



IKEs

NEWSLETTER



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



DWIGHT LYDELLE CHAPTER
OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

www.michiganIKEs.org

March 2014

The IKE's Update

Many thanks to **Fred Eyer**, **Ron Waybrant**, and **Maurie Houseman** for all their work, and to all those who pitched in with time, dollars, and attendance at the Banquet! The **Caribou Summer** program was fascinating, we got to acknowledge the years of service **Bob Stegmier** has given the IKEs, and named **Jim Schneider Ike of the Year!**

specific ordinances. A few others have declared moratoriums, but Cannon's board is going for a stronger legal defense, in hopes of maintaining local control over our environment.

About that local control, consider letting a little more "yardage" get out of control this year and grow into habitat. Bees, butterflies, fireflies, and birds like native plants to work with and feed



We were very proud to call Cannon Township's **Steve Grimm**, **Bonnie Blackledge**, and **Julie Lovelace** our **Conservation Awardees** this year, because their work on watershed education has evolved into fracking protections. This township is the **FIRST** in the state to put some teeth into

from. One year I was astounded to find **Indigo Buntings** nesting right in my yard. Apparently I had just the right mix of a clearing with shrubs in an open woods next to a

Thought of the Month

If you ignore beauty, you will soon find yourself without it.

But if you invest in beauty, it will remain with you all the days of your life.

Frank Lloyd Wright

field. They were nesting about 3 feet off the ground. Indigos love it at the IKEs'. If your lot is too wooded for bluebirds, you might get Indigos instead.

Speaking of bluebird, it's time to shake the mice and old nests out of the bird-houses!

Enjoy the birdcalls and sunshine of spring! But cast a suspicious eye upon the first green that pops out; it's often an invasive getting ahead of our wildflowers. Good chance to grasp control before the jungle of summer sets in.

(continued on page 4)



Win! Win! Win!

Maurie Houseman

This year, as in the past, the IKEs have made over \$4,000.00 from donations by businesses and some members. We should show our appreciation to the businesses by patronizing them and making a point of thanking them when you are in their store or restaurant.



These businesses receive many more many requests for donations than they can afford to give, and we are fortunate that they have chosen to give to the Izaak Walton League.

Make it a WIN! WIN! WIN!

- Win #1: Money for the IKEs' programs
- Win #2: Bargain for the high bidders
- Win #3: Our appreciation and business given to them.



Fly-In Raffle Now Available

Fly-in fishing trips to Northern Canada are many of our dreams, but the most of us never experience. Beautiful lake, outstanding fishing, colorful sunrise and calming sunsets, as well as relaxing days in the quiet wilderness for 4 people. Now add living accommodations that are second to none. A 4-day vacation anyone would enjoy.

Walton's KayVee Lodge Fly-In Raffle tickets are now available for purchase. Odds of winning are 1 in 300.

Yes, a limit of 300 tickets will be sold!

The cost to enter the raffle is \$20.00 per ticket.

Visit: www.kayveelodge.com to view the beautiful package available. The package to be won is the "Housekeeping Plan."

All proceeds will be used for continued improvements, programs and new activities for all members and guests to enjoy.

This raffle is open to the members and the public. Make sure you make arrangements to purchase as soon as possible.

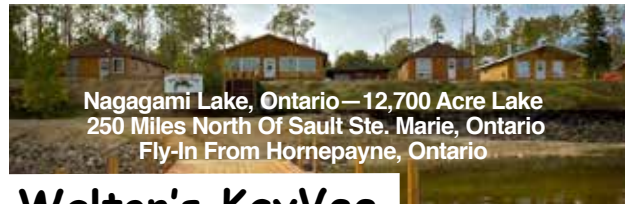
Again, only 300 entries will be available!

We will be offering the raffle tickets at the **Ultimate Sport Show**

in DeVos Convention Center, Grand Rapids, the weekend of March 21st.

Contact **Fred Eyer** at 616 363.0253 or **Jim Schneider** at 616 340.4604.

More information is available at our website: www.michiganIKEs.com



Nagagami Lake, Ontario—12,700 Acre Lake
250 Miles North Of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Fly-In From Hornepayne, Ontario

Raffle Tickets
\$20 each
Only 300 printed

Walton's KayVee Lodge Fly-In Raffle August 2014

~Four Day Stay For Four; Housekeeping Plan~

Drawing will be May 15, 2014 during the Steak Dinner meeting at the Ike's lodge:
5641 Myers Lake Rd
Belmont, Michigan
More information at: michiganikes.org or contact Fred Eyer at 616-363-0253

This package (value over \$3000) includes:

- **Flight to and from lodge**
 - 100 lb weight limit for gear (per person)
- Private, modern and fully equipped cabins
- Weekly shore lunch
 - 16' Lund boat (2-3 persons per boat)
 - Dependable, current, 20 hp motors and all gas
- Swivel seats, lifejackets and fish finders
 - Landing nets, minnow buckets, anchors
 - Screened in fish cleaning area for your use
 - Propane barbecues
 - Coffee and muffins on morning of departure

www.kayveelodge.com



Ice Cover on the Great Lakes
92% in Early March.



The IKE's Update

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There's an upcoming **Stream Study** on both the **Rogue** and **Bear Creek** on April 12. If you can help that morning, please contact either **Nichol DeMol** at ndemol@tu.org or **Julie Lovelace** at 884-2206. It's an excellent way for older kids to help with environmental assessment. Age 6-96 welcome.

We're getting ideas and bids for screening in the pavilion by the pond this spring.

Hope to see you at the **Fish & Game Dinner** April 24th and maybe at **Townsend Park's** wonderful **Waterfest** April 26, 8-noon! Oh, if you haven't got your **Fly-In Fishing Raffle** ticket yet, for the Ontario trip in August, call Jim or Fred!

Georgia Donovan

P.S. It was awfully nice of **Duane DeVries** to make emergency-cord bracelets for every person at the banquet!

**DEADLINE FOR THE
APRIL ISSUE IS
MONDAY, MARCH 23
AT 8:00 AM.**

Nominating Committee

Jay Huston

It is that time of year again. The annual nominating committee is looking for the hidden talent of our dedicated members who will give their time to serve in an elected office. We encourage our new members to become active in an official capacity. There are those who have had experience in other volunteer organizations and are good candidates as an officer or board of directors member. If any member knows of an active member who might be interested, please call any one of the nominating committee. Our annual meeting is **Thursday, May 15TH** at the IKEs CC.

Barbara McGuirl at 874.7740, **Robert Stegmier** at 866.4769, **Jay Huston**, Chair at 942.2503.

**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

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United States Farm Bill

Bob Stegmier, National Director

We have all heard, read, discussed and maybe even cussed about it too for the last year and a half. It is now passed and is law. Below is an informative article from the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* in January just before it became law. The IWLA's Midwest office is in St. Paul MN and the League is strong throughout Minnesota with 18 chapters and 1,132 members. Our **Agricultural Program Director, Bill Wenzel**, also called "Farm Bill," is located in this office. The **Energy Program Director is Bill Droessler** and called "Energy Bill" so within the system they are referred to as Farm Bill and Energy Bill.



Bill, which could be approved by Congress soon.

The good news is that farmers and ranchers will have to apply conservation measures in exchange for federal crop insurance on highly erodible land and wetlands.

The linkage of "conservation compliance" to crop insurance was a key provision sought by conservation groups, such as **Ducks Unlimited** and **Pheasants Forever**.

Said Bill Wenzel of **The Izaak Walton League**: "Ensuring conservation benefits are retained as part of the taxpayer-supported financial net for farmers is the League's No. 1 priority."

The bill also includes a "sodsaver" provision that limits crop insurance subsidies for the first few years in areas where land is newly converted to cropland. That's meant to discourage farmers from tilling native grasslands. The provision is limited to lands in Minnesota, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, and the Dakotas.

However, the bill also cuts \$6 billion from conservation over the next decade, consolidating 23 conservation programs into 13. It is expected to lower the maximum number of acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to 24 million acres; the maximum was 32 million acres under the last farm bill.

CRP, in which landowners take marginal lands out of production and usually plant them to grass, has been hailed as a windfall for wildlife, especially ground-nesting birds such as pheasants and ducks. **Minnesota, North Dakota** and **South Dakota** have lost hundreds of thousands of acres of CRP in recent years as farmers pulled out of the program, plowed up the grass and planted corn and soybeans.

Last fall, there were about 25.6 million acres in CRP, but 9 million acres are set to expire over the next five years.

Enrollment into the continuous CRP program, which targets the most environmentally sensitive acres, would continue.

A House-Senate conference committee reached an agreement Monday night on provisions of the

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Farm Bill was in Michigan three times in the past year and a half putting on seminars drumming up support for the "conservation compliance" mentioned in this article. At these seminars many Michigan conservation, environmental and social caring groups attended. I attended all three and can tell you I was very proud to be identified as an Ike at these events. "Farm Bill" and whomever he had with him at the time did an outstanding job. I think these events were affective. Here are the programs in the Farm Bill; **CRP** (Conservation Reserve Program); **WRP** (Wetland Reserve Program); **GRP** (Grassland Reserve Program); **WHIP** (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program); **CSP** (Conservation Security Program); **FLEP** (Forest Land Enhancement Program); and **FRPP** (Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program). All were covered in the January 2014 IKEs newsletter in detail and if you don't have that newsletter laying around you can read it online at www.michiganIKEs.org.

STUDENT EDITOR

This month, Brianna Bentley contributed to the newsletter.

GREAT JOB BRIANNA!

From the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*:

FARM BILL INCLUDES KEY CONSERVATION MEASURES, THOUGH CUTS ARE INCLUDED

Posted by: **Doug Smith**

Updated: January 30, 2014 3:19 PM

There's good news . . . and bad news for hunters, anglers and other conservationists in the new **Farm**

Conservation in the 21st Century

John Stegmeier, Conservation Chair

What does it mean to be a conservationist in the 21st century? What will need to be achieved, and what goals should we make for ourselves?

The conservation movement in this country began with people like **Teddy Roosevelt** setting aside areas of land that had remained undeveloped. These early **National Parks** and **National Monuments** are the crown jewels of the American conservation movement. The fact that our country was settled relatively recently, and that we were able to recognize the value of saving these unique areas before they were heavily impacted by development, allowed us that opportunity at that time. It is not that we cannot identify land we would like to set aside, but we must realize that natural areas that we hope to protect are typically smaller, more degraded, and more costly to acquire now than they were in the past.

Since the time that we have set natural areas aside, we have had to fight to protect these lands from

any number of assaults. No matter what laws are written to protect these lands there is always someone seeking to benefit from degrading them in some way. They always say that their impact will be negligible if not an outright benefit to the land and the common good of the people, but it always includes selling publicly held goods to them for less than their value with some degradation of the wild lands.

After the publication of *Silent Spring* by **Rachel Carson** in 1962 we realized that setting aside the land was not enough. We need to also prevent chemicals that are harmful to the wildlife from entering these areas. We also took note that it is imperative to control such pollution outside of the protected areas as well and have since come to the conclusion that many of these chemical releases can cause large-scale effects globally.

People who have studied populations of organisms point to potential problems with our conservation efforts. For some parks and

preserves are too small to provide the area to support a population large enough to avoid problems of inbreeding and disease. Another problem can be that populations in small preserves become isolated from one another so that there is no interbreeding between the populations. We have found that we need to do more than set land aside. We need careful planning to protect areas that will provide all of the necessary habitats for a population of a species throughout its life history.

It is not that our past work has failed or that our continued efforts at protecting small isolated areas are in vane, but we do need to make efforts to put them into a context of a broader approach. As conservationist of the 21st century, we need to look back at the last century and see the shortcomings of our past and then look forward toward the next century and envision what we will need to have in the future. Only then can we produce a coordinated plan for achieving those goals.

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

www.michiganIKes.org
www.iwla.org

2014 Bylaws Committee

Jay Huston

The recently appointed **Bylaws Committee** has reviewed the bylaws that were approved by the membership at our annual meeting in May 2007, ratified and adopted August 16, 2007. Our chapter has functioned quite well under the existing bylaws, but the review found the omission of two categories of membership, namely, Youth (Y) and Family Life (FL), offered by our chapter and should be added to our bylaws. Also, there are some typos to be corrected. These items will be presented to the membership for their approval at the annual meeting on **Thursday, May 15th** at the IKEs CC.

Members may submit their suggestions and questions to any one of the committee:
Fred Eyer at 363.0253, **Len Kizer** at 866.4256, **Jay Huston**, Chair at 942.2503.

United States Farm Bill

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massive Farm Bill. The House was expected to vote on the bill on Wednesday, and the Senate could take it up soon afterward.

The 2008 Farm Bill expired 15 months ago, but Congress has been unable to agree on provisions for a new bill, until now. Now passed into law!

Core Event Schedule 2014

Please Check Monthly for Updates

Chairperson

March 20-23	Ultimate Sport Show-Grand Rapids	Sports Show committee
March 28-30	Cottage & Lakefront Living Show-Grand Rapids	Georgia Donovan
April 24, Thursday	Fish & Game Dinner & program @ DLC	Tom Watson
May	<u>Kids Fishing every Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon ...@ DLC</u>	Bill Kirk
May 15, Thursday	Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting-& Short Program @DLC	Tom Watson
June 11, 18 & 25, 6:30-8pm Weds	<u>Kids FREE Fishing at Versluis Lake, Plainfield Twsp.</u>	Jim Biener
June 21, Saturday	Summerfest Community Family Day @ DLC	Maurie Houseman
July 15-19	2014 IKEs Convention, Anaheim CA	Open to all Members
August 14, Thursday	Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Program @ DLC	Houseman, Watson
September 10, Wednesday	Oktoberfest @ DLC	Tom Watson
October 8, Wednesday	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ DLC	Tom Watson
November 20, Thursday	Game Dinner @ DLC	Tom Watson
December 4, Thursday	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

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 _____ HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____
 SPOUSE _____ CHILDREN & AGES _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 DATE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ SPONSOR _____
 _____ Individual - \$52, _____ Family - \$72, _____ Student (18-21) - \$24, _____ Youth (under 18) - \$12.00

Mail to Izaak Walton League, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306. 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.



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.

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Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife


Come see the IKEs booth in DeVos Place at the



**ULTIMATE
SPORT SHOW**
GRAND RAPIDS
DEVOS PLACE
Outfitters Expo

March 20-23

and then also see us at



**Cottage &
Lakefront Living Show
- Detroit™**
SUBURBAN COLLECTION
SHOWPLACE

March 28-30

**THE
EVENT
YOU
WON'T
WANT
TO MISS!**



**THURSDAY
APRIL 24
OUR ANNUAL
FISH &
GAME
DINNER**