



A SPORTSPERSON'S  
CONSERVATION CLUB

Conservation Center  
5641 Myers Lake Ave.  
Belmont MI, 49306

# IKE'S NEWSLETTER

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER  
• OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA •

[www.michiganikes.org](http://www.michiganikes.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2011

May is underway, with our **Free Kids' Fishing** every Saturday morning this month. All the equipment and bait is on hand, as well as friendly help, at our pond from 9:00 until noon. This is a perfect chance to introduce some kids to fishing or to join in the fun as a guide. Or to just show up, relax, or walk around and look for wildflowers.

As **Summerfest** is around the next corner (**June 18**) I also propose that on **May 14** we spend some time in the afternoon either clearing the trail or the garage. Could maybe get pizza and stay after fishing, or go from 1-3.

When I was trying to follow either a **Hermit Thrush** or **Veery** through the underbrush it occurred to me that we might want to continue our efforts against the dreaded **Autumn Olive**. I like the little hillside south of the lawn and am going to see how much of that I can reclaim. This is a good time of year to tackle some of those as it's not too hot yet and they show up easily. The Honeysuckle bushes that also crowd out our natives are very easy to spot right now because, as many other invasives, they green up earlier than the rest. Something from a native plant sale, such as viburnum or June Berry could be planted instead.

If you want to see something really cool, look up **workingdogsforconservation.org** Dogs and conservation, two greats rolled into one!

Something new in the lodge is **Mert Ihrig's** trophy buck! Mert has been

a member for a long time, since the 50's I believe. This buck was the result of a special hunting trip, and it's a beauty. We are honored to have it. Thanks, Mert!

We are also thankful for all that **Bud Grant** has done for us over the years, from the building of our lodge to the pre-dinner prayers within it. As I write he is in **Clark Home** hospice. Call if you wish to visit. Our thoughts are with these old-time members and their families.

Communicating among members is a good thing. We could try a **Bulletin Board** in the newsletter. If anyone has something to announce, trade, or offer, you could send a line or two to **Tom Watson** or me before the deadline.

Also, due to spring break there was an overlap between the Chicken program and the last newsletter; if you did not get an e-mail alert from me, and would like to be on the list, please contact [georgia.art@att.net](mailto:georgia.art@att.net)

We have received hearty thanks from MSU, as our chapter donated \$1000 to **Howard and Helen Tanner's Fisheries Research Fund**. When Dr. Tanner led the **DNR**, he brought salmon and Lake Trout in to control the alewives. Anyone who heard him speak at the banquet knows how dedicated he is to the Great Lakes fisheries, and this endowment continues that work. We must do what we can to prevent Asian Carp from moving in.

The Great Lakes and Mississippi

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River Interbasin Feasibility Study (whew!) otherwise known as **GLIMRIS**, is working toward a solution to the carp problem. They gathered sign-on support from 108 organizations, including ours. The **Army Corps of Engineers** was taking input and I sent them a letter from us as well.

No more space! Hope to see you at the IKEs!  
Georgia Donovan

# CONNIE RYKERT AND HER CHICKENS FROM CEDAR SPRINGS MILL & SUPPLY





## ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Jay Huston

The annual election of officers and board of directors will be at the **Steak and Chicken Dinner** at the Conservation Center on **Tuesday, May 17**.

The slate of candidates is as follows:

President: **Georgia Donovan**,  
Vice President: **Barb McGuirl**  
Secretary: **Jim Schneider**  
Treasurer: **Fred Eyer**  
Membership Secretary: **Ron Waybrant**

On the Board of Directors for the Three Year Terms, September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2014:

**Maurie Houseman**

**Bob Stegmier**

and one open position.

For a One Year Term, September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012:

**Barry Gilbertson**

We need a nominee for the third member of the Three Year Terms. The committee is seeking a volunteer for this position and we're asking the

help of the membership in fulfilling this goal. Any member in good standing interested in being nominated for the opening or any position may contact a nominating committee member to be added to the slate. Nominations will be accepted from the floor on May 17.

The Nominating Committee

**Jay Huston** 942.2503

**Bill Kirk** 874.8230

**C.J. Tasma** 454.9416

**THOUGHT  
FOR THE  
MONTH  
Jay Huston**

**There is  
something  
infinitely  
healing in  
the repeated  
refrains of  
nature.  
Rachel Carson**

## KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

Bob Stegmier



**Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Festival** is May 21 is and an event you make want to take in. Last spring members **Ginger** and **Monty Williams** made that

trip with **Gail** and **Bob Stegmier** and reported it was a fun couple of days. Our trip was reported in last year's July

Newsletter. We stayed in the **AuSable Valley Inn** just north of Mio and around the corner from the local **US Forest Service** headquarters. Our guided trip (US Forest Service guided trips are from May 15 to July 2) started at 7 AM.

We went into the Jack Pine emerging forest to look for birds and we saw birds! If you are interested you can contact me or do a little googleing for this year's details.

## FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

at Cannon Township, May 14

Electronic items around the house just seem to go bad, become obsolete or just aren't used any more. If you have these clogging up storage places or desks it is time to get rid of them.

This free recycling will be at **Cannon Township** 6867 Belding Rd NE, Rockford on **Saturday, May 14, 2011** from 9am till 1pm.

Items accepted will be televisions, CRT Monitors, LCD

Monitors, Speakers, Computers, Laptops, Printers, Fax Machines, Copiers, Keyboards & Mice, Microwaves, Miscellaneous items (cables, lights, etc.) Computer Parts, Telephones, Cell Phones, Game Consoles, Handheld Electronics Devices, Stereos & Portable Devices.

NOT ACCEPTED are heavy Consumer durables such as Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Stoves, etc.

The event is sponsored by Cannon Township and **Vintage Tech Recyclers Inc.**

# WILD GAME & TRAIL TALE

Georgia Donovan

Oh, what a great dinner! We had a perfect assortment of dishes, from Antelope to Disappearing Cake. Various game dishes included elk, venison, antelope, pheasant, duck and wild rice, goose stew, wild turkey, and fish such as yellowtail and snapper. Everything was very good and THANKS to all who brought something to the table, as well as that wonderful kitchen crew who prepared and cleaned up! Those behind the kitchen door included **Tam Bagby, Tom Watson, Dick Van Haften, and Jack Hornbach.** I know it was a lot of work, but there was a lot of laughter too!

We were happy to present **Barb McGuirl** with the **National Tobin Award** this year. Barb is always busy, especially involved with the native plant garden and the **Kids' Nature Club**, plus extended activities like the **Bear Creek Waterfest** and gar-

den meetings, not to mention all she does for Winterfest and Summerfest. I'd say she is tireless, but that's probably stretching it.

In all aspects of her life she promotes conservation and creativity, with her yard-full of habitat, her recycling genius, and activities with her grandkids.

Good going, Barb!

**Joan Young** presented the program. She was the 1st woman (10th person overall) to walk the entire **North Country Trail**. From eastern New York to North Dakota, that's 4400 miles! OK, she didn't do it all at once, but she savored all the sites and adventures along the way, and she showed us as much as she could in

the half hour or so we gave her. Very interesting. I'd like to check out the part along Lake Superior sometime. She was very inspiring! For those wanting more info, Joan Young has 2 websites:

[getoffthecouch.info](http://getoffthecouch.info)  
[booksleavingfootprints.com](http://booksleavingfootprints.com)

Dick Van Haften proposed a dinner or program based on wild edible plants, like the violets in the salad. We've thought of it before, but the timing always gets away from us. If any of you have suggestions on spring vs. fall, or some knowledge in this area, please let me know. I think there are a lot of people who'd be interested and it would be fun to do as a group.







## WILD GAME AND FISH DINNER

Tom Watson

Forty or so IKEs enjoyed a delicious meal at our semi-annual wild game and fish dinner.

The **Kitchen Krew** included myself, **Tam Bagby**, **Jack Hornbach** and **Dick Van Haften**, with some last minute help by **Jim Mroz**.

We all enjoyed a rich assortment of tasty foods, including Florida fish supplied by Tam Bagby, **Darva Boot**, **Jim Beiner**, Jack Hornbach, **Maurie Houseman** and myself. **Bruce** and

**Pat Dutcher** brought a moose and bean stew, Dick Van Haften supplied antelope, elk, pheasant and venison, Jack Hornbach brought wild turkey and I cooked the "tame" turkey that **Bob Stegmier** furnished. Other tasty dishes on our plates included a venison and pasta dish, salad with wild violets and an assortment of delicious desserts, including my world famous Key Lime pie. Thanks to everyone who helped make this one of our most delicious dinners in recent memory.

**Ron Waybrant** manned the door and **Ron Heidrich** tended the bar. Tam and I started the cleanup and then **Bruce Gilmore** and Ron Waybrant washed all the pots and pans and what we couldn't fit in the dishwashers. **Dave** and **Anna May Long**, **Jack Merren**, **Georgia Donovan**, **Dave Lester** and a few others whose names escape me now cleaned the dining room. Thanks to all of you for your hard work.

# CALLING ALL IKES

Maurie Houseman

We need your help with our:

# SUMMERFEST

FAMILY FUN plus:

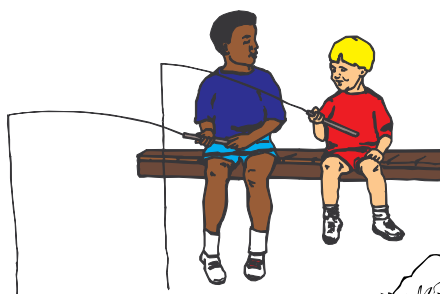
Love your land. Care for and enjoy it.

Demonstrations and workshops 11am - 3pm. FREE LUNCH 11am - 1:30pm.

**Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us for a planning meeting, **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** at the lodge at 6:00 PM and be part of the fun. We need your minds and your bodies.

Lots of opportunities for families, and to get the kids involved. Plan a scavenger hunt, or a treasure hunt, help with demonstrations, food, publicity, etc. Some of the possibilities are:



- Fishing
- Archery
- Plug Casting
- Scavenger Hunt
- Orienteering
- Bird House Building
- Rain Barrel Making
- Fly Tying
- Solar Energy

- Pond Management
- Invasive Weed Control
- Fish Management
- Erosion Control
- Composting
- Rain Gardens
- Wild Lawns
- Tree Identification
- Save our Streams Demo and Training

- Landscaping for Wildlife
- Invasive Plant Control
- Native Plants
- Woodlot Management
- Wildflower Identification
- Vegetable (Victory) Gardens
- Recycling
- Overnight Camping/Demo

or any additional activity that **YOU** might come up with.

We already have commitments from **Ada Parks, WMEAC, the Land Conservancy, and The Wild Ones** to do demonstrations. We may involve others, including Boy & Girl Scouts.

We won't do them all and may add others, but the idea is to have family fun and also teach people how to take a fresh look at their own property so they can better enjoy and care for it.

### FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO!

1. Think about your own property and what to do to pay attention to it and better use it.

2. Call your neighbors and friends. Tell them about the event. Plan your property projects together, such as removing invasives, planting natives, landscaping for wildlife, etc.

3. Get other groups involved, such as school groups, church groups, kids groups, etc.

4. Get involved yourself.

If you have questions on how to be involved or good ideas of your own, call: **Georgia Donovan** at: **866.1061** or **Maurie Houseman** at: **560.2895**.

# CLEAN WATER ACT UPDATE

Bob Stegmier

From **Scott Kovarovics**, Conservation Director-Izaak Walton League of America.

Good afternoon. I wanted to provide a brief update about the League's longstanding efforts to restore the **Clean Water Act**. I highlighted these issues in my Director's report for March.

**Clean Water Guidance Rider** – I am pleased to report that the final version of the continuing resolution for the remainder of this fiscal year does NOT include the "rider" barring **EPA** and the **Army Corps** from issuing clean water guidance. This is a clear victory for sportsmen. The administration and Senate negotiators pushed back against this and other anti-environment provisions, which made a clear difference.

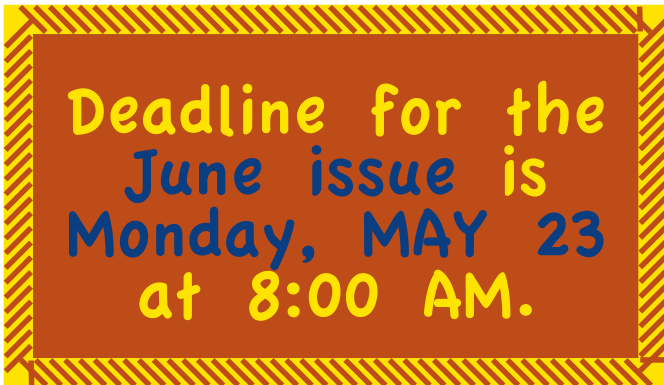
While this is good news, the fight is far from over. Rep. **Mike Simpson** has already vowed to include a similar rider in the EPA funding bill for the 2012 fiscal year. Clean water opponents outside Congress are mobilizing to attack the proposed guidance. We'll need to actively

support the guidance when it is released and continue to let members of Congress know that we oppose efforts to block EPA and the Corps from restoring some of the lost Clean Water Act protections.



**Guidance Remains Under Attack in Congress** – Clean water opponents in Congress aren't giving up because we won a short-term victory on the rider. **Representatives Gibbs** of Ohio, **Holden** of Pennsylvania, and **Mica** of Florida are circulating a letter to their colleagues in the House asking EPA and the Corps not to issue the guidance. The League and our partners in the hunting and angling community responded within 24 hours with a letter to the full House highlighting significant inaccuracies in the Congressmen's letter and urging Representatives not to sign it. This is yet another example of the persistent challenges we will face in the weeks and months ahead.

Thanks again for all your hard work, Scott. If you have questions you can contact Scott at 301.548.0150 ext 223 IWLA National office.



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**Conservation Needs a Friend ..... Ask a friend to join the IKEs!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN & AGES \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$50, \_\_\_\_ Family - \$68, \_\_\_\_ Student (18-21) - \$24, \_\_\_\_ Youth (under 18) - \$13

Mail to Ron Waybrant, 4905 Cresthill Dr NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525. 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 \$36 for individual and \$54 for family memberships, which includes \$4.00 for *Outdoor America* magazine. Magazine is inseparable from dues. Chapter and Division dues may vary.



# DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

## Core Event Schedule 2011 (2-15-2011)

Chairperson

May .....	<u>Kids Fishing every Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon ....@ CC .....</u>	Bill Kirk
May 17, Tuesday .....	Steak Dinner/Annual Elections.....	Tom Watson
<b>June 15, 22, 29 &amp; July 6 .....</b>	<b><u>Kids FREE Fishing at Versluis Lake, Plainfield Twsp. 6:30-8 pm..</u></b>	Jim Biener
June 18, Saturday .....	Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC .....	Houseman
July 12-15 .....	2011 Ike's Convention, Des Moines, Iowa .....	Open to all Members
August 18, Thursday .....	Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Program@ CC ....	Houseman-program, Watson-food
September 14 , Wednesday .....	Oktoberfest @ CC.....	Bob Stegmier
September ??, Saturday.....	Michigan Division Meeting DLC-CC .....	Div. Pres. John Sturgis
October 12, Wednesday .....	Potluck with Program @ CC.....	Board
November 10, Thursday .....	Game Dinner @ CC.....	Tom Watson
December TBD .....	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant.....	Jay Huston

## PURPLE LOOESTRIFE

**Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair**

Got the nonnative invasive wetland plant **Purple loosestrife** on your wetland?

**Jim Biener** and **Bob Stegmier** can help. We have been doing this control effort for about 5 years now and here we go again in May 2011 spreading the Purple Loosestrife control beetle *Gallerucella californiensis*, and volunteers are the key again. This program has lots of proven success and as Jim Biener likes to say, "is fun, easy and rewarding."

An imported beetle that eats only the invasive Purple Loosestrife plant is used to allow restoration of native wetland plants such as the very visible cattails and others. Jim Biener and Bob Stegmier are looking for volunteers with good eyesight and steady hands to again collect these beetles and spread them into loosestrife infested wetlands during late May. We are a few weeks later this year because of the colder than normal spring. Jim, 361.1353, coordinates the efforts in the townships of Cannon and Grattan. Bob

Stegmier 866.4769 or [rstegmier@amertech.net](mailto:rstegmier@amertech.net) coordinates the efforts for the IKEs with the **Rogue River Watershed Council**, which works in the Rogue River watershed.

But this year we are glad to advise any Ike member that has a loosestrife problem on their lake, along their creek or in the wetland. We'll help you find the beetles and tell you everything you need to know to successfully transport them to your problem site. Contact us!

### Would you like to make a special donation for a project of your choice?

Native plants for Teardrop Island      Boy Scout Bridge  
General Budget: wherever needed most      Parking Lighting

Here is my tax deductible contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to: IWLA - Dwight Lydell Chapter  
Mail to: Fred Eyer, treasurer, 2488 Rockhill NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525





# ASIAN CARP

Bob Stegmier

## CHICAGO URGES ARMY CORPS TO RREPORT ON CARP SOONER

By Dan Egan of the Journal Sentinel  
 © April 10, 2011  
*Reuters*



“Invasive species are a significant and immediate threat, and separation of the watersheds is an important opportunity to invest in and improve the environment, our infrastructure and our economy. We cannot go slow or take a wait and see approach. The study must be expedited.” *Rahm Emanuel, Chicago mayor-elect*

### GREAT LAKES, GREAT PERIL

**Special Section:** This series will periodically examine challenges facing the Great Lakes in what experts forecast will be the century of water.

Chicago is leaning on the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** to fast-track an ongoing study to protect Chicago’s Lake Michigan shoreline - and the rest of the Great Lakes - from an Asian carp invasion.

“The proposed timeline for the study is too long,” Chicago environment commissioner **Suzanne Malec-McKenna** wrote to the Army Corps on March 25. “The threat of Asian carp has been known for more than a decade. It is not acceptable to wait another five years for solutions. We urge the Corps to speed up this timeline to every extent possible.”

It is an ironic twist of history, considering that Chicago sparked the problem over 111 years ago when it obliterated the natural barrier between the Mississippi River basin and Lake Michigan by constructing the **Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal**.

The canal remains the linchpin in the Windy City’s giant plumbing system that flushes waste away from its Lake Michigan drinking water intake pipes, down the Mississippi and into the Gulf of Mexico. The canal, which reversed the flow of the Chicago River so it flowed out of Lake Michigan instead of into it, was built to send about 6 billion gallons of

Lake Michigan water per day into the Mississippi basin, though a Supreme Court ruling has capped that amount at about 2 billion gallons per day.

Harsh feelings still linger among Illinois’ Great Lakes neighbors about the water grab, but today they are eclipsed by the fact that the canal has become the prime pathway for the giant invasive fish to make their way out of the Asian carp-infested Mississippi basin and into Lake Michigan.

The Army Corps, prodded by Congress, is now exploring what it will take to plug that canal and restore the natural hydrologic separation between the two massive drainage

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radkerobert@aol.com

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basins, a move that could severely affect the barge industry that operates on the canal system, as well as the way Chicago manages floodwaters.

It could also mean trouble for the Chicago area's sewage treatment system because it would no longer have the luxury of sending highly contaminated wastewater toward the Gulf of Mexico, a trip that allows the sun, temperature and time to bake the bad stuff out before it flows from taps in downstream cities such as St. Louis.

But some see the project as an opportunity to upgrade wastewater treatment plants whose discharges are among the nation's nastiest, as well as a chance to enhance the way cargo flows through the extremely congested region by rebuilding the canal system so it's better integrated with roads and rails.

Add the City of Chicago to that group.

"We encourage you to consider solutions that provide multiple co-benefits beyond the aquatic invasive species issue, especially for the Chicago region," wrote Malec-McKenna to the Army Corps in the last week of a public comment period on its study. "This is a unique opportunity to positively affect change around long-standing issues related to flooding, storm water management, ecological degradation, transportation and navigation."

That strategy was the focus of a *Journal Sentinel* series last summer. The idea of re-reversing the Chicago River so it again flows into Lake Michigan instead of the Mississippi basin has also won support from

Chicago Mayor **Richard Daley**.

Daley will leave office in May, but his successor, **Rahm Emanuel**, has already publicly embraced the idea of pushing the Army Corps to complete the study as early as possible.



"Invasive species are a significant and immediate threat, and separation of the watersheds is an important opportunity to invest in and improve the environment, our infrastructure and our economy," Emanuel wrote during his mayoral campaign this year in response to a questionnaire from a coalition of conservation groups. "We cannot go slow or take a wait and see approach. The study must be expedited."

### SCOPE OF STUDY CRITICIZED

The Army Corps' study follows a



2007 directive from Congress to conduct a "feasibility study of the range of options and technologies available to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other aquatic pathways."

That work is just beginning now, and by far the biggest threat to both basins is the 160-foot wide, 20-foot deep sewage-carrying canal, but there are a number of other potential smaller pathways between the basins, including areas in Minnesota, Ohio and Indiana. That's one of the reasons the Army Corps is saying the work won't be done until 2015 at the earliest.

The Army Corps also has adjusted the focus of its study to look at options that will "prevent or reduce the risk" of invasions - not just prevent.

That switch has riled environmental groups, which say it conflicts with an explicit congressional directive. They worry it will waste time and money by exploring less-than-sure solutions, which they say are no solution at all.

"The only permanent and sustainable solution to this problem is hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basin," states a March 31 letter to the Army Corps from a coalition of environmental groups that includes the **National Wildlife Federation**, the **Alliance for the Great Lakes**, the **Natural Resources Defense Council** and **Great Lakes United**.

"Very simply, if water does not flow between the two great watersheds, aquatic plants, animals and diseases will not be able to migrate actively or passively



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between the two.”

Army Corps officials say they changed the scope of the study because it may be impossible to devise a plan that will absolutely prevent new invasions. It is indeed worth noting that Great Lakes' invasive **quagga mussels** have made their way over the **Continental Divide** and are now ravaging Western waters, the likely result of hitchhiking on the hull of a recreational boat.

There is no reason to think foolish - or malicious - humans couldn't also transport the fish around any man-made barrier on the Chicago canal system, but Asian carp experts say a full-blown Great Lakes invasion will take more than just a handful of fish making their way past the barrier - it will take a sustained exposure. That's why so many people think it's so important to put a plug in the canal.

It'd be a big job, but last month a bipartisan coalition of Great Lakes lawmakers, including Illinois Sen. **Dick Durbin**, a Democrat, and Michigan Rep. **Dave Camp**, a Republican, introduced legislation that would compel the Corps to complete the portion of the study that focuses on the Chicago canal system within 18 months.

## CURRENT TROUBLES

Without that legislation, there is no reason to believe a permanent solution to the Chicago River problem will be in place anytime in the next several years; once the study is released in 2015, it would still likely take years for a new barrier system to be engineered and constructed.

In the meantime, the best defense for the lakes is an electric barrier system on the canal about 35 miles downstream from Lake Michigan.

It isn't operating at a level strong enough to repel juvenile fish.

The Army Corps acknowledged this in a report released March 25, but agency officials said there is no reason for people to worry at this point because they don't believe young Asian carp are anywhere near the barrier.

Water samples taken below and above the barrier have repeatedly shown evidence of Asian carp DNA in the area, and last summer an adult Asian carp was found above the barrier within several miles of Lake Michigan.

But scientists say juvenile fish typically trail the big fish in migrating north, and the Army Corps said in its new report that its "best estimate" is that the closest possible

breeding grounds for Asian carp is about 25 miles downstream from the barrier, and there are three navigation locks between that area and the barrier.

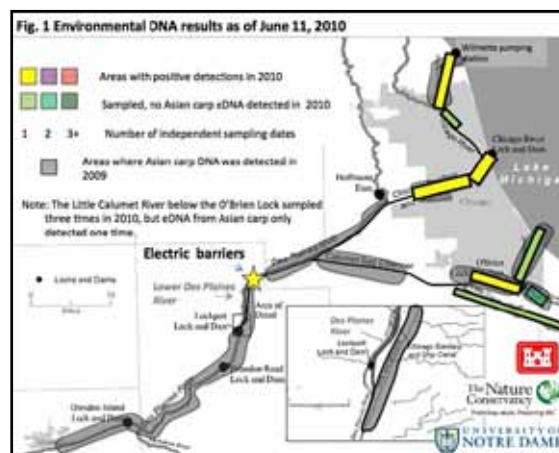
The Army Corps reports that new lab tests show the barrier needs to be turned up from 2 volts per inch to 2.3 volts per inch to stop fish smaller than 5.7 inches.

Little fish have a smaller surface area and consequently need a bigger jolt to be repelled.

The barrier could be turned up almost immediately, but **Maj. Gen. John Peabody** said his agency is still evaluating potential hazards that higher voltage could pose for canal barge operators, many of whom carry flammable materials. Those studies are expected to continue into the spring, but "I am fully prepared to change the (barrier's) operating parameters if the threat evaluation changes and tells us there is a compelling need," Peabody told the *Journal Sentinel* on March 29.

The problem is discerning the extent of that threat. Asian carp expert **Duane Chapman**, a biologist with the **U.S. Geological Survey**, says even if fish are spawning just 25 miles from the barrier, that doesn't mean little fish are about to be pushing on the barrier at any moment. He explained that after Asian carp spawn in a river, the eggs and young fish float downstream on the current, sometimes more than 100 miles.

But Chapman said there is always the slight chance that spawning populations exist closer to the barrier than people realize.



"I'm fairly confident they are not there, but there is always room for error," he said.

That idea of an undetected spawning population worries some who have been following the carp's migration for more than a decade.

"The biggest problem is we can barely monitor for large fish, especially at low densities," said **Phil Moy**, a former Army Corps employee who now works for **University of Wisconsin Sea**

**Grant** and is the co-chair of the "technical policy and work group" for the federal government's **Regional Coordinating Committee** in the Asian carp fight.

"We currently have almost no capability to monitor for small fish unless they're highly abundant," Moy added. "So how will the Corps determine that (it's) the right time to run (the barrier) at the higher setting before it's too late?"



**Dwight Lydell Chapter  
of the Izaak Walton League**  
4905 Cresthill Dr NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

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Organization  
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Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods,  
Waters and Wildlife  
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# Steak and Chicken Dinner

**Tuesday May 17th**

## Annual Election of Chapter Officers

**Please help by bringing a dessert or  
a side dish and a friend or two.**



**Make your reservations with Bob and Gail Stegmier,  
866.4769 or [rstegmier@ameritech.net](mailto:rstegmier@ameritech.net)**

**Adults \$8 ages 6-12 \$4 with ages under six FREE  
as are first time guests!**

## SUMMERFEST

**Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>**

**FAMILY FUN plus  
demonstrations and  
workshops.**



**FREE LUNCH  
provided!**

