



# WORKING 4U & CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- If you receive a water bill, your water comes from a public water supply.
- If you do not pay for your water, you are on a private well.
- Approximately 75% of Michigan residents get water from a public water supply.
- Approximately 25% are on private wells.

From Michigan EGLE

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**We are proud to announce that we have received a grant from the Great Lakes Commission for the Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz. Keep an eye out for our timeline for events related for Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose**

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\*The new common name for *Lymantria dispar*, is **spongy moth**, which replaced the prior name of this insect, gypsy moth, just recently, in 2022.

## Why is it Necessary to Keep Our Water Resources Healthy?

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) reports that water is considered “the most important resource for sustaining ecosystems, which provide life-supporting services for people, animals, and plants.”

**From wetlands to the great lakes our care and management are crucial for energy and food production, health and survival, healthy ecosystems, socioeconomic development and sustainable development.**

Most people are familiar with the cattail or lily pad wetland found in areas with standing water, but wetlands can also be grassy meadows, shrubby fields, or mature forests. Many wetland areas have only a high ground water table and standing water may not be visible. Types of wetlands include deciduous swamps, wet meadows, emergent marshes, conifer swamps, wet prairies, shrub-scrub swamps, fens, and bogs.

**Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs.** An immense variety of species of microbes, plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and mammals can be part of a wetland ecosystem. Climate, landscape shape (topology), geology and the movement and abundance of water help to determine the plants and animals that inhabit each wetland. The complex, dynamic relationships among the organisms inhabiting the wetland environment are called food webs. This is why wetlands in Texas, North Carolina and Alaska differ from one another.

The functions of a wetland and the values of these functions to humans depend on a complex set of relationships between the wetland and the other ecosystems in the watershed. A watershed is a geographic area in which water, sediments and dissolved materials drain from higher elevations to a common low-lying outlet or basin a point on a larger stream, lake, underlying aquifer or estuary.

**Our watershed here in Lapeer County is predominantly the Saginaw Bay Watershed.** This means with nearly 8,700 square miles, the Saginaw Bay Watershed is home to 1.4 million people. The watershed provides habitat for many species of wildlife. All or part of 22 Michigan counties contribute to the watershed’s 7,000 miles of rivers and streams, which contain more than 90 species of fish. In addition to supplying water to the wildlife, residents rely on the watershed for recreation, irrigation, electrical power generation, industrial processes, and drinking water.

The Saginaw Bay Watershed features more than 175 inland lakes, about 7,000 miles of rivers and streams, and drains approximately 15 percent of the state.

Protecting our watersheds is vital. Summer will be here quickly and boaters, kayakers, canoes will be out on our lakes and waterways soon. It is crucial to drain your boats, inspect and clean your boats to prevent the spread of invasive species from one body of water to another.

## CLEAN YOUR GEAR!

Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.



- Check** for and remove plants, mud, and aquatic life before transporting
- Drain** water from boat, live well, bilge, and bait bucket before transporting
- Clean** boat and gear with hot water, or
- Dry** everything for at least five days



**DON'T LET IT LOOSE.**

**Toss it**  
Drain water from bait container on shore, away from water. Dispose of minnows in the compost or trash.

**OR KEEP IT**  
Drain water from bait container on shore, away from water. Refill container with bottle or tap water.

Releasing live bait threatens our environment. Minnows and bait water can harbor fish diseases and aquatic invasive species.

Do your part to protect Minnesota lakes and rivers.

Scan to learn more and enter to win!

**CLEAN DRAIN INITIATIVE**

**IT'S THE LAW!**

**Here are a few fun facts about dirt:**

**70,000** Different types of soil in the U.S.

**1** Tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than there are people on earth

**500** Minimum years it takes to form one inch of topsoil

**5,000** Different types of bacteria in one gram of soil

**.01** Percent of the earth's water held in soil

**15** Tons of dry soil per acre that pass through one earthworm each year

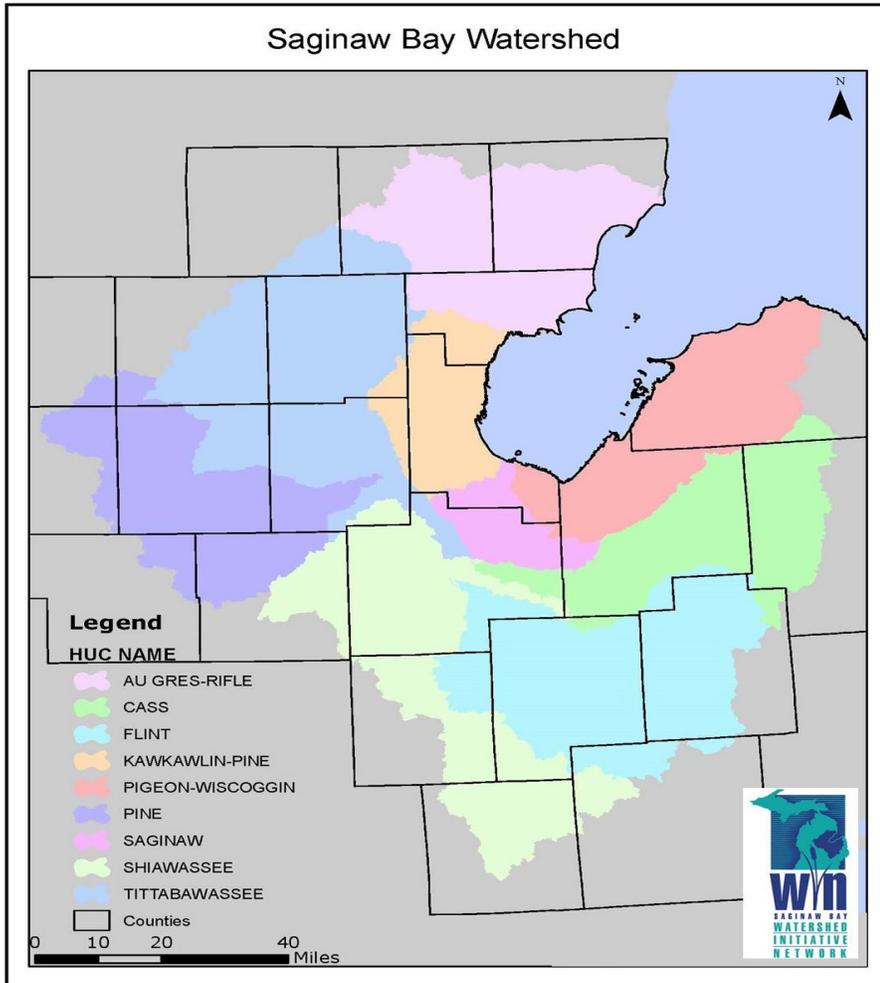
**1,400,000** Earthworms that can be found in an acre of cropland

**20,000** Pounds of total living matter in the top six inches of an acre of soil

**10** Percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions stored in soil

**4,000** Gallons of water soil needs to produce one bushel of corn

**11,000** Gallons of water soil needs to produce one bushel of wheat



**For those who live in Lapeer County but are not in the Saginaw Bay Watershed, we will talk about the other watersheds in Lapeer County in our next newsletter, stayed tuned.**

*Michigan ranks sixth in the nation with 398 craft breweries in the state, according to the Brewers Association. It also ranks ninth for wine production,*



**There were 2.71 million colonies producing honey in the U.S. in 2020. Yield per colony averaged 54.5 #'s. 2021 stats will be out in August.**

From [nass.usda.gov](http://nass.usda.gov)

**“Everything we make returns to the Earth either as food or poison.”**

*Celine Semann,  
founder of Slow Factory*

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**Our mission is to deliver information and technical assistance through educational programs and professional services in order to conserve and enhance the natural resources of Lapeer County now and for future generations.**