

Michigan Aquaculture Association

January 2004 Newsletter

President's Message

2003 has wound to a close and the February Annual Meeting is just around the corner. I hope that you have all marked February 12 and 13, 2004 on your calendar and plan to attend the meeting at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac. Please note that we have changed the order of events from previous years. We will be holding the Association's business meeting and elections on Thursday, February 12, with informational sessions being held on Friday. This is opposite of what we have done in the last three years.

Your attendance at the business meeting this year is especially important as we will be electing a new president for the Association. I have decided not to run for the office again because of my need to spend more time on our farm, with my family, and because of other commitments that I have accumulated.

I have sincerely enjoyed serving the Association as president for the last four years, but I feel that it is time to pass on the torch and allow for the development of new leadership for our organization. I know that the membership will elect a new president that will continue to move our industry forward despite the difficulties that we face.

There has been a lot of work done over the last year, and there will continue to be many new challenges to the industry in the future. The Board of Directors is currently watching the developments of the Ice Mountain (Nestle) water case in Mecosta County. This case could have far-reaching effects on all users of Michigan water, aquaculture included. In this effort we are joined in our concerns by the Michigan Farm Bureau and other organizations concerned with the health of the business climate in Michigan.

Please also remember to contact Association Vice President Jerry Kahn to schedule fish health sample collection by MDA veterinarians. MDA has asked the Association to coordinate the scheduling of

this testing for facilities that wish to stock public waters or sell fish out of state.

Have a good January and we'll see you at the Annual Meeting in Cadillac.

Dan Vogler

Silent Auction

A Silent Auction will be held during our annual meeting so be sure to place your bid on this item.

Kasco Aeration System

(model AF2400/float) Sug. retail: \$775.00

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Michigan Aquaculture Association will be holding its Annual Meeting on February 12 and 13, 2004 at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac, Michigan. **The order of the events has been changed from previous years.** The Association Business Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 12, and informational sessions will be held on Friday, February 13. Registration will begin both days at 8:00 am. The Thursday Business meeting will begin at 9:00 am. Elections will be held during the Thursday Business meeting.

A meeting registration form is included with this mailing. Please return it to us as soon as possible, as this helps us determine the size of the group and allows the Association to save money on event costs.

MAA Elections

Annual elections are coming up at the next annual meeting. The positions of President and one at-large Director. If you would like to run for either of these position, please contact Steve Ouwinga 231/834-7720 for the placement of your name on the ballot before January 15th, 2004.

Continued Update
Green River Trout Farm
(michaqua group e-mail) 12/17/2003

Good afternoon, Members!

Just a brief update for those of you who have been following the GRTF (Green River Trout Farm) story:

When we met with DNR officials last May, we hammered out a settlement agreement that Deputy Director Kelley Smith felt could be finalized in "a matter of days". Days stretched out into weeks and months, and as of today, we still have not executed the settlement document. Nothing happens quickly with the State, and we should not have been so foolish as to believe the DNR could expedite anything - particularly since it involved the Attorney General's office. I am not at liberty to discuss the terms of the agreement, but I believe it is mutually beneficial to both the DNR and to GRTF. For the most part, our dealings with the department since May have been rather rewarding - our contacts there have been friendly and cooperative. All of the terms of the agreement have been approved by both GRTF and DNR, with the minor exception of a construction bond, which the DNR is reviewing at this time.

The Attorney Generals office, specifically James Piggush, has informed us through our attorney that it is unlikely that the agreement will be executed until after the first of the year. Apparently, December is a bad month to expect motion from some state employees. We anticipate some action soon, and will keep you posted.

The article that Ron Kinnunen passed along today - regarding J. Granholm's intent to regulate the use of ground water was interesting, in that she includes surface water in her plans. We should all watch this very carefully. *(Next column)*

The bottom line in our plight is this: We are very hopeful that a cooperative effort can be established between aquaculture and the DNR. We intend to work diligently in concert with that department if they will

exhibit an intent to do the same. For the past two and a half years, it has been a rather bloody battle - one that none of you should ever wish to be involved in. However, I am hopeful that cooler heads will prevail and some level of "detente" arrived at.

If any of you wish to discuss this with me, I can be reached at my office (Parsec Corporation - Denver) at 800-453-3338, ext. 23 - or email me at this address. I will be in Michigan from Jan. 9th until Feb. 9th as well. The phone number at the farm is 231-584-2117.

I'd like to wish the best to all of you, a very happy holiday and a prosperous New Year!

Steve Hallberg
Green River Trout Farm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 16, 2003

Contact: Patricia Spitzley
(517) 241-7397

Granholm Calls for Comprehensive Water Use Statute; DEQ, DLEG Directors

File Amicus Brief on Behalf of Mecosta County Workers

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today called for a comprehensive water withdrawal and water use statute in Michigan and promised to present a legislative package to create one to the Michigan Legislature early next year. The Nestle case underscores the critical need for the state to monitor and regulate certain categories of groundwater withdrawals, Granholm said.

The directors of the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) have asked the Attorney General to file an Amicus Brief with the Michigan Court of Appeals requesting a partial and conditional stay of the Mecosta Circuit Court decision requiring Nestle Corporation to cease its operations today.

While DEQ and DLEG have not taken positions on the merits of the case in the amicus brief filed today, the agencies are asking the Court of Appeals to

maintain the status quo at the facility until a ruling on the merits is made.

"With its opinion, the court has provided guidance on DEQ's ability to issue permits," said Chester. "The court suggests that DEQ had the statutory ability to issue a permit in this case. By filing this amicus, the state is asking for the time to review those changes and complete the development of a comprehensive standard on groundwater withdrawals."

Director Chester says Governor Granholm believes that with 20 percent of the world's fresh water supply within our reach, the state has a moral and legal obligation to ensure that we are the best possible stewards of the extraordinary resource.

Granholm has long said that Michigan needs a comprehensive water use strategy. She is committed to working with all stakeholders to develop legislation to govern the use and withdrawal of groundwater and surface water in the state. In the comprehensive package she will present in the coming weeks, the Governor will implement necessary administrative changes to address withdrawals like the Perrier case in the future, and ask the Legislature to develop a permitting program for such withdrawals.

If a stay is granted, the DEQ has committed to provide increased water quantity monitoring around the area to determine if an impact is occurring, and will not allow Nestle to pump more than 250,000 gallons per day, which is 150,000 gallons less than their permit currently allows.

DELG Director David Hollister also supports the stay as it will prevent the laying off of approximately 120 workers right before the Christmas Holiday. "Nestle Corporation has indicated quite clearly that it will have to lay off approximately 120 workers without pay by January 31, 2004, if they shut down pumping at the "Sanctuary Springs," said David Hollister, DLEG Director. "A partial stay will provide the plant workers and families some economic stability while putting in place reasonable protective measures to limit the potential for any significant environmental harm during the appeal process."

DEQ data is showing water levels in the area at an all time high. Both agencies believe a stay is appropriate because it allows time for the Governor to craft a comprehensive region-wide water withdrawal

policy that will provide clear regulatory direction for those seeking to use Michigan's ground and surface water resources in this and future instances. "This issue has captured the attention of the public and private sectors, and underscores the need for a comprehensive water use plan, including legislation which Governor Granholm will be unveiling in early 2004.

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Editor's Note

On a similar issue, Association members should be made aware of Part 91, 1994 PA 451. The legislation passed in 2000 is now becoming effective at county level as of this writing. Impacts on the aquaculture industry could be far reaching and may need some legislative readdress to correct several problematic issues that were incorporated into the original legislation. Review "Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control" by using the following Web address:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq-soils-PA_RT-91-April-3-2001-latest_4492_7.pdf

Annual Meeting Agenda

McGuire's Resort Cadillac Michigan February 12th and 13th. 2004

Registration: 8:00 AM (both days)

Annual business meeting with elections of officer will start 9:00 AM on the 12th.

A social reception in the evening of the 12th.

Informational programs will be presented on the 13th and will start at 9:00 AM.

At the time newsletter publication the annual meeting agenda hasn't been fully completed. Agenda information should be available shortly, please contact any one of the directors or e-mail rbaldwin@tucker-usa.com for a more complete agenda.

From the NET

Are you having trouble with spam on the net and not from the can? Try MailWasher for free! This program will preview your e-mail before you download it from your internet serves provider and you can then delete your spam right at the server instead of downloading all that junk!

<http://www.mailwasher.net/download.php>

MAA Membership Information

Memberships are very affordable and several options are available:

- 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 activities)
- 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 Michigan's 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 for 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.

Elections

Candidate nominations are still open, to run for office please, contact Steve Ouwinga if you wish to run for office.

President: No Announcement yet

Director: Rick Weidenhamer has offered to run again

Publication Information

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

MAA Board Members:

President: Dan Vogler 231/389-2514

Vice President: Jerry Kahn 989/724-5241

Sec'ty/Treasurer: Steve Ouwinga 231/834-7720

Director: Rick Weidenhammer 231/548-5323

Director: Russ Allen 517/347-5537

Classified Ads

Stoney Creek Fisheries and Equipment, Inc. has a large inventory of aquaculture supplies and equipment in stock for next day shipment. We also have some used fiberglass tanks, incubators, hatching trays, etc. For a free catalog or to order call **1-800-448-3873**

Harrietta Hills Trout Farm supplying the wholesale needs of the Michigan Trout Industry for many years. We continue to offer the highest quality hatchery products, fingerlings, stockers and marketready rainbow trout. For information or a price list call **231/ 389-2514**

Contact Standish Milling Company for your aquaculture feed needs. Your local **Aquaculture** feed distributor. Call Tom McCully at **231/377-6311**

Advertising Info: Contact Dan Vogler at (231) 389-2514. Rates: \$15/ad, up to 40 words - additional words @ 35 cents per word.

MAA Newsletter - Articles, Notices, Advertising, etc. must be submitted no later than the 5th day of each calender quarter for publication deadline. Publishing dates for 2004 are January 5, April 15, July 15, and October 15. Please submit documents in Word or WordPerfect formats. Published versions of this newsletter are available in PDF format. Contact Bob Baldwin at 231/796-2284 or rbaldwin@tucker-usa.com

Michigan Aquaculture Association

2004 Annual Meeting Registration

You are cordially invited to attend the Michigan Aquaculture Association's 2004 Annual Meeting, February 12 and 13, 2004 at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac, Michigan. This exciting two-day event will include numerous Informational Seminars, and the MAA Annual Meeting. Your registration fee will include 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, and network with the most active participants in the industry.

Dan Vogler, President

Please fill out the form below and mail it in before **January 20, 2004** for early registration 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	\$35.00	_____
Active Members	\$25.00	\$35.00	_____
Associate Members	\$25.00	\$35.00	_____
Non-Members	\$50.00	\$70.00	_____
Total: \$			_____

Please Remit this form with a check for your total to: Michigan Aquaculture Association
c/o Stoney Creek Fisheries
11073 Peach Ave.
Grant, MI 49327

For **Lodging Reservations or information** about McGuire's call **800-632-7302**. Mention the MAA Annual Meeting when you make reservations.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

(Please Print and Check Appropriate Information Boxes)

New

Renewal

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

_____	Sustaining (Voting - one vote per membership) w/National Aquaculture Assoc. Membership	\$100.00	_____
_____	Active (Voting - one vote per membership) w/National Aquaculture Assoc. Membership	\$50.00	_____
_____	Associate (Non-voting membership) w/National Aquaculture Assoc. Membership	\$40.00	_____
_____	Associate (Non-voting membership) w/o Natioanl Aquaculture Assoc. Membership	\$25.00	_____

Please make your check payable to: Michigan Aquaculture Association

Total \$ _____

(Check all that apply)

1. Are you a: 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? _____

6. 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: _____

Please Remit w/Dues To: MICHIGAN AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, C/O Stoney Creek Fisheries, 11073 Peach Ave., Grant, MI 49327

(10/2003)

Steve Ouwinga
Michigan Aquaculture Association
c/o Stoney Creek Fisheries
11073 Peach Avenue
Grant MI 49327