



WALTONIAN

President's Letter *by Minnesota Division President John Crampton*

I have been pretty sick throughout the past 3 months since the April annual meeting with kidney issues.

Mary and I went to Russia for 10 days back in June.... Moscow and St. Petersburg were very interesting, but much of the trip was spent on a river/canal cruise boat in 40 degree, drizzly weather with stops at many Eastern Orthodox monasteries to see icons and lacquer boxes. We didn't see Putin on the cruise, but we did see Elvis, so it wasn't a total loss.

I was ready to go to the National Convention but had to have a new stent put in my kidney the Friday before the convention, so I couldn't go. I helped Craig Sterle and Dave Zentner get setup a PowerPoint and video presentation of the Upper Mississippi River Program (UMR) to the Executive Board and a select group of leaders, which I heard went very well.

The carbon fee and dividend resolution did not pass at the convention, defeated for the second year by concerns that the money raised was revenue-neutral and the members wanted it plowed back into renewable energy programs (opposite their concern of 2016).

Jill Crafton and I have been working with Noreen to write up the admin procedures on how the Division does business. We expect that we will be done later this fall and publish it as a handbook. I have been shooting and editing videos about the UMR river monitoring on the Cedar River in Austin along with Don Arnosti, Larry and Nancy Dolphin, Bill Buckley and Kathy Kester, Merlene Stiles, Pete Mattson, Chuck Meyer and some college and high school age youth. I edited one of the videos for the National Convention. It can be seen at: <https://vimeo.com/226205113>.

The Austin Chapter and supporters are doing a fantastic job and finding some badly polluted rivers and streams all over Mower County, streams that consistently have bacteria counts of 3-4 times higher than the human health standard for e coli. They are sending some of the samples out for genetic testing to find out what is the source of the pollution.

I've also been involved in the aquatic invasive species monitoring at Bush Lake Chapter training sessions and also their wetland restoration/native plant planting this summer.

I attended the Dilg's Defenders luncheon on Wednesday, August 16th at the Nicollet Island Inn and it was fantastic. Mike Kennedy gave a terrific talk on Will Dilg and the history of the beginning of the league over 95 years ago.



Minnesota Division President John Crampton volunteering for the Ikes at the Minneapolis Monarch Festival. Photo by Noreen Tyler.

Are You Satisfied With Our Outdoor Experiences?

by Conservation Program Director Don Arnosti

Early Fall is fishing time. The fish are hungry and ready to feed. I'm eager to enjoy the pleasure of time on the water in pursuit of them. I've been going fishing for many decades now, and I know that the experience is not the same as that I enjoyed as a youth with fewer, smaller fish, in many instances. In others, I notice that cold-water fisheries (walleyes) are changing to warm water (bass.)

I know that many of my favorite fishing lakes are showing signs of nutrient pollution (algae blooms), sedimentation of spawning habitats, invasive species and warming waters coming from a changing climate. My children aren't experiencing the abundance of wildlife I did, and at this rate, neither will my future grandchildren.

My hunting friends tell a similar tale of declining duck and pheasant abundance. We know that similar problems afflict our terrestrial wildlife: declining and degraded habitat affected by pollution, invasive species, and changing weather. *Continued on page 2.*



Ben Wren

Upper Mississippi River Program Update

By Conservation Program Director Don Arnosti

Thanks to a welcome initial grant from the McKnight Foundation, the Izaak Walton League - MN Division has been able to fund the startup of our campaign to change “hearts and minds” in Mississippi River watersheds so we can finally get after the work of preventing water pollution.

It’s been 45 years since the passage of the Clean Water Act. We’ve paid for government to do extensive monitoring that tells us our rivers, lakes and aquifers are polluted. We’ve funded programs to incentivize clean up, and paid for local staff of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide technical assistance to land owners. Minnesotans voted for the Legacy Amendment in 2008 to tax ourselves more than \$100 million per year for a quarter century to clean our waters, but...

Little has changed. Our waters are still seriously polluted, primarily from non-point sources. As Dave Zentner says, to make progress with land owners, we need to add “the human touch. The Upper Mississippi River Program we are embarking upon provides just that. We are mobilizing teams of Ikes and Friends in the upper river states (MN, IA, WI and IL) to investigate local watershed problems together, and to develop both the means and the will to address them. Right now, we are working in the lower Minnesota River basin, the LeSeuer River and Cedar River watersheds in Minnesota, and Buffalo County, Wisconsin. While our specific techniques differ from community to community, our focus on land owner and community resident engagement is key.

Keep an eye on future Waltonians, or visit our website for updates on the five watershed teams monitoring for e-coli in Mower and Dodge counties. Learn more about what our legal team is finding about the connection between continued drainage expansion and downstream bank erosion and flooding. Pitch in to help us develop a model "Conservation Farm Rental Contract" for absentee owners of farmland to utilize with their renters, to better protect our surface and ground water. In Wisconsin, we're exploring the link between different approaches to farm land management and flood damage to public roads and culverts. If you'd like more information, and might like to join our work across the region, please contact me at donarnosti@gmail.com.



Bill Buckley and Chuck Meyer sampling water in the Cedar River Watershed. Photo by Sam Kester..

Are You Satisfied continued from page 1.

Recently, I was speaking with an Ike who was telling me about the bird banding experiences he had as a youth, with mid-May mist nets heavy with migrating warblers... and late fall sloughs crowded with the calls of hundreds and thousands of migrating ducks and geese. Our excited conversation just tailed off, as we both knew these experiences are not available today.



Ben Wren

But, must we just accept the diminishment of our wildlife, the degradation of our habitats, the pollution of our rivers?!? I say, NO!

Are we not Defenders of our Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife?

Right now, teams of Ikes and allies are fighting to protect our waters from acid drainage from sulfide ore mining.

Others strive to protect the interest of our children in well-managed natural resources as well as well-managed trust lands. We’re working to support native bees, butterflies and other pollinators along our roadsides. We seek to limit our impacts to climate, by supporting all of us in a necessary conversion to renewable energy sources and by focusing on energy conservation. In perhaps our largest effort to date, we are organizing in four states to address the apathy that leaves the waters in our agricultural regions unswimmable and barely fishable.

We Can Do Better. But we need YOU to help.

Join the teams of Ikes and allies fighting for better fishing, hunting, and birding for our children and grandchildren. If you’d like more information on how you can help with any of our conservation efforts, anywhere in Minnesota, please contact me, and I’ll get you involved. You’ll feel glad you did. Contact me at donarnosti@gmail.com.

2017 National Convention

By Craig Sterle & others.

Upper Mississippi River Program

Dave Zentner gave an impressive presentation to national leadership and delegates from Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin about the Division's Upper Mississippi River Program and the need to work peer to peer; farmer to farmer to build a consensus about the benefits of farming for cleaner water and healthier soil. Highlights of the presentation were the visual examples of the impacts of erosion and flooding due to upstream tile drainage and a video produced by **John Crampton** showing our Cedar River watershed volunteers testing water.

Clean Water Challenge

A major focus of this year's convention was on water issues, expanding water monitoring, and using that knowledge to improving water quality. Clean Water Program Director **Danielle Donkersloot** is both knowledgeable and driven. Through the Clean Water Challenge, the Izaak Walton League plans to mobilize and train volunteers across the country and monitor 100,000 more stream sites by 2022. In order to accomplish this, the League plans to partner with other organizations and to use the existing Creek Freaks, and the Save Our Streams programs, and expanding the use of social media to reach a youthful audience. To learn more go to iwla.org/conservation/water/clean-water-challenge.

Speakers

There were many worthwhile presentations at the convention. The keynote speaker **Eric Eckl**, owner of Water Words that Work talked about *Expanding the We in Clean Water Work* highlighted the need of using electronic media to reach out to the public, utilizing a four step process to build support and supporters for the goals of an organization: "First Exposure", "First Taste", "Change of Heart" and "Big Contributions".

Stanley Temple of the Aldo Leopold Foundation spoke about *How the League Helped Aldo Leopold Formulate His Land Ethic*. Leopold was an early member of the League, which was a major source of inspiration, information and political influence in his lifetime. He often relied on the League's extensive network of local chapters as his eyes and ears on the ground as he promoted conservation. Leopold's "land ethic" should be an important component of the League's water quality initiatives today.

Dr. Jeffrey Reutter of Ohio State University/Ohio Sea Grant topic *Halting Harmful Algal Blooms* covered the water quality problems in Lake Erie primarily caused by farm runoff, leading to a "dead zone" (hypoxia) that travels out of the western basin into the more easterly parts of the lake. Invasive species, climate change, other toxins/factors (PCBs, mercury, plastics, pharmaceuticals, water withdrawals, thermal pollution, and shoreline development) also play a part. *Continued on page 4.*

Summer Gathering & Board Meeting Notes

Thanks again to the Minnesota Valley and Bush Lake Chapters for their hospitality. The attendees were treated to tours of both of the chapters' grounds restoration projects as well as the Minnesota Valley's accessibility features.

The Minnesota Division is making a bid for the 2020 National Convention making the **Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge** the center of interest and utilizing the refuge friendly hotel next door to the refuge. **John Hickman**, **Karen Nordstrom** and **Gary Schwartz** will be working on the proposal.

The Board of Directors passed this statement after discussing the current Army Corps of Engineer's proposed plan for dredging in Lake Pepin and its impact on area farmers and residents. *All sands dredged from the Mississippi River shall be returned to a terrestrial location within the immediate watershed from which they originated.*



President John Crampton (left) presented Gary Schwartz (second from the left) his National Defenders Award. Jill Crafton and Craig Sterle (right) looking on. Photo by Noreen Tyler.

National Convention continued from page 3.

Matt Dunfee of the Wildlife Management Institute discussed *The Future of Hunting and Shooting Sports* being dependent on recruiting new enthusiasts from the non-hunting and fishing community. (Too often we preach to the choir, and end up with folks like ourselves, ones that probably would have taken up the sport anyway.) These future “Outdoor-sapiens” will be unlike current hunters and anglers, coming from minority communities, women, and younger, electronically savvy people and will need the social support of mentoring from experienced hunters and anglers.

RESOLUTIONS

The Minnesota Division submitted its resolutions *Carbon Fee and Dividend*, *Oppose Transfer of Federal Lands to the States*, *Protection of Bears Ears Wilderness and Red Rock National Monument* and *Oppose Legislation that Harms the Wilderness Act*.

Although there was very broad acceptance of the idea of taxing or placing some fee on carbon, *Carbon Fee and Dividend* was not able to get out of the Energy & Environment Resource Committee. The failure was primarily due to the general distrust of the government’s ability to responsibly handle the funds; the potential administrative costs of managing the funds, and the lack of language dictating that the funds only be used for conservation or toward renewable energy projects. Sterle believes that the writers should look critically look at the language in the resolution, and reach out to supporters of the concept to craft wording that can address the above issues.

The Resolutions Committee found the resolutions *Protection of Bears Ears Wilderness and Red Rock National Monument* and *Oppose Transfer of Federal Lands to the States* were covered under existing policies.

Adopted Resolutions

Oppose Legislation that Harms the Wilderness Act - Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Sandusky, Ohio, July 28, 2017, opposes any federal legislation that would weaken the 1964 Wilderness Act, such as by elevating particular uses over the preservation of wilderness characteristics or authorizing the recreational use of any form of mechanized transport, including human-powered transport. *Submitted by the Minnesota Division.*

Solar Energy Protection, Soil Health - Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Sandusky, Ohio, on July 28, 2017, commits to:

1. Encourage the education of farmers and all land owners and land managers about techniques to improve the carbon content of their soils and to advocate for practices that implement those techniques;

2. Encourage and assist, whenever and wherever possible without unduly threatening bats and birds, the installation of clean energy wind and solar energy production systems;
3. Encourage individuals and every level of government to switch from fossil fuels to clean solar and wind energy;
4. Encourage and advocate for development and improvement of energy storage options to make clean solar and wind energy useful at all times, day and night, and in all weather conditions.

The Time for Clean Energy is Now - Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Sandusky, Ohio, on July 28, 2017, commits to

- Encourage the education of farmers and all land owners and land managers about techniques to improve the carbon content of their soils and to advocate for practices that implement those techniques;
- Encourage and assist, whenever and wherever possible without unduly threatening bats and birds, the installation of clean energy wind and solar energy production systems;
- Encourage individuals and every level of government to switch from fossil fuels to clean solar and wind energy;
- Encourage and advocate for development and improvement of energy storage options to make clean solar and wind energy useful at all times, day and night, and in all weather conditions.

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Bill Buckley’s Cedar River sampling crew: Kathy Kester, Sam Kester and Bob Wangsness. Photo by Bill Buckley.

2017 Scholarship Winner Announced

Breann Adamek is the winner of \$1,000 scholarship for 2017. She is from Moorhead and is seeking a double major in Biology and Environmental Studies. She is attending Concordia College in Moorhead. The committee was impressed with her definition of an environmentalist. She defines it as "the connections of abiotic and biotic elements. These often go unnoticed and often are the ones highly damaged and struggle after attention is drawn to them by the scientific community. A good example of this is the recent awareness of pollinators and how they are incredibly important to humanity, but continue to struggle".

Breann is scheduled to graduate in May of 2018. After graduation, she would like to take a year off to find an internship for field research. Then she plans to go to graduate school for ecology and evolutionary biology. Congratulations to Breann!

Cherry Schwartz Chair - Minnesota Division Scholarship Committee

Summer BOD continued from page 3.

Other issues that came under discussion was the Burnside Lake timber harvest and the Nolan/Emmer Amendment. The amendment that would prohibit funding for the Northern Minnesota Federal Mineral Withdrawal environmental impact statement of the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs Watershed currently being undertaken by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. This is an extreme amendment that would block U.S. public lands agencies from doing the necessary environmental review, and prevent Americans from seeing the science and having a voice in decisions affecting the future of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park. The Burnside Lake Timber harvest would impact some old growth forest new Ely. An ad hoc committee will be working on the Burnside issue composed of Don Arnosti, Rich Staffon, Dick Brown, Kevin Proescholdt, Steve Wilson, and Craig Sterle.

A decision was made to move the remaining proceeds from the prior national conventions to the Chapter Energy Program. The Energy Committee will devise a plan and application form for chapters to use toward their own solar or other clean energy programs. Committee is Craig Sterle, Gary Schwartz, Jill Crafton, Don Arnosti, Diane Andybur, Tim Johnson, John Crampton, and Matt Norton.

President Crampton would like a field trip to Deep Portage Learning Center to view how they have implemented a sustainable, carbon neutral program at their facility during the 2018 Annual Meeting at Northwoods Audubon Center in Sandstone. He would like the focus to be on Energy. The great work of our Cedar River Watershed volunteers was much appreciated by all.



*2017 Minnesota Division Scholarship winner
Breann Adamek.*

A PROUD MEMBER OF



*National Defender Award winners.
Photo by Dawn Merritt.*

National Convention continued from page 5.

Oppose Amendment to the Lacey Act - Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Sandusky, Ohio, July 28, 2017, supports an amendment to the Lacey Act giving clear authority to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to promulgate and enforce regulations banning the interstate shipment and transport of injurious species.

For more information about the resolutions process and for the updated Conservation Policy Manual and Minnesota Division Resolutions go to

minnesotaikes.org/Izaak/Issues.html

For more information about the convention go to **iwla.org/news-events/events**

IN MEMORIAM LEN ANDERSON

Len Anderson was a big picture natural resource teacher, thinker, and doer. He was an exceptional resource for Ikes and his community. In spite of ill health, he served all of us by working on issues impacting wild rice, the St. Louis River and methyl mercury found in fish.

Len and his wife Bethel, who has a nursing background, were especially concerned about accumulation of methyl mercury in fish tissue in our waters and the resulting rate of 10% of newborns in northeastern Minnesota being born with elevated levels of mercury in their systems. Len spent countless hours learning as much as he could about the complex chemistry of how sulfate and mercury interact with microbes in wetlands to produce the methylmercury that accumulates in fish. Len put on many talks to help us all learn how this process worked. His passion for clean water and a healthy environment was very evident in his presentations.



Len Anderson.

His interest preserving our wild rice heritage and in protecting our waters came from his youth. He grew up harvesting wild rice and hunting waterfowl near his family's farm near Aitkin. His background in biology was a huge asset for our work. He received his undergraduate degree from Bethel College and his master's in Freshwater and Terrestrial Biology from St. Mary's University in Winona. He went on to teach at Sibley High School in West St. Paul, the Berlin American High School in West Germany and in the late 1960s began teaching science and biology at Cloquet High School. After retirement he taught part-time at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. He inspired many young people as he did us.

When there was a proposal to build a coal plant near the St. Louis River, he researched the laws and used his background in science to make the argument that that was the wrong place for that power plant, which helped put an end to that plant's construction. When Minnesota Power later began divesting itself of much of the land it owned along the St. Louis and Cloquet Rivers, Len was very involved in local citizen effort for the state to buy the land and to write a plan that still guides how the state and county are to manage these 26,000 acres of lands in a way that is compatible with the St. Louis River watershed and unique species like the endangered wood turtle.

He was very active and concerned in issues affecting the St. Louis River. He began a water-quality testing program called River Watch. He was an original member of the citizen's advisory committee for the St. Louis River Remedial Action Plan, a member of the citizen's advisory committee to the St. Louis River Joint Powers Board, and an original member of the St. Louis River Mercury TMDL Partnership and served on the state mercury TMDL implementation work group. The St. Louis River Alliance created the Len Anderson Environmental Stewardship Award after him, the first time such an award was created in the name of a living scientist.

When the PolyMet copper/nickel project was initiated, Len remained as active as his health permitted. His presence was key in understanding, assessing, and commenting on the threats such a project would create. He balanced his earnest skepticism with a responsibility to understand the issues first, then to act. His patient presence enabled the McCabe Chapter to be a significant player in analyzing the two Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS) describing the potential impacts of the PolyMet project. With Len Anderson, Ikes were stronger in their commitment to analyze, comment, and become a significant presence in the copper/nickel discussions in northeast Minnesota than otherwise might have been possible.

Len and Bethel's home included 100 acres on the Fond du Lac reservation near Cloquet was Len's class room. Every year, Len would host a weekend winter campout and in the spring Len spent countless hours tending his maple sugar, producing gallons of maple syrup and candy. He loved to tell stories around the stove in his sugar shack and share his knowledge of maple sugaring. Born in 1940 he lived for over 20 years with a rare disease called myelodysplastic syndrome. In spite of that he lived **servicing others** and the **natural world**. He died on July 22 at age 77. He is survived by his wife Bethel; sons, Grant, Ole, daughter Sheila Wilcox, several grandchildren; brothers, Maurice, Paul and Tim.

Many thanks to Rich Staffon and Dave Zentner for co-authoring this article.

2017 Fall Gathering & Board of Directors' Meeting

hosted by the New Ulm Chapter October 20-21, 2017

All are welcome

Friday, October 20

7:00 PM Schells Brewery Tour

Schell's Brewery
1860 Schell's Road
New Ulm, MN 56073
(meet in the parking lot)

Saturday, October 21

New Ulm Chapter lodge on the Brown County
Fairgrounds (off of North 12th St.)

8:30 AM Doors open
(coffee served with morning snacks)

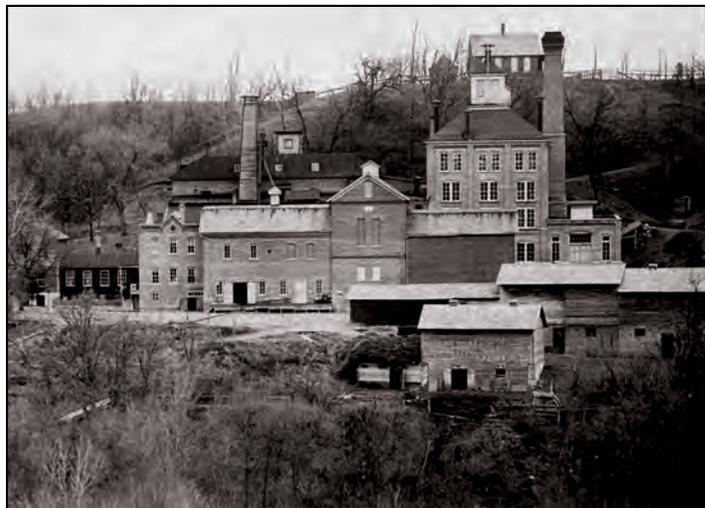
9:00 AM Minnesota Division Board of Directors'
Meeting

12:00 PM Lunch Buffet *may be a working lunch
(two meat hot buffet with sides)

Program following meeting and lunch:

- tour of range
- handicapped shooting sites
- prairie restoration

Activities expected to stop around 3:00 PM.



Historic photo of Schell's Brewery.

Photo courtesy of Schell's.

Suggested Hotel and other information:

Best Western Plus, 2101 S Broadway, New Ulm, MN
56073, (507) 359-2941

Microtel Inn & Suites, 424 20th South, New Ulm, MN
56073, (507) 354-9800

For more information about traveling to New Ulm
go to www.newulm.com

Registration Form - Fall Gathering/Board of Directors' Meeting

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

ST _____ Zip: _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Registration includes cost of tours (Friday and
meals (Saturday)

\$35 per person (weekend *includes tour)

_____ X _____ = _____

\$25 per person (Saturday only)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please send check payable to the New Ulm Chapter & registration form to: New Ulm Chapter, C/O Craig Austinson,
316 Hollywood Ave, New Ulm, MN 56073;

Questions: call or email Craig at (507) 766-1017 or c_austinson@hotmail.com



The Izaak Walton League of America

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Fall Gathering & Board of Directors, October 21-22, 2017 hosted by the New Ulm Chapter

Winter Gathering/Strategic Planning & Board of Directors, January 27, 2018 REI, Bloomington

Annual Meeting & State Convention, April 27-28, 2018, Audubon Center of the Northwoods, Sandstone, MN

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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2017 Division & National Dues (Including national dues -Chapter dues are in addition)

2017 Dues: Individual \$62.50, (\$50 Nat'l/\$12.50 Div.) Family \$80.00 (\$75 Nat'l/\$15 Div.) Student \$35.00 (\$25 Nat'l/\$10 Div.), Youth \$16.80 (\$10 Nat'l/\$6.80 Div.)

Keep your eye out for our Fall Appeal.

We need Your Help to continue Our Work

The Minnesota Division has many projects going. We are more active than ever before, working to protect our woods, air, water, soil and wildlife. Our new Minnesota River Program is working to protect the land and water in the Upper Mississippi River. Our continued Environmental Issues work is critical to having an impact as our state and nation face greater environmental and environmental policy challenges. Please support us as we grow and continue our work.