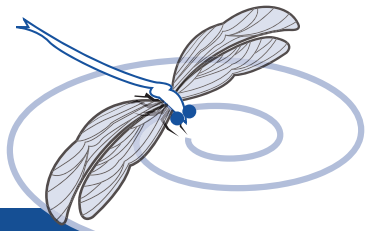


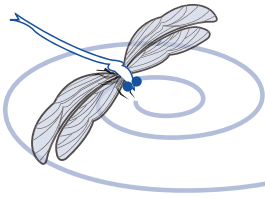
# MiCorps



Michigan Clean  
Water Corps



[www.micorps.net](http://www.micorps.net)



# Michigan Clean Water Corps

## About MiCorps

The Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) is a network of volunteer monitoring programs in Michigan. It was created through an executive order by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm to assist the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in collecting and sharing water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs.

*"Together, we'll create the nation's most comprehensive and meaningful clean water monitoring system, building a water legacy for generations to come."*

*-- Governor Jennifer M. Granholm*

## Our Mission

Our mission is to network and expand volunteer water quality monitoring organizations statewide for the purpose of collecting, sharing and using reliable data; educate and inform the public about water quality issues; and foster water resources stewardship to facilitate the preservation and protection of Michigan's water resources.

## Our Core Programs

**Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program** – MiCorps provides technical assistance and grants to local units of government and nonprofit entities for water quality monitoring in wadable streams and rivers through the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. Each year, up to \$50,000 is available for volunteer monitoring grant awards. The monitoring typically includes an evaluation of benthic invertebrate communities and stream habitat, but it

also may include the collection and chemical analysis of water samples. MiCorps staff provides training, support, and assistance with developing quality assurance project plans to the grantees, helping them to reach a professional level of monitoring. In addition, the resultant data will be used by the DEQ as a screening tool to identify sites requiring more detailed assessment and as supplemental data for DEQ water resources management programs.

### **The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program**

– The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP), the second oldest volunteer lakes monitoring program in the country, has been an important component of Michigan's inland lakes monitoring program for over 30 years. The primary purpose of the CLMP is to help citizen volunteers monitor the water quality of their lakes and document changes in lake quality over time. CLMP participants collect data on a variety of different parameters including: Secchi disk transparency; total phosphorus; chlorophyll a; dissolved oxygen; temperature; and aquatic plant identification and mapping. MiCorps staff provides training and support to volunteers. The Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (MLSA) administers this program under MiCorps.



*Photo: John Cramer*

## Our Services

**Website** – Our program website, [www.micorps.net](http://www.micorps.net), is the information center for volunteer monitoring programs in Michigan. This site contains information about MiCorps and its grants programs; a water quality data exchange platform; a directory of Michigan monitoring groups; resources for water quality monitoring; information on quality assurance; and much more.



[www.micorps.net](http://www.micorps.net)

**Data Exchange** – Through a web-based data exchange platform, MiCorps provides online access to volunteer monitoring data through a searchable database. Monitoring data collected by our member organizations meet quality assurance and operating procedure criteria and thus, provides a rich data set to use in interpreting and comparing results for MiCorps monitored lakes or streams.

**Directory** – This online, searchable directory provides contact and program information for volunteer monitoring organizations throughout Michigan.

**Volunteer Lakes and Streams Monitoring Programs** – MiCorps provides information about these assistance programs along with a wealth of

support information and resources for grantees and their partners. Through our volunteer monitoring programs, MiCorps provides sampling methods, training, workshops, technical support, and quality control guidance for volunteers to help them effectively monitor their lakes and streams.

**Listserv** – The MiCorps email listserv facilitates the exchange of information and ideas between volunteer monitoring program leaders, volunteers, and resource professionals – all on volunteer monitoring issues specific to Michigan. Anyone who subscribes to our listserv can contribute information or pose questions to other subscribers on topics relevant to volunteer monitoring and water resource management and protection in Michigan.

**Conference** – MiCorps hosts an annual conference to report on volunteer monitoring activity and progress in the state. Training is provided at the conference for interested volunteer coordinators. The conference provides excellent opportunities to stay up to date on monitoring methods and to meet and interact with other volunteer monitoring organizations.

**Newsletter** – MiCorps publishes a semiannual newsletter to report on volunteer monitoring activities in Michigan. Newsletters include technical information relating to monitoring, and also feature policy discussions and profiles of specific volunteer monitoring activities.



## Becoming a MiCorps Member

MiCorps member organizations represent a select group of monitoring programs in Michigan and receive a variety of benefits as members. If you're interested in registering your organization as a MiCorps member, please visit [www.micorps.net/register](http://www.micorps.net/register).

If your organization chooses to become a MiCorps member, it will be eligible to take advantage of all the benefits MiCorps has to offer. You will have access to the wide array of MiCorps resources and monitoring expertise; your program will be recognized as a state leader; and your program's monitoring data can be entered into our data exchange platform and accessed by the monitoring community and the general public. The data will also be used by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a screening tool to identify sites requiring a more detailed assessment and as supplemental data for DEQ water resources management programs.

## Program Contacts

The Great Lakes Commission was selected by the DEQ to assist in developing and administering MiCorps. The Commission is partnered with the Huron River Watershed Council, the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, and Michigan State University Extension to administer the MiCorps program, under the direction of DEQ and with the advice of a steering committee. For more information about MiCorps, please visit our website, or contact **Ric Lawson** with the Great Lakes Commission.

### Ric Lawson

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*Cover photo: Glen Lake, MI by Sean McKendall*

