

Welcome to our June 2018 Newsletter...

An Open Letter to the Honorable Members of  
the Michigan State Waterways Commission

By Scott Brown

Executive Director

For over sixty years, our members, lakefront property owners and their respective lake associations have voluntarily placed themselves at the forefront of a seemingly never ending battle with an increasingly widespread and destructive array of exotic aquatic invasive species. Through self-imposed Special Assessment Districts that fund local efforts to mitigate the harmful influences of the invasive plants and animals that have entered their lakes primarily through public boating access sites, lake associations have placed themselves at the epicenter of efforts to preserve and protect the recreational and economic value of thousands of Michigan's inland lakes. In 2017, for example, lakefront property owners contributed over 30 million dollars to fund efforts to control the harmful influences of invasive species.

The heroic efforts of Michigan's lake associations have made significant contributions to helping preserve viable recreational boating and fishing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of members of the general public, robust outdoor activities that generate approximately five billion dollars annually in support of Michigan's economy.

[1]Click here to read more of this letter...

"OF MOSQUITOES AND KILLER BEES"

by Clifford H. Bloom, Esq.  
Bloom Sluggett PC  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

(Note to readers: This is a re-print of an article that has appeared in both The Michigan Riparian Magazine and within this monthly newsletter. In light of the fact that that we have received many calls and e-mails recently in regards to what lakefront property owners in Michigan can do to rein in the often destructive influences of a steadily increasingly number of wakeboats, we are re-publishing. Our members should know that this

is a complex issue that will ultimately require legislative action to effectively remedy. Please call or write your respective state senator or representatives to express your concerns about the increasingly pervasive negative influences of wakeboats operating on Michigan inland waters.)

There have been many headaches for lakefront property owners in Michigan over the years, particularly with regard to the latest watercraft "toy". During the 1960's and 1970's, the main safety problem on inland lakes was speed boats (with or without water skiers) operated in a fast or unsafe fashion. During the 1980's, the proliferation of jet skis or personal watercraft struck many riparians as a nuisance and safety hazard. Today, riparians are becoming increasingly concerned about the popularity of "wave boats" (also sometimes referred to as bladder boats, wave runner boats or wakeboard boats). Unfortunately, the impact of wave boats on Michigan inland lakes appears to be dramatically worse than the negative consequences of personal watercraft and conventional speed boats. As one law enforcement officer put it, personal watercraft are mosquitoes and problem speed boats are bumble bees, while wave boats are African killer bees!

[2]Click here to read more of this article...

What Responsible Wakeboat Operators Can Do to Help Minimize Damage to Inland Lake Ecosystems and Shoreline Property

1. Restrict the operation of their boats to large inland lakes.
2. Always operate a minimum of 150 yards from shore.
3. Adjust the displacement, and wave amplitude of their boats based on the size of the lake they are operating on.
4. Restrict the operation of their craft to waters of a minimum depth of twenty feet.
5. Always use sound judgement, and be mindful of the fact that improper operation of their boats can cause damage to docks, hoists, moored boats, and other shoreline infrastructure as well as destroy fish spawning areas and other ecologically sensitive habitat.

UPDATE - LEGISLATION IMPACTING RIPARIANS

By Paul J. Sniadecki, MLSA Board Director

This article was written to update readers about legislation previously reported on within past editions of this newsletter or within The Michigan

Riparian Magazine:

LARGE QUANTITY WATER WITHDRAWALS - House Bill No. 5638. Introduced on February 22, 2018, the bill was referred to the House committee on Natural

Resources. Subsequent Public Hearings occurred with the Farm Bureau supporting the reduction in process review steps, and the non-disclosure of certain water data. Numerous organizations, including Trout Unlimited and the nonprofit For the Love Of Water, opposed the Bill because of the potential impact on groundwater and waterways.

Up to this point, anyone seeking to siphon more than 100,000 gallons per day of groundwater, water from our rivers, or the Great Lakes, must receive approval and report the amount of water they use to the DEQ, under requirements of the multi-state Great Lakes Compact (2008). Data from such withdrawals is also generally publicly available through FOIA.

On May 16, 2018, the House passed Substitute Bills H-3 and H-5, which scaled back some of the initially proposed relaxation of regulations and data secrecy provisions. The House and Senate votes were overwhelmingly in favor of the modified water withdrawal requirements. The fast moving legislation reached Governor Snyder's desk on June 11, 2018, and it is unknown if he will sign it. Future articles in this newsletter or with The Michigan Riparian Magazine will provide more information as it becomes available.

[3]Click here to read more of this article...

Read the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) May 2018 Newsletter

[4]Click here to download the newsletter...

2018 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention

Thursday & Friday  
October 4th & 5th, 2018

Crown Plaza Hotel Grand Rapids (Airport)

To learn more about the upcoming Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

Conference, [5]click here

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!

[6]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!

[7]Click here to order the guidebook now!

Available for download by [8]clicking here

The guidebook is also available in printed form from Michigan Lake and Stream Associations

Central Office by contacting

swagner@mlswa.org

Read about the latest news, events, and programs of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

by [9]clicking here

Learn about an exciting opportunity to qualify your lakefront shoreline for recognition by visiting the

[10]Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program website.

To download the January 2018 edition of the Michigan  
Natural Shoreline Partnership newsletter, [11]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"

[12]www.micbcw.org

The Michigan Riparian

An Affordable Opportunity to be Well Informed

and to  
Support Our Family of Lake and Stream

Stewardship Focused Organizations

[13]www.mi-riparian.org

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 [14]Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (ML&SA) has administered the CLMP jointly with the [15]Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information about the CLMP, please visit  
[16]https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring / or contact Jean Roth at ML&SA  
at  
jroth@mlswa.org

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RECENT NEWS

ML&SA Launches New

Website Dedicated to  
Helping You Find Water Resource Organizations

[17]Click here

to read this article

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[23]

Michigan Lake and Stream 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

[24]Michigan Waterfront Alliance

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[25]Michigan Chapter,  
North American Lake  
Management Society

[26]Michigan Clean Water  
Corps (MiCorps)

[27]MDEQ Water  
Resources Division

[28]Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources

[29]Michigan Inland  
Lakes Partnership

[30]Michigan Loon  
Preservation  
Association

[31]Michigan Natural  
Shoreline Partnership

[32]Freshwater Future

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