

## WHAT ESLA DOES TO EARN YOUR SUPPORT

- **INVASIVE SPECIES:** 1. Works to prevent introduction of new non-native threats such as the aggressive Hydrilla aquatic weed and black bass virus by advocating boat wash stations and holding boat wash demonstration events at Whitewater Township Park and Baggs Road DNR launches each summer; 2. Treats or physically removes invasives such as purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil to prevent their spread.
- **PERSONAL SHORELINE CONSULTATIONS:** Our lake biologist provides ideas, suggestions for species planting, reducing erosion, best practices for shoreline protection based on the specifics of each property with help from imagery from ESLA's 2021 drone study of our 42 miles of shoreline and near shore waters.
- **NAVIGATION SAFETY:** ESLA has increased each of the past two years the number of large (EXPENSIVE) buoys marking the safe channel from Lake Skegemog in and out of the Torch River and paying our contractor to install and remove buoys each spring and fall. The stumpy, shallow waters outside the channel are hazards to navigation to and from Torch Lake.
- **COMMUNICATIONS/EDUCATION:** Three printed newsletters are sent to riparians yearly; monthly email blasts provide fresh news/updates. ESLA maintains and updates a Facebook page. Soon, with other lake associations in our chain, we'll distribute an updated "Riparian Handbook."
- **SHORE THING events and ANNUAL MEETINGS:** ESLA brings in compelling speakers to address water quality, dam safety, fishery status and advice, explanations of how ESLA-instigated surveys/research informs decisions to protect water quality. As a bonus, there's food and drink.
- **OUTREACH:** ESLA lobbies local governments on shoreline protection, septic maintenance/inspection regulations and other issues to protect water quality.
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** ESLA uses partnerships to advance research and water quality issues. Last summer, the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute (Northwestern Michigan College) became our partner as staff and students brought sophisticated deep water investigative tools to Elk Lake. They've agreed to return in '23. Other important partners are lake associations within our chain of lakes, the Bay Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.
- **COMING IN '23:** Beginning next summer, ESLA will begin annual monitoring of zooplankton and phytoplankton populations in Elk and Skegemog lakes. Plankton is the critical start of the food chain for fish, insects, crayfish, etc.
- **EYES ON THE FUTURE:** In 2022, ESLA established with support from a cadre of generous supporters a "Strategic Environmental Fund" to address emerging and unforeseen threats to our waters, as well as intrinsic and real value of our properties.
- **BUSINESS SUPPORTERS:** For the first time, ESLA successfully reached out in 2022 to encourage local businesses to support ESLA's water quality and education initiatives.