

2025 Officers

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- Diane Kut
Fortune Lake
- Laurie Netzow
Lake Ellen

Moving Toward an Education Rotation

Iron County lakes and streams' health is important to the Partnership directors and members. Becoming ever-better stewards of these diverse, wondrous bodies of water is a natural outcome when we learn from experts and each other. To better serve this goal the Partnership is moving toward a three-year cycle of educational opportunities.

In May 2024 the Partnership hosted a training session for the MI Corps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). Participants got in-person instruction from Jo Latimore and Erick Elgin about basic and advanced protocols for tracking the health of their favorite lake.

In June 2025 the Partnership created an opportunity for attendees to learn about healthy shoreline practices and then map their own plans with the help of professionals.

In 2026 our focus will be on aquatic invasive species. We are putting together a

day-long symposium where experts and property owners will share information about many aspects of AIS prevention, detection and remediation.

In subsequent years we will continue this rotation so our educational offerings in these three vital areas will be predictable and available. Cycling through CLMP training, natural shoreline design, and then Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) exploration will allow members to jump in when they're ready and get support and encouragement along their journey.

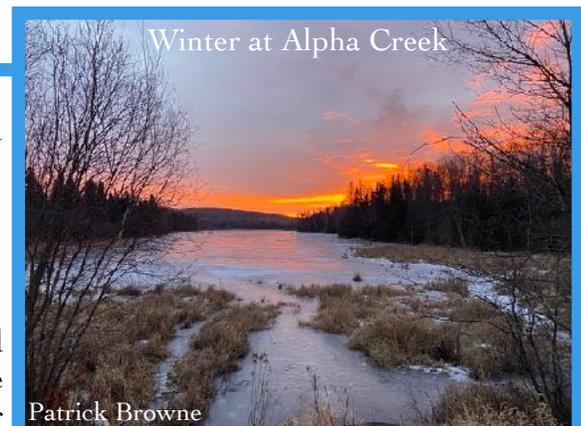
Plan to join us on Saturday, June 27, 2026 for the **Aquatic Invasive Species Symposium** at Crystal Falls Township Hall. Whether your favorite lake or stream has never been threatened by an invasive species or your association has been battling one for years, we'd love to see you there!

Go to page 4 for more information and how to register.

ICLSP looks forward to an exciting line-up of summer events!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Annual Member Meeting on Saturday, June 6th. This gathering will include the member meeting lead by Mike Golas, president, a buffet supper, and an eagerly anticipated presentation about the journey to a special assessment district for the treatment of Eurasian water milfoil on Lake Mary. Joann Burns, treasurer, and Paul Dalpra, past president, from Lake Mary along with Karen Mallon, clerk for Mastodon Township, will share insights and answer questions. Register by May 29.

Take a more in depth look at Aquatic Invasive Species during a day-long symposium on Saturday, June 27. We have a robust line-up of speakers including Jo Latimore and



Many of the lakes in Iron County have lake associations. Coping with issues relative to lake health is often the reason property owners form an association. Sometimes people fear that a lake association will infringe on their rights as property owners. This trepidation might stem from experiences people have had with a home owners association (HOA). Read on to learn about key differences between lake associations and HOAs.

A lake association typically focuses on environmental stewardship, water quality, and social activities, often operating as a voluntary organization, whereas a Homeowners Association (HOA) is a mandatory legal entity governing property standards, aesthetics, and common area maintenance with the power to impose fines and liens. Lake associations are usually specialized to the lake ecosystem, while HOAs are broader, focusing on neighborhood-wide regulations.

Key differences between lake associations and HOAs include:

- *Membership and Fees: HOA membership is mandatory upon purchasing a home, with required, legally binding dues. Lake association membership is often voluntary, though some may have mandatory dues for specific services.

- *Scope of Authority: HOAs have strict, documented rules (CC&Rs) covering home exteriors, landscaping, and behavior. Lake associations primarily focus on the lake's health, including water quality, boat safety, and weed control.

- *Enforcement Power: HOAs can place liens on properties for unpaid fees and enforce strict fines for infractions. Lake associations usually lack this authority and rely on community cooperation, voluntary compliance, and sometimes, local government for enforcement.

- *Objective: HOAs aim to maintain property values and consistent neighborhood appearance. Lake associations aim to protect the lake ecosystem, fishing, and recreational safety.

Plan to participate in a round table discussion about lake associations. The date and time for this event have not yet been determined. Presently we are looking for lake association leaders, or past officers, who are willing to share their experiences so that others can benefit from their strengths and learn from their journey.

Topics we will explore include:

- *Reasons for forming a lake association: social, water quality, invasive species

- *Problems and challenges: engaging property owners and dealing with dissent

- *Nuts and bolts: dues, meetings, bylaws

- *Tax Status – the whys and hows of having 501c3 status

- *What the future holds

If you are willing to be part of this round table, contact the Partnership at iclakesandstreamspartnership@gmail.com or call Vicki at 906 828-5207.

“Summer Events” continued from page 1

Erick Elgin from the MSU Center for Lakes & Streams; Lisa Huberty from the Aquatic Nuisance Control division of EGLE; Kelsey Brockelman from the Clean Boats Clean Waters program; Jen Ricker-Feak from the Iron Baraga Conservation District; Barb Gajewski, co-owner of Many Waters, LLC; Sam Cason, president of Cason Land & Water Management; and Keegan Lund an invasive species biologist working for SePro. See more speaker information on pages 5 and 6.

Lunch will be provided for this exciting educational event. Register by June 20.

And keep your eyes open for details about the Lake Association Round Table, follow-up visits to help with natural shoreline planning, a kid-centered family night at one of our local libraries, and opportunities to have Jo and Erick help your lake monitors with some of the more advanced CLMP protocols.

If you would like to help plan and shape any of these events, reach out via email iclakesandstreamspartnership@gmail.com or by phone Mike Golas 801 870-9863.

We'd love to have your input and creative energy!

**June 6
2026**

Iron County
Lakes & Streams Partnership

Presents

The Annual Members' Meeting

Buffet Dinner

Salad Bar

Loaded Potato Bar

with a

Variety of Toppings

Dessert

Coffee Lemonade Water

Location—

**Fortune Lake Bible Camp
138 Fortune Lake Camp Road
Crystal Falls, Michigan**

Time—

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Agenda—

4:00 PM- 4:30 PM — Socialize

**4:30 PM- 5:30 PM — Lake Mary's
Eurasian Water Milfoil Journey**

5:30 PM- 6:30 PM — Dinner

6:30 PM- 7:00 PM — Business Meeting

Presenters:

**Joanne Burns, Treasurer of Lake Mary Association & Karen Mallon, Clerk for Mastodon Township
Lake Mary's Special Assessment District for ongoing EWM Remediation—why, how, and what
they have learned with a Q & A session to follow.**

Following Dinner will be the Annual Meeting.

**Cost: \$15 per person for non-members or become a member for \$10 per person.
No charge for current members.**

Please RSVP to

iclakesandstreamspartnership@gmail.com

by May 29, 2026.

Include in your email the names of those who will be attending.

**June 27
2026**

**Presents an
Aquatic Invasive Species Symposium**

Review of Aquatic Invasive Species affecting area Lakes & Streams
**AIS Management ♦ EGLE Aquatic Nuisance Control ♦ Boat Washes
 Treatment Options ♦ Funding Options**
Looking out for AIS headed this way



Location: Crystal Falls Township Hall
1384 US-2 Crystal Falls, MI

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Morning refreshments and lunch will be served

*Reservations required by email
Include names of attendees by June 20*

iclakesandstreamspartnership@gmail.com

Suggested Donation: \$20

Learn from these insightful presenters—

MSU Extension—Center for Lakes & Streams

**Dr. Jo Latimore
Erick Elgin
Kelsey Bockelman**



Michigan Clean
Water Corps



—Jen Ricker-Feak

Lisa Huberty—



—Barb Gajewski



—Keegan Lund

Sam Cason—



Aquatic Invasive Species Symposium

Presenters—



Jo Latimore, Ph.D. is an aquatic ecologist and Outreach Specialist in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. She is particularly interested in aquatic invasive species prevention, detection, and management; volunteer monitoring of Michigan's streams and lakes (citizen science); science communication, outreach, and engagement; and natural resources leadership development.

Education:

Ph.D., Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University, 2005

M.S., Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame, 2000

B.A., Biology, Albion College



Erick Elgin is a limnologist and water resources educator with Michigan State University Extension. His main responsibilities are to promote and research the wise use, protection, and restoration of our freshwater systems. Erick's recent efforts focus on aquatic plants, lake management, natural shorelines, invasive species, and improving the knowledge of decision makers to make sound water management decisions. Erick has a M.S. in aquatic ecology from the University of Calgary and a B.S. in natural resources management from the University of Minnesota.



Kelsey Bockelman is an aquatic invasive species educator with Michigan State University Extension and a fisheries biologist by trade. Her responsibilities are overseeing and coordinating the aquatic invasive species outreach programs Clean Boats, Clean Water and the Mobile Boat Wash crew. Kelsey's main focus is on preventing new aquatic invasive species introductions as well as wise use, protection, and restoration of Michigan's freshwater ecosystems. Kelsey has an M.S. in Environmental Science from Alaska Pacific University through the Fisheries, Aquatic Science, and Technology Laboratory program and a B.S. in Biology with a concentration on Animal Biology from Grand Valley State University.



Jen Ricker-Feak has been the district manager at the Iron Baraga Conservation District since 2013. The district's mission is to provide natural resource management that helps local citizens preserve the environment. She is also the co-coordinator of the Western Peninsula Invasives Coalition (WePIC) whose goal is to prevent the spread of invasive species. She works across Iron, Baraga, Gogebic, and Ontonagon counties on both land and water. Jen was named the 2025 Michigan Conservation District Employee of the Year. Her unwavering commitment and collaborative spirit embody the very best of the Michigan Conservation District movement.



Barb Gajewski is an aquatic ecologist and co-owner of Many Waters LLC with over 20 years of experience working on water resource issues. She has a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology and a Master of Science in Water Resource Management both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Many Water's project lakes are mainly in Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where we work with lake groups on lake issues, including water quality, shoreland health, and aquatic plant management. When not working on water, she enjoys time fishing on our local inland lakes and the Great Lakes.



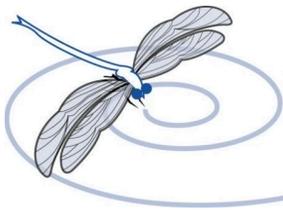
Keegan Lund is an invasive species biologist with 15 years of experience managing invasive species in lakes and rivers throughout the Midwest. He began his career working in prairie and forest restoration, though after too many run-ins with poison ivy, he realized his place was in a boat. He worked as a lead invasive species lake biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 10 years before joining SePRO. As a technical specialist with SePRO, he supports invasive plant and algae management along with nutrient mitigation in freshwater lakes and rivers. He covers five states in the Midwest and when not working on lakes, he still enjoys spending time on lakes with his family.



Sam Cason is Vice President and Manager of the Aquatics Division at Cason Land & Water Management, LLC. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Science from the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point and brings over a decade of experience in aquatic resource management. His expertise includes aquatic plant management, fisheries management, and water quality management.



Lisa Huberty has a Ph.D. in Botany and Plant Pathology from Michigan State University. She works for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC).



Michigan Clean
Water Corps

Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program CLMP

Since 1974, citizen scientists in Michigan have monitored 1072 lakes. They collect data which shows trends that are incredibly valuable for understanding how each lake's ecology remains stable or changes over time.

Although there are hundreds of lakes in Iron County, only about 20 are currently being monitored for the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. The Partnership is grateful for those dedicated volunteers who gather data each year. We would love to mentor anyone who is curious about how their lake "ticks". The first protocols new citizen scientists look at are water clarity using a Secchi disk and phosphorus using spring and summer sampling.

Training for any/all protocols can be done online or at the MLSA Annual Conference. The deadline for Spring Phosphorus has technically passed (March 1); however, since we have later ice out conditions in the UP, we can often get an extension.

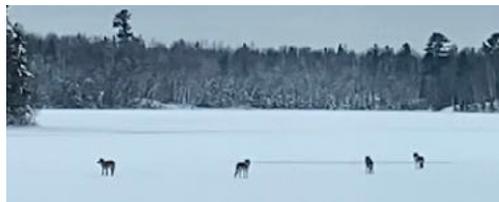
Secchi Disk Transparency: Enrollment deadline: May 10, 2026.

Spring Total Phosphorus: Enrollment deadline: March 1, 2026.

Summer Total Phosphorus: Enrollment deadline: May 10, 2026.

Visit the CLMP website for extensive details: www.micorps.net/lakes

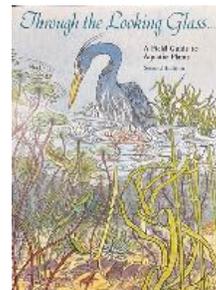
Winter in Iron County



Grants Available to Mitigate EWM

The ICLSP has limited funds available to lake associations for EWM analysis, treatment and/or management. The Grant application can be printed from our website located at—

www.iclakesandstreamspartnership.com



"Through the Looking Glass" refers to a Wisconsin field guide for identifying aquatic plants (also appropriate for Iron County Michigan). The field guide was created by the University of Wisconsin Press and is a resource for both the public and

professionals to identify aquatic plants in North America.

ICLSP has donated a copy of this book to both the

**Crystal Falls
and**

**West Iron District
Libraries**

Check it out!

HELP STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!



Avoid spreading aquatic invasive species.
 Recommended Actions:

- ✓ **CLEAN** boats, trailers and equipment
- ✓ **DRAIN** live wells, bilges and all water
- ✓ **DRY** boats and equipment
- ✓ **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash.

IT'S THE LAW

Violation of the law is a state civil infraction. Violators may be subject to fines.

- DO NOT launch or transport watercraft or trailers unless they are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.
- DO NOT transport a watercraft without removing all drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- DO NOT release or use bait into the water.

Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies



BOAT AND TRAILER CLEANING STATION HELP STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!

FOLLOW THESE STEPS

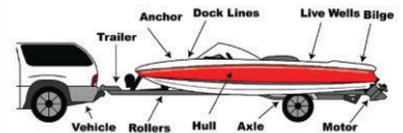
- ▶ **CLEAN** boats, trailers and equipment.
- ▶ **DRAIN** live wells, bilges, ballast tanks and all water by pulling drain plugs.
- ▶ **DRY** boats and equipment.
- ▶ **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash.

IT'S THE LAW

VIOLATION OF THE LAW IS A CIVIL INFRACTION.
 VIOLATORS MAY BE SUBJECT TO FINES.

- ▶ **DO NOT** launch or transport watercraft or trailers unless they are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.
- ▶ **DO NOT** transport a watercraft without removing all drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- ▶ **DO NOT** release unused bait into the water.

SEARCH THESE AREAS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES



TOOLS

- ▶ Use tools to remove vegetation from boats and trailers.
- ▶ Place vegetation in the trash.
- ▶ These tools help protect our lakes. We have confidence in the honor system. Please return them.

