



www.michiganikes.org

May 2017

The IKEs Update

Hey, the **Fly Fishing Workshop** was really cool! Lots of new enthusiasts, and a couple new members joining. Thanks to **Drew Nelson** and **Rick Wylie** for their expertise!

Please remember that we follow this with our month of **Kids' Fishing** on Saturdays in May from 10:00 to 2:00. With everyone so busy, we thought we'd offer a longer time. Kids really need slow time, pond time. Due to the extended hours, we could use some happy helpers; it's a very satisfying thing to do, watching kids catch fish in the pond. Hang out, bring a little picnic, check out the wildflowers.

Speaking of wildflowers, the **Tear-Drop Island Native Plant Garden** is gorgeous, and we'd like to keep it that way. Somebody helped themselves to plants last year, which is not cool. But if anyone is interested in getting some nice natives started, the cool way, **Tammy Lundeen** would be happy to help you out. Contact her at sheisgrowingwild@gmail.com for native plants that

are great for pollinators, rain gardens, dry situations, etc. She, **Tam Bagby** and **Barb McGuirl** are usually at the garden on Tuesdays at 1:00 if you'd like some "hands-on learning." Contact Tammy for exact day and time.

Ladies! Remember when I mentioned the full-moon group I walk with every month? Well, we're bringing it to the IKEs' on **Friday, June 9**. The plan is to gather around 7:30, bring some snacks, maybe a beverage, wander out to a good spot for moonrise viewing at 9:30, share some thoughts, quotes, poems, or ideas, sit around the campfire and have a good time. I've been doing this for a year now, love it, and have made some good friends. If you have daughters or friends who might like it, bring them along. Those who wish may bring a tent and spend the night. Sorry guys, this is a "top secret" women's gathering only, but we can do more campfires and campouts for everyone another time.

And how about that **Wild Game Dinner**? Yum! That was delicious.

Bring the children in your life down for **KIDS' FISHING!** Every Saturday in May, 9am - 2pm All equipment is provided, and **it's FREE!**

See you on a Saturday soon, for fishing, flower-walking, relaxing fun! Bring your hammock and call dibs on the hill.

Georgia Donovan

Did you know that the Dwight Lydell IKEs have a connection to **Luton Park** in Cannon Township? Member **Steve Williams** has an article on page 5 describing the history of his family and the park.

Game Dinner

Tom Watson

Thirty-five IKEs and guests enjoyed a great fish and game dinner on April 20. Also that night **Maurie Houseman** was presented the **Tobin Award**, with which the national IWLA honors long-time IKEs contributors. (See related article on page 3).

The **Kitchen Krew: Tam Bagby, Georgia Donovan, Barry Gilbertson, Jack Hornbach, Maurie Houseman, Len Kizer, Tammy Lundeen** and me.

Assisting the Kitchen Krew in **Klean Up** were: **Darva Boot, Jim Schneider** and some folks who blurred in and out of the kitchen so fast I didn't take note. **Fred Eyer** vacuumed the dining room, **Bob Stegmier** tended bar and **Ron Waybrant** manned the door.

Lots of great food: Florida fish supplied by Darva, Jack, Maurie and new young member, **Christopher Anderson**. Whitefish supplied by **Lenny Kurello, Goose**

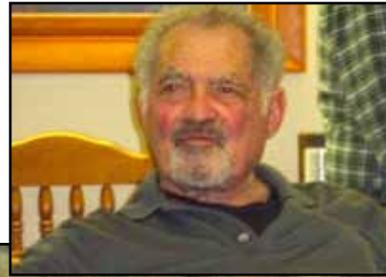
by **John Stegmeier** and prepared on site by Georgia. Wild boar supplied by new member, **Rodney Offhaus**. Venison meatballs by **Bob and Maryanne Schumacher**. There were also various delicious side dishes and desserts to sample, including my world-famous lemon meringue pie.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in, especially to those whose names escape me now.





A big thank you to **Darva Boot** for being our press photographer all these years!



Thank You Maurie Houseman

At the Fish & Game Dinner when **Bob Stegmier** asked me to say a few words in accepting the **Tobin Award**, I was not prepared to speak, and my biggest failure was not thanking the membership for their support and letting everyone know how much I appreciated receiving the award.. I feel I have done a lot in the thirty years since I have been a member, and it has been a labor of love for the IKEs mission, for our beautiful property, and for the wonderful friends I have worked with and enjoyed over that time. I highly recommend to our members that they take an active role in the IKEs.

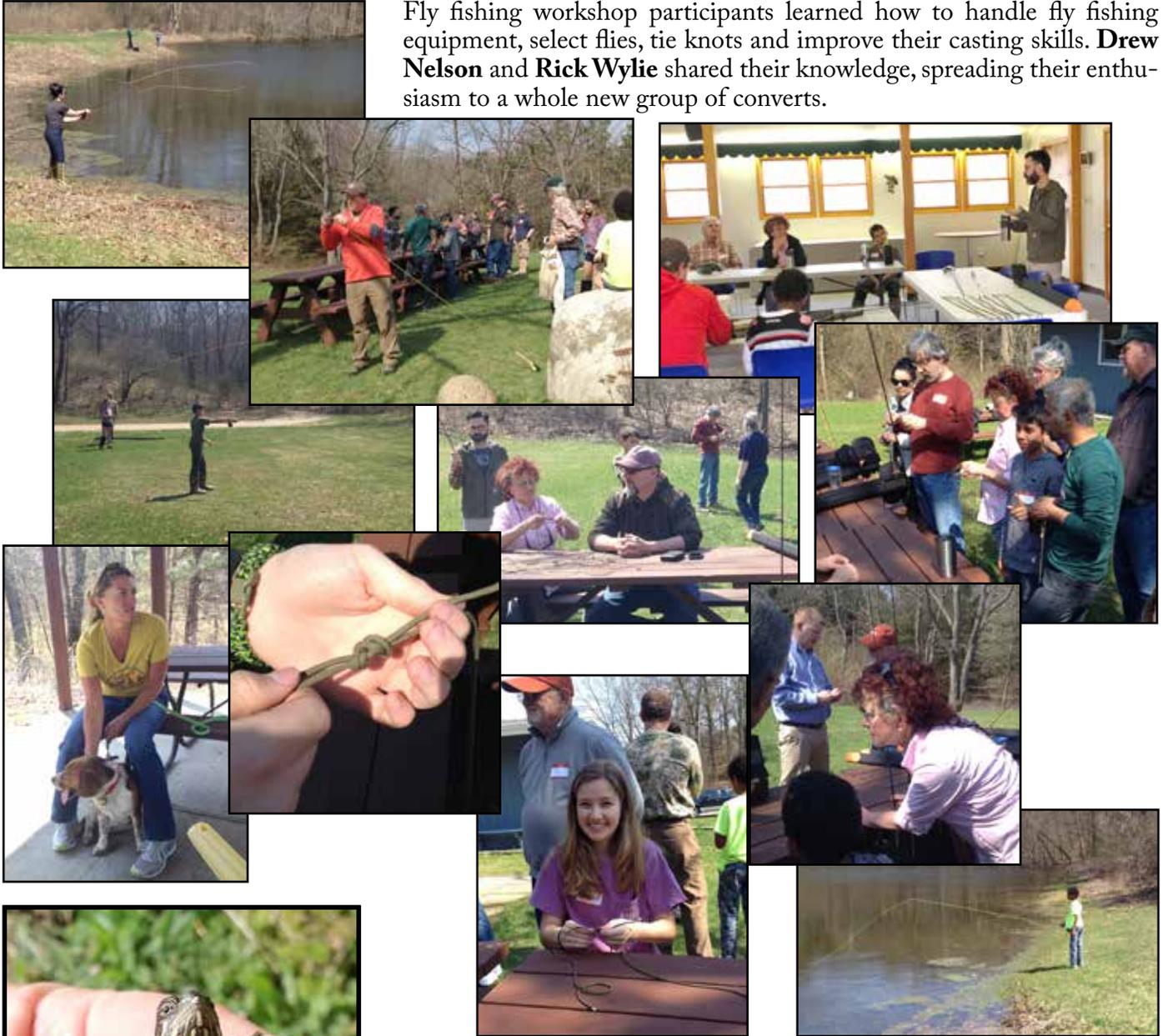
There is much to do. And it's very rewarding. Also using and enjoying the property with friends is important. Maybe consider inviting some friends over for family fishing, or canoeing, with a cook out and bon fire or even overnight camping. We have a new **Porta Potty**, a couple of canoes and hopefully a kayak or two in the future.

Come to a board meeting, they are open to all members, and give your thoughts and ideas. Board meetings are usually at the lodge at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Give us your ideas. A member, **Linda Lillibridge** came of with the idea of **Dog Day**, which we will hold as an added event this summer. Also tell as many families as you can about our **Summerfest** on Saturday, **June 24**. We've even had birthday parties scheduled on that day and the kids have had a wonderful time with all of the activities.

Fly-Fishing Workshop

Fly fishing workshop participants learned how to handle fly fishing equipment, select flies, tie knots and improve their casting skills. **Drew Nelson** and **Rick Wylie** shared their knowledge, spreading their enthusiasm to a whole new group of converts.



Don't forget to watch out for **TURTLES** crossing the road! Slow down & give 'em a hand.

SOME SPECIAL LOCAL EVENTS:

- 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.

Luton Park

Steve Williams

My mother, **Nancy Jane Luton** (1922 - 2007) and **Harry Heathcote Luton** (1920 - 2008) were brother and sister and grew up in Comstock Park. Both graduated from Central High School and both received advanced degrees from the University of Michigan.

My uncle Harry married **Josephine Johnson** of Sparta on, I think, April 30, 1943, right before my uncle left for the war in the South Pacific. (It was a minor crisis that my uncle and aunt married on the Opening Day of the trout season – but my uncle had his priorities straight at that moment.)

After the war, both of my parents and my uncle and aunt returned to Michigan and raised their families in East Grand Rapids. My cousins are **Jane** (b. 1944), **Harry Jr.** (b. 1946), **John** (b. 1948), **Robert** (b. 1951) and **David** (born and died 1953).

Now to the Park:

After the war, my uncle became a successful periodontist in downtown Grand Rapids. His father before him was an early dentist in Grand Rapids but had died in 1937.

I will guess that in the late 1950's or early 1960's, my uncle decided to buy 160 acres of rolling land on Kies Avenue between Cortland Avenue and Myers Lake Road with

10 Mile Road on the north. I do not know who the seller was or what Uncle Harry paid for the land. There was an old farmhouse and an old barn on the property. About thirty acres or so had been cleared and was, I think, used to grow corn or wheat or hay. My uncle also planted some red pines in some of the open spaces over the years.

My uncle did not require that the farmer move. Instead, he allowed the farmer to remain and continue to farm the open land. I imagine there was a rental arrangement, but I know of no details.



In all honesty, I did not utilize the property much despite my uncle's regular invitations to enjoy the property. Although no one ever made a single negative comment, I always felt that the property was my uncle's and aunt's and cousins' special place and I did not want to intrude.

And it was **Their Special Place**. The Lutons always referred to it as "The Farm."

In the sixties, seventies and eighties, my cousins would walk down into the wooded valley and have picnics along **Rum Creek**. Actually, a tributary stream flowed in from the southwest, which was called "Mother's Creek" after my aunt.

The tributary and Rum Creek were clear, cold trout streams choked at places with thick watercress beds. I fished Rum Creek a handful of times in my youth and caught a few beautiful, small, wild trout – only two of which I ever killed for my uncle and aunt to eat.

My cousins largely left the property untouched and wild. There were crude deer/walking trails and two bridges over the creeks, but, otherwise, it was beautiful rolling woodlands and wet areas with Trilliums, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, violets, Marsh Marigolds and Blue Flag Iris and wonderful birdsongs and wildlife.

My uncle was a lifelong angler, hunter, birdwatcher and conservationist. Not long after returning from the war, he became active – as did my father, my cousin John and me – in the IKEs. I think my step-grandfather, **Roland Shivel**, was also a member. Uncle Harry, John and I all served as President at one time or another.

As conservationists, we all sought the wise use and careful harvest of our precious natural resources. As I understand it, Uncle Harry hunted The Farm (lightly) for deer, grouse, woodcock and rabbits. I believe there

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Luton Park (continued from page 7)

was even a time long ago when there were still a few pheasants and maybe even some quail in the farmed acreage. I tried bird hunting – alone without a dog – a few times but I only wounded a few trees.

One final family recollection: each year even to the point when I was at college and law school, my cousins would go to The Farm after Thanksgiving and they would harvest a seven or eight foot pine Christmas tree. They were not the most symmetrical trees, but they were perfect because they were from The Farm. It was always considered good luck if the tree was found to have a bird's nest in it from the previous spring.

As with all of us, time marched onward. The great, colorful IKEs that I remember from my teenage involvement now forty years ago, **Jack London, Chuck Worden, Andy VanderVeen, Dan Spalink, Bruce and Pat Dutcher, Carl Edmonds, Glen Morris, Bob Wiersma, Don Breckenridge, Sam Glassmoyer** and so many more, are now fishing and hunting where there is no more winter.

My cousins, like my brother and sister and I, all moved on with their lives, some quite far from Michigan.

As my Uncle Harry and my Aunt Jo reached their seventies, they realized that they had to make a decision about The Farm. The farmer had long ago left the farmhouse so there was no rental or crop income. And the **Rockford School District** had gone from a small rural system to a behemoth filled with expensive land developments. I'm sure that

the annual property tax bill was getting to be very hefty.

And I'm equally sure that my uncle and aunt were getting regular calls from developers.

The solution was easy. Solicit bids from developers and sell the 160 acres for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Far more than I'm sure that my uncle had paid.

I'm sure that my uncle and aunt considered that.

But I'm also sure that they considered the Christmas trees and the grouse drumming and the fresh blackberries in August and the picnics by "Mother's Creek."

And I suspect that without so much as a second thought, they realized that the land could never be surrendered to tree-cutting, bulldozers, dump trucks, sewer lines and telephone poles. The Farm and its memories were simply too precious to surrender to a bunch of 3,000 square foot homes with hot tubs, swimming pools and asphalt roads.

So, with a little help from me, my uncle and aunt contacted **Roger Sabine** at the **Kent County Parks and Recreation Department** and proposed to give The Farm to the county. After some negotiations, that was done in 1993 with the conditions that (1) the land could never be sold or become a residential or commercial development, (2) a preservation plan had to be implemented by the county within five years and (3) it had to be called **Luton Park**.

The county complied with points (1) and (3), but point (2) proved

to be problematic. I don't believe that Luton Park was officially dedicated until 2005—twelve years after the gift. And I'm not sure if my cousins would or would not be thrilled that it's a mountain bike park.

In 2000, the county bought an adjacent 100 acres, so Luton Park is now 260 acres which, I believe my Uncle Harry would approve of.

My name is **Steven Luton Williams**, so, I suppose, that I should visit the park and renew old acquaintances with it. **Tom Watson** and **Georgia Donovan** tell me that it's a wonderful place. I'm sure that the **Spring Peepers** are calling as I write this and the **Marsh Marigolds** should be out again soon as they have long before white settlers arrived in the area.

One final note: one of the donors of this special gift is still alive and quite well. My aunt **Josephine Luton** will be 98 years old this August and she resides in **Clark Retirement Home** in East Grand Rapids. Aunt Jo has limits to her mobility but she is very alert (and eagerly awaiting the Tiger's season to begin) and would, I'm sure, welcome any cards anyone might happen to send her way to thank her and my uncle for the generous and unselfish gift of a property that could easily have been lost to all of us. As IKEs, we all know that we must never give up the fight to preserve natural places like Luton Park for the generations to come.

God Bless Harry and Jo Luton.

Luton Park Prairie

Tam Bagby

Photographs by Georgia Donovan

If you are interested in wildflowers, **Luton Park** has a prairie off of **Kies Street** with different flowers every month. Come watch the landscape change colors and textures as you walk the paths. Here are some wildflowers you will find if you visit in May. The woodlands are carpeted with the Spring Beauties and the Trout Lillies are all along Rum Creek. Please go to the IKEs website to see these beautiful blooms in color!



Hepatica



Trout Lillies

Next month we will have photos of wildflowers that bloom in June.

Send us your fishing, camping or other outdoor stories and we'll publish them in the newsletter. Send plain text and a photo or two, jpg format to: twwatson@comcast.net



Mayapple



Spring Beauties

Lobby Day

Georgia Donovan

On April 19 I participated in a citizens' **Lobby Day** in Lansing regarding the **Enbridge Line 5** pipelines crossing the **Straits of Mackinac**. The single-walled pipes are now 64 years old, missing a few supports, and known to sway as currents fluctuate. They deliver Canadian tar sand bitumen from Alberta to Ontario. It's a nice shortcut for them, but I doubt we'd allow something like that to be installed now. I learned that sometimes they also transport natural gas, but the stuff that is destined to heat homes in the U.P. is off-loaded at **Rapid River**, long before it crosses the Straits. If decommissioned, one alternative would be to deliver the propane by 4-5 trucks or 1-2 rail cars per day.

A **University of Michigan** study determined the Straights are "[T]he worst possible place for a spill in the Great Lakes," leading to a potential 700 miles of shoreline contamination, Mackinac boat traffic problems, tourism and fishing shutdowns,

etc., because clean up would be fairly impossible. The coast Guard estimate is 40%, and that's if the weather is good. If you Google **umich.edu** line 5 you can see the video.

The **IWLA** has asked for at least double-walled pipes. **Oil and Water Don't Mix**, an organization of about 60 groups in Michigan, favoring a shut down, organized the Lobby-Day. I think any attention to the issue helps. Bi-partisan **Senate Bill 292** proposes to have a 3rd party assessment of the pipeline, and provides provisions for shutting it down if deemed unsafe. There are currently 8 violations. The **House** also has a resolution under consideration. The **Governor** and **Attorney General** have the legal right to shut it down. This is the time to study Line 5, so safety can be assured before someday it cracks.

We do not want to see our treasured fresh water with
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Teardrop Island

Tam Bagby

And as we are talking flowers, Georgia wrote in her IKEs Update about the **Tear-Drop Island Native Plant Garden**. We have been cleaning and weeding the Garden for the past few weeks and it is looking beautiful. We have all kinds of native plants sticking their heads out of the ground and some that are already blooming! Every week is a different look and new flowers and plants to enjoy.

If you want to join us, please contact **Tammy Lundeen** at: sheisgrowingwild@gmail.com



Dutchman's Breeches



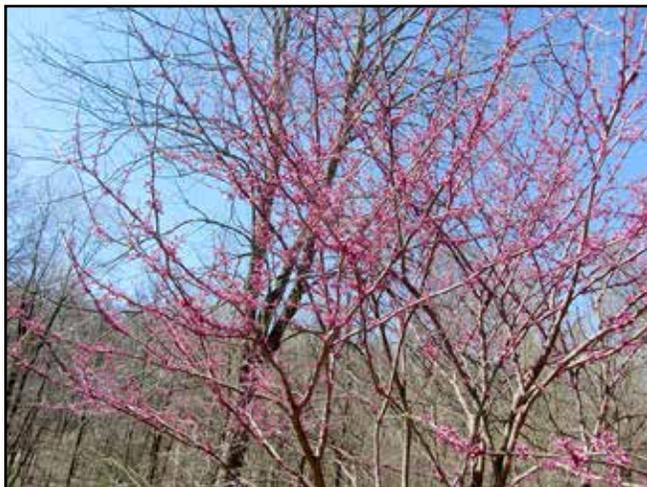
Bloodroot



Marsh Marigold

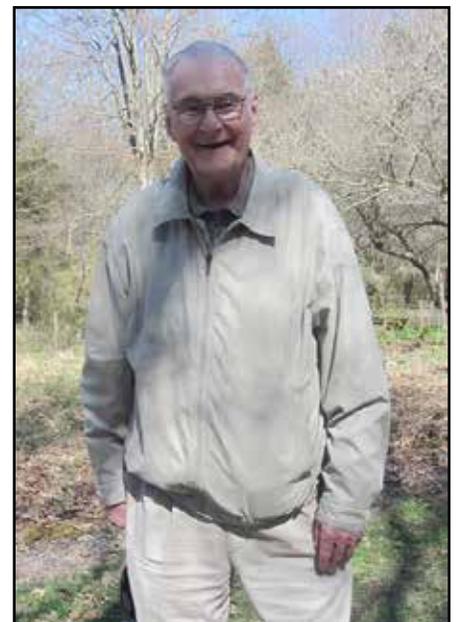


Dogwood tree



Redbud tree

Ran into an old friend while visiting Teardrop Island! Here is Roger Erhart back to walk the property. He says hi to all!



Lobby Day

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globs of oil, and we certainly don't have funding for a clean up. It'd be worse than the Enbridge spill in the **Kalamazoo River**. Enbridge employs 250 contractors in Michigan, in various capacities. The Great Lakes represent a \$7 billion economy. One company's convenience versus clean water and beaches for our grandchildren. In my own opinion, the risks outweigh whatever benefits there may be. Of the 5 offices we visited, 4 were very concerned about Line 5 and interested in finding out more about the repercussions and alternatives.

There are many issues we can't do much about, but here in Michigan, we have 20% of the world's fresh water, and it deserves respect. I hope we'll continue to contact legislators, and that they take these concerns seriously, rather than waiting for a mistake to happen.

**Deadline for the
June issue is
Monday, May 15 at 8:00 AM.**

LODGE CALENDAR	
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
August 5-6	Tom Watson Rental

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

FIND MICHIGANIKES ON FACE-BOOK SO WE CAN SEND UPDATES OUT IF THERE IS SHORT NOTICE ON EVENTS, OR SHARE PICTURES!

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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)

Remnant fish species discovered in Antrim County

Bob Stegmier

Member **Mary Hefferan** sent this article to me and I thought it was worth putting in our IKEs newsletter. Some of us are old enough to remember as these original Lake Trout were disappearing from Lake Michigan, with the beginnings of the Sea Lamprey problem!



This is from the web magazine *Nature Change* by **Joe Van Dermeulen** Jan 2, 2017

Researchers have discovered a very special population of fish lurking in the depths of **Elk Lake** in Antrim County. These fish share a unique heritage, linking them to the native lake trout that disappeared from Lake Michigan over 50 years ago.

Killed by sea lamprey invading from the Atlantic Ocean and caught in too-many fishing nets, the native populations of lake trout were wiped out of Lake Michigan by the late 1950s. Only small, remnant populations carried on in Lake Superior and distant corners of the Great Lakes.

State fisheries biologist, **Jory Jonas** says, "Lake Michigan does not have any remnant forms. And, at this time, every fish that

you collect, except for a few, are from stocking, primarily from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Jonas points out that researchers have believed that there were no native lake trout left anywhere in the Lake Michigan basin. So, she had quite a surprise while riding along with an inland lake survey.

"Yeah, I was out on a survey that I wasn't even supposed to be on with an inland lake crew," she said. "And they set this large trap net and they caught two lake trout and I happened to be on-board when they caught them. And I started asking questions. They looked like something different, and I wanted to know why they were there and who they were."

Since the mid-1960s, the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** has worked with other state and federal agencies, Indian tribes, and academic institutions to rebuild a self-sustaining population of lake trout in Lake Michigan. Using a system of hatcheries, they raise fish from eggs and brood stock taken from distant places like Lake Superior and even the **Finger Lakes** of New York. Each of these strains of lake trout look and behave a bit differently from each other.

Research completed by Jonas and her colleagues shows that the Elk Lake trout is genetically distinct from the fish currently being stocked in Lake Michigan, and it looks different too. This fish is more torpedo-shaped than the others, with slightly different fin

characteristics. Recent research conducted by CMU graduate student, **Kyle Broadway** indicates that the Elk Lake strain also behaves differently than the other stocked trout.

"The Elk Lake fish," Broadway says, "tended to occupy much lower temperatures than what Great Lakes or Finger Lakes-origin lake trout were shown to occupy."

Broadway, Jonas and other researchers hope that the Elk Lake strain of lake trout might help to restore self-sustaining populations in Lake Michigan someday. If this fish can be raised in hatcheries and re-introduced, the Elk Lake strain might occupy colder, deeper water than other predator fish, like salmon and other lake trout. At those depths, it might also avoid commercial fishing nets.

Jonas says restoration of naturally reproducing lake trout would be a big success for fisheries biologists. The restoration of lost genetic diversity Jonas says, "would also be extremely valuable, and create a more resilient population to handle future changes that might be down the line."

Over the last few years, researchers have been finding more and more wild fish, as opposed to hatchery-raised fish. That suggests that the lake is changing in ways that are helping this native predator reproduce in the wild.

So, maybe this is a good time to re-introduce one of Lake Michigan's original strains of lake trout hidden for so many years in Elk Lake.

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
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pass it on to a friend.

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

STEAK AND CHICKEN DINNER
AND ANNUAL ELECTIONS



THURSDAY, MAY 11TH
SOCIAL HOUR 6 PM, DINNER AT 8PM

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
AND A DISH TO PASS.

ADULTS \$8, YOUTH 6 - 12 \$4 AND
UNDER 6 FREE AS ARE 1ST TIME GUESTS!

FIX UP, CLEAN UP
DAY JUNE 10

JUNE 24
SUMMERFEST