



Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association

September, 2014



Fedrigon, Caitlin Scroggins & Austin Wolfgram, had a very productive summer. They were under the guidance of our knowledgeable Environmental Chair, Dale Claudepierre. Their charge was to identify invasive aquatic plant

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

For many, Labor Day signals the end of summer. For those of us fortunate enough to live in this beautiful part of Northern Michigan, it means many things: The days get shorter; the nights become crisp and cool; the last of the humming birds are sucking up nectar for their long flight to South America; the geese are forming V's, honking and heading south. And we receive all the beauty, bounty and blessings that nature has to offer, for our appreciation and enjoyment.

ESLA's Annual Meeting, in June, isn't quite a figment of our imagination. The theme "Wine Down With ESLA", at the Twisted Fish Gallery, gave us a chance to try something new and different. It was a pleasure to meet so many ESLA members. And the showers didn't seem to dampen anyone's enthusiasm for good food, wine, music and friendship. We will plan on something equally enjoyable for the Annual Meeting in 2015.

With plans in mind, the Elk Rapids High School Summer Interns, Jacob

species. Two areas in our watershed were found to contain Hybrid Eurasian Water Milfoil. They have submitted a report and how to treat it is still to be determined. ESLA is being included in a grant request by Tip of the Mitt to cover cost of our milfoil infestation treatment.

It was such a joy to witness the three interns dedication, work ethic and enthusiasm, as they undertook their tasks. If harnessed, I believe their energy could supply Elk Rapid's needs for a couple of months!

A special note of thanks goes to Dale Claudepierre, who recruited the interns, arranged their schedule of summer activities, reviewed their report, and provided skilled mentoring during the summer.

Water sampling of Elk and Skegemog Lakes continued this summer and the results have been submitted to the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council for recording and analysis. Some of the preliminary results are included in this newsletter.

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Finally, ESLA continues to support research by the DNR on an genetically unique type of lake trout found only, to date, in Elk Lake. Read the article to learn why this strain of fish could have important implications for the Michigan fishery.

Ruth Bay

ESLA President

ESLA Intern Investigation Confirms Invasive Watermilfoil



What can our riparians do to help? Watch for unusual aquatic plants along your shoreline and learn about the appearance and characteristics of invasive watermilfoil. Contact ESLA through our email address (eslmembers@chartermi.net) or Dale Claudepierre, Environmental Protection Committee at gini-dale70@gmail.com).

The interns have written a more detailed report presenting their findings, which they have presented to the Elk Rapids School Board and the ESLA Board of Directors. Their report soon will be available on the ESLA website.

Each summer for the past 8 years ESLA has selected a few Elk Rapids high school students to sample water quality in our two lakes and the Torch and Rapid Rivers and to also earn academic credits. This year the students were incoming seniors Austin Wolfgram, Jacob Fedrigo, and Caitlin Scroggins. Pictured above, the interns are engaged in sampling and identification of aquatic insects from the Rapid River. Other activities included lake water quality monitoring and follow-up investigations from concerned riparians.

Based on a request by a home owner in Torch River, an investigation was initiated in the Torch Bayou (at the intersection of the Torch and Rapid Rivers). The interns and several ESLA Board members collected aquatic plant samples from the bayou at locations shown to the right. The collected plant material was sent to a laboratory at Grand Valley State University and through DNA analysis all of the locations were confirmed to contain an invasive hybrid watermilfoil. This hybrid is a cross between invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and native watermilfoil. The same process was followed at two other locations and the results confirmed the presence of invasive watermilfoil (see <http://restorativelakesciences.com/wp-content/>



2014 ESLA Annual Meeting a Great Success



ESLA members enjoying good food and renewing acquaintances.



Don't miss the next ESLA annual meeting at the Twisted Fish Gallery in June of 2015!!!



Above: past President Bob Kingon being recognized for exemplary service to ESLA

Left: Thom Yokum, Water Quality Coordinator, being recognized for exemplary service to ESLA.

Right: President Ruth Bay enjoying some wine at the 2014 annual meeting at the Twisted Fish Gallery in Elk Rapids.



2014 Elk and Skegemog Lake Monitoring Data

Once a week, from June through August, Dale Claudepierre and Dean Ginther collect water samples and record information from Skegemog and Elk Lakes respectively. This information includes air temperature, water clarity, water temperature, and, every other week, chlorophyll A. Sampling Chlorophyll A is a surrogate for actually measuring algae biomass which, among other things, is indicative of the amount of nutrients, such as phosphorous, which are entering the water.

In September, the information and samples are given to Kevin Cronk at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Center for analysis and inclusion in the year-to-year database. Below is the water clarity (Secchi disc depth) and air and water temperatures collected this summer for Elk and Skegemog Lakes. In general, the water temperatures remained relatively low this summer and the water clarity was high.

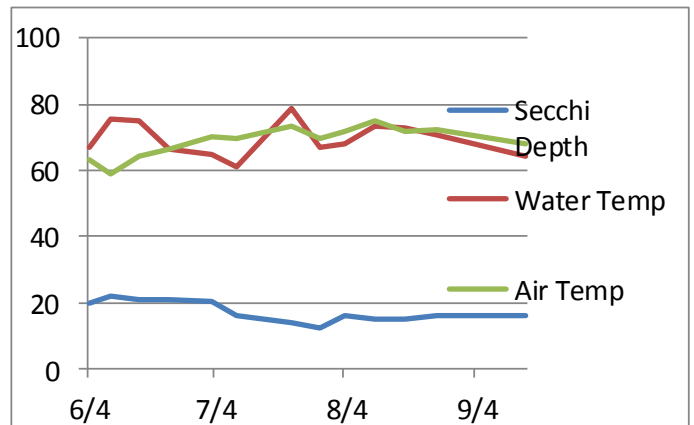
Elk Lake

Date	Secchi Disc Depth feet	Air Temp F	Water Temp F
6/4	20	67	63
6/9	22	75.4	59
6/16	21	75.2	64.4
6/23	21	66.3	66.2
7/3	20.5	64.6	70
7/9	16	61	69.8
7/16	16	64.2	68
7/22	14	78.5	73.4
7/29	12.5	67.2	69.8
8/4	16	67.9	71.6
8/11	15	73.3	75.2
8/18	15	73	71.6
8/26	16	70.5	72.5

Skegemog Lake

Date	Secchi Disc Depth feet	Air Temp F	Water Temp F
6/4	20	64.4	66.2
6/9	22	64.4	64.4
6/16	16	75.2	68
6/28	17	73.4	71.6
7/3	17	71.6	69.8
7/11	20	73.4	68
7/14	18	71.6	69.8
7/21	16	73.4	71.6
7/30	16	66.2	68
8/4	15	71.6	73.4
8/15	11	68	66.2
8/21	13	73.4	71.6
8/26	11	71.6	73.4

Elk Lake Data Graph



Attention Anglers

DNR Study of “Remnant” Lake Trout Continues

Under the direction of Michigan DNR Research Biologist Jory Jonas and Central Michigan graduate student Kyle Broadway, research on an apparently genetically unique type of remnant lake trout believed to be found only in Elk Lake continues with the support of ESLA. The ESLA Board approved a grant of \$5000 to the DNR to help purchase radio tracking equipment which will be used to study the movement of these

fish. During the next year, several lake trout will be caught and tagged by DNR biologists and then returned into

Elk Lake. The tags, which are inserted just below the dorsal fin, emit a radio signal which can then be tracked by a receiver. If you happen to catch a lake trout with one of these tags, please record the day, time, and location and, return the fish live back into the lake and then contact Jory Jonas. If you keep the fish, please return the undamaged tag to Jory Jonas at the address below:

Jory Jonas
 Fisheries Research Biologist
 96 Grant Street, Charlevoix MI, 49720
 (231) 547-2914 xt 229

Jory recently attended an international fisheries meeting in Quebec City, Canada and presented the findings from the prior Elk Lake investigations regarding the remnant

Lake Trout. During the presentation, ESLA was mentioned as being strong collaborators on the project. The presentation resulted in some great connections with other researchers, including a geneticist in Ontario Canada who has offered to run mitochondrial DNA investigations of the tissue samples which will be collected from lake trout in Elk Lake. He also will provide information on the phylogeography of our Elk Lake fish. This analysis will answer questions about where these lake trout came from in a broader

context of regional effects related to glaciation, and speciation. In addition, a researcher from Wyoming, who is working toward eliminating lake trout

(and introduced species) from Yellowstone Lake, has several hundred passive receivers deployed in that lake and over 100 transducers in marked fish. He has offered to provide expert opinions and advice on our project as we get underway.

Most lake trout in the Great Lakes and inland lakes in Michigan are not reproducing “in the wild”. One exception appears to be the remnant lake trout found in Elk Lake. Thus, this continued research is potentially quite significant for the Michigan lake trout fishery. Jory plans to submit a request to the DNR for continued funding of the research project in January of 2015.



ESLA Endowment Fund

The Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) Board of Directors, in 1999, had the foresight to establish the Elk Skegemog Lakes Endowment Fund in cooperation with Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation (GTRCF— www.gtrcf.org). The Elk-Skegemog Lakes Endowment Fund is a GTRCF environmental themed fund serving Elk-Skegemog lakes within Antrim, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska Counties.

The principal in our Endowment Fund, as a result of contributions, stays intact and growing while the annual interest can be distributed or reinvested depending on the election of the ESLA Board. Among other activities, the interest gained from the Fund has allowed ESLA to support the research activities conducted by the ESLA summer interns, within the ESLA geographic boundaries, under the supervision of Dale Claudepierre, our current Environmental Committee Chair.

Donating to the Elk-Skegemog Lakes Endowment Fund through the GTRCF offers the advantage of supporting efforts in the preservation and protection of our lakes (Elk and Skegemog) and rivers (Torch and Rapid River) not only today, but in perpetuity. Contributions are tax deductible on an itemized federal tax return.

In addition to your annual dues, we hope you will consider a gift to the Elk-Skegemog Lakes Endowment Fund. Checks should be written to the Elk-Skegemog Lakes Endowment Fund and mailed directly to: Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, 250 E. Front Street, Suite 310, Traverse City, MI 49684

The Community Foundation can also facilitate stock gifts and estate directives. For additional information, call the Foundation at (231) 935 4066 or contact Pete DiMercurio, (see the ESLA Board contact list) to assist in directing any questions.

Thank you for your continued support of ESLA.

Boating Safety Course—last May, ESLA, for the 3rd consecutive year, sponsored a free Boating Safety Course which was held at the Elk Rapids High School. Twenty one students, ages 12 and above, participated in the 4 hour course, after which an exam was taken. All of the students passed the exam and received a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC).

Why are these courses offered?

- To promote safe and enjoyable use of our water resources, and,
- To comply with the following legal requirements:
 - (a) any person born after July 1, 1996 must have and carry a BSC to operate any boat with a motor greater than 6 HP;
 - (b) any person born after December 31, 1978 must have and carry ABSC to operate any personal water craft (PWC Jet Ski).

Who instructs the course?

A certified Boating Safety Instructor from the Sheriff's Marine Patrol teaches the course.

Will ESLA sponsor such a course next year?

Our intention is to sponsor such courses as long as a Sheriff's Marine Patrol instructor is available to teach the course. Further information on the next course offered will appear in a future ESLA Newsletter.

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION

July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015

Officers	Address	Phone	Email
Ruth Bay	President 11393 Center Rd. Traverse City 49686	947-1619	jackbay@charter.net
Dale Claudepierre	Vice Pres. 13952 Fairmont Dr. Rapid City 49676	322-2892	ginidale70@gmail.com
Kathy DiMercurio	Rec. Sec. 535 Sixth St. Traverse City 49684	946-1687	kathygets@charter.net
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Robert Stibbs	Treasurer 10561 S. Elk Lake Rd. Williamsburg	218-5391	stibbs@omico.net

ZONE DIRECTORS

ZONE A

Ron Gurdak	Captain 8969 Cairn Hwy, Elk Rapids	264-6581	rongurdak@chartermi.net
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ZONE B

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ZONE C

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Joan Richardson	9350 Larsen Rd Williamsburg	267-5458	phijo@gmail.com

Zone D

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Tim Wheeler	7546 Hoiles Dr. Williamsburg	267-5830	twheeler@torchlake.com

Zone E

Dave Lawicki	Captain 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	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	brendamil@charter.net

ESLA WEB SITE: WWW.ELK-SKEGEMOG.ORG

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



Upcoming GreenER Village Events

November 1

The Newport Alternative Energy Task force along with the President of the village of Northport will present a forum on alternative energy projects and future opportunities. The event will be held at the governmental building on Bridge Street, Saturday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m. The community is cordially invited to attend.

November 6

Roger Gauthier, Chair, Restore Our Water International, Inc — Climate and Human Factors Affecting Lake Michigan Water Levels, ERHS Museum. 7:00 p.m. This talk will provide background information on the Great Lakes hydrology, hydraulics and climate, as well as economic and environmental challenges, hopefully leading to a robust discussion on the best approaches governments can implement to minimize disruptions.