



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
March 2024

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events March 2024

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Solomon David, Aquatic Ecologist
Modern Conservation Insights from
Ancient Fishes

April 2024

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Emeritus Prof. Peter Sorenson:
Is Minnesota Running Out of Fish?

May 2024

- 5 Pancake Breakfast 8 am-1 pm
- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 28 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Andy Willette, Citizen's Climate Lobby

Breckenridge Chapter Board Meeting Highlights February 13, 2024

Conservation Issues/Legislative update: Our Ike's Get the Lead Out bill is in the House (HF 3813 authored by Rep. Patty Acomb, co-authored by Rep. Samantha Vang and others.) We contacted Speaker Melissa Hortman asking her to co-author the House bill and asked Sen. John Hoffman to support the Senate companion bill (SF 3792). We need other members to email Sen. Hoffman asking him to support the bill at the hearing.

Scholarship:

Applications for 2024-25 scholarships have been sent out to schools and are being accepted now.

Social Educational Meeting:
Tuesday March 26, 7:30 pm
Modern Conservation Insights
from Ancient Fishes



Assistant Professor of Aquatic Ecology at the University of Minnesota, Solomon David is an aquatic ecologist and assistant professor interested in fish biodiversity, conservation, and science communication. His research at the University of Minnesota's Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology focuses on the ecology, conservation, and management of non-game native fishes, with an emphasis on ancient fishes (e.g. gars, bowfins). Additional projects involve conservation of Great Lakes migratory fishes, and peripheral populations of species. His project also communicates science through traditional and social media to raise awareness of the value of aquatic ecosystems and freshwater biodiversity.

Ikes Respond to the Minnesota State High School League regarding School-base Clay Target League Concerns

Feb. 21, 2024

The following is a press release by the MN Division of the Izaak Walton League of America



The Minnesota State High School League has done an admirable job of teaching and training thousands of young students the sport of trap shooting. Over the years, there has not been one accident at their sanctioned events. This is commendable, and we certainly hope this activity continues long into the future.

Our concerns with their news release is that it largely misses the point of the legislation we've introduced. Our concerns are with the potential exposure to lead, particularly since many of the participants are young, and their bodies are still growing. This means, if there is lead exposure, lead will be accumulated into their bones and other tissues. This is especially concerning for young girls and women that are approaching their child-bearing years. There's ample scientific evidence that the lead could be transferred to their fetus, resulting in developmental issues, cognitive and behavioral problems, and other long term social and health issues.

The Trap League's response seems to settle in on the price and availability of ammunition. As hunters and anglers, Ikes members are acquainted with these issues. But when comparing the health of these students to the cost of ammunition, we have to come down on the side of having health students.

Besides, this issue of price and availability is one of supply and demand. Already, the ammunition manufacturing industry is producing non-toxic (steel) shotgun shells at prices that are comparable to or cheaper than lead. As more demand is shifted to non-toxic ammunition, the economies of scale begin to work in its favor, meaning more availability at a reduced cost.

At the 2023 meeting of the MN Chapter of the Wildlife Society, there was a breakout session to discuss this issue. It was there that an industry representative mentioned that in addition to the lead shot, lead is used in the shotgun primers. This was something we'd not previously known or considered. This added a new dimension to the dispersal of lead, one that is airborne and can easily be breathed in by participants and spectators. The amount of lead in a primer is quite small, but there is no safe level of lead in the human body. The fact that the Trap League uses a million rounds of ammunition (approx. 6.15M lbs. of lead shot) each year, means even this small amount of primer lead per shell is amplified a million-fold.

These students are great athletes, and like all great athletes they no doubt practice their craft frequently with teammates, friends, neighbors and family members. So, the Trap League exposure may be just the tip of the iceberg. And, if some of these students and their families reload shotgun shells to save on costs, they run an even greater risk of lead exposure.

In the end, what we are seeking is for the Trap League to transition to all non-toxic ammunition over some period of time, to be determined by our elected representative at the Legislature. In the meantime, we'd like to see the MN Dept. of Health, in conjunction with the MPCA, sampling for lead at High School Trap meets over the next year, and report those findings to the Legislature in time for the 2025 Legislative Session.

Sticking our heads in the sand would be the wrong approach. Let's do what's right by these students.

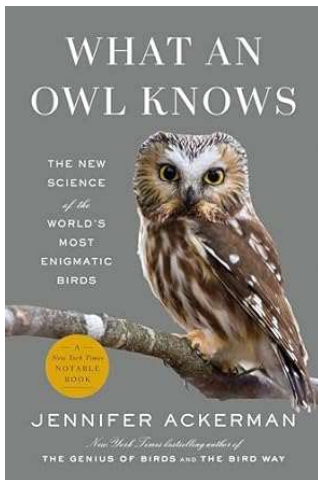
Will Dilg Film

The Board voted to award a grant of \$1,000 to Steven Marking for his movie “A Visit from Will Dilg” <https://stevenmarking.com/a-visit-from-will-dilg/> Our Chapter is listed in the credits. Screening of the film and a live presentation by Mr. Marking are being planned.



What an Owl Knows

by Jennifer Ackerman



If you’ve ever wondered what makes owls tick, *What an Owl Knows: the new science of the world's most enigmatic birds* is a highly informative, but very readable book. Jennifer Ackerman knows owls personally and brings the research alive with her own personal field observations. She has

studied owls across the globe and through human history, in fiction and mythology, finding new insights into the science of their hunting skills, communication, sensory prowess and other adaptations for survival. They can be highly secretive and studying them requires patience and commitment.

Owls are amazing creatures and very diverse. Some of the chapters are: “What it's like to be an owl”, “What it takes to make an owl”, “Who gives a hoot?” (communication) their love lives, their relationships with each other and with people.

For example, she shares a story about Burrowing Owls, who decorate the outside of their burrows with all kinds of stuff, not to impress a female, but to say,

“I’m a tough guy. Look at all the stuff I collected.’ If you want to show you’re a tough guy in the world of Burrowing Owls, decorate! Decorate with chunks of concrete. Nothing says tough guy like concrete decorations. Males override to convey to other males that this place is taken.”

She also devotes a chapter to their survival and what we can do to help them survive as a species.

Barbara Franklin

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
Barbara Franklin at: 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.

March Haiku

From John Moriarty's
one day and three lines at a time:
a year of nature haiku

A small gaudy duck
Many colors blend together
The Wood Duck's magic

