

NEWSLETTER

www.michiganIKEs.org

The IKEs Update

Conservation Center
5641 Myers Lake Ave.
Belmont MI 49306
January 2017

A big fluffy blanket of snowflakes has settled in tonight, making the world feel cozier than it was with the drizzle and old leaves blowing around. Just remember the first snows of childhood, pretty, isn't it? Puts me in a mood for **Winterfest!** It's a while yet, but put a circle around **January 28**.

It has always worked out before, but still, it's nice to know ahead of time that some of you will volunteer for Winterfest. If you want to help with skates, skis, archery, fish, sledding, lunch, or greeting newcomers,

please let me know! It'll be super-fun! I believe the **Boy Scouts** will be camping out again.

Meanwhile, if the temps get above freezing so that you can "pack" the snow, find some kids and make a snow luminaria. Roll a ball for a base, and build walls a couple inches thick, sort of like a sandcastle, with the inside scooped out, at least as wide as a basketball. Then, with a stick or your finger, draw designs in the wall. Snowflakes, peace signs, curlicues, etc. Place a jar with a candle in the middle, and see the light glow through it at night. Pretty, and no cords required!

I've been to a couple events at the Lodge recently when it was rented by new members. It was nice to see how much people liked the place. Don't be a stranger! Enjoy your 39 acres and your pond and winter wonderland. If you haven't sent your dues in, please do it soon and spare our bookkeeper. The National rates were raised a little, but if that's a problem, our chapter is offering the old rates for a while. Strong membership gives the **Izaak Walton League** respect when working on behalf of conservation issues. Plus, it's fun to belong!

I hope to see you in the new year, and I hope it's a good one!

Georgia Donovan

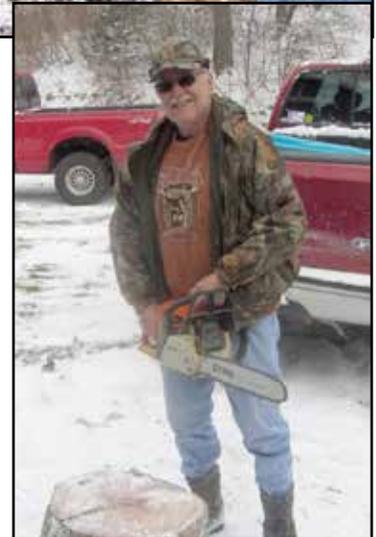


Lumber Party

Tom Watson

On Saturday December 10, a few of us met at the lodge to work on splitting firewood. **Blake and Tate Gardner, Barry Gilbertson, Len Kizer and John Stegmeier** worked on the wood while **Fred Eyer and Brent Panasuk** installed new screens to some of the ones that were damaged over time. I cooked up a huge pot of homemade chili for lunch and most everyone ate three bowls.

Thanks for your hard work, guys. And thanks to **C.J. Tasma** for plowing the driveway.



Luton Park Note

Georgia Donovan

A friend just asked if I knew what the big mounds of rocks in the woods at **Luton Park** were. I'm not sure when I became one of the "old ones," but I do know where the rock piles came from, and maybe some younger people don't.

The rocks are left from the farmers who originally cleared the land. We had them where

I grew up, too. In the old days a flat horse-drawn "stoneboat" was used to drag the rocks away as they plowed the fields. There are many of these piles at Luton, and it always amazes me how much work that was to pick up all those rocks.

A few of them look like they were altered later for use as deer blinds.

John Luton asked us to keep an eye out for poachers.

It's interesting to study the land and wonder what went before. Remember also, the old house across the street from the Luton barn on Kies was a stagecoach stop between Grand Rapids and Greenville.

Experts: Climate Change Threatens Monarch Butterfly Migration

Mitch Hagney

Submitted by Tam Bagby

Rivard Report

October 23, 2016

The **Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival**, which began Thursday at the **Instituto Cultural de México**, continued through Friday evening with a symposium on the relationship between the Monarch Butterfly migration and climate change. **Katharine Hayhoe**, director of the **Climate Science Center** at **Texas Tech University** in Lubbock, joined Michoacán-based forester and researcher **Cuauhtémoc Sáenz Romero**, citizen scientist and conservation specialist **Cathy Downs**, and **Texas Butterfly Ranch** founder **Monika Maeckle** onstage for the discussion.

Beyond chemical threats, humans are destroying important habitats that Monarchs rely on during their long migration. As cities expand and many forests are reduced, locations for milkweed and other important plants decline as well.

Climate change is a “threat multiplier” for these risks, according to Hayhoe. It adds additional stresses that make each other problem more threatening for the butterflies.

Monarch Butterflies have an unusual and incredible life cycle of migration where they spend winter in the high altitude mountains of **Michoacán, Mexico** and then migrate through the “Texas Funnel” to reach all the way to southern Canada. No single butterfly makes the entire trip, so the migration is spread over five full generations. This indicates something particularly spectacular about the butterflies – their navigation is somehow genetic, rather than learned.

Monarch Butterfly tagging programs, primarily from “citizen scientists,” provide enough data to estimate the total amount of Monarchs that migrate each year. This year, while the butterflies have been slower to return than normal, their numbers are estimated at around 200 million, well below the 30 year average of 300 million, but well up from the all-time recorded low of 34 million.

The entire migratory population spends the winter in a single area, making them particularly sensitive to changes in that location.

The trees themselves are vulnerable, especially the *Oyamel* fir. According to Sáenz, climate change will make the trees much more susceptible to problems like parasitic insects

such as pine beetles because of stress from higher temperatures. Based on Sáenz’s research, every part of the **Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve** will become dangerous for the trees by the year 2090. Higher temperature also will affect the butterflies themselves.



“Where they overwinter, it’s not too cold nor warm,” Sáenz said. “They almost do not eat in Mexico. They almost hibernate, living off of their fat reserves. If it’s too warm, however, they will burn their lipids (fats) faster and not survive.”

Rising temperatures and increasing drought also affects ecosystems throughout North America that the Monarchs rely on as they migrate. Critical species like the milkweed plant, which they rely on as a breeding ground, and nectar-heavy wildflowers are going to undergo substantial population reductions as climate change sets in.

Those changes are all gradual, but climate change also increases the propensity of extreme weather events. An enormous storm in the usually dry winter season in the roosting site in Michoacán could decimate the butterflies all at once. Climate change, which causes more unseasonal storms and freezes, dramatically increases the risk.

Sáenz has proposed a somewhat radical solution to the dangers posed to the roosting forests of Michoacán. He wants to “move the forest.”

Planting new *Oyamel* seedlings in higher altitudes, which are likely to stay cooler for longer, may create a more re-

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WINTERFEST!

Saturday, January 28, 10AM - 3PM

Open to the Community!
Bring friends!

ENJOY OUTDOOR WINTER FUN WITH:



archery
ice-fishing
snow castles
nature trails
snow-shoeing
cross-country skiing



bird-crafts
sledding
snow games
FREE lunch
and more!



ALL FREE!

(donations accepted!)

Carpool to the lodge; overflow parking at the ski-lot

For more information, call Georgia at 773.2850

Izaak Walton League Conservation Center

5641 Myers Lake Ave, Belmont, MI

Send us your fishing, camping or other outdoor stories and we'll publish them in the newsletter. Send plain text and a photo or two, jpg format to: twwatson@comcast.net

2017 Membership Renewals are Past Due

Tom Watson

Annual membership renewal notices for 2016 have been sent out, and only about 50% of our members have renewed. So if you haven't had time, or forgot, please send in your renewal. If you didn't receive your notice, please contact us. The goal is to get 100% membership renewals.

If your address, phone number, or email has changed, please let us know. If you are headed south for the winter, let us know where to send the newsletters. We send out newsletters at a nonprofit bulk rate. While this saves money at the mailing end, newsletters do not get forwarded and it costs 65¢ to 90¢ each when returned to us. So having correct addresses help us keep our costs down, reduces paperwork and plus, you get the newsletter in a timely manner.

We produce an updated set of labels for each newsletter, so short term changes are not a problem. Changes can be sent to IWLA, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306, or by email to Tom Watson, membership chair, at twwatson@comcast.net or telephone 616.874.7254.

Thanks.

Deadline for the February issue is Monday, January 16th at 8:00 AM. Winterfest articles are due January 30th.

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To see this and past editions of the newsletter and national IKEs information please visit our websites:

www.michiganikes.org
www.iwla.org

Experts: Climate Change Threatens Monarch Butterfly Migration

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silient forest that the Monarchs can choose to roost in as the warmer forests die off. No one knows, however, if the genetic expertise that the Monarchs use to navigate back to their Mexican home after never visiting before will allow them the flexibility to return to a new location.

“Can this system be changed? Who knows, but we must try to do what we can to ensure that there are healthy trees that the monarchs can return to, if they can,” Sáenz said.

San Antonio has been named the country’s first **Monarch Butterfly Champion City** for pledging all 24 of the National Wildlife Federation’s recommendations for Monarch conservation, including things like adding milkweed to city properties and banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on city lands. However, all of those actions are based on local land-use practices, not on climate change.

San Antonio has been conspicuously silent on a unified **Climate Action Plan** so far. As other cities like Austin, Denver, and Boston have made commitments to both adapt to expected changes and also change their greenhouse gas emissions, San Antonio’s sustainability strategies have left the relationship between the city and the global atmosphere absent.

That could all change at the Nov. 1 Sustainability Summit, where the public has been invited to make suggestions to push the city towards the development of a full Climate Action Plan. **Doug Melnick**, the City’s Director of the **Office of Sustainability**, has said that a Climate Action Plan is either coming “this year or next year.”

Councilman Roberto Treviño (D1), who was in attendance at the symposium, told the *Rivard Report* that “scientists tell us that the built environment’s heat island effect can change migration patterns.

“We can design a better city for not just our quality of life, but also for our natural environment,” he added. “We can, for example, eliminate the amount of heat we absorb just by changing the color of our roofs.” Treviño’s proposed **Under1Roof program** would do just that.

For those who want to help the Monarchs on an individual level, planting useful varieties like milkweed in gardens can provide a food and breeding ground for the butterflies. It’s important, however, to ensure that seedlings purchased from nurseries don’t have pesticides or herbicides that are toxic to the Monarchs. For a list of vetted nurseries in San Antonio, Austin, and Dallas, gardeners can check the Monarch Watch website.



Monarchs are not in danger of extinction, since non-migratory parts of the species are based in California and parts of Mexico, but the climate change and environmental problems may threaten their migration route.

“What is the consequence of doing nothing?” someone in the audience asked Maeckle, during the question and answer session. Maeckle responded with humble passion.

“The species may survive, but besides the loss of pollinators in the ecosystem, we may lose a real marvel that we can witness every year,” she said. “I want my grandchildren to be able to experience this. Is it a vanity to want to see something this majestic and beautiful? I don’t know. But I think it’s important.”

Hayhoe put it in different terms. “If we continue on the path of our current fossil fuel use, we will see 30% of all species on the planet gone by the end of the century.

“Without a doubt, the butterflies can adapt if they have the time,” Hayhoe added. “The question is if they can change within the time that they have to because of climate change. Some ask, ‘Are we trying to interfere in nature?’ The answer is yes, but we are already interfering. Taking action to help may be the only way that the Monarch migration survives in the time they have been given.”

LODGE CALENDAR
July 13 Blake Gardner, rental

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA Draft Core Event Schedule 2017

NOTE: This is a draft schedule. Especially for late year events you can check for updates in our newsletters and on our website along with notice of special events that come up on short notice and are not listed on this Event Schedule. Also additional information about these listed events can be found in the newsletter and on the website.

Scheduled	Event & Location
January 28, Saturday 10am-3pm.....	<i>Winterfest Community Family Day @ IKEs</i>
March 3, Friday	<i>Conservation Awards/Fund Raiser Banquet</i>
March 16 thru 19	<i>Ultimate Sport Show - DeVos Place, Grand Rapids</i>
April 20, Thursday	<i>Fish & Game Dinner & Program</i>
May 6, 13, 20, 27 - Saturdays	<i>Kids Fishing & Native Plants @ IKEs, 10AM-3PM</i>
May 11, Thursday	<i>Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting & Short Program @ IKEs</i>
June 10, Saturday	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up Day 9AM, work, eat, play, campfire</i>
June 24, Saturday, 10am-3pm	<i>Summerfest Community Family Day @ IKEs</i>
July 26-28	<i>2017 IKE's National Convention - Sandusky IN</i>
July 15, Saturday	<i>Native Plants for Everyone, Tear Drop Island @ IKEs</i>
August 17, Thursday	<i>Ribs & Chicken Dinner @ IKEs</i>
September 13, Wednesday.....	<i>Oktoberfest @ IKEs</i>
September 16, Saturday.....	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up Day 10AM @ IKEs</i>
October 4, Wednesday	<i>Chili Cook-Off/Potluck @ IKEs</i>
November 9, Thursday.....	<i>Game Dinner @ IKEs</i>
December 7, Thursday	<i>Holiday Celebration</i>

Website: www.michiganikes.org
 IKEs property located at: 5641 Myers Lake Avenue
 Mailing address is: Izaak Walton League, 5417 Myers Lake Ave., Belmont MI 49306

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

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

___ Individual - \$52 (62*), ___ Family - \$72 (87*), ___ Student (18-21) - \$24 (34*), ___ Youth (under 18) - \$12 (22*)

*** Cost includes increase by IWLA. Please pay increase if you can. If you cannot afford the higher amount, the chapter will fund the increase for 2017 renewals only.**

Mail to Izaak Walton League Membership, 5417 Myers Lake Ave., Belmont MI 49306. Checks payable to "Izaak Walton League." Email Tom at twatson@comcast.net for more information. A gate key is available upon receipt of membership fee. You can pick up a key at the next dinner at the lodge. Please enjoy the 39 acres.

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.



Dwight Lydell Chapter
of the Izaak Walton League
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pass it on to a friend.

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WINTER FUN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 10AM - 3PM,

FREE LUNCH starting at 11:30am.

Come help out or join in the fun! For more
information, see page 4 or call Georgia at 773.2850.



Coming Friday, March 3rd:

**The Conservation
Awards Banquet
and Auction**

