

OUTDOOR AMERICA™

PUBLISHED BY THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2022 ISSUE 3

Our Vision for the Future of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

ALSO INSIDE:

Healthier Soil = Healthier People!
National Awards, Convention Highlights
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OUTDOOR AMERICA

PUBLISHED BY THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

VOL. 87 NO. 3

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Credit: CORRIE WELCH

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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 Vision for Our 2nd Century

VICKI ARNOLD | NATIONAL PRESIDENT

F

ellow Ikes,

Our 2022 convention was a great success thanks to the Illinois Division and members from across the country who were able to join us this year.

We welcomed familiar faces and many first-time convention attendees as we embraced our future. A future that needs our efforts more than ever before.

A pivotal moment in the convention was the opportunity I had to present to the public, for the first time, the League's Vision for a Second Century of Conservation.

Our vision is progressive, specific and achievable. For example, by building on our strength in community-based conservation and volunteer science, we will expand our hugely successful Salt Watch program to include over 5,000 volunteers in 300 communities all working together to submit 35,000 chloride tests annually. We will implement Nitrate Watch, a new water monitoring program that will test for one of the most dangerous and persistent water pollutants.

And we will facilitate volunteer water monitoring in the upper Midwest and Mid

Atlantic watersheds where insufficient data exists to accurately assess water quality.

Meanwhile, we will push for common-sense conservation through policy advocacy. If we are to continue our mission to conserve, restore and promote the sustainability of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, water and wildlife, we need a comprehensive approach. And that approach addresses climate change, polluted runoff and the spread of invasive plants and animals across the country.

The goals outlined in our vision are achievable. And knowing the history and determination of our members, we will make this happen.

Our goal is to shape national and regional policies to protect natural resources and public health. We will do so by pressing Congress to amend the Clean Water Act to reaffirm it protects all natural streams and wetlands in the United States. We will also



advocate for expanded use of soil health practices and doubling conservation funding in the 2023 Farm Bill with the funds going towards proven, measurable conservation practices that improve soil health.

We also have the ability to connect people to the outdoors, and our 2nd Century Vision helps chapters across the country do just that. We will help chapters establish or enhance local partnerships that promote outdoor activities. In addition, we will support chapters with shooting sports facilities in proactively expanding outreach.

The goals outlined in our vision are achievable. And knowing the history and determination of our members, we will make this happen.

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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.

WWW.IWLA.ORG

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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Izaak Walton League

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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.



Honoring Our Heritage, Embracing Our Future

SCOTT KOVAROVICS | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Honoring Our Heritage – Embracing Our Future was the theme of the League's national convention this summer, and it perfectly captures the spirit of our 100th anniversary year.

As I think about the League's history, it is not confined to the pages of a book—it is written on the American landscape: from the lakes of the Boundary Waters to the bluffs along the Upper Mississippi River, from the shores of the Chesapeake Bay to the Everglades, and in national parks across the country.

Our history is visible in the faces of people—especially young people—who enjoyed outdoor recreation or got involved in conservation for the very first time at a League chapter. On these landscapes and faces, that's where we see the impact of generations of Ikes who did the hard work to conserve and restore our nation's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife.

The words of Preston Bradley, one of the League's 54 founders, remind us that anniversaries are as much about the future as the past: "The object of an anniversary is not only to affirm the past but

to predicate the future. We are justifiably proud of our past. Our faces are now turned to the future. May every Waltonian everywhere...use this moment as a moment of rededication. May each of us return to the activity in which we are engaged with a renewal of inspiration and energy...."

Like generations of Ikes before, our faces now turn to the future as we embark on the second century of the Izaak Walton League of America.

At convention, the League pivoted toward the future with our vision for a second century of conservation leadership.

This vision (see page 15) celebrates the very real progress over the past 100 years to clean up our air and water, restore fish and wildlife and conserve public lands. At the same time, it recognizes environmental problems have not been solved, they have evolved. The League reaffirms



our commitment to tackle the challenges ahead by building on our enduring strengths: community-based conservation and volunteer science, policy advocacy and connecting people of all ages to the outdoors.

Our vision isn't simply aspirational, it includes a detailed action plan and specific steps we all can take in the near term to ultimately achieve our goals for conservation and outdoor recreation.

Like generations of Ikes before, our faces now turn to the future as we embark on the second century of the Izaak Walton League of America. Let us rededicate ourselves to achieving the League's mission to ensure our children and grandchildren can enjoy the benefits of a healthy environment.

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.

LETTERS

Mike Penfold's article about his father ("League Leader Joe Penfold Found Success Building Trust, Bridging Differences," *Outdoor America*, Issue 2, 2022) was an excellent history sketch and profile of how to build relationships.

Yes, Joe had enormous credibility with members of Congress—but also with our leaders and active members. He had a great influence on me, as a young Ike. He was a bit intimidating, but it was a quiet authority and he inspired us all with his leadership by example.

The observation that the more collaborative climate in Joe's time helped him to succeed in Washington is well taken. Yet I am convinced that were he alive today, Joe Penfold's practice of respectful, person-to-person policy work would shine just as brightly. We need that more than ever.

Dave Zentner
Duluth, Minnesota



Joe Penfold

Letters to the editor

Letters can be mailed to the managing editor at 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 or emailed to oa@iwa.org. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

IN MEMORIAM



Dawn Olson: Our Friend, Colleague and an Incredible Ike

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague Dawn Olson. At all levels, the Izaak Walton League is a more effective force for conservation thanks

to her selfless leadership and dedication.

After joining the League's Silverton Chapter in 1995, Dawn held every major chapter and division officer role, from newsletter editor and conservation chair to president. For the past 15 years, Dawn was the heart and soul of the Oregon Division of the League. She worked tirelessly to mobilize and unify local chapters and to ensure the division remained engaged on pressing conservation challenges across the state.

Dawn took on her first national leadership role when she became a national director in 1999. She went on to serve on the League's Executive Board from 2002 through 2014—one of the longest

Board tenures in our history. She was re-elected to Executive Board in 2021 and participated via teleconference in the 100th anniversary convention board meeting in July.

She served on several national committees, including Awards (which she chaired for several years), Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife and the National Scholarship. She coordinated efforts by Ikes in California, Oregon and Washington to address conservation, outdoor recreation and other issues affecting the entire West Coast.

Dawn will be remembered for her infectious laugh, kind smile and steely determination. Within the League, she will be missed for her selfless leadership, commitment to our mission and strengthening our organization for the future.

2022 Convention Celebrates Centennial



The League's 1923 convention in Chicago, shown above, drew a large crowd.

In July, Ikes from across the country gathered in East Peoria, Ill., for the Izaak Walton League's annual convention and celebration of the League's 100th anniversary. It was the first in-person convention since 2019. The 2020 convention was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and exercising caution, the League conducted a successful virtual convention in 2021—a first for the organization.

While the 2022 convention included consideration of policy resolutions along with insightful workshops and presentations, the 100-year milestone provided a historical backdrop for the event. The League's long legacy of conservation leadership serves as a springboard for tackling the challenges of our next

century and was reflected in the convention theme, "Honoring Our Heritage—Embracing Our Future."

Vice President Jodi Arndt Labs asked every Ike attending the convention to learn details about at least one notable achievement from the League's storied past and share it with others as a way of promoting the League and its potential to shape the future.

Vision for a Second Century of Conservation

Addressing the crowd, President Vicki Arnold introduced the Izaak Walton League's vision for its second century. "Today, threats to America's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife are less obvious than in the past, but they are not less dangerous,"

she said. Arnold vowed that in the years ahead, the League will engage more Americans in community-based conservation and volunteer science, advocate for sound public policy to protect America's natural resources for future generations, and connect people to the natural world.

Arnold described the League's vision for the future where:

- Every community enjoys clean air, water and other healthy natural resources.
- We are winning the fight against climate change with clean energy, healthy soil, and protected landscapes.
- Americans rediscover their love for nature beginning in their local communities.
- The conservation movement reflects the diversity of America.

and Looks to the Future



Attendees at the 2022 convention in East Peoria, above, re-created that historic scene.

- Traditions of hunting, fishing and target shooting endure through growing participation by people of all backgrounds.

The full vision document, “Saving Outdoor America: The Izaak Walton League Vision for a Second Century of Conservation,” is printed in this issue, beginning on page 15. It is available online at iwla.org/vision. The vision is not simply aspirational. It includes an action plan or road map that describes how the League and its chapters can conserve and restore resources important to every American. League chapters and divisions can leverage the vision to showcase their strengths, raise their visibility locally and engage the media.

A panel highlighted ways

League chapters and members can begin turning our vision for the future into reality. Clean Water Program Director Samantha Briggs gave examples of how League volunteers are successfully reaching out to and engaging local communities. George Venable, Chair of the Rifle and Pistol Committee at the Lynchburg (Virginia) Chapter, highlighted how the chapter has attracted new members by hosting public events during National Shooting Sports Month. Annette Hansen, Executive Director of the Porter County (Indiana) Chapter, gave an overview of the importance of creating partnerships.

Executive Director Scott Kovarovics highlighted the League’s achievements, “a history written on the American

landscape” and visible on the faces of those who first enjoyed outdoor recreation and conservation at League chapters. He also mentioned recent achievements, including the growth of membership over the past two years and the expansion of volunteer science programs, like Salt Watch.

Looking forward, Kovarovics said the League will engage younger generations who may take untraditional paths to participating in outdoor traditions, including hunting, fishing and conservation stewardship, and offer simple, close-to-home activities for volunteers.

Darlene Cavalier, founder of SciStarter, told the convention that gathering and analyzing data

builds confidence and scientific literacy in volunteers. It's also "serious science," she says. Recent research has shown that volunteer science is credible and valuable.

SciStarter has registered 3,000 volunteer science projects around the world, including League projects like Stream Selfie, a popular program adopted by more than 600 Girl Scout troops. She urged chapters to visit scistarter.org to learn more about available volunteer conservation projects for their communities and how to leverage this work to protect the environment, enlist partners and engage more Americans in conservation.

Climate Change

A panel of experts discussed options for mitigating the most serious damage by acting quickly and on a larger scale.

Dr. Imre Gyuk, Director of Energy Storage Research at the U.S. Department of Energy, stressed that transportation, building systems, agriculture and manufacturing will need to run on electricity that comes from renewable energy. That in turn will require storage solutions to smooth out the variability in generation and in demand. Long-duration storage is especially essential, which will require new technology, funding and regulatory frameworks.

Chris Gloninger, Chief Meteorologist at KCCI-TV in Des Moines, reviewed the science of climate change, pointing out that based on long-term cycles, the planet should be cooling now. In fact, global temperatures followed a clear pattern until



Members including Jill Crafton, national director from Minnesota, line up to share their views about policy resolutions.

the Industrial Revolution, when global average temperatures began rising. Now the warming is happening even faster than scientists predicted. He noted that temperatures in the United Kingdom reached 104 degrees Fahrenheit during the week of the convention, an extreme heat event scientists thought wouldn't occur until after 2050.

Emily Rodriguez, the League's Agriculture Outreach Coordinator, spoke about the importance of sustainable agricultural practices, which are the cheapest and most effective way to take up atmospheric carbon and store it in the soil. Better soil health practices can slow global warming and can also help to mitigate the impact of heavy precipitation, which is becoming more common.

Soil Health Critical to Human Health

Soil expert David Montgomery and biologist Anne Biklé have

written several books that reveal some of the little-understood mechanics and benefits of healthy soil. Montgomery spoke to the League about the direct connection between soil health and human health and nutrition. "What's good for land is good for us too," he said.

Montgomery and Biklé have just published a new book, *What Your Food Ate: How to Heal Our Land and Reclaim Our Health*. An article from Montgomery and Biklé is featured in this issue beginning on page 26.

Elections, Resolutions and Business

By unanimous vote, the League members present at convention elected a slate of national officers:

- National President:
Vicki Arnold (Iowa)
- National Vice President:
Jodi Labs (Wisconsin)
- National Secretary:
Jim Storer (Ohio)

- National Treasurer:
Scott Meyer (Minnesota)
 - Directors-At-Large:
Richard Sommer (South Carolina) and Bill Kelly (Idaho)
- These national directors were elected to three-year terms on the Executive Board:
- Jill Padgett (Virginia)
 - Rick Cerwick (Iowa)
 - Dale Braun (Iowa)

Following clarifying questions and debate, national directors voted unanimously to adopt a change to the League's bylaws giving the full Board of Directors more flexibility to determine the League's logo. National directors then voted to adopt a logo similar to the anniversary logo for long-term use. Watch for further information over the next few months that will help chapters,

divisions and members prepare to use the new logo beginning in January 2023.

The Endowment Board elected Steve Labs (Wisconsin), Lisa McIntyre (Iowa) and Gary Schwartz (Minnesota) for three-year terms. Annette Hansen (Indiana) was elected for a one-year term. Recipients of new Endowment grants are listed on page 31.

Delegates voted to adopt resolutions regarding protections for ephemeral streams and wetlands, conservation of native non-game fish and technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material. Following a revised resolutions process that gave delegates more time to consult with the chapters they represent, the League

membership voted not to adopt a resolution related to rural electric cooperatives. The resolutions can be viewed on page 11, and they have been added to the League's conservation policy handbook.

Getting Youth Involved

On Wednesday, the Youth Convention participants visited Springfield to learn about President Lincoln and tour the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Thursday, our future conservation leaders traveled to Urbana-Champaign to meet researchers at the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Science and learn about the farm-to-table movement.

After speaking to the convention general session on Friday morning, the youth were



Youth participants explored historic, academic and wildlife destinations in Illinois during the convention.

off again on another field trip—to the Wildlife Prairie Park, followed by dinner and birdhouse-building at the Woodford County Chapter.

Olympic gold medalist Ginny Thrasher, who got her start in shooting sports at the League's Arlington-Fairfax (Virginia) Chapter, joined the convention via video to share her personal story and offer some tips for engaging new audiences in shooting sports.

Thrasher vividly described the importance of dedicated volunteers, and she encouraged chapters with shooting sports facilities to host a public event during National Shooting Sports Month in August. In 2022, Thrasher served as the League's



Designed to provide a graphic representation of the organization's mission, this new logo was adopted by national directors at the convention as the official Izaak Walton League logo beginning in 2023.

official spokesperson for National Shooting Sports Month.

Awards

League chapters, members, volunteers and partners were recognized for accomplishments in conservation, youth

engagement, shooting sports and other areas of excellence. A list of award recipients can be found on page 40.

2023 CONVENTION – Lincoln, Nebraska

The Nebraska Division reminds us to mark our calendars for July 26-29, 2023, when we will gather in Lincoln, Nebraska for our next annual convention, at the Cornhusker Marriott.

In addition to rubbing elbows with Ikes, you'll find plenty to do in Lincoln and across Nebraska, whether you enjoy history, the outdoors, great food or live music.



Fort Robinson State Park in Nebraska

FUTURE CONVENTION SITES

In July 2024, the convention will be held in Cambridge, Maryland.

In July 2025, the League meets in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



2022 Convention / Policy Resolutions

League Adopts Policy on Clean Water, Non-Game Fish and Radioactive Waste

By JARED MOTT, Conservation Director

Deserving protection under the Clean Water Act, Burns Run is a tributary stream that flows into the West Branch Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania.

At the national convention, League delegates approved the following resolutions.

Clean Water Act Protections for Tributary Streams and Wetlands

The waters protected by the Clean Water Act are called “waters of the United States” or WOTUS. By changing the definition of WOTUS so that not all tributary streams and wetlands are considered to be waters of the United States, thereby eliminating protections for these important waterbodies, recent regulations have fundamentally weakened the Clean Water Act.

The League adopted a resolution calling on Congress to amend the Clean Water Act to clarify that all streams—as well as all wetlands and interconnecting groundwater—are protected by the Clean Water Act.

Sustainable Management of Native Non-Game Fish

Healthy, intact aquatic ecosystems have many species that interact in complex ways. In many states, no regulations exist to protect native fish species that are not considered game species. Sometimes disparagingly called “rough fish,” examples of these non-game species include gar, buffalo and suckers. The over-fishing and removal of any native species is likely to disrupt the ecosystem and could prove harmful to many other native species that are considered game fish. Science has found that healthy, intact, species-rich ecosystems are less susceptible to invasive species. For example, many species of redhorse and bigmouth buffalo prey on zebra mussels.

The League adopted a resolution supporting comprehensive fisheries management that sustains all native fish. The League calls on states to conduct the studies needed to assess population levels of all native non-game fisheries and issue relevant regulations to ensure the sustainability of those populations and the ecosystems that depend on them.

NICHOLAS A TONELLI

2022 Convention / Policy Resolutions

Treat “TENORM” Radioactive Industrial Byproducts as Hazardous Waste

NORM means naturally occurring radioactive material that is present in the environment, including in the ground or air, and to which most people have extremely low or no exposure. TE stands for “technologically enhanced,” which means the radioactive materials have been concentrated or further altered by human activity, including manufacturing, mineral extraction or water processing, which increases the potential for harmful human and environmental exposure. Examples of TENORMs include coal ash and enriched uranium. Although the use and disposal of some of these materials is strictly regulated, in other cases, use is unregulated and not disclosed to the public.

The League adopted a resolution that calls on state and federal agencies to

- 1) educate the public about the need to test materials from industrial processes for highly toxic components,*
- 2) identify and categorize potentially toxic TENORM before establishing acceptable levels, using scientifically accepted health criteria, and*
- 3) treat TENORM byproducts and materials from industrial processing as hazardous radioactive waste and handle according to radioactive material protocols.*

Adopted resolutions become part of the League’s Conservation Policies and guide League members and staff in our mission to conserve, restore and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our nation’s natural resources.

The full policy document can be viewed at iwla.org/key-documents.



Chapter delegates present credentials to vote on resolutions at the convention.



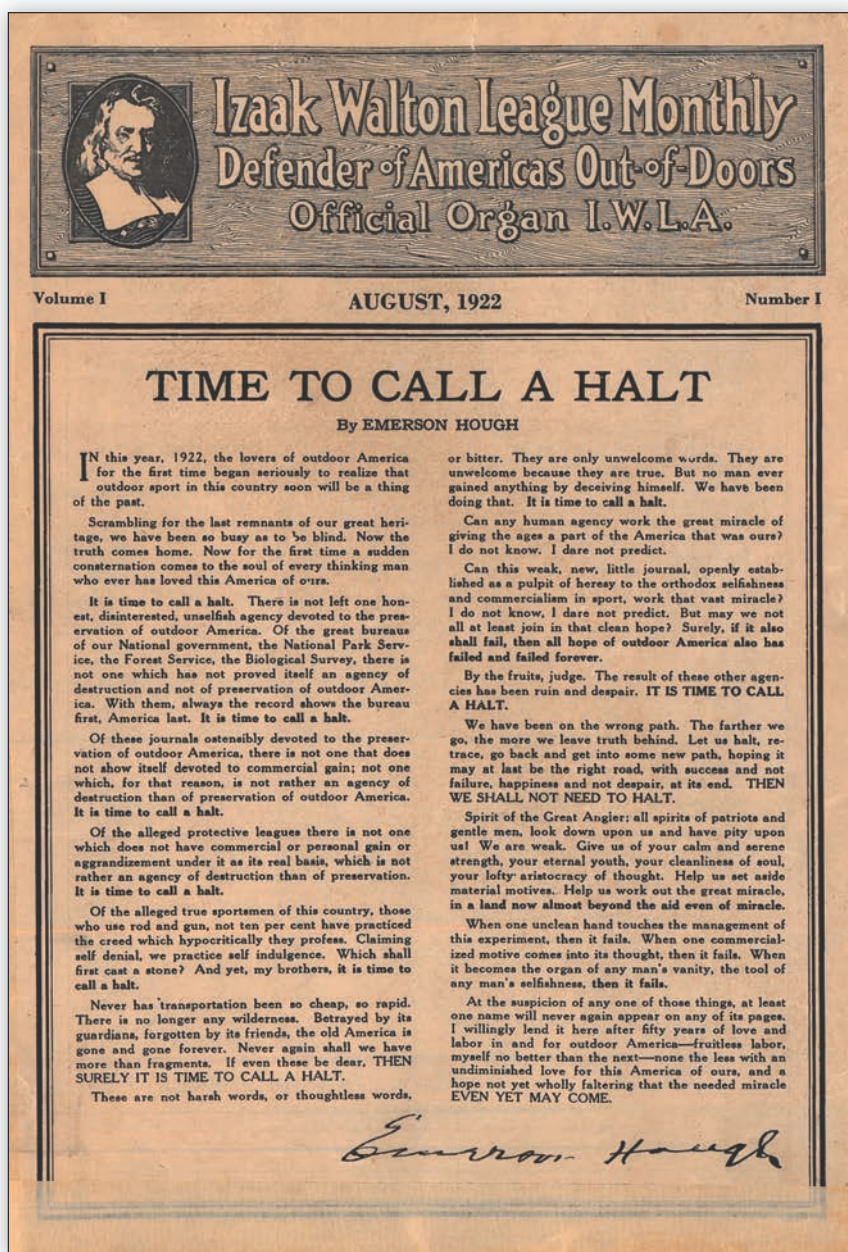
After touring the Wildlife Prairie Park near Peoria, convention attendees hear about the conservation work at the park.

Time to Call a Halt

By EMERSON HOUGH

The very first issue of the Izaak Walton League's magazine led with an impassioned editorial from Emerson Hough titled "Time to Call a Halt."

Will Dilg, the League's first president, wanted the magazine to inform and inspire Americans and he enlisted some of the nation's best-known writers to contribute to the publication we now call *Outdoor America*. Dilg was particularly impressed with Emerson Hough, a well-known writer of adventure novels, whose piece for the League, below, appeared on the magazine's cover in August 1922. Hough died several months later in April 1923.



Time to Call a Halt

By Emerson Hough

In this year, 1922, the lovers of outdoor America for the first time began seriously to realize that outdoor sport in this country soon will be a thing of the past.

Scrambling for the last remnants of our great heritage, we have been so busy as to be blind. Now the truth comes home. Now for the first time a sudden consternation comes to the soul of every thinking man who ever has loved this America of ours.

It is time to call a halt. There is not left one honest, disinterested, unselfish agency devoted to the preservation of outdoor America. Of the great bureaus of our National government, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Biological Survey, there is not one which has not proved itself an agency of destruction and not of preservation of outdoor America. With them, always the record shows the bureau first, America last. **It is time to call a halt.**

Of these journals ostensibly devoted to the preservation of outdoor America, there is not one that does not show itself devoted to commercial gain; not one which, for that reason, is not rather an agency of destruction than of preservation of outdoor America. **It is time to call a halt.**

Of the alleged protective leagues there is not one which does not have commercial or personal gain or aggrandizement under it as its real basis, which is not rather an agency of destruction than of preservation. **It is time to call a halt.**

Of the alleged true sportsmen of this country, those who use rod and gun, not 10 percent have practiced the creed which hypocritically they profess. Claiming self denial, we practice self indulgence. Which shall first cast a stone? And yet, my brothers, **it is time to call a halt.**

Never has transportation been so cheap, so rapid. There is no longer any wilderness. Betrayed by its guardians, forgotten by its friends, the old America is gone and gone forever. Never again shall we have more than fragments. If even these be dear, **THEN SURELY IT IS TIME TO CALL A HALT.**

These are not harsh words, or thoughtless words,

or bitter. They are only unwelcome words. They are unwelcome because they are true. But no man ever gained anything by deceiving himself. We have been doing that. **It is time to call a halt.**

Can any human agency work the great miracle of giving the ages a part of the America that was ours? I do not know. I dare not predict.

Can this weak, new, little journal, openly established as a pulpit of heresy to the orthodox selfishness and commercialism in sport, work that vast miracle? I do not know, I dare not predict. But may we not all at least join in that clean hope? Surely, **if it also shall fail, then all hope of outdoor America also has failed and failed forever.**

By the fruits, judge. The result of these other agencies has been ruin and despair. **IT IS TIME TO CALL A HALT.**

We have been on the wrong path. The farther we go, the more we leave truth behind. Let us halt, retrace, go back and get into some new path, hoping it may at last be the right road, with success and not failure, happiness and not despair, at its end. **THEN WE SHALL NOT NEED TO HALT.**

Spirit of the great angler; all spirits of patriots and gentle men, look down upon us and have pity upon us! We are weak. Give us your calm and serene strength, your eternal youth, your cleanliness of soul, your lofty aristocracy of thought. Help us set aside material motives. Help us work out the great miracle, **in a land now almost beyond the aid even of miracle.**

When one unclean hand touches the management of this experiment, then it fails. When one commercialized motive comes into its thought, **then it fails.** When it becomes the organ of any man's vanity, the tool of any man's selfishness, then it fails.

At the suspicion of any one of those things, at least one name will never again appear on any of its pages. I willingly lend it here after fifty years of love and labor in and for outdoor America – fruitless labor, myself no better than the next – nonetheless with an undiminished love for this America of ours, and a hope not yet wholly faltering that the needed miracle **EVEN YET MAY COME.**

Saving Outdoor America:

The Izaak Walton League Vision for a Second Century of Conservation

Not long ago, America's environmental problems were stark. Industrial pollution and soil erosion threatened to destroy many of our nation's waterways. Wetlands were being drained at an alarming rate. And the country's forests and wilderness areas were disappearing.

Aware that action was necessary to solve these problems, concerned sportsmen and women created the Izaak Walton League of America in 1922 to combat water pollution and protect the country's woods and wildlife. The League's founders rallied around the cause of conservation, not only because it was inherently important but because the traditions they loved—fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreation—were in jeopardy.

As the League embarks on its second century, our members—and every American—can take pride in very real progress over the past 100 years to clean up our air and water, restore fish and wildlife and conserve national parks and other public lands that are the envy of the world.



However, our environmental problems have not been solved—they have evolved.

Today, threats to America's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife are less obvious than in the past—but not less dangerous.

Polluted runoff from farm fields, parking lots, industrial sites and back yards flows unchecked and untreated into our streams and rivers, carrying animal waste, bacteria and cancer-causing chemicals through our communities. The overarching goals of the Clean Water Act—water safe for drinking, fishing and swimming—seem simple, but they continue to elude the nation.

Today, threats to America's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife are less obvious than in the past—but not less dangerous.

Draining wetlands—one of the issues that so concerned League founders—has accelerated again. Today, priceless topsoil in our heartland is eroding away at a rate 10 times faster than it can be replaced.

Popular game species, including deer, turkey and some waterfowl, are thriving—thanks in no small part to the hard work and funding from hunters, anglers and shooting sports enthusiasts. But many other wildlife species—from backyard birds to bees and many coldwater fish—have been decimated or face an uncertain future.

And today we face challenges that dwarf those early League leaders confronted a century ago. No challenge is greater than climate change. The accelerating rise in global temperatures threatens natural resources, public health, our economy and way of life unlike any previous conservation problem. We see the consequences of a warming planet in our communities and in the wild places that make outdoor America so special. The world's scientists agree urgent action is needed to reduce emission of greenhouse gases and to store more carbon from the atmosphere in our soil, wetlands and forests.

The threats to America's lands, waters and wildlife also jeopardize outdoor recreation across the country. The outdoor recreation activities that League members and tens of millions of Americans enjoy—from hiking, camping and boating to fishing and hunting—depend on healthy natural resources. If these outdoor experiences are diminished by pollution and resource loss, it will not only affect the people who are active today but also make it harder to get future generations outdoors.



The Future

As the Izaak Walton League prepares for its second century of leadership on conservation and outdoor recreation, we reaffirm and renew our commitment to defend outdoor America. We are realistic about the challenges ahead and unwavering in our resolve to tackle them head on.

A century ago, League founders confronted an alarming array of threats by declaring it was “Time to Call a Halt”—and then they got to work building an organization and a grassroots movement to ensure future generations would benefit from a healthy environment.

**We reaffirm and renew
our commitment to
defend outdoor America.**

Today, League members and millions of Americans who share our goals have the opportunity to secure the future we all want. **A future where:**

- *Every community enjoys clean air, water and other healthy natural resources.*
- *We are winning the fight against climate change with clean energy, healthy soil, protected landscapes and abundant wetlands, forests and grasslands.*
- *Americans rediscover their love for nature beginning in their local communities.*



- *The conservation movement reflects the diversity of America—where conservation becomes part of everyday life for everyone.*
- *Traditions of hunting, fishing and target shooting endure through growing participation by people of all backgrounds.*

By building on our strengths from local community action to national policy advocacy, the League can make this vision of the future a reality.

Achieving our vision for conservation and outdoor recreation in America will take hard work and time.

With the long-term outcomes firmly in sight, the League, our members, volunteers and partners will use the following **Second Century Action Plan** to drive our collective efforts over the next five years.

Building on Our Strengths: **Community-based Conservation and Volunteer Science**

In our second century, the Izaak Walton League will continue to draw upon the power of people united by purpose. The belief that individuals play a large role in conservation is the foundation of our Action Plan. Whether in volunteer science, policy advocacy or engaging people in outdoor recreation, individuals make all the difference. Moreover, the League amplifies the impact of every individual by fostering connections between many people across the country.

To help make conservation a part of everyday life, the League will engage more Americans to tackle the serious challenges ahead.

Leveraging Volunteer Science –

Using technology and a crowd-sourced model, the League will mobilize more people to test for pollution in local waters.

Over the next five years, we will:

- *Expand Salt Watch to include at least 5,500 volunteers in 300 communities submitting 35,000 chloride test results annually.*
- *Implement new crowd-sourced water quality campaigns focused on the most dangerous and persistent water pollutants, beginning with Nitrate Watch.*
- *Grow Nitrate Watch to engage 3,000 volunteers and collect more than 10,000 nitrate pollution test results annually.*
- *Proactively facilitate volunteer monitoring on a regional scale, beginning in the Mid-Atlantic and upper Midwest, with a priority on watersheds where an insufficient amount of data currently exists to accurately assess water quality.*

Turning Data into Action – Testing for water pollution is a means to an end. Today, League volunteers are turning the data they collect into action to improve water quality in their communities. Those actions range from requesting local park authorities stop overusing harmful pesticides to testifying in front of city councils urging limits on road salt application.

In our second century, the Izaak Walton League of America will continue to draw upon the power of people united by purpose.

But the League can, and must, do more to leverage test results from volunteers to reduce pollution at its source, clean up degraded waters and mobilize a new generation of clean water advocates.

Over the next five years, we will:

- *Transform the Clean Water Hub website into the go-to resource for timely information about water quality at the community level by:*
 - > *providing easy-to-understand maps and reports showcasing water quality and sharing this information with the public via social media and outreach campaigns; 50 percent of organizations submitting data to the Hub will promote the Hub as a public education resource locally,*
 - > *increasing the number of sites with water quality test results from 5,000 to 18,000,*

- > growing the base of volunteers submitting test results from 100 to 300 groups and as many as 10,000 individual volunteers,
- > augmenting advocacy resources, training and tools to facilitate public communication with policymakers about water quality issues in local communities.
- Stand up robust STEM education (emphasizing science, technology, engineering and math) programs using Save Our Streams biological and chemical water quality monitoring in at least 10 high schools in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest. These become self-sustaining programs educating hundreds of future scientists, teachers and clean water advocates annually.
- Facilitate volunteers' engagement with private companies that apply salt and other chemical deicers to request these companies reduce chemical use by at least 25 percent.

- Expand advocacy among Salt Watch volunteers so that at least 30 percent of all volunteers submitting test results take at least one other action to reduce salt use, including contacting their local government when they observe excessive road salt use.

Driving Change from the

Bottom Up – To change policies, behavior and land uses that contribute to pollution, the League will help local groups develop and execute strategies to solve environmental challenges. **Over the next five years, we will:**

- Support development and implementation of grassroots advocacy campaigns in 10 to 15 communities to reduce use of road salt and chemical deicers by at least 25 percent across the entire community.
- Work with five states to create and implement “smart salt” applicator training for state and local departments of public works and companies that perform most of the winter maintenance for large private property owners.
- Actively engage historically underserved communities, including communities of color, low-income neighborhoods and marginalized populations, in advocacy campaigns to ensure every American benefits from a healthy environment.



Building on Our Strengths: **Advocacy for Common Sense Conservation**

Saving outdoor America requires sound public policy to protect clean water to drink and air to breathe, fish and wildlife and other resources for future generations. The genuine progress improving our environment over the past 100 years is due, in part, to the adoption of public policies advanced by the Izaak Walton League and other organizations. 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. The League will shape national and regional policies to protect natural resources and public health.

Over the next five years, we will:

- *Safeguard drinking water supplies and wildlife habitat—by pressing Congress to amend the Clean Water Act to reaffirm it protects all natural streams and wetlands in the United States.*
- *Expand conservation and restoration efforts to priority regions, including the Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri River basins, modeled after successful efforts in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay.*
- *Increase advocacy for public policies and funding to address the urgency of the climate crisis, with priorities focused on:*
 - > expanding large-scale storage capacity for electricity generated by solar, wind and other renewable resources,*

- > modernizing the electricity grid,*
- > improving energy efficiency throughout the economy, especially in transportation, buildings and manufacturing and opposing efforts to reduce current efficiency standards,*
- > reducing emission of greenhouse gases from electricity generation, transportation and fossil fuel production,*
- > conserving and restoring natural resources, especially wetlands, native grasslands and healthy soils that maximize carbon capture and storage.*

Transforming Agriculture

America's farms feed the nation, but agriculture is also the largest source of polluted runoff. Meanwhile, declining soil health also jeopardizes our food supply and limits our ability to remove carbon from the atmosphere. We can make real progress to solve these problems by rapidly expanding conservation on the ground. **Over the next five years, we will:**

- *Advocate to:*
 - > double conservation funding to \$10 billion annually in the 2023 Farm Bill, and focus the additional funding to quickly scale up proven, measurable conservation practices that improve soil health, reduce water pollution and store more carbon in the soil, wetlands and native grasslands,*
 - > expand use of soil health practices including planting cover crops and reducing or eliminating tillage on America's farms, ranches and other working lands with a goal of having these practices on tens of millions of acres in 10 years,*

- > *reduce water pollution and improve fish and wildlife habitat by adding buffer strips along streams and rivers, ultimately reaching two million acres in 10 years,*
- > *protect five million acres of grasslands to build strong carbon storage capabilities and provide crucial habitat for wildlife while ensuring adequate resources to meet the grazing needs of America's ranchers,*
- > *accelerate the transition to regenerative agriculture by passing targeted federal legislation, including the League's Good Farmer Discount for crop insurance and state and tribal soil health grants.*
- *Press the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to effectively enforce longstanding policies that prohibit farmers from receiving subsidized crop insurance and other taxpayer-funded benefits if they drain wetlands or fail to take common sense steps to reduce soil erosion.*
- *Partner with USDA agencies and state and county soil and water conservation districts to proactively inform producers about how to implement conservation practices on a much larger geographic scale and accelerated timetable.*
- *Work with League chapters to encourage farmers and farmland owners to expand implementation of conservation practices that improve soil health, reduce polluted runoff and store carbon.*
- *Collaborate with League divisions to pass legislation in five states that prioritizes and funds programs to improve soil health and expand conservation on working lands.*

Defending a Century

of Progress – Public policy, grassroots advocacy and funding from hunters, anglers and shooting sports enthusiasts have all contributed to the very real progress over the past 100 years to clean up our air and water, restore fish and wildlife and conserve public lands. Yet, these gains are not guaranteed in perpetuity—progress can be slowed, reversed or repealed altogether by policymakers. Efforts to roll back critical protections and principles aren't theoretical—they are very real.

Building on this progress starts with ensuring we don't go backwards. With our focus on a better future, the League will defend bedrock principles and policies that protect public health and conserve natural resources for all Americans.

These principles include:

- Managing natural resources based on best available science,
- Ensuring robust public participation in decision-making,
- Reducing pollution at the source.



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 – In an increasingly virtual world, Americans are more disconnected than ever from the outdoors and nature. 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. Just as importantly, the League will build on 100 years of advocacy for policies and investment to protect public lands and expand access to them for all Americans. **Over the next five years, we will:**

- *Help chapters to establish or enhance at least one partnership locally that facilitates connections to the outdoors especially for families, students or others who do not have ready access to the outdoors.*
- *Support chapters with shooting sports facilities in proactively expanding outreach to and engagement with audiences that do not have a family history of participation, including young adults and first-time firearms owners.*
- *Work to expand access to public lands and waters for hunting, fishing, hiking and other outdoor recreation through advocacy that prioritizes, among other things:*
 - > adequate federal, state and local funding for essential infrastructure and visitor services,*

- > targeted annual investments from the Land and Water Conservation Fund focused on expanding access to existing lands and waters and through new acquisition,*
- > digitizing all information currently held by federal land management agencies documenting easements and other access points to public lands.*

Conservation for Everyone – From tuning in to a webinar to joining a local 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 volunteers, policy advocates and League members. **Over the next five years, we will:**

- *Double downloads of the Creek Critters mobile app as the first step for people to learn how pollution affects water quality in their communities.*
- *Leverage virtual resources to more effectively inform audiences nationwide about how they can get involved in conserving natural resources.*
- *Coordinate at least one event annually at every League chapter that engages members of the community in conservation locally.*
- *Enhance grassroots impact by mobilizing thousands of volunteer scientists as advocates for a broader range of the League's conservation policy priorities, including regenerative agriculture, public lands management and combatting climate change.*

New Hires

League Adds New Talent to Clean Water Team



Abby Hileman
Salt Watch Coordinator

In Abby Hileman's role as Salt Watch Coordinator, she will help expand the project into new regions to reach new groups of volunteers. Her goal is to provide resources that make lasting change—from data to action.

Abby grew up in Western Pennsylvania where she began her journey as a conservationist. She has a

passion for connecting people to their communities and to nature. She believes small-scale actions add up and make a big difference. She has worked as a bird trainer, environmental educator, naturalist and retail supervisor. Outside of work, Abby is an avid gardener and can often be found outside with her deaf dog, Arthur.



Matthew Kierce
Chesapeake Monitoring Outreach Coordinator

Growing up in Montgomery County, Maryland, Matthew Kierce developed a passion early on for the Chesapeake Bay. Now, he is excited to bring that passion and expertise back home to the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative as an Outreach Coordinator with the League.

Matthew earned a B.S. in Marine Science from

Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina and an M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He brings a broad set of experiences to the League including service in an AmeriCorps program in Georgia.

Your Support Will Make the League

Today, the Izaak Walton League of America stands on the cusp of our **second century of leadership** on conservation and outdoor recreation.

As we look to the future, we know there is more work to do. The threats to America's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife may be less obvious than in the past—but not less dangerous.

With our vision for Saving Outdoor America, the League is unwavering in our resolve to tackle these challenges head on. Our vision isn't simply aspirational. It includes specific steps we all can take to achieve our goals.

We will succeed by building on the **League's enduring strengths**: community-based conservation and volunteer science, policy advocacy and a remarkable ability to connect people of all ages to the outdoors.

As we celebrate the League's 100th anniversary, the words of a League founder remind us that anniversaries are as much about the future as the past:

“We are justifiably proud of our past. Our faces are now turned to the future. May every Waltonian everywhere . . . use this moment as a moment of rededication.”

Like generations of Ikes before, our faces now turn to the future.

Your tax-deductible gift will help ensure our children and grandchildren can enjoy the benefits of a healthy environment.

Thank you for your generous support!

ue's Vision for the Future a Reality

With your donation of \$25 or \$50 today, the League will:

- **empower volunteers** at the grassroots level,
- help **shape critical conservation policy**, and
- **maximize the impact of the League's 200 chapters** that provide a gateway to the outdoors for so many people.

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

Healthier Soil = Healthier People

By DAVID R. MONTGOMERY and ANNE BIKLÉ

How we treat the land affects how the land treats us.

The science is increasingly clear: poor soil health translates into less healthy crops and farm animals. And that leads to less healthy food for people.

A typical American dinner, even one with a variety of food groups and fresh vegetables, may look like a bounty of nourishing food. But in critical ways, the typical diner today is getting shortchanged.

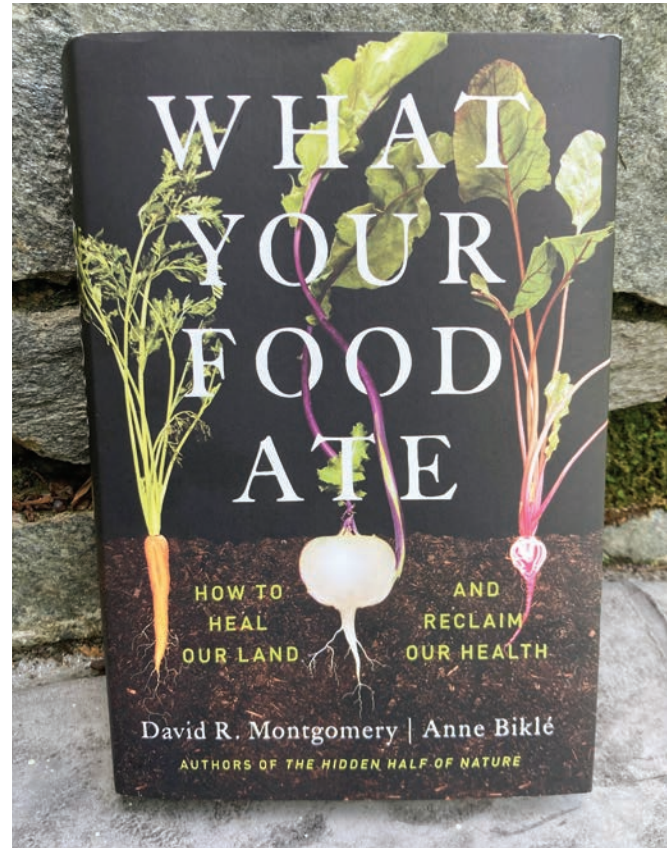
Harvesting Health for People

Over the past century, changes in how we grow what we eat have inadvertently undermined our health. Today, we need a unified theory of agriculture and nutrition built on a common foundation of soil health to deliver prosperity to farmers and well-being to eaters.

A good place to start centers on broadening how we think about and define nutrients. Phytochemicals with anti-inflammatory and other benefits are crucial in this regard. They provide a basic array of diet-based tools to fix and repair small problems in our bodies before they turn into more serious or chronic ailments, especially as we age.

Researchers have been establishing that phytochemicals and a new class of “longevity vitamins” are compounds essential for routine maintenance of our bodily systems. These compounds are not nutrients in the classic sense. They are not the fuel or elements that run and build our physical body. But they do help keep our bodies running smoothly. This in turn plays a big role in preventing the rise and progression of chronic diseases rooted in inflammation and damage to our DNA and cells caused by oxidation.

Our current overly narrow focus on high yields at the expense of soil health and nutrient density means that in seeking to solve hunger we’ve been shortchanging our health. Given the prevalence of chronic diseases and deficiencies in micronutrients (such as iron, zinc, vitamin D), we would be wise to look at the potential for improved farming practices



This new book by David Montgomery and Anne Biklé explores the role of soil health in human health.

to enhance human health. Farmers should have incentives to deliver nutrient-rich foods as well as caloric volume.

It’s not really a question of quality versus quantity. Regenerative and organic farm practices can deliver yields comparable to conventional agriculture while improving soil—and producing healthier crops and farm animals that support human health.

What Your Food Ate

Naturally, a lot of factors affect human health, like our genes, exercise, lifestyle, and what we choose to eat. But in researching our new book, *What Your Food Ate*, we concluded that how we grow our food also affects our health.

We generally don't think of crops as having a diet. But they do. Soils that are healthy and rich in organic matter provide plants with a profoundly different diet compared to soil where chemical fertilizers have been used in conventional agriculture. This difference affects gene expression in plants and therefore the relationships they carry on with the soil microbiome.

Beneath our feet, crops can form symbiotic relationships with beneficial bacteria and fungi that transfer vital nutrients from the soil to plants we eat, or to forages that farm animals eat. So more health-promoting nutrients are delivered to people through these pathways.

The upshot is that healthy, fertile soils imbue our crops and livestock with micronutrients and phytochemicals, which in turn help reduce the risk of chronic diseases in people. Conventional farming practices, however, have undermined the biological processes that get these and other beneficial nutrients into our crops—and thus our bodies.

Whether in urban, suburban or rural areas, we all should care about farming practices and policies. Unfortunately, most current regulatory programs and incentives do not reward agricultural practices that build and safeguard soil health. Instead, we subsidize conventional practices that degrade soil health and lead to over-reliance on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

To make meaningful changes that benefit consumers broadly, we need to invest in and support more soil-friendly farming. The bottom line is simple—agriculture policy is health policy.

How Farming Practices Affect Nutritional Value of Food

In traditional farming, the soil is broken up (tilled) for weed control and planting seeds. Conventional farmers today further rely on copious applications of soluble nitrogen fertilizers to prop up yields, as well as herbicides like glyphosate (the key ingredient in Roundup weed killer). In contrast, a regenerative combination of practices based on diverse crop rotations, reducing if not eliminating tilling, and planting cover crops to hold soil in place and nourish soil life allows conventional farmers to

greatly reduce or even eliminate their use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

In a way, synthetic nitrogen fertilizers used in agriculture today are an example of too much of a good thing. They dramatically boost plant growth,

and thus crop yields, especially in degraded soil.

But when applied liberally, soluble nitrogen fertilizers scuttle

communication between a plant and beneficial communities of soil life—and undermine fungal symbioses in particular. Plants get lazy when spoon-fed nitrogen. So they don't invest in as extensive a root system for recruiting and feeding their microbial partners. And this reduces crop uptake of mineral micronutrients and other beneficial

In urban, suburban or rural areas, we all should care about farming practices and policies.

When Inflammation Is Dangerous

Inflammation is a normal part of a healthy immune system. A part of our body swells up around a cut, for example, because white blood cells concentrate in the area to fight infection or help with healing.

But chronic, unending inflammation in otherwise healthy parts of our bodies, including critical internal organs like our heart, brain and liver, is a factor in serious conditions such as heart disease, Alzheimer's and cancer. So chronic inflammation is more than a nuisance—it can be lethal, and diet plays a role in reducing or exacerbating the problem.

Grain-fed cattle produce meat and milk with a high level of omega-6 fats that initiate chronic inflammation. Beef and milk from pasture-raised dairy cattle, by contrast, contain more omega-3 fats, which are key to ending inflammation after its work is done. This is because the leaves of living plants, like grass growing in a pasture, are rich in omega-3s, whereas seeds—like corn or soybeans—are rich in omega-6s.

compounds essential to plant health, and ours.

Routine tillage also affects soil life. A review of more than 100 scientific papers found that plowing, or tilling, profoundly disturbs the rich array of life inhabiting fertile topsoil. Once again, fungi that fetch minerals for crops are among the most disturbed as tillage slices and dices their networks to the point that they significantly curtail nutrient deliveries to their plant host.

Minerals are not the only things that conventional practices affect in crops. Important phytochemicals, such as carotenoids and polyphenols, are key reasons why soil health matters to people. Phytochemicals are compounds plants make for their own health, communication and defense—in response to soil life and other environmental conditions. So the state of the soil can influence their abundance in plant foods.

Loads of studies reporting health benefits of fruits and vegetables ascribe beneficial effects to the phytochemicals they contain. For example, many phytochemicals have anti-inflammatory effects or serve as signaling molecules that tee up or inform our immune system. And physical or chemical disruption of communities of soil life can reduce the phytochemical content of crops.

In 2014, the *British Journal of Nutrition* published an analysis of 343 peer-reviewed studies that found significantly greater levels of phytochemicals in organic crops, meaning they were grown without synthetic fertilizer or pesticides. It also found higher concentrations of pesticide residue and the heavy metal cadmium in conventionally grown crops. The study revealed that you would have to consume about twice as much conventional produce—pesticides and all—to get the same amount of phytochemicals as produce grown in healthy soil.

What our livestock eats matters too. Particularly important is the balance of fats in meat and dairy products. Beef and milk from pasture-raised dairy cattle contain more omega-3 fats, which are key to helping quell on-going inflammation, a major contributing cause of many chronic diseases. In contrast, grain-fed cattle produce meat and milk with far greater levels of omega-6 fats, a type that initiates inflammation. This is because the leaves of living plants, like grass growing in a pasture, are rich in omega-3s, whereas seeds—like corn or soybeans—are rich in omega-6s. An omega-6 to omega-3 ratio of around two to one is considered optimal for human health. That is about the ratio in most wild game. Today, however,

The bottom line is simple—agriculture policy is health policy.

Just How Much More Nutrition?

A comparison of 10 pairs of neighboring regenerative and traditional farms around the country found consistently better soil health on the regenerative farms—and higher levels, on average, of certain vitamins and phytochemicals.

Vitamins

Vitamin K	+34%	(needed for blood clotting and building bones)
Vitamin C	+17%	(needed for growth, development, and repair of tissues)
Vitamin E	+15%	(important to vision, and health of blood, brain, and skin)
Vitamin B1	+14%	(helps metabolize fats and protein)

Phytochemicals

Carotenoids	+15%	(antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects)
Phenolics	+20%	(antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects)
Phytosterols	+22%	(reduced cholesterol absorption)



David Montgomery signs *What Your Food Ate* for attendees at the League's national convention.

conventionally raised meat and dairy typically have ratios higher than 10 to 1. Our modern diet is awash in omega-6s. And what our food eats we become. Is it a coincidence that chronic diseases rooted in inflammation plague so many of us?

In other words, what your food ate influences what a meal does for—and to—you. Consumers deserve to know more about the soil their food originates in and how it influences the nutrient-density and other benefits of the food they buy.

Soil Solutions

Regenerative farming practices that combine no-till methods with growing a diversity of cash

and cover crops produce a substantial array of benefits. The combination reduces the need for and expenditures on fertilizers and pesticides. It also helps to keep healthy topsoil in place, reducing runoff of agrochemicals and sediment that pose dangers to drinking water and public health.

While it is no panacea, soil-health building farming practices can reduce agricultural carbon emissions and stash atmospheric carbon underground where it becomes an asset rather than a liability. Though estimates vary greatly of just how much carbon can be returned to farmland soil this way, agricultural practices that build soil carbon offer

The simple recipe for healthier soil and better food:

- Minimize disturbance to the land by greatly reducing or eliminating tillage (plowing).
- Keep the ground alive with living roots from other cash crops or cover crops to keep the soil intact and in place, and soil life healthy.
- Rotate a diverse array of crops on agricultural lands.
- Reduce use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and pesticides.



In a sense, food grown in healthy, fertile soil can serve as preventive medicine. It turns out that what's good for the land is good for us too. Farmers market in Annandale, Va.

real opportunities to help address the climate crisis.

So as we work to provide food for humanity today, just how well are we providing nourishment? We need to focus on both quantity *and* quality. And improving soil health is a well-supported means to do both.

In particular, providing consumers with information on nutrient density beyond the basics presented on labels today would allow the market to provide economic incentives for farmers to deliver nutrient-dense food while providing a host of benefits in terms of conservation—cleaner water and air, healthy soil and greater carbon sequestration.

Our agricultural policies and practices should be founded on the view of the soil as a sacred trust we pass forward for future generations. Such framing would help create the economic mechanisms that

reward farmers for improving their soil rather than subsidizing conventional practices that degrade soil.

Will healthy soils alone ensure our health? Of course not, a lot more affects health. But a diet of fresh whole foods grown in healthy soil provides our bodies with what they need to work normally and to stay as healthy as we can.

And in this sense, food grown in healthy, fertile soil can serve as preventive medicine. For it turns out that what's good for the land is good for us too.

David R. Montgomery, Ph.D., and Anne Biklé are authors of What Your Food Ate: How to Heal Our Land and Reclaim Our Health. They also wrote The Hidden Half of Nature.

2022 Izaak Walton League Endowment Grants

During its annual meeting in July, the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment awarded the following grants to League chapters, divisions and the national office.

PROJECT	APPLICANT	AMOUNT
Archery equipment	Griffith Chapter, Ind.	\$2,520
Conservation education, SOS marketing trailer	Lois Green-Sligo Chapter, Md.	3,499
Conservation scholarships	National Office	5,000
Fish stocking	Spring Lake Chapter, Ind.	5,675
Information kiosks & picnic tables	Owatonna Chapter, Minn.	3,000
Kids' fishing day	Fremont Chapter, Neb.	1,400
Nature station playground	Hamilton Chapter, Ohio	5,000
Pollinator garden	Cincinnati Chapter	300
Pond maintenance	Mt. Healthy Chapter, Ohio	3,000
Recruitment, retention, reactivation events	Wisconsin Division	10,000
River picture storybook map	Pennsylvania Division	8,000
Salt Watch program	National Office	11,000
Save Our Streams education project	Panora Conservation Chapter, Iowa	3,636
Save Our Streams water education	Will Dilg Chapter, Minn.	2,952
Science lab rental	Lois Green-Sligo Chapter, Md.	3,600
Stream testing materials	Mount Airy Chapter, Md.	1,065
Tree planting and school Arbor Day project	Sioux Falls Chapter, S.D.	2,845
Wet meadow improvement	Seven Mile Chapter, Ohio	4,346
Young Ikes projects	So. Brown Conservation Chapter, Wis.	2,168
Youth camp scholarships	Sioux Falls Chapter, S.D.	1,400
Youth camp	Indiana Division	2,298
Young Ikes Shooting Team, NSCA Regional	Howard County Chapter, Ind.	2,174
Young Ikes Shooting Team, NSCA State	Howard County Chapter, Ind.	1,838
Young Ikes Shooting Team, U.S. Jr. Open	Howard County Chapter, Ind.	2,105
Total Grants:		\$88,821

Visit iwla-endowment.org

Your Endowment in Action

2022 Izaak Walton League National Conservation Scholarships

The Izaak Walton League awards two \$2,500 national scholarships each year to complement scholarships offered by League chapters and divisions. The national scholarships support college students pursuing degrees in natural resources and related studies and are made possible and fully funded through a generous annual grant from the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment.

The scholarship review committee selected the following students to receive the League's National Conservation Scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year.



Hailee R. Fritsch
Environmental Science
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

Conservation Philosophy:

“Natural resources and environmental policies are not simply about managing the resources more efficiently and effectively, but to integrate the variety of needs, future visions and cultures. To live comfortably on this planet, we need to utilize the vast resources; however we must define our future visions and how we want our generations to thrive on the land as well. Different cultures around the world use land resources in a variety of ways. This is why anthropology also plays a big role in the conservation of the environment.”

Critical Conservation Issues:

“I believe the most important conservation issue North America will face in the next 10 years is deforestation. Forests provide habitat to wildlife, manage air and water quality, along with helping aid in the fight against climate change.

Trees are renewable sources of energy; however the human species is using it faster than it can be restored. This will affect natural resource management activities by resorting to more sustainable resources such as bamboo for replacement of tree paper products.

Deforestation is also practiced to clear land for agriculture. Farmers are very important for human life on Earth. However, there are better ways to grow crops and raise livestock including sustainable agriculture techniques such as irrigation water management, forest farming and using natural enemies to control pests rather than pesticides.”

More About Hailee:

Hailee wishes to become a conservation scientist to assist in making restoration plans for forests and monitoring the land quality. Also, she hopes to help solve problems found in industrial agricultural systems.



Hunter D. Johnson

Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology
Colorado State University

Conservation Philosophy:

“Conservation is only possible through ethical and adequate natural resource management practices. My philosophy is the belief in emphasizing ecosystem-level management to ensure success at all trophic levels. The only way to be successful in conservation is approaching natural resource management by conducting work with broader implications, through partnerships, education and outreach to increase support.”

Critical Conservation Issues:

“The most crucial issue facing conservation in the next 10 years will be habitat fragmentation. While habitat loss is often considered the main source of natural resource destruction, habitat fragmentation is just as lethal yet is much less understood or recognized. Habitat fragmentation destroys wildlife populations on a macro- and micro-scale, creating the double-edged sword that slowly cripples conservation efforts.

“At the macro level, impediments in wildlife corridors have severely restricted or eliminated access to migration routes, seasonal foraging grounds, overwintering sites and other crucial specific-use habitats through fragmentation resulting from urban, roadway, agricultural and other processes. On the micro level, species ranging from plants to big game become island populations as a result of habitat fragmentation and are left with reduced genetic diversity from the inhibited gene flow.”

More About Hunter:

Hunter plans to pursue a graduate degree and has set his career goal as becoming a wildlife manager or biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife or a similar agency and potentially becoming a state herpetologist.

Know a conservation-minded college student who could use an extra \$2,500 for tuition and expenses? Learn more about specific requirements and find the application form on the League's website at iwla.org/scholarship. The next application cycle begins January 1, 2023, with a deadline of May 15, 2023.



SOIL MATTERS



Seen at a recent visit to Capitol Hill are, from left, Harley Cross, co-founder of Land Core, Dawn Breitzkreutz, Minnesota farmer and president of the Soil Health Academy, Finian Makepeace, policy director for Kiss the Ground, and Duane Hovorka, agriculture program director for the League.

League Secures Win for Conservation

By DUANE HOVORKA, Agriculture Program Director

On August 16 President Biden signed legislation that will provide \$19.5 billion over the next few years to expand conservation, reduce water pollution and combat climate change across tens of millions of acres of farms and ranches nationwide.

The Izaak Walton League of

America has been working for two years to push Congress to provide this vital investment that could help transform crop and livestock production in the U.S.

The conservation funds are part of the Inflation Reduction Act, sweeping legislation designed to deliver \$369 billion for

solar, wind and biofuel energy generation, energy conservation and other strategies to address climate change.

Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), who chairs the Agriculture Committee, said, “With the passage of this historic bill, Americans will see their

energy costs go down while we tackle the urgent threats we face every day from the climate crisis. We are equipping farmers, foresters, and rural communities with the necessary tools to be a part of the solution.” (See more details about the Inflation Reduction Act in “Policy Pulse” on page 38.)

The Izaak Walton League pushed Congress to provide this vital investment.

Transforming Agriculture

The \$19.5 billion in agriculture investments will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) meet the growing interest among farmers and ranchers in improving conservation by eliminating plowing, growing winter cover crops, reducing pesticide use, and installing new fencing and water systems to better manage livestock.

Those new conservation systems can substantially:

- improve water quality by reducing polluted runoff into rivers and lakes,
- reduce farms’ climate footprint,
- enhance wildlife habitat,
- restore healthy soils, and
- help reduce use of dangerous chemical fertilizer and pesticides.

In 2019 and 2020, more than 70 percent of farmers and ranchers who applied for help through some federal conservation

programs were turned down. That represents tens of millions of acres of conservation that could have been applied to farmland—but was not.

The new conservation funding could help transform American agriculture by putting soil health at the center of on-farm decisions. If properly focused, the investments could:

Improve 100 million acres of native prairie and other grassland through better grazing management. Healthier grasslands provide better habitat for grassland birds, butterflies and other pollinators, and they capture and store large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Regenerate healthy soils through the planting of winter cover crops and other practices on tens of millions of acres of cropland. Cover crops feed the soil, provide nutrients that can later reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizer, and provide winter habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife.

Restore and protect 250,000 acres of wetlands and provide permanent protection for over one million acres of native prairie and perhaps a half million acres of forest that might otherwise be cleared. Wetlands are wildlife magnets but we have lost over half of the wetlands we once had in the continental U.S., and native prairie is North America’s most endangered ecosystem.

Develop soil health plans for hundreds of thousands of farms and ranches using expertise

from USDA, local conservation districts, private soil health advisors, soil health organizations, and rural cooperatives. Healthier soils grow more nutritious food and hold more water, reducing flooding and polluted runoff and making farmland more resilient to drought.

The legislation is a one-time infusion of cash over several years that can do a lot to put conservation measures in place on America’s farmland. It is a huge win for conservation.

The new legislation will help address the long-term problem of USDA conservation programs that are perennially under-funded. Farmers and ranchers are clamoring for conservation information, advice and assistance.

The legislation could help transform American agriculture.

Congress can take the next step forward to lock in future funding for farm and ranch conservation programs when it writes a new Farm Bill next year. Learn more about soil health, USDA conservation programs, and the 2023 Farm Bill at iwla.org/agriculture.



CLEAN WATER CORNER

Five Tips for Effective Social Media

By HEATHER WILSON, Midwest Save Our Streams Coordinator

As advocates for clean water, we are constantly working to get the word out about water quality issues and encouraging new people to get involved. Luckily for us, we have access to online platforms with billions of users and amazing sharing capabilities—and so do you!

Social media is an incredibly powerful tool that every person, organization, and Izaak Walton League chapter can use for event promotion and community building. Platforms like Instagram and Facebook are quickly becoming the first place that tech-savvy people will look to find events happening

Online platforms present an opportunity to build a community of like-minded individuals. Each post can serve as an invitation for your followers to join the cause.

nearby or to research a topic of interest. Any organization that doesn't have a presence on social media is missing out on valuable (and free) visibility.

Advocacy has made a home

for itself on social media as well. Online platforms present an opportunity to build a community of likeminded individuals. Our job as clean



water advocates is to seize this opportunity and inspire action among our followers. Sharing your Salt Watch findings, promoting an upcoming Save Our Streams training or simply educating your followers about a local pollution problem are all great ways to interact with your followers on social media. The best part—each of these posts has the potential to serve as an invitation for others to join the cause.

Five Tips for Effective Advocacy on Social Media

Whether you are a digital native or still getting the hang of social media, read on for five tips to get

the most out of social media as a clean water advocate:

1. Keep it short and simple

We all know that attention spans are short when it comes to social media. Keep your captions concise to encourage your audience to pause and read what you have written. Avoid complicated terminology and remove unnecessary filler words when possible. If you have more to say (odds are, you will!), you can always insert a URL which people can click to learn more.

2. Pictures!

What better way to draw readers in than with an eye-catching photo? Some social media platforms, like Instagram, require you to share photos or videos with your post. Others, like Facebook, give you the choice to include them or not. Whenever possible, include photos or graphics in your social media posts to attract greater attention. Photos that include people do an especially good job at drawing audiences in.

3. Use #hashtags

Ever wonder what that string of words preceded by the # symbol is doing in a social media post? Those are hashtags, and they serve an important

purpose. If I include #WaterQuality in a post on Instagram or Facebook, then anyone who types “water quality” into the search window on those platforms should see my post among the results. These search terms can be interspersed within your post or placed at the end. Try to use brief, common terms that are likely to be searched.

4. Connect with your partners

Hosting an event with a local partner? Using another organization’s site for a program? Tag them! If your partners are on social media, simply type “@” plus “their name” to tag them in your social media posts. On the other hand, if you are tagged in a post, be sure to share that post as well. Tagging partners and sharing their posts is a great way to gain new followers from other likeminded organizations. You can use your platform to amplify their message and expose them to new viewers, and vice versa. Perhaps more importantly, this type of collaboration helps to foster a sense of community and connectedness online.

5. Call to action

The most important part of any clean water advocate’s social media post is the call to action. This is where you invite the reader to take a step to further engage with your cause. The action could be simple—read a blog post, sign a petition, add your name to a mailing list—or more substantial—contact your representative, find a training near you. The important part is that you are asking the reader to interact with your cause at a higher level, converting them from a casual social media viewer to an active participant. This could be the spark that creates new clean water advocates and helps achieve our clean water goals.



Instagram post provides interesting results, cause for concern and a call to action.



Putting it all together, brief text, vivid images, hashtag and a partner thank you is a winning combination.



Native prairie restoration on former cropland near Vincennes, Indiana can help store carbon and improve wildlife habitat.

Progress on Conservation and Climate Priorities

By JARED MOTT, Conservation Director

In recent months, we have seen progress on several of the Izaak Walton League's top priorities in Washington.

Inflation Reduction Act Tackles Climate Change

In August, after months of negotiations, Congress passed and President Biden signed into law a robust package aimed at combatting climate change.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 will, among other things, provide nearly \$370 billion over the next 10 years to fight climate change and promote energy security. This investment in combatting climate change is the largest in the nation's history.

When fully implemented, these investments are projected to lower U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases by half by the end of the decade. The law will

lower the cost of commercial clean technologies like wind and solar power generation, electric vehicles and lower the cost of energy improvements

This investment in combatting climate change is the largest in the nation's history.

for buildings, driving shifts toward cleaner energy. Tax credits and other programs will expand domestic manufacturing of renewable energy products such as solar panels and help accelerate deployment of these tools necessary for conversion to a cleaner economy.

Thanks to years of work by the Izaak Walton League, the Inflation Reduction Act

also provides more than \$19 billion over the next five years for USDA conservation programs. (See details in "Soil Matters" on page 34.)

Grasslands Conservation Introduced

In July, Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced the North American Grasslands Conservation Act to encourage voluntary conservation of one of the country's most imperiled ecosystems. The bill would capitalize on the collaboration of ranchers, farmers, Tribes, government agencies and non-government agencies.

Modeled after the highly successful North American Wetlands Conservation Act, this legislation would provide funding through a landowner-driven, voluntary, incentive-based

program to conserve and restore threatened grasslands.

America's grasslands provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife, from deer, elk and grouse to the pollinators that are essential to many crops. Grasslands sustain cattle and sheep that help feed our nation. They protect soil from erosion, reduce flooding by absorbing and holding rainfall, buffer wetlands and streams and capture carbon dioxide from the air and store it in the soil.

Ninety-nine percent of the tallgrass prairie that once extended from eastern North Dakota to central Texas to parts of Ohio has been lost, converted to row crops or development.

To address these losses, the North American Grasslands Conservation Act would:

- Curtail additional conversion of native grasslands and loss of sagebrush shrub-steppe and sustain these systems as working lands by creating a flexible, voluntary program
- Improve grassland and rangeland health and management
- Support rancher stewards and Tribal partners
- Improve biodiversity and habitat for grassland and sagebrush birds, pollinators and other wildlife
- Increase carbon sequestration and improve water quality
- Provide increased recreational and hunter access opportunities, strictly at the discretion of private landowners

Contact your senators today and ask them to support the North American Grasslands Conservation Act.

Wildlife Bill Clears the House

One of the League's top congressional priorities, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in June with bipartisan support. The bill addresses longstanding funding shortfalls for wildlife conservation in all 50 states and on Tribal lands.

Now the critical next step is Senate action on companion legislation this fall.

RAWA would provide \$1.4 billion per year for state wildlife conservation efforts and an additional \$97.5 million to Tribal wildlife managers. These resources would be buttressed by competitive grants requiring matching funds from state wildlife agencies to implement their wildlife action plans.

State fish and wildlife agencies have jurisdiction over most of the wildlife in America. However, the current funding model for wildlife conservation and management relies on hunting and fishing license sales, as well as excise taxes collected on the sale of equipment for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation.

As some of these traditional sources of funding decline, a new revenue model is needed to address serious threats that imperil fish and wildlife nationwide.

State agencies have identified at least 12,000 species in need of proactive conservation efforts; 33 percent of all U.S. species are at risk of becoming endangered.

Current funding to implement state wildlife action plans is less than five percent of what experts say is needed to conserve the species most at risk.

Eighty percent of state wildlife agency funding comes from hunters and anglers via license sales and excise taxes on their equipment. However, all species, not just those that are pursued by hunters and anglers, must be managed with this revenue, which is declining as license sales go down.

RAWA would fully fund state wildlife action plans—proactive, comprehensive conservation strategies developed by state wildlife agencies to examine species health and recommend actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become rarer and more costly to protect.

RAWA ensures a modern solution to how we finance fish and wildlife conservation. This new funding model primarily draws from fees and royalties paid to develop energy on public lands, both on- and off-shore. It would provide states and Tribes with the dedicated and consistent resources needed to implement conservation plans.

Contact your U.S. senators and urge them to support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Visit iwla.org/rawa.

★ AWARD-WINNING IKES

Each year, the Izaak Walton League recognizes outstanding achievements by people and organizations in conservation, outdoor ethics, water quality, shooting sports, communications and youth-focused work at the local, state and national level. We further honor members and organizations for their lifelong accomplishments and devotion to natural resources conservation.

It is our honor and pleasure to recognize these individuals and organizations from across the country who made a difference in 2021.

NATIONAL AWARDS

54 Founders Award

Considered the League's highest honor, this award is bestowed to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to the conservation of America's natural resources.



Miles Greenbaum (Maryland): This long-standing member of the League has served in multiple leadership positions at the Rockville Chapter, including president. Miles served the Maryland Division for many years as a national director and continues to provide stewardship

and guidance to many chapters and the division. His greatest contribution has been as president of the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment, which has benefited from his efforts to modernize how it manages and promotes grant funding and projects.

Hall of Fame Award

Recognizes a member's outstanding accomplishments in furthering the mission and goals of the League.



Stephen and Betty Castner (New York): For nearly five decades, the Castners have served their chapter and community well. Both held multiple leadership positions at the Lake Keuka Chapter and New York Division. They played a big part in the establishment and ongoing

maintenance of the chapter's Verdi Burtch Bird Sanctuary on the Lake Keuka shoreline. As the League's liaisons with multiple county and regional groups, they provided advice on significant conservation initiatives and environmental stewardship ideas.

Conservation Award

Recognizes member contributions to conservation in the name of the League.



Mike Delaney (Iowa): Mike serves as a director and conservation issues chair for the Iowa Division and the Des Moines Chapter. He has played a critical role in the Panora Conservation Chapter's prairie restoration project and is a founder of the Raccoon River Watershed Association.



Dean Farr (Illinois): Recognized for his advocacy and providing a clear voice for clean water in Indiana and Illinois, Dean has been working recently to fight spills of industrial hazardous materials into Lake Michigan.



Annette Hansen (Indiana): As the Porter County Chapter's executive director, Annette is a most effective communicator, fundraiser and marketer of their many successful conservation projects.



Andrew McKay (South Dakota): This Sioux Falls Chapter Ike is a dedicated advocate and practitioner of controlling and removing invasive weeds, protecting wetlands and promoting wildlife habitat management on farmlands.



Neil Mittelberg (Iowa): When the Linn County Chapter reorganized a few years ago, Neil stepped forward and assumed the duties of the conservation issues chair. Under Neil's leadership, the chapter began projects like pollinator plots, trout stream restoration, monarch rearing zones, reforestation and clean-ups for lakes and highways.



Carla Morris (Maryland): Carla is honored for coordinating the Rockville Chapter's annual National Hunting and Fishing Day event. That community event promotes the contributions to conservation made by hunters and anglers.



Kerry Petersen (Iowa): Kerry holds multiple leadership positions and devotes endless hours to volunteer work that has supported the conservation mission and related projects of the Des Moines Chapter.



Bobby Schroader (Indiana): Bobby implements many of the conservation practices and natural area enhancements on the Porter County Chapter's Frame Family Conservation Area.



Cherry Schwartz (Minnesota): Cherry has held many Owatonna Chapter and Minnesota Division leadership positions over the past four decades. She spearheaded the work on the chapter's Woody's Acres property that included an interpretive nature trail system, enhanced buffers along a stream and major efforts to remove invasive plants.



Cindy Stevens (Maryland): Cindy's various contributions to the Rockville Chapter include her efforts to revise and update the chapter's environmental management system and forest management plans.



Suzanne Sullivan (Maryland): The Mid-Shore Chapter is committed to the protection and improvement of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the driving force behind this effort is Suzanne. As a staff member of ShoreRivers, a nonprofit that protects and

restores waterways on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Suzanne has implemented a water monitoring program for tidal/brackish waters.

Outdoor Ethics Award

Presented to individuals, groups, or organizations judged to have done outstanding work in outdoor ethics.



Gerald Crowell (Virginia): A state government forester by trade and an active Scout leader, he has promoted responsible recreation in the outdoors and stewardship of forests, wildlife and fisheries for decades.



Bob Quinn (Iowa): This popular farm broadcaster at the iconic 50,000-watt radio station WHO in Des Moines, Iowa, is a longtime conservation advocate. Bob uses his communications skills to promote the wise use of all natural resources.

Save Our Streams Award

Recognizes outstanding work in environmental education and activism for clean water.



Susan Heathcote (Iowa): Trained in the League's Save Our Streams (SOS) protocol 20 years ago, Susan retired as a water quality specialist for the Iowa Environmental Council. She is now a certified SOS trainer who works with and trains new water quality monitors throughout the state.



Philip Langner (South Dakota): As an active SOS stream monitor, Philip has educated hundreds of youth at the annual Sioux Empire and Big Sioux water festivals.

AWARD-WINNING IKES



Tom Lenhart (West Virginia): For years, Tom has monitored many streams that have been impacted by coal and limestone mining and natural gas fracking throughout the Monongalia County watershed—including Morgan Run and Coles Run, streams that flow into Cheat Lake.

Thelma “Pete” Reed Award

Recognizes the member who has volunteered in many conservation projects, educational efforts, community service, or chapter leadership development, and is not serving as a national leader of the League, but is considered an “up and coming” future League leader.



Hilaria Swisher (West Virginia): Hilaria has proven to be an effective leader for community outreach, member recruitment, youth conservation, water pollution workshops, water monitoring and litter clean-up for the Monongalia County Chapter in West Virginia.

Honor Roll Award

Recognizes outstanding accomplishments in conservation, public education and publicity in keeping with the League’s goals by an individual or organization.



Andie Jahnz-Davis (Indiana): Andie has worked tirelessly on the Michigan City Sustainability Commission and has served as the organizer of their annual Earth Month Extravaganza.



Griffieon Family Farm (Iowa): Leading by example, this sixth-generation farm promotes sustainable agricultural and

conservation practices that help to restore healthy soil and clean water in Polk County, Iowa.



Wells Fargo Green Team: This American financial services company promotes and supports nationwide environmental projects involving company employees. Their established “green teams” in each state focus on local environmental needs.



Wildlife Prairie Park (Illinois): This popular wildlife sanctuary offers interactive, nature-oriented educational and recreational activities for more than 100,000 visitors each year. They are honored for their ongoing efforts in stewardship of the environment, wildlife habitat conservation and education.

Shooting Sports Award

Presented to individuals, groups or organizations judged to have done outstanding work to promote shooting sports.



Stan Bonjour (Wisconsin): As the Southwestern Wisconsin Chapter’s shooting sports coordinator, Stan has greatly expanded the amount of time devoted to training new and young shooters and managing the chapter’s shooting ranges.



Ed MacBride (Virginia): Ed has spent endless hours and donated talent and the use of his construction equipment for major range expansion and renovation projects and classroom facilities at the Alexandria Chapter.

James Lawton Childs Award

Recognizes chapter accomplishments in conservation.



Rockville Chapter (Maryland): Conservation activities at this chapter include Save Our Streams waterways monitoring, an Adopt-A-Highway roadside clean-up, a honeybee pollinator apiary, a longstanding wood duck house management program and several

invasive plant removal and wildlife habitat improvement projects. Chapter families, area youth and the general public are engaged in many of these conservation projects.

Robert C. O'Hair Award

Recognizes outstanding chapter youth programs.



Winchester Chapter (Virginia):

This chapter is known locally for its many hosted youth events and activities, including the Scholastic Action Shooting Program, Trail Life summer camp, Scout camporee, Millbrook High School band's end-of-marching-season outdoor party, Michael Mercer

memorial kids' trout fishing derby, and Winchester City sheriff's "cops and bobbys" fishing night.

Best Chapter Newsletter

Based on appearance, originality, timeliness and news coverage, including national and state news and community conservation.

Small Chapter (less than 500 members)

Blue Heron Times: Published by the Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter (Virginia), the newsletter is emailed monthly. The editor welcomes contributions from members, and informative articles and photos highlight chapter events. Ample contact information about officers, committee chairs and event coordinators is provided along with information about upcoming state and national League activities. The contents also appear on the chapter's website.

Large Chapter (more than 500 members)

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter Newsletter: The League's largest chapter regularly publishes articles on conservation topics, chapter events, elections and board actions. A chapter calendar provides details of upcoming events and ample contact information is available for officers, committee chairs and event coordinators. Contributions, including photographs, are welcomed by the editor.

Best Chapter and Division Websites

Based on appearance, originality, timeliness and news coverage.

Winchester Chapter (Virginia): This website (winchester-iwla.org) is informative, colorful and easy to navigate. Information about the chapter and League is readily accessible. Chapter activities are often profiled, membership requirements are spelled out and there is an eye-catching, up-to-date calendar of events. It is thoughtfully organized and user-friendly.

Illinois Division: Their state website (sites.google.com/site/illinoisdivision) contains information about the League's history in Illinois and nationwide as well as an explanation of the League mission and extensive links to Illinois chapters, the national League website and those of related conservation organizations. The website also displays information about the 100th anniversary and national convention.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

In an effort to continue to promote member recruitment and retention, we recognize several chapters and a division that successfully grew their membership over the past year.

Best Chapter Membership Recruitment and Retention Award

Recognizes the chapter that carried out the most effective membership recruitment and retention program.

Linn County Chapter (Iowa): This chapter's membership committee always has volunteers at open house events, public pollinator garden workshops, new member orientations and range safety sessions. They also exhibit at local gun shows to promote chapter membership and access to their extensive firearms and archery ranges.

Due in part to the chapter's sponsorship of local Boy Scout and Girl Scout units and a Pathfinders club, many parents are exposed to the chapter's conservation efforts and recreational opportunities—which has contributed to growth in family memberships.

All members receive a "New Member Welcome" Packet. Over the past three years, the chapter with this balanced, well-planned effort has grown to 686 members.

John C. Gregory Award

Awarded to the division with the highest numerical increase in members.

Iowa Division: With a net gain of 389 new members in 2021.

Membership Achievement Awards

Recognizes chapters with the largest percentage increase and largest net gain in membership.

Greatest Percent Increase:

Alexandria Chapter (Indiana) with a 127 percent increase.

Greatest Net Gain:

Dragoon Trail Chapter (Iowa) with a net gain of 183 members.

AWARD-WINNING IKES

Membership Merit Awards

Recognizes membership growth based on chapter size.

50 and Under Member Class for Percent Increase and Net Gain:

Louisa County Chapter (Iowa)

51 to 250 Member Class for Percent Increase:

Alexandria Chapter (Indiana)

For Net Gain:

Spring Lake Chapter (Indiana)

251 to 500 Member Class for Percent Increase:

St. Joseph County Chapter (Indiana)

For Net Gain:

Christiansburg-Montgomery Chapter (Virginia)

501 and Over Member Class for Percent Increase and Net Gain:

Dragoon Trail Chapter (Iowa)

110-Percent Awards

These chapters grew by 10 percent or more during 2021.

Florida

Cypress
Mangrove

Georgia

Greater Atlanta

Idaho

Caldwell

Illinois

Woodford County

Indiana

Alexandria
Howard County
Huntington County
Miami
Michigan City #7
Miller
Spring Lake
St. Joseph County
Wabash

Iowa

Ding Darling
Dragoon Trail
East Fork
Grundy-Tama
Linn County
Louisa County
Maquoketa Valley

Marshall County
Red Cedar
Rice Lake
Sabula
Waterloo
West Central

Maryland

Mid-Shore
Rockville

Michigan

Dwight Lydell

Minnesota

Will Dilg

Nebraska

Arapahoe
Crete
Fremont
Seward County

New York

Lake Keuka

North Carolina

White Oak River

North Dakota

St. John #1

Ohio

Buckeye State Youth

Fremont
Headwaters
Lawrence County
Martin L. Davey

Pennsylvania

Allegheny County
Lancaster Red Rose

South Dakota

Madison #16
Rapid City
Sioux Falls
Yankton Area

Virginia

Arlington-Fairfax
Juniors
Christiansburg-
Montgomery
Prince William
Roanoke Valley
Suffolk-Nansemond

West Virginia

Monongalia County
Tucker

Wisconsin

Beloit
Brown County
Watertown

Defenders Chapter Achievement Awards

The following chapters received this annual recognition for their 2021 contributions to the League's mission through successful programs, promoting membership, education, conservation, youth involvement, community outreach and the principles of philanthropy.

Arlington-Fairfax (Virginia)

Austin (Minnesota)

Berkeley County (West Virginia)

Bill Cook (Wisconsin) *

Brown County (Wisconsin)

Bush Lake (Minnesota)

Cass County (Minnesota)

Central New York (New York)

Des Moines (Iowa)

Dwight Lydell (Michigan) *

Elgin (Illinois)

Frederick #1 (Maryland)

Fredericksburg-Rappahannock
(Virginia)

Grand Island (Nebraska)

Hamilton (Ohio)

Kampeska (South Dakota)

Lincoln (Nebraska)

Linn County (Iowa)

Lois Green-Sligo (Maryland)

Loudoun County (Virginia)

McCook Lake (South Dakota)

Mid-Shore (Maryland)

Minnesota Valley (Minnesota)

Mountaineer (West Virginia)

New London (Minnesota)

New Ulm (Minnesota)

Owatonna (Minnesota)

Rochester (Minnesota)

Rockville (Maryland)

Sioux Falls (South Dakota)

Sunshine (South Dakota)

Tiffin-Seneca County (Ohio) *

W.J. McCabe (Minnesota)

Walter J. Breckenridge (Minnesota)

Warren County (Iowa)

Warren County (Virginia)

Wayne County (Ohio) *

Wes Libbey - Northern Lakes
(Minnesota)

Wildlife Achievement (Maryland)

Will Dilg (Minnesota)

York #67 (Pennsylvania)

* 20th consecutive year!



THE COURTS

League Defends Wetlands, Files Amicus Brief in *Sackett v. EPA*

By JARED MOTT, Conservation Director

The first case the U.S. Supreme Court considered in October was *Sackett v. EPA*. This case has the potential to eviscerate protections for wetlands and degrade water quality nationwide.

If the Court agrees with the petitioners, the Sacketts, wetlands will no longer be protected by the Clean Water Act unless they meet the requirements of a subjective two-part test proposed by the Sacketts. That test would protect wetlands from being drained and filled only if the wetland has a relatively permanent continuous surface water connection to an adjacent water and the adjacent water is a traditionally navigable water or water body related to interstate commerce.

That proposed test is wholly unsupported by the plain language of the law, overwhelming science and common sense. If adopted by the Supreme Court, the majority of wetlands in the U.S. would lose protection under the Clean Water Act.

The Izaak Walton League of America has joined with other conservation groups in submitting a brief to the Supreme Court highlighting not only the absence of any legal foundation for the Sackett test, but the devastating impacts adopting it will have on wetland conservation, outdoor recreation and water quality.

The Law

Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972, and its purpose, spelled out in its text, is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” The law also explicitly aims at advancing the “protection

In a brief submitted to the Supreme Court, the League highlights the flaws in the *Sackett* case and the devastating impact on wetlands, outdoor recreation and water quality if the plaintiffs prevail.

and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife” and promoting “recreation in and on the water.”

The Science

Wetlands regulate waterflow, filter out pollutants and disperse sediment. Even so-called “isolated” or “non-adjacent” wetlands that lack a continuous surface connection to another body of water can directly affect the chemical, physical and biological integrity of downstream waters through continuous underground and periodic surface connections.



U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, DC.

What’s at Stake?

If adopted, the Sackett test would deny federal protections to the majority of the nation’s wetlands. Areas that would be affected range from the Florida Everglades, which depend on the health of upstream waters, to the Missouri River and the wetlands adjacent to its headwaters in Montana, fed by ephemeral streams.

Since the 1920s, the League has fought to protect clean water and wetlands. The Clean Water Act is rightfully lauded as such a huge success because it provides essential and consistent protections that have dramatically improved water quality for nearly every American.

The amicus brief filed by the League can be viewed at iwla.org/sackett.

KEEP THE GOOD TIMES GOING

RENEW your IWLA membership for 2023!



...the sports action...



...the quiet times...



...the family time...



...the conservation to protect natural resources...

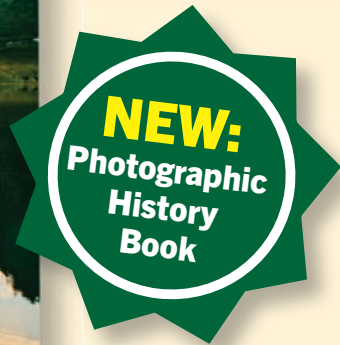
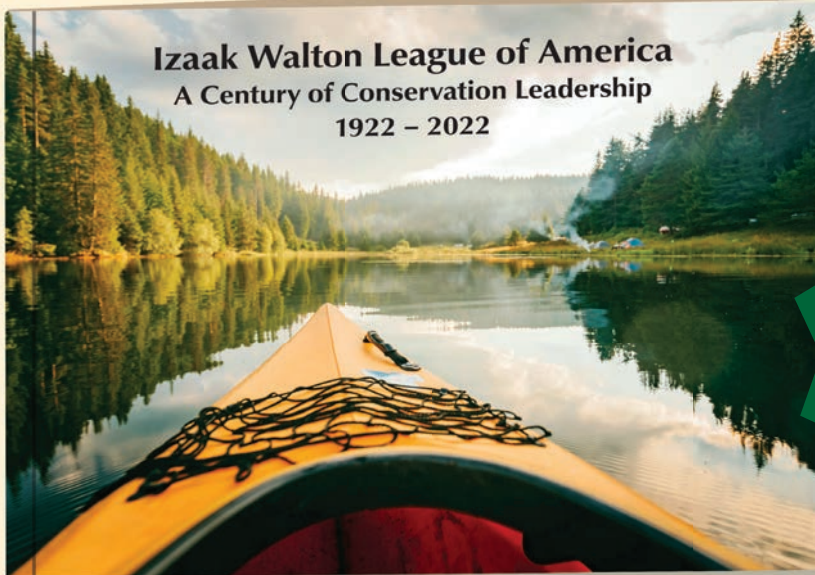
Don't let all the good times pass you by! Your chapter and the Izaak Walton League need you to help us stay strong and bring you all the outdoor activities and conservation programs you enjoy.

Return your dues payment to your chapter today!

Great Gift Ideas:

New History Book about the League, 100th Anniversary Items

These items make great gifts and giveaways for members, supporters and chapters.



The special-edition book, *Izaak Walton League of America: A Century of Conservation Leadership 1922-2022*, is now available.

Two years in the making, this book displays hundreds of images of people, places and achievements culled from our archives and other sources. This softcover book provides more than 250 pages of historic images, including many that have not been seen in decades. Special appendices list all known chapters since 1922, convention dates and locations, profiles of the 54 founders and much more.

100th Anniversary Items

The full array of 100th anniversary clothing and other merchandise is also available. Shirts, caps, water bottles and other collectibles show off the League's 100th anniversary logo.



More available online!

Get them while supplies last.
View the selections and place orders at iwla.org/shop.



Explorer and Champion of America's Wildest Places

Margaret “Mardy” Murie, who lived to be 101, could hardly have set a better example for an organization entering its second century of conservation leadership.

A mutual friend introduced Mardy, who grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska, to Olaus Murie, a young biologist from Minnesota who was studying caribou in Alaska during the 1920s. Mardy journeyed for a month across what was then known as Alaska Territory to marry Olaus in a tiny village on her 22nd birthday—and they journeyed together for the next four decades.

Their work in the far north focused on preserving wild places, and their advocacy ultimately led to the creation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Mardy used her first-hand knowledge about that region to convince Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas to help persuade President Eisenhower to support creation of the refuge. (Read more about the refuge history in *Outdoor America* 2021, Issue 1.)

With three children in tow, Mardy and Olaus traveled to several remote research sites, where they made important discoveries about wildlife, documenting their findings through words and sketches.

The Muries spent much of their lives in western Wyoming, racking up an incredible record of conservation accomplishments. They assisted with the formation of the National Elk Refuge, then bought one of the remaining inholdings of private land within the refuge.

From a ranch in the shadow of the Grand Tetons, the Muries advocated for the protection



Mardy and Olaus Murie in the Grand Tetons, 1953.

of that spectacular mountain range as a national park and formed a local chapter of the Izaak Walton League, the Jackson Hole Chapter. Mardy spent some time in Denver, working as an assistant to League Conservation Director Joe Penfold. Olaus, meanwhile, served as the League's Wyoming division president and then as a national director.

After Olaus' passing in 1963, Mardy continued to visit and survey remote places for potential designation as wilderness areas, testify to Congress about conservation causes and publish

books about her experiences, earning an impressive number of awards in her own right.

When Mardy finally left the world in 2003, *Outdoor America* published a column celebrating her legacy. Executive Director Paul Hansen, who knew Mardy for many years, wrote that she had changed his life on their very first meeting.

Mardy loved music and dancing, welcoming guests and serving tea.

She was also very humble. Asked what she had contributed to the conservation movement, she once replied, “I baked cookies.”

She recruited the Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas to help persuade President Eisenhower to set aside millions of acres for the refuge.

*By Janette Rosenbaum,
Strategic Communications Manager*

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

LAST LOOK

**"I'm counting on the new generation coming up.
I have to believe in their spirit, as those who
came before me believed in mine."**

— Mardy Murie, in her book *Two in the Far North*



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JOIN THE SALT WATCH



www.saltwatch.org

What is chloride pollution?


Road salt keeps us safe on roads and sidewalks but too much can pose a threat to fish, wildlife, and human health. Water treatment plants aren't equipped to filter out extra salt, so it can end up in tap water and even in our drinking water. This may cause serious health problems.

Keep it Fresh (not salty) with Salt Watch

This national community science project:

- Provides **free** water testing kits to identify chloride pollution in streams
 - Compiles volunteer data from across the country
 - Educates the public on responsible salt application
 - Helps volunteers advocate for smart salting
- It is easy to participate and become a clean water advocate for your community!**

HOW TO GET STARTED

- 1 Request a **free** kit at **SaltWatch.org** or by scanning the QR code below
 - 2 Collect chloride readings at your chosen stream site
 - 3 Upload a photo of your test strip to our database
 - 4 Share your findings with your community!
-  Pay it forward so we can reach even more people!

Request your free kit



Pay it forward

