



A SPORTSPERSON'S
CONSERVATION CLUB
Conservation Center
5641 Myers Lake Ave.
Belmont MI 49306



www.michiganikes.org

September 2013

The IKE's Update

Really tasty dinner at the IKEs for the **August Bluebird** program! Best chicken & ribs yet! **Mark DeHaan** and **Paul Sherd** had a great fledging rate for



bluebirds and swallows this year, mostly due to their vigilance at thwarting House Sparrows. Their free nest-box of the night went to **Sally Henderson**, our brand new member!

Another relatively new member, **Blake Gardner**, fixed our water heater on the spot. It needed a

new valve, so he got the part and installed it before we were done talking about it. Thank-you! Meanwhile his son **Tate** used his **Nature Club** skills to successfully sneak up and scare the girls from Camp Roger by the campfire out back. Good times...

There were some delicious vegetable dishes, and I hope there will be as well at our next one, the **Harvest Dinner** on **September 11**. Hopefully we'll have lots of good stuff from our local gardens. I'll give a few edible wild plant tips at that time, but there will also be a full **Wild Plant Resources Walk & Talk** on the following Monday.

(continued on page 6)

IKEs Fix-up HARVEST MOON PARTY

Thursday Sept 19
2:00pm til whenever the
spirits move us (10pm?)

Join other IKEs to repair
the lodge, paint
Remove vegetation from
the dam
Resupply firewood and
maybe build a fire pit

THEN PARTY

Cookout-brats,
burgers, BBQ chicken
Bonfire, Music?

RSVP Maurie 560-2895



More Clean Renewable Electricity

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair and
Energy Committee Member

BROOKFIELD TOWNSHIP — A power generation project with 88 wind turbines is planned for part of Huron County. **NextEra's Pheasant Run Wind Project** will be built in Brookfield, Fairhaven, Grant, Oliver, Sebewaing and Winsor townships. Project Manager **Ryan Pumford** says construction officials and landowners met last week. Pumford said crews hope to have an access road completed in six weeks. Keep it coming Michiganders!

Chicken and Ribs Dinner

Tom Watson

A small but enthusiastic crowd enjoyed my world famous barbecued chicken and baby back ribs

on Thursday, August 15. As usual, many people helped make the night a success.



Len Kizer helped cook the meat, **Darva Boot** and **Gail Stegmier** assisted in the kitchen and kudos to **Jack Hornbach** for his excellent advice to and supervision of the **Kitchen Krew**.

Maurie Houseman brought fresh sweet corn and I supplied tomatoes straight from my garden. Len brought a superb vegetable medley. I'm not sure who brought the rest of the side dishes and desserts, but they were tasty.

Ruth Waybrant took care of the door and I think either **Bob Stegmier** or **Ron Waybrant** tended the bar. Clean up involved everyone, but the star was **DeAnne Sherd** who cleaned all the dishes and pots and pans. Thanks to all who pitched in.

The hero of the night was **Blake Gardner**. Just before dinner the relief valve on the hot water tank decided to malfunction, causing hot water to spew out of the overflow pipe. Ron called his plumber, who was on vacation somewhere, and the plumber diagnosed the issue and said we could fix it ourselves. After dinner Blake removed the old valve and went to Lowes for a new one. He installed the new valve and saved the day. Thanks, Blake. You are my hero.

OFFICERS

President, Duane DeVries 532.9151
duanedv@earthlink.net

Vice President, Georgia Donovan 773.2850
georgiadonovanart@gmail.com

Secretary, Jim Schneider 340.4604
jim-ms@comcast.net

Treasurer, Fred Eyer 363.0253
fseyer@gmail.com

Board Members

Barry Gilbertson Gilby40@MSN.com 365.8892

Bruce Gilmore 560.2895

Maurie Houseman mhouseman@grar.com 942.2503

Jay Huston wjhuston1@yahoo.com 874.8230

Bill Kirk bkirk@i2k.com 866.4256

Len Kizer len12sc4mi@yahoo.com 874.7740

Barb McGuirl jbmguirl@sbcglobal.net 443.7377

Marylou Sundt hellomarylou56@yahoo.com 874.7254

Tom Watson twwatson@comcast.net

Conservation Chair

Bob Stegmier 866.4769
rstegmier@ameritech.net

Grounds/Maintenance Chair

C. J. Tasma 887.8542
handicapsign@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

Ron Waybrant 361.1422
rcwaybrant@gmail.com

Lodge Rental

Ted & Jan Kuzma 874.7279
kooz7@chartermi.net

Tar sands-derived oil is the dirtiest of oils! The mining of the tar sands in Canada is on track to disrupt Canada's set goal of a 17% reduction by 2020 of global warming emissions to a now predicted 7% increase. This will be a missed target by 24% unless the pipeline is stopped. It is not that the product is needed; it is simply greed by the producers and the current Canadian government. Take action; send a letter to President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry stating your opposition to the proposed new XL Pipeline. They can say no to it and should say no!

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

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

Rogue River Watershed Counsel (RRWC) News!

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Gretchen Zuiderveen, Duane DeVries and I are regular attendees at their meetings and do participate in some of their events as do some other IKEs.

I hope this newsletter reaches you in time for the first upcoming OPPORTUNITY on Saturday, September 7.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN LITTER FROM THE ROGUE RIVER.

From Nichol De Mol of Trout Unlimited, Inc:

We need local citizens to band together to tackle litter in the Rogue River. The **Kent Conservation District** and Trout Unlimited, through the **Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative** project, are working together to conduct a stream cleanup on the Rogue River.



Garbage along stream banks is not only unsightly, but it also can be harmful to wildlife. Many plants and animals depend on access to the water for survival. Waste can prevent animals from reaching what they need. Sometimes animals can confuse garbage for food or a suitable home.

Waste enters a stream in a number of ways. Storm drains collect storm water from our neighborhoods, parking lots and other public areas, and this water is not treated before it reaches our local waterways. This means that garbage that ends up in a storm drain is washed directly to our streams and rivers. Litter from recreational use and sometimes intentional dumping also pollutes our water resources.

You can help by volunteering a few hours of your time to collect garbage above and below the Rockford dam on canoe, kayak, or on foot. Money and gifts from the **Department of Environmental Quality** and local businesses will be used for canoe/kayak rentals, volunteer giveaways, and a free lunch. The Kent Conservation District will also be screening drinking water well samples for free. The cleanup will be held on **Saturday, September 7, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Please meet at **Richardson Sowerby Park** in Rockford. This event will be held rain or shine so please dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Feel free to bring your family to help with this effort!

For more information visit www.kentconservation.org and if you are interested in volunteering please contact Nichol De Mol at **231.557.6362** or ndemol@tu.org

Second OPPORTUNITY with the RRWC is **October 12**. Stream monitoring 9 am to 1pm at Algoma Township Hall

WHAT'S "BUGGING" YOU IN OUR STREAMS?

In many cases we think bugs are a nuisance, but bugs in a stream can be very useful. Stream insects are a good measure of water quality. Unlike fish, stream insects cannot move around much so they are less able to escape the effects of sediment and other pollutants that diminish water quality. Stream insects can also be easily identified.



Trout Unlimited National, Michigan Trout Unlimited, and the Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited Chapter will be holding a **Stream Insect Monitoring Event** in the **Rogue River Watershed** on Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the **Algoma Township Hall**, 10531 Algoma Avenue in Rockford. Volunteers will be assigned to a monitoring group with a team leader. Each group will collect and identify insects from different stream sites. You don't need any experience with stream insects to participate and
(continued on page 6)

Clean Renewable Energy, Is Blowing It The Wind!

U.S. Wind Energy Production and Manufacturing Reaches Record Highs

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair and Energy Committee Member

Source: U.S. Energy Department release.



The **Energy Department** released two new reports on August 6 showcasing record growth across the U.S. wind market. In 2012, wind energy became the number one source of new U.S. electricity generation capacity for the first time - representing 43% of all new electric additions and accounting for \$25 billion in U.S. investment. According to these reports, the United States continues to be one of the world's largest and fastest growing wind markets.

The Energy Department and **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory** released the **2012 Wind Technologies Market Report** - detailing the latest trends in the U.S. wind power market. Last year, more than **13 gigawatts (GW)** of new wind power capacity was added to the U.S. grid, nearly double the wind capacity deployed in 2011. This tremendous growth helped America's total wind power capacity surpass **60 GW** at the end of 2012. That represents enough capacity to power more than 15 million homes each year. The country's cumulative installed wind energy capacity has increased more than 22-fold since 2000.

The proportion of wind turbine components such as towers, blades, and gears made in America has increased dramatically. The report estimates 72% of the wind turbine equipment installed in the United States in 2011 was made by domestic manufacturers, nearly tripling from 25% in 2006-2007. At the same time, the price of wind under long-term power purchase contracts signed in 2011 and 2012 averaged 4 cents per kilowatt-hour—making wind competitive with a range of wholesale electricity prices seen in 2012.

For the first time, the Energy Department and **Pacific Northwest National Laboratory** issued the 2012 Market Report on **Wind Technologies in Distributed Applications** - highlighting strong growth in the U.S. distributed wind energy market. The report finds that distributed wind in the U.S. reached a 10-year cumulative installed capacity of more than **812 megawatts (MW)** at the end of 2012 - representing more than 69,000 units across all 50 states. Between 2011 and 2012, U.S. distributed wind capacity grew by **175 MW**, with about 80 % of this growth coming from utility-scale installations. At the state level, Iowa, Massachusetts, California and Wisconsin led the nation in new distributed wind power capacity in 2012. Over the past ten years, the U.S. distributed wind market has grown more than five-fold.



It's Pretty But It Is Pretty Invasive!

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Driving around the countryside you may see **Purple Loosestrife** because it is now in full bloom. Make a note of its location so you/we can work against this "non native" wetland invasive plant next spring, late April and early May if Mother Nature cooperates.

But you can take action right now in two environmentally friendly ways. This is for small infestations. You can cut it at its base with pruning tools or pull it out by hand. The plant does not recover well from either of these methods and with every plant removed thousands upon thousands of seeds are removed from the field.

Large infested fields will have to wait until spring to gather beetles for distribution into these areas. Results from beetles can be mixed from complete eradication to little affect with everything in between. Loosestrife in deeper water, say about a foot seem to resist effective beetle activity. But we can be persistent in our efforts.

More RRWC Good News

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

I am happy to report that under the leadership of **Nichol DeMol** and a very dedicated Rogue river Watershed Council board is moving to a standalone 501-c-3 watershed group. This action is well into the process and moving right along. I anticipate by the first of the year they will be functioning as such but still co-operating with the **LGROW** and the **Metro Council**.

To see this and past editions of the newsletter and national IKEs information please visit our websites:
www.michiganikes.org
www.iwla.org

Deadline for the October issue is Monday, September 16 at 8:00 AM.

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA

Core Event Schedule 2013

NOTE: See later updates for confirmed dates, especially late year events.

Chairperson

September 11, Wednesday	Harvestfest @ CC	Georgia Donovan
October 9, Wednesday	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC	Tom Watson
November 7, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC	Tom Watson
December 5, Thursday	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 - \$54, _____ Family - \$74, _____ Student (18-21) - \$26, _____ Youth (under 18) - \$13.80

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. 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.

The IKE's Update

(continued from page 1)

On September 16 at 6:00 **George Hedgepeth**, from the Ann Arbor area, will share his extensive knowledge of wild plants and



her wild types and will go scouting with us. Rachel also raises many varieties in her home and has information on how to do that. Same deal, free to members, \$5 non-members, only at 1:00 on Saturday.

Your chance to learn something new! Both of these people are experienced expert foragers. Plus they're fun, enthusiastic speakers. If I can, I'll continue this "mini-series" with a speaker on **Permaculture** in October.

Looks like an interesting fall at the IKEs!

their uses. First we'll walk around the grounds, and then follow with a workshop on **Herbal Preparation**. I took a class from him up on Drummond Island, and he teaches survival classes as well. This will run until about 8:30 and is free for members, \$5 for others. RSVPs to me are requested, as a good turn-out is expected.



Rachel Misfud of U. of M. will follow on Sept. 28 with her program on mushrooms. She knows

Georgia Donovan

NEW email:
georgiaddonovanart@gmail.com

Rogue River Watershed Counsel (RRWC) News!

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

(continued from page 3)

all ages are welcome. We worked on the this springs monitoring "opportunity" Saturday April 6. **Lynn, Tom Dandridge, Larry Allaben, Travis VanLuyn** and I participated.

What will you need to do?

Please **RSVP** to **Nichol De Mol** at **231.557.6362** or **ndemol@tu.org** if you would like to attend. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Please bring waders if you have them and dress for the weather conditions.

The **Wege Foundation, Frey Foundation, Wolverine World Wide, Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited, and Robert DeVilbiss** fund the **Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative Project**. The Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative Project Manager is **Trout Unlimited, Inc.**

You can contact me regarding questions on any of these "opportunities."
Steg

HAVE YOU CHECKED WWW.IWLA.OR OR WWW.MICHIGANIKES.ORG LATELY FOR THE POSTINGS AND ACTION OPPORTUNITIES THERE? IT IS IMPORTANT!
Bob Stegmier, National Director at Large from Michigan

LODGE RESERVATIONS
Sept 7 and 8
overnight
Troop 3282

A Cornfield Called America

Submitted by Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

This is reprinted with permission of **Dennis Fijalkowski**, Executive Director **Michigan Wildlife Conservancy**. This subject was brought to my attention at the IWLA's 2012 Farm Bill event hosted by the League last spring.

March 11, 2013

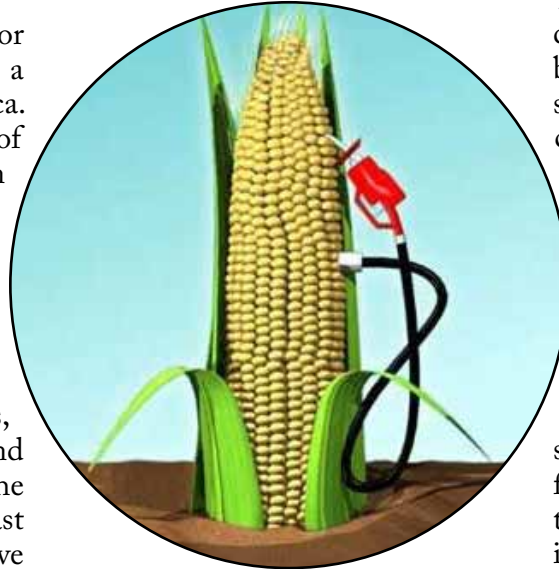
The farmer alone on his tractor producing our food is still a romantic image in America. However, the impacts of agricultural production can have less than romantic consequences for our citizens and the environment if left unmonitored.

The biggest immediate threat from agriculture to our wetlands, grasslands, surface waters and wildlife is being driven by the high price of corn. In the last two crop years, corn prices have reached an all-time high of \$8/bushel, because 41% of the crop went to make corn ethanol as required by the federal **Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007**. We used 41% of this important food crop to make motor fuel because Congress, in its "wisdom," mandated that 13.2 billion gallons of corn ethanol be produced in 2012. The 2015 mandated production of 15 billion gallons is expected to use 60% of all the corn produced in America.

To produce 15 billion gallons of corn ethanol will require that most tillable land in the Midwest be converted to corn production. That means marginal lands, unprotected wetlands; prairies and grasslands, fencerows, streamside vegetation and woodlots will be lost. If the land can grow corn - it will.

The landscape of the Midwest is already changing dramatically. A

South Dakota State University Study found that from 2006 to 2011, the rates of grassland conversion to corn/soy in the **U.S. Western Corn Belt** were 1 to 5.4% annually, in total 1.3 million acres, a habitat loss comparable to tropical deforestation rates in



Brazil, Malaysia and Indonesia, that have caused international outrage. In Michigan, drive into many crop-producing areas and you'll see the fencerows being taken out, smoldering piles of trees and brush, and rolls of field tile dotting the landscape. Field tile is a long hard plastic perforated tube designed to be trenched into the ground below plowing depth, which carries water out of the field and into nearby ditches. In some cases tiling allows crop production in fields, which are normally too wet for crops. Tile is being installed at unprecedented rates to drain fields and wet spots for corn production.

When fields are drained of tile water, which would normally replenish groundwater supplies, it is converted into surface water. This adds enormous additional amounts of water to our streams and rivers, and exacerbates

flooding downstream. The water table is also lowered. This water removed from the soil at shallow depths is laden with nitrogen and phosphorous from crop production and pollutes all receiving waters.

The first residents to feel this degradation are our grassland birds and water-dependent species (ducks, geese, swans, cranes, shorebirds). Then the upland nesters and familiar animals suffer. Eventually, deer and backyard birds at the feeder are impacted.

Corn ethanol is not security for America, and corn ethanol is not a renewable fuel. Most studies show that producing corn for ethanol uses more energy than the fuel produces, resulting in a net energy loss! And it is polluting, much more so than other biomass crops that can be converted to ethanol.

Ethanol from corn has human impacts, too. Three years ago **Pope Benedict** called us immoral for turning a food crop into a motor fuel. The loss of American corn from the world food distribution system makes food expensive, or even unaffordable, to millions of the world's poor.

All your readers who care about keeping a diverse landscape for wildlife and people, protecting the environment and keeping food affordable, should ask their Congressperson and two U.S. Senators to support rescinding the corn ethanol mandate in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. If we don't, we can all say goodbye to the pastoral landscapes of the Midwest, and start referring to the places where we live as "the corn field."



Dwight Lydell Chapter
 of the Izaak Walton League
 4905 Cresthill Dr NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Nonprofit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Rockford, MI
 Permit No. 208

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Printed on recycled paper

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

PLEASE BRING YOUR VEGETABLES AND FRIENDS TO THE
HARVESTFEST



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

We will serve pulled pork and we're hoping for
 lots of good stuff from our local gardens to go with it.

SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00PM, DINNER: 7:00PM

Adults: \$8, youth: 6-12 \$4 and under 6 **FREE** as are **first time guests!**
 Contact **Georgia Donovan** for more information,
 733.2850 or georgiadonovanart@gmail.com

Then in October
 rise to the challenge at the

2ND ANNUAL

IKES

CHILI COOKOFF!

Wednesday, October 9

Game On!