry stonewort that may have suddenly appeared near their docks or shorelines. This article was written to address the commonly asked questions we have received regarding the biology and ecology of this unique and interesting, though highly invasive ancient plant that has inhabited the freshwaters of Europe and Asia for well over fifty million years.

To continue reading this article, [click here](#)



Class is in session: Learn about Michigan's lakes and streams

Whether you prefer in-person, online, or field based learning experiences, MSU Extension has something to offer!

September 14, 2018 - Author: [Paige Filice](#), Paige Filice, Tara Eavy

Fall is fast approaching, bringing with it the cold, frozen months that change how we enjoy our inland lakes. While the seasonal change means putting away the bathing suits and boats, it is an opportunity for ice fishing and skating. Shorter days can also be used for learning about lakes and ways to protect and improve them. Michigan State University Extension invites you to take part in off-season learning opportunities:

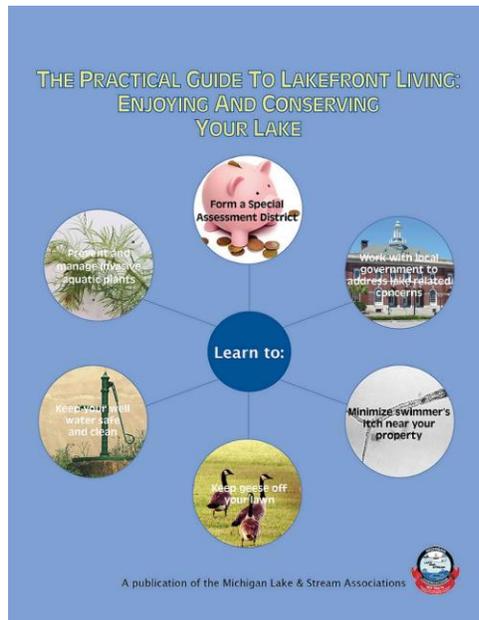
- [Michigan Inland Lakes Convention](#) in October
- [Introduction to Lakes Online](#) course in January and February
- [Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute](#) this spring!



The Michigan Waterfront Alliance, Inc. recently launched a new website in order to more effectively promote its mission of preserving and protecting the high quality of Michigan's inland waters and the riparian rights of waterfront property owners. Please take the time to view the new site!

To read the most recent MWA Newsletter, [click here](#)

www.mwai.org

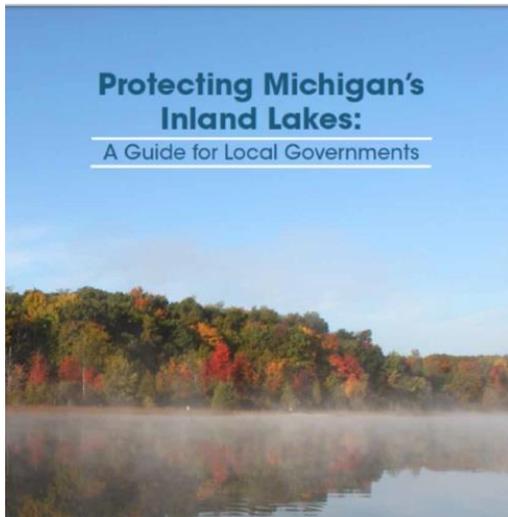


Available from MLSA Now!

**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 Lake Stewardship Associations

Central Office by contacting

swagner@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 July 2018 edition of the Michigan
Natural Shoreline Partnership newsletter, [click here](#)



CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS



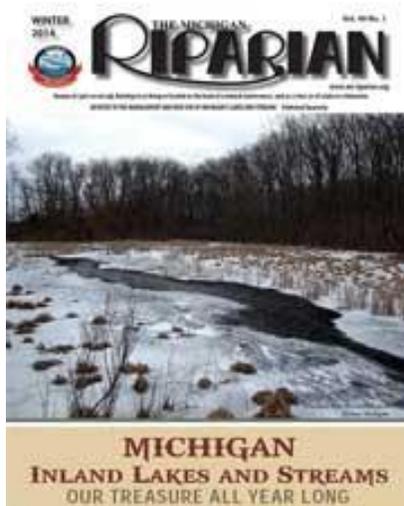
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Created to Help You Prevent New
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The Michigan Riparian

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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 Lake Stewardship Associations (MLSA)** has administered the CLMP jointly with the **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality**.

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