

## Greetings from Georgia

Blue Alert! Are your bluebird houses ready for fresh nests? With the snow cover through March 1 almost forgot to get mine cleaned out. The birds are scouting their territories, and the blast of birdcalls is a welcome sound. Except for those starlings under my eave. I'd prefer the screech owls this year because they sleep later.

I am still hoping to hear from 2-4 people willing to take an interest in procuring archery equipment, and helping for a few days of target practice sometime.

As spring rains start, keep in mind that we have rain barrels available. We haven't picked out a date yet, but I'm hoping **Duane De Vries** will lead us in a workshop to make them, spreading his wisdom around, and enabling folks to get one cheap. If you've seen them in catalogs, you know they're often \$85-100. Ours have been \$35 and work just fine. Watch for the date, probably in May. If we could get people together and make a bunch of them, it would be great way to raise funds. Duane's the Rain Barrel Wizard, but we can't expect him to magically produce them all for us.

Speaking of water, the **Bear Creek Water Festival** is set for Saturday morning, April 27, from 8 am

to noon. Sponsored by **Cannon Township**, it usually has a few IKEs on hand, and is a very nice time over at **Townsend Park**. The pancake breakfast is a fundraiser, followed by lots of great free activities. There will be reptiles and amphibians this year, which is perfect because it's **International Frog Day!** And of course, there's the **Duck Race!** Bring the kids and check it out!

At the **Cottage & Lakefront Living Show** there were a lot of people interested in creating habitat in their yards or shorelines. For frogs and other wildlife it's nice that this seems to be a growing trend.

I've been going to the **Citizens for Responsible Resource Management** meetings at **Shirley Kalio's**, and want to say that I am very impressed with the young people in the **Kent County Water Conservation** group that meet with us. The focus is on keeping track of hydro-fracking, in hopes of avoiding water-waste and destruction of, you know, air, soil, woods, water, and wildlife, and the college students involved are doing a great job of research, organizing, and community outreach. It's good to know

### Highlights This Issue:

Chumming for Trout

Silent Auction Bidding

Fracking

National Convention

Worms and Birds

Climate Change

...and much more!

that when faced with a serious issue, young people are stepping up and getting involved. It's a shame that while the rest of us have learned to conserve water, fracking takes water away, and doesn't give it back. Toxic flow back sprayed onto roads or injected into deep wells isn't a fair trade.

(continued on page 4)

Hi all  
readers!  
Visit our 2 websites:  
[www.iwla](http://www.iwla.org) and  
[www.michiganikes.org](http://www.michiganikes.org).

Thank you,  
**Bob Stegmier,**  
National Director

## Chapter Position on “Chumming” for Trout

Ron Waybrant

Chumming for steelhead and salmon has recently been re-allowed by the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**, which many folks find unethical. Many scientists and some fisheries biologists anticipate future health concerns to the fisheries. Chumming is the practice of inducing fish to feed heavily to increase chances of catching fish. The **Dwight Lydell Chapter** went on record opposing this practice many years ago, and the **DLC-IWLA Board of Directors** confirmed that they still oppose the practice. The practice goes like this:

A guide/fisherman anchors just upstream in a targeted run and proceeds to throw several scopes full of salmon eggs into the river and lets them drift down into the run for a few minutes. Then the fishermen cast their bait in the line of drift and proceed to hook most fish in the run as a feeding frenzy has been established. When a legal limit of trout is reached, fishing continues for sport for the remainder of the day.

Chumming to the extent that is taking place has negative consequences and poses significant potential to harm our fisheries. For example:

Throwing gallons of fish eggs, some chemically cured for fish to digest, can have harmful repercussions on future fish stocks. Studies show that ingestion of cured eggs stunts growth and increases mortality in juvenile salmon and steelhead.

In order for people to chum they must kill large quantities of wild salmon, steelhead, and brown trout to get eggs. The DNR's enforcement reports indicate that snagging of salmon is a pervasive problem. Often the salmon are milked for their eggs and discarded. We lose valuable reproductive capacity for fish essentially on all wild fisheries. It makes sense to manage for wild fish and protect them. Wild fish are essentially “free of charge.”

Chumming involves spreading eggs from unknown sources to a few rivers. This has a high potential to spread disease. Currently the DNR has very specific regulations in place to stop the spread of VHS. Transporting roe from certain watersheds to the other is illegal. Chumming on a large scale requires massive amounts of fish eggs and often these regulations are likely not taken into effect by those obtaining, selling, and transporting 5 gallon buckets of fish eggs. Also if a new fish disease does come to the Great Lakes, chumming would certainly increase the likelihood of disease transmission.

In a run that has been chummed in this manner the fish have fed and are no longer interested in feeding. This adversely impacts other fisherman who may fish the same run later the same day or next day not realizing that it has been heavily chummed and they have virtually no chance to catch a fish. This will negatively impact the quality of the fishing experience for those who chose to fish in a more ethical manner.

Chumming of Salmon eggs is a banned method of catching fish in most Great Lakes states as well as west coast states. It is currently taking place on **Muskegon, Pere Marquette, Big Manistee, and Rogue Rivers**.

The local chapter of **Trout Unlimited** is coordinating an effort to get the MDNR to reconsider their recent decisions. They prepared a website to provide information about what chumming is, how it adversely impacts ethical fishing, and identifies some of the negative fish health impacts. The website is: <https://sites.google.com/site/realsteelheadersdontchum/> Schrems **West Michigan Trout Unlimited** is asking for support.

### FISH AND GAME DINNER 4/25

We will draw the Sports Show Raffle/Ticket winners: 1/2 day charter for four with two nights lodging at the casino in Manistee.

We gave away five FREE admissions to the Fish & Game Dinner at the Sports Show.

### Silent Auction Donor Addition

Fred Eyer

We goofed and omitted members **John and Jan Trimmerger** from the **Silent Auction Donor List** that appeared in the March Newsletter. Their generous donation allowed us to purchase items for the Silent Auction and Raffle Tables.

Thanks John and Jan.

**Deadline for the  
May issue is Monday, April 29  
at 8:00 AM.**

## OFFICERS

|                                 |                                   |
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| President, Duane DeVries        | 532.9151<br>duanedv@earthlink.net |
| Vice President, Georgia Donovan | 773.2850<br>georgia.art@att.net   |
| Secretary, Jim Schneider        | 340.4604<br>jim-ms@comcast.net    |
| Treasurer, Fred Eyer            | 363.0253<br>fseyer@gmail.com      |

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| Bruce Gilmore    | 365.8892                              |
| Maurie Houseman  | 560.2895<br>mhouseman@grar.com        |
| Jay Huston       | 942.2503<br>wjhuston1@yahoo.com       |
| Bill Kirk        | 874.8230<br>bkirk@i2k.com             |
| Barb McGuirl     | 874.7740<br>jbm McGuirl@sbcglobal.net |
| Marylou Sundt    | 443.7377<br>hellomarylou56@yahoo.com  |
| Tom Watson       | 874.7254<br>twatson@comcast.net       |

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| Ron Waybrant | 361.1422<br>rcwaybrant@gmail.com |
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### Lodge Rental

|                 |                                 |
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| Ted & Jan Kuzma | 874.7279<br>kooz7@chartermi.net |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|

## Sealed Bid Auction

Fred Eyer

If you missed the IKEs annual **Silent Auction** at the banquet, it's not too late to participate! For the fourth time ever, we're announcing a post-banquet Silent Auction offer for a limited time only on a few items that are still remaining! It's easy as 1, 2, 3. Just follow these steps:

1. Review the list for bid items that you would like to bid on.
2. Make sure to submit a bid that is AT LEAST the minimum amount.
3. Send an email to [fseyer@gmail.com](mailto:fseyer@gmail.com) or a letter with the item name in the subject line, the amount of your bid in the body of the email or letter, and your contact information (Name, address, phone for sending the certificate or contacting you to arrange for getting the item).

**Important Rules:** The highest bid wins. For example, if an item has a minimum bid value of \$10 and we receive two bids on that item (one for \$10 and one for \$12), the higher bid (\$12) will win. However, in the event of a TIE amount, the first email or letter received is the winner.

Only one bid item per email. If you are bidding on multiple items, please submit separate emails for each item and make sure to include your contact information.

Please send questions to Fred at [fseyer@gmail.com](mailto:fseyer@gmail.com) or call 616.363.2053. For those bidding by US mail, send bids to Fred Eyer, Silent Auction, 2488 Rockhill Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

The bidding will end at 11:59PM on May 24, 2012.

### 2013 SEALED BID AUCTION

| DONOR                         | DESCRIPTION   | VALUE | MIN. BID |
|-------------------------------|---|-------|----------|
| Venture Creations             | Michigan Whitetail Pursuit, Season 2 DVD  | \$15  | \$5      |
| Venture Creations             | Michigan Turkey Pursuit DVD   | \$15  | \$5      |
| John Hesse, Member            | Cabela's Driftmaster Rod Holder<br>(Mounts in Oar Lock)   | \$16  | \$5      |
| John Hesse, Member            | Cabela's Driftmaster Rod Holder<br>(Mounts in Oar Lock)   | \$16  | \$5      |
| Fred Willson                  | 3 Lessons, Guitar, Mandolin or Banjo  | \$53  | \$15     |
| Heart of Rockford             | Heart of Rockford Discount Bag, 10% Off<br><i>Any Item at 17 Shops Every Day, Unlimited Value</i> | \$??? | \$15     |
| Rylee's Ace Hardware          | \$100 Gift Certificate  | \$100 | \$40     |
| Heidi Christine's Salon & Spa | Woman's Color, Highlight & Haircut with Sheila  | \$123 | \$40     |
| Firestone - East Beltline     | Free Lifetime Alignment   | \$180 | \$20     |
| Dr. Elias, Dentist            | \$250 Gift Certificate for in Office Teeth Whitening  | \$250 | \$50     |
| Thousand Oaks                 | Round of Golf For 4, Cart Included  | \$358 | \$150    |
| Outpost Lodge                 | 7 Days Stay in Cottage 1, 2 or 3  | \$699 | \$275    |

Thessalon, Ontario (Approximately 1 1/2 Hours NE of Sault St. Marie, MI:  
Visit [outpostlodge.com](http://outpostlodge.com) for further information on their accommodations.)

# Fracking in Our Backyard

Georgia Donovan

“Fracking in our Backyard” with a presentation by **Mary Ann Lesert** was March 25th, and very interesting! It was put together by 3 local groups, including some IKEs, and held at Rockford High School. About 240 people showed up. A few points gleaned from it:

Despite the belief that drill pads cannot be put on our state land, there are LOTS of them. About 50% of new Michigan fracking wells are on state land.

State land that is designated “non developmental” as the DNR told us could only be drilled underneath, with no surface disturbance, can in fact be changed to developed. People reassured when they look at a map and see NONdevelopment on the land nearby are not safe.

The clear-cut areas in the forests contain HUGE barren areas, and there were pictures of enormous pits left with torn barriers meant to contain chemical residues.

The “Michigan Loophole” is when the MDEQ exempted hydro-fracking from the Great Lakes Compact’s limit of 100,000 gal/day water removal.

The “Haliburton Loophole” was when in 2005 Congress gave fracking an exclusion from the Safe Drinking Water Act.

You’ve already heard about the leaking fumes & polluted water. Fracking “breaks” the water-cycle, by not returning water to usability.

The gathering was largely put together by **Kent County Water Conservation**, with help from



**Mutual Aid GR**, and **Citizens for Responsible Resource Management**, which **Shirley Kallio**, **Steg**, and I belong to, with updates at: [fracnews@gmail.com](mailto:fracnews@gmail.com). Other contacts are: [kentcountywc@gmail.com](mailto:kentcountywc@gmail.com), and **KentCountyWaterConservation** on Facebook.

[Letsbanfracking.org](http://Letsbanfracking.org) is another.

## Greetings from Georgia

(continued from page 1)

Well, it sure will be good to get out for some walks, round up some **Nature Club** kids, and enjoy the springtime. I can’t wait to see the **Tear-Drop Island Garden** this year. Remember those Saturday mornings in May we’re open for **Kids’ Fishing**, and it’s a great time to look for wildflowers too! Violets are so pretty in a salad.

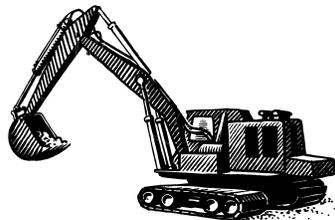
Georgia Donovan

## Avoid Costly, And Preventable, Septic Tank Repairs

Bob Stegmier

If you own a home and are not on a public sewage system, chances are you have a private septic system. A septic system is composed of a septic tank and a leaching field that are connected together via large pipes.

Septic systems have to be used and maintained properly in order to prevent major repair costs. The installation of a new leach field, for example, could cost more than \$25,000. Consequently, it is important to understand exactly how a properly maintained septic tank and leach fieldwork to ensure you do not inadvertently abuse them.



You can do a web search to find out how these systems work so I won’t go into those details.

This message here is to caution all to make sure you do systematic clean out of your tanks.

This not a job for you, but for a professional!

The pumping is cheap compared the cost of a new leach field as mentioned above. I once had a neighbor who didn’t quite believe me, his comment to me was “if it ain’t broke don’t fix it.” The rest of that story is he worked a boot at an environmental field day put on by the IKEs and he was paired up with a person in the septic business. Their table was to explain to folks just have septic systems and drain fields work. That was a good pairing for him because he came away a believer. You need to be a believer, too.

The frequency of emptying solids from a septic tank varies with the number of occupants in the home and the size of the tank and 3-5 years are quite typical. If in doubt call a qualified company for more information.

# Izaak Walton League National Convention July 23 -27

Bob Stegmier

The real workings of these conventions will be from the evening of the 23rd to the afternoon of the 26th.

These conventions are where the direction of the league is developed and determined. Where direction is developed to be on course with necessary and relevant conservation and environmental needs. Yes, the League is different, different from most other conservation organizations in that we are a bottom up policy driven group.



We, the members, set the direction for the League and our Gaithersburg staff.

This is an opportunity for you and to some degree our responsibility to develop this direction. We will have two National Directors and three delegate votes. If a director is unable to go alternates can be appointed. If you go there is ample opportunity to help set current policy and most likely get to be a voter representing.

Another opportunity is for you to take your children or grandkids to the really great **Youth Convention** that runs simultaneously with the IWE



convention. This is an outstanding event for youngsters now in its 20th year.

Information on the convention is now posted on the [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org) website with more details to be added.



The convention will be held in **Fredericksburg, Virginia** and offers the benefits of DC's sight seeing attractions with the beauty of the Virginia countryside before and after the convention.

Plan ahead they say! If you have convention questions ask them of **C.J. Tasma, Ron and Ruth Waybrant, John Trimberger, Jay Huston** or me. We all have convention experience and can give the scoop on it.

There is financial support from both our chapter and the Michigan Division to help with you costs. Details of this support will be determined at the next board meeting and announced in the May Newsletter. Contact me at any time. Bob Stegmier 616.481.5497 or [rstegmier@ameritech.net](mailto:rstegmier@ameritech.net)

## The Beetle Battle Against Purple Loosestrife

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Sometimes programs to control non-native invasive species, whether plants or aquatic species, can be very discouraging due to the lack of control options and therefore the lack of success. But the good news is that is not the case regarding **Purple Loosestrife**. The control beetle *Gallerucella calmariensis* and volunteers are the key here. This program has lots of proven success and is fun, easy and rewarding to do, **Jim Biener** says. We will continue this volunteer program again this April and May with a little expansion of it. In the past the effort has been largely concentrated in the **Rogue River** watershed and in **Cannon Township**. We will be active there again but want to open the

effort to anywhere there is Purple Loosestrife. **Dan Buyze**, who lives in the watershed, will be working in Belmont collecting beetles that they will take to **Big Whitefish Lake** hoping to establish some control there. Dan and I collect some beetles a few years ago for the purpose but had little success. So you know the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try again!" While April and May are the months the timing is very dependent on the weather. So hang loose, we'll just fine tune our activity to the weather and the bugs.

If you know where there is PL outside these two areas please bring it to our attention. We will work with you in the collection of control

beetles and advising you and your friends in the proper placement of the beetles. You may have seen the PL in lakes you visit to swim or fish. You may see it along streams or as you travel. Let us together spread the control and knowledge.

Contact either **Jim Biener** at [bienerjj@gmail.com](mailto:bienerjj@gmail.com), or **Bob Stegmier**, 616.866.4769, [rstegmier@ameritech.net](mailto:rstegmier@ameritech.net) and let's get started this spring.



# Considering Life Membership For State/Chapter Dues?

Ron Waybrant

Last year the DLC board established a chapter "life membership" to complement the national IWLA life membership. While a life membership in the IWLA is a worthy investment, it applies only for national dues and does not apply to state or chapter dues. Thus, IWLA life members in our chapter typically still pay state and chapter dues annually. If one becomes a life member at our chapter, they would not pay any annual national, state or chapter dues.

The chapter life membership is available for a \$300 payment and coordinated by the Chapter's membership chairperson. The chapter life membership was established last year and currently 5 members have taken advantage of the opportunity.

Life membership fees provide a continuing asset to further the goals of the IKEs. Life membership dues for both the chapter and IWLA 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, and would welcome more.

# Make Humus By Feeding Your Worms!

Duane De Vries

Part 1 of 3. From a document by John Trimberger, used with permission.

Spring is on the way and here is something to help your garden get started. Make your own humus!

Humus is decayed organic matter that helps the topsoil to hold water better, provide nutrients, and it helps keep the soil from getting packed down.

Make your own with red worms, NOT earthworms or night crawlers! Prepare a shallow container (less than a foot deep). Plastic dish washing tubs will work. It should have drainage holes in the bottom for any liquid to seep out. Consider 'nesting' them. (Note: this liquid makes great plant food for household plants.)

Add a piece or two of 1 inch Styrofoam insulation cut to the size of the inside of your container to cover the contents. The worms like it dark and the Styrofoam keeps fruit flies away

Add some garden soil (a few handfuls) and dampened shredded newspaper (no colored paper) to about half the depth of the container. You want your worm bed moist but don't allow it to get so wet you can squeeze water from it.

You are now ready to add redworms and garbage. By garbage I mean vegetable waste! NO meat, fat, egg shells or the like. ONLY use vegetable scraps and NEVER add dog or cat feces to your worm bin.

This is a shortened version of an article that may be found by going to [www.michiganikes.org](http://www.michiganikes.org) and clicking on *documents*. Look for the document named *Worm Composting*.

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## 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 - \$54, \_\_\_\_\_ Family - \$74, \_\_\_\_\_ Student (18-21) - \$26, \_\_\_\_\_ Youth (under 18) - \$13.80

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. 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.

## Controlling Pests With Birds

submitted by **Tam Bagby**

The following appeared in *Audobon Magazine*,  
March-April 2012

By **Michele Wilson Berger**

**Birds provide valuable ecosystem services, defending crops, such as grapes and coffee, from insects.**

Bird-minded conservationists tend to focus on what the environment can do for their feathered friends. In a unique reversal, **Julie Jedlicka** decided to look at what birds can do for their environment. The **University of California-Berkeley** researcher calls it economic ornithology, asking, "What are the ecosystem services birds can provide?" She took to the vast vineyards of nearby **Sonoma** to find out.

Her team put up more than 200 **western bluebird** boxes (like the one below) among the grapes, then mimicked an outbreak of beet armyworm—a pest partial to vineyards—by pinning larvae to cardboard. Some of these insect posters went directly below nest boxes; others were placed sporadically around the vineyards. "Not surprisingly, we found that in areas with nest boxes, significantly more larvae were removed than in areas without," she says. "That number went up even higher if we were directly below a nest box."



The boxes attracted western blue-

birds, which have suffered terrible habitat loss in California's wine country because of agricultural and urban development. The bluebirds appear to consume blue-green sharpshooters, insects with piercing, sucking mouthparts that easily spread bacteria among plants. One of those bacteria causes a deadly grape blight called **Pierce's disease**.

Others are also looking at birds as natural pest controllers. For years **Matt Johnson**, a **Humboldt State University** wildlife habitat ecologist, has studied birds' benefits to coffee, specifically in relation to the coffee berry borer in **Jamaica**. (Females force their way into coffee berries, hollow them out, and lay eggs inside.) His team placed netlike tents over coffee bushes to keep birds out and normal insect populations in. "The damage was much higher inside the enclosures than outside," he says. Johnson went one step further, calculating the dollar value to coffee farmers—from **\$16 to \$120** per acre—of having the right bird species around.

Johnson and Jedlicka say birds can be part of a comprehensive insect-management plan. That can motivate farmers to better conserve their land—in turn creating better bird habitat—and perhaps even someday help them earn a "bird-friendly" label. **Russell Greenberg**, who runs the **Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center**, spells out just how important avian species are. "There are always potential pests out there that are kept in check," he says. "You never know what's going to happen if birds are gone."

Johnson and Jedlicka say birds can be part of a comprehensive insect-management plan. That can motivate farmers to better conserve their land—in turn creating better bird habitat—and perhaps even someday help them earn a "bird-friendly" label. **Russell Greenberg**, who runs the **Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center**, spells out just how important avian species are. "There are always potential pests out there that are kept in check," he says. "You never know what's going to happen if birds are gone."

### DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA Core Event Schedule 2013

NOTE: See later updates for confirmed dates, especially late year events.

|                               | <u>Chairperson</u>  |
|-------------------------------|---|
| April 20, Saturday .....      | Michigan Division Meeting DLC-CC .....                                      |
| April 25, Thursday .....      | Fish & Game Dinner & program @ CC .....                                     |
| May .....                     | <b>Kids Fishing every Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon @ CC</b> .....          |
| May 16, Thursday              | Steak and Chicken Dinner, Annual Meeting & Short Program .....              |
| June 12, 19, 26 ..            | <b>Kids FREE Fishing at Versluis Lake, Plainfield Twsp. 6:30-8 pm</b> ..... |
| June 22, Saturday .....       | Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC .....                                  |
| July 23-27 .....              | 2013 IKEs Convention, Fredericksburg, VA .....                              |
| August 15, Thursday .....     | Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Program @ CC .....                                    |
| September 11, Wednesday ..... | Harvestfest @ CC .....  |
| October 9, Wednesday .....    | Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC .....   |
| November 7, Thursday .....    | Game Dinner @ CC .....  |
| December 5, Thursday .....    | Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant .....                                 |

# Fracking Update

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

## Oil and Gas Play in Michigan Bakken Shale Oil, North Dakota

Drinking Water Act and subjects chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process to full public disclosure

*National Geographic*, March 2013 issue.

Consider reading it.

For more on the issues of **Fracking** in Michigan and Ohio do a web search for a **National Wildlife Federation** in-depth report of hydraulic fracturing in the great lakes basin.



I urge you to attend any of the various Town Hall session various Michigan Legislators are holding. That Legislator will host them and there will be presentations by qualified DEQ and DNR personnel with time for audience questions. All are very informative.

I urge you to hear the critical side that is generally being presented by various other “Concerned Citizens” Fracking groups’ open houses generally point out the concerns surrounding the process and generally seek a ban on the process.

Here is the current official League position on Fracking updated July 2013 at convention:

### Chapter VI WATER RESOURCES N) Hydraulic Fracturing (Hydrofracking)

1. The League urges all levels of government with oversight and regulatory authority over natural gas extraction to implement a moratorium on issuing permits for drilling new, high-volume hydraulic fracturing directional wells until:

- a). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completes its study of the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water quality and public health.
- b. Using results of the EPA study and other information, EPA issues guidelines to the states for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing and the establishment of protective requirements for freshwater usage, flowback treatment and disposal, ground and surface water quality, spill prevention and response, and other natural resources that could be impacted by hydraulic fracturing.
- c. Such states have established and implemented regulatory programs in accordance with the guidelines issued by EPA.
- d. Congress repeals the exemption for the gas extraction industry from meeting requirements under the Safe

### Chapter VII ENERGY H. Oil and Natural Gas Drilling

1. The League supports enactment of the following requirements for all oil and natural gas drilling sites:

a. Congress should repeal sections 402(1)(2) and 502(24) of the Clean Water Act which exempt oil and natural gas drilling

from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements.

b. Following repeal of the exemption in sections 402(1)(2) and 502(24) of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall develop and adopt regulations applying the NPDES permit process to discharges of storm water runoff from oil and natural gas operations. Regulations must require monitoring and reporting of storm water discharges and can utilize general permits, provided such permits require individual site registration and address factors specific to each geographic area and geologic production zone.

c. As part of any permit system regulating oil and natural gas drilling sites, the appropriate regulatory agency shall require compliance with relevant Best Management Practices (BMPs) for site development, operation, closure, and reclamation, and impose penalties for non-compliance.

d. Any permit system regulating oil and natural gas drilling sites should protect wetlands and riparian zones by requiring compliance with all relevant local, state and federal ordinances and regulations concerning such resources.

e. Prior to drilling permit issuance, a notice of intent to drill shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area to be drilled. This notice shall include a right to a public hearing by residents and landowners in the affected communities.

f. Groundwater monitoring shall be required for all oil and natural gas drilling, production, disposal, and drilling fluids storage.

g. All drilling permits must require adequate bonding to provide sealing, reclamation, and environmental remediation.

If you have questions please feel free to call me.

## 2013 SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE DONORS

|                               |  |  |
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| Al & Bob's Sports             | El Barrio Mexican Grill                    | Massages by Marylou                        |
| Arcadia House Bed & Breakfast | Family Fare Rockford                       | Meijer Inc.                                |
| Arthur Murray Dance Studio    | Firestone                                  | Merle Norman Cosmetics                     |
| Aurora Firth                  | Forest Hills Foods                         | Old Chicago Restaurant & Bar               |
| Barb McGuirl, Member          | Frame and Mat Shop                         | Olive Garden                               |
| Bargain Books                 | Fred & Sue Eyer, Members                   | P.F. Chang                                 |
| Betty Jo Crosby, Member       | Fred Willson                               | Pere Marquette Lodge & Orvis Shop, Baldwin |
| Bill & Paul's Sporthaus       | Friend of the IKEs                         | Pilgrim's Run                              |
| Bird Watcher's Market Place   | Georgia Donovan, Member                    | Presto Print Inc                           |
| Bob & Gail Stegmier, Members  | Gilmore Car Museum                         | River Valley Auto - Rockford               |
| Bonefish Grill                | Goodrich Quality Theatres Inc.             | Rockford Ace Hardware                      |
| Bostwick Bakery               | Grand Rapids Airport Hilton                | Rockford Brewing Co.                       |
| Boulder Creek Golf Club       | Great Northern Trading Co.                 | Rockford Independent Bank                  |
| Brann's of Cascade            | Grist Mill Deli and Market                 | Rockford Quick Lube                        |
| Bruce Dutcher, Member         | Haymarsh Hunt Club                         | Ron and Ruth Waybrant, Members             |
| Cannonsburg Bottle Shop       | Heart of Rockford                          | Ron Finger, Member                         |
| Carino's Italian Restaurant   | Heidi Christine's Salon & Spa              | Ruth Kizer, Member                         |
| Carrabba's Italian Grill      | Herman's Boy - Rockford                    | Rylee's Ace Hardware                       |
| Carrettino Italian Market     | Hillsdale College                          | Shear Profile Salon                        |
| Casey Hefferan, Guide         | Honey Creek Inn                            | Siegler Jewelers                           |
| Catherine McClung             | Houlihan's                                 | Silver Bullet Firearms & Training Center   |
| Cedar Springs Mill & Supply   | Jack & Kathy Crothers, Members             | Sundance Grill                             |
| Chamberlin's Old Forest Inn   | Jim Bedford, Author and Fishing Guide      | Sun-Rays Tanning                           |
| Charles St. Charles           | Jim Hegarty, Digital Photography           | Tam Bagby & Tom Watson, Members            |
| Chase Klinesteker, Member     | Joel & Doris Stinson                       | Tanaz Hair Boutique                        |
| Cheshire Barber Shop          | John & Jan Trimberger, Members             | Thousand Oaks                              |
| Country Vineyard              | John Hesse, Member                         | Timbers Inn                                |
| David E. Doss                 | John Stegmeier, Member                     | Van's Sports Center                        |
| Discount Tire                 | Kathleen Chaney Fritz and Frame & Mat Shop | Venture Creations                          |
| Dixie Olin                    | Kevin Feenstra, Fishing Guide              | West Michigan Caterer                      |
| DLC - IWLA                    | Lattitudes Roadhouse & Steelhead Tavern    | West Michigan Whitecaps                    |
| Dr. Elias, Dentist            | Laura Allen's Beads                        | Woodland Travel Center                     |

# Your View: Midwest Leads The Way Against Climate Change

Submitted by **Bob Stegmier**, Conservation Chair

The following op-ed appears in the September 3, 2012 issue of *Crain's Chicago Business*:

By: **Ellen Alberding** September 01, 2012

As we end one of the hottest summers in history, there has been a change in the conversation about global warming. It hits home when we feel the heat on our daily commutes or see drought destroying Midwest crops. Climate models indicate that impacts like these will become more common unless we reduce the carbon pollution that is driving global warming.

Cutting energy waste and increasing efficiency reduce carbon output and yield significant results quickly. According to a national study funded by the **Joyce Foundation** and conducted by the **Associated Press** and the **National Opinion Research Center** at the **University of Chicago**, Americans know that boosting energy efficiency is essential but that it is difficult to change their habits. Eighty-nine percent of respondents say they don't know how to reduce their demand; 64 percent cite people's unwillingness to use less energy as the major reason for the country's energy problems.

The good news: The Midwest is emerging as a leader in energy efficiency.

Bipartisan action by policymakers around our region has established some of the country's strongest statewide standards that require utilities to take part of what they would have spent on power every year and instead spend that money helping businesses and residents improve energy efficiency.

According to Illinois' efficiency standard, **Commonwealth Edison Co.** spends more than \$150 million every year helping business and residential customers in the Chicago region save energy, including education initiatives. So far, those savings are enough to power more than 400,000 homes for a year.

The cumulative impact will cut overall electricity use in the Midwest by 10 percent or more by 2020. That means hundreds of millions of dollars in annual energy bill savings in our region. And these investments create jobs, because insulation or new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment doesn't install itself.

Other Chicago businesses are stepping up, too. The **Retrofit Chicago Commercial Building Initiative** that **Mayor Rahm Emanuel** announced this summer

has already engaged owners of 14 downtown buildings to reduce energy use by at least 20 percent within five years. Nationally, buildings consume nearly half of all energy produced in the United States, so improving their efficiency has a real impact.

So far this year, the Joyce Foundation has awarded 15 grants totaling more than \$4 million to advance energy efficiency in Illinois and neighboring states.

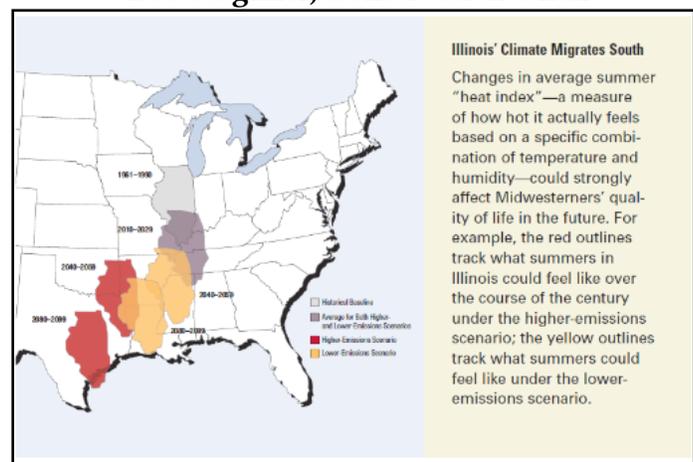
If you own or manage a large building in Chicago, consider joining the Retrofit Chicago initiative. Examine energy-efficiency opportunities as you plan 2013 budgets. Many efficiency improvements pay for themselves in a year or two—or less.

The stakes are high, and the steps we can take are good for the environment and for business.

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20120901/ISSUE07/309019996/your-view-midwest-leads-the-way-against-climate-change>

## Global Warming and Climate Change

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair



This is an interesting illustration.

My wife from time to time tells me what her mother use to say. "Mother Shipman said, the South shall become North and the North shall become south."

Well, we may be seeing the North becoming South, as we live!

Of course Michigan is only a stone's throw N.E. of Illinois so when Illinois is Texas, Michigan will be Arkansas. The time frame for this is from now to approximately 2095.

## Opportunity Kirtland's Warbler Guided Warbler Habitat Tours And More

Bob Stegmier

Gail and I with the suggestion of members **Ginger** and **Monty Williams** did the tour in 2010 and found it a great spring birding trip. Time to make your plans now. We recommend you take your cameras and binoculars. We drove up in the day before and stayed overnight for the recommended early morning guided tour.

U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **Kirtland's Warbler Tours**: the guided birding tours listed below are conducted annually from mid-May through early July by biologists from these federal natural resource agencies, both key players in the recovery of the Kirtland's warbler. These tours are very popular, so it is recommended that you call ahead to check on reservations.

**U.S. Forest Service Tours, Mio**: U.S. Forest Service tours are conducted at 7 a.m. daily, May 21 to July 2 (except Memorial Day). Tours last approximately three hours and a \$10 fee is charged. Visitors should meet at the **Mio District Ranger Station**, located off M-33 north of Mio, at 6:45

a.m. Tour participants drive their own vehicles to the field site following a short presentation. For more information on the Mio tour, contact the U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Forest Service  
Mio Ranger District  
107 McKinley Road  
Mio, MI 48647-9314  
Phone: 989.826.3252

Email: [miokwtours@fs.fed.us](mailto:miokwtours@fs.fed.us),  
Web Site: [www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/kw\\_tours.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/kw_tours.htm)

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tours, Grayling**: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and **Michigan Audubon Society** conduct guided tours from May 15 through July 4, departing from the Ramada Inn in Grayling, Michigan. The tours are offered on weekdays at 7 a.m. and on weekends and holidays at 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. The tours are free of charge. For more information on the Grayling tour, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Related web pages:

[US Forest Service Kirtland's Warbler Page](#)

[Michigan Department of Natural Resources Kirtland's Warbler Page](#)

[US Geological Survey](#)

[US Fish and Wildlife Service's Kirtland Warbler Page](#)

**INTERNATIONAL FROG  
DAY IS APRIL 27TH!  
YOU CAN HELP BY SAV-  
ING THEIR HABITATS.**



*Tree Frog, Hyla versicolor*

### Thought of the Month

Jay Huston

*"The wind makes you ache in some place that is deeper than your bones. It may be that it touches something old in the human soul."*

*Stephen King,  
Salem's Lot*

# **FISH AND GAME DINNER**

## **THURSDAY APRIL 25**

**SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00PM, DINNER: 7:00PM**



As always we will supply the basic items, but feel free to bring your favorite dish to share: venison, duck, bear, etc. We count on you for dessert, too, so please bring some!

The Florida Keys' IKEs will supply a variety of Keys' fish. It will be superbly prepared in different ways as always.

There will also be a grilled Meijer turkey. Kitchen help, setup and clean up are always needed, so call Tom Watson if you can help!

**RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST AT 8:00 PM.**

Please call Tom Watson at 874.7254 or email at: [twatson@comcast.net](mailto:twatson@comcast.net)

No phone calls after 8pm.

**ADULTS: \$8, YOUTH: 6-12 \$4 AND UNDER 6 FREE AS ARE FIRST TIME GUESTS.**

*Next Up:*

# **Steak & Chicken Dinner**

*Thursday  
May 16th*

