



A SPORTSPERSON'S
CONSERVATION CLUB

Conservation Center
5641 Myers Lake Ave.
Belmont MI, 49306



NEWSLETTER

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER

• OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA •

www.michiganIKEs.org

February 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Oh, did we luck-out for **Winterfest!**

After so many ups and downs with the weather, I quit worrying. We decided, "It'll be what it'll be," and then it was great! Winter arrived earlier that morning, covering every branch with a lacing of white fluff. We had good packing snow for sculpting into snowmen and a castle with a slide. Kids and families liked exploring through the wonderland down by the creek, and finding the pine-branch hut out in the woods. I met some mighty fine people, many of them 10 and under. A nice girl named **Mina** said that *waabooz* (wab-oosh) means bunny in **Anishinaabemowin**. Her words sounded just like a bubbling stream.

There was just enough snow to try the cross-country skis that **Barb McGuirl** had gathered from yard sales all summer. Ice skates were out of the question. While we had to keep off the ice, **Maurie** borrowed a really fun casting game from **Ada Parks**. **Bill Skallos'** archery set-up was as popular as ever, with the kids concentrating on improving their skills.

Inside, after a bellyful of hot dogs and chili, kids could build a bluebird house with **Paul Sherd** and **Mark DeHaan**. They came with material for 40 houses, and every one was built and sent home for the birds.



It takes all kinds of volunteers to make an event like this seem fun and easy, and we all believe it's worth it. Thank you to every one of you who pitched in!

The visitors and new members I talked with really like the **IKEs** for times like this, and we need more of them. Not necessarily big, organized events, but relaxed times when folks can gather around the lodge. This May, when we have fishing at the pond every Saturday morning, I hope that we can extend that into casual get-togethers, picnic lunches, walks in the woods, where kids can play and people can share ideas. Let's use our fishing program to build some momentum!

I watched two documentaries regarding fishing in a larger context. *Red Gold* and *Equilibrium* are about salmon around **Bristol Bay, Alaska**. This is where wild-caught, sustainable salmon comes from. It is the largest **Sockeye Salmon** run left in the whole world. The salmon in turn support an ecosystem for other trout, which feed on their eggs, young, and rich nutrients after spawning. Bears, eagles, fishermen's families, and native livelihoods depend upon the salmon as well. The beauty of the salmon returning to these pure waters is breathtaking. The financial network thriving upon them is very far-reaching.

The proposed **Pebble Mine** would be the country's largest open-pit and underground mine in history. Have

Highlights This Issue:

**Conservation Awards
Banquet and Auction**

Winterfest

Web Site Update

Auction Donors

...and much more!

you ever flown over the **Kennecott Mine** heading in to **Salt Lake City**? Bigger than that. The toxic tailings would be held behind an earthen dam, the world's longest, in an area that is prone to tremors. Seems to me the only guarantee is that Bristol Bay will never be the same again, and the salmon, if we want to hold up our end of the sustaining bargain, deserve to be defended. Mines have their places, but when something is too big, it's out of balance. Temporary jobs are waved around, in exchange for sustaining tradition. This may seem far away, but if you've ever enjoyed smoked salmon, it's not really. The country needs to know what's at stake.

Meanwhile, keep in mind we have our fabulous **Banquet** coming up! It's a fun evening of good deals, food, and talk. Do you have any interesting donations for the auction?

The **Sport and Cottage**

Shows are coming, too. Our tickets are the best deal available and proceeds go to our own chapter!

Georgia Donovan

WINTERFEST

Tom Watson

Winterfest 2012 was great fun and a huge success, since we got some snow at just the right time. Judging from the smiles on the faces of the kids, everyone enjoyed the activities.

Countless volunteer hours made this event successful and I am sure everyone was as pooped as I was when we finally went home. Thanks for all your hard work.

The **Kitchen Krew** served about 225-250 people. In all we served six gallons of chili, ten gallons of hot cocoa, 225 hot dogs, four gallons of cider, several pots of coffee, a case of chips, and 200 cookies, which kept the Krew hopping.

Many thanks to: **Tam Bagby, Barry Gilbertson, Randy Jones, DeAnne Sherd** and **Lynn and Gary Wheeler**

for their help in the kitchen and to those who helped clean up the dining room, including **Fred Eyer** and **Ron Waybrant**, and, of course, those whom I have forgotten to mention here.

Good job, everyone!



MORE WINTERFEST



CONSERVATION AND AWARDS BANQUET

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair



We have a very timely and important speaker for this banquet that is of concern to all folks living in the Great Lakes basin. Grand Rapids **Mayor George Heartwell** will be the guest speaker. The banquet committee thinks you and your friends will be interested in coming on **March 2** to learn what should and can be done and how you might be able to help.

You all have heard the concern regarding **Asian carp** getting into the Great Lakes! Well we have the program of the moment and for you. Two Great Lakes groups, the **Great Lakes Commission** and the **Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative** began collaboration a couple of years ago to determine how the separation can be accomplished. Their goal was

to have their \$2 million comprehensive study completed by January 2012 a full 2 ½ years ahead of the **USCOE**. That was not only the goal but it will be completed on time. We are one of the first groups to find out what the results are. The study and report is titled **A 21st Century Chicago Waterway System**. It is very inclusive and will keep Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes through these waterways and keep aquatic invasive species from going either way because there will be a hydrological separation of these two great water basins. All of the associated problems of storm, sewage and barge traffic will also be dealt with. I know you will want to hear the message. Our own Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, who is a member of the St. Lawrence Cities group's board of directors, will bring the message to us. We know he is well qualified to do the job.

So get your friends together and mail in your reservation ASAP. Seating is limited and could be sold out for this one.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR STATE/CHAPTER DUES

Ron Waybrant

Life membership in the **IWLA** is a worthy investment; however, it applies only for national dues and does not apply to state or chapter dues. Thus, life members in our chapter still pay state and chapter dues annually. So the **Dwight Lydell Chapter** board evaluated establishing our own "life membership," where someone who is a life member at national could become a life member at the chapter and not pay annual chapter/state dues.

The concept we've come up with is similar to the National **IKEs** life membership. They require a significant payment, the interest of such will pay the dues forever, or almost forever. **IWLA** life membership is 25 times the annual dues, which equates to an assumption that **IWLA** will make 4% annually on the investment over time, which will pay the annual dues. Chapter and state dues are \$14 per year, and assuming our investments could make 4%, the cost would be \$350 as a one-time payment. This seems a little high, so the **DLC** board projected a life dues payment assuming an investment return of 4.6%. This equates to a one-time life membership payment

for chapter/state dues of \$300. These dues would be applicable for chapter dues to any type of life membership, individual, family or benefactor.

The question then became: how to invest the life dues payment to make 4.6%, since banks don't pay that much. The answer is fairly straightforward now that we have the endowment/trust fund set up, the life dues payment could be deposited in our endowment fund. The endowment fund is set up to pay out earnings once a year. At that time we would receive earnings from the invested dues payment that will pay one's annual dues. The principal amount would remain invested and legally protected, not spent, and thereby will cover the annual dues payment in future years.

The administrative process is fairly straightforward. The membership secretary will track those who paid chapter/state life dues and can easily manage the dues process with national. The payment for life membership in the chapter would be deposited in the endowment fund and earnings would pay chapter and state dues

annually. Basically, this is done outside the national organization and within our chapter.

This program is for **life members**, who may have signed up at least in part, so they don't have to pay dues annually. Life membership fees also provide a continuing asset to further the goals of the **IKEs**. Life membership dues for both the chapter and **IWLA** dues payments are tax deductible. With this program, **DLC** is providing a benefit for the life members in our chapter. Currently we have 14 life members in our chapter.

This process is now straightforward because the chapter has an established a trust fund, which is described in another article in this newsletter. It is another step the board is taking to make membership in our chapter and the **Izaak Walton League** more convenient and worthwhile.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH
JAY HUSTON

Failure is not an option.
It's bundled with your software.

A SIGNIFICANT MOVE FOR OUR CHAPTER'S FUTURE A DLC TRUST/ENDOWMENT FUND IS ESTABLISHED

Ron Waybrant

The **Dwight Lydell Chapter** now has its own trust, sometimes called an endowment, which can accept donations. The primary funds of the trust will remain invested and cannot be spent by the chapter or the trustees. Income from the trust investments will be directed to the Chapter's operating budget. This is a milestone for the chapter, as a legal endowment type of fund has been sought for over 6 years.

The Trust already has significant start-up investments. The chapter had a "restricted" account of donated funds (donated by past and current members); however, these were restricted by conscience only, and were not in a legal trust. The DLC board authorized transfer of these funds to the new Trust. In addition, there have already been 2 donations to the Trust, which now has just over \$50,000 invested. Up to 90% of the income generated by the Trust will be distributed annually to the Dwight Lydell Chapter of the IWLA. That way at least 10% of annual income generated by the fund will be retained in the fund and provide additional growth for the primary fund.

The trust or endowment fund is formally called the **Dwight Lydell Foundation** (Trust), and has been organized, registered and accounts established. The Trust was established with the help of Rockford attorney **Neil Blakeslee**. The Dwight Lydell board of directors appointed 3 board members to develop the Trust, who are now the initial trustees for the Trust. They are **Fred Eyer**, **Robert Stegmier** and **Ron Waybrant**. Future trustees will be selected from past or present board members of the DLC of the IWLA.

Income from the Trust will help stabilize our operating budgets and allow DLC to maintain and develop our facilities and offer more and better programs in the future. Many thanks are due to **Bob Stegmier** for his forward thinking and advocacy and for working to bring this idea to reality.

MICHIGANIKES WEB SITE UPDATED

Duane De Vries

A few changes have been made to the web site we share with the Fenton chapter, www.michiganikes.org and if you haven't visited it lately, please do so. First thing to do when you get there is click on the **Dwight Lydell Chapter** tab to let you see all the chapter specific things. We added a link to explain the benefits of being

a chapter member (which includes being able to rent the property for a day or two) and also copies of the rental agreement etc.

The other change is the addition of an **Events of Local Interest** tab where you can find out about local, conservation related activities such

as **Stormwater Workshop**, **Stream Insect Monitoring** and special meetings of other conservation groups.

If you belong to one of these groups and would like to have your special events listed, please E-mail the particulars to me at: duanedv@earthlink.net

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.

ONE OF THESE DAYS!

Bob Stegmier, National Director

One of these days I will retire from being your **National Director** and the responsibility will fall to someone else. Something to think about, so here is



a picture of **Gail** and me at the **J. N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge** on **Sanibel Island** near Fort Myers FL, where the Directors meeting was held. So we took a few days at our expense on either side of the meetings to vacation. Visiting one of the very first wildlife refuges is always a treat. We saw many different birds, including the **Roseate Spoonbill** and the **Great Blue, Little Blue, Tri-Colored** and **Great White Herons** and **White Ibis, White** and **Brown Pelicans** and others. Sure, an alligator or two.

Don't all rush up at once because we only have one director position from Michigan, except the Division President who is automatically a director. Oh yes, you can practice because if neither of these two can go you can be selected to go to the National Directors meeting, with full voting rights.

SILENT AUCTION DEALS: MAKE IT A WIN-WIN-WIN

Maurie Houseman

Reprinted from the April 2011 issue

We have had another very successful IKEs **Annual Banquet** and much of the fun and profits come from the generous merchants that graced us with their donations. Because of them, the IKEs **win** with substantial profits, and the guests **win** with great deals. So let's be sure the donors of these gifts also **win**.

Merchants are besieged with many, many requests for gifts, much more than they can realistically give. We must appreciate that they give to the IKEs and we should pay them back by giving our business to them. For example, if I buy a \$25 gift certificate from a restaurant, I make a point of spending around \$50 or more when I use that certificate by having it be a foursome (it's still a great deal) and if I can introduce new customers to their business, I will. And then I will thank them for their donation

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Lodge Rental

Ted & Jan Kuzma..... 874.7279
kooz7@chartermi.net

to the IKEs. Are they glad they gave to the IKEs. You bet! And they will give again.

Or write them a short note to express your appreciation for their gift. It will set us apart from almost any other donor requests.

So pay attention to the list of donors printed in the newsletter [on page 9] and actively support them. They are our friends.

This newsletter was produced by Brandon Cooke and Alex Henderson, students at the Kent Career Tech Center.
GREAT JOB STUDENTS!

DIRECTORS MID WINTER DIRECTORS MEETING

Bob Stegmier

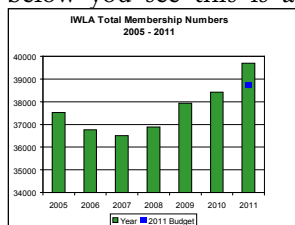


There was much fanfare regarding that the **Izaak Walton League of America** reaching its 90th anniversary on Saturday, January 14. This was highlighted with a special 90 years 1922 -1912 logo all over the walls and speaker podiums.

Oh yes, all attending had the opportunity to support the 90 years with a \$90 contribution to the **IWLA Trust**. All contributions to this trust are held with only the earnings from such fund returned to the operating budget. The contributions are being invested in conservative investments for long-term growth with some income. As your national director I supported the campaign with my personal contribution. I suspect all members will get a similar opportunity soon. Check your next *Outdoor America*!

There were good feelings among the attendees about the continued growth in the League's membership, which has grown at the average of 2.22 percent each year over the past four years with 2011 membership up by 3.34 percent. From the bar graph pictured below you see this is an exciting and important trend that all chapters need to work at to maintain growth.

We must keep the growth going for the strength of our chapters, the League and of course our "Mission." It is



often said and is true that membership is everyone's responsibility. The underlying feelings were that our League's Mission, based on a "common sense" approach throughout the league's chapters on the issues in "defending our soil, air, waters, woods and wildlife," makes it worthwhile to join. So one message I bring back from the day and a half of meetings is for all Michigan IKEs to keep membership growth on our minds and in our efforts. I believe this boils down to having asking the "how about joining" question whenever it seems appropriate. In Michigan we haven't kept pace with the rest of the chapters but I am confident with constant awareness and active "show" participation we can and will pick up the pace. I am looking forward to the day when the league's membership is back to 50,000. I know our first choice is to have someone join a chapter but the **MAL** (member at large) is certainly better than no membership. Folks living a significant distance from the chapter property may be reluctant to join the chapter so the **MAL** might just suit their interest. One thing I noticed at the national meetings lately is the **MAL** membership talked about much more these days in presentations. **MAL** memberships can be submitted directly to the national office via www.iwla.org or through the chapter's membership chairperson.

I am sure the meeting will be well covered in all matters and with pictures in the next *Outdoor America* magazine because the editor, **Dawn Mayhew Merritt** was busy all over the place taking pictures and giving presentations. She is a "ball of fire."

XL PIPELINE

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair and Energy & Environment Committee Member

I personally applaud **President Obama's** decision to delay the approval of this pipeline based on the concerns that Nebraska has about the current plan to have it run through a very environmental sensitive area in the Nebraska Hill Country called **The Sandhills** or The Sand Hills. I would hope any president would have taken such action under consideration based on any state's concerns of such nature and act accordingly. This is a region of mixed-grass prairie on grass-stabilized sand dunes in north-central Nebraska, covering just over one quarter of the state. This land is unsuitable for tilling for cropland, which the settlers found out about the hard way. Beyond this concern is that below and near the surface lays the **Ogallala Aquifer**, a vast yet shallow underground water

table aquifer located beneath the Great Plains in the United States. One of the world's largest aquifers, it covers an area of approximately 174,000 square miles in portions of the eight states of **South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas**. While significant in all these states it lays under nearly the entire state of Nebraska. About 27 percent of the irrigated land in the United States overlies this aquifer system, which yields about 30 percent of the nation's ground water used for irrigation. In addition, the aquifer system provides drinking water to 82 percent of the people who live within the aquifer boundary. The major concern is that an oil spill would be devastating to the water supply.

I believe that in the long run an environmental suitable rout for the pipeline will be found and the pipeline will be built. I will remind you of the **IWLA** resolution passed last summer at convention did not oppose the pipeline but recommended the following point.

"Governmental permitting and regulatory agencies shall require the incorporation of fail-safe provisions, such as double wall pipe and leak detection monitors, in new pipeline construction and operation and in repairs of existing pipelines in order to protect surface water, groundwater, human health, soils and wildlife."

You can find more regarding the resolution by visiting www.michiganikes.org and go to Conservation Policies 2011.

2012 Annual Conservation Banquet

Dwight Lydell Chapter - Izaak Walton League of America

Friday, March 2nd - Public Welcome!

Centennial Country Club, 3361 Charlevoix Dr. SE, Grand Rapid MI

Guest Speaker

GR Mayor George Heartwell

will bring us this message!

“A 21st Century Chicago Waterway System”
engineered to keep Asian carp
out of the Great Lakes”

(based on a recent \$2,000,000 study done by
the Great Lakes Commission and
the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative)

Agenda

5:30 pm

Social Hour/Silent Auction

7:00 pm

Dinner and Program

9:00 pm

Silent Auction Winners/Raffle

Silent Auction includes

incredible deals on
sports equipment
paintings & fine art work,
apparel, fishing charters
B&B Inns and lodging packages
Gift Certificates for salons, fine
dining, entertainment
plus raffle prizes and much more...

United States Geological Survey photo



Tickets are \$27 per person. Please mail reservation form with **check made out to DLC-IWLA** and mail to:
Fred Eyer, Izaak Walton League Treasurer, 2488 Rockhill Dr. NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525
Thank you for making reservations by Monday, Feb 27!

IWLA Conservation Awards Banquet - Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of tickets purchased _____

Please list attendee names for name tags:

@ \$27 each = \$ _____ (total due)

2012 SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE DONORS

A Cut Ahead Salon Inc., Rockford
 A. J. Pinder Hair Salon
 Alona Schneider, Member
 Arcadia House B&B
 Arnie's Bakery & Restaurants
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 Berlin Raceway
 Betty Jo Crosby, Member
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 Bird Watchers Market Place
 Bob & Gail Stegmier, Members
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 Boulder Creek Golf Club
 Brann's Steakhouse & Sports Grille
 Bruce Dutcher, Member
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 Cannonsburg Ski Area
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 Carlos O'Kelly's Mexican Café
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 Catherine McClung
 Cedar Springs Mill & Supply
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 Curtis, MI (UP)
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 Chase Klinesteker, Member
 Cheshire Barber Shop
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 Dale Gould, Member
 David Trudell
 Design 1 Salons
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 Fred & Sue Eyer, Members
 Fred Steketee, Member

Fred Willson Studio, Caledonia
 Georgia Donovan, Member
 Gilmore Car Museum, Gull Lake Area
 Goodrich Quality Theatres
 Grand Rapids Airport Hilton
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 Restaurant & Tavern
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 Haymarsh Hunt Club
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 Heidi Christine's Salon & Spa, Ada
 Hilltop Sports
 Honey Creek Inn
 Hooters of Grand Rapids
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 Jim Bedford, Author & Guide
 Jim Hegarty, DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
 Jim Schneider, Member
 John & Jan Trimberger, Members
 John Russo's Wine Warehouse & Deli
 John Stegmeier, Member
 Kathleen Chaney Fritz
 Kevin Feenstra, Guide & Author
 Latitude Roadhouse/Steelhead Tavern,
 Howard City
 Louis Benton Steak House
 Marie Catrib's
 Mark & Kathy DeHaan, Members
 Merle Norman Cosmetics
 Merrell Footwear, Rockford
 MVP Metro Club
 Nails by Marilyn
 Olive Garden
 One Trick Pony

Pando Winter Sports Park
 Parcel Express Plus, Rockford
 Patagonia
 Paul & DeAnne Sherd, Members
 Pilgrims Run Golf Club
 Pizzeria Grande (Lake Bella Vista)
 Presto Print
 Restaurant Partners Inc.
 River Valley Auto
 Riverbend Bar/Grille, Ada
 Rockford Quick Lube
 Ron Finger, Member
 Ron & Ruth Waybrant, Members
 Ruth Kizer, Tai Chi Instructor
 Screen Ideas
 Shari Walton
 Shear Profile
 Silver Bullet Firearms & Training Center
 Sparta Sports
 Story's Country Gourmet Foods
 Sun-Rays Tanning, Rockford
 Tam Bagby, Member
 The J Salon, 2090 Celebration Drive NE
 The Sewing Room, Rockford
 The Shack B&B, White Cloud
 Thousand Oaks Golf Club
 Timbers Inn Restaurant
 Tom Nederveld, Member
 Tom Watson, Member
 Twisted Vine Deli & Catering, Rockford
 West Michigan Caterer.com
 West Michigan Whitecaps
 White Creek Lumber
 Wild Birds Unlimited
 Winter Inn, Greenville
 Woodland Travel Center, 5190 Plainfield

BULLETIN BOARD

The Bulletin Board is the place to post information, pose questions and/or offer goods or services for sale or trade, or list wanted goods or services. Submit maximum of 50 words of text and one .jpg photo to: twatson@comcast.net

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA

Core Event Schedule 2012

CHAIR PERSON

March 2, Friday	Conservation-Awards-Fund Raiser Banquet Houseman, Stegmier, Eyer, Waybrant	
March 15-18	Ultimate Sport Show-Grand Rapids	
March 23-25	Cottage & Lakefront Living Show-Grand Rapids	
April 26, Thursday	Fish & Game Dinner & program @ CC	Tom Watson
May	Kids Fishing every Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon@ CC	Bill Kirk
May 17, Thursday	Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting & Short Program	Tom Watson
June 13, 20 & 27.....	Kids FREE Fishing at Versluis Lake, Plainfield Twsp. 6:30-8 pm	Jim Biener
June 23, Saturday	Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC	Houseman
July 16-20.....	2011 Ike's Convention, Lincoln NE	Open to all Members
August 16, Thursday	Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Program @ CC	Houseman, prog, Watson, chair
September 12, Wednesday .	Oktoberfest @ CC	Bob Stegmier
September 22, Saturday	Michigan Division Meeting DLC-CC	Div. Pres. John Sturgis
October 11, Thursday.....	Chili Cook Off/Potluck @ CC	Tom Watson
November 1, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC	Tom Watson
December TBD.....	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

Deadline for the
March issue is
Monday, February
13th at 8:00 AM.

Kudos to **Fred Eyer** and **Ron Waybrant** for pushing the **Dwight Lydell Foundation** to completion. It was probably 10 years ago the seed for its establishment was sown. I did my share too; it was a three-person effort.
Bob Stegmier

ROGUE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL (RRWC) HAPPENINGS

Duane DeVries and I regularly attend and get involved with this local watershed group. Duane promotes **rain barrels** and I discuss the invasive wetland plant **Purple Loosestrife** plant. This message to announce two watershed events coming up. The watershed roughly extends from **Casnovia** to **Bostwick Lake** and from the **Grand River** to **B-82** in **Newaygo County**. Some of our members live in this watershed and may have some personal concerns or special ideas about it.

In any event, the **RRWC** is holding an informational meeting on what is happening and maybe what should be happening in the watershed on **February 20** at the **North Rockford Middle School** from 6:30 to 7:45.

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

There will be presentations on such subjects as **Lake & Stream Bank Best Practices, Purple Loosestrife Control, Stream Trout Habitat, Wetlands Restoration/Protection** and the **Rogue Home River Initiative**. Something of interest for all other than the cookies and coffee and there are opportunities for almost anyone to get involved with whatever sounds like the most fun and rewarding.

If you have questions, please call **Gretchen Zuiderveen**, 240.2181 or me at 866.4769.

On March 26 there will be a **Wetland Restoration** and **Wetland Protection** program at the **Grant Community Center** on 105 S. Front St. in downtown Grant starting at

6:30 until 8:30. The location is near the **Rice Lake** area that is no longer a lake but a large area that was drained for farming in the early 20th century and still has some practical use. What happens on such land is that the organic materials get used up and some are oxidized, leaving the soil marginal for most farm production. The farming production is dwindling and there is some interest in some restoration. This program again is open to all and the various agriculture and government support programs will be discussed. No one should think this is the only area suitable for wetland protection that also turns out to be stream and creek protection within the RR watershed. Any questions on this please call me at 866.4769

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

Ron Waybrany

Reprinted from the January 2012 issue

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.



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THE CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET AND AUCTION

Friday, March 2nd

at the

CENTENNIAL COUNTRY CLUB

Now is the time to get friends
together and send in your reserva-
tions. See page 8 for more informa-
tion and reservation form. Our goal
this year is to have an attendance
of 150 and your help is needed by
asking others to attend.

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME TO COME!**
Advance reservations only!



Don't Miss Our Biggest Event of the Year!

Don't miss the



or try the



at Devos Place