



www.michiganikes.org

The IKEs Update

November 2016



Oh I love this time of year! Maybe it's the angle of the sun, but even the blue of the sky looks different, more cobalt, a gorgeous contrast for the changing leaves. Today at **Luton Park** I heard **Sandhill Cranes** and looked up to see over 40 of them spiraling up into the tall white clouds until they were out of sight. You'll just have to imagine what it looked like; it's hard to hold a camera steady with two beagles tugging.

Perfect time for campfires too. I think I'll bring some friends over to use a fire pit at the IKEs'. No need to make a reservation if you want to just meet some



friends for a little cookout or to watch the moon rise. The pond looks beautiful in the fall, and the mosquitoes are gone.

A few of us are putting together some mini-series programs, such

as beginning fly-fishing, bass-fishing, build-your-own fly rod. Suggestions welcome.

The **Chili Cook-Off** turned out to be really fun this year, with
(continued on page 6)



The Great Chili Cook-Off

Ron Waybrant



A fun time was had at the annual **Chili Cook-Off** event held Wednesday October 12th. This has been one of the IKEs most popular events for the past few years and this year was no different.

We had 8 chili recipes to taste test and rank. While a daunting task, we heard no complaints. There was a good variety, as there was venison chili, chicken chili, smoky beef chili, chili with corn, and sweet chili. Each tester was to indicate their top 3 chilis in priority order. To show what a tough job we testers had, every one of the 8 entries had at least a couple votes for the top three. **Kathy Crothers** won first prize with her **Chicken Chili**. **John Spangenberg** came in second and **Tam Bagby's** chili was third.

The decorations were great (thanks to Tam Bagby and **Alona Schneider**) and they definitely added to the fun. There were lots of positive comments such as "This was the most interactive, socially fun event we have experienced in a long time. People mingled with one another, and the whole event was a very welcoming environment and a positive experience." This is the kind



of reaction that all appreciate and hopefully we can achieve this experience more often in the future.

Thanks to all those who participated, to Alona Schneider who brought extra decorations and explained a food mission for **Haiti** children, and most of all to Tam Bagby who kept everything going from setting up to testing to cleaning up.

The Great Chili Cook-Off

more photos



Drain Commissioner Discussion

Rachel Hood, Candidate for Kent County Drain Commissioner updated the IKEs in September on how climate change is impacting our community and our water. She outlined that more intense and more frequent storms are one of the key impacts of climate change in West Michigan. This dynamic is placing more pressure on our already stressed water system. She outlined strat-

egies Drain Commissioners can deploy to ensure our communities are resilient including raingardens, bioswales, agricultural buffer strips, porous pavements and underground slow release storage tanks, among others. The IKEs had a lot of great questions and observations that Rachel was able to address.

Deadline for the December issue is Monday, November 14 at 8:00 AM.

Jay Huston

As when went to press with this issue, Steg informed us that long-time member, **Jay Huston** died on October 13. Next month we will publish a full article on Jay. All IKEs express their sympathy to his family.

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

www.michiganikes.org
www.iwla.org

State's Only Venomous Snake Now "Threatened"

John Tunison

Submitted by Bob Stegmier

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The state's only venomous snake, the *Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake*, has been federally designated as a threatened species.

Officials with the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** on Thursday took action to list the snake as threatened under the federal **Endangered Species Act**.

Eastern Massasaugas can be found in scattered locations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Ontario.

In Michigan, most of the snakes are located in southern portions of the state. None have been found in the Upper Peninsula.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources leaders issued a notice Friday about the effort to protect the species.

"Conservation of this rare snake is critical, because it plays an important role as a predator of small mammals," DNR endangered species specialist **Dan Kennedy** said. "The DNR is currently working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many other partners to develop a reasonable

approach to conserve this rare snake in Michigan."

DNR specialists describe the *Massasauga* as a small snake with a thick body, heart-shaped head and vertical pupils, with an average length of about 2 feet.

"They eat small rodents such as mice and voles and will sometimes eat frogs and other snakes. They are docile, secretive snakes that will try to escape rather than defend themselves or fight," according to a DNR description.

Two Mornings

John Stegmeier

The faint light in the eastern sky was all I needed to guide me down the trail to the boat launch on the marsh. The air was still and the silence was broken only by the call of a wood duck hiding in some small puddle in the brush that had taken issue with my footsteps. I had been here at the same time yesterday, but that was filled with a restless wind, flashlights and the urgency of getting Dad and all the equipment out to the duck blind on time. That was a special day for family and comradery filled with the anticipation of the opening day of a new season, but this morning contained a special peace.

I stopped and admired the silhouette of the button bush against the eastern sky. A beaver swam toward me then slapped his tail when he noticed me. I rowed the boat silently to the north while watching a parade of lily pads pass in the oily glow of the pre-dawn reflections. It is important to share these scenes with someone, but sometimes you need to be in solitude to experience them fully. I didn't bother scanning the shoreline for a landmark to show me to my destination. I was content with the moment and the blind would arrive in its own time.



With the sunrise I became aware of the noise from the busy road a mile to the north. It had been there all along. It's funny how the mind blocks out the impurities as we concentrate on something beautiful. There will be other days to concentrate on what is wrong, what we need to fix, and the data for what we need to show. Take two days; one for family and one for self, and enjoy the things we have sworn to protect.

Christmas Dinner

Bob Stegmier

Christmas Dinner at Timbers "Fine Dining" on Belding Road **Thursday December 1**. Jay's not going to putting this together this year so I will step up to the plate for him. As you may have heard Jay has passed away. This is just a night out without any of us preparing a meal, bringing a dish to pass or dishes to wash just a time to talk a bit, enjoy a drink and bring each other up to date on any subject that comes up. Here I go again, back in the old days this was a big deal with about 75 to 100 members would attend. Today it is about 25 or so reliable attendees of late in no particular order just as they come to mind. Dale Gould, Dave and Barb Samson, Rose and Dick Van Haften, Shirley & Gene Kallio, Kim and C.J. Tasma, Georgia Donovan, Alice Bridgman, Bruce Gilmore, Carol and Lars, Nancy & Bill Kirk, Gail and Bob Stegmier, Maurie Houseman, Len Kiser, sometimes Maryann & Bob Schumaker, Bill Weber, oh, I supposed I missed a couple.

Here is what Jay would say if he were writing this; "As we often hear, "Time marches on" and it certainly has since our Christmas dinner ten months ago. So, we look forward to another special day in our lives (each day in our lives is special to each and everyone of us as there will never be another one like the one we just lived). That being said, it is with pleasure that I remind you to circle **December 1, 2016** (always the first Thursday of December) for our Christmas Dinner. Our dining place is **Timbers Inn and Restaurant** where we have enjoyed their fine food and friendly service. The social begins at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM. Price is the same as last year, \$25, which includes tip. Drink and dessert is extra, conversation is free.

Mail your reservation form and check to me at 5285 Windmill Dr NE, Rockford MI 49341 by November 19. Let's have another good attendance and get someone else to attend with you. Call me if you have any questions: Bob Stegmier, 616.481.5497 or rstegmier@ameritech.net.

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Christmas Dinner Reservation Form

NAME(S) _____

NUMBER OF DINNERS: _____ X \$25.00 = TOTAL \$ _____

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER, IWLA
MAIL TO: BOB STEGMIER, 5285 WINDMILL DR NE, ROCKFORD MI 49341

Enbridge #5 Pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac

Bob Stegmier

Our **Dwight Lydell Chapter** took a resolution proposal to this year's **National Convention** regarding this 62 year-old pipeline. To bring you up to date the pipeline was discussed in the July and August newsletters and in the public media for a long time. The resolution proposal to advocate for a "dual walled" pipeline was accepted and is now official League policy. The policy isn't worth the paper it is printed on if it isn't acted on! Action is taking place. I had been in contact with **Senator Stabenow's** office prior to the resolution because she has been active and initiated one or more bills. But watching how a "bill" moves is like watching a glacier move. Since convention I inform the Senator of our new policy and have received this response from a staff person.

Following this contact and discussion with **Scott Kovarovics**, IWLA Executive Director and **John Dickel** the **Energy and Environment Resource Committee Chairperson** I contacted **Venture Engineering and Construction Co**, Pittsburgh, PA who's "White Paper" we relied heavily on when finalizing our policy.

Link to the "white Paper" where it is stated in the 6th paragraph "*The most compelling reason for a double wall pipe, instead of a robust single wall pipeline, is the containment of a product leak.*"

White paper link is: http://www.ventureengr.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Double-Walled-Piping-Systems_White_Paper.pdf. Presently I am anxiously waiting for their response and based on that response we will determine the next step. If you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding this please contact me via rstegmier@ameritech.net or 481-5497

Response from Senator Debbie Stabenow's staff:

"Robert, Thank you for the email regarding **Enbridge's Line 5** and the idea of inserting a dual wall. This is something that our office will inquire about to both Enbridge and the **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.**"



LODGE CALENDAR

October 29	Jack Hornbach Rental
November 5, 6	Troop 3228, John Grostick
November 10	Game Dinner
November 12	Board Meeting, 10:00 AM
December 3	Michelle Miller Rental
December 10	Board Meeting, 10:00 AM

2017

July 13	Blake Gardner Rental
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The IKEs Update

(continued from page 1)

Kathy Crothers' winning Chicken Chili. Thanks to all those who participated, and also to **Alona Schneider** who makes great bouquets to raise funds for rice for the children in Haiti. With the hurricane it's likely more needed than ever.

Next up is our **Wild Game Dinner!** We're looking for duck, turkey, goose, venison, antelope, jackalope, squirrel stew, rabbit chili, elk, moose, salmon, Florida fish, foraged fruit, garden veggies, or yummy desserts. Bring whatever you want to cook up, and a friend to share the feast. It's Thursday, **November 10**, open at 6, great grub at 7:00. You don't need to bring a dish; we need your smiling faces and big appetites as well. Please come!

Georgia Donovan

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

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA Draft Core Event Schedule 2017

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.

Scheduled	Event & Location
January 28, Saturday 10am-3pm.....	<i>Winterfest Community Family Day @ IKEs</i>
March 3, Friday	<i>Conservation Awards/Fund Raiser Banquet</i>
March 16 thru 19	<i>Ultimate Sport Show - DeVos Place, Grand Rapids</i>
April 20, Thursday	<i>Fish & Game Dinner & Program</i>
May 6, 13, 20, 27 - Saturdays	<i>Kids Fishing & Native Plants @ IKEs, 10AM-3PM</i>
May 11, Thursday	<i>Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting & Short Program @ IKEs</i>
June 10, Saturday	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up Day 9AM, work, eat, play, campfire</i>
June 24, Saturday, 10am-3pm	<i>Summerfest Community Family Day @ IKEs</i>
July 26-28	<i>2017 IKE's National Convention - Sandusky IN</i>
July 15, Saturday	<i>Native Plants for Everyone, Tear Drop Island @ IKEs</i>
August 17, Thursday	<i>Ribs & Chicken Dinner @ IKEs</i>
September 13, Wednesday.....	<i>Oktoberfest @ IKEs</i>
September 16, Saturday.....	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up Day 10AM @ IKEs</i>
October 4, Wednesday	<i>Chili Cook-Off/Potluck @ IKEs</i>
November 9, Thursday.....	<i>Game Dinner @ IKEs</i>
December 7, Thursday.....	<i>Holiday Celebration</i>

Website: www.michiganikes.org
 IKEs property located at: 5641 Myers Lake Avenue.
 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 - \$52,** _____ **Family - \$72,** _____ **Student (18-21) - \$24,** _____ **Youth (under 18) - \$12**

Mail to Izaak Walton League, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306. Checks payable to "Izaak Walton League" Call Tom at 616.874.7254 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.



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

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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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WILD GAME DINNER THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Empty out your freezers!
Hunting season
is coming.

Please bring your
favorite game
recipe or a dish
to pass.

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!

**Christmas
Dinner**
Thursday, December 1
at Timbers Inn

See page 5 for
reservation form and more
information or contact
Bob Stegmier, 616.481.5497
or rstegmier@ameritech.net.