



**The Ninth Annual MiCorps Conference:  
Monitoring Michigan's Lakes and Streams  
through Citizen Science**

October 28-29, 2013 ❖ Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center ❖ Higgins Lake, MI

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

**Monday, October 28, 2013 (Optional Pre-Conference Events)**

**12:30 pm** Conference / Training Registration and Check-In (Education Building)

**1:00 – 4:00 pm** **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><b>Option A:</b> (Main Branch AuSable Room, Education Building)</p>	<p><b>Non-native Aquatic Plant Identification, Monitoring, and Management</b> <i>Dr. Lisa Huberty, Michigan DEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program</i></p> <p>Non-native aquatic plant invasions are a major concern for many lake residents and CLMP volunteers as the number of aquatic invasive plant species under watch in Michigan continues to increase. In addition to water quality monitoring, many volunteers are taking the additional responsibility for monitoring non-native species. The first part of the workshop will focus on the identification of some of the most important non-native aquatic plants and their native look-alikes in Michigan. The second part of the workshop will focus on vegetation survey methodology and the interpretation of aquatic vegetation survey data. Multiple new approaches for management of non-native aquatic plant species are appearing in the aquatic plant management marketplace. The third part of this workshop will review the strengths and challenges of these approaches and the state-level permitting requirements associated with them.</p>
<p><b>Option B:</b> (North/South Branch AuSable Room, Education Building)</p>	<p><b>Overcoming Challenges to Coordinating Successful Volunteer Monitoring Programs: Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, and Program Evaluation</b> <i>Jason Frenzel, HRWC and Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council</i></p> <p>There are many challenges to developing and maintaining a successful, long-term volunteer water quality monitoring program, foremost among these being volunteer recruitment, volunteer retention, and program evaluation. Join experienced program coordinators, Jason Frenzel of HRWC and Kevin Cronk of TOMWC, for a three hour workshop to learn about and discuss these challenges, both at a theoretical level and from an on-the-ground/in-the-trenches perspective. The workshop will include a hands-on component that allows/encourages participants to develop a sound strategy for volunteer recruitment and retention tailored specifically to their individual programs, as well as develop evaluations for effective program improvements.</p>

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

**6:30 – 7:30 pm** **Evening Presentation: Improving Water Quality of Lakes and Streams through the Use of Zoning Ordinances** (Main Branch AuSable Room, Education Building)  
*Paul Sniadecki, Zoning Administrator, Milton Township*

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.

**7:30 pm – 10 pm** **Reception and Networking** (Fireside Lounge, Administration Building)  
The evening presentation will be followed by refreshments, music, games, and informal networking.

**Tuesday, October 29, 2013 (Conference)**

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

**8:00 am**      **Conference Registration and Check-In** (Education Building)

**8:45 am**      **Welcoming Remarks** (Main Branch AuSable Room, Education Building)  
*Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ*

**9:00 am**      **Breakout Session 1** (Breakout sessions A and B will be held concurrently. Participants may attend one session.)

<p><b>Option A:</b> (North/South Branch AuSable Room, Education Bldg)</p>	<p><b>MiCorps 101: An Introduction (or Refresher) to the MiCorps Programs</b> <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><b>Option B:</b> (Main Branch AuSable Room, Education Bldg)</p>	<p><b>Adding Monitoring and Educational Tools to the Volunteer Monitoring “Toolkit”</b> <i>Moderator: Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Leslie Meyers, Three Lakes Association - Macroinvertebrate educational modules for students</i></li> <li>• <i>Kevin Walters, Michigan DEQ - Aquatic Invasive Species education and outreach</i></li> <li>• <i>Amos Ziegler, Michigan State University - Midwest Invasive Species Information Network</i></li> </ul>

**10:30 am**      **Break**

**10:45 am**      **Awards for New MiCorps Members**  
*Presented by: Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ, and Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council*

**11:00 am**      **Sharing Resources Around the State: A Geographic Networking Activity**  
(Main Branch AuSable Room, Education Building)

This networking activity will help to connect you with other conference participants from your part of the state to share experiences, resources, and expertise.

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

**12:45 pm**      **Early Detection of Aquatic Invasive Species using eDNA Technology: How MiCorps Volunteers can Help**  
(Main Branch AuSable Room, Education Building)  
*Maggie Kronlein and Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University*

Early detection is key to successful management of aquatic invasive species. Unfortunately, detecting invaders early usually requires labor-intensive surveys of water bodies, and is particularly challenging because the invaders may be microscopic (e.g., zebra mussel larvae) or similar in appearance to native species (e.g., Eurasian watermilfoil). As a result, many invasions go undetected until they have spread to unmanageable levels. New techniques using environmental DNA (eDNA) make possible the detection of aquatic invasive species by testing water samples, rather than finding the invaders themselves, and hold great promise for early detection and rapid response. In this session, you will learn about ongoing research at Michigan State University that is developing an inexpensive, volunteer-friendly handheld device for detecting the presence of invasive species simply by collecting water samples. Participants will also have the opportunity to contribute to the research by collecting water samples from your local lake for analysis.

**1:30 pm Breakout Session 2** (Breakout sessions A and B will be held concurrently. Participants may attend one session.)

<p><b>Option A:</b> (Main Branch AuSable Room, Education Bldg)</p>	<p><b>Supporting Lake Monitoring and Management through Outreach</b>  <i>Moderator: Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University</i>  <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bob Myers, Rainbow Lake Property Owners Association - Community efforts to build awareness and stewardship among lake homeowners</i></li> <li>• <i>Kira Davis, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians - Paradise Lake boat washing pilot program</i></li> <li>• <i>Sharon Gardner and Emily DuThinh, Oakland County Conservation Stewards - Oakland County Phragmites and Invasive Species Task Force</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Option B:</b> (North/South Branch AuSable Room, Education Bldg)</p>	<p><b>Stream Monitoring Programs Presented by Past and Present MiCorps Grantees</b>  <i>Moderator: Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i>  <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Anna Kornoelje and Kyle Bibby, Kalamazoo Nature Center</i></li> <li>• <i>Kelly Goward, Macatawa Area Coordinating Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Melinda Otto, Yellow Dog Watershed Partnership</i></li> </ul> <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>

**3:00 pm Break**

**3:15 pm Afternoon Plenary: From Volunteer Monitoring to Nonpoint Source Problem Resolution: Watershed Management Plans for Restoration and Protection**

(Main Branch AuSable Room, Education Building)  
*Bob Sweet, Nonpoint Source Program, Michigan DEQ*

So you're monitoring your lake or stream? Great! Now what? DEQ's Bob Sweet explains how watershed management planning can begin to address the key issue for most water bodies: nonpoint source pollution.

**3:45 pm Conference Wrap-up and Evaluation**

*Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ*

**4:00 pm Adjournment**