



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
October 2019

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



## COMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER 2019

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
DNR – Endangered Species

### NOVEMBER 2019

- 2 State Division meeting at Chapter House
- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 No meeting

### DECEMBER 2019

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 No Meeting – Christmas Eve

### JANUARY 2019

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 19 Holiday Party 4-7 pm;  
Program –Siah St. Clair
- 28 No meeting

Social/Educational meeting  
Tuesday, October 21, 2019  
7:30 p.m.

Minnesota Environmental Partnership Executive Director Steve Morse will speak on the important environmental conservation issues of today and how M.E.P. helps other environmental groups focus on the most important issues and collectively brings them before the DNR and MN Legislature. Before joining MEP, Steve Morse was one of Minnesota's most predominant Environmental Conservation Senators. The public is welcome to this social/educational meeting on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Breckenridge Chapter House of the Izaak Walton League of America, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park. Light refreshments after the presentation.

If you can provide light refreshments for our Tuesday meetings, please contact  
Barbara Franklin  
763-657-1907  
Or [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)

October 22 - Lori Johnson  
November - No meeting  
December - No meeting

# Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD October 8, 2019

A quorum was present: Steve, Karen, Tim, Jim, Dennis, Wes, Joe and Dick attended.

Meeting was 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 our sharing in it.*

The committee for a bathroom remodel met early and ran a few minutes into the regular meeting – Judy, Karen and Savannah will meet during the next two weeks to select actual items on Judy's list (scope of work) to get a firm budget and desired choices of products.

## **Calendar overview:**

- Confirmed that November and December Social/Education meetings are cancelled due to proximity to holidays.
- Confirmed that our Holiday party will be January 18 (setup, Saturday) and 19 (party, Sunday).

Noted: Karen and Dennis both have sets of keys to the Chapter House.

## **Chapter House and Grounds:**

- Joe discussed bathroom project and scope of work to be headed up by Judy, Karen and Savannah (Steele).
- Furnace replacement discussion: Current furnace is 32 years old, so no question about replacing it. Price comparisons from three different contractors were made – deciding factors based on price, warranty, repair service available.
- Unanimous vote was for CenterPoint energy to be the contractor.
- Tree cutting and trimming: Jim will talk to Tom Reid about scheduling work.
- Stain for lodge siding and shed: Joe and his son Matt power washed old paint – Work should be done by this weekend.

- Yard light needs someone to stand on ladder to install new light. Tim, Dennis, and potentially Tim's neighbor Kal Bonema are hoping to install on Thursday. Guy wire to straighten the light pole to be done separately.
- Snowplowing discussed. Jim Arnold will check with the same reliable guy who did the snowplowing last season.

Some discussion was had regarding police being called to the Chapter House for some trespassers hanging around after dark. Police reports have been completed (individuals were caught smoking marijuana). It was suggested that members drive through periodically to keep current with activity taking place on the grounds.

## **Buckthorn:**

A plot with some buckthorn on our property was identified and application submitted by Tim to the U of M for a study (Cover it Up) to see if a mix of seeds they will provide will be effective in keeping down buckthorn even with expected deer browse. The National Park Service will assist us later this in month in treating a severe buckthorn infestation on a small section of Banfill Island. Champlin Park HS students are planning to pull buck thorn on another section of the island if river levels permit.

Funds may be available for stream bank erosion control – Joe is keeping in touch with Jody Yunger at City Hall.

## **Events and issues:**

Elections are done, Officer positions updated by Steve to national... Treasurer still left as John Fraley, Tim volunteering as interim secretary. Wendy Steele has volunteered for secretary position/board member, Steve asked for formal vote and the appointment was confirmed unanimously. Fitzgerald "Jerry" Steele also was nominated as board member and unanimously confirmed. Steve Schaust (and others) explained basics and were very encouraging to new board members.

## **Social/Education Meeting speakers:**

**October:** Steve Morse (former Senator and director at Minnesota Environmental Partnership - MEP) to speak – The board voted to make \$100 donation to MEP.

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**February:** TBD

**March:** Potentially Darby Nelson's new book to be presented by Geri, his wife. Dick to confirm.

All: Keep eyes and ears open for speakers for upcoming meetings. Wendy mentioned that MN Lottery may have a speaker who could come and give a presentation – she will check. \*Dick is hinting at passing on this role as Issues Chair to another board member.

Discussed changes at the State IWL Office: The secretary at our MN Division office has resigned from her position and the office is currently closed. Future plans to be discussed at the November 1 Division meeting at the Breckenridge Chapter House. All IWLA members are welcome to attend State Board meetings even though voting is restricted to designated Chapter representatives.

Chapter plans: To expand & develop membership plans, complete our projects, improve our image, continue our leadership in the community and stay positive.

Deer hunt: There has been one 3-day hunt so far on Banfill Island even with the high water volume in the Mississippi River. It was noted: that water median flow for this date in the Mississippi river is 4,600 cu ft, last year a record was set at 30,000 cu ft and this year is again a historic high of 33,000 cu ft. The increased volume of water coming down the river is likely related to climate change, increased manmade impervious surfaces, and agricultural drain tiles.

Steve mentioned he observed that Illinois bridges all have an “animal pathway” underneath. – Tim updated the board about lack of animal corridor pathway under the west side of the Hwy 610 Bridge: DOT and DNR have an agreement that all bridges should have this type of animal walkway under highway bridges. Tim is in contact with DNR and Friends of the Mississippi River on this issue.

Wetland Health Environmental Program (WHEP) wants the Ikes to monitor the stream health of the Mattson Creek – Tim will contact her this week to see what we will need to get started on this project asap. Joe is eager to help with this project.

State Division meeting: Karen is awaiting details so she can provide breakfast. Lunch TBD - Tim stated that he is willing to take that on.

Rentals: All weekends through the end of the year are rented.

Motion made and carried unanimously to donate \$200 each to Save the Boundary Waters and Friends of the Boundary Waters.

Treasurer's report: Jim reported that insurance for the Chapter House was paid by John. Steve will send \$253 to IWLA for our signage project on River Road.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.

## The Uncertain Return

In approximation of the year 1990, one of the Wood Duck Society's founding members, Lyle Bradley, filmed a gathering of well over 100 Wood Ducks feeding in our front yard. It was about dawn around the first of October. The attraction to the birds was a bountiful acorn harvest plus twice daily feedings of shelled corn.

Having had up to 13 Wood Duck houses on our property since the late 1950's and having fed them all those years in spring and fall, it has been gratifying to observe results of our efforts.

In the last few years we have noticed a considerable decline in Wood Duck population here on the Champlin Mill Pond. We now seem to attract only about 30 at their peak in the fall and only about half the houses are used. During peak years (1985-1995) 10 to 12 houses were always occupied. We assume the decline to be attributed to various changes in the neighborhood.

Natural wetlands nearby have been "citified". Brush and dead trees have been cleared on Doris Kemp Park and Veterans Memorial Park and many homes have been constructed on the Upper Ponds. The only property around the pond that has not been altered is our 5 acre parcel with its natural shoreline and about 2 acres of natural parkland behind our house. Some neighbors on the upper pond still have a few active houses on nearly undisturbed shores.

Having lived on the same property for 74 years we have difficulty not feeling bitter about the population explosion in this area. I can't help wondering what the next 100 years will bring to the remaining natural world.

In 1987, just as rapid development was looming on the upper Mill Pond, I observed one morning a lone male Wood Duck just under the rising fog. As I watched, looking with the sun against the rising fog bank, he paddled to follow the retreating fog across the Pond. It was about the middle of September.

This scene so roused me I wrote the following pledge, which was quoted in the timberlines about that time. The sentiment accompanying this fall season seems to me worth repeating.

## Mill Pond Wood Duck or October Parting

Clouds of misty fog that lie  
And cover placid water,  
Soon rise slowly through the trees  
To mingle with their color.

The stage is set with curtain rise  
And on the crest of furrowed wake  
A bird of splendor drifts along  
Toward the open lake.

Soon the fog will turn to ice  
And the furrow to black crystal;  
My duck to Southern lands will flee;  
Leaving me alone and wistful.

Will he make it through the line  
Of guns and Man and shot?  
Will his soft and winsome little life  
End in some hunter's pot?

I hope he flies up through the clouds  
To a safe and haven land  
And returns unto me in the spring  
To our favorite shoreline stand.

For when the Sun slips to the North  
And Wood Ducks do arrive,  
I will a haven for them keep,  
Their mates and young ones to survive.

*Dick Brown  
September 1987*



## OPINION:

by Dell Erickson

*Sunday StarTribune:*

### Alternative energies questioned - Michael Moore movie

Michael Moore is a far left film producer. As the alternative energy film is described, "Michael Moore set out to do a documentary on alternative energy, wound up discovering its limitations and came to the conclusion that alternative energy will not solve our problems."

This is nothing new. I recall fighting ethanol decades past while the Ikes and enviros were selling it. An unmitigated environmental (and economic) disaster. Likewise, biofuels lay waste natural areas with little or no, often negative benefit.

Back then, I ran headlong into the oligarchs of which the enviros had been and are, complicit. Sorry, the Breck Ikes seem to have joined them.

Energy, it's all about net energy, a subject the Ikes run from. Net energy describes the environmental consequences. Almost always, its economics is poor. Michael Moore finally found this out: "these technologies were just another profit center."

The question Moore asks is what to do? I provide an answer below. Moore is too conflicted to answer. It requires being true environmentalists, conservationists. Stop, reduce U.S. & Minnesota human populations, acquire habitats, prevent and close habitat fragmentation, and protect critical species.

None of this is part of the Ike annual agenda.

Re.: "New Michael Moore-backed doc tackles alternative energy", Lindsey Bahr, AP News, August 8, 2019.

See [≤](#)

<https://apnews.com/933b49681b0d47d3a005d356f35251ab> >.

Excerpts:

"... a low-budget but piercing examination of what the filmmakers say are the false promises

of the environmental movement and why we're still "addicted" to fossil fuels. Director Jeff Gibbs takes on electric cars, solar panels, windmills, biomass, biofuel, leading environmentalist groups like the Sierra Club, and even figures from Al Gore and Van Jones, who served as Barack Obama's special adviser for green jobs, to [350.org](http://350.org) leader Bill McKibben, a leading environmentalist and advocate for grassroots climate change movements."

"It turned out the wake up call was about our own side," Gibbs said in a phone interview. "It was kind of crushing to discover that the things I believed in weren't real, first of all, and then to discover not only are the solar panels and wind turbines not going to save us ... but (also) that there is this whole dark side of the corporate money ... It dawned on me that these technologies were just another profit center."

"It's up to people who actually share the same values to sometimes call each other out and bring out the uncomfortable truths," Gibbs said. "This is not a film by climate change deniers, this is a film by people who really care about the environment."

With more than 330 million consumers today, we are already experiencing terrifying resource and ecological consequences. If we don't come to our senses, by 2050 there will be another 140 million more resource and habitat depleters here; and with that much more environmental damage. 140,000,000 more within 30 years!!

And is the fundamental reason for seeking other forms of energy. We are running out of resources. An energy policy is first and foremost a population policy. No wonder Moore is conflicted.

Damage? Recently it was reported that 3,000,000 birds have been lost, yet there was no mention of habitat losses by the Ikes. Or remedy.

Yep, a U.S. population heading pell-mell to over 440 million by 2050, 2050!, on track to a colossal 625 million the end of this century. More birds, lots more birds disappearing.

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And rapidly increasing if trends persist. (Well, Not. Our Minnesota and U.S. population will have long collapsed to a substantially lower number mandated by the Four Horsemen, who are riding hard.)

Likewise in today's Strib it was reported that from 1940 to the mid 1980s grass pastures (i.e., bird habitat!) fell from 7.8 million acres to 3.2 million acres (Sports, Outdoors, pC16). And why not, Minnesota's population went from 1.97 million in 1905 to 5.7 million today. More people, more lands, natural lands, required.

When will there be enough people? What is the Ike definition of enough Minnesota critters, other life forms? Silence.

How about saving and increasing critical species? They are called Keystone species, species an ecological niche or system depends on. Wolves in Yellowstone. Starfish. Sea Otters. Groundhogs in the Midwest. Mountain lions. Did you see the TPT nature program last Friday (10/11/19) on keystone species?

In the same paper of the Moore film report was a report on habitat fragmentation. If you know me at all, you will know I promote wildlife corridors, reducing habitat fragmentation, connecting habitats. Connections across Minnesota. Legacy Funding running amok. It's the only way to save our wildlife. Yet, the Ikes remain silent.

Re.: "How connecting wildlife habitats helps them thrive", Ben Guarino, Washington Post in StarTribune, Science & Health, October 13, 2019. See < <http://www.startribune.com/a-way-to-improve-wildlife-habitats-connect-them/562643702/> >.

"... Landscape corridors are strips of undeveloped or restored land that link isolated habitats. They are "the most viable path toward real conservation for biodiversity, ... research shows that corridors "are superhighways for plants and animals, ... restored habitats, totaling 200 species ...rates of plant extinction were reduced by 2% annually in the connected

habitats. The colonization of new plant species shot up by 5% per year."

There is more on habitat and birds, pheasants in the following *StarTribune* same newspaper example.

Re.: "Where are all the pheasants? Habitat loss is tied to more farming: Pheasants decline as acres of once protected land are returned to production.", Greg Stanley, Star Tribune, October 13, 2019. See < <http://www.startribune.com/where-are-all-the-pheasants/562922162/> >.

Most would think that Minnesota's population increasing from 1.97 million in 1905 to 5.7 million today would be the issue discussed.

"... the state has lost about 1,200 square miles of protected land — an area the size of Rhode Island — that was key habitat for Minnesota's prized pheasants, ducks, jack rabbits and a variety of pollinators." Why? Because paying welfare to farmers is not a permanent solution to habitat loss. "... They worry about the sheer cost of the program — some \$2 billion in recent years — for habitat gains that, while significant, are only temporary."

The irony is that they always talk about pheasant or other wildlife populations but never ever human populations or their unrelenting demands.

That \$2b would buy 2,000,000 acres of habitat at \$1,000 per acre. Permanent safe habitat. Carbon sequestration habitat, critter habitat, ecosystem saving habitat. People saving habitat. Every period! Meanwhile, significantly increasing hunting, fishing licenses and those loving to be in the out of doors. Every period! Where's Legacy Funding? MEP?

*Dell Erickson*

## September meeting: Clean Water Challenge

At the September meeting on Minnesota's Clean Water Challenge Kim Carpenter spoke about becoming a Master Water Steward and the West Mississippi Watershed Pollution Reduction Project. This comprised several activities, including removing invasive trees and calling attention to the storm drains that empty directly into the river. These pictures illustrate some of the work that has been done by volunteers.



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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 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month.**  
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