

## MLSA News - NOV 2019

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From: Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (info@mlswa.org)

To: Sciencechick01@yahoo.com

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### Update from the 2018 Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Paige Kleindl on the defense of her thesis project titled, "**Shoreline Restoration and Source of Nutrient Enrichment Impacts on Macrophyte and Epiphytic Algal Communities.**"

Paige was MLSA's student recipient of the 2018 Megan E. Cook Memorial Scholarship which was awarded at MLSA's 57th Annual Conference. Her project involved monitoring Muskegon Lake. Paige says, "The historical industrial development, past environmental degradation, and designation as a Great Lakes Area of Concern prompted shoreline restoration and subsequent socio-economic and environmental monitoring. For my thesis research, I continued macrophyte [aquatic plant] monitoring in July 2018 at two of the restored habitats and one reference habitat. Monitoring included measurement of: macrophyte biological variables (e.g., density, biomass, and richness); shoreline habitat characteristics (slope and exposure to wind and wave action); and other

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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.

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environmental variables (e.g., water level, precipitation, and air temperature).” She was able to find that “habitat quality improvement at the restored habitats from 2012 to 2018, based on Michigan’s Coefficient of Conservatism values, suggested restoration has positively influenced shoreline macrophyte communities.” Paige’s study shows that shoreline restoration improves habitat for native aquatic plants that contribute to diversity and health of lakes like Muskegon. For Paige Kleindl’s full summary please visit this link: <https://www.mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Paige-Kleindl-Summary.pdf>



Join the discussions on  
**“Protecting Michigan’s  
 Lakes & Streams”**

at our  
**59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**May 1-2, 2020**  
**Crystal Mountain Resort**  
**Thompsonville, Michigan**



**On-line registration for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
 and the meeting program will be available in early 2020.  
 Look for details at [www.mymlsa.org](http://www.mymlsa.org)**

## **Part 2 - Middle School Students Use Zebra Mussels to Measure Microplastic Pollution in Lakes**

by Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

The October MLSA eNewsletter carried Part 1 of the news about Quinn Hughes and Tyler Clair, both seventh-graders at Minnetonka, MN - Middle School West, and their science project titled **“Microplastics in Our Water; a Study of Minnesota Lakes indicated by Dreissena polymorpha (Zebra Mussels)”**

The students conceived the idea to study microplastics concentrations for inland lakes after watching a documentary about microplastics in Lake Superior. They then 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.

Many of our newsletter readers accessed the entire science project paper by following this link to the report on our website: [https://www.mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/RESEARCH-PAPER\\_Hughes\\_Clair.pdf](https://www.mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/RESEARCH-PAPER_Hughes_Clair.pdf)

Follow-up contact with the students found the material cost of study was fairly low. The sample containers, test tubes, chemicals, etc. came to less than \$100 in total for the 4 lakes involved. A hemocytometer (a slide device used in blood count tests) was required and the

### **Our Collaborative Partners**

**Michigan Waterfront  
 Alliance**

**Michigan Chapter,  
 North American Lake  
 Management Society**

**Michigan Clean Water  
 Corps (MiCorps)**

**EGL Water  
 Resources Division**

**Michigan Department of  
 Natural Resources**

**Michigan Inland  
 Lakes Partnership**

**Michigan Loon  
 Preservation  
 Association**

**Michigan Natural  
 Shoreline Partnership**

**Freshwater Future**

cost of one is in the range of \$100-\$150, and would be a "one-time" expense since it is not a "consumable." MLSA also learned each sample could be analyzed in a few moments with none taking more than 5 minutes to review. They also stated that after all of the biological tissue had dissolved the remaining solids were reviewed and classified as plastic or not which most were easily identified as plastic.

If any lake, or collaboration of lakes, undertakes a study of microplastic concentrations in their lake(s) in 2020, please share your data with MLSA. We will share your information if you grant permission. The impact of microplastics in our environment and food is being studied by many scientists worldwide. One thing for sure is they agree it is "Not Normal" for such plastics to be in the environment and knowing what the concentrations are is worth researching.

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## Lake and Stream Leaders Institute

By Melissa DeSimone, MLSA Executive Director



In what made for a wonderful experience, MLSA President, Mike Gallagher, and I were able to attend the graduation for this program and meet the 19 individuals who participated in this year's LSLI. These are people dedicated to the lakes and streams of Michigan who spent the better part of the year learning and working on projects to improve our waterways. MLSA believes in this program; we provide financial and volunteer assistance because this type of program gets to the heart of our organization. The participants presented their culminating projects for us and we were able to share in the excitement of their accomplishments. There was a wide variety of projects dealing with educational activities for children, applied initiatives for property improvement, and lake association education, just to name a few. Each participant has already contributed so much to the quality of Michigan's lakes and streams; we are proud of what they have done and look forward to what they accomplish in the future!



Participants and their projects:

- Elizabeth Christiansen - Invading Our Classrooms: Reducing Aquatic Invasive Species Use in Education
- Terry Dugan - The Six Commandments for Lake Residents
- Ryan Eisley - Best Lake Life Practices
- Ian FitzGerald - Watershed and Future Conservationists
- Madeleine Gorman - Benefits of Using Nature-based Solutions to Manage Flooding on Michigan's Coast
- Karla Hammond - Salmon in the Classroom
- Benjamin Jordan - Water Quality and Habitat Improvement at the Coopersville Public Schools
- Gregory Kindig - Lakeshore Management on Wildwood Lake
- Janee Kronk - Varsity Day Camp Natural Shoreline Demonstration Project
- Jacklyn Lenten - Stream Monitoring on the Whetstone Brook in Marquette
- Rachel Mackson - For the Good of the Lake: Preserving Lake Ecology and Bringing Communities Together
- Stewart McFerran - Study of Aquatic Plants of Bronson Lake
- Kate Mehuron - Let's Protect Letts Creek
- Caroline Moellering - LTBB Boat Wash Project
- Erin Parker - Algae Academy
- Shane Preston - Fish Stocking at Thompson Lake in Howell
- David Putt - Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring in Northern Macomb and Oakland Counties
- Sharon Stone - Phasing in Natural Shorelines for Wetland Protection
- Alex Svoboda - MDARD Well Water Screening Program



## A Bridge that Made Waves

By Paul J Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

The summer of 2019 saw a large bridge installed on Lobdell Lake in Argentine Township near Fenton, MI. The bridge owner connected a private lakefront property off of Whitehead Drive to the property owner's island in the lake known locally as Turtle Island. The bridge had a drawbridge feature but it did not pull up completely vertically and was situated in a marshy area of the lake. The entire span was in excess of thirty (30) feet.

Lake residents were surprised when the major bridge construction project started and made inquiries to local township and state EGLE/DEQ officials. It turned out that the bridge owner did not submit any permit applications to the township or state which are required to build the bridge. As the bridge was being constructed the township issued a "stop work order" because of local ordinance violations which was ignored by the property owner.

The EGLE/DEQ Water Resources Division (WRD) also conducted an inspection on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 that found the bridge was installed in violation of Parts 301 and 303 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA). Those parts of the NREPA apply to inland lakes and streams as well the wetland protection laws. As is fairly common practice of the WRD, state officials even tried to find a basis to commence an "after-the-fact" permit process for the bridge. However, the violations of Part 301 and Part 303 were so massive WRD determined a state permit would not have been granted even if the owner had applied for one. Subsequently, EGLE/DEQ/WRD issued a violation notice and ordered the bridge removed.

The bridge was long and it was massive in size, but it has been removed. Everyone in the area is aware of the need to check on any required local/state permits prior to commencing construction on or near riparian property. Riparians state-wide should take notice of this costly blunder that could have been avoided.



## It's "Shore" Time to Protect Your Lakeshore

Excerpt from a MI Environment Article, see link below



Shoreland Stewards - Introduction

Check out the new Michigan Shoreland Stewards Video Series that focuses on helping inland lake property owners understand what they can do on their property to protect their inland lake. The videos are designed to provide an overview of the program and help people identify best practices to maintain clean, safe water for recreation and wildlife.

The Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program is a voluntary web-based survey designed to:

- Allow inland lake property owners to assess their property management.
- Encourage property owners to use natural shoreland landscaping techniques.
- Provide educational resources to help property owners manage their property for a healthy lake.

Qualifying properties are awarded a Gold, Silver, or Bronze level of recognition.

Watch the video series here:

<https://youtu.be/4DqZJCGuyEU>

Full article here:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mienvironment/0,9349,7-385-93394-510373--,00.html>

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## THE GIFT OF MLSA

Looking for a special gift for a person who loves a lake or stream? Want to help "the new neighbor" understand what lake and stream life is all about?

Give **\*The Gift of MLSA\*** this holiday season! Consider gifting an individual membership to MLSA for only \$45, which includes a one (1) year subscription to *The Michigan Riparian* magazine. Another option is to gift only a one (1) year subscription *The Michigan Riparian* magazine for the low cost of \$25 per year. And your gift purchase can be made on-line!

MLSA Membership:

<https://www.mymlsa.org/become-a-member/>

*The Michigan Riparian* Subscription:

<https://www.mi-riparian.org/individual-subscription-payment/>

## It is the Season for Thanks and Giving, Can You Give Back to MLSA?

'Tis the season for "2019 end-of-year" tax deductible donations to 501c3 charitable organizations. MLSA is an IRS approved 501c3 Non-Profit Educational Organization. Please consider making a potential tax-deductible contribution to our mission today. Your generous gift will go toward on-the-ground stewardship work for inland lakes and streams. (Please consult your tax advisor to determine if you qualify for deductions)

**If you are 70.5 or older:** Consider the significant tax benefits of a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) to MLSA as part of your qualified retirement account's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Your direct gift to MLSA would not be taxed and the full gift amount would be used to support our many programs helping inland lakes and streams.

Please help—donate by December 31 to make the biggest difference!

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## MLSA Around Michigan

The lake season might be wrapping up  
but MLSA is still representing you!  
Here is some of the work we've done this month:

Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership meeting in Lansing  
Lakes and Streams Leaders Institute at MSU  
AIS Taskforce meeting with DNR in Lansing  
MiCorps Conference (next week) in Tustin

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## Thank you AIS Survey Participants

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 140 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!

It's not too late! We want EVERY LAKE IN MICHIGAN to participate, if you have not already taken our survey please follow this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmTujLJFI8GGQno0stt0tN7P0OutNZFI7K9ulJypwB5uk3ag/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmTujLJFI8GGQno0stt0tN7P0OutNZFI7K9ulJypwB5uk3ag/viewform?usp=sf_link)

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## 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](mailto:cucad4@hotmail.com)) to be added to the region email list or for more information about the meeting.

### **SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN**

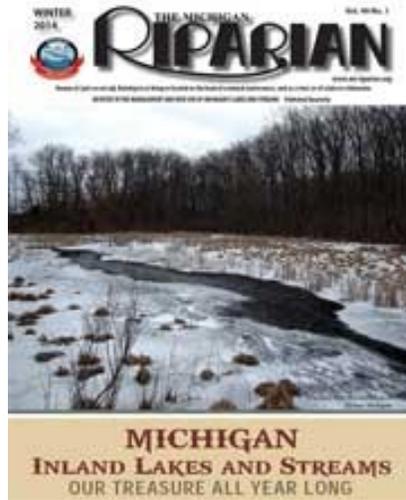
There is not a meeting scheduled at this time but you may contact Dennis Babjack ([dennisbabjack@gmail.com](mailto:dennisbabjack@gmail.com)) for information about meetings in this area.

### **NORTHEAST MICHIGAN**

Several Lake Associations in Northeast lower Michigan have expressed 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.

We want all members to have access to regional opportunities! If other parts of the state have a similar interest, please contact MLSA at: [info@mlswa.org](mailto:info@mlswa.org)

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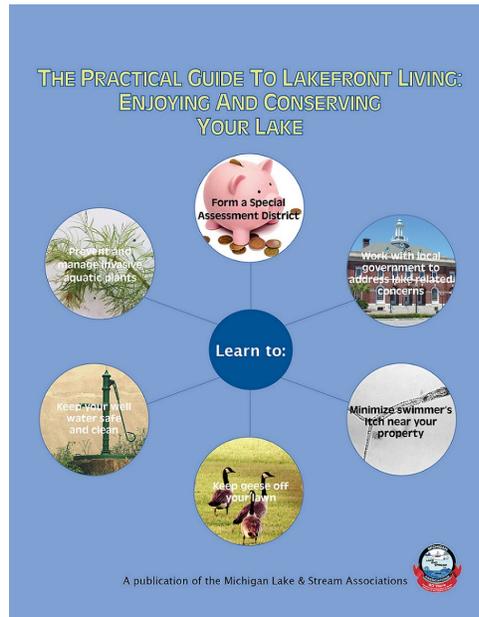
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The **Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP)** has been an important component of Michigan's inland lakes monitoring program for over 40 years which makes it the second oldest volunteer monitoring program for lakes in the country. The primary 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 Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA)** has administered the CLMP jointly with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

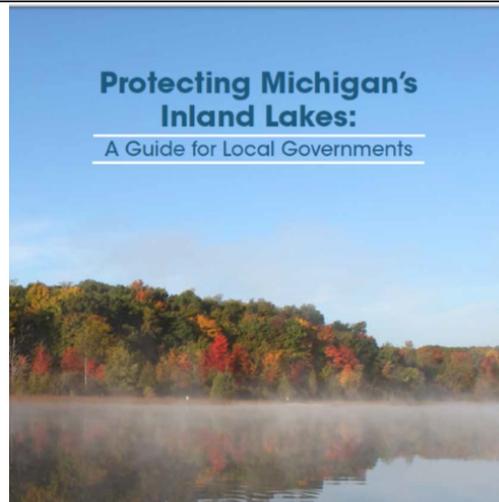
For more information about the CLMP, please visit <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/> or contact Jean Roth of MLSA at [jroth@mlswa.org](mailto:jroth@mlswa.org)



**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](mailto:melissa.desimone@mlswa.org)



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Read about the latest news and events of the  
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your lakefront shoreline for recognition by visiting the  
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Michigan Lakes and Streams Association  
Michigan Lakes & Streams Association, INC  
300 N. State Street - Ste. A  
Stanton, MI 48888

