



Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association

May 2017



Ruth Bay—ESLA President

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

“The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot.” -- Michael Altshula

As a child you can’t wait to grow up. You’re not 5 till you are 6. You’re 5 ½. You can hardly wait till you are 16, then 18, then 21 years old. College takes forever. Finally, your first job. Maybe you get married, have children. Then, how did ‘your children’ get to be 18 and off to college? It wasn’t that long ago that you were in that same place. College tuition will never be over. It finally is and your children begin the same process that you did, but it seems ages ago.

When did time start to fly? It happens gradually and the older you get the faster it flies. Maybe you’re retired now, with grand children or great grandchildren.

Life is enjoyable and you’ve been able to harvest the fruits of your labor. Stop the world, you want to get off! You need to ponder this life of yours. And the good news is you have been able to be the pilot of your life.

You’ve been able to pass on the principles, ethics, morals and compassion that you were raised with. You now enjoy giving back to your community, however large or small that community is. And you are ever willing to help protect and preserve our beautiful lakes and environs, for future generations to come.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your pilot for the last 3 years. It takes many hands to do the job entrusted to Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association. With the experience, knowledge and willingness of a great board and many talented committees, we will continue to lead in environmental issues, to keep our pristine waters as beautiful as ever.

Ruth Bay

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2017 ESLA Annual Meeting

Friday, June 23, 2017
Hertha Hall (the Town Hall)
in Elk Rapids

Have you noticed the accumulation of brown organic material on the bottom of your lakefront during the mid to late summer months? Originally identified as the “Brown Crud” by Thom Yokum, it has since become identified as “Golden Brown Algae”. What is it? Where does it come from? Is it harmful? Can it be prevented? Come to the 2017 ESLA Annual meeting to listen to Dr. Rebecca Norris discuss the Three Lakes Association ongoing investigation and research into this relatively new phenomenon in the Chair of Lakes.

Because of the Water

New historical display completed at Elk Rapids Rotary Park

A special dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony last fall (see below) officially opened the “Because of the Water” historical display located in Rotary Park. ESLA supported this project with a significant financial donation.



Pictured standing L to R above: Elk Rapids Village President Dan Reszka, Because of the Water Committee members Joe Yuchasz, Tom Bowes, Kathy Peterson, Jim Sak, Bob Streit, Dan Le Blond, Glenn Neumann (Jim Witte missing) and Pure Michigan Director Dave Lorenz.

Approximately 5 years ago, at the encouragement of the Elk Rapids Rotary Club and the Village Parks and Recreation Commission, a group of local citizens went to work exploring how best to enhance the usefulness of Rotary Park. Eventually this ad hoc committee came up with the idea of utilizing the blank walls of the park picnic pavilion as a support structure for displays...eventually referred to as “storyboards”. It was also decided that the historical photographs and storyboards focus on the nautical history of the greater Elk Rapids area. In mid-2013 the committee gave the project a name...Because of the Water. This name reflects the fact our region has been populated and developed over the centuries due to its extensive

Because of the Water

water resources.

Phase 1 of the project was completed in the fall of 2012. Phase 1 included mounting 3 large storyboards, with historical photographs, on the inside fireplace wall of the pavilion. Featured in the center panel are the Anishinabek people and their settlements along local water that goes back thousands of years. The storyboard on right (east) has the intriguing title, "Why All the Stumps." Visitors to the display can read the storyboard while looking over their right shoulder and viewing the thousands of stumps in the Elk River and learning about early industry that changes the level of Elk Lake several times.

Phase 2 of the project was more complex. It involved a full wall size color map of the tip of the mitt. The map, 24-foot wide by 12-foot high, features numerous educational details of Native American culture and northern Michigan geography. To mount this map correctly a smooth wall had to be constructed over the existing north wall of the picnic pavilion. A paver patio was constructed where 8 storyboards are mounted on fixed pedestals. Each storyboard features a specific subject such as Recreation, Lighthouses, Work Boats... Accompanying the photos on each storyboard is a small map indicating the date and location of each picture. The historical content of all the storyboards was provided by the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society. A paver walkway was constructed to help visitors approach the display from the parking area. The existing railing of the pavilion deck was opened so that visitors can approach the viewing area from the parking lot or from inside the picnic pavilion. Native vegetation was used to landscape the area.

Funding for the project was made possible through the donations of several nonprofits (including ESLA), local businesses and individuals. Approximately \$12,000 was spent on phases 1 and 2. The project would have cost significantly more were it not for hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and the donation of talent and materials from local businesses.

To quote Ruth Bay, current ESLA President, "I have spent time at the display viewing the wall map and reading the storyboards. It is an impressive educational experience. I encourage all ESLA members and other riparian's to visit the display and encourage relatives and friends to do so as well. ESLA is proud to have helped with this project."

Jim Sak

Chairman, Because of the Water Committee

Elk Lake Remnant Trout Research Published

Contact author or Newsletter Editor for a complete copy of the article



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Journal of Great Lakes Research

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jglr



Evidence of a remnant self-sustaining strain of lake trout in the Lake Michigan basin



Jory L. Jonas ^{a,*}, Kyle J. Broadway ^b, Laura Mathews ^b, Tracy L. Galarowicz ^b, Kevin L. Pangle ^b, Andrew M. Muir ^c, Kim T. Scribner ^d

^a Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station, 96 Grant Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720, USA

^b Institute for Great Lakes Research, Department of Biology, Central Michigan University, 1200 S. Franklin St., Mount Pleasant, MI 48858, USA

^c Great Lakes Fishery Commission, 2100 Commonwealth Blvd., Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, USA

^d Department of Zoology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA

Elk Rapids Green ER Evensts

May 15. Village Council/ Green Elk Rapids presents: "Water Matters". Speakers Heather Smith, Grand Traverse Bay Keeper, GT Watershed Center; Liz Kirkwood, FLOW; Carl Ganter, Circle of Blue. 6:30 p.m. HERTH. 402 River Street, Elk Rapids. www.greenelkrapids.org

July 6. *Rain* author Cynthia Barnett. "RAIN: A History for Stormy Times". A natural and cultural tour of RAIN, from the torrents that filled the oceans four billion years ago to the modern story of climate change. 5:30 p.m. Marina Pavilion, Elk Rapids Harbor.

ESLA Educational Meetings

IT'S A SHORE THING.....4th Friday of the Month.....Twisted Fish Gallery

April 28:	Mark Stone – ‘Elk Rapids Dam’
May 26:	Heather Smith, Grand Traverse Baykeeper – ‘Adopt-A-Stream Program’
July 28:	Kay Charter – ‘Saving Birds through Habitat’ (event may be held at the Elk Rapids Art Park)
August 25:	Bob Kingon – ‘Kewadin Waterfront Park’ and ‘Maplehurst’
September 22:	To Be Determined

Assistance Available for Shoreline Greenbelts

Protect Your Lake



Improve Your Shoreline

ELK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES GREENBELT INITIATIVE

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is looking to assist lakefront property owners with greenbelt and shoreline stabilization projects! Thanks to our grant with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Watershed Council may be able to help design and install natural shoreline projects. Better yet, eligible projects will have a portion of the project costs covered!

For More Information contact:
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
231-347-1181 or email jen@watershedcouncil.org

www.watershedcouncil.org

This project has been funded wholly or in part through Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

DO YOU HAVE LAKEFRONT PROPERTY ON THE ELK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND IMPROVE HABITAT?

DO YOU NEED HELP UNDERSTANDING, DESIGNING, AND INSTALLING A NATURAL SHORELINE?

WOULD YOU LIKE HELP PAYING FOR A SHORELINE PROJECT?



PROGRESS REPORT: Michigan Swimmer's Itch Survey 2016

Editor's Note: ESLA participated in this survey during the summer of 2016. Bryce Davis, the 2016 ESLA intern, collected the daily samples on the east side of Elk Lake. For a complete copy of this report, contact the Newsletter Editor.

Thomas R. Raffel – Principal Investigator (Biology Dept., Oakland University)

Summary:

Our primary goal was to measure avian schistosome parasites and potential snail intermediate hosts in northwest Michigan lakes, and to test for relationships with various hypothesized environmental drivers. We originally sought to sample ≥ 20 sites and ultimately obtained data from 38 sites on 16 lakes, with financial and volunteer support from local lake associations.

With the help of local volunteers, we collected daily filtered-water samples from each site for a 28-day period in July–August for qPCR analysis of the abundance of avian schistosome cercariae in the water. **Analysis is complete for approximately half of the (over 1000) samples, and we are on track to finish this task by the end of March.**

We conducted 3-5 surveys at each site to observe site characteristics, snail abundance, zooplankton abundance, mussel (zebra & quagga) abundance, water turbidity, and water alkalinity. We trapped crayfish on two occasions at each site, and we measured mussel settlement using stacked-PVC samplers. We obtained hourly data for temperature and light intensity using data loggers. We measured growth rates of attached algae (periphyton) by measuring algae accumulation on plexiglass samplers, using a fluorometric assay. **These measurements are fully compiled; see Figures 15-22.**

We collected water samples on two dates from each site for measuring nutrient levels (nitrates+nitrites & orthophosphorus) and pesticides. So far we have conducted measurements of 2,4-D and glyphosate using ELISA test kits, but we may conduct additional pesticide measurements depending on budget and time limitations. We also collected sediment grab samples from each site for analysis of phosphorus and total organic carbon, and we plan to compile landscape-level data on land use (e.g., % urbanization). **These measurements are still in progress but will likely be complete by the end of March.**

Several interesting patterns are evident in the dataset so far. The best and most consistent predictor of total snail abundance was water turbidity, with snails being much more abundant at sites with clearer water. However, there were no correlations between attached algae (periphyton) growth and either turbidity or snail abundance, suggesting that the water clarity effect on snails might not be mediated by attached algae growth in these lakes (as hypothesized). Further analysis is needed to follow up on this result, including separate analyses of each snail genus. The best predictors of turbidity were water temperature and mussel abundance on samplers, suggesting that water clarity was driven in part by lake-level abundance of invasive zebra and quagga mussels. Zebra mussel abundance and biomass, in turn, appears to be driven largely by water alkalinity (correlated with calcium availability), the local availability of hard substrates to settle on, and local crayfish abundance.

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION

Officers		Address		Phone	Email
Ruth Bay	President	11393 Center Rd. Traverse City 49686		947-1619	jackbay@charter.net
Gary Chenoweth	Vice Pres	843 Millers Park Elk Rapids		314-814-5324	gec9309@aol.com
Joan Richardson	Rec. Sec.	9350 Larsen Rd. Williamsburg 49690		267-5458	phijo3@gmail.com
Kathi Gober	Corr. Sec.	8516 Skegemog Pt. Rd. Williamsburg		267-5506	hotwheeler8454@torchlake.com
Phil Spangenberg	Treasurer	8991 Skegemog Pt. Rd Williamsburg		586-215-7878	phlspn9@aol.com

ZONE DIRECTORS

ZONE A

	Captain	Address	Phone	Email
Dolores Hibbard		575 Meguzee Pt. #405 Elk Raoids	264-9304	doloresmh@att.net Jim
Sak		11329 Hanel Rd. Williamsburg	264-6069	jsak@tm.net

ZONE B

	Captain	Address	Phone	Email
Bob Kingon		10202 E. Elk Lake Dr. Rapid City	322-6055	rjkingon@prodigy.net
Dale Claudepierre		13952 Betty Lane. Rapid City	248-644-7614	ginidale70@gmail.com
Dean Ginther		11228 Shippey Ln. Rapid City	676-2928	dean.ginther@gmail.com
Andy Hogarth		11942 E Elk Lake Trail Rapid City	517-388-2238	hogarthaw@gmail.com
Ken Krentz		13997 Ringler Rd. Rapid City	322-4144	kenneth.krentz@yahoo.com
Kent Reynolds		8534 Ridge Rd. Rapid City	409-8360	kentsreynolds43@gmail.com

ZONE C

	Captain	Address	Phone	Email
Pete DiMercurio		535 Sixth St. Traverse City 49684	357-3300	peterd06@charter.net
		Cottage, Elk Lake	267-5286	
Scott Lizenby		624 Birchwood Traverse City 49686	421-3512	scott@villagepress.com Pat
Pierce		9500 Larsen Rd Williamsburg	267-9416	elklake1@charter.net

ZONE D

	Captain	Address	Phone	Email
Dave Hauser		9240 Skegemog Pt. Rd. Williamsburg	620-5750	dave@davehauser.net
Don Bonato		8781 Skegemog Pt Rd. Williamsburg	517-290-8668	djbonato@aol.com
Sue McCraven		9435 Fairview Rd Williamsburg	248-770-4038	suemccraven@gmail.com
Tim Wheeler		7546 Hoiles Dr. NW Williamsburg	772-530-7213	twheeler@torchlake.com

ZONE E

	Captain	Address	Phone	Email
Dave Lawicki		6954 Aarwood Rd. Rapid City	944-3051	aarwood6954@hotmail.com
Mary Beth Kazanski		9501 Shellway Dr. NW Rapid City	609-577-3814	thpmbk@gmail.com

AT LARGE APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Dean Ginther - Newsletter	11228 Shippey Ln. Rapid City	231-676-2928	dean.ginther@gmail.com
Steve Flechter - Foundation	10426 E. Elk Lake Dr. Rapid City	322-6015	flechtsp@comcast.net
Brenda Miller - Membership	209 Traverse St. Elk Rapids	499-0134	brenda@mortonmiller.com

ESLA Web Site: WWW.ELK-SKEGEMOG.ORG

ESLA
P.O. Box 8
Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Save the Date for the ELSA Annual Meeting

Friday, June 23, 2017

at the Hertha Hall (the Town Hall) in Elk Rapids

Speaker: Dr. Rebecca Norris

Presentation: Golden Brown Algae