



www.michiganikes.org

The IKEs Update

May 2020

Nature's got your back. My guess is that people who have access to natural areas, and the inclination to appreciate them, are fairing a bit better during this pandemic. So many things are up in the air, unknown. But the birds return to nest, and the flowers bloom again. I feel very lucky to have **Luton Park** and the **IKEs**, and in my own backyard I saw a pair of **Yellow-Rumped Warblers**. Maybe those aren't too uncommon, but having the time to see them is. Please allow me to brag: They were the 65th species noticed from my yard! Some were fly-overs, like the Snow Geese I saw one winter in a storm. A couple I just heard, like the **Woodcock** doing its sky-dance over the field next door. At night with a full moon. That was cool.

So tell me what you're seeing or doing! Share it on the **MichiganIKEs Facebook** page. One of the Strong Roots kids, **Sebastien Beaumont**, 11, wrote an article about his walk around the IKEs recently with his family. It made me feel warm and fuzzy, knowing our land has worked its way into the minds of our young friends. Find it inside!

I was lucky to see them, from a respectable distance: a friend-sighting! It was to have been our **Fun & Fix-it Day**, and I thought I'd do a little trail work. Wasn't re-

ally expecting to see people, but of course there was **Fred Eyer** painting picnic tables, and **Ron Waybrant** cleaning up the yard, etc. My mission was to put a lot of new cloth tags on the western property line. For some reason the directions seem to tilt there, as though it's a **Mystery Spot**, but nevertheless, the line runs directly north-south. Looking closely, you can see the older trees that ran along the original edge of the property. And now there are dark red strips of cloth fluttering in the breeze. I also noticed a LOT of garlic mustard along the line, mostly beyond the pavilion. So if you like it, want to make some pesto or whatever, PLEASE pick it! We will not run out. It felt good to be out there moving around, doing something as normal as clearing trail.

If it turns out we can't do **Kids' Fishing** right away, we'll try some Saturday mornings as soon as we can. In lieu of programs this month, you have a sanctuary, an uncrowded place to explore or just "self-meditate" by the pond...

Instead of thinking of what we can't do, we think of what we can. We can go for walks, or sit outside, plan a garden, watch birds, call old friends, and if you get bored ... oh don't say you're bored or I'll suggest you start pulling invasive species. Like the myrtle spreading exponentially into my woods. My sister, **Mary Hefferan**, switched her work-energy directly to the *Autumn Olive* behind their house. She's really made a difference, and will be looking to plant natives instead.

Georgia Donovan

Coronavirus Update

As we go to press on April 24th, most authorities agree that it will be mid to late May before restrictions can safely be lifted. We want to ensure the safety of our members and the public; therefore all scheduled events in May are cancelled. If conditions improve and the restrictions are lifted (and announced to the public by official channels) some events could be reactivated. In this case we will announce the reinstatement of an event(s) on our calendar, Facebook, website and newsletter (if timely). Please contact an officer or board member for more information.

We Are Still Together At The IKE's

Sebastien Beaumont

It was March 12th, 2020, when I was last at **Strong Roots** class at the **Izaak Walton League**. I was super excited for the Spring session for a few reasons - seeing my friends, and the activities yet to come, like the carving of wood staffs planned for next week. But, the next day, the Governor of Michigan announced schools in Michigan would be closed due to the **Coronavirus**. I have not seen my friends at school for about four weeks now as we all shelter at home. However, my family has gone hiking several times. I was so happy when we eventually got to go to the IKE's. I was surprised by the memories of community that came to me as I was hiking.

As I walked up **Armstrong Creek**,

I remembered times I was with my friends and times I was by myself. When I walked up the **Northeast Border Trail**, I remembered the first time I had walked there with **Eli**. As we walked as a family, I remembered when **Leah** and I once pushed a huge snowball down **Hammock Hill**. As we explored upstream I recalled the time I got stuck hip deep in the muck.

In these difficult times, we can still hike on trails and visit places at the Izaak Walton League that may remind us of being together. Whether it's archery in the summer or snowball fights in winter, there are memories in the places that we visit. I encourage you to go to the Izaak Walton League and visit with those memories!

New plants are sprouting! Please stay out of the Native Plant Garden, and enjoy the other 39 acres!

Special things are trying to grow around the apple tree, so please stay on benches or garden paths.

2020 Izaak Walton League National Convention

On April 13, the Executive Board of the Izaak Walton League of America and the League's Maryland Division acted jointly to **cancel the 2020 National Convention** scheduled for July 19-22 in Cambridge, Maryland.

For more information: <https://www.iwla.org/news-events/2020-national-convention>

Nice Binoculars

Georgia Donovan

I just really like these binoculars. **Ron Waybrant** recommended them to me last year. Overall, they make my life 20% better, and 30% clearer. Oh yes, to see the shining red feathers on a woodpecker fills me with rapture! You can see every feather! Every little piece of a feather! With these binoculars I saw that a chickadee doesn't just take a seed and hack away at it. No. After splitting the shell, he chucks half, flips it sideways, holds it down with both feet, and pecks out every bit of meat like it's in a bowl.

They work better close-up than tracking a far-flying bird, but that's



not saying they can't do that, too. They let you see a hawk drag stuff into its nest. But close-up? You can look at frog eggs in the pond as if they were in a microscope. Without even stooping, you can see a bug crawling into a flower and the nectar it eats for lunch.

I haven't tried them on people yet, but I expect social distancing is blown out of the water with these things. They are the **Papilio II** by **Pentax**. Great for papillos, or butterflies. Sure, I told you about them last year, but in case you're having a hard time focusing on reality, look through these.

Visions Around the IKEs Land

Georgia Donovan



Bloodroot



Spring Beauty



Hepatica



Fred Eyer, in his Superhero outfit, making the world better one picnic table at a time!



Trout Lily



Marsh Marigold

Interview with Ron Waybrant

Georgia Donovan

It's time to get to know our chapter president! Of course, many of us do, from his helping around the lodge, or fishing at the pond. But let's check into his background. He joined the IKEs about 10 years ago, got more active a year or so after that, was asked by **Fred Eyer** to join the board, and has been president for 4 or 5 years now.

Me: Hey Ron, tell us where you grew up.

RW: I spent most of the time moving around several places in the U.P. From kindergarten to the time I graduated, we moved 13 times. My dad was in the **Coast Guard**. I was the oldest of 5 kids, and for a while we lived in a 2 bedroom house, so my mother kicked us outdoors. The choice was to either read or get outdoors!

Me: What did you do for fun?

RW: My favorite thing was going fishing, often with my grandpa. We went fishing a lot, and a lot of times we just talked. It was my grandpa and a couple of uncles who took me fishing.

Me: What was your first job?

RW: The first job, my dad got for me, to teach me why I needed an education. It was the summer after I was a freshman, and it was cutting pulp. Cutting trees for pulp. My dad had been a logger before, and would get me started in the morning, and come to finish up with me later. There were others working in the next section, so I was supervised, but it was working with an axe and a buck saw, no chain saw. And there was no mosquito stuff that worked back then.

Me: Whoa, so that sounds miserable enough. No wonder you went to college! Where did you go and what did you study?



RW: I went to Michigan State, for my Bachelors degree in **Fisheries and Wildlife**, and my Masters in **Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology**. Then, I got drafted a month before graduating, so I basically graduated while I was in basic

training. I ended up in the medical corps in Washington DC, running an electron microscope. This was 1969-1971.

In '71 there were no jobs, so I got a research grant and went to Purdue, where I got my PhD, in Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology.

Me: And how did you meet such a wonderful woman as Ruth?

RW: I met Ruth through mutual friends back when I was in grad school at MSU. She worked in the Science Library and I spent a lot of time there. After I was told that I wasn't going to Viet Nam, we got married.

Me: What led you to Grand Rapids?

RW: Actually, I first went to work with the DNR in Lansing, doing water quality assessment. In 1983 they re-assigned me to GR, take it or leave it. I became the **District Supervisor for Waste Management** (solid and hazardous). And I worked with **John Trimberger** and Fred Eyer (friends and IKEs). In 1988 I left to work with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, and Huber as a senior scientist. I started their environmental compliance program.

And I retired on April Fool's Day, 2012. It was a significant date for me; I've made

a number of decisions on April Fool's Day, including to leave the DNR. All good decisions, obviously!

Me: So how did you like retirement?

RW: The goofy thing was that I was afraid of being bored, and as Ruth pointed out, within a year I was on the board or chairperson of 3 different non-profits. Our church, the IKEs, and a summer camp for kids, which was pretty busy.

Me: What is it you like about the Izaak Walton League?

RW: First, I firmly believe if we can get people, especially kids, familiar with the out-of-doors, when it comes time they'll likely vote pro-environment. Secondly, I like the conservation stance as opposed to the more protectionist stance of some groups. When the cat is already out of the bag, you just gotta deal with it. I was attracted by the banner on the newsletter that says, "A Sportsman's Conservation Organization," because I'm a hunter, fisher, and bird-watcher.

Being outside is my place, where I can re-charge my batteries, and it has been since I was a kid. I'm one of the lucky people. I've had stressful jobs, but I know how to go fishing. Ruth says she knows how to handle me, and says, "You've been working too hard. Go fishing." And I say, "Good idea! I'll go!" Then I get my perspective back, and reset my priorities. It refreshes the spirit.

Me: What helps to keep you sane in these days of the corona virus?

RW: Walks in the woods.

Me: And what do you hope to teach your little grandson?

RW: Enjoyment of the outdoors.

Kid's Nature Illustrations

Georgia Donovan

CHICKADEES EAT SEEDS, CATERpillars, AND BERRIES. THEY LIVE NEAR FORESTS AND TREES. THEY HAVE AMAZING MEMORIES AND CAN REMEMBER WHERE THEY HIDE FOOD. THEY NEST IN A HOLE IN A TREE.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

BY EVELYN

EVELYN

FERN IS VARY HARD TO DRAW. FERN IS GREEN. FERN STEMS ARE SKINY.

BAT FOWLS LIVE IN FORESTS. THEY HUNT AT NIGHT AND EAT RODENTS, RODENTS, SQUIRRELS, RABBITS, BIRDS, AND BATS. THEY HAVE BIG EYES SO THEY SEE WELL AT NIGHT.

BAT FOWLS

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

www.michiganikes.org, www.iwla.org

Find Michigan IKEs on facebook so we can send updates out if there is short notice on events.

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER IS MONDAY, MAY 18 AT 8:00 AM

Send us your fishing, camping or other outdoor stories and we'll publish them in the newsletter.

Send plain text and/or photos in jpg format to Tom at: twatson@comcast.net

LODGE CALENDAR 2020

All May events cancelled as of April 20. Events may restart if conditions permit. See also future updates about specific future events. Events may need to be rescheduled.

- June 9 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- June 13 Maurie Housman Rental
- June 19-20 Blake Gardner Rental
- June 27 Summerfest**
- August 16 Tom Watson Rental
- September 26 Ron Waybrant Rental
- October 10 Ethan Anderson Rental

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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)

DRAFT CORE EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2020

Izaak Walton League, Dwight Lydell Chapter

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 25, Saturday 10am to 3pm.....	Winterfest Family Outing @ CC
March 7, Saturday	Conservation Awards and Fund Raiser Banquet
March 19 thru 22	Ultimate Sport Show - Grand Rapids
April 11, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC
April 16, Thursday	Fish and Game Dinner and Program
May 2, 9, 16, 23 - Saturdays	Kids Fishing Mornings @ CC, 10AM-1PM
May 9, Saturday.....	Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC
May 14, Thursday	Steak Dinner and Annual Meeting
June 13, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM- ?? @ CC
June 27, Saturday, 10am to 3pm	Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC
June 27, Saturday, 10am to noon	Native Plants for Everyone, @ CC
July 11, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC
July 19 - 22, Sunday - Wednesday	2020 IKE's National Convention, Cambridge MD
August 8, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC
August 13, Thursday	Ribs and Chicken Dinner @ CC
September 12, Saturday.....	Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC
September 16, Wednesday.....	Oktoberfest @ CC
October 10, Saturday	Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC
October 14, Wednesday	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC
November 11, Wednesday	Game Dinner @ CC
December 3, Thursday	Christmas Potluck Dinner @ CC
December 5, Saturday.....	Firewood gathering for Winter Wood Supply

CC is the Conservation Center/Lodge @ 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 _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
 _____ Family - \$87 _____ Individual - \$62 _____ Student (18-21) - \$31 _____ Youth (under 18) - \$16

Mail to Izaak Walton League Membership, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306. Checks payable to IWLA-DLC. Email Tom Watson at twatson@comcast.net for more information. **Note:** Term of membership is the calendar year. A gate key is available to you by request upon confirmation of membership fee payment. You can pick up your gate key at the next dinner at the lodge or request one from Tom Watson at twatson@comcast.net Please enjoy the 39 acres!

An active organization needs active helpers! Please check the IKE's opportunities here and indicate "all" that you can help. Thanks from your DLC Board! 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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

All scheduled events in
May are cancelled:

**Kids Fishing on Saturday
Mornings, Fix up/Clean Up
Day and the Steak Dinner**

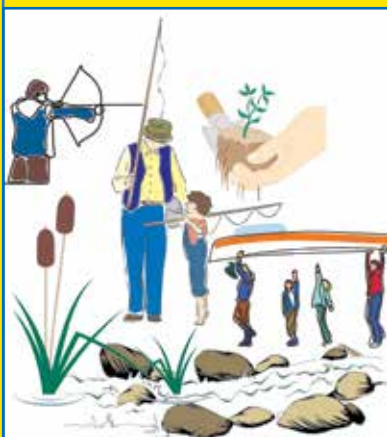
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In this case we will announce the
reinstatement of an event(s) on
our calendar, Facebook, website
and newsletter (if timely).

Please contact an officer
or board member for more
information.

SUMMERFEST

**Saturday June 27th
10:00am - 3:00pm**



**FAMILY FUN
with Demonstrations
and Workshops**

**Including Kids' Fishing, Kayak-
ing, Canoeing, Archery, Match-
less Fire-Starting, Native Plant
Garden, and Treasure Hunt**

FREE LUNCH!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

To volunteer, call Maurie Houseman at 560.2895 or
mhouseman@grar.com.