



WALTONIAN

Izaak Walton League Camp at Deep Portage Is a Winner!

Deep Portage Learning Center located in Cass County near Hackensack hosted the first Izaak Walton League Camp July 25-30. The program was open to campers 9-16 and parents or grandparents and received many rave notices. A grandpa camper, Jaques Chapter Ike **Jerry Fahrman**, was one of four adults and 23 youngsters to attend the camp. He writes, "My grandson **Kyle** received a scholarship from **Jaques Chapter** to attend the camp."

Here are 14 year old Kyle Fahrman's camp impressions. "My experience at Deep Portage Learning Center was a new experience but an enjoyable one. I tried a lot of new things I have never done before, like fly fishing, shooting rifles, archery, orienteering and going on a long canoe trip. I also liked meeting new people I had never seen before and it was very interesting to get to know their different interests and personalities. It was also great to spend time with my grandpa and do all these activities with him because I never get to see him that much. I hope to do it again soon."

Grandpa Jerry Fahrman continues his description of the week's activities. "The camp started with an introduction to Izaak Walton and who the Ikes are. Division President **Curt Leitz** played the part of our organization's namesake and was aided by Cass County President **Jerry Fitzgerald** and Secretary **Jack Fitzgerald**.

"The camp leaders were excellent and enthusiastic, and safety was always the first thing on their minds. The building of team work was among our first lessons with the camp staff acting as models.

"They kept us very busy, and electronic distractions were not allowed. We had an overnight camp and cook-out. We had survival training, even had a field test involving the building of a fire (one match provided) with which we boiled water, and built a shelter from whatever we could find in the woods, for protection from the elements (one tarp provided). We got some classroom instruction and field experience in orienteering where we learned to use a compass and topographic map to find markers in the woods. Safety was always uppermost in our instructions. Walkie talkies were used to check in with finding our orienteering markers, or not.

"We swam, canoed twice, shot rifles, shot both recurved and compound bows, threw hatchets at a log end, tied flies and learned how to cast with a fly rod (OK, now it is for



Campers practicing their archery skills. Photo by Jerry Fahrman.

us to practice and learn). We did fish printing, sampled aquatic invertebrates to try to determine the relative numbers of pollution sensitive to non-sensitive invertebrates (water canaries). We attempted a very challenging climbing wall and everyone set their own goals as to how high and how difficult."

Grandpa Jerry continues, "I attended the camp because it offered many outdoor experiences that I would probably never have any other way. This was a great introduction to the outdoors with both classroom and our own experience as teachers."

Another Camping Family Reports

"We had bonding, togetherness and relationship building we had never experienced before for the three of us," Ike **Ernie Waldron** comments on his three generations of family campers: grandson Nate, son Matt and granddad Ernie.

"Food and accommodations were great. I have over 30 years of Scouting and camping experience and cannot remember a week at camp that was this much fun since I was 11 years old on my first trip to Scout camp. When it comes around next year, I really encourage campers to sign up for a fantastic experience in the woods." (The **New Ulm Chapter** provided three scholarships to the camp.) **Thanks to Dale Yerger for organizing the camp!**

Notes from the Summer BOD Meeting July 25 at Deep Portage

A motion was passed to sign on to an Audubon sponsored letter to the DNR Commissioner regarding dissatisfaction with the process for the proposed first sandhill crane hunt in Minnesota which is to be held September 4 to October 10.

The Division needs to keep looking for potential donor contacts to provide for Minnesota Environmental Fund staff. A major part of our Minnesota Division IWLA funding is from MEF so this voluntary workplace giving program is vital to our budget.

Bill Henke and **Dave Zentner** will serve as the Policy Resolutions Committee for another year. Wetlands Summit 2011 planning progress report by **Jill Crafton**. The 2011 Summit received a \$1,600 grant from the National Endowment and a \$1,650 grant for developing a video of the 2010 Summit.

National Convention Notes

By MN Division President Curt Leitz

The 2010 National IWLA Convention was held the week of July 12 outside Hershey, Pennsylvania. Tuesday night's traditional "Early Bird" mixer and fundraiser provided an opportunity to greet old and new friends hot off the road: the weather was steamy, but the beverages cold and the hors d'oeuvres satisfying. **Cherry Schwartz** donated a wild black raspberry pie that ignited a bidding war among several Pennsylvanians, but a familiar Minnesota Ike came in late and snatched up the purple prize. Curt Leitz did end up sharing a piece with Pennsylvania Division President **Adam Hostetler** out of sympathy!

Wednesday's business included reports from national officers, the Chair of the Executive Board Roger Sears, and national Executive Director David Hoskins. The morning's highlight, though, was keynote speaker **Larry Schweiger**, National Wildlife Federation C.E.O., who gave a thoughtful and provocative presentation on global climate change. The afternoon's business included meetings of eight resource committees, where Ikes with a particular interest in or experience with key issues discussed and debated resolutions pertaining to those issues. These conservation conversations are the core of our work as Ikes, and it was inspiring to see people from across the country roll up their sleeves to address a broad variety of environmental challenges. Wednesday concluded with the "Parade of States," in which each state delegation showed its hospitality in its own down-home way. The Minnesota Division again served root beer floats which were keenly anticipated by Ikes from around the country.

Thursday's business included the Board of Directors' meeting in the morning and a number of workshops in the afternoon, but Isle Royale National Park Superintendent **Phyllis Green** stole the show with a riveting presentation on her efforts to protect Isle Royale's fisheries from Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia. Green knew she'd be speaking at the luncheon but did not realize that she'd be presented with a National Honor Roll award prior to her presentation. She deeply appreciated the recognition, and conventioners deeply appreciated her fearless leadership in protecting waters from the spread of invasive species.

Friday's business included elections, voting on resolutions and reports from various resource committees. Representatives of the Youth Convention presented on their activities during the week which included visits to local caves, nature centers, and a zoo. The youth convention is a fabulous program that engages kids in hands-on conservation activities and active outdoor fun each day of the national convention. If your children or grandchildren accompany you to the convention, they're sure to beg you to take them again the following year!

IN MEMORIAM - CALVIN F. FREMLING

Ikes were saddened to hear of the death of Cal Fremling, 80, who was an active member of the Will Dilg (Winona) Chapter of the IWLA. Fremling died on August 12, 2010 of a pulmonary embolism complicated by pulmonary fibrosis and is survived by his wife Arlayne and son Mark.



Cal Fremling

He served in the army in ecological research during the Korean War. After receiving his doctorate in zoology in 1959, Fremling had a long academic career including teaching two dozen different biology courses as a professor of biology at Winona State University. He authored or co-authored 47 publications concerning aquatic ecology especially of the Mississippi River. His comprehensive book *Immortal River: The Upper Mississippi in Ancient and Modern Times*, was published in 2005 by the University of Wisconsin Press.

Fremling was recipient of the Minnesota Division IWLA 2009 Sigurd F. Olson Conservation Award for his continuing contributions to conservation, which was presented at the 2010 State Convention.

President's Letter

By MN Division President Curt Leitz

Building a Biome

This past summer I had the opportunity to return to the landscape of my youth, the jagged bluffs and sprawling backwaters of the Mississippi River valley along the Minnesota/Wisconsin border.

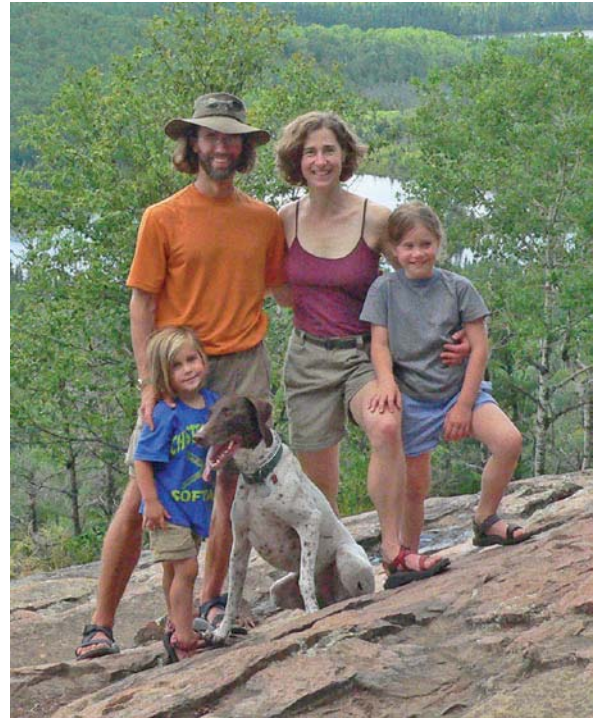
My family and I rented a houseboat for a week to attend an extended family reunion in Lake City. Relatives from across the country shared my awe and reverence for the Big River, and I afflicted them with all sorts of stories about my early adventures on those waters. We had a few new adventures together, and we all returned home with new appreciation of these storied waters.

My own new appreciation centered on the power that a place can hold over someone, even decades later. I feel extremely fortunate to live in Duluth, on Lake Superior, surrounded by forests and rivers and streams. It's a particularly beautiful part of the world, and over the last five years it's become home. I crest Thompson Hill, look out over the estuary and the harbor and the lake beyond, and I know I'm home.

In contrast, when I return to the town in which I grew up, I feel an odd mix of familiarity and strangeness. The streets and buildings are largely the same, but I've forgotten some of their names and the businesses within have changed. It still feels like a home, but its changes are jarring and unexpected because I haven't been back much for nearly twenty years.

Not so, I discovered, out on the river. The sandbars and cuts shift more quickly than any town can, but these movements build into rhythms and flows that are constant over time. I was stunned right back to the wonder of being eight years old, trolling the channel for walleye, and suddenly spilling out into the miles-wide expanse of Lake Pepin. I was drawn back into memories of spring spearfishing in backwaters, of watching prehistoric gar cruise flooded marshes while herons stalked the shoreline. I was pulled back to a sense of awe and mystery that adult life too often lacks.

This river, along with its bluff lands and side-valley spring creeks, is my home biome. Duluth is now my home city, and I love its rock-strewn streams cascading toward the lake, but the verdant islands and endless backwaters of the Mighty Miss will always



Minnesota Division president Curt Leitz enjoying an outing with his family.

touch me in a way that other beautiful places can't. I caught my first fish, paddled my first canoe, and bivouacked for the first time on this river. I hadn't realized just how alive these decades-old experiences were for me until I had the opportunity to once again be intimate with those waters.

My connection to other landscapes, other biomes, can never be intimate in the same ways that my early connections with the Mississippi valley are. I've begun to gray in the years since. I hope I'm a bit wiser, but I know I'm a bit more cynical. And I wonder: if I hadn't had early opportunities to splash and play, to fish for bluegills and hunt for frogs, would I be able to connect with the natural world as an adult? Would my analytical and somewhat cynical mind find wonder in the woods?

For the sake of our future, for the future of this planet, I hope the answer is yes. I suspect, though, the answer is no—and that's why I regularly kick my daughters out of the house for an afternoon, turning them out into the forested creek gorge down the street. It's their home biome.

Up the Gunflint Trail: Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center

by Julie Henricksson

Planning a trip “up north” to catch some fall color? There’s a new destination to add to your wanderings up the Gunflint Trail. Opened July 4, Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center is a jewel to be discovered 55 miles north-west of Grand Marais at the end of the Gunflint Trail. It is well worth the drive.

Housed in an historic stone lodge that used to be a popular fishing resort, Chik-Wauk was purchased by the U.S. Forest Service following founding of the BWCA. The lodge now holds fascinating exhibits that tell the tales of the Gunflint Trail’s past. The building is perched on a hill overlooking a sheltered bay of Lake Saganaga where fishing boats used to dock. Five hiking trails of varying length and difficulty wind through the woods and wetlands that radiate from the museum. Formed only five short years ago, the Gunflint Trail Historical Society leased the building from the USFS, and volunteers renovated it, raised nearly one million dollars and shed a lot of sweat to create the eye popping museum.

As visitors enter, a floor to ceiling diorama of native animals dominates the room with moose, bear, chipmunk, marten, owls and more. Across the room is a glass case enclosing a variety of native fish and the lures used long ago to catch them. The Native American heritage is captured with a collection of beaded artifacts, then an interactive grouping of the area’s voyageur days starts with the beaver and ends with the beaver hat that made trapping part of the early economy.

In the room facing the lake, small paned windows offer a grand overlook to the towering fire touched hills across the bay. Lumbering and mining history is recorded in displays. Videos of Trail characters and resorts can be clicked on to listen to stories of the olden days. Another section showcases rooms from a long-ago lodge, boat house and fishing dock. A reading corner features books and other reading material about the area and by local authors. The picture wall includes people from the region’s past to the present. Topics of three longer videos include Voyageurs, Justine Kerfoot and trail history. Back at the entry is the gift shop which offers locally hand made goods along with the souvenir mugs, shirts and such. There is an entrance fee of \$2 a person or \$5 per family.

An added attraction could be sighting of a female moose with her calf which wander the woods and wetlands surrounding the museum. About 150 visitors arrive each day and leave with rave notices. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm daily until October 17 when the museum closes, but the hiking trails remain open all year long. If you cannot visit this fall, the museum will open again Memorial Day weekend 2011. Information at 218-388-9915 or www.chikwauk.com.



Moose mom and calf wander Chik-Wauk territory. Photo by Les Edinger.

Division Scholarship Winners Announced

Two students, **Jessica Curry** and **Jordan Dybvig**, will each receive \$750 from the Minnesota Division Scholarship Fund to complete their work in natural resources related programs, both graduating in December 2010. Jessica, who is from New Ulm will complete her Wildlife Management Program at University of Minnesota Twin Cities and hopes to work in restoration work. She has already had hands-on experience in shallow lakes research, invasive species and wildlife rehabilitation. Jordan, who is from Cambridge, will complete his Outdoor Recreation Program at University of Minnesota Duluth with a degree that trains students to educate others about the environment. He has had experience with the National Park Service in this area. The Ruth M. Saari Scholarship was not awarded this year.

Where Are these Former Scholarship Winners Now?

The Minnesota Division has been offering natural resources scholarships for several years. What are these former scholarship winners up to these days? Here is a sampling of answers to this question from former recipients. Check out the variety of natural resources related jobs these scholarship winners now hold. All thanked the IWLA MN Division for funds to help fulfill their career choices. Donations from members and proceeds from the Spring Convention Silent Auction provide funding for the scholarships. Other donations are most welcome.

A 2002 scholarship winner **Danny Weber** is currently the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist in charge of the NCRS Farm Bill Program in Cook, Lake, St. Louis and Carlton Counties. Dan writes, "I remember the day I received the scholarship. I was in a financial bind not knowing what to do next when I walked out to the mailbox and found the scholarship check. The timing could not have been better. Your scholarship helped me to stay in school focusing on my education instead of worrying about how I was going to live. Consequently I was able to maintain better grades that I believe played a major role in being offered a position in the USDA. I am very grateful to have received your scholarship award."

Bryan Wood reports, "I received the scholarship two years in a row (2003 and 2004). It allowed me to complete my undergraduate degree in Outdoor Education from the University of Minnesota Duluth. I am now the Co-Executive Director of the Audubon Center of the North Woods, a residential environmental learning center located in Sandstone. Besides managing the Center, I teach college field courses that we offer here."



New Ulm Chapter and Der Deutsche Longbeards Chapter NWTF members pause for a photo during a day of hard work, planting over 500 trees.

"I have achieved my goal to obtain a job as a Naturalist," reports **Crystal Wold** (2005 winner) who since graduation in Environmental Education with a minor in Recreation Resource Management at the University of Minnesota has been an Interpretive Naturalist for Three Rivers Park District in Elm Creek Park at Eastman Nature Center. "At ENC I teach preschoolers to adults various topics such as water quality, weather, pond study, ecology, wild edibles and cultural history with maple syruping, snowshoeing and apple cidering. I also serve on the board of the Minnesota Naturalist Association and chair the Naturalist Training Committee and coordinate five free training sessions per year for volunteers and naturalists in Minnesota." (Learn more about former scholarship winners in the Winter *Waltonian*.)

Minnesota GreenStep Cities Launches!

By **Michelle Schroeder, Director at Large**

The GreenStep Cities website is live, with full interactivity planned for fall 2010. See if your city is already planning to participate. Check out www.MNGreenSteps.org.

On July 29th, the Wes Libbey Grand Rapids Chapter hosted two MN GreenStep Cities seminars. **Shirley Loegering** and **Art Norton** did a beautiful job of facilitating two successful seminars at the Grand Rapids library.

It was heart-warming to see the number of people who attended, among them residents and officials from Grand Rapids and LaPrairie; President and Students for Sustainable Agriculture from UMD Duluth; the Director of Itasca Business Development; Hibbing's CED Coordinator; Grand Rapids, Virginia and Bemidji sustainability taskforce members; and comprehensive planning committee members.

continued on page 6.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities continued.

The attendee who drove the farthest distance was a Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) energy services representative from Rochester. With 44 attendees and 10+ presenters and organizers, it was a full house. The SMMPA representative has asked us to speak about MN GreenStep Cities in Lake City and St. Peter. Publicity was supportive.

Art Norton of the Grand Rapids Wes Libbey Ikes' Chapter moderated, **Philipp Muessig**, MPCA Sustainable Communities Coordinator, provided a GreenStep Cities overview, and **Bill Mittlefehldt**, NE CERTs coordinator, highlighted the importance of becoming more sustainable and discussed area projects. Topics included a storm water update, available Community Investment Program funding, and rebate programs. I wrapped it up by discussing different working groups throughout the state, encouraging attendees to harness their own personal energy to get involved in making their communities sustainable. Feedback was positive.

Generous funding assistance was provided by the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission, Minnesota Power, and the Blandin Foundation.

Chapters Check In ✓

Randy Newman of the **New Ulm Chapter** reports, "On Saturday, May 15, volunteers from the Der Deutsche Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and the Izaak Walton League of New Ulm planted 500 bur oak seedlings, installed fabric weed mats, and tree-tubes on River Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located on the KG Road in New Ulm. The United Farmers Cooperative in Lafayette donated a bobcat with an auger



Austin Chapter 10 members hard at work planting at the Mill Pond Raingarden Project. Photo by Dave Cole.



An Eagle Scout candidate attacking buckthorn at Izaak Walton Creek. Photo by Gary Scwhartz.

attachment for drilling holes for the seedlings. This project was the 12th habitat project New Ulm Chapter has conducted. Since 1997, they have planted almost 16,000 trees and shrubs and installed fabric weed mats to reduce competition from wildlife.

Austin Chapter 10 is a partner in the \$17,000 Austin Mill Pond Rain Garden Project - 2010 which will improve water quality of the Mill Pond. The chapter is also involved in the Mower County Fair, non-point source pollution, monitoring for E-coli bacteria, purple martin restoration, shoreland restoration high school environmental classes and sixth grade education projects.

Busy Summer for Chapters

Owatonna Chapter has been cooperating with an Eagle Scout candidate to work in Izaak Walton Creek (Hammann city park). An early August weekend found 15 Scouts, parents and Ikes out cutting buckthorn, picking trash and placing rocks in washouts to stabilize the banks. The Scout needs 100 hours for his project and he has about 75, Gary Schwartz reports.

Cass County Chapter's major summer project held on August 7 was their third annual Shoreland Buffer Zone Expo with a full menu of presentations, workshops and informational exhibits. And, of course, their participation in the first Izaak Walton League Camp at Deep Portage was part of their summer.

McCabe Chapter (Duluth) Outdoor Youth Expo was held at Hartely Nature Center on May 5th in Duluth and was open to kids ages 7 to 17. The youngsters learned about various outdoor pursuits like orienteering, geo-caching, fly fishing, stream habitat, song birds and other non-game species. Safety is greatly stressed with the U.S. Coast Guard and local medical personnel participating.

Fall Workshop to Combine Forest History and Division Business-Grand Rapids, Wes Libbey Chapter to Host October 23-24 Event

Enjoy a glimpse of logging of yesteryear with a day long program which includes viewing historical displays, gobbling a logger's breakfast, touring the Minnesota Forest History Center and learning about forestry in Minnesota.

Happy 101st Birthday to Wes Libbey!

Saturday, October 23, at Forest History Center

8:10 - 8:30: Registration

8:30 - 9:30: Logging camp lumberjack breakfast (catered) in cook shack and interpretation by FHC staff.

"In order to cut and haul lots of pine in the woods, the logging camps fed their workers well. The morning started with the sound of the cookie's horn, whereupon the workers jumped into their old woolen union suits and sprinted to the dining hall. Hardly a word was said as they concentrated on eating a calorie-laden hearty breakfast of sweat pads, sow bellies, mush sinkers, jam, logging berries, black jack, swamp water and cold chunks that were so gigantic that no person could finish them so just the cold chunk holes were served. You will get all of this and more for breakfast."

9:30 - 10:30 Logging camp walking tour by FHC staff

10:30 - 10:45 Welcome and introduction to Forest History Center by staff

10:45 - 12:30 Welcome by Chapter President Dave Alban and Fall Workshop program

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch catered by Barb's Korner Kitchen

1:30 - 5:00 Fall Workshop program

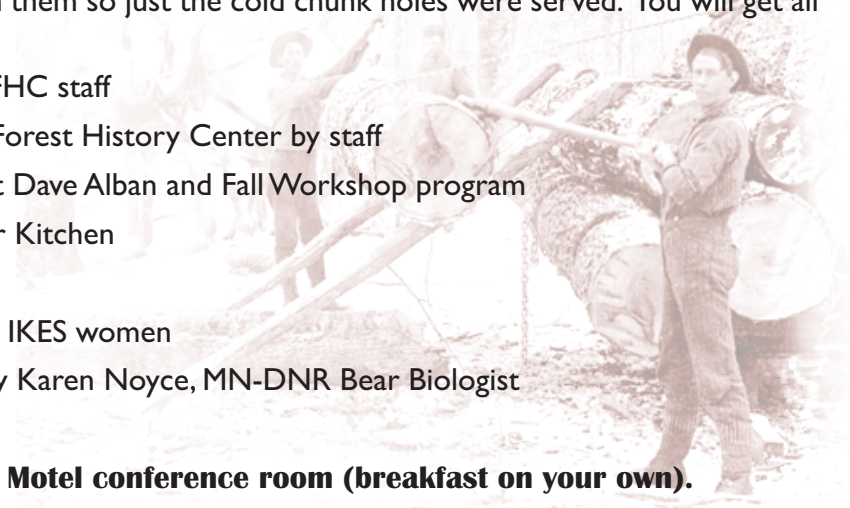
5:00 - 6:30 Wild foods supper by our local IKES women

6:30 - 8:00 Program on Minnesota bears by Karen Noyce, MN-DNR Bear Biologist

8:00 - 9:00: Social and discussion

Sunday, Oct. 24, at Grand Rapids Super 8 Motel conference room (breakfast on your own).

8:00 - Noon: Fall Minnesota Division Board of Directors' Meeting (must adjourn at noon or before).



IKES FALL WORKSHOP AND DIRECTORS' MEETING REGISTRATION FOREST HISTORY CENTER, GRAND RAPIDS, OCTOBER 23 SUPER 8 MOTEL, GRAND RAPIDS, OCTOBER 24

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Enclosed \$20/person for _____ registration(s). Total enclosed \$ _____ I'll pay on arrival _____

Enclose check made out to Grand Rapids Wes Libbey Chapter and U.S. mail to Jay Janecek, IKES Treasurer, 23900 Underwood Road, Grand Rapids MN 55744 by Oct. 10.

If you have any special dietary needs, please note on registration form.



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

161 St. Anthony Ave., Ste. 910, St. Paul, MN 55103

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Time Dated Material

2010 - 11 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

October 23-24, 2011 — Fall Workshop and Board Meeting, Grand Rapids Wes Libbey Chapter hosting

January 22-23, 2011 — Winter Board of Directors' Meeting, Bloomington REI, Bush Lake Chapter hosting

April 15-17, 2011 — Convention and Annual Meeting, Duluth, W. J. McCabe Chapter hosting

July 11-15, 2011 — IWLA National Convention, Des Moines, Iowa

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MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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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

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The Minnesota Division Scholarship Fund Needs Your Support!

The Minnesota Division Scholarship Fund could use your help as the funds have become depleted.

Please send a donation now to:

The Minnesota Division, IWLA

161 St. Anthony Ave., Ste. 910

St. Paul, MN 55103.

Please put "Scholarship Fund" in the memo line. You may also designate to the "Ruth M. Saari Scholarship", which is specifically geared to students in Environmental Education. For information about how our scholarship helps students, please see page 5.