



www.michiganikes.org

March 2017

The IKEs Update

With things changing as fast as they are lately, be it weather or politics, it's hard to predict what the next month will bring. But spring means growth...

First, grow spirit: that part within us that responds with excitement when the sun comes up in the morning and an owl hoots at night. Find things in the everyday to be thrilled with, even if they are tiny. We have to have something to help withstand the gloom and doom. Yes, we are in the midst of change, but right now we are alive at the same time as the oaks, the tree frogs, the trout, and our neighbors, so let's enjoy and experience life!

Grow scientists. Remember when little kids learn to talk and go through the "Why?" phase? It drives us nuts! But why? What if we kindle that curiosity? Show them HOW to find answers. Observation and deduction build thinking skills. Scientific thinking teaches a thought process that is lacking in a lot of people. So if you notice gears turning in a young mind, give it some space to run. We'll need a lot of creative engineers, designers, and scientists.

Grow trees! Generally growing trees helps to pull CO2 out of the atmosphere. While the lifecycle of forests and wetlands is complex,

mostly it helps to grow plants, and forests once covered Michigan. Basswood, Oak, White Pine, Silver Maple, Dogwood, Tulip Tree, Red Mulberry, Black Walnut, and fast-growing fruit trees are recommended. Check with the **Kent County Conservation District** for sales.

Planting is such a hopeful and creative act. Caring for plants, and pets, teaches responsibility and empathy. (Play-bombing targets on an electronic screen may teach reflex-action, but not reflection.) We need to grow possibilities for our next generation. See you at the IKEs!

Georgia Donovan

SOME SPECIAL DATES:

- 3/16-19 Sport Show downtown (volunteer?)
- 4/15 Fly-Fishing Workshop 10-2 at the IKEs
- 4/20 Fish & Game Dinner
- 4/27 Bear Creek Waterfest at Townsend Park
- 5/6 Calvin's Native Plant Sale 10:00
- 5/13 Bear Creek Volunteer Study, Cannon Township

Hey, this just in:

We have a date for a Beginners' Fly-fishing Workshop!

On **Saturday, April 15** Drew Nelson

and others will lead a class on fly-fishing basics, then outside for casting practice. We have some nice rods you may use, or bring your own if you prefer. The plan is to start at **10:00**, with time for a lunch break and walk around, and helpers staying til **2:00** to answer questions as you try your hand at it. This is **FREE** for members, and **\$5** for others. Bring a sack lunch, and any friends who'd like to start fly-fishing! For questions call **Georgia** at my cell **406 570-0346**, and RSVP to georgiadonovanart@gmail.com.

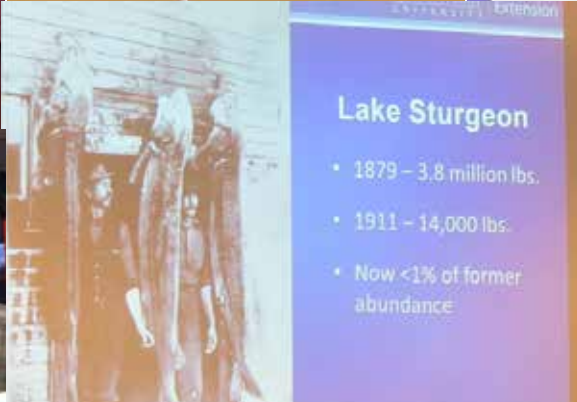
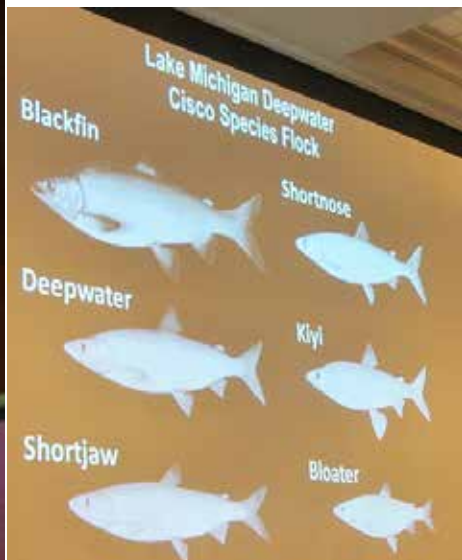


2017 Award and Conservation Banquet

The Banquet was great!

So many nice people, really good auction items, and a very interesting program by **Dan O'Keefe** about Great Lakes fish ecology. He had a lot of information, and presented it in a way we could grasp. Thank-you, Dan!

And **BIG THANKS** to the hard-working banquet committee. Others helped, but it would not happen without a lot of time from **Fred Eyer**, **Ron Waybrant**, **Maurie Houseman**, and **Bob Stegmier**. (They have been great, but deserve a break, someone to take this over and run with it.)



We were happy to present our Conservation Award to the **CA Frost Environmental Academy**, with principal **Greg Ramey** accepting. The school is near Blandford Nature Center, and gives many students the chance to spend time outdoors, with nature as a focus in their education. Most of the students are low-income so this is a nice opportunity for them. **IKE's** member **Greg Petersen** is a science teacher there.



Congrats to **Tom Watson**, our **IKE of the Year** for being who he is, and helping with so much besides the newsletter and keeping us well-fed!

Speaking of eating, please remind me not to eat so much cheesecake next year. But... it sure was good.



IKES MEMBER BENEFITS

-  Monthly Award-Winning Newsletter
-  Gate Key to 39 Acres
-  Nature Trails
-  Catch/Release Fishing
-  Free camping
-  Lodge Rental (\$70.00 per Day)

Breaking Local News

Bob Stegmier

I report some of these local *Grand Rapids Press* stories because so many folks no longer take *The Press* and therefore may miss some news. Please note the involvement here of two long term West Michigan environmental groups, the **Blandford Nature Center** and the **Land Conservancy of West Michigan**. We are so lucky to have them! They are major players.

Highlands Golf Club Will Become Part Of Outdoor Education Center.

Amy Biolchini amy_biolchini@mlive.com *Grand Rapids Press*

Highlands Golf Club, which hosted golf greats in the 1980s and 1990s, will go back to nature. Blandford Nature Center and the Land Conservancy of West Michigan purchased the 121-acre golf club at 2715 Leonard St. NW from Steve Scheuermann's Highlands Golf Holdings LLC.

The purchase essentially doubles



Mary Jane Dockery at last year's Award Banquet

the size of the nature center property. Although **Third Coast Development** initially intended to build condominiums and homes on the property and had obtained an option to buy it in July 2016, the developer changed its mind after talking to the neighboring nature center.

“Once we started talking to Blandford about the future of the property, we realized that sometimes development needs to take a back seat to an idea that benefits our entire community,” **Brad Rosely**, of Third Coast, said in a statement. **Mary Jane Dockeray**, founder of Blandford and a former board member of the Land Conservancy, said the acquisition was the “last and only chance” to expand the nature center’s property.

“The community of Grand Rapids has been waiting patiently for something like this to come along. We will be able to serve more students, families and friends as a result,” Dockeray said in a statement.

Students at Grand Rapids Public Schools’ **C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy** and **Blandford School** use the nature center as a classroom. “This project provides a big boost to our community’s efforts to ensure quality of life for all of our residents,” Grand Rapids **Mayor Rosalynn Bliss** said in a statement. “It also offers a rare opportunity to create significant green space and focused tree canopy in the city— priorities for our community as we work to make sure this is a great place for everyone for generations to come.”

The course is 109 years old

and was designed by architect **Donald Ross**. He also designed the Muskegon Country Club and nationally renowned courses including Oakland Hills and Pinehurst. It hosted Former Highlands owner says golf business had run its course, a Senior PGA Tour event for eight years in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The course was owned by the Elks until 2011, when it was sold to Scheuermann.

“The Highlands offers an extraordinary opportunity to foster a stronger connection to the natural world through habitat restoration, environmental education, volunteerism and recreation — all things that will make sure that our city is a great place to learn, live, play and work for generations,” **Jason Meyer**, president and CEO of Blandford Nature Center, said in a statement.

The property was purchased by Blandford in a partnership with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and with a \$3 million short-term loan from the Conservation Fund. Third Coast Development and **Pioneer Construction** also are financially supporting the project.

After acquiring the land, Blandford will study the biodiversity on the property and prepare it for public access. The Land Conservancy will own part of the property after paying off its loan and will take the lead on fundraising. The
(continued on page 5)

Deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 20 at 8:00 AM.

Breaking Local News

(continued from page 4)

second phase of the project will gather community input and work to restore the habitat, develop trails and public programs.

The 143-acre Blandford Nature Center is an independent, charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit, although the land at the center is owned by the city of Grand Rapids.

It began using property from a family farm and throughout the years has been managed by the Grand Rapids Public Museum and Grand Rapids Public Schools.

LODGE CALENDAR

February 11	Sharon Tabaczka Rental
February 14	Board Meeting 7:00 PM
March 14	Board Meeting 7:00 PM
April 11	Board Meeting 7:00 PM
June 9	Georgia Donovan Rental
June 13	Board Meeting 7:00 PM
July 11	Board Meeting 7:00 PM
July 13	Blake Gardner Rental

Blandford opened its new visitor center this week. The center is at 1715 Hillburn Ave. NW.

2017 Silent Auction & Raffle Donors

Al & Bob's Sports	Dr. Richard Elias, DDS	Maurie Houseman, Member
Arthur Murray Dance Studio	Dwight Lydell Chapter	Meijer
Bagger Dave's Burger Tavern	Ed & Dave's Auto Service	Merle Norman Cosmetics
Baldwin Orvis & Guide Casey Hefferan	Euro Bistro	Olive Garden
Bargain Books	Family Fare	Orvis
Barracks 616	Firestone Complete Auto Care, Beltline Location	PF Chang
Bass Pro Shops	Forest Hills Food	Pilgrim's Run
Beth Parker	Fred & Sue Eyer, Members	Ragsdale
Betty Jo Crosby, Member	Fred Willison Studio	Red Water Restaurant Group
Bloomin' Brands	Gilmore Car Museum	River Valley Auto
Bob & Gail Stegmier, Members	Gloria Donovan, Member	Rockford Quick Lube
Bob Evan's	Grand Rapids Civic Theatre	Ron & Ruth Waybrant, Members
Bonefish Grill	Great Northern Trading Company	Ron Finger, Member
BrandyWine Restaurant	Griffins Hockey	Ruth Kizer, Member
Brann's Of Cascade - 5510 28th St. SE	Heidi Christine's	Rylee's Ace Hardware
Bravo Brio Restaurants	Hello Fresh	Shepard's Grill 6246 28st SE
Brewery Vivant - Cherry St SE	Houlihan's	Siegel Jewelers
Cannonsburg Grist Mill	Jim Bedford, Author and Fishing Guide	Silver Bullet Firearms, 5121 S Division
Cantina Mexican Grill	John & Jan Trimberger, Members	Sweetland's
Car Star of Rockford Inc	John Stegmeier, Member	Tanaz Hair Boutique & Day Spa
Cedar Springs Mill & Supply	Kevin Feenstra, Fishing Guide	The Tailors
Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn	Kitchen 67	Village Bike Shop, Ada
Chase Klinesteker, Member	Larry Allaben, Member	Watermark Properties
Christi Roman, Member	Lewis Petting Farm - New Era	Wolverine Worldwide
Cottage Bar & One Trick Pony	Mainstream Guide Services	Woodland Travel
Cyndy Callog, Artist	Manna Café - 820 Forest Hill SE	Wow Arrangements
David Vanden Bos, Artist	Marie Catrib's	

Outdoor Defender

Bob Stegmier

Hello my name is! Have you been to www.iwla.org website lately? There is something for you and all your/our "conservation" friends. Share and ask them to consider visiting routinely such as once a week such as every Monday morning or evening or some time convenient to them. It could even be put on ones "computer calendar" as a consistent reminder. Sign up through this "Hello my name is" Outdoor Defender!" block.



Outdoor Defender!

Join other defenders. Get emails to learn about the League's efforts to conserve our outdoor resources and how you can help. (It's free!)

Over 25,000 of your peers already do!

It is something new so you have a perfect reason to send your friends an e-mail or other electronic message making them aware of the new link on iwla.org website.

As of now there are 28 informative "e-newsletters" with the January 2017 have information on a) Missouri R. recovery Plan Out for Review, b) Now Accepting National Scholarship Applications, c) Now open; National Awards Nominations., d) New Creek Freak Workshops.

Every member's "new years' resolution" should be visit iwla.org systematically and often, so repeat after me, visit iwla.org systematically and often!

SEND US YOUR FISHING, CAMPING OR OTHER OUTDOORSTORIES AND WE'LL PUBLISH THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER. SEND PLAIN TEXT AND A PHOTO OR TWO, JPG FORMAT TO: twatson@comcast.net

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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

FIND MICHIGANIKES ON FACEBOOK SO WE CAN SEND UPDATES OUT IF THERE IS SHORT NOTICE ON EVENTS. OR SHARE PICTURES!

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

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
PO Box 541
Belmont MI 49306

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

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

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ON MARCH 16 -19, 2017

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY:

The Alaskan Timbermen Team
Catch More Fish Guaranteed!
Lake Ultimate
Hawg Trough
The State's Best Taxidermy
Big Buck Night West
Turkey Hunting Workshop
Grand Rapids Open Turkey Calling
Competition
Trout Pond
Fish Cleaning Demonstrations

Fly Tyers Corner
Fly Casting Instruction
Rock Climbing Wall
Antique & Classic Fishing Tackle
Vintage Boats & Outboard Motors
Virtual Fishing Simulator
Woodland Woodcarvers
ORV Certification Class
Ultimate Walleye Clinic
Ultimate Bass Clinic
Ultimate Salmon & Steelhead Clinic

Come eat great food!
**Fish and
Game Dinner**
Thursday, April 20th

