



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
July 2022



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

## Coming Events

### July 2022

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Educational meeting 7:30 pm  
Michelle Bierma – Mississippi Gateway  
Regional Park Naturalist

### August 2022

- 2 National Night Out 5:30-8  
Potluck at the Chapter House! (Tentative)
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 Social/Educational meeting 7:30 pm  
TBD

### September 2022

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 Social/Educational meeting 7:30 pm  
TBD

**Social Educational Meeting:  
Tuesday July 26, 7:30 PM  
Michelle Bierma, Mississippi  
Gateway Regional Park  
Naturalist**

Michelle Bierma is an Interpretive Naturalist at Mississippi Gateway Regional Park (Coon Rapids Dam). The primary focus of her job is to help 5–11-year-olds connect with nature and learn about the world around them. Classes can be about deer, the water cycle, geology, biomes, mussels and so much more. In all her lessons her goal is for students to have an experiential learning opportunity and to

encourage them to be curious and excited to learn more. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University and has been a naturalist ever since. When not at work she spends time practicing the Sport of Falconry, loving that it allows her to be a part of the predator/prey relationship in nature and the opportunity to learn about the birds, their prey and the natural communities they call home. You might also find her hiking trails, making jewelry or watching some hometown football.

Join us at the Chapter House for our monthly Social/Education meeting open to the public. As usual we will follow the presentation with a social time with beverages and treats provided by members.



# Board of Directors Meeting

## Highlights: June 14, 2022

**Pancake breakfast** We are looking at rescheduling in September with grounds cleanup scheduled prior to the breakfast.

### **Social/Educational meetings**

June 28 – Former Senator Chris Eaton,  
July 26 – Michelle Bierma, Mississippi Gateway  
Park Naturalist  
August 23 – TBD

### **Chapter House Rentals**

Rentals are nearly full through summer with graduations & weddings. Increased rates for Rentals, Pancake Breakfast and Member Rentals have been the same for years and are being reviewed for 2023.

### **Building and Grounds**

1. Tom Reid has removed some of the dead and dying ash trees, chipped the basswood and cleaned up the oak tree that fell. Also provided estimate of approx. \$7,500 for removing two large oaks & brush and trees on north side of driveway.
2. Excess firewood piles on the property need to be organized and managed. Jerry Steele moved to contact “Wood from the Hood” to see if they would come and pick up felled trees. Karen Seconded. Passed unanimously. Dick has offered his log splitter, and potentially selling or offering firewood to members free. Volunteers needed.
3. Volunteers also needed to pull garlic mustard.

### **Memorial Bench**

Barb moved to approve expenditure of up to \$1200 for the Memorial Bench plaques so dedication could be done at the end of summer. Karen seconded, passed unanimously.

## The Continuing Saga of Roundup

*A review by Karen Ostenso*

Lawsuits against Bayer, who bought Monsanto in 2018, continue to pile up, claiming that Roundup causes cancer. Recently, the Supreme Court of the

United States rejected Bayer’s request to shut down thousands of lawsuits. In 2020 the EPA stated that glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, is not likely to cause cancer in humans. An appellate court ordered the EPA to re-examine its findings.

On the other hand, in 2015, an arm of WHO classified it as “probably” carcinogenic to humans. Some background on how the EPA declared it safe to use is detailed in a book published in 2020 called *Perilous Bounty*.

In the 1960s Monsanto developed 2,4-D for killing broadleaf weeds in cornfields and it was widely used in the Midwest. But grassy weeds were not killed, so eventually Monsanto found that glyphosate killed a wide range of weeds, but with low toxicity to other life forms. Roundup hit the market in 1974. By the mid 1980s, it was Monsanto’s biggest selling agricultural product. They accidentally discovered that a certain gene tolerated Roundup but did not interfere with plant growth. So they now put Roundup resistant genes in corn, soybeans, and cotton. Roundup became increasingly profitable for Monsanto.

Monsanto knew, however, that weeds had been evolving to become resistant to glyphosate, but chose to tell the Department of Agriculture that it is an herbicide with a “low risk for weed resistance its wide use would be “highly unlikely” to lead to resistant weeds.

By 2004 a weed called waterhemp began spreading in Missouri. Farmers began to spray more heavily with Roundup and adding some older toxic herbicides to their fields. All such products are sold by Monsanto.

In the ensuing years, Monsanto and other chemical companies have continued to expand their production and sale of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides. There is a great deal more detail in the book noted above on the ever expanding market for such products.

Information for this article was obtained from the *Star Tribune* of June 22, 2022; and *Perilous Bounty: The Looming Collapse of American Farming and How We Can Prevent It* by Tom Philpott.



## A Hopeful Future for the Environment?

Our retiring Senator from District 40, Chris Eaton, spoke to us at our Chapter House about the work she has done promoting conservation at the Legislature during her decade of service and what the future might hold. Currently sitting on the Environment and Natural Resources Finance committee, she told of the big difference there has been for the worse in passing good conservation legislation with the Republicans in the majority. She noticed the change began in Gov. Pawlenty's second term when he entered the Presidential race. Before that there were many environmentalists on both sides of the aisle.

Ms. Easton welcomed the changes that redistricting is forcing on voters, hoping that many of the old guard currently leading the Senate will be replaced with a new generation who value our natural heritage more. The Senator admitted to feeling frustrated working in the minority, but nevertheless, hopeful that the future will bring strong, younger voices for the environment to represent Minnesota.

Bills Sen. Eaton has authored this session include:

- reducing chloride pollution of our waters
- prohibition of open season for taking of wolves
- prohibition of certain insecticide use in WMAs
- Upper Mississippi River basin forest lands acquisition and lake protection appropriation
- Legislative Water Commission reestablishment
- Walleye limit reduction by the natural resources commissioner requirement

- Nonferrous sulfide ore mining permits determinations requirement prior to permit issuance
- Storm water retention and infiltration study and water storage plan appropriations
- Utilities renewable energy standard obligation biomass technologies modifications
- Forever Green Agriculture Initiative and the University of Minnesota appropriation
- State greenhouse gas reduction goals modification
- Climate resiliency program appropriation
- Landfill Responsibility Act establishment
- Water sold in plastic containers sales prohibition
- Enhance efforts to keep water on the land appropriation
- Voluntary well water testing program appropriation
- Brooklyn Park anaerobic digestion facility bond issue and appropriation
- Plan appropriation to ensure that Minnesota has an abundant supply of clean water for the next 50 years
- Trapping without permission on certain private lands prohibition



*Reported by Tim Johnson*

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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 First 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.

## **Congratulations to Tim Johnson**

on receiving the Judge John Tobin Award for Volunteer Appreciation  
And thanks for his sharing pictures of Crow-Hassan Park

“Beauty on the prairie this morning. This was my first time to see narrow leaved green milkweed at Crow-Hassan. They have at least a couple dozen wildflowers on their inventory list that I have yet to spot.”

Photos by Tim Johnson

