

# Lake Effect Newsletter

Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society

September 2009

## Presidential TidBits

By Michael Solomon, President, Michigan NALMS

Where has time gone...It's late August in Northern Michigan and summer just arrived!!!

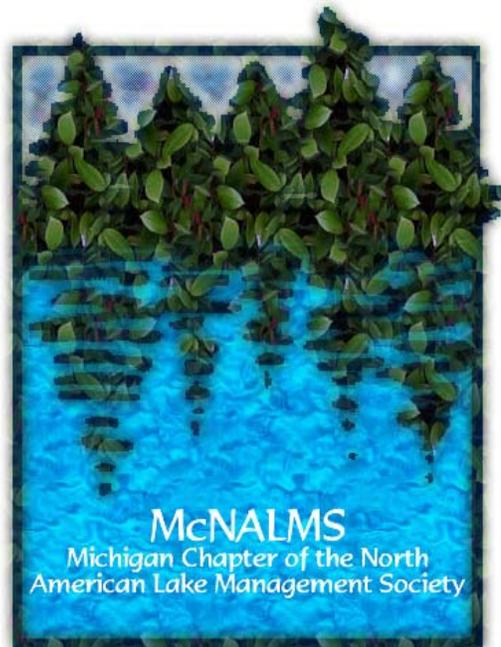
Though we haven't had a fantastic summer... McNALMS has had a fantastic and productive year. Let me elaborate:

October 16 is the date to mark for our one day conference located at Kettentun Center, approximately 12 miles southeast of Cadillac. A lot of time and effort has gone into planning for the conference and your attendance will help make it a success. More information on the conference is available in this newsletter and on our web site. Please consider joining us with your ideas on how to better manage our inland lakes and ideas on how to finance lake projects.

McNALMS Board meetings have been well attended with 10 to 15 Board members and others with an interest in getting involved. We have begun posting our scheduled meetings in the Newsletter and on the web site so that more can be involved. You are always welcome at these meetings. If members have an interest in serving on a committee let me or any Board member know and we will get you more involved. It has been rewarding to see more members and more diverse thoughts at our meetings. For any information, just e-mail me at [draincom@wexfordcounty.org](mailto:draincom@wexfordcounty.org). Our next meeting is November 5th at 9:30 at the Manly Miles building at MSU.

Howard Wandell's contributions to McNALMS are outstanding. I would like to recognize and thank Howard who volunteers his time as Executive Director. Our involvement and activities are directly correlated to his participation. Thanks to you, Howard, for your able leadership that makes McNALMS a more dynamic and better organization.

The year is slipping away, and it has been a pleasure serving as President. I feel that we have made significant progress this year. President-elect, Dr. Ted Batterson, will take over in January with fresh ideas. It has been an outstanding year, and I look forward to renewing old and making new friendships at the conference.



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## Notes from the Executive Director

by Howard Wandell

### It's Not About Being Big!

Remember the childhood story about the "little engine that could". All the other engines were big and powerful, but they never delivered. In our culture of numbers it is easy to forget purpose and focus on size. I have personally been a member of organizations where most of the leadership was focused on one thing, getting bigger. Growth superseded purpose to the extent that I'm not sure the leadership team understood the organization's function. Certainly large memberships and hefty budgets can help; they are, however, no guarantee that an organization is going to fulfill its purpose.

I have heard individuals say that McNALMS is just a small organization. It bothers me that others measure us by our size; I just hope we never get into that mindset ourselves. Yes, we are small, but look what we have delivered in just the last few years.

McNALMS

- represented lake management communities on the DEQ's Phosphorus Committee,
- completed a preliminary study on the Economic Value of Michigan's Inland Lakes,
- was a significant player behind the creation of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership,
- continues to play a significant role in the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership,
- is a collaborator on the DEQ's Natural Shoreline Partnership,
- has promoted early detection/rapid response for aquatic exotics,
- supported closing the phosphorus detergent ban loophole,
- commented on several other legislative initiatives,
- is hosting a significant conference on collaborative lake management, and many other actions.

Continued on page 7

## McNALMS Calendar of Events



Check Out Our New Website

[www.mcnalms.org](http://www.mcnalms.org)

Friday, October 16, 2009

**TAKING CHARGE:**

**Special Assessment Districts for Lake Improvements**

**Kettunen Center, Tustin, Michigan**

[www.mcnalms.org](http://www.mcnalms.org)

October 28 - 30, 2009

**NALMS 29th Annual International Symposium**

***Ensuring our Lakes' Future***

**Connecticut Convention Center**

**Hartford, Connecticut**

[www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org)



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## Conference on Lake Improvements Upcoming

Michigan NALMS and the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership are hosting a conference on lake improvement and collaborative lake management. The conference, *Taking Charge: Special Assessment Districts for Lake Improvements* is next month on Friday, October 16, 2009. An evening reception the night before is also being held.

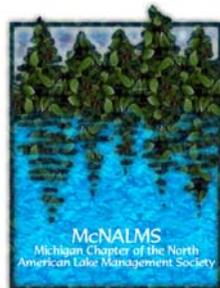
The purpose of the conference is to create a greater awareness of collaborative lake management options such as lake improvement boards and township public works projects and provide a networking opportunity for those interested in collaborative lake management. Following the keynote address and introduction, three sessions will run concurrently. Session 1 will provide information to those who want to learn more about lake boards and township projects and possibly establish a collaborative management effort in their community. Session 2 will cover topics such as public relations, writing and obtaining grants, collaborating with other groups, the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and running a meeting, which will help existing lake boards. Session 3 will deal with lake ecology and management, and feature talks on the milfoil weevils; fisheries and water quality; aquatic plants, exotic species, and lake specific management. Detailed information is available on the McNALMS web site [www.mcnalms.org](http://www.mcnalms.org).

The conference will be held at the Kettunen Center, near Tustin, Michigan, south of Cadillac. For those arriving the night before, rooms have been reserved at the Kettunen Center as well as two Cadillac area hotels, the Comfort Inn and the Holiday Inn Express. For those that arrive the night before or who live close enough to drop in there will be a reception at the Kettunen Center.

The cost of the conference is \$60 which includes the evening reception, lunch, materials, coffee breaks, and entry to the exhibit area. On line registration is available. Participation is open to the public but limited to 150 individuals.

The conference is a project of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, a collaboration of state and local agencies, Native American Nations, outreach institutions (universities and other educational institutions), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as business and industry trade groups. The conference is being hosted by the Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS). Other members of the partnership co-sponsoring the conference are the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners, the Michigan Township Association, Michigan State University Extension, MSU Institute of Water Research, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., and the Michigan Aquatic Managers Association.

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## Charlevoix County Court Ruling Challenges Riparian Rights

by Dave Foley

For more than fifty years legal precedent has established that the strips of shoreline lying between roads running parallel to the lake and these roadways are controlled by the riparian owning property immediately across the road. Traditionally they have exercised their rights to exclude the public and “back-lot” owners.

These rights were recently challenged by the June 23, 2009 decision issued by the Michigan Court of Appeals in 2000 Baum Family Trust et al. v Babel et al. In this case the Plaintiffs owned lots fronting Lake Charlevoix but separated from the water by the public road, Beach Drive, which runs parallel to the lake. Plaintiffs with property fronting the road erected docks and exercised their riparian rights on the shoreline property immediately across the road. These property owners filed suit after several back-lot owners erected docks in front of their lots.

The trial court ruled that the roadside owners were not riparians because a public road separated their lots from the lake. The implication of this decision is that the riparian rights are held by the Charlevoix County Road Commission, which, in effect, makes these shoreline lands public. The roadside owners appealed the decision to the Michigan Court of Appeals pointing to established Michigan law that supported their claim of riparian rights. It could take up to a year or more for the Michigan Court of Appeals to issue a final ruling. In the interim, this decision is only binding within Charlevoix County.



## HB 4199 Passed by House

House Bill 4199, which requires that all aquatic plants be removed from watercraft and boat trailers before launching, was passed by the Michigan House of Representatives on April 1 of this year by a vote of 88-21. On July 22nd, the Senate’s Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee recommended that the bill take immediate effect.

The bill, whose primary sponsor is Representative Michael Lahti (Houghton) prohibits the placement of a boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer in Michigan waters with an aquatic plant attached. Owners of public boating access sites would be required to post a notice of this law. Boat owners, who introduce aquatic plants into a lake or access owners who fail to post a notice, could face a fine of up to \$100.

HB 4199 would provide a means of helping to curb the introduction of invasive species into Michigan waters and help educate the public on the importance of cleaning off their boats and equipment. The fiscal impact of implementing this bill would be slight as the Department of Natural Resources would absorb the cost of printing and distributing notices.

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## Bulletin Focuses on Native Watermilfoil Weevil for Controlling Eurasian Watermilfoil

by Tom Alwin  
Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.), an aquatic invasive plant, consumes large amounts of time money and energy for many stakeholders and lake managers throughout Michigan. The ability to spread between and within lakes, out compete native plants, and dense surface matting that impedes recreation are potential negative impacts this weed can have on aquatic ecosystems. Currently there are few options for attempting to suppress E. watermilfoil infestations, including chemical treatment and biological control. Chemical applications are the most commonly employed method to combat E. watermilfoil, but there is growing interest in using the watermilfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) a commercially available, native North American beetle, as a biological control agent for dealing with E. watermilfoil. The idea of a natural control method for E. watermilfoil that is potentially both cost-effective and a long-term solution is attractive to many lake managers and lake residents. However, when talking to stakeholders I soon discovered that misconceptions and untested ideas about the watermilfoil weevil were common and often misconstrued as fact. This led me to write the Michigan State University Extension bulletin WQ061 titled: *Biological Control of Eurasian watermilfoil: A Review of the Native Watermilfoil Weevil*.

The goal of this eight-page bulletin is to provide general background on the watermilfoil weevil's life history and its use as a biological control agent. When available, the findings of peer reviewed scientific research are used to support the information. The bulletin begins with a brief introduction of Eurasian watermilfoil, which sets the stage for why efforts to control E. watermilfoil are necessary. The bulletin then discusses the life cycle of the watermilfoil weevil and the impact of each life stage on E. watermilfoil. A short section then establishes the expectations for successful E. watermilfoil control using watermilfoil weevils. With the background information presented and the expectations set, the bulletin presents information on the factors that may limiting watermilfoil weevil densities, including; overwintering habitat, predation, reproduction rate and hybridization between native and Eurasian watermilfoil species. The bulletin then makes suggestions on how biocontrol efforts using watermilfoil weevils can be improved. These include ways to enhance the efficacy of an existing watermilfoil weevil population, combining herbicide treatment with biological control, and increasing watermilfoil weevil population density through stocking. The bulletin also includes a short section addressing common questions about watermilfoil weevils and their stocking, a list of the literature cited, and a table comparing the methods commonly used for E. watermilfoil control (weed harvesting, herbicides and biocontrol using watermilfoil weevils).

While there are still many unanswered questions about the watermilfoil weevil, and its use as a biological control agent, I hope this bulletin will help inform lake residents if/when making decisions related to Eurasian watermilfoil control.

Printed copies of *Biological Control of Eurasian watermilfoil: A Review of the Native Watermilfoil Weevil* can be purchased through Michigan State University Extension. Or a free downloadable PDF is available through the Michigan State University Extension Water Area of Expertise at <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/viewitem.cfm?INVKEY=WQ61>.

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## McNalms Sets Procedure for Setting Policy

McNALMS has established a procedure for addressing issues in a timely manner and setting and implementing policy. Issues may reach the McNALMS Board in one of two ways: 1) as an advocated issue where an individual McNALMS member proposes an action or 2) as general information with no advocate or a request from a party who is not a member of McNALMS.

For advocated issues any McNALMS member may bring an issue, legislative action or policy matter to the Board. In asking the Board to make a policy decision the member will provide the Board with an analysis of the issue such as an "issue paper" or legislative analysis, which identifies the pros and cons. The issue paper is presented to the Board for action. An example issue paper is provided below.

For issues with no advocate or outside request the President or Executive Director will raise the issue via letter or email with the Board and ask if any Board member or other member would be willing to serve as the issue advocate and produce the necessary issue paper. If a Board member accepts they are only committing to writing the issue paper. They are not committing to any work beyond writing the issue paper, such as lobbying the legislature or supervising the implementation of a new project or program. If no Board member or other member is willing to be the issue advocate, then no action will be taken on the issue. If an advocate is identified, then the issue moves forward as in the case of the advocated issue.

It is not the responsibility of the Executive Director to produce the issue paper or legislative analysis. Once the policy is set by the Board the Executive Director will assist with implementing the policy but he/she does not have to be the advocate for the issue.

### Example Issue Statement

Proposed General Permit: Bioengineering Practices for Stabilization of Inland Lake Shorelines, August 2009  
Prepared by: Howard Wandell

**Type of Action:** Send letter (email) of support to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding the proposed general permit for bioengineering practices for stabilization of inland lake shorelines.

**Issue:** The DEQ is recommending a general permit for projects that use bioengineering practices on lake shorelines to prevent or stabilization shoreline erosion. This will allow the DEQ to issue a permit without public notice.

**Background:** At this time there is a general permit to allow shoreline homeowners to install small seawalls and hard armoring to prevent shoreline erosion. However, there is no general permit to allow shoreline homeowners to install bioengineering practices to prevent shoreline erosion. Without a general permit category all permit applications must be public noticed, which can significantly increase the cost and time to get a permit. Consequently, it is easier to get a permit to put in a seawall, than it is to install bioengineering practices. This policy discourages the installation of bioengineering practices and encourages the installation of seawalls. To eliminate this policy bias the DEQ's proposal will create a general permit for bioengineering practices and give homeowners an equal advantage to use bioengineering practices with seawalls.

Ms Jane Herbert (MSU Extension and McNALMS member) has been involved with the development of the general permit. Her only suggestion regarding the general permit is that the Floristic Quality Assessment identified in the third bullet under Limitations and Conditions is not user friendly.

A copy of the Public Notice for the Proposed General Permit Category is attached.

**Option 1:** Do nothing and hope the new general permit is approved.

**Option 2:** Send letter of support to the DEQ with any suggestions or comments if any.

### Decision:

Information on setting and implementing policy is available on the McNALMS web site.

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## Notes from the Executive Director

For a small organization we have delivered much toward the management of Michigan's inland lakes. Could we use a few more hands and dollars? Yes! McNALMS is an advocate organization; our client is Michigan's lakes. We are dependent upon individuals and organizations who want to work together to protect these valuable resources. We have accomplished much, but we could do even more, and we will.

## Water Withdrawal Process Described in New Bulletin

A new bulletin has been released through the MSU Extension bulletin office. *Considering aquatic ecosystems: The basis for Michigan's new Water Withdrawal Assessment Process* is an on-line publication that describes the new Michigan legislation for large quantity water withdrawals with the capacity to withdraw at least 100,000 gallons of water per day from groundwater or surface water. The bulletin provides information in a question and answer format about the new water laws and explains how the water withdrawal process was developed, and how it works. The Water Withdrawal Assessment Process is the result of new laws in Michigan to manage large quantity water withdrawals in the state using science as the basis for policy development.

The publication is divided into several sections, one focusing on the process itself, one on the impacts of groundwater wells on nearby river and stream flows; and another on stream flows and fish populations. This last section describes why and how fish are used as the environmental indicator of adverse resource impacts due to water withdrawals.

The bulletin also directs the user to several resources including the web-based screening tool ([www.miwwat.org](http://www.miwwat.org)) to register use, and the water resources conservation advisory council ([www.michigan.gov/wrcac](http://www.michigan.gov/wrcac)) which serves as a representative, collaborative forum for study and evaluation of the state's water management programs.

For a copy of the bulletin, visit: <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/Bulletin/PDF/WQ60.pdf>

## New Officers for 2010

Michigan NALMS will be seeking a person to hold the office of President-Elect for the 2010-2011 year. Both the current Secretary and Treasurer are in the second year of their term, and new officers are not being sought for those positions. Elections will be held by email in December. If you are interested in the position, please contact the current McNALMS president, Mike Solomon [draincom@wexfordcounty.org](mailto:draincom@wexfordcounty.org) to indicate your interest.

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## Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership Open Forum

Michigan's inland lakes are precious resources that provide multiple benefits to the state's residents. McNALMS has joined a group of organizations that is exploring opportunities for ensuring the quality, sustainability and ecological diversity of the state's lakes, and is inviting others to become involved in its work.

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (MILP), a new effort that includes representatives from state and local agencies, Native American nations, outreach institutions, non-profit organizations, businesses and industries, is sponsoring a free, open forum for everyone interested in preserving Michigan's inland lakes on Thursday, Sept. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the East Lansing Public Library.

During the forum, residents can learn about the MILP and its organizers' strategic plan and mission. They can ask questions, provide input and learn how they can be involved in efforts to protect and maintain Michigan's 11,000 inland lake resources.

"If you're an individual who's interested in maintaining the quality of Michigan's inland lakes, you can also take some time to visit the new MILP Web site to learn about its activities and identify a partner organization that you might be interested in working with," said Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University fisheries and wildlife outreach specialist.

Individuals can learn about the MILP and its initiatives by visiting the organization's new Web site at [www.michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu](http://www.michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu). The site provides a wide body of information about Michigan's inland lakes that everyone from homeowners to business owners to recreational boaters to elementary students can use to learn more about the lakes, their history, management and ecology.

"The MILP was formed in response to our recognition that there are lots of organizations that are working to protect Michigan's inland lakes, but there was no way to share communication among them or offer them opportunities to interact," Latimore said. "The organization, the forum, the Web site and activities give them a way to interact and share what we've learned about our lakes. That's been one of the biggest advantages right from the beginning."

Though the event is free, participants are asked to call ahead to reserve a seat. To learn more about MILP or the open forum, visit the Web site or contact Latimore at [latimor1@msu.edu](mailto:latimor1@msu.edu).



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## Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs: *On the Edge: Enhancing Ecological Integrity of Shorelines, April 14 – 17, 2009*

By Ann St. Amand, Phycotech, Inc.

I have to say that I've only missed 1 or 2 of these meetings over the past 22 years, but this was by far the best. I don't often go to the State's Lake Management meetings with anything other than a networking agenda simply because this particular program is heavily applied and most of the technical information does not have to do with my main interest which is algae, zooplankton and water bugs. Although I always learn a lot, and get to renew friendships and meet great folks, rarely do I go looking for specific information on a particular topic, like I do some other technical conferences. This year was different, not only for the fact I went looking for as much information on the conference topic as possible, but also I had the great pleasure of attending a workshop for the first time (my staff almost never lets me out of the dark and off my microscope long enough to go to cool workshops!). My motivation was simple: I operate an educational outreach program, UpStream, at my local middle school and needed as much information as I could get prior to a drain consolidation project starting this fall that affects UpStream, and I had 3 eagle scouts putting in rain gardens to resolve flooding issues and improve water quality reaching the stream. I knew why and where to do the rain gardens, but no idea how. I was also intensely curious about the results of the National Lakes Survey.

Amazingly, the organizers of the conference (aka Bob Kirschner), put all of the presentations on the conference web site for future reference: <http://www.chicagolakes2009.org/>. I would highly encourage anyone interested in shoreline management to visit this website, it is an incredible resource. The workshop I attended was excellent: Lakescaping at the water's edge: Ecological designs for water quality and habitat improvement. The presenters were great and the information invaluable. Not only were the presentations, discussions and materials well organized, but the additional links and books offered were wonderful and really helped when it was time to design and implement the rain gardens (see below!). The National Lake Survey results were both expected and surprising, with a huge amount of data presented on the over 1200 lakes sampled across the US, including 50 in Michigan. The main technical presentations were also excellent, and again, please check the website for the PowerPoint files. Overall, an excellent conference!.



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## National NALMS Annual Meeting Upcoming

The North American Lake Management's annual international symposium, Ensuring Our Lakes' Future will be held in Hartford, CT from October 27-31, 2009. The conference will feature lectures, workshops, and field trips. The New England Chapter of NALMS, Solar Bee and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection are sponsoring reduced registration for lake and watershed association members. The Lake and Watershed Stewards registration package covers the Friday (10/30/09) technical sessions of your choice, with many specifically designed to be of particular interest to lake and watershed association members as well as Saturday workshops.

Friday technical sessions will include:

In-Lake Management I; Management of Hydrilla in the Northern Tier States

Paleolimnology; Volunteer Monitoring I: Secrets of Success of NE's Long Term Volunteer Monitoring Programs; Lake and Watershed Steward Session; Aeration & Circulation; Kettle Lakes; Volunteer Monitoring Nets Results; Limnology 101; Nutrient Limitation and Inactivation; Invasive Aquatic Plants- Biological Control Options; Climate and Weather Impacts on Lakes; Supporting Community-Based Monitoring on Many Levels; Invasive Aquatic Species; Comprehensive Lake Management; Invasive Aquatic Plants- Biological Control Options; Data Management and Technologies

Topics in Environmental Education; and Topics in Lake and Watershed Stewardship

Saturday workshops include:

Basics in algal identification and sampling; Mapping basins on a budget: low cost and free GIS and GPS resources for lake and watershed management; Lake Law for Lake Associations; Writing to be read; Zooplankton for everyone; Getting started in volunteer monitoring; Ask the Experts Panel Discussion; and Landscaping at the Water's Edge.

More information is available on the NALMS <website at [www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org)>. Only limited number of these packages will be available.



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Aquarius Systems  
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Progressive AE Water Resource Group  
Giffels-Webster Engineers

***Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society  
P.O. Box 4812, East Lansing, MI 48826***

**2010 Membership Application/Renewal Form**

We've been making great strides in working together to protect and manage our lakes and waterways! Come join us!

First Name	
Last Name	
Title	
Company	
Address 1	
Address 2	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	( )
Fax	( )
E-mail Address	

We would like to have you join us by participating in any of the following committees. Indicate if you are interested by checking as many boxes as applicable (a committee member will contact you with further information).

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee      | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Affairs Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee   | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as an Officer        |

Any other areas you are interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which Membership is right for you:

- \$10 Student Membership
- \$25 Annual Membership
- \$100 Corporate Membership
- General Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make check or money order payable to McNALMS and send with this completed form to the above address.***