



## MICHIGAN NATURAL SHORELINE PARTNERSHIP

Promoting Natural Shoreline Landscaping to Protect Michigan's Inland Lakes

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The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Newsletter

October 1, 2011

### *Van Buren Conservation District Holds a Workshop with a Shoreline Tour*

by Erin Fuller  
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“Woah, what is that eyesore?!” “I can’t believe they trucked in so much sand!” “They removed every last bit of vegetation!” These were a few of the incredulous comments heard during a lakefront tour at the end of a Natural Shoreline Landscaping Workshop hosted in July by the Van Buren Conservation District. Apparently attendees got the message on what good shoreline landscaping looks like: they didn’t hold back in their comments about a large property across the lake that was denuded of vegetation and covered in trucked-in sand.

On July 16, twenty people representing thirteen different lakes came to our workshop which was held at the picturesque Van Buren Youth Camp in Bloomingdale, on the shores of Great Bear Lake. Another eight people weren’t able to make it to the workshop, but were interested enough in the topic that they paid the workshop fee to have us send them all of the materials.

The workshop was widely publicized through press releases, e-mails, websites, Facebook, and listservs. Local lake associations were contacted directly, and several of them distributed invitations to their members or posted information on their web sites.

We were very happy with the turnout and response to the workshop. The evaluations were uniformly positive: “Great, informative program,” “I want to share this with my lake association,” and “excellent slides.” A sponsor, **Trident Dock and Dredge**, covered much of the cost of the *Natural Shoreline Landscapes on Michigan’s Inland Lakes* guidebooks, enabling us to hold the workshop at a very low cost.

After the classroom portion of the workshop, the group headed outside for a brief walk around the Youth Camp’s shoreline property. Even though their shoreline is used intensively by campers all summer long for swimming and canoeing, the Youth Camp practices good shoreline landscaping practices. This offered ideas to attendees on how to manage their own waterfronts to be attractive, functional and natural.



To learn more about the mission and goals of the **Van Buren Conservation District**, point your browser toward [www.vanburencd.org](http://www.vanburencd.org), and be sure to check us out on [Facebook](#) !

## *News and Notes from the Facilitator*

Compiled by John Skubinna, MNSP Facilitator

### **Certified Natural Shoreline Professional (CNSP) Training Comes to the UP**

The Shoreline Partnership is excited to announce that the 2012 offerings of the CNSP training will include a course in Manistique, Michigan! Coursework will occur on **March 21, 22, & 23** at the Comfort Inn in Manistique, and fieldwork will include construction of a demonstration project on the north shoreline of South Manistique Lake at a Portage Township owned property in Curtis, Michigan on **June 13**. [Click here](#) to download a registration form or contact **Amy Frankmann**, Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, Executive Director, e-mail [amyf@mnl.org](mailto:amyf@mnl.org).

### **The MI DEQ Issues New Minor and General Project (MP/GP) Categories for Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands**

On August 12, 2011, the **Michigan DEQ** issued 63 new and revised MP/GP categories under the authority of **Part 301-Inland Lakes and Streams; Part 303-Wetlands Protection, and Part 325-Great Lakes Submerged Lands**, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act 451, as amended. Issuance of the permit categories is the culmination of hard work by DEQ staff, the legislatively mandated **Wetlands Advisory Council**, and countless other natural resources and industry professionals. The intent of the new categories is to improve timeliness, consistency, and the cost effectiveness of DEQ permitting programs. Two new categories have been created for bio-engineered shoreline projects; one each for inland lakes shorelines and stream banks. For details, go to [www.michigan.gov/jointpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/jointpermit).

### **New e-Washtenaw/Green Room Shoreline Video Stars DEQ's Julia Kirkwood**

Creators Dana Denha and Barbara Lucas have produced a new e-Washtenaw/Green Room video on the benefits of natural shorelines. Check it out at [www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org)! The 28 min. video features shoreline guidebook author, Julia Kirkwood, and includes ideas and benefits of soft engineered shorelines. This exceptional video will be a very useful education tool for shoreline educators for years to come.

### **Shoreline Educators are Busily Getting the Word Out with Property Owner Workshops**

Our thanks goes out to shoreline educator network members **Benzie Conservation District, Pierce Cedar Creek, and Mason-Lake Conservation District** for their dedication and expertise providing workshops for property owners. Dates and locations are available at [www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org). **Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA)** is planning a unique workshop on **Nov. 5** at the Newaygo Regional Education Service Agency in Fremont, for property owners, local officials and contractors through funding provided by the Fremont Area Community Foundation and the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust. One lucky participant will obtain a coupon to cover the registration fee for the shoreline partnership's CNSP training for attending this workshop. Two other workshops are planned by MRWA in March/April 2012 in the upper Muskegon watershed/Houghton Lake areas.

For more details, contact Terry Stilson, MRWA, at [MuskegonRiverWatershedAssembly@ferris.edu](mailto:MuskegonRiverWatershedAssembly@ferris.edu).

## The Q & A Corner

by Julia Kirkwood / DEQ Kalamazoo District Office

### Where? Oh, where can I see natural shorelines?

Before answering this question, I challenge you to think about dividing the answer into two main categories:

A) Properties that were developed and still have the majority of the natural habitat in place

B) Properties that have “soft-engineering” practices in place to control erosion, restore some natural habitat or lessen the impact of existing “hard structures”.

There are many examples across the state that pertain to each category. However, I recognize that there may be some challenges in showcasing these which include: distance from your location, knowing their location, having access to them, or the very least having great photos available.

First, let's start with Category A: Properties where much of the vegetation is in tact. These are probably going to be more plentiful with many different variations. Examples from this category are very helpful in illustrating what shorelines should look like even with houses. You will most likely be able to easily distinguish the different tiers of vegetation that natural shorelines have. Take your camera with you on drives and stop at different lakes in your area or when you are on vacation. This will build your base knowledge so you can share more and provide you with great photo opportunities. I recently visited a lake in Berrien County called Madron Lake. I was absolutely amazed at this shoreline and how the residents have maintained an incredibly high quality natural shoreline. I could barely discern where there were any residences even though I knew they exist. The shoreline along this lake is what I would call the “Bald Eagle” standard of shorelines. Not every lake can be restored to this level of natural shoreline but we can improve their quality in many ways. Also, there are many lakes like Madron Lake that are at risk from losing such high quality natural shorelines. We as a group need to find teachable opportunities to help lakeshore residents make it a priority to protect and restore their shorelines.

Second is Category B: Properties that have “soft-engineering” practices in place to control erosion, restore some habitat, or lessen the impact of existing “hard structures”. The “soft-engineering” or aka bio-engineering, has a wide variety of options. This can range from a “no-mow zone” to a fairly complex engineered construction project. The ones that many landowners probably want to see most of are shoreline projects that utilize erosion control materials such as coir logs instead of seawalls. As these techniques become more widely used it will be easier to find great sites to showcase. There are many projects across the state, but where exactly are they? Many are on private property so visibility to a large population isn't great. The MNSP Demonstration sites for the Certified Natural Shoreline Professional courses are now being done on publicly accessible sites. We will soon have a map showing the location of the publicly accessible demonstration sites along with before and after photos of each posted on our website.

Below are a couple of links that you may be interested in checking out.

The demonstration sites at MSU's Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners: [www.shoreline.msu.edu](http://www.shoreline.msu.edu)

[Click here](#) to view a variety of natural shoreline practices implemented by the **Allegan Conservation District** through a grant and partnership with the **Gun Lake Association** and **Lake Improvement Board**. There is a description of each site along with pictures.

### **MNSP Photo Library**

Providing a great photo library on our website is on the MNSP “to do list”. However, this is a task that is “as time and web storage space allow”, so I do recommend trying to build your own. If you would like to help us accomplish this goal we would be most appreciative. We welcome any submission of photos or posting of pictures on our [Facebook](#) page as well. If you have photos to submit of great natural shorelines please send them to me at [kirkwoodj@michigan.gov](mailto:kirkwoodj@michigan.gov). Please include location, lake name, and who we should be credited for the photo. If at all possible we would also appreciate photos being high resolution at a minimum 300 dpi.

## Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professional (MCNSP) 2012 Training and Certification Opportunities

### Upper Peninsula

Comfort Inn  
Manistique, Michigan

Classroom Dates  
March 21, 22 & 23, 2012

Field Exercise Date & Location  
June 13, 2012  
South Manistique Lake  
Curtis, Michigan

### Lower Peninsula

MSU Kent County Extension Office  
775 Ball Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Classroom Dates  
February 21, 22 & 23, 2012

Field Exercise Date & Location  
June 6, 2012

Location: TBD

To register for one of these 2012 training and certification events, [click here](#) to download a CNSP registration form or contact Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association Executive Director Amy Frankmann at e-mail: [amyf@mmla.org](mailto:amyf@mmla.org) .

## Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

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[www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org)