



IKE'S NEWSLETTER



A SPORTSPERSON'S
CONSERVATION CLUB
Conservation Center
5641 Myers Lake Ave.
Belmont MI, 49306

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER

• OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA •

www.michiganIKEs.org

January 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Last year was a doozy in many ways. Let's keep concentrating on doing what we can to preserve our wildlife and ecosystems, and share our love of nature with young people.

Winterfest is coming right up, on **Saturday, January 28**, from 10:00 to 3:00. We've had some very good days for it these last few years, and I hope it



continues. We're getting the routines down, but there are always variables,

and extra hands are ALWAYS APPRECIATED! Ice-fishermen, skate and ski hander-outers, trail-guides, snow-sculptors, food-servers, picture-takers, shuttle-drivers, sled-watchers, friendly greeters, etc., we need you! Do you have equipment you can lend for the day? Do you have neighborhood kids who would like to come? Show them the fun of winter!

We hope to have all the usual activities, with some back-up ideas for changing weather. The one I'm

not sure about at the moment is candlemaking. Having lost **George Stegmier**, we are waiting to see if his family still wants to fill the kettle with wax, and keep the fire burning. This is why it's important to pass our learning along, and hopefully the kids who made candles will remember his way of doing things.

Of course, there are newer methods of creating light than by candlepower, but I think the best part of learning is to gather and combine all sorts of information. The future is going to require plenty of thinking outside the box. A good way to start is to



GO OUTSIDE!

Back to Winterfest, some of us will get together before you get this, but we'll have a follow-up meeting, probably January 18, so please call if you can help out in any way. 773.2850.

My old computer bit the dust and I haven't figured out how to get all my old addresses back, so please send a quick e-mail to georgia.art@att.net with your name, for receiving updates.

Highlights This Issue:

Conservation Awards
Banquet and Auction

Christmas Party

Sports Show Tickets

New Rental Managers

...and much more!

As you know, I have resigned as president. I plan to stay involved on the board and in activities, but have to place my responsibilities elsewhere for a while. At this time, the board has not determined who will be filling in, although they did get me a delicious cake, and **Duane** baked brownies with walnuts from our own front yard! Thanks, guys!

Without jumping into the presidency, please consider if you could become involved, as the more people there are, the easier it is to cover things. The board meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00, usually at the lodge, but in the winter at **North Kent Presbyterian Church on Kutshell**. There are many levels to participate in, from hot dogs to Lansing. The **Izaak Walton League** is well respected, and is a good avenue to follow for conservation involvement. You've joined the group, now join the action!

See you at WINTERFEST on the 28th!!

Georgia Donovan

2012 ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND AWARDS BANQUET

Bob Stegmier, Banquet Committee

The 2012 Annual Conservation and Awards Banquet will be held on March 2 and again at the Centennial Country Club. The arraignments there work very well for our program. The banquet committee is working out the details, speaker, award winners, etc. One very important part of the event is the silent auction and the items in it. Mentioned in the Oil Gusher article below is an interesting action taken by one of our most consistent donors, Rockford Quick Lube at 360 Northland Dr. It is a piece of art commissioned by owner Roger Haveman called Gusher. Gusher stands about 35 feet tall and the oil gusher is a film

of steel painted black. I say "pretty cool," Roger! Roger donates two full-service oil changes every year.

Here is the point of this story: that is any member of the chapter is capable of getting a donation and the beauty of this type of donation is we all need it, we can use it and have a need for another from the next Silent Auction. For Rockford Quick Lube, they pick up a new customer once in a while. The banquet committee urges all of you to ask businesses you frequent for a donation. Donations can be sent to or taken to Fred Eyer's home. Call Fred for details at 363.0253.

IKE'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Jay Huston

It was a chilly but pleasant evening with 19 loyal Ikes attending our annual Christmas dinner at Timbers Inn Restaurant on December 1st. The social hour was most active and enjoyed by so many arriving earlier than usual. Friends got up to date with each other with latest events and news. This annual affair does give our membership the opportunity to more closely socialize than we do at our monthly dinners. It is rather discouraging that more Ikes don't take advantage of this camaraderie. We do look forward to next year with faith in our membership that it will have a greater attendance.

OIL GUSHER ART FROM BANQUET DONOR

Bob Stegmier, Banquet Committee

Here is a piece of sculpture commissioned by one of our consistent Annual Conservation Awards Banquet donors, the Quaker State Quick Oil change business on Northland Dr. in Rockford. Pictured here is owner Roger Haveman standing by the sculpture. There are two things that prompted me to take the picture and write this piece. First we need to patronize these folks that so generously support our fund raising effort, which then underwrites our conservation mission. Second, all of us can solicit from some of our businesses we patronize for something. Help is always needed and appreciated. This is a case where many hands make light work.

When you get something it needs to get to Fred Eyer at 2488 Rockhill NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525. Fred's phone is 363.0253. Don't be shy, step forward and ask. The worst they can say is no and the best they can say is yes. With a yes we have contribution and a new contributor who ends up having a better understanding of the Ikes and our Conservation Mission. Items of this nature and gift certificates of all sorts are great. You and the chapter get something of value and the donor gets someone to visit his or her business. Sometimes this visit is a first time event that then turns into a frequent visitor.



THOUGHT OF THE MONTH
JAY HUSTON
Study Nature. Love Nature.
Stay close to Nature.
It will never fail you.
Frank Lloyd Wright

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

Ron Waybrant

This is usually the last agenda item of the Board of Director's meetings, but also makes a good title to the discussion presented below. One of the two major fundraisers for the chapter is selling tickets for the **Ultimate Sport Show** and **Cottage and Lakefront Show** to be held at the **DeVos Center** in downtown Grand Rapids. The chapter retains all the receipts of the ticket sales, so investing time selling tickets is a very good use of our time.

You may not realize this, but our chapter started the sport show in 1945 with **Jack Locks, Sr.** as manager. This collaboration continues today with the selling of our combined Raffle & Sport Show Admission ticket and a premiere booth at the entrance to the show. This has been a very good thing for our chapter over the years, spreading the mission of the League and current conservation/environmental issues. In recent years our ticket sales have fallen off. As a result, a subcommittee was formed to see what could be done to improve ticket sales. The following paragraphs identify some of the ideas we had.

First, we processed the paperwork to get the ticket raffle approved and the tickets printed much earlier than in the recent past. This allows folks to sell them when attending other organizations they may be part of, or at outings they may attend, such as annual ice fishing get togethers. The goal was to give those who want to sell more opportunity to sell tickets.

We've added awards for high-ticket sellers. Sell 50 tickets and you earn a free property/lodge rental. Sell 20 tickets

and get free admission to the game dinner in April, when the winning raffle tickets are drawn. Also discussed, but will need board approval is that someone selling 20 or more tickets can get a free membership to give to a friend of their choice.

One of the more intriguing ideas was allowing other groups to sell tickets as a fundraiser. For example, the youth at a church could sell tickets. The tickets would have to be sold at the list price to meet state raffle regulations, but then the chapter could donate \$2 back to the organization. This is re-emphasizing a program that has great potential and was used in the past.

Lastly, it is important to remember that the ticket is a very good value. Tickets at the door are \$10, are \$8 with a newspaper coupon for \$2 and IKEs sell them for \$7. The Ultimate Sports show is a fun, diverse outdoors show, and the Cottage and Lakefront Living show is also very well attended and fun. On top of that, is the raffle, a chance with each ticket to win a Lake Michigan charter fishing trip for 4 with a two-night lodging casino package as the grand prize and \$100 as the second prize. No other admission ticket comes with these or any other prize. The odds are really good for winning a prize. Ask **Bob** and **Lorraine Radke** just how much fun it is to win or talk to **Dick Van Haften** or **John** and **Sandy Venman**.

So, "For the Good of the Chapter" please help us as you are able. And from our board of directors, thank you.

Membership Application ... Izaak Walton League of America

Dwight Lydell Chapter, 5641 Myers Lake Ave. Belmont MI 49306

 Conservation Needs a Friend Ask a friend to join the IKEs!

NAME _____
 SPOUSE _____ CHILDREN & AGES _____ HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 DATE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ SPONSOR _____

_____ Individual - \$54, _____ Family - \$74, _____ Student (18-21) - \$26, _____ Youth (under 18) - \$13.80

Mail to Ron Waybrant, 4905 Cresthill Dr NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525. Checks payable to "Izaak Walton League"
 Call Ron at 616.361.1422 for more information. If you want a GATE KEY so you can walk our 39 acres at your leisure ADD \$5 to the membership fee.

Indicate which of these important committees you're interested in working on:

Natural Features Stewardship _____ Finance _____ Membership _____ Building & Grounds _____
 Conservation _____ Programs _____ Every Member Dinners _____

The Izaak Walton League of America – a non-profit conservation organization – is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code. Minimum national dues are \$40 for individual and \$60 for family memberships, which includes \$4.00 for *Outdoor America* magazine. Magazine is inseparable from dues. Chapter and Division dues may vary.

NEW LODGE RENTAL MANAGERS

Bob Stegmier

Meet our new Lodge Rental managers, **Ted** and **Jan Kuzma**. Well, they aren't really new because they have been loyal members according to my records



since 2004. The lodge rentals are an important part of our annual calendar of events. Renting the lodge is popular with members and to some degree in building our chapter membership because to rent you have to be a member.

The Kuzmas, like some other members, rent the lodge year after year for various reasons. So as winter gets underway spring and summer will be following and it is not too early for members to plan when they may want to rent our facilities. Choice dates can go fast! Contact Ted and Jan and get the ball rolling.

And the board and officers thank the **Radkes** for their rental management for the past few years. Now **Lorraine** and **Bob** can freely travel to visit their children and grand children.

2012 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Jay Huston

The deadline for closing our book sales was December 15th and for the second year we didn't make our goal. We must pay and close our account by December 31st so we might just be able to sell the remaining books. Each year has been more difficult to sell the books, due primarily to the competition. Seems like "just about everybody" sells them these days. Our membership has not responded and seems to have lost interest in the support of this fundraiser endeavor, which has raised over two thousand dollars for our programs over the last ten years.

A sincere thank you to all who have purchased and sold the Entertainment books. Your support of this fundraiser has well worth the time and effort contributed to its success.

OFFICERS

- President, Georgia Donovan 773.2850
georgia.art@att.net
- Vice President, Barb McGuirl..... 874.7740
jbm McGuirl@sbcglobal.net
- Secretary, Jim Schneider 340.4604
jim-ms@comcast.net
- Treasurer, Fred Eyer 363.0253
fseyer@gmail.com

Board Members

- Duane DeVries..... 532.9151
duanedv@earthlink.net
- Barry Gilbertson Gilby40@MSN.com
- Bruce Gilmore..... 365.8892
- Maurie Houseman..... 560.2895
mhouseman@grar.com
- Jay Huston..... 942.2503
- Bill Kirk..... 874.8230
bkirk@i2k.com
- Bob Schumaker 616.984.2429
schu6062@charter.net
- Bob Stegmier..... 866.4769
rstegmier@ameritech.net
- Marylou Sundt 443.7377
hellomarylou56@yahoo.com
- Tom Watson..... 874.7254
twatson@comcast.net

Grounds/Maintenance Chair

- C. J. Tasma..... 887.8542
hsi@handicapsigns.com

Membership Secretary

- Ron Waybrant 361.1422
rcwaybrant@gmail.com

Lodge Rental

- Ted & Jan Kusma 874.7279
kooz7@chartermi.net

**Deadline for the February issue
is Friday, January 23rd
at 8:00 AM.
Deadline for Winterfest
articles is Wednesday,
February 2nd at 8:00 AM.**

ROGUE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL WETLAND PROGRAMS

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Over half of Michigan's wetlands have been drained and converted for agricultural use or other types of development. Wetlands serve a very important role in the landscape by improving water quality, flood storage and groundwater recharge. The loss of wetlands has increased the frequency and severity of flood events. Flooding always drains nutrients and unwanted chemicals, etc. into our streams and then to our lakes such as Lake Michigan. An important function of wetlands is that they reduce sediment and nutrients in surface water before it enters our streams, lakes and rivers. Restoring wetlands is one of the best conservation practices available for improving water quality and quantity.

There are state and federal programs that are available to restore these valuable wetlands. One program is the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), which restores and protects wetlands converted to agricultural use. By enrolling in WRP, landowners with land that was formerly wetlands can convert these lands back to

their original state. WRP provides financial assistance to restore and protect wetlands, and to enhance degraded wetlands. For Kent County, landowners can receive up to \$3,689/acre in this program. The landowner can enter into either a 30-year easement or permanent easement that will insure the land is maintained as wetland habitat. In order to enroll land in WRP, the land must be owned privately or by a tribe and cannot have changed ownership within the previous 7 years, unless the landowner can provide adequate assurances.

Another program available is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Program. This program focuses on working together in a voluntary pro-active manner with private landowners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Wetland restorations are generally focused where previous agricultural drainage provides an opportunity to restore hydrology, or put the "wet" back into altered wetlands. Projects often involve breaking or plugging a portion of a tile line,

blocking a ditch, or building a low dike or embankment. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service funds projects with cost-share assistance provided by **Ducks Unlimited**, other conservation organizations and government agencies, and landowners. Project construction is often completed with little or no cost to the landowner. Many landowners do contribute funds for permits or construction and in-kind services such as labor to prepare seedbeds and seed disturbed areas. Landowners are required to sign an agreement to preserve the project on their property for a minimum of 10 years. Landowners are also responsible for project maintenance.

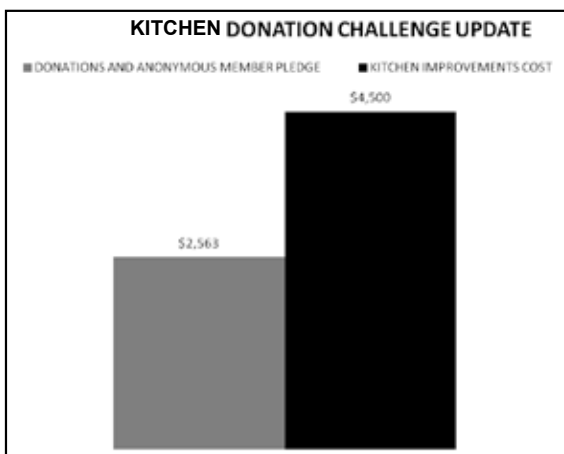
The **Rogue River Watershed Council** is hosting an informational program to present more information via professionals about wetland restoration on **Monday, February 20** at the **Rockford North Middle School**. There is no cost and the program will last from 6:30 to 7:45 pm in the school cafeteria. For more information you may call me.

KITCHEN IMPROVEMENTS DONATION CHALLENGE UPDATE

Last month's article regarding the donation challenge for kitchen improvements has been great. To date we have received an additional \$1201. \$1000 of this is from another member who wishes to remain

anonymous. The total donated now stands at \$2136. The original anonymous member's donation and pledge brings the total to \$2563. The graph indicates that we are just over 50% of the way to paying for the kitchen improvements.

Jim Schneider
Bob and Gail Stegmier
Bob and Lorraine Radke
Candace Ramsahoi
Ron and Ruth Waybrant
Tom Watson and Tam Bagby



The list of contributors to date is as follows:

Maureen Abele
Fred and Sue Eyer
Gena and Allen Granholm
Lucille Grant
Dick and Sandy Hansen
Gene Kallio
Tammy Lundeen
Diane Napierkowski
Jon Sarb

So let's keep the contributions coming for the needed improvements at our lodge. Remember that we are a 501-c3 organization and all of the donations are deductible on your Federal Income Tax Return. I will send you a letter via email or regular mail verifying your donation. Please fill out the form on the next page along with your check payable to **Dwight Lydell Chapter-IWLA** mail it to: Fred Eyer, 2488 Rockhill Dr Ne, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

ASIAN CARP

Robert Stegmier, Conservation Chair

While we look forward to **The 21st Century Chicago Waterway System** study being done by **The Great Lakes Commission** and the **Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative** due out in late January 2012, our fellow Ike's are waging a similar battle on the upper Mississippi River. Here is the Asian carp problem as it is shaping up there. Our fellow Ike's, on the **Great Lakes Committee**, have a tremendous problem with **Asian Carp** working their way up the Mississippi River.



"The latter developed a comprehensive strategy that includes sampling and monitoring for **eDNA** at various points in the river, discussing triggers for positive eDNA hits (lock and dam closure is the only sure solution) etc. The Governor has held a couple of **Summits on Asian Carp** and is demanding action. One Congressional leader is drafting legislation that would help resolve barriers to Corps **ACTING** to close a lock and dam. Our new Mississippi

Below is a message from **Jill Crafton**, chairperson of the Great Lakes Committee, bringing the other members of the GLC up to date on some of their action. This is a preview of what we would have if the carp get established in the Great Lakes. If you have friends or relatives over in MN or WI that want to get involved they should get hold of Jill at JWCrafton@rkmc.com and she will point them in the right direction. Remember, there is strength in numbers!

River staffer working under **Brad Redlin** is supporting us and is amazing in the experience and gumption she brings to the table. Can't wait until you meet her, hopefully at National Convention in July. The Non-profit contingent of our **MN AIS Coalition** has engaged the media on a couple occasions and today culminated in a media press event to call for action. Since the locks are closing for the winter, the task was for a modified lock closure plan to be ready before opening the locks in the spring. Zentner, and others from **Friends of Mississippi, MN Responsible Property Owners** (fighting AIS in MN lakes), and **MN Conservation Federation** made statements and fielded questions on the need for action, the urgency for solutions, impact on navigation and effectiveness of barriers. Zentner was awesome in keeping the focus on the need for urgency and action.

"FYI: **Dave Zentner** and I have been participating in a coalition to stop Asian Carp from moving further up the Mississippi River and into the Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers. We have been working since April via conference calls and various meetings with DNR, Governor, and/or Corps (**John Goss** showed for that one hosted at DNR) to push for action. There was representation from a **Task Force** of scientists, **USFW, USGS, and MN DNR.**

"Fantastic job to Gary, Dave, Jeff and Irene! You rocked it! You all sounded excellent and handled the questions with grace and nailed it!"

BULLETIN BOARD

Here is the place for **IKEs** to list items or services for sale or trade, query wanted items or seek answers to questions. Send print-ready text and a photo (.jpeg format) with

limit of fifty words by deadline to: twatson@comcat.net Include your email address and/or phone number.

For Sale:
Kerosene Heater.
Brand new, never used. 23K BTUs. Includes heater, 5 gallons kerosene, kerosene treatment, funnel, tank and syphon. Purchased September, 2011 at Lowe's for \$189. Sale price: \$100. Contact Tom Watson at 874.7254 or twatson@comcast.net

For Sale: Eton G6 Buzz Aldrin Edition AM/FM radio, with aircraft band and shortwave. List price: \$99. Purchased at Radio Shack November, 2010. Sale Price: \$50. Contact Tom Watson at 874.7254 or twatson@comcast.net

CONSERVATION ACTION TAKEN IN EARLY DECEMBER

Robert Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Below is a letter that I signed onto for our **Dwight Lydell Chapter** and the **Michigan Division** as part of my responsibility as a **National Director** from Michigan. The letter is self-

explanatory and came to me via the **IWLA Great Lakes Committee**, of which **John Trimberger** and I are active. I believe IWLA Divisions and Chapters all along the Great Lakes

took similar action. It important to let members know what actions your representative are taking to protect the environment or what every the case may be.

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1
December 2, 2011

Dear Premier McGuinty,

As we approach 2012, the undersigned groups are concerned that the **Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement** signed in December, 2005 between the eight Great Lakes States and two Provinces has not yet fully come into force because the Province of Ontario still has not passed its regulations for exceptions to the Agreement for Intra-Basin transfers. We urge you to promulgate this regulation immediately. We understand you have already consulted on this regulation.

We understand that the **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources** may be going out with a Draft **Environmental Impact Statement and Technical Review of the Waukesha Water** diversion application early in 2012. Pending the outcome of that process, the application could be forwarded by Wisconsin for Regional Body Review. It would be preferable to have the full Agreement in force for the first precedent-setting consideration of a major diversion from the Great Lakes at that time. The Agreement comes into full force, once the last jurisdiction brings measures to ban diversions and regulate exceptions into force.

Should this not occur, many procedural and status questions will be raised and the Regional Body Review process will be unduly complicated. Ontario will still be bound by the rules of the 1985 Great Lakes Charter, not by the Agreement. This raises concerns about how the other nine jurisdictions will proceed in utilizing the Agreement, and if and how Ontario will be accommodated in the review process. What, if any, are the implications for the parallel US Compact Review?

Important data from Ontario and Quebec on their baseline water use need not be submitted under terms of the Agreement until one year after the Agreement is in force. Will the impacts for these downstream jurisdictions and assumptions on cumulative Great Lakes water use be able to inform the decision-making on the historic Waukesha diversion proposal? Could this decision be challenged later once the full Agreement is in force?

We note that other jurisdictions, members of the **Council of Great Lakes Governors**, and Quebec have also expressed their hopes that Ontario would act on implementation by the end of this year (<http://www.cglg.org/news/TheCompass/Compass-2011-Issue3.pdf>). Thank you very much for your consideration; we urge you to take action quickly. The entire Great Lakes Basin is watching.

Sincerely,
The Undersigned

cc: To the CGLG for distribution to other Governors, and the Premier of Quebec



**Dwight Lydell Chapter
of the Izaak Walton League**
4905 Cresthill Dr NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Please don't throw this newsletter away -
pass it on to a friend.



Printed on recycled paper

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods,
Waters and Wildlife
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WINTERFEST!
Sat., Jan. 28, 2012, 10:00AM - 3:00PM
Open to the Community!
Bring friends!

ENJOY OUTDOOR WINTER FUN WITH:

archery	bird-crafts
ice-fishing	sledding
snow castles	snow games
nature trails	FREE lunch
snow-shoeing	and more!
cross-country skiing	

ALL FREE!
(donations accepted!)
Carpool to the lodge; overflow parking at the ski-lot

Don't Miss Our
Biggest Event
of the Year!

**THE
CONSERVATION
AWARDS
BANQUET
AND AUCTION**

Friday,
March 2nd