



The Eighth Annual MiCorps Conference: Monitoring Human Impacts to Michigan's Freshwater Systems

October 29–30, 2012 ❖ Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center ❖ Higgins Lake, MI

**** Overnight Guests Should Check-In with the Front Desk upon Arrival ****

Monday, October 29, 2012 (Optional Pre-Conference Events)

Training Workshops: Two free training sessions will be offered concurrently. Participants may attend only one and participation is limited to 30 people for each session. **Advanced registration is required through our online registration form.** Please plan to eat lunch before you arrive.

<p>Training Option A: 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Education Building, Room TBD)</p>	<p>Insect Identification <i>Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i></p> <p>Both beginners and advanced volunteers are welcome to attend this combined session. Participants will meet at the Education Building, Lower Level, for discussion and tips on identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates to the family level. This year, Dr. Steen will put a specific emphasis on identifying aquatic beetles. Then, practice your identification skills on all different kinds of aquatic macroinvertebrates with microscopes and preserved specimens.</p>
<p>Training Option B: 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Education Building, Room TBD)</p>	<p>Plants of Michigan's Lakes and Streams <i>Dr. Jo Latimore and Paige Filice, Michigan State University</i> <i>Todd Losee, Michigan DEQ</i></p> <p>This classroom-based training session will give participants hands-on experience in identifying aquatic plants commonly found in our lakes and river systems. Emphasis will be placed on invasive plants and how to distinguish them from beneficial native plants. Participants will use fresh and dried pressed plants to practice their identification skills, and will learn about a variety of books, web sites, and other resources that are helpful tools for learning more about Michigan's aquatic plants. There will also be time for informal discussion of plant-related topics, like early detection and management of invasive plants and volunteer monitoring survey techniques for aquatic plants.</p>

5:30 – 6:30 pm Dinner (Dining Room, Administration Building) – *Please reserve your seat in advance*

6:30 – 8:30 pm **Advisory Session on New Lake and Stream Monitoring Parameters for MiCorps**
(Fireplace Lounge, Administration Building)

MiCorps is currently considering a small expansion of its volunteer stream and inland lakes monitoring programs to include one new monitoring parameter (measure) each that may be implemented in the next year. We invite all interested participants to attend this informational session on the eligible new monitoring parameters and participate in small group discussions to provide feedback on the possible choices. We are eager to hear your thoughts and ideas!

8:30 pm – ?? **Reception and Networking**
The advisory session will be followed by refreshments, music, games, and informal networking.

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 (Conference)

7:15 am Breakfast (Dining Room, Administration Building) – *Please reserve your seat in advance*

8:00 am Registration (Education Building)

8:40 am Welcoming Remarks (Education Building, Room TBD)
Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ

8:50 am Morning Plenary: The Kalamazoo River Two Years after the Enbridge Pipeline Rupture: The Water Quality Monitoring Story
Steve Noble, Michigan DEQ, Enbridge Response Unit

On July 26, 2010, an Enbridge pipeline ruptured on Talmadge Creek near Marshall, Mich., allowing more than 1 million gallons of crude oil into the creek which flows into the Kalamazoo River. As part of the response and recovery effort, two miles of the creek have been dug up and rebuilt and 38 miles of the river have been cleaned. Yet, monitoring has identified oil residuals remain in the system. Monitoring has also shown the aquatic health of the river has started to return. Therefore, additional oil removal actions need to be balanced with the environmental impacts to these aquatic communities. This presentation will look at how the Michigan DEQ is handling the monitoring and assessment of this unique environmental disaster.

9:50 am State of the MiCorps Program
Dina Klemans, Michigan DEQ

10:05 am Awards for New MiCorps Members
Presented by: Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ, and Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Breakout Session 1
Breakout sessions A and B will be held concurrently. Participants may attend one session.

<p>Option A: (Education Bldg, Room TBD)</p>	<p>MiCorps 101: An Introduction (or Refresher) to the MiCorps Programs <i>Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council, with other MiCorps and Michigan DEQ Staff</i></p> <p>This session is geared toward those who are new to MiCorps and volunteer monitoring, or those who would simply like a refresher. We will provide an overview of the program and how you can get involved.</p>
<p>Option B: (Education Bldg, Room TBD)</p>	<p>Monitoring the Effects of Human Impacts on our Watersheds <i>Moderator: Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Emily Whittaker, Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve – Water Quality Monitoring in Mining Impacted Watersheds</i> • <i>Mark Janeczko, Central Michigan District Health Department – A Study of E. coli on the Whitney Drain / Singing Bridge Beach</i> • <i>Jeremy Geist, Clinton River Watershed Council – Paint Creek Dam Removal and Habitat Restoration</i>

12:00 pm Lunch (Dining Room, Administration Building) – *Included in Conference Registration Fee*

12:45 pm After–Lunch Presentation: Improving Water Quality of Lakes and Streams through the Use of Zoning Ordinances (Education Building, Room TBD)
Paul Sniadecki, Zoning Administrator, Milton Township, Cass County

The impact of development around lakes and streams can be minimized with the right kinds of zoning ordinances in place. Even if lake or stream areas are fully developed, there are ordinance techniques available to begin to reverse the impact of point and non–point source pollution, and other hazards or problems. This presentation will explore some of these options. A small portion of time will also cover ways to influence the political process to hopefully enact needed ordinances.

1:15 pm Breakout Session 2

Breakout sessions A and B will be held concurrently. Participants may attend one session.

<p>Option A: (Education Bldg, Room TBD)</p>	<p>Lake Monitoring for Human Disturbances <i>Moderator: Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Thomas Tisue, Duck Creek Watershed Assembly – Zebra Mussels in Duck Lake</i> • <i>Dr. John Wilks, Indian Lake Association of Vicksburg, Inc. – Monitoring Nutrient Inputs on Indian Lake</i> • <i>Dr. Stacy Daniels, Crystal Lake & Watershed Association – Human Impacts upon Crystal Lake (Benzie Co.): Past, Present, and Future</i>
<p>Option B: (Education Bldg, Room TBD)</p>	<p>Stream Monitoring Programs Presented by Past and Present MiCorps Grantees <i>Moderator: Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council</i> • <i>Julie Lovelace, Cannon Township</i> • <i>Jaime Welch, Flint River Watershed Coalition</i> <p>MiCorps grantees will discuss their volunteer stream monitoring programs: where they monitor, how their program runs, and the successes and lessons they have experienced along the way.</p>

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm Afternoon Plenary: Assessing Lakeshore Habitat and Human Disturbance Indicators in Michigan Lakes: The National Lakes Assessment Survey – Michigan (Education Building, Room TBD)
Ralph Bednarz, Michigan DEQ (retired)

The National Lakes Assessment (NLA) is designed to provide statistically valid regional and national estimates of the condition of lakes as well as statewide assessments for those states who participate in the surveys. In particular, the NLA biological condition indicators and the quantitative physical habitat metrics add an additional dimension to Michigan’s lake quality assessment process. This presentation will report on the 2007 and 2012 NLA–Michigan results compared to the upper Midwest ecoregion and national findings, as well as the significance of these results to lakes management in Michigan.

3:45 pm Conference Wrap–up and Evaluation
Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ

4:00 pm Adjournment