



A SPORTSPERSON'S
CONSERVATION CLUB
Conservation Center
5641 Myers Lake Ave.
Belmont MI, 49306

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

www.michiganikes.org

June 2012

GEORGIA'S CORNER

Camping! Fun “unplugged!”

I'll bet those of you who got to go camping when you were young remember it well. Without the usual 4 walls and a roof you automatically connect to nature, because you really are a part of it. Not only is the space changed, but time is, too. Here you are, with no schedule other than that of nature's, and time oozes out between events. You never know when you'll see the bird, the bear, or the chipmunk stealing your cookies. Camping out increases the chance of discovering a thing called “extra time.” Your kids might get bored, but only until they try to make boats out of twigs and leaves and set them sailing across the water. Or whatever comes to their minds.

Please feel free to use your membership to camp at the IKEs this summer! The scouts have made some good benches and fire rings, and there are some nice private spots to pitch a tent, between the quiet pines and the

creek. Probably best to check with **Jan Kuzma** to see that there are no major rental events, but there's room enough for several camping groups to spread out, and camping is free. Unlike a commercial campground, here you can pick your spot.

The **Nature Club** kids have been loving the exploring we do. A couple of them have grandparents who taught them about some wild edible plants and we've been nibbling a few leaves here and there. Woodsorrel, lambs quarters, curly dock, violets, and then the plantain to use as a bandaid. I knew it contained an antibiotic, but just recently learned the Native American method of pulling out the ribs from the veins and heating it, which will allow it to draw out impurities when applied to a sting or sliver.



Highlights This Issue:

- Elections Results
- Membership Survey
- Scholarship Awards
- Kids Fishing

...and much more!

We also saw a beautiful Broad-winged Hawk recently, and a whole lotta tadpoles!

Summerfest is June 23, from 10:00 - 3:00. Tell people to come on over! It's a great chance to see what our chapter has to offer. Please be a part of



it, whether you bring yourself, some visitors, or join in. We need 2 people to help with kayaking, one or two to assist with the archery, someone to hand out treats after the scavenger hunt, and others to generally pitch in with birdhouses, rain barrels, and the **(continued on page 6)**

BIG GREEN RAFFLE...Continues!

All in support of Conservation Education, Scholarships, Kids Nature Club, Winterfest, Summerfest Save our Stream and more.

\$10 a Ticket or \$20 for 3 Tickets

A total of \$3000 to be given away with three \$500 winners and 30 \$50 winners!

\$1000 each of three drawings

Drawings 9/12/12, 10/11/12 & 11/8/12

Dwight Lydell Chapter IWLA

MSL # C25581

Go to page 9 for a year to date summary!

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Jay Huston

It was a beautiful spring evening with approximately 40 Ikes, friends and relatives, gathering on Thursday, May 17th to enjoy an excellent and well-prepared chicken and steak dinner. After dinner the annual business meeting was held with the election of officers and board members. I presided the proposed slate of candidates. There were no nominations from the floor thus the proposed slate was approved and passed unanimously. There have been no new faces interested in being active in an official capacity this year thus the same ones except some in a different position are serving another year. The Ikes believe in recycling.

The newly elected officers are: President, **Duane De Vries** and **Georgia Donovan**, vice president.



The three term members are **Bill Kirk, C. J. Tasma** and **Tom Watson**. **Barb McGuirl** was elected to a one-year term, as was **Barry Gilbertson** to another one-year term.

Maurie Houseman presented a review of the autumn olive program with past activities and steps that have been taken in eradicating this invasive plant. This ongoing project is one of attention for Ikes and volunteers to monitor the property to keep the plant under control.

There were announcements on the **Garden** program to be presented on Wednesday, May 23rd and the **Big Green Raffle** fundraising project that is underway. Ikes and others are other

to sell, sell, sell tickets. It was an enjoyable and very informative meeting.

GAME DINNER

Tom Watson

Jack Honrbach, John Schuhardt and myself) supplied snapper and other Florida fish, which I fried at the dinner. Many others brought tasty dishes, but as I am writing this in late May, memory fails me, so my apologies to not thanking you by name here.

Linda Arnold Schuhardt helped cook and led the clean up campaign. **Jim** and **Mary Mroz** helped in the kitchen (Jim as official taste tester), as did Van Haften, and others.

Everyone pitched in to help clean up, including **Fred Eyer**, **Georgia**, **Dave** and **Anna May Long** and **Jack Merren**. Again my apologies for missing some of you here.

Ron Waybrant manned the door and I think **Andrew Wisniewski** tended the bar.

Fifty Ikes enjoyed a great game dinner on April 26. Everyone was so busy preparing and eating food, no one had the time to take any photos.

Dick Van Haften brought some pheasant and venison, **Bob Stegmier** roasted a turkey, **Georgia** brought a venison casserole and Tam and I provided crab cakes, frog legs and lemon meringue pie.

The Keys Fishing Krew (**Tam Bagby**, **Darva Boot**, **Maurie Houseman**,

Deadline for the July issue is Monday, June 25th at 8:00 AM.

Thought of the Month
Jay Huston

IF YOU TRULY LOVE NATURE, YOU WILL FIND BEAUTY EVERYWHERE.

Vincent Van Gogh

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE REPORT, JUNE 2012

Bob Stegmier

Fortunately this is one invasive plant where we have a natural control means. This year the results were pretty exciting both in the field and in an informational meeting on February 20. At the RRWC (Rogue River Watershed Council) event in February various environmental issues were discussed and I gave a short presentation on Purple Loosestrife control using the *Gallerucella californiensis* non-native beetle.

Fast forward to April and May when the loosestrife plants began to grow and the beetles emerged to eat on the plant. This is the control in a nutshell. Or should I say, wetland?

From the February meeting we got some new players and a wider audience than just the Rogue River watershed. **Jacqueline Bilello** of the **Land Conservancy of West Michigan** was one of the first to step forward and wanted to collect beetles to transfer to the conservancy's **Palominto Preserve** in Ottawa County. Then there was **John Bagley** from the **Kent County Conservation District**



who just wanted to learn how and where to collect beetles for use in KCCD programs. Then came **Nichol DeMol** of TU's **Home River** program. In there someplace was **Julie Lovelace**, Wetland Assistant at **Cannon Township**. We all went out and found lots of beetles for the taking and transporting to places where there were no beetles but lots of loosestrife.

One thing that Julie and I found was that there were lots of beetles in the wetlands. We visited **Pickrel Lake** and **Lake Bela Vista Dam** to deposit some of our beetle catch. I sent beetles off to South Lyon MI with my daughter, **Amy Schulz** where they found an unoccupied home.

As **Jim Biener** says about this effort, "It is fun, it is easy and it is rewarding." This year was certainly all of that, Jim. Be on the lookout the summer for loosestrife in your wetland so we can release beetles there next spring. Contact me with information and questions at: **616.481.5497** or **rstegmier@ameritech.net**

ATTACK OF THE AUTUMN OLIVE

(and what we can do about it)

Maurie Houseman

Three and four years ago, as part of our FLEP (**F**orest **L**and **E**nhancement **P**lan) grants, we cut and treated thousands of Autumn Olive plants. We made good headway, for a while, but the plants have re-grown in profusion from the seed banks that have built up over the years. The IKEs first planted hundreds of Autumn Olive plants as recommended by the DNR because they gave good cover and the birds ate the berries (the berries have been shown to be a poor source of nutrition for birds). Autumn Olive is a foreign invasive, and has no insects in this ecosystem that feed on it, so it has an advantage over native plants (which support the insects which are an important part of our ecosystem). Thus, it has spread rapidly, with a particularly heavy infestation in **Cannon Township**. The good news is that we now have better knowledge, and better herbicides to deal with the problem.



1. We can renew our efforts to control Autumn Olive and other woody invasives, such as Japanese Barberry, on our own property.
2. We can partner with Cannon Township to inform and motivate neighbors and, better yet, neighborhood associations to work on controlling the problem. **Julie Lovelace** is the assistant to **Bonnie Black-**

ledge, clerk of Cannon Township, and she is in charge of watershed and volunteer activities for the Township. She is enthusiastic about the partnership with the IKEs.

I am inviting all interested IKEs (or non IKEs) to join me, **Bob Stegmier**, **Georgia Donovan**, **Julie Lovelace** and **Larry Allaben** on a committee to plan how we can accomplish the above objectives. We would be dealing with items such as goals, budgets, possible grants, setting up schedules for informative meetings, work sessions, publicity, etc. We will make it fun and rewarding.

Do as much or as little as your time and interest dictates, but please get involved.

Contact **Maurie Houseman** at **616.560.2895** or email **mhouseman@grar.com**

What can we do about it?

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Steve Norman

Hello Ikes. My name is **Steve Norman**. I am a retired educator of the Grand Rapids School System and have been a member of the **Izaak Walton League** since 1990. Recently, I had a conversation with various Ikes about how we might engage more members in activities they may have an interest in. Having been involved in the **Save Our Streams** program, I have some insight as to what that entails and a perspective I would like to share. This has prompted me to write this article concerning interest awareness.

It is my feeling that each individual's involvement in the organization came about due to a passion, in one way or another, for the outdoors. It has been my wish to explore or rekindle that passion with you to see what it is you, as a individual or a family, may like to bring to the Ikes community. My years as a **Career Development Coordinator** in the education system has taught me that to develop active participation in any environment, you need to be aware of others interests and passions.

As an example, my involvement in

Save Our Streams stems from my desire to spend time in the woods, perhaps with a stream to fish or simply walking, surrounded by the pervasive beauty and magic, awakening in the moment to my wife exclaiming, "stand still, you're kicking them over," only to have a patch of morels appear before my eyes. (She always had a better eye than me).

I have spent many hours doing macro-invertebrate testing with students to determine water quality, as well as stream bank restoration projects in the beauty of the outdoors and fully enjoyed it. My hope here is that you will recall your magic moments and that we may identify a way to incorporate them into your involvement as an IKE.

I would ask that each of you provide a list, an interest inventory that would help the board determine a direction and purpose with your input in mind for the future of the organization. This list is not meant as a way to commit you to any activity, but a way to include your input and then provide, if you choose, the opportunity to be involved as a community member. It has been my experience that the board and a few other members have directed and taken on the majority of responsibilities for the organization. Consequently, these people

can become overwhelmed with the amount of work involved.

Here are some examples of talents and interests: We need to provide correspondence with other organizations and articles to local publications concerning our activities. Someone with an interest and skill in writing could be involved on a committee for that purpose. Someone with contacts and an interest in providing different outdoor programs could diversify our potential. This would be in addition to our already wonderful programs and would bring in new members who share an interest in these new programs. A member interested in cooking and sharing a special feast could organize one of our dinners. The list could go on.

My hope is that as a community we can become more inclusive of everyone's passion, and that this will create a more active membership. Below you will find a short questionnaire or interest inventory. Please answer the questions and email them with your name to **ksnriver@comcast.net**? This would give us a beginning in determining interests and creating a more personable connection with each other.

Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,
Steve

This newsletter was produced totally by **Angela Kline**, a student at the **Kent Career Tech Center**.

GREAT JOB ANGIE!



IWLA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Questions to ask yourself, then please email your answers to **ksnriver@comcast.net**

- What are your special interests?
- What are your hobbies?
- What are your skills?
- What brought you to the Izaak Walton League?
- What is your favorite activity in nature?

2012 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Duane De Vries

Each year our chapter offers two \$1,000 Conservation Scholarships to graduating seniors. The recipients this year are **Brianna Brodowski** from Rockford High School and **Christopher Biggs** from Forest Hills Central High School.

Ms. Brodowski is pursuing a field of Wildlife Biology and Mr. Biggs is going into Environmental Science with the goal of a degree in Environmental Law.

In addition to the scholarship, each will receive a complimentary one-year membership in our chapter and the **Izaak Walton League of America.**

Please keep the scholarship awards program in mind if you know students at Forest Hills, Northview, or Rockford who may be pursuing a career in an environmental or conservation field.

IKE'S CAPS AND SHIRTS Advertise the IKEs and our Conservation Mission

*We need to get these items out of the boxes and onto member's bodies and heads. They just don't advertise the IKEs from where they are now. So, the sale is on! **Caps for \$5.00 and Shirts for \$15.00.** All are of very good quality! We have nearly all sizes and the caps are adjustable. Shirts are mostly forest green as are the caps. We do have some shirts in white which are pretty cool. Cool enough to wear to church.*



Ever see a shirt or cap fly? Well, they should just fly out of the boxes at these prices. Contact Bob Stegmier: 616.481.5497 or rstegmier@ameritech.net

Membership Application ... Izaak Walton League of America

Dwight Lydell Chapter, 5641 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 - \$54, ____ Family - \$74, ____ Student (18-21) - \$26, ____ Youth (under 18) - \$13.80

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 \$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.

GEORGIA'S CORNER

(continued from page 1)

lunch table. I'll help with some things ahead of time, but since I have to be gone that day, you are needed instead!

Are you noticing more Autumn Olive than ever? It is rendering many pieces of property useless as it becomes too thick and thorny to walk through. Maybe as it becomes an actual destroyer of property value, people will wake up. We recently learned that in using the cut and daub method, using **Roundup**, must be a special 35% concentration to be effective. Also, there is a new product, called the **Michigan Blend** that is available from **CWC Chemical**. It's different, requires careful use, but contains a penetrating oil that kills Autumn Olive without cutting if sprayed all around the lower trunk. Pull the small seedlings out whenever you see them. They become yucky monocultures. Variety is the spice of life, right?

Georgia Donovan



P.S. If you are Up North June 22-24, the **Michigan Energy Fair** is in Ludington, with fascinating new alternatives! (www.glrea.org)

OFFICERS

- Vice President, Barb McGuirl..... 874.7740
jbm McGuirl@sbcglobal.net
- Secretary, Jim Schneider 340.4604
jim-ms@comcast.net
- Treasurer, Fred Eyer 363.0253
fseyer@gmail.com

Board Members

- Duane DeVries..... 532.9151
duanedv@earthlink.net
- Georgia Donovan 773.2850
georgia.art@att.net
- Barry Gilbertson Gilby40@MSN.com
- Bruce Gilmore 365.8892
- Maurie Houseman..... 560.2895
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- Jay Huston..... 942.2503
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- Bill Kirk..... 874.8230
bkirk@i2k.com
- Bob Stegmier..... 866.4769
rstegmier@ameritech.net
- Marylou Sundt 443.7377
hellomarylou56@yahoo.com
- Tom Watson 874.7254
twwatson@comcast.net

Grounds/Maintenance Chair

- C. J. Tasma..... 887.8542
hsi@handicapsigns.com

Membership Secretary

- Ron Waybrant 361.1422
rcwaybrant@gmail.com

Lodge Rental

- Ted & Jan K`uzma 874.7279
kooz7@chartermi.net

BULLETIN BOARD

Tom Watson

The **Bulletin Board** is an opportunity for members to make announcements, offer services, solicit information, advertise items for sale or trade and seek wanted items.

Submit PRINT READY copy only. Limit of 50 words. Include phone number and/or email address. We can't be responsible for incorrectly submitted information.

Submit to: twwatson@comcast.com

CALLING ALL IKES

Maurie Houseman

We need your help with our:

SUMMERFEST

FAMILY FUN plus:

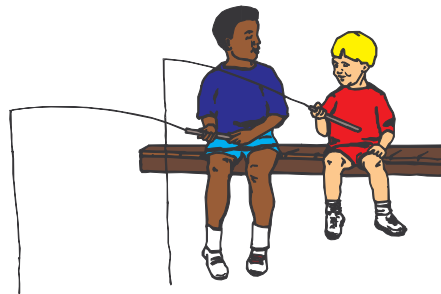
Love your land. Care for and enjoy it.

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

Saturday June 23rd

Please join us for a planning meeting, **Tuesday, May 10th** 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**.

KIDS SATURDAY FISHING



MORE KIDS FISHING

Bob Stegmier

Kids FREE Fishing is now underway at **Versluis Lake** in Plainfield Township by Plainfield bridge on Wednesday evenings, June 13, 20, 27 at 6:30-8 pm and it is open to anyone and everyone. Kids come from all around. It is FREE, but kids must bring an adult guide. We

will supply supervision and a few fish stories and Plainfield Township again gladly supplies the equipment and all the bait you can use. Kids come from miles around so come and join in on the fun, rain or shine but not in a thunderstorm. **Jim Biener** (361.1353) is the leader

on this and gets the rods and reels all spruced up for the season and is always on the job. He does need some help because sometimes the fish come fast and sometimes need coaching to bite. You can call **Bob Stegmier**, too, at **481.5497** regarding help and questions.

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA Core Event Schedule 2012

CHAIR PERSON

June 13, 20 & 27.....	Kids FREE Fishing at Versluis Lake, Plainfield Twsp. 6:30-8 pm	Jim Biener
June 23, Saturday.....	Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC	Houseman
July 16-20	2012 IKE's Convention, Lincoln NE	Open to all Members
August 16, Thursday	Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Program @ CC	Houseman, prog, Watson, food
September 12, Wednesday .	Oktoberfest @ CC	Bob Stegmier
September 22, Saturday	Michigan Division Meeting DLC-CC	Div. Pres. John Sturgis
October 11, Thursday.....	Chili Cook Off/Potluck @ CC	Tom Watson
November 1, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC	Tom Watson
December 6	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

BIG GREEN RAFFLE CONTINUES!

Bob Stegmier & Marylou Sundt Co-chair

First it is important for all members to know where we are at this point of this important raffle. We are only 14 weeks from the first drawing on September 12. Yep, this sounds like a long time but I assure you it will go by fast. Faster than we imagine.

We have sold **293** of the **1500** tickets and raised a net of **\$1725.50**. I say net because we had upfront expenses of **\$422.50** that has been subtracted from a total of receipts of **\$2148.00**.

So we are significantly short of our goal to cover the **\$3000** of payments we must make to winners and then build a significant balance in support

of our conservation programs and scholarships.

While we had significant success selling tickets at our two **ShowSpan** shows we are having mixed results from chapter members. Some are doing very well while some just aren't comfortable selling tickets. In between these two extremes are most of the rest of us.

The best of what I can make of the situation is that we need to pick up the pace and push the selling of tickets. Please contact me if you have any questions on the BGR and need more tickets. Please contact me if you are

getting low on unsold tickets because we need to keep the ball rolling.

FYI, tickets were sent to all 2012 members in good standing and since then more folks have renewed their membership and you will soon if not by now receive tickets so you can do your part. This effort like every group effort requires your help no matter how big or little. Every effort is helpful! Every bit is important!

Remember, too, that the cause, Conservation Education, is worthy. The cash prizes are significant; the odds of winning are very good with only 1500 tickets printed.

\$500: \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50
\$3,000 to be given away
All for Conservation Education

BIG GREEN RAFFLE

\$10 a Ticket or \$20 for 3 Tickets

Benefiting Kids Nature Club, Winterfest, Summerfest, Kids Fishing, Save our Streams
 (Stream Insects & Crustaceans), College Scholarships, & Much More

\$1,000 each drawing
Drawings 9/12/12, 10/11/12 & 11/8/12
 Dwight Lydell Chapter IWLA
 MSL # C25581

IKE'S CONVENTION

Bob Stegmier

The annual **Izaak Walton League of America** convention will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 17-20. It is 692 miles from NE Grand Rapids to the convention site at the Cornhusker Hotel. It's a pretty easy drive via expressway all the way, with a straight shot through Chicago on I-80. This convention will celebrate 90 years of successful conservation work. Please seriously consider attending this year.



This is a no-nonsense working convention with fun activities and meeting new and old friends. Delegates and national directors vote on policy resolutions, bylaw changes and for national officers and executive board members.

As delegates you get in on determining the final wording of presented resolutions that form new

policies and revise old policies that keep our IWLA Mission relevant! This is a very important element of every convention.

On the side you get to meet a great bunch of fellow IKEs and hear what they are doing in their chapters on the local issues.



There is a **Youth Convention**, now in its 19th year that coincides with the adults and it always is an outstanding conservation mission convention for youth 8 years and older. The object is



to build a strong IWLA membership from the bottom up as these kids

grow up. Frequently, grandparents escort them because too often parents are working. But this can be a great time to plan a family vacation around the convention. Days before and after families can visit other great American sites in neighboring states.

IKEs young or old, board members, officers or not should consider going!

All of the convention details and registration forms can be found on the IWLA website www.iwla.org/convention and if you have further questions please contact me. By all means if you decide to go, please let me know.

The **Dwight Lydell** chapter board and officers offer financial support for chapter members to attend the convention on a first come basis to the first 6 applicants. Registration is \$95.00, Awards Lunch \$23.00. Membership Breakfast is \$20.00 and Conservation Lunch \$25.00 for a total of \$163.00. \$1000 more in support is available from our Michigan Division and will be divided evenly amongst convention goers. Also, if there are less than 6 applicants from our DL Chapter that money will be evenly split among those going. Only actual convention expenses will be covered and proper documentation must be presented to get your expense check.

RESULTS OF THE SPORTS RAFFLE:

First Prize: **Steve and Kim Norman**, Members
Lake Michigan Fishing Charter and
Two-Night Stay at the **LITTLE RIVER CASINO IN MANISTEE.**

Second Prize: **Kurt Neigebauer**, Rockford \$100

ITCHING TO GET OUTSIDE

Submitted by Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

From the **Grand Rapids Press**, Sunday May 13, 2012 issue, written by **Howard Myerson** and copied in parts. Permission granted by Howard and MLive Media Group/The Grand Rapids Press. I consolidated the article to fit the size of the Ike's Newsletter but still retain the importance of the message.

Prevention worth the trouble to avoid tick-borne Lyme disease

Hikers and campers need to be careful on trails these days, particularly on the west side of Michigan. For a pictorial of these higher risk counties go to Grand Rapids Press, Sunday May 13, 2012 edition page F4.

State health officials say ticks, particularly black-legged ticks that carry **Lyme disease**, are no laughing matter.

A growing problem

Erik Foster, a medical epidemiologist with the **Michigan Department of Community Health** said 106 cases of Lyme disease were confirmed in Michigan in 2011. Not all cases originated in Michigan. Twenty-six of those people were bitten and exposed to the disease in West Michigan, another 39 were exposed in the western Upper Peninsula, primarily in Menominee County, but "Gogebic and Baraga counties have cases, too," Foster said. "Most of those were along the Wisconsin border."

"We were out two weeks ago, and there were plenty of adult ticks out in Benzie and Leelanau counties," he said. Foster does research on ticks. The black-legged tick is one of several species in Michigan, all of which bite humans and may carry disease, but it is the only one that carries Lyme disease.

"We worry because they are so small

that people may not readily see them," he said. The infection rate with adult black-legged ticks is 25 to 40 percent and 10 to 20 percent with smaller, nymph-stage ticks. The problem is spreading, according to Foster.

"We have seen a slow expansion of the black-legged tick for about a decade in West Michigan," Foster said. "We saw it starting in 2002 in Allegan, Barry, St. Joe and Berrien



counties. But it has since spread up the West Michigan shoreline. And it seems that they are also moving eastward, but more slowly than northward."

Take precautions! Fortunately, there are effective precautions we can take. Fabrics treated with repellents such as permethrin work well. One well-known, brand name is **Buzz-off**. Tick prevention needs to be a high priority. Blacklegged ticks are notorious for carrying Lyme disease, but other ticks, including the dog tick, can carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever. That disease was confirmed in 2010 in a young woman from Kalamazoo, according to Foster. Experts with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** suggest using caution when camping, hiking, playing outdoors and gardening. The CDC suggests wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks and treating clothing

and boots with **DEET** repellents or **permethrin**. Other standard precautions include wearing light-colored clothing and tucking pant cuffs into socks. Check your clothing regularly and do a daily body check. That goes for children as well. Prompt removal is essential.

It takes 24 to 48 hours for Lyme disease to be transmitted from a tick to a person.

Pets also should be given similar exams. Dogs are susceptible to Lyme disease and can carry ticks into the home, where they may drop off and find a human host. CDC recommends using repellent collars and treatments on pets that go outdoors.

Also recommended is removing ticks with a tweezers, grabbing it as close to the skin as possible and pulling it straight out slowly, making sure its mouth parts are removed. Then it is time to cleanse the skin and apply an antiseptic.

Foster dispelled the notion that ticks drop out of trees. "They're generally found on low-lying vegetation. How high they go depends on their life stage. Larvae and nymphs want mice and chipmunks. Adults are higher up to get whitetail deer.

Email Howard Meyerson at howardmeyerson@gmail.com; follow him on his blog: *The Outdoor Journal* at howardmeyerson.com or on Facebook at **Howard Meyerson Outdoors**.

LODGE RESERVATIONS

June: 1 -2 *Sierra Club*
 June 16 *Robinson Rental*
 June 23 *Summerfest*
 August 18 *Watson family rental*
 Thank you, Jan



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

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



Printed on recycled paper

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods,
Waters and Wildlife
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Summerfest!

JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY FUN AND VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Saturday, June 23rd



**FAMILY FUN
WITH
DEMONSTRATIONS AND
WORKSHOPS**

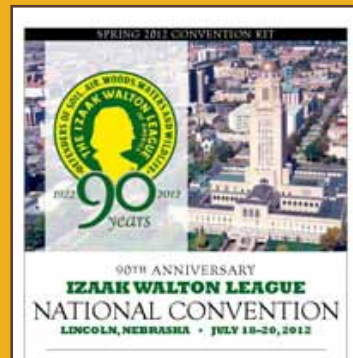
(See page 7 for all of the details)

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