



www.michiganikes.org

April 2017

The IKEs Update

Oops! I forgot to clean out my bluebird houses; time to go for a walk and take a peek. Such a great time for seeing birds, before the leaves fill in and hide them. It's so fun to see our friends returning from the south, be they feathered or human.

The **Sport Show** went well, with the pan-full of adorable invertebrates collected by John Stegmeier attracting attention from kids and their parents. Hopefully some will come out to explore on our **Kids' Fishing Days** in May. Hours are extended 9-2 on Saturdays to dodge some soccer games.

For older kids and adults, don't forget we have the **Beginners' Fly-Fishing Workshop** April 15, starting at 10:00, til about 2:00 for casting practice with our equipment or your own. Bring a sack lunch to picnic with. Please tell anyone you know who might be interested. It's free or only \$5 if you're not a member. RSVP to georgiaddonovanart@gmail.com

Fishing ... the anti-stress. It's the calm kind of busy. You're walking, looking at water, being patient, sensing the world, thinking about habitat, seeing wildlife and hopefully a beautiful fish shining in the water. If you know any kids a bit too addicted to screen-time,

maybe you can encourage them to fling a hook and line.

Then, please follow it up by coming to our **Spring Fish & Wild Game Dinner** on April 20! Bring your fresh creations, your friends, or your appetites...

Those of us who love the environment need camaraderie, support, and walks along the stream, to refresh ourselves and be strong in our support of woods, water, and wildlife. As I write,

it's **World Water Day**. We are fortunate to take clean water for granted. From the coral reefs to inland rivers, wildlife has no say as to what is dumped, spilled, or falls from the atmosphere. But we have a say. Let's hope that the **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**, NOAA, and other programs can stay funded and functional. Let's choose wisely ... IWLA is for natural defense.

See you at the pond!
Georgia Donovan

SOME SPECIAL LOCAL EVENTS:

- 4/15 **Fly-Fishing Workshop** 10am to 2pm at the IKEs
- 4/20 **Fish & Game Dinner**
- 4/26 **Bear Creek Waterfest** at Townsend Park, 8am to 12pm
Organizers of the upcoming Bear Creek Waterfest hope the event will accomplish two goals: educate the public as to the importance of watershed stewardship and provide a great time for all who attend.
- 5/6 **Calvin's Native Plant Sale** 10am
The Native Plant Sale features more than 65 rare, unusual, and favorite varieties of native wildflowers, shrubs, and grasses for all growing conditions, including drought-tolerant, rain garden, and shade species.
- 5/13 **Bear Creek Volunteer Study**, Cannon Township
We are always seeking volunteers who would like to be a part of our stream study. Volunteers will need to attend this macro-invertebrate training.

Sport Show Action

Bob Stegmier and Sport Show committee

About 150 flyers with this information were passed out and well received! Many said they would contact their congressperson and express there concern.



LODGE CALENDAR

- April 11 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- May 9 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

Opportunities: Yep I Am Bugging You, Two Bugs To Be Exact

Bob Stegmier

FIRST Bug is for Stream monitoring on the Rogue River Saturday May 6.

In many cases we think bugs are a nuisance, but bugs in a stream can be very useful. Stream insects are a good measure of water quality. Unlike fish, stream insects cannot move around much so they are less able to escape the effects of sediment and other pollutants that diminish water quality. Stream insects can also be easily identified.

Trout Unlimited National and Michigan Trout Unlimited will be holding a **Stream Insect Monitoring Event** on Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the **Rockford Community Cabin** - 220 North Monroe Street in Rockford.

Volunteers will be assigned to a monitoring group with a team leader. Each group will collect and identify insects from different stream sites in the Rogue River watershed. You don't need any experience with stream insects to participate and all ages are welcome.



What will you need? Please RSVP to **Jamie Vaughan** at jvaughan@tu.org or 312.391.4760 if you would like to attend. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Please bring waders if you have them and dress for the weather conditions. Children under 16 years old need to be accompanied by an adult.

The **Frey Foundation**, **Grand Rapids Community Foundation**, the **Wege Foundation**, the **Wolverine World Wide Foundation**, and the **Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited** fund the **Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative Project**.

SECOND Bug is **Stream Monitoring** on Bear Creek Saturday 13. Cannon township volunteers conduct this, and more volunteers are always welcome. Not experience

needed for either on these opportunities, you will be trained and lead by experienced volunteers. This one is from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and begins at the **Cannon Township Center**, 6878 Belding Rd. For further information contact **Julie Lovelace** at 616.884.2206.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Bob Stegmier

The administration plans to reduce by 97% the funds for GLRI!

This reduction in GLRI funds will virtually eliminate work on these important programs thru FY-2019:

- Cleaning up Great Lakes Areas of Concern
- Preventing and controlling invasive species
- Reducing nutrient runoff that contributes to harmful/nuisance algal blooms
- Restoring habitat to protect native species

I am concerned and it is important that you let the President and your legislators know that you are!



Contacting them these days is best to be done through the internet. Here is a fast and easy way through the iwla.org website. Connect and send your message through iwla.org/take-action/congressweb#/ or visit michiganikes.org

Deadline for the May issue is Monday, April 24 at 8:00 AM.

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

Beginners' Fly-fishing Workshop!

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 **georgiaddonovanart@gmail.com**.



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!

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Lodge Rental

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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)

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.....	<i>Winterfest Community Family Day @ IKEs</i>
March 3, Friday	<i>Conservation Awards/Fund Raiser Banquet</i>
March 16 thru 19	<i>Ultimate Sport Show - DeVos Place, Grand Rapids</i>
April 20, Thursday	<i>Fish & Game Dinner & Program</i>
May 6, 13, 20, 27 - Saturdays	<i>Kids Fishing & Native Plants @ IKEs, 9AM-2PM</i>
May 11, Thursday	<i>Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting & Short Program @ IKEs</i>
June 10, Saturday	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up Day 9AM, work, eat, play, campfire</i>
June 24, Saturday, 10am-3pm	<i>Summerfest Community Family Day @ IKEs</i>
July 26-28	<i>2017 IKE's National Convention - Sandusky IN</i>
July 15, Saturday	<i>Native Plants for Everyone, Tear Drop Island @ IKEs</i>
August 17, Thursday	<i>Ribs & Chicken Dinner @ IKEs</i>
September 13, Wednesday.....	<i>Oktoberfest @ IKEs</i>
September 16, Saturday.....	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up Day 10AM @ IKEs</i>
October 4, Wednesday	<i>Chili Cook-Off/Potluck @ IKEs</i>
November 9, Thursday.....	<i>Game Dinner @ IKEs</i>
December 7, Thursday	<i>Holiday Celebration</i>

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

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Rockford, MI
Permit No. 208

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

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Come eat great food!
SPRING FISH AND GAME DINNER
Thursday, April 20th

Hunters and fishers, please prepare your special game dish or just bring it in for our cooks to prepare. We will have some great Florida fish and domestic turkey, too. We also need some great side dishes and desserts!



Any questions, please email Tom Watson: twatson@comcast.net
Adults \$8.00, ages 6 - 13 \$4.00, under 6 and first time guests are FREE!

**Fly-fishing
Demonstration**

Saturday, April 15th
See the ad on page 4!

Coming every Saturday
in May, 9am - 2pm

**Kid's
Fishing!**

all equipment provided,
it's FREE!

