

www.michiganikes.org

August 2018

The IKEs Update

As I write I'm enjoying a view of pines and oaks, with a cool drizzle bringing out the colors of bark and pine needles, moss and lichen. The oak sedge is soaking up the water. The birds are excited. I went up north after the plant sale, and it's nice to think of all those baby plants going to their new homes and putting roots down. After an awfully hot summer, early fall might be great for planting. Keep an eye on the **Native Plant Garden**, which sends out another wave of color this month.

Habitat on the top, roots below; prairie plants help to clean water both by soaking it up and sending it down, as roots create channels for water to absorb into the soil rather than running off. The high school kids on my **Green Team** usually have bigger projects, such as buffers along the **Rogue River** or its tributaries, but they also put in a tiny rain-garden along the sidewalk at the IKEs'. We were considering putting in a new walk, higher than the mud puddle that occasionally covers it. But to save time and money, the guys aimed trenches away from the driveway, a small eave-trough was installed over the door, and then the Green Team dug out a slight depression next to the walk, planting wildflowers and sedges in it. We used a few dif-



ferent kinds, to keep it interesting and see what works.

We've had a couple of really nice **Campfire Thursdays**, despite not even being able to have a fire at first. A burn-ban was in effect, but besides that, it was just too hot! Instead, we had a great time picking black raspberries and stirring them into cups of ice cream. We hung out or



ran around, depending on our age, enjoying wine or ice cream, and had a lot of fun. **Sue McMaster** and her clan popped up a couple of tents and spent the night, while a couple of campers set up at the other area. Plenty of room for all.

The next week, we ate watermelon by the pond as we watched **Scarlet**



Tanagers in the treetops. What a colorful combination! Great bird-spotting, **Leah Stoddard!**

Joe Gritter's kids added to the fun, too. Meanwhile, some boys from **Camp Rogers** hiked over and camped at the upper area.

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Native Plants For Everyone

On July 21, twenty-five adults and miscellaneous children attended on a rainy day. They enjoyed our tours and plant identification and bought lots of plants. We raised \$90 for the IKEs.



Local Mystery – Trail Cams Considered Tammy Lundeen

We are very saddened to report the third “mysterious” disappearance of large sections of plants at **Tear Drop Island**. Their absence does **NOT** go unnoticed. The plants in this special place have been contributed by our members, occasionally started on site from seed or purchased outright from various native plant nurseries. In some cases it takes years to develop a nice stand of them. These plants are there for **EVERYONE** to learn from and enjoy, not for individuals to personally utilize. We ask respect for what it has taken to develop Tear Drop, the plants there, fellow members and the guests who enjoy our property. Thank you from your TDI volunteers.

Sixth Street Dam and Sea Lamprey Control

John Stegmeier

Earlier this year I received a document, *Sea Lamprey Control Needs And Considerations Grand River, Lake Michigan*, because of my involvement with the **Lake Michigan Fisheries Citizens Advisory Committee**. The document does not explain how some of the data was collected or analyzed, but even if we take it at face value it should cause concern over the proposal made by **Grand Rapids White Water** for a restoration project on the Grand River in Grand Rapids that includes partial removal of the **6th Street Dam**.



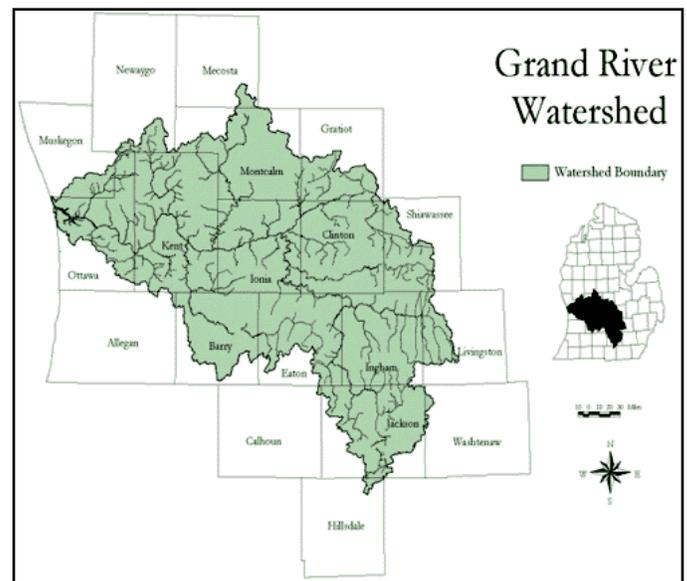
The removal of the 6th Street Dam which has been acting as a barrier to **Sea Lamprey** migration and its removal would open 1900 miles of the Grand River and its tributaries to invasion by Sea Lamprey on their spawning run. Previous surveys have shown that 29 of 44 tributaries in this area of the river are inhabited by native lamprey species, suggesting that they would be suitable habitat for Sea Lamprey. Native lampreys are also present in the main stream of this reach of the Grand River also.

To prevent Sea Lamprey from gaining access to these spawning grounds Grand Rapids White Water has included an adjustable hydraulic structure at the upstream end of the rapids to act as a barrier to lamprey. The **AHS** structure is said to be “designed to provide an equivalent or increased level of protection” compared to the 6th Street Dam. This system would utilize prohibitive water velocities to prevent migration, but “[T]he **GLFC** and its partners have used inflatable and velocity barrier components in the past with mixed success.” This is a new design and has not been tested against migrating Sea Lamprey, yet government agencies are being asked to allow it to be used on the second largest stream in the state to protect 1900 miles of stream a good deal of which is excellent lamprey habitat.

Sea Lamprey are not a great concern to the ecology

of the stream, but they are devastating to fish populations when they migrate to the Great Lakes to begin the parasitic phase of their life cycle. This document uses an estimated value of the Lake Michigan fishery of \$2.55 billion among the 4 states bordering the lake. I would point out that an increased Sea Lamprey population in Lake Michigan could result in funding within the **USFWS Sea Lamprey Control Program** to be shifted from other lake basins to Lake Michigan so that it might be important to consider an economic value of over \$7 billion as well.

The cost to treat all of the tributaries if there was no barrier or if the barrier is a complete failure is estimated to be \$4,847,000 and if the mainstream requires treatment also \$7,247,000. Treatments would have to be repeated every 3 to 4 years so long as the situation persists. The cost estimate for the mainstream is complicated by the fact that “cannot be completed with conventional application equipment currently



possessed by the SLCP”

This proposed AHS barrier may work and even if it does not Sea Lamprey may not infest all of the tributaries in the first few years. The costs of treatments and the risk to the fishery are very high. It seems as though this system could be tested on a smaller stream or even more effectively in the lower reaches of the rapids downstream of the 6th Street Dam before removal of the dam is approved.

Healing Our Waters Bob Stegmier

Our **Dwight Lydell Chapter** was part of the 2004 HOW “inaugural” event held here in Grand Rapids at the **Amway Grand Plaza** and in attendance was just about anybody interested and involved in protecting our environment. **John Trimberger** and I attended and there may have been other chapter members too. The two of us have attended about half of the events since. All very worthwhile and educational!

Here is a very recent communication received from them! Printed unedited by permission of **HavenC@nwf.org**:

Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition

Coalition to EPA: Strong Action Plan Essential to Maintain Progress on Great Lakes Restoration

EPA to hold public engagement session in Milwaukee tonight.

ANN ARBOR, MICH. (July 18, 2018)—The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition is urging the U.S. EPA to continue to engage the public in an effort to put forward a strong, focused action plan to protect and restore the Great Lakes. The agency is holding a “public engagement session tonight in Milwaukee” to solicit input to help guide the crafting of the EPA’s Great Lakes Action Plan 3, which will set restoration and funding priorities from 2020-2024.

“A strong action plan, that truly reflects the public’s input, is essential to maintain progress on Great Lakes restoration,” said Todd Ambs, campaign direc-

tor for the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. “Federal restoration efforts are producing results, but serious threats remain—underscoring the need for a strong, focused plan and full funding from the White House and Congress to see the plan through.”

Securing a strong Action Plan 3 is a top priority for the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. The EPA has stated its intent to release a draft action plan in the fall. The Coalition will be submitting formal comments on what it would like to see in the plan.

Over the last nine years, the U.S. Congress has invested more than \$2.9 billion in more than 4,000 projects as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Restoration projects in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York are helping to restore fish and wildlife habitat, clean up toxic pollution, reduce polluted runoff from cities and farms, and fight inva-

sive species.

But serious threats remain to the Great Lakes, and to the people and communities that rely on them, from toxic algal outbreaks that poison drinking water, close beaches, and hurt tourism, to ongoing toxic contamination that poses a threat to the health of people and wildlife.

The public meeting in Milwaukee tonight is the fourth of six public engagement sessions.

“We appreciate the EPA’s commitment to public engagement through the six community listening sessions,” said Ambs. “Continued public engagement is essential for the program’s success, and we encourage the agency to provide a robust public comment period and engagement strategy when the draft Action Plan 3 is released. This restoration effort has made progress to date because a wide array of people, representing businesses, industry, Tribes,

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Healing Our Waters

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conservation organizations, and community groups, as well as local, state, and federal officials, have worked together to craft a shared set of Great Lakes restoration goals. We want to do everything we can to make sure that this sense of unity and purpose continues so that can protect this vital resource for people now and for generations to come.”

lubetkin@nwf.org www.nwf.org

Uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world

The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition consists of more than 150 environmental, conservation, outdoor recreation organizations, zoos, aquariums and museums representing millions of people, whose common goal is to restore and protect the Great Lakes. For more information visit <http://www.healthylakes.org> Follow us on twitter [@healthylakes](https://twitter.com/healthylakes).

Jordan Lubetkin, Director, Regional Communications
National Wildlife Federation
Great Lakes Regional Center,
Office: 734.887.7109, Mobile:
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IKEs and HOW staff at the 2010 annual conference

IKEs Update

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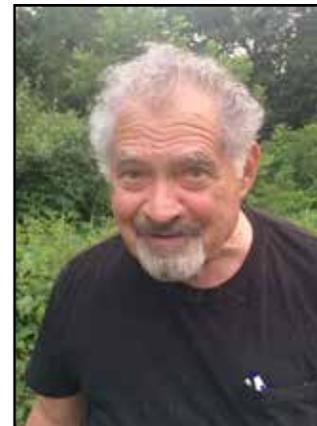
I like the casualness of these Thursday evenings and think they'll be great throughout the fall. Just show up, roast something

or not, hang out while the kids play. Time can vary as the light and schedules change, but we've been getting there around 7:00ish.

wards if we want. See you there!

Georgia Donovan

And on **August 16** don't forget our **Barbecue Chicken & Ribs Dinner** and election! The campfire can always continue after-



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Lodge Rental

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LODGE CALENDAR 2018

August 5-6 Nicolette Sowder Rental

August 11 Tom Watson Rental:
Bob Harshman Memorial

August 14 Board Meeting 7:00 PM

August 16 Chicken & Ribs Dinner

August 19 Tom Watson Rental

August 28 Tam/Barb McGuirl:
Rockford Garden Club Meeting

September 11 Board Meeting 7:00 PM

September 19 Oktoberfest

September 20 Ethan Anderson Rental

September 22 Sally Triant Rental

October 5-6 Jim Schneider Rental

October 9 Board Meeting 7:00 PM

October 17 Chili Cook Off

October 20 Ethan Anderson Rental

Send us your fishing, camping or other outdoor stories and we'll publish them in the newsletter. Send plain text and/or photos in jpg format to Tom at:

twwatson@comcast.net

**DEADLINE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS
MONDAY, AUGUST 20
AT 8:00 AM.**

IKES MEMBER BENEFITS

 Monthly Award-Winning Newsletter

 Gate Key to 39 Acres

 Nature Trails

 Catch/Release Fishing

 Free Camping

 Lodge Rental (\$75.00 per Day)

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

www.michiganikes.org, www.iwla.org

FIND MICHIGAN IKES ON FACEBOOK SO WE CAN SEND UPDATES OUT IF THERE IS SHORT NOTICE ON EVENTS.

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA DRAFT CORE EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2018

NOTE: This is a draft schedule. Especially for late year events you can check for updates in our newsletters and on our website along with notice of special events that come up on short notice and are not listed on this Event Schedule. Also additional information about these listed events can be found in the newsletter and on the website.

Schedule

Event & Location

January 27, Saturday	Winterfest Family Outing, 10AM-3PM @ CC
March 3, Saturday	Conservation-Awards-Fund Raiser Banquet
March 15 thru 18	Ultimate Sport Show-Grand Rapids
April 14, Saturday	Fly Fishing Workshop, 10AM-2PM @ CC
April 19, Thursday	Fish & Game Dinner & Program @ CC
May 5, 12, 19, 26 - Saturdays	Kids Fishing, 10AM-1PM @ CC
May 5, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up Day, 9-?, work, eat, play, campfire @ CC
May 17, Thursday	Steak Dinner, Annual Elections @ CC
June 13, 20 and 27, Wednesdays	Kids' Fishing at Versluis Lake, 6:30pm - 8pm
June 23, Saturday	Summerfest Community Family Day, 10AM-3PM @ CC
July 18-20	2018 IKE's National Convention, FredericksburgVA
July 21, Saturday	Native Plants for Everyone, Tear Drop Island (@ CC)
August 16, Thursday	Ribs Outdoor Cooking Competition @ CC
September 15, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up/play, 6PM @ CC
September 19, Wednesday	Oktoberfest @ CC
October 17, Wednesday	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC
November 8, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC
December 6, Thursday	Christmas Potluck @ CC

Website: www.michiganikes.org

IKEs property located at **5641 Myers Lake Avenue, Belmont MI**

Mailing address is: **Izaak Walton League, PO Box 541, 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 - \$62**, ___ **Family - \$87**, ___ **Student (18-21) - \$31**, ___ **Youth (under 18) - \$16**

Mail to Izaak Walton League Membership, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306. Checks payable to IWLA-DLC. Email Tom Watson at twatson@comcast.net for more information. **Note:** Term of membership is the calendar year. A gate key is available to you upon request after membership is processed, which takes 4-6 weeks. Contact Tom if you need to borrow a key sooner. 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.



Dwight Lydell Chapter
of the Izaak Walton League
PO Box 541
Belmont MI 49306

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

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss out on the Chicken & Ribs Dinner August 16

Please bring a summer-
time dish to pass and all
your friends and family.



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

Age 12 and over:
\$10,
and under 12 FREE
as are first time
guests!

New members please join us!



Be on your
"Wurst"
behavior at our next
dinner coming up
September 19th