



Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association

October 2016



Ruth Bay—ESLA President

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Eight Things Happy People Do:

- Express Gratitude: Never let the thing you want, make you forget about the things you have.
- Savor Life's Joy: The real beauty in life is in each precious moment. Stop and smell the roses.
- Commit To Your Goals: Most people who fail at reaching their dream, fail not from lack of ability, but from lack of commitment.
- Cultivate Optimism: Stay positive. When it rains, look for a rainbow. When it's dark, look for stars.
- Stop Over-thinking: Thinking too much only complicates your

life and creates a problem that wasn't even there in the first place.

- Avoid Social Comparison: Most of our insecurities come from comparing our behind-the-scenes, with other people's highlight reel.
- Increase Flow Experience: Flow is a state where you are so focused it feels like time stands still. Doing what you love and challenging yourself is how you get there.
- Nurture Your Relationships: The happiest people alive have deep meaningful relationships. Nurture them and watch them grow.

Start Right Now!

I've concluded that ESLA's members and board are indeed happy people. Whether you are still in the work-force or retired; Whether you are raising your children or have grand children and/or great-grand children; You are all committed to ensuring our rivers, lakes and environs are maintained with healthy practices for future generations to enjoy. Many of you are helping with ESLA projects and I would encourage many more of you to join us in projects and programs we are currently involved in, such as 'Adopt-A-Stream' or 'Swimmers Itch Project'.

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I have enjoyed conversations with so many interesting people in our 'It's A Shore Thing' educational meetings. We will finish this season in September and resume next April through September, on the 4th Friday of each month.

In the meantime, we are grateful for good health and living in this beautiful place on earth; we are identifying so many roses by their smell; we continue to reach for one more dream; we are adding to our stash of rainbows and stars; we enjoy new experiences that life has to offer; and above all, we cherish the love of family and friends. God is Good.

Because of the Water Project Completed

It's official! The Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce celebrated the completion of the "Because of the Water" display by sponsoring a "Ribbon Cutting" ceremony at 5 PM September 15 at Rotary Park. The Elk Rapids Rotary Park is just north of the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce building on the Elk River. Stop by and examine the historical and informational display next time you are in town.

Thanks to Jim Saks for his leadership in completing this two year project and for the support of Elk Rapids Rotary, the Elk Skegemog Lakes Association, and others. The beautiful map was produced by Mark Stone (michiganmapsonline.com).



DNR LAKE TROUT STUDY UPDATE

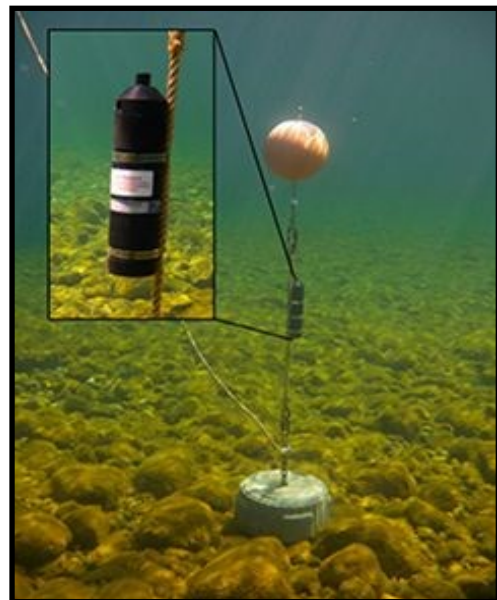
Submitted by Ken Kentz, ESLA

The Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources study of lake trout in Elk Lake has made significant progress over the last couple years under the direction of MDNR biologist Jory Jonas and CMU graduate student Kyle Broadway. This study of an apparently unique strain of lake trout, perhaps only found in Elk Lake, is supported by a \$5000 grant from ESLA. The project aims to better understand the trout's life cycle, spawning behavior, distribution, and population, and why there is a self sustaining population in Elk Lake. Most lake trout in the Great Lakes region are not reproducing in the wild. One exception is Elk Lake, as no fish have been planted in 30+ years. Thus, this research is quite significant for the lake trout fishery of the entire Great Lakes region.

Seven Elk Lake fish have been fitted with acoustic tracking devices for about a year now. They are living their normal lives in Elk Lake and being tracked by the DNR. Two fluorescent green plastic tags (see picture right) were inserted into each fish just below the dorsal fin and an acoustic device inserted in the gut. The fish's movements are tracked with both passive and active receivers. This summer and fall there are 7 passive receivers located around the lake gathering radio signals from the tagged fish. These receivers are anchored several feet below the surface and are pictured below right. They may be visible from the surface. If you spot one, please do not disturb! The DNR also uses a portable receiver to periodically travel around the lake by boat, or snowmobile on the ice, to track fish movement.

Also, a couple hundred fish are tagged with a single green plastic tag inserted under the dorsal fin without radio receiver. Catching these fish can provide valuable data. If you happen to catch a lake trout with one or two of these tags, please record the date, location, and fish length and preferably return the fish live back into the lake if it will survive. Report information to Jory Jonas at: Jory Jonas MDNR 96 Grant St. Charlevoix, MI 49720 (231) 547-2914 or MDNR website at michigandnr.com/taggedfish/. If you keep the fish with two tags, please return the undamaged device in its gut to Jory Jonas because they are expensive and reusable. The DNR also has posted notices at Elk and Skegemog Lake public access sites announcing the study and informing what to do with a tagged fish.

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The Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Plant Celebrates Anniversary

Submitted by Bill Stockhausen (pictured below, far left)



This is a very exciting time for the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Dam. The most critical event was that as of December 7 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued the renewal license that has been pursued for the past six years by us, Antrim County (ably led by Mark Stone, Operator of Dams), ESLA, and many others. Certainly the many studies and reports conducted by ESLA and the other lakes organizations helped immensely in obtaining the license extension. The original license was granted on February 9, 1981 and extended on August 19, 1999.

The new license will expire in 2045. As I will be approaching the century mark at that point in time, I will let my son, Stock, and son-in-law, Todd Culp, concern themselves about the next extension effort. A total of hundreds, if not more than a thousand, man hours have been expended in obtaining the approval but it was worth it to have the future of the Hydroelectric facility assured. The Hydro Plant will continue to provide a consistent revenue stream for the County to maintain the dam structure. The dam also is a barrier to the migration into the Chain of Lakes of the many invasive species now in the Great Lakes.

The second major milestone is that this is the centennial year of the Powerhouse/dam. It was constructed in 1916 on the same site of the last water powered sawmill in Elk Rapids. By 1916 the Michigan white pine forests had finally been depleted and the sawmill was no longer needed. Water power at Elk Rapids was still very valuable, however so the Elk Electric Company, realizing the ever increasing need for electricity, decided to build a hydro plant where the generating units would come on line gradually as needed, up to a total of four units. The lower level that houses the pits or bays for the turbines was essentially the same today as they were 100 years ago. However, originally only the south half of the superstructure (what you see at ground level from Dexter Street) was constructed in brick, housing two out of the four possible generating units. A wooden addition was installed in 1923 to house a third generator. In 1929 the entire superstructure was removed and the current building constructed with a full population of four generating units.

Last, but not least, we are in the planning stages of rehabilitating the interior of the Powerhouse, which is being funded by Antrim County, the owner of the facility. This includes stripping the old crumbling and peeling paint from the walls, ceiling and ironwork in the ceiling, and repainting the same. For those that have been inside the building over the past few years at one of our many open houses during the licensing process, know that this is long overdue.

New Shorelands Program Helps Waterfront Homeowners Improve Shorelines, Inland Lakes



The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership recently launched a program to help lakefront homeowners understand best practices to protect their shoreland and inland lakes. The new Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program will recognize inland lake property owners who are using healthy property management practices to protect their inland lakes and offer tips to further improve the shoreline.

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership promotes the use of shoreline best

management practices to protect and improve lakeshore habitat and water quality in Michigan's inland lakes. It is a collaboration of state agencies, academia, nonprofit organizations and private industry.

"Many people think owning lakefront property requires installing a seawall and clearing natural vegetation to make way for a lawn," said Julia Kirkwood, chair of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership and an environmental quality analyst at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. "But these types of activities change the lake ecosystem in ways that are hard to reverse."

High-impact development activities like seawall and other shoreline structure installation, natural vegetation clearing, and removing aquatic plants and fallen trees from the lake change the ecosystem and allow increased stormwater runoff, increased shoreline erosion and loss of habitat. As the lakeshore habitat deteriorates, animals such as birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish lose important breeding and feeding areas.

The 2007 National Lake Assessment, conducted by DEQ in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, indicates the loss of lakeshore habitat is the biggest threat to the overall health of Michigan's inland lakes. Shoreline and nearshore habitat was shown to be in poor condition in more than 40 percent of Michigan's inland lakes, and in only fair condition in another 20 percent of lakes, according to the survey.

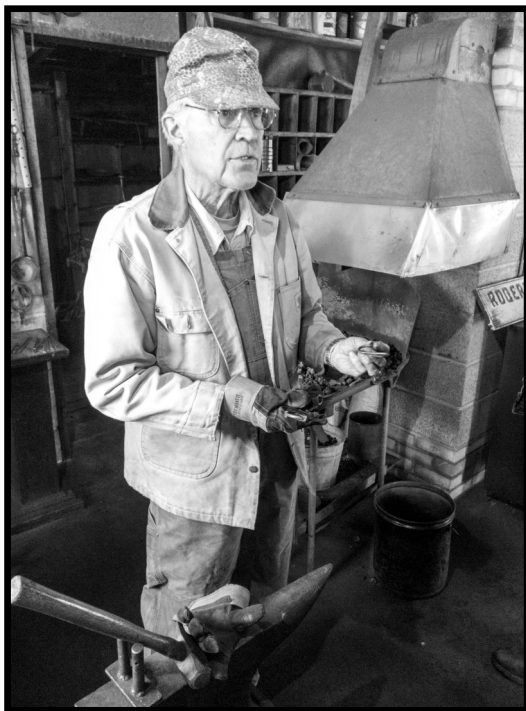
The Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program addresses this problem by providing recognition for property owners who are fostering natural shorelands on their properties. The program uses a web-based survey to ask property owners how they manage their properties to determine areas for improvement and potentially qualify for a certificate of recognition. Recognized Shoreland Stewards have the option of purchasing a low-cost sign for their properties to promote natural shorelines on their lake.

"We hope property owners will complete the survey to recognize their stewardship potential," said Joe Nohner, a resource analyst with the Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division. "And if a property does not meet the standards for a certificate, the property owner will be provided with suggestions to improve. Then we would encourage them to take the survey again once they've implemented changes to their practices."

For more information about the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, visit www.mishorelinepartnership.org. To take the Michigan Shoreland Stewardship Program survey, visit www.mishorelandstewards.org.

Samels Family Heritage Society Sponsors Blacksmith Workshop

William and Mariam Samels settled in Williamsburg and began farming in 1855 on property very near the junction of Elk and Skegemog Lakes, along the current Skegemog Point Road. Today, their farm is maintained by the Samels Family Heritage Society, which offers a variety of workshops and educational programs every year, including an introduction to blacksmithing. Below are pictures from the most recent blacksmith workshop offered on Saturday, Sept. 24. The instructor was Ted Ewald, pictured below left; participants pictured right. See <http://www.samelsfarm.org/> for more information about the Samels Heritage Society.



DNR LAKE TROUT STUDY UPDATE (cont. from pg. 3)

So far, several things have been learned about the Elk Lake lake trout. They are not genetically the same as lake trout that have been planted in Elk Lake or the Great Lakes throughout the 20th century. The planted strains in Elk Lake seem to have disappeared. The Elk Lake trout tend to live in deeper water than their Great Lakes relatives. The Great Lakes trout spawn on rocky reefs in shallower water 20-30 feet deep, whereas the Elk Lake fish are spawning very deep, perhaps over 100 feet in areas where no rocky reefs have yet been found. They do not appear to leave Elk Lake into Skegemog. Most spend their lives primarily along the west side of the lake, but also some are in the north end. The study will continue well into the future.

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Officers		Address	Phone	Email
Ruth Bay	President	1393 Center Rd. Traverse City 49686	231-947-1619	jackbay@charter.net
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Zone Directors**Zone A**

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Sak		11329 Hanel Rd. Williamsburg	231-264-6069	jsak@tm.net

Zone B

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Ken Krentz		13997 Ringler Rd. Rapid City	231-322-4144	keneth.krentz@yahoo.com
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Pat Pierce		9500 Larsen Rd Williamsburg	231-267-9416	elklake1@charter.net

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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

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Mary Beth Kazanski		9501 Shellway Dr. NW Rapid City	609-577-3814	thpmbk@gmail.com

At Large Appointed Directors

Dean Ginther - Newsletter (see above for contact info.)

Peter DiMercurio– Senior advisor to the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation (see above)

Brenda Miller - Membership 209 Traverse St. Elk Rapids 231-499-0134 brenda@mortonmiller.com

ESLA
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Do You Make Purchases on Amazon?

If you purchase items online at Amazon.com, you can direct a small portion of most items you purchase to be donated to the Elk Skegemog Lakes Association via the Amazon Smile program. Next time you plan to purchase an item on Amazon, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> instead of Amazon.com. You can purchase everything you would normally purchase on Amazon.com on the Amazon.Smile.com site. The difference is if you go to the smile.amazon.com page Amazon will direct a small percentage (one half a percent) of qualifying purchases to any 501 c3 charity which has registered with Smile.Amazon, including ESLA.

To set it up, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. Then go to the “Your Account” drop down tab in the upper right of the page and select the charity of your choice. You will find the Elk Skegemog Lakes Association listed there. After that, the process is just the same as making any purchase at Amazon (if you go to the Smile.Amazon.com page) and ESLA will get a small benefit from your qualifying purchase.

Imagine that — you can shop and benefit ESLA at the same time.