



www.michiganikes.org

December 2017

The IKEs Update

The IKEs have been busy lately!

Our member **Kristen Stoddard** leads the **Strong Roots** program that meets both here and at **Blandford**. It's a group of home-schooled kids wanting a connection to the outdoors and all the educational possibilities that has to offer. Many of their families have become members of our chapter. I've been meeting with them too, on Thursdays, while they gather to start a fire in the morning, explore, play games in the woods, draw maps, write in their journals, and make friends in their "outdoor school." The regular academics are covered at home. It's a great group and I'm happy to know them!

Before the **Wild Game Dinner**, the kids made candle-lanterns from oatmeal cartons, with cut-paper designs, and went for a walk at twilight, singing songs. Their parents came too, and some of them stayed for the dinner. The maps they are working on were hung inside the lodge, and it really livened things up to have them share their creativity with us.

Of course, thanks to all who helped make the dinner a delicious feast!

The **Birds of Prey** program was good, with 35 people enjoying the presenter and her feathered entourage. The Blandford staff brought a Kestrel, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, and a Barn Owl. It's such a treat to see them so close, and hear about their lives.

Our next event is our **Christmas Dinner** will be at our own sweet lodge this year, on **Thursday, December 7th**, with dinner starting at 6:30. The Kitchen Krew will supply ham, baked potatoes and baked beans. And it will be FREE. Bring salads, side dishes, cookies,

whatever you want to bring, but don't feel obligated. This is a stress-free event, to relax and savor our friendships and maybe toss around ideas for the new year.

Social hour will start at 5:30, AND to help accommodate young families, food will start at 6:30. Yep, sixty-sixty. Plenty of time to linger over seconds and desserts.

Fire in the fireplace... laughter in the lodge... Circle the 7th on your calendar!

Georgia Donovan



Fish and Game Dinner

Tom Watson

Close to fifty IKEs and guests enjoyed our semi-annual **Fish and Wild Game Dinner** on November 10. Lots of new faces were in attendance, including adults and kids from the Strong Roots group. (See related photos on page 3 and 6).

As usual things got hectic in the kitchen, so I didn't notice who all brought what dishes. I did see that **Georgia Donovan** brought a venison casserole, **Maurie Houseman** brought green beans as usual and **John Stegmeier** supplied goose breast skewers and chocolate caramel-topped apple pie. **Ron Waybrant** brought Boston Fish Chowder; **Tammy Lundeen** cheesy potatoes; **Barb McGuirl** broccoli and raisin salad; **Laurie Brecken** deviled eggs and **Bob and Gail Stegmier** brought baked squash.

I brought my famous key lime pies and cooked a Meijer's turkey. **Barry Gilbertson** and I fried Florida fish supplied by **Darva Boot** and **Jack Hornbach**.

Kitchen Krew: **Tam Bagby**, Barry, Bob and Gail, **Jack Stegmier** with John on the grill cooking the goose and salmon fillets.

Klean-Up Krew: All of the above with additional help from **Sue McMaster** and **Bill Weber**.

Assisting with kitchen cleanup tonight were **Laurie Brecken** and her fiancee **Sean Callaghan**. (Laurie is the daughter of past chapter president **Duane De Vries**.)

Ron manned the door and I think the bar was self-serve this time.

Thanks to all for making the dinner a success, particularly to those whom I have forgot to mention.



Kids' Maps of the Property



LODGE CALENDAR DECEMBER

- December 2 Michelle Miller Rental
- December 7 Christmas Dinner
- December 10 Carla Wylie Rental
- December 12 Board Meeting

Remember the Grimshaw Brothers?

John Trimberger

Mike and Gerry Grimshaw were a couple of bachelor brothers who belonged to the **Izaak Walton League** for many years. They were easy to distinguish with their plaid shirts and hats with buttons representing their affiliation with numerous conservation groups. They spent most of their time in Indiana but joined our chapter when they moved to their cabin near Luther in the early 90's. Rain, snow or shine they never missed a chapter event.

Gerry died in 2004 and Mike in 2007. They left a sizeable estate to the Izaak Walton League of America **Endowment**. And, their estate keeps giving. Since Mike's death **Great Lakes Energy** has sent to the Endowment several rebates for electrical energy use while they lived in their cabin over the years. And, this year the Endowment will again be receiving rebates for the years 1993-95. While the rebates will probably be less than \$20 for

each year, it still goes into the Endowment's restricted fund to make grants for education and habitat projects. The chapter should take advantage of the availability of these and other grants from the Endowment.

You might consider a contribution the Endowment in your year-end giving. It would be money well spent.



The Grimshaw Brothers

Bob Stegmier

It is my recollection of how the brothers became aware of our chapter happened this way: They were driving to their Luther property using M-37 through Baldwin. As they were passing the "L" Lakes area south of Baldwin they noticed a sign at the beginning of a dirt trail that read "Izaak Walton League Pere Marquette Outing." Back then this "outing" was a long-time tradition to spend a day on the P.M. fishing, playing cards, horse shoes, eating and more. Some folks came the night before to get an early start fishing and some even stayed over the next

night for more of the some. This event was traditionally held on a Thursday in July. This a big turnout event at the cottage of **Jack Hornbach** on the Little South branch of the P.M. Things were in full swing with vehicles parked

here and there in the woods when **Gerry and Mike** walked in and introduced themselves. More of this story is pretty much covered in Trimberger's article. If you have a special remembrance lets hear about it in the next newsletter.

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

www.michiganikes.org
www.iwla.org

FIND MICHIGANIKES ON FACEBOOK SO WE CAN SEND UPDATES OUT IF THERE IS SHORT NOTICE ON EVENTS, OR SHARE PICTURES!

More Activity!

Georgia Donovan



Just wait 'til you see the garage! **Ron Waybrant** and **Fred Eyer** have totally reorganized it. They put their minds and their backs into this project, which involved a lot of cleaning and sorting. It's mostly been under the radar, like much of the work they do, but I happened to discover them one day not fishing. They had bins and boxes and plans for labels. And they did not give up. They built a work-bench! They made racks for all the fishing rods! Plus the cross-country skis! It really looks nice and should inspire us to keep it that way. You can walk right through the garage without having to climb over anything. Thank you Ron and Fred!



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Lodge Rental

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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

IKEs Member Benefits

-  Monthly Award-Winning Newsletter
-  Gate Key to 39 Acres
-  Nature Trails
-  Catch/Release Fishing
-  Free Camping
-  Lodge Rental (\$75.00 per Day)

Strong Roots

Georgia Donovan



Thank-you **Chad Morton** for your work on our new floating docks! As you can see, they've already been tested out by some of the Strong Roots kids.

**DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY ISSUE IS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
AT 8:00 AM.**

DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER of the IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA DRAFT CORE EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2018

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.

Schedule	Event & Location
January 27, Saturday	Winterfest Family Outing, 10AM-3PM @ CC
March 2, Friday	Conservation-Awards-Fund Raiser Banquet
March 15 thru 18	Ultimate Sport Show-Grand Rapids
April 14	Fly Fishing Workshop, 10AM-2PM @ CC
April 19, Thursday	Fish & Game Dinner & Program @ CC
May 5, 12, 19, 26 - Saturdays	Kids Fishing & Native Plants, 10AM-1PM @ CC
May 17, Thursday	Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting & Short Program @ CC
June 9, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up Day, 9-?, work, eat, play, campfire @ CC
June 23, Saturday	Summerfest Community Family Day, 10AM-3PM @ CC
July 14, Saturday	Native Plants for Everyone, Tear Drop Island (@ CC)
July 18-20	2018 IKE's National Convention, FredericksburgVA
July 21, Saturday	Dog Days of Summer, 10 AM to ? @ CC
August 16, Thursday	Ribs Outdoor Cooking Competition @ CC
September 15, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up/play, 6PM @ CC
September 21, Wednesday	Oktoberfest @ CC
October 17, Wednesday	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC
November 14, Thursday	Game Dinner @ CC
December 13, Thursday	Christmas Potluck @ CC

Website: www.michiganikes.org

IKEs property located at **5641 Myers Lake Avenue, Belmont MI**

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 - \$62, ___ Family - \$87, ___ Student (18-21) - \$34, ___ Youth (under 18) - \$22*

Mail to Izaak Walton League Membership, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306. Checks payable to "Izaak Walton League" Email Tom Watson at twatson@comcast.net for more information. A gate key is available to you upon receipt of membership fee. You can pick up a 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

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

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

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas dinner

Thursday, December 7th

Please come join us for a **Christmas Potluck Dinner** before the holiday events start ramping up.

- Ham with potatoes and baked beans.
- Please bring side dishes and desserts.
- Social Hour 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30 (notice earlier times)

This is a **FREE** event as a Christmas present to our members.



Winterfest

Saturday, January 27th
10am - 3pm

Outdoor Winter Fun!
Open to the Community!
Bring Friends and Family!
FREE LUNCH!



Enjoy Archery, Ice Fishing, Ice Skating,
Snow Castles, Nature Trails, Cross Country
Skiing, Sledding and Much More!