Winter... a season of quiet, rejuvenation, and peace, splashed with celebrations, skiing, and creativity. Whether you embrace the snowy fields, trees, and snowflakes, or curl up with a book set in the tropics, I hope you enjoy it. When you get down into “Izaak’s Place” it’s nice and quiet, with snow on the branches arching over you, and little critter-prints in the snow. Unless it’s...

January 25th! That Saturday, from 10:00 till 3:00 we hope to be bubbling with energy as bunches of kids run and roll through the snow, making forts, shelters, candles, playing games, ice-fishing, skating if ice permits, and practicing their archery skills! Indoors there’s warmth, birdseed-craft, and hot dogs! If you can: volunteer, bring friends, and carpool to ease the parking. Spread the news so no one misses WINTERFEST! Free and open to the public.

That’s one of the events our group offers to the community.

Please keep us strong by renewing your membership today. PO Box 541, Belmont, MI 49306. (If you already have, thank you!)

Also important news: We have a donor willing to match your donations toward the Iron Removal system, up to $1,000, through February. The cost is about $2,000, so let’s do this! Not everyone is impressed with our smelly, rusty water, and it’s time we improve the situation. Please mail donations to Fred Eyer at 2488 Rockhill Dr. NE, Grand Rapids 49525, or our PO Box. If we miraculously go over the top, donations can go toward our general expenses, or eventual solar project.

Since we had some snow early this season, I found it easier to get the chickadees to come to hand. It’s always an electrifying moment for me, when those tiny claws grab and bounce off my finger. Contact! In a nutshell: Let the other feeders run out, stand next to the feeder (filled with black oilers) and get them used to you. Maybe put some seeds on your hat. Hold your hand or glove out with seeds in it, and then wait. Patiently...

See you at WINTERFEST!

Georgia Donovan
Christmas Dinner
Tom Watson

About sixty Ikes and family enjoyed a festive dinner and gift giving on Thursday, December 5. The kids were buzzing with delight as they helped Darva Boot hand out Christmas gifts that she brought. Everyone was in the spirit of the season and the energy was high and cheerful.

Of course to put on a dinner like this takes lots of folks and as usual I won’t remember all, but here is my best shot.

Kitchen Krew members John Spangenberg and Tammy Lundeen stood in for me getting the hams and turkey cooking as I didn’t think I would be able to make the dinner. Turns out I did make it in time to help out in the kitchen. Len Kizer, as usual was there to help serve. The Ikes also supplied boiled new potatoes, green beans and turkey gravy. Maurie Houseman brought arugula salad, new member Sarah Braman brought her very first attempt at venison chili (it was quite tasty!) and other folks added side dishes, vegetables and desserts.

The Klean Up Krew were the kitchen folks and Susan McMaster on dishes and just about everybody there brought stuff to the kitchen and put things away. Fred Eyer and Georgia Donovan cleaned the dining room and Fred also did the door while Larry Allaben tended bar.

Another memorable night. Thanks to all for pitching in. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
The **Holiday Dinner** was a sweet success, thanks to delicious food, friendly people, and Darva's very generous gift giving. **Tammy Lundeen** and **Len Kizer** put in some extra time preparing, followed by Tom's organizational skills. We were missing Tam, who I think was recuperating from knee surgery, so we wish her very well!

Every potluck dish was delish, a song or two was sung, and we had a nice combination of old members and new interest. Thank you everyone and have a Happy New Year!
Reduce Reuse and Recycle!
Bob Stegmier

Yep you heard this many times before. I want to focus on the message on the plastic bag so many folks get from the grocery store. The bag the grocer seems to prefer. Our chapter had a great program at its 2018 Annual Conservation and Awards Banquet. The program was Journey to Zero the Kent County plan to completely eliminate their use of “landfills.” Those now growing hills you see along I-96 by Coopersville and US 131 Pierson North of Grand rapids. The program was given by Dar Baas, the Director of the County’s Department of Public Works. I know for a fact that this program resulted in more that one person attending to begin recycling for the first time.

Recently on Wood TV 8 was a very informative story regarding the difficulty the with plastic bags are causing the Journey to Zero. In simple terms these bags are jamming the conveyor and other sorting equipment causing shut downs and the manually removal of the jams. This is very time consuming and therefore costly.

Therefore we are asked to NO LONGER put plastic bags into your recycle materials. Meijer’s is accepting these back for proper recycling. Therefore best practice is to recycle the bags there.

I want you to consider is a “better idea.” Change over to using the paper bags. They are available at all grocery stores, Meijer, Family Fare, D & W and others. Gail and I use only paper bags and feel these have other advantages. They stand upright when filled, therefore holding more groceries. They can be used over and over again before it’s time to retire them. Then for the paper bag’s “last hurrah” they are filled with recyclable paper such as your old newspapers, magazines or that “junk” mail we all get and can’t get turned off and recycled. Many churches have recycle tubs in their parking lots from which they get some money for youth programs.

To Gail & me, paper bags are a win-win program.

Ban The Ban
William Weber

A opportunity currently exists for us to express our feelings regarding the deer baiting issue. The Department of Natural Resources has ruled that baiting deer has resulted in the existence and spread of Chronic Wasting Disease. Their intent is to enforce this ban with some unpleasant consequences for the baiting violators.

Enter this seemingly logical approach are some politicians who wish to bring their experience and wisdom to us. What does the DNR know about these matters. Some say that we have been baiting for generations and the poor souls that have to ride to their blinds with a truck load of carrots, corn, sugar beets etc. will be disadvantaged. After all what can be more fun, natural and sporting than having a bigger bait pile than your neighbor on the adjoining 40, 80 or whatever.

Our wise men say we may lose the baiting constituency. They make no mention that they may lose the whole herd or they may pick up some hunters who believe in ethics, fair chase and Mother Nature. What the baiters have gained the hunters have lost through the years.

What they have created was Senate Bill 37 and House Bill 4687. The result of their votes was to ban the ban. For those disappointed all is not lost yet. The Governor has to approve these two Bills and she may well veto it. A note from us could help the cause.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
PO Box 30013
Lansing Mi 48909

Time is running short best to send ASAP.

Light up the New Year with a Snow Luminaria

It’s easy if you have “packing snow,” followed by freezing temps.

Build a sandcastle sort of thing with walls a couple inches thick. Add some snowballs, draw some designs, or poke a few holes in the sides. Then light a candle in a jar and admire your creation!
The **Strong Roots** group wrapped up for the year with a flurry of activities, and some sledding after the flurries! They baked some acorn muffins and pancakes from acorns they brought in and ground up. They practiced starting a fire with a flint and steel, as well as a bow drill, made art, built camps, played games, and showed their parents around the place.

After learning some knots, one boy practiced the tripod-knot at home and then brought in a giant tripod with a grill for roasting our lunch over the fire! Pretty cool. One project that I finally completed with one of the classes was the building of folding camp-stools. Maybe I learned a few things in the process.

It was a real pleasure working with **Kristin Stoddard** along with the other leaders and helpers, and all of the kids in the program who have come to love the **Izaak Walton League**. It warms my heart to see how they’ve come to know this piece of land, and I believe some of them will become future leaders in the Ikes.

They’ll start back up in the spring, but meanwhile I expect we’ll see a lot of them at **Winterfest** on the 25th!
Anonymous Donor To Match Up To $1000
Fred Eyer

The other day I got a call from a member who wishes to remain anonymous. The member will match dollar for dollar the total donations up to $1000 for the lodge’s forthcoming well water treatment system. The offer is good until February 29, 2020.

We are seeking donations to defray the cost of this important improvement. The present well water quality causes the fixtures to become yellowish-brown from the iron in the water. Also, the present hardness and the iron create issues with the plumbing valves that require frequent maintenance and valve replacement. If you have used the facility, you will know that the water smells bad and tastes worse. Currently we are experiencing an increase in lodge use due to our increasing membership. Donations to the Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (DLC-IWLA) are tax deductible, because we have an IRS Tax Code designation of 501(c) 3, a non-profit educational organization.

Your donations and this matching dollar for dollar donation will help us afford this badly needed improvement for the lodge and let us have a more pleasant time using it. Please send the donations to Fred Eyer, Treasurer, 2488 Rockhill Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

All donors will be recognized in an upcoming newsletter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Deadline for February Newsletter is Monday, January 27th at 8:00 AM.

Lodge Calendar 2020

January 11 Erin Erlandson Rental
January 14 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
January 25 Winterfest 10:00 – 3:00 PM
February 11 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
March 7 Annual Conservation Awards Banquet
March 10 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
March 19-22 Ultimate Sport Show
June 19-20 Blake Gardner Rental
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheduled</th>
<th>Event &amp; Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 25, Saturday 10am to 3pm</td>
<td>Winterfest Family Outing @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7, Saturday</td>
<td>Conservation Awards and Fund Raiser Banquet</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19 thru 22</td>
<td>Ultimate Sport Show - Grand Rapids</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, Saturday</td>
<td>Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16, Thursday</td>
<td>Fish and Game Dinner and Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2, 9, 16, 23 - Saturdays</td>
<td>Kids Fishing Mornings @ CC, 10AM-1PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9, Saturday</td>
<td>Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14, Thursday</td>
<td>Steak Dinner and Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13, Saturday</td>
<td>Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM- ?? @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20, Saturday, 10am to 3pm</td>
<td>Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20, Saturday, 10am to noon</td>
<td>Native Plants for Everyone, @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11, Saturday</td>
<td>Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19 - 22, Sunday - Wednesday</td>
<td>2020 IKE's National Convention, Cambridge MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8, Saturday</td>
<td>Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 13, Thursday</td>
<td>Ribs and Chicken Dinner @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12, Saturday</td>
<td>Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 16, Wednesday</td>
<td>Oktoberfest @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10, Saturday</td>
<td>Fix up/Clean up/play 9AM - ?? @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14, Wednesday</td>
<td>Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11, Wednesday</td>
<td>Game Dinner @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3, Thursday</td>
<td>Christmas Potluck Dinner @ CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5, Saturday</td>
<td>Firewood gathering for Winter Wood Supply</td>
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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 twwatson@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 twwatson@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.
Winterfest

Saturday, January 25th
10am - 3pm
Outdoor Winter Fun! Open to the Community!
Bring Friends and Family! Bring Neighbors!
It’s a Kid-Happy Event!

FREE LUNCH!

Enjoy Archery, Snow Castles, Nature Trails, Ice Fishing and Ice Skating (if the pond is frozen), Cross Country Skiing, Sledding and Much More!

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