



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
March 2020

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



## COMING EVENTS

### MARCH 2020

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- ~~25 Social/Education meeting - Cancelled~~  
~~Darby & Geri Nelson - For Love of a River~~

### APRIL 2020

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 18 State Division Spring Meeting - Duluth
- 28 Social/Education meeting 7:30 pm  
Peter Sorenson - Invasive Species

### MAY 2020

- 3 Pancake Breakfast 8-1
- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Education meeting 7:30 pm

### 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)

### Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting March 10, 2020

Called to order by Steve Schaust at 7:10 pm  
Members present: Steve, Dennis, Larry, Wes, Barb,  
Dick, Jerry, Wendy, Jim, Karen, Tim, Joe

Meeting agenda was distributed, IWLA Member  
pledge was recited.

**Dates of upcoming meetings and speakers** were  
reviewed.

A long discussion about COVID19 was had. The  
seriousness of how quickly the virus is moving has  
many people concerned. We will continue to  
monitor public notifications and keep in mind  
whether or not to cancel or postpone any future  
Social/Educational meetings (next week with Darby  
& Geri Nelson speaking about their book) or the  
Pancake Breakfast on May 3.

Dick will review what he has at home regarding  
Peter Sorenson, the speaker for April 28, for a  
“Bio” for the *Timberlines*. He will also check in  
with Melissa Hortman to see if she would be willing  
to speak on May 26 or June 23.

Additional suggestions for future speakers would be  
welcome.

**Oxbow Park Prairie update:** Steve spoke to  
nearest neighbor, Sue, who said she would allow us  
to utilize her water (small fee discussed); we will  
need to provide additional hose. Dick is arranging  
small group meeting with a couple of IWL people  
and also Garden Club members soon.

**Treasurer still needed** on the board. John Fraley  
submitted a report which was read aloud. Steve will

announce at future Social meeting of the need and we will continue to think of ways to inspire someone to step up.

**Chapter Tobin Award** nomination was discussed. A nomination and vote were taken and Steve will submit application.

**Website** improvements have been made. Site looks really great. With this new website, multiple administrators will be able to revise when needed quite easily. Barb mentioned that she would still like to add a Facebook link. A “Donate” button was also discussed but for now will not be included as an enhancement due to fees, demand, credit cards, etc.

**Bathroom Remodel update:** Coming along, slightly over budget but looks great. Jose, Joe’s connection, is a “Jack of all trades” and has done almost all of the work (wall tiles, floors, toilets, light fixtures, etc). His rate is reasonable and he is an excellent craftsman. Karen recommended that we give him a free rental as a “tip” for doing such a great job. There are still a few things to be done, but should be done on schedule.

**Spring projects:** Front entrance to the drive at W River Rd, the mailbox, signs, a few trees need trimming. Lamp post needs to be straightened. John Moriarity gave a few suggestions, ie: let the trees just lie where they are, move some of the Pennsylvania Sedge around in different places to see if it can get a really good hold; take out some of the smaller ash; day lilies have become invasive (Tim working on getting rid of them). John would like to come by in the spring again to see what new growth is coming up.

**Geocache** at River Park and on the chapter grounds, both need to be repaired/replaced. Barb will update website & pick them up so Steve (or others) can work on them.

**Newsletter:** Has plenty of pictures and a couple of articles, Barb asked Dick for the bio for Peter Sorenson to be included.

**Rentals** are pretty full through the summer thus far. Coronavirus may make an impact on future rentals – if people choose to cancel for this reason, fees

will be refunded, since the situation is out of their control.

**Scholarships** – we are just waiting for applications to come in.

**Membership:** We are at around 125+/- members. Hopeful that a few new recruits will join at pancake breakfast.

**Earth Day 2020** is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> – a suggestion was made that we get a group together to make signs and go to the state capitol. We could see if there is any interest at our March 24 Social/Educational meeting (?).

Dick suggested we make a yearly donation to Save the Boundary Waters and Friends of the Boundary Waters – since donations were made in the fall, this will be tabled and discussed again at a future meeting.

Joe brought up that Hennepin County and DNR are working on some grant writing to complete a shoreline assessment of the Mississippi River all along the Brooklyn Park side of the river. Building an animal walkway for wildlife was also briefly discussed.

**Stream monitoring project** for water life in Mattson Brook – Tim tried to get a consensus of when and who is interested. There seems to be a good amount of interest still, weekday evening or a weekend. Tim will get in touch with the organizer to get a suggestion of timing, first week of May or later in the month? How many people will be needed? Mattson Brook only, or an additional location?

Tim also mentioned that there is a \$1,000 grant project possibility for the IWL to work in conjunction with two other organizations to sponsor an event surrounding energy issues. Jerry will read through the information from Tim, and possibly take it on.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Welcome to new member Marie Arndt!

## Don Arnosti: Effective Conservation in Our Times

Many conservation minded Ikes, me among them, have been wondering about what is happening to our country and the thoughtful conservation ethic it seemed to have in earlier years. Fortunately we were privileged to listen to a talk titled “A prescription for effective conservation in our era” by Don Arnosti at the Breckenridge Social/Ed meeting in February. Don recently served as Executive Director of our State Division and now is working with the Land Stewardship Project which aims to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, promote sustainable agriculture and develop healthy communities.

He first described how he views the current national and local situation where democracy is under siege. Political polarization, fake news/junk science, big money controlling politics and the capture of government agencies by corporate interests are viewed by Don as huge problems.

**Political polarization**, he said, needs to be addressed if we want to replicate a time when conservation of our natural environment was viewed as a positive goal by both major political parties. Breaking down this divide can only be accomplished by truly listening to the opposition and seeking the kernel of truth in their arguments. Instead of name calling we need to “walk a mile in their shoes” as the saying goes. We need to be sincerely open to learning and be ready to take the first steps to compromise. If we can’t seem to get to a compromise we need to remember to “hate the sin, not the sinner.” Don suggested that field trips are a great way to overcome political polarization.

**Fake news and junk science** can be found in places besides social media and politically slanted cable channels. As an example, Don reminded us of the “legalized lying” that was allowed by Minnesota when “Pollinator Friendly” labels were approved to be used on plants laced with neonicotinoids. The standard was set that said if the bees didn’t drop dead on contact, then it was OK. The rules were pushed by a legislator who had a personal stake in the nursery industry. Other examples Don

mentioned were the timber market forecasts going outward for a century which were provided to serve politics and corporations, the twenty million dollars of junk science used to justify Polymet’s sulfide ore mine proposal, and legislative manipulation of wild rice sulfate standards. What Don insists is the antidote, is for all of us to speak truth to power publicly.

Don went on, making the case that **money is controlling politics** in Minnesota and nationally. This is especially evident related to sulfide ore mining. Republican controlled legislatures in 2015-2017, led by House majority leader Daudt, repealed (in 2015) the requirements for solid waste permits for non-ferrous mines, blocked sulfide water quality standard implementation designed to protect wild rice, eliminated the PCA Citizen’s Board, ordered (in 2016) the PCA not to enforce a water quality standard in a mining water permit until the standard was revised to industry satisfaction, suspended (in 2017) updating water quality requirements for 16 years for waste water treatment plants, pushed back finalizing the sulfate standard suspended in 2016, and back-dated a state wetland law *25 years* to cover for illegal DNR decisions on wetland banking.

Money pours into politics these days. Some Minnesota legislative races can top \$1,000,000. Outside money from billionaires like the Koch brothers can’t help but corrupt politicians. The antidote to this big money, short of a new Supreme Court in Washington DC, must be citizen involvement in lobbying and demonstrations of concern. Participation in upcoming events like Earth Day on April 22 in and around our State Capitol can influence law makers.

The fourth concern Arnosti addressed was government “agency capture” by corporate interests which causes our administrators to lose their way. His comparison of corporate vs. public interest in current issues is shown below:

(cont on p 4)

Corporate Interest	VS	Public Interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logging Quotas for Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)</li> <li>• School Trust Land to be managed to maximize \$\$\$</li> <li>• Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) - never an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) despite a record of water pollution (Austin)</li> <li>• Mining permits with no pollution limits</li> <li>• Neonicotinoid sales at will</li> <li>• Fertilizer application at will</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing WMAs for wildlife</li> <li>• School Trust Land managed for \$\$\$ <u>and</u> sustainability</li> <li>• Managed grazing benefits land, water and food quality</li> <li>• Maximize recycling/reuse of metals and protecting fresh water</li> <li>• Protecting pollinators</li> <li>• Protecting groundwater</li> </ul>

**Agency capture** really means that our rule of law is breaking down. Government officials face blatant conflicts of interest. Political parties fail to hold the executive branch accountable. Our judiciary is increasingly politicized. Our President reneges on international climate treaties.

What does Arnosti see as the antidote for a “lost” government? First we must name the problem: **“Our government serves corporate not public interest.”** Then we must demand politicians who see and will correct the problem. For us that means being politically active and voting this issue. Our youth are very concerned about their environmental future, especially the effects of global warming. Youth are ready to lead, and to demand action...will we let them?

Finally, Don provided his “pressure hierarchy” for the effectiveness of influencing our decision makers:

**Personal Visit >**

Phone Call >

Personal letter >

Attending a Demonstration >

Email >

Petition >

Facebooking your friends

In closing he asked the audience to conduct at least one act of Conservation, daily, saying our grandchildren will thank us.

We should also:

- Read a little information daily (skip TV.) Don't overdose!
- Avoid “Fake News” (of the Right or Left)
- Clarify our values (Living Will?)
- Align our lives with our values
- Shop our values (\$\$ = Speech)
- Boycott businesses that don't align

*Reported by Tim Johnson*







## THOMPSON'S TAKE

12 – 9 – 2019

Hunting with chickadees is one of my most favorite things to do. Actually, I am *supposed* to be deer hunting. When I talk to people I *tell* them I am deer hunting. That's a pretty noble thing to be doing this time of the year and, they believe that!. I get funny looks if I mention chickadees.

Actually, I really *am* deer hunting. Ol' 54 is sitting on my lap, ready to go. But "go-ing" rarely happens. I get plenty of deer on my trail camera next to my blind, but only at night! The rascals have figured it out. No shooting before sunrise. Actually, a half hour before sunrise is shooting time. The other day I had 3 deer in range. I could have taken my pick. But it was ten minutes before shooting time. There is plenty of light to see deer at that time. But small details are still tough to see, like .. the sights on the gun! And, bottom line, it is still illegal to shoot at that time so ... even if I could see sights the deer are safe. As soon as light and law allow shooting, they have melted away into the trees and brush, not to be seen again until the infra-red flash lights them up for the camera. 5 nice bucks were taken from my land by other hunters this year. We boned them out and the bone pile is just a few yards from my blind ... and the camera! So far, a cat, a possum, a coyote, and 3 crows have been caught by the camera feasting on the bones. As many as 4 deer have also been putzing around by the bones. But, alas, all at night!

So, to keep me entertained (and awake) in my blind I have placed a small board at the intersection of two of the panels that make up the blind. On it I scatter about 30 sunflower seeds, a favorite winter food for chickadees! At that magic half hour before sunrise, cardinals start chipping and in doing so remind me its time to arm Ol' 54. Ol' 54 is a muzzle-loading rifle. After putting the powder and ball in the barrel it needs a primer cap to be placed on the nipple. Then, the gun is armed and ready to make a lot of noise and smoke. So cardinals remind me to arm the gun but they also tell the chickadees that Thompson has put seeds on that board that need eating. In they come. There are between 3 and 10 depending on the chickadee social director. Only one gets to eat at a time (small board) but the time is on the order of a second as they come in, land, select a seed and are gone with it. The next chickadee is hot on the tail of the previous one. Then, there is a quiet time while they pick that seed open and eat the contents. Soon the parade starts again. And this goes on until I leave the blind for the morning or, if there are many birds, they eat up all the seeds.

If I am going to stay longer I put out more seeds and the feast goes on.

While sitting in that blind there is a ton of time to think about things. One thing I thought about was ... that tiny little beak ... how can that little bird (less than ½ oz.) "slam" that beak into a seed as hard as a sunflower seed is, on a springy twig, and crack it open? Experiment time! After I am in the house, coffee-d up and oatmeal-ed down it is time to become a 190 pound chickadee! That's the same as 6,080 real chickadees! I grabbed Marilyn's tweezers to make chickadee toes with, then pick up a pointed nail for a beak with a pair of needle-nosed pliers, line everything up and slam! By golly, the nail poked into the seed husk better than I thought. Then I thought, well, chickadee beaks are tiny and pointed but not *that* sharp. So I took the nail, scratched it on a concrete block (in the basement) to make it duller and slammed again. It worked again, but even better! The sharp nail punched a hole through the seed husk and skewered the nut inside. The duller one opened the seed without bugging up it's contents! The chickadee then has a whole nut it can pick out and swallow. Guess that's better than having pieces fall to the ground or ... having it stuck on the end of its beak!

Now I have to admit I didn't repeat the experiment a thousand times and then submit the results to a panel of my peers for further review, but I did convince myself that chickadees and that beak have something going, here.

But ... the thought that I weigh as much as 6000 anythings makes me even more conscious of my belly bulge.

Well, alright then ... NFT

**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
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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.**

All articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of the Breckenridge Board of Directors. The Editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary.

## Geocache Log

The geocache at River Park had one visitor on March 6 who said:

What a nice day.

Well I ended up finding it twice. There was no pen or pencil in the cache or my pockets, grrr. Back to truck and found a golf pencil. SL, left pencil, hot wheels car and a penguin. Plenty of room for more swag or trackables. thanks

We plan to temporarily deactivate both geocaches in order to refurbish them.

**I have posted the signups for refreshments  
for our Tuesday meetings on our website,  
[breckenridgikes.org/refreshments](http://breckenridgikes.org/refreshments)  
We have volunteers signed up through July!**



**But if you would like to help please contact:  
Barbara Franklin  
763-657-1907  
Or [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)**

**~~Mar 24 - Judy Arnold (Cancelled)~~  
Apr 28 - Tammy Halonen  
May 26 - Geri Nelson**