



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

The IKEs Update

August 2014

How are the fireflies in your neighborhood? I recently had the pleasure of watching a young visitor's face light up as he saw his first fireflies. Truly a treasure! A six-year-old's brain soaks up information, and he became a relentless bug-studier. When there's no TV the world is worth exploring. The forest border areas at the IKEs' provide a good place for viewing at dusk, as does the open meadow at **Luton Park**, if you need a field trip. Following fireflies is peaceful magic.



I confess I've been gone, out of the IKEs' loop for about a month. **Fun & Fix-it** projects have been underway, and I expect to join the action next time!

My annual trip to **Drummond Island** this year was fascinating, and I hope to share some of those "traditional arts" from camp with you if possible. One project was a nice big moose-hide canoe that was constructed in 4 days, by several determined canoe-builders. It was their first with moose-hide, which they hand-stitched in a waterproof way. The finished boat was beautiful! I wonder if they could bring it for a visit someday.

(continued on page 3)

Thought of the Month

Jay Huston

"You're braver than you believe,
stronger than you seem,
and smarter than you think."

Christopher Robin

**SEND US YOUR
FISHING, CAMPING OR OTHER OUTDOOR
STORIES AND WE'LL PUBLISH THEM IN
THE NEWSLETTER. SEND PLAIN TEXT
AND A PHOTO OR TWO, JPG FORMAT TO:**

TWWATSON@COMCAST.NET

Core Event Schedule 2014

Please Check Monthly for Updates

August 14, Thursday	Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Program @ CC	Houseman, Watson
September 10, Wednesday	Oktoberfest @ CC	Tom Watson
October 8, Wednesday	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC	Tom Watson
November 20, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC	Tom Watson
December 4, Thursday.....	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

Just Ducky, Who Would Have Known That Little Duckys Fledge Significant Different Than Robins

From *Brood Ecology In The July August Issue Of Ducks Unlimited.*

Written By Johonn Walker Ph.D.

Submitted by Bob Stegmier

“A nesting hen lays about one egg a day until her clutch is complete and she will incubate her eggs for about a month. Despite differences in the ages of her eggs, which can vary as much as 10 days or more depending on the size of the clutch, all of them typical hatch within a 12 hour period. Remarkably ducklings know when it’s time to hatch by communicating with each other while still inside the egg. Towards the end of incubation, developing ducklings begin making a range of subtle sounds, called “pipping.” This insures that the ducklings will hatch at approximately the same time, and that none of them get left behind.

“Duckling mortality is highest during the first weeks after hatching, when the tiny down-covered birds are most vulnerable. During this time, ducklings are extremely secretive, relying on the natural camouflage of their down feathers and on wetland vegetation to conceal them from predators. They also depend on their mothers to keep them warm in inclement weather, to lead them to good hiding places, and to distract predators that threaten them. Despite the best efforts of attentive hens, many ducklings die from exposure in cold, wet weather or are claimed by a variety of predators, including raptors such as great-horned owls and small mammals like mink.



“Ducklings use a pointed bump on the end of their bill, known as an “egg tooth”, to crack open their shells. The ducklings hatch with a full set of feathers and with open eyes. The hen keeps her brood warm and dry by covering them with her body and wings. Once the ducklings’ fuzzy down has dried they are ready to leave the nest. Unlike songbird hatchlings, which remain in the nest while they are fed by parents, ducklings can feed on their own. They can also swim and dive. Within 24 to 48 hours after the ducklings hatch, the hen leads them to a nearby wetland to feed.

With luck, many first-year hens will return to the breeding grounds the next spring with mates and will raise broods of their own.”

**Deadline for the September issue is
MONDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 8:00 AM.**

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 - \$52, ____ Family - \$72, ____ Student (18-21) - \$24, ____ Youth (under 18) - \$12.00

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. A gate key is provided upon receipt of membership fee. You can pick up your key at the next dinner at the lodge. Please enjoy the 39 acres.

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

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

Conservation _____ Programs _____ Every Member Dinners _____

The Izaak Walton League of America – a non-profit conservation organization – is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code.

Silent Auction Suggestion

Bob Stegmier

As it is often said, timing is everything. Well, I think it is "time" for someone else to donate a "face cord" of firewood as a "silent auction" item for our annual IKE's banquet silent auction. A face cord is generally understood to be one third of a cord or a stack of split wood 4 feet by 8 feet by 16 inches.

I am throwing out this "opportunity" with the hope that someone younger will pick it up. Also with all of the storms and downed trees someone might just be looking for what to do with some of this wood. Oak, Maple, and Cherry make great fireplace wood or for general heating, which some folks do these days.



Of course you don't have to stop at only a face cord; you could donate two face cords or even a full cord. The deal I offered was a face cord delivered and stacked within 30 miles of our IKE's property. You of course do what you are most comfortable with as the donor. If you want to make such a donation, contact **Fred Eyer** at **616.363.0253**. You might be out there cutting up some trees now or have some stacked, so now might just be the perfect time.

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

www.michiganikes.org
www.iwla.org



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The IKE's Update

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I hope you are enjoying the IKEs this summer and that we can get a good series of programs through the fall and winter.

Meanwhile, it's a delicious time of year to be a conservationist by eating local fruits and vegetables!

When I drove down from the UP I scored some Saskatoon berries. They are a bigger version of our native serviceberries, being grown commercially now to fill a gap before cherry season. Wonderful!

See you soon!
Georgia Donovan



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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

Come on down to the
Chicken and Rib Dinner
Thursday August 14



**Bluebird Presentation with Mark
DeHaan and Paul Sherd!**

Please bring a summertime dish to pass
and all your friends and family.

Social Hour: 6:00PM, Dinner: 7:00PM

Adults: \$8, youth: 6-12 \$4 and under 6 FREE
as are first time guests!

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE JOIN US!

FUN AND FIX UP EVENT

August 23rd

Anyone can come for
either a short time or
longer time and
work as much or
little as you want.

LUNCH PROVIDED!

**Also coming up
September 10:
Oktoberfest!**