



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

September 2012

Greetings from Georgia

Let's build an outdoor oven! The method of building with "cob" or adobe is ancient and cheap. I've heard that others have been successful with theirs in Michigan, although we might want to protect

pizza, which cooks really fast. Fun for picnics and camping! Anyone who wants to help, watch, or offer advice, we are looking at **September 15** for take-off. We'll need to dig some clay. If anyone has a source, call 773.2850.



Actually, we're going to have a get-together on the **3rd Saturday** of every month, for whatever we want to do. Maybe a fun project, a repair, share ideas, fish, hang out, remove some Autumn Olive, whatever. The first one will be **9/15 at 9:30am**, when we attempt to build an oven! Come on over!

it during wetter seasons. Clay, sand, and water are mixed, then a fiber such as straw is added for strength and binding. The ratio varies; 2/3 sand may be used for heat-holding purposes, while for plaster more clay may be used.

It gets mixed together on a tarp. The tarp and a bale of straw are about the only expenses. We could use some old cement blocks to fill the base, which is built up to a convenient height.

The finished dome is "cured" by firing from within. To use, a fire is built in it for a few hours, until the walls are heated, then the fire is pulled out, and you pop in your bread or

By the way, the pond needs some TLC. Because of the heat wave, drought, and a slow leak, it overheated and grew a lot of algae. We're

Highlights This Issue:

Chicken and Rib Dinner

Bluebird Trail

Big Green Raffle Drawing

Stocking Lake Perch

Fishing Techniques

Rogue and Grand River Updates

...and much more!

looking into solutions.

On another front: the State of Michigan will be auctioning oil and gas leases, and it's in your neighborhood. **Fracking** may be a possibility. Even the **White Pine Trail** is being

(continued on page 6)

BIG GREEN RAFFLE...Continues!

All in support of Conservation Education, Scholarships, Kids Nature Club, Tear Drop Island, Winterfest, Summerfest, Save our Stream and more.
\$10 a Ticket or \$20 for 3 Tickets

**A TOTAL OF \$3000 TO BE GIVEN AWAY WITH
THREE \$500 WINNERS AND 30 \$50 WINNERS!**

\$1000 each of three drawings
Drawings 9/12/12, 10/11/12 & 11/8/12
Dwight Lydell Chapter IWLA
MSL # C25581

**FIRST OF THREE DRAWINGS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 12 AT
THE OKTOBERFEST DINNER.
DETAILS ON PAGE 5.**

Chicken and Rib Dinner

Tom Watson

Forty-five IKEs enjoyed barbequed chicken and ribs, corn on the cob, tomatoes from my garden and assorted side dishes on August 16. Turned out to be an exciting evening, as during the presentation on bluebirds by member **Paul Sherd**, the lights went out. Oddly, the freezer, refrigerator and water heater did not. An electrician has been consulted and the problem should be solved soon.

Thanks to **Barry Gilbertson** and **Jack Hornbach** for help grilling the meat, **Tam Bagby** for taking photos and for setting up and serving. Hard to tell in the dark who all helped clean up, but I know **Tammy Lundeen** helped in the kitchen afterward. **Andy Wisniewski** tended bar and **Steg** manned the door. Thanks to everyone for their help.



Bluebird Trail

Tam Bagby

Paul Sherd and Mard DeHaan have installed and managed 54 bluebird boxes for Cornell University's NestWatch, 18 on the GR Gravel Co. property (you may have seen them along Cannonsburg Road) and 36 in the Boulder Creek Golf Course. Every year there are new challenges and new techniques used. The amount of nests, eggs hatchlings and fledgelings grew dramatically this year for both bluebirds and tree swallows due to a new in-house trap they used to remove male house sparrows.

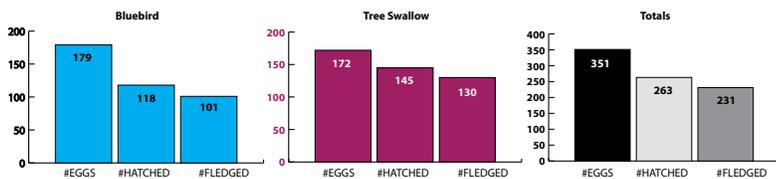
The following graphs indicate the success of the two trails. As you can see, 66% of the birds fledged, which was a tremendous increase. Some of the boxes produced more than one nest over the season. Paul said that the heat wave probably caused some of the nestlings' death.



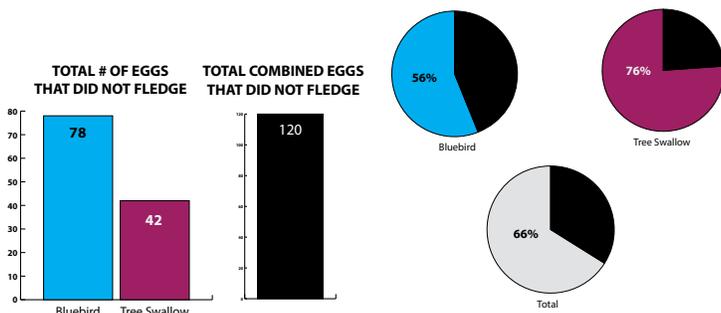
BOX#	#EGGS	#HATCHED	#FLEDGED	TYPE OF BIRD
1	5	5	5	Tree Swallow
1	4	4	4	Bluebird
2	5	5	5	Tree Swallow
3	11	7	7	Bluebird
4	11	6	2	Tree Swallow
5	9	7	7	Bluebird
6	4	0	0	Bluebird
6	6	6	6	Tree Swallow
7	3	3	3	Tree Swallow
8	4	0	0	Bluebird
8	4	3	3	Tree Swallow
9	7	5	5	Bluebird
10	6	6	6	Tree Swallow
11	3	3	3	Bluebird
11	7	6	0	Tree Swallow
12	9	8	9	Bluebird
12	5	5	5	Tree Swallow
13	4	4	4	Tree Swallow
14	4	3	3	Bluebird
15	4	2	0	Bluebird
16	9	0	0	Bluebird
17	11	4	0	Tree Swallow
18	4	3	3	Bluebird
TOTALS				
	#EGGS	#HATCHED	#FLEDGED	
Bluebird	72	42	40	
Tree Swallow	67	53	39	
TOTAL	139	95	79	

BOX#	#EGGS	#HATCHED	#FLEDGED	TYPE OF BIRD
1	9	8	8	Bluebird
2	5	5	0	Bluebird
2	4	4	4	Tree Swallow
3	4	1	1	Bluebird
4	6	0	0	Bluebird
4	2	0	0	Tree Swallow
5	5	5	0	Bluebird
6	4	4	4	Bluebird
7	6	6	6	Bluebird
8	5	5	5	Tree Swallow
9	7	7	7	Bluebird
10	6	6	6	Tree Swallow
11	NO	NO	NO	
12	NO	NO	NO	
13	4	4	4	Bluebird
14	5	4	4	Bluebird
14	6	6	6	Tree Swallow
15	5	5	5	Tree Swallow
16	5	5	5	Tree Swallow
17	6	5	5	Tree Swallow
18	5	4	4	Bluebird
18	5	5	5	Tree Swallow
19	10	10	5	Bluebird
20	NO	NO	NO	
21	7	3	3	Tree Swallow
22	4	4	4	Tree Swallow
23	9	8	8	Bluebird
24	4	4	4	Bluebird
24	6	6	6	Tree Swallow
25	4	4	4	Tree Swallow
26	7	6	6	Tree Swallow
27	4	0	0	Bluebird
27	6	6	6	Tree Swallow
28	3	0	0	Bluebird
29	4	3	3	Bluebird
30	5	4	4	Tree Swallow
31	5	4	4	Tree Swallow
32	4	0	0	Bluebird
33	5	5	5	Tree Swallow
34	7	7	7	Tree Swallow
35	8	3	3	Bluebird
36	5	1	1	Tree Swallow
TOTALS				
	#EGGS	#HATCHED	#FLEDGED	
Bluebird	107	76	61	
Tree Swallow	105	92	91	
TOTAL	212	168	152	

TOTALS BOTH TRAILS



% OF EGGS THAT DID FLEDGE



25% by 2025 On the Ballot in November

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Remember member, **Shirley Kallio**, wrote an article in support of this 25 by 25 initiative in the May issue of our IKE's newsletter. You may want to reread that message in that issue which can be found on the www.michiganikes.org website.

Here is another supportive article from **ConservAmerica**. This Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs ballot initiative will be on the ballot in November and if passed would require the state to receive 25% of its electricity from

clean or renewable sources by 2025. This is a Renewable Energy Standard (**RES**). The current goal is 10% by 2015 and we are close to achieving that already. Michigan consumers send nearly \$2 billion per year out of state to pay for coal. That money could stay here, multiply, and be a strong economic stimulus for our own state. Since most of the investments to comply with the law would be made in our state, it would further help create thousands of jobs and value here. Burning coal is how mercury and other toxins get into our environment. Each year, in the US, 600,000 babies are born with unsafe levels of mercury in their systems. This can cause severe health problems, learning disabilities, and behavior issues with which society must deal at an untold cost. Each year in our country, 11,000 people die prematurely due to pollution emitted by burning fossil fuels. The initiative limits the price increases to consumers to 1% per year.

Visit the Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs website for the facts you can find it there:
<http://mienergymijobs.com/>

Just a side note! On July 17 between 3 PM and 4 PM **Consumers Energy** recorded their highest peak electric load in recent years. For "what it is worth" for that hour my 2,000 watt capacity photo voltaic electricity producing panels were pumping 2,000 watts per hour into the grid in support of consumer's production. Solar works in Michigan and at this most opportune time!

LODGE RESERVATIONS

September 21	Dave West (church group overnight)
September 22	Jack Hornbach (and U of M Club)
September 29	Vanhaften family
October 4	Bill Gould
October 5	Kevin Antel

Izaak Walton League Board Names Acting Executive Director

Submitted by Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Gaithersburg, MD – The Izaak Walton League of America's Executive Board announced this week that it has named **Scott Kovarovics** Acting Executive Director. Kovarovics will assume this position immediately. As Acting Executive Director, Kovarovics' responsibilities will span the wide range of issues in which the League is involved, from overseeing the organization's \$3.5 million budget to directing conservation work and member services.

"Scott has been a tremendous asset for the League, and the Executive Board is confident in his ability to lead the organization in the coming months," says **Dr. Roger Sears**, Chairman of the League's Executive Board. "Scott shares the passion every IKE has for common-sense conservation work

and connecting the next generation of Americans to the outdoors. He has the organizational, management, and program experience to successfully move the organization forward."

Kovarovics has served as the League's Conservation Director since January 2008. In this role, he worked with League staff, volunteers, partner organizations, government agency staff, and legislators to advance the League's conservation mission. He has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from **George Washington University** and a master's degree in Public Administration from **American University**.

The Izaak Walton League was founded in 1922 to defend outdoor America for future generations. As the League celebrates its 90th

anniversary this year, the organization is working to address conservation issues that have evolved over the past nine decades – from water pollution to energy resources – and the Acting Executive Director will play a key role in the League's conservation success.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve as Acting Executive Director on the months ahead," says Kovarovics, "As we celebrate the League's proud past, we also look to the future and the opportunities ahead."



BIG GREEN RAFFLE

Bob Stegmier

Your chapter's BIG GREEN RAFFLE marches on towards the beginning of the end on September 12 at the Oktoberfest dinner.

There will be eleven winners that night. One for \$500 and 10 for \$50 each.

Every member should wrap up their ticket selling process. Work hard to sell your remaining tickets before turning them in.

All sold ticket stubs and money must be in **Bob Stegmier's** hands by September 7.

You may keep any unsold tickets and continue to sell them. You will have to bring any subsequent tickets sold to the Oktoberfest dinner in time to be entered into

the drawing, which will be held at 8:00 PM.

With any tickets sold to late to be in this first drawing it must be explained to the purchaser that they have missed the first drawing and they will be entered in the remaining drawings but their chances of winning is reduced. This must be made very clear to them.

The committee and the board of directors thank you immensely for your participation in this fund raiser for Conservation Education.

Contact **Marylou Sundt**, 443.7377, email: hellomarylou56@yahoo.com

or **Bob Stegmier** 616.481.5497, email: rstegmier@ameritech.net

Deadline for the October issue is Friday, September 21 at 8:00 AM.

Thought Of The Month
Jay Huston

Don't nurse opportunity too long; take it into active partnership with you at least once, lest it leave you for other company.

\$500: \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50 \$50
\$3,000 to be given away
All for Conservation Education

BIG GREEN RAFFLE

\$10 a Ticket or \$20 for 3 Tickets

Benefiting Kids Nature Club, Winterfest, Summerfest, Kids Fishing, Save our Streams (Stream Insects & Crustaceans), Tear Drop Island, College Scholarships, & Much More

\$1,000 each drawing
Drawings 9/12/12, 10/11/12 & 11/8/12
 Dwight Lydell Chapter IWLA
 MSL # C25581

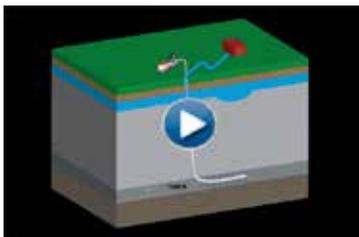
**Members
and friends:**

If you haven't please be sure to read **"From the Jazz Age to World War II"** in the Spring issue of *Outdoor America*. Consider sharing your issue with friends or if you need an extra copy contact me.

Bob Stegmier,
Michigan National Director

Greetings from Georgia

(continued from page 1)



considered, and drilling may be directed horizontally underground for long distances. We are trying to track the devel-

opments and repercussions. Please watch for the informational community meeting we are putting together, as an opportunity to ask questions. We owe it to our water supply to become educated.

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**DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER
of the
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA
Core Event Schedule 2012**

CHAIR PERSON

September 12, Wednesday	Oktoberfest @ CC	Bob Stegmier
October 10, Wednesday	Chili Cook Off/Potluck @ CC.....	Tom Watson
November 8, Thursday (NOTE NEW DATE)	Game Dinner @ CC.....	Tom Watson
December 6	Christmas Dinner @ Timbers Restaurant	Jay Huston

Lake Michigan Perch Population At Center Of Stocking Application

By Eric Gaertner Milive.Com

Submitted by Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

Here is an interesting thought:

MUSKEGON — Bring the perch back. That's the rallying cry of a Muskegon-area man [**Tom Matych**] who is seeking approval from the **Michigan Natural Resources Commission** to allow his group to stock perch in Lake Michigan and its connecting waters and trumpeting a message that a vibrant native-fish population could be expected to be more adept at combating invasive species.

A Department of Natural Resources fisheries manager agrees that public interest is high for a larger perch population, more closely resembling the levels of decades ago, but he disagrees that stocking is the answer. In addition, he pointed out that Lake Michigan and its connecting waters have changed significantly since the glory days of perch fishing.

The debate basically boils down to this: Would the perch population in Lake Michigan be larger without the focus on maintaining the Chinook salmon fishery and would native fish, such as perch or walleye, be better equipped to withstand threats by invasive species?

Plus, has the lake changed so much, including the invasive species and clear water, that a return to the "old" fishery is unattainable?

Matych plans to take his petition, signed by 1,125 adults and children, to the Aug. 9 Natural Resources Commission meeting in Lansing. The petition states, "We the undersigned want the restoration of the native perch population to former high levels, as well as other native fish. We oppose any efforts by the DNR to fill Lake Michigan back up with alewives. Alewives are an invasive species." Tom Matych, a Twin Lake resident and coordinator of the **Adopt A Walleye West Michigan** program, said this will be at least his third time applying to state officials for permission to stock perch in eastern Lake Michigan and connecting waters. He said he and a handful of others circulated the petitions over a three-week period in Muskegon, Whitehall and Grand Haven, including visits to area boat launches.

"Everywhere I go, people say they want the perch back," Matych said. "They all have memories of fishing with their dads or granddads for perch."

Matych is critical of the DNR for its attention on the Chinook salmon fishery, since that species of fish requires a large amount of alewives. He said he wants alewives at low levels so perch can rebound, claiming Big Lake fishing would still exist with steelhead, brown trout, lake trout and Coho salmon.

Fisheries officials from the Great Lakes states are in the process of considering options for cutting back the Chinook salmon stocking program due to the fear that a dwindling alewife population could cause the salmon fishery to bottom out.



Jay Wesley, DNR Fisheries Division manager for the **Southern Lake Michigan Unit**, said the issue limiting the perch population is a lack of plankton for young perch to eat, so stocking won't help the issue. He also pointed out that a **Yellow Perch Task Group**, consisting of biologists and managers from all jurisdictions around Lake Michigan, doesn't support stocking perch.

Wesley said Fisheries officials face a "balancing act" to maintain the salmon fishery and native species as well. He said they look at biological, social and economic factors.

"We don't want to give up something that is good, socially and economically, and that is supported by the ports," Wesley said of the Chinook salmon fishery.

Wesley said he is not convinced that the traditional perch fishery that Matych describes can return. He pointed out the alewives are currently at their lowest levels since arriving in the lake, so the perch should have already returned if that is the reason. He also pointed out that, traditionally, Lake Michigan was mainly lake trout and whitefish, supporting mostly commercial fishing.

Matych pointed to Lake Huron as proof that perch and walleye can flourish again. He said that once the Chinook salmon fishery in Lake Huron bottomed out it led to better perch and walleye fishing there.

"Boat launches are full over there. In Muskegon, the boat launches are empty," Matych said. "The bottom line

(continued on page 10)

Green Renewable Energy Installation!

Submitted by Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST SOLAR ARRAY NOW PLUGGED-IN ATOP IKEA CANTON

CANTON, Mich., Jul 10, 2012 (BUSINESS WIRE)

IKEA in the United States, with 19 more locations underway, making the eventual U.S. solar presence of IKEA nearly 89% with a total generation of 38 MW.

For the development, design and installation of the Canton store's cus-

integrates innovative materials into product design, works with Global Forest Watch to maintain sustainable resources, and flat-packs goods for efficient distribution. Specific U.S. sustainable efforts include: recycling waste material (paper, wood, plastic, etc.); incorporating environmental measures into the construction of buildings in terms of energy-efficient HVAC and lighting systems, recycled construction materials, skylights in warehouse areas, and water conserving restrooms; and operationally, eliminating plastic bags from the check-out process, phasing out the sale of incandescent light bulbs and facilitating recycling of customers' compact fluorescent bulbs. IKEA also has installed electric vehicle charging stations at nine stores in the Western U.S.



Located on 21 acres along Ford Road off I-275 at the intersection with Haggerty Road, the 311,000-square-foot IKEA Canton opened in June 2006. In addition to 10,000 exclusively designed items, the store presents 52 different room-settings, three model home interiors, a supervised children's play area, and a 350-seat restaurant serving Swedish specialties such as meatballs with lingonberries and salmon plates, as well as American dishes. Other family-friendly features include a Children's IKEA area in the Showroom, baby care rooms, preferred parking and play areas throughout the store.

IKEA, the world's leading home furnishings retailer, today officially plugged-in the solar energy system installed at its Detroit-area store in Canton, Michigan - the state's largest such photovoltaic array. The 122,200-square-foot PV array consists of a 977.6-kW system, built with 4,160 panels. IKEA Canton's program will produce approximately 1,114,943 kWh of clean electricity annually, the equivalent of reducing 769 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), eliminating the emissions of 151 cars or powering 96 homes yearly (calculating clean energy equivalents at www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html)

tomized solar power system, IKEA contracted with SoCore Energy, one of the largest commercial solar developers in the Midwest and developer of more than 65 U.S. commercial PV installations.

"We are thrilled at how this solar energy system furthers our commitment to sustainability at IKEA Canton," said **Anton van Dongen**, store manager, "IKEA has a never-ending job where most things remain to be done that encourages us always to ask ourselves how we can improve what we do today for a better tomorrow. We appreciate the support of the Canton Township, Detroit Edison and SoCore Energy, our partners in this project."

This investment by **IKEA** reinforces the company's long-term commitment to sustainability and confidence in photovoltaic (PV) technology. IKEA owns and operates each of its solar PV energy systems atop its buildings - as opposed to a solar lease or PPA (power purchase agreement) - and this Canton installation represents the 20th completed solar energy project for

IKEA, drawing from its Swedish heritage and respect of nature, believes it can be a good business while doing good business and aims for its operations to minimize impacts on the environment. Globally, IKEA evaluates all locations regularly for energy conservation opportunities,

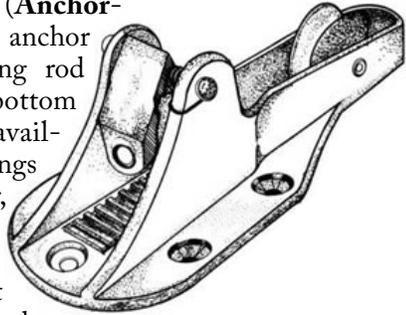
IKEA strives to be "The Life Improvement Store," and since its 1943 founding in Sweden, has offered home furnishings of good design and function, at low prices so the majority of people can afford them. There are currently more than 330 IKEA stores in 40 countries, including 38 in the U.S. IKEA incorporates sustainable efforts into day-to-day business and supports initiatives that benefit children and the environment. For more information, go to IKEA-USA.com.

SOURCE: IKEA

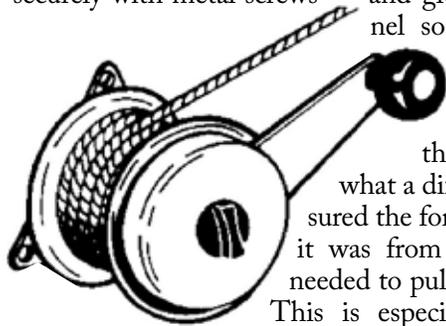
Fishing Technique Shared

Chase Klinesteker, member

A simple anchor pulley: There are 2 ways to present lures, casting and trolling. Both are recommended to completely cover all bases in your fishing presentation. In casting an area, the most thorough way is to anchor and fan cast. Anchoring requires a fair amount of effort, and devices including a hand-cranked unit (**Anchor-Mate**), electric anchor winch, or a long rod stuck in the bottom (**Talon**) are available to make things easier. However, these devices can add weight, bulk, and cost to your boat, and many anglers choose to not use them. This results in many anglers not using the anchor and possibly missing fish in the process. Knowing simple ways to make anchoring easier can be helpful to improve your fishing.



anchor to grab and help lift the anchor out of the water. This still required considerable force to raise the anchor because of the friction of the rope on the gunnel. A pulley for the rope seemed to make sense. I found a small one around the house and mounted it securely with metal screws and glue on the gunnel so that the rope would hang down straight off the side of the boat. Wow, what a difference! I measured the force required and it was from 1/3 to 1/2 less needed to pull up the anchor. This is especially helpful in deep Lake Michigan perch fishing where I could easily raise my anchor in about 1/4 of the time needed by an electric anchor winch.



I use an 18-pound 3-flute river anchor to position my 14-foot **Ultracraft** boat when I anchor. This is plenty of weight to hold in just about any wind that the boat can handle. However, lifting 18 pounds straight up can be a bit of a strain on my hands and muscles. It is easier to pull horizontally than to lift vertically, so I ran the rope over the smooth gunnel and pulled horizontally to lift the anchor. To make things easier, I use a 5/8 inch cotton anchor rope for a better grip, and put a knot about a foot above the

A few additional tips might be helpful. Although cotton rope needs replacement more often, it gives me the softest and best grip of the rope, it is limp, and dries out quickly. If the pulley is too large, it will stick out farther from the boat and be subject to breaking off. Put the rope on the pulley only when the anchor is directly under the boat. Keep pulling fast and put the rope in a small, tangle free pile on the floor of the boat directly under the pulley. At the end of the day it can be wound between 2 cleats on the side of the boat to dry out.

Happy anchoring!

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 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 \$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.

Rogue River Watershed News

Bob Stegmier, Conservation Chair The **Rogue River Watershed Council** has received an **Insight Services Grant** from **Freshwater Future** to build capacity of the organization. Grant funds will be used for Freshwater Futures staff time to provide professional assistance to (1) helping the Council with its organizational structure, (2) making the Council sustainable through board development, membership expansion, and fundraising, and (3) leading the Council through a strategic planning process.

Before the Council begins this process it will hold a meeting to get interested parties around the table to understand the history of the Rogue River Watershed Council, its role as an agency of Metro Council, and discuss the Councils future.

Duane DeVries and I have represented the IKEs monthly at its meetings and before us **John Trimberger**.

Now if you live in the Rogue River watershed you have an opportunity to learn about the Council and possibly get involved. This important meeting will be held **Monday, September 17**, at **Cannon Township Center** from **10:00 am to 11:30 am**.

RSVP: Please RSVP to **Julie Lovelace** at jlovelace@cannontwp.org or **616.884.2206**.

I think this is a watershed moment for the watershed and the Council. I hope to see some of our chapter members get involved now.

Lake Michigan Perch Population At Center Of Stocking Application

(continued from page 7)

is what is best for the lake. It's not worth sacrificing the whole lake for the salmon."

Matych also contends that larger native fish populations will be better equipped to withstand threats of other invasive species, such as Asian carp.

In addition to the perch stocking, Matych's group plans to request that the Natural Resources Commission

and DNR reduce the yellow perch daily possession limit to 25, close perch fishing during the primetime of spawning and allow only one wall-eye 23 inches or longer to be kept in daily bag limit.

Yellow perch, LIKE this one, are the focus of a petition that was circulated in Muskegon, Whitehall and Grand Haven. Tom Matych plans to present the petition to the Natural Resources Commission at its Aug. 9 meeting.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Joe Rogers of **Wildlife Recovery Association** will be at **Wild Birds Unlimited** 5426 Northland Dr. NE **Saturday September 29th** at **2:30 pm**.

Joe is a certified biologist and specializes in rehabilitating birds of prey. He then releases the birds back into the wild once recovered. If the bird is unable to survive on its own, Joe keeps it in his aviaries and then cares for the bird for the remainder of its life. He then brings the birds with him on tour.

This show is free and open the public. Cameras permitted.



American Kestrel

BULLETIN BOARD

Little Manistee Property For Sale: 10.1 acres of wooded, undeveloped land. Over 1000 feet river frontage. Ideal building site on high bank on big river bend. Located approximately 4 miles west of Irons just downstream from **Driftwood** campground. For more infor-

mation call **Jamie Crosby 616.443.2486** or **John Crosby 616.648.9011**. Appraised value and asking price of **\$190,000**.

(send bulletin board items to: **Tom Watson** at twatson@comcast.net)

Grand River Restoration

Jim Bedford

Ed. Note: Following is a condensed version of an article that appeared in the MUCC magazine.

The rapids in the **Grand River** for which the city is named after has long been one of my favorite places to fish, especially in the fall. The anadromous salmonids migrating up the Grand River from Lake Michigan have, for the most part, a pretty easy trip until they reach the rapids. The water is relatively deep and the current is quite slow. Suddenly these fish now have to battle very strong current and they slow down and frequently rest as they move up through the fast water.

Recently there has been much talk about restoring the rapids to a more natural state and making the river more interesting for kayaking and other paddle sports. **Grand Rapids Whitewater** is a non-profit group that is spearheading the effort to make the rapids more LIKE it was before man arrived. They are labeled as principally a kayaking group but their goals go way past just creating a "whitewater park" in Grand Rapids. At this writing some money has been raised and a Colorado company, **River Restoration**, has been hired. The city of Grand Rapids has already invested in making the river a part of a vibrant downtown with **Fish Ladder Park**, the river walks paralleling the Grand on both sides of the river, and making the river an important connection to their annual fall **Art Prize** competition.

More than half of the original rapids reach is submerged under the backwater of 6th Street Dam. Depending upon funding part of the proposed project includes partially breaching this dam. The possibility of having another mile of rapids to fish is extremely appealing to this angler. In this process fish passage would be improved and allow fish, LIKE sturgeon, which can't negotiate the present ladder, the chance to move upstream. Some prime historic spawning grounds are located a short distance above the dam and currently unavailable to sturgeon.

Right now the Grand River flows essentially in a straight line through the city and is constrained by floodwalls in much of this reach. While the banks won't be altered to any significant degree and flood control will be maintained, the flow and the riverbed will be changed. Low flow channels, cobble bars, and many large boulders will be added to the river. These will be strategically placed to make the river more interesting and fun to watch, fish, and play in with a kayak or canoe.

Additional features may be placed in the river to make it more interesting and fun for paddlers. The whitewater features will also diversify the currents and aerate the water. These changes will also provide cover and habitat for fish.

As I write this, the plan would be to lower the Sixth Street Dam about three feet and create boulder structures that alter the dam on the east side to allow fish such as sturgeon to swim upstream. Sturgeon and a number of other species that are unable to pass conventional ladders will be able to move upstream for the first time since the dam was built. The same structure would allow kayaks and drift boats to navigate the dam coming downstream.

Boaters will need the skill to navigate water equivalent to a Class III rapids. Jet boats will be able navigate the rapids relatively easily with flows of 8,000 cfs (cubic feet per second) or greater. On the west side the base of the dam will be altered to create a flushing scenario by placing boulders and other structures there. This will mostly eliminate the hydraulic effect that sucked boats upstream into the dam in the past. I witnessed such a tragedy there about 25 years ago and will be glad to see this hazard virtually eliminated.



Bob Bryans releasing Steelhead in the Grand River

The fish ladder on the west side will continue to function so that regardless of whether the fish turn left or right when they hit the dam, they will find a way to move upstream. This will also maintain the joy of watching salmon and steelhead make the jumps through the steps of the ladder. This spectacle of nature brings thousands,

including lots of children, to the river each fall and spring. Hopefully this exposure to the river and the fish will get the kids interested in trying to catch these beautiful fish.

The continued halting of sea lamprey migration in Grand Rapids will remain a top priority of this project. There is also a need to maintain the water level at Riverside Park for the rowers. A possible plan is to create an adjustable barrier downstream from the railroad crossing bridge south of Ann Street that will both block lampreys and provide the necessary rowing pool level. This barrier will also be designed to allow passage of drift boats and kayaks and be easily jumpable by anadromous trout and salmon.

There is still work to do to raise the funds for this project. The restoration opportunities are great for the river, the city, the anglers, the paddlers, and all who love rivers so I really hope it will happen.



**Dwight Lydell Chapter
of the Izaak Walton League**
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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

Join us for Oktober Fest

Wednesday September 12

Great German food and music
with a program presented
by Shirley Kallio:

**Door to Hydrofracking in
Cannon Township Easing Open:
Implications for the Community
and Our Response**



Please bring a dish to pass and a friend or two.
Social hour 6pm, dinner at 7pm.

Call Bob Stegmeir rstegmier@ameritech.net with reservations.
Adults \$8, ages 6-12 \$4 with ages under six FREE
as are first time guests!

Wednesday,
October 10 is our
1st Annual



Bring your best
pot of chili
and it's

Game On!