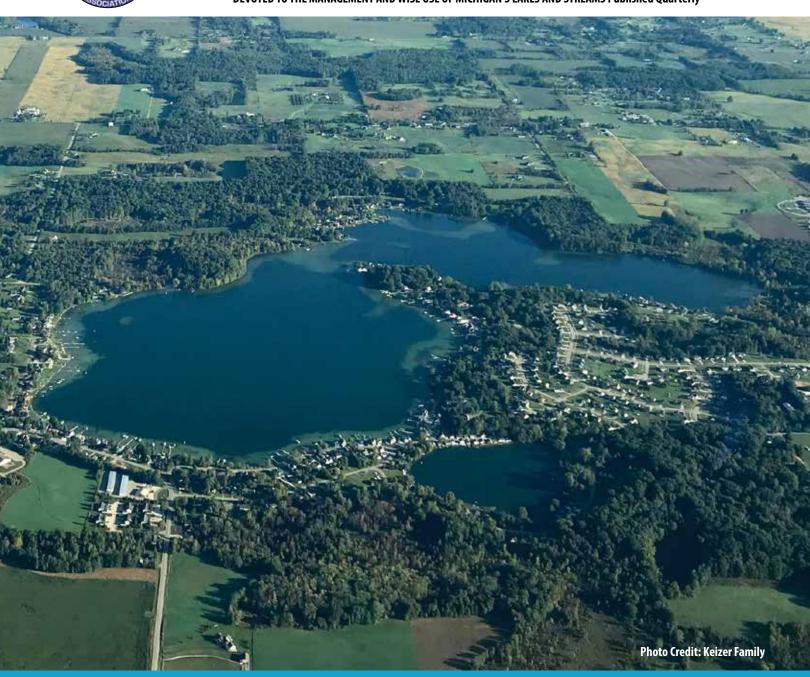
Spring 2020

Designed and published for stream and lakefront property owners and enthusiasts





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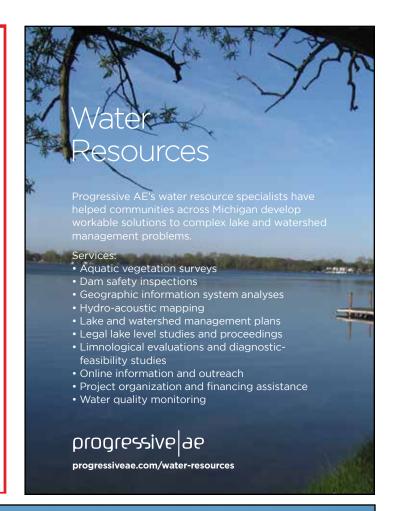
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FROM THE PUBLISHER



MLSA AND THE MICHIGAN RIPARIAN WORKING FOR YOU

Have you ever wondered how and where the stories and articles come from for *The Michigan Riparian* magazine? Would you be surprised to learn the source and inspiration for the variety of topics are our readers? How does that happen? Our readers are in constant communication with our riparian editorial committee, publisher, and the MLSA board via emails, phone calls, letters and meetings taking place throughout the state.

MLSA prides itself in connecting with its members through their e-newsletter, hosting an annual conference and various meetings brimming with experts addressing topics most important to riparians. Environmental concerns for water and land are addressed via experts in legislative and scientific matters throughout each issue of the Riparian magazine. Cliff Bloom, Riparian Attorney and MLSA Executive Director Melissa DeSimone, and the entire Riparian team are routinely in communication with lake associations and have their "ears to the ground" listening to the issues directly affecting waterfront property owners.

Topics related to PFAS, the Straits of Mackinac pipeline, invasive aquatic species, changes in the former MDEQ, road end laws and wake boat issues are samples of the topics addressed in your magazine. The "Ask the Experts" column is another vehicle for riparians to have their questions answered by experts in their respective fields. The goal of the magazine is to present information that is current, entertaining, interesting and important to you. We do this by including a variety of legal, scientific, current and personal interest stories in each issue of the magazine.

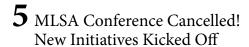
Our stories about the lakes around the state that provide insights about their histories, challenges, solutions and sometimes zany characters are contributed both by seasoned authors and by those who consider themselves to be amateur writers. Many of the "Love My Lake" and "Lake Happenings" features come to us from those who want to share information/stories with their like-minded waterfront property owners.

So... there you have it and now you know. Your interests and issues are the reasons we're here. We encourage you to join MLSA if you have not already. Attend MLSA's annual conference each spring and make sure you receive your copy of the MLSA e-newsletter. Keep sending us your stories, pictures and questions. We love hearing from you.

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Publisher, Sharon Wagner Send your information to: PO Box 19615 Kalamazoo, MI 49019 (989) 831-5100 swagner@mlswa.org

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MLSA Conference Cancelled! New Initiatives Kick Off!

Dear Michigan Lakes and Streams Association Members and Sponsors:

Thank you so much for your initial outpouring of support for the MLSA 59th Annual Conference: Protecting Michigan's Lakes and Streams. It is with regret that Michigan Lakes and Streams Association has had to cancel our conference at Crystal Mountain Resort for 2020. The current COVID-19 pandemic and increasing health measures put forth by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, as well as the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, require us to put the health of all participants first. We look forward to a resolved health situation and a very successful conference at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Michigan on Friday, April 29 - Saturday, May 1, 2021.

All conference registrations have been fully refunded, and we are working with sponsors about other partnership opportunities. Crystal Mountain Resort has cancelled all room reservations for our group, but please feel free to give them a call to confirm your cancellation.

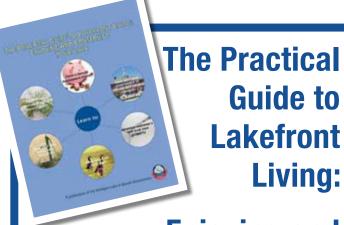
The Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. is a non-profit, state-wide organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and wise management of Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes. Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. (MLSA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation made up of organizations, corporations, associations, and individuals who share our goal of preserving and protecting Michigan's vast heritage of freshwater resources.

A primary goal of MLSA is to educate and assist lake associations, as well as individual riparian property owners, in water-resource-friendly techniques and methods of protecting their investment in waterfront property. That is why the annual MLSA Conference is such an important event. Last year in 2019 our conference was kicked off by a welcome from Governor Whitmer and brought together more than 250 attendees to talk with several dozen presenters, more than 40 exhibitors and the press to highlight and discuss a wide range of lake protection concepts and education for our members.

MLSA is committed to bringing people together for the good of our lakes and streams and, so, to help boost everyone's morale during this time of quarantine, we have an exciting alternate conference experience planned. In lieu of the conference, MLSA is hosting a series of weekly webinars presented by some of the speakers who were scheduled for the MLSA May 2020 conference, thus, bringing the conference to you. The format will include several educational sessions presented by state agency officials and other experts originally planned for the May conference covering a wide range of lake protection and conservation topics. Please check our website (www.mymlsa.org) and newsletter for dates and times of upcoming webinars. We also are issuing a special summer edition of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine covering many of the important topics and issues we are unable to provide for you in a face-to-face setting of our conference.

I encourage you to join us for monthly zoom meetings throughout the year, to subscribe to our newsletters which provide a wide range of lake protection technology and discussion of other issues such as political developments. MLSA interacts with elected and appointed officials and state agencies to provide educational information and advocate for lake friendly policies and concepts. Many of those participants will continue to work with us to provide you with relevant lake information and insights.

(Continued on page 6)



Enjoying and Conserving Your Lake

Lake ecology, natural shorelines, swimmers itch, fishing with conservation in mind, e-coli bacteria, dock placement, 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 MLSA with Michigan lakefront home owners in mind!

The new guide book may be purchased by visiting the Books and Publications purchase page on the MLSA website available at www.mymlsa.org, or by contacting Melissa DeSimone at melissa.desimone@mlswa.org.

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MLSA Conference Cancelled! New Initiatives Kick Off!

(Continued from page 5)

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. is a collaborative organization that is an active partner in the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, the Michigan Clean Water Corps, and Michigan Environmental Council, in addition to other organizations around the state. We worked with Michigan State University and the Huron River Watershed Council to provide a lake monitoring option for the 2020 season and helped to restore the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program for 2021 and beyond. We are involved in the 2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention to be held September 17-18, in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and we invite you to attend.

Also, an important part of the MLSA mission, and my role as executive director is to make sure we work closely with conservation and water protection groups with similar goals and objectives. We initiated participation by leaders in MI DNR, EGLE, and groups such as the Sierra Club, Michigan United Conservation Council and others at the 2020 conference. We plan on continuing this outreach and the cooperative efforts for future conferences, regional opportunities, newsletters and through *The Michigan Riparian* magazine.

Membership in Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc., is open to all individuals, lakes or watershed associations, organizations, or corporations who share our interest in preserving the high quality of Michigan's inland lakes for future generations. We want and need your membership, support, ideas, advocacy and assistance to help protect Michigan's inland lakes and streams.

Please feel free to reach out to discuss any of these issues and options. I will also be sending additional information on the new webinar series to you soon. Everyone is invited to participate in these free education webinars. As great stewards of our inland waters and environment, we want to also protect "you". Stay safe! Stay healthy!

Thank you!
Melissa DeSimone, Executive Director
Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, <u>mymlsa.org</u>
melissa.desimone@mlswa.org, (989)831-5100 x101

ATTORNEY WRITES

Who Owns the Water in Michigan Lakes?

Who owns the waters of Michigan lakes? In general, it is collectively owned by the people of the State of Michigan.

Overall, there are two types of inland lakes in Michigan - private and public lakes. A private inland lake generally has no public access site or public properties thereon. All of the shoreline of a private lake is owned by private riparian property owners. Lots or parcels on a private lake also typically extend under the lake bottomlands to the center of the lake. See Hall v Wantz, 336 Mich 112 (1953); Gregory v LaFaive, 172 Mich App 354 (1988); and West Michigan Dock & Market Corp v Lakeland Investment, 210 Mich App 505 (1995).

Who owns the waters of Michigan lakes? In general, it is collectively owned by the people of the State of Michigan.

Public inland lakes are usually defined as lakes with either a public access site or public properties along the shore. Lots and parcels fronting on a public lake also typically extend under the lake bottomlands to the center of the lake.

Regardless of whether an inland lake in Michigan is public or private, courts have generally held that the waters of such lakes are owned collectively by the people in the State of Michigan and are generally held in trust for them. See Bott v Natural Resources Commission, 415 Mich 45, 71 (1982). Of course, on a private lake, members of the public and governments cannot generally access the lake, such that they cannot use the waters of an inland private lake. Such waters are typically reserved exclusively for the use of the private riparian property owners around the lake. Those riparian property owners can use the waters of the lake for recreation (i.e., boating, swimming, etc.), fishing, waterfowl hunting

By Clifford H. Bloom, Esq. Bloom Sluggett, PC Grand Rapids, Michigan www.BloomSluggett.com



and drawing reasonable amounts of water for irrigation, dwellings, and consumption. See Thies v Howland, 424 Mich 282 (1985); Burt v Munger, 314 Mich 659 (1946); Hilt v Weber 252 Mich 198 (1930); Pierce v Riley, 81 Mich App 39 (1978); Sewers v Hacklander, 219 Mich 143 (1922); and Hall v Alford,114 Mich 165 (1897). Riparian property owners on public lakes can use lake waters for the same uses and purposes. Members of the public can use the waters of a public lake for recreation if they can lawfully access the public lake.

Generally, fish in the waters of inland lakes are also deemed to be collectively owned by the people of the State of Michigan, whether a private or public lake is involved. See MCL 324.47301; People v Soule, 238 Mich 130 (1927); and Aikens v Conservation Department, 28 Mich App 181 (1970) reversed on other grounds 387 Mich 495 (1972).

Some people believe that there must be a public access site on every inland lake in Michigan, as the people of the State of Michigan own the lake waters. That is incorrect. There is no legal requirement that every inland lake in Michigan have a public access site or property. On private lakes, although the people of the State of Michigan collectively own the lake water and fish therein, neither members of the public nor governmental units have a right to access a private lake to utilize those water resources absent a public access site or public lake frontage access property. [2]

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Towards a More Sustainable Lake

Dr. Jennifer L. Jermalowicz-Jones Science Advisory Chair, MLSA

WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE LAKE?

The technical definition for sustainability is: "to be maintained at a certain rate or level". This definition is crucial for determining longterm lake health. Inland water resources will continue to face development pressures as it is projected that by 2030 there will be nearly 5 billion people residing in urban centers (United Nations Population Fund, 2007). Unfortunately, a large lake size is preferred by most riparians for recreational and visual benefits (Smith and Mulamoottil, 1979), and it is these systems that can accommodate the most development (Schnaiberg et al., 2002) and also possess the greatest probability for pollutant and invasive species entry (Figure 1). Ultimately, both the aquatic ecosystem and the riparian community are harmed, as degradations in water quality also result in a loss of property values (Michael et al. 1996, among many others). While it is possible that a lake could be maintained at a sub-optimal level, such a state is not preferred by most lake riparians and could compromise the trophic status of an inland lake (Figure 2).

A sustainable lake ecosystem should ideally have the following characteristics:

- 1. Minimum dependence on humankind for maintenance to continue to thrive in a balanced, long-standing state, and
- 2. Resilience—which is the ability of the lake to "bounce back" or recover after a significant disturbance (e.g., pollution, invasive species, algal blooms, etc.), and
- 3. Remain as close to its original state as possible.

Donald Kennedy (2003, Science magazine editorial comment) previously stated that sustainable ecosystem management is dependent upon the ability of scientific facts to overcome socio-economic and political resistance. This argues for lake management methods to be supported by the scientific



Figure 1. A sustainable, balanced lake ecosystem.



Figure 2. An unsustainable, imbalanced lake ecosystem.

community. It is possible that some methods may be utilized by lake managers but not extensively studied in a research setting. Such methods should be supported as long as existing data/results are strong and the riparian community supports use of the method(s). This is especially important because lake degradation issues are evolving more rapidly than research capacity and needs to correct these issues are imminent.

A thorough understanding of the lake problem and its relationship to society and water resources is critical for the advancement of sustainable governance policies. Furthermore, a sustainable approach to these problems should consider a balance of lake usage with the protection of lakes (Carpenter and Lathrop, 1999). It is even more important for the lake community to not be too dependent on legislative action(s) since such proposals take considerable time to pass and are often followed by lack of enforcement. Significant improvements to legislation are needed globally to effectively address anthropogenic (man-made) impacts and

(Continued on page 9)

other stressors on water resources, especially in reference to agricultural areas where the primary goal of land use is for yield production and not necessarily for water resource protection and recreation. Around the globe, many lakes are experiencing blue-green algal blooms due to nutrient loading from agricultural and urban runoff.

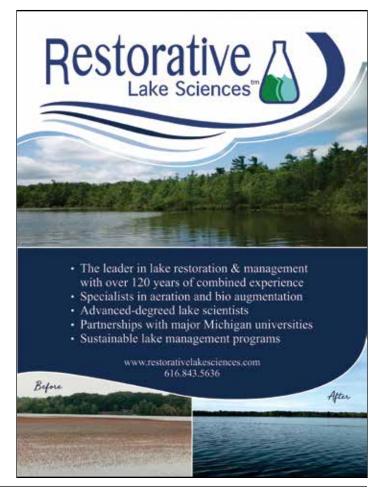
SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

If the model proposed by Feeny et al. (1990) is followed, sustainability of any lake improvement program must include both human and resource valuation which are not mutually exclusive. Furthermore, the socio-political structure of the riparian community that utilizes a resource and the interactions with the larger political system has impacts on managerial qualities of local groups in reference to the shared resource (Ostrom, 1988). Surface waters should then be considered a "commons" where management and policy implementation of lake improvement methods should consider the nature of the resource, decision-making strategies by stakeholders, property rights of riparians, and attributes of relationships among resource users and regulators (such as EGLE and MDNR). Due to the nature of this multiple ownership of the "commons", world views held by each stakeholder will have to be considered for significant advances in a program. Orr (2003) mentions that the transition to sustainability is more a function of social, political, and psychological behaviors than strictly a technological or scientific process. If this concept is implemented in the process of a lake improvement program, then the local governments and riparians can develop a mutualistic trust that would be derived from attentive exchange of personal values and the needs of the local government, the riparians, and the lake.

A sound support strategy was recommended by Middendorf and Busch (1997), which included public involvement in research a priori to establish common research priorities and increase a wider range of values in the decision-making process. These strategies may assist the riparian communities towards a sustainable program because public involvement combined with the expertise of scientific innovations would perpetuate a self-driven (sustainable) program where common goals can be continuously evaluated

from metrics developed by all stakeholders. A measure of sustainability can then be assessed through the projected measurement of selected metrics over an extended period of time. For example, the metrics for a non-point source pollution control program may consist of measurements of pollutant loads and transport dynamics, changes in water quality parameters and indices of biotic integrity (IBIs), among many others. The metrics for an invasive species control program may consist of evaluating declines in the relative abundance, density, and locations of invasive species within the lake through intensive surveying and mapping. Similarly, metrics for a blue-green algae bloom management program may include quantification of blue-green algae and possible associated toxins before and after nutrient reduction strategies or other treatments. It should be cautioned that such metrics may be site-specific given the heterogeneity in surface water ecology; however, these potential outcomes emphasize the need for local governance and involvement

(Continued on page 13)



Michigan Lakes and Streams Association 59th Annual Conference Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes and Streams Friday & Saturday May 1 & 2, 2020

Join the Discussions and Network with Experts at Our Energy-Filled and Riparian-Centered 2020 Conference Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, Michigan











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LAKE HAPPENINGS



How about a free fishing weekend? On Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14 license fees and Recreation Passports are waived for state park entry and boating access sites.

Michigan residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. All fishing regulations will still apply.

Grab you gear and have a great time! R.



Send us your lake association newsletter or special announcements electronically. We love hearing from your lake. We will continue to use and spread the interesting and informative things happening on your lake in *The Michigan Riparian*. Please send your lake association newsletter to: swagner@mlswa.org.

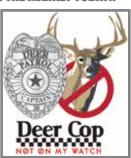




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Towards a More Sustainable Lake

(Continued from page 9)

for the long-term adaptive management of water resources. Changes in the perceptions of all stakeholders both before and after implementation of the lake management program may also be evaluated to determine the efficacy of the program in terms of sustainability and betterment of the local riparian community. The evaluation process should be initiated by an independent party and sound science to assure that conclusions are not obscured by influences of political agendas, world views, or biases.

Although it may be useful to dissect the components and operations of other lake management programs, it would be wise to form a new program through the lenses of multiple viewpoints possessed by the stakeholders. The primary research problems or objectives will ultimately determine the critical aspects of a program which allows an objective structure to serve as the foundation of the program and for everyone's objectives to align. Sustainability of a lake management program will then ultimately depend on the ability of the objective program structure to adapt to community and governance needs and lead to lake improvement. A successful program for lake management would likely harbor the many characteristics described above with regards to stakeholder dynamics and composition, local governance, and objectivity of the determined research problems. With the increases in human population around water resources and the pollution thresholds of many surface waters exceeded, current legislative Acts must also incorporate prevention and monitoring into sustainable recommendations for lake resources.

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REPRINTING Articles from the Magazine

Frequently, lake associations, the press, educational institutions and others request permission to reprint an article from *The Michigan Riparian* magazine in a newsletter, newspaper, or other publication. In general, *The Michigan Riparian* magazine is relatively liberal in granting permission for such reprints. However, no such reprint can be done without the express prior written permission of the magazine.

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ASK THE EXPERTS

If you have a question about water related issues, riparian rights, and/or lakes and streams, etc., let us know by email or snail mail.

Email: swagner@mlswa.org Mail: The Michigan Riparian PO Box 19615 Kalamazoo, MI 49019 Question: Is there a Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) for 2020?

Answer: Data collection under the MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) is suspended for 2020. Funding has been secured to resume the CLMP in 2021 and into the future from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

If you want to monitor your lake in 2020, you have options:

The non-governmental partners of CLMP (Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Michigan State University and Extension, and the Huron River Watershed Council), who were previously contracted to administer the CLMP, are offering some monitoring options in place of the CLMP for 2020. There will be no enrollment fees charged in 2020, due to the limited program we are offering.

We will provide training and technical support for Secchi Disk and Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch. Further, you can continue Score the Shore, Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature, and Aquatic Plant Identification and Mapping on your own in 2020. We are not able to offer Total Phosphorus or Chlorophyll monitoring in 2020.

You do not need to enroll in advance for any of these parameters, except Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch. If you wish to conduct the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch this summer, please notify Jo Latimore at MSU (517-432-1491, latimor1@msu.edu) by May 1, so we can provide full technical support for your efforts – including field visits to selected lakes.

Please visit https://www.hrwc.org/what-we-do/programs/2020-lake-monitoring/ for full details. MLSA is offering assistance to volunteers who need to purchase Secchi disks or Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature meters, as well as providing information on laboratories that can analyze water samples for Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll. You can find those details at the website above.

When the new CLMP database comes back online in 2021, our intent is that you will be able to submit your 2020 data for approval and inclusion, as long as all CLMP procedures are followed for the parameters collected. If you sign up for the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch, we will want your datasheets by the end of this field season as normal, but for all other datasheets, hold on to them until the CLMP comes back in 2021.

Get out this summer and let's prove the resilience and the dedication of Michiganders. The CLMP will only be down for a year and it will come back bigger and better than ever. In the meantime, let's do all we can to keep the long-term records on our lakes unblemished!

If you have questions, you may call Jean Roth with MLSA at 989-831-5100 or email her at jroth@mlswa.org.

Dr. Jo Latimore, Aquatic Ecologist and Outreach Specialist, Michigan State University

Please follow all state guidelines and the recommendations of Center for Disease Control regarding the COVID-19 pandemic during lake monitoring. Your health and safety comes first!

Our experts include our riparian attorney, a biologist, a limnologist, an engineer, a college professor and a state agency official. They look forward to responding to your question.

TWO GREAT **WEBSITES!**

of The Michigan Riparian magazine should check Readers two very helpful websites. The first is this magazine's website at www.mi-riparian.org. Most of that website is a free resource including an archive of many back issues and most of Cliff Bloom's "Attorney Rights" columns.

The second website of great interest is that of Michigan Lakes & Streams Association, Inc. at www.mymlsa.org. Most of the content on that website is free and includes current events, MLSA publications and pamphlets, some of Cliff Bloom's articles, legal issues, annual convention updates, current events and much more.

These sites make abundant information about Michigan lakes, streams and natural resources available at your fingertips!

Currently, upgrades are being made to both websites including more mobile phone friendly. Soon, you will be able to access the sites with a personalized membership login to access exclusive content and a completely updated archive of Riparian magazines and Cliff Bloom articles.







in Caledonia

By Deb Moore, The Stories of Your Life Assisted by Rod Alderink, President, a- Round Lake Association Photo Credits - Lou Murray, Resident of Green Lake

42° 44' 42"N, 85° 35' 59"W

You'll find a gem of a place, a community of lake residents who cherish their body of water and the neighbors who share it with them. It's called Green Lake.



Green Lake is what geologists call a "kettle pond," meaning a depression created by melting ice blocks during the Wisconsin Glaciation of the Ice Age. For us, that means 309 acres of water within Leighton Township, Allegan County, Michigan. Its sister lake, Round Lake, composes an additional approximate 18 acres and although originally part of the larger lake, is now adjacent to it. Together the two lakes comprise the a-Round Green Lake community.

At its deepest, the cool, clean, clear waters reach a depth of 70 feet. With its distinctive green-bluish coloration, on certain days Green Lake resembles the Caribbean Sea.

Our Green Lake is located 19 miles southeast of downtown Grand Rapids. We're close enough to the city to enjoy the food, arts and cultural scene, yet home is "in the country," where neighbors know and care for each other.





GREE

Ingle Wave Pavilion and Hotel

Ingle Wave, the premier resort on Green Lake in the early 1900s. To the rear of the property was a barn for horses and surries, tended by a Mr. Rix who met all the trains from Moline to bring guests to the resort. A steamboat also ferried people from Cook's Landing to the establishment. There were plentiful rowboats for fishermen, each named after a famous U.S. naval vessel.

Many high school kids, primarily from Caledonia, Wayland and Byron Center, skated in the '40s to the sounds of big band

music. Others from around the lakes walked or boated over to spend 25 cents for admission and skate rental on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. The rink featured a large wooden floor and a few shuttered windows propped open by 2 x

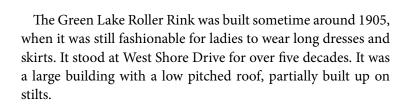
The roller rink closed in 1955 and was torn down and homes were built on the property.

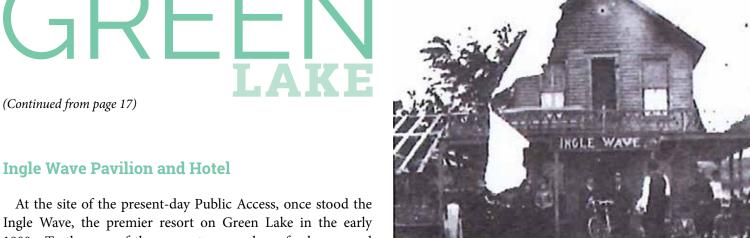


A crowd gathered in front of the roller rink.



Green Lake Roller Rink





The original hotel as it looked at the turn of the 20th century.



Hotel with 3-story addition.

(Continued on page 19)



Green Lake Pavilion, circa 1920s (Continued from page 18)

Green Lake Pavilion

Before air conditioning, day-use swimming resorts were popular on many lakes as a way for people who couldn't afford cottages to enjoy a reprieve from the summer heat. In the early 1920s, a pavilion at 4606 East Shore Drive was built. It was officially named the Green Lake Pavilion, but commonly referred to as Loucks' Pavilion. The bathhouse section of the pavilion was built over the water which could be seen and heard through the floor boards.

Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the pavilion on a hot summer's day, and the cars were parked all the way down the road. Boats and rafts were available for rent, and they sold live bait to fishermen. Northern Pike were plentiful in Green Lake, and it became a tradition for Loucks' patrons to nail the heads of pike they cleaned to the storage shed. The Green Lake Pavilion site was eventually sold and the building was torn down in 1965. Three homes were built on the site.

(Continued on page 20)







(Continued from page 19)

Green Lake Improvement Association

On August 30, 1948, a number of Green Lake residents met to discuss the welfare of the community. Several key things happened as a result of the meeting, including the formation of the Green Lake Improvement Association.

The Association published the first lake directory in July, 1950. The association was also instrumental in having street lights installed and getting a second coat of black top on the roads. The Association grew over the years, but then declined in the mid-60s, probably for lack of leadership and focus.

a-Round Green Lake Association, Inc.

An association was re-formed in 1970-'71 and took on the inclusive name of a-Round Green Lake Association to represent both lakes. It is made up of residents on Green and Round Lakes and seeks to provide a unified voice for its residents on issues of mutual concern. The Association's primary

mission is to link neighbors together in friendship, be a cohesive voice with matters effecting the lakes, and foster a sense of community.

The Association rarely takes on "political" issues, although there have been exceptions, including working to bring natural gas and cable television service to the area. The Association and its representatives also worked together with Leighton Township, the State of Michigan and the Department of Natural Resources for the funding and installation of the sewer system in 1983-'84. In all three of those instances, residents were looking to bring modern, intown conveniences to the lake, which went hand-in-hand with more people tearing down old cottages and building year-round homes.

Around 2012, the Association revisited the matter of treating and controlling invasive species of weeds in the lakes with the Leighton Township Board. Community support was solid as no one wants invasive species to overtake the lakes. Consequently, residents cover the cost of weed control via an

(Continued on page 21)





(Continued from page 20)

annual assessment, and three members of the Association currently sit on the Township Board's Advisory Committee to consult on lake weeds and other water quality issues.

For many years, a newsletter was printed and distributed door-to-door by volunteers to advertise Association events. As times changed, so did the Association's communication vehicles. Regular emails are currently sent to over 300 addresses with helpful, newsy items that residents have come to rely on. The "Green Lake Caledonia Michigan" Facebook page is an opportunity for both current and past lake residents to connect. In addition, a mailing is sent each spring to just under 300 people's mailboxes with Association's Calendar of Events for the year which includes



(Continued on page 23)







Love Your Lake? Continue Monitoring in 2020

By Melissa DeSimone,
MLSA Executive Director



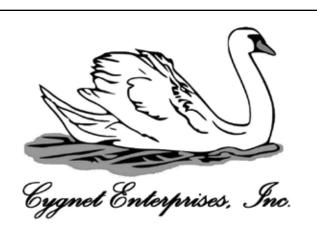
We have detailed information for what you can do in 2020 to continue your lake monitoring efforts.

The only parameters supported in 2020 are Secchi Disk and Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch, but there are things you can do on your own. Please take a look at the linked information on the homepage of our website: mymlsa.org

A video meeting in January, 2020, walked participants through the information. For a recording of that meeting, you can email Melissa DeSimone: melissa.desimone@mlswa.org

A virtual training for Secchi Disk and the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch Program was presented on Friday, March 27, and a recording of that training can also be found on our website.

We want to thank MSU Extension and the Huron River Watershed Council for their collaboration on this year's program. The full MiCorps CLMP (Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program) will be available again in 2021.



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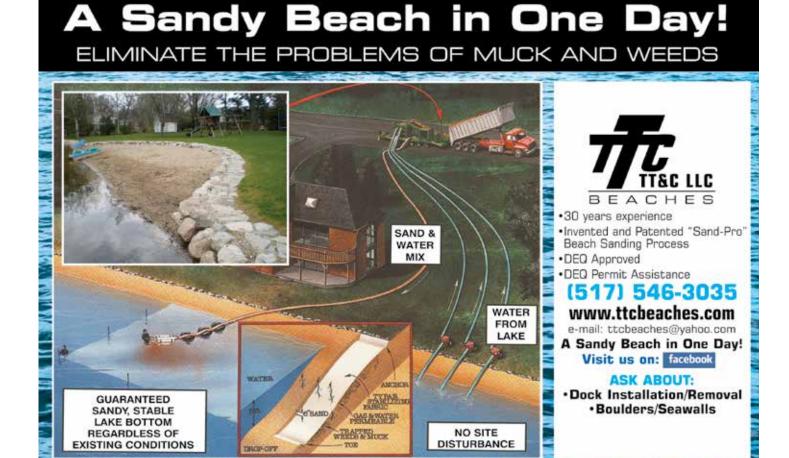
GREEN (Continued from page 21)

a note encouraging them to join the Association. There is also helpful information on the a-Round Green Lake Association's website, greenlake.us.

The annual calendar of events includes a membership meeting serving coffee and doughnuts in May; a boating safety class in June; Fishing Tournament in June; Boat Parade and Fireworks on July 4; Charity 5kRun/Walk and Kids Run in August; Neighborhood Ice Cream Social in August; an outdoor concert called "Green Lake Rocks" in August; and Christmas a-Round the Lake in December. The Association continues to publish an annual directory. Welcome Baskets are delivered to each new household, stuffed with homemade goods, a Green



(Continued on page 28)





Trespass or Not?

By Clifford H. Bloom, Esq.
Bloom Sluggett, PC | Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.bloomsluggett.com

Given Michigan's generally relatively small lakefront parcels, long tradition of hunting and fishing and robust recreational opportunities, trespass issues arise with great frequency. This article will supplement an earlier discussion by me from the February, 2000 issue of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine entitled "Trespass!".

"Trespass" can be defined as:

"An unlawful act committed against the person or property of another; especially, wrongful entry on another's real property."

[or]

"A trespass on property that is clearly marked against trespass by signs or fences. A trespass in which the trespasser remains on the property after being ordered off by a person authorized to do so."

In Michigan, there are several categories of trespass. Trespass can be either civil or criminal. Furthermore, the laws against trespass can be based on either the common law or an express state-wide statute or a local municipal ordinance.

Civil trespass typically involves a landowner suing someone else for being on the landowner's real property without permission. Such lawsuits usually contain requests for monetary damages and/or a court order or injunction prohibiting future trespassing by the violator. Civil trespass does not involve punitive or criminal sanctions such as jail, fines, forfeiture, etc. On the other hand, criminal trespass proceedings are essentially punitive in nature. By trespassing, the violator may be violating a state statute or the local ordinance of a city, village, or township. If the trespasser is found guilty or responsible for a criminal trespass, that person could be potentially subject to jail time, monetary fines, or even forfeiture of an instrumentality used in the trespass (such as a motor vehicle, hunting weapon, recreational vehicle or tools). Most criminal or penal trespasses are either municipal civil infractions or misdemeanor violations.

The following are the most frequently used Michigan statutes governing criminal trespasses:

- 1. MCL 750.552 (Trespass)
- 2. MCL 324.73101 et seq. (Trespass Recreational)
- 3. MCL 324.2155 *et seq.* (Trespass/ Damage State Lands)
- 4. MCL 600.2919 (Double and Triple Damages for Destruction)

What must a landowner do in an attempt to prevent trespasses and to pursue a successful criminal prosecution if a trespass occurs? The landowner must appropriately mark his or her real property. That can be done in two different fashions. First, "No Trespassing" signs can be utilized. The letters on the sign should be at least one-inch tall and at least one sign should be visible at all points along the property lines whereby a potential trespasser will be able to see and read at least one sign no matter where the point of entry occurs. No, you do not need a "no trespassing" sign every 10-feet! Second, a fence barrier can also be used. However, it must be clear by the type of fence used that it is intended to keep out trespassers. For example, a potential trespasser could argue that a split rail cedar fence without signage is really decorative and not intended to keep out trespassers. Therefore, if a fence is used, it is also prudent to place no trespassing signs at various locations along the fence. Without the appropriate signage or fencing, police officers and prosecutors may refuse to prosecute a trespasser.

People can also unlawfully trespass on the bottomlands of a riparian property located underwater. For a full discussion of bottomlands trespass, please see the two articles in the Summer, 2018 issue of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine which were entitled "The Difficulty of Bottomlands Ownership Location" and "Twixt the Water and the Land".

In general, police officers and prosecutors do not favor prosecuting first time simple trespass offenders. That is

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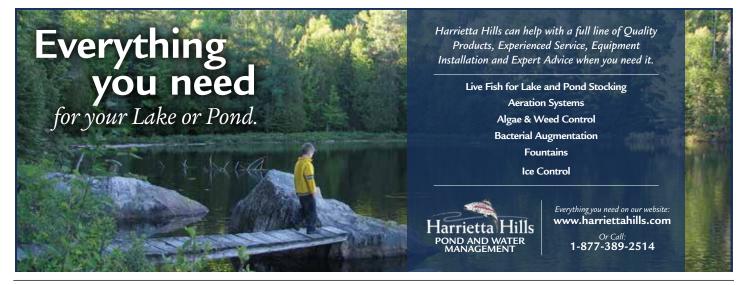
particularly true if the boundary line is not clear. In those cases, police and prosecutors will typically tell the landowner that it is a "civil matter".

If a trespasser damages any item on the property involved, the trespasser can also be personally liable for those damages. Instrumentalities used in a trespass (such as vehicles, guns, tools, etc.) can also be forfeited pursuant to a trespass prosecution.

Does a landowner have to worry if a trespasser will be injured or even killed while trespassing? It all depends on the circumstances. In general, a landowner is not liable to a trespasser for injuries or even death occurring to the trespasser due to the natural conditions of the land involved. Therefore, if a trespasser is injured or killed while walking on unimproved forest lands, fields or hills or drowns while swimming along an unaltered lakefront property, neither the trespasser nor the trespasser's estate can normally collect any damages from the landowner. If the trespasser is injured or killed while on the land of another due to buildings, structures, or other alterations on the land involved, the landowner is generally not liable for mere negligence, but only for gross negligence or recklessness. See the Michigan Trespass Liability Act at MCL 554.583 et seq. and the Michigan Recreational (especially MCL 324.73107). Therefore, a landowner who has sharp fences, hidden holes, or abandoned buildings on his or her property could potentially be liable to an injured trespasser (or the estate of a deceased trespasser is killed) if those conditions of the land constitute gross negligence or recklessness on the part of the landowner or willful and wanton misconduct by the landowner. In addition, pursuant to the Michigan Recreation Trespass Act (listed above), a landowner generally is not liable to a trespasser except where the condition of the land constitutes gross negligence or recklessness or willful and wanton misconduct by the landowner.

As with any real property in Michigan (including, especially waterfront properties), it is prudent to carry at least one million dollars in liability insurance for the land, and in some cases, even that might be insufficient. Typically, liability insurance policies will cover trespassers.

If someone is trespassing on your land, can you use deadly force to protect your property or to expel them? That also depends upon the facts and circumstances. A person can use reasonable force to protect property from trespass or theft. Talmage v Smith, 101 Mich 370; 59 NW 656 (1894). But deadly force can never be used solely in the defense of property. Generally, deadly force can only be used in selfdefense if a person honestly and reasonably believes that the use of deadly force is necessary to prevent the imminent death, imminent great bodily harm, or imminent sexual assault of themselves or another. See MCL 780.972. Broadly, there is a rebuttable presumption that a person honestly and reasonably believes that the use of deadly force is necessary to prevent the imminent death, imminent great bodily harm, or imminent sexual assault of themselves or another when the individual against whom deadly force is being used is in the process of or has committed a breaking and entering of a dwelling or a home invasion. See MCL 780.951. In all criminal cases where there is any evidence of self-defense, the prosecutor must disprove lawful self-defense beyond a reasonable doubt. People v Pearson, 13 Mich App. 371, 377; 164 NW2d 568 (1968). Regardless, the law surrounding selfdefense and use of force is complicated and very fact specific. Great caution should be exercised when exercising force, even non- deadly force, against another individual.







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Are you and your lakefront neighbors pondering the creation of a lake association? Would you like to improve an existing lake association? Are you wondering about the legal ramifications of forming a lake association in Michigan? If so, this book will provide you with every detail and answer every question you may have regarding lake associations! **Nuts and Bolts** Price \$15.50 plus S/H (Quantity discounts available)



LOVE MY LAKE



Great Times, Great Memories — A History of Green and Round Lakes (Caledonia)

Publisher's Note: Rod Alderink, a-round Green Lake Association President, shared the following excerpt from the book, Great Times, Great Memories—A History of Green and Round Lakes. It is a dedication to the people who made the book possible. Thank you, Rod, for sharing excerpts of your lake's beautiful book. We loved showcasing it as our cover story. After we read your book's dedication, we were inspired to use your own words because they say it all.

The Michigan Riparian magazine applauds all the lake associations that have published books about their lakes. If your lake association has invested in the same labor of love, we would love to hear from you. Your lake could be our next cover story.

"The best way forward is to know where you've been. For generations, Green and Round Lakes have been special places where many fond memories have been made. As the a-Round Green Lake Association Board realized that several "old timers" were passing away, they agreed that the time had come to put together a comprehensive history of the a-Round Green Lake community. We began this journey over a year ago and learned that history takes time to uncover, it can't be rushed. We made every effort to get it right, as best we could, and apologize for any errors.

Many residents helped with this endeavor for which we are profoundly grateful. You provided tips that led to further facts and memories. Several of you were interviewed in detail, and we contacted even more of you by phone, letter, Facebook and email to help with specific questions and clarifications. You dug through old photographs to unearth buried prints and slides that have enriched the text.

History, however, is more than a collection of facts and dates. It must tell a story, it must be captivating. So, the Association Board hired Deb Moore from The Stories of Your Life to write our community's story. She has gotten to know us through the lens of so many of you.



We organized and wrote the book as a series of snapshots back in time, not as an academic history. It is built largely from the memories of those who lived here. Therefore, there are several stories or facts that repeat themselves when they are pertinent to more than one historical place or event. The warmth and richness of several personal stories can be found later in the book.

Since this book has been funded by the a-Round Green Lake Association and further sponsored by many community members, it is really a gift from you, to you and the community at large. We hope as you read and study the images, you'll be able to say, 'Wow! I learned new things I never knew about our community!' We believe that once you've finished reading our history, you will feel a profound sense of joy, happiness and gratitude for our unique area. Knowing a little bit about our history and our roots, let us continue to work together to make our lakes an incredible place to live and play in the future. Happy Reading!"



Wouldn't you love to see your lake featured here? In word and picture, send us your story to swagner@mlswa.org. (Send pictures in jpeg or 300 dpi.)



GREEN

(Continued from page 23)

Lake Directory and other lake "swag." The Association also sends flowers to members in the hospital and to the families of those who have passed away.

As residents have gotten to know more people, they have become more involved and appreciate the many benefits of the Association, causing a steady rise in membership. Today over 200 families are members.

(Continued on page 29)



Here are some brief historical facts about Green and Round Lakes:

- 1830s land surveys of the area determined that the area supported a Beach-Maple forest with a scattered occurrence of White Pine. There were swampy and boggy areas and remnant marshes along the western side of the lakes. When the first cottages were built some years later, low lying areas were built up with fill. The natural landscape was altered by land filling and excavation into the sides and bluffs flanking the lake.
- Louis Campau, noted for founding the city of Grand Rapids, was also a trader with local natives. He established a large, long, one-and-a-half story wood-framed trading post, in the French-Canadian style, on Green Lake in 1833 or '34.



For over 70 years, the Association has provided the leadership to be a collective voice advocating for public services and issues, but it has also provided a wider array of social activities that foster a sense of community. This community flourishes because of the faithful Association members and volunteers, all under the guidance of leaders past and present. Walk into any Association event, and you will hear the sounds of community, neighbors talking with neighbors, sharing stories over bites of pancakes or scoops of ice cream. The a-Round Green Lake Association makes it possible for everyone around the lakes--whether a longtime resident, a summer resident or someone new to the area, to come together and have fun; to care for each other and be informed as to what's happening in the community.



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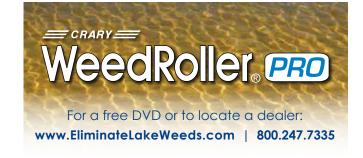
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Several Interesting Michigan Court of Appeals Decisions Regarding Standing, Injunctions, Deed Restrictions and Easements

By Clifford H. Bloom, Esq.
Bloom Sluggett, PC | Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.bloomsluggett.com

On December 5, 2019, the Michigan Court of Appeals issued an interesting unpublished decision in *Wenners v. Chisholm*, et al, Case Numbers 345830 and 345831 (2019 WL 6646504). The decision involved a narrow land strip utilized by back lot or off lake property owners and their ability to utilize dockage and boat moorage on the land strip at the lake. Although the case is quite complex regarding the facts and legal issues involved, there are two important matters discussed by the Court that could help riparian property owners in similar civil lawsuits in the future.

First, the Court held that the owners of the adjoining lake front (i.e., riparian) properties have "standing" to bring a lawsuit challenging the use of the narrow land strip adjacent to the riparian properties, even if the riparian property owners have no direct ownership interest in the land strip at issue. Second, the Court held that injunctive relief (i.e., a court order) was appropriate to require the back-lot property owners to comply with the court decision even if the riparian property owners did not ask for injunctive relief initially.

The holding in *Wenners v. Chisholm* could benefit riparian property owners in future litigation cases.

The second interesting Michigan Court of Appeals case was decided on January 16, 2020 in *Haan v. Lake Doster Lake Association* (Case No. 345282; 2020 WL 257403). This decision also involved complex factual situations regarding an artificial lake in Allegan County with extensive deed restrictions / restrictive covenants. One of the subdivisions included the dedication of a lakefront parcel for backlot property owners to provide them with access to and use of the lake. The dedicated parcel was called "Parkway", and it consists of a private drive and park. The plat dedication was silent regarding the rights of usage for backlot property



owners and whether they had the right to docks and to seasonally moor boats. Through a series of rules and agreements by the property owners association, several backlot property owners claimed dockage and boat moorage rights. A slim majority of the Court of Appeals held that certain backlot property owners had the right to dockage and seasonal boat moorage at the common property. This decision probably has little precedential impact for other lakes, but it does stand for the proposition that a property owners association must be very careful regarding its rules, bylaws, and agreements.

Finally, on January 30, 2020, the Michigan Court of Appeals released its opinion in *Kraus v Link*, et al. (Case No. 347044; 2020 WL 504 973), which involved the rights of backlot property owners and others to use three waterfront outlots on Walled Lake. The deed restrictions and dedications allowed backlot owners (and potentially others) via easements to utilize the three lakefront outlots to utilize docks built thereon "to be used" by the backlotters

(Continued on page 31)

and required that everyone who uses the docks "agree to maintain the same and keep said docks in proper repair at their own expense ..." Everyone using the outlots also agreed "to keep said weeds and rushes cut and become responsible for the appearance of said shore line ..." The dispute involved whether the backlot property owners could moor or keep boats along the docks, and if so, whether such boat moorage is limited to day use only or for the entire season. The court opinion contains good discussions about riparian rights, lake access easements, deed restrictions and similar matters. Although the trial court held that the backlot property owners could use the docks for "day use only," the Court of Appeals reversed the decision and remanded the case back to the trial court for further proceedings. The Court of Appeals held that the language regarding dockage was ambiguous and that the trial court would have to consider historic "extrinsic evidence" (i.e., evidence outside of the language used) to determine the scope of

usage rights for the outlot easements. Given that the plat was originally created in 1917 and that the Michigan Supreme Court in *Little v Kin*, 468 Mich 699 (2003) held that the only type of extrinsic evidence that can be considered by a court is evidence at or prior to the time when the easement was created, it is unlikely that there will be much direct evidence of the plattor's intent or usage rights at or within a year or two of 1917.

Although all three of the above Michigan Court of Appeals decisions were "unpublished" and therefore, not technically binding precedent, such cases often do guide Michigan courts in similar cases.



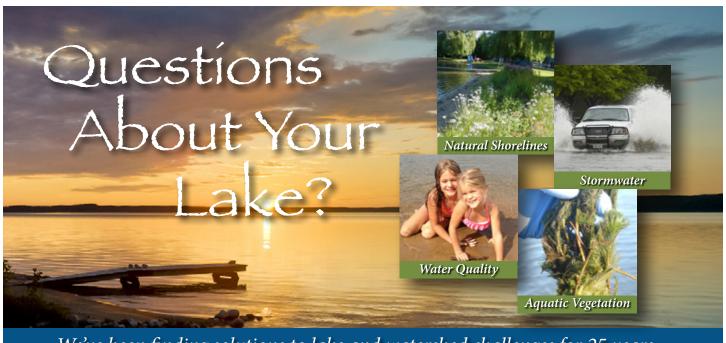




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