



## The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA

# WALTONIAN

## President's Letter – Welcome to Don Arnosti

by Minnesota Division President

**Barry Drazkowski**

My fellow Minnesota Ikes.

I am excited to introduce to you Don Arnosti. Although I expect many of you are very familiar with Don and his long career advocating for Minnesota's natural resources. This past summer the Division was provided the opportunity to contract with Don to develop and facilitate our environmental issues initiative.

Don is very highly respected for his work and his leadership on issues that very closely align with the Divisions focus on wetlands, watersheds, mining, and a host of other important conservation issues. The Division has received significant donations to support this important work. We expect the donations to not only support Don in a quarter-time capacity, but also generate additional revenue to help with our general expenses. This has also resulted in several new Ike's members.

I am very excited about this and confident you, the Minnesota Izaak Walton League members, will be very well served by his efforts.

Don is facilitating the creation and operation of our new Environmental Issues Committee. I invite each of you interested in personal involvement in the Committee or in receiving updates from the Committee, to join us in this very important Division initiative. Join me in welcoming Don to the League, the Division, and in helping us more effectively act on important Minnesota conservation issues. My best, Barry



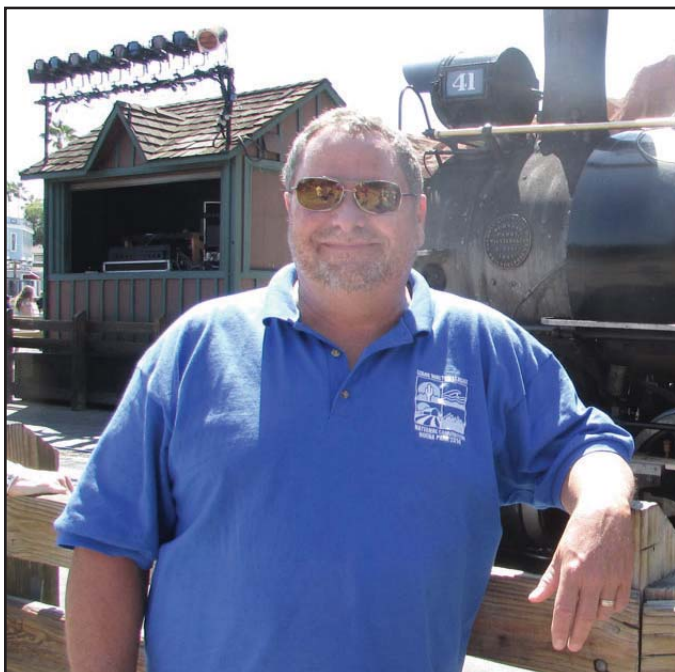
*Experienced environmental advocate Don Arnosti has joined the Ike issues team and explains the increasing emphasis on issues.*

## A Time for Vision, A Time for Action

By Don Arnosti

Richard J. Dorer was a man of vision and action. More than 60 years ago, this Ike understood the value of vanishing wetlands, and set out to Save Our Wetlands. His enlistment of Izaak Walton League members and other allies resulted in what today is Minnesota's 1.4 million acre Wildlife Management Area system.

Despite this lasting contribution to conservation, we face many further challenges in Minnesota today. Our woods, waters, and wildlife are under threat from decreasing funding (Wildlife Management Areas), unsustainable use (ground water, mining, urban sprawl), and pressures to develop resources for short-term economic gain (School Trust Lands). Meanwhile, the consequences of a changing climate are ignored by many people who increasingly have little time for outdoor activities from which a conservation ethic grows.



Minnesota Division President Barry Drazkowski at Knotts Berry Farm during his trip to the Ike's National Convention. Photo by Gary Schwartz.

-continued on page 2

*A Time for Vision a Time for action continued from page 1.*

## Future Plans

Inspired by the vision, focus and actions of an earlier generation of Ikes, the Minnesota Division Board voted at our August Board meeting to embark on an ambitious plan to expand the ability of Ike members in Minnesota to make a difference for conservation. I am pleased to be working with my long-time Ike friends and conservation allies as we together identify strategic conservation priorities, and act on plans to conserve our natural resources.

We are asking chapters and members to nominate issues for priority attention. The Division is reforming our Environmental Issues Committee to investigate and to discuss these issue nominations and then provide recommendations to the Division Board for final decision. We will all work on priority issues together, to make a bigger difference in Minnesota. We are seeking to fulfill our Izaak Walton League mission (protecting woods, waters, wildlife, soil and air) while focusing on strategic issues where our leadership can and will make the conservation difference. As Richard J. Dorer did, so long ago.

To be effective in conservation advocacy, the Ikes need you. We need your ideas, your passion and your energy to succeed. In addition, we need your friends, your neighbors, your children and your grandchildren. We will succeed in gaining their attention, their passion and their energy, if we make progress on issues of importance to them. Our approach to supporting our 17 local chapters leads through increased conservation advocacy. People want to join a successful organization that is making a difference on issues they care about in their community. It is that simple.

Please join the Division Environmental Issue Committee, a statewide network of Ike's chapter leaders and members who are focused on making a difference. You can join and help from the comfort of your own home, by sending messages from your computer or phone, or by getting out to meetings in your community or across the state, your choice. If you are on Facebook, please "Like" the Division page, to stay connected with our work and to easily pass along our information to your friends and family. Please contact me with questions, comments and to join the EIC committee: [donarnosti@gmail.com](mailto:donarnosti@gmail.com) or 612-718-3626. We will communicate regularly via phone and email, and will work together to protect our waters, woods and wildlife, for our children, and their children's children. I look forward to hearing from you!

The "MNIKES-EIC" (Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League - Environmental Issue Committee) list serve is designed to be an internal conversation platform for Izaak Walton League members in Minnesota to discuss conservation issues openly and honestly. We encourage respectful dialogue and postings of relevant information. We believe that our Division advocacy will be strengthened by multiple opinions and perspectives, and request that all participants respect that these conversations are designed for internal use, and should not be shared outside the list serve. **Please join in our important work!**

## Dedication to Issues Makes for Tough Paddling.

While they are no strangers to long, backcountry canoe and dogsled trips, outdoor instructors and nature lovers **Dave and Amy Freeman** are taking this next 2,000-mile sail and paddle personally.

The **2014 National Geographic Adventurers of the Year**, the Freemans currently are traveling from Ely to Washington, D.C., a journey of 2000 miles that will take 100 days, hoping to stop along the way and inform people about the dangers nonferrous metals (sulfide mining) may pose to the water, fish, animals and plant life.

To date, the Freemans have traveled 11,647 miles by canoe, dogsled, and on foot, educating 85,000 students along the way. Their route will take them from Ely to Grand Marais, sail to Duluth, to the south shore of Lake Superior into Lake Huron and on to the Killarney River then a voyageur route to the St. Lawrence to Montreal, to Lake Champlain, the Hudson River and gradually to the Potomac River and Washington. In Washington the Freemans will submit a petition with signatures of people they met along their journey who oppose mining projects in northern Minnesota. From the **Cook County News Herald**



*Ben Hren*

# Notes from the Minnesota Division Summer Board Meeting & Workshop

August 1 and 2 found Minnesota Ikes gathered at the Summer Meeting held at the Breckenridge Chapter's lovely chapter house and grounds on the Mississippi River in Brooklyn Park.

**Friday evening** get together over pop, beer and snacks provided some time and space for lively issues discussion and socializing. Kristen Peterson was acknowledged for winning the National IWLA Scholarship (see page 4).

**Saturday morning** was devoted to the Summer Board of Directors' Meeting with a variety of topics addressed. Some of the important discussions and actions are noted.

- A National IWLA Endowment Grant of \$2500 to McCabe Chapter for stream gauge work.
- Jill Crafton reported that it is important that chapters get involved in local water organizations
- Awards Chair Gary Schwartz reminded members and Chapters to check the awards application sheet on the Division website as a guide to nominating Ikes and citizens for awards for environmental work in 2014.
- Breckenridge Chapter member Dick Brown was presented his Tobin Award.
- Mark Owens reported on GreenStep Cities.
- Environmental Issues Committee discussed. Detailed information on page 2.
- New member 50% off of national and division dues approved for the 2015 membership year.
- Discussed Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) plan. (see article on this page)

**Saturday Afternoon** the group took in a lecture and a tour of the Coon Rapids Dam and its renovation given by Kim Nowich of the Three Rivers Park District. The Dam spans the river between Brooklyn Park and Coon Rapids. It is currently being renovated by the DNR in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District. The renovated dam will play an important role in combating the threat of invasive fish species on the Mississippi River as well as making much-needed improvements to extend the life of the dam.

## Scientific & Natural Areas' Plans Revised

The Department of Natural Resources has decided to not implement most of its proposals to expand recreational activities such as hunting, trapping, and dog walking at 10 of Minnesota's 159 scientific and natural areas (SNAs). The decisions were based on the results of a legislatively prescribed process for obtaining and considering public input prior to modifying allowed uses on existing SNAs.

The state's Scientific and Natural Areas protect rare native plant communities, habitat for fish and wildlife, undisturbed natural shoreline and unique geological features. These often small parcels of land have been minimally impacted since post European settlement and therefore hold some of the state's more rare vegetation and wildlife communities.

The DNR had proposed loosening restrictions at 10 of these specially designated wild areas in hopes of boosting public support and funding for more land acquisitions. In recent years, funding for the SNA program has declined. Instead, based on the feedback, the DNR decided to make no changes to existing uses, with two exceptions: At Lake Alexander in Morrison County and Minnesota Pine Point in Duluth. "The process worked as intended," said Peggy Booth, the DNR's SNA program supervisor. "We thought the proposed changes could provide public benefits while still protecting the natural resources, but we asked for input and most people told us they didn't want changes in these areas." Ikes agree with the decision and will monitor the welfare of state SNAs.

*Touring the Coon Rapids Dam from left to right:*

*Bill Barton, Jill Crafton, Mark Owens, Barb Owens, Pat Danielson, Steve Schaust, Kim Nowich, Cherry Schwartz, Don Arnosti, Terry Houle, Noreen Tyler, Pat Lindgren, Stan Danielson, Bob Scheierl, and Dick Brown.*

*Photo by Gary Schwartz.*



# IWLA Scholarships

Costs of college educations are sky high. Most young people need financial help and the Ikes help fulfill those needs with scholarships on the local, state and national levels, all for students engaged in some area of natural resources. The Minnesota Division has for many years offered scholarships financed by the Silent Auction held at each Annual Meeting and run by Cherry and Gary Schwartz and with donations. The Division had \$2,000 to disperse this year:

## Minnesota Division Winners

**Laura Merten** who is majoring in Natural Resources and Wildlife Management at the University of Minnesota-Crookston received \$1,000. She plans become a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, preferably working with top predator mammals or raptors.

\$500 stipends went to **Amber Huse** who is majoring in Environmental Studies at Concordia College and **Jennifer Soltys** who is majoring in Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering at the University of Minnesota. Amber's goal is to find a job in environmental science. If that doesn't happen, she plans to apply to graduate school researching pine marten and fisher populations in northern Minnesota. Jennifer plans to work with the Minnesota DNR and other organizations to resolve issues that affect the environmental health of Minnesota.

This year the scholarship committee awarded a special scholarship funded by and named for the **Minnesota Valley Chapter**. They awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship to **James Hansen** who is majoring in Wildlife Research and Management. He attends the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. His career goals are to acquire a position as a wildlife biologist with a natural resource agency and to hold a position in a conservation organization such as the IWLA.

This year's Minnesota Division Scholarship Committee consists of Chair Cherry Schwartz, Gary Schwartz, Jill Crafton, Stan Danielson, Nancy Henke and Nancy Dolphin. **We thank them heartily for their work.** Applications for the Minnesota Division scholarship program are available at [minnesotaikes.org](http://minnesotaikes.org).

## Breckenridge Chapter Scholarship Program

The Breckenridge Chapter has now given 67 five hundred dollar scholarships in 16 years of their program. The main source of funding is an endowment fund established through the generosity of members. Here are their 2014-15 winners.

**Kristen Peterson** now has won Ike scholarships on local, (Breckenridge Chapter), Minnesota Division (2013) and National levels. She was awarded her National Scholarship of \$2500 at the Division Summer Meeting by Cherry Schwartz and Mark Owens. Following 2015 graduation from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Environmental



*Minnesota Division Vice president Mark Owens congratulates Kristen Peterson on winning the \$2500 Izaak Walton League of America Scholarship.*

Sciences, Policy and Management, Kristen plans to narrow her field of interest by working in the “real world” to find the area in which she is most enthusiastic.

**Karin Sather**, a graduate of Champlin High School will be a senior at St. Olaf College. After recently taking an environmental modeling class she is leaning toward a career in environmental modeling. Last April she talked to Breck Ikes about her summer travels in Alaska, China and Siberia where she was working on stream carbon cycling and greenhouse gas production.

**Kaelyn Williams** is completing her sophomore year at U of M-Duluth and is majoring in Outdoor Environmental-Recreation Education. She has taken a trip abroad in Southern Belize where she is studying mapping for conservation and cultural preservation.

**Jack Madsen** graduated from Andover High School in June and will be attending North Dakota State University where he plans to major in Microbiological Sciences. Away from school he is an avid hunter and fisherman and member of several outdoor organizations.

The scholarships from the three levels of IWLA have different requirements but all focus on education for natural resources careers. The Minnesota Division requires resume of personal environmental experience, essay on philosophy of conservation, financial need, recommendations and more.

Former Division scholarship winners choose natural resources careers.

## What a variety of jobs!

A 2006 winner was **Laura Silva** who is currently at the Minnesota State Energy Office in the Conservation Improvement Program unit. This is the unit that reviews utility conservation plans and provides technical assistance in achieving the State's 1.5% energy conservation goal. She is currently on a work group with IWLA representative Eric Jensen of the Midwest Office.

**Bryan Wood** who was awarded Ike scholarships in both 2003 and 2004, reports that he is the Co-Executive Director of the Audubon Center of the North Woods, a residential environmental learning center located in Sandstone. Besides managing the Center, he teaches college field courses that are offered at Audubon.

Currently serving as the Assistant Area Wildlife Manager out of the Sauk Rapids MN DNR office, is 2001 and 2002 scholarship recipient **Nick Snaveley**. Nick has held that position for three years.

In 2009, **Sarah Lesnar**, a 2008 scholarship winner, took a job with the Land Stewardship Project, a rural, member based non-profit with the mission to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture and to develop sustainable communities. Her work is in the Policy and Organizing Program in which she works with their members on factory farm issues.

A P R O U D M E M B E R O F



## NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

Minnesota Ikes attending the July National Convention in Anaheim, CA included MN Division President Barry Drazkowski of Winona Chapter, MN Division Treasurer Jill Crafton of Bush Lake Chapter and Cherry and National Director Gary Schwartz of Owatonna Chapter.

Most national officers were reelected but in an upset victory Jill Crafton was elected to the Executive Board, the body that runs the affairs of the organization between conventions. Congratulations to our new National Director who is busy with her multiple responsibilities.

Owatonna Ikes Cherry and Gary Schwartz had significant roles at the convention. Cherry served on the Environmental Education Committee, accepted the chapter award for the Defenders Plaque and also took home the hardware for the MN Division scholarship winner Kristen Peterson who garnered an additional \$2500 from a National Scholarship. Cherry also carried the two chapter votes for all the official deliberations. Gary delivered the invocation for the opening session, served on the nominating committee for the Executive Board, reported the final details of the Wood Duck House project to the Endowment Board and carried the MN Div. National Directors vote for discussion and motions.

Resolutions were passed without discussion. The Ikes went on record to support a "Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, a shift to 'clean, renewable energy' by 2030, immediate replacement of the Mackinac Straits Pipeline and to monitor non-conventional oil and gas operations. We voted to oppose the artificial enhancement of game species' genetic characteristics and requested that state agencies withhold permits from sulfide mining operations that threatened wetlands and other natural resources.

A full recap of the convention can be found on the national website: [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org).

## Suggested Reading for IKES

**FIRST FIGHT Bud Heinselman and the Bounary Waters Canoe Area, 1964-65.** A major article in the Summer issue of *Minnesota History*, quarterly publication of the Minnesota Historical Society, features Minnesota Izaak Walton League leader and forester Bud Heinselman and the strength of League. For the first time in the BWCA debates Heinselman brought up the ecological and scientific values of saving the remaining virgin forest from logging. Ike Kevin Proescholdt, currently conservation director for Wilderness Watch, has told the early behind the scenes story of action during 1964-65. Get yourself a copy of the quarterly and read about Ike actions to protect Minnesota's old growth forests.

### **Wilderness History of Early Paddlers**

During the summer Jaques Chapter member John Henricksson published his seventh book, *Over the Portage, into History*, that takes readers way back to the voyageur and fur trade era. The focus of the history is on eight little known adventurers who explored by paddle the vast million and a half square mile wilderness of the Hudson Bay watershed.

In the nearly 200 years of the fur trade (1650 to 1840) there were never more than 3,000 people in this huge region, mostly Indian, French, English and Scottish and later a few Americans, yet it produced millions of dollars in furs and was the largest dollar volume industry in the western hemisphere. You can order this book at: [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) price is \$11.95.

# ✓ Chapters Check In

Each year as a fundraiser for scholarships for their Izaak Walton League Camp at the Deep Portage Learning Center, the Cass County Ikes put on a Spaghetti Feed. This year the feed was held July 12 in Hackensack.

In July **Bush Lake Chapter** did a massive shoreline planting of colorful and beneficial native plants to their naturalized shore land areas. These are critical for improving lakeshore wildlife habitat, preventing soil erosion and protecting water quality.

The **Minnesota Valley Chapter** has been busy working with local volunteers and youth on special conservation projects at the chapter. They also had a visit this summer from Keith Halper, an Indiana Regional Director and his family. Jill Crafton and Stan Danielson hosted a morning visit to Minnesota Valley and Bush Lake chapters. Halper's two teenagers are interested in archery, and the 16-year-old daughter, Dakota, is also much into nature and was busy snapping photos of the creatures encountered along the way. They had spent a whole day at the Mall of America and were going to visit the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge headquarters. (have photo).

The **Breckenridge Chapter** built a new river walk at their chapter house with the help of chapter members and employee volunteers from Best Buy. (photos). On August 26 the chapter presented Joanna Eckles and **Project BirdSafe**. In 2006, Joanna Eckles began working with Audubon Minnesota to study bird-window collisions and develop a program to address the problem, a significant source of bird mortality. Project BirdSafe is now a core part of Audubon Minnesota's mission to conserve birds in urban areas, not just in the state but across the country.



*Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter's new boardwalk stairs and deck. Photo by Barb Franklin.*



*Don Hoppe (front) and Chapter President Jack Fitzgerald working hard in the kitchen making spaghetti for the Chapter's annual fundraiser. Photo by Kristi Loftis.*

The project involves monitoring existing buildings, researching species affected locally, influencing the design of new buildings and encouraging the retrofit of problem buildings while increasing awareness of this problem and the development and implementation of solutions. In addition Chapter members organized meetings regarding the recreational use of Scientific and Natural Areas and also attended the DNR public meeting on Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) reporting that the meeting was packed with pro-development and anti-government representatives. **Check SNA article on page---**

**Austin, New Ulm and Owatonna Chapters** have all participated in their respective county fairs. The Owatonna Ikes at the Steele County Fair had booths and the best popcorn around for \$2.00! The Chapter's Rip Roar'n Rummage Sale is coming up Sept. 19 and 20. All kinds of outdoor equipment is available such as fishing tackle, other sports equipment and landscape tools. W.J. McCabe Chapter took part in a Chester Creek Restoration & Protect Event/Tour on June 25. Members and the public learned about the stream restoration and protection plans for the Chester Creek Watershed. The tour featured a portion of the creek that was damaged during the June 2012 flood.

# Bakken Oil: Impacts on Minnesota

by Craig Sterle, W. J. McCabe Chapter

*This is an excerpt of the article. To read the full article which includes maps of the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline development go to: [www.minnesotaike.org/Issues.html](http://www.minnesotaike.org/Issues.html). If you are unable to access the internet, you may contact the MN Division office to have a copy mailed to you.*

On August 1st, 2013, I was rattled from my relatively comfortable retirement by a letter from Enbridge Pipeline Company, saying they wanted to put their newly proposed Sandpiper Pipeline through our property. The proposed line would run just north of our home, and would bisect all four of our forties. It took my wife and me completely by surprise. In the intervening twelve months since then, we have learned more about pipelines, the permitting process, and environmental activism than either of us ever imagined.

We immediately bonded with these like-minded families to form the Carlton County Land Stewards (CCLS). Enbridge had an existing corridor several miles to the north, known as their Mainline, which held six existing pipelines, including the recently completed Alberta Clipper.

As a group, we collectively thought that any new oil should be shipped along this existing corridor. The Sandpiper however was designed to leave Clearbrook, MN and go due south, toward Park Rapids, MN, where it would then turn more southeasterly, passing through Aitkin Co. near Sandy Lake, and at McGregor it would turn to run due east through the center of Carlton County. The proposal would attempt to utilize existing pipeline and electrical utility rights-of-way, but would still involve significant development of right-of-way in "greenfield", i.e. undeveloped woodland, wetlands, lakes, rivers, and farmlands.

Out in the Park Rapids area and at the White Earth Reservation, the proposal stirred concerns about contamination of the surface waters when a spill occurs, and the impact this would have on tourism and wild rice production, contamination of the aquifer which sits in a region of porous sandy soils, and the impact this would have on wells for municipal and private drinking water supplies, as well as on the \$500,000,000/year potato industry which depends heavily on groundwater irrigation.

For the Ikes there is much to be concerned about with the creation of a new pipeline corridor. Already Enbridge has proposed moving and expanding the capacity of Line 3 from their existing Mainline to the new Sandpiper corridor. Line 3 has been the source of numerous spills over its life, including our state's largest spill of 1.7 million gallons near and into the LaPrairie River in Grand Rapids in 1991.

These pipeline utility corridors eat up forests and wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams, fracture contiguous blocks of wildlife habitat, introduce invasive terrestrial plant species, and through hydrostatic testing of pipelines, could inadvertently lead to the spread of aquatic invasives. I could go on, but you get the point. Our state has been, and will continue to be sliced and diced by all kinds of utility corridors. While no one project will likely lead to the sudden downfall of our environment, much like our loss of wetlands, prairies, and grasslands, we are suffering a death by a thousand small cuts.

## Fall Workshop & Board of Directors'

to be hosted by the New Ulm Chapter.

**October 31 - November 1, 2014.**

Keep an eye out for registration and a complete outline of events in your email. Only Directors and Chapter presidents without email will receive their announcement via postal mail.

In an attempt to look at the broader picture, to consider the cumulative impacts, and to better plan for the tsunami of energy corridors in our near future, I have initiated a conversation with the Environmental Quality Board and several legislators, to consider the need for a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). If a GEIS is developed, it will likely take two to three years or more to complete. In the meantime, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will continue to do the best they can to deal with the situation. I don't envy them for their level of responsibility and the workload that they are shouldering. Not to mention the cumbersome statutes and rules under which they are operating.

Consider this: the Bakken is second only to Texas in oil production, and a good share of that oil travels through MN, presently mostly by rail and some pipelines. The pressure to move crude out of our region, and likely out of the country, could result in significant environmental risk.

The Izaak Walton League has a vested interest in following energy developments over the coming years. We will monitor energy developments as the tsunami of pipeline requests build and do our best to protect the natural resources we all cherish by providing informed public comment and by seeking changes at the State and Federal level when necessary to protect our environment for future generations.



Ben Hren



The Izaak Walton League of America

# MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Fall Workshop & Board of Directors', October 31- November 1, 2014, New Ulm Chapter**

**Winter Board of Directors & Strategic Planning, January 30-31, 2015, Bush Lake Chapter**

**Annual Meeting & State Convention, April 24-25, 2015, Prairie Woods Chapter**

## MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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### 2014 Division & National Dues

(Including national dues -Chapter dues are in addition)

Individual \$52.50, Family \$75.00, Student \$30.00, Youth \$15.80

### MIDWEST OFFICE

651-649-1446, [midwest@iwlwa.org](mailto:midwest@iwlwa.org)

## New Member Offer!

The Minnesota Division is offering a **50% discount** on the national and division portions of **brand new member** dues for the 2015 membership year (all new memberships processed after October 1, 2014). In order to qualify for this reduced rate no one in the household may have ever held an Izaak Walton League membership. \*This offer is only for new members who have no prior history of League membership.

Because our national office requires full dues, please process your new memberships as you normally would. Invoice the Minnesota Division for the 50% portion of the new members national and division dues along with corresponding names, addresses, phone numbers and of course email addresses.

\*This offer does not include the chapter dues portion of membership. The goal of this special offer is to get 1000 new members who will be active on conservation issues and help breathe new life into our Chapters and the League. Please contact the Minnesota Division office if you have any questions. Send all invoices to: Minnesota Division IWLA; 2233 University Avenue W, Ste. 339; Saint Paul, MN 55114