

# ELDA NEWSLETTER

ELK LAKE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2019

## Invasive Grass! This is Real...

*"The grass was getting so thick near our shoreline; it was getting hard to enjoy the water."*

*"I wondered what was wrong with my motor... When I lifted it out of the water the prop was completely clogged with grass!"*

These are actual quotes from ELDA members about their experience on the lake last summer. Our ELDA Board is worried that "***Hydrilla verticillata***", an aggressively invasive water weed, is the culprit. They have reason to worry: *Hydrilla* has established itself in Long Pond, aka Lake Alden, just 4 miles from us as the crow flies, and it is costing their lake residents plenty!

Long Pond is owned by the Commonwealth and managed by the PA Fish & Game Commission. It has 70 shoreline properties. *Hydrilla* was identified in the lake in the fall of 2015 by the Wayne County Conservation District. Once recognizing that their lake was "infected", Long Pond residents began the daunting process of understanding, applying for permits, and raising money to pay. The first chemical treatment didn't happen until July 2018. At that point, it was estimated that *Hydrilla* compromised 60%

of the lake's own aquatic plants. Residents are paying \$13,000 for yearly chemical treatments JUST to keep *Hydrilla* at bay. It will never be eradicated, and in fact, this level of treatment is losing ground to the weed. Recommendations for better weed control are 10 years of treatments costing \$50K per year.

Cue the HORRIFIED emoji.

**For Elk Lake: Let's keep it out! To prevent the invasion of *Hydrilla* into our lake, water craft of any/every kind and trailers that have been in another body of water MUST be thoroughly washed with soap and water before putting then in our lake.**

The car wash at Waymart corners is a convenient location to clean off any hitchhiking invaders. Frighteningly, *Hydrilla* can reproduce through fragmentation, so even a small piece, once in Elk Lake, could establish itself.

***Hydrilla*** is designated as a state & federal noxious weed because of its rapid growth and ability to aggressively outcompete native species. It can grow to 25 to 30 feet, even in dark areas of a waterbody. It creates thick mats on the surface that block sunlight and restrict recreational uses.

You can help us evaluate our weeds. If you see something that looks like *Hydrilla*: pull it out, roots and all, take a picture of it on a white background (ie paper or towel), and send it to ELDA president George Firmstone, [George.Firmstone@sanofi.com](mailto:George.Firmstone@sanofi.com). Thank You!

Elk Lake Ice report:

Covered solid: 12/27/18; Ice-Free Date: 4/1/19.

Last year Elk lost her ice on April 13th!



**To Learn more about Aquatic Invasive Species, and for recommended cleaning techniques, please see this link <https://pfbc.pa.gov/fishpub/summaryad/nuisance.html>**

Excerpt: For Boats and Trailers:

- Before leaving this waterway, drain water from boat, motor, bilges, bladder tanks, live bait wells, any other wet compartments and portable bait containers.
  - Use a steam spray unit to thoroughly clean all parts of the boat or heavy equipment (including all wet compartments such as the bilge, bait compartments and storage bunkers). If steam cleaning is not available, use a high-pressure hot water sprayer. If these cleaning options are not available, put your boat through a hot water car wash.
  - Thoroughly spray all parts of a boat trailer and towing vehicle that contact the water.
  - Thoroughly flush the cooling system of all boat motors. After cleaning, allow equipment to dry for at least 48 hours.
- Other helpful links: <https://www.se-eppc.org/manual/HYVE.htm>  
<http://www.lake-link.com/learn-to-fish/invasive-aquatic-species/hydrilla.cfm>



## Highlights of ELDA April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bill Reif reports our 2/2019 checkbook balance \$11,691.26. The annual ELDA budget for 2019 is \$31,225. Dues remain the same at \$195 plus \$10 boat fee. The 2019 joining fee is \$291.74. The Association's savings including \$30,000 for dam escrow total \$185,039.33.

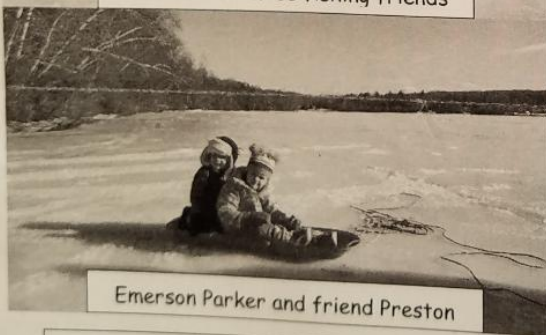
**Dam Report:** Elk Lake's Emergency Action Plan for our dam is on file at PA DEP; ELDA does have the state required \$30,000 in escrow should any dam event occur.

**Aquatic Report:** Dave Stanton reports last summer's lake water analysis was favorable. The contract for water analysis for 2019 is \$3,000 and was approved by the board.

**Boating and Safety:** Mike Matzko reminds members that ONLY members' watercraft are allowed on the lake. "Private Lake" signs are posted at access points around the lake. Additional signage will be added requesting boats be thoroughly washed before floating them in Elk Lake. The concern is invasive species of weeds or mollusks. Mike will have 2019 PA Fish and Boat publications for members at the July meeting.



Mike Farrell & ice fishing friends



Emerson Parker and friend Preston

**Fish Committee:** John Parker reported that the committee chose to spend it's 2018 fish-stocking \$ this spring by stocking the Lake with >1,000 11-12" Rainbow Trout from Big Brown Hatchery nears Stroudsburg. By doing a spring stocking, the committee hopes our fishermen will see more of a benefit.

**Lake Rights:** Nina Martin reports that currently 147 owners possess 158 active lake right certificates.

**Township report:** Ken Swan reports both Browndale and Waymart fire companies serve Elk Lake residents. The board encourages members' support of both these companies' fundraising efforts.

**Nominating report:** John Parker informed the board that both recording and corresponding secretaries are not coming back in 2020. This leaves a combined 79 years of experience leaving the board. There is a debt of gratitude that is difficult to convey. Please remember, ELDA members vote on officers and board positions at the August meeting.

### ELDA SENDS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF

Mary Frances Matzko, sister of Katherine Mulka, Michael Matzko and Christine Greedan,

who passed away November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018;

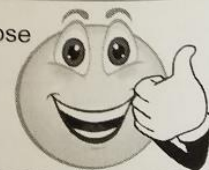
David Stocking, oldest son of David and Rosemarie Stocking, and sibling to Catherine, Scott and Ashley who passed away November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018;

and

Luke Brown, survived by his wife Peggy, his stepson, Sean, siblings, Mark, Patricia, Shawn, Mary Margaret, and Wendelin, who passed away December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH THESE FAMILIES ON THE  
LOSS OF DEAR LOVED ONES.

**ELDA PEOPLES:** Please be sure to secure all boats and docks, especially those near the dam, by at least 2 points to prevent their breaking free and floating away after heavy rains and blocking or damaging the dam spillway.  
**ALSO:** Keep up the good work: Keep our lake beautiful by keeping nutrients out of the lake... No fertilizers. Maintain your septic systems!





## State Boating Rules

Have you put a whistle in all your boats, canoes, kayaks *and paddleboards*?

Here's some "Cliff Notes" of state rules for you:

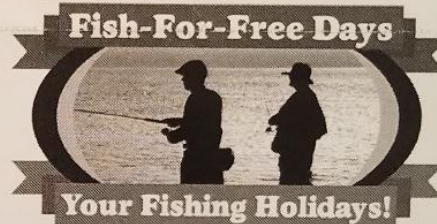
- **LIGHTS** • All boats must show required running lights between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.
- **SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICES** • All boats (including canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards) are required to carry a horn or athletic whistle.
- **PADDLESPORTS** • Row-boaters, canoeists, kayakers and paddle boarders must adhere to life jacket rules, have a sound-producing device and have a hand-held or installed white light displayed in time to avoid a collision.
- **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** • Coast Guard-approved fire extinguishers may be required if your boat has installed fuel tanks, etc. Check the rules.
- **SWIM DOCKS** • swim dock or other floating structure shall be lighted between sunset and sunrise and at other times when restricted visibility warrants it. Each structure shall show at least one all around white flashing or oscillating light. Annual \$10 permit required. Link for permit:  
<http://fishandboat.com/images/pages/forms/pfbc277aidsnav.pdf>
- **SAFETY** • it is illegal operate a watercraft in a reckless, negligent or dangerous manner. Boats must be operated at a speed that does not endanger the life or property of any person.

Of course, everything you need to know is at [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com). A great summary brochure is at: <http://fishandboat.com/boatrecap.pdf>

Mike Matzko and the Safety Committee will have the 2019 edition of the Pennsylvania Boating Handbook and many other helpful references at the July 13<sup>th</sup> ELDA General Membership Meeting.

## ELDA Fishing Rules

- Catch and release is encouraged.
  - Walleye - 20 inches min; max 2 per day
  - Bass - 15 inches min; max 2 per day
- Observe seasons (see Pa. fish rules):
- Trout- all species- April 13; extended season begins September 3.
  - Walleye- NO Harvest, catch and release only until May 4.
  - Bass- largemouth, smallmouth & spotted- NO Harvest, catch and release only until June 15.
- Follow State fishing regulations, including displaying your fishing license. See [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us) for details.



**Fish-for-Free Days Fishing Holidays**  
**Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

No fishing license is needed to fish on either of these days. It's a great way to introduce someone to the world of fishing.

*Remember all other regulations apply.*

## Stocking of Rainbow Trout

On April 11<sup>th</sup> 736 lbs, about 1,226 trout, size 11-12", were put into Elk Lake divided into 3 locations: in front of the Murray cottage on Giles Rd, in front of the Potchak cottage on West Shore and in front of Swan's cottage.

Special thanks to Ken & Helen Swan, Mike Matzko, Don Hagerly, Skip Moser and Mike Farrell for assisting.

## Order Your Reflective House Marker! By Rick Emanuelson

Browndale Fire Company offers ELDA residents 911 Reflective Address Markers. These are easily readable from the road and help emergency services find your home more easily, and thus more quickly, if such services are ever needed. Application was easy and the cost of the signage 13.00 plus 3.00 for a metal post was minimal... so why not? Delivery and installation of the sign at our home was by Chief Josh Debevec himself! First of all, it was delightful to meet this gentleman. He came right to the house and installed it at the road for me. The unexpected benefit, was that he had the opportunity to learn exactly where my dwelling stood relative to the road, and made notes for the fire department so that, if they should ever be emergently called to come, they know exactly how to find and set up firefighting or rescue services for my home. I encourage every homeowner or landowner here at Elk Lake to take advantage of this sign offer.

Browndale Fire Company No. 1 is an all-volunteer community service. My introduction to Chief Josh Debevec revealed an enthusiastic, dedicated, and knowledgeable leader. I intend to continue to support the fire company and hope that everyone here on the lake will donate what they can to support these dedicated volunteer community servants. Forms to order signage can be found at <http://bit.ly/WayneCountyPA-Clinton>



Boaters must stay 100 feet away from docks, floats, fishermen, swim areas and other boats.

Please use caution and be aware of other boaters and swimmers on the lake.

All crafts that create a wake – boats and personal water craft – must ALWAYS travel in a counter-clockwise direction.




Sailboats, canoes, kayaks, and rowboats must be granted the right of way by all motorized watercraft.

Boats pulling a skier, tuber, or any other device must travel in a counter-clockwise direction and must have a spotter on board able to assist if an injury occurs.  
**\*\*A young child may not be a spotter!\*\***  
 Personal watercraft may not pull skiers or other towable devices unless they are capable of transporting the driver, a spotter, and the individual being towed.

## BOATING AND SAFETY

For everyone's safety, please use common sense and follow the rules while enjoying your water craft on the lake. ELDA stresses that all members have the responsibility to inform violators of infractions.

**Goal: Don't Hit Anything!**  
**Keep 100% focus on the water in front of you.**

HP OF MOTOR	RESTRICTIONS OF USE
PWC	All PWC (personal watercraft) operators, regardless of age, must have a Boating Safety Education Certificate. Persons 11 years of age or younger may NOT operate. Persons 12 through 15 years of age may NOT operate with any passengers on board 15 years of age or younger, or rent a PWC. 
0-25hp	No restrictions 
Greater than 25hp	Persons 11 years of age or younger may NOT operate. Persons born on or after January 1, 1982, may not operate unless they have obtained and have in possession a Boating Safety Education Certificate. 

PA Boating and Fishing Regs at [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com)  
 PA Boating Safety certificate online at [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)

Boats must be at a no-wake speed from sunset until 9 am.  
 For your reference, sunset times:  
 May 28<sup>th</sup> – 8:27pm;  
 July 4<sup>th</sup> – 8:38pm;  
 Aug 4<sup>th</sup> – 8:15pm;  
 Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7:30pm.

Boaters should respect the rights of fishermen and should not create a wake before 9am.  
**\*\*Please note:**  
 Fishing Tourney day (8/4) is no wake until 11am\*\*

All boats must be registered with identification numbers, model numbers, and horsepower (maximum 75 HP, maximum length 20 feet), must display current state and ELDA boat stickers.

All water craft, including paddle boards, must carry a Coast Guard approved PFD for each passenger on board.

All types of new watercraft are subject to board approval.

## Calendar of Events

**General Membership Meetings:**  
 Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am, at the Pavilion.

**Memorial Golf Tournament: Sat, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am, Memorial Links, Wayne Thompson; 570-955-9760.**

**Field Day: Sat, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1ish, Sarah Dethlefsen Sierra, 917-916-4273**  
**Volunteers needed!**

*and*  
**Covered Dish: following at 6pm.**  
 Laura Beard, Joanne Connolly, friends and families.

**Fishing Tournament: Sun, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 6-11am, Bob Howell & Rob Howell.**  
**Remember...**  
*no wake til 11a on tourney day.*