

Michigan Aquaculture Association

NewsLetter

Winter 2002

Annual Meeting and Trade-Show Date Set for February

The Michigan Aquaculture Association Board of Directors has announced the date of the 2003 Annual Meeting and Semi-Annual Trade Show as February 13 and 14, 2003. 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.

The informational seminars will include presentations on water quality, design and operation of recirculating and partial-recirculating aquaculture systems, fish health, production maximization, and a roundtable discussion of issues and opportunities for the industry.

The Semi-Annual Trade Show is an item of considerable excitement. A number of vendors to the industry have registered for this event. 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. For more information, contact MAA President, Dan Vogler at (231) 389-2514. This NewsLetter serves as official notice of the Annual Meeting to the membership.

Are You a Member of the MI Aquaculture Assoc.?

By: Steve Ouwinga

You have received this newsletter because at some time in the recent past you have registered with the Michigan Department of Agriculture as an Aquaculture Facility, or you have attended one of our Association meetings. Possibly you have recently joined the MAA and this is your first

NewsLetter. Regardless, thank you for your past support.

However, there are quite a number of you who are registered with the MDA and have decided not to attend the annual meetings or become a member of the MAA. As a Board, we want to emphasize the importance of becoming a member, and we would like to urge you to attend our Annual Meeting to be held in early February. When you attend our annual MAA meeting you find out exactly what is happening around this state and you get to attend several informational sessions with great speakers on issues that our membership wants to hear about. We encourage you to bring your comments and concerns to us every year and want to represent you as best we can.

MAA memberships are very affordable.

Membership Options:

- **Sustaining**—Voting membership (one vote per membership) with National Aquaculture Association membership included. Cost \$100 (this includes a gift of \$50 extra to help the MAA)
- **Active**—Voting membership (one vote per membership) with National Aquaculture Association membership included. Cost \$50
- **Associate with NAA membership**—Non Voting membership with National Aquaculture Association membership included. Cost \$40.
- **Associate without NAA membership**—Non Voting membership without National Aquaculture Association membership. Cost \$25.

We strongly encourage anyone interested in aquaculture to become at least an Associate Member. It will help the MAA financially and enable us to continue our work in the future. Remember, all of your MAA officers and Board Members are volunteering their time and services to the industry.

Thank you to all who have supported the MAA in the past. If you are a new member, willing to help in some way, please contact any board member, we will welcome your participation.

Predator Problems?

By: Steve Ouwinga

Do you know how many fish you lose to predators each year? It might very well be more than you think. While there are problems with mink, otter, and humans, birds seem to be the deadliest in term of fish eaten or injured. Predatory birds also present a serious risk of spreading disease from one area or hatchery to another. Another interesting fact about the great blue heron is its ability to feed throughout the night hours. Many a time I have heard them leave when out doing those late hour checks.

You may want to consider allowing a serious trapper to come in for those furry predators, but the only serious way I know of eliminating the blue herons, green herons and the belted kingfishers is with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife depredation permit, which costs just \$25 per year. You must make every effort to scare or deter first before or in conjunction with a permit for lethal control. Such tactics include propane cannons, dogs, wires overhead, fencing, balloons, ribbon, etc. However, as you may well know, these tactics can be costly and time consuming with limited results.

If you want to go the legal route for lethal control, and I suggest you consider it if you are having serious problems, contact Peter Butchko, state director of USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services at (517) 336-1928, or peter.h.butchko@usda.gov. His address is 2803 Jolly Road, Suite 160, Okemos, MI 48864. Good Luck!

State Vet to Participate in Annual Meeting

Dr. Joan Arnoldi, DVM, State Veterinarian of Michigan and Director of the Animal Industry Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed her participation in the 2002 Annual Meeting. Dr. Arnoldi will be participating in the Round Table Discussion of Opportunities and Challenges for the Aquaculture Industry to be held on Feb. 13th.

As State Veterinarian, Dr. Arnoldi is responsible for all aspects of animal health in the State of Michigan. These include importation and

transportation of aquaculture species as well as fish disease policy for the state.

The MAA has been working with Dr. Arnoldi to develop a process for reviewing and updating the list of Reportable Diseases, as well as developing action protocols for dealing with the various diseases that occur within Michigan. The Association and MDA have been working out details of this process and will be formally announcing the program at the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Arnoldi is relatively new to MDA, having replaced Dr. Mike Chaddock in October 2001.

Classified Ads

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Publication Information

The NewsLetter is the official publication of the Michigan Aquaculture Association. For information or comments contact Dan Vogler at (231) 389-2514, e-mail: dan@homesteadtrout.com

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