

Summer 2014



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA

WALTONIAN

President's Letter – Welcome to Spring

by Minnesota Division President Barry Drazkowski

Happy spring, fellow Ikes! Although when you read this, it will already be summer. It's been a tough winter and the change in weather is greatly appreciated. We are quite blessed to live where we do, to experience the phenology of seasons, the changes that progress around us daily. Today, it's green outside, the sun is shining, grosbeaks, orioles, cardinals, and goldfinches swarm my feeder. Life has returned and is rapidly ramping up for all that happens in summer. I've been fortunate this past week to enjoy several mornings birding along the Mississippi River. The warblers arrived in numbers and it's a thrill to view them, checking them off my "hope to see" list; many exciting, colorful, and unusual birds. The experience reminded just how much I enjoy getting out in the woods, doing something as simple as bird watching or contemplating the changing seasons, a reminder that life balance is critical as we engage the important work of resource conservation. It gives context to our energy and focus for our conservation actions to preserve our land, water, air, soil, and wildlife. It is very easy to become consumed in the multitude of issues we find ourselves engrossed in. But if we don't take time to sit back, watch the birds, enjoy our family, plink a few cans, or roll a fly over that quiet spot just below a riffle, we risk burn out and being consumed by our very important work.

Yes, we face daunting issues that seriously threaten our resources. We are currently engaged in efforts to confront the overwhelming momentum to bring more tar sand oil through Minnesota's existing and proposed pipelines. We are engaged in the efforts to fight the serious resource threats of invasive species. From the invasive carp and zebra mussels on the Mississippi to the multitude of threats represented by ballast water in the Great Lakes. We are engaged in the effort to bring awareness to, and policy sanity around the unsustainable and untethered expansion of hydraulic fracturing across the United States. We are lending support and soliciting funding to help sponsor efforts in North Dakota to develop legislation like our wonderful Legacy Act. We are engaged in confronting Minnesota's mining development, acting through informed debate and engagement. We are engaged in working with watershed districts to help inform the public on critical issues of water conservation. And we are engaged in working with children, using projects like building wood duck boxes; to take kids outside, tell them about ducks, habitat, and instilling in them an excitement around the outdoors. Yes, we are engaged. We care about our resources, and we are acting to conserve them. We act in our communities, our schools, impacting our local resources. We act across the State, through the Division and through our chapters, influencing Minnesota's resource policy and its policy makers.

It's moments like this, looking out the window at the birds, waiting for my daughter and her family to wake up and share a cup of coffee, anticipating another wonderful Midwest day, that I am renewed and take great pride in being one of you. Being an Izaak Walton League member, a member of the Will Dilg Chapter, of the Minnesota Division, and of the National organization. At moments like this, I see all the wonderful things we do, from wood duck project with grade school kids, to National office efforts focusing on energy and agriculture policy. Yes, we are blessed to live where we do. We are blessed to be Ikes, to be part a group of people that care so much, work so hard, but also play hard at enjoying that which we treasure so dearly. Hug your wife or husband, kids or grand kids, step outside, touch a leaf, and listen to the woods and the water.

Renew yourself, and engage.



From left to right: Minnesota Division President Barry Drazkowski, Bush Lake Chapter President, John Crampton and Minnehaha Chapter President John Rust were recipients of the Stewardship Award for 2013 at the 2014 State Convention. Photo by Gary Schwartz.

Notes from the Minnesota Division

Annual Meeting / Convention Held April 25-26

Thanks go to Rochester Ikes who hosted the event in their clubhouse on lovely land along the Zumbro River. Their unique stone fireplace bears bricks of stone with the names of the states embedded.

Friday Evening April 25 was devoted to discussion of seven Resolutions that were to be voted upon during the Annual Meeting on Saturday. And it was a time to greet IKE friends and make new acquaintances.

Saturday Events

Morning- Annual Meeting Notes

Mark Owens of Austin Is New Division Vice-president

Owens introduces himself

A lifelong Austin resident, I was born a block from my residence of 41 years. I attended local schools and as a junior in high school participated in a local architectural firm. I continued with the firm and completed the Minnesota Architectural Apprenticeship Program over the 8 years required. After a total of 14 years in the architectural game I needed to get away from the office and moved into my own remodeling business. I continue with the remodeling and also do energy retrofits and solar installations.

Over the years I served with Kinship of Mower County, Sertoma, Cedar Valley Conservation Club, A.C.E.S., City of Austin GreenStep Committee, Eagle Bluff ELC Board Member, CERTs, Austin Chapter 10, and others.

My family includes my wife Barbara, son Eric and wife Natalie, daughter Jamie and husband Derick with Caitlin 13, Riley 12, and Annika 9. My primary interest and activity is the family and the outdoors and nature activities follow.

Current Division Leaders

With the exception of the Minnesota Division Vice-president, all officer and leadership positions remained unchanged from 2013.

President: Barry Draskowski, Will Dilg Chapter

Vice-president: Mark Owens, Austin Chapter (June 1)

Secretary: John Siekmeier, Jaques Chapter

Treasurer: Jill Crafton, Bush Lake Chapter

Elected National Director - Gary Schwartz

Note at publication Jill Crafton was elected our second national director via special meeting of the Minnesota Division Board of Directors.*

Our sincere thanks to **Merlene Stiles** of Austin Chapter who is stepping down from her Division Vice-president's role. She has carried out her job with cheerful diligence and lots of carry through. Good luck to all four officers.

Directors at Large

Bill Barton – Breckenridge Chapter

Char Brooker – Wapashaw Chapter

John Crampton – Bush Lake Chapter

John Rust – Minnehaha Chapter

Cherry Schwartz – Owatonna Chapter

Bylaws changes

The Minnesota Division Bylaws were amended to allow for division committees (including the Executive Committee) and Board of Directors to meet using the internet, teleconferencing and other means as long as all are able to hear and/or otherwise participate fully. The intent of the changes is to allow for division committees and Board of Directors to use modern communication methods in a fair and flexible manner to ensure that all board and committee members are able to participate in the function of division business to the fullest extent possible.

Seven Resolutions Presented and Adopted

1. Minnesota Sulfide Mining. Withhold permits from operators unless companies prove ability to operate and close down without lasting environmental harm. Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter. Author: Larry Kennebeck

2. Barbless Hooks. Revise and review stream trout regulations that require barbless hooks and use of single barbless hooks for all sport fishing. W. J. McCabe Chapter. Author: Dave Zentner

3. Early Teal Hunting Season. Division does not support early Teal hunting season. Submitted by Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs Bill Henke and Dave Zentner (In May the Minnesota DNR announced that the state will not hold an early teal hunting season in 2014.)

4. Sustainable Transportation. Support preservation and maintenance of existing highway assets in good repair before highway system expansion. Jaques Chapter. Author: John Siekmeier

5. Minnesota School Trust Lands. Urge State Legislature to devise and support a plan to retain School Trust Lands with significance and recreational benefits. Author: Grand Rapids Wes Libbey Chapter

6. Recreational Uses of Scientific and Natural Areas. Protect special features of SNAs. Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter. Author: Larry Kennebeck

7. Confirm Regulatory Adequacy Involving Minnesota State Agencies. Calls for review by third party. Author: W. J. McCabe Chapter

Complete Resolutions are posted on the Minnesota Division website (minnesotaikes.org). Many thanks to Bill Henke and Dave Zentner for their diligent work on the resolutions.

Saturday Afternoon

A short presentation on *For Love of Crows* by Colleen Thomann showed her admiration of those ever present birds. That presentation was followed by a forum on frac sand mining (see below).



Newly elected Division Vice president Mark Owens accepting the Ray Haik Watershed Award on behalf of The Cedar River Watershed District and Award Chair Gary Schwartz. Photo by Cherry Schwartz.

On the Front Page!

Frac Sand is used to help release oil and gas underground deposits.

Saturday afternoon's program featuring frac sand mining drew front page coverage in the *Rochester Post Bulletin* on April 28. Reporter Jeff Hansel found many issues the two forum speakers agreed upon. Retired geologist and frac company consultant Jeff Broberg and moratorium advocate Marilyn Frauenkron Bayer of the Land Trust stated their concerns. The microscopic sand fragments have the potential to damage lungs. The ones you cannot see are the culprits, both speakers warned.

Local zoning and planning regulations are necessary, they agreed.

The agricultural use of farmland after mining is not feasible.

Ikes also watched the documentary, "The Price of Sand," about the problems caused by the frac sand boom in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Hansel reports that "the movie covers a range of topics such as job creation, loss of tillable land, health and comfort of residents who live near frac sand mining, truck noise and loss of hillsides, financial wind falls for some property owners and inability to sell their land for others."

Saturday Evening

Silent Auction - 2014

About 70 enticing items were available to the 20 plus bidders at this year's Silent Auction. The number of items was down from other years but was still interesting enough to attract bidders. Participants could choose to bid on blankets, doll clothes, quilts, honey, jam, wild rice, maple syrup, wood duck houses, Queen Bumble Bee house, and hiking tours. Approximately \$1017 was raised for the Minnesota Division scholarships. **Thank you to all the donors and bidders who helped make this year's auction so successful.**

Cherry & Gary Schwartz - Silent Auction Chairs

Special Honors Awarded

Two awards have been created named for past national presidents from Minnesota.

The **Dave Zentner Minnesota Defenders Award** is new this year. It is granted annually to any Minnesota Chapter that conducts a well-rounded program of conservation activities, youth involvement and membership growth. Six chapters earned the award this year and Awards Chair Gary Schwartz expects two or three more next year. Winners for 2013 are: **Austin, Bush Lake, W. J. McCabe (Duluth), New Ulm, Owatonna and Will Dilg (Winona)**. Dave was there to congratulate the chapter representatives.

The **Ray Haik Watershed District Award** is granted annually to a watershed district that has been an outstanding example of community service and management of water resources. **Cedar River Watershed District (Mower, Dodge, Freeborn and Steele Counties)** is this year's winner.

The **Dr. Walter Breckenridge Award** recognizes a professional educator who teaches us all the value of natural resources and conservation. **Jacob Zanon** of Winona's Will Dilg Chapter earned this honor.

The **IWLA Distinguished Service Award** was presented to **Ted Mittelstadt** of Owatonna in recognition of special and long-term service to the Minnesota Division.

Three members received **Stewardship Awards** for working on special projects, achieving public acclaim and helping the community in a meaningful way. Winners were **John Rust**, President Minnehaha Chapter, **Barry Drazkowski**, Division President from Will Dilg Chapter, and **John Crampton**, president of the Bush Lake Chapter.

Julie Henricksson of Jaques Chapter was recognized with the **Ed Franey Outdoor Writer and Conservation Media Award**.

The **Dr. Shouse Membership Percentage Increase** was earned by **Will Dilg Chapter** with a 40% increase. The **Numeric Membership Increase** had a tie with both **Will Dilg** and **Minneapolis Chapters** showing an 8 member increase.

Thanks to **Gary Schwartz** for all his work preparing these honors.

Saturday Evening continued on page 4.

Conservation Issues

Upper Mississippi Locks to be Closed To Stop Invasive Carp

The League has been fighting the war against spread of invasive carp in Minnesota waters for many years. Here is a victory! A congressional bill will close the Upper St. Anthony Lock and Dam on the Mississippi River within a year. When the lock is closed, it will be more difficult for the carp to migrate into northern Minnesota waters and this is considered the most effective way to block the advance of the fish. The Lock and Dam is the least used of the 29 lock system between the Twin Cities and Granite City, IL

Water Matters

Division Treasurer Jill Crafton checks in with water related goals for the Division. Primary goal is to facilitate chapter relationships with their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs) and/or Watershed Districts to learn about the water management plans in their areas and restoration and protection program. **This is an area where citizens can make a difference locally and cumulatively.**

Now that Jill is on the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) (filling out a term) she has access to more information on the state's water management and goals and **One Watershed, One Plan**, the initiative that is being developed within BWSR. "Along with the BWSR Board monthly meetings, there are 3 committee assignments that started the end of April. Lots of committee meetings, but it is such an opportunity," Jill reports. More about the One Watershed, One Plan can be found at <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/>.

Great Lakes Update

Jill Crafton is also deep into Great Lakes water problems and is frustrated at the pace of action on the Great Lakes ballast water issue. Under the coordination and collaboration of Isle Royale Supervisor Phyllis Green, a mobile emergency ballast water treatment demonstration is ready to go with a crew ready to do the work. Funding of \$1 million is needed and Minnesota Ikes Dave Zentner and new Ike member Steve Peterson who has chemical expertise and experience are reaching out to agencies and organizations to hasten funding. In the meantime time passes on.

Arrangements are being made to get a New York and Pennsylvania hydrofracking presentation on the day schedule at the National IWLA Convention in July.

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



Lead Shot in Gut Piles

Dave Zentner states the League's case.

"I think progress toward converting away from lead impossible without continued efforts to educate, offer alternatives, demonstrate; and, where absolutely necessary, allow exceptions when alternatives are not available. Those of us who were in attendance this past summer at the DNR sponsored information session were able to confirm that many are eager to change, that we now possess alternatives that we need to lead as hunters / fishers to keep things rolling. It was and is also clear that there is absolutely no appetite among state / federal agencies, AND, a good number of conservation organizations to use regulation. There is simply not the political will to lead. Industry and some conservation groups try to make the case that in most(emphasis on most as there are some exceptions) cases, populations of affected wildlife are fairly robust and can afford the individual morbidity and mortality. I argue that we have an obligation beyond and above those claims even when accurate. I argue that I have no right to inflict sickness / death as a result of my recreation, if there are alternatives. Swans are but one example of relatively long lived and wonderful animals that we are charged with sharing this planet. I haven't even mentioned my great-grand-kids! State and federal agencies hide behind "to wanting to go through another lead to steel shot battle." They say the scars that remain are significant."



Bakken Oil Well and surrounding landscape. Photo by Becky Siekmeier.

Saturday Evening Program continued.

Bakken Mining Problems

The Saturday evening presentation addressed another aspect of mining when Division President Barry Drazkowski described the devastation of the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota when he and other Ikes toured the oil rich land in June of 2012. Oil wells cover the land and are knocking at the door of Teddy Roosevelt National Park. Pollution of the skies, air, land and life style are prevalent. A model for unbridled mining.

North Dakota is producing over 1 million barrels of oil per day the state of North Dakota announced in April.

Obituary for George G.E. Barthel

George G.E. Barthel, age 86, of Minneapolis, passed away peacefully at home on May 13, 2014. George was a devoted companion to his wife, Lee, and a wonderful volunteer for the Minnesota Division. He not only served as the president of the Minnehaha Chapter, he cheerfully served on the Division's mailing crew, was invaluable as he helped out with events, and was an eagle eyed proof reader of our Minnesota *Waltonian* and other documents.

George was a devoted League member and will be missed by wife Lee and many family members. Memorials can be made to the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League in George's name.



Lee and George Barthel.

Camp Time Is Here!

Izaak Walton League Camp is once again scheduled for Deep Portage Learning Center (near Hackensack) from July 26-August 1. The camp has an intergenerational focus. Invited are kids age 9-16, grandparents and parents. Costs are \$400 per kid or \$700 for child and grandparent or parent. Activities include: invasive species, land navigation, environmental advocacy, fish identification and printing, sustainable living, intro to firearms safety, shoreline management canoe skills, campfire songs and stories, climbing wall, natural resource planning, bog walk, outdoor survival, fly fishing and tying, campout and cookout, intro to archery. Wow! What a curriculum.

Information: www.deep-portage.org, 888-280-9908, 218-682-2325 or portage@uslink.net

The Compleat Angler, Izaak Walton's Classic, Is Republished

If you don't have a copy of the writings of our organization's namesake, here's a chance to add it to your library. Izaak Walton wrote the Compleat Angler as conversations among outdoorsmen including philosophy and fishing lore. Walton's 1600 language is a bit stilted but worth dipping into for his thoughts and knowledge. Oxford University Press has published the first scholarly edition in 25 years.

(I found my copy years ago at a used book stand located along the Thames in London. Cost 2.5 pounds. The Editor)

✓ Chapters Check In

Cass County Chapter Spring Activities

Four years ago the Cass County Chapter adopted an approximately three mile section of the North Country Trail in the Chippewa National Forest. Two or three maintenance hikes per year are conducted and the spring maintenance hike (brushing, clearing fallen trees, etc.) has been completed. The trail is mowed in the summer and a second clearing and brushing hike will take place in the fall.

A Natural Playground Benefits Kids.

A unique natural playground will be installed at the newly opened Wildwood Elementary School in Mahtomedi this year. Jaques Chapter held its June 19 meeting to update citizens about the plans and learn about the benefits of a natural play area that may feature logs, rocks and plants. Playing with natural objects can help kids be more active and creative than usual playgrounds that feature metal, plastic and brightly colored equipment.



A natural playground.

Waltonian

New Bat House Project

Gary Schwartz and the Owatonna Chapter are initiating a bat house project similar to the wood duck house project. They will be asking the MN Division and the WI Division as well as their chapters to donate \$100 each to have kits created, assembled and shipped to chapters. The Owatonna Ikes will set up a special account to receive and hold the funds until they need to purchase wood, hardware, etc. The deadline for donations is Thanksgiving 2014. Please send donations to: Owatonna Chapter IWLA, PO box 9, Owatonna, MN. 55060. Please indicate Bat House Project on your checks.

Wood Duck Houses Project

The project spearheaded by **Jacob Zanon**, **Will Dilg Chapter**, and **Gary Schwartz**, **Owatonna Chapter** secured funding through the IWLA Endowment and other sources. The goal was to provide around 70 wood duck nest box kits to chapters and youth groups. The wood duck box kits were put together by inmates from the Fox Lake Prison in Wisconsin. The New Ulm, Austin, Will Dilg, Owatonna with Owatonna High School, and the Beloit Chapter of WI have all participated in the project.

This project has provided a wonderful tool for engaging kids, getting youth outside as they learned construction, placement, monitoring and the cleaning of the boxes. All were excited to see if wood ducks would make the boxes their homes.



Owatonna High School's Seth Muir's Field Biology class constructed 20 wood duck houses. The students kept about 10 of the boxes for mounting in their home areas. The rest were given to local lakes to hang in proper places. From Gary Schwartz



Kids aged 4-11 hauled the 8 ft. long iron U posts, sled with nesting material, bolts, sledge hammer, through the marsh for nest box placement on a 15-20 degree January day!!! They were real troopers, We had 3 days like this where I took out groups of kids. In total 12 boxes were hung by the school. The older kids did some of the heavier work. They placed the posts, climbed trees, and learned about all the wildlife on the river. WE had some fun exciting adventures! *From Jacob Zanon*

SUMMER BOARD OF DIRECTORS WEEKEND

ALL ARE WELCOME

Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter hosting — August 1 - 2, 2014
Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.

Friday evening, August 1

6:00 Discussion and Social

(refreshments served - pop, beer, wine and snacks)

Saturday, August 2

Morning

8:00 - Continental breakfast

(coffee, juice, bagels and donuts)

9:00 - Board of Directors meeting

Afternoon

12:00 - Lunch

12:30 - Board of Directors' meeting conclusion

2:00 - Tour and Lecture - Coon Rapids Dam

(project to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species)

4:00 - Day concludes



To cover costs the chapter is asking for \$5.00 per person Friday, \$15.00 per person Saturday only or \$20 per person for both Friday and Saturday. Please send your names, dates you will be attending and any contact info with your check made out and mailed to:

Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.



You may also bring your payment the day of the event. Please mail your registration or RSVP by Monday, July 28 so that the chapter can plan. You may RSVP to Steve Schaust at schaust@aol.com or to the Minnesota Division Office at **651-221-0215**.

Some possible hotels: Quality Inn Northtown - 1-866-264-5744, Fairfield Inn by Marriott Minneapolis/Coon Rapids, 1-866-267-9053, Holiday Inn Express Minneapolis/Coon Rapids/Blaine, 1-866-272-4856.



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

National Convention, July 15-19, 2014, Anaheim, CA

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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

The *Waltonian* needs articles and photos about your chapter activities.

There is a lot going on so let's hear about it. Reading stories of events and programs chapters are undertaking can spur other chapters to say, "We can do that!" Submit material to the *Waltonian* at ikes@minnesotaiakes.org.