



IKEs

NEWSLETTER



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

August 2012

GEORGIA'S CORNER

I hope as I write that a cool breeze carries us into August. If not, I propose a rain-dance at the **Chicken & Rib Dinner** on the 16th. Enough of the scorching heat; we need some rain!

First, let me apologize for not sending pictures last time with my article about the shoreline restoration. The photos that were used, while very

Another project, a few months old.



A newly-installed shoreline erosion-control project.

Even though this is a very low water year, in many cases where lakes are "level-controlled" they still suffer from erosion due to high water maintained for boat traffic, and waves.



Happy Bass, what we want more of!

pretty, were not of native plants. Shorelines require natives, at least below the high-water mark, and benefit from nice deep-rooted natives on the bank, too. So here are a couple pictures so you can see what the coir logs look like, too. A more DIY method is to make "brush-bundles" out of native-tree branches, pine or whatever, wrapped in burlap, and then plant behind and through them with native live stakes such as dogwood or willow. The brush steadies them until they root, helping to secure the shore.

(continued on page 7)

Highlights This Issue:
2012 Convention
Volunteer Citizen Lobbying
Asian Carp
Letter from U.S. Rep Amash
National Newsletter Award
...and much more!

BIG GREEN RAFFLE...Continues!
All in support of Conservation Education, Scholarships, Kids Nature Club, Tear Drop Island, 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
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PAGE 5!

2012 CONVENTION - LINCOLN NEBRASKA: HOT, FUN, & PRODUCTIVE

Ron and Ruth Waybrant

WOW, was it hot! Not much incentive for leaving the air-conditioned hotel for a walk, so it was good that the convention was well run with enthusiastic participants and pertinent speakers with very good speaking skills.

One surprise for us was the youth convention and how much the youth enjoyed their events. They had a ball! They went to the zoo, to a shooting range, swimming, museums and more. When meeting them in the elevators and waiting for buses, they shared their enthusiasm and enjoyment of their scheduled activities. Parents should seriously think of attending the next convention with their children.

We were inspired by the speakers, and were impressed by the friendliness and dedication of the other attendees.

The keynote speaker, **Douglas Brinkley**, recently published a book on Teddy Roosevelt, emphasizing his

environment ethic and achievements in saving lands. Roosevelt was the first to convince legislators to designate national parks then used executive directive to establish national monuments when legislators and some landowners wouldn't pass legislation establishing the parks he asked for. Also, by using executive directives he could avoid the much longer legislative process.

Michael Forsberg, photographer, talked of his passion for photography, a study of Sandhill cranes and shared a collection of photographs he had taken in the Great Plains, plus a time lapse sequence from the Platte Basin Time-lapse Project. www.plattebasintimelapse.com This project aims to help answer the following questions:
Where does our water come from?
Where does it go?
How do we manage and use it?
And watch for the Great Plains special on NPR this fall.

Times Picayune Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and conservation editor for *Field & Stream* magazine, **Bob Marshall**, presented a concise and comprehensive description of how we are losing our environmental focus and how legislation and regulations are going backwards on environmental protection.

As first time conference attendees, we didn't really know what to expect. People were warm and gracious, and the speakers were excellent. Events moved at a reasonable pace and we enjoyed ourselves. The highlight was meeting people with a common interest in outdoor activities and conservation. Plus they all seemed to have a willingness to learn more and to work towards better our environment. We found the convention very well organized and run.

So, think seriously about attending next year's convention, which will be in **Fredericksburg, Virginia**, July 23-27, 2013!

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABILITY, NOVEMBER 16-18

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

You may want to attend one or more of these sessions. The **2012 International Conference on Sustainability, Transition & Culture Change: Vision, Action, Leadership** will be **Friday, November 16** through Sunday, **November 18, 2012** at the **Prince Conference Center** at **Calvin College** in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Early tentatively confirmed participants/speakers include:
* **Dr. Steve Keen**, top world economist, author of *Debunking Economics* (2nd Ed).

* **Daniel Quinn**, author of *Ishmael, The Story of B, and Beyond Civilization*, winner of the **Turner Tomorrow Fellowship**, who will appear via exclusive pre-recorded video.

* **Albert Bates**, author of *The Biochar Solution: Reversing Climate Change*, expert in permaculture, bioregionalism, and ecovillages.

* **Aaron Wissner**, speaker, educator and founder of **Local Future** non-profit and **NewCulture** youtube channel.

* **Nicole Foss**, senior editor of the *Automatic Earth*, worldwide lecturer on economics and its integration with energy.

* **Stephanie Milles**, author of *Epicurean Simplicity* and other works, lecturer and bioregionalist.

Speakers including visionaries, activists, and leaders are invited. Participants typically speak on the areas of culture change, social science, leadership, persuasion, economics, energy, sustainability, permaculture, transition towns, climate change, environmental issues, public education, etc. More information will be forthcoming.

To view information on LAST year's conference, please visit: <http://sustainabilityconference.org/>

The conference is hosted by **Local Future**, a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization.

We do hope to see you at the event.

Aaron Wissner, executive director, **Local Future**.

Thought Of The Month
Jay Huston

Don't judge those who try and fail.
Judge only those who fail to try.

ATTACK OF THE AUTUMN OLIVE

Maurie Houseman

Update: The planned joint venture with **Cannon Township** is still in the works but progressing slowly. We still plan to have a general, open to the public, training event on woody invasive plants at the IKEs sometime in the fall, with DNR professionals.

In the meantime, we have set as a first goal the removal of **Autumn Olive** and other woody plants from the dam area west of the pond, as the root systems from these plants are harmful to the integrity of the dam. This is in line with our Pond Committee's objectives.



Ron Waybrant has set up a pond workday for **Saturday, August 25** starting at 9:00 am.

I am adding three work days as follows:

Tuesday, August 14 at 4:00 pm -7:00 pm (before the board meeting)

Wednesday, August 22 at 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, August 28 at 10:00 am -1:00 pm

Please call Maurie Houseman at 560-2895 by the previous evening if you plan to be there on a work day.

If no one calls, I may not be there. If you wish to set up another time, call me. I will try to be available.

VOLUNTEER CITIZEN LOBBYING: THE HIGHEST FORM OF ACTIVISM!

Shirley Kallio

The respectful, thoughtful, informed interaction of citizens with their elected representatives is essential to a well-functioning democracy, before elections, during elections and after elections, irrespective of party identification.

“Advocacy” is an accepted, even laudatory, practice among interest constituencies. “Lobbying,” not so much. But lobbying is a natural extension of advocacy, making the connection between issue position and legislation. And volunteer lobbying, absent the stigma of financial compensation, is an honorable and necessary activity if broad public interests are to have the attention and the political support they deserve in the legislative process.

Lobbying is defined as attempts to influence legislation through communication, persuasion, in other words. It is the means by which we communicate in very specific ways our own priorities and preferred action in the hope of bringing our lawmaker's position into more alignment with our own.

As ordinary citizens, one of our most persuasive attributes is that of being a voting constituent. Studies have shown that lawmakers have a preference for learning about issues from the people who live in their districts. To be a constituent, particularly in small districts like our Michigan State House Districts, is to automatically enjoy an advantage of status. That advantage is enhanced by personal authenticity and credibility; in other words, our commitment to the issue is genuine as demonstrated by the depth of our familiarity with it.

Begin now to cultivate a relationship with your Michigan Representative and your Michigan Senator, a mutually respectful relationship that will facilitate communication and open up the possibility of constructive influence in the future. Introduce yourself at their next coffee hour or other public event.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

The **League** was asked along with many others groups to support a Healing Our Waters (**HOW**) Coalition's prepared letter to the **Federal Great Lakes Interagency Task Force** requesting that the President's fiscal year 2014 budget proposal includes at least \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (**GLRI**). The letter outlines some of the important work that is already happening

under the **GLRI** and why continued funding is essential to restoring the Great Lakes. I signed on for your **Dwight Lydell Chapter**, as did **John MacBeth** for the **Fenton Chapter**

and **John Sturgis** for the **Michigan Division**. This is rather routine, but we must fight every year to keep these funds coming to our state.

**Deadline for the September issue is
Monday, August 20th
at 8:00 AM.**

ELECTRICAL CARP BARRIER IS TOO FLIMSY A GREAT LAKES SHIELD

Editorial Submitted by Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Published: Sunday, June 03, 2012, 2:00 PM

Canada Pledges \$17.5 Million In Asian Carp Fight.

By *The Associated Press*, May 29, 2012

Generally one doesn't hear much about Canada's support or concern regarding blocking Asian Carp from the Great Lakes but they do and hear is a message concerning that! Canada said Monday it will devote \$17.5 million to protecting the Great Lakes from Asian carp, including development of an early warning system with U.S. agencies so authorities can react quickly if the invasive species is detected.

Another priority will be informing people about the dangers that Asian carp pose and how to keep them out of the lakes, which the two nations share, said **Keith Ashfield**, minister of Canada's **Fisheries and Oceans** department. Canada also will work with law enforcement agencies to prevent unlawful transport of the fish.

"We are committed to working with our American counterparts to continue to protect the Great Lakes basin," Ashfield said. "Together, these measures will go a long way toward our ultimate goal of stopping Asian carp from entering and becoming established in the Great Lakes."

Asian carp have been exported to Canada for live sale in markets, although the fish are banned in **Ontario** and **British Columbia**. Canadian authorities have stepped up enforcement actions at the border in recent years, intercepting a number of shipments.

The epicenter of the battle is a network of rivers and canals in the Chicago area that form a link between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi watershed. The U.S. government operates an electric fish barrier there, and officials are considering whether to build structures that would separate the two systems.

The proposed early warning and monitoring system will be designed to alert experts if Asian carp are detected in the lakes and to have a plan ready if they appear to be spreading. The **International Joint Commission**, a treaty organization that advises both Canada and the U.S. about issues affecting the Great Lakes, has urged them to step up their detection efforts. **Joe Comuzzi**, the commission's Canadian chairman, said Canada's funding pledge was an important step. "Our two nations must work together to stop this very real threat, to protect both the fishery and the health of the entire ecosystem," Comuzzi said.

A WORLD VIEW OF ASIAN CARP

By *D'Arcy Egan, The Plain Dealer*

Submitted by Bob Stegmier

The **Mississippi** and **Illinois** rivers have more **Asian Carp** than anywhere else on the planet. Even more than China where they came from, according to Brian Ickes, a biologist from the United States Geological Survey who gave a presentation on Asian Carp at the **Mississippi River Forum** a few weeks ago. In addition to the science, the presentation was rife with ironic observations, and a must read for anyone interested in Asian carp.

Fishermen **Orion Briney** and **Jeremy Fisher** use trammel nets to haul in black Asian bighead carp from the Illinois River near Peoria IL. They work out of a 24 ft. aluminum johnboat, bringing in 3,000 carp with a full load.

He's studied carp in the **Yangtze River** basin in China, where the species are in precipitous decline thanks to pollution, development and over fishing. And that's ironic in a couple of ways. First, because the

Chinese revere the fish. "They call it the *Leaping Dragon* fish, a cultural symbol of bravery, perseverance, and strength, is (a) increasingly endangered in the wild; and (b) perhaps the most domesticated animal on the planet."

That's not how we think of it, perhaps because here the species is in ascendance. Ickes points out, another irony, that the reason the fish are doing so well here is because we've been through that industrial pollution phase that China is experiencing now, and we've cleaned up our rivers. As a result, the fish can thrive here when they can't in their native land. "As far as wild populations go, the greatest density of Asian carp on the planet now likely exists in Illinois waters of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, places largely inhospitable to aquatic life a mere 60 years ago as we began recovery from our industrialization phase."

Now here is the best part, the series of historical ironies that land us where we are today.

"We are trying to keep invasive Chinese carps out of the Great Lakes, to protect an invasive (yet purposefully stocked) Pacific salmon fishery, which was stocked as a management tool to control hyper-abundant alewives, another invasive fish species, because the native piscivore, the Lake Trout, was nearly wiped out by another invasive species, the sea lamprey, because people built the **Welland Canal** around **Niagara Falls** to promote intercontinental shipping deep into the Great Lakes basin."

A shipping canal started the sequence in 1939 with the completion of the **Second Welland Canal**, connecting the **Eastern Atlantic** to the interior **Great Lakes**. Similarly, the **Cal-Sag Sanitary and Shipping Canal** connects the Great Lakes to the interior of the North American continent and even the Gulf Coast."

**2013 IKES
NATIONAL
CONVENTION
JULY 23-27, 2013
FREDERICKSBURG
VIRGINIA**
Ron Waybrant

Located near our nation's capitol, next year's IKES national convention will be in Fredericksburg Virginia at the **Fredericksburg Hospitality & Convention Center**. Save these dates, **July 23-27, 2013**, and think seriously about attending. They also have a great youth program at the convention.

BIG GREEN RAFFLE

Bob Stegmier

The BIG GREEN RAFFLE marches on towards September 12 (Oktoberfest) and the FIRST BIG GREEN RAFFLE DRAWING for our chapter!

There will be eleven winners that night, one for \$500 and 10 for \$50 each.

We are in the money now so every ticket sold goes right to our bottom line in support of our Conservation Education mission. The potential profit of our efforts is somewhere around \$6,700 if all tickets are sold!

First, evaluate where you are in the selling of your allotment and how you will sell them all by September First. Family and friends get together are good sources of buyers, so are class reunions, block parties, at work, church, neighbors etc.

Second, if for some reason you

haven't received an allotment of tickets please call **Bob Stegmier** for some right away.

Third, if you sold all of yours, please ask for more! Your help is wanted and needed.

Last but not least, be honest with yourself, the BGR committee and your Board of Directors and determine whether you will sell all or most of your allotment by that first week in September. The committee is certainly not suggesting you give up on selling tickets because we need everyone's best effort to be successful. BUT if you are dead in the water, sure you won't sell anymore please return them to Bob Stegmier for reissuing now, sooner not later.

Contact **Marylou Sundt**, 443.7377, email: hellomarylou56@yahoo.com or **Bob Stegmier** 616.481.5497, email: rstegmier@ameritech.net

\$500: \$50 \$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), Tear Drop Island, College Scholarships, & Much More

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

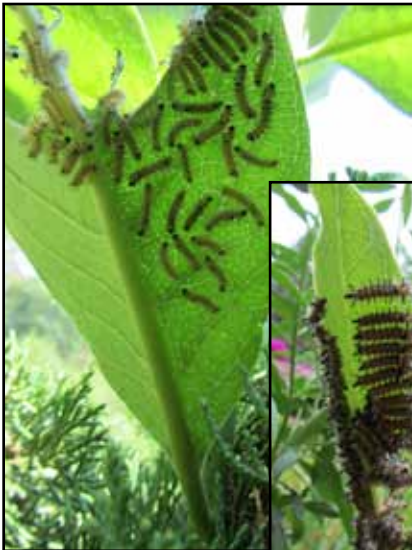
CATERPILLARS ARE BLOOMING!

Below is a photo of a Swallowtail Butterfly caterpillar from Georgia:

“With just one fennel plant in the yard, it was amazing to see a Swallowtail home in on it a few weeks ago, acting like it was laying eggs. Now here’s the larva!”



These next ones are Tussock Moth larvae from Tam and Tom’s milkweed plants in their garden (we thought they were monarchs at first).



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
 mhouseman@grar.com
 Jay Huston..... 942.2503
 wjhuston1@yahoo.com
 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 Kuzma..... 874.7279
 kooz7@chartermi.net

GEORGIA'S CORNER

(continued from page 1)

At any rate, I hope you've all had a chance to get into some water this summer. Cool-downs prevent meltdowns!

I got a message from potential new member and water-activist, **Steve "Ribs" Rybczynski**. He's come home to roost, after working in Oklahoma, and is setting up shop at GVSU, teaching future science teachers about aquatic education. The exciting part is that he wants to get kids into the woods and waters, via the IKEs' **Creak Freaks** or **Save Our Streams** programs, and whatever else we come up with. Michigan has plenty of waterways for kids to study and we need new momentum in this area. We used to say, "Don't push the river" and I get that, but these days, we do need to "push rivers!" So if

you'd like to help in this area, let's talk. It's fun to get into the field with kids and nets.

I believe we have many times still available for lodge-rentals and camp-outs. Camping is free, and the rental fees, while reasonable, help us to cover our property expenses. It's a pleasant and easy venue for all kinds of get-togethers.

Speaking of money now is the time to fund a year's worth of projects and programs. Not much is free, and we'll always put income to good use. To keep it fun, rather than asking for donations or purchases, we're trying the **Big Green Raffle**. The first drawing is coming up in September, so let's get the tickets circulating!



Hopefully we'll gather some funds, and someone will win \$1000!

Please join us on the 16th for Chicken & Ribs, and a talk with the "Bluebird Guys," **Mark DeHaan** and **Paul Sherd**. Have you noticed some new improved attachments to the bluebird trail? It will be interesting to get an update!

Georgia Donovan

**IKEs Newsletter
National Winner: Best
Newsletter Award
Third Consecutive Award**

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

CHAIR PERSON

August 16, Thursday	Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Bluebird Program @ CC	Tom Watson
September 12, Wednesday	Oktoberfest @ CC.....	Bob Stegmier
September 22, Saturday.....	Michigan Division Meeting DLC-CC	Div. Pres. John Sturgis
October 10, Wednesday	Chili Cook Off/Potluck @ CC.....	Tom Watson
November 1, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC.....	Tom Watson
December 6	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

PEBBLE MINE

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Here is a response I received from my US Representative regarding my concerns on the proposed Pebble mine and below that the US EPA evaluation process and schedule. I suspect many of you also have concerns and may have contacted you representative too.

EPA Project Summary

The EPA released for public comment a draft scientific study of the **Bristol Bay** watershed and its natural resources. EPA's report responds to growing interest in large-scale mining in the watershed from a number of stakeholders and local communities with a range of views and will lead to a better understanding of potential environmental impacts of these activities on the watershed. Under the **Clean Water Act**, EPA has the authority and responsibility to protect the nation's water and perform scientific studies that enhance the agency's and the public's knowledge of water resources. EPA's focus in the assessment is scientific and technical; the agency has made no judgments about the use of its regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act and the draft study in no way prejudices future consideration of proposed mining activities.

Announcements

Public comments will be accepted on the draft watershed assessment through July 23. See below for information about how to provide comments.

Peer Review

The peer review panel will meet to review the scientific and technical merit of the draft watershed assessment in **Anchorage** on August 7-9. A detailed explanation of how the meeting is organized and how you can sign up to participate was published in the *Federal Register* on July 6, 2012. Read the Federal Register notice You're invited to observe the panel deliberations on the first two days (August 7 and 8), and you can make

July 18, 2012
Dear Mr. Stegmier,

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the proposed pebble mine in **Bristol Bay, Alaska**. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this issue.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (**EPA**) is conducting a scientific analysis of the Bristol Bay watershed in southwest Alaska in order to better understand how future large-scale development may affect water quality and the local salmon fishery. The assessment will examine whether large development projects such as a large mine will have unacceptable impacts on fish populations of the **Kvichak** and **Nushagak** river drainages, and ultimately on the salmon fisheries of Bristol Bay.

The scientific process is being conducted with a public process, as the EPA will share findings and progress with the public throughout the course of the assessment. Information about the process is available at www.epa.gov/region10/bristolbay

I will keep your comments in mind as I continue to monitor this issue. Thank you again for contacting me, and please feel free to contact my office if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Justin Amash
United States Representative
Third District of Michigan

P.S. I explain every vote I take in the House of Representatives on my Facebook Page at <http://facebook.com/repjustinamash> You can "like" my Page to receive real-time updates and interact with me while you are logged in to Facebook, or if you do not have a Facebook account, you can simply view my posts at <http://facebook.com/repjustinamash>

oral comments to the peer review panel on August 7. You must register in advance by July 23 in order to attend the meeting, either as an observer or to make oral comments. Sign up at www.versar.com/epa/bristolbayregistration.html.

For more information about the peer review meeting, please contact **Brittany Ekstrom** (bekstrom@versar.com), Versar, Inc., 703. 642.6767.

Link: Final Peer Review Charge Questions (PDF) (4 pp, 52K)

Document Links:

An Assessment of Potential Mining Impacts on Salmon Ecosystems of Bristol Bay, Alaska

- Executive Summary (PDF) (32 pp, 4 MB, about PDF)
- Main Report (PDF) (338 pp, 20 MB)
- Read the full report and appendices

FRACKING ENERGY RESOLUTION PASSED AT IWLA CONVENTION 2012

OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING

The IWLA recognizes the need for increased production of energy resources from currently available resources in order to sustain our population, maintain the economy and provide for future generations. We also realize that there is a need for development of new sustainable and environmentally friendly, sources of energy. Extraction of these vital resources must be done in a manner which protects the environment, maximizes the quantity of resource recovery and allows for adequate economic benefit for the resource owner and the production company. The production of natural gas contained within shale formations, which were previously not feasible for companies to develop, has caused a heightened awareness of the impacts and potential for environmental damages. A process referred to as hydrofracking makes the production of natural gas from these shale formations possible and provides an energy source that would support our energy needs for years to come.

The IWLA, in adherence to our charter and founding principles, supports the wise use of our natural resources and supports the development of laws, regulations and principles of governance for the exploration and development of these energy resources by the drilling process. Protection of the soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife during the production and consumption of these energy resources will leave the earth habitable for future generations of people, flora and fauna. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) sets standards for water discharge compliance as authorized by the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act currently exempts storm water runoff from oil and natural gas well drilling sites from the NPDES permit process.

The more recent drilling programs disturb a larger surface area than traditional drilling sites. The potential for runoff contamination by drilling fluids is greater and needs to have monitoring requirements. Disposal of wastewater is done by evaporation/absorption in on site pits, surface application to lands away from drill site, injection in wells or mines, and transport to municipal wastewater treatment facilities. Waste disposal from these well sites poses a strong potential for contamination of surface and ground waters. Fluids injected underground and absorption of drilling wastewater into the surface have the significant potential to contaminate underground aquifers.

When the problems caused by drilling were beginning to become common knowledge, the IWLA pass a resolution (see IWLA Conservation Policies Handbook, Chapter VI) calling for EPA to study the effects of hydraulic fracturing and other underground injection then implementation of appropriate rules before further drilling was permitted. That has not happened and as realization of the serious consequences of the drilling are understood by everyone, it is time for both the EPA and state plus local authorities to enact careful regulations. We present several of the most important ones below.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Lincoln, Nebraska on July 20, 2012, supports enactment of the following requirements for all oil and natural gas drilling sites:

1. Congress should repeal sections 402(1)(2) and 502(24) of the Clean Water Act which exempt oil and natural gas drilling from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements.

2. Following repeal of the exemption in sections 402(1)(2) and 502(24) of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall develop and adopt regulations applying the NPDES permit process to discharges of storm water runoff from oil and natural gas operations. Regulations must require monitoring and reporting of storm water discharges and can utilize general permits, provided such permits require individual site registration and address factors specific to each geographic area and geologic production zone.
3. As part of any permit system regulating oil and natural gas drilling sites, the appropriate regulatory agency shall require compliance with relevant Best Management Practices (BMPs) for site development, operation, closure, and reclamation, and impose penalties for noncompliance.
4. Any permit system regulating oil and natural gas drilling sites should protect wetlands and riparian zones by requiring compliance with all relevant local, state and federal ordinances and regulations concerning such resources.
5. Prior to drilling permit issuance, a notice of intent to drill shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area to be drilled. This notice shall include a right to a public hearing by residents and landowners in the affected communities.
6. Groundwater monitoring shall be required for all oil and natural gas drilling, production, disposal and drilling fluids storage.
7. All drilling permits must require adequate bonding to provide sealing, reclamation, and environmental remediation.

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.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR THE DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER

Ron Waybrant

Our chapter newsletter again won a national award. Kudos to **Tom & Tam** and the students at **Kent Career Tech Center!** Our newsletter received the *Best Chapter Newsletter Award 2011* was recognized for the quality of writing, the inclusion of photos, the completeness of scheduling and contact information. Special mention was made of giving the Kent Skills students an opportunity for learning and developing publication skills.

We also received the *Defenders Chapter Achievement Tenth Year Honor Award* for successful chapter programs promoting membership, contribution, education, conservation, youth involvement and communication. We are one of the few chapters to receive the Defenders Chapter Achievement award for ten straight years.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Now is the time to scout out wetlands infested with **Purple Loosestrife** and note the location for next April's assault to control them with the *Gallerucella californiensis* beetle.



GREAT PLAINS DOCUMENTARY ON PBS THIS FALL!

Ron Waybrant

Watch for the upcoming documentary on the Great Plains on PBS this fall:

Sandhill cranes from Mexico to Canada. Excellent photography. Check this url for a time-lapse sequence from **Michael Forsberg**: www.plattebasintimelapse.com

America's Grasslands: A Threatened National Treasure

Six minute video on the Great Plains: <http://www.ducks.org/conservation/where-we-work/prairie-pothole-region>

The Prairie Pothole Region is the core of what was once the largest expanse of grassland in the world, the Great Plains of North America. Its name comes from a geological phenomenon that left its mark beginning 10,000 years ago. When the glaciers from the last ice age receded, they left behind millions of shallow depressions that are now wetlands, known as prairie potholes. The potholes are rich in plant and aquatic life, and support globally significant populations of breeding waterfowl. Agricultural development caused considerable wetland drainage in the area. The Great Plains and Prairie Pothole Region are No. 1 on the 25 most important and threatened waterfowl habitats on the continent.

LODGE RESERVATIONS

- August 18 Watson family rental
- September 8 Jack Hornbach
(and class of 48 from Central HS)
- September 21 Dave West
- September 22 MI Divisional Meeting
- September 29 Vanhaften family
- October 4 Bill Gould
- October 5 Kevin Antel

BULLETIN BOARD

Little Manistee Property For Sale:
10.1 acres of wooded, undeveloped land. Over 1000 feet river frontage. Ideal building site on high bank on big river bend. Located approximately 4 miles west of Irons just downstream from **Driftwood** campground. For more infor-

mation call **Jamie Crosby 616.443.2486** or **John Crosby 616.648.9011**. Appraised value and asking price of **\$190,000**.

(send bulletin board items to:
Tom Watson at twatson@comcast.net)

RESTORING THE RAPIDS

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

I know some of you do not take *The Grand Rapids Press* so may have missed this story.

I think it may be something all chapter members, as conservationists, will need to think about and maybe want to comment on. While we may have thoughts regarding dams in general under the thinking of removing all dams to return rivers to their natural state there are concerns about **Asian Carp** (AC) getting into Lakes Michigan. So there may be a proper time based on current circumstances that there is a likelihood AC will get into the Great Lakes to think twice about removing the dam in GR. Other concerns are such as what affect there will be to the upstream water level such as at Riverside Park and maybe further up stream. At the meeting I attended it was mentioned that a dam would need to be added at Ann Street to maintain this upstream, water level. What is the wisdom of that? Is it motivated largely to add a class 2 whitewater rapids in GR for that excitement. This certainly is something to think about and discuss from all points of view. You can e-mail me or any board member your thoughts.

From *The Grand Rapids Press*; July 24, 2012

Seeing Rapids On The Grand Once Again? Priceless. The Cost To Restore Them? \$27 Million

BY JIM HARGER

JHARGER@MLIVE.COM

GRAND RAPIDS — Restoring the rapids to the Grand River through downtown Grand Rapids will cost \$27.5 million, a subcommittee of the Downtown Development Authority learned Monday.

The project would remove or modify five dams along a 2-mile stretch of the river between Ann Street NE and the U.S. 131 S-curve, according to a report prepared by Grand Rapids White Water, a nonprofit group formed to study the possibility of restoring the river.

How the money will be raised remains an open question. "In terms of financing the project, I don't think they are at that point yet," Assistant City Planning Director **Eric Pratt** told the DDA's Environmental Action Group. "I think, right now, it's being circulated as an information item."

The group is expected to seek federal grants that will pay for some of the restoration, but local matches also will be sought from local sources, according to the report.

"Grants usually require a cost share of at least 25 percent and usually a federal grant requires a 35 percent non-federal cost share," the report said. "Partnerships for this project will likely require at least \$2 million in donated or local government cash to complete a 35 percent match." Grand Rapids White Water is expected to ask the DDA for \$100,000 towards further engineering and environmental studies next month, Pratt said. The report they received Monday was funded by a \$25,000 grant

that was matched by a local brewery.

The report includes a timeline to complete the final design in mid-2013. Construction would begin in mid-2014 and conclude in late 2016.

Assistant City Engineer **Rick DeVries** said most of the \$27.5 million in costs involve work in the riverbed and does not include work that would be required on the riverbanks.

Team member **Steve Faber**, director of Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, estimated the project would require matching investments along the riverbank.

"I think this is a great project and we can all be proud of it when it's done," Faber said. "They're focused on what's wet. We should also make sure we're focused on the land." The project, which began as a proposal to install a kayaking course downtown, has been expanded to remove the Fourth Street Dam and other dams built to harness and tame the riverbed's 18-foot drop as it passes through the downtown area.

Removing the dams would improve the river's water quality, enhance the natural beauty of the riverfront, attract tourism and new business opportunities and add access to the river, the report said.

A restored riverbed also would increase and improve the river's fish habitat, increase upstream spawning and improve the river's health, the report concluded. The project would include a barrier aimed at preventing the spread of the sea lamprey, an invasive fish species. The restoration also would open the river to new recreational uses such as whitewater rowing and allow for the creation of two riverfront parks that will improve public access to the river above and below the rapids, the report said.



Rapids on the Grand River downtown could resemble this scene from March 2011, when the river was running during spring flooding.



**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

CHICKEN AND RIBS DINNER



and Bluebird Trail Program
with Mark DeHaan and Paul Sherd



JOIN US
AUGUST 16TH
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!

Next month don't miss

Oktober Fest



Wednesday
September 12

and then in October
our 1st Annual



Wednesday, 10/10