



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

August 2011

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bluebirds nesting in your yard are a wonderful sight to behold. On



August 18 **Mark DeHaan** and **Paul Sherd** will update us on their bluebird project along Cannonsburg Road and discuss the best practices of setting up and caring for bluebird houses. Dinner will be barbecued chicken and ribs.

We all know to attract birds to our yards we need food, shelter and water. Water can be a birdbath or puddle. Shelter can be birdhouses, shrubs and trees. Food can be feeders, berries and insects. Bluebirds, like many other birds we want to attract, need insects to rear its young. Those native insects need native and diverse plants to feed upon. Our native garden at the IKEs contains native plants and shrubs that attract insects, birds and butterflies far better than alien ornamental plants. Furthermore no fertilization, spraying or deadheading is required.

The garden is divided into four areas: the shade garden, the shrub garden, the prairie and the drift garden. Ideas for your garden abound in each.



Enter the garden through the arbor covered with the native Clematis, Old Man's Beard.



Highlights This Issue:

Hall of Fame Award

Save Our Streams

National Convention

...and much more!

Rest on the bench by the old apple tree and look about the shade garden. You will find Bottlebrush grass, Doll's Eyes, Bleeding Heart, Jack in the Pulpit, May apple, Wild Ginger and many different ferns. Think about using some of these plants mixed in with your hostas so as to provide diversity. That very aggressive alien, myrtle, could be



replaced with Wild Ginger or Wood Anemone and provide a far friendlier habitat.

Beyond the shade garden is a planting of native shrubs including Serviceberry, Redbud, Hazelnut and Viburnums. These under story shrubs provide many

(continued on page 6)

DUANE DEVRIES RECEIVES NATIONAL HALL OF FAME AWARD

Georgia Donovan

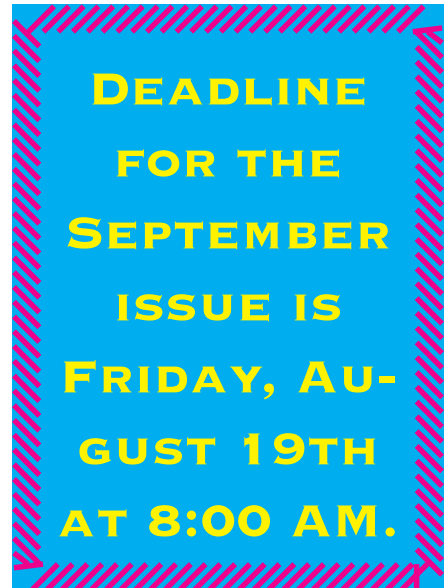
At the convention it was announced that **Duane DeVries** was inducted into the **IWLA Hall of Fame**, in honor of his involvement in our chapter activities and all he does to spread the conservation message.

Duane has been an active and dedicated member for much longer than I have been on the scene, but since I've been here he has helped on almost everything we've done, including filling in as acting president during a period of transition. Duane manages to be passionate and dignified at the same time, with a sense of humor that helps to keep things in perspective. He is dedicated to the goals of the Izaak Walton League, and not only helps with our projects, but volunteers around the community, too.

Duane is pretty much **King of the Rain-Barrels**. He has made many, many rain barrels, and shares his simple and efficient design with anyone who wants it. He makes container gardens as well, and is often asked to demonstrate both at garden clubs. This is one of the ways he spreads our mission to other groups in the community, as he expands his talk into conservation issues. Duane is the chapter's liaison with the Rockford Middle School's **Earthkeepers Magnet**, which is now making rain barrels as a fundraiser. A couple years ago he was instrumental in getting a local fourth-grade teacher started in the **Salmon-in-the-Classroom** program. Just recently he tackled the task of improving our website, which was a huge help!

Duane is also active in other conservation areas, notably watershed issues, and serves on the **Rogue River Watershed Committee**, representing us along with **Bob Stegmier**. Additionally, he keeps very close track of energy issues, and spreads the word on interesting new developments in alternative energy.

Thanks, Duane, for sharing your energy with us!



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Lodge Rental

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LODGE RENTALS

August 6 Watson
August 20 Van Haffen
August 27 Lester

ADVERTISE YOUR IKES AFFILIATION!

Bob Stegmier

It is important to show folks that you are a member of the **Izaak Walton League of America**, Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife! Wear you cap and/or shirt when you are out and about. If you have one of those decals for your car lying around put it on the rear window and to good use. Have two cars? Put one on each. If you need one or two, contact me because I have some extras. See our special deal on clothing. Don't forget to pass your monthly IKEs newsletter on to someone who should be interested. Oh yes! Ask them to join.

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 or any upscale event.

IKEs clothing sale continues. IKEs caps and shirts! We need to get these items out of the boxes and onto members' bodies and heads. They just

Contact **Bob Stegmier** by phone or e-mail: 616.8664769 or rstegmier@ameritech.net

SAVE OUR STREAMS

Now in its final stages of development by

national staff is a **SAVE OUR STREAMS**

program aimed for students from the 5th through 9th grades.

Educators say this

age group is critical for determining what direction they will take in life. Introduction to nature at these ages will result in many taking up environment centered education and then vocations. We know our planet is in need of a wide range of educated caregivers.

Go to www.creekfreaks.net to learn more and get involved in this educational OPPORTUNITY by clicking on getting started under **LEAD A PROGRAM.**



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Bob Stegmier

It is Purple Loosestrife blossom time. Also time to pinpoint some wetlands infested with this non-native invasive plant. Let us know what you find and where for next year's beetle placement effort. **Bob Stegmier** 616.866.4769 or **Jim Biener** 616.361.1353.



NATIONAL CONVENTION

Bob Stegmier

Jay Huston and I attended the IKEs 2011 National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa July 13-15. The convention theme was **America's Great Rivers**. America's rivers tell the story of our country's growth, the environmental degradation that has accompanied that growth and the challenges we face today to restore waters across the country.

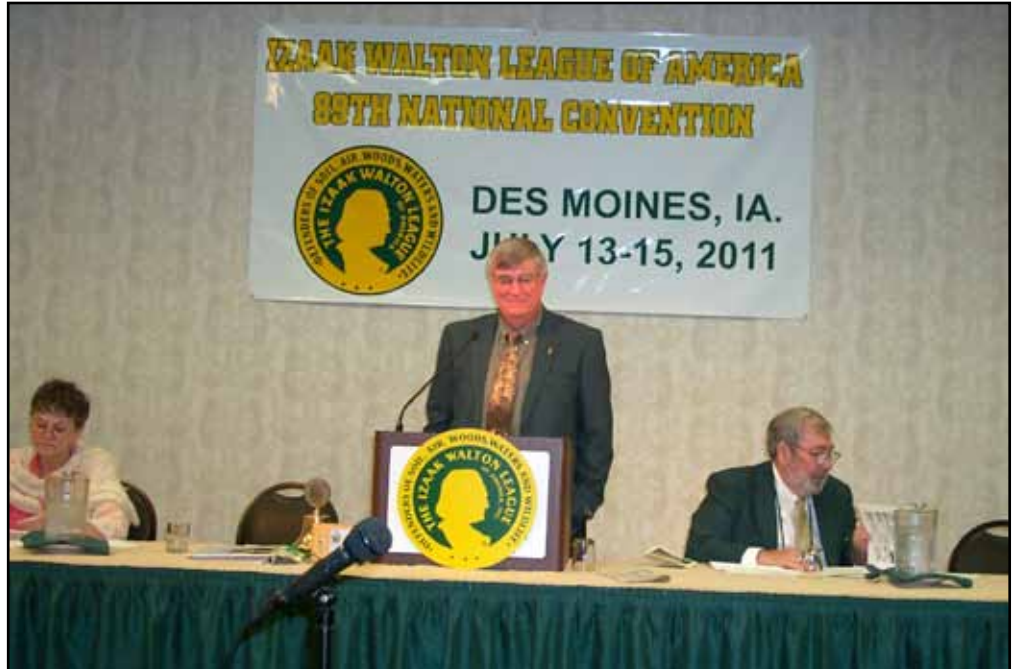
Events started with an early bird party that included a buffet, silent auction and a lively live auction on Tuesday evening. Jay and I arrived in time to freshen up before attending. I was successful in the silent auction, getting a nice heavy duty picnic basket with 4 bottles of various Iowa wines (**Front Porch** produced in Des Moines and **S'Wine**, "where cork meets pork," produced St. Charles IA, the other two are now long gone) along with cheese, crackers and a small tube of summer sausage. Another successful bidder in the auction was **Bill Arnold**, right in picture, from the Dubuque Chapter. He won a hand carved drake Wood Duck carved by Des Moines Chapter member **Cliff Rooney** (left). The successful bid was



around \$750, probably the highest bid item of the night. Profits of this auction go to the **Izaak Walton Trust**.

Earlier in the day the League's Executive Board spent most of the day going over the League's business, much of it with National staff.

Wednesday the convention was called to order at 9 AM with the



usual details of the **Parade of Colors** presented by **Boy Scout Crew 0003**, Pledge of Allegiance, IWLA pledge and invocation. After various reports including that from the treasurer, last convention's minutes were read and approved. We listened to keynote speaker who was **Daniel M. Ash**, newly appointed **Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service**, just one week into this new position after serving as **Deputy Director for Policy USFWS**. His address focused on the 21st century challenges facing our nation's natural resources and new approaches in addressing them. He also spoke of the important contribution the IWLA has made and their cooperation is needed more than ever. Dan Ashe and our League's Executive Director **David Hoskins** have worked together on many issues during their conservation careers.

Before the opening of the convention Jay attended a **New Delegate Orientation Workshop**, led by **Leila Wiles**. I attended the president's meeting with division presidents sitting in for **John Sturgis**, who was unable to attend this convention. One point discussed here was the flagging participation of members in responding to Action

Alerts. I will cover this subject in a separate article.

Wednesday noon was the **Awards Luncheon** with a good meal and then the presentation of many awards. I had the honor to receive it for Duane in his absence. Here



is what the presenter **Dawn Olsen** had to say to the audience about Duane: "**Duane A. DeVries** is a long-time member of the League and of the Dwight Lydell Chapter. During some stressful times for the Chapter, Duane was always that clear voice, even stepping in to be acting chapter President, that rare person who manages to be passionate and dignified while keeping everything

NATIONAL CONVENTION

(continued)

moving in the right direction. Rare to the point of knowing when to step down from this temporary presidency. When funds are needed for a project, he knows how to make it happen. Not only does Duane find funding, he also contributes financially, always shows up and participates in events. He is known as the “**Rain-Barrel Guy**” around the Chapter. He’s designed and made many rain barrels and shares his simple and efficient design with anyone. Much of the material used for making these barrels have been recycled. He has been asked on many occasions to speak to other groups in the community about his rain barrels and other garden containers he makes. He uses this opportunity to spread the League’s mission and conservation message at the same time. Duane was also instrumental a few years ago in getting a 4th grade teacher to start the **Salmon in the Classroom** program. He finds the funding, visits the students in class and seeing it through to the release of the salmon. Other projects he contributes to include watershed issues. He serves on the **Rogue River Watershed Committee** along with **Bob Stegmier**. Additionally, he keeps close track of energy issues. He also sits on the IWLA Energy Resource Committee as well as his chapter’s energy committee. Duane is a long time member of the chapter’s Board of Directors.”

During the convention regular morning session **Roger Sears**, Chairman IWLA Executive Board, gave a convincing Power Point presentation supporting a small membership dues increase of \$4 for a regular membership and then according to League by-laws a \$6 in family membership. These new rates for National dues will be \$40 and \$60. Also according the bylaws there are small increases in Student and Youth memberships making then \$20 and \$8 respectively. These increases are less than if they had been adjusted based on inflation from the last dues increase.

Later in the day Jay and I attended separate **Resource Committee** meetings, I, the Energy Committee and Jay, the Water Resources. We also squeezed in some workshops: How to make the Morning Edition, Creek Freaks (www.creakfreaks.net: go there and check it out), The Right Tools for the Job and Funding for Conservation State by State. We finished these just in time to catch the bus to the De Moines Chapter lodge for a BBQ dinner. It was a great dinner at a great lodge put on by a great many great chapter members. Ribs, steak, coleslaw, tossed salad and pie for dessert. More than enough to eat. We witnessed a few doggie bags going back to the convention site.

Thursday was another busy day. The IKEs **Great Lakes Committee** of which I am active a member convened a

special meeting during the Membership Breakfast. I was able to get my breakfast down in the half hour before my GLC actually began. More on that meeting below. Jay who stayed for the full breakfast accepted for our chapter the **Defenders Chapter Achievement Award**. We have received this award for 10 or more years now. This is given to chapters that meet certain conservation goals for the year. Each chapter demonstrated a commitment to membership, support of the League’s mission, local scholarships, on-the-ground conservation, effective communication, and youth engagement. Your Dwight Lydell Chapter has done it all with your help and support. This is YOUR award. Jay accepted this award for us. Jay is the third from the right in the second row in the group picture.



Now a bit on the Great Lakes Committee meeting. Most of the time this hour-long meeting focused on the the hydrologic separation of Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basins. Various committee members stepped up to take action to try to get the necessary legislation action moving. Central to our action was the article by Dan Egans of the *Journal Sentinel*, as reprinted in our May 2011 IKEs newsletter on page 9. If you are interested in reading this very informative article again go to our website or just let me know and I will e-mail to you. Also on the agenda was the state of Ohio’s pending legislation that would allow unacceptably large amounts of Great Lakes water to be diverted out of the Great Lakes basin in defiance of the intent of the Great Lakes Compact. Fortunately the Ohio governor vetoed this legislation.

The youth of the IKEs hold their own convention, which is entirely separate from the adults. They have some adult leadership but elect their own officers and conduct their own business. I have no in-depth knowledge of their event but have included some pictures (see page 7). I am sure they will be covered very well in the next issue of *Outdoor America*.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

berries, resident insects and future nesting sites for the birds. Don't miss the Prickly Pear cactus (a native



Michigan cactus) that is thriving on the site.

Our prairie stands on the hill. It is bursting forth with Black-Eyed



few shade grasses, Northern Sea Oats, has beautiful dried seed heads that the birds enjoy all winter.

Susan, Purple Coneflower, Yellow Coneflower, Blue Vervain, Milkweed, Rattlesnake Master and many other prairie plants. The prairie grasses Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Switch Grass and Little Bluestem wave in the breezes. The prairie is in motion as insects, butterflies and birds move through it in search of food.



Across from the prairie is the garden fill with drifts of native plants. Some of them are quite large and spectacular. Over six feet tall, the Cup Plant has large opposite leaves that form a cup to collect water for birds and insects. You can't miss the bright orange Butterfly Weed and neither can the many butterflies perched upon it. Indian Grass rises up to six feet tall and Little Bluestem turns a fiery shade of red in the fall. One of the

IKES YOUTH CONVENTION PHOTOS



The native garden is there for the IKEs and the public to enjoy and to inspire us to bring native plants, shrubs and trees into our gardens to restore nature's habitat.

Barb McGuirl

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

CORE EVENT SCHEDULE 2011

Chairperson

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| August 18, Thursday | Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Bluebird Program @ CC | Tom Watson |
| 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 2, Friday | Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant..... | Jay Huston |

DO YOU KNOW?

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="color: green; margin: 5px 0;">The alien Autumn Olive produces berries but no insects feed on it for the birds to eat.</p> <p style="color: green; margin: 5px 0;">The Alternate Leaf Dogwood produces berries and provides insects for birds.</p> <p style="color: green; margin: 5px 0;">Our native bees prefer native flowers to ornamental non-natives.</p> | <p style="color: green; margin: 5px 0;">Mowing your lawn for one hour produces as much pollution as driving 650 miles. Reduce your lawn, reduce pollution and reduce work. Plant native plants in place of parts of your lawn.</p> <p style="color: green; margin: 5px 0;">Leaf litter fertilizes, mulches and holds water for your plants – and it's free.</p> |
|--|---|

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 _____

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**
4905 Cresthill Dr NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

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pass it on to a friend.



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

CHICKEN AND RIB DINNER



and Bluebird Presentation

JOIN US AUGUST 18TH
FOR GREAT BARBEQUE!

Bring a dish to pass and a friend or two.
Social hour 6pm, dinner at 7pm.

Call Tom Watson before 8pm with questions.
Adults \$8, ages 6-12 \$4 with ages under six FREE
as are first time guests!

COMING UP

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14

Oktoberfest

