



WALTONIAN

President's Letter By Division President Barry Drazkowski

The summer *Waltonian*! It's hard to believe it's that time again. Time moves so quickly, when so much is going on. As I write this letter, the current legislative session is still ongoing and the Division hosted its first Day at the Capitol. It has been a very busy session for many of you Ikes. We also had our spring Annual Meeting up at Maplelag Resort, near Detroit Lakes. And, on a personal note, I retired from Saint Mary's University at the end of May and am now in the throes of my first couple months of retirement bliss, at least I hope so as I write this letter. So it is time to recap what we have all done, what we should take pride in having accomplished these past few months.

Our first **Day at the Capitol** was a great success. For many years the Austin and Owatonna Ikes have organized a bus trip, bringing their members to a day at the capitol. So as our Environmental Issues Committee discussed action strategies, we decided to build on their success and try to host a Division Day at the Capitol. I want to thank our Conservation Director, **Don Arnosti**, for taking the lead to pull this together. I acknowledge the many volunteers from the Environmental Issues Committee who worked with Don to organize, and set up legislator meetings, **Noreen Tyler** for putting together materials, **Lois Norrgard** for designing the graphic, **Judy Chucker**, **Lynn Markus**, and Lois for calling the Legislators, and the host of other logistics so important to pulling off an event like this. Also, I want to thank **Jim and Merlene Stiles**, and **Barbara Lindeke** for bringing the food and Lynn Markus for working so hard with Noreen during the event to keep registrations and other tasks



McCabe Chapter President Rich Staffon accepts the Stewardship Award for Darrell Spencer from President Barry Drazkowski. Photo by Larry Kennebeck.

President Barry Reports Retirement Plans after 38 Years

As I wind down my last few days of my 38 year career as a biologist, GIS specialist, and manager, I wanted to let you all know that I won't be sitting home in my rocking chair. My plans are to enjoy my two daughters' upcoming marriages (yes two daughters getting married in the coming months), my family, my health, riding my bicycle and motorcycle, a little hunting and fishing, walking my dog, and maybe even get to my retirement task list. I also plan on spending a lot of time on social and environmental advocacy issues; at least once I get through the weddings, walking the dog, a little hunting and fishing, and riding my motorcycle.

moving. It is thought-

ful and dedicated efforts by all of you that made our first of many, **Days at the Capitol**, a wonderful success. We met with Senators and Legislators from across the state. We talked issues, like energy and buffers. We were seen, we were heard, and we had an impact. We demonstrated citizen led democracy, speaking out for what we so passionately embrace.

Issues: Late winter and spring were characterized by Division and Chapter engagement on: the **Sandpiper pipeline**; the **Wetlands Conservation Act**; **Polymet and related mining expansion issues**; **school trust lands and the BWCA land exchange**; **Scientific and Natural Areas**; **Great Lakes invasive species** and a proposal to develop a **ballast water treatment protocol** to protect the Great Lakes from invasives carried by these ocean going ships; **Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi river**, include the passage of the closure of the **St. Anthony Falls lock and dam** due to the threat of the carp's upstream movement; the hallmark effort on the **buffers bill** with letters, calls, and personal advocacy by many of our members; and the so important effort on renewable energy and all the things related to our **sustainable energy future**.

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President's letter continued

Wow, for a small group, we, no you have been so involved and so effective, and this does not include all the local chapter efforts you are so engaged in.

Spring culminated in our Annual Meeting at Maplelag resort near Detroit Lakes. We had a good turnout, a wonderful time, great discussion, and effective meetings. We sorely missed all of you who could not make the trip this year. Maplelag is a beautiful venue, a setting characterized as being very Ikey; casual, serene, conducive to thoughtful consideration of the serious problems facing society and our resources. Our Saturday morning education session, featured presentations and discussion on clean water and oil pipeline concerns. We had informed Habitats presentation and passionate discussion. My sincere thank you to each of the speakers.

These Ikes were honored for work in 2014-

Rich Staffon (McCabe) with the Sigurd F. Olson Award; Len and Bethel Anderson (McCabe) and Dr. Lee Frohlich (University of MN) with the Dr. Walter Breckenridge Award; Bob and Pat Tammen (McCabe) and John Siekmeier (Jaques) with the Distinguished Service Awards; 14 chapters with the Dave Zentner Defenders Award; and Jaques, Will Dilg, and New Ulm chapters with membership awards. It was truly a weekend to celebrate conservation in action and to honor all the hard work each of you do every day.

Lastly, John Crampton was named to the Executive Committee as our new Secretary, and we wish to thank John Siekmeier for his service as Secretary over the past two years.

by President Barry Drazkowski

Please watch for our Spring Appeal in your mail and email. Remember that the Minnesota Division's work is very dependent on your financial support. We can't continue do all of the work we do without your help. Thank you!



Award winners from left to right, back row: Craig Sterle (McCabe); John O'Neill (Will Dilg); Bill Buckley (Austin); Don Arnosti (Jaques); Pat Dietz (New Ulm); Larry Kennebeck (Walter Breckenridge); Barry Drazkowski (Will Dilg). Front row: Cherry and Gary Schwartz (Owatonna); Char Brooker (Jaques and Wapashaw); Jill Crafton (Bush Lake, Minnehaha, Minnesota Valley); Bill Hencke (Prairie Woods).

How you can help Pollinators

The Bush Lake Chapter recently hosted a Protect our Pollinators workshop. Heather Holm, author of *Pollinators of Native Plants*, offered these top ten things you can do for pollinators.

- ✿ **Provide a variety of native plants that overlap through the seasons**
- ✿ **Leave areas of bare soil for ground nesting bees.**
- ✿ **Leave stem stubble for cavity nesting pollinators.**
- ✿ **Leave tree snags for Old Potter Wasp nests, standing hollow stems.**
- ✿ **Do not use pesticides, especially systemic insecticides.**
- ✿ **Provide larval host plants for butterflies and moths.**
- ✿ **Do not disturb existing nesting sites in your landscape.**
- ✿ **Create new habitat for pollinators and remove invasive species.**
- ✿ **Use straight native plant species. Plant breeding can cause flowers to lose fragrance, nectar, pollen and affect bee accessibility.**
- ✿ **Talk to your friends and neighbors about the importance of pollinators.**

by Paul Erdmann

Annual Meeting and Convention at Maplelag Resort

April 24 to 26 - Prairie Woods Chapter hosting

Director at Large Char Brooker offers these glimpses of the ambience of the 2015 Annual Meeting: open lake with trumpeter swans, loon calls throughout the night, 34 ticks on Larry Dolphin's body. Hiking the completed Upstream state of the art boardwalk along Sucker Creek in Detroit Lakes thanks to the years of work of Ike Sally Hausken.

The walkway is a quality operation to be enjoyed by those from the city and an attraction to visitors. Another attraction is the reconstructed area ski hill. Hiking at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge was a special treat for a large group of Ikes. Members enjoyed lounging on the comfortable Maplelag furniture during meeting hours. Relax and learn about environmental needs was the motto of the weekend at Maplelag.

And the food prepared by Maplelag was outstanding as usual, with many Ikes taking home scrumptious loaves of their famous bread. Hospitality was greatly appreciated.

Resolutions passed and submitted by these chapters:

1. **Pineland Conservation**, Prairie Woods Chapter;
2. **Social Cost of Carbon**, Bush Lake Chapter;
3. **Reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund**, W. J. McCabe Chapter;
4. **Deer Stands on State Lands**, Grand Rapids West Libbey Chapter;
5. **To Conserve, Restore, and Promote Pollinators and their Habitats**, Bush Lake, Breckenridge, Jaques, and W. J. McCabe Chapters;
6. **School Trust Lands Exchange**, W.J. McCabe Chapter.

Officers for 2015

President – **Barry Drazkowski** (Will Dilg Chapter), Vice-President – **Mark Owens** (Austin Chapter), and Treasurer – **Jill Crafton** (Bush Lake, Minnehaha, Minnesota Valley Chapters) are continuing their current positions. **John Crampton** (Bush Lake, Minnesota Valley Chapters) was elected Secretary.

Bill Barton (Breckenridge Chapter), **Char Brooker** (Wapashaw and Jaques Chapters), **John Rust** (Minnehaha Chapter), **Cherry Schwartz** (Owatonna Chapter) were re-elected as **Directors at Large**. **Gary Schwartz** was elected National Director. **Jill Crafton** is continuing as our second elected National Director.

AWARDS

In addition to honors noted by President Barry are these Chapter awards. Chapters who earned the Dave Zentner Minnesota Defender Award given for Chapters that conduct a well-rounded program of conservation activities, youth involvement and membership growth. These 14 Chapters received this Award:

Austin, Bush Lake, Jaques, Minnehaha, Minnesota Valley, New London, New Ulm, Owatonna, Prairie Woods, Rochester, Wapashaw, Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, W.J. McCabe, Will Dilg,

Many thanks to Gary Schwartz for Chairing the Awards Committee. A big job well done.

2015 Silent Auction

Approximately 20 participants bid on 40 items at this year's Silent Auction which helps to raise funds for the Division's Scholarship fund. Bat houses, bluebird houses, wood duck houses, honey, sweatshirts, tee shirts, and prints were items up for bid. \$723 was raised for the Division Scholarship fund. Prior to the convention, the New Ulm Chapter made a large contribution to the Scholarship fund. Thanks to them!

Special thanks to the Scholarship Committee members Chair Cherry and Gary Schwartz, Jill Crafton, and Nancy Dolphin.



Annual Meeting delegates enjoying their visit to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Larry Kennebeck.

This Is No Way to Govern...

Don Arnosti

Conservation Program Director

Saturday, May 16th, 7:30 pm. 52.5 hours until the Constitutional deadline for the Legislature to finish their work. The basement room in the State Office Building is packed with citizens, lobbyists and agency people. Ten members of the Legislature sit down to slice up the budgets and policies affecting natural resources. Hundreds of pages of policy and spending are on the table. **Approximately \$250 million is going to be invested to protect natural resources: 0.6% of total state spending.**

Saturday, May 16th, 11:45 pm. The committee voted to eliminate the Pollution Control Agency Citizen's Board. The Board has functioned for 40 years to provide a citizen voice in Pollution Control Agency decisions. Recently, the Board had the temerity to require a large dairy operation to prepare an EIS.

Saturday turns to Sunday as we pause for the long-awaited "buffer amendment" to put icing on this "cake." I fear that they're going to put on a decent buffer bill so that the Governor signs all the other questionable legislation into law.

Sunday May 17th, 3:30 am. The suspense is over... and it sure wasn't worth waiting for. The "offer" is to delay enforcement of existing law requiring 50' buffers along public waters (lakes, most rivers and deep wetlands) - for five years. The rest of the plan is to provide a 16' buffer on ditches - in seven years. (Plenty of time to repeal or delay that law again!)

Sunday May 17th, 4:00 am. Send out a message to have constituents contact House and Senate members asking for a "no" vote on the bill. **We wanted the Governor to veto it, which he did.**



Don Arnosti getting the point across to Governor Mark Dayton. Photo by Dell Erickson.

Sunday May 17th, 1 pm. Distributing a coalition letter asking for a no vote. Many legislators are beginning to understand this whole bill is fatally flawed. Social media - Facebook, Twitter, emails are beginning to get through: the word is out.

Sunday, 2 pm. The bill is in limbo. We've talked to 60 members of the House and Senate who are ready to vote no.

12 hours pass, hurry up and wait. Conversations happen. Rumors fly. Letters are distributed.

Monday, May 18th, 12:30 am. Word comes that \$22 million is diverted from Clean Water Legacy funds to support Soil and Water Conservation District personnel - who have no meaningful buffer legislation to enforce! The environment is down in the corner and being beaten and robbed: Closed Landfill Trust Fund robbed of \$60 million. Clean Water cleaned out for \$22 million. This is in a year of a \$2 billion surplus.

1 am. Word comes that the PCA Citizens Board is being traded for less-bad buffer language. We haven't seen it. Citizen voices stifled at every turn.

2:30 am. **May 18th, last day of session.** An improved buffer proposal is inserted in the bill. Basically, it provides a mechanism to implement and enforce the law we've had for over 25 years. It represents an honest effort to slightly expand existing buffer requirements and require their implementation within a 2-3 year timeframe. However, a lot more will need to be done to actually clean up our waters....

Time and space do not permit me to tell of the remaining actions that take place in the next 21.5 hours until adjournment. In summary, we and partner organizations went all-out to defeat this monster. We had lobbyists at the Capitol, citizens on social media and members calling, emailing, Facebooking and Tweeting their demand to stop this bill. It was awesome to behold.

In a few hours, we rounded up 50 "no" votes in the House and 30 "no" votes in the Senate. As this goes to press, we have just finished a veto rally with more than 150 people at the Governor's residence. He came out with cookies and invited us onto the grounds to meet with him. He was sincere in how anguished he was over the bill - and whether a veto would lead to a better result. We told him loudly and clearly that we were there to fight with him for a better bill. (By the time you read this, you will know the outcome.)

***Future work for the Ikes: Urge your legislators to pursue a better *process* of passing environmental legislation. Stay organized and involved and expect success. One way to stay organized and on top of environmental issues is to sign up for our Environmental Issues Committee list-serve (mnikes-eic@googlegroups.com). Contact the Division office if you are interested in joining the list.**

Trip to Washington

by Kevin Stark

On May 12th and 13th I participated in a Sportsman's Clean Water Fly-in held in Washington, D. C. I represented the Ikes in support of clean water and the rule-making process in which the EPA is currently engaged. I joined twelve other individuals representing organizations such as the Minnesota Conservation Federation, Trout Unlimited, etc. from a total of six states (three of us were from MN). We were there to meet with our respective Representatives and Senators to show our support for clean water and specifically to encourage them to vote nay on bills that would erode clean water act protections and for them to support the EPA's rule-making process that will clarify the enforcement of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The group was hosted at the Trout Unlimited headquarters in Arlington, VA, and folks from the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), Trout Unlimited (TU), The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and the Izaak Walton League made us all feel welcome and supported during our time in D.C. Thank you TRCP and TU for your tremendous support for this event.

Just being in the ever-busy city of D.C., with other conservationists who were experienced, passionate, and welcoming, was amazing. Our meetings with staffers from Representative McCollum's and Senator Klobuchar's offices struck me as polite, receptive, and overall encouraging in terms of the Congress women's apparent support for clean water.

We also met with folks from the EPA. I was impressed at how well they articulated the events leading up to their forth-coming final rule on the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS)



Craig Sterle and other Ikes participated in the Tar Sands Resistance March on June 6. Photo by Terry Houle.

and the CWA and the effort they made in incorporating incredible amounts of public input in response to their most recent proposal. The final rule will clarify which waters are protected under the CWA and will restore protection of many small tributaries and connected headwater wetlands critical to fishing, swimming, and even to drinking water. Overall, my experience in Washington D.C. was excellent and I was very proud to be a citizen voice for clean water.

By Kevin Stark, GIS and Resource Analyst, GeoSpatial Services, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Upstream of the BWCAW:

No Mine, No Way, No How!

That is the message that Save the Boundary Waters member Becky Rom offered at the January meeting of the Minnesota Division at the REI in Bloomington. A PROUD MEMBER OF

Rom began with a video of the 101 Day Trip to Washington, D. C. in a canoe bearing hundreds of signatures to emphasize the impacts of sulfide mining on the BWCAW.



Rom discussed how valuable to the economy Ely and the surrounding area is. It is the largest wilderness area in the country. Ely has a strong mixed economy, far outpacing nearby mining communities. Ely also has strong entrepreneurial traditions with a special community and cultural spirit.

Twin Metals is proposing a heavy metals mine upstream from the BWCAW that will generate acid mine drainage (AMD) from the sulfide contained in the many tons of waste rock. AMD is generated when sulfides and water and air combine to form sulfuric acid. This AMD will devastate downstream tourist businesses and homeowners. There are 26 resorts, camps and private homes valued at \$318 million that could lose value because of the impacts of AMD. Contrary to the misleading assertions by pro mining advocates, among a few hundred mining jobs for 20 years will not replace the dozens of tourism businesses and hundreds of tourism jobs that will be lost because of AMD that will last for at least hundreds of years. We do not want the Ely area to become an industrial zone, replacing the beautiful, pristine area it is now.

Rom and a local resident of the Eagles Nest Lake complex briefly discussed the separation of surface land ownership with subsurface mining ownership. Few people understand the mining rights trump surface rights completely. Also confusing are the differences between federal mineral rights and state mineral rights. Rom completed her informative presentation by noting the large number of members of her coalition determined to defeat mining near the BWCAW. **Remember! Upstream of the BWCAW, No Mine, No Way! No How!**

By Howard Markus, Jaques Chapter

The Minnesota Division has lost two valued members recently.

Kristi Harrington Loftis, age 57, of Minneapolis, died after a brief and valiant battle with melanoma on May 5. Kristi leaves her husband and children. She was the daughter of Fay and Dorothy Harrington, active Ikes. Fay who founded the Deep Portage Preserve and preceded Kristi in death. Kristi graduated from Hackensack High School and the College of St. Catherine. She was a writer and web designer for Omega, Inc for over 20 years creating websites for companies. She also volunteered her time and talents for many nonprofits including the Izaak Walton League. Kristi loved to sing and brought joy and laughter with her wherever she went. She was a supporter of the League and volunteered at the Division office, entertaining all with her stories and wit. She will be missed by the Ikes who knew her. Memorials are preferred to Cass County Chapter IWLA or to Deep Portage Learning Center (contact office for addresses).

Lois E. Martinetto, 92, long-time and dedicated Ike member passed away on April 28 and was preceded in death by her equally dedicated husband Leonard. Lois was always there when those nitty gritty but necessary jobs had to be done at the Division office and for her Minnehaha Chapter. She was generous with her time and also active in her church. In her early years Lois earned a home economics degree and taught school. Family was an important part of her life and she was a great mother. Lois was an authentic individual, a joy to know and her work for the IWLA was much appreciated.



Kristi Harrington Loftis



Lois Martinetto

A Love Affair with Birds: A Book to Treasure

Author Sue Leaf has carefully researched an engaging biography of Thomas Sadler Roberts (1858-1946), a name familiar to Ikes. Roberts had a lifelong passion for studying birds that began while trekking the then rural acres around Minneapolis. Leaf brings early history to life as she describes Roberts' two great interests, birds and medicine. He was a practicing physician for 30 years using a horse and buggy to travel to patients' homes. Roberts is most famous for his book, *Birds of Minnesota*, among others he produced throughout his long life. Bird watchers, history lovers as well as casual readers will be fascinated by Leaf's description of the way bird study was conducted in the olden days and how doctors worked at their vocations.

Roberts founded the Bell Museum where he was curator, educator, conservationist, a many talented man. Enjoy a good read.

A Love Affair with Birds is published by the University of Minnesota Press.

Char Brooker Honored by High School

Super active Ike Char Brooker of Wapashaw and Jaques Chapters has received an Award from the North Branch High School Association, a group formed to make North Branch alumni more active in the community. Brooker was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2015 at ceremonies on May 20 given for her many years of community achievements, mostly environmental oriented. Initiating and carrying out projects for the Izaak Walton League and the Land Stewardship Project have shown her leadership talents. She is a chapter builder and recruiter for the Ikes and is always willing to lend a hand. Char is a devoted birder, native plant gardener, bicycle trail user and traveler. **Congratulations, Char!**

SUMMER BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

All are welcome to attend this fun and informative weekend!

**August 14 - 15, 2015 at
Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
28097 Goodview Drive
Lanesboro, Minnesota 55949
eagle-bluff.org, (507)467-2437**

Friday - August 14

Check in after 6:00 PM

Hors d'oeuvres and conversation

Saturday - August 15

8:00 AM - Breakfast

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

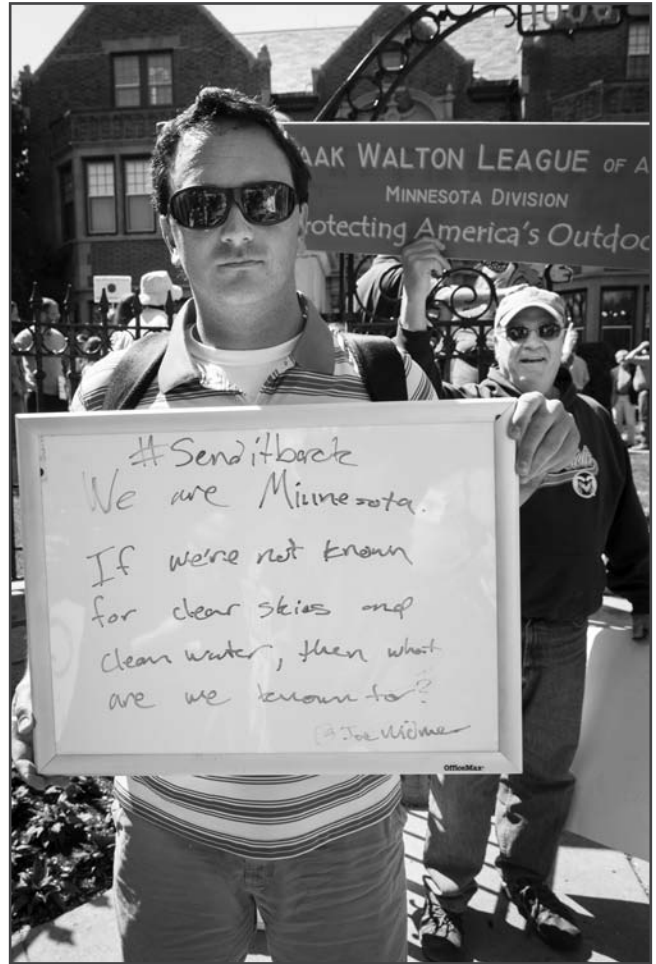
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING (& lunch)

Afternoon

There are great trails, canoeing, biking, and other activities. For more information contact Mark Owens at markbarbowens@msn.com or call (507)433-2735.

Cost: Friday and Saturday with overnight stay is \$95 for a single and \$180 for two. Cost for those not needing accommodations and Saturday only is \$40 per person. Please fill out form below or register and pay on line at minnesotaikes.org and click on Events.

You may also use the form below.



New Minnesota Division secretary John Crampton (behind to the right), helping to make the Ike presence known outside the Governor's mansion.

Photo by Dell Erickson.

Registration Form - Summer Board of Directors' Meeting Weekend

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ will be attending

Send form with check or money order to:

Minnesota Division IWLA, 2233 University Avenue West, Ste. 339, St. Paul MN 55114 call (651)221-0215 or email ikes@minnesotaikes.org with questions about registration. Please register by August 6. Thanks!!



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

UPCOMING MEETINGS

IWLA National Convention, Pierre, SD – July 14-17

Summer Board of Directors', August 14-15, 2015, Eagle Bluff Env. Learning Center in Lanesboro

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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2015 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

FOREST MEMORIALS

Minnesota Division offers a thoughtful way to honor or memorialize friends or family with an attractive certificate. For a contribution of \$20 or more, the certificate will be sent to the designated honoree. The certificate proceeds will be used to preserve the Fay Harrington Izaak Deep Portage Conservation Preserve in Cass County and environmental work of the Minnesota Division. Contact the Minnesota Division to order your contribution.



by Dr. Walter Breckenridge