



IKE'S 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! Here we go with September!

That means another season for the **Kids' Nature Club**, with some returning "old-timers" and a few new second-graders. Probably we'll start on September 14, I think. So call me if you know an interested kid!



were in Lake County. Typically the leaves turn brown at their tips, then farther down the leaf, and the tree's crown as well turns brown from the top down. When the tree detects the presence of the fungus, it reacts with gums and resins, hampering the tree's ability to transport water up into the branches, causing the "wilt."

The year after it dies, fungal "pads" appear on the trunk.

Most often the disease is transmitted by "root graft," when tree roots in a forest touch and grow together.

One option for treatment is to "trench" around the tree, about 5 feet deep, preferably digging 2 trenches 3 feet apart to keep the fungus from spreading. While not impossible, this is easier said than done. Sometimes all the trees in a nearby area must be cut to contain the outbreak.

The other way Oak Wilt is spread is by **picnic beetles**, which feed on the sap and then fly to an uninfected tree. They access the infected sap via the fungal pads or on fresh wounds. Since the beetles are active in warm weather, the word is going out to not prune any oaks in spring or summer, as the tree would then be vulnerable to infected beetles. They say DO

Now I need to talk about something way less fun, but important. **Oak Wilt** has been around for many years, but recent outbreaks are causing concern because they seem to be spreading more quickly. This fungus can kill trees in the Red Oak family in a matter of weeks. White Oaks are also susceptible, taking 2-3 years to die. I believe it has been found in most counties in the lower peninsula of Michigan.

The confirmed cases that I have seen

September 2011

Highlights This Issue:

August Dinner Highlights

Donation Challenge

Perch Fishing

...and much more!

NOT PRUNE IN APRIL, MAY, OR JUNE. Although since the bugs are calling the shots, July might not be safe either.

Once a tree is infected there is no cure. And the wood, if cut, must be covered for at least 60 days to keep the beetles from transporting the fungus.

Would you like some good news yet?

It is possible to inoculate a tree with fungicide (**propiconazole**) to protect it, which you may wish to do if Oak Wilt is headed toward a favorite tree of yours. This is done by drilling holes every 3 inches around the trunk, 1 inch deep, to get into the sap-wood using a spring-loaded injector. If repeated every 2 years it's considered 100% effective.

My cousin **Amy**, and her husband, **Dave Schulz**, have researched it, bought the stuff, and have treated many trees. For them, the cost has been about 75 cents/diameter inch, so \$7.50 for a 10-inch wide tree. Or, you might feel more comfortable calling a professional arborist. I've heard if a White Oak is less than 30% affected, "Alamo" might save it.

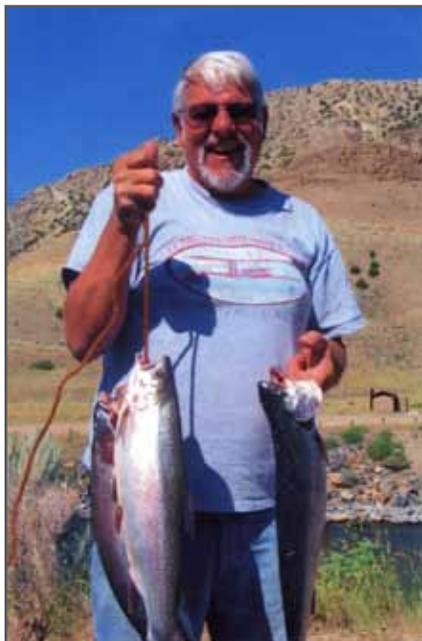
(continued on page 2)

IN MEMORY OF

Georgia Donovan

Sadly, our chapter has lost two friends.

Former board member, **Phil Varner**, 63, died suddenly at his home in Wyoming. He had moved out there



a couple years ago to take a job helping at a prison dairy farm. He maintained his membership with us in order to stay in touch, and even sent a donation for our scout-bridge project. He was happy introducing inmates to farming, and caught some great fish in the rivers out there. He had a lot of enthusiasm and a great sense of humor.

Then, on August 8, our chapter lost another friend and helper, my uncle, **George Stegmier**. He volunteered at our Winterfests as the old-time candle-maker. He showed hundreds of kids how to dip candles in a kettle of wax, and I know that they will always remember that experience. He will also be missed by the students of **Goodwillie Environmental School**, where he and the 5th graders built a log cabin and started a barn as part of their pioneer village. He liked to encourage an interest in nature, long after retiring as a science teacher. George was brother to Bob and Jack.

The only way to keep the ball rolling is for new people to step up as leaders, and to remember what we learned from those who shared their time and skills.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

No need to treat until the disease is in the area, but keep a look-out for oaks that are turning brown before fall, and check out the material on-line when googling Michigan Oak Wilt. I plan on getting some practice treating trees with Dave.

Oaks are favored by a lot of wildlife and most Michiganders! I truly hope the spread of this can be controlled.

And I hope to see most of you soon, when we can laugh, and talk about more fun things. Such as...

How many of you would be interested in a 3D archery course on our property? I'm exploring setting one up this fall, but we need funds for targets. I'd like to hear from you if you think it would be fun or if you'd be willing to help support it.

Thanks!
Georgia Donovan

AVIS JOHNSON, THE MOTHER OF MEMBER JAN TRIMBERGER PASSED AWAY ON AUGUST 19, 2011.

THE FAMILY HAS REQUESTED THAT IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, ETC., MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE TO **FAITH HOSPICE**, 2100 RAYBROOK ST., SUITE 300, GRAND RAPIDS, MI, 49546-5743. THEY HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB OF ASSISTING THE FAMILY IN AVIS'S CARE.

CARDS CAN BE SENT TO MILLARD JOHNSON AT 15872 COTTONWOOD NE, LOT 13, CEDAR SPRINGS, MI 49319.

JAN'S CURRENT ADDRESS IS 11560 E 4 MILE RD, LEROY, MI 49655.

THE FAMILY WANTS TO THANK ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES FOR THE COMPASSION AND CONCERN SHOWN FOR THEM IN THIS TRYING TIME.

CHICKEN AND RIBS DINNER

Tom Watson and Tam Bagby

Forty IKEs enjoyed my world-famous barbecued chicken and pork back ribs on August 18. Many members brought salads and other side dishes, including fresh sweet corn, which **Darva Boor** and **Jack Hornbach** brought.

Helping set up was **Bob and Gail Stegmeir**. Assisting with the cooking were **Tam Bagby, Barry Gilbertson** and **Jack Hornbach**. **Ruth Waybrant** was at the door and **Mary Lou Sundt** tended the bar.

Barry and I started cleaning the dishes, but I left early because I needed to get off my feet since I recently broke my big toe while kayaking the Rogue River. So, Tam will take over thanking the others who helped clean up.

Thank you all for helping me clean up! I asked for volunteers and almost everyone stepped right in. **Jack Merren**, **Bob** and **Gail**, and **Georgia Donovan** (and others I can't remember) cleaned the dining room, while **DeAnne Sherd**, **Ruth** and I started on the dishes. Soon **Maurie Houseman** came in and took over washing all the large pots and meat trays. I'm sorry if I left any names out. I don't know what I'd do without all you wonderful people. Thank you!

BLUEBIRD PRESENTATION

Tam Bagby

Mark DeHaan and **Paul Sherd** gave us this year's update on their **BirdWatch Bluebird Trail** on the **G. R. Gravel Company** property. Last year (their first year) they were not very successful fledging **Bluebirds** and **Tree Swallows** because of **House Sparrows** taking over the houses and killing the birds and eggs. This year they added three more houses, now at 19, a few Sparrow traps and a new technique for removing those destructive, non-native birds.

They passed out some diagrams, including a map my students at **KCTC** made of the trail. Every week, they would update their observations of the houses. Paul builds the birdhouses and used a few different styles (one of his own) to see which ones worked the best. He had even put a halo on one, which didn't deter the Sparrows at all. The traps were also not catching as many of them as they had hoped. They had to observe these traps every day to keep other species from dying. So they tried a new plan called a night raid. They went to the houses where sparrows had nests at night and covered the house with a plastic garbage bag. They demonstrated

how they opened the door of the house through the bag and scooped up the birds and nest inside.

This proved to be extremely successful in stopping these birds and helping the other birds to lay eggs, raise their young and get their hatchlings to fledge. In all there were 9 Eastern Bluebird nests with 37 eggs. 30 of these hatched and all 30 fledged. This was an 81% success rate. Of the 7 Tree Swallow nests, there were 41 eggs, 31 hatched and 30 fledged, a 76% success rate. Great job, guys!

Mark and Paul also noticed bluebird houses on the adjoining **Boulder Creek Golf Club**. They met with the head landscaper, who agreed to let them take care of 19 birdhouses put up years ago. They found almost every house to have House Sparrows in them. So the night raids were on! It took months but by the end of the nesting season, all of the birdhouses were empty and one Bluebird nest was successful.

There were many questions the audience had about their own bluebird houses. We all got a lot of good information and advice from these 2 gentlemen. Thank you, Paul and Mark!



THE GLEANER LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY

W. Jay Huston was elected vice president of the **Rivertown Arbor of the Gleaner Life Insurance Society** on August 17th in Grandville, MI. As a second year member of the local Arbor, Jay was recognized with the **Outstanding Volunteer** award for the past year. Also, Jay has been elected as **First-Time Attendee** to the Gleaner 55th Biennial National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in October.

The Gleaner Life Insurance Society has national headquarters in Adrian, MI.

Thought of the Month Jay Huston

You can't change the past but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future.

CONSERVATION ISSUES UPDATE

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Environmental Successes

We won one during the big budget and debt limit debate. The House passed an amendment removing a harmful rider from an appropriations bill that would have, in effect, barred new endangered species listings. This action points to the bipartisan history of the **Endangered Species Act**, and the progress that has been made helping wildlife recover, including the **bald eagle**, America's national symbol.

Consumers Energy's Experimental Renewable Energy Program

On July 26, 2011, the **Michigan Public Service Commission** approved an expansion of Consumers Energy's **EARP** (Experimental Advanced Renewable Program). Beginning in September 2011, customers that generate electricity using solar photovoltaic systems and want to sell it back to the utility for a set price will be able to do so under the following program rules. The expanded **EARP** is part of the **Amended Renewable Energy Plan** prepared by Consumers Energy in accordance with Public Act 295 of 2008. This Program is limited to 3,000 kilowatts (kW) of capacity, with 1,500 kW reserved for residential systems and 1,500 kW reserved for non-residential systems. Contracts

issued under this Program will be awarded over a three-year period beginning in the fourth quarter 2011 for non-residential customers and first quarter 2012 for residential customers. For details of this program go to www.consumersenergy.com and put in the search box, **Experimental Advanced Renewable Program**. There will be all of the details.

This program is similar to the one I contracted with **CMS** on January 5, 2010. I have an 11 year contract where **CMS** purchases all of my solar produced electricity for an agreed upon price. There are two great things with this solar produced electricity. First, it is the cleanest produced electricity without any polluting emissions such as Mercury, acid rain-producing elements or climate-changing CO₂. Read about **acid seas** in the April 2011 issue of *National Geographic*. Secondly the electricity is sent to the grid precisely at peak load time, which reduces the more expensive peak load electricity **CMS** must produce. The included picture is of a condo with thin film PV on it's roof panels.



KITCHEN IMPROVEMENTS DONATION CHALLENGE

Fred Eyer

Help! We need to pay for a new gas range and oven installed in the kitchen along with modifications to some electrical wiring. The new gas range and oven replaced one that we bought used in 1991. The old one was leaking gas, the pilot lights would not work and the supply line was not to code. The cost for the new range and oven was \$4500 and was taken from our rainy day fund. The cost for the electrical improvements has not been obtained. The electrical wiring problems are still safety issues for those using the kitchen.

A member who wishes to be anonymous has offered a challenge **donation campaign** for these needs. The member is willing to give up to **\$500** for the improvements. For each \$5 that is given by others, the member will give \$1. The maximum that could be raised in this manner is \$500 from the anonymous member and \$2500 from others for a total of \$3000. This will help replenish our rainy day fund and will enable us to make the electrical improvements too.

The anonymous donor to get things

rolling has seeded the pot with \$100. All of these donations are eligible for a **federal income tax deduction**. The chapter treasurer will send an email letter or paper letter verifying the donation for your tax purposes. Let's step up to the plate and get things done!

Please fill out the form on the next page and send it along with your check. Please make check payable to **Dwight Lydell Chapter-IWLA** and mail to: **Fred Eyer, 2488 Rockhill Dr. NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525**.

FISH PERCH OR CUT BAIT

Chase Klinesteker

Actually, I did both. In the last month or so, I have been almost obsessed with fishing for Lake Michigan perch, mostly out of Holland. After one successful outing where I caught a limit using blade baits, I returned several times, gaining more knowledge with each visit. I quickly discovered that blade baits were not the total answer, just a tool used in our control of depth and speed. On Tuesday, August 16, 2011, the weather was calm and sunny, so I returned, hopeful to get into the fish. There were about 50 visible boats fishing perch in the area, and I anchored in one group just north of the pier. Few if any baitfish were seen on the graph and only scattered small perch were being caught. My bladebaits were producing no fish so I decided to pull anchor and begin looking for baitfish. By now I have some knowledge of the breaks and breaklines the fish use in the area, so efforts were concentrated there. With rod holders and a couple salmon rods, lots of territory can be covered trolling, and also there is a chance to catch big fish. When I come across a good baitfish school, I throw a marker, pull in the rods, and go back to anchor and cast to the school. Be reminded that these schools do not stay put. They will move along breaklines, as well as to shallower or deeper breaklines from 15 to 40 or more feet. Baitfish schools take many forms on the graph sounder, from thick and tall to low and thin. Perch are often identified as being scattered groups close to the bottom, but I would recommend not being too hasty in eliminating schools that don't look like perch.



Several areas where boats were grouped were checked and there was little action that day. In the early afternoon a

dense and tall school of baitfish was located south of the pier in 24 feet. No other boats were around the area, and it didn't appear to be perch, but it was decided to stop and cast anyway. After much effort casting bladebaits, only one keeper (over 8 inches) and one small 6-inch perch were caught. At this point, I began to have regrets that some live bait was not brought along! Glancing at the small perch, I was reminded that cut bait could be an option, so out came the knife and a perch rig. The rig was put on a stiff spinning rod with 14-pound Fireline for better feel. A small piece of white cloth was put on

each hook for better visibility along with a 1/2 inch chunk of meat. Immediately I began getting hits with occasional keeper sized fish getting hooked. Since most of the action that day was from small perch, a slightly larger chunk of meat helped concentrate efforts on the few larger fish present in the school. Casting the rig out and slowly dragging it back to the boat seemed to work best, although most hits occurred close to the boat or just vertical. The slower speed of live bait seemed to be the key, and after a couple of hours, 15 perch from 8 to 11 1/2 inches were boated. Once the thick school of baitfish left, the action stopped.

I am still learning much about perch fishing in Lake Michigan. It is most certainly an exciting and delicious experience! Chase Klinesteker phone: 949.8665.

PS: If you have a outdoor experience you wish to share with your fellow Ike's and Friends please send it to **Tom Watson**, twatson@comcast.net Friends will like to read about it. **Bob Stegmier.**

Would you like to make a special donation for a project of your choice?

Gas Range
 Electrical Wiring
 Other

Here is my tax deductible contribution _____

Name _____

Project: _____

Payable to: IWLA - Dwight Lydell Chapter
 Mail to: Fred Eyer, treasurer, 2488 Rockhill NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Deadline for the October issue is Friday, September 23rd at 8:00 AM.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair



Yep, it is pretty but it is pretty damaging also to local wetlands and along streams. You may be discouraged by the fact that some locations and situations are difficult to control with the (*Gallerucella californiensis*) beetle or for that fact with any measure. But we need to look at it with as the bottle is half-full and getting fuller and

progress is being made. It is somewhat like the AIS, the Lamprey Eel. The eel will likely never go away but it is under control allowing our Great Lakes fisher to be outstanding. Costly, yet but the alternative is unacceptable.

There are some control things we can do now in small but strategic ways. First visit areas with blossoming loostrife and look for evidence of beetles and larva. The larvae are small white worms about the length maggot but 1/3 the diameter. They will be found eating on the blossoms. Adult beetles will be found eating the leaves. If your search is positive in some way make note of the location. If your search is negative you can note the spot for next spring's transfer of beetles to the area. If your search proves negative mark the spot with a stake or in a reference book for next year's distribution of beetles.

There is some action that can be done now. These are suited for individual plants that show up. Pull the plant or plants out if you can, if not cut the plant off as close to the root as possible. Proper disposal is to cut the flower heads off and put them into a plastic bag and then into garbage trash. The stalks and leaves can go onto your mulch pile. Spraying with an acceptable herbicide works too.

This is a lot of work so do what you can and save the big areas for next spring. Remember to enlist your friends and neighbors to the task. Many hands make light work and you cannot do it alone. From what I see in the around, we have a ton of work ahead of us. Please join me on the committee.

LODGE RENTALS

September 4 Larry Alleben
September 16 Boy Scouts
September 17 Kallio

**IKEs Caps and Shirts! Got 'Em, Get 'Em
Contact Bob Stegmier**

OFFICERS

President, Georgia Donovan773.2850
georgia.art@att.net

Vice President, Barb McGuirl.....874.7740
jbm McGuirl@sbcglobal.net

Secretary, Jim Schneider340.4604
jim-ms@comcast.net

Treasurer, Fred Eyer363.0253
fseyer@gmail.com

Board Members

Duane DeVries.....532.9151
duanedv@earthlink.net

Barry GilbertsonGilby40@MSN.com

Bruce Gilmore.....365.8892

Maurie Houseman.....560.2895
mhouseman@grar.com

Jay Huston.....942.2503

Bill Kirk.....874.8230
bkirk@i2k.com

Bob Schumaker616.984.2429
schu6062@charter.net

Bob Stegmier.....866.4769
rstegmier@ameritech.net

Marylou Sundt

Tom Watson.....874.7254
twatson@comcast.net

Grounds/Maintenance Chair

C. J. Tasma.....887.8542
hsi@handicapsigns.com

Membership Secretary

Ron Waybrant361.1422
rcwaybrant@gmail.com

Lodge Rental

Bob Radke.....874.7658
radkerobert@aol.com

2012 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Jay Huston

The **Entertainment Books** arrived just in time for the August 18 Rib and Chicken dinner. A number of members showed little or no interest in purchasing. Even some of our loyal past buyers said “we’re not buying this year.” This first night introduction of 2012 books appears not too encouraging but we shall prevail and sell enough to meet our goal.

This year’s book features the five \$5.00 no minimum purchase cards as a bonus with each book. Thinking in terms of coupons, discount cards and ways to save your money there are so many sections categorizing the services, products, dinners, carry-out food, you name it and it probably will be there somewhere. Many buyers say, “We buy the book and never use it.” That means we’ll have to get into the habit of seriously reviewing the book

and seeking our needs of the bargains for services and items we use every day.

Our chapter is in dire need of your support in this fundraiser and others during the year. The \$25.00 price of the Entertainment Book yields \$5.00 profit for each sold with no additional expenses. So, to those who chose not to purchase the books we will gladly accept your tax-deductible donation. (The **Special Donation** form is on page 5).

I ask that you give our Entertainment Book fundraiser serious consideration. We do need sellers and buyers to stay in business. I’m ready to take your order when you are, so please call me at 942.2503, or e-mail: wjhuston1@sbcglobal.net

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA CORE EVENT SCHEDULE 2011

Chairperson

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 1, Thursday (CORRECTED DATE)	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

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 - \$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

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



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

Oktoberfest



WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14

WITH AN
**Energy
Program**



BILL PAPKE IS AN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER. HE WILL TALK ABOUT HIS ENERGY EFFICIENT CONDO WITH THIN FILM SOLAR PHOTO VOLTAIC SYSTEM.

**BRING A DISH TO PASS AND A FRIEND OR TWO.
BRING AN INSTRUMENT AS THE GUESTS LIKE TO
HAVE A SING-A-LONG!
SOCIAL HOUR 6PM, DINNER AT 7PM.**

CALL BOB STEGMEIR WITH ANY QUESTIONS.
ADULTS \$8, AGES 6-12 \$4 WITH AGES UNDER SIX FREE
AS ARE FIRST TIME GUESTS!

coming up
**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 12**

POTLUCK



with a
surprise
program