



The Minnesota

WALTONIAN

Izaak Walton League of America Minnesota Division • Winter 2018

President's Letter: Evolution of the Minnesota Division *by Minnesota Division President Craig Sterle*

The Division has been rapidly evolving for the past two years. It began with the creation of the Upper Mississippi River Initiative (UMRI), which had its genesis in frustrations over severe water quality problems across the state's farmlands, the ineffective and temporal nature of the Federal farm policies, State regulatory "business as usual" resulting from the political power of the state's agriculture industry, and the steep decline in farmland wildlife habitat and associated recreational opportunities.

Beginning with an initial \$50,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation, UMRI began to take shape, first here in Minnesota, slowly growing this year in the other three states (WI, IL, and IA) participating in this program. A second grant from McKnight this spring, totally \$200,000 (\$100,000 each year in 2018 and 2019) has put air under our wings, allowing the Division and UMRI to grow both staff and program ideas.

Part of that money has allowed us to hire Piper Donlin as a Division employee, working 60% of her time on UMRI, focused on outreach in the Mississippi River Driftless area of southeastern MN and adjoining WI. As previously planned, this fall Piper began shifting her career trajectory, and will work fifty-percent time for the MN Division while attending college starting in January. We also set up a contract with student Rachel Leuthard to help build and populate the UMRI website and developing our branding. Now that the website is up Rachel has volunteered to continue to support it until new staff is hired to take on that responsibility. We hired Ann Robinson, a former Ike's Midwest Office Agriculture staffer, to assist with UMRI program rollout and increase our presence in Iowa. When Ann received that once in a lifetime position offer with Iowa State University, she accepted. To replace Ann in Iowa, the Division has recently contracted with Mike Delaney, another Ike with years of experience working on farmland issues in Iowa.

To fill research needs, we contracted with hydrology professor Chris Lenhart at the Univ. of MN, to develop a report on the hydrology of the Minnesota River (report is available via our UMRI website). The research shows that pattern tile drainage is negatively impacting the river's hydrology, causing excessive down-cutting in the channel and subsequent loss of the River's normal floodplain. The result is heavy sedimentation being carried downstream, where it's clogging Lake Pepin.

Another UMRI research project is spearheaded by Univ. of MN law professor emeritus, and Ike's member, David Minge. Dave has hired student intern Hannah Mathews from the Humphrey School of Law. Hanna is researching Minnesota's ditch laws/regulations and past case law, in an effort to clarify what opportunities may exist in reforming or challenging ditch proceedings.

With both research projects, the hope is to improve the hydrologic functions on the landscape, thus improving water quality and wetland retention. Recent research is finding that strategic wetland retention or restoration is key in improving flow rates and water purification. Even modest sized wetlands in the proper locations, can have outsized impacts in slowing flow rates, capturing nutrients/pesticides, and improve outflowing water quality.

Beneath all this activity in the UMRI is a team of Ike volunteers, spearheaded by Barry Drazkowski and Dave Zentner, who together co-chaired the UMRI Team. While these volunteers were enthused by the project, the workload from such a startup program has been almost overwhelming. And with a growing staff of contractors and permanent personnel, the Division Executive Committee recognized that changes in the Division management systems were needed. So, late this summer the Executive Committee elected to recommend to the Board of Directors that Don Arnosti be hired as the Division's Executive Director, to handle personnel and run day-to-day operations. At the fall Board meeting at Breckenridge, the Board voted in support of this change in position.

Meanwhile, the biggest personnel change is coming, as Noreen Tyler has elected to resign as Office Administrator after eighteen years of service to the Division. She takes with her a vast institutional knowledge and history of our organization. Her last day is Dec. 15th. She will certainly be missed. As I write this column, we are advertising to fill this vacancy. Noreen has graciously offered to assist with the transition, so the new office manager is provided enough knowledge and support to get off on the right foot.



Craig Sterle.

Continued on page 2.

Conservation Update *By Don Arnosti*

As a 96 year-old organization, we Ikes understand that conservation success take patience, comes incrementally, and always must be defended against backsliding, (or backhandedness.) This Fall, we have several examples of such patient, incremental progress:

- ♦ **Blocked** for the third time this year congressional efforts to waive existing law to “legalize” the transfer (exchange) of 8000 acres of public land to PolyMet mining, a foreign corporation. We Ikes have led the coalition effort to educate Congressional leaders from around the country on how controversial this land exchange is, and that a “rider” waiving existing law to expedite the exchange (and void lawsuits challenging it – to one of which we are a party) is a terrible idea, not supported by many Minnesotans.
- ♦ **Blocked** the issuance of bonds payable from the Environmental Trust Fund which would have drained \$165 million over 20 years, by joining other organizations in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the action taken in the final day of the 2018 legislative session. With the bond sale suspended, attention will turn to the 2019 legislature to fund the affected projects with “regular” bonding.
- ♦ **Moved forward** via our Upper Mississippi River Initiative an agreement with drainage authorities in Waseca County to not increase downstream impacts from a drainage improvement along ditch #48. With partners and the work of many downstream people afflicted by flooding, we were able to convince farmers along the ditch that there were better, cheaper options for their improvement project, which would not increase downstream impacts. We have been invited by the county to work proactively on forthcoming projects to seek such win-win solutions.
- ♦ **Promise ahead?** Voters delivered 39 new members of the Minnesota House in November, many of whom appear to be aligned with Izaak Walton League interests and values. Ikes members are reaching out to their local legislative representatives to engage them on issues of interest.



Winter scene in the Driftless area. Photo by Barry Drazkowski.

We invite you to join in our conservation advocacy! Please contact Don Arnosti (don@minnesotaikes.org) to get on our policy committee, or to otherwise engage in our work to protect our soil, air, woods, water and wildlife.

President’s Letter continued from page 1.

On top of the UMRI, three other projects are ongoing. First, the Energy and Climate Change Committee, headed by Past-president John Crampton, has held several conference calls. You will no doubt hear more from John in the coming year as the committee continues to lay its groundwork, and build this program. (see John’s attached Energy committee report submitted for the Nov. 16th EIC conference call).

The Division has kicked off a Vision and Strategic Planning effort at the fall Board meeting at Breckenridge. A team was assembled, headed by Don Arnosti, to develop a first draft and eventually build a budget around that new vision/strategy. (A big thanks to Jill Crafton for finding and distributing a copy of our last Division planning effort from 2008). Chapters are strongly urged to contact Executive Director Don Arnosti to help inform this process. If there are urgent conservation needs that you, your chapter members, and chapter leadership are seeing across the state, please take a few minutes to contact Don, so we can put it on our radar. Around the state, you are the conservation eyes and ears of the Division!

The Division is also in the process of conducting its fall fundraising drive. New and existing programs, new staff, and money to support both are needed to make the Ike’s an effective conservation organization. Please send your donations, however large or modest, to the Division office.

Finally, I read a good quote in Readers Digest some time back, one we should all keep in mind during this time when environmental public policy and our public lands are seemingly under an endless assault. The quote said “If you’re too busy to fish, you’re too busy.” I urge each of you to take the time to enjoy the things in life that give us pleasure. Conservation advocacy for many of us is one of our passions. But don’t let it overwhelm you. Seek that balance in life that allows for both our work, our advocacy, and the pleasure in our existence. Hope you enjoyed the holiday season!

Re-imagining the Minnesota

Division —

2018 Strategic Planning sessions

It is expected that the Strategic Plan will be brought before the Board of Directors' at its January meeting for approval. Here are the main points from the final draft.

Vision Statement: The Minnesota Ikes envision a state in which our communities are bonded by recognition that clean water, soil, land, air and habitat define our outdoor heritage, which is worth defending. The Minnesota Ikes play a leading role in preserving this legacy.

Mission Statement: To defend our waters, air and wildlife, and practice wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty of nature and understand its value; to restore this heritage for the benefit of this and future generations.

5 YEAR PLAN SUMMARY - Actively pursue these Policy (Program) Priorities (to be evaluated on an annual basis).

Clean Water: Upper Mississippi River Initiative/UMRI.org; defending Minnesotans, our lands, rivers, and lakes, from sulfide ore copper/nickel mining; Great Lakes protection (invasive species entering via ballast water); salting practices; promote sustainable farming. **Climate/Energy:** supporting chapter, individual, and local community education and action on energy conservation and use of renewable energy; promote electrification of transportation to reduce fossil fuel use; resist fossil fuel infrastructure expansion and dependency; promote active transportation options (biking, walking). **Habitat and Wildlife:** Promote expanded and safe habitats for pollinators; protect forests, wetlands, prairies and open spaces.

Investing in Partnerships. The Minnesota Ikes lead partnerships with other environmental, conservation, outdoor, nature, agricultural, faith, and energy organizations to extend the reach and increase the efficacy of our advocacy and education.

Increasing our Visibility. The Minnesota Ikes are well known to the general public as a result of successful and meaningful advocacy for environmental and conservation concerns. This is achieved through the public policy arena and through education of the public. Contributing to the positive public profile of the Minnesota Ikes is a series of direct action projects led by the organization. This includes the expanded use of modern media by staff and members to inform the broader world about our positions and work. We have considered the image we aim to convey and consider this when deciding on our actions and tactics.

Achieving more Diversity. The Minnesota Ikes are an environmental and conservation advocacy organization that will continually engage and welcome new supporters and leaders who represent our diverse state, with a particular focus on younger generations.

Continued on page 4.

NOTES FROM THE FALL BOD

Topics of discussion included: EPA and the discontinuation of fish tumor studies on a superfund site along St. Louis River; the Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund raid – and our resulting lawsuit; PolyMet Land Exchange and utilizing and alternative fundraising to achieve goals.

Chapter news: Austin had a fund raiser for their Cedar River cleanup efforts. New Ulm had a road-side cleanup effort. Rochester held a booya. Owatonna held a candidates forum, has been involved clean ups at Izaak Walton Creek and a local highway, and raised \$400 for youth activities at their annual rummage sale.

Trials on a system to cheaply and efficiently treat Ballast water to eliminate the invasion of harmful invasive species and diseases into the Great Lakes have been continuing. Green Step Cities

Jill and Dyann Andybur are working on coordinating Green Steps Cities programs with IKE chapters. The Board approved the inception of a statewide Pollinator Committee that will report to the board.

Volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee. Please contact Craig Sterle if you are interested. Resolutions Committee It was reported that Ted Suss was going through MN Division policies to identify which ones are out of date. Willis Mattison volunteered to help.

Division Scholarships were awarded to Danielle Blanchfield (U of M Duluth), Alex Franzen (U of M Twin Cities), and Chloe Shaw (Gustavus Adolphus) won the Ruth Saari Scholarship.

Lynn Markus reported on the collaboration between the League of Women Voters and the Ikes on UMRI related events in Winona and Waseca.

Louise Segreto was elected as 1st Vice President and John Crampton was elected to the position of Secretary. The board may fill vacant officer positions until regular elections at the annual meeting.

A resolution was passed to authorize the disposal of the former Zumbrota Chapter's property.

Don Arnosti position was changed from Conservation Director to Executive Director .

Reports from Conservation Issues; Energy and UMRI are covered elsewhere in this issue.

A BIG THANKS
to the Breckenridge
Chapter and Tim
Johnson for stepping
up and doing such
an excellent job of
hosting the weekend's
meetings.

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



Report from the Energy Committee

by John Crampton

Members of the Division Energy/Climate Committee are delighted that there will be a new set of representatives in the Minnesota House and a new state Administration that has signaled that it wants to act aggressively on climate change. Working with our partners in MEP (Minnesota Environmental Partnership) the IKEs (John Crampton, Matt Doyle, Craig Sterle, Willis Mattison) and other groups have developed a legislative platform for 2019 that includes:

- Regulating greenhouse gases under the existing MPCA rulemaking authority.
- Facilitating the transition to zero emissions transportation by adapting the California Automotive Standards in full, including zero Emissions Vehicle Standards to put more EVs on the streets. This includes \$40 million to construct 3,000 EV charging stations throughout Minnesota.
- Increasing the renewable energy standard up to 80-100% statewide by 2050 with the bulk of the transition coming before 2030. This is consistent with Xcel's announcement last week that it will be 85% renewable by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

We are also contemplating putting on a Climate Action Day at the Capitol and perhaps in different regions of the state.....TBD. We are heartened by the fact that there are 19 new members of the Minnesota House, and 12 of them noted the need for strong climate action on their campaign websites.

We applied for a \$5,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce to develop a series of seminars with matching apps, called **Cut Your Carbon Footprint Using Renewable Energy**. It is intended to teach Minnesota citizens how they can cut their carbon footprints through LED lighting, Green Energy programs such as WindSource, rooftop solar, solar gardens, and EVs. While the grant application was unsuccessful, we intend to develop it ourselves in 2019, and customize it so it can be used in all areas of the state.

Matt Doyle of the McCabe Chapter has been working on crowd-funding of solar projects using a fairly new investment law that makes crowd-funding simpler-- MNvest. Matt and the McCabe Chapter have been involved in a Sunshot solar project involving several non-profits in Duluth. Minnesota Valley is entertaining a proposal to invest in a solar development collaborative that will make solar gardens more accessible to people of all classes, including those with less than stellar credit.

Willis Mattison of the Prairie Woods Chapter and Sam Potter of the Minnesota Valley Chapter are developing a presentation called "**Minnesota Climate Change and the Scale of Necessary Climate Action**" It will use the latest climate models to show the major and intensifying changes that climate change is having and will have in our state, and will give frank information about the massive scope of changes we must make in the next decade if we wish to prevent climate catastrophe and an ecosystem cascade. It will first be shown at the Winter Izaak

Walton Board Meeting on Saturday, January 26th at Oak Grove Presbyterian at 3 PM. You're welcome to attend.

Jill Crafton and DyAnn Andybur are working to link Green Step Cities programs in over 128 cities in Minnesota, with local Izaak Walton chapters, so we can help strengthen and support these local sustainability efforts. We are also planning to create a couple events in 2019..... perhaps a SolarWind Expo and/or an EV Expo that can be "templated" so they can be utilized by our chapters.

Four chapters received money in 2018 to do energy projects on their chapters, including Rochester, Owatonna, Bush Lake and Breckenridge. Good work by one and all. If you want to get involved, please contact John Crampton at 612-396-6010 (jcrampt48@gmail.com). We need all the help we can get.



Solar at the Minnesota Valley Chapter house.

Strategic Planning continued from page 3.

Pursuing multiple forms of Engagement. Our chapters lead and participate in multiple programs and projects in their local communities that promote our mission and vision. New members and supporters have the opportunity to participate in our efforts either through existing regional chapters or new virtual and direct engagement opportunities. Our leadership ensures that new voices are acknowledged and that concerns are met with consideration and respect. Encourage our senior members to take on a mentoring role and share their knowledge and experience with others. Staff provides chapters technical support and training in order to strengthen bonds, aid in revitalization, and to preserve their history. Staff works to foster harmonious discussion of divisive issues among our members, supporters and chapters, so that all may hear each other whilst striving for a common vision and position whenever possible. To insure that the Minnesota Ikes are active advocates on issues, and communicate with our members, supporters and chapters, policy makers, and the public at large using the most effective and modern tools available. **Invest in and retain Staff.** The Minnesota Ikes invest in our staff by providing lowest cost 403b retirement savings options, health care options, and by budgeting for new skills training that can lead to increased responsibilities. Seek continuous staff feedback in a spirit of openness to identify and capitalize on opportunities for organizational and operational improvement.

Upper Mississippi River Initiative

By Piper Donlin

Progress in Drainage Debate on Ditch #48

-On November 20th, a group of farmers, concerned citizens and League members attended the Waseca County Ditch Authority Board meeting to discuss the changes to the Ditch # 48 that would provide storage that the peak flows at the point at which it drains to the public ditch are not increased over present. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy worked to negotiate the details of the proposed improvements to the plan. UMRI staff and supporters were pleased to see this progress. After months of meetings and negotiations, we are beginning to see significant progress, new conversations, and collaboration on issues of drainage.

Iowa Farmers Union Annual Meeting - On December 1st, Iowa Ike Mike Delaney Mike Delaney, Iowa Field Director for the Upper Mississippi River Initiative attended the Iowa Farmers Union meeting in Perry, Iowa. Addressed were the changes being seen in our agricultural landscape due to climate change; from increased flooding, to extreme heat, erosion, and loss of top soil. The speakers recommended changes to our current agricultural system, including carbon capture, organic production, innovation, and funding for conservation initiatives. Senator Amy Klobuchar spoke about the urban-rural divide, continued negotiations over the Farm Bill, and the challenges facing farmers today.

Coralville League of Women Voters Meeting

-On December 3rd, Mike Delaney and Chris Henning, of the Raccoon River Watershed Association board travelled to Coralville to speak to members of the League of Women Voters and others in the Coralville Library. Delaney explained that the goals of the UMRI are to help farmers to engage in regenerative agriculture to improve soil health and reduce water pollution. Ms. Henning discussed her experience as a farmer who has applied conservation practices on her land and has worked with the Women Food and Ag Network. *A way to honor special people and help two worthy causes..*

A Fond Farewell!

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your Division Office Administrator for almost 18 years! It has been the best getting to you as a group, as individuals and as friends! I am pleased to be leaving the work under Don Arnosti's capable oversight. A new staff person has been hired and I have high hopes for their success. They will most likely be taking on the many tasks that fell on my shoulders to help ensure that the Division remain a functional and viable organization from administrative, financial and program functions to managing and designing the various the Division website, electronic communications, databases, newsletters (electronic and paper), working to ensure that the Division's internet presence is functional and under the Division's organizational mantel. Please remember that all Division staff (including Don) have a lot on their plates. Slim budgets mean that many tasks fall on few shoulders. The new "office manager" will not only have a lot to learn, but will also be hit with some very high expectations. Please treat them with the same respect and kindness that most of you have shown me as they work to make all of your visions possible. Make sure that key staff are included in any discussion that is about or may impact their work and more importantly the work of the Division. **Thank you for having me in your midst and allowing me to contribute to the mission for these many years. Have a great New Year! Noreen**

The Fay Harrington Memorial Forest ... a brief history.

The Izaak Walton League Memorial Stand was created in 1983 by the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America as a way to remember and honor friends and relatives who, like Fay, cherished the beautiful north woods. Tax deductible gifts were divided between the Minnesota Division office and Deep Portage Conservation Reserve, and funds received at Deep Portage were used to plant trees on a nearby parcel of tax forfeit land in Cass County, Minnesota.

In 2003 the name was changed to honor Fay Harrington for the pivotal role he, and what was then called the Leech Lake Chapter, played in establishing Deep Portage Conservation Reserve. A few years later, the stand was relocated to Deep Portage where it remains. Currently, the Memorial consists of a small stand of forest marked by a sign and located just off Nature Center Drive, the Deep Portage entrance road. A short walking trail, currently maintained by Deep Portage and the Cass County Ikes Chapter, winds through the stand with plaques describing the makeup of the stand, the geology of the area and forest management practices.

Tax deductible gifts to the memorial continue to be divided evenly between the Minnesota Division and Deep Portage. Those who contribute a minimum of \$20 will receive a certificate from the Minnesota Division acknowledging the contribution. In addition to the certificate, Contributors of \$100 or more will, if they desire, have their name and the name of an honoree entered in a memorial log at Deep Portage.

A contribution form is available on the Minnesota Division website for those wishing to support the Fay Harrington Memorial Forest, the Minnesota Division and Deep Portage.



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

These generous donors and volunteers have done much to sustain our efforts over the past 12 months.

Kathy Aaro • Karin Anderson • Keith & Anita Anderson • Paul Anderson • Susan Anderson
Craig Andresen • DyAnn Andybur • Carol Arnosti & Andreas Teske • Don and Meg Arnosti • Nancy Arnosti
Susan Solterman Audette • Don Austin • Karen Bacig • Lee Barthel • John Bazey • John & Verneice Beckel • Thomas Bell
Richard & Kathleen Blake • Jeff Birchem & Gretchen Mehmel • Neil & Tara Bizily
Heidi Boe • Gary Botzek • Dick & Vera Brown • Bill Buckley & Kathy Kester • Christopher & Peg Carlson
Nancy Carlson • William Carlson • Cass County Chapter • Nancy Carlson • Joy Cedarleaf • Judy Chucker • Tom Clarke Lori
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& Todd Olson • Karen Ostenso • David Peterson • Richard Piepgras • John Probst • Kevin Proescholdt
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Jennifer Wahls • Ellen Wersen • John White • Steve Wilson & Mary Shedd • Duayne Wincell • Megan Wind • Steve Wlosinski
Ruthann Yaeger • Karen Zentner Bacig • Dave & Margo Zentner • Lynn Zentner

Dilg's Defenders and other donors who have generously donated \$1000.00 or more in during the past 12 monhs to fund our work.

**Dilg's Defenders have generously agreed to donate \$1000.00 or more annually to help ensure that the Minnesota Division has a stable financial foundation to sustain its conservation efforts.*

*Austin Chapter	Allan Bucholtz	*Gwen & Mason Myers
Bush Lake Chapter IWLA	*John & Mary Crampton	*Richard & Joan Newmark
*Minnesota Valley Chapter IWLA	Sue & Brad Doeden	*Louise Segreto
New Ulm Chapter IWLA	*Don Janes	*John & Becky Siekmeier
*Gordon Andersson	*Bill & Nancy Henke	*Craig & Sandy Sterle
*Constance Arnosti	*Terry Houle	Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation
*William & Michelle Barton	*Tim & Lori Johnson	*Ted Suss
*Char Brooker & Gene Mamenga	*Tom & Sue Leaf	*Bob & Pat Tammen
William Berg	*Caroline Malde	Johna Telfer
	McKnight Foundation	

Generous donations were received to honor the memories of these recently deceased Ikes, supporters and nature lovers:
Connie Arnosti, Kathy Baird, Ron Bakken, Terry Berg, Pat Dietz, Benji Rosenblatt, Erika Sitz and Paul Toren, Paul Zollman.

Winter Meeting & Strategic Planning Session

All are invited and welcome to attend.

Bush Lake and Minnesota Valley Chapters Hosting - January 25-26, 2019

Friday, January 25, 2019

Get together- 6-9 PM

Hosted by the Minnesota Valley Chapter, 6601 Auto Club Rd., Bloomington, MN 55438

Great Food served from 6:00-7:30 PM

Homemade Ham and Vegetable Soup

"Made From Scratch" Eggnog, and other libations!

8:00 PM Program

Brian DeVore, a long time staff member of the Land Stewardship Project, will present and read from his new book *Wildly Successful Farming* and discuss the issues and opportunities he raises in the book. Please RSVP to Ted Suss at tedsuss@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Board of Directors' & Strategic Planning

Hosted by the Bush Lake Chapter at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, 2200 W. Old Shakopee Rd. Bloomington, MN 55431

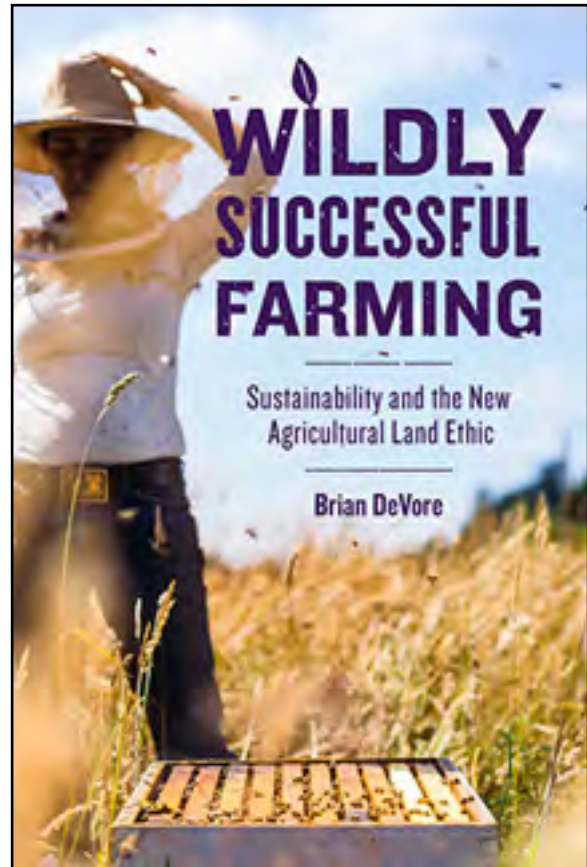
9:00 AM - Continental Breakfast

9:30 AM Board of Directors Meeting

12:00 PM Lunch provided

12:30 PM Strategic Planning

3:00 - 4:30 PM Program - Climate Change



Registration Form - Winter Board of Directors Saturday only .

Please RSVP directly to Ted Suss at IkesMNValley@gmail.com or (507)828-3377 for the Friday evening social.s

Name (s) _____	<u>Fee to cover food for Saturday only (donations accepted at the door for the Friday social.</u> Suggested donations: \$35 per person (Saturday _____ X _____ = _____
Address _____	
City _____	
ST _____ Zip _____	
Best phone _____	
Email _____	

Please indicate any dietary restrictions: _____

Please send completed registrations and payment to::

Bush Lake Chapter C.O Jill Crafton, 10351 Decatur Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55438-1945

For more information go to minnesotaiques.org click on the Events link.

Questions can be directed to Jill Crafton at jillgreatlakesike@gmail.com or (952)944-5583.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Winter Gathering & Board of Directors' Meeting, January 25- 26, 2019, Bloominton, MN

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MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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Send material to: ikes@minnesotaiikes.org or call 651-221-0215.

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2018 Dues (Division & National only) Individual \$62.50

(\$50 Nat'l/\$12.50 Div.), Family \$90.00 (\$75 Nat'l/\$15 Div.),

Student \$35.00 (\$25 Nat'l/\$10 Div.), Youth \$16.80 (\$10 Nat'l/\$6.80 Div.)

**Defend our Soil, Air, Woods, Waters
and Wildlife!**

Did you know we have a statewide policy committee that meets regularly (in person and on the phone) to discuss our state conservation agenda and how best to implement it? These informed folks then take a leadership role in our Minnesota advocacy work.

Did you know you can get on an email list serve with more than 150 Minnesota Ikes to share on a regular basis ideas, articles and discussions of conservation issues of interest?

Our Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) is open to any member to participate in the implementation of our conservation work, including lobbying in Minnesota and sometimes Washington, educational field trips, public hearings, marches and more.

For more information, or to join the EIC, contact Don Arnosti at don@minnesotaiikes.org or 612-718-3626.