



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA

WALTONIAN

AT THE STATE CONVENTION APRIL 24-26

Awards Were Many and Well Deserved, Presented at the Saturday Evening Banquet

Three Sigurd F. Olson Distinguished Conservation Awards were given for outstanding contributions statewide to the preservation of our natural resources. Only given to an organization for the second time, **McCabe Chapter (Duluth)** was honored as having combined all the best of the conservation ethic with an organizational model that has built a strong voice in the region.



Award winner John Lindgren of McCabe Chapter at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

Darby Nelson of the Breckenridge Chapter currently serves on the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council which recommends how funds gathered under the Legacy Amendment are used. Nelson is an educator and scientist who has combined his knowledge and observations to enlighten thousands of students and citizens.

Grayden West of the New London Chapter has expertise in the areas of outdoor ethics, wetland protection and energy generation and works on local and state matters with an intensity that comes from knowledge and self education.

Two membership awards were announced. **The Dr. Shouse Percentage of Increase** went to Rochester and W. J. McCabe Chapters with a 27 percent increase. Thirty new members gave the **Membership Numerical Growth Award** to W. J. McCabe.

The **Ed Franey Outdoor Writer and Conservation Media Award** for special efforts in environmental education honored Dennis Anderson, outdoor writer and columnist for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Anderson had won the award twice before and was cited for leading the excellent Minnesota conservation press in building support for passage of the Legacy Amendment.

John Lindgren of the McCabe Chapter was winner of the **Walter J. Breckenridge Environmental Education Award** as was Division Vice-president **Curt Leitz** of the McCabe Chapter.

Two Minnesota Division Presidents were given **IWLA Distinguished Service Awards** for special and continuous service to the Minnesota Division: **Steve McNaughton**, President 2002-03 and outgoing **President Rolf Nordstrom**, President 2007-09.

And last, but not least –

Who received Sigurd Olson Award in 1989? Who received a National Distinguished Service Award in 1978? Who was National IWLA President from 1975-77? Who was born in a duck blind? (Actually this one was not true, but the others are!) **DAVE ZENTNER**, of course Zentner was honored with a special award, a lovely sculptured wooden wood duck, that cheered him up following back surgery. Zentner's passion and determination to pass dedicated funding for natural resources will be his legacy. He has been a forceful conservationist, inspiring speaker, a rare talent and a real, humble and untiring leader.

We wish to thank **Char Brooker** for her hard work in chairing the Awards Committee. She says she is up to the challenge again next year because it's fun to say, "We appreciate your work" for the organization. Get your awards nominations in early.



Awards Chair Char Brooker presents a Sigurd Olson Award to Graden West, New London Chapter.

Return to Maplelag for State Convention

Ikes arrived at Maplelag, a lakefront resort near Detroit Lakes, Friday afternoon, April 24, in a mix of rain/snow that displayed April's fickle side turning dirt roads into mud. The resort, conference center, ski resort and Spanish language camp offers a huge lodge with dining hall and a raft of meeting rooms to accommodate at least 300. Visitors are housed in an eclectic group of buildings from mini-lodges to railroad cars – take your choice. The warmth of host Mary Richard's welcome overcame the weather's nasty contribution.

Friday Evening

Following Maplelag's traditional Friday evening spaghetti dinner Bill Henke, former Minnesota Division president and Detroit Lakes Ike leader, welcomed the group to help celebrate Prairie Woods Chapter's 50th anniversary. Ikes were last at Maplelag in 2002.

Host Mary Richards chronicled the history of her family and the resort: pothole blasting, land purchase, maple sugaring, resort building, language camp location, destruction by fire in 1999, huge rebuilding project resulting in today's lovely enclave on the shore of Little Sugarbush Lake. Night and day loon calls included.

The first reading of the four resolutions and one position paper were made.

Saturday Morning

Vice-president Curt Leitz urged chapters to make use of the newly issued Chapter Manual from the National IWLA which is an excellent tool box to help improve chapters and answer many organizational questions. (Excerpts from this guide will be highlighted in this and upcoming Waltonians. See p. 3)

Communities Built to Last – Sustainable Cities

Phillip Muessing of the Pollution Control Agency spoke of the GreenStep Cities Program that will increase sustainable practices among Minnesota cities. These are expected outcomes: 1. Cheaper to operate buildings. 2. Ecological infrastructure. 3. Cleaner water, air, etc. 4. Lower cost to government, business, education institutes and citizens. 5. Healthier citizens. 6. Transportation connecting jobs and housing. 7. Local food production. 8. Local renewable energy production. 9. More local green jobs.

Vance Zehringer, General Manager of Elk River Utilities, backs up examples of his city's work that has earned it the moniker "Energy City." His city is visited by groups from all over the world who want to see the demonstrations of sustainable practices Elk River has in place, many of which have been operating for years. Some are: garbage to fuel for 18-19 years, cow manure from 900 cows to electricity to serve a large farm and 75 homes, LEED buildings, demonstration house, photovoltaic systems, wind power generator 218 feet high, landfill gas to electric power. Currently Project Concern has 35 families signed up to accomplish five goals to reduce all kinds of energy usage over five years. It is a showcase city set up to help others learn that it can be done.

Saturday Afternoon

A bright sunny day offered a chance to get outside to visit two nearby wildlife areas. First was a trip to Sucker Creek Preserve, 64.24 acres of natural woods managed as a Detroit Lakes city park. And it is all the dream and dedication of one Prairie Woods Ike, Sally Hausken, who put the park together. from land purchase, fund raising, and planning which have occupied Hausken for ten years. But what wonderful payback for all that work. An asphalt trail leads to an amphitheater and other trails are spread about the property which is on the non-lake side of South Shore Drive of Detroit Lake.

The second visit was to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge where some Ikes took off on foot to explore the area near the Visitor Center and others chose to follow a car route. Wildlife galore was easy to spot from cars because the dirt roads run close to lakeshores: ospreys, eagles, ducks, trumpeter swans, loons, a porcupine high in a tree and five deer bounding off in a meadow. Water from overflowing wetlands lapped at the road edges.

Saturday Evening

Silent Auction and Awards Banquet



Convention attendees gather before an afternoon hike. Photo by Julie Henricksson.

Silent Auction Offers Not So Silent Action

They did it again! Put on an elegant Silent Auction to entertain convention goers and earn money to fund Division Scholarships. Cherry and Gary Schwartz have it down to a system: soliciting auction items, lugging many across the state, preparing bidding sheets and tickets, displaying the sale items, counting the proceeds and on and on. It is a huge endeavor for which all who benefit from the event say, "Many Thanks!"

Cherry announced the evening's total as \$1,162 with \$3,643.73 now in the fund. The booty that bidders took home included baskets of goodies, handmade items, books and note cards, an eclectic collection of items.

We thank Bill Henke and all his helpful Prairie Woods Chapter members who made the weekend run so smoothly. Great planning and accommodations.

New Chapter Manual Is Toolbox

All chapters have received this valuable gift from the National IWLA, a Chapter Manual chock full of goodies to help local chapters run efficiently and successfully. Division Vice-president Curt Leitz calls it a toolbox for chapters to dip into for advice on all kinds of group management. Sections included in the book are: League Leadership, Membership Growth and Retention, Conservation Programs and Projects, Outdoor Recreation and Activities, Communication and Marketing.

Each issue the Waltonian staff will select a topic and print some guides offered by the Chapter Manual. This issue will focus on suggestions for **recruiting new members**, a goal that many chapters emphasized during discussion at the State Convention.

Unit III of the manual gives information on League background and member campaigns. It is important to develop a plan for using recruitment methods: person to person is the best and working in teams is suggested. Direct mail solicitations, special events and promotions can be productive. It is important that when you get a new member, you orient the person to the organization. Keep the new member involved. The manual offers a list of ways to stay in touch with those new members and keep them interested

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOPS-

The One Nearest Minnesota Ike Members

The National IWLA is presenting a series of chapter leadership workshops based on the new IWLA Chapter Manual. The League encourages each chapter to send at least two members to the workshop on Saturday, August 1, 2009, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Gander Mountain in Lakeville, MN, 16861 Kenyon Ave., Lakeville. (Pre-register by June 30.) For further information: www.iwla.org/chapters or call (800) IKE-Line ext. 236.

Notes from the 2009 Annual Meeting, April 26

1. The updated Minnesota Division Strategic Plan was adopted as a guidance document for the Division.
2. Minnesota Environmental Fund. We need more employers to agree to environmental withholding to gain points for MEF funding.
3. Following discussion the Convention recommended to the Division BOD to support the dues increase, starting with the year 2010 with \$2.50 to go to the general operations and \$2.50 to the Legacy Fund. The measure will be voted on at the Summer Board of Directors' Meeting.
4. Owatonna Chapter will host the 2010 State Convention and Annual Meeting April 10-12.
5. The future of the annual Wetlands Summit was discussed. There are many other areas where we could concentrate our energy. No decision was made. A motion was adopted to empower the Division to apply for IWLA Endowment funds up to \$3,000 for a state-wide conference sponsorship.

Congratulations to Division Officers for 2009 - 2010

President – Curt Leitz – McCabe
Chapter (Duluth)

Vice-president – Larry Dolphin – Austin Chapter
Secretary – Gregg Thompson – Bush Lake Chapter
Treasurer – Jill Crafton – Bush Lake Chapter

Directors At-large

Bill Barton – Breckenridge Chapter

Char Brooker – Jaques and Wapasha Chapter

Donna Dustin – Prairie Woods Chapter
(Detroit Lakes)

Cherry Schwartz – Owatonna Chapter

Michelle Schroeder – Minneapolis Chapter

These members took office June 1, 2009.

Three Resolutions Adopted at Annual Meeting

1. Opposition to Conveyance of DNR Lands Sale Proceeds to the General Funds
2. Add Adjacent Parcels of Land to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness
3. Complete Statewide Rulemaking for Minnesota's Shoreland
4. A resolution for Management of Membership and Dues by the National Office of the IWLA was tabled.

A position statement on Sulfide Mining in Minnesota that requires generous "up front" financial assurance from mine operators for post closure environmental damage cleanup and restoration costs that ensue, affirmed a Minnesota Division stand on Sulfide Mining.

Chapters Offer Ideas to Attract New Members

These pages offer examples of a variety of steps chapters can take to recruit new members

Events

Last summer **Cass County Chapter**, located in the heart of lake country, hosted a Shoreline Buffer Zone Expo at Deep Portage Conservation Reserve. The event provided property owners with specific practical information to plan and execute a shore land buffer zone installation, maintain and monitor their septic systems and manage potentially polluting water run-off.

An Open House at the **Schunemann Wildlife Preserve** on May 21 showed off the almost 100 acre wetlands/uplands that Jaques Chapter owns. The property is located in Washington County north of White Bear Lake and is fondly dubbed “The Marsh.” With the help of BWSR the wetland



Owatonna Chapter sponsors conservation projects for their local High School.



Children and adults participate at a workshop at the Bush Lake Chapter. Photo by Gregg Thompson

is being revitalized as a wetland mitigation site. Trails wind through the upland where a shelter is a great gathering spot offering a broad view of the wetland. A prairie is prospering on the gradual slope down to the wetlands where there are several ponds, trails, a viewing blind and picnic tables. Invitations to the event were distributed at a local environmental fair to let the public know about this great hiking and bird watching facility. Hopefully some will become IWLA members.

Conservation Education

Breckenridge Chapter has a positive reputation for holding monthly Social/Educational meetings on timely conservation topics that can draw an audience and potential members.



Jim Arnold of the Breckenridge Chapter holds a young eagle to be tested for contaminants on chapter owned Banfill Island.

Issues

The League's actions on local and state issues attract new members.

This description of support of Dedicated Funding is by **Terry Dorsey of Austin Chapter**

The success of the Vote Yes campaign statewide was truly amazing. There were volunteers from all over the state trying to clearly convey the nuts and bolts of The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to Minnesotans. In Mower County there were Vote Yes signs everywhere, many public forums, and editorials supporting the amendment. Our



Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter members visit the Schunemann Wildlife Preserve, a Jaques Chapter project. Photo by Charles Talfin

local Austin Chapter membership voted unanimously to support the amendment. Editorials were then written supporting the amendment on behalf of the Austin Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. There were two members of our chapter that provided extraordinary effort and leadership. Merlene and Jim Stiles were passionate and worked very hard. Merlene was our go to local source that provided the facts on the amendment to organizations and to whoever wanted to listen. She also was our source for the publicity distributed by the state wide campaign. When Merlene asked you to do something, no was not acceptable. Jim, a well liked and respected businessman, was not far behind in conveying the importance of a successful Vote Yes campaign.

Mower County was one of the state leaders with 64% voting yes. Austin precincts were 67-74% voting yes. The grassroots efforts worked. The "wild ones" as well as all of us will benefit from the exceptional effort made state wide in the Vote Yes campaign. It is a success story that will be written in the land we preserve, the water we clean, the parks we perpetuate, along with the arts and culture we nurture.

"WE DID IT!"

McCabe Chapter received two Membership Increase Awards at the State Convention. Could the chapter's action on fighting to stop VHS from invading Lake Superior be an issue that encouraged citizens to join the Ikes?

Chapter Facilities

Many chapters own chapter houses or other facilities that are used by the group and also rented out to the public. This access to meeting places can also draw new members. Chapters such as Red Wing, Owatonna, Bush Lake, Minneapolis and Rochester have buildings, some of them rented to the public as event sites. The New Ulm Chapter has its shooting range which gives local hunters a site for practice.

Food

Special food events give members a chance to talk membership as well as raise funds. Austin Chapter's four annual steak fries draw loads of citizens who savor a broiled steak. Cass Lake Chapter held a spaghetti dinner the evening before fishing opener and Breckenridge Chapter is noted for its early May pancake breakfast.

Personal Contact

Bring your friends, neighbors, family to chapter meetings and events with the enthusiasm of Gary Schwartz.

Wes Libbey Turns 100

A special Grand Rapids Rotary Club Birthday Party to honor Wes Libbey was held June 8 at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids. We congratulate Wes on his many, many years of conservation work and wish him the best from the League. The Grand Rapids Chapter now bears his name.

A Winner Again

Among the 2009 IWLA National Conservation Scholarship recipients is Philip Potyondy, a young Ike from Minneapolis, who is a Forest Resources major with an Urban and Community Forestry Emphasis at the University of Minnesota. He has won the Minnesota Division Scholarship several times and is a Gopher State At-large Ike member.

A PROUD MEMBER OF



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Rolf Nordstrom

Minnesota Division President

Thank You!

How time flies. My two years serving as your division president came to a close at the State Convention last month at Maplelag Resort, when we unanimously voted in a new and very capable slate of Division officers who will take over June 1, 2009. Please get to know them all, and let them know what issues you care about and how you would like to pitch in.

I have only been involved with the Ikes for 6 or 7 years, but my sense is that much of the most important work gets done at the local level by local chapters. Yet, to make real progress on some issues - and to make change at the scale that is needed on a finite planet that will soon be trying to accommodate the needs and wants of more than 9 billion people - more of us need to engage at the state and national levels of our organization as well. A strong democracy requires engaged citizens willing to get their hands dirty, and the Izaak Walton League is no different. For any of you who have considered getting more involved at the state division level, or even nationally, I would strongly encourage you to do so. You will find it rewarding.

I have not always been the president that I had in my mind's eye when I signed-up. But there are two accomplishments that I hope will leave a lasting positive mark:

First, the division now has a formally-adopted 5-year **Strategic Guide** with a handful of very clear goals for the organization and measurable objectives and specific strategies for accomplishing each of them. This may seem like a meaningless paper exercise to some, but if used often and well, this document can help keep all of us focused on our highest aspirations and lead the Minnesota Ikes from being a good organization to being great. I call it a "guide" because anything that hopes to "plan" the next five years is bound to be wrong. Instead of a static plan collecting dust, this document needs to be a living, breathing guide and touchstone throughout the year, subject to adjustment every January. It is meant to inspire "strategic thinking and doing." I invite all of you to get a copy from the Division Office (it's not long!) and to review

it for things to which you might like to contribute your skills and expertise.

Second, what began as the Sustainable Community Challenge under our former president, Dr. Bill Henke (thanks Bill!), has now emerged as an extraordinary opportunity for the Izaak Walton League to help shape the way entire communities grow and develop across Minnesota. Thanks to the energetic volunteerism of Michelle Schroeder, Jill Crafton and others, the Ikes are poised to play a key role in the development and beta-testing of Minnesota's statewide **GreenStep Cities** program. This initiative promises to do for whole



Minnesota Division President Rolf Nordstrom and Donna Dustin, Prairie Woods Chapter at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

communities what the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification standard has done for buildings, giving communities the tools they need for sustainable management of energy, water, waste, land use, transportation and more. This is an opportunity for your chapter to work with your town, city or county on lasting solutions to many things that make meaningful conservation difficult! If you are interested in learning how your community can participate, contact the Division office, and check-out progress at: www.mngreensteps.org.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Division's Board of Directors for the honor and privilege of getting to know them and being inspired by them. I would especially like to thank Office Administrator Noreen Tyler for her tireless, behind-the-scenes efforts to serve the cause of conservation and for keeping this incredibly dedicated group of volunteers pointed toward true north. My best to you all.

Izaak Walton League Summer Board of Directors' Meeting

Deep Portage Conservation Reserve — July 17-19, 2009

2197 Nature Center Drive N.W., Hackensack, MN 56452

All are Welcome!

Friday – July 17th

Afternoon arrival: anytime after 3:00 pm.

Informal Social Gathering (sponsored by the Cass County Chapter)

No evening meal provided

Lodging and tent camping available

Saturday – July 18th

8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Board of Directors' Meeting
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Campus Activities
	Hiking, Canoeing, Birding
	(Guided by Deep Portage staff)
4:00 pm	campus available for further exploration
5:00 pm	Social Gathering
5:30 pm	Dinner

Lodging and tent camping available

Sunday – July 19th

8:00 am
Breakfast and Departure



Overnight Camping

(\$10 per night)

Lodging at Deep Portage (\$20 per night)

Saturday Program Fee: (\$15 per person, includes breakfast, lunch, & program)

Dinner on Saturday: (\$7 per person)

Breakfast on Sunday: (\$5 per person)

Please contact Molly to make your arrangements.

(218) 682-2325 or portage@uslink.net

Reservations are appreciated by July 6th



Judge Rules VHS Threat Not Imminent McCabe Chapter May Appeal

On March 12, the McCabe Chapter learned that the lawsuit they filed to prevent Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) from reaching Lake Superior had been dismissed. Judge James C. Rosenbaum ruled that his court does not have jurisdiction over the spread of VHS, and he ruled that the McCabe Chapter lacks the right to sue because VHS has not yet appeared in Lake Superior.

Following the judge's ruling, the McCabe Chapter informally sought two second opinions. The chapter believes that the judge was factually wrong to rule that they lack standing to sue, and they are requesting permission to file for reconsideration of the ruling. An appeal may follow.

Many Ikes from around the state—indeed, around the country—have supported the McCabe Chapter's efforts to prevent VHS from continuing to spread via ballast water. Never before have so many people understood the role that ballast water plays in spreading aquatic invasive species, and never before have so many groups pushed for treatment of ballast water to kill hitchhiking organisms. Despite this legal setback, the McCabe Chapter will continue to push for effective cleanup of all ballast water—not only through the courts, and through the executive and legislative branches of government.

By Curt Leitz



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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MEETING and EVENT CALENDAR 2009

July 17-19 - Deep Portage (Cass County Chapter hosting)

July 21-24 - IWLA National Convention, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

October 24 -26- Fall Workshop and BOD Meeting (site to be announced)

April 10-12, 2010 - MN State Convention and Annual Meeting (Owatonna Chapter hosting.)

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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2009 DIVISION DUES

(Including national dues -Chapter dues are in addition)
Individual \$43.50, Family \$64.00, Student \$23.00,
Youth \$10.00

IN MEMORIAM

Former National IWLA

Executive Director Jack Lorenz

The *Washington Post* calls Jack Lorenz a Champion of Environmental Stewardship which he truly was. Lorenz became nationally prominent as an advocate for nature preservation during his 18 years as Executive Director of the IWLA. He died of a stroke on March 2 at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego where he was visiting. He was 69 and lived in Woodstock, VA.

He was a spokesman for the ethical management of hunting, angling and off-road vehicle use and was best known for establishing the League's outdoor ethics program based on the credo, "We must leave our woods, waters and wildlife better than we found them and must dedicate ourselves to inspiring others to do the same. A dedicated fisherman Lorenz completed his goal of fishing in all 50 states.