



## MICHIGAN LAKE STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS

Dedicated to Protecting & Preserving Michigan Lakes

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

### Welcome to our June 2019 Newsletter

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#### AIS GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

by Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

The ELGE/DEQ system is now open, **through July 1, 2019**, for applicants to apply for grants under the new Michigan AIS Control and Eradication initiative. Grants are for eligible applicants for the control or eradication of aquatic invasive plant species in inland lakes. This grant program, for the 2019 grant cycle, is to cover only necessary permit fees for eligible projects undertaking chemical

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tees for eligible projects undertaking chemical, physical or biological control of aquatic invasive plant species, or a combination of these methods.

The grants are available to legally constituted lake associations, or nonprofit property owner associations, homeowner associations, lake boards, or special assessment districts (SADs), who currently have an EGLE permit in effect to conduct the control or eradication activities included in the eligible project.

Applicants are cautioned the 2019 Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Grant Program will use Michigan's Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Applications (SIGMA) Vendor Self Service (VSS) (<https://sigma.michigan.gov/webapp/PRDVSS2X1/AltSelfService>) for grant management (i.e., application submission, notification of award, reporting, and reimbursement). Eligible applicants that intend to apply for this grant opportunity should create a vendor account. Be sure to allow sufficient time to set up your account in SIGMA. The process is involved and requires much in the way of specific information. If your lake has a SAD in place, this author suggests you work closely with your Local Governmental Clerk or Treasurer to submit the application. This will ensure all data is correct, and the grant award can be recorded into the proper account for your SAD.

Since this the first year for the grant program (and some legal definitions remain uncertain), this author suggests you submit an application if you are reasonably uncertain that your AIS efforts meet all of the eligibility requirements. In other words, if you are going to error, do not error by "self-disqualifying" your lake. Rather, apply and let the grant administrators make the decision. Of course, if you clearly are not eligible, then do not clog the process by applying. To begin the involved application process, follow this link: [https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-71276\\_92001---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-71276_92001---,00.html)

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## **MORE EFFORTS TO ENABLE SHORT-TERM RENTALS**

By Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

(Significant portions of this article first appeared in media issued by the Michigan Townships Association, MTA)

Short-term and vacation rentals are nothing new along Michigan's picturesque lakeshores and lush forests. But in recent years, rental homes/rooms are increasing in areas where year-round residents live, especially on larger inland lakes. The areas are zoned for "residential use", but some property owners are not using their homes in a "residential"

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Michigan Lake Steward Associations, 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.

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### **Our Collaborative Partners**

[Michigan Waterfront Alliance](#)

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Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society

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

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owners are not using their homes in a residential manner. A growing number of people are using Airbnb.com and other online services to rent houses, condos or even a single room in their lake home. The result is riparian homeowners are now living side by side with short-term renters on vacation. While not the case in all situations, this has negatively impacted the quality of life of some riparian residents due to noise, late-night parties, parking and other disturbances.

As local units of government have crafted ordinances that best suit their residents, both the real estate and rental industries have pushed for state level legislation to preempt local regulations and zoning. Current Bill [HB 4046](#), sponsored by Rep. Jason Sheppard (R-Bedford Twp.), tackles this issue by effectively stripping local townships, cities and villages, of their authority to regulate the location (zoning) of vacation and short-term rentals of 28 days or less.

In recent weeks another Bill, under primary sponsor Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Park Twp.) proposed what's called the "Michigan Short-Term Rental Promotion Act" as an alternative approach. Under [HB 4554](#), the primary bill in the package, all short-term rentals of no more than 30 consecutive days would be required to register their property with the state. The bill clarifies that personal information, such as the street address and owner's name, is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. Additionally, the bill states that local units cannot have any zoning ordinance that effectively prohibits short term rentals in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. The bill would require anyone who owns a short-term rental to carry \$1 million in liability insurance, either on their own or through their hosting platform, such as Airbnb. The owner must also pay all taxes and assessments required by law. Any owner who violated the act would be subject to a fine of as much as \$15,000.

HB 4554 would also create a workgroup of stakeholders, including local units, the tourism industry and real estate professionals. The group would be tasked with assisting the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) with developing best practices and model short-term rental zoning.

The issue of state level regulation of short-term rentals has been around for a few years. To date, no action has been taken by the Michigan Legislature. However, 2019 could be different. Riparians are encouraged to exercise their right to contact their elected representatives to share their support, or opposition, to the current Bills pending in Lansing.

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## **SOME HWM INFESTED/CONTAMINATED LAKES MAY REQUIRE DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

By Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

Under a scientific study **Funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, with a **Project start date of 2016** and an **estimated project end date of 2019**, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) conducted research into the behavior of Hybrid Eurasian Water Milfoil (HWM), compared to Northern Eurasian Water Milfoil (NWM) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).

The study, thus far, has established that HWM produced an intermediate number of stems compared to EWM and NWM. The study provided field-based evidence of hybrid vigor in HWM. Specifically, earlier and increased flowering may increase HWM spread and provide a competitive advantage over parental species. Moreover, increased surface matting may shade out native species to a greater degree than parental species.

This study further demonstrates the importance of distinguishing HWM from parental EWM and NWM, as some HWM infested lakes may require different management strategies.

HWM is best determined through genetic testing of the plants discovered in each lake. To learn more about MAISRC research and findings to date on HWM, follow this link:

<https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/hybrid-watermilfoil>

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## **Aquatic Plant Survey Workshop, Luncheon set for June 29**

Posted by MNA Staff on June 9th, 2019

MANISTEE — Anyone interested in **citizen science** is encouraged to attend the Aquatic Plant Survey Workshop and Luncheon this month.

The workshop will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 29, hosted by Bear Lake residents, Rich and Phyllis Russell, at their lakeshore property at [12851 Hopkins Forest Drive](#) on the west shore of Bear Lake.

Attendees will learn all about aquatic plants, lake ecology, shoreland stewardship, Michigan's volunteer lake monitoring program and more. Light lunch and refreshments are included. The event is presented by the Manistee Conservation District, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Michigan State University Extension and the Bear Lake Watershed.

watershed.

The workshop will feature Dr. Jo Latimore, aquatic ecologist and outreach specialist, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. Working closely with MSU Extension and Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations, Latimore promotes the understanding and stewardship of aquatic resources. Latimore will be accompanied by Erick Elgin, aquatic ecologist and water resources educator with Michigan State University Extension. Working to promote and research the wise use, protection and restoration of freshwater systems, Elgin's recent efforts have focused on aquatic plants, lake management, natural shorelines and empowering citizens with the knowledge to make sound water management decisions.

This workshop is part of the Manistee Conservation District's commitment to increasing **Citizen Science** initiatives and providing education and incentives to engage the local community in learning about the science of the ecosystems in which they reside.

RSVP by June 26 by calling (231) 889-9666, ext. 3 or emailing [susan.spencer@macd.org](mailto:susan.spencer@macd.org). The event is free to the public. A small donation is suggested to help cover overall costs.

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### **REGIONAL MEETINGS OF MLSA**

by Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

For decades, Region 3 of MLSA (comprised of lakes in the SW Michigan Counties of Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph) has met three times a year. Two meetings have been "Lake Rep" meetings, and one has been a Short Seminar type meeting, usually in early fall. The meetings provide networking opportunities for the area lakes, and helped address issues unique to their geographical area. The Region 3 meetings have helped lake associations who could not afford to attend the MLSA Annual Conference, as well lake associations needing "help/suggestions" now, and could not wait up to 365 days until the next Annual MLSA Conference.

**Dennis Babjack of the Coldwater Lake Association** has organized a Regional Lake Meeting in the South East area of Michigan. The meeting is open to All Lake Associations (regardless of geographic location) for educating, informing and helping each other to better manage your Lake resources.

When: Saturday, August 10, 2019

when: Saturday August 10, 2019

Where: Coldwater Lake Association building. 516  
Warren Rd Coldwater MI  
Time: 8:15-8:55 check-in.  
Morning Refreshments  
Meeting 9-12 lunch included.  
Pre-Register online at  
[ColdwaterLakeAssociation.com](http://ColdwaterLakeAssociation.com) limited seating  
available.

Preliminary Agenda:

8:15-8:55 am Check-in  
1. Welcome/opening remarks.  
2. Intro of attendees/ presenters  
3. Presenter(s) / handouts.  
4. Recap / small group break out session.  
5. Lunch/ Results-Recap  
Set Next meeting date  
Adjournment.

### **REGION 3 MEETING**

Melissa and Craig DeSimome announce The  
Porter Township Hall (88040 M-40, Lawton 49065),  
has been secured for the Fall 2019 Lake  
Representatives meeting for Region 3, on  
Saturday, 9/14 from 9am-12pm.

The meeting is open to All Lake Associations  
(regardless of geographic location)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:info@mlswa.org)

### **CONTINUING ACTION NEEDED, AGAIN, TO "SAVE THE CLMP PROGRAM".... THIS TIME FOR 2020**

By: Lon Nordeen and Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board  
Members

MLSA is pleased to report that many MLSA  
members contacted their elected Representatives  
in response to our "SAVE CLMP" article in the April  
MLSA Newsletter. That citizen action, in support of  
"Save the CLMP" has been a great success story.

"Citizen Science", has generated some legislative support for funding the program in 2020.

A special MLSA Newsletter will be issued soon to report on the specifics, and identify future actions needed to ensure the funding is in the FY2020 State Budget. In the interim, riparians are reminded they can use opportunities to ensure their Michigan Senators and Representatives are aware of the need to continue this important program for our many Lakes and Streams.

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## NEW BOATING/WATER LAW BROCHURE FROM DEQ

# New Boating Law Effective 2019

New requirements to stop the introduction and spread of *Aquatic Invasive Species!*



### 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.*

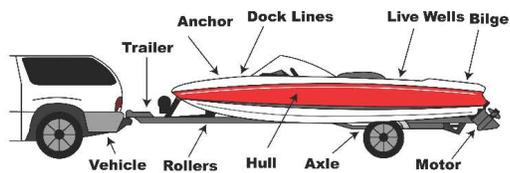
### Follow these steps:

- 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](http://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.



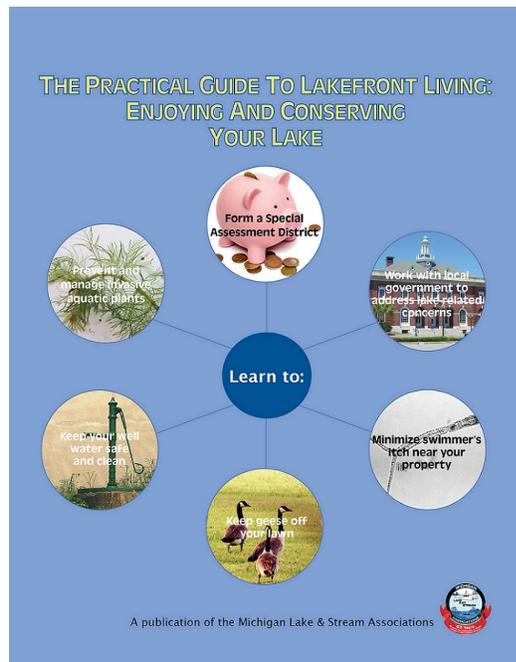
DEQ Environmental Assistance Center: 800-662-9278

01/2019



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!

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



**Available from ML&SA 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 ML&SA 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 and Stream Associations**

Central Office by contacting

[swagner@mlswa.org](mailto:swagner@mlswa.org)

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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](#)

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**CLEAN BOATS  
CLEAN WATERS**

**Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program**

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Created to Help You Prevent New

Introductions of

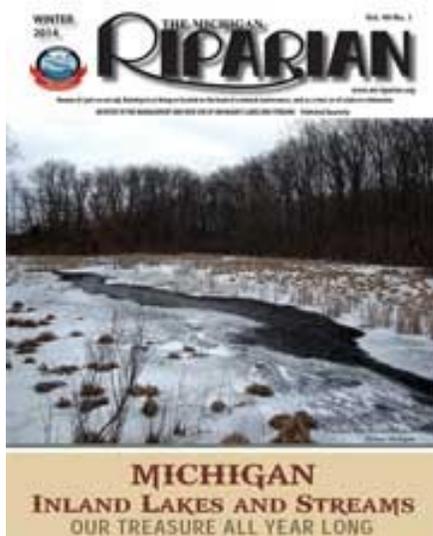
Exotic Aquatic Invasive Species

**Always strictly adhere to the mantra**

"Clean - Drain - Dry - Dispose"

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

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and to Support Our Family of Lake and Stream  
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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 and Stream Associations** (ML&SA) 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 ML&SA at [jroth@mlswa.org](mailto:jroth@mlswa.org)

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