



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 2013

Greetings from Georgia

Summerfest is Saturday, June 22, 10-3:00! Bring friends, come hang out or explore, learn about wildflowers, try kayaking, archery, fishing, fly-tying and fun stuff with cool people! If you have something you think would be of interest, consider setting up a booth. We can use some more helpers too, for archery assistance, fishing, and greeters, so if you can smile, come join us!

Also there is **Kids' Fishing at Versluis Lake** June 12-26, Wed. evenings 6:30-8pm. People who fish show a 85% increase in overall happiness in life. Go ahead and

quote me.

In the past month I've enjoyed some nice community interactions as an IKE. **Nichol DeMol** organized a cleanup of **Rum Creek** with **East Grand Rapids** students, and I tried to influence their minds toward better habitat and native plants. Maybe it will come back to them when they have lawns of their own someday. Or at least they'll remember the fun of wearing waders and splashing around!

I did a similar spiel with **East Rockford Middle School** kids at Bostwick Lake, organized by **Julie Lovelace**, watershed defender of **Cannon Township**. A glance around the lakeshore shows not many lots are "owned" by the frogs and turtles. The idea is to appreciate a variety of

Highlights This Issue:

Steak Dinner /Elections

Summerfest

Save Our Streams

Insect Monitoring

Volunteering at Rum Creek

Restore the Rapids

...and much more!

plants beyond the fast-food style of landscaping with lawn and seawall. Habitat provides food and shelter to wildlife, and cleaner water for lakes. I think some of their brains logged-on to what we were saying.

(continued on page 7)



Raffle Winners

Rian Ignasiak of Rockford won the \$100 prize. She is a 10 year old.

Fred Eyer won the charter fishing trip/casino package.

Steak Dinner/Elections

Tom Watson

A small but enthusiastic crowd enjoyed grilled steak and barbecued chicken on May 15. Board elections followed.

The Kitchen Krew consisted of **Tam Bagby, Darva Boot**, new member **Matt Duvel, Barry Gilbertson, Jack Hornbach, Len Kizer** and myself.

Most everyone pitched in with clean up, headed by **Tammy Lundeen**, who washed all the dishes. **Jim Schneider, Blake Gardner** and others took care of the dining room afterwards.

Ron Waybrant manned the door and **Bob Stegmier** tended bar. Thanks to these folks and others who helped make it a memorable night.



Election Results

Tom Watson

Officers: One-year term:
September 1, 2013 and expire August 31, 2014

President: **Duane De Vries**
Vice President: **Georgia Donovan**
Secretary: **Jim Schnieder**
Treasurer: **Fred Eyer**
Membership Secretary: **Ron Waybrant**

Board of Directors:
Three-year terms:
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2016
Bill Kirk
C.J. Tasma
Tom Watson

Two-year terms:
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2015
Maurie Houseman
Len Kizer
Marylou Sundt

One-year term:
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014
Bruce Gilmore
Barry Gilbertson

**Deadline for
the
July issue is
Monday,
June 24 at
8:00 AM.**

SUMMERFEST

Saturday June 22

FAMILY FUN plus:

Demonstrations and Workshops 10am - 3pm.

FREE LUNCH 11am - 1:30pm.



SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Kids' Fishing | Kayaking | Archery |
| Invasive Plant Control | Native Plants | Scavenger Hunt |
| Wildflower Identification | Bird House Building | Rain Barrel Making |
| Fly Tying | Tree Identification | Solar Energy |
| Save our Streams Demo and Training | | |

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

FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

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:
Maurie Houseman at: 560.2895.

Calling All IKEs: We Need Your Help

Maurie Houseman

Trails, Pond, Summerfest And Some Odds And Ends At The Lodge

I am listing a few days in June for set workdays. You may come for a shorter or longer time as fits your schedule. Any help is appreciated. You may want to help at other times and we can accommodate that.

Wednesday June 12: 5-8pm: Clear trails or work along the pond getting ready for Summerfest

Saturday June 15: 9-12 pm : Clear and mark trails or work along the pond. And 12-2:30: Pull Garlic Mustard (easy work)

Wednesday June 19 5-8pm : Get ready for Summerfest, finish clearing and marking trails, Autumn Olive removal on pond dam.

If you can help, please call **Maurie Houseman 560.2895** so that I'll know how many, if any, will be there. If no one calls, I may not go there by myself.

Saturday June 22 9-3pm **SUMMERFEST**, have fun and make sure all of our guests have a great time and maybe even become members*

*Please invite friends and family or clubs, church groups, schools, etc. The more the merrier. You can make a difference.

As stated above, if you can't make the above dates, but want to help at some other times, please call me 560.2895. We can probably work it out. Thanks for your help.

Save Our Streams Opportunity

Bob Stegmier



The following IKEs took the "opportunity" and helped in a four-hour stream-monitoring event Saturday, April 6 on the **Rogue River**.

This was before the rains came in and washed away all such events due to flooding. **Lynn and Tom Dandridge, Larry Allaben,**

Travis VanLuyn and I participated in the **Trout Unlimited Home River** stream evaluation.

Lynn, Tom, a few others and I worked a 300 foot section of the **Stegman Creek** from **Summit Ave** downstream to the **White Pine Trail**, a nice cold water stream feeding into the about half a mile north of the Rockford City limits. The Stegman is one the creeks that help keep the Rogue River a qualified trout stream. The section of creek we worked is not

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Georgia Donovan

I had no luck with the yeast and brown-sugar trap that I made.

Keep in mind that mosquitos need about a week for their lifecycles, so if you empty your birdbaths, etc. at least once a week, that helps prevent mosquito larvae from hatching.

I've heard that dripping some oil (what kind?) on the water keeps mosquitoes from laying eggs there because it messes up the surface tension.

Bt rings are a decent biological control in standing water.

the best, while flowing quite fast the stream is mostly a sand bottom. Sand covers the rocks and pebbles that are necessary for insects. We did get some quality insects such as **Stonefly, Mayfly** larvae and the **Scud**. We didn't get some of usually common insects such as **Dragon Fly, Damselfly** or **Dobsonfly** larvae. At this writing the final stream quality report is not available. See the next newsletter for details.

The stream monitoring technique used was the basic Save Our Streams (**SOS**) developed by the **IWLA** back in late nineteen sixties. There were a good number of young folks amongst the 40 or so folks from all around who volunteered and at least one environmental student from **GVSU** making it part of a class study. On page 5 is the report by **Nichol DeMol**, event leader.

Great Turnout for Insect Monitoring in the Rogue River Watershed!

April 22, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE;
Nichol De Mol, Trout Unlimited, Inc.
Rogue River Home Rivers
Initiative Project Manager



Volunteers identify insects from a sample out of the Rogue River at 12 Mile and Summit.

Interested kids, fisherman, businesses, boy scouts, landowners, nature lovers and others funneled into the Algoma Township Hall for Trout Unlimited's **Spring Stream Insect Monitoring** event on April 6, 2013. We had a record 38 dedicated volunteers sample insects at stream sites on the **Rogue River, Cedar Creek, Rum Creek, Stegman Creek**, and a newly added site on **Blakeslee Creek**. This event is held twice a year in the spring and fall and is part of the Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative project, a multi-year watershed-based restoration project funded through the **Wege, Frey, and Wolverine Worldwide** foundations, the local **Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited**, and **Robert DeVilbiss**.

The information that these volunteers have collected helps Trout Unlimited determine how our local streams are doing. 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. In order to continue these sampling efforts and add additional sampling sites, we need more dedicated volunteers for these events. We will be holding another event in the fall of 2013.

If you would like to be involved in this event or any other Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative programs please contact **Nichol De Mol** at 231.557.6362 or ndemol@tu.org



Trout Unlimited is the nation's largest coldwater conservation organization, with 140,000 members dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds.

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Treasurer, Fred Eyer	363.0253 fseyer@gmail.com

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Bob Stegmier	866.4769 rstegmier@ameritech.net
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Grounds/Maintenance Chair

C. J. Tasma	887.8542 handicapsign@gmail.com
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Membership Secretary

Ron Waybrant	361.1422 rcwaybrant@gmail.com
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Lodge Rental

Ted & Jan Kuzma	874.7279 kooz7@chartermi.net
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LODGE RESERVATIONS

June: 8
Gordon family

June 15
Marckini family

June 23
Maloley family

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

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

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

Chairperson

June 12, 19, 26... Kids FREE Fishing at Versluis Lake, Plainfield Twsp. 6:30-8 pm	Jim Biener	
June 22, Saturday	Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC	Maurie Houseman
July 23-27	2013 IKEs Convention, Fredericksburg, VA	Open to all Members
August 15, Thursday	Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Program @ CC	Houseman, program Watson, food
September 11, Wednesday	Harvestfest @ CC	Tom Watson
October 9, Wednesday	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC	Tom Watson
November 7, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC	Tom Watson
December 5, Thursday	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

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

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

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

Mail to Izaak Walton League, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306. Checks payable to "Izaak Walton League"
 Call Ron at 616.361.1422 for more information. If you want a GATE KEY so you can walk our 39 acres at your leisure ADD \$5 to the membership fee.

Indicate which of these important committees you're interested in working on:

Natural Features Stewardship _____ Finance _____ Membership _____ Building & Grounds _____

Conservation _____ Programs _____ Every Member Dinners _____

The Izaak Walton League of America – a non-profit conservation organization – is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code. Minimum national dues are \$40 for individual and \$60 for family memberships, which includes \$4.00 for *Outdoor America* magazine. Magazine is inseparable from dues. Chapter and Division dues may vary.

Greetings from Georgia

(continued from page 1)

The **Kids' Nature Club** has been smaller but more engaged this spring. And truly, what could be more fascinating than hundreds of mating, egg-laying toads, trilling their lungs out in the pond? Awesome! Plus we saw the resident **Broad-Winged Hawk**. Next week we

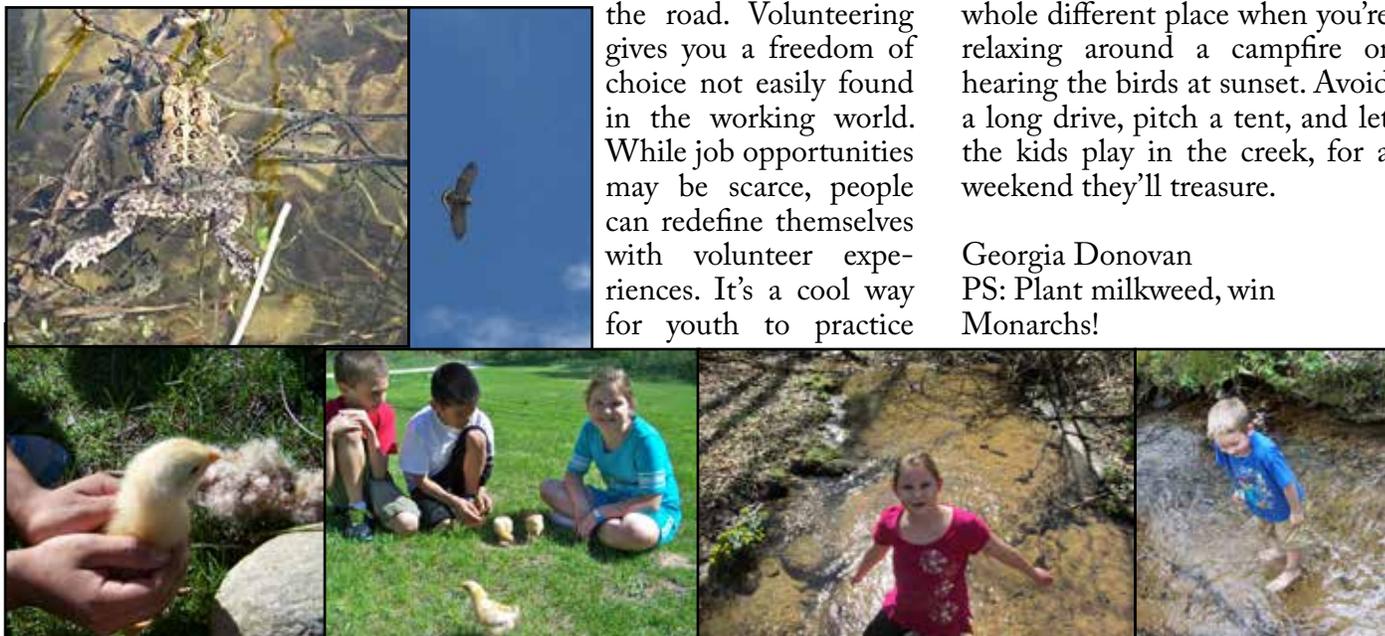
saw the tadpoles. The next week we saw... bigger tadpoles! And I brought my baby chicks.

While these activities are voluntary and take some effort, they are really rewarding in the friendships I make and the possible positive influences down the road. Volunteering gives you a freedom of choice not easily found in the working world. While job opportunities may be scarce, people can redefine themselves with volunteer experiences. It's a cool way for youth to practice

responsibility, and know that they're valued.

Remember that the IKEs' lodge is available for renting for family get-togethers, graduation parties, etc., for a reasonable \$75. Outdoor camping is free, reservations suggested to ensure space. It's a whole different place when you're relaxing around a campfire or hearing the birds at sunset. Avoid a long drive, pitch a tent, and let the kids play in the creek, for a weekend they'll treasure.

Georgia Donovan
PS: Plant milkweed, win Monarchs!



Day of Caring for Rum Creek

Nichol DeMol

Twenty East **Grand Rapids Middle School** students spent Friday, May 3 caring for **Rum Creek**. This event was part of the United Way's **Day of Caring**, an annual event to promote the value in volunteerism. These students, along with 350 other classmates, participated in a variety of volunteer efforts around the Grand Rapids area.

Trout Unlimited, along with the **Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League**, worked with the students to talk about invasive species and the value of native plants. The students helped to pull garlic mustard, a European exotic, around Rum Creek. **Garlic mustard** is rapidly becoming one of Michigan's worst woodland weeds. Invaded sites undergo a decline on native plant cover within 10 years. Garlic mustard alters habitat suitability for native insects and thereby birds and mammals.

The group spent the rest of the afternoon cleaning up trash in and around Rum Creek. Students picked up a variety of items that could be harmful to fish and other animals including glass bottles, plastic bags, and tires. This is the tenth year East Grand Rapids Middle School has taken part in the Day of Caring.

This event was part of the **Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative** project, a multi-year watershed-based restoration project funded through the **Wege, Frey, and Wolverine Worldwide** foundations, the local **Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited**, and **Robert DeVilbiss**. Students picked up trash in Rum Creek and pulled garlic mustard, an invasive species, along the stream bank.



Students picked up trash along Rum Creek as part of an annual Day of Caring event.

Restore The Rapids To The Grand In Grand Rapids?

John Stegmeier, Chapter Member

By now most of you have heard something about the plans to restore the rapids to the **Grand River** in Grand Rapids. This effort has been led by a group known as Grand Rapids Whitewater (**GRWW**) and started as an effort to use the Grand River to build a whitewater and kayaking park in downtown. Since then, the group has used any potential ecological benefit to argue in favor of their project, some of which have some merit but most provide little to no benefit when the full effects of the plan are scrutinized.

One major concern is the need for a **Sea Lamprey** barrier to prevent Sea Lamprey from accessing high quality spawning grounds upstream of Grand Rapids. The existing dam at 4th (most locals know it as the 6th St. Dam) with the fish ladder is currently acting as a very effective barrier. It is the removal or alteration of this dam, which is the key to both restoring the rapids and preventing Sea Lamprey from gaining access to the upper river. 8 of the 18 feet of elevation change in the area of historic rapids are hidden behind the dam, so this is very important for those wishing to build a kayak park. Since the US budget for Sea



Lamprey control is in excess of \$20 million and the Grand River is the longest river in the state with an average discharge that is greater than any other stream chemically treated by the **USFWS**, it is of the utmost importance to prevent access by Sea Lamprey.

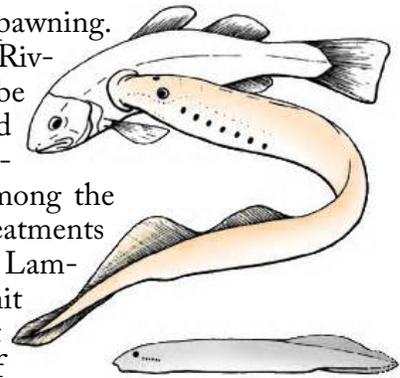
GRWW has proposed placing a barrier near the railroad trestle downstream of Ann St, but have not included any design plans for that barrier. This is not good enough.

One consideration is that to have an effective lamprey barrier above the rapids (near Ann St. as proposed) it would have to include a dam that would back up

water further than the existing 6th street dam. Since the steepest stream gradient is where the rapids would be restored, every foot of height of a dam would back up the water much further upstream and since there are not floodwalls in that area the impoundment will be wider, longer and shallower than the existing impoundment behind 6th street. This is not an improvement for the ecology of the Grand River.

Another concern is that the very nature of this project creates spawning habitat for Sea Lamprey in the rapids below the barrier. They intend to improve spawning habitat for a number of species, primarily the sturgeon, which are in need of help, but in doing so they will improve the likelihood of successful Sea Lamprey spawning.

Even if the Grand River only needed to be chemically treated below Grand Rapids, it would be among the most expensive treatments the USFWS Sea Lamprey control unit performs. The cost would skyrocket if lamprey get past the barrier/dam and reach the numerous tributaries between Grand Rapids and Lansing because the manpower requirements would require that the same volume of water be treated twice.



We must also remember that because of the Sea Lamprey barrier proposed the project does nothing to reconnect the Grand River above and below Grand Rapids. There will be nothing in the plan as of yet that will provide better fish passage than before. Only 3/4 of a mile of stream will be added to the range of fish in the lower portion of the river.

In spite of all the benefits claimed by Grand Rapids Whitewater, the **IKEs** should come out in opposition to this project as it stands in order to protect the fisheries of the Great Lakes. I believe that this is a threat to the Great Lakes on much the same scale as the sanitary shipping canal in Chicago, which threatens to allow the invasion by **Asian carp**. **Grand River Future Vision** is a group dedicated to making sure alternatives to the GRWW project is heard and all interested people have a voice in this decision. We should work with Grand River Future Vision to help raise awareness of the problems with this project and seek logical solutions.

Restoring the Rapids in the Grand River in Grand Rapids?

Robert Stegmier, Conservation Chair

I am copying here two recent articles from the *Grand Rapids Press* on this subject because this is and will be for some time an idea that will be discussed and discussed some more. Will it in some modification happen? In my opinion, quite likely! I believe as an important conservation organization we have responsibility to consider what our input might be. I will report articles like this because not everyone takes the *Press* anymore and some, including me are not very good at the Internet, so it is important to cover such subject in many ways. I also solicit several retired DNR-DEQ members to be on this adjunct committee, **Fred Eyer**, **John Trimberger** and **Ron Waybrant**. Please feel free to contact any of them and me with your feeling on the subject and we will try to fit them into any position we take.

So far we have these comments or concerns: Don't do anything to spoil the fishing in downtown Grand Rapids. Don't do anything that will allow the **Sea Lamprey** or other nonnative invasive species to migrate further up stream in the **Grand River** watershed. Don't do anything that will add to flooding either downstream or upstream particularly in the **Comstock Park** area. From a fiscal financial perspective should our federal government spend money they don't have on such a local project that probably should be funded more locally?

The two articles from the 5-14-2013 GR Press are reprinted below, one with all of the excitement for the Whitewater idea and another variation with maybe better Sea Lamprey protection.

Grand River Restoration Becomes Federal Priority!

MORE THAN A DOZEN AGENCIES
PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR RAPIDS.

By Matt Vande Bunte, MVANDEBU@MLIVE.COM

GRAND RAPIDS — Spouting a bit of poetry Friday with his comments in front of **Sen. Debbie Stabenow** and other federal officials, **Mayor George Heartwell** offered an analogy for the rapid increase to national prominence of a grass roots idea to put the rapids back in the Grand River.

"Two men floated the idea of



restoration, and then, they grabbed a hold of it and paddled like crazy," Heartwell said, giving a nod to Grand Rapids Whitewater co-founders **Chip Richards** and **Chris Muller**.

Federal officials on Friday announced Grand Rapids and 10 other locations are being added to the **Urban Waters Federal Partnership**, through which several agencies coordinate resources to make environmental and economic improvements to waterways, such as the Grand River.

Most compelling, the announcement was made at the **Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum** because the Grand Rapids river restoration is the strongest and most compelling of all the chosen projects, officials said.

But how did the concept of a whitewater run through downtown Grand Rapids evolve into an initiative that has more than a dozen federal agencies pledging their support?

"The administration was looking for a project like this," said **Greg Van Woerkom**, an aide to U.S.

(continued on page 10)

Another Idea For The Rapids In Grand Rapids

ANGLERS PROPOSE
OPTION TO KEEP SIXTH
STREET DAM.
PRESERVING HISTORIC
STRUCTURE, AND
DOWNTOWN FISHING A
PRIORITY

By Jim Harger, JHARGER@MLIVE.COM

GRAND RAPIDS— A group of fishing enthusiasts who oppose taking out the **Sixth Street Dam** as part of a **Grand River** restoration project have come up with an alternative they said is less expensive and preserves the downtown sports fishery.

Grand River Future Vision has unveiled a plan that would keep the 165-year-old dam in place, install a gated spillway for kayakers and put a second fish ladder on the east bank of the river. Its plan also would add a walkway across the top of the dam to facilitate pedestrian river crossings.

The group is pitching the plan as an alternative to **Grand Rapids**

(continued on page 11)

Fracking Update Shirley Kallio

To the Board of Cannon Township:

On behalf of the **Citizens for Responsible Resource Management** and their many friends at the **Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League**, I thank you for your recent action to impose a six-month moratorium on the consideration of requests from the oil and gas industry relating to activity by that industry within our Township, and for your commitment to closely evaluate and modify or augment such ordinances as exist for their applicability and adequacy in the industrial environment confronting us.

It is clear that unconventional hydraulic fracturing puts our resources at risk of permanent diminution. This risk is particularly, but not exclusively, acute with respect to our water. Whether by withdrawal or contamination, it is a risk at every stage of the process; its diminution potentially undercuts and devalues all of the characteristics, utilitarian and aesthetic, which **Cannon Township** residents, having chosen to make their home here, presumably hold dear.

With our thanks comes our full support in this pioneer undertaking. We take pride in your leadership.

Sincerely,
Shirley Kallio
Lead Organizer
Citizens for Responsible Resource Management

Grand River Restoration Becomes Federal Priority!

(continued from page 9)

Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland. “It just picked up steam. They made all the right connections.”

Bob Perciasepeso, acting director of the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**, said the coordination of federal agencies will bring “magic” to the process of permitting and project review.

The spell was cast locally with the development of the whitewater concept, he said.

‘A no-brainer’ “Maybe that’s the magic,” Perciasepeso said. “You get the unknown ingredients of local leadership and a vision that is pretty easy for people to see what it can do and put that on top of some of the momentum already going on in Grand Rapids, and it’s a no-brainer. “What you’re going to see more in the future is these partnerships that allow the government to go with the flow of what the citizens are interested in. If we can get this to happen, it will really make a difference. People are going to want to be here.”

First surfacing as part of a Green Grand Rapids city planning process, the whitewater project sought to improve river access by creating a kayaking course over the dams in the downtown area. Those plans broadened after a Colorado consultant recommended restoring the riverbed for the entire length of the original rapids.

City leaders have given their support, including funding from the **Downtown Development Authority**. **Founders Brewing Co.** gave the project a grant. **Gov. Rick Snyder** mentioned the plan in his State of the State address in January. “We heard about this one. It seemed to be a good fit,” said **Nancy Sutley**, chairwoman of the **White House Council on Environmental Quality**. “There are lots of champions, lots of people who interacted with the federal agencies. “It takes a village.” The village of whitewater “champions” here in Grand Rapids just got a lot bigger with the White House and federal agencies making the project a priority.

‘Newfound friends in D.C.’ When Muller spoke at the announcement, he greeted his “newfound friends in D.C.” He talked about making the river a place “for everyone” — kayakers and fishermen alike.

Moreover, he said when people ask him about the rapids of Grand Rapids, “I would love to point at something.”

Waxing poetic about the river as the “soul” of the city’s past, present and future, Heartwell’s words pointed around the room at the gathering of local, state and federal leaders. “Together, we will restore our grand rapids to our Grand River,” he said.

Another Idea For The Rapids In Grand Rapids

(continued from page 9)

Whitewater, whose \$27.5 million proposal would remove the dam and four other low-rise dams. The project also would put rocks and shoals back into the riverbed to restore the city's namesake rapids.

promoted the plan on the group's Facebook page. "Why are we going to boot somebody out just to please somebody else?"

The plan also resolves problems associated with creating a lamprey

the Grand Rapids Whitewater group's proposal.

Chip Richards, co-founder of Grand Rapids Whitewater, called the Grand River Future Vision proposal "an interesting idea" to consider as they move through discussions with stakeholders.

"It lends to the larger public process being designed by city leaders that will engage the community in a conversation regarding the entire river corridor downtown," said Richards, whose group is pursuing private, state and federal funding for its project. "We look forward to further public involvement for more input and ideas as we continue collecting data," Richard said in an email.

"There is an ongoing process to discuss and evaluate the benefits and constraints of what we have learned."

"The big thing is, most of the fishing community wants the dam to stay. Why are we going to boot somebody out just to please somebody else?" said Josh Smith, co-owner of a bait shop near the Sixth Street Bridge .



Josh Smith, co-owner of a bait shop near the Sixth Street Dam, said the plan would preserve the salmon and steelhead fishery they have enjoyed at the base of the dam for generations while accommodating those who want to develop a kayaking course.

Like the Grand River Whitewater plan, the proposal calls for the removal of the low-rise dams and the restoration of the riverbed below the dam, Smith said.

"The big thing is, most of the fishing community wants the dam to stay," said Smith, who has



barrier to replace the Sixth Street Dam, Smith said. The spillway for kayakers would have a gate that could be shut during the lamprey spawning season. The Grand Rapids Whitewater plan calls for an inflatable rubber barrier farther upstream that would hold back the lamprey, a parasitic species that invaded the Great Lakes in the 1940s.

Efforts to restore ancient sturgeon spawning beds just above the dam would be accomplished by creating an "elevator" device as part of the second fish ladder to carry sturgeon over the dam during their spawning season, Smith said. Smith said he proposed the alternative plan to the **Grand River Restoration Stakeholders Group** in April. Although he has no cost estimates for the plan, he is confident it would cost less than

To see this and past editions of the newsletter and national IKEs information please visit our websites:

www.michiganikes.org
www.iwla.org



**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

**SATURDAY
JUNE 22**

Join us for some family fun
and various activities

**TO VOLUNTEER,
CALL MAURIE
HOUSEMAN AT
560.2895**

SUMMER FEST!

FREE LUNCH provided!
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

FAMILY FUN with
Demonstrations and Workshops
(SEE PAGE 3 FOR ALL OF THE
DETAILS)



JOIN US FOR THE
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE
2013 NATIONAL
CONVENTION

91ST ANNUAL
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE
NATIONAL CONVENTION
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA • JULY 23-26, 2013



IN FREDERICKSBURG,
VIRGINIA
JULY 23-27, 2013