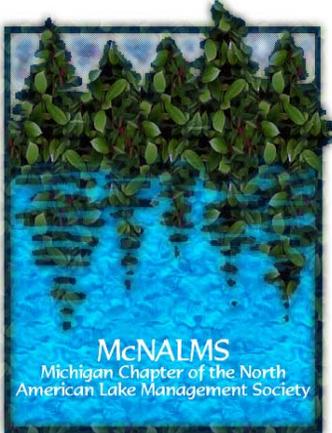


# LAKE EFFECT

July 2010



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## Presidential Tidbits

By Ted R. Batterson, President, Michigan NALMS

I hope by the time you read this that you will have had the opportunity to have spent some time this year on at least one of Michigan's many inland lakes. If not, I would encourage you to do so, taking advantage of these wonderful natural resources that are so abundant in our state. We hope that in some way, whether directly or indirectly, the efforts of our society have in some way been a benefit to that experience. Our mission, as a chapter of the North American Lake Management Society, is to promote the understanding

and comprehensive management of Michigan's inland lake ecosystems. I think over the 20 years that our society has been in existence that we've done quite a lot towards achieving our mission (please see the feature article in this newsletter for some examples of our accomplishments), but much yet remains to be done in regard to the comprehensive management and understanding of our inland lakes. Hopefully the continued efforts of our chapter, through the work of our executive director, elected officials, other members, and support-

ers will enhance our understanding and management of these aquatic ecosystems. I would encourage you to help us in achieving our mission, either through continuing your membership (or joining if you are not a member), additional financial support above and beyond the membership fees, or by volunteering your time and assistance. Thanks and we hope our next 20 years will provide a better understanding and more comprehensive management of our inland lakes.

## Michigan Lake & Stream Associations—News & Views, Summer 2010 By Scott Brown, ML&SA Executive Director

First of all, on behalf of the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the entire Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society organization for this opportunity to contribute a

brief article regarding ML&SA news, views, and events to your periodic newsletter.

We appreciate and recognize the significance of the increased level of collaboration that has occurred between

McNALMS and ML&SA in the past year. We look forward to exploring new and substantive areas in which our organizations might effectively partner to benefit our treasure of high quality inland

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## Notes from the Executive Director by Howard Wandell

### Is the Big Picture Just Too Big?

Comprehensive lake management is no simple task. It requires lake and land or watershed management. It means that besides the limnologist, fisheries biologist, hydrologist, aquatic botanist, and contractors working in the lake; we need to engage the drain commissioner, township officials, planners, engineers, state and local regulators, and developers working on the land. Additionally, as the project develops there may be a need for grant writers, marketers, educators and lawyers.

Certainly lake management is an interdisciplinary project requiring communication and cooperation. It's a big job and maybe why so

few lake communities attempt comprehensive management, but instead direct efforts at the symptoms and not the causes of lake problems.

If our primary mission in McNALMS is to encourage and facilitate comprehensive lake management in Michigan, where do we begin? With 11,000 lakes and state and local revenues for natural resource management inadequate for the need and decreasing every year, are we facing an impossible task?

I remember the story of a Chinese village that hired two western scientists to help them with their smog problem. The scientists concluded that to increase air movement through the village the

mountain that blocked the valley should be removed. With no heavy equipment at their disposal the villagers collected all the buckets and shovels they could find and started up the mountain. The two western scientists shook their heads and went home. Five years later they were invited back to reassess the situation. To their astonishment the mountain was gone.

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## Swimming With the Fishes

In Michigan lakes, many fishes lurk below the surface of the water seeking refuge under logs and docks. One of the most rewarding summertime prizes is a lunker bass on the end of your fishing line. But there have been decades of controversy about whether angling for bass should be allowed during the spawning season. Previous research has suggested that when a nesting smallmouth bass is caught and released by an angler, predators can quickly consume up to 50% of the offspring before the male can return. But do offspring losses lead to nest abandonment?

Brianne Lunn and Dr. Geoff Steinhart of Lake Superior State University studied the effects of offspring removals on nest abandonment by smallmouth bass in Lake Opeongo, Ontario. Male smallmouth bass provide sole parental care for their offspring for up to six weeks. Without the care from the male, offspring quickly perish,

thus the need to understand if brood reduction may lead a parent to abandon his nest. To simulate the effect of offspring losses during angling, Brianne removed different percentages of offspring (from 0% to 75%) from smallmouth bass nests and observed if the loss of offspring induced abandonment by nest-guarding males. Additional information on brood size and age, and male age were collected to determine their influence on abandonment.

On the coarsest scale, percent brood removed did not affect whether males abandoned or guarded their nests. But, after comparing nest and male characteristics, they found that males who abandoned their nests were, on average, smaller (in both length and weight), younger, and had fewer offspring than males who continued to guard. And younger broods were more likely to be abandoned than older

broods. Therefore, offspring losses might not be as important as the other characteristics of the male and brood. So, while brood predation during angling might not cause *all* males to abandon, there are some parents that might leave after being caught. The researchers recommend that if you fish for nesting bass, try to release them as quickly, carefully, and as close to where you caught them as possible.

For more information see: Lunn, B.D. and G.B. Steinhart. 2010. Effects of brood reduction on nest abandonment of smallmouth bass. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 139: 586-592.

Brianne Lunn graduated from Lake Superior State University in 2009 and is currently a graduate student at the University of Alberta.

Geoff Steinhart is an Assistant Professor at Lake Superior State University and Co-director of the Aquatic Research Laboratory.

## The North American Lake Management Society Turns 30

The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), an international organization, is in its thirtieth year of promoting lake management. The Society began when water resource managers in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire agreed that there was a need for a national organization to promote the unique interests of inland lakes. At the time most state pollution control agencies focused upon rivers, since these ecosystems were the primary recipients of industrial and municipal point source discharge. Protection management of high quality lake ecosystems was not a routine administrative effort in most states.

The purpose of NALMS is to forge partnerships among citizens, scientists, and professionals to foster the management and protection of lakes for today and tomorrow. The implication of this mission is that the Society is not a society with a narrow focus on professionals. While the initial Society members were largely made up of upper Midwest and New England state agency water pollution control staff, over the years efforts were made to expand the membership to the entire country and even Canadian provinces as well as scientists from other countries working on lake ecosystems.

The interest of the Society was not just lake research but the application of that research to the effective management of lakes. To bring this management to reality there was the need to engage local citizens who were extensively involved in the implementation of lake protection strategies. The Society calls these citizen managers, practitioners and has structured the Society to ensure that these individuals' interests and needs are identified and ad-

ressed. Therefore the Society is a distinctive collaboration of university scientist, professional lake managers and contractors, and citizen practitioners.

To promote lake science and technology transfer, the Society has several educational outlets. An annual conference is hosted each year where researchers can present their most recent projects. Additionally these conferences have training sessions for practitioners to give them the most recent information regarding important issues of lake management. Society publications include a scientific journal and a magazine called LakeLine for practitioners. LakeLine is thematic with an important issue of lake management addressed in each issue. Of course the Society has a web site ([www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org)) and a book store to share information regarding lake ecosystems and management.

While national/international in scope, NALMS also has state affiliates to better focus management on the distinctive conditions in each state or region of the country. In Michigan the Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) is an affiliate of the Society.

As an affiliate of the national organization, McNALMS reflects the goals, membership and outreach objectives of the Society. McNALMS members are roughly equally divided between university researchers, professional lake managers and contractors and local lake board and association citizens. McNALMS publishes this newsletter, has a web site and hosts an annual conference.

Besides the traditional outreach venues, McNALMS goals include greater collaboration among lake management agencies and organizations and advocating for legislation and programs to support lake management in Michigan. McNALMS was instrumental in the creation of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership. The Partnership is a collaboration of State and county agencies, Native American Nations and environmental groups. The purpose of the Partnership is to promote communication and cooperation between the partners, communities and citizens interested in lake management as well as educating lake leaders and strengthening stewardship efforts.

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## Conference on Lake & Shoreline Management Upcoming

*Taking Charge: Lake and Shoreline Management at the Local Level* is the theme of the upcoming Michigan NALMS annual meeting. It is scheduled for Friday, October 1, 2010 at the Ralph A. MacMullen (RAM) Center at Higgins Lake in Roscommon, MI. The conference will begin with a plenary session with talks on a new outreach/training plan for lake management; current legal issues; and the effects of woody debris removal on fish populations. Two concurrent workshops will follow focusing on Native Shorelines - A First Step in Lake Management and Becoming a Lake Manager. The day will conclude with insight on Michigan NALMS' new lake manual.

The cost of the conference is \$50 and includes the conference, materials, breaks, and lunch. To register for the conference, to obtain more detailed information on the workshops or to find out more about overnight accommodations, visit [www.mcnalms.org](http://www.mcnalms.org)

The conference is sponsored by the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society, and is endorsed by the Michi-

gan Inland Lakes Partnership. It is co-sponsored by the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., MSU Extension and the Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University.

For further information, contact Howard Wandell at [wandellh@yahoo.com](mailto:wandellh@yahoo.com) or Lois Wolfson at [wolfson1@msu.edu](mailto:wolfson1@msu.edu)



## Lake Boards ~~Versus~~ and Lake Associations: Working Together

When lake residents discuss establishing a special assessment district (SAD), such as a lake board through their township, they often debate the pros and cons of the SAD versus an association. It is important to know that a SAD and an association are not mutually exclusive. It is possible, in fact it is beneficial, to have both a SAD and a lake association existing side by side, and for the two groups to work together. Both groups have strengths and limitations, and each group can perform functions the other cannot.

Lake boards and township SADs have the ability to fund lake improvement projects through special assessments, i.e., taxes. That means, everyone who benefits from the projects pays for the im-

provements. This is a major advantage that SADs have over lake associations. Most associations acquire funds through voluntary contributions which may or may not be sufficient to undertake a lake improvement project. In addition, donations may not be the fairest way to pay for lake improvements since some lake residents may choose to pay but some may not.

Associations are comprised of and presided over by lake residents, therefore many residents feel this is the best method of governance. When either a board or a township SAD is established, decision-making authority shifts to a board whose members may not include lake residents. This is where it is beneficial, perhaps even crucial,

for associations to work with either their lake board or their township board. Associations can and should have their finger on the pulse of lake residents. They should understand residents' concerns and desires regarding their lake and its management. By working closely with the lake or township board, associations can ensure that their lake is managed with residents' interests at heart. In doing so, the whole lake management process is strengthened by establishing a fair system of financing improvements and by integrating lake resident input. Lakes need not be managed by us versus them but instead by us and them.

# McNALMS News

## Volunteering with McNALMS

The Society relies on volunteers to accomplish all of the projects and programs which we are engaged in such as the Asian carp, phosphorus free lawn fertilizer, and natural shoreline issues. There are no paid staff in the Society. If you have thought of being more involved in water resource management and would like to support the society below are some needs that you could help fulfill.



**The Government Affairs Committee** – help research legislative action, prioritize bills and recommend action for the Society to take.

**Web Monitor** – helps to maintain and update the Society web site.

**The Membership Committee** – help mail out and track membership renewals. Help with this responsibility would free the Society's executive director to do more advocacy work.

**Corporate Monitor** – maintain contact with Society corporate members to ensure they are receiving the benefits of the Society.

**Communicator** – communicate with Society members regarding requests for information.

**Marketing** – help the Society with marketing efforts.

**Mailperson** – pick up mail at the post office box in East Lansing; sort mail and distribute to appropriate Society Board members.

If you could help the Society with these or other tasks please contact the Executive Director, Howard Wandell at [wandellh@yahoo.com](mailto:wandellh@yahoo.com).



## McNALMS Contributes to Natural Shoreline

On another issue, McNALMS donated funds to the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) to produce educational materials for citizens regarding establishment of natural shorelines. McNALMS is a partner in the MNSP. The mission of the MNSP is to promote natural shorelines through use of green landscaping technologies and bioengineered erosion control to the protection of lakes. The Partnership is made up of governmental agencies, industry associations, academic institutions and environmental non-profit organizations.

## Calendar of Events

**July 14-16** Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners annual summer conference at Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls.

**July 18-21** 65th International Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society at the Hilton at the Ballpark in downtown St. Louis, MO.

**Aug 1-5** 9th annual North American Surface Water Quality Conference and Exposition for stormwater managers, regulators, contractors, and consultants in San Antonio, TX.

**Aug 23-27** The American Society of Civil Engineers, Environmental & Water Resources Institute is sponsoring the 2010 Watershed Management Conference: *Innovations in Watershed Management Under Land Use and Climate Change* in Madison, WI.

**Sept 12-16** 140th Meeting of the American Fisheries Society at the David Lowrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA, [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org).

**Sept 25** Michigan Council Trout Unlimited Fall Meeting at the Ralph A MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake near Roscommon

**Oct 1** Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society annual conference (*Taking Charge: Lake and Shoreline Management at the Local Level*) at the Ralph A. MacMullan Center on Higgins Lake near Roscommon.

**Oct 18-19** 6th Annual MiCorps Conference for environmental monitoring of Michigan's lakes and streams at the Ralph A. MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake near Roscommon.

**Nov 3-5** 30th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society at the Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Nov 16-18** 18th National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop: Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop for Great Lakes restoration Initiative, Milwaukee, WI.

**Dec 17th** Natural Shoreline Homeowner Workshop Training for Professionals, 8:30-4:00. *The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) and Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) will be conducting a full day training for professional staff interested in conducting homeowner workshops and events on bio-engineering and natural landscaping methods. It will be held in conjunction with the MACD Winter Conference at Soaring Eagle Resort and Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant, MI. The training will include an educational tool kit created by MNSP designed to equip and train Conservation District and professional staff from other organizations to provide shoreline workshops and events for homeowners.*

**Jan 26-28, 2011** Michigan Association of Townships conference, DeVos Place and Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids.

**Feb 16-18, 2011** Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners annual winter conference at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Acme.



The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has a new free publication on buffers and environmental corridors and why they are important. Go to the web site [www.sewrpc.org](http://www.sewrpc.org) and pick "environment" on the top menu bar and then go to "recent publications".

If you have not seen the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership web site, it is worth a visit [www.michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu](http://www.michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu)

**Legislation & Policy Issues**



**Asian Carp**

At the last Board meeting, a society member submitted an issue paper regarding the efforts to keep the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The Board approved the issue paper and has begun to support this effort. Letters are being sent to resource agencies and legislators to promote actions to keep these fish out of our lake ecosystems.

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**Phosphorus Turf Fertilizer**

Recently an issue paper was written for support of House Bills 5368 and 5369. These bills will restrict the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers on lawns unless a soil test shows a deficiency in phosphorus. The bills also restrict the display of phosphate turf fertilizers at retail facilities. This issue paper will probably be debated and acted upon at the August 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

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**New Minor Permit Category for Bioengineered Shoreline**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment approved a minor project category for bioengineering practices for stabilizing inland lake shorelines. The purpose of this minor permit is to support the use of bioengineering practices (also known as “soft” or “green” engineering) to prevent lake shoreline erosion and restore natural habitat along the shore. Restored natural shorelines will protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and other natural features associated with inland lakes. Bioengineering uses a combination of native plantings and natural or biodegradable materials to engineer shoreline protection that, to the extent possible, mimics and or enhances the natural landscape.

Before this new minor permit category was in place, it was more demanding to get a permit for bioengineering than for hard armoring a shoreline with a seawall. Hopefully this new category will promote more use of bioengineering and installation of natural shorelines.

*Continued from page 3* **The North American Lake Management Society Turns 30**

McNALMS is also collaborating with others on the State's Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership. This Partnership is making a significant effort to provide education to citizens about the value of native lake-shores. It is also promoting training to landscape professionals regarding natural shoreline protection and restoration. Recently, McNALMS participated on a stakeholder committee sponsored by the then Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and another committee sponsored by Michigan State University Extension to identify and outline management strategies for phosphorus in Michigan.

In advocating for legislation and better programs for lake management in Michigan, McNALMS has recently: 1) produced a preliminary report on the economic value of lakes; 2) supported passage of Act 91 P.A. 2009 to make it a misdemeanor to transport aquatic plants on a boat or trailer; 3) advocated for an early detection/rapid response plan for hydrilla and other exotic aquatic plants; 4) promoted passage of legislation to close the phosphorus detergent ban loophole for dishwashers; 5) encouraged passage of legislation to implement standards for septic system maintenance; and 6) supported efforts to prevent the introduction of Asian carp into the Great Lakes ecosystem. Additionally, at this time the McNALMS Board is evaluating the possibility of supporting the legislation requiring turf fertilizers in Michigan be sold without phosphorus unless a soil test documents the need for the nutrient.

The first thirty year for NALMS has been filled with challenges and successes. However, much still needs to be done to protect the nation's and our State's valuable lake resources. The key to future successes will depend upon the communication and cooperation between the researchers, managers and practitioners. The Michigan Chapter of NALMS will be doing all we can to promote this collaboration and advancing lake management in Michigan.



*Continued from page 1* **Michigan Lake & Stream Associations**

lakes – freshwater gems that will play an increasingly important role in Michigan's future.

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations has always been a collaborative partnership focused organization – we fully recognize that no singular organization, agency or institution in Michigan possesses the capability to effectively manage our vast treasure of freshwater resources – achieving even modest success in this multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary and often complex endeavor depends entirely on bringing together a diverse network of organizations and people dedicated to achieving a common goal.

We are very proud of our long history of partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Michigan State University and MSU Extension – these long standing and fruitful partnerships have provided the foundation for the creation of the **Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program** and the **Lake and Stream Leadership Institute** - unique and highly successful partnership fueled programs that have received national recognition. We are also excited to be involved in the **Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership** and the **Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership** –relatively new inland lakes focused collaborative partnerships that possess great potential to positively impact the future of our 11,000 inland lakes. We believe in the power of collaborative partnerships!

A heart felt thank you to the McNALMS members who contributed to and/or directly participated in our 49th Annual Conference held on April 29th and 30th at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing – to Jo Latimore for creating and presenting two great sessions regarding the Michigan Sea Grant “Cleans Boats, Clean Waters” Program and the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership as well as for supporting the MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program volunteer water quality volunteer monitor training sessions; to Howard Wandell for supporting the MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program Aquatic Plant Mapping session and to Jane Herbert, for providing outstanding support to our well attended Natural Shoreline Forum. Thanks to each of you...our conference was a success due in large part to your outstanding contributions !

*Continued from page 2* **Notes**

Certainly our task to strategically manage Michigan's 11,000 lakes is significant, but it is not impossible. We can make a difference if we remain focused, positive and determined. I would like to offer a few simple things that each McNALMS member can do to contribute to the task.

- Promote success stories, even little ones. Write up a short article about your local community's efforts and share it with me or the editor of the newsletter. We will be sure others hear about your accomplishments.
- Encourage other lakes in your area to enroll in simple but important lake programs like the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.
- Persuade your lake community to begin the first simple steps of lake management, possibly by using the First Order Management Plan, in development by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Michigan Lake and Stream Associations.
- Ask your township and county officials if they are aware of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership and if not, provide them the Partnership's web site ([www.michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu](http://www.michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu)).
- And finally, recruit another concerned person to join McNALMS.

We can make a difference if we never lose sight of the goal. McNALMS can always use help in promoting our mission. If you would like to be more involved with the organization see the **McNALMS News** section in this newsletter. We have identified some ways individuals can help sustain the organization's mission.



## **Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors for helping support McNALMS**

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