**TO:** LWV UMRR ILO State & Local Member Leagues

**DATE:** March 29, 2024

**RE:** LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO Annual Meeting Update

**FROM:** Mary Ellen Miller, UMRR Board Chair

I am excited to announce that our Program Presenter (following our 6:00 pm **Annual LWV UMRR ILO Meeting) Wednesday, May 29th** at 7:00 pm will be Riverlorian Steven Marking!

Steven Marking plays Will Dilg in **A Visit From Will Dilg**. In the early 1920’s Will Dilg’s only son drowned in the Mississippi River. Dilg rose up from the depths of depression and mourning to become a tireless, fanatic firebrand. In 1922 he became the founding president of the Izaak Walton League of America, and he lead an extraordinary national crusade to preserve a 261 mile stretch of Mississippi River Backwaters we now know as the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. While his life was cut short, his accomplishments are still legendary, and we all will benefit by hearing from him on this 100th Anniversary of the Refuge.

Marking holds a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland, and a Bachelors Degree from Viterbo University in his hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin.  He brings more than three decades of professional production and performance experience to his latest creation, **A Visit From Will Dilg**, and his ongoing masterpiece, **Our Mighty Mississippi**.

Marking is a Riverlorian, defined as follows: "*One who studies rivers and shares all aspects of navigation, nature, history, legends & lore with anyone who will listen. This could expand into river related topics that interest the Riverlorian and possibly even the audience."*

*Watch for registration details coming soon! NOTE: only elected local League delegates can vote during the UMRR Annual Meeting, but all League members in the Upper Mississippi River Region ILO are welcome to attend the program.*