

February 2020 News - Love, MLSA

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

To: Sciencechick01@yahoo.com

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Share Your Lovely Lake Photos with Us



**Love Your Lake?
Continue Monitoring in 2020**

ICYMI ... we have detailed information for what you can do in 2020 to continue your lake monitoring efforts. Please take a look at the information provided at this link:

<https://www.hrwc.org/what-we-do/programs/2020-lake-monitoring/>

We want to thank MSU Extension and the Huron River Watershed Council for their collaboration on this year's program. The full MiCorps CLMP (Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program) will be available again in 2021.

Dissolved oxygen meters are not available for use from EGLE in 2020. But, MLSA can assist you in purchasing a meter for use in 2020 that will meet EGLE's requirements. If MLSA orders five or more meters we can get a reduced rate, we are selling at cost with no mark up. Orders must be placed by April 1, 2020.

[Click here for the full list of DO Meter options.](#)

Please contact Mike Gallagher: [269-209-1566](tel:269-209-1566)



It's a Date! February Zoom Meeting Details

Our discussion about Lake Monitoring in 2020 was a success, we had 24 participants and a recording of the meeting is available by request (melissa.desimone@mlswa.org). Also, the details about lake monitoring this year can be found in "Love Your Lake? Continue Monitoring in 2020".

We will continue to meet monthly and welcome your ideas for discussion. Feel free to "zoom" in with the camera and speakers on your computer or call in to the phone number provided.

This month we will discuss **Volunteers and Other Topics**, our meeting will be on **Friday, February 28 at 1:00PM EST**, connection details are below:

Join Zoom Meeting Online: <https://zoom.us/j/256326654>

Call In to the Meeting: [646-558-8656](tel:646-558-8656)

Now Accepting 2020 Scholarship Applications

**MLSA Announces the 3rd Annual Megan E. Cook Scholarship:
for a College Student Working to Protect our Inland Lakes**

by Dr. Jennifer L. Jermalowicz-Jones, MLSA Board Director

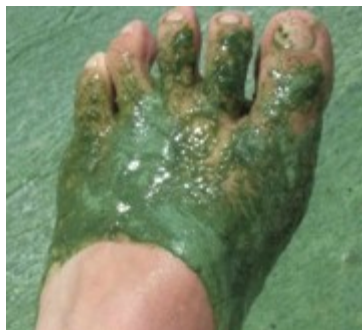
One of the primary missions of MLSA is to provide educational opportunities to promising youth that are interested in the health of our precious inland water resources. MLSA believes

that every young individual has an opportunity to help with lake protection for future generations. This very belief supports one of our core objectives of sustainable lake protection. This scholarship is the outcome of the tragic loss of Megan E. Cook whose young life was taken far too soon by a drunk driver. Her parents served on the MLSA Board of Directors for many years and made numerous contributions to our organization. MLSA honors her memory each year by awarding a \$1,500 scholarship to a promising college student pursuing research or a degree involving inland lakes.

If you know of someone, or if you yourself are a candidate for this unique scholarship, please fill out this [application form](#). Application deadline is March 30, 2020. Please contact our office with any questions info@mlswa.org or [989-831-5100](tel:989-831-5100). A letter of award will be sent to the recipient and a formal plaque will be presented at the annual MLSA conference on May 1-2, 2020 at the Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Michigan.

Megan E. Cook was an intelligent and loved 17-year-old high school senior. As a bright and enthusiastic student, she brought a vibrancy of life to everyone. From Kindergarten through 12th grade her favorite subjects were Science and Health. As the youngest in a home-schooled family, she absorbed knowledge from listening to the older children's lessons. Thus, long before her "formal" school years began, she was constantly learning about the world around her. She also enjoyed reading all she could about mysteries and forensics. Her plan was to study Science in preparation for a career in Forensics. She was thinking about using this type of degree on either a local or state forensics team in the medical field or on a police force.

We'd Love to See You at MLSA's 59th Annual Conference



Cyanobacteria Blooms - Monitoring, Public Health, Legal Implications, and Responses - Find out what you need to know from the Center for Disease Control, EGLE, and our experts

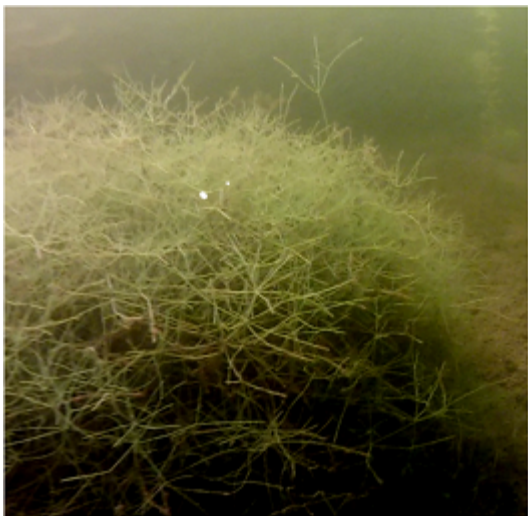
Our legal and insurance experts talk about what happens when you...

Sue The Bastards - Insurance Issues on Michigan Lakes

MiCorps is not offering CLMP training at our conference this year but we have you covered:

Critical Contribution of CLMP:

Presentations and a panel discussion about the program



Aquatic Plant ID: A popular session held every year to help keep you familiar with the native plants in your lake

Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch Training with Secchi Disk Demonstration: You can sign up for the EAPW program for 2020 and get your training at the conference (please visit [this site](#) for details on the full lake monitoring program for 2020)

*** If you or someone you know needs assistance with registering, do not hesitate to call [989-831-5100](tel:989-831-5100) or email melissa.desimone@mlswa.org and we will be happy to assist you!

Register Here

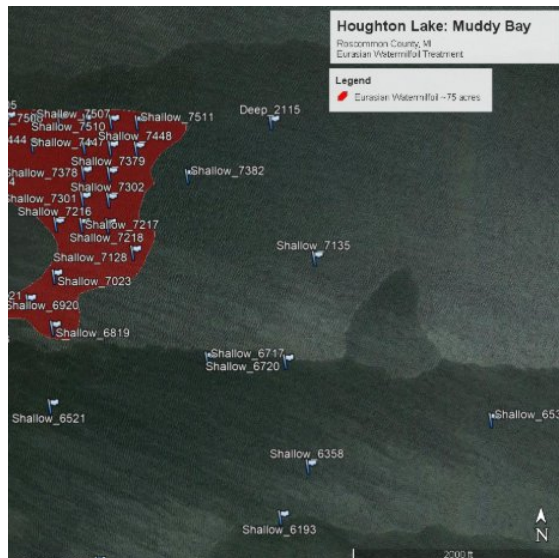
Conference Session Preview: Aquatic Plant Survey Methods for Lake Management

by Dr. Jennifer L. Jermalowicz-Jones, MLSA Board Director

Aquatic vegetation survey methods are critical for the early detection rapid response protocol in controlling invasive aquatic plant species. Such methods utilize the use of global positioning systems (GPS) that accurately record the specific locations of these invasive species. This allows for lake managers to re-visit individual sites and determine if the invasive species are spreading further in a lake or are responding to a particular treatment.

At the annual MLSA conference in May 2020, a presentation will be given that focuses on the different survey methods that are used in Michigan inland lakes. This includes the Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Site (AVAS) survey method and the Point-Intercept method. Both are commonly used along with additional collection methods such as rake tossing and grapple hooks. Collection methods are usually used in combination with survey methods to allow for close-up identification of individual aquatic plants. This assists the lake manager with precise determination of the species and growth habit of the plants. The majority of aquatic plants have both a common name and scientific name which can be confusing as some common names can be similar among species. Thus, it is important to use the scientific (Latin) name during vegetation surveys or a unique species numerical code. Many of our inland lakes in Michigan contain over 32 native aquatic plant species.

***Plan to attend the MLSA conference presentation to learn more about these species, the associated survey methods, and how they help YOU to monitor the lake you love!



Michigan Residents Favor Stronger Regulations to Improve Water Quality and Safety

Poll Respondents Rate Inland Lakes & Streams

By: Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

“Pure Waters: A Citizens Agenda for Water Quality and Affordability in Michigan,” a report released on February 12, 2020, by The Center for Michigan, reveals that Michigan residents favor stronger regulations to improve water quality and safety.

The findings were developed from The Center for Michigan’s “Your Water, Your Voice” public engagement campaign. From September through November 2019, the Center gathered input from more than 3,100 residents who participated in a statewide poll, attended more than 20 town halls and solutions summits, or responded to a *Bridge* magazine reader survey.

Nearly 7 in 10 residents in the survey say the Great Lakes are in good or great shape. However, respondents had more skepticism about the quality of inland lakes and streams, with just over half saying they are in good condition. That means 46.3 percent rated inland lakes and streams as Fair-Poor-Terrible.

Nearly 80 percent of participants said Michigan should “strengthen regulations to protect water quality,” with only 3 percent saying Michigan should “loosen regulations if needed to promote economic growth.” Only 17 percent felt the state should “keep regulations generally the same”. If trade offs must be made between environmental preservation and economic development, most Michiganders polled said they prioritized protecting water quality.

Interestingly, during the lame-duck legislative session in 2018, the state adopted a law dictating that Michigan regulations cannot be more stringent than those set by the federal government, unless the state shows a “clear and convincing” need due to “exceptional circumstances.” Three in 5 poll respondents said the state should repeal this law.

Six in 10 respondents supported increased oversight of private wells and septic tanks. Many cited that Michigan is the only state in the nation without a unified septic code, and leaking

septic tanks can contaminate surface water and water wells with E. coli to the detriment of public and ecological health.

The report also covered resident concerns about PFAS, Line 5, and Public Water Systems.

Boating Access Site Survey Results from DNR



RESULTS FROM THE SAMPLING PROJECT

The data gained through this project provided a quick snapshot of what's happening at access sites.

This was the first DNR project to study the presence of AIS at public boating access sites on inland lakes. Partners included DNR-Fisheries Division and Michigan State University Extension. Emergent AIS plants were looked for along the shoreline and rake tosses were used to sample submerged plants using established methods. Two crews sampled the sites in July when AIS were most detectable.

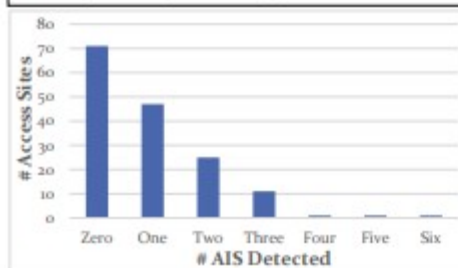
In general, the boating access sites that were sampled showed a mixture of native and invasive plants. Within the launch lanes proper, 78% of the sites did not have any aquatic plants growing or the vegetation was sparse. European frog-bit, curly-leaf pondweed, and starry stonewort were only found in the Lower Peninsula. Parrot feather and hydrilla were not found at any site. **This reinforces the fact that AIS, while widespread, are not everywhere.**

To protect inland lakes from AIS, boaters must

- ✓ Clean
- ✓ Drain
- ✓ Dry

their boats and trailers.
It is the LAW.

The graph on the left shows the number of AIS found at the access sites. The table on the right shows the presence data for each of the eight species that were found throughout Michigan. At every site sampled, native plants were also found.



SPECIES	# SITES DETECTED	% SITES DETECTED
Eurasian watermilfoil	54	34.4
Curly-leaf pondweed	27	17.2
Starry stonewort	30	19.1
European frog-bit	1	0.6
Phragmites	8	5.1
Flowering rush	4	2.5
Narrowleaf cattail	21	13.4
Zebra/quagga mussels	28	17.8

FUTURE ACTIONS

Activities being taken as a result of this project:

- Increased and updated AIS signage at sites
- Expanded collaboration with boat wash crews
- Analyses with other datasets to inform AIS presence in Michigan
- Additional surveys

For more information, contact:



Christina Baugher
BaugherC@michigan.gov
517-284-5835

A Note from MLSA's Executive Director, Melissa DeSimone: We are pleased that the Michigan DNR is taking a look at the aquatic invasive species (AIS) contamination around their boating access sites. For a full list of all the data compiled through this sampling project, please [click here](#) and click on the graphic above, for the full report.

As you may recall, we have also been compiling data from lakes about their AIS infestations and control measures, to take this survey and/or update the information for your lake please

[click here.](#)

So far 145 responses have been recorded and only 10 of those lakes indicated that they are NOT treating for invasive species. 85% or 123 of the lakes are managing Eurasian watermilfoil, 55% or 79 for curly-leaf pond weed, and 49% or 71 for starry stonewort just to highlight a few.

The next meeting of the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force is later this month and we continue to work with the DNR on these issues.



Rollback of Federal Clean Water Protections

By: Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

A rollback of Federal Clean Water protections has been implemented. The changes, finalized on Jan. 23, 2020 scale back the interpretation of which waterways qualify for protection against pollution and development under the nearly half-century-old Clean Water Act (CWA-1972). Potentially about half of the nation's remaining wetlands could be impacted. The federal revision comes subsequent to a Michigan lame-duck legislative measure approved in 2018 that lessens environmental protections for Michigan's wetlands.

The 1972 Clean Water Act authorized the federal government to regulate the discharge of pollutants into "navigable waters," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under a 2015 revised Federal EPA Rule, that was expanded to include smaller, upstream waterways and wetlands.

While the current rollback is set to take effect within about 60 days, environmental groups vow court challenges, perhaps delaying its implementation. On the other hand, groups like the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce welcome the rollback because it helps provide clarity on what is regulated and what requires a permit.

This environmental struggle could impact Michigan. Over the decades, the state has lost many of its wetlands, which are wildlife habitats and fish nursery areas. Research shows wetlands are vital to lake and stream water quality, because they help control flooding, absorb storm water runoff, and help filter out pollutants.

Under the implemented revisions, temporary bodies of water, those that form only after rainfall or flow only part of the year and dry up at other times, are now exempt from federal protections. This exception also applies to waste treatment systems, groundwater, certain cropland and farm watering ponds.

Some conservation experts anticipate the rollback will have little short-term effect on Michigan wetlands. The reason being Michigan now has regulatory control over wetlands, as one of only two states with authority to issue federal wetland permits. However, the longer-term impact remains unknown. MLSA will provide updates on this matter as more information becomes available. [Download the report here.](#)

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Press Release from Feb. 10, 2020

by Nick Assendelft, EGLE Public Information Officer

High water summit identifies resources, needs in response to growing statewide issue

Town halls planned across Michigan to engage, inform residents

State, federal, and local officials pledged today at the first Michigan High Water Coordinating Summit to collaborate closely and share resources in responding to public health and safety challenges created by Michigan's near-record high water levels.

Participants in today's summit — convened by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer — agreed to form an ad hoc Michigan High Water Action Team. The multi-agency consortium will collaborate to:

- Identify available assets that can be marshaled in response to high water incidents.
- Coordinate communications across agencies and levels of government to ensure residents receive information in a timely, accurate, and consistent fashion.

Town hall meetings are to be scheduled around the state this spring to inform residents about the impacts of high water levels and the state government's response. Details on these events will be available in the coming weeks.

For the full article including a list of participating organizations, [click here](#).

To contact the author: AssendelftN@Michigan.gov, 517-388-3135



MLSA Online and Around the State

You can now find us on Instagram and Twitter as @LakesStreams and...we want to feature you! Send your photos and videos to melissa.desimone@mlswa.org or tag us on Instagram so everyone will get a chance to see all the beautiful waters we love. Who knows? You may see your favorite water right here in the newsletter!

Are you looking for a way to network with other lakes around Michigan? Join us for discussion on Facebook, we now have a MLSA member group! Follow the link: [Michigan Lakes and Streams Members](#), click + Join Group, answer the membership questions, and standby for approval. See you there!

Southeast Michigan

We are pleased to announce interest in adding a meeting in the southeast area! If you are also interested in attending a meeting near Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties (just to name a few), please email info@mlswa.org or call [989-831-5100](tel:989-831-5100). We will continue to keep you updated.

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. Additionally, Rex Vaughn, Cedar Lake, in Alcona/Iosco County, cell [810-516-6686](tel: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.

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.

South Central Michigan

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

Your Region Here!

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

WE MOVED!

Our goal for 2020 and beyond is to make sure your membership dollars are working harder for our mission. In an effort to reallocate funds for the important work we all believe in, we have closed our Stanton office. We can still be reached at (989) 831-5100 and info@mlswa.org but our new mailing address is now:

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc

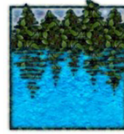
PO Box 19615

Kalamazoo, MI 49019

Wondering if you missed an opportunity to have an in-person meeting with us? Have no fear! Our board and staff will always be available to assist you and would be happy to set up a coffee shop meeting, a virtual meeting, or attend a larger meeting you may have planned throughout the year.

MLSA Membership

Ready to support our programs and help us improve the waters of Michigan? Click the button to become a member today!



Michigan Chapter, North
American Lake
Management Society



Michigan Lakes and Streams Association

Questions? Contact MLSA today [\(989\) 831-5100](tel:9898315100) or info@mlswa.org

[Unsubscribe](#)

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