



WALTONIAN

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

I write today in the aftermath of the Minnesota Legislative session of 2017, waiting for Trump to scuttle US participation in the Paris Climate Agreement. It is a very dark day for our planet and for the future of our children, grandchildren and people all over the world. There is no other way of putting it...the forces of pollution, ignorance, imbecility and unbelievable greed appear to winning. Science, diplomacy, and conservation are being shoved aside in the rush of vicious crony capitalists to grab every last nickel or drop of oil they can out of our earth until it all collapses, in what Thomas Friedman refers to as our "United American Emirate".

Yet everywhere I go I see people getting off their butts, rolling up their sleeves and saying "enough is enough," from California, New York, Washington, Minnesota and other states and cities, to the millions of people in our country and around the world who are saying Yes to the Paris Agreements and No to our president and his cronies.

This fighting spirit was in full display during Minnesota Ikes-led Water Action Day at the Minnesota Capitol on April 19th that was organized by Don Arnosti and Judy Chucker in partnership with the Friends of the Mississippi River, Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP), Clean Up The River Environment (CURE), Land Stewardship Project (LSP) and League of Women Voters.

We had over 1,000 attendees and over 600 scheduled visits with 170 of the 201 legislators. Sixty youth had 30 minutes with the Governor as part of the event. Educational sessions were held all day long on threats to Pollinators, Pipelines, Sulfide Mining, Cover Crops, threats to Buffers. It was aimed at, and countering the full-frontal assault by the Minnesota Chamber Commerce and other dark money forces on all of Minnesota's hard-earned environmental protections. The rally in the Rotunda with the Governor, Audrey Arner, Winona LaDuke and Ann Bancroft was very inspiring.

Hundreds of Minnesota Ikes made this event successful. Gordon Andersson, Tom Clarke, Susan Anderson, Fred Hefty, Don Arnosti and John Crampton made phone calls to members, especially in out state chapters. The Austin and Owatonna chapters organized a bus and brought many members.

Ikes at the event were everywhere serving food, organizing legislative visits and putting on educational sessions, including Tom Clarke, Susan Anderson, Fred Hefty, Natalie Warren, Howard and Lynne Markus, Judy Chucker, Don Arnosti and Brittany Faust. Matt Norton of the Friends of the Boundary Waters and the Minnesota Valley Ikes put on a great educational session with Paula Maccabee on the threats of sulfide mining to our waters. John Crampton videotaped and edited the rally and the educational offerings.



John Crampton (right) with the 2016 Distinguished Service Award winners from right to left Mark Owens, Willis Mattison & George Poch. Photo by Cherry Schwartz.

The Ikes followed it up by working with Leili Fatehi to create the KeepMNClean.org web page with daily messages to the Governor on bills to veto. This helped us generate hundreds of calls, emails and letters to Dayton's office.

We also organized two weeks of Monday - Saturday picketing in front of the Governor's Mansion, in which we had three IKE days, helped lead the Pollinator picketing for another two days and participated in non-Ike days as well. Picketers included Bill Buckley, Bill Barton, Jack Hanson, Nancy and Larry Dolphin, Gwen Myers, Shirley Loegering and family, Lois Norrgard, Terry Houle, Noreen Tyler, Barbara Lindeke, Howard and Lynne Markus, John Crampton and Don Arnosti.

President's Letter continued on page 2.

Do You Remember When Turkeys Were Rare?

by Conservation Program Director Don Arnosti

Do you remember when it was rare to see a turkey in Minnesota? I do. When I started my conservation career about 30 years ago, they were few and far between. Now, they've become a big nuisance.

“Turkey” is my theme for this year’s legislative session. Never in my 30 years experience have the results for conservation and the environment been so poor. Never. And, there was plenty of gravy for the special interests who came to feast on this turkey.

I don’t recall the election past being about subverting the will of Minnesota voters and shifting dedicated water cleanup funds to government salaries. Did I miss the promises to cut residents out of permitting processes for mining? How are we better off with the DNR prohibited from regulating lead shot...when there are effective alternatives? And, what has been so wrong about DNR wetland replacement decisions regarding mining – that they back dated a law 26 years to 1991 to cover it up?!

I’ve heard that the 1% are getting ahead faster than most of us. That carried through into environmental permitting: companies with the means to pay to get to the head of the permitting line, can, to the detriment of other permit applicants. They also have the right to write their own Environmental Impact Statements...and keep their data and assumptions private. Don’t even ask: We won’t tell. Cities have up to sixteen years to comply with new clean water standards. Kicking the clean water can down the road.

Solar, wind and energy conservation programs were cut or repealed entirely. Residents who get their power from municipal or cooperative power companies lost the regulatory oversight from the state, leaving them open to excessive fees to hook up their solar or wind installations. Existing challenges to such charges were dismissed by law. Representative Gruenhagen from Glencoe, Minnesota, in a floor speech that was widely shared, said Global Warming was “Global Lying” and that it was a United Nations plot.

Turkey of a Session continued on page 3.

President’s Letter continued from page 1.

We are just getting started on this. We’ll be back to the legislature again and again until we beat back the terrible bills and help educate or replace the misguided legislators who wrote and/or accepted them.

This summer we will be kicking off many e-campaigns to identify, expose and stop polluters. The Austin Chapter will be doing water quality monitoring of the Cedar River to pinpoint the source(s) of E. coli contamination in the river and surrounding creeks. The Upper Mississippi River (UMR) project is also doing a detailed hydraulic analysis of upstream sources of downstream flooding and sedimentation on the farmland along the Lower Minnesota River owned by Sever and Aaron Peterson along with a legal analysis led by Dave Minge and law school interns of interventions that can be taken to address the destruction of the Peterson’s property. Lynne Markus will be working with the League of Women Voters chapters and Rotary Clubs on coordinating with the UMR Initiative to spread awareness about agriculture and clean water. Paul Erdmann and other Ikes are leading a water quality monitoring effort to identify and stave off aquatic invasive species in Bush Lake. The McCabe and Prairie Woods IKE chapters will be fighting to stop the construction of Enbridge’s Line 3, carrying tar sand oil across the headwaters region of Minnesota.

There are many other efforts by chapters around Minnesota to stop polluters, protect clean water, educate the public and salvage the livability of our earth. So if you are not engaged in these and other fights, you should be. Please join. We need your help.



Don Arnosti. Photo by Cherry Schwartz.

NOTES FROM THE STATE CONVENTION & ANNUAL MEETING

Over fifty people enjoyed the hospitality of the Austin Chapter and the Hormel Nature Center at the 2017 State Convention and Annual Meeting.

On Friday evening delegates and guests gathered at the Austin Chapter's club house for a reception and the first reading of the Resolutions.

Saturday was a busy day at the Hormel Nature Center. The attendees learned much from presentations on the Upper Mississippi River Program, and the negative impacts of large livestock confinement facilities. They also enjoyed hikes and a tour of the new solar and geothermal installations at the Hormel Nature Center. Later they moved on to the Austin Ike Cabin at Todd Park for the Annual Scholarship Silent Auction (see article) and the Awards Banquet (see article). The dinner was followed by a photo essay on Yellow National Park presented by John Duran.

On Sunday morning the delegates gathered for the Annual Meeting to hold elections, vote on resolutions, review the 990, present awards and report on Division programs.

ELECTIONS: **Craig Sterle** – elected Vice-President (W. J. McCabe Chapter) replacing **Mark Owens**. Thank you Mark for your years of service to the Division. **John Crampton** (President), **John Hickman** (Secretary) and **Jill Crafton** (Treasurer) are retaining their positions. **Directors at Large** are elected annually. **John Rust** (Minnesota Valley), **Bill Barton** (Walter J. Breckenridge), **Char Brooker** (Jaques), **Rich Staffon** (W. J. McCabe), and **Cherry Schwartz** (Owatonna) were all re-elected. **Elected National Directors serve on the Executive Committee.** **Craig Sterle** was newly elected, his term expires on 6/1/2019. **Jill Crafton** is continuing as an elected National Director. Her term expires 6/1/2018. **A BIG THANKS** to the Austin Chapter for as always being such excellent hosts!

Turkey of a Session continued from page 2.

We tied our hands when it comes to pesticide applications – Minnesota can't require a "demonstrated need" before use of certain pesticides. Bees and other pollinators are to be researched with a little extra money, but we've already eliminated one possible way to help them. Finally, the rarest of wetlands, calcareous fens (groundwater-fed wetlands, with many rare plants) are now on a "Commissioner's Choice" list. Because one farmer wants to irrigate corn near a fen and his Senator is in his pocket, our protective law dating back a quarter century is now permissive. A future DNR Commissioner may allow "seasonal drawdowns" of groundwater in fens...so that we can have a few more acres of crops. More "turkey trimmings" (and a few small edible bits) can be found in my full legislative report on our website: minnesotaiques.org.

I have indigestion from this Turkey of a session, and so does Minnesota's environment. We are moving backwards on our promise of clean water and our need to transition to clean energy. We are doing nothing to improve our state parks. Did I mention we barely avoided a freeze on further acquisition of public wildlife lands?

When you are out and about this summer in Minnesota's Great Outdoors, look around you. Do you want to pass this along to your children and their children? If so, please tell every elected official that represents you: **No More Turkeys!**

Go to minnesotaiques.org/Izaak/current-issues.html for the session wrap and next steps.

2017 Resolutions

The purpose of the resolutions process of the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America is to provide members with the ability to bring forward issues of concern and to suggest possible plans of action to address them. Resolutions adopted by the delegates to the Annual Convention form the foundation of Division policy, and may be proposed for adoption at the National Convention. To read the resolutions in their entirety go to: minnesotaiques.org.

1. **CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND** – Submitted by the Minnesota Valley Chapter. Author: John Crampton.
2. **OPPOSE TRANSFER OF FEDERAL LANDS TO THE STATES** – Submitted by the W. J. McCabe Chapter.
3. **PROTECTION OF RED ROCK WILDERNESS AND BEAR'S EAR NATIONAL MONUMENT** – Submitted by the Minnesota Valley Chapter. Author: John Crampton.
4. **MINNESOTA THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT** – Submitted by the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter. Author: Larry Kennebeck.
5. **GARLIC MUSTARD INVASION ISSUES** – Submitted by the New Ulm Chapter. Author: Joe Gartner.
6. **OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT HARMS THE WILDERNESS ACT** – Submitted by Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter. Author: Kevin Proescholdt.

2016 AWARDS — Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting

DAVE ZENTNER MINNESOTA DEFENDERS AWARD is granted annually to every chapter that completes six of eight eligibility criteria. The 2016 award winners are: Austin, Bush Lake, Minnesota Valley, New Ulm, Owatonna, Prairie Woods, Rochester, W.J. McCabe, Walter Breckenridge and Will Dilg.

IWLA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD is granted for special and long-term service to the Minnesota Division. We had three winners.

Rochester Chapter President Julie Roenigk believes that if it were not for the efforts of **George Poch** their chapter would not exist. Although the chapter has been relatively inactive for several years, George maintained the Ikes cabin and continued to maintain the chapter's wetlands. As a soil scientist, his unique perspective on the scientific aspects of wetland biology have guided him in leading tours of the property for youth groups and new members. For over forty years he has highlighted the wetland during Rochester's Spring Earth Fest – explaining wild flowers, marsh plants and the animals and birds that inhabit the property. Then in the Fall he plays this accordion for the Mulligan Stew fundraiser! He stands as a role model in the Izaak Walton League for his commitment and energy towards conservation and nature.

Willis Mattison has been the heart and soul of the Prairie Woods Chapter's conservation and environmental advocacy programs. As a retired regional director of the MN Pollution Control Agency, he is knowledgeable about environmental policy, legal applications and the impacts of point and non-point source pollution. Since retirement he has served on a host of advisory boards for Becker County, the city of Detroit Lakes

and the state of MN. In these roles, he has pressed the city to encourage citizen activity in environmental policy making, the county to manage motorized vehicle traffic on tax-forfeited forest lands, and the state on monitoring the expansion of pipelines. As an Ike volunteer, he encouraged others to join him in promoting citizen engagement with regulatory agencies such as the MN Public Utilities Commission and the Environmental Quality Board.

Mark Owens of the **Austin #10 Chapter** has served as Vice President of the Minnesota Division and has helped with the Division involvement in the Green Step Cities program. In Mower County, Mark initiated a \$15,000 grant process for the Mill Pond Restoration Project that successfully enabled the Austin Chapter to seed a four-acre plot with native plants. He also motivated hundreds of volunteers to plant thousands of trees and native species along the Cedar River in Austin. It has become the most popular walking path in the city. In addition, Mark is a solar contractor who embraces renewable energy. He mounted solar panels on his own home and continues to work with others to promote the wise use of electrical energy in the area. With his wife, Barb, the Austin Ikes membership chair, he has been a leading fundraiser and a quiet leader who finds ways to get things done.

IWLA STEWARDSHIP AWARD is presented to an individual or group that has worked on special projects, or helped the community in meaningful ways.

Merlene Stiles has been the president of the Austin Audubon, VP of the Austin chapter and served a term as VP of the Minnesota Division. She holds degrees in Aquatic Biology and she has taught students from kindergarten to college. She has also done research for the Hormel Institute, was a Field Organizer for the MN Environmental Partnership, and at Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. Her greatest volunteer accomplishment was organizing the Vote Yes campaign to pass the MN Legacy Amendment. She and her husband, Jim, continue to coordinate the annual "Day at the Capitol" letting legislators know how important the environment is to their constituents.

SIGURD F. OLSON CONSERVATION AWARD is a special IKES award for someone with outstanding contributions to the preservation of Minnesota's natural resources. **Ed Crozier** of the **Minnesota Valley Chapter** was one of the driving forces to revitalize the Minneapolis Chapter. When it reorganized and changed its name in 2013 he helped recruit a new BOD consisting of a former US Congressman, former state legislator, three outdoor recreational enthusiasts, a finance administrator and the president of another metro Ikes chapter.

Awards continued on page 7.



Chapters leaders showing off their Dave Zentner Minnesota Defender awards are clockwise from the top left Ted Mittlestadt (Owatonna), Ted Suss (Minnesota Valley), Paul Erdmann & Jill Crafton (Bush Lake), Bill Buckley (Austin), Julie Roenigk (Rochester), Barry Draskowski (Will Dilg), Joe Gartner (New Ulm), Bill Henke (Prairie Woods), Craig Sterle (McCabe) and President John Crampton. Photo by Cherry Schwartz.

Factory Farms and Vertical Integration



Photo by David Hanson.

Sonja Eayrs, an attorney for Dodge County Concerned Citizens and a family member of a farm being surrounded by large hog operations and Chris Petersen, a long-time independent family farmer from Iowa, shared their own stories and the facts and impacts of factory farms at our Annual Meeting.

Because of the sheer number of pigs, these large operations produce huge amounts of manure and release hydrogen sulfide into the air from facilities that store the manure. Too much hydrogen sulfide in the air is harmful and the large quantities of manure these operations also create disposal issues with associated impacts. Runoff that can occur after the manure is applied to the land as fertilizer contributes to excess nutrients in water. These nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus contribute to low levels of oxygen resulting in fish kills. The nitrogen from the manure can also seep into the ground water that we drink. Nitrates over 10 parts per million (EPA standard) are not acceptable to drink.

Vertical integration is the business model that packers like Hormel use. Packers own the hogs, which are raised on large industrial farms, thereby controlling the supply through contracts. This practice makes it difficult for independent pig farmers like Petersen to survive. He stated that 91% of the independent Iowa pig farmers are now gone, however there are still the same number of pigs in Iowa. And on these farms pigs, who are intelligent and social animals, are kept in crates where they do not have the ability to turn around.

Eayrs reported that annually 2,400 pigs use between 2.6-3.5 million gallons of water. She also noted that often it is too difficult to be outside on her family's farm due to the poor air quality from the proximity to large industrial hog farms.

They both agreed that there is a lot of turmoil and conflict among neighbors when a new factory farm is being proposed.

All of this is not lost on the Austin Chapter 10 Izaak Walton League members. Austin is the home of the Hormel Company. Here in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa we are all connected and dependent on the economic engine of the Hormel Company in some way. Can Hormel and other packers like them find another way of doing business that is good for the long-term stewardship of the land, water, air, and people and still prosper? The Izaak Walton League intends to explore this with the leadership of the Hormel Company. For more on this topic go to: bloomingprairieonline.com/hog-producer-fights-factory-farms.

The Upper Mississippi River Initiative launches with a Mississippi River Boat tour honoring Al Layman

Former Minnesota Division and Austin Chapter president Al Layman loved the Mississippi River. To honor his memory and raise funds for the Upper Mississippi River Initiative the Minnesota Division and the Austin Chapter are hosting a fund-raising cruise along the Mississippi on the Cal Fremling from Winona, Minnesota. The Austin Chapter has already generously donated \$805 from their Al Laymen Memorial Fund for this project. We hope that other chapters and members will step up as well and support this effort with donations and of course tickets for the cruise.

The Minnesota Division approved \$80,000 for the Upper Mississippi River Initiative. Only \$50,000 of that is being provided directly by the McKnight Foundation, and \$10,000 by our National organization from remaining McKnight Foundation money for river support. Therefore, the Minnesota Division **needs to raise** the remaining \$20,000 for the Upper Mississippi River Initiative.

The fund-raising cruise will be leaving the dock near Winona State University on September 17, 2017 at 3 PM for a three-hour boat ride on the Cal Fremling Mississippi River Boat. The ticket price will be \$100 per participant. We expect the tickets to sell out, helping to raise \$5000 to **clean up our waters**. There will be enjoyable interpretive programs along with food and drink. Ticket information will be posted at minnesotaiikes.org and

austiniikes.org and as soon as it is available. If you can't make the cruise but would like to make a donation to the program go to minnesotaiikes.org and click on the **Donate** link. Remember the we will only have 45 tickets available, so reserve as soon as you can to support a cleaner, healthier Mississippi River.



The Cal Fremling. Photo courtesy of Winona State University.

Continued on page 6.

Protect Our Turtles by Paul Erdmann, Bush Lake Chapter

Road mortality is a serious threat to many different species of wildlife. As temperatures warm, turtles, frogs, snakes, and other amphibians and reptiles begin stirring, sunning themselves, and moving across roads. Turtles are especially vulnerable to injury or death by automobile. You can help turtles and other wildlife, but remember: **SAFETY FIRST!**

In late May and June, female turtles look for open sunny areas to lay their eggs, sometimes up to a mile away from their aquatic home. Males and non-breeding turtles seek out temporary or new habitats. Turtles migrate back to waterbodies in the late summer and early fall. All of this movement puts turtles in danger from our many roads, cars, and distracted drivers. Scientists estimate that painted turtles can live as long as 40 years in the wild, while Blanding's and snapping turtles can live more than 70! Isn't it a shame to see one killed by our cars? In 2015, one volunteer logged over 100 dead turtles on the roads around Bush Lake (Bloomington) alone. But she also helped many turtles safely cross the road. The volunteer collected data using a new mapping tool, called HerpMapper, sanctioned by the MN DNR. Collected data on both live and dead turtles can be provided to natural resource managers and city and highway departments, as innovative "turtle tunnels" are now being built in areas of high mortality. Check out all of the cool wildlife the Washington County turtle tunnel has saved on the MDNR Nongame Wildlife Program Facebook page.



Baby spiny softshelled turtle.

Photo by Paul Erdmann.

How Can You Help Turtles?

Never put yourself or others in danger! If you are driving, safely park and turn on hazard lights to alert others to slow down. **Be aware** of your surroundings and traffic. **Allow** turtles to cross on their own, unassisted, if there is no traffic. **If you need to speed it up**, grasp all turtles, **EXCEPT** snapping turtles, gently along the edge of the shell near the mid-point of the body. **Turtles** may be excited and use the bathroom, don't drop it!

- **Snapping turtles should NEVER be picked up by the tail** (it damages their spinal cord). Use a branch, broomstick, or snow shovel to prod it along from behind. If it bites the object, use it to drag the animal to the other side of the road.
- **Maintain** direction of travel. Move the turtle to low ground, in a direct line, in the same direction it was traveling. Do NOT remove it from its area of habitat.
- **Protect** turtle nests you find in your yard with a cage or plate. Protecting nests for a few weeks (until the scent of the nest subsides) from predators gives them a better chance at being successful. Moving turtle nests is rarely successful.
- **Advocate** for amphibians and reptiles! Support the MN DNR Nongame Wildlife Program and contribute with the Loon Checkoff on your taxes. Contact local and elected officials and let them know you care about protecting them.
- Do a turtle project at your Ike chapter or with a local group. Contact Paul Erdmann at pwerdmann@yahoo.com for ideas.

Form more information: herpmapper.org and dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/index.html; mnherpsoc.org/help-a-turtle.

Upper Mississippi River Initiative continued from page 5.

WHAT IS THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER INITIATIVE? The goal of the Upper Mississippi River Initiative is to foster local watershed conversations and collaborations among farmers, outdoor recreationists, Izaak Walton League members, and local residents, focusing on effective implementation of known watershed mitigation practices. Practices that will reduce water, sediment, and nutrient runoff from agricultural operations.

The Division is pursuing pilot projects on the Minnesota River, The Upper Cedar River near Austin, and on the Lower Le Sueur River. The goal is for the project to expand over time to other sites within watersheds in Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The goal is to **improve land use practices** and **water quality** and create a **community commitment to the protection** of our natural resources.

We would love it if you or your chapter would join in on Al's match and acquire a ticket for the celebration of the Mississippi River on September 17, 2017 in Winona on the Cal Fremling Mississippi River Boat. If Al were here he would nod his head with a great deal of satisfaction. He loved the "River." He was a Mississippi River Man and understood its importance ecologically and economically.



AWARDS continued from page 4.

As a member of the environmental community, Ed began advocating for the creation of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. When it came into being in 1976 it was one of the first urban wildlife refuges in the nation. He served as its first manager and developed an excellent working relationship with local and state governments, non-profits and key individuals. These relationships serve as a key protector and a valuable asset for wildlife and the environment of the Minnesota River Valley.

Ed serves as a member and is a past president of the Minnesota Valley Trust. He worked tirelessly to create and fund the Trust. Under his leadership the Trust has acquired and preserved thousands of acres along the Minnesota River Valley – stretching 40 miles to Henderson, MN. The winner of the Sigurd F. Olson Conservation Award is Ed Crozier of the Minnesota Valley Chapter.

The **Rochester Chapter** won the **Dr. Shouse Percent Increase Award** (38% increase) and the **Bush Lake Chapter** won the **Numeric Increase Award** (20 additional members). Congratulations to all the Ike chapters who grew their membership in 2016.

2017 Summer Gathering & Board of Directors' Meeting

All are welcome

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Minnesota Valley Chapter
6601 Auto Club Road
Bloomington, MN 55438



Minnesota Valley Chapter House.

9 AM – Breakfast (bagels, cheese, fruit and coffee)

9:30 AM – Tour of the Bush Lake Chapter (car pool to Bush Lake from Minnesota Valley), followed by a tour of the Minnesota Valley Chapter upon return. The Minnesota Valley tour will include the floodplain, new solar installation if it is complete and, grounds restoration, and the site of the future paved trail. An explanation of the effects of tiling and draining on the river will also take place.

11:30 AM – Lunch (ordering from Ebert & Geberts)

12:00 to 3:00 PM – Minnesota Division Board of Directors' Meeting

If you need maps and/or hotel information, please contact the Minnesota Division office at **651-221-0215** or ikes@minnesotaiques.org.

Registration Form - Summer Gathering/BOD

Name(s): _____

\$20 per person: _____ X _____ = _____

Address: _____

(to help cover breakfast, lunch and beverages)

City: _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

ST: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Please send check & registration form to:

Minnesota Division IWLA, 2233 University Avenue W Ste. 339, St. Paul, MN 55114.

Or register online at minnesotaiques.org. Questions? Call **651-221-0215** or email ikes@minnesotaiques.org.



The Izaak Walton League of America
MINNESOTA
WALTONIAN

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

National Convention in Sandusky, OH - July 26 - 28, 2017

Summer Gathering & Board of Directors at Minnesota Valley Chapter - August 12, 2017

Cal Fremling Boat Tour start in Winona, MN - September 17, 2017

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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,
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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.)

Scholarship Fund Silent Auction

Once again, a Silent Auction was held at Annual Convention to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund. Approximately 60 items were on display and 40 people bid on them. The most popular item was a quilt and pillow sham donated by an Austin Ike. Its outdoor theme had much interest. Other items included wood duck houses, bird houses, bird food, books, wine baskets, and honey. Over \$1,000 was raised at the event. Thank you to all who donated items, bid on items and were successful bidders!

Thank you so much to the committee members who were there to help with the auction, Nancy Dolphin, Jill Crafton, Gary Schwartz, and numerous Austin Ikes. It went so smoothly with your help.

Cherry Schwartz, Silent Auction & Scholarship Committee Chair