



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League

May/June 2009  
[www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)



## Coming Events

### June

06 8:30—11:00 am Rain garden weeding, planting and mulching. Call Jim Arnold (763) 560-8972 for details.

06 Canoe/Kayak on Mississippi River or Minnehaha Creek 9:00am - 3:00pm. Stop for lunch at halfway point. John (763-202-3346) [imgahn2u@yahoo.com](mailto:imgahn2u@yahoo.com) Must have some canoe or kayak paddling experience.

09 BOARD MEETING 7:30

13 - 21 - Breckenridge Chapter Geo-Caching Event (as part of Tater Daze)

23 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 Nancy Gibson. Topic – “Beyond Deer, Pheasant and Walleye”.

### July

08 BOARD MEETING 7:30  
28 Social Educational Meeting

### August

11 BOARD MEETING 7:30

25 Social Educational Meeting Gene Merriam, President of the Freshwater Society and former DNR Commissioner.

### September

8 BOARD MEETING 7:30  
22 Social Educational Meeting

### October

25 - First Annual Breckenridge Chapter Nature and Wildlife Art Show 12:00noon – 5:00pm Open to chapter members and the public. Free!!



*Volunteers for refreshments  
needed.*

*Please call Melissa Sonnenberg  
if you can help.  
763-549-8873*

# Breckenridge Chapter Board Meeting Minutes May 12, 2009

**Attendance:** Barb Franklin, John Rust, Jim Arnold, Steve Schaust, Bruce Hansen, Dick Brown, Melissa Sonnenberg, , Bill Barton, Wes Hendrickson, Judy Arnold.

Minutes were approved.

## **Correspondence:**

We voted to send a donation of \$75 to the Wildlife work on Rehabilitation organization. John will write a letter to the editor thanking those who attended the pancake breakfast.

## **Calendar:**

June 6	Rain Garden
June 13-21	IWL Involvement in Tater Daze: Geo-Caching
June 18	Tater Daze Parade-John, Barb, Steve, Melissa & Judy will work on "float"
June 23	Program: Nancy Gibson-Beyond Deer, Ducks, and Walleye
July 28	Program: Audubon will provide program
Aug. 25	Program: Gene Merriam-Fresh Water Society

## **Finances:**

Jim updated us on possible upcoming projects. These included completion of rain garden, windows for the east side, and shed.

## **Membership:**

3-5 people expressed interest in becoming members at the recent pancake breakfast.

## **Scholarship:**

The scholarship committee reported on the new scholarship recipients. Because of an unusually talented group of applications, it was decided to award 5 scholarships. This was made possible by a \$500 donation from a generous Chapter member.

## **Treasurer:**

John recently met with Erika. Funds have been

transferred to the new checking account.

## **Chapter House & Grounds:**

Steve is working on the frame for the solar light. The 2 windows on the east side will be an upcoming summer project. The rain garden plantings will be completed on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Rentals:**

Wes reported we have three new rentals since last month.

## **Issues:**

Steve alerted us to the possibility of new legislation to allow drilling in the Artic Wildlife Refuge using new offshore and unproven technology.

Judy has signed us up to be on the Citizen Stream Monitoring Program using resources provided to us by the Mn. Pollution Control Agency. We will be receiving, free of charge, a transparency tube, rain gauge, data sheets, CSMP instruction manual, and a training video. Barb and she will use these materials to monitor the water quality of the Mississippi River in our area.

Dick reported on the State Division Annual Meeting, which both he and Vera attended. Three of our four resolutions passed as well as John's resolution on sulfide mining.

Dick and Steve reported on the Clean Water Restoration Act.

Bill shared information on the Wetlands Conservation Act.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Arnold





## **June is National IWLA Membership Month — Grow Your Chapter's Membership —**

**Isn't it time to tell others about the valuable benefits and opportunities that a League membership has to offer?**

Izaak Walton League chapters are one of the best kept secrets. That's why we've designated this June as "National IWLA Membership Month." When you encourage a friend to join the League during this special promotional period, you can earn a \$6 rebate from the IWLA National Office. Each new member you recruit or sponsor (up to a total of six for \$36) during the month of June will earn you cash back!

All current, paid chapter individual, family, or national life members are eligible to participate. New members must be new to the League or had allowed his/her membership to expire prior to 2007. The new member must join between June 1 and June 30 and at the individual or family level. Each chapter membership officer will have a set of IWLA Sponsored Member Rebate Forms with a place for your details and those of the joining new member.

When you recruit a new member, be sure to contact your chapter's membership officer for a special Sponsored Member Rebate Form. Sponsored Member Rebate Forms can also be mailed to you by calling the IWLA National Office toll free at (800) IKE-LINE.

**Complete, detailed rules are also available online at:  
[www.iwla.org/members](http://www.iwla.org/members).**

# Island Eagles

By Jim Arnold

A few weeks ago Denny Leslie and I were fortunate enough to help with a Mississippi River water quality research project being



conducted by the National Park Service. We were there to provide transportation via canoe to Banfill Island, Breck's Island to most of us Ikes, for a reporter and photographer from local cable channel

12. The project is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and involves personnel from the Park Service as well as Audubon.

The research involves taking measurements, blood samples and a few feathers from young eagles.



We watched as an arborists/climber used a crossbow to shoot a line over the branch of a large cottonwood tree, used the line to climb the estimated 80 feet to the nest, collected the five week old eaglet and an egg that had not hatched, then returned to the ground. The biologist then banded the bird, took

measurements of the beak and feet, and collected the important blood and feather samples. The samples will provide important information on pollutants in the young birds system.

Collecting this information is limited to just a few weeks each spring when the young eagles are not yet strong or agile enough to climb to the edge of the nest and attempt

escape. In fact, the eaglet we held and observed seemed quite calm throughout the process.

Using young birds is

important because they have been eating only food their parents bring to them a limited distance from the nest. Using information taken from 20 or more nests along the Mississippi researchers can then reach conclusions about what pollutants are found in different parts of the river. So far the research

study has shown that the most common pollutants in the river come from chemicals found in fire retardants and Teflon.





The Banfill Island eaglet had been feasting on a duck, a squirrel and four fish. The young bird appeared to be very healthy, as have most of the eaglets in the study.

It is exciting to know that we have an active eagle nest on our island. Hopefully they'll continue to use this Breckenridge Chapter property for many years.

Channel 12's excellent report on the Banfill Island Eagles nest can be viewed at their web site,



[www.twelve.tv](http://www.twelve.tv). Click on "Video Archives" and find the video "What We Learn From Eagles." The video is expected to be available until June 13. For more excellent information about eagles and this research project visit the following NPS web site: <http://www.nps.gov/miss/parknews/news08-0521.htm>

## OPINION

### Woodducks and the rest

April 10<sup>th</sup> 2009, and the Champlin Mill pond has been wide open for two days. We have seen 2 pairs of Woodies so far. Usually we see more pairs by now. A half dozen pairs of Geese have returned but none of our family of Trumpeter Swans raised here last year.

Perhaps they will return later.

Channel 2 showed the "Return of the Wood Duck" again tonight and I felt an excitable moment to see our old friends the Breckenridges on the screen.

Of late much is said of the reduction in the number of hunters here and nationwide.

The trend brings many to think this will be the demise of interest in wildlife and habitat preservation; that the public may not support the preservation of wild species, the ecosystems and vast areas of wild land and open space they require.

This need not be! Through education and a fervent interest by those who don't hunt, a large part of our non-game consumptive population could make the difference.

The passing of the Constitutional Amendment shows the general public does care.

Although hunters and anglers kicked the issue off initially, the idea was joined by many others and would not have passed without them.

If hunting interests diminish as some say, it will be up to the rest of us to take up the slack, both politically and monetarily.

What we cherish depends on it!

Dick Brown

## 2009-10 Scholarship Recipients

By Jim Arnold

The Breckenridge Chapter Scholarship Committee recently named five outstanding young people as our scholarship recipients for the 2009-10 school year. The Chapter has now awarded 43 scholarships in the eleven years of the program. Five students, rather than the usual four, were named this year because we had the most impressive group of applicants ever. Equally important, chapter member Barbara Franklin donated the extra \$500 needed to fund the additional scholarship. Thanks Barbara for making this extra scholarship available for a very deserving student. The five students are:

**Brigid Murphy** recently completed her junior year at the University of Minnesota. She is a fisheries and wildlife major. Many of you will remember Brigid's presentation on Orangutans at our Chapter's March meeting. During the school year Brigid works as a tour guide at the Bell Museum and is an active member of the Fish and Wildlife Club at the U. Over spring break she attended a field course on wolf biology at Yellowstone National Park. This summer she will be working on a U. S. Fish and Wildlife water bird survey in Michigan's upper peninsula. Cormorants and piping plovers are two of the birds she will be surveying. Later in the summer she will participate in a three week field course at the Cloquet Forestry Center where she will learn telemetry tracking techniques. Brigid is contemplating joining the Peace Corp after graduation. Her long term goals involve graduate school to study conservation or wildlife biology, and eventually helping local people (perhaps in some underdeveloped country) restore and conserve forest lands.

**Kathryn Murphy**, no relation to Brigid, is a recent graduate of Andover High School. This fall she will begin her college career at the University of Wisconsin Superior where she plans to major in biology or earth sciences. She is active in Andover's Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students (ECOS). Kathryn's excellent academic record includes many honors classes as well involvement in an Outdoor Adventures class. Teachers rave not only about her academic skills, but about her ability to apply what she has learned to the real world. Outside of school Katie enjoys fishing, fly tying, trap shooting and SCUBA diving. This summer she will again attend a marine biology camp. Her long range goal is to pursue a career with the DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Forest Service.

**Hannah Goodrich** recently completed her sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She is majoring in Biological Aspects of Conservation with a certificate in Environmental Studies. In July Hannah will leave for James Cook University in Townsville, Australia where she will spend fall semester. James Cook is a smaller school known for its biological and environmental programs. Hannah is excited about the hands on opportunities to study unique ecosystems and organisms. When back in Madison she is active in the Hooper Outing Club, Habitat for Humanity and an organization called REAP which works with local, small-scale organic farms. While still undecided upon a future career, Hannah is interested in the Peace Corp, graduate school and a position in which she can promote good conservation practices.

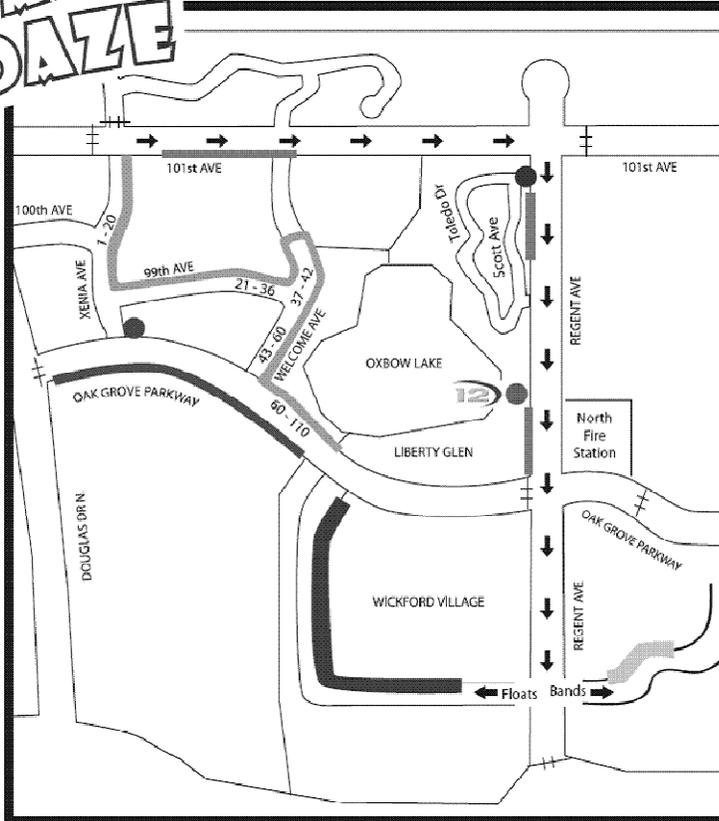
**Shaina Sabel** is an Anoka High School graduate who recently completed her freshman year at South Dakota State University. She recently changed her focus from an Agricultural Engineering program to the Agronomy and Environmental Management departments. Her work on campus with the Water Resource Institute has raised her interest in issues regarding water quality. Shaina's current project is working with a graduate student to simulate snow melt and manure runoff in a farm field. Water samples are collected to determine which nutrients are most common and to help determine what steps can be taken to limit nutrient runoff. A past active participant in the Anoka County 4-H program, Shaina hopes to help this group put together some public service announcements this summer geared toward educating people in the local community

**Ruth Burke** is currently a student at North Hennepin Community College. Her plans of pursuing an Environmental Engineering major at Minnesota State University Moorhead have changed. She now plans to transfer to the University of Minnesota to major in Applied Plant Science. Some of her educational experiences in the past year have encouraged her to learn more about water pollution problems that arise from land misuse. After obtaining her degree from the U of M Ruth plans to attend Michigan Technological University and obtain a masters degree through their Peace Corps Masters International Program. She currently devotes much of her free time to the Hennepin County Wetland Health Evaluation Program as a wetland volunteer. She has also attended a variety of local seminars on sustainable and organic gardening, the ethanol controversy and soil and water pollution issues.

45th Annual  
**TATER  
DAZE**

## Parade Map

June 18, 2009  
6:30 p.m.



PARADE KEY	
	Band Bus Staging
	Band Breakdown Area
	Band Performance
	Parade Staging Area
	Float Breakdown Area
	Judging
	Check In
	Channel 12
	Parade Route
	Road Closed

Breckenridge Chapter members  
are IN THE  
PARADE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Members of the chapter (yes, that includes you!) will be meeting at 5:30 at the Breckenridge chapter house on Thursday June 18. We will organize our group, grab the Breckenridge banner, and head over to the Brooklyn Park Tater Daze Parade at 6:00pm. Our slot in the parade is # 76. We would like two vehicles with canoes mounted on their roofs for our slot in the parade. If you have Izaak Walton clothing and hats please come clothed in that. Or wear outdoors and nature related clothing and bring nature props: canoe paddles, fishing poles, binoculars, cameras etc. Sorry, no weapon props are allowed at the parade. Please practice smiling, and waving to the crowd before the 18th!!!! We will walk the parade route - which is about 1 mile. For more information contact John at 763-202-3346. **Our John Rust is**

**GRAND MARSHAL of the parade!**

### Breckenridge Chapter will have 3 Geo-Cache locations For Tater Daze!!!!

Use your GPS to find 3 geocache locations placed by the Breckenridge Chapter as part of the Tater Daze Celebration. Our geocaches will be available for geocache hunters starting on Saturday, June 13. They will be placed and open to the public for finding until Saturday, June 20 at noon. At noon on June 20 they will be removed. Each cache will contain medallions and a register for those who are able to locate them. Don't go looking for them before June 13 (no cheating!!!). The names of those who find all 3 geocaches will be entered into a drawing for a prize!!!! (prize to be determined).

### Breckenridge Table at Tater Daze!!!!!!

Help with the Breckenridge Table at the Brooklyn Park Tater Daze celebration this year. We will have kids' crafts and activities and tri-fold flyers to hand out. Our booth at Tater Daze will be on Friday, June 19 from 5 pm – 10 pm and on Saturday, June 20 from 11am – 9 pm. This will be a great opportunity to build membership in our chapter and to inform the public about local environmental issues including the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. To sign up for a slot please contact John at 763-202-3346.



W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
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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.”

Amy Rust and Sam Schaut  
flipping pancakes at the  
Breckenridge Pancake  
Breakfast. Photo by Carole  
Blowers.

