



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League November 2017 www.breckenridgeikes.org



November

- 14 **Board Of Directors Meeting 7:00**
28 **Social/Educational meeting 7:30**
Gene Meriam will speak on the red headed woodpecker's plight

December

- 12 **Board Of Directors Meeting 7:00**

Social Ed. Meeting,

Tuesday, Nov. 28th, 7:30 PM

Gene Merriam will talk about the work of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project, a special committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. This beautiful bird has experienced a 70 % decline throughout its range over the past 50 years. The Recovery Project's goal is recovery through preservation and restoration of habitat, research and public education.

Gene is a former State Senator, DNR

Commissioner and Freshwater Society President. He continues to be active in a number conservation issues and organizations, including serving on the Boards of Audubon Minnesota and Conservation Minnesota. He is a birder, angler and hunter who has a passion for our natural resources. Gene is a member of the Breckenridge Chapter.



Mother Nature at her best at the Club House.



Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOARD meeting minutes Oct 10, 2017

A quorum of board members were present: Steve, Karen, Jim, Dick, Tim, John, Wes, Dennis, Joe, Barb, & Larry attended.

Meeting called to order with recitation of the Ike's member pledge: *To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to man's sharing in it.*

A motion was approved to offer Mr. Hendrickson, Champlin Park teacher, a free rental for the high school to thank Champlin Park High School Outdoor Class for pulling buckthorn.

Joe reported on facilities projects. He and Dennis will talk with the contractor who wired our kitchen about the problem with the counter outlet GFI tripping and turning off the refrigerator. Burying wire for the entrance signage to take place soon.

A motion was approved to offer a free rental to Ceres Environmental to thank them for their donation of planting medium for our boulevard garden. No-mow grass seed has sprouted and forbs will be selected and planted in the spring.

A motion was approved to give Brad Larson a family membership gratis for all the work he has done for us this year with his bobcat. Jim will ask for Brad's advice on when to move the soil excavated from the boulevard garden area to the east end of the Chapter House to improve drainage.

Motion approved to offer a \$50 honorarium to our October farmer speaker from Iowa (includes permission to increase to \$75 if the speaker's expenses are that high).

Marlys requested direction on guidelines for copy to include in Timberlines. Members provided input.

Dick announced Gene Meriam will speak at our November social meeting on the red headed woodpecker's plight. Dick announced Dennis Hahn, director of outdoor recreation at Three Rivers Park, is possible for February social/ed meeting.

Discussion was had about potential speakers for our January Holiday party, no speaker/entertainment chosen as of yet.

Dick made environmental issues announcements:

City of Champlin added three acres of restored prairie.

Don Arnosti will be speaking Oct 26 at the Congregational Church in Anoka, on the impact of climate change on birds.

Tim presented rental report. Rentals about the same number as last year.

John presented financial report. Funds include ~ \$15,000 insurance settlement for hail damage to our roof which will be repaired next year.

Jim gave update on scholarship funds. Some improvement has been seen recently in endowment fund.

"War on the EPA"

On Wednesday, October 11, 2017, Frontline aired a documentary with this title on public television. It reviewed some of the history contributing to the current activities of the EPA, and who is pushing its current agenda.

After Obama, early in his administration, firmly stated that carbon emissions must be regulated, the big energy companies began to vigorously campaign against the global warming science, and to defend the coal industry. They continue to do so, and Pruitt was one of the major agitators.

In 1999 Pruitt was one of the founders of the Republican Attorney Generals Association (RAGA). Its main goal is to fight environmental regulations. He campaigned to be attorney general of Oklahoma by ranting about the lack of proof for global warming, and against the "radical environmentalists." Attorney generals of other states with big power companies joined in. Also, the lobbyists for big oil and coal brought many law suits against the EPA.

Robert Murray is CEO of Murray Energy Corporation, a coal producer. He is interviewed in this documentary and his tone and language are outright venomous. In 2016 he met with Trump and they "hit it off." Power companies then strongly lobbied for Pruitt. After Trump named Pruitt to head the EPA, Murray gave Pruitt a 3 and a half page list of what Pruitt needed to do. Murray says this himself and he says it proudly! He goes on to say that Pruitt has accomplished all the items on the first page!

Of course, the Koch family is a huge contributor of both money and influence to the whole issue of deregulation. A lot of money is funneled through their Americans for Prosperity foundation, which was established by Karl Rove and David Koch. Its website says that energy drives the economy of the nation, and they are definitely NOT talking about solar and wind power. The website also claims that energy regulations harm low and middle income families.

This is a very brief summary of the program. I assume it is available on line, and I highly recommend it, even though it is disturbing and depressing. There is also a lot more information on the websites of the organizations mentioned above.
Karen Ostenso

Buckthorn Removal Continues

By Jim Arnold

A small group of IWL members met on a cool October 28th to continue with the wonderful work done by Champlin Park Outdoor Adventure classes earlier in the month. John Fraley, Tim Johnson, Judy Arnold and Dell and Linda Erickson filled another trailer load of the invasive plants. The cool weather was easier to deal with thanks to Linda's delicious squash soup and apple crisp and Judy's cheesy bread.

In seven years we have made great progress removing buckthorn from our property. Birds and other critters are benefitting from the reemergence of native plants and the lack of illness inducing buckthorn berries. We again thank the City of Brooklyn Park for loaning us weed wrenches and providing a convenient local location to dump the buckthorn.

The Chapter Needs New Board Members

Join the board of directors?

Would you like to learn more about the "behind-the-scenes" workings of our chapter? Get to know some interesting people? Perhaps make additional impact on environmental issues? If so, *I would suggest considering being on our board of directors.*

As the most recent new member of the board, I can assure you that you do not need to know Robert's Rules of Order, nor have any particular background or education in the league's activities. The starting point is a willingness to listen and learn. That's all!

Please feel free to ask questions of any of the board members.



Champlin Park Students Visit the Chapter House

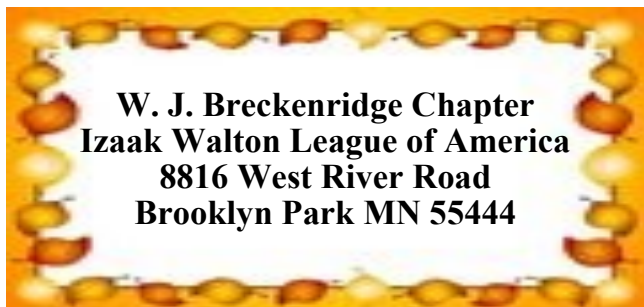
By Jim Arnold

On Tuesday, October 10th Champlin Park teacher Matt Hendrickson brought students from his Outdoor Adventure classes to the Breckenridge Chapter House grounds. There were two purposes for the visit: 1) To help in our efforts to remove buckthorn from the area and 2) To receive firearms safety training (since guns are not allowed in school buildings an off site area is necessary). Over 80 students from three classes came in busses for morning or afternoon sessions. While half the group received their firearms safety training the other half joined Chapter members (Tim Johnson, Dell and Linda Erickson, Judy Arnold, Larry Kennebeck, Gretchen Sable and Dean Halonen) pulling buckthorn. Students removed thousands of small buckthorn plants that filled a trailer. This helps improve the habitat of our woodlot and helped students learn about how an invasive species can harm a natural area. Special thanks to Charlie Taflin who took the photos accompanying this article.



Outdoor Adventures has long been one of the most popular elective classes for seniors attending District 11 high schools. Fishing, wildlife management, shooting sports (which includes gun safety classes), camping, edible plants, biking, canoeing, astronomy, orienteering, are among the class topics. We are fortunate that Anoka School District provides a class that values engaging youth in outdoor activities. We're also fortunate to have teachers like Matt Hendrickson who are willing to go the extra mile in order to make these classes successful.





If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to

Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: **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."

The Chapter Needs New Board Members

If you would like to
receive this newsletter
electronically, please contact
Barb Franklin at
763-657-1907

If you can provide light
refreshments for one of our
Tuesday meetings, please
contact

Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907

Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

November: Mona Geeting

Thank you



Our Chapter House is for rent

Chapter House Rental Rates*

Non-Members: (damage deposit: \$300.00;
\$200 for previous renters)

Monday through Thursday \$275.00 Friday,
Saturday, Sunday & Holidays....\$350.00

Members: (damage deposit \$100.00)

Monday through Thursday\$125.00

Friday, Saturday Sunday & Holidays...
\$175.00

Boy Scouts: (damage deposit \$50.00)

Overnights.....\$50.00

*Rates and terms subject to change without
notice; please contact the Chapter for special
circumstances.

Rental Chairperson: Tim Johnson (leave
messages at 763-561-5364)