



# WALTONIAN

## Minnesota Division Office Is on the Move

The end of August found the MN Division engaged in a move on down the road from the ninth floor of the Kelly Inn heading west to the corner of University and Hampden Avenue in St. Paul to 2233 University Avenue, Ste. 339. The smaller space is more suitable for the needs of what is essentially a one person office. In this economy downsizing will help stretch dollars with a savings of about \$3,000 a year.

The new location offers benefits for those who use public transportation as its corner has a bus stop and is about 1.5 blocks from a planned light rail station. There is a small meeting space available in the building that can be reserved at no extra charge for meetings or for projects. Office Administrator Noreen Tyler has prior rental experience with the landlord and feels confident that any issues that could come up will be addressed in a timely fashion which has not always been the case in the past. She is especially happy to at last have control over the thermostat!

Noreen welcomes visitors who need to call ahead to arrange an appointment and get directions around construction. (651-221-0215) For more information about the Central Corridor Light Rail go to <http://www.metrocouncil.org>



The new location for the Minnesota Division office at the Wright Building in Saint Paul.

## The 2011 National IWLA Convention: GETTING THE BIG PICTURE

By Nancy Dolphin and Gary Schwartz

Attending an IWLA National Convention is the highlight of the environmental year! This year's 89th annual event was held July 12-15 at Des Moines, IA. It is a place to learn, network, greet old friends and make new ones, take a look at the big national picture, plan for the future and have fun. Fourteen Minnesota Ikes were part of the yearly gathering, this year celebrating America's Great Rivers and concentrating on the Mississippi and Missouri.

MN Ikes who attended the National Convention included Dwight and Becky Ault, Larry and Nancy Dolphin, Jim and Merlene Stiles (Austin Chapter), Jill Crafton (Bush Lake), Sally Hausken (Prairie Woods), David Hayes (Grand Rapids Wes Libbey), Gary and Cherry Schwartz (Owatonna), Barb Waldron (Cass County) and Dave and Margo Zentner (W. J. McCabe).

Wednesday morning's Keynote Speaker was Daniel M. Ashe, recently confirmed Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Ashe spoke of the challenges facing efforts to preserve and protect fish and wildlife and their habitats in this struggling economy and the need for organizations like the IWLA and the USFWS to continue to work together. His words to ponder, "It's only impossible if we don't try." See *President's Letter page 4*. *Convention continued on page 2*.



Men attending convention show off their caps.

Photo by Nancy Dolphin.

*Convention continued.*

Committee meetings occupied Ikes in the afternoon. The Parade of States, the Wednesday evening social event of the Convention, found attendees traveling from Division Hospitality Room to room sampling goodies supplied by states. Rootbeer floats, MN Division's perennial offering, was a favorite dessert.

Thursday was filled with the Membership Breakfast, presentations, the Conservation Luncheon, workshops and was topped by a barbecue at the Des Moines Chapter's spacious clubhouse.



*A lone male joins women who display their convention caps. Photo by Gary Schwartz.*

At a Friday morning breakfast, hosted by the Midwest Office each member reviewed their program.

**Brad Redlin** spoke about the Farm Bill and Energy Director **Nancy Lange** recounted the need to continue to decommission old coal plants and replace them with cleaner energy sources. **Paul Lepisto** noted that the unprecedented high water on the Missouri River demonstrated the need for changes in policy and practice for farming and water usage. **Gwen Steele** reviewed her role as Administrative Manager. **Eric Jensen** described efforts to transition utilities from "profit to customer service" by a process called decoupling.

Friday morning's Keynote Speaker was Will Dilg Chapter member **Barry Drazkowski**, Director of GeoSpatial Service at Saint Mary's University who presented Will Dilg's River: Change, Restoration and Future. Using photos and slides, he sketched a history of the Mississippi from the 1800s to the present day. He explained that land surfaces around the Mississippi are more than 2,500 years old and that in the 1890s the flood plain was heavily forested. In the steamboat heydays, 1750 acres were cut each day to keep the boats moving. He showed the locks and dams of 1935 that changed the river and added, "Navigation has a big price for little benefit." Efforts at restoration, begun in the 1970s have been successful, but progress has slowed, the result of a sluggish

## Congratulations to State Chapters

At the Thursday morning Membership Breakfast three Minnesota Chapters received 110% increased Membership Recognition Awards: Bush Lake, Walter J. Breckenridge and Wapashaw Chapters. Gary and Cherry Schwartz accepted the Defenders of Wildlife Award for their Owatonna Chapter.

economy and little political will. According to Drazkowski, "We will never again see Will Dilg's river, but we can protect and restore it."

On Friday, the most important business of the Convention was held. Three resolutions were presented by the Resolutions Committee: Water Quality Trading Programs, Keystone XL Pipeline and Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle (sponsored by the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter and greatly watered down by the Resolutions Committee). All three were passed by delegate vote. The Breckenridge Resolution originally called for phase out of manufacture in five years, sale in ten years and use in fifteen years of lead hunting and fishing equipment. There was considerable discussion and controversy over the resolution because it had been changed by the Resolutions Committee. As a result, Minnesota delegates found it inaccurate, ineffective and no longer in the spirit in which it had been written. An attempt to table the resolution indefinitely by the Minnesota delegation was defeated as was an attempt to further water it down. Eventually it was passed as it came from the Resolutions Committee.

## National Dues Increase

With much advanced fanfare, a dues increase of \$4 per member was passed after spirited discussion and a roll call vote and will take effect for 2012. The rates will be:

Individual \$40, Family \$60, Student \$20 and Youth \$8. The cost of a life membership was raised from \$500 to \$1,000 and for a Family Life Benefactor to \$1,500. If you wish to become a life member at the old rates, you must do so before Jan. 1, 2012.

# Loons of Chik-Wauk

by Julie Henricksson

The loon, our mysterious state bird, was the focus of the summer at Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center located near the end of the Gunflint Trail and the new destination for Trail visitors.

Museum directors pondered what would provide a learning experience and attract nature lovers to the museum? Loons! An appealing, hand constructed nest was anchored in the shallow bay below the museum building giving visitors a clear view of the loon habitat. Immediately after the nest was in place a pair chose the reedy artificial island as their nesting site. Museum goers watched as the parents produced two eggs and took turns sitting on them for days. (Loon incubation is usually 27 to 30 days.) Then the ever present predators threatened. When both loons left the nest, an eagle swooped in and destroyed the eggs.

Not to be deterred, the loons tried again, a bit wiser. Museum loon supporters added upright branches to the nest which did deter the watchful eagles. Parents patiently attended the eggs for 27 days and on July 15 and 16 the eggs hatched two soot colored chicks. The mother protectively took the babies on their first swim and dive, keeping close track of her new brood. (We watched the learning ritual through a spotting scope.) While the chicks were on the nest, an eagle flew overhead but the little ones were safe under the mom's wings and the mother let out a stern loon warning. The day was spent teaching the youngsters swimming, diving and other loon skills with each foray taking the family farther from the exposed island nest.

Then the family vanished. As loons do, the mother had taken the chicks to a more protected site. Occasionally on windy days the family appears seeking the shelter of the bay. All ready for next year's nesting, a state of the art nest will replace the old. It is a plastic based structure with space for natural plants to grow and places to add tall protective plants. Hopefully these loons or another pair will become an annual part of Chik-Wauk's nature lore.



*Drawing by the late Murray Olyphant.*

# Great Lakes Issues Report

By Jill Crafton, IWLA Great Lakes Committee

The League's Great Lakes Committee continues to be engaged with the threats facing the Great Lakes. The looming threat of Asian Carp entering Lake Michigan from the Mississippi has prompted calls for the Army Corps of Engineers to close the canal entrance at least temporarily if not permanently. Dave Zentner has drafted a letter to John Goss, the Asian Carp Czar for the Obama administration. As committee members have engaged the Corps and other levels of government, it has become apparent that any progress must come from higher levels of government.

Dave Zentner and Jill Crafton have discussed Asian Carp prevention and barrier locations with representatives from other leading conservation organizations and governmental groups to pull together studies and information to guide Corps of Engineers projects.

Ballast Water Treatment is in a holding pattern presently. Threats from legislation to weaken higher state standards are pending. The Division and the Great Lakes Committee signed on to address these threats to states.

The Great Lakes Water Compact. Jill Crafton attended a meeting with the Minnesota DNR, Healing Our Waters members and MEP allies to urge more transparent water conservation policy and implementation development.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement negotiations have been stalled. Members of Great Lakes United are leading the Healing Our Waters effort to monitor the negotiation, participate in comment opportunities on Agreement substance and process.

## Upcoming Minnesota Division Meetings - Save the Dates

by John Crampton, Division Vice-president

**Winter 2012:** The **Breckenridge Chapter** will host the winter 2012 meeting - Saturday and Sunday, January 21-22, 2012. Tentative plans are for a Division strategic planning session on Saturday followed by dinner and an evening featuring a restored copy of a film that famed naturalist Dr. Walter Breckenridge made featuring wood ducks.

**Spring 2012:** The **Wapashaw Chapter** will host the 2012 Annual Meeting and State Convention on the weekend of April 20-22, 2012. Plans may include tours of the National Eagle Center, a tour of the Weaver Bottoms and presentations about the river's critical habitat.



# President's Letter: It's Only Impossible If You Don't Try!

by Minnesota Division President Larry Dolphin

First, I would like to thank **Curt Leitz** for his leadership and hard work on behalf of the Minnesota Division. You could count on him to get the job done and do it well. I hope, along with Nancy's support, we can do as good a job. Curt has indicated that he will continue to play a role on our leadership team. Thanks so much, Curt, for giving of your time, energy, and talent.

Second, I will introduce my family and myself. I have two children, **Amber** and **Ben**, both getting married this year. Amber is a violinist. She plays for small orchestras, weddings, and teaches violin in the Madison, Wisconsin area. Ben works at IBM on a tech support team, and we still enjoy playing together on a slow-pitch softball team in Rochester. I am very proud of both of them. **Nancy**, my wife, my compadre, has just retired with over 30 years of teaching choral music. She will be my editor, computer tech support person, as well as assistant to **Julie Henriksson** with the Minnesota Division *Waltonian*. As for me, I have been the Director/Teacher/Naturalist at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center in Austin, Minnesota for nearly 25 years. I have a bachelors and a masters degree in natural resources, environmental education and nature interpretation from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. I have been an Ike the last 24 years, but the last 10 years I have played a more active role, initially in our local chapter and eventually with the Minnesota Division.

Nancy and I both have identified with the mission of the Ikes and so enjoy the Ike members both at the local, state, and national level. Our members advocate for clean water, clean air, the wise stewardship of the land, and habitat for all. I can't think of anything I would rather do than to advocate for those qualities necessary for all life. It is not only for us but for the next generation, and the wild ones that share this planet with us. Nancy and I will do our best to fight for the conservation values that the Minnesota Ikes so strongly believe in.



*Minnesota Division President Larry Dolphin and his wife Nancy scoop ice cream at the national convention. Picture by Gary Schwartz.*

In the recent political and economic climate, there has been a significant undercurrent at the state and national level to reduce the funds and change the rules to make it easier to pollute our environment without adequate consequences for the polluter. Now, more than ever, every Ike voice needs to be heard locally and nationally on conservation issues. In his remarks, **Daniel Ashe**, Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and keynote speaker at the National Convention, said that these will be challenging times. He also shared a story that really stuck with me about his son, who was injured in a very important football game. His son so wanted to go back in, but his injury was in the chest area and they were concerned about long term damage if he continued to play. He needed an x-ray and approval from a physician before they would consider letting him back in. This meant traveling to a clinic to make the assessment. Ashe didn't think that this was even feasible, considering the time constraints involved. His son said to him, "It is only impossible if we don't try, Dad." As Ikes we all need to find a way to try as hard as we can and help perpetuate a healthy planet. "It is only impossible if we don't try, Ikes." Oh, by the way, to his father's amazement his son was given the OK to play and made it back in time for the beginning of the second half.

# Division Summer Meeting

Ikes returned to Deep Portage Learning Center for the third Summer Meeting on July 22-24 and enjoyed the hospitality of **Dale Yerger** and his staff. A reception was hosted by the Cass County Chapter the evening of the 22nd. Tables were covered with a feast of appetizers that provided a welcome supper for division Ikes and chapter members. Deep Portage is a celebrated Environmental Center on 6,000 acres of managed preserve in a resort area. It has great facilities for environmental education year around, can accommodate 200 overnight and has a host of interesting curriculum activities.

Following a Saturday morning breakfast, the Directors participated in an intense discussion on pressing topics including issues, organization recognition, fund raising and others. Example. The need to increase fishing and hunting



Deep Portage Executive Director Dale Yerger.  
Photo by Nancy Dolphin.

license fees was not enacted this year but will be necessary within two years. The feeling was that the publicity for the increase was not started early enough to do a good job of public education.

An Ike Blitz is needed to make our name and mission better known and attract interest and active members. Important local issues start new chapters and bring in new members. Division focus on three top issues may concentrate action efforts.

Division funding activities are underway. Gopher Chapter members have been contacted for donations with matching goal of \$500. Downsizing the office space will save \$3,000. President **Larry Dolphin** invited all 18 chapters asking them to hold some kind of chapter activity that could raise \$2-5,000 to be dedicated to the Division. Under the direction of **Ruth Saari**, Minnehaha Chapter will hold their annual silent auction this fall and donate the proceeds to the Division.

Austin Chapter plans a canoe trip with a hamburger cookout. What creative plans will other chapters choose?

Afternoon provided free time to hike, canoe, explore the beautiful grounds and check out the Center's sustainability efforts. Following dinner President Dolphin introduced Ikes to the recently produced film *Green Fire*, a new biography of Aldo Leopold which explores his philosophy of the land and its creatures.

# Summer BOD Meeting

Early Sunday morning Ikes met for the Summer Board of Directors' meeting. Reports from Executive Committee, Directors at Large and Committees updated their responsibilities. It is helpful to have natural resources professionals like **Donna Dustin** and **Bill Berg** on hand for current information.

## Some Notes:

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) was funded and supporters will be thanked. The State budget bill was resolved with smaller cuts than the original bill.

Dangers to the environment are side effects of hydro fracking (mining with sand blown horizontally to get out oil or natural gas.) Tar sands mining with Keystone XL Pipeline stretching from Canada to Texas can result in possible environmental damage. Our policy against water trading allows us to take action on that topic. GreenStep action in Austin and a McKnight grant was reported by **Michelle Schroeder**. Great Lakes issues were presented by **Jill Crafton**. (See p. 3.) A grant from National IWLA was received to help fund the 2012 Watershed (formerly Wetlands) Summit titled Water Solutions Summit.

DNR moose research was not funded as was other legislation mentioning climate change. A motion was passed to create a sign-on letter endorsing a research proposal with provision that climate change implications are written into the LCCMR U of M research proposal. (The DNR plan for moose management was released on August 15 and open for comment until September 30. See the plan and make comments at [www.mndnr.gov/moose/](http://www.mndnr.gov/moose/).) Wolf de-listing was discussed. In Minnesota the wolf population is healthy but in the west prejudice against wolves is still strong.

*Many thanks to Michelle Schroeder for her dedication to the Division. She had promised to take notes for Secretary Gregg Thompson and expected to be at Deep Portage on Saturday when plans changed. Sunday morning she hopped in her car and beat it up to the meeting from Minneapolis, arriving with lap top in hand just as the meeting began. That's dedication. Donna Dustin volunteered to take notes at future meetings with advance notice to bring her laptop.*



# ✓ Chapters Fill Summer with Events, Plans for Fall

A sign dedicating the Blackberry Unit of the Itasca County Natural Area Memorial Forest to long time Ike Milt Stenlund was planned and put in place by Ikes Darrel Lauber and Jack Mooty of the **Grand Rapids Wes Libbey Chapter**. Stenlund was a long time League member and had a distinguished career in the conservation field.

The **New Ulm Chapter** held their annual spring highway ditch clean-up, Clanton Cowboy Shoot and is planning a memorial for member and area conservationist Al Mueller who died last January. Alvin was “interested in conservation and the preservation of our natural resources” and was an active member of the League.

Busy as usual, the **Walter Breckenridge Chapter** held a successful Wildlife and Nature Art Show featuring over 55 artworks including photographs, paintings, wood carvings and hand crafted works. John Rust deserves a big thank you for his tireless work making the show such a success. July meeting speaker was John Hickman, the executive producer of the documentary “River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River.” In August Laura Van Riper, terrestrial invasive species coordinator for the Ecological and Water Resource Division of the Minnesota DNR presented a program, “Biological Control of Invasive Species.”

**Prairie Woods Chapter** will sponsor three events at Detroit Lakes and Moorhead in October featuring Dr. Aaron Bernstein speaking on Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity. Bernstein’s research illustrates the dependence of human life on biodiversity with an emphasis upon the local wildlife in Detroit Lakes as well as the medical conditions present in those who may attend his lectures.



*Eagle Scout Devin Alexander and helpers work hard reconstructing the bridge at the Rochester Chapter property. Photo by Tim Alexander.*

## Scholarships Awarded

Two Minnesota Division Scholarship winners will receive \$1,000 each to further their natural resources based educations.

**Luke J. Nichols** plans to graduate from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in May of 2012 and is enrolled in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences. He has chosen to concentrate on Environmental Science Policy and Management with a focus on Corporate Environmental Management. He has an impressive list of environmental oriented activities while in school and plans to attend graduate school at the Carlton School of Business Administration.

The second winner is **William Risse** who is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Risse plans to graduate in 2012 with a major in Land Use Planning and minors in Soil Science and Geographic Information Systems. His future plans include graduate school to study either natural resource planning or landscape architecture with specific emphasis on the creation of more sustainable cities. He is an Ike, a member of Breckenridge Chapter.

The Ruth M. Saari Scholarship was not awarded this year. **Many thanks to Cherry Schwartz for her diligent work in chairing the Scholarship Committee since its inception.**



*New Ulm Chapter members participated in a highway ditch clean-up. Photo courtesy of the New Ulm Chapter.*



# Minnesota Division Fall Workshop and Board of Directors' Meeting

## October 21-23

### Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Lanesboro, Minnesota

hosted by the Austin Chapter

Friday, October 21: Reception 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 22 highlights:

- \* Kenny Salwey, Storyteller - The Last of the Mississippi River Rats (includes the award winning BBC movie on The Life of a River Rat)
- \* Terry Helbig Pictorial/History on the Dorer Forest,
- \* Afternoon field trip into the Dorer Forest
- \* Geocaching Primer
- \* Issues/Advocacy updates
- \* Evening program: **Green Fire-Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic For Our Time**

Sunday, October 23: Board of Directors' meeting:

8:45-Noon - Lunch follows

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Lanesboro is in the heart of Amish Country.

Lodging: Eagle Bluff Dorms (similar to Deep Portage and Audubon Center of the Northwoods)

Registration Fee: \$20

Lodging and meals:

Plan 1: One overnight and three meals and reception = \$78

Plan 2: Two overnights and 5 meals and reception = \$110

(meals include breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday and breakfast, lunch on Sunday)

If you would like sheets for your bunks, there is an additional \$5 charge.

## Fall Workshop and Board of Directors' REGISTRATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ registration and lodging/meals \_\_\_\_\_ persons for Plan (please circle) 1 2

Plan 1 - One overnight and three meals and reception = \$78 add \$5 for bedding

Plan 2 - Two overnights and 5 meals and reception = \$110 add \$5 for bedding

Remember to add a \$20 registration fee per person. and mail form and check to Al Layman, 1205 34th Drive NE. Austin, MN 55912

If you have questions please call Al at 507-437-1297 or the Division office at 651-221-0215. Thank you!



The Izaak Walton League of America

# MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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## 2011 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

October 21-23, 2011 — Fall Workshop and Board of Directors' Meeting

at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Lanesboro, MN —Austin Chapter hosting

January 21-22, 2012 — Winter Board of Directors' & Strategic Planning Session — Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter hosting.

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

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

## MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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Curt Leitz, 218-464-1335, [leit0033@umn.edu](mailto:leit0033@umn.edu) (elected)

Gary Schwartz 507-451-6676, [presike1@live.com](mailto:presike1@live.com) (elected)

Dave Zentner, 218-724-3926, [dzentner@chartner.net](mailto:dzentner@chartner.net) (past national president)

## MINNESOTA DIVISION OFFICE

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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

Administrative Manager: Gwen Steel, 651-649-1446 x10, [midwestoffice@iwl.org](mailto:midwestoffice@iwl.org)

## IN MEMORIAM

From 1978 to 1980 Larry Schultz, a member of Jaques Chapter (then Agassiz Chapter), served as Minnesota Division President. Larry died April 9 and was recognized as a dedicated conservationist. In addition to his long time League membership, he belonged to the Wilderness Society, League of Conservation Voters and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Larry was born in 1937 on the family farm near Osakis, graduated from Osakis High School, received a BA in biology from Luther College and an MA from Ohio State University. Larry taught biology and other sciences for 35 years, 32 in White Bear Lake. He retired in 1995.

Travel throughout the United States, Canada and Europe was a must for Larry and his wife Janet. An outdoorsman, Larry was an ardent hunter, cross country skier, hiker and cyclist and enjoyed these activities even more when shared with family and friends. He is survived by his wife Jan, four children and 11 grandchildren.