



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League July/August 2010

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



## Coming Events

### August

- 10** Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
**24** Social/Ed meeting 7:30 PM  
Speaker, Brad Walker from the Midwest Office of the National Izaak Walton League. Brad is an expert on Mississippi River problems and will speak on many river issues

### September

- 14** Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
**28** Social/Ed meeting

### October

- 12** Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
**26** Social/Ed meeting

### Quote of the Day

We spend money we don't have,  
on things we don't need,  
to create impressions that won't last,  
on people we don't care about.

- Tim Jackson Professor of Sustainable Development at  
the University of Surrey, England

Welcome to our  
Newest Members:

Henry Hubben  
Ellen Stringer  
Arlene Swanson  
127 total members

If you would like to  
receive this newsletter  
electronically, please contact  
Barb Franklin

*Volunteers  
for  
refreshments needed.  
Please call  
Melissa  
Sonnenberg  
if you can  
help.  
763-549-8873*

**Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Board minutes**

7-13-10

**Attending:** Steve Shaust, Bill Barton, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, Barb Franklin, Roger Williams, John Farley, Bruce Hanson, Wes Hendrickson, John Rust, Lorraine Spears

**CALENDAR:**

National Convention This Week @ Hershey PA

**July 23-25<sup>th</sup> MN Division State Board of Directors meeting near Hackensak, MN at Deep Portage (business meeting on Sunday morning) No one from Breckenridge is definitely going so go if you can.**

**July 27<sup>th</sup> - Social Educational Meeting - Red Headed Woodpecker with Jerry Bahls @ Chapter House**

**Nominations for officers & directors will be held at the July 27<sup>th</sup> social educational meeting.**

**August 10<sup>th</sup> – Breckenridge Board of Directors Meeting @ Chapter House**

**August 24<sup>th</sup> – Social Educational Meeting – Mississippi River Ecosystems and Inland Waterways with National Staff Representative Brad Walker**

**September 14<sup>th</sup> - Breckenridge Board of Directors Meeting @ Chapter House**

**Membership** – Lorraine Spears has 127 members listed. Dues for 2011 Student \$33.50, Family \$75.00, Individual \$55.00

**ISSUES:**

Lead : Dick brought up the Center For Biological Diversity effort to ban use of lead bullets and sinkers. The Center for Biological Diversity claims millions of birds and mammals die from lead poisoning every year. Dick will check on National Ikes Policies and will bring more information.

Inland Waterways Trust Fund Taxpayer Bailout: Bill brought up that the barge industry

is proposing shifting all of the costs for the inland waterway system to taxpayers instead of cost sharing thru the existing \$0.20 / gallon fuel tax that has not increased since 1995. National IWLA signed onto a group letter to congress. We will be distributing information on Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> at Ford Lock & Dam #1 (in shade on sidewalk under Ford Bridge Minneapolis side) from 10 am to 2 pm in conjunction with Highland Fest Lock open house that is expecting 3000 visitors.

Steve noted and inquired about effect of the Deepwater Horizon / Macondo Well blowout Oil Spill in the Gulf on Loons. Juveniles stay in the Gulf for a year or two.

MN division motions are to be discussed at the national convention. Bill Barton was contacted for information on the invasive species & locks motion.

The MEP water cluster asked for organization signatures to a comment letter to be included in the 25 year framework report. Brad Redlin of the MW office and Jill Crafton of MN Division have been following the MEP water cluster meetings for Ikes. It was decided there was not enough time to consider the sign on letter as some objections regarding supplanting existing costs and lack of project focus was noted. Bill will propose a separate letter for the Breckenridge board will to send to the U framework effort. The U of M is developing a 25 year framework for dedicated clean water funding and they have a website for a survey of individuals with room for your ideas. Please complete the survey and comment at <http://wrc.umn.edu/watersustainabilityframework/MinnesotansandTheirWater/index.htm> The Water Resources Center phone number is 612-624-9282.

**CHAPTER HOUSE AND GROUNDS:**

Insurance for state and national coverage cost a reasonable additional \$35.

***(Minutes continued)***

Waste, Recycling, and Firewood Shed is almost done! Thanks to all who donated and worked hard to put it up. The cost is looking like it will be under budget. Dick motioned to have doors on the firewood side, Barb seconded, motion passed. The board agreed to wire the shed with lights & an outlet.

National has reflective and custom signs and logos available we may use on the building or at the entrance in addition to the logo on the shed.

IWLA 1936 in the fireplace and railings for the entrances. Wes will follow up.

It was noted that Steve fixed up the bike rack nicely.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Endowment is up to \$40,7A renter volunteered to do metal work such as the 62.

**NEWSLETTER:** Write stuff up & take photos for Timberlines & the MN division Waltonian. Wes noted that the Timberlines is read on the website - A renter mentioned reading in the Timberlines that the trail to river had been improved.

**TREASURER:** Barb donated \$300 to purchase lightweight folding tables.

**WEBSITE:** Barb will check if current issue of timberlines is online due to reports that it is not.

**RENTALS:** Decent June, good July, 5 rentals in August, September is empty, October has a couple, and one in November so far. 31 rentals so far this year, last year had 35 all year so with the time left we may do better this year. The reservations calendar is in the kitchen drawer – contact Wes for reservations.



## **IWLA ACTION ALERT**

### **Call Your Legislators to Fully Fund The Land and**

### **Water Conservation Fund**

More than 40 years ago, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to use a portion of revenue from oil drilling off our coasts to fund land acquisition, habitat conservation and outdoor recreation. Although LWCF is eligible to receive \$900 million annually, Congress has repeatedly failed to fund it at this level. The Gulf oil spill has renewed calls for Congress to fulfill its commitment to invest in conservation. The League actively supported creating the LWCF, and fully funding it is a long-time League goal. House and Senate bills that respond to the Gulf spill contain provisions that fully fund LWCF. These bills could be voted on this week. Please call your U.S. Senators and Representative today and urge them to support full funding for the LWCF. Members of Congress need to hear from League members and others who hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors about our support for investments that will protect natural resources and habitat and support recreation. Call your members of Congress today.

# Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery

by Barbara Franklin

In 1731 Mark Catesby stated that "Red-Headed Woodpeckers are abundant and almost domestic." Since that time their number have dropped drastically, due primarily to loss of habitat, which includes Dutch elm disease, but also to competition with European starlings and motor vehicle mortality. Redheads like to nest in snags of dead trees, especially in open areas like oak savannahs and golf courses, and their swooping habit in search of bugs often makes them targets for fast-moving cars.



In 2007 the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, under the leadership of conservation chair Jerry Bahls, initiated a project called Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery, aimed at reversing Red-headed Woodpecker decline in the state as has been done with the Eastern Bluebird. At our July Social/Educational joint meeting with Audubon, Jerry reported on the progress of the study. In addition to locating clusters of Red Heads and seeking out nests on golf courses, there has been a continuing study of the Red Head population at Cedar Creek Eco Systems Science Reserve. This is a cooperative project with the U of M and the DNR.

In 2008 18 nests were found and other detailed information, such a tree species, whether living or dead, tree height and diameter, cavity height and location and distance between nests. In 2008 18 nests were found and studied to compare with the next year's data. Questions posed for 2009 were:

- Do they use the same tree? (Yes, often, or a nearby one if the old one is gone)
- Do they use the same nest holes? (Yes)
- Will they expand into other areas? (There has been some movement into nearby areas)
- Do they have more than one brood? (Possibly, but not

proved)

Will they nest in our nest boxes? (Experimental nest boxes were tried, but not successfully, at least with Red-Heads, although other species of birds did use them occasionally.)

In addition to the Cedar Creek project, 21 areas were surveyed in 12 counties, and Red-Heads were found at 14 sites. 6 sites supported three or more nesting pairs. 2 are on golf courses, one is in a state park, and 3 are on private land.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

21 pairs

Rutger's Bay Lake Golf Course (Deerwood)

4 pairs

Blackberry Hills Golf Course (Sartell)

8 pairs

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park (Northfield)

3-4 pairs

Private land (south of Onamia)

4-6 pairs

Manhattan Beach Peninsula (Whitefish chain

of lakes) 4-6 pairs

15 new locations are to be surveyed from recently reported as potential cluster sites.

This was a very informative program about the current situation and prospects for this beautiful and well-loved bird. For more information on the Red-Head Recovery program visit:

[www.RedheadRecovery.org](http://www.RedheadRecovery.org) or contact Jerry at 763-572-2333.



# Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery

redheadrecovery.org

## **Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery Info**

The Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery Program was established 2006 as a group within the Minneapolis Audubon chapter. We generally meet the second Wednesday of the month at [Lunds Grocery in Edina](#) (second floor above coffee shop).

Our initial focus is Red-Head recovery in Minnesota and the upper midwest. But we are happy to serve as a focal point for Red-Head recovery; until we get overwhelmed!

## **Our Goal**

The goal of Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery is to reverse the decline and encourage the recovery of Red-headed Woodpecker populations through the creation, preservation, and restoration of habitat, research, and public education.

## **Our Objectives**

1. Identify the specific habitat needs and evidence of the decline of the Red-headed Woodpecker (RHWO)
  - a. Research habitat preferences/needs
  - b. Gather evidence of species decline
  - c. Identify state & national RHWO experts
2.
  - a. Locate existing clusters (more than one pair) of RHWO in Minnesota
  - b. Visit and document cluster existence
  - c. Document and photograph cluster habitat and nest sites
3. Encourage the preservation and restoration of existing RHWO cluster habitat
  - a. Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - b. Distribute BMPs to appropriate landowners, golf course superintendents, nature centers, etc.
  - c. Create an attractive 'appreciation certificate' for landowners, golf courses, nature centers, etc.
4. Encourage the creation of new oak savannah and other habitats conducive to nesting
  - a. RHWO

- populations
  - b. Work with state and national groups concerned with RHWO recovery
  - c. Contact Audubon, Nature Conservancy, NWR, DNR, SNA, DNR Non-Game, etc.
5. Experiment with the creation and placement of nest boxes in appropriate areas to encourage RHWO nesting efforts.
- a. Design an appropriate nest box for RHWO
  - b. Place and monitor boxes in a few select cluster areas
6. Raise public awareness of the plight of the RHWO
- a. "Paper Session" at MN Ornithological Union
  - b. Encourage newspaper/newsletter articles and other media attention
  - c. Create an attractive patch or pin to be worn by birders

## **Seeing the Sky**

I live high in the hills and my body is getting old. One day I was out in my garden fussing with weeds and grew tired. I decided to lie back on the grass and rest like I used to when I was a small boy. I woke up some minutes later with a neighbor whom I had never met leaning over me, all out of breath, asking me if I were OK. He had looked out his window two blocks up the hill and saw me lying on my back on the grass, looking, I am sure, like the victim of a stroke or heart attack, and had run all the way down the hill to check on me. It was embarrassing but it was also so wonderfully touching. After we had it all sorted out, he let out a deep breath and lay down on the grass beside me. We both stayed there very quietly for a while and then he said, "Thank you for deciding to take your nap out on the lawn where I could see you. The sky is such a beautiful thing and I cannot remember the last time I really looked at it."

From: Random Acts of Kindness

When was the last time you looked at the sky?

Commissioner Mark Holsten  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040

Dear Commissioner Holsten: We were shocked and disappointed to learn this week that the DNR has proposed a Sandhill Crane hunting season to begin in a matter of weeks. While some of us heard informally from your staff last winter that such a hunt was being considered, we were not informed that there would be no formal public process prior to such a decision. In fact, our strong suggestions in those conversations were that there needed to be extensive public education and outreach on the issue. We also recommended that should such a hunt be approved, a funding mechanism such as a crane stamp, should be instituted to generate funds for crane monitoring and management, and for continued habitat protection and acquisition. Not only were our suggestions not adopted, but it appears that you took actions to do just the opposite. Regarding our suggestion for public outreach and input, Minnesota's long tradition of public involvement in the development of game laws and regulations took a giant backward step on July 19 when your agency issued a short press release announcing the establishment of the state's first hunting season for Sandhill Cranes. Unlike virtually all other new game regulations developed in consultation with the public and the legislature, this new stealth "process" employed for Sandhill Cranes appears to be a very calculated move to by-pass legislative and public scrutiny. Even the timing of the announcement, after the legislature adjourned, in the middle of summer when officials and citizens are on vacation and only weeks before the hunting season will begin, appears to be timed to minimize public involvement. The DNR has a long and proud tradition of airing changes in hunting and fishing regulations at their January Roundtable, no matter how controversial such proposals may be. Why wasn't this venue used to begin discussions on the Sandhill Crane hunt? Regarding our recommendation for funding of a crane management and conservation program, we are surprised by the DNR's eagerness to give away the privilege to hunt cranes. After decades of public and private investments to restore these populations and their habitats, the DNR is requiring only a \$3.50 "administration fee" for the right to kill up to four cranes. No hunting license required. How will future crane management activities be funded? We all lose when public involvement in government decisions is compromised. Regulation by fiat leaves the public in the dark about what's being proposed and provides the seeds to compromise the public's trust in your agency. Minnesotans deserve better wildlife management than a low-priced hunt announced in a surprise press release. We urge you to withdraw the proposed hunt and begin a dialogue with the public on this proposal. Sandhill Cranes should be afforded the same thoughtful management we give to our ducks, deer and fish.

Sincerely,  
Mark R. Peterson  
Executive Director  
Audubon Minnesota

# Mississippi River Challenge

by Gretchen and Shaina Sabel

July 24-25, 2010

The Mississippi River Challenge is a 2-day, 44-mile paddling event to raise money for a cleaner, healthier river. Over the course of this event, we experienced a new view of the Mississippi and the Twin Cities that included:

- Paddling through three locks (Upper and Lower St. Anthony, and at the Ford dam)
- Stretches of what seem to be near pristine wilderness right in the core of the cities
- Camping in historic Fort Snelling
- Live music and great food, and
- A chance to connect with other local paddlers and river enthusiasts, and more!



This is a well-supported event that draws more than 300 paddlers of all ability levels to the river. From the start just below the Coon Rapids dam, the paddlers are friendly and non-competitive, with lots of good conversation and supportive chatter. Here we are passing between Brooklyn Park and Coon Rapids in the upper stretch of the event, upstream of the Hwy 610 bridge.



Food at all the stops was quite good. Here we are at Bassett Creek Park in Minneapolis – there was live music, too!

Passing through the locks at St. Anthony Falls was a wonderfully social event. Folks along the walls held onto ropes to steady our descent; the rest of us held onto them and each other.



Out we go!



Saturday night we camped at historic Fort Snelling. The Friends of the Mississippi had good cooperation from the Minnesota Historical Society here; and the National Park Service provided safety support on the river as well as interpretive information throughout the event. The people we met on this event were very diverse, from experienced paddlers taking their grandkids on an adventure to a woman who was enjoying her first canoe trip (a 22 mile trip!).



Sunday morning we took off from Ft Snelling heading down to the confluence of the Mississippi and the Minnesota. The color of the water changed after the Minnesota River joined the Mississippi; it was much browner and the shores at our St. Paul stops were very silty instead of sandy.



The stretch of river leading up to St. Paul was quiet and wooded, and then the city appears framed in the High Bridge when you round the corner.

St. Paul's waterfront is quite commercial with lots of industry.

After passing under the I-494 bridge, we entered a lovely backwater along the east side of the river in St. Paul Park. Rocky cliffs lined the river on the left and large trees towered over us on our right. After dealing with the large power boats and barges on the open river, this backwater was a very welcome respite.



Our trip ended at Grey Cloud Island, 44 miles from the start. We were on the river more than 16 hours and met many other people who love river recreation on the Mississippi. Each paddler over 18 was required to raise a minimum of \$250 in pledges to participate in this event. All funds raised go toward aiding the Friends of the Mississippi's work on the Mississippi River in and around the Twin Cities.

To learn more about the Friends of the Mississippi, visit their website at: <http://>

**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
8816 West River Road  
Brooklyn Park MN 55444**



If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to  
Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: [EditorBreckIWL@msn.com](mailto:EditorBreckIWL@msn.com)  
Deadline is the last day of each month.  
“All articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position  
of the Breckenridge Board of directors.”

## **IWLA ACTION ALERT**

### **Call Your Legislators to Fully Fund The Land and Water Conservation Fund**

More than 40 years ago, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to use a portion of revenue from oil drilling off our coasts to fund land acquisition, habitat conservation and outdoor recreation. Although LWCF is eligible to receive \$900 million annually, Congress has repeatedly failed to fund it at this level. The Gulf oil spill has renewed calls for Congress to fulfill its commitment to invest in conservation. The League actively supported creating the LWCF, and fully funding it is a long-time League goal. House and Senate bills that respond to the Gulf spill contain provisions that fully fund LWCF. These bills could be voted on this week. Please call your U.S. Senators and Representative today and urge them to support full funding for the LWCF. Members of Congress need to hear from League members and others who hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors about our support for investments that will protect natural resources and habitat and support recreation. Call your members of Congress today.