

Spring 2011



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA

WALTONIAN

Watershed Assessment Summit – 2011 Set for March 12 at the Arboretum

The sixth version of the Wetlands Summit is billed as Watershed Assessment Summit – 2011 and concentrates on Managing Water on the Land based on hydrology. The symposium will be held March 12 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska and is sponsored by the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America and the Freshwater Society.

The Summit will examine water quality from a watershed perspective. Everyone lives in a watershed. Do you know about yours? You will learn about them during the day.

Louis Smith, legal counsel to watershed districts, will kick off the Summit with a history of the watershed approach as it has developed in Minnesota with an introduction to watershed law and watershed organizations.

The morning program will feature watershed based planning, what it is, why use it, and who should use it as well as how to identify and prioritize solutions and measure results by **James Wisker**, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Planner, and **Andy Erickson** from the University of Minnesota's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. **Shawn Tracy** from the Metro Conservation Districts Landscape Restoration Program and **Bruce E. Albright**, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, will present on urban and rural watershed assessments and how they differ.

Henry Van Offelen, Natural Resource Scientist with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and Jerome Deals will address the issues of the Red River that will further amplify the role land use plays in an area with major flooding problems.

Special luncheon keynote speaker is **Tom Davenport**, the EPA Region 5 Agricultural Advisor and the EPA's national expert on non point source pollution. Davenport authored *The Watershed Project Management Guide*.

In the afternoon, there will be two tracks of breakout sessions. Track 1 will feature the Friendship Tour with **Patrick Moore**, Clean Up the River Environment (CURE),

Warren Formo, Executive Director at MN Agriculture Water Resources Coalition, and farmer **Bruce Tiffany**. Also, **Troy Kuphal**, Manager of Scott SWCD, will speak about prioritizing and targeting areas for water quality improvement in Scott County. **Rich Biske**, The Nature Conservancy, will present on bringing various entities together to implement conservation drainage projects.



Como Lake in St. Paul, which is part of the Capitol Region Watershed District.

The Urban track will feature the Capital Region Administrator **Mark Doneux** presenting "Stormwater BMP Performance and Cost Benefit Assessments".

The Summit hopes to enlighten attendees on the role of the Clean Water Council with respect to the Clean Water Funds and how they are allocated to various agencies.

The goal of the event is for attendees to come away with a comprehensive understanding of the value and benefits and complexities of a watershed approach to water management. Also, it will be important to let citizens know they can access their watershed districts and build and work in partnerships to improve their water footprints individually and as a community.

Notes from the January 23, 2011

BOD Meeting at REI

★ President **Curt Leitz** announced that the Summer BOD will be at Deep Portage on July 22-24 to hook up with the opening of IWLA Summer Youth Camp which runs July 24-29. (See camp article on page 8.)

★ **Dave Zentner** reported that the Dedicated Funding Working Group meets monthly to monitor the way Legacy Amendment funds are distributed. They are mandated to supplement natural resources and not be used as a substitute. Zentner called for responsible citizens to be appointed to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

★ **Michelle Schroeder** has been named by Mayor R. T. Rybak to a two-year term on the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee for the city of Minneapolis as of January 1. The Committee meets once a month to further enhance the city's environmental effort providing assistance and advice on the city's efforts that focus on sustainable development. Schroeder is a MN Division Director at Large and Minnehaha Chapter member.

★ The **Minnesota Environmental Partnership** has been holding district meetings on legislative issues. Find the remaining meeting schedule on the MEP website.

★ **Resolutions, Nominating and Awards Committees** have been organized to handle official Annual Meeting business.

★ **Jill Crafton** reports on ballast water dumping concerns of the campaign headed by Phyllis Green, Director of Isle Royale National Park. Green advocates adding chlorine to ballast water to combat the spread of invasive species.

★ **Gary Schwartz** proposed an Internet raffle that could be used as a fundraiser and it will be further discussed.

★ A position paper on State Regulatory Reform introduced by the **McCabe Chapter** was introduced and discussed. It was circulated to the Governor, appropriate State legislative committees and officials. The content will be introduced as a resolution at the Annual Meeting.

Governor's Appointments

BILL GRANT: New Head of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security within the Department of Commerce

When you read about energy concerns in Minnesota, Bill Grant is always quoted. He is a great choice named to head the state's Office of Energy Security within the Department of Commerce. Grant's new job is to ensure that Minnesota's energy needs are met while focusing on a green energy economy and jobs. His new job also oversees the state's regulated utilities and makes recommendations on rate hike requests.



Bill Grant. Photo courtesy of Izaak Walton League of America.

Grant bids farewell to his position as Associate Executive Director of the IWLA Midwest Office where he has been employed for nineteen years. He says about his League experience, "I will look back with pride and fondness on what has been accomplished in the name of conservation and the honor of having worked for such a great organization. I have made many friends for life among the League's wonderful members and dedicated staff. I can't think of another organization that would have allowed the personal growth and rewarding experiences I have enjoyed as both a member and employee of the League." The Minnesota Division wishes Bill the best in his new state job. He will add his unflagging energy to the state's energy programs.

TOM LANDWEHR: DNR Commissioner

For many years Tom Landwehr has been a familiar name in the natural resources community. As new Department of Natural Resources Commissioner, he brings years of on the job experience to his new responsibilities. He holds a master's degree in business, taught at the University of Minnesota's School of Natural Resources and also worked as a DNR scientist and wildlife manager for 17 years. Landwehr was state conservation director for Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota and Iowa until 2003. Then he served as assistant state director for the Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Other DNR appointments: *Pioneer Press* Outdoor Editor **Chris Niskanen** is new DNR Communications Director. Former State Senator **Bob Lessard** takes over as special assistant to the Commissioner for community outreach and former State Senator **Dennis Frederickson** will direct the DNR's Southern Region.

President's Letter

By Minnesota Division President Curt Leitz

Each year, in conjunction with the Winter Board of Director's meeting, Ikes from across the state gather to take a step back from our daily conservation work and consider our organization's goals and priorities for the upcoming year. This strategic planning process is part of the overall five-year plan that was developed in 2008 and 2009 under the aegis of President Rolf Nordstrom. Based on feedback from the 2010 planning session I decided to limit this year's session to a few priority topics. We examined three key conservation issues for 2011 (Sulfide mining, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and sustainability) and three key administrative issues (finance, membership recruitment/retention and communications). Throughout our planning sessions, emphasis was on practical strategies that we have the capacity to execute in the upcoming year.

In each area, a focus group of individuals reviewed the challenges and opportunities at this moment in time. Each group discussed ongoing and potential initiatives, and after considering our institutional capacities each group made a set of recommendations for 2011. My President's Letter this issue will briefly review the recommendations of each group. (Recommendations of the membership recruitment/retention group do not appear here, as they are still being collated.) At the Spring Convention, I'll formally present to delegates the full report of the strategic planning session.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Sulfide Mining The focus group recommends four initiatives for our division in the upcoming year: developing communication among members on this issue, via social media and e-mail*; developing a formal list of volunteers interested in this issue and turning people out at MEP legislative meetings; mobilizing members by issuing action alerts at appropriate times; and providing support and funding for work on this issue through the Izaak Walton League of America's Wilderness and Public Lands Program.

AIS The group recommends that the Division educate members and activate chapters by locating speakers for chapter-level programs that will reach out to the public, anglers and boat owners in chapters' respective geographical areas.

We should develop communication tools (such as postcards) for members to request support from their local legislators on this issue.

Sustainability This group recommends three initiatives for our Division in 2011: 1) making state-level meetings more sustainable; 2) further developing the information on and usability of our sustainability website; and 3) developing a statewide internship program that can place interns with communities engaging in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.



Minnesota Division President Curt Leitz measures a whopper of a cottonwood tree on the Minneapolis Chapter property.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Finance The focus group recommends that the Division undertake five initiatives: 1) increasing support of the Minnesota Environmental Fund by helping chapters identify potential campaigns; 2) renewing emphasis on estate planning by developing a brochure explaining the opportunity; 3) exploring grant opportunities; 4) considering a statewide raffle; and 5) considering an annual fundraising dinner/program.

Membership recommendations: still being collated.

Communications The primary recommendation this group made was for us to enhance the Division office's ability to reach members via e-mail, both by enlarging our general e-mail list and by further developing e-mail lists broken down by region, legislative district, etc. We also should support chapters' efforts to publicize their own events by helping them engage the resources that the Division office and MEP offer; we can do this both having a workshop at the Spring Convention, publishing a follow-up article in the newsletter, contacting chapter presidents, and sending out a general e-mail to members.

Take a Kid Fishing

Encouraging young people to enjoy fishing mirrors our roots. IZAAK WALTON! There's a lot of history in that name chosen back in 1922 by a group of fishermen who were concerned about declining fishing waters. The group founded our conservation organization and named it after an early fishing advocate. Izaak Walton was a 1600s English fisherman, philosopher, author who wrote *The Compleat Angler*. How can today's Ikes carry out this heritage?

Let's take a look at a few of the many methods and programs available. Third Grade Conservation Day is a long term activity initiated by Red Wing Chapter in the 1980s to introduce young people to the natural environment. **Brad Johnson**, President of Red Wing Chapter, reports that Conservation Day held every year in mid-May, brings 300 third graders from Red Wing schools to the Ike's forty acres on the mighty Mississippi. Last year kids rotated through nine stations in 25 minute segments.

The favorite station was fishing. The youngsters first visited the casting station where they were taught to cast. Once they mastered that, they graduated to the shoreline where they tried their hands at catching and releasing what swims in the river. It is amazing how many kids have never been fishing so this program gives them a new way to look at the lakes and rivers. Fifty volunteers, donations from local businesses and organizations of time and money make it happen. Even though your Chapter does not own property on a lake or stream, a park with waterfront will do.

One kid at a time. Avid Ike fisherman Dave Zentner relates his own one on one method of encouraging young fishermen. Last July Dave hooked up his little boat, went to West Duluth, picked up a ten year old boy of color and his mom (an immigrant from Russia who has been here twelve years). She had left her name at a fly fishing shop and wanted someone to take her son fishing.



It was a cool May day when all Red Wing schools' third graders tried newly learned fishing skills on the Mississippi.



Red Wing Ike volunteer Don Brooks helps a third grade angler display her catch on Conservation Day.

"We had a great time, the bluegills and crappies cooperated, we ate afterwards and he had a very good fish take him into some weeds and break his line. He remarked that he was going to dream about what kind of fish 'the monster was.' Almost too much fun, a great kid and I am hoping to take him again."

Family fishing is a great bonding experience. Ironically, enthusiastic fisherman Rob Garry grew up in Austin in Mower County which has no natural lakes. His early exposure to fishing was at resorts during family outings. He expanded his experience and by college was hooked when he teamed up with a professional bass fisherman. He blossomed into the most avid fisherman imaginable. His wife Ann is part of the scene as are sons Will, 7, and Sam, 5. At age two Will could cast accurately and Sam followed suit when he was 18 months. Even black lab Luna is boat trained and is calm and careful in a canoe. The family has a boat and fishes St. Paul suburban lakes White Bear and Bald Eagle year around. A portable ice house that only takes 10 minutes to set up keeps them angling in winter. They also use grandparent's lake front access on White Bear. In the summer the boys spend as much as 3-4 hours a day fishing from dock or boat.

Watching the youngsters in action from a pontoon boat on Gunflint Lake was fascinating. Arriving at the cabin, the boys, then four and six, dashed to the dock to cast and immediately each was rewarded with a small mouth bass. They continued to fish from the pontoon the rest of the day – tirelessly.

On catch and release, Will says, "I want to be nice to nature."

Both Sam and Will agree that hooking that big one is a thrill.

MinnAqua is a statewide DNR education program that teaches angling recreation and stewardship as well as ecology and conservation of aquatic habitat. With over 5400 game fish lakes plus 1500 miles of fishable streams, fishing is a life-long activity for participants to connect with the environment and encourage stewardship of natural resources. It partners with schools and many other groups.

MinnAqua has been part of Nature Trail Day at O. H. Anderson Elementary in Mahtomedi for several years. Supplying rods and other equipment, MinnAqua leaders with class sized groups walked to a nearby pond where the 3rd through 5th graders learned to fish. No matter that few fish were caught. The whole activity was great fun. On succeeding years, the classes have hiked to another nearby DNR stocked lake to fish. Students helped the DNR stock the small lake before the fishing opener was held on neighboring White Bear Lake several years ago.

A DNR Metro program, Fishing in the Neighborhood, satisfies the growing need for easily accessible fishing opportunities close to where people live, with Minnesota's population centered in the seven county metro area. FIN reaches out to interests like urban fisheries management activities such as stocking, aeration and shore fishing and pier fishing and partners with local parks.

Thirty percent of Minnesota's fish harvest takes place when ice is on the lakes. FIN Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend was held Feb. 19-21 to introduce kids and adults to one of the state's most popular winter outdoor activities.

The DNR program will be held again in 2012 and 2013 so put it on your yearly calendar. Bush Lake Chapter provided the opportunity for young and old to try out ice fishing on



Will and Sam Garry love the thrill of a tug on their lines.



Will Garry practices catch and release.

their lake on February 20. Bush Lake Ikes supplied the bait and drilled the holes while participants brought their own equipment.

There are all sorts of resort and fishing shop activities, tournaments and local fishing events open to partnerships or to supply expertise for a Chapter program. Take a Kid Fishing can be a personal or Chapter goal this year. Make it happen.

Michelle Schroeder reports on Minnesota GreenStep Cities (MN GSC) Activities.

Director at Large Michelle Schroeder reports that the **Red Wing Chapter** hosted two MN GSC seminars on January 20th. Ken and Linda Moon did a fabulous job of gathering over 40 attendees, and it's rumored that two of those wish to become Ikes! As a result of the seminars, a Red Wing city official said that they are eager to sign a resolution of participation sooner than they had planned.

The Sierra Club has asked Schroeder to pull together a day of MN GSC seminars in New Ulm, which are slated for March 15th at the New Ulm library.

Two newly-appointed, energetic officers of the **Wapashaw Chapter** are looking forward to a MN GSC presentation, likely in May.

For further information on MN GSC, please visit www.mngreenstep.org



State Convention & Annual Meeting

hosted by the W. J. McCabe Chapter

April 8 - 10, 2011

Audubon Center of the Northwoods

54165 Audubon Dr., Sandstone, MN 55072

320-245-2648

Friday, April 8

6:00 PM Dinner

Social to follow, including first reading of Conservation Resolutions

Saturday, April 9

7:30 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Workshops: The State of Dedicated Funding and Chapter support resources:
Minnesota Division office and MEP

12:00 PM Lunch followed by two seasonally appropriate nature programs will be offered
by the Audubon Center

5:00 PM Silent Auction

5:30 PM Banquet

Program by Lori Arent, MN Raptor Center and Awards Ceremonies

Sunday, April 10

7:30 AM Breakfast

9:30 AM Annual Meeting

12:00 PM Lunch

Directions to the Audubon Center: From Interstate 35, exit on the Sandstone Exit 191. Go west on County road 61 just over two miles. Take a right on County Road 27, cross the Munger bike trail, turn left at the 'T' (Grindstone Lake Road) and go just over three miles. Take a right on County Road 17 (Fox Road) and go about 15 feet. Turn left between the stone pillars (Audubon Road). Follow this road to the office - one mile. There will be signs the whole way.



Photo by Julie Henricksson.

Annual Meeting & State Convention REGISTRATION

Audubon Center, Sandstone

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Email _____

I am enclosing \$ _____ for _____ persons for Plan (please circle) 1 2 3

Plan 1 - Weekend package: \$126/person without bedding and linens (bring your own), \$131 with bedding and linens provided by Audubon (cost includes two nights lodging, five meals (breakfast, lunch, and banquet dinner Saturday; breakfast and lunch on Sunday))

Plan 2 - Half package: \$87/person without bedding and linens, \$92 with bedding and linens. (Saturday lodging only, and four meals (lunch and banquet dinner Saturday; breakfast and lunch on Sunday))

Plan 3 - Dinner only Friday: \$11/person

Please send completed registrations and checks (made out to the McCabe Chapter IWLA) to Curt Leitz, 1326 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55805.

Questions? Call Curt Leitz, 218-464-1335

Honor Conservation Heroes

So many citizens work on behalf of conservation action for all of us. Let's continue to recognize them with awards at our annual meeting. The award categories are:

Sigurd F. Olson Conservation Award - Our most special award can be given to someone with outstanding contributions to the preservation of Minnesota's natural resources.

Ed Franey Outdoor Writer & Conservation Media Award - Honoring media professionals who affect the environment through written word, visual art, or spoken word.

Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge Environmental Education Award - Recognize professionals and others who teach all of us, young and old, to value natural resources and the environment.

IWLA Distinguished Service Award - Special and long term service to the Minnesota Division can be honored.

Get together with your chapter members. Consider a nomination. Please email nominations to the Division Office at ikes@minnesotaiikes.org. Please put Awards in the subject line.

Nominations should include a brief list of the nominee's accomplishments and the award for which you are making the nomination. **DEADLINE IS MARCH 11th.**

Char Brooker, Minnesota Division Awards Chair

Silent Auction

Is Scholarship Fundraiser

Everyone can be a winner! Just keep bidding at the spring Convention Silent Auction when a host of interesting items are up for grabs. Theme baskets, homemade goodies, hand crafted items, sports equipment, books, pictures, T shirts and more will start bidding wars.

Each chapter and all members are encouraged to donate items that will entice bidding and friendly fun. Again Cherry and Gary Schwartz are in charge of the event and ask that you notify them of your donations so they can do the paperwork ahead of time. You will bring the donated items to the Audubon Center. Contact Cherry or Gary at 507-451-6676 or presike2@live.com.

Remember that the Silent Auction is the primary fundraising event for the Minnesota Division Scholarship and the Ruth M. Saari Scholarship so donate and bid to support young people in natural resources education.

One of last year's MN Division scholarship winner **Jordan Dybvig** is currently finishing his last semester of college at UMD where he just completed his BA in Outdoor Education. He writes. "I would like to thank you again for your generous scholarship. I have been working hard to pay for school and with the scholarship, things have been made much easier."

Resolutions Due by March 11, 2011

The Izaak Walton League has long been a grass roots organization, and proudly so. One of our more important annual actions revolves around our resolution process. We select our resolutions each year at our state convention. It is time for you and your chapter members to discuss issues important to you and issues that are part of the League's mission that may require authoring an appropriate resolution for consideration at our 2011 State Convention.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- All resolutions should be about subjects that are of state, regional or national significance. All resolutions should be consistent with Izaak Walton League purpose.
- All resolutions shall endeavor to make every effort to be accurate, their intended purpose clear and shall include (may be done separately) who will do what.
- Our By-laws require resolutions thirty days in advance of our Annual Meeting (Deadline March 11, 2011).
- The resolution proposed needs to be sponsored by a chapter or a State Division standing committee.
- Check to be sure the resolution is really new, or if a restatement of an existing resolution is appropriate.
- Provide data to support your claims.
- Write the resolution in simple essay form, please do not use the phrase of "whereas" or the style that uses "whereas" style.
- Be sure to have a representative at the Annual Meeting to advocate for your resolution, and/or answer questions.

The Izaak Walton Policy Manual at the National level and the list of state resolutions comprise our policies. We encourage your resolutions; we offer our assistance and look forward to a very productive exchange of ideas. Send resolutions to the Division Office via email to ikes@minnesotaiikes.org.

Bill Henke and Dave Zentner, Minnesota Division Resolutions Co-chairs

✓ Chapters Check In

The **New Ulm Chapter** honored former State Senator Dennis Frederickson with the Huck Huhn award (named for an IWLA member who was a conservationist and avid tree planter). Frederickson had served as a state senator from District 21 since 1980 and chose not to run for re-election. He was a strong advocate for agricultural concerns and natural resources. As a friend of the environment, he authored the historic Clean Water Legacy Act and was a strong supporter of the Legacy Amendment.

Looking for a speaker for your Chapter? **Michelle Schroeder** suggests contacting Beth Mercer-Taylor at the Univ. of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment at 612-624-9430 or bethmt@umn.edu. The Institute is trying to broaden its state outreach.



The Izaak Walton League of America

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011

- April 8-10 - MN Division Convention and Annual Meeting
- hosted by McCabe Chapter - Audubon Northwoods Center, Sandstone
- July 11-15 - IWLA National Convention, Des Moines, IA
- July 22-24 - Summer Board of Directors' Meeting, Deep Portage
- October 21-23 - Fall Workshop & Board of Directors' Meeting,
- Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Lanesboro, MN

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, 651-221-0215, ikes@minnesotaiikes.org

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2010 DIVISION DUES

(Including national dues -Chapter dues are in addition)
Individual \$48.50, Family \$69.00, Student \$28.00,
Youth \$15.00

MIDWEST OFFICE

Director: Bill Grant 651-649-1446, midwest@iwla.org

Izaak Walton Camp at Deep Portage Scheduled for July 24-29

Last summer's Izaak Walton Camp was a roaring success according to campers who attended! It is on the schedule again this year at Deep Portage Learning Center located near Hackensack, MN in a 6,000 acre conservation preserve.

The camp is designed for kids and their parents or grandparents with a curriculum packed full of tempting natural resources topics. Some include invasive species watch, environmental advocacy, sustainable living, shoreline management, canoeing, fishing and archery skills, fish identification and printing, climbing wall, outdoor survival, campout, cookout, firearms safety and much more including intriguing Izaak Walton background.

Last year several Izaak Chapters offered scholarships to the camp. The fee is \$400 for child and \$700 for child and adult. Your Chapter may like to sponsor a youngster for this opportunity to explore the woods, water and wildlife of Minnesota. Call toll free 888-280-9908 or 218-682-2325 or check the Deep Portage website www.deep-portage.org for further information.