



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
August 2022

[www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)



## Coming Events August 2022

- 2 National Night Out 5:30-8  
Potluck at the Chapter House!
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 No Social/Educational meeting

## September 2022

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 Social/Educational meeting 7:30 pm  
TBD

## All Terrain Vehicle Trails Master Plan

Izaak Walton League Minnesota Division members (Willis Mattison and Lois Norrgard) will be representing us at a Minnesota All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Statewide Strategic Master Plan meeting in August.

Some of our concerns already expressed to DNR:

1. All statewide master plans for ORVs (OHVs, OHMs and ATVs ) should be combined into an

overall comprehensive plan that allows citizens to see the full scope of planned expansions for this motorized sub-section of outdoor recreation on public lands; In other words how much is too much?

2. MDNR should establish the limits to which public lands in different regions of the state can withstand more intensive motorized recreation without further degrading the resources or interfering with incompatible non-motorized recreational users;
3. MDNR should prepare a statement of consistency or inconsistency of OHV routes expansion on public lands with state climate mitigation policy.
4. Inventories of existing OHV opportunities should be comprehensive enough to include locally sponsored segments in addition to state sponsored and include all road rights of way open to such recreational uses. This inventory should help establish needs for expansion as opposed to desires for expansion.

If you desire to work on this issue as well you can contact our representatives for more information and look at the DNR's website for the plan details. <https://engage.dnr.state.mn.us/minnesota-all-terrain-vehicle-master-plan>





**We are seeking new Breckenridge Chapter members  
as well as candidates for three open spots on the Board.  
Please let any Board member know if you are interested in helping us  
maintain our legacy of conservation.**



Thanks to Laura Fuller, who planned and executed our NNO, a small but mighty turnout for National Night Out brought 31 folks and lots of food! It was good to see our neighbors again and get to know some new ones. Despite some stiff competition from the music bash at Leopold's we all had a good time.



With the temperature at 95 the kids preferred to play indoors.

The Brooklyn Park Police stopped by and dropped off police badges and coloring books for the kids and bags for disposal of expired, unused medicine for adults. And many thanks to Laura Fuller and all her work.





# Mississippi Gateway



Excitement about investments currently in progress in the Mississippi Gateway Regional Park was evident in the presentation Michelle Bierma gave to the audience at our Chapter House in July. Michelle has been assigned as a

naturalist at the park for over two decades. She remembered that close to twenty years has passed since the last time she was involved in a presentation at our Breckenridge Chapter.

This time she described how much has changed since then and will be changing even more by 2025 when much of the current project will be complete. She first explained how the new naming of the park including the word “Gateway” describes the intention to draw citizens to the river to appreciate the natural world. She has worked with thousands of K-6 grade children from surrounding schools over the years and expects the number of these students to increase when the new visitor center opens.

The new building will be just north of the current visitor center. The beautiful ancient burr oak nearby will not be disturbed even though the iconic tree with eyes and mouth on the bluff will need to be felled.

Exciting new exhibits will be a big part of the building with bird safe glass in the windows overlooking the Mississippi. Native fish, mussels and other wildlife will be featured in the displays. More classrooms and wet labs will allow expansion of the programs for schools in our area.

A boardwalk at treetop level will wind along the bluff to the south toward the beaver marsh. Observation overlooks on the river bluff will enhance bird watching over the pool north of the

dam and offer fishing platforms to the south across from Big Island. A reconstructed prairie is just beginning to grow east of the beaver wetland and an oak savanna is being restored north of the dam.

Across West River Road, the former Environmental Area will become part of the MGRP park and be connected with an underpass beneath the road. An archery range and off leash dog park will remain as features there. Plan [renderings](https://www.threeriversparks.org/page/mississippi-gateway-regional-park-master-plan-development) are available on the Three Rivers Parks website.

<https://www.threeriversparks.org/page/mississippi-gateway-regional-park-master-plan-development>



Acting as a gateway to bring more citizens, especially our children, to the river to enjoy nature and learn about how we can sustain it for future generations, the improvements at MGRP are money well spent. Hats off to Three Rivers Parks!

*Reported by Tim Johnson*

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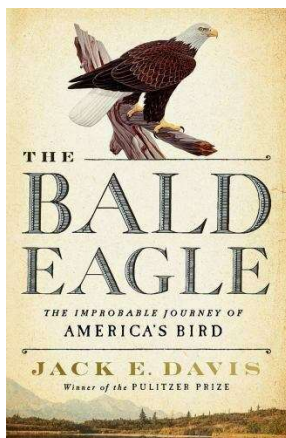
If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to  
**Barbara Franklin at: [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)**  
**Deadline is the First Day of each month.**

All articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of the Breckenridge Board of Directors. The Editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary.

## The Bald Eagle: the improbable journey of America's Bird

by Jack E Davis

I've been reading this fascinating history that seemed at first rather formidable, but is very readable and full of the facts (both amusing and tragic) and fiction surrounding our nation's bird. While its image does grace the Great Seal it has never been officially designated as the national bird. Despite Benjamin Franklin's assessment of the bald eagle as "a bird of bad moral character" who "does not get his living honestly," the bird won the hearts of the founders and has been with us ever since.



"Full of fascinating natural history and human characters from the drafters of the constitution to Audubon birders, *The Bald Eagle* brings us from desert to tundra on a journey illuminating how the American way of doing business almost killed the bald eagle - twice. But in this thrilling, compulsively readable, deeply researched environmental history we also see how sensibilities matter and can change in time to save the national symbol and, perhaps, ourselves."

Bathsheba Demuth, author of *Floating Coast*

"Jack Davis shows us not only what bald eagles have meant to humans...but what it might feel like to be one."

Jonathan Meiburg, author of *A Most Remarkable Creature* (Another book I would recommend as a unique, whimsical insight into the life of an octopus!)

*Review by Barbara Franklin*

The Eagle is prominent as a spirit bird of Native Americans, notwithstanding campaigns from ornithologists to ranchers to exterminate them with guns, poison or sheer greed, so it has led a conflicting past, both loved and hated, revered and despised.