



The Minnesota

WALTONIAN

Izaak Walton League of America Minnesota Division • Fall 2018

President's Letter: The Importance of Energy – Part 2

by Minnesota Division President Craig Sterle

As a society built on abundant and cheap fossil fuel energy, we've both benefitted from those advantages, and suffered the consequences for their use and abuse. Emissions from burning fossil fuels have resulted in the release of unregulated levels of CO₂, which in turn has begun to already impact our climate and the world we live in today. Additionally, toxic levels of mercury, particulates, SO₂ (resulting in acid rain), and others have poisoned our waters and the air we breathe, and the fish we consume, harming our health and the environment.

So, how do we wean ourselves off of our fossil fuel dependence? Let's first start at home. Look at your home's energy consumption. Start with an energy audit. Most electric power providers have a program that will provide this service, and there are non-profits that might also conduct an audit in your community. The auditors will identify where your biggest energy drains are occurring. But to begin with, have you installed energy conserving LED lighting, beefed up the insulation in your attic, installed weather stripping to seal our drafts around doors and windows. These are some of the lowest hanging fruit that can quickly and rather cheaply cut your energy loss, and save you money in the near term.

Then, look at the appliances you regularly use, including furnaces, air conditioners, washers/dryers, etc. Are they Energy Star rated, and are they current, or are they costing you energy...enough energy to make it worth replacing them. And, think about the energy vampires in your home. Those appliances that are using energy even when turned off, but in a "ready" mode. The internet service, computers, printers, TVs or home entertainment systems, anything that is plugged and not being used. By putting these on a power surge protector with an on/off toggle, they can be quickly and easily removed from the grid when not in use, again saving you energy and money.

Next, look at your transportation needs. Transportation is the largest user of fossil fuels, in large part because the power grid has improved energy efficiency and developed sources of renewable energy (primarily new wind/solar options). The gold star for lowering fossil fuel consumption and reducing CO₂ emissions is EV, i.e. fully electric vehicles. But even hybrid vehicles are thrifty with energy. For example, our family's Toyota Prius Prime, a plug-in hybrid, has both a gas and electric power source. My wife is averaging about 60 mpg. It can utilize dynamic braking to constantly recharge the batteries, or if the charge is low, it can be plugged into a standard home outlet.



New Minnesota Division staff Piper Donlin (see bio on page 3), Conservation Director Don Arnosti and new Dilg's Defender and Minnesota Division President Craig Sterle at the recent Dilg's Defenders luncheon held at the Nicollet Island Inn. Dilg's Defenders pledge to contribute \$1000.00 or more per year to support the work of the Minnesota Division. If you are interested in becoming or have questions about Dilg's Defender, please contact the Minnesota Division office (ikes@minnesotaiikes.org or 651-221-0215). Photo by Terry Houle.

Continued on page 3.

NOTES FROM THE 2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION *by Division President Craig Sterle*

National Executive Board (E-Board) Meeting —The board hired consultants to review the IWLA's **Name Recognition & Branding**. The consultants conducted a statistical survey sampling areas where the League had a presence. The results were that changing our name and including the phrase “conservation” in our name has no impact on public perspective. Pointing out that Ikes are “Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters, and Wildlife”, was sufficient to increase public trust, allowing the public to know who we are and what our mission is. It is our story and not our name.

The public is restless and need new information frequently or they will quickly lose interest and go elsewhere. Ike websites and social media need to be utilized and updated continually. Be pro-active by publishing regular press releases highlighting Ike activities and accomplishments. These help build name recognition and shows that we are a “can-do” organization. People join or follow the Ikes because of our “results”, and the story that goes with it. We need to tell that story. To be successful, we need more “DOERS”. Reach out to “the willing”. We also need to look at this as a marathon, not a sprint.

Funding was given considerable time. National staff has been trimmed over the past decade, and critical vacancies such as the Director of Development have gone unfilled. Everything is under review to find savings, including expenses incurred at the Mid-Winter BOD meetings and National Conventions. The E-Board and **Executive Director Scot Kovarovics** are working to find new funding sources, including non-member donors, corporate and/or foundation memberships and/or sponsorships, and investing to grow giving. Non-traditional funding sources such as “GoFundMe” and using social media were discussed. National has initiated outreach to over 420 corporations and have asked local Division presidents to be the local face and meet personally with these companies. There are 13 on my list. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it! If you know of companies or foundations in your area, which might be receptive, please contact me at csterle777@gmail.com. Overall fundraising policy is under development which may impact how Divisions like Minnesota raise money.

The Century Society is a new sustaining member program. In recognition of our upcoming centennial in 2022, members agree to a five-year pledge of annual giving with multiple levels of giving. See the iwla.org for details.

E- Board Chair Jodi Labs reported that there are gaps in the national bylaws. Members need more mechanisms to address desired changes in Chapter leadership. Also under review in time for the Mid-Winter Board Meeting are terms such as “for cause” and the language regarding officer duties and responsibilities.

Division Presidents and National Directors are urged to be more diligent about communicating with and visiting the Chapters in their state. (I hope to do that more in the coming months.) The idea is to increase communications flow, assist chapters, and bring information from National and Divisions directly to the membership.

At the **General Session Scott Kovarovics** delivered a very passionate speech on the state of the environment, attacks on our public lands and the bedrock laws that protect human health and the quality of the environment, focusing on the **Clean Water Act (CWA)**. He took exception to new rules proposed or put in place to roll back long held science based precedent, citing a statement from the new EPA leadership that “there is too much science” in the decision-making process. Scott said the CWA was intended to be the floor, not the ceiling for achieving clean water. In addition, he talked about the R3 (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation) Program, to build our ranks with new and often non-traditional hunters and anglers. (MNDNR has been using this program as well). This was in my opinion the most animated, passionate, and intense speech I've seen Scott give.

Continued on page 4.



The national IWLA Defenders Award annually recognizes the most active chapters in the nation. Of the 230 chapters, 45 qualified for the award and 13 were from Minnesota. The Owatonna chapter has received the award for all of the 19 years it has been offered. Only eight (8) other chapters have been so honored. Back row from the left: outgoing National President Jeff Deschamps, Incoming president Kelly Kistner. Front row from left to right: Cherry Schwartz (Owatonna), Jill Crafton (Bush Lake), Gary Schwartz (Owatonna) and Division President Craig Sterle (W. J. McCabe). Photo and caption courtesy of Gary Schwartz.

New Minnesota Division Staff Piper Donlin

Piper is the newly hired UMRI Outreach and Community Engagement Coordinator.

Piper was born and raised on a small farm outside of St. Paul. She was exposed to the ideas of conservation and environmentalism at a young age through her grandfather, Art Hawkins. His encouragement to respect and understand the land had a lasting influence on Piper's life. She attended the University of Minnesota where she received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, Sustainability Studies and Studio Arts. She received her Master's from the University of Oslo in Sustainable International Development. Her research focused on the food sovereignty movement in Ojibwe communities across Minnesota. Since then, Piper has worked as the Outreach Coordinator of Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters and Northeastern Regional Director of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

I very much look forward to joining the Izaak Walton League – it's a great honor to work for an organization with such a legacy.



Piper Donlin

The Importance of Energy continued from page 1.

Compared to the average vehicle on the road, provides a 150-300% increase in energy efficiency. Or looking at emissions, it probably produces one-third to one-half the CO2 emissions as the most common vehicles on the highway (think pickups and SUVs). Is it perfect? Not for all users or applications. But if you are someone that needs seating for four, has storage space to haul the groceries, and doesn't need a large capacity vehicle to haul large, heavy loads, then this is a suitable form of transportation.

And depending on your situation, maybe you don't need to own your vehicle. Can you get by with publically available transportation, ride sharing, a bike, or your own two feet for getting around? If you're an urbanite/suburbanite, owning a vehicle may not be your cheapest, most convenient option. In these times, we have more options than just our grandparents horse. Today's light-rail, electric buses, Uber/Lyft (etal.) ride share options, may be superior, more convenient and economical for the city dweller. And, less polluting. Eventually, EVs, publically available transportation options, and people power (bikers and pedestrians) should reduce the demand for the internal combustion engines, allowing us all to breathe a little easier.

The final segment for major energy savings, and carbon capture, is in our farming practices. By adopting "regenerative agriculture", farmers would use more cover crops, which helps hold the soil in place, thus reducing wind and water erosion; perennial cover crops increased rooting depth and opening up more available pore space, which increases water infiltration and holding capacity, which naturally reduces droughtiness (and thus reducing/eliminating the need for irrigation); retaining cover crops maintains a thriving biotic community, including critical mycelial communities that greatly assist plant roots in absorbing water and nutrients, which reduces the need for petroleum-based fertilizers; and cover crops increase soil organic matter, which again increases soil fertility, water holding capacity, and research is finding that it could reduce the available atmospheric CO2 levels by 30%. This last benefit is huge. A 30% withdrawal of atmospheric CO2 is a very big number. There is little likelihood that under the best scenarios that increasing renewable energy in our power grid and modernizing our transportation fleet to use more renewable power, will come anywhere near that kind of CO2 withdrawal by year 2050. Only a revolution in farm practices, using regenerative agriculture can realistically pull this off.

A side benefit of cover crops? Besides reducing runoff and cleaning up our waters (positively impacting the "dead zone" in the Gulf) cover crops would be a tremendous step forward in restoring wildlife habitat. While we can hardly expect to see the return of our native prairies pothole region, with the untold millions of bison, elk, deer, antelope, ducks, swans, geese, and prairie grouse species, it will none-the-less be a step forward for wildlife conservation, providing food, cover from predators and weather, corridors for movement, and a place to raise the next generation.

Upper Mississippi River Initiative News (UMRI)

We can only imagine what the challenges were that faced Wil Dilg and his Izaak Walton League companions in the 1920s' as they sought to restore and protect their favorite recreational resource just east of the 54 Founders Chicago homes. The "mighty Miss." The challenges must have seemed enormous. Yet they persisted! They were bold enough to vision a refuge along hundreds of miles of river habitat. Today we take those US Fish and Wildlife refuge boundary signs for granted as we use the river. We seldom stop to think that those signs, that refuge, were not always there. The Izaak Walton League was there, the refuge was born!

So it is today. A League vision to return to our roots and to work earnestly with colleague groups and individuals to trim that dead zone at the mouth of the Gulf by being better at what happens to the land and waters in IA, IL, MN, WI. What a ride it has been! Where to? How to? How to avoid reinvention? How to engage our chapter members in effective strategies that seek to attain our national goals of clean water for all the waters of these United States? And more!

We are making progress. Austin Ikes have been among the leaders with their water quality monitoring with a purpose. Moving from measuring pollution in tributaries of the Cedar River, to interfacing with those responsible for administering present standards has been an impressive outcome. Iowa Ike Chapters located in the Cedar River watershed are discussing their engagement as part of their UMRI programming.

UMRI staffing has grown from total reliance on Don Arnosti and volunteer leadership to Piper Donlin, Rachel Leuthard in MN and Ann Robinson in IA. Ann, unfortunately for UMRI has accepted a position as a science writer at Iowa State U. Ann will remain engaged with UMRI as a volunteer. Ann's IA successor will be announced in October! And, we are growing those volunteers!

On September 26th Wabasha and Winona Ikes host a day-long session on UMRI. Joining the event as a UMRI collaborator in the four states will be the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi Region (UMR) project. Check out the new web site. (www.umri.org)

Join UMRI. You will meet new friends; learn about the possible as we continue to seek a more harmonious relationship between producing the food we need and want, financially successful farming, and the League's goals of clean water, wildlife diversity and healthy soils. **Dave Zentner, UMRI Co-Chair, Outreach Coordinator, 218-724-3926.**

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



National Convention continued from page 2

Donkersloot reiterated that the **Clean Water Challenge** (CWC) remains the League's highest priority. Sprouting from this are the rejuvenated **Save Our Streams** (SOS) and **Creek Freak** programs. The **Salt Watch** monitoring program monitoring program (measuring road salt levels in streams) was an instant success last winter. With the awareness surrounding the environmental damage road salt is causing this should be a natural for the MN Division and Chapters. Contact **Danielle Donkersloot** (ddonkersloot@iwla.org) or **Samantha Briggs** (sbriggs@iwla.org) for test kits. This is a very easy, quick test using a litmus paper sampling strip. When you're out testing, be sure to submit a "selfie" to your chapter, division and national Facebook pages and other social media accounts. Danielle recommended using gifts (t-shirts, gift certificates, etc.) to help motivate volunteers.

Danielle, IWLA staff in partnership with our UMRI leaders and the **Water Quality Data Network** are working to connect water information, groups, volunteers and agencies to share their data. The **Clean Water Hub** is being developed. This effort is being run through the **National Water Quality Monitoring Council** to ensure that the new path forward for data sharing and on-the-ground coordination becomes a standard for data sharing between partners, agencies, volunteers.

Only one **resolution** (1!) was submitted for consideration. It asked that we "encourage all right-of-ways managers, both public and private, to prioritize the presence and health of local native plants with their right-of-way management, with the primary goal of such management to support healthy populations of pollinator insects." Submitted by Indiana, and passed by the Convention.

Following the committee vote on the pollinator resolution, there was a meeting of the **Agriculture Affairs Committee**. **Duane Hovorka** gave a rundown on the two versions of the **Farm Bill**. The House bill contained many setbacks to conservation, along with some poison pill bill riders. The Senate version is very close to something we would support. The two versions are in conference committee. Because the two versions are miles apart, this is expected to be a difficult discussion, with no promise of a reasonable solution. Ikes are encouraged to contact their elected federal representatives and ask that they strongly support funding for the kind of conservation measures being offered by the Senate bill. Tell them we support funding to restore clean water, defend Swampbuster, expand/improve buffers on streams, encourage incentives for regenerative agriculture, funding for healthy soils, defend Sodbuster, and finally support funding for wildlife habitat. For more information on specifics, see the IWLA **Farm Bill Agenda** at iwla.org.

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Summer BOD Notes

Attendees relished the chance to get out to enjoy the northwoods. The Summer Gathering and Division BOD was hosted at the Marcell Field Station & Experimental Forest by the Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter. **THANK YOU TO CHAPTER PRESIDENT ROBER SCHEIERL FOR MAKING SUCH AN INTERESTING GATHERING POSSIBLE!**

Division President **Craig Sterle** stated that the Division may review policies such as holding only 3 BOD meetings per year, in order to obtain the best possible ratings of charity watchdog groups. Donors review those ratings and we need to increase funding. This was part of the rationale for adding term limits to officer positions as part of the 2018 revised bylaws.

Clean Water Challenge's goal is to sample water at 100,000 points in the U.S. by 2022. A national database is being created that will include sampling from the Ikes, Trout Unlimited, and others. There is urgency in getting the data management system going because older data is disappearing in various states. Some states such as Iowa are dumping their citizen data sets. This provides a mechanism to save that data while adding our data and that of others.

Water quality sampling is a great way to recruit new members. Recruiting younger people and a more diverse demographic from what we presently have is a high priority. Piper Donlin has been hired to help foster our efforts in this area.

John Hickman has asked to be relieved of his duties as Secretary. **John Crampton** will be filling in as secretary until he stands for election at the October BOD. **THANK YOU JOHN HICKMAN** for serving as secretary and sharing your many talents and wisdom with the Division.

Two phone meetings with chapter members throughout the state were planned to discuss the Minnesota Division's **Energy Program**. The focus was finding ways to encourage our members and chapters to lessen their carbon footprint, take pledges to use some form of renewable energy and for chapters with property reach the desired goal of using 100% renewable energy.

The **Finance/Administration Committee** is working on formal job descriptions for staff. New hire **Piper Donlin** will be splitting her time between UMRI and other Division projects.

Jill Crafton reported on our **Great Lakes** concerns. We oppose weakening of current vessel discharge laws. Efficacy testing of a ballast water treatment system is in progress. The problem of aquatic invasives coming in from the Duluth harbor, and algae blooms in the Great Lakes are also an areas of grave concern. If you have a passion for the Great Lakes, we could use your help representing our Division on the **Great Lakes Committee**.

2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Three candidates were awarded college scholarships from the Minnesota Division of \$2000.00 each.

Danielle Blanchfield grew up in Ely, roaming the woods and wilderness near her home, leading her to pursue an education in Biology and Art at the U of M Duluth. Her goal is to become a scientific illustrator. She wants to use her knowledge of biology and artistic techniques to help build bridges between the public and scientists. T

Alex Franzen is majoring in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the U of M Twin Cities. His long-term goal is to help preserve and contribute to the conservation of aquatic ecosystems and the surrounding terrestrial habitat, educating the public about the value of our natural resources. Currently, he is assisting with research on two types of endangered freshwater mussels. Habitat fragmentation from dam construction, water pollution, and invasive species have caused mussels to become one of the most threatened animal groups in the U.S. His ideal job would combine his fisheries background with his forestry background.

Chloe Shaw was awarded the Ruth Saari Scholarship. She is currently attending Gustavus Adolphus College and hope to go on to graduate school to study the spatial relationships of organisms to their environment, using data to drive environmental decision making. Her current studies will further her professional interests through learning field collection methodologies, how to communicate science effectively, and the process of conducting long-term research projects.

A big thanks to **Scholarship Committee Chair Cherry Schwartz** whose dedication makes this program possible..

Contact Craig Sterle if you have an interest. On behalf of the Ikes and the Great Lakes – **THANK YOU DAVE FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE COMMITTEE AND THE GREAT LAKES.**

Piper Donlin presented a report outlining the Upper Mississippi River Initiative (UMRI) and its current projects.

The Division is in need of nominations to fill the position of 1st Vice President. This is an officer position. Please contact Craig Sterle if you are interested or know of any good candidates and or would like more information about the position.

Later in the day the attendees received a tour of the Marcell Experimental Forest Field Station, learning a lot about their work studying the impact of climate change on our northern forests.

A few photos taken by Director at Large John Rust while touring the Marcell Field Station during the Summer Gathering & Board of Directors - hosted by the Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter.



Other Bits

Would you like to save paper and clutter by receiving your Waltonian electronically only? If so please send an email to ikes@minnesotaikes.org. Please put "Email only" in the subject line.

Check Out Great Minnesota Ikes' News Coverage!

Rochester Post Bulletin 9/22/2018- *Austin's Cedar River fails the pollution test.*

And from Star Tribune 9/6/2018 - *Former Austin nature center director hasn't let up outdoors focus. Larry Dolphin hasn't let up on his conservation passions.* Larry is a former Division President.



New UMRI Contractor Rachel Leuthard is working on the new UMRI website.

I joined the UMRI team in May of this year and am eager to delve back into the world of conservation. I hold a B.S. degree in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. By day I work as a Customer Care Engineer for a software company located in Minneapolis. By night I attend Saint Mary's University, where I am currently pursuing an M.S. degree in Geographic Information Science. In my spare time, when I am not working, attending class, or working on projects for UMRI, I enjoy foraging for mushrooms, am a self-proclaimed mycophile, feline enthusiast, enjoy antique shopping, and love all outdoor related activities. *Rachel Leuthard*

National Convention continued from page 4.

The **Endowment Board** received more applications for funds than they had available funding. Therefore, hard choices had to be made. The **Austin, Rochester** and **Will Dilg Chapters** along with the **Wisconsin Division** all received grants for their water testing work as part of the larger **Upper Mississippi Watershed Initiative**. The **Minnesota Valley Chapter** failed to receive a grant for their well water-testing proposal. Because it was for testing well water as opposed to stream water, it may have fallen outside of their program guidelines. Thanks to **Barry Draskowski** for shepherding the application process to the Endowment Committee.

R3's goal is to introduce hunting to folks with non-hunting backgrounds. Why? Because we only care about the things we love. Those that don't appreciate nature will not choose to protect and nurture it. Also, the North American Model of wildlife management is based on hunters being the sole financial supporters for wildlife management. Because baby boomers are aging out and younger members of our society are not backfilling the ranks, the revenue for wildlife management is steadily declining. Following these trends, the loss of a strong public voice for land management and wildlife is allowing our political representatives to ignore and attack our public inheritance.

The push with R3 is to include more millennials, minorities, women, those that want healthy, natural foods. These newly interested people are in need of mentors to show them the ropes, and guide them along, just as our parents and grandparents did for many of us. Lend newcomers your comradery, passion, and experience.

Start slow. Realize that little things, like wearing lots of camo can be intimidating for some. Teach from a "hands-on" perspective, rather than doing a lecture. Understand that they may be apprehensive in handling firearms and other gear. So again, go slow and be patient. One tip for breaking through is to break bread together, and/or share a brew. Hold monthly activities where everyone can gather and connect to nature.

UMRI – Agriculture Policy Director Duane Hovorka and the Minnesota Division hosted a four State Ad hoc meeting over a pizza lunch. Representatives from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota gathered for an informal but lively discussion. Questions were asked, comments shared, and updates provided primarily from Minnesota. We discussed the **Cedar River** water testing efforts (DNA testing for E-Coli), **Waseca County** ditch investigation, the **Minnesota River Hydrology Study**, absentee landowner rental agreement forms, our new personnel, etc. Also discussed were regenerative ag, water quality issues, the need for clear direction and a more defined mission regarding these issues from other state Divisions. My impression was that the discussions were well received and everyone came away with something.

Fall Board of Directors' Meeting & Strategic Planning Session

All are invited and welcome to attend.

Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter Hosting

October 19-22, 2018

8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Friday - October 19

7:00 PM - Social and Issues Discussion

Saturday - October 20

Morning

9:30 - Continental Breakfast

10:00 - Strategic Planning Meeting Please bring your draft budgets and vision for any program area that you have are involved with or leading, ie. Scholarship, UMRI, Energy, Awards, etc.

Afternoon

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Strategic Planning Session resumes

4:00 PM - Adjourn

Sunday - October 22

9:30 AM - Continental Breakfast

10:00 AM - Board of Directors' Meeting

12:00 PM - Adjourn

Registration Form - Fall BOD/Strategic Planning Meetings

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

ST _____ Zip _____

Best phone _____

Email _____

Meals included with registration

Suggested donations:

\$50 per person (Friday & Sunday)

_____ X _____ = _____

\$10 per person each (Friday and/or Sunday)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please indicate any dietary restrictions: _____

Please send completed registrations and payment by October 17 to:

Attn: Tim Johnson, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter, 8816 W River Rd., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.

Be sure to include the registration form and "Fall BOD" in the memo line of your check.

More information is available at minnesotaiques.org. Click on the **Events** link.

Questions? Call Craig Sterle at (218) 384-4054 or email csterle777@gmail.com. Thank You!

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Fall Gathering/Board of Directors/Strategic Planning, October 19-21, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter
Winter Gathering/Board of Directors/Strategic Planning, January 27, REI Bloomington

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2018 Dues (Division & National only) Individual \$62.50

(\$50 Nat'l/\$12.50 Div.), Family \$90.00 (\$75 Nat'l/\$15 Div.),

Student \$35.00 (\$25 Nat'l/\$10 Div.), Youth \$16.80 (\$10 Nat'l/\$6.80 Div.)

Look for the Fall Appeal in your mail!

As the good work of the Minnesota Division grows we need your support more than ever. Your donations in any amount and volunteer support for our mission will ensure our conservation work continues.

We Need Your Help hosting the 2021 National Convention!

We are seeking volunteers willing to be a part of a committee bringing this event to the Twin Cities. Anyone willing to serve on this committee should contact the Division of ce (651-221-0215) or ikes@minnesotaiques.org. We hope to be overwhelmed with volunteers. Craig Sterle