



WALTONIAN

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

by Minnesota Division President Craig Sterle

Although born in Duluth, most of my youth was spent in Ohio. By my teens I was visiting coal country as part of a college mineland reclamation class. A field trip took us to an Ohio Power strip-mine site, where we watched "Big Muskie" then the world's largest dragline, capable of holding seven railcars in its bucket, as it removed a thick layer of overburden that covered a three-foot thick coal seam. It was all electric, with a six-inch diameter power-cord. The cord was tended by a D-7 dozer that would move the cord as the unit "walked" along on giant legs. It was an engineering marvel. But this wasn't the focus of the class, which was, how to put the landscape back together and help it heal.

This happened about the time of the Arab oil embargo, which shot gasoline prices up from \$0.30/g to the then unthinkable cost of \$0.42/g. Lines in the service station ran out of the lots and into the streets. Stations ran out of gasoline and shutdown. Never since the invention of the automobile had this happened, though gas rationing was common during WWII.

To a young, impressionable kid, this all was earthshaking. In addition, the mid-1960s through the 1970's was a time of environmental revolution, with marches in the street, rivers on fire or choked with toxic industrial effluent, massive oil spills off our coasts and choking smog in our cities. But it led to the creation of the EPA, and Federal passage of NEPA, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, with many states following suit. Locally, there were fights over motorized transportation in the BWCA, resulting in the reduction of motorboats and banning of snowmobiles. These were indeed heady times for environmentally consciences Americans.

Why is this important to an organization based on being defenders of soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife? Because energy touches every aspect of what we do, how we live, what we eat, and how healthy we are, individually and as a society. Sometimes these impacts are obvious and direct, such as mountain top removal mining. While my class on reclamation showed us techniques to minimize damage, and begin the healing process, there is no doubt that this was an ecological disturbance equal to glaciation. Rivers and streams disappeared, topsoil was sometimes greatly reduced or lost, vegetation took years to recover, and inevitably acid mine drainage seeped down through the valleys.

On a return visit to see my father 18 months ago, we visited "The Wilds" south of Zanesville, OH (a highly recommended stop if you are ever near there). This is 10,000 acres of rehabbed mine land, that's fenced in and used as a wildlife sanctuary for globally endangered species. It was started by Jack Hanna, the Columbus Zoo Director, who was famous for bringing his animals on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show. Our tour-guide was a college alumni from way back. He was quick to point out to me the orange seeps running down the hillsides. While I applaud this reuse of the land in the foothills of the Appalachians, it should be a beautiful, complex, dense, hardwood forest, not a hilly, grassy expanse with rhinos.

Across our nation and close to home, there are ongoing battles against fossil fuel development and its transportation. The MN Public Utilities Commission is in its fifth year of permitting for Enbridge pipeline projects. Seeking a new corridor across the state, first for Bakken crude, and later for Alberta tar-sands, these proposals have the potential to severely impact our surface waters and aquifers, create lineal corridors that bisect (fragment) important wildlife habitats, threaten species of concern, disrupt natural water flow across our wetlands, introduce invasive species, facilitate the release of massive amounts of CO2 gas, and the list goes on.

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President Craig Sterle chats with Bob and Pat Tammen at the PolyMet hearing in Duluth on February 8. Photo by Dell Erickson.

Don Arnosti Becomes MN Division Employee

By Minnesota Division President Craig Sterle

Recently, the Executive Committee offered Don Arnosti the position of Conservation Director as a full-time permanent employee. Don's prior employment status was working for the League as a full-time contractor.

His duties will largely remain the same, as he continues his diligent work leading an invigorated conservation and environmental issue committee, covering everything from mining to pollinators to public land management issues, while also educating our elected officials on national issues such as the farm bill and mining-related legislation in Congress. While the breadth of issues we work on is wide, Don will continue to guide each of the Division and us as we live out our conservation values.

Additionally, Don is involved in the Upper Mississippi River Initiative as program Project Director. The UMRI is a complex of local and regional initiatives across four states (MN, WI, IL, IA), focused on using the "human dimension" to engage local communities to implement solutions to their water quality problems. UMR projects include stream water quality monitoring, a University of MN hydrological study to look at the impacts of farming practices on our rivers and wetlands, public outreach on regenerative agriculture to rebuild farm soils, educating absentee farm land owners on how to achieve effective conservation on their lands, and an investigation into the opportunity under wetland and ditch laws to reduce impacts of drainage projects on downstream water quality. The problems are enormous; innovative solutions are required

in communities across the watershed. Don and the other members of the steering committee invite you to join in this emerging program.

Finally, Don will lead our critically needed fundraising program, including Dilg's Defenders, a major donor program, where individuals and chapters pledge annual support of \$1000 or more to the MN Division. These donations will be allocated by the Board to our areas of highest need, including conservation and core support functions.

We hope you will thank Don for all his leadership and hard work, and remember him and the Division when contemplating your charitable giving.



Conservation Program Director Don Arnosti.

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President Trump has vigorously supported fossil fuel development, including proposing drilling for crude off all our coasts, and by snatching away lands placed in national monument status, while proposing to open them up for coal, gas and oil development. He promotes "clean coal" and then rolls back rules put in place to protect human health and the environment, such as allowing the unobstructed dumping of coal ash and allowing coal mining companies to bury our nation's creeks and streams beneath overburden spoils. This is no different that when Will Dilg and other outraged fisherman formed the League to stave off attacks on the Mississippi River backwaters and our nations natural areas, leading to our mission today to protect soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.

It is the burning of "clean coal" that has led to increased levels of mercury emission and deposition, which directly impacts our health and enjoyment. Mercury is naturally occurring, but coal burning power-plants create a large, additive process. This results in methyl mercury in our fish.

A recent MN Dept. of Health study found that 10% of the newborns in the Lake Superior watershed have dangerous levels of mercury in their systems. For a developing fetus, this is a serious problem. An article co-authored by eight physicians and published in "Minnesota Medicine" noted

"Mercury toxicity as a result of ingesting heavily contaminated fish can result in a range of neuropsychiatric issues including abnormal brain development and sensory distortions (paranoia and hallucinations). The developing brains of fetuses and children can experience the most profound and devastating consequences of exposure to mercury and other heavy metals.

Many illnesses of the brain and central nervous system are categorized as neuro-developmental disorders. These include attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, learning disorders, autistic spectrum disorders, language disorders and intellectual disabilities.

The causes of neurodevelopmental disorders are multifactorial, but the connection to exposures to heavy metals, particularly methyl mercury, is known.

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Notes from the Mid-winter National Board Meeting

National Director **Dave Zentner** and I took a red-eye flight to Surfside Beach SC, on Thur., Feb. 16th. Some good news: Our national organization has made fiscal progress and as a result has been able to re-grow staff. Membership is up slightly compared to January 2017.

The bulk of the meeting was spent on conservation initiatives, some of which came out of the 2016 Convention in Steven's Point, Wisconsin.

Clean Water Challenge (CWC). The goal of the CWC is to sample water at 100,000 points along streams throughout America, by 2022...the League's centennial year. **Danielle Donkersloot** heads this program and is spearheading our League efforts to coordinate data collection with multiple agencies and other NGOs, via the National Data Coalition system. In this way, everyone will have access to see and use the growing volume of data collected from water monitoring. The CWC Toolkit is available at iwla.org. Look for news of Danielle conducting water monitoring training sessions at our Rochester and Will Dilg (Winona) Chapters.

The **National Salt Watch Program**, targets the issue of salt buildup in our waters. Salt causes \$36 billion in infrastructure damage annually, it's toxic to aquatic life, and there is no economically feasible way to treat the problem or remediate the damage. Once salt is spread on our roads, parking lots and sidewalks it will be in our environment almost indefinitely. Danielle said salt test-strips are available for testing contamination levels. If you obtain and use a strip, take a selfie of you and the strip, and send her the results.

We need to protect our streams and share our passion for them. To do this, become a voice for the rivers in your area. Connect with partners. And use the media to tell your story to the community!

The **Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3)** initiative is designed to build the number of hunting and fishing enthusiasts. The **MN DNR** has been involved in the programs for the past 2-3 years. The objective is to reverse the downward trend in these outdoor pursuits by offering inexperienced individuals the opportunity to mentor with experienced hunters and fishermen. The target audiences of the initiative are women, minorities, children and the poor. Because millennials and Gen-X folks having found other past-times, there is a need to reach out to them as well. This is especially necessary if hunting, fishing and the outdoors was not a part of their family culture. Getting outdoors for many is an offshoot of their desire to obtain healthy, natural foods. Something you may want to remember.

With the MN DNR already leading the R3 effort, we have an advantage many states don't have and this gives Chapters a great opportunity to help. Reach out to DNR staff and offer to assist them. To learn more and download an R3 Toolkit go to dnr.state.mn.us/r3/index.html

Keep an eye out for a new online "**Accomplishment Report**" that is still in development. This will allow Division's and Chapters to track their progress toward reaching their and the League's goals.

Electronic membership services are moving forward, saving everyone time and money. All Chapters should begin using this as soon as possible. If you need assistance, reach out to the Division office, or contact National staff (Mary Rubin or Dawn Merritt). The goal is to go paperless within the next two years.

2018 Farm Bill. Conservation Director Jared Mott highlighted Agriculture Program Director **Duane Hovorka's** new initiative, the "Good Driver Discount". The plan would reward high conservation/low risk farmers with lower crop insurance premiums for farmers. By utilizing best practice, it reduces the likelihood they will need to file a claim. These practices might include cover crops, no-till, sod-waterways and buffer strips, establishing perennial grasses, rotational grazing, etc. This makes it cheaper for the farmer, and is better for their land and our waters. This month Rep. Rick Nolan introduced a variation on Duane's concept (The Crop Insurance Modernization Act) into legislation through the Ag Committee. The legislation faces stiff headwinds. You are encouraged to reach out to your representatives and let them know that you support this idea. Why is this provision important? Because under current farming practices, America loses 6 lbs. of soil for every pound of food it produces. And, since the prairie sod was first broken in the mid-1800's, MN has lost 50% of its topsoil. We can't go on this way; it just isn't sustainable into the future.

"**Canoemobile**", started by **Wilderness Inquiry**. Chapters who are looking for ways to connect with their community are urged to contact Wilderness Inquiry to learn more. The program offers kids, those with disabilities, and inexperienced canoers the opportunity to paddle a Voyageur style canoe on a lake or large river near their home, in the BWCAW, or wherever they would like to travel.. Wilderness Inquiry provides the canoes and guides. For more information, call **612-676-9400**. This is a hidden gem right in our backyard! **Craig Sterle**



"The Bush Lake Chapter partnered with the City of Bloomington and the DNR for a fishing event in January. It was a great turnout. Fish were even caught!" Paul Erdmann, Bush Lake Chapter State Director.

AWARDS TIME TO MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS

Who deserves an Ike award for outstanding environmental work carried out in **2017**. **Many**. Here's your opportunity to nominate your candidates for a whole array of natural resources topics. Deadline for nominations is **March 29, 2018**.

- ✧ 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.

The Minnesota Division **award applications** are on the Division website minnesotaike.org.

National awards are on iwla.org.

Please contact the Minnesota Awards Chair,
Gary Schwartz at presike1@live.com or
507-363-1710.

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These conditions cannot be cured, and they come with significant personal, familial and societal costs. A small increase in incidence resulting from increased mercury exposure may result in large costs to society on a population level." (see **Sulfide Mining and Human Health in Minnesota** by Emily Onello, MD, Deb Allert, MD, Steve Bauer, MD, John Ipsen, MD, PHD, Margaret Saracino, MD, Kris Wegerson, MD, Douglas Wendland, MD, MPH, and Jennifer Pearson, MD).

I think twice now when eating or offering my family a meal of fresh caught fish at the cabin. What will this do to my two-year old grandson, or my as yet unborn grandchild?

And then there is the elephant in everyone's room, climate change. Our fossil fuel dependence could have taken a turn for the better during the Carter administration, when he had solar panels installed at the Whitehouse and promoted R&D into clean, renewable forms of energy. Had that initiative grown and prospered, as it has this decade, we would have intercepted the CO2 issue far earlier, and made the hill we must now climb far easier. Instead, Reagan had the panels removed and the momentum for renewable energy died, setting the country back and wasting 37 critical years, as progress to address this recognized problem faded away. In that time, fossil fuel energy

consumption has steadily grown, markedly so in many poorer nations, further exacerbating the emissions problem and shortening the timetable for required action.

Does climate change really matter? Could it be a benefit as EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt proposes? Or does it pose problems we are incapable of handling? I lean towards the latter, though I think all is not yet lost. I live in northern MN and this morning I have turkeys strutting in my yard. Ten years ago, this would have been unimaginable. During the week leading up to the Christmas bird count, a turkey was seen near (not at) the Sax-Zim Bog, a birding area noted for its northern owls (great gray's, hawk owls, boreal owls) and other boreal species. The fact that turkeys and boreal owls are spoken in the same breath is astonishing.

Some northern species of wildlife are struggling, moose being a prime example. Built for cold, they struggle in the heat of summer, and in fact, struggle even with warmth in winter. New southern species are gradually showing up in the northland. We now have possums in our county. Twenty-five years ago, they were a novelty item anywhere in MN. Cardinals occupy most everywhere but the far north, but they are still on the move.

Some of our fish are adapting, sometimes to the frustration of anglers as cool-water lakes conducive to walleyes become warm-water bass-panfish waters. Some of the coldwater species (whitefish, tullibee, burbot are struggling or slowly disappearing when waters warm beyond a sustainable level. Trout are under siege, as their waters warm to the mortality threshold more frequently in the heat of summer, or as some streams nearly dry-up during periods of severe drought.

Have no doubt; the impacts of climate change are already upon us. And we haven't even discussed the impacts on our weather, which is bringing fewer but bigger rainfall events that have negative impacts on everything from farmland soil erosion to catastrophic blowdown events. And did I mention invasive species? While their introduction is not necessarily a function of climate change (modern commercial transportation can largely take credit for that), they are often better equipped to prosper in our climate change induced world.

So yes, energy is important to our mission. What can you and I do? Stay tuned!



Cardinal braving the wind March 5. Photo by Don Dinndorf.

Minnesota Division Winter BOD Notes

The Winter meeting weekend began with a social hosted by the Minnesota Valley Chapter –several Ikes attended along with guests. Everyone enjoyed Jay Gustafson’s presentation Paddling the Rivers of Minnesota.

On Saturday with a light breakfast provided by the Bush Lake Chapter, the Board of Directors convened.

Here are some of the important issues and topics addressed:

Larry Dolphin was elected Vice president to fill the seat left open when Craig Sterle stepped up to fill former president John Crampton’s position.

The **Division’s financial statements and budget.** We were slightly in the black for 2017; the board was not able to agree on the budget details, but with the expected increase in funds due to a grant from the McKnight foundation for our UMR work, they did approve spending of up to \$250,000.00; with the expectation that a final budget will be approved at our Annual Meeting. Calculations of Division dues to go to the Legacy Fund were changed to 20% of dues income. The Legacy Fund is the Division’s long-term savings to insure continued general operations if the Division should have an unanticipated critical shortfall in normal, expected funding t.

Environmental Issues Committee will be focused on the 2018 Legislative Session (Pollinators; School Trust Lands and the DNR mission to maximize revenues; sustainable harvest; and of course Defense of existing environmental protections)

Everyone was reminded that we are a 501c3, but are allowed to spend 20% of our budget on advocacy, including lobbying. **We may not endorse political candidates or parties.** We can point out voting records and stances on issues that impact our mission.

The **Scholarship Committee** is looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact Cherry Schwartz at presike2@live.com or call (507)451-6676.

A delicious salmon lunch was served by **Sitka Salmon Shares**, a Community Supported Fishery (CSF) a members-based organization that allows members to purchase a “share” of the harvest of one of our independent, small-boat family fishermen. During the meal attendees enjoyed short presentations by Sitka and Lois Norrgard. Lois is an Izaak Walton League member and the National Field Organizer for the Alaska Wilderness League. They did a great job explaining the challenges Alaska faces due to resource extraction (timber and oil) on its fisheries, land and waters.

The **Owatonna Chapter** has been awarded in total \$2000.00 in Chapter Energy Grant funds for their solar panels. They now have 10. If your chapter is interested in the program, please go to the Division website and download the application form minnesotaiques.org.

The **Upper Mississippi River Program (UMR)** received \$50,000.00 from the McKnight Foundation in 2017 and has been awarded \$200,000.00 to continue in 2018 and 2019. Some accomplishments to date and in progress are the Cedar River Monitoring project, an investigation into ditch law, discussions with some in the agriculture industry, coordination of efforts with neighboring states, the development of a restorative ag/water quality toolkit. In addition a UMR website to manage and publicize data is planned. The project team is coordinating with National’s **Save Our Streams** to broaden citizen water quality monitoring training. The goal of the UMR program is to dialog with, learn from and educate farmers and stakeholders about restorative ag, and best management practices to improve water quality and achieve healthy soil.

The Division will be receiving \$50,000.00 from **St. Louis County** to administer a grant to fund exploration an efficient and low cost ballast water treatment system to prevent the spread of aquatic invasives species and diseases into the Great Lakes.

Again, the Minnesota Division made its 100-point goal to receive our full allocation of funds from the **Minnesota Environmental Fund (MEF)**. MEF is not a state or government program, it is an organization devoted to fund a full range of environmental groups working in Minnesota. Please contact the Division office if you think MEF would be a good payroll giving benefit for you and your co-workers and/or if you would like to do volunteer work on MEF’s behalf. MEF also offers a way to get volunteer help for your chapter’ conservation projects. Please contact the Division office if you would like to learn more.

The Minnesota Division is in the beginning process of reviewing and revising its **bylaws**. We could use a few people to help. Needed are people with experience in non profit governance and/or have a history with the League and has an understanding of League culture and capacity. Please contact the office if you are interested at ikes@minnesotaiques.org.

Other topics: **Public Trust Doctrine** (to protect waters, aquifers, and ground water for the common good) see minnesotaiques.org for more information. Issues surrounding the moose herd, starting new chapters, high dues, chapter viability, and **Water Action Day at the Capitol** on May 2. Keep an eye out on your email and minnesotaiques.org for more information.

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



Call for 2018 Resolutions

Hello Minnesota Ikes. It is time to begin to think about resolutions your chapter may want to submit at our annual meeting at Audubon Center of the Northwoods in Sandstone the weekend of April 27-28, 2018. Your resolutions need to be received by the resolutions committee by **March 29** (30 days in advance of the annual meeting). That deadline allows us to work with you should the Committee have any questions about wording, or factuality. A few things to consider before submitting a resolution:

1. Check the MN Division website to see if your subject is already covered by a previous resolution. It may be that we've already addressed the issue. You may still want to submit if you believe the subject very important and that there is a need to re-resolve on the matter.
2. Be certain the subject is clearly part of the Izaak Walton League mission statement!
3. Do not send resolutions on purely local issues. Resolutions should be of state-wide, regional or national importance.
4. Be sure your resolutions are clear, are accurate, and try to keep them to one page if possible. Describe the need and purpose for the resolution, followed by a "therefore be it resolved that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America in Convention on April 28th, 2018"
5. Supporting information can be a submitted as an attachment that will help the committee.
6. Please include instructions on your intentions for distribution of the resolution if adopted.

Thank you in advance for submitting your resolutions. The resolution process is an important part of informing each other of your interest' and priorities. The Ikes have a tradition of timely statement on matters that are central to conservation in our state and nation. We also are known for responsible policy decisions. We clearly intend, through the resolutions process, to inform the greater community and conservation agency personnel of issues that are important to the membership of the Izaak Walton League and to influence public policy where appropriate.



Make every effort to have your chapter represented at the annual meeting to advocate for your resolution. The committee will make every effort to fairly present your resolution to the meeting, however no one can represent your thoughts and intentions quite like you can! Be present and advocate for your interest! On Friday Eve. April 27th, the first reading of the resolutions and discussion of the resolutions will take place. On Saturday April 28th, at the annual meeting, all resolutions approved for floor action by the committee will be voted up or down.

Once your chapter has approved a resolution, email that resolution to copy to ikes@minnesotaikes.org. The resolution must be in a document format that can be edited, it cannot be a PDF. We do look forward to seeing you in Sandstone.
Resolution Committee Chair, Ted L. Suss

SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Silent Auction - Items Needed!

It's time to start thinking about what you might contribute to this year's Silent Auction. Proceeds again will go to the Minnesota Division Scholarship Fund. As soon as you know what you are donating, please e-mail Cherry at

presike2@live.com Then she can get the bid sheet completed before the convention. Chapters please send three items and officers at least one item.

Here is a list of suggested items: Thrill of the Grill Basket; Spicy Specialties Basket; Day Spa Basket; Skinny Snack Attack Basket; Best-of-the-Season Beverage; Trimmer Treats; Walker's Welcome Basket; Low-Carb Creation Basket; Beach Bum Basket; Take-a-Break Basket; Cookies (2 dozen); Crocheted pieces; Wine Basket; Collectables Basket; Avon Product Basket; Wall Hangings; College-bound Bag; Nail (finger) Basket; Toy Basket; Bath Basket; Child's Basket; Pool Fun Basket; Summer Basket; Bubbler & Water Basket; Car Mania Basket; Woman's Basket; Man's Basket; Grandparent's Basket; Gardener's Basket; Grilling Basket; Picnic Basket; Business Gift certificates; Baby Basket; Cross-stitch pieces; Camping Equipment; Patriotic Basket; Italian (or other) Basket; Lounging Basket; Small Lap quilt; Youth bed sized quilt; Venison (or other) meat pack.; Service Cert.; Game Basket; Clifford Basket; Game Collection; Decorative Pillows; Jar Gifts; Homemade Bread; Craft Items; Homemade wine; Food; Wild Rice; Plants; Bat Houses; Fishing Equipment; Decoys; Bird Houses; Wood duck Houses; Bird Feeders; Books by MN authors; Woodwork items; Honey; Cert. for Guided Tours; Cert. for Boat Ride; Sports Team Memorabilia; Cert. for Cabin use; Sporting Event tickets; Small Hand Tools; ;ETC., ETC., ETC....Hope this gets you started. If you have questions, please contact Cherry Schwartz at presike2@live.com.

2018 State Convention & Annual Meeting

April 27-28, 2018

Audubon Center of the Northwoods; 54165 Audubon Dr., Sandstone, MN 55072

Friday Evening

6:30 Social Hour

7:30 Mike Schrage, Wildlife Biologist, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Resource Management Division
Moose Mortality Research & Elk Reintroduction Research

7:45 First Reading of Resolutions

Saturday Morning & Afternoon

8:30 Continental Breakfast

9:00 Annual Meeting of the Corporation

12:15 Lunch & Silent Auction

1:00 Awards Presentation

2:30 Northwoods & Energy Tour led by Audubon Northwoods Executive Director Bryan Woods & Conservation Program Director Don Arnosti.



Photo by Mike Schrage.

State Convention & Annual Meeting Registration

To ensure adequate facilities and food, please register here or online by March 27, 2018. If you are registering beyond this date, please call the Division office at (651)221-0215. THANK YOU!. Online registration is available at minnesotaiikes.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

ST ___ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

I choose plan (please circle). 1 2 3 4
for _____ persons.

I am willing to share lodging with others than myself or my spouse. (please circle) YES NO

Total enclosed \$ _____

LODGING

***All lodging includes meals & registration.**

Plan 1 - Single occupancy: \$130

Plan 2 - Double occupancy \$90/person.

Plan 3 - Three or more \$75/person (see below)

Plan 4 - Meals only & Registration only: \$25.00/person

If you prefer more rustic options for lodging (camping, cabins), please contact Northwoods Audubon directly at **1-888-404-7743 ext. 107 and ask for Sarah.**

Descriptions of the facilities can be found at audubon-center.org.

There is also commercial lodging nearby in the Hinckley/Finlayson/Sandstone area.

Please send completed registrations and payment to:

Minnesota Division IWLA, 2233 University Avenue West, Ste. 339, Saint Paul, MN 55114.

Online registration is available at minnesotaiikes.org.

Questions/Late RSVP or reservation? Call 651-221-0215 or email ikes@minnesotaiikes.org. Thank You!



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Water Action Day at the Capitol, May 2, 2018 (watch your email for more information)

Summer Gathering & Board of Directors, August 11, 2018, Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter hosting, Grand Rapids, MN

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MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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651/221-0215, ikes@minnesotaiakes.org, www.minnesotaiakes.org

2018 Dues (Division & National only) 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.)

Need Your Help to host the 2020 National Convention!

At the 2017 National Convention in Sandusky, OH there was a call to find a host for future National Conventions. No state stepped forward to host the 2020 convention. Subsequently, the Minnesota Division Board of Directors discussed hosting it in Bloomington with the assistance of the Minnesota Valley Chapter, but no commitment was made.

Last Saturday, at the Mid-winter meeting in South Carolina, I asked our National President if any state has stepped forward to host the 2020 event. No one had offered. I let them know that the MN Division might be willing to do so, in a Twin Cities location, but only if we could find a volunteer committee willing to accept that responsibility.

So, I am now seeking volunteers willing to organize a steering committee to bring this event to the Twin Cities. Anyone willing to serve on this committee should contact the Division office (651-221-0215) or ikes@minnesotaiakes.org. To make this commitment, we will need a minimum of 10-12 volunteers.

If we hear from enough of you, we will contact the National Office and let them know "Minnesota Will Host the 2020 National Convention"! Interested parties should contact the Division by no later than 4:30 PM on 3/30/2018.

I hope we are overwhelmed with volunteers. **Craig Sterle**