



WALTONIAN

President's Letter by Minnesota Division President Barry Drazkowski

ISSUES and ACTION

"We Americans take our land for granted... Very seldom do we stop to think of the land itself, of the beauty and great expanse of it between the Atlantic and Pacific, of its mountains, and plains, its rolling farmlands, its lakes and forest and rivers or the grand sweep of ocean beaches." (Sigurd F. Olson, excerpt from an article published in the November 1958 Outdoor America.)

I read this in the recent Maryland Waltonian, and thought how lucky we are to live where Sigurd Olson lived and wrote and to have members that knew and interacted with this important and poignant world observer. As we think about his legacy, his observation and experience in living in the very environments we so desperately fight to protect, we Minnesota Ikes are thinking about the land and its beauty. Over the past year you, the Minnesota Ikes, are engaging the issues and threats to our so precious resources. From our waters and wetlands to our northern boreal forests and changing climate, we are acting in defense of the land, to the varied and substantial threats to our resources.

At the Winter Board meeting we discussed and formally accepted the Environmental Issues Committee's priorities and recommendations for focus and action. I am so proud of our Minnesota Ikes. In a relatively short time, you discussed, focused, prioritized and have already taken action as individual Ikes and as chapters on these very important issues.

We are embracing and collectively acting on three primary issue areas, Energy and Climate Change, Mining, and Water and Wetlands.

We are also acting in a support manner on several other issues in which many of you are so passionately involved. They include: Agricultural Issues like buffers and perennial crops; invasive species including Great Lakes Ballast water treatment and Asian carp; Pollinators; Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) protection and advocacy; and School Trust Lands and public forest management. Under these issues we are also involved in closely related issues like the Mississippi River and watershed management. This is a big plate, but across the State you are actively engaged in each of these. **Continued on page 2.**



Barry Drazkowski steering a crew of Ikes at the 2013 Summer Board meeting in Winona.

TIME TO PITCH IN!

More than forty Ikes gathered in Bloomington on a cold January day to develop plans for implementing our conservation priorities. The excitement in the groups was apparent, as everyone contributed ideas for making a difference.

Protecting our Water and Wetlands translates to the Ikes leading a coalition to assure that forthcoming legislative changes to the Wetland Conservation Act provide *better wetland and watershed protection for northeastern Minnesota watersheds* threatened by loss of thousands of acres of pristine headwaters wetlands due to mining. We want to maximize quality mitigation close by the impacted waters, rather than just transfer mitigations to other regions of the state.

Governor Dayton's announcement that he'd like to see all our waters buffered with 50' strips of perennial vegetation drew much interest. We will be closely engaged with the administration as they develop a detailed proposal and roll it out to the legislature. **This is a long-awaited opportunity to enforce existing laws**, if not go further, as the Governor proposed. **Continued on page 2.**

President's Letter-Issues & Action continued from page 1

We are leaders in many of these topics, like mining, the Wetlands Conservation Act, SNA's, the Sandpiper pipeline, and water management, to name but a few. We are active in the legislature, at PUC hearings, in our local communities, and in our churches. For such a small group, we embrace these issues and get involved in advocating their solutions. I am so impressed with your action and effectiveness.

Members of the Breckenridge chapter are working on forming a Friends of the Scientific and Natural Areas group, and actively working toward their protection and wise management. Our Prairie Woods, Wes Libbey, and McCabe chapters are heavily involved in the Sandpiper pipeline issues and with the continued threats mining represents to our State waters and forests. The Twin Cities and southern Minnesota Chapters engagement in community solar, climate change, and agricultural impact management are all having a significant impact in our communities and at the State level.

So, as we move forward with focused and deliberate action on our priority issues advocacy, I want to assure all of you that these efforts are meant to compliment and bring additional strength and recognition to your already powerful voices. I am continually amazed and heartened by how respected and influential the Minnesota Ikes are in all discussions affecting our resources. We may be a small group, but we speak with a loud, respected, and collective voice. I am so proud of what you all do, and humbled to be part of this great organization.

TIME TO PITCH IN continued from page 1.

Mining issues concerning Ikes include both proposed copper-nickel mining in northeastern (and potentially central) Minnesota, and silica sand mining in the fragile coulee region of southeastern Minnesota.

We expect that declining world prices for copper and oil, respectively, will take some of the haste out of these industries, allowing our state agencies to better protect our resources from unwanted impacts. We remain closely engaged with a number of coalitions on these issues. PolyMet "Final" EIS is not expected before the Fall of this year.

Meanwhile, mining interests are working to weaken wetland protections to reduce their mitigation costs (see above.)

Climate Change and Energy calls for three strategies: short-term, defense and offense.

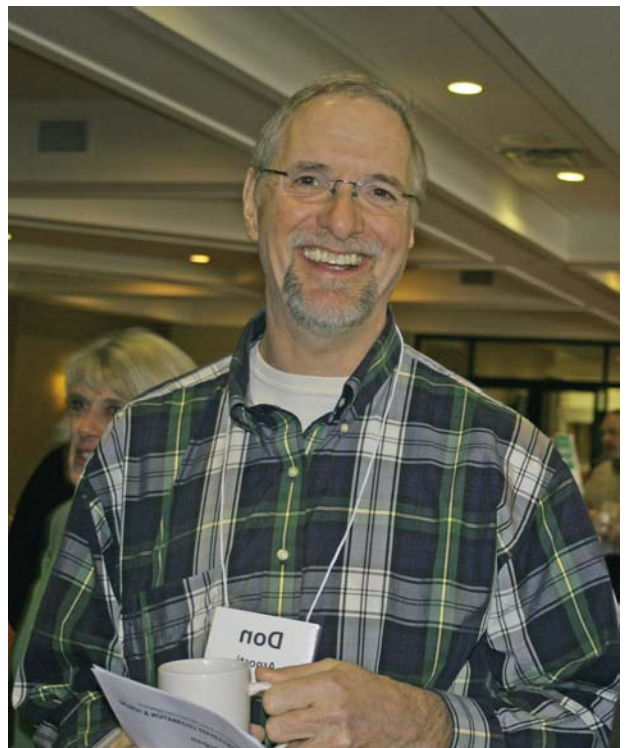
Our short-term strategy is to support the work of the Clean Energy and Jobs Coalition in the legislature, ***which is seeking legislation to require increased energy conservation from utilities, and increased use of renewable energy - up to 40% by 2030.***

Our defensive strategy will support our chapter leaders working with others to reduce the shipment and use of tar sands, fracked oil and gas, and coal in our pipelines, trains and power plants which threaten lakes, rivers, wetlands, and communities from leaks, spills and explosions. And, the ***entire planet*** from their climate-heating emissions.

Our offensive strategy seeks to have Minnesota Ikes "Walk Our Talk" on renewable energy. Implementing existing state and national resolutions, we will assemble chapter based leadership teams with goals to have ***each Ikes clubhouse powered by 100% renewable energy within two years, all Ikes member's homes powered by 100% renewable energy within four years. And, to support the use of these renewable sources by local schools, clubs and other organizations during that time.***

This is a huge opportunity for you to join with your fellow Ikes on a team working on one of these priorities. We need everybody to pitch in, if we are to reach our ambitious goals. Contact Don Arnosti, our Conservation Policy Director and let him know which of these efforts you'd like to support!

donarnosti@gmail.com



Don Arnosti at the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment 5th Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Matt Norton.

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & FORUM

Over 300 people attended a celebration and forum in Brooklyn Center on Thursday afternoon, January 15. The turn-out was testimony to citizen interest in our Legacy Amendment. Attendees were able to learn about project accomplishments the first five years of the Legacy Amendment. Three concurrent panels focused specific funding areas for conservation from the Legacy funds. The three sessions were game, fish, and wildlife, clean water, and parks and trails. The afternoon closed with a plenary panel that included Commissioners Tom Landwehr of DNR, John Linc Stine MPCA, acting Deputy Director of BWSR, Sarah Strommen and Senator Richard Cohen, chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Attendees submitted written questions to the panel, all of which prompted considerable discussion among the panelists.

The closing panel also focused on the over-arching question: “What must we do in the remaining twenty years to assure that we do leave a legacy?” The panel members made it very clear that the ingredients necessary to a lasting legacy included. Avoid using legacy money to supplement traditional legislative support for conservation. Coordinate efforts. Be clear about outcomes. Avoid scattered projects that satisfy political boundaries, but do not provide holistic approaches to landscapes and watersheds. Be very specific about long term goals, for the legacy money. Have a 25 year strategy. Without a clear strategy, failure to leave a legacy is the likely outcome.

The Minnesota Division is to be thanked for its efforts in coordinating financial support for the event from the conservation community, and registration. Thank-you to Noreen Tyler. Without her work we would not have been able to achieve the success of the event and a thank you to staff at MEP and TNC who more than did their share to make the event a success.

Dave Zentner



Dave Zentner at the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment 5th Anniversary Celebration & Forum. Photo by Matt Norton.

Winter Meeting Notes –Jan. 23-24 –BOD and Issues Strategy

The Winter Meeting began with a Friday, Jan. 23, wine and cheese gathering held at the Minnesota Valley Chapter in Bloomington with lively conversation and comraderie. Thanks to the chapter for hosting.

On Saturday morning, Jan 24, the meeting site switched to the meeting room at REI in Bloomington. Attendees got their exercise hiking the aisles of the huge store that features outdoor clothing, equipment and famous climbing wall. Bush Lake Chapter hosted Saturday meetings and events with special thanks to John Crampton and his chapter. A few notes from the BOD meeting: with other matters covered elsewhere in the *Waltonian*

In the afternoon, Board Members engaged in a workshop led by Environmental Issues Committee Chair Don Arnosti designed to provide ideas for action on priority issues. Members were divided into small

discussion groups on Mining, Energy and Climate Change, and Water and Wetlands. Some ideas included recycling (Mining) attending public meetings, partnering, keeping up with progress, contact with decision makers. As an example of what individual Ikes can do, attendees wrote a sample letter to Governor Dayton to thank him for his support on buffer zones along streams and rivers. Needed are key liaisons for each of the priority issues. Chapters need to hear current progress to keep connected.

The Saturday events were completed with a presentation that evening by Becky Rom of Save the Boundary Waters. The program *Boundary Waters Wilderness: More Precious than Copper* will be covered in the next *Waltonian*.

A PROUD MEMBER OF



Eric Jensen Promoted to IWLA Energy Head

Eric Jensen brings significant experience working with the League on a range of energy issues. Over the past seven years he has used his skills to build on the League's longstanding energy program and the League's importance in Minnesota's energy policy. He has worked with regulators, utility company staff, lawmakers, partners, and volunteers to improve energy policies. For the past six months, he has also served as Acting Energy Program Director.

"I feel fortunate to be part of an organization that values our natural resources and promotes a connection with our environment. To be able to utilize my experience on energy issues to further the League's mission is a fantastic opportunity," Jensen states.

MN GreenStep Cities – by Michelle Schroeder

Ask your city to save energy & money: The very first Best Practice Action in MN GreenStep Cities can help cities save energy and money. "Minnesota B3" (Buildings, Benchmarks and Beyond) helps cities determine the operating efficiency of its buildings. B3 provides an on-line ranking of a city's buildings and compares them to similar buildings in other cities. A city basically gathers all of its energy and water bills for its city-owned buildings, entering that information monthly into a standardized database (a great intern project). In many instances, State policy requires that cities use the B3 program. B3 provides a public and a member Website, so that residents can see what their city is (or isn't) doing and where potential savings may be found, in dollars or kWh. Check out mn.b3benchmarking.com

Kudos to Downtown Austin: The Austin Ikes were the first chapter to encourage their city to become a GreenStep City. Recently, the city of Austin adopted a revised Downtown Master Plan which includes several GreenStep Cities Best Practice Actions: to incorporate elements from the Main Street Program, for future development to be denser and multi-use, and encourages planting more trees in downtown. If you live in Austin, this is a great opportunity to encourage your city to implement the new Downtown Master Plan. For more information, see

<http://www.ci.austin.mn.us/Engineering/PDF/AustinFinalDraftDowntownPlan.pdf>

Learn more about MN GreenStep Cities via Clean Energy Resource Teams' free monthly 9:00 am-11:00 am webinars at <http://gsc-wkshps-14-15.eventbrite.com/> (March 18 – managing solid waste; April 15 – enhancing green space; May 20 – engaging residents).

Division Offers Scholarships

Two types of college scholarships are available from the Minnesota Division to help students with the high costs of college educations.

The Ruth M. Saari Memorial Scholarship rewards students studying in the field of natural resources education.

The Minnesota Division Scholarship honors students in natural resources such as environmental law, wildlife management or programs that focus on conservation of resources. Awards may be up to \$1,000.

Applicants must be Minnesota residents and U. S. citizens. They must be at least in their second year of college. Scholarships may be used for tuition, books, and transportation to school or program. May 15 is the deadline for applications for the coming academic year. Scholarships are funded by donations and the annual Minnesota Division Silent Auction. We wish to thank the New Ulm Chapter for its generous donation of \$2,500 to the Division Scholarship fund.

Please pass this scholarship information to colleges in your area and get further information at the Ike office at 651-221-0215 or ikes@minnesotaikes.org.

The Izaak Walton League Camp at Deep Portage

is scheduled June 28 - July 3 this year. For more information go to deep-portage.org or call (888)280-9908.

Kudos to the Cass County Chapter and the Quilters Basket Group for their work in creating and raffling a hand pieced quilt. The raffle raised \$1500 to go toward scholarships to Deep Portage Camp for children who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend.



Roads Taking Toll on Turtles

HerpMapper, a new mapping application, helps to prove it. *Submitted by Cheryl Wilke and Paul Erdmann, Bush Lake Chapter*

Roads have been an issue for turtles for as long as vehicles have been around. The density of roads and cars has increased to a point where this hazard is impacting the long-term survival of some Minnesota turtle populations. Fortunately, there are relatively simple road improvements and habitat modifications that can be made to reduce the number of turtles crossing roads. Volunteers are needed to provide information on heavy turtle traffic roads through HerpMapper .org website or by using HerpMapper's Mobile application. Because State and County biologists cannot collect enough information to identify all of the significant crossings, public volunteers play a critical role in providing that data.



Photo by Don Dinndorf.

WHEN TO COLLECT DATA

In Minnesota late-May and June nesting migration of egg laden females, or when newly hatched youngsters seek out the backwaters to spend summer. Migration, again, occurs in early autumn when they return to deeper waters for winter hibernation.

HOW DATA WILL BE USED

Data collected will be used to generate maps of known turtle crossing areas that can be shared with and used by conservation agencies and highway departments to prioritize and develop safer crossing areas

SUCCESS STORY

In June 2014, the Washington County Parks Department and Public Works opened a new “turtle tunnel” to help turtles safely cross the road. The special German-built, under-the-road tunnel on County Highway 4 near Big Marine Lake in May Township, funnels turtles to the two-foot wide turtle tunnel by fences on both sides of the highway. County officials chose the tunnel's location based on Minnesota Herpetological Society's documentation of a large number of turtle crossings dangerous to both turtles and motorists, who were stopping on the two-lane highway to avoid hitting them. The **Minnesota DNR** says helping turtles, particularly females with eggs, safely cross roads is vital to the preservation of Minnesota's turtle populations. The tunnel is already a success. The Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program has been posting photos on their Facebook page from a motion camera installed in the tunnels. Turtles, frogs, skinks, woodchucks, ermine, and many other creatures have been using the tunnel to safely cross under the road!

How can YOU help a turtle cross the road?

Don't endanger yourself or others. When and where possible, pull off the road. Turn on hazard lights to alert other drivers to slow down. Be aware of your surroundings and traffic.

Allow turtle to cross on its own. If there is no oncoming traffic, allow turtle to cross unassisted.

If you need to speed up the turtle's crossing, grasp it and all turtles, EXCEPT snapping turtles, gently along the shell edge near mid-point of body. (Note: turtles may empty bladder when lifted off ground. Don't drop it.)

Snapping turtles should NEVER be picked up by the tail. This can damage the snapping turtle's spinal cord. Use a branch, broomstick, or snow shovel to prod the animal along from behind. If the turtle bites the object, use it to drag the turtle to roadway edge.

Maintain direction of travel. Move turtle low to the ground, in a direct line, and in the same direction it was traveling. **Do NOT remove it from its area of habitat.**

2015 MINNESOTA DIVISION IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING & STATE CONVENTION

APRIL 24-26, 2015 - MAPLELAG RESORT, 30501 MAPLELAG RD, CALLAWAY, MN

THEME: CLEAN WATER ISSUES/ OIL PIPELINE CONCERNS- HOST: PRAIRIE WOODS CHAPTER, DETROIT LAKES MN

FRIDAY NIGHT, APRIL 24

6:00 Registration begins

6:30 Heavy Hors d'oeuvres/Hospitality Maplelag style

7:30 *Resolution Discussion-First Read of the Resolutions*

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

7:30 AM Registration

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Welcome and plans for the day

9:10-11:45AM Education sessions (possible topics include wetlands and water theme, local/regional pipeline concerns, etc.-

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch (optional bag lunch)

12:00/1:00-5:00 PM Outdoor Tours (see options right)

6:00 PM Social hour with wine and beer available

SILENT AUCTION

7:00 PM Dinner and Awards Presentation Banquet

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:30 AM Brunch (a Maplelag specialty)

9:00 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

12:30 PM Lunch

MAPLELAG ACCOMMODATIONS

2 nights/ 6 meals—\$250 per person or \$450 per couple

1 night/ 4 meals—\$179 per person

Saturday night banquet only—\$29 per person

Saturday lunch only—\$18 per person

Friday night heavy hors d'oeuvres only—\$12 per person

To make MAPLELAG Reservations:

Phone: 218-375-4466

Reservations only: 1-800-654-7711

Ask about various room options when you make your reservation.

For more information and maps go to

www.Maplelag.com or email: maplelag@tvutel.com

SATURDAY AFTERNOON OPTIONS

Option A: Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

Visit the 43,000acre Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, which the IWLA played a major role in its establishment. Learn more about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recent renovation/energy retrofit project at their Visitor Center; tour the recently completed Discovery Center- built by the Friends of Tamarac NWR; and go for a short hike on the North Country Scenic Trail in the Refuge.

Option B: Sucker Creek Preserve/Detroit Mountain Recreation Area

Visit the City of Detroit Lakes owned Sucker Creek Preserve to tour the new addition of the Upstream Sucker Creek and check out the recently re-opened Detroit Mountain Recreation Area located on the outskirts of Detroit Lakes.

This year-round recreation area is making significant contributions to the to the local outdoor recreation economy.

Option C: Maplelag Resort for a presentation on the history of Maplelag and/or a guided tour of the property.



Other accommodations—30 minutes from site at Maplelag

Holiday Inn, 1155 Highway 10 East, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, 218- 847-2121.

- Holland House Best Western Plus, 615 Highway 10 East, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, 218-847-4483.
- Country Inn and Suites, 1330 Highway 10 East, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, 218-847-2000.
- America's Best Value Inn, intersection Highway 10, Highway 59, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, 218- 847-1651

Questions:

Bill Henke 218-847-4004, whenkel@gmail.com or Matthew Davis 701-388-1883,

mdavis@northcountrytrail.org

Call for Resolutions

It is time to begin the process of submission of resolutions to be considered throughout the Annual Meeting weekend and voted upon.

As co-chairs of the MN Division Issues Committee we welcome your resolution proposals. We are faced with a stream of issues that keep all of us busy as conservation volunteers.

Be sure your resolution is factual. And make certain that it is of statewide, regional, or of national significance. Also check out whether or not we already have taken action on the subject. It may be a good idea to pass another resolution, and in some cases, policy may be adequate. Finally, let us know what actions your resolution implies. Who needs to receive it? What follow-up is necessary? The world is full of resolutions that are largely ignored in the absence of a strategy post approval! Check Division Bylaws for resolutions submission rules. Deadline is March 24. Please send your resolutions by e-mail to ikes@minnesotaiikes.org. Bill Henke and Dave Zentner, Resolutions Committee Chairs

Nominations Needed for Division Secretary

The Secretary shall execute with the president all documents, instruments and papers requiring execution by the corporation, attend all meeting of the corporation, the board of directors and the executive committee, and make a record of their proceedings; and perform all the usual duties of such officer. Term of office is from June 1 following such election, and the secretary holds office until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.

Please forward any nominations with contact information to Mark Owens at markowensrd@msn.com or the office ikes@minnesotaiikes.org before March 24th, 2015.

Hosts are needed for the Summer Board meeting (Saturday July 25, 2015) and the Fall Board Meeting (October 31, 2015). These can be a Friday night and Saturday event with the board meeting usually Saturday morning and activities after optional. Please contact me at the email above. Mark Owens, Division Vice-president

AWARDS

TIME TO MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS

Who deserves an Ike award for outstanding environmental work carried out in 2014? Many. Here's your opportunity to nominate your candidates for a whole array of natural resources topics. Deadline for nominations is March 15.

- * The Dave Zentner Minnesota Defenders Award
- * The Distinguished Service Award
- * The Dr. Walter Breckenridge Award.
- * The Ed Franey Outdoor Writer and Conservation and Media Award.
- * Sigurd F. Olson Conservation Award.
- * IWLA Stewardship Awards
- * Ray Haik Watershed District Award.

Consult the official forms for due dates. Minnesota Division award applications are on the Division website www.minnesotaiikes.org. National awards are on www.iwla.org. If you have questions, please contact the Minnesota Awards Chair, Gary Schwartz at presike1@live.com or 507-363-1710.

Silent Auction – Always Fun

Once again the Schwartzes will conduct the Annual Silent Auction to benefit Minnesota Division Scholarships. Start gathering items to be donated and bid upon pre-dinner at the Annual Meeting. When you know your donation, please contact Cherry at presike2@live.com so she can prepare bid sheets. We ask chapters to send three items and officers, one. Cherry and Gary have done a great job for many years.



Registration Form - No Fee (see Maplelag above)

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ adults and _____ children under 12 will be attending

Comments: _____

Send to: Dean Hendrickson, P.O. Box 24, Audubon, MN 56511



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

2233 University Ave. W, Ste. 339, St. Paul MN 55114

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Annual Meeting & State Convention, April 24-26, 2015, Prairie Woods Chapter (Maplelag Resort)

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

The Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America publishes the Waltonian four times a year on the months of March, June, September, and December. Copy deadline is the eighth of the month prior to publication.

Send material to: Waltonian Editor, C/O Minnesota Div., IWLA,
2233 University Ave. W, Ste. 339, St. Paul, MN 55114,
651-221-0215, ikes@minnesotaiakes.org, minnesotaiakes.org

MINNESOTA DIVISION OFFICERS

President: Barry Drazkowski, 507-457-6925, bdrazkow@smumn.edu
Vice-president: Mark Owens, 507-433-2735, markowensrd@msn.com
Secretary: John Siekmeier, 651-201-1829, john.siekmeier@q.com
Treasurer: Jill Crafton, 612-349-8255

National Directors

Barry Drazkowski, 507-457-6925, bdrazkow@smumn.edu
Jill Crafton, 952-944-5583
Gary Schwartz, 507-451-6676, presike1@live.com (elected)
Dave Zentner, 218-724-3926, dzentner@charter.net (past national president)

MINNESOTA DIVISION OFFICE

2233 University Ave. W, Ste. 339, St. Paul, MN 55114
651/221-0215, ikes@minnesotaiakes.org, minnesotaiakes.org
2014 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

651-649-1446, midwest@iwla.org

New Member Offer!

The Minnesota Division is offering a **50% discount** on the national and division portions of **brand new member** dues for the 2015 membership year (all new memberships processed after October 1, 2014). In order to qualify for this reduced rate no one in the household may have ever held an Izaak Walton League membership. *This offer is only for new members who have no prior history of League membership. A portion of the proceeds for the new Environmental Issues program have been designated to fund this offer in the hope that new members will help enhance and grow our issues activities.

Because our national office requires full dues, please process your new memberships as you normally would. Invoice the Minnesota Division for the 50% portion of the new members national and division dues along with corresponding names, addresses, phone numbers and of course email addresses.

*This offer does not include the chapter dues portion of membership. The goal of this special offer is to get 1000 new members who are active conservationists, breathing new life into our Chapters and the League. Please contact the Minnesota Division office if you have any questions. Send all invoices to: Minnesota Division IWLA; 2233 University Avenue W, Ste. 339; Saint Paul, MN 55114