

OUTDOOR AMERICA™

PUBLISHED BY THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2022 ISSUE 2

The Izaak Walton League's 100 Years: People United by Purpose

ALSO INSIDE:

Joe Penfold Built Trust,
Bridged Differences

Milestones from a Century
of Conservation Leadership

100th Anniversary
National Convention in July

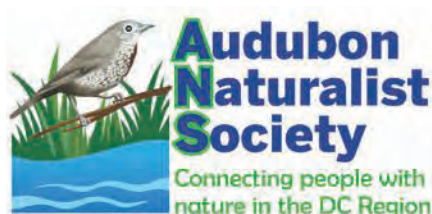
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- 3 Follow simple step-by-step instructions to collect and identify critters in your stream. The app creates a Stream Health Score based on your findings.
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OUTDOOR AMERICA

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VOL. 87 NO. 2

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ON THE COVER ▶ People United by Purpose
Credit: iStock

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the first women's chapter chartered
in Ohio, 1944.
Credit: IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

ABOUT THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA ▶

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



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Let's Share Our Story Far and Wide

VICKI ARNOLD | NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Recently, an Izaak Walton League member from Maryland stopped by our national headquarters office in Gaithersburg. Nursing a bad knee, she needed a cane and slowly navigated through the glass doors.

The reason for her visit, she said, was to get a 100th anniversary yard sign. Which the staff gladly provided. "Is that for your chapter?"

"No, it's for my front lawn," she said. "I'm always trying to tell people who the Izaak Walton League is."

Bravo! While we don't have enough of those signs for every member, we applaud her willingness and determination to spread the word.

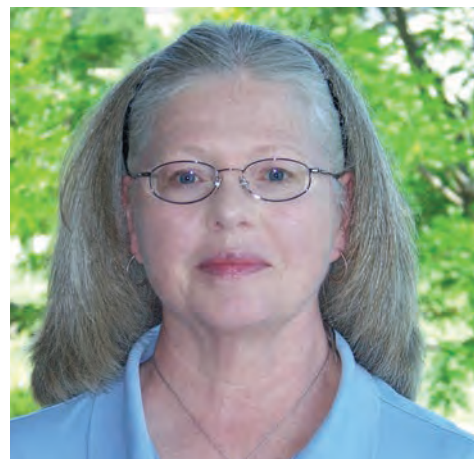
This year, our 100th anniversary, gives every member and every chapter a great reason to remind people who we are and what we're about. Dig into our history just a bit at iwla.org/100years and you learn a few things that any group would happily brag about:

- No organization has done more to shape the laws that protect our nation's woods, waters and wildlife. This is a remarkable legacy.

- The League has a unique role. We promote conservation and citizen science locally. At the national, state and community level, we advocate for policies to protect America's outdoor heritage.

**Dig into our history
just a bit and you
learn a few things
that any group would
happily brag about.**

- We work to improve access to the great outdoors for everyone, especially our next generations. Our chapters provide many ways to enjoy our nation's proud outdoor traditions.
- Looking to the future, we have ambitious goals to get more people involved in local conservation, citizen science and advocacy.



Simply put, we have a lot to be proud of. There are many ways to share this proud legacy with members and nonmembers alike to explain our history, what we do now and our vision for the future.

The Chapter Resources section of our website has a lot of suggestions and tools. Visit iwla.org/chapter100years.

I look forward to celebrating with you and seeing many of you at our national convention in July!



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Outdoor America is published four times a year by the Izaak Walton League of America, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Phone: (800) IKE-LINE.

All opinions expressed in *Outdoor America* are those of the authors and do not necessarily imply endorsement by the League. Submissions must be accompanied by return postage. We assume no responsibility for lost or damaged manuscripts, slides or photos.

Outdoor America (ISSN 0021-3314)

The Izaak Walton League of America – a nonprofit conservation organization – is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code. The League provides equal membership/employment/service opportunities to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

Minimum national dues are \$50 for individual and \$75 for family memberships, which includes \$5 for *Outdoor America* magazine. Magazine subscription is inseparable from dues. Chapter and division dues vary and are set separately.

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

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THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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Izaak Walton League

ENJOYING & PROTECTING AMERICA'S OUTDOORS

Not a member? It's easy to join!

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

Join Us for Our 100th Anniversary Convention

SCOTT KOVAROVICS | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every national convention is special. It's the one time annually that Ikes from across the country come together in one place—to reconnect with friends, to learn from one another and to have fun! This year, the convention—and *being there*—will mean so much more.

The League is going back to Illinois where it all began in 1922. We will celebrate our 100th anniversary and be together *in person* once again. And while we honor our heritage, this convention is also the symbolic jumping-off point for the League's second century of leadership on conservation and outdoor recreation.

Think about the convention as an experience. Plan a few extra days to enjoy all that the greater Peoria area and Illinois have to offer. Eat out at local restaurants or visit the Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site in Springfield.

Expect an exciting agenda that combines speakers addressing critical conservation topics with important League business, including electing national leaders and voting on policy resolutions. We'll also have fun and commemorate the League's incredible history. See the preview

on page 18 for details.

No Ordinary Convention

The 2022 convention will be more than a meeting. It's an opportunity to rekindle the spirit of the founders and kick off our second century.

The 2022 convention will be more than a meeting. It's an opportunity to rekindle the spirit of the founders and kick off our second century.

The League's founders had audacious goals from day one. They declared it was "time to call a halt" to unbridled development that was destroying the nation's woods, waters and wildlife. The early Ikes laid the foundation for the League's incredible record of success — from conserving critical habitat and public lands, to cleaning up our air and water and the truly pioneering leadership on citizen science with Save Our Streams.

Now, as we look to the future, a new generation of League members can be as bold as the founders. The conservation



challenges we face today are equally, if not more, urgent as those confronting the League in 1922.

Tackling these challenges demands action, building from our roots in local communities to state capitals and Washington, DC. We can succeed—and engage so many more Americans as part of the solution—with hard work, passion and our commitment to common sense conservation.

At the convention, we will take the first steps together to advance our vision for conservation and outdoor recreation in the League's second century. I look forward to joining you in Illinois to celebrate our 100th anniversary and launch the League's next chapter.

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.

Happy Anniversary



Congratulations to these Izaak Walton League chapters celebrating big milestone anniversaries in 2022, including four that are 100 years old.

100th Anniversary Chartered in 1922

A.D. Sutherland Chapter
(Wisconsin)
Chicago No.1 Chapter (Illinois)
Des Moines Chapter (Iowa)
Michigan City #7 Chapter (Indiana)

75th Anniversary Chartered in 1947

Birmingham Chapter (Alabama)
Franklin County Chapter (Pennsylvania)
Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter (Virginia)
Griffith Chapter (Indiana)
Grundy-Tama Chapter (Iowa)
Jefferson County Chapter (West Virginia)
Miller Chapter (Indiana)
Monongalia County Chapter (West Virginia)
Norfolk-Chesapeake Chapter (Virginia)
Rice Lake Chapter (Iowa)
Washington County Chapter (Maryland)

50th Anniversary Chartered in 1972

Floyd County Chapter (Iowa)
Seward County Chapter (Nebraska)



August is National Shooting Sports Month
Celebrate it at your local League chapter!
Visit www.iwla.org/shootingsports for more information.



Without the Izaak Walton League of America, I never would've found rifle shooting and won Olympic Gold!

Ginny Thrasher
Rio Gold 2016

— Ginny Thrasher

This is about Hunters Who Care

The dialogue about the benefits of nontoxic or copper ammunition for hunting has triggered inaccurate information by groups promoting lead ammunition. They claim that people advocating use of nontoxic ammo are anti-hunters. In fact, many responsible hunters across America have already switched from lead to copper and other nontoxic ammunition. They are enjoying great success, including consistent one-shot kills for deer hunting.

So this is not a debate between hunters and anti-hunters. This is about hunters who care about their legacy as conservationists and don't want to spread toxic lead ammunition throughout our wildlands. We need to foster an understanding among non-hunters that we play a vital role in maintaining healthy

and diverse wildlife populations.

This is also about hunters who care about the dangers of eating lead-tainted game. There are no safe levels of lead consumption for humans. Adults may experience high blood pressure and kidney damage. It can cause cognitive issues in older adults. Pregnant women can experience miscarriage, stillbirth and premature birth. Children are most vulnerable. Lead affects development of the brain and

Letters to the editor

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

nervous system and it can reduce IQ. The lighter weight a person is, the more severe the effects.

This is also about hunters who care about our national bird, the bald eagle, other raptors, game birds, songbirds and other wildlife. When scavengers consume gutpiles and unretrieved game tainted by lead fragments,

they may die later. Scientists have documented population-level impacts on bald eagles.

We can avoid all these problems by using nontoxic ammunition.

Carrol Henderson is an Ike, a lifelong hunter and conservationist who served as a wildlife biologist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources from 1974 to 2018.



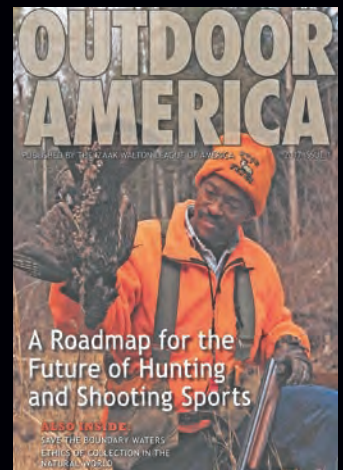
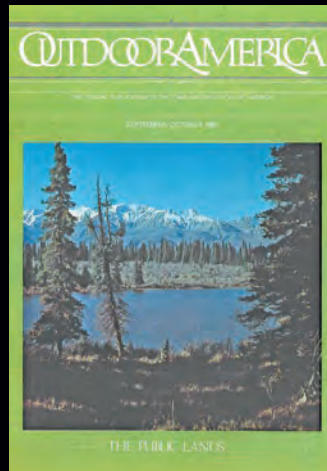
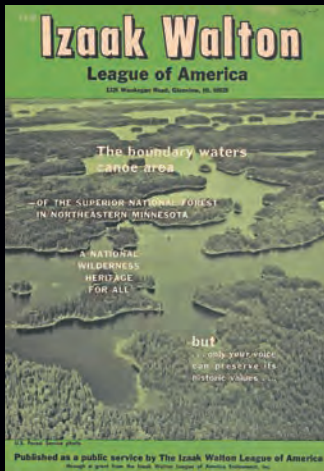
Henderson releases a trumpeter swan in Minnesota restoration program.

Want to see YOUR chapter in Ikes in Action?

It's simple! Email oa@iwla.org for further information or just send photos to that email address (JPG format, 3-5 mb) with up to 350 words describing the event. Be sure to include captions and credits for all photos. Please also include your contact information. Spread the news about your chapter events in an upcoming issue of *Outdoor America*!



100 Years of OUTDOOR AMERICA



League Leader Joe Penfold Found Success Building Trust, Bridging Differences

BY MIKE PENFOLD



One of Penfold's first assignments at the League was to keep federal public lands in the West from being sold off to cattle ranchers.

My father, Joe Penfold, had a knack for finding common sense and common ground on complicated issues.

Looking back, I realize he actually had several traits that served him well in his role as Western representative, starting in 1949, and later as national conservation director for the Izaak Walton League of America.

Even as a child, I saw the consensus-builder in my father. My brother John and I argued constantly. Pop would listen to each of our complaints. Then, with a simple sentence, he would find a way to solve the problem, whatever it was.

As I learned, his ability to hear all sides of an issue, understand points of agreement and disagreement and craft

solutions was a quality that helped him accomplish many policy achievements for outdoor recreation and conservation.

A hallmark of his work was marshalling the power of data, facts and dollar figures when appealing to the public for support.

Bill Voigt also noticed. He was the executive director at the League who hired Dad in 1949. In his history of the League, *Born with Fists Doubled*, Voigt wrote, "Joe was not one to speak without thoroughly exploring

both pros and cons of an issue. This was an innate trait; I doubt if anyone who knew him at any stage of his adult life could cite any instance when he made a hasty, ill-conceived statement in a serious discussion."

Over time, I also recognized that my father was good at building trusting relationships with all sorts of people. Many of them were other conservation leaders. They included people like Arthur Carhart, Olaus and Mardy Murie and Howard Zahniser—all leaders in the wilderness movement—as well as iconic Ike and Boundary Waters defender Sigurd Olson, biologist John Craighead and legions of League members across the U.S.

He also established excellent working relationships

with lawmakers, such as Representatives John Saylor and Wayne Aspinall, and Senator Frank Church, among others. Their support and their trust in Dad contributed to many conservation achievements.

Fighting a Land Grab

Dad's first job for the League, based in Denver, put him in the middle of conflicts among Western land stakeholders. Voigt initially had some reservations about whether Pop was equal to the challenge. "My concern was whether this introspective fellow of medium height, slender, reserved, usually soft voice, could handle himself in the rough and tumble land grab atmosphere... and in the interminable brushfires of one kind or another that persisted in breaking out in the West. The worry was needless."

One of his first duties was fighting the effort by Western livestock grazers to take over public lands for their own use. During the 1940s, cattle ranchers and their allies in Congress pushed to privatize grazing areas on lands managed by federal agencies. The idea was to sell the land to cattle ranchers for as little as nine cents per acre. The "owners" of these federal lands are the American people, and the Izaak Walton League wanted to keep it that way.

League chapters in Colorado and Wyoming were outraged by what they called an attempted "land grab." Members in the West opposed this transfer of public land to private hands but didn't feel a lot of support from other regions of the country. So

Voigt, Carhart, Dad and other Ikes began working with Bernard DeVoto, a passionate writer for *Harper's Magazine*, who took up the cause and shared the land-grab story in a long series of angry articles that reached a large, national audience.

Dad also employed yet another hallmark of his work—a keen interest (Bill Voigt called it an obsession) with marshalling the power of data, facts and dollar figures when appealing to the public for support.

The Echo Canyon fight was about how decisions would be made about public lands and how the conservation community would respond to other threats.

An opinion piece in Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* asked, *why not* sell the public land to ranchers? Dad wrote a response letter, published by the paper, in which he answered that question with one of his own. "Should national forest lands in Colorado be sold to the 1,300 livestock people who use them, or [to] the 1,253,000 campers and picnickers, 246,000 winter sports enthusiasts, or to the hunters and fishermen, about 450,000 who spent 1,200,050 days last year using the national forests in the state?"

In the end, Carhart, Dad and

the League won that battle, and the public lands were saved for the next decade or so. This land grab, which did not succeed, was just one assault against the nation's public lands. There would be many more.

A Victory Echoes across the Canyons

What emerged next was the effort to keep a dam out of Dinosaur National Monument, a vast area of land spanning from western Colorado into Utah. That land has been set aside as a monument to preserve stunning landscapes.

To manage water resources for western communities, the Bureau of Reclamation (part of the U.S. Department of the Interior) was determined to build a dam on the Green River in a high-walled canyon at Echo Park, which would have flooded the surrounding area turning it into a deep reservoir.

The ensuing fight was about preserving a wild place of great beauty. But more broadly it was about how decisions would be made about public lands and how the conservation community would respond to the threats of many other proposed dams on National Park Service lands.

While some conservation groups made the case for preserving wilderness in Dinosaur National Monument, Arthur Carhart and my father argued for the economic and recreation benefits of preventing the dam. They aimed to line up support from business interests—as well as outdoorsmen and women—



On a boat trip down the Green River in Echo Canyon, Penfold helped two members of Congress appreciate the value of conserving this striking landscape.

focusing on the value of tourism and revenue from recreation.

This is Dinosaur—Echo Park Country and Its Magic Rivers is a collection of essays edited by the writer Wallace Stegner that helped to bring the story of this fight to a national audience. Olaus Murie and Dad together wrote one chapter in the book.

A history book describing this era, *A Symbol of Wilderness: Echo Park and the American Conservation Movement* by Mark W.T. Harvey, notes the unique role of Joe Penfold and the League.

Harvey wrote, “By 1953, the threat to Echo Park had become a major item on the agenda of many conservation organizations, some of them substantially more powerful in the political arena than the tiny Sierra Club.... [Conservationists] relied heavily on the strength of larger organizations like the Izaak Walton League and the Audubon Society. The weight of conservation sentiment came from sportsmen and birdwatchers, not from national park or wilderness lovers, and

that fundamental fact had great bearing on the success of the campaign in Congress.”

“As the campaign continued to coalesce, the Izaak Walton League proved to be especially important. Under the direction of William Voigt, Jr. and Joe Penfold, the League anchored the Echo Park campaign in traditional conservation goals, namely, by looking out for the best ways to ensure good fishing.”

One episode in the fight to save Dinosaur was a boat trip on the Yampa and Green



Rivers, which flow through the monument. Dad arranged the trip and invited Pennsylvania Congressman John Saylor, a passionate conservationist, and Wayne Aspinall, a powerful and cranky member of the House Interior Committee whose Colorado district included parts of the monument. Both agreed to go along.

Voigt describes this boat trip in his book. “Lasting friendships began as the party drifted down quiet reaches between spectacular canyon walls, and in conversation

around the campfire. Three men—Aspinall, Saylor and Penfold—took each other’s measure in Dinosaur, and liked what they found. Aspinall was an astute politician who knew his continuation in office depended on what he produced for the West, but if approached in a spirit of reason he could respond to sound arguments well presented....

“The value of the trip with regard to Dinosaur’s future must not be underestimated. Conservation achievements in later years made it evident that Penfold’s views received close attention from both congressmen. The boat trip laid the foundation for later communication that brought results to many an area other than Dinosaur.”

In the final congressional authorization in 1956, Aspinall got much of what he wanted for water management, but the dam was kept out of Dinosaur—and other national parks and monuments. Aspinall and Saylor, along with many other groups and individuals, were essential to saving Dinosaur National Monument.

Many historians have chronicled the achievements of the League. A book by William Philpott, *Vacationland: Tourism and Environment in the Colorado High Country*, describes the status of the League in those days. “Nationally, the Izaak Walton League in the 1940s had more members and more pull with policymakers than any other outdoor group, and in Colorado

its brand of conservation played especially well.”

An Outsized Legacy for the Outdoor Commission

Before leaving Colorado for League headquarters in Washington, DC, Pop started proposing that a national assessment be made of outdoor recreation in the United States. His experience with Dinosaur Monument and many conversations led him to believe that the nation needed a thorough and formal review.

This would ultimately come to fruition in the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC), which spun off many ideas and inspirations that would strengthen conservation for decades and decades after.

My father and League colleague Frank Gregg (who later served as executive director) drafted and lobbied for a bill to create the commission, which Congress approved. It was established in June 1958, and Dad served on the commission.

The goal of the commission was to answer three questions:

- What are the recreation wants and needs now and what will they be in the years 1976 and 2000?
- What are the recreation resources of the nation available to meet those needs?
- What policies and programs should be recommended to ensure that the needs of present and future are adequately and efficiently met?

Geographer Brent A. Olson

Public Law 85-470
85th Congress, S. 846
June 28, 1958

AN ACT

For the establishment of a National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission to study the outdoor recreation resources of the public lands and other land and water areas of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to preserve, develop, and assure accessibility to all American people of present and future generations such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as will be necessary and desirable for individual enjoyment, and to assure the spiritual, cultural, and physical benefits that such outdoor recreation provides; in order to inventory and evaluate the outdoor recreation resources and opportunities of the Nation, to determine the types and location of such resources and opportunities which will be required by present and future generations; and in order to make comprehensive information and recommendations leading to these goals available to the President, the Congress, and the individual States and Territories, there is hereby authorized and created a bipartisan Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission.

Public Law 85-470 establishing the ORRRC

wrote, “The initial findings and recommendations of the ORRRC were released in 1962, and accompanied by 27 supplementary reports... The reports provided Penfold and other environmentalists the ‘voluminous figures’ which they could use in their debates with extractive interests.

“The findings and policy recommendations of the [Commission]... have had a lasting impact on conservation policy and recreation planning on the nation’s public lands. These recommendations removed significant obstacles to the passage of the Wilderness Act, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and led directly to the establishment of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.”

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was perhaps the most significant and consequential outcome of the

ORRRC. Established by Congress in 1964, the Fund has invested in national and local parks and rec centers in nearly every county in the United States—rural, suburban and urban. Federal agencies have used the funds to acquire important areas that provide access to public lands and protect wildlife habitat. (See cover story, *Outdoor America*, 2021 Issue 1).

**The Land
and Water
Conservation Fund
was perhaps the
most significant
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outcome of
the Outdoor
Recreation
Resources Review
Commission.**

I can include a personal experience with the Fund. During my tenure as a U.S. Forest Service Supervisor of the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia, we were able to acquire thousands of acres of scenic land for the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, dozens of miles of the Appalachian Trail and a large tract of land that was eventually added to the Eastern Wilderness system. Since retiring, I have successfully advocated for the acquisition of private property in the Pryor Mountains, Four Dancers Natural Area and land along the Yellowstone River in Montana. These acquisitions would have been impossible without the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Jack Lorenz, who served as executive director of the League from 1974 to 1992, wrote an appreciation for Dad for the Outdoor Writers Association of America called “Joe Penfold, No Ordinary Joe.” In that piece, he says the late Representative Morris Udall once told him “Joe Penfold was the creative genius and driving force behind the most important and far-reaching conservation legislation in American history.”

I admit I’m a little biased—but I have to agree.

Forging a Path to Wilderness

The preservation of wilderness in the United States is the result of decades of work by numerous people. The wilderness system owes much to the leadership of Aldo Leopold and Arthur Carhart, both of whom worked

for the U.S. Forest Service in the early days.

The Forest Service, over time, bought into that idea, and federal land agencies created wilderness areas and primitive areas by administrative action. But by the 1940s, '50s and '60s, conservationists began to understand that the wilderness areas need to be protected by federal law. The problem was that the Forest Service, with a stroke of the pen, could undo the wilderness status of these places.

The Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission laid out the foundation for managing public land for recreation and as wilderness as part of the national system. The fight to get the Wilderness Act passed began in the mid-1950s and lasted for almost nine years. There were dozens of drafts and dozens of hearings in Congress. But in the end, passage of the bill hinged on resolving differences between Representatives John Saylor and Wayne Aspinall, who could not agree on some of the provisions.

Here is where Joe Penfold comes in. Remember he had good working relationships with both Saylor and Aspinall. Pop sat down with Aspinall, knowing the problem that Saylor had with the bill, and he drafted alternative language that he knew Saylor would accept. With that problem solved, the path to passing the Wilderness Act into law would be easy. Today, the law protects 111 million acres of vital wildlands in pockets large and small from Alaska's Denali National Park to

Florida's Everglades.

Pop told me one time, "there is no limit to the amount that one can get accomplished if one does not care who gets the credit." How true. On the list of important people and organizations who saved American wilderness you rarely see mentions of Joe Penfold or the Izaak Walton League.

An Honest Broker

It's humbling to recall what individuals working with the Izaak Walton League have accomplished over the past century.

It's fair to say that there were simply fewer movers and shakers in the outdoor recreation / environmental movement in those days. In that era, people tended to get along and work together across different organizations. My dad was certainly not angry at people who had a different point

of view or value system. And in the '50s, '60s and '70s, there was much more collaboration between political parties than we see now.

One thing became clear after my father passed in 1973. He was considered an honest broker. People trusted what he had to say. I would occasionally meet people who knew Dad and would tell me things I did not know about him. Their tone was respectful. Sometimes it almost felt like love.

Once, when I met one of Pop's colleagues, he looked at my hands and said, "My God, your hands look like your father's." There was a tear in his eye.

Mike Penfold served in the U.S. Forest Service from 1960 to 1980 and at the Bureau of Land Management from 1980 to 1995. Son of Joe Penfold, Mike is a member of the Izaak Walton League living in Billings, Montana.



Interior Secretary Stewart Udall presents Joe Penfold with the Conservation Service Award May 25, 1962 citing his leadership on the outdoor commission.



A Century of Conservation Leadership:



1968 to 2022

Part Two of the milestones achieved by the Izaak Walton League begins in the 1960s and continues to the present. See *Outdoor America* 2022 Issue 1 to see earlier accomplishments. Or visit iwla.org/100years.

>>> 1968

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The League was a key proponent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which protects rivers with outstanding value for present and future generations. This landmark law was another inspiration that came out of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, established by Congress in 1958 thanks to the leadership and guidance of League conservation director, Joe Penfold.

1969

Save Our Streams

In 1969, the League launched a clean-up program called Save Our Streams. Members were asked to adopt a local stream and work to keep it clean. The idea, conceived by the Rockville Chapter in Maryland, spread rapidly to other states.



1972

Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act is another bedrock conservation law that incorporated key principles the League had been advocating for since the 1930s. The Act established a comprehensive approach to limiting water pollution and improving water quality and federal funding to build and upgrade sewage treatment systems.





League Milestones and Accomplishments

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1973

Lawsuit Curtails Clearcutting

In the early 1970s, the League's West Virginia chapters mobilized to stop excessive clearcutting in the Monongahela National Forest. The League filed and won a lawsuit against the National Forest Service. As a result of the League's victory, forest policy shifted away from clearcutting to a broader range of management outcomes including wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation.

1975

Water Wagon

The League converted a Coachmen RV into a vehicle for education and outreach dubbed the "Water Wagon." Dave Whitney took to the road to spread the League's message. Tens of thousands of people at schools, chapters and lakesides learned about clean water and Save Our Streams thanks to Whitney and the wagon, which logged 130,000 miles.



1970s

Recycling Centers

The importance of recycling was a key issue for the League beginning in the 1970s. Many chapters served as recycling centers or drop-off locations for materials. League volunteers filled this important role until municipal recycling programs with curbside pickup were established in later decades.



1978

>>>

Expansion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

The League has worked to conserve the Boundary Waters region of Minnesota since the 1920s. Led by Sigurd Olson and other conservationists, Ikes defeated efforts to build roads and exploit mineral resources. In 1964, the area was designated as a federal wilderness, and in 1978, that acreage was expanded through congressional action. The fight goes on. The League is working today to prevent sulfide-ore copper mining that could permanently contaminate this pristine landscape.



IWLA, PIXABAY, IWLA



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1985

Sodbuster, Swampbuster, Conservation Reserve Program

The League achieved big wins in the 1985 Farm Bill: The Sodbuster rule requires farms to create soil conservation plans for highly erodible soil if the farmers want to benefit from taxpayer-funded programs like crop insurance discounts. Swampbuster requires farmers to agree not to drain or fill wetlands. The Conservation Reserve Program pays farmers to take marginal land out of crop production and instead plant grasses or trees that reduce erosion and polluted runoff and provide wildlife habitat. These programs help to conserve millions of acres across the nation.

1990s

Fish Kill Advisory Network Advances Wildlife Protection

This network informed the public about fish kills and their causes in the Upper Mississippi River. As part of the program, the League published the first report that systematically collected and analyzed state agency data on the water-quality impact of animal feedlots. In the years that followed, state and federal agencies used the League's data to develop and enforce environmental protections.

1998

Wind on the Wires

The League pushed for renewable energy in a 1998 report for utility managers about how to incorporate wind into their community's energy mix. The report evolved into a program focused on harnessing wind, which spurred upgrades in power transmission lines. Today, the work continues under the name of the Clean Grid Alliance.

2000

American Wetlands Month

The League became the national coordinator for American Wetlands Month, originally created by EPA. Hosting conferences and workshops, the League tackled invasive species in wetlands, produced two television programs and launched a major campaign to ensure wetlands would remain protected by the Clean Water Act. Today, we still celebrate American Wetlands Month each May.

2002

Combatting Irresponsible Recreation

The League released a groundbreaking report about the environmental impacts of irresponsible use of all-terrain vehicles, ATVs. The report, "Caught in the Treads," focused on the advertising practices that encouraged unethical behavior among recreationists. Written from the League's trademark common-sense, non-partisan perspective, the report earned praise even from ATV advocacy groups.

2005

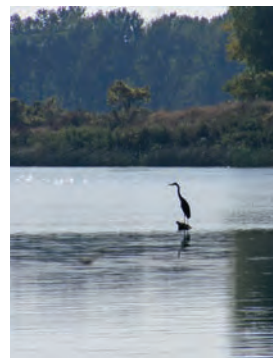
Scholarships for Undergrads in Conservation

Since 2005, the League has awarded scholarships to undergraduate students pursuing degrees in conservation or the environment. Thanks to funding from the Izaak Walton League Endowment, the program has supported 34 future natural resource professionals since its inception. The two \$2,500 scholarships given out each year complement the roughly \$125,000 awarded annually by chapters and divisions.

2007

Clean Boats Campaign

In April 2007, the League started the Clean Boats campaign that has informed millions of boaters and anglers how to properly clean their gear to avoid spreading aquatic invasive species.



>>>



>>> 2007

Missouri River Initiative

Working with its Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota divisions, the League partnered with state natural resource agencies to create an initiative focused on managing the Missouri River for the benefit of people as well as fish and wildlife. A major focus is high-level engagement with the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee, which provides guidance to the Army Corps of Engineers on habitat restoration along the river. The League helps coordinate major Missouri River cleanups that have removed over 70 tons of litter and trash from the river in those three states.

2009

Creek Freaks

In partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service, the League began a nationwide effort to engage kids ages 10 to 14 in hands-on, STEM education using streams and other waters as living classrooms. Some of the very first participants thought “Creek Freaks” would be a cool name—and it stuck. By 2014, the League had trained more than 600 educators and had reached more than 12,500 students.



2010

Outdoors Alliance for Kids

The League doubled down on its commitment to youth by helping to launch the Outdoors Alliance for Kids. The following year, the League worked to get the Healthy Kids Outdoors Act introduced in Congress. A similar proposal called Every Kid Outdoors Act passed in 2019, creating a program that provides free entrance to public lands for fourth graders and their families.

2018

Winter Salt Watch

Salt Watch raises awareness about chloride pollution of our streams and lakes which happens when too much salt and other chemicals are applied to roads, sidewalks and parking lots during winter weather. Now completing our fifth season of this next-generation volunteer science initiative, the League received 3,900 data samples from Salt Watchers in 24 states.

2018

Clean Water Hub

With help from partners at the Water Data Collaborative, the League established this Hub as a flexible, user-friendly website that stores and displays water quality data from all types of volunteer monitors. This first-of-its-kind resource brings together the findings from disparate monitoring programs, puts all that data on the same national map and helps people to better understand water quality.

2020

Great American Outdoors Act

This law provided, for the first time, permanent funding for the League-inspired Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). One of the most important and far-reaching conservation laws in the nation, LWCF uses a sliver of the federal royalties from offshore energy production and invests those dollars in national parks and local recreation centers. Thanks to LWCF, Americans in every corner of the nation benefit from conservation and enjoy outdoor recreation.

2022 >>>

Celebrating a Century of Leadership from Women

Since 1922, women have served vital roles at the Izaak Walton League, beginning with Gene Stratton-Porter, who is profiled in this issue. Women held the League’s executive director position as early as the 1950s. Today, Vicki Arnold from Dubuque, Iowa, serves as national president.

100th Anniversary National Convention



Our convention is always a time to see old friends and meet new ones, collaborate, elect leaders and have fun. But 2022 also provides a once-in-a-lifetime occasion to remember our history and take the first important steps into our second century of leadership on conservation and outdoor recreation.

Register online at iwla.org/convention2022

Honoring Our Heritage, Embracing Our Future

Celebrate a Proud History

The League has a unique role in America. Our century of work to restore habitat and connect people to outdoor recreation through our network of chapters has yielded large and lasting benefits for the nation's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife.

Help Us Launch Our Second Century of Leadership

The Izaak Walton League has ambitious goals for our second century. At the convention, we will share our vision to get more people involved in conservation and outdoor recreation in America.

Enjoy Time to Learn, Share Ideas and Have Fun

We have a great line-up of speakers, informative workshops, a youth convention and many opportunities to relax, share stories and reconnect with fellow Ikes. The Illinois Division is working to make this a memorable occasion in the Land of Lincoln including informal events. See details at iwla.org/convention2022.

July 19-22, East Peoria, Illinois

Embassy Suites' famous breakfast and Manager's Evening Reception are still being offered. Regrettably, when *Outdoor America* went to press, the hotel restaurant was closed and room service was not available due to staffing shortages.

While this is disappointing and could change by July, this is an opportunity to attend the Awards and Conservation Luncheons with your fellow Ikes.



Convention Contacts

Luann Noll

(309) 231-3708

Email: luannnoll@yahoo.com

Cathy Berger

(Izaak Walton League)

(540) 635-1259

Email: meetings@iwla.org

Questions about Online Registration

Janette Rosenbaum

Email: jrosenbaum@iwla.org

TRAVEL AND LODGING

Convention Site and Lodging

The Izaak Walton League 100th Anniversary National Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in East Peoria, Illinois.

Embassy Suites Hotel

100 Conference Center Drive

East Peoria, IL 61611

Phone: 309-694-0200

Room Rate: \$139++ single/double (\$155.68 total expense per night). **The room block expires on June 26, 2022.** There are a limited number of waterfront rooms, so make your reservation early.

The League rate is good for three days before and three days after the convention if space is available. *An early departure fee of \$75 will be applied for checkout prior to the confirmed checkout date.*

The hotel has a limited number of wheelchair-accessible rooms. You should make that reservation now. Standard wireless internet and free self-parking is included for League conference attendees. Every room has a microwave and mini-fridge.

To reserve your room online, visit iwla.org/hotel to link directly to the reservations portal. You can also call 309-694-0200 and use the code "IZA" to receive our group rate.

Airport

Peoria International Airport (PIA) is serviced by American, United and Allegiant Airlines (flypia.com).

Ground Transportation

Currently, the Embassy Suites airport shuttle is not in service. Taxis are available outside the baggage claim area, but you can also call Royal Transportation (Ed) at 309-740-5826. Royal Transportation will charge \$25 one way (usually \$30). Uber service is available in the East Peoria/Peoria area.

Rental Cars

Avis, Budget, Enterprise and National rental car agencies are available in the baggage claim area of the Peoria airport.

Camping

The Carl Spindler Campground and Marina in East Peoria offers paved and primitive campsites. For more information, visit fondulacpark.com/facilities/carl-spindler-campground/ or email spindler@fondulacpark.com. Two local League chapters also have a limited number of sites available for convention attendees on a first-come, first-served basis. The Woodford County Chapter has six sites (contact Shannon Powers, powers5570@gmail.com or 309-696-9196) and the Peoria Chapter has three sites (contact Tom Miller, peoriaiwla@gmail.com or 309-338-7265).

EVENTS

Early Bird Party and Auction

Tuesday, July 19. Tickets for non-registered guests: \$35

Going once, going twice...find out how easy it is to get in the swing of things at the annual early bird party and auction. This event offers a good time for all. Catch up with old friends and bid on unique items.

Awards Luncheon

Wednesday, July 20. Tickets: \$40

This combined membership and national awards luncheon provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the hard work and achievements of League members, supporters, chapters and divisions. Join us as we pay tribute to the award winners.

Parade of States

Wednesday, July 20.

Let's make this 100th Anniversary Parade of States something to remember. Break out the best of what your state has to offer! This year you may choose to celebrate in your hotel room OR be in the convention center (where the Illinois Division will be). Crystal Terfler of the Illinois Division is coordinating this year's Parade of States, so please contact her with questions or to reserve your spot. Crystal can be reached by email at cterfler@comcast.net or 708-805-3050. Reserve your room soon.

Conservation Luncheon

Thursday, July 21. Tickets: \$40

The Conservation Luncheon speaker will be Darlene Cavalier, founder of SciStarter. Darlene will examine "The Future of Citizen Science." Join your fellow Ikes for lunch and this thought-provoking look at citizen science.

Wildlife Prairie Park Dinner

Thursday, July 21. Tickets: \$50

Enjoy an evening excursion to the Wildlife Prairie Park! Dinner will be served on Hespell Deck, which features a breath-taking panoramic view overlooking the natural prairie where the park's bison and elk herds roam. There will be an opportunity to visit with an animal ambassador and take a guided walk along the animal trails to see animals native to Illinois.

Banquet

Friday, July 22. Tickets: \$55

Do not miss the banquet, which will replicate the meal served at the very first national convention in 1923. Help us not only recreate the meal, but the incredible joy and can-do spirit of the founding Ikes! Toast yourselves for a job well done as you bid farewell to your fellow Ikes until you meet again in 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Registration forms for events including youth convention are available for download at iwla.org/convention2022

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, July 19

- Executive Board Meeting
- Early Bird Party and Auction
- Youth Convention Early Bird

Wednesday, July 20

- Delegate Orientation Workshop
- Convention Opening Ceremony
- VISION FOR THE FUTURE
- League Awards Luncheon
- Ginny Thrasher, Olympic Gold Medalist, "Introducing New Participants to Shooting Sports"
- Expert Panel on Climate Change
- Open Forum Discussions
- Parade of States

Thursday, July 21

- Guest Speaker: David Montgomery, Ph.D., author of *What Your Food Ate*
- National Officer Elections
- Conservation Luncheon – Guest Speaker Darlene Cavalier, "Future of Citizen Science"
- Small Group Workshops
- Wildlife Prairie Park Dinner

Friday, July 22

- Endowment Board Meeting and Elections
- Board of Directors Meeting
- Executive Board Elections
- Convention Site Selection
- Vote on Resolutions
- Closing Banquet and Officer Inductions

CONVENTION SPEAKERS (more to come)



Darlene Cavalier, Founder, SciStarter “The Future of Citizen Science”

From day one, the League has been a leader in citizen science. Early Ikes were testing water quality nationwide and restoring black bass decades before the term “citizen science” entered the lexicon. Today, the League is expanding the use of simple technology and crowd-sourced monitoring to engage many more Americans in citizen science and turn data into action.

Cavalier is a pioneer in citizen science: she created SciStarter as a graduate school project and grew it into a globally acclaimed online citizen science hub with more than 3,000 projects. Cavalier will share her perspective on the future of citizen science and help the League prepare to maximize its impact going forward.



David Montgomery, Author, *What Your Food Ate, How to Heal Our Land and Reclaim Our Health*, “Bringing Soil Health from the Farm to Your Kitchen Table”

We’ve all heard the saying “you are what you eat.” The same holds for the food you eat, including fresh foods. Just how good those foods are for you depends in part on the soil in which they were grown.

Montgomery’s book, co-authored with Anne Bikle, addresses this very issue, bringing soil health from the farm to the local grocery store and your kitchen table. He will highlight the fundamentally important connections between soil and human health and how everyone can help restore one of our most important natural resources close to home. Montgomery is an author of award-winning popular-science books and has been featured in documentary films, network and cable news.



Virginia “Ginny” Thrasher, Olympic Gold Medalist “Introducing New Participants to the Shooting Sports”

Sustaining and growing participation in shooting sports is a high priority for the League. Over the past two years, it is estimated that nearly 14 million Americans became first-time gun owners.

Ginny Thrasher was first introduced to the shooting sports as a teenager at an Izaak Walton League chapter. She has since developed into a world-class competitor and won an Olympic gold medal. Thrasher will share her inspirational story and tips for chapters to engage new participants in shooting sports via a short video.

100th Anniversary Gallery

CELEBRATE YOURSELVES...

No matter what year your chapter was chartered, this is the time to do a little bragging. When were you chartered? If you have your original charter, bring a picture. What did your chapter look like when it started? How does it look today? If you do not have a chapterhouse, have you found innovative ways for your members to meet? Monthly lunch or coffee? Has your chapter won awards?

Step up your game. We will give you a table in the Gallery to let fellow Ikes see what you have accomplished.

Please let Cathy Berger (meetings@iwla.org) know if you want a piece of the action! There is no charge for the table.

Self-guided Springfield Area Tour

This one is for those who would like to explore the historic Springfield area at their own pace. The Springfield area is roughly 70 miles from East Peoria. A map is available showing historic locations from which you can choose—make it a walking tour or drive to the outlying sites. Anyone wishing to visit the Lincoln Museum should contact Ron Moore for information on discounted tickets: 217-853-9964 or ronald2617@comcast.net.

The Illinois Division has reserved a block of rooms at two hotels July 15-17, 2022.

1. **Carpenter Street Hotel**, \$89 per night. Free breakfast, fitness center. Shuttle service to downtown if needed. **Mention IWL when making reservations.** Reservations must be made before **June 15**. 525 North 6th Street, Springfield IL 62702, 888-779-9100, carpenterstreethotel.com.
2. **President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, a Double Tree by Hilton**, \$99 per night. This downtown Springfield hotel is within walking distance of many tourist attractions in the city. Reservations must be made by **July 1**. 701 East Adams Street, Springfield IL 62701, 217-321-2436, dtspringfieldil.us.

WORKSHOPS, Thursday

Shaping the League's Conservation Policy for Our Second Century.

The League has nearly 100 pages of member-produced conservation policies that guide our advocacy work. League staff will provide a detailed examination of why these policies are important and how to craft proposed policy resolutions for consideration by the membership.

Runs Twice: 2:15 and 3:30 p.m.

Leverage Crowdsourced Monitoring to Protect Clean Water.

Today, with Salt Watch and other simple monitoring techniques, the League makes it easier than ever for anyone—without special training or skills—to accurately test local waters for pollution. This workshop offers an overview of easy-to-use monitoring tools and practical advice about how to leverage local data to raise public awareness and make it easy to advocate for clean water.

Runs Twice: 2:15 and 3:30 p.m.

Healthy Soil = Healthy Food.

Dr. David Montgomery and other experts will discuss the links between soil health and human health. Regenerative agriculture puts biology at the center of the farming system. The biggest impact could well be on the food we eat and what it means for our health.

Runs ONCE: 2:15 p.m. (90-minute workshop)

Building a Better Farm Bill.

Learn what we heard when we asked hunting, fishing and conservation organizations, conservation-minded farmers and League members how federal agriculture policy should be improved to promote conservation. Be among the first to view the League's priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill—legislation that impacts the food you eat, water quality, and habitat for fish and wildlife.

Runs ONCE: 3:30 p.m. (90-minute workshop)

Workshop topics and descriptions are subject to change.

YOUTH CONVENTION

The Illinois Division is arranging a **Youth Convention** that will allow the youth to experience the past, present, and future of Illinois and conservation.

On each of the following three days, participants will board a tour bus at the Embassy Suites and travel throughout the central Illinois region.

Wednesday, July 20:

Plans are in the works for a tour of Springfield, including presentations by staff with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, a tour of the National Park Service Lincoln Home Site and a stop at the Lincoln Museum.

Thursday, July 21:

Youth will take a tour of the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to learn more about the future of conservation. Lunch will include learning about the Farm to Table movement in restaurant hospitality.

Friday, July 22:

The day will begin with a presentation to the national convention followed by a visit to the Wildlife Prairie Park just outside Peoria. While at the 1,800-acre park, youth will learn about the animals, do a conservation project and enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour. Then they will board the bus for the Woodford County Chapter, where members of the Peoria Chapter will host the group for some hands-on activities, including a take-home project. The evening meal will be provided by the Woodford and Peoria chapters, before the youth attendees return to Embassy Suites by 8 p.m.

Registration for this experience will be \$40 per person. Youth ages 8 to 18 are eligible for this event. Lunch each day and supper on Tuesday and Friday are included in the registration. The maximum number of participants is 48, with no exceptions. **Registration must be paid by June 30 to ensure a T-shirt for the youth.**

The host Illinois Division is also looking for adult chaperones. If you are interested, please contact 2022iwlavc@gmail.com.

PRE-CONVENTION TOURS

Land of Lincoln Experience

July 18, Land of Lincoln Experience:
\$50 per person

The charter bus will leave at 9 a.m. from Embassy Suites for the Springfield area where Abraham Lincoln began his life in politics. This guided tour will include a visit to the National Park Service Lincoln Home Site, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and the Lincoln Tomb. There will be a stop for lunch on your own with a choice of two restaurants. Bus returns to Embassy Suites by 5 p.m. A minimum of 35 participants will need to be signed up by July 1, 2022, or the trip will be cancelled and a refund given. (Maximum 50)

Dixon Mounds Museum and the Emiquon and Chautauqua Refuges

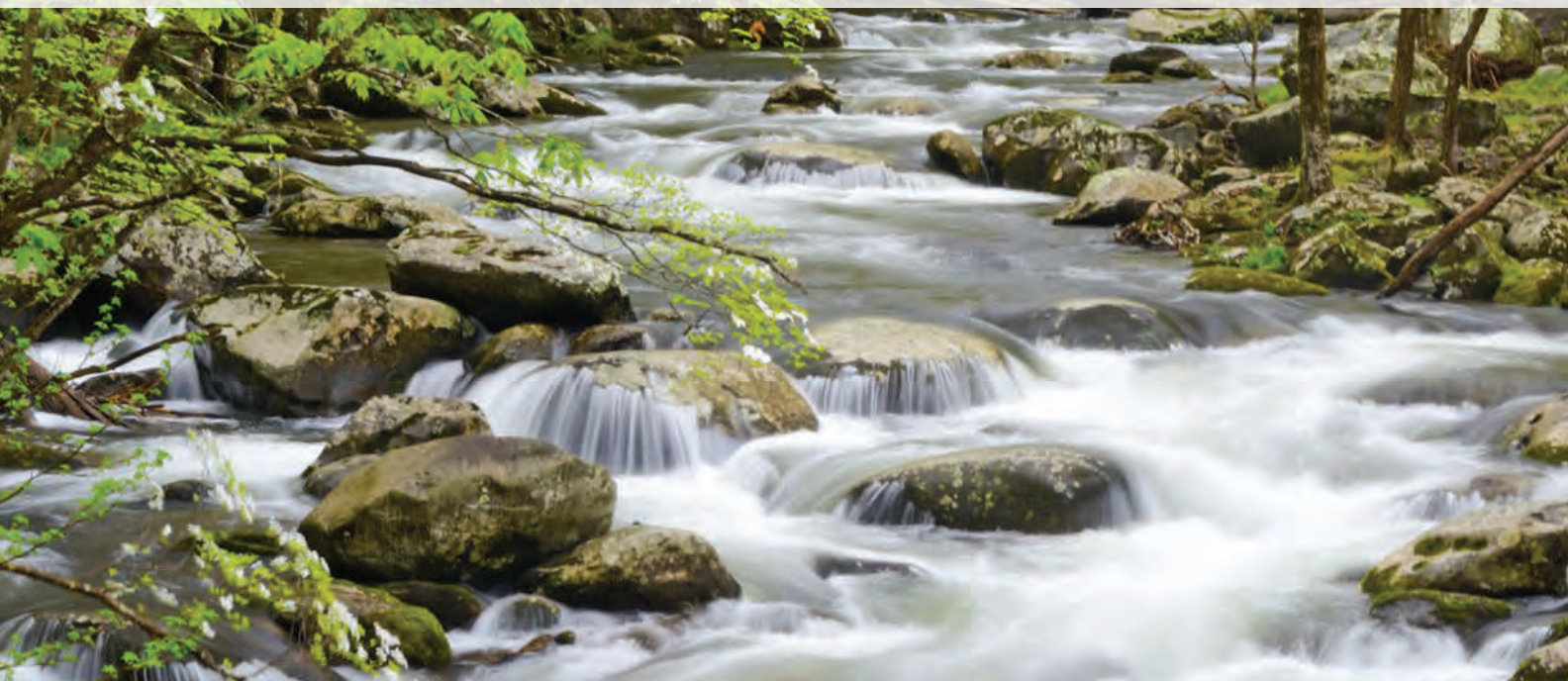
Tuesday, July 19, Dixon Mounds Museum, Emiquon and Chautauqua:
\$50 per person

The charter bus will depart at 9 a.m. from Embassy Suites with stops at the Dixon Mounds Museum, Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge and Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. A picnic lunch will be catered at Dixon Mounds as part of this tour. Bus returns to Embassy Suites by 5 p.m. A minimum of 35 participants will need to be signed up by July 1, 2022, or the trip will be cancelled and a refund given. (Maximum 50)

Dixon Mounds is a Native American settlement site and burial mound complex near Lewistown. ENWR is home to the Emiquon Wetlands Project, believed to be the second-largest wetlands restoration project in the United States, behind the restoration of the Everglades. CNWR is designated as a "Ramsar Wetland of International Importance" providing sanctuary and breeding grounds for migratory birds, fish and other wildlife.



Our 2nd Century Campaign to Save Outdoor America



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



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

A future where

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

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

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

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

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



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

Building on Our Strengths: Advocacy for Common Sense Conservation

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

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



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

Thank you for your support!

2nd Century Campaign

Building on Our Strengths: Connecting People to the Outdoors

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

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



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

Your Role in the 2nd Century Campaign

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

Your generosity will:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



CLEAN WATER CORNER

Technology and Data-Sharing Tools for Volunteer Scientists

BY SAMANTHA BRIGGS, Clean Water Program Director

There is no doubt that times are still changing, especially when it comes to technology. As a millennial, I have seen quite the transition for technology in my lifetime.

I remember the days of dial up internet and instant messaging my friends via AOL. Myspace took hold during my middle school years, to be replaced by Facebook when I was in high school. My personal cell phones evolved from simple brick phones that only called and texted to today's iPhone that has me connected to the internet, email and social media at any moment of the day.

With a smart phone, we can find information from all over the globe. If I want a recipe for baking rosemary bread, I can easily find hundreds of recipes on the Internet. Or FaceTime my grandmother for her guidance. Our local governments are able to quickly and efficiently distribute information about community events, public health concerns and more.

Share Data to Drive Awareness and Action

At the Izaak Walton League, we want to ensure that volunteer scientists have the guidance and means to effectively share their data with their communities and governments. And we want to ensure volunteers' data is seen and used—especially if they

detect a water quality problem needing attention.

We knew we needed an effective way to share the data that volunteer scientists were collecting from the Save Our Streams (SOS) program. We needed to create a platform where volunteers can share their data instantly, coordinate efforts and track water quality over time.

Also, we wanted a platform where the public could easily access water quality data—data that is collected and reported more frequently than data from local and state governments. However, with a nationwide scope, the League noticed that other volunteer groups were having the same problems as SOS. We all needed to better manage, publish and share our data, especially if we hoped to have that data available to the public.

From there, the Clean Water Hub came to fruition (cleanwaterhub.org).

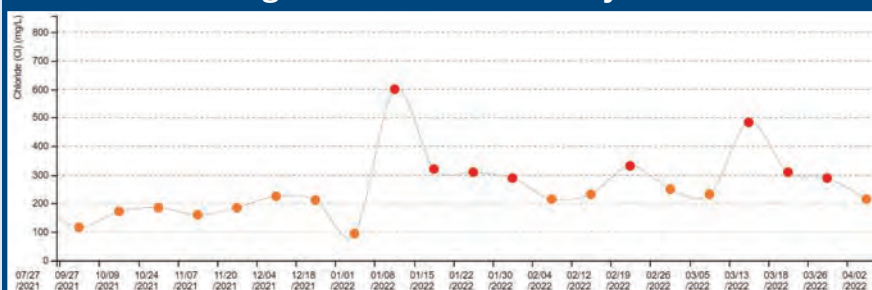
Sharing data between groups allows for more transparency so that we can begin filling data gaps and taking the steps needed to restore our streams to good health. Data sharing also encourages more connections and collaboration between partners and organizations. It allows for us to build on each other's monitoring efforts rather than repeating what's already been done.

Right now, the Clean Water Hub is equipped to capture all Save Our Streams



The Clean Water Hub includes sites from various monitoring groups across the country. Sites monitored within the last year are shown as purple and sites monitored more than a year ago are gray. There are over 100 organizations, including Izaak Walton League chapters, that are submitting data to the Clean Water Hub.

Tracking Salt Pollution on Muddy Branch



These salt readings taken from Muddy Branch in Gaithersburg, Md., between September 2021 and April 2022, reveal that even in early fall before road salt was applied to streets, chloride levels were elevated—at 100 milligrams per liter or more (clean, freshwater streams have chloride levels less than 30 mg/L). Note the sharp spikes after snow in early January. Chloride levels in the creek remained at concerning levels for months following winter storms.

Making the switch: Community science is here to stay

You may have noticed the League transitioning away from “citizen science” to terms like “community science” and “volunteer monitoring.” These terms are becoming accepted in the water quality monitoring field as more inclusive alternatives to “citizen science.”

chemical and biological monitoring data (iwla.org/sos). Additionally, we upload Virginia Save Our Streams data and Creek Critters data captured through the free Creek Critters mobile app. Coming soon, we will be adding a bacteria monitoring protocol, as well as implementing user friendly public-facing maps that will display chloride (Salt Watch), temperature and nitrate data in easy-to-understand graphics.

Tips for Sharing Your Results

When you collect volunteer water quality monitoring data, here are some tips and tricks to ensure you can effectively communicate your results:

- Organize your data in a way where it is easy for you to spot trends. The Clean Water Hub is a great tool for this! Notice in the Muddy Branch tracking chart above that the volunteer who monitors this site has consistently measured for chloride over time. Note that chloride levels stayed elevated even when at times when salt was not being applied to the roads and sidewalks.
- Make sure your message is concise and clear so someone with no background in water quality can easily understand it. For example, for this chart, my message wouldn't be “chloride levels are elevated.” Instead, I would say something along

the lines of “Road salt is polluting Muddy Branch year-round.”

- Share photos! Whether it is a picture of your stream, a chart of your results or a photo of you monitoring, photos really grab the attention of those who see your post, letter or flyer. Sharing a photo of you doing the monitoring connects with readers.
- Remember, the Izaak Walton League also has factsheet templates that will help you get the word out about your data! These templates are available in the Hub help center (see “Help” link at the top of www.cleanwaterhub.org) and include instructions on how to use them.

With a little bit of adaptation, tools like the Clean Water Hub and social media, and the dedication of our volunteers, our water quality data can reach much farther than it did in 1969 when Save Our Streams was launched. That is certainly something we should capitalize on.

If you have questions about the Clean Water Hub, Save Our Streams or other water monitoring programs, please email the Clean Water Program staff at sos@iwla.org.

Thinking Like a MOUNTAIN

IDEAS AS BIG AS THE OUTDOORS

Removing invasive understory trees like autumn olive can help ensure young oaks get the sunlight they need.



BRUCE INGRAM

White Oaks Need Our Help

BY BRUCE INGRAM

Bruce Ingram, Izaak Walton League member, has written young-adult novels and several books about the outdoors. Email: bruceingramoutdoors@gmail.com.

What do cabinet makers, boat builders and Kentucky bourbon distillers have in common with hunters, songbirds and American wildlife species?

The answer: they all depend heavily on the white oak, *Quercus alba*, one of America's great hardwood trees. It is arguably the most important tree for those businesses, for many wild species and for sportsmen and women in the eastern United States.

That's why it is so concerning that this cornerstone species is in serious decline. White oaks are not regenerating as well as they should—there aren't enough new trees.

This fact—and concern about the health of white and upland oaks—triggered the creation of the White Oak Initiative in 2017. This group of government agencies, wildlife biologists, professional foresters, landowners and businesses focuses on ensuring the long-term sustainability of this critical tree, which can be found throughout the eastern states and as far west as Iowa and Texas.

The Initiative estimates that 60 percent of mature white oak stands contain no seedlings (trees under four feet tall), and 87 percent have no saplings (trees two to four inches in diameter at breast height). Just as troubling is the finding that about 75 percent of white oaks in the U.S. are categorized as mature, or fully grown, which means there is a dearth of trees that will constitute the next generation.

What Do We Have to Lose?

“If we don’t start helping the white oak now, its population will start to decline significantly within the next decade or so,” says Melissa Moeller, director of the Initiative.

“And more extreme declines will happen over the coming decades. We’ve already lost one foundational tree—the American chestnut—from the East’s forests. We can’t afford to lose another one. The presence of the white oak benefits the entire ecosystem.”

But now, other species are replacing the East’s traditional oak-hickory forest, which has been one of the major forest types in eastern North America for as many as 9,000 years. That ecosystem type supports a unique mix of flora and fauna.

In addition to their commercial value, white oaks support many types of wildlife. Their acorns are among the most preferred menu items for deer and turkeys. Even in death, the white oak is beneficial as bears and raccoons use hollow trees as dens and bats may roost in these snags. Songbirds such as tufted titmice and chickadees also nest in the oak’s cavities.

As entomologist Doug Tallamy points out in his book, *The Nature of Oaks*, the quercus genus is also a top host for hundreds of species of butterflies and moths. Their caterpillars, which feed on oak leaves, provide essential food for many songbirds, including the threatened golden-winged warbler. To fledge a nest of birds like the Carolina wren, the parents must

deliver hundreds of caterpillars to their young every day.

Behind the Decline

Moeller says there are many reasons behind the decline of this particular tree, including climate change and invasive insects and plants.

In a forest, oaks compete with many other trees and shrubs. “Oaks need sunlight to regenerate, and the acorns that drop are being shaded out by mid-story species,” Moeller notes. A decreased harvest of soft woods for lumber means a greater number of those trees compete with oaks for sunlight in working forests.

A type of selective logging called “high grading” cuts down the most commercially valuable trees, which are often oaks. That practice can also damage a forest and its wildlife.

Another problem is overly abundant deer populations in some forests. They can damage the understory when too many young trees are eaten. Overbrowsing by deer reduces the regeneration of oaks and other important species, which can profoundly change the nature of a forest for decades or centuries.

One of my own efforts to foster more white oaks included logging one section of the forest and leaving as many white and other oaks as possible. This effort was connected to my enrollment of that land in the Golden-Winged Warbler Initiative, a Department of Agriculture program to increase the population of that bird. Fewer oaks means fewer golden-wings

and many other species. Which is another reason why Moeller describes the white oak as a foundational tree.

Because of the variety of reasons for the oaks’ decline, there is no single or simple solution, and the first step is public awareness. “We are trying to spread the word that more people need to be proactive about this issue,” Moeller says.

Steps to Help

The White Oak Initiative recommends habitat improvement projects:

- Cut down or move nearby trees that would compete for sunlight with the white oaks. More sunlight helps the tree grow faster and develop a larger crown.
- Plant seedlings or acorns to begin a new forest, a process called afforestation.
- Control deer populations since overabundant numbers can destroy seedlings.

I am constantly looking for young oaks to “daylight” by removing competing trees nearby. I’ve also planted seedlings and placed tubes around young trees to protect them from deer and other animals.

Moeller says individuals or groups can reach out to state forestry and game agencies to determine what specific steps are needed to improve oak populations. Organizations like the Izaak Walton League can help with stewardship projects and outreach to inform the public.

To read about the White Oak Initiative, visit whiteoakinitiative.org.



SOIL MATTERS



Iowa outdoorsmen and women discuss the implications of farm policy at the League's listening session in Des Moines in March.

Outdoor Community Suggests Conservation Ideas for America's Farms

BY DUANE HOVORKA, Agriculture Program Director

Nutritious food, human health and food security all depend on sound agriculture policy. There are plenty of tried-and-true conservation practices that provide all of these benefits. But so far, they have not been widely adopted by farmers.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) statistics show that farmers have often been slow to adopt conservation systems that will reduce erosion, prevent fertilizer runoff, benefit fish and wildlife and build healthy soils that will produce healthier food. The resulting degradation of our soil puts future generations at risk.

So what should Congress do to promote more conservation on America's farms and ranches?

That was the question the Izaak Walton League asked hunters, anglers, conservation groups, farmland owners and others at a series of listening sessions. The answers help inform the League's

agenda for the 2023 Farm Bill, in which Congress will revise and renew agriculture programs that drive day-to-day decisions on America's farms and ranches.

More Conservation Dollars Needed

In the listening sessions, many participants lauded USDA conservation programs. Those programs provide incentives for farmers to adopt and maintain conservation practices that protect rivers, provide habitat for wildlife and rebuild healthy soil. Yet they also expressed frustration with the low level of funding for those programs. In Minnesota, a policy expert noted that fewer than one in six farmers who try to enroll in some USDA conservation programs are approved for funding.

"I'd like to see more support for farmers to farm the best and

conserve the rest," said an angler from Minnesota. Others called for more money for farmers to adopt better conservation practices, and more training and education for USDA employees, local conservation district staff and others who help farmers understand and put conservation systems in place.

In partnership with Sharing Our Roots, a Minnesota non-profit, the League heard from people who own farmland that they rent to farmers. These farmland owners are frustrated that USDA employees often ignore farmland owners and that farmers can get funds from USDA to change how they manage the land without the land's owner even knowing. USDA should do much more to help farmland owners work with the farmers renting their land to improve conservation, they said.

More Options for Consumers, Farmers

Many commented on the need for more local meat processing facilities to provide options for consumers and farmers. Four large firms now process 85 percent of the beef sold in the U.S. Independent cattle ranchers have little choice but to sell to the four firms at cut-rate prices, and consumers pay more due to the lack of competition in the industry.

In January, 2022, the Biden Administration announced plans to invest \$1 billion in financing to help build and expand small meat processing plants. The loans should help producers of grass-finished beef and pastured poultry and pork, favorites of many health-conscious consumers, to gain access to local processing plants. A Minnesota farmer said the 2023 Farm Bill should build on that effort.

Modernize Crop Insurance

Taxpayers now subsidize over 60 percent of farmers' premiums paid to insure their major crops against drought, floods or a drop in prices. Modernizing crop insurance proved to be a hot topic.

"Crop insurance should be targeted by land type, like federal flood insurance, so the program only insures farmland that should be farmed," said one Iowa hunter. Land along streams that is frequently flooded should not be eligible

for subsidized insurance; instead, owners of marginal cropland should be offered incentives to plant grasses or trees that will protect the soil and the stream.

Heard at listening sessions: If policymakers can't improve voluntary conservation programs, then regulating pollution from farms like we do from most other industries may be the only remaining option.

One popular idea was to offer a crop insurance discount to farmers who plant cover crops and adopt other soil health practices. Farmers who rebuild healthy soils with those practices are at lower risk of a major crop loss during a drought or flood, and that low risk level should earn them a discount on their crop insurance.

Stronger Standards Needed

Many participants said USDA standards for acceptable soil erosion are too weak, allowing more than five tons of soil per acre to wash away every year. This tragic loss of topsoil is unsustainable since topsoil naturally regenerates slowly. They said USDA is lax in enforcing the Swampbuster and Sodbuster provisions, which require farmers to protect wetlands and conserve

highly erodible soil to be eligible for crop insurance subsidies, farm loans, commodity payments and other Farm Bill benefits.

We heard broad support for USDA voluntary conservation programs, but many questioned whether incentives alone will reduce fertilizer, pesticide and manure runoff from farms that pollutes streams and contaminates drinking water supplies. In regions like the Chesapeake Bay, it took a combination of stronger state regulations and state and federal incentives to drive widespread adoption of better farming practices.

The same measures helping to reduce fertilizer and sediment pollution that have fouled the Bay for decades also store more carbon in the soil, helping reduce the impact of climate change.

Yet in much of the country, Farm Bill conservation programs alone have not been enough to measurably reduce polluted runoff from farms. A Nebraska farmland owner and Minnesota angler agreed: If Congress and states are unwilling to expand voluntary conservation programs and improve how they operate, then regulating pollution from farms like we do from most other industries may be the only remaining option.

What should Congress do to promote more conservation on America's farms and ranches? Use our Farm Bill Suggestion Box at [iwla.org/suggestions](https://www.iwla.org/suggestions).



Celebrate the League's Centennial in Style



Denim shirt

\$42.00

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

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

Tall available in L and XL



Anniversary bear

\$13.00

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

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



Anniversary cap

\$18.00

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



Youth t-shirt

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



Long-sleeve t-shirt

\$20.00

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



Anniversary t-shirt

\$18.00

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



Vintage design grocery bag

\$8.00

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



Veggie design grocery bag

\$8.00

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



Mesh bag set

\$17.00

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

Travel straw in case

\$10.00



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



Reusable straw set

\$15.00

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



Fishing shirt \$46.00

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



Nalgene bottles \$20.00

This 32 oz. Nalgene bottle is your perfect go-to drink container. Includes full-color logo. Measuring scales on the back help you keep track of daily goals. Colors: (L-R) Sea Green or Aqua

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The Health Impact of Climate Change in Our Back Yards

BY JANETTE ROSENBAUM,
Strategic Communications Manager



Ford's F-150 Lightning underscores automakers' pivot to electric vehicles for the decades ahead.

Many of the same climate impacts that hurt the environment—extreme heat, flooding and pollution—also harm people in a variety of ways: A record-setting spike in heat-related deaths in Seattle. Growing populations of bugs that spread lethal diseases. Car and energy pollution that increases the risk of heart disease, strokes and premature death.

Rarely are the health effects immediate, like the Seattle deaths last summer. It's more likely the causes will creep up on us slowly—literally in some cases. Which means we should be proactive and look

for ways to prevent future harms now. Here are several cautionary flags to watch.

Vector-Borne Diseases

In 2020, there were far fewer cases of West Nile virus compared to COVID-19. But of the two diseases, West Nile had a higher death rate, according to the Centers for Disease Control. People died in 17 states including Nebraska, Florida and Arizona.

West Nile, which raised widespread alarm in the United States in 1999, has been recorded in every state except Alaska and Hawaii. The Dallas/Fort Worth area saw a bad outbreak in 2012,

and the virus is still circulating in the U.S.

As temperatures rise in the U.S. and across the world, the range for vector-borne diseases like West Nile, dengue fever, malaria and other diseases can expand. The West Nile virus primarily lives in birds, and it can be transmitted to people via mosquitoes. With climate change now extending warmer temperatures into the spring and fall, and farther north, the risk of West Nile is likely to expand as well.

Other aspects of climate change that favor mosquitoes, like flooding in urban areas, compound the problem.

The geographic range of some insects that spread disease will expand as temperatures rise.

Next on the horizon: the February 2022 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that climate change favors ticks, which spread Lyme disease, and also triatomines (“kissing bugs”). Triatomines feed on blood and spread Chagas disease, which can be life-threatening if untreated. Chagas had been found primarily in Mexico. But the bug now lives in more than half of the U.S., as far north as Pennsylvania, Illinois and Colorado. Both diseases are likely to continue spreading as Earth warms.

Respiratory Diseases

The causes behind climate change also contribute to respiratory diseases.

Transportation and energy generation systems that burn fossil fuels are major contributors to the climate crisis, which amplifies a variety of health risks, according to a new report from the American Lung Association (ALA), “Zeroing in on Healthy Air” (March 2022). Two of the pollutants from these systems, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, contribute to a wide array of health problems, including asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes and premature death.

Aiming for a solution, the ALA report says a full transition to zero-emission passenger vehicles by 2035 and trucks by 2040, coupled with renewable electricity, would prevent 110,000 premature deaths, 2.78 million asthma

attacks and 13.4 million missed days from work over the next 30 years. The dollar value of that shift, says ALA, is \$1.2 trillion in public health benefits and \$1.7 trillion in climate benefits.

It is imperative that we take swift action to reduce the risks of runaway climate change.

Production of Ford’s F-150 Lightning underscores automakers’ shift to electric vehicles (EVs) in the decades ahead.

Trees and forests offer another remedy to polluted air. Smoke from wildfires and the dust that accompanies drought can travel hundreds of miles in the wind, causing poor air quality across whole regions of the country. That dirty air can “cause everything from coughing and asthma flare-ups to heart attacks

and premature deaths, especially for those with heart and lung diseases,” ALA warns.

For decades, Izaak Walton League chapters have been doing their part for air quality by planting trees. Some trees are struggling to survive in extreme drought conditions. At one chapter, trees they had worked hard to plant died when volunteers couldn’t keep up with the need for supplementary watering.

Health Impacts of Extreme Weather

These impacts of climate change are well known, but the health consequences are worth underscoring. The recent IPCC assessment highlights the need to review flood risks across North America, which is seeing “increasing adverse impacts” from coastal flooding and mounting damage from inland flooding.

In September of 2021, the National Oceanic and



The geographic range of some disease-spreading insects will expand as temperatures increase.



Flooding is creating serious risks to our water quality and resources.

Atmospheric Administration reported that the continental United States had just come through the hottest summer since 1936. In 2021, Seattle doubled the number of 100-plus-degree days that had ever been recorded in the city—from three to six.

By mid-July, that unprecedented heat wave gripped the Pacific Northwest and killed 112 people in Washington state alone, making it the most deadly weather-related event in the state's history, according to National Public Radio. Daily highs repeatedly broke 100 degrees in the Dakotas, as the Missouri River basin saw temperatures 15-20 degrees above average.

Mental health can also suffer when we're exposed to unusual heat or have to flee our homes due to wildfire or raging flood waters. Climate-related damage to the economy and our

communities cause fear, especially among young people, who expect to live through more future climate change.

Since the IPCC's fifth assessment in 2013 and 2014, experts have become more certain that climate change is taking a heavy toll on our mental health. "Climate-related extreme events such as wildfires, storms, and floods are followed by increased rates of mental illness in exposed populations," the international science panel now says.

Effects on Children

Children are especially at risk from climate change—they will live to see the worst of it, and they are more vulnerable to the effects that are already happening.

Young people who spend summer days playing outdoor sports are clearly more at risk from heat exposure than

adults who pass their time in air-conditioned homes or workplaces. As the CDC has reported, young athletes are more likely to die from heat stroke than from any other cause. Kids who play outdoors are more exposed to allergens like pollen, which some plants produce more of as temperatures rise. This can contribute to asthma and other respiratory problems.

Globally, children receive a disproportionate impact from climate in the full range of harms: vector-borne diseases, waterborne diseases (from algal blooms, for instance), heat, respiratory diseases and other effects.

"It is through working together to educate and advocate that we can restore hope to the conversation."

— Laura Anderko

Finally, children can be hurt by climate change before birth. Two years ago, in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, researchers Alan Barreca and Jessamyn Schaller examined the relationship between hot days and pre-term births. They estimated that each day above 90 degrees causes 822 babies to be born too soon. That adds up to 25,000 people every year who get a difficult start in life because of extreme heat.

Pre-term birth is the leading cause of infant death in the



Climate change poses greater risks for children since they will live to see the worst effects and many have already felt its harms.

United States—and the survivors still have a tough road ahead of them. Those who enter the world too soon often suffer from intellectual disabilities, chronic lung disease, or motor disorders, says the March of Dimes.

Addressing healthcare professionals in a 2019 article on climate change in *Pediatric Research*, Georgetown University professor Laura Anderko, Ph.D., concluded that these impacts underscore the “critical need for us to consider the consequences of these environmental changes on health, particularly in children whose developing systems are more vulnerable to these extreme exposures.”

We can't give up, says Anderko, who now serves as co-director of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment. “It is through working together to educate and

advocate that we can restore hope to the conversation. Climate change is more than an economic issue. It is also a health issue.”

For Our Future

For the sake of our grandchildren and those who will come later, it is imperative that we take swift action to reduce the risks of runaway climate change. This will be one of the League's top priorities as we consider our vision for conservation leadership in the years ahead.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

To reduce greenhouse gases and tackle climate problems, the Izaak Walton League's membership has adopted policy and recommendations in several areas:

- Sequester carbon in our soils, grassland and wetlands
- Improve energy efficiency
- Expand research and development to help transition to a clean-energy economy
- Build capacity and resilience in our natural systems so they can survive climate change.

Read about the policy solutions adopted by the League at [iwla.org/climatesolutions](https://www.iwla.org/climatesolutions). Tips about what you can do to help can be found in *Outdoor America*, 2021, Issue 4.

Summer's sun was already beating hot as I pushed my boat from the dock and motored away from the launch toward the morning's first fishing hole.

It was going to be a fine June day in Ohio, but I was not yet in full fishing mode. The day's headlines were rattling around in my brain along with thoughts about largemouth bass, lures, locations, aquatic vegetation and offshore structure.

It was going to be a hot one—in more ways than one.

Our world is undeniably complicated. But fishing for me and for millions helps keep things in perspective.

The century that has passed since the founding of the Izaak Walton League of America has seen the world of fishing ebb and flow with the forces of sport and passion, technology and innovation, conservation and commerce.

Izaak Walton himself took rod and reel and journeyed from London's mid-17th century

clamor and clatter to the pastoral River Lea where he angled for sport and relaxation.

I have been fascinated by Walton's passion for fishing since my university days when I did a deep dive into *The Compleat Angler*, his classic book first published in 1653.

Since its first publication, the *Angler* has been a starting point for those seeking to elevate their spirits and celebrate fishing as an art form. Angling is grace, balance, beauty, shape, and color

Fishing forward: What would Izaak say?

BY JACK WOLLITZ



Today's anglers are obliged to recruit new members to that world. Boaters here are enjoying Grundy Lake in Iowa.

spanning many styles.

Walton's book inspired me then and inspires me still today. And, of course, it inspired a major awakening—the movement among anglers that resulted in the founding of the Izaak Walton League of America 100 years ago.

While writing my own book, *The Common Angler: A Celebration of Fishing*, I opened my own lens to understand and explain the joys that anglers share with the others who fish and acknowledge the simple pleasures

that inspire us.

Are we better off today than we were 100 years ago? What must we do to ensure the next 100 years continue to reduce the size of the footprint anglers leave on the planet?

The spirit of the angler

We share much today with *The Compleat Angler* of 1653.

The basics have transcended the centuries. The anglers of 1653, 1922 and 2022 all wield long and limber rods and present and retrieve our baits and lures. They who preceded us whipped wispy lines and secured convincing lures with expertly tied knots, just as we do today.

Fishing is more than catching.

Our goal—then and now and 100 years from now—is to trick a fish into eating our lure. But as we know and as Walton explained, fishing is so much more than catching.

For all of us who call ourselves anglers, some distant catch flinted a spark, a flicker of heat that fell on a place in our souls where it could smolder until the next cast, the next catch, the next trip to the water. It is our common denominator.

Walton fished for England's trout. I fish for bass. People invest thousands of dollars to fish for taimen in Siberia, king salmon in Alaska, peacock bass in Brazil and billfish from the great oceanic currents. It really does not matter. We are people whose passion for angling was kindled from the

original ember of a long-forgotten ancestor who loved fishing.

Finding our favorite waters

Whether new to fishing or continuing to enjoy it for decades, anglers soon gravitate to favorite waters.

Izaak Walton loved the River Lea, a limestone stream that meanders through 40 or so miles of southeast England countryside. Londoners drank River Lea water in 1653 since the Thames was far too polluted even then. Walton went there to fish for recreation and for the peace it bestowed in the immediate aftermath of the English Civil War.

Anglers continue to find solace on the waters they fish. Many, we know, turned to fishing as a safe retreat and for hours of distraction as the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed us.

Our waters are our treasures. We love them and we protect them. We agree with Walton: "God did never make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling."

And so we share an obligation to the anglers who will succeed us. Looking ahead, will 22nd century anglers enjoy the same nearly uninhibited access to water we celebrate today?

It is up to us now in 2022. Access is key. America and Canada and many other nations are blessed with an abundance of lakes and rivers where common anglers can go as they please if they have the means to get there. But it must not be assumed free



access is guaranteed. Today's anglers must remain diligent about ensuring public access is a priority not to be legislated away, bought and sold, or otherwise taken from us.

Clean water is essential. But it is just one in a combination of elements that comprise habitat for fish. Fish need certain kinds of bottom compositions. Most depend on sediment-free rocks, sand or gravel to successfully spawn. Many rely on cover to hunt and hide—vegetation, stumps, logs and other natural additions to the watery world as well as human-made structures, pilings, docks and even piles of Christmas trees and wooden pallets.

Today's anglers also are obliged to recruit new members to the world of fishing, lest the sport wane and leave the opportunity for this kind of up-close and personal environmental awareness to evaporate. That means children must be taught about the exhilaration of fishing, the magnificence of the fish and the beauty and delicate balance of the world where we go to catch them.

Those who learn today will be tomorrow's stewards, the people who will be likely to care for and appreciate the ideals on which the Izaak Walton League was founded.

Art and science meets form and substance

Walton's prose is clear evidence that anglers not only knew about sophisticated presentations to



A pointer from Wollitz—dispose of used fishing line to prevent harm to wildlife.

catch fish, but also how to read the waters. They learned about current, seams and eddies and adjusted their approach and casts accordingly. They selected lures from a handful of options.

But today we have an advantage that is far beyond what anglers could have grasped in 1653. Technology is anglers' biggest ally today.

Will 22nd century anglers enjoy the same nearly uninhibited access to water we celebrate today?

Rods and reels today are made with carbon fiber, titanium and other space-age materials. They are lighter, stronger and more

sensitive than anything Walton could have imagined.

Look in any serious angler's tackle boxes today and you will discover lures far beyond the comprehension of anglers in 1922, much less those who were casting to fish in 1653.

The real game-changer now is the sonar and GPS (Global Positioning System) we employ on fishing boats. It enables anglers to literally see what exists under their boats as well as hundreds of feet in front of and beside their vessels.

Still, next time you go to the water, use your own senses. Open your eyes wider than ever before. Listen like your ears are amplifiers. Breathe with a purpose, deep and slow, so every molecule of nature checks in with your brain. Touch the water and reconnect with the spirit of angling.

Reducing the angler footprint

The Izaak Walton League has long recognized we need to heed the lessons of the past and make certain we do not repeat mistakes. So if we're going to go fishing 100 years from now with expectations for success, what must we do?

First, we need to be smart. Fish are counting on us.

One obligation is to support habitat-enhancing programs. Many states' departments of natural resources encourage volunteers to build and install cribs and brush piles to serve as cover where species like bass, catfish, crappies and bluegills can hide, hunt and spawn.

Anglers also must be diligent about obeying size and bag limits and closed-to-fishing seasons.

We can all focus on using less fuel by keeping our engines tuned and throttling back. Anglers should embrace four-stroke engines today, and prepare for the future of electric tow vehicles and outboard motors.

Fish are counting on us.

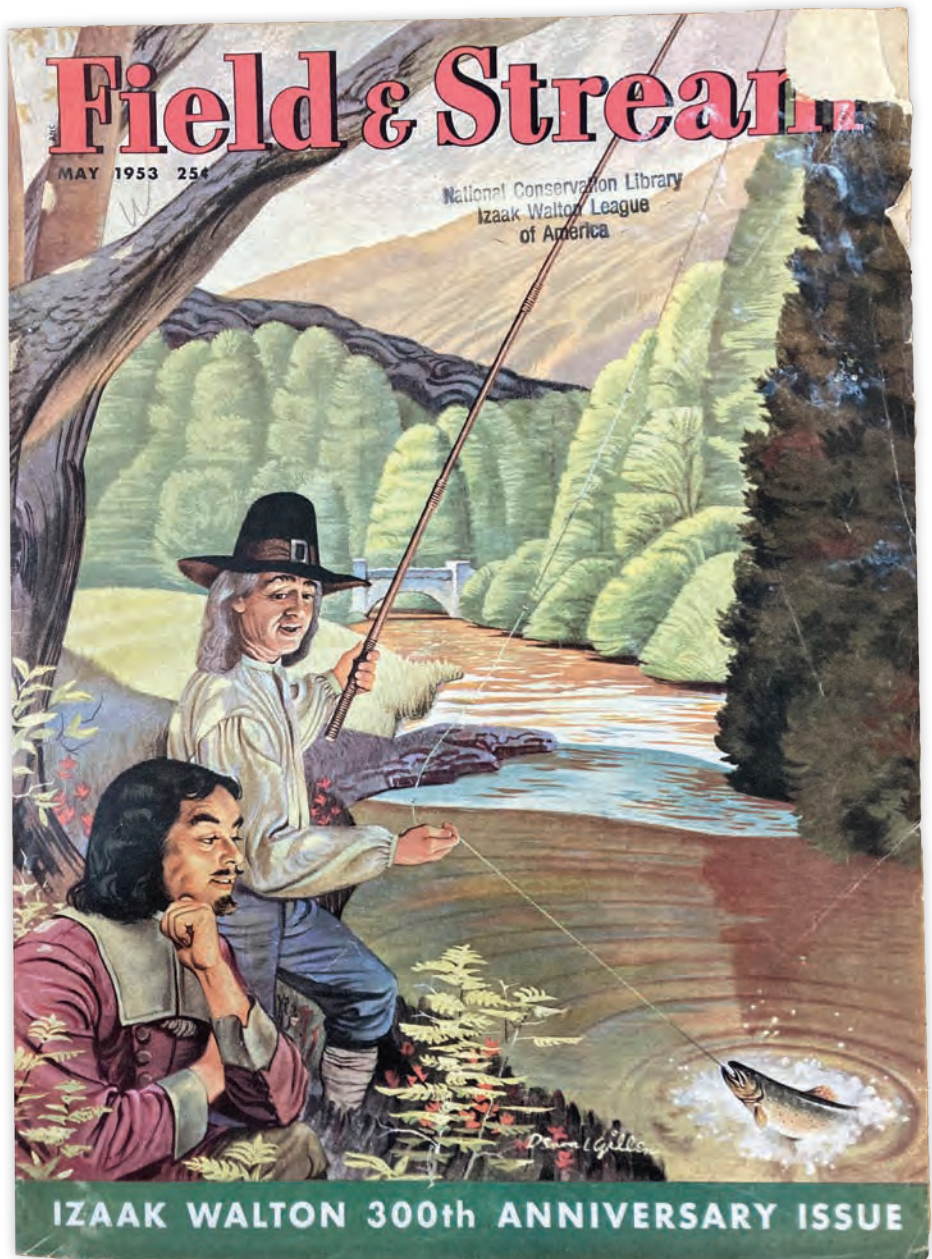
It also is wise to recycle used soft plastic lures, which can be melted down and poured as new baits. We must take care to corral all of our used nylon and fluorocarbon fishing lines and deliver them to organizations that convert them into new products.

Of course it goes without saying that anglers must leave their waters cleaner than they found them. It is our obligation to properly dispose of litter.

Going forward, we must set the standard high as caring and responsible anglers of the 21st century. Fishing teaches us many lessons. The founders of the League in 1922 understood that we did not have to accept water pollution. Or the disappearance of black bass in America's waterways.

We need to support our officials who work for clean water and air, funding for fish

In 1953, *Field and Stream* published an issue that celebrated the 300th anniversary of *The Compleat Angler*.



and wildlife programs and other conservation efforts.

But most of all, we must continue to love the sport, defend fishing and spread the word about the value it delivers in our society. Fishing is too valuable to let it disappear from our shared experience.

That, I believe, is what Izaak Walton would say today.

Jack Wollitz's book, The Common Angler: A Celebration of Fishing, was released in May 2021 by Fayetteville Mafia Press. It examines the "why" behind anglers' fascination with fishing.
www.fayettevillemafiaappress.com



President Proposes Funding Increases for Conservation

BY JARED MOTT, Conservation Director

Biden's Budget Blueprint

Aiming to fight climate change, protect biodiversity and promote environmental justice, the Biden administration's budget request for fiscal year 2023 proposes increases for conservation, environmental protection and public land management.

The Department of the Interior, which includes national parks and national wildlife refuges, would see its budget increased by 19 percent. The Department of Agriculture's budget would increase to \$31.1 billion with \$1.8 billion allocated for fighting climate change. Farm Bill conservation programs, including the Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program, would pool another \$1.7 billion to drive on-the-ground-conservation by funding regenerative agriculture practices like soil health improvement.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which is responsible for protecting human health and the environment, would see its funding grow by nearly \$2 billion to \$11.9 billion.

Some programs, like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, were slightly cut in the president's request—funding would decline by \$8 million to \$340 million. This is well short of the \$400

million that the League and others are urging Congress to provide as the investment necessary to restore wetlands, clean up toxic pollution and fight invasive species in the Great Lakes.

The Chesapeake Bay Program would see its budget increased from \$88 million to \$90.6 million. The president's budget would also increase EPA's 319 grants program, which provides funds to states to combat non-point source water pollution, to \$189 million.

Investments in conservation, clean air and clean water are critical for public health, outdoor recreation and the economy.

The budget requests \$407 million for Everglades restoration in Florida. However, funding for restoration on the Missouri River—\$22.5 million—falls well short of the \$32 million annual budget the Army Corps reports is needed to improve the overall health of the Missouri by restoring wildlife and protecting communities.

Investments in conservation, clean air and clean water are critical for public health,

outdoor recreation and the economy. This budget is not perfect but represents a step in the right direction.

Climate Report Calls for Urgent Action

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides an overview of how to cut emissions and limit warming. Five takeaways from the report released in April are:

- **Without swift action, the world cannot limit global temperatures from rising to dangerous highs.** Current pledges to cut emissions will likely not suffice to prevent a rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius (almost 3 degrees Fahrenheit) in global temperatures, which will unleash sweeping changes including deadlier storms, rising seas, more intense drought and immense strains on crops.
- **Emissions are tied to economic growth and income.** On the whole, the world's wealthiest are responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions. The richest 10 percent of households account for between one third and half of all emissions, while the poorest 50 percent only account for about 15 percent of emissions.

- **Clean energy has become more affordable.** In 2020, solar and wind accounted for about 10 percent of the world's electricity. The prices of these renewables, and electric car batteries, decreased drastically in the 2010s.
- **Altering our current path will not be easy.** As nations transition away from fossil fuels, some economic disruption is inevitable. But the world needs to invest three to six times what it's currently spending to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius.
- **There are big steps we can take that are less costly.** Less expensive societal changes like energy-efficient buildings, recycling and more remote or virtual work can reduce emissions significantly. Better public transit and more walkable cities also have benefits

beyond their climate impacts such as cleaner air and overall improvements to health. In all, steps that would cost less than \$100 per ton of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere could lower global emissions by about half by 2030.

The Izaak Walton League's membership has adopted policy and recommendations: sequestering carbon in soil, grassland and wetlands, improving energy efficiency, expanding R&D to help transition to a clean-energy economy and building resilience in natural systems. These steps will help prevent some of the worst climate impacts like severe wildfire seasons, flooding and dangerous heat waves. Visit iwla.org/climatesolutions. Learn how you can help in *Outdoor America*, 2021, Issue 4.

Wildlife Restoration Bill Advances

In April, S. 2372, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), was approved by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). With the bipartisan approval from the committee, the next step would be consideration by the full Senate. The League strongly supports RAWA and is working hard to push it through Congress.

RAWA would invest nearly \$1.4 billion annually to help state and Tribal wildlife agencies proactively conserve wildlife and habitat. The funds, combined with at least a 25 percent non-federal match, are directed to fully implement each state's congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plan. These plans have been put together and updated by state wildlife managers and collectively have identified more than 12,000 species of "greatest conservation need," including many that could be listed as threatened or endangered.

The investment RAWA supports in habitat and conservation on the front end will end up saving money in the long run, as costs to recover threatened and endangered species are exponentially higher than the costs to implement RAWA.

Go to www.iwla.org/advocacy to stay updated on RAWA and take action as the bill advances and follow other key policy priorities for the League.



The black-footed ferret is one of many species that needs conservation efforts.

50TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY.

WHO WILL YOU TAKE
OUTDOORS?



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HUNTING, SHOOTING, & FISHING

Become an advocate for sportsmen and women by taking the pledge to introduce someone new to hunting, fishing and shooting, all while celebrating the great outdoors.

**PLEDGE TO TAKE SOMEONE HUNTING, FISHING OR SHOOTING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 • [NHFDAY.ORG](https://nhfd.org)**

Fishing Gear Discounts for Chapters

Fishing is a great way to introduce youth, adults and families to outdoor recreation—and engage them in the great outdoors for life. League chapters are great places to introduce people to fishing and Zebco wants to help.

Zebco's Family Fishing Program provides discounted fishing gear to non-profit organizations, such as League chapters that engage youth and families in fishing activities.

Chapters are eligible for 50 percent off on Zebco rods, reels and combos.

This discount cannot be combined with other offers or clearance items. Discounted fishing gear purchased must be used for a chapter's fishing event or given as prizes at such events.

Chapters can take advantage of this opportunity by emailing chapters@iwla.org for an authorized discount code and ordering instructions before you can place an order. Please include your name, chapter name and officer title (if applicable) in your email.



Feel free to send photos and a brief write-up about your chapter's successful fishing event to *Outdoor America* at OA@iwla.org.



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IS IN THE AIR.
AND THE WATER.

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A spincast that retrieves as fast as a baitcast, now in a graphite rod combo.



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Early Leader Lends Her Skills and Fame to Conservation

Perhaps Gene Stratton-Porter had something of Izaak Walton's spirit in her from the very beginning. Growing up in north-central Indiana, she loved nature from childhood and grew up to be a passionate writer and conservationist.

Like Walton, Stratton-Porter wrote books about nature and outdoor recreation—including fishing—and she shrewdly mixed those topics with romantic themes to increase the commercial success of her work. Over the course of her career, she authored 26 books, including 12 novels, five of which had sold over one million copies by 1945.

Her best-known books included *The Song of the Cardinal* and *A Girl of the Limberlost*. In the early 1910s, at the peak of her popularity, she had an estimated readership of 50 million. At that time, the total U.S. population was hardly twice that figure.

Over the years, eight of Stratton-Porter's novels were made into movies. Dissatisfied with the early adaptations, Stratton-Porter formed her own movie studio—an extraordinary feat for a woman at that time—and began producing her own versions.

Starting in 1911 or so, Stratton-Porter pursued a type of community science, investigating whether land reclaimed from water could be persuaded to grow any crops. By 1917, she was fighting against state laws that would have hastened the draining of wetlands.

When the League formed in 1922, Stratton-Porter quickly joined. Bringing her fame and talent as a writer, she wasted no time in contributing to this magazine.



In December 1922, her powerful editorial "All Together, Heave!" was featured on the front cover of *Outdoor America*, which was then called the *Izaak Walton League Monthly*. "We, today, are called upon to answer for our stewardship of the plethora of riches and beauty," she wrote.

Nor did Stratton-Porter wait for someone else to take the lead on substantive conservation action. In the first two years of the League's existence, she

worked to establish the Upper Mississippi refuge, save the Jackson Hole elk herd and protect trees and waterways across the country.

Sadly, Stratton-Porter died before the League's third anniversary, from injuries sustained in a car accident. But the force of her life continued to echo through League history: in 1944, the Gene Stratton-Porter Chapter in Indiana was chartered. In 1961, she was posthumously honored with the Izaak Walton League's Hall of Fame Award, and in 2005 she was featured on the cover of *Outdoor America*.

Now, as we celebrate our centennial in 2022, her words about stewardship of the natural world still feel uncannily relevant.

Stratton-Porter set a remarkable example for every Ike who wants to leave a conservation legacy for future generations.

Stratton-Porter set a remarkable example for every Ike who wants to leave a conservation legacy for future generations.

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

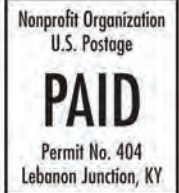
**“We, today, are called
upon to answer for our
stewardship of the plethora
of riches and beauty.”**

*Gene Stratton-Porter, writing in the
December 1922 issue of the League’s
magazine*



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A Century of Conservation Leadership

Celebrate the Centennial

Help Launch Our Second Century of Leadership

Izaak Walton League of America 2022 Annual Convention:

East Peoria, Illinois,
July 19-22



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



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

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

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

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

STORYBLOCKS

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