



PISCATOR

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE NATIONAL CONVENTION

WEDNESDAY • JULY 22, 2009

WELCOME

As Ikes gather in Sioux Falls this week for our national convention, we also celebrate a major milestone in League history – the 40th Anniversary of the Save Our Streams (SOS) program. In 1969, the League pioneered citizen-based stream monitoring, giving people simple tools to safeguard and advocate for the health of streams in their communities. Government agencies and nonprofit organizations across the country have modeled their programs on SOS – imitation *is* the sincerest form of flattery.

At the 2009 convention, we celebrate our achievements and set the stage for the future through interactive workshops, expert speakers, and events in Sioux Falls. We'll focus on League business by electing national officers, attending committee meetings, and considering resolutions that set our conservation policies.

Enjoy the next three days, and look for the "Piscator" each morning to keep you on schedule and up to date!

MEET THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Eric Eckl

Founder, Water Words that Works



What better way to kick off a stream-themed convention than an opening address about water words that work?

Eric Eckl helps nonprofit organizations communicate about protecting clean water and other natural resources across the country. Today, he will cover the critical role

citizens play in safeguarding natural resources, offer effective communication techniques, and highlight how League members can continue to lead the charge for conservation at the local and national levels.

SPECIAL ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS: Eric will meet individually with League members this afternoon to talk about conservation projects and how you and your chapter or division can communicate more effectively about them. It's a great opportunity to discuss new ideas with an expert. We'll have a sign-up sheet at the back of the General Session room this morning. Limited spots are available for these one-on-one sessions, so sign up early!

TODAY'S SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Registration	<i>Convention Center</i>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm General Session	<i>Ballroom B</i>
12:00 – 2:00 pm Awards Luncheon	<i>Ballroom A</i>
2:00 – 5:00 pm • Resource/Standing Committee Meetings	<i>See Program for Room Assignments</i>
• Registration/Sales	<i>Convention Center</i>
• One-on-One Sessions With Keynote Speaker Eric Eckl	<i>Sign up in Ballroom B</i>
5:00 – 6:00 pm Resolutions Committee	<i>Meeting Room 7</i>
6:00 pm Parade of States	<i>Second Floor Sheraton Hotel</i>

FALLING FOR SIOUX FALLS

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has a history as big as the American West. The cascading falls have been a gathering point for prehistoric people, agricultural villages, several Lakota and Eastern Dakota Sioux Native American tribes – even famous adventurers Lewis and Clark.

After an earlier settlement was abandoned due to nearby skirmishes with local tribes, the Village of Sioux Falls was incorporated in 1876. Railroads brought with them the great Dakota Boom of the 1880s, when the population of Sioux Falls grew from 2,164 to 10,167. Railroad transportation also enabled Sioux Falls citizens to start shipping their famous native pink quartzite bedrock across the country.

Nicknamed the “Best Little City in America,” today’s Sioux Falls has an active financial services industry, a robust healthcare industry, and serves as the local hub for both agricultural processing and retail shopping.



EARLY BIRD GETS THE ‘PHEASANT’



At last night’s Early Bird Party and Auction, hundreds of members bid on a great collection of pictures, sculptures, bird houses, wines, quilts, and other items. The Early Bird gave members a chance to renew old friendships and catch up on developments since last year. The live and silent auctions and raffle raised more than \$12,600 for the South Dakota Division.

The highest bid in the live auction was \$2,200 for an original oil painting by noted artist John Green of Madison, South Dakota. It was bought by local Ike Phil Langner, who will add it to his existing collection of Green paintings.

TRAINED TO BE LEADERS

More than 40 Ikes attended yesterday’s Volunteer Leadership Training Workshop. Based on the *IWLA Chapter Manual*, the training session was developed to assist local leaders as they work to fulfill the League’s mission.

Five more training sessions are scheduled for this summer and fall. Those coming up will be held in Minnesota (Aug. 1), Ohio (Oct. 3), Indiana (Oct. 4), and Iowa (Oct. 31 and Nov. 1). More details are available online at: www.iwla.org/chapters.



Please help us minimize our environmental impact on Sioux Falls through the **Shallow Footprints** program. Just a few simple steps can reduce waste and the water and energy you use at this year’s convention:

- Recycle paper and plastic containers.
- Turn off lights and appliances when you leave a room.
- Hang and reuse bath and hand towels.
- Close your room curtains to keep the heat out.
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth or shave.
- Set air conditioning to a moderate temperature when you leave your room.

THANK YOU!