



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
November 2019

www.breckenridgeikes.org

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2019

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 No meeting

DECEMBER 2019

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve – No meeting

JANUARY 2020

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 19 Holiday Party 4-7 pm;
Program –Siah St. Clair
- 28 No meeting

FEBRUARY 2020

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Social/Education meeting
Don Arrnosti – Forestry 7:30 pm

A couple of weeks ago Jim Arnold and Tim Johnson pulled a couple hundred young buckthorn plants out of the designated site in preparation. The final results won't be known for a number of years.

Meanwhile, out on our Banfill Island, the fall flood waters proved too high to carry out the planned buckthorn eradication projects this year. The National Parks Service will be coming instead this coming spring to treat the worst infestation on the southeast side of the island. A science class from Champlin/Park High School had hoped to take a field trip to Banfill Island this fall to pull buckthorn in a part of it. But that too had to be postponed to another time due to the record high water.

Cover It Up Study Area



“Cover It Up” buckthorn experiment

Our Breckenridge Chapter of the Ikes has joined an experimental buckthorn study being conducted by researchers the University of Minnesota. We have marked out a 30 x 40 ft rectangle under our forest canopy which will be further divided into small squares which will be seeded with a native mixture in the spring. The idea is to see if some of the seeded plants can out-compete the buckthorn seedlings coming up there. Exposing the plots to severe deer browsing is part of the experiment.

Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes November 12, 2019

Called to order by Steve Schaust at 7:10 pm
Members present: Steve, Joe, Tim, Wes, Jim, Dick,
Karen, Barb, Jerry, Wendy, Guest: Mary Karius,
MEP

Meeting agenda was distributed, IWLA Member
pledge was recited.

Calendar overview:

November 12, 2019	BOD meeting
December 10, 2019	BOD meeting
January 14, 2020	BOD meeting
January 18-19, 2020	Holiday party (set up Saturday, party Sunday) * noted on the agenda incorrectly as January 26 th
February 11, 2020	BOD
February 25, 2020	Social/Education meeting

Events/Issues

Mary Karius of Hennepin County Environment & Energy, talked extensively about Water monitoring opportunities. Her goal is to find committed and passionate partners who will volunteer to monitor Mattson Brook (once or twice a year-May and Sept/Oct), which hasn't been monitored in 10 years. She talked about providing all equipment and training needed (kits, waders, etc.), looking at monitoring for the health of the water, specifically the invertebrates found. It was noted that chemicals are commonly monitored (for salt and other chemicals). She will be getting back to Tim with a map of the drainage area and what other chemicals are currently being monitored. Mary stressed the need for committed volunteers to do the monitoring, whether directly with IWL solely and/or facilitating student involvement with other local schools. We have time to discuss at future board meetings, since spring will be first need for monitoring.

Social/Education meetings Speakers:

January party: Tim mentioned that a group of Scouts would like to overnight Friday night. Agreed that they would be out by noon on Saturday.

February: Don Arnosti will speak about Forestry (topic to be confirmed), Dick will call him mid-December.

March: Darby Nelson's book will be presented by him and his wife.

**Future speakers are needed.

Division meeting at the Breckenridge Chapter House: went well. Attendees donated \$20 for breakfast & lunch – payments exceeded needs. Thank you to Karen who donated breakfast. Tim will return \$50 for cost of sandwiches because he was undercharged.

MN Division office hoping to end lease of space at of end of December. Materials, etc. will be stored at another IWL site. A young man, accountant/environmentalist has been hired as an office clerk to help with reorganizing and strategic planning. Steve will email updates once progress is being made at committee meetings.

Deer Hunt on Banfill Island – Two does were killed in the morning and the hunters were gone by 10:30 am.

Chapter plans/ambitions for new year:

Bathroom still at planning stage. Judy, Karen & Savannah drew up plans and put together a list of items needed and prices for materials only (labor not included). Two lists passed out: \$4041 vs. \$3764 – difference is due to tile on the wall (wainscot) vs. paint the entire wall. Questions: Choose contractor? Shop for items when? Store on site? What is wrong with the toilets currently? Toilets are functional, can be replaced later on but installing tile on floor may be an issue. Time is of the essence: Joe estimates three days to put bathroom together. Ceramic vs. plank flooring, but floor is not heated which may cause cracking of ceramic tile due to the temperature changes in the building. Budget and schedule need to be discussed further (one and a half weeks down at least). Jim reviewed balance for building fund – approximately \$5,000 available, and Karen stated that she is donating an additional \$1,000 towards the bathroom project. Joe and Jerry will review material list to try to trim costs a bit – fit into budget of approximately \$6,000.

Karen brought up the fact that a deep cleaning is also needed – possibly 3-4 volunteers needed. Karen, Barb, Wendy and Jerry have volunteered. Floors are mopped regularly by Tim and groups who rent space. Cleaning date to be determined by

volunteers. **Date has been decided via an email to be Tuesday, November 26th, in the morning.

Furnace update: New furnace has been installed along with extras. Inspection has been complete. Warranted for 12 years, Service Plus has been discontinued. Mechanical guy said that he thinks that setting the temperature too low may be cause of condensation in the walls due to the fluctuation of up and down of temperatures. Ceiling paint is also flaking in spots, probably not from condensation but from surface not being prepped properly before new paint was applied. Will be touched up with some base paint.

Tree trimming. Jim and Joe have both spoken to Tom, who is swamped, and probably won't be able to get to it soon. There are a couple of "widow makers" that need to be cut down, overhanging the driveway. Also, there are some branches (oaks) next to the sign that need to be trimmed, as they are blocking the sign when they are covered with leaves. We can do this ourselves too. Over this winter or when possible, these should be taken care of if possible before the snow covers the ground.

Snow plowing. Jim has been in touch with the snow plow guy who hasn't gotten back to him and will get in touch again.

Jim passed out Treasurer's report. To note about Scholarship: Number on John's report includes \$500 recent donation from Mary Ellen, who has made this donation for many years. She will be joining the scholarship committee as well. Brief discussion.

Newsletter: Discussion of questionable opinion articles. Any future submissions may be reviewed and voted on by the board for inclusion in the newsletter. Also Yahoo has changed and mailing lists are difficult to work with.

Website: Tim will take a look and Barb will try to find out if GoDaddy will match yearly price of Wix website.

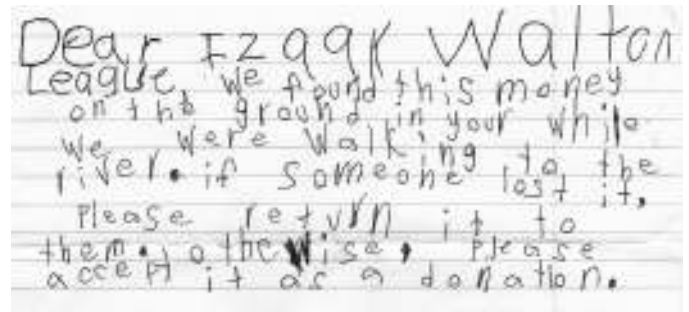
Thank you notes shared by Jim, from Friends of the Boundary Waters, Save the Boundary Waters. Also Raptor Center magazine is being sent to our chapter as well.

Tim announced "Christmas Bird Count" needs volunteers, December 21st at Springbrook Nature Center, beginning at 7:30 a.m. It is a potluck, volunteers are situated in specific areas to observe birds, varieties and number of birds are tracked.

Meeting was adjourned approximately 9:30 pm.

Faith renewed!

This note was found on our doorstep with a substantial sum of money, presumably lost by a renter. Kind of renews our faith in human nature!



Dear Izzy Walton League we found this money on the ground in your white river. if someone lost it, please return it to them. or the wise, please accept it as a donation.

Correction

In "Banfill Island Assessment Completed" (September issue) Tim wrote that John Moriarty (Three Rivers Parks) was no longer recommending pulling buckthorn. He should have said "no longer recommending pulling buckthorn using a weed wrench." The reason to avoid the weed wrench is the large amount of soil disruption allowing further spread of invasive plants.

For Love of a River: The Minnesota A book to absorb

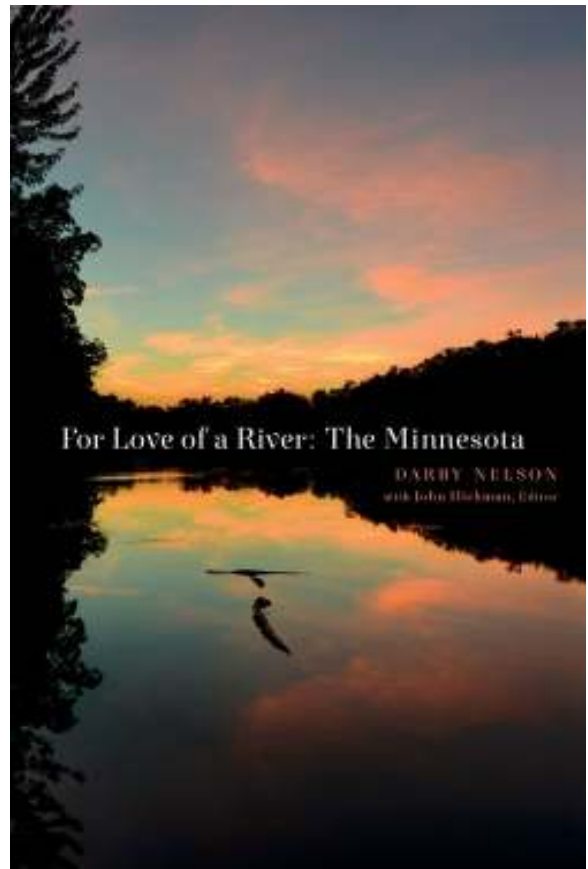
Our Chapter has the distinction of having a very talented and extremely dedicated pair of members, Darby and Geri Nelson. Their new book *For Love of a River: the Minnesota* by Darby with assistance of his wife Geri, edited by John Hickman, is a book every Environmental Conservationist should read and possess.

If you have ever been on the Minnesota River or whether you have never even heard of the Minnesota River, the book explains scientific principals in plain English of what is needed to clean up our rivers and lakes, not only in our State but nationwide.

The book illustrates problems and remedies, but also tells of evolution, early and modern history. Darby describes meeting with everyday people in the area from towns and cities, farmers, historians and fellow conservationists. He describes not only the river but its tributaries as well, starting in South Dakota on the “Little Minnesota River” and ending up a few miles down the Mississippi. Many of the lakes in several counties that make up the river basin watershed are described. Wildlife, fish, trees, and vegetation, both aquatic and terrestrial are described as they go and the surrounding streams and lakes as well. It is also a good description of geology at many areas along the way. The book is factual but in places brings emotion to the reader, as it surely must have done to the writer. The “trip” was done in segments, taking several years.

On March 24, 2020 The Breckenridge Chapter program will feature Darby and Geri Nelson on their Minnesota River excursions. Their book will also be available at that program.

Dick Brown



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)

Murray Energy

Near the end of October Murray Energy declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Earlier this year the company missed loan and interest payments to its lenders. It has also restructured 3 billion dollars of debt and obtained a new loan of 350 million dollars to carry itself through the bankruptcy. In 2018 it was the fourth largest coal producing company in the United States. It is the eighth coal company to close in the last year.

Bob Murray, CEO, was elated when Trump was elected and Scott Pruitt became head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Murray had donated large amounts of money to Trump's campaign, as well as \$300,000 to the inaugural event. Pruitt had been attorney general of Oklahoma during the Obama era. Murray literally gave Trump 3 pages of actions needed to bolster the coal industry and Pruitt began to put them into action. The first regulatory rollback was of the Clean Power Act. After Pruitt left the EPA, he was replaced by Andrew Wheeler, who had been a lobbyist for Murray Energy. The regulatory evisceration continued. Murray has said that climate change is a "hoax"!

Overall, Trump handed the coal industry a lot of leeway to escape environmental regulations, while touting his goal to facilitate continued expansion of the industry. Nevertheless, coal mines are failing and going bankrupt. Apparently, a big reason is the demand for coal is shrinking, and preference for gas and renewable sources is rising. In other words, the market is driving down coal consumption regardless of governmental policies.

Potentially displaced workers are very concerned, as are those currently receiving pensions from the business. Collective bargaining is in full force and the Senate is considering legislation to protect pensions. If that means that taxpayers may end up assuming the responsibility to pay those pensions, I am at a loss to understand why the assets of the mine should not be used to meet those debts.

Bob Murray is no longer CEO of the company he founded. He is to become chairman of Murray NewCo, which is trying to acquire his previous company's assets. I don't understand how that

works, but it certainly sounds like he himself may continue to be very well off.

The idea that fossil fuel consumption is decreasing in the light of loosened regulations encourages me. It demonstrates that a lot of citizens have more common sense, and more concern for our future, than the EPA and others associated with rule-making.

The Curious Reporter
Karen Ostenso

Information came from PBS Frontline, CBS News, *Louisville Courier Journal*, Congressional speaker on YouTube, and Opensecrets.com.

Geocache Activity

Our geocaches continue to get found! One on the Chapter House grounds, and one at River Park. But they have both been there for 10 years now, and while they're very unique, we would love to have a couple of new ones to replace them. Here are a couple of comments from the cachers:

Breckenridge Chapter IWLA (GC1Y6J2) :

Logged by: SuspiciouSkitty

Date: 10/19/2019

Log: Out caching with family, Leftyza, on a beautiful fall day. It took us a bit of time to find the container. We finally spotted something out of place, which is how we ended up finding it. After signing the log, we had to take a closer look at the building and the grounds. What a great view of the river! This one gets a favorite point just for bringing us to the hidden gem in the middle of the suburbs.

River Park (GC1Y6JF) :

Logged by: SuspiciouSkitty

Date: 10/19/2019

Location: Minnesota, United States

Log: Out caching with family, Leftyza, on a beautiful fall day. We were a little intimidated by the plant growth, but found some paths to use. When we found the container, it was a surprise - I have to give it a favorite!

**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
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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 10th 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.



Tim Johnson got this picture of a healthy looking coyote at River Park last week!