



www.michiganikes.org

August 2019

The IKEs Update

Are you finding ways to refresh yourself this summer? I hope you've been swimming, or fishing, or splashing, or somehow cooling down in Michigan's lakes and streams. If not yet, I recommend dangling your feet in our stretch of **Armstrong Creek**, in the dappled shade by the bridge, where it gurgles nicely. It always feels about ten degrees cooler over the water.

Our pond needs help of some kind. For those who might not know, building the big berm we walk along on the west side created it. A small creek from the east fills it. Despite getting plenty of rain this year, it has still lowered. Partly this is normal, from evaporation in the heat. Tree roots pull a lot of water from the edge, and critters breach the berm with tunnels, causing leaks. As the water level lowers, sunlight reaches in and encourages weed growth. Some plants are great, for habitat and erosion control, but too many, especially invasive aquatics, can clog it up. Breaking down, they also create their own fertilizer, encouraging more. It's not bad in the spring, but by this time of year, it's another story.

What to do? The board is grappling with ideas. Our president, **Ron Waybrant** has education along these lines, and we are looking into best methods to maintain our

pond. If any of you have personal experience or know-how, please offer your suggestions. Is there a method to stop the leaking? Can a liner of some kind be added to the shore along the berm? In the meantime, anyone wanting to rake out some of the "seaweed," feel free. If it's piled up on shore we can move it to a compost pile.

The board is also looking to replace our old, faulty solar system with an updated, bigger solar array that can supply more of our energy. And, we're getting an iron filter, to improve our drinking water. It will be delicious!

John Stegmeier is going to the **IWLA Convention** in Iowa, to represent us in the national group, and will tell us about it in the next newsletter.

The Shed now has a lock that matches the gate key, and is available for members to keep things in, find paddles, life jackets,

a first-aid kit, outdoor items, etc. It will be very handy.



Please take some time to picnic at the Ikes, while summer is upon us! Maybe read a book in that hammock at the top of the hill. It is your local getaway, an easy place to unwind, have a campfire, and watch the fireflies beneath the meteor showers of August,

See you **August 15** for the BBQ Dinner!

Georgia Donovan



**DEADLINE
FOR THE
SEPTEMBER
NEWSLETTER IS
MONDAY,
AUGUST 19
AT 8:00 AM.**

Native Plants For Everyone



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

Attention Campers/Property Users:

- Please do not put trash, diapers, etc. into uncovered barrels.
- Please take your refuse with you, or if you must, put into garbage bags and dispose of them in bins by garage. The racoons won't like you but the IKEs will say "Thank you."

Native Creatures and Plants

photos by Georgia Donovan, Duane DeVries and Tam Bagby

Monarchs and Milkweed



Luna Moth



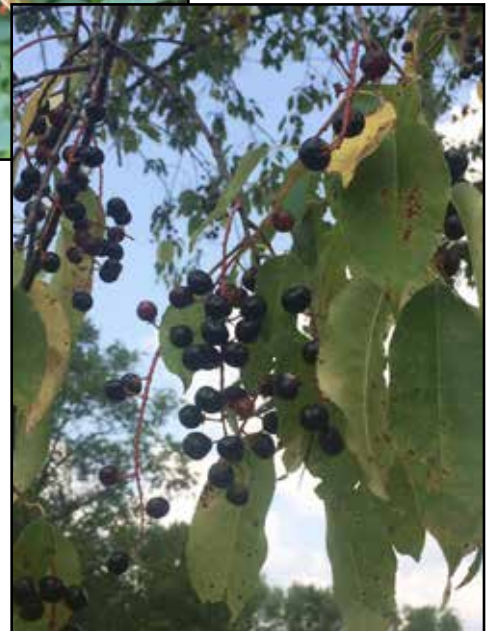
Jewelweed



Bluebird Chicks



Wild Cherries



IWLA Convention And The “Resolution” Process

Bob Stegmier

This is information particularly for new chapter members and a refresher for older members. The IWLA is quite unique in its structure because its members (chapter delegates) establish our policies at the annual convention, which was just held in Des Moines, Iowa in mid July. This process begins as soon as the convention is over in a chapter when its members feel strongly about some issue and they think the IWLA should be taking action on it. It is *Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods Water and Wildlife* at its very roots. Then it is up to the League’s leadership to turn these into action, such as the **2019 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**, as submitted by the Wisconsin Division.

Resolution, as Submitted:

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention, in Des Moines, Iowa, July 19, 2019, supports enactment of the “2019 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act,” which puts a steadily rising, revenue – neutral fee on greenhouse gas emissions and returns the revenue (minus expenses) to adults and children in monthly dividends to help people get the energy they need during the transition to renewable energy, and

to grow the economy in a manner that will be protective of our soil, air, woods, water, and wildlife.

NATIONAL STAFF COMMENTS after their review of the submitted resolution:

As the “Resource Committee” evaluates this issue, it should consider:

Should the League adopt policy that supports a tax on carbon and other greenhouse gases? Current policy makes reference to generic “market mechanisms,” but does not specifically call for a tax or a fee to be imposed on carbon and other greenhouse gases. The bill calls for the rate of the tax to increase at least \$10 per ton annually unless emissions reduction targets are not met, in which case the tax will increase to \$15 per ton annually. The targets identified by the bill and the resolution call for a reduction to 5% of 2016 emissions starting in 2025 and through 2034. The Committee should consider whether enough information exists for the League to effectively commit to a 50% reduction in emissions by 2034, as well as a carbon tax. First, When Congress considered national climate legislation in 2009–2010, a portion of revenue generated by regulating greenhouse gas emissions was retained by the federal government to fund activities designed to mitigate the impacts of a warming climate on society at large and on natural resources in general. For example, funding would have been allocated to address rising sea levels or to conserve wildlife habitat based on changing migration corridors or the fact that the range of entire species shifted away from areas that had been protected for their benefit in the past (such as national wildlife refuges or waterfowl production areas established to conserve habitat for specific species). The League and many other conservation, wildlife, and environmental groups supported these natural resources adaptation provisions.



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.

Lynn, Hometown Watchdog

Georgia Donovan

Ed. Note: Georgia didn't conduct a new interview this month, but since Lynn McIntosh's citizens' group has been so much in the news lately, Georgia wanted to run her interview with Lynn again, as a way to recap what started the local investigation into PFAS.

Lynn McIntosh is an artist and an activist. She lives in downtown Rockford. I first met Lynn when we were both concerned about the tannery being taken down, but the difference is that she followed those concerns with diligence. Around Rockford, her persistence was sometimes seen as inconvenient, but she believed local pollution was too dangerous to ignore. Her efforts and coordination have stopped many people from drinking contaminated water. I want to share Lynn's story.

Me: When did you first become concerned about the tannery?

LM: It was in 2009 when a house behind ours was being demolished. It was known to contain asbestos. It was a windy day, and clouds of dust could be seen blowing around. The asbestos had not been removed and no precautions were being taken. After speaking with the building inspector, I called the **DEQ**, who ordered it stopped. At that point I realized there were no safeguards in place so I became worried about the tannery demolition since there would be materials in the air, soil, and stormwater.

Me: What did you do?

LM: I still remember the date. On June 25, 2010, I called the DEQ and asked about the tannery demolition, and realized their involvement would be limited. It was explained that the DEQ are "not the whipping boys most people think. It is the City

that has the power to insist on tighter controls. They sign the permits." The DEQ, however, was concerned. They partnered with **MDEQ** to make conditions regarding **Wolverine's** request for **MEGA** funds. WWW declined the funds.

A spin-off from a neighborhood group gathered, called **CCRR** (Concerned Citizens for Responsible Remediation) and we began talking to people in **Whitehall** about their tannery demo. They stressed the need to test the soil so contaminants wouldn't enter the waterbodies. So we asked Rockford to tighten their demolition ordinances to include soil and water testing. We even hired an environmental attorney, **A. J. Birkbeck**, to help as a bridge-builder. Though progress was made in ensuring better dust control, on Aug. 31, 2010, then City manager **Michael Young** signed the demolition permit, without requiring the testing.

We all took photos, gathered info, called the City and the DEQ when dust was in the air, etc. Our actions contributed to holding back some contamination, but a lot got washed into the river by stormwater.

After the demolition, in 2011, we petitioned the EPA to come study the site. We included interviews and records of our attempts, and the EPA said it was "the best petition they'd ever seen." They came out in a month, and that helped with collection of scientific data. We weren't a bunch of crazies. Then, it got handed back to the DEQ again.

Me: I remember a lot of tension and controversy and heated politics.

LM: Yes, and I think that a lot of watershed groups want to "paint pictures with pastels," but you can't be afraid of bold colors. When you have truth,

and it effects human life, you have to take action.

Me: You taught yourself how to **FOIA** (use the Freedom Of Information Act). I was pretty impressed with that. And interviewed a lot of tannery workers.

LM: Yes, we talked with many former workers, trying to connect the dots. We could have given up, but had this heartfelt concern. And then in 2013, **Earl Tefft** called us, after we had talked with his son. We were interviewing people in the "cancer cluster," trying to get a health study going. We'd heard there was a dump on House St., and Earl confirmed it. Earl was a truck driver who had a picture-perfect memory of where he had dumped waste. **Plainfield Township** was still issuing building permits in the area.

Meanwhile, others were making discoveries. Bob Delany, from the DEQ, recommended in 2012 that all municipal water sources should be tested, and found that Oscoda's water from the fire hydrants was contaminated. *MLive* environmental reporter **Garrett Ellison** published the story about the **PFAS** from the **Wurtsmith Airforce Base**, and 4 other places around Michigan.

We worked with DEQ Surface Water division to get fish in the **Rogue River** tested for PFAS in 2013. This all took a very long time, but they found PFAS in surprisingly high levels in the impoundment behind the dam, and fish advisories were issued in 2015. All along, the **House Street** area was weighing heavily on our minds. The bogs of bureaucracy run deep. Finally in Jan. 2017 we collected enough proof to urge the DEQ to act quickly and test private wells for groundwater contamination in the House St. area. When action was delayed it was time

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Lynn, Hometown Watchdog

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to contact the watchdog reporters. After this the issue snowballed, and the PFAS contamination was finally getting the attention it deserved.

Me: I know this is still very complicated, but at this point are you able to feel some satisfaction from all your work?

LM: Oh yes, because people in **Kent County** are no longer drinking this contaminated water. (I hope.) One young woman, who a year ago didn't know what was wrong with her, losing her ability to walk, has shown some signs of improvement. Young children who have high levels of PFAS in their blood, and might have compromised immune systems, can be watched more closely to make sure their vaccines are having full effect.

Me: While this has been a difficult process, you seem to have made some friends, too.

LM: I am thankful for all the people I worked with on this, and especially my husband, **Michael**. CCRR was advised by a small group of professionals including A.J. Birkbeck, **Dr. Rick Rediske**, **Janice Tomkins**, and others. We were supported by 25 petitioners who requested help from the EPA. I worked with a ragtag group of citizens who showed up to take photos, collect samples, go to meetings, and give support however they could. Now I'd like to get back to my art, and writing, but you know what an activist is? An activist is an artist on fire.

Me: Thank-you, Lynn, for all that you've accomplished!

Lodge Calendar 2019

- August 1 Camp Rogers Camping
- August 3 Merren Rental
- August 13 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- August 15 Camp Rogers Camping
- August 15 Ribs and Chicken Dinner**
- August 18 Watson Rental
- August 31 Schneider Rental
- September 10 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- September 19 Oktoberfest Dinner**
- September 21 Fix Up/Clean Up/Eat/Play**
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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 2019

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 26, Saturday 10am - 3pm.....	<i>Winterfest Family Outing @ CC</i>
March 2, Saturday	<i>Conservation-Awards-Fund Raiser Banquet</i>
March 14 through 17	<i>Ultimate Sport Show-Grand Rapids</i>
April 13, Saturday, 10am - 2pm.....	<i>Fly Fishing Workshop @ CC</i>
April 13, Saturday, 9am - 2pm.....	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up/Eat/Play @ CC</i>
April 18, Thursday	<i>Fish & Game Dinner @ CC</i>
May 4, 11, 18, 25 Saturdays	<i>Kids Fishing, 10am - 1pm @ CC</i>
May 16, Thursday	<i>Steak Dinner, Annual Meeting @ CC</i>
June 8, Saturday, 9am - 2pm	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up/Eat/Play @ CC</i>
June 22, Saturday, 10am - 3pm	<i>Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC</i>
July 13, Saturday	<i>Native Plants for Everyone, Tear Drop Island @ CC</i>
July 16 through 19	<i>2019 IKE's National Convention, Des Moines IA</i>
August 15, Thursday	<i>Ribs & Chicken Dinner @ CC</i>
September 19, Thursday.....	<i>Oktoberfest @ CC</i>
September 21, Saturday, 9am - 2pm	<i>Fix Up/Clean Up/Eat/Play @ CC</i>
October 17, Thursday	<i>Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC</i>
November 7, Thursday.....	<i>Game Dinner @ CC</i>
December 5, Thursday	<i>Christmas Potluck FREE To Members @ CC</i>
December 7, Saturday.....	<i>Firewood gathering for Winter Wood Supply @ CC</i>

Website – www.michiganikes.org
 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

Thursday, August 15

BBQ Ribs and Chicken Dinner



Please bring a summertime
dish to pass and all your
friends and family.

Social Hour: 6:00PM
Dinner: 7:00PM

Adults 14 and older \$10,
under 14 and **first time**
guests are **FREE!**

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE JOIN US!



coming September 21

**FUN & FIX
IT DAY**

*Come down and
lend a hand!*