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President Mike Golas's Message

2026 is just around the corner and your board of directors is making arrangements for opportunities that will be enjoyable and educational. We will also keep you posted about live and online events that organizations in Michigan and Wisconsin provide. We hope that learning opportunities and social events will spark your curiosity about your favorite lake or stream and help you get more involved by connecting with other folks who share your commitment to lake and stream health.

In this newsletter you can read about and reflect on 2025 Partnership events, while anticipating fresh and pertinent upcoming events designed to address your interests and concerns. Tell us what you need at your favorite lake or what fits your individual interests. If you are lucky enough to have an active association of property owners or group of friends at your favorite lake, get them involved too. If you want hard copy resources, presentations, or connections to a wide range of experts, we can provide those. Be assured that you are not alone in your interests and needs. When it comes to lakes and streams in Iron County, cooperation and coordination are major reasons why the Partnership exists and has been successful. Let's get in touch and get you involved at a level that fits your time and interests.

As for me, besides enjoying the many pleasures of joining family and friends on Sunset Lake where my wife and I live year-round, as well as visiting other local lakes and streams, I spent many hours this summer scuba diving with three friends and a surface support crew hand-pulling Eurasian watermilfoil. Despite the many years I have been involved with invasive species, and even though I have decades of experience with Sunset Lake, I learned a lot more about lakes, water quality, plant life, etc. and had great times with friends...and this scuba stuff is good exercise too. If you are a diver and want to "dive-in" some time next summer to refresh your diving skills, learn about lakes, meet new people or get some exercise, let me know. If you are not a diver, "dive-in" to activities that you enjoy on your favorite lake. The rewards are well worth the effort!

(See photos of Mike and others in action on page 7)



Natural shorelines are the most important contributor to lake health.

Please send photos of shorelines on your favorite lake that exemplify native beauty. Seeing what other property owners have done provides encouragement to others.

If you are trying to figure out how to get started, reach out with questions and photos. We can help each other in the quest for healthier shorelines.

June was busy for ICLSP...

by Victoria Browne

Forty ICLSP members attended the annual meeting June 7 at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. They represented 20 different lakes in Iron County. In addition to a short business meeting and pasta bar supper, the group heard from two guest speakers, Steve Tinti and Roy Carlson.



and Erick Elgin from Michigan State University's Center for Lakes and Streams, and joined by Kristyn Ritchie from Renewable Resource Solutions in Crystal Falls and Jen Ricker-Feak from the Iron Baraga Conservation District.

Latimore shared the journeys of several lake property owners who preserved natural shorelines or returned stretches of shoreline



Steve Tinti

Tinti, a long-time local attorney, led off and addressed questions from the floor about the rights and responsibilities of lake property owners. He began with a disclaimer encouraging anyone who wanted to pursue a concern to formally seek legal council. He provided anecdotes and shared scenarios he had encountered that illustrated options.

Carlson, an ICLSP board member and lake management expert, concluded the evening with an informative presentation about aquatic invasive species, primarily Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) which can be found in a dozen local lakes. He stressed the importance of early detection and rapid remediation, stating that an invasive species will crowd out beneficial native species, impact all forms of lake recreation and decrease property values.



Roy Carlson

"Once Eurasian water milfoil is established in a lake, it is exponentially more expensive to manage it," said Carlson. Several attendees live on lakes with EWM so the Q&A during Carlson's presentation was robust.

Twenty-four participants attended the Healthy Shoreline Planning Workshop June 14 at the Windsor Center. They were led by Jo Latimore



Dr. Jo Latimore

to a more native state. She also encouraged participants to consider land conservancy, a voluntary legal commitment to significantly limit development on one's lake property. Local land trust companies assist with and annually review properties that are conserved.

Elgin used the remainder of the morning session to get into the details of shoreline health. He opened with images from lakes in lower Michigan – what they looked like in the early



Erick Elgin

twentieth century and now. The transformation from unspoiled to highly developed shoreline shocked everyone and dramatically made the case for preserving as much of a lakeshore as possible.

“Loss of natural shorelines is the number one determinant of declining lake health, more so than either invasive species or excesses of nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen,” said Elgin.

Elgin emphasized the benefits of natural shorelines which include erosion control, shoreline stabilization, habitat for wildlife and beauty.

“Kentucky bluegrass has very shallow roots, but native plants like swamp milkweed and black-eyed Susan sink deep roots that stabilize the shoreline,” stated Elgin.



Elgin provided a few simple mantras with regard to native trees, shrubs and plants:

- If you have it, keep it.
- If you don't have it, add it.
- But don't let the best be the enemy of the good.

He also encouraged participants to make sure they can recreate and enjoy lake views even as they designate stretches that will benefit the lake and its wildlife.

The afternoon session had participants create plans for their own shorelines. Latimore, Elgin and Ritchie circulated around the room, interacting individually with every participant.

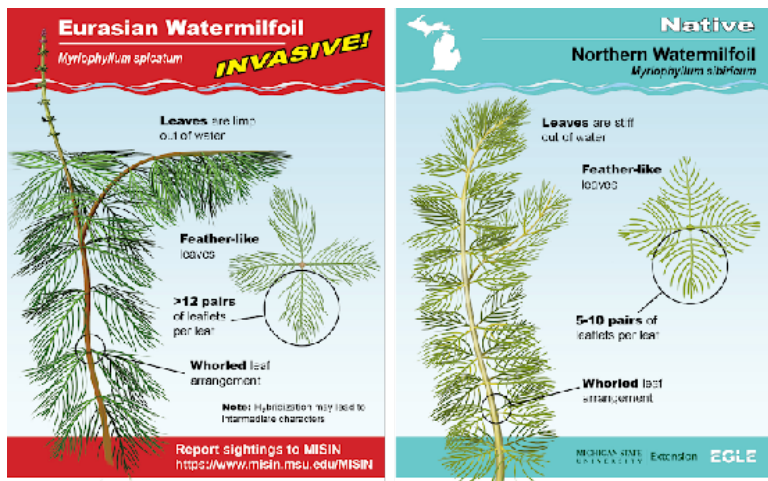
At the Crystal Falls Library on June 16, Latimore and Elgin discussed the five aquatic invasive species Iron County residents should be vigilant about:

- Eurasian water milfoil which is present on a dozen local lakes,
- Starry stonewort which is most likely the next invasive headed our way,
- Curly leaf pondweed which has already been found in Lake Emily and Cooks Run,
- European frogbit which seems to be transported along the routes of waterfowl hunters,
- Hydrilla which is more aggressive than any other aquatic invasive.

Anyone can monitor their favorite lake and report AIS findings using the Midwest Invasive Species



This is a close-up of the plant we got from Erick Elgin surrounded by the wildflowers we planted as we begin to replace lawn with plants that are better for the health of the lake.



Information Network (MISIN) website www.misin.msu.edu/ Identification cards for these five species are available for free at <http://bit.ly/aiscards>. (See more ID cards on page 6)

On June 17 Latimore and Elgin set off from the boat launch at Sunset Lake with two pontoons of lake residents and others who were interested in learning specifically how to monitor a lake for aquatic invasive species. Both groups explored the existing patches of EWM on the lake. They learned how to choose likely spots and use a two-headed rake on a rope to pull in and identify aquatic plants. This process is part of the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch, one of the CLMP protocols that is vitally important for maintaining lake health.

For more information about CLMP go to

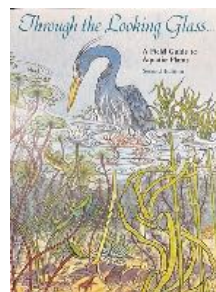
<https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/lake-training/>



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!



How to take action on your passion —

by Jim Edmondson

Perhaps like me, you have a strong interest or passion in various parts of life and the world around you. I personally care about helping people in need, so I give blood and support several charities. I care about our environment, so I reuse, repurpose, or recycle anything and everything. And I care deeply about water, including the health of our lakes and streams.

I could talk about these things at length, but as you know ... talk is cheap. Taking action on one's passion is what really matters — is what can really make a difference.

I'm trying to make a difference when it comes to the health of lakes and streams in the UP. I'm presently serving as president of my lake association. I'm also a board member of the Iron County Lakes and Streams Partnership (ICLSP - the same organization whose volunteer provides you with this newsletter).

Clearly I believe in putting my passions into action. How about you?

When it comes to the health of our local lakes and streams, I'd like to suggest a way you can put your interests and concerns into action. You may already be a member of the ICLSP, Great! Now, how about turning that interest into action as a director on the ICLSP board?



**6 WEEK ONLINE COURSE
STARTS IN JANUARY!**

canr.msu.edu/lakesonline

You'd have the chance to provide input on Important initiatives, such as improving membership collaboration, educating others regarding invasive aquatic species, and helping lake associations mitigate and manage invasive milfoil that is damaging the health of our lakes.

Is this an overwhelming responsibility? Not at all. ICLSP meets 7-9 times a year at the Iron River library. Many, like myself who live further away, join the meeting online via the Zoom app — internet access is the only resource you need then.

Meeting agendas are provided in advance as well as a convenient link for those joining online. Most meetings last an hour, sometimes a little more depending on the topic.

Of the 5,840 waking hours most of us have during each year, are you willing to put 9 or 10 of those hours into action as part of your passion? Please join us and make a difference. Contact Mike Golas, ICLSP President for more information at iclakesandstreamspartnership@gmail.com.



Photo Contest
Email your favorite
winter or holiday
lake photo to

iclakesandstreamspartnership@gmail.com



The winning photo will be published with credit
on our December postcard!
Entries need to be received by
December 5th.

Conservancy

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust (or government entity) that permanently restricts certain aspects of land use in order to protect the conservation values of the property. When a landowner places a conservation easement on his or her land, he or she maintains ownership and use of the property and can sell it or pass it on to heirs. The land is subject to certain restrictions agreed upon by the landowner and the land trust. For example, a landowner might agree to limit development on his or her property to one residence of a particular size. Future landowners are bound by these restrictions as well, and the land trust is responsible for monitoring the property and upholding the terms of the easement. (Source: [The Land Trust Alliance. Land Trust Alliance Fact Sheet. Washington DC: The Land Trust Alliance, 2008.](#))

Iron County Lakes & Streams Partnership

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 6, 2026

at

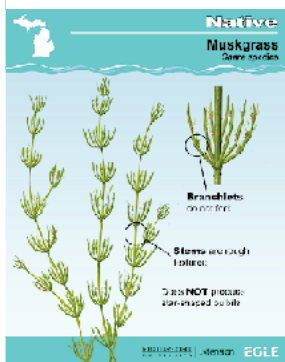
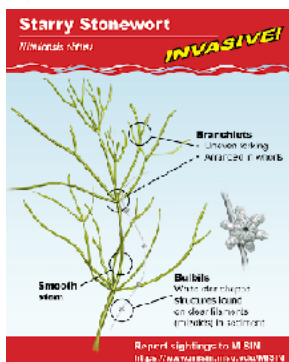
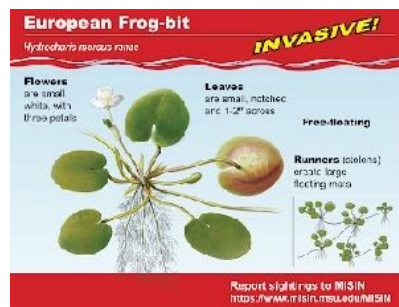
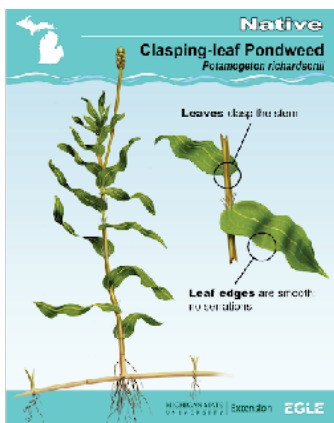
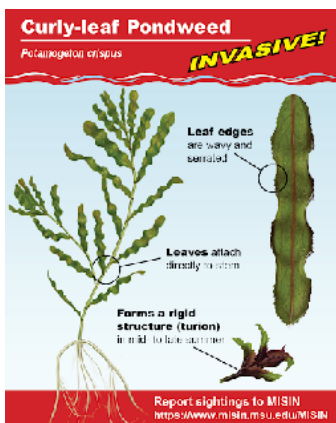
4:00PM

Annual Member Meeting & Dinner
at
Fortune Lake Bible Camp

Guest Speakers: To be announced

Come for the beautiful setting, the camaraderie, the meal and the opportunity to learn more about important lake topics.

Learn to recognize Aquatic Invasive Species vs Native Species.



Summarized from an article in the *Iron County Reporter*

At the August 31 meeting of the Lake Mary Association, Nick Kroll (interim President) presented Paul Dalpra with a plaque recognizing Paul's 20 years of dedicated service as the Association's President.

Dalpra announced that he was stepping down at the May 2025 meeting of the Association. This marked the end of an era since Dalpra was the president since 2006 when the Association was formed. The mission of the Lake Mary Association is to support and preserve the lake's water quality by identifying, surveying, and treating any invasive plant species in the lake.

Throughout Dalpra's 20 years as president, he took an active role by conducting lake testing using MI Corps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) protocols, establishing strategic partnerships with other lake preservation



Pictured are, from left, Paul Dalpra receiving a plaque from Nick Kroll (Interim President). Seated, from left, Mark Taylor (Interim Vice President), Paula Jacobs (Board of Director) and Joanne Burns (Treasurer). Not pictured are Denise Swider (Secretary) and Greg Schiavo (Board of Director). (Submitted photo.)

organizations, and reporting on current legislation that could impact lake property owners. Dalpra's contributions and leadership have shaped how the Association will conduct business going forward.

Currently, the Lake Mary Association and Mastodon Township are partnering to work out the details of establishing a Special Assessment District designed to provide an equitable response to the identification and treatment of Eurasian Milfoil.

Send us your photos of EWM
surveying and/or removal
from your lake!

Email Laurie actual size
photos at
lznetzow@me.com



Ken Vrana using SCUBA to pull
EWM on Lake Ellen in 2024



Mike Golas removing EWM
from Sunset Lake in 2025



Bill Artwisch (Many Waters, LLC)
pulling EWM from Lake Ellen in 2024

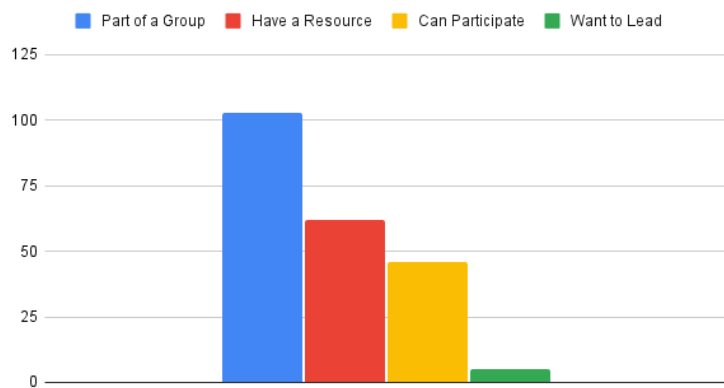


Lona Fende snorkeling to pull EWM with
Lynn Fleming watching for fragments
on Lake Ellen in 2024

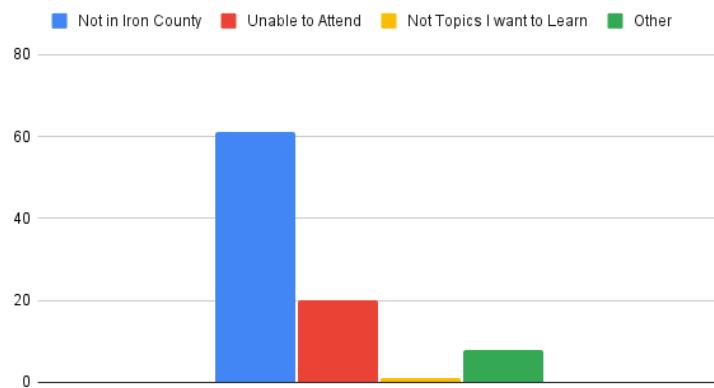


Responses from 113 members to the 2024 survey –

What does ICLSP membership mean for you?



What might prevent you from attending an event?



What topics interest you?

