

OUTDOOR AMERICA™

PUBLISHED BY THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2022 ISSUE 1

100 Years of Conservation Leadership



ALSO INSIDE:

Izaak Walton Still Informs and Inspires
The Growing Value of Citizen Science
Ikes Reflect on the Past, Imagine the Future



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OUTDOOR AMERICA

PUBLISHED BY THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

VOL. 87 NO. 1

CONTENTS

2022, ISSUE 1

Features

- 6** Izaak Walton Still Informs and Inspires
By Marjorie Swann



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, LONDON

- 12** A Century of Conservation Leadership
By Staff



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- 18** Ikes Reflect on Past, Imagine the Future
By Rion Haley



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

- 36** The Growing Value of Citizen Science
By Lisa Ballard



MICHAEL REINEMER

Departments

- League Leader 2
- Director's Chair..... 4
- National News 26
- Endowment in Action 28
- Iconic Ikes 47

ON THE COVER ▶ A few samples from 100 years of *Outdoor America* covers
Credit: Background photo by WerksMedia

CONTENTS ▶ The Izaak Walton League 1923 convention
Credit: Izaak Walton League

ABOUT THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA ▶

Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America is a national conservation organization headquartered in Gaithersburg, MD. Our more than 40,000 members protect and enjoy America's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife. For membership information, call (800) **IKE-LINE** (453-5463) or visit our website at www.iwla.org.



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A Time to Celebrate and Reflect

VICKI ARNOLD | NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Fellow Ikes,

As we kick off the year-long celebration of our 100th anniversary, what words would you use to describe your involvement with the Izaak Walton League? Here are four that come to mind for me.

Exciting

For me, there has never been a more exciting time to be an Ike than right now. I belong to an organization that, for 100 years, has been a leader in conservation efforts in America. Those early efforts included establishment of the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the first national survey of water pollution in the U.S. and the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to name just a few. Current programs like Winter Salt Watch and the Upper Mississippi River Initiative are just as impressive. See details at iwla.org/100years.

Frustrating

There are definitely times when we seem to move slowly. Or we lose ground on protections for our natural resources. Sometimes we take two steps forward and one step back. That doesn't mean I give up. I remember what brought me to the League—the need to protect our natural

resources and my concern about losing the ability to enjoy outdoor recreation.

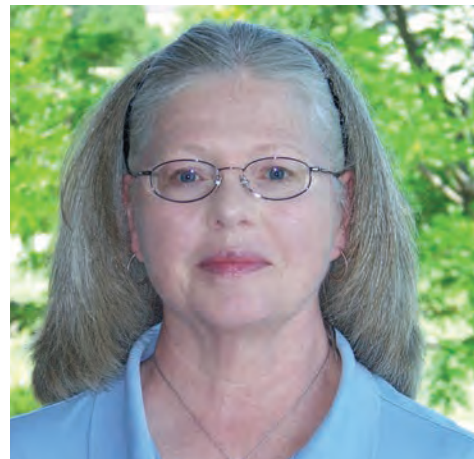
Committed

Conservation is a full-time belief. Being a member of the League means I will give time, financial support and hard work for the sake of future generations. No one ever said it was going to be easy. It takes a belief that we can do it—and the determination to make sure we do.

Being a member of the League means I will give time, financial support and hard work for the sake of future generations. No one ever said it was going to be easy.

Appreciative

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't express appreciation. I belong to a 40,000-plus-member volunteer organization. We each play an important part in the success story of the League. So I say thank you to past members



who helped bring us to where we are today and to current members whose passion is evident as we lay the groundwork to protect outdoor America for the future.

What words would you use? Share them with *Outdoor America* by emailing oa@iwla.org.

Let's Celebrate

This milestone year is a time to celebrate everything good about the League.

I hope you will make plans now to have your chapter and division represented at our national convention, July 19-22, 2022, in East Peoria, Ill. We will look back at our great accomplishments and more importantly, put in motion a plan for future success. The websites for both the League (iwla.org/100years) and the Illinois Division (iwla.org/illinoisdivision) will have convention details.

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To conserve, restore and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife.

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THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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Izaak Walton League

ENJOYING & PROTECTING AMERICA'S OUTDOORS

Not a member? It's easy to join!

Visit www.iwla.org to locate a chapter near you or join as a national or corporate member. You can also call 800-IKE-LINE and ask for the membership department. Your membership supports our conservation and education efforts and links you with a nationwide network of people working on common-sense solutions to environmental issues.

The Wait Is Over: Our 100th Anniversary is Here!

SCOTT KOVAROVICS | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With any major personal milestone or favorite holiday, there is always some anticipation and buildup leading to the event itself. For the Izaak Walton League, our milestone—the 100th anniversary year—is upon us. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate our legacy and share our story with the American people.

Celebrate the Anniversary

Job one this year: take some time to have fun celebrating the League's incredible history and accomplishments. I use the word "job" purposefully. The Ikes are a hard-working bunch. Not many of us stop to "smell the roses" or claim even a little credit for that hard work.

Anniversaries also provide opportunity for reflection. As we're in the moment, it can be hard to appreciate the enduring impact of League members over time. This year, we should step back and take a broader perspective.

A chapter fishing derby appears to be a singular event—families come out, kids have a lot of fun and learn that good fishing depends on clean water and

healthy habitat. However, think about how many times you have heard grandparents remark that they brought their children, and now their grandchildren, to this event. The impact is not simply one-off—it's generational.

In the 1930s, the Ikes were lonely advocates for meaningful federal laws to curtail water pollution. Yet the League was undaunted—it wrote legislation that Congress debated, voted on and revisited for decades. When Congress ultimately passed the Clean Water Act in 1972,



it embraced our fundamental ideas: national water quality standards, loans and grants for wastewater treatment, and



Anniversary banners and yard signs are available.

Library Subscriptions ► Spread the League's conservation message by sponsoring a subscription to *Outdoor America* for a local school, university, or library at the special rate of \$5 per year. Not only will you be raising awareness about the League, you will also be increasing your chapter's visibility because address labels include the sponsoring chapter's name. Subscription forms are available by calling (800) IKE-LINE (453-5463). Easy ship-to/bill-to service allows the magazine to be shipped to the institution while the renewal invoices are mailed to the sponsoring chapter.



The *Chicago Sun-Times* celebrated the League's 100-year history in a recent column.

wetland conservation. This is just one example of the organization's impact on the landmark conservation and outdoor recreation policies of the past 100 years.

Share Our Story

The anniversary is an ideal time to share the League's story with the American people. Frankly, it's time to do a little "bragging

When Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972, it embraced our fundamental ideas: national water quality standards, grants for wastewater treatment, and wetland conservation.

on ourselves." Unlike hard work, bragging is something most of us don't do as well.

To help tell our story, the League has produced a new 100th anniversary video tracing our history and impact—from 1922 to the present day, and from local communities to the nation's capital. As importantly, this video looks to the future and highlights

how the League will conserve, protect and restore our woods, waters and wildlife for the benefit of all Americans.

Please share this video with your neighbors, colleagues and local media and policymakers. In just a few minutes, they will come away with a newfound appreciation not only of the League's history, but of our impact today and tomorrow.

You can find this video, information about the League's history and other resources to celebrate the 100th anniversary at iwla.org/100years. Check this site often throughout the year for milestones from the first century, compelling stories and new tools to raise the visibility of the League.

Like most special occasions, this year will pass by far too quickly. Take time out to enjoy it, have fun and celebrate with other Ikes.

The anniversary is an ideal time to share the League's story with the American people.

View our 100th anniversary video at iwla.org/video.





Izaak Walton Still Informs and Inspires Conservation

MARJORIE SWANN

Painting of Izaak Walton by Jacob Huysmans

If Izaak Walton had stepped into a time machine and travelled to modern America, he would have jumped at this opportunity to expand the pool of recruits for his merry band of angler-conservationists.

In his personal life, Walton regularly left his social comfort zone to make friends with people who had backgrounds and worldviews very different from his own. In his famous book *The Compleat Angler*, Walton's alter-ego Piscator likewise befriends strangers who are dissimilar to him in many ways.

As a conservationist and environmental educator, Piscator meets people where they are: he adapts his own leisure-time activities to give his new companions enjoyable outdoor experiences; he provides them with the venue, equipment and coaching they need to gain proficiency and confidence; and he welcomes them wholeheartedly into his ever-expanding circle of friends.

Understanding the history of Izaak Walton and the organization that borrowed his name is richly instructive for conservationists today.

A Call to Action in 1922

The Izaak Walton League of America was founded a century ago in response to environmental crisis. By the early 1920s, decades of unfettered resource extraction, economic development, commercialized hunting and fishing, industrial pollution and harmful agricultural practices had devastated the American outdoors.

Determined to halt this destruction, 54 avid fly-fishermen gathered at the Chicago Athletic Club on a frigid Saturday in January 1922. After lunch, the firebrand advertising executive Will H.

Dilg bluntly described the terrible decline of the environment—"denuded hills, once rich in forests; polluted cesspools that once were glorious rivers alive with fish; a mere trace of wildfowl that once had darkened the sky"—and then asked an urgent question: "WHAT SHALL WE DO TO SAVE OUR FISHING?"



Published in 1653, *The Compleat Angler* is one of the most widely published books in English and has been translated into more than a dozen other languages.

MICHAEL REINEMER



Since its beginning, the Izaak Walton League focused on conservation and outdoor traditions.

In response to Dilg's impassioned call to action, the group decided to create a national alliance of conservationist-sportsmen who would fight to preserve entire ecosystems. The founders' comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship—their recognition that Americans must conserve their nation's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife—was decades ahead of its time. Yet the visionary founders of the League chose to look back across the centuries, and across the Atlantic Ocean, and name their cutting-edge conservation organization after a 17th-century Englishman: Izaak Walton.

Who Was Izaak Walton?

Like the founders of the League, Izaak Walton was an urbanite who loved to go fishing in his spare time. Born the son of a small-town tavern-keeper in 1593, Walton completed the equivalent of high school before moving to London, where he became a prosperous clothier. In 1653, when England was still recovering from the human

and environmental carnage of years of civil war, Walton published what would become one of the most beloved and influential books ever written: his narrativized fishing manual *The Compleat Angler*.

Inspired by what they called “Waltonism”—a philosophy of outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship that unites groups of people through their shared love and experience of the natural world—the founders of the Izaak Walton League used Walton's story of a springtime fishing trip as a blueprint for both the overarching goals and the chapter-based structure of their new organization.

The plot of *The Compleat Angler* is straightforward. Early on a Sunday morning in May, Walton's fictionalized alter-ego (an expert fisherman named “Piscator,” Latin

for “angler”) leaves busy, crowded London and walks north into the countryside to meet up with some friends and go fishing for several days. As he reaches the outskirts of the city, however, Piscator encounters a stranger named “Viator” (Latin

Understanding the history of Izaak Walton and the organization that borrowed his name is richly instructive for conservationists today.

Walton champions a comprehensive strategy of conservation that shapes the policies and activities of all levels of government as well as the behavior of individual sportsmen.

At night, the master-fisherman and his pupil reunite with Piscator's friends back at their guesthouse, where they all eat their freshly caught trout for dinner, sing songs, and toast each other's health, happiness and love of angling with lots of beer. When Piscator and Viator return to London, the novice angler declares himself a born-again new member of Piscator's "brotherhood" of fishermen: "I thank you for your many instructions, which I will not forget; your company and

Conservation is central to the relationships that Piscator and Viator establish with both the natural world and each other. Walton's anglers are sharp-eyed observers of the beautiful web of life that surrounds them in the countryside, and they understand that fish are just one part of this complex ecosystem. Like Izaak Walton himself, Piscator is a devout Christian who uses outdoor recreation to worship the Creator who made and sustains all living things, from angleworms to fishermen.

Historic Backdrop

A political cartoon by J. B. McQuinn titled "THE NATIONAL WOLF". The central figure is a large, imposing man with long hair and a beard, wearing a suit, standing on a raised platform. Behind him is a large banner that reads "THE NATIONAL WOLF". He is surrounded by several men in hats, some of whom are holding signs. The signs contain various phrases related to labor and industry, such as "EFFECTIVE CONTROL", "UNION CONTROL", "OPPOSITION TO", "CARRYING", "PUNISH", "UNION CONTROL", "CARRYING", "PUNISH", "UNION CONTROL", "CARRYING", "PUNISH". The scene is set outdoors with trees in the background.

A BATTLE THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE IS WINNING

his book when England was ruled by a military dictatorship that had abolished his beloved Anglican Church along with the British monarchy. As part of its crackdown on religious expression, the government had forbidden people from taking walks or engaging in outdoor recreation on the sabbath: so by heading into the countryside on a Sunday morning with his fishing gear, Piscator was defying laws designed to thwart his deeply spiritual love for the natural world.

But just as Walton believed that the government should not frustrate humanity's God-given relationship with the outdoors, so he also believed that the government should protect the environment itself. In *The Compleat Angler*, Piscator argues that the officials responsible

for enforcing environmental regulations must be held accountable, and he lambasts “conservators of the waters”—the government employees charged with overseeing rivers and their fisheries—who turn a blind eye to illegal (and environmentally harmful) fishing practices. In *The Compleat Angler*, Walton thus champions a comprehensive strategy of conservation that shapes the policies and activities of all levels of government as well as the behavior of individual sportsmen.

At the same time, Walton also creates a bold new model of community-building outdoor recreation. Before Walton published *The Compleat Angler*, fishing had always been regarded as a solitary pastime; Walton’s book, by contrast, transforms

angling into a shared experience that forges and strengthens personal relationships.

The Compleat Angler vividly portrays environmental engagement as an enjoyable social activity: while Walton’s anglers develop their knowledge and concern about the outdoors, they also become good friends who share fellowship and delicious

At once idealistic and pragmatic, spiritually fulfilling and politically savvy, Waltonism is a powerful philosophy of community-building conservation.

meals together. Walton thus depicts outdoor recreation as a uniquely holistic experience that strengthens our bonds with the natural environment, our Creator, and each other. At once idealistic and pragmatic, spiritually fulfilling and politically savvy, Waltonism is a powerful philosophy of community-building conservation that has only become more relevant as the Izaak Walton League of America celebrates its hundredth birthday.

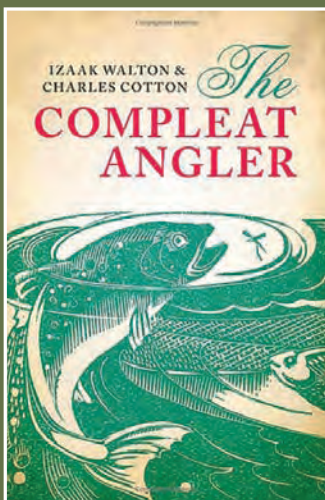
Walton’s Philosophy in the 21st Century

As our nation struggles to recover from the COVID pandemic, the Izaak Walton League can once again draw on its proud heritage to further the cause of conservation. But the League must

Wildly Popular for Centuries

Izaak Walton’s fishing manual *The Compleat Angler* holds a unique place in the history of publishing. Ever since it first appeared in 1653, the book has been remarkably popular. Rivalling the King James Bible in the sheer number of times it has been reprinted, the *Angler* is also noteworthy for the grassroots quality of its fame: unlike the works of Shakespeare, which in the name of high culture have been force-fed to generations of students in Britain and its former colonies, Walton’s book has always attracted a strictly voluntary readership.

Over the years, the audience of the *Angler* has grown far beyond the boundaries of the English-speaking world through translations



into more than a dozen other languages, including Japanese, Norwegian, Chinese, Russian, and Korean. Political defiance pervades Walton’s fishing manual, so it was no coincidence that the first Danish translation of the *Angler* was published during the Nazi occupation of Denmark.

Thus like the founders of the Izaak Walton League in 1922, readers through the centuries have cherished *The Compleat*

Angler because of Izaak Walton’s accessible, inspiring portrayal of how, especially during the toughest of times, we can make our lives better by bonding with the natural world and each other through our shared love, experience and stewardship of the outdoors.

The COVID Opportunity, By Marjorie Swann



Unless stormy weather keeps us indoors, my dog and I go for a walk every morning in the nature preserve near our home. While Kiba conducts her daily census of the cottontail population, I try to catch a glimpse of a muskrat or heron. Until 2020, Kiba and I would usually have the trails to ourselves,

but as the COVID-19 crisis intensified, we began to encounter other dogs out walking their humans. Now we're part of a group of early-morning regulars who look forward to seeing each other—as well as wildlife—amidst the beautiful scenery of the wetlands.

In response to the COVID pandemic, people around the globe have headed outdoors. Researchers at the University of British Columbia found that visits to parks increased

worldwide during COVID's first wave in 2020. Another team of scientists has shown that in Norway, activities in urban green spaces increased by 291 percent when the country was placed under lockdown.

Americans have likewise reconnected with the natural environment. Research undertaken at the University of Vermont reveals that in the United States, the COVID pandemic “drove many people into nature for the first time in years,” with 59 percent of respondents in one study reporting that “in nature they cherished a greater sense of mental health and wellbeing.” Thus as a side effect of COVID-19, millions of Americans have discovered that they're happier and healthier when they spend time in the natural world.

How can the Izaak Walton League transform these fledgling outdoors enthusiasts into life-long conservationists? Understanding the unique history of the League's community-building approach to conservation provides the answers to this question.

strategically adapt Waltonism to meet America's needs at this moment in our history.

Multiple studies reveal that Americans who have discovered the outdoors during the pandemic differ demographically from typical pre-COVID outdoors enthusiasts. These new participants in outdoor activities are younger and more likely to be urban, female and ethnically diverse than established outdoors enthusiasts; and many new participants have become engaged in activities that can be pursued close to home, require little specialized equipment and are easily accessible: walking, running, biking, hiking, birdwatching and fishing.

The Outdoor Industry Association argues that to keep this more diverse population engaged with the outdoors, organizations must “help new participants make their activities more social” and “develop programs and services with the specific goal of diversifying the participant base.”

In the lingering aftermath of the COVID crisis, this model of community-building conservation remains more powerful than ever. So, by adapting Waltonism to meet the needs of the millions of Americans who have just discovered the outdoors, the League can and should strive to recruit the most diverse membership in the organization's

history—and thus dramatically propel the American conservation movement forward yet again.

Marjorie Swann is Professor of English at Ottawa University in Kansas. Her edition of Izaak Walton's The Compleat Angler—the first to emphasize the book's environmentalism—was published by Oxford University Press in 2014. Her latest book, Environment, Society, and The Compleat Angler, opens with a discussion of the founding of the Izaak Walton League and will be published in 2023 by Penn State University Press. Swann holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Oxford University.



A Century of Conservation Leadership:



1922 to 1965

The list of historic accomplishments and milestones of the Izaak Walton League of America is long and impressive. Below are some of those achievements from the League's first half-century. The next issue of *Outdoor America* will list some highlights of the League's second 50 years.

>>> 1922

Founded in Chicago

On January 14, 1922, 54 hunters and anglers met in Chicago to establish a national organization dedicated to taking action to combat water pollution and threats to wildlife and habitat. They named their new organization the Izaak Walton League of America after the author of the classic fishing handbook, *The Compleat Angler*.

1922

Launch of *Outdoor America*

In August 1922, the League launched its magazine that has published articles about conservation and the League's work for 100 years. While the format, the focus and even the title changed from time to time, the magazine *Outdoor America* has regularly featured prominent writers and information on the most important environmental topics of the day.

1923

First national convention

In 1923 the League—already numbering tens of thousands of members—hosted its first annual convention in Chicago. Attendees discussed and agreed on the principles and goals of the organization, laying out a 14-point platform focused on natural resources and outdoor recreation. Today, the League's national convention still features the same member-driven process.





League Milestones and Accomplishments

>>>

1924

Wildlife refuge for the Upper Mississippi

Within two years of the League's founding, members secured a victory when Congress established the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. The League's action saved one of the nation's most diverse, complex ecosystems from being drained and converted to farmland.

1920s

Restoring threatened bass populations

In the 1920s, articles in *Outdoor America* exhorted League members to request bass fry from the Bureau of Fisheries, pick them up at the nearest railroad station and stock them in a local water body. The campaign was a success, helping to restore dwindling populations of largemouth and smallmouth bass across the country.

1920s

Helping the Jackson Hole elk herd

The League helped to save the now-thriving Jackson Hole elk herd by purchasing several thousand acres in Wyoming to provide food and range land for the struggling, dwindling herd. The League donated the land to the federal government, allowing for the expansion of the National Elk Refuge.



1926

A law to protect fish

Overfishing of largemouth and smallmouth bass (black bass) threatened the two species with extinction. So the League worked to enact the Black Bass Act of 1926, expanding the Lacey Act to prohibit illegal shipment of fish as well as protected mammals and birds. The League then tackled another loophole: the lack of state laws prohibiting commercial bass fishing.

1927

>>>

Outdoor Writers Association of America

The creation of the Outdoor Writers Association of America occurred at the Izaak Walton League national convention in 1927. Possibly the first organization to spin off from the League, OWAA is still thriving today, with an active community of writers, photographers, podcasters and other outdoor communicators.

TONY HOUGH



>>> 1927

First national survey of water pollution in the U.S.

In 1927, President Calvin Coolidge commissioned the Izaak Walton League to conduct the first national survey of water pollution. The results showed that raw sewage was being dumped into America's waterways. In response to the findings, seven states rapidly passed laws to address water pollution.

1920s
1930s

Making water treatment a priority

In the 1920s and '30s, the League led a national push to build sewage treatment plants in every community. Action by numerous League chapters led to widespread success on this front. The Sioux Falls Chapter in South Dakota persuaded voters to approve a \$600,000 bond for a treatment plant.

1930

Protection for the Boundary Waters region

The League helped develop and pass a 1930 bill to prevent damming and flooding in a portion of the Superior National Forest that later became the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Recognizing the area's conservation and recreation values, the League worked to acquire land that was then donated to the Forest Service to preserve the area as wilderness.



1932 >>>

Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act

In 1932, the League proposed a bird stamp to fund sanctuaries for waterfowl, which were suffering due to drought, expansion of agriculture and unregulated hunting. In 1934, Congress passed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, a landmark law based on the League's proposal. Member Jay "Ding" Darling designed the first of what would become known as the Duck Stamp.





>>>

1936



A long fight against water pollution

Grover Ladner from the Philadelphia chapter proposed a federal agency to combat water pollution and enforce uniform standards. Senator Augustine Lonergan introduced a bill to achieve those goals in 1936. In 1948, a weak version of that bill passed in Congress. But the League kept fighting, until enactment of the 1972 Clean Water Act and continuing today in the battle over the Waters of the United States rule.

1930s

Hunting skills and ethics

In the 1930s, sportsmen were aware that hunters often lost gamebirds that they had wounded during a hunt. So chapters began offering skeet facilities where hunters could hone their marksmanship in conditions that mimicked what they faced in the field. League members from California almost immediately placed seventh in a national skeet competition.

1937

The Pittman-Robertson Act

To fund wildlife restoration, habitat conservation and hunter education, the League led the push to pass the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937. The Act directs tax revenue from the sale of firearms, ammunition and bows and arrows to state wildlife agencies. Since it was enacted, the law has delivered more than \$2 billion to wildlife agencies. Bill sponsor Senator Absalom Robertson was a League member.

1940s
1950s

>>>

Protection of the Kankakee River and Indiana Dunes

After more than a decade of work with leadership from its Indiana Division, the League celebrated enactment of a law designed to restore the Kankakee River Grand Marsh. And in the 1960s, the League successfully advocated for preservation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which was redesignated as a national park in 2019.



HUGH ROSE; PIXABAY (2)



>>>

1943

Izaak Walton League of America Endowment

In 1943, the Izaak Walton League Endowment was created as a separate nonprofit entity to help raise funds for conservation. Initially, the Endowment purchased lands for later transfer to the U.S. Forest Service. In the 1960s, the Endowment began providing grants to League chapters to support conservation projects of every kind.

1945

Banning the pesticide DDT

As early as 1945, the League published concerns about the pesticide DDT and its harmful impact on wildlife. In the 1950s and '60s, the League grew increasingly vocal. The 1962 publication of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* raised widespread awareness, and the League seized the moment, testifying to USDA in 1964, and then suing the agency. Finally in 1972, the EPA banned use of DDT.

1950

Dingell-Johnson Act

The great success of the Pittman-Robertson Act in funding wildlife management led to the passage of the analogous Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950. Dingell-Johnson uses funds raised by taxes on fishing gear to support protection of fish habitat. Later amendments expanded the Act to receive the revenues from taxes on motorboat fuel and added funding to support boating access and fishing.

1950s

"Don't be a litterbug"

The League's Portland, Ore. Chapter created a program in the early 1950s called "Don't Be a Litter Bug," endorsed by the national leaders at the Izaak Walton League's 1953 convention. The program grew in popularity across the U.S. and by the late 1960s, thousands of students were pledging to fight litter.



1953

Young Outdoor Americans

At the 1953 national convention, the League launched a program to include more youth in natural resource issues. The first honorary chair of the "Young Outdoor Americans" program was actor Gary Cooper. While the program ended in 1959, the practice of engaging youth grew over the years and remains a top priority for the League.

1954

"Red Hat Day" hunter safety

In Oregon during 1954, 13 hunters were killed and 37 injured by the mishandling of firearms. In response, the League's Portland Chapter launched the "Red Hat Day" program to encourage safe hunting. The League adopted the program nationally, and it was endorsed by Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy. Later called "Hunt America Time," it grew to encompass outdoor ethics too.

>>>



>>> 1950s

Outdoor Recreation Commission leaves a legacy

In the 1950s, League Conservation Director Joe Penfold launched the idea of an Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission to assess the need for public lands to support outdoor activities. Congress agreed and implemented the idea in 1958. The Commission's recommendations guided policy for decades and inspired bedrock laws like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System Act.

1955

The Soil Bank Act

By the 1950s, American farmland was in trouble due to increasingly unsustainable farming practices. In 1955, the League created a soil conservation plan and presented it to key government leaders. Experts studied the idea and the following year, Congress passed the Soil Bank Act, which incorporated key League priorities into a conservation reserve program.

1964

The Wilderness Act

In the 1950s and early 1960s, the League, and especially Conservation Director Joe Penfold, was instrumental in pushing the concept of protecting wild public lands as wilderness. That idea culminated in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Through congressionally approved additions over the decades, the Act now protects 111 million acres of wild places, including the Everglades in Florida.



1965



Land and Water Conservation Fund

One of the most effective conservation programs in America, the Land and Water Conservation Fund takes a small amount of revenue from oil and gas drilling in public offshore waters and invests those dollars in local parks, rec centers and ball fields, as well as national parks and other public lands. League Conservation Director Joe Penfold inspired the 1965 program.

Ikes Reflect on Past, Imagine the Future

RION HALEY

As we remember the League's 100-year history and early leaders, we also celebrate current members and volunteers who have helped shape the League and who continue its extraordinary legacy today. Throughout the year, we will ask some of these people to reflect on the League's history, discuss the present and imagine our future.

In this issue, members Dave Whitney, Anita Stonebraker, Dave Zentner and volunteer Kevin Roth share insights. Their inspired service lays the groundwork for the next generation of conservation leaders.

Anita Stonebraker

Owning property that adjoins the **Lois Green-Sligo Chapter** (LGS) in Gaithersburg, Md., it was not hard for Anita Stonebraker to find the nearest chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Coming from a hunting and fishing family, she was curious and found a warm welcome from the chapter.

The appeal of the members and the idea of land stewardship inspired Stonebraker to join—and stay for two decades. She also served as treasurer and is now president. Today she is proud of the chapter's vibrant membership and growth, which she describes as “bursting at the seams.”

In a time when Americans are not joining organizations as much as they once did, Stonebraker has found that proactively welcoming and embracing non-members has helped the chapter to expand and succeed.

The chapter offers use of its property to Scout troops, the Youth Civil Air Patrol and other groups in the community. LGS is surrounded by residential neighborhoods, so Stonebraker and members reached out to dog walkers and local anglers to showcase the chapter's resources.



Anita Stonebraker visits Kaaterskill Falls in New York.

Stonebraker has found that proactively welcoming and embracing non-members has helped the chapter to expand and succeed.

LGS also works to add membership value through members-only events such as conservation projects and by allowing only members to bow hunt on the 63-acre property.

The League's Save Our Streams program has made a strong impression on Stonebraker, who views SOS as another hands-on way to engage the local community. Through SOS, the chapter provides the information and tools that inspire citizen scientists to make connections to local waterways and remain mindful of water quality and conservation in their everyday activities.

Reflecting on the League's centennial year, Stonebraker feels humbled by the legacy of hard work and accomplishments achieved by members who have come before. Stonebraker cites the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act and the Clean Air Act as a few of the legislative achievements that inspire her.

“As members and leaders, it is our responsibility to continue this heritage and keep moving toward a cleaner and more hospitable earth,” she said.

Dave Whitney

In the mid-1970s, Dave Whitney spent nearly three years on the road delivering clean water messages to every state in the continental U.S. He drove what would now be described as a vintage Coachmen RV, dubbed “the Water Wagon.”

The idea was to take the message directly to the people instead of hoping that they would read a flyer delivered in their mailbox. As a League member and Save Our Streams (SOS) leader, Whitney believed he could enlist volunteers if only he could get them to the water to see the problems first-hand.

Logging 130,000 miles, Whitney brought the clean water message to tens of thousands of people through appearances at League chapters, schools and colleges—and with help from local, regional and national television stations that loved the visual as well as the environmental dimensions of the story.

His appearances attracted new members and established the League’s SOS program as the basic model for many of the water-focused citizen science programs today.

Whitney had been working for the Iowa Department of Environmental Protection in the mid-1970s when the Environmental Protection Agency invited him to Washington, DC to speak at a meeting about the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. Jack Lorenz, League executive director from 1974 to 1992, was at that meeting and approached Whitney, eventually persuading him to join the League to improve and expand the SOS program.

Whitney recalls, “I roughed out a program for Jack where the League would get a motor home and put the SOS program on the road.”

Proud to be a life member, Whitney believes that the big picture for the League has not changed—nor should it. Protecting our natural resources is as



Dave Whitney delivered the League’s clean water message to legions of volunteers nationwide from this Coachmen RV dubbed the Water Wagon.

Whitney believes that the big picture has not changed—nor should it. Protecting our natural resources is as relevant today, if not more so, than it was 100 years ago.

relevant today, if not more so, than it was 100 years ago.

Besides the need for ongoing water conservation and education, Whitney thinks the League must continue to work hard for funding. To fund his cross-country “Water Wagon” excursion, he constantly worked to raise money. He helped develop the Endowment’s Million Dollar Club, which takes \$1,000 donations and invests them to provide for conservation grants funded by the earnings. He single-handedly raised \$18,000 in donations during one conference.

“I learned the best way to raise money is to ask for it. And never take ‘no’ personally,” he declared.

Whitney applauds the League’s embrace of technology, like using smartphone photographs in stream monitoring. Of course, cell phones would have been useful in the 1970s when he was on the road for weeks at a time. “When Jack wanted to get me on the phone, he would call the highway patrol in whatever state I was in, have them stop me, and tell me to call the office,” he chuckled.

Dave Zentner

A former Minnesota division president, national president and member of the National Endowment Board, Dave Zentner is a life-long member of the League. He cherishes many experiences and campaigns associated with his membership.

He puts creation of Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota at the top of his list. Owing to his work on that effort, he was presented with the League's highest honor, the 54 Founders Award in 1992. Other experiences he had a hand in:

- Passage of the 1978 Boundary Waters Canoe Area legislation that expanded that wilderness area
- Stopping a mining company from dumping tailings waste into Lake Superior
- Passage of Minnesota's Clean Water and Land Legacy amendment and
- Watershed restorations, including serving as the first project director for the Upper Mississippi River Initiative.

Proud of the League's legacy, Zentner has fond memories of its many efforts such as promoting the North American model of wildlife conservation and the creation of state and national wildlife refuges. "Not to mention the passage of the Clean Water Act... the League has always insisted that the resources come first," he said. He also mentioned multiple local projects that had noble outcomes, which included citizen science and outdoor ethical considerations.

Today he finds that the Ikes remain a respected institution, retaining solid examples of community problem-solving that lead to enlightened environmental public policy.

Zentner believes that the League's major strength is its structure, local chapters and grassroots science. He is excited by its ability to connect to issues



Dave Zentner hopes the League's second century is even better than its first.

locally as well as at the state and national levels.

"Our history is admirable. That said, we need to create a new history," he insists. He proposes a second century that is even better

than the first—more connected, engaged and reimagined.

He'd like to see a re-creation of the magic that is essential in any successful organization: a membership base that feels as if they are part of a difference-making mission. To him that means an adaptation in the League's programming to ensure that it is positively influencing the big issues of the 21st century.

He feels that the goal of conservation as part of everyone's life is still valid, and he sees a future Izaak Walton League that includes more diversity in the leadership and membership.

The League's strength comes from its structure, the local chapters and grassroots science, says Zentner. He sees a future Izaak Walton League that includes more diversity in the leadership and membership.

Kevin Roth

In 2018, volunteer Kevin Roth's hometown was hit hard by a surprise snowstorm. Within 24 hours, the dissolved salts in one of his locally monitored creeks had tripled and the creek went from fresh water to slightly brackish within six hours.

He joined forces with the Izaak Walton League and signed up with the Salt Watch program to begin educating the community about salt use and tracking chloride levels in the area's streams and creeks.

Roth coordinates education, outreach and volunteers for the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust in Huntingdon Valley, Pa., one of the League's vital partners for Salt Watch and stream monitoring. The League provided the training and equipment he needed to educate the public about winter salt use and the importance of macroinvertebrate populations in local creeks.

During the spring of 2021, the Trust participated in the SOS program by certifying its own Streamkeepers (Trust citizen scientists who conduct water quality monitoring efforts). With the League's help, Trust members and volunteers were able to create a database of macroinvertebrate populations, compare that data with historical data and eventually host public presentations to share the findings.

"Thanks to the SOS program, we have several volunteers certified in macroinvertebrate collection and identification," Roth told *Outdoor America*. "These volunteers allow the Trust to monitor larger stretches of creek and identify problems before they worsen."

Roth notes that the number of stream



Erin Landis and Kevin Roth examine caddisfly larvae during Save Our Streams training.

Volunteers allow the Trust to monitor larger stretches of creek and identify problems before they worsen.

monitoring resources available to the public has increased, and the League's offerings have expanded throughout the country. That growth has allowed organizations that don't have enough staff or funding to reach more people.

He typically suggests that his volunteers start with the Salt Watch or SOS programs because it's the easiest entry point for citizen

scientists to get started. Once a volunteer learns how to become a better steward of the environment, they are more likely to incorporate practices into their daily lives and share them with family and friends.

Roth believes that it's all about encouraging people to climb the "engagement ladder" of environmental awareness and conservation. Thanks to Roth and the League's programs, more Pennsylvanians are stepping up and taking action for conservation and restoration.

Rion Haley is a freelance writer, master gardener and former editor of Outdoor America.



A good Ike is easy to find.

But only you can help us find the best of the best.

Make sure your fellow Ikes get the recognition they deserve, for:

- Defending clean water
- Organizing a conservation project
- Engaging youth in the outdoors
- Advancing the shooting sports, or
- Writing informative newsletters about the League's work

Nominate an outstanding member, chapter, division or ally for an Izaak Walton League national award.

Nominations are due June 1, 2022.

Visit www.iwla.org/awards



Our 2nd Century Campaign to Save Outdoor America



As the Izaak Walton League marks our 100th anniversary, members and supporters can take tremendous pride in all that the organization and generations of Ikes have accomplished.



As we commemorate this milestone, we're also stepping up—like our founders did 100 years ago—to secure the future we want for all Americans.

A future where

- every community has clean air and water
- people of all ages rediscover their love of the outdoors
- traditions of hunting and fishing endure
- clean energy, healthy soil and abundant wetlands and forests help combat climate change.

You can help make this future a reality by supporting our 2nd Century Campaign!

Building on Our Strengths: Community-based Conservation and Citizen Science

Community-based conservation and citizen science are the cornerstones on which the League was built. With our time-tested approach, the League will engage more Americans and tackle the serious challenges ahead.

Citizen Science 2.0 – Using technology and a crowd-sourced model, the League is making it easier for more people to test for pollution in local waters.



Turning Data into Action – Testing for water pollution is a means to an end. We will leverage test results from volunteers to reduce pollution at its source, clean up degraded waters and mobilize a new generation of clean water advocates.

Building on Our Strengths: Advocacy for Common Sense Conservation

Although much of our work begins in local communities, it does not end there. As we look to the future, policy advocacy will be one of the ways the League achieves our broader mission.

Comprehensive Approach to Conservation – Climate change, polluted runoff and the spread of invasive plants and animals are not localized problems—they affect entire landscapes. Our advocacy will shape national and regional policies to protect and restore natural resources.



Revolutionizing Agriculture – America's farms feed the nation, but agriculture is also the largest source of polluted runoff. Meanwhile, declining soil health jeopardizes our food supply. League policies can help solve these problems by scaling up conservation on tens of millions of acres—from the Midwest breadbasket to farms near cities and suburbs.

Thank you for your support!

2nd Century Campaign

Building on Our Strengths: Connecting People to the Outdoors

The League is uniquely positioned to reconnect Americans to the natural world and foster the next generation of conservationists, hunters and anglers.

Gateway to the Outdoors — Through community outreach, public events like fishing derbies and local conservation projects, more than 200 League chapters will connect people to nature and grow participation in outdoor recreation.



Conservation for Everyone — From sharing a Stream Selfie on social media to joining a chapter-organized clean-up, the League offers many ways to get involved in conservation. By helping people appreciate that their actions have meaningful impact, we will engage future citizen scientists, policy advocates and League members.

Your Role in the 2nd Century Campaign

You can help the League build on our strengths with a tax-deductible gift to the 2nd Century Campaign.

Your generosity will:

Expand Support for the Grassroots — Your gift will increase staff capacity to support and coordinate regional volunteer networks—improving our ability to effect change on the ground.

Ramp Up Policy Advocacy — Your support will help us expand national lobbying capacity, design grassroots campaigns to advance League priorities and be an advocacy resource for local groups.

Deliver Tools and Training — Your donation will provide more testing resources, such as Salt Watch test kits, and

expand community-based training to make it easy for more Americans to get—and stay—involved in conservation.

Leverage Technology — Your investment will enable upgrades to our Clean Water Hub national website and mobile phone apps that help volunteers collect and share water quality test results—the key to a crowd-sourced, data-to-action solution!



We will achieve our goals for conservation and outdoor recreation—it's only a matter of when—and when is now!

Please send your donation, payable to IWLA,
to 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.
Or save a stamp and donate online at iwla.org/secondcentury.



This uncovered salt pile in Rockville, Md. allows rain or melting snow to carry toxic levels of chloride into local waterways.

In Advocacy, Persistence Pays

By SAMANTHA BRIGGS, Clean Water Program Director

Another hit season of Salt Watch is still in full swing. Four years of the Salt Watch program have produced many things—explosive growth in volunteers, thousands of new chloride test results and a very clear picture of salt pollution problems across the Snow Belt of the U.S.

The most notable success is the army of engaged clean water advocates fighting for smarter salt practices in their communities. Two volunteers come to mind when we think about superstar

Salt Watchers—Geoffrey Selling and Karl Van Neste, who were both awarded “Salt Watcher of the Month.”

Selling: Sold on the Need to Act

A retired science teacher and current Pennsylvania Master Watershed Steward, Geoffrey Selling is no novice when it comes to clean water advocacy. Since he retired in 2015, he’s been working on various watershed projects, monitoring area creeks

and trying to improve the riparian buffer along Rock Creek, which flows through Curtis Arboretum in Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania.

In addition to large amounts of trash and litter that flow down the creek, a great deal of salt also finds its way into this urban stream. The roads and nearby parking lots are heavily salted during winter storms. On several occasions, he has photographed large salt spills from careless truck operators.

Selling’s primary focus had

been on the removal of invasive plants and restoration of native trees and shrubs along the creek. But through his monthly chloride tests, he realized that identifying and documenting salt pollution was not enough. He needed to turn that data into action.

Now he plans to meet with Cheltenham supervisors, local retail and mall owners, and the watershed organizations in the region. A local high school's environmental action club and other concerned students have also expressed interest in reducing chloride pollution. The students are eager to talk to retailers and to go door to door to speak with neighbors about reducing the amount of salt distributed in the community. Selling has also gotten Salt Watch accepted as a key project with his Master Watershed Steward Program in Montgomery County, Pa.

After no fewer than four attempts by Selling to get a letter to the editor published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, his letter about chloride pollution was finally published, informing residents that the salt does not need to crunch beneath your feet to be effective. Finally, he sent letters to all his city council members in Philadelphia. One replied that he had forwarded Selling's letter to the Streets Department and encouraged the department to look into the Smart Salting trainings.

Selling is sold on the idea that even if you are not an "expert," you have to start somewhere.

Van Neste Takes it Up a Notch

For several years, Karl Van Neste has been an active board member with the Muddy Branch Alliance in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He monitors water quality, cleans up streams and mentors students. He is a community leader committed to engaging with people by sharing knowledge about the impact of road salt on water resources.

Be persistent with messages to stakeholders—from local residents and officials to private business owners to county or state government agencies.

He inspired a group of citizen scientists to monitor chloride levels in the water at multiple sites along the Muddy Branch, and he advocates for statewide salt reduction legislation. A successful communicator, Van Neste inspires friends, family and neighbors to adopt environmentally favorable practices all winter long. He made the news last March after discovering a fish kill in a local waterway, and he also presented at our Gaithersburg Salt Watch kickoff webinar.

Van Neste continues to monitor, but he also advocates for better salting practices. When he found an uncovered salt pile at a business in Rockville, he

notified the county, the business owners and the property owners, explaining that uncovered salt piles leach toxic levels of chloride into local waterways. When the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection stated that the salt pile only needed to be covered with a tarp, not fully contained, Van Neste contacted the news media and raised concerns with the county council and the county executive's office, hoping to improve salt regulations.

In January, the *Washington Post* published a guest editorial from Van Neste about the "true cost of road salt," which affects human health and infrastructure. If his past actions prove anything, it's that persistence pays off.

If you are looking to advocate for water quality, whether about chloride or another pollution issue, take cues from Selling and Van Neste.

- Be consistent—and persistent—with your message.
- Reach multiple levels of stakeholders, from local residents and officials to private business owners to county or state government agencies.
- If your letter to the editor or guest editorial isn't published, try again.

To get involved with Salt Watch, see results from across the country and download your own advocacy resources, visit www.saltwatch.org. The future of water quality depends on you and others speaking up.

Your Endowment in Action

Endowment Helps Restore Park after Severe Tornado Damage



About 50 students from Owatonna High School pitched in to repair severe storm damage.

When a destructive EF1 tornado tore through the city of Owatonna, Minn., in 2019, the **Owatonna Chapter** of the Izaak Walton League knew they would need help.

The National Weather Service uses the Enhanced Fujita Scale to categorize tornadoes. An EF1 tornado produces winds between 73 and 112 miles per hour—strong enough to push cars off the road and tip over mobile homes.

True to its rating, the tornado damaged buildings, trees and the banks of the local Izaak Walton Creek in Owatonna, which is about 50

miles south of Minneapolis.

The damage to the city's trees was severe.

In Hammann Park, an undeveloped seven-acre area adopted by the Ikes in 1990, a combination of heavy rains and the tornado uprooted hundreds of trees, and the fierce wind snapped many of them off at the base. Some trees fell into the creek, blocking the stream flow, and others toppled onto the hiking trails. As the water rose to flood stage in the creek, the hiking trails were completely washed away in several locations.

Ikes Organize a Restoration Project

After an emergency meeting of the chapter's board of directors, the group decided to apply for a \$5,000 grant from the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment. The Owatonna Ikes pledged to match the grant financially and also offered their labor. Financial help would be essential for replacing trees and restoring the banks of Izaak Walton Creek.

When the grant was approved, Ikes met with the leaders of the city's Parks and Recreation

Department to discuss plans. A second meeting with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources resulted in approval to restore the eroded banks of the creek with rocks, using rip-rap and large boulders.

The trees and streambank in the park were restored in a way we hope will provide greater resilience in the face of future weather events.

Work began in the fall of 2020 and continued into the spring of 2021. The Owatonna Ikes helped cut and remove the fallen trees. City crews cleaned up the creek and began to stabilize the banks by hauling in rocks and judiciously placing them in the washed-out corners.

Thanks to the funding, the Chapter was ready to begin the

second phase of the restoration by May 2021.

The Ikes had a long-standing relationship with the Owatonna High School agriculture classes. Detailed planning and timely supervision motivated almost 50 students to plant more than 20 trees, plus a dozen shrubs and seeds for pollinator-friendly plants. The seed-sowing volunteers were guided by two members of the Bee-Friendly Pollinator Group. The trees and shrubs were watered throughout the summer and are doing well.

Thanks to the Endowment, the trees and streambank were restored and improved in a way that we hope will provide even healthier woods and waters in the community and greater resilience in the face of future weather events.

Gary Schwartz is a national director for the League. He serves as treasurer for the Owatonna Chapter and is on the board of the Endowment.

ABOUT THE ENDOWMENT

The Izaak Walton League of America Endowment provides financial support for projects and scholarships that align with the League's mission of protecting the outdoors for future generations through education, community-based conservation and promoting outdoor recreation.

Every League member is also a member of the Endowment. Any chapter can apply, but you don't have to wait for a natural disaster to take action. Grants can be used for projects like restoring shooting and archery ranges, improving or restocking fishing ponds, sponsoring outdoor activities for youth, launching a Salt Watch program or installing bluebird houses. Every grantee is required to provide a final report by July 1 of the year following the grant approval.

The deadline for applying is May 1 and grants are awarded at the annual meeting in July. Directions and forms are available at iwla-endowment.org.

The Endowment is a separate nonprofit established in 1943. It conducts its own fundraising.

Ikes Delles Solie, Cherry Schwartz and Don Overlie admire the work of students who helped restore park land.





SOIL MATTERS



Organic farm in Ohio. People benefit when fewer chemicals, like nitrates, are used on farmlands.

League Works with States and Tribes to Improve Soil Health

BY DUANE HOVORKA, Agriculture Program Director

State, Tribal and local officials around the country are taking action to promote healthy soils, and the Izaak Walton League is working to help them succeed.

A growing body of science shows how healthy soils produce healthy food. Policymakers are learning that healthy soils also protect clean water, reduce erosion, remove carbon dioxide from the air, reduce flooding and make farms more resilient to changes in our climate.

Now policymakers are taking action. States like Maryland, New Mexico and California have created programs to help farmers and ranchers adopt soil health practices. At least 31 states enacted or considered soil health

legislation in 2021, and legislation could be introduced in even more states this year.

The League helped craft legislation pending in Iowa to give county soil and water conservation districts more responsibility for promoting soil health. We have also supported bills for getting practical information to farmers and funding for soil health practices in Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota and Nebraska.

Progress for Grant Program

At the national level, League staff developed legislation to create a State and Tribal Soil Health Grant Program. The

proposal was included in the Agriculture Resilience Act introduced by Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) in the House and Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) in the Senate. A version of the soil health grant program was also included in legislation proposed by Rep. Rod Davis (R-Ill).

That grant program would provide \$100 million per year to help states develop and implement soil health strategies tailored to the unique soils, climate, and farming systems in each state. Tribal governments could use the funds to create and implement their own Tribal plan, or they could participate in the state plan.

Just as federal grants changed the way states and tribes manage wildlife, the soil health grant program could advance state and Tribal governments into leadership roles in promoting the widespread adoption of farm and ranch practices that regenerate the health of our soils. It would cover a share of the cost of developing a comprehensive state-wide soil health plan, and then part of the cost of implementing the plan. Each state or tribe would identify its own priorities, whether planning, education, outreach, research, incentives for farmers or assessing the results.

The soil grant concept is modeled after the very successful State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program, which was established two decades ago. At a time when most state wildlife agencies were focused on a few huntable and fishable species, the program transformed the way those agencies manage fish and wildlife. Grant funds helped them develop and implement State Wildlife Action Plans

that address a wide variety of wildlife conservation challenges and focus on the species most in need of conservation.

Federal conservation programs can do much to encourage farmers and ranchers to adopt conservation practices that restore and protect healthy soils, but those programs only reach a tiny fraction of farmers each year.

The urgent need to regenerate soil will require government agencies working together with rural cooperatives, the private sector and our farmers and ranchers to ensure the future health of our soil and our food supply.

The urgent need to regenerate soil will require state, local, Tribal and federal agencies all working together with rural cooperatives, the private sector

and farmers and ranchers to ensure the future health of our soil and our food supply.

The League's proposed State and Tribal Soil Health Grant Program would be an important step toward fostering that cooperation.

Soil Health Practices Are Important

- Reduce or eliminate tilling
- Maintain living roots in the soil year-round
- Reduce or eliminate chemical use
- Incorporate livestock into crop systems
- Rotate grassland for grazing

Soil Health Is Essential to Human Health

People benefit when fewer chemicals are used on farmland, such as cancer-causing nitrates that leach into water supplies.

Healthy soil holds water and slows runoff, reducing erosion and flood damage.

Managing plants on agricultural lands offers tremendous potential for capturing carbon and reducing the most harmful impacts of climate change.

Maintaining the nation's soil health over the long haul means we can be confident that we will be able to feed ourselves and future generations, and continue to serve as the breadbasket of the world.

Increasing Soil Health and Sequestering Carbon in Agricultural Soils

A Natural Climate Solution



In case you missed it...

Research Shows Improved Soil Health Slows Climate Change

A comprehensive review of research on soil health and carbon sequestration shows that increasing practices that improve soil health will slow climate change and produce other benefits. View the full report by Sara Via, a University of Maryland scientist: iwla.org/soils-agriculture/soilhealthreport



Celebrate the League's Centennial in Style



Denim shirt

\$42.00

Perfect buttoned up or wear it open over a t-shirt. The 100th logo is embroidered over the pocket on the front and larger on the back.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Tall available in L and XL



Anniversary bear

\$13.00

This bear is waiting for a good home and is eager to show off the League logo! Nab one for a special youngster or add to your own collection. Available in a yellow or green shirt.

Prices include shipping and handling. Order using the form [here](#) or by visiting us online at:
iwla.org/shop



Anniversary cap

\$18.00

Show your League spirit with one of these 100th anniversary embroidered logo ball caps. Colors: (L-R) Cardinal, Aqua, Forest Green, Stone, Texas Orange, Mustard



Youth t-shirt

\$15.00

The kids will love this full color 100th anniversary t-shirt! Pick up one—or two—in their favorite colors: (L-R) Mint Green, Yellow, Cardinal, Navy
Sizes: S, M, L



Long-sleeve t-shirt

\$20.00

Perfect for cooler days, this long-sleeve t-shirt will have you showing your League pride in style! Colors: (L-R) Celadon Green, Navy, Athletic Heather Gray
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL



Anniversary t-shirt

\$18.00

Your favorite League t-shirt now has the eye-catching 100th anniversary logo splashed across the front. Bet you can't pick just one color! Colors: (L-R) Candy Orange, Sand, Cardinal, Mint Green, Yellow, Navy. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL



Vintage design grocery bag

\$8.00

The handy reusable bag has an outside pocket for your shopping list or other items.



Veggie design grocery bag

\$8.00

Use this 100th anniversary veggie-design reusable bag to tote your groceries and other items in style!



Mesh bag set

\$17.00

There's no end to the uses for this set of 3 reusable mesh produce bags. Take them to the farmer's market to separate and store produce. They can also go in the laundry to hold delicate or small items.

Travel straw in case

\$10.00



On the go but still want to practice sustainability? This travel-sized reusable straw comes in a smart container with a clip. Cleaning brush included.



Reusable straw set

\$15.00

Join the crowd by pitching in to reduce waste with this set of reusable straws. Our sustainable straws come in a variety of colors and lengths to meet your every need. Cleaning brush included.



Fishing shirt \$46.00

Get ready for a day on the boat or just staying cool outside with one of our embroidered fishing shirts. Two great colors to choose from with the eye-catching 100th anniversary logo. Colors: (L-R) Sea Green or Tropical Blue. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL (*small not available in blue*)



Nalgene bottles \$20.00

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The Growing Value of Citizen Science

LISA BALLARD

Citizen scientists can easily record and submit observations using smart-phone apps like iNaturalist.

iNATURALIST AND TONY IWANE; AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY (L-R)

The valuable contributions of citizen scientists are as old as the ability to record what you see.

During the 1804 to 1806 Lewis and Clark expedition, from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean and back, that group recorded observations about 178 plants and 122 animal species.

That information was new to the explorers and even today, more than two centuries later, their written accounts still inform our understanding of wildlife population trends over time. And Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were not scientists.

Starting in the early 20th century, fire watchers stationed in observation towers across the Appalachian Mountains and other

regions raised an alarm whenever a wildfire flared up. They also kept written logs about the daily weather. Now those detailed records provide an important look at how weather patterns have changed over time.

Closer to Home

These days, individual citizen scientists are more apt to collect data closer to home—like from a local stream or in their own back yards. And there are a lot of people making those observations.

For citizen scientists, local projects are easier, more meaningful—and more popular. For instance, when Samantha Briggs joined the Izaak Walton League five years ago, she inherited the oversight

of the League's Save Our Streams initiative, one of the longest-running citizen science programs in the country. Since then, she and her team have trained about 1,500 volunteers who assess conditions in local streams and then report their findings to the League.

Since its inception more than 50 years ago, 10,000 people have monitored water quality by participating in Save Our Streams (SOS), one of the few water programs that is national in scope.

The League's Winter Salt Watch program is another example of citizen scientists providing vital data. With Salt Watch, no training is necessary. Test strips arrive in the mail, and volunteers follow easy directions.

Like most data-collection programs, volume counts.

Last winter, the League distributed 2,500 Salt Watch test kits and volunteers provided more than 2,600 test results from 22 states. This winter, the program will set new records for the number of tests distributed and results received. These test results collected by citizen scientists will provide useful information about chloride pollution levels in streams and will serve as a basis for advocating for better de-icing policies and procedures for roads, parking lots and sidewalks.

People bring different levels of engagement to citizen science, Briggs says. "Some people put in hours and hours of volunteer time over many years. For instance we've got about 600 traditional SOS monitors who return to gather data. But we also have thousands more Salt Watchers and other clean water advocates who volunteer with school groups or just one day—because that's all they have time for or want to do."

But every piece of data helps, she says.

Vital Information

This testing fills an information gap. "State and federal agencies don't have the resources to monitor every stream regularly," Briggs says. "They target specific stream sites, and they might get there every two to three years. By the time that

information is available to the public, the results are old. Our volunteers fill in the gaps."

With the limited government budgets for gathering data, the role of volunteers has never been more important.

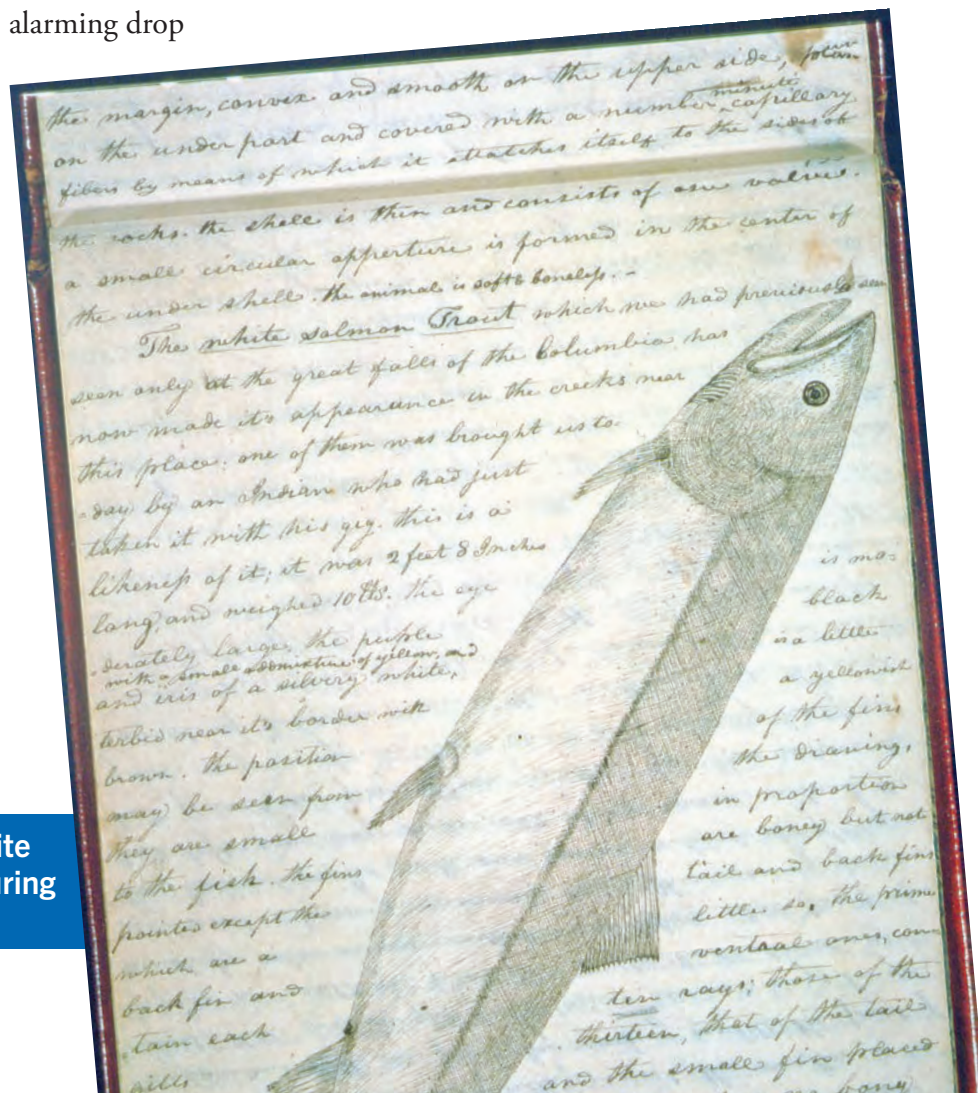
Especially with the limited government budgets for gathering data, the role of volunteers has never been more important. An amateur bug club in Germany that has collected insect data using a consistent method for decades was credited for first raising alarm several years ago about what scientists have confirmed as a dramatic and alarming drop

in insect populations globally.

The information obtained from long-term citizen science programs would have been impossible or very difficult and costly to obtain otherwise.

FeederWatch Keeps Tabs on Birds

The FeederWatch program was first conceived in the 1970s by the Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario, Canada. The concept is simple: each person records the bird species that visit their yard. In 1987, Long Point began partnering with the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology and together they have expanded the program to about 30,000 birders across the U.S. and Canada.



William Clark's drawing of a white salmon from his journal kept during the Lewis and Clark expedition.



Science is making observations and recording them with a little bit of critical thinking mixed in, says Emma Greig of the Cornell Ornithology Lab.

The FeederWatch program helped to document a population decline in the evening grosbeak, a stunning yellow, black and white songbird found in many northern states in the U.S. “Evening grosbeak numbers have plummeted over the last few decades,” says Emma Greig, Cornell’s Project Leader for FeederWatch. She says that program was one of the first to demonstrate the population drop. “We weren’t clear why it was happening, but at least we could show the decline. Now, we can look for the reasons.”

FeederWatch provides critical data on population trends for

about 100 bird species that visit feeders. The data is then overlaid with other information to determine if changes in land cover or warming temperatures might be increasing or decreasing the presence of bird species in a given area.

Greig says 65 percent of FeederWatch participants renew each year. “Good retention like that makes a good data set over time. People are counting the same way, so you know if changes are actually happening.”

Getting Started

When you volunteer for a citizen science program, the

organization or scientific team will train you and provide what you need to collect the data they seek. You'll likely need a smartphone, tablet or laptop with a specific app on it, which is how most data is submitted. And you will need good observation skills.

Regardless of the program, the key to good citizen science is following instructions.

Within the Izaak Walton League, Save Our Streams is a good fit if you're an avid angler or concerned about water quality. You may already be comfortable in waders, which can be useful when collecting water samples. Also, macroinvertebrates in water—like caddisflies, scuds and stoneflies—are familiar to many anglers. Likewise, if

you care deeply about curbing water pollution, Winter Salt Watch is a no-brainer. You dip a test strip in a stream and submit the results online.

Regardless of the program, the key to good citizen science is following instructions. "For us, it matters *how* you count birds, so you don't count the same birds over and over," says Greig of FeederWatch. "A person thought they had 60 chickadees in their yard, but really it was the same five or six birds returning over and over."

In the case of FeederWatch, you also need to know what species a bird is, and the ornithology lab provides tools to help. "You don't need to know all 600 bird species in North America," continues Greig. "There are only about a dozen species in most back yards. Sure, it can be tough to identify various sparrows from each other, but you get better at it the more you watch."

DID YOU KNOW?

When you fill out a questionnaire or complete a phone interview from your state's wildlife agency about the number of birds you harvested or the big game you put in your freezer, you are contributing valuable data toward management of those species.

If you make a mistake, Greig isn't worried. There are checks in the data system to account for that. The staff follows up on unusual reports or sightings, which might indicate a misidentification of a bird or an important shift in a range pattern that should be documented.

What's in It for You

Contributing in a meaningful way to a body of research can be extremely rewarding. The data you collect might alert scientists

TIPS FOR GOOD CITIZEN SCIENCE

Michelle Prysby at Virginia Tech directs the Virginia Master Naturalist program. This statewide program trains volunteers to help state agencies with conservation stewardship projects, education outreach and data collection, which sometimes tie into Izaak Walton League programs.

For data collection, Prysby offers a few tips to help ensure that volunteers gather useful data:

1. Choose a project that aligns with your interests. That might include learning more about a plant or animal species or contributing to a conservation initiative you care about.
2. Follow directions and report data accurately. There will be protocols to follow to ensure the samples you collect are what's needed. Without good data, the professional scientists might not see important patterns.
3. Communicate and coordinate with your team leader. This is essential, especially for smaller, local projects. Every person's data contribution is important.
4. Get permission. Even if you are on public land, you might need permission from the agency that manages it to perform a research task. If you're handling wildlife, you may need a permit from a state or local government.

Being a citizen scientist gets you outdoors and connects you with nature. It builds your observation skills, improves your ability to identify plants and animals and makes you more aware of the natural resources in your area.

or government agencies about a problem, such as a pollutants in a waterway, that requires attention or action. Likewise, if your water samples reveal good water quality, that adds useful data points to a baseline for future comparisons.

Bottom line, being a citizen scientist in a conservation-related project gets you outdoors and connects you with nature in a purposeful way. It builds your observation skills, improves your ability to identify plants and animals, and makes you more aware of the natural resources in your area.

What's more, you'll make connections with others, which can lead to more interesting opportunities. Most importantly, the data you collect contributes in a vital way to protecting what you value, whether it's the stream out your back door or the entire planet.

Lisa Ballard is an Ike from Red Lodge, Montana, and a long-time contributor to Outdoor America. An award-winning writer and photographer, she is passionate about conservation of our natural resources and dedicated to getting people of all ages outdoors.
www.LisaBallardOutdoors.com.

Samantha Briggs leads the League's clean water programs, which focus on citizen science and local conservation.



THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Science is really just “making observations and recording them, with a little bit of critical thinking mixed in,” Greig says.

In broad terms, the basic protocols for collecting data are the same regardless of the subject matter. The American Museum of Natural History describes five basic steps in the scientific method:

- **Define a question** to investigate.
- **Make a prediction** or create a hypothesis that is a possible answer to the question.
- **Gather data** or run a model to test the prediction in a way that other scientists can repeat.
- **Analyze the data**, looking for patterns that would reveal connections between key variables.
- **Draw conclusions**, decide whether or not the evidence supports the prediction and share the findings with others.

The process of gathering data might happen in a laboratory or in the field. It might be an experiment or series of experiments by one expert or a team of experts. It might be a modelling process, or it might be a monitoring project involving an army of volunteers, such as the Save Our Streams program.

“To me, science-based means there’s data to back it up,” says Samantha Briggs, an environmental scientist and the League’s Clean Water Program Director. “There’s research behind it that’s been analyzed and interpreted by experts in that field.”



Virginia Master Naturalists assess aquatic populations in Fairfax.

FIND A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM

These national programs depend on observations of volunteers who collect data. There are many more—some are national and others are regional in scope. Many are offered through universities and state agencies.

CLEAN WATER	<p>Save Our Streams Izaak Walton League</p> <p>Save Our Streams is the only national program that trains volunteers to take water samples, the information from which is used to advocate for acceptable standards of water quality in local waterways. Since 1969, this program has helped document pollution issues. Data collected through the program is used to urge local municipalities and state agencies to take cleanup actions. iwla.org/saveourstreams</p>
	<p>Winter Salt Watch Izaak Walton League</p> <p>For the Winter Salt Watch program, which requires no training, volunteers receive a free test kit in the mail, dip test strips in local waterways and submit their findings online. Each individual's test results are added to a national database that's used to identify lakes and rivers where chloride (from road salt and other deicers) has reached levels that are dangerous for aquatic wildlife and drinking water. iwla.org/saltwatch</p> <p>(A number of state agencies also conduct water quality research that depends on volunteers. Contact your state's natural resources or environmental protection department to learn about opportunities.)</p>
CLIMATE CHANGE	<p>Alpine Flower Watch Appalachian Mountain Club</p> <p>For over 20 years, hikers in New England have recorded the flowering times of six alpine plant species using the app iNaturalist. The goal of this program is to see how climate change affects flora in the alpine zone. Once the dataset is long enough timewise, researchers will be able to look for changes and patterns in this fragile ecosystem. Outdoors.org/flowers</p>
	<p>National Park Service</p> <p>The National Park Service offers a number of opportunities to record data documenting trends in climate and how they affect flora and fauna on a regional and national basis. Visit nps.gov/articles/climatewatch.htm</p>
MONARCH BUTTERFLIES	<p>Much of what we know about monarch butterflies and their migration patterns is a result of citizen science programs. During the 1990s, monarch butterflies numbered in the billions. By 2014, their numbers had dropped by a startling 90 percent. Volunteer monitoring projects across Mexico, the U.S. and Canada have provided a more complete understanding of this iconic insect and helped it recover.</p>
	<p>Monarch Larva Monitoring Project University of Minnesota</p> <p>This program was developed by researchers at the University of Minnesota to collect long-term data on larval monarch populations and milkweed habitat. mlmp.org</p>

FIND A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES <i>(continued)</i>	Kansas Biological Survey Monarch Watch University of Kansas <p>This program relies on volunteers across North America to monitor monarch populations during their fall migration. The butterflies have tags that reveal the geographic origins of the butterflies that reach their wintering habitat in Mexico and other data. It uses a network of “waystations”—flower gardens or natural areas where milkweed grows. monarchwatch.org</p>
	Project Monarch Health University of Georgia Institute of Ecology <p>Volunteers collect parasite spores from live monarch butterflies to help researchers better understand and map the spread and parasite load of the protozoan <i>Ophryocystis elektroscirrha</i>. This parasite doesn’t affect people, but it stunts butterfly growth, decreasing survival rates. monarchparasites.org</p>
BUTTERFLY COUNT	North American Butterfly Association <p>The Butterfly Count takes place annually on a specific day. Each person counts all species of butterflies within a 15-mile radius. The results contribute to a yearly report that tracks geographic distribution, population sizes and the impact of weather and habitat changes. naba.org</p>
BIRDS	<p>If you’re a birdwatcher, you’re in luck. Citizen science programs that collect data about birds are among the most widespread. Some are focused on a specific species and others are broader in scope. Not sure where to start? The two programs below are among the best known.</p>
	Audubon Christmas Bird Count <p>Conceived in 1900, the Christmas Bird Count started as a day that 27 hunters laid down their shotguns and simply counted birds, out of concern for declining wildlife populations. Today, volunteers number in the tens of thousands. From December 14 to January 5, participants count types of birds and the number of each type. The data is used to determine population trends among various species and to develop conservation strategies, not only by Audubon but by numerous other conservation groups and government agencies. Audubon.org/conservation/history-christmas-bird-count</p>
	Project FeederWatch Cornell Lab of Ornithology <p>As the name suggests, this program collects observations of backyard birdfeeders from thousands of locations around the country. The data is used to help identify negative population trends before they reach a critical point and to understand changing migration, breeding and wintering patterns of various avian species over time. feederwatch.org</p>



Nestled in Iowa's Driftless Area, Yellow River offers many outdoor recreation opportunities.

Progress for New Bills and Old Laws

BY JARED MOTT, Conservation Director

Wildlife Restoration Bill Advances

In January, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) advanced in the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources. In a bipartisan vote, the committee sent the bill, one of the League's top congressional priorities, to be considered by the full House.

Hundreds of Ikes responded to the League's action alerts urging lawmakers to support this legislation, which has more than 150 bipartisan cosponsors in the

House and more than 32 in the Senate. More than 40 hunting, angling and conservation partners joined the League in a letter to the Natural Resources Committee urging passage of the bill.

RAWA would invest nearly \$1.4 billion annually to help state and Tribal fish and wildlife management agencies to proactively conserve wildlife and habitat. The funds, combined with at least a 25 percent non-federal match, would be directed toward fully implementing each state's congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plan.

These action plans identify more than 12,000 species of "greatest conservation need." Because most of those species are non-game animals, other funding sources focused on helping game species don't address the need for protecting vulnerable non-game wildlife.

Stronger investments in habitat and conservation on the front end will end up saving money in the long run because the costs to recover threatened and endangered species are exponentially greater than the costs to implement RAWA.

To stay updated on RAWA and take action as the bill advances, go to iwla.org/rawa.

Preserving the Driftless Area of the Midwest

In December, U.S. Representatives Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.), Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa), Angie Craig (D-Minn.) and Ron Kind (D-Wisc.) introduced the Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative Act, H.R. 6147. This legislation would preserve the ecologically unique region between Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The bill, which the League supports, would improve management of working farmlands, forests, prairies and coldwater streams in the Driftless Area. The aim is to protect and improve water quality, restore wildlife habitat and increase climate resiliency by rebuilding soil, sequestering carbon, increasing the water-holding capacity of soil and reducing flooding and other climate impacts.

During the last Ice Age, the Driftless Area was never covered by ice and retains the characteristics of the land untouched by the advance and retreat of glaciers. That geological history left a steep and rugged landscape, and the Driftless Area is home to the largest concentration of coldwater streams in the world.

The legislation directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support conservation efforts in the Driftless Area

with \$5 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for managing working lands, woodlands, prairies and coldwater streams in the region.

The League will work toward a new definition of WOTUS that will help achieve the purpose of the Clean Water Act: “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.”

Among other things, this legislation would leverage regenerative agricultural practices that build healthy soils to help address some of our greatest environmental challenges.

To learn more and urge your Representative to support the Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative Act, go to www.iwla.org/advocacy.

Clean Water Act Update

In November 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) took formal steps to repeal the Trump administration Navigable Waters Protection Rule. The agencies are acting to repeal the rule and replace it with a definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) that had been in place prior to 2015. The pre-2015

definition of WOTUS was in place for decades. It was science-based and generally protected water quality, public health and the outdoor recreation economy.

More than 500 members and supporters from the League submitted comments backing repeal of the badly flawed Trump era rule.

The Biden administration has also announced that it will propose a new definition of WOTUS before the end of 2022. The administration’s goal is to develop a new definition that will strengthen water protections while also providing clarity about the specific types of waters covered by the Clean Water Act.

The League strongly supported the administration’s repeal of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. We will continue to engage the EPA and Corps to work toward a new definition of WOTUS that will help achieve the fundamental purpose of the Clean Water Act: “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.”

For more information about the League’s advocacy work, visit iwla.org/advocacy. To keep up with Izaak Walton League programs and activities through our newsletters, go to iwla.org/subscribe.

A Hunter's Why

*When the duck rockets skyward and crosses the sunrise to begin its new day,
ripples spread in the water, as the marsh emerges silently from the darkness and calm.*

*When the buck rubs off the soft velvet to free its hard antlers,
trees lose their bark, as the forest blends the shock into a continuous presence.*

*When the hawk soars and screeches to claim its domain,
wildlife takes note, as life, death and danger connect a multitude of species.*

*When the beaver builds a dam to create its safe home,
water rises upstream, as gradient-powered motion meets an obstacle below.*

*When the goose locks its wings to land in the field,
space shrinks, motion pauses and time is suspended, as eternity collapses into milliseconds.*

II

*When the humans leave their walls to engage in the hunt,
emergence, continuity and gradient-guided motion all proceed without care for human
self-focus, as nature shifts and pauses and follows its course.*

*When the jaybirds and squirrels call out the new danger,
wild creatures are alert to threats in the shadows, as skilled hunters blend in to become
one with the setting.*

*When the sun slides to the west and the light changes its angle,
highlights and shadows trade shapes and places, while muted sounds and mixed scents
ride shifting currents, as both hunters and hunted try to interpret misleading signals
received by their senses.*

*When the hunt has commenced and engagement progresses,
alert minds hone their edges, as appreciation, anticipation, excitement and discipline infuse
every moment and sharpen each connection, all leading to an instant of ultimate reckoning.*

*When that instant arrives and the projectile flies true,
the reach of the hunter extends across space and touches eternity, as it intersects with
another cognizant creature and swiftly delivers the fate of all life.*

III

*At the hunt's culmination a time-pause appears,
when the course of the day cannot be reversed, lives change forever, as forever marches on.*

*And when hunters take stock and pass through this prism,
they emerge in a world that looks oh so different, for they now know life and death from
another perspective,
as their past has been altered by a transformative journey that
quickened the heart,
cleansed the mind,
united the senses,
centered the focus,
banished the self,
accepted the responsibility,
applied the skill,
anchored the consciousness, and
elevated the life experience.*

That is *why*.

*George Holmes Honadle is
a life member of the Izaak
Walton League of America and
lives in Pine City, New York.*

Iconic Ikes Will Dilg

Visionary Will Dilg Led Creation of the League and a Grassroots Movement

Will Dilg was only involved with the Izaak Walton League for about five years, but arguably no Ike made a bigger impact on the organization. He helped to organize the 1922 gathering where the League was founded.

A prominent angler, Dilg joined 53 of his fellow sportsmen in Chicago and, the well-known story goes, the 54 founders named their new organization after Izaak Walton, the patron saint of fishing and author of the classic book, *The Compleat Angler*.

It wasn't the first time Dilg had been inspired by the groundbreaking ideas of the original Izaak Walton. Prior to launching the League, Dilg was editor of *Outers' Recreation* magazine. Struck by the idea that America should have angling literature to rival what Britain had produced, he asked readers to submit their best fish tales. Dilg republished those stories as a book in 1922—and, never one to miss an opportunity to advertise, used the foreword to promote the organization he had just founded.

But he realized there's more to fishing than fish. "The true angler is more a lover of nature than a fish getter," he said. Dilg knew that the League's mission of protecting America's woods, waters and wildlife would be far-reaching and require a mass movement.

Few Years, Many Accomplishments

Dilg became the League's first

Dilg knew that the League's mission of protecting America's woods, waters and wildlife would be far-reaching and require a mass movement.



Will Dilg, the League's first president, launched a conservation movement that has endured for a century.

national president in 1922 and led the fledgling organization to many of its early victories. He spearheaded the campaign to save the Upper Mississippi River, writing a fiery missive in an early issue of the League's magazine that ended with an impassioned letter readers could clip out and mail to President Harding: the League's first Action Alert.

He initiated the fundraising campaign to buy land to help feed the Jackson Hole elk herd and expand its range in Wyoming. The land later became part of the National Elk Refuge.

Iconic Ikes Will Dilg



He launched the *Izaak Walton League Monthly*, which evolved into *Outdoor America* magazine. Dilg is also generally credited with growing League membership to 100,000 in the first three years and three times that many by the organization's fifth birthday. (Over time, members of the Izaak Walton League earned the nickname "Ikes.")

Despite his talent for bringing people together to form the League, Dilg was also a divisive figure. Some Ikes loved him; a few in Minnesota even named their chapter after him while he was still alive. (That chapter is celebrating its own 98th birthday this year.) Others grew frustrated with his single-minded focus on moving ahead with his vision, regardless of differing opinions and budgetary constraints. In April 1926 Dilg lost his bid for re-election as the League's president.

At that point, suffering from throat cancer, Dilg had less than a year to live, but he spent his remaining time continuing to advocate for conservation causes. Refusing treatment that would have extended his life but stolen his voice, he went to Washington, DC to meet with President Coolidge (himself an Ike) about creating a cabinet-level department of conservation. Had Dilg lived longer, this idea might have come to fruition.

Dilg was a visionary who helped launch a national movement. When he passed in March 1927, his obituary in the *New York Times* didn't need to explain who the Izaak Walton League is.

Enduring Vision

Dilg knew that he couldn't accomplish the organization's mission on his own. Hundreds of thousands of Americans would have to use their voices to demand the protection of natural resources. "Let George Do It" won't do this time," he wrote in his article about the Upper Mississippi. "You have got to do it yourself OR IT WON'T BE DONE."

However, if sportsmen all over the country took action, Dilg concluded, "by sundown tomorrow five governors, ten U.S. Senators, a lot of Congressmen, and a few Cabinet officers, including the President of the United States, would get busy and do something."

Those insightful words are still good advice today.

By Janette Rosenbaum, Strategic Communications Manager, the Izaak Walton League.



This memorial to Will Dilg is located on the Upper Mississippi River, a region he and the League succeeded in protecting as a wildlife refuge.

Look for more profiles of iconic Ikes throughout 2022 in *Outdoor America* and on our website, www.iwla.org/100years.

LAST LOOK

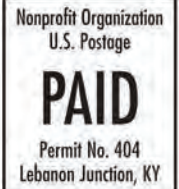
**“Build the roads,
and the wilderness
is gone.”**

*Will Dilg on protecting wild
parts of the Superior National
Forest, now known as the
Boundary Waters Canoe Area
Wilderness.*



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Izaak Walton League of America 2022 Annual Convention:

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July 19-22



The first annual convention of the Izaak Walton League in Chicago, 1923, attracted a large crowd.



Members gather for an event during the 2016 Izaak Walton League convention in Wisconsin.

2022 will be a momentous year for the Izaak Walton League of America as we celebrate our 100th anniversary. One of the highlights of that celebration will be our Centennial Convention.

We'll go back to our roots in Illinois to reflect with pride on past accomplishments and look to the future of conservation and outdoor recreation.

Don't miss out on this historic moment—or on the many things to see and do in East Peoria and Illinois. See the white bison at the Wildlife Prairie Park or enjoy the famous Chicago waterfront. Most of all, join your fellow Ikes to celebrate our first hundred years and launch our second century.

STORYBLOCKS

It's more than a meeting. It's our **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.**
Details: www.iwla.org/convention2022