

# ELDA SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

*Elk Lake Development Association*

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## *The votes are in.....*

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There were four candidates for three positions:

Mark Murray

Joe Palonis

Ken Swan

Jon Walko

Murray, Palonis, and Walko received the most votes and will serve on the board with term ending in 2026.

The entire Elk Lake community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ken Swan for his years of service on the Board of Directors. Ken is always genuinely concerned about the interest of the lake community as a whole as well as the enjoyment and safety of all members. Although Ken will be sincerely missed on the BOD, hopefully Ken can be convinced to continue serving ELDA as a link with Clinton Township, keeping us up to speed on all the goings on with the township 😊. Many thanks Ken, your efforts are appreciated more than words can say!



*Please provide updated e-mail addresses when paying dues next year?*

# Thank you, Bob Howell,

This thank you card is nowhere near worthy of the thanks owed to Bob Howell for his many years of service on the ELDA BOD, not to mention his term as President during the most critical time in ELDA's history when Elk Lake was purchased by ELDA in 1983. One can only imagine the meetings, discussions, and arguments that Bob had to facilitate during that process. Bob always carries himself with class and dignity. His intelligence, knowledge of and care for Elk Lake, and thoughtful insight regarding the complicated and quirky issues that always seem to come up with an association like ELDA are always so helpful. And as insightful as his e-mails always are, they almost always make me laugh as well, unfortunately they're not all suitable for sharing in this forum.

# Fond Farewell

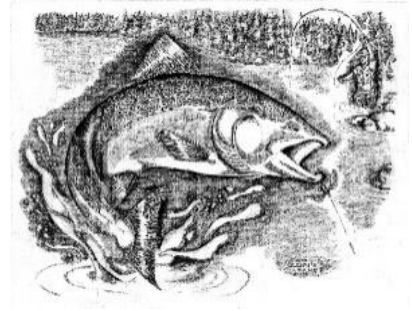
The entire ELDA community offers condolences to the family of Bill Reif, who passed away on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bill was the treasurer for ELDA for over 20 years. Bill's friendly smile and kindness were always a welcome site no matter where you ran into him. While he is missed on the ELDA BOD, Bill will be even more missed as a husband, father, grandfather, and friend to everyone within the Elk Lake community.

<https://waynepikenews.com/william-edward-reif-bill-waymart-p10780-186.htm>

# Fish Committee Meeting

A Fish Committee meeting was held at the Mulka cottage on Saturday, August 26, 2023 to discuss fishing success this summer and to plan for the future.

Rainbow and brown trout will be stocked next spring prior to the opening of trout season which begins on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

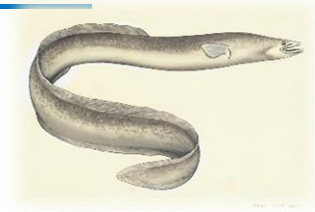


Members of the committee who attended the meeting from left to right included: Gene Pryor, Cole Tracy, John Parker, Jack Mulka, Brian Sartori, and Bob Keen.

# The Curious Fisherman

Elk Lake Eels

..... Jack Mulka



A question to Daryl Pierce, PFC Area Fisheries Mgr.

## Question:

Elk Lake has a plentiful supply of American Eels, ranging in size of 6 to 28 inches. Two fish population surveys conducted by Aquatic Environment Consultants noted these findings in their 2009 and 2019 studies. There are waterways from the lake to the Delaware River including the Lackawaxen River and Van Auken Creek. I suspect because of the range in size they go out to the Sargasso Sea and reproduce. Your thoughts?

I have been told they arrived here from the canals that were built by the railroad industry transporting coal to New York.

## Answer:

It is very likely the Eels of Elk Lake are exiting the lake to eventually get to the Sargasso Sea. This occurs in the fall months. And yes, the incoming eels are very tenacious in moving back upriver generally middle to late summer for Elk Lake.

This is the link for the Approved Species List

[www.fishandboat.com/Fishing/All-About-Fish/Catch-PA-Fish/Documents/speciesapp.pdf](http://www.fishandboat.com/Fishing/All-About-Fish/Catch-PA-Fish/Documents/speciesapp.pdf)

Daryl Pierce, Area Fisheries Manager  
PA Fish & Boat Commission/Fisheries Management Area 5  
PO Box 155 3155 Federal Rd.  
Bushkill, PA 18324

# Annual Fishing Tournament

Ron Firmstone - Bass

Tony Catania - Pickerel

Quintin Sartori - Kids' Bass

Cassidy Palonis - Perch

Charolette Nebzydoski - Panfish

Ali Sartori - Trout (2nd Smallest Fish)

Austin Daly - Smallest Fish

Cassidy Palonis - Walleye (2nd Largest Bass)



L to R: Cassidy, Charolette, Tony, Austin, Quintin, Ron and Ali

No one caught a trout so that trophy went to the 2nd smallest fish and no walleye were caught so that went to the second largest bass.

## Matzo's/Parker Annual Dock Swim 7/3/23



Pictured L to R;

Jackson Peganoff, Nathan Sponenberg, Gavin Peganoff holding Barkley, Andrew Sponenberg, Lily Rost, Ty Rost, and Elizabeth Parker.





# Field Day!

## WINNERS

Jacob Dethlefsen  
Hula Hoop

Parker Sierra  
Donut Eating



# Stanton Memorial Golf Tournament Champions!



L-R: Collin Ennis, Jacob McCormick, Landon Firmstone, Ron Firmstone



## ELDA General Membership Meeting – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10am

### Officers:

George Firmstone, President  
Dave Stanton, Vice President  
Pat Walker, Treasurer  
Millie McCarthy, Corresponding Secretary  
Kathy Emanuelson, Recording Secretary  
\* Denotes absent

### Board Members:

Joe Palonis ('23)	Dennis Gregory ('25)
Ken Swan ('23)	Chris Mann ('25)
*Jack Cleary ('24)	*Paul Szwajka ('25)
Mike Connelly ('24)	Bob Keen, Past President
*Mike Matzko ('24)	

### Call to Order & Introductions:

President George Firmstone called the meeting to order at 10am and welcomed everyone.

George started the meeting with words remembering Bill Reif and asked for a moment of silence in his honor.

He asked everyone to introduce themselves and the shoreline they are from at Elk Lake. (Attendance sign-in page attached.)

**Recording Secretary's Report:** Kathy Emanuelson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, that were distributed electronically to ELDA General Membership for their review prior to today's meeting.

The motion was made by Dave Stanton and seconded by John Parker. No corrections or omissions were noted, and the motion passed with no one opposed.

**Nominating Committee Chair:** John Parker, chair of the committee, informed members that today they will be voting for 3 board member positions. Michael Farrell was nominated from the floor at our July meeting, but he declined his nomination so is not on the ballot. On the ballot are 4 members put forth by ELDA's Nominating Committee at the last meeting. They are: Ken Swan, incumbent, John Walko, new, Mary Murray, new, and Joe Palonis, incumbent. John reminded members that every ELDA Lake Right owner gets one vote only. As he passed out ballots, he informed us that the committee would tally votes during the meeting and report on results at the end of the meeting.

**Patrolman Report:** Joe Farrell reported that it has been a quiet summer on the water. He only needed to ask kayaks of guests of members to leave the lake; not one fishing boat. He's had no real issues.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Millie McCarthy reported: All members are paid up, 150 members with 159 active lake rights.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pat Walker shared the Profit and Loss Summary for date August 2022 through July 2023 and the Balance Sheet dated August 2022 through July 2023. Net income on the P&L is \$1,292.40 with the most notable expenses being the fence repair and tree removal. Total assets from the Balance Sheet total \$648,704.46. (Treasurer's reports are attached.)

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report was made and seconded by those whom the secretary failed to note. The motion passed with no one opposed.

**Financial Records Review Committee:** Randy Berini reported for the committee of Vince Gatti and Randy that they met with Pat and had a line-by-line discussion of ELDA's financial records. ELDA's financials are in order: "great book, great records, good liquidity. No irregularities of any kind noted.



**Township Meeting Report:** Ken Swan reported he went to the township meeting, but no meeting was held this month. He has a copy of the proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance being considered by the township and is happy to share. No other issues to report.

**Boat and Safety:** George reported for Mike Matzko that there are no specific issues. He commented that it's not a bad thing to have a quiet summer. Wave runners are the craft that most often result in concerns. Remember to keep them a safe distance from docks, other boats and swimmers. Number one priority is to make sure your operators have a boaters safety certificate, and always bear safety in mind.

**Fish Committee:** Jack Mulka thanked the Fishing Tournament organizers for another great tournament. He noted this is the first time in memory that he's missed the tourney. Jack queried if anyone present was unhappy with the fishing on Elk Lake? No one had any issues and many reported excellent fishing. Jack has seen great pictures and good reports on fishing on the lake. Next spring the committee will be stocking the lake with rainbow and brown trout. The \$1000 leftover in this year's fishing budget was used as a deposit for ELDA's trout purchase resulting in a 10% discount and resulted in \$420 more trout! Jack shared information from Daryl Pierce, from the NEPA Fish District about the American Eel. ELDA did a fish assessment in 2009 and 2019, and eels are plentiful in Elk Lake. Daryl explains that eels exit the lake to breed in the fall, slithering on wet grass to eventually get to the Sargaso Sea (editorial note: which is in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, off the US east coast). Eels from Europe migrate here too. Jack suggests watching for eels slithering to bigger places...

**Water Quality:** Dave Stanton reported June & July 2023 evaluation of the lake water was fine. Water analysis company noted there is an abundance of weeds in many other local lakes.

**Fracking Committee:** Dave Stanton reports no report.

**Dam Report:** Dave Stanton reported for chair Fred Stanton that there are no issues and no report.

**ELDA Summer Activities:** George reported that all these activities contribute to and sustain and sense of community at the lake and thanked everyone for their time and dedication.

- o George Stanton Annual Golf Tournament was run by the Stanton family and Len Addison at Memorial Links. This year's winners were Ron Firmstone, Landon Firmstone, Colin Ennis and Jacob McCormick.
- o Annual Field Day – activities put on by Sarah Sierra, Theresa Dethlefsen and Jason Palonis and had all the favorite kid activities, including donut eating contest. It was very well organized and it's great they keep it going!
- o Covered Dish later that day was organized by the Beard and Connolly families with good turnout, good food and cold drinks!
- o Fishing Tournament run by Rob Howell and Kristin Conover, with Ron Firmstone taking home bragging rights.

**Old Business:**

- o **Fire departments discharging water into the lake** was a topic of concern, specifically related to the possibility of introducing invasive weeds, brought up at the July meeting. Informal conversation of board members was held via email where communication with fire departments was the focus. George contacted ELDA member Gary VanPelt, a retired firefighter, to get more information. Gary reported to members present that based on the period of time it was reported that the truck was at Elk Lake it is much more likely that the fire crew was training. They were likely practicing drafting water. Gary offered to talk to local fire chiefs and share with them Elk Lake's concern for continued good water quality. He will be sure that fire departments do right by the Lake, while also knowing ELDA members want to support local firefighters.



Ken Swan suggested if trucks have a need to discharge water, is it possible they do it on the other side of the dam instead of in the lake.

- o **AED funding and logistics:** Caleb Datto presented the results of meetings and conversations held by the AED committee set up at the July meeting. In summary, the committee recommends Elk Lake "neighborhoods" make the individual decision to buy an AED to be installed at an appropriate location to best benefit that location. Money to purchase will be donated by those residents in that location, without any required funding from ELDA. The committee will, of course, gladly accept donations from ELDA funds. The committee recommends the purchase of a temperature-controlled case for year-round access by local residents. Members in attendance could see the one AED purchased by the Cottagers League, not yet in a temp-controlled case, but available and ready for use in the pavilion. It was the sense of the committee that placing 3 more neighborhood AEDs would offer decent coverage, presuming those Elk Lake neighborhoods are interested. He summarized the cost to obtain and install an AED in a temperature-controlled case is \$4800 + cost of installing + monthly electric bill. For 4 installed AEDs, the annual maintenance costs will be ~\$560.

Caleb addressed the question of delayed response time if the person responding is alone, or the device is a further away than optimal. He said 3-5 minutes is the ideal response time but using an AED within 10 minutes may still be helpful. That information led the committee to suggest 3 more devices, for a total of 4, around the lake.

Caleb sees the next step for this project to be fundraising for any additional AEDs in Elk Lake neighborhoods and find volunteers to maintain the unit(s). Regarding fundraising, Caleb had flyers with a "square" link to the non-profit GotAED Elk Lake AED Campaign (attached) where it's easy for ELDA members to donate for a neighborhood AED. Using this link to donate takes the ELDA organization completely out of the transaction, and so should remove issues of liability.

George took the floor to summarize some of the concerns of members: ELDA will not purchase any AEDs, it is up to each shore to decide if they want one. ELDA can decide if it wants to support the maintenance of the devices annually in the budget. The liability issue is limited as ELDA is not purchasing any devices. The 'Good Samaritan' law shelters volunteers from liability. Caleb and his volunteers will maintain the devices, not ELDA.

Treasurer Pat Walker queried about the procedure through which donations could be made by the board. George wasn't sure if the BOD can simply add a line item or if it requires a general membership vote. Pat suggested we consider the progress of the project and have the can vote at next July's general membership meeting.

Caleb noted that donations have slowed significantly, and asked people to share the flyer with the donation link with their neighbors.

Committee member Len Addison suggested that the flyer with the donation link be included with the spring mailing to promote neighborhood conversations and promote donations.

Charlotte lori is concerned about liability exposure to ELDA, previous information notwithstanding. She noted that if someone sues, they sue everyone.

George agreed that ELDA will confer with our solicitor.

Caleb reassured members in attendance that he has placed over 100 AEDs in various locations.

He also offered to give a CPR course any time in the pavilion.

Charlotte wondered if the membership was in favor of the AED placements. She wants to hear the advice of our attorney.

Committee member Rick Emanuelson summarized that the committee is moving forward with the concept of donation for AEDs by neighborhoods. If desired, local communities will support the purchase to have a device available on their shore.

George focused the meeting on the next step: ELDA board will talk to our attorney. ELDA's job is protecting the water. Next July, members can discuss and if supported, make a motion to support maintenance expenditure in the budget.



Pat Walker commented that ELDA is more than water, it also supports the development of community.

George thanked Caleb for his leadership and work on this project.

Joe Palonis asked if we can share information across the membership and have a proxy vote if the project warrants it before next year's meeting.

George said no, member votes must be in person.

- o Larry Conover noted that he is having an issue with a neighbor and their construction project. He's concerned by the absence of a silt fence and runoff going into the lake. He asked whom should contact. Members suggested calling Wayne County Conservation District, who should help with enforcement of code regulations. DEP will also come if asked. They suggested talking to the neighbor and the contractor, and Larry commented that he's done both.
- o George also commented on the weed growth question. As mentioned previously in the meeting, it is occurring in many area lakes and is most likely a result of the warm winter.

#### **New Business:**

- o **Summer Newsletter:** Laure Carlo is our ELK Lake Newsletter person. Please send her lake stories and photos at [laurecarlo@yahoo.com](mailto:laurecarlo@yahoo.com).
- o **Bob Howell recognition:** George Firmstone offered a tribute to recently retired ELDA board member Bob Howell. "This thank you card is nowhere near worthy of the thanks owed to Bob Howell for his many years of service on the ELDA BOD, not to mention his term as President during the most critical time in ELDA's history when Elk Lake was purchased by ELDA in 1983. One can only imagine the meetings, discussions, and arguments that Bob had to facilitate during that process. Bob always carries himself with class and dignity. His intelligence, knowledge of and care for Elk Lake, and thoughtful insight regarding the complicated and quirky issues that always seem to come up with an association like ELDA are always so helpful. And as insightful as his e-mails always are, they almost always make me laugh as well, unfortunately they're not all suitable for sharing in this forum."
- o Ken Swan noted the need for correct email addresses, for all the information that comes from ELDA and the newsletter.

#### **ELDA Nominating Committee Results:**

John Parker thanked committee members Holly Stanton and Beth Walko for helping in the process.

The outcome: Elected ELDA Board Members for a 3-year term are: Mark Murray, Joe Palonis and John Walko. Congratulations to our board members.

John offered to share the tally sheet, and all the ballots are available to inspect at any time at his home on Giles Road.

John thanked Ken Swan for his years of service on the board and asked him to remain involved with the township reports. Ken replied that it was his pleasure and honor.

The motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Dennis Gregory and seconded by Millie McCarthy and passed with no opposed.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:52am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Emanuelson

8/22/2023



# PROTECT HEARTS. SAVE LIVES.



**Donate Now to Protect Hearts!**



If an AED is used within the first minute of a cardiac arrest occurring, the survival rate for victims can be as high as 90%. For every minute that defibrillation is delayed however, the chance of survival decreases by 10% (American Heart Association). The Wayne County, PA mean EMS response time is 15 minutes (PA Department of Health). Being ten miles away from the nearest hospital, and having a community with young children, this AED is a necessity. Being placed at the pavilion, it will be central enough for everyone on the West Shore to access within just a few minutes.