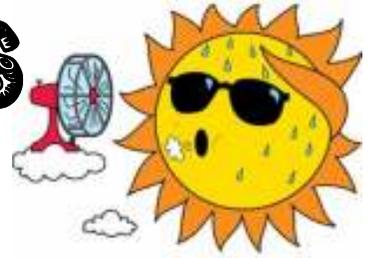




TIMBERLINES



W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
July 2018

www.breckenridgeikes.org

COMING EVENTS

JULY

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Omashkooz: Returning a Native – Mike Schrage on Elk Restoration

AUGUST

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 28 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

Social/Educational Meeting:

Omashkooz: Returning a Native

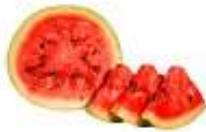
Mike Schrage, Wildlife Biologist with the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division
July 24, 2018

Omashkooz is the Ojibwe word for elk. Mike will talk about the efforts of the Fond du Lac Band, the University of Minnesota and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to investigate the feasibility of restoring elk to parts of northeast Minnesota. He'll talk about the history and ecology of elk in the eastern United States and the process for restoring elk to northeast Minnesota. In addition, he'll talk briefly on the moose situation in northeast Minnesota; what we know and what's likely needed in order to recover moose numbers.



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

- July 24 - Mary Ellen Vetter
- Aug 28 - Sylvia Winkelman
- Sep 25 - Lori Johnson
- Oct 23 - Judy Arnold



Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes June 12, 2018

A quorum of board members were present: Steve, Tim, John, Wes, Barb, Larry, Joe and Karen.

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.*

Discussion was had about coordinating National Night Out on August 7th with neighbors and offering to hold it at the Chapter House.

John presented Treasurer's report. No major changes. John asked for advice on whether to direct recurring employer associated donations into general fund.

Jim updated us on scholarship. He will invite two recipients to our August Social/Ed meeting. There is enough money in the scholarship fund for this year.

Rental report: We had June booked solid. July and August are slow. We will get some building work done during those months.

Joe, Tim & Jim presented options for replacement of roof shingles, soffit repair and upgrade of attic insulation.

Motion made to approve spending \$18,000 on building project to include:

- Blocking off east end basement windows and sealing around rim joist
- Knocking off vestigial north side chimney to below roof line before replacing shingles
- Replace roof shingles damaged last year
- Replace north side soffit and fascia which is collapsing
- Remove vermiculite (asbestos contaminated) and other current attic insulation
- Bring attic ventilation up to code
- Replace attic insulation to R-50
- Install new gutters (as last task if funds still available)

This motion also included the appointment of Joe Klohs as volunteer general contractor for the project. (Thank you Joe!!!)

Funding sources for the project rely mostly upon the insurance settlement already received. In addition we have received a grant of \$2,000 from the Izaak Walton League Minnesota Division for the improvement of our energy efficiency. We also will be eligible for partial reimbursement of vermiculite (the attic has several inches of it added in the 1960's) removal costs if tests show it was from a particular mine in Montana.

Tim Johnson, Interim Secretary

Champlin Garden Club

We received this letter of thanks and a check for \$200 from the Champlin Garden Club for donating plants left over from the Pancake Breakfast Plant Sale.

June 14, 2018

To The Izaak Walton League and the Ladies that potted all the plants.

Thank you so much for the donation of all those plants over the years!

We had a very successful plant sale this spring in spite of the weather and the traffic congestion in Champlin. Due to the reconstruction around the mill pond, we have been unable to access the gardens we established in Doris Kemp Park and 2 of them have been obliterated by the heavy equipment moving through there. Since we were unable to spend the money to plant the gardens, we have donated \$2,000 to support the Champlin Brooklyn Park Academy's horticulture programs in the form of text books for Junior Master Gardeners. We also wish to recognize the Izaak Walton League's contributions to our sale over the years and are enclosing a check for \$200. We appreciate and value the connection between our organizations and want to continue as we have many similar concerns and goals.

Thank you!

River Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting Held

Did you know that Brooklyn Park has no naturally occurring lakes and that the Mississippi River is the only non-engineered body of water in our city? It's no wonder then that River Park is the gem of our park system. (See diagram on page 4.)

Plans by the City of Brooklyn Park to invest in improvements at River Park, which would draw more citizens to it, are being drawn up. Our Chapter had two representatives (Jim Arnold and Tim Johnson) in attendance at a high level planning session in June. The vision (see *diagram*) of the City's Parks & Recreation Director, Jody Yungers, is to emphasize the natural features, using them to draw in people and give them a point of contact with the mighty river. Sporting facilities would be de-emphasized.

Her hope is to not duplicate all that is being planned for Mississippi Gateway Regional Park (formerly known as Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park) but to coordinate with them and the National Park Service. Initial ideas for improvements include naturalizing the storm sewer channel at the newly acquired property at the south end to include a storm water treatment train system and widening the inlet to the river to create a safe harbor for kayak and canoe landings. Another idea would be to open up some view-points along the bank to draw people to the river. Right now, park goers can be at the park and hardly know the river is right there. Years ago, the City owned a small building on the south end of the park which was used for a pre-school and in winter as a warming house for an ice rink. That was demolished many years ago. An idea now is to build a park building and restrooms nearby which might be used to hold day camps and relocation of the Nature Preschool for our younger generations. Nearby might be added a natural playground as compared with the traditionally engineered playground already installed near the main picnic shelter.

As plans begin to solidify, the City will plan meetings to solicit more input from the community. Our Chapter has offered to serve as the venue for these meetings.

Reported by Tim Johnson

Maintenance work on the Chapter's house and grounds has been proceeding. On Saturday, June 30 this group of stalwarts +others moved much of the woodpile indoors to the shed.



And Tuesday Karen, Lori & Barb organized & labeled the kitchen.





RIVER PARK

LOCATION: 101 83rd Avenue North

ACREAGE: 41.65

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Community Park

GOAL

Create a river destination park that highlights natural resources and focuses on picnicking and gathering. Strengthen the community connection to river by providing opportunities to access the river visually and physically.

CONNECTION TO EMERGING THEMES

- Connections to the River
- Connections to the natural world
- Natural Resources conservation and Interpretation
- Introduce new or expanded Special Use Facilities- Large Gathering Spaces
- Increase connectivity of trail system
- Improve Safety/Conveniences for Park Users

BIG MOVES

- Walking loop- create better connections between the north and south portions of the park
- Create trail connections from WMRT to park (81st and 83rd)
- Improve water access from river to park - canoes, kayaks, etc. Support paddle share program. Create safe harbor for non-motorized boats.
- Restore shoreline, low trail, with a combination of hardscape and softscape design applications
- Expand wooded/riparian habitat
- Open views to the river with selective clearing/removal of invasive species
- Create new trail connections/overlooks to river edge
- Create opportunities for shore fishing (fishing pier and/or platform)
- Expand existing building/shelter – add kitchen
- Add new park building/picnic shelter on south side to accommodate day camp use and expanded picnic programming
- Possible relocation of Nature Preschool and incorporate into new facility
- Expand parking to accommodate expanded gathering space on south side of park
- Eliminate or phase out baseball fields
- Gathering space for families/picnic overflow
- Multi-Purpose field space
- Incorporate nature play within riparian area and near new building to the south
- Create treatment train system that is a park amenity and educational opportunity to handle existing untreated stormwater
- Incorporate interpretation and educational opportunities in prairie restoration area.
- Add additional overlooks on the north side of park

Water Action Day, May 2

What is Sulfide Mining?

Thanks to Karen Ostenso, who gathered this information from Wikipedia, MPR news, the Water Legacy website, and Paula Maccabee's presentation.

Recently, there has been a lot of media coverage regarding the limit of sulfate permitted in Minnesota wild rice waters. But what is sulfate and where does it come from? Paula Maccabee, policy advocate for Water Legacy, spoke at Water Action Day on May 2. She has been very involved in this issue. She pointed out that, since the 10 ppm (parts per million) limit was established in 1973, it has been minimally enforced, but tribes and environmentalists have pushed it into the limelight following proposed legislation to eliminate it.

The terminology involved is confusing to me. First of all, there are 2 spellings for sulfur, the other one being sulphur which is the typical British spelling. Its chemical symbol is S and interestingly, is referred to in the Bible as brimstone. Sulfur is an element which is generally found in nature in combination with metals, such as nickel or copper. The compounds are sulfides, so their chemical notation depends on which metal is in the compound. Copper nickel mining, also known as sulfide mining, involves the removal of the metal from the compound using pressure, heat and chemicals. Sulfate, SO₄, is a byproduct of the process.

The byproduct is the problem because when exposed to air or water, sulfate becomes sulfuric acid, H₂SO₄, which is toxic. Incidentally, the lava in Hawaii is causing a big problem because of this reaction when it encounters water. Not only is sulfate the source of toxicity, but is very difficult and expensive to remove from the water. It is harmful to plant and animal life. The Minnesota DNR and Pollution Control Agency have verified research that large stands of wild rice do not exist in water with more than 10 ppm of sulfate. There have also been experiments showing that mercury concentrations increase in the presence of high sulfate concentration. Mercury is well known to harm fetuses and young children.

Elizabeth Dunbar, journalist for MPR, has investigated the science and legislation surrounding

sulfide mining and its effects. All of her articles are on the MPR website.

An interesting interview she did with Jeff Hanson was aired on May 15, 2018. He is a scientist who grew up in northern Minnesota and is now living there after many years' absence. He has been working on a means to remove sulfate from water that is much less expensive than reverse osmosis. His equipment is a floating bioreactor that converts the sulfate to sulfide. He feels this type of equipment has the potential to provide an alternative to the dichotomy of mining/not mining. It is not clear what problems might arise from using this equipment on a large scale, but I give him credit for thinking "outside the box."

The Minnesota legislature will be out of session when this issue of *Timberlines* comes out, but I assume that the discussion of mining pollution and wild rice will go on for a long time. It seems useful to have some insight into the science involved.

Nobel Conference 54 Living Soil: A Universe Underfoot

October 2 & 3, 2018

Thanks to Geri Nelson who suggested that some people might be interested in attending this event or the preview of the conference on July 13.

Sneak Peek Soil Tour

July 13, 2018

"Living Soil: A Universe Underfoot" is the topic for this year's Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter on October 2 & 3. For more information and to register go to gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2018/

Scoop up some soil in your hands and consider there are more organisms in that handful of soil than humans who have ever lived. Soil is a living entity in its own right, a community of micro- and macro-organisms that interact with the earth's mineral resources to create this complex entity that undergirds all life on the planet. The 54th Nobel Conference, *Living Soil: A Universe Underfoot*, invites participants to consider the vast diversity and complexity of soil, and to ponder the challenges we face in protecting this most fundamental resource.

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 6

Thanks to Tim Johnson and Larry Kennebeck for providing these pictures taken at the Pancake Breakfast. It was a beautiful day with just a hint of rain and we took in \$1728.80 including plant sale and raffle, and netted \$1284.36 after expenses. The plant sale yielded \$139 in spite of limited stock. And Wes Hendrickson presented a poster/card in honor of Marlys Steiskal Appreciation Day for her long service as Timberlines editor.





**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
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Brooklyn Park MN 55444**



**If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to
Barbara Franklin at: bbfrankli@gmail.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.”**

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)