

MLSA News - June 2020

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MLSA News for June 2020

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On High Water

By Melissa DeSimone, MLSA Executive Director

At Michigan Lakes and Streams Association we LOVE our waterways but even this water loving group is concerned about the over abundance we are all experiencing right now. From hot media topics like tragic dam failure and the resulting large scale flooding to lower profile situations like underwater docks, we are seeing it all. Since we were unable to hold our annual conference this year, we pivoted to the 2020 Spring Webinar Series. This series featured experts in many different areas, notably we were joined by Jennifer McKay, policy director with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Jennifer spoke in a session called “Rising Water Levels and Impacts on Inland Lakes” which included information about how high water affects septic systems and drinking water, among other important management considerations. You can watch this session as well as all our sessions on the [MLSA YouTube channel](#).

Are you dealing with high water? MLSA would like to chronicle this historic year of water with your stories, experiences, and photos. Write down your story for us, send us some captioned pictures, or even record a video of your situation and send it to info@mymlsa.org If you aren't sure where to start, you can choose to take a few minutes to answer some or all of these questions:

- Where are you located? Include the body of water and/or city/township/county.
- How would you describe your body of water?
- What concerns you most about the high water in your area?
- How is the water affecting the people and environment around you?

We would also like to see your photos, please include a credit that includes who took the photo, where it was taken, and the month, day, and year it was taken.

Thank you for your participation in this project!



We are excited to bring you a Special Edition Summer Issue of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine. This issue focuses mainly on the high water events we see all across Michigan. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Attorney Cliff Bloom, and many others weigh in on this large scale issue we have been dealing with for the past few years and especially in 2020.

Check your mailbox in mid-July for this important issue.

If you do not receive *The Michigan Riparian*, join today by visiting mymlsa.org

Are Fireworks a Threat to Inland Lakes?

MLSA Board Member and Science Advisor, Dr. Jennifer L. Jermalowicz-Jones, has begun extensive scientific research on the effects of



fireworks on our inland lakes. She has developed a primer with follow up articles to be featured in future issues of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine as more research is uncovered. Look for her article in our Special Edition Summer issue and find out why she has concluded that, "...Fourth of July events are an important part of our American culture [but] we must balance the continuing research findings of firework impacts on aquatic environments with our long-held traditions."

2020 AIP Grant Program Delayed

By Paul J Sniadecki, Board Director

The Michigan Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Grant Program was created through the addition of Part 414 to the [Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act](#), 1994 PA 451, as amended. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is tasked to provide grants to eligible applicants for the control or eradication of aquatic invasive plant species in inland lakes.

The 2020 grant cycle was to begin on June 1, 2020. Unfortunately, as of June 14, 2020, this year's cycle has not begun and is in a "Delayed Status." The impacts of COVID-19 and the furloughs of many State of Michigan employees appear to be involved with the delay.

The AIP Control grant program will offer grants for the 2020 management season. EGLE permit/annual fee reimbursement for the chemical, physical, biological, or combination of these methods for aquatic invasive plant control or eradication will be eligible. Additional eligible expenses are currently being determined. Details will be announced by EGLE when available. The following information is from the [AIP webpage](#).

2020 Schedule

- Request for Proposal (RFP) Announcement: **COVID-19 Update** - The 2020 AIP grant release date has been delayed. *This website will be updated when more information is available.*
 - Application Deadline: July 1st, 2020.
 - Applicant Notification: September 1st, 2020.
-

Now Open for Your 2020 Data Input - *MLSA Aquatic Invasive Species Database*

By Paul J Sniadecki, Board Director

MLSA is pleased to announce our State-Wide AIS Information Database is now open for the entry of 2020 data from Michigan inland lakes and streams. Now in its second year of operation, this MLSA resource is the only one of its kind in Michigan, and is providing valuable summary information for State and Local decision makers.

While we never release your water body's full data AIS and Control Cost to third parties, MLSA has provided summary statistical reports to Lake Associations and State Committees for their action. With 147 lakes participating in 2019, we have documented the spread of various AIS infestations and the annual costs incurred for the eradication/control of Michigan's expanding AIS problems.

Even if your water body is "AIS Free", we request you enter your data so that we have all relevant information available as of 2020.

When you are ready to submit your 2020 information, please follow this [LINK](#) and if you are uneasy using Google Docs, No Worries! We can assist you with data entry. Please gather the following info, and send it to info@mymlsa.org, or leave a phone message for our Executive Director: 989-831-5100.

Survey Database Questions:

Email address for Lake Contact?

What is the name of your lake? (Please fill out a new form if you have multiple lakes)

What size is your lake in acres?

Does your lake have a public access?

What county of Michigan is your lake located in?

In what year did your lake first expend funds for AIS control/eradication?

How much money did your lake association/group spend on AIS management in 2020?

How is payment for your AIS control and eradication effort funded?

What type of AIS control did your lake association/group perform in 2020?

What types of AIS do you monitor and/or manage on your lake?

Does your lake participate in CLMP (Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program)?

Does your lake track and record additional data parameters separate from CLMP?

Do you have any other comments about AIS control on your lake?

It will only take a few minutes to enter your 2020 data, and that will assist MLSA's continuing efforts for AIS control and efforts to obtain needed funding sources. Thank you for your participation!

State of Michigan Announces Lawsuit Regarding Dam Failure

The following is an excerpt from a press release of the Office of the Attorney General - June 9, 2020

Michigan regulatory agencies filed a lawsuit seeking compensation, civil fines, and the cleanup and restoration of damages caused by Boyce Hydro's negligence in the failure of the Edenville and Sanford dams last month. The suit was filed by the Department of Attorney General on behalf of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The eight-count suit will be followed by a motion to compel Boyce to immediately comply with a state order to fully inspect potentially dangerous cracks and erosion in a damaged portion of the Edenville Dam that is still

standing to determine what steps must be taken to protect public safety. It also compels Boyce to repair damages to Michigan's natural resources, clean up discharges of debris and hazardous materials caused by the dam failures, and pay civil fines and damages related to the disaster.

Federal regulators identified deficiencies at the dam as early as 1993. Those deficiencies were well known to Boyce at the time they purchased the dam in 2004. Boyce repeatedly failed to comply with orders by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to upgrade the dam through 2018, when the Commission revoked the company's permit to generate hydroelectric power.

The transfer of the dam to the Four Lakes Task Force was imminent when the failure occurred, and—as the dam owners' resistance to FERC demonstrates—was a much faster path to improve safety than attempting to directly compel the private owners through regulatory means to undertake the repairs. That process could have taken close to a decade to complete, but the Task Force's construction schedule was already underway at the time the dam failed. The state was providing technical assistance and a \$5 million grant to assist in the repairs and the transfer of ownership to the Task Force.

Damage to lives, property, and the natural resources of the state are extensive, and are still being tallied. But there is clearly enough evidence even at this early stage of the aftermath that Boyce is responsible for the catastrophe.

[Review the lawsuit here](#)

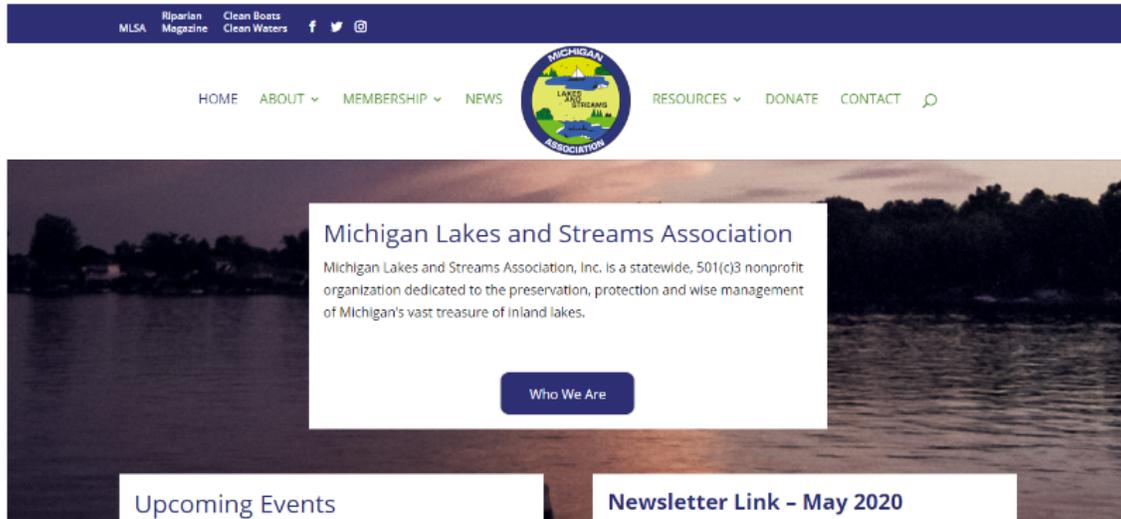
[Read the Full Press Release here](#)

[View the press conference here](#)

Three House Bills Introduced this Month

House Bills [5838](#), [5839](#), & [5840](#) were introduced on June 4, 2020 by [Rep. Tyrone Carter](#) and [Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo](#). These three bills deal with potential environmental contamination and reporting issues. They also create a new Great Lakes and River protection fund and amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. They have been referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation, chaired by

[Rep. Gary Howell](#). Please click on the names of the representatives to contact them about these bills. You may also see the history of the bills and read the language by clicking on the bill numbers. As always, MLSA will continue to monitor the progress of these bills in the House.



New Website Features

by Melissa DeSimone, MLSA Executive Director

I have spent some time this year with our new web developer, [Ken Campbell](#), to bring you a new and improved MLSA website. Some of the priorities for the website included better mobile compatibility for phones and other smart devices, a member log in feature so members can access exclusive content, and better overall navigability. I believe we have delivered on all these priorities and I will walk you through them here.

If you are a member or subscriber you have received an email welcoming you to the new mymlsa.org website with a link to get into the website and change your password. If you did not see this email, please check your spam folder and/or email info@mymlsa.org to have it resent to you. Once you are logged in to the website, you can see your most recent membership transaction with MLSA and you can change any contact information we have on file for you.

If you are a member, you can also access a member's only page with the most recent *Michigan Riparian* magazines and articles from Attorney Cliff Bloom.

Please note: if you are a member through your lake association, a representative from your board is able to access the MLSA website member information. Please consider signing up as an individual member of MLSA or talk to your lake board about access to the member content. The archives for *The Michigan Riparian* and Cliff Bloom articles older than 3 years are available on the mi-riparian.org website which is now linked at the top of the MLSA page for easy access, the Riparian Magazine website as also been revamped.

Manage Your Account Information

Once you've logged in you will be taken to the "Member Welcome" page. On this page, you will be able to click "Access My Account" to check, update, and change your personal information in our files.

Account Information

[Home](#) [Payments](#) [Logout](#)

First Name:*

Last Name:*
Email:*

[Save Profile](#)

[Change Password](#)

Individual Memberships
This category is for those who want to join MLSA directly as an individual. You can choose a membership for 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 5 years, or lifetime.

Lake Association Memberships
This category is for all lake and stream associations to join, membership fees are based on the number of members in the association.

Corporate / Non-Profit Memberships
This category has options for all commercial businesses and 501(c)3 (non-profit) businesses that want to join MLSA.

Riparian Subscription
Subscribe to *The Michigan Riparian* magazine directly as an individual without an MLSA membership.

Join and Renew Online

You can easily renew your current membership, add a new membership, or sign up for subscriptions for your lake association members by visiting the "New Memberships and Renewals" page. There are three options to join or renew your membership with MLSA.

1. You can complete your full transaction online.
2. You can fill out your personal information online but still put a check in the mail.
3. You can join or renew manually by printing a form, filling it out, and mailing it in with your check.

Please note: the online transactions use paypal but you do not need a paypal account, that is just the company we use to process credit card payments. As a lake association, a credit card payment may not be an option. You could consider creating a paypal account for your association linked to your association's bank account or we still welcome checks through the mail for your convenience.

Also, if you are a lake association interested in our \$14 subscription rate to have *The Michigan Riparian* magazine sent to your members, you can now do so online by selecting the amount of subscriptions you would like to have or by sending us a check. You will need to have a current lake association membership with MLSA to request those subscriptions.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help you through joining and

renewing please call the MLSA office (989-830-5100) and I will be happy to help you.

Access Digital Content

After you log in to the website you will be taken directly to a "Member Welcome" page and there you will find links to all the magazines and attorney writes articles from 2018 to the most current ones. You can view them online and download them onto your computer to view later.



June Zoom Meeting

Join us for our monthly zoom meeting, we took a break to bring you the Spring Webinar Series and now we are back to our monthly virtual gatherings. Unlike the webinars, these meetings are more informal with a few agenda items but everyone can be seen and heard for open discussion.

June's Discussion:

- New Website Features: a quick tutorial, troubleshooting demonstration, and discussion
- Spring Webinar Series: now that you've had time to think about the sessions, what questions do you have?

When: June 26, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Register in advance for this meeting.](#)

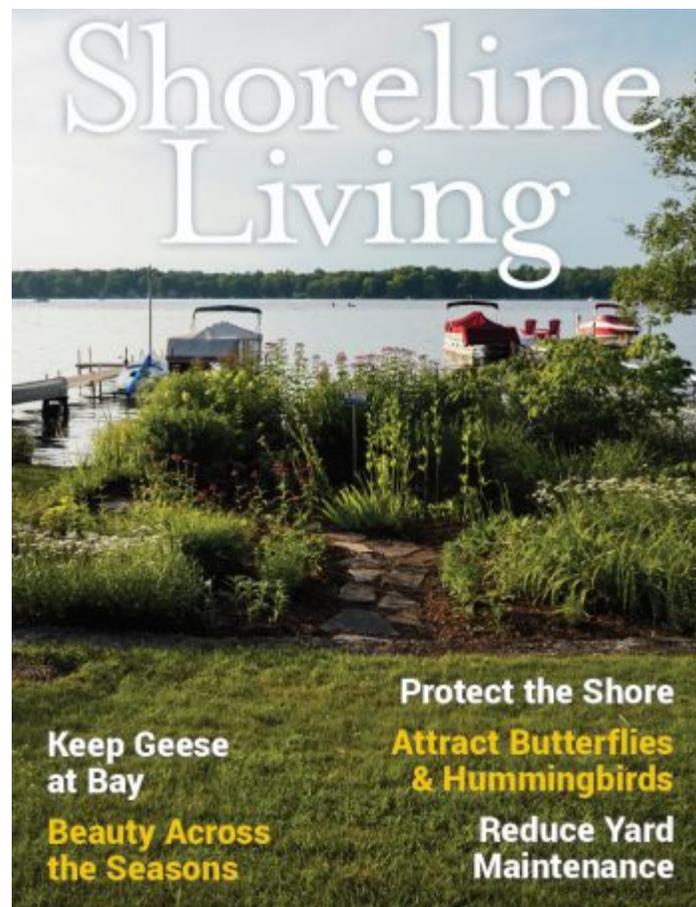
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Save the Date...

Our July Zoom meeting will be focused on you, our members. We want to hear from you - What would you like to see from us? How can we better support you? What programs are most important to you? Help us envision the future of MLSA.

When: Jul 31, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Register in advance for this meeting](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership is proud to share this Shoreline Living booklet, which provides examples of everyday shoreline property owners that dipped their toes into a natural shoreline. Get a digital or print copy of this beautiful booklet and access the photos and articles by clicking on the magazine above.

Upcoming Webinars:



FLOW & MCWC to Host Webinar on Nestlé: *Stopping the Groundwater Grab*

On Wednesday, June 17, at 1:00 p.m. EDT you are invited to join [FLOW](#) (For Love of Water) and the [Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation](#) for a one-hour webinar providing frontline, scientific, and legal insights into citizen-led efforts to challenge Nestlé, the Swiss-based corporate giant, in its quest to expand its groundwater grab in Michigan. Presenters will include Jim Olson, President & Legal Advisor, FLOW and Peggy Case, President, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation.

[Click here](#) to reserve your spot for the Zoom webinar.

Wild About Backyard Conservation Webinar Series *with Michigan State University Extension*

- **June 24:** Support wildlife through caring for native trees and shrubs
- **July 8:** Learn about the Eyes on the Forest program and how to adopt a tree
- **July 22:** Discover the importance of water features in your landscape

- **August 12:** Understand the importance of prescribed burns and when they may be necessary
- **August 26:** Find ways to attract beneficial wildlife and how to deter the destructive ones
- **September 9:** Get the inside scoop on what your septic tank is doing underground and how to maintain it
- **September 23:** Investigate the relationships of lawns, strange holes, and wildlife
- **October 14:** Examine landscaping options for wet and soggy areas of your yard

The cost to participate is \$5 per webinar or \$35 for access to all nine webinars. For more information and to register visit

[Wild About Backyard Conservation](#)

Protecting Our Lakes & Shorelands Series Continues

Developed by: Friends of Spider Lake and Rennie Lake, Michigan

Inland Lake Fish Habitats and Fisheries in a Changing Environment

June 27 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Presentation by: Dr. Joe Nohner, Fisheries Biologist, Michigan

Dept. of Natural Resources; Coordinator, Midwest Glacial Lakes

Partnership

[Register Here](#)

Protecting Michigan Inland Lake Shorelines and Shorelands

August 15 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Presentation by: Erick Elgin, M.S., Limnologist/Water Resource Educator,

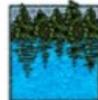
Michigan State University Extension

Visit [Grand Traverse Conservation District](#) for registration information.

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, state-wide organization dedicated to the preservation, protection, and wise

management of Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes.
Ready to help us protect Michigan's waterways?

Join MLSA Today



Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society



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You are receiving this email because you opted in to receive MLSA email communications (monthly newsletters, legislative updates, and other important information) when you became a member or by signing up on our website.

Our mailing address is:

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association
PO Box 19615
Kalamazoo, MI 49019

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