

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission Looking for Paddle Stewards

Michigan Lakes and Streams sent the following. If this is a program you are interested in, please contact them ASAP.

Hi all,

The Michigan Sea Grant, MI Paddle Stewards program is looking for folks that are interested in becoming trained to be a MI Paddle Steward. There is a training event on Aug 11 on a lake in southeastern Van Buren County (Three mile Lake or Bankson Lake). The program will run about 11am-3pm. Please see below for project background. Please RSVP as indicated below if you or anyone you know wants to attend the SW MI, Aug 11 event ASAP. If there isn't enough attendance, it may need to be cancelled. That would be a shame, this is a great opportunity for SW Michigan.

Thanks!

RSVP to: hamiltonm@swmpc.org

Marcy Hamilton, Senior Planner/Deputy Executive Director, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
269-925-1137 x1525

What is MI Paddle Stewards?

- * Teach canoers, kayakers, and other paddlers how to identify, report, and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in their favorite Michigan waterbodies.
- * Partner with Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas, watershed councils, paddling groups, lake associations and others.

MI Paddle Stewards (MPS) program

- * Started in 2019 with an earlier Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program grant.
- * Due to COVID, created free virtual online course through MSU's Desire2Learn platform. Have relaunched this each year since 2020.

Who should attend train-the-trainer?

- * Staff or volunteers who host or want to host paddling events for the public and would like to learn to include content about aquatic invasive species identification, reporting and boat decontamination.
- * Are there groups you think would be interested in this initiative?

Three train-the-trainer events each year (2023, 2024, 2025) in different locations around the state; train staff and volunteers. Current regions for train-the-trainer events:

- * SE Michigan
- * Saginaw Bay
- * Lansing

* Traverse City

* Mid UP/Western UP

* NE Michigan

* SW Michigan – August 11 in Van Buren County

Please invite folks to participate on August 11 and RSVP, ASAP!

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Melissa DeSimone

Executive Director, MLSA

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