



Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society

P.O. Box 4812
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www.mcnalms.org

Spring 2020

Presidential Ponderings...

By Erick Elgin, McNALMS President



It is a pleasure to serve as this year's President of McNALMS and I look forward to working with the Board and our members to make this year a success for Michigan's many lakes. The first quarter of 2020 has been difficult due to COVID-19 with many changes occurring to our and our partner's events, programs, and activities. Out of necessity, this has led to the creation of virtual material. For example, the [2020 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention](#) undertook a major feat – moving their entire multi-day convention to an online format. Hundreds of people from around Wisconsin and other states were able to tune into the conference virtually. A side benefit of the virtual conference was that many presentations were recorded and are now available for viewing. Although missing out on face to face interaction is a loss, there is a silver lining in that the virtual material being generated will hopefully reach more people and be available for years to come. Here are more examples of changes to our and our partner's activities.

McNALMS spring seminar on hybrid milfoil genetics from Dr. Ryan Thum is cancelled. We hope to have him come in the future. In addition, until further notice the McNALMS Board meeting will be virtual.

The [Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc.](#) recently cancelled their 59th Annual Conference. Although this is a major loss for Michigan's riparian's and lake professionals, they have [developed a webinar series](#) that will cover many of the topics that were originally planned for their conference.

The [Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership](#) is hosting a blitz of webinars in the upcoming month that will cover cutting edge research, outreach, and conservation of inland lakes. [Check out their Lake Conservation Webinar Series](#) website for a schedule and description of the presentations.

The [Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership's](#) contractor's field day scheduled for June 3rd is cancelled/postponed. Information on the postponed event is forthcoming.

[Michigan State University Extension's Water School](#) summer events are being cancelled, and the MSU Extension Team is currently working on an online format.

During this challenging period of social distancing, we remain committed to working with our partners to promote understanding and comprehensive management of Michigan's inland lakes. We know the strength and creativity of our partnerships will allow us to weather this period and come out stronger.

Sincerely,
Erick Elgin



The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) brings together resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in naturally formed lakes of the Midwest. We foster collaborations on fish habitat science, education and outreach, and conservation. For more information, stop by our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), or reach out to our coordinator, [Joe Nohner](#). If you aren't already on our newsletter email list, you can [SIGN UP HERE](#).

Secchi Disk Reminder

As the weather begins to warm, don't forget to get those Secchi Disks out and measure your lake's clarity throughout the summer months.



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Finger Lakes Institute's Starry Stonewort Collaborative Dedicated To Advancing the Science of Managing the Exotic Invasive Charophyte

by Scott Brown
McNALMS Board Member

Funded with a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Finger Lakes Institute Starry Stonewort Collaborative was launched nearly three years ago in response to a critical need to enhance our collective knowledge of the science of managing starry stonewort. The only known exotic invasive member of the diverse and usually highly beneficial Characeae family, as of the spring of 2020 starry stonewort (scientific name, *Nitellopsis obtusa*) has successfully invaded thousands of inland lakes and rivers located within eight states, and two Canadian provinces.

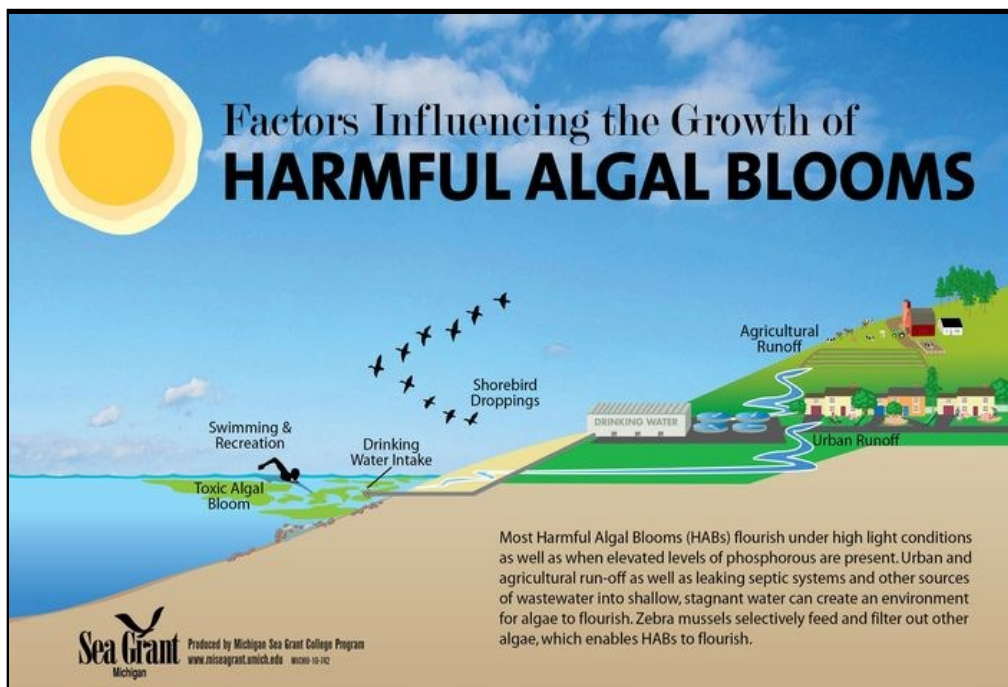
The highly invasive, asexually reproducing exotic charophyte is considered a powerful ecosystem engineer that is capable of fostering conditions within invaded lakes and rivers that are favorable to its own abundant growth and long-term survival. Moreover, exotic invasive starry stonewort often forms extraordinarily dense wide area meadows that act to suppress the growth of beneficial native aquatic plant communities, and that are known to interfere with the ability of certain species of fish to reproduce.

The Starry Stonewort Collaborative is comprised of a steadily growing network of over twenty collaborators including scientists, resource managers, lake managers, aquatic vegetation control specialists, and outreach education specialists located throughout the Laurentian Great Lakes basin. The Collaborative also receives direct support from an eight-member panel of starry stonewort "experts" who support the on-going efforts of the initiative by holding informational webinars, by writing and reviewing starry stonewort focused scientific journal

articles, and by contributing to the development of education and training materials.

Based in Geneva, New York, Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) is dedicated to promoting environmental research and outreach education initiatives in order to contribute to regional efforts to preserve and to protect upstate New York's fresh-water ecosystem inundated Finger Lakes area. The Institute strives to work in close partnership with numerous regional environmental partners as well as with state and local government agencies in developing and implementing environmentally-sound economic development practices.

For readers of this newsletter who would like to learn more about the mission, goals, and accomplishments of the Finger Lakes Institute Starry Stonewort Collaborative, point your internet browser toward starrystonewort.org.



Nutrient application and runoff into nearby waterways are a cause of harmful algal blooms, but with proper planning, farmers can help keep applied nutrients on their fields and reduce nutrient runoff entering the Great Lakes.


The MI EnviroImpact Tool is a free decision support tool for short-term nutrient application planning that shows daily runoff risk across Michigan.


Learn more about this beneficial tool at the MSU Extension website, found [here](#).

McNALMS Corporate Member Spotlight

Restorative

Lake Sciences™







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Before



After



MWA Mission Statement "This corporation is formed to protect, preserve and promote the wise use of inland waters – lakes, streams, rivers, creeks and the waters and bottomlands of the State of Michigan.

Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Membership Application

Please help us in our efforts to be a legislative "Watchdog" to protect Michigan's Inland Lakes & Streams.

Annual dues:

Individual membership \$50 - Lake Associations \$100

Corporations \$200

Please print:

Name _____

Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ County _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to: Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Send dues and contributions to: Michigan Waterfront Alliance

PO Box 369 Fenton, MI 48430

McNALMS Corporate Members 2020



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Plmcorp.net



Progressiveae.com/water-resources



Restorativelakesciences.com

WetlandsNursery

aquaticplantlady@gmail.com

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(Wexford Co Drain Commissioner/Restorative Lake Sciences)



MLSA's Spring Webinar Series

This series is generously sponsored by the Glen Lake Association, celebrating 75 years!

<https://mymlsa.org/>

NALMS 40th International Symposium

November 16-20, 2020

Minneapolis, Minnesota

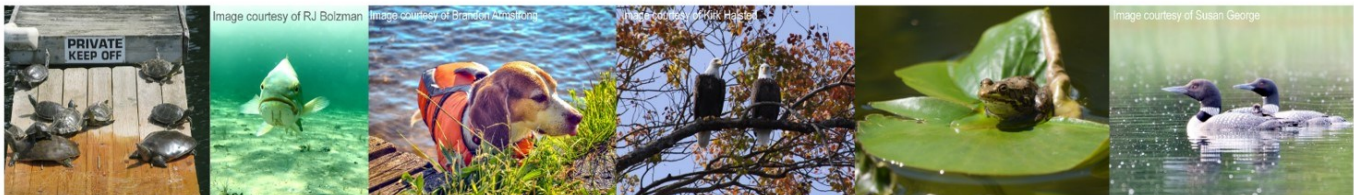
[Register Now!](#)



2020 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention Conserving Lakes in a Changing Environment



The 4th biennial convention will explore topics ranging from aquatic plants, best management practices, natural shorelines, water conservation, and more. Continuing education credits will be available. The convention is sponsored by the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (MILP), a broad group of organizations that have a common interest – protecting inland lakes.



The Lakes Convention is Going Virtual!

September 16-18, 2020

For more information on the Convention, click [HERE](#)

McNALMS and MLSA Awards Two Student Grants for 2020

Newly Funded Student Research Projects Focus on Invasive Species

The Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society (McNALMS) and the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA) have selected the recipients of the 2020 Lake Research Student Grants Program. They are Emily Neuman from Grand Valley State University and Emmet Smrcka from Central Michigan University. Each will receive \$2000 toward their research project.

The student grants program is a joint collaboration between McNALMS and MLSA. The purpose of the program is to promote student efforts to work with lakes and lake communities to enhance lake management. The program seeks projects that increase the understanding of lake ecology, strengthen collaborative lake management, address inland lakes fisheries, build lake partnerships and/or expand citizen involvement in lake management.

Neuman's project will deal with Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtuse*), a macroalgae that has invaded many of Michigan lakes. Its excessive growth is thought to interfere with fish spawning habitats and change microbial communities. Her research, titled, Star Wars: Phenology of *Nitellopsis obtusa* in Pentwater Lake, Michigan will help to determine when peak biomass of the species occurs and how changes in climate might affect plant growth from fragments. She will also utilize databases and herbarium records to look at which physical, chemical, and biological parameters may be important in the supporting the successful establishment of starry stonewort in lakes. She hopes that the results of this research will help inform management plans for Pentwater lake and other lakes in the region.

Smrcka's research will focus on three invasive snails that have invaded some Michigan lakes: Chinese, Japanese and Banded Mystery snails (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*, *Cipangopaludina japonica*, and *Vivaparus georgianus*, respectively). These snails have been found to alter lake ecosystems, feed on fish embryos, and possibly transmit parasites that can kill waterfowl. They could also clog water intake pipe screens. The extent of these snail populations are not well known. By sampling a subset of lakes, Smrcka hopes to determine which lakes have one or more of these species. He also hopes to provide key lake characteristics that could be used in predicting whether other lakes could support the snails if they are introduced and which lakes may be at a higher risk for invasion.

The next call for proposals for the 2021 Lake Research Student Grants Program will be in December.



McNALM'S has a new and improved website! Be sure to check it out [HERE](https://www.mcnalms.org)

