2010 IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE NATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 13-17, 2010 • HARRISBURG/HERSHEY, PA

"PRESERVING AMERICA'S WILDERNESS"

What does "wilderness" mean to you? It could be a pristine place to camp. A fresh stream for fishing. Or hunting grounds undisturbed by motorized vehicles. "Wilderness" also means a special place that Congress has protected for future generations.

Izaak Walton League members have been fighting to protect America's wild places and wildlife for almost 90 years. What does the future hold? Ikes from across the country came together in Pennsylvania to find out.

BY DAWN MAYHEW MERRITT

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Jim Madsen, National President of the Izaak Walton League, opened the convention by honoring three presidents the League lost this year: Stan Adams, Sam Gibbons, and Mike Williams. "We lost three great leaders this year who believed we could make a difference — great leaders, great conservationists, and great friends. As we open this 88th annual convention, let's take a moment to remember them."

LAST CHANCE: PRESERVING LIFE ON EARTH

Keynote speaker **Larry Schweiger, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Wildlife Federation,** spoke about human impacts on wildlife and natural ecosystems. "We are committed to a warmer Earth. We cannot reverse some of the things we've already put in motion." But he cautioned that we must avoid an increase of more than two degrees, or 20 to 30 percent of all plant and animal species would risk extinction — that's one million species. "If the thermometer rises by 7.2 degrees, which is the path we're on today," he elaborated, "40 to 70 percent of plant and animal species could disappear." Schweiger called for national legislation that would cap emissions, put us on a path to end imported oil, recharge the economy, and provide funds for wildlife adaptation.

Schweiger pointed out that almost 40,000 peer-reviewed studies have been published by scientists on the climate issue over the past 15 years, and the intensity of the warning has gone up each year. "Scientists are our sentinels warning us about future problems. It's important that science speak and we listen."

"It's important that science speak and we listen," urged Larry Schweiger, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, during his keynote presentation on climate change.

PRESERVING AMERICA'S WILDERNESS

Chris Brown, Director of Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers for the U.S. Forest Service, noted that the concept of wilderness is a uniquely American idea. "We're the only nation in the world that has taken the initiative to preserve large tracts of wilderness." Wilderness areas not only have unique values for fish and wildlife, they now have "a huge role in ecosystem services," Brown says. "Pristine watersheds are key sources of drinking water, provide habitat that produces fish and wildlife, and provide clean air."

More than 45 years after passage of The Wilderness Act, the U.S. Forest Service manages more than 190 million acres of national forests and grasslands nationwide, including 36 million acres of wilderness areas. Brown said he wanted to convey three important messages regarding wilderness: Preserving wilderness character is a national imperative; wilderness areas are places you can do things like hiking, hunting, camping, and climbing; and individuals like Izaak Walton League members play an important role in helping the Forest Service gain new wilderness areas, take care of today's wilderness areas, and encourage the next generation to get into the wild.

WILD PENNSYLVANIA

Kirk Johnson, Executive Director, Friends of the Alleghany Wilderness, spoke about the campaign to designate additional wilderness areas in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest. The Allegheny National Forest, established in 1923 to help protect the Allegheny River watershed, is home to several endangered and threatened species, including the Indiana bat. Currently less than two percent of the Alleghany National Forest is designated as wilderness. Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness identified eight separate areas totaling 54,000 acres that they hope will be added to the wilderness system. The Izaak Walton League's Pennsylvania Division has actively supported wilderness designation for additional land in the Allegheny National Forest.

PREVENTING AQUATIC INVASIONS

Phyllis Green, Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, is leading National Park Service efforts to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species via ballast water. At the convention's conservation luncheon, she outlined the challenges she has faced in the fight to eliminate untreated ballast water discharges to the Great Lakes and offered hope for the future.

Green noted that there are 58 species of aquatic invasives in the Great Lakes alone, and 63 percent of those invasives were introduced through ballast water. These invasives are causing billions of dollars in damage to the Great Lakes, and Green stated that prevention is the most critical role we can play to minimize future damage.

Green detailed her work with Michigan Technological University professor Dr. David Hand and others to develop an effective ballast water treatment system for large ships. She is now working with shipping companies to encourage immediate voluntary implementation of ballast water treatment.

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A SENSE OF PLACE

At the closing banquet, **Ned Tillman** (right), author of the award-winning *The Chesapeake Watershed: A sense of place and a call to action* and a member of the Izaak Walton League's Executive Board, shared memories of his childhood along the Chesapeake Bay. "I want people to get inspired to go outside and fall in love with their backyard again," said Tillman. "Today, we're scared to go into the woods or the water. If we don't educate today's generation, who will teach tomorrow's? Getting back in balance with nature is our issue. It's our time. It's our chance to make a difference."

IKES RESOLVED

As a grassroots organization, the League's members develop our conservation policies by considering and voting on resolutions at convention. During the 2010 convention, members approved seven resolutions by voice vote. These resolutions will be integrated into the 2010 edition of the Conservation Policies Handbook, available online this fall. Visit *www.iwla.org/2010resolutions* for additional background information and the full text of each resolution.

Implement Great Lakes Compact: League members throughout the Great Lakes region strongly backed the Great Lakes Compact, which Congress approved in 2008. The Compact is designed to conserve and protect water resources throughout the region, including by limiting diversion of water from the Great Lakes to regions outside of the watershed. The Compact directs states to develop rules and procedures to guide decisions about water diversions; however, diversion requests are being submitted before most states have these rules in place. This resolution urges states to develop those rules before considering diversion requests. In addition, it specifies that rules and procedures should support public participation, require water conservation, protect water quality, and oppose diversion of water to facilitate significant new residential and commercial development.

Separate the Great Lakes Basin from the Mississippi River Basin to Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species: Aquatic invasive species, including exotic mussels, viruses, and fish, are among the most serious threats to the health of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi River basin are not naturally connected, but canals and other man-made waterways around Chicago provide a pathway for Asian carp and other invasives to move from the Mississippi River into Lake Michigan and beyond. This resolution calls for a permanent hydrological separation between the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi River basin.

Stopping Open Lake Dumping: When harbors and channels are dredged along the Great Lakes, the mud, silt, and sand (known as "dredge spoils") that is scooped up is frequently dumped in the Lakes. This material can contain toxic pollutants, heavy metals, and excess nutrients. In some regions, it also consists largely of silt, which is easily stirred and re-suspended in the water by recreational and commercial boat traffic and wave action. Minnesota and

SMALL SESSIONS, BIG TOPICS

The League's national convention offers in-depth workshops on issues and skills-improvement that benefit both 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

- Attracting New Members Using Shooting Sports
- Conservation Projects for Chapters
- Shooting Range Lead Management
- Upper Mississippi River Navigation Projects
- Web Tools 101/Social Media

Ikes also enjoyed Saturday morning workshops that offered an in-depth look at two species that play an integral role in ecosystems across the country: Bats and honey bees.

Jeremy Barnes, President of the York County Bee Keepers Association, discussed the value of bees to agriculture, the economy, and the environment — and what each of us can do to help preserve them. For more information about honey bee declines and what you can do to help — including the story of a Pennsylvania family making a difference by keeping their own bee hives and encouraging others to do the same — read the article on page 18.

Greg Turner, a wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Wildlife Management, Pennsylvania Game Commission, spoke about recent efforts to combat the fungus causing White Nose Syndrome in bats and what its spread may mean to bat populations — and to us.

Wisconsin currently prohibit open lake disposal of dredge materials into the Great Lakes. This resolution opposes open lake dumping of dredge spoil material in the Great Lakes.

Hunter Safety Apparel: A majority of states require hunters to wear colored clothing, vests, or other gear to make them more visible to other hunters. Historically, states have required hunters to wear "safety orange." Ten states, however, do not have any safety color apparel requirements for hunters. A small number of state fish and wildlife agencies have recently begun exploring the use of alternative colors, including various shades of green now commonly worn by highway construction and maintenance workers. This resolution urges all states to require the visible display of colors which, based on objective and scientific assessment, are most visible to the greatest number of hunters under a wide range of conditions.

Riparian and Wetland Setback Regulations: Buffers of native trees, plants, and shrubs along streams, lakes, and wetlands provide essential habitat, improve and protect water quality, and reduce erosion. These areas are also easily damaged and degraded by development and other land uses. This resolution adds wetlands to existing League policy supporting the adoption and implementation of local river corridor protection ordinances.

Hydraulic Fracturing (Hyrdrofracking): Hydraulic fracturing is a process through which large quantities of fresh water, chemicals, and other materials are injected under high pressure to fracture rock formations and release oil and natural gas. Although hydraulic fracturing has been used in the western United States for decades, it is being used at a dramatically increasing rate to tap natural gas in the Marcellus shale formation under New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Virginia, and Maryland. Most states do not have regulations or laws in place to effectively manage this development or protect water and other natural resources. This resolution supports a moratorium on issuance of permits for new, natural gas hydraulic fracturing wells until the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completes an ongoing study of the impacts of fracturing on water quality and public health; EPA issues guidelines and states adopt regulations concerning freshwater use, waste water treatment, and spill prevention and response; and Congress repeals an exemption from public disclosure requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act for chemicals used in the fracturing process.

Menhaden Harvest: Menhaden provide important sources of food for larger fish, including striped bass and bluefish, and are harvested commercially for bait, oils, and fishmeal. Large-scale commercial fishing operations use spotter aircraft to locate and then direct fishing vessels to menhaden schools in the Chesapeake Bay and off the Atlantic coast. Use of spotter aircraft allows these operations to target and harvest fish with accuracy and scale that would be difficult to achieve with ships alone. There is concern about the sustainability of this fishery and the potential impacts of declining menhaden stocks on striped bass and other predatory fish. This resolution calls on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic coast, to ban the use of spotter aircraft, satellites, and other overhead viewing methods in the commercial menhaden fishery.

2010-2011 IWLA National Officers (from left): Marsha Johnson, Secretary; Jim Madsen, President; Bob Chapman, Vice President; and Walter Lynn, Jr., Treasurer.

THE VOTES ARE IN

National Officers

President: Jim Madsen (South Dakota)
Vice President: Bob Chapman (Maryland)
Secretary: Marsha Johnson (Illinois)
Treasurer: Walter Lynn, Jr. (Illinois)

Executive Board

Tom Ciarula (Virginia)
Rodger Mettenbrink (Nebraska)
Garrit Struck (Illinois)

In addition, Don Klecker (Wisconsin) was appointed to fill the remainder of Marsha Johnson's term on the Executive Board.

Director at Large

Tony Bridgett (England)

Regional Governors

I: Peter Hillebrecht (California)
II: Charlotta Burton (Colorado)
III: Conda Williams (South Dakota)
IV: Dean Knight (Iowa)
V: Carl Keeler (Florida)
VI: Rick Sommer (Maryland)

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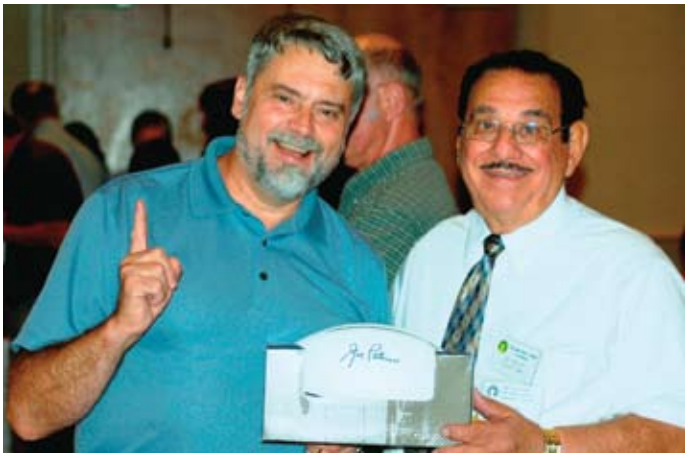
SOCIAL IKES

The goal of the national convention is to conduct League business, but that doesn't mean we can't have some fun while we're there!

Early Bird Party and Auction

From chocolate gift baskets and wildlife art to special edition Izaak Walton League rifles, there was something for everyone at the Early Bird festivities.

Bruce Evans (West Virginia) made the winning bid for this Henry Golden Boy .22 with the League seal. This rifle is one of four special edition Izaak Walton League rifles from Henry Repeating Arms available for chapter fundraising efforts. Details about this program have been mailed to chapters (see page 13).



We are…. League Director of Chapter Relations Earl Hower (left) with Pennsylvania Ike Joe Galati (right) and Earl's new Penn State football signed by Joe Paterno. Galati, former president of the League's Pennsylvania Division and current president of the John Harris Chapter, got the autographed football directly from his friend Joe Pa!

Everyone Loves A Parade

Part pool party, part roving picnic, the Parade of States was another success. Ikes from across the country brought local delicacies for everyone to enjoy. We sampled ice cream and chocolate sauce from Hershey, Maryland crab balls, Virginia ham, Cincinnati chili, Illinois prime rib, salmon from Indiana, South Dakota pheasant, venison meatballs from Iowa, and much more. Refreshments included Great Lakes beer from Minnesota, Florida orange juice, and packets of Kool-Aid courtesy of the Nebraska Division (where the drink was invented). Thank you to all our party hosts.

THANK YOU PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION

Many thanks to members of the Izaak Walton League's Pennsylvania Division, who were wonderful convention hosts and provided an exceptional experience for our youth program attendees. We are deeply appreciative of their many hours of volunteer service that made this year's conference such a success.

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Indian Echo Caverns

Zoo America

YOUTH CONVENTION

The League's Youth Convention mirrors what IWLA chapters bring to their local communities: Community service, conservation, and outdoor recreation. We're helping build a love of the outdoors and a commitment to conserving America's wild places.

On Wednesday, the young Ikes took a bus to **Middle Creek Waterfowl Management Area**, a tract of more than 5,000 acres set aside by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the protection, management, and controlled harvest of wildlife. A tour of the main facility included a conservation talk by educational specialist and Ike Bert Myers, who also led the youth on a scavenger hunt.

Staff from the Red Creek Rehabilitation Center gave a live demonstration of birds of prey that live in Pennsylvania. The program emphasized human imprinting — human interaction with a young animal that leaves the animal wanting further human interaction, ignoring its own kind — that led many of these animals to need rehabilitation services.

The youth enjoyed an indoor picnic lunch, courtesy of the League's **Lancaster Red Rose Chapter**. An outdoor conservation hike was cancelled due to torrential downpours (although the youth had wonderful views of the area from inside the main facility). Instead, the youth enjoyed an IMAX movie about beavers.

On the way back to the hotel, Lancaster Red Rose Chapter member Dick Deibert asked the kids if they'd ever had Lebanon bologna. After a resounding "no," the bus stopped in front of a butcher shop and Deibert bought some of this local treat for the youth along with authentic Pennsylvania whoopie pies.

On Thursday, Youth Convention attendees got "wild" at **Zoo America**, home to more than 200 animals from five regions of North America. Zoo America staff gave youth a chance to meet an owl, alligator, snake, and skunk up close. Then it was off to **Indian Echo Caverns** for a guided tour of these extensive limestone caves. Thursday night, many of the Youth Convention attendees accompanied their families to **Hershey Park**.

Friday morning, the Youth Convention's elected president Anna Duncan (South Dakota) and vice president Steven Pugh (Maryland) gave an overview of youth activities at the convention's general session. They also presented awards to the committed chaperones and volunteers who helped make the youth program a success.

After a short brainstorming session with League staff on future resources for chapter youth programs, the kids headed out to **Coleman Memorial Park**. Lori Witters took the youth on a nature walk, combining tree species identification with trash cleanup. "Your work here today saved staff time, which saves us money and helps with the revitalization of the park," Witters told the youth. She treated them to a pool party as a thank you.

That evening, the **Lebanon County Chapter** hosted a BBQ buffet for the youth. Youth enjoyed hands-on games, including a water balloon race, scavenger hunt, and even low-tech fun like guessing games.

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AWARD-WINNING IKES

We had the pleasure of recognizing individuals and organizations from across the country who made a difference in conserving outdoor America. For the full details of their accomplishments, visit *www.iwla.org/awards*.

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.

Tim Reid (second from left) was speechless after receiving the 54 Founders award — a rare event! His wife Pat and grandson Zach were on-hand to help celebrate his achievements as he accepted the award from IWLA national president Jim Madsen (far left) and IWLA Executive Board chairman Roger Sears (far right).

Timothy W. Reid *(Illinois)*

For more than 35 years, Tim Reid has brought passion, energy, and commitment to every facet of the Izaak Walton League. He has been a leader at the chapter, state, and national levels since he joined the League in 1975, including two years as the organization's national president and an astonishing 25 years on the League's Executive Board — the longest run of any League member. During that time, Reid's knowledge of and commitment to the League's national conservation goals helped the organization grow and thrive.

Reid's driving passion has always been getting youth involved with the outdoors and engaging the next generation of conservation advocates. Reid developed a youth program that was the precursor to the Izaak Walton League's national youth program. He worked with League chapters, Scout troops, and other youth organizations to involve kids in fishing, hunting, camping — anything to get them outside and engaged with wildlife and wild places.

Outdoor ethics is another area in which Reid has led the League. He helped establish the League's Outdoor Ethics Resource Committee, which is committed to promoting responsible outdoor recreation among all who enjoy the outdoors and our precious natural heritage. Tim Reid has been an eloquent speaker while representing the League on Capitol Hill and was one of the driving forces in creating a national League headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Mike Williams *(South Dakota)*

Mike Williams was serving his third term as national president of the Izaak Walton League when he passed away March 2, 2010, following a long and courageous battle with cancer. Williams was resolute in his passion to protect our nation's wetlands, native prairies, and open spaces, and he left behind a conservation legacy that will benefit future generations in South Dakota and across the country.

As president of the Kampeska Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, Williams believed the League had a mission in Watertown, South Dakota, to clean up Lake Kampeska, a 5,000 acre natural lake within the city limits. After working with the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources and organizing volunteers for a two-year silt survey on the lake, Williams served as coordinator of the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed project for close to 15 years. During that time, he raised $10 million to fund best management practices in the 212,000 acre watershed above Lake Kampeska. He was relentless in his efforts to protect wetlands, whether it was working with individual land owners to educate them on the benefits of wetlands or working with state and federal officials to enact better wetland protections. On a national level, Williams worked closely with League staff and volunteers across the country to try to restore Clean Water Act protections for wetlands and streams placed at risk by the Supreme Court.

A trained educator who started his career teaching high school, his master's degree in education was put to further use when Williams started an annual outdoor education program for sixth grade students. Every year he spent a day with each of the sixth grade classes from Watertown, South Dakota, and the surrounding area. He impressed on the youth the dangers facing our natural resources and the need for each person to develop conservation values. He touched the lives of more than 7,500 young people through this outreach program.

Conda Williams and son Will accepted the 54 Founders Award on behalf of Mike Williams from Jim Madsen (left) and Roger Sears (right).

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Hall of Fame Award

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

Terry Eberly *(Pennsylvania)*

Terry Eberly is involved with all the York Chapter #67 youth projects, from fishing derbies and bird houses to sorting brass from shooting events. He also engages Boy Scout troops interested in conservation activities and connects chapter needs with Scout interests.

Eberly led the chapter's indoor trout pond project for many years, which served as both a public education event and a fundraiser for the chapter. The trout pond — part of the chapter's larger York Outdoor Show — gave many youth and adults their first fishing experience and educated the public about water and fishery conservation. In addition, Eberly worked with the staff at the Margaret E. Moul facility for physically and mentally challenged adults to bring 30 residents to fish the trout pond the day before it opened to the public. Eberly took the largest fish caught each year and had a taxidermist mount it, providing the mounted fish to the facility so residents could remember their experience.

Donald C. Freeman *(Iowa)*

Don Freeman was a charter member of the League's Three Rivers Chapter, founded in 1964, and has held every chapter office. In addition, he served as Iowa Division president and vice president — he was inducted into the Iowa Division Hall of Fame in 1997 — and on the League's national Board of Directors, including two years as the League's national president. Freeman also served on the Bremer County Conservation Board for 25 years and received numerous conservation awards from Bremer County and the state of Iowa for his conservation work.

Wes Sheets, president of the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment, credits Freeman with revitalizing the Endowment. Freeman developed a "Reliance for Compliance" campaign to ensure the Endowment continued to meet the requirements for its nonprofit tax-exempt status. He also developed the voting ballots that are still used today for League elections.

Dawn Olson *(Oregon)*

Dawn Olson is a member of the Izaak Walton League's Executive Board. She serves as Board's Chapter Relations Subcommittee chair and previously served as the Financial Assessment Team Subcommittee chair. She is also the Executive Board representative on the League's National Conservation Scholarship Review Committee.

In her home state of Oregon, Olson is president of the League's Oregon Division and has been active in a wide range of regional conservation issues, from management of federal lands to travel management of off-highway vehicles. Locally, Olson worked with the Silverton school system to develop coloring books and essay writing programs to teach natural resource conservation principles to grade school students. She also worked with the Silverton community to institute a free fishing day, an Earth Day event, and a semi-annual cleanup of litter and debris along Silver Creek.

William "Pete" Peterson *(Wisconsin)*

"Pete" Peterson joined the Bill Cook Chapter in 1956 and has served on the chapter's Forestry Committee for an impressive 54 years. He also served two years as chapter vice president, two years as president, and various terms on the Conservation Education, Stream Improvement, Fishery, and Program Committees. His special interest has always been teaching children about conservation.

As "temporary" Fire Chief of the Whiting Fire Department, a job that he held for 28 years, Peterson was instrumental in developing techniques and professional standards for the control of forest fires. He served as an elected member of the Portage County Board of Supervisors from 1986 until his retirement last spring. He worked on the Land Conservation Commission, the County Park Commission, and sat on committees for Agriculture Extension, Risk Management, and Health and Human Services.

Now entering his eighties, Peterson still actively participates in Bill Cook Chapter activities such as the annual Jamboree, Youth Conservation Day, stream improvement projects, and pulp cut.

James A. Thomas *(Maryland)*

James Thomas has shown untiring support for and commitment to the Izaak Walton League since he joined the League more than 60 years ago. He is an avid sportsman who enjoys fishing and hunting and is always willing to teach these skills to the next generation. Thomas is a past national Secretary and currently chairs the Sportsman's Chapter Conservation and Save Our Streams (SOS) Committees. He attends nearly every membership meeting and leads one or two SOS workshops annually. At 91, his energy and passion continue to inspire many other Ikes.

Thomas is also a member of the Harford County Forest Conservancy District Board. He has served on the Harford County Park and Recreation Board, the Harford County Environmental Advisory Board, the Susquehanna Park Advisory Board, and the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Advisory Committee.

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Stanford M. Adams Memorial Award

This new award will be handed out each year by the League's Executive Board to recognize a National Director, Director-at-Large, or Regional Governor who has shown extraordinary commitment to the duties and responsibilities that come with his or her League position.

Dean Knight *(Iowa)*

Dean Knight joined the Izaak Walton League when he was a freshman in college and has been a member for close to 45 years. He was elected Iowa Division President in 1991 and served in that capacity until 1993, when he was elected Regional Governor of Region IV. Knight has continued to serve in that capacity ever since. Knight's commitment to Region IV has been exemplary. He travels to as many division meetings as logistically possible, putting in thousands of miles every year at his own expense. While attending these meetings, he promotes League membership, conservation interests, and encourages involvement with legislative issues. Knight strongly supports the League's award programs at all levels and the League's recruitment and membership tools.

Conservation Award

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

Thomas Kornbau *(Pennsylvania)*

For the past 8 years, Tom Kornbau has served as Save Our Streams Chairman for the League's York Chapter #67. During that time, he has overseen restoration work on 14 miles of the east and south branches of Codorus Creek. (The east branch runs through the York Chapter's property.) Water from Codorus Creek eventually runs into the Susquehanna River and down to the Chesapeake Bay, so water quality improvements on the Codorus benefit people and wildlife throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Codorus Creek restoration work is funded through grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). To date, these grants have totaled more than $10 million. Kornbau volunteers his time to supervise the contractors conducting the restoration work. He also attends meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection staff and walks the 14-mile stretch of creek twice a year, ensuring all work is done according to DEP standards.

Tom Kornbau also received the Save Our Streams Award this year, which recognizes outstanding work in environmental education and citizen activism for clean water.

Byron Mezick *(Maryland)*

Byron Mezick is Chairman of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter's Forestry Committee and leader of the chapter's Land Acquisition Committee. In addition, he is a member of both the Conservation Education and the Environmental Scholarship Award Committees and a past president of the chapter.

As chairman of the Forestry Committee, Mezick formulated a multi-year plan to plant a forest on the chapter's non-productive agricultural fields, the first phase of which entailed planting 1,000 trees this spring. The chapter planted a random mix of native tree species that naturally thrive in this area that, when mature, will provide habitat and forage resources for wildlife. Every tree was individually numbered and cataloged in a computerized database so their survival can be monitored and the overall success of the trees evaluated as they grow. This effort was the start of a long-term stewardship plan for the chapter's Poolesville Farm property.

Mitchell Norman *(Virginia)*

Mitchell Norman has been a member of the Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter for more than 18 years. He has served as the chapter's Conservation Chairman for the past 3 years. In 2009, under his direction, the chapter engaged in 14 different programs for conservation and environmental education, including building, placing, and monitoring nest boxes for bluebirds, wood ducks, and warblers; assessing water quality of three streams based on macroinvertebrate sampling; monitoring seven parameters of water quality in the Blackwater River and its drainage streams; working with Isle of Wight County to obtain a grant to establish a nature trail in the Great Swamp at Courthouse, Virginia; conducting surveys of quail and rabbit populations; setting up containers at public boat launch sites for the proper, safe disposal of used fishing line; and providing environmental information to and a stipend for teachers to take an environmental summer course.

Don Thomason *(West Virginia)*

Don Thomason has donated many hours to Mountaineer Chapter youth events over the past eight years. He chaired the chapter's Youth Conservation Day Committee, which planned a free event to engage youth and their families in conservation and outdoor recreation (see page 37), and co-chaired the chapter's Youth Air Rifle Shoot. For the past several years, Thomason helped organize the JAKES Day event held at the Mountaineer Chapter property. He was also instrumental in obtaining money through the Tygarts Valley Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation to support the National Archery in the Schools Program when it was initiated at the Harman School, a pre-K through 12 school in Harman, West Virginia.

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The Mountaineer Chapter's first annual Youth Conservation Field Day in 2009 brought community members to the chapter to enjoy outdoor activities and West Virginia's natural resources. The chapter won the James Lawton Childs Award and Robert C. O'Hair Award for this event.

James Lawton Childs Award/Robert C. O'Hair Award

The James Lawton Childs Award recognizes the chapter that has carried out the most outstanding conservation programs during the past year. The Robert C. O'Hair Award recognizes the chapter that has carried out the most outstanding youth program during the past year.

Mountaineer Chapter *(West Virginia)*

The Mountaineer Chapter captured a double win — the James Lawton Childs Award and the Robert C. O'Hair Award — for its Youth Conservation Field Day, where children ages 8-15 visited six different learning stations:

Fish and aquatic insect study: Children worked with a fishery biologist to catch and identify six species of fish and used nets to inspect aquatic insects.

Clay target shooting: Children had a lesson in shooting safety and got to test their shotgun skills on clay targets. Most were hitting some clays by the end of the session.

Archery/airgun: Children were briefed on safety and technique.

Animal radio tracking: A wildlife biologist showed children how the Division of Natural Resources uses radio collars to track the movement of different animals to determine their range, reproduction, and mortality rate (pictured above left).

Animal identification: Children learned how to identify animals based on their pelts, tracks, and skulls.

Virtual fishing: The virtual fishing simulator gave a very realistic feel for fighting and landing a large fish.

Arthur R. Thompson Award

The Arthur R. Thompson Memorial Award recognizes the division that carried out the most outstanding conservation program during the past year.

West Virginia Division

Every May, the West Virginia Division coordinates a Save Our Streams (SOS) demonstration project at the state-wide Youth Environmental Day put on by the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection. The SOS project is designed to increase public awareness of the need to monitor water quality in state rivers and increase the number of volunteers trained to do this monitoring. The West Virginia Division also offers an award to the youth group that best meets the goals of the Save Our Streams program.

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.

James Thomas *(California)*

James Thomas has been a member of the Orange Chapter for 15 years and has held a variety of chapter offices, including serving on the chapter's Board of Directors. Thomas has put in hundreds of hours volunteering for chapter conservation programs such as Save Our Streams, fundraisers, and youth programs, and he is always there making sure everyone is having fun. Fellow chapter members report that his motto is, "If you can't have fun doing these events, why are we here?" Thomas has developed creative ways to keep attendance up at chapter meetings, including door prizes, 50/50 drawings, and a great steak or prime rib dinner with all the fixings. Chapter members are confident that Thomas will continue to further the League's mission and goals in all chapter events.

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Honor Roll Award

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

James Fregonara *(West Virginia)*

As a wildlife biologist with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, James Fregonara has spent countless hours over the past 14 years working with youth groups to engage children in outdoor education. Fregonara regularly volunteers for activities at the Izaak Walton League's Mountaineer Chapter, including the Fifth Grade Science Class Field Day. He also participates in the annual Randolph County "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" exposition, county Field Days, the Randolph County Outdoor Education Program, Wildlife Diversity Weekend, and the West Virginia Junior Conservation Camp. He spends a week each year leading a conservation workshop at the West Virginia State Conservation Camp, which offers students ages 14 to 18 a place to enjoy and learn more about the outdoors.

Phyllis Green *(Michigan)*

Phyllis Green, Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, is leading National Park Service efforts to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species via ballast. She implemented ballast water treatment on a Park Service motorized vessel and scaled up those treatment options for the largest ships on the Great Lakes. Because of her work, former opponents are now working collaboratively in a joint effort to resolve one of the most serious threats to fresh water ecosystems. Green also worked with grassroots groups and national experts to find other solutions that are fast and easy to implement.

Phyllis Green (second from right) told Ikes that she was "honored to receive an award from an organization for which I have the utmost respect. You have a very pragmatic approach to your conservation and environmental concerns." Green is pictured here with (left to right) IWLA president Jim Madsen, IWLA past president Dave Zentner, and IWLA Great Lakes Committee chair Jill Crafton.

William Kappel *(New York)*

William Kappel is a highly respected research scientist and educator on geology and hydrogeology (which studies the distribution and movement of groundwater in soil and rocks). Kappel has worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in Ithica, New York, since 1979. He is particularly adept at preparing scientific investigative reports that explain complex geological formations in language that is readily understandable by the general public. For the past two years, Kappel has volunteered to travel to community groups across southern New York to provide an impartial and science-based perspective on the potential geologic and hydrologic effects of gas drilling in Marcellus shale deposits using the hydraulic fracturing process. He makes as many as two presentations a week to community groups and municipal officials on this issue.

Shenandoah River Keeper Jeffrey Kelble (center) observes the river and its watershed for sources of contamination ranging from animal runoff and construction site erosion to nitrogen and phosphorus discharges. Kelble is pictured here with IWLA president Jim Madsen (left) and IWLA national director Norman Leshan from Virginia.

Jeffrey D. Kelble *(Virginia)*

Jeffrey Kelble was a river guide on the Shenandoah River, primarily for small-mouth bass, until he was driven out of business by fish kills. That's when he stepped in to help take care of the river. The problems he finds include discharges from processing plants, erosion from construction sites, and direct deposit of manure from cattle and poultry. In 2006, Kelble and the Waterkeepers Alliance successfully sued two large corporations for excess discharge of phosphorus and nitrogen into the river and sued a wastewater treatment plant. Kelble also won the right to review construction site permit applications before they are approved. Kelble's dedication and persistent efforts have helped return the Shenandoah River's fishery and its recreational value in the face of ever-increasing demand for industrial and municipal use of the resource.

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Barbara Knapp *(Maryland)*

Barbara Knapp is a founding member and secretary of the Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). Prior to the early 1900s, the American Chestnut was a predominant hardwood species in the forests of the eastern United States. Chestnut blight has largely destroyed this species. TACF is determined to reverse this condition by developing blight-resistant trees. Knapp helped the League's Rockville Chapter establish a chestnut orchard in 2006 as part of the TACF chestnut breeding program and assists Rockville members in managing their chestnut orchard. By 2010, two other Maryland chapters had also entered the breeding program. On Earth Day 2010, the Montgomery County Council recognized Knapp as one of the county's 40 outstanding environmentalists of the past 40 years.

Katherine Nelson *(Maryland)*

As a planner for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Katherine Nelson is involved in projects to preserve and restore streams on parkland in Montgomery County. To expand on what M-NCPPC can do on its own, Nelson seeks out partners for the projects. M-NCPPC had already completed a planting along a small stream outside Brookeville, Maryland, when Nelson contacted the League's Wildlife Achievement Chapter for help in completing work at that site. Working with chapter volunteers, Nelson has replanted an additional area along this stream, and native tree seedlings that sprouted in the area have been protected.

Thomas Oldham *(West Virginia)*

Thomas Oldham is a fisheries biologist working with the Coldwater Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. He was one of the original volunteers who formed the Randolph County "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" Committee, and he has worked on this committee for 16 years. During that time, the event evolved from a small collaboration to a broad community event. Over a two-day period, more than 2,500 children participate each year.

Oldham has also coordinated the Bowden Fishing Derby for 18 years. He organizes the event, arranges for volunteers, and oversees all aspects of the derby. He is a past president of the American Fisheries Society and was selected last year to receive the Professional Award of the West Virginia Division of Izaak Walton League.

The convention's closing banquet gave Ikes a final chance to network, socialize, and celebrate the conservation victories of the past year.

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MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Best Chapter Member Recruitment Award

A few years ago, the League instituted a national award to recognize chapters' innovative membership marketing programs and strategies geared for success. This award is presented to the chapter that carried out the most effective membership recruitment and retention program during the previous year.

The **Ames Chapter (Iowa)** ended 2009 with 745 members, an increase of 28 percent over the previous year. The membership committee consists of two co-chairs — one for new members and one for renewing members. This has contributed to timely processing of application forms, giving members access to the chapter's property almost immediately.

Chapter leaders also consider access to chapter information essential to their members and prospective members: The chapter Web site contains information about the chapter and its grounds, application forms, an activity calendar, and photos of chapter facilities and events. The chapter instituted an e-mail version of its newsletter in 2009. Most members prefer receiving the e-newsletter, which contains more articles and photos than the print version.

54 Round Table Awards

Awarded to chapter members who recruited at least 54 League members in 2009. Each recruiter receives a special pin to commemorate the spirit of the 54 founders of the League.

Gary Downs, Ames Chapter (Iowa): 193 members
Robert Godlove, Linn County Chapter (Iowa): 183 members
Pete Williams, Alexandria Chapter (Virginia): 56 members
James Rives, Loudoun County Chapter (Virginia): 54 members

Editor's Note: Gary Downs, Membership Marketing Chair for the Ames Chapter, passed away shortly after this award was announced at convention. The Ames Chapter will greatly miss his energy and enthusiasm for the League.

G. Allen Fox from the White Oak River Chapter (North Carolina) shows off the chapter's roadside signs. Want one of your own? Download an order form at *www.iwla.org/chapters* in the Chapter Tools section.

A record-breaking 39 chapters received the Defenders Chapter Achievement Award for 2009 accomplishments.

John C. Gregory Memorial Award

Awarded to the division with the highest membership increase.

Virginia Division: 489 net member increase in 2009

Membership Achievement Awards

Greatest Percentage Increase

Louisa County Chapter (Iowa): 63 percent increase in 2009

Greatest Numeric Increase

Pikes Peak Chapter (Colorado): 333 member increase in 2009

Membership Merit Awards

These awards recognize chapter growth based on membership categories that allow chapters to be ranked with chapters of a similar size.

50 and Under Member Class

Louisa County Chapter (Iowa): 63 percent increase
Wadsworth Chapter (Ohio): 13 member increase

51-250 Member Class

Fremont Chapter (Nebraska): 51 member/63 percent increase

251-500 Member Class

Fort Wayne Chapter (Indiana): 95 member/25 percent increase
This is the second year in a row the Fort Wayne Chapter earned this award!

501 and Over Member Class

Pikes Peak Chapter (Colorado): 333 member/31 percent increase

Best Chapter Newsletter

Small Chapter (less than 500 members)

Frederick #1 Chapter (Maryland)

Large Chapter (more than 500 members)

Rockville Chapter (Maryland)

Best Chapter Web Site

Frederick #1 Chapter (Maryland)

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The Pennsylvania Division still has a few limited-edition 2010 national convention souvenir shirts, available in this wonderful chocolate brown. Order yours today by contacting Joe Galati at (717) 564-4763.

NEXT STOP: DES MOINES

2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION
July 12-15, 2011
Des Moines, Iowa
Holiday Inn–Airport Conference Center

From nationally recognized speakers to networking with fellow Ikes — and helping youth enjoy the great outdoors — next year's IWLA national convention in Des Moines, Iowa, will include something for every member of the family. The hotel offers an indoor pool, a fitness room, free WiFi in guest rooms, and a complimentary breakfast. Nearby attractions include Blank Park Zoo (*www.blankparkzoo.com*), the Science Center of Iowa (*www.sciowa.org*), and Adventureland Amusement Park (*www.adventurelandpark.com*). Check the League Web site for details in the coming months.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION
July 17-20, 2012
Lincoln, Nebraska

2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Fredericksburg, Virginia

DEFENDERS CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Izaak Walton League of America is built on community-based conservation. To acknowledge our most outstanding chapters, the League presents an annual Defenders Chapter Achievement Award. The award is taken from the League's motto, "Defenders of soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife." To receive the award, chapters must meet criteria in five of the following six areas: membership, contributions, education, conservation, youth involvement, and communications.

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) ++
Lois Green-Sligo Chapter (Maryland)*
Loudoun County Chapter (Virginia)
McCook Lake Chapter (South Dakota) ++
Mountaineer Chapter (West Virginia)
Owatonna Chapter (Minnesota)
Radford Chapter (Virginia)*
Rockville Chapter (Maryland) ++
Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter (Virginia)*
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 Sherry Memorial Chapter (Illinois)
Warren County Chapter (Iowa)
Warren County Chapter (Virginia)
Wayne County Chapter (Ohio)
West Central Iowa Chapter (Iowa)*
Wildlife Achievement Chapter (Maryland)
W.J. McCabe Chapter (Minnesota)*
York Chapter #67 (Pennsylvania)

* First-Time Recipient + 5th Consecutive Year ++ 10th Consecutive Year