



## MICHIGAN LAKE STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS

Dedicated to Protecting & Preserving Michigan Lakes  
[www.mymlsa.org](http://www.mymlsa.org)

### Welcome to our February 2019 Newsletter

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### SAVE THE DATES MLSA 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAY 3 & 4, 2019

Visit [MYMLSA.org](http://MYMLSA.org) for the Agenda, On-line Registration Links, Lodging Information, and Much More! Be Sure to Review Each Page to Find the Links You Need to Attend or Be an Exhibitor.

<https://www.mymlsa.org/mlsa-58th-annual-conference/>

#### KEEP IN TOUCH

Phone: (989) 831-5100

E-mail: [info@mlswa.org](mailto:info@mlswa.org)



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### DR Jo LATIMORE EARNS DISTINCTION

MLSA has been fortunate to work with Dr Jo on several MLSA related projects for many years. We are happy to share this information:

**The MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Greening Michigan Institute has recognized Dr Jo as follows:**

Jo A. Latimore has served MSU as an aquatic ecologist and outreach specialist for more than 10 years. In that time, her work in fisheries and wildlife has been extensive, innovative and exemplary in protecting Michigan's rivers, lakes and streams. The core of her work focuses on outreach and engagement to support lake and stream management. She has grounded these efforts in a deep understanding of the natural and social sciences, making her outreach scholarly and attuned to her audience's needs. Through this approach, she has devised innovative and effective ways to help community members serve as leaders and effective stewards of their water resources.

Latimore's passion for science communication and Michigan's rivers, lakes and streams has enabled people to make a difference. Through programs such as the Michigan Inland Lake Partnership, **Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute** and Reducing Invasive Species program, she has engaged thousands of people across Michigan to protect our aquatic resources.

One of Latimore's major programs has been the statewide Michigan Clean Water Corps, or **MiCorps/CLMP program**, a crucial component for keeping valuable water quality records from many lakes across Michigan. **Additionally, she has trained volunteers from approximately 250 lakes each year on proper sampling protocols and assessment techniques. She has played a key role in doubling the participation in the accompanying Exotic Plant Watch Program and has written, narrated and acted in several training videos on invasive species identification and management.** Her efforts have become models for other states, and she has been honored with multiple state and national awards.

Latimore is an excellent teacher and mentor to students. Her willingness to share her passion and expertise with undergraduate and graduate students through courses

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.

### Our Collaborative Partners

[Michigan Waterfront Alliance](#)

Michigan Chapter,  
North American Lake  
Management Society

[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](#)

undergraduate and graduate students through courses, technician positions and advising has created a growing group of Spartans trained in science communication for the public. As one of her students noted, she “offers a unique understanding of what it’s like to be an ecologist interested in public engagement, and she has inspired many students to look at careers beyond typical technician or academic positions.”

For her passion and commitment to protecting Michigan’s valuable water resources and engaging the public and students in this effort, **Jo A. Latimore is a most deserving recipient of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.**

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## **SHORT-TERM RENTAL BILL – AGAIN**

by Paul J. Sniadecki, Board Director

Many Riparian communities rely on local zoning to prevent vacation rentals from taking over lakefront neighborhoods and turning them into commercial housing areas. A bill introduced in Mid-January 2019 once again threatens locals' authority to protect their communities. HB 4046, sponsored by Rep. Jason Sheppard (Bedford Twp.) and was referred to the House Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee. The bill is a reintroduction of legislation proposed in the previous legislative session to restrict local authority. If enacted, the bill would consider all vacation and short-term rentals to be residential uses, allowing them in all residential zones. It also specifies that such rentals of 28 days or less are not subject to a special use or conditional use, nor can they face a procedure that is different from those required for any other dwelling in the same zone. HB 4046 does not prohibit local regulations on noise, advertising, traffic and other conditions.

The Michigan Township Association does not support this bill.

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## **Largemouth Bass Virus Spreads Northward**

By Paul J Sniadecki, Board Director and DNR Supplied Data

Largemouth bass virus, which was previously found in Cedar Lake in Iosco County, has now been confirmed in Alpena County’s Beaver Lake and Montmorency County’s Avalon Lake. Prior to its detection in Cedar Lake, the virus had not been detected in Michigan for more than 15 years. It previously affected Michigan largemouth bass in different lakes in the early 2000s.

These latest discoveries indicate the virus is spreading northward in Michigan, according to the MI Department of Natural Resources. “The largemouth bass virus likely compromised the immune system of smallmouth bass in Beaver Lake, causing secondary bacterial infections to become more lethal and allowed the virus to be a direct factor in the fish kill,” said Gary Whelan, the DNR Fisheries Division’s research manager. Because these latest detections are at the northern edge of where LMBV has been found, we may see different responses than what was documented in southern Michigan.”

In the early 2000s, the pathogen killed 10 to 20 percent of the larger adult largemouth bass in southern Michigan lakes at first exposure, with populations recovering in a few years.

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## **SB 1072 of 2018 Amends MCL 324.41325 to Regulate Wake Boats and AIS Issues**

By Paul J. Sniadecki, Board Director

Since 2009, **MLC 324.41325** has required watercraft users to clean/dry their equipment to ensure it does not transport AIS from waterbody to waterbody.

SB1072 amended the statute by adding the following additional requirement:

### **(i) Removing all drain plugs from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells**

While not specifically mentioned in the Bill, the added provision helps address some AIS related wake boat concerns shared by many riparians. Emptying the ballast tank will help stop the transport of any AIS. The Bill does fall short of requiring disinfection/decontamination of the ballast tank.

It should be noted that since 2009, violation of MCL 324.41325 has only been a "civil infraction" which means any offender merely gets a "ticket." Like a parking ticket. Considering the permanent and expensive-to-remediate damage that can occur to a lake that becomes infested, the **penalty does not match the offense**. Additionally, MLSA has no record, or verifiable history, of a DNR Police Officer issuing such a "ticket." There is also no evidence of a State Police Officer or Sheriff issuing such a ticket. If AIS tickets have been issued in your area, please share the info with MLSA at your earliest convenience.

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## **SCOTUS Agrees to Hear WOTUS Related Appeal**

By Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director (NOTE: Portions of this article first appeared in the USA TODAY)

The Supreme Court (SCOTUS) has agreed to decide if contamination of groundwater that seeps into rivers, lakes and oceans violates the Clean Water Act (CWA). Dumping pollutants directly into "navigable bodies of water" is prohibited by the 47-year-old law, but it is less clear about indirect sources.

Last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled that Hawaii's Maui County violated the law by injecting treated sewage from a wastewater treatment plant into the groundwater, some of which enters the Pacific Ocean. The high court will hear the county's appeal next fall. If the Supreme Court reverses the lower courts' decisions, chemical plants, concentrated animal feeding operations, oil refineries, and other industrial facilities would effectively have free rein to discharge pollutants indirectly into the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) without Clean Water Act permits.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit came to a similar conclusion last year in a South Carolina case involving an underground pipeline that burst in 2014, spilling hundreds of thousands of gallons of gasoline. Some of the fuel seeped into nearby rivers, lakes, and wetlands, including the Savannah River.

However, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit did not take the same view in a Kentucky case, in which pollutants from coal ash retention ponds seeped into groundwater that

fed local waterways. The court said only pollutants added directly to navigable bodies of water were regulated under the law.

The SCOTUS move to hear the case comes about two months after the current USA administration announced it was rolling back regulation that has become a rallying cry for farmers and property-rights activists opposed to federal overreach. The new proposal would ease Washington's oversight of small bodies of water, known as the WOTUS rule that expanded federal protections to smaller rivers and streams.

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## **2019 CLMP TRAINING DATES ANNOUNCED for BOTH LOWER AND UPPER MICHIGAN**

May 3-4, 2019 CLMP Training at the MLSA Conference

May 8, 2019 at Iron Mountain MI

Visit <http://mymlsa.org>

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## **ARE YOU READY TO BE A LAKE LEADER?**

by: Dr. Jo Latimore, PhD, MSU

Have you ever struggled watching people in your community disagree about what is best for your lake? Do you ever wish you knew more about how lakes and rivers work? Are you unsure about what resources are available to help protect and manage your lake or waterway? Are you ready to jump in and be a lake leader? The Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute wants you!

The Class of 2019 will be the 8th session of this popular program, co-sponsored by MLSA. Participants develop their technical and people skills in an atmosphere of openness, trust, and camaraderie, with guidance from expert instructors. Community members, students, and professionals are all encouraged to apply.

Learning by doing:

- Study the life and habitats of Michigan lakes and rivers
- Develop communication and conflict management skills
- Discover new resources and partnership opportunities
- Explore Michigan water law, regulations, and management programs

The Institute is conducted in three sessions that include classroom learning and field experiences:

- May 31-June 1: Kettunen Center, near Cadillac
- July 26-27: Kellogg Biological Station, near Kalamazoo
- October 18: Michigan State University, East Lansing

Sponsors cover most of the costs of putting on the Institute; the participant registration fee of \$400 covers the remainder. Scholarships are available.

Applications and more information are available online.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/michigan\\_lake\\_and\\_stream\\_leaders\\_institute/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/michigan_lake_and_stream_leaders_institute/)

You can also contact Dr. Jo Latimore at MSU:

[latimorej@msu.edu](mailto:latimorej@msu.edu) or 517.432.4404. The application

[latimor.1@msu.edu](mailto:latimor.1@msu.edu) or 517-432-1491. The application deadline is March 31, 2019.

The Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute is sponsored by Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations, the Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and is endorsed by the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership.

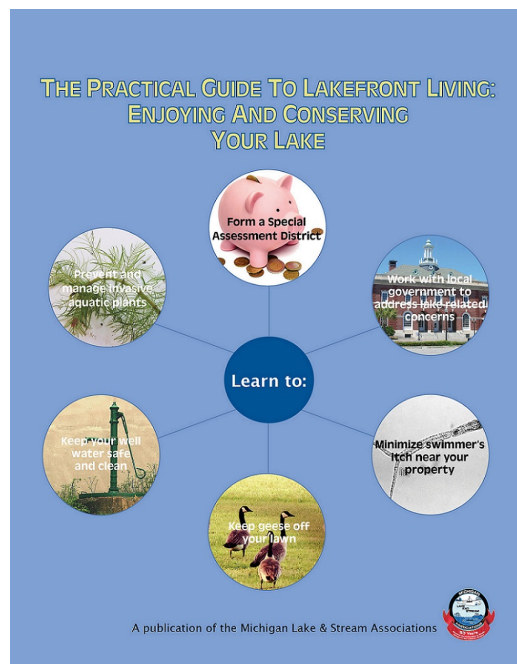
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The Michigan Waterfront Alliance, Inc. recently launched a new website in order to more effectively promote its mission of preserving and protecting the high quality of Michigan's inland waters and the riparian rights of waterfront property owners.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

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

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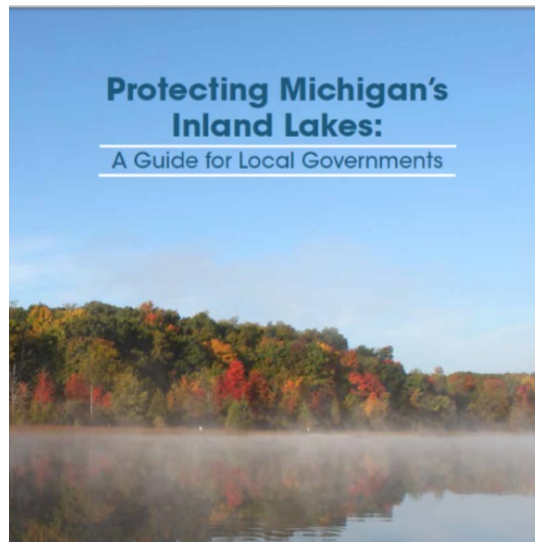
**Available from ML&SA Now!**

**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](#)



### 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"

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An Affordable Opportunity to be Well-Informed



An Affordable Opportunity to be well informed  
and to Support Our Family of Lake and Stream  
Stewardship Focused Organizations

[www.mi-riparian.org](http://www.mi-riparian.org)

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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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