

MARYLAND Waltonian



Vol. 46, No. 1

June 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....page 1

Chapter Activities.....pages 2-5

- Bethesda-Chevy Chase Report
- Harford Report
- Frederick Report
- Lois Green-Sligo Report
- Rockville Birding News
- Rachel Carson Conservation Park
- Junior Air Rifle

Division Newspages 6-10

- 2022 Environmental Legislation Highlights
- Cast Iron and Centennials
- Division Scholarships
- Wild Turkey Comeback
- How Indigenous Peoples Can Teach Us Gratitude
- June Division Meeting

National Newspage 10

MARYLAND STATE DIVISION IWLA

Cherie Aker, President
301-330-9468
cherie.aker@gmail.com

Todd Morris, Vice-President
301-829-5237
todd.b.morris@gmail.com

Anita Stonebraker, Treasurer
301-869-4943
anita@ameritelcorporation.com

Scott Harmon,
Recording Secretary
301-467-0645
scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

Jeff Deschamps,
Executive Secretary
jeff.deschamps@verizon.net

President's Message

"I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list."

Susan Sontag



I decided not to miss out on the opportunity of attending the IWLA National Centennial Convention. I look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary and learning more about our past accomplishments and our Vision for the Future. Several Workshops will be available for attendees – as well as a Wildlife Prairie Dinner overlooking a panoramic view of Illinois' Wildlife Prairie Park. During the Convention Delegates representing your Chapters will have the opportunity to vote on resolutions regarding natural resource issues. Each Chapter names their delegate(s) – so be sure to submit your Delegate Accreditation form by June 17, 2022, to the IWLA National Office.

Just another reminder – 2021 National Awards will be presented at the National Convention. National Award Nominations must be postmarked June 1st. If you have any questions – please email awards@iwla.org

Maryland is hosting the 2024 National Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge. There's lots to do to ensure the convention is a success. Some of the planning tasks can be duplicated from our 2020 Convention Planning Committee. We need people that can serve on the various committees – if you are interested, please let me know. It is important we market the convention to our IWLA members – organize speakers, "field trips", transportation, Youth Convention, and outreach for Early Bird Donations. Lots to do and we need your help!

The month of August is National Shooting Sports Month. Mini-Grants (up to \$250) are available to Chapters hosting public events with the focus of introducing shooting sports. The grants are not available to existing shooting programs. The Mini-Grant application deadline is June 1st. For more information contact shootingsports@iwla.org.

A big Thank You to Calvin Yowell for updating the Division's Tri-Fold flyer. The flyer provides information on each of our Maryland chapters. The flyer is easily printed and can be used at your Chapter or events. If you need the Word document so you can print the flyer please let me know.

I also wanted to thank Anita Stonebraker – she is amazing in her position as Treasurer. She is always available for questions and very proactive in her role. Thank You Anita!

Cherie Aker
President, IWLA Maryland Division

Bethesda Chevy-Chase Report

Diane Seward and Larry Anderson, Bethesda Chevy-Chase

FeederWatch

We have had a respectable counting season this winter despite the depredations of one or more bears in December and January. The highest number of individual species counted at our feeders this season was 16; the highest number of individual birds reported per species on a single weekend was 171. The highest count for a single feeder species was 120 Red-winged Blackbirds in January, followed by 56 Brown-headed Cowbirds in November, 15 Mourning Doves and 15 House Finches in December. Other species observed at our feeders included Northern Cardinals, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, and Carolina Chickadees. Purple Finches were counted only on two weekends.

FeederWatch wrapped up at the end of March. Many thanks to our energetic team: Bob Plumb, Jim Stables, Pat McNeilly, Tim Ames, Suzanne Novak, Brett Davis, Bill and Ayala White, Chuck Thornton, Suzanne Papiewski, Theresa Zmola and Pete Cappelino. Thanks to Suzanne Papiewski for donating a colorful new feederbird poster and to Larry Anderson, Wildlife Chair, who keeps our sunflower seed and suet well stocked.

Bear Sighting

A bear has finally been caught on our game camera checking out the suet and seed feeders we use for the Feeder-Watch project. This is at least the third time the feeders have been molested this year and similar attacks have occurred at our beehives. Our cameras have also recorded



numerous visits at the feeders by foxes, raccoons, squirrels and opossums, none of which caused significant damage. While the damage caused by the bear is annoying, it is also a tribute to the quality of the habitat we have on the farm that we can support a bear(s) .

At present, we will continue to adopt the strategy laid forward by DNR of non-interference in dealing with bears and consider it another part in the beauty of nature. For more info:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/bb_livingwith.aspx.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep the members posted.

Harford Report

Curt Howard, Harford

Our chapter was represented at the Harford Soil Conservation District (HSCD) 2022 strategic planning meeting held on March 15, 2022 at the Harford County Agricultural Center. The HSCD is tasked with developing Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans for Harford County farms as outlined in Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan to protect the Chesapeake Bay. Main topics covered at the strategic planning meeting were how to increase the public knowledge of the services HSCD provides, how to increase efficiency and processing time for requests for assistance and how to better engage with small farmers or smaller landowners to promote clean water best practices. The strategic planning committee is composed of HSCD members, local agriculture related business owners, and other stakeholders such as the Harford Land Trust and our chapter. It was great to represent the chapter, and learn more about this excellent resource that our county has to offer. For more information please visit <http://harfordscd.org/about.html>.

Marsh Clean-up

On March 19 the 31st annual Marsh Clean-up was held at Bosely Conservancy. While the weatherman did not give a kind forecast for the day, it ended up being a fabulous day. With a lot of hard work, much in multiflora rose and difficult creek log jams, the clean-up crew netted 1720 pounds of trash, 700 pounds of recyclables, and 11 tires. The most unique items collected this year were a mannequin head and a very gaudy brass table clock.

The clean-up was truly a partnership event with Ikes, Chesapeake National Estuarine Research Reserve staff, Anita C. Leight Estuary Center staff and Otter Point Creek Alliance volunteers. Approximately 45 folks participated. Ikes, with future members and family, that volunteered



were Mike Duke, Bernie and Bryon Bodt, Kenny Hemling, Doug Evans, Ryan Smetana, Mike and Abigail Horsmon, David McCaskey, and Brooke Ahern. In addition, Sgt. Penman and Sr. Deputy Blottenberger from the Community Policing Unit of the Harford County Sheriff's Offices helped to clean up household trash that was dumped along Route 24. Thank you to all that helped!

Frederick Report

Marvin Gibson, Frederick

Boy Scouts from Troop 796 Ijamsville MD used their orienteering and surveying skills in Alex Blacklock's Eagle Scout project to finish identifying and staking our Chapter property borders along the Diamond in the Rough (dog kennels) property line and behind the campsite and shooting pavilion. This project completed the work done by Joey Gallo during his Eagle Project 10 years ago. John Gallo was instrumental in giving consultation and advice from his experience with his son's project, and Mark Freese reprized his role as surveying consultant helping the Scouts identify the property border and insuring proper placement of the blaze orange rebar stakes.



Lois Green-Sligo Report

Anita Stonebraker, Lois Green-Sligo

New Walkway

Eagle Scout candidate, Andrew Feinstein of Troop 1760, had a vision to greet Lois Green-Sligo (LGS) members and visitors with a HUGE welcome mat!! Overcoming challenges along the way, Andrew had the fortitude, creativity and industriousness to create this beautiful walkway making it so much easier for folks to gain access to our pavilion, hands down the most highly used feature of



our grounds.

Scout Liaison and LGS First VP John Sullivan worked with Andrew from beginning to end to make sure the walkway not only met our needs, but also created a safe and welcoming walkway. We would say that our expectations were far exceeded with this walkway and we are proud of Andrew Feinstein and all of the Eagle Scouts who take ownership and stewardship here at Lois Green-

Rockville Birding News

Cindy Stevens, Rockville

The Rockville Chapter has had a few bird nesting boxes around the grounds for several years, but no one was keeping records and we weren't sure anyone had ever cleaned out any of the boxes. An email to the Chapter's email group for volunteers this spring met with an excellent response.

The new team met to construct a few new boxes and now we have a new 'Bluebird Trail' with six boxes installed within easy access of the parking at the lake pavilion. The boxes are set in groups of two with the hope that bluebirds will nest in one of each pair and another small cavity nesting bird will nest in the other box. We are fortunate to have two experienced bluebird 'landlords,' Rich Drury and

John Ferguson. Eric Lee and son, Eric, Wang and family, Joel and Miriam Bader, Kradak Thomas, Ray Chang and family and Terry Dowdy are learning as they go. The open area around the lake, the meadow near the bridge, and the utility right-of-way upstream should provide the perfect combination of woodland, water, and open space that bluebirds love. To quote Rich, "if we do our part, there's every reason to believe that the property will be teeming with bluebirds in the near future." As of May 12, four of the boxes have nests and one has a single twig. Box 1 has bluebird eggs and box 6 is occupied by someone who hissed a stay away warning yesterday!



The group is sharing monitoring duties and using the Cornell ornithology lab's Nestwatch app to record the data. The software is free, easy to use, and runs on both Apple and Android phones as well as PCs. The online resources for bird, egg and nest ID are helpful and they have patterns for next boxes too.

On a similar note, we've had some good wren tales recently. Our Junior BB's group was entertained during their awards picnic at the lake by a wren in the dog poop bag dispenser with her chicks cleaning house by pushing



the blue bags out her home. The pistol house is also hosting a young family of wrens (shown bottom left). All this bird actions is just in time to be counted when a team from the Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 surveys the Chapter grounds this weekend.

Photos by Eric Lee

Rachel Carson Conservation Park

Barry Fleming, Wildlife Achievement

Finally, back to Conservation Projects in our Parks! After an absence of over two years due to COVID, volunteers were recently welcomed back to our Montgomery County Parks. On April 22nd a group of eight from the Wildlife Achievement Chapter returned to the Rachel Carson Conservation Park outside Laytonsville, MD, to pick up where we left off with our conservation project there.



Our chapter started a reforestation project in this area seven years ago along the banks of the Hawlings River. Nearly 20 years ago this was private property which Montgomery County purchased and annexed into the existing Park expanding it to 650 acres. There were no trees on the acreage and the Parks Department targeted it as a prime candidate for the benefits of reforestation.

The Hawlings River is a 12.9-mile-long tributary of the Patuxent River. The watershed covers an area of approximately 28 square miles with the headwaters of the river originating in the area just north of Laytonsville. The river enters the Patuxent River just below the Triadelphia Reservoir, which is a major water supply source for the entire Washington DC area.

Wildlife Achievement has been planting trees here over the years and providing care afterwards to keep them healthy. Wire caging is installed with each tree planted to

protect the young trees from deer either eating the tender branches or during their “rub” which is done to mark their territory, show their dominance, and intimidate other bucks. Another major challenge is keeping cages clear of weeds and invasive plants such as Mile- a- minute and Multiflora rose which has infiltrated this area in recent years.

Our group repaired numerous cages, cleared weeds and invasives in and around the cages, as well as identified dead trees for future removal. Having not been there the past several years there is much more to be done. It is satisfying though seeing trees we planted years ago doing so well and are soon ready to have their protective cages removed. We will continue to plant trees here and provide the necessary maintenance to keep them healthy for years to come.

Photos by Meo Curtis



Junior Air Rifle at Regional Championship

Geoff Hornseth and Ed Mondonedo, Wildlife Achievement

In early April, the Chapter’s Junior Air Rifle Team (precision rifle team) competed at Camp Perry, Ohio, in the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) junior air rifle regional championship. This was an invitational regional tournament. Our team had previously qualified to compete against the region's top 27 teams. The tournament was held simultaneously at three regional locations across the country (i.e. the Gary Anderson Competition Center in Camp Perry, OH, the CMP Competition Center in Anniston, AL., and the Mountain America Center in Sandy, UT).

Our team subsequently placed 23rd out of the top 50 teams nationwide, thereby earning an invitation to compete in the CMP junior air rifle team national championships to be held in July at Camp Perry.



2022 Environmental Legislation Highlights

Meo Curtis, Wildlife Achievement

During the 2022 General Assembly session, the major environmental focus was on the State's continuing to reduce its impacts on climate and being prepared to deal with climate change. A number of bills were proposed to enhance the State's existing progress on climate action from transportation as well as from the electricity sector. Transportation accounts for about 36% of Maryland's carbon emissions, while electricity produces 31% according to the most recently published inventory (2019). Bills that did not pass included plan requirements that many felt were unwieldy and unlikely to be implementable in the timeframes proposed.

SB528 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 passed the General Assembly and became law without the Governor's signature. Maryland committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent by 2031 and to reach net-zero emissions by 2045. Only the State of California has a similar state-wide goal, but California's reductions are based on an executive order, not legislation. It is widely recognized that meeting the Maryland goals will require adopting additional policies, legislation, and funding.

The law requires setting energy performance standards for new larger commercial or multifamily apartment buildings; that all state-owned passenger cars be electric by 2031; that 50% of all other light-duty State vehicles purchased between 2031 and 2032 be zero-emission; and setting up a pilot program for electric school buses in collaboration with investor-owned utilities. The law establishes a Climate Catalytic Capital Fund with initial three-year funding of \$15 million to accelerate clean energy implementation and other climate-related initiatives.

Other environmentally related bills that were adopted include:

Discharge Permits (HB649/SB492) which requires the Department of the Environment to clear the backlog of administratively continued permits (so-called 'zombie permits') and creates an accounting and reporting system for permit holders in non-compliance.

PFAS Chemicals (HB275/SB273) which increases restrictions on the sale and use of class B fire-fighting foam that contains intentionally added per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS chemicals"). Known as the George "Walter" Taylor Act named after the 31 year veteran of the fire service who died from occupational health cancers linked to PFAS. PFAs are known as 'forever

chemicals' because they break down very slowly and 'persist' in the environment.

Great Maryland Outdoors Act (HB727/SB541) which creates new State parks, addresses parks overcrowding and aging infrastructure, improves access to State parks, affirms Maryland's commitment to mitigating climate change, and adds critical state staffing to speed up the easement process.

2022 Maryland Conservation Finance Act (HB653/SB348) which removes a requirement that local projects show they have applied for federal funds, but instead a statement they have or have not received federal funds. It allows those in certain cost sharing programs to participate in and receive compensation from greenhouse gas markets, carbon credits, or soil carbon programs under certain circumstances, and encourages pay-for-success environmental outcomes.

Irreplaceable Natural Areas (HB784) which establishes a new program to preserve Maryland's native biodiversity on state-owned land managed by the Department of Natural Resources for current and future residents of the state.

Department of Natural Resources – Lease Agreements – Trail Access Provision (HB1395/SB86) requires leased DNR trail lands to be kept accessible for trail users and first responders and ensure that trail heads remain free of obstructions at all times.

More information on all bills, including text, fiscal notes, and session history can be found at the Maryland General Assembly website at:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebwebsite/Search/Legislation>

Information in this article was taken from legislative summaries published by the Maryland Association of Counties (<https://conduitstreet.mdcounties.org/>), Maryland League of Conservation Voters 2022 Environmental Legislative Summary, and Forever Maryland Conservation Wins and Losses in the 2022 Legislative Session.

Contributors to this issue: Diane Seward, Larry Anderson, and Lin Schmale-Tate (Bethesda-Chevy Chase); Marvin Gibson (Frederick); Curt Howard (Harford); Anita Stonebraker (Lois Gree-Sligo); Cindy Stevens and Eric Lee (Rockville); Meo Curtis, Barry Fleming, Geoff Hornseth, and Ed Mondonedo (Wildlife Achievement)

Cast Iron and Centennials



Curt Howard, Chair, Conservation Education

I'm weird. I'm a weirdo, I don't fit in. I am completely fascinated in things that last a long time and retain their function. As I write this I'm several months into a restoration of a Griswold cast iron skillet which dates to the 1930s. As I strip away the layers of dirt and corrosion, that skillet just gets more and more beautiful. It really is the physical embodiment of the phrase "built to last".



That brings us to the 100th anniversary of the IWLA! Like cast iron, this really isn't something to take lightly. If you consider some of the other 100th anniversaries in 2022 for example you'll see it's a lofty achievement. For instance, Stouffers; the car company Jaguar, the humble household appliance, the blender, and the birth of modern day weather forecasting.

Did you know in the last 80 years the lifespan of a U.S. top 500 corporation went from 67 years to 15 years? Private companies don't have much beyond the ever popular five year plan (or however long they project to service the current debt load), very few have a 100 year business plan. And most corporate leadership makes decisions based on short term financial considerations, the philosophy being that it is better to have \$15,000,000 in cash today than \$300,000,000 in the next ten years which may not materialize because of a collapse in demand or uncertain markets. So it begs to question, how does an organization survive for 100 years?

There are things that these organizations have in common.

The first is a stable core built around its purpose. The League's pillars of conservation, education, and recreation are as solid a foundation today as they were 100 years ago. The League's idea of conservation by citizens invested in the environment remains fundamental in all of the League's programs from Save Our Streams to Public Land advocacy. Further, where other organizations seemingly lose their way, the League has consistently over its 100 years remained authentic to its essential mission of being 'Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife'.

To survive 100 years an organization also has to remain relevant. Think of the number of things that we have watched disappear over the last couple decades because they were no longer relevant (film cameras and VHS come to mind). New innovations can erase entire markets (think online shopping's assault on retail operations, or compact discs replacing cassette tapes). To survive these market disruptions, companies must be able to pivot quickly to adapt to the new landscape. Large bureaucracies suffer a paralysis of action because every decision is subjected to lengthy debate and an inherent risk aversion often missing the opportunity to capitalize on the new opportunity.

Organizational Culture is another factor in the successful longevity of any organization. Outdoorsmen are a passionate and loyal group that "walk the walk". However, they're very quick to identify the genuine article (think about when a company like The North Face chose the profitable (in the short term) fashion business model over the functional gear model, pretty much losing a lot of their credibility amongst the consumers that really utilize the gear for more than a selfie opportunity, or when an expensive high end outdoors store that caters to higher income customers starts preaching "diversity and access to the outdoors for all" while selling \$300 jackets and \$1,000 tents). While the temptation to jump on the latest popular "trendy" market whim for short term growth spurts, a loyal dedicated base with an emphasis on quality over quantity better suited for long term success.

Non-profits have different challenges in fund raising and membership drives. Today many non-profit organizations find themselves in financial quagmires and unable to attract younger members to sustain the organization over the next decade (many non profits have suffered declining numbers over the last three decades). It's not easy building a legacy organization, however he foundations for the next 100 years are strong and proven. As an organization, we do need to be actively recruiting and developing younger leaders that embody these values for the next 100 years of the IWLA.

Division Scholarships

Meo Curtis, Wildlife Achievement

During 2022, the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) is celebrating its 100th anniversary for natural resources protection and outdoor recreation. This year, the Maryland Division-IWLA is sharing in the celebration by significantly expanding our funding to educate and involve students in careers that will help meet these IWLA long term goals. The Division Board showed great enthusiasm and overwhelming consensus for such a tremendous opportunity to support the next generation of conservationists AND to increase visibility of the Division and the IWLA to the general public.

At the October 2021 meeting, the Board voted to increase funding for the Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) and to provide college scholarships to students pursuing careers in conservation related fields. For the year 2022, the Division allocated \$2,875 for the NRCC and \$5,000 for already existing undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase has had a student award program and Harford County, Rockville, Mid-Shore, Sportsman's, and Wildlife Achievement have had Chapter scholarship programs for many years. Award amount and application criteria vary by Chapter. Awards ranged from \$1,000 per environmental study project from the Bethesda Chevy-Chase Chapter up to \$2,000 per individual from the Rockville Chapter. The Wildlife Achievement Chapter program provides \$500 per semester for up to \$4,000 per awardee through their undergraduate career. Applicants do not need to be members or the children of members, although there may be limitations based on County.

For the NRCC, our funds will be used to support 6 students and assist with operating costs. The NRCC is a week-long camp in western Maryland that connects students with wildlife, forestry, fisheries, and other environmental professionals. In previous years, the Division supported one student per year. The Rockville and Wildlife Achievement Chapters have also supported NRCC students for a number of years. For the Division funds, we requested that priority be given to sponsor students from counties with local IWLA Chapters: Frederick County, Harford County, Montgomery County, Talbot County, and Washington County. However, since there might not be an applicant from one or more of these counties, the funds would then go to any students in need.

At the March 2022 meeting, the Division Board voted to allocate the \$5,000 scholarship funds among three Maryland universities. The funds will be distributed

across the State-central, east, and west-to University of Maryland affiliates in College Park and on the Eastern Shore and to Frostburg State. The named institution will use its own application and selection process for student or students to receive our funds.

a. \$2,000 for University of Maryland-College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Green Scholarship. This is the oldest college within the University of Maryland System, and covers Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Research Centers in various places around the State. Funding will be used in the Robert L. and Frances C. Green Scholarship which was created by their family members. Dr. Green served as Chair of the Department of Agricultural Engineering here at the University of Maryland from 1965 to 1979 and as Acting Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station from 1972 to 1976. Dr. Green was very involved in soil and water conservation work. This fund is specifically for Department of Environmental Science and Technology majors.

b. \$1,500 for University of Maryland-Center for Environmental Studies (UMCES) for either undergraduate or graduate students. The Mid-Shore Chapter has long supported UMCES students with its own scholarship program.

c. \$1,500 for the Frostburg State University (FSU) Foundation for an FSU student with a major in environmental science. The Division has committed \$1,500 each year for the 2022-2024 years. The FSU will be establishing a named scholarship for these funds for the Maryland Division of the Izaak Walton League of America.

There has already been some discussion among Board and other members about increasing our Division education and outreach support. Great interest has been shown for reaching beyond traditional four-year institutions, including community colleges, technical training, and continuing education for teachers. There is overwhelming consensus to take advantage of already existing programs for application, review, and selection for suitable candidates and to focus our energies on finding those programs and on better promoting the Division, and the League, as a conservation organization. The 2022 funds are just the first step!

To highlight your chapter's activities in our newsletter, send your Chapter's news and notes or other submissions to Jeff Deschamps, 221 Sweetbay Lane, Laurel, MD 20724 or via email to jeff.deschamps@verizon.net.

Wild Turkey Comeback

Lin Schmale-Tate, Bethesda-Chevy Chase

There's a gang of Wild Turkeys stalking America -

In Washington, DC, a hen turkey appeared outside my home office window on its way toward Georgetown. It was watched carefully by a police informant Fish Crow in case the turkey was planning mischief. Across town, this April, two people escaped serious injury when they were attacked by an aggressive turkey on the Anacostia Riverwalk. In New Hampshire, a motorcyclist crashed after being assaulted by an enraged turkey. In New Jersey, a terrified postman rang 911 after a dozen members of a turkey gang prevented him from leaving his truck to deliver the mail. That's the bad news.

The good news is that turkeys are a conservation success story!

By the early 1900s, America's wild turkey population had been reduced to about 30,000 birds—a smaller number than exists today for several species on the Endangered Species List. Today more than seven million turkeys live in North America, occupying almost all suitable habitat, including well beyond their original range, courtesy of sportsmen and -women, and conservationists.

How did we achieve this dramatic turnaround? Largely through conservation legislation initiated by citizens of our democracy and supported by both political parties. The wild turkey is a native species that began to make its comeback during the Great Depression when the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 put a tax on sporting arms and ammunition. The billions of dollars in revenues from the resulting Wildlife Restoration Program were used to bring back wildlife, and provide much of the budgets of the State Wildlife agencies.

One hundred years ago: in 1922, a small group of hunters, fishermen, and conservationists formed the Izaak Walton League of America. Today, the IWLA is a "top-rated" charity composed of 200 chapters, reaching out to agencies, politicians, and natural resource organizations for the recovery of 2,000 endangered species and support for our state wildlife agencies.



The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America thanks you for your support of native fish and wildlife, and the agencies that protect them. All America celebrates our democracy, recognizes our commitment, and gives thanks for the abundance of the harvest.

How Indigenous Peoples Can Teach Us Gratitude

Anita Stonebraker, Lois Green-Sligo

Having just finished reading the beautiful collection of essays, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, I am inspired to share how this book reminded me of many of you, my fellow Ikes, for your conservation efforts and stewardship of our Earth.

Kimmerer is a registered Citizen of the Potawatomi indigenous peoples of the Great Lakes region. She writes about the school children, tribal leaders, and event planners in many reservation areas beginning many of their events with what they call, "The Words That Come Before All Else". Some persons call this "The Thanksgiving Address" or "The Allegiance to Gratitude". This can vary in length and content, but the ideas are so powerful and embody gratitude for the natural gifts we share. We as Ikes understand this, as this is what we were founded upon!

Here is an excerpt from "The Words That Come Before All Else" from Kimmerer's book:

We give thanks to all of the waters of the world for quenching our thirst, for providing strength and nurturing life for all beings. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans, snow and ice. We are grateful that the waters are still here and meeting their responsibility to the rest of Creation. Can we agree that water is important to our lives and bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to the Water? Now our minds are one.

Now our minds are one? This simple phrase ends every paragraph of "The Thanksgiving Address", which travels through forest, savannah, woodlands and wildlife, thanking each aspect of the Earth and the gifts we have been given. I am humbled that this simple act can level the playing field and bring all of us to the same understanding of nature. Now our minds are one.

Let's hope 2022, and the celebration of the 100th year of the IWLA can truly show us how to be grateful and move with one purpose. Happy Birthday, IWLA!

June Division Meeting

The next meeting of the Maryland is scheduled for Saturday June 4 at the Lois Green-Sligo Chapter. We are planning for an in-person meeting and will follow all State and Country guidelines for public meetings during the pandemic. Note that if conditions change we may be required to limit the number of attendees but at this time no such restriction exists.

All Chapter Presidents, State Delegates, and National Directors will receive the meeting packet.

You can request a packet by contacting Jeff Deschamps (jeff.deschamps@verizon.net).

Proposed Bylaw Change

At the March meeting of the Maryland Division a Bylaws committee was appointed to draft revisions to the bylaws. The bylaws committee is Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Bill Gordon, and Anita Stonebraker.

Per Article XV, Section 3, a message was sent to all chapter Presidents on the proposed change.

Here is a summary of the proposed changes:

1 - Remove language referring to alternate Chapter Delegates as this isn't relevant to the Maryland Division annual convention as delegates sign in the day of the convention and all business is conducted on that day. This revision applies to Article IV, and Article V.

2 - Update Article V, Section 4b to be consistent with provisions in Article XV allowing amendment of the bylaws at the annual convention or at special meetings.

3 - Adding language to Article VI, Section 4 to clarify that substitutes may be appointed for Chapter Directors unable to attend a Division meeting.

4 - Add language to Article VII, Section 4 to clarify that authorized expenditures include items in the approved budget OR additional expenses as approved by the BOD

5 - Add language to Article VII, Section 9 to specify when the budget should be approved

6 - Update Article XI, Section 5 to allow for electronic payments

Detailed information and explanations for the proposed changes was supplied in an attachment (Summary of By Law changes proposed 2022_0421.pdf) to the message sent to chapter Presidents along with a full copy of the bylaws showing all markup.

Maryland Division Logo License Plates

are available for a one-time fee of \$25. The plates show the standard bust logo and name of the League, the letters IWL, and a four-digit number.

People who see these plates could be inspired to research the organization and join the League. Request an application via email to kurtiwla@aol.com or to Kurt Feldmann, License Plate Committee, 20432 Watkins Meadow Drive, Germantown, MD 20876.

New Resolution Process for National

Jim Piateski, Chair, IWLA Executive Board

This year the National Convention will be held in East Peoria, Illinois.

You may know that the League was founded in Illinois in 1922 so it is fitting that we return for our 100th anniversary.

Earlier this month I sent a notice to all Maryland Division presidents encouraging them to let their members know that for the first time the proposed resolutions are available to every member on the National website. In the past, only the delegates at the convention saw them and then only a day before the voting took place. This year the entire membership of the League has them available. This will allow chapters to instruct their delegates on how to vote on each proposed resolution. This is your voice in the policies the League adopts.

This year's proposed resolutions include:

- Protecting Ephemeral Streams and Wetlands
- Funding for Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Protection of Native Non-game Fish
- Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material
- Rural Electric Vehicle Charging Study

The full text of the resolutions are available at:

www.iwla.org/100years/convention

Then select 'Resolutions, delegate accreditation'. Please take the time to review the proposed resolutions and inform your delegates.