



# WALTONIAN

## MINNESOTA DIVISION FALL MEETING

**National Visitors** Visiting dignitaries from the National IWLA proved a highlight of the Fall Workshop and Board of Directors' Meeting held October 21-23 at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center located near Lanesboro in southeastern Minnesota. Piggy backing on a budgeted visit to the Midwest Office, Bob Sears, President of the National Executive Board, and Roger Chapman, National IWLA Vice-president who belongs to four Ike chapters, took the opportunity to view the Minnesota Division in action while they were in the state. Plans are to budget for further visits from national officers in the coming years.

They both gathered ideas and made helpful comments based on their experience and background with the National organization. They have learned a lot about different leadership styles from their visits to Divisions and chapters. (Only Minnesota Division's president calls a meeting to order with the hoot of a barred owl.)

Sears and Chapman explained that many chapters across the nation have shooting ranges that attract new members because of those facilities. Some of these chapter rules require attendance and work time to encourage members to become active Ikes with firm conservation goals. Their focus is to educate members to adopt Ike goals and conservation ethics and characterize Ike membership as opportunity and commitment.

Chapman found it very interesting to hear Minnesota Division's issues and discussions. Sears appreciated getting different perspectives in Minnesota such as the focus on the Mississippi River versus Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. They told Minnesota Ikes to make use of help offered by the National Office. Suggestions were to publicize the League by giving gift memberships for friends and family even if they live in other parts of the country and to involve youth. The National visitors called their trip rewarding and great for gathering ideas. Come again!



*Roger Sears, Lee Barthel and Roger Chapman. Photo by Nancy Dolphin.*

## Eagle Bluff, A Welcoming Learning Center

Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center near Lanesboro was the site of our Minnesota Division Fall workshop and Board of Directors' meeting.

Established in 1978, Eagle Bluff has 80 acres surrounded by 800 acres of state hardwood forest land, limestone bluffs, and plenty of wildlife (coyotes howling at night). Its large dorm facilities, spacious dining hall and educational buildings offer facilities for K-12 education, adult and family programs and meeting and event facilities. Other groups used the facilities while Ikes were there. On Friday a school group enjoyed learning about natural resources and over the weekend a group of quilters worked all hours on beautiful designs.

In a large dorm Ikes had accommodations in eight bunk facilities that were divided into two bedrooms of four bunks per room. Each couple had its own accommodations. The dining hall was just across from the dorm, a huge airy room with a view that can seat hundreds for special events for groups. Located on a wooded hill and bluff a few blocks down the road was Schroeder Hall, the original Center and meeting spot for Friday through Sunday Ike gatherings.

Naturalist Tony Fohrenbacher was liaison for the weekend: located facilities, carried baggage, prepared meeting space, taught a class and a hundred other tasks to keep Ikes comfortable. **Many thanks for Tony's thoughtful assistance.**















The Izaak Walton League of America

# MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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## 2011 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

January 21-22, 2012 – Breckenridge Chapter House, Brooklyn Center.

Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter hosting.

April 21-22, 2012 -- Annual Meeting & State Convention, Wapasha Chapter hosting

July 16-20, 2012 – 90th IWLA National Convention – Lincoln, Nebraska

August 2012 - IWLA 90th Birthday Celebration, Twin Cities

### MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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### 2012 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

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## 2012 Watershed Solutions Summit

### March 17, 2012

at Normandale Community College  
Sponsored by Minnesota Division IWLA

Save St. Patrick's Day to concentrate on the latest watershed approach to protect our precious waters.

More detailed information will be available this winter on the Minnesota Division website: [www.minnesotaiikes.org](http://www.minnesotaiikes.org).

Invite your local officials who are involved in water concerns to attend.