

# IWLA National Convention

BY CATHY BERGER AND DAWN MERRITT



Visit our convention web page at [iwla.org/convention](http://iwla.org/convention) for more details.

SPONSOR



**GRAB YOUR KIDS, THE GRANDKIDS – EVEN THE NEIGHBOR’S KIDS** – and start planning a road trip to the League’s national convention. There will be something for every member of the family!

The Kalahari Resorts are unlike any convention destination in recent years. You will be transported to Africa during your stay – no passport required.

Start your day with gourmet coffee at Java Manjaro before you take on the largest indoor water park in North America! You’ll feel like you’re in a Dr. Seuss story with the new colorful, convoluted waterslides at the outdoor water park. If you’d rather stay dry, try the ropes course and zip line tour or head indoors for mini-golf and duckpin bowling. Take a camel ride and feed giraffes at the resort’s Safari Adventures Animal Park. Feed your inner child (the one who craves sugar 24/7) at the Candy Hut. Enjoy a slice of history – and patented pizza sauce – at the Pizza Pub. Nourish your spirit at the other onsite restaurants or pamper yourself with a visit to the spa.

# July 25–28, 2017 • Sandusky, OH

When it's time for our meetings, there will be plenty to enjoy there too. Meeting rooms are outfitted with 10-hour ergonomic chairs. The convention program will focus on the League's central issue: water. As part of that focus, we will celebrate the national launch of the League's Clean Water Challenge and enjoy speakers and workshops specifically geared to energize, inform, and involve every League member in achieving our shared mission.

If you're looking for small-town charm outside Sandusky, check out the nearby town of Vermillion, where the Harbour Town Historic District is filled with shops, restaurants, and more. Need more thrills? Visit Cedar Point – voted the Best Amusement Park in the World!

We hope to see you at the 95th annual IWLA National Convention at the Kalahari Resorts in Sandusky, Ohio!



## CONVENTION SITE AND LODGING

### Kalahari Resorts

7000 Kalahari Drive  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
(877) 525-2427 or (419) 433-7200

Room Rate: \$149++ single/double (includes 4 water park passes per room/per day, and resort fees have been waived for our group!) Deadline: June 24.

To reserve your room, call the hotel (mention "2017 National Convention" for our discounted rate). **Reservations MUST be made by phone.** Our room rate applies for up to three days before and three days after the convention.

## AIRPORTS

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) is our top choice for air travel based on the number of flights per day, but you can also fly into the Toledo Express Airport (TOL). It is approximately 45 minutes from the Cleveland and Toledo airports to the Kalahari Resorts.

## GROUND TRANSPORTATION

The hotel shuttle is \$85 each way (price drops per additional person). You can also make arrangements with Super Shuttle for transportation to/from the Cleveland Airport. Call (800) BLUE-VAN (258-3826).

## RENTAL CARS

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport has a consolidated rental car facility located off the airport grounds that offers access to the major car rental companies. The Izaak Walton League has an Avis Discount Code (L837370). The discount varies by location, time of year, and length of rental. You can make your reservation at [avis.com](http://avis.com) or call (800) 331-1212.

## CAMPING

Our Ohio hosts recommend Milan Travel Park ([milantravelpark.com](http://milantravelpark.com)) and Camp Sandusky ([campsandusky.com](http://campsandusky.com)) for those planning to bring a camper to convention.



## CONVENTION CONTACTS

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**Cathy Berger**  
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# **WATER:** Our Nation's Future

Water is the focus of this year's national convention — which makes it the perfect place for the **national launch of our Clean Water Challenge!**

The Clean Water Challenge is our members' goal for the League — one that will improve water quality across the country and build on the League's national leadership in stream monitoring.

**Our goal: monitor 100,000 more stream sites by the League's 100th anniversary in 2022.**

This is a stretch goal — and one that we can accomplish together. Convention workshops will focus on ways to make this challenge a success, from basic and advanced stream monitoring to building community partnerships and communicating results.

We're ready to get this party started, and we hope you are too!

# SPEAKERS



## DR. JEFFREY REUTTER OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY/OHIO SEA GRANT

### Halting Harmful Algal Blooms

As harmful algal blooms threaten water quality, public health, and outdoor recreation in waterways across the country, Dr. Jeffrey Reutter will highlight the main causes of algal blooms and the role citizens can play in reducing the threat.

*Dr. Jeffrey Reutter is an aquatic biologist and limnologist (inland water studies) and a frequent lecturer on the changing Lake Erie ecosystem, harmful algal blooms, aquatic invasive species, and the importance of science communication with the public. He served as director of the Stone Laboratory, Ohio Sea Grant College Program, Center for Lake Erie Area Research, and Great Lakes Aquatic Ecosystem Research Consortium – all run by The Ohio State University – from 1987 to 2015. He is now a part-time special advisor for these programs. He also served on the Council of Great Lakes Research Managers for the International Joint Commission for 21 years.*



## MATT DUNFEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

### The Future of Hunting and Shooting Sports

The future of hunting and recreational shooting sports – and a significant source of funding for conservation – depends on recruiting new participants. Recruitment has to expand from high school trap shooters and traditional female audiences to include millennials, urban residents, and more ethnically diverse audiences. Matt Dunfee will highlight a national strategy to recruit more hunters and recreational shooters and identify opportunities for the League to help implement that strategy.

*Matt Dunfee is the programs manager for the Wildlife Management Institute, a 101-year-old nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to science-based, professional wildlife management. He serves as director of the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance, project coordinator for the North American Hunting Heritage Action Plan, and chair of the National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan. Following his leadership in developing evaluation toolkits for hunter and shooter R3 efforts, Matt has conducted dozens of multi-day training and information workshops for state and federal wildlife agency staff and administrators on R3 strategies, program development, evaluation, and best practices.*



## STANLEY TEMPLE ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

### How the Izaak Walton League Helped Aldo Leopold Formulate His Land Ethic

Most people today are unaware that the Izaak Walton League was as a source of information, inspiration, and political influence when Aldo Leopold was developing his ideas about our relationship with nature. Aldo Leopold was an early and lifetime member of the League, and he often relied on the League's extensive network of local chapters as his eyes and ears on the ground in his conservation endeavors. Professor Temple will retrace that relationship and explain why Leopold's "land ethic" should be an important component of the League's water quality initiatives today.

*Stanley Temple is the Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and former chairman of the Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development Program in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For 32 years, he held the academic position once occupied by Aldo Leopold, and during that time he won every teaching award for which he was eligible. He and his students have helped save many of the world's endangered species and the habitats on which they depend. He is currently a senior fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation. He has been president of the Society for Conservation Biology and chairman of the board of The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin.*

**Get alerts on other speakers as they are added to the agenda by signing up for our e-mail blasts. Visit <http://members.iwla.org/news>.**



## ENJOY THE SIGHTS IN SANDUSKY

The League's annual convention has plenty of action and excitement (even more than usual at the Kalahari Resorts!). But if you need more reasons to book a trip to Sandusky this summer, we've got a few for you.

### CAST A LINE IN LAKE ERIE

July is the best month to catch walleye in the western basin of Lake Erie. We hear that summer walleye fishing is Lake Erie's best-kept secret! (But given that the lake is known as "The Walleye Capital of the World," a few other people may know about it.)

Need help booking a fishing charter? Visit the Sandusky Charter Boat Association's website ([fishingcharterscba.com](http://fishingcharterscba.com)) for a list of local captains. Because Lake Erie is so shallow, the conditions can change quickly, so you want to be on the water with an experienced crew.

### BINGE WATCH THE BIRDS

Drop the remote and grab your binoculars – we have better things for you to binge watch than season one of "Stranger Things" or "Westworld." The marshes off Lake Erie offer an eyeful for bird watchers.

**Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve**, one of the last undeveloped stretches of shoreline in the Sandusky Bay region, attracts nearly 300 bird species. Summer residents include great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, black-crowned night herons, wood ducks, great horned owls, and numerous songbirds. Perhaps you'll catch the spectacular blooming of cardinal flowers in the woodland swamp while you're there.

A short drive northwest from Sandusky, **Magee Marsh Wildlife Area** is known as the place for bird watching during spring and fall migrations. But there is still plenty to see in the summer, including herons, egrets, pied-billed grebes, and ducks in the marsh as well as migrating shorebirds feeding in the mudflats. Keep your eyes open for the bald eagles that frequent the marsh! A 42-foot observation deck offers a birds-eye view of the area, and the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center provides a comfortable space to learn about the area's history.

### GO ISLAND HOPPING

You don't need a passport to cruise the islands this summer. You'll find Catawba Island, Kelleys Island, and South, Middle, and North Bass Islands just off the shore of Sandusky. (Catawba is really more of a peninsula, but we're not going to argue with Ohio about the name!)



**South Bass Island** is known as the “Secret Midwest Playground” for its vast range of attractions and activities, from wineries and cave tours to kayaking and golf. It’s also a great place to go fishing! While you’re there, visit Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial, which commemorates one of the most significant naval battles of the War of 1812. (Don’t give up the ship!)

**Gibraltar Island**, located just off South Bass, hosts Ohio State University’s Stone Laboratory, which is the oldest freshwater biological research field station in the United States. The university also owns what is now called Cooke Castle – the island summer residence built by Jay Cooke, who raised almost \$1 billion to support the Union during the Civil War. Gibraltar Island is open for tours from late June through early August ([ohioseagrant.osu.edu/visit/gibraltar](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/visit/gibraltar)).

Budding geologists and students of history will enjoy a visit to **Kelleys Island**, where you can explore the largest accessible glacial grooves in the world (embedded with 350- to 400-million-year-old fossils) and study Inscription Rock, a limestone boulder with petroglyphs carved by Native Americans hundreds of years ago.

Jet Express offers ferry service from Sandusky to these island getaways.

## STROLL THROUGH THE PAST

Take a walk back in time at **Historic Lyme Village**, which depicts 100 years of early life in the Western Reserve. Tour an 1836 farm home, log homes, a

one-room school, a general store, and more. Architecture buffs will enjoy the John Wright Mansion, a Second Empire Victorian home built between 1880 and 1882, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The John Seymour House, an 1836 Greek Revival house, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The village is also home to the Schug Hardware Museum and the National Postmark Collectors Museum and Research Center.

## GET YOUR THRILLS

Known as the Roller Coaster Capital of the World®, **Cedar Point** offers 17 roller coasters plus a host of other family-friendly rides, including an immersive dinosaur experience and live entertainment. Check the Cedar Point website ([cedarpoint.com](http://cedarpoint.com)) for the height, speed, and “thrill level” of each coaster before you get in line.

Find historic thrills at the **Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museum**. Hayes was a Civil War general and Harvard-educated lawyer who served three terms as Ohio’s governor before he ran for president. Hayes lost the popular vote, but the electoral votes were contested for months. How was the “most fiercely disputed election in American history” decided? You’ll have to visit the museum to find out!

## DISCOVER BRIGHT IDEAS

**Marblehead Lighthouse**, the oldest lighthouse in continuous operation on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes, is one of Lake Erie’s most-photographed landmarks. Strike a pose, then enjoy a

stroll along the walking trails or climb the 77 steps for a birds-eye view of the lake and nearby islands.

At the **Thomas Edison Birthplace Museum**, learn about the man whose inventions include the incandescent lightbulb, motion picture camera, and universal stock ticker. Learn why the phonograph was Edison’s favorite invention – and how he used polka music to get more people to try it!

## MAKE WAVES

Although Lake Erie is the smallest and most shallow Great Lake, more than 1,400 ships have perished in its waters. Lake Erie shipwrecks are favored among divers due to the lake’s shallow waters and how well fresh water preserves the ships (although shallow waters can also cause wrecks to break up in storm conditions).

The **Maritime Museum of Sandusky** offers artifacts recovered from shipwrecks in Lake Erie as well as exhibits on boatbuilding, ice harvesting, commercial fishing, pirates, the Underground Railroad, and more.

And if you’re a certified diver, jump in with a dive company and see some of these wrecks for yourself! (Discovery Dive Charter out of Wildwood Marina in Cleveland seems to be the closest to Sandusky to offer such dives.)

Visit our 2017 national convention web page at [iwla.org/convention](http://iwla.org/convention) for more details on these and other activities.



# YOUTH CONVENTION

Get ready for week filled with fun and adventure! Our Young Ikes always have a blast at youth convention. Take a peek here at some of the events our Ohio hosts have planned.

## TUESDAY, JULY 25

Youth Convention opens with a pizza buffet at Chet and Matt's Pizza (a local favorite) and private pool party at the Kalahari Resort's Sands Pool Area.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Start the day with shooting sports and lunch at the League's Monroeville-Huron County Chapter. In the afternoon, venture behind the scenes at "Back to the Wild" Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, which is home to more than 50 hawks and owls, bald eagles, herons, bobcats, bunnies, and more – animals that were too injured to be returned to the wild after rehabilitation.

## THURSDAY, JULY 27

Learn about fishery management at Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve – one of Ohio's last examples of a natural estuary. After lunch at the Marblehead Lighthouse, get a lesson on aquatic research at the Lake Erie Research Center and explore boatbuilding, ice harvesting, shipwrecks, and more at the Sandusky Maritime Museum.

## FRIDAY, JULY 28

Have fun fishing after a habitat restoration project at Great Egret Marsh Preserve, which geologists believe was once the channel of the Portage River. After lunch, enjoy water sports at East Harbor State Park, a hayride at Bergman's Orchard, and a sweet treat at Toft's (Ohio's oldest dairy).

While the adults are at the convention closing banquet, pig out at a hamburger/hot dog feast at Hot Dog Tony's Restaurant. Then get your "scare" on at the Ghostly Manor Thrill Center, which includes a haunted house and roller rink.

*Note: This schedule is subject to change. Information will be updated on our convention web page: [iwla.org/convention](http://iwla.org/convention).*

Chaperone slots have been filled to capacity. If you would like to put your name on the chaperone volunteer waiting list, please e-mail [sroth@iwla.org](mailto:sroth@iwla.org).



ERIK DROST, IWLA (4)



# CONVENTION

2017

## REGISTRATION

Additional copies of these forms are available at [www.iwla.org/convention](http://www.iwla.org/convention).

### CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION  
Sandusky, Ohio  
July 25-28, 2017

All cost are per person	Cost	Number	Total
Registration	\$100	_____	_____
Youth Convention Registration (per)	\$30	_____	_____
Early Bird Auction			
Non-registered guests	\$18	_____	_____
<b>Wed., July 26</b>			
Awards Luncheon	\$26	_____	_____
<b>Thurs., July 27</b>			
Membership Awards Breakfast	\$20	_____	_____
Conservation Luncheon	\$28	_____	_____
Monroeville/Huron County Chapter BBQ	\$35	_____	_____

<b>Fri., July 28</b>			
Banquet	\$40	_____	_____

**Total Amount Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meal prices include tax and gratuity  
 Sorry, no meal refunds after July 19th

Special Meal Request: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Registrants Chapter Name

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Name on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years as a League Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Ohio Division IWLA. Mail registration form and payment to:  
Shawn Gallagher, 2715 Scott Rd., Oxford, OH 45056-9154. Check, Visa and MasterCard accepted.

### YOUTH CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Please be sure to pre-register using this form. In addition, completed and signed parental consent and liability forms are required at onsite check-in on Tuesday, July 25th. These forms are posted online at [www.iwla.org/convention](http://www.iwla.org/convention). If you have questions, please contact Samantha Roth, Save Our Streams Coordinator at [sroth@iwla.org](mailto:sroth@iwla.org) or (800) IKE-LINE (453-5463) x222. **NOTE: The minimum age to participate is 8 years old. No exceptions. Registration fee of \$30 should be included with convention registration. Enclose Youth Convention form with your registration and payment.**

#### Youth Participation Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ IWLA ID Number (\*if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(at Convention)