



PHOTOS BY JENNY MYERS, DEBBIE VELIZ, MAT WEBBER, AND LEAH MILLER

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA 2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

At the Izaak Walton League's 87th national convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, hundreds of Ikes from across the country gathered to celebrate a major milestone in our history, elect League leaders and set League policy, learn what works from conservation experts and each other – and have some fun!



SOS! Izaak Walton League chapters got the call . . . to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the League's Save Our Streams (SOS) program, as remarkable for its development of a citizen conservation corps as it is for becoming a nationwide model for stream conservation. Throughout the 2009 convention, we celebrated Save Our Streams successes and began building for the next 40 years of leadership and citizen engagement.

SAVE OUR STREAMS: A RICH PAST AND A BRIGHT FUTURE

In 1969, the League pioneered citizen-based stream monitoring, giving volunteers simple tools to safeguard and advocate for the health of streams in their communities. Leah Miller, IWLA's Clean Water Program Director, commemorated 40 years of volunteer work that made the Save Our Streams program one of the first vol-



unteer water monitoring programs to gain approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Through public outreach and education, the League recruited and trained a corps of volunteers who, in turn, monitored thousands of miles of streams, found serious pollution problems in many, and used what they learned to restore streams and water quality. This citizen corps has become the basis for volunteer stream monitoring programs throughout the country.

This is not simply a time for nostalgia, Miller cautioned, but a time for action. "Only 19 percent of our streams and rivers are assessed by government agencies," explained Miller, which means we don't know the quality of many waterways Americans use for drinking water, swimming, and fishing. According to *The New York Times* (June 24, 2008), Americans spend up to \$1 billion a year on stream restoration projects, but many of these projects fail because people start restoration projects without fully understanding the waterways they want to restore and don't monitor them afterwards.

Properly diagnosing the root cause of erosion and other problems helps ensure stream restoration efforts are successful. And that's where Save Our Streams starts! Miller called on every member of the League to get involved in the Save Our Streams program, leading the charge in their communities for safe waters and healthy habitats. Visit www.iwla.org/sos today.

WATER WORDS THAT WORK

Water-related issues top public concerns about the environment — and have for 20 years, according to opinion polls. So why do we have trouble engaging more people in the solutions?

Eric Eckl, Founder of Water Words That Work, explained that water words we use every day — like watershed — are often misunderstood by the public. League members roared with laughter as Eckl showed a clip from Weather Channel® interviews in which one woman described a watershed as "a place you go to the bathroom" and another said it is where "you store water." But his point was well taken: Words matter, and if we want the public to care about and



get engaged in clean water and other conservation issues, we have to communicate using language our neighbors will understand.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Fred Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, outlined the challenges and opportunities facing our food and agriculture systems — and society as a whole — driven by global environmental, economic, and social changes. Kirschenmann described how our industrial economy depends on cheap energy, abundant water, and a healthy workforce — yet each of these is growing more expensive or is being depleted at a very rapid rate. And our culture of consumption exacerbates these problems. Kirschenmann highlighted how individual farmers, entrepreneurs, and citizens are developing new approaches to growing food that protect the land *and* generate a profit.



GREAT GRASSLANDS

As a sportsman and outdoorsman — and long-time member of the League's Rapid City Chapter — Jim Margadant has seen firsthand the environmental impact as more and more acres of South Dakota grasslands are lost to commercial purposes.

Prairie grassland is the least protected and fastest dwindling ecosystem in the country, yet no national grassland areas are protected by the federal government as wilderness. The South Dakota Wild Grassland Coalition, a diverse group that includes the League's South Dakota Division, is calling on Congress to preserve 50,000 acres of public land, protecting it from off-road vehicle abuse, oil and gas drilling, mining, and road building. The proposed wilderness areas — Indian Creek, Red Shirt, and Chalk Hills — would still be open for non-motorized use by the general public, including hiking, hunting, grazing, and fishing. "These areas are special," said Margadant, "because they are still unroaded and still have wilderness value."



2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

IKES RESOLVED

The Izaak Walton League is truly a grassroots organization. League members develop our national conservation policies by considering and voting on resolutions each year at convention. This year, members approved five resolutions, which will be integrated into the 2009 Conservation Policies Handbook (available online in December).

Support Non-Motorized Trails: This resolution recognizes the health and environmental benefits of non-motorized hiking, biking, and other trails. It endorses and encourages the development of an extensive network of these trails.

Add Roadless Areas to Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness: The League was instrumental in establishing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota more than 30 years ago. This resolution supports passage of federal legislation to add approximately 49,000 acres of roadless land in the Superior National Forest to the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

Protect Biscayne National Park: Biscayne National Park covers 172,000 acres in south Florida and includes mangrove forests, the

northern islands of the Florida Keys, and a portion of the third largest coral reef in the world. Florida Power and Light Company is proposing to build two nuclear power plants adjacent to the park. The resolution urges local, state, and federal regulators to reject the proposal to build these plants adjacent to the park.

Get Kids Outside: A growing body of research adds to what many League members have already observed — our children are increasingly disconnected from nature. This resolution urges League divisions and chapters to hold environmental education programs for the public.

Research Bee Colony Collapse: Over the past few years, colonies of bees across the country and around the world have died in extraordinary numbers. Although some research is underway on Colony Collapse Disorder, the name given to this bee phenomenon, scientists have been unable to identify a specific cause. The resolution supports federal and state funding for government agencies and universities to perform additional research and provide findings to farmers, beekeepers, policy makers, and the public.

THE VOTES ARE IN

Elections are another important part of the League's democratic process. Election results brought some new faces and the return of many dedicated League leaders.

National Officers

- President:** Mike Williams (Watertown, SD)
- Vice President:** Jim Madsen (Watertown, SD)
- Secretary:** Bob Chapman (Poolesville, MD)
- Treasurer:** Walter Lynn, Jr. (Springfield, IL)

Executive Board

- Roger Sears (Poolesville, MD), Chairman
- Shawn Gallagher (Oxford, OH), Vice Chairman
- Marsha Johnson (Moline, IL)
- Gary Meade (Elkins, WV)

In addition, Garrit Struck (Johnsburg, IL) was appointed to fill the remainder of Jim Madsen's term on the Executive Board.

Regional Governors

- Region I:** Peter Hillebrecht (Orange, CA)
- Region II:** Charlotta Burton (Colorado Springs, CO)
- Region III:** Sidney Wagner, Jr. (McCook Lake, SD)
- Region IV:** Dean Knight (Readlyn, IA)
- Region V:** Carl Keeler (Palmetto, FL)
- Region VI:** Richard Sommer (Damascus, MD)



2009-2010 IWLA National Officers (pictured left to right): Mike Williams, President; Walter Lynn, Jr., Treasurer; Bob Chapman, Secretary; Jim Madsen, Vice President



2009-2010 IWLA Regional Governors (pictured left to right): Peter Hillebrecht, Charlotta Burton, Sidney Wagner, Jr., Dean Knight, Carl Keeler, Richard Sommer.



SIoux FALLS, SD

SMALL SESSIONS, BIG TOPICS

The League's national convention offers in-depth workshops on issues and skills improvement that benefit new and veteran members. These sessions also give members a forum to share best practices and learn from the experiences of their colleagues. Workshops at this year's convention focused on

- Engaging Youth with Stream Monitoring
- Climate Change/Cap-and-Trade Legislation
- Chapter Member Recruitment
- Volunteer Leadership Training (pre-convention workshop)
- Agricultural State Technical Committees
- Advocacy Training
- Save Our Streams (post-convention workshop)



League Associate Executive Director Bill Grant led a workshop on climate change legislation.



What better place to train new Save Our Streams volunteers than the Big Sioux River?



SOS workshop participants examined bugs they caught in the river – one indicator of stream health.

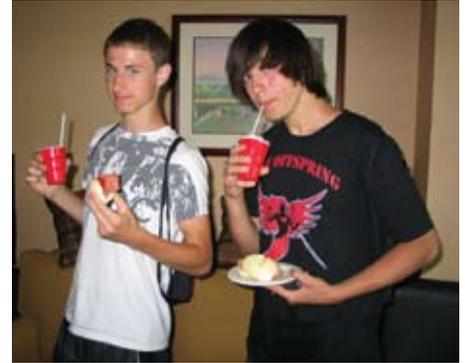


Many thanks to Marilynn and Roger Parham, pictured here with IWLA Clean Water Program Director Leah Miller (right), for laying all the groundwork for this successful Save Our Streams workshop.



2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

SOCIAL IKES



After the hard work is over (and sometimes even before), the convention is about having fun with old friends and making new ones. At the Early Bird Party and Auction on Tuesday night, hundreds of League members bid on a great collection of pictures, sculptures, bird houses, wines, quilts, and other items. The highest bid was \$2,200 for an original oil painting of fly fishermen in a mountain stream by famed artist John Green of Madison, South Dakota. The auction and raffle raised more than \$12,600 for the South Dakota Division.

The next night, flags were flying at the Parade of States. The second floor of a hotel might not fit the dictionary definition of a parade, but it worked perfectly for our Ikes, who brought local delicacies from their hometowns for everyone to sample and enjoy. Where else can you find ice cream sundaes with Hershey syrup, roast beef from Illinois, pork barbeque and wine from Iowa, root beer floats from Minnesota, pheasant from South Dakota, crab dip from Maryland, Cincinnati chili from Ohio, and much more under one roof?

League members also enjoyed local hospitality from the Sioux Falls Chapter, which hosted a cookout at the chapter house before a spectacular laser light show at the Falls. Finally, Ikes donned their semi-formal wear for the closing banquet, where National President Mike Williams and South Dakota Division President Jerry Schlekeway regaled everyone with tales of their youth in the "wilds" of South Dakota.



JOIN US IN HERSHEY

Making the most of your chapter's conservation and recreation opportunities. Guiding the League into the next decade. Greeting old friends – and making new ones! You'll find all this and more at next year's IWLA national convention in Grantville, Pennsylvania. Nearby attractions include Hershey Park, Zoo America, and the Strasburg Railroad. Dutch Wonderland offers plenty of thrills for kids of all ages.

Mark your calendar now!

2010 National Convention
July 13–16, 2010
Holiday Inn – Harrisburg/Hershey
Grantville, PA



SIoux FALLS, SD

YOUTH CONVENTION



How fast does an orange float downstream – and how wet will you get trying to catch it?! Our young Ikes found the answers to these questions and more as they explored the great outdoors in South Dakota.

The Youth Convention kicked off with a meet-and-greet pizza party. The kids elected their Youth Convention president – or in this case, co-presidents Anna Duncan and Tiffany Honerman. Wednesday, youth participants took a bus to the Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus. From relay races to prairie trash pick-up, from splashing in kayaks to identifying macroinvertebrates (small water dwellers like worms, snails, crayfish, and alderflies), the youth program mixed active education with active fun!

Thursday, the young Ikes were out in the prairie again, this time for a soil testing project at the Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Conservation Learning Area, where staff from the Minnehaha Conservation District taught them to identify sediment types, check the health of the soil, and identify the grasslands growing in each soil type to better understand the landscape of South

Dakota. At Wall Lake, youth teams worked with IWLA Regional Conservation Coordinator Mat Webber to create box streams, using Q-tips and cotton balls to demonstrate healthy stream flow. Finally, it was off to the Science Center for exhibits and an Imax immersion into “Alaska—Spirit of the Wild.”

On Friday, Youth Convention co-presidents Anna Duncan and Tiffany Honerman gave adult convention delegates an overview of their learning experiences. Then the youth were back on a bus to Palisades State Park for a naturalist program, including stream monitoring, rock climbing, and hiking. The oranges came into play when the young Ikes learned to conduct stream velocity tests as part of the stream monitoring effort with Mat Webber and IWLA Clean Water Program Director Leah Miller. Our young adventurers visited the site where Jesse James narrowly avoided capture, then splashed into City Park for an afternoon swim. They wrapped up the day with s’mores and songs around a campfire.

The League and all our young Ikes thank Roger and Marilynn Parham for putting together a spectacular Youth Convention program.



2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

AWARD-WINNING IKES

The League's strength is the commitment of its members to conservation. Our annual convention offers the opportunity to recognize members and chapters who do extraordinary work in conservation, chapter operations, and other areas.

54 FOUNDERS AWARD

The League's highest honor is given to an individual, group, or organization judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the conservation of America's natural and renewable resources.

Chuck and Gail Woosley (Oregon)

No one knows how many days the Woosleys have spent or miles they have traveled to educate legislators, government agency representatives, and members of the general public regarding deer and elk in Oregon. But their conservation work has been more than just advocacy – the pair contributed countless hours of manual labor and field work to preserving Oregon wildlife. From building fences and water troughs to removing invasive plants in wildlife areas, Chuck and Gail Woosley have rolled up their shirtsleeves and dug in.

Chuck spent many years helping the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife catch and transplant elk and wild sheep, monitor check stations during deer and elk season, and track bear cubs and elk. In addition, the Woosleys contributed thousands of dollars for acquisition of three properties for wildlife areas in Oregon. "Their years of commitment to the Izaak Walton League and wildlife issues are something few have done with as much passion and enthusiasm," praised Oregon Division President Dawn Olson in nominating the Woosleys for the League's highest honor.

HALL OF FAME AWARD

These members achieved a record of outstanding accomplishment in furthering the mission and goals of the League.

Charlotta and Nelson Burton (Colorado)

Charlotta and Nelson Burton have more than 110 years of combined membership in the Izaak Walton League. During that time, they demonstrated not just a commitment to protecting America's outdoors but also a commitment to leading such efforts. Both have served the League in an official capacity at the national, state, and local levels and have attended more than 20 IWLA National Conventions as chapter delegates.

James Caligiuri (Iowa)

James Caligiuri first heard about the Izaak Walton League of America 45 years ago – and has been an active member ever since, leading conservation efforts and inspiring the next generation's environmental stewards. Caligiuri served as the Des Moines Chapter president, an Iowa director, a state legislative committee member, and co-chair of two Izaak Walton League national conventions in Iowa. He also served in a variety of positions at the local level, both on committees and in chapter offices. Caligiuri has led the League's Agricultural Affairs Resource Committee for a dozen years, lending his experience as a farmer to the League's efforts to promote sustainable agriculture.



54 Founders Award winners Chuck and Gail Woosley.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHUCK AND GAIL WOOSLEY.



Hall of Fame Award winners Nelson and Charlotta Burton (left) with League President Mike Williams (far right).



Hall of Fame awardee Jim Caligiuri (left) with League President Mike Williams (right).



SIoux FALLS, SD

Marie Cyphert (West Virginia)

From building and maintaining flower beds in public areas to assessing water quality in local streams, from collecting highway trash to inspiring local children through classroom chats, Marie Cyphert displays a total commitment to conservation. She has held every office in the League's Mon Valley Ladies Chapter — several times each! — and every state division office, including National Director and President. As one fellow West Virginia Ika stated, "Few members have this record of dedication to the Izaak Walton League, [and] it is almost impossible to overstate Marie's importance to the West Virginia Division."

Charles "Ed" Higdon (California)

As a member of Tucker Wildlife Center's amphitheater committee, Ed Higdon is committed to not only educating schoolchildren and the public about nature but also to upholding the League's sponsorship of this outdoor classroom. The League built the original amphitheater more than 30 years ago. With the amphitheater in dire need of repairs, Higdon took an active role in its reconstruction, from negotiating permit problems to securing donations from the League's Orange Chapter and the Endowment. Higdon also teaches fishing seminars for Scout troops and inner city children. In addition to his work in the community, Higdon volunteers his time and talent in leadership positions within the League, including membership on the Executive Board.

Pauline Novotny (Iowa)

Pauline Novotny has worked with the Iowa Division's Youth Camp for 27 years and with youth locally on a variety of conservation projects. Her dedication to protecting America's outdoors has led her from tree plantings in Iowa City to legislative visits in the state capital and on Capitol Hill. Novotny has served in almost every IWLA Johnson County Chapter office, including president. At the state level, she served as Iowa Division President and currently serves as a National Director. She was appointed by the former governor and current governor of Iowa to serve on the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee, which is investigating the viability of using state sales taxes to fund conservation efforts.

HONOR ROLL AWARDS

Non-members also can help further the League's goals. These people and programs achieved outstanding accomplishments in conservation, public education, and/or publicity efforts in keeping with the League's goals.

Gitte Laasby (Indiana)

Post-Tribune environmental reporter Gitte Laasby has been a strong voice for the health of the Great Lakes. Laasby first broke the story about a BP Amoco wastewater permit from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, highlighting the potential for increased pollution in Lake Michigan associated with the plant's expansion. She also wrote a story about the same company's air permit and potential health problems caused by increased airborne pollution.

Linh Phu (Maryland)

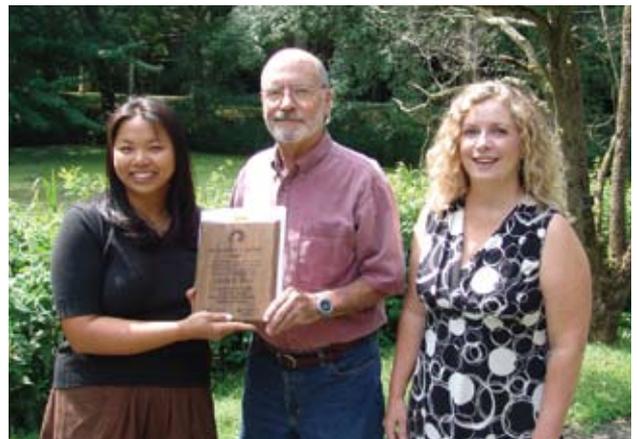
As a natural resources biologist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife and Heritage Services, Linh Phu has been an integral part of invasive species eradication efforts. Phu helped the



Hall of Fame winner Ed Higdon (left) with League President Mike Williams (right).



Hall of Fame awardee Pauline Novotny (right) with League National Awards Committee Chair Dawn Olson (left).



Honor Roll Award winner Linh Phu (left) with Rockville Chapter President Miles Greenbaum (middle) and Maryland DNR Assistant Secretary Kristin Saunders-Evans (right).

PHOTO COURTESY OF MILES GREENBAUM.



2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Rockville Chapter identify specific invasive species problems, identified best practices in controlling the chapter's invasives, and made numerous trips to the property to work with members and evaluate progress. She is now involved with the chapter's five-year program to implement and monitor progress on invasives control.

Mark Schwiebert (Illinois)

Under the leadership of Mayor Mark Schwiebert, the city of Rock Island is going green. Mayor Schwiebert formed a City Hall Green Team to work on local sustainability. The city bought a fleet of hybrid vehicles and changed building codes to encourage green practices. The city also purchased an abandoned hydropower plant and is outfitting it with new turbines to create carbon-free power that will meet more than 50 percent of the city government's power needs. Mayor Schwiebert has encouraged citizens to plant rain gardens and otherwise reduce surface water runoff, and the city reimburses homeowners for a part of the cost.

West Virginia State Conservation Camp

For more than 65 years, the West Virginia State Conservation Camp has provided a place for students ages 14 to 18 to enjoy and learn more about the outdoors. Volunteers from a variety of natural resource management agencies lead morning conservation workshops during this week-long camp. In the afternoons, campers get outside for mountain biking, outdoor cooking, archery, boating, trap shooting, marksmanship, and rappelling. Each young person attends camp on a scholarship provided by one of the sponsoring organizations, including the West Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League.

CONSERVATION AWARD

This award recognizes individual member contributions to conservation in the name of the League.

George Collett (West Virginia)

George Collett leads the Mountaineer Chapter's Adopt-A-Highway program, pulling together volunteers, vehicles, food, and beverages for several successful highway cleanups each year. He also heads up the chapter's annual pine tree planting, successfully recruiting youth and adult volunteers.

Harold Goeden (South Dakota)

A passion for trap shooting is what originally brought Harold Goeden to the Izaak Walton League. But he soon realized that to ensure future generations could enjoy the outdoors as much as he did, he needed to be actively involved in conservation – and that conservation starts at home. Goeden personally funded the planting of many acres of shelter belt trees and plants, food plots, and grasslands on his farms in South Dakota and Minnesota for the benefit of wildlife and conservation.

Archie Cain (West Virginia)

Archie Cain was a vocal advocate for cleaning up the Fairmont, West Virginia, watershed from acid mine drainage – water polluted with high levels of iron, aluminum, and acid that drains from abandoned coal mines. Cain also has been active at the state level, both in leadership positions and on committees such as outdoor ethics, government affairs, and fish and streams.



Conservation Award winner Bob Chapman, IWLA National Secretary and Bethesda Chevy-Chase Chapter member (left), with League President Mike Williams (right).



Conservation Award winner Gerald Schlekeway, South Dakota Division President (left), with League President Mike Williams (right).



National Director Robin Phillips (right) accepts the Loudoun County Chapter's Outdoor Ethics Award from newly-elected League Vice President Jim Madsen (left).



ST. LOUIS, MO

Robert Chapman (Maryland)

Since he joined the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter in 1985, Bob Chapman has served the League at the local, state, and national levels. Chapman testifies at Montgomery County Council meetings and represents the Maryland Ikes at the state capital on key conservation, environmental, and land development issues. He was one of the key organizers of the Izaak Walton League Cottage Chapter in Stafford, England.

Gerald Schlekeway (South Dakota)

Jerry Schlekeway sits on the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Advisory Committee for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. He is on the governor's Missouri River Task Force and the Fort Pierre National Grassland Advisory Council. He previously served on the South Dakota State Technical Committee, which develops technical guidelines to implement national agriculture conservation policies. Schlekeway also was on the committee that organized South Dakota's first Outdoor Expo in 2008, a state-wide event with a hands-on educational focus that was attended by 8,000 people.

OUTDOOR ETHICS AWARD

This award recognizes individuals, groups, and/or organizations that have done outstanding work in outdoor ethics during the past year.

John Lamb (Maryland)

As the Bethesda-Chevy Chase (Maryland) Chapter's Farm Committee Chairman, John Lamb is responsible for maintaining the chapter's 523-acre farm for member enjoyment and the many conservation activities hosted on the property. Lamb practices progressive farming methods for weed control, crop rotation, soil quality improvement, and erosion abatement on land used to grow crops for both harvesting and wildlife food plots. When Lamb served as chapter president, he helped establish and uphold a hunter code of ethics that helped preserve the value of wildlife, the woodlands, and open space on the chapter's farm. According to chapter members, "He is always striving for the best and has the interests of the chapter, farm operations, wildlife, and the League at the forefront."

Loudoun County Chapter (Virginia)

Twenty years ago, the Loudoun County Chapter established a local Anti-Poaching Reward Fund to encourage citizens to report wildlife and fishery law violators to law enforcement officials. The chapter has posted 1,500 reward posters throughout the county and engages in educational outreach, including a public awareness campaign and an outdoor ethics Web page. The Loudoun County Chapter hosts an annual event to recognize the efforts of citizens who



turn in poachers and the work of law enforcement personnel who enforce wildlife and fisheries regulations. The chapter's work to promote outdoor ethics has become the flagship of its conservation outreach program, for which the chapter is now readily recognized in the community.

SAVE OUR STREAMS AWARD

This award recognizes individuals, groups, and/or organizations that have done outstanding work in environmental education and citizen activism for clean water during the past year.

Austin Chapter #10 (Minnesota)

The Austin Chapter #10 launched its clean water efforts in 1989 with a pilot project in Mower County elementary schools. The chapter engaged students to study water quality and possible pollution sources. Since then, the chapter and its young volunteers have collected 20 years of water quality data in Dobbins Creek. Along the way, they discovered dozens of homes discharging sewage directly into public waterways. The chapter took its monitoring data to Mower County Commissioners to document inadequate septic treatment in Dobbins Creek and the Cedar River. In a recent statewide "Clean Water, Land and Legacy" referendum, Mower County had one of the highest percentages of residents who voted for this amendment – a tribute to the impact this chapter has on its community.

George Coakley (Maryland)

George Coakley led a team of chapter volunteers who developed and implemented the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter's Environmental Stewardship Plan. The plan calls for monitoring in- and outflow of all waterways on the property; establishing and managing a baseline of soil Ph levels on the firearms ranges; and protecting drinking water wells. Coakley maintains the data records for all these activities and brings concerns to the board to proactively head off potential problems. For example, when rising temperatures caused dissolved oxygen levels to drop in the chapter's ponds, the chapter designed and built solar aerators for the ponds to prevent permanent damage to wildlife and habitat.

Warren County Chapter (Virginia)

The Warren County Chapter committed fundraising and hands-on labor for the restoration of Happy Creek. Working in cooperation with the local Trout Unlimited chapter and the Potomac Conservancy, the Warren County Chapter rallied local businesses to assist the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries – the state agency that spearheaded the effort – and provided more than 300 volunteer hours to the project, which included eight structures and significant bank stabilization. The Warren County Chapter's future plans include an interpretive sign for school children to learn more about the Save Our Streams program.





2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

JAMES LAWTON CHILDS AWARD

This award recognizes the chapter that has carried out the most outstanding conservation programs during the past year.

Wildlife Achievement Chapter (Maryland)

The Wildlife Achievement Chapter in Damascus, Maryland, is actively engaged in long-running conservation efforts in the Upper Patuxent River watershed, including cleanups of the river and roadsides at river crossings. The chapter completed work last year on a one-acre plot with more than 200 American Chestnut seed trees to be used in the American Chestnut Foundation's breeding program, which involves not only planting the seeds but clearing ground and building a deer-resistant enclosure in which the trees can grow. The goal of the program is to breed blight-resistant chestnut trees to help restore wildlife habitats. The chapter holds public make-and-take workshops on nestboxes and rain barrels. The chapter's own rain gardens and rain barrels serve as examples of effective water management. Other conservation activities last year included fundraising efforts to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay, an active bee-keeping project, and a paper-free chapter newsletter.

ROBERT C. O'HAIR AWARD

This award recognizes the chapter that has carried out the most outstanding youth program during the past year.

York Chapter #67 (Pennsylvania)

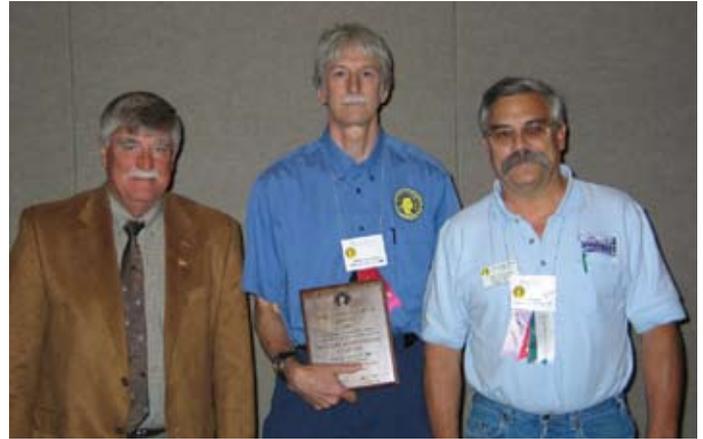
York #67 Junior Chapter members, ages 8 to 18, teach a Learn To Fish Clinic for local youth and help the adult chapter's Trout Committee run an annual Kid's Fishing Derby. They set up and run a 3-D Archery Shoot from April to September, help the senior membership raise and stock trout and pheasants, and hold an overnight campout on the chapter grounds to learn about wilderness survival and raise awareness about nature. Other recent activities include building bluebird houses to raise awareness of the Eastern Bluebird, collecting used printer cartridges and cell phones to keep them out of landfills, raising honey bees, and building a worm and bug farm for fishing bait. "Kids can make a difference, and our Junior Chapter is showing that this is so true," says Jean Klinedinst, current York #67 Junior Chapter co-chair. "The Juniors are the future of our club."

THELMA "PETE" REED MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is presented to an individual member who has volunteered many hours at the local or state level in conservation projects, educational efforts, community service, or chapter leadership development and is considered an "up and coming" future leader of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Steven Swartz (Maryland)

As a new member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter, Steven Swartz jumped into the League "feet first." He serves as the chapter's Pond and Streams Committee Chair and on the Board of Governors. Swartz was responsible for getting solar-powered aerators designed, built, and installed on both chapter ponds, securing a grant to help defray the costs and ensuring better water quality for fish and wildlife. He has been involved with the chapter's Save



Wildlife Achievement Chapter leaders Jeff Deschamps (middle) and Jim Piatetski (right) accept the James Lawton Childs Award from newly-elected League Vice President Jim Madsen (left).



Outdoor America's Future Award winner Sydney Hoffman (left) with Youth Convention Committee Chair Keith Rittscher (right).

Our Streams program and Conservation Committee, for which he secured guest speakers to talk with chapter members and their guests about water quality, conservation, habitat, and related issues. Swartz has a keen interest in the Izaak Walton League and holds true to our conservation mission and goals.

OUTDOOR AMERICA'S FUTURE AWARD

This award is presented to an individual youth or student member for volunteer work in conservation, community, school, and a League chapter. This youth is also considered an "up and coming" future League leader.

Sydney Hoffman (South Dakota)

Sydney Hoffman has attended every IWLA youth convention since the program's inception nine years ago. She is active at the local level, participating in many McCook Lake Chapter conservation and property improvement projects, including trash pickup and flower gardens. She also serves as a role model for young chapter members, helping them with bird house building projects and nature walks. Hoffman is so interested in the League that she attended the Volunteer Leadership Workshop at this year's national convention! Hoffman graduated high school this year but looks forward to continuing her affiliation with the McCook Lake Chapter and their youth program.



MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

BEST CHAPTER MEMBER RECRUITMENT AWARD

Chapter that has carried out the most effective membership recruitment and retention programs during the past year.

Loudoun County Chapter, Virginia

JOHN C. GREGORY MEMORIAL AWARD

Division with the highest numeric membership gain.

Indiana Division (107 new members)

MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Two Membership Achievement awards are given each year, one for the chapter with the highest percentage gain in membership and one for the chapter with the highest numerical gain.

Greatest Percentage Increase

Tennessee Chapter (179% increase in members)

Greatest Numeric Increase

Tiffin-Seneca County Chapter, Ohio (58 new members)

MEMBERSHIP MERIT AWARDS

Chapters with the most new members.

50 and Under Member Class

Tennessee Chapter (52 new members, 179% increase)

51-250 Member Class

Tiffin-Seneca County Chapter, Ohio (58 new members)

W. J. McCabe Chapter, Minnesota (37% increase in members)

251-500 Member Class

Miller Chapter, Indiana (50 new members)

Fort Wayne Chapter, Indiana (15% increase in members)

501+ Member Class

McCook Lake Chapter, South Dakota (54 new members, almost 8% increase)

54 ROUND TABLE AWARDS

Members who recruited 54 or more new members in one year.

Bob Godlove (Linn County Chapter, Iowa): 142 new members

Walter Halfmann (Loudoun County Chapter, Virginia):

70 new members

Fred Baumann (Des Moines Chapter, Iowa): 60 new members

BEST WEB SITE AWARD

York Chapter #67, Pennsylvania

BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD

Small Chapter (less than 500 members)

Dwight Lydell Chapter, Michigan

Large Chapter (more than 500 members)

Lincoln Chapter, Nebraska

Division

Maryland Division



2008 DEFENDERS CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Recognizes chapters' overall efforts in membership, contributions to the League, education, conservation, youth programs, and communication.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter, Maryland
Bill Cook Chapter, Wisconsin
Brown County Chapter, Wisconsin
Central New York Chapter, New York
Delta Chapter, Ohio
Des Moines Chapter, Iowa
Dwight Lydell Chapter, Michigan
Elgin Chapter, Illinois+
Frederick #1 Chapter, Maryland
Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter, Virginia*
Grand Island Chapter, Nebraska
Hamilton Chapter, Ohio*
Harford County, Maryland*
Kampeska Chapter, South Dakota
Lake Keuka Chapter, New York
Lincoln Chapter, Nebraska
Loudoun County Chapter, Virginia+
McCook Lake Chapter, South Dakota
Mountaineer Chapter, West Virginia
Owatonna Chapter, Minnesota+
Rockville Chapter, Maryland
Silverton Chapter, Oregon
Sioux Falls Chapter, South Dakota
Southern Maryland Chapter, Maryland
Sportsman's Chapter, Maryland*
Sunshine Chapter, South Dakota
Talbot County Chapter, Maryland
Tiffin-Seneca County Chapter, Ohio
Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter, Minnesota
Walter Sherry Memorial Chapter, Illinois*
Warren County Chapter, Iowa+
Wayne County Chapter, Ohio
Wildlife Achievement Chapter, Maryland
York Chapter #67, Pennsylvania+

* First-Time Recipient

+ 10th Consecutive Year Recognition