



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
November/December 2010
www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

December

14 Board Meeting 7:30 pm

January

11 Board Meeting 7:30 pm

16 Annual Holiday Party

The program will feature Chris Niskanen, Outdoors Editor/St Paul Pioneer Press . He will present a power point program on his new book, "Prairie, Lake, Forest: Minnesota's State Parks"

February

08 Board Meeting 7:30 pm

22 Social/Ed meeting

Dr. Peter Sorensen of the University of Minnesota

March

08 Board Meeting 7:30 pm

22 Social/Ed meeting

April

12 Board Meeting 7:30 pm

26 Social/Ed meeting

May

01 Pancake Breakfast

10 Board Meeting 7:30 pm

24 Social/Ed meeting

Walter J. Breckenridge,
His Life in Natural History

Welcome our Newest members

Susan Dusbabeck

Linda George

Lisa Sellman

Greg Weinand



Volunteers for refreshments needed.

*Please call
Melissa Sonnenberg
if you can help.*

763-549-8873

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

**Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League of America
11-9-10 Board Meeting Notes**

Attending: Steve Shaust, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, Bruce Hansen, Roger Williams, John Fraley, Wes Hendrickson, Melissa Sonnenberg, Bill Barton, Barb Franklin, Marlys Carls-Steiskal, Lorraine Spears

CALENDAR:

November 23th – Social Educational Meeting – Troubled Waters film - Kevin Prescholt

November 30th – Holiday Decorating 7pm

December 12, MN Division Executive Committee, (teleconference)

December 14th – Board of Directors Meeting

January 11th – Board of Directors Meeting

January 16th – Holiday Party-Judy & Jim will do the Auction, Setup and Decorating to be determined Melissa & others? (decorations by end of Nov.) Chris Niskenen on State Parks His new book will be available.

January 22-23, 2011, MN Division Winter Board of Directors, Bush Lake Chapter, @ Bloomington (REI)

February 22nd – Social Educational Meeting – Dr. Peter Sorenson of U of M, Common Carp

March 13, 2011, MN Division Executive Committee, (teleconference)

March 22th - Social Educational Meeting – Paul Danicic FBWCA possibly on public lands

April 15-17, 2011, MN Division Annual Meeting, W. J. McCabe Chapter, Duluth

April 19th – Social Educational - Meeting No Kid Left Inside - Camp Menogyn (by staff)

May 1st – Pancake Breakfast

June 17th, 18th, 19th, & 21st – Art Show

June 12, 2011, MN Division Executive Committee

July 11-15, 2011, National IWLA Convention, Des Moines, IA

ISSUES:

=OPEN BOARD POSITION=

Boundary Waters from MN Division meeting South Foul Lake Snowmobile Trail Project i.e. snowmobile trail at edge of BWCA, on cliff above Royal Lake in a unique habitat area. Sound analysis was done for the DEIS by USFS untrained technicians with un-reliable equipment. Midwest Division has hired an acoustic technician but needs funding. Attorneys agree this is an inadequate DEIS. Other Chapters and organizations have supported this effort. Comment period has closed. Dick Brown motioned that the Breckenridge Chapter give \$200 to MW Office of IWLA for South Foul Lake Trail Project efforts. Seconded by Barb. Passed unanimously.

MEP issues from State Division Meeting - The following issues: Expanding Opportunities for Electric Vehicles in Minnesota, Meeting Minnesota Carbon Goals Using Market Mechanisms, Transitioning to Cleaner Homegrown Transportation Fuels, Curb Invasive Species Spread, Preventing Harm from Metallic Sulfide Copper-Nickel Mining, were endorsed by the Minnesota Division. Dick is concerned about the lack of specificity of the transition to cleaner homegrown transportation fuels issue with news of logging being used as a

source. Discussion followed on this and Increasing Transportation Choices that did not pass for MN Division Endorsement.

VALENTINE DINNER IN FEBRUARY - John will follow up?

ART SHOW AND ART WORKSHOP - ART SHOW – John is working on plans?

CHAPTER HOUSE AND GROUNDS:

Paint Projects – new windows outside, shed inside was painted on garbage can side to lighten up & seal Eagle Scout painting projects signed off by Steve.

Bear & beaver chain saw statues & a Martin House donated by Joe Klohs, we do not have open area for Martin house.

Winter Snowplowing – Jim has arranged.

Fall Leaf Clean-up – Done by Scouts November 6th.

Fireplace Cap needs to be installed?

Battery replacement for front sign – Steve

Letters on Chimney – Wes & Jim will take the old letters down for pattern, may be next spring.

REFINISH ON FLOOR – Still to be arranged for early November? Wes & Jim to coordinate with rentals.

NEWSLETTER – SUBMIT MATERIAL! Let's all write. We need to have some articles in reserve and should have an article on the social educational program for the month. Please compress photos.

Treasurers Report – Paid \$1500 for insurance so paid out more than income this month and balance down some from last year.

Scouts – Overnight planned on Nov. 20th.

Scholarship Committee – Currently sponsoring 5 students now, it looks like we have funds for 5 again next year counting estimated endowment income, funds left in checking, and silent auction funds.

Breckenridge Chapter has awarded 48 scholarships over the last twelve years! J

Jim motioned to authorize scholarship committee to fund 5 scholarships next year. Roger Williams second. Passed unanimously.

Website www.breckenridgeikes.org

Rentals - November calendar is slow. All Saturdays are filled for December and calendar is filling up. Rental income is up ~15% over last year.

Membership – of 126 members. 51 members renewed so far, four new members!

Respectfully submitted

Bill Barton 10-12-10

Wes Libbey, Grand Rapids-area conservationist, dies

Wes Libbey, who championed conservation issues in Itasca County for the past seven decades, died Tuesday night at his home in Cohasset at the age of 101.

By: [Sam Cook](#), Duluth News Tribune

Wes Libbey, who championed conservation issues in Itasca County for the past seven decades, died Tuesday night at his home in Cohasset at the age of 101.

Libbey helped form the Grand Rapids chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America in 1934, and in 2006 the group renamed its club the Grand Rapids Wes Libbey chapter of the Izaak Walton League. He served as the chapter's president, state president of the Ikes and was a national director of the league from 1972 to 1978.



He was an active member of the Grand Rapids Rotary Club, attending weekly meetings until just before his death. An active hunter and angler, he hunted deer last year at age 100, sitting on a chair that his son, Rich, put on top of a small hill for him. He shot his last deer when he was 95.

Libbey founded the Pokegama Lake Association, helped found a local chapter of Ducks Unlimited and was a founding member of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. He was active in Itasca County conservation efforts throughout his life, carrying his message to County Board meetings, city council meetings or wherever issues surfaced. He was especially focused on lakefront zoning issues.

"The man was incredible," said Randy McCarty of

Cohasset and a fellow member of the Grand Rapids Rotary Club. "The guy has been an icon of conservation in this part of the world longer than most of us have been alive. People like that just aren't born anymore."

Libbey joined his father, Bill Libbey, in operating Libbey Funeral Home in Grand Rapids and was involved in the firm from 1933 until his retirement in 1969.

He was considered mild-mannered yet dogged in his pursuit of conservation issues, say those who knew him.

"He was such an organizer and such a go-getter," said Bill Berg, a longtime Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist from Bovey. "At a typical Ikes meeting, we'd conduct our meeting and be ready to go, and Wes would bring out this satchel of Ikes stuff we needed to discuss. He never ran out of energy."

Jay Janecek, a former regional wildlife manager for the DNR in Grand Rapids, said of Libbey in a 2006 News Tribune interview: "He listens. Then he tells you if you're right or wrong. But he's diplomatic. He doesn't get everyone all riled up."

Duluth's Dave Zentner, a long-time conservationist and environmentalist, offered a similar assessment in that 2006 News Tribune story.

"He is what you'd call politely persistent," Zentner said. "Wes is tenacious. He is indefatigable."

Ten ways dams damage rivers

1. Dams reduce river levels

By diverting water for power, dams remove water needed for healthy in-stream ecosystems. Stretches below dams are often completely de-watered.

2. Dams block rivers

Dams prevent the flow of plants and nutrients, impede the migration of fish and other wildlife, and block recreational use. Fish passage structures can enable a percentage of fish to pass around a dam, but multiple dams along a river make safe travel unlikely.

3. Dams slow rivers

Many fish species, such as salmon, depend on steady flows to flush them downriver early in their life and guide them upstream years later to spawn. Stagnant reservoir pools disorient migrating fish and significantly increase the duration of their migration.

4. Dams alter water temperatures

By slowing water flow, most dams increase water temperatures. Other dams decrease temperatures by releasing cooled water from the reservoir bottom. Fish and other species are sensitive to these temperature irregularities, which often destroy native populations.

5. Dams alter timing of flows

By withholding and then releasing water to generate power for peak demand periods, dams cause downstream stretches to alternate between no water and powerful surges that erode soil and vegetation, and flood or strand wildlife. These irregular releases destroy natural seasonal flow variations that trigger natural growth and reproduction cycles in many species.

6. Dams fluctuate reservoir levels

Peaking power operations can cause dramatic changes in reservoir water levels -- often up to 40 feet -- which degrade shorelines and disturb fisheries, waterfowl, and bottom-

dwelling organisms.

7. Dams decrease oxygen levels in reservoir waters

When oxygen-deprived water is released from behind the dam, it kills fish downstream.

8. Dams hold back silt, debris, and nutrients

By slowing flows, dams allow silt to collect on river bottoms and bury fish spawning habitat. Silt trapped above dams accumulates heavy metals and other pollutants. Gravel, logs and other debris are also trapped by dams, eliminating their use downstream as food and habitat.

9. Dam turbines hurt fish

Following currents downstream, fish can be injured or killed by turbines. When fish are trucked or barged around the dams, they experience increased stress and disease and decreased homing instincts.

10. Dams increase predator risk

Warm, murky reservoirs often favor predators of naturally occurring species. In addition, passage through fish ladders or turbines injure or stun fish, making them easy prey for flying predators like gulls and herons.

"When I visit a dam, I often find a plaque honoring by name the engineer, government leader, contracting firm and the height, size, date, volume of water held or diverted, power generated, flood capacity measurements. And that's fine.

But I don't find a plaque with the names of any species hurt, the names of any people displaced, the cost to taxpayers, the price of maintenance or decommissioning, or why this option was chosen over, say, windmills, solar panels, natural gas, groundwater pumping, demand management or some decentralized tools."

-- From a World Commission on Dams member

We Could Have Avoided Levies If We Had Valued Our Water.

Bill Barton 11-15-10

I just read the following article about WMO tax levies for erosion in our area and penned the following comment.

"Tax levies will give creeks \$1.5 million

The funds will curb erosion in Shingle Creek and Bassett Creek watersheds, but debate continues over accountability for decisions. "http://www.startribune.com/local/west/107803749.html?cache=n&ucb=1289852260#post_comments"

Here is my comment:

If we hadn't destroyed the low spots, wetlands and ephemeral streams while building acres of impervious surfaces and storm sewers we wouldn't need these levies. We have found the enemy and he is us.

Instead of complaining we can do some things for ourselves to avoid future levies. Instead of treating our rain water as waste we should value it and stop the rain drain. There are many things we can all do to avoid levies for mitigating storm water runoff that fouls our waters, causes erosion and flooding. We can landscape so the water that falls on our property stays there, infiltrating into the ground. We can go to our community storm water management meetings and ask that we stop building ancient technology storm water systems with our project and tax dollars. We can advocate building collection and infiltration into our projects. We could even go to a WMO meeting and volunteer to help. For example, since 1996 the city of Maplewood has installed over 450 boulevard rain gardens and over 30 city rain gardens as part of street reconstruction projects. We can allow shore land buffers to grow and protect the water and shoreline. We can respect natural wetlands and waters instead of allowing mitigation in another location when projects are being planned and designed. We can insist that our local governments protect our wetlands, streams, and water resources instead of viewing them as an impediment to development. Who pays when speculators use

loopholes and sympathetic local decisions to develop cheap wetlands into impervious surfaces? You do.

OPINION **SULFIDE MINING AND OUR NATURAL AREAS**

There are few areas in the United States that are true wilderness. Exceptions are ANWAR in Alaska (which is partially in constant political jeopardy) and some other places there. Some wilderness areas in the lower U.S. are somewhat compromised and often in danger of becoming compromised.

The BWCAW is greatly used by thousands of people every year and is therefore compromised to some extent by human traffic and threats of nearby development. Sulfide mining would be one of these.

But much of Minnesota's wild lands that are not actual "wilderness" are too often in jeopardy of environmental degradation, such as our National, State and County forests, prairies and refuges; also many private lands.

With our seemingly unreversible population growth and our diminishing abundance and diversity of NATIVE species (flora and fauna) I believe we need to hold the line on developing environmentally sensitive and wild areas, especially with highly toxic materials.

Therefore, unproven safety methods of development such as sulfide mining should not be allowed and a land swap cannot improve the situation. If we are to preserve the Natural Heritage of what is left of our Nation we must actively promote policy to that end and it behooves our constituency to inform our State and National Government leaders of this concern.

Dick Brown

Photography Suggestions Dell Erickson, Charlie Taflin, & Roger Williams

Nature lovers enjoy photos of friends, family, pets, and the natural environment. Because today's cameras can do most of the thinking, even inexperienced photographers can make images they are proud to show to their friends. Here are some tips to help you make your pictures more interesting and maybe even wall-hangers!

General Suggestions:

1. Camera: Buy one with Zoom range of 5-8, image stabilization, and viewfinder.
2. Sit in front of the TV and experiment with the camera's features –you can't break the camera!
3. Generally turn off red-eye reduction (if necessary, correction is easy in processing).
4. Turn on facial recognition.
5. Get closer than you typically might do. Better, step back a few paces and zoom in.
6. Slowly but continuously press the shutter until after the picture is taken.
7. Ask the subject to look at your hand (held shoulder high and to one side) or Aunt Matilda's picture hanging on the wall behind you. Say "let's practice once", "ready, now look" –and gently press the shutter at the same time. J Everyone will look and have their eyes open.
8. Outdoors, often it is better to have the sun at the subject's back or somewhat to the side in back and use the flash to fill in the shadows. Same applies for cloudy or shady subjects.

Portraits & People: Charlie Taflin

This is a photo of my daughter Mary and her daughter Viola.

Lighting: In this case I used a flash attached to the hot shoe of my camera. Flash lighting, however, can be harsh and unflattering, so to soften the light and minimize shadows I attached a diffuser to the flash that directed most of the light toward the ceiling and some of it toward the subject. This produces a nice effect for portraits and is easy to do. If the subject wears glasses try not to get a big flash reflection in them – the subject may have to tip the head down a little or remove the glasses.



Mary and Viola by Charlie Taflin

Natural light can yield wonderful portraits. Outdoors I like to pose my subject in open shade, with the sun generally behind me. An overcast sky may yield very nice portrait lighting. Avoid shooting when the sun is overhead, though, as that can produce very harsh shadows and an unflattering picture.

Pose: A customary pose for portraits is to have the subject's eyes look straight at the camera, but having two subjects looking at each other adds an element of interest and can make for an appealing shot.

Background: This is extremely important and easy to overlook when your attention is directed toward the subject. The background should be simple and should not detract from the subject. In this case I posed them against a white wall. It might have been a better picture if I could have posed them farther away from the wall to make the shadows less noticeable, but the setting didn't allow it. The diffused flash helped minimize this problem.

Printing: Although digital technology now dominates the world of photography there are still some pictures being shot on film, especially black-and-white pictures. Until quite recently digital printers couldn't quite match the quality obtainable with film and silver paper for a black-and-white print (by "silver paper" I mean paper used in traditional darkroom printing). Newer digital photo printers do very well in this regard, but to my eye there is a special quality to a silver print that is particularly appealing. This picture of Mary and her daughter was taken with a film camera and printed on silver paper with a "pearl" surface (as opposed to glossy or matte). For portraits, particularly of young girls and women, I like to print the picture with fairly low contrast to give the faces a soft look.

Nature & Wildlife: Roger Williams

1. Try to capture images that tell a story. Images that show action - eating, preening, feeding chicks, interaction with other animals/birds, etc. are more interesting to the viewer.
2. Lighting is critical. The best light is found early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Try to avoid the harsh mid-day light that washes out your subject and creates deep unwanted shadows. Shady days provide softer light and a much longer shooting time. Try to position yourself so the sun is directly behind you with your shadow pointing directly at the subject.



Loon by Roger Williams

3. Get as close as possible to your subject to avoid unnecessary cropping. Determine how much environment is necessary to provide a setting for the subject and try to limit the image to that amount by using the zoom feature of your camera.

Here are several points to consider in making pleasing wildlife images with any camera:

4. Be creative with composition. Most often, the subject should not be placed directly in the center of the image. And, keep in mind that the most pleasing composition may be vertical rather than horizontal.
5. Practice taking photos with camera settings other than "P". You will be far more creative by learning how to use the aperture (Av), shutter (Tv) or manual (M) settings.
6. When photographing moving wildlife, use a fast shutter speed to stop action. Remember that a higher ISO adds speed, as well as the Tv control.
7. Most wildlife photographs are taken with digital single-lens reflex cameras (DSLR's) which accept a wide range of lenses. DSLR's also employ a histogram which enables the photographer to make quick corrections to exposure settings. Read the manual and learn how to use the histogram and other important features of your camera.
8. Telephoto lenses are a big bonus in wildlife photography, particularly for birds. You won't regret buying the best glass you can afford.

Landscapes: Dell Erickson

When the scene is big and inviting, try to picture the most interesting area. Zoom in and out; move the camera while looking through the viewfinder. Often, it helps to include something off-center and nearer as a point of reference and interest; a building, tree, bush, animal or person are examples. People standing near and looking up at a waterfall would be an example.

The lens opening (aperture) helps determine what will be in focus. Often the camera's main dial will have a "scene" option.



Arches Park by Dell Erickson

During the day, that adjustment will automatically select better apertures for many landscape images. Otherwise, generally use f8 or f11. Near and far subjects? Use f16-f22; probably everything from about 8' out will be in acceptable focus.

Finally, taking pictures early or late in the day and in fog, rain, snow, or cloudy days will often produce pictures with more color and interest.

10 Ways Dams Damage Rivers Restoring Rivers

10 ways dams damage rivers

Over the past 100 years, the United States has led the world in dam building -- blocking and harnessing rivers for a variety of purposes, including hydropower, irrigation, flood control, and water storage.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has catalogued approximately 75,000 dams greater than 6 feet along the waterways of the United States - and at least tens of thousands of smaller dams pepper our rivers and streams. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt recently observed that, "on average, we have constructed one dam every day since the signing of the Declaration of Independence."

While dams can benefit society, they also cause considerable harm to rivers. Dams have depleted fisheries, degraded river ecosystems, and diminished recreational opportunities on nearly all of the nation's rivers. Today, many dams are old, unsafe or no longer serve their intended purposes. For many of these dams where the negative impacts of the dam on the river and

riverside communities outweigh the benefits of the dam, dam removal may be a reasonable approach to restore healthy rivers and riverside communities. Most of the nation's 75,000 large dams, however, are not likely candidates for removal, but this does not mean that our nation's rivers are destined to be as heavily impacted by these dams as they are today. Most dams across the country could be operated in a fashion that reduces their current impacts on the river.

[Read about how hydropower works](#) (Department of Energy link)



*See a map of river restoration projects
from across the country*

Scholarship Planning for the 2011 – 12 School Year

By Jim Arnold

At the November meeting the board approved awarding as many as five scholarships for the 2011- 12 school year. The scholarship endowment fund, which currently totals about \$40,000, is not currently earning enough to fund all the scholarships. Because of fundraisers and other donations, however, we will have enough funding to award as many as five scholarships without dipping into the chapter's general fund.

At present the Breckenridge Chapter is sponsoring five scholarship students at a cost of \$2,500. The Chapter has awarded forty-eight \$500 scholarships (a total of \$24,000) during the twelve years of the scholarship programs existence. Awarding these scholarships represents a major commitment to environmental education on the part of our chapter.

The January and February Timberlines will include specific information about applying for the scholarship.

If you would like to contribute to the Breckenridge Chapter Scholarship Endowment Fund please use the form below. Please contact a member of the scholarship committee (Jim Arnold, Judy Arnold, Melissa Sonnenberg or Charlie Taflin) if you have any questions about the Chapter's scholarship program.

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*Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife Scholarship Fund
Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America*

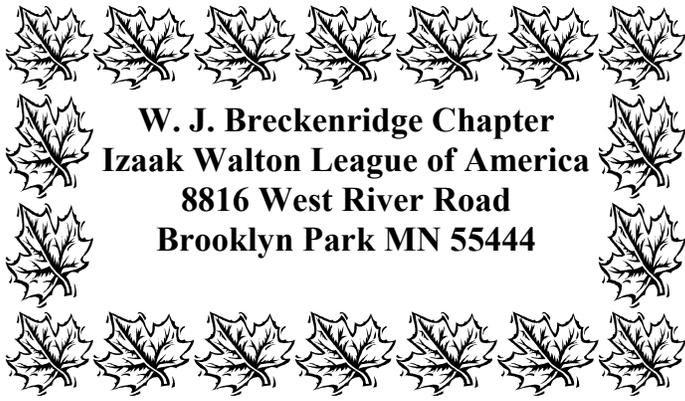
___ I would like more information on the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Endowment Fund.

___ Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of _____ to be used for the scholarship endowment fund

Please return this form to:

Scholarship Committee
Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
8816 West River Rd
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

The Breckenridge Chapter of the IWLA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law.



**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**
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.”

Thanks Scouts

Many of you are aware that Boy Scout Troop 332 is sponsored by our Chapter. They use the Chapter House for meetings on Monday nights. You may not be aware that they also volunteer for a number of maintenance projects in and around the Chapter House. On Saturday, November 6 many members of Troop 332 and their parents gathered to rake leaves and clean the grounds around the Chapter House. It is a major project each fall to clear leaves from the yard, parking lot and driveway. This hard working group did a great job. Thanks to all who helped!

