

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership



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*Promoting Natural Shoreline
Landscaping to Protect Michigan's
Inland Lakes*

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Vol. V Issue 4

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

October 2015

News and Notes...

Compiled by Julia Kirkwood, MNSP Chair
*Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Water Resources Division-Nonpoint Source Program*

“A New Look”

If you have not recently visited the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) Web site check it out, it has a new look. Much work was done this past spring and summer to create this new Web site and provide more information. The previous Web site did not have much information specifically for homeowners. This has now been remedied. More educational background information has been added to get people started in understanding some of the challenges at the lakeshore and hopefully re-thinking any expansive lawns or proposed seawalls! The page on native plants has been added to as well. A new feature is that each “planting zone” has its own page with a spreadsheet of the plant listings. You can now click on the scientific name that is a link to a picture of each one hosted by the University of Michigan Herbarium. There are multiple pictures of each plant that show the whole plant, the flower up close, the leaves, and fruits too. Another new feature is that a slideshow of each of the MNSP Demonstration Sites has been added. For each site, there are pictures from before construction, during construction and after construction. There are also pictures in follow up years for each site. Some have more than others. And some have challenges that were identified and can be seen in the pictures. These slide shows are still a work in progress. These demonstration sites (except for one) are all at parks. In the future we do hope to have pictures of homeowner sites as well.

You may also see a button on the homepage that says “MI Shoreland Stewards” and wonder what that is. This is a new program currently in the development stage for property owners. It will be an online evaluation process for property owners to be recognized for taking care of their lake through good shoreland management practices. There will be questions addressing four different sections of the entire shoreland property. Thanks to some great partners and lake association volunteers, we are close to fulfilling a long-term goal of the MNSP! Our goal is to have this program ready in early 2016. Stay tuned for more information.

The MNSP Goes to Vermont!

By Jane Herbert, MSU Extension

If you attended the [2015 Shoreline and Shallows Conference](#) last March you may remember Amy Picotte's [presentation](#) on the Vermont Department of Conservation's (DEC) journey with statewide shoreland protection legislation. As a result of this legislation, the DEC wanted to install a natural shoreline demonstration site to help lakefront property owners and contractors better understand the goals of the legislation and of natural shoreline restoration. They chose an 80-foot long section of state-owned boat launch property on Lake Iroquois, near Burlington. To accomplish the task, Amy Picotte coordinated a hands-on in-service training – using DEC engineers, fish biologists and permit staff as labor. (Sound familiar?) The training day was scheduled for August 31.



Photo 1

Natural shoreline design and installation are fairly new concepts for the Vermont DEC so they reached out to the MNSP for guidance. Over the course of a few phone calls, I was able to help their engineers on the design and materials needed for their project. Apparently, repeated ice action at their site, along with a history of mowing to the water's edge, had caused active and ongoing bank erosion. (Photo 1) Conditions were exacerbated by the fact that this portion of shoreline had been unnaturally filled, creating an unstable slope - this was evidenced by abundant natural shoreline adjacent to the project site. We settled on a basic buffer strip of

native woody shrubs with coir log toe protection and a rock ramp in front for the ice to slide up and over – similar to the 2014 CNSP project constructed on Pickerel Lake in Emmet County.

Through continued conversations, Amy expressed interest in having someone from the MNSP coming to Vermont to lead the August 31 training and get them off on the right foot. Fortunately, our own Brian Majka (founding member of the MNSP and Restoration Ecologist with GEI Consultants of Michigan) was able to travel to Burlington and serve as instructor. (Photo 2)

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Photo 2

The MNSP Goes to Vermont....

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Photo 3



After the training, Brian reported that the project went in as planned, with just a few minor field adjustments, and that he enjoyed spending a day on beautiful Lake Iroquois with all those nice Vermonters. Amy reported that the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation is very happy with their project experience (Photo 3) and grateful for the assistance the MNSP was able to provide. The MNSP wishes them well as they move forward with natural shorelines on all those beautiful Vermont lakes.

P.S. A **BIG** thank you to Brian for representing us so well!

2016 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention

"Science & Leadership - A Formula for Successful
Lake Protection and Management"

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday
April 28th - 30th, 2016**

Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls, MI

The Convention will educate, engage, and empower the individuals who work, live and play on Michigan inland lakes. The three day conference will include educational presentations, in-depth workshops, plenary addresses, receptions, door prizes, and plenty of networking opportunities focused exclusively on Michigan's 11,000 inland lakes with dozens of non-profit and business exhibitors showcasing their projects, resources and services.

To download an event flyer, [click here...](#)

michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu/convention



A Common Map is an Uncommon Treasure

by Nick Meekhof

In the American classic, *Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck says there are three types of people: those who swerve to hit, those who swerve to miss, and those who simply focus on the road.

The object in question? A turtle.

Steinbeck's metaphor shows how some people will go out of their way to make life difficult for others out of amusement, while others will keep on plugging ahead, oblivious to any impact they might have on their surroundings.

But there are those virtuous few who will inconvenience themselves in order to help those in need. They swerve to miss. They might even stop the car, pick up the turtle, and shuttle it across the road themselves. Maybe *you've* done this before.

It's worth reflecting on. Metaphorically of course, but even at face value, we Michiganders see a fair amount of turtles now and then. They cross the road, they appear in front yards, they bask on logs, and they sit in ponds. But nobody is ever overtaken by a turtle, the way a swooping hawk or a darting deer might cross your path. Turtles are always happened upon, appearing out of the blue, often in a state of dogged confusion.



Photo: Jim Harding, Michigan DNR

A turtle doesn't take anyone's spot, or assume the right-of-way. They may be looking forward to a nice sunny boulder all day before they find a seat that's not taken.

Take the common map turtle, for example. Even more skittish than their relatives, *Gratemys geographica* will jump at the slightest disturbance, diving underwater at the very thought that danger may be nearby. And it's a shame, too. Common maps are quite the acrobats; if you leave them alone long enough, they will scratch and claw their way up to perch on the highest seat in the pond. Like most Michigan turtles, they favor large lakes, rivers, and oxbow bends with

plenty of places to sunbathe.

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A Common Map is an Uncommon Treasure...

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“Common” is a bit of a misnomer; in Michigan they’re only widespread in the southern and western Lower Peninsula. To find one you’ll have to be very cautious and quiet, but if you do, it’s a real treat. Common maps are beautiful specimens, as turtles go. Both their Latin and common names reflect the map-like outlines on its **carapace**, or shell, while narrow yellow stripes continue the pattern on its neck, legs, and tail.

Typically, they eat a steady diet of crayfish, snails, and other mollusks, though the portions vary by gender. Female common maps have large heads, crushing their catch with strong jaws. Males are generally smaller and leave the crushing to the females, content to nibble on smaller species. They rely heavily on natural shorelines, burying a clutch of eggs near water in the late spring. Roughly 70 days later, a bunch of baby maps hatch and make their way to the water.

Unfortunately, these turtles don’t fare so well in a world of jet skis, beaches, waves, and wakes. That’s why preserving natural shorelines is crucial to the common map’s well-being. Without a proper habitat, turtles will have to hit the road in search of a new place to live and reproduce — and we all know that can be a difficult, dangerous journey.

This is where the reptile meets the road, so to speak. Be a “swerve to miss” person. Preserve their natural habitat. Go out of your way to help the little guys out.

Sources

"Common Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*)."
www.michigan.gov/dnr. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 2015. Web. 18 Feb. 2015.

Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Plant Watch List

Aquatic invasive species on the watch list have been identified as being an immediate and significant threat to Michigan's natural resources. These species either have never been confirmed in the wild in Michigan or have a limited known distribution. Early detection and timely reporting are crucial for preventing establishment and limiting impacts. For more information on these plants, visit: www.misin.msu.edu

Be on the lookout for these invasive species!

<p>Yellow Floating Heart <i>Nymphoides peltata</i></p>	<p>Water-chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i></p>	<p>Parrot Feather Water-milfoil <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i></p>	<p>Water Soldier <i>Stratiotes aloides</i></p>	<p>Hydrilla <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i></p>
		 <p>www.invasive.org</p>	 <p>Leif Willey, UFL</p>	 <p>www.invasive.org</p>
<p>Brazilian Water-weed <i>Egeria densa</i></p>	<p>European Frog-bit <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i></p>	<p>Water Lettuce <i>Pistia stratiotes</i></p>	<p>Water Hyacinth <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i></p>	<p>European Water-clover <i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i></p>
 <p>www.graysharbor.wsu</p>	 <p>www.dnr.wi.gov</p>	 <p>www.invasive.org</p>	 <p>www.invasive.org</p>	

These species are currently allowable for sale and possession. Please contact the DNR if these plants are observed outside of cultivation.

If you have seen any of these aquatic invaders, note their location and contact:

Michigan DNR Wildlife Division
Phone: (517) 641- 4903 ext. 260
www.mi.gov/invasivespecies

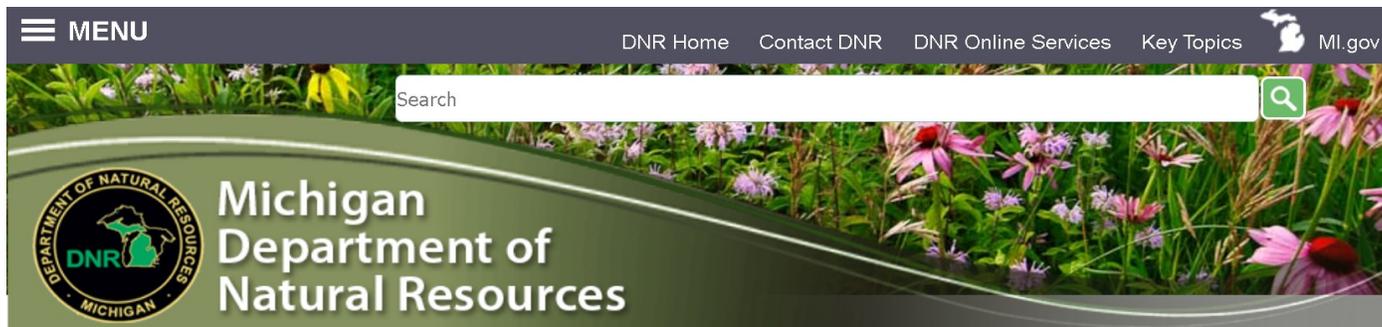


Questions about other aquatic invasive plants? Contact the DEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program at 517-284-5593, www.mi.gov/anc

Revised: June 2015

Michigan Department of Natural Resources "Inland Lake Maps by County" Web Resource a Valuable Tool for Professionals and Enthusiasts

Featuring 2,700 inland lake maps that accurately depict basin shape, size, bathymetry and maximum depth as well as information regarding bottom substrate, in-flows /out-flows, and township sectional map references, the Michigan DNR Inland Lake Maps by County site provides users the opportunity to view and/or download individual maps in pdf format.



Inland Lake Maps by County

Michigan boasts more than 11,000 inland lakes. Now you can access 2,700 inland lake maps online. Click on a county for a list of inland lakes in that county.

The Michigan DNR makes every effort to provide useful and accurate information. It does not warrant the information to be completely representative of current conditions. Counties displayed in **orange** do not have maps available.

http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261-67498--,00.html

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

Promoting natural shoreline landscaping to protect Michigan's inland lakes

www.mishorelinepartnership.org

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