

## Michigan Water Network

*Interesting and important news, data, facts, etc. pertaining to the water-related issues of Michigan and the Great Lakes.*

***“All things water”***

### **September 2011**

*Don't forget – September 18 is World Water Monitoring Day!*

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### **Sleeping Bear Dunes Named Most Beautiful Place in America**

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, tucked away in the northwest corner of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, won the title of "Good Morning America's" Most Beautiful Place in America.

The morning news and entertainment show announced the park containing the dunes won in its search for the most beautiful spot in the country, which started in June.

Sleeping Bear Dunes beat out such places as Cape Cod, Mass., Aspen, Colo., and Sedona, Ariz., for the top spot. Click here for the full article.

[http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/best\\_places\\_USA/sleeping-bear-dunes-michigan-voted-good-morning-america/story?id=14319616](http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/best_places_USA/sleeping-bear-dunes-michigan-voted-good-morning-america/story?id=14319616)

### **NWF Supports Efforts to Combat Invasive Species**

The National Wildlife Federation publicly supports the efforts of six Great Lakes attorneys general who are urging their counterparts in 27 other states to help combat the spread of invasive species like the Asian carp throughout U.S. waters by supporting the separation of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has urged state attorneys general across the nation to help fight the spread of invasive species, which have caused vast economic and environmental harm across the country. The artificial connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin has been a major pathway for non-native invaders to spread throughout the country.

Until the artificial connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River is severed, U.S. waters remain at risk from the spread of invasive species like the Asian carp.

Joining with Michigan in this effort include attorney general from Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and New York.

For more information, visit: [www.nwf.org/asiancarp](http://www.nwf.org/asiancarp)

To see how zebra mussels spread from the Great Lakes to the rest of the country, click here to see an animated map: <http://bit.ly/zebramusselmap>

To see the steady advance of the Asian carp from the Mississippi River to the doorstep of the Great Lakes, visit: <http://bit.ly/asiancarpmap>

### **Is Lake Erie on the Brink of Collapse... Again?**

In a recent article titled "Lake Erie Death Watch," freelance journalist Barry Yeoman takes a close look at the current state of one of Michigan's Great Lakes.

To read this interesting article, click here.

<http://www.onearth.org/article/lake-erie-death-watch>

### **Who's Eating Who in Lake Michigan?**

Researchers are paying such close attention to food webs in Lake Michigan, where the appearance of several aquatic invasive species has threatened the profitable sport fishing industry.

One invasive species of particular interest is the round goby. By conducting a chemical analysis of stable isotopes and fatty acids found in the gobies' body tissue, researchers are able to determine what the gobies are eating.

The question then becomes whether the round gobies' trips to tiny invertebrate organisms are swiping sustenance from other nearshore fish, including yellow perch and spot-tail shiner. It's also unclear whether other Lake Michigan species like trout and salmon may be able to use the plentiful gobies as a food source to replace offshore food web components that have been affected by other invaders.

To view an informational video about this research project, click here

<http://www.youtube.com/user/UWASC#p/u/5/sc1Nv7bmmtl>

### **New Program Aims to Reduce Cigarette Litter in Lake Superior**

The Superior Watershed Partnership, in cooperation with the Marquette Community Foundation, recently launched a new Red Bucket Program which aims to reduce cigarette litter entering Lake Superior through the storm drain system.

With smokers who were previously able to smoke inside moving outside, there is often no place for the cigarette butts to go but into the street, where they are washed away through storm sewers and out into Lake Superior where they wash up on beaches

For more information, click here

<http://www.miningjournal.net/page/content.detail/id/565995/Butt-out--Smokers-urged-to-use-buckets.html?nav=5126>

### **Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiates Sediment Reduction Efforts**

Pinnebog River watershed stakeholders kicked off a large-scale sediment reduction project on Aug. 11 in Elkton, Mich. The Pinnebog project received \$745,000 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds from the Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS).

At the end of the three-year grant, at least 20,000 tons of soil and sediment deposition will be eliminated annually through the installation of the Best Management Practices funded through this project.

For more information, click here

<http://glc.org/email/11/newsbriefs8-11.html#story3>

### **September Cleanup Targets Beach Trash, Improving Great Lakes Coasts**

Most swim bans result from bacteria levels exceeding health and safety standards. Pollution from stormwater runoff and outdated sewage treatment systems are leading sources of the pathogens that threaten beach health. Waste matter from wildlife attracted to beaches is also to blame.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes tackles a contributor to the problem – beach trash – during the annual September Adopt-a-Beach™ Cleanup Event, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 17 along shorelines in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin (dates and times may vary depending upon location).

Since 1991, nearly 70,000 Adopt-a-Beach™ volunteers have removed more than 164 tons of debris from Great Lakes shorelines each September. In 2010, more than 7,006 volunteers in four Great Lakes states took part in the September Adopt-a-Beach™ event, removing 20,540 pounds of trash from 233 locations.

For more information, click here <http://greatlakes.org/adopt-a-beach/SAAB>

### **GLRI Grants - Michigan**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded organizations and agencies working in the Boardman River Watershed and other nearby watersheds in Northern Michigan more than \$4.9 million in grants under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

For a list of funded projects, click here

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/d7141091b7d59de7852578ea005aba9c!OpenDocument>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded organizations, agencies, and universities working in the Detroit area more than \$2.2 million in grants under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Funded projects will advance the goals and objectives of the GLRI Action Plan, developed with 15 other participating agencies and several Great Lakes governors in February 2010.

For a list of funded projects, click here:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/e405626c3e0f5adb852578f800603a96!OpenDocument>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$4.7 million in grants to Michigan organizations and agencies under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

For a list of funded projects, click here:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/b2b9a427a582ac1b852578ff00487d55!OpenDocument>

### **GLRI Grants - Indiana**

On August 15, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today awarded a \$607,000 grant to the Save the Dunes Conservation Fund Inc. and a \$276,156 grant to the University of Notre Dame under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. These investments are among 70 totaling nearly \$30 million that EPA is awarding under the GLRI in 2011.

The University will use the funding to assess the live bait trade for bighead carp, silver carp, grass carp, black carp and other invasive species. Save the Dunes will use the funding for work with the City of Valparaiso to retrofit the Thorgren detention basin in the Salt Creek watershed. This

project will prevent phosphorus and sediment from reaching Lake Michigan.

For more information, click here

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/7ce91c4bc791d109852578ed00581224!OpenDocument>

### **GLRI Grants – Minnesota**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced that University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program is receiving a \$400,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant. The money will be used to help reduce the rate at which human activities spread aquatic invasive species throughout the Great Lakes region.

Aquatic invasive species have been economically and environmentally damaging in the Great Lakes basin. To curb the damage, Minnesota Sea Grant plans to extend the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network's campaigns to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful non-native plants and animals. Besides adding momentum to the recreational boater campaign "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" and the youthful "Nab the Aquatic Invaders!", the new GLRI funding will fuel more outreach through "Habitattitude" and "AIS-Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point", two effective campaigns that target the aquarium/watergarden trade and the aquaculture industry, respectively.

### **GLRI Grants – Illinois**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants totaling \$2,693,875 to organizations and agencies in Illinois, including \$1.1 million to the Chicago Park District to protect and improve water quality at city beaches.

The Chicago Park District will use the three grants announced today to groom the city's 24 beaches on a daily basis, build a protective barrier to make swimming areas cleaner at Montrose or Rainbow beach, and to construct a culvert at the 63rd Street Beach. These actions should result in fewer swimming bans and advisories due to contamination.

For a full list of funded projects, click here

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/74919940d601b15f852578ed005e4659!OpenDocument>

### **GLRI Grants – Wisconsin**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded eight Wisconsin organizations and agencies \$3,754,554 in grants under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The grants will tackle invasive species and protect beaches.

For a full list of projects, click here

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/7c2af22316b162ea852578ef0073e1c5!OpenDocument>

### **GLRI Grant Money Still Available to Create Jobs**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is setting aside approximately \$6 million for federal agencies to sign up unemployed workers to implement restoration projects in federally-protected areas, on tribal lands and in Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes basin. EPA will fund individual projects up to \$1 million. To qualify for funding, each proposed project must provide jobs for at least 20 unemployed people.

For more information, click here

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/2c929719c8bb25aa852578f500743cbb!OpenDocument>

### **EPA Announces New Hearing and Comment Period For Team Completions Underground Disposal Permit In Kalkaska**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced a new public comment period and another public hearing on Team Completions LLC's request for changes to its current permit to dispose of non-hazardous waste in an underground injection well.

The Agency is making the draft permit available for further comment because a section of the draft permit was omitted during the earlier comment period. Comments submitted in 2010 do not need to be resubmitted. Supplemental comments are permitted. EPA will address all comments received during both comment periods.

For information on where to send comments, click here

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/81c952fb4defc165852578f000524c5b!OpenDocument>

## **Great Lakes Governors' Publication Available for Free Download**

The Council of Great Lakes Governors is pleased to announce that the September 2011 edition of its newsletter, *The Compass*, is now available for download.

Highlights in this issue of *The Compass*:

- A Message from Council Co-Chair Illinois Governor Pat Quinn
- Québec Enacts Historic Regulations
- Council of Great Lakes Governors Gears Up for South American Mission
- Regional Body and Compact Council Begin Planning for Future
- Great Lakes USA Holds Annual Meeting

Download the newsletter here:

<http://www.cglg.org/news/newsletter.asp>

## **Smartphone App Provides Real-time Data on Great Lakes Beaches**

Great Lakes beachgoers with smartphones can now instantly access current information on their favorite beaches, such as water quality advisories and weather and water conditions, using a new smartphone application developed by the Great Lakes Commission and the engineering and water resources firm LimnoTech.

Funded by the U.S. EPA-led Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the myBeachCast application, or "app," provides real-time information on public beach conditions, including closures, in a form that is location-aware and easy to access. Smartphone users can identify beaches closest to the users' location, save information on favorite beaches for future reference, and quickly locate other nearby beaches in the case of water quality advisories or beach closings. For more information and to download the myBeachCast app, click here

<http://glc.org/email/11/newsbriefs8-11.html#story2>

## **New Online Tool Identifies Best Practices for Development of Wind Energy in Great Lakes States**

A new online guide to advancing wind energy while protecting the environment and addressing community

concerns has been developed by the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative (GLWC), a public/private coalition of interests advancing sustainable wind energy development within the Great Lakes region.

*Best Practices for Sustainable Wind Energy Development in the Great Lakes Region* highlights policies and practices to promote environmental protectiveness, sensitivity to community concerns and maximization of the economic potential of wind energy.

The online guide can be found here  
[www.glc.org/energy/wind/bestpractices.html](http://www.glc.org/energy/wind/bestpractices.html)

### **Where to find Michigan Water Festivals**

While summer is winding down...

Michigan has 3,200 miles of freshwater coastline, more than any other state. We also have over 11,000 inland lakes, 120 lighthouses, 100 public beaches, 5,000 shipwrecks to explore and dozens of underwater preserves. It is no wonder Michigan is home to over 265 water festivals with many more water related events and activities.

Pure Michigan's web site has done a wonderful job in organizing these water related events along with many other exciting activities in our state. Click here (<http://www.michigan.org/search/?cx=012737484712748150863%3Aqbao86nub0q&cof=FORID%3A11&ie=UTF-8&q=water%20festivals&sa=Search#930>) to find activities that highlight our valued water resources.

### **World Water Monitoring Day – September 18**

World Water Monitoring Day™ (WWMD) is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

An easy-to-use [test kit](#) enables everyone from children to adults to sample local water bodies for a core set of water quality parameters including temperature, acidity (pH), clarity (turbidity) and dissolved oxygen (DO). Results are shared

with participating communities around the globe through the WWMD Web site.

World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on **September 18**; however, the monitoring window was extended for the first time in 2009 from March 22 ([World Water Day](#)) until December 31. Participants are encouraged to celebrate with WEF and IWA in September or to observe their own WWMD anytime during the extended window. The deadline for submitting data to the WWMD database is December 31.

The coordinators of WWMD, the [Water Environment Federation](#) (WEF) and the [International Water Association](#) (IWA) plan to expand participation to one million people in 100 countries by 2012.

Click here ([http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/About/About\\_Main.html](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/About/About_Main.html)) for more information.

### **Upcoming Events**

**Great Lakes Wind Collaborative 4th Annual Meeting**  
September 19-22  
<https://www.glc.org/energy/wind/register.html>

**Tiffin River Watershed Modeling Project Stakeholder Meeting (FREE to attend)**  
September 22 Register by phone (734-332-1200) or email at [aflynn@limno.com](mailto:aflynn@limno.com)

**State of Lake Michigan / Great Lakes Beach Association Joint Conference**  
September 26-28 <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/6585.htm>

**H<sub>2</sub>Objective Conference**  
September 29-30

This two day conference, sponsored by the University Research Corridor aims to connect scientists, researchers, and community leaders working in academia, industry, and government from across the state of Michigan to explore water research at the interface of Water and the Landscape, Water and Health, and Water and Energy.

The future of Michigan's water resources will be discussed through cross-cutting themes of technology, climate change,

and sustainability. Participate in 1) plenary sessions that highlight models for partnering through research and development, 2) break out discussions for building collaborations, 3) student poster sessions, 4) technology displays, and 5) community tours to observe science in action. Register here

[http://cws.msu.edu/water\\_info/Conferences.htm](http://cws.msu.edu/water_info/Conferences.htm)

**Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting**

October 10-12 <http://www.glc.org/meeting/>

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference**

October 12-14 <http://conference.healthylakes.org/>

**Great Lakes Water Quality Biennial Meeting**

October 12-14 <http://meeting.ijc.org/>

**2011 U.S. Areas of Concern Program Annual Meeting**

October 13-14 <http://www.glc.org/rap/aocconference11.html>

**State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference**

October 26-27 [www.SOLECregistration.ca](http://www.SOLECregistration.ca)

*The Michigan Water Network (MWN) is hosted and operated by the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA), a member association of the Water Environment Federation (WEF)*

[www.mi-wea.org](http://www.mi-wea.org)

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