



## izaakwaltonmi.com

**Winterfest** turned out OK! We had great packing snow for making a castle, fun archery, candle-making over a fire, birdseed concoctions, and a sociable lunch in the lodge. **Bill Skallos** is great at helping kids learn to take proper aim. **Mary Hefferan** loves showing little ones how to keep the wax growing layer by layer to

## The IKEs Update

create a candle. **John Stegmeier** supplied the young snow-builders with old Christmas tree branches. **Brian Seely** helped from set-up to clean-up. Kids with **Barb McGuirl** created the yummiest bird-feeders. **Len Kizer**, **Ann** and **Jaden VanWeaver** helped **Tam Bagby** and **Tom Watson** with the whole lunch spread. and **Fred** worked with a furnace repairman who Tom got on the spot so there'd be heat! The whole thing was very friendly; since we didn't have as many people, we really got to talk and bond with those new folks we met. I'm betting at least 3 new families will join. Thank-you very

much to all who helped, and came to play!

Those of you who have been reading me for the last 15 years or so know that I love winter, so this has been an unpredictable year for folks like me. But when the weather isn't ideal, I've got my art studio to inspire me instead. A big tree fell down right next to my window, making a safe haven for the little birds to hop around in, while I concoct my ideas out of paper and paint. Quick plug: I'm having a show at the gallery of **Fountain Street Church** March 3 - mid April. I keep hoping the nature and water themes will inspire others. I'll bring one

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# Winterfest Fun!





## March Update

continued from page 1

print to the Auction, too.

Are you ready for the **Auction** and **Banquet**? It's a fun way to raise our funds, and the sooner all reservations and item donations are in, the more smoothly it goes. You can contact **Fred Eyer** for both, or any of us can pass along your donations of goods or services. **Maurie Houseman** was sick for a while but we hope to see him there! February 24, starts at 5:30, **Thousand Oaks**!

Our March events include the **Sport Show** from 3/7-10. Pick a shift at that for a lot of fun. John usually brings a tray of macro invertebrates. Yep, we are the only ones there with these "creeky critters" and kids are always drawn to our booth. Then, on Sunday, March 17, at 10 am, **Lea Sevigney** will lead a **Gratitude Ceremony** at our lodge, as a way of teaching those with kids or students ways to appreciate the plants and animals they share their world with.

In April I'll pick a day for info on native plants, maybe at our **Fish and Game Dinner**. After all, clean water, fish, and all wildlife depend on a healthy native ecosystem. Expand habitat and expand your mind! Shrink the lawn and shrink the work!

See you soon!

**Georgia Donovan**



Dwight Lydell Chapter – Izaak Walton League of America

# 2024 Annual Awards Banquet & Silent Auction

Saturday, February 24, 2024 - Public Welcome!

Thousand Oaks Country Club & Restaurant

4100 Thousand Oaks Dr. NE, Grand Rapids MI

*“Michigan Oddities & Rarities”* Guest Speaker: **Ron Rademacher**

A working author writing about Michigan since 1999, Ron Rademacher has seven books in print about road trips to out of the way destinations on the back roads of Michigan and one children’s book about having fun outdoors.

With Ron we will journey across the state to visit small towns that hide unique objects and mysteries. Learn about the mysterious ancient stone wall in the wilds of the Keweenaw Peninsula, the ancient artifact in Nahma, the Tomb of the Cow, the Sanilac Petroglyphs and more, with an emphasis on forgotten Michigan history.

Ron maintains two travel websites, [www.michiganbackroads.com](http://www.michiganbackroads.com) and [www.upnorthmichigan.com](http://www.upnorthmichigan.com), and a web based monthly email newsletter, [www.travelinmichigan.com](http://www.travelinmichigan.com).

He contributes monthly articles to the Michigan newspapers Great Lakes Pilot, the Drummond Island Digest, and to the news site [www.michigannewssource.com](http://www.michigannewssource.com)

His short podcasts are found at [www.mibackroads.com](http://www.mibackroads.com).

Ron travels regularly around the state. He has been described as an explorer, writer, storyteller, and the man who holds the record for getting lost on the back roads of Michigan.



### Agenda

5:30pm Social Hour/Silent Auction  
7:00pm Dinner and Program  
9:15pm Raffle/Silent Auction Winners

Silent Auction includes *incredible* deals on:

sports equipment, paintings/fine art, Gift Certificates for fishing charters, salons, fine dining, entertainment, plus raffle prizes and much more

## IWLA Conservation Awards Banquet 2024 — Reservation Form

Tickets are \$40 per person. Please mail reservation form with **check made out to DLC-IWLA** and mail to: Fred Eyer, Izaak Walton League Treasurer, 2488 Rockhill Dr. NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525

Thank you for making reservations by **Monday, February 19th!**



Please list attendee names for name tags:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total due)

# Rockford Sustainability-Michigan

Tam Bagby

I'm at the website of **The Rockford Sustainability Committee**. This group has a lot in common with the IKEs. I think they are doing a great service to their community. Their mission is to "enhance the quality of life for

their community through environmental, social, and economic stewardship." They host **Live & Learn** events for community members to show them about the many facets of sustainable living. They sponsor quarterly recycling

event for EPS (expanded polystyrene) foam, commonly called **styrofoam**, and electronic waste. They also work on initiatives such as invasive species, stormwater control and climate action.

## Invasive Species Project





### Annual Rogue River Park Invasive Species Project!

Rogue River Park  
(Belmont, MI)  
Saturday, February 17  
11:00am - 1:00pm




It is an "all volunteer-based committee that acts as an advisory group to the **Rockford City Council**. Each one of the committee members is a Rockford resident or business owner and is passionate about their community."

Here are a few of their projects you could contribute your time and energy to.

## Styrofoam, E-waste, Metal and Shoes Recycling



## 2024 SPORT SHOW WORK SHIFT SCHEDULE

Shift No.	Workers	Date	Time
Shift 1	_____	Thursday, March 07, 2024	1PM-5PM
Shift 2	_____	Thursday, March 07, 2024	5PM-8PM
Shift 3	_____	Friday, March 08, 2024	12PM-4PM
Shift 4	_____	Friday, March 08, 2024	4PM-8PM
Shift 5	_____	Saturday, March 09, 2024	10AM-1:30PM
Shift 6	_____	Saturday, March 09, 2024	1:30PM-5PM
Shift 7	_____	Sunday, March 10, 2024	5PM-8PM
Shift 8	_____	Sunday, March 10, 2024	10AM-1PM
Shift 9	_____	Sunday, March 10, 2024	1PM-5PM

THE SPORT SHOW OPEN HOURS FOR EACH DAY HAVE BEEN VERIFIED FOR THE 2024 SHOW.

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

**[www.izaakwaltonmi.com](http://www.izaakwaltonmi.com)**

You can also see this newsletter's photos in color. Find Michigan IKEs on facebook so we can send updates out if there is short notice on events.

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: [twwatson@comcast.net](mailto:twwatson@comcast.net)

<b>LODGE CALENDAR 2024</b>	
March 7 - 10	Ultimate Sport Show
March 12	Board Meeting 7pm
March 16	Lodge Rental
March 17	Wild at IKEs 10am
April 6	Fix up/Clean up/Play 9-12pm
April 11	Fish & Game Dinner Social Hour 5:30

Deadline for the April Newsletter is Monday, February 19th at 8:00 AM.

<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	
<b>President</b>	
John Stegmeier .....	<a href="mailto:fishysteg@msn.com">fishysteg@msn.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	
Georgia Donovan ....	<a href="mailto:georgiadonovanart@gmail.com">georgiadonovanart@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	
Kristin Stoddard .....	<a href="mailto:kristin.stoddard@gmail.com">kristin.stoddard@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Fred Eyer .....	363.0253 <a href="mailto:fseyer@gmail.com">fseyer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	
Tom Watson .....	874.7254 <a href="mailto:twwatson@comcast.net">twwatson@comcast.net</a>
<b>Conservation Chair</b>	
Ron Waybrant .....	361.1422 <a href="mailto:rcwaybrant@gmail.com">rcwaybrant@gmail.com</a>
<b>Signage / Snowplowing</b>	
C. J. Tasma .....	887.8542 <a href="mailto:handicapsign@gmail.com">handicapsign@gmail.com</a>
<b>Lodge Rental</b>	
Brian Seely .....	<a href="mailto:michiganikesrentals@gmail.com">michiganikesrentals@gmail.com</a>
Ann VanWeaver ...	<a href="mailto:michiganikesrentals@gmail.com">michiganikesrentals@gmail.com</a>
<b>Outreach/Environment</b>	
Maurie Houseman .....	560.2895 <a href="mailto:mhouseman@grar.com">mhouseman@grar.com</a>
<b>Board Members</b>	
Jase DeBoer .....	<a href="mailto:jasondeboer@live.com">jasondeboer@live.com</a>
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Larry Wilson .....	<a href="mailto:maxxt2@yahoo.com">maxxt2@yahoo.com</a>
Rick Wylie .....	<a href="mailto:rawylie@att.net">rawylie@att.net</a>

- IKEs Member Benefits**
-  Monthly Award-Winning Newsletter
  -  Gate Key to 39 Acres Upon Request
  -  Nature Trails
  -  Catch/Release Fishing
  -  Free Camping
  -  Lodge Rental (\$100/ \$200 per Day)

# PROPOSED CORE EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2024

Izaak Walton League, Dwight Lydell Chapter

NOTE: This is a draft schedule. Due to unexpected events dates and times may change. Check for updates in our newsletters, Facebook and website along with notice of special events that come up on short notice and are not listed on this Event Schedule. Additional information about these listed events can be found in the newsletter and on the website. In addition, cancellation notices will be sent by email if your email address has been provided.

Scheduled	Event & Location
January 27, Saturday 11am-3pm.....	Winterfest Family Outing @ CC, 11am - 3pm
February 24, Saturday 6PM.....	Conservation-Awards-Fund Raiser Banquet, 6pm
March 7 thru 10 .....	Ultimate Sport Show-Grand Rapids
April 6, Saturday .....	Fix up/Clean up/Play @ CC, 9am - 12pm
April 11, Thursday .....	Fish & Game Dinner & Program
May 4, Saturday.....	Fix up/Clean up/Play @ CC, 9am - 12pm
May 8, 15, 22, 29 Wednesdays .....	Kids Fishing Evenings @ CC, 6 PM to 8PM
May 9, Thursday .....	Steak Dinner and Annual Meeting
June 15, Saturday, 11am-3pm .....	Summerfest Community Family Day @ CC
July 14-16, Sunday - Tuesday .....	2024 IKE's National Convention, Cambridge MD
August 8, Thursday .....	Ribs & Chicken Dinner @ CC
August 10, Saturday .....	Fix up/Clean up/Play @ CC, 9am - 12pm
September 7, Saturday.....	Fix up/Clean up/Play @ CC, 9am - 12pm
September 12, Thursday.....	Oktoberfest @ CC
October 5, Saturday .....	Fix up/Clean up/Play @ CC, 9am - 12pm
October 10, Thursday .....	Chili Cook-off/Potluck @ CC
November 2, Saturday .....	Fix up/Clean up/Play @ CC, 9am - 12pm
November 7, Thursday.....	Game Dinner @ CC
December 6, Friday .....	Christmas Potluck@CC
December 7, Saturday.....	Firewood for Winter Wood Supply @ CC, 9am - 12pm

Website: [www.izaakwaltonmi.com](http://www.izaakwaltonmi.com)

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

## Membership Application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN & AGES \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Family - \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ Student (18-21) - \$31 \_\_\_\_\_ Youth (under 18) - \$16

Mail application and check to Izaak Walton League Membership, PO Box 541, Belmont MI 49306. Checks payable to IWLA-DLC. Email Tom Watson at [twatson@comcast.net](mailto:twatson@comcast.net) for more information. To apply/pay membership application online please go to our website [izaakwaltonmi.com](http://izaakwaltonmi.com) Note: Term of membership is the calendar year. A gate key is available to you by request upon confirmation of membership fee payment. **TO GET A GATE KEY CONTACT TOM WATSON AT: [twatson@comcast.net](mailto: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

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Please join us on Saturday, February 24th  
for the  
**2024 Annual  
Conservation And Awards  
Banquet**  
at Thousand Oaks Country Club  
Social Hour at 5:30  
**GUEST SPEAKER RON RADEMACHER  
SPEAKING ON  
"MICHIGAN ODDITIES AND RARITIES"**  
See page 4 for more information  
and reservation form.

**March 7 - 10, 2024**  
Timberworks Lumberjack Show  
Virtual Fishing Simulator  
Lake Ultimate  
Hawg Trough  
Trout Pond  
Fish Cleaning Demonstrations  
Grand Rapids Open Turkey  
Calling Competition  
Turkey Hunting Workshop  
Big Buck Night West  
and much more!  
See page 5 to volunteer!