



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

IKELs NEWSLETTER

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER
• OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA •

www.michiganikes.org

December 2012

Greetings from Georgia

We're wrapping up another season of the **Kids' Nature Club**, and had a cookout last week back at the camping area. It was all fun, even if I did raise my volume a few times.



Hot dogs and marshmallows were cooked; eyes remained intact! This last week they will be free to run and explore this area that they have really come to love. If anyone finds a shoe, it's Kaden's.

As I'll remind them, and you too, stay bright and be safe during the hunting season!

Many thanks to all the hunters, fishers, and contributors to the **Wild Game Dinner**, and especially to the cooks, **Tom Watson** and his kitchen crew, and those that cleaned up afterwards. Everything, every single dish, was truly delicious, and Tom's Key Lime Pie was his best EVER!

Next up is the Christmas Dinner, held at **Timber's** on **Thursday, December 6**. If there's still time when you get this, call Jay if you'd like to join in. It's a nice, civilized gathering, full of cheer!

The idea was floated that maybe next year we might change the events and have the game dinner later, after hunting season, in place of the Christmas meal at a restaurant. Any opinions?

I met with **Pete MacGregor** after the Townhall about fracking, to reiterate my concerns. The oil companies are of course "well-oiled" and know just what they want to do. Since wells drilled in our neighborhoods make changes that are permanent, it is in our absolute best interest to pay attention. No matter how sweet they lay it out, I keep getting stuck on the part where millions of gallons of fresh drinking water are mixed with a blend of very toxic chemicals added to it. There is no intention of ever trying to clean it; apparently they can't. If the injection wells ever leak, our children

Highlights This Issue:

Wild Game Dinner

Big Green Raffle Results

Christmas Dinner

Citizen's Fisheries Advisory Committee

Bruce Dutcher Bridge

...and much more!

will have to deal with it. That's not the way to "pay it forward," in my opinion.

Also, is it just tradition that the state feels bound to lease our mineral rights so cheap? Bidding starts at \$10/acre; Kent County was a hot seller at \$54/acre. People have laughed about trading beads for Manhattan, but what are we doing here?

(continued on page 4)

BIG GREEN RAFFLE

came to a close November 8 at the
Wild Game & Fish Dinner.

It was all in support of Conservation Education,
Scholarships, Kids Nature Club, Tear Drop Island,
Winterfest, Summerfest, Save our Streams and much
MORE!

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

Wild Game Dinner

Tom Watson

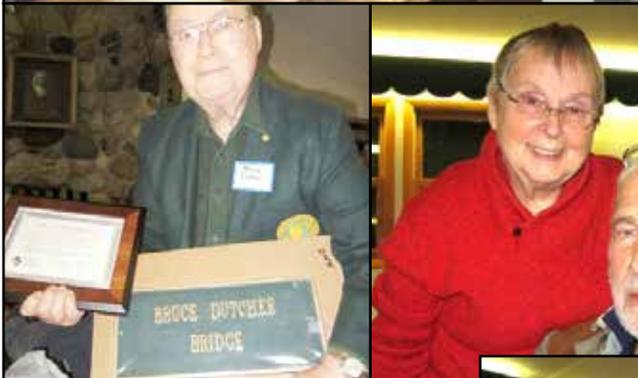
Forty-five IKEs enjoyed a sensational **Fish and Wild Game Dinner** on November 8. We dined on venison supplied by **Jack Hornbach**, myself, **Len Kizer** and others, goose stew from **Georgia Donovan**, domestic turkey and assorted side dishes (a special salad by **Betty Jo Crosby**) and desserts, including my world famous Key Lime Pie. If that weren't enough, we ate fried Florida fish, thanks to Jack Hornbach, **Darva Boot** and some caught by **Tam Bagby** and myself.

The **Kitchen Krew** was simply awesome. **Tammie Lundeen**, **Dick Van Haften**, **Barry Gilbertson** and Tam Bagby worked with me in the kitchen and the pace was furious. Official taste tester, **Jim Mroz**, assured us each dish was suitable before we served it from the kitchen.

Tammie Lundeen earned more kudos by heading up the clean up, washing pots and pans, with help from **Dan Huston**, **Barb McGuirl**, **DeAnne Sherd** and **Mary Lou Sundt**, Tam, Barry and I and no doubt some others helped get the place spic and span in record time. **Ron Waybrant** vacuumed and others pitched in a truly group effort.

John Stegmeier tended the fireplace, Ron manned the door and the bar this time was self-serve.

We were all pooped when we got done cleaning up, but it was well worth the effort. Thanks to all who helped, especially those whom I forgot to mention here.



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IKES CHRISTMAS DINNER

Jay Huston

The holiday season will be up on us before we know it. Gentle reminders of the cool weather, early frost, some Christmas lighting and, of course. So much early Christmas advertising even before Holloween. We will dine at our favorite **Timber's Inn/Restaurant**, 6555 Belding Road, NE, Rockford, MI. located approximately two and half miles east of Wolverine Blvd. We have a private area that will accommodate up to 60 people, so let us see more members attending this year.

Be sure to mark your calendar for **Thursday, December 6, 2012**. Social hour at 6:00 PM with cash bar and dinner at 7:00 PM.

The dinner menu: Choice of one of four entrees: **Top Sirloin Steak** (8 ounce), **Walleye Fillet**, **Timber BBQ Ribs**, (half slab), or **Angel Hair Chicken**. The entrees are served with the choice of soup or house salad, 9-grain bread, fresh vegetable of the day and your choice of fresh mashed potatoes with gravy, French fries, white or wild rice and beverage. If you choice to order a dessert, it is a la carte.

The price of the sit down dinner is \$21.00 per person. The reservation deadline is **Saturday, December 1st**. Please cut off the reservation form below and mail with check for \$21.00 per dinner ordered.

As in recent past we will entertain ourselves as we have plenty of time to visit, enjoy each others' company and get into the spirit of the holiday season. Many of us have been on trips during the past year and vacations so let us relate our experiences and enjoy a good evening to remember.

Deadline for the January issue is Monday, December 10 at 8:00 AM.

CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATION FORM

NAMES(S) _____

NUMBER OF DINNERS: _____ X \$21.00 = (TOTAL) \$ _____

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER, IWLA
MAIL TO: JAY HUSTON, 207 GREENBRIER DRIVE, SE., GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546

Thank you for joining our celebration.

Work Day

Tom Watson

On a warm and sunny Wednesday (10/24) a few IKEs attended to some chores at the lodge, primarily trimming trees and treating Autumn Olive. Workers included **Duane De Vries**, **Maurie Houseman**, **Len Kizer**, **Jim Schneider** and **Ron Waybrant**.

I came down and prepared lunch for the guys. **Bob Stegmier** had come and gone by the time I arrived and **Georgia** did some work later in the day.



BULLETIN BOARD

FOR SALE: Beautiful Cottage with two bedrooms, bunkhouse, large garage, and large deck overlooking the Little South Branch of the Pere Marquette River four miles south of Baldwin. Most furnishings stay with cabin. \$ 127,000. Call Si Biener at 616.361.1263 for more information.

Big Green Raffle

Bob Stegmier, Mary Lou Sundt, BGR Co-Chairs

Winners at the third and final BGR drawing at the Wild Game and Fish Dinner were:

\$500 winner: **Mary Jane Barklich**

\$50 winners:

- Katheryn Albert**
- Dale Carpenter**
- John Crissman**
- Ron Finger** (member)
- Terry Hall**
- Luanne Jaruzel**
- Leonard Kizer** (member)
- Pat Klecker**
- Allan Pilczuk**
- Abe Rossi**

Congratulations winners and thank for your support to the IKEs Conservation education mission. Thanks to all who bought tickets but unfortunately didn't win any green but did win in a way because the profits will used to support our conservation education mission.

We will finalize the overall results and report them in the January IKEs newsletter.

Greetings from Georgia

(continued from page 1)

If you see meetings in your community regarding fracking, please join the discussion. Only by educating each other can we come to the best-case scenario.

Meanwhile... I hope all your homes are snug, well insulated, and cozy as can be for winter! Save the Kilowatt!

Enjoy winter's special beauty, have a good Christmas time, and remember to share the fun at Winterfest, **January 26th!**

Georgia Donovan

Thought of the Month

Jay Huston

THINK

"Anyone who thinks by the inch and talks by the yard ought to be kicked by the foot."



There's a bumper crop of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** this year! They're like **Chickadees** with racing stripes, really brave little birds that aren't against swooping in for some fast food.

Student Editors

This issue was edited and produced by **Tyler Burke, Katlynn Levian and Brett Rainke.**

Great job students!

Bruce Dutcher Bridge

Lisa Dutcher

Editor's note: See front page of the 11/15/12 edition of The Rockford Squire for their article.

The decline of the **Cobmoosa/Osborn** sub-watershed of the **White River** dates back to the late '60s and early '70s. The **Oceana County Drain Commission** began authorizing the removal of jack arch bridges in Elbridge and Ferry Townships. In the place of these bottomless structures, round corrugated metal pipe culverts, ranging from 48 to 72" in diameter, were installed. Improper sizing and types of culverts cause artificial damming, introduces sediment, changes water temperature, erodes stream and roadbanks, causes gravel spawning beds to become covered and prevents native fish migration. As a result, the once plentiful brook and brown trout had all but disappeared. **Bruce Dutcher**, seeing the damage first-hand, began a letter-writing campaign to various state and local agencies and private organizations.

Several letters to the White River

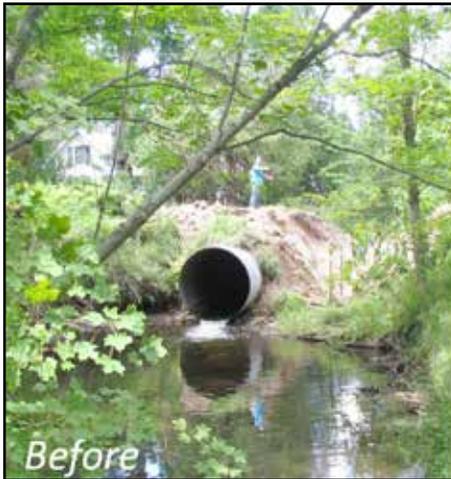
Watershed Partnership (WRWP) triggered a member of that group, **Ray Schinler**, to contact Bruce. Bruce asked his daughter **Lisa**, who was living in Oceana County, to talk with Ray. In the summer of 2008, Lisa contacted various officials within **DNR, DEQ, Fish & Wildlife, Forest Service, Ferry Township** and other local agencies, requesting interested individuals attend a site tour of Cobmoosa and Osborn Road/Stream crossings. Lisa hosted a day long tour on October 9th, 2008, which resulted in an un-official task force being born, with the goal to replace 8 failing crossings. Members of the taskforce pointed Lisa in the direction of applying for grants that would help to fund removal of fish barriers and habitat restoration. Lisa submitted grant applications bi-annually to a number of different agencies, working through the Oceana County Road Commission's (OCRC) Engineer/Manager, **Lance Malburg**.

The OCRC signed cooperative agreements with both the U.S.D.A./

U.S. Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Forest Service in 2009. Any grant monies received would be governed by these agreements. The initial grant award from U.S.F.W.S. came in 2010, for construction in 2011. It provided \$25,800 for Johnson Road and \$33,175 for 148th Avenue north of Yonkers Road, both on **Osborn Creek**. Following that, the U.S. Forest Service granted \$120,000 for work on 2 other crossings, also to be completed in 2011. In July of 2011, Lance Malburg resigned from the OCRC, leaving the crossing replacements projects underway and no one in charge.

The OCRC appointed Lisa Dutcher to oversee the replacement projects, which were successfully completed. As a result, the original agreements were then extended and modified to add more money and downstream crossings. For 2012, the original

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Reports from the Lake Michigan Citizens' Fisheries Advisory Committee

John Stegmeier

Stocking of **Chinook** salmon in Lake Michigan will be cut by 50%. This decision was made based upon the results of a well-publicized survey which offered anglers several optional plans for reducing the number of Chinook planted. These reductions have been deemed necessary because of a reduction in the number of **Alewives** and the number of age classes of Alewives.

Because the State of Michigan has many streams which provide a great deal of natural reproduction and has been planting the majority of Chinook stocked in Lake Michigan, the Michigan **DNR** will be reducing their Chinook stocking by 67%. As part of achieving this goal no Chinook will be stocked in the Grand River next year. In the past, these Chinook stocked in the Grand River have had poor survival rates.

It is hoped that these actions will prevent a catastrophic collapse in Alewife populations. This happened in **Lake Huron** a few years ago. Surveys in Lake Huron indicated that the number of age classes of Alewives had declined to 4. The following year Alewives were almost nonexistent and the Chinook fishery

in Lake Huron collapsed. While there is some good Chinook fishing north of **Alpena**, it is still very poor to the south. In Lake Michigan the number of age classes of Alewives has dropped over the past few years from 9 to 6. It was decided that action should be taken before Lake Michigan reach the point at which Lake Huron collapsed.

While this sounds like very large reductions, it may not have such a big effect on our fishing. This is not reducing our **Steelhead** or **Coho** programs and a large portion of our Chinook come from natural reproduction in our streams. Also, the fall of 2011 salmon runs were so heavy that an increase in natural reproduction may offset much of the decreases in stocked fish.

Grass Carp Enforcement

A truck owned by **Farley's Fish** from Arkansas was reported to be selling live fish including **Grass Carp**, which are prohibited in Michigan, in a parking lot in **Midland**. The driver of the truck sold Grass Carp to an undercover officer and was arrested. 112 live Grass Carp were found in

the truck. The MDNR confiscated the tractor and trailer, which had been used to transport the prohibited fish. Farley's Fish sent another truck to pick up the remaining legal fish and that truck was also inspected. No prohibited species were found in the second truck. The driver faces multiple felony charges in the state of Michigan. Transportation of materials across state lines when prohibited in the second state is also federal offence under the **Lacey Act**. As of the time of this meeting the **US Fish and Wildlife Service** has not filed charges, nor has there been a settlement with the company. The MDNR is planning training sessions with the **Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Unit** to train officers to identify prohibited species and better recognize trucks that may be hauling them.

Blackened Fillets

The MDNR has received reports of fish that when filleted revealed black areas in the flesh. The cause of this is yet unknown. It could be caused by botulism. If anyone finds such a fish they are encouraged to call the DNR immediately. They want fresh samples for testing.

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.

Bruce Dutcher Bridge

(continued from page 5)

grantors and a new partner, the **West Michigan Land Conservancy**, via the **DEQ**, committed an additional \$409,000. Meetings over the winter and spring culminated with the OCRC committing to replace four (4) more crossings in the original eight. All of the metal culverts removed this year were replaced with timber bridges.

The **White River Watershed Partnership** held a ribbon cutting and dedication to celebrate all the crossings replaced in the Watershed. In particular, Bruce Dutcher was thanked for starting the grass roots effort. The WRWP designated the E. Pierce/Cobmoosa Creek crossing as the "**Bruce Dutcher Bridge.**" Lisa Dutcher received a **Certificate of Appreciation** for her efforts in securing grant funds and overseeing the construction projects on behalf of the Oceana County Road Commission.

In addition to the four (4) culvert removal projects completed, the OCRC also completed six (6) bridge repair and replacements. For 2013, the County hopes to have in place additional funding to remove four (4) more culverts and repair or replace three (3) bridges where sediment and erosion control is of real concern.

Construction costs to date:

2011: Johnson Road: \$128,600 (AL "D" Culvert)
148th Avenue north of Yonkers: \$126,760 (AL "D" Culvert)
Baseline Road: \$77,675.26 (Timber)

2012: Fillmore Road: \$101,423.95 (Timber)
Buchanan Road: \$85,706.35 (Timber Bridge)
Pierce Road: \$125,262.67 (Timber Bridge)
Arthur Road: \$82,787.27 (Timber)

To date, for the 148th Avenue south of Pierce culvert replacement project, \$68,227.58 has been spent, primarily on the timber bridge package. This project will be completed in 2013. The triple culverts on the North Branch of the White River will be replaced with a 50-foot span timber bridge in 2013, if the additional grant funding is secured.

(For questions regarding this narrative, please email/contact Lisa Dutcher at ldutcher@oceanacrc.org, OCRC at 231.873.4226, or her cell at 231.720.4598.

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

January 26, Saturday.....	Winterfest Family Outing @ CC	Georgia Donovan
March 1, Friday	Conservation-Awards-Fund Raiser Banquet... Houseman, Stegmier, Eyer, Waybrant	
March 15-17	Cottage & Lakefront Living Show-Grand Rapids	Georgia Donovan
March 21-24	Ultimate Sport Show-Grand Rapids	Barry Gilbertson, ?
April 20, Saturday	Michigan Division Meeting DLC-CC	Div. Pres. John Sturgis
April 25, Thursday	Fish & Game Dinner & program @ CC	Tom Watson
May	Kids Fishing every Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon @ CC	Bill Kirk
May 16, Thursday	Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting-& Short Program	Tom Watson
June 12,19, 26 ...	Kids FREE Fishing at Versluis Lake, Plainfield Twsp. 6:30-8 pm	Jim Biener
June 22, Saturday	Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC	Maurie Houseman
July 23-27	2013 IKEs Convention, Fredericksburg, VA	Open to all Members
August 15, Thursday	Chicken & Ribs Dinner/Program @ CC	Houseman, program Watson, food
September 11, Wednesday	Harvestfest @ CC	Tom Watson
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



**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.



Printed on recycled paper

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

Please join us at the
IK&S Christmas Dinner
Thursday, December 6th
at Timbers Inn, 6555 Belding Road NE



Featuring:
**Top Sirloin Steak, Walleye Fillet,
Timber BBQ Ribs or Angel Hair Chicken**
Social hour at 6:00 PM with cash bar and dinner at 7:00 PM

SEE PAGE 3 FOR RESERVATION INFORMATION.

**Coming
Saturday, January 26**

**FREE
FOOD AND
FUN!!**

WINTERFEST

**Lots of
things to do!
Volunteers
needed!**