



Michigan's Clean Water Challenges: The Seventh Annual MiCorps Conference

October 24–25, 2011 ❖ Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center ❖ Higgins Lake, MI

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

Monday, October 24, 2011

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 – 5:00 PM (Education Building, Lower Level)</p>	<p>Mussel Biology, Identification, and Volunteer Opportunities <i>Dr. Renée Sherman Mulcrone, Adjunct Instructor, Eastern Michigan University, and Joe Rathbun, NPS Monitoring Coordinator, Michigan DEQ</i></p> <p>Participants will learn about mussel biology, morphology, and how volunteers could be used to survey mussels through a stream monitoring program. Get tips for identifying mussels, practice your identification skills on shells, and possibly look for mussels in a nearby stream (depending on the weather). More information will be sent out to registered participants by email closer to the date of the training.</p>
<p>Training Option B: 2:00 – 5:00 PM (Education Building, Upper Level)</p> <p>** Note the <u>Later Start Time to this Session</u> **</p>	<p>Clean Boats, Clean Waters: Taking Action to Reduce the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species <i>Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University</i></p> <p>Would you like to make a difference in Michigan's efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species from one body of water to another? At this Michigan Sea Grant Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) training session, you will learn about established and new aquatic invasives, watercraft inspection techniques, and how to organize a boater education program on your lake or river. Each participant will receive a program handbook and a kit of educational materials to distribute at your local boat launch. There is no cost for the training or the materials.</p>

5:30 – 6:30 pm **Dinner** (Dining Room, Administration Building)

7:30 – 9:30 pm **Evening Presentation and Reception** (Fireplace Lounge, Administration Building)
Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council, will lead an open format discussion on leading, managing, and inspiring volunteerism. Please bring your experiences and questions. The discussion will be followed by refreshments, music, games, and informal networking. Beer and wine will be available for \$2 each (cash preferred).

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

- 7:15 am Breakfast** (Dining Room, Administration Building)
- 8:00 am Registration** (Education Building, Upper Level)
- 8:45 am Welcoming Remarks and State of the Program** (Education Building, Upper Level)
Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ
- 9:00 am Awards for New MiCorps Members**
Presented by: Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ, and Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council
- 9:15 am Morning Plenary: Overview of Vulnerable Taxa that Rely on Lakes and Streams and the Role that Volunteers Can Play in Assessing their Status and Conservation Needs**
Daria Hyde and Dr. Mike Monfils, Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- 10:15 am Break**
- 10:30 am Breakout Session 1**
Breakout sessions will be held concurrently. Conference participants may attend one session.

<p>Option A: (Education Bldg, Lower Level)</p>	<p>MiCorps 101: An Introduction (or Refresher) to the MiCorps Programs <i>Moderator: 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. We will discuss how to recruit and engage volunteers and other relevant topics. Q & A with MiCorps staff at the end.</p>
<p>Option B: (Education Bldg, Upper Level)</p>	<p>Protecting Native Species in Our Lakes and Streams <i>Moderator: Jason Frenzel, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mike and Sarah Litch, Glen Lake Association – Lake Management Programs and Fish Habitat Conservation</i> • <i>Lori Sargent, Michigan DNR Wildlife Division – Michigan Frog and Toad Survey</i> • <i>Daria Hyde, Michigan Natural Features Inventory – Identification, Mapping, and Assessing Vernal Pools in Michigan</i>

- 12:00 pm Lunch** (Dining Room, Administration Building)
Participants are encouraged to explore the grounds after lunch and/or use this time to network and continue lunchtime conversations.

1:15 pm Breakout Session 2

<p>Option A: (Education Bldg, Lower Level)</p>	<p>Lake Monitoring Topics of Interest: Exotic Plants, Control and Bioremediation <i>Moderator: Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Lisa Huberty, Michigan DEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program - Status of Starry Stonewort Infestations in Michigan, and Reduced Sensitivity of Aquatic Plants to Herbicides in Michigan</i> • <i>Tom Alwin, Michigan DEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program - Bioremediation and the Non-chemical Management of Eurasian Watermilfoil</i> <p>There will also be time at the end for Q & A and open discussion on lake topics of interest with the panelists.</p>
<p>Option B: (Education Bldg, Upper Level)</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>Kathy Worst, Branch County Conservation District</i> • <i>Kristin Thomas, Michigan Trout Unlimited</i> • <i>Geri Grant, Superior Watershed Partnership</i> <p>MiCorps grantees will discuss their volunteer stream monitoring programs' successes and the lessons they've learned along the way. There will also be time at the end for Q & A and open discussion on stream monitoring topics of interests with the panelists.</p>

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm **Afternoon Plenary: How Volunteers Can Play a Role in Early Detection and Rapid Response to Invasive Species in Lakes and Streams** (Education Building, Upper Level)
Kevin Walters, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Michigan DNR Wildlife Division, and Phyllis Higman, Michigan Natural Features Inventory

3:45 pm Conference Evaluation and Wrap-up

4:00 pm Adjournment