



# Advisor

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## Toward comprehensive plan for the Great Lakes Great Lakes Commission, Sea Grant to partner on restoration effort

Efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem are taking a significant step forward, thanks to a new initiative by the Great Lakes Commission and the National Sea Grant College Program.

The Commission will partner with university-based Sea Grant programs in the Great Lakes states to help identify ecosystem restoration needs and the science behind them. This information can then be used by the region's governors – and the larger community of policymakers and opinion leaders – as a basis for a formal plan to ensure the sustainable use, management and protection of the resource.

Funded by the National Sea Grant College Program, this ambitious two-year initiative will research ecosystem problems and needs; assess existing restoration initiatives; conduct focus groups to identify priorities; and convene a restoration planning forum to assemble outcomes. The process will help regional leadership in preparing a blueprint for congressional action that offers practical guidance in allocating funds for programs and projects that will move the region toward a shared vision for the future.

A companion grant has been presented by Sea Grant to the Northeast-Midwest Institute to survey restoration efforts in other parts of the country to identify key lessons.

“Development of a restoration plan must be based upon sound science, and proceed with a clear understanding of ecosystem conditions, objectives and research activity,” said Dr. Michael J. Donahue, Great Lakes Commission president/CEO. “Working together, the Commission and Sea Grant make a great team that will help shape and support regional priorities.”

A regional consultation process will be used to gather information on the range of prospective priorities. The process will be an inclusive one and will welcome the involvement of all interests in the binational Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. A special emphasis will be placed on local perspectives regarding restoration priorities, with consultations to include state coastal management programs, mayors and municipal officials, and a range of user groups.

“Restoration planning is an emerging priority in regions throughout the country,” said Dr. Ronald C. Baird, director of the National Sea Grant College Program. “The foundation for a successful plan – and ecosystem improvement – is sound science, and our state Sea Grant Programs are a tremendous source of scientific expertise.”

A centerpiece of the effort will be a series of state-specific stakeholder workshops convened by the Great Lakes Commission and Sea Grant, the first of which will be held this September as part of a Great Lakes symposium at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and the Environment. Similar workshops in other Great Lakes states will follow over a nine-month period, also helping to lay the foundation for the governors' plan.

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# Commission News & Views

From the desk of the president/CEO...

## Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission is a binational public agency dedicated to the use, management and protection of the water, land and other natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. In partnership with the eight Great Lakes states and provinces of Ontario and Québec, the Commission applies sustainable development principles in addressing issues of resource management, environmental protection, transportation and sustainable development. The Commission provides accurate and objective information on public policy issues; an effective forum for developing and coordinating public policy; and a unified, systemwide voice to advocate member interests.

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Cover photo: Indiana Dunes State Park, David Riecks, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

## Moving the Glacier

Complexity has long been a reality in Great Lakes governance. This is hardly surprising, given that we're contending with the largest, most ecologically diverse and intensively used freshwater system on the face of the Earth. Every government entity and user group, it seems, has its hand on the stewardship tiller, trying to steer toward a generally common, yet poorly articulated, destination.

Complexity in governance is a double-edged

sword. On the positive side, it ensures a role and voice for all interested parties; readily available mechanisms to address emerging issues; opportunities to partner and share expertise; and a system of checks and balances to guard against bad policy.

On the negative side, complexity can replace prompt action with bureaucracy, elevate competition over cooperation, and confuse the very policymakers these institutions look to for support and guidance. Examples abound – in 1977, Sen. Gaylord Nelson decried the “bureaucratic mess” of basin governance; seven years later another Wisconsinite, Sen. Bob Kasten, expressed his frustrations with navigating that same “bureaucratic maze.” Others have been less kind. There have been many such statements since then, some prompted by the recent U.S. General Accounting Office report and flurry of federal legislative activity that followed.

I do not subscribe to the view that complexity in governance is inherently negative. In fact, our diversity of institutions, plans and programs is a potential strength. There's a lot of great work going on out there – innovative programs, creative partnerships and associated success stories.

So what's the problem? Simply put, when it comes to ecosystem-wide restoration we've done a lousy job in “packaging” our many outstanding individual plans and efforts. As a result, the whole has been *less* than the sum of the parts.

That's why I'm so excited about current developments, both regionally and in Washington. Many sectors of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence community, most notably our governors and congressional

*“...when it comes to ecosystem-wide restoration we've done a lousy job in 'packaging' our many outstanding individual plans and efforts. As a result, the whole has been less than the sum of the parts.”*

delegation, are marching forward and, increasingly, to the same beat. We now have an opportunity to use complexity to our advantage: to close ranks around a shared vision; embrace a unified approach; and speak loudly and forcefully enough to ensure that the dollars – and ecosystem improvements – follow.

It's not as difficult as one might think – the building blocks exist, but need to be assembled, packaged and marketed. Let's exploit the full potential of our basin institutions, plans, programs and authorities, and fill in any gaps that may exist. Toward that end you can count on the Great Lakes Commission to fully exercise its basin planning authority, established by Congress and in the laws of eight states.

The late Marcel Cadieux, Canada's ambassador to the United States in the 1970s, once described the evolution of Great Lakes governance as a “glacial movement.” Well, the heat's been turned up. I sense that the glacier is showing some early signs of movement. Do you sense this as well?



Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

## Commission presses for action on restoration needs

The Great Lakes Commission, applauding the recent U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) report on Great Lakes restoration efforts (GAO-03-515), has called on Congress to advance several key initiatives. These include: authorizing and funding development of a Great Lakes Restoration Plan; strengthening science-based decisionmaking by enacting the Great Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Implementation Act (S. 1116); and pressing for a comprehensive review and revision of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to reflect current restoration priorities.

In a letter to members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation, Commission Chair Sam Speck noted that GAO report findings reaffirm concerns expressed by the Commission in recent years via member resolutions.

“Simply stated, we need an overarching plan by which the restoration and protection efforts of governmental agencies at all levels are coordinated,” Speck wrote. “This initiative should be

led by the region’s governors with input from the entire community.”

Introduced in response to GAO report recommendations, S. 1116 lays the foundation for such an initiative by establishing the scientific basis for a restoration plan. It was introduced by Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, and Sens. George Voinovich and Mike DeWine of Ohio.

Speck noted that while the GAO report regards the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement as a focal point for binational restoration efforts, it noted that various provisions are considered obsolete and in need of updating.

“The current Agreement is now 16 years old and is rapidly becoming a memorial to the past rather than a guidepost for the future,” he said.

The Commission has been on record since 1999 in support of a comprehensive water quality agreement review, emphasizing that an updated agreement is needed to enhance the effectiveness of a prospective restoration plan.

Contact: Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)



## Congress urged to support Great Lakes priorities

The Great Lakes Commission is aggressively promoting regional priorities identified in its *2003 Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity*, released in March.

Ongoing correspondence with members of Congress, including the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation and members and leadership of the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, is urging support for legislation and appropriations of critical importance to the Great Lakes region. Recently addressed priorities have included, among others:

- Providing cost-share support to Great Lakes states for AOC cleanup – \$5.0 million
- Developing and demonstrating sediment remediation technologies, including beneficial use of dredged material – \$4.0 million
- Reducing nonpoint source pollution by developing and applying sediment transport models to priority Great Lakes tributaries – \$2.0 million

- Ensuring safe navigation by eliminating a backlog of much-needed projects in Great Lakes Corps of Engineer districts, a critical need at times of low water levels – \$20.0 million
- Continuing the study of potential capital improvements to optimize Great Lakes navigation infrastructure – \$2.0 million
- Constructing a second, more effective aquatic nuisance species barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal – \$5.0 million
- Continued planning, engineering and design work for a new large Soo Lock – \$5.0 million
- Completing a study of the economic benefits of recreational boating – \$275,000

Continued correspondence will address other Great Lakes priorities at the appropriate times in the legislative calendar. For information on other Commission correspondence, contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, [jonmacd@glc.org](mailto:jonmacd@glc.org)

## Envisioning the Future of the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN)

August 20-22, 2003  
Racine, Wis.  
(by invitation)

## IJC Biennial Meeting on Great Lakes Water Quality

September 19-20, 2003  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

## Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission

Oct. 1-3, 2003  
Chicago, Ill.

mark your calendar

## World can learn from Great Lakes experiences

Lessons from the Great Lakes that can be applied to other large, freshwater systems throughout the world were shared at a special daylong symposium hosted by the Great Lakes Commission and the International Lake Environment Committee during the 10th World Lakes Conference in Chicago.

Titled "Global Threats to Large Lakes: Managing in an Environment of Instability and Unpredictability," the symposium covered such topics as toxic and hazardous substances, invasive species, water quantity and demand, and the future of the ecosystem. Great Lakes public officials and scholars, joined by international colleagues, shared their perspectives on how these issues are being addressed both here and in other freshwater regions around the world.

Keynote speaker Jim Bruce, of Global Change Strategies International, cautioned participants

that the most important lesson the world can take from the Great Lakes is that one can never claim complete victory over pollution and other ecosystem threats. The price of clean water and healthy ecosystems, he said, is eternal vigilance.

Other speakers at the June 24 symposium included Yoshitsugu Kunimatsu and Masaru Hashimoto, governors of Japan's Shiga and Ibaraki prefectures, where that nation's largest lakes are found. Ken DeBeaussiaert, director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes, which funded the event, and Ron Burke, associate director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, spoke as well.

The World Lakes Conference was held in conjunction with the annual gathering of the International Association for Great Lakes Research.

Contact: Sarah Whitney, [swhitney@glc.org](mailto:swhitney@glc.org)

## Mayors seek greater voice in regional issues

Mayors throughout the binational Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region are asserting a more active role in the protection and management of the great natural resource at their shores.

At the annual conference of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors in St. Catharines, Ontario, the mayors agreed to pursue an enhanced advocacy role in shaping U.S. and Canadian federal policy.

Other resolutions adopted at the June meeting call for the Association to develop an expanded organizational capacity in order to increase its influence and improve its ability to advance shared priorities.

"As those who live on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, the health, happiness and fortunes of our communities and residents are directly affected by policy decisions regarding these resources," said St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby. "It's imperative that we work together to ensure that we step up and make sure our voices are heard when making these decisions."

Rigby co-hosted the conference along with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, whose city

will welcome next year's conference.

The mayors also:

- Urged the United States and Canada to ask the International Joint Commission to take action to address the growing crisis presented by aquatic nuisance species
- Called upon the U.S. Congress to promptly enact the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2003 and urged Great Lakes-St. Lawrence communities to adopt local ANS ordinances
- Urged the governments of the United States and Canada to give due consideration to planning and investment in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence transportation system
- Called for a large-scale binational initiative to promote sustainable land-use practices

Led by a mayoral board of directors, the Association is staffed by the St. Lawrence Economic Development Council of Québec City, Québec, and the Great Lakes Commission. For more information, including the full text of all resolutions, see [www.glc.org/mayors](http://www.glc.org/mayors)

Contacts: Steve Thorp, [sthorp@glc.org](mailto:sthorp@glc.org) or Claude Mailloux, [cmailloux@portquebec.ca](mailto:cmailloux@portquebec.ca)



## “Virtual workshop” features GIS technology, applications

A recently held “virtual workshop” at Commission offices in Ann Arbor, Mich., demonstrated new Internet-web conferencing capabilities while enabling more than 75 participants spread among various locations to share information on Geographic Information System (GIS) development for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system.

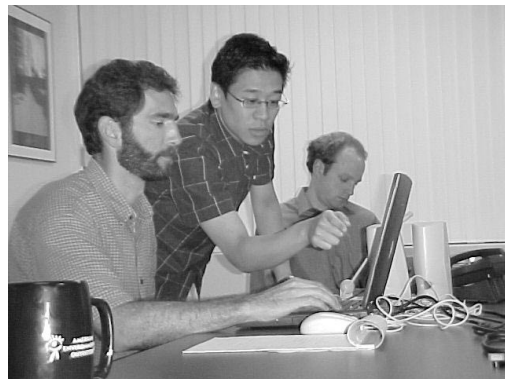
More than 50 participants logged-in to workshop presentations via new web-conferencing capabilities provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These “remote attendees” were able to listen in and view all presentations simultaneously with onsite attendees in Ann Arbor, and provide questions and comments through Internet, telephone or computer audio connections. Participants included representatives from each Great Lakes/St. Lawrence state and province, and major U.S. and Canadian federal agencies.

The workshop included overviews of new Internet-based GIS mapping projects for each of the Great Lakes, with particular attention to the International Joint Commission’s (IJC) Lake

Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study (LOSLRS). Also covered were the Lake Huron Initiative for fisheries research, the Lake Michigan Online Atlas, the Lake Superior decision support project, and hydrologic and biologic analysis for the Lake Erie basin. See [www.glc.org/gis/RDX\\_conference.html](http://www.glc.org/gis/RDX_conference.html)

Web mapping tools developed for the LOSLRS, which addresses outflow management, are available at [www.great-lakes.net/loslrs](http://www.great-lakes.net/loslrs). Funding for their development was provided by the IJC, the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee and GeoConnections of Canada, with staff support from the Great Lakes Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and private partners.

Contact: Roger Gauthier, [gauthier@glc.org](mailto:gauthier@glc.org)



*Commission staff in Ann Arbor use Internet-conferencing capability to discuss GIS development and planning with off-site collaborators.*

## BeachCast now online! [www.glin.net/beachcast](http://www.glin.net/beachcast)

BeachCast — premiering July 22 on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) — offers a public gateway to information on Great Lakes beach health advisories, current lake conditions, weather, monitoring techniques and more.

Users can search by lake, state/province or zip code for their beach of choice and view maps,

current advisories and related resources.

BeachCast is funded by a grant from the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, in collaboration with beach managers working through the Great Lakes Beach Association, [www.glin.net/glba](http://www.glin.net/glba). Contact: Christine Manninen, [manninen@glc.org](mailto:manninen@glc.org)

## Restoration planning (continued from page 1)

This restoration planning initiative comes amidst recent U.S. and Canadian reports highlighting the need for an overarching strategy, enhanced interagency coordination, and adequate funding for Great Lakes restoration and protection programs.

“Our governors are ideally positioned to spearhead the development of restoration priorities and subsequently, a restoration plan,” said Commission Chair Sam Speck, who is also director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. “The

Great Lakes Commission and Sea Grant are well-suited to work with our many stakeholders to identify needs and the scientific basis for them.”

The large-scale, ecosystem restoration priorities development and planning effort is being informed and advanced by a number of regional and jurisdiction-specific strategies, including the Commission’s *Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity* and the U.S. Policy Committee’s *Great Lakes Strategy 2002*.

Contact: Mike Donahue, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)

## “Heart of the Great Lakes” gets a checkup



Ken DeBeaussaert, director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes, addresses the Lake St. Clair conference

Lake St. Clair, sometimes known as The “Heart of the Great Lakes,” for its distinctive shape and location in the center of the Great Lakes system, received a thorough examination at a recent conference sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

Entitled “Lake St. Clair: Restoring the Heart of the Great Lakes,” the conference, held June 17-18 in Port Huron, Mich., brought together U.S. and Canadian resource managers, elected officials, and local residents. A major focus was how a comprehensive management plan being developed for the lake and St. Clair River can be used to leverage action on problems affecting them, including beach closures, sewer overflows, loss and degradation of habitat, and impacts from exotic species, among others.

Keynote speakers at the conference included Gary Gulezian, director of U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office, Susan Humphrey, restorations program manager for Environment Canada, Lt. Col. Thomas Magness, commander of the Detroit District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Ken DeBeaussaert, director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes. Video statements were provided by Senator Carl Levin and Representatives Sander Levin and Candice Miller.

The draft management plan, being developed by the Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will be released in July and be available at [www.glc.org/stclair](http://www.glc.org/stclair). The final plan will be submitted to Congress in September.

Contact Matt Doss, [mdoss@glc.org](mailto:mdoss@glc.org)

## Water quality grants target erosion, sediment control

The Great Lakes Commission has awarded \$1.9 million for projects and programs that will improve water quality in the Great Lakes basin through improved land management practices. Forty-two agencies and organizations, spanning all eight Great Lakes states, will be funded this year under the Commission's highly competitive Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.



In a Great Lakes Basin Program-funded project, Natural Resources Conservation Service staff and volunteers help control erosion on Belle Isle in the Detroit River. Here, they put in place a geotextile mattress that will help anchor vegetation along the bank. Photo: Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority

“The Great Lakes Basin Program is a decade-long success story in state, federal and local partnership,” said Dr. Michael J.

Donahue, Commission president/CEO. “It's a great example of how we can achieve water quality and related ecosystem restoration goals by promoting innovative land-use practices.”

Established by Congress in 1991, the Great Lakes Basin Program has supported 259 proj-

ects promoting soil erosion and sediment control, investing more than \$7.7 million in water quality improvement efforts while attracting an additional \$5.3 million in nonfederal matching funds. More than 117,000 acres of land have been placed under various forms of erosion and sediment control under the program.

A new, data-driven web site for the program, [www.glc.org/basin](http://www.glc.org/basin), was launched in April.

Features include project-specific image galleries, expanded online materials and publications and advanced search options. News updates and funding information are included as well, along with an extensive list of project management tools and models in coordination with the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN), [www.great-lakes.net](http://www.great-lakes.net)

The web site launch coincides with a redesign of the program's other promotional materials, including the *Keeping It on the Land* newsletter and a new state-specific series of fact sheets.

The Great Lakes Basin Program is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Contact: Gary Overmier, [garyo@glc.org](mailto:garyo@glc.org)

## Seaway Review editor Dave Knight joins Commission staff

Dave Knight, longtime editor of *Great Lakes/Seaway Review* magazine, has joined the Great Lakes Commission as a maritime transportation specialist.

Knight, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as a result of his 16 years covering Great Lakes maritime transportation, will be working with Program Manager Steve Thorp in Transportation and Sustainable Development.

"Dave's contacts and familiarity with maritime issues are a wonderful addition to our staff," Thorp said. "His presence will be a benefit not only to us, but to the maritime community as well as we move ahead on some major initiatives in the months to come."

Knight will have lead responsibility on multiple projects, which will greatly enhance the Commission's role in promoting economically vibrant and environmentally responsible maritime activity in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. He will also be active in convening a meeting of Great Lakes maritime interests this fall to discuss maritime priorities.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center was instrumental in developing and funding this pivotal new position. Contact: [dknight@glc.org](mailto:dknight@glc.org)

In other staff additions, Jon Dettling is the 2003-04 Great Lakes Commission-Sea Grant Fellow. During his yearlong fellowship, he is contributing to the Air Toxics Inventory and Beneficial Use of Dredged Material projects, among others. Dettling recently received his master's of public health degree, in environmental health sciences, from the University of Michigan.

This is the fourth year for this highly successful fellowship program, a partnership among the Commission, the National Sea Grant Office and the Great Lakes state Sea Grant programs. Contact: [dettling@glc.org](mailto:dettling@glc.org)

The Commission also welcomes two summer interns. Simon van Leeuwen, a master's student in urban planning at the University of Michigan, is providing geographic information systems (GIS) support to the Data and Information Management Program. Contact: [svanleeu@glc.org](mailto:svanleeu@glc.org)

Erin Higbee is a Marshall Weinberg Scholarship Fund recipient. She is working in the Resource Management Program, primarily with regional outreach initiatives related to aquatic nuisance species prevention and control. She is pursuing a master's degree in resource policy and behavior at the University of Michigan. Contact: [ehigbee@glc.org](mailto:ehigbee@glc.org)



Dave Knight



Jon Dettling

## Updated air emissions data available

An expanded inventory of toxic air emissions in the Great Lakes basin has been released by the Commission-supported Great Lakes Regional Toxic Air Emissions Steering Committee.

The inventory, a compilation of 1999 data collected by the Great Lakes states and Ontario, covers point, area and mobile source emissions for 213 individual air toxins, compared to 82 in the previous year's report. Listing pollutants by type, quantity and source, the inventory covers 674 types of sources and nearly 1,600 processes that produce emissions.

The new inventory pays special attention to mercury emissions, including an overview of regional mercury levels, identification of information gaps, and suggestions for areas where

the inventory could be improved.

The steering committee and the Commission are also developing a central repository, to be housed at U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office in Chicago, which will provide state agencies and technical experts with online access to the best available data on regional air emissions. Other products being developed include an enhanced "air mapper," which will display maps of different pollutants by region, and a data viewer, which will provide access to the raw numbers.

See [www.glc.org/air](http://www.glc.org/air) or contact Kevin Yam, [kyam@glc.org](mailto:kyam@glc.org)



Chicago incinerator. Photo: Lake Michigan Federation

## DID YOU KNOW

The sand dunes of the Great Lakes region are the largest freshwater coastal dunes in the world. These dunes, such as the Sleeping Bear Dunes on the northeastern shore of Lake Michigan, are only 3,000-4,000 years old - that's very young, geologically speaking! Source: T.E.A.C.H. Great Lakes, [www.teachgreatlakes.net](http://www.teachgreatlakes.net)

## Water level products aid boaters, maritime community

With Great Lakes water levels near record lows, the Great Lakes Commission is offering new online services to aid the shipping community, shoreline property owners, boaters and all other recreational users of the Great Lakes.

The Commission, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is making monitoring, research, and related data and information readily available via the Commission-managed Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN). Among this partnership's many products is a regional data portal for water level observations, now available at [www.great-lakes.net/levels](http://www.great-lakes.net/levels)

Additional products will include a "Current Lake Conditions" section on GLIN, which will highlight water levels, weather, water temperatures, wave heights, boating advisories, lock/

bridge updates and more.

"Our partnership with the Great Lakes Commission has been critical in providing more efficient access to our online information for Great Lakes decisionmakers," said Michael Szabados, director of NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS). "Everyone from coastal managers concerned about flooding to the navigation community in need of real-time water level data will benefit from this project."

CO-OPS manages a suite of premier web tools for acquiring and distributing vital environmental measurements, including water levels, currents, winds, air and water temperature and related data. Contact: Christine Manninen, [manninen@glc.org](mailto:manninen@glc.org)

## Outreach program to boost state ANS efforts

A program to assist Great Lakes states in aquatic nuisance species (ANS) prevention and control efforts is planned by the Great Lakes Commission in partnership with the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and state agencies.

The proposed two-year program, pending formal approval by the National Sea Grant College Program, will assess state aquatic nuisance species management plans to determine their effectiveness in meeting state and regional ANS prevention and control goals, and identify

actions needed to advance those goals.

State workshops will be conducted around the region to review the status of state plans in terms of development and implementation, determine unmet needs, and opportunities/obstacles to be addressed.

These workshops will culminate in a regional summit where knowledge gained from the project will be shared to advance effective ANS management options. Contact: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, [shwayder@glc.org](mailto:shwayder@glc.org)

## Miami of Ohio student wins 2003 Ratza Scholarship

Kevin Bennardo, a senior at Miami University of Ohio, is the recipient of the 2003 Carol A. Ratza Memorial Scholarship. Bennardo is pursuing a dual major in mass communications and political science.

His winning essay addressed the alteration and destruction of sand dunes along the shores of the Great Lakes. "I believe that a lot of the damage to dunes is due to people not fully understanding the damage they're causing," Bennardo wrote. He proposed ways to use new communications

technologies to enumerate the many attributes of dunes, educate the public on ways to minimize damage, and create a coalition to advocate for dunes preservation.

In memory of a Commission employee, the \$500 Ratza scholarship is supported by donations and an annual appropriation by the Great Lakes Commission. The application deadline for next year's award is March 31, 2004. See [www.glc.org/about/scholarships/scholar.html](http://www.glc.org/about/scholarships/scholar.html) or contact Christine Manninen, [manninen@glc.org](mailto:manninen@glc.org)



Kevin Bennardo



## Should trash be an export item?

### Councillor Brad Duguid, City of Toronto

Canada's current and future prosperity is closely tied to its ability to conduct trade. We are a trading nation and our most important trading partner is the United States. For Ontario, that means Michigan is our principal trading partner.

Our historic trading relationship has been strengthened through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Under NAFTA, trade has increased and branched out to include residual wastes. This has sparked the question "Why is Toronto exporting its waste to Michigan?"

The answer can be found in the development of infrastructure within Michigan and Ontario to manage wastes. Michigan has built substantive landfill infrastructure that has been marketed in Ontario by U.S. companies at competitive or superior prices and with built-in flexibility to divert waste from landfills without financial penalty.

### U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Michigan

The question I've been asked to address is: "Should trash be an export item?"

The answer, by both treaty and common sense, is yes. But within reason.

Within the Great Lakes region already, many tons of waste are shipped across state and international borders. For example, in 2002, Michigan exported 44,000 tons of waste – mostly combustible fuels for incineration – to Canada. That same year, Ontario exported about 2 million tons of municipal solid waste to Michigan. And since Toronto closed its remaining landfill in January, another 350,000 tons are coming our way.

That's 180 trucks a day coming from Canada to Michigan, versus about six a day from Michigan to Canada – 30 times the traffic.

States and provinces have responsibilities to build infrastructure to support their populations' needs. That includes constructing landfills.

Michiganians are puzzled that in all of Ontario – a province of 415,000 square miles, roughly four times the size of Michigan – not one site is

Alternatively, Ontario has built substantive hazardous waste treatment infrastructure that has been marketed in the United States. In 2001, 61,000 tons of hazardous waste were shipped from Michigan to Ontario for disposal or recycling. In short, our trading relationship is two-way and works to the benefit of both partners.

However, we are sensitive and responsive to concerns. To address the waste export issue, Toronto created "Task Force 2010" to achieve 100 percent diversion from landfill by 2010. This has resulted in new initiatives such as the "Green Bin" program to collect and compost kitchen leftovers and the commencement of a proposal call for new and emerging technologies to enable us to manage more waste in our own backyard.

As a result, Toronto is fast becoming a North American leader in recycling and composting and is determined to find alternatives to export.

suitable for a landfill.

This situation places a hidden tax and unfair infrastructure and public health burdens on Michigan. At this rate, Michigan's landfills will fill up years ahead of schedule, forcing the state to spend money converting its green spaces to waste storage.

I have introduced a bill in the U. S. Senate that would place a temporary ban on the importation of Canadian waste until the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begins enforcing our treaty with Canada that requires advance notification of waste shipments and gives a state – or province – the chance to object.

I am also sponsoring an online petition drive that urges EPA to use its authority and enforce this treaty now. More than 75,000 have signed the petition at [stabenow.senate.gov](http://stabenow.senate.gov)

Waste exports should be a matter of agreed upon economic efficiency, not willingness to invest in needed landfill infrastructure.

POINT  
POINT



Councillor Brad Duguid

counterpoint  
counterpoint



Sen. Debbie Stabenow

Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study  
[www.great-lakes.net/loslrs](http://www.great-lakes.net/loslrs)

International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors resolutions  
[www.glc.org/mayors/resolutions](http://www.glc.org/mayors/resolutions)

Water Resources Management Decision Support System report  
[www.glc.org/wateruse/wrmdss](http://www.glc.org/wateruse/wrmdss)

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control  
[www.glc.org/basin](http://www.glc.org/basin)

Great Lakes Regional Air Toxic Emissions Inventory  
[www.glc.org/air](http://www.glc.org/air)

A Comprehensive Management Plan for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River  
[www.glc.org/stclair](http://www.glc.org/stclair)

Great Lakes Levels and Hydrology  
[www.great-lakes.net/levels](http://www.great-lakes.net/levels)

Commission scholarship and fellowship awards  
[www.glc.org/about/scholarships](http://www.glc.org/about/scholarships)

Great Lakes Beachcast  
[www.glin.net/beachcast](http://www.glin.net/beachcast)

Lenka Holubec Photography  
[www.photosharedvisions.com](http://www.photosharedvisions.com)

## NOAA plan embraces Great Lakes

A heightened emphasis on Great Lakes concerns is evidenced in the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Strategic Plan for 2003-08, released in April.

The new plan specifically includes the Great Lakes with the nation's coastal and ocean resources in setting forth its strategic objectives. The plan also establishes the use of an ecosystem-based approach to protecting, restoring and managing these resources as one of its primary missions.

Other goals call for supporting the nation's commerce through safe, efficient and environ-

mentally sound transportation, understanding climate change and variability, and serving society's needs for weather and water information.

The Great Lakes Commission had an active role in the strategic plan development process, detailing Great Lakes concerns for the agency and helping to organize and participate in a stakeholders' meeting held in conjunction with the Commission's 2002 Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

The full strategic plan and related links are available at [www.osp.noaa.gov](http://www.osp.noaa.gov)

## Partnership to help ensure success of navigation system

A memorandum of cooperation (MOC) to ensure the long-term success of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime system was signed in May by representatives of the United States and Canada. The agreement, signed by U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and Transport Canada Minister David Collenette, will enhance binational collaboration on a comprehensive transportation study of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system.

"The St. Lawrence Seaway is a vital economic artery to the ports of America's heartland," Mineta said. "This memorandum of cooperation lays the groundwork for building a healthier, more efficient transportation system for this vital resource of Canada and the United States."

The MOC represents efforts to develop a

framework for conducting the binational Great Lakes-St. Lawrence System Study. The review will provide baseline data for the environment, engineering features and economic conditions of the system, and will require close cooperation among multiple entities that include: Transport Canada, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, and DOT's Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

A critical component of North America's transportation network, the 2,300-mile long Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime system annually handles more than 200 million tons of cargo, contributing more than \$6 billion to the combined economies of both countries.

## GAO calls for unified restoration strategy

A two-year study of federal and state Great Lakes restoration efforts by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) says that a comprehensive strategy is needed for such efforts to succeed.

The report, released in May, noted there are more than 200 state and federal programs funding environmental restoration activities in the Great Lakes basin. However, it found there is "no overarching plan for coordinating

and tying together the strategies and program activities into a coherent approach."

"Experience with other large-scale ecosystem restoration efforts, such as the South Florida ecosystem, has demonstrated the importance of having a comprehensive strategic plan with clearly articulated goals, objectives and criteria for measuring success..." the report said. "Without such a plan for the basin, it is difficult to determine overall progress and ensure that

*continued on next page*

[www.glc.org](http://www.glc.org)

## Photos reveal beauty of Superior's lava flows

The Great Lakes aren't usually thought of as a volcanic region. But a recent photo exhibit in Toronto recalled the region's fiery past while evoking the stunning beauty of ancient lava formations along the north shore of Lake Superior.

"Lava Metamorphoses," an exhibit by Czech-born photographer Lenka Holubec, recently completed an extended run at the Civic Garden Centre at Edwards Gardens in Toronto. The lava formations portrayed are from the Canadian Shield and, at 3 billion years old, are some of the oldest exposed rock formations in the world. The photographs reveal them as unique artifacts, displaying endless variations of shape, color and texture.

"Lava formations strike me as expressions of an enormous creative force capable of having

an immediate, energizing and uplifting effect upon us," said Holubec. "Being around them gives me a feeling of both joy and humility, while making me acutely aware of nature's strength and fragility."

Holubec, who first came to the region more than 20 years ago, draws upon the Great Lakes for much of her material. She is currently working on several collections involving subject matter from Ontario's Bruce Peninsula.

To view images from the exhibit, or for more information, visit [www.photosharedvisions.com](http://www.photosharedvisions.com)



Photo: Lenka Holubec

## GAO (continued from page 10)

limited resources are effectively utilized."

The GAO recommends a coordinated effort by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes governors, federal agencies and other stakeholders to develop an overarching strategy that clearly defines roles and responsibilities for Great Lakes restoration. It also calls for the development of environmental indicators and a monitoring system that can be used

to measure overall restoration progress.

The GAO report has prompted several federal legislative initiatives, as well as a July 16 Senate subcommittee hearing. (Details, including Commission testimony, will be featured in the next issue of the *Advisor*.)

The report (GAO-03-515) is available online at [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov) Contact: Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, [jonmacd@glc.org](mailto:jonmacd@glc.org)

### Water Security in the 21st Century

July 30-Aug. 1, 2003, Washington, D.C.

Contact: Margaret Skerly, 618-536-7571, [mskerly@siu.edu](mailto:mskerly@siu.edu)

### Envisioning the Future of the Great Lakes Information Network (by invitation)

August 20-22, 2003, Racine, Wis.

Contact: Chrisine Manninen, 745-971-9135, [manninen@glc.org](mailto:manninen@glc.org)

### Homeland Security Great Lakes Region Conference 2003

August 25-27, 2003, Sandusky, Ohio

Contact: Marc Shaye, 313-962-8255, [marcs@scaa-spill.org](mailto:marcs@scaa-spill.org)

### 8th International Living Lakes Conference

September 7-12, 2003, Norwich, England

Contact: Udo Gattenlöhner, [info@globalnature.org](mailto:info@globalnature.org)

### 11th National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop

September 8-11, 2003, Dearborn, Mich.

Contact: Tammy Taylor, 765-494-1814, [taylor@ctic.purdue.edu](mailto:taylor@ctic.purdue.edu)

### Great Lakes Symposium

Sept. 18, 2003, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Contact: Jennifer Read, 734-936-3622, [jenread@umich.edu](mailto:jenread@umich.edu)

### IJC Great Lakes Conference and Biennial Meeting

September 19-20, 2003, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Contact: Jennifer Day, 313-226-2170, [dayj@windsor.ijc.org](mailto:dayj@windsor.ijc.org)

### 2003 Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting

Oct. 1-3, 2003, Chicago, Ill.

Contact: Mike Donahue, 734-971-9135, [mdonahue@glc.org](mailto:mdonahue@glc.org)

## Great Lakes Calendar

Further details and a more extensive calendar are available online via the Great Lakes Information Network ([www.great-lakes.net](http://www.great-lakes.net)). If you have an event you'd like us to include, please contact Kirk Haverkamp at 734-971-9135 or [kirkh@glc.org](mailto:kirkh@glc.org)

### Save trees and money!

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# The Last Word

## Practicing what we preach



Sam Speck

"Partnership" is a term that is frequently invoked by members of the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence community. Over the years, we've come to realize that no single agency or organization can do it all. We need to rely on each other's mandates, resources and special expertise to get the job done, whether it's a local restoration project or a regionwide policy initiative.

I can't think of a better example than the Commission's just-completed water resources management project (see insert, this issue). This Great Lakes Protection Fund-supported initiative supports the efforts of our governors and premiers to implement Annex 2001 of the Great Lakes Charter and safeguard our water resources. Some 42 agencies and organizations directly participated in this project, and at least twice that number took part in the larger review process. Though representing entities with a diversity of perspectives, all shared one characteristic: a commitment to sound public policy based on sound science. This commitment led to broad-based support for project outcomes. Talk about a powerful partnership!

The diverse members of the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence community share much in common. Let's build upon the continuing success of the Annex 2001 process and set our sights even higher. Let's form the partnerships needed to ensure success in every aspect of our basin protection, restoration and management efforts. You will find the Great Lakes Commission to be ready and willing.

Samuel W. Speck, chair, Great Lakes Commission

## Where in the Great Lakes?



Photo: Peter J. Schultz

You could win a prize if you can identify the subject of this Great Lakes-St. Lawrence photo! E-mail your answer, along with your name, address and phone number to [kirkh@glc.org](mailto:kirkh@glc.org). You can also call Kirk Haverkamp at 734-971-9135 with your answer or mail it to the *Advisor* at the address below. All correct responses received by Aug. 22 will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive his/her choice of a Great Lakes Commission beach towel or a \$10 credit toward the purchase of any Commission publication.

Jim Ford, assistant director of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, correctly identified this photo of the Rainbow Bridge over the Niagara River, looking north from below the falls. Thank you to all who participated!



Photo: Jennifer Read

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