

The IKEs Update

March 2016

If you're hungry for Spring, come over for a great free program on **March 19th**, and whet your appetite for Foraging. **Rachel Mifsud** will be holding an overview class explaining what sorts of wild foods you can find and use throughout the year, along with methods of harvest and storage. She'll talk about tactics for locating delicious or useful plants at the right times, as well as nutritional value.

Rachel is enthusiastic about sharing information. This seminar will cover fundamental principles of gathering, annual foraging cycles, and suggest guidebooks so you can get a good start on the year.

As you know, I've dabbled, from violet jelly and wild cherry juice

to acorn flour. Teas, tinctures, and munchies. You begin to realize that more things have uses than don't. **American Redbuds** have very sweet flowers; don't miss your chance to try some of these early blossoms.

We are always talking about "connecting kids to nature." Well, this is a great way to show them that nature is not something to fear. All of our food was wild, once upon a time. Just knowing 2 or 3 edibles can change your perspective. Maybe a snack of black raspberries, or a plantain leaf to ease a sting, could lead to a life of discoveries and simple pleasures.

Since it is still very early spring, you might consider the edible factor if you're converting lawn to habitat this year. Plucking some fern **fiddleheads** in your yard is pretty satisfying. **Ostrich Ferns** have a groove running along their stalks, and are smooth (not wooly) with a few brown papery scales on them. **Wild Ginger** makes a good ground cover, with edible roots. **Juneberry** trees offer delicious early fruits.



(continued on page 4)

Green Team Hiring Again

Georgia Donovan

Trout Unlimited again will be hiring high school students to help restore the **Rogue River** watershed by planting run-off control areas during 3 weeks, in June or July, 26 hours per week, (8:30-3:00 Monday - Thursday). Pay is \$8.15/hr. to students from Rockford, Sparta, or Cedar schools. I'll be guiding two teams. There is a partnered program for Grand Rapids students on **Plaster Creek** through Calvin College. If you know anyone interested, pass this along.

Please contact **Jamie Vaughan** at jvaughan@tu.org for an application. Deadline is April 1, 2016. Applicants are encouraged to spell Rogue: ROGUE. (Rouge brightens cheeks).



Conservation Awards Banquet



more photos on page 11

Chapter Anniversary

Bob Stegmier

Our chapter of the **Izaak Walton League of America** was formed 90 years ago. Your current board and many of our members think that is quite a feat and you will hear about the chapter's happenings and accomplishments in the newsletter this year. Here is part two.

The Man Who Saved Fishing

How one man's stubbornness preserved your right to fish. Don Ingle

In Michigan, where the state fish is a trout and where the state has used the slogan, "Water Wonderland," the fact that many people enjoy fishing and floating the streams of the Wolverine State comes as no surprise.

Trout fishing alone is possible on more than 16,000 miles of dedicated trout streams out of 36,000 river miles in the state. Being able to wade into one of the many blue-ribbon trout streams to try to tempt wily trout to your fly or bait is a cherished tradition - even your right.

It was not always so. When anglers step into a trout stream to fish his year, they are enjoying the fruits of a hard-won right, thanks to one stubborn sportsman who stood up for his right to fish in a Michigan river.

In May of 1925, **Gideon Gebhardt** picked up his rod and reel and stepped into the **Pine River** in northeast Lake County. The stream ran through a private tract of land owned by **Frank Collins**. Collins considered the stream his own property and posted it with "No Trespassing" signs.

Gebhardt ignored the posting, climbed over a wire fence strung across the river, and continued to wade and fish on downstream.

A guard employed by Collins notified him that no fishing was allowed; when Gebhardt continued to fish, a trespass complaint was filed in a local court, where Gebhardt was tried and found not guilty. Collins filed an appeal in circuit court. It reversed the

lower court, finding Gebhardt guilty and imposing a minimal fine of six cents.

As the case stood at that point, landowners who owned both banks of a stream could deny fishing. But Gebhardt was stubborn and decided to appeal, *with help from the Izaak Walton League. The "Ikes" had become aroused and begun to raise funds for Gebhardt's appeal.* Soon, the then-**Conservation** Department (today's **DNR**) and the **Michigan Attorney General** became involved in the appeal to the State Supreme Court. The higher court considered the primary question of whether the Pine River was, at this point, meeting the "Test of Navigability," usually defined as whether there had been commercial log-driving on the stream through private lands. Witnesses testified that they had seen or taken part in such drives, establishing the stream as navigable for that reason.

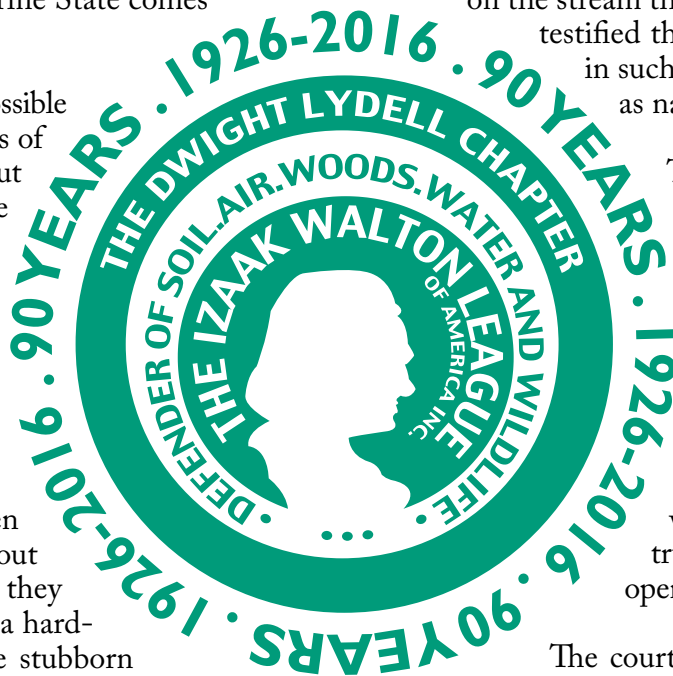
That point was important. When Michigan became a state it was vested with certain perpetual public trusts, including preservation of public rights of navigability, hunting and fishing. This meant that no matter who owned adjoining lands or the bed of the stream, all titles were subject to the overriding trust - waters must remain forever open to lawful public use.

The court then had to decide if fishing was also part of the trust and thus a lawful public use.

This question the Michigan Supreme Court answered in this 1926 decision:

"Pine River is navigable. In its waters the people have the common right of fishing. The plaintiff, though owner of the soil, has no greater fishing rights than any other citizen...So long as water flows and fish swim in Pine river, the people may fish at their pleasure in any part of the stream, subject only to the restraints and regulations imposed by the State. In this right they are protected by a high, solemn and perpetual trust, which it is the duty of the State to forever maintain..."

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Net Pen Fish Farming in the Great Lakes

John Trimberger

A proposal to allow the commercial raising of fish in net pens in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes has been under review for about the past year. The **Izaak Walton League Great Lakes Committee** sent a letter expressing our concerns with this proposal to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in November. Our reasons for opposition as stated in the letter are listed below:

We **OPPOSE** the proposal to allow aquaculture (net pen) operations to begin in Michigan **or any other waters** of the Great Lakes for the following reasons:

1. An operation of any magnitude would impact water quality and would be in violation of Michigan's water quality standards, the **Great Lakes Water Quality Compact**, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Program (NPDEP) and Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production (CAAP) because the fish feces and excess fish food cannot be collected and treated.
2. Escapement of net penned fish can potentially impact the genetics and health of native and naturalized species and compete for natural foods necessary for their survival and growth.
3. The bottomlands of the Great Lakes are a public trust and this proposal is not in the best interest of the public; endemic fisheries protection and water quality require decisions based on science not subject to profit interests.
4. An aquaculture operation in the Great Lakes would endanger the 7 billion dollar economy generated by sport fishery available to and enjoyed by the public.
5. It is doubtful water temperatures in Great Lakes waters are suitable for year around rearing of food fish to remain competitive with other aquaculture operations rearing the same or similar species at more consistent water temperatures.
6. Net pen operations will interfere with navigation of commercial, sport fishing and recreational vessels, a public resource.

The Great Lakes Committee also prepared a resolution in opposition to commercial net pen operations in the Great Lakes that was presented to and passed by the National Executive Board in December and is now part of IWLA's national policy. That policy, along with background information on net pens, is on page 5.

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The IKeS Update

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Please join us at noon on Saturday, 3/19, for an hour of class followed by ample talk-time.

And don't forget, it's birdhouse spring-cleaning month!

See you outside!

Georgia Donovan

Fish Farms (Aquaculture) in the Great Lakes

John Trimmer

Background

Aquaculture throughout the world is big business and provides much needed protein globally including the United States. It occurs in both freshwater and in salt water environments. In freshwater situations, most aquaculture occurs in pond environments where the environmental factors, like nutrient and disease management, can or should be controlled. In saltwater, culture occurs in caged environments where the ocean water receives all of the nutrients and because of the rapidly changing water by tidal action nutrients and diseases are usually not a problem. Escapement in both environments occurs.

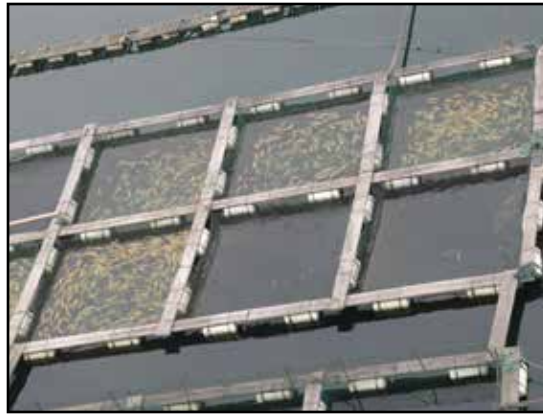
Nutrients from a freshwater aquaculture operation are a major concern. The nutrients occur from fish feces and unused food. It is reported a typical 200,000 caged fish operation produces as much untreated waste as a city of 65,000 people.

Most cultured fish are genetically engineered for maximum growth, flesh color, etc. Escapement of cultured fish and their breeding with native or endemic stocks could be devastating. And, fugitive fish will compete with endemic species for food. The industry will say this won't happen but we have many cases to demonstrate it can and will happen. Asian carp are a prime example.

Some endemic fish species are reared in a caged environment for short periods of time, (generally a month or less) by government agencies to increase their survival or imprint them to the environment into which they will be released. This occurs primarily with salmon rearing operations and is practiced on Great Lakes tribu-

taries. And, while it has not been proposed at this time, government agencies could produce fish for stocking holding them for longer periods of time in caged operations allowing for the fish to grow to larger sizes while reducing space requirements in hatcheries.

Many species of fish could be raised in Great Lakes waters including trout and salmon, yellow perch, walleyes, bluegills, tilapia and perhaps other aquatic species like freshwater shrimp and mussels.



To the best of my knowledge, all of the bottomlands of the Great Lakes are public waters so permits for an aquaculture operation would be required from one or more government agencies. However, government agencies are subject to lobbying and do not always make decisions that are best for the environment.

The Great Lakes fishing industry provides 7 billion dollars annually to the economy. Aquaculture operations are not manpower intensive and would provide few jobs.

Most of the fish produced in aquaculture operations go to the food industry where they are sold in grocery stores or to restaurants and are not available to the world's starving populations. Providing

food to starving populations is a common argument to justify approval of aquaculture operations.

Great Lakes Proposal

A proposal is being reviewed in Michigan to begin a fish farming (aquaculture) cage operation in waters of the Great Lakes. At the present time, only Ontario permits cage culture and reportedly is trying to suspend those operations and have not issued new permits in 20 years.

The major concern with this proposal is the impact nutrients will have on the Great Lake environment and the potential impact any diseases or escapement will have on endemic fishes. Fish diseases are not easily controlled in freshwater open water environments. And, the genetics of caged culture fish is not the same as endemic species and cross breeding between the two could potentially have a negative impact on endemic species.

Proposed Resolution

The Great Lakes Committee of the Izaak Walton League of America opposes open water aquaculture (fish farming) operations in the waters of the Great Lakes and its connecting waters of for the purpose of commercial production or prolonged production of aquatic species. The impacts of additional nutrients to the Great Lakes waters and connecting waters, the potential spread of diseases, and the impact of escaped fish on endemic species and the few jobs they would provide is not worth the risk to the 7 billion dollar sport and commercial fisheries that exist in these waters.

Chapter Anniversary

(continued from page 3)

Though the case seemed over by then, it actually took 10 more years for the matter to be finally settled. The **Ne-Bo-Shone** club, holding large tracts of land on both sides of the river downstream from Collins's property, entered the fray. The Club appealed the Michigan Supreme Court's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court thanks to the fact they were incorporated in Ohio giving an interstate cause for standing in federal court, where the club hoped to overturn the Michigan court.

While this was being pursued, the Ne-Bo-Shone Club wired in log jams to prevent canoes or boats from going down river, making it impossible for boaters to get over jams without going on club property, thus trespassing. Private guards patrolled the river and, as testified to later, "annoyed or threatened non-club members."

The State considered such tactics in violation of the court decision in *Collins v. Gebhardt* and sought to have jams removed. The club countered with a restraining order from U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids against the state forbidding the removal. The effect was to reopen the original Collins-Gebardt case.

In 1934, U.S. District Court **Judge Raymond** reached a decision that not only declared Michigan's navigable streams open for navigation, but established a distinct but separate right of fishing.

"It is the view of the court that this right to take fish is not a right incident to navigation but a right arising from the fact that the waters in which the right is claimed are public waters. Both rights arise from the fact that the waters are public, not private. The rights coexist. Neither finds its source in the other..."

Though the Ne-Bo-Shone Club appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, that court refused to hear

the case. No further appeals were made; the stand-off ended; jams were removed; and fishermen began to wade without impediment from that day to this in the navigable waters of the state — except for one last attempt in the 1940s to control stream access tried by a landowner on the **Little South Branch** of the **Pere Marquette River**.

Under the belief that if the water was [sic] too deep to wade it would prevent any wading angler from fishing the river, one landowner along the stream had draglines deepen the river along his property to prevent wading anglers from using the river.

Angry anglers went to the attorney general's office to have this effort halted. The attorney general agreed that this was an attempt to circumvent the court's earlier decision, and filed suit against the landowner. In the case of **Attorney General v. Taggart**, the landowner was told to cease and desist and to fill the stream bottom back and restore it as it was.

Today, if the stream you wish to wade, fish, or float is deemed navigable water, then you may use the stream for those legal activities.

So, when you step into the stream of your choice to tackle a winter steelhead, a spring trout, or fall salmon, float for a walleye, pike, or bass, or simply enjoy dipping your canoe paddle into the water on a pleasant float, take a moment to tip your hat in memory of one hardheaded, stubborn angler, Gideon Gebhardt, who stood up for his - and your - right to wade and fish the navigable waters of Michigan.

Reprinted from *Great Lakes Energy Country Lines Magazine*. November/December 2002

Sad News

Tom Watson

As we went to press for this issue we learned that long time members and former Dwight Lydell board presidents **Bruce Dutcher** and **Jim Miller** died.

We will run an article next month that will detail their many accomplishments. Our thoughts go out to their families.

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:

twatson@comcast.net

To see this and past editions of the newsletter and national IKEs information please visit our websites:
www.michiganikes.org
www.iwla.org

Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League Policy Concerning Aquaculture

John Stegmeier

“DLC opposes permitting aquaculture facilities in the **State of Michigan** and in the **Great Lakes** unless they are strictly regulated to ensure that aquaculture activities cause no harm to Michigan’s fisheries and their watersheds through the release of nutrients, particulates, disease, exotic species or genetic strains, thermal regime, or present significant risk of harm in rare but predictable circumstances. Operations for private enterprise must not be subsidized by allowing negative impacts to public waters, diminishment of our natural resources, or the public’s access and use of our natural resources. The treatment systems employed on effluent waters of the **Platte River State Fish Hatchery** should be

seen as a model of an appropriate design for systems discharging into waters of the state.”

This means that open system net pens are unacceptable as they have no method of preventing nutrient or particulate matter release into state waters and they take areas within public lakes from recreational use for private enterprise. This is consistent with the statements made by the **IWLA-Great Lakes Committee**. It also means that since the courts have ordered the State of Michigan to install effective water treatment facilities at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery, the State of Michigan should not approve lower standards of pollution for privately run operations. This provides

guidance for aquaculture permitting on streams and inland lakes, which were not covered by the IWLA-GLC statement. The DWC statement allows for the expansion of aquaculture in Michigan, but recognizes the need for regulation before the industry grows to the point that damage is already done and facilities are constructed where proper treatment facilities cannot be retrofitted. **Trout Unlimited** and the **Sierra Club** are currently suing the State of Michigan over the permitting of an aquaculture facility on the East Branch of the **Au Sable River**, which they argue will introduce harmful levels of nutrients and particulate wastes to the reach of the Au Sable known as the **Holy Waters**.

Monarch Migration News: March 3, 2016

Submitted By Tam Bagby

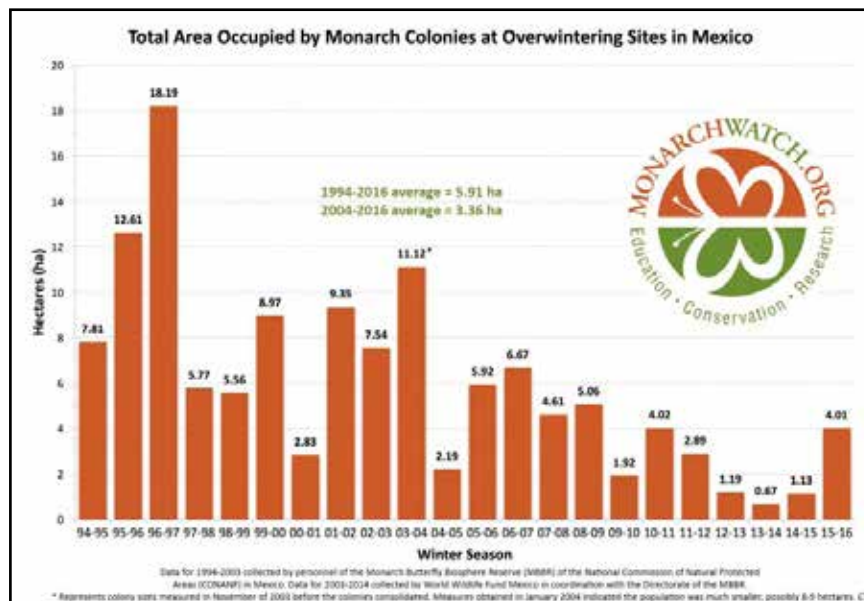
Elizabeth Howard, *Journey North*

Inspired by the monarch population rebound, people are celebrating the good news and continuing with conservation efforts. What caused the increase?

has more than tripled from last winter’s level and has increased dramatically from the record lows of the past 3 years. The clustering butterflies cover 4.01 hectares of forest. The population contains 200 million monarchs compared to a long-term average of 300 million and a peak of 1 billion.

Good News from Mexico: Population Rebound

The number of monarchs overwintering in Mexico



Why the Increase?

Favorable breeding conditions in summer 2015 are credited for the population increase according to **Dr. Karen Oberhauser** of the **Monarch Joint Venture**.

“Good weather in the growing season this year allowed us to produce about the maximum number of monarchs as possible from the habitat we have, but we know that this amount of habitat can also produce many fewer monarchs in a bad year. All we need to do is look back to 2013 when approximately the same amount of habitat produced less than one hectare of occupied forest in

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Action Item

John Trimberger

Michigan State Representative **Jon Bumstead** from Newago introduced HB 5255, a bill to ban commercial net pen fish farming in the Great lakes waters of the State of Michigan. I suggest you contact your State Representative and Senator and ask them to support passage of this bill. As our **IWLA** letter and resolution and the **MRS's** position clearly state, this could have a major impact on waters of the Great Lakes.

Update on 2/2:

Rep. Bumstead Introduces Aquaculture Bill

"In January, I introduced **House Bill 5255** in the House of Representatives. This bill would prohibit aquaculture on the Great Lakes, as well as connecting waters and openly connected waters up to the first dam. Examples of connecting waters include the **St. Mary's River, Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, and the St. Clair River.** This bill does not affect inland waters; only the Great Lakes and connecting waters.

"Aquaculture is the practice of rearing aquatic animals and plants by placing enclosures underwater, and harvesting them for commercial purposes. Currently, there is no aquaculture activity in the Great Lakes, but

I introduced House Bill 5255 to get ahead of any future problems. [This is incorrect. There are operations in the **Ontario** waters of **Lake Huron.**]

"Aquaculture can cause numerous negative impacts on the environment in areas where it is present. These issues include the degradation of the habitat and natural ecosystem for wild fish; increased probability of algal bloom occurring; and the negative impact that occurs when introducing invasive species to the area. I believe the damage caused to the natural ecosystem in areas where aquaculture has been introduced is not worth the risk to our state's multi-billion dollar fishing or tourism industries.

"At this time, I have received support for House Bill 5255 from numerous organizations. Some of the groups that have offered support for this bill include the **Michigan Steelheaders, Michigan Trout Unlimited, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, and the Michigan DNR.**"

House Bill 5255 is currently in the **House Committee on Natural Resources.**

Michigan Resource Stewards

Position Paper

John Trimberger

A position statement was prepared for the Michigan Resource Stewards (**MRS**) by retired MDNR fisheries research biologist **Jim Johnson**. The **MRS** is an organization of retired natural resource and environmental professionals that uses their over 5000 years of combined experience to advocate for the protection of our natural resources. Jim has done an excellent job of reviewing the available literature on the subject and providing comment on how commercial net pen operations would impact the Great Lakes waters. The position statement further strengthens the policy adopted by the **IWLA**. It is available when you Google the **Michigan Resource Stewards** website below and click on position papers.

http://www.miresourcestewards.org/position_papers.htm

The **IWLA** resolution is also posted at this site.

Deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 21 at 8:00 AM.

IKES Lodge/Property Rentals

April 17	Joe Brefczynski
May 14-15	Ryan Burke (Cub Scouts - Pack 3282)
June 4-5	Becky Vanhaften
June 12	C.J. Tasma
August 6	Tom Watson
August 13	Tom Watson
October 8	Bob & Maryann Schumaker

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA

Core Event Schedule 2016

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.

<u>Scheduled</u>	<u>Event & Location</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
January 30, Saturday 10am-3pm	Winterfest Family Outing @ CC	Georgia Donovan
March 4, Friday	Conservation-Awards-Fund Raiser Banquet	Banquet Committee
March 17, 18, 19, 20	Ultimate Sport Show-Grand Rapids	Jim Schneider
April 21, Thursday	Fish & Game Dinner & Program	Tom Watson
May 7,14,21, 28 - Saturdays	Kids Fishing & Native Plants @ CC, 9AM-Noon	Bill Kirk
May 12, Thursday	Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting-& Short Program	Tom Watson
June 11, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up Day 9-?, work, eat, play, campfire	Maurie Houseman
June 25, Saturday, 10am-3pm	Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC	Maurie Houseman
July 19-22	2016 IKE's National Convention, Stevens Point WI	
August 11, Thursday	Ribs Outdoor Cooking Competition @ CC	Tom Watson
September 14, Wednesday	Oktoberfest @ CC	Tom Watson
September 17, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up/play 6PM @ CC	Maurie Houseman
October 5, Wednesday	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC	Tom Watson
November 10, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC	Tom Watson
December 1, Thursday	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

Website: www.michiganikes.org

CC is the Conservation Center/Lodge @ IKEs Property located at 5641 Myers Lake Avenue

Mailing address is Izaak Walton League, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306

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. A gate key is provided upon receipt of membership fee. You can pick up your 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.

Monarch Migration

(continued from page 7)

Mexico. This suggests more habitat is needed to reach our goal of 6 hectares.”

Goal is 6 Hectares

The target for monarch recovery is a sustained population of 6 hectares. The level must be high enough so that the population’s natural yearly fluctuations don’t drop below an extinction threshold. For long-term viability, the population must be resilient during conditions in an off-year.

“I’m ecstatic to see the increase, but cautious that it is still low by historic standards, and virtually

equal to 2011, which dipped again afterwards. So... let’s celebrate and then continue our efforts!” said **Kit Goodwin**.

Get Ready for Monarchs

The first signs of migration are expected any time. Welcome the monarchs back to the breeding grounds for the 2016 season with the flowers and milkweed they’ll need to produce a new generation.

“I’m doubling up my milkweed garden this spring. If everyone did, maybe we’d have 8+ hectares next winter,” tweeted **Keith Chasteen** from Kentucky.

after year of depressing declines,” wrote Richard Knowles on the DPLEX list, an old school listserv of about 800 butterfly aficionados run by citizen science organization **Monarch Watch** out of the **University of Kansas** at Lawrence. “It almost feels like everyone can give themselves a brief pat on the back before getting back to work.”

Even **Monsanto Corporation**, often blamed for the butterflies decline because of the indiscriminate pesticide use that results from their genetically modified corn and soybean seed, celebrated the news: “Good news! Monarch population numbers were up in 2015. With help, they’ll keep increasing.”

We hope so. Let’s keep planting milkweed and nectar plants for all pollinators.

See more at: <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/spring2016/06/monarch-butterfly-migration030316.html#sthash.7ljGAwwO.dpuf>



Monarch caterpillar from Meijer Gardens

Butterfly aficionados far and wide were delighted with the news. “Great progress!! Everyone still needs to do their part to help! We can’t lose these magnificent butterflies!!” wrote **Eileen Cotte** on *Journey North’s* Facebook page.

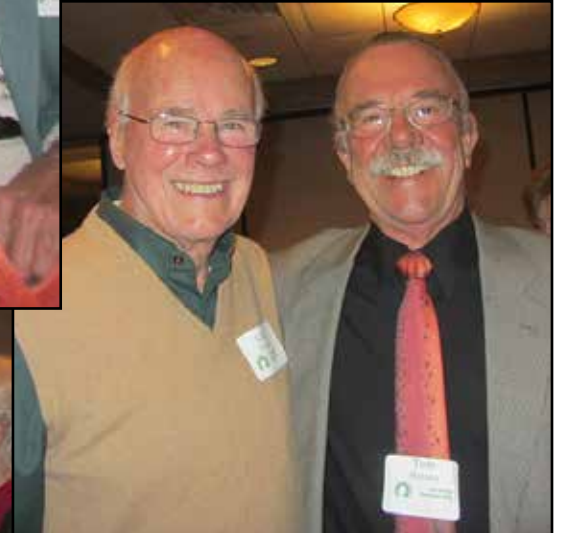
“It certainly is reason for hope following year

Meijer Garden Butterflies

Tam Bagby



More Banquet Photos





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of the Izaak Walton League
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Visit our booth at the



DEVOS PLACE

 **Outfitters Expo**

March 17 - 20

Michigan's finest tradition for the avid fisherman,
hunter or outdoor loving family! Exhibitors will be at
the show with the latest in outdoor gear, travel
information and fishing boats.

Please join us for the



**FISH AND
GAME
DINNER**

Thursday
April 21st

