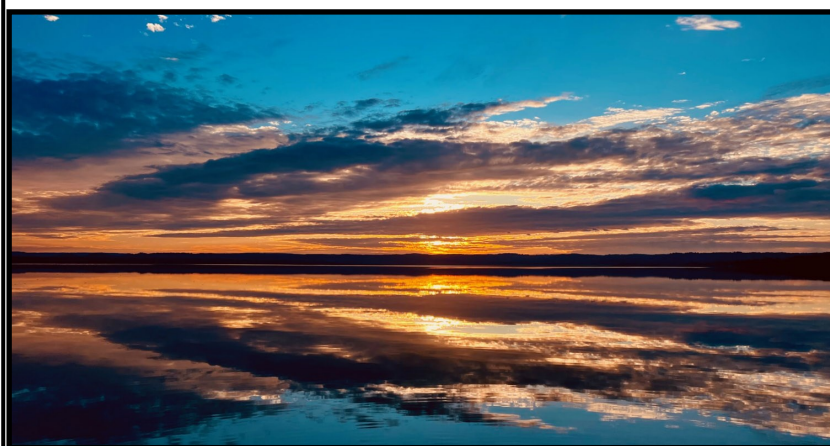




ELK-SKEGEMOG **LAKES ASSOCIATION** **NEWSLETTER** **Nov. 2024**



REFLECTIONS ON THE WATER

By GEORGE SEIFRIED,
ESLA PRESIDENT

This fall has been exceptional — dramatic sunrises and warmer days to visit farm stands, orchards and perhaps enjoy locally grown apples and pumpkins. Meanwhile, drought conditions have posed challenges for creeks, rivers and wetlands that support native plants, fish and animals.

ESLA's warm weather work wound down and Samantha, our lake biologist, has compiled her detailed report on ESLA's environmental work. Find the details on pages 11 -15 inside this newsletter. Planning is under way for next year's work. Also looking ahead: Details for events celebrating ESLA's 75th anniversary in 2025 are being finalized. You'll see details in the print newsletter we'll send out in early March.

On another front, ESLA is working with concerned groups and individuals to responsibly address erosion threatening the islands bordering the upstream end of the Torch River, destroying habitat for loons, sandhill cranes and other species. Read a detailed report in this newsletter on pages 8 - 10.

The lawsuit ESLA and its partners initiated two years ago in federal court is moving toward a possible trial next spring. The goal is to force an Elk Rapids fruit processor to comply with federal and state clean water laws for fruit processing waste disposal.

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Those wastes have harmed Spencer Creek, which empties into Elk Lake's Spencer Bay. We've emailed all members on our need for financial help as we head toward trial in 2025. See the article on the following page and please contribute any amount you can click [HERE](#):

Meanwhile, following recent elections, many new members have joined local township boards. We hope water-friendly policies follow. Shoreline buffers, septic regulations and invasives control are top priorities. In Milton Township, a new subcommittee will review the current shoreline ordinance. Contact Milton offices (231-264-6612) for details on meeting times and places to voice your concerns.

Yes, it's a busy time around ESLA waters. Just know the ESLA board thanks you for your generosity and past support. With your help, we look forward to your continued membership in 2024 (it is not too late—see below) to continue our mission to preserve and protect our natural resources. We wish each of you a safe and wonderful holiday season.



Three Ways to Pay ESLA Dues

1. Go to the [ESLA website](#).
2. Scan the QR code to the right with your mobile phone. This will take you directly to the payment option on the ESLA website.
3. Send a check or credit/debit card information in the attached dues envelope to: P.O. Box 8, Elk Rapids, MI 49629.

Elk Lake Pollution Suit Enters Critical Phase



By Bob Campbell and Steve Francis
Photos by Samantha Ogle

In June of 2023, a lawsuit was filed by ESLA and two partners intended to force a local fruit processor to end decades of violations of federal and state water pollution regulations. The suit has recently reached a critical moment for our waters, our organization, our members, and our mission.

ESLA records show that concerns about the operation's discharges impacting Elk Lake go back more than 60 years. While state regulators have been in discussions with plant owner Burnette for

years, ESLA and its lawsuit partners — the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians — haven't been informed of any progress. The three partners first filed a "notice of intent" to sue under provisions of the U.S. Clean Water Act and Michigan Environmental Protection Act in November 2022.

We hoped to contribute our insights toward a permanent and effective fix. Our goal, quite simply, was to protect our shared waters and our emotional and financial stakes in our properties. Burnette's response to the NOI filing was silence. Then, after the three partners formally filed a lawsuit in federal court, Burnette quickly sought to dismiss the case. A federal judge in Grand Rapids rejected Burnette's legal maneuver and the case is progressing. To support the case, we talked to property owners, who have endured the odors and foamy, stained waters in Spencer Creek (which flows into Elk Lake) linked to Burnette's discharges.

Background:

Burnette has pumped fruit processing wastes for decades from its plant on US-31 in Elk Rapids onto "spray fields" south of the village. That has led to runoff into adjacent wetlands which drain to Spencer

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Creek, which flows into Elk Lake's Spencer Bay.

The MiEnviro portal that the state created in 2015 to electronically track compliance with environmental permits attributes **2,583 violations to Burnette's Elk Rapids facility between 2015 and Nov. 17, 2022** — the filing date for our “notice of intent” to sue.



Violations included failure to meet data reporting deadlines; direct illegal discharges to surface waters (see pictures); and exceedance of permit standards for effluent discharge volume and application rates. Violations of permit standards were specifically for chemicals, includ-

ing Sodium, Chloride, pH, Phosphorus, and Nitrogen.

Our biologists also have documented high levels of E.coli and low levels of dissolved oxygen in Spencer Creek. In his lawsuit deposition, Dan Mays, a tribal biologist, said that he has sampled more than 200 streams in Michigan for conductivity (a pollution indicator) and never seen one as high as he found in Spencer Creek.

ESLA witnesses and various consultants have observed unnatural foam, odors, and colors in Spencer Creek, as documented by photos taken by ESLA biologist Samantha Ogle.

From a procedural aspect, the three partners are currently in pre-trial discovery with Burnette. Written requests for documents have been exchanged and responses provided. Depositions, an expensive aspect of litigation, are ongoing. Burnette's legal team has deposed staff and experts

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from the partners and property owners who have cited damage from Burnette's actions. Burnette is surveying and testing septic systems of properties adjacent to Spencer Creek in an apparent effort to shift blame. So far, Burnette has been unwilling to admit any fault or begin negotiating a solution with the three partners.

As we approach a spring trial, costs are piling up for expert witnesses we have hired, paralegals who have sorted through hundreds of pages of our emails, texts and other communications, the hours biologists have spent col-

lecting and analyzing water samples and appearing for depositions. We desperately need your help to keep moving forward. We must raise \$50,000 to cover immediate costs and more by the time the case goes to trial.

If you have questions, call ESLA President George Seifried at 231-492-0706 or write to elkskegemoglakes@gmail.com. You may send checks to Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association at Box 8, Elk Rapids, MI. 49629 or online at the [ESLA website](#).

You also may request that your support for this cause be anonymous. Thank you in advance for your support!

2024 Fishing Report: The good and the disappointing

By Ken Krentz, ESLA's "Fish Guy"

The 2024 fishing season is nearing a close, so it's time to compile a report of the successes and shortcomings of fishing this year in Elk And Skegemog Lakes. Overall, the reports are not that good, less than normal success was had in some areas, especially in Elk.



ELK LAKE

Trout fishing was mostly down. Although there were occasional decent catches of rainbows (steelhead), lake trout action was slow, and brown trout — despite all the DNR plants — were nowhere (except Torch Lake) to be found. Lack of deepwater trolling success prompted some of the usual lake trout anglers to abandon their pursuit or fish other waters. Despite the poor fishing, large fish were graphed just off the bottom in 100-plus feet of water.

Last spring, the DNR planted 37,00 browns with clipped fins for tracking. (ESLA volunteers helped with the clipping and are expected to again next spring). If you catch a brown with a clipped right or left ventral fin, contact the local DNR biologist, Heather Hettinger, at hettingerh@michigan.gov, with the date, location, size, and right or left fin clip. This will help determine the whereabouts of the planted browns.

The DNR tagged a few lake trout in 2014 or 2015 by the DNR for a separate study. Tagged lakera have one or two green plastic loop tags under the dorsal fin. If you catch one, please report it to Hettinger. If you catch one with two tags, it will have a transmitter inserted in its gut that should be returned for reuse.

Elk's once vibrant whitefish population and fishing success is zero. Similar whitefish disappearance has occurred in other deepwater inland lakes and the Great Lakes. Whitefish feed on the bottom end of the food chain on macro-invertebrates and small fish and are very sensitive to the plankton population. In recent years, ESLA has measured increased water clarity using a Secchi disc. This is most likely due to decreased plankton content caused by the zebra and, more recently, quagga mussel invasions. Zebra mussel populations have shrunk, but quaggas consume even more plank-

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ton. Clear water in Elk is a negative for all species. ESLA will continue the water clarity measurements and in 2023 started plankton sampling to get a year-by-year assessment.

Smallmouth and rock bass fishing success was down for most anglers this year, too. Their favorite food source is native crayfish, and their population is down. One ESLA board member who had enjoyed watching crayfish dart in and out of a decades old stump in about 2 feet of water near his dock, reports the crayfish disappeared beginning in 2023. Elk and Skegemog had extensive golden brown algae again in 2024 covering many of the shallow water rock areas where crayfish and bass thrive. There seemed to be less weed growth, too, along the 12'-30' drop offs and that could be a factor. Fortunately, the forage base of all minnow species and small perch is doing well, as the 2022 DNR Elk Lake survey confirmed. Charter operator Jim Chamberlain confirmed that various deep water species he and his customers caught were crammed with tiny perch and other baitfish.

Mayfly nymphs, a favored food for most fish in the lakes, have declined too, over the past five years. Instead of intense hatches over two weeks, they've been spread over six or more weeks. Sporadic hatching has been common over the northern Michigan lakes and rivers. Poor hatching weather is a suspected cause.

LAKE SKEGEMOG

Largemouth and smallmouth bass and panfish are Skeg's main targets and 2024 was a fair year. Golden brown algae affects Lake Skegemog as much as Elk, but weed growth overall is normal or expanding with a variety of types growing all over providing good fish cover. The crayfish population is scarce along the shoreline, but they are in the weeds and deeper water. The mayfly hatches have been less intense and spread out over a longer period for the last few years, like Elk Lake.

The declining native musky population may get a boost from the 1,600 10-12" Great Lakes muskies the DNR planted in the Fall of 2023. Ice fishing was non-existent on Elk and a chancy proposition on Skegemog because of another warmer winter.

TIP FOR 2024: Hit the shelters

If you want to help a grandchild catch a few fish in Elk Lake next summer, don't overlook locating one or more of the 15 "fish shelters" ESLA built and installed (with DNR approval) a few years ago. The shelters are made of natural materials (wood and rocks) and found in 15-20 feet of water. Here's a [link](#) that shows the GPS coordinates for the shelters, which you can find with a fishfinder or handheld GPS.

Groups join forces to help save Torch River's disappearing Islands

By Bob Campbell and John Spevacek. Photos by Steve Jessmore.

Steve Jessmore first raised concerns with ESLA members about the potential disappearance of the narrow islands near the mouth of the Torch River.



Jessmore, a professional photographer with a cottage on the river, ended his ESLA “Shore Thing” photography presentation in late July with a warning that he was seeing dramatic erosion of the islands with many implications. Jessmore fears the erosion threatens the future of the loons and other subjects of his award-winning wild bird photography, as well as other critters. His photos accompanying this story help explain the concerns.

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The erosion, he and others believe, has been accelerated as increased numbers of boats anchor near and against the shores of the private islands in recent summers. The threatened river section is known as “The Chute.” On the northeast side of the chute is Frog Island which separates the river from the bayou. On the southwest side is Huck Finn Island, which separates the river from the lagoon. Both islands are private and shelter the bayou and lagoon from boat traffic. The lagoon, especially, is a rich breeding, feeding and nesting ground for loons, sandhill cranes, river otters and other animals. Areas within the lagoon also provide rich fish spawning habitat.

Homeowners in both areas have grown increasingly concerned about the islands’ erosion, as more boaters each summer anchor against the islands’ shores and frolic in the shallow water with their two-legged and four-legged crews. Sue Kelly lives on the Bayou and helped lead an effort to reduce boat anchoring along the islands back in the 1990s. In recent years, she watched a repeat of the challenge.

“The main goal that we’re striving for is the preservation of the natural areas along the river,” she said. “We hope to educate people that those islands and some of the wetlands in those area are private property.”

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Local riparians, ESLA board and regular members and representatives of the Torch Lake Protection Alliance and Torch Conservation Center have met in zoom meetings this fall to brainstorm unified responses to prolong the life of the fragile ecosystem. No trespassing signs went up this fall and further signage explaining the critical habitat issues are in the planning stage, too.

The group first identified and then talked to owners of the islands who also want to stop trespass, trash and other issues on their land. The island advocates also have met with sheriffs from Antrim and Kalkaska counties, Kelly said, and had positive response to help keep boaters away from the threatened islands.

“We know it’ll take a couple years of education and enforcement,” she said. “But even if we can cut it back to 80 percent, we’re headed in the right direction.”

Interested in helping protect the Torch River islands? Send an email to elk-skegemoglakes@gmail.com.

2024 LAKE BIOLOGIST'S BUSY SUMMER

By Samantha Ogle, ESLA Biologist



Samantha Ogle on Lake Skegemog last summer conducting an aquatic plant survey.

It was a busy summer with projects focusing on understanding ESLA waters and preserving and protecting them. About 20 projects ranged from invasive species research and management to twice monthly algae sampling in Elk Lake. Here's an overview:

WATER QUALITY

Spencer Creek: We continued regular monitoring and sampling for various parameters in all seasons.

Plankton Sampling: In ESLA's second year with this program, we collected Phyto- and Zooplankton, tiny plants and animals at the base of the aquatic food chain. We took samples in spring, summer and fall in Elk and Skegemog Lakes and the Torch River. Monitoring plankton populations helps us see food chain trends. ESLA's 2022 confirmation of invasive, plankton-gorging quagga mussels is a huge concern.

NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Sampling: I am trained in this free program with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to identify five dif-

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ferent harmful algal blooms. Samples are collected at three sites every two weeks, ice out to ice in on Elk Lake. Fortunately, there have been no concerning results.

E. coli Sampling: I sampled two sections of shoreline on Elk Lake for E. coli. Neither had concentrations of concern.

NEW — Aquatic Plant Surveys: ESLA purchased two GoPro cameras in 2024 to monitor aquatic gardens. I collected crystal-clear videos of various sites, looking for aquatic invasive species and for an improved understanding of the native plant population. Aquatic plants are essential to our



waters, and understanding the density and diversity of species is critical.

Closeup of native aquatic plants in Lake Skegemog.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Purple Loosestrife: We surveyed areas of Elk, Skegemog and the Torch and Rapid rivers for this terrestrial plant. In 2025, ESLA will work with the CAKE CISMA specialists on a large project to chemically treat the Skegemog Natural Area, home to our largest infestation. In 2024, we mechanically removed plants in Elk, Skegemog and the Torch River. Five years ago, there were 50 sites on the west side of Elk Lake where ESLA re-

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moved PL. Now, there are fewer than 15 sites.

Yellow Flag Iris: We completed full lake surveys in Elk and Skegemog lakes for the first time this year. In early spring 2025, we will contact property owners where we found this invasive iris and ask permission to remove it.

Phragmites: We identified a few small areas in the Skegemog Natural Area. A plan for treatment will be developed this winter. This invasive reed is listed as one of the top 10 most harmful invasive species and is essential to remove before it gets out of control.

Autumn Olive: In ESLA's road end surveys, we identified many locations with this common, invasive shrub. ESLA will work with counties and municipalities to remove the plants to slow their spread, which often overwhelms native, beneficial plants.

Eurasian Watermilfoil: We gathered data and GoPro footage to map the size of a few spots where we've battled this dangerous aquatic invasive. We mechanically removed what we could in the Torch Bayou and are



A large patch of Eurasian Watermilfoil in the Torch River

exploring
alternatives

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for treatment that other lake associations have used with success.

Curly Leaf Pondweed: We found a large infestation of this aggressive invader in the Rapid River, south of the Aarwood Bridge. We knew that there was some Curly Leaf in the Torch River and learned that the Rapid is the source. We will develop a plan with partners this winter that is best for the ecosystem, as well as riparians on the Rapid River.

Boat Washing Events: We hosted one event with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. The events are free and used to inform trailer boaters how easy and important it is to wash boats between each use.



HEALTHY SHORELINES

Shoreline Consultations: I completed seven consultations this year. Current ESLA members can get these for free by reaching out to elkskegemoglakes@gmail.com. We discuss erosion concerns, invasive species, native near-shore plantings and other concerns.

Hardening of the Shore Workshop: We focused on lake-friendly alternatives to sea-

walls, large rocks or boulders to protect shorelines. An expert on healthy shoreline bioengineering from Habitat Landscap made the presentaton. Watch the video [HERE](#).

OTHER PROGRAMS

Adopt-A-Stream: ESLA monitors two sites with this program through the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Center. We sample for macroinvertebrates in the spring and fall of each year in Spencer Creek and the Rapid River.

Discovery Boat Tours: Utilizing a free rental pontoon from the Elk Rapids Marina on Elk Lake, we hosted five, 2-hour tours. I present an overview of lake ecology, including pulling our plankton net and aquatic plant rake tosses. We also discuss fish, swimmer's itch and more.

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Road End Surveys: Road ends examination gives us insight to erosion, invasive species and potentially damaging lake access. We found invasive plants at 15 of 20 road ends.



A road end in ESLA waters showing severe erosion into the lake.

October 10, 2024 – an amazing display

By Dean Ginther

Years ago, when I was in grade school, my father woke me from a sound sleep and asked me to get dressed and walk down to our dock on Elk Lake. When I got down there, everyone had gathered and all were “ooing and ah-ing” looking toward the northern sky. That was the first time I had ever seen the Northern Lights. Since then, I have spent decades hoping to see the aurora in northern Michigan again but until last month, I had no joy. But on October 10th, the aurora was spectacular, especially for this latitude where the aurora is typically not visible to the unaided eye.

These images were taken between about 10 pm – 12 at the top of the hill on Ringler Road (see image right) about 1,000 feet from Elk Lake . The aurora appeared to the north but also in nearly every other direction and overhead too. These images were captured with a



digital camera on a tripod. For the photo nerds, the exposure was around 4 sec., f1.4, 1/500. Although the aurora was clearly visible to the unaided eye, the camera better captured the intensity of the varied colors.

See the [NOAA aurora website](#) for forecasts.



Why this ESLA newsletter isn't printed

We thought members should know why we're emailing this newsletter and not sending a printed version via U.S. mail

Cost: Emailing versus printing and mailing this newsletter, even after sending postcard notices to members and riparians whose emails we don't have, will save ESLA about \$3,000. If we don't have your email, please share with us (we promise not to share with others). Communicating with you about anything (such as late cancellation of a Shore Thing) will be faster, simpler. Alternatively, we'll suggest in the postcard that the newsletter is online at Elk-Skegemog.org.

Time: Hours spent assembling a printed newsletter vs. a digital one are enough to make your volunteer editors quit. Digital is much easier. A printed publication has pages that can only squeeze in so much on formatted pages. And the number of pages must be divisible by the number 4. All that adds up to speedier results. Dean Ginther, ESLA's long-time newsletter editor, and Bob Campbell, the fussy newspaper guy and past ESLA president mashing the newsletter copy, confirm you're getting an improved product. Importantly, their wives agree.

Every day the world grows more digital: like it or not. We may be late to this game, but we're not blind to the present and future.

Having extolled the virtues of this change, we offer this carrot: Our new look, early March "Annual Report and Member Celebration Issue", will be printed on glossy paper and mailed. It will list 2024 paid members (there's still time if you haven't) and their support levels. It'll have new details, too, about ESLA's 75th anniversary plans and so much more. Put it on the coffee table with pride.

We'll mail it to the snail mail address we have on file for you (and also post it on the website). If you'd rather we save a few bucks and email it, let us know at our email below.

Convinced? Or not? Send an email to elkskegemoglakes@gmail.com to tell us: a). we've lost our minds or b). You like that we'll put your membership dollars to better use to preserve and protect our precious waters and resources.

Bob Campbell and Dean Ginther, co-editors



Become An ESLA Champion and/or Legend

ESLA hopes to keep the donation momentum alive with recruitment of new and renewing Champions. Six supporters of ESLA's water quality protection and preservation mission embraced the **Champion** program in 2023 and several more joined in 2024. Champions are donors who make a gift of \$5000 or more in a single year or who have pledged to give \$5000 or more within five or fewer years — to either the Strategic Environmental Fund or the Endowment Fund managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

Another opportunity to create long-term, reliable ESLA support is the **Legends** program. You can make a pledge to the future of our waters and shores with an immediate or future gift of \$25,000 or more. To become a Legend, tap your checkbook, or charity trust or include ESLA in your estate plan. Donors may choose to have their gift added to the Strategic Environmental Fund described above or to the Elk-Skegemog Lakes Assn. Endowment. Endowment gifts are held in perpetuity and generate yearly income based on a three-year average of the account balance (currently about \$162,000).

Gifts for Legends and Champions are not applied to ESLA membership dues. Questions? Contact former ESLA president and Co-Newsletter Editor Dean Ginther at 231-676-2928 or send an email to ElkSkegemoglakes@gmail.com. Thanks for your generous support. And thanks again to those Champions and Legends who enable ESLA to complete its mission to preserve and protect our beautiful waters.





2024 ESLA Business Supporters

TOP BUSINESS SUPPORTERS (\$5,000)

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<https://elkrapidsmarina.com>

BUSINESS PATRON SUPPORTERS (\$500)

BARKER CREEK NURSERY 231-267-5972

<https://www.barkercreek.net>

NORTH SHORE DOCK AND MARINE 231-313-2627

<http://www.northshoredock.com>

RE/MAX OF ELK RAPIDS DON FEDRIGON 231-264-5400

<https://www.remax.com/real-estate-agents/donald-fedrigon-elk-rapids-mi/100001774>

BUSINESS SUSTAINER (\$250)

EXIT REALTY - SCOTT MOORE 231-883-8977

<https://www.northernexit.com>

HABITAT LANDSCAPE – DAVID SPEISER 231-622-2688

<https://www.habitat-landscape.com>

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2024 ESLA Business Supporters

BUSINESS SUSTAINER (\$250) (continued)

ROCKY AND MARY PAIGE 248-277-8875

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REAL ESTATE ONE-WAYNE TOTEFF 248-392-6259

<https://www.c21northland.com>

SHORT'S BREWING CO. 231-498-2300

<https://www.shortsbrewing.com>

BUSINESS BACKER (\$100-\$150)

FISH WITH JIM (CHAMBERLAIN) OUTFITTERS 248-252-1277

<https://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com>

LAKESIDE PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE 231-254-5000

<https://lakesidepropertiesrealestate.com>

CUSTOM PEST CONTROL 231-631-5023

<http://custompestcontroltc.com>

COACH'S ANGLE CHARTERS-FRED FIELDS 260-519-1168

<http://coachscharters.com>

STEVE JESSMORE PHOTOGRAPHY 616-606-3451

<https://www.stevejessmore.com>

VILLAGE MARKET ELK RAPIDS 231-264-5629

<https://www.villmkt.com>

ELK RAPIDS CENTURY 21-KELLIE SERGENT 231-264-4500

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2024 ESLA Business Supporters

<https://www.c21northland.com>

ALL SMILES DENTISTRY 231-264-6300

<https://www.allsmilesfamilydentistry.com>

STONEY CABIN TOYS 231-498-5744

<https://www.stoneycabintoy.com>

WANDA WOOD RESORT 231-313-8544

<http://wandawoodresort.com>

RIVERWALK GRILL & TAP ROOM 231-264-0377

<https://www.riverwalkelkrapids.com>

GREAT LAKES COTTAGE WATCH 231-633-7378

<https://glcottagewatch.com>

HUSBAND'S BARBER SHOP 231-463-3477

ESLA Board and Support November, 2024

Contact: elkskegemoglakes@gmail.com.

231-492-0706

Officers

George Seifried	President
John Spevacek	Vice President
-Open	Rec. Sec.
Nancy Schreiber	Corr. Sec.
Phil Spangenberg	Treasurer

-

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Bob McCririe	Zone Captain
	Government Relationships
John Conrad	Government Relationships
Nancy Schreiber	Social
Deanna Seifried	Membership, Social
George Seifried	

ZONE B

Ruth Bay	Social
Dale Claudepierre	Environment
Steve Francis	Legal
Dean Ginther	Newsletter
Andy Hogarth	Environment
Ken Krentz	Fisheries

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ESLA Board and Support November 2024

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ZONE D

Bob Campbell	Zone Capt. Newsletter
Bob Reider	Environment
Phil Spangenberg	Treasurer
John Spevacek	Environment
	Government Relationships

ZONE E

Mary Beth Kazanski	Zone Capt.
	Government Relationships

SUPPORT

Samantha Ogle	Lake Biologist
Michael Ogle	Admin. Assistant

ESLA WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ESLA members Beth Wiesenauer and John Conrad stepped forward this fall to join the ESLA board of directors.

Beth was an IT director for Dow Chemical in Midland and retired after more than 35 years. She lives with her two sons and yellow lab in the Miami Beach subdivision on the south end of Elk Lake. She has helped ESLA's lake biologist with shoreline conservation projects and volunteered at ESLA boat wash events.

John lives in Elk Rapids Township. He was recently the general manager of Elk Rapids Marina on Elk Lake and has other business interests. As marina manager, he successfully advocated ESLA memberships for all slip renters, as well as ESLA's courtesy use of a rental pontoon for Lake Learning Tours.