

March 2008



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA

# WALTONIAN

## WETLANDS SUMMIT

### A New Format: Wetlands and Waterfowl Weekend

For the past two years the Minnesota Division has been lead sponsor of the Wetlands Summit, an event to background stakeholders and citizens on the status of our vanishing wetlands and promote action on this important problem. Again the League is deeply involved. This year the event has expanded into a three day Wetlands and Waterfowl Weekend, April 11-13, to be held at a new site with added attractions and sponsors. The Best Western Kelly Inn in Brooklyn Center will be the location. The Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, with a strong interest in wetlands, is a new co-sponsor of the weekend event.

The Summit Symposium will be held Saturday April 12 using the basic plan of previous summits. On the agenda will be the new TRCP wetlands initiative, an update on the Clean Water Act by Rep. Jim Oberstar, agricultural program impacts on wildlife habitat in the United States and Canada, overview of other pending legislation affecting wetlands, current status of wetlands nationally and in Minnesota and much more.

Friday afternoon, April 11, will feature a field trip to Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, state wildlife areas and wetland restoration projects under the direction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There will be an open house that evening.

Sunday morning sessions on April 13 will focus on hunting topics.

Make your reservation early because space is limited. For information contact the Minnesota Division office: 651-221-0215 or [ikes@minnesotaike.org](mailto:ikes@minnesotaike.org).

## Dedicated Funding for Natural Resources to be on Nov. Ballot

A huge Valentine's Day gift was presented to Ike leader Dave Zentner and conservationists across the state with passage by the State Legislature of the Legacy Act, which dedicates funding for Minnesota's natural resources into the constitution. The measure for which Zentner has provided continuing leadership for many years calls for an increase of the state sales tax of 3/8th of 1 percent to raise approximately \$276 million dollars per year over 25 years to be split into four areas. **1.** 33 percent to restore and protect wetlands, prairies and forests and habitat for fish, game and wildlife. **2.** 33 percent to protect and restore water quality to Minnesota's waters. **3.** 14.25 percent to support regional and state parks and trails. **4.** 19.75 percent for arts and arts education and to preserve the state's history and cultural heritage.

The measure calls for an amendment to the state constitution to be on the November 4 ballot which reads: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, and forests, and fish, game and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater; by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by 3/8ths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034."

Now comes the second part of the campaign, passage of the amendment. It promises to be a hard job with a faltering economy and a tax increase which will become part of the state constitution. How can you help this badly needed boost in funding for our state's natural resources? Educate yourself on the need for adequate funding and pass the word to your friends and neighbors.

# Minnesota Division Winter Meeting

The three day Division winter meeting offered a series of League initiatives with variety enough to satisfy all members. The event was held at the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter house located on the Mississippi River in Brooklyn Park.

Friday evening was devoted to discussion of issues as the 2008 Minnesota Legislative Session began.

## Saturday Retreat - a look at our goals

The Saturday retreat was an intense workday where members took a hard look at the Division's Long Range Plan adopted in April of 2002. Vision and Mission statements were tweaked. Five original goals were updated and measurable objectives and strategies suggested to fit the stated goals. A sixth goal was added to deal with the future of the Division. The product will be a one year plan to guide the Division's work.

**These are some quotes from this draft copy.**

The **Vision Statement** for the state reads: Minnesota Division IWLA envisions human society living and interacting sustainably with the rest of the natural environment. The Vision for our organization reads: Make the Minnesota Division IWLA the most effective conservation/environmental organization in the state.

**The Mission Statement says:**

Minnesota Ikes work with those who want to preserve the environment and with groups who want to influence public policy for the good of the individual, society and the economy.



*Gail Buhl, of the University of Minnesota Raptor Center with an owl. Photo by Dell Erickson*

**We accomplish this by:**

**1.** Educating citizens based on science, **2.** Building bridges among diverse groups, **3.** Celebrating sustainable outdoor traditions

One of the most interesting discussions involved this question: What makes the League a unique conservation/environmental organization? (Take a few minutes to consider our organization.) The six goals suggested are: **1.** Reach and maintain 1500 members by 2012. **2.** Increase interaction among chapters and with the Division. **3.** Increase Minnesota Division IWLA visibility. **4.** Promote public policy that serves the vision and mission of the Minnesota Division IWLA. **5.** Strengthen and expand conservation initiatives at the chapter level. **6.** Ensure that the Minnesota Division IWLA has the human and financial resources to meet its mission.

There is still work to be done to complete the plan which should be presented at the Annual Meeting in April.

## Holiday Party

After a well deserved break, Breckenridge Chapter held its Annual Holiday Party for all to relax and enjoy. About 60 people attended, enjoying the good food, the chance to share conservation news, an auction and awards ceremony. The dinner was followed by a presentation by Gail Buhl, Education Program Manager of the Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota, who displayed several birds including a great horned owl and bald eagle, a fascinating program for attendees.

Many thanks to Chapter President John Rust and to all of the Breckenridge chapter members who contributed time and effort to make a successful three day weekend. Special thanks to Division Office Manager Noreen Tyler.

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## ATTENTION

### 3M EMPLOYEES & RETIREES!

**The 3M Foundation has agreed to match contributions \$1 for \$1 up to \$25,000.00 for each environmental group invited to it's Earth Day Event between April 21 - 30.**

**Please contact the Division Office 651/221-0215 to find out how to make your donation eligible for the matching funds.**

**Please use this opportunity to help support our conservation efforts here in Minnesota Division matched by 3M.**

**Visit our Display at 3M in Maplewood on April 22!**

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## Notes from the January Board Meeting

- **Dave Zentner** was unable to attend because he was meeting with Rep. Oberstar to discuss Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) and Great Lakes issues.
- Bush Lake Chapter will host a **Save Our Streams water quality training** event that is open to all Minnesota Ike chapters and interested members.
- Minnesota Division will contribute \$1,000 to help fund the 2008 Wetlands Summit.
- **Minnesota Environmental Fund Director Ed Marek** gave a presentation on the work of MEF, a workplace giving organization that funds 18 environmental groups. It is major source of funding for our Minnesota Division office. MEF needs more workplace giving sites and should be considered an investment like a mutual fund with the many facets of environmental work member groups provide.
- **Harvey Nelson, Wetlands Summit co-chair**, outlined the Saturday, April 12, symposium agenda for the Wetlands and Waterfowl Weekend. Much discussion of the events scheduled for the day followed.
- **Kevin Proescholdt** reported that his article regarding impacts on national wilderness policy and snowmobiles was published. He met with Senator Amy Klobuchar on Roadless Area protections.
- **Midwest Office Associate Executive Director Bill Grant** reported on his office's initiatives. Much of their effort has gone into passage of the Farm Bill and is now directed to other issues. The Midwest office is part of Clean Energy Minnesota with three legislative proposals: cap and trade for emissions, Clean Car standards similar to California's and to build on Reinvest in Minnesota.
- A Breckenridge Chapter resolution was passed as a position statement and will be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee for consideration at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. The position statement is titled **Estimates and Reporting of Exempt Wetland Impacts**.



*Curt Leitz and Larry Dolphin take a moment to chat.  
Photo by Julie Henriksson*

## Austin Chapter Works on Water Issues

The documentation of e-coli bacteria in the Cedar River watershed is moving the Mower County Commissioners to solve the sources of this type of pollution. The Mower County Commissioners have now directed the Mower County Environmental Health Department to cite violators of the Straight Pipe Law.

There are nearly 100 small communities in 12 southeastern counties in Minnesota that have inadequate sewage treatment. Four small communities in Mower County with Woodhaven being the largest are petitioning to the State of Minnesota for annexation with the City of Austin. After a public hearing the State of Minnesota will make that important decision. If the City of Austin is chosen for annexation, then sewage treatment will go through the City instead of Austin Township. As for Nicolville there has been significant movement, also. The land site surveyed for sewage treatment for 16 homes has been determined to be adequate for sewage treatment. Now the question comes up what is a price for the land?

I feel what is most important here is to know that this is more than just a Southeast Minnesota problem. It is a statewide problem and more than likely a nationwide issue. Through the simple e-coli techniques, used we were able to substantiate the problem with Mower County Commissioners. David Legvold of the Cannon River Watershed Partnership project played a significant role in helping us collect and compile the data to submit before the Commissioners. (Please note the article in the recent *Outdoor America*). He really helped the Austin Ikes to make it happen. I think the most important item is to provide the information to all Ike chapters on where and how you can get the tools necessary to provide the documentation. There is a high probability that somewhere near you is a water body that has inadequate sewage treatment.

*By Larry Dolphin, Austin Chapter President*

# President's Letter

## Wetlands and Climate Change

By Minnesota Division  
President Rolf Nordstrom



President Rolf Nordstrom  
Photo by Dell Erickson

Those of us who hunt and fish are already experiencing the changes brought about by a warmer world. If we lose the vulnerable parts of our natural world, like moose and trout and pine forests, we've failed to be good stewards. Hunters' and anglers' voices should be among the loudest calling for action on global warming.

This important call to action comes from our own Bill Grant, Associate Executive Director of the Izaak Walton League based here in St. Paul. And of course the "call" is important whether or not you personally hunt or fish. *Outdoor America*, as I'm sure many of you saw, has devoted much-needed attention to climate change recently, and the Ikes' Midwest Office has just published an excellent new report on what Minnesotans who love the outdoors can expect from a more chaotic climate. If you haven't seen it yet, I recommend it to you: *A Whole New Game: The effects of climate change on hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation in Minnesota*. Look for the moose on the cover. The report is available by calling 651-649-1446, or online at: [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org).

While climate change often feels too large an issue to get your arms around or do anything about as an individual, one thing each of us can do is to take the Minnesota Energy Challenge. It's free, easy and will give you money-saving ideas about how to save energy in your own home and elsewhere in your "sphere of influence:" [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org)

Another thing we can all do is attend this year's Wetlands and Waterfowl Weekend, April 11 - 13 at the Best Western Kelly Inn in Plymouth, MN. Thanks to former division president and Summit co-chair, Dr. Bill Henke, along with many others, this will be the Ikes' third annual Wetlands Summit shedding critical light on the state of our wetlands. A new twist this year is that we are joining forces with the 11th Annual Minnesota Waterfowl Symposium to bring you one comprehensive event. The effect of climate change on wetlands will be one of the event's key themes.

Finally, as you may recall, last November nine Midwestern governors and the Premier of Manitoba signed historic and wide-ranging Energy Security and Climate Stewardship agreements. Why do these matter? Here are a few facts to consider: participating states, taken together, would be the 7th largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter globally if they were a country. Of the three regional cap & trade efforts in the

U.S., the Midwestern states have the highest total GHG emissions, equaling 14% of U.S. emissions, and the highest per capita figures, 50-70% higher than on the coasts. Midwestern states are much more like the rest of world (especially the developing world) in their dependence on coal, which provides 71% percent of the region's electricity compared to 49% nationally. This means that progress in the Midwest can translate into progress globally, particularly in coal-rich China and India where similar coal types abound. Midwestern governors have committed to both a carbon cap and trade system for GHGs and critical complementary policies on efficiency, renewables, etc. Midwestern states are "swing" states, making them politically important in achieving a strong federal climate policy. Many observers of Congress have suggested that it is nearly impossible to secure the necessary 60 votes in the U.S. Senate without Midwestern states on board. If you want to track progress on implementation of the Midwestern Governors' energy and climate accords go to: [www.midwesterngovernors.org](http://www.midwesterngovernors.org).

**Hope to see you in Red Wing this April!**

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## Legislation to Watch -2008 Session

A Collaborative Agenda Package of priority legislative issues for 2008 has been adopted by the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, a coalition of environmental organizations working together to further important environmental legislation. MN Division, which is a MEP member, supports these initiatives:

### Collaborative Agenda Package

- Great Outdoors & Heritage Amendment-(Dedicated funding passed and will be a ballot issue Nov. 4.)
- Clean Energy Minnesota (Global Warming)
- Transportation Choices 2020
- Outdoor Traditions Investment (Capital Investments Bill)

### Other MEP issues the League has signed on include:

- Protecting Quiet Forests from Off-Highway Vehicle Damage
  - Preventing Harm from Metallic Sulfide Mining
  - Great Lakes Invasive Species Ballast Water
  - Pesticide Right to Know
  - Phase-out of Deca-BDE, a Toxic Flame Retardant
  - Phase out of children's products containing Phthalates and Bisphenol-A
  - Minnesota 2030 - Promoting Exceptional New Buildings
  - Energy Efficiency in Government Buildings
  - Compact Fluorescent Recycling and Marketing
- (These issues are outlined in detail in MEP's Briefing Book)

# Prairie Seed Production and BioEnergy Project

By Jyneen Thatcher, wetlands specialist Washington Conservation District and Jaques Chapter member

*Jyneen Thatcher offers her experience on a DNR Prairie Seed Production and BioEnergy Project committee as an example of how Ikes members with areas of expertise can use their experience to further worthwhile government initiatives.*

Last fall I had the privilege of representing the Izaak Walton League on a Technical Advisory Committee created to assist the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on their Prairie Seed Production and BioEnergy Project (PSPB). This Project resulted from an appropriation during the 2007 Minnesota Legislative Session "to support a technical advisory committee and for land management units that manage grass lands in order to develop plans to optimize native prairie seed harvest and replanting on state-owned lands." Stakeholder groups mandated to be represented included statewide wildlife or conservation organizations; I was invited to represent the Ikes based on my experience with ecosystem restoration and management on the Jaques Chapter's Schuneman Preserve and elsewhere.

Besides the wildlife and conservation representatives, the committee membership included representatives from the agricultural regulatory sector (Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Board of Water and Soil Resources) and native seed suppliers groups, customers of native seed suppliers, and sustainability/environmental monitor groups. Each group brought their own concerns to the discussion, but it was clear that we were all working together to find a solution that fit us all.

The committee met three times, each time focusing on reviewing the technical information gathered and generated by the DNR's PSPB Project Team. By the second meeting, it was clear that the PSPB Project was getting curiouser and curiouser, to paraphrase Alice, and it was unlikely to have a simple and easy outcome.

The essence of our charge, as summarized by the Team Leader Jason Garms (DNR Prairie Biologist) was to develop: 1. A set of **Criteria** for identifying public and private lands that could produce local eco-type prairie seed, and for identifying lands that could be used to reconstruct prairie that could produce clean energy; 2. A set of **Guidelines** for producing prairie seed and reconstructing prairie that safeguard ecological values; and 3. A list of **Incentives** that might encourage production of local eco-type prairie seed, and also reconstruct prairies that could serve clean energy needs. We soon realized that there are many groups addressing the issue of BioEnergy supply, so we focused on the prairie seed production details, assuming they could be connected to the results from the NextGen Energy Board.

The key point for me, out of the seed production discussion, was the specifications and record keeping needed to conform to MCIA standards for selling or transferring seed. I have noticed the labeling on seed packets of germination rates and "weed-free" percentage, but never realized how restrictive the process is for suppliers. Once that description sank into our heads, the committee separated "seed production" into two groups. One group (or production track) keeps species separate, planting a monoculture and managing for that single species. Then multiple species are combined in a package with the designated percentage of species. The other group/track would like to machine-harvest a diverse prairie, to obtain a mixed bag of seeds. We soon realized that this second group would have a harder time guaranteeing seed purity and composition.

At the final meeting, we had reached an understanding that our goal should be to protect Minnesota's existing prairie remnants from degradation, such as could happen from too frequent harvest or crossbreeding with non-local seed ecotypes. The remnants should be used only as seed source for producing a next generation of seed, which in turn could be used for additional restorations. Phase II of the study will need to address how many generations removed from the remnant seed are acceptable for more seed production, or if they should be used only for non-harvestable restorations.

As far as BioEnergy production, our two recommendations were that remnant native seed not be wasted as fuel, but used as Generation Zero for seed production, and that harvest be done only on land that is durable enough to handle the means of harvest.



*Jaques Chapter's Schuneman Preserve - Photo by Charles Taflin*

# **A Special Weekend**

## **Attend April 25-27 State Convention and Annual Meeting**

Save April 25-27 for an outstanding Ike weekend at Red Wing where chapter members have planned a fabulous three days for State Convention attendees. Stay at the historic St. James Hotel, meet at the riverside Red Wing Ikes' chapter house, tour the area and get another close look at the mighty Mississippi besides contributing to action on important environmental issues.

Reservation form on page 7.

## **Call for Resolutions - Deadline March 25**

It's time to put all those good conservation ideas down on paper. They can become a new national wildlife refuge, innovative environmental regulations, even the definition of outdoor ethics through the League's resolution process.

Resolutions passed by delegates to the Annual State Convention become the foundation of conservation policy for the Minnesota Division IWLA. Often, those resolutions are forwarded to, and adopted by, the National League, influencing national conservation policy.

The deadline for submission of proposed resolutions is 30 days before the Annual Convention. For 2008, that's Tuesday, March 25th. The Bylaws change enacted at the 2005 convention allows time for chapters to discuss resolutions at their regular meetings, so that more informed debate may be conducted at the convention.

Resolutions should provide several supporting arguments in narrative form, and a call for action as their conclusion ("Now therefore be it resolved").

Please email your resolutions to the the Minnesota Division Office to [ikes@minnesotaikes.org](mailto:ikes@minnesotaikes.org).

## **March 31 is Deadline for Awards Nominations**

Here's your opportunity to honor those many Ikes and Minnesotans who are deserving of thanks for outstanding efforts in conservation and environmental fields.

Chapters, Ike members and others can nominate individuals for select Minnesota Division IWLA Awards. Annual awards are listed below:

To make your nominations, write a brief list of the nominee's accomplishments and send nominations to the Awards Committee, Minnesota Division IWLA, (See address above)

### **These are the awards:**

Outstanding contribution statewide to the preservation of our natural resources.

#### **Sigurd F. Olson Conservation Award**

Media members who have affected the environment in a positive way through written, spoken word or visual art.

#### **Ed Franey Outdoor Writer and Conservation Media Award**

Special efforts in environmental education.

#### **Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge Award in Environmental Education**

Conservation work in local areas

#### **Stewardship Award**

Special and continuous service to the Minnesota Division IWLA

#### **Distinguished Service Award**

To honor outstanding contributions by League members or Minnesota community leaders.

#### **Special Awards**

##### **Membership Awards**

Chapter membership recognizing percentage of increase and numerical increase

## **Silent Auction to Have Green/Minnesota Theme**

### **By Cherry Schwartz, Silent Auction Chair**

The theme this year is "Going Green" or anything "Minnesota" as Minnesota celebrates its Sesquicentennial (try to spell it!) in May. Any and all donations will be graciously accepted whether they are part of the themes or not. Each chapter should try to donate two items and each Board member is encouraged to donate one. Please let me, Cherry Schwartz, know what your donation will be so I can prepare the paper work. I will be having surgery for a knee replacement in early April and want to have as much done for the Silent Auction prior to the event as possible. I can be reached at 507-451-6676 or at [ikepres@hotmail.com](mailto:ikepres@hotmail.com).

All proceeds go to the Minnesota Division Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund totals about \$2,000. We awarded two \$1,000 scholarships last year to deserving college students who were pursuing environmental studies. The committee would also like to award the first Ruth Saari Scholarship. We did not have any exemplary candidates last year and are hoping some will apply this year.

## **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

A PROUD MEMBER OF



[www.mnenvirofund.org](http://www.mnenvirofund.org)

**2008 MINNESOTA DIVISION IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE  
OF AMERICA  
STATE CONVENTION & ANNUAL MEETING  
April 25-27, 2008 Red Wing, MN  
Convention Theme: Renewable & Sustainable Energy**

**Friday Evening**

Red Wing Chapter Lodge  
1010 East 5th St.  
Red Wing, MN  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

**Hors d'oeuvres and beverages  
Registration &  
informal issues discussions  
Resolutions: First Reading  
Get Together & Issues Committee**

**Saturday**

St. James Hotel, Red Wing  
406 Main Street, Red Wing

**Morning**

9:00 Registration, Welcome & Plans for the Day  
9:30 Morning Presentation /  
Set up Silent Auction  
10:30 River Tour

**Afternoon & Evening**

Noon - 1 PM

Lunch St. James Hotel

2:00 Red Wing Chapter Lodge

**Tour at NSP Steam Plant  
re: energy production**

4:30 St. James Hotel Break before Banquet

5:30 **Silent Auction ends/Social Hour**

6:00 **Dinner/Awards Banquet**

**Sunday Morning**

**Annual Meeting of the Corporation**

Red Wing Chapter Lodge  
8:00 Continental Breakfast  
8:30 Annual Meeting of the Corporation  
12:30 Adjournment

**Accomodations:**

St. James Hotel

1/651-388-2846 or 1/800-252-1875

Large or Small/Queen - \$100 + 9.5% tax

Free Parking in ramp

*Please reserve your rooms at the St. James by April 1st, and note that you will be attending the Izaak Walton League convention.*

**Alternate choices are:**

Best Western - 1/651-388-1577

AmericInn - 1/651-385-9060



**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) plan on attending:

Friday \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each

Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 each

Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each

All Events \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 each

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to Red Wing Chapter and mail to: Red Wing Chapter, C/O Randy Stein  
P.O. Box 237, Red Wing, MN 55066 and mail by March 21, 2008. Thank you!



The Izaak Walton League of America

# MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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## Meeting & Event Calendar 2008

**April 25-27, Minnesota Division Annual Meeting and State Convention - Red Wing Chapter, Red Wing**

**May 4-5, Living Green Expo, Minnesota State Fair Grounds (Fun & Educational event).**

Please contact the Division office for information and to volunteer.

**July 23-25, National Convention, Merrillville, Indiana**

### MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

The Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America publishes the Waltonian four times a year on the months of March, June, September, and December.

Copy deadline is the eighth of the month prior to publication.

Send material to:

Waltonian Editor, C/O Minnesota Div., IWLA, 161 St. Anthony Ave., Ste. 910, St. Paul, MN 55103

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#### 2008 DIVISION DUES

(Including national dues -Chapter dues are in addition)

Individual \$43.50, Family \$64.00, Student

\$23.00, Youth \$10.00

## Bragging Rights

By Ruth Saari,

### Minnesota Division Archivist

Still pursuing the problems of pollution and possible solutions, members of the newly formed (1922) Izaak Walton League of America in Minnesota and Wisconsin began calling attention to the discharge of raw sewage into the Mississippi River. One of the first results of their activities was the appointment of chapter presidents to the task of educating the public about the need for a sewage treatment plant.

Finally, after many meetings and articles in local newspapers beginning in 1924, a sewage bill was passed in the Minnesota State Legislature in 1933 and on May 15, 1938 the Twin City Sanitary District (now known as the Metropolitan Waste Water Treatment Plant) was completed and officially dedicated.