

Michigan Aquaculture Association

NewsLetter

Summer 2000

Annual Meeting and Trade-Show Date Set for February

The Michigan Aquaculture Association Board of Directors has announced the date of the 2001 Annual Meeting and First Annual Trade Show as February 1 and 2, 2001. The event will be held at McGuire's resort in Cadillac.

The event will feature a two-day format on Thursday and Friday, including an industry trade show, informational seminars, and culminating with the Michigan Aquaculture Association Annual Meeting on Friday.

According to Association President Dan Vogler, the event represents a new direction for the future of the Association. "The Board has decided to direct more effort into helping our members be successful in their businesses. Our Association needs to be relevant to the daily operations of members as well as addressing the big regulatory issues."

The informational seminars will include presentations on solving predator problems, acquiring financing for expansions or start-ups, planning for EPA effluent issues, and a number of other topics of interest. In all, ten different sessions are planned. According to Vogler, "These sessions are inspired by the membership surveys that were completed at the 2000 Annual Meeting. We are trying to address the issues that affect our members on their bottom line now and in the future."

The First Annual Trade Show is an item of considerable excitement. Industry vendors have expressed a great deal of enthusiasm for this new event and a number have already committed to participating. The Show is designed to put the membership in direct contact with new and better technology to make their operations more efficient and productive.

Early registration is encouraged in order to help gauge the size of the event this year. A registration form is included with this newsletter.

House Bill 5841: Industry Looking Critically at Big Powers for the MDNR

House Bill 5841 has been quietly referred to the Michigan House Committee on Conservation and Outdoor Recreation that would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. According to Michigan Aquaculture Association Director Russ Allen, the bill contains language that would give the Michigan Department of Natural Resources extensive new powers to regulate the aquaculture industry.

Dr. Mike VanderKlok, Aquaculture Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Agriculture, says that his department was only recently made aware of this bill and will be looking into it. VanderKlok emphasized that until MDA meets with MDNR to discuss the origins and reasons behind the bill and the Director of MDA has a chance to review the information, MDA would not be able to give a position on the bill.

The Aquaculture Association has called for a meeting of the Michigan Aquaculture Advisory Committee to discuss a strategy for dealing with the bill. The bill cannot be acted upon by the State Legislature until the new session beginning in the fall.

Bait Dealers to Join Forces with Aquaculture Association

Rick Weidenhammer, Secretary of the Michigan Bait Dealers Association and a Michigan Aquaculture Association Director, announced to the MAA Board that the Michigan Bait Dealers Association members will be joining the Aquaculture Association as individuals this year.

Weidenhammer says that the Bait Dealers Association will continue, but that joined membership will result in more clout in Lansing for the closely related industries.

MAA Aquatic Species Health Recommendations Adopted

The Michigan Aquaculture Association Aquatic Species Health Committee met in March to address the health issues that are facing the industry. The Committee consists of members Bob Baldwin and Steve Ouwinga, and Board members Rick Weidenhammer and Dan Vogler. The committee recommendations were adopted by the Board of Directors at the April 21, 2000 board meeting.

The position statement reads as follows:

1. The Michigan Aquaculture Association has established an Aquatic Species Health Committee, consisting of two Board Members and two regular members.
2. The Association is working with MDA Veterinarians to establish a baseline measure for the presence of the pathogens of concern in private hatchery facilities, and to develop a Risk Management Protocol for the industry.
3. Individual Hatchery Risk Management Plans will be worked out on a farm-by-farm basis.
4. The Association is recommending that all private hatchery facilities, that sell live fish to the public, conspicuously post the following notices:
 - Aquatic species may be planted into public waters only after obtaining a permit from the Michigan DNR.
 - Plantings to private waters do not presently require a permit. (PA 199 of 1996)
5. The MDNR needs to complete its baseline testing of public waters before the Association can make further recommendations to the membership.

Dan Vogler, MAA President says that the position was adopted by the Board in order to be proactive in the area of species health, particularly the controversial area of Salmonid health as it relates to public waters and the MDNR. "We need to work to set the agenda in this area, demonstrating that we are a responsible industry with a genuine concern for public resources. We need to work just as hard to protect the industry from excessive and unnecessary regulation that interferes with or prohibits our industry from growing."

MAA Launches New Communications Tools

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Aquaculture Association has launched two programs to help members stay informed. At meetings this spring, the Board authorized the development of a newsletter and a special e-mail information exchange.

The newsletter, which you are now reading, will be produced at least twice yearly. The NewsLetter staff would appreciate story ideas, article submissions, letters to the editor and other news-worthy input. The NewsLetter will also contain a small Classified Advertising Section to help members advertise their needs and to help pay for publication and mailing. To submit anything to the NewsLetter, contact Dan Vogler at: (616) 842-6976 or e-mail: dan@homesteadtrout.com.

To involve members in electronic discussion of industry issues, Board Member Russ Allen has set up an electronic mailing list for information exchange. Anyone interested in getting on the list should submit an e-mail address to Russ at: shrimpone@aol.com.

Classified Ads

Ads Needed: The Newsletter is currently seeking advertisers. Contact Dan Vogler at (616) 842-6976. Rates: \$15/ad, maximum 25 words.

Celebrating 65 years, **ZEIGLER BROS.** offers a full line of high performance aquaculture feeds: starter to growout. Call us TOLL FREE to learn more (800-841-6800).

Trout Needed: Homestead Trout Farm is currently buying market-size trout of all species. Contact Aaron at (616) 842-6976.

Publication Information

The NewsLetter is the official publication of the Michigan Aquaculture Association. For information or comments contact Dan Vogler at (616)842-6976, e-mail: dan@homesteadtrout.com

Your MAA Board:

President: Dan Vogler (616) 842-6976
Vice President: Jerry Kahn (517) 724-5241
Acting Sec'ty/Treasurer: Russ Allen (517) 347-5537
Director: Rick Weidenhammer (231) 548-5323

Michigan Aquaculture Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

(Please Print and Check Appropriate Information Boxes)

NAME: _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PH:(____)____-____ BUSINESS PH:(____)____-____ FAX:(____)____-____

E-Mail: _____ Yes, I would like the e-mail version of any newsletters and updates from the association.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JANUARY 1ST THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST

Membership Options: (Renew By September 1, 2000 for a discount)	Regular	Early
_____ Sustaining (Voting - one vote per membership) w/National Aquaculture Assc. Membership	\$100.00	\$100.00
_____ Active (Voting - one vote per membership) w/National Aquaculture Assc. Membership	\$50.00	\$45.00
_____ Associate (Non-voting membership) w/National Aquaculture Assc. Membership	\$40.00	\$35.00
_____ Associate (Non-voting membership) w/o National Aquaculture Assc. Membership	\$25.00	\$20.00

Please make your check payable to: Michigan Aquaculture Association

1. Are you a (Check all that apply):

() Producer () Broker () Fee Fishing Operation () Academic/Extension Personnel
() Consultant () Feed/Equipment Supplier () Other _____

2. What Species do you work with? _____

3. What species do you sell? _____

4. What species do you grow? _____

5. What are the top three challenges that you see facing your operation in the future?

1)

2)

3)

(Continued on Back)

4. What are the top three challenges that are facing Michigan aquaculture as an industry today?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

7. What are the top three action items that your Association can assist you with?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

8. What can you contribute to your Association in terms of abilities, resources, expertise, etc?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

9. Are there aquaculture producers that you know who are not Members of the Association?

- Yes No

10. Any Comments or Suggestions: _____

Michigan Aquaculture Association

2001 Trade Show and Annual Meeting Registration

You are cordially invited to attend the Michigan Aquaculture Association's 2001 Trade Show and Annual Meeting, February 1 and 2, 2001 at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac, Michigan. This exciting two-day event will include our First Annual Trade Show, numerous Informational Seminars, and the MAA Annual Meeting. Your registration fee will include entrance to the Trade Show, attendance of all Seminars, and lunch at McGuire's Terrace Room Restaurant on both days.

This will be an exceptional opportunity for you to meet and talk with your MAA Board, gain information on new technologies, meet supplier representatives, and network with the most active participants in the industry.

Please fill out the form below and mail it in early (Before September 1) for discounted attendance rates.

(Please Print and Check Appropriate Information Boxes)

NAME: _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PH:(____)____-____ BUSINESS PH:(____)____-____ FAX:(____)____-____

E-Mail: _____ Yes, I would like the e-mail version of any newsletters and updates from the association.

<u>Cost per person</u>	<u>Early Registration</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>	<u>Num. Attending</u>
Sustaining Members	\$25.00	\$30.00	_____
Active Members	\$25.00	\$30.00	_____
Associate Members	\$25.00	\$30.00	_____
Non-Members	\$45.00	\$55.00	_____

Total:\$ _____

Please Remit this form with a check for your total to: Michigan Aquaculture Association
12090 N. Cedar Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417

The **MAA Business Meeting portion** of the program, scheduled for the afternoon of Feb. 2 is open to all members free of charge. We are obviously encouraging early registration this year because it will help us tremendously in planning this event. Your early registration will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call me. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope to see you all at this new and exciting event in 2001.

Dan Vogler
President, Michigan Aquaculture Association